

July 2010: ISSUE 10

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WELCOME NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER

Dear Volleyball members,

Well, another season is almost over. Both Girl's JO's and Boy's JO's are upon us and HP is right around the corner. We finished the season very strong with a membership of 8400+. We are still growing and adding more members each day. I hope your season brought you joy and all of your volleyball wishes came true. Congratulations to all of our Florida teams that attended their respective Junior National Championships, I hope all of you achieve your goals. We continue to grow on the beach and have a full slate of events this summer. Please come and join us for some fun in the sun. Get a tan and play another realm of our sport, beach volleyball. You will find it just as fun if not more fun than the indoor game we play. It provides more opportunities to sharpen your skills and makes you a better all around player.

Our election for new Board members is over and I would like to welcome Doug Darling and Kendra VanZwieten to our board. Doug is the new Officials Chair and Kendra the new outdoor chair. I would also like to congratulate Donna Beasley for being re-elected as our Treasurer. We have a great team and have added a few more great members. Please say hi to them when you get a chance.

James Phillips, Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Is it July already? Where did the time go? It seems like we were just planning the indoor season and now it is over and the outdoor season is in full swing.

I am sitting in the Dallas/Ft. Worth airport on my way back from Reno, NV and the 2010 Girls' Jr. National Championships. In addition to watching some of our outstanding Florida Region teams compete, I was honored to be invited to attend the inaugural USAV Sponsor Summit where our USAV sponsors, event partners, senior staff, board members, and several former Olympians gathered to discuss the future of our beloved sport. The summit allowed individuals from all areas of the sport to gather and strategize about increasing membership & market share, improving our visibility, starting professional volleyball leagues, along with many other topics. This meeting was excellent and it allowed for some long-range planning that should surely benefit the visibility of volleyball in the future.

Earlier in June, we held our annual Florida Region Board & Staff retreat. We spent the better part of three days reviewing our previous progress and laying out some plans that should surely benefit our clubs and our members in the 2010/2011 season. Many of the enhancements will be covered in an upcoming edition of our Vol-eNews newsletter and on the Florida Region website: www.FloridaVolleyball.ORG. Stay tuned for more details!

On another note, our junior beach tour (in partnership with Exclusive Sports Marketing) is going strong and our average team count is up from around 120 teams last season to over 140 teams this season. Now that the indoor season is officially wrapping up, we expect the number of teams to climb even higher as many of our indoor players make their way to the beach. Regardless of the final numbers, we know everyone is having a great time on the sand and in the sun.

Let us know how we are doing. We'll see you on the court!

Steve

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CLUB HIGHLIGHT – CLUB BEACH DIG

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 **Cindy Phillips** and **Club Beach Dig** will be highlighted.



For those of you who know Cindy Phillips, you would agree that she puts her heart into everything she does; she's determined, hard working and passionate about the sport of volleyball. This is evident in her career as an AVP player as well as a club director of one of the largest beach volleyball clubs in the U.S. Cindy has worked and played with some of the biggest names in volleyball. Her experiences make her a valuable asset to the volleyball world and a great role model. We are honored to be interviewing Cindy Phillips. Enjoy!

Q: Cindy, tell us about your beach volleyball playing experience?

A: I started playing beach volleyball in Canada believe it or not! I actually stumbled upon it while I was looking for a winter sport to play after college...other than hockey!! I started playing late in life and fell in love with the sport. I've been competing ever since, in both countries, and I am currently playing in my first full season on the AVP tour.

Q: What was the biggest tournament you played in?

A: The biggest tournament I played in was an FIVB international event in Toronto, Canada. It is my only world tour event to date and we played England in the pouring rain!! I would say second to that is the famous Manhattan AVP open.

Q: What is your best finish?

A: My best finish on the AVP is a 17th which I got last summer in Manhattan. It was also the first time I qualified for the main draw so it was a pretty exciting day. I have won an event on the Toyota Pro Beach East tour; have been a 3 - time Dig The Beach National Champion, as well as EVP Champion.

Q: Which states are your clubs currently located in?

A: We currently have clubs in Florida which is our largest, California, Minnesota, and Colorado. We are working on developing South Carolina and Texas as well.



Q: Talk about junior beach volleyball in Florida vs. California.

A: The junior beach volleyball scene in Florida has blown up in the last 3 years. California has always been seen as the mecca of beach volleyball, where kids were born playing on the beach. However, in the last few years, the level of talent coming out of Florida and the professionalism of the events is the best that I've seen. Now that the sport is rising in popularity and has become a college sport for women; players, parents and coaches are taking the game more seriously and the results are incredible. Florida definitely seems to be paving the way when it comes to the junior's beach circuit and it's exciting to watch it grow so rapidly. I look forward to seeing great things and great players coming from the sunshine state over the next few years!

Q: Who is the most notable volleyball celebrity in your cell phone?

A: Hmm this is a good one! I'd have to say it's a toss up between Angela Rock and Liz Mazakayan. I train with them both and they are two of the most amazing coaches and players I've ever worked with.

Q: What are some of your goals for your club?

A: I would love to continue to expand our club into other states in the future. It has been amazing watching Florida grow to over 200 members, and California seems like a natural location for us, but what's really exciting is that we have a division in Minnesota this year! Growing up in a small town in Canada, where I had never even heard of beach volleyball until I was 25, I think it is amazing that we now have young players in Minnesota learning and getting excited about this amazing sport! If we can continue to grow and reach out to players across the country, even in the land-locked states, I think we will see some exciting new talent that will change the future of this sport!

Q: What could the Florida Region do to better promote outdoor/beach volleyball?

A: In working with several regions, I have to say that Florida is leading the way in the outdoor side of the game. The region has worked hard to promote, monitor and grow the sport in Florida. Managing such a huge and rapid growth has not been an easy task. The hardest thing for us to deal with as a beach club is the fact that so many of our kids feel overwhelmed by indoor. There seems to be less and less time for them to be able to play beach and I know so many of them are disappointed. Every year it seems they are squeezed tighter and tighter by the indoor game, some of them not getting ANY time to play on the beach like they want to. I also think we could improve on providing information and opportunities to our gifted young players on how they can compete

internationally, prepare for the onset of college beach volleyball and just take their experience to the next level. It seems that there are opportunities out there, but the information is vague and limited and seems to be focused on California.

Q: When did you start your club?

A: Club Beach Dig launched in May of 2007 in Deerfield Beach Florida. I was expecting to be the only coach at the time, with about 20-30 kids. After over 60 kids signed up for the program, in the first year, it was time to hire coaches and start running a business!

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

A: Oh yay!!! I don't get enough opportunities to brag about my coaching staff!! I am so grateful to have such an amazing, reliable and talented staff of coaches. Club Beach Dig would not be what it is today if it weren't for our coaches. Almost all of our coaches in Florida and in other states are, or have, competed at the pro level in this sport. But....that does not always translate into being a good coach. In our case it does and I couldn't be more proud. Without these amazing coaches and role models, I would not be able to continue to run this club from another state and still see such growth every year. I've learned that you can work your butt off behind the scenes, but your coaches are still the face of your business and can make or break it. Our coaches aren't just doing a job, they really care about the program and about the kids; this is invaluable to me and to Club Beach Dig.

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

A: I'm amazed when I walk on the beach now and see over 150 Junior's teams competing. It gives me goose bumps. I look forward to seeing the sport continue to flourish in the sunshine state and for the young players to get the recognition they deserve. We have some amazing talent brewing in Florida and it's so exciting that some of these players will be the first ever to be College Beach Players!

I have watched so many players find a renewed love for the sport once they started playing beach. So many players who might not make the college "cut" for indoor now have new opportunities to play a sport that they love.

Growing up where I did, and not discovering beach volleyball until the age of 25, is my real driving force behind Club Beach Dig. I only wish I had something like this growing up. Some of these kids have a 13 year head start on me and I can't wait to see what they will become!

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*Thanks Cindy for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club continued success in the 2010 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Jason Kucera** and **West Pasco Volleyball Club**.*

USA VOLLEYBALL HP CHAMPIONSHIPS



The girls and boys Regional HP All-Star rosters have been finalized and are now listed on the website. Visit the HP All-Star information page to view the list of athletes that have accepted the invitation to attend the USA Volleyball HP Championships.

The USA Volleyball High Performance Championships will be held on July 27th-30th in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Players will be provided the following items: shoes, socks, spandex/shorts (black or navy only), knee pads, Regional HP t-shirt, club warm-ups and backpack/gym bag. Please remember to bring your medical release form (notarized) and any prescribed medications.

Special thanks to the HP coaches for their hard work and dedication to the Regional HP All-Star program during tryouts. The Florida Region would also like to thank the volunteer coaches for all their help. Good luck to our Girl's YNT, JNT, and SEL teams! We would also like to wish our Boy's National and International teams good luck!

If you would like more information on the Regional HP All-Star Program please visit our website at www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the HP Logo.

2010 DIG THE BEACH USAV JUNIOR SERIES TOUR



The Dig the Beach USAV Junior Series tour has been very successful! The Dig the Beach Junior Series provides a professional, competitive, and fun atmosphere for everyone involved. Juniors have the opportunity to participate in all 9 stops along the series, with four more events remaining this year.

Come join the Florida Region in Siesta Key on July 10th and 11th. Remember to also join us on July 24th and 25th in Ft. Lauderdale for the Florida Regional Championships! Note: You must have a current USAV membership in order to participate in the following tournaments:

July 10-11 - Siesta Key

July 24-25 - Fort Lauderdale, The USAV – Florida Regional Championships

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August 7-8 East Coast Beach Nationals, Singer Island, FL
September 11-12 National Championships, Miami Beach, FL

Visit our Region website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the Dig the Beach USAV Junior Series logo for more information and to sign up a team. (Note: Junior players, please pre-register, we will not be accepting onsite registration due to the increase in participation.) See you on the beach!

BEACH COACHING CLINICS

All beach coaches must attend a Regional Beach Coaching Clinic to participate in any USAV Jr. Beach event! Coaches that successfully complete a Regional or National Beach Coaching Clinic will be eligible to coach at any USAV junior beach event in Florida.

Our next Beach Impact will be held in Siesta Key Friday, July 9th, at 6 p.m. Please visit our website for available dates, www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on Outdoor VB page.

JR. BEACH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Florida Region is excited to announce that the USA Beach Junior National Championships will be held on Sunday, August 22nd in Fort Lauderdale, FL. This is great news, this is the first time Florida has ever hosted this event! The top athletes will be competing for the national title, age's 12U-18U.



All event details will be posted shortly on our website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org. We hope that you will make plans to join us!

REGIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS RESULTS

The Florida Region would like to introduce the incoming Official's Chair and Outdoor Chair:

Doug Darling – Official's Chair

Kendra VanZwieten – Outdoor Chair

Congratulations to the returning Secretary/Treasurer:

Donna Beasley – Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome, we look forward to working with you!!



NEW MARKETING COORDINATOR

We would like to welcome **Krissy McKane** as the new Marketing Coordinator for the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. Krissy grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and moved to Lake County in '98. She played at Lake-Sumter Community College from 2001-2003 and then transferred to Flagler College in St. Augustine. Krissy now resides in Mount Dora, FL with her 4-yr. old daughter, Aubree.

Krissy writes, "I'm so happy to be a part of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball! Having played volleyball most of my life, it will be exciting to promote and market the sport of volleyball across the state of Florida."

If you would like to contact Krissy, please do so at Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org.

DISTRICT JUNIOR FORUM MEETING

The dates for District Junior Forum Meetings are as follows:

- August 14th – District 4 (GIRLS)
- August 15th – District 3 (GIRLS)
- August 28th – District 1 (GIRLS)
- August 29th – District 2 (GIRLS)

- August 21st – ALL DISTRICTS (BOYS)

All Club Directors must attend 2010 Junior Forum Meeting. Failing to do so will result in penalties and monetary fines.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Florida Region Office at 352-742-0080 or info@FloridaVolleyball.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is looking for a new staff position.

- **Bookkeeper (P/T)**

If you are interested in one of these positions, please submit your resume to Steve Bishop at Steve@FloridaVolleyball.org.

BOYS' & GIRL'S JNC REMINDER

The 31st Annual Boy's and Girl's Junior National Championships will be held at The Reno Sparks Convention Center in Reno Tahoe, NV from June 24th – July 3rd.

For more information, visit the USAV website at www.usavolleyball.org



US OPEN ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The US Open Adult Championships was held in Phoenix, AZ from May 29th to June 5th, 2010. The Florida Region would like to recognize the Florida Teams for participating in this great event!

Listed below are the Florida teams:

Men's AA – **Club F1 Quicksilver**

Men's A – **Team Asics**

Men's BB – **The Hit**

Men's 50 & over – **Ref Shop**

Women's A – **A Gozar**

Women's B – **XS Energy**

Thank you to all the participating teams for making this a successful event. Hope to see you next year!

EAST COAST BEACH NATIONALS

This year the East Coast Beach Nationals will be held on August 7th – 8th. The location for this event is Singer Island, FL. Please stay tuned for more event information!

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of July 1st, 2010 is 8422 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 in Florida by USA Volleyball.

BOARD/STAFF RETREAT RECAP

This year our board and staff retreat took place on June 18th – 20th. During this time, the Board/Staff discussed the accomplishments for the year and planned goals for next year.

We are excited about the growth and progress for the future of the Florida Region! We continue to promote Junior and Adult Volleyball across the state of Florida.

Thank you to our board members who participated in the meetings: James Phillips, Shanon Lewis, Donna Beasley, Mitch Sadowsky, and Lori Eaton. Also, by conference call: Kendra VanZwieten, Doug Darling, and Bryan Carver. Thank you to our staff members as well: Steve Bishop, Michelle Daniels, Sara Hoffman, and Krissy McKane.

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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 will be recognized by the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) as an official league. Currently, there are 13 other leagues/conferences across the US for men's college club volleyball and they offer a national championship tournament each year during the month of April or May.

Florida has 38 colleges that are eligible to participate in the FCVL. The plan would be to split Florida into three conferences: North, Central, and South Florida. All participating FCVL members would be required to have a USAV college membership in the Florida Region, which could potentially increase our membership each year as the league grows.

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

FACEBOOK REMINDER

Come join our Facebook and get daily updates on what is happening in the world of volleyball. Help us reach our goal of 2,000 friends, we are so close! This is an easy way to remain in touch in the volleyball community.

We also give away prizes weekly! Make sure to check out our Facebook daily so you don't miss out.



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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!



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