

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring 2007 season! This is our 36th year, and we're looking forward to another exciting season.

Remember, key dates and events can be found at www.pinelanders.com, like information on Coach Meetings, and the upcoming Team Picture sessions.

Save the date for Trophy Day (**Saturday, June 16th**). On Trophy Day we recognize all of our players and follow it up with a wonderfully fun picnic!

Volunteers Needed: As you may know by now, we are implementing a new volunteer program this season, to help us distribute the work more evenly across all our members. There are details in a separate article, but I ask everyone to please watch for opportunities, and sign up to help as soon as you can.

We need help with a variety of tasks, particularly Grounds (specifically to line fields), and Snack Bar—it's often hard to get supervisors, but they are vital to us. To volunteer for any activity please use the scheduler that you'll find on your *My Pinelanders* page.

If you'd like to know more about Grounds, please contact Simon Smit at simon.smit@pinelanders.com, or Bill Rittweger at bill.rittweger@pinelanders.com; either one would be happy to show you how to do field lining. Maria Stenborg (maria.stenborg@pinelanders.com) has taken over from Bobbi Sue Bowers as our snack bar volunteer scheduler—Bobbi has now retired as a Board member after many wonderful years of volunteer service to Pinelanders.

Volunteers are the key to running and maintaining Pinelanders. Your Board members are all volunteers, and we call upon you to support your club and volunteer.

Members' Code of Conduct: If you haven't done so already, please read the Members' Code of Conduct. The Code was established by the State of New Jersey and Howell Township, and can be found on www.pinelanders.com. Member adherence to the Code is expected and appreciated.

I hope our returning and new members have a very enjoyable season. At Pinelanders our main goal is to teach the game of soccer through skills development and sportsmanship.

Remember to be fair, let the children play, and encourage them with positive comments. We're all here to have fun and provide a positive experience for our children.

See you at the fields!

Ken Kinelski, President

TEAM PICTURES

We've made some changes in our team picture program this season: pictures will be scheduled later to accommodate our working parents. Picture nights will be on **Monday, April 30th** and **Tuesday, May 1st** (your coach will let you know what time). Also, to prevent overcrowding, we are moving pictures this season to **Howell Middle School North** on Squankum-Yellowbrook Road. Pictures will be taken in the cafetorium. We hope this move will help keep the noise and confusion to a minimum.

Our photographer is All Sport Photos. They provide a number of attractive and economical packages that will make wonderful keepsakes of your child's season, and since our photographer uses only digital technology, we expect your photos to be delivered by the second week in June.

Lynn Hoenig, Vice President

PINELANDERS WEAR

This spring we'll be selling our wildly popular line of "Pinelanders Wear". Club apparel currently includes t-shirts, sweats,

sleep pants and jackets – (if you can think of anything else you'd like us to add, please let me know).

The "Pinelanders Wear" table will be set up most weekends in front of the long green trailer. Most orders can be delivered within 1-2 weeks. Also, we have a new jacket supplier, so jacket orders should be filled quickly.

Lynn Hoenig, Vice President

COACHING & REFEREE SCHOOLS

Pinelanders held two very successful schools over the winter. Our USSF Referee School played host to 39 referee candidates, including 12 from our club. Successful candidates received their USSF Grade 8 licenses and are certified to referee games in recreational and travel soccer. The new Pinelanders referees will now begin a training program and start officiating games under the direction of Lou Hagggar, our Certified Referee Assignor.

The club also hosted a New Jersey Youth Soccer coaching license class. Twenty one Pinelanders members were among the forty three coaches who attained their NJYS F Licenses.

As part of its mission as an educational soccer program, the club holds coaching and referee schools on a regular basis. If you are interested in obtaining a coach's license or becoming a referee, e-mail Bob Hoenig at bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com.

Bob Hoenig

Coaching and Referee Schools Coordinator

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Safety: Pinelanders is committed to providing a safe playing environment for your child. Board members and referees constantly monitor the fields for possible safety problems. You can help—if you see an unsafe situation, please let a Board Member know.

In the event we have to call EMS to treat an injured person, please cooperate as we try to open a clear path for responders. If inclement weather strikes during the time we play, please listen carefully to instructions. Most important, remember that parents are responsible for their children. We can not monitor children in the playground area, in and near the trees, and in the parking lots. Always know where your children are!

Parking: Game days always mean traffic congestion and parking issues. We're continually working to improve this issue, however please remember the following:

- Ø There are only a few marked spaces in the parking area behind the trailers. If you park there, be courteous. Don't block in other cars. Never block the emergency access between the two trailers. Don't park on the curved area leading to this lot, and do not park on the grassy area by Adelphia Road (you will be ticketed).
- Ø If you park in the area behind field 6, park only in marked spaces. Don't park in the area next to the road (drivers trying to exit the lot can't see around you). Don't park along the curb of the Revenue Building that faces the road.
- Ø If both lots are full, park behind Memorial Middle School. There's a gate in the fence between Hoffman (near field 5) and the school for your convenience.
- Ø Never park behind the Social Services Building across the road. We will barricade this lot on games days. Crossing the road from this building to Hoffman is extremely dangerous.
- Ø Please use extreme caution when entering and exiting the parking lots.



Fair Play: We are an instructional, recreation soccer league.

Let the kids play, the coaches coach, and the referees ref. Coaches – learn FIFA and club rules. We have specific rules that encourage fair play. Be sure you know them. If we all do this, the kids will have fun playing the “Beautiful Game” – and that’s really what we’re all about.

Bob Hoenig, Board Secretary

LET US KNOW

Pinelanders is **your** club, and members of the Board need your input. If you have a concern, a complaint, or simply something nice to say, we would love to hear from you. You are always welcome to speak with any Board Member at the field, or you can e-mail them. You can find a list of Board Members and contacts at www.pinelanders.com. Please remember to sign your e-mail (we tend to disregard anonymous notes), or you can e-mail me in confidence at bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com.

Bob Hoenig, Board Secretary

BLOOD DRIVE

Pinelanders is a community-based club that supports many local and national organizations. We are asking our members to help us support the Central Jersey Blood Bank this season. We will be sponsoring a blood drive at Hoffman Fields later in the season.

The Central Jersey Blood Bank supplies several local hospitals with blood every week. Over 65% of their blood supply comes from local blood drives.

We hope you will be able to help support a worthy cause. More information will be available soon. If you are interested, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kim.brown@pinelanders.com.

Kim Brown

COMMISSIONER’S CORNER

You’ve heard it before, but it bears repeating: This club only functions because of its members who freely give their time. As Commissioner, I’ve worked mainly with our Coach volunteers. Each season we depend on our coach volunteers to lead the teams our children play with.

In addition to providing quality soccer instruction, we also teach referees, family members and coaches. Each role is necessary for the club to be successful. Therefore, we have established an Education Committee and are looking to build its membership.

This season we’ll continue the Saturday Clinics. We encourage both player and coaches to participate. For details (coming soon!) go to www.pinelanders.com.

Wayne Ramsey (NJ Select Soccer Camp, Nationally “A” licensed and former head coach at Monmouth University) recently ran a pre-season training session for our coaches. We’ll also be trying out a new program of mid-week coach/team clinics that will include coach training, team practice and full-sided scrimmages. Our goal is to better prepare our coaches to teach our kids and to provide a framework for new coaches to learn the job. Remember, becoming a coach is a process, and takes time, so please consider yourselves partners with your coaches. Support them and communicate with them!

Remember to also communicate with the Board. Letting us know how we’re doing makes your club better! Think warm, dry weekends, and I’ll see you at the fields.

Mario Guarino

NEW VOLUNTEER SYSTEM

As we promised last season, we now have a new strategy for managing volunteer activities. In the past, our operation has suffered because we couldn’t adequately track volunteer activities, and many people did not fulfill their obligation.

Our new system is a significant change. Although we asked you to sign up for a volunteer category when you registered, now *all* activities are open to *all* families—you can see the volunteer schedule on-line and, using *My Pinelanders*, instantly sign up. No more e-mail needed!

On your *My Pinelanders* main page you will see a status box coded with traffic-light colors:

- **Red** means you have not yet volunteered for an activity;
- **Yellow** means you’ve volunteered, but the activity hasn’t yet taken place;
- **Green** means you’re done!

If you’re a coach, or you have another “standing” role in our program, you’re already green! And now I’m pleased to say we’re including the essential role of Team Parent as a recognized activity.

Response to our first “scheduled” activities has been very encouraging (thanks!), and soon after you read this the snack bar schedule—our most popular attraction!—should be available. The sooner you sign up the more likely you are to get the time you want! And we’ll announce various other activities soon, so don’t worry if you can’t do the snack bar!

There’s still work to be done, but you should soon see automated e-mail messages to remind you of your scheduled activity, or, if you haven’t signed up yet, to keep you informed of opportunities. As soon as you turn green the e-mail messages will cease!

It all starts with your *My Pinelanders* page. Please watch the schedules and be prepared to help—this is an obligation you accepted when you registered your child, and we *are* tracking compliance. Many parents do more than their share to keep our program running, and we need everyone to do *something*—we only ask you to complete one activity during the season, often for as little as one hour. We’d love to see 100% compliance, and we’ll try to add activities that will give you some flexibility if you can’t help out at the fields.

You’ll find more information on the Volunteer Information page on pinelanders.com, and if you’re not clear about anything please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Jem Treadwell

PLEASE KEEP YOUR INFO CURRENT

If you’ve moved or changed your phone number, or if you aren’t getting e-mail from us, please check your information on your *My Pinelanders* “My Family” page. Please use the Change buttons to let me know of any changes or errors.

We continue to be plagued with getting on the “spam-block” list, which often prevents mail from being delivered, and while I’ll take steps to fix this in the coming weeks it’s a good idea to check your spam folder often, and don’t assume that e-mail will always get through—or that its recipient will read it!

Jem Treadwell

