LA Times, OC Register report on Hanger's Amputee Surf Group, "Amp'd"

May 18, 2009
The Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register covered the recent gathering of Hanger's new amputee surf group called "Amp'd" in San Clemente, California.

The articles can be accessed here:
Los Angeles Times, Health blog
Orange County Register

Amp'd was inspired by 13-year-old amputee Robert Ram of Las Flores, CA. Ram lost his leg above-the-knee to cancer (Ewing's Sarcoma) last year (March 2008). Determined to lead an active life like the other kids at his junior high school, Ram decided to try surfing, despite never having done so before his amputation.

His prosthetic practitioner, Amy Ginsburg of Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics in Laguna Hills, CA had been surfing for five years and offered to help him. She introduced Ram to another amputee patient of hers, retired 55-year-old bone cancer survivor Wayne Tanamine who has been successfully surfing, standing on one leg, for years. A mentoring friendship instantly formed.

As Ginsburg talked with others, she found a number of her amputee patients had been avid surfers before their amputations and never thought they could do it again. Inspired by Ram's determination and Tanamine's successes, a surfing group of 10 to 15 amputees (of varying levels – arm and leg) began to meet and surf together every few weeks. Collectively called "Amp'd", they each have their own personal stories of overcoming a devastating illness / loss but returning to surfing because of a passion for the sport.

Those interested in joining or learning more about "Amp'd" should contact Amy Ginsburg, aginsburg@hanger.com, 310-413-0485

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