

**SNOWBOARD SPORT COMMITTEE**  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2004

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Committee Attendance:

Becky Woolley	USSA PROGRAM MANAGER
Gary Taylor	USSA BOARD REP
Bill Slattery	FIS REP
Chris Karol (via phone)	ROCKY REP
Mike Mallon (via phone)	EASTERN REP/ NEW CHAIRMAN
Scott Mason (via phone)	IJC REP
Mike Bell	INTERMOUNTAIN REP
Ben Boyd	VAIL CLUB/ NEW ROCKY REP
Lisa Kosglow	ATHLETE REP
Rick Bower	ATHLETE REP
Tom Collins	USASA REP
Peter Foley	HEAD COACH
Randy Rogers	PNW REP

Others in Attendance:

Nancy Wiedel	RACE SECRETARY
John Jett	TELLURIDE
Cath O'Donnell	TELLURIDE
Sheryl Fine	MEMBERSHIP (USSA)
Tom Kelly	VP PUBLIC RELATIONS (USSA)
Lisa Antonucci	MEDIA COORDINATOR (USSA)
Theodo Remmelink	STEAMBOAT
Tom Winters	TD
Aldo Radamus	VAIL
Jordan Ginsberg	SUNDAY RIVER
Jeremy Forster	PROGRAM DIRECTOR (USSA)
Abbi Nyberg	EVENT COORDINATOR (USSA)

B WOOLLEY: To re-cap, Margie Peterson resigned from her role as chairman about five weeks ago due to commitments with her new job and imminent birth of her baby. According to our operating procedures, the executive committee can appoint a new chairman midterm, so we appointed Mike Mallon to help tie up some loose ends and prepare for these meetings. One of our goals moving forward is to try and empower this committee to give us good input, feedback, and direction for the sport. Today we need to officially elect a new chairman for the board, because that two-year term that Mike stepped into is officially over today. So that's our first order of business while we have a quorum. That said, I will open the floor for nominations for chair.

P FOLEY: I will nominate Mike Mallon

L KOSGLOW: I will second it.

B WOOLLEY: Any further nominations?

G TAYLOR: I nominate Tom Collins.

R ROGERS: I will second it.

B WOOLLEY: Any further nominations? Then nominations will be closed and we will hear from each of our candidates about why they would like to run for chair.

B WOOLLEY for Mike: I have a copy of Mike's platform that I will read because he is driving down the road right now and needs to focus on that. Mike is a club coach that used to be the director at Steamboat for several years, then moved on to Holderness, and is now the director of the Stratton Mountain School. His platform reads: "I have been involved with snowboarding for 14 years as a competitor, coach, official, event organizer. In this time, I have watched our sport grow and mature and I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement. I've been fortunate to volunteer my time at 7 Junior World Championships, 5 with USASA, 2 with USSA. As a coach with USASA, I organized and hosted four week long training camps and have been involved with numerous USSA development camps. I feel that this younger age group is and continues to prove itself as the exciting future of our sport.

I have been a member of the snowboard sport committee for six years as a regional rep, five for rocky and this past season as the eastern rep. As the rocky mountain rep, we were able to organize and host two Western Regional Championships, an A.S.T., and five USSA regional level events. As the eastern rep this year I have been working closely with Becky Woolley on such topics as, restructuring the sport committee, Jr Worlds selection, regional rep job descriptions, development, and increasing participation at judges and coaches clinics.

If elected, I plan to focus my energies on:

Establishing good communication with and offering support to regional reps.

Maintaining communication with the US Snowboard program administrator, team coaches, team athletes, industry reps and the USSA board to ensure snowboarding is effectively represented.

Enhancing the exposure and presence of the sport committee and its responsibilities, through communication with athletes at all major snowboard events in the US. Thus, aiding as another voice for the athlete representing their thoughts and ideas to the sport committee.

Continue to maintain my relationships with the younger athletes of the sport, and work to promote a realistic, positive path for them to follow.

Encourage the continued development of educational programs for coaches, parents and athletes.

Spearhead a movement to build and manage various scholarship programs within the USSA and the industry to assist athletes in pursuing higher education, and professional development.

Continue to work with USASA to assist in the development of a smart, beneficial working agreement for the sport and all parties involved.

And Effectively communicate with all members of the Snowboard executive committee.

I am looking forward to this opportunity to help continue to manage our sport and represent both the athlete and USSA accordingly."

B WOOLLEY: Moving forward, Tom, would you like to speak to us about why you are interested in running for the chair position?

T COLLINS: Sure, the reason I wish to be the chair is just to increase the working relationship between the USSA and the USASA. It's been a long time coming, this is the fourth year I've been

coming to this Congress and I'd like to make the organizations work better together. And ditto to much of what Mike had to say, many of my goals are the same.

B WOOLLEY: Any questions for either of our candidates?

B SLATTERY: Before we vote, we need to determine who our voters are, and then identify them so that everyone sitting around this table knows who they are.

B WOOLLEY: Our voters are: Randy, Lisa, Ricky, Gary, Peter, Tom, Slats, Scott Mason, Mike Mallon and Chris Karol.

B SLATTERY: I think one of the athletes should do the tallying. One of the athletes should call each of our phone representatives to gather their vote. (Ricky volunteers to tally, Lisa volunteers to call reps).

B WOOLLEY: If everyone could use their paper to write down their candidate of choice. Lisa will be calling Scott Mason and Chris Karol for their votes. Mike emailed his vote to me yesterday.

R BOWER: It looks like Mike Mallon will be the new chairman.

B WOOLLEY: Congratulations Mike. That's item number one. Moving ahead, we also have a couple of chair positions up for election this year as well. With Mike as the new chair, there is an opening for the chair in the East, and Alan Smarse, the head coach at Holderness, is interested in running for Eastern Rep. He is interested in being more involved with USSA, trying to keep more athletes in the development system, he has some real interest in focusing on the college athlete and retaining some of those athletes, and working with his local USASA series. Would someone like to nominate Alan?

P FOLEY: I would like to nominate Alan Smarse.

B WOOLLEY: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the Eastern rep? Then nominations are closed. All in favor of Alan (Unanimous).

B WOOLLEY: The Intermountain rep position is up and JT Schoonover is not interested in continuing. Are there any nominations for the Intermountain position?

R BOWER: I will nominate Mike Bell.

B WOOLLEY: Any other nominations for Intermountain? Then nominations are closed. All in favor of Mike Bell? (Unanimous)

B WOOLLEY: Chris Karol is currently the rep for Rocky, but is in a transition with his job, so is willing to step down if there are other candidates that are more directly involved and wanting to take over, is that accurate Chris?

C KAROL: I'm happy to still do it, but things are a little up in the air for me, so if someone wants to step in and do it, that's fine too.

B WOOLLEY: I received two tentative emails of interest, one from Paul Krahulec and one from Ben Boyd.

G TAYLOR: I will nominate Ben Boyd.

L KOSGLOW: I will nominate Paul Krahulec.

Ben: Really quick, I am just passionate about the sport. Working together with all the clubs in Colorado, I put together a pipeline through the USSA of which we had two events. I am just trying to develop the Colorado athlete and push them up to the next level. I think it is super important that all the clubs in the different states get together to do that. That's pretty much where I come from.

B WOOLLEY: Paul is the director of the Copper mountain USASA series and has two children involved in the sport, which is how he's become involved with USSA. He sent me a platform that I will read on his behalf:

"As the USSA Rocky Mountain Regional Director I would diligently work toward providing its members increased value and amateur / professional advancement opportunities through:

- support and promotion of US Snowboarding through its regional & national competitions and programs
- promote new regional competition opportunities to enhance interest in US Snowboarding's "Pipeline" through points acquisition from existing regional amateur snowboard series (\*USSA Copper Mtn Series)
- promoting and supporting training opportunities for coaches, judges and officials (pre-season training, post season "post mortems")
- developing cross-training opportunities that develop flexibility in relationship to disciplines and seasons (biking, skating etc..)
- maintain and develop strategic partnerships with key alliances at Rocky Mountain Resorts (\* Continental Cup, Race to the Cup, additional Summer Camps)
- promotion, awareness and understanding of the value of its members thorough increased communications channels (web & e-mail)
- attending all USSA Snowboard related functions.
- to promote a love, appreciation and life-long commitment to the sport."

B WOOLLEY: Does anyone have any questions for either of our two rocky candidates? Ben, if you want to step out of the room, we can do a quick vote. (Show of hands for who is in favor of Ben and Paul). Ben is our new Rocky Representative.

B WOOLLEY: Congratulations Ben, welcome aboard.

B BOYD: I would just like to thank Chris for a job well done.

C KAROL: Thanks, you're going to do a great job, you already have.

B WOOLLEY: Throughout the rest of the meeting, our new reps will be our voting members, minus Alan, he apologizes he can't be here. Next item of business, Scott Mason from the IJC is with us on the phone as he is currently on vacation, so we are going to move him up on the agenda so that he can give his report and get back to his family.

S MASON: Thank you. I want to thank everybody for another season. The IJC continues to work autonomously and help the sport progress as it is an infantile morphing animal as we see it still. There is a growing acceptance in the international community to acknowledge and pursue the WC and the Olympics, but we still think there needs to be a voice for the sport to continue the natural progression and the IJC tries to foster that and help that evolution to keep snowboarding as dynamic as possible, so the IJC continues to embrace that spirit.

A little bit about the IJC... I wanted to be part of this meeting as we hadn't been present for a few years. We want to play a key role with the USSA as a pinnacle part of the sport and we

want to influence and contribute as much as possible. In the last year or so we have experienced a lot of changes, including a restructuring at the highest level. What has happened is that a lot of key people have moved on to more significant roles in the snowboard world. We continue our tradition of fostering and mentoring and educating people and individuals in the field who are now involved throughout the sport as managers, event organizers, park designers, etc. and we are pretty proud of that. Does anyone have any questions about what we do?

A review of the past year: In September in Jersey City, New Jersey last year we held our third pro-level clinic and certified again the best pro judges in the U.S. and Canada. It went pretty well, it was a growing and learning experience as with every clinic. It was very productive and progressive. Something that is new in education for us is free-skiing. The head judge of Free-skiing for the US Open and the X-games attended the clinic and wanted to look at our model to help free-skiing and it looks like they will go down that road. That's not going to affect snowboarding at all, but I think it proves that although we've make some mistakes, we are on the right track.

On to regional education, we had some problems getting clinics scheduled and held none. We had one definitive date and we got snowed out, so this season we are going to put a lot more effort into working with Becky and the USSA to get a stronger regional program for training judges and developing the grassroots level. We definitely want to embrace regional programs and clubs, because that's where our top riders come from. We had some problems getting people to commit and attend these regional clinics, so we are going to work with the local people, the industry and possibly the SIA to help foster interest from shop people, people who aren't necessarily into coaching or the "core" athlete, but still really know the sport and have a strong interest and want to be involved, so those are the people we are going to target to take on the regional judging jobs.

I did intend to do a summary of our judging efforts at the GPS. Marcello Centurione, the head judge at Park City, had a family event last week and didn't have a chance to address how things went there. Tom Pelov took care of Mammoth and Matt Jennings was the Head Judge at Mountain Creek, and I don't have a report from either one of them either, but I know that's something that Abbi can comment on. We look forward to continuing to work with the USSA and the Grand Prixs.

One last thing that is a little bit new is our interaction with Becky on the Snowboard Officials' Program, trying to help foster some consistency in events through an education system in the US. I think it went pretty well and we are on the right track, the material itself needs to continue to evolve and we are going to work together on that. Much like judging, we need to really target the grassroots and foster some people. We've really found some great people who understand the sport and the people, so we need to start tracking their experience and gauge their development to bring them up through the ranks. Success of the program relies on practical transfer of knowledge, allowing people to shadow at events like the Grand Prixs that are well organized is super important. I learned a lot doing those kind of shadowing efforts and we need to work together to help organize this.

In summary, looking to the upcoming season, IJC's growth and change has stabilized quite a bit, our global perspective is a lot stronger. We are going to be a lot more aggressive and organized in our approach. How that is going to affect the USSA is the regional judges clinics along with the officials' program. We would like to continue to be involved in an even broader capacity. Many of our people have gone on to work with Burton and the US Open or the Vail Valley Foundation and The Session; we've been consulting with Vans and the Triple Crown as well and it seems to be paying off. We'd like to continue that with the USSA and keep the sport progressing for the riders. If anyone has any questions, my email is [mason@ijc.info](mailto:mason@ijc.info) any thoughts

on any of that stuff, I would love to get as much feedback as possible, especially with the regional stuff and planning education at that level.

B WOOLLEY: Thanks Scott. So that everybody knows, I have been working with Scott and that it's important to us that we have some of the best judges in the world, but they are not involved with the FIS system, so we would like our judges to go down that path so as we come in to the Olympic year, our judges are accepted by the FIS system and we can use our US judges in the Olympic qualifiers, confident that they are practiced in the Olympic formats.

S MASON: The way Canada has handled that is holding separate FIS clinics using the same judges as the IJC judges. It's a little redundant, so we are working on a global level to be able to certify a B-Level judge, as currently we can only certify a C-Level judge.

R ROGERS: I have a question about the officials' program and training people to fill specific roles at events such as referees. I didn't see that covered very well in the Officials' manual.

S MASON: There is a section on that in the manual.

B WOOLLEY: I know that Randy has addressed some of these concerns to me before, and he should be a great asset for us in our community with his experience to help us make sure these issues are covered as thoroughly as possible. I suggest that moving ahead as we revise the manual and the program, that maybe Randy can work with us in this process.

B WOOLLEY: Any other questions for Scott? We currently have Sheryl Fine here in the room with us from USSA Member Services, so I am going to let her give a membership report.

S FINE: Thanks Becky. Membership renewals are currently at our production facility and will go out in the mail next week, a little bit earlier than normal, this is all due to the fact that we are now having fees passed a few months in advance of renewals, which is a real treat. We've been trying to get this done for about 9 seasons, so the board passes those fees in the December meeting, which makes it a lot easier for us to get forms out to you in a timely manner. The forms will be on the web at worst next week. We are also working at some sort of on-line form. The initial go-round of on-line forms will have to be downloaded and faxed or mailed in as we don't have a secure server to collect the information we need for an on-line registration. We're trying to do this on no budget, but we're making some progress, so hang in there, we are working on it. I also wanted to make sure that the membership verification we set up on-line is working for you guys and if there are any major concerns out there; is that good thing? Is it helping a little bit?

The only other thing I wanted to talk to you about is what Becky, Jeremy and I decided in terms of billing for this cycle. Something new we put in place for you is the provisional FIS registration and we talked about how to bill them moving forward. We've decided to send out their renewals with the upgraded full FIS registration membership, a national license along with a full FIS license. They still can downgrade from that, and this only affects about 24-25 people. We put a note with their renewal that explains why we did what we did. We will also send something out via email or mail to let people know what their options are. Any questions on that?

J JETT: What are the new rates? Obviously there are changes?

S FINE: Yes, there are changes. You folks are going to maintain the regional at \$40. The national is \$100. Across the board, officials' membership is going to be \$50, which has been held at \$40 for the past nine seasons. Coaches are \$100. So the officials and the national competitor went up for you guys. Any questions?

J JETT? Is there still a youth membership?

S FINE: No, we deferred to Becky on that, and she said there wasn't really a need for that.

B BOYD: There will start being a need for that, especially with our tour and the 12-year olds competing.

J JETT: Regional membership is open to youth competitors though right?

B WOOLLEY: Absolutely, and if a youth specific membership is something that we decide is important moving forward, it's certainly up for discussion, but we would have to figure out official cost, if it is scored or un-scored, issues like that.

S FINE: Keep in mind the fact that the youth in freestyle is \$30 and \$45 in alpine, so your cost probably won't be much lower than that.

B WOOLLEY: We've been fighting to keep our regional membership low for that very purpose.

S FINE: Other questions? Thanks for letting us pop in.

B BOYD: Can athletes upgrade from regional to national?

B WOOLLEY: Yes, they can upgrade at any point if they find themselves at a contest where they need a national license.

B WOOLLEY: Moving along. To review the program for the year from my perspective, I'll just give you an overview. Regional championships were changed up a little bit due to the new Race to the Cup series to try and make it more affordable for those resorts to host. The feedback I was getting when we were trying to site those events is that it is a lot for a resort to take on, and so with the RTTC filling the void on the alpine side, regionals comprised of just halfpipe and SBX. They took place at two veteran sites, which was great because they could get over the learning curve of the first year and be more prepared for a second time around. In the east we went back to Loon Mountain, where it was viciously cold, there was a severe wind the night before the pipe that blew down the judges' stand and we were a little late starting, but the event went well and the athletes that were there were very talented. The participation was low due to a multitude of factors; the USASA series that is dominant throughout the East and the weather. There were 88 starts over the course of the weekend. In the West, we went back to Aspen this year. Stephanie Humes, who worked with me this year, was the coordinator on site, and she took with her a big checklist of issues from the year prior. My understanding is that things went much smoother; I didn't receive any of the kinds of phone calls and emails that I did the year prior. They had 196 starts over the entire weekend.

In the NorAm series, participation was up 4% this year. There were 11 different stops throughout the U.S. and Canada. The spots were awarded in PGS to Philippe Berube (CAN) and Lynn Ott (USA), HP to Joel Boyen (CAN) and Halley (CAN), SBX to Sarris McCoomb (US) and Martin Laperriere (CAN). If you don't know how the spot is awarded - to the person who collects the most FIS race points throughout the season at NorAm events, so if you competed in the first race and earned 200 points, in another race and earned 150 points and 50 points in the last race, your total NorAm points would be 400. The FIS also had a rule this year saying that if you were ranked in the top 30 of the World Cup rankings than you weren't eligible for the NorAm spot, so in the case of PGS, Stacia Hookom was the NorAm winner, but she is in that top 30 ranking, so the spot gets bumped down to the next in line. Looking forward to next year, I've already been working with Canada on our schedule for next season and have claimed the weekends I would prefer.

New this season was the RTTC series. It was the first time offering an alpine specific series, which I was pretty excited about. It went really well, we had three stops with prize money for the PGS in the amount of \$750, \$500, \$250. At each stop we also awarded a start right for the Mt. Bachelor World Cup. There was consistent participation throughout the series; we had 68 and 69 starts at Steamboat and Crystal, 87 in Okemo. I feel like the series worked, because we named the best riders to compete at Mt. Bachelor.

JWC were split between Klinovec, Czech Republic and Oberwiesenthal, Germany. The alpine coaches were Nick Smith and guest coach Phil Fell. Freestyle coaches were Bud Keene and Mike Jankowski. Our quota was raised this year to 24, because the FIS added Big Air as a discipline. We chose not to bring a Big Air specific group of riders, as it is not one of our Olympic disciplines. This works well for us because it allows us to bring some really strong riders in PGS, HP and SBX. We did fill our quota; you can start up to 6 athletes per gender per discipline. We maxed those quotas in HP and then brought 5 alpine men, 4 alpine women and 4 SBX specific riders (2 men, 2 women). We also had several crossover athletes. Results weren't as high as we had hoped for. We had two medals in Big Air, which we hadn't even planned on, and a gold in women's SBX. Vic Wild unfortunately suffered a concussion his first day on snow and was unable to compete. The alpiners got a great week of experience, because their race was early in the week and they were able to head down to Austria and compete in some FIS races, which is key for development at their age. The venues were marginal. JWC doesn't seem to have the same kind of caliber and effort put into it that you would expect; for example, that training is open on time and the venues are top quality. We were in a funky area where the snow seemed to come and go from day to day, it was very windy. We had a weather day the first day of competition that postponed the PGS day, resulting in two lost days of SBX training as well. Between crossing back and forth over the borders, the organization was totally different on either side, so that was a bit of nightmare. Next year, JWC is slated for Arosa, Switzerland, the first week of April so that should be a better experience as they have hosted multiple WC races.

Concerning National Championships, we continued with the National Championship series this year. In Halfpipe we used the three Grand Prix events, titles were awarded to Andy Finch and Hannah Teter. In SBX we used the Mammoth GP event, and titles were awarded to Nate Holland and Lindsey Jacobellis. In Alpine, we used the weekend of events in Breck, using the PGS qualifier results, PGS Finals and SL results, where Stacia Hookom and Chris Klug earned the national titles.

Coaches education; last year we worked really hard on putting together a basic club coaches manual. Because we didn't have a set system to identify educators, we did them on an as needed basis, which Vail and Sun Valley took advantage of. The Coaches would contact me and I would send them the materials to produce on their own and run on their own schedule without minimum participation requirements. Participants then sent their tests into me and the Head Coach/educator sent me an evaluation. The other half of the club coach certification is the ASEP Basic Coaching Principles certification. Clubs had the option to bring a clinic to their area by contacting ASEP directly, or allowing their coaches to do this on their own. When they received their certification, they send proof of this to me at the office and their club coach education is complete.

B BOYD: We did our clinic in conjunction with Jim Smith and Team Summit, and we had about 15 or 16 participants. It's a good way of doing it because then you can just ring Steamboat and ask if they have some guys that need to get certified and you can get organized with them.

L KOSGLOW: Is that posted on the USSA website anywhere?

B WOOLLEY: It's posted under Coaches Ed and Clinic information. When someone contacts me that they are going to host a clinic, I post it on our site, so that if anyone is looking to attend

one, it's listed there. Otherwise, it says if you are interested in hosting a clinic, to contact me as well.

R ROGERS: Becky, could we do a clinic at Hood this summer for coaches? I would be happy to help work on it.

L KOSGLOW: What is ASEP?

B WOOLLEY: There a nationally certified organization that is recognized by several other NGBs from swimming to track and field that offers coaching programs and certifications. ASEP stands for American Sports Education Program.

R ROGERS: They've been around since 1980.

B WOOLLEY: They teach basic coaching principles that apply to all sports, from how to talk to an 8-year old to coaching ethics.

Judges' and officials' education Scott covered pretty well for us. The officials' manual I revised this fall with Nancy Wiedel. I used her years of knowledge and thoroughness to help me combine our event organizer manual and the IJC officials' manual, as they contained essentially the same information. It's a pretty great working document that should prove helpful to all levels of expertise.

Junior development camp... for alpine we held it at Copper in June, which was awesome to be out of the chaos of Mt. Hood and Government Camp. They open the lifts at 7 am and the training is at the top on Ptarmigan. Turn around on the lift is 4 minutes, so the athletes get more runs in one morning than they do in several days at Hood. That leaves afternoons for dryland and there is a gym on site. Last year we had 12 athletes and we are going to go back there this year. For Halfpipe we used Windell's for the first time, so we lodged the kids with them. This was awesome because usually we stay in Government Camp and feed the kids on the Huck's meal program while negotiating for time at the skate parks and trying to keep track of everyone. This year we were able to use Windell's facilities to keep all the athletes in one place. We will be going back this year as well. Bud and Mike have asked Andy Gilbert and Jim Smith to come and coach with them this summer during the junior camp. We are also going to run the first ever SBX camp this summer, which could be a learning curve as we figure out how that works. We will be building a course at Hood and basing out of Hood River with the National Team athletes. Nathan Park from Vail and Rick Shimpino from Stratton Mountain will be coaching alongside Peter Foley for that camp with about 10 junior athletes.

I feel really good about the juniors we have been working with. Instead of following the traditional model of naming the top three at regionals as part of the development program, we used Project Gold to name the top junior finisher at every major competition to be a part of our development programs. We really named the best athletes, and aren't in a position to have to discretion a bunch of kids to this team. At JWC, of the 24 athletes we brought, only two will be ineligible next year, so moving forward that group is going to get stronger because they will be with us for at least two more years.

The competition guide, we will continue printing it in the small handbook form and posting it on-line as well. The only change you might see is that they might print the USSA directory in the back of it as well to save on printing costs. If you guys have any corrections or additions to the comp guide, please let me know by July 31 at the latest.

Membership review, Sheryl went over... I just want to touch on the FIS provisional license. We had 48 athletes register with this license, of which only 7 were athletes who dropped down from

the full FIS license. That means we had 41 new athletes competing at this level, so now our challenge is just to retain those athletes. As we mentioned before, any of your athletes that may have registered with a provisional license will be billed for an upgraded membership, so please help to educate your riders about what option is best for them. As a reminder, the provisional license does NOT allow a rider to accrue points, so if their goal is to compete on the World Cup or the Olympics, they should renew for the full FIS license.

That's a quick review of the year. In your packets is a proposed domestic calendar for next year. None of our events are sited yet, but you can see which weekends would be ideal for certain events and I'll be trying to stick to that. Most of the FIS races have been scheduled around World Cup races in hopes of drawing great attendance at these events. Regional Champs are not set in stone, so I am open and flexible. We have also been talking to Canada about running Nor Am Finals together. Their national championships are a one-off event as well, so combined, both national teams would be in attendance, making it a great athletic competition and points race.

L KOSGLOW: Would that take the place of US Alpine finals?

B WOOLLEY: Yes, and we would rotate back and forth. Next year would be in Canada, we would host them in the U.S. the following year. We are continuing to work on that.

T WINTERS: Where is what tentatively sited?

B WOOLLEY: Big White.

B BOYD: I was thinking if you want to increase the fields, is it worth doing a combined RTTC for alpine and SBX so that people that want to do both can.

B WOOLLEY: Actually, you are right on target. This year I wrote a proposal to try and get funding for a RTTC SBX series, which I haven't received an answer about yet, but the idea is that those two series would operate side by side and compliment each other well. As I work with sites, I always tell them they are welcome to add whatever events they want, so if you know of anyone that would be happy to step up and host these events, just let me know.

L KOSGLOW: So right now the RTTC is an alpine PGS only? And then it's tentative for SBX?

B WOOLLEY: Yes, I always work with every site to explain that I only have prize money to support PGS, but that it is in their best interest to take advantage of having all these athletes in town and collect another day of entry fees by adding an additional race. So far, everyone has taken me up on this.

L KOSGLOW: So it's possible the RTTC could be a three-event weekend? Have you talked to people like Crystal to see if that's of interest to them?

B WOOLLEY: Yes, Crystal in particular is hesitant about SBX, but that doesn't mean that someone else in the PNW wouldn't be interested in hosting a SBX a day earlier or later than the alpine events so that it works out. Any other questions?

Peter, would you like to give a team report?

P FOLEY: I am pretty stoked with the way things went this season. I feel we are ramping up and on track to get done what we want to in 2006. If you look at the big picture, at each alpine event there are two races; the qualifier and the final. We took a look at how fast our kids are at those events. We're not seeing a lot of podiums, but we're seeing a lot of speed, especially amongst our younger crew, Adam Smith, Eric Warren and Ryan McDonald and it was really their first year

on the World Cup. We looked at top 5 finishes and Chris Klug was able to do that five times, Adam Smith did it 6 times, Eric Warren twice, Lisa Kosglow 5 times and Michelle Gorgone 4 times. That's a great sign and things are progressing on that side. On the Halfpipe side, Bud has a statistic that he likes to call the slugging percentage. This year there were 7 competitions that we rank at Level two, which means that at least half of the top 16 riders in the world were present at that competition. In those competitions, the men from U.S. Snowboarding took first place 71% of the time, and the women also took first place 71% of the time. That's not just a podium, but first place. On the SBX side we are trying to get in position to improve our quota. Last season we could only enter four men and 1 woman at a World Cup, so with the crew that we had, we tried to mix it up and improve that. Going into next season, we will be able to enter 7 men and 2 women, so that's great. Lindsey won every SBX event she entered, which was 4 World Cups, the Grand Prix and the X-Games. With the men, we were on the podium four times, so that's coming along well too.

For this season, the staffing will be Bud Keene and Mike Jankowski on the Halfpipe side and on the alpine side we had to go down to two coaches, which was a bummer from an organizational standpoint, but we needed to do it to provide more money to the athletes. Now we have Jan Wengelin back on the women's side, which I am really excited about and we have had a lot of success with him in the past, and on the men's side Jeff Archibald. For SBX, it's me and I am having a great time with that project, they are a fun crew to travel and train with. In your packet are the team designations and the schedule if you want to check it out. Any questions?

B BOYD: Just one, did you use an alternate system, for SBX in particular, as there are a couple of young girls right on the cusp and it would be great if they could step up occasionally.

P FOLEY: What do you mean by an alternate system?

B BOYD: You are only going to get two starts with the women on the World Cup, so do you have any people in mind and lined up for events where we get extra starts?

P FOLEY: Yes, we will be filling our quota as often as we can. Lindsey won't be racing in every SBX either, so there are some opportunities there as well.

B BOYD: Do you have a list of those?

P FOLEY: Right now at the top end there is Lindsey, Joanie Anderson and Marni Yamada. Then there is a pretty loosely defined group beyond that. Bachelor was really the first place we saw a lot of them.

B BOYD: I am just thinking of two 14-year old girls who would be among top 8, like Lindsay Telling and Jamie Anderson, and same with the boys. I would just like to see us develop that so that they are tagged on the back so that when they are old enough to compete, they are ready to go. Let them come to training camp so that we all know what's out there, before they are old enough to compete.

B WOOLLEY: There are some opportunities to include athletes like that at the junior camps, and as we move forward, we'll have a better feel of who else is out there as well. On the halfpipe side, Bud and Jank have certainly invited younger guys who they were confident were the next best thing, and I foresee the same thing happening in SBX. Lisa, would you like to give an athlete report?

L KOSGLOW: I've talked to athletes on all sides and everyone seems pretty psyched with how the season went. Everyone has the same comments as usual; more money and Chevy's for everybody. I've been working with *Ski Racing* on their snowboarding coverage about how it's just

a few pages and they are thinking about focusing a few issues to be snowboard specific, like a buyer's guide and a World Cup preview. That's still a work in progress and something I'm working on. It would be awesome if anyone else wants to write in with feedback as well, she really responds to letters. When I addressed it, it was one of the first times anyone had directly said to her as the editor, it's awesome that you guys cover snowboarding, but it's totally not acceptable.

J FORSTER: This is something Tom Kelly has been working on as well with *Ski Racing*. The alpine members get 60 pages of coverage with their membership while we get one or two. They have more members, but our athletes are paying close to the same in dues. While we probably can't duplicate the same amount of coverage, maybe with some special issues in conjunction with another publication or format that does speak to our membership. We are working to see what we can do. I don't necessarily think *Snowboarder* or *TransWorld* are the right answer either, it could be cool if they got them, but they're not competition specific. There's potentially a new magazine forming that could have more of a voice about competition and development, so that could be an option.

B BOYD: I know that PSIA brings out 9 issues a year to their ski instructors and one AASI snowboard magazine each year. You know we've got so much stuff that could be put out there, from the way programs are run, highlighted programs, tips, there is a lot out there. In a lot of ways we are competing against an image of the industry and *TransWorld* that it's uncool to have a coach, be in a program, it's uncool unless you ride duck with a 55 inch stance; so we need to have a different approach with grassroots and work with the USASA to get the word out.

L KOSGLOW: One of the issues that *Ski Racing* has with that separate journal is that snowboard companies won't advertise in a journal that is competition based. So, when we are talking about *Ski Racing*, we need to at least piggy-back on the alpine skiing thing, because those are the companies paying to make that magazine run. There's definitely a readership and information we could put out there, there's tons of stuff, but the industry won't support it.

J FORSTER: Maybe in it's current format, but if it were its own independent piece, a comprehensive guide, USASA, every region, every contact, that's something that you could go to the industry in a credible way - a book that speaks to every kids out there. I think there's opportunity there. In cross-country they've explored other options to fulfill their membership.

B WOOLLEY: Ricky, do you have anything you would like to add? Does anyone have any questions for Lisa? Marty Carrigan, our industry rep, had to fly back to Europe again this week, so he apologizes that he can't be here. Abbi, would you give us an events report?

A NYBERG: We had a good year; our numbers were up this year, I think partly due to the on-line membership. We were in Park City, Mammoth and New Jersey. It was really fun to be in Mountain Creek, somewhere new and different. The World Cup was at Bachelor and I want to thank all the coaches who helped out at that event. The weather made it tough and we couldn't have done it without you guys. Looking forward to next year, the schedule is in your packet. You see a lot of TBA events, and we hope to have those sited in the next 30 days or so. Our dates will stay consistent though with the Grand Prix events in December, January and February and a World Cup in March. We have re-structured our events department a little bit, so Laura Carlson and I will be teaming up on the Grand Prixes. I will be managing the sport, competition area while Laura will be taking care of the overall, global picture of the Grand Prix. So if you have any questions, feel free to come to either of us. Any questions or comments?

T COLLINS: Who got the money for the people spectating at Mountain Creek? You had to pay to watch the Grand Prix?

A NYBERG: Because there was a concert, so it went to offset those costs. We have been marketing the events and entertainment together.

T COLLINS: So if you just wanted to watch the halfpipe, you had to pay? I got a lot of comments about that.

J FORSTER: I think there's a value there, you've got Olympic athletes, you've got heroes, music and entertainment.

B BOYD: Do we know when the triple crowns are? Do you guys work around them?

A NYBERG: We have their dates and they're pretty much the same. We give them our dates, but they are still up in the air. There is still a conflict with the world Cup dates.

B WOOLLEY: Any other questions for Abbi? In the back of your packet is a FIS information packet, which Jeremy will review for us because Bill had to go to another meeting. Bill Slattery is our FIS rep and is also the chairman of the FIS Snowboard Committee. The FIS Congress is coming up this June, so you will see the agenda and the minutes of the FIS judges' working group meeting.

J FORSTER: Going into the meetings, there are really two key objectives. The first is the Olympic team size eligibility and qualifying mechanism that will be in place going into the 2006 Games. The information we've received so far comes from the IOC and it's been pretty general in terms of overall field size for 2006, which is 140 athletes, which is an increase from 120 athletes to absorb SBX. That's going to be the first challenge, figuring out the field size in each discipline and we haven't seen any information on that, and it's going to be a discussion topic to get some kind of fair breakdown from 140 into three disciplines, two genders and multiple nations. The next issue is the time period for earning those nation's quota spots. The IOC said July 2004 through January 2006, which could mean that beginning with the November points list of 2004 and January 2006, which is a year longer than last time. Last time we all went into the Olympic season knowing exactly how many spots we had per discipline. This year we could be in a situation where we are simultaneously trying to solidify our nation's quota spots while qualifying athletes individually to those quota spots. So that's something we'll have to see how it shakes down in the meetings. Once the field size is established, that will give us the knowledge of how many points it will take to secure those spots and make a plan from there. The nation's maximum quota also went from 14 to 16, so as a nation, the most athletes we can take is 16, even if we earn maximum quota spots in every sport.

T REMMELINK: So realistically, would that be three athletes per discipline?

J FORSTER: We don't know. I mean, how do you do it. You can't define a high number; you can't physically take that many athletes.

P FOLEY: And who knows what our strengths will be right before the Games when we really need to choose? You could have 4 women's HP athletes with total medal potential and you have to balance that with every other sport. Worst case scenario, you could not take somebody in an event if it was really weak compared to the other ones. We'll just have to see after Miami; it's going to be hard to figure out.

J FORSTER: Also, the FIS has the ability to add a special points list that could in theory extend the qualifying process through Feb. 3, 2006, which would mean we still need to keep athletes ranked in that list. Halfpipe would be our biggest challenge, because we would want to qualify our Olympic team in the U.S, at our Grand Prix events, but still need some of our top athletes

competing on the World Cup. We hope that if we can do the math that if an athlete has 500 points, or whatever the mathematical number is, that we'll be sure the spot has been locked up.

P FOLEY: But last time in women's HP 500 points was the cut-off, but there were 5 girls tied for that 20<sup>th</sup> position. That means they've been fourth or better on the World Cup twice, that's pretty tight.

J FORSTER: The other thing that hasn't been established and is an opportunity, with the maximum of 16 athletes, does that mean if an athlete hasn't qualified for SBX, could they enter it as well? Potentially then, you could turn 16 starts into 20 starts. That crossover hasn't been addressed yet. We hope to come out of those meetings with a clear understanding of what our parameters are and then we can set clear criteria to move ahead with, potentially beginning this fall with the World Cups in Chile. One of our number one goals this season is earning those nation's quota spots.

The other major proposal we have put forward concerning the Olympics is outlining some specific criteria for adding new Olympic disciplines. Everyone would like to see growth in the sport and the addition of new disciplines, we just want to see some criteria outlined to determine a discipline ready for the Olympics; participation, popularity within the industry, opportunity for easy venues and spectators and a good show. With that there are two possibilities for new disciplines; Big Air which has already been established within the FIS at the World Cup level and will be included in World Championships next year, and Slopestyle. Big Air, within the FIS, is more recognized, but Slopestyle is supported within the industry and they are willing to work with us to gain support for this event in 2010. With slopestyle, we would be starting from scratch and the FIS does not have any understanding of what slopestyle is, so our first step is even establishing it as a discipline within the FIS.

B BOYD: I think that's great, and it's awesome that we're looking at putting it in Regional Championships. It appeals to the clubs at the grassroots level on up.

J FORSTER: Then we have another proposal that Becky has put together concerning the NorAm title.

B WOOLLEY: Currently the FIS rules state that if the winner of the NorAm title is within the top 30 of the World Cup Rankings, they are not eligible for the NorAm spot, and I have asked that they take that language out. It does not make any sense for us from a development standpoint to have that NorAm spot awarded to someone who is not necessarily ready to be competing at the World Cup, and it would be better used if awarded to a World Cup athlete, freeing up one of our nation's quota spots to be rotated and used by development riders who are performing well at the time. Hopefully the FIS will accept this, and Canada supports us in this proposal as well.

J FORSTER: The other proposal we have is to establish a consistent method for video control both in SBX and PGS to help ensure consistency and fairness in disqualifications. Last year the contest sometimes became more about the efficiency of running the event according to the schedule, and not having the ability or confidence to stop the event and look back at the video control to make decisions. The video control was taken care of by the FIS race director, Alex Hoeller last year, so as we look at this, we're trying to ensure that we are not stepping on his toes either.

The 2009 World Championship bid is also something that will be decided. Vail is bidding for a combined World Championship of Alpine, Freestyle and Snowboarding, as a nation we will support that bid. Korea is also bidding on snowboarding for 2009 as well.

B BOYD: I have a question about the proposal process; I was wondering how feasible it is to allow younger athletes to compete at FIS events. For example the athletes that turn of age on January 6, is it possible to get it approved on a case by case basis to let these athletes compete at the FIS level? It would be great for our pipeline.

J FORSTER: It's a good question and it's something that we can catch up with Walt Evans on the alpine side to see if there's anything that skiing has done to get around the age limitations. I know in USSA there is a step up release for both alpine and snowboarding that allows them to step up and compete.

B WOOLLEY: Ben had asked about putting in a proposal to allow 13 and above to compete in alpine and SBX, and the feedback I was given is that it had been tried and it keeps getting shut down, so we just need to keep lobbying and gain other nations' support before we put it up for consideration again.

B BOYD: Even if they could compete with a provisional license and not earn points.

L KOSGLOW: It's been brought up in meetings before and the FIS just doesn't buy it. They did change it in HP to 13, but they won't do it for other disciplines and it cripples us in the U.S.

J GINSBERG: On the alpine side there has been no let up for younger athletes. In fact they have even limited the number of starts that a 15 year old can get in a season. We had several athletes in alpine compete over their maximum number of starts and the penalty has come back on the nation.

J FORSTER: The last thing we have is just philosophically what the snowboarding committee is about. The FIS tends to work in four year cycles concerning the Olympics and two years out from the Olympics the meetings are littered with new proposals and new formats, which I guess seems to work in other disciplines. In snowboarding though, it's like they use it as an excuse to slow down the process and they have changed our sport committee meeting from twice a year to once a year. I think it's important to have a fall meeting, especially when a lot of things are coming up and every nation is gathering feedback.

L KOSGLOW: Can you tell me who the athlete reps are at the FIS?

J FORSTER: I can't, and this is something else we should address. I think the athlete reps have been mistreated and weren't really given a chance to voice their opinions, and when they were voiced, they weren't heard... so the athlete participation has seemed to disappear.

L KOSGLOW: We've had elections two or three times. I'm not sure that an election has ever stood and if anyone has been chosen. Or they'll have an election during an alpine WC and no halfpipers are there, so that doesn't work either.

J FORSTER: Sondra Van Ert was a rep for a while and could probably give some good insight about the goings on as well and her experiences at it. Chris Wagner would be the contact from the FIS to talk to about this, Polly-Jo in Freestyle would be a good contact as well.

B WOOLLEY: Thanks Jeremy. For your reading pleasure, in your packets is the complete list of proposals and minutes from the judges' working group if you would like more details about what topics will be covered at the June meetings. Tom, would like to report on USASA?

T COLLINS: Sure. To give you a little background, this year we have 4—members nationwide, the second biggest series in the country is intermountain, thank you to Michael Bell with about 305 members. We just did our nationals at Angelfire, New Mexico in 80-degree weather, 18-foot

high superpipe, maintained it the whole time. A lot of happy faces, lot of happy kids. The New Mexico bureau of tourism aid for a half hour of TV time on FOX sports net. The other big thing that happened this year is that we sent a team over to compete in Topolino, Italy and they came back with the team award and took everything.

L KOSGLOW: What is that event?

T COLLINS: Topolino is a Disney event, it means "the mouse." It's an event that has been going on for years, it was hooked up with the ISF as part of Jr. Worlds. We have also finalized a site for nationals 2005 at Copper April 2-9, and 2006 will be at North star at Tahoe March 25- April 1.

J FORSTER: Are those dates going to be set for every year or will they change?

T COLLINS: This is the first year we have gone into April, we'll see how it's going to go. We always get the complaints from the midwestern riders that their resorts have already been closed and they don't have a facility to train in. But we were also hand-tied with Copper because they wouldn't give us a date until after their Spring Fling. We will give it a shot, we also had a challenge because Easter is on March 27, and the Open won't be over till the 20th. The other big change this year was the increase in the free-skiers. Other than that, we are still looking for sponsorship.

B BOYD; I think as a coach that the event went well, it was one of the best pipes I have ever ridden, and they did a great job with what they had. It was the best judging I'd seen in a while.

T COLLINS; The only other thing I would like to mention is that we kicked off our trainers' division this year. Even Becky is a USASA certified coach.

J FORSTER: So, what's it going to take to create some kind of partnership between the two organizations? I mean we all keep saying it's the best thing to do, but nothing is happening and we can't seem to get to a place where we can talk through all the issues.

T COLLINS: My ears are always open. I'm willing to sit down and talk anytime and figure it out. I'm happy to do that, that's what I'm here for. We have a new board and there have been a lot of changes, Gary Pearson is out, his daughter is still on as the athlete rep as well as Jessica Zalusky, Jack Mannheimer from Maine is still the President, Scott Palmer is the new Vice-President, Bob Basil, Gordon Robbins the former ISF President is on the board now. It's a good change and a lot different from our components before.

L KOSGLOW: When do you have meetings and are they open for people to sit in on?

T COLLINS: Every two weeks, it's a conference call. If you wanted to join, I'm sure we could figure something out. We meet in person once a year at nationals and it's open to everyone.

J GINSBERG: It seems like you guys need to come together at regional championships in the East, at least, as there are SO many series there that USSA doesn't really exist except for the Grand Prix.

T COLLINS: It's one of the goals of to figure out how to have some kind of regional championships, but we don't know how it will affect nationals. Part of the reason Nationals is as big as it is, is because that's the only way to pay for it. Being able to combine what's there with some local USASA events to feed into is what we've chatted about in the past.

J GINSBERG: There's just so much creativity that could be taken in the East to bring the pipeline together and fill a hole there. From the athlete's point of view it would make sense to have a Regional Championships, and it happens in every other discipline across USSA.

B WOOLLEY: I think there's a lot of creative solutions and a ton of cool ways to explore it, but my impression has been that unless USSA is monetarily contributing to USASA that your board is not interested in working with us.

T COLLINS: I think they are open to whatever proposals may be out there. Part of what they've been looking for is that we're on our own. We had a sugardaddy for the last few years, but he's now out of the picture. It's not easy moving forward.

L KOSGLOW: What would you like from the USSA perspective.... proposals?

T COLLINS: What I have been pushing and still haven't seen much of a happening is an introduction to the USOC. There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to write a support grant and we just want an introduction. I think that would be a great start and it doesn't have to cost USSA a dime. I mean that's where the money comes from.

L KOSGLOW: So you are looking for a grant from the USOC to support grassroots snowboarding?

T COLLINS: That would be a great first step that doesn't cost anybody anything except the USOC, and they are in that business to write grants. We aren't asking to be the next NGB, we just want some support.

J FORSTER: Well last time you went to the USOC you were chasing that title, so it's a bit of a double-edged sword. I mean we don't have a partnership that shows we are working together towards the same goals, so we make an introduction and what does that do? The USOC's funding mechanism is to support the top level, we haven't received any funding from them ourselves to support the grassroots levels.

P FOLEY: The USOC likes to think they are buying a medal. They like to see their dollars go directly towards "buying" a medal. In an Olympic year they will give us more money to fund a camp right before the Games than any other time, because they see direct results. They don't go very far down.

J GINSBERG: It seems like you need to start smaller and build a relationship before you ask for a big step.

B BOYD: Our pipeline is such a mess that once our kids have graduated from grassroots, there is no place for them to go.... USASA is so deep; Colorado has four series that keeps all of our kids separated from each other. At our region we are working to make both organizations successful and provide an avenue for our athletes to crossover by putting together some USSA events that bring our riders together more than just at Regionals and ASA nationals.

L KOSGLOW: So is the answer then less series with fewer events?

J JETT: No, the grassroots provides more events closer to home, allowing younger athletes to compete without traveling, and that's the advantage of having the extensive grassroots structure.

L KOSGLOW: So what's the next step in terms of getting USASA and USSA together?

J FORSTER: In my honest opinion we are cohabitating right now, it's working and there is an undefined process for kids to go through. The biggest thing that can happen is combining that process so that kids and parents are clear on where to go next. Just sharing general information.

T COLLINS: I think a clearer picture of what it takes to move up on your website would also help. The pipeline you have now, we are in it, but it isn't anything that we developed. It's in your needs, but we didn't have a say. It's a pipeline that you needed to do to show how it works, but we aren't officially a part of it.

J FORSTER: I don't think that's necessarily true, we aren't putting something on paper just to show it. We are providing an objective picture of what a potential path could be. Until the regionals and coaches want something as a critical mass, there won't be something more formal.

TR: Becky also mentioned working together with Canada for nationals, but I am also wondering if we could work together with you guys for nationals?

T COLLINS: We tried that in '93, it didn't work. It was a culture shock and there was a big difference between the two organizations and it didn't mesh.

J FORSTER: There needs to be some thought on what a national champion is, it should truly be the best of the best, is there a way to combine it and see Danny Kass and Ross Powers compete there? It seems like two different levels of events. We are willing to look at our philosophy of how we name a champion, but maybe we just need to look at it as a new project.

B WOOLLEY: I think we have 100 different creative solutions about how to combine pipelines, but my impression is that until the people from your board work with us about what they are willing to compromise on, IF they are willing to work with us, on issues outside of money, we'll never move forward.

L KOSGLOW: Is it possible to form a working group with the proper key people?

T COLLINS: Yes, I would suggest from our end that myself, Scott Palmer and Gordon Robbins be a part of that.

L KOSGLOW: I would be happy to be involved with that project.

B WOOLLEY: Then from the USSA side, I would suggest Lisa Kosglow, Mike Mallon and myself. Maybe we can regroup this afternoon to set down a time we can meet and outline discussion topics. How about immediately after this meeting concludes?

T COLLINS: I'm available.

B WOOLLEY: Moving on to the regional rep reports, we're missing reps from several regions, but Randy, Mike and Ben, could you each re-cap the season in the Pacific Northwest, Intermountain and Rocky areas?

R ROGERS: We have interest in the Pacific Northwest; we are still just struggling with commitment. We had some races scheduled, but had to cancel them last minute. I believe next year we will have a stronger race series throughout Washington and Oregon. We also held an Officials clinic in Hood River, which Peter Foley visited, and it was awesome to have his input and support. It really means a lot to those guys to see the interest coming from above.

M BELL: It was a busy year running the USASA series, but we traveled our elite athletes to USSA events if we felt they were qualified to compete. All the clubs in our region have a strong

commitment to work together and support each other, so as a whole, our region is getting stronger.

B BOYD: In the Rocky region this year, the coaches got together and developed the Rocky Mountain Snowboard Tour as a way to introduce our best athletes to each other at more events than just Regionals and national championships. We are also interested in figuring out how we can take advantage of some of the opportunities that the RMD offers the ski clubs and athletes, so we have been working very closely with our contacts there. John Jett built out a website for us that hosted our schedule and selection criteria for identifying the Colorado Gold Team. We held two events in each discipline and determined our best athletes from those results. We hope to provide special training camps to these athletes a couple times throughout the year, and then when the USSA is looking for the next group of development athletes, we'll have a proven system that identifies the best of our region. We would love to see this become a model for other regions to follow as well.

B WOOLLEY: Does anyone have any Old Business to discuss? If not, then we have just a few New Business items to go through. The first is a review of the current committee structure. Currently, we have 10 representatives and two athlete reps. This is the first year we have had the majority of those representatives in attendance. Prior to this meeting we have just barely had a quorum to conduct business. Mike and I were discussing this situation coming into these meetings and thought that perhaps it would be better if we just made the committee a small group of five with one athlete representative so that those who wanted to be involved and participate would have a lead role on the committee and we could operate in a more efficient manner.

B SLATTERY: How do you figure that's more efficient?

B WOOLLEY: Because then we aren't waiting on responses from people who aren't fulfilling their commitments as an active committee member. We also went through our operating procedures so that we could define our committee further and empower it with some focus and a purpose. You can see this outlined in the handout in your packets. It includes duties and responsibilities for each position. Mike and I both feel strongly that people who are serving as regional representatives should truly be a resource to their region and be in touch with what's going on in their region to make sure we are addressing everyone's needs sufficiently.

#### MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

- If committee size is smaller, people will stop participating
- Representation would not be fair
- With a small committee, when one person is unavailable, group is at a standstill
- Committee of 5 is too elite
- Committee will remain the size it is and re-visit next year

B WOOLLEY: One other note I would like to bring up is that we are in need of site nominations for events next season. You have a tentative calendar for next season that reflects ideal dates for many of these events, so if you have any connections/suggestions for host sites, please submit them ASAP.

T WINTERS: I am interested in hosting alpine events in the Tahoe area with all of our supplies from the AST tour.

I would also like to touch on the Awards Process. Every year at Congress our volunteers are recognized at the Awards dinner. These awards are selected through a nomination process, but each year in snowboarding we have had very few nominees. I'm not sure if that's because we have very few people qualified for these awards or if it is because the word just isn't getting out to people. I would like to see us make a stronger effort as a group to recognize the people making a

difference in our community. There are awards for officials, service, athletes, performances, organizers and many other categories... and if for some reason these awards don't fit our sport, let's talk about it and figure out what does work for it and start getting people excited about them again.

M MALLON: I am wondering if perhaps a Coach of the Year award needs to go to a development coach rather than just a domestic coach.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

- Need sites and dates for clinics this season. Contact Becky if interested.
- New USSA "member" website is up and running at [www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org). Becky is able to update at any point in time, so if you have anything you would like to see posted, please email it to her. The "fan" site with team news will still be hosted at [www.ussnowboarding.org](http://www.ussnowboarding.org).
- Coaches Ed committee established with Mike Mallon and Ben Boyd to work on revising Club Coach and building out second level.
- Reviewed possible Jr. World Championships criteria; award spots for Junior Worlds to the winners at Regionals and Race to the Cup, remaining spots would be coaches' discretion. This will be determined once events are sited.
- Randy Rogers initiated discussion about how to build growth in each region, particularly alpine programs. Interested in developing a USSA poster with slots for regions to provide their information, bringing in team riders, USSA assistance in promoting events and building a club presence.
- Thedo Rummelink is interested in working on the Rules and Technical Working Group.

Randy Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Winters second.

Minutes prepared by Becky Woolley  
Legal review by Alex Natt  
7/9/04