

PARA Presidents Report
2008/2009 seasons

The year in review shows a very successful and positive season. With no significant weather challenges races were run as scheduled and participation was good. While membership was basically flat we did not experience any dramatic drop in numbers or revenue as feared due to the weak economy.

Participation in Alpine Official clinics was very good and we welcomed a number of new and upgraded officials. Looking at USSA data show that we have one of the largest numbers of registered officials from all the Eastern States. Volunteers to work races still present a challenge at some races, but overall it appears that we are gaining more parents who are ready to work at events.

Two of our long-standing age chairs are moving on to other activities and I would be remiss not to mention their long tenure and outstanding contributions. Lisa Clayton our outgoing J-3 Chair has served for five years not only as Age Chair but also as Derby Chair. Fred Craft has served for five years as our J 1-2 Chair and been responsible for keeping track of our Pa. Cup standing through the season as well as calculating the year end standings. A sincere THANKS to both of you for giving your time and serving PARA athletes so well. We wish you well in your new endeavors.

Our athletes competed in many hard fought battles to earn State Championships and move on to post season events. Several distinguished themselves by their performance at various events. Who says you have to be from up north to ski well. We had a Slalom winner at the High School Championships and an athlete who won a slot at the Can Am races by her performance at Future Stars. Overall our athletes showed well at all post season events.

After consideration of the cost and performance of our current provider of on line membership services the Exec. Committee voted to begin collecting memberships through USSA starting next season. The site goes live on May 1 and will contain our information. This will allow our members to join USSA and PARA at the same time with their PARA membership being shown now on their USSA card. Our membership chair, Sheila Nichle worked closely with USSA to develop the proposal and set up the process.

Financially we fared better than we expected as coaches were asked to watch their expenses carefully. We are a little behind collecting State Head Tax and Calendar fees from this year's championship races and qualifiers. Clubs need to be timelier in submitting their fees.

As always, our Directors, Officers Clubs and Officials did an outstanding job of managing a busy competition season. Thanks to all for your great work.