



ADAPTIVE SPORTS

“Freedom in Motion”

Fall Newsletter

2007

A Chapter of Disabled Sports USA

Volume 24 Issue 1

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!!



As the Adaptive Sports Association enters its 24th winter season, we couldn't be more excited to offer a jam-packed schedule for individuals with disabilities from the Durango area and around the country! This season we will once again be hosting Special Olympics training groups from Durango and preparing athletes for the annual Special Olympics Area Games. We will also be hosting numerous school groups from around the Four Corners area. This school group program allows local classrooms to partner with ASA to offer a unique opportunity to our local, school-aged participants.

We will also be hosting a variety of destination scholarship programs including old favorites such as the Torrey Pines, California Kiwanis Club Scholarship, Veterans scholarships and the New Dimensions Scholarships. This year, New Dimensions will be focusing on individuals with MS. The Dave Spencer Scholarship will bring in individuals with amputations or limbs at risk due to cancer. Also joining the scholarship crew for 2007-2008 will be the Madison Wisconsin Kiwanis Club and the Alcon Ski Initiative for visually impaired Veterans.

Our upcoming season looks to be one of the most action-packed yet! If you or someone you know would like to join in on the fun, either as a participant or as a volunteer, please contact our mountain office at 970-385-2163. Think snow!!

DMR is our
Corporate
Sponsor:



ASA is a member of PSIA and
Disabled Sports USA:



Quotable:

"I never ever thought that I would be able to ski again. This program...words can't describe it, "fantastic" can't describe it, "awesome" can't describe it. It's like being in heaven with angels around me. I don't want to go home!"

- a 2006/07 Participant

Don't Let ASA Membership Slip Your Mind

* Yep, it's that time of the year again. Most contributors to the Adaptive Sports Association make their donations during the month of December, before the end of the tax year. Not only is it advantageous for annual tax deductions, it is also the time of the year when ASA can best put your donation to good use. This is the time when adaptive equipment is purchased and repaired, volunteer instructors are trained, and the need for financial assistance and winter student scholarships increases. Our lesson schedule for the winter is already filling up and, with your help, we plan to make a real impact on these lives.

* Many of you received membership renewal reminders in late August. By now it most likely has slipped to the bottom of the stack in your "to do" pile. Another batch of renewal letters is going out this month. If you have not yet made your annual donation to ASA, please take a minute to drop a check (or credit card number) with a membership form (on the back page of this newsletter) in the mail. If you have already contributed to ASA this year, please accept our heartfelt thanks. Together, we can make a difference.

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Instructor

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Instructor

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970-259-0374

Winter Program Office:
970-385-2163

The New Team

Some exciting changes have taken place with the ASA staff for the upcoming season.

Long-time executive director, Tim Kroes returned to ASA this past spring after almost two years away from the organization. Many of you have heard that Tim left ASA in 2005 to travel the world with his family for a year. After a lifetime's worth of extraordinary experiences, Tim is back at the helm of the organization with a new perspective and renewed enthusiasm.

Ann Marie Meighan joined ASA last winter as a college intern for the winter program. Ann Marie's background with disability and therapeutic recreation became a perfect fit for ASA. Her talents and contagious energy led to the position of summer program director. By the end of the successful summer, we all realized that Ann Marie should be a part of the year-round team. In October, Ann Marie began her full-time position as program manager.

Allyssum Stensen was hired as a part-time program assistant for the summer program. She has worked as an aid for the resource department at Escalante Middle School, GameTime Director for the City of Durango, freestyle coach with the Durango Winter Sports Foundation and PSIA certified ski instructor at Snowbird, Utah. Allyssum was promoted in October and will be the year-round program coordinator, working with Ann Marie running the program office.

In the Durango administrative office, Sandy Heise has joined the ASA team as office manager and bookkeeper. Sandy has recently worked with the City of Ouray and Freelance Adventures in administrative positions. Sandy is a mountain enthusiast with experience as a trekking guide, trip leader and mountaineering school instructor with a focus on mountaineering, rock and ice climbing.

These dedicated new employees combined with the returning, seasonal, program staff of Ed Small, Michael Cote, Brett Rickerman and Shawn Glasco will make up the ASA team for 2008. Director, Tim Kroes says "I'm thrilled with the talent, passion and enthusiasm of this crew, it's a great time to be involved with Adaptive Sports, it'll be an exciting year!"

The Red Ball Express

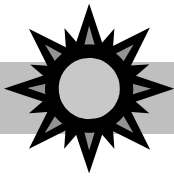
It's almost the time of the year for those giant red balls to come rolling down the slopes of Purg. The Rotary Clubs of Durango are once again presenting the Red Ball Express to support local non-profit organizations. By adopting a ball you are supporting both ASA and the Rotary Club's work in Durango. Plus, you get a chance to win **big bucks!** 1st prize will be \$5,000, 2nd prize is \$2,000 and 3rd prize is \$1,000.

Chances of winning are much better than the lottery and it's a lot more fun! They're great stocking and holiday card stuffers or employee appreciation gifts. Tickets are now on sale at both ASA offices for just \$5.

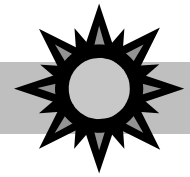
Another Way to Help

Volunteers donate more than 16,000 hours a year to ASA! Obviously, community members are truly the lifeblood of this organization. Many volunteers look for ways to help "off the snow". The **Dave Spencer Ski Classic** is ASA's crazy, midwinter fundraiser, very loosely disguised as a ski race. This two-day event is filled with good food, good friends, and lots of laughs. Prizes are given in many categories including best wipe-out, best costume, closest predicted time and most money raised. Some new twists will be added this year, so stay tuned. This fun-filled weekend will take place on February 28th-March 1st, 2008.

We are putting together an event committee to help organize this great fundraiser. If you are interested in helping with this year's event, please give Tim or Sandy a call at the administrative office, 259-0374.



A Summer Season with a Twist



The summer of 2007 was a transitional season for the Adaptive Sports crew. We were able to run a variety of “test” activities to gauge the response from our adaptive community. We’re looking forward to building a more diverse offering of activities in which to engage our participants for some “fun in the sun” in and around Durango, Colorado. This summer we ran old favorites, including whitewater rafting down the Animas River and flat-water canoeing and kayaking on area lakes and reservoirs. We also dabbled in rock-climbing, hiking, and even overnight camping.



The response to these activities was overwhelming and we are currently in the process of developing more permanent programs to reflect our participants’ interests. We are also working on developing an adaptive cycling program, as well as a destination scholarship program (much like those in the winter), to bring folks here from around the country to enjoy all the magnificent summer activities that this area has to offer. The summer program is on the move! Please let us know where you would like to see the program go, or any ideas for activities, trips or events! Thanks again for the wonderful support that we have received. We couldn’t do it without you! Until next summer....

Community Support - A Sampling of Your Generosity



La Plata Quilters Guild and Robin Mason

ASA was selected to benefit from this year’s “Small Quilt Auction” at Rotary Park. Since 2000, the Quilters Guild has held this wonderful event to benefit local non-profit organizations. Approximately 165 quilts were auctioned off with 75% of proceeds going to various community organizations. Robin Mason (at left) made a spectacular quilt, with 100% of its sale price going directly to ASA. By the end of the day, ASA received a donation of **\$2,500!** Watch for announcements, through ASA, for the next auction by this talented and generous group in June 2008.

Gardenswartz Extravaganza

Richard Ellis and the crew at Gardenswartz Sporting Goods invited ASA to benefit from its huge fall sale at the La Plata County Fairgrounds. A suggested, voluntary donation of \$1 was collected at the entrance. Gardenswartz then matched each of those donations to double the money to ASA! This year’s event, in partnership with The Ski Barn, ran from November 16th - 18th and raised about \$5400 for ASA. Keep your eyes open for their Spring Extravaganza!

San Juan Ski and Snowboard Swap

The Adaptive Sports Association received a portion of proceeds from this year’s swap at Farmington’s San Juan College in October. This one-day sale resulted in a \$900 donation to ASA from the event coordinators.

Hampton Inn

The Hampton Inn of Durango continues its tremendous support of ASA again this winter. The Hampton Inn donates a very significant number of free and discounted hotel rooms each season to ASA. These accessible rooms are used to lodge participants from our various national scholarship programs. The Hampton Inn also provides meeting space for our monthly board meetings.

First National Bank and A.C. Houston Lumber

A \$500 donation from First National Bank was made through A.C. Houston Lumber’s door prize at a recent Homebuilders Association event.

Zircon Container and T & L Roofing

Zircon continues its generous support of ASA with the rent-free donation of two large storage containers for our summer program equipment. Thanks to the support of T & L Roofing, these containers are conveniently housed at no cost near our summer program office.

Creepers Jeepers

The Creepers Jeepers Jeep club once again has hosted ASA students for a spectacular autumn day in the back country. Club members each took an ASA participant in their 4-wheel drive vehicle for this wonderful day-long adventure. A great time was had by all!

The Loss of a Friend John Galland 1951 - 2007

Earlier this year, ASA was deeply saddened by the shocking news of the death of John Galland in an automobile accident. John became involved with ASA almost five years ago, first as a student, then as a volunteer and finally as a board member. John's passion for life was obvious, undeniable, and contagious. Everything he did, he did in a big way. He certainly lived each day to its fullest and touched the lives of all those around him.

John's background in adaptive recreation and sports was varied and impressive. After a skiing accident in 1971, he lost the use of his legs. The accident certainly didn't slow his active lifestyle. John published a book on adaptive kayaking and started the nation's first adaptive Nordic program at Solitude Ski Area in 1982. Two years later, John was the first person to use a bi-ski (Swingbo) for adaptive skiing. He became the first and only person to pass the level three, sit-ski exam for instructors at Attatash, New Hampshire, in 1986. John worked as an instructor for the Outward Bound schools for thirty-five years. He received his class 3 boatmen's license and was a guide for the S'PLORE whitewater program. John was the first sit-down Nordic skier to participate in the 1988 Paralympics. Through his life in a wheelchair, John was an innovator with countless inventions and modifications of all types of sports equipment. Boats and water remained important loves of John's life.

John Galland was a passionate advocate for many disability-related issues. He remained outspoken and focused in his goals related to disability rights, compliance and accessibility. In short, John's life made a difference. His impact will remain with all of those whose lives he touched. We can all learn from his lust for life. We deeply miss John and won't forget him.

John's loving family has requested that gifts of remembrance be made to an organization that John loved: Caddo Lake Institute, info@caddolake.us.section; S'PLORE, info@splore.org; Wilderness Inquiry, info@wildernessinquiry.com; or Adaptive Sports Association, info@asadurango.com (or used attached donation form).

"When I first was accepted into the program, I went through the three phases of fear, hope, and dream. The "fear" came all the way here; once I got on the mountain, it turned into "hope" of what I could possibly do, and I have achieved the "dream". This truly has added a new dimension to my life. When you are diagnosed with MS, it's a chronic illness. You go through the loss of yourself and the grief that goes along with that. When we look at pictures of ourselves from the past, we realize that's us and remember it being taken, but we don't remember that person. So, this experience has created a new dimension and a new (me)."

- a 2006/07 Participant

Can You Host a Skier?

The ASA winter program calendar is packed with scholarship groups this year. These individuals, with a broad range of disabilities, will be coming from all over the country to experience Durango and Adaptive Sports. One of the most successful and rewarding aspects of our "learn to ski" scholarship weeks is the lodging in volunteer host homes in the Durango area. During the days, these participants will be on the slopes with us.

We are looking for individuals or families who would be willing to open their doors to a scholarship skier (or two) for 5 nights. If your home is wheelchair accessible, it's an added bonus but not a necessity. This is a wonderful way to meet great people and develop lifelong friendships. It is truly a very special experience to watch the scholarship skier blossom as the week progresses.

If you would like more information please send us an e-mail at info@asadurango.com or give us a call at 259-0374.



Harvest Gala: Great Fun for a Great Cause



This year's Harvest Gala took place on September 20th and, as you may have heard, this sold-out event at Ken and Sue's was our most successful ever. We raised almost \$50,000 (net), which far exceeded our expectations. The weather was much nicer than the forecasts predicted, the food was incredible, bidding was spirited and we all had a great time. All for a worthy cause!

The support we receive from the business community continues to amaze us. This type of generosity makes southwestern Colorado such a special place to live. Thank you very much for your commitment to Adaptive Sports Association and the non-profit community. With your support, we are able to continue to fulfill our mission of enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities through participation in sports.

On behalf of the auction committee, board members, staff, volunteers, and most importantly the students of the Adaptive Sports Association, please accept our most sincere thanks for your generous support!

Please support businesses that support our non-profit community.

Special thanks to this year's donors:

4 Corners Whitewater	East by Southwest	Recapture Lodge, Bluff, Utah
6 th Street Hair and Day Spa	Elam Construction	Relish
A Shared Blanket	Emily Johnson	Riverview Animal Hospital
A Touch Above Massage	First United Methodist Church	Sally and Vic Bellerue
Albertson's Floral - Roxanne	Fort Lewis College Concert Hall	Salt Creek Steakhouse, Breckenridge
Angler's Wharf Marina	Fred and Pauline Pettinato	Sam Ducharme
Animas Eyecare	Gene and Sally Bradley	Scalo Northern Italian Grill, Albuquerque
Ann Smith - Artist	General Palmer Hotel	Schluter's Floral
Aramark / Mesa Verde Company	Get Out Ventures	Scott "Griz" Kelley
Aspen Cafe	Grass Roots Lawn Care	Serious Texas BBQ
Bent Elbow Hotel, Silverton	Hillcrest Golf Club	Shamrock Foods
Bill's Hauling & Backhoe	Hilton Hotel, Santa Fe	SKA Brewing
Blaisdell Pottery	Hyatt Regency Albuquerque	Ski Barn
Blue Wave Salon	Inferno Board Shop	Ski Country Resorts, Breckenridge
Bob Chaput	Jean-Pierre Bakery and Wine Room	Snowdown Follies
Bread	Jim Beatty	Sounds in Motion
Breckenridge Outdoor Ed Center	Joy and Scott Mathis	Soups On
Brianna Yoemans	Just Asian Plus Cooking School	Sow's Ear
Bridget Maloney	Karen Esser	Spaaah Shop
Buffalo Gap	Ken and Sue's	Steaming Bean Coffee
Byron and Kristin Hilliard	Kendrick Ranch	Steamworks Brewing Company
Café of Life	Ladies' Workout Express	Star Liquors
Calvin and Pat Story	Lawrence Nass	Subway Downtown
Carl Stransky - Artist	Leland House	Susan and John Tait
Carol House	Lil's Sushi and Seafood	Suzanne Sullivan - Auctioneer
City Market	Lois Small	SW Women's Health Center
City of Durango Rec Center	Lynn Evans	Taylor Raymond Jewelers
Cliffside Ski and Sport	Lynn Martens, Chris & Theresa	Teller House Hotel, Silverton
Closets Plus	Martella	Telluride Adaptive Sports Program
Color Fusion - Nancy Conrad	Lynne Murison	Termar Trends
Cosmo	Mama's Boy Italian Ristorante	The Big Corral Stables
Cow Canyon Restaurant	Maria's Bookshop	The Boarding Haus
Crested Butte Mountain Resort	Mild to Wild	The Glacier Club - Bill Webbe
Dalton Ranch Golf Club	Mountain Valley Fish	The Hamilton Chop House
Danny's Window Cleaning	Music in the Mountains	The Hideout Golf Club
Dave Sipe - Artist	Mutu's	The Office Spiritorium, Strater Hotel
Diamond Circle Gift Shop	National Distributing	The Palace
Dietz Market	New Mexico BioPark Society	The Point
Don Oliver	Olde Schoolhouse Pizza and Beer	Toh-Atin Gallery and Publishing
Duranglers	Oohs and Aahs	Tom D Gordon, Inc
Durango & Silverton NGRR	Open Shutter Gallery	Tracy Janes
Durango Arts Center	Outer Banks Beach House	Trimble Hot Springs
Durango Brewing Company	P is for Peanut	Uptown Girls Hair Studio
Durango Mountain Resort	Pagosa Springs Golf Club	Vanessie's Restaurant, Santa Fe
Durango Nursery and Supply	Pam Leisle	Virginia's Steak House
Durango Party Rental	Papa Murphy's	Walt Horton Studios, Inc
Durango Skies	Paul Boyer	Wild Rivers Expeditions
Durango Traditions	Pinon Hills / City of Farmington	Willow Tree Kennel
Durangourmet	Pura Vida	Wolf Creek Ski Resort
Eagle Block	Rainbow Ryders, Albuquerque	Zia Taqueria
Earthen Vessel	Raymond James	

ASA Donation Form

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

All donations are tax deductible. With your contributions, we can change people's lives. If you would like to give back to our community, through outdoor sports and recreation, this is a great way to do it.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL _____

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Up to \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other amount. |

Enclosed is my check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

Please charge \$ _____ to my Mastercard Visa

Name on card _____ Card Number _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

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