

2016/17 Western Regional Youth Coordinator End of Season Report
2016/2017 Season
Darryl Whitaker

General Job Description: "Athletic Coaching Position" with primary responsibilities to advance athletes, (U10 – U16), clubs, coaches utilizing training/competition projects, coach education tools, Skills Quest program.

Overview goal: Help clubs/coaches/athletes/parents understand the fundamentals of the sport, get them to believe in their approach, and bring creativity and passion to becoming better in all aspects of ski racing.

To achieve this goal traveling to the 5 Divisions delivering Coaches Education, (Formal & Informal Clinics), Club Visits assisting their daily training, being involved with National/Regional/Divisional projects, training and implementing Skills Quest clinics and events, parent communication and race visits.

Specific Goals for Season: Visits to smaller clubs of WR and areas not visited in past years. Far West – Western Sierras, So. Cal. PNSA – Seattle based clubs. Northern Division – Eastern Montana clubs. Alaska Division visit. Be involve with U16 NPS projects, Intermountain, Northern, PNSA, Far West Divisional projects. Be part of National Development Department communication, National committees, work with Sport Ed Department, PSIA education.

Season Highlights:

- Skills Quest:
 - Evaluator Accreditation Clinics: 30 coaches attaining "Continuing Ed" Credit (Full or ¼) More soon in Mammoth this weekend
 - Informal on-site training, assisting upcoming events. (10 plus coaches/organizers)
 - Formal "Certified" Contests in Region:
 - Northern Division YSL Champs: 121 kids, 8 evaluators, 15 plus coach/chaperones
 - PNSA Buddy Werner Champs: 142 kids, 2 evaluators, ? coach interaction
 - Far West U10 Champs: 102 kids, 8 evaluators, ? coach interaction
 - U14 Regional Champs: 118 kids, 4 evaluators, ? coach interaction
 - U16 Regional Champs: 158 kids, 7 evaluators, coach interactions on/off snow
 - Alaska and Far West also held Divisional SQ events, but no data was submitted

- Coaches Education: *With my 25 plus years of working with the USSA Education Department, I have been able to supplement my travel around the West Region delivering Formal Level 100 – 400 clinics, and continue to implement staff training "Specialty Clinics". Informal club visits with staff training was also conducted but was not used for "Continuing Education Credit."*
- Numbers of coaches: *Course Set = 11, Level 100 = 21, Level 200 = 28, Level 300 = 7, Level 400 = 4, Drills 4 Skills = 69, Skills Quest = 30, Divisional Camp = 20.* These coaches will have Continuing Ed Credit towards staying "current" within Sport Ed Department.
- *Informal staff training within club visit not for Continuing Ed Credit = 47*

- National/Regional/Divisional Projects: NPS @ Burke, Divisional Speed @ Big Sky, Regional Speed @ Mammoth, Regional U16's @ Big Sky, National U16's @ Sugarloaf, Whistler Cup.
- Race visits: Northern Division – 2, IMD – 4, Regional – 1, Tri-Divisional – 1
- Summer Camp visits in Mammoth in May/June: 4 clubs

- Travel Budget: Big Region, tough budget. Through formal educational clinics I would try to visit clubs with nearby geographical locations of the clinics while in the area. Supplemented travel with Specialty Clinics income. (\$2100)
- Equipment task force group, U14 task force group, Ed Department planning/suggesting, Development Department member.

Missed Opportunities: *(Due to budget or other commitments)*

- Visit to Alaska
- So. Cal, Eastern Montana, Seattle clubs. (MORE!)
- IMD Speed Camp and U14 Performance Camp
- PNSA Speed Camp
- FW U14 Performance Camp
- More club visits/race visits locally. (Blown engine in personal car.)
- Being involved with Summer Regional Camps
- Weekend inter-club contests, coach/parent education
- Coordinating mid-winter club visits

Summary: 3 years ago Western Region Director Lester Keller mentioned to me while signing my contract, "OK Darryl let's get back to what we were going to do in 2003!" Lester was referring to my previous 2 years of WR Youth Coordinator and many of the goals we couldn't accomplish due to budget cuts. I am aware of the need to travel to achieve these goals and worked hard fiscally to address this challenge, but also attain the above stated goals. The consistency of my involvement with the WR and the duties to my Job Description keeps me always thinking of ways for me to stay creative, involve many, share my experience and passion.

Thanks to those who have helped "host" me in my travels: Nick Treat in Mt. Shasta, Paul Mannelin in Big Sky, Roy Loman in Whitefish, Craig Kruger in Helena, Nick Cohee in China Peak, Ellen Hoffman in Bear Valley, Dennis Domaille in Lee Vining, Stan & Penny Boney in Truckee. You have helped our West Region!