

NATIONAL

September 19, 2012

# VETERANS

SUMMER SPORTS CLINIC



**MISSION  
RE  
DEFINED**  
WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS

U.S. Marine Jorge Toledo  
Team Nautilus



POSEIDON	APOLLO
OLYMPUS	PHOENIX
NEPTUNE	VULCAN
NAUTILUS	CALYPSO
TITAN	MERCURY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**TRACK & FIELD /  
 ROWING / ARCHERY**  
 USOC

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**SURFING**  
 La Jolla Shores

11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**SAILING**  
 San Diego Marriott Marina

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**KAYAKING**  
 Mission Bay Yacht Club

9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**CYCLING**  
 Tideland Park

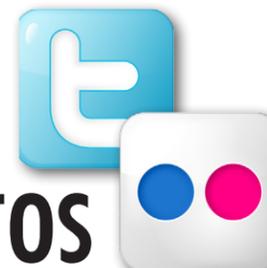
5:00 – 5:30 P.M.  
**MANDATORY  
 TEAM LEADER  
 MEETING**  
 Santa Rosa Room

7:00 – 8:00 P.M.  
**VETERANS  
 WRITING CLASS**  
 Author of Jarhead, Anthony Swofford  
 Santa Rosa Room



USMC Col. (Ret.)  
 Jay Vargas  
 Medal of Honor Recipi-

# How to Get Photos



## Hometown News is a Thing of the Past

The Public Affairs team will no longer be able to provide individual news releases and photos, but now you can get better photos faster. Every day, the Public Affairs team will load a selection of photos onto VA's Flickr account. Find it by clicking the Flickr icon on the [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) main page or [www.summersportsclinic.va.gov](http://www.summersportsclinic.va.gov), then search for the Summer Sports Clinic set.



Marine Corps Veteran  
 Chris Small

You can also share your own photos with one another easily on Twitter by posting them with the hashtag #NVSSC.

Marine Corps Veteran John (Quincy) Mobley



## TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE SSC 2012 DEPARTING

**Surfing** - La Jolla Shores, Lifeguard Tower #33  
 La Jolla Shores, San Diego, CA 92037  
 Buses begin loading at 7:00 a.m. and will depart at 7:30 a.m.

**Kayaking** - Mission Bay Yacht Club  
 1215 El Carmel Place, San Diego, CA 92109  
 Buses will begin loading at 8:00 a.m. and will depart at 8:30 a.m.

**Track & Field, Rowing, Archery** -  
 U.S. Olympic Training Center  
 2800 Olympic Parkway, Chula Vista, CA 91915  
 Buses will begin loading at 6:15 a.m. and will depart at 6:30 a.m.

**Sailing** - San Diego Bay  
 Behind the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina - dock # 3.  
 Begin loading sailboats at 11:00 a.m. departing at 11:30 a.m. (Lunch arrives at 10:30 a.m.)

**Cycling** - Tideland Park Coronado  
 Mullinex Dr. Coronado, California 92118  
 Buses will begin loading at 8:30 a.m. and will depart at 9:00 a.m.

## TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE SSC 2012 RETURNING

**Surfing** - La Jolla Shores, Lifeguard Tower #33  
 La Jolla Shores, San Diego, CA 92037  
 Buses will begin loading at 4:00 p.m. and will depart for hotel at 4:15 p.m.

**Kayaking** - Mission Bay Yacht Club  
 1215 El Carmel Place, San Diego, CA 92109  
 Buses will begin loading at 4:00 p.m. and will depart for hotel at 4:30 p.m.

**Track & Field, Rowing, Archery** -  
 U.S. Olympic Training Center  
 2800 Olympic Parkway, Chula Vista, CA 91915  
 Buses will begin loading at 4:00 p.m. and will depart for hotel at 4:15 p.m.

**Sailing** - San Diego Bay  
 Behind the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina - dock # 3  
 Begin loading afternoon sailboats at 4:15 p.m. returning at 4:30 p.m.

**Cycling** - Tideland Park Coronado  
 Mullinex Dr. Coronado, California 92118  
 Buses will begin loading at 4:00 p.m. and will depart for hotel at 4:15 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS VISIT WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS

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# 2012 SUMMER SPORTS CLINIC SNAPSHOT

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# ADAPT AND OVERCOME



It's a warm Monday afternoon along the beach at La Jolla shores in San Diego. Jason Poole is paddling atop a surfboard while several instructors are guiding him along the waves. He looks much like any of the thousands of visitors who flock to California's beaches learning to ride their first wave.

But the scars on Poole's head and face tell a tale of courage and pain few others know.

Poole is among a group of disabled Veterans learning to surf at the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic.

His journey is a story of remarkable recovery and rehabilitation made possible by his determination and years of surgery, treatment and therapies, including the physical and psychological benefits of adaptive sports.

Twelve years ago to the day, Poole joined the United States Marine Corps. Born in Bristol, England, he was 11 when he moved to California with his father and 17 when he enlisted in the Marines.

By 2004, Poole was serving his third tour in Iraq. He was an infantryman, a "grunt," with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

In June 2004, ten days before he was scheduled to leave Iraq, Poole was on patrol near the Syrian border. He recalls telling two Iraqi guards and his Iraqi interpreter to "get back" seconds before the improvised explosive device detonated. "The IED was hanging in a tree," he says. The guards and interpreter were killed and Poole sustained serious shrapnel wounds to his head and face. The trauma left him in a coma for the next two months. When

he woke in a hospital bed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., the former standout track runner, was unable to speak or walk. He was blind in his left eye and deaf in his left ear.

"I was basically like a baby again," he says. "I had to use a wheelchair and couldn't use the bathroom."

Poole was later transferred to the VA's Polytrauma Treatment Center in Palo Alto, Calif. There, he spent two years as an inpatient. A team of doctors, nurses and therapists helped him regain the basic functions he'd lost as a result of the blast.

"When I first saw him, he had no movement in his right arm and very little in his right leg," says Debbie Pitsch, physical therapist at VA Palo Alto Health Care System. "...But he always had a positive attitude and kept pushing himself to the limit."

**"One day I was standing in front of the mirror and I said, 'you know what Jason, you're going to be cool. You're going to be very positive.'"**

In 2006, his recreational therapist suggested he attend VA's National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

"I didn't know what to expect, but it was absolutely amazing," said Poole.

He continued going to the Clinic the next three years, where he learned the basics of snowboarding, adaptive hockey and target shooting.

Anne Peterson is Poole's recreational therapist at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System in Seattle. Peterson says she recommended the Summer Sports Clinic to Poole as a way to continue his rehabilitation.

"It's the education and knowledge, the social aspect and experience of it," Peterson says. "He's gone from 'I don't know if I can do this' to helping other Veterans overcome their fears and anxiety. It empowers him to do more."

On his first day of Summer Sports Clinic activities, Poole put on his wetsuit and climbed into the ocean with a surfboard.

"I was worried I was going to sink," he said. "But (the instructors) assured me I was going to be all right."

By the end of the afternoon his day at the beach was exactly as he planned.

**"I kept going again and again. I went like 25 times... it was awesome."**

"It's so good to see Jason here," says Peterson. "He has learned to adapt and overcome. That's really what it's all about."



## Party on the Midway

Actress Bo Derek is a huge supporter of VA's National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events. She pushes to improve public understanding of Veteran issues and encouraging Veterans to take advantage of VA's rehabilitative programs.

"I have met so many amazing Veterans who have sacrificed so much on our behalf. They are truly among our nation's finest citizens, and it is a privilege to stand by their side," said Derek.

"The public has no idea what she does for us and how big her heart is. She's a wonderful lady," said Veteran and fellow National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic volunteer Urban Miyares.

Derek has been recognized before as a VA National Honorary Chairperson for the National Rehabilitation Special Events. She has brought other celebrity friends like Taylor Dayne to join in supporting these events and tonight will bring with her actor and musician John Corbett with the John Corbett Band. Corbett has starred in the TV series "Sex and the City" and film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Derek has starred and featured in such films and television shows as Tarzan, Tommy Boy, CSI: Miami, and the 1979 movie "10." "If she's a ten in beauty, she's a twenty in heart. She's really just that special," said Miyares.

Ms. Derek has also taken part in USO tours to support troops and works with the Special Forces Association, who named her an honorary Green Beret.

Buses load for the block party at 6:00 p.m. Look for Bo Derek and John Corbett at the party!



Actress Bo Derek

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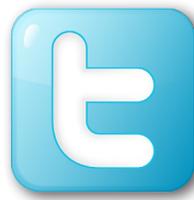




“There is no secret to  
**BALANCE**  
You just have to feel the  
**WAVES.”** - Frank Herbert, Author

Navy Veteran – Cory See

# SOCIAL MEDIA



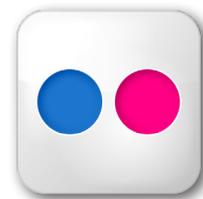
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