

GIMPY

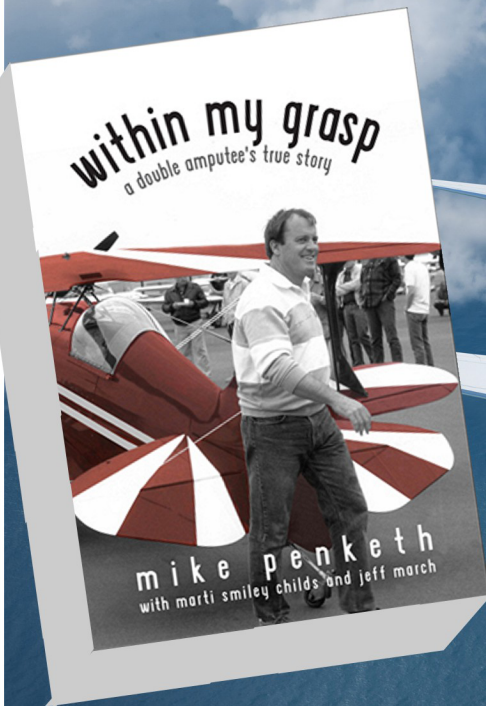
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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF STUMPS 'R' US,
A WHIMSICAL SUPPORT GROUP OF CHEERFUL CRIPPLES
WHO CAN ANSWER ALMOST ANY QUESTION YOU MIGHT HAVE
ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT ONE, TWO, THREE OR FOUR LIMBS

WHAT WOULD YOU DO...

If you found yourself awakening from a deep slumber to discover that your hands were missing? How would you eat or drink? How would you change your clothes? How would you answer the phone?

The innate instinct for survival can get you by, but the human spirit and a strong sense of determination can help you overcome obstacles at a much faster pace.



American Airlines Captain Mike Penketh, long-time Stumps'R'Us member, maintained a perfect safety record while flying passengers, but on his own time he got his adrenaline rushes by mastering aerobatics and flying in competitions. He raced his home built Pitts S-1 biplane in the Reno Air Races. In his quest for speed, he miscalculated only once-and he paid dearly.

"I didn't know where I was, and I didn't know who the guy was leaning over me. I had been unconscious, and I was flat on my back, but as I began awakening in a groggy, dull fog, I sensed I was in some kind of aircraft. Over the noise, the pilot spoke. He was talking about a patient with severe limb damage and a possible head injury. He was talking to the Trauma Services unit of the University of Utah hospital in Salt Lake City.

Trauma surgeons were forced to amputate Mike's hands following an accident that nearly killed him. Although the course of his life was changed, he was determined against all odds to fly airplanes again. He was fitted for and tried many hook devices and prosthetic arms before he was led to an advanced solution with which he was able to perform some critical hand functions.

After two years of preparations, he successfully demonstrated his ability to fly an aircraft using electronic prosthetic hands. He now performs intricate maneuvers in aerobatic shows to prove he can do it.

Mike, working with Marti Childs and Jeff March tells his story in ***Within My Grasp***. It is an autobiography about coping with a disability and learning about what you can do rather than what you can't do.

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