

Far West News

Far West Nordic Ski Education Association • P.O. Box 10046 • Truckee, CA 96162 • (530) 587-0304

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Not Just Any Old Cross Country Ski Event

People don't want to race, they want an *event*. A *happening*. Just take a look at the great participatory sports events from coast to coast — The "Bay to Breakers," the "Boston Marathon," the "American Birkebeiner." These are competitions that transcend the physical act of racing and escalate the experience to something you can talk about for years to come.

That's why, at a time many cross country skiers are "hanging up the boards" for the season, we have the perfect opportunity to participate in one of the west's great XC ski events, the California Gold Rush, Sunday, March 21 at Royal Gorge. Sure, it's a "race" — a not-so-nice term for many skiers, but this one is unique; unlike most other competitions in the country, this event has *options*, all with 5 year age divisions. Want to race the bare minimum? Go for the **Bronze Rush**, a 15 km. distance that even the most casual

cross country skier can accomplish. There's even a 4 km. **Junior Rush** for kids 15 and younger that's been doubling in size every year. Want to get the feel for a real XC competition at a distance that will challenge almost any skier? Enter the 30 km. **Silver Rush** and "rush" to finish in time to watch the sprint for the line in the longer distance event. The 50 km. **Gold Rush** is the "granddaddy" of them all. This is the 19th annual running of this marathon-plus event. Once again, it is the final event of the American Ski Marathon series and should attract its usual contingent of some of the best marathon distance skiers in the country. The past winners' list is a who's-who of the fastest skiers in the U.S., including last year's champions, Justin Wadsworth of the U.S. Ski Team and Laura McCabe of the top-ranked Fischer/Salomon "Factory Team."

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"OFF AND RUNNING"

Far West Skiers Leave for Alaska, Maine, and Wyoming

March is "Travel Month" for a variety of Far West Nordic skiers. Let's give you a rundown where some of your favorite racers are going to be early this month, so perhaps we can follow their trail of exploits. Check the Far West website at www.farwestnordic.org for any updates we might have.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The largest contingent of skiers from the Far West is travelling to the Junior Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska.

THE 1999 OJ's

Josh Bennett, part of the Truckee High School 1998 state champion team, and Eric Ford and Charlie Porter, both currently skiing on the University of Nevada-Reno team.

J1 BOYS

Tobias Barr, one of the top freestyle skiers in the region; Ian Case, who took a first in skate and third in classic at the Bogus Basin regional races; Zach Violet, Nevada Union HS who placed twelfth in classic at last year's JO's; Louis VanBlarigan, one of the top racers on the Truckee HS team; and Chris Waller, top

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FAR WEST ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Monday • April 12th • 7:00 pm

Location:

AUBURN SKI CLUB
All Members Welcome!

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGES

We've had some important events change their dates because of the snow and weather conditions. Here is a list of upcoming events that have been re-scheduled...

SPOONER LAKE MARATHON TOUR
APRIL 3RD, 1999

Originally scheduled for March 14th, the Spooner Lake Marathon is now only a TOUR, not a race, starting at approximately 9 am. A 42 km. loop and 21 km. option are planned.

10TH MOUNTAIN BIATHLON RACE
APRIL 18, 1999 AT AUBURN SKI CLUB

Starting at 10 am, this 10 km. event has a 6 km. novice race, with shorter distances for Junior skiers.

FAR WEST AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

A big thank you to all who participated in this year's Far West Auction/Raffle/WineTasting. This was a record-breaking event, with over \$10,000 raised for the Far West Junior Nordic Programs. Congratulations to the Far West volunteers who were able to pull this great event together!

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH, CONTINUED...

Best of all, the California Gold Rush is one of the most important fundraisers for the Far West Nordic Ski Education Association, who, with the incredible support of Royal Gorge and Auburn Ski Club, makes sure that it's a fun event, no matter where you might place in the standings. After the race, there's a great barbeque — complete with live music — on the Auburn Ski Club deck, where you can relax in the usual warm late-March sunshine (OK, last year's El Niño Rush was an exception), with incredible raffle prizes.

And the Gold Rush is just the culmination to a fun weekend of events. On Friday, the Lexus Nordic Sprint Tour descends on Royal Gorge. If you ever wanted to see how fast a nordic skier can go, watch some of the best racers in the country sprint for cash prizes in this inaugural event. On Saturday, the kids spring into action with the always-fun Gold Nuggets race for the young ones 4-12 years old, and the unique Fischer SuperCross competition for 4-17 year olds, a spectator-friendly race filled

with jumps, bumps, and other obstacles for both exciting racing *and* viewing. Afterwards, the kids can meet the Factory Team members for autographs and answering questions.

So get out the iron and hot wax one last time before you put your track skis away, and enjoy one of the most fun experiences you can have on snow. There's a suitable distance for every skier, and you're sure to remember it for years to come. For more info, call Royal Gorge at (530) 426-3871.

SATURDAY'S GOLD RUSH EVENTS

ON SNOW CLINIC • "FACTORY TEAM" — 10:00 AM
GOLD NUGGETS RACE (4-12 YEAR OLDS) — 10:30 AM
FISCHER SUPERCROSS (4-17 YEAR OLDS) — 11:30 AM

FAR WEST SKIERS "OFF & RUNNING" CONTINUED...

varisity team member of Truckee High School.

J1 GIRLS

Emily Robins and Annie Spohr, North Tahoe High School racers, returning from a week long ski racing trip to Norway.

J2 BOYS

Tony Bozzio, North Tahoe HS, placing 5th in the skate and 4th in classic at the Bogus Basin races; Dana Mosman, part of the Nevada Union varsity team and a standout at Bogus; Scott Hill, from North Tahoe HS, winner of the J2 division of the President's Cup; Nick Sterling, Truckee HS, finishing first in 3 out of 4 of the JO qualifiers.

J2 GIRLS

Rory Bosio, North Tahoe HS, a standout as a freshman at the CNISF races; Laura Spohr, a very talented young skier and a standout on the North Tahoe team; Jessica Ford, Lee Vining High School, placed 2nd at Bogus Basin; Betsy VanBlarigan, a very good classic skier and a varsity member as a freshman on the Truckee High team.

Accompanying the JO skiers on their Alaska excursion are Far West Junior Coaches Glenn Jobe, Nancy Fiddler and Debbi Waldear, along with Truckee High Coach Olof Carmel and South Lake Tahoe coach Lynn Harriman. Bill Sterling, Larry Ford and Mark Spohr are along as parent helpers.

Those wanting to follow the Junior Olympics directly from their website can see results at <http://www.alaska.net/~lfy/99JOs.html>. We'll also try to post results on the Far West site as soon as we can.

N.C.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS

University of Nevada coach Jeff Schloss is taking a group to the N.C.A.A. championships in Rumford Maine. Included in his group are top Far West Junior skier **Jenny Rassuchine** of Truckee. In addition, Jeff's team will include UNR skiers Anna Sterner, Ian Skinner, and Michael Lloyd.

MASTERS NATIONALS

Some of our local skiers will be travelling to West Yellowstone for the Masters Nationals Championships races from March 8 through March 13. Look for results at John Downing's great website, www.xskiworld.com.

WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to those skiers freshly returned from Switzerland for the World Masters Championships just completed.

LATE BREAKING RESULTS FROM ALASKA'S TOUR OF ANCHORAGE MARCH 7, 1999

Members of the travelling contingent from the Far West didn't just go to Alaska to watch the Juniors. Some of our local racers entered the Tour of Anchorage race, and here are some of the results hot off the web:

Mark Anolik: 23rd male in the 50 km.

Olof Carmel: 2nd male in the 40 km.

Karen Radebold: 3rd female- 50 km.

Debbi Waldear: 2nd female - 40 km.

Congratulations especially to Karen Radebold. By our reckoning, her third place finish guarantees her second place in the overall 1999 Champion's Cup of the American Ski Marathon series, and she was only a point from winning the whole series!

1999 SUMMER TRAINING CAMP DATES

Following are the tentative dates for the Junior Training Camps:

JUNE 24TH—27TH • AUBURN SKI CLUB

JULY 15TH—18TH • MAMMOTH

AUGUST 12TH—15TH • TRUCKEE (PROSSER LAKE)

This year the camps are expanded to an extra half day, meeting on Thursday at noon for a skills test, which allows a full day of training on both Friday and Saturday, with a morning session on Sunday. Camps will end at 1pm on Sunday. For any questions or ideas, contact Glenn Jobe at (530) 587-6426