

Mid Winter GENERAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting

Shreveport, LA

January 8, 2005

Meeting called to order by EVP Bob Mayhew at 9:30 AM.

T. Caldwell was appointed Parliamentarian.

Pat Holland made a motion, seconded by Gary Weidman that the Summer Membership Minutes be approved. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Kathy Ives reported we have \$21,880.51 and after disbursements \$19,500. We also have \$5000. in a Money Market fund.

There were a few questions on the disbursement of \$200. to Kay Nichols and \$60. to Giz Tanner. The reasons for these disbursements were explained to the Membership and it was noted that these expenditures fell within the discretionary spending of the EVP. A motion by Janet Hooten to accept the financial report was seconded by Larry Cox and carried.

A concern was raised on what proof we have of the eligibility of foreign skiers officiating at our record tournaments. Derek Koch, a representative of USA Water Ski, said they need proof from the Region if skiers have the proper rating. It was agreed that we must impress on the International Committee that we need proof of their judges rating.

JUDGES & SCORERS COMMITTEE - Gary Weidman

1. The Eastern Region will be hosting the Sr. Judges/Sr. Scorers Clinic in suburban Washington, D.C. Feb. 25-27, 2005.
2. The Committee rejected a proposal to allow Regular Judges to test for Pan Am or allowing them to serve as the equivalent of our Pan Am American rated officials in the Slalom and Trick event.
3. They did not act upon a suggestion to create a "fast track" program for Open rated skiers to become Senior Scorers.
4. They discussed ways to ensure Officials were not inadvertently downgraded by failing to attend a clinic without prior notice. A request was made to USA Water Ski staff to ensure timely notices are sent out reminding officials of upcoming clinic maintenance requirements.

Nikki Lee stated she would like to see EP skiers fast track to Sr. Judge similar to Open and also consider equating Regular Judges in Slalom & Jump to Level 1 International Judges. Gary assured her these 2 items would come up before the Board.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT- Joe Darwin

1. 66 skiers attended Regionals, 36 juniors skied at Nationals.
2. Ski Haven did an excellent job hosting the Junior Development tournament.
3. Frame Switch in Austin will host the July 8-10, 2005 Junior Development tournament.
4. A Junior Development week has been scheduled at Bennett's Ski School the week of June 27.
5. Tickets for the 2005 raffle will be available May 1st.
6. They will again award 10 \$300. scholarships and go to 15 in 2006.
7. Requesting \$4500. in funding from the Region for 2005 scholarships.

SKIERS RATING COMMITTEE – Robert Howerton sent report to Bob Mayhew

1. Increase Junior skiers at Nationals
2. Spread levels within rating system to allow wider variety of recognition
3. Revise rating chart annually

The Rules Committee received recommendations from Ratings to

1. Add age groups
2. Modify B1-3 & G1-3 to match International competition
3. Use 1000 point system at Regionals and Nationals

TOWBOAT COMMITTEE - Pat Holland

1. 12 boats were approved
2. The deadline has been changed for new boat procedure changes and requirements to June 30.
3. Elk Grove, CA will host the boat tests next year.
4. Elan Boats – Ben Favre, has filed an Anti-trust litigation with the Louisiana Dept. of Justice Attorney General's Office re our towboat policies. They had a meeting with the LA Attorney General Oct. 16 in Baton Rouge and Jeff Smith represented AWSA as legal Counsel and George Lindy as towboat Chairman.
They will present the results at the BOD meeting in Florida.

Derek Koch from USA Water Ski's Competition Dept. was introduced to the Membership. He handed out literature and explained the grassroots program- what it consists of, the current benefits to hosts, how to do it and the goals for 2005. Basically it's "handles in people's hands" – we know how to do it, they want to help. They would like to see grassroots events in every State.

SEEDING – Bob Mayhew for Melissa Peterson

Scorebooks should be sent to Melissa for the next year and you can check the web site for details where to send video tapes, seeding results, scorebooks, etc. Melissa is working on a program that compiles all of the seeding data that goes to Mark Crone and is incorporated with other Regions ensuring we are seeded properly at Nationals.

RULES – Nikki Lee

Proposals recommended to Board for January meeting

1. Change in tournament limitations. Lift the limitation that requires no more than 3 rounds in a week-end. That would be changed to daily, thereby allowing a 3 round tournament on Saturday and a 3 round tournament on Sunday.
2. Age Divisions – Change Men and Women 10 to 80-84 inclusive and add Men and Women 11 to 85 and over effective January 2005.
3. Change B1/G1 to 9 & under B2/G2 to 13 & under B3/G3 to 17 & under effective at the conclusion of the 2005 Nationals.
4. Overall Scoring – Divisions 8 and up, the skier may use scores from ANY two events or all three events towards the overall title.
5. Placements at Nationals and Regionals shall be determined with a 1,000 point overall system using a straight linear basis from zero to the winning score and the standard NOPS application will be used solely to attain EP's at Nationals and Regionals.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – Tim Robinson

Items recommended to the Board

1. Rule 916.F - added to paragraph G which states skier furnished jump handle. Contestant may furnish his own jump tow line and handle for which he is entirely responsible. The Contestant's tow line and handle may be of any material and must comply with the dimensions for total length in the Appendix.
2. Rule 8.09 – asking for smaller diameter skier buoys and lower – 20cm in diameter and 10cm out of water, primarily for safety reasons.
3. Rule 6.03 – Other tournaments – we included for all computer operations involving video jump distance measurements or frame counting trick timing, the Technical Controller shall be fully qualified as an appropriately rated judge.

For informational purposes Tim advised there were 25 National records submitted and 11 were not approved.

AWARDS COMMITTEE – Nikki Lee

Danyelle Bennett will be receiving the Jack Kelly Fair Play Award which is a nomination to the USOC to promote sportsmanship.

Another important award to be aware of is the Volunteer Coach Award. It's a USOC award and is open to coaching at any level, the only criteria is it prohibits any payment.

Mandy Nightingale was awarded Trick Skier of the year.

BOAT DRIVERS/SPEED CONTROL – Pat Holland for Jerry Bautsch

1. End course video is a requirement for maintenance for Senior Drivers in 2004.
2. A discussion was held on fast tracking Open Skiers to Senior Drivers just like judges.
3. Dual displays need to be Perfect Pass. There are discrepancies in the timing with the after market displays.
4. Jump parameters are in the tournament kit and there is a sheet in the Regional Guide.

BYLAWS – Tim Robinson

No changes this year.

SAFETY – Tim Robinson for Giz Tanner

1. Rope Trick Release – agreed 6-0 that it's a safe item.
2. Written test for new Safety Directors – if you are going to be a Regional or National Safety Director you have to have experience in other sport divisions. This would not be beneficial and would like our Directors to address this issue. After an interesting discussion, it was felt the SCR recommend to the BOD to do away with levels of Safety Director.
3. Liability Insurance for Safety Directors. Ask the Board to take this out of the Manual as it is written that you should have additional personal liability insurance if you are a Safety Director. This was supposed to be taken out but is still in the manual.
4. Discussing having driver wear kill switch.
5. Not receiving safety reports – trying to find some way to correct this.

EXECUTIVE & FINANCE - Nikki Lee

1. Membership was down 8.3%. Previously if you got boat insurance from Ski Safe you needed to have a supporting membership in AWSA. They have changed insurance companies and this is not a requirement hence the drop in membership. Financially it is not hurting us because the new insurance company is going to be a platinum or silver sponsor. They are trying to find ways to increase our supporting membership.
2. They have hired a Marketing Co. to increase membership and are looking into branching out with contemporary sportswear, logo's etc.
3. A Lobbyist has been hired to ensure we are not dropped from USOC funding by making our side of the argument known to the powers in Washington.
4. Competition Task Force is still working and will make a presentation to the Board in January on how to get competition back in the sport, not by reducing the size of Nationals but changing the way to get there / qualification for Nationals based on more Regional competitions.
5. Open 55K Men's Slalom – The numbers are not as expected and several committees are to look into ways to encourage more participation either by making it mandatory or devising a way to compete in it and still ski overall.
6. Disciplinary Matters – Ryan Fitts – the IAC will recommend to the Board that his suspension be lifted when he meets 2 conditions. (1) refund AWSA \$450. for plane flight to Chile (2) refund AWSA \$100. for team clothing. He will be on probation for 12 months and must sign and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct at any and all USA-WS or IWSF sanctioned tournaments during that 12 months of probation. He will be eligible for USOC and NGB funding.
7. INT/NSL – Possibility of merging.
8. NMMA/USA WS ALLIANCE – In the “Discover Boating” program, HQ identifies volunteers to work a booth at boat shows to promote our sport in all its variety.
9. Veteran Team Funding – Nothing has changed – they still feel all the funding should go to juniors, junior development, 17-21. We have instructed Jim to apply for a grant from USA Water Ski if we have a Veteran Team selected for an international event in the future.
10. U.S. Open – They have agreed to continue pursuing the licensing of the event with 3 non-negotiable conditions. Minimum total prize money of \$100,000., event and gender equity and nationally televised program.
11. Nationals – There was talk of an increase in the entry fee for the 2005 Nationals and justification for the increase will be submitted to the BOD in January.

On the subject of Nationals, Bob advised that it has been asked of each Region to express their sentiment of what they prefer as to dates for the Nationals. A show of hands indicated the following:

1st. week 4 2nd. Week 9 Labor Day 3

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES – Mary Gail Holcomb, Jeffrey Armstrong

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Verification of Ratings for Regionals – Verification can be obtained from seeding list.

Class E vs. L at Regionals – It was decided to bring to the Council the request that we mix E & L at skiers choice, run an Open Division and an International Division predicated on the fact the scoring program can handle it.

Member Clubs and Council – T. Caldwell made a motion, seconded by Kathy Ives that we approve the list Elgin is passing out today assuming appropriate e-mail address corrections and people corrections are completed.

NEW BUSINESS

After a discussion on charitable contributions, a motion was made by Jeran and seconded by Frank that we make a recommendation to the Council to donate \$200. to the Ed Brazil hip replacement fund. Motion carried with 2 opposed.

A proposal was made by the Membership to be brought to the Council that we grant \$200. to each SCR athlete on the Veteran National Team who competes in an International event.

Voting at banquet – protocol – voting will be done at the banquet and when you sign your name, you will be given a pull off tab on which to vote thereby ensuring your privacy.

Tournament Schedule – there appears to be no conflicts.

T. Caldwell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Holland. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Margaret Ann Woodard
Secretary