

AWSA East Newsletter

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Mid-Winter Meetings and Clinics

The Eastern Region Winter Membership & Council Meetings will be held on **Saturday, January 12, 2002** at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Annapolis, MD. The Council Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Membership Meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. Clinics will be offered on Sunday. Please contact the following people if you are interested in participating in a clinic: Drivers Clinic – Doug Robbins (drobbins@zbzoom.net); Judges Clinic – Roger Hammel (104347.445@compuserve.com); and Safety Clinic – Suzan Andrews (suzansstuff@fast.net).

Walk-ins are welcome, but signing up ahead of time will help to ensure that the clinic will be conducted with sufficient meeting space. There will be no formal banquet on Saturday night, but the Hampton is only a few blocks from the Annapolis shopping mall and restaurant park. The quaint historic district of Annapolis, which includes many bars & restaurants, is only a 10-minute drive from the hotel. Check out www.annapolis.com

A limited number of rooms are available at the Hampton Inn for the reduced rate of \$74 per night for Friday and Saturday nights. To receive this preferred rate, you must make your reservation before December 12th, by calling the Hampton Inn at (410) 571-0200. Be sure you mention the USA Water Ski meeting to receive the preferred rate.

Directions: The Hampton Inn is located at 124 Womack Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401. **From North:** Take I-95 South to I-895 South & continue thru Harbor Tunnel. Take I-97 South for about 20 miles, to Rt. 50 East/Annapolis. Take Exit 22 (SR665/Arts T. Allen Blvd.) Stay in the right lane to immediately take the 1st exit - Riva Road. Turn right on to Riva Road, then left at the first traffic light (Admiral Cochrane Drive), then left on to Spruill Road and left onto Womack Drive. You'll see the Hampton on your left.



From South & West: Take I-95 or US 301 to Route 50 eastbound to Annapolis. Then reference the underlined directions above. **From East:** Take Route 50 westbound crossing over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Annapolis. Then reference the underlined directions above.

Please come early, stay late, enjoy the meetings and clinics, and help guide the Eastern Region into 2002. Regardless of your level of skiing, past participation, or type of skiing, the weekend activities will be a great time to learn, share, fellowship, and participate.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

Hotel Reservations:

Hampton Inn & Suites, Annapolis, MD
Call 410-571-0200, mention USA Water Ski

Clinic Information:

Drivers Clinic – Doug Robbins
drobbins@zbzoom.net or (412) 452-2042
Judges Clinic - Roger Hammel
104347.445@compuserve.com or (703) 471-7769
Safety Clinic – Suzan Andrews
suzansstuff@fast.net or contact
Jerry Stansberry, EVP
stansplb@aol.com or (703) 256-2421 (work)

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From The EVP

No you are not having a flash back and your eyes are not playing tricks on you. I am again the EVP. I am sure some of you thought I had gone away never to return. Some of the new people in the EAST may not have been involved in water skiing when I served my last term as EVP. I thank you for voting me into the job again and I will try to do the best job I can for the people in the Eastern Region.

The council, State Pres. and committee people are now set for the upcoming year and as a group they will do an outstanding job for everyone in the region.

Here in the East we have had a great 2001 season. There were some outstanding tournaments all over the region and the group at Erie topped the list with their sponsorship of the Regionals. We know next year will be more of the same.

Our representation at the Nationals was very good and quite a few brought home medals. Please note the list in the newsletter. We had two Gold medal winners from Virginia, Gordon Gay (tricks) and Bill Mahan (slalom). Congratulations to them and all the skiers who participated at the Nationals in California.

My goal for 2002 is to get more people involved in tournament

skiing and have more tournaments in the East. I will need everyone's help. For the past few years we have had a down turn in tournament skiers as well as a reduction in the number of tournaments in the East.

Some long time tournament sponsors no longer have tournaments, tournaments don't fill up and some tournaments have canceled due to low entries. Our regional entries have been down the past few years but this may be because the Nationals is not on the East coast and we don't have as many skiers in the East as we had several years ago. There have always been cycles in water skiing but the present down turn is becoming quite serious.

In order to curtail this we need to work at getting more people into the sport whether it be Novice or 5Star tournaments, clinics, exhibitions or new things we may try. I feel as you do this is a very important issue and I more than welcome any suggestions any one in the region may have.

Have a Great Holiday and don't forget the winter meeting Jan. 12-13, 2002 in Annapolis, Maryland.

Jerry Stansberry (stansplb@aol.com)

From The Tournament Coordinator

I have asked for and received a great deal of cooperation from all of you thus far. The administrative process at our winter meeting will be a lot easier and less work for those of us who volunteered to administer this. Last year I only had about 17 applications when I walked into the meeting. At this time I have received over thirty messages from sponsors indicating the dates and type of tournament intended. This information is very useful in our efforts to avoid conflict.

The on-line sanctioning process has already begun and the cut off is set for November 24th. Let's make every effort to submit our applications before the 24th. Please send checks and safety forms by mail to me at my same address (guidebook). If you have problems with the computer give me a call or mail; I'm no wiz at this but I can try to help out. This year promises to be bigger and better than last. Good Luck,

Bob Morris (sorivskier@annapolis.net)

2002 Tournament Guidebook

Leslie Carr decided to punish herself by again agreeing to edit the Tournament Guidebook for the Eastern Region. Please help Leslie ensure the 2002 Guidebook is current by submitting results, bios, pictures, and/or other information early. Please e-mail your information toleenjax@erols.com or snail-mail your informa-

tion to 470 Ski Lane, Millersville, MD 21108. ATTENTION COUNCIL MEMBERS!!! You also need to send a photo and updated bio to her. Remember, Guidebook ads for businesses are \$100, \$180, and \$300 for quarter, half, or full page ad, respectively.

Regional and National Officials

We are in need of Eastern Region official at both the 2002 Regionals and the 2002 Nationals. Anyone wishing to place their name in nomination for driver, judge, scorer for the regionals or nationals

please send resume to Jerry Stansberry, PO box 245, Annandale, Va. 22003- Fax(703) 256-2326 or e-mail stansplb@aol.com.

Collegiate Help Needed

The Virginia Tech Waterski Club is REALLY struggling. Our boat has "passed on" and we are in desperate need of a new one. The Dept. of Recreational Sports (who we get our funding from) is willing to do some sort of leasing deal but we are having trouble

getting the details in order. If anyone has any suggestions, or knows of ways we can get support, they could let me know. THANKS!

Jessica Melling (jmelling@vt.edu)

Junior Development News

This year proves to be a transitional year. Debbie Lamb has moved on to the big job of chairing the National Jr. Development Team and I have agreed to step in at a Regional Level. I have been blessed with the kindness of Kim Spear to help with, "Whatever I need." - Thank you Kim. We were excited at Regionals to have so many people approach us with new ideas and enthusiasm. More and more people are becoming involved in the program, which has also made more people aware of our goals.

We sponsored several successful clinics this year. Sparta and Oakham hosted two of the larger clinics. Bear Lake sponsored a clinic that accommodate 10 beginner skiers and was coached by Eric Hall. Steve and Ann Lohr always have their lake open to beginning skiers and from what I hear have some plans for the up and coming year. We would like to see the amount of skiers taking advantage of these clinics increase. I know that some juniors have trouble committing to these clinics because of transportation and other problems. At Regionals we had two lakes volunteer their site and time to our juniors for a clinic. We hope to get the participation so that we can take advantage of their generosity. The clinics from the past have paid off. We had four skiers from our region qualify for the National Junior Team. These skiers were sponsored by the USOC for an all expenses paid week of training at Jack Travers' Sunset Lakes. Congratulations to Harry Fulton, Natalie Hammel, Courtney Swift and Marcus Loeffler. If anyone interested in holding a clinic or has any ideas about clinics for the juniors, please contact me so that I can get any information in the 2002 Guidebook at by phoning 302-378-7960 or e-mailing cswift@acninc.net

The team raised over \$600 at Regionals from our raffle. Thank you to all of those that donated items to make it a success.

Our sponsors included: Chessie Marine, Nye's Marine, Perfect Pass, Cobles Ski School, O'Brien, Goode and Jack Travers. Also thanks to all of those that supported us by buying tickets. These funds help us to reward the most improved skiers with trophies at Regionals as well as this year giving each skier that skied Regionals an Eastern Regional T-shirt to sport around.

A big thanks goes to Ed Llewelyn and Mastercraft. Mastercraft sponsored the entire Junior Party at Regionals this year. It was held at Sunview Park with a night full of food, miniature golf, batting cages and arcades. A good time was had by all. Al Gonda donated a lot of his time to finding a place and arranging all of the particulars, thank you Al. Mastercraft also supplied the All-Star Team with monogrammed towels to take to Nationals.

The Junior Development program also provided medals to all Eastern Regional tournaments for boys one and two and girls one and two divisions. This program was designed to ensure that the younger junior skiers receive awards for their efforts at each tournament they attend. If you are having a tournament, please contact me and I will see that you receive the amount of awards you need. Any comments or suggestions on these awards would be a great help in evaluating this program for the coming year.

Jim Meis again, has done a super job organizing us on our own web page. He made it possible for the juniors to on-line Guidebook registration. This has decreased our number of blank biographies in the book.

Please feel free to call, write or e-mail with any questions, comments or suggestions about the junior program. Kim and I are always open for suggestions. Please encourage our junior skiers to get others involved and help our sport to grow!

Phyllis Swift (cswift@acninc.net)

Speed Control Committee Update

The Towboat/Speed Control Test for the Year 2002 boats was held September 23-26 at McCormick's Lakes in Seffner, Florida. The Official Speed Control Committee Report for the BOD has not been written at this time.

The new Perfect Pass version is the 6.3 chip and the new Accu Ski chip version is 9.3. All information will be up dated on the usa-waterski.org web site. Go to 3 event and then scroll down to Speed Control Committee.

Twelve Towboats were approved at the test this year. The Towboat test results can also be found on the above web site under 3 event, Towboat Committee.

The Accu Ski 9.3 now has the paddle wheel feature. It was approved on the MasterCraft Pro Star 190, 197, and the Malibu Response LX. The 9.0 version is approved for Toyota Epic 21 and

American Skier as they were unmodified this year.

The Perfect Pass 6.3 was also approved for the Malibu Response and MasterCraft models above, along with Centurion, Corcraft, MB Sports, Infinity and Tige.

The Perfect Pass Chip now has a Tournament mode feature. The Eastern and Mid West Region requested the KX feature be buried and not be a skier adjustable feature. A compromise is that you will be able to select a + or - from the weight sensitive automatic KX. At the end of each pass if the driver adds weight for shorter line length the weight goes to the base line and not skier factor. Further testing may be done next spring with the radar gun on speed traces to confirm if the KX factor for a given boat can be set from the factory and eliminate the skier adjust option.

Ralph Hall

From The IAC Committee

Congratulations to the USA Elite Team that captured the WORLD CHAMPS in Italy in September. The committee instituted a new selection method this year that compared each elite competitor against the world of competition. At selection many

were skeptical that this team could compete much less win. Our team won by over 500 points which is a huge victory. Previous defeats were by margins of 13 points or less.

Jonathan Thacher

New Regional Records

Congratulations go to all those establishing new performance records in the Eastern Region! Lots of hard work (and fun) goes into setting these standards. The following constitutes the list as provided to our Seeding Coordinator, Jennifer Frederick-Kelly, and published with all the Regional records on the AWSAEast.org website. Please note that Regional records can be set in either

Class R (to include E and L) tournaments as well as Class C tournaments. Please read Roger Hammel's article in this newsletter for more information on establishing Regional records. The following records are for the 2001 ski season and the 2002 season up until the time of this publication. It looks like Dave's Pond was the place to be, so get ready for another onslaught at Regionals next year!

Skier	Event	Div	Score	Class	Date	Tournament	Site
Ginger Jordan	Jump	W2	125 Ft	R	8/5/01	M.C. Eastern Regionals	Dave's Pond
Ginger Jordan	Overall	W2	3343.7 Pts	R	8/5/01	M.C. Eastern Regionals	Dave's Pond
Denise Sangrey	Tricks	W4	2890 Pts	C	9/2/01	PA State Champs	Dave's Pond
Loretta Morris	Slalom	W7	3 @ 35 Off	C	8/26/00	Burn's 3-Rd. Slalom	Burn's Lake
Don Henderson	Jump	M4	145 Ft	R	10/14/00	McCormick's Fall Classic	McCormick's Lakes
Don Henderson	Overall	M4	3716.4 Pts	R	10/14/00	McCormick's Fall Classic	McCormick's Lakes
John Burns	Slalom	M4	1 @ 41Off	C	9/2/01	PA State Champs	Dave's Pond
Don Henderson	Jump	M5	134 Ft	C	9/2/01	PA State Champs	Dave's Pond
Don Henderson	Overall	M5	3711.4 Pts	C	9/2/01	PA State Champs	Erie, PA
Bill Mahan	Slalom	M5	4.5 @ 38 Off	R	8/26/01	Ken Mead Memorial	Lake Holly
Fritz Hasler	Tricks	M6	3330 Pts	C	7/28/01	Diamond State # 5	Silver Lake
Fritz Hasler	Tricks	M6		R	8/25/01	Ken Mead Memorial	Lake Holly
Jerry White	Overall	M7	2477 Pts	C	7/21/01	VA State Champs	Lake Holly
Robert Morris	Slalom	M7	4 @ 35 Off	C	8/26/00	Burn's 3-Rd. Slalom	Burn's Lake
Jerry White	Tricks	M7	1640 Pts	C	7/21/01	VA State Champs	Lake Holly

From Our Webmaster...

The web page remains available for use by members to post information of interest to other Eastern Region skiers. Write up your information as if it were a press release for a newspaper and send it in an email message or as an attached text file to awsaeast@compuserve.com. Photos may be included in .gif or .jpg format. Please limit graphics file size to 90K max. Larger photos take too long to display.

The online 3-event and collegiate tournament sanctioning system is heading into its second year. Completing the online sanction form for these events also provides the information for your guidebook and online tournament advertisements. Please proof your information using the online tournament schedule and guidebook ad.

Revisions can be made by submitting another online form.

Sanctions for Stand-Alone fun tournaments and tournaments for other sports divisions are being handled by USA Water Ski HQ. Although you cannot sanction these online, you can provide information to advertise any event using the Stand-Alone Advertisement option. Supplying the information online automatically makes it available in the online tournament schedule. Because this is a new function some details (like cost if any of ads which are independent of a 3 event or collegiate sanctions) remain to be worked out by Council at the midwinter meeting. Additional instructions and information are available on awsaeast.org.

Jim Meis

A Tribute to Lex Carrol

Living and working just minutes from the Pentagon, we find it hard to get back to the world as it was before September 11th. Part of the process of recovery will be getting back to the sport we love.

I would like to pay tribute to the Eastern Region's Lex Carrol. When you first get into competition water skiing, one of the first things you find is that the sport is supported by a lot of dedicated people. You find some that are the solid rocks and very foundation of the sport and stand well above everyone else.

Lex was not only a promoter of the sport but was involved in every aspect. He was a former Senior Judge, Director, Manager of U.S. Teams, and was the mainstay of water skiing in the New Eng-

land area for many years. He was a competitor along with his son, Blake and his daughter, Kristy. This is just a small part of what Lex Carroll represented for many years in water skiing.

And, of course there was Lex's Adam's Pond. One of the many tournaments held there was the Frostbite. If you have ever been to Massachusetts in the Fall, you know the name was perfect.

Although his health forced him to become inactive for the past few years, we will never forget Lex and his many years of work and dedication to the sport of water skiing.

Jerry Stansberry - EVP (stansplb@aol.com)

Technical Committee Update

The following are highlights of those items discussed and agreed to by the Technical Committee at the USA Water Ski's Annual Meeting in November this year.

Slalom:

IWSF has a 9.5 meter loop in the slalom lines. AWSA does not. It is very difficult to build a line with 9.75 - 9.5 - 9.25 loops. In addition to that, the total tolerances with boat path, buoy placement and line length is greater than .25 meters. We are asking IWSF to remove this loop and use the 9.75m and 9.25m.

After quite a lengthy debate about the Slalom Switch rope, for technical reasons, we determined the switch rope should be considered part of the boat. The logic behind this is simple, the switch rope comes with the boat and remains in the boat during line changes. It does not stay with the line. Therefore, when measuring a line, .50 meters should be subtracted from the length. The switch rope should be measured separately. However, the total length of the line with the switch rope and handle needs to fall within the overall length specifications.

Jump:

There seemed to be some confusion about where to locate the check buoys for video jump. The buoys should be located near the center of the box, along either horizontal line. In other words, they should be on the side of the box so they are not in the skier's way.

IWSF approved the use of 'Spectra' lines for jumping. Gene Davis is looking into the specifications of these low-stretch lines. Once that is determined, we will open discussion for approving this type of line. We want to approve the line for use without limiting it to only one manufacturer.

IWSF is requiring that all jump surfaces be treated with a 'proper paraffin wax'. In reality there are many materials or waxes that work as good or better than paraffin wax. We are asking IWSF to re-word this requirement.

We recommended lowering the slow speed for the second segment. This was done to reduce the out of tolerance times for jumpers who fail to engage the switch on the return to baseline option.

General:

All TC's will need to measure the elongation of towropes this year. This is being done as a survey to determine consistency with different ropes at different ambient temperature. Once a procedure is developed, it will be forwarded to all TC's.

The records application submission procedure is basically the same. However, we changed the 7-day submission requirement to 21-days. We added a requirement that the TC needs to notify the TC Chair by e-mail or phone within 10-days that there is a pending record.

Dan Baumgart (dan.baumgart@highmark.com)

Eastern Regionals Results

Virginia proved this year that its performance at last year's Regionals wasn't just because it hosted the tournament. Virginia narrowly bested Pennsylvania and Maryland in slalom, but showed dominance in trick. Connecticut again retained its reputation as

"King of the Jump". Kudos go to Dave's Pond for hosting a fabulous event. Everyone looks forward to returning there next year for the 2002 Eastern Regionals!

Our thanks go to Ann Lohr for compiling these statistics.

2001 STATE RESULTS (based on top 5 places in each event)													
	Total		No. of			No. of			No. of			No. of	
	No. of	Overall	Overall	Overall	Slalom	Slalom	Slalom	Trick	Trick	Trick	Jump	Jump	Jump
States	Skiers	Scores	Scores	Place	Scores	Scores	Place	Scores	Scores	Place	Scores	Scores	Place
VA	31	26,463	37	1	11,739	12	1	9,311	17	1	5,413	8	2
PA	32	20,160	24	2	10,674	13	2	5,642	7	2	3,844	4	4
MD	10	15,336	13	3	10,411	9	3	4,925	4	3	-	0	-
MA	20	14,315	20	4	8,112	10	4	1,367	3	7	4,836	7	3
CT	8	14,086	17	5	3,755	4	8	2,363	5	5	7,968	8	1
NY	23	10,188	18	6	6,139	9	5	2,694	6	4	1,355	3	7
NJ	12	7,717	12	7	3,899	5	6	2,143	5	6	1,675	2	5
ME	5	6,541	8	8	3,788	4	7	1,358	2	8	1,395	2	6
VT	4	2,200	3	9	2,011	2	9	-	0	-	189	1	10
DE	2	1,239	3	10	214	1	11	411	1	9	614	1	9
RI	1	1,216	2	11	-	0	-	311	1	10	905	1	8
NH	2	1,160	2	12	1,160	2	10	-	0	-	-	0	-
WV	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out Reg	2	982	1	-	982	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	152		160			72			51			37	

Five Star Enhanced Experience Tournament Sanctioning Program

There has been a lot of discussion lately on how to attract new members to the fun of tournament water skiing. For the last several years the Novice Ski League (NSL) has sought to reach out to all skiers, regardless of experience, by hosting Fun tournaments. More recently, a new concept called the Five Star Enhanced Experience Tournament Sanctioning Program has also surfaced. The following is preliminary information on the program. USA Water Ski is soliciting more ideas to enhance the program further. More information will soon appear online at <http://www.usawaterski.org/pages/5star.htm>, so keep an eye out.

Introduction:

The Five Star Enhanced Experience Tournament Sanctioning Program was implemented with water skiers and their families in mind. The objective of the program is to get tournament organizers to sanction tournaments with the following criteria making the event fun not only for the experienced skiers but for beginner skiers as well. Not only will hosting a Five Star Enhanced Experience tournament benefit the sport of water skiing by helping the organization to grow, it can help to revitalize the sport in your area. It can also create a loyalty of competitors! In addition to these benefits, tournament organizers will be given an allowance to help defray the cost of awards and giveaways. USA Water Ski will make available support documents that will assist you with sanctioning your event, templates for making signs, information on how to publicize your event, and other documents that will assist you in running a successful tournament. These documents will be available on CD, as well as, posted on the USA Water Ski website. All tournament classification and sport divisions are eligible for Five Star sanctioning. Listed below are the core requirements for sanctioning a Five Star tournament.

CORE REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE MET

1. Hospitality Chairperson – The main responsibility of the Chairperson is to greet newcomers and assist them with any questions they may have, assist them with registration if they would like to participate in the tournament and explain the benefits of becoming a member of USA Water Ski. Handouts should be made available for the visitors. The chairperson can appoint other people as co-chairs to assist with the responsibilities of making the newcomers feel welcomed. One of the very first things the Hospitality Chairperson or co-chair should do upon arrival at the event is to find the announcer and introduce themselves. They should also make the announcer aware of the location of the Welcome Area so

that he can make people aware of the location and direct them to the area throughout the day. The Welcome Area will be used as a central information/welcome area and can also be used as the registration area for the tournament. The chairperson will also be responsible for thanking the volunteers at the end of the event.

2. Giveaways – Each entrant of the tournament should walk away feeling like a winner. Every participant is required to receive a prize. The prize can be a t-shirt, hat, or other promotional item as long as it has the USA Water Ski logo on it. In order to assist you in attaining this merchandise, USA Water Ski has its own store that provides this merchandise to you. All items will be at wholesale cost and are available to you at the low cost. Example: \$3 each per t-shirt.

3. Awards Presentation – An awards presentation must be conducted. Awards can be given after each division has skied or after the completion of the tournament. If the awards ceremony is held at the end of the tournament, make sure that is made as fun and rewarding as possible to make it worthwhile for the participants to hang around until the end of the tournament. Awards must be given to junior skiers and entry-level competitors. You may use an award structure of your choosing for all other competitors.

4. Announcer – Every sanctioned Five Star tournament must have an adequate PA system and announcer. The Announcer must also be available for the awards presentation.

5. Create Awareness of Event – Each tournament director must make the public aware of the event. Posting flyers/signs in the area can do this. Flyers/signs must also be posted in the area to direct people to your event. Templates for these signs will be available on the CD as well as on the website.

6. Competitive and Non-Competitive Enhancements - Each tournament must offer at least two competitive enhancements and one non-competitive enhancements. The list of potential enhancements is not yet final, but new, [with prior approval] innovative enhancements may be incorporated in addition or in place of the standard list. The standard list of enhancements is expected to grow, but to date they include:

Competitive Enhancements: (1) team format, (2) performance-based (instead of typical age divisions), (3) flex time or scheduled ski time, and (4) a fourth event from another division.

Non-Competitive Enhancement: (1) Social (BBQ, entertainment, etc.) and (2) lunch for the skiers, officials, and volunteers.

Universal Ramp Proposal

A proposal was brought before the Rules Committee at the early November Winter Meeting to approve a universal of 5'10" ramp (with slope comparable to current 5' settings across all divisions. (See AWSAEast.org website for full details of the proposal and ramp specifications.) The Rules, Safety, and Coaches committees all had some questions and concerns and want to have more skier experience with the universal ramp before revisiting the proposed change at a later

date. The Rules committee proposes that clubs in each region conduct clinics and / or experimental tournaments (Class CX) using the new universal ramp to obtain additional "on the water" experience and determine how well our traditional skiers like the new ramp. For more information, please contact Rules committee members Lee Mershon (blmershon@msn.com) or Kenny Crofton (crofton@pilot.infi.net).

Roger Hammel

Records in the Eastern Region

Three years ago, then-EVP Steve Lohr asked me to work with Seeding Committee Chair Jennifer Frederick and Website Master Jim Meis to research and post current records on the website. We decided to go a step further, and use the database capabilities Jim could provide to list old "historical" records of the Eastern Region, those records having been exceeded. It is indeed interesting to go on the AWSAEast.org website and look through the old records, seeing names that jog memories, that are or have been prominent nationally, or to track the progress of the record value itself in bouys, points or feet itself through the years. It also leads one to muse how we keep records in the Eastern Region.

In the Eastern Region of AWSA, records of top 3-Event water skiing performances historically have been recorded for all Class C, E, L or R tournaments held in the Eastern Region. An Eastern Region skier could set an Eastern Region Record in a record (E, L or R) tournament occurring outside the region, but could not set an Eastern Region record in a class C tournament outside the region.

The other regions of AWSA now require that records be set in an E, L or R capable tournament, and do not recognize scores from C tournaments. Of course the same is true of National records. It is my understanding (via anecdotal comments) that even some state records in other regions require R capability tournaments, although I have no data on this.

The Eastern Region continues to allow records to be set in Class C tournaments within the Region, primarily because unlike other regions, the East continues to have only a few record capability tournaments each year. (...happily, 2002 may be an exception, from this years early tournament sanction submissions that I've informally heard about...) To restrict record setting opportunities to only those few E, L or R tournaments would deny skiers an equal or fair opportunity to set records as past skiers have had.

Recognizing this situation, about 8 years ago under EVP Rick Norford and Seeding Committee Chair Nancy DeJesus, the records process was quietly evolved to recognize the more stringent conditions and requirements present in an R tournament, while still allowing C records. In short, a process was established which held that if a record was set in an R tournament, then that new R record could only be broken by another performance set in an R tournament. Should a Class C performance exceed the R performance, then both records, C & R would be recognized and kept. This evolution was a novel interim step toward the future day when the East would have R records recognized. The implicit belief was that the region might gradually evolve to a point where most records were set at R tournaments. This theory was based on two points: first that the best skiers capable of a record would be attending Record tournaments, in and out of Region (e.g. Regionals, Nationals, Team Trials, and other L & R tournaments); and second it would provide an evolutionary base for R records, without the detailed

Rick's & Nancy's approach for the most part worked ! About half of the total Eastern Region current records on the books now were set in R tournaments, so there is an excellent base to start recognizing records set in R tournaments separate from those in class C...again in half the cases. In the other half, we are at the same point where we were in the early 90's the records established are in class C tournaments, and in a few cases the class C scores are exceptionally high, unlikely to be exceeded. My conclusion is that the evolutionary approach has plateaued, and we benefit from its results. However the proportion of records (under our current process) that are established in a record tournament is unlikely to change much going forward.

The East continues to have only a few R tournaments, at least that has been recent history. I believe we would be making a mistake to stop recognizing Class C records at this time. What I would propose to the Eastern Region is that we instead continue recognizing Class C & R record performances, making no distinction between them (call them "Class C & Above Records"), AND then establish a new set of records set only under the strict Class E, L & R tournament conditions - "R Records". About half of those records are already established thanks to Rick & Nancy, as they are the same ones we currently have. For the other half, I would propose that we set a benchmarking period of 12 months, and use it to establish new R benchmarks going forward, PLUS give skiers 12 months to produce "verifiable and appropriate" documentation of any past R performance by an Eastern Region skier that may have fallen short of the then current class C record, but would otherwise be better than other R performances. We will sort out these past, present and future performances over the 12 month benchmarking period, and at the end we will be able to establish a bona fide set of Eastern Region R Records, while keeping our Eastern Region Class C & Above records.

Some of the issues to be determined include: What constitutes "verifiable and appropriate" documentation of a past R performance ? Can an R tournament outside the region count for the new "R Record" ? Can we administer two sets of records ? Do we ever plan to eliminate Class C records ? (I think not at this time); If a future performance in a record tournament exceeds the performances of both the "R Record" and the "C & Above Record", does it count for both ? (I think yes); Is end course video review necessary for regional slalom R Records going forward ? Must the rope and handle be measured & verified "post performance" for regional R Records going forward ? Are we more or less stringent than other regions in performance verification ? Under what type of scenarios will we deny an R record application ?

I plan to make a proposal on this item to Eastern Regional council at this year's winter meeting. If you have input, I would like to hear it either before the meeting (via e-mail) or at our winter meeting. Y'all come...y' hear?

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Water Skiers With Disabilities

Craig S. Miller is the AWSA Eastern Region Representative for Water Skiers With Disabilities (WSDA). Please contact Craig for any and all information regarding WSDA in the Eastern Region. Craig can

be contacted via telephone at 215-855-2601 or via e-mail at csmler1@aol.com.

Performances at 2001 Nationals

Congratulations go out to the Eastern Regional skiers that made the trip to Bakersfield to participate in the 2001 Nationals. Special mention goes to Bill Mahan and Gordon Gay for placing first in an event.

Twelve skiers placed in the top five within their respective divisions. Alex Laurentano placed in three different events. Gordon Gay and Donna Lasky each placed in two events.

Performance by Eastern Region skiers was slightly down from last year, but hopefully will improve next year when Nationals isn't as far away.

TOP FIVE PLACEMENTS AT 2001 NATIONALS					
Skier	Division	Slalom	Trick	Jump	Overall
Prescott Fulton	B2			4th	
Alex Laurentano	G2	3rd		4th	4th
Natalie Hammel	G3		4th		
Oliver Loeffler	M1			4th	
Steve Lohr	M4		4th		
Gordon Gay	M5		1st		3rd
Ron Kokernak	M5			4th	
Bill Mahan	M5	1st			
Rich Aiken	M6	5th			
Fritz Hasler	M6		2nd		
Sara Roach	W1		5th		
Donna Laskey	W5	5th	2nd		

National Results Comparison											
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
1st Place	3	1	10	7	10	7	4	4	1	4	2
2nd Place	10	7	6	4	9	5	7	11	5	4	2
3rd Place	3	6	5	9	8	4	7	9	4	8	2
4th Place	6	3	4	5	7	1	5	8	8	3	7
5th Place	2	7	6	8	5	8	9	8	5	5	3
Total Medals	24	24	31	33	39	25	32	40	23	24	16
Total Skiers	61	89	104	105	116	83	85	116	65	64	61
Open Event Skiers	-	1	1	1	-	2	2	4	4	1	0
Skiers Winning Medals	14	18	22	25	26	20	19	28	14	16	12

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