



# *The Spirit*

Summer  
2023

**of the United States Adaptive Recreation Center**

## **Out with the Old, In with the NEW!**

It finally happened! After almost 35 years, the USARC building has come down. As most of you know, we have been waiting for 3 years for the demolition to take place. Thank you to the crews for allowing us to watch it unfold.

The new USARC building will be located on the deck by Big Bear Sports Shop. While construction on the new building hasn't started yet, progress is being made. Follow us on social media to follow the progress!



Although it is the end of an era, we are excited for what's to come and to be able to design our new building to accommodate more athletes and their families. While it won't be bigger, it will be home. If anyone has any leads for office furniture, lumber, or ideas, please share them with us.

For now, our Summer offices are at the Adventure Academy at Bear Mountain. So if you want to stop by and say hi, that is where you will find us!

Thank you to Big Bear Mountain Resorts for continuing your support and dedication to USARC! We are looking forward to many more years of partnership.

## **SNOWMEGADDON 2023**

What a winter it has been! Snowmageddon brought us one of the biggest winters Big Bear has seen in over 20 years! Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants for working with us through the schedule changes this past season.

The Ski-A-Thon was postponed and combined with the Volunteer Party, which became the Snowmegaddon Party. Although it was different, everyone still had a great time! Ski-A-Thon fundraisers raised over \$40,000 for USARC and it's mission!



Big Bear received over 200" of snow, with all the craziness that ensued with that amount of snow it is easy to overlook the true impact that we have on the lives of our incredible athletes and their families. Despite the roads being closed for almost two full weeks we managed to finish strong with another amazing season. With the help of our amazing staff and volunteers we were able to provide over 1,000 lessons this winter impacting about 400 families.

These aren't just numbers on a page, but embody a profound and tangible impact. Our lessons given translate to over 1,000 smiles seen and memories made; 400 lives changed!

# A Note from the Executive Director

It has been a busy season! We extended our season into April for the first time in USARC history. The off season hasn't slowed down! We held our first annual Helping Hands Poker Run, we are exploring options to restart our mountain biking program, and we are getting a new building! USARC is working to expand it's impact and it's really happening!



Sara Rosell-Gavigan  
Executive Director



With so much going on, it's truly exciting to see some of the ideas and dreams become a reality. As the Executive Director of this life changing program, none of this would happen without my team. USARC is lucky to have such dedicated individuals who are driven to see this program thrive.

Our selfless volunteers are not to be left out. Without them, none of our programming would be possible. They are truly the lifeblood of this program. This season alone the volunteers gave 710 days collectively which is equivalent to 4,260 hours! I encourage you to spread the word, and get your friends involved in this one of a kind organization.



I am excited to see how things progress over the summer and into next winter. Stay tuned for updates and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Until then, respectively yours,

## ADMINISTRATION

Sara Rosell, Exec. Dir  
Shelly Egerer, Admin. Asst.  
DJ Horner, Program Coord.  
Emily Hammond, Outreach

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Mattos, President  
Bill Webster, Treasurer  
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**MOVE  
UNITED  
MEMBER**

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

USARC is looking for motivated and outgoing individuals to work part time on our summer staff!

If you are interested please shoot us an email at [mail@usarc.org](mailto:mail@usarc.org) for more information.



# Lake Full, Summer Ready!

After our cold and stormy winter, we are all ready for the sunshine and water! Snowmageddon 2023 created some ups and downs for us this winter but we are very grateful for all of the snow and rain which helped fill our lake.



This summer we will have our very popular water skiing and paddle sports days, fishing and kayaking days, and two overnight sessions. We will again be offering the Snow Summit Adventure Day which was a great hit last summer. With lake levels on the rise, we may have the opportunity to bring out our sailboat for an entirely different adventure. Mark your calendars, reservations for summer are open! Call 909-584-0269 to make a reservation for your day now!

Volunteer training will be held on June 22 this year. If you'd like to come out and help our athletes experience the water, then join us for a free one day training session. For an application, please visit <https://www.usarc.org/summer-volunteer-interest-questionnaire/>.

We are so excited for this coming summer season! We hope that you will come escape to the mountains to join us in experiencing these amazing summer conditions!



## Be Devine on P2P29!

This year's Peak to Peak Pedal is officially in the planning phase! The registration website is up and we are ready to roll on the 29th Annual Peak to Peak Pedal!

Come join us on this remarkable and unforgettable adventure as we ride bicycles from Bear Mountain to Mammoth Mountain. Over 5 days and fully supported, this ride is for all riding abilities.

The Peak to Peak Pedal is USARC's biggest fundraiser, raising over \$100,000 each year! Let's make this year even bigger! Now is the time to sign up and start fundraising.

To register please visit: <https://pages.donately.com/usarc/campaign/peak2peak29>

We hope that you can join us!





# Athlete Profile– Aiko Voit

Aiko has been skiing with our program for four seasons now. She started off as a natural skier but has progressed more and more over the years. She is not only a beautiful and technical skier but also has the sweetest personality. All of her instructors talk about what a joy Aiko is to ski with. Here is a little bit more from Aiko herself.

**The Spirit (TS):** What brought you to USARC?

**Aiko Voit (AV):** My mom told me about the program.

**TS:** We are soo glad she did! Do you remember your first lesson; how did you feel?

**AV:** When I had my first lesson, I was nervous and hesitant on trying skiing. Then once I got on the slopes for the first time, I had a ton of fun. I got to learn so many different skills and have made significant progress. I also got so much confidence; it has helped my self-esteem.

**TS:** That's awesome! What is your favorite run to ski at Bear Mountain?

**AV:** My favorite run to ski at Bear Mountain is Exhibition on Silver Mountain.

**TS:** That is a great run and very impressive that you ski it! What is your favorite thing about skiing?

**AV:** My favorite thing about skiing is that it's a way for me to escape all the bullying at school and have fun.

**TS:** We are so glad that skiing gives you that freedom. Besides skiing, what are some of your hobbies?

**AV:** I am also a dancer and I surf when I can.

**TS:** That explains some of the finesse we have seen in your skiing since the beginning. What would you tell someone about USARC?

**AV:** I would definitely recommend coming down to USARC because everyone there is very kind, sweet and patient with everyone's needs.

**TS:** What would be your dream job?

**AV:** I'm currently still figuring out what my dream job would be, but I'll definitely like to become a volunteer at USARC when I get older.

**TS:** We would love to have you join us as a volunteer! You would be such an amazing and encouraging instructor for our participants! Thank you Aiko!



# Volunteer of the Year- Rodney Hsueh

Rodney has been with USARC for 9 years and has become a huge asset to our program. Rodney volunteers for our summer and winter program while also helping out on the Peak to Peak Pedal as our bicycle mechanic. You can also count on him to take great photos of our participants, riders and program. Rodney is a soft-spoken and easy-going volunteer who is always willing to lend a helping hand! Here is a little bit more from Rodney himself.



**The Spirit (TS):** What was your reaction to being awarded volunteer of the year?

**Rodney Hsueh (RH):** I felt honored to be selected and being inducted with many wonderful volunteers.

**TS:** Definitely well deserved! What is your favorite part about being a USARC volunteer?

**RH:** I enjoy providing instructions and assistance in activities for our participants. And seeing participants having a fun experience.

**TS:** Do you have a favorite program to volunteer for since you volunteer for winter, summer and Peak to Peak?

**RH:** I enjoy winter because I love to ski!!

**TS:** What made you decide to volunteer at USARC?

**RH:** I saw the stuff that Mikey and DJ did with this program, so I thought about trying it too.

**TS:** Awesome, so glad you did! What do you like to do in your spare time?

**RH:** I enjoy doing various activities in the mountains like hiking, climbing, and backpacking.

**TS:** Very fun! What do you tell people about USARC?

**RH:** USARC is an organization that provides activities and opportunities for people with special needs.

**TS:** What is your favorite memory from Peak to Peak?

**RH:** Peak to Peak 27, October 2021 ... When it was snowing in Mammoth on the last day.

**TS:** Yes, that was a wild year! If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

**RH:** I would like to travel to countries like Australia and/or New Zealand, since I have never been before.

**TS:** That sounds amazing! Thank you, Rodney, for all of your help. We are so happy to have you as a part of our USARC team!

## FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

**Richard Cappadona**

Collette Murphy, Cristen Kean, Connie Wadsley, Cindy Miles & Wendy Macias in celebration of

**Marilyn Capel's birthday**

Maria DeRa in celebration of

**Genivieve Cook's birthday**

Elena Messenger, Debbie Weiss, Bella Sanfir & Pamela Stearns-Heisler in celebration of

**Sara Gordon's birthday**

Carol Otters, Leann Levine, Leesi Herman, Vivian Sampson, Jonathan Eckman & Robert Russell in celebration of

**Leann Levine's birthday**

Lisa Johnson, Lynn Ungaro, Emily, Steve Burmood, George Halter, Windy Sirignano, Joelle Gonzales, Lisa Hayes, Chuck Yeager & John Brown in celebration of

**Matthew Leitner's birthday**

Matt Wright, Carol Lambeth, Vanessa Myrick, Dana Sujishi, Melissa Mcgauley Wright, Danessa Unsod Udy & Kamala Slight in celebration of

**Melissa McGauley Wright's birthday**

Crystal Medina, Casey Willis & Michele Marchetti in celebration of

**Crystal Medina's birthday**

Denise Tuck, Mike Gatlin & Michael Luketic in celebration of

**Dave Rosell's birthday**

Elizabeth Alexandra, Marci Worthington & Joelle Gonzales in celebration of

**Connie Ybarra Grace's birthday**

# A New Adventure- Helping Hands Poker Run



USARC has strived to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be able to experience the beauty and adventure Big Bear has to offer. In the search to diversify programming and develop new experiences, a crazy thought came to mind to help facilitate the true exploration of the outdoors through off-roading. Delving deeper into this idea, everything started becoming more and more clear and fantastic! Not only can we help make nature more accessible, but we can create countless more memories and smiles! Off-roading also helps to reach a more diverse population with next to no limitations when it comes to size, weight, experience level, mobility, etc. There are ways for everyone to enjoy!

Now that the impact off-roading could have for our participants had been realized: How do we turn this dream into reality? Some volunteers involved with our program were approached to discuss options on how to branch out into this new world. The expression "ask and you shall receive" is a complete understatement! Dave Cole (the creator of King of the Hammers) and his team reached out with open arms to give a home and help support this brand new event. From there the support just started flowing in! USARC was invited to set up a booth for the 11 day King of the Hammers event where we were able to develop connections with numerous off-road suppliers. The off-roading community as a whole is tremendously welcoming and supportive of our program and the direction we are headed. So much so that we received a total of over \$5,000 in event sponsorship through product and monetary donations!!!!

In the end, the event exceeded all expectations, becoming a resounding success! USARC was able to help educate everyone involved about trail safety, etiquette, and responsibility to preserve the beauty of nature while navigating the outdoors. With the kind donation of time and the use of off-road vehicles, we were able to organize side by side/UTV tours, providing people with an authentic off-road experience. Those who had their own trail-ready rigs were able to showcase their skills on trail as well, creating an inclusive and educational adventure for all. None of this would have been possible without our extraordinary team of staff and volunteers who went above and beyond to create everlasting memories! Stay tuned for next year's date and details! We're eager to see what the future holds for our 2nd Annual Helping Hands Poker Run!



I want to personally express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated, supported, and contributed to the planning of this one-of-a-kind event. Thank you for helping make this dream a reality!

Sincerely,  
DJ Horner  
Programs Coordinator



POLARIS





**We couldn't do it without YOU!**  
**Thank you to these amazing volunteers that help make USARC the best!\***  
**2023 Winter Volunteers**  
Underline=Taught 10+ days - *Italics*=PSIA Certified

**35+ YEARS**

John Alderete

**30+ YEARS**

Gilbert Cortez

Bob Lombard

Bill Yaeger

**25+ YEARS**

Tim Guebert

Ray Locascio

*Karen Mora*

Kam Lawrence

*Tom Pollard*

*Will Rahill*

*Andy Templeton*

*Paul Zamoyta*

**20+ YEARS**

Steve Betance

Mary Kay Chirico

Kim McRae

Tom Perez

**15+ YEARS**

Steve Barker

Richard Beynon

Tom Delgado

Kim Light

*Jeff Mills*

Jim Ortiz

*Jeff Palmer*

*Sandy Pappas*

Bill Shamhart

Neil Slate

**10+ YEARS**

Scott Adler

Dan Brown

Marilyn Capel

Kay Kobayashi

*Soo Jeong Lee*

Susan Mason

Josh Miner

David Price

Holly Shelton

Don Schroeder

Kathleen Snow

Paul Van Wig

Tracy Walton

**5+ YEARS**

Britt Aguilar

Jim Benson

George Halter

Rodney Hsueh

B.A. Laris

Reed Leong

Dennis Matavisko

Andrew McAllon

Ted Oden

Chuck Orozco

Pat Patterson

Colette Pfiffer

Magali Stein

Catherine Wolff

Connie Ybarra-Grace

**1+ YEARS**

Justin Barnette

Giancarlo Boscacci

Taylor Brown

Lee Cuthbert

David De Graw

Louis Demeo

David Eskridge

Garret Homsany

Vanessa Hu

Jason Lambert

Richard McCollom

Ingrid Miles

Brooke Moultrie

Terrie Nichols

Rob Outwater

Randy Richards

Hannah Rinard

Justin Segua

Theo Shoag

Oliver Stein

Jack Stoland

Michael Stoll

Ignatia Theresa

Abbi Van Dyke

Eric Vasiliauskas

Danielle Verbrugghen

Kevin Walk

Jeff Weber

Kim Wolmerath

Izzy Zambrano

\*For any discrepancies or omissions, please accept our apologies and contact us so we can correct our records

## 2022 IN-KIND DONORS

USARC's events and programs succeed thanks to the generous in-kind donors of goods and services from the 2022 calendar year. Please remember them with your patronage when possible.

572 Social  
Acatmeowz Graphic Deizgnz  
Lera Alexandrova  
Bear Valley Wellness  
Big Bear Bowling Barn  
Big Bear Cycling Association  
Big Bear Marina LLC  
Big Bear Mountain  
Resorts  
Big Bear Valley  
Military Ministry  
Blauer's  
Blistex  
Café Crape

Cantrell Fishing Guide Service  
Marilyn Capel  
Clif Bar  
Fitaid/Lifeaid  
Goldsmith's Sports  
Holloway's Marina, Inc.  
KneeBindings, Inc.  
Lion's Club- Ridgecrest  
Melissa Littlefield  
Bob Lombard  
Richard McCollom  
Sandy McRae  
Josh Miner  
Mountain Room Escapes

Sarah Noonan  
Paceline Products  
Pickle Power  
Rocktape  
Dave & Lori Rosell  
Select Physical Therapy  
Windy Sirignano  
Spike Sales, LLC  
Tropicali  
Mark & Alaine Uthus  
Paul & Allison Van Wig  
Betty Wilson  
Wyatt's Grill & Saloon

# *Memorials and Tributes*

The USARC is honored to have received donations in the name of someone held close to the heart of the donor and/or their family and friends. We are proud to see that many of the names listed below are current or former members of the USARC family, all of whom have contributed to the success of the program. Thank you all.

## MEMORIALS

Betty Wilson in memory of  
**Eric Thomas Burniston**

Melissa McFedries in memory of  
**Kenny Duncan**

Scott Ellenson in memory of  
**Brook Ellenson**

John Price in memory of  
**Gil Flores**

Mark Monninger in memory of  
**Roger Lee**

Catherine "Fab" Wolff in memory of  
**Delisha Medina**

Michael & Alessandra Alves in memory of  
**Mary Norman**

Melissa McFedries in memory of  
**Janice Schaefer**

Cristina Eglitis, Mary Carron James, Karen Cull, Theresa De Bell, Claudette Dorsey, Susan Hadeishi,  
Judy Mark, Lynda Millen, Wess Neatherlin, Molly Day Rearick, Lisa Szilagyi, Melayne Yocum,  
Debbi Li, Gary Christofferson and Dwayne & Kim Sinclair in memory of  
**Ryan Sinclair**

Marvin Fields in memory of  
**Lilian Slesinger**

## TRIBUTES

International Assoc. of Machinists in honor of  
**Robert Allen**

Johnny & Mia Hultgen in celebration the wedding of  
**Ryan Goldsmith & Nathan Bishop**

Henry Neale in celebration the wedding of  
**Ryan Goldsmith & Nathan Bishop**

Terry Segura in honor of  
**Mark J Gregor, Jr.**

Dr. Mojdeh Fatemi in honor of  
**Parsa Kalantari**

Tahir Khan in honor of  
**Harris Khan**

Sanjay Sen in honor of  
**Rohit Sen**


Richard & Andrea Mandel in honor of  
**Michael Stoll**



## 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 TRIBUTE TO A LOVED ONE

 Clicking here <https://www.givedirect.org/donate/?cid=1433> or via the Get Involved option on the USARC website at [www.usarc.org](http://www.usarc.org), will take you to a secure, reliable website where you can use your credit card to make a one-time 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](http://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

The USARC can be named as a partner when you shop at numerous retailers, either online or at “brick and mortar” stores. Other online retailers at [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) or [www.escrip.com](http://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](http://www.ralphs.com/topic/community-contribution-2) and designate the USARC to receive a portion of your purchases.

### PLANNED GIVING IN YOUR 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 deduction! Please call 855-500-7433 or click on the link to get started.



## What's ahead at USARC?

### MAY

30 Summer Reservations Open

### JUNE

13 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
15 Fish and Paddle  
20 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
22 Summer Volunteer Training  
27 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
29 Fish and Paddle

### JULY

6 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
11 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
12,13 Water Skiing and Paddle Day  
16-18 Overnight Session #1  
19-21 Overnight Session #2  
25 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
26,27 Waterskiing and Paddle Day

### AUGUST

1 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
2,3 Water Skiing and Paddle Day  
8 Fishing and Paddle Day  
9,10 Waterskiing and Paddle Day  
15 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
16,17 Waterskiing and Paddle Day  
22 Fishing and Paddle Day  
23,24 Waterskiing and Paddle Day  
29 Snow Summit Adventure Day

### SEPTEMBER

5 Snow Summit Adventure Day  
12 Snow Summit Adventure Day

### OCTOBER

4-8 29th Annual Peak to Peak Pedal

**USARC Wish List**

**Truck**

**Power Boat**

**Office Furniture**

**Lumber for inside building**

**Box Trailer for equipment storage**