



Florida Region (USAV) FloridaVolleyball.org
Vol-eNews
 The official source for Florida volleyball news!



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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE INDOOR CHAIR

Hello Florida Region members! I am honored to once again be serving on the Board of the Florida Region, this time as your Indoor Chair. I have been a member of the region for twenty two years as a past board member, a club director and coach so I feel I can bring a wealth of experience, as well as a love for the game, to this position. My goal in this position is to be your representative in all areas of the indoor game and to provide a place for you to present your new ideas to promote our great sport.

The great lesson I have learned in the past twenty-two years of club volleyball is that everything changes and it changes often. In our fast paced world of 2011, it has become apparent that our sport is growing at a phenomenal rate and is continually changing in substance, appearance and style. We have seen many positive changes in our region in the past few years and as a result, we are one of the fastest growing regions in the country.

Hopefully, with your help and the talents of our many great members, we can continue to grow, not only in numbers, but in quality and quantity of services for our membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Mary Andrew, Indoor Chair
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an exciting time for the sport of volleyball here in Florida. We are experiencing another year of record growth across the Region. Our current membership count is already 8,800+. This is the highest number of members that we have ever had affiliated with the Florida Region at this point in the season. It looks like, with the addition of the adult and junior beach players during the summer, we should get very close to our goal of 10,000 members. Thank you to all of our junior clubs across the state for your continued efforts to promote this great sport!

Another bit of noteworthy news is that we recently hosted the USA Volleyball Board of Directors (USAV BoD) in Orlando for their quarterly meeting. This is the first time that the USAV BoD has held a meeting in a specific Region with the goal of learning more about the Region's programs and leadership. We hosted the group for a social & dinner on Sunday night and then gave a formal presentation on Monday about our most successful initiatives that have been implemented since 2006. USAV BoD members & senior management attending included: **Doug Beal** (USAV CEO), **David Schreff** (USAV BoD Chair), **Kerry Klostermann** (Secretary General), **Kerri Walsh** (Director & 2-time Gold Medalist), **Adam Rymer** (Director & AFB Chair), **Mike Carter** (Director), **Kathy DeBoer** (Director & AVCA Executive Director), and several others. It was an honor to be the first Region to host the USAV BoD. We enjoyed the time together.

And finally, the most exciting news for our volleyball family revolves around a story that is just coming together and will probably be told for many years to come. The subject of the story is how being kind and doing the right thing does pay off in the end. Many of us know the star of the story, her name is **Carrie Prewitt**. Well Carrie is enjoying the "ride of her life" this week as she (and her three girls) became the next family to be blessed by the Extreme Makeover-Home Edition TV show. We are very proud to call Carrie a friend and longtime member of the Florida Region. Her story (if you don't know it already) will touch your heart and encourage you to help others when the opportunity presents itself. We are being told that the show will air in May of this year and we will update you once we get more details. What I can tell you is that volleyball will be a key component of the show and **Misty May** will make a special guest appearance. You can find more information about Carrie and her story on page 8 of this edition of Vol-eNews.

Steve

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CLUB HIGHLIGHT – NORTH FLORIDA PIRATES

Each month a member club is featured in *Vol-eNews*. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the clubs throughout Florida. This month **Brian Smith** and **North Florida Pirates** will be highlighted.

Q: How old were you when you started playing volleyball?

A: I was born in Virginia where they offer boys volleyball at the high school level. I have always enjoyed playing sports and at the age of 16 I tried out for the Kempsville High Volleyball Team, and I have loved the sport ever since. I also went on to play for the Tidewater Volleyball Academy Club.

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball? What do you like to do in your "spare" time?

A: This year will be my 6th year as director of the North Florida Pirates and my 14th year overall coaching volleyball in Clay County. I work 50 hours a week as a Grocery Manager for Publix Supermarkets and I enjoy spending time with my family and two children, along with playing softball following sports and my passion for coaching.

Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years?

A: The growth of the sport of volleyball has been huge. I believe one of the biggest reasons for this is the expansion of new club teams all over the region.

Q: What would you consider one of your most memorable moments with the North Florida Pirates?

A: I've had many memorable moments over the years but one of my most memorable was my first ever Pirate team's tournament. We were a 16 and under team with only 1 player that was 16 so we had no clue what to expect. We ended up winning the AAU Disney Classic.

Q: If you could brag about your club, what would you say?

A: We try to be as inexpensive and organized a club as possible. We are one of most inexpensive clubs in our area and with club volleyball costing what it does that's a key part. Parents and players want to know as much as possible about your upcoming season and want to feel they are getting their moneys worth. A couple of our players have gone on to play at college level, one has come back to join our coaching staff. Our club has bonded many of our parents into close friendships and we have a very wonderful extended Pirate family.

Q: What would you attribute to the success of your club?

A: My goal will never be to have as many teams as possible. We have 4 teams this year and that is the most we have ever had. Due to the demand, this year was the first year we had to hold try-outs. We also started a 10 and under team last year to help build our program. We have passionate and caring coaches and good relationships with our parents and players.



Q: Tell us a little about your Beach Program.

A: We started our beach program last year. We had a lot of fun with it I feel it was very successful. Our main goal was to make it as cheap as possible while still letting the players get used to the difference in playing on sand. We had 8 teams and one of our parents had a court built in their backyard for us to practice on. It is a totally different game in the way you play and coach. This year we plan on expanding and having even more teams.

Q: What are the future plans of your club?

A: Our plans are to continue to build on what we have. We want to focus on just having elite teams in our 4 age brackets. We believe you don't have to have a large number of teams to be a successful club.

Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region?

A: I hope we continue to grow the sport of volleyball in our region. I would like to see our boys programs and beach programs expand and grow in popularity.

*Thanks Brian for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Landon Thomas** and **USA South Volleyball**.*

HIGH PERFORMANCE ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

The first HP Tryout was held in Daytona Beach on Jan. 28th and was a huge success! Over 100 boys and girls turned out to try and secure a spot on the HP All-Star roster. There will be three more tryouts around the state of Florida. To register for one of the HP Tryouts or to view more detailed information, please visit the Florida Region website.

Regional HP Tryouts

Feb 25 – Jacksonville (Girls)

Mar 18 – Ft. Lauderdale (Girls & Boys)

Mar 25 – Tampa (Girls)

Tryout Fee:

\$50 in advance (**By 2:00pm the day before the tryout**)

\$75 onsite

Tryout Schedule:

5:15p - Check-In Begins

6:15p - Tryout Meeting with Staff & Coaches

6:30p - Tryouts Begin

8:30p - Tryouts End

8:45p – Depart



NOTE: The age definition for HP candidates are as follows: **Girls**-1991 & above, **Boys**-1992 & above. For questions regarding HP, contact Sara Hoffman at Sara@FloridaVolleyball.org.



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2011 REGIONAL RANKING TOUR



Visit the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, for more event info.

USAV BEACH HOLIDAY HP CAMP

A USA Volleyball Beach Holiday High Performance Camp took place on December 27-30 in Chula Vista, California, at the Arco Olympic Training Center and in Largo, Florida, at the Bayhead Athletic Complex. Athletes were invited based on their performance at the USAV Beach High Performance Tryouts, the USA Beach Junior Tour and select USAV sanctioned events. FIVB silver medalist Tyra Turner served as the head coach in Largo. She was assisted by BCAP certified coaches Dave Carstenson, AVP Young Guns Champion Kristen Batt, Joe Rohr and AVP Young Guns Champion Kim Whitney. Justin Vogel, Tampa Bay Juniors, and Victoria Penrod, Ocean B Volleyball, were selected to attend the camp and they described to us what their experience was like.

Justin Vogel

Q: What was the tryout selection process like?

A: The tryout was long and around 6 hours. They tested not only your volleyball skills but also tested physical abilities. Examples: jump height, speed, etc.

Q: Your HP Camp was held in Chula Vista, CA. What was it like to be playing so far away from home? Describe to us what a typical day at camp was like for you.

A: The experience was great. The beach is the beach, wherever you go. The trip was challenging due to weather my flight got cancelled and I had to fly into a different part of California and bus into San Diego. My luggage did not arrive for 2 days. A typical day at camp was breakfast, training until lunch, lunch, and then we played until it was too dark to see. We were also fortunate to learn about nutrition and tips for traveling when competing abroad and at a higher level.

Q: With all of the volleyball training that you have received, do you plan on playing volleyball in college? If so, which colleges are you interested in playing for?

A: Yes, College volleyball is a goal for me. Stanford, Penn State, Pepperdine, Princeton or George Mason all have great programs, but I just want to play wherever I can.



Q: Who would you consider to be your biggest volleyball role model and why?

A: Misty May. I had the pleasure of meeting her and working with her in Russia. She has had a great career and is a role model for future athletes. She has a way of inspiring younger players and I hope one day I can do the same.

Q: If you could take away one important lesson from this camp, what would it be and why?

A: The skills that I learned from the coaches. Each coach has a different style and skill to pass on. I would also like to let others know to never pass up an opportunity or try-out since you can never tell what can come from it.

Victoria (Tori) Penrod

Q: What was it like to train under some of the greatest names in volleyball?

A: It was a great experience learning the game from some of the most successful players and coaches (Tyra, Kristen, Kim, Joe and Dave). It was awesome to learn so much and to hear stories of their experiences made it even more exciting for me. Their knowledge of this sport is crazy and they love teaching you, especially the little stuff that makes you so much better.

Q: Who would you consider to be your biggest volleyball role model and why?

A: It would be easy to say Misty May or Kerri Walsh for what they have done for Beach Volleyball, but my biggest role model is my Beach Coach James Ortiz; the knowledge and love of the game he has taught me will always be the center point of my beach game and success.

Q: What position do you play? What tips did you pick up during this camp that you can apply to your volleyball performance?

A: I play left side on the beach and libero for indoor. The most important tip I picked up was being able to flush away your mistake and to focus on to the next point. Another great tip they focused on was how to be a positive teammate.

Q: What are your future volleyball plans?

A: After graduating I hope to play college volleyball sand and indoor. It is so exciting that sand volleyball is a new emerging college sport. I would love to continue to grow my beach game with hopes of playing in the Olympics.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice for up and coming volleyball players, what would it be?

A: My advice would be that coaches can make you better and teach you how to play, but you have to find the will to become the best you can be. Do not let anyone tell you can not play, pick up a volleyball and just play.



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GOLD SEAL CLUBS

Congratulations to the first Gold Seal Clubs for the 2010/2011 season!

- * **Brandon Extreme VBC** – Shannon Talmadge
- * **Cape Coast Volleyball Club** – Connie Denaburg
- * **Central Florida VBC** – Carlos Pizarro & Gilda Grau
- * **Club Storm of Tampa** – Vicky Page & Dave Wolcott
- * **Doral Volleyball Academy** – Leonardo Rivera
- * **Fort Myers Fusion** – Wynn DePasquale & Steve Harrell
- * **Gainesville Juniors** – Chad Davis
- * **Gold Coast Volleyball Club** – Lori Eaton
- * **Jacksonville Juniors Volleyball** – Adis Imamovic & Gail DeLisle
- * **Manatee Area Volleyball Club** – Nancy Cothron
- * **Miami Select Volleyball Club** – Charles Albano & Alvaro Sanchez
- * **Naples Juniors** – Rich Hubbard & Ann Fredette
- * **North Florida Volleyball Academy** – Rita Buck-Crockett
- * **NPower Volleyball** – AnnMarie Blair
- * **Orlando Gold Volleyball Club** – Tom Snodgrass & Ashley Schinzing
- * **Pinellas Heat Elite** – Terry and Barb Small
- * **Sham-Roxz Volleyball Club** – Joe Keenan
- * **South Brevard Spirit Volleyball Club** – Bonnie & Joe Priester
- * **South Florida Heat VB** – David Monk
- * **St. Augustine Volleyball Association** – Taylor Mott
- * **St. Pete Volleyball Club** – Mark & Courtney Draper
- * **Suncoast Volleyball Club** – Jeff Horr & Scott Montgomery
- * **Synergy Volleyball Club** – Bryan Carver & Jessica Ballinger
- * **Tallahassee Jrs. Volleyball Club** – Latoya Washington
- * **Tribe Volleyball** – Dean Barboza & Albert Sturgeon
- * **USA South Volleyball** – Landon Thomas
- * **West Pasco Volleyball Club** – Jason Kucera



GIRL'S JR. REGIONAL BID CHAMPIONSHIPS



The 2011 Girl's Jr. Regional Bid Championships will take place April 9-10 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Only teams that have registered to attend the 2010 Girl's Jr. National Championships (JNC) by April 1st, 2011 are eligible to attend this event. This tournament is for girl's junior teams, age's 12U-18U, trying to earn a bid to the 2011 Jr. National Championships in Atlanta, GA. All teams must register through AES (Advanced Events Systems.com). The host hotel is the newly renovated

Double Tree Resort in Orlando and the discounted room rate of \$89 is now available. Visit the Florida Region website for more information on hotel pricing and event registration.



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2011 REGIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Regional Awards Ceremony is a time to give back to the ones that make the Florida Region the best that it can be. Without you, our members, the Florida Region would not be where it is today!

We are now accepting nominations for the 2011 Regional Awards Ceremony. **You can now submit your nominations!** The deadline for all submissions is **March 1, 2011.**



2011 USA VOLLEYBALL FLORIDA REGION CALENDAR



You can now order your 2011 USAV Florida Region Calendar!!

The calendar features Florida Region members playing indoor, beach and grass volleyball. Devoted to Florida Volleyball, the calendar includes full color, high resolution photos and sells for only \$12 (plus S&H). All calendar orders will be shipped out within 2 business days. Proceeds support the Florida Region Scholarship Funds.

**** Order yours online today! ****

EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION – CARRIE PREWITT

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition gave the surprise of a lifetime to one of our own USAV Florida Region members, **Carrie Prewitt**, last week. Besides being a mother to three young girls, Ashley, Taylor and Gina, whom she took in when their parents passed away, Carrie is a coach for Black Creek Volleyball Club and a volleyball coach for Middleburg High School.



After her club team found out that her home was in need of some much-needed repairs, one of the parents submitted her name to

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Fast forward one year, Carrie was running a volleyball practice at her local high school last week when the Extreme Makeover's Ty Pennington and the rest of the Extreme Makeover Design Team showed up and surprised her. They whisked Carrie and the girls off to the Virgin Islands and began the 7 day task of building a home worthy of such a caring, giving, selfless woman that is Carrie. "Her house is being demolished today," show spokeswoman Sarah Brown said Thursday. "They always try to come up with creative ideas for demolishing the homes, so they are freezing volleyballs and launching them from a pumpkin cannon. Her volleyball team's going to be there to help."

The "move that bus" date for the house will be Wed., February 2nd, in Middleburg. Tentative plans for the show to air are in May. Stay tuned for more details.



FLORIDA COLLEGIATE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE (FCVL)

The Florida Collegiate Volleyball League (FCVL) was formed to create more opportunities for men to play Club Volleyball at the collegiate level and eventually transition to being a scholarship sport in Florida. The FCVL is a member league of the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) and offers men's and women's college club volleyball competition for any 2 year and 4 year colleges located within the boundaries of the league.

Teams will compete in Conference play during the months of October, November, December, January, & February. The Conference Championships and League Championships will take place in March. The NCVF National Championships will take place in April.

Florida has 38 colleges that are eligible to participate in the FCVL. So far, the FCVL has signed on 9 clubs to participate.



North Florida Conference

Florida State University
University of Florida
University of Central Florida

South Florida Conference

Florida Gulf Coast University
University of Miami
University of South Florida

All participating FCVL members would be required to have a USAV college membership in the Florida Region, potentially increasing the Region's membership each year as the league grows.

The FCVL will start in the Fall of 2010. For more information regarding the FCVL, or to sign up, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the FCVL Logo located on the Home page.

NEW OFFICIAL'S CHAIR

There's a new **Official's Chair** in town! Darin Clark will replace Doug Darling as the Official's Chair for the Florida Region. Doug has stepped down after accepting the position of Deputy Chief of Staff for Florida's new governor, Rick Scott.

Darin previously served as the Official's Chair from 2001-2006. Darin has served on both the USAV National rating team and the PAVO rating team. He has been a National Official since 2002 and currently serves as a Collegiate Official.

"I'm excited to be back on board and I look forward to serving the Florida Region and representing our Officials. One of my goals during my tenure as the Official's Chair will be to put the focus back on the athletes and their love of the game."

Please take the time to drop Darin a note welcoming him at Darin@FloridaVolleyball.org.



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SPECTATOR/FAN MEMBERSHIP

The **Spectator/Fan Membership** option is available for \$25 and includes a full year, NON-PLAYING membership with secondary insurance, entrance into all Florida Region hosted tournaments and a USAV Florida Region gift. This membership option is ideal for those members that plan on attending more than one USAV Event this year.

You can become a member simply by logging onto the Florida Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org, and clicking "Join", located in the yellow box on the homepage. Any questions, please contact Kelly@FloridaVolleyball.org.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of February 1st, 2011 is **8,813** members! Our goal for this year is 10,000 members. Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

REGION INFORMATION

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Shanon Lewis, Asst. Commissioner
Donna Beasley, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Andrew, Indoor Chair
Kendra Vanzwieten, Outdoor Chair
Darin Clark, Official's Chair

Staff:

Steve Bishop, Exec. Director/President
Kelly Mills, Registrar
Sara Hoffman, Events Coordinator
Krissy McKane, Marketing Coordinator
Michelle Daniels, Bookkeeper
Sue Wainio-Oato, Official's Coordinator

Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

Rita Crockett, Lori Eaton, Mitch Sadowsky, Russel Williams

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The Official Outdoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Florida Region HP All-Star Program since 2006!



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