

The Spirit

Winter 2021

of the United States Adaptive Recreation Center

A Different Look on Summer

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyday life around the world-and certainly that's true at USARC. We had already emptied our headquarters in anticipation of moving to a new facility. But as a result of the pandemic, our move was once again put on hold. Sara and Shelly moved their computers to Sara's house and worked from there at a safe social distance. Knowing that USARC would not be moving into the new facility, we took advantage of our now emptied building and gave it a new coat of paint and new carpet for the upcoming season.

Fall is here as we prepare for the winter season, we want you to know that even though we were unable to be together on the Lake, you weren't far from our thoughts. We are looking forward to next summer and being back on Big Bear Lake, to the normalcy we all crave.

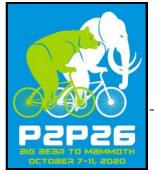


USARC office COVID ready

In the meantime, we hope to see you on the slopes for what will be a fun filled and safe winter at Bear Mountain!

After almost 3 decades, Tom Peirce has left the USARC organization. We appreciate all that Tom contributed to USARC and the Big Bear community. The Board, current and former staff, volunteers and participants who have benefited so much from Tom's contributions wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. Sara Rosell has assumed the Interim Executive Director position. We are excited about all of the opportunities the future has in store for USARC.





5 Days 335 Miles 15 Riders 22 Volunteers

\$80,101 Raised

The 26th Annual Peak to Peak Pedal was an adventure we will not forget. Not only did this year's ride take extra planning to consider COVID concerns, but we also had smoke and air quality worries. Nonetheless, P2P pushed on.



(Continued on pg 3)

Eager cyclists are ready to roll at the start of P2P26!

A Note from the Interim Executive Director

Wow! 2020, who knew? A lot of challenges faced the USARC this year, closing the season early, no summer program, a change up in leadership. But as always the USARC did what it does best, ADAPTED and came out on top.

The future is looking bright as we move into the 2021 season. Of course there are going to be operational changes necessary to maintain safety of participants, volunteers, and staff, but I am optimistic that this winter will be just what everyone needs, to feel the freedom of sliding on snow once again.



Sara Rosell-Gavigan



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MOVE UNITED MEMBER

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Sara. I began at **Interim Executive Director** USARC as an recreation therapy intern in 2006. I soon knew that I found my place in the adaptive world. After my internship, I graduated from Cal Sate Long Beach with a Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation. I then permanently moved to Big Bear where I was on summer staff for a season before moving into the Volunteer Coordinator position. From there, I became Operations/Outreach Coordinator, where I discovered so much of what makes USARC successful. With the guidance of Tom, I learned how to strive to be the best that I can be, and here I am!

I'm looking forward to what comes next, there are a lot of ideas being talked about. We're all excited to see USARC continue to grow and succeed as one of the premier adaptive programs in the world.

Together, we will share this exciting, rewarding journey of making a difference in the lives of others!



Update From the Board of Trustees...

Over the past year, the Board has received an incredible amount of feedback from the USARC community. We've heard from participants and their families, donors, volunteers, and staff. The input ranges from new avenues of fundraising to increased programming opportunities. We've had stakeholders share their views on how to shape the future of USARC, how to better utilize the space we occupy on the mountain and how to increase the level of engagement of the organization's board of trustees. We carefully evaluate all of the input we receive, so please keep it up!

The Board is committed to acting, when appropriate, upon the feedback we receive. To that end, the Board established a Volunteer Committee, lead by Windy Sirignano. Windy has been diligently working with the USARC staff on various initiatives, including training for our volunteers, as well as expanding the reach of USARC's network to attract more volunteers in the community. We're excited to see the results of her efforts this winter season.

As stewards of USARC's resources, we are humbled by the intense level of support for USARC. So many of you have encouraged and counseled us and we are immensely grateful for that support. As we progress into the 2020-21 winter season, we ask for your continued candid feedback and creative ideas.

Thank you for your continued support of USARC.

Winter is just around the corner...



As we prepare our Winter Edition of The Spirit, Big Bear has received the first snow of the season (pictured on the left). It's just above freezing, and we can hear the snow guns taking advantage of the cold weather, as Bear Mountain gears up for another winter season.

With the anticipation of the upcoming season, there are a lot of questions and concerns about what to expect this year. Things are going to be different, following the policies set forth by Big Bear Mountain Resorts. Face masks will be required at the base area, on chair lifts, and during lessons. Social distancing

office by only having one participant and their caregiver checking at a time. Pop ups will be used to help shelter participants from the elements (weather contingent). One thing that will remain the same is that the USARC is excited to be able to offer life changing

opportunities to our participants and their families.

The USARC lifeline, our ever-giving and supportive volunteers are not being left out. This year, the USARC is enhancing volunteer training with additional suggested topics and a combination of virtual and on snow training experiences. New volunteers will attend

a 3-day, on the snow training free of charge. Those training dates are December 11-13, 2020 and January 8-10, 2021.

will be enforced in the USARC



Kam and Debbie enjoying a beautiful mountain day with Sandra

We are looking forward to a great season with you. We began taking reservations on November 3rd and are limiting our numbers this year, so do not hesitate! We hope to see you on the slopes!

Christopher, Jose and Samantha showing off their smiles



Final approach for P2P26

Peak

P2P26 (cont.)

October 7th brought excited cyclists and volunteers to the USARC building bright and early! With face masks in place and hand sanitizer at the ready, the participants of Peak to Peak were ready to roll. After a

delicious breakfast and a quick orientation, cyclists posed for photos and departed for another history-making to Peak-our 26th consecutive.

Reaching Mammoth, we were rewarded with clean air, blue skies, and another successful Peak to Peak.

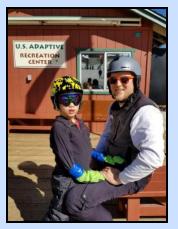
Stay tuned for more information including the winner of the coveted Horse's A** trophy!! Peak to Peak 27 registration will open May 1, so start planning now and join this epic adventure!!



Celebratory high five for Paulette and Sandy

Welcome Aboard!

We are happy to announce that DJ Horner will be joining the team as the Program Coordinator. DJ has been both a volunteer and a staff member over the years. DJ shared Rookie of the Year with his brother Mikey in 2013. He earned his Level 2 PSIA Adaptive certification two years ago, and his Level 2 Snowboard certification last season. This year his sights are set on Level 2 Adaptive Snowboard and Level 2 Alpine. DJ will help coordinate training for



DJ and Christian ready to Ski.

staff and volunteers and also help those who want to peruse their own PSIA certification. Don't hesitate to come by and say "Hi"!



DJ on Peak to Peak 26

A few words from DJ:

Hey, I'm DJ! I've been involved with USARC for 7 years. During that time, I have had the honor to work with countless individuals who have inspired me to grow and challenge myself. With my experience and passion, I can only hope to add to, and enhance, an already amazing

program. My first challenge as Program Coordinator is to encourage growth, not only from our participants, but our staff and volunteers as well. This program is committed to helping people succeed and accomplish goals they never thought were possible. I am excited to continue to support and encourage that same passion in others. I can't wait to see everyone this upcoming season!

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS!!!!

The USARC would like to thank all of the firefighters that helped keep the El Dorado fire from Big Bear. It was a scary few days wondering if the fire was going to jump 38 at Angeles Oaks prompting evacuations. Fortunatley, the heroic firefighters were able to contain the fire.



The smoky red sun setting in Big Bear.

Save the Date! 3.13.2021



Tribute Donations

May 27, 2020 - October 15, 2020

Gary & Barbara Lee in memory of ROGER LEE

Maricelle Oakley & Daniel Shoemaker in memory of **JACK PISTONETTI**

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Jeff Hulo, Heather Ropa, Beatrice Floyd, Dennis Floyd, Jennifer Osorio, Donna Woolsey in support of USARC

The USARC proudly salutes these 2020 fiscal year donors!

If your donation between 7/1/19 and 6/30/20 is missing please accept our apologies and contact us so we can correct our records.

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Rookie of the Year 2020- Oliver Stein



Oliver and Emily taking a lucky skier down Chair 9

Oliver came to us as a junior volunteer last season joining his Mom, Magali. Oliver never hesitated to jump right in and learn. He was energetic, helpful, and enthusiastic in every lesson. Oliver was preparing to go for his PSIA Level 1 certification when the mountain shut down due to the COVID pandemic. We hope that he will peruse that again this season. Please read on to get to know Oliver...

The Spirit (TS): So, Oliver, tell us about your first season?

Oliver Stein (OS): It was a lot of fun to

help others as a member of such an excellent community. Everyone was welcoming and kind, always wanting to help newer volunteers to learn the ropes. I didn't expect to have as much fun as I did.

TS: What was your favorite part about volunteering?

OS: My favorite part of volunteering last season was being given the opportunity to help other people and meet new friends every weekend. After spending 6 hours together, everybody becomes friends very quickly. I also loved meeting people of all different backgrounds (Volunteer or Student).

TS: What did you do over the Summer? Anything exciting?

OS: This past summer was rather uneventful due to the pandemic, but I did get the chance to go out on my boat sailing numerous times as well as hanging out with my friends whether it was six feet apart or over PlayStation.

TS: If you could travel any where in the world, where would you go? Why?

OS: I would really like to visit Australia some day. It seems like such a beautiful place with a vibrant culture that I would want to

explore. I would love to learn to scuba dive or just tour the country.

TS: What are you looking forward to most this winter?

OS: I really can't wait for the heat to go away and for the snow to arrive. I want to improve my skiing skills like I did last year as well as make some new friends along the way.

TS: Thank you Oliver! We are looking forward to winter as well! We will see you on slopes!



Oliver showing us what he looks like out of ski gear.

How can I help USARC?

In reply to this oft-asked question, your options are numerous. In addition to volunteering, there are many ways to financially support the USARC!

DONATE ONLINE IN YOUR NAME OR AS A TRIB-**UTE TO A LOVED ONE**

Clicking here https://www.givedirect.org/ donate/?cid=1433 or via the Get Involved Give Direct option on the USARC website at

www.usarc.org, will take you to a secure, reliable website where you can use your credit card to make a onetime or recurring tax deductible donation in your name or in recognition of another.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL SKI-A-THON OR PEAK TO PEAK PEDAL

Under the Event tab at www.usarc.org are the web pages for these respective special events. Held annually in March and October, respectively, these unique and fun events allow you to support the USARC while engaging in activities you love, be it snow sports or cycling!

SHOPPING PARTNERSHIPS

amazonsmile

The USARC can be named as a partner when you shop at numerous retailers, either online or at "brick and mortar" stores. Amazon's charitable arm, http://

smile.amazon.com. Other online retailers at www.igive.com or www.escrip.com, allow you to select the USARC as a beneficiary of your shopping forays. RALPHS grocery shoppers can register at www.ralphs.com/topic/community-contribution-2



cars

and designate the USARC to receive a portion Ralphs of your purchases.

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. Consult your tax and legal professionals or call the USARC and we can put in you in touch with somebody to guide you through the process.

DONATE YOUR OLD CAR, BOAT, RV ETC.

Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, trailers and RVs donated in the name of USARC at https://careasy.org/nonprofit/USARC are sold, with the proceeds defraying USARC's operating costs and you receive a tax deduc-

tion! Please call 855-500-7433 or click on the link to get started.

What's ahead at USARC?

DECEMBER

- **Returning Volunteer Training 7-8**
- **New Volunteer Training** 11-13
- **Returning Volunteer Training** 12-13
- 14 First day of lessons (weather permitting)
- 25 **USARC Closed**

IANUARY

- **USARC Closed**
- 8-10 **New Volunteer Training**
- 9-10 **Returning Volunteer Training**
- 11 **Group Lessons Begin**

MARCH

- 2021 Ski-A-Thon 13
- **27 USARC Volunteer Party**
- 30 Last day of Lessons

APRIL

26th Annual Peak to Peak Pedal Slideshow **TBD**

Seeking Corporate Sponsors!

As you know this year has been a challenge and we need to find revenue where ever we can. Please reach out to your company or any corporation you're involved with and ask them if they are interested in sponsoring USARC.

New and Improved!

Don't forget to check out the new and improved



USARC.org website! Thank you to Josh Miner and Spike Sales Now! We are working on integrating more technology to make submit-

ting forms, etc that much easier!

www.usarc.org

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

Skiers and riders share many things: a love of the mountains, the feeling of freedom when cruising down runs, and making memories with family and friends. We are explorers. We are first-timers. We are powder chasers. We are first chair riders at our local hill. No matter who you are, we are all part of the outdoor community.

So let's be kind to one another. Respect yourself and others. Know that the actions we all take can affect our community. This is the contract of skiers and riders: take care of the environment, take care of yourself, take care of each other.

SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING:

Recreation with a low risk of transmission



Ski areas have hundreds of acres of wide open spaces



Ski lifts allow for constant airflow as they travel, with rides lasting an average of 7 minutes





Skiers and riders show respect by leaving space between each other on the slopes.



Recreation is proven to improve mental health and physical wellness

SKI WELL, BE WELL LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO BE THE REASON WE HAVE A SEASON.

