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Dear UltraTune Customers and Interested Parties;

First, I need to start with an apology! At the start of the season it was fully my intention to get out a (fairly) regular newsletter. However, once again the business has expanded greatly (up to a highwater mark of 96 pairs of skis in one week), and in the end, I simply had no time to put together a proper newsletter. I may still do so, but it is perhaps foolish to assume I can do so with any regularity.

In place of the newsletter, with its columns and pictures and layout, I plan to use the ultratune_update mailing list to keep customers and interested parties in touch with developments in stone-grinding and related areas, by sending out an e-letter from time to time. This will include developments in the shop and with the grinds, and will include any questions and answers from customers, feedback, etc.

Please let me know if you do not want to receive these letters, and I will delete your name at once.

The Olympics

February saw me working for Lars Svensson, at the Olympics. Lars has the stone grinding contract with the Swedes and Germans, and flew in a new Tazzari machine from Sweden, where it was installed in a house and garage in Heber City. Zach Caldwell, who was one of the crew working in Heber City, has bought the machine and will go mobile with it in a large truck which will go to all major races. (Zach can be contacted through his website at www.engineeredtuning.net.)

As Lars was under contract to Sweden and Germany, Zach and I moonlighted for other countries, and I was able to do skis for Latvia, the Czech Republic (Neumanova) and Slovenia. Nordic Ultratune results were:

- Pat Weaver skied on an LJ03 for his 16th place finish.
- Neumanova skied on an R2.3 in the sprint
- Matej Soklich had the best Slovene finish ever (16th in the sprint qualifier) on an LJ02

We did less work than I had anticipated, as conditions were stable, and as Lars had done most of the work in Europe, before coming over. In fact, it was the easiest major championship I have ever worked at, which in the end, was a good thing, as we were all hit by the flu that was going around. However, I learned a great deal, as well as acquiring a great deal of new equipment, and this letter is to update you on all that's new at Nordic UltraTune.

NEW at Nordic UltraTune:

- 1) I brought home several new grinds. Two are under on-going testing (and do not seem to be beating R2.3), but the new **xcLJ02** ("xc" stands for "extreme cold") is going to be a huge asset in -10 - -20

snow at 50% humidity and down. This takes an extra stage of preparation, but I am going to keep the price at the standard \$58.

- 2) There is a new bridge (the thing that goes over bindings, allowing skis to be ground without removing the bindings). The old one was rather poorly made; the new one was made in Sweden by a precision toolmaker. It has a new profile for a more even feed, a third contact point (the old one had two) for more even pressure distribution, and tapered ends, which again, make for more even feed into the machine.
- 3) I have installed a new cooling system, which will keep the water, and hence the skis, at a far cooler temperature. The cooler the water, the cleaner the “cut” of the grind, and the less chance of burning a base.
- 4) A new diamond system has been put in which makes for a cleaner, more precise “cut” by allowing the stone to be dressed with greater precision and regularity. This includes a new piston, a new diamond holder, a new type of diamond that is far harder than the old ones (and more expensive...), and a new spray system that runs cold water over the diamond as it dresses the stone.
- 5) Lars also gave me a new filter system that keeps the water far cleaner than formerly.
- 6) I installed new fan coolers on the computers, which should decrease the chance of downtime due to electronic problems.

In all then, I am now in a position to offer improved service, and eventually, as many as three new grinds.

The Basic Grind Menu

The “Central Grinds”:

LJ03 – for 0 - -10 C at medium humidity (70-90%)

R2.3 – for –3 to the edge of slush, for high humidity and transformed/transforming snow

The “Outer Grinds”:

XcLJ02 - -10 - - 20 at 50% humidity and down, fine-grained snow of dry artificial snow – NEW

LJ02 - -5 - -15 at 60-75% humidity and fine-grained snow

R3.3 – for wet, coarse and transformed snow, “spring conditions”

Calendar and Special Offers

I am going to remain open this year until June 1, with the exception of a vacation in the first week of April. So send skis in now! If next year is anything like last year, and I expect it will be “worse”, there will be a huge influx of skis all fall, and owing to volume, turnaround time may be delayed as skiing comes closer.

This is also an excellent time to take care of skis damaged during the past season.

And it is time to “summerize” your skis: storage of unwaxed skis will result in base damage due to oxygen and UV light, so I am offering **free hotboxing** with all skis sent in this spring: there is no better way to repair damaged bases, protect your skis, and to have them all ready to go as soon as snow falls, than to send them in now.

This spring only, the shipping charge will be reduced to a *single* \$12 charge: subsequent/accompanying pairs will be returned free.

Please ship skis with a Work Order Form, which can be downloaded from the website at www.ultratune.net; a check must be included.

Sundry

Please note that the address this comes from (ultratune_update@yahoo.com) is solely for the newsletter; our usual address remains the same: natxcgring@yahoo.com

I will make every attempt to turn skis around within five working days, but owing to the economics of running the shop, I need at least ten pairs of skis to run the machine, so unless there is a rush order, it may take up to two weeks to return skis during the spring season.

Best wishes,

Nat Brown