

SOUTHEAST REGION SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

www.somi.org

March 2008

Wertz Warriors remain strong for 27th annual endurance ride



Nearly 50 snowmobilers and 30 support crew took part in the annual ride and zigzagged across Northern Michigan from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2.

The Wertz Warriors are known for snowmobiling 900 miles across Northern Michigan to fund the Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) Winter Games. Stops at bars, restaurants, lodges and schools are mapped out during the very detail-oriented process of planning the ride route.

The Warriors present these fine establishments with a plaque in recognition of their work, and in return, the Warriors receive a check, which in turn, is presented to SOMI.

"Each of the establishments work with individual Warriors to determine the type of fundraiser(s) they'll be doing," said Ken Mattei, Warrior since 1998. "We've had bowling fundraisers, live auctions, golf outings, euchre tournaments, chili cook-offs, Harley Davidson tours, dinners, raffles and plenty more. Some of the fundraisers get pretty creative."

The chance to interact with Special Olympics Michigan athletes along the way is what makes the trek most memorable, for both the Warriors and the communities through which they pass, said Tim Kavanagh, warrior since 1982.

Since 1982, the Warriors have raised more than \$7.2 million for Special Olympics Michigan and the State Winter Games. For more information, visit www.somi.org.

Special Olympics athletes meet and greet Detroit Tigers

Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) athletes were provided the opportunity to share a table with players and coaches from the Detroit Tigers in a private luncheon as the Tigers' Winter Caravan stopped in Bay City and Mount Pleasant in January.

"The event was a success. Everyone seemed very happy and we raised \$1,476 for SOMI. We're hoping our newly formed relationship with the Tigers continues to grow and strengthen," said Ashley Diersch, Southeast Region Development Coordinator for SOMI.

Tickets for the private luncheon sold at \$100, with proceeds benefiting the more than 15,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from across the state.

"The Caravan is a fun couple of days for the Tigers organization. We get out through the state of Michigan and into the communities in order to reach out and interact with our fans," said Brian Britten, Tigers Manager of Baseball Media Relations. "Obviously, Special



Brittany Kelpin of Rochester and Justin Verlander share a moment.

Olympics Michigan is a tremendous organization and we feel honored they're providing us with lunch today and we were able to come in and participate with these athletes, who perform at a high level just like the Tigers."

Marcus Thames, Edgar Renteria, Jacque Jones, Bobby Seay and Justin Verlander were some of the Tigers present. Chuck Hernandez and Lloyd McClendon represented the coaching staff.



Special Dreams Farm

Special Dreams Farm is a non-profit organization that provides employment opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities. The intent of the farm is to provide a safe and rewarding work environment for special needs individuals.

Special Dreams Farm serves person with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the age of 17 living in Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair counties.

Special Olympics Michigan athletes interested in working at the Special Dreams Farm can contact:

Larry Collette at (586) 716-9863 or lcollette@specialdreamsfarm.com

www.specialdreamsfarm.com



Northville Regional Basketball Tournament Results

Division I

1st Farmington Outlaws
2nd Cooley Cardinals
3rd Jardon A

Division V

1st P/C All Stars
2nd Neal's North Wings
3rd Jardon B

Division II

2nd Kennedy Panthers
3rd P/C Stars

Division VI

1st Farmington Storm
2nd Farmington Pistons
4th W/W Falcons

Division III

1st Lockhorns
3rd W/W Eagles
4th Warriors A

Division VII

2nd Blue Jays
3rd Silver Stars
4th Shelby Gators

Division IV

1st G.P. Stingrays
2nd Red Storm

Division VIII

1st Warriors B
2nd Jayhawks
3rd Sharks

Detroit Polar Plunge makes a (freezing-cold) splash in 2008

The Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Michigan has become a tradition in many parts of Michigan. However, the idea of jumping into an icy body of water never seems to get old.

Belle Isle to cheer on and support nearly 90 "plungers."

"I think the event went very well. We raised nearly \$26,000 for Special Olympics Michigan and we had fun in the process," said Holly Fountain, SOMI Development Director. "Thank you to everyone who helped make the Plunge a success!"

This year, hundreds of people showed up at the Detroit Rowing Club in



Nearly 90 participants took the plunge at the 2008 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge into the Detroit River on Feb. 9 in Belle Isle.

Buy Tigers Tickets, change lives

Tuesday, June 24

Detroit Tigers vs. St. Louis Cardinals

For every ticket sold, \$4 will benefit the athletes of SOMI. Tickets are \$22 and upper box. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.somi.org and follow the link, or call Ashley Diersch at (586) 731-0922.



In memory of James P. George



Jim was a resident of Beverly Hills for four years, formerly of Royal Oak.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving in Vietnam from 1963 to 1968 and a 1974 graduate of Northern Michigan University.

Jim was a Special Education teacher for the Royal Oak School District for 32 years - he retired in 2007 and looked forward to spending time with his 2 grandsons. He was very involved with Special Olympics and also coached baseball, football and hockey for Royal Oak Schools.

George was born in Badhdad, Iraq on Oct. 26, 1945, and departed Jan. 22, 2008. He resided in Beverly Hills, Mich.

He had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. He had a great loved for family, was a friend to many and was very dedicated to his students.



The Jewish Community Center (JCC) Maccabi Games have been offering a life-shaping experience to Jewish teenagers aged 13 to 16 years old for 27 years.

In August 2008, The Metropolitan Detroit Jewish Center will host the JCC Maccabi games for the fourth time.

The JCC Maccabi Games committee has extended an open invitation to all Special Olympics Michigan athletes who wish to participate in a Day of Caring and Sharing Wednesday, Aug. 20. The day will consist of various community service activities and is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Rock Financial in Novi and the JCC in West Bloomfield.

Contact the Special Olympics Southeast Office at (586) 731-0922 for more information.

Drew Stanton supports SOMI



Lions' quarterback Drew Stanton has made recent appearances at several SOMI events, including the State Winter Games and Lansing LETR Polar Plunge.

Saline State Basketball Tournament Results

Division I

- 1st NW Arc Wolverines
- 2nd AV Wolverines

Division II

- 1st Sr. Jazz
- 4th Fight-N-Muskies

Division III

- 1st Southgate Titans
- 2nd Shooting Stars
- 3rd Pistons

Division IV

- 3rd Marching Penguins

Division V

- 1st Barracudas

Division VI

- 1st Hot Shots
- 4th Sting Rays

Division VII

- 1st Gremlins
- 2nd Waterford Wildcats
- 3rd Sharks
- 4th Comets

Division VIII

- 1st Lightning
- 2nd HV Wildcats

New Area Web Pages

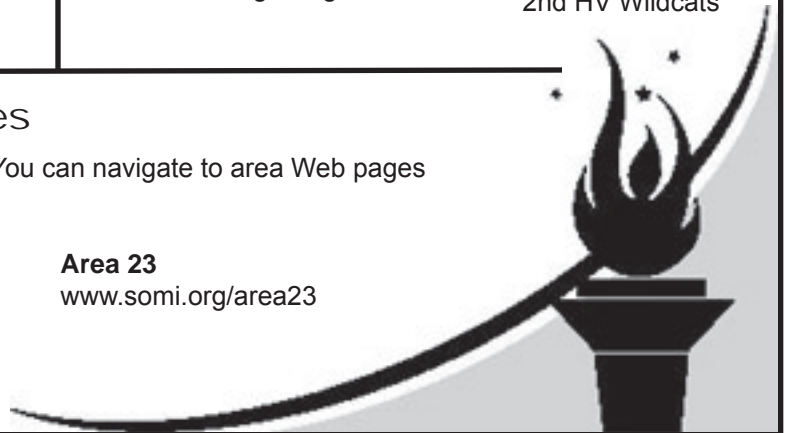
See what's going on in your area by using the links below. You can navigate to area Web pages from the SOMI Web site, www.somi.org.

Area 14
www.somi.org/area14

Area 15
www.somi.org/area15

Area 23
www.somi.org/area23

Area 26
www.somi.org/area26



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 8th State Juniors Basketball and Skills Finals, Lansing State Basketball, Saline
- 9th Area 15 Aquatics, Waterford-Mott HS
- 15th State Female Basketball Finals, Midland
- 18th Detroit Bowling, Cloverland
- 29th Family Fun Fundraiser, Total Sports Harrison Twp.
- 31st Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Main St. Billiards, Roch.

APRIL

- 1-3 Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Main St. Billiards, Roch.
- 5th Area Director Conference, Mount Pleasant
- 7-10 Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Main St. Billiards, Roch.
- 13th Area 15 Gymnastics Competition, Clarkston MATP Detroit
- 14-17 Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Main St. Billiards, Roch.
- 20th SuperStars, Michigan State Faigrounds**
- 21-24 Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Main St. Billiards, Roch.
- 26th Wayne County Bowling

MAY

- 3rd Area 15 Track & Field Competition, Lamphere HS
- 8th Macomb/Oakland County Flower Sale Pick-up
- 9th Area 23 Track & Field, Franklin HS
- 13th Area 14 Summer Games, MCC
- 16th Area 26 Track & Field, Kettering
- 16-17 Macomb County Bowl-a-Thon, Fountainview Lanes
- 29-31 State Summer Games, CMU**

JUNE

- 24th Detroit Tigers Night**
- 28th Detroit Dragon Boat Festival, Belle Isle Park**

JULY

- 18th Summer Sports Classic Golf, Ypsilanti
- 19th Summer Sports Classic Softball, Canton
- 26th Gopher the Gold Charity Run, Shelby Twp.**

** All events are subject to change or cancellation.*

* Please contact Michael Canale if you would like a story or event mentioned in the next newsletter.

30th Annual SuperStars



SuperStars unites Special Olympics athletes, coaches, volunteers, local celebrities and corporate sponsors on teams to compete in a variety of sports obstacle-course challenges. This year marks the 30th anniversary of SuperStars, an event that raises critical funds for the more than 4,000 athletes who call Michigan's Southeast Region home.

Last year's celebrity guest list included former Detroit Lions' Rich Strenger, as well as local personalities from channels 2, 4 and 7, The Detroit News, WWJ 950, 97.9 WJLB, 104.3 WOMC and 100.3 WNIC, among others.

Don't miss out on this year's fun! See the flyer on the next page for more information.

'08 Detroit Dragon Boat Festival



The 2008 Detroit Dragon Boat Festival is slated for June 28. Paddlers and sponsors are needed. Learn more at www.somi.org.

The 2008 Detroit Dragon Boat festival marks the fifth year that dragon boat racing has taken place in Detroit.

The Festival day will be filled with racing, entertainment, music, food, a dragon's lair party (beer tent) and plenty of family fun! The event comes to life with traditional Chinese Dragon and sword dancing. Included at the festival will be the "Kids Alley" with activities, crafts, naturalist exotic animals and babysitting services available for teams while they are on the water racing.

Special Olympics has been selected as the event's pledge drive recipient. To register a team or for more information, please visit the link at www.somi.org.



SUPERSTARS

Sunday April 20, 2008

2 to 5 p.m.

Michigan State Fairgrounds

Michigan Mart Building (Detroit, Mich.)

2008 marks the 30th anniversary of SUPERSTARS, an event that raises critical funds for Special Olympics Michigan Southeast Region, which is home to more than 4,000 athletes.

SUPERSTARS unites Special Olympics athletes, coaches, volunteers, local celebrities and corporate sponsors on teams to compete in a variety of sports obstacle-course challenges. The event is held indoors using an array of gear. Each year, hundreds of people await the fun and friendship enjoyed at SUPERSTARS. **Come participate and celebrate with us!**

Teams compete against each other in the following events:

- Sports Relay
- Scooter Relay
- Skills Competition

For a \$1,000 tax-deductible donation your company will receive:

- A banner with your company's name prominently displayed at SUPERSTARS
- Your company name/logo listed in the program, on T-shirts and press releases
- Verbal recognition by the emcee
- Corporate team registration including two corporate participants per team.



SUPERSTARS 2008 Sponsor Commitment Form

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check American Express Visa Discover Mastercard

Credit Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Enclosed is my donation for \$1,000/team.

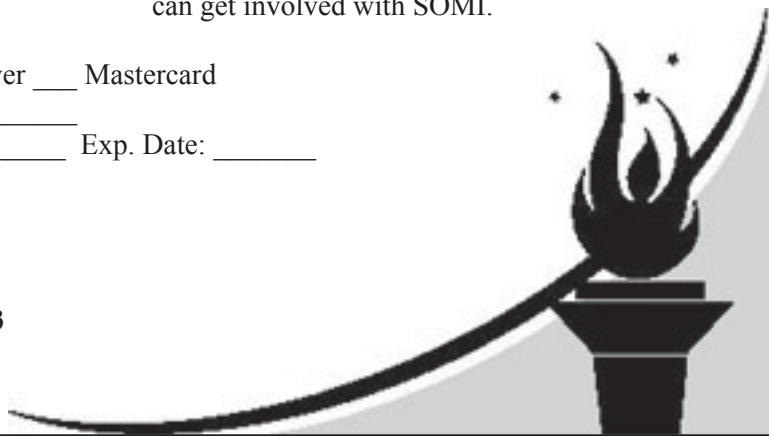
Number of teams

Please accept the enclosed contribution.

Please send information on how I/my company can get involved with SOMI.

Mail/Fax Completed Form to:

Special Olympics Michigan, Attn: Julie Brown
12900 Hall Road Suite 390, Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Phone: (586) 731-0922, Fax: (586) 731-0974



For more information:
PHONE: (586) 917-7574 or EMAIL: jean.lambert@cmich.edu



Saturday June 28, 2008
Belle Isle Park

Dragon Boating is extremely user friendly and anyone, young or old, at any fitness level can quickly adapt and develop a passion for this sport. Teamwork and friendly competition, within an environment of fun and excitement, best describes the dragon boat experience.

Come join the fun and excitement of dragon boating!

Registration Form

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Team Name: _____

Team Manager: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone (daytime): _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Team Captain: _____

Phone (daytime): _____ Email: _____

- Team Divisions:** Mixed Recreational All Male All Female Youth
 Mixed team must have minimum 8 female & 8 male paddlers
 Youth must be between 14 - 18 years of age

Register prior to April 15th and receive:

- Free race day t-shirts with team name
- Preferred practice scheduling
- Eligibility for additional practices

Team Registration Fee:

- \$1000.00 by **May 31st**
- \$600.00 Youth and Charities (registration due by May 31st)
- Make check payable to (non-refundable): **Detroit Dragon Boat Festival**

- Send registration/check to: **DETROIT DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**
12900 Hall Road, Suite 390
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Festival

- Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis
- Practices occur rain or shine



"Gopher the Gold"

Charity Run

Benefiting Special Olympics Michigan Southeast Region



Saturday, July 26, 2008

River Bends Park, Shelby Twp. (Ryan Rd. Entrance)

9 a.m. Start, Registration @ 8 a.m.

10K Run

5K Run/Walk

Kids' Free Fun Run

Proceeds to Benefit Special Olympics Michigan Southeast Region

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY * USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH RUNNER

Race Contact Info: trentbriney@hotmail.com, (248) 798-6533 or

(586) 731-0922 for Special Olympics Office.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age on Race Day _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mail Completed Form and Payment to:

Special Olympics, 12900 Hall Rd., Ste. 390, Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Make Checks Payable To: Special Olympics

Select Race/Division

Entry Fee

Shirt Size

- 10K 5K 5K Walk Fun Run
- Overall male/female, 5k/10k runners receive awards!
- Female Male
- Top 3 runners in each age division receive awards!
- 12 and under
- 13 – 19 20 – 29 30 – 39
- 40 – 49 50 – 59 60 +

- 5K/10K Run: \$20 before 7/16/07
\$25 after
- 5K Walk: \$10 before 7/16/07
\$15 after
- Kids Run: Free - (12 and under)
- Special Athletes Fun Run: Free
- *Note-Kids & Special Athlete Runs are after 5/10k.

- SMALL
- MEDIUM
- LARGE
- X-LARGE
- Shirts only guaranteed to registered racers before 7/16

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW BEFORE SUBMITTING ENTRY: I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in the event including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather and temperature, traffic and the condition of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your acceptance of my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act of my behalf, waive and release the Special Olympics, Shelby Township Parks and Recreation, Hanson's Running Shop and all sponsors and volunteers from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, for any legitimate purpose.

Participant's Signature _____

Date _____

Parents Signature (if participant is under 18 years) _____

Date _____

SPONSORED by:



Creative Technology & Training Solutions



INFITERRA SPORTS LLC

www.infiterraspports.com



clint verran sports medicine

runrun.com



FITNESS 19



Special Olympics Michigan
Southeast Region
12900 Hall Road, Suite 390
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

phone: (586) 731-0922
fax: (586) 731-0974

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jean Lambert
Regional Manager
jean.lambert@cmich.edu

Julie Brown
Administrative Assistant
j.brown@cmich.edu

Michael Canale
Public Relations/Events
canal1jm@cmich.edu

Holly Fountain
Director of Development/Events
h.fountain@cmich.edu

Ashley Diersch
Development Coordinator/Sales
ashley.diersch@cmich.edu

Hannah Hensel
Director of Development/Sales
h.hensel@cmich.edu



Special Olympics
Michigan

SPONSORS



Southeast Region
12900 Hall Road, Suite 390
Sterling Heights, MI 48313



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 98
WATERFORD, MI