



WE'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR!

To All Our BBTS/WVA Friends -

For the past 4 years, MLK weekend has been filled with *competition, community and fun* at the **Clay Soper Memorial Weekend Championship (CSMWC)**. For those BBTS/WVA members who did not know Clay or us, his family, we wanted to share some background. Just months after our son Clay, died in 2015, our ski community and Waterville friends pulled together to build an event that would honor Clay and embrace his core values which, we believe, were largely learned through his time with BBTS/WVA and ski racing. The First Annual Clay Soper Memorial Weekend Championship was held in March 2016 with overwhelming attendance which set the stage for the following years.

As the race tagline reads, "*More Than Just a Points Race*", this race represents more than just another day of trying to ski fast. BBTS hosts many great ski races, but the Clay Soper Memorial Weekend Championship has two unique purposes; *to celebrate & highlight the "weekend racer"* and, *to draw the ski world together and strengthen the sport as a whole*. With great pride we know this race has uniquely fostered comradery among athletes (of ALL abilities), brought ski clubs, college athletes and the ski world as a whole together to enjoy competitive fun.

With the challenges of COVID-19, the decision to not hold the 6th Annual Clay Soper Memorial Weekend Championship was made for the right reasons. For all the athletes who have participated in years past, we hope to see you next year. For all the athletes who have yet to attend - it won't disappoint.

Losing Clay was the hardest thing we, his family, could ever imagine. But - out of our loss we realized (on a whole new level) the true benefits of our ski world and the many people that we consider to be our dearest friends. THIS is what BBTS/WVA is. Sure, podium finishes are fantastic but, in the end, it's the time spent with family and friends all trying to be the best person, athlete, and parent they can be that truly defines our winters spent at Waterville. The Clay Soper Memorial Weekend Championship is a race to honor our son, provide high-level competition and deliver life-saving messaging. We look forward to seeing you all next year!

Geoff, Genny, Ted & Allie Soper
www.claysopermemoralfund.com