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Sight-Impaired Surfers Hit the Beach

Event introduces the magic of surfing to the blind

CARLSBAD- On Sunday, Sept. 19, a surfing event for the sight impaired will be held at South Carlsbad State Beach in Carlsbad (also known as Ponto) from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (best photo opportunities will be taking place between 10:00 and noon.). Blind participants will experience the joy of surfing with the help of experienced volunteers.

This is the 15th year that sight impaired youth and adults from all areas of San Diego have been invited to hit the waves under the super vision of expert surfers. The non-profit event is sponsored by the Swamis Surfing Association, the Encinitas Lions club, and the San Diego Surfing Academy.

Bruce King of the Swamis Surfing Association, co-founder of the event said “Its just a joy to see the look on their faces. As surfers we enjoy sharing our love for the sport, the ocean and living each moment ...like riding a wave.”

Here is how it works: the individuals are outfitted with life vests, and then taken into the water along with 4 to 5 experienced surfers. We help the surfer lie on the board, only going about waist deep, and then push them into a wave. When the individual rides the wave towards the shore, there is a safety team lining the water around them at all time. King says, “Above all, this experience proves that just because you are disabled doesn’t mean you are not able to do many great things, and we are proud to promote that through this event.”

This is an invitation only event, highly worth the print and television coverage as it occurs. The best time to record the event is beginning at 10:00 am.

Directions: Highway 5 to Poinsettia. Exit and head west to Highway 101. On Highway 101 head South. The event is right as Leucadia begins (where the terrain changes and cliffs start about 200 yards North of La Costa Blvd.) For more information contact Larry Graff at 619-245-9801.