

Summer 2017

## New England Masters Skiing

### Newsletter

As we cross the halfway point of our “off-season” and move deeper into the dog days of summer I often use this point to reflect back on the previous season and begin planning for the upcoming season. Unfortunately I had the misfortune of watching last season from the sidelines ...usually on snowshoes with an oddly therapeutic cowbell in hand. The cowbell, after all, is synonymous with ski racing and we all need more cowbell!

2017 was a great year for NEMS, and as with most seasons, there were plenty of ups and downs with lots of excitement in between. Mother Nature got back on track and provided New England with some excellent winter skiing conditions, which led to a fantastic season of ski racing. While there was no shortage of great moments from last season, it was the level of camaraderie and competition across the board that really stood out. After all, these two words typically do not go together when describing competitive individual sports and I often tout this as being one of the truly great aspects of NEMS.

But we are a group of competitive ski racers so let's talk about ski racing! In case you missed it, **Taylor Knortz** came in and showed everyone just how dominant a racer she is and took home her first women's overall Sise Cup trophy and anyone who stuck around for the end of the race was rewarded with one of the best head-to-head match ups around between **Matt Dodge** and defending men's overall Sise Cup champion, **Kevin O'Brien**. After battling all season long, O'Brien was able to hold off Dodge to capture the men's overall Sise Cup trophy for the second straight season, capping off a brilliant 2017 season that was packed with great racing across the board.



### We're on to 2018

If you aren't thinking about next season yet, well, you should be! Why? Because 2018 is going to be the most epic season NEMS has had in over a decade and you need to get ready! Planning for this season began well before the final (frozen) racers crossed the finish line at Waterville in March, and just to warn you, the schedule is going to look a little different this season. You should expect to receive an official schedule announcement soon but what I can tell you is that NEMS will be holding races at **2 new venues** this season as well as returning to an old favorite that is sure to put a smile on many faces.

## All Eyes on the East

This season the Eastern Division will have the honor of hosting the *Phillips 66 Masters Nationals Championships* from Feb. 7-10<sup>th</sup> at **Okemo Mountain**. It has been five years since the East last hosted the national championships and we are excited to showcase this amazing venue to the rest of the country. Oh and by the way, the Eastern team won the national championships at Mammoth this year which means we have a title to defend on our home turf! So make sure to push yourself a little harder in your off-season conditioning because we're counting on everyone to step up! Scheduling and details are still being finalized. We will be sending all info out as soon as it becomes available. Stay tuned...



## FIS Masters World Championships

The FIS Masters World Championships will be descending on **Big Sky, MT** from March 19-24<sup>th</sup>. It has been five years since the FIS Masters World Championships last crossed the pond to North America and this is sure to be an epic event as some of the best Masters racers in the world will be competing. More details, including schedule and lodging packages will be available soon.

## Introducing the Newest Masters Division

We would like to officially welcome the Mid-Atlantic Masters Skiing division to the Masters family. Formally known as ASRA, the newly formed Mid-Atlantic Masters Skiing division will continue to hold races at their traditional venues. They will also coordinate with NEMS to help offer racers from both divisions more opportunities for ski racing throughout the season. We are excited to welcome the Mid-Atlantic Masters Skiing division and look forward to seeing our new friends out on the hill this season.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kelly Brush Ride – Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>

NEMS will once again be taking part in the annual [Kelly Brush Ride](#), which takes place on **Sat. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**. Over the last 11 years, the Kelly Brush Ride has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help athletes with paralysis and to improve ski racing safety. If you would like to join the **NE Masters** team for the Kelly Brush Ride or make a donation please visit our [team's page](#) for additional details.



In recognition of the NE Masters team doing such a great job with their fundraising, the Kelly Brush Foundation has also provided the team with 3 U.S. Ski Team jackets donated by **Mikaela Shiffrin**. These jackets will be given out to 3 lucky donors and anyone who donates to the NE Masters team, either directly or through one of the riders, before Sep. 1<sup>st</sup> will be entered into the drawing. Good luck everyone!

We have a big season ahead so keep an eye out for important updates over the coming months. Also, don't forget to check out NEMS on social media and let us know what you are up to when you're not skiing. I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer, but remember winter is coming!

All the best,

Matthew Mitsis  
NEMS – Board of Directors

