



The Handle

The AWSA East Newsletter

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Mid-Winter Meeting

The Eastern Region Mid-Winter Membership and Council Meeting will be at the Wyndham Mount Laurel in Mount Laurel, NJ on **Saturday January 11, 2003**. The closed council meeting will be at 9am and the open membership meeting will start about 1:30 pm. Currently there are no clinics scheduled, but if you are interested in conducting or taking a clinic, please contact me as soon as possible by e-mail at edskifly@del.net. The Wyndham Hotel has a pool and would be an excellent place for safety clinic (shouldn't we all know the basics of water recovery?). All Mid-Winter Meeting attendees should check the AWSA East website for meeting and clinic updates. Hotel rates at the Wyndham are \$89 per night with breakfast buffet included. The hotel has a nice restaurant, lounge, and above mentioned pool.

Directions: Take either the I-295 exit 36A or the New Jersey

January 11 & 12, 2002
Wyndham Mount Laurel Hotel
Mount Laurel, NJ

Turnpike exit 4 onto Route 73 South toward Mount Laurel. The hotel is one block south of the exits on the left. The hotel is 36 miles from Delaware Memorial Bridge and 20 miles from Philadelphia airport.

Hotel Reservations: Call the Wyndham Mount Laurel Hotel at 856-234-7000.

From The EVP

Thanks for electing me your EVP. It appears that I've embarked on a great adventure.

For those that don't know me, I've been a 3-event tournament skier since 1972. I've skied at almost every East Regional tournament since 1974 and in 10 nationals including four as a 3-event skier. I've been a regular judge since 1980 and a senior judge since 1991. I've been assigned or appointed judge to 6 nationals and have been Delaware Councilman since 1988.

Again the East had a great East Regional in Erie, PA and many skiers did very well at the nationals (in spite of the rain). I personally saw some great performances: Paul Beaudoin's 144 jump (a personal best by a lot), Ron Kokernack's 99 for 1st place in Men 6 Jump (I was on the video meter), Al Luck and Rich Aiken were first and second, respectively, in Men 6 Slalom. Please see the back page for all the great results.

In the coming year I hope to get all the tournament skiers to act as ambassadors for our sport by telling friends and acquaintances what a great family sport water skiing is and bringing new faces to your lake or river. Please, do your part in getting someone new involved.

We need new officials (drivers, judges, technical controllers,

safety coordinators), tournament organizers, and other volunteers. Without these people there will be no tournaments. The more who work, the less load on each. Some of the long time workers are phasing out. This year I was boat judge at Nationals for Boys 2 Slalom with Ralph Hall driving. We had the best seat in the house. Try it, you'll have a ball.

I'm taking self-nominations for officials at Regionals and Nationals (they promise the weather will be better) next year. Please notify me if you are interested.

The Tournament Coordinator this year is Doug Milner (dskibrendy@cs.com). Please make sure he receives all tournament particulars, such as dates, classification, # of rounds, officials, etc.

A special thanks to Leanna Spear. She was my trick secretary at Nationals during Women 3 Tricks during pouring rain. We were soaked for the whole event. She worked diligently and cheerfully on wet, soggy pink sheets while shivering. We'll remember that event. Thanks With out help like this, we can't go on.

Please feel free to contact me any time regarding any problem or idea.

Ed Nichols (edskifly@del.net)

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Speed Control Changes to Metric Next

As of January 1, 2003, all speeds will be metric. Speeds will increase in increments of three kilometers per hour (KPH). Next year's PerfectPass Xy6.4 has been tested and incorporates this new change. Last year's Xy6.3 chip also converts between KPH and MPH. The Xy6.4 chip will be required at Regionals and Nationals.

AccuSki did not test an upgraded chip this year, however, last year's chip will accommodate both KPH and MPH. The following table specifies the new speeds.

Ralph Hall

KPH	25.0	28.0	31.0	34.0	37.0	40.0	43.0	46.0	49.0	52.0	55.0	58.0
MPH	15.5	17.4	19.3	21.1	23.0	24.9	26.7	28.6	30.4	32.3	34.2	36.0

Junior Development

Hope all of you are staying in shape this winter. We are counting the days until water ski season again here in the East. Congratulations to our 38 Regional Team members in 2003. We are looking forward to a great year.

There are several clinics in the works and specifics will be decided upon at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Avon said that they will host a clinic or tournament just for juniors so that we can get used to their awesome site for Regionals 2003. Sparta will hold their annual clinic. Twin Lakes has agreed to host a clinic at their club this year as well. We are hoping that Pangaea Puddle will continue to offer their great clinic the last part of June. And there is still plenty of time for other sites to put together a clinic for this coming year. Our goal is to get every single junior to at least one clinic this year and that goal can be easily met with your help. So, let us know when your club wants to host a clinic. It is very rewarding!

Juniors, please make sure that all your paperwork, bios, etc. have been turned in by the deadline so that we can read about you online and in the guidebook. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Kim Spear at 703-404-0806.

National level news: remember Girls 2 maximum slalom speed in 32/minimum is 22 (see the speed control article for all speed changes). There have been several changes to qualifications for all divisions so please become familiar with them. You can read about them at the AWSA website or they will send you a copy if you call them. they also will be printed in the guidebook.

Remember that we need to recruit new skiers to keep our sport growing so try to invite at least one friend to go skiing with you this year. You never know, they might get hooked!

Stay warm!

Kim Spear and Phyllis Swift

2002 East Regionals State Team Scores

2002 STATE RESULTS (based on top 5 places in each event)													
States	Total No. of Skiers	Overall Scores	No. of Overall Scores	Overall Place	Slalom Scores	No. of Slalom Scores	Slalom Place	Trick Scores	No. of Trick Scores	Trick Place	Jump Scores	No. of Jump Scores	Jump Place
VA	39	32,835	45	1	15,458	18	1	11,603	19	1	5,774	8	1
PA	33	19,896	23	2	11,373	13	2	3,100	5	5	5,423	5	2
MD	16	14,440	15	3	9,738	11	3	4,701	4	2	-	0	-
NY	15	12,400	18	4	5,629	8	5	4,141	6	3	2,629	4	6
MA	13	12,216	17	5	6,453	7	4	1,053	4	7	4,710	6	4
NJ	10	10,492	15	6	4,160	5	6	3,580	6	4	2,752	4	5
CT	9	10,478	11	7	3,814	4	7	1,418	2	6	5,247	5	3
VT	5	3,858	5	8	3,265	3	8	-	0	-	593	2	10
NH	4	2,828	4	9	2,215	3	9	-	0	-	614	1	9
ME	3	2,620	3	10	-	0	-	915	1	8	1,704	2	7
DE	2	2,361	4	11	926	1	10	821	2	9	614	1	8
Totals	149		160			73			49			38	

2003 Tournament Guidebook

Leslie Carr continues to punish herself by editing the Tournament Guidebook for the Eastern Region again. Please help Leslie ensure the 2003 Guidedebok is current by submitting results, bios, pictures, and/or other information early. Please e-mail you information to leenj@erols.com or snail-mail your information 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 \$45, \$100, \$180, and \$300 for business card, quarter page, half page, or full page ad, respectively.

Because Leslie's work often goes unappreciated, we thought the least we could do for her is this:
"1998 Correct Craft Ski Nautique, 300 hours, excellent condition. Contact Leslie Carr 410-729-4039 for more info!"

East Region Placements at Nationals

Congratulations to all the skiers that represented the East Region so well at nationals, including the medalists listed in the table on the right. As the table below indicates, the East fared much better this year than last. In fact, the East probably had its best showing since 1998. Its amazing how cutting out a thousand miles of travel distance improves the region's performance. The encouraging news is that the East's performance was on par with when the Regionals was held in Okeehetee, FL, which is much closer than Houston (where the Nationals were held this past year and again next year).

Particular kudos go to those first place finishers; Don Henderson for winning three events in the Men's 5 division and to Michaela Cooper, Loretta Morris, Al Luck, and Jamie Beauchesne. Keep up the good effort!

TOP FIVE PLACEMENTS AT 2002 NATIONALS					
Skier Name	Division	Slalom	Tricks	Jump	Overall
Michaela Cooper	G2	1st			
Natalie Hammel	G3			2nd	4th
Alexandra Lauretano	G3			5th	
Prescott Fulton	B2			3rd	
Corey Humburg	B3	3rd			
Kathy Robbins	W2			4th	
Donna Laskey	W5	3rd	4th		
Loretta Morris	W7	1st	2nd		
Brett Patten	M1		5th		
Michael Adams	M4				4th
Tom Hinman	M4			5th	
Gordon Gay	M5		4th		4th
Don Henderson	M5		1st	1st	1st
Barry Sangrey	M5			2nd	
Rich Aiken	M6	2nd			
Fritz Hasler	M6		2nd		
Ron Kokernak	M6			1st	
Albert Luck	M6	1st			
Robert Morris	M8	3rd			
William Harrison	M9	4th			
Jamie Beauchesne	MO	1st			

NATIONALS RESULTS COMPARISONS												
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1st Place	3	1	10	7	10	7	4	4	1	4	2	8
2nd Place	10	7	6	4	9	5	7	11	5	4	2	5
3rd Place	3	6	5	9	8	4	7	9	4	8	2	4
4th Place	6	3	4	5	7	1	5	8	8	3	7	7
5th Place	2	7	6	8	5	8	9	8	5	5	3	3
Total Medals	24	24	31	33	39	25	32	40	23	24	16	27
Total Skiers	61	89	104	105	116	83	85	116	65	64	61	81
Open Event Skiers	-	1	1	1	-	2	2	4	4	1	-	1
Skiers Winning Medals	14	18	22	25	26	20	19	28	14	16	12	21

2003 Eastern Regionals in Avon, CT

The Old Farms Skiers Water Ski Club is proud to bring the Eastern Regional Water Ski Championship Tournament back to Avon, Connecticut in 2003. The Pond in Avon is conveniently located in central Connecticut and is easily accessible from Bradley International Airport just outside of Hartford, Connecticut and from I-84, the east-west route through central Connecticut. Everything that you need and want while you are in town for the tournament is conveniently located just minutes from the site -- accommodations, restaurants, and shopping. In addition, entertainment venues, recreational opportunities, and cultural activities are available throughout Connecticut and New England to enhance your visit to

the Regionals.

The Pond is an outstanding site -- one of the premier water ski tournament sites in the Eastern Region. Skiing conditions are nearly always ideal. The Old Farms Skiers Water Ski Club is looking forward to hosting a first class regional tournament in 2003. Best of luck in the 2003 season and we hope to see all of you in Avon for the Regionals. Mark the dates on your calendar now -- Thursday, July 31, 2003 through Sunday, August 3, 2003.

Contact Pat Byrne (PJByrn@aol.com) with any questions or for additional information.

The AWSA East Website

This is another reminder that the AWSA East website, at awsaeast.org, is an excellent resource for tournament information, personal contact information, downloads, links to more water ski information, pictures, and much, much more. Please use the website to its fullest. This newsletter is only an annual communication medium, whereas the website is always there and kept up to date for year around information. Jim Meis, our ever-capable and dedicated

webmaster, deserves lots of credit for the content on the site.

And don't forget about the USA Water Ski website (usawaterski.org). Click on "3-Event" in the upper left-hand corner of the opening web page to get all the AWSA information including rulebooks, national records, towboat and speed control information, articles, how to become an official, calendars, and more.

Novice Ski League (NSL) and Fun Tournaments

Have you ever wondered what it is like to ski in a tournament but felt that you aren't able to compete with serious skiers? Have you ever wondered what a water ski tournament is, or how it is conducted? Well, maybe participation in a Fun Tournament or the Novice Ski League (NSL) is just the thing for you. NSL tournaments and Fun Tournaments are very similar and are both sanctioned by USA Water Ski (the parent organization of the American Water Ski Association). Both types of tournaments focus on fun challenges to the beginning competition skier or the recreational skier that may not have attempted skiing in a slalom course before. Both types of tournaments will have plenty of people available to make you feel comfortable, explain what a tournament is, and to help you get ready for your skiing. Check the tournament listings

on the AWSA East website (awsaeast.org) for the nearest NSL for Class "F" tournament to you next year. Keep checking the website throughout the spring because not all of next year's tournaments are posted on the website yet.

I can't speak for the other states, but Virginia plans to have at least three NSL tournaments and two Fun Tournaments next year. In fact, the Virginia State Championships will include an NSL tournament, so stick around and see some of the top national skiers perform after the NSL tournament.

What have you got to lose? Break out the wide body slalom, the combo pair, or the old wooden slalom and enter either an NSL or Fun tournament! You'll be glad you did.

Chip Shand

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