

Calendar of Events

2009

Dec. 4 - Great Falls Polar Bear Plunge - Great Falls
Dec. 5 - Billings Polar Bare Plunge - Billings

2010

Feb. 6 - Super Grizzly Dip - Missoula
Feb. 6 - Penguin Plunge - Whitefish
Feb. 13 - Sweetheart Passion Plunge - Helena
Feb. 15 - President's Plunge - Bozeman
Feb. 20 - Pintler Polar Plunge - Anaconda
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2 - State Winter Games - Whitefish
Mar. 5 & 6 - Kick-Off Conference & Awards Banquet - Billings
TBD - SubZero SuperHero Plunge - Havre
May 12-14 - State Summer Games - Bozeman
July 18-23 - USA National Games - Omaha, NE

2011

Summer - World Summer Games - Athens, Greece



The Finish Line









Montana Torch Run
Premier Law Enforcement
Agency Partner



**Tim & Mary
Barnard**
Premier Mission
Partner

Check out the Montana Torch Run On-Line

-  Facebook - Montana Torch Run
-  MySpace - www.myspace.com/montanatorchrun
-  Smugmug - www.somt.smugmug.com
-  FirstGiving - www.firstgiving.com/somt
-  Website - www.somt.org
-  YouTube - www.youtube.com/montanatorchrun - under construction (help needed) Send videos to tsappintong@somt.org

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The Finish Line



MONTANA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN NEWSLETTER

Volume Twelve - Winter 2009

Torch Run Kickoff Conference & Awards Banquet

Join the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for the annual Kick-Off Conference & Awards Banquet on March 5-6, 2010. This year's conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Billings, Montana. Officers receive P.O.S.T. credit for attending the conference.

The conference begins Friday with Host Night in the Skyview Room in the Crowne Plaza. Officers, volunteers, athletes and friends gather to renew acquaintances and enjoy food and beverages.

The conference will be in full-gear Saturday with Opening Ceremonies beginning at 8:30am. Training sessions will be offered throughout the day for the officer new to Torch Run as well as officers currently involved. The conference marks the start of the 2010 Torch Run relay and provides officers an opportunity to coordinate the run and pick up all materials needed to organize a Torch Run relay in their area.. This year's Torch Run relay covers nearly 2,400 miles across Montana before reaching Bozeman on May 12.

The Awards Banquet recognizes sponsors and officers who have made a significant contribution to the Montana Torch Run – making us the *5th Highest Fund Raising per Capita Program in the world!* Chief Richard LaMunyon will be the guest speaker at the banquet. Chief LaMunyon, former Wichita Kansas Chief of Police, is credited with starting the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which has grown into a global movement - raising over \$34 million in 2009.

Other highlights of the conference include the Live and Silent Auction, the Casino Night, Unsung Hero & Hall of Fame Inductees, and the announcement of the newest LETR Athlete Ambassador.

Room reservations can be made with Crowne Plaza by calling (800) 588-7666. Please ask for the Torch Run/Special Olympics room block and rate. Visit www.somt.org for more information and to register online.

To nominate an officer or volunteer for the Montana Torch Run Unsung Hero or Hall of Fame Awards, please visit www.somt.org for nomination form.

International Torch Run Conference

The 2009 International Torch Run Conference was held November 11-November 14 at Foxwoods in Connecticut where law enforcement officers and Special Olympics staff members from around the world celebrated another record-breaking fundraising year. The Montana Torch Run program was recognized as the **5th Highest per Capita Fundraising Program in the world.** Since 2001, the Montana Torch Run program has been in the top five 'per Capita Fundraising Programs' category. Montana also received the **Sapphire Award**, a prestigious award given to programs raising over \$250,000.

Take the Plunge!



Join Montana's law enforcement as they take the plunge for Special Olympics Montana athletes. The polar plunge is an **icy dip** into the frigid waters of Montana and is a fun and exciting way to support Special Olympics. Over \$200,000 is raised each year in Montana with hundreds of brave souls making a splash! So, grab your towel, grab your friends and join law enforcement as they are **Freezin' for a Reason!**

2009 - 2010 Polar Plunge Locations, Dates & Times

Polar Bear Plunge Great Falls, MT December 4 th , 2009 – 7:00pm Nearly \$25,000 raised	Sweetheart Passion Plunge Spring Meadow Lake Helena, MT February 13 th , 2010 - 12:00pm
Billings Polar Bare Plunge Lake Elmo Billings, MT December 5 th , 2009 – 1:00pm Over \$30,000 raised	President's Plunge Bozeman Ponds Bozeman, MT February 15 th , 2010 - 12:00pm
Super Grizzly Dip Missoula YMCA Missoula, MT February 6, 2010 - 12:00pm	Pintler Polar Plunge Silver Lake Anaconda, MT February 20 th , 2010 – 12:00pm
Penguin Plunge City Beach during Whitefish Winter Carnival Whitefish, MT February 6 th , 2010 - 12:00pm	Sub-Zero Super-Hero Plunge Town Square – Main Street Havre, MT March, 2010

TOO CHICKEN TO PLUNGE?

No problem...you can still be a part of the fun! Simply register as a chicken, raise pledges, and receive incentives just like a regular plunger except no going into the icy water. That day, attend the plunge and watch while others take an icy dip.



Montana Torch Run Receives the Outstanding Organization Award

Special Olympics Montana recently honored recipients of the prestigious statewide Distinguished Service Awards during its annual Fall Leadership Conference October 9 – October 11 in Great Falls. Individuals, organizations and businesses from across the state were recognized for their outstanding contributions to Special Olympics Montana.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® of Montana was recognized as the Outstanding Organization for their significant contributions to Special Olympics Montana. The Torch Run began in Montana in 1985 and since then, thousands of dollars have been raised each year for Special Olympics Montana athletes. They represent the most faithful unsung heroes of Special Olympics Montana.

The recipients were nominated statewide by volunteers, athletes, coaches, sponsors, families and supporters of Special Olympics Montana and selected by a committee representing the organization's various constituents including athletes, coaches, Board of Directors, families, Area Directors and staff. More than 200 guests assembled at the Great Falls Civic Center's Convention Hall to recognize the award recipients and to celebrate the ties that draw us together in support of the Special Olympics movement.



Pictured from left to right: Matt Brewer, Tina Hoeger, Chrissy Siefke, Vivienne Shockley, and Lt. Jack Allen. Photo by Gregg Edelen



Tim & Mary Barnard: 2010 LETR Premier Mission Partner

Long time friends and supporters of Special Olympics Montana and the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Tim and Mary Barnard, have committed \$25,000 to the 2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run. As Premier Mission Partner with Premier Law Enforcement Agency partner MPPA (Montana Police Protective Association), Tim and Mary Barnard make it possible to help recruit and train more law enforcement personnel who will extend our reach through public awareness and fundraising campaigns that currently impact more than 2,000 Special Olympics Montana athletes.

Tim & Mary Barnard

To know more about the Barnard's is to know why they support Special Olympics through the LETR. In some ways, it's not unlike the story of Special Olympics athletes. It is a story about chasing dreams, getting help, persevering, being part of a community, giving your personal best, and then helping others achieve their dreams.

In 1975, Tim Barnard moved to Montana with an idea that he could start his own construction company. He had \$1,000 in his pocket, a couple shovels and a pick, and all of his worldly possessions in the cab of his truck. His grandmother loaned him \$3,500 to cover his first bond on a construction project. With little more than a strong work ethic, integrity and tenacity, over time Tim was in a position to give of his treasure to those most in need.

Special Olympics Montana CEO Bob Norbie said of the Barnard's, "With an affinity for helping people with disabilities, Tim and Mary give to those missions that serve the greater good. As an astute businessman with an inquiring nature, Tim expects business practices that result in good stewardship. The Barnard's also appreciate a well run volunteer-driven organization that gets the most out of every dollar. We are very grateful that Tim and Mary have confidence in Special Olympics to help build a world of acceptance, respect and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities."

Insty-Prints Bozeman

Another long time supporter and friend of Special Olympics Montana, Jesse Himsforth and his crew at Insty-Prints Bozeman, have stepped up as a Montana Torch Run sponsor. Jesse and crew will provide valuable in-kind service, such as **INSTY-PRINTS™** promotional material printing and distribution. This generous support from Insty-Prints will take a huge workload off Special Olympics Montana and enable staff to focus more attention on building more meaningful partnerships that benefit athletes served. We truly appreciate Jesse and Insty-Prints Bozeman for their dedicated service.

Congratulations to Det. Jason Johnson, Missoula CSO, elected as the new Region VIII Coordinator for LETR. States include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington & Wyoming.

Break and Run Pool Tournament

On September 12, 2009, Eagles 4040 in East Helena hosted the 1st Break & Run Tournament for Special Olympics. This was a Law Enforcement Torch Run event put together by Sgt John Fosket and Officer Domingo Zapata of the Helena Police Department. That day, over \$1500 was raised for Special Olympics Montana.



Funds were raised in various ways. To enter the pool tournament, participants had to pay a \$10 registration fee. There was an all-you-can-eat BBQ for a \$6 cover charge, as well as donations and raffles. The Eagles 4040 sold cookbooks at the event and donated all proceeds to the event.

Officer Zapata and his father, American Pool Players Association Southwest Montana League Operator Robert Zapata came up with the tournament idea after Officer Zapata attended the 2009 Torch Run Kick-Off Conference. The tournament was easy to set up. Players had to break and run as many balls possible on one of four tables. Once the player missed on one table, they moved onto the next table. Players had a one minute time limit to pocket as many balls as possible. The highest score during the tournament was 13 pocketed balls.

The biggest success story of the tournament was the interaction between the SOMT athletes and the general public. The athletes came out in full force, adorned in their medals and jumped in to help. The crowd had the opportunity to speak with the athletes, learn about the events they compete in and gained awareness about Special Olympics from the truest source.



Final Leg for 2010 Special Olympics National Games

The Special Olympics 2010 USA National Games will take place July 18 – 23, 2010 in Lincoln Nebraska. All 50 states will send a total of 3,000 Special Olympics athletes to Lincoln, who will compete in 13 different sports. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg will consist of officers and athletes carrying the "Flame of Hope" throughout Nebraska and conclude at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 USA National Games. Each state will be asked to send one law enforcement officer. The Final Leg is not only a salute to athletes from around the United States who will compete in the 2010 USA National Games, but it is also an honor for the participating law enforcement officers who comprise the Torch Run Final Leg Team.



World's Largest Truck Convoy

- By Sheryl Shockley

Of the 1435 trucks that participated in 29 convoys across North America and Canada for the 2009 World's Largest Truck Convoy, 22 of those trucks were in Billings. Our portion of the Truck Convoy raised \$4,961 of the total \$600,087.

And we did it in true Montana style – carrying an American flag and a Special Olympics banner, our Truck Convoy was led out of I-State Truck Center by members of the Al Bedoo Shrine Black Horse Patrol, an elite equestrian drill team unit. The next vehicle of the Truck Convoy was the white Hummer limousine provided by Billings Yellow Cab, with 20 Grand Marshals aboard-- Billings area Special Olympics athletes.

Ankrum Trucking was our silver medal sponsor this year with a \$1,000 donation and had three trucks in the convoy. The city/county SWAT vehicle known as the BEAR was there along with a Billings Fire Department truck. We had two trucks each from Whitewood Transport, CMG and Sysco. Coca-Cola, I-State Truck Center, Hanser's Wrecking, Associated Foods all had a truck in the convoy. And we also had new companies join us this year – Johnson Lane Materials, Cold Wave Trucking, Warner Transport, RDO, and Epcon Signs.

When the truckers finished driving the convoy route and returned to I-State Truck Center, everyone was treated to a bbq lunch and awards were given out. Cleanest Truck Award went to Tom Murdick of Associated Foods; Tom has won this award every year of our Truck Convoy. He also won the Top Trucker Fundraiser award for the funds raised by his family's donation. One of the pigs their family raised for 4-H was butchered and wrapped, one half of the pig was auctioned off during the Friday night pre-registration event held at the Windmill, the other half was raffled off on Saturday. Ankrum Trucking won the Top Company Award and Most Cluttered Cab Award went to new company, Cold Wave. Top Volunteer went to Marty Sorenson and Top Volunteer Fundraiser went to Fritz.

We all had a great time and everyone is looking forward to next year – when we will have even more trucks involved and will raise even more money for our athletes. Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics – together, we can do anything!

