

sci network

THE SCI CONNECTOR

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2006

Inside this issue:

It's Can Be Quad a Ridel	2
ADAPT heads back to the nation's Capitol	2
Knights Participate in National Night Out Against Violence	3
Knights Basketball Tournament Planning Well Underway	3
She Said YES!!	3

Redskin Season Ticket Raffle/ Picnic



Chief Cook Jim Jensen

Date: Saturday August 26, 2006
Time: 1:00PM - 4:00PM
Location: Courtyard of ECVN

You are invited to the annual picnic hosted by The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Network of Metro Washington DC.

The picnic includes a cookout (chicken, burgers, hotdogs and other great food) and the drawing for the winners of the Redskin Season Tickets and the 9-second place \$200 cash prizes. There will also be an iPod and other door prizes.

The event will be held in the courtyard of The ENDeependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) at 3100 Clarendon Blvd. in Arlington, VA. Join us rain or shine on Saturday August 26th from 1PM till 4PM.



Redskin chances are still available

Chances are \$100 - only 100 will be sold - Send check and chance to SCI Network 51 Monroe Place Plaza West 9, Rockville, MD 20850



Check out our updated website:
www.spinalcordinjury.net

Meet Our New Friend: Shauntel McNeil

We'd like to introduce our recent member of the SCI Network. She is currently living in a nursing home and has the goal of getting back into the community. Members who can add their support in any way (peer support, visits, resources etc.) are encouraged to contact her.

Born March 28, 1983,

Ft. Campbell, KY, Shauntel is the daughter Edna McNeil and the sister of 16 yr. old, Michael McNeil, both of Atlanta, GA.

Shauntel is diagnosed with C2 quadriplegia and respiratory failure due to a spinal cord injury suffered in a diving accident on 5/14/2005 while attending a pool party.

She was initially admitted to the Shepherd Center, GA for medical management and extensive inpatient rehabilitation, but currently resides at Woodbine Rehabilitation Healthcare Center, Alexandria, VA, after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

As a result of her injury, Shauntel has no movement or sensation in her arms or legs and is dependent



Contact Information:
Woodbine Rehab Healthcare Center, 2729 King St., Room T-39, Alexandria, VA 703-548-3797
smcneil83@yahoo.com

Continued on Page 2

Meet Our New Friend: Shauntel Marie McNeil

upon a mechanical ventilator for life-support. Because of her tracheotomy, she has no voice. She requires a wheelchair for all mobility and assistance with all activities of daily living and will require accessible housing and vehicle modifications on her return to GA.

Having had the opportunity to visit and experience different cultures, people and places at an early age, Shauntel has lived all over the world and cur-

rently resides in Alexandria, VA with her father, Jessie McNeil, close by.

Shauntel is a 2001 graduate of Campbell High School and attended Chattahoochee Technical Institute in GA with a major in cosmetology. She enjoys Chinese food, Gospel and R&B music. Her favorite color is purple and her nickname is "Chaos". She really loves to shop and continues to do so today, via the internet, using a

sip-n-puff device. She started working while still in high school and has worked previously at Delmar Gardens Retirement Home, Bear and Gaby's Retail, as a Legal Administrative Assistant, a dancer and model.

Shauntel's current ambitions are to; go back to school, return to work, assist at risk kids and young adults, and to open a long term care facility for spinal cord injury patients.

It's Can Be Quad a Ride!

By David Burds

The last week of July was the 9th time in the last 10 years that I rode my handcycle in RAGBRAI.



Lance Armstrong

This annual bike ride of approximately 12,000 riders begins a 7-day ride at the western border of Iowa, at the Missouri river, and ends 450 to 500 miles later at the eastern border, the Mississippi River. Each day's average ride is between 60 to 100 miles with riders extended along each mile from early morning till late at night.

This year an added component was having Lance Armstrong ride for a couple of days as he promoted his foundation for cancer research. Mid-week during the ride he spoke in Newton, Iowa where 30,000 of us gathered—bikers and others who came to listen or just get a glimpse of him. There he also promised to ride the full

week of RAGBRAI in 2007.

This year I rode about one fourth of the bike ride along with friends and family members. On July 27th the day's ride ended in Morengo, IA. That day I rode about 35 miles along with my nephew Dan, his wife Monica and their son Jordon. Upon arriving at the day's destination in Morengo, people were gathered along the street as we completed the ride. As I rode by there was applause from many of the bystanders and I either acknowledged them with a smile or slight nod of my head. I then headed toward the area where my support driver (my niece Karla) was to pick me up. Seconds later Dan caught up to me to let me know that Lance Armstrong had been right behind us as we completed the days ride. To my chagrin I found out it was actually Lance who was



Above David Burds

right behind me receiving the applause as we came through town. Even though it was not a race I did finish in front of him!

ADAPT heads back to the nation's Capitol

The ADAPT fall action will be in Washington, DC, Mon. Sept. 11th to Sat. 16th, and ADAPT needs you there with them.

Call Bobby Coward at 202-397-1668 or go to www.adapt.org for more info.

Knights Participate in National Night Out Against Crime

The Adventist Knights Wheelchair Basketball team was the main attraction at Rockville's National Night Out Against Crime.

While the crowd enjoyed watching the team scrimmage and was introduced to the intricacies of wheelchair basketball, the team's main emphasis was on appreciating the abilities of the disabled community. The group's keynote speaker, Bill Demby, implored the youth gathered there to be positive influences in their communi-

ties. The message was that they should stay away from drugs, alcohol and violence and people are already involved in the negative activities.

Mr. Demby and all of the players who spoke emphasized the importance of education and community involvement in achieving the uplift that all communities need.

The basketball team spends a fair amount of time conducting such Disability Awareness Pro-



grams throughout the area. They have adopted and make annual visits to Garrison Elementary School and Shiloh Baptist Church, both located in the District of Columbia, as well as the Northern Virginia Youth Detention Center, located in Arlington.

Knights Basketball Tournament

The Second Annual Adventist Knights Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will be held at the Discovery Sports Center in the Maryland Soccerplex located in Germantown, MD on Saturday September 30 and Sunday, October 1, 2006. A total of 12 teams representing two divisions of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association will be in attendance. Teams will travel from Pittsburgh, PA, Albuquerque, NM, Lexington,

KY, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Virginia Beach, VA, Charlottesville, VA, Harrison-

burg, VA, Plainfield, NJ and, of course, Washington, DC. In addition to regular games being played that will culminate in the crowning of champions in each division, there will also be free-throw and three-point shooting competitions held at noon on Saturday.

The Knights are seeking advertising from area businesses to help defray the cost of the facility, officials, food and trophies. Individuals wish to volunteer their time for the event, or to place an ad in the Tournament Ad Book should Norine Spencer at (240) 864-6016. The Knights hope that you will come out to cheer them on. Admission is free to all.

She Said YES!!



Our friend and fellow SCI Network Board Member John Pitman has

announced that he and Stefanie Furman are engaged to be married. John, who works at Robert's Home Medical, over the years has serviced hundreds of people's wheelchairs in the Metro Washington area and is well known for his caring workmanship when it comes to keeping us rolling. Stefanie is a Ph.D biologist and has written a nonprofit business plan to use gene expression to research spinal cord regeneration. We extend our congratulations to them.



51 Monroe Place
Plaza West 9
Rockville, MD 20850

Phone 301-424-8335
Fax 301-424-8858
www.spinalcordinjury.net

**SCI Network
Board of Directors**

Jesse Parker, President
David Burds, Treasurer
John Pitman, Secretary
Russ Holt
Bobby Coward
David Sharp
Rob Klein

Member:

- Combined Federal Campaign (Spinal Cord Injury Network 6025)
- Community Health Charities National Capital Area
- National Spinal Cord Injury Association



**Redskin Season Ticket
Raffle/Picnic**

**Saturday August 26, 2006
1:00PM - 4:00PM
Courtyard of ECVN**

On Saturday August 26, the SCI Network will have its annual picnic along with the drawing for the winners of the Redskin Season Tickets and the 9-second place \$200 cash prizes.

The event will be held in the courtyard of The ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) at 3100 Clarendon Blvd. in Arlington, VA.

sci network
CFC #6025

SCI Network Membership Application/Renewal

Annual dues: \$15 individual—\$20 professional/organization

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Office Phone _____

City/State _____ E-mail Address _____

Zip _____

If disabled, please signify type or level and date of onset: _____

Area of Interest (please check at least one):

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendant Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |

Please send check or money order to:

SCI Network, 51 Monroe Street, Plaza West 9, Rockville, MD 20850

SCI Network is the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area chapter of the NSCIA. In existence for over forty years, and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in DC, Maryland and Virginia since 1982, SCI Network's mission is: To provide support and services to people with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairing conditions, and to their families and friends.