



Believe it or not, we are halfway through our 2017 race season

**Race weekend #2 was a soggy mess**, but our Course Crew made the magic happen on Saturday for our Slalom race. Conditions held up well due to their diligent efforts. Sunday was another story as nighttime temps were too warm to preserve conditions for our GS race. The course crew were on the hill early Sunday morning tossing urea on anything that didn't move, but alas we had to cancel due to unsafe conditions. As a result, each course setters' gloves smell like cat pee. All for a good cause, eh boys & girls?

**Conditions update from Boyne:** Conditions are expected to be good this weekend, so we can race on both FIS and Superbowl.

**Super-G Friday:** VE1 Racers, Roger Myers will be sponsoring Friday's Super-G race. Bee there or Bee square. We will have one practice run, followed by a timed run.

**Awards Banquet Saturday March 4:** Our banquet will again be held in the Matterhorn Room at the Boyne Grand Mountain Lodge. Pricing \$35 per adult; \$17 children ages 4-12; Children ages 0-3 free. Tickets will be available for sale (maybe) this weekend, but next race weekend for sure.

**Dennis Parrot is on a mission to help make course operations run more efficiently. Here is another chapter...**

### **Gate Judges - On the Air?**

Hey there MACC racers!! If you were at the last race weekend you may have seen various course officials using handheld radios to direct the team that was running the race. Perhaps you saw my crude, hand-made sign in the Othmar telling you what channel the radios were using.

Well, those radios have been useful in running the race. The next step in radio use is to give the gate judges radios so that they can call for course maintenance help or for a stoppage of the course because of a problem.

Giving radios to the gate judges is an experiment. The goal of the experiment is to see if having the gate judges use radios will speed up the process of getting important maintenance performed. If this goes well, we are going to consider making the experiment a permanent feature.

#### **What gate judges need to know:**

- 1 There will be course operations team member passing out the available radios to the gate judges.
- 2 We may not have enough radios for every gate judge.
- 3 We will be trying to make sure that the key areas of the course are covered by radios.
- 4 Gatekeepers with radios will be given a number to identify themselves with if they need to call for maintenance help or other assistance. #1 will be at the top of the hill and the numbers will get higher as we go to the bottom of the course.
- 5 There will be someone to collect the radios at the end of the race. Please come to the bottom of the course to turn it in.
- 6 The radios are not for idle chit-chat! We need to keep the channel open so that important communications can be transmitted.
- 7 A radio use "cheat sheet" will be attached to the clipboard in the gate judge bibs.

8 The flip side of the "cheat sheet" will have some useful reminders about your job as a gate judge.

The radios we are using work on the FRS (family radio service) band. If you were skiing in that era before cell phone towers took over all the ski areas, you probably had a pair (or more) of these radios. If you still have one (or more) and want to use your own radio, bring it along. Let the course official passing out the radios know you have your own radio.

We will be transmitting on a "base channel" without using a "noise elimination code". This will allow all of our old FRS The channel will be posted in the Othmar before the first race.

Let's make this experiment a success!

Thanks in advance from your Course Operations Team!

See you on the hill... and bring a friend!

Debi Koltoniak  
Director of Publicity