

TRAIL BLAZER

Fall, 2011

Games Information

Montana has experienced a wonderfully long fall season. It was most welcomed following the long cold winter and spring. The Montana Senior Olympic activities are being planned for both the winter and summer games. The Nordic Ski Races are set for January 28 at Bohart Cross Country Ski Center in the Bridger Mountains outside of Bozeman. The classic 5 & 10K races will be held at 10:00 am followed by the 5 & 10K skate races at 1:00 pm. You must be 45 years or older to participate. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded in the five year age groups. If you have participated in our Nordic races in the past, you will receive an entry form. Those who have not skied with us before, can call or email for an entry form (406-586-5543 or kayjn@imt.net) Or you can download an entry form at www.montanaseniorolympics.org. The popular Ice Hockey Tournament will probably be held in late March under the direction of Jay Henderson and Ken Younger at the Haynes Pavilion on the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. They will be contacting those of you who have teams that have competed in other tournaments when plans are completed. To participate in the Ice Hockey Tournament, you must be 50 years of age or older. We will have more information about this event in the spring newsletter.

The 2012 Summer Games will be held in Great Falls on June 7-9. The games directors are Jennifer Fritz, Patty Reardon and Rebecca Richards. Those who attended last year enjoyed their fine facilities. The commissioners were well informed and did a great job of conducting their particular sport. The extremely wet spring produced lots of flooding which prevented some athletes from attending and hindered others in their travel to Great Falls. However, the weather cleared on Friday and we enjoyed lots of sunshine for the remainder of the events. The softball tournament is scheduled to be in Kalispell but the date hasn't been set. Our 2012 games will serve as the qualifying event for the National Senior Games being staged in Cleveland, Ohio in August, 2013. Most of our medal winners will be eligible to compete there if they so desire. The Cleveland organizing committee has been planning these games for several years and they promise great facilities along with many activities to entertain the athletes and their families.

National News

Social Media has made its way onto the scene and is now being utilized as a major marketing and communications tool for organizations. NSGA is utilizing a Facebook fan page. They would like for the numbers of "likes" to increase. You may become a fan by clicking onto the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/#1/pages/National-Senior-Games/105379918831>. If you are logged onto Facebook, this link will take you directly to the page.

We had seventeen athletes that entered the National Senior Games in Houston this past June. Those I've spoken with reported having a great time. In all there were 10,100 registered athletes. Of these 59.62% were men and 40.38% were women. Track and Field led with the most entries at 3792. Texas had 378 entered (not unexpected), Florida had 181 and California had 151. There were 19 core sports offered for competition. Pamela Roberts and Lew Savik, both from Kalispell, represented Montana at the Celebration of Athletes. Results from the games are on line but I hesitate to try to list our medal winners because it is difficult to not miss someone. However, I just learned that results booklets have been mailed to the athletes that competed in Houston. The national games were selected as the winner of the "Best Amateur Multi-Sport/Multi-Discipline Event" by Sports Travel Magazine. This was the second time NSGA has won this award as the 2007 games in Louisville, Kentucky also earned the honor.

Vacancies to be Filled

Since I (Kay Newman) have decided to retire from my position as Executive Director of MSO we are actively seeking a replacement. I will stay on board until after the 2012 games. As you know we are a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting healthy and active lifestyles for individuals ages 50 and over. This person would look for sponsors for the organization, oversee the local games committee that is conducting the annual MSO games, work with the national office, send out two newsletters each year and keep the list of participants and interested individuals in order. Also, Jonne Shearman, Games Registrar, will retire next summer. It would be ideal if two individuals in the same town could fill these vacancies because we work together closely. This would not be a requirement, just a suggestion. These are volunteer positions. Your expenses, however, are paid as long as receipts are presented. Jonne designs the summer games entry book, registers athletes as they enter, provides the commissioners with entrants and the necessary score sheets and prepares the results booklet. She is also the Treasurer for MSO. This could continue in this manner (Treasurer and Games Registrar) or it could be two positions. If you are interested in filling any of these vacancies, please, respond to kayjn@imt.net, 406-586-5543 or 2200 Bridger Dr Bozeman, MT 59715. Don't underestimate your ability to become a part of our games. You are needed and we will help if necessary.

"All-Comer's" Indoor Track & Field Meet

Tentative plans are being made for the 9th Annual "All Comer's" indoor track and field meet at the Brick Breeden Field House on the MSU Campus on January 28, 2012. The date has not been fully confirmed with the university so if you are interested, you will need to verify that the meet was successful in securing the popular facility. You would compete in the masters or open category. It is planned that doors will open at 9:00 am, field events will begin at 11:00 am with track events starting at 12:00 pm. For more information regarding online registration, schedule of events and rules of competition, contact Dave Skelton PO Box 651 Bozeman, MT 59771, email at bztclub@bresnan.net or visit www.bozemantrackclub.org.

Sponsors

Thank you to all of our great sponsors who have stepped up and provided backing that allows us to keep our costs to you the athlete at a minimum. Our sponsors include the following: The Grandview at Benefis (Platinum), Northwest Healthcare of Kalispell (Silver, Plus), Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana and Sterling Health Plans (Silver) Humana (Bronze, Plus), First Interstate Bank and Big Sky Wind Drinkers both of Bozeman (Bronze), Tourism Bureau of Great Falls (Patron). Our in kind sponsors included the Bozeman Senior Center, Channel 5 News, City of Great Falls, Parks & Recreation, Great Falls School System, Holiday Inn of Great Falls, Insty Prints of Bozeman, Max Media, Peak Health & Wellness, Pepsi, RSVP and Wendt Advertising. We owe all of you a debt of gratitude. We couldn't do it without you.

Mailing List

If you received this newsletter, this is the address that we will use to send your entry book next spring. It is important that you "Snow Birds" let us know where you will be in late March or early April. Our newsletters and entry books are sent by bulk mail and they will not be forwarded to your other address. Plus they are returned to us by first class mail. So, please, keep us informed.

Board Members

These are our current board members: Howard Bethel(Vice President), Ken Chomo, Peggy Collins, Greg Harris, Denny Huffard, Don Jelinik (President), Kay Newman (Director), John Paulson, Charlotte Sanddal, Jonne Shearman(Treasurer), Ron Tjaden (Secretary), Bob Wade, Al Ward and Flora Wong. We appreciate all they do for Montana Senior Olympics.