

**Minutes of Annual Meeting
USSA Masters National Working Group
Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, MT
March 16-17, 2016**

Attendees: (voting members in BOLD)

Lauren Beckos – Rocky

Carl Swanson – Alaska

Knut Olberg – PNSA

Fran Noel – Northern

Steve Slivinski – Former Chair/Intermountain

Ryan Fuller – Central

Dan Simmons – Far West

Meri Stratton – Intermountain

Deb Lewis – Far West

Esther DelliQuadri

Tony Nunnikhoven

Karen Kilian – PNSA

Carolyn Phillips - PNSA

Nancy Auseklis – Intermountain

Lisa Ballard – National Chair

Bill Skinner – USSA Masters

Mike Robbins - Canada

Pepi Neubauer – New York

Dave Strang - Eastern

Meeting Called to order at 4PM. 3/16/2016

Lisa D will use attendance list and include all members on the summer emails along with absent division Chairs.

MINUTES from 2015 National Committee Meeting

Lisa D. MOTION to approve minutes, Ryan F. SECOND. ALL APPROVE. **Motion Passes to approve minutes.**

NATIONAL COORDINATOR REPORT – Bill S.

Review Membership Report

- Numbers increased slightly this year for masters in March report– possibly due to coaches
- USSA is up overall in numbers for total membership
- Short-term temps will be allowed again next year
- Assume short-term license will still be done the same way on paper next year.
- **Bill S to review with Membership the preferred way to document and process short-term licenses.**

Nationals

- Mammoth only to submit full bid. March 13-18, 2017. Four event: DH/SG/GS/SL
- For bids you need: event schedule, agreement on race entry prices, pricing for lift tickets, lodging package
- Alyeska also was interested in 2017 – but will work toward a more complete proposal for a future year

Regionals

- Eastern Regionals
 - o Still looking to confirm location

- Last year Okemo went well and will consider that again for next year
- Western Regionals
 - Combined with FIS races again 3-day event 2xSG, SL, GS
 - February 3-5, 2017
 - Park City
 - SG races will be speed series

World Criterium

- Will be in the US in 2018.
- Target dates are the end of March
- In 2018 – consider moving US Nationals to February and targeting the 1st week in February similar to 2015 and 2016 Aspen FIS Masters Cup.
- Numbers of US registrants may be limited depending on venue

Helmets

- USSA will follow FIS ruling next year
- 2015-2016 USSA Masters were grandfathered to not require the FIS sticker
- **All will continue to educate racers about the rule**

MASTERS NATIONALS DISCUSSIONS

Seeding Rules

- Need to state rules in more detail in handbook explaining a recommendation for when a class should be seeded?
- MOTION to do random draw at all regional and national events. NO SECOND.
- **Meri S. to put together proposal with options for Regionals/Nationals seeding.**
- Should each division rank their athletes?
- Send registration list out to each division. The list is available in skiracereg.com

Are DNFs and DSQs eligible for 2nd run

- Rule M1283.4 in Masters Competition Guide: currently it is stated that it is a jury decision

Meeting will reconvene at 3PM on 3/17/2016.

Meeting Adjourned 5:21PM 3/16/2016

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm on 3/17/2016

GENERAL TOPICS

Masters Competition Guide

- Lisa Ballard and Deb Lewis revised summer 2015. Deb Lewis cross-referenced rules with the Alpine Comp Guide.
- **All divisions to review the Masters Comp guide and specifically their division section.**

Nastar

- Back with Split Second Timing.
- A notice about Masters was included in one of their newsletters.
- Will continue to explore opportunities to send email information to Nastar racers
 - Ideally target Gold/Platinum members
 - Ask what other ways we can target specific racers
 - **Ryan Fuller to put together a form to see how we can filter the NASTAR list.**
- Will look into having Masters at pace setters again

Vision Statement

- Looking to add a seed for Masters at non-scored Junior races and for Junior racers at non-championship Masters races.
- Lisa D will explore how rules would need to be changed and races run. She welcomes input from Division Chairs.
- Lisa D. to plan to bring it up at the National Congress.

Poster

- Fully paid with sponsors
- Needs improvements
 - Emphasize Masters
 - How do we make it more inviting?
 - Better title?
- **Lauren B to look into ways to make it more poster appealing as a recruitment tool.**
- Can we find a slogan that works?

SL Shootout

- Requires a \$3500 sponsor commitment
- Requires someone who can score the event
- Requires divisions to plan accordingly
- Divisions are in favor of continuing to try to make this happen. Sponsorship ideas should be forwarded to Lisa Ballard and Bill Skinner.
- Each Division shall designate at least one slalom and preferably a 2-slalom weekend as part of the national Slalom Shootout as they put their 2017 schedules together.

DIVISION REPORTS

Alaska – Carl Swanson

- Flat in terms of regular membership
- Generally 45-55 per race
- Very weather dependant for attendance
- Will have 7 of 8 scheduled races this season

Eastern – Dave Strang

- NY
 - Didn't start until Jan 31st . Didn't get to have finals.

- Averaged 30-40 racers per event
- NE
 - Started late and were only able to host 1 day of speed skiing
 - Almost identical to the number of racer starts from 2014-15 season
 - Growing numbers in younger women's classes
 - Used all 29 temp licenses and division funded another 30

Central – Ryan Fuller

- Late start
- Memberships increased but number of starts are down
- Have additional insurance (\$4000 per season) to cover younger racers – younger non-USSA racers can participate with a parent present.
- Merging with another local group

Far West – Dan Simmons

- 14 races held, 4 cancellations, but rescheduling 2
- Numbers up slightly
- Invite new racers to introduce themselves at race parties. Each new racer receives a bottle of wine.
- Just got 501.3c status this year

Intermountain – Steve Slivinski

- Good year overall
- Soldier Mtn DH great event with coaching

Northern – Fran Noel

- Numbers are up – Lisa B's program is helping
- Northern continues to run events with (is part of) Intermountain.

PNSA – Knut Olberg

- Having conference calls and looking to see how they want to move forward.
- Moving forward with 501.3c
- Communication improved – website
- Weather was challenging but still having a good season
- Numbers similar to last year

Rocky – Lauren Beckos

- Numbers up slightly
- Website, Emails improved
- December train/race event
- January Ski Cooper Speed Series – with camp

Canada – Mike Robbins

- Looking into hosting FIS masters races
- Targeting 2019 and possibly 2021 for FIS Cup for Panorama if large field or Nakiska if small field (under 200).
- Hoping to target FIS Criterium in a following season
- Committee members were enthusiastic about the idea of a combined Western Regionals, Eastern Regionals and/or national championships with Canada, e.g. to make a North American Championships.

OTHER BUSINESS

Marketing to Ski Coaches Association

- Requires 1 point continuing ed. credit every 2 years
- Currently they can get 1/4 pt per year by entering a masters race.
- **Divisions to try to reach out to local club coaches; consider reducing entry fees for coaches.**

Timing (SST vs VOLA)

- USSA has a 3-year contract with VOLA
- Planning a list help VOLA work better for Masters
- Either can still be used to get it done.

Race Registrations Deadlines and Procedures

- Can add/withdraw up until the deadline easily which makes planning challenging
- Organizer needs to be involved in conversations about deadlines
- Tiered fee structure based on date deadlines (ex: wk in advance price goes up)

Speed panels

- Most areas don't have properly homologated panels
- **B. Skinner to look into whether areas for National Championships and Speed Series have proper panels.**

Newsletters

- Feedback that USSA Masters emails are read and appreciated.

Summer Conference Calls

- Continue throughout summer/fall 2016 every 4-6 weeks similar to last year.
- L. Ballard to schedule first call in late May after the USSA Congress.

Recruitment for Masters Leadership at USSA

- B. Skinner asked for input as to whether a younger Masters Manager would aid in younger group participation and philosophy direction.

MEETING ADJOURNED 4:55PM