



**DISABLED
SPORTS
EASTERN
SIERRA**

Sierra Snow Notes

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Empowering our students and staff to maximize their abilities!!

RESERVATIONS ARE FILLING UP... ACT FAST!

DSES is now taking reservations for lessons!

Mammoth Mountain ski area has opened for the winter season and is enjoying their earliest opening in ten years. DSES has begun accepting reservations for the 2004-2005 season. DSES celebrated its first lesson of the season on Saturday October 23rd. Bill Cripe (in mono-ski) and DSES volunteer coordinator and instructor Maximus zoomed around the mountain along with Anita Haenni and Peter Bangen. The mountain is open top to bottom and currently has a base of four to six feet and is receiving more snow on a regular basis.



ISLAND EXTRAVAGANZA!

Raffle, Silent Auction, Dinner, Dance, Party!



Bonnie & Holly go wild!

We are excited to report that our winter **FUNDRAISER** will be held at The Old Mammoth Grill and Bar on Dec. 11, 2004 from 5:00 -11:00. Our theme is *tropical* and our grand prize for the **Raffle** is a rounda trip air fare for 2 to Tahiti. Thank you Air Tahiti Nui. Other fun raffle prizes are \$250 gift certificate from Footloose, skis and bindings from Mammoth Sporting Goods, dinners, massages, facials, and tons more. Our **Silent Auction**

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ALSO FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE!

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DSES' NEWEST FACE "Jill Butz"



Jill Butz is DSES' new administrative assistant. Jill came to us from La Rue, Ohio and has been living in Mammoth just over a month "So far I love it, there are a lot more trees and beautiful scenery than in Ohio!"

Jill has a sports management degree from Cedarville University and has prior experience working in the company of people with disabilities. In her short time in Mammoth, Jill has gotten in a lot of snowboarding is excited about the upcoming season. "It takes a little longer to get down the mountain (Mammoth) than our hill in Ohio," said Jill.

As for her job with DSES Jill has enjoyed her time learning her new job and says "This job has definitely taken me out of my comfort zone, but in a good way," she adds "This program is great! The volunteers are so into this, it is amazing to see." DSES couldn't be more excited about Jill and her addition to the program.

A Special Gift

Bonnie Minaker recently donated \$2000 in memory of her husband George Minaker's passing. She hopes this gift will help other people love the mountains as much as her husband did.

NEW NAME ~ SAME GAME

Mammoth Adaptive Sports Foundation (MASF) was founded in 2000 to fulfill needs of people with disabilities. As this Foundation has reached out supporting those with disabilities in the local area, it became

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The Town of Mammoth Lakes Department Tourism and Recreation donated \$12,500 to DSES. What an incredible gift!

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boasts some fabulous items including four 7-day stays in Hawaii (2), Costa Rica and Mission Bay. Featured items of our silent auction are runs and photos with either Meb Keflezighi or Deena Kastor. They are both 2004 Olympic Marathon medalists!



Please come and join us at this great benefit. This is a great way to help fund our program and to meet new people. Raffle tickets and silent auction bids can be purchased through our office. You don't need to be present to win. Please call DSES at 760-934-0791. Aloha!!

A special thanks to the Mammoth Lakes Rotary Club for sponsoring two scholarships in the amount of \$3900 to the Disabled Sports Ski Spectacular in December in Breckenridge, Co.

In-Kind Donations

Thank you to all of our gracious In-Kind donors. All of the donors listed below have given gifts to DSES.....because of them we can make a difference in people's lives. We apologize for any omissions or incorrect listing here. Please contact us at (760)934-0791 or dses@uneedspeed.net for any corrections.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Mammoth Mountain Ski Area | • Mammoth Firewood Company | • Mammoth Mountain Sign Shop |
| • Mammoth Mini-Storage | • Heart in Hand | • Bobby Pearce |
| • Jon Eisert | • Speed of Light | • Paul and Judy Warren |
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| • Rick Wood | • Diana Blackburn | • Dr. Phil Cardan and Adie Alpert |
| • Allegra Stevens | • Hair & Now | • Mark Rothman |
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and Recreation | • OVO Helmets |
| • Another T-Shirt Shop | • E.L. Smoogen | • Sandie Kerridge |
| • Sierra Jewelers | | |

Mammoth Mountain supports DSES in so many aspects it would be hard to list them all! We want to say a great big THANK YOU for everything you do to ensure our success! Thank you for our office space and utilities, for lift tickets for students and volunteers, for our uniforms, for adaptive equipment, food discounts for our volunteers while they're working, and all of our technical support! This is a fabulous place to work and we are happy to make winter sports at Mammoth accessible to all!

MERGER Continued From Page 2

apparent that the largest need was for a winter sports program for those with disabilities. This need sparked the creation of the Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) adaptive ski and snowboard program. The MASF Board of Directors recently decided to officially and permanently change the name of the parent organization to Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and is in the process of retiring the name Mammoth Adaptive Sports Foundation. The vision of the organization remains the same:

Vision

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra is committed to developing life skills by creating opportunities for adaptive sports in the Eastern Sierra.

You will find the details about Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra and the educational program for those with disabilities on the website:

<http://www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org>

GREAT TURNOUT FOR VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION!



Volunteers gather in Woollywood

On November 5th a number of potential volunteers gathered to inquire about joining DSES. Almost all of the volunteers that attended the gathering joined the program. Most of the volunteers have little or no experience as instructors and vary in skill level and ability. The new volunteers are looking to join last season's crew of over 100 volunteers who donated over 4,600 hours of their time.

Over the summer and fall we had some fundraising events that gave us great exposure and earned the program some \$\$\$\$. Volunteers donated their time and assisted in the 4th of July Yard Sale (\$5,000), Whitmore Pool Opening, Fall Century Bicycle Aid Station, Halloween Carnival, Halloween Hot Chocolate Stop (\$250), Ski Swap (\$800). Thank you to all volunteers for your invaluable help.

THE "PHILWAHNEE" HELPS RAISE UNEXPECTED FUNDS



Recipients of the "Baribault Boost"

A recent gathering at the home of Dr. Phil Cardan and Adriene Alpert raised unexpected funds for the DSES program. Gifts were received from Rick and Shelley Taylor (\$2000), digital camcorder from Gary Buck and Pacia Platzek and \$1000 dollars in purchases of DSES logo clothing.

In an effort to promote and recognize continued education, Susan and Bill Baribault began a program called the "Baribault Boost," which reimburses PSIA fees to volunteers and staff who become PSIA certified ski instructors. Five instructors happily received reimbursements at the "Philwahnee." Great party!!!!

TAHITI. CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Island Buffet Dinner
Coconut-battered shrimp, Kahlua Pork
Veggie rice bowl, fresh green salad
And Tropical fruit salad

Dine and DANCE
\$30
Old Mammoth Grill & Bar
Sierra Center Mall
Saturday Dec. 11th
5:00p.m.-11:00p.m.
Wear Your Best Island Garb
Raffle
Grand Prize-
Round trip air fare for 2, Massages,
Gift Certificates, Bindings,
Skis, dinners.

Silent Auction
Bid on runs with Olympians Meb or
Deena, Hawaiian Hideaway, House in
Costa Rica, Local Artwork.

Island Extravaganza!

DISABLED SPORTS EASTERN SIERRA

Photo by Brent Kusahara

Stephanie Hergert steering the Bi-Ski with Volunteer Dianna Proemmer

100's of Dollars in Prizes

All proceeds benefit the non-profit Winter sports program for the physically and mentally challenged

Where the journey begins. **Air Tahiti Nui**

PAPEETE	LOS ANGELES	PARIS	TOKYO	OSAKA	AUCKLAND	SYDNEY
Coach Class	Business Class	First Class	New Airbus 340/300 Aircraft	www.airtahitiniui.com		

All About Me: A Journey into the Mind of Maximus. by Dave Owings

I grew up mostly in Kansas, where skiing is something reserved for Spring Break, and only by those who could afford to travel. My parents are both educators, so it was natural for me to fall into this realm of profession. My mother teaches P.E. at a local elementary school and was the first person in the state of Kansas to be certified to teach Adaptive P.E.! My father is a Professor of Accounting at Pittsburg State University, and has also taught in Taiwan and this coming June, will be teaching in Beijing, China. It is from these two wonderful people that I have a passion for teaching and working with people with special needs. They are the two greatest influences in my life, and without their love and support, I wouldn't be where I am today.



After graduating from high school I attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. I rambled around through several majors before deciding on Therapeutic Recreation. I think what made the decision stick was the influence of a camp I attended. Camp Koinonia (Greek for "fellowship in a caring community") is a camp designed for children ages 7-21 with multiple disabilities in East Tennessee. It is run out of the Recreation and Tourism Management Dept. of the university. It is under the direction of Dr. Gene Hayes, who was my advisor, mentor, and more importantly, friend while I was at school. He is responsible for giving me the drive and direction into this field. It was his influence that made me want to dedicate myself to providing therapeutic recreation to the disabled community. I worked with Dr. Hayes for six years, two of which I served on his grant staff, coordinating and running the camp, in addition to several other camps and programs. During this time, I developed an interest in Sign Language, and worked at the Tennessee School for the Deaf as a middle school counselor for boys.

I applied to several programs and was in between Miami and Denver, when I got a phone call from Big Bear Lake, CA, at the United States Adaptive Recreation Center. They offered me an incredible deal, basically money! Most interns work for free, and you feel really lucky if the offer discounts on food or provide some sort of housing. This agency actually said they would pay me! I was one of two interns that year that actually got a stipend. The other interns were green with envy! The only other intern who got paid was my best friend, Brandon, who was also coming out to work for USARC. The two of us traveled over 2200 miles in 32 hours! Once we arrived, our supervisor, KelLe Malkewitz, and our program director, Tom Peirce, had us working almost immediately. Under their direction and with the help of the senior staff, namely Will Rahill and John Pacente, we excelled at a very quick pace. I had never skied before, so they had their work cut out for them. But, in three short months, I went from a complete novice skier, to a certified Level One Adaptive Instructor from PSIA. They taught me all I now bring to the table, and I am indebted to them forever. Being an intern is sort of like pledging a fraternity, without building a float for homecoming. Brandon and I weren't deserving of names, so we were called Internus Minimus and Internus Maximus, respectively. He's a bit shorter and skinnier than me. That is how I came to be Maximus, whom most of you know me as.

It wasn't long ago, that I met Kathy for the first time. Boy was she a pistol! She seemed like the kind of boss that makes work more and more interesting as the day goes by. When she made it known that DSES was looking to hire a Volunteer Coordinator and instructor, I jumped at the chance to become part of the team, here in Mammoth. I am excited to meet everyone and share ideas and teaching philosophies with all of you. As the Volunteer Coordinator, my job is to make the volunteers happy and feeling appreciated. I can say from my past experiences that without the volunteers and donors, we could not run this program. We love you guys and if there is ever anything you would like me to do or change, please let me know! I'll do my best each and every day to keep everyone happy! I can't wait to work with all of you, so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Last but not least, if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our team as a new volunteer, have them call me at the office!

A huge thank you to the **EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICA** for their generous \$16,000 grant for our **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, Maximus!!!**



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Help save trees! If you received this by regular mail and would like to receive this by email let us know.
dses@unneedspeed.net

I keep getting asked “Why are you doing this? Why did you start DSES?” I’d have to say it’s because my parents Jack and Marie Harding have always taught me that “If you want change, make it happen!”

There wasn’t a great high school back in our hick town in Vermont, so my parents spearheaded building a new one. Growing up in Vermont, there wasn’t a lot to do in the summers especially for some of us way out in the country (except for getting in trouble at which I excelled.) My parents started a French and swim camp to keep us busy. My mom was always occupied volunteering; Brownies, Girl Scouts, Friends of the Library, hospital auxiliary, cancer drives or whatever came her way. Dad always found time to be on the school board even though he traveled a lot. They are still busy helping as docents and mentors. Thank you, mom and dad, for being great examples. Thank you for all your support, especially in



Kathy Copeland and her Woolly's

Launching DSES— emotional, financial whatever it is that I needed... I couldn’t have done it without you! Love Kathy!



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