

Triumph

September 2005



Special Olympics
New York

Make Way for Ducklings!

2005 Million Dollar Duck Race Highlights Milo's Manhattan Migration

This year followers of the Million Dollar Duck Race to benefit Special Olympics New York can also follow something else – the adventures of Milo, the Million Dollar Duck. The mascot, who will be joining more than 25,000 of his little rubber friends for a race from under the Brooklyn Bridge to the South Street Seaport on Friday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m., is making stops around the

city each week to spread the word. He set off from his home in Central Park, with visits to Rockefeller Center, the New York Public Library, Times Square, Washington Square Park, Chinatown, the Brooklyn Bridge and others planned along the way.

Continued P. 3



15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Weekend a Runaway Success

Stars come out to support SONY athletes

After the Silks & Satins 5K Run crossed the finish line, the stars came out for the 15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Gala presented by GE held at the Saratoga Polo Club on Saturday July 30. The Gala kicked-off at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour, where guests bid on a number of exciting silent auction items. As the more than 250 guests poured in, so too did the stars, including Thom Christopher, Emmy Award Winning Actor of “Guiding Light” and “One Life to Live;” Betsy Palmer, who starred as Jason’s mother in “Friday the 13th;” John Castellanos of “Young and the Restless;” Robin Strasser of “One Life to Live;” and Olympic Skier Pam Fletcher. John Gray, of Fox 23, and New York Lottery’s Yolanda Vega were also in attendance and

co-hosted the event.

A new twist to the Gala this year was the equestrian demonstration, which was moved from Sunday to Saturday in part because the event took place at the Saratoga Polo Club. “We were very happy

with the equestrian demonstration being moved to Saturday night,” said Bridget Graber, Associate Director of Development. “Everyone at the Gala got the opportunity to see our athletes in action, and that’s what this entire weekend is all about.” The athletes who took place in the demonstration were: Mike Decker, Jennifer Delaney, Keith Thomas, Mollie McEvelly, Joshua Naccarato and Jenny Kowantz.

After the demonstration it was time to sit down for dinner and a touching speech by Global Messenger Stephen Caruso. The 52-year-old Menards athlete told the crowd of the recent challenges that he has overcome. Stephen, who has been involved with SONY for more than 16 years, mainly as a swimmer, injured his shoulder three years ago and his doctor told him he might never swim again. But Steve didn’t let that get him down, and while he couldn’t swim he helped his team

Continued P. 5



From Left to Right: Pam Fletcher, John Gray, Betsy Palmer, John Castellanos, Robin Strasser, Thom Christopher, and SONY athlete Steve Caruso. Yolanda Vega not pictured.

What's INSIDE

4 Silks & Satins 5K Run



6-7 Torch Run Times



A Message from the President

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



It's hard to believe that summer is behind us and we are now turning to the fall season with shorter and cooler days. It doesn't seem possible that we will soon be knocking on the door

of 2006. It's been a busy and successful summer for Special Olympics New York and there is still a lot of work ahead of us.

Summer Games this year may have been the best ever. With three glorious days in Long Island our athletes shined in

the spotlight. The only bittersweet part of the weekend was knowing that after three years at Hofstra University we would not be returning. The faculty and staff at Hofstra have always been great to us and we look forward to the time when we can return to such a great venue again.

At the end of July we held one of our biggest fundraisers, the 15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Gala at the Saratoga Polo Club. It was an exciting night to see people there supporting SONY. To see the smiles on the faces of the guests as they watched our athletes in the equestrian demonstration just reaffirms my belief that we are making a

difference and are getting the word out about the benefits of our program.

Even with these successes behind us there are still many events ahead before we say goodbye to 2005. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the coaches, volunteers and especially the members of the various organizing committees that make each and every event better than the last. Your support makes it possible for our athletes to reach for their goals. ■

Additional Volunteer Screening Measure Will Increase Safety

New volunteer application form now available.

While many of you have heard about this new measure, we would like to continue to run this story to make sure everyone is informed of this important change. In an effort to further protect Special Olympics athletes, Special Olympics International has revised its policy regarding volunteer screening and will now include background checks. This policy impacts what is currently referred to as 'Type 1 Volunteers': volunteers who may have close physical contact with athletes, volunteers who are in a position of authority or supervision with athletes, and volunteers who handle substantial amounts of cash or other assets of the Program. These volunteers must be screened using a national vendor that researches the sex offender registry for each State in which the sex offender registry is available electronically.

Beginning January 1, 2005, new volunteers are subject to the new procedures and all existing volunteers will be screened over a 3-year period ending July 2008. Going forward, volunteers must be re-screened every three years.

What does this mean to Special Olympics New York? **The new volunteer application form is now available.** Volunteers registered on or after January 1, 2005 will need to complete the new application and be re-screened, and existing volunteers will start to be re-screened in early fall. ■

Triumph

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Triumph is published 12 times a year by the Public Affairs Department. It salutes the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, local and regional programs, sponsors and donors of Special Olympics New York, Inc.

Inspire Greatness

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Make Way for Ducklings!

Continued from P. 1

As he travels, he's been encouraging all of the new friends he meets to log on to www.specialolympicsNY.org to adopt a duck or a whole flock. For a \$5 donation, you can adopt one duck who will be entered in the race, or for a \$25 or \$50 donation you can get multiple ducks, coupons and more. You have the chance of being a lucky duck yourself and winning \$1 million dollars or other great prizes, including American Airlines tickets.

For more information and to watch Milo's migration, go to www.specialolympicsNY.org or call the duck hotline at (212) 490-1062. ■



Turn Old Into Gold

Recycle your cell phone for Special Olympics

Turn your unwanted cell phones into cash to support Special Olympics and help provide sports training and competition opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.

Don't toss your old cell phone. Recycle for Special Olympics and turn your old phone into gold for Special Olympics! Find out more at www.specialolympics.org/recycle

The Recycle for Special Olympics promotion runs from February 1, 2005, through January 31, 2006. Special Olympics will receive a minimum of \$1 to more than \$100 per donated phone. RWS Communications Group, the cell phone recycler, has guaranteed a minimum donation to Special Olympics of \$250,000.



www.specialolympics.org/recycle

ADOPT A DUCK FORM

Team Name: _____

Team type: (please circle)

Community / Corporate

First _____

Last _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Method of Payment:

Visa MC Discover Amex

Check # _____ Cash

Credit Card # _____

Verification # (Three digit number on the back of your credit card in the signature area): _____

Exp. Date _____

I wish to adopt _____ duck(s)
at a \$5 donation per duck for a total of
\$ _____

Quack Pack

I wish to adopt _____ Quack Pack(s)
at \$25 per pack for a total of
\$ _____

Quacker's Dozen

I wish to adopt _____ Quacker's Dozen(s)
at \$50 per pack for a total of
\$ _____

Total Donation: \$ _____

**Mail completed form
and payment to:**

**Clare Healy
Special Olympics New York
211 East 43rd Street
12th floor
New York, NY 10017**

**Duck Hotline: 212-490-1062
www.specialolympicsNY.org**

Building for the Future

Real Estate and Construction Gala Returns to NYC

Preparations are underway for the 6th Annual Real Estate and Construction Gala to benefit Special Olympics New York. Building on last year's success, the annual event will take place on Tuesday, November 1 at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers, and the evening will include dinner and dancing, as well as an auction.

This year's honoree is Gerard Nocera, Chief Operating Officer of SL Green Realty Corporation. SL Green Realty Corporation owns 29 commercial buildings in New York City. Mr. Nocera is responsible for the operation, redevelopment and leasing of all of the properties, and also oversees all capital projects, leasing programs and day-to-day operations of the company.

"We're looking forward to a successful event this year," said Laurie Kennedy, Director of Development. "We have a great organizing committee who contribute so much and make the evening entertaining and creative, and the support of this industry in New York City is growing with each year. We're pleased to be honoring Mr. Nocera and his contribution to the real estate and construction industry."

For more information, please contact Laurie Kennedy at lkennedy@nyso.org. ■

Records Fall at the 9th Annual Silks & Satins 5K Run

Conway Wins Fifth Straight 5K

Under sunny skies and a beautiful Saratoga Springs morning, a record breaking 1,200 runners took to the streets on July 30 for the 9th Annual Silks & Satins 5K Run. This surpasses the record set last year of 1,146 runners.

Another race record was broken by Albany's Nick Conway, who in winning his fifth straight Silks & Satins 5K race set a new course record

of 14:47. This marks the third time he has set the course record. In 2001 he finished with a time of 15:02, in 2002 he dropped his time to 14:57, and this year he beat that by 10 seconds. "This is a great race, one that I look forward to every year," said

Conway. "The weather was perfect this morning and the competition was fierce," said the 30-year-old Conway. "I'm glad to have won but it gets tougher every year. I'm getting older and these guys are getting younger."

The top female was Hannah Davidson, 15, who crossed the finish line at 16:57. The Saratoga Springs High School track

star says she had a lot of competition in the race thanks to a number of teammates. Davidson said she was happy to have beaten Nicole Blood's winning time in last year's race. Blood did not run this year.

"Congratulations to Nick and Hannah for winning the Silks & Satins 5K Run," said Chris Porreca, Race Organizer. "We had a perfect day for a great race, and Special

Olympics New York raised money to help ensure that our 40,000 athletes will continue to enjoy cost-free sports opportunities. I'd also like to thank all of our sponsors, including our presenting sponsors Price Chopper and GE," said Porreca.

The Silks & Satins 5K Run is also sponsored by the

New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, Merrill Lynch, Blue Shield of Northeastern New York, Citizens Bank, FYE, Quad Graphics, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, M&T Bank, Amtrak, Saratoga Race Course, Garelick Farms, Keeler Auto Company, Times Union, Fox 23 and 99.5 The River. American Airlines is the official airline of SONY. ■



Nick Conway, wins his 5th straight Silks & Satins 5K Run



Special Olympics New York athlete Kevin Brown congratulates the Top Female, Hannah Davidson of Saratoga Springs.

Not Your Ordinary Volunteers

SONY Thanks Citizens Bank

More than 50 Citizens Bank employees volunteered at the 2005 Capital District Region Summer Games on June 4th. Their volunteerism is part of their \$10,000 sponsorship of Capital District events to support Special Olympics New York in 2005.

Employees spent the day in their Citizens Bank "Not your average Volunteer" T-shirts, assisting with Softball throw, Track & Field and Opening Ceremonies. This is just one of the many events in which Citizens Bank employees volunteer. ■



15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Weekend

Continued from P. 1



Thom Christopher answers questions at the historic Saratoga Race Course on Sunday. The stars and guests enjoyed a gourmet luncheon at the At the Rail Pavilion on Sunday.



SONY Equestrian athletes pose for a picture with the stars at the 15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars Gala.



A winning crowd in the Winners circle.

out by coaching. Finally, after going through therapy, he made it back to the pool even though it was against his doctor's best wishes. After being out of action for three years Steve made it back to Summer Games and won a Silver Medal.

After Steve received a standing ovation, Neil Golub, President and C.E.O. of the Golub Corporation and Price Chopper Supermarkets, and Wayne Hewett, Vice President and General Manager of GE Advanced Materials-Silicones started the fundraising. Both Honorary Co-Chairmen announced that their companies would be sponsoring 55 athletes combined. Saratoga socialite and horse owner Mary Lou Whitney then sponsored 30 athletes.

"It was a successful night and the Saratoga Polo Club was the perfect location for our Gala," said Neal J. Johnson, President and C.E.O. of SONY. "It allowed us to showcase the truly amazing abilities of our athletes in the equestrian demonstration and the staff helped make the night a success. I would also like to thank Neil Golub and Wayne Hewett whose generosity helps grow this event each year, and to our local organizing committee and Co-Chairs Joanne DiMarco and Frank Mitola. Without their tireless efforts this weekend would not be possible."

The 15th Annual Satins, Silks & Stars is presented by GE and sponsored by The New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, Blueshield of Northeastern New York, Merrill Lynch, Citizens Bank, FYE, Quad Graphics, M&T Bank, Keeler Motor Car Company, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, Amtrak, Saratoga Race Course, Fox 23, The Times Union and 99.5 The River. American Airlines is the official airline of SONY. ■



Mister Johnson Goes to Washington

Left to right: Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver, Special Olympics New York President and C.E.O. Neal J. Johnson, New York Senator Hillary Clinton and Global Messenger Paul Morretti pose for a picture on a lobbying visit in Washington, D.C. ■

TORCH RUN TIMES

Law Enforcement Torch Run News

Ready On the Rope

Supporters pull together for SONY athletes

More than 150 people took part in the 5th Annual LETR Albany Plane Pull on August 9, at Albany International Airport. A nice breeze broke through the otherwise hot and humid day, a welcomed feeling for the seven teams which competed. The teams included: Transportation Security Administration, Merrill Lynch, Albany Police, Albany County Sheriff's Department, Southwest Airlines, and two teams of airport employees.

Each team competed by pulling a B-17 World War II Replica airplane 20 feet. The teams consisted of 20 members on the rope, and once SONY President and C.E.O. Neal J. Johnson called out "Ready on the

Rope" and got an all clear from the team captain, he fired the gun, the brakes on the plane were released and the pulling began. Each team pulled the plane twice and the best single time was used to determine the winner. After the first pull the Albany County Sheriff's Department was in the lead with a time of 5.56 seconds and they had a number of teams on their heels.

Each team was determined to beat the best time on their second pull, but in the end the Albany County Sheriff's Department's first time was the best and

they walked away with the title and trophy. The Albany Police Department came in second, with the Transportation Security Administration in third place.

"It's hard to believe that this is already the fifth year of this event," said LETR Liaison, Jeanne Grebert. "It gets better each year. The teams had a great time and I think we have some rivalries that will be continued for years to come," said Grebert. "I would like to thank everyone who helped make this wonderful event a success." ■



Place	Team	Time
1 st	Albany County Sheriff Department	5.56 seconds
2 nd	Albany Police Department	5.86 seconds
3 rd	Transportation Security Administration	6.03 seconds

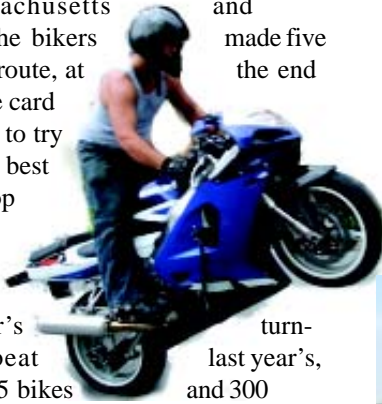


Motorcyclists Rally for Royal Flush Tour Poker Run

300 bikers turn out on hottest day of summer

🔥 The 2nd Annual Royal Flush Tour Poker Run got off to an exciting start this year on Saturday, August 13, in Schaghticoke. A group of stunt riders (motorcycle trick riders) entertained the crowd before the run commenced. Jamie Marie Henderson, daughter of Event Organizer Darcie Henderson, said, “They were awesome. They burned out in front of two police cars and there was rubber all over the cars. Another burned out his tire and couldn’t ride any longer. There was a perfect circle track mark in the road.”

The bikers then departed from presenting sponsor Henders’ Son’s Restaurant on their 100 mile, tri-state scenic tour through New York, Massachusetts and Vermont. The bikers made five stops on the route, at the end receiving one card for each stop to try to collect the best hand. The top three hands received prizes.



Hundreds of bikers go roaring up Route 7 in Brunswick on their way to the first stop at Brunswick Harley Davidson.

This year’s turnout easily beat last year’s, with over 205 bikes and 300 people joining the ride and raising money for Special Olympics New York. Mark Wells received a plaque for his efforts as the “Individual Who Raised the Most,” and said, “The poker run was a fantastic time and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again next year. You can count on us being there.”

“This event doubled in its second year, from 130 riders to 300,” said Jeanne Grebert, LETR Liaison. “I would like to thank Jimmy and Darcie Henderson and the entire Henderson Family, they worked so hard on this event and we could not have done it without them. Also, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank 103.5/103.9 The Edge for being our Media Sponsor. They helped us get the word out and we hope they will join us again next year,” said Grebert. ■



Bikes line up on both sides of Lower Main Street in Schaghticoke.



Chili Walker, Glen Stacey and the staff from 103.5 / 103.9 The Edge pose with SONY Athletes Steve Caruso and Kevin Brown.



SONY athletes Kevin Brown and Steve Caruso inspect some of the motorcycles prior to the 2nd Annual Royal Flush Poker Tour.



SONY athlete Steve Caruso congratulates Mark Wells who won the award for raising the most money.

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*Don't forget to send your letters to the editor. Submit letters to Eric Wohlleber,
Special Olympics New York, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304, or e-mail them to ewohlleber@nyso.org.*



New York State Council Knight of Columbus State Deputy Thomas E. Dwyer (Left) presents Neal J. Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, with a donation of \$3,000 for Special Olympics activities. The Knights of Columbus supports the Special Olympics World Games, state and regional Special Olympics and other programs for persons with developmental disabilities. Throughout the fraternal organization, more than \$2 million is donated annually to these programs. ■

SONY's mission is to provide sports training and athletic competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities, including mental retardation. Our programs are designed to offer participants continuing opportunities to enjoy sports, develop physical fitness and demonstrate courage while interacting with their families, the community and other Special Olympics athletes.