



NEWSLETTER

October 15, 2006

NO BARRIERS FESTIVAL 2007 to be held in Squaw Valley, CA

No Barriers USA is excited to announce that its FESTIVAL 2007, a five-day event, will be held in Squaw Valley, CA, June 28- July 2, 2007. The goal of this one-of-a-kind festival is to share the cutting-edge techniques and technologies which enable people with challenges to live as actively as possible and to break through their own personal barriers.

No Barriers USA is a not-for-profit organization which assumes that each person, regardless of age, state of mind or physical condition, has a thirst for adventure and a hope for the future which is worthy of igniting. No Barriers is not just a name. It is the attitude of reaching out and finding ways to accomplish one's dreams, no matter what it takes.

The No Barriers FESTIVAL offers a unique combination of

- a Symposium, led by researchers and technologists, for the discussion of the latest break-throughs in science and technology;
- an Equipment Fair where state-of-the-art adaptive equipment is displayed and demonstrated;
- Interactive Clinics such as adaptive rock climbing sponsored by Alpine Skills International, scuba diving sponsored by the Valley Medical Center Foundation, kayaking sponsored by Environmental Traveling Companions (ETC), and hand cycling sponsored by Disabled Sports USA Far West;
- many opportunities for Networking with scientists, technologists, manufacturers and accomplished disabled leaders.



No Barriers USA Director Dr. Hugh Herr

The NO BARRIERS festivals in 2004 and 2005 were held in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, the heart of the Dolomites. Featured speakers included Mike May, a blind technologist, who led blind participants on treks solely with the use of a talking global positioning system, Warren Macdonald who demonstrated revolutionary prosthetic legs with computer controlled knee joints which are enabling above-the-knee amputees to walk for the first time, and many others. The climax of festival 2005 was a dramatic climb of a classic thousand-foot rock tower by an all-disabled team: a double-leg-amputee and two blind climbers. European media called the team, "The Wonder of the Alps." The award winning film, *Mountains Without Barriers*, chronicles the festival. It is now touring film festivals around the world.

Noteworthy sponsors for NO BARRIERS FESTIVAL 2007 are Verizon, Lumber Liquidators, Wells Fargo, Nike and Ossur, along with a host of companies which serve the disabled community.

Many more sponsors, partnering organizations, foundations and individuals are coming together to make this event possible. There are too many to mention in this first newsletter, but we will bring them to your attention in the upcoming months.

The No Barriers USA Board of Directors includes Chairman, Jim Goldsmith; Dr. Hugh Herr, a double-leg amputee, a leader in the development of prosthetics and a professor at MIT; Erik Weihenmayer, known for being the only blind person to climb Mt. Everest and the "Seven Summits"; Malcolm Daly, a single-leg amputee and president of Great Trango Holdings, Inc.; and Mark Wellman, the first paraplegic athlete to climb Yosemite's El Capitan and Half Dome.

We invite you to learn more about No Barriers USA and FESTIVAL 2007.
Visit www.nobarriersusa.org or telephone 415-381-4160