

The

Access Anything

Monthly Newsletter

A Publication for Travelers with Disabilities • Volume 1 • Number 6 • September 2005

INGENIOUS ADAPTATIONS



Find out which manufacturers are beginning to adapt their gear and welcome disabled adventurers deeper into the great outdoors!

Page 4

GO ANYWHERE, DO ANYTHING!™

Adventure Travel for People with Disabilities

The
Access Anything

Monthly

Volume 1 • Number 6 • September 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. Deadline for submission is the 20th of each month.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 **Updates from Access Anything**
Book Tour; Leg Two
AA:CO Updates
- 4 **Organization Spotlight**
2005 Outdoor Retailer's Show and this year's *Ingenious Adaptations*
- 5 **Access Anything's Motivational Interview Series: "I Can Do That"**
- 6 **Monthly Travel Tip**
Wheelchair Chariot Motorbike
- 7 **Recommendations**
- 8 **Calendar of Events**



**NEW THIS MONTH:
EDITOR'S BLOG**

Craig has begun a new blog for travelers with disabilities at his home site:
www.craigpkennedy.com

Look for weekly updates on topics such as disabled travel, ability adaptations, access updates, consulting, and more!
Sign up at
www.accessanything.net
for this blog to be delivered to you weekly!

UPDATES FROM ACCESS ANYTHING

Book Tour, Leg Two

September brings us to round two of our promotional tour for Access Anything: Colorado! For two weeks we will tour New England, visiting rehabilitation centers for motivational speaking events and book signings. See page 7 for the dates and times for these stops (we are still firming up two more stops), and please come see us if you're in the area! In some instances, we do need permission from the rehab center for extra visitors, so make sure to email us first! If you'd like us to make an additional stop that we don't have on our list, please contact us as soon as possible!

We'd like to thank our new sponsors for supporting us through another leg of book tour!



Updates

We are compiling updates for the next edition of AA: Colorado. If you have any suggestions, new accessibility information, or find any errors in our access reports, please email us your additions to the upcoming updates page! These updates will be posted online until the next edition goes to print!

We have two updates for the book so far; please make a note of them:

PG 3:

Wheelchair Getaways Information:

When you rent an accessible van from Wheelchair Getaways of Colorado, you're in for a wonderful experience. Not only will you rent a great van, you'll also get the expertise, caring and professionalism that comes from dealing with a reputable, well-established (12 years old) family-owned business as well. We're also a franchisee of the national Wheelchair Getaways organization – renting accessible vans from Alaska to Florida. Our mission is to help make your travel easier, safer and more enjoyable. We pride ourselves on our new fleet models (both full size and mini vans) complete with hydraulic lifts or ramps, raised roof or lowered floors, hand controls, transfer seats (in some models) and the newest self-ratcheting tie down system. Renting accessible vans is ALL we do and we're good at it. Delivery and pick up available throughout the state. Check out what our customers are saying about us on our website; then give us a call, we'd love to help you with your travel needs.

<http://www.wheelchairgetaways.com/coloradohome.htm>

PG 30:

Ft. Collin's free local paper for entertainment suggestions is called "Scene Magazine".

Access Anything

GO ANYWHERE DO ANYTHING!™

2005 Outdoor Retailer's Show and this year's *Ingenious Adaptations*

Disabled adventurers are well-versed in adapting outdoor gear to fit their needs. World-renowned climber Mark Wellman has made a life of it, and sells his adapted climbing gear through his own company, No Limits Tahoe. Many other adventurers with disabilities have done the same to kayaks, skis, and other mainstream equipment, but the hard-core adventurers who have spent the last decade adapting adventure gear to fit their own needs seem to have gotten their point across, and the manufacturers of outdoor equipment are finally beginning to adapt their gear for people with disabilities. For years disabled adventurers and innovators, looking to get back into the sports they love, struggled to gain sponsorships and financial aid to help them create adapted gear. Due to a combination of supply and demand, inventors seem to be catching on to this expanding niche of adventurer, and the annual Outdoor Retailer's Show is one of the best places to showcase this.

The Outdoor Retailer's Show (ORS) in Salt Lake City is the largest of its kind anywhere in the world. It is a huge annual event that occupies the entire Salt Lake City Convention Center, overflowing into the parking lots. This year the show was as big, if not bigger, than it usually is, with thousands of manufacturers showing off their new outdoor gear. From big names such as Patagonia and L.L. Bean to smaller and newer companies trying to make a name for themselves, the ORS is like a small city of like-minded enthusiasts. Attention-grabbers like the *Paddle Pool* filled with kayakers of world-class ability and evening block parties complete with live bands are annual staples for this event. Retailers come from all over the world to make their seasonal purchases at this unmatched exposition of outdoor gear.

Over the past few years several companies have been working on prototypes for adventurers with disabilities. Last year's ORS featured the first tent designed especially for campers with disabilities to hit the market, Eureka's Freedom Tent. The Freedom Tent includes a front entry vestibule shelter for a wheelchair as well as toggle pull zippers on the doors and windows for those with hand-mobility challenges. Released during summer of 2004, the Freedom Tent spent its first year trekking around the U.S. on display at outdoor expositions and conferences such as the ORS.

Eureka's biggest challenge is finding its consumer. Marketing Director for Eureka, Kirsten Jankowski, emphasizes this. She states, "This tent is one of our higher priorities, but each year we have many new tents that we have to spend our marketing dollars on."

Eureka is very proud of this tent, and while Jankowski hopes it gains popularity among the disabled community, she also knows how tough it is to market to this group. Although the Freedom Tent has been on the road for a year, Eureka has sold only a handful of them, and has only a few retailers that are willing to offer it. So to really get the tent out there to its

consumers, Jankowski is going to need help, and much of this help will need to come from the consumers themselves. Disabled outdoor enthusiasts must begin to purchase products adapted to their needs, such as the Freedom Tent, in larger numbers. This will also encourage other companies to follow suit and begin making equipment with a more "universal" design.

The highlight of this summer's Outdoor Retailer Show was inventor Kevin Carr, an independent dealer and product designer for major canoe companies, through his company Gear For Portaging. Carr was proudly exhibiting his latest invention, a fully padded and supportive seat that will fit into any canoe with easy installation. The 14-inch-wide seat was also designed to accommodate the users own wheelchair cushion for safety and comfort. Adjustable straps and a lightweight frame make this seatback a luxury for all water enthusiasts with disabilities. He designed the seat with all disabilities in mind, hoping to make canoeing a reality for all paraplegics and many quadriplegics as well. This seat is still in the prototype stage, being rigorously tested by Wilderness Inquiry in Minnesota, and will hopefully be released in the spring of 2006. Other paddling gear has already been adapted for disabled outdoorsmen, including paddles with hand attachments for grip assistance as well as padded foot "cages," but this new seat will revolutionize not only canoeing, but eventually all paddle sports.

Another company that has begun to build prototypes for adventurers with disabilities is CamelBak, a well-known innovator in water hydration systems. These backpacks include water bladders and hose-attachments for easy drinking while on the trail in all seasons, and would be designed specifically for wheelchair users. Wesley Watson, V.P. of Operations for CamelBak, states this is something the company has already begun discussing designs for. CamelBak has been providing the U.S. Military with these hydration systems for the past decade, and has recently added a new competition design to their line. Innovative companies like this, encompassing of all types of needs from combat to competition, are exactly the kind of company that adventurers with disabilities need on their side.

As there is still little market research in the area of adaptive adventure and travel, marketing these innovations will be the toughest test. The best information currently available on travelers with disabilities is provided by The Open Doors Organization in conjunction with the Travel Industry Association of America. They are leading the way in disability related travel statistics, noting that people with disabilities take some 32 million trips per year and spend more than \$13 billion annually on travel. With these kinds of staggering numbers to work with, there should be no doubt that marketing to people with disabilities is now a must. In the meantime, the more consumers with disabilities take advantage of these leading products, the more innovations and adapted products will follow!





FAQ:

WHEN: Wednesdays at 1pm MST

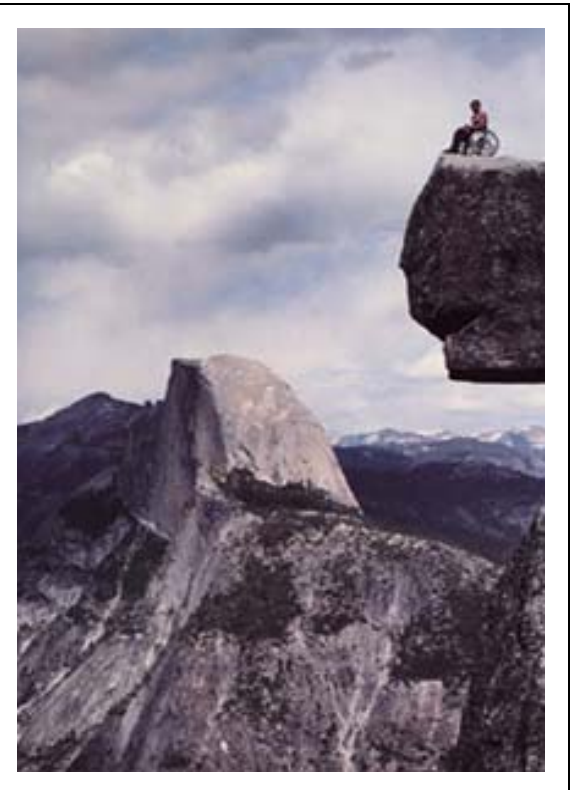
WHERE: www.craigpkennedy.com

HOW: Sign up on the Web page

"MARK WELLMAN CAN DO THAT!"

Next month Craig will launch the only online free motivational series for people with disabilities on the market today. This innovative interview series will introduce listeners to some of the most amazing, courageous, and adventurous people with disabilities in the U.S. Over the next year he will introduce the leading experts in adaptive travel, sports, and adventure that will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that anything is possible! From climbing a 1500-foot rock face to winning multiple Olympic medals, these awe-inspiring individuals will amaze listeners with stories of achievement and overcoming unbelievable odds that will inspire listeners to *Go Anywhere and Do Anything™*! These are the everyday heroes who are paving the way for a more accessible future.

Craig's first guest will be founder of [No Limits Tahoe](#), Mark Wellman. Wellman is one of the most renowned Adaptive Adventure Athletes in the world today. He is a paraplegic due to a mountain climbing accident and is best known for his daring ascents of El Capitan and Half Dome in Yosemite National Park just a few years after his accident. He is also a motivational speaker and published author with congressional and presidential commendation and is unparalleled with his refuse-to-quit attitude and sense of adventure.



On Deck for "I Can Do That"

Following interviews will include [Stacey James](#), [Jesse Billauer](#), and many more!

Monthly Travel Tip

One of the coolest adaptations we've seen over the last month is this Wheelchair Chariot Motorbike! No, it's not your typical Harley trike that requires you to leave your own chair behind or drag it in tow. These are actual chariots with a modern twist.

Creator Dan Ward states this motorbike is "the only vehicle of its kind in the world, designed specifically for a wheelchair, by a quadriplegic." These street and highway-legal bikes require no transferring, and allow any wheelchair to roll into its chariot with ease. Equipped with an extra booster battery to back up its solar panel system, one touch start, wheelchair lockdowns, stereo, options for a security theft system, and even a fully enclosed "Herculite Convertible Top" with zipper windows, this top-of-the-line bike boast more for wheelies than Harley could ever dream of at a comparable price!

Check out more photos of this innovative pace-setter online at www.wheelchairmotorbikes.com.



If you have any suggestions you'd like to see in our Monthly Travel Tips, please send them to info@accessanything.net.

Recommended Links

[Blue Sky Designs- Engineers in Adaptations](#)

[Cool Pooch – Sports products for active dogs and owners on the go!](#)

[Michigan Adaptive Sports Association](#)

[Milwaukee Recreation – Experience Life](#)

[Sun Valley Adaptive Sports – Enhancing lives through sports and recreation](#)

If you have links you'd like us to look at and post here, please [send us an email](#) with "Recommend" in the subject header.

IF YOU HAVEN'T PURCHASED YOUR COPY OF ACCESS ANYTHING, ORDER IT NOW [ONLINE](#)!

Access Anything's Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

New England Book tour:

9/16- Jake's House, Life is Good HQ in Boston, MA

9/19- 6pm Gaylord Rehabilitation Hospital, CT

9/21-12pm Mt. Sinai Hospital, NYC

Christopher Reeve Foundation, West Orange, NJ

9/21- 6pm Kessler Institute, West Orange, NJ

We'd love for you to join us! However, if you are not a patient or an alumni of one of these rehabilitation centers, please email first us to have your attendance approved.

OCTOBER

10/5 – Launch date for “*I Can Do That*” series of motivational interviews with **Mark Wellman**

10/5 – 6pm [Lakewood Cultural Heritage Center](#), Lakewood, CO

10/12 - *I Can Do That* Interview: **TBA**

10/19 – *I Can Do That* Interview: **Stacey James**

10/26 - *I Can Do That* Interview: **TBA**

NOVEMBER

I Can Do That series continues weekly on Wednesdays at 1pm

11/18 – [Portraits in Determination](#).

We will be guests on this Internet Radio Show with host **Linda Furiate**

