



AASRA Quarterly

Newsletter



President's Message

Hello to all our AASRA members. Spring is here and the cold dark days of winter have finally retreated for another 6 months. The past rain has been a welcome addition and a help with the dry conditions, things are really starting to turn green. We encourage all our members to get out there and enjoy the warm weather. Doesn't matter what you do just try and stay active. We have had some members recently do extremely well in competitions these past couple of months; you can see their stories in the newsletter.

Golf is an activity many of our members share and now is in full swing. There are a number of opportunities for our members to attend events this summer. Our Alberta Amp Open will be in July and is a great chance to play some golf and meet other members, a fun event. See our website for more information. Golf Alberta is hosting the Alberta All Abilities August 6-8 at the Broadmoor Course in Edmonton where we played our Amp Open last summer. Golf Canada will be hosting the Canadian All Abilities in Brighton Ont, Sept 9-12 at the Timber Ridge Golf Course. AASRA Members can apply for funding for these events.

AASRA unfortunately have lost some of our lifetime members this past year. AASRA will be creating a page on our website shortly to share their stories. They will be missed.

We hope that all members have a safe and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to seeing and hearing from you. Please share your stories and activities with us, doesn't have to be some type of competition. We would love to hear from you how you stay active and enjoy something you do. Also, it gives us material to share on our website and newsletters.

Vic McClelland AASRA President

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Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships

Several members of AASRA qualified as Team Alberta 1 and Team Alberta 2 to compete at the 2024 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships in Moose Jaw SK, March 24-30.

Alberta was able to send two provincial teams to this event as Team Alberta 1 won bronze at the 2023 Championships. Both teams qualified to represent Alberta this year by coming in first and second respectively in the Alberta Provincials held in January of this year.

The Canadian Championship was a tough competition and neither team qualified for the playoffs after the round robin. Both teams were already knocked out of the playoffs by the time the two teams met for their game against one another in the final draw. It was a friendly game between the two teams. Both teams chanted Alberta! loud and proud!! Just look at the smiles after a hard week of competition.

There were several members of the National Team competing at this event and the skills are spectacular. Canada has a strong history with hitting the podium at world and Paralympic events. On the cover photo, far left is Bruno Yizek, gold medalist from the 2010 Paralympics.

If anyone is interested in trying out wheelchair curling either recreationally or competitively, please contact Wendy at Wendy.frazier@shaw.ca and she will connect you to your local association in Edmonton or Calgary.

It is suspected that a few of these fine AASRA curling athletes may be attending this year's Alberta Amputee Golf Open. We confess in advance...we are better with throwing rocks at houses!!!

AASRA members in the cover photo from left to right in the wheelchairs (coaches are standing behind):

Team Alberta 1

Wendy Frazier - second and played second

Team Alberta 2

Don Kuchelyma - fifth - skip

Cory Galloway - sixth - vice-skip

Shane Williams - far right - lead

Photo credit. Richard Nagel



Member Profile: Reid Maxwell



My name is Reid Maxwell, and I am a 16-year-old para-swimmer with the Edmonton Keyano Swim Club. I was born with a right below-knee amputation, as well as having Prune Belly (Eagle-Barret) Syndrome. Prune belly is a rare disorder that includes the absence of some abdominal musculature. While this has added some challenges to my life, I have never let my disability hold me back - I have been swimming competitively since the age of 6, have played football, competed in triathlons, raced mountain bikes, snowboarded, and white-water kayaked.

While the pandemic hit <pause> on my athletic career, I returned to swimming in 2021/22 and it has been a bit of a whirlwind ever since. I received my national classification around this time and was classified as an “S9” swimmer. Swimming classifications include physical impairments, S1-S10, (with S10 being the least disabled), visual impairments, S11-13 and cognitive impairment, S14. In 2022, at age 14, I attended Western Canadian Championships, and won several medals, then went on to Nationals and Canada Summer Games, where I medaled in multiple events. In 2023 I

attended the Bell Canadian Trials and broke my first long course record for my classification in the 100m freestyle. From there I attended the Canadian National championships in the summer and ended up with a gold medal in both the 400 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

I was waiting for an opportunity to get my international classification, and though spots are limited I did get my chance in December 2023. The classification took place in concert with the Ken Demchuk International swim meet in Surrey, BC. I received good news right off the start, with being informed that I dropped a class - moving from an S9 to an S8. While I would normally compete in a full slate of events at a meet like this, as I was being classified, I was only to swim events where my performance could be observed by the classification team. Consequently, I competed in only 3 events, one being the 400m Freestyle - where I broke the S8 national record and obtained my Meet Qualifying standard for both the Paris Paralympic games and for Canadian [Olympic/Paralympic] Trials.

Things changed significantly for me at this point – I was now a Paralympic hopeful, but to qualify for the Paralympics, I have to check off a few boxes in order to make myself eligible. The first one being to attend an event on the Para-Swimming world series. In collaboration with the Canadian Para-swimming High Performance Centre I traveled to Aberdeen, Scotland in early February to attend my first Para World Series meet. It was a very positive experience, in which I was competing in a “multiclass” environment, where points are awarded based on your time and classification (*continued next page*).



I placed second in the Men's 400 Freestyle open (also winning a gold in the youth classification for that event) and added additional medals in the youth 100 free (Silver) and the youth 100 fly (Bronze). To top it off I also set new Canadian national records for my classification in the 400 free, 100 free and 100 back.

The second event I need to attend is a championship meet. In April I will be heading to Madeira, Portugal to attend the Para Swimming European Open Championships. Once this box is ticked off, and all that remains is for me to show what I can do at Paralympic trials in May, and hopefully earn myself a spot on the Paralympic Team!

In the meantime, I am focused on training - up to 21 hours a week at this point, which includes both swimming and dryland. At the end of March, I will head to Winnipeg, where I have an opportunity to evaluate how my training is going at the Speedo Western Canadian Championships.

2024 Conquerors Paragolf Championships

This May several AASRA members attended the 2024 Conquerors Paragolf Championships held in Scottsdale AZ at the Orange Tree Golf Resort. Terry Shwetz, Randy Cameron, Andy Van Biert and Vic McClelland all played in the event. It was a very hot week for us all with the temps in the 37 to 39 degrees Celsius although we did have some very short rain on the morning of the last day.

The course was played at 6370 yards which is longer than most of us play normally in Alberta and the course was in very good condition with fast greens. I think all of us experienced 3 putts if you ended up above the hole. The golf course and staff treated us very well and made for a very enjoyable event. We all met and played with people with different disabilities throughout the week.

All AASRA members played well and Vic McClelland ended the play over 3 days the G1 Champion.

We would greatly like to thank AASRA for the financial assistance and support which allowed us to play in this event. Without AASRA's support we would not have been able to attend.





News you can use...



The Paralympic Sports Association has some great Spring/Summer programming including kayaking, golf and para-cycling. You can check out all the details here: <https://www.parasportsab.com/>

Remember to sign up for Calgary Adapted Hub's newsletter [here](#).

The Edmonton Adaptive Sports Association (EASA) is holding their 2024 Sledge Hockey Golf Tournament in July, all information can be found here: <https://edmontonadaptivesports.ca/golf-tournament>

EASA is also having a raffle for one roundtrip flight from WestJet – details are [here](#)

Editor's Note

Thanks for checking out the newsletter! I am reserving a spot to feature some of the things going on with our members and provide contact info in case you have an idea for the next newsletter! Send me an email at: director1@aasra.ab.ca

AGM In-Person Crew

The AGM on **April 27, 2024**, at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Red Deer had many smiling faces! Thanks to all who attended in person and online.



Enjoy your summer and keep in touch!

