

# SKI RACING®

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## Spring Loaded

**From Stratton to Switzerland, athletes  
give it one last go for the 2011 season**

▼  
Masters Nationals

▼  
NASTAR Nationals

▼  
Freestyle Nationals

▼  
Nordic Nationals

▼  
Alpine World Cup Finals

▼  
Summer camps...and more!



It was my first USSA Masters Nationals and FIS rules super G. Held on Copper's challenging Rosi's Run, named for Olympic gold medalist Rosi Mittermaier's World Cup Victory on the same course, the race required equal parts technique and tactics. And the competitors at USSA Masters Nationals were fast. Really fast!



**My grandfather**, Frank Walter, came out to help inspect for the super Combined. Grandpa's a permanent fixture at Copper. He still skis 100-plus days a year at age 88, has logged more than 6 million vertical feet in one season, and skied in a recent Warren Miller movie as "Father Time." Copper named a run for him this season — Frank's Fav'.

# Rocky Mountain "Hi"

ONE WEEK, TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND DOZENS OF STORIES AS A NEW YORKER RACES IN COLORADO BY JAKE BRIGHT

**It was a case** of good timing. I spend every winter racing masters and NASTAR out of Hunter Mountain, N.Y. (when I'm not working in Manhattan). And then I usually spend the last week or so of March skiing with my grandfather at Copper Mountain, Colo.

This season, USSA scheduled the Alpine Masters National Championships for March 22 to 26 at Copper while NASTAR Nationals were returning to Winter Park for a second year, from March 24 to 27. So I got the chance to race in both finals, taking in the festivities on and off the hill and meeting some unique competitors along the way.



**Three generations** of ski racing. Before retiring at Copper, Grandpa lugged my mom and Uncle Larry (right) around to races as an assistant ski coach for their high school team.

## Masters/NASTAR



**Kathy Hurd-Carillo** brought both her competitive drive and her Southern hospitality to Masters Nationals. In addition to gaining three podiums, she was a friendly face in the start areas, drumming up morale, assisting race organizers, and scraping snow from boots before racers clicked in. Her goal was to bring some "Southern exposure" to Masters racing. Training at Bryce Mountain, Va., where she told me they sometimes run gates on one ski to make up for lack of vertical, Kathy proved that small-hill folk can compete in the big mountains.



**Kathy Hurd-Carillo** and Pepi Neubauer show off their super G medals.

**Copper USSA** Alpine Masters Nationals Course Directors Mike Klysa and Matt Fox set some great courses and kept the competition going even in the face of some challenging weather.



**Rod Lingerfelt**, known for his signature mustache and dedication to alpine masters racing, has completed in more than 10 USSA masters championships. He's from Montana, competes in all disciplines, and his favorite event is the downhill.

# Masters/NASTAR



## Part 2: NASTAR Nationals

After **USSA** Masters, I headed over to NASTAR Nationals at Winter Park. The championships of the world's largest known recreational ski and board race program, NASTAR Nationals is like a lollapalooza for alpine competitors: more than 1,000 racers from pre-schoolers to 100-year-olds on multiple courses. There are concerts, ski celebrities, ski and snowboard demos, and an entire village of product reps.



**Virginia Dudley** is a true ski racing matriarch, standing here with her daughter Tamara McCarty (right), 11-year-old grandson Bryan McCarty (left), and 5-year-old granddaughter Arianna McCarty (front). A transplant Coloradan from Kansas, Virginia Dudley took up skiing as the natural thing to do in her new state. After seeing Virginia on her first NASTAR podium two years ago, her daughter and grandchildren decided they wanted to compete with Grandma. Mrs. Dudley's highlight of NASTAR Nationals: "Having three generations of family racing together two years in a row."

**Virginia** captures grandson Bryan racing.



From Philadelphia, Maisha Coleman asked her dad to race after seeing a NASTAR poster at a local Pennsylvania ski resort. Her favorite part of NASTAR Nationals was skiing in Colorado. I asked her about future racing goals. "To be on the U.S. Ski Team in the Olympics," she said.



# Masters/NASTAR



**Ray Heid** was born and raised in Steamboat, Colo., and skiing was part of his primary school curriculum. "We got grades on our report card for downhill, jumping, slalom and cross country," he said, "the only four A's I made all the way through school." He competed in the very first NASTAR Nationals in 1968. Now a telemarker, Ray pulled off a three-peat this year, taking his third Race of Champions title in the non-alpine division.



At NASTAR Nationals, I still didn't reach my goal of a top-three finish, but I improved my handicap four points over last year and met a great cross section of racers.



Two younger racers have a post-race recap.

**Karolina Zawodnik** is originally from Poland and lives in Brooklyn. She caught my attention in the Gold/Platinum start area when she politely asked race organizers to be moved up in line to make her next race. Not only did she race in the female gold division on skis, she also turned around and competed in the snowboard division directly afterwards.



In addition to being a top contender in the 75-79 age class, Thompson Tate of Silverthorne, Colo., is also a gentleman. He loaned me his bib so I could compete a second day after I left mine over at Copper. He's been No. 1 in his age group in Colorado several years in a row and competed in his fourth NASTAR Nationals this year. SR

