



www.Friendsofbaseball.org

... The Friends of Baseball Newsletter ...

Volume 3, No. 4

November 21, 2008

Dear "Friend of Baseball,"

Wow - I can't believe Thanksgiving is less than a week away! This has been a truly amazing year for the Trustees of Friends of Baseball. We could not be more thankful for all of you, and for what has been collectively accomplished this year. We hope you have a wonderful day with your families . . .

***Friends of Baseball Announces
2009 Coaches' Clinic!***

With the success of the 2008 Coaches' Clinic in January our board has recently enthusiastically authorized our sponsoring the 2009 Coaches' Clinic along with N.W. Star Academy. This was a wonderful event and one for which we recieved very positive responses. Look for even more exciting improvements in 2009!!

Date: January 11, 2009

Location: Embassy Suites, Portland Airport

Time: 1:00 PM (registration all morning) to 5:00 PM

Who Can Attend: All youth baseball/softball coaches

regardless of team location!

Jerry Gatto of N.W. Star Academy will once again host this year's event. We are very excited about the 2009 Clinic and have implemented many of the suggestions received at the 2008 Clinic. The day's agenda looks great:

1:00-1:15pm. Keenan Longcor- Introduction/Welcome

1:15-1:55pm. Kevin Walker-Sellwood Little League.

Subject: Team and Program Development
(Kevin was a 2007 Coach, Volunteer honoree)

1:55-2:35pm. Don Freeman- Heritage HS. US BB.

Subject: Pitching Mechanics and Drills

2:25-2:45pm. BREAK... VISIT VENDORS

2:45 3:25pm Rip Ramsey-Seattle Mariner Scout

Subject: Fielding your position/drills

3:25-4:05pm Corey Kier Columbia River H.S.

Subject: Mechanics of the swing.

4:05-5:00pm LIVE DEMONSTRATION DRILLS

As many of you know N.W. Star conducts a weekend-long conference just prior to our clinic. You are encouraged come any time the morning of the clinic, sign up and join other local coaches in the morning's coaching demonstrations.

A small participation fee has been established this year in order to provide refreshments and a few extras. We are very sensitive to these costs, with FOB's sponsorship keeping them to a minimum. The fee of \$30 *per league* covers the cost of all attendees from your organization. Last year many groups sent six or more, which makes the fee very reasonable. If this cost causes a hardship for your league's attendance, please contact us using the links below!

We ask that you begin registering your groups attendance **at once** - we have a good amount of seating available but this, too, has its limits. The registration fee will be collected upon sign in the day of the event. To register, please send the following information:

Contact information

Name of League
Number of Attendees

Send your registration to either:

info@friendsofbaseball.org or

www.nwstar.net

Your registration will be then confirmed by email.

Additionally, Jerry has invited you to attend the entire weekend conference to include: detailed coaches interactions, hosted receptions, and Walk of Champions luncheon. This will be made available for only \$95.00 through "Friends of Baseball." To register for the entire weekend please contact: www.nwstar.net and reference Friends of Baseball on the application.

We look forward to reuniting with the many coaches from the 2008 event and meeting many more new "Friends." Register today; it is going to be a great day!

Friends of Baseball Announces Four New Grantees

In addition to our grant for this year's Coaches Clinic, we are very pleased to announce this term's grants to three very deserving organizations.

North Salem High School Baseball

North Salem H.S. has been challenged like many districts throughout our state. The coach of this team has consistently reached out to the youth leagues in the area to provide instruction and support. We are very pleased to be able to assist in their program.

Grant: \$3,245 for an Iron Mike Pitching Machine

North Clackamas Boosters

This organization has seen many of their baseball/softball fields developed for housing in recent years. Clearly, they no longer have the fields necessary to meet the needs of their program. Their solution is to add lighting on their high school fields, providing nearly double the potential field time in spring and summer.

Grant : \$3,500 pledge grant towards field lighting

Sublimity Raptors, Junior Baseball of Oregon

This is a new team being developed by Craig A. Heuberger in Sublimity Oregon. He is working very hard to secure a field, coordinate volunteers and secure proper equipment. We are thrilled with his efforts and wish to assist in

his vision!

Grant: \$2,000 team building pledge grant once team facilities finalized

2009 Coach and Volunteer of the Year

The Portland Beavers and Friends of Baseball have been working for months on the next generation of this wonderful event for 2009. In the weeks ahead there will be a *special announcement* from both organizations that just might include something to do with a world record event at P.G.E. Park. Stay tuned. .

Do you have a bit of time or expertise . . .

Periodically, our board determines a significant need that we just simply do not have the contacts and or resources to fulfill. When this occurs it requires us to individually invest in meeting these needs. I have decided to put the question to all of you: Do you have a contact who shares our passion who might be able to assist FOB?

We are currently looking for professionals in two areas of expertise . . .

We are looking for an attorney who would be willing to assist us with our 501c3 non profit participation. This is certainly over *my* head and we would, as always, be very sensitive to this individual's time investment (and amazingly appreciative, too). This opportunity would break ground in our ability to further expand the regions we serve through Friends of Baseball. If you know of an individual, or *are* that individual, please contact: Keenan@Friendsofbaseball.org Lunch is on me!

Also, maintenance of our website can be expensive. We would like to find an individual(s) who have the expertise to update, maintain and upgrade our site. All text would be provided, but we could sure use some limited help in keeping this site current. Any individuals come to mind? Simply ask them to contact me at the address above! Once again, lunch is on me.

We now able to accept online grant requests!

Our Trustees are pleased to announce that you will be able to apply for a FOB grant online! We understand that the thought of writing a grant request can seem difficult and cumbersome. As I have suggested for years: "We are not professional grant readers; and we know that many of you are not professional grant writers!"

Now this process will become much easier. Simply follow the links from the Grants page found on the FOB home page: www.friendsofbaseball.org This online form will walk you through the process with ease. Our collective goal is to reach out to all those teams where the need is the greatest and to make the process as easy as possible. Please spread the word!

Sharing board is now new and improved!

In recent months our Sharing Board has had the gremlin computer "bots" weaving their way thorough our system. These problems have now been solved, Yipee! This new and improved system is now ready to accept your thoughts, input, team needs and activities! Simply register and watch for those like minded individuals who just might be able to help. To register simply link from <http://friendsofbaseball.org/forumRules.php>

As I refernced we have one, maybe two "Special Announcments" coming in the next few weeks. As a board we are very excited! We hope you will continue to allow our newsletter into your busy lives and will share it with others who care, just like we do.

See you rounding third. . . .

keenan@friendsofbaseball.org

Keenan Longcor
Founder

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to others who might take interst.

Also Check out out team shop at www.cafepress.com/fobaseball