



Adaptive
Adventures

Experience

Summer 2006

INSIDE

ASK
Discover Ability
Camp

All Mountain
Camp Rocks
the Boat

Summer Preview

Participant
Spotlight

7th Annual
Rocky Mountain
Omnium

Summer Camps
for Kids

Safari in Africa
"More accessible
than you think"

Adaptive News

Summer Program
Calendar



Claire and Vijay from Craig Hospital riding with the Adaptive Cycling Team on the Bike Tour of Colorado

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Adaptive Adventures is to identify, promote, and provide progressive sports and recreation opportunities to improve quality of life for children and adults with physical disabilities.

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Highlights

Director's Spin 2
 ASK Discover Ability Camp & Kids Kayaking 3
 All Mountain Camp in Steamboat 4
 Summer Preview 5
 Adaptive News Briefs 6
 Active Donors 7
 Success Stories & Participant Spotlight 8
 7th Annual Rocky Mountain Omnium 9
 Safari in Africa - More accessible than you think 10
 Summer 2006 Events Calendar 11

Director's Spin



Dear Friends,

Spring is here or at least it is trying to sneak its way in. It is hard to believe that we are entering our seventh summer season! Please join us at one of our programs this summer: cycling, handcycling, kayaking, sailing, adventure trips, kids camps, water-skiing and wakeboarding. Many of our events are starting to fill up, so contact us soon to reserve your spot!

We are finishing up our best winter season to date with several successful new programs including the Discover Ability Kids Ski Camp in Vail, the First Steamboat All Mountain Camp and Powdercats trip, and numerous additional training clinics and outreach presentations. Another highlight was the inclusion of many recently injured soldiers from Iraq at all of our ski camps. My sincerest gratitude goes to all the volunteers as well as the staff and board of Adaptive Adventures who make our programs successful.

Some featured events this summer are the Colorado Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camp, Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium, Camp Trek, Bike Tour of Colorado, Adaptive Water-ski Festival(s), Stars of Tomorrow Camps, and of course the Lake Powell Experience. A new event for 2006 will have our Team, along with a group of kids from RIC Sports going to the 1st Annual Extremity Games in Florida in July.

Lastly, we would like to thank all our friends and supporters who help us achieve our mission day after day. We would not be here without you and together we are positively impacting the lives of many individuals with disabilities and their families.

Thank you! Joel

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ASK - Adaptive Sports for Kids



Discover Ability group shot at Mid-Vail.

Discover Ability Youth Ski Camp in Vail

2006, marked the second year that Adaptive Adventures has partnered with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) Sports program to bring a group of physically challenged kids from the Chicago area out West. With the assistance of Vail Resorts Adaptive Program and Ruth DeMuth, this year's camp was "the best ever!"

The group included 14 kids and an equal number of instructors and volunteers. "We had mono-skiers, Bi-skiers, three-trackers, two-trackers, and snowboarders in this group," commented Director and Instructor Matt Feeney. "It is an awesome thing to see the smiles on the kids faces...many have never skied out West before and could not believe the size and beauty of Vail!"

In addition to the skiing and riding, the kids had a great time with a number of other local activities. Group favorites included: tubing at Adventure Ridge, hot tubing at the condos, and dinner at the Colorado Ski Museum. While at the dinner, the group was treated to a presentation by Vail Valley resident and Paralympic Gold medalist, Sarah Will.

A special thank you to the major sponsors that made this trip possible for the kids, Claddagh Foundation, Colorado Mountain Express, and Vail Resorts. Many of these children would never have this life changing opportunity without the financial support of the community.

Kids Kayak Programs Grow in Chicago

This season Adaptive Adventures will continue to expand our partnership with Kayak Chicago and RIC Sports to work with more kids in the Chicago area. In addition, our program is planning to travel to provide paddling opportunities to kids with Great Lakes Adaptive Sports and several area Parks and Recreation programs and hospitals for kids with disabilities.

The Adaptive Adventures kayak trailer is now ready to go. Thank you to Cain Tubular Products and John Cain for making our trailer a reality. Along with the addition of six new kayaks, we expect to see a lot of smiling faces on kids this summer!



Michelle in Vail

"I thought the trip was amazing. I've never been able to experience the mountains the way I did in Vail Colorado, they were so beautiful. The entire trip was great because the group was so tight that we were able to bond, and enjoy the wonders of nature at the same time. This is experience that I will carry with me my entire life, it has allowed me to surpass my limits, and break boundaries that I never thought would be possible." Michelle Zacarias, 16 years old



Michelle loved the sun and snow in Vail.

Adaptive Adventures Summer Youth Camps

Colorado Jr. Wheelchair Sports Camp
June 12-16, 2006 * Aurora, CO

Stars of Tomorrow
August 3-4, 2006
Denver, CO

Camp Trek
June 19-23, 2006
Libertyville, IL



All Mountain Camp Rocks the Boat!

“Best ski day ever!”

The first annual Adaptive Adventures All Mountain Ski Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado may have been the best campever! With the combination of sunnyskies, three feet of new snow, and unbelievable support from local businesses and volunteers, Steamboat “rocked” for everyone involved.

The camp included a diverse group with a wide range of abilities and featured seven recently injured soldiers from Iraq as well as six older disabled vets. “I felt like I had the courage to do anything out there...this was the best



Craig Kennedy of Access Anything blasts through the powder!

day since my injury” commented a smiling Maverick Tuufuli who is still at Brook Army Medical Hospital for rehabilitation.

“It’s a stump fest,” commented Paralympic athlete Kurt Smith from Chicago. “We have four double-leg amps, three single leg amps, a double-arm amp, three single arm

amps...awesome!” A vacationer at the Sheraton commented that he and his friends had skied all over Colorado and had never seen so many disabled skiers on the slopes...”Is this [Steamboat] where all the disabled skiers go?”

As great as the mountain was, the highlight of the camp was a trip to the backcountry with Steamboat Powdercats. The day was PERFECT! Several feet of fresh Steamboat Champagne Powder, blue skies, no wind, and the best group of guides any of us have ever worked with!

The camp was such a huge success due to a number of major sponsors including: Access Anything, Steamboat Ski & Resort Company, Steamboat Powdercats, and the Sheraton Steamboat Resort. In addition, local businesses donated nearly all the meals as well as cool swag for the event. Stay



Boyd and Luanne had no trouble in the deep powder.

Steamboat Powdercats Day is #1!

Tue, 3.14.06 - After 7 days of storms, we’ve received 47” of new snow. Today was blue bird and we had a very, special day, as we hosted the gang from Steamboat’s first annual, Adaptive Adventures All Mountain Ski Camp.

Sit skiers, mono and blind skiers, and 3-trackers lapped up the waist, or in this case the head deep powder. What a truly amazing experience for us all and a fantastic ending for all those who attended and helped out with the Camp. Thanks to everyone who made it happen: Craig at Access Anything, Joel and Adaptive Adventures, Linda who is an amazing adaptive ski coach, Billy at the Steamboat Meat and Seafood Company, our guides, the help-



Chris Fesmire lost both legs in Iraq...now he rips in a monoski!

ers, Tigger, Hobbs, Felix and Calvin and last but not least, Mother Nature for providing us a blue bird powder day at exactly the right timing! - Kent Ventress



We could not have had a more perfect day for Steamboat Powdercats!

Save the Dates!!!

GREG REILLY MEMORIAL GOLF GATHERING
Castle Rock, CO
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

Adaptive Sports Golf Outing - Glencoe, IL
September 20, 2006

Summer Preview 2006



Adaptive Cycling Experience

The Adaptive Cycling Experience program is gearing up for our biggest season to date. A recent grant from the Daniels Fund will allow us to purchase much needed new equipment to serve a wider range of abilities. New camps, rides and clinics for children and adults are planned in Chicago and Denver. Highlights will again be the Rocky Mountain Omnium, Bike Tour of Colorado and our numerous kids camps.

More than ever, we are trying to expand our Cycling Team to include additional local volunteers, both able-bodied and disabled. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us. There will be training days for the program in early May.



Kayaking on the Mississippi river last summer

Kayaking and cycling blend so well at our camps and clinics, we have a lot of people asking for multiple activities at each event.

For those who do not want to use arm power to move through the water, we are planning on developing a regular sailing program in Wilmette, IL this year. Working with the Sheridan Shore Sailing School, Adaptive Adventures hopes to bring adaptive sailing opportunities to this well-known and established harbor. All in all it looks to be a busy summer on the water!

Adaptive Aqua Experience

Kayaking, sailing, swimming, fishing, water-skiing and wakeboarding programs for all ages are all scheduled to grow in the summer of 2006.

Program Director Matt Feeny and an expanding number of eager volunteers are planning several new multi-day water-ski clinics this summer. "We are going to add a second clinic on the Western Slope after the success of last year's venture in Grand Junction, as well as a new event in Steamboat where community interest is high after a successful All Mountain Ski Camp in March," noted Feeny. "And, of course we will continue weekly programs with Boulder Expand and Denver Parks and Recreation from June through August."

Another exciting growth area continues to be kayaking. In addition to expanded kids programming and a new overnight trip in the Midwest, we are planning several new one day clinics in the Front Range of Colorado.

Ski Racing Requires

- Techniques
- Tenacity
- Tactics

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Adaptive News

Adaptive Adventures receives grant from the Daniels Fund

Adaptive Adventures is delighted to announce that the Daniels Fund has provided a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to support our mission by funding the purchase of much needed adaptive equipment. The Daniels Fund was formed by Bill Daniels, a cable television pioneer who loved America and believed each of us has a duty to offer help and hope to others. He established the Daniels Fund in 1997 to support programs that encourage personal responsibility and achievement.

When Bill died in the year 2000, the bulk of his estate transferred to Daniels Fund, making it the largest foundation in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Thank you to the Daniels Fund for their support of the Adaptive Adventures and disabled sports!



Education and Outreach goes to School

The growing education and outreach efforts in both Denver and Chicago are starting to gain momentum. In the first quarter of 2006, Adaptive Adventures provided adaptive sports presentations to everyone from grade school to major Universities. Some of our recent presentations include: Ute Meadow Elementary School, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Stargate School, the Winnetka Rotary, and Evanston Bike Club.

With several recent grants helping to support this effort, we are optimistic about continuing to spread the word about the powers of sports and recreation. Our focus is on the rehabilitation process for people with physical disabilities and to increase public understanding about what is possible. Thanks to a grant from the Broomfield Community Foundation, we will be doing several presentations at Middle Schools in Broomfield, CO. For information on presentations contact us: Outreach@adaptiveadventures.org

Albor Joins Advisory Board

Alejandro Albor first broke into the national handcycling scene in 2001, when Adaptive Adventures sponsored him to come to the USHF National Championships in Elgin, IL. At the race, Alejandro was dubbed "the little engine that could" by announcer Eddie Van Gyse. Boy was he right.

Since that race, Alejandro has gone on to win numerous National Championships, Rocky Mountain Omnium titles, World Championships, and a Paralympic Medal. Amazingly, the most inspiring thing about him is not his success in racing, but what he gives back to the disabled community as a bike manufacturer and role model.

Adaptive Adventures has sponsored and will continue to assist Alejandro in his efforts and we are very excited to have him come on board as a formal member of our Team through the Advisory Board. This year, Alejandro is a favorite in the newly formed World Cup of Handcycling where he dominated the first stage in Australia.

Broad Reach and US Sailing

In an effort to enhance and grow disabled sailing opportunities and participation across the country, Adaptive Adventures has offered to partner with US Disabled Sailing to research and publish the most extensive list of adaptive sailing resources available. Results will be published on the Adaptive Information Resource (IRC): www.AdaptiveIRC.org as well as the USA Sailing web site.

Recently, US Sailing took a solid step forward in supporting Paralympic and disabled sailing. When Betsy Alison was hired to be the full-time coach of the US Disabled Sailing Team. Alison, a five-time US Sailing Rolex Yachts-woman of the Year and two-time Yngling World Champion, has been working with athletes from the US Disabled Sailing Team for years. She accompanied the US Paralympic Sailing Team to the 2000 and 2004 Paralympic Games.

Adaptive Adventures Broad Reach sailing programs also look to grow this summer. We are already working on our accessible boat *Sea Legs* and developing an all-access program in partnership with Sheridan Shore Sailing School in Wilmette, IL. Utilizing *Sea Legs* and several other keel boats and day sailors we look to put butts in boats from Wilmette harbor to the Calumet River this summer.

For information and reservations contact: sailing@adaptiveadventures.org

Check out our new Information Resource Center, a diverse network of resources for the disabled community:
www.AdaptiveIRC.org

START Adaptive Adventures **ROCKY MTN CYC DOWNTOWN GOLDEN M**

7th Annual Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium Memorial Day Weekend Evergreen & Golden, CO

USHF HANDCYCLING

WORLD HANDCYCLING

Adaptive Adventures

2006 Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium Colorado State Criterium Championships & Handcycling World Cup

*Colorado State Criterium Championships
*Handcycling World Cup (Only U.S. event)
*Juniors race for free!

May 26-29, 2006

Cycling.AdaptiveAdventures.org



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Beth Wright

Recent Success Stories

To Adaptive Adventures,

I just wanted to thank you for the best days of my entire life. The skiing was great and I learned more than I thought I would. I feel that my skiing improved 100%. All my instructors were great and the help that Matt, you, Ryan & Craig gave me made a big change in my ability. I am counting the days to next years camp.

Steamboat will be my home someday. Please send me email addresses of the people at the resort that I can contact to thanks them for the great time that I had due to their staff. Joel you changed my life this past week and I will never forget it. You treated me like you have known me for all of your life and that meant more to me than you can ever imagine. Its people like you that make life so much easier to handle. Please keep in touch.

- All Mountain Camp Participant



Stan, Charlie, and Louis having a good time in the powder!

Participant Spotlight: Ryan Wright - Age 11

"I just like doing stuff with Adaptive Adventures!" Ryan Wright exclaimed recently when asked what he likes most about the "Stars of Tomorrow" programs. Ryan has been involved with Adaptive Adventures since the beginning, the eleven year old athlete is game for any sport. In the winter, he mono skis and this year his challenge is to "ski the bumps like Matt Feeney" he said with a smile during an interview for Colorado and Company, a local TV show. Ryan, Matt Feeney and George Mannion recently appeared and talked about the programs offered by Adaptive Adventures. In addition to snow skiing, Ryan has rock climbed, he's waterskied, has tried tennis, lacrosse and baseball as a participant in the Adaptive Sports for Kids (ASK) programs. In the summer his favorite activity is handcycling.

Ryan and the other "Stars" are challenging themselves to reach further and play harder. They get together for sports and recreation but also to enjoy the social aspects of the ASK programs. For many of these kids they don't have the chance to interact with other kids in wheelchairs in their everyday lives. Ryan likens it to a family when he gets together with other kids and role models that cheer his successes. The experiences touch many lives and he mentioned his friends Pierce and Sam who are regular participants at the programs. Through Adaptive Adventures they form a special bond, the children, the coaches and the parents all benefit.

Starting with the youngest participants Adaptive Adventures is helping to shape the future. By providing opportunities for participation in sports and recreation, on a level playing field, the kids develop confidence and practical skills to help them as they grow.

Adaptive Adventures participant Ryan Wright appeared recently on the morning show *Colorado and Company* along with Program Director, Matt Feeney and Chairman, George Mannion.

Here are a few comments from the show.

How long have you been involved with Adaptive Adventures?

Ryan: "For as long as I can remember. I think four or five years and it's really fun to be with Adaptive Adventures."

And you are one of the Stars of Tomorrow?

Ryan: "Yep"

Tell us about the camps and how much fun it is hanging out with other kids?

Ryan: It's very fun go to Stars of Tomorrow, especially the water-skiing, kayaking and cycling, and play softball and tennis. I love to hang out with all the kids like Pierce Grandcamp and Sam Fox they make me feel like I have lots of company... they feel like a family...it's more fun."

What do you think about Adaptive Adventures helping you with other goals in life?

Ryan: "They make me feel confident, like my dad tells me 'Matt skies down mogals' and it makes me want to ski down mogals. That's one of my goals this year to ski down mogals in my monoski."

What's your favorite sport?

Ryan: I like skiing and basketball.



Ryan at the 2004 Stars Camp

7th Annual Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium



Start for the 2005 RMO in Downtown Golden, Colorado

Adaptive Adventures is proud to host the 7th annual Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium. This year, our event is the host to the American Cycling Association's Colorado State Criterium Championship and will feature the best cyclists from Colorado and the USA! The event is also the biggest race on the U.S. Handcycling Federation's American Handcycle Series, and has been designated the only Handcycling World Cup race in the United States.

While the Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium is a world-class, elite cycling competition attracting thousands to our region, it is also the biggest fund-raiser of the year for Adaptive Adventures. This year, our goal is to raise \$100,000 to pay for event costs, operating expenses and underwrite our additional ASK programs. Our special guests are soldiers recently injured in Iraq and Afghanistan currently involved in active rehabilitation.

The RMO is a unique event that pairs able-bodied amateur and professional cyclists with disabled cyclists at the same venue, on the same courses, racing in front of the same crowds. The Omnium brings athletes of all abilities together for a weekend of learning, empowerment, and fun. Cyclists can compete either in the handcycling or able-bodied cycling division as well as take advantage of clinics led by expert Adaptive Adventures instructors.

The RMO's main event is the Handcycle World Cup, which features the best handcyclists in the world, including Paralympic silver medalist (2004, Athens) and 2005 World Champion Alejandro Albor and World Cham-

pion Monica Bascio. The three-day cycling race -- which includes twelve different race categories for cyclists of all abilities -- features a time-trial, road race, and a criterium finale through the downtown streets of historic Old Towne Golden, Colorado, where crowds gather to cheer on the cyclists.

"As a disabled Vietnam veteran, I'm familiar with the challenges of learning to live with a permanent disability, and I know that participating in events like the Rocky Mountain Omnium builds valuable confidence to triumph over hardship," said Kirk Bauer, executive director of Disabled Sports USA. "Disabled Sports USA is honored to work with our Denver chapter Adaptive Adventures to serve these fine young service members who have made great sacrifices for our country. Adaptive Adventures clinics and working with their experts is a critical part of the road to recovery."

"DS/USA's athletic events, counseling programs and world-class instruction helped give me the confidence and determination that I needed to overcome my injury," said Captain Dave Rozelle, who lost his foot in Iraq while serving in the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and raced in the '04 version of the RMO. "The Adaptive Adventures Omnium is a phenomenal opportunity for injured soldiers, new amputees and athletes of all abilities to join together, conquer physical disability and have fun on wheels."



The RMO is sponsored by Boeing, Gary Williams Energy, Argus, Coors Light, Lodo Restaurant Group, Garceworks, Invacare Top End and Tupper's Team with support from Disabled Sports USA, the United States Handcycle Federation, the city of Golden, the Federation of Independent Associations for Cycling (FIAC), the World Handcycle Federation (WHF) and the American Cycling Association (ACA).



Wounded Warrior disabled soldier group in Evergreen, Colorado



www.cycling.AdaptiveAdventures.org



Kate and her mom...and the elephant.

What's on your big wish list of things to do in your lifetime? For me, my dream was to go on safari in Africa. I just wasn't quite sure how I'd do it as a quadriplegic. On a whim, I typed into Google 'wheelchair safari Africa' and was pleased to find several listings. One site in particular grabbed my attention, Endeavour Safaris – www.endeavour-safaris.com

Endeavour Safaris specialize in accessible travel throughout Southern Africa for a wide range of disabilities including mobility, hearing and visual impairments as well as for people requiring oxygen or kidney dialysis. There are many different tours available depending on what you would like to experience. My mother and I went on the 11-day Botswana and Cape Town tour. It combined 6 nights of safari in the Moremi game reserve in the world famous Okavango delta in northern Botswana with 4 nights in Cape Town, South Africa.

This is an amazing experience to share with your family. My mom and I were two proclaimed "city mice" from Chicago. Neither one of us had ever camped outside in a tent before, let alone in the African bush. Our daily routine involved waking before sunrise to eat breakfast and head out on an early morning game drive. We spent one morning with a pride of five lions along the banks of the Khwai River as they reposed. We kept an ever watchful eye and followed the

frantic calls of birds that lead us to a leopard. We returned to camp by 11am for a delicious lunch. Our daily routine left plenty of time in the middle of the day for relaxation, reflection and my coveted daily nap. By 4pm we left for our afternoon game drive followed by watching the sun set. We spent an hour in one spot with the engine off, quietly watching a herd of elephant feeding on trees and grass around us. After returning to camp, we feasted on a 3 course dinner and enjoyed sharing stories of the day around the campfire.

A lot of people have asked me, "How does someone in a wheelchair go on safari?" Well, really just like anyone else but more comfortably. Endeavour Safaris thoughtfully plan out the details of the trip. They have adapted a Toyota Land Cruiser with a portable ramp and large double doors that open to a spacious seating area. You can choose to stay in your chair or transfer to a seat. There is plenty of space to accommodate a large family and several wheelchairs. The vehicle is always stocked with cold soft drinks, snacks and bottled water.

Our guide specifically reserves private camp sites where he knows the ground is hard and even, rather than sandy and lumpy. The custom designed tent is a spacious 10x15 feet with en-suite chemical toilet and bucket shower equipped with high-backed shower chair and handheld shower head. It has 10 large screened 'windows' and no additional mosquito netting was required. Consideration is given to making all transfers even and level from the wheelchair to the bed, shower chair, and toilet chair. The beds are mattresses on sturdy cots with down feather duvets and a pillow.

We had a fantastic time seeing the wildlife in the Okavango Delta. Elephants roamed our camp by day and at night we could hear lions, hyena and hippos calling out to one another. I knew mom had adapted to the bush when I entered the tent one night to find her shuffling around in her pink pajamas humming to herself.

Words cannot do justice to the majesty of the animals. The more we learned from our guide about animal behavior, the deeper our respect grew for these magnificent creatures.

The African safari experience is an intense feast for the senses. Even with a disability the experience is equally as colorful, textured, melodic, fragrant (one way or another), and fulfilling. Make sure you add an African safari to your wish list! For more information visit Endeavour Safaris website www.endeavour-safaris.com or contact Kate Aquila at

kate.endeavour@yahoo.com



*Kate is a graduate student attending the University of Chicago, a C6 quadriplegic, and an avid kayaker with Adaptive Adventures.



Summer 2006 Featured Events Calendar

May

Ongoing	Chicago Kayak Program	Northern, IL
Ongoing	Adaptive Cycling Experience	Colorado & Illinois
6	Adaptive Cycling Clinic	Boulder, CO
13-20	Lake Powell Experience Trip	Lake Powell, UT
26	RMO Adaptive Cycling Clinic	Denver, CO
27-29	7th Annual Rocky Mountain Cycling Omnium	Evergreen & Denver, CO

June

Ongoing	Broad Reach Adaptive Sailing	Wilmette, IL
4-7	Green River Rafting Trip	NW Colorado
12-16	Colorado Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp	Aurora, CO
13-14	Adaptive Water-ski Program Training	Boulder & Denver, CO
19-23	3rd Annual Camp Trek Youth Sports Camp	Libertyville, IL
22	Weekly Water-ski and Wakeboard Clinics thru August	Denver, CO
24 - July 1	Bike Tour of Colorado	Southwest, CO

July

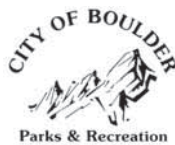
11	Adaptive Cycling & Paddling Day	Boulder, CO
13-14	4th Annual Adaptive Water-ski & Wakeboard Festival	Longmont, CO
14	Tubular Sclerosis Kids Camp	Bollingbrook, IL
15-16	Kids Kayaking Trip	Mirror Lake, WI
20-23	Ski for Light Summerfest	Lake Angustoria, SD
24-25	2nd Annual Western Slope Water-ski Clinic	Grand Junction, CO

August

3-4	Stars of Tomorrow Youth Sports Camp	Denver, CO
15-17	RIC Adaptive Water-ski Clinic	Twin Lakes, WI
26 - Sept. 2	Lake Powell Experience Trip	Lake Powell, UT
29	Lodo Restaurant Group Golf Outing	Castle Rock, CO
TBD	Overnight Kayak Trip	Wisconsin

September - October

12-13	Adaptive Water-ski & Wakeboard Festival	Longmont, CO
18	7th Annual Greg Reilly Memorial Golf Gathering	Castle Rock, CO
20	Adaptive Sports Charity Golf Outing	Glencoe, IL
Oct 7-14	Lake Powell Experience Trip	Lake Powell, UT



Volunteers Are Key to Our Success!!!

Thank You!
We couldn't do it without your support!

See our list of current volunteers at:
www.adaptiveadventures.org/volunteer

"The time of your life!"

Lake Powell Experience 2006

May 13-20
August 26 - Sept. 2
October 7-14



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Summer 2006



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DAV / Winter Sports Clinic
Rocky Mountain Omnium
Bike Tour of Colorado
Adaptive Water-ski Festival



***John Devine**
2005 Outstanding Disabled Veteran

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