

NSSIA Fall 2011 Newsletter

NSSIA Chairman Bruce Gabrielson reports from our headquarters in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, that business has been very good this summer. There were three instructor certification classes held over the summer months, two on the West Coast and one on the East Coast (Tybee Island pictured). “We also certified a new Master Level instructor in Santa Theresa, Costa Rica,” said Bruce.



“He is Peter Ottinger, who is now able to conduct instructor certification courses in that part of the world.”

Regarding educational outreach, we completed development of the college course, *“Surfing, Culture and Complexity of the Sport”*, a course covering many aspects of our sport. The course is now available for members who want to teach at a college or the high school level.” For product endorsements, many schools and individuals tested two new products, one of which is a sun block manufactured by Ocean Potion that has been approved for endorsement. “Probably, the biggest news that I can mention is that we have entered into negotiations with Surfing America, to take over their instructor certification



program,” said Bruce. “There will be discussions at the Surfing America Board of Directors meeting in December to consider a partnership.

Finally, my Snake’s Surf School did well but business was a little slower than usual this summer. I also had reporters from the Washington Post at my Wave Trek shop this summer to interview me for a nice article they did.

On a more personal note, I have retired “sort of” from my position as a researcher in the computer security industry and can now spend more time in the surf and in the NSSIA offices.”

New York Surf School’s Frank Cullen said; “September was a great month for Long Island surf instructors, with 15 straight days of waist to chest high surf. Because of the weather being so nice, we did lessons right up until the end of September.”

Closer to the city, it was the Skudin brothers who got involved with the hugely successful Quicksilver New York Pro event that offered the largest cash purse in the history of professional surfing. Although East Coaster Kelly Slater did not win it, the surf was all-time for an east coast event. Cliff Skudin was very

stoked. "While the surf and contest jammed, we got lots of lessons and future lesson contacts from it. They should do one every year now," said Cliff.



Jeremy Grosvenor of the East End Surf School in middle Long Island (we are still in New York), noted that there was a "continuous micro to mini swell all summer, which was ideal for the heaps of beginners that tried it out." Jeremy also had students out in the water riding finless soft boards doing 360's (pictured), outrigger canoes, and two person body boards. How is that for a creative teaching method?

Up north, the Peter Pan Surfing Academy handled some huge groups in both the surf and stand-up categories. NSSIA Director Pan and his staff taught the surfing classes at the Narragansett Town Beach and the stand-up classes at the nearby Narrow River. Business was brisk despite the almost totally flat surf during the summer. Lesson activity has picked up during the fall with the consistent waves, and continues right into November.

Jeff Smith reported that his stand-up paddleboard school on Block Island, Rhode Island took off this past summer. "There was so much action with my paddle boarding classes, I had to pass on some surfing lessons," said Jeff. "Some days I was out paddling from sun up to sun rise."

From Maryland, Mary Kerns continued working with Snake's surf School concentrating on younger kids. She also took a trip to Huntington Beach this summer and had the chance to get in a session with HB NSSIA instructor Cathy Young.

Reporting from Virginia Beach, Chris Stellato of Surf and Adventures Company Surf School told us that he split his lesson time between SUP and surf, as the stand-up category increases in popularity in the Virginia Beach area. "SUP is really taking off in our area," said Chris. "I am seeing more and more paddlers especially in the inland waterways."



Further down the coast, Tybee Island's Steven Horton said that the NSSIA course that took place in the spring was very helpful in getting several local surf instructors certified. "We saw a great summer of lesson," said Steve. "The YMCA Surf Camp included over 100 kids and we had 60 privates as well."

From Florida, Big Kahuna Surf Camp – Hawaii had another successful SOLD OUT year. The City of Deerfield Beach hired NSSIA Director Kali as Head Surfing Instructor to help improve the City's Lifeguard Summer Surf Camp



Program for 2011. He reports that he participated in several exhibits at the Museum of Discovery and Science, Ft. Lauderdale providing land based surfing instruction to hundreds of participants promoting Big Kahuna Surf Schools and NSSIA. His school was also featured in SouthWest Airline in-flight magazine and he participated at Surfers for Autism, Deerfield Bch, FL helping special needs children enjoy the sport of surfing. His meeting with Mark Kelly , Global Surf Industries, USA at Sept 2011, Surf Expo, Orlando, FL resulted in their continued support of NSSIA and our mission and as an NSSIA Endorsed Vendor.

Moving inland and into the SUP specialty front, Montana's SUP School Director, Josh Kuntz of the Pink Cowboy Paddleboard Outfitters said that the stand-up business has exploded. "Most of my early summer instruction was in flat water, due to the record high river levels," said Josh. "We had a very rainy and wet spring which caused some hazardous white water that made it difficult for beginners. By mid-July, I was taking groups on trips to the Yellowstone and Clark Fork rivers, once the river levels settled down." Kuntz also reported that he saw his fair share of black bears and river otters this summer, lounging on the river banks as he took his groups on stand-up tours.



There was plenty of action on the left coast to report as well. The Leucadia Surf School in San Diego focused mainly on the big summer surf camps, according to school and NSSIA Director Gerry Kantor. "We were very fortunate to have found a private surf zone to work in at Moonlight Beach and we could handle the big groups there," said Gerry.

"Unlike the past few summers, this year had great weather and waves, which fueled more business."

Oregon's Bob Moe reports that he has had his hands full with intermediate older ladies who want lessons to advance to the next few levels of surfing. "One lady seemed to quite frustrated as he mind could perform but her body was trying to play catch up with the correct motions," said Bob. "The waves



in northern Oregon can be very difficult to master, and one must have a good attitude in order to succeed.”



NSSIA Director Lou Maresca focused more on doing private lessons this past summer at his surf school in both town and the north shore of Oahu. “I have been doing a lot of work with Surfrider Spirit Sessions,” said Lou. “This group takes out at risk youth autistic kids, and children without parents, and helps them learn to surf and cope.”

The NSSIA is even present in Asia, represented by Rick Gamble and the successful Phuket Surf School in Thailand. “We have had some great swells this summer,” said Rick (Check the picture out). “Due to the fact that less people are traveling to this part of Thailand, we did not see any increase in business. It was just level.” Rick did note that he sponsored and judged a big 2-day surfing contest that drew over 60 entries and stirred up great interest in surfing.

