

Our 13<sup>th</sup> week in the VARA-Stowe Reporter section will focus on the Chevy Truck US Nationals in Whiteface, NY.

The coldest, snowiest winter in recent memory suddenly changed to spring with urgency here in Whiteface. Race organizers did an amazing job at keeping the hill in good condition for all the racers. Despite their great efforts, mother nature still brought us sunny warm days and rainy warm days, complete with rolling waves of fog.

From the perspective of going fast, Holmenkol led the way all week with support for all athletes. Roughly 2/3 of the regional field stayed at the Wildwood hotel, and Holmenkol was there with 10 tuning tables and vices. This enabled athletes to properly tune & wax to reach their potential.

Course conditions throughout the week were very consistent. Snow was wet, dirty and granular, with round icy grains ranging from 2 to 6mm in size. Air humidity every day

hovered around 75 to 85%. Snow temps stayed between -2 and -.6C – very warm! The downhill & super-g both included a very long flat gliding section at the bottom, totaling 45 seconds in the case of the DH. Getting it right was very important for everyone.

Due to the speed of DH & SG, heat is generated as the ski glides over the snow. This heat of course makes water, and at warm air & snow temps, lots of water is created. It was incredibly important to have fast skis with a well worked, open, water shedding grind. It was also incredibly important to have your overlay still in place and 100% active for lower half of the course. For this reason, we waxed the following:

Fluor Base warm, SF 0/7 & GW-25 in a 2:1 ratio, then SF 0/2, then Nanofluid overlay. Due to the dirt in the track, it was very important for athletes to completely hot scrape clean their skis each day after training to keep them running fast!

This combo ran extremely fast all week for speed.

While the key variables did not change for SL & GS, the nature of the turning pressure combined with more aggressive salting led us to choose the following waxes for SL & GS:

Fluor base warm, then SF 0/7, then SF 0/7 + GW-25 in a 2:1 ratio, followed by Nanofluid. The use of the Nanofluid is also excellent because it does not require any reapplication for 2<sup>nd</sup> run due to its durability.

One last point: while the technical side of having your equipment completely dialed in must be attended to, never forget that the race to win the Nationals started over 9 months ago. In the immortal words of Willi Wiltz (service man to the Hannenkam winner Daron Ralves), “the fastest thing I can put on your skis is YOU!”

Good luck to everyone at your spring series!

*Dave Peszek is the product manager for Holmenkol USA, and a member of the World Racing Service Team.*

*Questions?E-Mail:*  
[DPeszek@UvexSports.com](mailto:DPeszek@UvexSports.com)