2010/2011 Presidents Report

May 7, 2011

Shakespeare must have been referring to this past ski season when he wrote that “it was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Despite last minute rule changes from USSA, our season started well with plenty of snow and no problems getting races completed as scheduled. Then, mid season the trend changed and we encountered unseasonable warm weather that produced rain and ice storms. Blue Mountain did everything possible to insure the completion of their second Cup race of the season, but there was no way to overcome and ice storm, electrical outages, snarled traffic and fog; the race was cancelled. A makeup race was scheduled at Elk during Cup Finals and with the hard work of all involved was completed successfully over two days.

Next, the J-3 Derby at Seven Springs was treated to warm days which made for some very soft snow on Friday but then falling temperatures and snow late Sunday. The races were completed as scheduled and all our champions were selected and sent on to their Post Season events. Finally, the J 4-5 Derby at Roundtop was faced with a very ominous forecast so the two-day event was reduced to one and all races were run on one day. This turned out to be a smart call as a giant crater took out the finish line on Sunday morning accompanied by heavy rain.

Our racers enjoyed success at the Post Season event they attended and we had some outstanding results. Out programs are gaining respect from around the region and the efforts of our clubs to improve training and increase the skill of our racers seem to be paying off. Working toward improving our programs some were visited by either Sean Goodwin or Alex Krebs this season with both presentations receiving rave reviews. Our new Gate Judge Certification program is off to a good start and has been well received.

All in all, we had a very good year. Our membership continues to increase with strong growth among the younger members. The only dark cloud in our season was the loss of the Bear Creek Race Club, which was terminated by mountain management with their program to be picked up to some as yet unknown degree by the Ski School. While many of their racers are actively looking for a new home, it is unclear to what extent this will affect our membership and participation.