

Steamboat Springs, Colorado USA



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Press Kit

2015 FIS World Telemark Skiing
Championships

Steamboat Springs, Colorado
USA

February 23 - 27, 2015

The Event

The 2015 FIS World Telemark Skiing Championships will bring the best telemark racers from around the world to Steamboat Springs to compete for the World Championships. This will be the second time the FIS Telemark World Championships have been held in the U.S., with the first event held in Whitefish, MT in 2003. The World Championships are held every other year, and this year teams from the United States, Canada, Norway, France, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Sweden, Slovakia, Austria, and Italy are expected to compete. Hungary, Finland, Czech Republic, Japan, and Ukraine may also send athletes to the US. The racers will compete in four events including the Classic, Sprint Classic, the Parallel Sprint, and Team Parallel Sprint. The head-to-head parallel competitions are especially spectator friendly and exciting. Because Telemark is not yet in the Olympics, this is the showcase event for the athletes and the best of the best attend.

The Venue

Races will take place at the historic Howelsen Hill in downtown Steamboat Springs and the Steamboat Ski Resort, all hosted by the town of Steamboat Springs.

Howelsen Hill is the longest continually-operating ski area west of the Mississippi (since 1915), and has the largest and most complete natural ski jumping complex in North America. Home to the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, Howelsen Hill has been the training ground for more than 88 Olympians making over 151 Winter Olympic appearances. It is acknowledged as a "Pioneer Ski Resort" by the International Skiing History Association and the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum and Hall of Fame. The mountain has two year-round Nordic jumps, alpine race terrain, terrain park, ski and boarder-cross areas, cross country terrain, freestyle mogul and aerial complexes, and beginner terrain that make it one of the most unique training facilities in the country. The World Championship Sprint races will utilize the Upper and Lower Face run that ends at the lodge, providing excellent spectator viewing.



The Steamboat Ski Resort is actually a complete mountain range: Mount Werner, Sunshine Peak, Storm Peak, Thunderhead Peak, Pioneer Ridge, and Christie Peak. 2,965 acres (1200 hectares) of permitted terrain offer a diversity of trails for all levels of ability. Gladed areas of Pioneer Ridge, Sunshine and



Storm Peak are Steamboat's particular claim to fame, with legendary Champagne Powder® snow in the trees for the most avid powder hounds. The ski area base elevation is 6,900 feet/2103 meters and the summit is 10,568 feet/3224 meters giving the area a vertical rise of 3,668 feet/1118 meters. The ski area hosted Alpine World Cup races in 1989 and 1990 and, along with Howelsen Hill, the Telemark World Cup races in 2010, 2012, and 2014. The World Championships in 2015 will utilize the Vagabond run that presents one of the most challenging classic races on the World Cup circuit.

The town of Steamboat Springs's (pop. 12,100) unique mix of warm sun, cowboy boots and friendly locals lends an inviting, laid back atmosphere to the historic Colorado resort town, where western heritage

meets abundant outdoor adventure. Steamboat Springs is known as Ski Town, USA® and renowned for its world class skiing and famed Champagne Powder®. Steamboat Springs lies against the western ridge of the Continental Divide and is nearly surrounded by national forest and wilderness areas. The Yampa River begins in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, flows through downtown Steamboat Springs and eventually meets the Green River in the Dinosaur National Monument. Steamboat Springs boasts two ski areas, three Colorado State Parks, three nearby wilderness areas, more than 150 natural springs, lakes, rivers and trail systems that cater to a plethora of outdoor activities.

The Disciplines

Telemark ski racing is the oldest, hardest, and may be the most exciting form of ski racing! Telemark ski racing is the only world cup discipline that tests all forms of competitive skiing in one top-to-bottom event. Each discipline includes alpine, jumping, and Nordic skiing components. Competitors complete telemark style (lunging) turns through gates; fly off a jump, complete a reipelykkje (Norwegian for "knot of rope", pronounced "rap-a-loosha"), a large 360 banked turn a.k.a., "the Rap"; and to add to the challenge there is a skate ski (Nordic freestyle) section, which is often at the finish. Time penalties are assessed by gate and jump judges if racers fail to achieve "boot space" while turning (i.e., complete a fully telemark turn); fail to land past the jump line (distance); and fail to land the jump in a Nordic stance (just like ski jumping).



The Classic is the longest event and will be held at the Steamboat Ski Resort on the Vagabond run. The Steamboat course is one of the longest on the World Cup circuit. The Classic consists of one run with a course drop between 230 to 500 vertical meters. The course includes a jump, Rap, and long skate section or sections. Picture lunging through 70 panels at 80 km/h (50 mi/h), flying 30 meters through the air, and then having to skate ski for 3 minutes, sometimes up hill, to finish the race! Welcome to the Classic - Classics truly test the endurance of the athlete!

The Sprint Classic is similar to the classic. Typically, the Sprint Classic is shorter in length than the Classic but still contains a jump, Rap and a skate section. It consists of two runs with the times and penalties totaled together to determine the winner. This event will be held at the spectator-friendly Howelsen Hill in downtown Steamboat Springs.

The Parallel Sprint is the most exciting to watch of all of the telemark racing events. Two Sprint-length courses are set, and racers compete side by side in a tournament-style elimination bracket. Racers fly off the same jump and are funneled in the same Rap before having to skate it out on the flats. Penalties are totaled live on the hill, and racers are required to skate further if they have gate or jump penalties. Bring on course carnage and head-to-head combat! This exciting event will also be held at the spectator-friendly Howelsen Hill. A second day of Parallel Sprint will be run in a team format, pitting country against country. Each country's top two men and top woman racers compete, with times totaled for an overall team/country score.

The Competitors

Top World Athletes

Tobias Mueller (Germany) has been the dominant men's telemark skier over the last few years. The 2014 World Cup champion has skied well in Steamboat recently winning the World Cup dual sprint and both Classic races in 2014. He is on top of the sport and will be hard to knock off the top of the World Championship podium in 2015.



Philippe Lau (France) is one of three Lau brothers skiing on the Telemark World Cup circuit. This former World Championship winner (Sprint Classic 2011) had finished second overall the past two World Cup seasons. Lau had a first place finish in the Sprint in the 2014 Steamboat World Cup and will be an athlete to watch in the World Championships.

Amelie Reymond (Switzerland) is one of the most dominant telemark racers of all time. She has 80 World Cup victories at the beginning of the 2014/2015 season and 112 podiums, approaching the 86 victories and 132 podiums for Ingemar Stenmark, the most decorated Alpine racer of all time. This season could very well see her win her sixth World Championship and own the crown for all-time World Cup skiing victories.



Mathilde Ilebrekke (Norway) was second in last year's World Cup standings behind Amelie Reymond. She has been skiing on the telemark World Cup circuit since 2011 and has made steady process every year making her first trip to the top of a World Cup podium in 2014. This may be her year to top the podium at the World Championships.

Top US Athletes

The US men's World Cup Team includes five athletes. The reigning National Champion, **Cory Snyder** (age 22, of Franconia, NH) plans to attend as many World Cup events as possible this season while also finishing his college degree. **Tanner Visnick** (age 18, of Steamboat Springs, CO) will be balancing the role of racer with that of a college freshman at Montana State University. In 2014 Visnick earned a bronze medal at the Junior World Championships in Geilo, Norway. **Birk Larsen**, (age 34, of Park City, UT) and **Devon Wright** (age 21, Campton, NH) both join the top level team for their second season, and **Tommy Gogolen** (age 32 of Breckenridge, CO) is returning following three knee surgeries in three years.



Three-time National Champion, **Madi McKinstry** (age 20, from Steamboat Springs, CO) is the lone woman on the US World Cup squad. McKinstry is a student at Montana State University where she trains with the university's Alpine ski team.

Several promising athletes from the US National Team will supplement the World Cup Team members. Leading the men is the 2013 National Champion, **Jeffrey Gay** (age 21, of Steamboat Springs, CO) returning after taking a year off to focus on his studies at University of Colorado. **Sarah Carley** (age 18, of Brentwood, NH) second at the 2014 US Nationals will be a threat in the women's competition. Carley began university at Connecticut College this year where she is balancing skiing with academics. Several local members of the US National Team may also ski in the championships, including **Jack Rosenthal**, 18, and **Bailey Wallisch**, 16, and **Lyta Foulk**, 16, all of Steamboat Springs, CO. Rosenthal is a freshman at the Colorado School of Mines, and Wallisch and Foulk both attend high school in Steamboat Springs. Foulk (3rd at the 2014 US National Championships) and Wallisch and are in their first year of eligibility at the international level.



Detailed biographies of the US Team Members can be found at: <http://www.ustsa.org/telemark-racing/us-world-cup-ski-team>

Live Video

The main event of the 2015 FIS Telemark season will be streamed live around the world from Steamboat Springs. FIS will bring you into the heart of the action with thrilling racing, backstage stories, and interviews with the stars of the World Cup Telemark skiing community. All in one official stream! Don't miss it and watch the best free-heel skiers in the world. Ask a question, and the experts will answer it

<http://new.livestream.com/TeleHo/events/3784427>

<http://www.telemarkworldcup.com/live-stream/>

Schedule

Monday February 23 - Training at Howelsen Hill and Opening Ceremonies at Steamboat Ski Area, Gondola Square

Tuesday February 24 - Sprint Classic Race at Howelsen Hill

Wednesday February 25 - Parallel Sprint Classic Qualifiers and Team Parallel Sprint Classic Race at Howelsen Hill

- Full Field Qualifiers - Single run
- Juniors Qualifiers - Single run
- Team Parallel Sprint Classic Race

Thursday February 26 - Parallel Sprint Classic Race at Howelsen Hill

- Full Field Parallel Sprint AM
- Juniors Parallel Sprint PM

Friday February 27 - Classic Race at Steamboat Ski Resort on Vagabond Trail

Story Suggestions

Colorado athletes and program. Six of the US World Cup and National Team athletes are products of the Steamboat Winter Sports Club. In addition, athletes from Breckenridge, Colorado Springs, and Glenwood Springs are on the team.

US Telemark Ski Association (USTSA). Telemark racing does not fall under the umbrella of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) but instead is run and governed by USTSA, a volunteer and non-profit organization of people dedicated to the sport.

Amelie Raymond's victory total. This season could very well see Amelie win her sixth World Championship and own the crown for all time World Cup skiing victories. She has 80 World Cup victories and 112 podiums, compared to 86 victories and 132 podiums for Ingemar Stenmark the greatest Alpine racer of all time by victories.

The other World Championships held in Colorado in 2015. The world skiing communities' eyes will be on the Alpine World Championships held in Vail. However, Colorado is hosting two world skiing championships in 2015 with Steamboat Springs host to the Telemark World Championships.

Olympic aspirations. Telemark ski racing is getting serious consideration for inclusion in the 2022 Olympics.

Steamboat and Steamboat Winter Sports Club (SSWSC). Has produced many of the top US telemark racers. This largely in part because the SSWSC is the only US club with a formal telemark racing program. In addition, the SSWSC has an over 100 year tradition of training skiers and has produced 88 Olympians.

Balancing academics and competition. Being an unfunded sport US athletes have to balance school and careers with their passion for telemark competition. Many of the US athletes are currently attending college or high school while trying to compete at the top level. Many others have full time careers and find time to train and compete.

Recent Press Releases & Social Media

US Telemark Team Web Site - <http://www.ustsa.org/telemark-news>

US Team on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Telemark-Ski-Team/159758150723633>

Event Organizers

US Telemark Ski Association (USTSA) www.ustsa.org - USTSA is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote Telemark skiing through educational clinics and sanctioned racing competitions. Contact: Ken Gay, USTSA Event Coordinator, ken.gay@hotmail.com

Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC) www.sswsc.org - SSWSC vision is to be the best at producing "champions," on and off the mountain - coaching every individual to achieve their highest level of personal and athletic performance - resulting in healthy, contributing members of our community as well as skilled and passionate athletes. The SSWSC celebrated its 100th year in 2014. Contact: Rory Clow, Marketing/PR Director, rclow@sswsc.org

Steamboat Ski Resort www.steamboat.com

Further Information

Event web site - www.telemarkworldchampionship.com

FIS web site - www.fistelemarkski.com

Steamboat Springs - www.steamboat-chamber.com/discover-steamboat/winter-directory

Photographic and Video links - www.telemarkworldchampionship.com/multimedia

FIS Telemark Rules -

<http://www.fis-ski.com/inside-fis/document-library/telemark/index.html#deeplink=rules>

Travel and Lodging

Steamboat, located in northwest Colorado, 160 miles/267kms northwest of Denver, is an easy three-hour drive from Denver. Take I-70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel to the Silverthorne exit (#205), then go north on Colorado Highway 9 to the town of Kremmling, then west on US 40 over Rabbit Ears Pass. Steamboat is accessible by nonstop air service from 11 major U.S. airports on Alaska, American, Delta, and United Airlines in addition to connecting service from over 300 other domestic and international cities.

Airline flights into Denver International Airport (DEN) with shuttle service (3+ hours) or car rental

- or -

Airline flights into Yampa Valley Regional Airport (HDN) with shuttle service (30 minutes) or car rental

Lodging - www.steamboat.com/plan-your-trip/lodging/index.aspx

Sponsors



Contacts

Media contact for the World Telemark Championships is Ken Gay, USTSA Event Coordinator, ken.gay@hotmail.com . You may also contact Cary Foulk at cary.foulk@comcast.net to request further information or for questions regarding the press kit.