



SPOKANE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION

“The Best in the Pacific Northwest!”

Dear Friends and Families of SSRA,

August 1, 2009

On behalf of the SSRA Board of Directors and Coaching Staff, let us be the first to welcome you back to another great season of ski racing! With an Olympic year approaching, excitement surrounding our sport will be profound. With the games taking place in Vancouver, BC, Canada, it will take on even greater regional significance. Indeed, it will be a year to remember and one that fuels all of our dreams about Olympic sport.

A look back at our 50th year...

SSRA experienced competitive team excellence and significant individual accomplishment in 2008-2009. Amongst the juniors, we had athletes qualify for nearly every Western Region FIS race, Canadian FIS races, and five athletes attended March championship races including J1/2 Champs and J3 Junior Olympics! At those championship races, SSRA athletes recorded multiple top-fifteen finishes. Amongst Youth Ski Leaguers; Intro, YSL, and Jr. Development athletes reached phenomenal heights. The team won the EEYSL title for the third year in a row. The Buddy Werner team racked up 3 top-ten finishes, 2 wins, 1 combined title, and two qualifications to the regional J4 Festival. This outstanding talent and team depth contributed to a 2nd place team finish for the girls, a 3rd place team finish for the boys, *and a 2nd place finish for the overall team.*

In addition, SSRA parents and supporters worked together to meet challenging fundraising and race-hosting goals. Fundraising keeps tuition approximately 1/3 lower than what it would have to be if we did not do it. Races contribute to our income, as well as give our kids “home field advantage”, and provide our families with significant savings in travel costs. For fundraisers, we had an excellent inaugural edition of an SSRA Ski-A-Thon in December. In January, our annual Dinner Auction (and 50th year celebration) was a phenomenal success. On the racing front, we held 10 days of competition on Mt. Spokane. Of course, the culmination was the Buddy Werner Championships. It was a remarkable effort and now ranks up with the race of the same name that we hosted in 2006! Of course, we also hosted a J3 Qualifier in January and a record race field in our February EEYSL races. Now...it's time to look forward to next year!

Early enrollment has begun!

It may still be summer, but it is the time to start planning for winter and for taking advantage of our early payment discounts. Please find enclosed an enrollment form for the 2009-2010 racing season. You can also enroll online and find

specific program information at www.gossra.org. Please feel free to share the information with a friend (SSRA recruits new members by word-of-mouth!). Let us know if you know of anyone who would be interested in the program and would like to know more. Please take note of the early bird discount when paid in full by October 1st. (First-time members take advantage of the same discount rate all season long as a gesture of goodwill to newcomers who may not join us until December)

New tuition payment dates

Besides the early bird discount deadline, the SSRA BOD has established program start dates for each program. These start dates also serve as secondary payment deadlines. Note that the dates are earlier than in the past, for FIS Jr., Jr. and Jr. Development (DEVO) programs to coincide with the earlier starts of these programs. In addition, scholarship request deadlines are earlier in order to dovetail with the earlier payment dates. More information can be found on www.gossra.org.

Looking ahead

Our calendar has been filling up during the past six weeks with exciting training plans, camps, fundraisers and races. Parent/athlete meetings are being scheduled at the junior level, while meetings for Jr. Development, YSL and Introduction to Ski Racing will take place in October and early November. Check out www.gossra.org for continuing updates to the season calendar.

New for 2009-2010!

Night skiing at Mt. Spokane will be extended for two more weeks into mid-March! So, for every SSRA program, value is added as we will train for two more weeks at night. Night training is a part of FIS Junior, Junior, Junior Development (DEVO) and Full-time Youth Ski League programs.

Membership

We are hoping to maintain our membership and grow during the 2009-2010 season. Mt. Spokane had record pass sales this spring. If that is any indication of people's commitment to the sport while staying a bit closer to home, SSRA could indeed be headed for a year of growth. Of course, Olympic years can also be great for alpine ski racing. However, more importantly, a family-based athletic program like SSRA is an investment in our children that never waivers.

Race Hosting

Mt. Spokane and SSRA has secured two USSA races for the 2009-2010 season. We will host a J3 Qualifier January 16-18 and EEYSL races February 27-28. We will also have club races on Dec. 31st and Jan. 31st. SSRA is aggressively pursuing more high-profile, Western Region races each year.

Fundraisers / Corporate Sponsorship

SSRA will have three main fundraisers this year. We will have a Golf Tournament on Sunday, October 4th, our 2nd annual Ski-A-Thon on Thursday, December 31st and our 9th annual Auction on Saturday, January 30th. There has also been discussion about a Walla Walla wine tasting excursion...

SSRA has an excellent corporate sponsorship program. This is a tiered program that offers involvement and exposure for companies at each fundraiser, race, and with advertising on the team van. This information will be available shortly for 2009-2010 sponsorships.

Remember how important fundraising is in providing the resources that we need to be the best! In addition, keep in mind that fundraising maintains SSRA's inclusive nature and allows us to maintain the social synergy of our many groups and programs.

Coaching

For those of you who are wondering, we will have the vast majority of our talented coaching staff returning for 2009-2010. We have already begun to add some outstanding new members as well. Our team of coaches is the best in the Pacific Northwest and continues to set us apart from other organizations.

Mountain Support

Mt. Spokane remains SSRA's staunchest ally while announcing several operational extensions to its customers. In addition to two more weeks of night skiing, Mt. Spokane will be extending its hours at the conclusion of night skiing and also operating during spring break.

Stay tuned...

Be sure to check out the website (www.gossra.org) for the latest information. There is much more planned for the coming weeks and months. And, let us know how we can be our best in 2009-2010!

In addition, please let us know if you are receiving team emails and that we have your current contact information. If any of your contact information has changed (phone numbers/email addresses), please let us know as soon as possible!

SSRA looks forward to a fun and successful 2009-2010 season, and is pleased that you will be a part of the SSRA family.

Sincerely,

Chuck Holcomb
Program Director/Head Coach, SSRA

Mike Ramsden
President, SSRA