PRESIDENTS REPORT

Another year has gone by with little drama for a change. With few exceptions all races were run as scheduled and snow conditions were generally acceptable. Wisp conducted its first PA Cup weekend which went very well and was considered a success by all who participated. All three Derby weekends were held on good snow although much work by the ROC’s was required especially for the U-16 weekend at Seven Springs with weather ranging from warm to heavy snow and wind.

We continue to enjoy a core group of hard working well-trained race workers and officials who make our state programs a success. Our numbers continue to grow both in general membership and officials. It is significant that we seem to be growing from the bottom up and advancing the numbers into older age groups. This will provide continued strength and growth for our state.

Our racers are constantly improving and represent us well at Post Season Events. Details of our successes will be covered by our Age Chairs, but suffice it to say that we sent racers not only to Regional Championship events but also to events at the next level. The success of our racers is clearly the result of substantial efforts to improve coaching and training techniques around the state and reflects on the dedication of our programs.

On the heals of our athletes successes new discussion have been opened regarding the selection of venues and race groupings for our athletes. It seems obvious that we need to continue to challenge our athletes and provide appropriate events and venues for their in- state competition. Several proposals will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting aimed at supporting this concept. While the intent of the proposals it to improve the quality of competition for our elite athletes within the state we must also keep in mind the needs of our core athletes who make up the majority of our membership.

In parallel with our wish to improve competition for our athletes there seems to be a need to realign our regional make up. To this end, we will be considering the amendment of our By Laws to allow clubs to be moved from one region to another. We do not expect to make significant changes but will be allowed to better balance our membership with this amendment.

Finally, with the changes we will be considering there is the strong possibility that some of our past practices will be eliminated and new procedures, events and locations emerging over the next few years. While these may be upsetting for some who have grown accustomed to the relative stability we have experienced for many years, the changes will be made to better serve our athletes. As a result we may be accepting bids for new events and or venues so all clubs should be prepared to be flexible and willing to take on new challenges.