

Our Numbers for 2002

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Summary

All 20 classes in 2002 should be offered again in 2002. Two additional classes should be on the form: A Men (under 40) and Super Vet A Men. Depending on who signs up for what, we can continue with the current Vet-A class, or break it up. Based on changes observed in the past few years, we'll probably end up with 19, 20, or 21 classes.

Looking at turnout for the past five years, the drops in attendance have been slowed. However, we have not shown any serious growth. This year, our numbers dropped to a new low, due, in part, to two days of thunderstorms during the last weekend.

If our numbers drop more next year, we should go from five courses to four.

The main losses in numbers since 1992 are with young, intermediate classes. Supervet numbers have remained steady. Our numbers have grown in the elite classes, particularly the faster women's classes.

Analysis and Possibilities

Keeping Our Racers

Our current racers fall into three categories:

1. Those who will leave the program no matter what,
2. Those who will stay with the program no matter what, and
3. Those who will stay if things go well, but will leave if we screw up or take the fun out.

Group 3 is the one we can influence by continuing to work on quality control. The general perception is that things ran better in 2002 (starting on time, finishing with reasonable speed) than in past years. The one exception was the Master's race weekend, which was a first-try at an event that must be handled differently in coming years.

No-Work Option

The biggest complaint about the program is the work assignment. Some racers leave because of it. The subject of missed work assignments takes up too much time of the MACC and it's officials. However, we cannot eliminate work assignments because we rely on so many volunteer skill workers that cannot be replaced easily (timers, course crew, equipment, etc.). A suggestion has been to allow racers to pay more and get out of the work assignment. If adopted, the cost must be high enough that only a few people use it—at least \$100 extra for the season.

Getting New Racers

Here are four categories of new potential adult racers:

1. People who have decided to get involved in ski racing, and go out of their way to find

out about available programs such as ours.

2. Would-be racers who would join if they knew we exist.
3. Skiers who could be talked into trying it out.
4. Skiers who would never consider racing, no matter what.

Ski clubs have traditionally provided new racers from group 3. But with the aging club memberships, this isn't working except for a few of our member clubs (Skiwis, Snow Drifters, and Toledo).

Groups 1 and 2 are the ones we should focus on. The existing web site and club network is probably adequate to cover group 1, so we should continue trying to target group 2.

High School Seniors?

Last year we voted to keep the MACC program closed to high-school kids. Still, the idea keeps getting suggested as a means for attracting new and younger racers. Two suggestions were:

1. Allow high-school seniors whose parents are also in the program. (If we're needing new people, why don't we let in kids of our racers who know about the program would love to participate?)
2. Allow high-school seniors to guest race.

The intent is to generate interest now, so the racer might join several years later. Also, it makes the program more attractive to parents who might otherwise drop out.

Data for 2002

Table 1 shows our turnout for each year since 1992 (except 1995—no data). Note that all numbers shown in this report are based on attendance, not registration. Our numbers this year were the lowest on record since 1992. In part this is because the last weekend had heavy rain. When the six good days at Boyne were averaged, turnout was about normal for the years after 1997.

Table 1. Turnout per race.

Year	Ave	Byne	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1992	286	312	360	353	316	320	203	204	299	297	246	286	267		
1993	256	284	333	339	275	278	208	195	209	205	247	236	237	288	272
1994	262	287	304	293	298	292	282	269	191	214	212	232	286	268	
1996	209	236	280	275	226	221	206	207	129	153	142	200	240	234	
1997	212	250	254		253	261	255	259	129	127	122	204	244	229	
1998	191	212	230	221	221	220	198	208	138	142	136	178	213	190	
1999	203	226	245	230	225	210	214	226	153	158	152	194	229	?	
2000	181	222*	238	221	227	226	217	203	143	134	133	143	179	108	
2001	185	203	231	218	220	220	187	198	140	147	128	158	193	144	
2002	176	210*	225	210	227	211	117	128	126	196	188	156	150	?	

*Average of first 6 2000 / 2002 races (normal weather). Cantor Cup totals not included.

Table 2 shows the attendance for the courses. The high numbers for courses 1 and 2 on races 3 and 4 were due to the Masters racers. If our numbers next year are similar to this year, we should stick with 5 courses. If they drop much more, we'll need to go to 4 courses to provide enough workers.

Table 2. Course attendance.

Course	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	41	38	63	59	87	48	100	46	41	31	28
2	44	40	72	65	30	53	26	37	39	34	30
3	57	51	53	52		27		44	39	38	39
4	50	48	41	38				36	37	28	28
5	33	33	31	30				33	33	25	25

Table 3 shows our attendance by class. It looks like all classes that existed in 2002 had reasonable attendance, especially at the end of the year. Vet-A men is large and can be divided as soon as we have enough young A's or Supervets. The young/vet split of Women's A worked out.

Table 3. Class attendance in 2002.

Class	Ave	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A Women	5.81	9	7	7	6	4	6	6	5	4	5	5
B Men	9.45	11	9	13	11	7	8	8	11	10	8	8
B Women	5.45	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	7
C Men	8.63	15	14	10	10	4	5	5	9	9	6	8
C Women	6.63	10	10	8	7	3	3	3	7	8	7	7
D1 Men	5.09	8	8	7	6	2	2	2	6	6	5	4
D2 Men	5.27	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	9	9	6	8
D Women	5.63	9	9	9	9	1	2	1	6	7	4	5
Elite-1 Men	13.18	14	13	15	14	12	12	11	17	16	11	10
Elite-1 Women	4.27	6	6	6	6	2	3	3	5	4	3	3
Elite-2 Men	9.00	12	11	10	10	8	7	8	8	10	7	8
Elite-2 Women	4.18	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	6	5	5	5
Supervet-B Men	9.00	15	12	11	10	4	5	5	12	11	8	6
Supervet-C Men	8.09	10	12	11	11	5	5	5	8	8	7	7
Supervet-D Men	9.45	12	12	9	9	7	7	7	12	11	10	8
Vet-A Women	8.45	11	11	9	10	5	8	8	8	8	9	6
A Men (Vet+)	14.00	18	17	19	17	5	7	7	17	17	17	13
Vet-B Men	14.00	20	19	18	19	10	10	9	13	12	11	13
Vet Elite-1 Men	14.36	18	16	15	15	14	15	15	15	13	12	10
Vet Elite-2 Men	10.54	13	12	15	13	8	8	8	10	10	10	9
Guest		1		15?	15?	4	3	3	7	5		

Table 4 shows how the numbers have changed since 1992 by class. All of the "young" classes have shrunk drastically except E1M (about the same) and women in A and elite (grown to four classes). The Supervet classes and VAM have stayed the same, and VEM has split into VE1M and VE2M.

Overall, we are gaining elite racers, keeping old racers, and losing intermediate young racers.

Table 4. Class attendance since 1992.

Class	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
A Men	17	11	10	7	9	11	13	10	6	
A Women	9*	8*	11*	9*	11*	8*	11*	13*	14*	6
B Men	24	19	16	6	9	7	11	9	9	9
B Women	16*	16*	14*	14*	13*	11	10	8	8	5
C Men	34*	29*	29*	19*	20*	23*	19*	13*	9	9
C Women	22*	17*	18*	13*	14*	8	11	12	7	7
D1 Men	27*	17*	20*	15*	16*	13	4	6	5	5
D2 Men							2	3	6	5
D Women	19*	21*	18*	12	8	6	10	6	8	6
Elite-1 Men	16	18	20	17	18	16	18	12	14	13
Elite-1 Women	7	5	6	6	4	7	5	5	4	4
Elite-2 Men	16	11	12	11	9	11	10	11	9	9
Elite-2 Women							6	4	6	4
Supervet-B Men	6	4	6	9	13	12	12	8	10	9
Supervet-C Men	8	8	9	7	6		9	11	8	8
Supervet-D Men	9	11	13	15	13	13	10	9	10	9
Vet-A Women										8
Vet-A Men	11	17	14	12	12	9	8	8	9	14
Vet-B Men	28	29*	31*	22*	19*	12	10	10	13	14
Vet Elite-1 Men	14	14	16	16	19	11	11	11	13	14
Vet Elite-2 Men						12	15	12	14	11

*Number includes vet classes that no longer exist.

Given that MACC has focused lately on having good courses on good terrain, it is encouraging that we have more advanced racers than before. However, our aging membership combined with less emphasis on social functions could be partly why we are not attracting young mid-range racers. Also, there is competition in the form of club races such as Club NASTAR and beer leagues that appeal to the more casual would-be racer.

Table 5 shows the attendance histories of the clubs since 1992. Snow Drifters, Skiwis, and Toledo have done great, bringing new racers to the program. GM has gone from the largest club to not having enough racers to maintain a vote on the MACC, and Lansing disbanded, leaving about half of their skiers to join other clubs. Ann Arbor, Team Rust, and Powderhounds have about half of their former numbers. T-Birds and Skiniks have also shrunk.

Table 5. Average attendance by club.

Club	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Ann Arbor Ski Club	16	10	10	12	17	14	13	16	12	9
Ford Thunderbirds	31	31	35	33	35	29	31	25	25	26
GM Ski Club	43	42	44	24	20	17	14	9	6	5
Jim Dandy Ski Club	11	11	15	11	9	11	14	11	12	12
Lansing Ski Club	34	31	31	26	20	15	14			
Powderhounds	25	17	16	19	21	17	14	12	12	11
Schussmeisters	33	30	40	35	41	40	41	33	35	32
Skiniks	24	20	18	18	17	13	12	14	14	15
Skiwis	8	9	11	6	10	9	15	26	23	21
Snow Drifters	7	5	7	10	7	8	8	13	16	19
Team Rust	27	26	25	15	15	19	17	15	13	12
Toledo Ski Club	7	2					11	13	13	13

My experience as an officer in a large club leads me to think that it will remain difficult to attract new racers from the large MDSC clubs, because their membership is aging more than we are. Young skiers who would be open to the idea of racing are not recruited by the clubs and are not attracted by what are becoming social clubs for “mature” people.

Table 6 shows the club votes for next year, based on the turnout for the 11 races from 2002 that are in the computer database. It takes a total of 55 racer starts to get a vote, 132 to get two votes, and 330 to get three votes. GM and Team Rust each lost a vote (so close!), dropping the total number of votes to 17. Thus, a quorum for MACC in 2003 is 9 voting members.

Table 6. Votes for 2003.

Ski Club	Votes	Ave	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ann Arbor Ski Club	1	9.18	101	11	11	12	11	7	7	7	7	7	10	11
Ford Thunderbirds	2	25.90	285	38	38	35	30	14	14	12	29	24	28	23
GM Ski Club	0	4.81	53	7	6	7	7		2	2	7	7	5	3
Jim Dandy Ski Club	1	11.54	127	15	13	13	13	8	11	11	10	10	11	12
Powderhounds	1	10.63	117	15	13	11	11	9	8	8	11	12	10	9
Schussmeisters	3	31.90	351	37	36	46	47	22	24	25	36	34	24	20
Skiniks	2	15.45	170	20	19	21	20	11	11	11	17	16	12	12
Skiwis	2	21.36	235	31	30	21	21	14	15	15	24	26	16	22
Snow Drifters	2	19.18	211	21	17	26	23	16	18	17	22	20	16	15
Team Rust	1	11.90	131	18	18	18	18	1	3	3	14	13	14	11
Toledo	2	12.72	140	12	9	18	17	11	12	12	13	14	10	12