



The BORP

Spring 2009

www.borp.org

Bulletin



BORP's mission is to improve the health, independence, & social integration of people with physical disabilities through sport, fitness and recreation programs.

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Dear Friends,

This is a very exciting time for BORP. I am pleased to report we are hard at work growing and spreading the spirit and reach of BORP.

In the first part of this year, we established a new transportation program, added two outstanding staff members, deepened our relationships with a variety of community groups, launched a volunteer group known as the "BORP Boosters," and re-opened our adaptive cycling center for the season. We are also working hard on our plans to move into the Ed Roberts Campus next Spring.

As you know, things have been a bit turbulent lately with the economy. While this poses challenges for BORP, the uncertainty has revealed the solid planning that has taken place within our organization. Our focus on building our internal infrastructure and solidifying our programs and partnerships has proved to be the correct approach to these unpredictable times. We are stronger than ever before and our programs continue to thrive and touch the lives of hundreds of participants in the Bay Area.

We are definitely making an impact with our work. But frankly, none of this would be possible without you. Your support and involvement means so much to us, and, more importantly, to the lives of our participants. Thank you for being there for our participants and for helping us reach deeper into the community and create more opportunities for people with physical disabilities.

—Kaia Burkett, Executive Director



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Dave is our new Transportation Coordinator. Dave has over 18 years of experience in the recycling field working for nonprofits in the Bay Area. He has managed curbside recycling programs and overseen the conversion of vehicles to biodiesel for the city of Berkeley. Dave also created the "Zero Waste Fellowship" with the Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance, which has trained international activists in waste diversion. Dave is an excellent addition to our team.

Erin is our new Youth Transitions Coordinator. Erin has extensive experience working with young people at numerous agencies focusing on mental health, inclusive recreation, and advocacy for the underserved. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Boston University, a Master's Degree in Recreation Administration from San Francisco State University, and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. We are thrilled to have her at BORP.

SPECIAL THANKS

Tremendous Response

We would like to thank you for your response to our December appeal. The generosity of the BORG community continues to inspire and amaze!

Drew & Heather Bennett

Drew Bennett & Heather Hudson were married on Saturday, May 30th. They suggested that instead of buying wedding gifts, people make donations to a charity. They designated BORG as one of the beneficiaries. BORG is grateful for their generosity and congratulates them on their union.

Alex Shebanow

Alex is a high school student who made a documentary film about BORG and submitted it to SI Doc Fest – a social issues documentary film competition for young filmmakers to share stories of people and organizations that are making a difference in the community. From 100 total entries, Alex won second place and he donated a portion of the proceeds to BORG. You can watch the film by going to the *News* section of our website and clicking on the documentary video link. Thank you Alex!

Clif Bar & Co.

Clif Bar & Co. hosted an evening with the Garmin-Slipstream Pro Cycling Team. Clif Bar donated the proceeds from the event to BORG. Thanks so much to Dylan Seguin and to Clif Bar for being such a great and long time partner and supporter of BORG!

Our Own March Madness

BORG's youth basketball teams, the Bay Cruisers, completed the 2008-2009 basketball season with a strong showing at the National Tournament in Denver over the weekend of March 20th. The Junior Varsity team (ages 14 and up) finished third in the country, while the Prep team (ages 13 and under) finished fourth.

The JV team began the National Tournament with wins over Dallas and Grand Rapids. They fought hard against the Charlotte Rollin' Bobcats, coming back from 13 points down, but fell just short of a victory. The team rebounded to win the third place game by four points over the Nebraska Red Dawgs, who came into the tournament ranked number one in the country. Because of their incredible performances, James Bohnett was named to the 2nd Team All-Tournament team and Jorge Sanchez was named JV Tournament MVP.

The Bay Cruisers Prep team came out of the gate strong at Nationals posting victories against Spokane and Milwaukee. They then beat a tough Dallas team in what turned out to be the best played game of

the season for the Prep team. After a tough loss in the semi-finals, the team just missed winning the third place game and finished the tournament as the number four team in the country.

Both teams qualified for the nationals in Denver by winning their respective divisions at the West Coast Conference Championship in Seattle over the weekend of February 6, 2009. Several BORG players were recognized for their stellar performances in this tournament:

- Prep team newcomer Christopher Rodriguez named Best Prep Defensive Player;
- Isaiah Ahlstrom named Best Prep Offensive player;
- Koda Inman-Ahlstrom named Prep Tournament MVP;
- James Bohnett named Best JV Defensive Player;
- Jorge Sanchez named JV Tournament MVP.

***BORG congratulates both
Bay Cruisers teams!***

JV Team, West Coast Conference Champs, finish 3rd in the Nation





The Olympic Club

The Olympic Club Foundation is holding their 28th Golf & Tennis Classic and Grand Auction on June 1, 2009. The Olympic Club is the nation's oldest athletic club, established in 1860. The Foundation supports athletic programs that enrich young lives and develop community leaders. They generously awarded a \$15,000 grant last fall to BORP to support our programs.

This year, BORP has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the 28th Golf & Tennis Classic and Grand Auction. We encourage you to support BORP's programs by taking part in this special fundraiser and amazing day.

The Golf Classic features 18 holes of golf on two of the most beautiful and renowned golf courses in the world. Almost any golf enthusiast would welcome the rare chance to play either the Lake Course (host of the 1955, 1966, 1987, 1998, and 2012 US Open) or the equally challenging and prestigious Ocean Course.

If you're not a golfer, or prefer tennis instead, you can still take part in the Tennis Classic. The Olympic Club is one of the premier tennis facilities in the country and was recently named the USPTA Facility of the Year in Northern California.

When the competition ends, participants and other guests enjoy a cocktail party, a silent and live auction, as well as a superb sit-down dinner and award ceremony. If you want, you can come to the Dinner and Auction without having taken part in the sport activities of the day.

You won't want to miss this legendary fundraising event! For more information or for registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit our website at: www.borp.org

Beth, one of our Bay Cruisers basketball players, started with BORP when she was six years old. At age twelve Beth 'got hooked' on wheelchair basketball. Now 18, she has been playing ever since and recently had a great time when she went with BORP to Denver to compete at Nationals.

Beth has also been involved with the BORP mentoring program and says it's been great to have someone to talk with who has been in similar circumstances. Beth says that BORP has been a great experience and has made her a lot more "ok" with her disability.

"BORP is a place where I feel like I belong and I don't have to explain things to anyone, since the people at BORP understand. At basketball, I was like everyone else and when I got back to school, I didn't care anymore about what others thought. BORP is like a family and I know that the friends I have made there will always be there for me no matter what."

A high school senior this year, Beth plans on attending Diablo Valley College in the fall. With interests in theater, law, and advocacy, Beth is excited about the next phase of her life. "BORP has been just a taste of what I can do, and now I am ready to go see what I can really do. I feel like the sky is the limit."





WITH BORP CO-FOUNDER SUSAN SYGALL

Many in the BORP community know that we were founded in 1975 by people with and without disabilities. However, most people don't know much else about our beginnings or the co-founders, Susan Sygall and Diane Schechter Pergamit. Susan was recently interviewed by Beth Jones, the youth participant featured in this newsletter.

Beth: Why did you decide to start BORP and how did you do it?

Susan: I decided to start BORP when I was a student at UC Berkeley. As a person with a disability, I didn't think there were any good recreation programs for people with disabilities. A number of us wanted to take P.E. classes and advocated with the University. I ended up taking gymnastics assisted by a Cal Gymnastics Team Member.

The actual idea for BORP began as a class assignment, but then my professor encouraged me to make it real and submit a proposal to the Berkeley City Council for funding. The City approved the grant and BORP was born.

B: Who is the other co-founder?

S: Diane Pergamit, a friend of mine from high school. She's still a good friend and currently the Director of the Willamalane Senior Center in Springfield, OR.

B: What do you see as the changes from when you started it until now?

S: BORP has grown tremendously and expanded programs and staff. I was so impressed at the 30th Anniversary Banquet, to see how many lives BORP has impacted and to see what a wonderful organization it has become.

B: What most surprises you about BORP today?

S: I would not say I am surprised, but I am grateful that BORP continues the philosophy that people with disabilities should be leaders and role models in organizing recreation programs and to see the pride that BORP participants have in the organization and themselves.

B: Did you know that BORP would have as big of an impact as it has had?

S: When I was 22, I never imagined that my class project at Cal could eventually impact so many people. I am truly amazed and incredibly grateful to have been a part of a

disability rights movement that has been so successful.

B: Do you have any advice for youth participants today?

S: Besides sports and recreation, I hope people with disabilities will look to travel, study, and volunteer in other countries and to share their knowledge and expertise as well as learn from others abroad.

B: What are you doing now and how did BORP influence that?

S: I am the co-founder and CEO of Mobility International USA (www.miusa.org), whose mission is to empower people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and development.

I used similar strategies in establishing MIUSA as I had used in co-founding BORP. Also, in all our international exchange programs, we have incorporated recreation and sports programs because we believe they promote leadership and self-confidence.

B: Anything else you'd like for people to know about BORP?

S: I would just like people to know that BORP was founded by two young women; one with a disability and one without a disability with a lot of other supporters and friends at that time. It just proved that if you have a dream, lots of people who support you in that dream, and are persistent, then all things are possible. I am honored and privileged to be one of the founders of an organization that has thrived and expanded for over 30 years.





BORP Power Soccer Teams Advance to Nationals

This March, BORP's power soccer teams, the Crushers and the Bay Earthquakes competed at the United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA) Western Regional Championships in San Jose. The Crushers finished in 2nd place, and the Bay Earthquakes won the Western Region Championship! Both BORP teams now advance to the National Tournament in Indiana from June 19th - 21st.

The Crushers went undefeated throughout the tournament until a dramatic 2-1 loss in the championship game against their rivals from Newark. While the ending was not as hoped, finishing 2nd in the Western Region and qualifying for Nationals was a great consolation prize. BORP is especially proud of Ian Kinmont, who was named Tournament Division 2 Co-MVP.

According to his coach, the award just proves something about Ian

that BORP has known for a while. Ian has really improved over the last year. As a player, he has shown increased communication skills, teamwork, and leadership. In fact, his grandmother recently said she was amazed by his transformation. His parents have noticed an increase in his independence and initiative. We congratulate Ian on his accomplishments, on & off the court.

In Division 1, the Bay Earthquakes overcame a slow start in the tournament to qualify for the championship game – a rematch with undefeated San Jose. In the championship game, BORP was aggressive from the start and with a dramatic last minute save, they held on to win 1-0 and finish the tournament as USPSA Western Regional Division 1 Champions.

We hope you will join us in wishing both teams the best of luck at Nationals in June.



NEW WEBSITE

If you haven't been to our website lately, you should check it out: borp.org. Our site has been treated to a brand new look and feel. While there, be sure to sign up for our eNewsletter, so we can keep you up-to-date and informed.

THE REVOLUTION IS COMING

The 7th Annual Revolution Ride, Festival & Auction will take place on Saturday, September 26th. This is BORP's premiere fundraising event. It's a blast and it's for a great cause.

Every year, "The Rev" brings together hundreds of people to ride their bikes, raise funds for BORP and promote disability awareness. With ride routes ranging from 10-100 miles, weekend warriors and serious cyclists join disabled and visually impaired riders on a fully supported ride along the spectacular landscapes and vineyards of Sonoma County.

Following the ride, riders, supporters, volunteers, families and friends continue the celebration at a Food & Music Festival at Geyserville's Trentadue Winery. Everyone is treated to gourmet food, fine wine, massages, and live music. A silent auction and award ceremony completes the day.

Registration for the Revolution opens July 1st. Space is limited...and with last year at capacity, be sure to register early so you won't miss out.

Save the Date
Saturday,
September 26!





NEW BUS AND EXPANDED TRANSPORTATION

Since other service providers are unable to provide this type of transportation, many of our participants would have no way to attend sports or recreation programs. For youth like Danny, Emanuel, Oscar, and Raejean, BORP transportation is the difference between playing sports with their friends or sitting at home. Now even more participants can benefit from our programs with our increased transportation capacity.

BORP has been awarded a two year grant from the Alameda County Transit Improvement Authority (ACTIA) to conduct a group trip transportation pilot project in Northern Alameda County for children, youth, and adults with disabilities participating in sports and recreation. The grant will help BORP address the existing gap of accessible group-trip transportation.

BORP's new vehicle is a 27-passenger accessible bus, purchased as a result of generous gifts from the Berkeley Rotary and the Ruth Arnhold Endowment Fund and a grant from Caltrans. We can't thank them enough for their contributions. This bus will expand the current BORP transportation program, serving more BORP participants and other groups needing accessible trip transportation.

We are grateful to ACTIA, Caltrans, the Berkeley Rotary, & the Ruth Arnhold Endowment Fund for making this possible.

BOARD PROFILE

– Tina Ybarra

We welcome Tina Ybarra as the newest member of the BORP Board of Directors. Yet Tina holds an even more prestigious distinction – she was the first BORP youth program participant 23 years ago. At 13, Tina met BORP coach Tim Orr and agreed to come to a wheelchair basketball practice and “instantly got hooked.” Until the age of 20, Tina participated in many BORP sports, with wheelchair basketball being her favorite.

Tina made many life-long friends at BORP and says that her coach was, “so encouraging, not just about athletics, but also about life.” Being around other BORP participants and volunteers helped teach her to be

strong and live an independent life. Her experiences travelling with BORP showed her that she could do things on her own.

The lessons and life-skills she learned went way beyond the sports she played. “I don't feel I would be as independent and ‘free-going’ if I didn't have the influence of BORP in my life.”

Tina's experiences at BORP changed her life by teaching her independence and team-work. She says this has directly contributed to her success



in her life and especially in her career. Tina currently works at AT&T and is also the Vice President of the Telephone Pioneers for Contra Costa County, a volunteer arm of AT&T. She also gives back to the community by volunteering with several other nonprofits in the Bay Area.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| June 1 | Olympic Club Golf & Tennis Classic and Grand Auction
(BORP benefit) Olympic Club, San Francisco |
| June 19 – 21 | US Power Soccer Association, National Championship Tournament;
Fishers, Indiana |
| July 1 | Revolution Registration Opens – For more information visit
www.borp.org or call (510) 849-4663 |
| July 18 | Revolution Kick-Off Party at the BORP Adaptive Cycling Center |
| July 31 – August 2 | Lake Doral Camping Trip |
| September 26 | Revolution 2009 – Trentadue Winery, Geyserville |

*For additional events and information visit our Online Calendar at www.borp.org.
This newsletter is available in audio (on cd) and as an electronic file. Please call (510) 849-4663 for either.*