



Photo courtesy of ASA



Scholarship Opportunities for Summer Sports in Durango

The Adaptive Sports Association (ASA) kicks off its 25th year of sports and recreational activities with a five-day summer scholarship opportunity for individuals with physical disabilities. During June, July, and August, ASA offers a variety of outdoor activities in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, including canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, and adaptive cycling.

There are five scholarships available to individuals with some level of limb paralysis and limited past exposure to the sports offered, since instruction will be at entry level. Individuals must be physically able to participate in activities at high altitude. The scholarship program includes: round-trip transportation to and from Durango, five nights lodging in a hotel or with a host family, most meals, accessible ground transportation, evening activities (such as an informal potluck and a farewell dinner), and four days of adaptive outdoor sports instruction with all equipment.

For a scholarship application or additional information, contact Adaptive Sports at info@asadurango.com or by calling (970) 259-0374. Applications can also be downloaded from the scholarship portion of the ASA Web site at www.asadurango.com.

Summer Camps at Alaska's Alpine Alternatives

Camp Alpine I, June 23-June 28 – For ADD/ADHD, learning disabled, or any other comparatively mild disability. This camp is very physically active with many hikes (campers need to be able to hike up to two miles at a steady pace) and other sports-related activities. Campers need to be independent and ambulatory. Fee: \$300 plus membership fee.

Camp Abilities 2008, July 10-July 15 – Activities for the blind/visually impaired such as beep baseball, goalball, rock wall climbing, kayaking, adaptive hiking, aquatics, and tandem biking. Campers are active the entire time they are at camp and

Wounded Warriors Visit Crested Butte

In early February, the Adaptive Sports Center (ASC) hosted its fifth week-long visit by soldiers from the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project (WWDSP) in Crested Butte, Colo.

The Wounded Warriors, along with some of their family members, participated in ski, snowboard, and ski bike lessons, ice climbing in Ouray, a Super Bowl party, meals on the mountain and in town, as well as a trip down Elk Avenue (Crested Butte's "main" street) in ASC's Mardi Gras float on Fat Tuesday.

The ASC program is focused on facilitating new and challenging experiences for the Wounded Warriors to ultimately contribute to their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being long after they've left Crested Butte. Most of the military who visited are in the process of transitioning from intensive outpatient rehabilitation programs and are asking themselves, "What's next?" While ASC doesn't have the answer to that question, they are able to provide the soldiers with some of the tools and know-how that will help in the decision-making process.

For more information about the Adaptive Sports Center, visit www.adaptivesports.org or call (866) 349-2296.



Photo courtesy of ASC

U.S. Army Sgt. Brandon Adam of Schweitzer, Idaho, ice-climbs in Ouray, Colo.

need to be independent in their daily living skills. Fee: \$400

Camp Alpine II, July 26-July 31 – This camp is for individuals that experience developmental disabilities, behavior challenges, mental challenges, or those that need partial/minimal assistance with daily needs. If more assistance is required, the individual needs to bring their own care provider. Fee: \$275 plus membership fee.

Camp Alpine III, Aug. 11- Aug. 15 – For adults aged 20 and above, this camp is for individuals that experience physical challenges, moderate mental challenges and are non-ambulatory or have sensory impairments. Fee: \$275 plus membership fee.

For more information, contact Alpine Alternatives in Anchorage at (907) 561-9232 or visit www.alpinealternatives.org.

DSUSAFW Ski Challenge Raises \$25,000

More than \$25,000 was raised to benefit Disabled Sports USA Far West (DSUSAFW) during the second annual Disabled Sports Ski Challenge, held Feb. 8 at Alpine Meadows Resort, North Lake Tahoe, Calif.

The day's events included a giant slalom ski race and a poker run; 19 teams participated and each team of four was paired with a disabled ski racer. The Ski Challenge was scored as a combination of each team's race results plus their poker run hand.

"This event fulfills the mission of Disabled Sports in numerous ways," said Haakon Lang-Ree, DSUSAFW program director.

"The disabled skiers who race with us also learned to ski with us, so their participation functions as a showcase of ability and our donors and sponsors see this firsthand by spending the day with them."

Disabled ski racers included Truckee

local, Mark Wellman, who spent the day racing with "The Skeleton Crew," an event sponsor and team representing the Sierra Regional Spine Institute.

"We had a great day and raced for a great cause," said Wellman, who works as an adventure athlete, motivational speaker and hosts the Mark Wellman Celebrity Golf Challenge, which raises funds for Disabled Sports. "The racecourse was fast and challenging, yet very safe, and the camaraderie among teams was great and event sponsors, participants, volunteers and staff all had an excellent time."

3rd Annual Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra Pedal~Paddle



Photo courtesy of Scott Connors

The 3rd Annual Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) Pedal~Paddle will be Aug. 26-27 at the McGee Creek You Catch'em Trout Ponds. Participants will spend two days kayaking on Crowley

Lake, fishing, and handcycling.

Participants are challenged on the second day to a handcycle ride from McGee Creek to Tom's Place and back.

For more information on the Pedal~Paddle and other DSES events as a participant or volunteer, visit www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org or call (760) 934-0791.

North Country Access 2008

North Country Access Cycling is hosting North Country Access 2008, sponsored by Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, July 19 at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, N.Y.

North Country Access 2008 is an all-ability, all-day sports event that will take place in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

Water sports clinics include sailing, rowing, kayaking, waterskiing, and fishing. Cape Ability Outrigger Ohana, Inc. will provide outrigger canoeing.

Captains from the Antique Boat Museum will offer river tours on several of the antique wooden runabouts from the museum's in-water fleet. A rafting trip on the Black River requires advance registration.

Co-hosting the event will be the Hope Network of Pittsburgh and the Universal Access Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The



Association of the United States Army is also a sponsor.

Speakers will include Dr. Hugh Herr of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dr. John Simeral of Brown University, Carole Fraser of the DEC, and Jerry Kerr, President of Disability Rights Advocates for Technology (DRAFT), which provides Segways to disabled veterans. Introductory remarks will be given on Friday evening, July 18, by Tom and Nellie Coakley of Canton, N.Y., who were recently interviewed by Tom Brokaw of NBC News about their experiences as Vietnam vets.

Registration is available through the Web site, www.ncaccess.org, or by e-mailing northcountryaccess2008@gmail.com. For inquiries regarding potential exhibitors, volunteers, or registration, call (315) 782-2838 or (315) 686-4104.

The Unrecables Get Boost from Grant, Mono-Ski Donation

The Unrecables, a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization in Los Angeles was recently awarded a large grant from outdoor gear store REI. The grant will help fund the purchase of equipment, provide scholarships for students to attend monthly trips, increase teaching capacity, and defray the costs of the organization's instructors receiving PSIA certifications. The Unrecables also received a donation of a Revolution Mono-ski from Storm Bartling of Bartling Insurance Group in Costa Mesa, Calif.

An upcoming ski trip to Mammoth Mountain, Calif., is slated for May 16-18. Monthly social hours are held on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Mi Ranchito Family Restaurant in Culver City.

For more information, e-mail unrecables@earthlink.net or visit www.home.earthlink.net/~unrecables.

Lakeshore Foundation Hosts International Sporting Events

The Lakeshore Foundation, an official U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Site in Birmingham, Ala., will host several international competitions this summer. All games are free and open to the public.

North American Cup, Women's Wheelchair Basketball, June 12-15

The 2008 U.S. Paralympic Women's Wheelchair Basketball team will participate in a tournament with Canada, Australia, and Germany. These teams are the top four women's wheelchair basketball teams in the world.

North American Cup, Men's Wheelchair Basketball & Wheelchair Rugby, June 19-22

The men's wheelchair basketball competition will showcase the United States taking on Canada, Great Britain, and Australia, which are the top four teams in the world. On the wheelchair rugby side, the top-ranked U.S. team will battle against Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand.

International Goalball Classic, July 11-15

Goalball is a sport played exclusively by individuals with blindness or visual impairment. This international women's event will feature the United States taking on some of the world's top teams that will be competing at the 2008 Paralympic Games.

Complete information on all events, including competition schedules, can be found at www.lakeshore.org.

Lima Foxtrot Programs for Severely Injured Military

Lakeshore Foundation's 2008 Lima Foxtrot programs for severely injured military include Operation Rise & Conquer, Operation Night Vision, and a Military Sports Camp presented in partnership with U.S. Paralympics. All activities are provided at no cost to the participants.

Operation Rise & Conquer, Sept. 25-28, is an outdoor recreation event that includes bass fishing, shooting sports, rock climbing, scuba diving, and waterskiing. This event is supported by the Wounded Warrior Project.

Operation Night Vision, May 23-26, specifically targets injured soldiers who have suffered blindness or visual impairment. Participants will cycle, kayak, waterski, rock climb, and swim. Operation Night Vision is supported by the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama.

Military Sports Camp, June 5-8, will introduce participants to Paralympic sports through clinics and light competition led by Paralympic athletes and coaches. Sports activities will include archery, shooting, basketball, swimming,

and track & field.

For more information on Lakeshore Foundation and its Lima Foxtrot programs, visit <http://www.lakeshore.org>, or e-mail Ronda Jarvis Ray at rondaj@lakeshore.org or call (205) 313-7416.

SVAS Hosts Snow Sports Camp for Blind Vets

The Blinded Veterans Association and the Sun Valley Resort partnered with Sun Valley Adaptive Sports (SVAS) to host a snow sports camp for legally blind service members who lost their eyesight in Iraq during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF).

The event, which took place in Sun Valley, Idaho, January 24-31, was designed to encourage service members to engage in activities that they used to do, but have been afraid to try, or to get them to attempt new activities.

"We want these guys to learn how to be better skiers and snowboarders, but we also want them to leave with hope and sense of purpose," said Tom Iselin, executive director of SVAS. "They might come to Sun Valley for a week, but we hope their experience here impacts them for a lifetime."

Participants learned to ski, snowboard, Nordic ski, snowshoe, and ice skate. Erik Weinhenmayer, the first blind man to reach the summit of Mount Everest, also visited the camp to teach visually impaired skiing techniques.

"This event showed me I wasn't broken," said Chris Paisier, an Army National Guard fire team leader. "I can't wait to go home and show my son I can snowboard with him."

In the evenings, the camp offered various types of group therapy for service members and their wives to talk about the experiences and obstacles they face.

"This gave us a chance to share our feelings and struggles as we learn to cope," said Mary Paisier.

SVAS hosts snowsports and adventure camps, offering a variety of sports and recreational activities that provide therapy and healing for wounded OIF/OEF service members.

For more information on upcoming events, call (208) 726-9298, visit www.svasp.org, or e-mail tom@svasp.org.



Photo courtesy of Craig Wolfgram

Spc. Casimir Werda and friend, Jamie Pope, enjoyed skiing.

20th Annual Huntsman Cup

The National Ability Center hosted the 20th Annual Huntsman Cup ski races at Park City Mountain Resort New Year's weekend. The Huntsman Cup is an international race and a points qualifier for the World Cup and the U.S. National Disabled Championships.

New Zealand's Adam Hall (stand-up) took the men's overall title. Hall won New Year's Day Giant Slalom as the only racer with two runs under one minute. Hall finished 3.5 seconds faster than Park City's Monte Meier to win day two's slalom race, as well. In the final day's race, Hall earned his third victory in three days.

The women's overall title was won by Canadian Chantal Fowler (sit-ski). Fowler finished in second place each of the first two days, but her first place finish on day three gave her the points necessary to win the title.

For two decades, the Huntsman Cup has been one of the National Ability Center's greatest athletic sporting events. This year, international participants came from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, Great Britain, and Japan.

America's Cup Bobsled Races

The world's first adaptive bobsled program had two teams competing in January's America's Cup races in Park City, Utah.

America's Cup is a bobsled event with a series of three races in Park City, Calgary, and Lake Placid. The National Ability Center's two teams included Aaron Lanningham, Matt Profitt, Gary Kuhl and Tom Napierski. The teams

competed in Park City at the Utah Olympic Park Jan. 10-11. The two teams showed how far the program has come since its beginning in 2002. While only one member of the team pushes the sled (contrast that to the two men who push in non-adaptive bobsledding), both teams were only seconds behind the pack. The last place finishes are far from disheartening for the teams because they each know this is still just the beginning.

"Right now we're competing to gain exposure and just to improve our skills and learn more about the sport," Kuhl said.

The team of Kuhl and Profitt also competed in Calgary Jan. 17-18. As the only adaptive bobsled program in the world, Kuhl and Profitt were ambassadors for the sport as they encouraged the Canadian Paralympic Committee to consider adding bobsled as its sixth nationally sanctioned winter Paralympic sport. They also had the chance to speak to college students about the program and why they feel it is so important to see other countries creating similar opportunities.

The team at the National Ability Center has the goal of competing in Sochi in 2014, but seven more countries need to have teams for bobsled to become a Paralympic sport.

For more information, visit www.DiscoverNAC.org.



Photos courtesy of Ryan Jensen, National Ability Center

Cycling Challenge Benefits Northeast Passage

The 5th Annual Three Notch Century to benefit Northeast Passage will be held September 5, 6, and 7 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

The trip will cover 105 miles and 4,300 feet of elevation gain in three days as riders take on Franconia Notch, Crawford Notch, and the Kancamagus Highway. New this year is the option to ride the 100 miles in two days (September 6 and 7) or one day (September 7).

Each participant is asked to secure pledges or donations in support of Northeast Passage; all accommodations and meals for the event are included.

Northeast Passage is a program of the University of New Hampshire's College of Health and Human Services that develops barrier-free recreation and health promotion programs.

To participate in the Three Notch Century, visit www.threenotchcentury.org.



Members of Northeast Passage's Three Notch event coast downhill.

Photo courtesy of Ken Watson

For more information on Northeast Passage's programs, call (603) 862-0070 or visit www.nepassage.org.

DS/USA Chapters Host WWDSP Events

More than 200 Wounded Warriors and family have been served through 24 events hosted by DS/USA Chapters nationwide from December 2007 through March 2008. The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project (WWDSP) is proud to partner with the following chapters, which all provided outstanding experiences for these warriors: Ability Plus, N.H. • Adaptive Adventures, Colo. • Adaptive Sports Association, Colo. • Adaptive Sports Foundation, N.Y. • Adaptive Sports Center of Crested Butte, Colo. • Arizona Disabled Sports • Bart J. Ruggiere Adaptive Sports Center, Vt. • Blue Ridge Adaptive Snow Sports, Pa. • Bretton Woods Adaptive Snowsports, N.H. • Challenged Athletes of West Virginia • Challenge Aspen • DS/USA Eastern Sierra, Calif. • DS/USA New England, N.H. • Greek Peak Sports for the Disabled, N.Y. • Maine Handicapped Skiing • National Sports Center for the Disabled, Colo. • New England Handicapped Sports Association, N.H. • San Diego Adaptive Sports Association • STRIDE, N.Y. • Telluride Adaptive Sports Program, Colo. • Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing, Va.

To donate to the WWDSP program or to view the 2008 calendar, visit www.dsusa.org.

Telluride Adaptive Sports Program Focuses on the Family

The Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (TASP) held its Special Olympics Family Day in March, bringing Colorado Special Olympics participants together with their families and friends.

TASP subsidizes the cost for the athlete and their family to ski together for one day and also hosts a race, group lunch, and on-mountain activities during the event.

New this summer, TASP is also offering several overnight trips for children with physical and cognitive disabilities and their families; activities include camping and fishing.

TASP has made a concerted effort to create more programming scenarios that bring the participant together with family and friends so they can celebrate the personal growth and empowerment gained through therapeutic recreation, and experience life on an equal level.

For more information, contact TASP at (970) 728-5010 or visit their Web site at www.tellurideadaptivesports.org.

TASP Receives Foundation Grant

Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (TASP) received a \$6,200 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. The grant was used to purchase a Kart-Ski, designed for people who do not have the ability to maintain balance and control of the other skis, but who wish to obtain independence.

“The Kart-Ski will be a great addition to our program, and will provide many people with an incredible independent ski experience that was not available before,” said Ryan Keyes, program manager for Telluride Adaptive Sports Program.



MHS Hosted 3rd Annual Veterans/No Boundaries Program

Maine Handicapped Skiing (MHS), in partnership with the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, hosted 23 disabled veterans and their guests for the 3rd Annual Veterans/No Boundaries Program Jan. 31-Feb. 3. Events included dog sledding, snowboarding, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing.

MHS was honored this year to welcome three Wounded Warriors, Anthony Smith, Shon Holler, and Aaron Rice, to the Veterans/No Boundaries Program.

“There is a sense of community here; everyone works together,” said Kelly Rice, wife of Aaron. The couple spent their time snowboarding, dog sledding and learning how to talk “Maine.”

Smith, of Amorel, Ark., said the highlight of his trip to

Maine was “meeting everyone and being with the other disabled soldiers.”

The veterans shared the weekend with more than 70 volunteers. “It is an easy way to say thank you to the individuals that have kept our families safe and maintained our quality of life



NAC Offers Summer Events

The National Ability Center, Park City, Utah, will host several summer activities, including camping, rafting, trail rides, archery, wheelchair rugby, swimming, waterskiing, canoeing and cycling. The Ability Center also offers multi-day trips to locations ranging from Yellowstone National Park to Moab, Utah.

The Ability Center’s Discovery Camps and Camp Giddy-Up offer children, ages 8 and older, camp activities, riding skills, and outdoor sports.

The Adaptive Handcycling Camp is June 5-8. On July 19, the Center hosts its annual Community Open House, a free event providing program information, an Adaptive Cycling Expo, and activities including pony rides, ropes course activities, indoor rock climbing, and a barbecue.

The Starry Night celebration will be Sept. 13 at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City. The fundraiser will

honor the Center’s co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Meeche White.

For more information, visit the National Ability Center’s Web site at www.discovernac.org or call (435) 649-3991.



Photo courtesy of the National Ability Center