

2011 Southern Regional Summer Meeting Minutes **07/28/11 – Mulberry, FL**

OPENING: Thanks for coming. We will keep this meeting short and to the point. I hope you are enjoying everything. A reminder on basic housekeeping. I've noticed this at the site and here at the hotel. If you see any items/trash around, throw it out, pick it up, and try to keep the area clean. Ruth Johnson welcomed everyone and thinks it has gone well so far and we have lucked out with the weather missing us. Copies of agenda are available.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN: Jeff Clark was appointed and accepted

ROLL CALL: Sign in sheet will be passed around. Please sign and add your current E-mail and phone.

Directors – Lyman Hardy, Jim Jaquess, Chris Eller

Alabama – Bob Schouten, Milton Weathers, Jay Estes

Florida – Gordon West, Mark Griffin, Kerry Morgan/Brenda Baldwin, (Stan Switzer)

Georgia - Ray Crenshaw, Elaine Guarino, Craig Bryans (Robert Blair - Joel Norton,)

North Carolina – Chris Eller, Jerry Hargis

South Carolina – Keith Shirley, Kathy Shirley (for van Akelijen's)

Tennessee - Ric Stallings, Kirby Whetsel, Greg Webb

Kentucky – Tim McKune, Pat Coomes, Joe Burkhead

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM: Yes.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve and seconded.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2011 WINTER MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were distributed electronically (prior to the meeting) with an apology for the delay in getting them out. Copies are available if anyone wants to review before approval. Motion to approve the minutes was made (KW) and seconded (PC). Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT: Jeff Clark – \$66K in our Money Market Account and \$4033 in checking as of June 30th. This is a little heavy but we have to pay for a 2 year supply of medals for the Regionals (about \$3600) and we do have normal regional expenses coming due. We've collected \$16,600 in sanction fees. 46 Tournament Sponsors used the PayPal account to sanction their events (out of 117). This was a good option and seems to be working well. We did not have our PayPal account in place at the beginning of the year (when most sanction fees are paid). We expect to see better numbers next year. To summarize we are on budget for this current year.

Joe Burkhead asked about the last time we had an independent audit. We have a good amount of cash coming in and going out and good business sense says that we should have an audit done every so many years. There are actually two types of audit that can be done and Tim Denny looked into this. It was his recommendation not to have these audits done due to cost (\$1500-1800 at the time). We do submit a P&L to AWSA and this is a part of their tax return. Tim felt that since this was all internal and was cut and dried that it was unnecessary. No other questions. Motion to accept report (MW) and seconded (EG). Motion passed.

ELECTION (EVP / NATIONAL DIRECTOR / USA-WS DIRECTOR / ALTERNATES):

Absentee or write-in ballots received were calculated by Gerald K and results sent. There were no write in nominations. These numbers were incorporated into the votes below.

EVP - Bob Archambeau was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the EVP position. (LH) moved that the nominations be closed and it was seconded (JJ). A vote was taken and the majority elected Bob for another term as EVP.

Alternate EVP – Jim Jaquess was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the Alternate EVP position. (LH) moved that the nominations be closed and it was seconded (JJ). A vote was taken and the majority elected Jim as Alternate EVP.

National Director – Jim Jaquess was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the National Director position. (LH) moved that the nominations be closed and seconded (RC). A vote was taken and the majority elected Jim for another term as National Director.

Alternate National Director – Leon Larson was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the Alternate National Director position. (LH) moved that the nominations be closed and it was seconded (JJ). A vote was taken and the majority elected Leon as Alternate National Director.

USA-WS Director – Gene Davis was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the USA-WS Director position. (LH) moved that the nominations be closed and it was seconded (JJ). A vote was taken and the majority elected Gene for another term as USA-WS Director.

Alternate USA-WS Director - Jerry Hargis was the only name on the ballot. It was asked if there was anyone else interested in the Alternate USA-WS Director position. (PC) moved that the nominations be closed and it was seconded (AC). A vote was taken and the majority elected Jerry as Alternate USA-WS Director.

EVP REPORT: Despite this being a learning year for me, one very noticeable thing came out when sanctioning tournaments. We continue to have a shortage of officials. This is in all areas – Judges, Scorers, Drivers, and Safety. This is not just a local tournament issue, but it even hit the Regionals for this year when we had to go out to solicit additional officials before we could put out a ballot. There were a number of “Named” tournaments that actually cancelled due to lack of officials. You as Councilmen, Federation Officers and members really need to look into how we all can expand the number of officials at a federation level. I would also like to thank everyone for reaching out to me directly with questions/concerns. I hope I am responding to your concerns in a way that benefits you (if not, I’m sure you will tell me). Thank you and keep the dialog open. There are a couple of other things I wanted to mention but I know they will be covered in the Federation Reports – which are next. Thank you – Bob A

REPORT OF FEDERATION PRESIDENTS:

Alabama: Bob Schouten – We’ve had an up & down year with our numbers being stagnant and a couple tournament cancellations. On the positive side we held a big Novice Tournament which was successful and a good Jr. Development Clinic before our State Tournament. We also have 2 big record tournaments on the books coming up.

Florida: Gordon West - We started our season in April when some of you were still snow skiing and we will be finishing just about the time for it to snow again. We are proud to have Ski Paradise hold the Regionals this year and welcome all of you here. Ski Paradise also took on our State Tournament this year which was very successful and we'd like to thank them for stepping up to States with Regionals on their plate. Eight (8) new state records were set. At the States we held elections of officers. For Council we have myself (also President), Mark Griffin, Stan Switzer and newly elected Brenda Baldwin. We would also like to give a special thank you to Kerry Morgan for everything she has done for us and the years of service on Council. We are also looking forward to the Big Dawg finals in West Palm Beach and The Rocket Man Night Jump.

Georgia: Robert Blair – We held some successful clinics this year. We had a Judges, Scorers and Safety clinic as well as two (2) Junior Development Clinics. I would also like to thank Ray Crenshaw for his involvement in Junior Development, he does such a great job. We also had an Adult Development Clinic which went well. This year we shared our State Tourney with Tennessee at Callaway Gardens which was a really fun event. The recap on election of officers – the real big change is that Craig Nolan will be taking over as President and he is with us here today. Another positive note is that this year we had more Juniors qualify for the Regionals than ever before and the Georgia Federation was able to sponsor practice for all of them here on site.

Kentucky: Tim Mckune for Eric Kelly - The 2011 Ski Season has been pretty typical for Kentucky. Our state will host 6 tournaments at 3 different sites this year. Twin Oaks Lakes in Paducah suffered a 100-year flood, but was able to host its regular tournaments and a Junior Development clinic. Our state website (kentuckywaterski.org) continues to get better with time. Our membership has dropped somewhat this year and we are going to make direct efforts to get it back up for 2012. Numbers participating in the state tournament were down as well. Our officers are President: Eric Kelley / Vice President: Joy Coomes / Secretary: Kathy Kesheimer / Treasurer: Ann Catlett / Council: Joe Burkhead, Pat Coomes and Tim Mckune. We currently have 49 members in the State. We held 2 Jr. Development Clinics one 3-day with Brenda Baldwin as coach, one 1-day clinic. 16 skiers participated in the 3-day clinic. 12 participated in the 1-day clinic. No official's clinics were held this year. We are continued to be blessed by officials in Kentucky. We have an abundance of drivers, judges, safety and scorers. This allows us to run our tournaments without overworking everyone. We would like to congratulate Bob Archambeau for being the first Southern Region EVP from Kentucky since Danny Greenfield was EVP many years ago. We are also proud of Tim Mckune for being selected as the first Chief Boat Driver for the Southern Regionals from Kentucky

North Carolina: Chris Eller – We started the year with a Junior Development Clinic at Lake Magnolia and had about 20 skiers. We had a Drivers Clinic at Beaver Lake with about 20 participants from Trained Driver through Senior attending. Beaver Lake also hosted the Collegiate All-Stars with great success. Our State Tournament was held at Clear Lake where we held the election of officers. We also recognized Brenda and Jerry Hargis for their hard work and they were inducted into the North Carolina Water Ski Hall of Fame. We paid out \$1000 in Scholarships to Juniors this year with \$500 going to the winner and \$500 which was split for the tie for second place. We had 10 new State Records set this year. We improved our website, as well as getting on Facebook and Twitter. Unfortunately we did have some bad news, Gary Presley was diagnosed with ALS. He has been in good spirits and the family is taking each day as it comes. We are making a video of our States to send to him as a gift for all his efforts. Gary also received a Big Round of Applause for his contributions to NC as well as the Region.

South Carolina: The Shirley Family is representing SC in place of Jeanette and Robert van Akelijen. SC held 13 total tournaments in the 2011 Ski Season: 4 Class R / 6 Class C / 1 Junior Development / 2 Collegiate. Twelve of these tournaments were held at Trophy Lakes in Charleston – a big **THANK YOU** to the crew at TL for being there for us! Our State Championship was held last weekend and we want to once again thank our judges from NC for helping out....Alan Long and Mark Dingeman. Although we held a State Meeting, we did not have a quorum so new officers could not be elected. Matt DuBon, our current President, will send out ballots via email for voting. 2012 tournament schedule has not yet been finalized; however, we intend to duplicate our 2011 schedule. In closing, 2011 was another exciting season with the following SC State records either tied or broken:

- Kyle Shirley tied the M1 Slalom record with 3@38
- Pam McNairy broke the W4 Slalom record with 5@35
- Bud Davis broke the M5 Slalom with record with 1/2 @39.5

Tennessee: Kirby Whetsel - Our big event was the combined State Tournament with GA held at Callaway Gardens. We need to thank 4 key people. Our Co-Tournament Directors Steve Raybourne and Elaine Guarino and 2 guys that, without their help and knowledge, we could have never pulled it off, John Carder and Tommy Newman. We also have to thank the Atlanta Water Ski Club for use of their Jump. We had a number of awards presented this year. Carlos Maciel (who as you may know recently passed away) was inducted into the Tennessee Hall of Fame, Steve Raybourne was given the Vic Varallo Award, Roger Whetsel received the Tim Denny Award and Linda Giddens was inducted as an Honorary Member into the Tennessee Hall of Fame. Newly established will be the Roger Whetsel Scholarship Fund. \$500 annually will be given to a qualifying student of college age towards their education. We also have a new jump site we would like to announce. The Sweetwater site actually has 2 jumps and was built by John Carder and Dennis Kelly. There has already been one tournament held there and with any luck we will be holding the State Championships there next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A motion was made to accept all committee reports as read. The motion was seconded and passed.

Tellers: Gerald Kirschner - Sent us the absentee ballots. There were no issues.

Awards: Michele Seal - Nothing to Report.

Bylaws: Jeff Clark - Nobody wanting to turn the world upside down. There have been no changes and everything is static at moment. There may be some P&P changes in the future but nothing now.

International Activities: Stan Switzer – The under-21 team and World Team have been selected. We ran into some tough competition at Worlds and did not perform as well as anticipated. Conditions were good and so were the scores, but the competition is getting better. The Under-21 tournament will be held in France the first week of September. Team selection is being done a little bit different this year, not by team trials, but by Record Tournament scores. It's working for now and we will see how it goes. Pan Am teams will be selected August 10th by conference call. A question was raised about using conference calls instead of face to face meetings. Response - As long as the material is supplied in advance it does not cause any problems. Question on what is paid for the Under-21 team. Room, Flight and Entries are covered. Entries must be paid by a Federation Office as there are no individual competitors in this event.

Judges/Scores qualifications: Ray Crenshaw – We are working on an on-line judges training system to be used in hardship cases. This is not intended to replace Clinics. Southern Region Statistics - New Assistant Judges 9 / Regular 7 / Senior 2 and for Scorers we had 0 Assistant Scorers / 3 Regular. These show low number of new judges and scorers. We need to beat the bushes for more involvement. There is a current issue involving Elite Athletes (fast tracked to Senior) being used as officials in “R” tournaments. I don’t know how some sites will be able to handle running a tournament without them. From what I’ve seen Elite Athletes do a better job in most cases. Most of this is tied to tricks. Stan Switzer commented that this could hurt tournaments and those that can do it should be the ones officiating. Jeff Clark clarified that there is a mis-understanding and this involves “R” Class only which is only Open Men and Women. It has no affect on Class “L” and below. Jim Jaquess noted that scores over 8K for Women and 10K for Men need to be Class “R”. There was great dialog regarding new / Assistant Judges/Scorers and continue to push these to Regular or Senior ratings. We have to nurture our officials. These Elite Athletes should not be called skiers – these are Senior Judges they have taken the clinic and passed the tests that we require for Senior Ratings.

Jeff Clark – (earlier discussion in Treasurers Report). The transfer to the new Scoring Program has been successful. There have been 4 clinics (across the country) that were completed early in the season that were attended by 52 Scorers. A teaching guide was provided to each member attending and there is now a web site that Scorers can go to for information. Overall it has been well received and those trained are now teaching others. Joel Norton (who attended the first clinic) recognized Jeff Clark for his contribution and effort in teaching all 4 clinics and the excellent job he did in preparation of the materials. There was a round of applause in appreciation for Jeff.

Rules: (BA) for Scott Snape - Per discussion with Scott Snape not a lot of changes. Speed changes for jump and slalom are in committee.

Technical: Jerry Jackson. As far as records being reviewed, two have been rejected and two are pending. Jerry has asked AWSA to consider giving Junior Skiers who set National Records a plaque along with the Certificate. He has requested the same for US Skiers setting World Records as the IWWF and Bob Corson have not done anything for them in the last eight (8) years. This year he did go around and hand out letters, but there was not any recognition for their accomplishments. Jerry has taken it upon himself and is working with Bob A to get something initiated for presentation at the Malibu Open (which is the next major event where current record holders will be) and there will also be 10,000 people attending that event. We need more TC’s. We are training one right now (by fire) here at the Regionals, but this is the only new recruit we have. He is taking rule 14.01 (dual citizenship) and rules around 3rd segment jump timing (IWWF and AWSA does not match up) to the rules committee for review. He has also been approached by some Master Men to consider raising slalom speeds to 35 mph and this is under evaluation. Discussion ensued around the question of tailoring the sport around individuals. IWWF will be raising Women’s IV Jump speed to 51kph when the rule book is published in October.

Coaches Advisory: No report.

Junior Development: Elaine Guarino – We picked the Regional Junior Team this year and would like to thank Brenda Baldwin for her efforts in reviewing the information. We held a clinic at Tommy Newman’s in May that was very successful. Looking into the future we need to look for more Junior talent at the younger levels. The Girls group is pretty good, but our numbers are way down for the Boys. We have received a lot of great items that were donated towards this years Banquet and Auction.

Safety: No report.

Tournament Seeding: Kirby Whetsel - no report to give at this time. (BA) asked for a round of applause to thank Kirby for stepping up into this new role.

Skiers Ranking: Joel Norton – nothing to report. If any changes, input e-mail him and he will take care of it.

Boat Drivers: (BA) for Ham Wallace - There have been no meetings or communications, everything is status quo. If any of you have comments or questions he asked that you write him.

Towboat/Speed Control: Greg Webb - Reported that the next towboat meeting will be at Nationals on August 8th. Towboat tests are scheduled for October 17-21 and tentatively scheduled at Lake Grew.

National Ski League: No Report

Announcers: (BA) for Hank Longo – We are looking to add more rated announcers, but we are not getting nominations for official announcers. Please get Hank the names of your local tournament announcers, so he can get those names into the system and be part of a newsletter so we can expand our numbers. Donna Switzer agreed that she had difficulty in identifying Regional announcers. “You want to have a good announcing team from the Region to announce the Regionals, but the list was pretty short. There are more announcers out there, but we need to find them”.

AWSEF: Robert Blair - Reported on something new called the Legacy fund. He asked that all States look into creating a Legacy for their State or members that are deserving from their State. Junior Scholarships (Skiers that qualify for consideration of College Scholarships) – There were only 8 applications for scholarships last year which seems extremely low for this economy. In previous years we have had as many as 30 applicants. We need to do a better job of informing college age skiers to apply for scholarships. We will shortly be announcing an event to be held in November at Lake Grew called “Skiing with the Stars” where people can ski and get instruction from a variety of Super Stars. And don’t forget to visit the silent auction tent for AWSEF on site.

OLD BUSINESS: (BA) - Any committee reports/state reports please send to Bob. Include election updates, new officers and contact information so we can update our files. This information along with your State records to be published in the Southern Region guide will be appreciated in advance. I would also like to apologize to Alabama and Georgia for missing their state records in last years Guide. The information was sent to me by Milton and Ray but was overlooked when finalizing the information. Lesson learned by me. Joel N asked that we update the committee name to Skier Ranking Committee. No other new business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: Leon Larson – At the Worlds in Russia we were not as strong in tricks as we need to be. We need to work with our trick skiers and improve our trick scores. Cable Wakeboard is on the “waitlist” for the Olympics. There are 8 different sports on the “short list” and only two above us (baseball and softball). The next thing Kuno R would like to do is to get 3-Event cable snuck in to the Olympics and develop the Electric Boat (to satisfy the IOC and environmental concerns). We will be able to get 3-Event skiers behind the electric boat and at some point in time make the move to get that into the Olympics. There is a link on our web site (and you may not like it) but please vote for Cable Wakeboard to get into Olympics. This will get our foot in the door, bring the organization more money and help identify us as an Olympic Sport.

Donna Switzer – The Southern Regional bid packet lists officials needed for events. These may have been good at one time, but the number of officials required today is less. We need to review and potentially reduce the number of officials assigned and look at areas where we may need more. Jeff Clark stated that at times scoring had three simultaneous events running that took 8 scorers leading to a 14 hour day one and 11 hour day 2. The first two days of any Regional is “killer”. With participants wanting instant results, that needs to be looked at before considering reducing officials. Donna continued to note that they had to add several additional Drivers for tricks. Consensus was to look into the # of officials needed and it was recommended to do this prior to the Winter Meeting. Additional discussions continued asking if Officials should come from outside the host club / a blend of both / or utilize host club Officials to the benefit of the club. Costs / duties / potential distractions of host club officials (performing other duties). [Please note that each speaker had Senior Official Credentials / was or has been appointed to the Regionals recently and each is a contributing member of Regional host clubs. It was also agreed that each site brings on different challenges.]

Ruth Johnston - Ski Paradise announced it would like to bid for the 2012 Southern Regionals. We had so much fun rebuilding the jump and all the other improvements that we'd like to do it again. We took on the 2011 Regionals when nobody would, we worked hard and we would love to host it again in 2012.

Pat Coomes - Kentucky Lake Ski Nuts announced it is also bidding for the 2012 Southern Regionals as well.

Joel Norton – Ski Paradise has done such a marvelous job in hosting the Regionals this year. Since they have gone to all this trouble they should go to the top of the line for next year.

Steps for voting on next years Regionals were defined. Expected timing and process was also discussed.

Stan, Donna and Ruth were Identified (and by applause) thanked for all their efforts in 2011.

(BA) One of our main sponsors for this event - Polk County Sports Marketing has asked each of us to complete a survey. Please take time after we adjourn to fill one out.

A motion to adjourn was made – seconded and passed.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned 8:23pm.