

July 2025

Officers

President –
Denny Bickar
Vice-President –
Todd Wilson
Secretary –
Chris Weedmark
Treasurer –
Ralph Cook
Public Relations –
Tony Halekakis
Historian –
Steve Reames
Newsletter Editor –
Jim Daly

Message from the President

Fellow Push Rodders,

Another month is in the books with a busy month for the Push Rods of Hoquiam. The club donated over $7000 to the community for various causes. Our work party to preserve the mural painting was a success. Chris Weedmark and Road Runner Painting took the lead for the project and Gil Stork provided logistics and expertise for us worker bees. Ray Pumphery wrote a great article for the newspaper on the project that was first rate. I think we have found a hidden skill that we can put to use. Thanks to all that helped out. Lunch was provided.

The Pushrods elected new officers for the coming year.

Historian – Steve Reames
Secretary – Chris Weedmark
Vice-President - Todd Wilson
Public Relations – Tony Halekakis,
Treasurer – Ralph Cook
President – Denny Bickar

We all pledge to do the best job possible to make this club the best it can be.

I will have a report on our Hot Rods in Hoquiam car show in the next newsletter.

I am moving July business meeting to July 9th to give us members some time to relax from our show week end.

July Schedule

July 9, 6:30 -- Push rod business meeting, Hoquiam Elks
July 12 -- Shelton Downtown show
July 15, Noon -- PUSHROD LUNCH, Breakwater Seafood, Aberdeen
July 19 -- Montesano car show
July 23, Noon -- Pushrod Board Meeting, Gil's Shop
July 25-27 -- Puyallup, Good Guys
July 30, 6:30 -- Pushrod Dinner, Mazatlan Mexican, Aberdeen
Aug. 1-2 -- Elma, Heat on the Street



This is our new banner for shows and other events.

The pushrods are placing more emphasis on Community Service this year than in the past. Earlier this year we sent a work party to Hoquiam High School to pressure-wash the concrete stands at the Football filed and Track. That was a good day's work and showed immediate results.

This past week we sent another work party out to pressure-wash and paint a coating that protects paint from Tagging. This project was to protect the Birds Mural in Hoquiam.





In the second photo you can see (in the bottom corner) the results of another Community Service Project where the Pushrods made a Grant to the Hoquiam Beautification Project for flower pots to be put on the streets around Hoquiam.



Another grant that was of support to a Community Program was to **Grays Harbor Hawks, Special Olympics**. Our grant helped fund the trip for the Harbor Hawks athletes, unlike many teams, where the athletes have to fund the expenses of the Games themselves.

The Winter Games were earlier in the year. The hawks only competed in three of the seven sports. They took 1 – Silver, 1 – Bronze, and 1 – 4th place in Basketball and 2 Gold in Cheer.

Over the weekend of June 20 – 22, the Special Olympics of Washington held the Special Olympics Spring Games. There were 1,400 participants, 2,500 coaches and officials, and 4,500 volunteers that made the Games that were hosted by University of Puget Sound a great success.

The Spring Games consist of competitions in the following sports: Athletics (Track and Field), Bocce, Golf, Soccer, Softball, and Swimming. There were team competitions in Bocce, Golf, Soccer, Softball but not team competition in Track of Swimming. In the team sports there is

also Individual Skills competition, which is important when there are not enough individuals to have a team. If an athlete is on a team, they may also compete in Individual Skills.



Figure 1 - Crowd at the Spring Games Athletics (Track and Field) Competition.

The Grays Harbor Hawks took a total of about 60 competitors in all the sports except Bocce. These athletes were very successful, scoring a total of 65 medals.

Sport	Results
Athletics	9 – Gold, 7 – Silver, 7 – bronze, 5 – 4th, 5 - 5th, 1 – 6th
Softball	2 – Gold, 1 - Bronze
Swimming	10 – Gold, 3 – Silver, 3 – bronze, 1 - 5th, 1 – 6th
Soccer	1 – Silver
Golf	9 – Gold

But it is not about medals or winning. It is being there together. Enjoying each other. Enjoying the game, or race, or other competition. Enjoying the attention and the crowd cheering the athletes on to special performances. It is not uncommon for these athletes to set personal bests at each of the competitions the participate in.

These young people enjoy everything about the Games: the food, the dorm rooms, roommates, the crowds, family, and friends. Witnessing these folks in this unique (for them) environment gives me a sense of joy second only to their joy in the experience.



Figure 2 - Evan G. with three Gold Medals in Track.

It is amazing to watch these athletes compete. The Hawks have Track athletes competing that range in age from 9 to 62. The joy they get out of just being there is wonderful. They are great sports, cheering on their competitors, teammates, and friends. They congratulate the winners and all competitors. Some of them are very profoundly disabled: with physical and intellectual disabilities, including blindness.



Figure 3 - All competitors celebrate with the medal presenters.

The weekend began with athletes, coaches, chaperones, and partners meeting at Tractor Supply Friday morning to load on a Shelton School District bus contracted to take them to UPS campus where they stayed in a dorm that is empty for the summer. The University provided breakfast, box lunches, and dinners in the cafeteria. The food was adequate and served by campus staff.

Friday night they were treated to a hot dog dinner at a Tacoma Rainers baseball game. There was a parade of athletes around the field, and opening ceremonies which included a troop of law enforcement officers running onto the field to light the Spring Games Cauldron Flame. Saturday morning the Athletics Competition began at 8:30 at Baker Stadium on campus at UPS, and the events went fast and furious all day long both Saturday and Sunday.



Figure 4 - Instructions for the 400meter competitors.

The volunteers, judges, coaches, and chaperones worked hard to ensure that the athletes got to their individual events. Many of these events were occurring simultaneously, so the time management was complex and critical. It seemed to me that it worked perfectly all weekend.

The soccer games and Individual Soccer Skills competitions were on the football practice field just outside the track. The softball competition was rained out Saturday, but was rescheduled and played on Sunday at SERA Sports Complex on UPS. The swimming was held at the King County Aquatics Center on Saturday. The golf was played at Meadow Park Golf Course and Bocce was held at Todd Field at UPS on Saturday. Saturday evening was the Victory Dance at the UPS Field House which is a favorite of the competitors.



Figure 6 - 100 Meter Awards - Marc K. gets the Bronze Medal.



Figure 5 - Matthew F. celebrates Gold with Mom

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