

2014 Southern Region Summer Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 24, 2014

Hotel Capstone – Tuscaloosa, AL

Opening Remarks: We all need to thank Lyman, Taylor and the whole crew here at LymanLand for having us here a second year. Everything is going perfect and we appreciate your efforts. A note of thanks for the Safety Crew (who have been in the water quite a few times already), you are doing a fantastic job. Judges, Scorers, the Technical Crew and Drivers, we can not do this without you and we appreciate the long hours you put in - Thanks. Bob Schouten, great job and you have a great crew. There is a sign in sheet going around, please everyone sign in.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm

Jeff Clark was asked and accepted the appointment of Parliamentarian.

Roll Call

AL – Bob Schouten, Caldwell Marks

Lyman Hardy (Dir)

FL – Gordon West, Dennis Longo, Stan Switzer, Jody Seal

Jeff Clark (Treas)

GA – Ray Crenshaw, Craig Bryans, Elaine Guarino

James Cawthorn (Pres)

KY – John Harris (Pres), Bob Harris, Pat Coomes

NC – Bob Archambeau (EVP)

SC – Davis Cordina, Seth Stisher, Meghan Keefer

TN – Greg Webb, Tommy Newman, Seth Berry

Members in attendance – Ruth Johnston (FL), Donna Switzer (FL), Roger Logan (AL &TC)

Cory Pickos (FL)

Jeff Clark noted that we had a quorum.

The 2014 Southern Region Summer Agenda was reviewed and there was nothing new to add. The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2014 Mid-Winter Meeting Minutes – A correction of the Mid-Winter minutes was noted by the Georgia Federation. That correction will be made and reviewed before the 2015 Mid-Winter meeting. **[Note BA - This information was sent out on July29, 2014 along with information on the Audit of the USA-WS financial documents. This should be reviewed and approved]**

Treasurer's Report – Jeff Clark – Detailed handouts were provided

Total Income - \$17,218 (\$15,500 coming from Sanction Fees)

Total Expense - \$ 6,270 (\$1100 Jr Dev exp - \$1906 Mtg exp)

Net Income - \$10,948

Checking – Jr Dev \$ 373

Checking – Other \$ 1,942

Total Checking \$ 2,316

Money Mkt – Jr Dev \$ 6,600

Money Mkt – Other \$70,768

Total Assets \$79,684

Total Liabilities & Equity \$79,684.45 (as of July 15, 2014)

A question was raised – “Do we really need \$79K for the Southern Region?” “The SR Council is not working on any new programs that require funding. We have reacted to requests and approved funding in the past. Any monies spent would have to be requested and approved by SR Council.”

Report of Executive Vice President – Bob Archambeau

This year we have seen lots of momentum in all States. All of this is for the positive. We have seen some great changes, some rebuilding of membership and renewed interest in our events and our sport. We have seen growth in our Junior Development activities and we are growing. We as a group need to continue to Adopt Changes, we need new and better (even different) ideas. We then have to accept those ideas and Support those ideas in order to make our sport better. We still need more officials in every category – Judges – Scorers – Drivers. We are seriously hurting in the areas of Technical Controllers and Safety. These are critical areas and we have had to make some “Rules Exceptions” in order to hold our events properly. As an example and my apologies to the Florida Federation - but I feel I need to point this out – As of today, we have 131 Florida Safety Trained individuals (this includes all sports disciplines) – but only 9 are qualified to even run a Class C event! These folks are not keeping up with their ratings. It’s not just safety - it is all Officials Classifications. We have work to do.

On a positive side Bob Harris (KY) developed a Judges internet Clinic that was fantastic. He has held a number of them and they work. We need to expand this. This is great for our classroom portions and is a benefit. Yes, we still have the need for “Practical Evaluations” i.e. Driver – Safety – TC but this concept has taken us a long way towards a better way of doing things.

It is great to see Officials stepping up and correcting a few items that were being ignored or short-cut. The message is getting out. We are doing the right things for the right reasons. We are making things convenient and smart. Please, let’s keep opening our eyes to new ways to do things.

Report of Federation Presidents:

AL – Bob Schouten: This has the best year for Alabama. Our Regionals are here in LymanLand for the second year which is great. We awarded a \$500 scholarship to Erin Goldstein at our State Championships. The Hump Day Slalom – a 3 tournament handicapped event turned out to be a huge success. We held a Novice clinic and a Slalom clinic and overall we’re jamming!

FL – Gordon West: Our Florida States were held at the Ski Club of the West Palm Beaches where a number of records were broken (see web site for details). Our Officer/Council elections kept the same group in place. Curtis Rabe and Dana Garcia are now on our HOF committee and Steve Garcia stepped up to lead our Junior Development efforts. This year George Levien was inducted into the HOF. The Over 35 Worlds at Jack Travers site jumped from 200 to over 400 Skiers making it the largest World Championship tournament ever held! The Florida Federation did follow up with all LOC’s, making sure Officials and details were entered properly and on time for each event and it worked. Thanks for all involved.

GA – James Cawthern: GWSF held elections and this year’s officers are: James Cawthern – President Craig Nolan – Vice President Kim Bryans – Sec. /Treasurer Regional Council - Craig Bryans – Elaine Guarino – Ray Crenshaw

The 2014 ski year to date has been busy since May. Our weather was again rainy, colder and windier than the normal curve, but stabilized somewhat in June. The rain continues, but that means more water for the lakes. Sanctioned tournaments were underway for Class C and Collegiate alike. It did not take long to realize that more officials are needed to support the tournament season. We have seen an increase in activity from Whitestone Lakes Estates and Legends Ski Club.

As of today there have been 8 single or multi event tournaments Class C and 1 collegiate tournament held and more are scheduled this fall.

The 62 year old public lake Atlanta Water Ski club held the State Championship on Lake Acworth after a 10 year State tournament hiatus. This was a very successful tournament with 52 entries, up from 39 the previous year. 25 of the entries were Jr, and 11 of them were first timers! Among the usual skiing, we incorporated Grass Roots series and Disabled skiers to the curriculum with 5 of each competing. We were floored when a JR girl's skier beat her slalom best by more than 10 buoys. A Jr. Disabled skier crushed his best by 8 buoys. Of the Jr. Skiers, 13 qualify regionally, and 9 nationally. Our banquet had 85 in attendance. 12 people were honored for their efforts in becoming or upgrading as an official. Gus Johnson was lovingly inducted into the Georgia Water Ski Hall of Fame. Linda Giddens presented her namesake award to Dylan Guarino for his improvement in 3 event skiing and for working toward an officials rating in judging and working to be a tech controller. Mike Mosley was given our Love, Service and Devotion award this year. He has worked as Chief Judge, administered Drivers Testing, providing time and technology as tech controller all while promoting his OB4 bindings systems. Facebook is lighting up with thank you's and comments of support for his contributions.

Whitestone Lakes on short notice held the Atlanta Pro-Am and is now preparing to host the Disabled National Tournament next month. They had the Summer Starter 3 event and are in the middle a Monthly Tuesday evening Slalom Series event that fills up. Many new Personal Bests are happening there. The reconditioning of Lake 2 was worth it!

New on the Georgia block is Legends Ski Club. They held their first slalom tournament last fall, another this spring. This fall a 2 event and we plans to hold 3 event tournament(s) next year. Legends also brought in ski coach Wade Cox hold a skiers clinic for Jr. and Adult skiers. There were 9 Jr, and Adult Skier with one Disabled skier. This is a private owner who has a love for the sport.

Ray's & Gus' Lakes in NE Georgia continue to hold 2 tournaments each year. Ray also hosts a ski Clinic with Jeff Rodgers each year for the Jr. Skiers who benefit greatly. He had 20 in attendance.

Unfortunately the City of Atlanta did not see Water Ski Atlanta as a benefit and voted against allowing Princeton Lake to be used for organized water skiing. This is a blow to the ski community as 20+ members were displaced by surprise. Many are now finding other places to ski and the area clubs are doing their best to keep them skiing.

As you can see, the focus has been on our Jr's through fundraising and membership. We work to provide training for Officials, JR & Adult's alike. We continue to maintain a healthy budget to offer practice sets, discounts for ski clinics, or caravan places like Soggy Bottom for a week of training with Russ Stiffler. 12 kids and 5 adults attended. 9 Jr's were taken to Florida for a clinic in spring. Even Faith Lake owner Jeff Wiswall has been known to grab a kid and coach 'em up for days at a time! It is programs like these that I am happy to report through the efforts of Kim Bryans and many others that Jr. Participation has risen this year. More than, it's not just Georgia, our friend across the border work hard to provide a fun and safe environment in which to grow our sport, and we would like to extend our gratitude to everyone.

KY – John Harris: KY is happy to report a successful 2014 season! We will have 8 tournaments this year, the majority of these being 3 event. We continue to concentrate on our Juniors because that is where the future of our sport lies. We hosted 2 Junior Development clinics, each attended by 15+ skiers. One of these was a 3 day camp with Dane Mechler as our guest instructor. Total cost for each skier, including food, gas, boats, etc was \$11.50 thanks to donations from the

Kentucky Water Sports Association.

This year we held a Pro-Am style (cash prize) tournament at the Ski Nuts site in Paducah. "Average Joes vs. Bikini Pros". There were 2 qualifying rounds then the finals were held in a Head to Head format "under the lights" at night. In a matchup pitting some of our best men and women skiers Regina Jaquess edged out Chad Scott by a half buoy skiing 2@41 off! We also held a 36 mph tournament with Tyler Scott edging out Dane Mechler in the finals. This tournament was successful in large part due to the efforts of Eric Kelley and Bob Harris. We hope to make it an annual event.

On a sad note, we lost a member of our Kentucky water ski family this year. Carly Marquess was one of our Juniors we all watched grow up into a beautiful young lady and was a big influence on all our Junior skiers. She was one of the KY Ski Nuts. She held or still holds several of our State records.

NC – Bob Archambeau: North Carolina held their State Championships at Clear Lake in Lexington, NC this year. We had 4 pro-am events at Little Mountain and great 3 event skiing up at Beaver Lake including a night jump. Shirley and Gary Coble were inducted into the NC HOF this year. Gary had this idea to build a ski area and with Shirley's backing this site is now the largest water ski training facility in the world! Congratulations to the whole Coble family. At the end of the year we are having a Skeet and Ski events combining skeet shooting, skiing combined with Professional and Amateur skiers. There will be an art festival and much more as we are planning the rest of the festivities.

SC - First we want to thank Mark Skeen and John Cox for putting so much energy in to hold our Federation together and to keep us going. John is out with an injury and is not skiing. We are excited to report some renewed activity within the SC Waterski Federation. The states, almost cancelled for 2014, were held on the normal state weekend and we are happy to report a 52% increase in participation from the 2013 state championships. The tournament was held at Rodgers Farm Pond home of Jeff Rodgers in Greenwood, SC. We held our state membership meeting at lunch with much discussion around growing our sport within SC. We have plans on 2 Jr Development Clinics, one east and one west before summer ends. Additionally there is discussion of officials and/or drivers clinics before next spring. There are multiple sites in SC and multiple stake holders that rely on the future of waterskiing. We have identified these and are working closely with them to insure the future of our sport. Key to growing waterskiing in SC are not only skiers but officials and tournaments along with a desire to work together to realize our full potential. We have renewed interest in building and maintaining our website as well as driving interaction through social media outlets.

We have an exciting group of officers that were elected to serve the skiers of SC and additionally we would like to thank the officers that have served in the past.

Watch out the City of Charleston has taken interest in our activities and looking to promote 3 Event and Show Skiing activities to promote our sport.

New officers are:

President - Mark Skeen

Vice President -John Cox

Secretary - Bud Davis

Treasurer - Michael Galloway

SC Regional Council Members (All New)

Mark Skeen

David Cordina

Seth Stisher

TN – Tommy Newman / Greg Webb: Tennessee ran their normal set of events this year, pretty much status-quo. We are down a bit at the Junior Level but continue to host some great Jr Dev clinics. We did have two new families join in Tennessee and both have skiers represented here at the Regional's. One of these skiers actually medaled. Michael Bullock (out of Purdue) recently bought Soggy Bottom Ski Club and has started a ski school there. They are getting skiers out of the Midwest and Southern Regions. They are also hosting several Wednesday Night Tournaments. Soggy bottom was the host of our State Championships (which was a great event). At our annual Federation meeting all Officers and Council remained the same. Birdie Birdwell was inducted into the HOF and Seth Berry received the Tim Denny Award. John Carder will be hosting his 2Rd – 3 Ev Record Tournament this fall and we look forward to that. We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Lake Pryor this year and of course the celebration took place at the Barking Dog Saloon. We also mourn the loss of Roger Whetsel this year. He was a great man and official who brought so much to all of us and we will miss him. We also wanted to say that Kara Macintyre was awarded the Roger Whetsel Scholarship Award this year

Committee Reports

Tellers - (for) Kirby Whetsel: There were 8 ballots received for our Election of Officers this year and all 8 were for Director Votes. This will be brought up next in our Election of Officers.

Election of Officers. The slate for the election of officers for 2015 is as follows...

EVP – Bob Archambeau

National Director – Jim Jaquess

ALT – Jeff Clark

ALT – Leon Larson

The floor was opened up for additional comments or nominees. Bob Schouten was nominated for EVP. Bob A shared that Bob Schouten has taken an active interest in holding this position and has been speaking to him for over a year now about the role. The interest that Bob S has and wants to bring to the position should be respected. There were no ballots presented to the Teller for this position. Bob A withdrew his name from the ballot.

Each of the positions was voted on individually, a motion made to cast a unanimous ballot and for each the motion was seconded. As announced the Officers for 2015 are...

EVP - Bob Schouten

ALT – Jeff Clark

National Director (3 year term) – Jim Jaquess

ALT – Leon Larson

Awards - Michele Seal: No Report Presented

Bylaws, SR, AWSA, USA-WS - Jeff Clark: There have been no recommendations at the National or Regional levels.

International Activities - Stan Switzer: We had a busy summer with the Pan-Am's in Columbia where all US Teams earned Gold Medals. We held the Junior World Team Trials and Southern Region members were represented well. There is the Can-Am's up in IL that is coming up. There was the Pan-American Olympic fest in July. The Over 35 Worlds is coming up at Jack's and right now the US has over 150 skiers participating. This will be a huge event – even as big as the World's. The Over 65 group for World's has been tough to qualify for as the IWWF has been changing qualification guidelines.

Judges/Scorers Qualifications - Ray Crenshaw: Big changes with the on-line clinics, (thanks to Bob Harris) has been extremely helpful. There will be no downgrades for Officials through Dec 31 of this year. But we must remind everyone to get your clinics completed. A question was raised by

Ruth Johnston regarding “Fast-Tracking of Officials. “If a skier holds a level 8 rating in an event they can be fast-tracked as an official. Shouldn’t there also be a fast-track for Overall level 8 skiers even if one of their events is not at level 8?” The room was in agreement and Ray will take this to the Committee for consideration. Another comment was the difficulty in maintaining Jump credits for some Judges. The committee has looked at this but the requirements are not that difficult. You would have to attend your State Tournament and only one other to maintain your ratings (every 2 years). No matter the changes we have to maintain a certain amount of integrity in maintaining our certifications.

Rules - Bob Schouten: The Rules committee has been very quiet for awhile. There has been some discussion on putting an “X” on the ramp surface but so far that is only a suggestion. We have been going through rope clarifications (language regarding Light and Mid weight lines). We also have been looking at matching World Rules for Tricks on “reverse tricks”.

Technical – (for) Jerry Jackson: The Tech Committee has been working with Rules on clarifying the rule on Light and Mid weight lines. Something will be coming out shortly. The next item is a heads up only. There is a Skier who is qualified by citizenship to ski in Regional and National competition and has just set a new US Record. We have been notified that they will be representing Great Brittan in the next World Tournament. The record and the right to represent another country (in this case) are both legitimate. We wanted the region to be aware of this before it happens.

Junior Development – Elaine Guarino (for) Amy Newman: We held a Clinic for the 24 member Regional Team at Lake Pryor. We had 8 members in attendance from various states. We wanted to thank Adam Reid for Coaching, Bobby Hill for Driving and Tina Hill for being safety. We have one more Junior Clinic to schedule this year. Each Team member this year will receive a Duffle Bag with the Southern Region logo and all Juniors will receive a Water Bottle with logo. We have a few Extra Water Bottles for sale if anyone is interested. We have secured a lot of great items for this years Junior Development Auction. Please plan on attending.

Safety – (for) Leon Larson: Leon sends his apologies for not attending as he had a meeting conflict this year for another committee he is representing. There has been a lot of renewed activity on the Safety Committee. Review of the manual and other information has found that we are needing some changes to keep up with current standards. [I wanted to note since Leon has been back on this committee there has been an improved momentum in this committee – Thank you Leon- BA]

Tournament Seeding - Kirby Whetsel: No Report Presented

Skiers Qualification - Joel Norton: No Report Presented

One item was opened for discussion: Overall Calculations needs to be reviewed and possibly recalculated for “Record purposes”. With the change in calculating scores some years back it is now impossible for some overall records to ever be broken. For example - today, if a (one) skier sets world records in Slalom, Tricks and Jump, their Overall score could never come close to what is posted today. This is due to a calculation change that was implemented some time ago and would make it impossible to break any Overall Calculation. This is true for M 8-9 and possibly for other divisions. It is recommended that we go back 5 years take the old scores and recalculate them using today’s standards. We would then use those numbers going forward. Any scores previous could be retired in order to give proper credit to the individual (past and present). As a suggestion, we should table this now and have a committee bring it back to council with a definite proposal on what to do. Go back to the point where the ranking calculation was introduced and make that the base line. A straw-vote of council was taken and the recommendation was to move

forward on this action. Dennis Longo and Ruth Johnston have volunteered to head up a committee on this (working with Joel) to seek these corrections. This item should be presented at the Mid Winter Meeting 2015 in order to get the information into the 2015 Southern Region Guide.

Boat Drivers - Ham Wallace: No Report Presented

One question was raised on how do suggestions, changes or ideas get submitted for Drivers. The concern was in testing up for levels. The requirements should be specific and clear. All recommendations or changes for Drivers should be submitted to Ham Wallace as our Southern Region lead for Drivers.

Towboat/ Speed Control - Greg Webb: The Tow Boat Committee will be meeting this year at the Nationals on August 12, 2014. Dates and location for the Tow Boat Tests are to be determined.

Announcers - Hank Longo: No Report Presented: Comment: Hank is doing an excellent job!

AWSEF - Jeff Clark: Since the January meeting, the AWSEF is making some strategic changes. They will now be operated under USA – Water Ski Foundation. The name change will make the Water Ski Foundation more identifiable with the main organization (USA – WS). We are identifying other changes to provide for future growth in membership, scholarships and programs. A big change will be in Scholarships. In the past there was a standard percentage (20%) assigned to administer the Scholarship. This was due to a number of reasons and most from having to duplicate activities in the process. By streamlining the process and eliminating extra steps we can reduce administrative charges, providing more money to be distributed. These changes should hopefully draw more scholarship monies. In the case of the Southern Regions Elmer Stailings Scholarship (\$1500); this award goes directly to the school in the name of the recipient and this year worked out to the benefit of the student

Gordon West motioned to raise the Amount of the Elmer Stailings Scholarship by \$1000 (giving it a total of (\$2500). This is a Southern Region Scholarship and other Regions are beginning to raise their amounts also. The motion was seconded and passed

Old Business

S Regional Qualification and language correction – Craig Bryans: The language in the minutes and the P&P does not match. What is reflected and voted on in the minutes is what needs to be in the P&P as a point of order. We ran into an issue with this language some time back. We need to remember that the Ranking System for Overall does not take into account what levels a skier is skiing in each event. It is an Overall ranking as an event. The Bob A has seen the discrepancy and will work to correct this by Mid Winter meeting.

1.1.4 Missing from P&P – Bob Harris – Housekeeping: It was noted over the summer that section 1.1.4 (Tow Boats) was missing from the P&P. That correction was made and was reposted properly as soon as we were notified.

Regional Excuses – Ruth Johnston: Our Regional participation has been continually dwindling every year for some time. Should it be mandatory that you must ski in the Regionals to ski in the Nationals? The cost to ski in both is huge. You first ski in the Regionals, sit out a week then go on to Nationals. The time and cost to do both is getting too large for families and even for officials who have signed up to do both. There are arguments on both sides of this. If Regional participation is not required for Nationals, the Regionals could/would likely die. If Regionals did continue and this is allowed, then the potential for Skiers to get to Nationals based on placement could allow skiers not really qualified to be entered in Nationals. The Regional LOC's would stand to lose money if skiers were not attending the event – but – they could save money by having less skiers and cutting down on days to house officials. A possible remedy would be to have those

skiers electing not to participate at Regionals pay $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the entry fee in order to support the Region or host LOC. Bob Harris noted that the preparation time to host the Regionals is no different if having 200 skiers or having 400 skiers. The best turnout possible is the goal if the LOC is going to invest that much effort in preparing. Ray Crenshaw suggested we look into splitting the official's assignments so they are not required to be there so many days. The LOC would not be adding to their costs as the rooms would remain the same. The same should always be true for the Nationals. Bob A cautioned that the main problem we have with Officials is Conflict of Interest. For this current Regionals we had all officials on site and ready to go and we were still short of officials because of the conflict of interests! At the request of Ruth, Bob A presented this concern to all 5 of the EVP's. The responses were all over the board regarding this issue and there was no clear (majority) direction in their responses. Bob A and Ruth J are to work on this for discussion during the winter meeting.

New Business

Ruth Johnston motioned for \$2000 to be set aside and given equally to the Southern Region Members representing the Over 35 World Team to help reimburse them for the cost of entry and expense. Bob Harris seconded the motion and Stan Switzer confirmed that 4 of the 8 members selected to the Over 35 World Team were from the Southern Region (which would work out to be \$500 each). The motion and second was amended to include that this would be payable after the competition. The motion passed.

Question was raised regarding the Regional Bid. Bob A: At this time I have one club that was willing to be backup site for the Regional's but have no specific details. There is a second site that mentioned interest but needed time to hold a club meeting to organize. I will follow up with both clubs after they have a chance to meet and get the details. It would be my intention to have a bid submitted to the Council by the end of August if possible.

Question was asked if the 3 year sit out rule was still in effect for Drivers? It was taken out for some officials due to lack of volunteers. Is that the case for Drivers? No, this should be looked at for Safety and some other Officials but we tend to get a large group of nominations for Drivers and have for many years.

Seth S: Can we set up funding to set up or improve our Southern Region Web Site? We need to really update it, make it current and make it a resource. This can be done if we get a proposal with actual details outlining what we want to do and how much. We can present it to the Regional Council at the winter meeting.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made – it was seconded and passed by a majority (2hrs: 12 min) – Bob Archambeau