"Get in the start and push out!"
Well, that may be the condensed version of a start plan, but you can probably do better. Let’s look at what leads up to a successful race start:

**Race what you practice**
You have put in many practice runs leading up to race day. Is your training start routine the same one you plan on using on race day? Do you have a physical warm-up routine and a mental routine before each start?

Three Olympic and five World Championship medals have made Julia Mancuso the maestro big event skier. Her secret: “I don’t necessarily do anything different on the big days!” Being at a familiar physical and mental state is the way to reproduce what you have been working so hard on in training.

**Make a plan**
That is exactly what fueled Erik Schlopy’s success during his 18-year ski racing career. The three-time Olympian and World Championship bronze medalist took out pencil and paper and scribed what the day would look like. Schlopy realized that what leads up to the start will literally get him off on the right foot. This piece of paper was passed from start coach to start coach. It included how they communicated and what was expected from each party. To paraphrase a section, it said, “Don’t talk to me before I start.” Erik liked to get into his own head and wanted that time to himself. It continued, “This is not because I don’t want to talk, it is just not the time.”

Today Coach Schlopy encourages the same process from his U.S. Ski Team World Cup technical skiers.
Racing for the Future
by Steve Slivinski, Masters National Chairman

The Great Pumpkin is just around the corner, and Jack Frost is painting the leaves red and yellow here in Sun Valley. So come on wake up, get out of bed; it’s that time of year to get back in shape, scrape the storage wax off your skis, sharpen the edges, and buy something fast from Fuxi.

This fall, it was my privilege to be a part of Bill Skinner’s camp for sniveling, over-the-hill ski racers in Chile. It was great fun as we broke trail for an hour through a couple of feet of new snow, in a blinding blizzard, at 11,000 ft, to make it to a slalom race, on a course the Chilean army had polished into a sheet of ice, but that’s what makes us Masters racer tough. The effort was well worth it, because we came back drenched with South American medals. Bill, of course, considered it a character builder; my compatriots and I, on the other hand, considered it more like climbing Mount Everest.

Congratulations, Ted Ligety!
First place Golden GS.

Our Masters schedule poster boy won the opening men’s World Cup. Your membership fees support the U.S. Ski Team during this important Olympic year! Go team! Contact your division chairman or pick up some posters at your first race and spread them around!

Masters Membership News
by Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Manager

Welcome to the 2014 USSA Masters race season. We have 197 Masters races in 10 divisions across the country this year.

Thank your officials and division volunteers
Take the time show your appreciation to our division volunteers, and in a big way to our Masters officials that ensure quality venues, an even playing field and safety management. Our officials are our own fellow racers and friends, who show a deep regard for the condition of racecourses and fairness of race management decisions. Please thank them when you see them on the hill. They are critical to the continuation of our sport.

Big newsletter mailing
In an effort to promote our races, this newsletter is going to 2,685 Masters and past Student members, 334 Temporary racers (hopefully will join us full-time), 327 USSA clubs, and to 2,553 NASTAR platinum medalists, whom we would like to have join us for a Masters Ski race.

NASTAR platinum medalists
Congratulations on your 2013 medal! We would like to invite you to join us for the next step in your racing progression. Check out our race schedules and please join us for a race—or a full season of competitions. For more info and to join us, go to ussa.org/masters.

All humor aside, we were fortunate on this trip to meet a young U.S. racer down in Chile whose dedication, enthusiasm, and courage knows no bounds. Hailey Dukes—at the ripe old age of 28—is attempting to make the U.S. Olympic team on her own. It was amazing to watch her train on conditions that would send most Masters sliding sideways on their backsides. The outstanding experience in having a world-class racer like Hailey, and her coach Patrick Purcell, take part in our camp was inspiring to a group of mature, physically-challenged ski racers like ourselves. Her uphill fight to overcome numerous age, and health issues to make the U.S. team is awesome. We as Masters are probably more generous than most in giving back to our sport. If you’re interested in learning more about Hailey Duke, go to her website: haileydude.com.

There are two dates to keep in mind this winter for some awesome racing. The first is Feb. 6–9 for the Western Regionals and FIS Masters cup races at Park City, UT. The second is Mar. 17–22 for the Phillips 66 Masters Nationals at Okemo, VT. I’ll be there—will you? Remember: keep those ski tips pointed downhill!

Student ski racers
USSA Masters would like to invite you to attend a Masters ski race. In past, your USSA Student membership enabled you to race Masters. Now you will either need a Competitor membership, a Temporary membership, or join us as members and be eligible for all Masters races, including the Nationals and Region Championships. Masters class 1 now starts at age 18.

New rules to remember for 2014
In DH, SG and GS, if you fall and come to a stop, you are a DNF and cannot continue. In SL, you may fall and climb, but if the next racer approaches you must clear course and are a DNF.

Masters ski requirements
USSA recommends that competitors in USSA Masters events compete on equipment designed for the particular discipline (DH, SL, GS, SG), but does not make any recommendations in regards to ski length, radius or profile width. For FIS Masters races (Park City), ski length rules are: For SG, minimum for men is 185 cm and women 180 cm. There is no length, width or ski radius restriction for ladies above 55 and men above 65 years of age.

Nationals and FIS Cup race registration
The sign-up and the latest information for U.S. Masters Nationals and FIS/Western Championships is at skicareg.com. Field size is limited to 300 for Nationals and 200 U.S. entries for FIS Cup. Registration starts Dec. 1.

2014 Masters Competition Guide
It’s now available online at ussa.org/masters, or if you would like a hard copy to add to your collection, send me an email with delivery address.
### 2014 Alpine Masters Schedules

**Alaska Alpine Masters**
- Jan. 4 . . . . Alyeska . . . . GS
- Jan. 25 . . . . Alyeska . . . . GS
- Feb. 8 . . . . . . Alyeska . . . . GS
- Feb. 22 . . . . Alyeska . . . . SL
- Mar. 1 . . . . . . Alyeska . . . . SL
- Mar. 8 . . . . . . Alyeska . . . . GS
- Mar. 29 . . . . Alyeska . . . . GS
- Info: Gary Randall 907.242.2927

**Central Alpine Masters**
- Dec. 15 . . . . Buck Hill . . . . SL/SL
- Dec. 21 . . . . Boyne . . . . . . Koznick Clinic
- Jan. 4–5 . . . . Brule . . . . . . 3SL/3GS
- Jan. 18–19 . . . . Lutsen . . . . 2SG

**Eastern Championships**
- Feb. 7–9 . . . . . . Marquette . . . . Marquette

**Southern Regional Championships**
- Feb. 22–23 . . . . Granite Peak . . . . 2SL/2GS
- Feb. 24–26 . . . . Buck Hill . . . . 4GS
- Feb. 3–5 . . . . . . Buck Hill . . . . 4SL

**Northern Regional Championships**
- Mar. 8–9 . . . . . . Spirit Mtn. . . . . 2GS
- Info: Ryan Fuller 612.501.3268

**New England Masters/Sise Cup**
- Jan. 4–5 . . . . Sunapee . . . . GS/SL
- Jan. 10 . . . . Wachusett . . . . Clinic
- Jan. 17 . . . . Cochran’s . . . . Clinic
- Jan. 18–19 . . . . Middlebury . . . . SL/SL
- Jan. 25 . . . . Stratton . . . . GS
- Jan. 26 . . . . Bromley . . . . GS
- Jan. 31–Feb. 2 . . Whiteface . . . . 2SG/2GS
- Feb. 8 . . . . Pat’s Peak . . . . SL
- Feb. 9 . . . . Ragged Mt. . . . . GS
- Feb. 22 . . . . Cannon . . . . SL
- Feb. 23 . . . . Loon Mt. . . . . GS
- Mar. 1 . . . . . . Suicide Six . . . . SL/GS
- Mar. 2 . . . . Okemo . . . . GS

**Sise Cup Finals**
- Mar. 7–8 . . . . Waterville . . . . GS/SL

**National Championships**
- Info: Bill McCollom 802.234.9561

**New York Masters**
- Jan. 5 . . . . Swain . . . . GS/SL
- Jan. 11 . . . . Toggenburg . . . . SL/SL
- Jan. 12 . . . . Labrador Mt. . . . . GS/SL
- Jan. 25 . . . . Holimont . . . . GS/SL
- Jan. 31–Feb. 2 . . . . Whiteface . . . . 2SG/2GS
- Feb. 15 . . . . Hunt Hollow . . . . GS/SL
- Feb. 22 . . . . Song Mtn. . . . . GS/SL
- Feb. 23 . . . . Greek Peak . . . . GS/SL

**New York Finals**
- Mar. 2 . . . . Swain . . . . GS/SL
- Info: Jack Eisenschmid 585.288.4554

### Southern Masters (SARA)
- Dec. 26–27 . . Sugar Mtn. . . . . SL/GS
- Jan. 4 . . . . Bryce Resort . . . . SL
- Jan. 20 . . . . Wintergreen . . . . GS
- Feb. 1–2 . . . . Snowshoe . . . . SL/GS
- Feb. 8–9 . . . . Timberline . . . . SL/GS
- Feb. 17 . . . . Wintergreen . . . . SL/GS
- Feb. 22–23 . . Snowshoe . . . . GS/SL
- Info Contact: Horst Locher 540.856.2121
- www.skisara.org

### Far West Masters
- Dec. 2–6 . . . . Mammoth . . . . Camp
- Dec. 7–8 . . . . Mammoth . . . . SL/2GS
- Jan. 10 . . . . Heavenly . . . . SL/SL
- Jan. 11–12 . . Sierra at Tahoe . . . . GS/GS
- Jan. 23–26 . . Mammoth . . . . 2DH/4SG
- Feb. 22–23 . . Squaw Valley . . . . 2SL/GS
- Mar. 8–9 . . . . Mt Rose . . . . GS/GS

**Far West Finals**
- Info: Mark Mirviss 530.583.6971
- www.farwestmasters.org

### Intermountain Masters/JANS Cup
- Jan. 3–5 . . . . Red Lodge . . . . GS/GS/SL
- Jan. 10–12 . . Park City . . . . GS/SL/GS/SL
- Feb. 1–2 . . . . Bogus Basin . . . . GS/GS

### Fis Western Championships
- Feb. 6–9 . . . . Park City . . . . GS/SL/GS
- Feb. 10–12 . . Soldier Mtn. . . . . DH/DH
- Mar. 1–2 . . . . Canyons . . . . SL/SL
- Mar. 7–9 . . . . Snowbasin . . . . SG/GS
- Info: Amy Lanzel 435.649.5751
- www.intermountainmasters.org

### Northern Masters
- Jan. 3–5 . . . . Red Lodge, MT . . . . GS/SL/GS
- Jan. 17–19 . . Sun Valley, ID . . . . 2SG/2SL
- Feb. 6–9 . . . . Park City, UT . . . . 2SL/GS
- Feb. 20–23 . . Schweitzer, ID . . . . 3SG/3SL/GS
- Mar. 7–9 . . . . Snowbasin, UT . . . . GS/SL/GS
- Info: Toby Chapman 406.541.0866

### Pacific Northwest Masters
- Jan. 4–5 . . . . Summit at Snoq . . . . trGS/GS
- Jan. 11–12 . . Crystal . . . . GS/GS
- Jan. 31–Feb. 2 . . 49 Degrees . . . . 3SG
- Feb. 15–16 . . Willamette Pass . . . . SL/GS
- Feb. 20–23 . . Schweitzer . . . . 3SG/SM/GS
- Mar. 1–3 . . . . Stevens Pass . . . . SL/GS/2SG
- Mar. 8–9 . . . . Ski Bowl . . . . SL/GS
- Mar. 15–16 . . Alpental . . . . 2SL/GS
- Apr. 2–6 . . . . Mt Bachelor . . . . GS/GS/SL
- Info: Ann Ozuna 509.993.2283
- www.pnsamasters.org

### Rocky Mountain Masters
- Dec. 15 . . . . Loveland . . . . SL/GS
- Jan. 4–5 . . . . Copper Mtn. . . . . GS/GS
- Jan. 11–12 . . Winter Park . . . . GS/GS
- Jan. 12–13 . . Copper Mtn. . . . . GS/GS
- Jan. 18–19 . . Ski Cooper . . . . DH/GS
- Feb. 1 . . . . Ski Cooper . . . . GS
- Feb. 9 . . . . Loveland . . . . SL/GS
- Feb. 15–17 . . Aspen . . . . 2SG/2DH
- Mar. 1–2 . . . . Powderhorn . . . . GS/GS
- Mar. 8–9 . . . . Ski Cooper . . . . DH/DH
- Mar. 29 . . . . Loveland . . . . GS/SL
- Apr. 5–6 . . Breckenridge . . . . GS/GS/GS

### National Championship Events

**Phillips 66 Masters National Championship**
- Info: Bill Skinner 435.647.2633

**Phillips 66 FIS Masters Cup/ Western Championships**
- Feb. 6–9 . . Park City, UT . . SL/GS/SL/GS
- Info: Bill Skinner 435.647.2633

**Summer Fun Nationals**
- July 19–20 . . Mt Hood, OR . . GS/SL
- Info: Meri Stratton 541.387.3674

**Molecule F National Speed Series**
- Jan. 10 . . Park City, UT . . GS
- Jan. 24–25 . . Mammoth, CA . . DH/SW
- Feb. 1–2 . . 49 degrees/2A . . GS
- Feb. 6–7 . . Park City, UT (FIS Cup) . . SG/SL
- Feb. 11–12 . . Soldier Mtn., ID . . DH/DH
- Feb. 15–17 . . Aspen, CO . . GS/DH
- Feb. 20–21 . . Schweitzer, ID . . SG/SL
- Mar. 8–9 . . Ski Cooper, CO . . DH/DH
- Mar. 17–20 . . Okemo, VT (Nationals) . . DH/SW

Masters adult racing: Age class competition for skiers 18 years and older. For more information contact Bill Skinner at 435.647.2633 / Bskinner@ussa.org. Schedules subject to change. For complete info on Masters Racing visit www.ussa.org and click “Masters.”
The first four races of the season are in the books. Chile hosted two GSs, a SG, and a SL under great conditions. South America had an abundance of snow, and the races went off without a hitch.

Bill Skinner’s annual Valle Nevado Chile race camp was a great success. Training took place alongside several national teams prior to the South American races.

Park City will host four races this year on Feb. 6–9: two SGs and two SLs, all on Payday run. These races will also be part of the USSA Speed Series and be the Western Region Championships. U.S. racers will be competing to be named and receive 2014 Masters Western Region Team jackets. We anticipate a large European field; U.S. entry will be limited to first 200 sign-ups. be sure to get your entry in early.

If you plan on traveling to Europe for any of the following races, you will need to contact Bill Skinner at bskinner@ussa.org to be entered into the races. In order to participate in the FIS races, you must hold a valid FIS license, and be a current USSA member.

FIS-ski.com is the link to all the information for Masters racing in Europe. Each race venue usually has an associated website to give you the information you need to travel to a particular race venue.

December:
14–15 Sestriere, ITA SL/GS
21–22 Hochfuegen, AUT SL/GS

January:
4–5 Cerkno, SLO SL/GS
11–12 Veysonnaz, SUI SL/GS
18–19 Kaprun, AUT SG/SG
24–26 Serre Chevalier, FRA SG/SL/GS

February:
Jan. 31–Feb 2 Megeve, FRA SG/SL/GS
6–9 Park City, UT SG/SG/SL/SL
15–16 Bischofswiesen, GER SL/GS

March:
1–2 Zagreb, CRO SL/GS
8–9 Forni di Sopra, ITA SL/GS
15–16 Pec Pod Snezkou, CZE SL/GS
25–29 FIS Criterium Hockar, AUT SG/SL/GS

April:
11–12 Abetone, ITA / Finals SL/GS

Nature Valley NASTAR racing will take place at 115 resorts this winter and there will be two regional events that will provide great racing, fun parties and an opportunity to qualify for the Nature Valley NASTAR National Championships:

**Eastern Championships:** Okemo, VT
Feb. 1–2

**Midwest Championships:** Welch Village, MN
Feb. 15–16

These events will include individual races on Saturday, with participants divided into age and ability groups. On Sunday, there will be a Race of Champions to determine the fastest racers, using handicapped times and raw times. In addition, there will be a team race with separate divisions for family teams and teams of friends. Teams will be scored using NASTAR Team Points, so that age and gender can be used to handicap racers. Get your team together and register online today.

The regional events will be used to qualify racers for the Nature Valley NASTAR National Championships:

**National Championships:** Snowmass, CO
March 26–30

The Nature Valley NASTAR National Championships will take place in the Spider Sabich Race Arena at Snowmass Village, CO, and for the first year, SL racing will be included in the event. Ted Ligety, Steve Nyman, Stacey Cooke and Nolan Kasper will be setting the pace, along with U.S. Ski Team alumni Al Kitt, Kaylin Richardson and Heidi Voelker. Don’t miss this opportunity to compete against the best GS racer in the world.

There are 115 resorts with Nature Valley NASTAR race courses from coast to coast providing Masters with accessible racing and training opportunities. Every time you race you earn a handicap that represents the difference between your time and the time of the national pacemaker Ted Ligety. Results are posted on the NASTAR.com website and participants are ranked with their peers in their ability group at the host resort, in their state of residence and nationally.

Streamline your NASTAR experience at the host resorts by registering to race online. If you registered in the past, there is no need to register again; we know who you are. Simply go to nastar.com and search for your last name and login. There is no fee to register, and your NASTAR registration can be used as a bib number anytime you race. Your number will always begin with the first three letters of your last name, so it’s easy to remember.
With the 2014 Masters National Championships slated for Okemo Mountain, Vermont, racers from across the country will get to see why Okemo is the most popular Masters ski racing site in the east. What makes Okemo Mountain such an attraction among the Masters?

**Size Matters**
Topping out at close to 4,000 feet with 2,200 vertical feet of fall-line skiing, Okemo is a serious mountain. Throw in 650 acres of skiable terrain, 97% of which is covered by snowmaking, and 120 trails, serviced by 19 lifts, and Masters ski racers will be treated to plenty of skiing options.

**Terrain Matters**
The Masters-friendly venues are one of the primary attractions for Masters ski racers. The Chief Racing Trail, site of the DH, SG, and GS events, is long and rolling, with opportunities for air, fall-aways, or airplane turns in the speed events. Race organizers have the option of running the DH from top to bottom, which would yield winning times in the 80-second range, or the start or finish could be altered to shorten the course by about 10 seconds. Course setters also have the same options for SG and GS. But what makes racing on the Chief special is its rolling pitches over varied terrain, which makes it a challenge for the best—and fun to ski for all. The Chief Racing Trail is serviced by a high-speed detachable quad, which provides a turnaround time of less than 10 minutes. Full-service lodges are available at the top and the bottom of the courses.

The SL race will be held on the adjacent Wardance Trail. The fastest times may vary between 40 and 50 seconds, depending on the set and placement of the finish. Racers kick out of the start house and negotiate a consistently moderate pitch, which gradually flattens out toward the finish. The hill is plenty wide enough for two courses.

**Experience Matters**
This is a race organization that is on the go from the beginning of Dec. through the end of Mar. All the trails are FIS homologated and the Okemo race organization runs all levels of racing, from NorAms to peewees. Having hosted so many Masters ski races over the years, the race organization is well versed in appropriate course setting, length of courses, and optimal snow conditions.

**Convenience Matters**
Multiple ski-in/out housing options are available at the mountain, and additional well-priced lodging can be found in the village of Ludlow. This quintessential rural Vermont town is nestled at the foot of the mountain. Mountain options include the upscale Inn at Jackson Gore, or guests may bring it down a notch to housing units surrounding the base of the mountain. Dining choices abound as well, at both the mountain and in the village. With all the parties at the bar at the base of the mountain and the banquet at the Inn at Jackson Gore, it’s a tidy, logistically-friendly package.

**Proximity Matters**
Proximity is another reason that Okemo is number one among the eastern Masters. It’s a two-hour drive from Albany, Burlington, and Manchester airports, and three hours from Boston or Montreal. The New York and Canadian contingents are always well represented at Okemo events, as a result.

Okemo was the first choice for the Nationals for all in the east. Masters ski racers from all over the country are invited to attend this event on Mar. 17–22 to find out why.

Be there!

The Mountain Lodge at Okemo (1br condominiums), Kettle Brook (1,2 and 3 br condominiums) and Winterplace (2 and 3br condominiums) are no doubt the closest locations to the racing venues. On the other hand, Solitude Village and Jackson Gore are our newer lodging facilities and offer upscale options.

Here are a few lodging rates based on a six-night stay with arrival on Monday, Mar. 17 and departure Sunday, Mar. 23:

1. Mountain Lodge at Okemo 1br / 1 bath condo (sleeps 2–4) $1,070 or $179 per night
2. Kettle Brook 2br / 2 bath condo (sleeps 4–6) for $1,747 or $292 per night
3. Winterplace 3br / 2 bath condo (sleeps 6–8) for $2,362 or $394 per night
4. Solitude Village 2br / 2.5 bath condo (sleeps 4–6) for $2,151 or $355 per night
5. Jackson Gore Inn 1br / 2 bath condominium (sleeps 4) for $1,911 or $319 per night

Depending on the length of stay, we will extend a discount ranging from 15–35% with the following guidelines:

- 15% off on three nights
- 20% on four nights
- 25% on five nights
- 35% on six or seven nights

1. Mountain Lodge at Okemo 1br / 1 bath condo (sleeps 2–4) $1,070 or $179 per night
2. Kettle Brook 2br / 2 bath condo (sleeps 4–6) for $1,747 or $292 per night
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5. Jackson Gore Inn 1br / 2 bath condominium (sleeps 4) for $1,911 or $319 per night

Call 866-706-5366. Ask for Masters rates.

Other Lodging options include:
Castle Hill Resort and Spa
802.226.7688
www.castlehillresortvt.com
The 2013–2014 USSA Alpine Masters National Speed Series, sponsored by Molecule F, consists of a series of 17 SG and DH speed events, 10 SGs and seven DHs. The races will be held around the country in five divisions (Far West, Intermountain, Rocky, PNSA, and Eastern). The series concludes with the National Championship DH and SG at the National Championships in Okemo, VT, March 17–21, 2013.

**Park City Mtn. Resort**  
SG, Jan. 10, 2014  
This SG opens the year on Payday run. It will be on the same course as the FIS Masters Cup, so it’s a great way to get some experience on the FIS Masters Cup SG hill. The race is followed by a GS and SL. It is a fairly gentle hill, so a great first SG, all in all. Park City is also one of the closest ski areas to a major airport at 45 minutes, so a very easy race to attend.  
**Insider's tip:** Rental cars can be as low as $20 per day including fees and taxes from hotwire or similar sites. Places like the Sweetwater Lift Lodge can be found close to the lifts for a great price as well.

**Mammoth Mountain**  
DH & SG, Jan. 23–26, 2014  
New to the series this year, Mammoth is adding a DH. It will run down the same run as the SG, but instead of starting at hair jump, you will get to jump it! The SG is the fastest on the circuit, whether it goes down Fascination or Terry’s Run. The course starts on somewhat of a flat and the pitch slowly starts to increase and so does the speed. You reach the finish line at over 50 mph and it’s all high-speed turns until you reach the finish line. If you have to catch your breath, as the finish arena is above 8,000 feet in elevation!  
**Insider’s tip:** Mammoth is very high, with a peak elevation of over 11,000 feet. Come a day early to get acclimated. They also usually have training on the day before the race, so look into it.

**49 Degrees North**  
SG, SG Feb. 1–2, 2014  
A new addition to the series this year, two SGs will take place at 49 Degrees North in Chelewah, WA. This place is like stepping back in time; it has a very nice rustic feel and hasn’t aged since the early 80s. This hill features a medium pitch at the start, a small jump followed by a flat section, then a series of S turns off the flats toward a medium pitch then a huge fall away left-footed basketball turn, then it’s off to the races, grab your tuck to the finish.  
**Insider’s tip:** Make sure to grab drinks and meal at The Chalet Restaurant and Alpine Room. Then order their amazing beef stroganoff - fresh pasta with mushrooms, creamy sauce and a full aged steak cooked to order on the side, all for less than $30.

**2014 Molecule F Masters National Speed Series**  
by Luke Keenan

**Park City Mtn. Resort**  
SG, SG Feb. 6–7, 2014  
The two SGs in the FIS Masters Cup will also count toward the Molecule F series this year. Don’t forget you need an FIS Masters license to enter the races. Two SLs follow the two SGs. Additionally, this will be the Western Regionals, and points will count toward the Western Regional Team.  
**Insider’s tip:** Make sure to grab drinks and a meal at Adolph’s restaurant. They serve Swiss and European fare, but more importantly, the place is packed with ski racing memorabilia and where else do you find that?  

**Soldier Mountain**  
Two DHs, Feb. 11–12, 2014  
A true downhill with big jumps, long flats, uphill sections, and big turns. The closest place to stay is in the tiny town of Fairfield, ID, so book early. The resort is only open to racers during this race, so you are able to free ski as fast as you want!  
**Insider’s tip:** Speed on the course, not through Fairchild, or you will get a ticket. On the course, in really long sections, pick a point three or four gates down the hill and aim for that spot while trying to ride the flattest possible ski, rather than focusing on staying near the gates, which causes the ski to edge harder.

**Aspen**  
SG, DH, Feb. 15–17, 2014  
This race used to take part on the slowest lift ever. I believe if you had to take the combo of Tiehack lower and upper to get to the top the total time would be around 23 minutes. A brand new express lift will serve the course this year! The new lift will replace both upper and lower tiehack, making the total trip seven minutes! I can’t say enough about this improvement. The course is great, too: long flats on top, followed by an open, rolling section, then dropping down a fairly steep pitch into the finish arena.  
**Insider’s tip:** Booking straight to Aspen instead of Denver can be less than $20 extra and you don’t have a 4-hour white-knuckle drive down I-70. Rental cars at Aspen airport are under $20 a day.

**Schweitzer**  
SG, SG, Feb. 21–22, 2014  
A great entry-level SG. Gentle, rolling terrain and fairly slow speeds make this a great course to get started on. This race also features full-course SG training on the 22nd, GS race on the 25th, and an SL on the 26th. There is a great banquet up at the resort on Friday night, and usually a fireworks show to catch as well.  
**Insider’s tip:** Stay up at the mountain and relax in the alpine atmosphere. The race takes place on the backside of the mountain, which only has a very small lodge at the bottom. It also lacks cell service on the back side, so be prepared to spend extra time at the top of the course. That means bring a few extra layers.

**Ski Cooper**  
2 DHs, Mar. 8–9, 2014  
A glider’s course for sure, make certain you bring fast skis! A great course for the novice downhiller, come out and give DH a try. Lots of practice runs available before the race. It features long flats, a few rollers, and long corridor-type turns with the top skiers touching 70mph. Thanks to the Wolfs, they have the best start haus in the country. It even has a warming room for the racers that fits 10 or so.  
**Insider’s tip:** Look to stay in the fall line and in your tuck. Being aerodynamic and clean is more important here than being tight on the gates. Bring extra clothes for the slow ride up and stash them at the finish line.

**Okemo**  
DH, SG, Mar. 19–20, 2014  
These are last two Molecule F races of the season. The National DH and SG championship titles, as well as the Molecule F titles, will all be decided here. Make sure to bring your A game to these races or you won’t be bringing any hardware home.  
**Insider’s tip:** Stay as close to the mountain as possible. All the events, ceremonies, and cocktail hours are a lot more fun and relaxing if you can just walk from the wax room beforehand and few feet back your home after.
For the 2013–14 ski season, all FIS athletes must ski on 30-meter skis for the ladies and 35-meter skis for the men. From summer testing at Mammoth, Mount Bachelor, and Mt Hood, the consensus is the new radius skis are not as bad as we thought they were going to be for athletes. On hard snow, the new shape and advancements in materials technology mean the new skis are turning quite well and are still fast.

The new 30- and 35-meter FIS skis are now narrower under foot <=65mm. All World Cup women must ski on a 188, 30-meter GS ski and men must ski a 195, 35-meter GS ski. This rule is in affect for all World Cup, Europa Cup, Nor Am, and World Jrs. At the FIS level, athletes must ski the new 30- and 35-meter radius skis but can ski them 5cm shorter if needed (183, 190). These rules are not in affect for Masters.

Where does that leave the Masters in looking for real race skis? A number of manufacturers are making Masters specific GS skis. Fischer has a line of skis made just for the Master racer. Fischer has a 183, 23-meter and 188, 25-meter GS ski. Both skis are made with the same materials as the longer-radius World Cup skis, but in a shorter length, radius, and ski flex, to match the shorter radius and Masters needs. Fischer uses the same race plates, edge material, race base, and internal materials as all World Cup skis. The benefits of the Fischer Masters skis are they perform just like the World Cups skis, just turn much more easily and are more fun to ski. Atomic, Head and Volkl also have a line of Masters shaped GS skis.

With the new rule change for GS, SG, and DH it is important to point out that the SL skis rules have not changed for the 2013–14 season. All the speed-ski length, radius, and under-foot measurement has changed with the new rules. If you are in the market for new speed skis, this is the year to take advantage of the rule change. Retailers and racers will be looking to sell old speed ski sizes to make room for the new radius skis.

The 25th annual Summer Fun Nationals at Mt Hood was a real success, with well over 100 racers, including nine families, competing for the "Eigenvector Fastest Family" award, which was won by the New York family of Aaron Donnan.

The competition was top level, where the fastest man and woman were Cannon O’Brien (Amy Lanzel’s nephew) and Lauren Salko, from New York. The Skoch Cup Combined fastest men (following O’Brien) were Jake Jacobs, Tim Hill, Jake Keith, Toby Chapman, Pat Burke, Franz Fuchsberger, Willy Scroggins, and Pepi Neubauer. Race conditions were the “best ever,” under sunny skies, warm temperatures and firm snow.

The weekend finale was the pool party at the Timberline Hotel, where swimming, socializing and awards capped the sun-kissed, fun-filled weekend.

Complete race results may be viewed at summerfunnationals.com, and more photos are at brianrobbphotos.com.
Plan “B”
If you want to do it on race day, then you have to do in training. This includes having an alternate plan. Stick to your initial plan, but don’t be married to it. Understand that ski racing is a variable environment. The racer in front of you may not show up, which pushes you up the start order. This will change your timing, and if you are too set in your ways, you will be disrupted. Ted Ligety likes the warm-up course, but if it is half blown apart by the earlier racers he just skis by, not getting too jacked out of shape by not being able to run.

The Night Before
Tuning, waxing and getting your gear in order should help you get a good night’s sleep. The only caveat is that this is not the time to put that extra degree of side bevel on the ski. Ski the ski like it was in training: if this is your race pair, make the tune identical.

The Morning Of
Eat a good breakfast on training days so you can eat a good breakfast on race day. After that, what goes on inside your head needs some pacing.

Sasha Rearick, U.S. Ski Team men’s head coach, says the best racers are the ones that know how to control their mental state. “Additionally, your self-confidence is directly influenced by attention and emotion.” According to “Dr. Dan the mental man,” “each racer must develop mental skills to regulate emotion, attention, and visual tracking. We teach these mental skills to all our racers and they are gradually improved over time. With our team [U.S. Women’s Alpine team], we call these mental skills ‘coping strategies’ and recognize that they are unique to each racer. Think of Jedi skills from the Star Wars movie. Those are the coping skills that will help you blaze confidently from the start house.”

Warm-up
Start your physical warm-up by getting blood flowing to the muscles. This is essential for fast, accurate movements. Technique will falter and reflexes will be slow if the body is not warmed up sufficiently. Move through full ranges of motion but do not hold stretches—this is not the time to work on increasing joint range-of-motion. Proprioception is enhanced by skiing. Drills that exaggerate movements will wake up motor neurons that will be firing key muscles after you leave the start house.

Ted Ligety after a good warm-up wins for the third time at Sölden.

German SL specialists Fritz Dopfer and Felix Neureither both like to warm up with pivoting exercises knowing that their rotary skills will be taxed after they explode out of the start house.
DNFs (Did Not Finish) in slalom.

Having a thorough plan and consistently practicing like race day is the key to excelling on race day. Master’s racers can probably learn a lot from a very young ski racer. Seventeen year old SL World Champion Mikaela Shiffrin attributes her lack of nerves on race day to preparation that makes race day “feel like it is just another training day.”

By Ron Kipp
Photos: Getty Images

Ron Kipp is the USSA Alpine Sport Education Manager. He has worked with the U.S. and Norwegian Ski Teams.

Inspection
The goal of course inspection is to minimize surprises. It should equip you to race with a proactive approach, as opposed to racing with reactive impulse. This does not mean memorizing every gate—the gates are brightly colored and 180 cm above the snow. You will see them. Inspecting terrain and snow is underappreciated. Think of the course in sections, including where there is rhythm and where the rhythm changes. The skiing surface is less obvious at speed and is more variable than the gates. Dips, rolls and sidehills should all be noted during the inspection. Take care on large rolls that you know the location of the next gate. Lower your stance so your eyes will be at skiing height. This will let you know if you can see, or when you can see, the oncoming gate.

Start Strategy
Five to ten minutes before your start is called, begin moving to elevate your heart rate. This increase in heart rate will ready your body for the rigor of the ski race and allow for easier and faster energy utilization, ultimately delaying lactate build-up during the race.

Have a ritual that reminds you that your helmet is buckled, goggles are pulled down, armor is secure and boots are buckled. You are allowed to place your poles over the start wand. Take care to get a good purchase with the pads or in the snow. In the start take in one or two deep breaths, and no more. Aim your skis to where you want your line. This is not straight at the gate but about a meter out from the gate. Have in your mind’s eye where the second gate is. This will be the end of the first turn and the initiation of the second turn. The rule of thumb is look red to red and blue to blue…this is on a course when the gates alternate red and blue.

Between Runs
Eat and drink right away and don’t count on the cafeteria. Packing food and drink in your backpack will be easier to get to than that long cafeteria line and leave you less stressed for getting to the second run inspection on time. Sport Scientist Dr. John Seifert has studied the dietary needs of ski racers. He suggests carbohydrate and protein after that first run. This can be eaten or consumed in a drink. His studies have shown that drinking one cup an hour along with carbo and protein can reduce muscle damage while skiing and even decrease DNFs (Did Not Finish) in slalom.

Having a thorough plan and consistently practicing like race day is the key to excelling on race day. Master’s racers can probably learn a lot from a very young ski racer. Seventeen year old SL World Champion Mikaela Shiffrin attributes her lack of nerves on race day to preparation that makes race day “feel like it is just another training day.”
Summer always seems too short here in northern New England, but this year the really warm autumn (most places haven’t even had a frost yet!) extended it just enough so that almost everyone is eagerly awaiting the first snow. The gardens have been put to bed and the leaves chased into the woods. Skis are being waxed, the forecasts are being scrutinized and the snow guns are quivering in anticipation. And here at NEMS, we’re ready!

As last season ended, we rolled out our new website to wide acclaim. We tested the site extensively before going live and tweaked it a bit more over the summer. It’s easy to use and totally ready for prime time (i.e. race season)! We’ve been working with USSA and pursuing some of the successful initiatives introduced last season. We will be widely distributing the National Masters posters and brochures and will once again be holding a clinic to recruit new racers at Wachusett Mountain, in Massachusetts, on January 10. The clinic last year was wildly popular and really helped introduce Masters racing to a whole new group of potential racers. We expect to see a large number of last year’s participants on our start lists this year and we have scheduled the clinic a bit earlier, in hopes of getting more participants to join us this season. We are also adding a second clinic a little later in January (the date is almost confirmed but check our website for details!) at the Cochran’s ski area in northern Vermont to reach and attract another group of recreational racers. USSA has also agreed to continue the temporary license structure and will be permitting the use of two temporary licenses per individual and providing “funded temps.” This proved to be a very helpful recruiting tool. Last season, temporary licenses accounted for about a hundred starts in New England and we expect a number of those will purchase full licenses this season.

Once again, with USSA’s generous assistance, we will be starting the season with a New England Masters booth at the Boston Ski Expo. This will be our sixth season at the Expo and we hope to keep building on the very positive experiences we have had. Each year, we are finding fewer people who have never heard of Masters ski racing, and we have reached a few more folks who just didn’t know that it’s never too late to start ski racing, or get back into it. We will be offering free membership in NEMS for new members who sign up at the Expo and will have other giveaways, raffles, games and everything else we can think of to get attention! If your plans include a visit to the Expo, make sure to stop by.

Thanks to the tireless effort of the scheduling committee, we have a great schedule of races this season. In what has become a very popular new tradition, we will be kicking things off at Killington in December with our fourth almost-annual joint venture with ASRA, a ski racing organization with races in Vermont and points a little west and south. Events will include an SL, the season’s first Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS series race and, of course, a Saturday evening party! After the holidays we will be visiting Sunapee, which, in addition to its ever popular GS, will also be hosting an SL. January will include a weekend at Middlebury and the Janeway and Ineson Cups at Stratton and Bromley. Then it’s on to Whiteface, that amazing bastion of ski rac-

Division News

New England Masters
Nadine Price, chair
www.nemasters.org

Division News

East’s Hans Truckenbrod
PNSA

By Ann Ozuna
pnsa.org

Pacific northwest weather forecasters are predicting a cool—not cold—winter with lots of precipitation—perfect for the thirty-plus race starts for Masters skiers and friends. With so many opportunities, there is something for everyone on the schedule.

We love to go fast in PNSA, as proven on the podium at last year’s nationals. To get comfortable going fast, our racers get to hone their skills at SG races on Masters-friendly hills in Oregon, Washington and Idaho throughout the season. Mt Bachelor starts the season with a chance to run GS and SG with the kids in Dec. at the Russ Reed race, and ends it with multiple SGs as part of the Championships in April. 49 Degrees North, in skier-friendly Chewelah, Washington, is planning off-the-hill events along with three SG races and a “go fast” camp at the end of Jan. Rewax your SG skis and head to Schweitzer Basin in Idaho just after President’s Day for three more SG races, along with a speed camp. Seattle racers have two SG races close to home in Mar. at Steven Pass. The 49N and Schweitzer SG races are part of the national Molecule F Speed Series.

If you like to make turns, PNSA starts 2014 off with the Kickoff GS and a GS training day at Snoqualmie Pass, following it up with a GS weekend at Crystal Mountain in Washington. Oregon racing opportunities include both GS and SL courses at Ski Bowl with off-the-hill fun provided by the Skiyente Ski Club in Mar. or a chance to travel south to race SL and GS with the kids at Willamette Pass in Feb. Along with their SG races, both Schweitzer and Stevens Pass offer both GS and SL races as part of their race series. Alpental, on Snoqualmie Pass, offers a three-SL race weekend in Mar.

The full schedule is available in a number of places: on the PNSA Series page at skiracereg.com, as well as at pnsa.org under schedule/masters or at pnsamasters.com, or on our Facebook page. Skiers can create an account at skiracereg.com and enter all but the Mt Bachelor races with no additional credit-card fees. Mt Bachelor takes entries at mbsel.org.

Potential racers may have up to two temporary race licenses in a season, each good for a full race weekend experience. New racers may credit the cost of those two temporary licenses to the cost of a full season license at any time during the season. The temporary licenses are a great way to experience the thrill of a longer course and see your times in age-bracketed results.

Many areas offer coaching, especially for the Masters athlete. Information on coaching opportunities in areas all over the Northwest is available at pnsamasters.com.

Questions? Contact Peter Christian, membership chair, at christianx4@comcast.net or Ann Ozuna, PNSA Masters Chair at aozuna@ieway.com. We’d love to see you at our races, either as a race helper, official or a smiling participant. Come check us out.
Intermountain Masters—It’s a wrap!
By Amy Lanzel
www.Intermountain-Masters.org
Fall is in the air and frost has covered the ground. We are now officially a month away from multiple ski resorts opening in Utah! This year, we have added two new race venues, Bogus Basin (The Canyons) and Red Lodge (Montana). We are expecting our numbers to grow through better marketing, word of mouth and sweeter deals. We have also enhanced the variety of race offerings.

This year’s schedule includes seven SGs, 12 GSs and eight SLs. Where else in the country can you get that? Please check our Intermountain Masters website schedules closer to the race date for any changes, at IntermountainMasters.org.

Exciting changes this year include the Sun Valley Skoch Cup races. SG and GS will be held on Warm Springs run! The best run on the mountain is finally all ours, and Park City Mountain Resort will be hosting the super popular Loritz Cup three-day race series in January and the FIS Western Regionals in February.

Signing up for Intermountain races is easy using the online race registration site, Skiracereg.com.

Far West
By Mark Mirviss
www.FarWestMasters.org
We’ve already had a sneak preview of winter in the form of two small snow storms, but that’s enough to get our minds geared up for our coming season of ski racing. We in the Far West will be hosting a great race schedule, and we’d love for some of our Masters friends from around the country to come out west and race with us!

Highlights of this season’s schedule include our first race of the season at Mammoth Mountain, two GSs and an SL, Dec. 7–8; six speed races at Mammoth consisting of two DHs and four SGs. One DH and one SG will be National Speed Series races, Jan. 23–26. As mentioned, these are just the highlights! Please go to farwestmasters.org for the rest of our race schedule. And please come out and join us in the sunny west for any and all of our series of races. We know you’ll love it!

I hope to see all of you soon!
Central
Ryan Fuller, chair
www.midwestmasters.org

Season Preview
This season, Midwest Masters intends to capitalize on changes implemented last year and continue moving forward to better the program. Here are some highlights for this season:

- Continue to aggressively market using multiple channels including Facebook, YouTube, and Constant Contact.
- Continue with our prototype membership pricing system geared toward making it easier for the “casual racer” to race with USSA Masters.
- Hold TWO “Give it a try” Fall Masters SL camps coached by former Olympians Tasha Nelson and Kristina Koznick.
- Continued reorganization of our board to make it easier to contribute as a volunteer.

Last season Kristina Koznick, perhaps our nation’s best World Cup SL skier of all time, graciously accepted our invitation to coach a camp for adult ski racers. The camp was a huge hit, and she had so much fun she’s coming back this year! Tasha McCrank (Nelson), another Central division native and former Olympian, is also set to coach at the Buck Hill camp this season. We are extremely grateful that both of these immense talents have offered their time to help coach us Masters racers!

We plan to continue to use ski racism.org as our membership and race registration system, and to also continue using our own FIS-style divisional points system complete with points lists and our own ability-class racer classification. Both of these have been very successful parts of our program. We continue racing at many of the familiar venues, including Buck Hill and Spirit Mountain, and will be returning to Granite Peak this season for our Southern Championship.

Our Goals This Season
Before last season, Midwest Masters devised a 3-year plan for the program, as well as specific initiatives to meet the goals set in this plan. To know whether we are being successful, we need to measure our performance from year to year. This plan relates to many things including training, member recognition, and sponsorships. Most important, however, is that we plan to reverse the trend that we have seen in membership over the last few years and increase the number of new faces we see and build momentum for future seasons!

Here’s a quick summary of the metrics we are using to measure ourselves this year. In a nutshell, we’re trying to increase the number of new faces (the number of distinct members) and the level of utilization (how often each distinct member races with us), while stemming the loss of members from last season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric (Includes temps)</th>
<th>End 2012</th>
<th>End 2013</th>
<th>Goal 2013</th>
<th>Yr/Yr% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinct Members: how many members we have</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilization: how often our members race with us, starts per distinct member</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attrition Reduction: the percentage of members we lose from season 1 to season 2</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- New Midwest Masters customized GS suits.

Last season, we saw flat membership growth, a bit of a dip in utilization, but a reduction in attrition. This season we hope all metrics will be positive!

We believe in publishing these numbers to our Membership so the Midwest Masters board is held accountable! We’ll report back on these numbers again next Spring.

Looking Forward
We have high hopes for this season and are excited to get started racing. We’re also very excited for Nationals at Okemo, as conditions out east favor us racers in Central. The last time Nationals were in the east, Central won the Divisions Cup. We’re hoping for a repeat this year, so look out! If there are any questions about Midwest Masters, please send an email to program.director@midwestmasters.org and we will get back to you.

We’ll see you on the hill!

Northern Division
Masters
Toby Chapman, chair
tobyandali@yahoo.com

Northern Division once again will have a joint race schedule with PNSA and Intermountain. The race season will start off in Montana at Red Lodge with a joint junior/Masters race consisting of two GSs and one SL Jan. 3–5. Red Lodge does a great job putting on this race, with the Masters racers getting to go first down the course! The other joint races during the season will be Intermountain divisional races at Sun Valley, Idaho, Jan. 17–19 for two SG/GS/SLs—which in my opinion is the best race venue around—and Snowbasin, Utah Mar. 7–9 for an SG and GS races. The joint PNSA race will be at Schweitzer, Idaho, Feb. 20–23 for the Don Brooks Memorial, consisting of two SGs/two SGs/GS/SL. Two of the SG races at the Don Brooks Memorial will, once again, be part of the Molecule F Speed Series.

This year’s Nationals will be a four-event venue with a DH and SG for the speed freaks, and an SL and GS for the technical events at Okemo, VT. From what I’ve heard, Okemo is a great race venue. I’ve never raced there myself, and am looking forward to the competition out east.

Western Regionals this year will also be an FIS Master’s Cup event at Park City, UT, Feb. 6–9. However, it will consist of two SGs and two SLs that will crown the Western Region champions instead of the typical SC/SG/GS/SL races. This is a great race for both the speed freaks and technical skiers.

Gate training opportunities are available throughout the Northern division, so check your local ski areas and clubs for training opportunities. For training opportunities at Lookout Pass Ski Area, contact Toby Chapman at 406-541-0866, or email me at tobyandali@yahoo.com. Red Lodge ski area contact is Lisa Densmore at 406-690-0190, and Big Sky ski area contact is BSSEF Ski Team at www.BSSEF.com. Look forward to seeing you all this winter!
The new season is fast approaching, and we want to make sure every master racer is aware of all our offerings.

- Offer a season race entry pass to reduce the cost per race for those active participants.
- Offer a one-time purchase five-punch race entry card for those who want a discount to race in more than one or two races.
- Continue special race entry pricing for those under 25.
- And for newbies, we now have two weekends of reduced race entry rates with a temp license, which, if they love it, can be rolled over into a permanent Masters license.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to thank the great members of RMM board who have made my transition to the president’s role fairly painless. They are Wiebe Gortmaker, vice president; David Velasco, treasurer; Lauren MacMath, scheduling; Pat Palm, sponsorship; and our indefatigable office diva, Stacy Estelle. Thanks, guys.

On a final note…we, the entire Masters ski racing community were all saddened by the loss of Harold Westcott and Gene Timmons, and now the RMM group are additionally mourning the passing of longtime Rocky Masters racer Jay D. Meyers. All three had a tremendous love for ski racing and their inspiration, passion, courage and sense of adventure inspire us all. They will be sorely missed.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone on the race hill! Ski fast and take some chances!
off, we head to western New York for another combined weekend beginning with a two-GS race at Holimont on Jan. 25, followed by a two-SL race at Holiday Valley on the 26th. After Whiteface, and a week off, we head to Hunt Hollow for a two-race GS. Hunt Hollow always does a great job putting on a very challenging race. The following weekend we head back to central New York for our final combined weekend beginning with a two-race SG, and two-race SL at Song Mountain. The next day, we return to Greek Peak for a two-race GS. The Greek Peak race is a very special event, as we once again pay tribute to both Rockett and Joan Skiff. To finish the season, we return to Swain to finish our series with another two-run GS and two-run SL.

We would also like to dedicate the first weekend series in Syracuse at Toggenburg and Labrador to David Bennett. Sadly, David passed away in September. David was an avid skier and a true friend to the New York Masters Series. He was a constant presence at all of the races and was always willing to assist in any way necessary to help the series. David will be greatly missed by everyone associated with the New York Masters.

Similar to last year, the Whiteface races will be earlier in the season to ensure we have the best possible conditions. This year’s event will take place at Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid Jan. 31–Feb. 2. The Masters will then finish the 2014 season with the Nationals returning to the northeast and will take place at Okemo, VT, Mar. 17–22.

As always, the NY Masters will have a great day of racing, getting in two-run races by 2:00. This leaves time for free skiing, as well as fun après race parties. This year, as with every year, we are hoping to increase our race attendance, so we welcome any new, as well as any past, Masters racers.

Check out our website, nymasters.org, for the 2014 schedule, contacts, and registration information. We have also added a NY Masters Facebook page for everyone to access as well. We also ask that you please visit the links to our many sponsors that help make our series great.

Make sure to check the NY Masters webpage and Facebook page for any updates & changes to schedules! We recommend that all NY Masters join Facebook, for the best up-to-date information.

See you at the Start!

Southern Masters
By Horst Locher, chair
www.sararacing.org
The Southern Alpine Race Association is looking forward to have some great races this year in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. We hope that we can enroll some new Master racers from the Washington, D.C. region this winter. I am sure our racers will be ready to apply their skills for carving and skidding at our first GS race at Bryce Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley. But being south of the Mason-Dixon line and having a race before Christmas, it is really up to mother nature to make it happen.

Sugar Mountain, in North Carolina, is scheduling their yearly refresher clinic for Masters who resid in the Asheville and Charlotte area. Diann Roffe, 1994 Olympic gold and silver medalist, will return as this year’s celebrity coach, for three days of non-stop individual instruction and attention from accomplished skiers and certified instructors. Clinics include a three-day lift ticket, coaching fees, tuning clinic, video analysis, and a scrumptious Saturday night dinner. The clinic is scheduled for Dec. 13–15.

We are very proud of our Kathy Hurd carrillo, who travelled last Mar. to the Masters Championships at Big Sky. There, she entered all events and represented our Southern Master racers at her best. Having the National Championship at Okemo in 2014, I am sure it will generate some interests for us to travel up north.
The VISION of the USSA Alpine Masters is to provide adult skiers with a lifelong opportunity to enjoy the challenges and rewards of alpine ski racing.

The MISSION of the USSA Alpine Masters is to make this vision a reality by developing, promoting, organizing and coordinating the highest level of alpine ski racing throughout snow country in the United States and internationally, and to fulfill our passion for and love of nature, the outdoors, mountains, freedom, self-challenge and accomplishment.