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 sidecut” 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,
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

Alaska Alpine Masters
Jan. 12–13  Alyeska  . . . . 2SL
Jan. 14–15  Alyeska  . . . . 2GS
Feb. 17–18  Alyeska  . . . . 2SL
Feb. 19–20  Alyeska  . . . . 2GS
Feb. 21–22  Alyeska  . . . . 2SG
Info: Carl Swanson 907.344.8570

Central Alpine Masters
Nov. 26–29  . . . . Koznick Fall Camp
Copper Mtn, CO
Dec. 9–10  . . . . Afton Alps  . . . . 2SL/2GS
Jan. 12–14  . . . . Ski Cooper  . . 2DH/2SG/SL

New England Masters/Sise Cup
Dec.  . . . . TBA
Jan. 6–7  . . . . Sunapee  . . . . SL/GS
Jan. 13  . . . . Middlebury  . . . . GS
Jan. 14  . . . . Whaleback  . . . . SL
Jan. 18–21  . . . . Stratton  . . . . SGt/2SG/2GS
Jan. 27  . . . . Suicide Six  . . . . SL
Jan. 28  . . . . Ragged Mt.  . . . . GS

Masters Nationals
Feb. 6–10  . . . . Okemo Mt. . . . SC/AC/GS/SL
Feb. 16–18  . . . . West Mtn,NY  . . . SG/GS/SL
Mar. 2  . . . . Wachusett, MA  . . . GS
Mar. 3  . . . . Mittersill  . . . . GS

Sise Cup Finals
Mar. 9  . . . . Sugarbush  . . . . GS
Mar. 10  . . . . Awards Banquet  . . . SL
Info: nymasters.org

New York Masters
TBA
Info: Jack Eisenschmidt 585.288.4554
nymasters.net

Mid-Atlantic Masters
Jan. 6–7  . . . . Elk Mtn, PA  . . . . GS/SL
Jan. 19–21  . . . . Stratton, VT  . . . . 2SG/2GS
Jan. 27  . . . . Hunter, NY  . . . . SL/GS
Jan. 28  . . . . Windham, NY  . . . . GS
Feb. 3–4  . . . . Montage Mt. PA  . . . . GS/SL
Feb. 16–18  . . . . West Mtn. NY  . . . SG/GS/2GS
Feb. 24–25  . . . . Mountain Cr. NJ  . . . GS/SL
Mar. 9–11  . . . . West Mtn. NY  . . . SG/SL/GS
Info: Carol Tomassetti at 845.594.9045
mamasters.org

Southern Masters (SARA)
Dec. 23  . . . . Bryce Resort  . . . . GS
Dec. 28–29  . . . . Sugar Mtn  . . . . SL/GS
Jan. 6–7  . . . . Bryce Resort  . . . . GS/SL
Jan. 15  . . . . Wintergreen  . . . . SL
Jan. 20–21  . . . . Massanutten  . . . SL/GS
Feb. 3–4  . . . . Snowshoe  . . . . SL/GS
Feb. 10–11  . . . . Wintergreen  . . . GS/SL
Feb. 24–25  . . . . Sugar Mtn  . . . . SL/GS
Info: Contact: Horst Locher 540.856.2121
skisara.org

Far West Masters
Dec. 2  . . . . Mammoth  . . . . 2SL
Dec. 16–17  . . . . Mammoth  . . . . SG/2GS/GS
Jan. 5–7  . . . . Heavenly  . . . . 2SL/GS/SL
Feb. 2–4  . . . . Mammoth  . . . . 2SG/2SG/2GS
Feb. 23–25  . . . . Northstar  . . . . 2SG/2GS/SL
Mar. 10–11  . . . . Mt Rose  . . . . GS/SL

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/GS
Lauren Beckos 267.496.1320

Phillips 66 FIS Masters World Championships
Bill Skinner 435.647.2633

Summer Fun Nationals
July 14–15  . . . . Mt Hood, OR  . . . GS/SL
Merr Statten 541.490.5888

Phillips 66 National Speed Series
Feb. 18–19  . . . . Stratton, VT  . . . SG/SL
Feb. 2  . . . . Park City, UT  . . . SL/GS

National SG
Feb. 7  . . . . Okemo, VT  . . . . SG/SL
Feb. 16–19  . . . . Aspen, CO  . . . DH/SG
Mar. 5–7  . . . . Soldier Mt. ID  . . . DH/DH

National Downhill/Finals
Mar. 9–11  . . . . Ski Cooper, CO  . . . 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.
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

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.
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 – 1st Run | Wardance  
| 10:00am | GS – C & D Groups – 1st Run | Chief  
| 12:00pm | SL – A & B Groups – 2nd Run | Wardance  
| 12:00pm | GS – C & D Groups – 2nd Run | Chief  
| 5:00pm | Awards Party | Okemo  
| Saturday – Feb. 10 | 8:30am | Inspection | Chief and Wardance  
| 10:00am | GS – A & B Groups – 1st Run | Chief  
| 10:00am | SL – C & D Groups – 1st Run | Wardance  
| 12:00pm | GS – A & B Groups 2nd Run | Chief  
| 12:00pm | SL – C & D Groups 2nd Run | Wardance  
| 6:00pm | National Awards Banquet | Okemo  

*Schedule subject to Change*

**Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Late fees of $10 per race after Feb. 1, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$35 + $35 Lift ticket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>$65 + $35 lift ticket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS and SL</td>
<td>$50 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banquet</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration starts Dec. 1, 2017 at [www.skiracerreg.com](http://www.skiracerreg.com). First 300 entries accepted. For housing information and reservations call: 800-786-5366 and use the code "masters"
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, endorphs 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:

**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)
**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 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.

**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! usmasters.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.
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 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 a number of memorable places and to make many new friends from around the world. Here’s how to go for a globe:

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 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 races 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 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.

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.

Carrying globes like they were Atlas: Anne Nordhoy, David Davi, Lisa Ballard and Mike Robbins.
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 & Snowboarding 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 results 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 ski 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.
If you want to finish first, first you have to finish. From page 1

Continued from page 1

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 narrow. Al- though 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.

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 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 Masters/FIS type race ski.

Is the relationship moving too fast? 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 was 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 to course conditions by altering your steering. The skis are a lot of fun to ski. With just the mere act of tipping them up, they can 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 Masters/FIS type race ski.

Is the relationship moving too fast? 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 was 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 to course conditions by altering your steering. The skis are a lot of fun to ski. With just the mere act of tipping them up, they can 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 Masters/FIS type race ski.

Is the relationship moving too fast? 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 was 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 to course conditions by altering your steering. The skis are a lot of fun to ski. With just the mere act of tipping them up, they can 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 Masters/FIS type race ski.

Is the relationship moving too fast? 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 was 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 to course conditions by altering your steering. The skis are a lot of fun to ski. With just the mere act of tipping them up, they can 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 Masters/FIS type race ski.
2017 Summer Fun Nationals at Mt. Hood, Oregon

by Hugh Mitchell

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 open. With near-perfect weather—no humidity, cool nights, and clear days—an epic 2017 Summer Fun Nationals took place. 150 racers and volunteers convened 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 “bullet-proof” 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 SummerFun-Nationals.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 inefable 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 bullet-proof 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, handcrafted 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.
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.
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
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 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 especially thank Art tech 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.

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 Tendgin 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!
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 weekend 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...
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 Mid-west 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
northernusa.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 SkiRacingReg.com.

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

Southern Masters
By Horst Locher
saratocracing.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 NJSSRA (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!
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!
they race. of racing and the bond that is created when families are brought together virtually. We of the start gate together, and if families are more multi-generational families push out more than just one staff person. Now run NASTAR with just one staff person.

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.
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.

Masters Contacts

National Masters Chairman
Lisa Densmore Ballard
P.O. Box 100
Park City, UT 84060
tel: 406.690.0190
email: LisaBallardOutdoors@gmail.com

USSA Masters Manager
Bill Skinner
P.O. Box 100
Park City, UT 84060
tel: 435.647.2633
fax: 435.649.3613
email: bskinner@ussa.org

Division Chairpersons
Alaska: Carl Swanson
tel: 907.344.8570
email: carl@davisconstructors.com

Central: Ryan Fuller
tel: 612.501.3268
email: ryanf1541@yahoo.com

Eastern: Bill McCollom
tel: 802.234.9561
email: bmccollom@skiracing.com

Eastern/Mid Atlantic: Carol Tomassetti
tel: 845.594.9045
email: carolcartom@gmail.com

Eastern/New England: Nadine Price
tel: 802.746.8850
email: nprice@ntp-associates.com

Eastern/New York: Jack Eisenschmid
tel: 585.288.4554
email: eisenschmid@frontiernet.net

Eastern/Southern: Horst Locher
tel: 540.856.2121
fax: 540.856.8567
email: skischool@bryceresort.com

Far West: Dan Simmons
tel: 385.315.4817
email: dlsimmons@ucdavis.edu

Intermountain: Stew Marsh
tel: 435.649.5751
email: somarsh@msn.com

Northern: Francis Noel
tel: 406.586.5759
email: fnoel@onemain.com

Pacific Northwest: Robert Cravens
tel: 541.419.3893
email: robcrvens99@gmail.com

Rocky Mountain: Lauren Beckos
tel: 267.496.1320
email: lauren.beckos@gmail.com

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