

2016 Alpine Skating Club Awards

The Board of Directors is excited to be presenting skater recognition awards to Alpine members this year! The nominations for the awards were submitted by coaches, board members, and other members. To be eligible to receive an award, we needed to know that the nominee would be attending the banquet this year before the trophies were ordered, so some who were nominated may not have received awards this year.

The nomination and selection process was a personally rewarding experience because it reminded us that our club abounds with members who carry a passion for the sport in their hearts and demonstrate integrity, loyalty, and kindness in their behavior. We all know that this is an expensive sport so, in an effort to support and encourage the recipients to continue demonstrating dedication, determination, and kindness, each award recipient is receiving \$50 to be used for skating-related expenses by December 31st

Tausca Schillaci Heart Award: One who carries a passion for the sport in their heart, and uses their talent to further skaters, the club and figure skating by their actions. This year, the award is presented to:

Jill Ahlbrecht

I know that all of Jill's students and parents will agree that Jill is most deserving of this award. There are few more passionate about figure skating. As a coach, she is dedicated to improving her skills to instruct. She is encouraging and supportive not only of her students, but all who share the ice with her, while at the same time challenging them to work hard and do their best. Jill respects and treats everyone with dignity – regardless of their ability. She is a tremendous supporter of Alpine as she encourages her students to participate, and parents to volunteer, at all Alpine events. As a member of Alpine, she represented our club with the utmost integrity at the World Figure Championships – where she took home the GOLD! We are so proud to call her one of our own!

The Bev Hartman, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff Award: One who works endlessly with an attitude of selflessness, goodness, kindness for others. One who promotes teamwork, competitive spirit and fun!

The award this year is presented to a team:

Rachel and Tony Sangchompuphen

Rachel and Tony have tirelessly supported Alpine this year. Together, they completely re-designed Alpine's website and have kept information current and relevant. If you haven't visited the website in a while, make time to do so soon – it's awesome!

In addition to their work on the website, they have volunteered for all Alpine events, and have shown a willingness to do whatever needs to be done, while always presenting a smile and word of encouragement to others. They go out of their way to reach out to newer members and exemplify inclusion and a fun, competitive spirit!

Sharon Wiley, Nose to the Grindstone Award: One who pursues excellence through hard work, is a team player and supports all!

Portia Ewing

Portia is an exemplary hard worker and faces each day's new challenges with determination and spirit. She's respectful and well-liked by everyone and a joy to be around!

Abby Newton

Abby is an amazing goal-setter! She challenges herself and doesn't give up. Her dedication to skating and hard work is inspirational to everyone around her. She treats others with respect and encourages them to do their best.

Arlene Sibrell Award: This is an extra-special award for us – Arlene passed away this year and we truly miss this amazing woman and friend. This award in her honor represents some of the finest in the sport. One who has given of themselves without benefit. One who keeps the purity of the sport in mind and works hard to make the newest and youngest fell welcome.

We would like to present this award this year to:

Lisa Neal

All who have had the privilege to know and work alongside Lisa are familiar with her willingness to bend over backwards to support figure skating in general, but even more so on the individual level. She's an encourager, supporter, and a sympathetic ear when things go wrong. Her tireless efforts to support the figure skating program at Big Bear Ice Arena demonstrates the selfless giving that this award exemplifies.

The Olympic Spirit Award: One who dreams big, works hard and has fun!

Caroline Hughes

According to Caroline's coach, she has this incredible, "I CAN DO THAT!" attitude and never utters the words, "I can't." She lives for bigger and better challenges and won't accept less than greatness from herself. Yes, she believes in herself, but more importantly, she encourages others, especially her younger sister, to believe in themselves as well.

Rose Sangchompuphen

Working hard has played a big role in Rose's success as a figure skater, and she loves a good competition. But more than that, Rose epitomizes that in order to be really good and successful, skating has to be FUN! Rose keeps the FUN in the sport and it spreads to the others around her!

Coach's Hard Worker Award: These awards are being presented to skaters who have shown the most improvement, have worked hard and have shown dedication to the sport of figure skating. They have been nominated by their coaches in recognition of their effort and love of skating:

Kate Hughes

According to Kate's coach, Melissa, Kate has gone from a slow, wild skater to one that commands respect when she takes the ice. She embraces the hard work and dedication that it takes to become successful. She is self-motivated, and demonstrates each and every day that she gets on the ice that she LOVES figure skating! Keep an eye on Kate – she's bound to go far!

Lily Neff

Lily's coach, Lezlea, nominated her because she works hard and tries to do her best at every lesson. She shows dedication and continually challenges herself to do her best every time she skates.

Cassidy Wigert

Cassidy always gives 100% and is willing to try again when things don't work the first time. She doesn't quit when the going gets rough and doesn't let a few disappointments get in her way of success.

Melanie Conway

Melanie's coach, Jill, nominated her because she has shown exemplary improvement in her skill level this year. She started the year at Basic 4 and will be competing at the pre-preliminary level at Regionals! Her hard work and dedication to practice, practice, practice has really paid off.

Audrey Hahn

Audrey's coach, Jessica, thinks that she deserves this award because she is always excited to skate and is an excellent listener during her lessons. Audrey tries really hard when learning new skills and shows dedication by regularly practicing her program after her lesson.

Rise to the Occasion Award: Presented to a one who demonstrates a true competitive spirit by “rising to the occasion” at competitions or special events.

Lucie Reizian

Lucie never lets a bad warm up get in the way of a strong performance. She's works hard at controlling her emotions and concentrating on one element at a time in competition. She's dedicated, never gives up, and it's starting to pay off!

Alisa Pugachev

When it comes to competition, Alisa turns on the magic! She doesn't let little mistakes get in the way of giving her performance all she's got. She approaches each competition with enthusiasm and a great competitive spirit.

Stepping Up Award: Presented to a member of Alpine who has really “stepped up to the plate” to help when needed.

Clare Cantwell

When in a pinch, and desperate for help, “who ya gonna call?” Clare Cantwell! Clare has answered the call in many ways this year – from keeping our club bulletin board updated at Apex, and volunteering at Funtastics and other events, to assisting with test sessions. Clare has also stepped up to the challenge of taking the Safe Sport Course, adding her watchful eye to those of our other volunteers responsible for overseeing the emotional and physical safety of our children. Her smile and enthusiasm is infectious and the encouragement she brings to those of us who have grown a little weary has been such a breath of fresh air! Thank you, Clare for your energy and much-needed support!

Encourager of the Year Award: Given to someone who demonstrates the definition of encourager: One who inspires with courage, spirit and confidence.

Jose Quinones

At literally every test session and event, even when he's not competing or testing, you will find Jose in the stands, on the ice, or by the rink. His sole purpose for being there? To support, inspire courage and instill confidence. At practice sessions, Jose is notorious for bringing a sense of fun to the hard work and will encourage others to work even harder and challenge themselves. He is respectful, kind, a joy to be around – and we are so fortunate that you're a member of Alpine!

Artistic Expression Award: Presented to one who exhibits exceptional talent or improvement in artistic expression.

Delaney Peterson

Delaney has really found her passion in artistic expression this year. She's worked hard at overcoming a little shyness and has been very successful at competitions. She is very talented and expressive and is bound to continue to shine on the ice. Watch out Disney on Ice – here comes Delaney!

Energizer Bunny Award: Presented to someone who volunteers with enthusiasm!

Ryan Sangchompuphen

Ryan almost single-handedly ran the accounting room at Funtastics this year! He literally ran from the judges' stand, to the accounting room, to track down the referee for signature, to the wall to post results, and finally back to the accounting room for more. We call this volunteer position a "Runner" for good reason, and Ryan did not disappoint. Thanks, Ryan, we couldn't have done it without you!

Volunteer of the Year: Awarded to a volunteer who has given tirelessly of their time and talents to support Alpine.

Sue Decker

Sue demonstrated an amazing capacity to give of her time in so many areas that support Alpine. First and foremost, Sue very capably took charge of the volunteer pool at Funtastics this year when so many people couldn't get there because of the unexpected snow blizzard. She made sure that all volunteer positions were covered and when there was no one to fill a spot, she covered it personally!

Sue joined the board last year, and became our liaison to or skaters at The Edge. She and Delaney commit many hours each month to our bingo fundraiser. This is her second year at helping with the banquet (thanks for the great job with the games, Sue!), and she has stepped in with help at other events this year whenever needed.

I know I speak for all of our members, but especially for the board of directors, when I say how grateful we are, Sue, for your selfless giving of time and talent that have supported our club and our members this year!

Big Heart Award: These awards are being presented to skaters who want to share their love of the sport with others and encourage others by cheering them on:

Ellie Neal

Her coach says of Ellie, “She is a fighter – dedicated to growing, not only in the area of skill acquisition, but as a person. When it counts, she digs deep to conquer her fears and grow as an athlete and individual. She carries herself with grace and poise and, because of this, she has many young fans at Big Bear.” This is the second year in a row that Ellie has received this award, so keep on fighting, Ellie! Your determination and courage are paying off!

Katrina Gryboski

Katrina approaches both lessons and practices with a great attitude and focus. She is a tremendous role model for other skaters because she shows up with a smile and positive attitude, even when her days are long and school has been challenging and hectic. Because of this, others trying to learn new skills are drawn to her and she is quick to provide the encouragement and support they need.

Noelle Rithner

Noelle exemplifies the true meaning of role model: – A person whose behavior, example or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people. Her positive attitude is demonstrated by keeping the “fun” in skating. At the same time, she works hard and models responsibility – taking credit for her successes and accepting mistakes as part of the learning process that leads to success.

Above and Beyond Award: These awards are being presented to skaters who have demonstrated that their love of skating and support of Alpine have spurred them to go “above and beyond” in their efforts:

Michelle Zeles-Hahn

Michelle’s gracious, friendly personality and open willingness to give helpful feedback at test sessions, competitions and critiques has changed the conception (often made by skaters and parents alike) that judges are unapproachable and scary! She goes far beyond what is required by reaching out to skaters of all levels with encouragement and supportive advice. As a USFS appointed National Judge, a former sectional competitor, and the mother of two of our youngest Alpine skaters, the value of Michelle’s experience and expertise is beyond measure. And, the best part is, she’s open and willing to share it with all of us! If you haven’t had the opportunity to take advantage of Michelle’s support in this way, we encourage you to do so soon! Thanks Michelle, for the tremendous asset you are to our club and for all you do to support our members.

Mariah Hood

It seems that Mariah's name appears on the award nomination list every year. This alone speaks to her dedication and support of Alpine, but for those of you that may not know Mariah, she is one of our most dedicated, reliable, and responsible volunteers. Even though she's going to school and working full time, she still finds time to volunteer several hours each month with our bingo fundraiser. At Funtastics, you'll find her working any number of jobs for the entire day – helping with set up, clean up, and everything in between. But, what really places her above and beyond your average volunteer, is her positive attitude, uncomplaining spirit, and just plain friendly personality. Mariah, you are true joy to be around, and we are so proud of all that you are!

Awards Summary:

Tausca Schillaci

1. Jill Ahlbrecht

Bev Hartman

2. Rachel & Tony Sangchompuphen

Sharon Wiley

3. Portia Ewing
4. Abby Newton

Arlene Sibrell

5. Lisa Neal

Olympic Spirit

6. Caroline Hughes
7. Rose Sangchompuphen

Coach's Hard Worker

8. Kate Hughes
9. Lily Neff
10. Cassidy Wigert
11. Melanie Conway
12. Audrey Hahn

Rise to the Occasion

13. Lucie Reizian
14. Alisa Pugachev

Stepping Up

15. Clare Cantwell

Encourager

16. Jose Quinones

Artistic Expression

17. Delaney Peterson

Energizer Bunny

18. Ryan Sangchompuphen

Volunteer of the Year

19. Sue Decker

Big Heart

20. Ellie Neal

21. Katrina Gryboski

22. Noell Rithner

Above and Beyond

23. Michelle Zeles-Hahn

24. Mariah Hood