

Limitless Sports holds fifth-annual water ski clinic for physically challenged on Lake Murray

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Aug. 7, 2006 – A group of children and adults with physical challenges enjoyed sun, fun and water sports on Friday, Aug. 4, at a water ski clinic held by physicians from Midlands Orthopaedics on Lake Murray.

The event was held at the Woodmen of the World facility on Johnson Marina Road, across from the Lighthouse Marina near Chapin.

The fifth-annual water ski clinic was part of the Limitless Sports program, begun by pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. Frederick Piehl in 1998 to provide people with physical limitations the opportunity to participate in activities they might otherwise be denied.

“It again was just an amazing event,” Dr. Piehl said. “Seeing the excitement and pleasure these kids and adults alike feel at getting to water ski, something they probably would never otherwise be able to do, is just completely humbling and amazing to me and the other volunteers. I’m so grateful to have been given the opportunity in life to do something like this. We all are.”

The participants used specially designed skis and volunteers followed along on personal watercraft for an added measure of safety. Providing and driving the boat was Dr. Michael Green, a hand and upper extremity specialist at Midlands Orthopaedics.

Enthusiastic volunteers from around the area have always been an integral part of the Limitless Sports program, which also offers basketball outings and other events during the year.

Newcomers to the corps of volunteers at the water ski clinic this year were two more of Dr. Piehl’s partners at Midlands Orthopaedics: foot and ankle specialist Dr. Robert Santrock and orthopedic trauma surgeon Dr. Coleman Fowble.

“It was a blast,” Dr. Fowble said. “We kept hearing how much fun these events are, from our colleagues and from the participants, and it was great to finally have a chance to participate.”

Back on shore, swimming and kayaks also were available, adding to the family fun. There was no charge and lunch was provided.