

Triumph



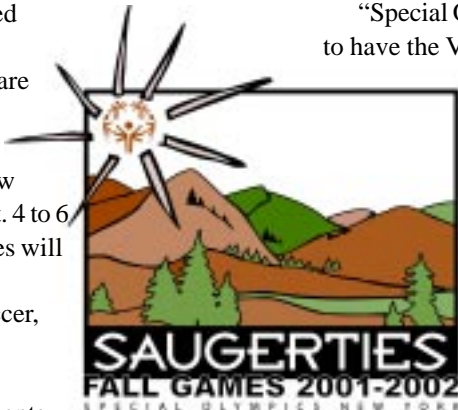
Special Olympics New York • AUGUST 2002

Saugerties Gets Ready for 2002 Fall Games

Nearly 1,200 athletes and coaches will return for second year.

Twelve-hundred athletes and coaches are expected to participate at the 2002 Special Olympics New York Fall Games, Oct. 4 to 6 in Saugerties. Athletes will compete in Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Soccer, Softball and Cross-Country Running.

Most of the events, including the Opening Ceremonies, will take place at Cantine-Veterans Memorial Complex.



“Special Olympics New York is lucky to have the Village and Town of Saugerties host our games for two years,” said Neal J. Johnson, Special Olympics New York president and chief executive officer. “They offer us great support and wonderful facilities in which to hold these Games.”

Opening Ceremonies will be held at 8 p.m., Oct. 4. Competitions are all day Saturday, Oct. 5, followed by Closing Ceremonies and the Victory



Monique Jacobs

Dance beginning at 8 p.m.

Equestrian will be held at Beaverkill Farms. The Golf competition will take place at Rip Van Winkle Golf Course in Palenville.

The Fall Games is one of three statewide Special Olympics competitions held each year in New York and one of more than 400 competitions held across the state annually at either the local or regional level.

For information about the Fall Games, including sponsorship opportunities, call 518-388-0791. ■

Competitors Take on “Sentimental Journey”

Albany International Airport in July hosted the second annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Plane Pull to benefit Special Olympics New York.

The centerpiece was a vintage B-17 bomber, “Sentimental Journey.” Teams of men and women arrived in groups of 20 for a chance to pull the WWII-era aircraft in the fastest

time. When the competition was over, the Northeast Chiefs of Police turned in the winning time, pulling the 38,000-pound flying fortress 12 feet in 4.99 seconds.

The Plane Pull was presented by the airport, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and the Arizona Wing of the Commemorative



SONY Staff

Despite its size, the Plane Pullers moved the B-17 with little trouble.

Air Force, which provided the plane.

Airport Chief Executive Officer John Egan said he enjoys the Plane Pull for multiple reasons. “These are the things that bring spirit to the airport and to the community, and most importantly it benefits Special Olympics,” he said. “The mission of the airport is to provide safe air travel, but also to do things that benefit the community beyond that.”

The competition, which drew more than 500 competitors, their families and friends and other supporters, was emceed by Jeff Blatnick, honorary coach for Special

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What's INSIDE

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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



On Page 7 of this issue of *Triumph* you'll find some thoughts from Rodney Hankins, an International Global Messenger who lives in Brooklyn.

Rodney's entry in "Point of View" – a new feature in *Triumph* – is the second column written by an athlete in

as many months. What a great thing!

While we invite everyone who has come in contact with our athletes to submit columns for "Point of View," we really want to encourage coaches, parents and friends to urge the athletes to submit their own stories. We want to hear about their training regimens, their job experiences, their feelings of pride competing for the first time. We want to know how Special Olympics has changed their lives and the lives of their friends and families. We want to know what barriers they have knocked down.

"Point of View" is just one example of how we should all be striving to make our athletes' voices heard. We can all learn so much in a few hundred words from an athlete.

In the inaugural "Point of View," Craig Ludin from Long Island wrote about his experience at the Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs) training in Atlanta. One of the most important discussions, he said, pertained to athletes speaking up and telling their stories. Their "opinions count," Craig wrote.

One way to hear the opinions of athletes is to *ask* them for their opinions. Invite them to serve on committees that carry out the functions of the organization. Invite them to join a games organizing committee. Invite them to sit on leadership committees. Invite them to join your Area committee. Many Area programs already do this. My hope is that it continues and that more voices are heard.

I never knew Rodney kept a detailed journal of his experiences, or that he met so many celebrities in Los Angeles, or that he and his mother vacationed there before her death. But listening to his stories and reading his column gave me new insights into this fine gentleman.

As Special Olympics New York moves toward a regional structure, regional leadership committees – and the subcommittees that report to them – will be asked to bring athletes into the fold in greater ways. We can teach a lot to our athletes, and we can also learn a lot from them. Besides, as Craig Ludin says, their opinions count. ■

2002 Calendar of Events

August

21-24 SOI North America Regional Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Also scheduled during August, with dates to be confirmed:

■ Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

14 Sections 3, 4 & 5 Softball/Soccer/Bocce, Scotia

21 Sections 5 Softball/Bocce

21 Fall Classic, Cantigue Park, Hicksville

30 Celebrity Golf Classic, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck

Also scheduled during September, with dates to be confirmed:

■ LETR Golf Tournament, Albany *
 ■ Area Coordinators' Council meeting *
 ■ Harley-Davidson raffle begins, statewide *
 ■ Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

September

2 Labor Day holiday, SONY offices closed

7 Sections 3 & 4 Equestrian, Skidmore College Riding Center, Saratoga Springs

13 Executive Committee of the Board of Directors meeting, NYSUT offices, Albany

* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

In the Next Issue

- Special Olympics Day at NY Power
- Summer Harley Raffle Results
- Winter and Summer Games Announcements



Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Fall Conference Planned for Historic Saratoga Springs

"In It Together" will be the weekend theme.

In It Together, the slogan now identified with the ongoing restructuring of Special Olympics New York, will be the theme of the annual Fall Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet Nov. 22 to 24 in Saratoga Springs.

The conference will bring together athletes, volunteers, family members, sponsors, Special Olympics staff and awards recipients for a weekend of idea sharing, networking and fun.

"The theme is intended to remind all of us that we truly are in this business together," said conference organizer Diana Bennett, director of volunteer management. "Everything we do, whether we're planning a conference,

competition or fund-raiser on the local, regional or central office level, is intended to benefit every existing and potential athlete in New York. We will only be successful if we operate as one."

Besides the new host city, the conference will feature many fresh elements, including an expanded Global Messenger training, a Friday night volunteer celebration and an address by humorist Dr. Bruce Baum, a

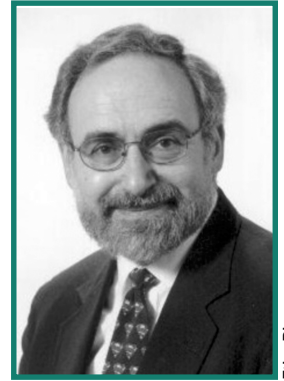
professor at Buffalo State College. Baum has delivered

hundreds of presentations to schools, human service workers and businesses about the importance of humor in our lives. He has experience working with people with disabilities and organizations that serve

them. Baum wrote "She/He who Laughs, Lasts."

Breakout sessions will cover such topics as grant writing, crisis management, competition and resources for families. The annual Board of Directors Awards Banquet will be held Saturday evening Nov. 23. The weekend will also include music, door prizes, goody bags and the chance to meet volunteers and athletes from across the state.

For more information, or to register for the conference, call Bennett at 518-388-0790, x130, or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.



Bruce Baum, Ed.D.

File Photo



Special Olympics
New York, Inc.
in it Together

Fourth Summer Golf Classic in the Books

Organizers set date for 2003.

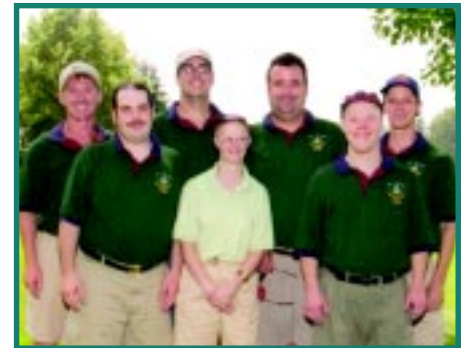
Before sponsors and golfers had even finished their post-round meal, officials from Oak Hill Country Club had confirmed a date for next year's Summer Golf Classic – July 14.

The fund-raising tournament – sponsored annually by ING US Financial Services and New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) – will be the last outing before the East Course is closed in prepara-

tion for the 2003 PGA Championship August 11 through 17, 2003.

"We are indebted to the management of Oak Hill for allowing us and our sponsors the opportunity to play at their legendary course," said Neal J. Johnson, Special Olympics New York president and chief executive officer. "I would also like to thank ING and NYSUT for their sponsorship of this fantastic day of golf."

Johnson praised the generosity and support of Oak Hill President Douglas Weins, PGA Golf Professional Craig Harmon and club General Manager Eric Rule for allowing Special Olympics guests to have access to the spectacular clubhouse, the historic course and for providing a clinic for our athletes and players.



Team Monroe County: Coach Tim Baird, far left, brought his A-Team to Oak Hill. From left, Ramon Becker, Tom Baumbarger, Kathy Hayes, Brian Dioguardi, Peter Connorton, David Russell.

Tim Toal, TJJ Photography



Tim Toal, TJJ Photography

Did you know? Using a five wood out of the greenside rough is sometimes safer and more accurate than using a wedge, according to PGA Professional Craig Harmon, left.

Harmon is part of a famous golf family. His father, Claude, won The Masters in 1948, and his brother, Butch, coaches Tiger Woods. Harmon, who coaches PGA professionals Jeff Sluman and Tom Scherrer, conducted a short-game clinic prior to the shotgun start. Athletes and players learned secrets of effective putting, chipping and sand saves.

When Oak Hill last hosted the PGA Championship in 1980, Jack Nicklaus won. Since then, Oak Hill has hosted the 1984 Senior Open, the 1989 US Open and the 1995 Ryder Cup.

Stars Align at Twelfth Satins, Silks & Stars Weekend

Annual celebration raises awareness and funds for Special Olympics New York.

The Twelfth Annual Satins, Silks & Stars weekend featured excitement from start to finish as an Albany resident set a 5K Run record for the second straight year, the stars shone brightly at the Gala and Sunday's day at the races featured winners with two and four legs.

Star Jones, a host of ABC's "The View," Ethan Zohn, winner of CBS's "Survivor Africa" and celebrity guests such as Thom Christopher, Jeff Blatnick and Yolanda Vega highlighted a fun-packed weekend of celebration.

"I want to thank all of the actors and other celebrities for taking time out of their lives to join us for the weekend," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York.

"Their participation helps us raise awareness and funds so we can provide quality sports training and competition for our 40,000 athletes across the state."

The weekend got off to a rousing start when Nick Conway of Albany com-

pleted the 5K in 14:57, winning the race and setting a record for the second year in a row. Another record was set in the 5K as more than 1,000 runners participated.

The weekend continued with a Black-Tie Gala, where socialite and benefactor Marylou Whitney, the unofficial "Queen of the Spa City," danced with the athletes, and where the 260 guests overwhelmingly supported the Adopt An Athlete program to the tune of \$20,000.

Sunday brought the traditional Equestrian Demonstration, the Luncheon at the trackside pavilion and two feature races held in honor of Special Olympics. The glamorous weekend draws stars from sports, television, stage and film to Saratoga Springs during the annual Hats Off



New York State Assemblyman Paul Tonko cuts the rug with special guest Marylou Whitney.

Dave Feiden Photographic Services

Weekend. The Satins events have raised more than \$1 million in the past 11 years to support year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation throughout New York state. ■



Saratoga County athlete Keith Thomas belts one out as athlete Kim Waterman, left, and soap star Terri Colombino, provide accompaniment.

Dave Feiden Photographic Services



Nick Conway of Albany wins the 5K for the second straight year.

Jerry Vitagliano, JCV Studio Photography/Crafts

The Guest List Included

- Jeff Blatnick, Olympic Gold Medalist ■ Thom Christopher, *Col. Dax*, "Guiding Light" ■
- Terri Colombino, *Katie Peretti Frasier*, "As the World Turns" ■ John Gray, anchor, NewsChannel 13 ■
- Sam Page, *Trey Kenyon*, "All My Children" ■ Star Jones, "The View" ■
- Eden Riegel, *Bianca Montgomery*, "All My Children" ■ Kristina Sisco, *Abigail Williams*, "As the World Turns" ■
- Aiden Turner, *Aidan Devane*, "All My Children" ■ Yolanda Vega, New York Lottery ■ Ethan Zohn, "Survivor Africa" ■

Healthy Athletes Alive and Well

Screening program continues its success.

In what amounted to just a few hours of screenings, more than 600 athletes passed through the Healthy Athletes tent at Summer Games, receiving needed examinations and medical referrals for future treatment.

And that was just for dental screenings.

While the numbers of athletes screened for vision and hearing loss at Summer Games continues to be tallied, Special Olympics New York is praising the work of volunteer practitioners, who expertly handled the flow of athletes; the coaches, who made sure athletes visited the Healthy Athletes tent at Olympic Village; and the New York State Health Department, which provides an important grant to help fund the program.

"The Healthy Athletes program continues to grow in New York state because of the hard work of volunteers, including coaches, and because of the vision of the state Health Department, which continues to recognize the needs of our athletes," said Neal J. Johnson, Special Olympics New York president and chief executive officer. "The fact that more than 600 athletes received dental screenings and referrals is more hard evidence that the Healthy Athletes initiative is making a positive impact on the lives of our athletes."

The success of Healthy Athletes comes at a time when the Special Olympics movement is raising its voice in support of improved health care for people with mental

retardation. Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D., Special Olympics president and chief executive officer, on June 25 testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Health, urging members to address the dental needs of people with mental retardation. The hearing was called "The Crisis in Children's Dental Health: A Silent Epidemic."

The subcommittee's proposed bill seeks to improve the dental health of children in the United States by increasing availability and delivery of dental care. Poor dental health can adversely affect a person's self-esteem by hindering his or her ability to speak, smile and interact socially. The result is interference with daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, attending school and going to work. Improper dental hygiene can also lead to an array of more serious health problems.

In his testimony, Shriver acknowledged the overwhelming occurrence of poor dental health among people with mental retardation. He provided alarming statistics collected from 9,000 Special Olympics athletes in 2001. Thirty percent of athletes had visible tooth decay; 30 percent were missing one or more permanent teeth; 44 percent showed obvious signs of gingival infection; and 4 percent had no natural teeth left in their mouth.

"Families and caregivers recognize the importance of maintaining good oral health," Shriver said. "However, the reality is that many individuals with mental retardation go without daily oral hygiene care simply because it is too difficult to get the necessary compliance. This makes the access to reliable dental care even more essential."

New York State Health Commissioner Antonia Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., who served as Surgeon General from 1990 to 1993 and continues to serve on the Special Olympics Board of Directors, was instrumental in

securing two grants worth 300,000 over four years to support Healthy Athletes in New York.

"The New York State Health Department is very proud to partner with the Special Olympics by supporting the Healthy Athletes program," Dr. Novello said. "I have seen Healthy Athletes screenings in action and it is inspiring to witness medical professionals from throughout New York volunteering their time to provide this very important service. It is also inspiring to know that the Special Olympics athletes have and will continue to benefit greatly from this program."

The Healthy Athletes program consists of Special Smiles, Opening Eyes and Healthy Hearing. Screenings are offered at all three major statewide competitions and certain Regional events. By the end of 2002, certain Area – or local – games will offer screenings. Special Olympics New York estimates that more than 5,000 screenings will be offered to athletes in 2002. ■



James Williams

This athlete was one of more than 600 who received dental screenings at Summer Games.



SONY Staff

Puppets are used to help athletes understand proper brushing technique.

Around the State



The annual Fall Classic will take place Saturday, September 21, at Cantigue Park in Hicksville.

More than 500 athletes from Long Island, Metropolitan New York and the Hudson Valley will participate. The Fall Classic will include the Olympic-style pageantry of Opening Ceremonies, which begin at 9:30 a.m., and competition in Soccer, Softball, Cross-Country, Golf and Bocce. Competition is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Area 1 - Bronx

New Global Messenger Freddy Campanella has been very busy these last few months. He has been giving speeches throughout the Bronx on the importance of Special Olympics to him and his fellow athletes. He has spoken at retirement dinners, Lion's Clubs meetings and even led the Athlete's Oath at this year's Metro Tournament. He was also featured on BronxNet TV, where he talked about the benefits of Special Olympics.

Area 5 - Orange County

A check for \$6,672 was presented to Special Olympic Orange County following a car show at the Thomas Bull Memorial Park in Campbell Hall. The show was hosted by the Boulevard Knights Custom and Classic Car Club. The show, which drew 242 cars, is chaired by John Clarke. The treasurer is his wife, Sue Clarke. They are the parents of Special Olympics athlete George Clarke.

Area 20 - Monroe County

The Wegmans Spikes' Hike, the annual 4.5 mile walk to benefit charities including Special Olympics Monroe County, was held recently. Spikes' Hike enjoyed its eighth year of raising money for the more than 1,800 athletes who train and compete in greater Rochester. The walk started and ended at Frontier Field, with the route including Corn Hill and the northern edge of the University of Rochester's river campus. Approximately 1,150 walkers participated in this year's event, which included breakfast and a picnic lunch provided by Wegmans Food Markets. Corporate partners included the Red Wings, 1180 WHAM Radio and Fox Rochester. Participants also received a commemorative Spikes' Hike 2002 T-shirt. Volunteers received T-shirts courtesy of Mason Selkowitz Marketing.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

Reward Special Olympics Athletes for Their We Try Harder® Spirit!

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Be a part of our Special Olympics Soccer Ball Drive. Together we can reward champions.

For more information visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.

Second Albany Plane Pull

continued from p.1



SONY Staff

Framed by the B-17, Jeff Blatnick provided expert commentary.

Olympics New York and 1984 Olympic gold medal-winning wrestler. Blatnick has supported Special Olympics for more than 10 years, serving as a friend, a mentor and an inspiration.

"I can't believe the enthusiasm," Blatnick said. "I like the fact that people are cheering for all the teams. It ties right in with the Special Olympics theme."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the name given to all activities (including the annual Torch Run to the Summer Games) conducted by volunteer law enforcement officers from around the state. Other events include Polar Plunges, Plane Pulls, Fire Truck Pulls, Harley-Davidson raffles and golf tournaments.

1st Place

Northeast Chiefs of Police
4.99 seconds

2nd Place

Albany Police Department
5.44 seconds

3rd Place

New York State Police
5.46 seconds

The Rest of the Best

- ♦ Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Department
5.49 seconds
- ♦ Albany County Sheriffs
5.53 seconds
- ♦ Southwest Airlines
5.66 seconds
- ♦ Colonie Police Department PBA
5.68 seconds
- ♦ Albany International Airport
5.68 seconds
- ♦ New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
5.75 seconds
- ♦ Team United
6.04 seconds
- ♦ Kids Teeth Dentists
6.25 seconds
- ♦ Albany County Airport Authority
6.43 seconds
- ♦ South Colonie School District
7.41 seconds
- ♦ Women in Aviation
8.37 seconds

Point of View

By Rodney Hankins

Editor's Note: *Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger Rodney Hankins attended a special training session in Los Angeles in the spring. What follows are journal excerpts from his trip.*

It is the second day in Los Angeles and it brought back a lot of good memories, one of which was with my mother the last time I was here eight years ago, the year my mom died.

Me and Jim Smith got here on Tuesday afternoon, March 12, 2002, before stopping in Denver, CO. When the van was driving us to the hotel in downtown L.A., I saw that a lot of things had changed since I was here last time.

My roommate came in from Russia, Leonid Stroilin. He and his translator Natasha came late because Leonid had to wait to get his visa.

On Thursday March 14, our class worked on target-market subjects. We all got a CD for the computer to use. After class was over we went to my old stomping grounds, Hollywood Blvd.

When we got there some things had changed. Like the Holiday Inn is not there. It is under a different name, Renaissance Hotel, and it costs a lot of money. A lot of new stores opened up there, too. And they

now have the Kodak Theater where they host the Oscars.

(The group) wanted to take pictures of the Hollywood sign, so we walked all the way to where me and mom used to stay at, the Best Western in Hollywood. But to my surprise there was a tree in front of the Hollywood sign, So we had to walk back to Hollywood Blvd. to take pictures.

On Friday, it was media training day, and we had a chance to meet the class of 2000-2002. They told us to always say yes when you get the call to do something, always be prepared, and practice, practice, practice.

Saturday was the big day and I was excited and nervous - our last breakfast together with the old class on the top floor of the hotel. When we arrived they gave us an E.T. pin. We then had our picture taken with Tim Shriver, president and CEO of Special Olympics. Also there was Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Sargent Shriver, Linda Potter (Tim Shriver's wife) and others.

A little past 2 we were ready to go to the Shrine Auditorium. We got on a bus to take us there. When we arrived the security people escorted us to our seats until it was time to go to the red carpet. We saw Robert MacNaughton, who played the older brother in E.T., Drew Barrymore, Neve Campbell, Bart Conner, Nadia Comaneci and

so many others.

Then they called us down to take pictures with Steven Spielberg.

Then we had to go back to our seats. The security told us it was time to walk the red carpet. When we got inside they sounded a tone to tell us it was time to go to our seats. Eunice Kennedy Shriver said a few words and John Williams conducted a 100-piece live orchestra when we were watching the movie. After the movie we went next door to the after-party.

The photographer, Terri Lee, had me taking pictures with Will Smith, Neve Campbell, Steven Spielberg and Erika Eleniak, who I had a major crush on.

Before I knew it was time to go home, and at 6:50 a.m. Sunday we flew back to New York.

Point of View is written periodically. Rodney Hankins is an athlete from Brooklyn with local, state and international competition experience. To submit a column idea, call Doreen Hand at 212-661-3963, or e-mail dhand@nyso.org.



File photo

Rodney Hankins

Letters

Editor's Note: *This letter to Melissa Gross, director of Program, was written by Nick Derouaux from Staten Island, below center, following a trip to the Special Olympics Oregon Summer Games.*

Dear Melissa:

It was so great for the students of Tillamook High School to raise money to bring us out to Oregon.

It was an honor to be representing New York City and the tragedy of 9/11. They had so many questions and it felt great to go to the school and talk to the students about the tragedy.

I went to Oregon Special Olympic state games and met many new friends. Michael and I ran the torch into the Opening Ceremonies, and my mother & Geoff and the rest of the police officers followed.

I spent the day giving out medals to the athletes. That was great. They had a reception the night before for us and I got a NIKE bag.

The police officers from Tillamook were great. They took us everywhere. The Police Chief, Terry, even had a BBQ for us and officer Kurt took us crabbing. That was really fun and Terry cooked them at the BBQ.

Nick Derouaux
Staten Island

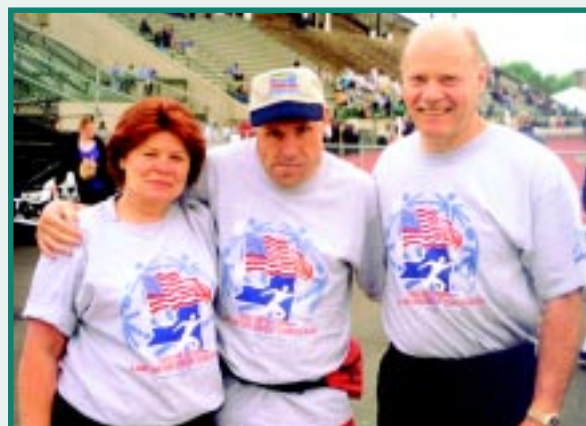


Photo provided

Derouaux, center, with his mother, Chris Dickhut and New York State Police Major Geoff Culkin, in Oregon.

Submit letters to Doreen Hand, Special Olympics New York, 211 East 43rd Street, 12th Floor New York, NY 10017, e-mail: dhand@nyso.org.



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Toyota and Time, Inc. Team Up to Benefit Special Olympics

Twelfth annual golf tournament to be held at Winged Foot.

If you missed the annual golf outing at Oak Hill in August, you still have a chance to play on one of golf's most beautiful courses.

The Twelfth Annual Golf Classic at Winged Foot Golf Club will take place Monday, Sept. 30 at the championship course in Mamaroneck.

The tournament, presented by Toyota, in partnership with Time, Inc., will feature three meals, an instructional golf clinic, 18 holes of golf and an

awards program. Raffles will be held and tournament prizes will be awarded during the dinner program.



The renowned Albert W. Tillinghast designed winged Foot, which boasts two of America's most challenging courses. The club has hosted the US Open (1959, 1974 and 1984); the Senior Open (1980); and the PGA Championship (1997).

For information, call Chris Grieco at 212-661-5217, or e-mail cgrieco@nyso.org.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.