

Dear J4s,

Yeah!!! Ski season is finally here! It was great seeing all of you this past weekend at Ragged and I am getting very excited about the new year. Our first practice is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, weather permitting. Please try to arrive early so you have time to get your season passes if you do not already have them. We would like to be on the snow at 8:45 AM each day, so plan to arrive well ahead of that to get yourself ready. It will be the responsibility of any racer who is not there at 8:45 to find the team on the mountain.

I wanted to get the recommended race schedule out to you so we are all on the same page. There are many races being hosted around New Hampshire this winter but I have attached a list of the ones Ryan and I are recommending. The first is the Krantz Open at Pat's Peak on January 1<sup>st</sup>. I know this is New Year's Day but since we are having a slalom at Pat's this year it will be very important to get a race on that slope ahead of time in preparation. The other open race that I would like everyone to participate in is the Cote Open at Ragged Mountain. This is a dual slalom and a lot of fun. You can sign up for the Cote Open on-line, and may be able to sign up for the Krantz on-line as well. Alternatively, you may use the attached form or the one in the back of your NHARA book to sign up for these races. I have also attached the addresses to send each of the forms. If you lose this, you can always look up whom to send them to in your NHARA handbook or on the NHARA website ([www.nhalpine.org](http://www.nhalpine.org)). These races are a lot of fun and will get you race-ready for the qualifiers.

Our three qualifiers this year are:

- 1) 1/29 Ragged Mountain, Giant Slalom
- 2) 2/5 Pat's Peak, Slalom
- 3) 2/26 Gunstock Mountain, Slalom

These are the most important races. Your best two finishes in these six runs (2 runs at each of the above races) will be used to qualify for the State Championships being held at Cranmore on March 9-11. If you do not qualify after the three qualifiers, you can race at Gunstock on 3/2 – 3/4 at the State Finals. The top three finishers at the State Finals will also qualify for the State Championships at Cranmore the next weekend (March 9-11). The State Finals at Gunstock will be fun for everyone, even if qualifying for the Championships is not your personal goal.

The Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge is free, does not require any advance registration and will be at Ragged on Saturday January 22nd. This is always a great time for all.

I know it sounds confusing so please call me if you have any questions. My cell phone is (617) 413-7765. Please print out the attached forms and J4 schedule. Put the dates in your calendar and get ready for a great season.

- 1) Make sure you have renewed your USSA membership ([www.ussa.org](http://www.ussa.org))
- 2) Make sure you have renewed your NHARA membership ([www.nhalpine.org](http://www.nhalpine.org))
- 3) Sign up for the open races you plan on attending (use attached forms or go on the NHARA site [www.nhalpine.org](http://www.nhalpine.org))
- 4) Get your Ragged Mountain season pass
- 5) Make sure your ski equipment fits and is ready to go
- 6) Think snow!

Look forward to seeing everyone on the slopes

Tom and Harlen