PRESIDENTS REPORT

The season that wasn’t is now over and we actually faired pretty well. While we had a very difficult and late start to the season only 3 events were lost over the entire season. Around the state, ROC’s and mountain management worked together to provide the best skiing conditions possible under our record setting warm conditions. Obviously our geography had a greater effect on some areas than others but the effort by all was exceptional.

All of our State championship events were conducted as scheduled and to our usual high standards. There were some sleepless nights and many phone and e-mail discussions but through the hard work and advance planning of our host clubs the events were conducted as planned. Many thanks to all who were involved for their hard work and dediction.

Our performance at post season events continues to improve and we had some great results which will be detailed by our age chairs in their reports. I think it is important to note however that the improving training techniques utilized by our clubs are proving their benefits and can be seen at races around the state.

As I am sure you all recall, last year Bear Creek Race Club was dissolved and the race program disbanded with members moving to any of the several programs in the East and North East. Late this summer as part of fulfilling their legal requirements to close out the Club, Bear Creek donated a significant sum to PARA with the only instruction for its’ use being that it be used to benefit our racers. While no immediate purpose has been determined we will be discussing how to best utilize the proceeds at the Annual Meeting.

Early last fall we were made aware of coming changes to the age groupings for USSA and FIS. The new groupings will be similar to those used in soccer and many other youth sports. The immediate effect is twofold. First athletes in the second year of their eligibility for a given age this year will compete with the same athletes again next year only. After the initial year of adjustment, age groups will last for two years as in the past. More importantly however, the changes will have an effect on our race series composition and utilization—particularly the current J-3 / new U16 group. Discussions regarding the exact impact of the change and how to best manage the changes have been ongoing and pending final decisions from USSA East will be concluded at the Annual Meeting in May.

Finally, as last year, we received several complaints regarding athletes training outside PARA during the preseason and early season. This USSA Eastern regulation has never been precisely defined and is to intend to prevent our athletes from receiving the best training available and d achieving their best results. The confusion seems to occur when outside training carries over into the beginning of our season. We have been asked by Eastern to develop our own criteria for controlling this and will attempt again to do so at the Annual M eeting.