

## **Fall 2008 Newsletter – Activities from the National Surf Schools and Instructors Association**

From the Chairman, **Bruce Gabrielson** - Well, another season is winding down and much has happened since our last installment. We've received some good responses from our neighbors both in Canada and in Mexico. You may have noticed all the new instructors we've certified in these two countries. Also, in Eastern Canada, we have been working with the provincial authorities and will hopefully become their official certification body. On another note, to reduce the tracking work involved, we've changed our application and



**Baja Surf Instructors at the Class in Cabo San Lucas**

renewal process to a seasonal approach. Basically, all instructor and school renewals are due at the same time each March. We've also changed somewhat how we handle renewals. We no longer send out renewal notices unless your membership has expired.



**New Jersey Surf Instructors**

For current instructors, just sign and submit the renewal application on the web site with your check. As soon as it is received you will be sent the updated manual and a new membership card. School renewal applications are to be sent directly to Kali. I'm currently working on a school renewal application form similar to the instructor form.



**Snake's Surf School  
Ocean City, Maryland**

Basically, you indicate that you still have your current insurance policy and that nothing else has changed. You will also need to list who your NSSIA certified instructors are.

As for me, besides running my school I've been all over the countryside this past season. In the spring, I attended the Cocoa Beach Easter Surf Festival, then, in May, was the guest of Ocean Outfitters

in Wildwood to present the NSSIA certification course to New Jersey surf instructors. I wasn't back only a couple of weeks and headed down to Cabo San Lucas to present the class again to the Baja Surf instructors Association as the guest of **Ruben Cortez** and Costa Azule Surfboards. In July I was honored to be invited by the International Surfing Museum to participate in the Huntington Beach 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Since then I've been so busy with my surf school I haven't had much time for anything else.



**Tony at the Contest**

**Tony Silvagni**, our Champion Longboard Pro and NSSIA certified instructor from Kure Beach, NC writes that besides teaching lessons he has been successfully competing all over the place this summer. He drove all night from the Unsound Pro in New York in time to start his fall semester in college the next day. He did really well in the event winning the Pro Longboard division and scoring some great waves. He is also working hard on getting his LLC, his insurance for his new school, hiring instructors, advertising, printing brochures, etc. He already has boards and has given some private and group lessons to start off.

Tony has also been giving free lessons to start off with just to get his name out (as if no one knows who he is). He plans to come out strong in 2009 for summer to make his surf camp happen.



For any inquiries, contact:  
Tony Silvagni at (910) 232-1592



**COMING MAY 2009**



NSSIA instructor **Ruben Cota** of Costa Azul Surfboards Surf School in Cabo San Lucas writes that they are doing great, their surf season is better than ever. He says his school is now more famous and respected in the community because of their NSSIA certification efforts. They are working on a program to be implemented in the private high schools of Los Cabos. **Alejandro Olea** and

Ruben are going to be working in the classroom as teachers. The course covers, CPR, Contemporary Dance, English (related to surfing) first aid and more. Every day Ruben is taking lessons of contemporary dance and surfing for at least one hour.

In August they made a short trip to New Jersey and in September there is a national surfing contest that both Alejandro and Ruben are planning to enter.

NSSIA Director **Peter Pan** reported that the Peter Pan Surfing Academy had another busy season with large group lessons both in South Kingstown, and in Narragansett. It is hard to argue about the ideal conditions for the South Kingstown Surf Camps. They take place at one of the premier reef breaks in the country, Matunuck Point. All four weeks of camps were full to capacity this summer.



**Pan With a Group of Students**

The fall has been also busy for his NSSIA school, with group lesson work from the University of Rhode Island, La Salle Academy High School, and other smaller private school groups. Shorties have been put away for the year, and full, taped suits are now in use. Summer is officially over in New England.

According to NSSIA instructor **Krissy Montgomery**, Canada's #1 surf school, Surf Sister, had another busy and successful summer of lessons. Despite the frigid water and sometimes downright nasty weather, thousands of hardy Canadians learned to surf in the waters off Tofino with expert NSSIA instructors.

**Dominga Bonnesmaison**, one of the top NSSIA Surf Sister instructors, took First Place in the Women's division, at the 2008 Rip Curl Stew Surf Contest, held in Tofino, in June. Jenny Stewart reports that Surf Sister staff organized two major beach clean-ups and collected tons of garbage from local beaches (which wasn't too cool).

Winter plans for Surf Sisters includes putting together another staff training trip, this time to Nicaragua.

From the wilds of Northwest Oregon, "**Buffalo Bob**" **Moe** reports that while lessons have been brisk, the swells have been between 5 and 7 feet, and should be even bigger during the next two months. This is another NSSIA surf school location that depends on 5/4/3 and 6/5/4 suits for most of the lesson season.

Bob says that he will be heading off to Morro Negro, Panama, for a five week stay as a surf guide, from February 4th to March 10th. "I can't wait to get into some nice warm 82 degree water and nice five foot faces," said Bob. "This is a tropical adventure where the cabanas are comfortable, food is wonderful, and the boat takes you right to the break. I also enjoy the clients. Most of them have never surfed." He submitted a classic shot of himself, riding backside on one of those nice warm waves.



NSSIA instructor **Brittany Westcott** just finished up her season working in New

**"Buffalo" Bob in Morro Negro**

Jersey as a lifeguard and holding surf lessons and surf clinics. She will return again to Dominical Costa Rica this winter to hopefully get a surf camp up and running down there.



**Lance on a Paddle Board**

will be raffling off in a big, up and coming, fund raiser. He also sent a nice water shot of himself, riding one of his favorite stand-up paddle boards, off the Florida coast.

NSSIA instructor **Herman Hall** just finished up another busy season of surf lessons and kayak tours, in between managing the Kitty Hawk Kayak and Surf School on the Outer Banks. Herman reports that the surf was very consistent this summer, and there were lots of perfect sandbars breaking all over the Outer Banks. He is now traveling to his winter gig, working the next 6 months for the Broulee and Fluid Adventures Surf Schools in New South Wales, Australia. It just proves that NSSIA instructors are in worldwide demand!

NSSIA instructor **Aaron Powell** came home to Delaware for a few weeks this summer. Aaron currently teaches and works as a lifeguard on Hawaii's North Shore. He reports he has been learning tow-in surfing with Ken Bradshaw.

**Lance Maki** reports from the shores of Florida, that a small group of certified NSSIA instructors have been teaching private, personalized surfing lessons with "higher end" clients. These NSSIA members include **Skip Savage** and **Debbie Johnson**. Lance says that they treat the clients much like personal trainers do, and have been successful thus far.

Lance is planning to go to the Midwest to do standup demos on all of the five Great Lakes. He hopes to promote awareness of kidney disease with this trip, and plans to go to Notre Dame University as well.

Lance submitted a bitchin' shot of a classic 1954 truck that the National Kidney Foundation



**Lance and His Tandem Partner**

**Chino Sue A Quan**, one of the top surfers and surfing instructors in Puerto Rico, and owner of one of the most successful surfing schools on the island, reports that the surf has been cooperative, right through the often flat summer season. This NSSIA member even sent us recent photos of the school in action, with both beach and ocean shots.



**Chino Sue A Quan with Some Students**

Australian NSSIA

instructor **Ben “Bear” Bennink** writes “Very interesting result here, I remember you were asking what sort of demographic your NSSIA coaches have been getting. Well you may find this interesting. I have been experimenting with spam free, opt – in email lists.”

“I’m offering prizes of 1 free coaching session a month and a new longboard every six months. The catch is the subscribers need to fill in a survey to join. Then I send out more detailed surveys.”

The results so far:

108 signed up in the first week.

- 78 Male, 98% between (40-59 years of age) 70% stated that they had tried surf schools, 100% were dissatisfied. 100% wanted help with paddling trim and catching waves.
- 30 female, 94% between (40 – 59) approx 92% % stated that they had tried surf schools, 100% were dissatisfied. 100% wanted help with paddling trim and catching waves.

“I always said that paddling is the key and that we should push for it to be taught as the number one priority. Will keep the NSSIA informed of the results as more sign up.”

**Elliot Zuckerman** writes that after a great summer in NY with his Surf2live Surf School he will be moving back to Puerto Rico and running surfing tours starting Oct 10th thru May 09. This past season has been by far the most successful year for us and our clients have been beyond happy with the way we ran our school. We also launched our adult surf camp with incredible success.

We have been running surf camps for kids for many years and this year we after many requests started the adult camp on a trial basis, well we where very surprised at the turn out and next summer we will be going full steam.

Elliot also says that “As the founder of Surf Pals I am happy to announce that we will be holding many no-cost to kids outings in Puerto Rico and have been asked to go to Hawaii next year”. Surf Pals is a charitable organization that take special needs kids surfing using tandem boards and the kids wear life jackets. If anyone would like to volunteer or make a tax deductible donation, please contact Elliot at [surf2live.com](http://surf2live.com).

NSSIA instructor **Bonnie Preziosi** (Snake's Surf School) writes she has been surfing and teaching regularly in Delaware and Maryland this summer. She traveled to Nicaragua to surf in June and bought some property to eventually build on in Popoyo. The waves were amazing in southern Nicaragua with offshore winds all day long due to the proximity of Lake Nicaragua. She plans a trip back soon with her three surfing children this winter (Hannah, 20, Tim 23, Nick 25). She is also currently working on a series of paintings of Nicaragua. This is one of her most recent ones which is 20x30 acrylic on canvas.



**Bonnie Preziosi Art Work**



**Tom Saulnier at Ogunquit**

NSSIA New England instructor **Tom Saulnier** says he is going back to Vermont this winter to Jay Peak to work with the Terrain Park marketing department. He did a ton of stand-up paddle surfing this summer, and will offer SUP lessons next year (likely - if it works out w/ the shop).

NSSIA instructor **Al Mahoe** of Alysha Surf School writes that here in Hawaii everyone seems to be a slow year making things difficult

when compared to the rising cost of living. If a really good surf lesson is given to someone, these people always return with others. He seems to be having work mostly from "word of mouth" and hopes no one else is having that problem.



**Gerry at Notre Dame with Rooftops in Background**

NSSIA Director **Gerry Kantor** of Leucadia Surf School traveled to Biarritz for the fall wave season, but said the bottom was dredged out and it was mostly shorebreak. "I had been there a few times in the early 70's," he said, "and somehow I thought it would be the same. But now it was crowded and developed. I don't know what I was thinking," he said. He had a good time in Paris, though, before returning to California.

NSSIA instructor **Jill Nakano** (Long Beach, CA) sent a

picture taken during the summer while giving a lesson at Bay Street (just south of the pier), Santa Monica, CA. She also recently competed at the 3rd Annual Roxy Jam Cardiff Reef & Linda Benson Pro - the Masters division (35 over). Although, she didn't advance to the finals in her division, it was an awesome event overall! Kudos go to Linda Benson and all who have contributed to women's longboarding.



**Jill Nakano in Santa Monica**

NSSIA Texas instructor **Puddy Albright** says he has found little time to smile or answer his emails in-between the grief of the University of Texas is giving him, his insurance companies & his own attorney lately. He is also working on a new prototype hydrofoil fin he designed. Bill Bahne cut-out the pieces and foiled it for him and he has been "kicking the tires," philosophically, with an old friend from 'SkateBoarder' magazine days, Curtis Hesselgrave. It rides really well and has drawn more attention in California than in Texas. Surfers down here are pretty conservative.

Puddy has also been in the process of planning his next 'Surf Reunion'. A project he created back in '83. It's like a high school reunion but it's for the surfers that started or were active from 1962-72. He is a third generation of surfer in Texas so knows almost everyone who was in the water back then. The first reunion was in '84, then '90, '95 & 2002. It's a lot of work for him but a good distraction and probably one of the things he is most proud of in his surfing life. Usually, between 175-250 surfers attend the reunion each time.