

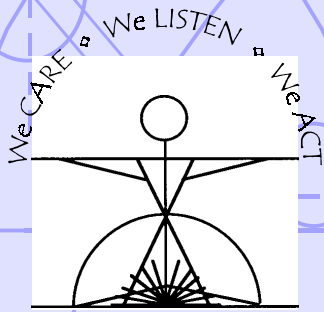
THE AMPUTEE ADVOCATE

VOL. 3 NUMBER 1

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SPRING 1999

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Justin Norton, C.P.
Tony Mendoza, B.O.C.,
C.Ped.
owners

Ability Chosen as Most Enterprising Business in San Diego

Each year for the past four years, Bank of America has held a competition in San Diego County to highlight and reward up-and-coming businesses. There are three categories from which a business may choose to enter: Most Enterprising, Most Innovative and Most Commitment to the Community. We are very proud to say that of the thirty applicants this year, Ability was chosen as the Most Enterprising Business in San Diego County for 1998. This is a tremendous honor for us, and it feels wonderful to be recognized for the hard work, initiative and care that has gone into making Ability what it has become over the last four years. Apart from being recognized and acknowledged by Bank of America in a future advertising campaign focused toward small businesses, we were presented



JUSTIN NORTON, C.P. (L) AND TONY MENDOZA, B.O.C., C.PED. (R) LOOK PROUD HOLDING THEIR AWARD FROM BANK OF AMERICA.

with a beautiful award and a color copier, compliments of Hewlett-Packard. We were also profiled at the Insights symposium, held at the San Diego Convention Center, Saturday, October 3, 1998. Leaders in business and politics from around the world

gathered to speak about current and future affairs. We would like to thank all of our supporters through these last years for helping us to make Ability the company that it is today, and for their continued support toward making Ability a great company of the future.

Golfers With Disabilities Day A Success

On June 9, 1998, Ability sponsored the inaugural Golfers With Disabilities Day at Carroll Canyon Golf Course in San Diego. With great weather, lots of smiling faces, and the help of a PGA pro, the day was a success. Darren Pudgil, Assistant Chief of Staff for County Supervisor, Greg Cox, came and proclaimed Disability Day official. John Klein, PGA pro with 14 years experience teaching the disabled, and Ability's Justin Norton gave instruction. For a ten dollar entry fee, golf instruction from a PGA pro is given, along with advice about adapted golf equipment. On October 9, the second Disability Day was held at Singing Hills Golf Resort. John Klein once again provided his services of instruction, along



ERIC DAHL PRACTICES BEFORE RECEIVING INSTRUCTION AT A DISABILITY DAY GOLF CLINIC

with Holly Williams, PGA apprentice and golf pro at Singing Hills. We would like to thank Singing Hills for hosting this event, and George

Courser from Ralph's Supermarket, Del Mar Heights, for providing the lunch for our participants. Without your contribution, this event would not have been the same! There will now be three Disability Day golf clinics offered per month. The first clinic, which is specific to veterans, will be held the first Tuesday of every month at the Admiral Baker Driving Range on Friar's Road, from 1-4 p.m. The second clinic, which is open to all of the disabled, will be held the third Thursday of each month at the Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Course from 2-5 p.m. The third clinic will be held in Del Mar at the Surf 'N Turf Golf Club on Jimmy Durante Blvd. This event will occur the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1-4

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p.m. For more information on upcoming events, or to be added to the mailing list for Disability Day and other upcoming events, please call Sarah Norton at (619) 285-5040.



A LOOK AT THE VETERAN'S GOLF CLINIC AT ADMIRAL BAKER



BOB GOLDSTEIN, A STROKE SURVIVOR, TAKES A SHOT AT THE RANCHO BERNARDO DISABILITY DAY GOLF CLINIC

ABILITY NOW ON THE INTERNET

Ability is now on the world wide web! You can visit our site at www.abilitypros.com. There you will find profiles of our practitioners, products and patients, along with information on what's new in the O&P industry and links to other helpful sites. There is a direct email link to the corporate office from the site. Please feel free to write us with any questions or suggestions that you may have. We are also now offering our new video, profiling Ability as a successful emerging prosthetic leader. Call or email us to receive your free copy today!

PUT IT TO THE TEST!



This postcard came to our office from a patient vacationing in Italy. Pat Estevane, a below knee amputee, was nice enough to remember us in her travels. She writes, "The leg has had a true test. I put many walking miles on it with little trouble." We are very pleased that Pat was able to enjoy her travels worry-free! Feel free to send us your story too!

PROFILES IN DETERMINATION

"A TALE OF TWO WOMEN"



ARLENE HILLERSON (LEFT) AND MARY REEVES (RIGHT), BOTH BILATERAL AMPUTEES, TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS AT ABILITY

Mary Reeves thankfully survived a car accident in 1972. Amidst a variety of injuries, Mary suffered from third degree burns and badly damaged legs. In January 1974, her right leg was amputated below the knee. In January 1977, her left leg was amputated above the knee. After unsuccessfully trying to get fit with prostheses

at several different facilities, Mary resigned herself to her wheelchair. That is not to say that she has not been leading an active life in the last twelve years. Mary worked at the Veteran's Administration Hospital for six years in the Geriatric Psychiatry ward as a secretary clerk typist for six years. She is very active in wheelchair and

disabled sports - she has competed playing basketball for the last five years. She is a trustee and board member of the San Diego Indoor Sports Club, and has been working at the kids disabled sports camp for the last five years. Mary describes herself as a people person. She really enjoys watching, interacting and talking to all kinds of

people. She is an avid gardener who loves nature and the outdoors. But she has been wheelchair bound. Four weeks ago, Mary met Justin, Ability's prosthetist, at the Kaiser Prosthetic Clinic. He encouraged her to come see him at Ability, because he believed that even after not walking for twelve

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years, that she could do it. Through a combination of proper fitting sockets and componentry, and through rigorous physical therapy, Mary is up and walking again. She says she is looking forward to dressing elegantly again, dancing with a strong partner, learning the two step and walking, walking, walking!!! She is working hard on building her endurance, and looking forward to being healthier and happier in exercising her body. When asked how her experience has been so far at Ability she said, "My experience has been fantastic! This is the first prosthetic company not to claim difficulty in fitting me. I couldn't be happier".

Arlene Hillerson is a 79

year young lady who came all the way from Fargo, North Dakota to get a proper fitting prosthesis. Arlene lost her limbs due to vascular deficiencies in 1997 and 1998. She too had been told that she was a "difficult" fit, and after receiving four separate prostheses that she deemed unwearable, she took matters into her own hands. Arlene was encouraged to hear that we had just finished fitting another lady (Mary Reeves) like herself. Ability put the two women in contact with each other, and we believe they were an inspiration to each other. Like Mary, Arlene returned to North Dakota with some rigorous physical therapy ahead her, but happy to finally to be up and moving around.



VETERAN JOHN THOMASELLI SHOWS OFF HIS ADAPTED ARM AT A RECENT EVENT. THIS TRS SPORTS ADAPTOR WAS PROVIDED FOR JOHN BY THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION AND FIT

John Thomaselli is a seventy-seven year young man who's

been golfing for the last thirty years. He is also a below elbow amputee, and a testament to the advances that have been made in prosthetic care as far as sports activities go. John served his country as a demolition man fighting in WWII. His job included cleaning up anti-personnel bombs that were left behind in Okinawa. In 1945, one of these bombs exploded in his hand, leaving him an amputee. Missing his hand certainly hasn't slowed this man down however! In the midst of raising four sons, he became an avid golfer and bowler. In the early days, John devised his own golf club adaptor. Now, through the assistance of the VA, John has not only a myoelectric arm, but also a special TRS golf adaptor for his body powered arm.

: PATIENT NEWS



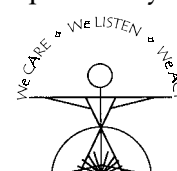
MIGUEL (LEFT) AND MARIA (RIGHT) RECEIVE DONATED PROSTHESES FROM TONY MENDOZA

Ability's Tony Mendoza has kept himself busy in the previous months by rising above the call of duty and donating his time and expertise to the less fortunate in Mexico. Pictured above are two of his most recent successes. Miguel Zuniga Palacio is a thirteen year old boy who lost his leg in a car accident. Referred to Tony by a family friend, Miguel first presented himself in a prosthe-

sis that had been donated to him by the Rotary Club. Pictured above, one can see that at best, this is an antiquated, piece-meal device that Miguel was wearing. Tony fit Miguel with a light weight carbon fiber prosthesis that will suit the active lifestyle that this thirteen year old longs to lead. Needless to say, Miguel and his father left their final fitting with Tony all smiles. Maria Santos is a sixty-three

year old native Tijuana who lost her limb due to diabetes. Maria found her way to Tony through a good hearted nurse who had noticed Maria attempting to get around without a prosthesis. As with Miguel, Tony fit Maria with a light weight prosthesis that could respond to the daily activities that Maria needs and desires to accomplish. Apart from Tony's extracurricular efforts in mak-

ing these prostheses come to life, they were feasible to make and donate due to parts that have been donated to us. If you or someone you know has some sort of working componentry that you think may help us to continue this cause, please feel free to drop them by the office.



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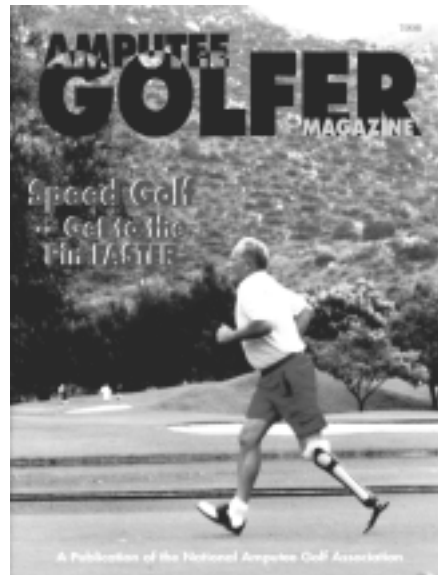


FUN PROSTHETICS: THESE ARE SOME SPECIAL LAMINATIONS THAT WERE DONE FOR THE PROSHTETIC LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK. DOES YOUR PROSTHESIS MAKE A STATEMENT LIKE THESE?

JUSTIN SETS SPEED GOLF WORLD RECORD!

Ability owner and prosthetic practitioner, Justin Norton, was the feature story in "Amputee Golfer" magazine, Spring 1998 edition. Justin was profiled as the first amputee to compete in the International Speed Golf Association finals at Singing Hills Golf Course in October of 1997. He ran the course in 70 minutes while shooting a score of 85 for a combined "speed golf" score of 155. As a point of reference, Jay Larson currently

holds the "normie" record at 114. Speed Golf is the new sport that combines running and golf. You can see the article in full with additional photos at www.amputeegolfer.com and learn more about speed golf at www.speedgolf.com. Ability is quickly becoming the leader in sports adapted prosthetics. Please call and find out what Ability can do for you in your activity.



About This Publication

"The Amputee Advocate" is published by Ability Biomechanics Int'l Inc., 6190 Fairmount Ave., Suite A, San Diego, CA 92120. Tel: (619) 285-5040, Fax: (619) 285-5045. Envisioned by: Justin J. Norton, C.P.; Tony Mendoza, B.O.C., C.Ped. Writer/Editor/Designer: Sarah B. Norton. All contents copyright 1999.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
ABILITY CHOSEN AS MOST
ENTERPRISING BUSINESS,
SAN DIEGO COUNTY!**