



*We believe the freedom and exhilaration of outdoor challenges changes lives.
No one should be left behind simply because of a disability!*

WOW!! What a Successful and Record Breaking Season!

By Robin Connors

WOW!!! What a year! This year DSES had 22 volunteers and staff pass instructor certifications exams with the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA). The following is a list of all those instructors who dedicated time to teaching our students and training to a high enough level to become certified. **Congratulations to all!!** Thank you for your commitment and for helping DSES achieve a higher level of professionalism!!!

Level I Visually Impaired

Dot & Don Beck, Trevor Hildebrand, Sallyanne English, and Diana Proemm

Level I Mono-Ski

Dot & Don Beck, Anita Haenni, Maggie Palchak

Level I Developmental Disabilities

Johnny Goetz, Greg Hadfield

Level I Telemark

Julie Dietrich, Greg Hadfield, Maggie Palchak

Level II Telemark

Julie Dietrich, Maggie Palchak

Level II Adaptive

Robin Connors, Trevor Hildebrand, and Diana Proemm



Volunteer Greg Hadfield and student Tyler

By Diana Proemm

DSES, along with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area has broken many records. DSES served 1342 students this season and it's not over yet!! We look forward to skiing until the Fourth of July. Mammoth Mountain received 664 inches of snow this season! That's over 55 feet breaking the all time Mammoth snowfall record!! It seems that DSES keeps growing, which means that more people with disabilities are exploring the outdoors!! Don't forget to sign up for our upcoming Summer Programs. Please call the office at 760.934.0791 for more information.

Phil and Adie Tie the Knot Atop Mammoth Mountain!

By Adriene Alpert

DSES volunteers Adriene Alpert and Phil Cardan M.D. were married on April 20, 2006 at the top of Mammoth Mountain. They met exactly ten years ago to the day (April 20, 1996) while standing in line at Chair 3. Adriene was in the singles' line. When she skied out to get on the chair, a tall, handsome man with a winning smile jumped on the chair to share the ride up. He told her she was cuter than the guy he was standing in line with. The rest is history.



More than 100 friends and family attended the ceremony which took place outside the top gondola building under clear blue skies. The energy was unbelievable. It was an upbeat, positive event that we will remember always. Many volunteers from DSES were present, and the marriage ceremony was officiated by our own volunteer Ken Yegan. Even Woolly made an appearance all decked out in top hat and tails!

Phil and Adie moved to Mammoth Mountain in 2001 and graciously donated many hours to the DSES program both on and off the hill. They have moved on to Montana and will be greatly missed!! We wish them well in their new life together!!

Thanks to everyone who donated to our program in Phil's and Adie's name!

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By DSES Staff

Originally named Special Olympics, the event grew into California Special Sports and has since transformed into the "Springtacular" with a new look and feel. The new look features a great logo, compliments of Jorie

Nolen, and the new feel is one of encouraging individuals to achieve their potential through freedom and exhilaration of skiing!

DSES extends many thanks to Mammoth Mountain for supporting the event so generously! They hosted this Springtacular event that included lunchtime entertainment with Paws 4 Healing Therapy Dogs (and rat!), Kids on the Block puppet show, and drumming. Mammoth Lakes Parks and Recreation and Tourism Commission funded scholarships for the local "Stars," and local students made up one third of this year's participants ~ the most ever!

The Springtacular Dance was held April 26 at Ocean Harvest. All the "Stars", volunteers and staff moved and grooved the night away. DSES said they are grateful to Benjamin Louie, Doug Frye, Greg Roberts, Molly Geirman and Ed Hurley for "reopening" Ocean Harvest for the party, deeming it "one of the best ever!"

More than a hundred volunteers came out to support, organize and teach the super "Stars" for the Springtacular. Volunteer Susan Denniston says she volunteers because of "the laughter and smiles that skiing brings to the Stars' faces."

Volunteer, Dot Beck noted, "Warren (one of the "Stars") did it! He made 10 runs in one day and has become independent of all adaptive gear!" Successes happened all over the mountain that week. All of the "Stars" were soon successfully doing laps on chairs 11, 1, 6 and 2. These special "Stars" are ones to be gazed at with wonder!

It should come as no surprise to everyone that the DSES event exceeded all expectations, making the first annual Springtacular an outstanding event ~ one to be repeated each year!



Springtacular "Star", Wynton



Volunteer Garth Collings with "Star" Nicholas

Passing on the Baton

DSES sadly has to say good-bye to Rachele Sentner as she is re-locating to attend school to become an Occupational Therapist. She has done a fabulous job and will be greatly missed! DSES welcomes Heather Myers to take her place. Heather has been in Mammoth for three years and previously worked for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.



Rachele



Heather

Thanks to everyone!



**DISABLED
SPORTS
EASTERN
SIERRA**

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Diary of a Volunteer

By Mickey Pease

It was near the end of March and my love for skiing had been denied for too long. With a window of time available, I loaded my Subaru and drove the 5 hours to Mammoth Mountain. Just as I turned off the highway it began to snow and I had an adrenaline high.

I'd hooked up with Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra in the past and volunteered to give them half of my days.

Tuesday morning I was introduced to Nicholas, a 20 year old, visually impaired, Stanford University student. He was open about his disability. His goal is to become a radio announcer and you should hear him mimic the radio stations across the dial from classical to news, sports, rock, Christian and country.

We both liked the Christian stations. Nicholas made awesome strides in his skiing and blessed me to pieces. I'll never be the same after meeting Nicholas.

After three lessons with Nicholas, I went out with Karen. Karen had lost her leg below the knee at 11 years of age from cancer. She'd already mastered skiing and is now mastering snowboarding. She was so graceful on the board and I was so impressed with this woman who had made lemonade out of the lemons given her in life. I'll never be the same after meeting Karen.



Mickey

The next lesson was with Grant, a 10 year old who wore a brace on one leg. He'd mastered the bi-ski and now wanted to master the mono-ski. He took off on his own making incredible turns, over bumps and down steep mountain terrain. He fell often which was a challenge for me but didn't stop him. The last two runs were through the trees, down hills, and in deep powder. I did fine until he got lodged in a large snow pile. The other instructor and I dislodged him but then I couldn't get out without pulling myself through the trees holding onto the branches. Grant challenged my skiing! I'll never be the same after meeting Grant.

Davis was born with a chromosome abnormality. Although handsome, and able-bodied, his mental ability is far less than his age. He doesn't speak words but makes excited sounds. He likes to wander off and is unable to follow directions. His balance is good and he loves to ski, although he doesn't turn and tends to just go where he wants. The day was full of excitement and in the end Davis was happy and we were exhausted. As we returned Davis to his father, he turned, looked at me and put his arms around me wanting a hug. It was worth it all. I'll never be the same after meeting Davis.

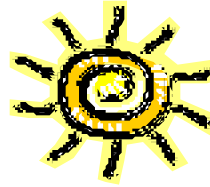
VOLUNTEER!!

Lot's of Fun!!
Lot's of Fun People!!

Call 760.934.0791

Or visit:

www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org



WALK NOW—AUTISM FUNDRAISER

On April 22nd, 2006, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra made their second appearance at the Resource Fair of Cure Autism Now's fourth annual fundraising event, WALK NOW 2006 held at the Rose Bowl. The event was a huge success and raised over \$1 million dollars for autism research. Rachele, along with volunteers Susan Stone, Gisele LeCou-Deckner, and Lori Sentner set up a booth and promoted DSES by networking with other organizations, and telling everyone about the programs and volunteer opportunities offered by DSES. A special thank you to Priscilla Picard of Cure Autism Now for giving us the opportunity to participate in the amazing event again this year!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ~ ANITA



Anita shows off her Gold Medal

Anita Haenni walked away with the Volunteer of Year Award at DSES' Season Ender Party. Other awards given out were Ken Yegan; Instructor of the Year, Thalia Hanson and Garth Collings as MVPs; Rookies of the Year went to Joe Hatch and Tim Haverly; Ken Klein received Most Adaptable; E.L.

Smooogen received Mr. Fix It; Cert Queen went to Maggie Palchak; Moover and Groover went to Greg Hadfield; the Popcom Junkie is Lee Aaker; Cutest Couple is Phil Cardan and Adriene Alpert; Training Fanatics went to Dot & Don Beck; Most Improved skier is Terry Smutney; our Late Bloomer is Jonathan Tavenner; our Hidden Helpers are Susan Sanders and Leann Fields; and last but not least goes to Dorie Bouelle as our 3-track guru. But we can't forget our Grant Writing Team of Leann Fields, Christie Fulcher, and Brook Pace.

THANKS VOLUNTEERS FOR A GREAT YEAR!

Sponsor a Student! Support our Program!!

You and DSES, as partners, can provide access for people with disabilities...challenging their limits, expanding their horizons and helping them enjoy the freedom that outdoor sports have to offer. Your donation covers the cost of participation in any of our winter or summer programs. It enables people with disabilities to go beyond their perceived limits and gain a sense of accomplishment that can transform their lives.

A \$250 donation covers the cost of one student to participate for one day in any winter or summer program. Larger donations will help to maintain our scholarship fund.

Any donation will support all students!

Please contact DSES for more information: 760.934.0791



If I can do this, I can do anything!!

~ **SUMMER PROGRAMS** ~

DSES is offering exciting summer activities. Sign up now for summer fun cycling, adventure and outdoor learning, climbing, hiking, and boating. Come play with us!!



**FOURTH OF JULY FUNDRAISER
YARD SALE**

**Saturday, July 1st, 2006
126 Twin Lakes Lane**

Come shop!!

We need helpers for set up on Friday,
June 30th and the day of the sale,
Saturday, July 1st.



DSES is seeking 2006-07 **WINTER INTERNSHIP** applicants! This is a great opportunity for college students to finish their field requirements for a Recreation, Therapeutic Recreation or related field major.

DSES is promoting a FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!!

Our GOAL is to raise \$100,000 by October 31st, 2006

CALL NOW to make your donation and HELP KEEP OUR STUDENTS OUT-

For more information on any of these events please call our office at
760.934.0791

or visit our website at
www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org

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