

An Exciting Year for Waterville Valley Academy and the BBTS Ski Club

This past year has proven to be a very exciting one indeed for Waterville Valley Black and Blue Trail Smashers Ski Educational Foundation (WVBBTS) and its athletes, alumni and supporters. WVBBTS operates Waterville Valley Academy, a five month full time academic and snowsports training academy and the BBTS Ski Club, a season long weekend training program for alpine, freestyle and snowboard athletes.

WVBBTS Athletics

Athletic success at WVBBTS this past year took many forms-from WVBBTS alumni earning the right to compete in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino to athletes and/or alumni being named to the US alpine, freestyle and snowboard teams to athletes and/or alumni competing and oftentimes medaling at state and regional, national, international and world championships to individual athletes from ages 5 through 70+ achieving their personal bests.

WVBBTS Academics

WVBBTS is very proud of the college acceptance record of its Waterville Valley Academy graduating seniors including acceptances at University of Rhode Island, University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts, Suffolk University, Bates College, University of Colorado at Boulder, Bowdoin College, Colorado College, University of Vermont, Plymouth State University, University of Denver, Westminster College, University of Utah, University of Colorado and Montana State at Boise. Applications are now being accepted for next year on a rolling admissions basis. Contact our Headmaster at gbenedix@wvbbts.org for details.

Waterville Valley Academy has over 45 faculty members from all over the world who teach to each student's home school curriculum and make the academics a very challenging and compelling component of the Waterville Valley Academy experience.

WVBBTS-Honoring of Alpine Competition Legends

Behind every great competition (whether it is an alpine, freestyle or snowboard event) are not only the athletes but also the many non-competitors who make these events possible. WVBBTS and Waterville Valley as a community have the proud and unique distinction of having two of these passionate "non-competitors" among their members-Anna McIntyre with her legendary "Anna's Army" of volunteers who ran the World Cups that toured Waterville Valley Ski Area a few years back and Leland "Doc" Sosman who Ski Racing Magazine respectfully referred to as the "elder statesmen" of this group. These two people toured the world as alpine officials and helped shape the sport of alpine ski racing into what it is today. Ski Racing Magazine paid tribute to Anna and Leland in its December 13, 2005 issue as being "the people that make this sport [alpine ski racing] possible". Anna and Leland can still be seen slope side volunteering at some of the high level alpine competitions that WVBBTS is fortunate enough to host each season.

WVBBTS-Outstanding Coaching Staff

Every season WVBBTS prides itself on having one of the strongest coaching staffs in the country in the alpine, freestyle and snowboard disciplines. CEO Peter Stokloza (along with the business acumen which he brings to the organization) is a former Eastern Development Coach for the US Ski Team and an international certified coach for USSA and was the Head J1/J2 alpine coach this past season. Athletic Director and Head J3 alpine coach Tom Barbeau, is a former USSA Eastern Alpine and NHARA Coach of the Year and has coached up through the highest level of alpine ski racing at the Olympics. Under the freestyle coaching direction of Freestyle Director Nick Preston, WVBBTS was recognized as USSA's Outstanding Freestyle Club of the Year in 1999 and 2004 and Nick was recognized as the 2002 USSA Domestic Coach of the Year. Bill Enos, WVBBTS Snowboard Director, is a former US Snowboard Team member and was ranked in the top 10 snowboarders worldwide for 3 consecutive years.

A highlight of this year's coaching accomplishments was Nick Preston's receipt of the prestigious **2006 USSA Russell Wilder Award**. This award is given annually to recognize the most outstanding effort in focusing the interests of American youth on the sports of skiing or snowboarding.

WVBBTS-Major Inroads in Achieving its Vision

WVBBTS finds itself at a critical crossroad. In order to continue offering quality programs and achieve its vision it is essential that it has a plan in place to improve its facilities. WVBBTS has been working with the community and Waterville Valley Ski Area in an effort to purchase the Snows Mountain property from Waterville Valley Ski Area and develop a campus at its base. WVBBTS has taken major steps in securing its future through significant inroads over the past 12 months with respect to this potential land acquisition.

In the Off-Season

Did you know there really is no off season for snowsports athletes and coaches? WVBBTS offers an alpine FIS level on snow training camp for athletes ages 15 and above in La Parva, Chile in August under the direction of Peter Stokloza and a J1-J5 dryland training camp in July under the direction of Tom Barbeau. Tom also offers an alpine J1-J4 and PG level on snow training camp in Austria in late June/early July. See details at www.wvbbts.org under Camps. Nick Preston, through his company Freestyle America, offers on snow and dryland training camps both locally and on snow throughout the summer season. Bill Enos is also organizing training camps in the off season. For details on any of the above, please e-mail us at sschmidt@wvbbts.org.

WVBBTS Annual Ski Swap and Road Race

WVBBTS has some fun events going on this fall over Columbus Day Weekend. Please save the dates and contact Sharon Schmidt for details at sschmidt@wvbbts.org or 603-236-4612.

WVBBTS Annual Ski Swap-Saturday, October 7-drop off items you would like sold early that morning. A small portion of the sales proceeds is donated to WVBBTS (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) and the balance goes to you.

WVBBTS Annual 5K Road Race/1K Family Fun Run/Tot Trot-Sunday, October 8-Start-9:30 am.

For more information about Waterville Valley Academy or the BBTS Ski Club please contact Sharon Schmidt, Director of Development and Communications, at sschmidt@wvbbts.org or by calling her at 603-236-4612 or visiting the WVBBTS web site at www.wvbbts.org.