



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



September 2011: ISSUE 24

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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Volleyball enthusiasts,

I hope that your 2011 season was a successful one and that you accomplished all of your goals in volleyball and in life. If not, here is to resetting those goals and working that much harder in the 2012 season to see them come to fruition. The region accomplished some unbelievable milestones and I am incredibly proud of the Florida Region Staff. We not only reached our goal of 10,000 members, but we made the 11,000 membership mark late in the season. We added many more events for our members, especially on the outdoor side of our sport. We sent the first ever beach HP delegation to California with good results and great experiences. Please join me in welcoming **Steve Benson**, Events Manager, to our staff. I look forward to working with Steve to improve and add to our current events.

I hope your 2012 season brings you more joy and happiness than your last, and look forward to meeting you at a tournament in Florida. If you have not done so, please join us in many of our events and witness the joy of volleyball and come be part of a great community.

With warmest wishes,

James Phillips
 Commissioner
 Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you to all of our club directors, coaches, officials, athletes, parents, volunteers, tournament directors, board members, region staff, business partners, and sponsors for an excellent 2010/2011 season! It was by far one of our best seasons ever and together we accomplished many new milestones as a volleyball family. With our challenging economic environment, it is evident that sports programs are very important to our Florida families. Our youth and junior parents obviously enjoy the structure and accountability offered by our junior volleyball clubs and our adults continue to enjoy the many playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities that are available throughout the Region.

As we look forward to the 2011/2012 season we are faced with many new opportunities and challenges. How do we create more affordable programs and reach into untapped markets to grow our overall membership and share this great sport with volleyball enthusiasts of all ages? How do we better safeguard our members, specifically our youth and junior athletes, to make sure that they are being provided a safe and fun environment? How do we improve and simplify the educational opportunities for our coaches and officials to increase our overall proficiency in these areas? How do we increase the visibility of our great sport and create semi-pro and/or professional playing opportunities for post-collegiate athletes? How do we create value for potential non-trade sponsors so that we can catapult our sport from the “minors” to the “majors”? And most importantly, how do we work through the conflicts and friction that occurs on a much-too-regular basis so that we can keep our volleyball family from being distracted and becoming dysfunctional?

These are many of the areas that we intend to pursue in the coming 2011/2012 season. As a “pioneer” Region, we have chosen to lead the way in many of these areas. We invite you to join our team and make a commitment to help in at least one of the areas listed above in your local area. When we all pull in the same direction we can accomplish much more!

Let us know how we can help,

Steve

Steve Bishop, CYSA
Executive Director/President
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – OCEAN B VOLLEYBALL

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 **Mike Zarate** and **Ocean B Volleyball** will be highlighted.

Q: Tell us how you got involved in volleyball?

A: I started playing volleyball in college. I played every day of the week and started coaching a couple years after I started playing. I still play now and compete at USAV adult Nationals every year.

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: Over 14 years

Q: What do you like to do in your “spare time”?

A: I love playing in volleyball tournaments in any spare time that I have. I also love fishing.

Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishment in volleyball?

A: I think my biggest accomplishment would be that I have been able to coach and play at many levels of volleyball. Not only do I coach one of my boy's and girl's club teams, but I also coach at 2 of the top High Schools in South Florida – Cardinal Gibbons (boys) and West Boca (girls). I've also coached at the collegiate level and for USA Volleyball's HP program. As a player, my men's team has taken 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at Adult Nationals.

Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with OBV?

A: I have very good memories with the families that have been with OBV since we opened in 2007. When we opened, I coached our 14u team and I was so lucky to have such great kids and parents. We have all stayed close through the years and have travelled to many cities and states. I will miss them after this year when they graduate!!

Q: Tell us about some of your club's and players' accomplishments in the past year?

A: This year 6 High School Players of the Year came from OBV. 11 of our seniors accepted college volleyball scholarships, 6 of them at division 1 colleges. Also, our teams qualified in the OPEN division at USAV National Qualifiers 5 times this year.

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

A: This year my club produced more High School Players of the Year, Division 1 Athletes and AAU National Championships than any other club in South Florida.

Q: What are your future plans for your club team?

A: This year our club structured our training a little differently and we saw great results. I'm confident our new training structure combined with our talented and dedicated coaching staff will continue to produce quality athletes in the years to come.





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Q: You've been a long time supporter on the adult side of volleyball. What can the Florida Region do to better promote adult volleyball as a life long sport?

A: I think for adults, convenience and the cost of play are the most important factors.

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

A: I look forward to the Florida Region helping with the boy's indoor growth in the future.

*Thanks Mike for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011/2012 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Ken Deterding** and **Gulf Coast Juniors**.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It's that time again! Membership Renewal time is here for all current and future USAV members. You will notice on your membership cards that it expires October 31st, 2011. You can now renew your membership by visiting our website and logging into your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080 or MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org.

2012 CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

We are asking for you to submit your **favorite volleyball photo** whether it's an action shot, group shot, indoor or outdoor; we want to see them all! You can submit your photos to Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org. (Please submit high resolution photos only.) To view the 2011 Calendar, please visit www.FloridaVolleyball.org and click on the calendar located on the home page.

GIRL'S JUNIOR CLUB TRYOUT DATES

This year, the earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 10U – 14U) is Thursday, **September 1st**. The earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 15U – 18U) is Sunday, **November 20th**. Any club found to be holding tryouts prior to these dates will be subject to fines and/or penalties! Please make sure that you sanction your USAV tryouts at least 30 days in advance so it can receive an event sanction number and a USAV certificate of insurance. Please contact **Steve Benson**, Events Manager, @ SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org if you have any questions.

JAB NOMINATIONS

There are 9 candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Junior Admin Board (JAB). The term of their office (if elected) will be through Aug. 2014.

Rita Crockett (District 1 – Incumbent)

John Babbitt (District 3)

Tim Harris (District 3)

Max Lacombe (District 2)

Jessica Lamm (District 3)

Eric Praetorius (District 3)

Alan Rubenstein (District 2)

Sam Skelton (District 4)

Latoya Washington (District 1)

Good luck to the JAB Candidates! Results will be posted online NLT Sept. 9th.



INDOOR DISTRICT JR. FORUM MEETINGS RECAP

The Indoor District Jr. Forum Meetings were held last month in four locations around the state of Florida. This was a time for the Club Directors and Board Members/Region Staff to review past accomplishments and explore new ways to grow the sport of volleyball in Florida.

These meetings also brought about motions from the Club Directors and these motions will be voted on by the clubs. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the Jr. Forum Motions.

NOTE: The deadline to vote on the Jr. Forum Motions is **Sunday, Sept. 4th**.

VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE – RITA CROCKETT

USAV Member, Club Director of Rita Crockett Academy & JAB Representative, **Rita Crockett**, will be inducted into the **Volleyball Hall of Fame** on October 28, 2011, in Holyoke, MA - the birthplace of volleyball. Rita has quite an impressive timeline of achievements and successes and we are proud to have her in the **Florida Region!**



- ❖ **1980, 1984** - member of the U.S. Women's Olympic Teams
- ❖ **1984** - Helped USA to the Silver Medal at the 1984 Olympic Games
- ❖ **1981** - one of six players selected to the All-World Team and led the U.S. team to the 1981 FIVB World Cup Bronze Medal
- ❖ **1982** - assisted the United States to the Bronze Medal at the 1982 FIVB World Championship in Peru
- ❖ For **17 years**, she played and coached in the United States, Japan, Italy and Switzerland
- ❖ **1982-1986** - played for the Daiei Team in Kobe, Japan, helping the team to the Japan V-League title and being named MVP in 1986
- ❖ **1988-1993** - played for Matera and Rome in Italy
- ❖ **1990** - named MVP of the Italian League and
- ❖ **1993** - helped Rome win the European Championship
- ❖ **1986** - Crockett was the first African-American to win a beach volleyball World Championship alongside Volleyball Hall of Fame partner Jackie Silva

CORPORATE VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE TOUR

The Florida Region is interested in partnering with USAV clubs and high school volleyball teams to offer charity **Corporate Volleyball Challenges** in areas across Florida.

This type of event is a great way to get new recreational members involved in the sport. It can create connections between the local club or high school team and the local businesses that might be interested in supporting volleyball in the local area or even across the state of Florida. Also, it provides a competitive level of grass volleyball for experienced and high level players. The Florida Region hopes to secure new strategic partnerships with companies that have a statewide footprint. This series of events will take place on a Saturday between the months of September and November based on availability of Florida Region staff.



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The event will offer two playing divisions:

- o Men's and Women's competitive 4's
- o Co-ed recreational 6's for corporate teams

DATES AND TOURNAMENT IDEAS:

- o September 24th **Fall Classic**
- o October 8th **Breast Cancer Awareness** (Corporate sponsorship needed)
- o October 29th **Halloween Bash** (Team costume contests, candy for the teams, etc.)
- o November 12th **Thanksgiving VolleyFeast** (Corporate Sponsorship needed)



- **A reduced entry fee for competitive 4's teams who bring in at least 20 cans of food. Corporate teams compete for total of food amount brought by each team [prizes given to the highest total per team]. All food donations will be given to local area food banks**

For additional information contact:

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 W: www.FloridaVolleyball.org

USA DEAF VOLLEYBALL TEAM SPOTLIGHT – EMMA RACILA

Emma Racila, a proud member of the **USA Deaf Volleyball Team** and a coaching consultant with **Volleyfrog Florida Club**, shares with us her passion for volleyball and her commitment to the sport.



Tell us about your life growing up.

I've had huge support from my parents; no matter what I wanted to do, they've supported me. If something I wanted to do didn't necessarily agree with my hearing loss, we found a way around it. A great example is when I swam with Swim Florida in the early 90s. I had to take my hearing aids out to swim and thus couldn't hear the start gun. Instead of not competing, I decided to rely on another girl to tap me on the ankle when the gun went off. Sure, I may have had a delay in my start as a result, but I still managed to place top three in many races. I really enjoyed competing in any sport. As I got more serious about volleyball, the support from my parents was amazing. My hearing loss has never stopped me. In fact, many of my coaches and teachers, as well as some close friends never even knew I was hearing impaired until I told them.



When did you start playing volleyball? What position(s) do you play?

When I started playing at a volleyball camp the summer before 6th grade, I naturally started playing middle since I was the tallest one there. I continued to play middle up until my freshman year of high school, where my coach gave me the opportunity to play outside hitter and I've been playing outside ever since. On the Deaf National Team, I play both opposite and outside hitter.

What are some of the challenges you've faced throughout the years learning how to play volleyball while having significant hearing loss?

One of the most notable challenges is hearing the coach in a large group setting such as a camp or even a practice when the team is further from the coach, such as in a demo. I end up relying on what I see as well as my teammates to filling me in. Another challenge is communication on the court. I may not always be able to hear a teammate communicating to me during a play or a coach communicating to me from the bench; therefore I check the bench often to see if my coach or teammates on the bench are trying to communicate to me. However, a positive has been my inability to hear the crowds while playing. I remember my teammates asking me if I heard some crazy thing the crowd said about me while I was playing and I'd be clueless. It keeps the unnecessary distractions at bay.

What are some of the opportunities you will be exposed to while playing on the USA Deaf Volleyball Team?

Most recently, during the Friendship Games in D.C. earlier this month, we had a chance to socialize with the Russian, Ukrainian, and Venezuelan Deaf National teams and we learned a lot about their sign languages and deaf cultures. This fall, we'll have the opportunity to fly to Brazil to play in the Deaf Pan Am Games, where 13 other countries will be in attendance. We'll not only see the beautiful country of Brazil and eat the rich foods, but we'll be able to be immersed in the deaf culture of Brazil.

At the 2011 Friendship Games you led the United States to a 5-0 victory defeating Canada, Japan and Ukraine. What was it like to beat the Ukraine, whom I might add, had not lost in international competition in 6 years?

As I trained in the months before the Games, I heard a lot about Ukraine being the huge rivals for the U.S. and I was just thinking how awesome it would be to beat them. You could say it served as my motivation!

During the training camp right before the Games started, the veteran U.S. players were going on about how they had never beaten Ukraine and they were very talented since their players had been playing since they were 5 and they practice all year round (The U.S. Deaf Team only practices in a training camp right before competition.) It was a little intimidating at first stepping on the court with them, but we realized our new strengths (serving and offense) and utilized them to the fullest.

It seemed that Ukraine didn't know how to face our new U.S. team. It was extremely exciting. I know Ukraine is going to be fighting for some payback next time we face, so I'm really looking forward to our next competition.



How has volleyball enriched and impacted your life?

Looking back throughout my career, from my first summer camp in 6th grade to my last match as a collegiate athlete, the biggest things I've seen myself take away are character, and friendship. John Wooden might have said it best when he stated 'Sports do not reveal character. They reveal it'. I learned how hard I could push myself, both physically and mentally. I learned that I really enjoy challenges and that I take a lot of pride in the things I become involved in. Secondly, my best friend came from the volleyball court. I truly value the friendships I've made in the 13 years I've been playing.

If you could give one piece of advice to young athletes who are deaf or hard of hearing, what would it be?

First and foremost, relish the relationships you make throughout your athletic career. Second, the only difference between you and your hearing teammates or opponents is that they might be able to hear a little better than you. That does not affect your ability to run faster, jump higher, or hit harder.

2010/2011 REGION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INDOOR

- Kicked off the Florida Collegiate Volleyball League (FCVL) under the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) for men's college club volleyball teams
- Launched the Florida Region Ranking Tour
- Highest number of girls' teams in Florida Region history attended the 2011 Junior National Championships (37 teams)
- Team Florida Girls' National Youth (GNY) team won a Silver Medal at the 2011 USAV Indoor HP Championships
- Team Florida Boys' International Youth (BIY) team finished 4th in the Gold Division - the highest achievement in 5 years

OUTDOOR

- Hosted the 2010 USAV Jr. Beach National Championships
- Leading the country in junior beach volleyball
- Florida Region Spotlight article in the USA Volleyball Magazine
- Only Region to send a Beach HP delegation to California to represent Florida in the USAV Beach HP Championships in July

MEMBERSHIP

- Met and exceeded our goal of **10,000 Members** in May 2011
- 8th largest Region in the country
- Largest number of teams attended the 2011 Girl's Jr. Regional Bid Championships (269 teams) and 2011 Girl's Regional Volleyball Championships (357 teams) in Florida Region history
- Florida Region, along with Dig the Beach, partnered with SSOVA and FBVT to include 26 tour stops for adults & juniors
- Presented over 30 awards and \$4500 in scholarships to H.S. Seniors at the 2011 Regional Awards Ceremony in May



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EDUCATION

- o Attended the annual USA Volleyball meetings in Dallas, TX. While at the meetings, we were asked to present to the other 39 Regional Volleyball Associations (RVA's) during the best practices sessions. Also, presented on Growing the Game as a representative for the RVA's during the 3rd Annual USA Volleyball Congress.
- o Held a National USAV Clinic offering IMPACT, CAP I & CAP II in January
- o Held 13 Indoor IMPACT Clinics, trained 250+ coaches
- o Held 3 Beach IMPACT Clinics, trained 50+ coaches

OPERATIONS

- o First Region to host the USAV Board of Directors in Orlando for their quarterly mtg. in Jan.
- o Created the Gold/Silver Seal Program
- o Created the first ever USAV wall calendar
- o Monthly Newsletter (Vol-eNews) in its 23rd Issue
- o Sanctioned over 175 events, 50 of those events were managed by Florida Region Staff

SUMMARY

With achievements such as reaching the Region's goal of 10,000 members, forming a partnership to establish the largest beach volleyball tour in the country along with being the **only** Region to send a delegation to the Beach HP Championships and presenting to the USA Volleyball Congress, we are looking forward to another great year in the Florida Region!

USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- o Adult beach players, **Brooke Sweat & Kristen Batt**, won their first Corona Light Wide Open title on August 21st in Hermosa Beach, CA. Way to represent Florida!
- o Flagler College's, **Dianna Craine**, was selected to the **All-Peach Belt Conference Volleyball Team**. She ranked 11th in kills and 15th in digs in the conference!
- o Bishop Moore junior outside hitter and OVA standout, **Lindsey Owens**, was voted the **best player in Central Florida** at Varsity Volleyball Media Day.
- o Club Director of Volleyball Academy @ Winter Springs, **Isaac Raphael**, was named the new head Women's Volleyball Coach at **Bethune Cookman College** in Daytona Beach.



If you or someone you know is making headlines, please let us know by contacting Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org. You could see your name in the next issue of Vol-eNews!



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MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

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.

There is a new **FREE** membership for all youth who are 8 years old and under. This is a limited membership and must be upgraded to play in any qualifier or national competition. If you have any questions, please contact MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Our current membership count as of August 31st, 2011 is **11,000** 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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Board Members:

James Phillips, Commissioner
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
Steve Benson, Events Manager
Michele Sisser, Registrar/Office Manager
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

OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION SPONSORS



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!



The Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program!

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