**PARA J 4/5 Chair Report**

**(2011-2012 Season)**

**J4 Elite Fundamentals Camp** –

The Elite Fundamental Camp was held December 16-19 at Sunday River. The camp’s focus was to introduce the USST fundamentals curriculum, as developed and utilized by USSA national teams, to Eastern’s elite J4 racers. The curriculum addresses the core technical skills that are needed to ultimately build a solid foundation for tactical success.

As this camp’s primary focus is on our athlete’s fundamental skills there is a limited focus on gate-oriented progressions.

PARA sent the following J4 Racers:

Cassie Leiblein Ski Roundtop

Gisele Thompson Blue Mt.

Luke Midock Ski Roundtop

Matthew Sadler Whitetail

**J4 Speed Event** –

Two, one day speed events were scheduled for January 10th and 11th at Labrador Mountain, New York. The primary focus of the camp was to be the development of fundamental skills with bumps, jumps and terrain changes. The day was to be spent going through speed progressions in a controlled environment. However, due to the lack of early winter snow the events were cancelled and not re-scheduled.

A total of 41 slots were given to NY, PARA and SARA for each day. PARA’s quota was 15 slots per day. Prior to the event being cancelled PARA had commitments from 21 racers.

**Derby** –

The Derby took place the weekend of March 2nd & 3rd at Roundtop Ski Area. The field consisted of 99 racers, 52 boys and 47 girls.

Although not ideal, the weather cooperated this year allowing for two days of racing. Course conditions were good, with the help of the course maintenance crew.

The event was held on the slope Exhibition.

Saturday evening consisted of a banquet and a raffle.

In addition to the two days of racing the Skills Quest was held on Friday. Approximately 70 racers attended the event. Six skills were tested.

Again, as both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. I was very impressed with the behavior and sportsmanship exhibited by all the racers. Congratulations to all the racers who attended.

As always, I personally would like to thank Bruce Bedell, Bill Filling, Tracey Beinhaur, Sandy Stefanic and the entire Ski Roundtop Race staff for all their hard work pulling off this event. Thanks to our new lead sponsor The Lowell Whiteman School. Lastly I would like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill.

PARA State Team

The following racers qualified for the PARA State Team based on their results at the derby.

Boys Skills Quest Result Overall

1. John Wagner DCWST DNS

2. Luke Midock SRRC 1

3. Dow Jones BMRT 7

4. Harrison Coombs BMRT 3

5. Mark Matusinsky BMRT 13

6. Matthew Sadler WTSEF 35

7. Rowan Brumbaugh Elk DNS

8. Ramesh Shresta BMT 4

9. Conor Newman Elk DNS

Girls

1. Kinjal Rueker LM 10

2. Gisele Thompson BMRT 7

3. Cassie Lieblein SRRC 1

4. Alyssa Kotzman BMRT 3

5. Joanna WickershamElk 8

6. Caroline Smith WPRC 25

7. Rachel Bigatel HVRC DNS

**Junior Championships** –

The Alpine J4 Eastern Regional Junior Championship (Formerly Future Stars) was held at Sunday River on March 25th through 27th. PARA was awarded 16 slots. Fourteen racers represented PARA. Bruce Newman from Elk Mountain and John Dematte from Jack Frost attended as PARA coaches.

The event consisted of a Skills Day in addition to slalom and giant slalom races. A total of 160 racers were invited to attend the event (86 boys & 74 girls).

The top PARA female racer was Cassie Lieblein from Roundtop, while the top male was Luke Midock, also from Roundtop. Luke finished 10th overall, while Cassie finished 36th. Luke was tied for 10th in the skills event.

Both racers qualified for the CanAm event which was held at Sugarloaf at the end of March. Cassie finished 41st in the slalom and 48 in the GS, while Luke finished 40th in the slalom, but did not finish in the GS.

The tentative 2013 date for the U14 Championship is March 14-17, site to be determined. The tentative 2013 date for the U14 CanAm is March 28-31, Tremblant, Quebec. This will still be only three day event, with the 28th most likely being a training day.

**Francis Piche Invitational** –

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 16th, 17th and 18th. PARA sent a total of 27 J 4/5 racers, along with coaches. The event consisted of a training day, GS race and an optional slalom race on Sunday.