

National Surf Schools and Instructors Association Spring 2009 Newsletter

For and About NSSIA Certified Instructors and Coaches

From the NSSIA Chairman, Bruce Gabrielson - The past few months have been busy. In case you have been tracking; we are growing by leaps and bounds. We now have expanded into Portugal, plus several new schools are on the verge of achieving accreditation. Since our last issue, we have taught instructor classes in Holden Beach, North Carolina, Santa Cruz, CA, and Huntington Beach, CA. One more school is scheduled for Huntington Beach in July.



In January, we convened a Board of Directors meeting at Surf EXPO in Orlando. Several directors and members were present. I was reelected as the chairman, plus ESM gave us a nice blurb about the meeting. The picture shows some of our

directors with NSSIA Instructor and East Coast Pro Longboard Champion Tony Salvagni. **LEFT TO RIGHT:** Tony Salvagni, with Directors Peter Pan, Bruce Gabrielson, Skip Savage, Lou Maresca, and Kali Montero

Our updated manual has been getting some great reviews. Many people like the new format and the way it's presented particularly for those taking the exam. Only one instructor failed to renew for the season; that is a plus for us. Also, sales of our T-shirt are going well. We also now have a window decal that goes out whenever someone joins.

I've been personally busy as well. I had my long awaited rotor cuff re-attached in November. It kept me out of the water almost 5 months. I still was able to travel a little though. I went to Huntington Beach in April for the opening of the Shapers Exhibit at the International Surfing Museum. Many shapers from all over attended the event. In the picture is Carl Ekstrom, myself, Bill Fury, and Jeff Hoe.





NSSIA Instructor Tony Silvagni's Surf School is off and running, and has been busy so far this spring. Tony has also been on a busy competition schedule. He is planning on competing at a big ASP longboard contest at Huntington Beach, California, in June, and two World Longboard Tour events sometime this

year. In the meantime, he is moving ahead with a full-time lesson schedule. He is teaching at Hamlet Avenue, next to the Courtyard Marriot, in Carolina Beach, North Carolina.



Besides giving lessons, NSSIA Instructor Aaron Powell (left) has recently opened his own Alaia flexible

wooden board building business. Aaron lives on the North Shore of Hawaii but will be in Delaware staying at his dad's place, NSSIA Instructor Jack Powell for a few months this summer.



NSSIA Director Rubin Cota reports he is talking to the superintendent of the local university to start the NSSIA certification program directed to all the Baja surfing community. The Baja Surf Instructors Association accepted our program last spring and they are hoping to institutionalize it in all of Mexico.



NSSIA Instructor and Fellowship of Christian Athletes surf school owner Joe Matera reports from Marmora, New Jersey that he is planning on 10 weeks of day camps in Ocean City, New Jersey, and an overnight camp at Assateague Island, in Maryland.

NSSIA Instructor Bonnie Preziosi (right) went to Nicaragua with her three children for a surf trip in January. Her daughter, who is also an artist, helped her give some of the local children an art lesson.

She spent most of March in Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos islands. It was an amazing trip. What beautiful countries with amazing people. She went from weather in the 40's in the Andes to over 100 degrees in the Galapagos.



NSSIA Instructor Eliot Zuckerman opened his Long Beach, New York school season May 1st, and has been giving lessons since the first day. He recently signed a deal with the city of Long Beach, enabling him to hold lessons there for the next five years. On another note, his newly formed foundation, Surfer's Way, takes children with special needs and gives them surfing lessons. CNN is planning to do a show on the foundation. NSSIA members can check out what it is about at www.surfersway.org.

NSSIA Director Peter Pan reports that he has been substituting stand-up paddle boards for surfboards, for group lessons with totally flat or very tiny conditions. There have been no complaints thus far, and two high school groups said they had more fun with the sups, than they did with the surfboards. At the least, this policy will prevent any cancellations due to poor surf, and loss of school revenue.

NSSIA Instructor Krissy Montgomery of Surf Sister Surf School in Tofino, British Columbia, took her entire staff (right and below) on a surf trip vacation to Nicaragua for two weeks. She reports that it paid off big time. The crew had a blast, surfing, doing yoga, mountain climbing, and sight seeing. They were so stoked, all instructors agreed to return to the school again for this season.



NSSIA Director Kim Hamrock, who has been busy teaching this spring, passes on this bit of very good advice. "I recently gave a lesson to a gal who had been surfing for about five years. I watched her closely riding a few waves. It seemed as if it was the board she was riding that was holding her back. I exchanged boards with her. After just a couple of waves I gave her board back and suggested that she get a

lesson and although she progressed, I could see that the board had to be changed. I saw her a few weeks later on a new board, and she was ripping. By riding her board....and walking in her shoes...I was better prepared to teach her what she needed to know."

NSSIA Director Kali Montero expanded his free surfing lessons to Surf World and Ocean Magic Surf Shop. He is already doing the lessons with Island water Sports

and averages 300 or more, each Saturday in the summer. His Hawaiian Surf Camp has sold out again for this season. Kali successfully brought on two new surf schools to our program this winter. They include Coast Adventures Surf School and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Surf Camp.



After returning from a month long trip to the north shore of Oahu in December, NSSIA Director Lou Maresca (left with students) gave lessons all winter in sunny Florida. He had a great spring break including a few days of surfing at his beloved Monster Hole and a visit from a troop of Girl Scouts.... This summer he has surf camps every week as well as private, semi private and group lessons. Let's Go Surfing!

One of the newest NSSIA Instructors, Jason Doshier reports all his Outside South Surf School instructors (right with Snake) learned a lot during their recent NSSIA Instructor Certification Class in Holden Beach, NC. They are the only NSSIA accredited school in their area. Holden Beach is a little out of the way, 28 miles from the South Carolina border, about 45 minutes south of Wilmington, NC and 40 minutes north of Myrtle Beach, SC. Their location makes them ideal for surf seekers from many areas and they get a large crowd of tourists to their area during the summer months.



NSSIA Instructor Sonny Owens of Onosurf Surf Company in Oregon and south Washington reports he does his mentoring and surf lessons at a beach known as Indian Beach in Ecola State Park. This was a racial year for weather in the North West, he was snowed in at home for 23 days in Dec. and the waves were big and gnarly most of the winter. Fall had more promise with some of the more expert places in Seaside going off.

Sonny also recently attended the Clean Water Classic as a contest Judge in Westport WA, the event is put on by Surfrider and proceeds help all the North West Chapters for beach clean up and water testing. Sadly he reports his surf school is on hold this year because of his Arthritis he is only doing ongoing mentoring students. He is referring lessons to the local surf shops and NSSIA

Instructor Bob Moe who does lessons in his area and at the Morro Negro, Panama surf camp in March/April times.

Speaking of Buffalo Bob, he has been sending out a large amount of emails and pictures to friends about his camp in Panama. Our Chairman is thinking of getting a group together for a visit their next winter.

NSSIA Instructor Jimmy Johnson reports the North Shore Surf Club at North Shore High School is still alive and kicking. Hurricane Ike dealt a severe blow to the Gulf Coast. Everyone in his club pulled through, but there were many along the coast that didn't. There was much damage in the area with a lot of the devastation still visible. His group has been working with cleanup in the area and along the coast.

On a surfing note, 6 of his girls are being recognizes for their surfing and environmental accomplishments in a book by Rice University Professor., Krista Comier. The book is about Texas women who surf. It goes to press this month.



Another new NSSIA Instructor is Matt Cole (left) is another new NSSIA Instructor of The University of Surfing at Linda Mar in Pacifica, CA. His school is located fifteen minutes south of San Francisco. His lessons are scheduled around low tide for favorable conditions. He offers surf lessons, day camps and the only overnight camp north of Santa Cruz. Also, He uses GoPro Water cameras and a nose mounted camera on your board to

document the surfing experience. He has a nightly video viewing party and provides a Surf camp DVD.

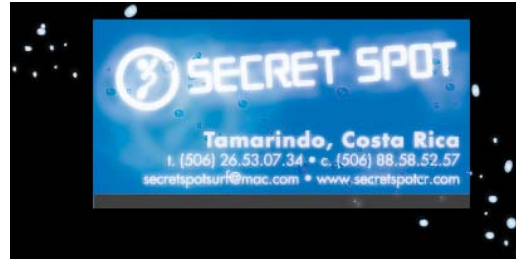
After a long struggle, Leucadia Surf School owner and NSSIA Director Gerry Kantor (right) was recently awarded a new and difficult to acquire permit from the City of Encinitas to run his surf school at Grandview Beach in Encinitas, where he has been operating since 2002. This will be the first season coming up from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with the new permit regulations in place. He also traveled for the first time in a decade this past fall, going to Europe and Northern California.



NSSIA Instructor Rick Walker of Corky Carroll's Surf School says he is really geared up for the summer of 2009. They will be in their fourteenth year at Tower 18 in Huntington Beach. Instructor interviews have produced one of best group of

new young instructors ever that will complement and add to their great crew of returning veteran instructors. This summer they also have increased the number of local school teachers on their summer staff.

NSSIA Instructor Rodolfo Leon of Secret Spot Surf School in Tamarindo, CR reports his school just move to another location and hasn't even gotten a new sign up yet,



NSSIA Instructor "Chino" Sue A Quan reports from San Juan, PR that his WOW surf school just won an award through the Puerto Rico tourism organization (puertorico turism company). His school is now considered the Excursion of the Year out of hundreds in the running!! This is a major award in PR.

Australian NSSIA Instructor and Coach Ben Bennink says he's been radically busy of late. He built a new website called www.inbyronbaytoday.com and updates it daily with twenty photos and a little story. It's a huge job but very rewarding. Not financially, but hey money isn't everything.

He also says his coaching is on hold. He has a bad hip that was further damaged in a car accident about 12 months back. He thought it would get better, but it's gotten worse.

Important information from Kali about the insurance carrier..... All member schools can contact Dana Cagen at 808-269-0871 or by email at dana.cagen@sportsinsurance.com if interested.

Remember that providing an update on your activities twice each year is part of the regular annual recertification process for instructors. Don't forget to submit something for our newsletter when requested.