



Special Olympics
Alaska
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Tanana Valley Community

Newsletter

January-March 2011

tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org

Fundraisers, summer sports gear up



By Debbie Hall

As we close another winter sports season, I'd like to take a moment to send a note of thanks to the coaches and volunteers who made floor hockey, snowboarding and cross-country skiing a huge success.

Coach Mary Bunten led another successful floor hockey season. Our unified partners Andy and Dan Bunten, Dan Ellis, John Jones, Sydney and Jason Pace, Eric Ringstad and Isaiah Woods were a huge help. For the first time, our local competition was part of Hockey Week in Fairbanks. Thanks to Coach Brian Meisner of the Alaska Nanooks and Randy Zarnke for making that happen.

We added two new sports this season:

Director's corner

snowboarding and cross-country skiing. Thanks to snowboarding coach Angela Wittenberg and assistant coaches Michael Buberger, Steven Kondus, and Tyler Voge, and to cross-country ski coach Marmian Grimes and volunteers Brett Carlson, Ken Hall, Diane Liethead, Joanne Howard, Meghan Heim and Eva Zamzow. Without these individuals, our winter sports opportunities would not have been possible.

The summer sports training season is in full swing and we are very excited to welcome back returning coaches Sandy Hutchins and Patti Davis, and assistant coach Mandy Gentleman for track and field; Krista Winell for gymnastics; coach Gerald Damron, with volunteer help from Joanne Howard and Michael Meenaghan, for powerlifting. A warm welcome to our new swimming coaches Meghan Heim and Barbara Cornwall, who will be assisted by Alex

Cain and Chrissy Petri; and Shaun Lewis, basketball coach, who will be assisted by Mary Bunten and Diane Liethead. We look forward to seeing everyone at our local games, which kick off May 14 at the Big Dipper.

In the coming months, we have two fundraisers to benefit Special Olympics Alaska, Tanana Valley Community. Our annual Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held May 21 on the UAF campus. The event will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the Patty Center. It will end at the same location. We will be sending out additional information about this event in mid-April. We also have a Special Olympics Golf Scramble June 4 at the North Star Golf Club. Our friend and volunteer Liam Ortega is organizing this event.

Happy Spring from everyone here at Special Olympics Alaska, Tanana Valley Community.

Upcoming events

Mondays

6:30-7:30 p.m., Barnette School
Track and Field training

Tuesdays

6:30-8 p.m., Barnette School
Basketball Training

Fridays

7-8 p.m., The Alaska Club North
Powerlifting training

Saturdays

1-2 p.m., Hamme Pool
Swimming training

Times TBA

Gymnastics Training

Saturday, April 16

4:30 p.m., FRA

Potluck dinner for coaches, management team and volunteers with Special Olympics Alaska management.
7 p.m., Elks Lodge
Special Olympics dance

Saturday, May 14

10 a.m., Big Dipper
Summer local games opening ceremonies

Saturday, May 21

10 a.m., UAF Patty Center
Law Enforcement Torch Run
7 p.m., Elks Lodge
Final Special Olympics dance of the season

Saturday, June 4

North Star Golf Club
Special Olympics Tanana Valley
Golf Scramble

June 10-12

Anchorage
Special Olympics Alaska
summer games

Management team

Debbie Hall
Community director

Gerald Damron
Sports & training

Marmian Grimes
Public relations

Angela Wittenberg
Volunteers

Barbara Cornwall
Family services

Marilyn Gentleman
Medical records

Joanne Howard
Outreach

Mandy Gentlemen
Athletes

Ken Hall
Fundraising

Diane Liethead
Finance

**Special Olympics Alaska
Tanana Valley Community
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Winter athletes test mettle



Members of the 2011 snowboarding team and volunteers pose for a picture after local competition.

Following are results for the 2011 snowboarding and cross-country skiing competition:

Snowboarding

Giant Slalom - Men, Division 1:
First, Jack Zackgo, 02:02.64;
Second, Connor Casady, 3:16.63
Women, Division 1: First, Amy
Murrills, 02:39.14
Super G - Men, Division 1: First,
Jack Zachgo, 00:51.53; Second,

Connor Casady, 01:29.25
Women, Division 2: First, Amy
Murrills, 01:22.77

Cross-country skiing

500 M - Men, Division 1: First,
Colin Juday, 07:34
Men, Division 2: First, Kenny
Howard, 10:32
Women, Division 3: First, Stacey
Hall, 17:29
1K - Men, Division 1: First, Colin
Juday, 10:23

Thank you!

Campbell Bias
American Legion
C & R Pipe
Fairbanks Moose
GCI

Steve Gerstein
IBEW

State Farm
Lynden Transport
Sunrisers Rotary
Emblem Club

Jerry Walker
Denali State Bank
WIN Program

MAC Federal Credit
Union

Riverboat Discovery
El Dorado Gold Mine,
The Cookie Jar
Denali Alaskan Federal
Credit Union
Usibelli Foundation

**Contact us via e-mail at tananavalley@specialolympicsalaska.org
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