



Annual Newsletter, November 2014

Welcome to OAS's 'No Boundaries' newsletter! OAS exists to provide life-changing outdoor recreation experiences to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities and, concurrently, to provide their families with the education and skills to enjoy these experiences together. Through participation in OAS programs, participants, athletes and families gain confidence and independence, build self-esteem, meet positive role models and enjoy an enhanced quality of life.

We believe every person plays a part in our great community, yes, this includes you! Our newsletter goes out every six weeks and will include all the awesome OAS happenings. We are glad to have you as a part of our community and hope to see you out with us sometime breaking boundaries! Happy reading!

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

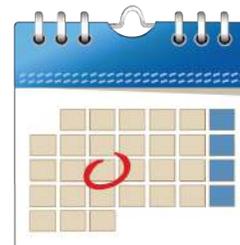


One of my favorite roles as Board President is sharing our progress and plans with you, our Oregon Adaptive Sports family. I know that our supporters are vitally invested in OAS and our future. With that in mind, welcome to the OAS 2014 Annual Newsletter and season summary, where you will find information about how your investment is making a difference.

Just as importantly, this report outlines our plan for the future. In 2011 we embarked on a detailed three-year strategic planning process. At the time, we were intimidated at the thought that we would be more than doubling our budget and adding such "ambitious" goals as having a full-time executive director and locating to year-round office space. Those goals were very concrete and, as it turns out, very attainable.

I am proud to report that OAS, with YOUR awesome support and hard work has now fully implemented the 2011-2014 strategic plan. Some key accomplishments:

- We are thrilled that Suzanne Lafky has taken over the reigns as Executive Director (almost a full year on the job!), continuing to improve our professionalism, ambitions and systems;
- Outgrown our office space on O.B. Riley Road and are undertaking a remodel this fall (with help from a grant from Lowes);



**November 17:**  
Portland Ski Expo in Portland

**November 25:**  
Charity Night at 10 Barrel

**December 3:**  
Let it Snow Gathering

**December 12:**  
Dirksen Derby Kick-Off Party

**December 13-14:**  
New Volunteer Training

**December 15:**  
First day of Lessons

- Added summer programming (golf, paddling, disc golf, cycling) to fantastic reviews;
- Continued to grow our winter sports programming, in both quality and quantity;
- Formed key partnerships with veterans and parks groups around the Northwest;
- Developed strong branding and outreach programs;
- Added additional staff resources with the aim of improving our ability to respond to the needs of a growing organization;
- Improved fundraising and outreach by engaging new members of the community, winning a few key grants, and creating many successful events;
- Became the beneficiary of Bigstock, the fundraiser focused on amazing music;
- Our partnerships with Mt. Bachelor and Hoodoo ski areas are stronger than ever.

All of this from careful planning back in 2011.

The board has now begun a new strategic planning process to guide OAS through the next three years. The goals we identified at a planning retreat in September are even MORE ambitious, and likely will be less visible. While the new plan is in rough draft stage, the emerging theme for the next three years is to ensure the sustainability of our important programs, while allowing for measured and reasonable growth.

Be assured that even as we look to the future, we will continue to do what we do best-offer exciting, fun, and yes, LIFE-CHANGING, experiences to everyone with a disability.

The OAS board of directors takes very seriously its responsibility for managing the growth and future of the organization while meeting our mission and vision. It is all only possible because of the great love, support (and donations!) we receive from all of you. Always feel free to contact Suzanne, any board member or myself if you have ideas, suggestions, and/or complaints or just to chat. Please continue to stay involved with OAS-we succeed because of YOU.

*Neal Hueske*

December 23:  
OAS's Birthday

### The Latest Snapshot:



Commence, Phase 1:  
OAS is going under a 'renovation' part of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation, intended help improve community organizations.

Many thanks to Chuck Delaney for getting the ball rolling on this project!

*More info to come later.*



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

*""Thank you so much for your support. I could not have participated without it. My experience was phenomenal. There is a great big place in my heart for adaptive programs. Without your equipment and expertise, getting out would be too much for a lot of people.*



To get a closer look, check out our [PDF copy](#) of the print newsletter.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the heart and core of our organization and extremely vital to the quality of our programs. We had hundreds of volunteers help throughout the year. OAS has been grateful for all the amazing volunteers that come our way-whether it's small or big tasks, it helps OAS continue to provide life-changing experiences for people with disabilities. We would like to recognize one outstanding volunteer for her valuable and selfless commitment to OAS.

*Getting back into activities from an adaptive standpoint is a huge and programs like yours make them seem manageable. I look forward to playing with you again. Maybe in the snow.*

- OAS Participant



Help support OAS in their continuous mission to provide life-changing outdoor recreation experiences to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities and, concurrently, to provide the families with the education and skills to enjoy these experiences together. Many of our participant athletes and families leave with an experience they claim is unforgettable and ultimately life-changing.

Funds raised will provide scholarships to individuals and groups who cannot afford to participate otherwise. Without your donations, OAS wouldn't be able to meet the increase in demand, continue to develop programming, or pay for staff training and wages. Please consider supporting Oregon Adaptive Sports and help enhance the quality of life for our participants & athletes.

[Click here to make a donation!](#)

If you would like to get more information on sponsorships or donating, please call Suzanne Laf at 541-306-4774 or email:

[suzanne@oregonadaptivesports.org](mailto:suzanne@oregonadaptivesports.org)



For **Barbara Smith**, it's more than just a volunteer activity - it's a way of life. Our 2014 Volunteer of the Summer is Barbara Smith, a spunky retired physical education school teacher and spirited outdoor adventurer. Her outstanding commitment to OAS for the last six years years has been phenomenal.

Barbara has donated her time and skills to OAS doing everything from helping as a volunteer ski instructor, working with the Life Skills groups, helping with cross country skiers, hanging out with participants as their ski buddy, facilitating activities at Camp OASIS, answering questions at outreach & fundraising events, and so much more. **"Barb is reliable and enthusiastic,"** says Jeremy Fox, OAS's Winter Program Director **"Also, a core member of the winter program. She consistently puts**

**100% effort into every day she helps. She is truly a winter all-star volunteer."**

It's not only the amount of work Barbara has put into OAS, but she has also been instrumental in facilitating dozens of positive experiences for people with disabilities. Her energy, perception, and ability to think quick on her feet has been central for a high quality experience. **"Her help was indispensable for our kids camp,"** comments Lucy Swaffield, OAS's Summer Program Director.

On behalf of OAS and all of the people we serve, we extend our warmest appreciation to Barbara Smith for her tireless commitment to OAS. We look forward to her continued efforts in our mission. Thank you for all you do Barbara!

*Interested in volunteering with OAS? We are gearing up for our volunteer training scheduled for mid-December! Please check out our [website](#) to learn more and if you like what you see, send in an [volunteer application](#)!*

## JAMEY'S ADVENTURE

Jamey Stogsdill, of Pendleton, Oregon sustained a spinal cord injury over a decade ago but has remained active in outdoor recreation activities. This past summer, Stogsdill took on a two-day multi-adventure competition in Colorado following the rugged range along the Colorado River.

To partake in the [World Adventure Team Challenge race](#), Stogsdill got an adaptive bike on loan from OAS along with quick cycling training. Together, Stogsdill, two retired marines, a businesswoman and a fella known, as "the bike messenger of the year" became the ['Red Dawn Team'](#). They all met the night before the race and quickly dove into action the next day.



## WISH LIST

Oh you know we would love a boat and a Ferrari and just maybe a vitamixer. No seriously, this is for the benefit of our participants and their programming needs. Maybe you have something sitting in your garage that we could put to use! Our current wish list for in-kind donations is:

- Current ski clothing
- Ski accessories
- Ski Goggles
- Ipad, 2-3 years old
- Ipad cover

- Apple laptop, 2-3 years old
- On mountain video for promos
- Changing cord for Go Pro-Hero 2
- Wheelchair accessible van
- Card stock print paper
- Portable clothing rack

Your in-kind donation helps create a more efficient, safe, and fun environment for our participants.

To make an donation please call 541-306-4774 or email [suzanne@oregonadaptivesports.org](mailto:suzanne@oregonadaptivesports.org)



## VOLUNTEER

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only way."*

*only thing that ever has."*  
-Margaret Me

We need volunteers for outdoor programs, administrative assistance and such skills as marketing, fundraising and program administration

[Interested? Click Here!](#)



- Neal Hueske - President
- Jason Epple - Vice President
- Kelly Brawner - Secretary
- Collen Dougherty
- Joseph "J.J." Jones
- Kendall Cook
- Rod Ray
- Eric Ballinger
- Peter Gilmore
- Jason Montoya
- Kevin McCormack, honorary member

[Read more about our board members!](#)



For two fast paced days, Stogsdill's team conquered cycling across rocky terrain, a rope challenge, rafting, climbing sheer granite cliffs and so much more. **"I could not have participated without it (OAS support). The experience was phenomenal."** says Stogsdill.

*Thanks to Jamey Stogsdill for letting us follow you on your adventure. Jamey hopes to return for a repeat performance in September 2015, one that OAS would be proud to sponsor again!*

## 10 BARREL CHARITY NIGHT

*Tuesday, November 25th:*

Be sure to bring your friends and family to this upcoming [Charity Night at 10 Barrel Brewing Company!](#) A large percentage of ALL sales made that night (from food, beverage, gift items, etc) from approximately 5 PM - 9 PM will benefit Oregon Adaptive Sports.

During the event night, you will also be able to purchase OAS T-shirts, hats, beanies, raffle tickets with 100% of those proceeds supporting OAS. You do not want to miss out on this! Who knows, you could also be the lucky winner of our raffle drawing! For more information, please check out our [Facebook Event Page](#).



### NOVEMBER T-SHIRT SALE:

Also starting in November, \$10 from every special promotional t-shirt sold at the brewery goes to OAS - ALL of November! They have tons of awesome selections for guys and girls.

Soon enough you'll be hanging the stockings by the chimney - what better item to stick in the Christmas stockings? These t-shirts are a great budget gift, trendy, and help a good cause!

Happy Holiday shopping!





## CONTACT US

We love hearing from you. Whatever it is, drop us a line!



**541-  
306-  
4774**



[Send us an Email](#)



[Like us on Facebook](#)



*Think it... and it will come!*

Please bookmark your calendars for **December 3rd** for our Annual 'Pray for Snow' gathering where we can all get together to kick off the winter season with a hoorah!

We are excited to announce that [Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe](#) will be hosting this event at their beautiful red building right by the Deschutes River. This is a great site and one we are grateful to utilize for a gathering among friends.

Come one, come all!

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS

Want to get your kid signed up for a winter lesson? KIDS in the GAME offers financial assistance for low in-come, physically and developmentally challenged, and at-risk children to have the opportunity to participate in sports. This scholarship program works for ski lessons with OAS! To apply for a scholarship or to get more information check out [KIDS in the GAME](#).

*Thank you for being a valuable part of helping OAS break boundaries. We appreciate you.*

Look for our next newsletter: Early December

Oregon Adaptive Sports  
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Bend, OR 97701

**Many thanks to our partners!**



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Try it FREE today.

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