



ALPINE MASTERS Series

www.ussa.org

Spring, 2008

The Perfect Nationals at Mammoth

2008 Masters Nationals

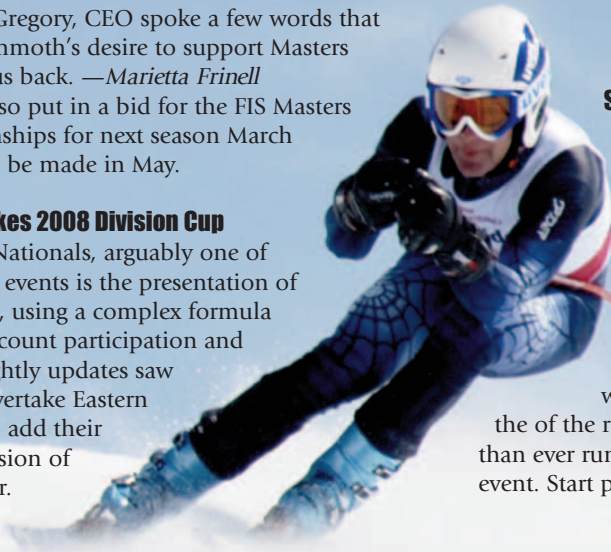
The 2008 Skier's Edge Masters National Championships at Mammoth were blessed with perfect weather: sunshine and temperatures just cold enough to keep the snow firm, packed powder. The top-notch race crews ran the events with clockwork precision and their attitude was, "We are here to give you what you came for, great racing!" They even took a little extra time to set practice GS and SL courses on the SG day. The food at the parties was exceptional, and the banquet was unequalled, adding a final touch of class to an outstanding event. Rusty Gregory, CEO spoke a few words that summarized Mammoth's desire to support Masters racing and have us back. —*Marietta Frinell*

Mammoth has also put in a bid for the FIS Masters World Championships for next season March 9–13, decision to be made in May.



Intermountain takes 2008 Division Cup

Each year at the Nationals, arguably one of the most exciting events is the presentation of the Division Cup, using a complex formula that takes into account participation and performance. Nightly updates saw Intermountain overtake Eastern on the last day to add their name and possession of the Cup for a year.



Sunday River to host 2009 National Championships

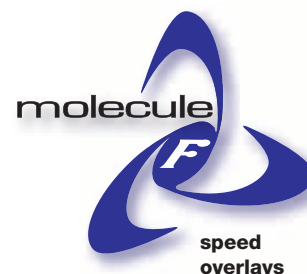
A favorite site for our four-event Nationals, Sunday River is looking forward to the gathering of the Masters clan March 23–28 next winter. Abby and Bear of the of the race crew promise a better than ever running of our feature event. Start planning now!



Highlights in this issue

- Year in pictures
- Ski information from Rossignol
- Speed Series wrap-up
- Divison reports

These companies support Masters Ski Racing, so please support them!



Chairman's Report

by Keith McCauley



What a great season! More early snow here in Park City and more powder days than we have had in years. Skiing, even now in April, is still great and most people seem to have put away their skis because nobody is on the hill. By the time you read this, most of the resorts here in Utah will be closed and they will still have a 6' base.

We had an excellent Masters Working Group meeting in Mammoth during the Nationals. My focus, and the focus of the meeting, was membership. I have included in this Newsletter "Zim's Ideas for Promoting Masters Ski Racing." This list was compiled by Richard Zimmerman, Chairman PSNA, of possible ideas that divisions can use to increase participation and enthusiasm. The consensus of the meeting was that electronic means need to be used a lot to get out the word. Various divisions have excellent websites and I would encourage you to visit them to get ideas for your own websites. (midwestmasters.org, www.rmmskiracing.org).

It's not quite ready yet, but students from BYU and Salt Lake Community College have done a promo video for a student project on USSA Masters. This is a very good five-minute video, and it can be used by us to promote our sport. I will provide a link in a future communication so you can view it and forward it to others. Masters National still needs volunteers, and if you want to help, please contact myself or Bill Skinner at USSA. We need volunteer coordinators for USCSA, PSIA, marketing, poster design and promo program development. None of these volunteer positions require a lot of work, perhaps 1 or 2 hours a week at the most, but they are essential if we want to expand Masters.

Other items covered at the annual meeting in Mammoth:

- Next season at the Regional and National Championships we have changed the seed order for the second run. All classes will run slowest to fastest (reverse of current) in the second run.
- IMC Criterium could be held in the United States next year with only approximately 100 U.S. Masters. The division chairman will be given quotas and have the responsibility to fill the slots from their divisions.

Something to be very proud of is the Far West scholarship program. Far West has a very aggressive and successful scholarship program in place, giving away \$37,000 last year, and over the term of the program, raising and giving over \$250,000 to athletes. They have a lot of previous scholarship winners on the current USST, i.e., Marco Sullivan, Katie Hitchcock, Stacey Cook, all of whom have come back and helped the Far West program.

Have a safe and successful summer, and help us promote USSA Masters.

Masters Membership News

by Bill Skinner



It seemed the whole country had great snow conditions this winter. Powder skiing doesn't necessarily mean good race conditions, but who's complaining? After all Mother Nature did smile on us at Mammoth for our Skier's Edge Masters Nationals. Three cheers for Beat and his race crew. Special thanks to Jon Nolting (Winter Park) and Thomas Erhard (Whiteface), our Regional Championships were weather challenged but these guys and their team never gave up. We all appreciate your effort. Keith McCauley is working hard as our Chairman and has provided great leadership at the National Comm. Meeting and efforts to recruit new Masters.

Our membership numbers were down slightly this year, so please, if you know a potential new racer get them out there and contact me and I'll send them our new Masters DVD with US Ski Team winning runs to get them fired up!

Most of our major events are calendared for next year, so pull out your day planner and set your schedule for 2009. (See back page)

We continue to be fortunate that our primary sponsor, the Skier's Edge Company, has stood behind us for the past 6 years. Rossignol has produced our season schedule poster, Molecule F sponsored the National Speed Series and Ski Racing Magazine continues to cover our sport in print and on the web.

Masters racing exists due to the volunteer efforts of the division chairmen, the help they get from fellow racers and family and those folks that I speed dial when in the need of expertise. Thank you one and all. See you at the start next year.



SUMMER TRAINING: Keeping Your Edge!

If you're not using the Skier's Edge, you may not be training hard enough—or at least as hard as your competitors.

This summer, don't lose your competitive edge for next race season! By training on the Skier's Edge Plyometric Power™ with the Slope Simulator™ for 20 minutes every other day, you can maintain and improve your racing by the time race season begins!

The World Cup Plyometric Power™ will rapidly develop your anaerobic tolerance, improve your coordination, balance, and increase your strength. With your increased power and agility, you'll take seconds off your race times and learn to master the toughest race courses in the world.

Just ask some of the top racers who own Skier's Edge Plyometric Power™ machines—they'll tell you what an incredible difference training on a Skier's Edge makes:

"I hopped on a Skier's Edge machine for the first time about five years ago. After only 30 seconds, I was well beyond my anaerobic threshold. I had finally found a machine that returned as much power as I put into it. Since then, I've used my machine on a regular basis. It provides a low impact ski specific workout, and has helped my technique. I now have the strength to perform more demanding and quicker transitions, and the Slope Simulator has helped my fore-aft balance."

—Tim Hill, 2007 U.S. Masters Racer of the Year

"As an avid ski racer and ex-pro racer, I thought I knew all about ski racing and training...until I purchased my Skier's Edge World Cup Plyometric Power. The dynamic movements it simulates has allowed me to stay in top condition. The Gate Keeper not only allows me to track my time and total number of turns, but also gives me visible and audible targets I can see and hear. All of these have added a whole new dimension to my training...I was on the snow, without the snow! The last few years of training on my machine have given me the competitive edge. I know it has been an important factor in my year-round training that proved to be so pivotal in my achievement of becoming the first FIS Masters Male World Champion (Class 5) in U.S. history."

—Dennis Wilhelmsen, 2 time FIS Masters Globe winner

"What people probably don't know about the Skier's Edge machines are that in addition to being the best 'dry land' training devices made, they are possibly the best tools available to help modern slalom technique. I even train in front of a mirror so that I can correct my technique errors! If you are an athlete that trains in the

off-season, pre-season, or in-season, you need this machine."

—Toby Chapman, 2008 Skier's Edge Masters National Combined Champion

"I would not be where I am today if it weren't for my Skier's Edge World Cup Plyometric Power. I am only able to train on 200 foot vertical slopes, yet I compete on slopes 4 to 5 times longer. Training on my Skier's Edge keeps my technique solid and makes me competitive wherever I am. I am proof that you can compete with the best...being from the Midwest!"

—Steve Lindemer, ranked 4th in the World 2008, FIS Masters Cup

"The Skier's Edge machine was a major component in recovering from knee replacement surgery. It got me back on skis in a short time period to enjoy the sport that I love. Even more, it has helped me work on ankle articulation and balance, as well as knee and hip angulation in a dynamic environment without the snow. I have been so pleased with my outcome that I use the Skier's Edge as part of my summer cross training program."

—Rick Slabinski, 5 time Masters National Speed Champion

- Over the past ten years, **94% of all World Cup podium finishes were won by users of the Skier's Edge World Cup Plyometric Power™**.
- Over the past six years, **814 podium finishes at the Skier's Edge Masters National Championships were won by users of the Skier's Edge World Cup Plyometric Power™**.

Recognized as the #1 technical ski conditioner in the world by ski teams and World Cup racers, the Skier's Edge has helped thousands of racers all over the world improve their fitness levels and technique.



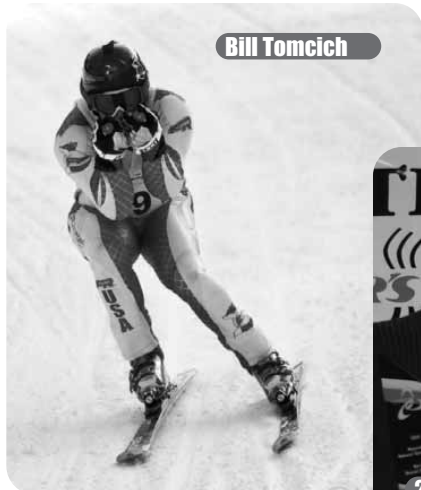
**Don't lose your edge this summer.
Be your best for next season...starting now!**

“ **If you're not using the World Cup Plyometric Power, you may not be competitive with those who are!** ”

Molecule F National Speed Series



This year 432 racers competed in 12 events for the largest Series yet. Don Johnson (RM) and Bill Tomcich (RM) traveled the entire tour including races in the East (Whiteface), Pacific NW (Schweitzer) and two trips to Mammoth. End result:



Bill Tomcich

Johnson in the battle for the overall till the last events, third overall for season, and Tomcich the class 4 season winner and has a Speed Series Belt Buckle to prove it.

As the series expanded to cover more regions the final winners were all new. Linda Crowell (FW) just edged two-time winner Jennifer Kaufman for the women's title. Last years older men winner Rauli Karjalainen (IM) had to play second fiddle to winner Knut Olberg (PN). In the younger men Willi Scoggins (PN) out last-ed the National DH Champ Erik Klemme



2008 Speed Series winners

for the Molecule F trophy. Complete standings can be found on www.ussa.org Masters web site.

Overall Molecule F Trophy standings

A/B – MEN (59 & YOUNGER)

1	Willy Scoggins (M05, PN)	114
2	Erik Klemme (M05, RM)	90
3	Don Johnson (M05, RM)	80
4	Bill Skinner (M06, IM)	56
5(t)	Benjamin Green (M01, EA)	50
5(t)	Randall Malin (M05, IM)	50
5(t)	Matt Savage (M01, FW)	50

D – MEN (60 & OLDER)

1	Knut Olberg (M08, PN)	145
2	Rauli Karjalainen (M08, IM)	93
3	Pepi Neubauer (M08, EA)	70
4(t)	Jim Ruscitto (M08, IM)	60
4(t)	Keith Thompson (M09, PN)	60

C – ALL WOMEN

1	Linda Crowell (W06, FW)	103
2	Jennifer Kaufman (W03, RM)	100
3(t)	Lisa Densmore (W05, EA)	70
3(t)	Dasha Kadulova (W03, IM)	70
5	Sandy Hogan (W09, FW)	61

2009 Spyder National Masters Team

Class	Women	Men
	Competitor	Competitor
13	Teddy Cantanho (FW, 1-1-1)	Nate Grifkin (EA, 1-2-1)
12	Diana Cookingham (FW, 1-1-1)	Richard Masters (CN, 1-1-1)
11	Virginia Reed (IM, 1-1-1)	Harold Wescott (FW, 1-1-3)
10	Marietta Frinell (FW, 2-1-x)	Rich Robertson (PN, 1-2-1)
9	Nancy Auseklis (IM, 4-1-1)	Toni Praxmarer (FW, 1-1-1)
8	Rosemary Moschel (IM, 3-1-1)	Pepi Neubauer (EA, 2-1-1)
7	Charlene Braga (FW, 1-1-1)	Robert Andree (EA, 2-1-3)
6	Deb Lewis (FW, 2-1-1)	Robert Skinner (IM, 2-1-2)
5	Lisa Densmore (EA, 1-1-1)	Erik Klemme (RM, 1-1-5)
4	Carolyn Beckedorff (EA, 1-1-1)	Timothy Hill (PN, 1-2-1)
3	Jennifer Kaufman (RM, 1-1-1)	Toby Chapman (N, 1-2-2)
2	Kerry Brennan (EA, 1-2-3)	Mike Shklovski (CN, 2-1-2)
1	Megan Thayer (EA, 1-1-1)	Matthew Savage (FW, 1-1-1)

2008 Skier's Edge National Championships Mammoth Mountain, CA

The 2009 Spyder National Masters team is selected from the top finisher in each age at the 2008 national championships, based on total world cup points in the 3-events SG-GS-SL combined.

New Ski Shapes and You

Jesse Keene, Rossignol National Race Coordinator

I wrote an article in the fall about how the new rules and ski shapes won't affect the performance of the skis. Both Lindsey Vonn and Ted Ligety proved manufacturers could build even faster products regardless of the rules. A common question I get every year from coaches, athletes, and parents is "What is the difference between the products that the world cup athletes get vs.



Jesse Keene

the club level?" Well, the answer to that question is "nothing"... or sometimes "everything."

Rossignol finished the World Cup season with the best results from its athletes in recent years. Lindsey Vonn took the overall and DH globe, and Ted Ligety won the GS globe, showing our leadership role and commitment to racing. We are constantly designing and building new race skis. Rossignol and most ski companies were able to find the right combination of side-cut, flex and constructions, to give our athletes the tools to excel on the World Cup circuit and all levels of racing.

For example, the slalom ski that Ted and Lindsey skied on this season was the Y58 model made in both 155cm and 165cm. That exact ski was available to all athletes. Ted was in Mt. Hood this past summer coaching and training. He borrowed a pair of Y58 SL test skis from our demo center, and was surprised how similar our test skis compared to his own pair of skis. It is true that sometimes new skis are designed in the middle of the season and our top World Cup and juniors may start to race on this product. This is part of the validation process to ensure that all racers get the fastest product. If the ski is validated, than that model will be offered to racers in the fall.

People believe that there is a secret race room in the ski factories where only the elite can enter and in that room there are "the good skis." That might be the situation for some companies, but this is not true for Rossignol. We believe that if you want the best you should get the best. Rossignol provides top "World Cup" skis to all its elite athletes, top junior skiers and Masters though our Race Centers.

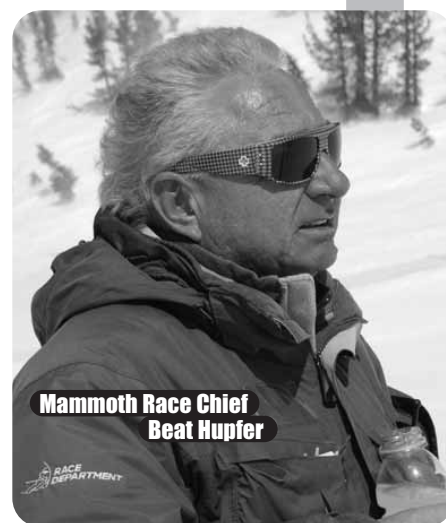
Valentino Rossi, who races Moto GP for Yamaha, will get the latest and greatest from Yamaha before it's available on the market. This is part of the testing and validation process to prove that the technology is faster. Once validated, the technology will be available to all street riders and club racers. It is no different in ski racing. Once our best athletes validate that the product is faster, we make the product available to all racers.

Most of the time all racers are on the same product, and occasionally the top athletes will be 1 to 3 months ahead, testing and proving that the skis are fast before we bring them to market. It is extremely important that the World Cup athletes validate the products for the rest of us, so we can continue to provide the best product to all levels of racing.

Postcards from Mammoth



Megan Thayer, fastest woman in New York. 2008 MASTERS NATIONALS



Mammoth Race Chief Beat Hupfer



Nice suit, Pierre!



Rich Frongillo won the super G with shades.



Coaching the girls.

Zim's Ideas for Promoting Masters Ski Racing

by Rich Zimmerman, Pacific Northwest Chairman

1. Have divisions cover a discounted price for temporary membership.
2. Push USSA Masters Memberships; promote the ability to get discounts in area ski shops with the membership card. Discounts throughout the year and in special sales.
3. Develop and implement a marketing program, including: Masters booths at pre-season ski/snowboard shows; have video of masters racing (spills and all); provide information/handouts about USSA Masters Memberships; have a discount for signups during the show.
4. Have a night race (or two). Incorporate a free pre-race short course for new racers (non-members) only. Possibly have some bottom-of-the-hill coaching/suggestions.
5. Hold a Free Ski Race Day for new racers (non-members). No charge (racers buy own ticket). Basic coaching at bottom.
6. Put together a Masters presentation and take it to college ski clubs – and to college race teams. Get on the agenda for your annual College Ski and Snowboard conference.
7. Ensure that we keep the race courses "buffed". Eliminate the ruts that come from skiing in the last groups. And let prospective racers know that.
8. Put together "local series" cups by combining race results from races that are, by mileage, close together. Limiting the expense for travel and accommodations.
9. Meet with area ski school Directors. With material from USSA Masters, persuade the ski schools to use gates to help improve their students (using stubbies).
10. USSA Masters prepare a non-intimidating video – that covers race basics and how this will make them a more efficient skier. Free video that could be downloaded.
11. Provide the opportunity for a race day to civic clubs (Rotarians, etc.). Offer them the opportunity for a fun race day (dual GS) to provide a bit of competition. Hold a basic race training session at the start of the day – basic race technique discussion, have them slip the course, let them go at it.
12. Masters posters that we take to ski shops and help them get prominently posted. And, at the same time, talk up race training as a way to improve skiing skills.
13. Work with ski areas to put on their websites, a link to the USSA Masters and the local Masters' website.

US Masters attend FIS World Criterium

The 2008 Masters World Criterium (world championships) in Reiteralm, Austria, April 1st to 4th, was truly a new adventure in ski racing. About 600 racers participated in the event that drew athletes from 25 countries, though 70 percent of the field was Austrian. The American team of 18 was one of the largest ever at a World Criterium outside of the United States. Despite competing in the lair of the ski racing tiger, Team USA made a respectable showing, claiming 6 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze medals. It was a week of highs and lows, punctuated by challenging weather and snow conditions, frustrating course management, and inspiring performances. (Lisa Densmore)

US medalists included Pepi Neubauer, Anne Nordhoy, Carolyn Beckedorff, Lisa Densmore, Erik Klemme, Mike Shkovski and Dorin Muntaneau.

FIS Masters season combined globes were won by Anne Nordhoy 1st, Dennis Wilhelmsen 2nd and Jim Ragan 3rd.



Anne Nordhoy, Pepi Neubauer,
Lisa Densmore and Carolyn Beckedorff
at Pichl, in Austria.

20th Masters Summer Fun Nationals

July 26 & 27, 2008



Join the celebration at the Rooly USSA Masters Summer Fun Nationals, July 26 and 27, 2008. This will be the 20th annual Masters Summer Race on Mt Hood. It's Fun in the Sun! This fourth weekend in July has been a sunny, warm time of the summer for ski racing and training. It is also the best time to demo next year's race equipment from all the major manufacturers who set up shop in Government Camp on Mt. Hood.

The action-filled race weekend starts off Friday afternoon with a welcome party and race check-in in

Government Camp. The lifts open on the Palmer Snowfield at 7:00 am, giving racers time for two 1-mile rides and inspection before the 8:30 am first run starts for the Saturday GS and Sunday Slalom. Everyone is off the hill by 1:00pm.

Saturday afternoon festivities continue in the Day Lodge at Timberline with kegs of beer, lots of food at the chicken BBQ, awards, raffles, silent auction, and many giveaways. The Sunday awards party is over by 2pm. It is a truly fun time for all. Bring your sunscreen!

Many of racers show up early for a week of race training camp to warm those legs up for the race. Some show up for just a day or two of warm up, while others just show up and race. Camps are listed on the web

page labeled "Race Camp Info". Any way you choose to do it, the race is half way from last spring to next fall, giving you a definite jump on the season ahead. Fly into PDX and join in on the racing and fun!

Friday, July 25

3:00-6:00 Welcome/
check in Ski Bowl in Govy
No day of race entries

Saturday, July 26

6-7:00 am Late check-in Day Lodge
6:30 am Ticket office open
7:00 am Lifts open
7:30 am Inspection
8:30 am 1st run GS
11:00ish 2nd run GS
4:30 pm Beer & raffle @ Day Lodge
5:00 pm BBQ
6:00 pm Awards: GS

Sunday, July 27

6:30 am Ticket office opens
7:00 am Lifts open
7:30 am Inspection
8:30 am 1st run SL
11:00ish 2nd run SL
1:30 pm Awards @ Day Lodge



Register Here!

2008 USSA Masters Summer Fun Nationals • Timberline/Palmer Glacier, Oregon • July 26 & 27, 2008

DNS refund requests must be in writing.

Name _____ USSA # _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone: Day () _____ Evening _____ E-mail _____
 Birth Date / / Class: _____ Sex: Men Women

Events	Cost	Enclosed	T-shirt Size:
Full Weekend: GS, SL, BBQ	\$110	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M
Sat only/GS, BBQ	\$75	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL
Sun only/SL	\$45	_____	
Late Fee if received after 7/14	\$10	_____	
Guest BBQ	\$30	_____	
TOTAL PAID		\$ _____	

For More Info

Go online to
www.SummerFunNationals.com
Meri@SummerFunNationals.com
(541) 387-3674

Entries/check payable to:

Masters Summer Fun Race
3624 Lois Dr.,
Hood River, OR 97031

A QUICK STUDY IN SPEED

All photos by Lisa Densmore and Bob Skinner



Class 9 Ladies



Erik Klemme



Rosie Moschel

Dee Larsen

Marcie Pettigrew



Nate Griffin

John Droege



Michele Prevost

Carolyn Beckendorff and son



Fast ladies



Tim Hill



Tim Stewart



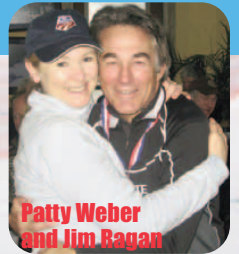
Steve Masur



Lindemer



Skier's Edge Eastern Regional Team



Patty Weher and Jim Bagan



Laura Johnson



Ed Thys

Harold Wescott

Gaetano Demattei



Victor Roy



Bob Andree



Toby Chapman and Mike Shklovski

Division News

New England Masters

Pete Donaghy
www.nemasters.org

What goes around comes around and, in the east, the winter of 2006–2007, which went around as days of warm rain alternating with days of sub-zero sheet ice came around in 2007–2008 as the most glorious snow-filled winter in recent memory. OK, the Loon GS piste was a little firm but, generally, the overwhelming concern of race organizers this year was too much snow, not too little.

Taking full advantage of the great snow year and the 20 race Sise Cup schedule were Randy Detrick (Class 2) and Carolyn Beckedorff (Class 4) who won the overall men's and overall women's Sise Cup, respectively; narrowly and handily, again respectively. Randy's victory restored some order in a ski racing universe which has seen the Sise Cup won by progressively more experienced (we do not say "older") racers in two of the last three seasons (Bob Hill, Class 5, '05 and Mark George, Class 6, '07). Second place finisher Ben Green (Class 1) finished strong and served notice that the new decreasing age trend is likely to continue. In women's Sise Cup, Carolyn's victory confirmed the status quo. She won in 2007 and was second in 2006. Carolyn dominated this year, winning with 900 of a possible 900 points. She then went on to sweep her class at the 2008 Skier's Edge USSA Alpine Masters National Championships, winning the Class 4 super G, GS and slalom—in the GS and slalom she was the fastest woman overall. Other Easterners sweeping their classes at the Nationals were Lisa Densmore (Class 5) and Megan Thayer (Class 1). Check the New England Masters website (www.nemasters.org) and click on the "2008 Skier's Edge Master's Nationals—Results" link for a full report on how other Easterners fared at the Nationals. (See especially the women's GS results.)

Sandwiched between the March 2 end of the New England Masters Sise Cup schedule and the commencement of the Skier's Edge USSA Masters National Championships on March 17, Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid, New York hosted the Skier's Edge Eastern Regional Masters Championships. Bill McCollom, Steve Foley, and Liz Mezzetti, did a phenomenal amount of work in planning and organizing this event and, when Bill

Skinner arrived to blue skies and perfect snow conditions, he must have felt that his blemish-free record of bringing perfect ski racing weather to the east for regional and national events was going to hold. Alas, it was not to be. The blue skies and hard (but not too hard) snow held for the super G but was replaced on Saturday (GS) and Sunday (slalom) by rain, fog, ice, power outages, and no racing. Forget seeing two gates ahead. One intrepid crew which attempted to inspect the GS course couldn't even find the trail. (I know some of those guys, and their misadventure might not have been entirely attributable to the fog.) Ben Green gained a measure of revenge for his second place finish in the Sise Cup by wining the Eastern Regionals super G, thus becoming the Eastern Regional Combined Champion. Likewise, Lisa Densmore moved from the second step on the podium in the Sise Cup to the top step at the Eastern Regional super G. Ben and Lisa confirmed their speed event superiority by winning the second, non-championship, Whiteface super G as well.

New England Masters Sise Cup racing is enhanced by at least two ancillary campaigns. One is the contest for the prestigious individual awards presented for ski racing excellence at a number of our weekly races; awards like the Bunny Bertram Memorial, the Thomas Inneson Memorial, and the Janeway Cup. The other is the season-long contest for the Sise Cup Team Racing crown. In 2008, former U.S. Ski Team member Neal McNealus made a cameo appearance at his home mountain, Suicide Six, and, flashing some impeccable 1970s slalom technique, and with the enthusiastic support of the junior racers he coaches, claimed the Bunny Bertram Memorial trophy. Pat McNamara and Carolyn Beckedorff won the men's and women's divisions of the Thomas Inneson Memorial trophy, presented annually by the Bromley Outing Club, and Brent Grygiel and Carolyn Beckedorff won the men's and women's Gibson Cup Combined trophy, the combined being comprised of the Cranmore Mountain GS and slalom. The Janeway Cup, presented at the Stratton Mountain GS to the fastest man and fastest woman over 40 years of age went, this year, to Bob Hill and Carolyn Beckedorff. The Hochgebirge Challenge Cup, presented each year to the fastest 4-person team at the Hochgebirge

Challenge, the oldest, continually run alpine ski race in North America, was claimed by the sponsoring ski club Hochgebirge's in-house Hoch Hopefuls team, comprised of Tony DiGangi, Carolyn Beckedorff, Brian Irwin and Terrence Fogarty

With two races remaining, three teams, the Hockey Burgers, Team Edgewise and the Comets, were in a virtual tie for first place in the Sise Cup Team Racing standings. In the end, however, the Hockey Burgers, affiliated, as you can no doubt guess, with Ski Club Hochgebirge and comprised of Ben Green, Steve Masur, Tony DiGangi, Derek Griggs, Carolyn Beckedorff, Chuck "The Chuckinator" Thorndike, and Jim Larsen, prevailed, winning the title with 840 points. Team Edgewise and the Comets each closed the season with 820 points but, as the result of a tie-breaking procedure known only to Team Racing Commissioner Fred Dieffenbach, Team Edgewise claimed second place. The Comets finished third.

Although it has already been extensively noted in Masters ski racing circles, no article on New England Masters 2008 season would be complete without mention of the untimely passing of George Anderson. I will not belabor the point but will say only that George epitomized what Masters racing is all about. While not one of the world's best racers, he was one of the world's best individuals. He will be missed. The 2008 John C. Tobin award, presented each year for outstanding contributions to Eastern Masters Racing was awarded, posthumously, to George.

2008 marks my last season as a member of and president of the board of directors of New England Masters Skiing, Inc. Serving as president has been a hugely rewarding experience—at least for me, if not for the Masters in general. It is, however, time for new faces with new ideas and new approaches. The new president, Nadine Price, is younger, smarter, a better skier and a hell of a lot better looking. What's not to like?

Finally, let's remember, even during the summer, our sponsors, Denby Pottery, Artech, and Swix need to pay their bills. With graduations, weddings, birthdays and race camps in South America and at Mt. Hood, there are plenty of opportunities to support them the way they support us. Let's do it.

Division News

PNSA—The Year in Pictures

By Richard Zimmerman, Chair
www.pnsa.org



Brad Scott is pleased with the results.



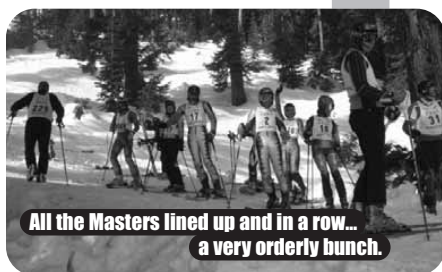
Jim Doudna, don't forget to look!



Our forerunners look sharp.



A few libations after the race.



All the Masters lined up and in a row... a very orderly bunch.

Rocky Division Rocks!

By Bob Tatge, Chair
www.rmmskiracing.org

Colorado had a winter to remember. Everywhere in the state we were above-average snow depth, and, fortunately, our race venues everywhere were held where our base was man-made snow and except for the regional speed events, we never got any big dumps to get in the way of good race conditions. Our balanced schedule of 24 races across all four alpine disciplines covered everyone's interest and abilities, and it gave those that don't do all events more time to train and improve our skills in the events we love best. With all the snow that Colorado had this winter, free skiing was a bonus that improved everyone's skiing. Sometimes I think that we concentrate too much on running gates and not enough on free skiing.

The beginning of the year started with our highly-successful fall awards party, skillfully organized by our vice president, Jennifer Kaufman. With room for our sponsors' booths, the fall party is turning into a miniature trade show with many products and deals available for everyone. Rocky racers have no excuse to not race on the latest and greatest equipment, thanks to our sponsors, including Skier's Edge, SKS Tools, Atomic, Descente, Fuxi Racing and Syder and all the popular Masters training programs including Aspen, Arapahoe Basin, Copper, Eldora, Loveland, Quantum, Steamboat, Swiss Am, Telluride and Winter Park. Although



Tyler Milligan and Karen Kilian, Over The Hill overall winners.



Start gate at Mt. Hood; could skiing conditions get any better?



Rocky's Don Johnson

not a sponsor, we also receive generous support from Sue Booker, who manages the ski shop at Loveland Basin.

Many thanks go to the resorts that generously offer hill space for our race courses and the many volunteers that keep our courses in top shape throughout each event. To highlight these events, we now have a newsletter with color, skillfully organized by Gunnar Sorensen and Hans Wolf. You may download copies of our newsletter on our fabulous web site run by Jim Montgomery. Although RMM operates as a nonprofit organization, we all treat this as a business, and with Jim Roberts at the helm and Richard Bradsby as our treasurer, the board continues to run a tight operation financially to support future uncertainties.

Debi Davis manages our office, including membership issues. Though this is a second job for her, she manages to do an excellent job, perhaps inspired by the excitement of ski racing and the characters that make up RMM.

At each race there is nothing better than a great party and lots of swag. Taking over for the fabulous Victoria Valar (our new fundraiser) is Katie Gaylord, whose parties continue to set new standards for après ski. Generous donations of swag are continuously provided by Chip Ford and his SKS Tools and Fuxi-Meister, Franz Fuchsberger. Both of these guys race all events with masters and provide us with the best ski accessories in the industry.

Complete 2008 results are available on our web site, and we've almost

finalized our 2009 calendar of events. Be sure to check it out and plan on joining us for some great skiing and racing in the Colorado Rockies.



Charlie Milligan, Tyler's son. We're looking everywhere for new Masters.

Division News

Intermountain Division

Steve Slivinsky, Chair
www.ussa-imd.org/masters

To paraphrase an old song: the weather outside was frightful this winter but the racing was so delightful, so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. And snow it did in our part of the Rockies. We had plenty of God's own white stuff to race on, from Tamarack to Park City and all points in between. Along with the good snow there was the usual fierce competition in our Intermountain racing schedule. You can't beat head-to-head racing of people like Nancy Auseklis, Anna Drouge and Glen McConkey, or Bill and Bob Skinner.

I would like to take time to recognize those site coordinators who made our races work so well this season. They are Rauli Karjalainen and Bob Chambers at Snow Basin, Roman Schwartzman at Tamarack, Ken Dreyer and Bob Sarchett in Sun Valley, Bill Skinner and Amy Lanzel at Park City, Yves Desgouttes, and Louie and Chris Abel at Jackson Hole, and Keith Rounkles at Wolf Mountain—and of course, the one person that makes the Intermountain race program happen from the start list to handing out the awards, Meri Stratton. In recognition of her tireless efforts for Intermountain, Meri won this year's Spirit of Intermountain Masters award. I would like to also thank Sally Tauber, who again this year worked hard selling Intermountain shirts to help bolster our bank account. By the end of the

season, the fastest couple on the hill for the second straight year was the family Leach. Both Dana and Ryan not only won the top red and yellow bibs for next year, but also the prestigious Jans Cup.

When this season was all said and done, Intermountain skiers proved they were ski racers to be reckoned with by winning the Division Cup at the Mammoth Mountain Nationals. So I would like to give thanks to Rocky for keeping our trophy in such good shape, to Far West for providing an outstanding venue to display our superior talents, and finally to all the Intermountain skiers whose superb skiing culminated in me having to take loving care of the Division Cup for another year.

Northern Masters

Rick Murphy, Chair
www.northernmasters.org

Increasing USSA membership and getting members certified as officials were our pre-season goals, and our members stepped up and helped us achieve them. The membership drive resulted in a 14 percent increase in USSA/Northern competitors. Members getting certified were: Patti Weber (TC), Bob Bloyer (CR), Laurie Murphy (TC, RA), Rick Murphy (RF, CR, TC), Fran Noel (RF) and Ron Matelich (RF). It paid off not just for our Northern races, but for our two joint races with Intermountain. Thanks too to race coordi-

nators Fran Noel (Big Sky), Jim Regan (Snowbowl) and Rick Murphy (Blacktail and Whitefish) for ensuring sanctioning agreements were obtained.

For his debut in Class 7 (ages 70–79) this year, Fran Noel made statements early and often that he had arrived. Many of us watched as Fran gave clinics on how to podium at every race in our point series. To avoid mentioning his name in almost every paragraph in this newsletter, here is what Fran accomplished this year by event: super G 1st (1), 2nd (2), 3rd (2); GS 1st (4), 3rd (2); SL 1st (4) 3rd (1). For his winning ways, he received the Sotheby Cup for most total points accumulated by any racer. Congratulations, Fran, on a truly inspiring year of racing.

Our racing season got off to a fast start with the "Speed Fix" Super-G series, a joint Northern and Intermountain contest at Big Sky. Making the podium was Percy Amble, M9; David Oberlitner, Lynn Vanwenchel, M6. and Roger Lemke M3. New Northern member Peter Fischer created quite a buzz by taking 2 golds in Class 3.

Slowing things down a bit, the Hellgate Cup slalom series proved once again that if you want good slalom competition, come to Snowbowl. Canadian Bobby Swan made the trek from British Columbia, but the best he could do was second behind Northern's Tom Melhuse in their class. After two days of racing,



Division News

Toby Chapman (M3) was the Cup winner, followed by Dennis Wilhelmson in second and Ron Matlelich edging out Tom Melhuse for third.

In our other joint race with Intermountain, the "Cowboy Classic" at Snow King, Northern members bringing home a golden horseshoe or two were: Fran Noel (M10), Tom Melhuse (M8) Dennis Wilhelmson (Super Seed) and trading places on the podium for first and second in the M3 contest were Kelly Eliason and Roger Lemke. Roger's proud father Ralph took two second places in the M10 class and Percy Amble captured the bronze horseshoe both days in the M9 class.

Northern was well represented at the Don Brooks Memorial race series at Schweitzer Mountain, with ten of us making the trek. In a marathon effort, Ann Ozuna entered and won both super G races, both GS races, and the slalom. Tom Robideaux almost duplicated her effort by taking first in every race, but marred his perfect record by disqualifying in the slalom. David Lee also made the podium in every race but slalom (4th). Perennial powerhouse Dennis Wilhelmson took second in the super Gs but redeemed himself in the GS and slalom with his golden effort.

Laurie Murphy placed second in both GS races and Rick Murphy took bronze in the single GS race he entered. On a sad note, Jodi Harms,

who was continuing her winning ways this season and won her first GS race at Schweitzer, fell in the second race and had a season-ending injury. As of this writing, she is still on crutches, but plans to be back racing next year. We all look forward to her smiling face atop the podium again.

We had a new series on our calendar this year called the "Black and White Ski Challenge," where the results from our races at Blacktail Mountain Resort and Whitefish Mountain Resort were handicapped and combined. After the powder settled, the fastest male skier crown went (of course) to Fran Noel. Laurie Murphy took the fastest female award.

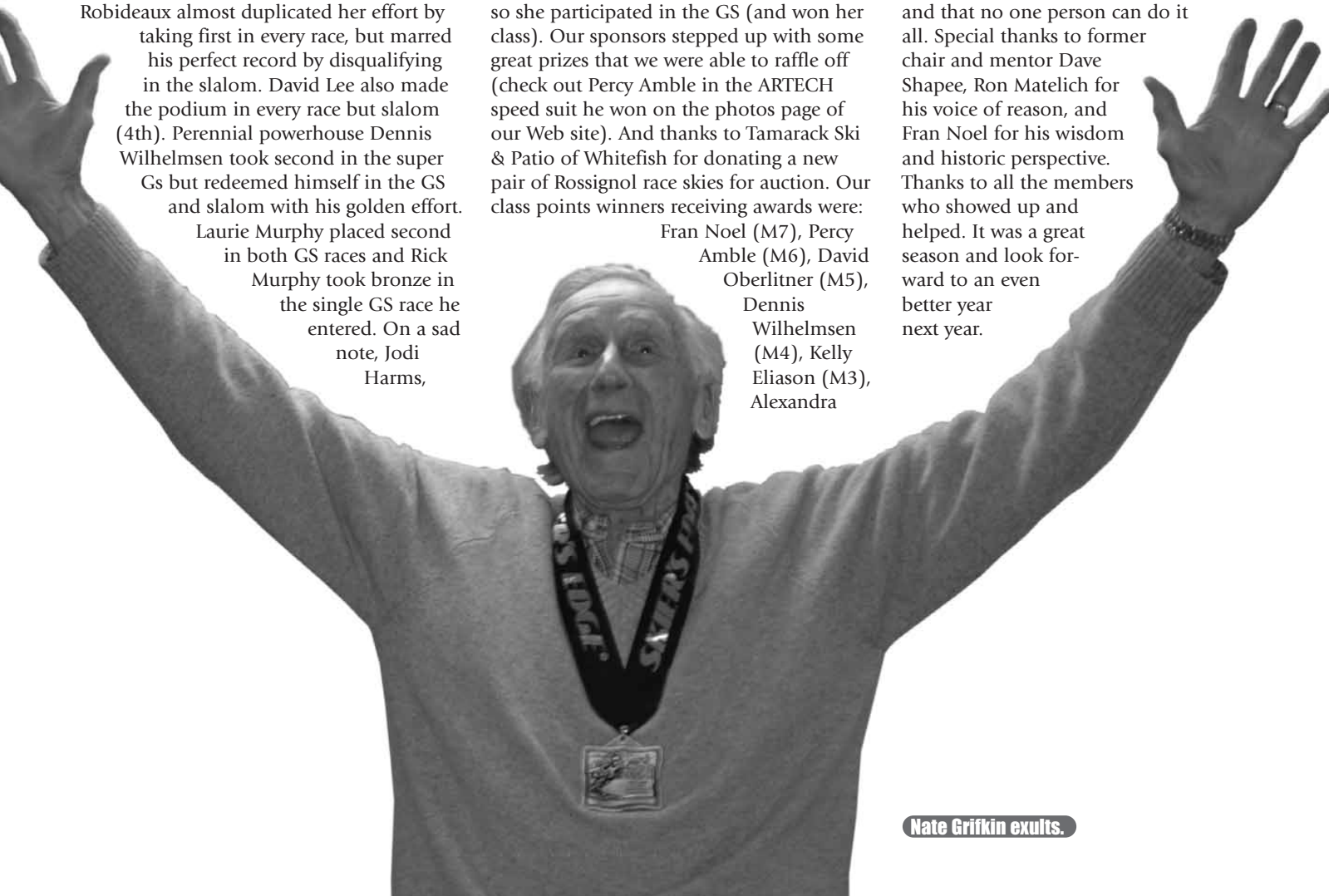
Our most successful race of the season was our Northern Championships at Whitefish Mountain Resort, on Big Mountain. Eastern Division member Wendy Krause had won a trip to the area that happened to coincide with our championships, so she participated in the GS (and won her class). Our sponsors stepped up with some great prizes that we were able to raffle off (check out Percy Amble in the ARTECH speed suit he won on the photos page of our Web site). And thanks to Tamarack Ski & Patio of Whitefish for donating a new pair of Rossignol race skies for auction. Our class points winners receiving awards were:

Fran Noel (M7), Percy Amble (M6), David Oberlitner (M5), Dennis Wilhelmson (M4), Kelly Eliason (M3), Alexandra

Melhuse (W5) and Jodi Harms (W3). Winner of a new pair of skis from Lone Mountain Sports of Big Sky was our Rookie of the Year, Alexandra Melhuse.

Although we weren't strong in numbers at Nationals or Regionals, we were mighty. At Regionals, Toby Chapman placed first in all three events and won his class. Jim Ragan was 3rd in GS, won the Slalom and had sufficient points to win his class, as well. At Nationals, Toby won the overall Class 3 award by winning the super G and placing second in the GS and slalom events. Dennis Wilhelmson just missed the podium for the overall with a fourth place finish, but did take third in GS and second in slalom in Class 5.

This was my first year as division chair, and I want to thank all the Northern members for the support and encouragement they provided. I learned how much effort it takes to put on a ski race, and that no one person can do it all. Special thanks to former chair and mentor Dave Shapee, Ron Matlelich for his voice of reason, and Fran Noel for his wisdom and historic perspective. Thanks to all the members who showed up and helped. It was a great season and look forward to an even better year next year.



Nate Griffkin exults.

Division News

Far West Division

Sam Crowell
 Marietta Frinell, President
www.farwestmasters.org

A humongous THANK YOU to Deb Lewis. The dictionary says humongous is derived from Huge and Monstrous, both accurate descriptions of the work she has done for Far West and USSA. She has spent countless hours as our webmaster; one look at our site, farwestmasters.org, confirms this. She also does all our race calculations, not only for Far West, but for USSA Masters. Deb won the combined at the 2008 Nationals and won the 2008 National Downhill. She truly has many talents, and Far West considers itself very fortunate to have her. Our heartfelt thanks Deb.

Once again, Far West is changing the guard: Marietta Frinell will be president, Mark Mirvis is taking over for Rees Palermo, who has done an incredible job for so many years (over 14) and Sandy Hogan will be secretary and Marcie Pettigrew, Membership. I am a believer that to get new members while retaining present members, getting exciting and challenging race venues is most important. Over the years, Rees has worked hard and succeeded in that endeavor. Far West owes him a debt of gratitude. Thank you, Rees!

We all look forward to a great 2008–09 season of racing. Ironically, 2006–07 saw too little snow and 2007–08, which was supposed to be our drought year, saw too much snow, resulting in races being rescheduled and cancelled. We are hoping our coming season will be just right. For those of you who are into speed events and who enjoyed the National speed races, you might check our next year's calendar, as we will have Master SGs and DH (running with the juniors) again. Normally these are run on the back side of the mountain at Mammoth, on very exciting terrain. This year, because of lack of snow due to wind, they were run on the same hill that the Women's World Cup SG was held in the past, which was equally as challenging.

The goal of the Far West Masters Scholarship Fund is to promote citizenship and leadership within the ski racing community and to keep athletes that might not otherwise have a chance without financial support, involved in ski racing. We are now in our 16th year of raising funds to benefit Far West Junior ski racers. To date, the program has raised

over \$250,000. We are proud that all money raised is distributed, with no overhead, to Far West Junior Athletes. A large number of our sponsored athletes have gone on to college, many on ski and scholastic scholarships. We believe keeping athletes involved in ski racing keeps them focused, teaches discipline and helps them to be successful in the rest of their life endeavors.

The US Ski Team currently has 5 of our sponsored athletes on the Team. Far West Masters Scholarship alumni include Marco Sullivan, Stacey Cook, Katie Hitchcock, Tim Jitloff and Travis Ganong.

Scholarships are given to J3–mid-age group racers. Money is used to pay for ski-related expenses. Juniors fill out an application that includes essays, letters of recommendation from their parents and peers, and grades. All winners are awarded funds to be used during the ski year. Additionally, we pick up costs for athletes that qualify for elite events such as Topolino, J2 Nationals, World Junior championships and US Nationals. This year, we were able to make a large donation to Katie Hitchcock, who had her US Ski Team funding cut.

In return, we ask that all recipients come to Masters Races to forerun as well as give a speech at awards ceremonies. We get to meet face to face with these great up-and-coming racers, and this exposes them to Masters racing. They discover how much fun we have, the years of camaraderie with the sport and that it is a life-long pursuit and lifestyle. We also have dual "pro-style" races at the end of the year that includes both Masters and Junior racers to promote the "fun factor" of ski racing.

We have had many of our scholarship athletes come back and race with us later in

their lives. When we go to venues to race, the ski area is always happy to bend over backward to help us, as we have helped the athletes from their specific ski area. This is a win-win effort! Eddie Mozen is the spearhead for this successful program. If any division wants to start their own program, Eddie is more than happy to help.



Perfect conditions

Division News

New York State Snow Country Masters

By Jack Eisenschmid, Chair
www.nymasters.org



The 2008 NY Masters season was yet another good one. This year, we got off to an early start, with great snow conditions and nice ski racing weather for our 36th season. We were able to run 25 races this season and only had to cancel the Song Mtn. SG, due to warm weather. We scored 17 of 25 races, to determine the winners of the Men's and Women's overall title, as well as the class winners.

This season, we had some great sponsors to help make the New York Masters Series possible. Many thanks to Swix, Transpack, Coyote Eyewear and Southtown Beverages for their donations of weekly prizes and continuing support of our race series. Most of all, big thanks to all the many volunteers who help out each week: Jim Spillane, co-chairman; Nancy Fella, race administrator; Mark Sertl, treasurer; Margit Poirier, webmaster; Rick Day, scoring; Jennifer Frazer; Marie-Eve Noel; Sandy Simmons; Joie Komarmi; Barb Fuge; Dave Slade; David Bennett and Shelly.

The competition never gets any easier here in the NY Masters Series. Once again it was a tight battle in all age classes, right up to the final races at Bristol Mtn. This year, the overall woman's champion was Megan Thayer, and she was awarded the Joan Skiff Cup. For the overall men's champion, it was Jim Thoman, and he was awarded the Marshall Skiff Cup. Also final age class awards were given to the top 3 finishers in each age class.

Last month at the Masters Nationals at Mammoth Mtn. we had a small group of six NY Masters competing, but some great overall results. Pepi Neubauer was 1st overall in Class M8, Megan Thayer was 1st overall in Class W1, Bob Andree was 1st overall in Class M7 and Jim Thoman took 2nd overall in Class M2. Congratulations, all.

This season the big news was hav-

ing the Masters Eastern Regional Championships at Whiteface Mtn., here in NY. It was a great venue for the event, with blue skies and great snow for the SG. Unfortunately, the weather turned very ugly for the GS and SL, so they were cancelled. The NY Masters had a big showing of 18 racers, and once again some great podium results in the SG, with 13 NY racers in the top 3. Nice going!

It looks like this weekend will be the final days of skiing here in Western NY and soon we will be planning for the 2009 season. We will continue to keep the NY Masters Series successful for many years to come. Enjoy the summer!

New York Masters 2008 Overall Standings

Women

1. Megan Thayer
2. Angela Schneurch
3. Amy Slade
4. Laura Moats
5. Nancy Fella

Men

1. Jim Thoman
2. Joel Solly
3. Mark Sertl
4. Pepi Neubauer
5. Cal Baker
6. Lou Moore
7. Jim Spillane
8. Brad Swett
9. Jack Eisenschmid
10. Doug Paul



Alyeska Masters

Gary Randall, Chair

Greetings from the North land!

The Alyeska Masters had a great year, with over 800" of snow. It's April 6th and it just dropped another 8" of snow, with great visibility and sunshine. The ski season ends the end of April with the Slush Cup, featuring lots of good costumes and great splashes in the water.

Alyeska Masters had a successful year with eight races, four GS and four slalom. We tried to have one night race, but were weathered out. Next year we are going to try and have at least one night race and one super combined. We are also going to work with the Junior program (for those master races who want a little more of a challenge) to ski in their USSA-sanctioned races.

April 18th is our year-end banquet and awards party. It will be sponsored by Alaska Brewing Company, which provides all the beer and a number of awards throughout the year. They also provided the year-end awards, which this year are jackets. K & L distributors is another sponsor, and provides wine for all our awards parties. World Cup Sport provides door prizes and gives great deals to all of our masters racers on ski equipment.

Hopefully all Master divisions had as good a snow year as Alaska. We are looking forward to summer and the 2008/2009 year. Let's all work toward improving our local membership and the USSA Masters Membership. That's about all from up here in the north country. Have a good summer and ski you next year.



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2009 Skier's Edge
Regional Championships
Western: Park City, Utah, Feb. 5-8, 2009
Super Combined/SG/GS/SL

Eastern: To Be Announced

2009 Skier's Edge National
Championship
Sunday River, Maine, Mar. 23-28
DH/SG/GS/SL

Masters World Criterium
(proposed)
Mammoth, California, Mar. 9-13
Super Combined/SG/GS/SL

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.



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