

**USTSA
Officer's Conference Call
Monday, January 29, 2007, 7:00 p.m. MST**

Attending: Christopher Ulm – President, Catherine Crim – Vice President, Paul Lamb – Events Director, Russ Hobbs – Treasurer, Jim Stein – Uniforms, Equipment, Tory Hauser – Advancement/Sponsorship, Ken Recker – US Telemark National Championship Organizer, Linda Hobbs – Note Taker

1. FIS – Jim Stein

Jim has spent time in the last month speaking with Duncan Edwards, the current FIS rep as well as Maurine Bauchman, previous FIS Rep. In addition, he met with Trond in Norway and Andrea (FIS TD) in Norway to ask some of our questions and to learn what is needed from the US going forward. Following are Jim's comments.

- Many of the questions and issues USTSA has with FIS Telemark is due to misunderstandings and miscommunications due to language, etc.
- Question of why Bio's don't get updated of FIS site. Answer is that we need to give this information to the FIS Committee. Paul offered to gather that information from USTSA and put it together for Scarpa and FIS. Chris suggested that Jim should ask FIS what format they want this information.
- Question of why Telemark events and results are not updated on the FIS site. Answer is that we are not an Olympic sport and until this season, the Telemark race results were not using the software that FIS wanted.
- It was made clear that in years that North America is not offering an event schedule, we don't have a voice on the FIS Telemark Committee.
- Concern that there is poor communication between the US and Canada. Victoria Fletcher is planning a committee to begin working within Canada and with the US.
- Jim spoke with Andrea about communication issues at Schweitzer last year. Jim suggested that it would be helpful if FIS Telemark had something in writing for race organizers to make expectations clear.
- A strong reason for hosting races in North America is that fewer Europeans attend and so it is a better points race for the US racers. Better points leads to better seeding/start orders for our racers.
- Olympic Sport? According to Maureen, the way to become an Olympic Sport is through FIS, not USSA. Therefore, it is important to have very high level athletes competing at the WC level and get FIS Telemark to be as strong as possible.
- FIS wants a strong commitment and dates from North America by late April or May for 2008. Paul says that Big Mountain is OK with holding WC Finals in March. He will contact Scott at Kimberly and Victoria to see what we can coordinate with Canada. He hopes to have Big Mountain locked in by Nationals. Briefly discussed the possibility of a WC race in Steamboat. Ken needs to get Nationals done before considering this.
- Jim believes that Duncan would be happy to let Jim finish out this year as the FIS rep. Russ made a motion and it was unanimously approved, that the USTSA BOD would like Jim to finish this year. Jim will work with Duncan to work through the process of making this change. Some discussion about whether this should be a BOD

position. Conclusion was that it is not necessary, but it is important for this person to participate in the BOD conference calls.

2. WC Races – Jim

- Germany added 1 more race, so that there will be 3 races and a legitimate WC Finals
- Paul says Eric will send in entry form
- Jim suggested, based on conversations with Shane, Eric and Brett in Norway, it is best if Team Members stay together. Traveling parents should have separate accommodations, which is what Jim and Andrea did in Norway.
- Team members say that they would really benefit from having a coach and that it would be best if it were a recently retired racer. As a Board, we need to work in the travel cost of a coach to the budget for next year to make this happen. There are retired racers who have offered to do this if the funds were available. Radios from bottom to top of course and video would also be helpful. Chris offered to put video on website so that if we can't send a coach to Europe, we could have folks such as Chris Rice, Jimmy Ludlow or other recently retired racers look at them and provide feedback.
- Jim recommends that our 3 junior men race WC Championships as Juniors. The level of skiing this year in Europe is at a much higher level than we saw last year. There will be no FIS points, but Juniors is where they belong. The competition is at such a high level; their FIS points would be quite high if they raced in the men's group. They will race with the men and for FIS points at WC finals in Germany.

3. US Telemark National Championships – Ken

- Currently finishing up purchase of insurance. Russ asked if we could add Officers as well as USTSA in coverage. Russ will send Ken a list of names.
- Clarified that we will use the name "US National Telemark Championships" as the official name of the event for media/publicity, etc. Tory commented that when we have the money, we should trademark this name because we have used it since the early 80's but now other events are starting to use it.
- Housing – the committee is working on rooms and some family/home stay options for the team members. Give Ken a week to finalize this.
- Course Parameters – Howleson Hill does not have the vertical to meet USTSA GS guidelines. Ken can't change the schedule at this late date to put the GS anywhere else. Ken suggested that we have 3 runs to make up for the short course. Tory agreed that was a reasonable way to adjust to the problem. We will need to write a variance that allows this. Russ suggested that he and Paul and possibly Ned get the variance written.
- AFTER THIS CALL, Paul spoke further with Ned and a better solution may be to adjust the race penalty to account for the limited vertical drop.
- Clarification for Overall Event Scoring – The US Nationals scoring will be the best 3 of 4 races (GS, Slalom, Sprint and Classic) as defined in the Competition Guide. The overall event winner of the Telemark Revival will be the best of the Sprint and Bumps combined.

4. Annual General Meeting
 - Ken says that there is space for a group of 25 people in Olympian Hall. We are thinking about having it from 2-4pm on Friday, between races. Ken will confirm that.
 - Ken suggests that there will be a bunch of new members and that some USTSA shwag, such as stickers, would be good.
 - The BOD will set the agenda, etc at the next conference call.
 - Tory suggested that it would be good to have a proposed budget for the meeting
 - We will need to vote on the 2 positions that expire this year. President and VP.
 - Catherine announced that she would step down from the VP position and not run for re-election. She would like to stay involved as we move forward. Russ suggested that Catherine could be a big help with the Advancement/Fundraising Committee.
 - Discussion about holding a BOD meeting/conference call either Friday or Saturday evening. No firm time/date set.

5. Insurance – Russ
 - Russ sent info to board members regarding the reasons, to protect us and our members from personal lawsuits, that USTSA should purchase insurance. However, because we currently do not have the funds and the end of the season is near, we will defer until next fall.
 - Paul suggested that this should be a #1 priority of our budgeting and fundraising for next season.

6. Next Call – Monday, February 19, 2007, 7:00 pm MST
 Agenda: Prepare for Annual General Meeting
 Nationals – any issues?
 WC Finals/Championships – Any issues?

LIST OF ASSIGNED ITEMS FROM THIS CALL OR CARRIED OVER FROM LAST CALL:

- Jim:** Work with Duncan to become the interim FIS rep and finish out the season in that capacity.
 Check the format that bio's should be provided to the FIS Telemark Committee
- Paul:** Prepare racer bio's that will work for Scarpa and FIS Telemark
 Work with Big Mtn and Canada to firm up commitment for 2008
- Paul/Russ/Ned:** Prepare variance for GS race at Steamboat/Nationals
- Eric:** Entry forms for WC races
- Ken:** Insurance, Housing, Time and Place for Annual Meeting and a million other details.
- Linda:** Send letter to members with Nationals schedule, annual meeting time/place, USTSA number and a couple of stickers.