



# The Spirit

Fall, 2007

of the United States Adaptive Recreation Center

## Come join USARC for ACREs of Holiday Spirit

Well maybe not acres, but certainly several thousand square feet of holiday cheer await you as the Association of Corporate Real Estate Executives (ACRE) hosts its Annual Holiday Party and Auction.

ACRE, a professional networking organization, is yet another example of the USARC's financial collaboration with the private sector. As an important part of its diversified base of support, the USARC was selected by ACRE as the recipient of the proceeds from their annual holiday gala. This season's soiree has moved to a new venue, Stefano's Da Vinci in Long Beach.



Elegant marble and wood surroundings gleam behind towering walls of glass, through which a unique form of entertainment takes place: watching aircraft of all sizes and types soar into the skies from the runways of the Long Beach airport. With that as the backdrop, you and your family, friends and colleagues will sip and sample your way through a variety of delicious foods and beverages, including the famous Martini Luge (for adults only,) while perusing the incredible items for bid in the silent and live auctions.

Whether you'll be gift shopping or just treating yourself to a little holiday cheer, the ACRE Holiday Party will be a wonderful evening of fun and festivity for you and yours. Auction items (including goods, services, tickets, vacation rentals, etc.) are still needed, so if you or someone you know can donate something, or just for more information, please call the USARC at 909.584.0269.

## Volunteers to the 20<sup>th</sup> Power!

Summer toys have been put away, and now the Peak to Peak Pedal is past, meaning the USARC staff needs to kick it into high gear. With the trees changing and the weather doing its typical 40 degree swing from day to night, there is no doubt that winter will be upon the San Bernardino Mountains very soon.

The 2007/2008 winter marks the 20th season of providing skiing and snowboarding lessons to countless thousands of people. This successful run is due to an extraordinary cadre of volunteers year after year.

However, that is where the similarity ends, because every year, every season, the volunteers come through. Some years there are lots of expert skiers and some years there are lots of beginners. Sometimes there are more men than women and sometimes just the opposite. There have been seasons full of youth and seasons full of the learned generations.



Tina pauses in her monoski while Roger and Carol perform some volunteer magic.

Thus, the only mold you really have to fit is the belief that the reward of a huge smile, the thanks of your student or their family, and the satisfaction of helping to improve somebody else's life, qua recreation therapist, is worth your time. If you fit that mold, then the USARC is a perfect place for you this winter.

(see Volunteer Power on pg. 8)



Stephanie and Maria smiling and paddling together across Big Bear Lake's sparkling waters.

## Heavenly Days & Sunny Nights

With the beginning of summer, Pine Knot Landing officially became The Dock Club at Pine Knot. Gone was the old, wooden dock (with its nails and splinters) we called home for so long. Thanks to Leo McCarthy and Wally Weber, the USARC summer program kicked off it's busiest summer ever by sharing their brand new dock facilities.

Not only did every summer session fill up the first days of reservations, but in order to accommodate many of those on the waiting list, two additional sessions were added at the end of August, as well as one more in September to accommodate a Canadian "Reality" TV show dedicated to people undertaking unique challenges!

With such an enthusiastic response, USARC staff members and volunteers dusted off their wetsuits and started their literal and proverbial motors, to provide watery wonderment to hundreds of excited participants. (see Heavenly Days on pg. 7)

# A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear USARC Friends,

As I pen this, leaves, be they golden or auburn or every shade in between, cavort in the cool autumn winds, frolic in jumbled piles on the ground, and twist in the air in an attempt to sunder and skydive away from the tether that has held them captive since spring. Their brief spiraling dance of freedom, however moribund and russet in its culmination, is yet a vibrant portent (hopefully) of winter's frosty, white arrival.

Summer is over, but it sure was fun! We were proud to add additional sessions to accommodate all the enthusiastic participants who sought out the varied excitement of the activities, the expertise of the staff (and Mr. Intern) and the devotion of the incredible volunteers. Our proficiency and reputation was also on display when a Canadian "reality" television show sought out the USARC to film an episode featuring adaptive waterskiing.



**Tom Peirce**  
Exec. Director



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**Bob Wyckoff (aka Mr. Intern) competing in a campfire competition of Chubby Bunny.**

Indeed, the seasons have turned, nearly 20 of them to be exact, since the USARC programs commenced, and the recently completed ride is just one reason. As important as are the successful fundraising events, so too are the people planning, participating and supporting the events, and the programs behind them. As the USARC leaves its teenage years behind, it is with the hope that, like life, our deepest connections await us in our adulthood, and that you will become one of those amazing people to whom we connect.

At the risk of peroration, let me add that if you're not sure where to start in order to make this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season a part of your life, perhaps perusing the recurrent themes in this newsletter may help. Either way, as sure as the seasons return, so too will the USARC, and it will be here when you are ready.

Now, dear reader, it is time to "think snow." In truth, winter's crystalline calling card came several weeks ago, not just to frock the highest ridgelines of the Southern California ranges, but also those of the Sierras. In vivid contrast to the azure empyrean into which they poured, countless snowflakes reversed their normal trajectory as swirling north winds pushed up and over granite cliffs in gravity-defying white plumes, oblivious to the two dozen cyclists of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Peak to Peak Pedal ride (about which you will read more in the spring issue of The Spirit) laboring far below. We may have been on bikes, but we knew winter is nigh.

## Major Grants from FY07

Through its programs, the USARC is able to achieve wondrous outcomes on a daily basis. This is certainly due in part to the collaborations with the following foundations whose vision matches their generosity.

**Anonymous**  
**Anthony Arthur Foundation, Inc.**  
**Archer Johnson Foundation**  
**California Dept. of Boating & Waterways**  
**Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.**  
**Dan Murphy Foundation**  
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**Seaver Institute**  
**Sidney Stern Memorial Trust**  
**S. Mark Taper Foundation**  
**Weingart Foundation**  
**Frederick R. Weisman Philanthropic Program**

It is through the support of these groups that enables the USARC to subsidize lesson costs, purchase state-of-the-art equipment, and maintain a high standard of staff and volunteer training.

# Participant Profile - Smilin' Sarah Howry

Sarah Howry is a young woman of few words, but much laughter. At 18 years old, she attends Ventura College where she is fulfilling her general education requirements before progressing as an artist, as you will see below. Sarah enjoys rock climbing when she isn't waiting to come snow skiing with the USARC in Big Bear or eagerly participating in various watersports at the annual Land Meets Sea in Long Beach.

It's easy to know when Sarah is around because long before you see her, you hear her laughter. Sarah has an incredible zest for life and is always ready to jump into a waterski or grab the handlebars of a Jet Ski when the opportunity presents itself. Her giggle and smile are infectious and usually leave the staff and volunteers laughing along with her. Sarah is a perfect example of why people love to participate with the USARC, be they volunteers, sponsors, or other participants; she understands the importance of recreation to the quality of life. Armed with that attitude, Sarah always jumps in with both feet, so to speak. We hope you enjoy her as much as we do.



Showing off the smile that usually precedes one of Sarah's screams (cover your ears!)

**TS:** The Spirit (TS): How long have you been coming up to Big Bear to ski?

**SH:** Sarah Howry (SH): I've been bi-skiing for three years.

**TS:** What about the Land Meets Sea Camp in Long Beach?

**SH:** Five years.

**TS:** Ahah! That's how you found us! What does the USARC mean to you?

**SH:** Fun times with my pals and great adventures.

**TS:** What is your favorite part about coming up to Big Bear?

**SH:** Perfecting my bi-skiing skills. The first time I came up I was totally

assisted by my instructor. Now I use one outrigger on my arm and a fixed rigger, but my goal is to use two arm outriggers and become independent on the mountain.

**TS:** You really seem to enjoy the summer program. What is your favorite water sport and why?

**SH:** I love Jet Skiing. I like to get soaking wet and splashed when the instructor drives crazy. Also, because I can scream!

**TS:** We know, we can hear you hundreds of yards away! Do you prefer the winter or summer program?

**SH:** I love them both equally, since they are too different to choose a favorite.

**TS:** So then it's safe to say you'll be coming up this winter?

**SH:** Yes, I wouldn't miss it for the world!

**TS:** Who is your favorite USARC staff member?

**SH:** I can't answer that. They are all really great and if I pick one it wouldn't be fair to my other buds (on the USARC staff.)

**TS:** What would you tell someone who thought about coming to the USARC? Any advice?

**SH:** Try everything they offer! Trust me, it's worth it.

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

**SH:** Rock climbing, hanging out with friends and going to school.

**TS:** Rock climbing? You ARE crazy. What are you studying in school?

**SH:** I am studying photography. I fell in love with it when I was 10, and I have been snapping away ever since.

**TS:** Do you have any animals or siblings?

**SH:** I have 2 younger brothers, 17 and 9, and a cat named Muffin and a dog named Rocky.

**TS:** What are your future plans?

**SH:** To get a good job in photography, travel the world and get married someday.

**TS:** Is there anything else you want to say?

**SH:** Get to know everyone at USARC; they turn into your family. See you soon, I love you all!



Sarah heads to the luau after a day playing in the water in Long Beach.

The following volunteers fulfilled their Summer 2007 commitment to a grateful USARC and those it serves. Without the people listed here, the USARC summer programs could not operate.

John Alderete  
Robert Allen  
Debbi Armenta  
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Tom Pollard  
Cris Schlanser  
Joseph Shay  
Chad E. Stout  
Laurel Terreri  
George Watson-Jones  
Laurie Woodward  
Paul Zamoyta

# Choose from many strategies to keep the USARC going...

## Employee Giving Programs

Fall is the time of year to plan your workplace giving strategies. California state and federal government employees designate a portion of their income to a charity of their choice. The United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC) is on the approved lists for the California State Employees' Charitable Campaign (CSECC) and Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 43930) in California! Please designate the USARC as the recipient of your contribution.



Look for the United States Adaptive Recreation Center alphabetically in your campaign booklet or under "Local Independent Charities of America." To designate USARC as for your United Way gift (although the USARC is not a United Way Agency) complete the pledge form with USARC's name, address and EIN, 95-3872771. Also:

**MATCHING GIFTS** - Many employers will "match" a gift that is made by an employee to a non-profit 501(c)(3). Ask your employer and then contact the USARC to follow through.

**EMPLOYER VOLUNTEER SUPPORT** - Many employers support volunteerism through time off or a donation based on volunteer hours donated. If so, contact the USARC so we may provide required documentation to your employer.

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS** - Many employees pick charities randomly. Share your passion for the USARC and request that they consider designating USARC as their charity.

**PRINT OUR FLYER** - [www.usarc.org/files/wpgposter.pdf](http://www.usarc.org/files/wpgposter.pdf), if appropriate, to let your colleagues know more about the USARC and how a workplace contribution is utilized.

## Giving by Groceries

Register your **Albertsons/Sav-on** card on the Community Partners page of their website, [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com), and designate the USARC (ID# 49000119060) as your cause.



For Ralphs, log onto [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and click on the "Community Contribution" link, click the "Sign Up" button under the word Participant, complete the fields (USARC's NPO # 80843).

For stores such as **Vons, Safeway, Pavillions, Wild Oats** and many more, log onto [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), and follow the prompts to register your card(s). (ID # 152931854).



Do your Internet shopping through [www.i-give.com](http://www.i-give.com), where you can shop at countless major retailers who in turn make a donation to the USARC, without charging you more.

## Big Bear Real Estate Buyers/Sellers



Will Rahill, USARC staffer, is also selling real estate for First Team of Big Bear, and will donate 10% of his earned commission from any transaction to USARC, if the lead comes from a USARC member. If you have any leads please contact Will Rahill at [usarc@willrahill.com](mailto:usarc@willrahill.com), or on his cell phone at 909.645.1949 or check him out at [www.WillRahill.com](http://www.WillRahill.com).

## Team Up for USARCFest '08 Saturday, March 1

Teams of skiers and snowboarders of all abilities are wanted for the USARCFest '08, scheduled for March 1, 2008 at Bear Mountain Resort. Groups of four will enjoy a fantastic day of play together, while challenging others for the Top Team Title. Everybody receives a lift ticket with line cutting privileges, a goodie bag, lunch, t-shirt and apres-ski festivities, as well as a chance to win fantastic prizes.

The USARCFest '08 is a wonderful opportunity to issue friendly challenges to friends, colleagues, other departments, business competitors, other clubs or club chapters, sororities, fraternities, other classrooms, other schools and even your in-laws!

In the end it's all for fun, as you and yours slide or ride the day away together in the knowledge that everybody is really on the same team, the efforts of whom are supporting the important programs of the USARC. Save the date, start throwing down those challenges, and see you on the slopes!



Farid and Jared (in bi-ski) work together to carve through the snow in the 2007 USARCFest.

**Make a tribute donation for a Birthday, Anniversary, Memorial, Graduation or Holiday!**

# "Rookie" Volunteer Profile - Dan Romney

Dan Romney may have been a new volunteer last winter, but he showed the dedication of somebody who has held the USARC programs close to their heart for years, going above and beyond all expectations. Most volunteers are able to fulfill their 6-day commitment, but it is an exceptional few who make themselves available for even more, and Dan was one who taught nine days, not bad for a greenhorn.



**Dan is all smiles, probably because the 2007 winter season is almost over!**

old gentleman that didn't talk much but you could tell he was enjoying the day. At the end of the lesson I went to shake his hand and he grabbed me and hugged me. That was when I knew I had touched his life. What a great feeling!

**TS:** Describe your best day of teaching?

**DR:** I had to keep up with a younger student that was a good skier. I was sore the next day. It's great exercise doing what I love to do, no pain no gain.

**TS:** Tell us about an adaptation you made on a lesson.

**DR:** I couldn't buckle the top clasp on a student's ski boots due to her large calf muscles. That's when Ralph taught me the wonders of Duct Tape.

**TS:** What was your most challenging lesson and how did you handle the day?

**DR:** I'd have to say that the most challenging lesson was with a developmentally disabled girl that weighed about 280 lbs. She had never skied before and was apprehensive to say the least. With a lot of patience and the help of the USARC staff she was able to make three runs on the mountain that day.

**TS:** What did you do this summer?

**DR:** I went to Lake Havasu a few times with my family, fished here in Big Bear and worked on my house.

**TS:** Will we see you this winter?

**DR:** You can definitely count on it!

**TS:** What would you like to say to other people who might like to volunteer with USARC?

**DR:** A little bit of your time will go a long way and the feeling you get from helping these students is priceless. The USARC staff is awesome; you'll always have help and support on the hill!

It's not that Dan lacks pursuits in his spare time, but fortunately most of those are warm weather activities, like riding quads in the forest or desert and Jet skiing with his family and friends out in Lake Havasu or in Big Bear. Hmmm, maybe that explains why he was missing in action during the summer! That's okay, his devotion to the winter program was beyond expectations. The USARC is proud he chose to come on board as a valued volunteer and would like to share a little more about him.

**The Spirit (TS):** How did you first hear about USARC?

**Dan Romney (DR):** I was talking with a friend who was a volunteer and he mentioned the program to me. So I went to Bear Mountain and signed up.

**TS:** You were voted USARC's first Rookie of the Year, how do you feel?

**DR:** Honored, I wanted to make the time I spent with USARC participants count, so I really put my heart into it.

**TS:** Do you remember the first lesson you taught?

**DR:** Yes, he was a 43 year

## Feeling Racy?

Due to the tremendous success of past Skill Development / Level 1 Race Camps at Bear Mountain, the USARC will once again partner with the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) to reprise last year's popular (not just because it was accompanied by a rare snowstorm) event.

On a weekend (still to be determined) in February 2008, a racing coach from the NSCD, in Winter Park, Colorado, will join the USARC staff and volunteers at Bear Mountain to bring intermediate adaptive skiers to the next level. Many world class adaptive competitors honed their skills under the tutelage of NSCD coaches, going on to Paralympic glory and careers with the U.S. Disabled Ski Team.

On-the-snow practice will dominate the event and feature a variety of tasks and drills, coupled with videography and one-on-one coaching.



**Tim crossed the Atlantic to lay it waaaay over and slice around a gate during the 2007 camp.**

In addition, there will be "classroom" components such as video-analysis and the fundamentals of running through a race course. All of this will culminate in a timed competition on the final day, during which participants will apply the skills they have developed during the camp.

Participants, of intermediate ability or greater, are required to provide their own equipment, and must provide and wear a helmet at all times during on-hill activities. Please call the USARC at 909.584.0269 to register and you will, in turn, receive more information when details are confirmed early in the winter.

## Winter Volunteer Omissions

The USARC regrets the omission (in the Spring issue of *The Spirit*) of these volunteers who fulfilled their teaching commitment during the 06/07 winter:

**Evan Cassaday  
Cedar Morgan  
Tom Pollard**

**Matt Rohn  
Karen Scholl  
Alpha Starcher**

# The USARC proudly salutes these 2007 fiscal year donors!

Individuals and organizations donating products or services ("In-Kind" donations) are listed in the winter edition of *The Spirit*. If your FY07 (between 7/1/06 and 6/30/07) contribution of \$100 or more is missing, please contact us to correct the omission.

## Philanthropist \$10,000+

<p><b>Anonymous</b>  <b>California Dept. of Boating &amp; Waterways</b>  <b>Max &amp; Victoria Dreyfus Foundation</b>  <b>Frederick R. Weisman Foundation</b>  <b>Walter &amp; Jean Hollenstein</b></p>	<p><b>Kenneth T. &amp; Eileen L. Norris Foundation</b>  <b>S. Mark Taper Foundation</b>  <b>Dan Stormer Trust</b>  <b>Weingart Foundation</b></p>
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## Benefactor \$5,000+

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## Patron \$1,000+

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Maryon Lee	Lynnda Nelson	Retail Net Lease Properties	Service Rock Products	Women of the Moose
Tony R. Lerner	Patrick Nguyen	Tim Reynolds	Shahriar Shahin	Jack Woodman
Lister Construction	Lee Niemeyer	Reynolds & Reynolds Company	Jerry & Sally Smith	Timothy Worden
John & Nathalie Loftus	Les & Joyce Nouget	Shelley Rhodes	Richard Smith	Yahoo! Inc.
Mary & Leo Loftus	Russell Oishi	Morris Rice	Jack Speyer	Marjorie Zornes
Bob Lombard	Lee Oliver	George Richter	Steele Family Trust	Fred Zumwalt

## # 13 may be lucky after all!

The 13th Annual Peak to Peak Pedal is in the record books, and while many may think that particular numerical value means bad luck, there was a significant share of good luck on this year's ride.

### 13th peak to peak pedal



Bad luck? Well, the same weather system that delivered a cloak of snow to the high mountains brought with it some clearing winds on a scale that would make the heartiest sailors run for the nearest port!

Good luck? Let's just say that when there is a match-up between a cyclist and an RV and the cyclist can walk away to ride the next day, then there is no doubt that favorable fortune (if you refuse to use the term 'good luck') was in the air.

Details and photographs will be forthcoming in the next issue of this newsletter, just in time to get all the cyclists out there fired up for the spring cycling season, so stay tuned!

## Heavenly Days (cont.)

A few of those motors came courtesy of Callaway Motorsports in Riverside in the form of four new Kawasaki Jet Skis. Throw in a sweet Air Nautique tow boat (**for sale if you call the USARC**), a dozen kayaks, a roomy and sturdy sailboat (which seems to elicit various sea shanties and pirate songs,) and fishing vessels captained by a variety of "fish assassins" including Cantrell's Guide Service, and there were activities and smiles galore.

The heavenly daytime weather (only one hour was lost due to monsoon lightning,) was complemented by cool, moonlit nights. When not watching the staff clowning around, evening stargazers also saw spectacular transits of the still-sunlit pair of the Space Shuttle Endeavour and the International Space Station far above. Perhaps calling the USARC summer program "heaven on earth" isn't so far fetched!



**Sikander is so good he can ski and do a Michael Jordan impression at the same time.**



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**As this issue of *The Spirit* goes to press, many parts of Southern California have been besieged by devastating firestorms. The USARC offers heartfelt sympathies to the members of our extended family affected by these horrific events, including our volunteers, participants and supporters. The USARC also extends its deep respect and gratitude to the firefighters and other organizations and individuals who risked so much to ensure safety for so many. Thank you!**

**Help Wanted:** The USARC has **STAFF INSTRUCTOR** positions available. If you want a job with meaning, please call the USARC today!

## Volunteer Power (cont.)

Those are the important rewards, but volunteers also receive lift passes for themselves or friends (good on MOST Saturdays,) receive discounts on food and equipment, and experience the transition of their skiing and/or snowboarding skills to a higher level. Throw in eligibility for PSIA clinics and membership, and a lively season-



**Michal and Vanessa displaying the ultimate reward, big smiles.**

ending party, and suddenly you have a volunteer opportunity like no other!  
 The USARC needs 150 volunteers this winter to create access to a spectacular outdoor world where everybody can feel the freedom of gliding down snowy slopes. Check out the dates on this page, then download an application at [www.usarc.org](http://www.usarc.org), or call the USARC at 909.584.0269 for information. The USARC needs you to join a great team and change lives!

## What's up at the USARC?

### November

- 6 Individual Lesson Reservations Begin
- 24 Winter Lessons Begin (snow permitting)

### December

- 3-4 Returning Volunteer Training Clinic
- 12 ACRE Holiday Party (Long Beach)
- 13-16 New Volunteer Training Clinic
- 15-16 Returning Volunteer Training Clinic

### January

- 3-6 New Volunteer Training Clinic
- 5-6 Returning Volunteer Training Clinic
- 7 Group Lessons Begin

### February

- 2 PSIA "Welcome to Adaptive" Clinic
- 17 PSIA Adaptive Certification Exam Prep
- TBD Race Development Camp/Level 1 Race

### March

- 1 USARCFest '07
- 15 Volunteer Recognition Party
- 24-26 PSIA Adaptive Exam
- 30 P2P12 Reunion Party/Slideshow