

The

# Access Anything

Monthly Newsletter

A Publication for Travelers with Disabilities • Volume 1 • Number 4 • July 2005



## SERVICE ANIMALS NO-NO'S



Page 6



GO ANYWHERE, DO ANYTHING!™

The  
**Access Anything**

**Monthly**

Volume 1 • Number 4 • July 2005

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Access Anything welcomes writers and travelers with disabilities or knowledge in this particular field to submit their articles, comments, and suggestions to [info@accessanything.net](mailto:info@accessanything.net). Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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[www.accessanything.net](http://www.accessanything.net)

## Updates from Access Anything

### The Wait is Over!

The wait is finally over! Three years in the making, [Access Anything: Colorado, Adventuring with Disabilities](#) hits the shelves July 15<sup>th</sup> and Access Anything, LLC hits the road even sooner! Thrilled to finally have something in-hand to show and share, we are proud to share this moment with all of you! Without our many old and new friends, support groups, and the adaptive travel & sports community, this book would not have been a possibility! We thank each and every one of you for being a part of this!

Now that the book is complete, we will begin to compile our “Updates” page on our Web site for our readers to add their input and suggestions, and for businesses to add their newly accessible business to the next version of [AA:CO](#). If you have any suggestions, new accessibility, or find any errors in our access reports, please [email us](#) for additions to this upcoming updates page!

For more on our travels over the next few months, please see the calendar on page 5!

### The Oprah Endeavor

Many thanks to all of you who helped us pester Oprah last month! No news (yet) is good news, right? Well we hope so, but we’re still sending letters just in case!

For those of you who didn’t get a chance to read last month’s newsletter or suggest Access Anything to her book club and show, here’s the cheat sheet we included last issue...

1. Go to [Oprah’s email recommendations](#) page.
2. Scroll down and plug in your personal information.
3. Then under “your question” paste these words below or type in your own words!  
*I would like to recommend Access Anything: Colorado, the only adventure travel guidebook for people with disabilities, to the Oprah Book Club. I would also like to recommend the authors, Jehn and Kennedy, to appear on your show! Thank you!*

We’ll invite every single one of you if we get on!  
**Thank you!**

## “Opening Doors for People with Disabilities”



Quickly becoming *the* source of information on disability statistics, the Open Doors Organization (ODO) was created in 2000 to bridge the gap between people with disabilities and the businesses that can employ them, market to them, and sell to them. Over the last five years, the great minds behind ODO have dedicated themselves to extensive research and training for marketing to people with disabilities. By giving businesses large and small the know-how to market and serve the disabled community, ODO is breaking down the misconceptions that have plagued the disabled community for decades.

But the Open Doors Organization mission does not stop with educating business owners; ODO is about empowering people with disabilities as well. Offering job placement, educational seminars, and diversity programs to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities is a major part of this company's calling. By

working both sides of this barrier, ODO is helping to make this country a broader-minded place for people with disabilities.

The statistical information that has brought much of ODO's positive press over the last few years comes from their study, *The Disability Market Research on Travel, Dining, and Hospitality*, was released in 2002 and has made a huge impact on the travel market since. Because disabilities affect all ages, sexes, nationalities, and classes, they are considered the largest minority group in the U.S., totaling over 50 million Americans alone. Through their study, ODO discovered that this group, Americans with disabilities, spent over \$81 billion on travel alone in 1995, and that

number has actually been declining. Overlooked in the past because of misconceptions about people with disabilities and surmounting anxiety over compliance with the ADA, this large group of travelers has become a loyal group to the more accessible routes. Because of this study and subsequent growing awareness, the disabled community is finally being included in travel and business marketing.

By no means is every aspect of our country fully accessible, yet. But thanks to the ODO's giant steps for awareness, accessibility is likely around a closer corner.

Our own Craig Kennedy used ODO's research results for an article that's currently circulating the web faster than light: "[Travelers with Disabilities: The Untapped Market.](#)"

For more information on the Open Doors Organization, visit their Web site at [www.opendoorsnfp.org](http://www.opendoorsnfp.org).

Open Doors Organization, 2551 N. Clark Street, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60614; 773-388-8839

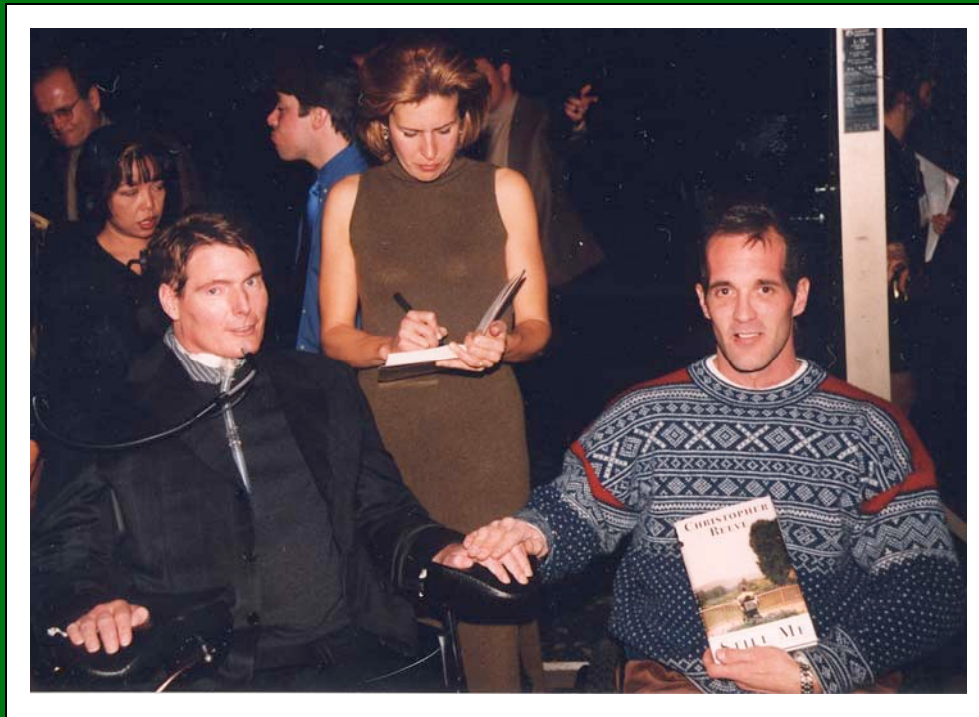


CHRISTOPHER REEVE  
PARALYSIS FOUNDATION

## DONATING FOR A CURE

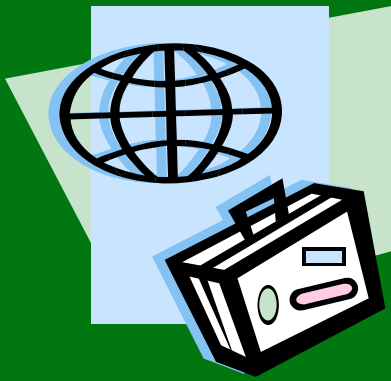
Our resident wheelie Craig has been donating to the CRPF since his skiing accident in 1996. As many of you will see in a few weeks, we have dedicated this first guidebook to Christopher Reeve (d. 2004) and Tom Moore (d. 2000). This photo was included with the dedication, taken at a fundraiser in Vail in 1998. Tom and Craig felt blessed to have had the opportunity to meet Chris and hear him speak. Chris has given the world of disabilities a new face during his decade in his chair, and thankfully it's a much better place for it. Without him here as the roll model, we can only hope for continuing support for spinal research and the cure for paralysis.

To help support these, a portion of our book sales will be donated to the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. The foundation is thrilled to have yet another avenue of support, and will be highlighting and reviewing the guidebook for their newsletter and Web site. Their mailing list is endless, so we're very thankful for this great connection, and hope to continue this relationship for as long as we write!



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## **Monthly Travel Tip: Service Animal No-No's**

**W**hen your friends joke about putting a vest on Fido and taking him inside the restaurant, what do you say?

Apparently this impersonation tactic is spreading like wildfire, and people are bringing in dogs that have no business being in public places. I first heard of this sometime last year, about an AB (able bodied) woman in Aspen who had been taking her dog into restaurants with an unmarked vest, and was encouraging other AB locals to do the same. This occurrence is becoming more common as AB's are starting to realize that the rights of those with disabilities are protected enough to ensure animal privacy. Meaning no business owner can actually ask about one's disability.

Business owners are, however, allowed to ask "is this a service dog for a disability." And so long as it's in friendly conversation, they can also ask what the dog does for their guest. These two questions may discourage AB's from bringing their impersonator into the establishment, but it will take much more awareness, and perhaps the involvement of the government, to bring this unfortunate misrepresentation to an end. We've heard horror stories of dogs eating off tables, scratching walls in attempts to turn on lights or open doors, and general terrible behavior that is most obviously not how service animals behave.

What can you do in the meantime? If you have a service animal, you know the constant education you are required to offer. However, if anyone (disabled or AB) sees this kind of impersonation, they can approach the business owner and recommend deterrents for such impersonators, such as the above questions, more signage, and guest removal. If the animal is disrupting other patrons in any way, the owner still has the right to remove the guest. It all boils down to awareness, and despite your aversion to educating the masses, helping the country distinguish between a pet and a service animal is unfortunately currently the job of service animal owners.

**A**nother common mistake with service animals, luckily much more easily remedied, is the permission to pet. More adults than children approach our service dog, and I'd say 90% of them don't ask first if they can pet her. In fact, 80% of them don't even acknowledge us, and just go about petting our non-pet at their own leisure. Aside from the obvious fact that strange dogs shouldn't be approached without asking, this rule doesn't seem to apply to service animals, which on the contrary, should actually *never* be approached anyway. The same goes for education on this one. The patch that says "don't pet me I'm working" on our service dog doesn't work as well as we'd like it to.

One good way to help educate is to visit schools of all levels to help educate on why services animals are so valuable to people with disabilities. Other tactics would be to write your local newspaper's editor either on the topic of this sort of awareness, or if you see an impersonator, to publicize their unlawfulness. **Help spread the word: service animals work hard for people with disabilities, don't misuse this privilege!**

## Access Anything Summer Calendar

Most of July is booking up, but the rest of our summer is still formulating itself into a book tour!

July 13 – Craig to speak at Craig Hospital in Denver, Colorado  
*Both to the new patients as well as Occupational Therapy class.*

July 15 – Book signing and speaking engagement at the  
the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, affiliate of  
the University of Michigan Model Spinal Care Center,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 18 – Tour of Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

July 30 – Book signing at Off the Beaten Path book store, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

August 14 – Book Signing/ Meet the Authors; Outdoor Retailers Show, Salt Lake City, Utah

### ***In the Works:***

September 16-18 – Chicago Abilities Expo

October – Adventures in Travel Expo, Dallas, TX

November – Speaking engagement at Shepherd Center, Atlanta GA

November 18-20 – Northern California Abilities Expo



## Publications - Look for us in:

### *July issues:*

Emerging Horizons

Go World Travel

Restless Me

New Mobility

### *August Issues:*

5280

In Motion

## Recommended Links

