

NAWGJ VERMONT SPRING SUMMER 2008

2008 COMPETITION SEASON COMPLETED:

The USA State Meet was a success. The facility at Windsor was very nice. Thank you to all the judges who were prepared for their assignments and did a wonderful job. Every year there is always one of the darn neutral deductions we must look up but you were all on top of it and the look up was just for verification.

Judging Babies:

Amanda Williams did in fact have a baby boy (I think Marylou's ring said a girl) and all is well. We have not heard from Nancy yet as her due date is at hand.

Green Mountain Cup

Our share of the Green Mountain Cup was \$2,400. For all judges who worked on the meet, I have sent a check to Betty Sroufe to cover your NAWGJ dues for the next year. If you did not work on the meet, you must renew your dues when the notice arrives. Since we had more judges to help, our dues payment is near \$1,000.

National and Regional Congresses

I know some of you are planning on attending the National Congress and Olympic Trials in Philadelphia. It will be great. When attending sessions, make

sure to get your CPE cards signed. They sometimes have these available, however, I would be prepared and download one from the USA website.

For those interested in Regional Congress, you must register online. It is very easy and I am sure the early bird registration has either expired or soon to expire. Fear not, you can still register, just at a higher fee.

Vermont NAWGJ STATE Clinic

I am looking for dates for the NAWGJ State clinic. I am not available the weekends of Aug. 9th, August. 16th or August 23rd. Last year we held the clinic in September. Does that work? Also, does a weekday, the week of the 18th through the 21st is available. I need feedback so I can set the date and then work on the agenda.

Ruth has volunteered South Hero camp again, are there any other locations that people would like? I will need that information also.

As always, all USA and High School Coaches are encouraged to attend. The new information will be covered (Technical news) to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Last year, the USA State meeting was also held in conjunction. I do not know if Jill would like this option again. I will find out.

Agenda for the State Clinic: I need to know what subjects areas are mostly needed and wanted by all of you. I also would like to know if any of you would like to be presenters. Kara has

offered to do a segment on high school information. Please let me know very soon. I like to have dates, agendas and location completed by the end of July (as you all know, my son is getting married on Aug. 9th and we are having a second reception on Aug. 23rd so I will be preoccupied in August)

SJD Elections:

As you have all received the information from Pat Panichas, I have been re-elected as SJD. This is my last term (it is a 4 year term) Please note, I am NOT retiring from gymnastics, no, if I have a brain and still function as a good judge, you can wheel me into the gym. No, I will be stepping down as SJD so in the next 4 years I will have some training to do as I will also want someone to take over testing and education.

On that note, we will be electing a new governing board. The positions are: Education, VPA liason and legal, High school coach liason, and assigning. I would like to add a person to the Education so we have one who is focusing in on optionals and one on compulsories. The past governing board has been great and may run again for their position. Forms will be sent out soon.

2009 The New Cycle Begins

Next summer we will all be studying to re-test for our optional ratings. Those who have a compulsory rating, those will carry over for 4 more years!!Yeah!! But with review for the updates. All optionals will have to re-test so it is important to maintain CPE. All 7/8 judges can test at 9 and I am in

hopes most of my 9's will test at Level 10. We will have an open discussion at our State Clinic on which method we feel is the best for training at the 9-10 level. We have had a full weekend workshop at the beginning of the summer with the new information and then let everyone study as they could and met half way through the summer to see how things were going and then the test. This last cycle we returned to the 6 week session of classes once a week and practice tests and lots of videos. This seemed to work well also. So, be thinking of that so we can set up our classes/ workshops for next summer. I will also need a 7/8 instructor for new judges.

Recruiting New Judges

Since next summer begins the new cycle, this is the good time to get people into judging. This year is good time for them to come and observe meets, sit with a judge and attend a few clinics to see if this is what they would like and can handle. Handling is the key word. It is a lot of work, studying and knowledge of the sport. Many interested parents can guesstimate a score and everyone says "you should get into judging" and then they come to a clinic become overwhelmed etc. It is more than sitting in the audience and guesstimating a score. It is a job and not a hobby. So, when recruiting, please think of those things and also suggest they start coming to meets, and doing the things I previously mentioned to see if this is arena for them.

Judges without compulsory ratings, we need you to test this summer. Diane Cote Burk will be giving a test in August so I will let you all know when

that is. If needed, I can do a weeknight clinic in July for those interested. Come down to me, we will go over what you need to do and then onto the Lake House.

In Conclusion:

FEED BACK, FEED BACK AND MORE FEED BACK ON THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!!!!

Sincerely,

**Gail McGann
SJD for 4 more years.**