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RISE Above & Beyond

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 **Happy Valentine's Day** 

2008 ABC NWBA RISE "Tournament of Champions"

This major wheelchair basketball event will be held at the Dedman Center on the Southern Methodist University Campus (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, February 22-23rd.

The event will draw some of the top teams in the nation from San Antonio, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Utah and featuring the Dallas Wheelchair Mavericks.

For more information, schedule, and directions access the following link - www.riseadventures.org.



Our Mission

"To help persons with

physical challenges gain independence through a learning experience in adaptive outdoor adventures and sporting programs"

RISE Above and Beyond is a monthly publication provided by RISE Adventures, Inc. This publication will be sent out on the 15th of each month. If you have any pictures, articles, events or fundraisers you would like us to publish, please submit them to [Joel Hendrix](#) by the the 10th day of the month. Any information obtained after this date will be published in the following issue.

Our Sponsors



To become a sponsor and have your logo here access the following link...

[Our Sponsors](#)

February Birthdays

Smilley Wallace
Meagan Anderson
Kari Banta
Donna Hendrickson
Alex Dagley
Jarel Hutyra
Steven Martin Jr.
Kory Dusenbery
Joshua Vandiver
Scott Leighton
Traci Bryan
Chris Alford
Jacquelyn Stauffer
Bri Phillips
Jordan Perkins

2008
ABC NWBA RISE Tournament
of CHAMPIONS

Arkansas Rollin' Razorbacks
Champaign Fire
Dallas (ABC) Mavericks (National Champions)
San Antonio Spurs
University of Wisconsin at Whitewater Warhawks
(Intercollegiate National Champions)
Utah Jazz

SMU (Dedman Center)
6000 Airline Road
Dallas, TX 75205

		MATCH ORDER	
FRIDAY		February 22nd	
	VISITOR	vs.	HOME
6:30 p.m.	Jazz	vs.	Mavericks(webcast)
8:00 p.m.	Warhawks	vs.	Spurs
SATURDAY		February 23rd	
9:00 a.m.	Spurs	vs.	Razorbacks
10:30 a.m.	Fire	vs.	Mavericks
Noon	Razorbacks	vs.	Warhawks (webcast)
1:30 p.m.	Fire	vs.	Jazz
3:00 p.m.	TBA (#3 vs. #3)		
4:30 p.m.	TBA (#2 vs. #2)		
6:00 p.m.	Championship Game (webcast)		

Court will be available 30 minutes prior to tipoff

2008 ABC/RISE Southwest Conference Junior Division Championships

This event was held February 2-3rd and a huge success. Top Junior Teams from St. Louis, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Houston, Kansas City, and the host team Dallas Junior Mavericks participated.

2008 ABC/RISE Southwest Conference Junior Division Championships Summary

Prep Division:

The Dallas Jr. Mavericks Prep team came into the championship game as

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[Camp Craig Allen](#)
[Dallas All Sports](#)
[Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavs](#)
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[Y.O.Ranch](#)

Coming In March

- ABC NWBA RISE
Tournament of
Champions

the number one seed versus the Arkansas Rollin Razorbacks Prep team. The game between the Jr. Mavericks Prep and the Arkansas Rollin Razorbacks Prep was a great game with the Dallas Mavericks coming out ready to play an aggressive game. The Arkansas team in the first few minutes sustained their identity with ball control. The Dallas team seized the momentum right before the half with great defense from Jamie Burchfield, Efran Hubbard, and Denise Rodriguez and efficient offense from Zach Steger, Tyler Malone, and Liz Malpica (10pts 1st half).

The second half began with Zach Steger (Dallas) contributing with six points in the 3rd quarter. The Arkansas Rollin Razorbacks player Noah Norwood finished with six points for the game. Kendall Graham had two points for the Razorbacks. The Dallas Mavericks played an up tempo game and aggressive defense and that was the key to their victory.

1st Place Dallas Jr. Wheelchair Mavericks Prep Team
2nd Place Arkansas Jr. Rollin Razorbacks Prep Team

2nd Team All-Tournament

Tyler Malone-Jr. Mavs
 Henrik Kool-Jr. Mavs
 Alex Barkheimer-Jr. Mavs
 Coleman Barnes-Jr. Mavs
 Denise Rodriguez-Jr. Mavs

1st Team All-Tournament

Noah Norwood-Arkansas
 Jamie Burchfield-Jr. Mavs
 Efran Hubbard- Jr. Mavs
 Liz Malpica-Jr. Mavs Girl MVP
 Zach Steger-Jr. Mavs Boy MVP

JV Division: Championship Game

The game between Oklahoma Blaze and Tulsa Jammers started very hectic, with both teams having several turnovers in the opening minutes. The Oklahoma Blaze applied a full court press that allowed them to keep Tulsa to just seven points in the first half.

Colin Cutter (Blaze) showed his leadership and distributed the ball to Dalton Johnson who had the hot hand in the second half and finished the game with 18 points. Tulsa regained their composure in the second half before their leading scorer Travis fouled out of the game. The Oklahoma kept up the pressure and finished the game with the win.

JV Standings:

1st Place Oklahoma Blaze
 2nd Place Tulsa Jammers
 3rd Place Houston Hotwheels

All Tournament Team JV Division:

Adam Saldana (Oklahoma)
 Noah (Tulsa)
 Trevor McCuiston (Houston)
 Kyle (Tulsa)
 Karina (Houston)

Alex Gonzales (Houston)
Dalton Johnson (Houston)
Travis (Tulsa)
Colin Cutter (Oklahoma) JV MVP Boys
Taylor Detwiler (Houston) JV MVP Girls

Varsity Division:

The St. Louis Rollin Rams came into the Championship game as the top seed versus the Dallas Jr. Wheelchair Mavericks.

The game began with the Jr Mavericks putting on some pressure on the ball and creating opportunities in the open court to score. Nick Herrington had eight points and Tim Nagel had 12 points in the first half to lead Dallas, with a half time lead in the game of 10.

The second half began with St. Louis pressuring full court causing turnovers and opportunities to score easy baskets. After gaining the lead the St. Louis team began executing a half court game lead by Jeremiah Brandow who had 15 points and Rachael Voss who had 11 points. Dallas was unable to regain the lead and the St. Louis Rollin Rams made there free throws down the stretch to end the game as Varsity Champions.

Varsity Standings:

1st Place St. Louis Rolling Rams
2nd Place Dallas Jr. Wheelchair Mavericks

All Tournament Team Varsity Division:

Blake Deatherage (St. Louis)
Howard Michael Ayers (Jr. Mavs)
Michael Grelle (St. Louis)
Tim Nagel (Jr. Mavs)
David Grassi (St. Louis)
Rachael Voss (St. Louis) Girl MVP
Jeremiah Brandow (St. Louis) Boys MVP

To view the complete event write up, pictures, news coverage, and game program please access the following link - [Kids Basketball Tourney.](#)





Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2008 Pageant By Jackie Bartels/RISE Board of Directors

My last weekend as Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2007 was exciting and sad. I was not ready to see my year end but I know that passing on my title would bring in fresh ideas. This year's pageant was the biggest in the Ms. Wheelchair Texas Foundation's history. We had 7 amazing women competing this year from every major city in Texas.

The pageant was a sold out event, in fact we even had to send people their money back after we reached capacity. With glamour decorations costing over \$10,000, all donated, two news stations and a couple news papers present the pageant was a huge success.

The girls were treated like queens all weekend. They were pampered with a make-over and massages. All the while trying to show three judges why they would make a fabulous Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2008. The judge's definitely had the hardest job, each woman had amazing stories and the ability to empower and speak on behalf of those with disabilities.

My farewell speech was not easy, but through some laughs and some tears I was able to touch the audience one last time. My mom flew from Nebraska and my best friend Maureen Giles were both there to be with me.

This weekend I was also able to spread the word about RISE and the wonderful things we have in store for people with disabilities here in North Texas. Saturday night, after a two minute platform speech and two onstage questions, the judges selected Ms. Michelle Colvard of Houston as Ms. Wheelchair Texas 2008. She is very active in her community and is targeting health care for people with disabilities. She is a lot like me in that she is very outspoken and determined to make a difference.

To view more photos of this event, access the following link - <http://flickr.com/groups/mswheelchair>.



Disability Employment Opportunities (new feature)

RISE continues to add new features to our website. We have received over 11,000 visitors to our site since it went online in May of 2007. Our newest feature is employment opportunities for persons with different abilities. Several Dallas area positions are available now. This section will be updated monthly with new employment opportunities.

If you are an employer with job openings or someone looking for employment, please access the following link - [Job Openings](#).

Introducing AmTrykes

RISE is proud to announce our new relationship with the Grapevine, Texas chapter of AMBUCS. The two organizations have similar missions.

AMBUCS has developed a Hand-Cycle for children. These are unique to children with disabilities. We displayed the Trykes at the Children's Basketball tournament and they will be on display at the Dedman Center for the Men's Tournament, February 22-23rd.

They are free to qualified persons in need. If you have a child in need, you will fill out an application and send it directly to them. They approve and deliver the cycle. Once your child outgrows the Tryke they will pick it up and replace it with one that will fit your child's need. To view these Trykes and application please access the following link - www.grapevineambucs.org.

The Grapevine Chapter of AMBUCS is comprised of businessmen from the Grapevine and surrounding communities dedicated to creating independence and opportunities for people with disabilities. AMBUCS meetings, community service projects and special events bring our members together as friends. Some of these friendships last a lifetime. AMBUCS service opportunities provide individuals with the resources to

help their community when and if they are unable to do this as an individual. Working together as a group promotes fun, friendship and most of all empowers the community and individuals in need. [Click here](#) to read more.

Texas Parks & Wildlife and RISE form Partnership

RISE has now entered into an agreement with TPWD as a Proud Partner. The RISE mission is to 1) promote hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities and opportunities for the physically challenged youth and adults through education of hunting and fishing ethics, sportsmanship, techniques and conservation of our natural resources; 2) to fulfill all responsibilities we owe to the physically challenged community, our state and our society; and 3) to help maintain natural hunting, fishing, and outdoor activity resources.



**PROUD
PARTNER**

Make a donation to RISE without writing a check

The America with Disabilities Act lawsuit settlement against Lone Star Park provides \$100 payment to class members. You can make a claim if you have a mobility impairment disability and have visited the Lone Star Park Horse Racing Track in Grand Prairie, Texas after April 4, 2004 or will visit before February 2, 2009 or you thought about visiting the park, but heard it was not accessible.

You can donate your \$100.00 award to RISE Adventures, Inc., by filling out the affidavit, attach a letter verifying your disability, and signing the donation request at the bottom of the affidavit. Mail it to Class Action Administration at PO Box 225689, Dallas TX 75222-5689.

This donation will help fund our numerous programs. RISE does not charge a fee for membership or any of our programs. You will receive a charitable donation letter for tax purposes.

To print the claim form or for more information on this suit, access the following links.

[Adult Claim Form](#)
[Minor Claim Form \(under 18 yrs\)](#)
[Exhibit B - class notice](#)
[EX C - Final](#)

Best Super Bowl XLII Commercial/

PepsiCo EnAble

For those of you that watched the Super Bowl this year, what a game. Better yet was the commercial that PepsiCo ran during the pre-game show. RISE has been helping EnAble in their corporate offices in Plano, Texas. The RISE Advocacy Program has done numerous activities for their program to hire persons with different abilities.

Check out RISE Adventures number one rated Super Bowl commercial on YouTube - [Bob's House](#).

To learn more about the RISE Advocacy Program please click on this link - <http://www.riseadventures.org/advocacy.htm>.

Letter from the CEO

The 2008 ABC/RISE "Southwest Conference Junior Division Championships" was a huge success.

Thanks JT for allowing RISE to partner with you and the Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks organization. I want to personally thank you on behalf of everyone involved with RISE Adventures. It is our honor to work with a person of your stature and dedication to your mission. RISE is proud to be associated with you and the Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks.



From the first time I spoke with JT through the last day of the tournament, we established a professional team working relationship that went above and beyond anything I would have expected. "All about the Kiddos" is all we talked about through this wonderful experience and I believe we accomplished that. That is the absolute bottom line. Neither of us strayed from our mission.

Again, thanks JT for allowing RISE to be associated with you and the Dallas Junior Wheelchair Mavericks. It is our honor and we are looking forward to working together on many more projects in an effort to accomplish our very important missions.

We are now in preparation for the 2008 ABC/NWBA/RISE Tournament of Champions. The event will be held at the Dedman Center on the Southern Methodist University Campus (SMU) in Dallas February 22-23rd.

This month I am going to keep my letter short. We are moving our offices to Irving, Texas. We needed a location with more proximity to our constituency and programs. I continue to form new collaborative relationships. We have more going on than I can write about and Joey didn't want our monthly e-newsletter to become a book. Next month I will detail our new relationships and how this will positively affect our long term mission.

I hope to see all of you on the 23rd. This is a first class tournament at a

first class facility.

Paul Gray/CEO/RISE Adventures, Inc.

Letter from the Program Director



Our program and collaboration schedule continues to grow this year. I am collaborating with a number of organizations on their programs. Activities are being added daily to my list. That being said, I am going to only schedule one month in advance until Paul quits adding opportunities to my agenda. I don't see that happening anytime soon. I look forward each day to the new challenges bestowed upon me. Focusing on our mission through all of these opportunities makes everything I do worthwhile.

I have established a sound base of volunteers. Working with a few colleges I have been able to work with some of the best volunteers I could have imagined. I am working on a six week schedule where I send my list, job descriptions, dates, times, and location and the professors fill in my available spots. Texas Women's University and Professor Davis have diligently worked RISE into their programs. Since RISE is built on quality volunteer hours, over 15,000 projected this year, this relationship solidifies my base of operations. I can still use volunteers so please let me know if you are available for upcoming programs.

Late March we will start our handcycling, kayaking, and sailing programs. April will begin our health & fitness, children's fishing, children's camping, seasonal, swimming, scuba diving, and photography. Our advocacy program continues with numerous activities scheduled.

Joel Hendrix/Program Director/RISE Adventures, Inc.

Heroes on the Water

Injured soldiers sent home from Iraq and Afghanistan can face a long, difficult rehabilitation period. But some soldiers in Texas got help recently from a non-profit organization called the kayak anglers society of America, which provides free fishing trips to wounded veterans. The group says it gives injured soldiers a much-needed break from the hospital and helps speed the healing process. "we don't ask a lot of questions. A lot of these guys don't want to talk about stuff, their history or what have you." These soldiers are enjoying a rare outing from the Brooke army medical center in San Antonio. "Hold it up where we can see it on camera!" Most of their days are spent in the hospital recovering from the injuries they received in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Most of these soldiers that you got out here on the water are war fighters. We've got double amputees out here. We've got several blast injuries out here." "yeah, he's a whopper!" Sergeant Francisco Soto lost both his

thumbs in Afghanistan. "It's therapy for me. I still struggle a lot but at least what it's doing is showing me that something that I got to ascribe to get back to the best of my abilities that I had before I got injured." "Everybody's equal on the kayak. I mean everybody can do it. If you are a double amputee with your arms or whatever we've got kayaks you can paddle with your legs. You can steer with your waist. Everybody's the same out here. Everybody's equal." The soldiers come from all over the country. For some of them, this is their first time out fishing. "Each time we go out, each soldier tends to open up just a little bit more. It's probably more therapeutic both emotionally and physically for the soldiers just to get out here and see that life hasn't ended. Life goes on." Blanco State Park welcomed the soldiers with open arms. "Thank you guys for everything you do." The Kayak Anglers Society of America started its "Heroes on the Water" program in October and is planning to take boats and fishing gear to the soldiers in Iraq next year. "It doesn't matter a lick, arms, legs, financial status, rank. It's all about the yaks and the fish." The kayak Anglers Society of America, or KASA, is seeking donations to support the program. For more information and to find out how you can help out, visit their website, www.kayakanglerssa.org.

If you'd like to view the video, [click here](#).

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