

## **2005 Western Region Summer Council Meeting**

Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Call to order: 1:40 pm  
Introduction of attendees

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Brad Conger motioned to approve; Ken Cannon seconded. All in favor - minutes approved as published

### **2005 Regionals – Ron Warman**

We hope everyone has found their camp/hotel. We're planning on a great regional tournament. If you need anything, contact Ron. They have a PA system at dock if you have announcements to make. Welcome to the Northwest!

### **2006 Regionals - Frank Harrison**

We're going to copy what Ron does and enjoy the cool air now.

### **2007 Regionals – Connie Morris**

We're in contract negotiations with potential chief officials. We're holding our first record tournament in October. Paul Donatt will be the tournament co-chair. The host hotel will be in El Centro which is about 20 minutes away from the site.

### **Boat Draw – Wayne Canfield**

Three groups for the boats. It should be the same amount of pulls for all three manufacturers. Group 1: Malibu; Group 2: Master Craft; Group 3 Nautique.

### **Dual Regionals Proposal - John Goodman/Scott Vanderflute**

The Western Region was asked by USAWS to make a proposal for holding two Regional tournaments in the west in 2006. There has been a lot of discussion and interesting thoughts on the subject. One consideration is that bids have already been put in by organizers for a tournament that includes the entire region and they are entitled to have that. The first opportunity to hold a dual tournament and avoid this issue is 2008. Then bidders for 2008 would be aware of dual possibility.

Discussion ensued of a national slalom only qualifier tournament, but most people favor a three event tournament. Council could consider a three event dual tournament in 2008 which includes placement and qualification for nationals. The tournament could be held in a more populated ski area such as California. Or consider a nationals qualifier slalom tournament backed up to regional tournament. This would shorten the regional tournament and you would not be able to ski in both. John Goodman: 72 regionals allowed left and right jumping at Horton's; it was determined that left side jumping wasn't safe there. We were asked to hold an additional tournament in Washington. We agreed and had slalom and trick too. A split Regionals has been done in the past.

History of proposal: winter meeting proposal of dual regionals. We didn't think anyone would go for it. Headquarters said take a look at it and how it would work within bylaws. No significant feedback from members at this point. Biggest downside is the social aspect of not getting together with people we only see at Regionals.

Impetus: The Regional tournament is long and big. Add in the length of travel and impact on officials. Discussion of fairness of two different sites & conditions. We need to present to membership to see if it's what they want. Gaile Heieck suggested an online poll. Discussion regarding the direction of growing the sport, but how does this help growth at the base. Qualifications/ratings – lower them to encourage more to go? Or would a smaller tournament encourage more?

Status quo/ dual regionals/ split region. A dual tournament avoids changing the bylaws of AWSA. Impact in junior development – especially the banquet for fundraising. Brad Hartwell: Let's get input at the general membership meeting. Start here at this tournament. Announce on PA; post petition/vote. Hand out at registration. Need to consider those who aren't here and the long term – involvement of new people. If Regionals was in the middle and Nationals in the west we couldn't finish tournament – Will Bush.

John Goodman: committee proposal to BOD if we're going to do it, 2008. Dave Vogt suggested not waiting. The Competition Task Force and dual regionals is akin to changing your binding and fin at same time... too much at once. TC Boice and John Goodman will take input to the committee and come back with proposals at winter meeting. Problem: travel or length of tournament. Committee: Goodman, Tad, Scott Vanderflute, Merle, Hocking, Barry, Owen, Connie, TC, Hayes.

#### **Treasurers Report - Bob Cosby**

Page one denotes approvals by the council for the budget for the year. The negative amount does not allow for what we get back from USAWS for the regional guide. Actual income and expenses for the region and performance against plan. Projecting \$4600 - \$5000 to be spent before end of the year. Junior development, dues to AWSEF, travel. Typically we hit budget on travel. Second page: cash flow. We have 2 cd's totaling \$66,000 that we continue to roll over. Page three is income and expenses by month.

Jeff Gaastra has made a major contribution to our bottom line increasing Regional guide advertising revenue to \$8200. Previous low was barely over \$4000. We are breaking even with sanctioning fees versus printing and mailing of guide. Advertising is keeping us from breaking even or losing money.

Brad Hartwell motioned to approve the Treasurers report; Ken Cannon seconded. All in favor. Report approved and passed.

#### **Tournament Sanctioning - TC Boice**

The sanctioning process seems to be pretty manageable. Most areas are not having a problem. We'll continue as is for now. Total number is about the same as past several years.

#### **Nominations/Online Voting – Dave Vogt**

Online voting went well this year with approximately 150 votes cast compared to about 20 or so paper ballots. There were some issues and duplicates but they were resolved. Online voting numbers seems to be up over last year.

### **Regional Records - Connie Morris**

One Hawaii record was disallowed because the skier was from Georgia and didn't want to move to Hawaii. Record holders must be from Western region. All other records approved. Motion to approve by Ken Cannon; Brad Hartwell seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Lisa Wilson commented that the \$10 donation for junior development is to be sent to her, but it is only voluntary. She has received \$20 so far.

### **Regional Guide – Leora Matranga**

She received lots of cooperation and help from everyone when requested. Thank you to everyone.

### **Regional Junior Development – Lisa Wilson**

Junior Regional tournament competitors: 19 G1, 20 G2, 13 G3; 19 B1, 22 B2, 35 B3  
The junior team held two best of west camps funded by donations. The northern camp cost \$4600 which includes costs for coaching, travel, food, gas, etc. We had 25 kids in the Sacto camp. Juniors are growing in numbers and none are aging out this year.

We're trying to get council people to help with auction items for banquet so burden is not entirely on Lisa and Charlene. We're also trying to disburse funds throughout all camps, not just best of west.

### **Awards – Gaile Heieck**

I purchased replacement plaques. I have one nomination for the Slingerland award. Looking for more.

### **Web Page - Laura Johnson**

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos and stories for the web page. Keep it coming! Mike Hayes motioned to add links to area ski schools in the Getting Started section to give people direction. Brad Conger seconded. All in favor. We'll pull a list from HQ.

Link to prior year's tournaments seems to have disappeared. Laura will work with Phil to repost it.

Discussion about Tom Davis/Tournament waterski. Com. Charges 9.95 per year for information on tournaments.

### **Financial Steering Committee – Mike Hayes**

Committee includes Frank Harrison, Tad Scharpf, Andrea Plough, Bob Cosby and Will Bush. The committee is stalling somewhat. Goal is to identify trends, separate junior development funds from the regional funds, setting a reserve level so we can set some discretionary funds to help grow the sport. Considering a reduction of sanction fees for tournaments that support ½ price juniors and/or first timers. If discretionary funds are available, we want to propose a reduction of \$50. Mike Hayes motioned to approve with contingencies of affordability – Barry Young seconded. Discussion: we should consider placing a limit on it, for instance for clubs with multiple tournaments. If every club does it, it's good for the sport but need to consider how much we can afford to cut. We may have to limit how much we can reduce. Bob Cosby suggested that we put the reduction on the back side – everyone pays same going in, then once we know what numbers we have, we can rebate back. Scott Vanderflute asked if the clubs needed an incentive to

reduce fees. All we're doing is taking money out of the western region. Are clubs not willing to do offer ½ price now? Four were in favor; motion denied. Consider an email ballot after committee meets in October so we have a better idea of the financial ramifications.

### **EVP Report – TC Boice**

Sending regional councilpersons via email an excel document of nonrenewed members. Shows age groups, etc. The councilperson can decide on action if any.

Several of us, Hayes, Goodfellow, Dulgars, went to boat shows earlier this year to put out word about AWSA. Took new members out to ski, not huge but a start.

Action items: several related to dealers & getting them more active in getting them promoting AWSA. Larry Goodwin came up with an idea for an “adopt a dealer” program. Brad Conger came up with an idea that will need funding – each ski club or area goes out to dealers and establish contact. Bring list of local tournaments and promote at dealership. Brad Conger brought sample promo piece for display. Printing and laminating cost – depends on how many we're doing for each area. Council people could come back with list of people who are willing to go out and promote to dealers. Andrea questioned how many are on public sites for viewing. Emphasize public viewing – to grow sport.

### **Action items**

Ken Cannon: junior development in Nevada

Lisa St John is looking into alternative insurance for ski lakes; TC spoke with Steve McDermott about it. Difficulty in three states: Headquarters is working with insurance companies to get rates back in line.

EVPs asked about polling council on an electronic regional guide. Not in favor.

### **National Committee Reports**

Randy Hocking: nothing to report

Wayne: boat drivers – report going to board for fast tracking open skiers & ski school operators. Requirements would be half for regular rating; same number of tournaments for senior.

This past spring we had to deal with a driver in the South Central region that really cheated at the SC collegiate regionals. HQ is having to hire an attorney to deal with it. They are looking at a one year suspension from AWSA, two years no driving; at the end of that he reapply as an assistant. Hopefully this will stick. He is fighting the allegations.

Tapes from senior drivers are coming in well. Please send just one driver per tape – send your own. It can be really difficult telling drivers apart—please put your name on your own tape. Overall program is starting to work well. You should really look at it before sending in. If it's not good, you're getting it back. Video helps more than someone

telling you. Even if you're not a senior driver, try to get end course video to evaluate your boat path.

Finally found a co chair and he's doing a great job—Jerry Bausch. Maybe next year we can find another western region representative.

No bylaws report

### **Competition Task Force – Barry Young**

I came onto the CTF later in the process. There has been discussion of a rolling ranking system, qualifying for regionals and nationals, but no real goal or mission other than to eliminate the EP system. Barry's opinion is that we should be looking at bottom instead of top. Council direction: wanted to see some reasons for basis of proposals. Want input from skiers, we have not seen any. Somewhere the task force went from looking at bottom to focusing on top because they felt they could work from there. Like some flexibility in local level tournaments. EP's are not only problem; skiing is now mostly on private sites out of public view. Qualifying via the ranking list creates a difficulty in planning for regionals and nationals. We need to know from skiers which way we should be looking at that.

Will Bush: there is concern over losing momentum in this unless some action is taken. New ideas are resistant to change. Push on committee is from one or two people, others on committee not in agreement of current direction. The CTF has kept the rolling 12 month ranking system going. A lot of ideas have lost steam. Focus has been on dealing with nationals. What's the mission? Set that and set agenda/priority for putting competition back into sport. Mike Hayes: competition based tournaments are lot more fun for participants, but no growth yet in numbers. TC: competitors like variety of tournament formats.

Hayes: announcing is critical to adding excitement to a tournament. Hank Longo started the national announcers committee, Brad Hartwell is the western region member. Goal is to entertain, be informative, have music, etc.

### **Executive Finance Committee – Will Bush:**

Will spoke about involving Affinity Membership Marketing company to research why people want to belong. Increase in under 25 membership, but overall totals have not grown.

Insurance issue, discipline – ugly year with driver issue. We are holding an appeal hearing with attorneys. The driver in question continues to deny allegations. Dr. Jim Michaels issue – they stopped the tournament, went in with divers, validated that cables attached to sub floats that moved course in towards centerline, and were eventually cut. Don't know how it was manipulated. Lot of electrical panels in boat house. 1-3-5 buoys were used to set trick and jump course. Estimated a maximum deviation of 70-80 cm. Evaluating how to handle. Received a call from Michaels, had a good conversation. To be discussed with the directors.

Election of directors and officers: would like feedback to directors. Have minimal part at national level. Need more involvement from west. You can be an officer without being director. We need new blood.

**IAC – Frank Harrison**

Jut came back from Team trials last week. Exceptionally difficult with scoring issues, location issues – problems Dave Clark couldn't work out. Didn't affect teams but did affect some medal winners. Skiing was good, elite-china, u21-germany, Brian Kinney made, 17-21; juniors – Storm Selsor – Can Am challenge in TX. Need to foster more officials for international competition. Request will go out later this year: Junior team trials next year – 3 days only.

**Judges & Scorers - Linda Hockenbery**

As published

**National Coaches Advisory – Terry Goodman**

We're trying to get Nationals moved to a long weekend in September. No response from Southern region. This would give people more time to prepare.

**National Junior Development - Charlene Brown**

We are still doing web site questions for the pros. Not a lot of activity from kids; co chairs for all regions – tracking kids that do junior camps, keep them involved and informed. Funding for 24 member national junior team; 6 kids from west; we lost USOC funding. Had \$10,000 per camp in past. We could do a three day camp in past for \$3,000 or so. Need to raise funds so these camps can continue. 50/50 cash raffle, all star teams – raising money; petition to support a \$10 add on to the national entry (currently 110 single event). Similar to Regionals \$5.

**Seeding – Laura Johnson**

We are close to going live with the new online ranking list. This list will encompass the 12 month rolling ranking system proposed by the CTF.

Scorers have been great in getting tournament results to me in a timely manner. Thank you. All of our tournament scores have been submitted via email this past year. Timeliness in score submission will really become critical once the online list goes live.

**NSL – Kay Goodfellow**

Dramatic increase in NSL participation

**Rules - Richelle Matli and Dave Vogt**

No report at this time

**Safety – Larry Goodwin**

No meetings

**Ratings – Jim Kinney**

We're in a holding pattern.

**Speed Control – Will Bush and Wayne Canfield**

A lot of issues with drive by wire. Next year Nautique and Malibu will also be there. Hope issues worked out by then.

**Tow Boats – Wayne Canfield**

## **Tech Report – Phil Yastrow**

### **Wakeboarding – Andrea Plough**

USAWakeboard. Increase membership - have wakeboard tournaments. Starting Pan American region. Europe, aust/asia sponsored by Correct Craft.

### **Recommendations to Board:**

1. Will was asked to allow single event pan am judges. Ken Cannon motioned/Will Bush 2<sup>nd</sup>: Concern that we'll end up without trick and jump judges. Goal not to send abroad but to meet requirements for rc tournaments. All in favor motion passes.

### **New business:**

Gordon Epling: Recouping in assisted living facility; hospitalized two weeks ago with bleeding artery in neck. He had pneumonia. Tracheotomy removed, feeding tube in for good.

Jim Lang is doing well, in remission.

TC – thank you for your participation and help to the skiers.

Ken Cannon motioned to adjourn. Barry Young 2<sup>nd</sup>.