

Joel Hendrix

From: RISE Adventures, Inc. [paul@riseadventures.ccsend.com] on behalf of RISE Adventures, Inc. [jhendrix@riseadventures.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2008 1:53 PM
To: jhendrix@riseadventures.org
Subject: News from RISE Adventures

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RISE Above & Beyond

A monthly publication by RISE Adventures, Inc.
 PO Box 141122, Irving, TX 75014-1122

July 15, 2008 Edition

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July Birthdays

Mike Peters
 Wayne Holt
 Candace Cable
 Melanie Burrow
 Rusch Dillard
 Joey Martinez
 Ed Bailey
 Dana Liesegang
 Denise Rodriquez
 Richard Queen
 Shannon Burns
 Gordon Gianadda
 Fred Kamanya

RECOVERY - INSPIRATION - SUCCESS - EMPOWERMENT

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

MAJOR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RISE/Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation Presents End of Summer Bash 2008

Written by [Paul Gray](#) on July 13, 2008



This years End of Summer Bash will be held in Grapevine, Texas at [Meadowmere Park](#) on **Saturday, September 27**. The [City of Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department](#) has come aboard as a major event sponsor to welcome all levels of disabilities to their city and parks.

Emily Jameson
Andrew Jansy-Gajewsky
Claire McColloch

Sponsors

POWERED BY



PROUD
PARTNER



RISE addressed issues at last year's event and made a determination that this park provided more accessibility for all levels of disabilities including motorized wheelchairs. There will be over 15 activities and the list is growing. Proximity and accessibility to each activity as well as large accessible parking close to the event were concerns at last year's event and have all been addressed. Accessible restrooms strategically placed were addressed and sponsored by the city. Two boats docks instead of one will shorten the waiting time for participants.

This year's event will have a main stage with a live band providing entertainment throughout the day under the main event tent. Everything is free including admission, food, and drinks. RISE does not charge a fee for any of its programs.

Sponsor Packages including an Event Title Sponsor are available upon request. There are numerous vendor packages available on a first come basis. If you would like to provide an activity or other form of entertainment please contact Paul Gray at 469.762.5075 or pgray@riseadventures.org.

Challenge Air

Written by [Paul Gray](#) on July 13, 2008

RISE is collaborating with [Challenge Air](#) to **provide FREE 30 minute airplane rides on September 20 at [Dallas Love Field](#)**. Any child or adult (under 25) living with a physical or mental disability or life-threatening illness may [pre-register](#) for the event by [clicking here](#). Make sure you tell them RISE sent you! Each participant can take two friends or family on the flight. There will also be free food and drinks!

Visit the RISE Adventures Booth the day of the event for information on all of our programs. We are also helping organize the event and the TEAM RISE Volunteers will be out in force.

For a map and directions to this event, [click here](#).

If you need additional information you can visit the Challenge Air website at www.challengeair.org or call their office at 214.351.3988. You can also email Paul Gray, 469.762.5075.



CHALLENGE AIR

for kids & friends

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Upcoming RISE Programs

RISE Sailing

Saturday, August 2nd - 7-11am
Saturday, August 9th - 7-11am
Sunday, August 17th - 7-11am
Saturday, September 6th - 7-11am

RISE Hand Cycling

Sunday, August 3rd - 7-10am
Sunday, August 10th - 7-10am
Sunday, August 24th - 7-10am
Sunday, September 7th - 7-10am
Sunday, September 14th - 7-10am

RISE Quad Rugby/Murderball

Thursday, August 7th - 6-10pm
Thursday, August 14th - 6-10pm
Thursday, August 21st - 6-10pm
Thursday, August 28th - 6-10pm
Thursday, September 4th - 6-10pm
Thursday, September 11th - 6-10pm
Thursday, September 18th - 6-10pm

RISE Kayaking

Thursday, August 7th - 6-9pm
Thursday, August 14th - 6-9pm
Thursday, August 21st - 6-9pm
Thursday, August 28th - 6-9pm
Thursday, September 4th - 6-9pm
Thursday, September 11th - 6-9pm
Thursday, September 18th - 6-9pm
Thursday, September 25th - 6-9pm

RISE Sled Hockey

A full schedule will be available on July 23rd.

RISE Advocacy

Life Without Limits 5K Run & Fun Walk & Roll

Benefiting United Cerebral Palsy of North Texas

Saturday, August 16

[Reverchon Park](#), Dallas

8am - 5k

9am - Walk & Roll

[Click here](#) for more details ...

RISE Advocacy

Dallas Amputee Network Speaking Engagement

Monday, August 11

Steak and Ale

6pm-9pm

1957 Northwest Hwy

Garland, Texas

RISE Advocacy

Blind Ambitions Group Speaking Engagements

Written by [Paul Gray](#) on July 13, 2008

RISE has scheduled three speaking engagements for Blind Ambitions Group whose motto is, "We may have lost our sight but we have not lost our Vision". TEAM RISE will speak about our programs, acclimation and participation for the visually impaired.

Thursday, July 17 in Plano at First Baptist Church of Plano from 6-8pm

Monday, July 21 in Garland at South Garland Baptist Church from 6-8pm

Thursday, July 24 in Dallas at Bachman Recreation Center 6-8pm

RISE is currently setting a date for a talk forum for the Blind Radio Network.

If you are interested in speaking on behalf of RISE or attending these sessions please contact Paul Gray at pgray@riseadventures.org.

RISE Advocacy

Spina Bifida Association of North Texas Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 19th

[Burgers Lake](#)

10am - 2pm

1200 Meandering Rd

Fort Worth, TX 76114

817-737-3414 (for directions)

Bring your swimsuit and sun block for a great summer day of fun! Plenty of fun swim areas, including a great area for small kids with a beach and wading area. Picnic benches and lots of shade under the trees. Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided.

Adults and kids (ages 7 and up) will be \$4.00 per person (kids 6 and under are FREE).

You MUST have this flyer with you to get this \$4.00 per person rate!!! Without this flyer the price is \$9.00 per person!!!

RSVP to Wendy (817) 819-5006
Please reserve your spot by Wednesday July 16th.

LAST MONTHS PROGRAM RECAP

RISE Quad Rugby/Murderball

Written by Eric Donaldson

My name is Eric Donaldson, on June 13th, 2005, I was in a traumatic motorcycle accident. After more than a month in the hospital, I was officially diagnosed with C4, C5, C6 quadriplegia. Leading the active lifestyle that I always had, this was a crushing blow to the world I had always known; basketball and volleyball were my life and after this, I thought that I would never play sports ever again. In 2007 after watching a movie titled Murder Ball, I was introduced to a world of quad rugby. I was excited and intrigued by the sport, I began speaking with friends in therapy and found we had a mutual interest. After discovering a world of difficulties in organizing such an event, RISE Adventures came into my life at just the right time! By offering the sport in my local DFW metro area, it was my foot in the door to an athletic lifestyle once again. Not only has RISE Adventures given me a chance to play a sport, it has opened a world of friendship and camaraderie for the game with people just like me, who experience my same struggles every day; RISE Adventures has given me back a lifestyle that I thought I would never have again and for that, I am eternally grateful!





Photos courtesy of RISE Mom Colleen Rothschild

RISE Sailing on Lake Lewisville

Written by Michelle Spikin on June 25, 2008

This experience sailing was the first one for me so I had excitement building up. With donuts to start off the morning, I was off for my first drive to the lake. The lake was not as far as I thought, and I did learn how to get there. My brain was relieved. As the day shone in bright wonder and the sky was cristal clear, I waited patiently to see what would occur. I joined four other people arriving for the same activity and increased my social boundaries just a step further than usual. I piped up with, "Hello, I'm Michelle." This seems to work with new people. Surprises make the heart happier, do they not?

Sailing was quite an eye-opening experience since I had not been to Lake Lewisville before. The community hustle and bustle was very evident. I loved seeing the families with young children and a wide variety of happy dogs running to and fro. Some independent and some in the loving arms of their owners. One forgets about the treasure of nature when usually away from it. Many of the boats were breath-taking and seemed to take on a life of their own on the impressionable water. Each vessel seemed to have its own personality. Slow and steady or rapid as a torpedo. People talked, bathed in the sun or enjoyed the view. I did not know life on the water could be so active.

This experience made me feel like trying other things in the great outdoors. My life has, definitely, been widened and strengthened in a positive way. Each RISE Adventures activity opens a new door for me. It really has been a God-send avenue.



RISE Hand Cycling

Written by Mandy Goff on July 14, 2008

I had my first experience with the RISE hand cycling program a couple of weeks ago when I volunteered one Sunday afternoon out at Campion Trails in Irving. I have to say, hand cycling is hard work! I love to cycle, but as an AB (able body) I always just ride a regular bike and hand cycling is a completely different animal. I've helped out at several hand cycling clinics throughout this year, but I had never actually taken the time to get out and ride myself. I spent a couple of hours riding on the trails with Michelle, a member of RISE who frequents the different programs. However, this was her first time to hand cycle and we had a great time! It was great to be with her and see how much she enjoyed it and to know that this was something she was excited to come and do again. I also got to see the new prototype that RISE is working on for the Wounded Warrior Project and think that it is a great idea and definitely see how beneficial it will be. There were only four of us out that Sunday, but I definitely feel that it's a program that will grow and is a wonderful opportunity to get out and do something new or to just get some exercise. If you haven't had the chance to participate or volunteer in the hand cycling program I highly recommend it!



RISE Boating on Lake Lewisville

Written by [Bliss Eckert](#) on July 13, 2008

The day out on Lake Lewisville brought the summer into full swing. Before my diving accident nearly two years ago, I spent most of my time on the lake or river. Since then, I haven't gotten the opportunity to experience that aspect of summer that I love so much. Team RISE added the missing piece to my summer puzzle. Throughout the day, we were able to scope out the entire lake, and all its occupants. We went cruising around on a speed boat soaking in the sun while cheering on the skier being pulled in our wake. We also anchored and waded around. It felt great getting back in the water. The day spent was a perfect definition of summer for me. Not to mention the company was great. I am looking forward to our next lake trip.

RISE Collaboration/Advanced Ski Clinic

Written by [Rick Brauer](#) on July 14, 2008

To tell others that I went water skiing and then get that look of "What? You can water ski, how?" Being able to open eyes of those who believe because your in a chair, your handicapped and cannot do things. A handicap is like golf. I've been given limitations to help even up the score with everyone else. Skiing allows me to push myself even further and find how much control I have, improving my physical and mental well being. Thanks to [Metroplex Adaptive Water Sports](#) for the opportunity to ski and RISE Adventures for helping me to do things I would never be able to do on my own!



SPECIAL STORIES

Studied Indifference / ADA Article

Written by Lynn Walker

A federal judge said the Wichita County Heritage Society showed "studied indifference" to the Americans with Disabilities Act when it denied a little girl access to the Kell House to see Santa Claus.

Judge William F. Sanderson ruled Tuesday the heritage society violated the ADA in denying access to the historic home to Kaelei Kennedy, who is confined to a wheelchair because of a genetic disease.

The family did not request monetary damages, but a hearing July 21 will likely require the heritage society to comply with ADA guidelines and determine payment of attorneys' fees.

"We are very, very happy there has been some justice," said Shamayn Kennedy, Kaelei's mother. "We feel it's not just a win for our daughter, but for all people with a disability. It benefits a huge population getting left out."

Kaelei was 6 years old in 2004 when her parents attempted to take her to the Christmas season Santa Claus visit at the Kell House. Her mother claimed Kaelei was denied access to Santa, even though the family suggested options other than the child going into the building.

The suit claimed Howard Morris, executive director of the society at the time, told the family the Kell House was exempt from ADA requirements and could not put a wheelchair ramp on grounds because of cost. It also alleged Kell House employees told the family Morris did not want a wheelchair in the house because objects might get broken.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the article ...

Web Browser for Children with Autism

"ZAC is the first web browser developed specifically for children with autism, and autism spectrum disorders such as Asperger syndrome, pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), and PDD-NOS. We have made this browser for the children - for their enjoyment, enrichment, and freedom. Children touch it, use it, play it, interact with it, and experience independence through ZAC."

[Click here](#) for more information ...

Physically Challenged Son & Father Compete in Races

Written by [Mike Peters](#) on July 13, 2008

[Click here](#) to watch the heart warming story of [Team Hoyt](#). A father and son duo poised to make a difference in the hearts of everyone who reads or hears their story. Team Hoyt is proof that no physical disAbility should get in the way of the finish line.

ALL ABOUT RISE

Letter from the CEO

June was our busiest month to date. The start of new programs and adding over sixty new participants has been a little overwhelming. Thanks to a lot of great volunteers we were able to handle the load at the quality level RISE is known for.



There were numerous planning meetings for the new and existing programs as well as the major events coming in September. We have been working on these for months but as time nears we have accelerated the process. Please note these three events in your calendar and I hope to see all of you in attendance.

- Saturday, September 20th- Challenge Air / RISE Airplane Rides
- Saturday, September 27th- End of Summer Bash
- Saturday, October 4th- ADA Haunted House

Along with these major events our normal program schedule has added more dates and activities. The process for sled hockey was complicated by negotiating a one year schedule of quality ice time guaranteed. I was hoping to announce the schedule in this newsletter but I will not have the final dates and times until Friday of this week. We will send out a separate announcement with the schedule as soon as it is approved.

We also held our quarterly board meeting last month that was very productive. I am truly blessed by such an inspiring and dedicated group of individuals. RISE is also blessed by Rick Brauer taking on a more active roll in assisting Joel Hendrix/RISE Program Director to help manage the additional work load. Mike Peters also joined RISE at a higher capacity to help not only with the programs but on the technology side too. RISE would not be able to handle all of this growth without their unconditional dedicated volunteer services and expertise.

Mike will be taking RISE to a higher level on the technology side with the revamping of the newsletter, website, and data base for RISE Adventures Metrics (RAM). Thank you Mike, you are a wonderful person that is making a huge difference in helping us accomplish our mission!

With all of the speaking engagements, programs, activities, and meetings I have been unable to attend every thing we do. We have multiple activities on the same dates and times and I miss seeing everyone.

I continue to be blessed by new folks continuing to ask what they can do to help out. My challenge is to make sure we find a right fit and don't over work all of these truly inspiring people. I hope to see all of you soon and thanks to everyone for continuing to support RISE and attend the numerous activities we have available.

Paul Gray/CEO/RISE Adventures, Inc.

Letter from the Program Director

We've had another great month of programs even though the Texas summer is really starting to heat up. I've seen quite a few new faces over the past two weeks, but would still love to see more members and volunteers involved in our programs.



The RISE Program schedule came out in this edition of the newsletter and you will notice we have started to schedule some programs early in the morning in an attempt to get more individuals involved.

The RISE Quad Rugby program has really taken off and I am seeing at least one new face each week. This program is open to all even if you can't participate, so come on out and help us support the players as a volunteer or even a fan.

RISE Hand Cycling at Campion Trail in Irving is tons of fun and also great exercise. We had a new member, Claude Vaughn, come out and hand cycle with us last Sunday. He has had his own hand cycle for about a year now and never had the chance to go out and ride with others. We are honored to give him this opportunity and hope to provide the same atmosphere for others in the near future.

The RISE Sailing Program is really taking off too. We have many members wanting to sail and this program is booking up fast. In fact, the rest of July is already booked solid. We had a new family out with us Saturday and I believe theirs lives are changed forever...

The RISE "End of Summer Bash" is closer than ever, only 10 more weeks away.

This event will be huge and I encourage ALL of you to come out and participate, whether it is as a member or volunteer. There will be over 20 different activities to choose from and a large tent to provide shade, music, and refreshments. We will be looking for more than 100 volunteers this year, so please mark your calendar and help show your support at one of the greatest events the year will hold.

As our programs continue to grow we are looking for more volunteer support. Over the past few months our volunteer core has grown to over 140 individuals, but I really don't see many of you getting involved. I know the gas prices are ridiculous, but if you'd like to volunteer your time at any of our programs, please contact me and I will definitely work you in the schedule.

RISE to the occasion and join us for an Adventure!

Joel Hendrix / RISE Program Director

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