

# 2014 AWSA Southern Region Winter Meeting Minutes

## January 11, 2014      Atlanta, GA

After a few brief comments the meeting was called to order at 9:25 am

Jeff Clark was appointed Parliamentarian

Roll Call –      EVP - Bob Archambeau      Directors – Chris Eller, Lyman Hardy, Jim Jaquess  
 Treasurer / Bylaws (S Region – AWSA – USA-WS) / AWSEF – Jeff Clark  
 AL – Bob Schouten, Milton Weathers, Caldwell Marks  
 FL – Gordon West, Stan Switzer, Jody Seal, Dennis Longo  
 GA – Elaine Guarino, Ray Crenshaw, Craig Bryans  
 KY – Bob Harris, Pat Coomes, Joy Coomes  
 NC – Alan Long, Brenda Hargis, Jerry Hargis  
 SC – John Cox  
 TN – Julie Yancey, Steve Raybourne, Ham Wallace  
 Committee Members – (not yet mentioned) – Joel Norton, Kirby Whetsel, Leon Larson,  
 Jeff Pohlig, Jerry Jackson, Greg Webb

A Quorum was announced

The agenda was reviewed - The letter (Southern Region Treasury Audit) from Tim McKune was added to Old Business. The agenda had a motion to accept and a second – Agenda approved.

2013 Southern Region Summer Meeting Minutes were put up for discussion.

Bob Harris noted concern on the posting (and timing) of the minutes on the Southern Region web site. This was explained, and then discussed.

There was a motion to accept the minutes as posted and seconded. Minutes approved.

**Treasurers Report – Jeff Clark** (below are highlights of the details presented)

Income:	Interest	\$ 86
	Jr Development	\$10,124
	Regional Guide	\$ 2,000
	Region Head Tax	\$ 246
	Medals	\$ 290 (reimbursement for extra LOC Medals)
	Sanction Fees	\$21,075
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,821</b>

Expense	Awards	\$ 3,856
	Region Support	\$ 600 (AWSA)
	PayPal	\$ 333
	Committee	\$ 1,650
	Contributions	\$ 1,800 (Educational Foundation)
	Misc Donations	\$ 1,175
	Director Exp.	\$ 4,200
	Jr Development Exp.	\$ 7,358 (All expense)
	Meeting Exp.	\$ 1,641
	National Officials	\$ 200 (each)
	Clinics	\$ 3,800
	Refunds	\$ 265
	Regional Guide	\$ 673
	Teams	\$ 3,525
	Web Site	\$ 234

As of December 31, 2012      Checking      Jr Development      \$ 84

	General	\$ 3,653
Accounts	Jr Development	\$ 7,800 (Restricted)
	General	\$57,234
	Total	\$68,722

A motion was made to approve the Treasurers Report and seconded. Treasurers Report Approved

### **EVP Report – Bob Archambeau**

Thank you for letting me serve the Council, Directors and Committees of the Southern Region. This job is very rewarding and gives insight into so many things. And believe it or not, it has been fun! It doesn't go without mistakes and as EVP, I will make sure that voting requests that are sent out are clear and understood. To review, we have certain votes that are confidential. Membership votes that elect EVP / Directors are confidential. Votes involving individuals for Regional and National Officials are also confidential. EVP's / LOC's / or assigned committees ever see how individuals voted. Only the teller has that information and that remains confidential. The EVP and an assigned committee will see how many votes Regional and National Officials receive but that is only for confirmation of the vote and in assigning additional responsibilities when needed. That information is to remain confidential.

Votes on all other matters are open ballots. These can be requested electronically, a show of hands or other accepted manner. These votes are public in nature and will include Southern Region business including votes on Regional Tournament Locations.

You were all challenged (at the summer meeting) to help us step up and get everybody to do things right. As council and representatives to water skiing you all did exactly that! We have tightened up on the way we operate and with very few questions being asked. Because of you, the Southern Region has again taken the 'high road' and have the largest Region back on track – Thank you

We need to continue to focus on keeping our sport fun and exciting. We see this through our Jr Development efforts, even more sites and new formats. I will not give examples in order to save it for the Federations to report upon. Let's continue to look at ways to grow membership and most of all let's have a fun year! Thank you

A motion to accept all Federation Reports with an automatic second was seconded and approved.

### **Alabama Report – Bob Schouten**

Alabama Council – Caldwell Marks, Milton Weathers, Bob Schouten  
National Director – Lyman Hardy

Officers            President – Bob Schouten  
                         Secretary – Debbie Miller  
                         Treasurer – Shauna Crenshaw  
                         Jr. Development – Wendy Goldstein

### 2013 Highlights – On the Rise

- Alabama had 17 tournaments in 2013, 12 tournaments in 2012, up from 10 in 2011. Two of the twelve tournaments were record tournaments.
- Regionals were held in our State at Lymanland!
- We had 434 entrants in 2013, 344 entrants in 2012, 271 entrants in 2011. That is a 26.1% increase compared to 2012 and a 60.1% increase compared to 2011.
- We had a Junior Development Clinic at Divorce Lake in early May. Alabama also held a clinic put on by Wade Cox at Lake Martin.
- Had our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual slalom clinic on Lake Martin (public). This was upgraded to a 2-day event and had 25 participants.

- All new participant entry fees into our State tournament were paid by Russell Marine.

Looking ahead into 2014

- The Alabama State Tournament will be held at Buck Lake in Chelsea AL
- A Spring Officials/ Junior Development Clinic will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Faith Lake in Shorter, AL
- Russell Marine is sponsoring the first \$500 of entry fees to new skiers at our State Tournament.
- A \$500 Scholarship will be give to the highest NOPS at our state
- We are having a Hump Day Grand Prix Class C handicapped series on Wednesday Nights with the winner receiving an HO ski of their choice.
- We have put together a committee to start an Alabama Hall of Fame! Our induction will be this fall.
- **The REGIONALS are in our State at Lymanland, AGAIN - We Rock**

### **Florida Report - Gordon West**

The past year was once again a busy one for skiers, officials & site owners. We hosted 71 tournaments while having 15 of the scheduled ones cancel for various reasons. The Isles of Hancock / Garcia's & Melnuk's hosted the Under 21 Worlds after a last minute cancellation and did a fantastic job. We hosted 3 judges' clinics - 4 drivers & scorers' clinics - 1 safety clinic. There were not any Jr. Dev. clinics.

After the discussions at the Regional Summer meeting about issues within our state concerning officials and sanctioning we have prepared a letter/notice that was sent out to all site hosts, officials & members. We will be monitoring the issues for 2014 season. Thank you to all of our officers & Council persons for their input, with a "Special Thanks" to Michele Seal, for the original draft of the letter.

2014 ski season: At this time we have 1 officials' clinic scheduled the last weekend in March at USA-WS HQ. At this time still no Jr. clinics' scheduled. There are currently 57 tournaments scheduled, mostly L&R events. The State Championships will be held at West Palm Beach. The 35+ Worlds will be held in October (8th-12th) at Sunset Lakes in Groveland. You can be assured that the Travers group will do a great job.

There are a few special event type tournaments in the planning stages but not confirmed at this time. Florida looks forward to another successful ski season.

***Note to Region: Bob A – Be advised that there are new requirements in sanctioning Record and IWWF events. Sanctions need to be applied for and approved 30 days prior to the event and this is a IWWF rule. From a sanctioning standpoint – this is a liability issue in have the wrong officials in place. Please be accurate.***

### **Georgia Report – Craig Nolan**

We had a full year of Waterskiing in Georgia in 2013. There were 14 sanctioned tournaments held in Georgia. Legends Lake had their first slalom tournament and Divorce Lake added two more tournaments after their start up last fall. Two Jr events welcomed some new families in to the federation.

Waterski Atlanta hosted the second annual Atlanta Pro Am over Memorial Day weekend. Once again George Obser promoted and brought together an exciting competition with the top skiers in the world and armatures from across the nation. We want to encourage George to continue the event in 2014.

Whitestone Ski Club hosted the State Championships and the annual banquet. Marty Flournoy was inducted in to the Georgia Water Ski Hall of Fame and we honored Dan Pritchard for his many years of selfless and dedicated service.

After elections at the state tournament meeting, the current Georgia Federation Board is as follows:  
President: Craig Nolan  
Vice President: James Cawthern  
Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Bryans  
Junior Development Coordinator: Kim Bryans  
Regional Council: Ray Crenshaw, Elaine Guarino, Craig Bryans

The Friday before the tournament Whitestone ski club graciously turned the main lake and club boat over to the juniors for a sanctioned practice with coaching provided by Alston Roberson. After practice all the juniors had a great time river rafting and fellowship.

Ray & Leigh Crenshaw once again hosted the Jr Only Clinic and Tournament. Jeff Rodgers was the coach and the kids had plenty of fun, fun and friendly competition. Ray & Leigh's generosity is very much appreciated every year by Juniors as well as parents.

Thanks to George Obser for the use of his facilities and boat, Jr development was able to organize a clinic that brought in 7 new kids that have not participated before. Joel Norton was the coach and did a fantastic job with the new kids as well as the more experienced skiers.

We expect to add at least a few more tournaments this year as our new sites continue to participate. The Jr development committee is in the planning stages of organizing a spring training trip and several clinics. We would like to see some of the kids that are on the grassroots level move up to competing on a regional level.

The Atlanta Ski Club will be hosting the State Championships on Lake Acworth at Cauble Park. This is a public park with a high visitation rate, especially during the State Championships weekend. We look forward to the prospect of showcasing our sport to the public over this weekend.

We will continue to work with LOCs chamber of commerce and local newspapers to encourage spectators with the added benefit of some "press" for the skiers. We were able to do that some this year and the skiers loved it. We had several newspaper articles with pictures featuring local and GA state skiers. Ultimately, our goal is recruitment of new ski families.

On a somber note, we lost one of our dear friends and longtime competitors when Quinton "PQ" Cotton passed away this summer. PQ and his family have been an important part of our federation for a very long time and we will miss him very much.

In closing, I look forward to a promising ski season for Georgia. See you on the water.

### **Kentucky Report – John Harris**

In 2013 we hosted 6 tournaments in KY. 5 of these were 3 event tournaments. Our State tournament was held in Walton, KY. 3 new state records were set. We had a 3 day Advanced Junior clinic in Paducah in June as well as a 1 day JD clinic before our State tournament. Each was well attended with about 18 Juniors at each. Stephen Seal was our head instructor for the Advanced clinic. We sent 23 skiers to the Southern Region tournament of which 12 were Juniors.

In 2013 we also had 3 Officials clinics. The first was held in Paducah in May and included clinics for Judges, Scorers, Drivers, and Safety. Bob Harris then sponsored 2 online Judges/Scorers clinics, one in July and the other in October. There is no doubt a future and real need for more of these online clinics.

In 2014, we again plan for 6 tournaments. There is discussion about hosting a public lake tournament in hopes to build more interest in the sport among families and recreational skiers. We again plan 2 Junior Development clinics. Our State tournament will be held at Stillwater Lake in Eminence, KY.

We currently have 53 active members in the KY Federation (33 family members and 21 single members). We have 8 active clubs and are currently hosting tournaments at 3 separate lakes.

### **North Carolina – Chris Eller**

North Carolina hosted a Jr Development clinic at Coble Ski School with approximately 28 juniors in attendance. We also hosted several judges, scorers, and drivers clinics throughout the summer. There were approximately 15 tournaments held including a night jump event at Beaver Lake that attracted 500 spectators. State Championships were held at Coble Ski School and despite rainy conditions for the entire weekend it was a great event. Little Mountain ski club held a very successful Pro Am event with lots of prizes. They also raised \$1000 for our Gary Pressley Memorial Jr. Scholarship fund at the event. The association inducted Sarvis Bass into it's Hall of Fame. Kristi Overton Johnson was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. April Coble Eller finished fourth at the World Championships held in Chile.

### **South Carolina – John Cox**

SC had a successful tournament season. Trophy Lakes again held numerous C/E/L tournaments. Our SC State tournament was held at Rodgers Lake. Trophy Lakes hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gary Pressley Memorial tournament.

New officers have not yet been elected for 2014 due to schedule conflicts and an apparent lack of participation. As my last act as president, I will attempt to have nominations and elections done via e-mail.

I am certain that there will be several tournaments in the state this year, but have been unable to gather any specifics

### **Tennessee – Ham Wallace**

The 2013 Tennessee State Championships were hosted by Lake Pointe in Collierville the second week in July. No changes were made to the slate of Officers at the annual meeting. David Turner was inducted into the Hall of Fame, Kirby Whetsel was presented the Tim Denny Award and Jerry Moore was the recipient of the Vic Varallo Award. The Stallings family and Lake Pointe Ski Club gave a splendid effort and the new Lake Dwellers shop and live music were enjoyed by all.

At the Southern Region Championships at Lymanland Tennessee fielded thirty-one skiers and gathered forty-two top five finishes – Most of those captured by our Junior Skiers. At the Nationals at Okeehelie Park we had twenty-two skiers compete and brought home nineteen medals. The fiercest battle was between two of our Tennessee skiers (Tommy Newman and Kirby Whetsel), who both took second and third in Tricks and Jumping but Kirby edged out Tommy for Overall. Congratulations to Kirby for being presented the Tommy Dorwin Judges Award.

Tennessee Girls rocked the 2013 Junior Masters. Brie Carter won the slalom event and Allie Nicholson was third. Kara McIntyre was an overall contender and went on to ski the Moomba Masters. Allie went to take the Malibu Open and Brie captured the G3 Slalom Record as well as first at the Nationals.

Boys 2 skier Garrett Stallings was selected to the US Can-Am Team and skied in the Championships. Joy Kelley has been selected for the US 35+ World Team which will compete in the fall. Kirby Whetsel has been selected to the US 35+ Pan-Am Team and will be competing in early Spring.

The Bullock Family has purchased the Soggy Bottom Ski Club and the lake renamed to Swerve Watersports. This will also be the location for the 2014 Tennessee State Championships. There will be a new ski school located there – Check out the web site at [www.swerveboards.com](http://www.swerveboards.com).

For 2014, Lake Point will host two events with one being a Record Capable Tournament. John Carder and Dennis Kelley will host 2 Tournaments at Headwind Hollow and Soggy Bottom plans on multiple events. Tommy Newman will host the 20<sup>th</sup> annual ski party at Lake Prior on June 28<sup>th</sup>

On a sad note, we lost a dear friend and skier, Dr Rob Smith of Knoxville, who passed away after a fierce battle with pancreatic cancer. His positive attitude and upbeat spirit throughout his illness was deeply inspiring to all of us. Rob had an engaging personality and boisterous wit – we will miss him very much.

We are looking forward to the 2014 Regionals at Lymanland and the Nationals at San Marcos River Ranch in Texas. Thanks to everyone for all that you do for our sport and wishing each of you good luck for the 2014 season.

**Committee Reports** – An announcement was made that **Gerald Kirschner** had stepped down from the Tellers Committee after numerous years of service. A plaque will be presented to Gerald and the plaque inscription was read. Several stories and comments were shared. He will be missed in that role. A round of applause was given as thanks for his service and contributions.

#### **Tellers Committee – Kirby Whetsel**

All 25 ballots for the selection of officials for the 2014 Regionals and 2014 Nationals were received on or before the deadline of Noon Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup>. We had one abstention on the vote for Regionals Chief Driver and one abstention for a Nationals Judge. All other votes were cast and tallied with the results of the total votes for each candidate given to the EVP. As directed by the EVP, all votes have remained confidential.

Regional and National Officials – [this is a final update as of 7/1/2014]

### **2014 Southern Regional Officials**

<b>Chief Judge</b>	Bob Schouten	
<b>Appointed Judges</b>		
Milton Weathers	Ray Crenshaw	Seth Berry
Ruth Johnston	Bill Wenner	Donna Switzer
Bob Harris	Leza Harrison	Stan Switzer
<b>Chief Scorer</b>	<b>Appointed Scorers</b>	
Jeff Clark	Teddy Wenner	Elaine Guarino
<b>Chief Driver</b>	<b>Appointed Drivers</b>	
Gordon West	Jody Seal	Bobby Hill
	Lyman Hardy	Pat Coomes (ALT)
<b>Chief Safety</b>	<b>Appointed Safety</b>	
J R Henley	James Cawthern	
<b>Chief Technical Controller</b>		
Roger Logan		

### **2014 National Officials**

### **Appointed Judges**

Jody Seal  
Ruth Johnson

Jazmine Mosley Gagner  
Kirby Whetsel

Bob Schouten  
Bill Wenner (ALT)

### **Appointed Scorers**

Elaine Guarino

Jeff Clark

Leon Larson (ALT)

### **Appointed Drivers**

Gordon West

Bob Archambeau

Bobby Hill (ALT)

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Tellers report was approved.

### **Bylaws – Jeff Clark**

The Safe Sport Handbook (which all of you should have received in the BOD Packet) is being required for all Olympic sports, which we are a part of. This handbook is being required for all of us. The language will not need to be approved by regions but will include all disciplines. It will be found in the USA-WS P&P and no action is required by us. Please take this seriously. This puts us on the liability ladder and you need to be aware of it.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Bylaws report was approved.

### **International Activities – Stan Switzer**

Our meeting was held at the Elite Team Trials at Jack Travers. Our Under 21 Team skied well and we should thank the Garcia's for hosting that event. Our Elite World Team also did the job and both groups won. All Team Trial requirements have been adjusted slightly. The Pan Am Junior and 17-21 Teams will not have a Trial due to the event being scheduled so early in the year (April). All World Teams have been posted and will be found on the AWSA web site.

**Note:** If a Team Skier has an injury prior to the Event is there a method to replace or go to backup? Yes – Team selection is based on a number of factors (not just the best in one event). We have to match our Team skills against our competition in order to put the best team in place. We have the information to replace or fix where we could fall short due to injury.

Brenda Baldwin has stepped down from her position on the committee and Jeff Smith will take over in that capacity.

**Note:** For Directors – The Safe Harbor Handbook applies to everyone which includes all USA-WS members (including AWSA). There were 2 members known that were exempt from this in the past and these allowances can not be tolerated. We can't afford to let this slip by again. It is an all or nothing situation.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The International Activities report was approved.

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

**A. National Senior Officials Clinic.** It's ON for Feb. 8 & 9, in Austin, Texas. Announcement attached. Highlights:

- Drivers will be included as well
- Aspiring Seniors (i.e. Regulars) will be allowed to attend, on a space-available basis
- Goal: 50 attendees
- Presenters (so far): Peter Dahl, Dave Allen. Goal: at least one presenter from each region.

**B. Virtual Clinic Attendance.** Clinic participants can now receive full credit (maintenance and/or upgrade) for attending a clinic virtually. Technical standards must be followed, using our GoToMeeting software, and the clinic must be authorized in advance for this method. The concept continues to be piloted successfully, and further advances (larger groups, other software options) are on the horizon.

**C. Trick Test Videos.** We have revised and updated the Practical tests for aspiring Regular and Senior trick judges. All trick runs have been replaced, with recent runs, and contain a good mix of today's most common tricks, sequences and technology. The new tests are completely web-based, meaning there's no more worrying about DVD's or discs any longer.

**D. Tricks Training Videos.** Hundreds of trick runs, including all 2013 Nationals trick runs, are on Gene Davis' YouTube channel. Most have the scoring detail sheet at the end of the run. Great training aid for trick judges and scorers... and skiers too! Many thanks to Gene!!

**E. Assistant Judges & Assistant Scorers Forms.** Both have been revamped and modified. Obsolete requirements have been replaced with tasks better reflecting today's competition environment. Forms attached for board approval.

**F. Emeritus Requests.** Committee recommends awarding Sr. Judge Emeritus and Sr. Scorer Emeritus for Sherm Schraft.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Judges/Scorers Qualifications report was approved.

## Rules – Bob Schouten / Jeff Pohlig

### RULE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO S REG COUNCIL: RESULTS AS REFLECTED AT BOD

**PROPOSAL 1: ADD Class X**

**Does not Pass** – S Reg – Why X and separate Class F

**Passed by vote of BOD**

**PROPOSAL 2: ADD: 1.15 Judging Standards**

Passed

**PROPOSAL 3: 3.06 Performance Rankings**

Passed

**PROPOSAL 4: 4.02: Change the dates in the first paragraph next to last sentence.**

Passed

**PROPOSAL 5: 4.03A section 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence -suggest the address contained in database .**

Passed

**PROPOSAL 6: Judging for all events must be performed on the tournament site.**

Passed

**Passed by vote of BOD**

**PROPOSAL 7: Disqualification Proposal moved to the end of approval proposals.**

Passed

**Concerns with 11.18D – What designates interference and what and when is coaching against the rules**

**12.03 Rest periods S/B 3 minutes or whatever is longer and letting a skier sit out in a seeded event could cause an unfair advantage**

**Passed by vote of BOD**

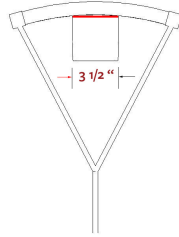
**PROPOSAL 8: Rules 8.02.D & E – Proposed Version**



**Passed** Concerns need to be sent to towboat committee. How does this affect tricks (red boat vs blue boat) and or towers / bimini's Change in language to Multiple from Two

**Passed by vote of BOD**

**PROPOSAL 9:** 8.04D When measuring curved handles a 3.5" (9cm) block will be used



**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 10:** 8.10F skier supplies own 80# jump switch, then the skier accept responsibility.

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 11:** 9.07 Boat Path – Jump

**Does not Pass – S Reg** – This needs to be defined. Problem with shorter lakes for all skiers and/or sites for longer jumpers 200'+. Heavy discussion against by Sr Judges and Drivers

**Did not pass by vote of BOD**

**PROPOSAL 12:** 10.03B – Add the wording from IWWF Rule 14.06.b – Gates

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 13:** 10.03C Add: A skier who misses their entry gate

**Passed**

Passed by vote of BOD – Amended to Class C

**PROPOSAL 14:** 10.07 Boat Path - Slalom

**Passed** Concerns how to measure accurately for Record (boat balance / video)

**Did not pass by vote of BOD – Recommend that we use of IWWF language**

**PROPOSAL 15:** 10.08D2c – Gate Review

**Passed** S Reg not in favor of Frame by Frame

See Straw vote after meeting.

**PROPOSAL 16:** 10.06D Add: National record

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 17:** 11.10D Timing Devices:

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 18:** 11.10E4 Add: Tricks

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 19:** 11.12P ADD: A Front Flip may also have a reverse.

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 20:** 11.20H Add: If video is unable to decide a trick, Chief Judge decision.

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 21:** 12.07 Safety Personnel shall have a **(Coast Guard approved Type III)**

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 22:** Trick - specify optional buoy be green and entry buoy shall be red.

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 23:** 13.02 Head-to-Head and Elimination Competition

**Passed**

**PROPOSAL 24:** **RULE 13.04 - NO GATE SLALOM FORMATS**

**Does not Pass**

**Did not pass by vote of BOD**

**PROPOSAL 25:** 13.02A: Head to Head Rounds

**Passed**

- PROPOSAL 26:**      **ADD 14.02: For a National Record, the performance must have occurred at a speed no greater than the division's maximum speed.**  
                         **Passed**
- PROPOSAL 27:**      **In Class E Slalom events, an ASSISTANT JUDGE may be used**  
                         **Passed**

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Rules report was approved.

#### **Technical – Jerry Jackson**

**2013 Nat'l Records:** 18 slalom, 8 jump, 8 trick records approved; Total of 8 pending records were declined. The 8 member Trick Record Review Board (RRB) had a full schedule this year. Records were submitted by 17 different TC's this year.

**2013 Record Tournaments in 2013 ski season** (approx. total = 130): South-75, S Central-24, West-16, Midwest-11, East-4

#### **2013 TCs(approx. total 74) (added 4 and lost 1 in 2013)**

South-17, S Central-15, West-22, Midwest-12, East-8

*(Caution- SOUTH is short on TC's for the amount of Record Tournaments they sanction)*

We have 4 new TC's: Kelvin Kelm (TX), Roger Logan (AI), Terry Dlugosh (TX), Dave Goode (MO).

The minimum age on the application form was changed from 15 to 18 (no one's sure where age 15 came from. Several TC's felt that we need a TC Apprentice (similar to Judges Assistant Rating)(The current TC application - 3 tournament and clinic would qualify for Apprentice). An Apprentice could work Class E? A Sr TC would require additional years which would be required to work Class L/R, major tournament. This will be discussed in more detailed throughout the year. Open for discussion.

**2014 AWSA Rule Change Request:** All covered under the Rule Change Request.

**2014 Record Application Form:** Revised to include a statement to verify that the skier meets the rule requirement for dual citizenship, as requested by the BOD at the 2013 Summer Meeting. We also added a Checklist to identify all the required documents per event. The Record Application Form is in the Scoring Program and is to be submitted electronically by the tournament TC with all data to the TC Chairmen File (Adrive.com).

#### **2014 Record Transmittal Process:**

- 1) All documents will be downloaded in into one directory by the tournament TC. In the past, the documents have been submitted to the TC Chairmen in various files/format. This will provide one central point for all records. Setup is in Adrive.com under AWSATC@Hotmail.com.
- 2) All Trick records are being placed on YOUTUBE as unlisted for the RRB to review; only the RRB members have the link. The video is not listed as public view.
- 3) Changing the name of the "AWSA Pending Record List" to "AWSA Pending/Interim Record List"
- 4) Record Process: When Records are approved by the TC Chairmen/RRB, a "Letter of Recommendation" is issued to AWSA President for Acceptance/Approval; and then "Certificates" are mailed to the skier by AWSA. At the same time the "AWSA Male/Female Record lists" are updated, the names are removed from the "Pending/Interim Record List". There is no schedule for the posting the "Male/Female Record Lists". We try to post the "Pending/Interim Record List" monthly. For the past 3 years I have been updating the "Male/Female Record List" and issuing the "Letter for Approval" at the end of the yr. Problems this year, we had a lot of records in Oct and did not get the data until mid Nov. The Records are tracked by Calendar Years. Peter Dahl and I are splitting up the review process, helping to expedite the process.

### **2014 Technology New:**

**Donal Connolly (SplashEye)** has written a program (test model) that can be used to verify slalom records (boat path deviation) with captured video. This program will play other video format to verify boat path; in lieu of having to play the video file into Bob Corson codec (using trick program, then using the BC Record Checker), which the quality (640x480) of the video sometimes makes it difficult to see the pylon. This program will save time and frustration, Thanks Donal.

SplashEye EC AutoTracker: Tested and verified at the AWSA Boat Test and used at WPB during the 2013 Nationals. The program works 99% of time with a "good" site setup. Donal continues to make changes to try and accommodate "not good" site setups. He is very receptive to our suggestions for changes.

As TC Chairmen I don't want to endorse any product, but based on EC video's that I have seen over the years, I would strongly recommend that all sites that are doing numerous slalom record tournaments, invest in the system/start watching all boat paths.

DVRs (security models): Some of the records have been in low quality format and not at 30fps. Everyone must ensure that all Digital records are set at 30fps and at highest quality level. Note: Everfocus now (2014) has a DVR that the recording quality is 30% better than the previous models.

IWWF rule book and AWSA Rule book needs to be change to address digital recorders.

Tricks: Need to continue working on getting the camera in the boat higher to be able to call wake tricks correctly.

**TCs Clinic:** Still in process of working on an Online Clinic for maintenance.

*Judge Clinic - Strongly recommend that all Judge's clinic combine with a Maintenance TC clinic (to include VJ setup, VT setup, Slalom Gate review and EC video review). (OUTSTANDING - NOT COMPLETED)*

**TC Manual:** *Still need to update*

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Technical Committee report was approved.

### **Junior Development – Amy Newman**

We held one Junior clinic this year for the Southern Region Junior Development Team. It was hosted by Tommy and Amy Newman at Lake Pryor. The clinic took place in May and was very chilly. We had 6 team members attend the two day clinic. There was plenty of ski time for everyone. The clinic was coached by Aaron Curmi. We were unable to host a second clinic due to conflicts with different tournament schedules.

Our Junior banquet was a huge success at Regional's. We would like to thank MasterCraft for hosting the banquet, and all who donated items and coaching for the raffle/auction. All 24 members of the Southern Region Junior Development team were given a hoodie sweatshirt at Regional's. Also all junior skiers that skied Regional's were given a beach towel and skier tool.

We have picked out 2014, 24 member team. Detailed information is being sent out to all team members. We are also in the planning stages for clinics for 2014. We will let all team members know when dates and locations are finalized.

As we look forward, I would like to encourage each state to do a grassroots clinic. This is a great way to keep new kids coming into the sport.

The list of Team members were shared with the group and will be posted shortly.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Junior Development report was approved.

### **Safety – Leon Larson**

The Safety Committee received four items for action by the Committee. Below are the action items.

#### **PROPOSAL 42: 12.07 Safety Personnel**

The safety boat rider shall have a (Coast Guard approved Type III) PFD available in the boat, for immediate use and shore swimmer(s) shall wear Coast Guard-approved (Type III) life jackets which are fastened at all times.

Rationale: Match the Safety Manual: AWSA Specific:

With proper training and approval of the Safety Director the back-up-timer in the official slalom / Jump towboat may be designated as the safety swimmer. He shall have a (Coast Guard approved Type III) PFD available in the boat, for immediate use. A spine board and CID should be located at the starting dock so that it can be immediately retrieved in the event of an injury requiring its' use.

**APPROVE: Send to Safety for approval**

#### **Safety Committee**

**a.** Request that Junior Jumpers put a “brightly colored” tape on their helmet so they can be easily identified in case of a fall (i.e. contrasting color to all other buoy colors in the lake)

**b.** The one jump sit out rule. When a jumper crashes, instead of being rushed to return to skiing or lose his remaining jumps, the chief judge/safety director can decide to require the skier to sit out while the next skier goes, and then the skier who crashed could then finish his jump ride. This will allow time to properly evaluate the skier's condition and not make a hasty decision.

**c.** Bubble buoys should be mandatory for Regionals/Nationals. Too many slalom foot and ankle injuries now. Buoys are the wrong thing to cheap out on.

For Discussion.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Safety report was approved.

### **Tournament Seeding – Kirby Whetsel**

Scorers are getting quicker about getting tournament files turned in for upload to our system. We have the occasional issue, but nothing keeping scores from getting uploaded to the system. We are now well past the “new” of WFW and scorers are managing the system quite well. Jeff Clark and Dave Allen are on top of any needs and requests of the program and give the scorers regular updates about the program and any new features and functions that have been added.

The only real issues we still see are the updates and corrections of changes of officials for events. When reports are not received on time, notification goes out to the listed Chief Officials. I get emails from officials telling me they were not the official of record for the event, so I end up going to the EVP to track down the proper officials for the event. We know last minute changes have to be made for various reasons, but these changes must be updated in the sanction system. This can be done on line through the sanction system or with a phone call to the EVP and our Competition Coordinator at USAWS.

I have not heard any updates on IWWF moving forward with a more up to date ranking list similar to what we have for USAWS. As of right now, IWWF is still only releasing a biannual World Ranking List. I believe the logistics of different countries and Federations uploading to the system may be the challenge IWWF is facing to put this in place.

The additional step during the USAWS ranking list upload is now allowing our L,R events to be uploaded to IWWF immediately as a final step of the upload. So far, I have not experienced any issues in uploading due to scoring exceptions. It is VERY important for the scorers to make sure ALL information for ALL skiers is complete and accurate for L and R events in order for this final step of the upload to the IWWF system to go through. If there is a single exception it will not upload ANY scores to IWWF for that event until the exception is corrected. Our Southern Regional scorers have done a fabulous job on this, after all, our region hosts more R events than any other Region. THANK YOU CHIEF SCORERS!!

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Tournament Seeding report was approved.

### **Skier Qualification – Joel Norton**

Nothing new for 2014 - The medians and records have been updated for 2014 and are in the Windows scoring system. This happened late due to committee member turnovers. Reminder: if you scored a tournament after Nationals in 2013 check to make sure it has been rescored with the correct NOPS tables in place.

There's hope for a NOPS scoring update for 2015 - The current system has some issues with under rewarding trick skiers and over rewarding some slalom scores. Keep your fingers crossed in hopes the committee will find a solution that is fair to all and makes most overall skiers happy. I have a potential candidate for a new system. If anyone is interested send your email address to [norton7425@bellsouth.net](mailto:norton7425@bellsouth.net) and I'll send you the spreadsheet.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Skier Qualification report was approved.

### **Boat Drivers – Ham Wallace**

2013 was a great year to be a boat driver in the Southern Region. The mainstream tow boats and their respective drive lines made for some fantastic skiing due to the ease of driving. There were no issues with speed controls or their displays and it seems like all the drivers were familiar with each boat and it's operating characteristics. Once again I think that the ease of operating the systems has made better boat drivers due to less to think about and thus allowing for more attention to boat paths and the etiquette needed to appeal to the skiers and make them confident in the driver's ability.

I can't say enough about Melanie Hanson and her communication skills with the drivers and committee persons. She runs interference between the drivers and committee chairs in regards to upgrades, downgrades and clinics. She is always friendly and eager to help resolve any issues at hand. Between us we work hard to accommodate any issues that may arise. We try to assure that all drivers that have some "skin in the game", and make all possible efforts to retain their ratings, and, are given every opportunity to do so. There are always unforeseen circumstances that arise and cause some problems, but, we work to keep all drivers with their requirements fulfilled.

I think that the Boat driver committee is a great system of checks and balances. All members get e-mails and there is a virtual think-tank that goes around on all pertinent issues. The main items immediately at hand are: Reversal of an Emeritus Rating and it's implications and, does an Assistant Driver that does not meet his maintenance requirements get downgraded to Trained Driver and it's implications.

Jerry Bautsch has been a great go-to guy as the National Committee Chair and as always, Will Bush, Pat Rogers, Troy Zoellner and Al Harris are a great group of drivers with great ideas each. Scot Ellis and Jon Travers are our athlete advisors and accessible when needed for advice and opinions.

We are hearing of some additions to the speed control world. They should be seen in 2014, but you never know. Don't forget your background check for those awarded a driver's rating after April 1, 2012. All drivers must have it for the 2014 season. These are available through the members/officials area of the USA Water Ski website.

The 2013 Southern Regionals went off without a hitch. Lyman Hardy put on a great event and it was an honor to have been selected as an appointed driver. I must say, the drivers that I got to work with were the best and the friendships formed through the years showed in the willingness to work together and reinforced the respect that each one has for the sport. Thank You, Gordon West, Greg Webb, Jody Seal and volunteers. You make it fun!

Our EVP, Bob Archambeau, is always a click away and is easy to contact. He is on all driver committee e-mail communication and is a Senior Driver for 3 events. He has always been a great sounding board and has some great views on our issues. Thank You Bob.

My e-mail is [hwallaceii@aol.com](mailto:hwallaceii@aol.com) and my phone number is (615) 943-6099. Please contact me if I can help. I am looking forward to a great 2014 and seeing all of you!

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Drivers report was approved.

### **Towboat – Greg Webb**

No action items - Information Only.

Speed Control:

See revised Speed Control Parameter Chart for the 2014 AWSA Rulebook. The major change is the removal of all Perfect Pass parameters (the most recent towboat approved with Perfect Pass was the 2008 model year)

Towboat Tests:

The 2014 Towboat Tests were held on September 15 & 16, 2013 at Shortline Lake, Elk Grove, CA. See the list of approved boats including various engine and propeller options.

Towboat Test Equipment:

The USAWS Executive Committee and USAWS Board approved a budget of \$15,000 for purchase of new testing equipment – specifically VBox which will replace our aging radar technology and enhance our testing program. We worked with VBox, this last year, to refine our testing parameter needs. VBox USA allowed us to use “demo” equipment for our recent towboat tests to validate our requirements. As a note - VBox is in the process of improving user interfaces – both for the PC and iPhone - making VBox use simpler. The Committee will purchase the equipment this coming spring. It is anticipated that our needs can be met with less costly equipment.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Towboat report was approved.

### **Announcers – Hank Longo**

The Announcer's Association is flourishing and doing the best it ever has, with a total of 52 Announcers in our Officials Directory. The EVP's have done a great job in submitting names of the Announcers in their Region, thank you very much! Please continue to encourage and involve new announcers in your Region.

We had great representation from all the Regions at the Nationals this year and a special thanks to Jerry Hosner, who took over as Chief Announcer at the last moment, and the Announcing Staff, Tommy Newman, Ryan Nason, Mike McNealy, Bill Wenner, Chad Hunter, John Fowler, Mark Bozicevic, Jeff Wiswall, Pete Bauer, Jack Hannah, Russ Selsor, Terry

Selsor and Bob Archambeau. Bob Archambeau is working with me to get the Announcer's Manual and Guidelines available on line. If you need a hard copy you can get them from me.

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The Announcers report was approved.

### **AWSEF – Jeff Clark**

The American Water Ski Educational Foundation (AWSEF) is embarking on a new strategic direction and its committees have been working very hard these past nine months to set the stage. This report highlights some of the changes that have already taken place and some you will see in the future.

**Strategic Plan:** In the early summer of 2013, a collaborative team at the Foundation embarked upon an important journey to plan, shape and position the future successes of the Foundation. During the last nine months, the team has identified the stakeholders, prepared and distributed survey questions and conducted personal interviews.

The responses were reviewed and consolidated. From these responses, we were able to perform a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) Analysis of the Foundation. Once this step was completed, we re-defined the foundation's vision and mission and established clear strategic objectives for the Foundation as set out in the second document.

Strategic Objectives are what the Foundation must achieve to remain or become competitive and guarantee the foundation's long-term sustainability. With each objective, the team established key performance indicators. These will be reviewed and measured periodically to ensure we are on track.

We are confident that this set of strategic initiatives, which reflects thoughtful development and planning, synthesizes the most important aspirations of the Foundation and provides a solid foundation to set goals, establish benchmarks and express a clear vision and roadmap for our future.

**Re-Branding:** As part of the strategic plan, the Foundation will re-brand itself in 2014, and will be known as the USA Water Ski Foundation or USA-WSF. This change, along with a new logo, will be formally unveiled at the USA Water Ski Annual Banquet on January 25th. With the strategic plan's time line in place, we can now begin the process of fulfilling the goals of increasing our membership, our fundraising, our scholarship programs and our educational outreach.

**Hall of Fame Weekend 2014:** All time show ski great and five-time US National Swivel Champion Cheryl Orloff will be the 67th inductee into the USA Water Ski Foundation Hall of Fame. Mike Botti, Dave Goode, Charlotte Melchers, Sherm Schraft and the late Danny Churchill are the 2014 recipients of the Water Ski Hall of Fame Award of Distinction. We are also planning a special tribute in memory of the late George Blair.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on April 12th at Fantasy of Flight in the large air-conditioned hangar and will be an exciting night with many surprises in store for everyone. Our goal is to make the Hall of Fame the most exclusive club in the sport and the induction ceremony the most prestigious event on the water ski calendar. With the help of some generous sponsors, this year's hall of fame will be unlike any other in the past. You won't want to miss it!

We will also have a weekend full of activities, a list of which we will send to you as the schedule unfolds. Hope to see you all here in Polk City the weekend of April 11th-12th.  
Ski with the Legends becoming a series in 2014

The 2013 Ski with the Legends (SWTL) was a tremendous fund-raising success and, with the assistance of some generous sponsors and the addition of an auction, netted a record amount. Beginning in 2014, SWTL will become a series, taking place in different areas of the country. With the help of Lance Renfrow and the use of his incredible water ski lake, Crystal Point in Gilbert, Arizona,

we will have our first ever Ski with the Legends event out west. We look forward to growing the event even larger and creating an exceptionally memorable and fun experience for everyone involved.  
2014 Hall of Fame Water Ski Tournament

The annual Hall of Fame Tournament has been moved to September 6th and 7th and will be co-sponsored by Ski Fluid. Florida Southern College will be renting Lake Grew during our customary Hall of Fame weekend in April for its two-day collegiate tournament.

Foundation Internship Program: A new internship program has been established for the foundation. The first two interns began on January 6th and will work until May 16th. Michaela Robbins comes from the University of Tennessee as a Sports Marketing and Sports Management major. Emily Rinehart arrives from Florida Southern College and is majoring in Marketing, Public Relations and Advertising. The interns will assist the Executive Director and our appointed committees in implementing some of our new programs and outreach.

Lake Grew 2014: As part of our strategic plan, the vision for Lake Grew is to create an income-generating recreational weekend destination for small to large groups for a one or two day events in conjunction with a ski school operation during the week. We have redesigned a lease agreement to make this happen in 2014.

New Endowed Scholarship: The foundation has added a new endowed scholarship in the name of recently deceased "Banana" George Blair. The Blair family has generously decided to make available an endowed scholarship for \$2,200 per year. "22" was George's lucky number, thus the reason to start with \$2,200. This brings our scholarship number to nine for distribution to college skiers in 2014. We awarded eight college scholarships in 2013.

Tracy Mattes, as Executive Director the past nine months has taken steps to promote the foundation and meet the movers and shakers in the industry. She has attended the Masters, Malibu Open and Goode Water Ski National Championships as well as Surf Expo and was able to have meetings with several sports disciplines.

Mission - The USA Water Ski Foundation raises funds to preserve and celebrate the history of all towed water sports and to promote and grow these sports through marketing and educational program initiatives

Vision - Our vision is to create an alliance of strategic partners and sponsors that generates the necessary funding to enable the USA Water Ski Foundation to expand current viable programs and add new programs as appropriate to make a powerful impact on the towed water sport community and society in general. Through a series of dynamic programs that utilize the values of towed water sports we can:

- encourage and facilitate healthy lifestyles and activity in today's youth (youth, health & fitness)
- inspire people of all ages to be stewards of our rivers, waterways, lakes and oceans by raising awareness of the importance of our precious water resources. (environment-lake)
- provide scholarships & education opportunities to young people who excel in the towed water sports disciplines (education-scholarships)
- teach life lessons exemplified by the sport by honoring, preserving, fostering and sharing the living history of water skiing (museum, hall of fame, archives)
- reach out to the 20+ million water skiers around the country through a strong social media presence (membership & social media)
- support and fund all US Teams to ensure that our representatives at international tournaments reflect the behavior, lifestyle and success to which our youth should aspire (US Team support)



## Strategic Objectives

Financial Sustainability - To ensure the stability & financial sustainability of the Foundation through sponsors, strategic partners, grants, diversified income sources and endowment building strategies.

Strategically Utilizing our Assets - To increase visibility and participation by strategically developing programs, events and sponsorship/partnership opportunities utilizing the Museum, Hall of Fame, Library and Lake.

Growing Our Constituency - To grow membership by creating targeted and membership value incentive programs; and, to develop relationships & programs with core groups by:

- Supporting US Teams (athletes),
- Developing activities jointly with the National Governing Body (USA Water Ski)
- Reaching out to recreational skiers (grass roots, families, new skiers, etc.)
- Expanding our scholarship and educational opportunities (collegiate teams, clubs, environment programs, etc) and
- Contributing to the promotion of all towed water sports (wakeboard community & other nine USAWS disciplines)

Imprinting the Brand - To create and maintain marketing, communication and social media programs in the long term, so as to ensure the promotion and continuity of the Foundation's mission, vision and values to the towed water sport community.

Reaching New Markets - In efforts to create new revenue streams for the foundation and to expose the maximum amount of people to our building, programs and sponsors, we will be developing longer term projects to attract new markets. We will explore the possibility, feasibility, risks and benefits of expanding on our existing location (upgrading the museum, building a 2nd floor for events, widening Lake Grew, possibly creating an international training center) or moving to a new location (in a more populated area, Disney, Sea World, etc).

A motion was made to accept and a second received. The USA-WSF report was approved.

## Old Business

Audit of Southern Region Funds – Tim McKune

Note: In a letter to Council, Tim has asked us to re-visit the discussion on considering an audit of the Southern Region Funds. Many of the former points were brought up. Costs discussed from current research were \$2000-4000. Council Members at the table were communicating with outside resources and the top cost found was \$25,000.

New discussions led to ask that since there are minimal transactions why not conduct an audit. The dollar figure will still have to be approved. The EVP is only authorized to spend up to \$500 and he would need Council authority to spend additional money on audits. The core discussion went back to the paper trail of transactions. The P&L and other documentation for the Southern Region is sent to the AWSA Treasurer who reviews and consolidates the information with other Regions. It is then sent to USA-WS for further review for final reporting to the IRS. Those accounts are audited every two years (at this point). Concern was mentioned over the fact that if USA-WS changes their audit procedures will we be held to their standards if the Southern Region feels that too much time is spent between audits [the answer to that question is No – the Southern Region, at any time can conduct an audit of their funds. A motion was made that the Southern Region Council to accept the independent audit as conducted on USA-WS financials every two years. The motion was seconded and the motion passed

## New Business

National Tents – A motion was made to allow the EVP to reserve a Regional tent for Nationals to come out of the EVP expense. The motion was seconded and motion passed

Note: Florida Federation had over \$200 left over on their Tent approval and is donating this amount to the Southern Region Tent fund. It was suggested that we coordinate tents that may be rented independently by Individual States

There was discussion that the Southern Regional Championships be run as Class E. This was left to consider

Discussion on how Southern Region should fund teams. In the past we supported only certain members which left out Managers and Support Staff that were Southern Region. If we support a Team we support the Team not certain individuals.

Nominees for Officers;	EVP – Bob Archambeau	Alt – Jeff Clark
	Director – Jim Jaquess	Alt – Leon Larson

A motion to Adjourn the meeting was given and seconded. The motion passed.