



# AMPSURF REPORT

Newsletter of the Association of Amputee Surfers (Amps surf) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, [www.ampsurf.org](http://www.ampsurf.org) PO BOX 5045 SLO, CA 93403

## Surfs Up in Pismo Beach

By Dana Cummings

Amps surf is off to a great start this year. We have completed our first two clinics of the year (Jan 9<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>) and though conditions at both were less than ideal everyone who came out had a phenomenal time. In January Veteran Marcel Lavigne made the trip from San Diego to brave the cool January water in Pismo and tore the waves up with his fellow participants Veteran Daphne Wright a traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivor and Julie Carruthers a hip disarticulation amputee from LA. Former Army Helicopter Pilot Vivian Snyder, Ryan West & Greg Birkholz polished their stance while blind participant Kim Hildreth of SLO wowed everyone with his ability on the board.



February's clinic was exciting with incredibly powerful surf and an amazing group of participants. Actor John (a.k.a. Hooks) W. Lawson was our first double arm amputee to pop-up on a wave!!!! Nate Smids our newest participant and below knee amputee, from Canada, probably caught the most waves. Amputee Veteran Don Harway was not only surfing, but in-between his time in the surf he was lending a hand to the other participants. Style points go to returning participants Vivian Snyder and 8 year old William Hastings, who has a condition called Arthrogyrosis. These two are fast becoming our Ampsurf team shredders. Julie was once again doing what she does best, amazing everyone with her mono-surf elegance and Kim was also impressing us all as he went after the waves with a vengeance. Who is the best surfer in the water??? The one having the most fun of course!!! In February it was Robert Whisler of Pismo Beach. Robert a Paraplegic and TBI survivor was smiling from ear to ear as he tore up wave after wave.

To our Volunteers: None of this would be possible without you!!! It is thanks to your tireless efforts and commitment to this program that make it possible for these men, women and kids to have such a great time at these events. We faced some adverse conditions, but instead of saying "we can't" all of you made the adjustments necessary to make the day safe, fun and above all life changing for our participants. I would like to extend to you my deepest appreciation for all that you do to make these events a success. Thank you so much.



We will be in Santa Cruz on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Cowell's. Please sign-up at our website for this event. We would love to see you there. Our full schedule is also available on our website.

**Our Mission** –We are a non-profit organization made up of amputees, those related to amputees, and those who work with people with disabilities. We want to Promote, Inspire, Educate, and Rehabilitate (PIER) those with disabilities, especially our veteran heroes, through adaptive surfing and other fun safe outdoor activities that all can participate in.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Volunteers Meeting at SLO American Legion 7-9pm	3/1
Military Mental Health Seminar @ Cuesta College 8-4pm	3/8
SLO Farmers Market 6-9pm	3/11
Santa Cruz– Learn to Surf at Cowell's	3/13
SLO IFF's Surf Nite at the Fremont theater 7pm	3/18
Pismo Beach -Learn to Surf	4/10
San Clement Learn to Surf	5/8
WSA West Coast Championships	5/15
Wine Waves & Beyond Long Board Classic	6/6
Operation Restoration V	9/10-16
VA Summer Sports Clinic	9/18-25

## March 18<sup>th</sup> is Surf Nite in SLO:

From SLOIFF PR

The San Luis Obispo International Film Festival is celebrating its 16th annual festival from March 12-21, 2010. Located in the heart of California 's Central Coast, the Festival venues range from the wine and western towns of Paso Robles and Santa Margarita to the seaside towns of Avila, Shell and Pismo Beach. This year the festival will be screening 'WAVERIDERS - An Irish surf odyssey' on Surf Nite, a film that ties in perfectly with the Irish theme that will be running throughout the festival. A portion of the box office receipts will be donated to Ampsurf so please be sure to make it out to this great event. Tickets can be purchased at <http://slofilmfest.org/2010/index.shtml>

## Thank You Sponsors

By Julie Carruthers (a.k.a. One Legged Jo)  
Thank you to all of our sponsors who have been helping us make these clinics a success. Our featured sponsors this month are Staples & Costco of SLO along with Higher Groundz & Vons of Grover Beach. Thank you Staples for helping us get the word out, and thanks Rita and Jim for sponsoring our great goodies in the morning and helping make sure our team of volunteers and our participants all get their day started off right. If you would like to see how you can join our team as a sponsor please email our fundraising coordinator Julie Carruthers [oneleggedjo@yahoo.com](mailto:oneleggedjo@yahoo.com) to receive a sponsor package.

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