

# OAS

*Oregon Adaptive Sports is committed to providing safe and affordable recreation experiences for people with disabilities.*

Issue N° 18 — Winter 2010

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## Winter Greetings from the OAS Board

I looked up at the calendar, and, WOW, where did January go?!?!? My apologies for not getting a newsletter out sooner—one of my primary goals with Oregon Adaptive Sports is to make sure we communicate effectively and



in a timely manner. I am hoping that our email notification system regarding weekly lessons and events is working to everyone's satisfaction and that you're all getting good notice of events and lesson opportunities. As always, if you have ideas or concerns, please share them with us.

With a warmer-than-usual (and stormy) holiday season back in December, we had many cancellations during the wet-and-wild first few weeks of the ski season, but since then, our lesson count has been steady each weekend. Kendall Cook and his staff (Jeremy Fox and Greg Guise at Mt. Bachelor, and Ben and Sharon Sparrow at Hoodoo) have been consistently busy with giving top-notch lessons and ski experiences to our participants—along with all the help donated by our group of awesome volunteers. You all rock!!

We are now into the heart of our season and will continue to need many volunteers to help with lessons. The great thing about having more instructors is that we can offer concurrent lessons on weekend days; but this also requires more volunteers, so hopefully you are all still having a blast. The warmth, enthusiasm and skill that you all bring to these lessons make a tremendous difference in the lives of our participants. Keep it going!!

This issue of our newsletter will share some exciting news regarding our plans for the Spring, provide some highlights of recent events, and (hopefully) give you current news for what's happening with OAS. Put an ice pack wherever you need it ('cause we know you've been out there rippin') and take a minute to catch up with us.

See you on the slopes!

Neal Hueske,  
OAS President



## 3rd Annual Heroes in Sisters Another Resounding Success!

We are extremely proud to have hosted a very successful Third Annual “Heroes in Sisters” on Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6. We were joined by 18 disabled war veterans and their families (our highest total so far) for a superb day of skiing and snowboarding. The vets ranged in experience level from rippin’ to absolute beginners and all had a total blast.



The event kicked off on Friday evening, with our 18 guests and their families meeting with OAS volunteers, board members and staff at Three Creeks Brewing Company in Sisters for a “meet and greet” happy hour and to fill out some paperwork. On Saturday morning, everyone reconvened at Hoodoo bright and early under some partly cloudy skies and intermittent snow flurries. After some introductions, Kendall and his awesome crew of volunteers got our vets out on the snow and the fun began. The vets had a full day on the slopes and also got to enjoy the craziness and fun of Hoodoo’s Winter Carnival. When I finally had to leave for home around 5:30 p.m., I saw Ben Sparrow and one of our vets in a sit-ski heading back out for more skiing.

This is truly an inspiring event and one that everyone associated with OAS can be proud of. The vets ranged in age from 22 to 81 and all had suffered a serious injury while in service; the group included vets with paralysis, amputation, vision impairment, brain injury, and other significant disabilities. Every one of them embraced the day on the slopes with absolute enthusiasm, energy, graciousness and humor. I can’t say enough how great it was to be able to honor these special people, all of whom made the ultimate sacrifice for all of our sake.

I would like to make a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who came out and made Heroes the wonderful, successful event that it was. We had upwards of 35 volunteers who came out to spend a day on the slopes saying “thank you” to the service men and women and providing exceptional expertise and instruction. Kendall Cook, as always, organized the vets and volunteers and had things running seamlessly on the snow. Also, huge props to Kevin McCormack and Amber Blanchard for spearheading the organization efforts, and to K-Mack especially for making sure everyone was taken care of and made to feel welcome, and encouraging everyone with a smile and a slap on the back.

OAS also wishes to thank Matthew McFarland and all his staff at Hoodoo for welcoming us with open arms, providing donated dinners, and supplying lift tickets, equipment and giving our vets the time of their lives. Additional thanks to members of the Sisters Kiwanis for providing significant financial support for the event, and also to Disabled Sports USA, US Paralympics and the Wounded Warrior Project for a generous grant to help fund Heroes, Rays Grocery in Sisters for helping subsidize the Saturday lunch and to all our wonderful donors for making what we do possible.

Plans are already in place for next year’s Heroes event, and we hope you can all come out and experience it. It’s why we do what we do.

## OAS Expands Adaptive Nordic Program

With some valuable assistance from former board member Bob Byrtus and regular OAS volunteer (and accomplished blind skier) Nancy Stevens, OAS has jump-started our Nordic program this year, and hope to increase our participant numbers significantly. Bob has reached out to the Central Oregon Nordic Club and Tumalo Langauf ski club to gauge their interest in providing experienced cross-country volunteers and also helping drum up some interest in our program. In late January, Kendall organized a couple of visually-impaired ski clinics, one of which was a dedicated Nordic clinic, and we are excited about the potential for expanding our ability to provide adaptive cross-country skiing.

If you have interest in being called as a cross-country volunteer, please contact Kendall and let him know.

## Volunteer Happy Hours

We hosted our first Volunteer Happy Hour of the year on January 21 at Cascade Lakes Brewing Company in Bend. We had approximately 50 volunteers and board members attend, which might be a record. Thanks to Cascade Lakes for giving us a great evening and giving us a nice cost break. It was a blast hanging out and visiting with new and old friends from OAS, so make sure to try and attend at least one happy hour this year. We don’t care whether you’re making lessons regularly or not—come on out and hang with us.

Watch your email in box for notice of the next happy hour, to be held on Tuesday, March 2 at Silver Moon

Brewing in Bend. Come hang out with your OAS friends and fellow volunteers. All OAS volunteers and supporters are welcome. You guys all deserve it, so come by and have a few on us.



## \$25 Spring Skiing at Mt. Bachelor Again

We are thrilled that OAS is once again one of ten designated local non-profits that will benefit from Mt. Bachelor's "Charity Ski Weeks" giving program. As you may remember from last year, Mt. Bachelor will give us 500 vouchers to be used to purchase \$25 full-day lift tickets during a two-week period in April. This year, our period for the vouchers to be used are weekdays between April 5 and April 16. For every voucher that is actually turned in to Mt. Bachelor and used to purchase a \$25 lift ticket during that time, Mt. Bachelor will give OAS \$25 cash. So we have the possibility of receiving a large (\$12,500) donation from Mt. Bachelor, if all the vouchers are redeemed.

Last year, Mt. Bachelor donated \$6,350 to Oregon Adaptive Sports as a direct result of 254 of our vouchers being redeemed! We'd like to do even better this year, and with the program in its second year, we are confident that we can exceed our mark from last year. Mt. Bachelor plans to distribute the vouchers to the charities some time around the beginning of March. (The other charities participating at the same time as OAS are MBSEF, Sparrow Clubs, Saving Grace, and Boys and Girls Clubs.)

Contact OAS if you would like some vouchers. There is no limit, but please, only take them if you seriously intend to use them on the allowed days between April 5 and April 16. If they are not redeemed, then OAS gets no credit, even if all of the tickets are distributed. Please consider using one of these vouchers, getting in a cheap spring ski day, and supporting OAS all at the same time.

## OAS Hoodoo Hosts Second "Snowathlon"

Any die-hard aerobic beasts out there? OAS will be hosting the second "Snowathlon" at Hoodoo on

Saturday, March 13. This fun event will include a snowshoe trek up Hoodoo, an alpine leg down a gated downhill course, and a cross-country course at the bottom. Hoodoo season passes will be awarded to the top finishers, along with some gear and prizes from our sponsors. There will be categories for individuals as well as teams, which will hopefully include some adaptive participants. We hope to attract both serious and casual athletes. There will be a party afterwards to ease the aches and pains. This event will be a fundraiser for OAS, with Hoodoo donating facilities, and all entry fees going to OAS.

In addition to participants, we will also need volunteers to help run the race, so be sure and let Kendall know if you can help out on March 13. We'll need both skiing and non-skiing help.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at Hoodoo, with the race beginning at 1:00 p.m. For entry forms and other information, contact Kendall Cook at 541-848-9390, or by email at oasbend@gmail.com. Mark March 13 on your calendar and get ready for some heavin' lungs!

## OAS Team Competing in Bend Ski Club Race Series

OAS is currently competing in the Bend Ski Club's Friday Night Race series at Hoodoo. Kendall and his OAS team are competing with the first-ever adaptive skier in the series and having a blast. What better way is there to show what adaptive skiing is all about? Way to go OAS!

## Hats and Beanies and Koozies, Oh my!

OAS now has a sweet selection of winter beanies and caps for sale--\$15 to support OAS and look good doin' it. They come in black with a red logo, or red with a black logo. Contact Kendall at the OAS number if you'd like to purchase one. All proceeds from the sale of the hats support our programs.

We also have free stickers and drink koozies that we've been passing out at events like Heroes and Winterfest. These make good giveaways, so if you have a group that you'd like to throw some freebies at, let us know and we'll get you a stack of stuff. All publicity is good publicity, as PT Barnum always liked to say.

## Bend Winterfest

Hopefully you were able to check out the OAS booth at the Bend Winterfest on February 12-14th. OAS Board Members and volunteers were on hand to highlight what OAS is all about, raise a little

money and a lot of awareness and generally enjoy the Winterfest atmosphere. The event has really grown in size (and definitely has more of a festive vibe, at least at our booth!!!) since moving to the Old Mill District in Bend, and it was great to be a part of it.

Events like Winterfest are a good way for OAS to wave the flag and show who we are to a large group of folks. We gave away some great prizes in a raffle (thanks to Silver Moon Brewing for donating at brewery tour and tasting for 10 people) and had a steady stream of people stopping by to visit. So we had a lot of fun, made some new friends and got to brag about OAS—not a bad way to spend the weekend!



## New Sign at Sunrise

Check out our new permanent OAS sign at Sunrise Lodge at Mt. Bachelor. Many thanks to Dave Rathbun, Amy Ohran, (OAS Board Member) Kevin Stickelman, and everyone at Mt. Bachelor for making this happen. It will greatly add to OAS's visibility to Mt. Bachelor's patrons and will only help generate more publicity. Thanks Mt. Bachelor!!!

## Lindsay Vonn, Look Out!

In case you haven't heard: Congratulations to Kendall and Deena Cook—Adeline Alice Cook was born on December 31, 2009. She has her mama's smile and her daddy's hairline. Word on the street is that she can already nail a 360 out of the halfpipe. Way to go, Deena and Kendall!!! (I guess Kendall hasn't been spending ALL of his time at the mountain, after all.)



## Mark your calendar

<i>Volunteer Happy Hour</i>	<i>March 4 (Silver Moon Brewing)</i>
<i>Visually Impaired Students</i>	<i>March 10 (at Bachelor)</i>
<i>Snowathlon</i>	<i>March 13 (at Hoodoo)</i>
<i>Winners on Wheels Group</i>	<i>March 27 (at Bachelor)</i>
<i>Mt Bachelor voucher program</i>	<i>April 5 - 9 and April 12- 16</i>
<i>MonoX Race</i>	<i>TBD</i>

## Board Business

Since our last newsletter in October, we have had a few changes at the board. We are very excited to have added three new board members last Fall. Welcome Heather Johnson, Kevin Stickelman and Bethany Graham!!!

Heather is publisher of 1859 Magazine and was formerly the advertising sales director with Bend Living magazine. Kevin is the Director of Guest Experience at Mt. Bachelor. And Bethany is an employment lawyer with Les Schwab Tires, formerly an attorney at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt.

We are thrilled to have the breadth of experience and talents brought to the Board by Heather, Bethany and Kevin. At the same time, we are sorry that our friend and colleague, Jim Sander, resigned from the Board in January—though Jim promises to stay close with OAS and continue to help with events and volunteering.

**Neal Hueske — President**  
**Kevin McCormack — Vice President**  
**Colleen Dougherty — Treasurer**  
**Deena Cook — Secretary**  
**Kendall Cook — Program Director**  
**JD Cornutt — Board member**  
**Bethany Graham — Board member**  
**Heather Johnson — Board member**  
**J.J. Jones — Board member**  
**Kevin Stickelman — Board member**

## Oregon Adaptive Sports

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