



*This document contains the annual reports for Central Division committees and subcommittees, including a general overview by the Central Division chairman.*

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## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Scott Smith**

Verbal report given during the 2009 Spring Panel Meeting

## **TREASURER'S REPORT: Keith Perry**

*Note: The treasury report is distributed under separate cover.*

## **RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kris Edlund**

The Minutes from the April 2008 Panel Meeting and Committee Meeting were sent out via email after the conclusion of the meetings last spring. *(Note: Only Committee members received the Minutes from Friday night's Committee Meeting. Panel Meeting Minutes were available to the entire Division and posted on the Central Ski Jumping website.)*

Included with the distribution: Panel Meeting Minutes document, Club Reports, Club Statistics spreadsheet, Committee Chairpersons' Reports and under separate cover the Treasurer's Report.

I am continuing to work on getting a list of past Central Division Skier Award Recipients for the archives. I have most dating back to 1995; however I am still searching various outlets for winners prior to 1995. Any help anyone can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Edlund, Central Division Recording Secretary

## **OFFICIALS' REPORT: Matt Laue**

### **YEAR IN REVIEW**

As an organization we have 16 active members. While we were able to add Mike Thompson to our fold this year there have been two consecutive years of no assignments for Dan Johnson and Bill Erickson. While they both remain on the active roster their services are limited. Mike Thompson completed his Trial Judging in 2007-2008 and was approved by the Quality Control Committee at our annual Fall Meeting. In 2008-2009 we added one additional Candidate to our group. Paul Jastrow was to complete his Trial Judging during this past winter's competition schedule. Upon satisfactorily completing of his assignments and review by the Quality Control committee he will become active judge for the 2009-2010 season.

Throughout the season the officials filled 195 positions over 44 event days. (Ten of those positions were filled by one person acting as both Judge and TD for the day.) The officials sent four different Officials to two National events outside of the Central Division region. Jahn Sandman represented us at the 2009 US Nationals held in Lake Placid last October. Dan Mattoon (TD), Korey Arneson (J) and Ed Waters (J) represented Central at JO's in Anchorage during the 2009 JO's held in March.

Dan Mattoon is now active FIS Judges and a FIS Jumping TD Candidate. Matt Laue is active Nordic Combined TD, an active FIS Judges and now a FIS Jumping TD Candidate. Dan represented the US as a Judge for the Women's COC in Park City along with the Nordic Combined COC held there at the same time in December. In February Dan also was a judge for the men's Jumping COC in Iron Mountain. Matt was Judge for the women's COC in Vancouver and for the Nordic Combined COC held during the same time in December. In February Matt was TDA at the FIS Nordic Combined World Cup in Klingenthal, Germany.

### **SCHEDULING & TRAVEL**

During this past season we were scheduled to have a Super Tour event and a JOQ scheduled for the same day. That takes 13 of our 16 active officials to cover those two events. Not including officials from the home clubs who are actively working the event as a member of their club. With a field of only 16 to choose from that makes for some very tight scheduling.

With a limited number of officials available to travel it is becoming ever harder to assign local judges for "junior

meets". This past year we had officials traveling hundreds of miles for "junior meets", it is unacceptable for ski clubs to not at the very least offer these officials a hotel room for the evening. It is too much especially with winter weather to ask an official to spend all day on the hill and to also travel nearly 400 miles in one day. I hope this will be discussed and resolved at the Panel Meeting! The following remark was from last year's report while it is improving I am going to re-state it for I feel it is important.

*"On another note it is very dis-hearting to travel nearly 400 miles and have only 15 competitors competing in the event. Whether eliminating scheduling multiple events on one day will help to increase the number of competitors I am not sure depending on the size of hills. However, I feel we are certainly splitting limited resources of skiers, parents, officials, volunteers, supporters and spectators; when we have two major events going on at the same time. I would like to see some coordination of the event sites to maximize their turnout by combining their event days (Jr. & Sr.) into one event. "*

### **FIS SEMINARS**

This year prior to our Central Officials Seminar in Eau Claire we sent a group of three Officials to the North American FIS Judges/TD Update in Steamboat Springs. Dan Mattoon and Matt Laue who passed their FIS Jumping TD test, and Steve Sydow who was added to the FIS Judges Candidates list. I was truly impressed with the huge turnout of officials from North America and abroad that attended. There were two Norwegians, nearly a dozen Canadians and very large contingent of Americans totaling almost fifty all combined. Presenters were Uli Forrer and Horst Tilleman both representing FIS Joe Lamb also participated in the presentations. This was by far the best FIS Jumping Seminar in North America I have attended in regards to information and presentation.

### **USSA MEMBERSHIP & CENTRAL OFFICIAL SEMINARS**

A continuing concern is having qualified people in official capacities. Sites holding Nationals, JO's and Super Tours are required to have the Chief of Competition attend a National Officials seminar at a minimum every other year all though it is recommended every year. I also think this should be required of COC's of sites hosting JOQ's. There are many rule changes each and every year that need to be learned. Each year generally in October we hold our National Level Officials Seminar in Eau Claire. (October 31, 2009)

All Officials including Chief of Competition are required to hold a current USSA Membership. This year we had to make some last minute switches of COC's and/or get those people to complete and make full payment prior to the event. **THIS IS FOR YOUR'S AND OURS PROTECTION!**

I would like to thank Gene Brown, chief of competition, from Norge for attending this past year's seminar!

### **NEW OFFICIALS CANDIDATES NEEDED**

We are always searching for new Officials Candidates. With an average of nearly 8 assignments per current member we are being stretched too thin. The addition of 2 new members next year should reduce our average down a bit but we will also be taxed Nationally and Internationally with numerous NC WCB's being held in North America. (Our number of international assignments is closely linked to the number of international events we a country host.)

As mentioned above Chief's of Competition need to be Officials as well. However, being an Official is

not just for TD's, Judges and COC's. There are numerous other avenues for to becoming a certified official in many aspects of the competition. Please see the USSA Pipeline (under separate cover). Remember each year generally in October we hold our National Level Officials Seminar in Eau Claire.

*By Matthew W. Laue President Centrals Official's*

## **DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Matt Laue**

### **YEAR IN REVIEW**

During the past season we had one major infraction of the Drinking rule. Not only was this a major problem for the skier involved it also caused problems with the Central Coaches as it was clear one of the coaches involved did not properly understand the situation or elected to disregard the situation and the previously written rules. The skier involved was removed from the results post event at the competition were the incident took place along with returning any money won. The skier was also subsequently not allowed to ski from the incident December 31 until Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. The coach involved was also removed from his duties as a

coach of the Central Division for the remainder of the year. He is no longer allowed to act as a Central Divisional Coach until the jumping committee votes to allow his re-admission. Several issues were brought to light during the proceedings to take action on this incident. First and foremost the Disciplinary Committee was not properly seated thus the Central Committee en-mass acted on its behalf with the President of the Officials Committee as Chair. There also are many deficiencies in the current disciplinary rules and actions. An updated version of the committee makeup, policies and guidelines will be presented to the committee on March 27<sup>th</sup> and the Panel on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

*By Matthew W. Laue President Centrals Official's*

## **COACHING REPORT: Chris Broz**

08-09 Season:

I don't feel as a "committee" it was an overly productive year. I had a lot of grandiose ideas to try and develop and improve coaching from parents on a 5 meter up to coaches at a national level. I don't feel I was personally able to get much accomplished in that regard due to the economy decline... Turns out, Lisa's husband certainly didn't make enough money... Then when the ski season hit, it was so furiously busy, I was happy just to end up in the right city for a ski comp on any given weekend.

Individually, I think that coaching in the division is getting better. Despite isolated incidents, I feel the core group of Central coaches grew stronger in ability to coach as well as how to work with one another. We continue to do well at a Junior National level. Kudos to the '09 JO team and their coaches, Brian Nelson and Jon Denney. We are also showing signs of life at a National level, both men's and women's. 5 of the top 10 skiers on the Men's SuperTour list are Central Skiers! All signs for good things to come.

My absolute favorite thing about this past winter season was the success of the "Midwest 5-Hills Tour." I would like to thank all organizers, in particular, Dan Mattoon, for making it all happen. I was in attendance for each of the events and was blown away by how it stepped up the game of each athlete in attendance. It was not only a victory by our skiers jumping further and perfecting their form, but it was a great mental victory to remain close to elite Euro's and learn to compete vigorously for weeks in a row on the road.

09-10 Season:

Goals planned for the upcoming season are similar as what was hoped for last season:

- I'd like to put more emphasis on Nordic Combined. There is a bright future in the US Nordic Combined Arena. We pulled 3 of 4 Gold Medals at World Championships and we're heading into an Olympic year. Special Jumping will still be lucky to regain USST status this year despite vast improvements and international results this season. It would be wise of all athletes who have an interest in Nordic Combined to try it out! Also coaches should help promote that aspect of our sport and encourage skiers to try it.
- Also to use momentum gained from the past World Championships should be in the Women's ski jumping arena. An American won the first women's Gold Medal. The media has easily been latching onto the women's ski jumping story. This press can/should be leveraged to help expose youngsters (boys and girls) to the sport in your area.
- I would certainly like to button up any ambiguities for the JO Qualification process.
- With the success of the Midwestern 5 hills tour from a skier prospective, I would hope that the organizers can find a way to keep that series going. It was certainly a benefit for each athlete; hopefully the organizers can have it equally as beneficial for their club as well! I hope this series can ultimately one day have a FIS cup or two scattered throughout to help American jumpers step up through the World Cup ranks on our home turf.
- I think an emphasis needs to maintain on *at least* once-a-year physical testing as a group. Details such as test results, height, weight, ski and suit rules are far easier to outline and go over together to make sure everyone is on the same page. This is getting far more important at an international level as each year goes by. It is good to get the exposure out there as skiers are still in division so it's not a huge surprise in the future.
- I'd like to host a division-wide coach's camp (parents, club coaches as well as regional coaches) sometime this summer. It would be good to meet someplace with all Jr. hills available to give a refresher on what skier expectations should be at each level. I have been seeing some trends of skiers by the time they get to a national level that would be nice to nip in the butt at the early development stages. I'd like to have a forum on fundamental skills outlined for skiers to move up from hill to hill. It would also be nice to get coaches together and build upon some teamwork efforts already in play.
- Lastly, I'm working on procuring sponsorship dollars to help fund our elite athletes. I've been working closely with a documentary producer lately to help create presentation pieces to help the cause. The goal would be to have the money to make some trips across the pond/country to hit up more competitions and FIS Cup events without putting such a financial burden on parents, or forcing athletes out of the sport just because of money. Anyone with experience or ambition to help find corporate sponsorships would be greatly appreciated!

## **NORDIC COMBINED REPORT: Paul Loomis**

The 2008-2009 season was overall busy for Nordic combined. A group of 5 athletes traveled to Marquette, MI for a summer workshop hosted by Sten Fjeldheim at NMU, and he has offered future training opportunities for this off-season; I encourage all NC athletes who are interested in learning more about XC technique to participate. In addition to trail running and roller skiing, the athletes got video analysis on the roller ski treadmill there. Summer competition events were held in Madison and Coleraine, and Norge has started to incorporate some endurance/NC training into the athlete's regimen. Adam Loomis spent a portion of the summer in Steamboat Springs training with their NC program, and participated in the first "Summer Nationals" held in Lake Placid, NY.

The 2009 winter season featured 99 skiers overall at Itasca (19), Blackhawk (19), Iola (33), Eau Claire (25), and a few at Minneapolis. Perceived barriers to racing include time and energy constraints at the competitions, and lack of equipment by many younger participants. However, I sense that there may be a growing interest and appreciation for NC, and we hope to continue to make it more the norm than "special". Three Junior Olympic 5 km qualifiers were held in Itasca, Blackhawk, and Iola, and athletes qualifying for JO's in Anchorage were Tyler Hutchins, Tyler Baran, Andre Denney, and Somer Schrock. Cracking the top 10 in 8<sup>th</sup> place was Tyler Hutchins. Also participating in the relay races were TEN Central athletes! Some issues raised at JO's for future consideration include strongly encouraging or even requiring NC participation for all JOQ 's ; this will be discussed elsewhere.

The Nordic Combined fund continues to grow and current balance is approximately \$700. No equipment was purchased this year, but a donation was made to Sten F. at NMU for his time coaching. 2009-2010 expenditures might include coaching and training fees at special camps, or purchase of skis to be rented out .

It has been discussed by NC Committee members and recommended that the qualifications be strengthened to balance the jumping portion with more competitive skiing requirements in the individual 5k races. Instead of using 160% of top racer's time, a new cut-off of 130% will be used. In addition, in 2010 we plan to have at least one JO qualifier to include a 1km sprint "relay", which will allow more kids to participate and reflect the format generally followed at JO's.

Finally, it is inspiring and encouraging to witness the success of the US Ski Team at Continental Cup and World Cup levels. (For those who don't follow it, Bill Demong finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the final World cup standings and won Gold and Bronze at the World Championships, and Todd Lodwick won 2 golds at Worlds). Regardless of whether they aspire to this level of competition, this should give our younger Nordic combined athletes tremendous motivation to keep training, stay with the sport, and have fun on skinny skis!

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Loomis

## **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE REPORT: Blair Tomten**

The year started out looking good for women's ski jumping. The women were starting their 3<sup>rd</sup> year on with the ski team and were looking forward to the first official event in the World Championships. We had another successful women's camp, this year being held at Blackhawk. A lot of progress was made at the camp and the little girls enjoyed having the ski team girls there to coach them.

Our top Central girls made some great progress as well. Nita really started to 'figure it out'. I saw her jump farther than I ever had. It wasn't just a few here and there, it was consistently. Karin also had a good year; she started college at the University of Minnesota and still managed to make the Junior Worlds team. During the spring semester, Karin was able to travel and spend time training with the

ski team girls here in Park City. Elisabeth made a big move this year. She started college at Westminster here in Salt Lake City. Even with being so close to the jumps, she has realized how hard it is to go to college full time. With that said, she was able to compete in Park City Women's Continental Cup.

Our younger girls have made a lot of progress as well. Unfortunately, I was unable to help out this winter with my move to Park City. Karla Keck has stepped up and really taken over. She has done a great job getting to the tournaments and setting up training for the girls. She has really worked towards getting the girls training consistently and getting them to start some dry land training. It was great to see the progress the girls made throughout the season. Emilee Anderson did a great job this winter. It would have been great to have had her at the JO's, but I do realize how expensive the trip was. My sister and I were also unable to go to Alaska for the JO's because of the expense. I believe Central will have a strong team next year, not only in numbers but also in their quality of jumping. The other girls were so close, but one more year of training will really help.

The coming year is going to be seen with mixed emotions. Women's Ski Jumping USA has been funding a lawsuit against VANOC. The lawsuit is going to court on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April this year. Many of the top jumpers in the USA and the world are plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Lindsey Van and Katie Willis were sent to Denver to meet with IOC President, Jacques Rogge. He denied their request.

The excitement of Lindsey Van becoming the first Women's World Champion doesn't seem to mean much to the US Ski Team. It is still undecided, but it appears there will not be a women's ski team next year. All the progress that had been made seems to be slipping backwards.

As we always have, we need to keep moving forward in Central and train like there is an Olympics for the girls. When we are finally allowed to compete, and it will happen, we will be ready. As other divisions are starting to get smaller, Central has continued to grow and become stronger. I look forward to the next season!

## **PROMOTION & VISIBILITY: Central Division Booklet, Website and Email Network**

### ***CENTRAL DIVISION BOOKLET & WEBSITE REPORT: Mark Nalbach***

We had 3000 copies of the Central Book printed this year. Costs for the covers were \$1572.10 and \$1341.79 for the insides. Shipping is included in these prices. Total cost \$2913.89. We had 10 clubs participating in the book this year. After all clubs are paid, total money received will be \$4550.00.

Central Book profit of \$1636.11.

Website cost this year...\$58.07

Submitted by

Mark Nalbach, Central Division Website & Booklet Coordinator

### ***EMAIL REPORT: Karyl Loomis***

I have 255 email contacts which are sent out in 9 groups of about 30. The smaller groups mean that my emails do not get treated as junk. I also have groups for out of division coaches, women, nordic combiners, committee members and club contacts. I average 5-7 emails to Central a week during the season and try to send out at least one a week during the off-seasons. Clubs have been great about getting me invites in a timely manner, but not so great about getting me recaps after their tournaments. I will try to improve on that next year. I sent out an update on hill conditions before every tournament this year.

This year I have started a service to try to facilitate the exchange of equipment. Every couple of weeks I send out an email listing people's needs or equipment that people are selling. A place

online where we could post this info would be ideal, but, in lieu of that, I think my email seem to be helping. I also collected money for Kyle Rodgers, calculated the red and yellow jersey standings after every tournament, and other assorted jobs people requested and/or suggested.

Overall, communication within Central continues to improve with each passing year and I get many positive comments from recipients. So far, I haven't received any complaints receiving too many emails (surprisingly)! I welcome any suggestions for further improvement.

Submitted by  
Karyl Loomis, Central Division E-mail Coordinator

### **MASTERS REPORT: Jim Mylander**

The 2009 NMC's were held at Tri-Norse Ski Club in Wisconsin Rapids with the competition on Feb 15th and the Banquet on Sat evening Feb 14th.

I want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone at Tri- Norse for putting on a great weekend and for getting the hills in great shape thru the adverse weather conditions they endured. We had 9 Masters Competitors & some of them skied both the 22K & the 52K hills. For complete results and full report by Don West go to [skijumpeast.com](http://skijumpeast.com) and hit Whats new.

The banquet on Sat evening was enjoyed by skiers, coaches, family & friends and there were 2 new inductees to the National Masters Hall of Fame. Tim Denisson was emcee for the festivities and the inductees didn't have any idea what was happening. Tim proudly inducted Tom Ricchio into the HOF and then he turned over the mike to Don West who proudly inducted Bob Keck into the HOF as the 24th & 25th members.

We were proud to have Earl Murphy (81 yrs young) with us who traveled solo from New Jersey for the weekend. Earl for those of you who don't know was a great competitor and established the NMC HOF and co-founded the International Masters Competition which is our World Championships, as well as creating our Masters banner that is proudly displayed at all Masters events.

I sincerely want to say on my behalf as Masters Chairman and all of us Masters in the US and the world a huge Thank you to both Tom & Bob for all their contributions to our wonderful sport of ski jumping in many different capacities i.e. coaching, competing, taking kids with them to meets when needed & overall just being 2 great guys in our sport. Thanks a bunch guys. You truly deserve this honor. Thanks again for letting me serve a great bunch of flyers being part of a great sport. Keep your tips up & "have one"" as we say on the slide.

Sincerely,

Jim Mylander

Central Masters Chairman

## ENGINEERING REPORT: P.T. ("Doc") Bland

Nothing to report for this year

## LARGE HILL COORDINATOR: Kathy Wallace

Large Hill 70M < Summary 2008-2009 ski season

Number of large hill junior skiers:	28	
Number of in division days	Summer - 6	Winter - 15
Number of out of division days	Summer - 8	Winter - 7

(These do not include in-division local practice days or out-of-division special qualifying events like Junior Worlds)

Central skiers with FIS cup points:	2
Central skiers skiing super tour:	11
Central skiers skiing in Continental Cups:	3
Central skiers skiing in NorAms:	6
Central skiers skiing in Nationals:	7

Thank you to Norge, Minneapolis, Eau Claire, Ishpeming, and Westby for putting on great events for the 5-hill tour skiers.

Issues that need to be addressed

- 1) Coaching fees collection – this last year the clubs were to collect and pay the coaches within a reasonable time for their coaching. This didn't work. Recommendation: Yearly fee collected at the beginning of the season for both summer/fall and winter seasons.
- 2) Early big hill tournament coordination can be tricky because of snow conditions and this past season there was some conflict early on in the season.

Kathy Wallace  
Central Division Large Hill Coordinator