

# **Minutes of Southern Region Council Midwinter Meeting Saturday**

**January 10, 2009 Atlanta, Georgia**

EVP Gene Davis called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Jeff Clark was appointed parliamentarian.

The following Council Members and National Directors were present: Gene Davis EVP, Jim Jaquess GA National Director, Lyman Hardy AL National Director, Chris Eller NC National Director, Jay Estes AL Council, Craig Worley AL Council, Milton Weathers AL Council, Leon Larson FL Council, Jeff Clark FL Council, Donna Switzer FL Council, Stan Switzer FL Council, Ray Crenshaw GA Council, Craig Bryans GA Council, Pat Coomes KY Council, Tim McKune KY Council, Bob Archambeau KY Council, Jerry Hargis NC Council, Johnny Thomas NC Council, J Alan Long NC Council, Terry Woods SC Council, Jeanette Van Akeijen, Tim Denny TN Council and Treasurer, Julie Yancey TN Council, Steve Raybourne TN Council,

A quorum for the meeting was established by the parliamentarian

## **Agenda Review**

The 2009 Budget was moved to the end to the new business.

## **Minutes of Southern Region 2008 Summer Meeting of the Council & Membership**

Motion made by Jim Jaquess to accept as previously presented, second Jeff Clark, motion passed.

## **TREASURERS REPORT – Tim Denny**

Tim reported that we were within budget on all of the line items of the 2008 budget and our current balance as of 12/31/08 is \$ 57,343.27. Tim brought to our attention the Jr Development Fund is decreasing every year and the Jr Development Fund could run out of money in the next couple of years. Tim asked that the EVP send out a request for payment for all clinics to all State Presidents & JR Development Chairperson go out by Dec 1 of each year so that they can be paid by the Dec 31 deadline. Jeff Clark moved to accept, Jim Jaquess second. The Treasurer's report for 2008 was approved as presented.

## **EVP REPORT: By Gene Davis**

The Southern Region experienced a successful tournament season this past year and provided a healthy balance sheet for 2008.

The officials for the 2009 Southern Regional's have been posted on the Region website and the Chief Officials are; Leon Larson - Chief Judge, Tim Denny & Joel Norton - Asst Chief Judges, Gordon West - Chief Driver, Mark Dingeman - Chief Scorer, Bob Archambeau - Chief Safety TBA - Chief Technical Controller, Tadd Schreiber - Chief Announcer

Appointed Judges are Kirby Whetsel, Milton Weathers, Bill Wenner, John Shipp, Leza Harrison, Bobby A. Hill, Ray Crenshaw, J Allan Long, Joe Burkhead, R. Scott Snape, Robert Harris, Ralph Winn, Samuel Schmitt, Mack Sparks, Carl Marquess and Sara Lemley.

Appointed Scorers are Linda Sparks, Anne Henley, Jeff Clark and Debbie Kern. Appointed Drivers are Jody Seal, Greg Webb, Lyman Hardy and Ham Wallace.

## **State Reports**

### **ALABAMA - Scott Crenshaw**

Hosted 10 Tournaments including a Mastercraft Pro Event at Lymanland, USA. Junior Development clinic by Scott Crenshaw. State Championship Hosted by Ski Chaste. Tom Strong was Inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame. Abigail Crenshaw was awarded the Billy Buck Spirit award. In 2009 they will be hosting 14 Tournaments and a Judges, Scorers & Drivers Clinic.

### **FLORIDA – Jeff Clark**

We finished 2008 with 638 members in the FWSF. 53 tournaments were held in the state including the Big Dawg finals, Southern Regionals and the Nationals. A Southern Regional Junior Clinic was held in April at Cory Pickos site. Art Cozier, Jim Salmas, John Gillette, Ruth Johnston, and Tom Kelly were inducted into the Florida Water Ski Federations Hall of Fame. We will have our new website up and running in the next few weeks. We have 61 tournaments on the planning calendar for 2009 including the Team Trials, Big Dawg finals and the Nationals. There will be a Judges, Scorers, Drivers and Safety Clinic held at Sunset Lakes March 14 & 15. The Safety Clinic will also include First Aid and CPR certification training. Barbara Stailing passed away at the end of the year.

### **GEORGIA –**

Held 3 Junior Clinics which helped increase the numbers of Juniors Skiers at the Georgia State Championships. Thank you to Jeff Clark for coming up to Georgia to hold a Scorers Clinic.

### **KENTUCKY – Bob Archembau**

Held 10 Tournaments plus the State Championships at Stillwater Lake. Held a 3 day Junior Clinic at Paducah, KY this year. Kentucky was proud of the numbers competing at Regionals this year and wants to thank Jack & Lelani Travers for hosting such a great event. Kentucky Jump Training Helmet was developed this year and we were proud that it caused some sleepless nights for the Tennessee Nasty Boys and that they ended up buying it at the Junior Development Auction. This year we will hold 7 tournaments and the State Championships, 2009 Southern Regionals will be in Paducah, along with several Junior Clinics

### **North Carolina-**

We held 2 Junior Clinics, one at Lake Magnolia & the other at Panther Lake. Elected into the NC Hall of Fame were Sonny Collins, Earl Smith, Bobby Cannon, Walter Gross and Tommy Wyckoff. New Site called Pirates Lake 2 lake with Home sites available. April & Chris Eller attended the USOC Coaches seminar at Colorado Springs, CO. We had 12 events and should have 12 in 2009. Collegiate All-Stars will be at Beaver Lake. North Carolina will start a Scholarship program that will be awarded at the State Championships.

## **South Carolina**

10 Tournaments and a Junior Development Clinic in 2009 and we plan the same number of tournaments and will sponsor 2 Junior Development Clinics. Working to get the website more functional. Buzz Rodgers is again sponsoring the Carolina Junior Classic and would like to develop it into a State verses State Junior Team Competition.

## **Tennessee – Ham Wallace**

The Old Hickory Lake Ski Club had its annual New Year's Day Ski Outing. The weather was a balmy 34 degrees with 35 mph winds. The event was sponsored by TNT WaterSports. A large time was had by all and chili and beverages were served afterwards. Caroline Hensley, competed on the US Team in the Under 21 World Championships in Santiago, Chile. The team brought home the Silver medal. 24 members of Team Tennessee invaded Ogden Valley, Utah for the 10th annual Nasty Boys Snow Ski Trip. It was Huge! May brought the first Junior Development clinic as well as the Junior Masters where Haley Runion and Caroline Hensley competed and did a great job. It was on national web TV. Performance Marine and the Music City Water Ski Club hosted a slalom clinic with pro skier, Marcus Brown. There were tournaments in Memphis,(Hilliard Crews), Chattanooga (No-Wake) and Manchester (Soggy Bottom Skiers). July brought a great state championships in conjunction with a 2 day Junior clinic at Lake Pryor. A slalom tournament at Soggy Bottom, another slalom tournament at No-Wake. The 2008 Regionals were held at Jack Traver's Sunset Lakes in Okahumpka, Florida. 36 Tennessee skiers produced 45 medals. Greg Webb was the Chief Driver for the tournament and Ham Wallace was an appointed driver. The 2008 Nationals were held at Okeeheelee Park in West Palm Beach, Florida. 29 Tennessee skiers brought home 27 medals. Ham Wallace was an appointed driver. Caroline Hensley made the cover of Water Ski Magazine. Steve Raybourne and John Carder went to Spain for the Senior World Championships. Steve scored a 3rd Overall. He had a 5th in tricks, 3rd in jump and 10th in slalom to clinch the award for the US. Caroline Hensley, continued her ways with a new state slalom record and tied the National Girls 3 record with 4@38 off. Dr. Bob Drake tied the Men 7 slalom record with 5@38 off. No Wake Lake Magic still exists! John Carder finally got the leaks repaired in his and Dennis Kelley's new lake and on November 10th, took the first jump. 10 Tennessee skiers made the National Ranking List Champions list. Caroline Hensley topped the list with a clean sweep, Haley Runion made it in 2 events, as did Tommy Newman and Matt Curmi, Others were Zack "Shaggy" MacIntyre, Kara MacIntyre, Brie Carter, Garret Stallings, Zane Nicholson and Ham Wallace. Caroline Hensley is heading to Lima, Peru for the Junior World Championships.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Tellers Committee – Gerald Kircshner**

We are still getting mismarked ballots from some council persons on the Regionals Officials Ballots. Please read the instructions carefully and if you do not understand them call or email the EVP or myself. Absentee ballots for the Regional officers are another problem. When we received duplicate ballots they are being rejected.

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE – Michelle Seal**

No Report by the committee representative, the report in the AWSA Board Packet was accepted. Jeff Clark asked that headquarters list the description and Criteria for the Nationals Awards on the USA-WS Website.

### **AWSA BYLAWS: Jeff Clark**

Jim Jaquess moved that we accept action item 1-5 & 11-14 listed below it was seconded by Jeff Clark and it passed.

**ACTION ITEM # 1: Delete USPS copies of Southern Regional bids.**

**ACTION ITEM # 2: Change revision date of the bid form.**

**ACTION ITEM # 3: Delete the note in parenthesis regarding the State Championships.**

**ACTION ITEM # 4: Combine and rewrite sections 5 & 6.**

**ACTION ITEM # 5: Change the Cut Off Date (COD) for the Regionals.**

**ACTION ITEM # 11: Canceled tournament refunds.**

**ACTION ITEM # 12: Distribution of minutes in 2.5 Minutes of Meeting**

**ACTION ITEM # 13: Regional Committee appointments in 7.1 Committee Assignments**

**ACTION ITEM # 14: Revisions to Southern Regionals Standard Bid Form – page 2.**

**ACTION ITEM # 6: Change Overall skier entry requirements.**

**RATIONALE:** Now that there is an Overall Ranking for the Overall skiers, we need to use that as the basis for their entry to the Regionals. This will be to the advantage of these competitors.

#### **CURRENT WORDING:**

Overall three event skiers with a Level 6 Ranking in each event (who skied and scored three events at their respective state tournament) shall be allowed to ski in all three events at the Southern Regionals Championship. 1/07

#### **CHANGE TO READ:**

Overall three event skiers with an Overall Level 6 Ranking and who skied and scored three events at their respective state tournament, shall be allowed to ski in all three events at the Southern Regionals Championship. 1/09

**Action Item #6 - Passed**

**ACTION ITEM # 7: Add new paragraph for meeting or exceeding Cut Off Date (COD) requirement**

**RATIONALE:** Clarifies scores attained after the COD is established, at “last chance” tournaments and how they may qualify to enter the Regionals.

#### **NEW PARAGRAPH:**

Skier scores from tournaments, class C and above, between the cutoff date (COD) and the absolute final day for entry (late entry date) to the Southern Regionals, that meets or exceeds the locked in base number required for their events/division, in either the Ranking list by “Rank” or by raw score, shall be qualified to enter the Southern Regional Tournament. 1/09

**Action Item #7 – Passed**

**ACTION ITEM # 8: Delete last part of sentence stipulating the date that the Seeding list is established.**

**RATIONALE:** This gives the Seeding representative the flexibility needed to assist in making up the event running orders for the tournament. Regionals are to be seeded by the Southern Region National Seeding Committee representative using the AWSA National Ranking List. and using the cutoff date as previously noted at the beginning of this section. 1/09

#### **Action Item #8 – Passed**

**ACTION ITEM # 9:** The weekend for the state tournaments needs to be clarified in section 1.3.1.

**RATIONALE:** The Nationals, according to the AWSA Rulebook can be held the second or third weekend in August and we stipulate that the Regionals shall be held two full weeks before the start of the Nationals. We have stated that the State Championships will be the third weekend in July. This causes problems at the state level for the sponsors, competitors and officials and we need to address this. Since the Regionals are based on the Nationals, I would suggest that we change the date for the State Championships to reflect the flexibility in the same way that we determine the date for the Regionals.

#### **1.3.1 Scheduling Tournaments**

##### **CURRENT WORDING:**

There are three protected weekends during the sanctioning year: The AWSEF Hall of Fame, the **third weekend** in July for the State Championships and the Southern Regional Tournament. There is not to be a sanctioned tournament in the Region/State on these protected weekends, whichever applies. If a State tournament is scheduled on an alternate weekend due to conflicts, this mandate will apply to that weekend.

##### **CHANGE TO READ (TWO SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS):**

There are three protected weekends during the sanctioning year: The AWSEF Hall of Fame, the State Championships, and the Southern Regional Tournament. There is not to be a sanctioned tournament in the Region/State on these protected weekends, whichever applies. The State Tournaments shall be scheduled to conclude two full weekends prior to the start of the Southern Regionals. If a State tournament is scheduled on an alternate weekend (requires approval of the Council) due to conflicts, this mandate will apply to that weekend.

**Chris Eller amended the Action Item to remove (requires approval of the Council) it was seconded by Johnny Thomas. The amendment and Action Item # 9 was passed.**

**ACTION ITEM # 10:** Remove AWSEF Hall of Fame tournament from protected list.

**RATIONALE:** The AWSEF Hall of Fame tournament has a protected date from the Florida Water Ski Federation (FWSF). They normally host their tournament on Friday and Saturday of that weekend. Because of the cutoff date for the IWSF Ranking list, the FWSF has been allowing other tournaments to be scheduled on that weekend that do not conflict with the AWSEF tournament. I would suggest removing them from the Southern Region list of protected weekends and allowing the FWSF to take care of this protected date.

##### **CHANGE FIRST PARAGRAPH TO READ**

There are two protected weekends during the sanctioning year: the State Championships and the Southern Regional Tournament. There is not to be a sanctioned tournament in the Region/State on these protected weekends, whichever applies.

#### **Action Item #10 – Passed**

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – Stan Switzer**

The Committee is looking for ways to change the team Selection process to make it better for the athletes. Team Trials will be held at Cory Pickos in Santa Rosa Beach. Frank Harrison is stepping down as chairman after 20 years and Sherm Schraft will be the new Chairman.

## **Judges/Scorers Qualifications – Ray Crenshaw**

Lisa Steiner is the new Chairman of the committee. We are working on an official's credit online look up. Senior Officials clinic will be in Houston.

## **Rules – Scott Snape**

Many members asked that the rule book be distributed early this year.

## **Technical – Gene Davis**

New youth rope has been designed for Boys & Girls 1 subject to AWSA Board Approval. Trick course will be standardizing this year so that IWSF & AWSA Courses will be the same.

## **Coaches Advisory – Jim Grew**

No Report

## **Junior Development – Kerry Morgan**

There were two Southern Region Junior Development Clinics this year one at Linda Gidden's and one at Cory Pickos site. The Mastercraft Junior water ski banquet auction raised \$2,100.00 for Junior Development this past year thanks to Mastercraft, Ray Crenshaw, Michelle Robertson, Tommy Newman, Mike Hayes Jewelers, Sunset Lakes Ski Club, Our thanks to the Traver's family and the Kentucky Water Ski Federation for donating the flying helmet, and Poochie for smooch the pooch. Thanks again to everyone who has made the Southern Region Junior Development a success.

## **Safety – Scott Crenshaw**

No Report

## **Tournament Seeding – Gary Pressley**

121 tournaments included in the seeding list for last year. The Scorebooks are being reported on a timely manner and are mostly error free. The Ranking list has become very popular and any mistakes can be corrected if reported in a timely manner.

## **Skiers Rating – Joel Norton**

It appears that we keep lowering the required rating for Nationals to attempt to keep the number of entries at Nationals at the same level. After much discussion the previous problems of weighting tournaments has been resolved with the recommend of the following:

The ranking list average will be calculated in the following manner:

Weighting of E, L and R scores

Each class E, L and R score (best single round per tournament) will count as two scores for the Calculation of the average. Class C scores will count only once.

Penalties for fewer than Three Tournament Scores

A skier having fewer than three tournament scores (less than three actual performances, not doubled ELR scores) will have penalties applied to the average of the scores that they do have.

Penalties will be applied as follows:

One Class C Score 10%

One Class E or above Score 5%

Two Class C Scores 5%

One Class E or above Score AND one Class C Score 2.5%

Do No Harm Provision

Regardless of the number of scores in the Ranking List, the average will be the higher of:

- i. The best single score and applying the corresponding penalty from the chart above;
- ii. The best two scores and applying the corresponding penalty;
- iii. The best three scores with no penalty.

Note: "iv." is indicated in the spreadsheet as the Double ELR score average. If the proposal is approved, this average would replace the existing iii best three score average line item. It is listed as iv for comparative purposes only.

## **Boat Drivers – Ham Wallace**

The following Boat Driver National report was read to the council with no additional comments:

2008 was an interesting year for boat drivers. The learning curve in regards to speed controls was relatively short once all the drivers got the opportunity to use the systems. I think that it will eventually aid in enhancing drivers abilities to give the fairest possible ride to each and every skier. The communication lines are always open between the tow boat, speed control and drivers committees. I see the future of these groups, essential to the education of drivers and evolvement of the best possible equipment available to our sport. The coming year should be a little smoother than the past several years.

In 2008, the Southern region, gained 41 new trained drivers, 5 new Assistant drivers, 6 upgraded from Assistant to Regular, 3 upgraded from Regular to Senior status. On the other side, there are 41 pending downgrades. From the looks of the list, there are several that have moved on, several that did

not make any effort to retain their rating and 7 people that look like they made a good effort to maintain their status, but possibly missed out on a tournament or clinic due to last minute cancellations. I think that, if this is the case, there should be a deadline extension for meeting their requirements. Sometimes it is hard to get a tournament driving assignment when there are multiple drivers attempting to get seat time for rating maintenance.

The Southern Regional Tournament at Jack Travers last July was a busy event for Greg Webb. Greg did a great job covering the Chief Driver position for the tournament. He was well organized and the tournament went off without a hitch. Les Todd, Lyman Hardy and Gordon West, were great at their driving jobs and all were a pleasure to work with.

The 2008 Nationals, was a big event. The Chief Driver was Greg Chapman from the Mid-West Region. He did a wonderful job designating assignments and overseeing the drivers. The participating Southern Region drivers were Lyman Hardy and myself.

The yearly end-course videos are coming in by the truck load. I have all but a few. The review of all these tapes, DVD's and CD's is time consuming as usual but there is a lot to learn from watching and some constructive feedback is good. It is my wish that all the end-course videos would come on DVD or CD. There have been several submitted on small video camera tapes. Needless to say, I haven't viewed them as of yet. (But will).

The 2009 season is looming in the near future and I am looking forward to working with all the drivers in regards to advancement and help with maintenance concerning their rating status.

### **Towboat/ Speed Control – Greg Webb**

No Report

### **NSL – George Obser**

No Report

### **Announcers – Hank Longo**

The committee is putting together an application for an announcing rating system.

### **AWSEF – Jeff Clark**

Lucky Lowe, Lake Alfred, FL & Lynn Novakofski, Winter Haven, FL will be inducted into the AWSEF Hall Of Fame in 2009. Chuck Dees, Carlos Maciel, Johnnie Matranga, Mike Murphy & Jaap Suyderhoud will receive the Award of Distinction. No Elmer Stailing given this year as no one applied.

There was much discussion about the AWSEF "Lake Grew". USA-WS has broken the lease to run the lake and the AWSEF has put the lake out for bid to find someone to run the lake. The AWSEF will make all the decisions on the lake and the USA-WS Board will not have any input.



## **New Business**

### **Southern Regionals Medals:**

A following motion was made by Jim Jaquess " The Southern Region will provide a Council approved standard medal for the first five (5) places for the Boys 1-3 and the Girls 1-3 and the first three (3) places for all other Divisions." After much discussion this was passed by the council an additional motion was made by Stan Switzer that a Southern Championship hosting club may customize the medal with the club name and/or location. This motion was passed by the Council. The final wording was "The hosting club, at their option, may customize the standard medal to include the sponsoring clubs name and/or the location of the Regionals. The deadline for the submittal of the design for the customized medal will be at the midwinter meeting, immediately prior to the Regional tournament. If they choose to make this change to the standard medal, the hosting club will be responsible for any die charges and other costs involved over and above the basic cost of the standard medal. The hosting club will work closely with the EVP to control the amount of medals that will be available to be awarded at the tournament, so that there is not an excess."

### **Master Mens Divison:**

There was a discussion about a skier skiing in Master Men until Regionals & Nationals then they drop back into the age Division (Men3, 4 or 5) for these tournaments. This needs to be forwarded to the rules committee.

### **Sanction Fees:**

A discussion about lowering sanction fees was considered and it was decided not to lower the fees.

A motion was made and passed to raise from \$100 to \$300 the funds to pay National Committees and Chairpersons of National Committees who are required to travel and attend meetings.

A motion was made and passed to increase from \$100 to \$200 to each of the Southern Region Officials appointed to the past National Tournament. This includes Judges, Drivers, Scorers, Safety Director, Technical Controllers, Announcers (approved and assigned) and the Qualifications Judge.

A motion was made and passed to change the EVP and National Directors stipend to \$300 per trip to each of the two (2) scheduled meetings of the AWSA Board of Directors. It was previously \$300 per year.

A motion was made and passed to change the Payment for Officials Clinics from \$100 to \$200 to pay to each State Federation for each type of Officials Clinic hosted and for each clinic hosted

A motion was made and passed to change the amount to pay the host a Regional Junior Development Clinic for Southern Region junior athletes from \$1000 to \$1500.

A motion was made and passed to add an additional sanction fee for a Class C, 1 day – (evening tournament, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) the fee shall be \$50.

## **New Business:**

Jeff Clark has revised the "Standard Bid Form for the AWSA Southern Regional Tournament Ver. 1/2009" and it was accepted by the council and will replace the current Bid Form in the Southern Region P&P.

The last article of business at the 2009 Southern Mid-winter Regional Meeting was the EVP, AWSA National Director, USA-WS Director Candidates announcement:

Gene Davis is running for Executive Vice President & USA-WS Director.

Jim Jaquess is running for Alternate Executive Vice President

Lymand Hardy & Jerry Hargis are running for AWSA National Director

Leon Larson is running for Alternate National Director.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm