

Dear Racer,

Enclosed you'll find this year's membership renewal packet. This packet includes:

- Information about the program. **Note the new changes with regard to membership fees & discounts, new national 5-year age classes, and temporary memberships.**
- The schedule (it's still tentative, so watch the newsletter and Web site for changes when we get closer to the beginning of the season).
- A membership application with release notice. **Please remember, you must completely fill out and sign the release notice before you can race.**
- ***Temporary memberships are available for one weekend only [USSA policy change for 2010]***

Please ensure that the membership application is completely filled out. Most importantly, I need to make sure that I have your correct e-mail address. Over the past few seasons, we've been able to give schedule updates and provide other pertinent program information via e-mail, making it easier for our racers to have up-to-date information throughout the season. We're also moving toward internet and e-mail distribution of membership renewals and items like the newsletter, so don't get left out of the loop!

We're looking forward to another exciting season of racing. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the board members:

<b>President</b>	Marietta Frinell P. O. Box 907 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546	email: president@farwestmasters.org
<b>Past President</b>	Sam Crowell 1509 Tirol Dr. Incline Village, NV 89451	email: farwestsam@charter.net
<b>Vice President, Scheduling</b>	Mark Mirviss P.O. Box 3293 Olympic Valley, CA 96146	email: markmirviss@att.net
<b>Vice President, Membership</b>	Marcie Pettigrew P.O. Box 7181 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546	email: membership@farwestmasters.org
<b>Vice President, Communications</b>	Ingrid Braun P.O. Box 2486 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546	email: ingridemma@sbcglobal.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Sandy Hogan P.O. Box 8432 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546	email: sandyghogan@verizon.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mark Smallhouse 14460 Quiet Meadow Drive Reno, NV 89511	email: mark@smallhouselaw.com
<b>Officials</b>	Don Smith 2814 Hillegass Ave. #C3 Berkeley, CA 94705	email: Smith25@llnl.gov
<b>Chief Technical Officer</b>	Deb Lewis 1819 Calle de los Alamos San Clemente, CA 92672	email: djlewis@acm.org

See you in December!

Marcie Pettigrew, Membership VP



## **Far West Masters Ski Racing** **<http://farwestmasters.org>**



### **2009 – 2010 PROGRAM INFORMATION**

For adult, NASTAR, club racers, and good skiers in general, Masters ski racing is a new challenge. It's USSA sanctioned racing – more competitive and more fun. We welcome racers of all levels – from beginners who enjoy exciting race courses, to former Olympians, U.S. Team Members and everyone in between. The competition is exhilarating!

#### **Eligibility**

Men and women age 18 and over may compete in the Granite Chief Far West Masters Ski Racing Series. USSA membership and competition license is **required**. For USSA membership information and masters competition license, competitors need to go directly to the USSA web site (**[ussa.org](http://ussa.org)**) and complete the application process there using the online registration service or write to USSA, P.O. Box 100, Park City, Utah 84060.

For one weekend only, racers may purchase a temporary USSA license on race morning for races held within the division. (Note that this is a USSA policy change from previously allowing a weekend temporary license to be purchased twice per season.) Again, weekend licenses are \$25, and are limited to one weekend per season. Note that a full USSA masters competition license is required to compete in Regional and National championship events; temporary license may only be used in division-level events.. A FIS masters license is required to compete in International Masters events.

#### **Far West Registration**

Registration in the Far West Masters includes a permanently assigned racing bib, detailed race schedule, entry cards, and our newsletter. Send a \$25 check (\$20 if you elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail or from the Far West Masters' Web page) payable to **Masters Series Ski Racing** with a completed application form (enclosed in this packet) to the address on this brochure.

#### **Courses**

Masters races are intended to be technically more difficult than club races or NASTAR. FIS and USSA rules are generally followed, with certain modifications as appropriate for Masters racing. Two runs are mandatory for SL and GS events. Training is mandatory for DH's. No training runs are required for SG, although organizers are encouraged to offer when feasible.

Full-coverage helmets approved for ski competition are required for ***all disciplines***.

## Age Classes

Men and women race against their age peers in the following **5-year categories** (determined by your age on December 31, 2009 – you remain in this class for the entire season):

Class	Age Range	Class	Age Range
0	18 - 20	8	60 – 64
1	21 – 29	9	65-69
2	30 – 34	10	70 – 74
3	35-39	11	75-79
4	40-44	12	80 – 85
5	45-59	13	85-89
6	50 – 54	14	90 and over
7	55-59		

The start order is the USSA masters age class running order: all 70-90+ age classes run first, by descending age and gender (14-13-12-11-10: Women/Men 90+, Women/Men 85-89, Women/Men 80-84, Women/Men 75-79, Women/Men 70-74), following by all other women's classes in descending age order (W9, W8, ... W1) and then all other men's classes in descending age order (M9, M8, ... M1).

In addition, the top 10 men and top 5 women finishers after the first run in SL and GS, regardless of age class, have the option to move into the special Open Class for the second run. The women's Open class starts after the Women's 50's and the men's Open class starts after the Men's 50's in the second run of technical events. For one-run speed events (SG, DH), competitors may elect when they submit their race entries to compete in the Open class, which is run at the end of all other age classes of their gender (WOP after all other women's classes, MOP after all other men's classes).

## Awards

First, second and third place awards are given for each men's and women's age class and the open seeds.

The Granite Chief Masters Ski Racing Series consists of approximately 20 SL, GS, SG and DH races. Points are tabulated throughout the season based on race finishes.

Racers season points are scored using their best results from 75% of the total number of races held, rounding up to the next whole number. For example, if 18 races are actually held, racers will keep their best 14 results. This means you don't have to attend every race to be competitive (but the more you race the better your chances to accumulate points for the overall season standings!)

We present season awards to the top three racers in each class and the open classes at the season-ending banquet. This season's banquet will be held in Mammoth Lakes in conjunction with the final race of the season, at Mammoth Mt.

## Race Entry Fees and Registration

Entry fees for each race are published in our newsletter and on our website, [www.farwestmasters.org](http://www.farwestmasters.org). GS and SL race entry fees are generally \$25 per race day. DH and SG speed event entry fees are higher, due to the increased demands these disciplines place on the organizers for hill space, course preparation, and safety; downhill events include mandatory training runs, while for SG a training run opportunity is encouraged and provided whenever feasible.

Competitors are generally eligible to purchase lift tickets at special racer prices. Racer lift discounts are offered by the race organizer and may differ according to the policies of the organizing ski area.

Racers should register by mail **at least 10 days** prior to the race. Fees not received **at least 5 days** prior to the race will be considered late (a late registration fee of \$5.00 may be added by the area). Race day entries may be accepted at the discretion of the race organizer. Please send a separate check for each race day. We have a “torn check policy” for races cancelled due to bad weather or snow conditions.

If you cannot attend a race for which you are registered, you must notify the race organizer contact at least one day before the race weekend to avoid being charged for the race. The “torn check” policy applies for cancellations received by this deadline; if you fail to cancel your entry with the organizer, however, the “torn check” policy no longer applies and your entry fee may be retained by the organizers. Exceptions can be made in case of injury.

**Please remember that an entry consists of separate check for the race entry fee of each separate race in which you compete. An event entry form with check boxes for each race at an event can be printed from the Far West Masters web site [www.farwestmasters.org](http://www.farwestmasters.org) from the “Race Entries” page.**

*(Note: we are exploring the possibility of also providing online race registration for races in the 2010 season – check the web site for further information when the race entry system is opened in mid-November)*

We have several Super-G and DH speed events on the schedule this season. For those of you who would like to race in the Open Class in these speed events, you must declare your intention on your race entry card. Note “Men’s Open” or “Women’s Open” in the age class box. The Women’s Open Class will run at the end of all the women and the Men’s Open Class will run at the end of the men.

## **USSA Masters National Championships**

The USSA Masters National Championships are scheduled to take place at Sun Valley, Idaho the week of Mar. 29 – Apr. 2, 2010. The races consist of a Super Combined, Super-G, GS and Slalom. Racers from the US and Canada compete in this event, which is the biggest of the season. To be eligible, you must qualify in your division by January 31, 2009, and have your USSA membership and license no later than January 15, 2010. A minimum number of race entries in the Far West division race series may be required to qualify as a member of the Far West team, along with other criteria. Qualification requirements will be published on the Far West Master’s web site and in the newsletter closer to the entry deadline.

Due to constraints of the organizer, the national championship DH event cannot be collocated with the technical nationals at Sun Valley as is customarily done whenever possible. The National Masters Committee of division chairs has designated the Feb. 14-15 DH race in Aspen CO as the 2010 national DH championship.

## **Regional Championships and National Speed Series**

In addition to the annual national championships, out-of-division competition opportunities include the Western Region Championship at Park City UT on Feb. 4-7, a 4-discipline event offering SC, SG, GS, and SL races and the 2010 National Speed Series, consisting of 14 SG and DH events hosted in 6 different divisions culminating with the national championship SG at Sun Valley.

Two Far West races are included on the NSS schedule, with Fri/Sat SG races at Mammoth on Mar. 5-6 counting towards the season NSS standings.



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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE**

I know that alpine, nordic and freestyle skiing are action sports carrying significant risk of serious personal injury, death or property damage. I also know that there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and risks which independently or in combination with my activities may cause property damage, or severe or even fatal injuries to me or others.

I agree that I alone am responsible for: (a) my safety while participating in competitive events and/or training for competitive events and (b) providing, utilizing and maintaining that equipment necessary for the safe enjoyment of my participation in such events and specifically acknowledge that the following persons or entities including Masters Series Ski Racing of the Far West, Inc., United States Skiing, the United States Skiing Association, the United States Ski Team, the United States Ski Coaches Association, the ski area, the promoters, the sponsors, the organizers, the promoter clubs, the officials and any agent, representative, officer, director, employee, member or affiliate of any person or entity named above are not responsible for my safety, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. I agree to accept all responsibility for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur whether they now be known or unknown.

Being fully aware of the risks, conditions and hazards of the proposed activity as a competitor, coach or official, I HEREBY AGREE TO WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or property damage which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me as a result of any participation in competitive events or training for competitive events, against any person or entity identified above whether such injury or damage was foreseeable or not, including all such claims regarding the design or condition of any equipment utilized by me in such competitive events without regard to whether such equipment is specified or recommended by such persons or entities identified above.

I further agree to HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY all persons and entities identified above, generally and specifically, from any and all liability for death, personal injury or property damage resulting in any way from my participating in competitive events or training for competitive events.

I currently have, and agree to maintain throughout the time that I train and compete, valid and sufficient medical and accident insurance. I understand that this is my sole responsibility and release all persons and entities identified above from providing coverage to me.

I agree that I will accept and abide by the rules and regulations of the U.S.S.A. and any other rules or regulations imposed by the organizers of any particular competition. This Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and Release shall be binding upon my heirs and assigns.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ USSA Number: \_\_\_\_\_