



Newsletter

November 2010

Up Coming Events!

NCCP Part A Coaching Course

December 11 & 12, 2010—Calgary, AB

Level 1 Coaching Course

January 8, 2011—Airdrie, AB

Module 1 Judging Course/ Level 2 Coaching Course

January 7-9, 2011—Airdrie, AB

Beginner Clinic—North

January 22, 2011—Spruce Grove, AB

Northern Region Valentine Competition

February 5, 2011—Leduc, AB

Pre Event Challenge

March 5, 2011—Spruce Grove, AB

Parkland Region Sweet Pea Competition

April 2, 2011—Red Deer, AB

Provincial Championships

April 29—May 1, 2011—Calgary, AB

International Cup Qualifier

May 20—May 23, 2011—Calgary, AB

Once other competition dates and events are confirmed, they will be posted on the ABTA website.

New ABTA website is coming soon!!!!

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Association'

*"Every game is
an opportunity
to measure
yourself against
your own
potential"*

- Bud Wilkinson

'At The Top' Technical Conference

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2010 'At The Top' Technical Conference held in Edmonton in October. We hope you all had a great time and learned some valuable information over the weekend.

ABTA was awarded funding for this conference from the following grant programs: ASRPWF Hosting Grant, ASRPWF Development Initiatives Program and the Investor's Group Community Coaching Conference Grant.

The following supporters also donated items for the conference: Sport Medicine Council of Alberta, AJM Petroleum Consultants, Triple Flip, United Cycle, Be Fit For Life, Weyerhaeuser and Servus Credit Union.

Congratulations to Candy Tedford for receiving the Investors Group Volunteer Sport Administrator Award!

Special thanks to all the instructors who shared their vast knowledge of our sport with the delegates: Dale White, Ginnette Groome, Steven Kopas, Tina Larson, Wendy Cruickshank, Jill Ford and Lorraine Meek.

"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them"

- Michael Jordan

ABTA Board of Directors

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Coaches Rep—Jill Ford

Athletes Rep—Cassandra Frank

Skills Development Office—Shari Foster

Group Rep—Lorraine Meek

"Everyone has the desire to win, but only champions have the desire to prepare."

- Unknown

An Inspiring Story

Heroes Among Us — *Submitted by Marilyn Stewart-Johnson*

All of us have 'heroes' that we look up to and wish we could be just like, whether it be for their courage, strength or super powers. I have looked up to many celebrities, humanitarians and most recently my 15 year old cousin, Courtney McLean. You think I am crazy right, well I think if you knew the whole story you would realize how much of a 'hero' Courtney really is.

In September of 2009 Courtney was walking home through a field when she saw a man beating a woman. Courtney being the person she is told the man to stop and "pick on someone his own size." The man stopped choking his victim and pushed Courtney telling her it was none of her business; Courtney picked herself up and called 911 for help. She followed the couple, who were still fighting as they walked away. She continued to provide the 911 dispatcher with updates on the couple. The man saw her following them and turned to confront her at which time the dispatcher sent her to a nearby residence for safety. Police officers that responded and the 911 dispatcher have told Courtney's parents that what makes Courtney's call stick in their minds is how calm and courageous she was, which is rare for most people, at any age, when presented with a similar situation.

On May 19, 2010 Courtney and 46 other Calgarians were recognized by Police Chief Rick Hanson for demonstrating bravery and assisting in public safety. Courtney received the Award of Exceptional Recognition. I was lucky enough to be there when Courtney and many other amazing Calgarians received their awards. I was surprised to discover that another member of the Crossroads Community was receiving an award from the Chief of Police. Constable David Tanner, a long time member of the community, received the Life Saving Award for his heroic actions. I was proud not only to say that I knew two of the recipients being honored but that I was related to one of these amazing people.

Courtney isn't just a hero because she intervened in a dangerous situation she is also very active in the Crossroads 36 Scouts and Reunited Baton. She is currently working hard to start a Venture Company within the Crossroads Community next year. She can be found volunteering at many different events around the community and is someone that will lend a hand wherever and whenever she can.

Okay, so I might be biased because I am related to her, but I think most would agree that Courtney possess many qualities at 15 that many of us as adults hope that we can say we also possess. I hope that I can act with the same courage and calmness as Courtney if I am ever faced with a similar situation.

The Crossroads Community contains many other Heroes, many will never receive the recognition they deserve. To Courtney, Dave and all the other Heroes of the Crossroads Community I say "Thank You" for making the community and city a better place and for giving me Heroes to look up to.

The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of ordinary qualities. These may for the most part be summed in these two: commonsense and perseverance.

- Owen Feltham



ABTA Academic Scholarship Recipient

Each year, ABTA awards members pursuing post secondary education the opportunity to apply for the ABTA Academic Scholarship Fund. Last year, Larissa Dearing was a recipient of this scholarship. She wanted to share an experience she was able to take part in because of her post secondary education. Below is her story.....

A Belizean Adventure

By Larissa Dearing

My interest in the Belize Primatology Field School started when I took an Anthropology class, Primate Behaviour. I can remember when I told my mom, she was quite baffled that I would be taking a University class about monkeys and even worse, that I sounded quite excited about it. After our conversation, I remember beginning to doubt my decision to take this class that didn't really seem all that related to my major field of study, but decided to try it out anyways.

This was a wonderful decision as the professor, Dr. Mary Pavelka, was and remains one of the best University professors I have encountered throughout my academic career. Dr. Pavelka's most recent research is conducted on the Black Howler monkeys in Belize, and she also runs a field school through the University of Calgary's CISSA (Center for International Students and Study Abroad) every year. I was lucky enough to have been one of the eighteen applicants chosen to participate in this study abroad program.

We started our adventure with in-classroom training from CISSA throughout the year, as well as a one week intensive course prior to our departure. We learned all of the techniques we would be using in the field as well as wilderness safety and first aide that we would need in the jungle. We were extremely lucky to have some past field school students come in and talk to us about their experiences of wading through 'parasitic death water' up to their waists, and being in an earthquake. Needless to say, this greatly assuaged the fears of the tasks that lied ahead.

Upon our arrival in Belize our group was excited but nervous about actually making it into the jungle and seeing our monkeys. I remember thinking on the first day of being in the jungle "I can't believe I am actually here, in a real jungle, looking for monkeys in their natural habitat, and getting four whole courses to have this much fun". I can't express how amazing this realization was in between being anticipating stepping on a Fer de lance and trying to wipe the smile off of my face but I could see it mirrored in the faces of my fellow group members Danielle, Tyler and Nicole (Go Newmans!). This smile was not even wiped off of my face even after five hours of trudging through the jungle and not finding a single monkey. Once we did actually find our monkeys, it was amazing! You couldn't get an experience anything like this in a classroom. The next few weeks were full of amazing experiences that you can ask me about anytime, because it would take too long to describe.

The novelty of this experience did not waver throughout the whole trip, even after one of our group members got monkey poo on her head, or when Danielle stepped on a Boa Constrictor. I would have to say that this experience has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. It was a lot of hard work, but the intrinsic rewards resulting from completing this program are irreplaceable. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything and I would highly recommend this, or any other, study abroad program for anyone interested.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Courtney McLean, Trinity Halla, Allison Benson and Kyla Wilson for receiving the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Foundation Development Initiatives Program Grant. This grant allows these athletes to use the funds towards their training expenses.

The next application deadline for the Development Initiatives Program is: January 1, 2011.

For more information about this grant, look on the ASRPWF website under 'Funding Programs':

www.tpr.alberta.ca/asrpwf/index.asp

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