

Access Anything's

THE TRAVELER

Winter
2010



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Editor's Note

What 2010 has in store for Access Anything

2005 was a big year for Access Anything; it was the first big year of our company, having started small with research and consulting in 2003, 2005 brought our first All Mountain Ski Camp to Steamboat and the first Behind the Boat waterski camp, the release of [Access Anything Colorado](#), and a year of traveling rehab centers, expos, and more to get the word out about adventuring with a disability.

2010 is shaping up to be another year like that one; new beginnings will bring new collaborations, projects, camps, and trainings for Access Anything, and some have already begun! We're excited to be in our 7th year of business, celebrating our 5th year of success with our local camps with Adaptive Adventures, and excited to continue to build our network with great people like you!

In Steamboat we're teaming up with the Routt County Riders to create camps and events for adaptive mountain biking and cycling, races, and more. We'll also be working closely with STARS (STeamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports) to expand their programming as well to bring adaptive fishing, hunting, rock-climbing, and anything else we can think of! Look for Steamboat's lead in adaptive adventure in all months this year!

Abroad, we've started working with Open Doors Organization out of Chicago to train airport ground operation crews on handling practices and techniques for mobility equipment [see page 5 for more] and look forward to many more of those with Eric and Open Doors!

We hope that 2010 is an advancing year for all of our niche, as we've seen it grow so much in just the last five years. New technologies, new partnerships, and much more awareness to traveling with a disability have brought the wide world of travel inward to the needs and dollars of this ever-growing market.

Now get out there and enjoy it!!



What does 2010 have on your horizon?

Airline Trainings Houston, Tx

Craig spent a few days of January at Houston International Airport, a hub for Continental Airlines in Houston, Texas training Continental's ground crew on handling mobility and assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and scooters, and came away with a new appreciation for what that team does.

The training was organized by Eric Lipp of the Open Doors Organization (www.opendoorsnfp.org), with the help of Michael Bliwas and The Mobility Shop (<https://themobilityshop.com/>), and all agreed that this was a successful first stop on what we hope will be a large, comprehensive tour to train airline ground crews around the globe.

The purpose of these trainings is not only to teach crews how to properly lift and stow assistive devices, but how to take care of them, disassemble them, and return them to customers in one working piece. Airlines currently spend way too much of their budget replacing and repairing broken assistive equipment and with today's economy, we hope we are teaching employees how to save their company money and avoid fines "from the ground up!"

As always we were very impressed with Continental's employees; they came with a sincere eagerness to learn, tamper with, and fully explore the subject. We look forward to working with other airlines and are excited for Continental to once again lead the way in the topic of handling customers with disabilities.



5TH ANNUAL ALL MOUNTAIN SKI CAMP

Steamboat Springs, CO

January 10-14

This year's camp was probably our smoothest run one yet thanks to a long list of volunteers and another great year of collaboration with Adaptive Adventures, Steamboat Ski Area, STARS, and Steamboat Powdercats.

We had many new participants this year, as well as some of our favorite return visitors. Our campers come from all over the globe, and two returned from Ireland and the UK this year as our furthest travelers. Donations come from Steamboat for the most part, as food, lodging, goodiebags and equipment rentals started piling on as early as November last year.

The weather was also cooperative as usual- while we didn't get our staple powder for this advanced "powder camp", the weather this year has been funky in general. We suffered through a very cold, dark December and had only 100 inches accumulate before the camp for the season, most of it coming in 1 or 2 inch increments under gray skies. So for the temps to warm up to 30 and the skies to be as clear as the ocean's blue, we felt pretty lucky to have 3 beautiful groomer days to ski in Steamboat.

The Powdercats day was also surprisingly good- without snow and with that much sun that week, we expected the backcountry to be burned. But as usual, Powdercats rolled out the red carpet and found us some amazing runs; about 5 in total as average for each cat that day, we found the stashes and had a glorious day overall.

We can't do this camp without our valuable partners, Adaptive Adventures, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. Joel and Matt truly make this camp, and all their camps, a masterpiece of both training and fun, encouraging anyone with a disability to get out and enjoy this amazing sport. Their history in the industry lends to both their innovation and leadership and we look forward to five more years of successful, fun, and adventuresome camps with this amazing company. See page 10 for more on their new camps this year.

In addition, we're excited to continue to grow our partnership with STARS, Steamboat's fledgling nonprofit who stares down 30-plus years of the adaptive sports industry's growth in Colorado as its youngest addition to the state. Together we hope to make Steamboat one of the premier destinations for adventurers, sporters, and travelers with disabilities.

We've delayed this newsletter JUST for these photos, videos and articles to be shared, so please take the time to look over some of our media from this camp- these participants are maniacs on the slopes and their thirst for speed, mastering technique, and proving their disability is simply secondary to skiing is inspirational and motivational to us all.





A big thanks to all our sponsors for making this camp the best one yet!

Steamboat Powdercats, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Boeing, Sharpshooter Photography, Wounded Warrior Project, NRC Broadcasting, Resort Quest, Resort Group, Steamboat Grand, Sheraton Steamboat Resort, Boyd & Barbara Bass, Christopher and Mary Ellen Jehn, Smartwool, Hampton Inn & Suites, Ptarmigan Inn, Holiday Inn of Steamboat, Jan Levy, Sportstalker, Colorado Event Rentals, Native Excavating, Custom Color, TIC, Wells Fargo, B & K Distributing, Shively Construction, Millennium Bank, Mountain Valley Bank, ML Enterprises, Steve Green Company, Home on the Range, Dax Mattox State Farm, Alpine Taxi, Little Moon Essentials, US Foodservice, Back Country Provisions, Central Park Liquor, City Market, Steamboat Snowmobile Tours, VFW, Freshies, The Egg & I, Creekside Café, Brooklyn's Pizzeria, Blue Sage Pizza, Mazzola's Majestic Italian, Dominos, Beau Jo's, Cugino's, The Sanctuary Camp, Boo Creative, and a special thanks to all our volunteers and crock pot chefs!



Photos

Access Anything's Images: http://accessanythingphotos.net/site/browse_images?tags=category:2010%20Ski%20Camps

Adaptive Adventure's Images: <http://www.adaptiveadventures.org/aboutUs/gallery.html>

Beth Ricciardi's Images: <http://www.proimagesoftware.com/boocreative/public.php?Photographer=boocreative>

Kent Morrison's Images: <http://steamboatweather.com/plogger/index.php?level=album&id=13>

Videos

2010 Camp Video <http://www.youtube.com/accessanything> - will hopefully be completed early February and posted here

Video Clips on Facebook (fan our pages!): <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Steamboat-Springs-CO/Access-Anything/60161396203?ref=ts>

Articles on the camp:

<http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/jan/17/joel-reichenberger-following-adaptive-skiers-no-ea/>

<http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/jan/15/adaptive-camp-opens-doors-wounded-warriors/>

<http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/jan/14/5th-annual-all-mountain-adaptive-ski-camp-draws-va/>

<http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2010/jan/03/couple-works-open-town-those-disabilities/>



2010 PARALYMPIC GAMES - The Scoop

Wondering who our US representatives are for the 2010 Paralympics in Vancouver? Or perhaps wondering how even to watch this event that usually falls a few weeks after the Olympics? While the rest of the world is getting excited for the Winter Games, the adaptive niche is still training hard and preparing for their best performances of a lifetime.

The 2010 Winter Paralympics, officially known as the X Paralympic Winter Games, will be celebrated in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia between March 12 to March 21, 2010. The Opening Ceremony will take place in BC Place Stadium, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The US has an impressive list this year for our winter team; see <http://www.vancouver2010.com> for roster and more. From sled hockey and curling to nordic and alpine skiing the US Team is shaping up to make an impact on the world! Our Sled Hockey team is in the midst of its World Championships in January, beating Japan to take on Norway in the semifinals.

Also this month two US alpine sit-skiers took the podium at the World Cup trials in Italy, Laurie Stephens (MA) and Alana Nichols (MN) placing second and third only seconds behind Claudia Loesch of Austria. Other categories including standing skiing and visually impaired skiing, with no US placements in the top five at recent events.

With STARS and Adaptive Adventures starting to focus on a Paralympic Training Center in Steamboat, dubbed Ski Town USA for the plethora of Olympians that have been sculpted here, we hope to see more US names making the top ranks in the Paralympics to come! We also hope to see some Adaptive World Cup events held in Steamboat again as they were in 2005 (image below).

If anyone you know is attending the Paralympic events and would like to report on them for us, we'd welcome follow up stories on this fabulous and inspirational event!

For accessibility at the events, check <http://www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-spectator-guide/accessibility/>



WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHT

- New Camps with Adaptive Adventures



If anyone is looking for additional skiing opportunities this season, Adaptive Adventures has two new camps to try out this season in Wyoming.

The Steep and Deep Camp with Jackson Hole Mountain Sports School and Teton Adaptive Sports is from March 3-6th, 2010 in Jackson Hole Wyoming. Camp is \$1000 and includes lift tickets, lunches, a banquet dinner, and five nights of lodging at this epic skiing locale. This is an advanced and integrated skiing camp for a “challenging big mountain experience.” For more information see Adaptive Adventures (www.adaptiveadventures.org), or contact Teton Adaptive at tetonadaptive@aol.com.

Adaptive Adventures is also offering a new venue for their All Mountain Camp Series in 2010 at Grand Targhee, WY which has been receiving snow by the truckload this year! The All Mountain Adaptive Ski and Ride camp in Grand Targhee is from March 7-10, 2010. Due to the more remote nature of Targhee, the camp is only \$450 for 4 days of skiing, 5 nights lodging, and several meals. This camp is in partnership with Teton Adaptive Sports. This camps also registers through Adaptive’s website above.

Also worth mention, in its second year, the Stars of Tomorrow Youth Ski and Ride Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO will be from March 20-22, 2010. This 3-day experience includes skiing and riding lessons, NASTAR racing techniques, and leadership opportunities for young athletes. This camp is being hosted by Steamboat STARS in conjunction with Adaptive Adventures and Access Anything this year as STARS continues to grow and take on new camps and adaptive fun in “The Boat.” This camp is \$250 for participants, \$300 for the first accompanying parent, and \$400 for the second, and includes all meals, lodging, and on-snow activities. Register with Adaptive Adventures for that as well.



WINTER TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- When We Travel, Care Vacations 20th Anniversary



When We Travel (WWT) has a unique all-encompassing hotel-booking engine powered by World Choice Travel (WCT, member of the ASTA, American Society of Travel Agents and IATAN International Airlines Travel Agent Network).

The engine provides the widest selection of hotel accommodations throughout the world, connecting directly to the central reservations systems of hotels worldwide, resulting in better rate and room descriptions, and in many cases, a greater variety of rates. This arrangement translates into considerable savings.

What's extremely helpful about WWT is that accessibility information is included right in the engine. All categories include a disability section (look for the wheelchair in the left column after clicking on any category, such as Bed and Breakfasts). Surfers are then lead to a "destinations" area where they can choose Bed and Breakfasts (or other) by country and locale.

The engine also includes campgrounds, restaurants, and hotels in every category from Budget to Luxury, and Pet Friendly to Golf!

Of course we always recommend that you follow up with a phone call, but having all this information at your finger tips is an innovation that other booking engines just don't have.

Visit www.whenwetravel.com for more.



Leduc, Alberta – CareVacations, a trusted special needs equipment and services provider in the industry, celebrates 20 years of offering travelers with special needs, worry-free travel on all major cruise lines.

CareVacations was founded by Don and Susan Stilwell in 1988. Combining Don's experience in the hospitality industry and Susan's travel agent experience, within a few years the Stilwell's drive and determination gave CareVacations a reputation for exemplary travel and medical equipment rental services. Soon after, cruise lines sought the expertise and services of CareVacations in an effort to better serve the special medical needs of their guests. As a result, CareVacations established exclusive partnerships with most major cruise lines for passenger rental and delivery services and continues to excel in meeting the needs of passengers and cruise lines, providing equipment maintenance, on board mobility devices, scooters for all sizes, hospital beds, patient lifts, and other highly specialized and sensitive medical equipment.

Since 1988, CareVacations has flourished and rapidly expanded into an international company with agent offices and warehouses in cruise ports worldwide and have helped thousands of cruise passengers enjoy a care free vacation. "Our highly trained Care Team staff gives each special needs traveler a sense of security... they are like guardians making the guests' vacations comfortable and worry-free," says Susan Stilwell, Owner and Vice President of CareVacations. "Don and I are passionate about helping cruise passengers enjoy themselves on their vacations, regardless of disability."

CareVacations takes the worry out of assisted travel. For more information visit: www.Carevacations.com

Adaptive Calendar

Add your events here by emailing us at ask@accessanything.net

Ongoing:

Denver: WC Rubgy - Craig Hospital on Wednesdays at 6-8pm

East Boulder Rec Center on Saturdays at 1:30-3pm

Womens WC Basketball - Craig Hospital on Thursdays at 630-8pm

February

11: US Handcycling Fundraiser, Snooze Eatery, Denver , 5-8pm, www.ushandcycling.org

21: Cycling Clinics with Frank Adams, HRCA, Denver, 2-4pm, email johnnyvcelka@yahoo.com

March

3-6: Steep and Deep Camp, Jackson Hole, WY, www.adaptiveadventures.org

7-10: All Mtn Ski Camp, Grand Targhee, WY, www.adaptiveadventures.org

14: Cycling Clinics with Frank Adams, HRCA, Denver, 2-4pm, email johnnyvcelka@yahoo.com

12-21: 2010 Paralympics, British Columbia Canada

20-22: 2nd Annual Stars of Tomorrow All Mountain Ski Camp, Steamboat Springs CO

28: Breckibiner XC Skiing Fundraiser, Breckenridge, CO www.boec.org

28-April 2: DAV Winter Sports Clinic, Aspen CO, www.challengeaspen.org

Destinaton Inspiration

Sometimes adversity is what you need to face in order to become successful.

-Zig Ziglar





I want to share two tips that both have to do with winter and wheels...

Since I live in a snowy climate and I want others to know they can do the same, here are a couple of helpful hints for getting around in the winter. The first is to get some “snow tires” on your chair. About the same time each fall I get my snow tires put on both my car AND my wheelchair. Nothing will help you get through the snow better than 24 or 26 inch mountain bike tires (or “knobbies”). The slick city wheels will do nothing for you in a ski town in the winter. I buy my tires in the gray color so they don’t leave black marks everywhere as well- something that gets much worse in the winter when the wheels are wet.

My second tip is for carting around that cumbersome monoski. Now I can’t take credit for this and give it all to Sarah Will in Vail, but the easiest way to get your monoski from point A to point B is to get an old skateboard, put knobby ties on it, and mount an old ski binding to the top. This way you can just click your monoski’s boot piece in and push it anywhere. Much easier than trying to carry it, and much more independent than always asking for help!

Now get out and play in the snow! See the calendar on the previous page if you need some ideas on where to ski!



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