

USA WATER SKI, AMERICAN WATER SKI ASSOCIATION
WESTERN REGION, WINTER COUNCIL MEETING 2005
Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, NV, January 8, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

8:05 a.m.: Meeting was called to order by TC Boice, EVP.

Present:

Directors & Honorary Directors – TC Boice, EVP; Mike Hayes, (also Blue Ribbon Panel); Bob Cosby (also Regional Treasurer); Gaile Heieck (also Regional Awards Committees and Collegiate); Randy Hocking (also USAWS Awards, USAWS Treasurer, USAWS E&F); Merle Vasbinder; John Goodman; Frank Harrison (also IAC); Andrea Plough (also USAWS E/F, AWA)

Councilmen – Area 1, Brad Hartwell; Area 2, Brad Conger; Area 3, Owen Letcher; Area 4, Scott Vanderflute; Area 5, Tad Scharpf; Area 6, Dave Vogt (also Rules and Nominations Committees); Area 7, Bobbie Buchli; Area 8, Carol Boice filling in for Ken Cannon; and Area 9, Barry Young.

Committees – Laura Johnson, Seeding; Connie Morris, Records; Richelle Matli, Rules; Charlene Brown, National Junior Development; Larry Goodwin, Safety; Phil Yastrow, Website and Technical; Linda Hockenbery, Judges & Scorers.

Others – Lisa St. John from Headquarters, Don Warman, speaking on 2005 Regional Tournament site. Carol Boice was also serving as Secretary for the meeting.

Introductions were made.

Ken Cannon, from Nevada, was not present for the meeting due to the weather. Carol Boice, also from Nevada, was in attendance.

MOTION, Barry Young / Merle Vasbinder for council approval of Carol Boice substituting for Ken Cannon as Councilperson, Area 8; motion carried.

TC assigned Mike Hayes as parliamentarian.

TC brought up the minutes from last meeting. They have been posted on the web site.

MOTION, Mike Hayes/Barry Young to approve the minutes; motion carried.

Treasurer report was postponed. Bob Cosby's car pool was delayed in the major storm in the area.

EVP report – TC Boice presented a report from the EVP.

As has been the case for the past few years AWSA numbers are stagnant and waning.

Lack of visibility- no TV, no public lakes

Lack of sponsorship

Complicated to run tournaments

Expensive
Demanding
Many other sports available

Why do we want to promote Water Skiing?

Family, friends, excitement, good clean healthy sport
Just gets more fun with more people

I congratulate and take my hat off to everyone in this room for your level of dedication and expertise. You have all done more than if you were paid and yet the hardest part is in front of us. I ask you to relax, be positive and as innovative as possible in your thinking, and yet not dismiss the foundations that have been developed.

In searching for solutions identify our objectives, devise alternatives, and evaluate how well those alternatives meet our objectives.

For ALL of us, our number one job is representing our skiers. That means keeping them informed and getting their opinions and ideas...even if we have to drag it out of some of them. There are huge changes in the wind. None of us wants to nor should be in the position of deciding what is best for the sport without the input of those affected.

I want to congratulate innovative tournament sponsors such as Greg Badal and Bryan Staub for the Diablo Classic and the 34/36 mph Championships. Both used extensive sponsorship, creativity, showmanship, and **PUBLICITY.**

We have talked about getting our schedule out to boat dealers in our areas. That is still a good plan and must happen this year. And that includes our "traditional" tournaments and NSL.

This weekend, Kay Goodfellow (your new NSL national committee person) is at a boat show in San Diego promoting water skiing.

Mike Hayes will be running an AWSA booth in the Los Angeles Boat Show

Al Lockett has donated a booth for AWSA in the Reno Boat and RV show

Brian and Cindi Dular will be running booths in Sacramento

Now: My job is to make sure you have all the information you need to make this the best sport it can be, remember we are in a sport we got into because it was fun and lets get it on.

Status of Action Items were discussed within the EVP report. The Region needs to get tournament information out to boat dealers, who will hopefully get the information out to the public.

TC will enlist the help of Headquarters to see that boat dealers get Regional Guides. He will supply Headquarters with a listing provided by Western Region of our boat manufacturers to contact. (*Action Item #1_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*) Council will supply Phil Yastrow with types of dealers to search for (electronically) in their areas. (*Action Item #2_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*) Phil will gather names of boat dealers in each state and contact them electronically, and submit results to council persons. Phil will also put links on the Region's web site for dealers to click on for info. The deadline is the end of month for Phil to mail to Council. It will be 3/15 to get info to TC to give to headquarters. (*Action Item #3_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*). Brad Conger will design the human-readable format for the list of tourneys for the dealers. (*Action Item #4_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*)

Larry suggested each club have an “adopt-a-dealer” person. This would generate interest and outreach for the sport.

Larry Godwin will write up a proposal for an adopt-a-dealer program. (*Action Item #5_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*)

RECORDS - Connie Morris presented a report for the Records Committee. Connie submitted a list of pending records for Council approval. Records were discussed and clarified.

The need for video review with 3 trick judges for setting a record was discussed. No tape need be submitted with the application for record.

MOTION, Connie Morris/Brad Conger, to approve records submitted by Connie (a typo on the records report was corrected during the meeting), motion carried.

REGIONAL GUIDE – Leora Matranga, who could not be present for the meeting, submitted a report on the Regional Guide Committee.

Guide Committee:

Leora Matranga Editor and General Manager
Scott Atkinson AWSA Headquarters – Director of Communications
T. C. Boice Regional Ballot Editor
Jeff Gaastra Advertising Editor
Michael Hayes EVP – Guide Consultant
Randy Hocking Regional Winner Photo Editor
Laura Johnson 2003 Regional Standings List Editor
Johnnie Matranga Proofreader
Connie Morris Regional Records Editor
Lisa Wilson Junior Development Editor
Rick Caulk Junior Development Editor
Phil Yastrow Tournament Announcement Editor and right-hand-man

Putting together the Western Region Tournament Guide is truly a team effort. The committee is to be commended for the quality and timeliness of their work. Taking on this project was certainly a leap of faith for me. Starting in 1974 I edited the Guide for 11 years in the days when it was all done on a typewriter with cut and paste for much of the advertising. The editor also arranged for the printing to be done. All correspondence was handled by mail or by phone. All tournament announcements came to me from the individual clubs and the advertising copy and money was sent directly to me. I was continually calling to make sure all copy arrived before my deadline. My only restriction was that the pages had to be laid out in multiples of four. We received the printing labels from AWSA. When the Guide came back from the printer, I recruited members of our ski club to label and sort the Guides in preparation for mailing. Then we packed them all up and took them to the post office for mailing. That is a big job all by itself! My deadline was to have them in the mail by April 1st.

Jump ahead nineteen years. The Guide is now done on a computer, the printing and mailing is handled by AWSA, who allowed us a total of 96 pages, no more, no less. Most of the correspondence is done via e-mail with an occasional phone call to speed things up. The tournament announcements were done by Phil Yastrow and sent to me via e-mail. My job was to then edit them and make them fit. The advertising was handled by Jeff Gaastra who handled the money and sent the copy to me all at one time.

With a deadline of February 11, 2004, I started receiving copy in December. Once the work has begun it is truly a marathon effort. By January 22nd I had enough copy to begin figuring out my layout. I was still

missing copies from the Barefooters (one page in 2003, 2 pages 2004), the DATA Arvin Clinics (full page in 2003, 2/3 page in 2004), Junior Development (2 pages in 2003, 1 page in 2004), the Regional Tournament, photos, The National League Schedule and the advertising in the Guide order form with a contact person. By using the 2003 Guide as a model, I had enough to do a mock layout. I found the e-mail address for the Barefoot Club on last year's ad and wrote them asking if their material was coming. I received a reply immediately telling me that they had called headquarters in December and were told it was too late. I told them there was still time and was told their copy was on the way. In retrospect, I should have contacted Jeff and let him handle it.

By January 28th I had things together enough to lay it all out. To my horror I had a total of 100 pages, four pages over my limit and I actually could have used four more pages. Once it was determined that I could not go over the limit, I sent out an emergency e-mail to my committee asking for suggestions. Randy Hocking gave up two pages of photos and I was able to rewrite and resize some of the copy to pick up the remaining two pages. Phil Yastrow and I determined that the Collegiate Fun Tournaments were also listed with the National League Schedule in 2003 that was put together by AWSA, so that would give us more space. Unfortunately, as it turned out, the only place they appeared this year was in the Western Region Tournament listings in the front of the book with an e-mail address given. Not only that, these turned out to not be fun tournaments but AWSA Sanctioned tournaments. We obviously didn't do our homework before making a decision to leave them out.

All the while I was working with Phil Yastrow daily, learning how to work with tables in Microsoft Word. My husband, Johnnie, was kept busy proofreading on a daily basis (just like he did for all of the other Guides I put together). On February 2nd Gaile Heieck hand delivered the Regional Tournament pages. I couldn't fit in the second page and had to rewrite and resize the copy to fit.

This was followed by the Barefoot copy, but I received two pages instead of one. I e-mailed them that I only had space for one page and asked which one they wanted to use. The DATA Clinic info came in for only a half page instead of one. Since I was short on space, I was able to combine this with the SACTO Clinics to make one page and was even able to squeeze in one business card on that page.

On Monday morning February 9th it was overnighted to AWSA. Our copy was the first to arrive at headquarters and on time.

On February 25th I received the draft from the printer for a final proofreading. Johnnie and I went over it with a fine-toothed comb and I made a number of corrections. It's amazing how much you can miss under the stress of a deadline. The final copy was sent to headquarters on February 26th.

Shortly after the Guide was mailed out, I received a call from Kent Garrett asking why the Sanctioned Collegiate Tournaments had been left out of the Guide. As mentioned earlier, we had mistakenly grouped them with the fun tournaments and left them out to save space. At that point all we could do was post them on our website and the collegiate sponsors had to send out mailers on their tournaments. Hopefully that won't happen again.

Putting the Guide together is like working a jigsaw puzzle where some of the pieces can be enlarged or reduced to make them all fit. The breakdown of the 96 pages for 2004 is approximately:
41 Regional pages (including 2 pages for the Regional Tournament)
38 tournament pages (151 tournaments)
17 pages for ads (with some business cards added where they would fit into other pages).

We have requested and recieved four more pages for the 2005 Guide. So we will have more space to work with. This is a leap of faith that may or may not be a good thing depending on the number of tournaments scheduled and the number of ads sold. We'll know more as the 2005 guide begins to take shape.

My thanks to all of the committee members for their hard work and cooperation. I enjoyed putting the Guide together and learned a lot in the process.

WEBMASTERS - Phil Yastrow and Laura Johnson provided a report from the "Webmasters". Laura has taken over the day-to-day web maintenance.

Laura - The new web page is still a work in progress, but I've received a lot of positive feedback so far. Thank you to everyone for submitting stories, photos, etc. The more input we receive from all over the Region, the more interesting it will be.

Aside from local photos and stories, we've tried to beef up the official's development section. Linda Hockenbery has been extremely helpful in sharing her input with me in this area. Watch for more updates from Linda in the coming months. Larry Goodwin has also passed along an article for the web as well. Thank you to both of you for your help.

Please do not hesitate to contact Phil or Laura if you find something wrong on the web page—a link is broken, etc. Feedback is encouraged. TC has been most helpful and constructive in this area!

Phil - Tournament sanctioning is going well – at least for those that are doing it. This applies to the clubs as well as the council people reviewing tournaments. I have tried to streamline it a little more each year, including officials qualifications and basic checks for the correct number of officials. Auto-generated messages to the clubs have been successful. Within 24 hours of sending out the first batch on Christmas Day, we received many updates to the applications that addressed the problem areas. As of 12/26, we have 105 applications, compared to 160 in 2004. We intend to have all applications in by the time of the mid-winter meeting.

On-line voting will be nearly identical to last year. It was a real success and all means of 'stuffing the ballot box' have been eliminated. We must continue to offer the paper ballot in the guide.

Mike Hayes says sponsor links are bringing in income for the Region. For on-line sanctioning, 143 tourneys have been entered. The web puts out auto-generated email messages to sponsors when info is missing.

REGIONAL NOMINATIONS - Dave Vogt presented a report for the Nominations Committee.

The following is the proposed nominations slate for Council, Director and EVP:

Area 1	Brad Hartwell	Southern California
Area 2	Brad Conger	Central California and Hawaii
Area 3	Owen Letcher	Northern California
Area 4	Scott Vanderflute	Washington
Area 5	Tad Scharpf	Oregon
Area 6	Stacy Holbert	Colorado
Area 7	Bobbi Buchli	Arizona and New Mexico
Area 8	Ken Cannon	Nevada and Utah
Area 9	Barry Young	Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana
Director	Steve Mills Merle Vasbinder	
EVP	T C Boice	

We need to a short statement about each nominee to put into the regional guide; say, 50 to 100 words about background in the sport, past and current positions, club affiliation, etc.

The new chairman of the Nomination Committee is Dave Vogt.

Dave Vogt, Chair of Regional Nominations Committee, will make sure a description of each candidate is in the Guide. (*Action Item #6_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*)

Mike Hayes provided a report from the Blue Ribbon Committee. The committee is trying to clarify and standardize the information reported. We need a more coherent format and more consistency for presentation of information, so everyone can understand budget information. They would like to see the Region set a reserve that we never dip into. They are seeking ways to best use funds available to further goals of the Region's mission statement and promote competitive water skiing. This committee will have more in the summer. This information presented in this meeting is just a progress report for now.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT 2005

Ron Warman presented a status on the 2005 Regional Tournament. Preparations are progressing right along. There is a web sight for Warman Lake, with a link from the Region Web Site. Judge-signup and skier biographies are on-line. The Judges Appreciation Dinner will be on Friday evening. Ron needs to include the Chief Safety on the tournament announcement. Another lake will be holding practice but Warman Lake will not endorse it. John Goodman, Chief Driver, announced that promo boats to be there by 10:00 on Friday. Ron explained the lake will be closed to members from Wednesday on. Ron will get more information in the announcement about local lakes for practice.

The question came up – will we require one masters again this year or two to qualify? The location of the Regionals and number of lakes impact this.

MOTION, Brad Hartwell/Barry Young to keep the Western Regionals rating entry requirement as one masters. This covers all 3 events. Motion carried.

We need to include when trick lists are required. Declared trick list required prior to event. Ron will update the announcement for this.

MOTION, Mike Hayes / Brad Conger to add W1 and M1 to family membership fees, motion carried.

More clarification for the announcement were discussed. Site briefing should be \$10 rather than \$20. Ron will update. Practice for tricks should be available for all boat manufacturers. This need not necessarily be promo, but the people running practice should provide the preferred boat. Times when food is available should be stated. When awards are given will be included - 30 minutes after the event. The “secret code” for hotels for rates will be included.

Appointed Drivers for Regionals 2005:

Randy Hocking, Steve Mills, alternate Dave Vogt
Dee Johnson, Pat Rogers Wayne Canfield as alternate
Mark Roske, Bob Hardeman, alternate Will Bush
Barry Young, Ron Goodman, alternate Brad Conger or John Goodman

John Goodman explained the promo boats used in the tournament will be tested before-hand by pre-designated staff; appointed drivers don't have to be there for that.

Drivers just turning Senior have in the past been told to wait a year before we have them drive for Regionals. Some work hard and have a lot of experience and training even though they have not met this year-requirement. Should we change this? Council should discuss and decide.

MOTION, John Goodman/Dave Vogt to remove this rule starting with 2006. Barry Young/Merle Vasbinder made a friendly amendment to remove the rule effective with tournaments worked in 2004, motion carried.

MOTION, John Goodman/Dave Vogt to approve the suggested slate of drivers, motion carried.

MOTION, Mike Hayes/Barry Young for Technical Controllers to have flexibility to do whatever is legal to accomplish video and technical for tricks, with whatever system. Motion carried.

MOTION, Barry Young/Scott Vanderflute to approve the proposed Chief Officials for Regionals. Motion carried.

Bob Cosby presented a budget report as Treasurer. The Region is in good shape, and financially sound.

Gaile Heieck spoke about Regional Awards. The subject of awards needs more outreach. Gaile needs more responses for awards candidates. Laura will build the ability into the web site for members to post names for candidates for awards. (*Action Item #7_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*)

MOTION, Bobby Buchli to make awards for Regional Officials. Discussion; motion died.

Frank Harrison presented a report on the 2006 Wet Set Regionals. Wet Set is on target. Regionals will be ready in 2006.

Connie Morris presented a formal bid to hold the 2007 Regionals at Imperial Lakes, Southern California. Discussion followed. We would be having two Southern California Regionals in a row. However, there are no other bids for 2007 Regionals.

MOTION, Mike Hayes/Brad Hartwell to approve the Western Regionals to be held at Imperial Lakes for 2007 – (motion to approve their bid). Motion carried.

Sky Lake is due reimbursement for 2004 because after paying required fees, their tournament did not appear in the Guide. They are requesting credit towards 2005 fees, rather than reimbursement.

MOTION, Mike Hayes/Scott Vanderflute to approve 2005 credit for sky lake, motion carried.

MOTION, Barry Young/Scott Vanderflute to approve the slate of tournaments, brought to the meeting by council, from their respective areas. Motion carried.

Schedule changes during a tournament were discussed. Schedule changes should not occur unless this happens within the rules. Officials should follow the rule book.

AMERICAN WAKEBOARD ASSOCIATION - Andrea Plough presented a report for AWA. There are lots of novice wakeboard tournaments. AWA needs participation, promotion, and officials.

COLLEGIATE - Gaile Heieck presented a report for Collegiate. This branch is looking for sites in the West for Nationals for Collegiate. Collegiate skiers can revive our sport – they can be our future officials.

AWSEF - Bob Cosby presented a report for AWSEF. They have committed one more year to a scholarship.

The year has been filled with activities at the Hall, generated by the Association and the Foundation and including special events generating trips in and out on Holy Cow Road which will help to be allocated Florida state signage to our facility.

Individual Scholarships have been awarded to six individuals:

MasterCraft - Virginia Rezin, Wisconsin
Tim Olson Memorial - Amanda Gottowske, Wisconsin
Correct Craft - Todd Culpepper, Georgia
Jennifer Odom Memorial - Christopher Kadera, Illinois
Barbara Bolding/Jim Grew - Tarah Benzel, Florida
"Big" Al Wagner/Western Region - Keley Vasbinder, Oregon

Other Scholarships administered: Kristy Overton

Jimmy McCormick Memorial
Jim Grew
Rolex Junior Masters
Jon Franklin Foundation

The Lake has been completely dug and every effort conceivable is being made to remove the dirt so that the fence, shrub, and other necessary application are made so that the dedication of the jump, the John Roach Memorial Jump tournament, and the dedication of the lake can be held during the 2005 Hall of Fame week end. The jump is being donated by the family of John, Paul Boel and friends who made memorial contributions in John's memory.

As of the November, 2004 Executive & Finance Committee the total expenditures for the Lake has been \$405,429. Revenues \$296,652 which includes the naming rights. The deficit of \$108,777 is covered by \$170,000 loans from the AWSEF Trustees. Tony Baggiano leads

the fund raising for the lake and the goal to raise is \$500,000 not including the amount received from the naming of the lake.

Marketing the Hall and the sport of water skiing is needed; however before major focus on marketing the facility considering the cost that can be involved the lake needs to be completed.

Gaile Heieck presented a proposed slate of officials for Regionals. They are:

Appointed – Deb Parsons, Jack Hanna, Mike Hayes, Andrea Plough (Pan Am), Carol Boice
ACJs – Scott Vanderflute, Janie Fausold, Gaile Heieck, Jim Kinney

MOTION, Brad Conger/Barry Young to approve the proposed slate of officials. Motion carried.

Merle Vasbinder announced Kelsey Vasbinder will facilitate Regionals assignments from the Region's web program.

TC announced that Joe Biafora is bidding for the 2006 & 2007 Nationals Tournaments. Headquarters is requesting to know what our level of support is. Discussion followed.

MOTION, Brad Conger/Barry Young to fully support Joe Biafora for the Nationals bid. This would be contingent upon word changing to correct the name of the event and follow through with changing the depth of the lake. Motion carried.

Slate of officials for Nationals provided by Judges/Scorers Committee –

Assignment Judge – Gaile Heieck.

ACJ – TC Boice

Appointed Judges – Andrea Plough, Mike Hayes

Assigned Judges – Laura Johnson, Dee Johnson

Appointed Scorers - (not yet finalized) Richelle Matli plus one other not yet selected

Appointed Drivers – Brian Holm, Will Bush, Wayne Canfield for alternate.

MOTION, Mike Hayes/Scott Vanderflute to approve the slate of officials for Nationals; motion carried.

MOTION, Carol Boice/Dave Vogt for a recommendation to the Board – to split Nationals assignment into two shifts for scorers so people don't have to stay the full time. Mike Hayes made a friendly amendment to include assigned judges, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE - Will Bush, who could not attend the meeting, submitted a report for the Executive and Finance Committee.

RULES - Dave Vogt and Richelle Matli presented a report for the Rules Committee.

The National Rules Committee met in Tampa, FL the second weekend in November. Your representatives, Dave Vogt and Richelle Matli, were in attendance.

There are several changes that are being requested. Several of these requests had surveys, which required USAWS to help with the feedback.

The requested changes are as follows:

1.09 Tournament Limitations:

This would take away the limitations of a single site or sponsor having only one tournament per weekend. Now it only limits the rounds to three per tournament unless the subsequent rounds are elimination based.

3.02 Age Divisions:

Changes M/W 10 to 80 – 84 and adds M/W 11 to 85 and older.

Changes the junior divisions to

B/G 1 to 9 and under

B/G 2 to 13 and under

B/G 3 to 17 and under

5.03 Overall Scoring:

Allow M/W 8 and above the option of using ANY two events or all three events towards the overall title.

For Regionals and Nationals use the 1,000 point overall system to determine the winner, but still keeping the NOPS in place for EPs.

Some of the items that were discussed but no action taken on were as follows.

3.03 Open Division and Masters 55k Competition

Mandatory entry

4.02 National Tournament Qualification

No requirements for M/W 7 and above to ski the Regionals.

5.02 Overall Placement

Allow Masters 55k score to be considered for overall scoring in their division.

9.06 Boat Speed (Jump)

Increase M6 jump speed to 51k.

10.06b A Miss (slalom)

Adopt the IWSF interpretation for judging gates.

Or OK to miss on hard side.

Items that were submitted to committees for review.

To technical to allow skiers to supply their own jump lines, at the sponsors request.

To IWSF two new tricks T7B and RT5F.

Allow exceptions for experimentation in 2005, class C only, on different shape and size of slalom buoys.

Extend the limit, class E and lower, for a little larger. Requiring shore video and written feedback.

Thanks for your consideration to all of the rule changes and for allowing us to represent you to the committee.

Experimental buoys may be used in tournaments this year. Should this happen, sponsors need to notify skiers.

MOTION, Barry Young/Brad Conger to approve all rule changes proposed except 1.09, in order to discuss that rule separately. Motion carried.

Much discussion of proposed rule 1.09 followed.

MOTION, Richelle Matli & Dave Vogt/Bobby Buchli to approve 1.09 as is. Motion carried.

MOTION, Barry Young/Brad Conger to approve 1.09 as exception basis, to be granted on an individual basis by the rules committee. Motion died.

JUDGES AND SCORERS - Linda Hockenbery presented a report for the Judges and Scorers committee.

Goal: Encourage participation in judging and scoring, while maintaining quality.

Progress:

Content was added to the "Officials Tower" on the Western Region web site. The information includes how to get and maintain ratings, clinic schedules, judging tips, timing charts, and trick video clips. A summary of new rule changes will be added when available.

Suggestions that USA WATERSKI should create and maintain an on-line database of work records and a computer based training course for officials were considered by the committee. The database would allow officials to check their work records on the internet and the computer based training course would simplify access to clinics. The committee has acted to request that USA Waterski staff send notices to officials in need of clinics. This is current policy but has not been done. The committee report notes that officials unable to attend a clinic may apply for a "hardship" allowing them to take the clinic "self-test" as a substitute for attendance. The committee also reports that although developing a computer-based clinic is a good objective, we do not currently have the resources to prepare such a clinic or keep it updated.

Suggestions for recommendations from the west to USA Waterski:

1. USA Waterski should give a one year notice of pending downgrade. Currently, USA Waterski staff is required to notify officials when they need a clinic, but not if they are lacking work records. Many officials who have lost their ratings because of the current downgrade policy are offended by the lack of consideration shown to them after (sometimes) years of donating their time to help at tournaments. Many of us don't keep close track of our work and clinics and the downgrade letter can come as an unpleasant surprise. Giving a warning and allowing some time to "make up" work would show officials that their participation is valued.

When the people to be downgraded are identified, they should get a letter telling them what they are missing and stating that they have one year to fulfill the requirements, instead of an immediate downgrade notice. The list should then be held until the next year and re-checked to see if they did the needed work. The decision to downgrade or not should be made then.

2. Eliminate the 5-year limit on reinstatement for assistant judges. To reinstate as assistant, the person must attend a clinic. They should not have to fill out the application over again.

Suggestions for the Western Region:

1. Reimburse all officials for the \$10 clinic fee that goes to USA Waterski, not just regulars and seniors. The purpose is to encourage assistant judges to upgrade, and people who have been downgraded to reinstate.

2. Subsidize the purchase of trick training videos and DVDs. The purpose is to encourage trick judges to practice. The Practice Your Trick Calling tapes will soon be available on DVD. Tape One is 1 - 5,000 points and Tape Two is 5,000 - 11,000 points. They can be purchased individually or together: \$19.95 for one or \$29.95 for the set. The videos are still available for \$25 or \$35.
3. Since the change over to KPH speeds, we are starting to get used to thinking about speeds in KPH, but the boats are usually still set to read in MPH. If the boats displayed the speed in KPH, that would help us all get over thinking in MPH. My suggestion is to request that all tournament boats be set to read in KPH. This is simple to change and doesn't effect calibration.

My goals in bringing up this suggestion are to avoid the possibility of confusion about what speed a skier asked for (i.e. 25K or 25MPH) and to make it easier for scoring, the boat judge and driver to communicate about boat speed without constantly switching units. For tricks, we can make a conversion table so skiers can look up their speed in MPH to find what KPH to ask for.

My plans:

1. Contact all instructors and testers and make sure they are still active and to establish communication. Request their permission to post their names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses on the Western region web site. Recruit new instructors and testers.
2. Investigate difficulties encountered by officials trying to test for Pan Am ratings.
3. Review the downgrade notice letter to make sure that it clearly states methods for reinstating, and includes wording to encourage the person to continue officiating.
4. Promote an optional mentoring program for officials as an alternative to classroom clinics. Judges would work with a mentor to upgrade or reinstate ratings as an alternative to classroom clinics. The mentor would work with the student on their judging skills, teach them where to find information on rule changes, etc. This type of mentoring program is already acceptable under the current clinic program. The "mentor" is really a clinic instructor with one "student". The mentoring clinic can take place during a tournament or at any convenient time. It is usually one-on-one or small group. The mentoring format takes advantage of the free time many people have between ski rides. The instructor and student can discuss clinic materials while tower judging an event, and between work/skiing. The instructor can take advantage of the many other people working the tournament by asking for their input, i.e. what makes a good judge from the point of view of a driver, scorer, skier, or chief judge?

MOTION, Linda Hockenbery/Tad Scharpf to get headquarters to warn official 1 year ahead of time when officials would be downgraded. This would mean the official gets another year extension to correct the fault. The vote was tied 6 and 6. TC broke the tie and voted for it to give the Board Of Directors a chance to consider it. Motion carried.

MOTION, Linda Hockenbery/Mike Hayes to eliminate the 5-year reinstatement requirement for assistants. Motion carried.

MOTION, Dave Vogt/Merle Vasbinder to recommend to the Board of Directors that we eliminate all clinic fees if we download the clinic materials. Motion carried.

MOTION, Linda Hockenbery/Carol Boice to have the Western Region reimburse the \$10 headquarters clinic fee for any officials wanting to reinstate or upgrade. Motion carried.

MOTION, Linda Hockenbery/Brad Conger to have the Western Region subsidize the purchase of trick training videos and DVDs from Headquarters. Brad then offered a friendly amendment that each council person would obtain the materials and pass them to whoever needs them, free of charge, and the Western Region would buy them outright, for each council area. Tad seconded the friendly amendment; motion carried.

MOTION, Linda Hockenbery/Dave Vogt to have all boats in KPH. Mike Hayes suggested, and offered a friendly amendment for the Region to recommend this but not mandate it, except for the Regionals Tournaments. Linda accepts the friendly amendment to make only Regionals mandatory. Motion carried.

If the Board of Directors does not eliminate the headquarters fee charged to members to attend officials' clinics, Bob Cosby and The Blue Ribbon Committee will look at what this would cost the Region next year if the Region were to cover the costs. (*Action Item #8_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*)

BOAT DRIVERS - Wayne Canfield submitted a report for the Drivers' Committee. The driver video tapes helped drivers pay more attention to their driving and improve their driving voluntarily.

The use of end course video for slalom is beginning to be more widely accepted. Would you drive practice without timing the boat? Probably not! Why not check your boat path in practice before driving a tournament?

Individual Senior driver tapes are not being sent on a regular basis. I am still having to guess who is driving from the record tapes. Senior drivers need to send an individual tape to assure credit for their annual tape requirement.

There has been discussion regarding the timing segments in the jump course due to an excessive number of rerides in the second segment. Some want to eliminate the second segment with an additional segment in the first segment.

Clinics are an important part of driving. I would like to encourage drivers to attend every year--not just every four years as required. If you want to be a better driver, you must keep up with the changes that occur annually.

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS COMMITTEE - Frank Harrison presented a report for the IAC (International Athletics Committee).

The International Activities committee had a face to face meeting on October 30,2004 at USA-Water-ski headquarters. The full minutes are available on the web site for those that may be interested, some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- 2005 Team Trials will be held at McCormick's in Sheffer Florida July 6-10,2005. The following teams will be selected:
 - Elite 6 member team that will travel to Tianjin China for the World Championships August 15-21,2005
 - Under 21, 4 member team that will travel to Feldberg, Germany for U21 World Championship July 14-17, 2005
 - Junior 6 member team that will travel to Ca Am Championships September 3-4, 2005
 - 17-21 6 member team that will travel to the Ca Am Championships September 3-4,2005

At the present time I have a ballot out to the committee to select the site for the Ca-Am Championships, the sites that have submitted proposals are as follows:

- o Water-Ski Atlanta, Atlanta Georgia
- o Princeton Lakes, McKinney Texas
- o Cindonway Shores, Syracuse Indiana
- o Utopia River Ranch, San Marcos, Texas

The Western region has the following officials that have volunteered for the Team Trials and the Board will approve in January

- Laura Johnson: Scorer
- Mike Hayes: Judge

I would hope we could get a better showing from the Western Region in the future for the trials, it's a great tournament to start moving up for judges, drivers and scorers and a Pan Am judgeship is not necessary. We have had some great participation in the past; we need to keep it up. (Thanks T.C. for all the effort you made to try and get us some officials).

- World Games will be held in Duisburg, Germany July 20-24 This event takes the top overall man and women from the USA ranking list, as well as top two in wake boarding.
- The committee will recommend to the Board that Ryan Fitts be taken off suspension and placed on probation for 12 months with all privileges reinstated. He will be eligible for USOC and NGB funding
- A new medical release power of attorney form for minors was approved and will be part of team trials package.
- A pool of new team physicians was started for future international events:
 - o Dr Marc Aiken
 - o Dr Brad Harman
 - o Dr Brad Greenbaum
 - o Dr Rafe Armstrong
 - o Dr Mike Morgan
 - o Dr Ken Wallace
- Tory Baggiano will replace Mark Crone on the committee as AAC representative along with Mike Morgan and Sherri Sloane. Mark Crone will stay on the committee as a non-voting member. This bring the committee to a total of 14 members for 2005
- Sherm Schraft and Frank Harrison were appointed as delegates for the World Congress meeting in China

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - Phil Yastrow presented a report for the Technical Committee.

The Technical Controllers and Technical Committee will not measure jump ropes unless a record is set.

The biggest areas of activity in the Technical Committee are:

- 1) Cracking down on problem officials
- 2) 'Skier Friendly' Buoys
- 3) Skier provided Jump Lines
- 4) Jump timing course changes

Problem Officials

There is a new method, pioneered by Dave Clark and being verified by others, including me, to accurately predict the boat speed from Video Jump cameras. Several instances of suspected foul play have been analyzed.

Skier Friendly Buoys

Rule 8.09 regarding buoy size has been discussed as a way to limit skier injuries. This isn't really a Tech Committee issue, other than advisory only. We will measure whatever the Rules guru's come up with. The intention is to work with IWSF and come up with a solution to Skier Friendly Buoys and keep it the same across the board.

The rules committee made some of the following recommendations to the board.

Slalom Buoys - Discussion and video samples reviewed. Motion by Ruth to allow exceptions for experimentation in 2005, for class C only – video (shore view) and written feedback to be given. Passed 12/1.

Slalom Buoys - Motion by Nikki to extend experimental approval to class "E" but only for 20cm size (10 cm height out) – video (shore view) and written feedback to be given. Passes unanimously.

Skier Provided Jump Lines

Rule 9.16(f). Lots of discussion regarding letting jumpers bring their own jump lines to tournaments. IWSF allows this. There is a lot of resistance to this from the Technical Committee because of the overhead required – usually right before or during the jump event – to measure any ropes brought by competitors.

Jump Timing Course Changes

Lots of discussion regarding the current jump timing segments. Three issues identified:

- 1) Unnecessary re-rides in the second segment (class C)
- 2) Elite skiers again starting to reach the point of out jumping the boat and being held back by the towrope in the second segment;
- 3) Drivers lowering the boat baseline RPM to intentionally go into the first segment slow and over accelerate the skier into the ramp.

SAFETY - Larry Goodwin presented a report for the Safety Committee, The safety test for aspiring officials needs work. It no longer follows the manual.

All in all it was a good year for the Western Region.

I have included the *AWSA Safety Committee Report Winter 2005* produced by Safety Committee Chairman James Babcock. I have not seen the safety stats yet so I am not able to include them. If I do get them I will forward them on to the Council.

There has not been anything new brought to my attention since the last Council Meeting. I do want to clear up a few questions that have been asked.

1. First Aid and CPR training requirement
There has been some confusion about the First Aid and CPR requirements for Safety Directors. You need to show proof of current First Aid and CPR when upgrading to State, Regional, and National Director. You also need to show proof of current First Aid and CPR when you attend a clinic. Clinics are required every for years.

First Aid and CPR can be American Red Cross or equivalent.

Basically you need to certify in First Aid and CPR every four years. It is recommended that First Aid and CPR certification be kept current. Upon renewal, send a copy of certification to USA Water Ski Headquarters.
2. Can doctors, nurses, EMTs and other medical trained individuals become Safety Directors without going through all the normal AWSA training?
My understanding is that this is being discussed at the AWSA National level. The outcome might be to only require the on the water training normally given at clinics.

Comments on the National Safety Committee Report

Additional Information for item #2. Looking into having new tests written for Safety Clinics and Safety Director upgrade.

James talks about having a safety symposium where all sport divisions would be represented and we would revise the Safety Director tests and the Safety Manual. This symposium may not happen in 2005 but James wants to go ahead with updates to the tests. The tests do not match the Safety Manual in many instances and the Safety Manual is full of typos and grammar problems and may not address the newer requirements of the sport divisions. I have sent James my stab at correcting the Safety Manual.

Additional Information for item #3. Liability insurance for Safety Directors.

From Steve McDermeit:

“I think we may not be doing the right thing by stating this in the Safety Manual. Having personal liability insurance has become a necessity in this day in age — regardless of one’s active involvement in sporting events. Our insurance does cover all Officials as they work in their specific capacities at sanctioned events ...as demonstrated in a recent claim. I don’t believe our policy allows for the purchase of additional coverage for specific Officials. You may want to inquire about this with your personal liability insurance provider.”

Additional information on item #5. Safety Directors and the required “Safety Report / Check List” at tournaments.

I will ask to have the importance of this information posted on the AWSA West web site and ask the safety clinic instructors cover this in clinics. It would be a good idea for scoring clinic instructors to cover the process to get these numbers for the Safety Director.

Here is the section of the Safety Report that is in question.

AWSA / NCWSA / ABC / AKA / WSDA / USHA			Wakeboard			NSSA (Show Ski)	
Events	Number of Skiers Per Event	Number of Rides Per Event	Events	Number of Skiers Per Event	Number of Rides Per Event	Events	Number of Skiers Per Event
Slalom			Freestyle			Swivel	
Tricks			Expression Session			Doubles	
Jumping						Jumping	
Flip-Out (AKA)						Total Individual	
Totals			Totals			Total Show	

**Proposals / Questions brought Committee
(with action taken if needed)**

1. Is a rope trick release safe to use?

This question again was given to the Committee to act on. The question went out to the members and came back as follows.

With a vote of 6 YES / 0 NO, the Committee feels that the use of such a release in the trick event is safe.

2. Look into having new tests written for Safety Clinics and Safety Director upgrade.

This matter needs to be done. This needs the involvement of all sports divisions. The safety symposium is the place. For a Safety Director to upgrade to a Regional or National rating, they should have some knowledge of the safety requirements of all sports divisions. A Regional or National Safety

Director wanting to become a clinic instructor should also have this knowledge. These directors may only want to work one or two sports divisions, still they are qualified to work all tournaments.

Chair Comments: My goal, with the help of the other sports divisions Safety Committees, is to get these tests done by the Summer Board Meeting. With or without having a symposium.

3. Liability insurance for Safety Directors.

On page 40 of the USA Water Ski Official Safety Manual it addresses Liability Insurance For Safety Directors. However it states that the Safety Director should have his own personal liability insurance in that he could be sued as a private individual. This is a very sobering thought in these litigious days....I know my personal liability coverage is only \$300,000, and frankly I should get that increased. But my underlying question remains, would it be possible for a Ski Club like Canyon Lake to purchase additional insurance to cover Safety Directors? Has this been discussed by the Safety Committee?

Chair Comments: Can this question be answered by the BOD or can we get an answer from our new insurance carriers?

4. Boat engine “kill switch”

Should AWSA require all drivers in a sanctioned tournaments have this device connected to them when driving?

No action taken

I had been copied on many e-mails addressing this. No action was taken because it was felt that the USCG and the marine manufacturers had it covered. It would be better if USA Water Ski not get into this subject.

5. Safety Directors and the required “Safety Report / Check List” at tournaments

Leon Larson, while trying to complete the years “safety stats”, is finding that we as safety directors are in some cases not doing the required reports at the end of the tournaments. One of our duties as a Chief Safety Director at a tournament is to make sure we complete the paper work. This includes the Safety Director’s Report & Check List (with signatures), Tournament Injury Reports (if any) and Additional Tournament Injury Reports (if any). The Safety Director’s Report must have the numbers of skiers, numbers of rides (per event) and numbers of injuries (if any). Having the scorers fill out the numbers, and I have done this, is not doing the job we said we would do.

Chair Comments: As Chairperson, I am asking all members of this Committee go back to their Regions and communicate to their safety directors the importance of completing the required paper work and making sure it is sent in.

If possible, could USA Water Ski send a mass e-mail to all scorers and safety directors about this problem? This will help get the word out.

One other request I would like to go to the scorers. Would it be possible for the scorers to have a skiers / rides stat sheet ready and printed for the safety director right after a tournament so they can get the numbers needed? Having to wait for this information may be one reason safety directors leave it up to the scorer to fill in the blanks.

TOWBOAT COMMITTEE - Wayne Canfield, who could not be present for the meeting, submitted a report to TC Boice for the Towboat Committee.

1. 2005 Model Year Boat Tests

The 2005 model year boat tests were conducted in Okahumpka Florida October 3-6, 2004. We physically tested 12 boats and 11 of the 12 boats met the requirements for AWSA Approved Record Tournament Towboats. The 12th boat, a V-drive, passed as an AWSA Approved Towboat for class C tournaments. We currently have 11 boats on our Approved Tournament Towboat list.

2. Evaluating Towboat Changes After The AWSA Towboat Test

Currently our Towboat Policy Manual does not contain a provision allowing a manufacturer to retest a boat or boat component after the AWSA Boat Tests are completed and a boat has achieved AWSA Approved status. Since manufacturers do not have the opportunity to test their boats under all tournament conditions, situations may arise where a change to an approved towboat may enhance the boat's performance. We have set precedent in that we have conducted "spring boat tests" and have retested boats. We are proposing deleting the existing text under **Retesting**, page 17 of the Towboat policy Manual and stating:

Manufacturers may request the AWSA Towboat Committee evaluate a change to an already Approved AWSA Towboat after the completion of the AWSA Towboat Tests. The committee has the ability to determine the testing process and policies for the proposed change to be evaluated on a case by case basis. All costs incurred for retesting shall be paid by the manufacturer requesting the test. No changes will be evaluated or authorized between June 31 and the subsequent AWSA Towboat Test.

3. Quantitative Requirements For New Boats

We no longer have a provision in the AWSA Towboat Policy Manual adjusting the accumulating period for new AWSA Approved Towboats earning tournament credits toward qualifying for participation in AWSA Regional and National Tournaments. Due to the abbreviated time period between the towboat tests and the June 31 deadline for accumulating tournament credits we are proposing the following change to **QUANTITATIVE REQUIREMENTS**, page 13. AWSA Towboat Policy Manual:

The credit earning period for manufacturers who earn AWSA Approved Towboat status and do not currently have a Record Tournament Capable AWSA Approved Towboat will begin at the conclusion of the AWSA Boat Test and conclude the following June 31. The 20% quantitative requirement for participation in AWSA Regional and National Tournaments will be calculated from the number of tournaments during that period.

4. Boat Test Guidelines and Procedures

We are updating our data accumulation forms and standardizing our testing procedures as well as creating written protocol guidelines for the contracted test skiers.

5. 2006 Model Year Boat Tests

The 2006 model year AWSA Towboat Test is tentatively scheduled for early September, 2005 in Elk Grove California.

6. Anti-Trust Allegation

Ben Favret of Elan Boats/American Skier has alleged that our policy requiring 20% participation by approved towboats in local sanctioned USAWS events to qualify for participation in Regional and National tournaments is in violation of anti-trust law. "Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Jay Blossman, co-owner of Elan Boats" lodged a complaint with the Louisiana Department of Justice, Attorney General's office regarding our towboat policies. Jeff Smith, attorney for USAWS, Chris Prunty representing USAWS Headquarters, and George Lindy, Chair USAWS/AWSA Towboat Committee attended a meeting with Ben Favret, Michael Cohen, attorney for Elan Boats, and Jane Bishop Johnson, Assistant Attorney General/Antitrust, state of Louisiana in Baton Rouge Louisiana Tuesday October 16, 2004. We continue to accumulate information regarding this issue. Jeff Smith and George Lindy will have a verbal update at the BOD meeting.

SPEED CONTROL – Wayne Canfield and Will Bush, who could not attend the meeting, submitted a report for the Speed Control Committee.

The Speed Control Committee met during the AWSA Towboat Tests in Okahumpka, Florida on October 4, 2004. Attendees included - Will Bush, Wayne Canfield, Bill Bishop, Ralph Hall, Lyman Hardy, Absent – Tim Cost, Steve Lock. Others in attendance included - Pat Bloodworth, Dave Clark, Pat Holland, Rich Pato, Doug Robbins, and Leigh Southwell – Australia, Eric Horton – PerfectPass, Chris Prunty & Lisa StJohn – USA WS. Pat Holland was asked to represent the South Central Region in Tim Cost's absence.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- ADJUSTABLE VALUES - Discussion regarding current adjustable system values – do we expose or do we bury? For example: GD, GU, X8U, X8D, Kd

Slalom – discussion on adjustable parameters GD and GU. VOTE – bury slalom gate up and gate delay – it will be hard coded and NOT available even to the towboat manufacturers.

Jump – discussion on X8u and X8d. VOTE – expose X8u and X8d for 2005 with parameters on website. At next year's towboat tests, we will revisit whether to continue to expose these 2 parameters for an additional year as "drive by wire" is implemented on additional boats. Goal is to "bury" these ASAP once drive by wire is adopted. These variables will be added to the parameter chart with final numbers to be posted to the speed control website by June 1.

Tricks – discussion on Kd. The Drive By Wire (DBW) system requires a higher Kd for the system to feel comparable to the "mechanical system". The committee agreed there need to be normalization so that DBW and mechanical systems have the same or as close to the same parameter as achievable. PP will normalize/

- SLALOM SWITCH - AWSA members have asked if the slalom switch will continue – YES, no change in the foreseeable future.
- JUMP SWITCH – "Junior" switch – VOTE - change the policy to allow use at any jump event without requiring prior approval (no request for use necessary). The "junior" switch is skier supplied and the responsibility of the skier. It does NOT have to be made available for all other skiers. PP and AWSA need to communicate on the website that the jump switch is available.

SWITCH USEFUL LIFE – PP has changed the spring alloy in the slalom/jump which should provide longer spring life. PP will not send out replacement springs in the future. Committee recommends that switches should be sent back to PP for service every 2 years under normal use – or approx 400 total hours (approx service charge from PP - \$50).

- TIMER PLACEMENT – need to get the "spec" to towboat manufacturers. VOTE – require towboat manufacturers for 2006 boats, that they provide a locator pad for timer placement – 12 inches in front of the pylon at the widest width possible on each side of the boat - tolerance +/- 6 inches fore or aft. The fore/aft placement must be the same on both sides of the boat.
- SECOND DISPLAY OR SECOND SYSTEM TIMER – A question was asked – can a second system or electronic back up timer be used in-lieu of a second display? The intent of the rule is that a second display is provided for the boat judge such the boat judge can observe system settings. A second timing system does not meet the intent of the requirement for a second display if the system settings are not visible.

- DBW – drivers liked the system. Disengagement was too slow or did not slow down when you expect it to. Concern – some short courses – need to leave the throttle down to get to speed to speed. We will pass on to the towboat manufacturer and PP to resolve this prior to DBW finalization for 2005.

- POWER & ACCELERATION TESTS

It was agreed that we need to develop revised power and acceleration tests that incorporate the speed control system. There has also been concern expressed regarding the current test and the unnecessary load impact on the transmissions.

Will Bush and George Lindy will work to develop a new test parameter for 0 to 36 mph acceleration with system on and a jump test that evaluates a towboats ability to accelerate with the system on.

- JUMP TIMING COURSE – There was considerable discussion regarding the problems associated with the second segment in jump – some of which speed control impacts.

Problems:

- A) Elite skiers being held back in the second segment – line gets tight pulling jumper from air > 235 feet.
- B) Unnecessary re-rides due to the second segment in class c tournaments - at less than max speed
- C) Drivers intentionally depressing the baseline RPM resulting in the boat going into the first segment slow so that a higher letter can be used then going out fast into the second segment.

Possible solutions:

- 1) Add a “speed trap” (additional segment) at the entrance to the first segment so that the boat can not come in slow by depressing the baseline (ensure actual speed prior to skier turning to ramp).
- 2) Measure actual speed at the ramp.
- 3) Eliminate second segment assuming 1 or 2 above.

There was discussion on how revisions to the existing jump course and changes with the speed control system may solve the above problems. There were 3 differing views as outlined below:

Perfect Pass - From a speed control manufacturing perspective, PP would like to keep system changes to a minimum and use the existing 41 meter segments we have in place today for slalom and jump – i.e. 41 meters from boat guide to boat guide in slalom and 82 meter/41 meter segments in jump. PP likes the concept of keeping working with the existing 82 meter first segment in jump, but break the 82 meters into a 27 meter first segment and a 55 meter second segment (in other words add an additional set of buoys in the existing 82 meter course for a speed trap). The current second segment would be eliminated and the system would simply maintain the letter setting with no adjustments (Use s2% at 100 % of the letter beyond the ramp).

Dave Clark - Tech perspective – measure speed at the ramp - Tech Committee looked at an end timing point that is 15 meters past the ramp. As a starting point is necessary to find a starting point that is not in the skier’s path to the ramp – a suggested point is at 15 meters in front of the ramp for a total of 60 meters. Discussion – down side – tosses out all existing jump timing course.

Drivers - From a driver’s perspective – The drivers present wanted to minimized changes to the existing jump course setups and minimize impact to existing slalom course overlaps (overlapping courses). Generally the committee preferred the idea of a speed trap rather than trying to define the ideal speed at the ramp as proposed by Tech.

SEEDING – Laura Johnson presented a report for the National Seeding Committee.

I'd like to first thank all of the local scorers and tournament organizers for their timely submission of tournament results. Most of the 2004 season scores were in prior to Nationals; the remaining scores were submitted prior to the compilation of the ranking list in September. Also, all of the scores from tournaments held this past Fall are already submitted and in the seeding program. I really appreciate everyone's work in getting results to me so quickly.

On a technical note for those who are interested, the tournament extract files emailed to me in "pdf" format are working great. Very rarely was the pdf file missing any of the files that I needed. When files were missing, the scorers were quick to respond with what I need. Again, please pass along my thanks to the scorers in your areas.

The online/web-based seeding program is progressing. I'm waiting to hear an update from Mark Crone as to the specifics of the new program.

My only request for the coming year is that when a tournament is cancelled or changed, to please send me an email to let me know. We can go months trying to chase down results for a tournament that never occurred!

Thank you again to everyone for their support and communication with seeding. The process seems to be moving along smoothly.

RATINGS COMMITTEE - TC presented a report for the Ratings Committee, on behalf of Jim Kinney.

PART A: These three issues received the necessary 2/3rds vote from ratings to be submitted to the AWSA BOD for approval.

1. Lower EP to allow for 30% of the juniors or 40 in slalom, 30 in trick and jump, which ever results in more to qualify for nationals starting with the next ratings chart – **PASSED 5-2.**

RATIONALE: Juniors are the future of our sport.

2. Devise three rating groups: 1) NSL, 2) the current Expert thru EP and (3) a middle one between those two – **PASSED 5-2** (planning to submit this summer for board approval).

RATIONALE: We need more steps in the advancement process. Right now skiers go from step 15 of the NSL right to an Expert, which in some divisions is at short line in slalom.

3. Produce ratings charts annually instead of biennially starting with the next ratings chart- **PASSED 5-2.**

RATIONALE: There is currently too large of a gap between the years data is used to determine ratings and the years in which the chart is used. This past chart for ski years 2003 and 2004 was from 2001 data; and this new chart, which is good through August 2006, is from 2003 ski year data. With the advances in our sport, we feel we need to analyze data annually to assure accurate ratings and Nationals pulls.

PART B: These two issues did not receive the necessary 2/3 votes from ratings and will not be submitted to the AWSA BOD.

1. Allow juniors to use a Masters to qualify for nationals – **FAILED 5-2.**

RATIONALE: If we need more juniors at Nationals, it is better to adjust the EP as we have done above.

Use the entire ski population to determine ratings chart, not just competitive skiers – **FAILED 5-2.**

RATIONALE: Such a change doesn't help any because non-competitive skiers don't have scores, plus it would only change 1st and 2nd Class ratings, which is why we are proposing a middle chart.

PART C: This issue did not receive a 2/3 vote from Ratings as the coordinating committee, but Rules did approve option B.

1. . 5.03 Overall Scoring [SRC Coordinating]

Proposal: There are 5 alternative proposals relating to age divisions 8+ (IE over age 70). Following you will find the 3 alternatives. HQ is conducting a survey of skiers in these age groups and the results of which will be communicated to the committee at the meeting.

a. The skier chooses in advance which two events they want to count for the overall title. They may ski the third event, but for placement only. They will not be allowed to use the third event towards the overall title.

b. The skier may use scores from ANY two events or all three events towards the overall title.

c. The skier may use scores from ONLY tricks and slalom if they wish to have ONLY two events count towards the overall title or they may use scores from all three events.

d. The skier may only use scores from tricks and slalom towards the overall title. They may still jump but for placement only. Jump will not be used towards the overall title.

e. Leave overall scoring as is.

FAILED: 3 NO'S, 2 B'S, 1 C, 1 WANTS TO WAIT FOR THE SURVEY

PART D: These issues received a 2/3 vote from Ratings as the coordinating committee and were submitted to Rules as the primary committee for approval and all approved by Rules.

1. 3.02 Age Divisions [SRC Coordinating] – PASSED 7-0

Proposal: Change Men 10/Women 10 to 80 – 84 years inclusive and add Men 11/Women 11 to 85 and over or consider adding two divisions where 11 is ages 85 – 89, inclusive and 12 is ages 90 and over.

2. 3.02 Age Divisions [SRC Coordinating] – PASSED 7-0

Proposal: Change the junior divisions as follows:

B1/G1 - 9 and under

B2/G2 - 13 and under

B3/G3 - 17 and under (Ramp at 5 or 5.5*)

NOTE: Please note that Ratings decided to leave the ratings as is for these new divisions until the next chart is analyzed with the new skier scores from these new divisions.

3. 5.03 Overall Scoring [SRC Coordinating] – PASSED 7-0

Part 1: Use the 1,000 pt. overall system to score Nationals and Regionals and determine winners while still keeping the standard NOPS in application as well so that skiers can get their precious, desired EPs.

Part two: Change the pegging point in the NOPS ladder currently held by the national records along the lines of Tom Danford's proposal. **PASSED: 5 YES, 1 NO, 1 ABSENTEE**

This issue was sent back by Rules to Ratings to find the pegging point.

NOTE: Ratings will continue to work on this, but has nothing to propose at this time.

PART E: These issues did not receive a 2/3 vote from Ratings as the coordinating committee, and Rules as primary committee also voted them down.

1. 3.03 Open Division and Masters 55k Competition [SRC Coordinating]

Proposal: Entry into Masters 55k shall be mandatory for those competitors in M3, M4, and M5 who have placed either in the top 3 at the Regional Championship, or the top 5 at the previous National Championship, provided that they also have obtained the M55k performance rating. Continued entry into Masters 55k shall also be mandatory for those competitors placing in the top 5 at the National Championship in M55k division. Mandatory entry shall be required for the ski year.

FAILED: 4 NO'S 2 YES, 1 ABSENTEE

2. 4.02 National Tournament Qualification [SRC Coordinating]

Proposal: Regionals not mandatory. **FAILED 7-0**

3. 5.02 Overall Placement [SRC Coordinating]

Proposal: Modify the last sentence: Each divisions overall shall be limited to those skiers entering only that divisions events except that a score achieved in the Masters 55k slalom event may be used as the skiers slalom score for overall placement. **FAILED: 4 YES, 3 NO**

MOTION, Jim Kinney/Mike Hayes to approve the Ratings Committee report and recommendations; motion carried.

NATIONAL SKI LEAGUE – Kay Goodfellow submitted a report for the NSL Committee.

As the newly appointed representative for the National Ski League, I am excited to be part of the Western Regional Council. After attending the AWSA – NSL Committee 2005 winter meeting on January 21, I hope to be armed with great ideas for expanding the Grassroots Program.

Currently, I am gathering as much useful information as possible by polling those who have a very successful Fun Tournament program for their clubs. Aggressively encouraging all ski clubs in the region to hold NSL Tournaments and providing the knowledge to do so will be a priority. This should increase memberships to AWSA, and also result in many skiers taking their sport to the next level.

I am working closely with Ron Ciucci from Northern California. You'll enjoy his excitement & enthusiasm as he will be attending the MidWinter meeting in my place.

Lisa St John spoke to the group on behalf of headquarters. Headquarters is there to serve. Contact them if there is anything they can do to help.

COMPETITION TASK FORCE - Carol Boice presented a report for the Competition Task Force.

After the August BOD meeting, the task force tried to find a starting point in putting together a competition based system that would primarily encompass all Class C and above tournaments. There was so much complexity involved that the group decided to break down the project into two or three steps and, shifting gears momentarily, opted to work from the top down to see if that might prove an easier approach (as opposed to from the bottom up). It did and allowed the committee to get closer to its goal. Here are the steps we took and the decisions reached. There is still much work to be done, but we wanted to let the BOD know how we are proceeding and why. We are also asking for input as to whether we are headed in the correct direction.

STEP ONE: Regionals to Nationals

The group decided that advancement to Nationals should be based primarily on Regional placement as opposed to the EP. Such an approach would reduce the importance of the EP, increase excitement at Regionals and add even more competition. Imagine a runoff for the last qualifying slot for Nationals! There are certainly downsides to be worked out, but the task force felt that this methodology was an improvement on the current system. The hope was that it might be easier to tackle the primary problem of creating more competition at the tournaments leading up to Regionals once we had established a conceptual foothold. It was.

Part I - The detailed proposal is as follows:

Determining Nationals Slots: National slots to determine how many skiers qualify for Nationals in each event of each division are allotted by applying the current ratings methodology to the total population in each event/division (i.e., what % of the total population in each event/division qualifies for Nationals). We are not looking to change the size of Nationals. As with the present system, its size can be reduced or enlarged at the direction of the BOD.

The number of slots available for each event/division in each region would be announced at the same time as the new ratings.

Slalom, Tricks and Jump: We then distribute those slots among the regions based on a % of EPs (or Ranking levels) achieved in each region (i.e., if the West has 50% of the EP [or Ranking level] skiers in M3J, the West is allotted 50% of the M3J Nationals slots). If a skier places at Regionals in one of those slots regardless of his rating, he qualifies for Nationals. We use the terminology of EP to better clarify the explanation although that terminology may be replaced. Slalom, Tricks and Jump skiers do not need a Masters in any event to qualify for Nationals. Rather, the emphasis is placed on competing successfully and achieving a pre-determined regional placement which, for example, could be an 8th place.

A minimum of the top 5 places per event/division/gender qualify for Nationals from each Region.

Overall: Overall skiers must place in the top five in Overall at Regionals to qualify for Nationals except for certain divisions in certain regions that will receive more because of the large number of participants at Nationals in those divisions (ten M1/South; 6 M2, M4 and B2/all South; G1/West).

Overall skiers do not need a Masters in any event to qualify for Nationals.

Byes:

Slalom, Tricks and Jump: Skiers are granted a "bye" straight into Nationals by achieving a score in one class "C" or higher tournament equivalent to what the top 5% of the skiers in that event/division can achieve

Overall: An Overall "bye" is given to any skier achieving a NOPS score of 3000 (2000 for B1/G1) in one class "C" or higher tournament.

Event and overall "bye" skiers must compete at Regionals.

d. If a "bye" skier places at Regionals in any event or overall, that skier takes one of the allotted placement spots.

Details:

If a skier is injured and unable to ski at Regionals, he must have a "bye" in order to qualify for Nationals.

Open rated skiers do not have to ski Regionals.

If a skier fails to place at Regionals but has an Open rating, he can ski that event in Open at Nationals.

Results:

The results of applying steps A & B above using the 2004 skier performance data are depicted in the attached spreadsheet.

Part II – The committee decided to allow each Region to determine how many Regional level events each Region wishes to hold. The AWSA Executive Co. had asked us to look into this possibility after it met in December. For example, the East might hold New England and Mid Atlantic Championships instead of the current Eastern Regionals to attract more participation.

In case any Region opts to hold more than one Regional level event, it is probable that the Region itself will have to decide how to apportion its allotted slots for Nationals. The Ratings Committee has not specifically looked into how this will affect other aspects of the overall program yet or even discussed the above probability.

STEP TWO – States/Districts

Without mandating that any state organize a State Championships or that skiers be required to participate in those states currently offering State Championships, the group decided to make State Championships participation one avenue for Regionals qualification without deciding exactly how. The rationale is that this change would (1) increase the importance of the State Championships and (2) encourage states not holding State Championships or their equivalent (section, districts) to consider doing so.

It is important to understand that there is no participation requirement stipulated. The decisions regarding what constitutes a State/District event would be left up to the individual Regions. For example, let's assume California represents 72% of the skier population in the West. The West might then decide to divide California into multiple District championships. Furthermore, since Montana, Utah and Colorado have few skiers; these might be grouped or combined into a single District event. From a Nationals perspective, it does not matter how many events a Region

chooses to host. This choice only impacts that Region's Regional Championships participation levels; and placement in these championships (as determined by the respective Region) would determine advancement to that Region's Regional Championships.

Each Region would determine how and/or whether to encourage the organizing of such events.

Each Region would determine if participation is to be rewarded to advance to the Regionals.

If a region decides to award points for participation in such events, it would be up to the task force to determine how to reward this participation, i.e., how many points to allot (See step three below).

The Region may prefer to not create an intermediate tier between local events and Regionals and organize instead two Regional Championships as outlined above using the East as an example where a very short season might not allow for a tier of events between the local events and Regionals.

STEP THREE – Local

With the inspiration of the above two steps, the group was ready to tackle the goal of introducing more competition at tournaments below Regionals and Nationals. The following are concepts agreed upon to date with concerns listed:

Part I: The Concepts

Establish a points based ranking list.

The ranking list system would be web based on HQ's website and updated as tournament data is received.

Scorers would upload tournament data to the seeding program similar to what is being planned with the ranking list, and the list would be updated periodically (probably Wednesday or Thursday each week) as the data is received.

Both a traditional performance ranking list and a points based ranking list might be maintained. The initial consensus is to retain both; but more study might indicate that two lists are not a necessity.

This points based ranking list would be used to additionally qualify skiers for Regionals and Nationals, for example to provide automatic byes. Advancement by placement out of Regionals might remain primary.

How the points ranking list and advancement by placement method would be integrated has yet to be worked out.

Skiers would receive points at a tournament for each skier they beat who is ranked higher than they are. The hope is to maximize the number of points available to progress on the ranking list.

Skiers would not lose points if they are beaten by a skier seeded below them.

Skiers would receive points for each tournament in which they participate.

Skiers would receive points for placement (e.g., 1-5) at each tournament in which they participate.

The ratings committee has to address how important the previous two items are in awarding points for the ranking list.

The weight given for beating skiers ranked above one would be greater than that for placement and participation at an event. However, awarding points for participation and for placement, no matter how few, provides an incentive and encourages participation as another avenue for gaining points.

Skiers would receive increasing points for success (participation, high placement, beating higher ranked skiers) at states/districts, Regionals and Nationals, e.g. double for states, triple for regional level events, quadruple for Nationals.

As to tournament format, we need to encourage creativity and allow for flexibility to spark interest and excitement among skiers and organizers, e.g. incorporating ability based competition.

Part II: The questions

There are obviously concerns that we have not even considered yet. We need to know first if the BOD supports us as we move forward. Next, we have to address some of the concerns listed below. Then, we would apply and test one or more formulas devised according to these concepts to data from last year.

How can we best incorporate tournaments with skiers grouped by ability into this system? Or any format that an organizer might choose to use?

What we base the initial points ranking list on?

Is the list reset annually or does it feature a 12 month roll over?

Do we integrate the points ranking list and current ranking list? If so how?

How do we weight participation and placement versus the all-important awarding of points for beating higher ranked skiers?

The group favors giving participation and placement less weight.

How are those points determined and what is the point value?

If you are ranked #7 and beat skier #2, do you get more points than for beating skier #4? The group favors this if at all possible.

If you are ranked #7 and beat more than one skier ranked higher than you, do you receive even more points? The group favors this if at all possible.

What happens when there are few skiers in an event?

Could the number of points awarded be based on the number of contestants in an event?

What happens when there are a lot of ranked skiers in an event with a lot of movement?

What happens if a top ranked skier misses the first pass entry gate in slalom, first trick or all three jumps?

Could there be a cap to points?

If a score is less than six, should it count?

What happens if there is no skier ranked above you where you ski?

This is where participation and placement come in.

Is it enough?

Would a relational formula that applies points precisely according to who is competing in the event work well in addressing the above concerns?

THE NEXT STEP – The future

There is obviously still much to be done, but we feel, finally, that we have a start and know where we want to head. More details are needed. We have to try to think up all the scenarios that might allow a skier to fall through the cracks and close them. We must trial and test any formula we devise. We will keep going with the BOD's blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Surdej, Jim Grew and Tom Danford

Task Force Membership: Craig Bryans (S), Mark Crone (S), Freddy Krueger (S-AAC), Jim Grew (S – non-voting), T.C. Boice (W), Carol Boice (W), Denise Harkins (SC), Steve Lohr (E), Tom Danford (MW), Jeff Smith (MW), Don Bucher (MW) and Jeff Surdej (MW – leader)

MOTION, Brad Hartwell/Brad Conger, for the subject of the Competition Task Force. We should recommend to Board of Directors that their mission statements and objectives need to be more clear. The task force needs to state what is wrong with current system and why we need to change it, motion carried.

BY-LAWS – Jim Lang, who could not be present for the meeting, submitted a report on the By-Laws Committee.

This year the committee was able to sit back and watch the new regional and national AWSA Bylaws do their job after much work over the past five years or so. The committee had only a few requests for interpretation of the Southern Regions Bylaws. Other than that, there was little activity.

We are pleased to report that we have not had any proposed changes to the AWSA Bylaws, AWSA Policies and Procedures Manual nor the Regional Bylaws of the organization and therefore, the committee does not have any proposals to bring before the Board of Directors later this month.

We will be considering the proposed Electronic Balloting Procedures from the USA-WS Policies and Procedures Manual that is being proposed to the USA-WS Board of Directors, as a new procedure for inclusion in the AWSA Policies and Procedures Manual. Unless there are other issues brought to our attention by the AWSA Board of Directors, the Regions or the membership for consideration, we will have only this one item on our agenda for 2005.

ANNOUNCING - Brad Hartwell presented a report for the Announcing. Hank Longo has put together a lot of guidance for announcers. Headquarters also has guidance for announcers they can provide.

COACHING COMMITTEE - John Goodman presented a report for the Coaching Committee, on behalf of Terry Goodman. Nationals dates need to be changed because students cannot attend.

BOD Recommendation – by vote of the Council, people prefer 2nd or 3rd week of August for Nationals.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT - Charlene Brown presented a report for Junior Development. She also submitted a report on behalf of Lisa Wilson, who could not be present for the meeting.

Charlene –

In keeping with this year's goal of "gather, communicate and share", the following items have been implemented:

1. "Questions for Pros" was added to the junior development website. Please help us spread the word to all areas. A link has already been added to the Junior Development area on the Western Region website.
2. Regarding the 24 member National Junior Team; The National Junior Development Committee has the capability, at their discretion, of adding up to four juniors. These four can be from any region, division (including B1 and G1) and can be of either gender. This information will be added to the information in each region's guide on the junior page. Any area's receiving questions as to "why" a certain junior did not make the team should direct them to me, preferably via email. At first glance, some not chosen don't make sense and it's easier to clarify than have confused parents.

Each region's chair is to select an assistant(s) to help them with gathering information on new juniors.

Target date is Sept. 2005. The following volunteers have already accepted this post in the West:

Sue Strobach	Southern Cal
Rick Caulk	Northern Cal
Pauline Young	Idaho, Montana
Konnie Jelden	Colorado (pending their approval)
Barbara ????	Washington, Oregon (pending their approval)
Brad Stevenson	Arizona, New Mexico (pending their approval)

This group will be responsible for submitting the names, addresses, email addresses, etc. of attendees to any area junior development camps. This will be two-fold in the Western Region, as this same list will be submitted to Lisa Wilson if the camp sponsors are expecting to receive the \$20/skier stipend from the Western Region Junior Fund for their camp.

All regional reports to be submitted to National Chair Person.

Each region's chair is to have an email list of their junior skiers (target Sept. 2005). The West been the leader with this beginning 2002.

We will begin to pursue ways to coordinate with the NSL program to obtain names of new junior skiers.

Challenges:

1. Keeping the momentum going with every member of the committee participating. This year has seen improvement, however there is still room for more active participation from some regions.
2. Finding people to assist the chairs (the West did great here as well!)
3. Expanding the junior website in two ways:

Getting more information about juniors (pictures, stories, etc.)

Having more interaction between juniors and pros

We are starting to develop some means by which we can grow the number of juniors in our sport. If we can achieve the above items in a timely fashion, we will have the resources in place to begin to gather information about any new junior skiers, and also to provide these new juniors with information and support. These combined efforts will hopefully bring these new skiers into our program, thereby increasing the number of junior skiers.

Although we are trying to implement new ways to improve the number of junior skiers, we are still committed to providing support to our current members through clinics, rewards and timely communication. We are again asking the board to approve our request of monies for the following programs:

- Mailing G3/B3 collegiate information
- All Star Teams' t-shirts and rash-guards (with printing)
- Most Improved Awards (at both the national and regional level)
- Five hundred dollars per region for beginner clinics

Additionally, this year the National Junior Committee sponsored a "Silent Auction" at Nationals & the Junior Pizza Party as the West has been doing for the past 3 years. This was extremely successful raising much more money than raised previously. Each region will likely be asked to help support the Prize Raffle by contributing an item of min. \$100 value or the cash to purchase such items. Thanks to Mike Hayes, Hayes Jeweler's for his contribution the last 2 years from the West.

Lisa –

Thankyou for another year of generous donations and hard work by the Western Region. This years fund has reached over \$15,000. As the coordinator, I plan to use the funds to increase the skill level of the existing Jrs, and also introduce skiing to new juniors in the region.

We will again hold elite camps at Wetset and Bell Acqua, with the top 22 skiers attending. We would also like to see all levels of camps and clinics across the region. The SACTO area will be offering a clinic almost every week, sponsored by local lakes. Each of the clinics in the Western Region is eligible for the \$20 per skier to help offset the cost of the camp. Last year we had 6 camps, sanctioned by the AWSA, receive these funds.

Last years banquet was again a great success. The banquet is our largest fundraising event of the year. We do apologize for the food shortage and lack of air conditioning. The Jrs had a great time and look forward to the banquet every year. Again for 2005, Jr skiers listed in the guide will be able to attend for free.

Each year we had many disappointed new skiers who did not receive a gift yet attended regionals. Starting in 2004, we decided to allow all Jrs attending the Regionals to receive the token gift from the region. It had become almost impossible to find other participants to bring back the gift to the Jr, or to mail it to them after the regionals was over.

Our proposals to this committee for the 2005 season are as follows:

- Continue the \$5 per skier for the 2005 regionals.
- Western region continue to support the token gift for the Jrs.
- Regional host coordinate with Jr development committee with regards to the banquet facility and costs.
- All camps and clinics be sanctioned by AWSA.
- Each area needs to be responsible for at least 1 large raffle item.

Assistants are being chosen and assigned to the JD Committee to handle individual geographical areas. Ken Cannon will be tasked to find a Junior Development Assistant for Nevada. (*Action Item #9_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*) We need to identify ways to get juniors and families to access Junior Development area of the Region web site.

NATIONAL AWARDS - Randy Hocking presented a report on Awards.

AKA: Female Athlete of the Year- A'lisa Piper
Male Athlete of the Year – Mark Ritchart

AWA:
ATHLETES OF THE YEAR Boat FEMALE Patty Hicks MALE Austin Hair
Cable FEMALE Jackie Brown MALE Chad Forrest
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Boat Bob Hicks, Jr.
Cable Mike Olson
COACH OF THE YEAR: Mike Ferraro

NCWSA: Team of the Year- World University Team

NSSA: Team of the Year-. Mad City Ski Team of Madison, Wis.

NWSRA: Female Athlete of the Year- Alice Craddick
Male Athlete of the Year – Kyle Cummings

WSDA:

2004 WSDA Male Athlete of the Year

Katie Mawby - V2/3 women: Katie also swept her division at Nationals, placing first in all three events as well as receiving the overall gold medal. She exceeded the current world tricks record in both rounds and set a record at 800 points. She was the only skier, male or female, to qualify for the 2005 U.S. Team in all three events.

2004 WSDA Male Athlete of the Year

Joe Ray - MP2/men: At the 2004 WSDA National Championships Joe swept his division, placing first in all three events as well as receiving the overall gold medal. Joe equaled his current world slalom record in both rounds despite challenging conditions. Joe's performance earned him a position on the 2005 U.S. Disabled Water Ski Team.

Awards to be given:

Athletes of the Year: Karen Truelove & Freddy Krueger
Team of the Year: Pan Am Elite
Slalom Skier of the Year– Chris Parish
Trick Skier of the Year- Mandy Nightingale
Jumper of the Year: Freddy Krueger
Overall Skier of the Year: Rhoni Barton
AWSA Rising Superstar of 2002: Caroline Hensley
Volunteer of the Year: Jim Meis

USAWS

Volunteer Coach of the Year: Jody Seal
Developmental Coach of the Year: Rhoni Barton
Coach of the Year: April Coble
Athletes of the Year: Rachel George & Freddy Krueger
Team of the Year: AWSA Pan AM Elite Team
James Sullivan AAU Award: Regina Jaquess
Jack Kelley Fair Play Award: Danyelle Bennett
Award of Merit: Mark Crone
Innovator of the Year: Bob Corson
That's Incredible: Lucille Borgen
Volunteer of the year: Glenn Herriman

USHA:

USHA Male Athlete of the Year: Todd Kyser
Female Athlete of the Year: MJ Pohl

Junior Athlete of the Year: Torey Narans

Team of the Year: Pro Hydrofoil Tour (John Clemmons)

Ambassador of the Year: Brad Scott

Jack Kelly Fair Play Award: This is an annual award given to a person that sacrifices personal gain for the sport or for another competitor.... Please be aware of this award and keep your eyes open throughout the year for nominations.

Volunteer of the year: Glenn Herriman

New Business –

TC Boice will be manning an AWSA booth/station at the Reno RV and Boat Show, and Mike Hayes will be doing the same for an RV and Boat Show in San Diego. These shows will be in February. The primary goals are outreach for new members and general promotion of the sport. We need good people to man the booths. We need to reach out to kids.

Canyon Lake deserves recognition for Officials upgrades. Due to a minor technicality they were not able to win the award from headquarters they were striving for. But they did put a tremendous amount of effort into bettering their club and promoting officials' ratings.

Bob Cosby presented a report on the current (New) Budget for the Western Region. Council was satisfied with the projections.

John Goodman brought up that there is a strong movement in his area to split the Western Region into North and South. But, as an alternative, if the Western Region had two Western Regional Tournaments, in separate geographical locations, this might eliminate the need to split the Region. MOTION, Scott Vanderflute/Brad Conger, for our Western Region Directors to bring an advisory to Board of Directors – The West is looking to have two Regional Tournaments. We would like to explore and have an experimental two-tournament system and monitor and evaluate results. Councilpersons will work as a committee and will study the possibility of two Regional Tournaments and report their findings and proposals to the Summer Meeting. Motion carried. (*Action Item #10_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*).

A question came up about whether there were alternatives for lake-owners for insurance other than Ski Safe. Lisa St. John will look into alternatives to Ski Safe insurance for the lakes. (not boats). (*Action Item #11_2005 – see action items listed at the end of these minutes*).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. NATIONALS

- a. The Western Region members prefer the 2nd or 3rd week of August for Nationals.
- b. The Western Region will fully support Joe Biafora for the Nationals Tournament bid for 2006 & 2007. This is contingent upon:
 - i. Changing the wording in the bid to correct the name of the event, and
 - ii. Following through with changing the depth of the lakes.
- c. The Western Region recommends AWSA allow a split of the duration of National Officials' responsibility to work the tournament into two shifts for appointed scorers and assigned judges. The appointed scorers and assigned judges would only be required to be present for 2 ½ or 3 days so people don't have to stay the full time. Another "shift" of officials from the Western Region would take over

for the rest of the tournament. This would make more people available to work the tournament, especially if there was cross-country travel involved.

- d. NATIONAL OFFICIALS for 2005:
 - Assignment Judge - Gaile Heieck
 - ACJ – TC Boice
 - Appointed Judges – Andrea Plough, Mike Hayes
 - Assigned Judges – Laura Johnson, Dee Johnson, Barry Young
 - Appointed Scorers - (not yet finalized) Richelle Matli* plus one other
 - Appointed Drivers – Brian Holm, Will Bush, Wayne Canfield for alternate.
 - * this assignment contingent upon above proposal for a split shift
2. REGIONALS - The Western Region wishes to advise the BOD we would like to have two Regional Tournaments in the same ski year, and have the skiers attend one or the other. We would be splitting our current, very large Regionals into two smaller, more reasonable tournaments. The West would like to have an experimental two-tournament system and monitor and evaluate results. The Western Regional Council will work as a committee and come up with a proposal by our Summer Meeting.
3. COMPETITION TASK FORCE
 - a. The Western Region requests the Competition Task Force state and clarify the Task Force Proposal’s Mission Statements, Objectives, and reason for change. The Competition Task Force proposal should clearly state what is wrong with the current system and why we need to change. The West currently does not necessarily recognize the need for change.
 - b. The Western Region strongly requests any proposal by the Competition Task Force be put out to all skiers for input, and be thoroughly piloted and tested prior to any level of implementation.
4. OFFICIALS’ RATINGS
 - a. The West proposes AWSA Headquarters eliminate all clinic fees and give clinic coordinators and instructors the ability to download all clinic materials instead.
 - b. The West proposes a 1-year extension for officials who receive a “downgrade letter” to correct their officials’ credits and bring themselves up to date. The letter from Headquarters would warn the official, one year prior to the effective date of the downgrade. This effective date would be one year further from what it is today.
 - c. The West proposes to eliminate the 5-year reinstatement time limit for assistant judges. They should not have to fill out the application over again if they attend a clinic.

5. RATINGS - The Western Region supports the National Ratings Committee recommendations.
6. RULES - The Western Region supports the proposed rule changes from the National Rules Committee.

MOTION, Brad Hartwell/Owen Letcher to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS!

ACTION ITEM #1_2005: TC will enlist the help of Headquarters to see that boat dealers get Regional Guides. He will supply Headquarters, by end of March, with a listing provided by Western Region of our boat manufacturers to contact.

ACTION ITEM #2_2005: Council will supply Phil Yastrow with types of dealers to search for (electronically) in their areas.

ACTION ITEM #3_2005: Phil will gather names of boat dealers in each state and contact them electronically, and submit results to council persons. Phil will also put links on the Region's web site for dealers to click on for info. The deadline is the end of January for Phil to mail to Council. It will be 3/15 to get info to TC to give to headquarters.

ACTION ITEM #4_2005: Brad Conger will design the human-readable format for the list of tourneys for the dealers.

ACTION ITEM #5_2005: Larry Godwin will write up a proposal for an adopt-a-dealer program.

ACTION ITEM #6_2005: Dave Vogt, Chair of Regional Nominations Committee, will make sure a description of each candidate is in the Guide.

ACTION ITEM #7_2005: Laura Johnson will build the ability into the web site for members to post names for candidates for awards.

ACTION ITEM #8_2005: If the Board of Directors does not eliminate the headquarters fee charged to members to attend officials' clinics, Bob Cosby and The Blue Ribbon Committee will look at what this would cost the Region next year if the Region were to cover the costs.

ACTION ITEM #9_2005: Ken Cannon will find a Junior Development Assistant for Nevada.

ACTION ITEM #10_2005: Councilpersons will study the possibility of two Regional Tournaments and report their findings and proposals to the Summer Meeting.

ACTION ITEM #11_2005: Lisa St. John will look into alternatives to Ski Safe insurance for the lakes. (not boats).

Action Items From Previous Meetings:

ACTION ITEM # 4_2003: Phil Yastrow will conduct an online safety form investigation. The goal here is to enable sponsors to fill out their Safety Form on-line.

ACTION ITEM # 5_2003: Phil Yastrow will conduct an on-line sanction fee payment investigation. The goal here is to enable sponsors to pay sanction fees with credit cards.

ACTION ITEM # 8_2003: Mike Hayes (or next EVP) will put together a blue ribbon panel to study financial position of the west with regard to regional finances, ability to fund other stipends, and flexibility with the regional budget.

ACTION ITEM # 12_2003: Scott Vanderflute will coordinate a parallel testing of an alternate scoring system and provide feedback to the council.