

ALPINE MASTERS SERIES



autumn 2017
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snowboard.org/
other/masters

News and Information of the Alpine Masters

Are You in a Compatible (GS Ski) Relationship?

Relationships are important. Just like all relationships, the one with your GS ski can make a world of difference. So, are you and your ski a power couple? Or, are you just strutting around with the latest arm candy? While it is cool to be sporting the latest in ski arsenal, is this setup the best choice to land you on the podium?

Selecting your partner

Ski magazines and ski manufacturers, just like online dating sites, list specific features of potential matches. While height and weight may be exaggerated with online dating, the ski length and ski radius are usually numbers you can trust. Although you should be careful of the rhetoric, "I like long walks on the beach" and "this ski will carve a trench," which can be misconstrued from: "I would like you to think that I like long walks on the beach" and, "If you are Ted Ligety, you can probably carve a trench with this ski." Just like online dating, they will probably tell you what they think you want to hear.

So what can you do? Date, or demo, is a start. But first, like searching the dating site, you need to separate out the smokers from the non-smokers.

Which skis will make the short-list, and which skis will make the no-list? You want a find a match that will make you all the person you can be.

Size is important

There are two important sizes. Length and radius. Length of the ski is measured from the tip to the tail and printed on the ski. The radius, also printed on the ski, quantifies what size arc the ski would represent

when flat on the snow. The smaller the radius the tighter the turn the ski can carve when tipped on edge. While World Cup racers have length and radius regulated, Masters, NASTAR, and beer league racing leave the choice up to the participant.

Ski engineers have designed amazing ride characteristics for skis of all lengths. The ski's radius is the largest factor in turn size. Using this radius size, we can divide skis into two categories: NASTAR/beer league, with a radius less than 22 meters, and Masters/FIS, with radius greater than 22 meters. The assumption is NASTAR/beer league courses have less distance between gates and Masters/FIS have more.

Cheating

Cheating is not only okay, it is advised if you are with a slim-figured, tall partner, aka a Masters/FIS race ski. "Cheating the side-cut" is an expression World Cup racers use to describe how they engage the ski tip on their long ski. With the restricted radius on World Cup GS skis (35m last year and 30m this season), World Cup ski racers had to

figure out how to compensate for this large radius. They adjusted by moving their center-of-mass forward at turn initiation while starting to tip the ski up. They found that this increased tip pressure would curve the ski tip into a tighter arc. This reduced the ski's turning radius, enabling a tighter turn.

The NASTAR/beer leaguers, full-figured hourglass-shaped ones with the smaller radius, don't need you to cheat to get their attention. Their wider tip needs little external motivation to start the turn. In fact, if you overdo the tip engagement by pressuring too long, you may end up crossing your tips, or the ski tip may continue to push unnecessarily deeper into the snow and scrub speed.

Where do you want this relationship to go?

Race car drivers need to have a fast car. One of the things that makes their car fast is that it fits the course that is being contested. Ski racers have the same challenge. That is,

Article continued on page 10.

Related chart on ski length/turning radius on page 7.



Aspen dual. A tight course set requires a well-thought out relationship with your ski choice.

National Chairperson's Report

by Lisa Densmore Ballard, Chair,
USSA National Masters Committee



First, a heartfelt thank you to the members of the national Masters committee for all they do year-round to ensure top-notch ski racing for us each winter. The committee includes Bill Skinner (US Ski & Snowboard's Masters coordinator); Bill McCollom (Eastern), Nadine Price (New England), Carol Tomasetti (Mid-Atlantic), Ryan Fuller (Central), Fran Noel (Northern), Gary Randall (Alaska), Rob Cravens (PNSA), Dan Simmons (Far West), Lauren Beckos (Rocky) and Stu Marsh (Intermountain). Others, such as Meri Stratton, Esther DellaQuadri, Bob Davis, Dave Brennan, Kip Blake, Carl Swanson and Deb Lewis participate in various much-appreciated ways. And this is just part of a very long list of volunteers who not only play a critical role in coordinating the ski races we attend, but also lend their brainpower and time to make Masters ski racing better.

Did you notice a new region, Mid-Atlantic, among the division chairs above? This summer, the American Ski Racing Association (ASRA) joined U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Masters circuit as a region within Eastern Division. For a number of years, ASRA has held

some of its races jointly with Masters events in the northeast, and will continue to do so, now as Mid-Atlantic Masters and sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. It will also offer separate sanctioned Masters events in New York and Pennsylvania. The addition of Mid-Atlantic Masters brings Masters racing to new locations near some sizeable population centers. Welcome, ASRA racers!

Recruitment continues to be one of the focuses for your national Masters committee. Our efforts were rewarded with an 8% increase in memberships last winter, including over-20% increases in the critical classes 1 and 2. That said, with just over 1,500 Masters racers nationwide, we've still got a way to go. Please invite a friend, any age, to enter a ski race with you. I'm sure they'll love it and want to do it again. Likewise, if you know a college student or recent graduate who ski races (or used to), treat them to a Masters race. You'll both have a great time and help grow our sport.

In addition to the myriad opportunities to race throughout the United States in all four ski racing disciplines (SL, GS, SG and DH), we've got two BIG events planned for this winter, one in the east and the other in the west. The Masters nationals will be at Okemo Mountain, Vermont, Feb. 5-10; and the FIS Masters Criterium (world championships) will be at Big Sky, Montana, Mar. 19-25. There are purposely no regional championships on the calendar in 2018 so that these two marquee events can bring us all together for some hot competition at two of the coolest ski resorts in the country. Get ready to go fast!

Masters Membership News

by Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Manager

2018 promises to be a banner and unique racing season.

1. Our National Championships will be held in February in the East. You can be a National Champion before Presidents weekend!
2. Every six year the FIS Masters World Championships are held in the U.S. Big Sky has stepped up for the four-event series, which in the past drew over 200 European competitors. Here is the opportunity to claim a Masters World Champion title!
3. Our National Downhill Championship and Speed Series Finals will take place Mar. 9-12 at Ski Cooper in Colorado. A speed extravaganza DH/DH/SG/SG.
4. We presently have over 170 Masters races scheduled across the country.

*A special thanks to our division leaders identified by our Chairperson Lisa, above. Of note, Lisa led monthly conference calls with our volunteer leaders discussing masters related issues and our challenges going forward. Thanks to all that participated.

- A shout out to Lauren Beckos, who has spearheaded getting Masters products designed and available, with proceeds going to our divisions.
- Ryan Fuller and Lauren also have outlined and produced a "Masters Survey" to profile our members for use in identifying ourselves



and soliciting sponsors for our events. The survey will be sent to you in our November email update.

- Phillips 66 will be continuing their sponsorship of Masters, including the Criterium, Nationals and Speed Series.
- JANS, Fischer and Leki have again produced our 2018 Masters Schedule Poster and will be available from your divisions and at opening races.
- The 2018 Masters Competition guide is available in hard copy and online on our Masters website. If you would like a hard copy for your collection, contact me at bskinner@ussa.org and let me know where to mail it.
- Check out our new U.S. Masters logo!



Have a great season, and I will be looking forward to seeing a lot of you in Vermont, Colorado and Montana. Ski fast and have fun!

2018 Alpine Masters Schedules (Subject to change)

Alaska Alpine Masters

Jan. 12-13 . . . Alyeska2SL
 Jan. 14-15 . . . Alyeska2GS
 Feb. 17-18 . . . Alyeska2SL
 Feb. 19-20 . . . Alyeska2GS
 Feb. 21-22 . . . Alyeska2SG
 Info: Carl Swanson 907.344.8570

Central Alpine Masters

Nov. 26-29 . . . Koznick Fall Camp
 Copper Mtn, CO
 Dec. 9-10 . . . Afton Alps2SL/2GS
 Jan. 12-14 . . . Ski Cooper . .2DH/2SG/SL

Central/Region 2 Championships

Feb. 9-11 . . . Granite Peak . . .2SL/2GS
 Mar. 10-11 . . . Spirit Mtn.2GS/2SL
 Info: program.director@midwestmasters.org
 midwestmasters.org

New England Masters/Sise Cup

Dec. TBA
 Jan. 6-7 . . . SunapeeSL/GS
 Jan. 13 . . . MiddleburyGS
 Jan. 14 . . . WhalebackSL
 Jan. 18-21 . . . Stratton . . .SGtr/2SG/GS
 Jan. 27 . . . Suicide SixSL
 Jan. 28 . . . Ragged Mt.GS

Masters Nationals

Feb. 6-10 . . . Okemo Mt. SG/AC/GS/SL
 Feb. 16-18 . . . West Mt., NY . . .SG/GS/SL
 Mar. 2 . . . Wachusett, MAGS
 Mar. 3 . . . MittersillSL

Sise Cup Finals

Mar. 9 . . . SugarbushGS
 Mar. 10 . . . Awards BanquetSL
 Info: nemasters.org

New York Masters

TBA
 Info: Jack Eisenschmid 585.288.4554
 nymasters.net

Mid-Atlantic Masters

Jan. 6-7 . . . Elk Mtn. PAGS/SL
 Jan. 19-21 . . . Stratton, VT2SG/GS
 Jan. 27 . . . Hunter, NYSL
 Jan. 28 . . . Windham, NYGS
 Feb. 3-4 . . . Montage Mt. PA . . .GS/SL
 Feb. 16-18 . . . West Mtn. NY . .SG/GS/SL
 Feb. 24-25 . . . Mountain Cr. NJ . .GS/GS
 Mar. 9-11 . . . West Mtn. NY . .SG/GS/SL
 Info: Carol Tomassetti at 845.594.90451
 mamasters.org

Southern Masters (SARA)

Dec. 23 . . . Bryce ResortGS
 Dec. 28-29 . . . Sugar Mtn.SL/GS
 Jan. 6-7 . . . Bryce ResortGS/SL
 Jan. 15 . . . WintergreenSL
 Jan. 20-21 . . . MassanuttenSL/GS
 Jan. 27-28 . . . Sugar Mtn.SL/GS
 Feb. 3-4 . . . SnowshoeSL/GS
 Feb. 10-11 . . . WintergreenGS/SL

Feb. 24-25 . . . Sugar Mtn.SL/GS
 Info Contact: Horst Locher 540.856.2121
 skisara.org

Far West Masters

Dec. 2 . . . Mammoth2SL
 Dec. 16-17 . . . MammothGS/GS
 Jan. 5-7 . . . Heavenly2SL/GS/GS
 Jan. 19-21 . . . Squaw Valley . .GS/GS/SL
 Feb. 2-4 . . . Mammoth . . .2SG/2SG/SG
 Feb. 23-25 . . . Northstar . . .2SG/GS/GS
 Mar. 10-11 . . . Mt RoseGS/GS

Far West Finals

Apr. 12-14 . . . Mammoth . . .2SG/GS/SL
 Info: Dan Simmons 530.587.4864
 farwestmasters.org

Intermountain Masters/ JANS Cup

Dec. 9-10 . . . SnowbasinSL/GS
 Jan. 6-7 . . . Nordic ValleySL/SL
 Jan. 19-21 . . . Sun ValleySG/GS/SL
 Jan. 27-28 . . . Snow King, WY . .2GS/GS
 Feb. 2-4 . . . Park City2SG/SL/GS
 Feb. 16-18 . . . Nordic ValleySL/GS
 Mar. 3-4 . . . Soldier Mtn.GS/GS
 Mar. 5-7 . . . Soldier Mtn.2DH
 Info: Stew Marsh 385.315.4817
 intermountainmasters.org

Northern Masters

Dec. 6-10 . . . Red Lodge
Dust-the-Rust-Off Camp
 Jan. 19-21 . . . Sun Valley, ID . .SG/GS/SL
 Jan. 27-28 . . . Snow King, WY . .2GS/GS
 Feb. 22-25 . . . Schweitzer, ID 3SG/GS/SL

Masters World Championships

Mar. 19-25 . . . Big Sky, MT .SG/GS/GS/SL
 Info: Fran Noel 406.586.5759

Pacific Northwest Masters

Dec. 16-18 . . . Mt. Bachelor2GS/GS
 Dec. 16-17 . . . Summit at Snoq trGS/GS
 Jan. 27-28 . . . CrystalSL/GS
 Feb. 16-18 . . . 49 Degrees N . . .SGt/4SG
 Feb. 22-25 . . . Schweitzer . .SGt/3SG/GS/SL
 Mar. 3-4 . . . Hood Ski Bowl . . .2SL/GSL
 Info: Robert Cravens 541.419.3893
 pnsamasters.org

Rocky Mountain Masters

Dec. 16-17 . . . LovelandGS/SL
 Jan. 12-14 . . . Ski Cooper . .2DH/SG/SL
 Jan. 20-21 . . . Winter Park2SL/GS
 Jan. 27-28 . . . CopperGS/SL
 Feb. 3 . . . Beaver Creek2GS
 Feb. 16-19 . . . Aspen Highland 2DH/2SG
 Mar. 4 . . . EldoraTBD

Masters National Downhill

Mar. 8-11 . . . Ski Cooper .trDH/2DH/2SG
 Mar. 17-18 . . . LovelandSL/GS
 Apr. 1 . . . Ski CooperGS
 Apr. 7-8 . . . Breckenridge . . .2SG/GS
 Info: Lauren Beckos 267.496.1320
 rmmiskiracing.org



Carl Swanson,
Alaska

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Phillips 66 Masters National Championship

Feb. 7-10 . . . Okemo, VT SG/AC/GS/SL
 Bill Skinner 435.647.2633

Phillips 66 Masters Downhill Championships

Mar. 8-11 . . . Ski Cooper, CO 2DH/SG/SG
 Lauren Beckos 267.496.1320

Phillips 66 FIS Masters World Championships

Mar. 19-24 . . . Big Sky, MT SG/GS/GS/SL
 Bill Skinner 435.647.2633

Summer Fun Nationals

July 14-15 . . . Mt Hood, ORGS/SL
 Meri Stratton 541.490.5888

Phillips 66 National Speed Series

Jan. 18-19 . . . Stratton, VTSG/SG
 Feb. 2Park City, UTSG/SG

National SG

Feb. 7Okemo, VTSG/SG
 Feb. 16-19 . . . Aspen, CODH/SG
 Feb. 23-26 . . . Schweitzer, ID SG/SG/SG
 Mar. 5-7 . . . Soldier Mt. ID . . .DH/DH

National Downhill/Finals

Mar. 9-11 . . . Ski Cooper . . .DH/DH/SG

Masters adult racing: Age class competition for skiers 18 years and older. For more information contact Bill Skinner at 435.647.2633 /

bill.skinner@usskiandsnowboard.org

Schedules subject to change. For complete info on Masters Racing visit ussa.org/masters.

2018 ALPINE MASTERS SCHEDULES
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
 JOIN TODAY. UNLEASH YOUR NEED FOR SPEED.

STEVEN NYMAN

US MASTERS

PHILLIPS 66

MASTAR

ALASKA ALPINE MASTERS
 JAN. 12-13 ZSL
 JAN. 14-15 ALASKA ZSL
 FEB. 17-18 ALASKA ZSL
 FEB. 19-20 ALASKA ZSL
 CONTACT: CARL SWANSON AT 907.344.8970

CENTRAL ALPINE MASTERS
 NOV. 28-29 MICHIGAN FALL CAMP COOPER MTLN, CO 25/205
 DEC. 11-12 SKI COOPER DHTD/205/505L
 FEB. 11-11 GRANITE PEAK 25/205
 MAR. 10-11 SPIRIT MTLN 205/224
 CONTACT: PRO/DAM DIRECT/CO/DWEST/MASTERS.ORG
 WWW.MIDWESTMASTERS.ORG

NEW ENGLAND MASTERS/USSE CUP
 DEC. 7 TBA SL/55
 JAN. 4-7 SONNREE SL/55
 JAN. 13 MIDDLEBURY 65
 JAN. 14 WALESBROOK SL
 JAN. 18-21 STRATTON 507/205/505L
 JAN. 27 COCKER MTLN 65
 MASTERS NATIONALS
 FEB. 4-10 GREEN MT 505/505L
 FEB. 16-18 MITCHELL 5L
 FEB. 24 MACHUSETT MA 65
 MAR. 2 **USSE CUP FINALS**
 MAR. 9-10 WATERVILLE 65/5L BANDUIET
 CONTACT: NEW ENGLAND MASTERS.ORG
 NEW YORK MASTERS
 CONTACT: JACK EISENBERG AT 585.288.4554
 NYMASTERS.NET

MID ATLANTIC MASTERS
 JAN. 4-7 ELK MTLN PA 65/5L
 JAN. 19-21 STRATTON VT 25/505L
 JAN. 26 HUNTER NY 5L
 JAN. 27 WINGHAM NY 65
 FEB. 3-4 MONTAGE MT PA 65/5L
 FEB. 16-18 WEST MTLN NY 65/505L
 FEB. 24-25 WEST MTLN NY 505/505L
 MAR. 11-11 CONTACT: CAROL TOMASSETTI AT 845.594.9048
 MAJMASTERS.ORG

SOUTHERN MASTERS (SAR)
 DEC. 23 BRUCE RESORT 65
 DEC. 28-29 BRUCE RESORT 65/5L
 JAN. 6-7 WINTERSHIRE 5L
 JAN. 15 MASSA NUTTEN SL/55
 JAN. 20-21 SUGAR MTLN 505/505L
 FEB. 3-4 WINTERSHIRE 505/505L
 FEB. 10-11 SUGAR MTLN 505/505L
 FEB. 24-25 SUGAR MTLN HORST LOCKER AT 348.854.2121
 CONTACT: SUGAR MTLN 505/505L

FAR WEST MASTERS
 DEC. 2 ZSL
 DEC. 14-17 MAMMOTH 25/505L
 JAN. 4-7 MAMMOTH 25/505L
 JAN. 19-21 SQUAW VALLEY 65/505L
 FEB. 3 MAMMOTH 25/505L
 FEB. 23-25 NORTSTAR 65/505L
 MT ROSE 65/505L
 MAR. 10-11 **FAR WEST FINALS**
 MAMMOTH 25/505L
 CONTACT: DAN SIMMONS AT 530.987.4844
 FARWESTMASTERS.ORG

INTERMOUNTAIN MASTERS/ JANS CUP
 DEC. 10-11 SNOWBASIN 5L/55
 JAN. 4-7 NORTH VALLEY 505/505L
 JAN. 19-21 SNOW VALLEY 25/505L
 JAN. 27-28 SNOW KING WY 25/505L
 FEB. 2-4 PARK CITY 5L/55
 FEB. 16-18 NORTH VALLEY 5L/55
 MAR. 2-4 SOLDIER MTLN 65/505L
 MAR. 5-7 SOLDIER MTLN 204
 CONTACT: STEW MARSH AT 303.311.4817
 INTERMOUNTAINMASTERS.ORG

NORTHERN MASTERS
 DEC. 4-10 RED LODGE PIR RACE CAMP 65/505L
 JAN. 19-21 SNOW VALLEY 505/505L
 JAN. 27-28 SNOW KING WY 25/505L
 FEB. 22-23 SCHWITZER, ID 350/505L
 MAR. 19-23 RED WY MT 505/505L
 MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
 MAR. 19-23 FRAN NOEL AT 404.586.9799

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MASTERS
 DEC. 14-18 MT BAKER/OLN 25/505L
 DEC. 16-17 SUMMIT AT SNOD 5L/55
 JAN. 27-28 44 DEGREES N 65/505L
 FEB. 16-18 SCHWITZER 507/505/505L
 FEB. 22-25 HOOD SN BOWL 45L
 MAR. 2-4 CONTACT: ROBERT OWENERS AT 541.419.3893
 PWSMASTERS.ORG

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASTERS
 DEC. 14-17 LOVELAND 65/5L
 JAN. 11-15 SKI COOPER TRD/205/505L
 JAN. 20-21 WINTERS PARK 25/505L
 JAN. 27-28 COOPER 65/5L
 FEB. 16-19 ASSEN HIGHLANDS 204/505
 FEB. 24 BEAVER CREEK 205
 MAR. 4 EL DORS TBD
 MASTERS NATIONAL DOWNHILL
 MAR. 8-11 SKI COOPER 507/205/505L
 MAR. 17-18 LOVELAND 25/505L
 APR. 7-8 BRECKENRIDGE 1504
 CONTACT: LAUREN BECKOS AT 476.1320
 RMMASTERS.ORG

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS
PHILLIPS 66 MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
 FEB. 7-10 OREGON VT 505/505L
 BILL SKINNER AT 435.447.2333
PHILLIPS 66 MASTERS NATIONAL DOWNHILL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 MAR. 8-11 SKI COOPER CO DHTD/505/505L
 LAUREN BECKOS AT 476.1320
PHILLIPS 66 FIS MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
 65/505L
 MAR. 19-24 SKI COOPER 505/505L
 BILL SKINNER AT 435.447.2333
SUMMER FUN NATIONALS
 JULY 14-19 MT HOOD OR 65/5L
 MERI STRATTON 541.470.5888
PHILLIPS 66 NATIONAL SPEED SERIES
 JAN. 18-19 STRATTON 505/505L
 FEB. 2 PARK CITY UT 505/505L
 FEB. 7 OREGON VT NATIONAL 505/505L
 FEB. 16-19 ASPEN CO 505/505L
 FEB. 23-24 SOLDIER MT. ID 205/505L
 MAR. 9-11 SKI COOPER NATIONAL DHI DHTD/505L (FINALS)

POSTER COMPLIMENTS OF
JANS.COM
rennstall inc.

LEKI

Get the poster. Spread the word. And know precisely when your next chance for eternal glory is.

Now you can more easily spread the gospel of Going Fast On Snow, by displaying this handsome poster and schedule. Let all your peeps know that you are the bringer of the Word, the carrier of the torch of adrenaline-fueled fun.

Contact your division chair to get posters, or pick some up at your first race and spread them around! Use its calendar to track all the upcoming events while showing your support for Masters ski racing. You don't need the end times to experience rapture; it's just up the hill.

When Spandex isn't the answer

There's more to fashion than wearing skintight clothing that shows off every well-earned muscle, bulge and crease. For those times when you're not attempting low-earth orbit, it's nice to wear something soft that proclaims your affinity for Masters racing.

Available in men's and women's tees, short and long sleeved, as well as a sweatshirt hoodie design, all have the new U.S. Ski Team logo on the front, and logos for the different divisions on the back.

In this special offer, **all profits go to our divisions**. It's a great way to make a statement, support our racing program, and retain a little body heat.

Visit <https://teeSpring.com/stores/masters-us-ski-team>



Attention, Masters Ski Racers!
This is a very special invitation.

New England Masters Ski Racing invites you to the most exciting ski racing event of 2018, even more of a thriller than the 2018 Winter Olympics— THE 2018 PHILLIPS 66 MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

On Feb. 6–10, the 2018 Phillips 66 Masters National Championships will be returning to Okemo Mountain, site of the wildly successful 2014 National Championship event.

Racers are still talking about the rolling terrain, impeccable grooming, masterful course setting, and warm ambience. It's no coincidence that Okemo is always the most popular stop on the New England Masters calendar. This one is not to be missed.




And that is just the beginning. Race organizers are already planning for multiple Vermont-themed awards, parties and banquet. Will a craft beer and craft distillery tasting session quench your thirst? How is your appetite for Vermont cheeses, chocolates, ice cream, and maple syrup?

Yes, there will also be special deals for family members. With an expansive mountain to explore, shopping opportunities in nearby Woodstock, and multiple lodging options, either slopeside or in close proximity to the mountain there will be no problem keeping occupied.

Your New England Masters Ski Racing hosts would like to make this Championship event the most convenient, hassle-free ski race you have ever attended. Transportation, lodging, race information, and social schedules will be on display at ussamasters.org and nemasters.org.

Please RSVP with your entry! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

—Bill McCollum, Eastern Division Chair

2018 Phillips 66 Master's Nationals

Okemo, VT

February 6 – 10, 2018

Tuesday – Feb. 6		
9:00am – 6:00pm	Racer check-in	Okemo
10:00am – 1:00pm	Super G Training	Chief
3:30pm	Seed Meetings	Okemo Competition Center
Wednesday – Feb. 7		
8:00am	Racer check-in	Okemo
8:30am	Inspection	Chief
9:30am	Super G - C & D Groups	Chief
11:30am	Super G - A & B Groups	Chief
3:00pm	National Comm. meeting	Okemo
5:00 pm	Welcome and Awards Party	Okemo
Thursday – Feb. 8		
8:00am	Racer check-in	Okemo
8:30am	Inspection	Chief and Wardance
10:00 am	Alpine Combined SL C/D Groups	Wardance
10:00am	Alpine Combined SG - A & B Groups	Chief
12:30pm	Alpine Combined SG - C/D Groups	Chief
12:30pm	Alpine Combined SL A & B Groups	Wardance
5:00pm	Awards Party	Okemo
Friday – Feb. 9		
8:00am	Racer check-in	Okemo
9:00am	Inspection	Chief and Wardance
10:00am	SL – A & B Groups – 1 st Run	Wardance
10:00am	GS – C & D Groups – 1 st Run	Chief
12:00pm	SL – A & B Groups – 2nd Run	Wardance
12:00pm	GS – C & D Groups – 2nd Run	Chief
5:00pm	Awards Party	
Saturday – Feb. 10		
8:30am	Inspection	Chief and Wardance
10:00am	GS – A & B Groups – 1 st Run	Chief
10:00am	SL – C & D Groups – 1 st Run	Wardance
12:00pm	GS – A & B Groups 2 nd Run	Chief
12:00pm	SL – C & D Groups 2 nd Run	Wardance
6:00pm	National Awards Banquet	Okemo

Schedule subject to Change

Fees

Late fees of \$10 per race after Feb. 1, 2018

Training	\$35	+ \$35 Lift ticket
AC	\$65	+ \$35 lift ticket
SG	\$55	
GS and SL	\$50 each	
Banquet	\$35	

Registration starts Dec. 1, 2017 at www.skiracereg.com. First 300 entries accepted.

For housing information and reservations call: 800-786-5366 and use the code "masters"

Chasing Gravity

The National Speed Series Championship • By Dave Brennan



Slipping into the start peripheral vision collapses, eyes tunneling forward finding the line onto the first pitch.

Waiting to trip the wand time distorts as if approaching the event horizon of a black hole. The only sound is your own muffled breathing.

A handful of heartbeats pass skating out of the gate. You disconnect from reality.

Tipping the skis and arcing down the first face you're suspended in space - chasing gravity.

Accelerating off the "Waterfall" reality returns; balance challenged, arms adjusting.

On the false flat you grab a tuck and remember to breathe.

Approaching the second pitch the outside leg extends pressuring the new ski, setting up direction.

The knees retract at the kicker, hands and chest pressing forward and down. The terrain falls away and then quickly rises up under you.

Gravity keeps pulling ahead.

Heaviness and lightness alternate through the compressions and rolls as your focus moves to aerodynamics.

Outside the blue dye the world is a blur.

Take a breath.

Speed peaks as time slows entering the "Roundhouse." Crushing your boot-top, inside hip and hand inches off the snow, upper body angulated, pushing the limits across the fall line, you struggle to maintain the line.

Gravity is winning.

Three gates from the finish. Hold your tuck. Arc the turns with the ankles. Keep the edge pressure light.

Breathe.

Breaking the beam, adrenaline is spiking, legs are burning, lungs pumping, endomorphs kicking in.

The clock reads 1:09:45. But time seems to stand still while chasing gravity.

How to Succeed at Speed

Beyond the requisite technical skills and a healthy respect for skiing fast, there are three absolutely critical characteristics necessary for success on the National Speed Series circuit:



With a collection of booty like this, Mr. Brennan needed no one to validate him last season.

motivation, commitment and planning.

Motivation: In September of 2013, while training and racing SG with the Skinner brothers in Chile, a question reemerged from my distant youth: was it in me to be a speed skier? Growing up in New England during the early '60s, there was the occasional opportunity to strap on a pair of DHs, but few chances to train and still fewer venues to develop speed skills. Chile

changed that. And while continuing to ski in all disciplines during the following seasons, last year that lingering question turned to motivation and finally gestated into committing to find out if it was in me.

Find out if it is in you!

(Continued next column)

2018 National Speed Series Schedule									
Dates	Trng DH	Trng SG	Div DH	Races SG	NSS DH	Races SG	Venue	Comments	Pucker Factor
Dec 18	1	2	1	1	1	1	Mt. Bachelor, OR	Four blind knolls keep you sharp on this rolling FIS venue	3.5/5
Jan 11-14	1		2	1			Ski Cooper, CO	Masters-friendly venue for transitioning into speed	2.5/5
Jan 18-20		1		2		2	Stratton Mtn, VT	Wide, rolling terrain with a steep pitch before the finish	3.5/5
Jan 19				1			Sun Valley, ID	Steep and stays steep all the way to the parking lot	4/5
Jan 30-Feb 2	2		4				Silver Star, BC	Fantastic DH training venue, fun team races	3.5/5
Feb 2				2		2	Park City, UT	Steep on top, long gliding section, stacks up on the bottom	3.5/5
Feb 2-4				5			Mammoth Mtn, CA	Course has it all, speed, gliding and technical turns	4/5
Feb 4				2			Breckenridge, CO	Short but sweet, last pitch is a fast ride to the finish	3/5
Feb 6-7				2		2	Okemo, Vt	Masters Nationals*-track has it all, pitch, speed, terrain	3.5/5
Feb 16-19	1		2	2	1	1	Aspen Highlands, CO	National Downhill Championships-the real deal DH	5/5
Feb 16-18		1		4			49 Degrees North, ID	Watch the compression before the S-turn at the bottom	3/5
Feb 19-20				2			Alyeska, AK	Wide open, go-as-fast-as-you-dare, challenging FIS venue	4.5/5
Feb 22-23		1		3		3	Schweitzer, ID	Stay balanced, the terrain keeps moving under you	3.5/5
Feb 23				2			Northstar, CA	Wide gliders track on top, narrows at the bottom pitch	3/5
Mar 5-7	2		2		2		Soldier Mtn, ID	Speed, air and technical turns racing with FIS athletes	4/5
Mar 9-11					2	2	Ski Cooper, CO	National Speed Series Finals	2.5/5
Mar 9				1			West Mtn, NY		
Mar 19				1			Big Sky, MT	FIS Criterion-another FIS track with lots of speed	4.5/5
April 12				2			Mammoth Mtn, CA	Far West Finals-big fun on a big mountain	4/5
Totals	6	3	10	33	5	11	16 Venues	*One SG is part of the Super Combined event	

Skis Sorted by Sidecut/Length

by Ron Kipp • Part of our front-page article

Commitment: It's said that it takes 10,000 hours to become good at anything. While that may be true, focus and effort can be a compounding factor for each hour you put in — perfect practice makes perfect! Whether right or wrong, last season the SL skis went into mothballs and the go-to boards for free skiing alternated between GS and SG, getting as many hours of varying terrain and speed as possible. This one commitment alone was not only a great confidence builder when it came time to run speed in the gates, it also contributed to a new level of technical understanding.

Make your commitment this season!

Planning: On the Speed Series, traveling to train and race is often difficult, complex and costly, in both time and dollars. However, the solution is a combination of good planning and finding training and travel partners. In my case, good fortune provided two: Nick Hudson and Navid "The Hammer" Rashid. Carefully coordinating our schedules, traversing the U.S. not only became more practical in cost, but traveling as a "team" kept our motivation high, the training disciplined and the complexity of logistics significantly easier.

Develop your plan to join the tour!

The Phillips 66 National Speed Series is a tour that spans from New England to the Northwest, often on the same venues that stage FIS events. For Masters, this opportunity is unique, the experience worth every peso, and the sensation, priceless. The prize: a coveted belt buckle worthy of an eight-second bull ride and, to the season-long champions, a hand-thrown ceramic bowl that will hold a magnum of Brut. But the rewards are being able to test yourself on speed venues you'll never forget and hanging out with some pretty fast (and friendly) company.

The Speed Series is a season-long marathon, not a sprint and you have to play to win, as points *do* matter. Consistent results can bring home the gold, so get out there and play! ussamasters.org/2018/nss

A long-time ski industry veteran, Dave Brennan has sponsored numerous alpine athletes during his career, including Olympic Downhill Gold Medalist Tommy Moe. Last season he made a full commitment to the National Speed Series, competing in six DH and 10 SG races, scoring just enough points to stand on the podium as one of three 2017 Overall Champions.

Ski	length (cm)	radius (m)		
Atomic Redster TR + X12 TL	158	13.3	Atomic Redster G9	183 19.4
Atomic Redster TR + X12 TL	165	14	Stöckli Laser GS	185 19.4
Stöckli Laser GS	165	15	Nordica Dobermann GSR	182 19.5
Atomic Redster TR + X12 TL	170	15	Voelkl Racetiger GS	185 20.3
Head iSpeed Pro	165	15.1	Nordica Dobermann GSR	186 20.5
Atomic Redster G7	168	15.2	Voelkl Racetiger GS R21	174 21
Atomic Redster X9	175	15.4	Atomic Redster G9 RS+X19 MOD	176 21
Head iSpeed Pro	170	16.1	Rossignol	175 23
Stöckli Laser GS	170	16.1	Head Rebel i.GS	176 23
Atomic Redster G7	175	16.2	Nordica Dobermann GS Race Plate	177 23
Atomic Redster TR + X12 TL	175	16.2	Voelkl Racetiger GS R23	178 23
Atomic Redster X9	181	16.2	Fischer RC4 Worldcup GS	
Nordica Dobermann GSR	167	16.5	Masters Curv	183 23
Atomic Redster G9	165	16.8	Fischer RC4 Worldcup GS	
Voelkl Racetiger GS	165	16.8	Masters Curv	188 23
Nordica Dobermann GS Race Plate	170	17	Fischer RC4 Worldcup GS	
Head iSpeed Pro	175	17	Masters Curv	191 23
Stöckli Laser GS	175	17.1	Redster G9 RS+X16 VAR	183 24
Atomic Redster G7	182	17.3	Redster G9 RS+X19 MOD	183 24
Atomic Redster TR + X12 TL	182	17.3	Head Rebel i.GS	181 25
Elan GSX Fusion	170	17.4	Rossignol	182 25
Nordica Dobermann GSR	172	17.5	Voelkl Racetiger GS R25	183 25
Atomic Redster G9	171	17.6	Nordica Dobermann GS Race Plate	184 25
Voelkl Racetiger GS	170	17.9	Head Rebel i.GS	186 25
Voelkl Racetiger GS	175	17.9	Rossignol	185 27
Fischer RC4 The Curv	178	18	Nordica Dobermann GS WC Plate	188 27
Head iSpeed Pro	180	18	Voelkl Racetiger GS R27	188 27
Stöckli Laser GS	180	18.2	Head Rebel i.GS	188 27.5
Atomic Redster G9	177	18.4	Atomic Redster G9 RS+X12 VAR	190 27.5
Nordica Dobermann GSR	176	18.5	Head Rebel i.GS	191 28
Head iSpeed Pro	185	18.9	Fischer RC4 Worldcup GS Women	183 30
Rossignol	170	19	Voelkl Racetiger GS R 30	183 30
Elan GSX Fusion	175	19	Fischer RC4 Worldcup GS Men Curv	188 30
Elan GSX Fusion	180	19	Nordica Dobermann GS	
Voelkl Racetiger GS	180	19.1	WC Dept Plate	188 30
			Rossignol	188 30
			Voelkl Racetiger GS R W 30	188 30



2017 Speed Series winners:
Don Johnson, RM;
Jennifer Kaufman, RM;
and Dave Brennan, IM.

On Top of the World!

Winning on the FIS Masters circuit, By Lisa Ballard

This winter, Masters racers worldwide will turn their attention to Big Sky, Montana, Mar. 19–25, for the FIS Masters Criterium. “Criterium” is Masters -speak for world championships, which come to North America only twice each decade. (The last time was 2012 at Mammoth Mountain, California.) With this most prestigious of Masters events on home snow, which includes four races that count toward the FIS Masters Cup, why not chase an overall title in your age group or in one of the ski racing disciplines?

Like the regular World Cup, each winter the FIS sanctions races around the globe that count toward overall titles in SG, GS, SL (there’s no DH) and in each

FIS Fun Facts

In the United States, you must be 18 years old to enter a Masters race. In FIS Masters racing, the minimum age is 30. As a result, if you are, say, in Class 7 (ages 55 to 59) in the U.S., you will be in Class 6 in an international race.

FIS Masters GS races are only one run in Europe and usually the last race of the weekend, to allow Europeans to drive home at a reasonable hour.

About 300 skiers compete at most FIS Masters races in Europe, including about 80 to 90 women, the average size of the entire field for most sanctioned Masters races in the U.S.

Skiers earn FIS points on the FIS Masters circuit, which determines ranking and seeding throughout the winter. If there’s a tie at the end of the season, the person with the lowest FIS points, added up from among his nine best finishes, wins.

1. Pick the winter wisely. Commit to the circuit when your toughest competition is not in your age group (fis-ski.com). Racing at Big Sky will help you figure out who they are and how you stack up. If they’re the same birth-year as you, see #2 below.

2. Pick your races strategically. Forty to 45 FIS Masters races are scheduled each winter, beginning with four starts in mid-September in Chile. Most of the events are in Europe. There are also four starts in North America. This winter, the FIS Masters Criterium at Big Sky are those four starts.

The FIS sanctions races elsewhere in the world, including Japan and New Zealand, but they do not count toward a globe. Be sure to pick

start list, including 80–90 women.

Unless you want to spend most of the winter in Europe, the best strategy is to go to Chile in September, the races in North America and the finals in Europe, which give you 10 starts. Fill in the remaining five races with at least one more trip to Europe that spans two weekends. All sites host an SL and a GS. Look for at least one three-day event with an SG in the mix to get the extra start in a particular location.

3. Contact Masters. To enter an FIS Masters race, including the Criterium at Big Sky, you must have an FIS Masters license in addition to your Masters license. Sign up for an FIS license when you renew your U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership. If you’ve already renewed your membership, contact Bill Skinner, Masters Manager, to add an FIS license. You also need to tell him where you want to compete, as he must enter Americans in races outside of the United States. You can enter the Criterium events at Big Sky the normal way, through SkiRaceReg.com.

4. Book your travel early. Start looking for airfare deals and frequent flier tickets at least six months ahead of time. The local race coordinator has a list of recommended hotels, which most people book either directly with the hotel or through Bookings.com. Rental cars can be booked a week or two in advance of your trip. In Europe, most rental car companies require you to rent chains or special winter tires to drive into any mountain regions.

5. Get a jump on jetlag. Plan to spend two days lightly free-skiing on the race hills and getting adjusted to the time change when you fly to Europe, especially before the finals which are so critical point-wise. One day is not enough.

6. Attend the team captains’ meetings. There is a team captain’s meeting the night before every race, during which the next day’s schedule is confirmed and other nuances of the event are announced in the local language and in English. You can usually pick up your lift ticket and bib then, too.

7. Bring cash. You can use credit cards to pay for hotels, restaurants and rental cars, but you’ll likely need to pay cash for entry fees (15 euros per race), lift tickets (about 25 euros per day), gas if the gas station has no attendant (about 70 euros to fill a tank), and highway tolls (up to 30 euros, depending on your route). You need to tip for everything in Chile and very little in Europe. Be sure to notify your credit card



Carrying globes like they were Atlas:
Anne Nordhoy, David Davi, Lisa Ballard and Mike Robbins.

five-year age group. The top three get crystal globes like the ones Mikaela Shiffrin and Marcel Hirscher have on their mantles. I went for it last year, and garnered two globes, a big one for winning the SG title and a small one for taking third in my age group. Those two pieces of glass represent the pinnacle of my 26 years on the Masters circuit.

Going for an FIS Masters globe is not a decision made lightly, due to cost and time commitment. Most North Americans spend \$10,000 to \$15,000 chasing it, but it’s worth the effort for the chance to ski in a number of memorable places and to make many new friends from around the world. Here’s how to go for a globe:

events designated as “FMC,” not “MAS,” on the FIS Masters calendar, which is approved at the FIS Congress in late May.

Your best nine finishes count, but plan on at least 15 starts. Fifteen races give you a buffer, as even the best athletes make mistakes or get out-skied occasionally. And you must attend the finals, which are always in Europe and worth double points.

The races in eastern Europe tend to be slightly less competitive than the ones in western Europe. No matter where you go, abilities run the gamut, from those who started ski racing as adults to former national team members, similar to Masters racing in the U.S. There’s just a lot more of competitors, with over 300 on the average

Ski Racing and Ski Racing

by Heather Black, CEO *Ski Racing Magazine*

bank where you are traveling.

8. Bring food on race day. You may miss breakfast due to an early start time, and you probably won't have time for lunch between runs. Also bring a water bottle that you can refill.

9. Go fast! The competition is deep and skilled. That's the allure of FIS Masters competition and the fun. You'll need to put your best runs down the hill to be a contender.

To get Lisa's book, "Ski Faster! Guide to Ski Racing and High Performance Skiing, 2nd Edition," visit LisaBallardOutdoors.com.

Who Won in 2017? Five North Americans earned FIS Masters globes last winter

Women

Anne Nordhoy (USA): 1st, Women's Class 10
 Lisa Ballard (USA): 1st SG, 3rd Women's Class 6

Men

Mike Robbins (CAN): 2nd Men's Class 7
 Davide Davi (USA): 1st SG, 3rd Men's Class 4
 Matt Johnson (USA): 2nd Men's Class 2

2017-18 FIS Masters Cup calendar

Dec. 9-11	Pila-Gressan, ITA	SG/SL/GS
Nov. 11-12	Amneville, FRA (indoor)	SL/SL
Dec. 1-3	Pila, SUI	SG/SL/GS
Dec. 9-10	Abetone, ITA	GS/GS
Dec. 16-17	Haus im Ennstal	SL/GS
Jan. 6-7	Veysonnaz, SUI	SL/GS
Jan. 12-14	Aften-Thurnau, AUT	SG/SL/GS
Jan. 20-21	Goetschen, GER	GS/GS/SL
Jan. 26-27	Zagreb-Sljeme, CRO	SG/SL/GS
Feb. 2-4	Megeve, FRA	SG/SG/SL/GS
Feb. 9-11	Cortina D'Ampezzo	SG/SL/GS
Feb. 17-18	Strnske Plezo	SL/GS
Mar. 3-4	Pec pod Snezkou, CZE	SL/GS
Mar. 10-11	Cerkno, SLO	SL/GS
Mar. 20-24	Big Sky, USA	SG/GS/GS/SL Criterium
Apr. 7-8	Serre Chevalier, FRA	



With the passing of Gary Black, Jr., CEO of *Ski Racing International*, dba *Ski Racing Media*, in February, there were a number of options for the 49-year-old source of alpine ski competition news. In the spring, it was decided that I, Gary's widow, would get involved as CEO and managing partner along with one of Gary's daughters, Amanda Black. Amanda is a previous publisher at *Ski Racing* and acts in an advisory capacity. While no one can ever fill Gary's shoes, I have stepped into his role. In a short five months, I have been getting up to speed again. Along with the staff, I've taken a hard look at how *Ski Racing* can succeed in the future.

Over the majority of its years of publication, *Ski Racing* operated under a shared agreement with the U.S. Ski Team, in which USSA (now U.S. Ski & Snowboarding) underwrote *Ski Racing* subscriptions for its members. For the 2017-2018 season, U.S. Ski & Snowboarding decided to dedicate the funds previously used for these subscriptions to athletic programming, leaving *Ski Racing* short of its financial targets. Having said that, U.S. Ski & Snowboard is supportive of what *Ski Racing Media* provides and continues to maintain an agreement with our organization to help with content needs.

Having originally gotten my feet wet with *Ski Racing* in 1988, when we were still a quarter-fold newspaper, I have sympathy for the many comments I receive about missing the printed version of the publication. Were we to attempt that format again, you would receive your newspaper well after the events were over and the news was old. Because you already would have looked it up online, the information would be irrelevant. Moreover, there would be no way to cover the costs for printing and distribution. Advertisers in the ski industry today, smartly, want to get the most bang for their few advertising bucks, and have prioritized digital advertising over print for the past several years.

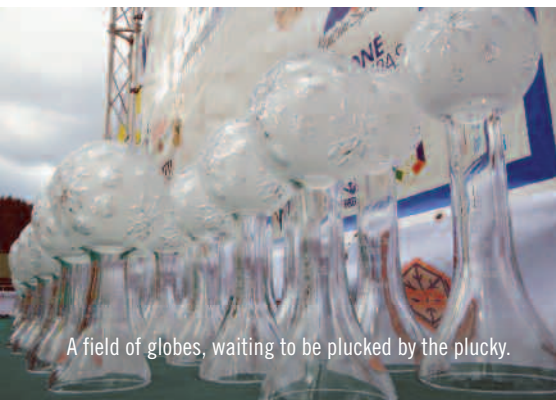
While it may be hard for some to embrace the digital way and use it for news, its format is the current reality. I hope you can embrace this not-so-new format because *Ski Racing Media* is providing great insights with its coverage. Aside from reading articles online, there are also videos, webisodes, and, this coming season, podcasts. *Ski Racing* will continue to provide basic news articles for free to everyone. Our goal for this year, however, is to provide you with original stories and videos you cannot find anywhere else on the web. We go behind the scenes, beyond the re-

sults and the stats, so you could step onto the World Cup circuit, knowing exactly what's going on in this sport. Those kind of features are currently found in the Premium section in both longer and shorter form articles. The subscription cost for Premium is just \$2.99/month. While I realize that some would like to just pay a yearly fee, we plan to stay with this new format through the coming ski season. If this is an unfamiliar way of paying for you, just know that we are not alone. This is how the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and

others who bring you 24/7 news operate. Finally, due to the readership-to-expense ratio, we have had to re-address our Masters coverage. *Ski Racing* welcomes any well-written articles with accompanying high-resolution images on events for consideration, but there will not be a regular beat unless we are able to significantly increase our readership of content geared to this niche audience.

We hope you continue to see the value in what *Ski Racing* has to offer, knowing that this organization has a deep history in and understanding of the sport. We hope you will continue your Premium subscription by opting in to our \$2.99/month rate so we can bring you the best of what you enjoy.

Heather Black first had skis put on her feet at the age of 14 months. Growing up in Stowe, VT, she became an avid skier, though not a racer. Heather worked at Ski Racing International from 1988-1997. She finally got to join the ranks of the Masters in 1998, and continues to race today. She and Gary also brought a daughter up through the Junior program in Sun Valley, where Heather currently resides.



A field of globes, waiting to be plucked by the plucky.

Continued
from page 1



finding the fastest ski for their race course.

Some race courses are on flatter hills, other much steeper. The distance between gates can be close or far. The resulting turns can be quite straight or they can be across the hill so much you need GPS. The ski should fit the steepness and the course dimensions. But this is only one part of the equation. The next question is, does the ski meet your goals and skill level?

Who to date

The NASTAR/beer league super side-cut skis are a lot of fun to ski. With just the mere act of tipping them up, they can

just staying between the bindings. This ease of turning comes with a price. The larger side-cut, which gives the ski its uncomplicated turning characteristic, is also responsible for scrubbing away valuable speed and making it very difficult to drift or stivot at turn initiation.

The good news is this ski will negotiate any course and help you find the finish line. An old racer cliché reminds us “if you want to finish first, first you have to finish”. So this relationship may be a good choice for some skiers, and some situations.

Such as when the hill is steep, and/or the course set is tight and/or tur-

grab the snow and make a tight turn. Since the size of the turn is a result of just one ski characteristic and one body action, you can get away with less synchronization of movements than with the Master/FIS type race ski.

It is not a prerequisite to exploit the entire length of the NASTAR/beer league super-duper side-cut ski. The only pressure control the skier needs to worry about is

ney. Although we should also remember that to “finish first,” “finishing fast” is also a good recommendation. And this is where our curvy partner often lags behind. This ski may be a good choice to date, but eventually you may find that you are not getting enough out of the relationship.

Staying centered and moving edge to edge, Marcel Hirscher in a tight, straight, parallel GS at Alta Badia in 2017 season.



Mikaela Shiffrin drifting into the turn before she cheats the turn radius with tip pressure on the steep Squaw Valley World Cup course in 2017.



Who and when to marry

At first, the relationship with the slim, tall, and straighter Masters/FIS ski may seem a bit tenuous. It is a racy breed. It is built mainly for speed and this can be intimidating. This does not leave much room for technical and tactical errors. While the NASTAR/beer league ski with more side-cut needs just tipping to an edge to turn, this Masters/FIS implement requires a fine coordination between edge and pressure. It is like going from a car with automatic transmission to a car with manual transmission. You now have to push in the clutch, change gears, then let out the clutch while giving the

self with fewer instances of late pressure and adjust to course conditions by altering your steering angle at the top of the turn. Your turn will be not just a product of the edging provided by the side-cut of the ski, but a combination of edging and the bend you pressure into the ski.

Are you comfortable with your relationship?

The super side-cut NASTAR/beer league skis are popular because they are comfortable. They can make tight turns, they hang onto the snow. While a good all-around choice

Bending the tip just prior to edge engagement. Nina Loeseth of Norway at the Squaw Valley World Cup, 2017.



Give the relationship love

No matter what your relationship choice, it needs love to last. Acts of love can be expressed by drying the edges at the end of the day, and before the drive home strap the skis, so the bases don't rub. Don't forget that good night kiss (your other relationship)... and wax just as often... maybe more. At the end of the season take them to the spa for an exfoliation (grind) to maintain a flat running surface. And no one wants to hang out with someone that is too rough around the edges. Give them a bevel. This will put more spice and variety into your turn initiation.

Relationships don't need to be complicated. Your relationship with your skis can be simple and comfortable. It can also be simple, comfortable, and fast. Time spent working on your relationship involves analyzing your race hill, course sets, and your ski selection. Race hill and course sets are beyond your control, but you can adjust your ski. Although, remember: it is not the fastest skis that win. It is the fastest skier and ski relationship.

Is the relationship moving too fast?

When you get on a straighter Masters/FIS ski, you will definitely feel like you went from the Subaru to the Formula 1 race car. While the utilitarian Subaru is great for the trip up to the mountain, the F1 racer is the better choice for the race course. Although, if you put an untrained driver in the F1 race car you better have your seat belt on tight.

Timing edge and pressure with straight skis needs to be coordinated or the ski will not bend. Alexandra Tilley of Great Britain at Squaw Valley.



If you want to finish first first you have to finish first

By Ron Kipp
Photos: Getty Images

Ron Kipp has worked with the U.S. and Norwegian Ski Teams and is currently with the Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows ski team.



2017 Summer Fun Nationals at Mt. Hood, Oregon

by Hugh Mitchell

Occasional wafts of sulfur from the volcano's vents greeted the Masters racers, reminding them that Wy'East is allowing them to play on her again, as she has for the past 29 years ... at least for now. Mt. Hood (or Wy'East to the Multnomah tribe), is considered an active volcano and one of Oregon's most likely to blow. Its Palmer snowfield had been replenished from one of the snowiest winters in recent memory. It made for light July lift lines, probably because there were still other resorts still open. With near-perfect weather—no humidity, cool nights, and clear days—an epic 2017 Summer Fun Nationals took place. 150 racers and volunteers con-



vened from not only the Pacific Northwest, but from a total of 21 states. There was even a racer from Bosnia and one from Kosovo, whose goal was to make the Olympics in South Korea next year. He even came with a Wall Street Journal photojournalist in tow, depicting his journey in an article on August 1. Most racers had come early to take advantage of various training camps that helped to remove the knee-rust and brush up on race technique prior to the weekend.

The Friday check-in party was once again hosted by the Scroggins family in their now almost-completed and gorgeous "ski palace" in Government Camp. Lots of beer, food, and tall tales, and an assortment of vendors, made this a fantastic welcome to the weekend.

Saturday started with GS on a "bulletproof" surface, which made for difficulty in getting an edge on the first run; however, it softened a little by the second. The C/D course (for all women and children and Men's class: 10 and above) was reported to be "turny." Lyndsay Strange, who set first run each day, put down fast times on both days, but was edged out in the GS by half a second by U16 Bryce Foster. The A/B (Men of Class 9 and under) GS course had 68 racers and produced the Super Seeds (top 10 of the first run) led by aspiring pro Max Bervy. To the awe of onlookers, he broke 40 seconds on his first run. Class winners and the Super Seed results and photos (courtesy of Brian Robb) can be found on SummerFunNationals.com and BrianRobbPhoto.com.

The Saturday night banquet in the Timberline Day Lodge provided ample food and drink (including complimentary local microbrew) to hungry and thirsty racers. The ineffable Willy Scroggins emceed and called out the prizes for the GS class podium winners and Super Seed. The prizes were beautifully hand-crafted wood plaques—one of a kind and future Masters' collector items. Gary Randall expressed tearful appreciation

as he accepted the "Atomic Skier of the Year" award by last year's recipient, Rob Cravens. There were

plenty of raffle prizes handed out, to the whoops and hollers of the winners. A hat was passed around to help 18-year old Minam Cravens, a Summer Fun regular who just made the U.S. Western Regional Team and is on target for the U.S. Ski Team. Appreciation was expressed by everyone for the title sponsor, Booster Strap, along with major sponsors Atomic Skis and Fuxi Racing. Thanks was also given to all the other wonderful sponsors. (See website for complete list. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM, RACERS!) Special thanks go to the course workers and volunteers, and especially Meri Stratton and her daughter, Leigh, who made all of it happen.

Sunday started off with an even more bulletproof surface than Saturday (if that was possible!). There was also a chilly high wind as the sun came up. The first SL run on both courses was a challenge for everyone. A/B finishers were left gasping at the bottom

with times on the first very "back-and-forth" run typically hovering around a minute. The second run started with the Superseed. Again, Minam's speed was hard to process visually. Everyone was "wowed" (and humbled). Class podium and Superseed results are posted on the website. Unfortunately, our fearless leader, Meri, had a spill after the first run and destroyed her knee. She stayed on the hill at midstation, directing volunteers on their duties via radio, until the race was completed. Then she was transported off the hill by ski patrol. Get well wishes are expressed by all.

After a bit of a result tabulation delay, awards were given out at the post-race pool party at the historic Timberline Lodge (famous for exterior shots in "The Shining"). The Skoch Cup winners (best GS and SL combined times for each age class) and Super Seed winners received champagne by Korbel. Handsome logoed pens, hand-crafted by racer Greg Dilger, were given out as prizes to the podium winners of each class. The Eigenvector Fastest Family Award, presented by Barry Wise of Eigenvector, went to the Donald Grosser Family from North Carolina. Fastest SL Man award went to Minam Cravens and Fastest Woman award went to Lyndsay Strange.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of the Summer Fun Race (if Wy'East permits!). Those who attended this year's race were perplexed why any Masters racers they knew were absent. It is truly one of the coolest venues on the planet. The second weekend in July (14th and 15th, 2018) was almost unanimously approved by a poll of those attending the banquet, so mark your calendars for next year. If you are a Masters racer, this is your Mecca, and if you can't be a regular, the 30th anniversary is where all the ski racing fun will erupt. Be there!!



The beginning—or was it the end?—of another perfect day.

Division News



Alaska

By Carl Swanson
alyeskaskiclub.com

Hello from the Far North. At the time I write this we are well into our fall season.

The birch trees, which were a beautiful gold just a few weeks ago, are already losing their leaves. Snow is visible on the higher peaks and it looks to be staying put. Us locals call this "termination dust" because it officially terminates fall.

Weather forecasters are predicting a La Niña weather pattern for the Northern Hemisphere this season. Cooling Pacific Ocean temperatures typically set up high pressure systems in the North Pacific and this tends to make Alaska a little on the colder and drier side. This will be nice change from the last three winters, which were rather warm and snowless at lower elevations and at our ski areas in the Anchorage area.

Because our local resort at Alyeska lost a lot of money on early snow making efforts these last three years, they have decided to move back their opening date from late November to December 15 this year. Alyeska Resort has said, if we get enough early natural snow, they will definitely open sooner. However, this puts a little bit of pressure on our early season training opportunities. Fortunately, the Alyeska Masters will again be holding an early season camp based at Breckenridge, Colorado during the first week of December. We will also take advantage of different terrain at Keystone, Vail and Copper

Mountain. This is our third year for this incredibly successful camp. The camp primarily focuses on free ski drills and video analysis. The bulk of our drills emphasize proper balance and stance and lots of mileage on our skis to get our Masters started off in the right direction early in the season. There are still a few slots left, if anyone is interested in joining us.

Our sanctioned Masters races have been calendared and we will, as usual, be racing against not only our fellow Masters, but competing against the local junior teams. We will have 2 SGs scheduled in addition to our SL and GS events. Additionally, we will also have a number of "fun" races throughout the season. If you find yourself in Alaska this winter, come out and enjoy the fun with us.

Hopefully, you all will be running into some Alaska Masters competing at some of the Western region races this winter. Come and say hello!

For more information on our race calendar, events, and camps please go to: alyeskaskiclub.com and click on the Masters home page.



Far West

By Dan Simmons
farwestmasters.org

The Sierra Aspens are turning color, we've had a little snow, and we are looking to a great season with 25 scheduled races. The schedule is up on the website, FarWestMasters.org. Our first event is two SLs at Mammoth Mountain

on Dec. 2, followed by a weekend of GS racing at Mammoth Dec. 16-17. There will be a training camp with Pierre Jeangirard at Mammoth the first week of December. That's always a good program, and highly recommended. Registration information for all of our events is at FarWestMasters.org and on SkiRaceReg.

We've added more speed events this year, but unfortunately no DHs. Because of schedule conflicts with other venues, none of our Far West speed events will be part of the National Speed Series, so we will miss some of our regular speed series competitors from other divisions, but everyone is welcome to come and take advantage of our Sierra venues.

Masters season training programs are available at Mammoth Mountain, Squaw Valley, Mt. Rose and Diamond Peak.

Our newsletter, the *Forerunner*, will be out mid-October with more details about goings-on in the Far West. You can find it on our website, FarWestMasters.org.

The Far West Masters Scholarship program continues to thrive, thanks to the leadership of Eddie Mozen. Congratulations to this year's Jeff Wattenmaker scholarship recipient, Calvin Wilson. Five of our scholarship program alumni currently are on the U.S. Ski Team: Stacey Cook, Tim Jitloff, Travis Ganong, Garret Driller, and Mark Engel. We are hoping that some or all of them will be competing in the 2018 Olympics. The program also supports several aspiring junior athletes and stresses academic success along with dedication to the sport.

We wish everyone a fun and safe season.



Alaska Division, 2017

Division News



New England Masters

Nadine Price
nemasters.org

Although the cool, wet summer might have raised hopes for an early, snowy winter, the recent ridiculously warm weather has meant we'll have to wait a bit longer to get on snow here in New England but, as has become a tradition, we will be kicking off the season at the Boston Ski Expo. The Expo will be held from November 9–12 at the Seaport Convention Center. With USSA's generous assistance, we will be at the show for the tenth straight season. This exposure has proven to be a great tool for building brand recognition, strengthening existing connections with other industry stakeholders and forging new ones. If your schedule includes being in Boston at that time, please stop by. And make sure to pick up a few of our slick, new posters—one to inspire you while you're tuning your skis and a couple to share.

Also from the Get Ready for Racing Department, the women's World Cup will be coming back to Vermont! After a very successful debut at Killington last year, the

ladies will be back this Thanksgiving weekend for GS and SL. Although not exactly part of our schedule, this is an event for everyone even remotely interested in ski racing!

While you were enjoying your summer activities, your ever diligent board was hard at work getting ready for another banner season of racing, parties and clinics. Our scheduling Chair, Bill McCollom, and his all-star committee have put together a spectacular schedule. We will be visiting many of the old favorites, a couple of new venues, and returning to Okemo for the 2018 Phillips 66 USSA Masters National Championships. The season begins January 6–7 with SL and GS at perennial favorite Mt. Sunapee. The second annual Kelly Brush Challenge at Middlebury Snow Bowl (an interestingly formatted GS!) is paired with an SL at Whaleback, a very cool racer-friendly venue. This is our first visit to Whaleback and promises to be a great race. The rest of January includes two SG's, a day of SG training, and a GS at the always celebrated and revered Stratton Mountain; an SL at Suicide 6, one of the best SL venues in the East; and a GS at the

increasingly popular and conveniently located Ragged Mountain.

Things depart from the usual a bit in February. Obviously, everyone will want to go to the FIS Masters Worlds at Big Sky in March, so the 2018 Phillips 66 USSA Masters National Championships are being held February 6–10 at Okemo Mountain, Vermont. This will be an outstanding National Championship with terrific venues and fabulous parties. The schedule will include SG, AC, GS and SL. By the time you read this, there will be a website with all things Nationals available to help you find lodging, transportation, other things to do (especially if you're travelling with a non-racer) and answer any other questions you might have. The site will be linked from our website, so check it out.

In case you're interested in the National Speed Series—and who wouldn't be!?!—a note about the SG at Nationals: along with the two SG's at Stratton, this will be part of the National Speed Series.

Because Nationals are in February, you know there has to be more racing. And there will be! February 17 and 18 will find us at West Mountain, just across the

Our ladies of speed at Mammoth Mtn. Nationals.



Division News

New England line into New York, where we will be teaming up with our newest Masters division, Mid-Atlantic Masters, for SL and GS. This event should be very exciting, and both races will count in both divisions' season-long standings.

February will wrap up with our annual pilgrimage to the oldest ski race in America, the Hochgebirge Challenge Cup. This storied race will be an SL held at Mittersill, an equally storied venue, with its own interesting history. As always, the race will be followed by a party at the house of the oldest ski club in America, where we will be surrounded by photos and memorabilia of Tenth Mountain Division veterans and the pioneers of American skiing and racing. Don't miss this one!

Just before the Sise Cup finals, we will be at Wachusett Mountain in central Massachusetts for a GS. This race has been a long time in the making and we are thrilled to be able to race at this incredible gem of a venue. Wachusett is in nearly everyone's back yard and if you don't join us for this event, you'll be likely to regret it. And speaking of Finals, this year we will be back at Sugarbush for our season ending extravaganza with a Friday GS, followed on Saturday by a SL. Both races will be counting toward season-long standings so many final battles may not be decided until this event. Our season of fun, camaraderie, personal bests and accomplishments will be celebrated at our gala awards banquet on Saturday evening. We are really looking forward to being at Sugarbush again and this promises to be a wonderful event. Make your reservations now!

With more than two months before the first race, there's still a bit of time to get your ski legs ready to rock and roll. So put down that ice cream, push those donuts aside and switch to light beer. Go for a couple of hikes and wax your skis. We have an exciting season ahead and the snow will start falling soon.

As always, our series is made possible and enhanced by our sponsors. We espe-



International camaraderie with Czech Andrea Cervina and Americans Lisa Ballard and Anne Nordhoy.

cially thank Artech for its generous and continued support. Please visit the Sponsors page on our website (nemasters.org) and when you have need of or use for any of the products or services our sponsors provide, we hope you will visit them first.



Rocky Mountain

Lauren Beckos
rmmskiracing.org

If you live anywhere in sight of the Colorado Rockies, you can see the snow is now winning the fight

with the sun and is starting to accumulate! The countdown to opening day for the season is in single digits!

The Rocky Mountain Masters board, local venues, local race officials, and local coaches have been busy over the summer evaluating last season, incorporating your feedback, and implementing changes as they plan for another season full of training and events to help you hone your skills and throw down with your fellow racers. The most exciting and rewarding part of each fall is to share the information with you, the racers, and watch you bring it all to life. The collective energy of racers tuning, gearing up, hauling gear, training, traveling, filling the parking lots at dawn, inspecting, and line planning creates an electric atmosphere. Key to that electric atmosphere is the fun and rowdy attitudes

that are capable of both trash talking and encouraging fellow races all at the same time. We individually hope to throw down our best run each time we get in the start gate, but watching a fellow racer reach new milestones is equally as exciting.

The Rocky Division has 8 venues lined up for this season, with 25 days of racing DH, SG, GS, and SL. After last year's whirlwind of a schedule, we were able to better spread this year's events throughout the season and target weekend days. We sought to decrease travel between venues, have a better balance of single and multi-race days, and allow adequate travel time for those planning to travel to Okemo for Masters Nationals and Big Sky for the FIS World Criterium.

We thank the officials and volunteers who dedicated countless hours throughout the season. Thank you to A Racer's Edge and Fischer for sponsoring new bibs for the Rocky Division. Thank you to the sponsors who provided prizes throughout the season in our new sponsor program: HWK, FK SKS, Boot Mechanics, and FUXI Racing. Thank you to Jennifer Kaufman for our new division banners. And thank you to new and returning donors in our Sponsor A Race Day program that provide supplemental financial support that keeps as racing at our favorite venues and ensures we can host fun after parties: John Davis, Lori Hamilton & Jonathan Wolf, Bob and Loretta Huff, Jim Reinig, Booka Law (Booka Smith), The Minnesota Connection (Bob Benson, Charlie Hauser, Lilla Gidlow, Winfried Raabe, Tom Patterson and Jerry Sorensen), Hans Oberlohr, A Racer's Edge (Chuck Ginsburg), Aurum Food & Wine (Phillips Armstrong), Boot Mechanics (Jeremy Johnston), Bob Benson, skiracereg.com (Doug Briggs), Charlie Hauser, Lee Kaufman, Barry Ottley, Jeanette Saylor, The Tengdin Family, and Bill & Lisa Gooch.

We have many Rocky Division racers that live within a few hours, but also many that have to fly and drive much longer distances to get to our events, as well as many that travel from other divisions. We depend on and thank all of you! We look forward to hosting the Nationals DH in Ski Cooper this season and hope many of you from across the country will join us!

Division News



New York State Snow Masters Series

By Mark Wolcott
nymasters.org

A little known fact is, New York State is home to the most ski areas in the entire

United States and we have a strong ski racing tradition, from the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, to many weeknight adult beer leagues across the state. The New York Masters offers one of the most accessible and fun ski racing series, from those new to racing, to former college and professional competitors. We typically run four runs of ski racing before 1:00 pm, followed up with our always-fun post-race parties sponsored by Labatt USA and Genesee Brewery!

The season will open in mid-December with our annual New York vs. Ontario, Canada non-sanctioned GS race at Holiday Valley. This event is on a fairly easy rolling race terrain for the first gates of the season, and brings the team element into the competition. Last year, Team Ontario won the race, so the New York racers will be out for revenge. We will take a break for the Christmas holidays, and then Hunt Hollow will be hosting their annual New Year's Day race clinic from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, which is a great opportunity for racers to bash hundreds of GS and SL gates!

The January portion of the schedule opens with GS and SL races at Swain resort. Swain has been hosting Masters races for over forty years. They run a great event down rolling Wheel's Run. The following weekend, the series will join

the Mid-Atlantic Masters with a GS at Greek Peak and SL at Toggenburg. Greek Peak has one of the best GS tracks in the country down the Odyssey Race Trail. The Toggenburg SL is 40-plus seconds per run and is a regular stop on the college circuit. Then the series moves to Ellicottville for the Holimont GS and Kissing Bridge SLs. Ellicottville averages over 200" of "lake effect" snow every winter and has some of the best ski conditions in the East!

The NY Masters travel east to Okemo Mountain on February 6-10 for the U.S. Masters Nationals with an SG, AC, GS, and SL races. Okemo is a regular stop on the Eastern Cup FIS circuit, with a reputation for excellent snow and grooming. After the Nationals, the circuit returns to the Hunt Hollow GS on the Glade Race Trail. Hunt Hollow was the first ski area on the NY circuit to begin the four-run format back in 1995. The series then wraps up the season again at Swain with another GS and SL combo in early March, along with our end of season awards.

NY Masters Ski Racing is a fun group, and we welcome adult racers of all ages to give us a try. While our schedule is still being finalized, those interested in participating can find more information at our website, New York Master Ski Racing, or check us out on Facebook. See you on the race course!



Central

Ryan Fuller
midwestmasters.org

We're back at it again this season with a great schedule, with our season opener at Afton Alps, the Cyr

Cup races at Buck Hill, and our Central Regional Championships in Granite Peak and Spirit Mountain. We're planning once again to bring a huge contingency to the Rocky Mountain Ski Cooper speed races in January as we continue to work to get more Central folks on speed skis. We're also holding our 6th Annual Koznick camp this year at Afton Alps in early January, and training in the Fall once again at Copper Mountain in November.

Our direction, as a program, has not changed and we will continue to focus on increasing participation at our races by promoting them as special events which are all unique in character. We continue to use social media, online advertising, and online marketing tools to aggressively reach out to our membership and potential members. As we renewed as a NASTAR club again this year, we will continue to work with NASTAR at the National and Regional Pacesetter Trials, and continue to score many of our races with both U.S. Alpine Masters and with NASTAR. By being a club of both organizations, we



Rocky Mountain team, 2017

Division News

hope to introduce even more people to U.S. Alpine Masters racing this season.

Looking forward, we are very excited for the arrival of winter. Our calendar is packed this year as we look to rebound from two consecutive poor winter weather seasons. With the FIS Masters World Championships in Big Sky this year, we anticipate one of our best seasons ever!

If there are any questions about Midwest Masters, contact us at program.director@midwestmasters.org and we will get back to you.

We'll see you on the hill!



Northern Division Masters

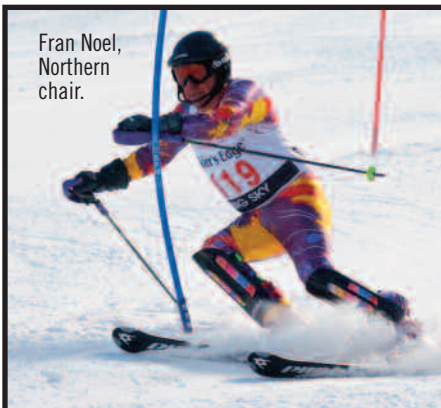
By Fran Noel
northernussa.org

In cooperation with Intermountain Division, Northern Division masters are proud to be hosting the FIS Masters World Criterium at Big Sky Resort in March 2018. Jeremy Ueland and his Big Sky Ski Education Foundation have already signed up an impressive list of officials and volunteers for the five-day event.

This season's activities will again begin in early December with Lisa Densmore Ballard's "Dust the Rust Off" Training Camp, Dec. 6-10, at Red Lodge Mountain. For complete info and to register go to: <http://silverrunski.com/2017-18-camp-sessions/>.

Our Masters race schedule will again be in conjunction with Intermountain and PNSA. See page 3 of this newsletter for the complete schedule. All of the races are open to competitors from any division and most can be entered on line at SkiRaceReg.com.

Training programs in Northern are again scheduled for Bridger Bowl, Big Sky, Lookout, Red Lodge and Whitefish.



Fran Noel, Northern chair.



Southern Masters

By Horst Locher
sararacing.org

Living in the mid-Atlantic region and in North Carolina, the Masters racers expected that after the lousy winter of 2015-16 that the ski season of 2016-17 had to be better. Well, it did not happen. We were surprised with another warm season and had to cancel races. Searching older records, we had, several times in the past decades, two winters in a row with non-favorable conditions. Now, there is really hope that we have survived those conditions and the future looks bright. Races will be held at Bryce, Massanutten, Snowshoe, Sugar Mountain and Wintergreen resorts this season. Please check the schedule for the Master racers at sararacing.org in this upcoming winter.



Mid-Atlantic Masters

By Carol Tomassetti
mamasters.org

It's time to think Ski Racing in the mid-Atlantic area! We have started a new Mid-Atlantic Masters organization! Many thanks to all the veteran Masters racers who have been generous with their time and advice. Nadine Price, Bill Skinner, Meri Stratton, Lisa Densmore Ballard, John Pierce, Deb Lewis and Kip Blake are just a few who have helped us. THANK YOU!

We are very excited to now be part of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Masters. Mid-Atlantic Masters' roots originated from the ASRA ski race organization, which was formed by John (A.J.) Foy in 1980, and concluded in 2017, when John retired after 37 years of amazing dedication to the sport of ski racing. We will continue to grow and nurture the organization!

Mid-Atlantic Masters is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) organization. Our mission is to offer quality ski racing with a big focus on FUN. Following John's vision, quality ski racing is our primary activity, but what binds us together and makes it special is the fun factor: camaraderie and friendships that provide the energy and personality of our organization.

We have a great Foy Cup schedule for the 2018 season that cuts across NY, NJ, VT and PA. Our schedule opens in January

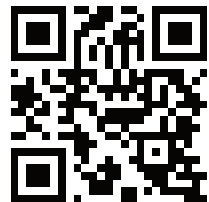
with a race at Elk Mountain, PA. It's an amazing race hill and homey mountain. The post-race party is always fantastic! Next, we will join our New York and New England organizations for their races at Greek & Stratton. We are back in the Catskill mountains in late January, with races at Hunter Mt, NY (SL) and Windham, NY (GS) on Why Not, Windham's fantastic GS hill. Don't miss it! Montage, PA follows in early February with both a GS and SL. Next, we are on to the Nationals at Okemo. We are excited to have Nationals in our backyard this year, and hope to encourage all of our racers to join in the fun. Right on heels of the Nationals, we have West Mountain, where we hope to have our fellow New England Masters racers join us for some friendly competition for the three-day SG, GS & SL races. We'll include some fun post-race plans both on and off the snow at West. Next, we are off to Mountain Creek, NJ. We're very happy to have the help and focus from NJSRA (New Jersey Ski Racing Association) on Masters. We will round out the season and finish with our Foy Cup Finals in mid-March at West Mountain. West Mountain is a great place to race, and of course the après-ski parties are legendary!

There are mid-week training opportunities at Hunter during the day, and evening training at Mountain Creek. Check it out on our website, mamasters.org.

We have some great sponsors on board, including ATCO Brewery (on White Horse Pike, Atco, NJ), ARTECH, Transpack, Green Ice, Booster Straps and Swany. Be sure to support them with your business. We appreciate their invaluable support.

Our series offers a season-long Foy Cup award to the top man and woman, as well as awards to the overall and class winners for men and women, and teams. We encourage our racers to have their kids join them for racing. We will offer a seasonal family award.

It's going to be a great season! Come out and join us for our races. Help us make our first season a raging success! For more information on the Mid-Atlantic Masters racing series, please check out our web site at mamasters.org and our facebook page at facebook.com/MAMastersSki. Please also join our email list via this QR code, or access the link from our webpage. See you at the top of the race course!



Division News



PNSA

By Rob Cravens
pnsa.org

Hello, ski racing fans! Welcome to the 2017/2018 season. Pacific Northwest forecasts are for another La

Niña winter. We have a full race schedule ready for the season and fresh snow in the Cascades. Crystal Mountain and Mt. Bachelor escaped the ravages of flames during the "North West Armageddon" fire season. A very near hit for Crystal Mt. and a lucky break for Mt. Bachelor.

Please check the race schedule on our website at pnsamasters.org. We will be loading skiracereg.com with races, just as soon as we have the announcements from race administrators and host clubs. New this year, all three SG races at Schweitzer are Phillips 66 Speed Series races. We will still have the speed races at 49 Degrees North. However, due to a scheduling conflict with Aspen, we needed to move the Phillips 66 races to Schweitzer. Don't miss 49 Degrees speed! Great hill, great racing/training and welcoming hosts.

Please update your information on skiracereg.com. This will make your life—and the race administrator's life—a bit easier. Reminder: renew or add your FIS License number, if you wish to race in the FIS World Masters at Big Sky. It is a lot easier to do this when renewing your U.S. Ski and Snowboard License. New this year on skiracereg.com is our new PNSA Masters store. Check it out and order your favorite PNSA logo gear!

Summer Fun Nationals 2017 was a great success. Meri Stratton, HMIC (Head Mother in Charge), and her band of race junkies delivered one of the best Summer Fun events ever. If you didn't hear, Meri had an unfortunate accident loading the Palmer lift. So, in Meri fashion, she posted up against the midway lift shack, radio, checklist and ice pack in hand. Currently, she is sweating through knee rehab. Thank you, Meri, for all you do with Masters ski racing!

PNSA Masters continued the tradition of funding a Junior male and female FIS training grant for 2017/2018. This grant is processed through PNSEF (Pacific Northwest Ski Education Foundation). Funding was increased 25% for the season. Athletes are selected by a sub-committee of the PNSA Alpine Competition Committee. Congrats to the 2017/2018 recipients, Tess Baldwin (Crystal Mountain Alpine Club) and Tanner Lujan (Mount Bachelor Sports Education Foundation). Both are remarkable athletes in PNSA and across the western region.

I would like to recognize one of our cornerstones of PNSA Masters ski racing,Carolynn Phillips. Carolynn completed a little dryland/wetland training over the summer. Hope the Class 11 ladies are ready to race! September 2, 2017, Carolynn competed in the Bonney Lake Triathlon. Not so surprising if you know the Phillips family. Her daughter Robin White (45-49 age group), and granddaughter Norah White (U-19 age group; she is 13) also competed. All three stepped up to the podium and collected huge

medals! PNSA is proud of your efforts, ladies!

Looking forward to a great racing season!



Intermountain Masters

By Stew Marsh
IntermountainMasters.org

Here it is, October, 2017. What I am about to write seems

similar to last season. September snow all around the Intermountain region, giving all of us the hope of another great season of skiing and racing. Even though the word from all of the Sun Valley racers was they had too much snow and all they did was powder ski, I think the majority of the rest of us would have loved being at Sun Valley to ski all that terrain in powder.

Again I would like to thank Meri Stratton for all her diligence and hard work into contacting the areas and arranging dates and times for this season events. The tentative schedule is out. You can view the schedule and make plans for the dates and travel. I would like to encourage each of us to possibly make available a room or two for those having to travel to distant venues. Please check the Intermountain web site, intermountainmasters.org or www.skiracingreg.com for schedules closer to the race dates for any changes.

Once again, this is a reminder to get your license for the season by going to ussa.org. Registration for races remains



3...2...1...Go for it in 2018!
Photo from 2017 Mammoth Nationals.

the same by using the online race registration site, skiracereg.com. Be sure to check out jans.com for all your race needs and the latest in race equipment. This site makes it easier to locate and get product at incredible Masters racer discounts, while at the same time enhancing their sponsorship with Intermountain Masters.

Intermountain Masters would like to welcome back our longtime dedicated sponsors. Team orthopedic surgeon and racer, Dr. Phil Davidson; Team Healthcare and competitor, Dr. Don Cofer; Brent Amsbury at Park City Ski Boot; Jeff "Ernie" Ernst, of Boot Works; and Sun Valley's Formula Sports for their support of the Sun Valley races.

Finally, this next piece relates to the very essence of what Masters ski racing is about and where it may be headed in the near future. All divisions are facing the same reality, and we, as chairs, are continuing to look for answers. From the lyrics

written many years ago by Pete Seeger and Joe Hickerson, I took the liberty to paraphrase them to hopefully drive home our concerns.

"Where have all the Masters gone, long time passing? Where have all the young ones gone, long time ago? When will they ever return, when will they ever return?"

I have thought about this for a long time, talked with coaches, athletes who have stopped racing after high school or college. Like us, they all still retain the passion for skiing and racing—the competition, comraderie, the fun—but what has changed, and "will they ever return?"

Recently, I spoke with an ex-racer, now 34, and she now has a family. But her passion was still apparent when I mentioned racing. But, she said. "I know nothing about when, where and how to find out about the races." I replied, "Check out the USSA web," and I sensed a light went on, but she still wanted a invitation. To me that

meant, make it personal. Maybe that is what we need to do to entice these athletes back into the fold.

Another way I read about was what Central division is doing. That is, inviting parents, grandparents (who race) to bring their licensed (grand)children to races and have them compete in a non-scored race. Meri Stratton has been doing this for years at the Summer Nationals at Mt. Hood. It is very successful and well attended.

Finally, the word from the coaches seems to be we don't reach out to these younger athletes. They do not know who we are or what we stand for; again, we need to reach out to these programs and let them know about Masters ski racing and the fact that they can continue along a fun filled path.

I wish each of you a great, safe and fun season this year. See you at the start—and let the fun begin!

Happy 50th to NASTAR

by Bill Madsen, Director of NASTAR, U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association



NASTAR is celebrating 50 years of recreational racing, and we are more focused than ever on connecting the alpine racing community with a common scoring system. We want to see

more multi-generational families push out of the start gate together, and if families are in different parts of the country, we want to bring those families together virtually. We want to introduce more people to the thrill of racing and the bond that is created when they race.

NASTAR has come a long way in 50 years, from handwritten times on paper scoreboards to online results and rankings and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology that makes it more efficient for resorts to manage, and more interactive for

youthful participants. In its half-century of operation, over eight million skiers and snowboarders have taken part in NASTAR racing at hundreds of different resorts. Now under the leadership of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, NASTAR has modernized itself with an updated timing and scoring system that provides greater information for participants, including access to live timing and a new badging and buddy system designed to help grow participation at local resorts. In addition to the traditional NASTAR pins for performance, the online badges will reward participants for the number of runs they ski and the number of resorts where they race, as well as awarding badges on their participation in NASTAR since electronic results have been recorded.

We've put a lot of attention into technology the last few years to both create a better experience for NASTAR participants and to make operation more efficient at NASTAR resorts. We've developed tools to make the program more efficient to operate for the host resorts and we have made it easier for skiers and riders to participate. We are working closely with resorts on new ways to manage NASTAR as efficiently and

economical as possible. Depending on the layout of the race venue, many resorts can now run NASTAR with just one staff person.

Adults and kids alike have always been attracted to NASTAR, which is seeing an increasing number of three-generational families participate. The dual, modified GS courses provide participants with a head-to-head racing opportunity that has been the program's signature format for 50 years. And, NASTAR's handicap system provides recreational racers with an opportunity to compete against the U.S. Ski Team, their peers, family and friends across the country simply by racing at their favorite resorts. The top racers in each age and ability group at more than 100 resorts will qualify to compete in the Liberty Mutual Insurance NASTAR National Championships at Squaw Valley, Mar. 21–25. There will be U.S. Ski Team athletes and alumni on hand to set the pace for individual races, team races and NASTAR slalom has been added to provide a new discipline.

We hope that you will consider joining us in Squaw Valley to celebrate the sport and 50 years of NASTAR racing.



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Tom Scheeler, a top dog on the New York Masters tour.

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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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2018 Major Events

**Phillips 66
 Masters National Championships**
 Okemo, VT, Feb. 6-10
 SG/AC/GS/SL

Phillips 66 Masters National Downhill
 Ski Cooper, CO, Mar. 8-11
 DH/DH/SG/SG

**Phillips 66 FIS
 Masters World Championships**
 Big Sky, MT, Mar. 19-24
 SG/GS/GS/SL

NASTAR National Championships
 Squaw Valley, CA, Mar. 21-25