

ALPINE MASTERS SERIES



News and Information
of the Alpine Masters

spring 2012
www.usa.org

What Skis Will Be Fast Next Season?

Race skis for World and Europa Cup racers will be different for 2012/13. Ski racing's governing body, the FIS, under the apparition of safety have increased the minimum radius of GS, SG, and DH skis.

Although this radius change does not affect Masters' skis, it does raise several ques-

tions—specifically, could these new, larger radius skis be faster? This question, with respect to radius, has been floating around the World Cup for some time. Back in 2007, when Aksel Lund Svindal won the overall and GS titles, he was skiing on a GS ski that actually had larger radius than the mini-

mum required. Meanwhile Ted Ligety has been racing very successfully on a 29m ski when he could be legally on a 27m ski. While controversy continues to surround the FIS decision to increase the radius on GS skis, Ted Ligety, at the World Cup finals in March 2012, skied the new larger-radius



(35m) skis to the fastest second run. Even though it was only one run and he was skiing with a perfect course, one has to wonder, how can these "new larger-radius" skis be so fast?

Radius

When viewed from the top, the ski has an hourglass shape. The curve on each side of the ski can be thought of as part of a circle. The radius of this circle is the radius of the ski. All race skis have this hourglass shape and it is the amount of radius that has been the topic of concern. It was probably an 18-year old Bode Miller

that made radius an issue and eventually a strategy for racing. In 1996, using a production model K2 Four, the young Bode won the Junior Olympic GS and SG titles. Afterwards a third place in the U.S. SL earned him a berth on the U.S. Ski Team. Racers starting following Bode's lead and the skis' radius got smaller and smaller... until the FIS saw otherwise.

Carving

When a ski is tipped up or edged, the tighter radius on the ski will assist the ski racer in carving a tighter

arc in the snow. Tighter with less skidding around the gates creates a shorter path with seemingly less friction, and because of this, they are usually regarded as faster. This partially explains why racers "like" the smaller radius ski... it can carve a tighter arc.

Continued on page 8

Ted Ligety at Adelboden, Switzerland, a steep race hill that sees a lot of stivoting. Photomontage by Ron LeMaster.

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Racing for the Future

by Steve Slivinski, Masters National Chairman



It was a dark and stormy night. Unfortunately, we didn't seem to have enough dark and stormy nights in some parts of the country this winter. Skiing is one of the only sports dependent on what some wimpy people call bad weather. Ski racers, however, are passionate about their sport—some say demented—but we persevered under adversity, and had some epic Masters racing this winter. The season culminated in two awesome competitions with back-to-back national, and then international FIS races at Park City and Mammoth Mountain, respectively.

This year's national committee meeting at Park City was focused on the future of Masters racing, and how can we grow it. We all recognize that Masters ski racing, and ski racing in general, has had a smaller and smaller portion of the public's eye. There are

some things that are beyond our control: we can't make it snow, we can't stop from buying stuff from Fuxi, and we can't get snowboarders to pull up their pants. However, there are plenty of other actions we can take to reenergize this sport we love. With the help of Walt Evans, head of USSA Sports Development, your national committee formed a working group to formulate some new initiatives to help us move forward. The group is headed by our resident raconteur Bill McCollom, and consists of Lisa Densmore, Nadine Price, Ryan Fuller, and Thunder Jalili. They will be presenting proposals to Bill Skinner, Walt Evans and myself this spring. If any of you dedicated racers have any inspired ideas either inside or outside the box, please share them with us. In reality, the best asset we have to promote and sell Masters racing is you, our racers. Tap into that fanatical energy you have for the sport, and share your enthusiasm with dedicated beer leaguers, wild and crazy Nastarites, or just somebody who has been chewed out by the Ski Patrol for going too fast. Have a great summer. Remember, staying in shape is 365-day proposition, so park that golf cart a little farther away from the green. As always, keep your ski tips pointed downhill.

Masters Membership News

by Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Manager



2012 was a challenging snow year in most regions of the country. Unfortunately, our overall Masters membership was down. We had close to 400 past years members that did not rejoin us. But fortunately, we picked up 259 first-time Masters—which still resulted in a loss of 141 members. Some of the new member recruits were a result of sending our fall newsletter and an invitation to join us to NASTAR platinum and gold medalists. Pass the word on the enjoyment and challenges of Masters racing and get our membership growing again.

Our National Committee Meeting was held during our Nationals in Park City. Walt Evans, head of USSA Sport Development attended. There was a real emphasis on strategies to increase Masters race attendance, which has struggled this year across most of the country on the local level. A working group has been formed to address these issues and the cause. Bill McCollom, Nadine Price, Thunder Jalili, Lisa Densmore, Ryan Fuller and Steve Slivinski volunteered to lead the effort. Our National minutes can be view in the Masters section of ussa.org.

Web site: I apologize for a lapse in our web site early in the winter. Access to membership renewal and information changed when USSA updated the total site. We are working to get back on the dashboard and make access to Masters

information easier.

We had near-record attendance at the Eastern Championship, Nationals and Criterium. It was decided that when Nationals are in the west, we'll drop the Western Championship event. The Eastern Championships, which are very popular, will continue. For the coming season reserve these dates.

Major events for 2013:

- Feb. 8–10
Eastern Region Championships Killington, VT SG/GS/SL
- Feb. 28–Mar. 3
FIS Master Cup, Mammoth, CA SG/SG/SL/SL
- Mar. 18–23
Skier's Edge National Championships, Big Sky, Montana, DH/SG/GS/SL

Have a great summer!

Eastern again claims the Division Cup!

They may not of had much of a snow year but the 26-member Eastern team put it to the rest of the country's racers. Leading every day, they held it together and flew home with the Cup. This year, the SC event counted toward the overall title, to the enjoyment of all.





ANOTHER GREAT RACE YEAR!

SPRING 2012



Steve Nyman, TJ Lanning and Ted Ligety at the Center of Excellence



Womens GS at Mammoth Mountain



Masters open house at the Center of Excellence.

Park City Mountain Resort established a great environment for Nationals this year. The open house at the Center of Excellence was the perfect start with an exclusive tour through one of the best training facilities in the World. Once again the Skier's Edge Masters team dominated with 18 Gold, 16 Silver and 15 Bronze medals!

Mammoth Mountain welcomed Masters World Criterium with open arms, providing efficient courses and a hard working race department. The weather was evidence of "spring-skiing" with a powder-day thrown into the week. 330 racers from all over the World participated in this exciting event. Racers from Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United kingdom, and the United States gathered to compete in GS, SL, and SG. The Skier's

Edge Masters team doubled their medal winning from the 2011 season earning 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.

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Sarah Schleper • USA Alpine Ski Team Member, 2010 Olympian, 3-Time US National Champion

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committed to helping racers achieve their goals. We continue to improve our products so you have the perfect training tool to reach the podium, year after year.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Masters events, it truly was an outstanding year!

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Return of FIS Masters World Criterium to US Soil

by Bob Davis



This past Mar. 27-31, 2012, over 300 Masters racers of all ages and nationalities were thrilled to come to California's Mammoth Mountain for the FIS World Criterium. It has been six years since the Masters Criterium has been held in North America. U.S. entrants numbered around 175, while 150 more were from all over the globe. Countries represented were: Austria, France, Norway, Czech Republic, Sweden, Canada, Germany, Italy, Holland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Finland, Russia, Great Britain, Japan, Croatia, and Poland.

The USA proudly claimed 90 total medals in top-level international competition. U.S. medal highlights included: Duffy Dodge of Eastern Division who swept the 85+ men's category; Virginia Reed of Inter-Mountain Division who

swept the women's class 11 category; Mammoth locals Marietta Frinell and Sandy Hogan of Far West who swept women's



FIS World Champions Balthasar Meissl, Mike Walsh and Broc Thompson.

classes 10 and 9 respectively; and Pepi Neubauer of Eastern Division who won the SG in men's class B and was also the Fastest Man of the Day.

More American medal winners included: Mike Shklovski, Ara Papazian, Annette Mirviss, Ingrid Braun, Mihai Filimon, Chris Adams, Marcie Pettigrew, Linda Crowell, Jim Dugan, Gaet DeMattei, Eliza-

beth Booka Smith and Deb Lewis all of Far West Division; Bob Skinner, Keith Thompson, Craig Norton, Beth Sarazine, Dana Alexandrescu, John Bloomberg, Rauli Karjalainen, Jonathan Jessup and Carl Fullman all of InterMountain Division; Tim Hill, Knut Olberg, and Willi Schmidt, all of Pacific Northwest Division; Broc Thompson, Steve Perrins, Michael Walsh, and Jennifer Kaufman, all of Rocky Mountain Division; Alphonse Sevigny, Kathy Hurdcarillo, Stephen Foley, Paul Rich, and Mark George, all of Eastern Division; Lisa Densmore of Northern Division; Lilla Gidlow of Central Division; and Barbara Bryant, Richard Cesatti and Rowland Lohman.

Pierre Jeangirard and the course crews worked very hard keeping the runs in excellent shape in spite of a wide variety of weather conditions.

Next season, Mammoth Mountain is on the FIS Masters Cup calendar for Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 2013.

Molecule F National Speed Series

Keenan, Densmore, Karjalainen are the top speedsters in 2012 Masters National Speed Series.

The NSS is going on eight years of gathering the top speed specialists for a season-long series of the best SG and DH venues in the country.

Keenan and Karjalainen have won the Molecule trophy in the past. For Lisa Dens-

more, this is the first time winning the season award for the ladies. An easterner come west to the heartland of speed venues, she traveled to Schweitzer, Big Sky and Park City to amass enough to take the title for the first time.

Luke Keenan wrote an article in our fall newsletter outlining the strategies and logistics choice speed venues, then fol-

lowed his own advice with this third overall title, smoking runner up Don Johnson. Rauli Karjalainen amassed the most points in Group D (men over 60 years of age) and returned to the leader status, followed by Wiebe Gortmaker.

The cherished Molecule custom

belt buckles were handed out to class winners at the final SG at the Park City Nationals. With continued sponsor support, the Series should continue into 2013.

Overall Molecule F Trophy standings

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| A/B - MEN (AGE 20-59) | | |
| 1 | Keenan, Luke (M01, PN) | 184 |
| 2 | Don Johnson (M06, RM) | 88 |
| 3 | Robert Cravens (M05, PN) | 77 |
| C - ALL WOMEN | | |
| 1 | Lisa Densmore (W06, NO) | 95 |
| 2 | Jennifer Kaufman (W03, RM) | 75 |
| 3(t) | Dana Alexandrescu (W03, IM) | 50 |
| 3(t) | Jessie McAleer (W04, EA) | 50 |
| D - MEN (AGE 60-90) | | |
| 1 | Rauli Karjalainen (M09,IM) | 170 |
| 2 | Wiebe Gortmaker (M09, RM) | 144 |
| 3 | Pepi Neubauer (M09, EA) | 125 |

Complete season results may be found at <http://ussamasters.org/2012/nss>



2011 Speed Series winners Luke, Lisa and Rauli make waves in the world of speed.

The Battle of the Sixes

by Bill McCollum

We are sharing this article with SkiRacing.com, the go-to site for ski racing news.

Class 6 racers up the competitive spirit at the 2012 Skier's Edge Masters National Championships

The Skier's Edge Masters National Championships is always a big deal, but the 2012 edition was even bigger. Sited at the hottest of hotbeds of Masters ski racing, Park City, Utah, the 2012 Champs featured approximately 800 starts, five deluxe parties (with all the fixings), 100 podium presentations, and an infinite number of experiences for the 250 racers who made the trip. The event also fostered ski racing friendships. Some were new in the making, and others, such as those in Class 6 (ages 50–54), have spanned decades.

Most of Class 6 started racing as Class 1s and 2s, and they've been butting heads ever since. Some have missed an occasional championship due to injuries or family contingencies, but they were there in force at Park City this year to comprise not only the largest class at the event, but also one of the most competitive.

"As we move up a class, we drop a few and pick up a few," said Willy Scroggins from Mount Hood, OR. "We never get a break. But that's all right. We've known each other for years and years, and the camaraderie is unbelievable."

March 19, C/D SC

On the first day of competition, Class 6 had the day off from racing while the C/D groups (60-plus men and all women) raced the SC. Racers coming to the mountain that morning were wary of even getting out of the car. More than a foot of new snow blanketed the mountain, the wind was howling, and snow squalls limited visibility to a few feet. Athletes soon discovered, however, that the races were not only happening, but there also were no changes to the original timetable.

Legions of course workers slipped the course as the snow gradually dissipated, and by start time, visibility was rapidly improving. Class 9 ace Pepi Neubauer set the pace for the men in the fast, smooth SG portion of the combined, while exceptionally fast runs from Dana Alexandrescu (Class 3) and Jenny Badger (Class 2) led the women's field.

Many racers were skeptical that the one-run SL could be run in such soft conditions, but once again, the Park City race crew worked magic by providing the C's and D's with separate courses and impec-

cable side-slipping. After putting up first-run leads in the SG, Alexandrescu and Neubauer crushed their respective fields, leaving Intermountain Class 5 Chris Katzenberger and Class 7 New Yorker Bob Andree in the runner-up positions.

March 20, A/B SC

After a cold and clear night, the snow set up into hard packed powder for the A/B (men 59 and younger) SC, and the opening SG was a bullet. "Someone setting this course was feeling their testosterone this morning," said Walt Evans, the event's technical director. But with the race on the relatively benign Payday trail, speed was one of the few ways to increase difficulty.

In the battle of the 6s, Dennis Wilhelmsen took the lead after the SG, putting down the fastest run of the morning. In a display of class depth, 13 of his classmates were stuffed into the next three seconds. Wilhelmsen, a wide-bodied rancher, builder and jack-of-all trades from the mountains of Trout Creek, Mont., admitted that mass mattered. "I might not be the prettiest on the hill," he said, "but I somehow manage to carry speed."

Rich Slabinski, who works with a satellite communications company in Salt Lake City, lurked in second after the SG. "Slabby" typically leaves little to chance with speed events. "Wax and aerodynamics were important," said Slabinski, who didn't seem particularly impaired by his artificial knee. "I skied well with no mistakes."

And let's face it: The big boys, such as Wilhelmsen and Slabinski, can also light up a slalom course. In this case Slabinski nosed out Wilhelmsen by a scant 0.02 seconds to take the win, leaving Bobby Skinner in third. "I knew it was close, but I couldn't do the math in my head, so had to check the scoreboard," said Slabinski, who then pointed out that the fastest man of the day, after a jaw-dropping run of slalom, was actually Tim Hill, the Class 5 wiz from PNSA.

March 21, SG

Another cold night kept the snow fast and dry, but the temperatures started climbing in the afternoon under a cloudless sky. A few more turns were added to the SG course, but it still presented plenty of speed and challenge. The C/Ds took to the course first with the most senior racer of

the championships, Class 13 (85-plus) Duffy Dodge from St. Johnsbury, VT, setting the early pace. Another octogenarian Easterner, Alphonse Sevigny, upped the ante, which held until Class 11 Rocky Mountain doctor Charlie Hauser chopped off another six seconds.

This lead didn't last long as Anna Droege, the elegant and ageless Class 10 racer from Sun Valley, nipped him by a second. Another veteran Sun Valley resident from the ranks of Class 10, Keith Thompson, dropped another second off Droege's time, which held up until Montana Class 5 racer Lisa Densmore crossed the line with a two-second advantage. Finally, local Class 3 racer Dana Alexandrescu put down a time that would emphatically remain on top of the leader board, and would only be topped by Pepi Neubauer — and even then by only a few tenths.

"It was a good day for me," said Alexandrescu, a software developer with USSA, who came to the U.S. from Romania when she was 17. "Because the hill is so flat, you have to be clean all the way. One mistake and you're finished." She ought to know, since she trains several times a week on this hill under the lights after work.

After moving a few gates onto a straighter line, a thorough redressing of the course, and a last-minute flurry of fluoro overlays to the bases, the A/Bs were ready. After USSA Masters manager Bill Skinner had taken the early lead and a win in the 7s, the 6s kept lowering his time. Finally, it was Slabinski who put up the fastest time among the 6s. Willy Scroggins still can't bend his knee much beyond 90 degrees after breaking his femur and multiple ribs last year in a car accident, but he hung on to second, with Bobby Skinner collecting his second bronze of the series.

The only racer to top Slabinski was Matt Savage, a Class 1 racer from Mammoth Mountain. Savage coaches on the weekends, but his "real" job is with North Sails, where he is a materials engineer. "It's difficult to separate yourself from the field on this hill," said Savage. "Usually I look for places to carry speed. Here I was seeking to generate speed." As for the subtleties of waxing, Savage said, "I'm just a wax-your-skis kind of guy, but I'm staying with the Swix rep, and he's taking good care of me."

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The Battle of the Sixes (continued from pg 5)

March 22, A/B SL; C/D GS

Another cold, clear night left the rapidly-receding snow cover hard in the morning, as the C/Ds remained on Payday for their GS, and the A/Bs moved over to the lower portion of the World Cup venue, CBs.

For the C/Ds, the cold night even produced what some of the Westerners called "ice," but that did not deter the usual suspects from dominating their respective classes. Anna Droege exploited her gliding skills to perfection in getting by best friend and rival Nancy Auseklis in Class 10. Barb Settel and Nadine Price racked up wins for the East. Easterner-turned-Montanian Densmore put down the third-fastest time of the day to take control of Class 6, and Alexandrescu looked like a 20-year-old World Cup athlete in taking the women's race by four seconds.

Once again, Neubauer was the only male to come out in front of Alexandrescu with a win in the 9s, while Bob Andree continued his romp through the 7s with a seven-second margin of victory.

Things weren't going as swimmingly over on the A/B SL venue. The eastward-facing hill had turned to mush. It was a rough ride with bathtub ruts forming on the steep top portion of the course, and holes appearing at the bottom. Wilhelmsen showed some agility in winning both runs in Class 6. "In that first run, I felt like a rag doll," laughed Wilhelmsen. "But they did a great job. Now I have to do some serious healing for tomorrow's GS."

Mike Falk, a Park City local originally from New York, squeezed by another New Yorker, Greg Sarkis, to round out the podium.

The fact that the eventual race winner,

Tyler Chandler, started second-to-last offered proof of how effective the course crews were in keeping the slalom skiable. The lanky 23-year-old Chandler, who excludes the innocence of Opie Taylor, was talked into coming to the races by the Masters racers he coaches at Sun Valley. They even helped with the expenses. "They are so helpful and supportive," said Chandler. As for the course? "Oh, it was rough," he said. "It was a bobsled on the first pitch with holes all through the bottom. I was just holding on — it was great fun."

As for the ongoing rivalry between Tim Hill and Toby Chapman in Classes 3 and 5, this round went to Tim Hill by one-tenth; the pair finished second and third overall.

March 23, A/B GS; C/D SL; Banquet

With temperatures staying above freezing that night and another day of bright sun, the race venues were in full meltdown mode for the final day. That necessitated moving the A/B GS from CBs to Payday, where the group would share space with the C/D SL. The salt was flying on both courses, and the three-ring circus atmosphere provided great viewing for fans.

The C/Ds certainly got the better end of the deal, as the courses stayed smooth throughout the day. In a few of the tighter races, Mammoth's Deb Lewis snuck by Nadine Price to pick up her second win. Easterner Steve Foley earned his first medal of the series with a gold-medal performance, as did Intermountain's John Bloomberg and Victor Roy.

Roy, a longtime standout in Masters racing, had been watching the races online from his home base at Snowbasin. "I just

couldn't stand it any longer; I just had to come down and see all the guys," said Roy, who upended Bob Andree for the first time in the series.

Neubauer was particularly pleased with his win in Class 9, as it marked his 100th Masters victory, and his first win in the series over Alexandrescu, who has a good start on accumulating at least as many gold medals.

Bobby Skinner had the hot hand this time around for Class 6, marking the third different gold medalist in the four races. "There was no catching Bobby today," said Sarkis. "He just skied too well on his home hill." Slabinski made a strong second-run bid to overtake Sarkis for the silver, but came up 0.13 seconds shy of the mark.

Like many in his class, Sarkis has skied with this group since he was in his 20s and even earlier in one case. "I grew up with Mike Falk and we used to travel together as J4s around New York," said Sarkis. "It's fun that we're still going at it 40 years later. But I love competing at this level of competition and it only makes us all better."

A spirited banquet put the exclamation mark on an outstanding national championship. Most were headed home with goggle tans and stories, while those with gas remaining in the tank were headed to Mammoth Mountain for the International FIS Criterion. But the future was put on hold on this night. No one was quite prepared to say goodbye to Park City, their friends, or the 2012 ski racing season.

Al and Paul's Big Adventure

In a ritual that has spanned the past seven years, four days before the start of the national championships, 81-year-olds Al Sevigny and Paul Rich packed up Rich's aging Chrysler Pacific in New Hampshire and headed west. Just like Thelma and Louise, they were bound for Utah — only their story had a happy ending. Sevigny swept the Class 12 gold medals, while Rich collected two silvers and two bronze medals. When asked how he managed to stay so spry after all these years, Sevigny said: "You know, I didn't start skiing until I was 50 years old. So I'm like a good car that's been parked in the garage for a long time." Sevigny was last seen with a group of snowboarders dancing to a grunge band in the base area village. He couldn't have stayed too long, however, because he still had to join Rich to pack up the car for the trip to Mammoth Mountain for the International Criterion races.



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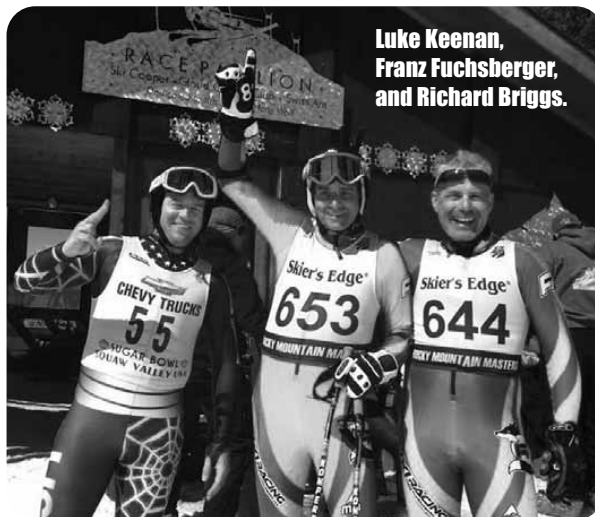
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2012 Masters National DH Championships

The 2012 Masters National Downhill Championships were held once again at Ski Cooper in Summit county Colorado. This year had a smaller field with only 43 competitors. Though this was most likely due to western regionals, nationals, and worlds each taking an entire week to complete. I always hear a few complaints about the lack of pitch and difficulty at Ski Cooper. However for what it lacks in pitch and difficulty it makes up for in insanely close racing. Another bonus to racing on moderate to easy terrain is the quality of the racing. No one jumps out with a 2 or 3 second win. Nobody is holding back or stepping on brake pedal. All the competitors had their foot on the gas the whole way down



Luke Keenan, Franz Fuchsberger, and Richard Briggs.

and it showed! The top 3 skiers starting with your 2012 national DH champion were Franz Fuchsberger (M06, RM), Luke Keenan (M01, PN), and Richard Briggs (M06, RM). They were only separated by .12 Seconds! I'm pretty sure Fuxi would like to give a shout out to Colorado waxing extraordinaire Bill Tomcich, (M04, RM) who nabbed a top 10 of his own after preparing both his and Fuxi's extremely fast skis. He had snow conditions and temps dialed all weekend for the ski prep which is always crucial in DH. I once heard waxing is only 3% of the race, well in a 60 second race that's 1.8 seconds!

Report by Luke Keenan.

2012 Skier's Edge National Championships Park City, Utah

The 2013 Spyder National Masters team is selected from the top finisher in each age class at the 2012 national championships, based on total world cup points in the 3-event SC-SG-GS-SL combined.

NOTES

M11 (75-79): tie on 85 points between John Bloomberg (IM, 1-3-2-1) and combined winner Charlie Hauser (RM, 2-1-1-3). Both racers are still tied after applying the best-finish tiebreaker criteria (1-1-2-3). Spyder team selection goes to Charlie Hauser based on the best (lowest) race-points total in the 4 events (Hauser 42.63 over Bloomberg 51.73).

W10 (70-74): tie on 90 points between Nancy Auseklis (IM, 1-2-2-1) and combined winner Anna Droege (IM, 2-1-1-2). Both racers are still tied after applying the best-finish tiebreaker criteria (1-1-2-2). Spyder team selection goes to Anna Droege based on the best (lowest) race points total in the 4 events (Droege 27.03 over Auseklis 42.37).

W9 (65-69): tie on 90 points between Sarah Lemire (IM, 1-1-2-2) and combined winner Marcie Pettigrew (FW, 2-2-1-1). Both racers are still tied after applying the best-finish tiebreaker criteria (1-1-2-2).

2013 Spyder Masters National Team

| Class | Women | Men |
|-------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Competitor | Competitor |
| 13 | | David Duffy Dodge (EA, x-1-1-x) |
| 12 | Virginia Reed (IM, 1-1-1-1) | Alphonse Sevigny (EA, 1-1-1-1) |
| 11 | Marietta Frinell (FW, 1-1-1-1) | Charlie Hauser (RM, 2-1-1-3) |
| 10 | Anna Droege (IM, 2-1-1-2) | Keith Thompson (IM, 1-1-1-5) |
| 9 | Marcie Pettigrew (FW, 2-2-1-1) | Pepi Neubauer (EA, 1-1-1-1) |
| 8 | Barbara Settel (EA, 1-2-1-2) | Robert Andree (EA, 1-1-1-2) |
| 7 | Nadine Price (EA, 2-1-1-2) | Bill Skinner (IM, 1-1-3-2) |
| 6 | Lisa Densmore (N, 1-1-1-1) | Rick Slabinski (IM, 1-1-3-4) |
| 5 | Chris Katzenberger (IM, 1-1-1-1) | Timothy Hill (PN, 1-2-1-1) |
| 4 | Dasha Kadulova (IM, 1-1-1-1) | Thunder Jalili (IM, 2-1-1-2) |
| 3 | Dana Alexandrescu (IM, 1-1-1-1) | Craig Norton (IM, 2-3-1-2) |
| 2 | Jenny Badger (IM, 1-1-1-1) | James Thoman (EA, 1-2-1-1) |
| 1 | Emily Davies (IM, x-x-1-1) | Matt Savage (FW, 1-1-2-2) |

Spyder team selection goes to Marcie Pettigrew based on the best (lowest) race points total in the 4 events (Pettigrew 44.89 over Lemire 49.08).

W8 (60-64): tie on 90 points between combined winner Rosemary Moschel (IM, 2-1-

2-1) and Barbara Settel (EA, 1-2-1-2). Both racers are still tied after applying the best-finish tiebreaker criteria (1-1-2-2). Spyder team selection goes to Barbara Settel based on the best (lowest) race points total in the 4 events (Settel 17.95 over Moschel 38.87).

What Skis



U.S. Ski Team's Ted Ligety, 2011 World Cup GS Champion, demonstrates flexed, tensed, and equal ankle angles while winning the first GS of the 2011–2012 season in Sölden, Austria.

Will Be

Continued from page 1

For example, to carve a 17m arc, the current men's 27m ski needs 50 degrees of edge angle, while the new 35m ski needs 60 degrees of edge angle to make the same turn!

So it would seem to be a "no brainer": pick the smaller radius ski, and carve a tight arc for a tighter turn. But let's revisit the goal of ski racing—and that is not necessarily to carve arcs but to achieve the fastest time.

Disadvantages of Carving

A carved turn is where the tail of the ski follows the tip in the same path. We have all seen that groove left in the snow by a clean-carving ski. We sigh, drool, and beg the gods to allow our tracks look like that. While a picture of beauty, this trenched-out groove may not be all that fast! As it turns out, the deeper the groove, the more snow that had to be excavated, and like the snowplow in your driveway revving up to push the heavy snow, it takes energy. And utilizing that energy slows the ski down.

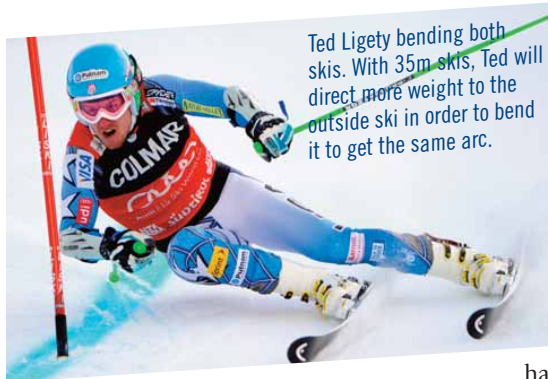
While most of us are trying to pressure the tip of the ski, the World Cup elite have not only mastered this elusive skill but taken it a step farther and learned to not over-pressure it. Yes, they get the tip into the snow—and then once a groove is established for the rest of the ski to follow, they back off. Establish the groove and then let the rest of the ski take over. With a larger radius ski, this will be more challenging. The ability to pressure fore and move aft will be more problematic with this reduced tip profile...and length.

Length

In 2012/13 the elite women's skis will be no shorter than 188cm, up from 180cm, and men's skis add another 10cm, up from last year's 185cm. With this longer length, the tip will be more difficult to pressure be-



With larger radius skis, expect to see more athletic moves like Ted Ligety here in Sölden last year.



Ted Ligety bending both skis. With 35m skis, Ted will direct more weight to the outside ski in order to bend it to get the same arc.

cause it will be farther away from the skier's center-of-mass. Even when pressured, this tip with less width on the longer, narrower ski will not grab or want to slice into the snow with the same aggression as the shorter, wider ski.

There may be a silver lining to this longer length. With more ski surface area there will be less pressure directed in to the snow, resulting in less friction. While needed to turn, the reduced pressure does result in less energy dissipation and therefore faster skis. The 1970s logic of "the longer the ski, the better" is still valid.

Redirect and Stivot

Skis performing a right turn start out pointing to the left. So for the first half of the turn, the skis are actually pointed the opposite direction they will end up going! This makes the curious mind wonder about coaching clichés like "early pressure." This is where the ski is edged and pressured above the fall-line in an attempt to make an arc-to-arc carve. If the pressure is truly early, and we know that pressure can create friction, and friction is slow... is this a good condition for going fast? Sometimes we become a prisoner to these platitudes and assume that they are the goal. While early pressure is a vital criterion for arc-to-arc carves, is early pressure the key to the fastest time?

Carving is only one way to initiate a ski turn, and skiing arc-to-arc is definitely an exciting and fun way to ski. Although it may not always be the fastest. For the last half-dozen years, World Cup racers on steep sections have utilized a ski reorientation method that consists of hucking the skis sideways to start the turn. The neologism "stivot" evolved from "steer" and "pivot"; critical aspects of this innovative turn entry technique.

While the extreme rotary actions of stivoting is easy to observe, the less perceptible "redirect" at the top of the turn is the traditional method to reorient the ski, albeit rotated to a lesser degree. This slight rotational guidance of the ski prior to edge and pressure increases the likelihood that the ski will "hook-up" or hold the resultant turn. A turn that is re-directed or stivoted is only fast when the ski racer has the edging skills to minimize the friction between the ski

Julia Mancuso controlling pressure with the inside ski.



Fast?

Bottom Line

There are positives and negatives to a ski with any size radius. Don't get World Cup envy and assume just because Ted and the gang are skiing a larger radius ski it will be good for you. Sasha Rearick, the U.S. Ski Team Men's Head Coach summed it up well when he said, "fundamentals-wise, some things are going to be more important than others on the new skis." If you have good edging skills, as in ability to go sideways, the larger radius may be faster for you. This is especially true if you can do this on steeper terrain and will find yourself racing on steep terrain. If you are weight-challenged, the shorter ski might be a better choice.

and the snow. The key then is not so much in the radius or length of the tool, but how the jockey is able to interface the ski with the snow.

Stivots were not invented by astute coaches, but by athletes that had supreme edging and pressure control skills (in spite of the coaches scratching their heads and attempting to discourage this strange sideways sliding behavior). Bottom line: practice sideslipping and edging-type drills (check out SkillsQuest from USSA).

Control

The increased sidecut may have its greatest issue with just controlling the ski. While the longer length makes it easier to cross tips, Ted Ligety points out that the racer, in an attempt to get the ski to achieve a de-

sired radius, will put themselves into "awkward body positions," which can limit their control. This will be exacerbated by the lack of tip profile and encourage the ski racer to find the radius "while leaning," according to Ted... obviously which can lead to balance and, ultimately, control issues.

Since side-cut will not be available, the elite ski racer will need to rely more on the ski's flex characteristics. More weight will need to be directed toward the outside ski in an attempt to bend it into reverse camber. This will reduce the foot-to-foot pressure control strategy that is prevalent with the smaller radius skis. Pressuring the ski will become a bigger issue with the new, less-sidecut skis. One wonders if the heavier skier will have an advantage with these 35m skis?



Ted Ligety



Alexis Pinturault



Marcel Hirscher

With the new larger radius skis it will be more difficult for the inside ski to take over if the outside ski fails.



Julia Mancuso on a soft ski. Without as much sidecut, the new skis will need to be easier to flex to achieve the desired radius of turn.

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.



Division News



New England Masters

Nadine Price, chair
www.nemasters.org

After a really challenging autumn of recovery from the devastating flood unleashed

by Irene, of rebuilding homes, roads, bridges, base lodges and ski area parking lots, northern New England was finally ready for a great winter season! And an early snow storm at the end of October presaged just that. And then we waited, and waited, and waited, for more snow. But when it was cold, it was dry. When it warmed up, it precipitated. Fortunately there was enough cold for most areas to make enough snow to have something that more or less passed for a ski season, although most would probably call it a skating season. It was the winter that wasn't. Interestingly, Mother Nature has decided she wasn't going to give up the "still winter" season and decided to prove she has a really twisted sense of humor by producing the biggest snow storm of the year here in central Vermont in mid April. So for those who didn't completely give up and put away the skis after the week of summer in the middle of March, there is now some really good skiing out there and a chance to ski some of those trails that weren't open all year! But I digress, it wasn't a great year for powder hounds, but it was pretty good if you like pond ice. The ice kept the trails skiable (I use the term loosely!) and we managed to pull off most of our races.

We started our pre-season once again with a booth at the Boston Ski Expo, made possible in part with the help of USSA. It was, as it has been in each of the five years we have had a booth, very worthwhile and we are working on ways to turn it into an even bigger asset. It is still surprising how few people, and all of them skiers, know much about us. We are on a mission to change that!

New to New England Masters this season were the husband and wife dynamic duo of Kip and Lucy Blake as race administrators. In a true trial by fire, they were thrown right into the thick of things and did an absolutely awesome job of running our races and working with the venues and

USSA to make sure everything ran smoothly and according to Hoyle!

Our mid-December season opener at Killington was a huge success. In our second joint venture with ASRA, a ski racing organization with races in Vermont and venues a little west and south, we held two GS races on the limited amount of snow that the mountain's incredibly talented groomers had managed to turn into a race track. And the Saturday evening party at Mountain Meadows Lodge was a real crowd pleaser. Unfortunately, we lost the following weekend's races at Cochran's, the area owned and operated by the legendary family of the same name, but they did still have a role in our season as we awarded quarts of their maple syrup to all who podiumed at the Eastern Regionals! We lost only one other race to the cruel

weather and we had full season of racing. Attendance was up at some of our more popular races and held fairly steady at most of the others. The few disappointing turnouts seemed to correlate directly with particularly



hideous weather conditions.

January took us to some traditional venues, one new one, and an old favorite we haven't visited for too long. We had to settle for two SL's at Middlebury as the always-thrilling upper pitch of the GS was barely negotiable, thanks once again to all the liquid snow we endured all season long. Our first-ever visit to Blackwater, home to the strong ski program of Proctor Academy, turned out to be one of our most popular SL's. It was followed by a return, after a long hiatus, to Sunapee, a truly great GS hill and one of our most popular races in years past. This season's first Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS race didn't disappoint. The venue attracted a great field, including Ben Drummond

who trounced the men's field and walked away with the overall in his only appearance of the season. We look forward to visiting again next year. The ever-popular Janeway Cup GS Race at Stratton, a venerable tradition of many years, was hotly contested. A couple of Stratton coaches came out to do battle but overcoming a first-run deficit, Ben Green vaulted from third to the top spot for the overall. With his fifth place overall finish, fast and ageless New Yorker Pepi Neubauer handily took the men's Janeway Cup, awarded to the fastest man and woman over 40. With her sixth place overall finish, Katie George convincingly bested the women's field for the overall. With the defection to Northern of last year's women's winner, Lisa Densmore, there was a tough battle for the women's Janeway. Lori O'Brien, in a very

welcome return to racing after a long, long recovery from injury, laid down an excellent first run, and Julia Horgan, skiing exceptionally well all season, had a terrific second run. But with two solid runs, a very grateful Nadine Price managed to seize the women's Cup.

An eleventh-hour scheduling snafu required some serious scrambling and fancy footwork by the scheduling committee to move the Loon Mountain GS to Crotched Mountain in southern

New Hampshire. As it turned out, the change of venue was very appropriate. After the loss of the beloved Harold Wescott, we elected to dedicate that race as a memorial to him. Crotched was the site of Harold's first Master's victory and his son Will, and his son, were both able to attend and forerun. It was a great day and a fitting tribute to Harold. It also marked our first coordination with a college circuit which is looking for more races to do. We were joined by about 20 college racers. It worked out very well and we laid some ground work for future collaboration.

February's schedule included a double GS weekend at Ragged, always one of our most popular weekends. The B-fence was a little narrow at one point due to the lack

Division News

of snow but the finish corral was full of smiles and more than one racer was overheard expressing the desire to do it again! This year's Regionals, a bit earlier than usual, were held at Killington in early February. The events included two SG's, a GS, an SL and a couple of fabulous parties. Highlights of the parties included visits by two of New England Masters' grand dames, Anne Nordhoy and Wendy Hill. Both have been fighting back from injuries with complications but are on the mend. It was terrific to see them both and we hope to see more of them again in the future.

Okemo Mountain hosted our Finals the second weekend of March. The schedule included two SG's, a SL, a GS, a banquet and a final awards party. The weather threatened all week leading up to the races and continued to be a cause for nail biting throughout the weekend. But for once, Mother Nature cut us just enough slack to pull off all the races, though it did mean starting an hour early on Sunday after losing an hour to the change to daylight savings, a net of two less hours of sleep after a really fun banquet on Saturday night. There were some bleary eyes, but no complaints. Sunday turned out to be an important day for a couple of folks. Though most of the battles were settled by Saturday, the men's overall Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS title was on the line. Adam Weiss, skiing better than ever, had been gaining momentum all season long.



Bob Davis racing SG at the Worlds.

He needed a mere 30 points more than Ben Green to capture the title. Adam put up a good fight but when the dust settled, Ben was on top. Proving that last year's knee surgery was only a minor set back, Ben also won the SG title, the SL title and the overall men's Sise Cup.

The women's Speed Series title went to the faster-and-fitter-than-ever Lisa Marion in a hard-fought battle that was decided at Finals. Katie George, who just keeps getting faster, easily captured the SL title, winning all but one of the races she entered in the process. In the GS Series, she won every GS she started and handily took the GS Series. And with a perfect score of 900, she walked away with her first women's Sise Cup.

The Tobin Award for outstanding contribution to Eastern Masters ski racing was awarded to Pepi Neubauer. A former Austrian team member, Pepi has been participating in Masters ski racing for many years. A consummate competitor, he is a strong supporter of the sport, and of New England and Eastern Masters racing in particular. He has volunteered in many capacities, recruiting members and especially sponsors. He has given generously of his time and his service has been invaluable to Eastern Masters.

The George Anderson Spirit of Masters Award was established four years ago to honor and remember George, one of our best-loved members. It is awarded each year to the NEMS competitor who exemplifies the spirit of Masters ski racing. This year, in an emotional presentation, the award was given to one of George's dearest friends, Patti Lane. After all the racing was done in the East, a small but committed

group of Easterns headed to Park City for Nationals. At first it looked like shades of the New England winter with lots of brown and even a torrential downpour the night before the C/D SG. But the Easterners persevered and reclaimed the Divisions Cup that they had so proudly earned last year. And with it, another whole year of bragging rights!!

As always, our series is made possible and enhanced by our sponsors. Our GS series has been generously sponsored by Rockport Mortgage Corporation. We wish to thank them most sincerely. Our enduring gratitude goes to Artech, for its generous and continued support. And we thank Skier's Edge, Booster Strap, Swix, SkiChair.com, Denby and EasyOn for their continued support. When you have need or use for any of the products or services our sponsors provide, we hope you will visit them first.



Alaska

By Gary Randall
www.alyeskaskiclub.org

I know for most of the Masters around the country the ski season is just winding down, but here in Alaska we still have an over 200-inch base. So we will be skiing through May and maybe into July. We had a great season for snow, but not the best for training. Our power skills have improved with 4 to 5 days out of seven with face shots.

Alyeska Masters this year sent 10 competitors to Nationals and a good time was had by all. Park City did a great job of pulling off the races under difficult conditions. Next year, we are hoping to send at least fifteen to Nationals and improve our USSA membership by 15%. This is a goal I have set, and with the help of the existing members I think we can make the goal or exceed it.

Our Annual Masters banquet and awards is Apr. 13, with beer and wine provided by our sponsor, the Odem Corp. This banquet wraps up the year with fun videos of great falls and tumbles and various awards for our members and sponsors.

I hope all my Masters friends and competitors have a fun, safe summer. Hope to see some of you at the Summer Fun Nationals!

John Bloomberg waxes poetic.



Division News



Beth Sarazine leaves her own pigtail in the dust.

Rocky Mountain

Jennifer L. Kaufman, Vice President and Division Chair
www.rmmskiracing.org

Despite a difficult snow year, Rocky Mountain Division wrapped up a successful year of racing with the DJ Tengdin Memorial Tri-Combi event on March 31. This fabulous day of racing was sponsored by the Tengdin family in honor of DJ and involves three race runs (Fast GS, GS and SL) as well as costumes, contests, prizes, food and a lot of fun. Congratulations to all our winners, particularly Franz Fuchsberger and Lauren MacMath for outstanding performance in the overall men's and women's fields and to everyone that worked hard to make the day very special. We expect this tradition to continue into the future so if you missed it this year, make plans to check it out next season! Check out pics from the event.

We also congratulate all of our racers

that competed in Masters Nationals and Masters Worlds this year! Results from those events can be found on the USSA website. Results from the regular RMM season can be found on our website at www.rmmskiracing.org.

Our Sponsor a Race Day program continues to support our racing habit and a big thanks to everyone that participated this year including: Kevin Ward, Mark Granger, Laura Weninger, Bruce Wienke, John Davis, The Treat Family, Lori Hamilton, Jonathan Wolf, Chuck Tower, Rolf Funk, The "Minnesota Connection" (Charlie Hauser, Bob Benson, Lila Gidlow, Winfried Raabe, Tom Patterson, Jerry Sorenson), The "Old Guys" (Bob Benson, Charlier Hauser, Lee Kaufman, Bruce Wienke), Peter Monson, Jeanette & Scott Saylor, Steve Furtner, Bruce Whitesal and the Tengdin Family. We sponsored 100% of this season's races thanks to this tremendous support from our membership!

We also thank our corporate sponsors including: Greenlight Collaboration, FUXI Ski Racing, SKS, A Racers Edge, and Saucer Wax. We could not do this without your generous support and prize donations.

As many of you know, we will be going through a board transition now that the season is over. Graham Smith will be taking over as President and Wiebe Gortmaker is joining the board as VP. We anticipate additional communication regarding the new board composition once Graham has had a chance to get in the saddle!

Thank you to everyone for a great season and we look forward to seeing you on the slopes next year!



Northern

Northern Masters
Toby Chapman,
Chairman

The 2012 race season was successful once again, thanks to our neighboring divisions,

PNSA and Intermountain. With PNSA and Intermountain's help, Northern was able to have a full schedule of races. Thank you!

Highlights of this year's Regionals at Big Sky included Toby Chapman and Lisa Densmore winning their way onto the Western Regional Team. Lisa and Toby dominated at Regionals, with Lisa winning the SG and SC overall, and Toby winning the GS and SL overall. Other notables at Regionals were Ralph Lemke getting 3rd in class 11 SG and SL, Brad Leonard earning 3rd in class 11 GS, Roger Lemke 2nd in both class 4 GS and SG, Ken Bailey 3rd in class 6 SL, and Jack Ballard earning 3rd in the class 5 SG.

Nationals highlights included Lisa Densmore winning the SG, SC, SL, and GS in class 6, Dennis Wilhelmsen winning the class 6 SL, and Toby Chapman winning the class 3 SC and SL. Additionally, Lisa Densmore finished 3rd overall in the ladies' SC, 2nd in the SG, 3rd overall in the GS, and made the U.S. Masters Spyder Team. Dennis Wilhelmsen finished 3rd overall in the SC and Toby Chapman finished 3rd overall in the SL.

Hopefully, Northern can have even a bigger contingent of racers next years at Nationals!

Gate training opportunities for Northern racers are available around the division with Lookout Pass, Big Sky, and Red Lodge all having masters programs. Contact Toby Chapman for details: 406-370-8052.

Look forward to seeing you all next season or at Summer Nationals.

Far West

By Mark Mirviss
www.FarWestMasters.org

Far West racers were challenged by weather, as were all of the other divisions this season. We did manage to host a very well-attended FIS Masters Criterium at Mammoth. This event featured racers from 31 countries including Japan, and most of Europe. While there were some weather challenges, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and had a good time.



Summer fun at the Summer Fun Nationals.

Division News

Far West also did very well at the Nationals, hosted by Park City. We finished second overall among all of the divisions represented. As I write this article, we are less than a week away from concluding our season with a season finale series consisting of a DH, two SG's, a GS, an SL, and our final race of the year, a fundraising dual SL for our scholarship fund.

We would also like to invite all of our other divisional rivals and friends to compete next year in an FIS Masters Race, tentatively scheduled Feb. 28–Mar. 3.

Have a great summer, and see you in the fall.



Intermountain Masters—It's a wrap!

By Amy Lanzel, chair
www.intermountain-masters.org

Wow, what a year for Intermountain Masters. One of our best

ever actually. Even though the weather did not cooperate as much as we would have liked, it was still a fabulous year for the folks in this division. The race schedule included a great variety of races and at some of our favorite resorts—and all within 6 hours of the home base, Park City. We had some real standout racers in our group who pushed the envelope and captured not only national titles but also FIS World Criterium medals. This is an excellent tribute to the hard work and dedication of the coaches at our various training programs in Park City, Snowbasin and Sun Valley.

This summer we encourage everyone to get out and move as much as possible. Like Bode Miller said “races are won depending on what you do in the off season.” The Intermountain Masters folks are fortunate to live in a beautiful place that makes getting in shape and staying there easy to do. I'd like to quote Jake Milenhall who did some great research on the aging athlete. “People who are fit at age 40 and continue to exercise show a lesser decrease in many of the physiological functions related to fitness than do those who seldom exercise. A trained 60-year-old, for example, may have the same level of CR fitness as a sedentary 20-year-old. In short, regular exercise can help add life to your years and years to your life.”

So enjoy the summer and stay active. We have another wonderful ski season just around the corner. Special thanks to all the

great volunteers who help make our program the best in the nation.



PNSA

By Ann Ozuna
www.PNSAmasters.org

PNSA Masters wrapped up another race-filled season under the sun at the PNSA

Championships in Bend, Oregon over Easter weekend with SG, GS and SL races hosted by the Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation. This year we offered 14 race weekends at locations ranging from almost California (Willamette Pass, Oregon) to the Seattle area's Snoqualmie and Stevens Passes, all the way east to Lookout Pass on the Idaho/Montana Border. We were snowed out of the SG races at Stevens Pass and the GS/SL races of the Schweitzer series as the Pacific Northwest got more snow than the rest of the country—usually on a race day. Can you visualize a cat stuck in 32 inches of new powder in the middle of a run which ran an SG the previous day? Needless to say, the racers got some of the best powder skiing of the year instead of racing!

This year's “Road Warrior” award goes to Larry Konstacky of Seattle, who, along with his non-racing wife, made every race single weekend. Former winner Brad Scott tried to give him a run for the title, but missed an event when his daughter got married.

The Division welcomed a number of new racers this year, who came out to try racing when the race series came to their home areas. We look forward to seeing them on the course in coming years. Several areas have programs where the parents of Junior and Mitey Mite racers are encouraged to join local training and race

against their kids who forerun the masters course.

SEASON-LONG CHAMPIONS BY CLASS

Ladies

- Class 12 Janet Vincent
- Class 10 Carolyn Phillips
- Class 9 Ann Ozuna
- Class 8 Jeannie Hummel
- Class 7 Sonook Morrison
- Class 6 Linda Shallow and Lauri Reutimann
- Class 5 Sarah Peshkin
- Class 4 Jennifer Aspass
- Class 3 Lori Frucci
- Class 2 Melissa Dettmer
- Class 1 Katherine Haese

Men

- Class 13 Kristian Berg
- Class 12 Odd Vaarvik
- Class 11 Willi Schmidt
- Class 10 Rich Robertson
- Class 9 Knut Olberg
- Class 8 Larry Konstacky
- Class 7 Brad Scott
- Class 6 Dave Kornish
- Class 5 Tim Aid
- Class 4 David Schreitmueller
- Class 3 Tad Dobson
- Class 2 Tad Zavadski and Matt Torrie
- Class 1 Luke Keenan

The 2011/2012 season brought a change in how PNSA Masters register for and pay for ski racing, as PNSA joined other divisions using www.skiracereg.com. We finally have just about everyone registered in the system so they can sign up for races in advance and pay by credit card without any extra processing fees for the racer or the organizer. Racers can even see in advance who else is attending. Good news is that we won't have to sign up again next year; just sign in and pick races to attend when the schedule is posted for next year.



Chris Maxwell (PN) smokes the field in Western region SG.

Division News



Central

Ryan Fuller, chair
www.midwestmasters.org

What a season! We've had many challenges this year, with both the weather and a loss of a surprisingly large percentage of our members due to injury. Despite these challenges, Midwest Masters has ended the year meeting our financial goals, and only had to modify one event due to weather difficulties.

Unlike many divisions, Central takes on much of the responsibility for not only marketing for our races and managing divisional membership, but also running the events. Central owns its own equipment and trailer, has a dedicated race director and race crew, and provides its own officials and jury members at all events. All we ask of the venue is a start and finish timer and the use of the timing system. Our results system is independent of the timing system used by the hill.

We are now in our 5th season using our own divisional points system, which mimics FIS point calculations, complete with race points and penalties. We generate updated seed lists weekly after each event. It is working quite well and is the basis for our ability class awards each year,

which recognize different levels of abilities, regardless of age or gender. We also continue to award our racers based on traditional age classes.

We are also in our 3rd season using SkiRaceReg and are very happy with the system. We have completed many other efforts related to organizing the "back office" over the last few years, and look forward to focusing on our Mmembers even more in the future. Katy Martin, our program director for 2012, played an important part in taking on the on-site Race Registration duties and we happy that she intends to continue working with us again next season.

We are losing participants at a far greater rate that we are gaining them; most notably, we lost 32 full members year-over-year (41 were lost but only 9 were offset with new members). Although membership is down, utilization is not down to the same degree—we only lost 4% in starts versus a loss of 14% in members; this helps to explain why our financial position has remained stable.

Although we haven't closed our financial books yet, we fully expect to see the

average cost per race for our members to stay the same or drop from the approximate \$15 mark in 2011 due to finding other efficiencies to make up for lost revenue.

Our contact list has grown, and our outreach and marketing efforts have been relatively successful as we have seen many more new faces this year than in past seasons (as witnessed by the 26

completely new Temps gained this year). We will continue to use Facebook and more boots-on-the-ground marketing by placing posters and flyers in shops and at the local ski hills, and working hard to recruit locals near the ski areas we hold events.

We are putting efforts into growing our division, via recruitment, local exposure, college racers, and social networking. Facebook is a very low-cost method for marketing and we plan to use it to the greatest degree we can next season including more video and photo posts. We would also like to target local woman racers, NASTAR members, parents of local J1 USSA racers and USSA coaches to remind them about Midwest Masters and

the great racing we provide.

Our preliminary plan is to go back to the basics and hold fewer, but larger, events. We also intend to hold the first USSA-sanctioned "City Event" as a dual GS race elimination-style race complete with cattle gates. This race would be scored both within the NASTAR system and within USSA Masters. What will really make these events "bigger" is that we intend to focus more on our members during these events with more awards, more recognition for great performances, and more recognition of new members.

We plan to continue to expand on the social aspect to our races. This year, we organized two different post-race events which were received well. We intend to expand this to most all events next year.

Thank you to all of our loyal members for another successful season! We hope that you are finding that Midwest Masters is improving every year. We would also like to thank our outgoing Board Members: Ken McAdam, Marty Fox, Pat Hiller, and Casey Weiss for their invaluable service. We'd also like to thank our outgoing Race Director, Mike Auge, for his excellent service over the past several seasons. Keep your eyes out for the Midwest Masters Fast Times Newsletter over the summer for lots of updates on our plans for next season. It won't be long before we see you on the hill once again!



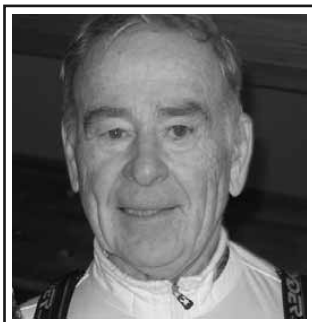
Ryan and Mitch

COMPLETED CAREERS



Gene Timmons

Gene gave it all to Masters racing, including a stint as Masters national chairman and multiple-time Nationals champion.



Harold Westcott

A longtime Masters legend, Harold passed away doing what he loved most, while competing in DH at Ski Cooper, Colorado.

We miss you guys.

24th Masters Summer Fun Nationals

July 20-22, 2012 • www.SummerFunNationals.com



Join The Fun! This is year #24 at the annual Summer Fun Nationals at Mt Hood, Oregon. In addition to Masters classes, we invite racers to bring your family to join the

fun with the Fastest Family Award and Junior classes. Family members must also hold current USSA licenses (2013).

Masters Summer Fun Nationals is right in the middle of ski race Mecca. Mt Hood is action central for the ski industry during the summer. Race camps and ski reps with all next season's gear gather here from all over the world. This is THE

time and place to be to get the scoop on next season's gear as well as try it out at the Summer Fun Nationals. Halfway between last season and next, it is the perfect time to remind those old muscles what to do on skis. Sign up for a few days of race camp (www.skiracing.com) prior to the race then race on the weekend. Summer Heaven for a ski racer!



This year, we dedicate the races to 20-year Summer Fun Nationals veteran Jim Estes (1931-2012).



Friday, July 20

Racer welcome • Check-in

Saturday, July 21

Giant Slalom • BBQ • Awards

Sunday, July 22

Slalom • Daily & special awards

Register Here!

2012 USSA Masters Summer Fun Nationals • Timberline/Palmer Glacier, Oregon • July 20-22, 2012

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 Birth Date / / _____ Class: _____ Sex: Men Women

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|---------------------------------|-------|----------|---|
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| Sat only/GS, BBQ | \$89 | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL |
| Sun only/SL | \$59 | _____ | |
| Late Fee if received after 7/14 | \$20 | _____ | |
| Guest BBQ | \$35 | _____ | |
| TOTAL PAID | | \$ _____ | |

For More Info

www.SummerFunNationals.com
 Meri@SummerFunNationals.com
 (541) 490-5888

Entries/check payable to:

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



P.O. Box 100
Park City Utah
84060



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| Non profit U.S. Postage P A I D 4753 Salt Lake City |
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Franz Fuchsberger, 2012 national DH champion

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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2013 Major Events

Skier's Edge Masters Nationals
Big Sky, MT, Mar. 18-23
DH/SG/GS/SL

Eastern Region Championships
Killington, VT, Feb. 8-10
SC/SG/GS/SL

FIS Masters Cup
Mammoth, CA, Feb. 28-Mar. 3
SG/SG/SL/SL