

March 8, 2017

Karbon US Telemark National Championships

Beginning this past winter, the US Telemark Ski Association (“USTSA”) voted to re-broaden its mission to establish itself as the leading organization for the development of Telemark education, information and competition sanctioning in the United States. Since 1993, USTSA has served as the National Governing Body for Telemark racing, providing periodic support for the Freeski and educational aspects of the sport. In a move to support Telemark skiing more broadly, USTSA partnered with Josh Madsen and J.T. Robinson, both of Freeheel Life Industries and Telemark Skier Magazine to incorporate the Telemark Freeski discipline as a segment of the organization. To demonstrate the breadth of Telemark and broaden its visibility, the Karbon National Championships were held at Grand Targhee Resort in Alta, Wyoming in conjunction with the Freeheel Life Cup.

Over a hard-fought three days, the Men and Women National Champions were decided after taking the best two of three results from the Classic, Parallel, and Sprint Classic races. For the Women, Lyta Foulk of Steamboat Springs, CO returned to the top of the podium for the second year in a row while Farli Boden of Sandpoint, ID placed 2nd and Taylor Finn of Colorado Springs, Colorado took 3rd. For the Men, Cory Snyder of Franconia, NH regained the top spot for the first time since the 2014 Nationals, Dylan Weglarz of Durham, NH lodged his first Nationals podium, placing 2nd, and Jeffrey Gay of Steamboat Springs, CO returned to the podium again this year with a 3rd place finish.

A new area for the race division of USTSA, Targhee provided an excellent venue and fantastic conditions for the Championships, the competition to determine the fastest Telemark skiers in the United States. USTSA Race Events Director, Cory Snyder, arrived in Targhee amidst a snowstorm on Tuesday to begin preparations of the race hill and construction of the jump and reipeløkke (“rap”). Wednesday held in store similar conditions with strong winds, low cloud cover and a daily accumulation of about 6”, providing a challenging environment for completion of course preparations. However, thanks to help from a number of USTSA members, especially National Team Member Farli Boden and her father Tim Boden, B net was set, the rap was ready, starts were shoveled and gates were strategically stored for the following day’s event.

As if ordered, the weather shifted Wednesday evening with snow ending late at night and a high-pressure system ushering in a partly sunny day with temperatures in the upper 20s for the first day of racing. The event kicked off with the Classic race on Thursday morning. Starting at the top of Big Thunder at 2,735m and descending rapidly down a straight and nicely pitched headwall, the course



crossed a slight depression where Big Thunder meets Palmer's Raceway then curved left down a moderate pitch to the jump and the rap before finishing with a skate almost directly below the Dreamcatcher chair. The course was nearly ideal for the Classic format with a 280m (919ft) vertical drop, over 25 gates and a skate section that took the top racers about 25-30 seconds to complete. The one run event kicked off at 10:30 with the Expert Women leading off.

Development Team athlete Taylor Finn was the first out of the gate, setting the pace in the GS section of the run before a missed turn in the skate section drained her speed exiting the rap and forced an uphill herringbone to the first skate gate. Reigning National Champion Lyta Foulk was the next up and quickly reminded the competition of her abilities, posting a clean run (no jump or gate penalties) and raw time that would have wound up putting her 7th for the Men's field. National Team member Farli Boden closed out the Expert Women's category with a strong run of her own, especially given the amount of time she has devoted to her FIS Alpine races this year as well. Farli was clean in the gates but picked up the three second jump line penalty to put her at 1:48.29.

The Expert men followed thereafter with FIS point athletes Larry Bosche, Birk Larsen, Dylan Weglarz, Cory Snyder, and Garrett Long as the first 5 athletes out of the gate. Unfortunately, National Team athlete Jeffrey Gay was unable to make Thursday's competition due to a closure of I-80 by Laramie, WY on Wednesday night. Of the Men's field, only Cory Snyder, Dylan Weglarz and Norm Miller would go on to make the jump line.



Birk Larsen



Cory Snyder

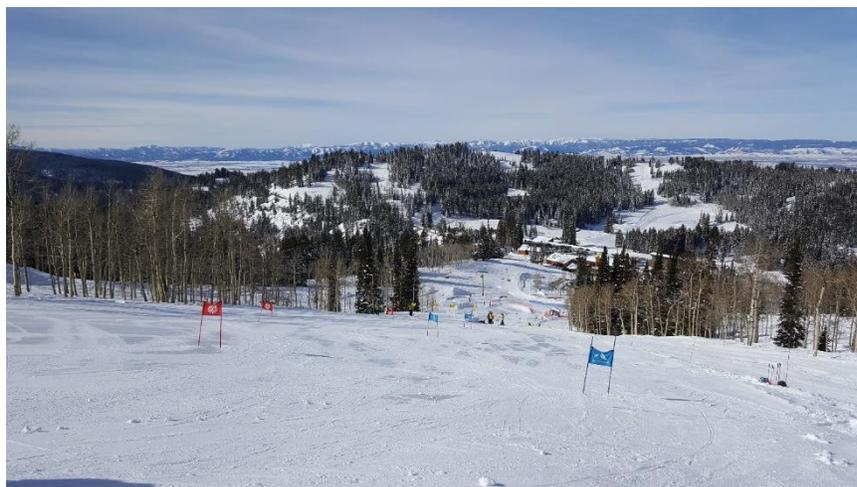
As is often the case, the jump line penalties were a good indicator of overall position and Cory and Dylan would place 1st and 2nd with 1:26.81 and 1:32.21, respectively, each with one gate penalty. 3rd and 4th places were held by Garrett Long (1:34.56 with a jump line penalty) and Birk Larsen (1:37.57 with a jump line penalty). 5th place was taken by Miles Fey, a rapidly up and coming Development Team athlete who has consistently been on the podium in the Minus33 Eastern Telemark Series in New England this year. Miles posted a 1:38.75, inclusive of one gate penalty and a jump line penalty. A complete list of results is available on the US Telemark Ski Team Facebook Page as well as on www.ustsa.org.

We also had a number of Junior racers come out to compete with New Hampshire native Emma Ruhm, a veteran of the Waterville Valley Sprint Classic and Jeanne Pouezevara, currently of Seattle and originally from France as our two Junior Women. The Junior racers and the Citizens completed the same gate section as the Experts but did have a shorter skate section. The two posted raw times that were within 1.5 seconds of each other but very strong Telemark skiing by Jeanne led to an impressive total time that

consisted of zero gate penalties and only a jump landing penalty. Jeanne took first place with a time of 1:42.57 and Emma took second with 2:07.02.

For the Junior Men, we had entrants in both the Junior 1 (14-17 years old) and the Junior 2 (13 and under) categories. For Junior 1, Finn Dressen (son of long-time Telemark athlete Charlie Dressen) posted the only other clean run of the day and a blazing time of 1:26.30. The Junior 2 category continued the Telemark family pattern with Bodhi Boschen (son of former Team Member Taug Boschen) and Grant Nylander (son of former Team Member Joel Nylander) rounding out the Juniors. The two were amazing to watch throughout the competition as they were constantly in motion. In addition to strong runs, the two could be seen hiking and skiing the powder and moguls next to each start when waiting for their runs. Most would agree that just watching the two of them was a bit exhausting. Furthermore, watching Bodhi ski was in many ways reminiscent of an alpine skier with a similar name. Despite accumulating a few penalties, Bodhi skied with complete confidence and to some extent, abandon. Despite being 10 years old, Bodhi nearly made the Expert Men's line on most of his runs. Bodhi placed first in the Junior 2 category with an adjusted time of 1:56.75 and Grant was second with 3:11.23.

Last, but not least, for Thursday were the Citizen men. Good Telemark form was the name of the game for the Citizen Men's podium with the top three racers accumulating one second of penalties each. Veteran racer Scott Edgerton came in 1st with an adjusted time of 1:24.34, Julien Pouezevara of France was slightly behind with a 1:30.21 and Targhee local Bob Marcinko posted a strong 3rd place result with 1:32.41. Steve Ruhm completed posted a quick raw time of 1:26.65 but the addition of gate penalties bumped him back into 4th place with a 1:40.65. There was also a second Classic race on Thursday afternoon which was not a FIS event but which did count for USTSA points and to provide a second Classic result for the purposes of penalty calculations. Results for that event are also online. With Thursday's events at a close it was time to take in the mountain and the festival atmosphere of the square in front of the Rendezvous Base Lodge.



Dawn broke Friday morning and with it, brought another fantastic day for racing. Mostly sunny with a high around 38, the parallel day kicked off with the qualifier race, a one run Sprint Classic formatted race that started from the wanded start next to the drop gates of the parallel start and continued through the blue course. Beginning at the top of Palmer's Raceway the run consisted of 3 gates

above the jump and 8 gates below, covering a 107m vertical drop. The skate consisted of an exit from the rap, a turn around to the middle of the back of the rap, and a 90-degree turn to the right for a mostly cross-hill dash to the finish. To accommodate the number of racers, there were parallel brackets for Juniors, Men, and Women.

With a larger field, the duals portion of the event began with the Men's round of 32. With 28 men, the top 4 from the qualifier, Cory Snyder, Jeffrey Gay, Dylan Weglarz and Garrett Long had a bye for their first race which led the athletes to test out the red course and also to a few spread-eagles off the jump to please the crowd. With the sun beating down into the right side of the rap, the conditions became a bit inconsistent in the 360° and led to some challenging runs for some. The upsets started early in the round of 32 with Joel Nylander (18 seed) edging out Cedar Mattole (17 seed) in the second run of the parallel. Later in the round of 32, Scott Edgerton (21 seed) outlasted Henry Barth (12 seed) who accumulated more than 2 penalties and was disqualified. The second to last race of the Men's round of 32 pitted Steve Weglarz (19 seed) instructor at Waterville Valley's Winter Seasonals Telemark program against Sam Garber (16 seed), one of the Winter Seasonals participants. In a close race, Steve beat Sam into the rap and was able to skate to a 1.36 second victory. After the upsets of the first round, the Men's round of 16 ended as one may have predicted with all higher seeded entrants getting a victory. Though the ending results were not as clear cut as they appeared. The second race of the round of 16 saw Devon Wright face off against Norm Miller. Norm, in the blue course, had the misfortune to catch a ski tip on the drop-gate, spinning completely around coming out of the start and performing a slow-motion 360. Undeterred, Norm quickly regained his direction and set off into the gates. Further down the course, Devon came into the rap and lost his footing where the rap wall changed from sun-light to shaded, falling into the center of the feature. Regaining his feet just before Norm entered the rap, Devon was able to skate ahead and finish with a 3.66 second lead.

With the Men down to 8 remaining racers, the Junior and Women rounds of 8 began. The Women's bracket consisted of 7 racers so only top-ranked Lyta Foulk received a bye. There was a bit less drama for the Women as the top seeded entrants skied consistently, generally outpacing their competitors by similar margins to those during the qualifier. Lyta,



Taylor Finn, Farli Boden, and Maria Nappi would move on to the semi-finals. In the Junior Bracket, Thursday's four entrants were joined by Tait Edberg, a Freeski competitor from Squaw/Alpine Meadows who used the opportunity of a rest day for the Freeski Juniors to get a chance to join in on the racing! With 5 entrants, the first round allowed many of the competitors to test the other course as Bodhi Boschen (4 seed) and Grant Nylander (5 seed) were the one pair to race in the quarter-finals. Bodhi continued with his all-out skiing style and again went huge off the jump. He was able to outpace Grant and moved on to the semi-finals.

Turning back to the Men, Cory Snyder (1 seed) outdueled Devon Wright (9 seed) thanks to some strong skiing and a move by Devon to style points, including a very nice twist off the jump. Garrett Long (4 seed) had the slimmest margin of victory in the quarter-finals, finishing 1.39 seconds ahead of Birk Larsen (5 seed). Dylan Weglarz (3 seed) finished ahead of fellow New Hampshire Miles Fey (6 seed) and

Jeffrey Gay (2 seed) laid down a strong run against Jacob Carter-Gibb (7 seed). In the semi-finals, Cory skied a strong run and Garrett wasn't able to maintain the pace, trailing by 2.18 seconds. However, in the lower half of the bracket, upset was brewing. After generally opting for the red course, Jeff, as the higher seed picked blue instead. Athletes weren't certain, but the red course did seem to be skiing a bit quicker than the blue. A very strong run by Dylan and the possibility of the faster course led him to defeat Jeff in the semi-finals by 1.01 seconds and move on to the finals with Cory.



Joel Nylander going big during the Parallel Qualifier

The large and small finals for the men were the reason the parallel format was created. Garrett and Jeff went off first and as the lower seed, Jeff chose to move back to the red course. Through the gates, over the jump and into the rap, Jeffrey maintained a half-gate to a gate lead over Garrett before disaster struck. Skiing over the berm created by athletes repeatedly entering the rap, Jeff got stuck on his inside edge and was unable to make the turn heading into the skate section. Falling to the outside, Garrett was able to sneak by, on one ski, and to get around the 0 penalty gate ahead of Jeff. Down but not out, Jeff quickly recovered and powered through the skate section to finish a slim 0.12 seconds behind. Not to be outdone for excitement, Cory and Dylan were in a similar position at the last gate before the rap. Cory, having chosen the red course, came in to the rap first and with speed but after a day of wear, the shaded left side of the rap wall had developed a small but impactful divot about halfway up the wall. A divot which was partially obscured by the low light conditions of the rap edges. Cory had the misfortune

to just ski through the hole catching the outside edge of his uphill ski and falling into the rap wall. Dylan, hot on his heels, narrowly avoided a pileup and chose a low line through the rap, staying at the bottom of the bowl where the walls met the base. A few powerful pole plants and Dylan made it past Cory on the inside and could skate to the finish for his first Nationals victory.

The Junior racers also got a taste of the excitement of the parallel, for the semi-finals and the finals, the largest margin of victory was 1.51 seconds! First up in the semi-finals were Finn Dressen (1 seed) and Bodhi Boschen (4 seed) and despite an excellent qualifier performance, Finn was upset by Bodhi by 1.28 seconds. For the second race, Jeanne Pouezevara (3 seed) was able to oust Freeskier-turned-racer Tait Edberg (2 seed) in a 0.12 second photo finish victory. This led up to Bodhi and Jeanne facing in the final and to Bodhi laying down another blazing run to take first place in the Junior bracket by 1.51 seconds. In the small final, Finn Dressen returned to strong form to defeat Tait in a well fought race.

The Women's semi-finals continued the demonstration of the dominance of the National Championship podium for the women as Lyta Foulk (1 seed) bested Taylor Finn (4 seed) and Farli Boden (2 seed) knocked out Maria Nappi (3 seed). Lyta continued her strong skiing in the final, notching a 4.43 second victory over Farli and Taylor posted a 2.15 second victory over Maria.

After an exhausting day, USTSA members gathered in the Rendezvous Lodge for the USTSA Annual meeting. There, members were introduced to J.T. Robinson and Nate Greenberg, appointees to the positions of Freeski Events Director and Director of Freeski Judging and Officiating. Their Board seats were confirmed as well as those of Cory Snyder as Race Events Director, Melinda Long as Treasurer, and Garrett Long as President. Jeffrey Gay was elected to the Secretary position. With the administrative aspects taken care of, athletes left for dinner and to prepare for the final day of racing.

At first light, Saturday looked to hold more of the same with a mostly clear morning and some freshly groomed corduroy. The course for the Sprint Classic was substantially similar to that of the Classic, starting about 8 gates lower down the Big Thunder headwall. Descending 150m to the finish, the course length was perfect for the format.



Morning in Targhee

The weekend race brought out additional entrants boosting the number of competitors to 40. In particular, the Women's Citizen category rose to 5 as Targhee/Jackson locals Maura Anderson, Claire Vitucci, Marianne Boschen, Bonnie Self, and Lisa Carpenter joined in on the festivities. The Citizen Men's category also drew five entrants including Scott Edgerton, Julien Pouezevara, Peter Faletto, David Secor, and Rick Hirsch. In another beautiful morning the Expert Women led off with Harper Boggs out of the gate first. She was followed by Farli Boden, Lyta Foulk, Taylor Finn, and a new entrant for the competition but a veteran racer, Sara Ellen Godek. Racing purely for fun, Sara was decked out in a pink unicorn costume, complete with horn and tail. Lyta and Farli both posted strong first run times, only 0.5 seconds apart in raw time.

The Expert Men were next up and Jeffrey Gay was ready to make up for the missed Classic race on Thursday, posting a blazing and clean run time of 57.19. Cory Snyder skied to a 57.06 raw time on the first run but 2 gate penalties set him back behind Jeff. Other notable performances came from Birk Larsen who sat in 3rd place after the first run, as well as from Jacob Cater-Gibb and Miles Fey. Our Junior racers also posted excellent times with Jeanne Pouezevara at 1:32.59, Finn Dressen (with another clean run) at 1:15.58 and Grant Nylander at 2:09.21.

With the first run concluded, athletes went in for lunch while the course was reset. Over the hour between the end of the first run and the conclusion of inspection for the second, the weather changed dramatically with the wind picking up, clouds coming in and a light snow beginning to fall. When the Expert Women went off to begin the second run, the wind was whipping wildly and gates were starting to bounce in the wind. Flipping the racers to reverse the bib order, Sara Godek went out of the gate first and made it to the bottom of the run. Starting next, Taylor Finn had been battling an injured ankle for the week leading up to the event and some rutted snow conditions and low visibility led to a crash and

the need for a toboggan ride to the bottom. During that process, the weather worsened and an already steady wind picked up, gusting into the 40 mph range. Furthermore, the temperature, which had been in the mid-30s, dropped as a front blew through, causing racers to huddle together. Athletes were most certainly glad for their Minus33 Merino Wool base layers and especially their Karbon team uniforms as they waited out the delay.



Penguin huddle to escape the wind

With Taylor safely taken to the base, the races resumed, still in buffeting winds. The second run could best be described as variable as entrants were neither consistently faster or slower than their first run times. By sheer coincidence, the second run of the Sprint happened to be the first domestic race of the year where the course turned to the right after landing the jump. This adjustment caused some difficulty as numerous athletes landed the jump very near to the right or inside gate following the jump. The Expert women remained in largely the same places as the first run with Lyta Foulk taking her third FIS race victory of the event, followed by Farli Boden, Sara Godek and Harper Boggs, respectively.

For the Men, Jeffrey again skied a clean run posting a 57.75 which would combine for 1:54.94 and a margin of victory of 4.44 seconds over Cory Snyder in 2nd. Dylan Weglarz, Garrett Long and Miles Fey would round out the top 5 for the Expert Men. Jeanne Pouezevara took 1st in the Women's Junior 2 category while Finn Dressen and Grant Nylander raced to first place in the Men's Junior 1 and Junior 2 categories, respectively. An unfortunate disqualification for Bodhi meant that he would miss out on a podium for the Junior 2 Men.



Men's National Champions (Jeff Gay 3rd, Cory Snyder 1st, Dylan Weglarz 2nd)



Women's National Champions (Taylor Finn 3rd, Lyta Foulk 1st, Farli Boden 2nd)

After an excellent three days of racing, it was time to crown the National Champions for Men and Women! Calculated as the event points for the best two of three events, the Women were very consistent with Lyta accumulating three 1st place finishes, Farli achieving three 2nd place finishes and Taylor two 3rd place finishes. Their results would win them an engraved award from Colorado medals company, Kiiitella as well as \$200, \$125, and \$75 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, respectively. The prizes were the same for the Men. Cory and Dylan both took home a first and second place finish so a tiebreaker was needed to determine the winner. Based off total combined time (using the parallel qualifier) the tiebreaker went to Cory due to his victories in the qualifier and Classic over Dylan. With his strong skiing in the Sprint, Jeffrey moved past Garrett into 3rd place, taking the final spot on the podium.