



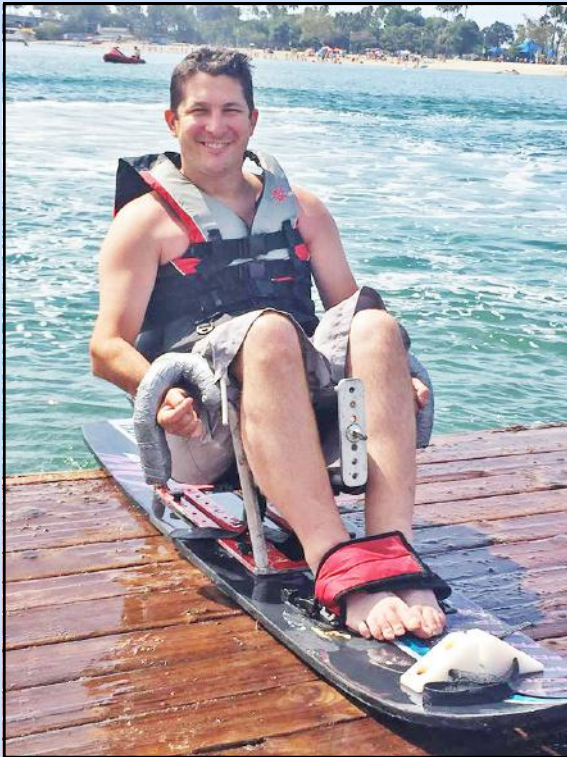
# The Spirit

Fall  
2015

of the United States Adaptive Recreation Center

## No Water? No Problem!

Even with Big Bear Lake's water level slowly but surely decreasing, the USARC summer program came off without a hitch! The vision of marinas



**Andrew eagerly awaits the return of the USARC Nautique and his turn to rip around the Long Beach Marine Stadium.**

moving massive flotillas of their docks ever further from the shore, and the long trek required to access these now distant facilities did not keep the excited participants and dedicated volunteers from coming out and making the USARC's adaptive water sports program a hit.

(See Summer on pg. 3)

## Give BIG is back!

Give BIG San Bernardino County is a 24-hour online giving campaign on December 1, 2015 that allows you to donate to the USARC. Our goal is to get everyone who cares about the USARC mission to help us raise \$5,000 in just 24 hours.



From 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2015, our USARC family members (and everyone they tell) can go online to the [Give BIG website](#) and make a donation. Every donation made has a chance of winning hourly Golden Ticket prizes and Leaderboard prizes for participating nonprofits. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us online on 12/1/2015, thank you!

## Ve Vant Volunteers!

Okay, so maybe our "Dracula" accent needs a little work this Halloween, but the USARC still needs volunteers to ensure our winter programs run smoothly and meet the demand for the thousands of lessons provided by the USARC each year.



**Dori, Daniel and Steve prepare for more adventure on the slopes of Bear Mountain.**

SKI DAZZLE is returning to the Los Angeles Convention Center on December 4-6, and we need help covering our booth. Experienced, dynamic volunteers are needed to educate the public about lessons, volunteering and participating in the annual Ski-A-Thon.

(See Volunteers on pg. 8)

## Great Lessons and Snow, El Niño or No!

Call soon to reserve your lessons, because after several winters of minimal snow and warm temperatures, all we hear now is El Niño, El Niño, El Niño! We dare not predict the future and we don't have an "in" with Mother Nature, but Bear Mountain's snowmaking system will have the resort and USARC open for business.

(See Lessons on pg. 8)

# A Note from the Executive Director



**Tom Peirce**  
USARC Exec. Dir.

I believe I have mentioned my affinity for the classic 60's surf movie, *The Endless Summer*. Those of us who are slaves to weather related leisure time activities can relate to a familiar theme recurring throughout the film. The duo of surfers regularly arrived at a fabled surf break just after epic conditions had ended, only to be told time and again, "You guys *really* missed it, you should have been here yesterday."

I couldn't help but repeat that line in my mind as rode along with my Peak to Peak Pedal companions a few weeks ago. Initially it was because we seemed to be on the receiving end of that particular movie quote, as we had just missed the cooler weather and tailwinds that prevailed a few days prior. But as the ride unfolded, that little aphorism did an about-face, whence I found myself actually saying it aloud to nobody.

For example, after our group of convives sat around our little circle after dinner, and people shared their personal stories and motivations for riding this year, I had heard enough heartfelt and uplifting anecdotes that I didn't want to be anywhere else. It made me think about the people who weren't there, or couldn't be there, this year, and I mused, "You guys *really* missed it, you should have been here yesterday."

When I reflected back on Chef Tamisha's exquisite over-the-top lunches and appetizers each day, and during the profound silence that descended when everybody is eating and not speaking, I wanted to shout back to all the people who were missing this magnificent and healthy repast, "You guys *really* missed it, you should have been here yesterday."

And during the drive back to Big Bear, thinking about how the final protean pair of days of the ride respectively brought intoxicating tailwinds and glorious weather in the high country, and how every rider had pushed themselves right to the edge of their limits, and how the hugs, tears and praise flowed forth like the bubbly, I couldn't help but smile to myself and think, "You guys *really* missed it, you should have been here yesterday."

In retrospect, I guess what I really am trying to say here is that most people who become USARC family members find themselves wondering why they didn't do it sooner. So, please consider this an invitation to get involved or stay involved, be that as participant, volunteer or donor, such that after a cold, deep, white, powdery day that leaves everybody smiling at their accomplishments, you don't hear us say... "You guys *really* missed it, you should have been here yesterday."

## P2P21 Brings all kinds of Luck

Twenty-One is a great number, whether a birthday or a poker hand. This year's Peak to Peak Pedal may have been small, and the luck wasn't always on our side, but in the end it proved both fortuitous, and was actually the most productive per-rider event ever! Details will be forthcoming in the next edition of *The Spirit* or, better yet, at the slideshow next Spring. If you attend the latter, start planning now to join us next October. Because once you see the unforgettable imagery, learn about the fun, food, freedom and friends, and hear the tales of changing lives through championing over challenges, you *will* be a Peaker!



**Debbi and David enjoy tailwinds and big chain rings under the Sierra's granite gaze.**



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Post Office Box 2897  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
(909) 584-0269  
mail@usarc.org

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# Summer of Adaptations

The summer started out with a successful training of nearly 30 volunteers, taking place at the Lakeside Boathouse Tavern. To say some adaptations were needed to access the water is an understatement! Once again, our volunteers stepped up to the plate and helped the USARC staff clear and manicure a path (along the rocky former lake bottom) to the water's edge. Coupled with the new addition to our

equipment inventory of a balloon-tired beach wheelchair (dubbed "Bertha" by our Summer Intern Kristi,) participants were able to safely access the docks and vessels.



**Jeremy nets another rainbow trout thanks to the amazing expertise of Cantrell Guide Service.**

## USARC 2015 Summer Volunteers

The USARC is grateful to the following 2015 summer volunteers who spent many a wet and windy day helping to make the USARC programs the safe and successful adventures they are!

Debbi Armenta  
Daniel Brown  
John Cantrell  
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Paul Van Wig  
Riley Voss  
George Watson-Jones  
Claire Youmans

The USARC's success, and that of our participants, is due to many collaborative partners, including Casa Colina Hospital with whom we



**Intern helps create a new path to the shore.**

Cantrell Guide Service, and its namesake John (the wily trout assassin!)

All in all, despite the low water levels, the summer sessions were virtual sellouts where enthusiasm reigned supreme. When it proved too shallow to launch our sailboat, we added a pontoon boat for lake tours. When campfires were not allowed at the campground due to forest fire danger, we enjoyed S'mores "sashimi style"! Ultimately, everything worked out just fine because everybody was willing to adapt (imagine that!)

Of course, we are all eager to see the big blue jewel return to her former glory, and now that the weather is cooling and autumn is in the air, we are hopeful the rumored El Niño doesn't just bring us some deep powder this winter, but a much fuller lake next summer!

conducted our program in Long Beach in August. The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways helps finance new equipment and keep our lesson fees low. But without the help of our location hosts such as The Boathouse Tavern, The Pines Restaurant and Big Bear Marina, the program simply could not operate. Don't forget the



**Mikey helps Dexter start to develop his stand-up paddleboard skills.**

## Have Camera, Will Travel

The old saying goes that a picture is worth a thousand words. If that is the case, then over the years the USARC has been presented with the equivalent of the entire contents of the library of congress by some very talented professional photographers. If you need a photographer, these are your go-to guys.



**Andy Templeton**

**Andy Templeton** ([www.atempletonphoto.com](http://www.atempletonphoto.com)) has been a volunteer with the USARC since 1996. Longer than the two decades he has honed his skill of teaching adaptive skiing on the slopes has been his years behind the lens, including catching USARC skiers and P2P cyclists having the time of their lives.

**Matt Fukushima** ([www.fukushimaphoto.com](http://www.fukushimaphoto.com)) is both a colleague and friend of Andy, and has graced the volunteer ranks of the USARC for years. Matt's skill and artistry is equally evident whether he is with camera in hand or guiding a blind skier down the slopes.



**Matt Fukushima**



**Jonathan Nourok**

**Jonathan Nourok** ([www.nourokphoto.com](http://www.nourokphoto.com)) can often be seen snowboarding down the slopes of Bear Mountain in his inimitable "soul surfer" style. That style is equally evident in the imagery he captures, be it still life or USARC participants in smile-filled motion.

## How can I help USARC?

This is a frequently asked question, and the answer is quite simple. In addition to volunteering, there are many ways to financially support the USARC!

### DONATE ONLINE IN YOUR NAME OR AS A TRIBUTE TO A LOVED ONE



Click on the image you see here or go to <http://usarc.org/donate-online> for details on the secure and reliable website where you can use your credit card to make a tax deductible donation in your name or in recognition of another, as can be seen on page 8.

### JOIN THE SKI-A-THON OR PEAK TO PEAK PEDAL

Also at [www.usarc.org](http://www.usarc.org) are the web pages for these special events. Held in March and October, respectively, these unique FUNdraisers allow participants to support the USARC while engaging in activities they love, be it snow sports or cycling. Or you can donate goods or services to be part of the silent auction and raffle. It all helps!

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING PARTNERSHIPS

The USARC can be named as your partner when you shop at numerous retail outlets, at both online and "brick and mortar" stores. If you patronize **RALPHS**, MACY'S, and many other retailers, you can select the USARC to receive a portion of your purchases. AMAZON's charitable arm ([www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com)), and a variety of online retailers you can find through [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) allow you to select the USARC as a beneficiary of your shopping forays.



### PLANNED GIVING IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST

The USARC can be named as a beneficiary in your estate planning, enabling you to support the important and life-changing programs of the USARC well into the future. Please consult your tax and legal professionals or call the USARC and we can put in you in touch with a professional to guide you through the process.

### DONATE YOUR UNWANTED CAR, BOAT, RV, ETC.

Preferably in decent running condition to facilitate resale, cars, RVs, motorcycles or boats donated to the USARC through **Cars 4 Causes** [Cars 4 Causes](http://Cars4Causes.com) can be sold and the proceeds used to defray the program's operating costs.



**Cars 4 Causes**  
"The Charity That Gives to Charities"

# An Intern's Life: SJSU Spartan Kristi Moore

As my last semester approached at San Jose State University, I started to seriously look into where I wanted to do my Recreation Therapy internship. I was never set on staying in California and had looked into programs all over the country. As I started narrowing it down from the massive list I had formed, I still felt I could find better.

I went to my advisor one day and had a talk about what I should do. We started browsing around we happened to fall on the USARC website since San Jose state students had been interns here before. I was automatically captivated by the program and decided I was going to apply. After a few weeks it came down to USARC or a hospital setting in Maryland. Well, for any of you who had the chance to get to know me this summer, I don't like to make decisions. However, I decided that in addition to being the home of the impressive USARC program, Big Bear was close enough to family and friends, and so my decision was made.

On arrival, I was immediately welcomed into the infamous USARC family environment with open arms. As the first few weeks passed, I started to understand just how amazing this program truly is. From the staff members who work to ensure that every participant gets to try every activity we offer, to the loyal volunteers who take the time to make this program happen, they love what they do.

One of my favorite memories would have to be when I was able to interact with a handful of participants throughout

the week. With the smiles, hugs, and jokes passed around on the dock those three days, it reaffirmed why I wanted to be recreational therapist in the first place. Another fun memory was at the volunteer party when I had to make an



**Kristi smiling behind Melissa, with Mikey as photo bomber!**

emergency animal rescue in the middle of the lake when Kelly (the dog) decided to try and swim after her owner who was aboard the ski boat. To say that was an interesting experience would be a drastic understatement.

In all, my 14 weeks taught me a lot about not only about the program, the profession, and the people but about myself. I'm not leaving the same person that came here, simply because of the experiences and people I have met this summer. The United States Adaptive Recreation Center is composed of a diverse,

creative, loving, and dedicated team and it's easy to say that any participant who comes through this program is lucky to have some of the best teaching them.



**Kristi and Kawasaki team up to rescue Kelly the Wonderdog!**

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their amazing work this summer; we honestly could not have done it without you. I would also like to thank Tom, Shelly, Sara, Jim, Jeff, Spyder, Mikey and Lexie for teaching me the ropes, for always offering words of encouragement, making sure I wasn't seriously injured when I somehow hurt myself daily, and even on my worst day, supporting me throughout this summer.

Each of these people will always hold a special place in my heart and I know this isn't goodbye but, instead, just see you later.

# The USARC proudly salutes these 2015 fiscal year donors!

If your donation between 7/1/14 and 6/30/15 is missing please accept our apologies and contact us so we can correct our records.

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# Volunteer Profile - Future

## R.T. Brooke Scholl

Brooke Scholl is both a Summer and Winter volunteer who studies Recreation Therapy at Cal State Long Beach and hopes to be an Intern for USARC next year. Outgoing, enthusiastic and one who doesn't back down from challenges, Brooke is a joy to have around, so we thought you would like to get to know her as well.

*TS: So why study Recreation Therapy?*

Brooke Scholl (BS): I was enrolled in a Career and Life planning class and took a personality test that gave you a list of jobs that are compatible with who you are. Recreation Therapist was on that list and after reading the job description I knew that it was a perfect fit.

*TS: How did you find USARC?*

BS: At CSULB, I took a class that required me to do an informational interview with a recreation facility that I was interested in. I chose USARC because it was the most appealing and a great opportunity to learn about outdoor



**Brooke and Gordy chill out between water ski sessions.**

recreation therapy.

*TS: What is your favorite memory as a volunteer?*

BS: Volunteering as a "jumper" off the back of a jet ski to help participants stay safe while water skiing is definitely one of my favorite memories.

The joy I got from being a jumper came from

watching the participants smile, clap their hands or shout with excitement as a team of seven ensured their safety.

*TS: What would you tell someone who thought about volunteering for USARC?*

BS: Just do it! If you love to help people and want to have fun while doing it, USARC is the place to volunteer. USARC is very welcoming and provides exceptional training for winter/summer adaptive sports for every skill level.

There are not many places where volunteers have the opportunity to go snow skiing, water skiing, tubing, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding with people who rarely get to participate in these recreational activities.

*TS: What are some of your other hobbies?*

BS: Currently, I am on the CSULB Ski & Snowboard Team as well as the CSULB Sailing Team. I love to go hiking and recently did a backpacking trip to Mt. Langley where I caught my first golden trout. I love going to the beach and often go for bike rides.

*TS: If you could visit anywhere in the World, where would you go, and why?*

BS: I want to go see the northern lights (aurora borealis) in Alaska one day. Ideally, I would want to go on a dog sled tour with the northern lights above. Google pictures of the northern lights and you'll understand why.

*TS: Any other comments?*

BS: USARC staff is AWESOME! Thanks for the memories!



**Brooke in a textbook PSIA stance, ready to teach!**

## USARC 2015 fiscal year donors, continued. Wow, thank you!

|                      |                       |                           |                                     |                          |                            |                     |
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## Valued Volunteers

With winter lessons just around the corner, we seek intermediate skiers to help teach lessons. Free training sessions are provided to all applicants; a two



**Windy and Walter take point, while “The Daves” ski “sweep” behind.**

day session for prior year volunteers, and a four-day session for new volunteers or those who have skipped a year. Training sessions will focus on getting volunteers up to speed with their own skiing techniques, as well as how to teach an adaptive lesson safely and effectively. At present, we cannot use volunteers who snowboard only, but if they can ski and snowboard, they are extra valuable!

With Bear Mountain’s new ownership, training dates are yet to be determined. Please call or check the USARC website for more information.

## Lessons Await

Individuals can call for reservations at 909-584-0269 on November 3, 2015 at 9:00 AM (no earlier!) There are many details to be finalized with Bear Mountain’s new ownership, but it is USARC’s intent to keep its fees the lowest of any program in the west, while keeping our service level the highest!



As a PSIA member school with the latest in adaptive equipment, dozens of PSIA-certified instructors and over 25 years of expertise, about the only way you can top your experience with the USARC is if you combine it with some of that deep El Niño powder, (but shhhh, we don’t want to jinx it!) After all, as Tom always says, “I’ll believe it when I’m shoveling it!”

## Honorariums

John Price in memory of  
**GIL FLORES and RICHARD GHOOGASIAN**

The Prewoznik Foundation in memory of  
**KEVIN MICHAEL KELLY**

Michael and Alessandra Alves in memory of  
**MARY NORMAN**

Mike and Joanie Cramer in honor of  
**FRED LIEBEL**

The High Desert Parrot Head Club in memory of  
**JULIAN APODACA**

Jaymee Jusko in memory of her mother,  
**IRENE JUSKO**

## Attention Big Bear Real Estate Buyers & Sellers!

USARC staffer and real estate agent, Will Rahill, will donate 10% of his earned commission to USARC if a lead comes from a USARC associate. If you want to sell or purchase a home or property, please contact him at [usarc@willrahill.com](mailto:usarc@willrahill.com), 909.645.1949, or [www.SearchBigBearRealEstate.com](http://www.SearchBigBearRealEstate.com)

## What’s ahead at USARC?

### DECEMBER

- 4-6 Ski Dazzle (L.A. Convention Center)
- TBD Returning Volunteer Training #1
- 10-13\* New Volunteer Training #1
- 12-13\* Returning Volunteer Training #2

### JANUARY

- 7-10 New Volunteer Training #2
- 9-10 Returning Volunteer Training #3
- 11 Group Lessons Begin

### FEBRUARY

- 24-25 PSIA So-Cal Session

### MARCH

- 5 2016 Ski-A-Thon
- 7-8 PSIA Adaptive Certification Exams

### APRIL

- 2 P2P21 Slideshow Reunion Party

\* Tentative dates pending Bear Mt. opening