

NSSIA Spring 2010 Newsletter

From the Chairman, Bruce Gabrielson – It's spring and time for our semi-annual update. As you know, semi-annual reporting is part of our instructor recertification requirement.

This past fall and winter were busy for your chairman. In

October we had a good turnout for our instructor certification class in Kill Devil Hills, NC. I am happy to announce that all students who attended (pictured above) were able to fully complete their certification requirements within a short time afterwards. Our next class is scheduled for Long Beach, NY in May.

During the winter we did a lot of work on our training materials and manual. With the help of NSSIA California instructor and English teacher Matt Linton, the entire NSSIA instruction Manual was upgraded. Our manual is now "proper". We also spent a good deal of time developing the SUP instructor's certification training course material. My thanks to Peter Pan, Kali Montero, and Colorado SUP school owner Josh Kuntz. Finally, a New England surfer, Mike Mangan helped develop our long awaited new training module on Surf Etiquette. These individuals have contributed greatly to making our certification program the "best" around.



On a personal note, Bruce was in Huntington Beach in October for the annual Blessing of the Waves ceremony. Then in December he managed to catch a bad cold that turned into bronchitis. Not so good as it caused him to get a hernia that was finally fixed in an operation in February, taking him out of action for several weeks. He did manage to get down to Panama for a week at the Morro Negro Surf Camp just prior to the operation. This was sort of a last

surf trip "just in case" for him before going under the knife. The picture shows Bruce, Ryan Kerns, and NSSIA Washington instructor Bob Moe.

Besides enduring 39 degree water temps this winter, Herman Hall, with help from the Kitty Hawk Kayak and Surf School, coordinated the 2009 North Carolina Big Beach Cleanup effort in Dare and Currituck Counties this last fall. This event is part of International Coastal Cleanup Day and turnout was huge!!! Literally tons of garbage were cleaned from the beach. He coordinated efforts from Corolla to

Hatteras Village. Besides the cleanup, he is super excited about continuing to work with the OBX Family YMCA for their surf lessons this spring, as well as the Currituck County 4H summer programs. He also spent the spring planning the Kitty Hawk Kayak & Surf School's first surf, kayak and yoga retreat to be held this spring on the Outer Banks. Its been a busy spring and fixin' to be a busier summer.

Krissy Montgomery has purchased the Surf Sister Surf School from 10-year owner Jenny Stewart. Krissy has been a long-time employee and manager for the past 7 years and took the big step this past month. Surf Sister is opening another school in Ucluelet, British Columbia this summer. Surf Sister NSSIA certified instructors are shown at right.



On another note, Krissy is a director of the British Columbia Association of Surf Instructors. BCASI is currently considering becoming a division of NSSIA and is evaluating a proposal from NSSIA for this to happen. More will be forthcoming.

FCA Surf School Director Joe Matera reports that he hosted the first surf camp in Egyptian surfing history this past December. "The mini-camp was held in Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea with 20 campers in semi-choppy knee to waist high surf with onshore winds," Joe said. "The temperatures were in the low 60's both in the water and on the land." Joe said that he has just launched a new web site www.fcasurf.org and is introducing a new Girls' division and Surf Clubs Surf Camps that can meet on school campuses or in the community.

NSSIA certified instructor Robert Farmer said that he went to Costa Rica with a film crew this past month and is shooting a learn to surf DVD that is sponsored by Warner Brothers, Rip Curl, and Firewire Surfboards. Included in this video will be Noah Synder, Jesse Hines, Jamie DeWitt Baittenger and Courtney Conologue.



NSSIA instructor Melissa Diamond (left) just returned to Florida from a year in Nicaragua where she taught at the Chicabrava all girl's surf camp in San Juan del Sur. She is now working full time at Ron Jon Surf School in Cocoa Beach.

Long Beach, New York's Surf2Live Surf School is opening for business on May

1st, according to owner and operator Elliot Zuckerman. Elliot, who spends his winters surfing in Puerto Rico, is planning on holding several “Surfer’s Way” free outings for kids with special needs on Long Island this summer. All will take place



in Long Beach. He tells everyone to check out the website www.surfersway.org for details.

NSSIA instructor Chris Stellato (left) from Virginia reports that he spent the entire winter rehabbing from a torn knee ligament injury but expects a full recovery for his busy summer teaching gig.

Outside South Surf School owner and NSSIA instructor Jason Doshier say that he has been receiving

school class reservations since January for his successful surf school in Holden Beach, North Carolina. He reports the water temperature has been extremely cold.

Lydia Fonvielle reports that her surf school “Outside South” is gearing up for warmer temperatures in Holden Beach, North Carolina and is celebrating its second year in operation.

Maryland NSSIA instructor Bonnie Prezoski reports that she just returned from a three-week trip to Playa Marbella, Costa Rica (pictured at right) and is preparing to start teaching this coming month. She was fortunate to have hooked up with her 74-year old mom in Vail, Colorado this winter, and skied with her for two weeks. She reports that her mom was ripping it up on the slopes.



Another NSSIA Maryland surf instructor, Mary Kerns reports that other than a short surfing trip to Central America, she spent the winter suffering through record snow storms and frigid water at home. She has also been working on updating the NSSIA instructor's manual sections related to first aid and hazards in the water.

Northern Oregon’s top NSSIA surf instructor Bob Moe said that he stayed over 5 weeks at the Morro Negro Surf Camp located on a private island 250 miles west of Panama City, Panama, which offered 84-degree water and consistent surf. Bob shared instruction duties with another certified instructor from England while attending the camp. Bob noted that there was only access to the camp by boat and there were no dedicated roads or electricity to the island. “The camp has many healing qualities being away from cosmopolitan and tourist activities in a natural palm tree setting in the Pacific Ocean tropics.”

NSSIA Media Director Peter Pan reports that while standup and surfing lessons were scarce in the icy cold frigid New England snow and sleet mayhem, there were plenty of snowboard lessons to teach. He says: "This is my 20th season working at the local ski area, Yawgoo Valley, and we had unreal snow and lots of lessons this winter, which kept me busy teaching when I wasn't riding."



Pro surfer and NSSIA instructor Noah Snyder (left) reports that with water temps in the low 40 all winter, a lot of surfers went into hibernation. Adaptation was a must! With his Ski, hot water, and Hurley's sick Phantom wetsuit he was able to push through the elements of the Outer Banks and charge the waves all winter long. He says there were a few monumental days

of surfing that the Banks delivered, and thankfully he was able to nab a few good ones! Now he is looking forward to the spring's warmer weather, water, great waves, and of course lessons. He will also be featured in the Learn to Surf video being produced by NSSIA instructor "Farmdog" Farmer. The awesome picture above was taken by Matt Lusk at S-Turns.

NSSIA Director Skip Savage gave some lessons in Cocoa Beach, but it's been so cold!!!! He also did get a chance to paddle around Jocasay Lake in South Carolina. It was very beautiful, but he didn't go down any rapids.

Jack Powell is opening up his own surf school in Bethany Beach, De. Jack worked at Snake's Surf School for the past 4 years and feels the time is right to move forward with his own operation. He presented NSSIA program information to the State of Delaware and they decided that his school will be the only school allowed to give lessons on Delaware State Beaches. One other note, Jack visited NSSIA instructor Elliot Zuckerman this past winter in Puerto Rico.

Santa Cruz NSSIA instructor Yvo Chichizola reports that in November, he went to Peru with NSSIA Director Kim Hamrock and joined another group of surfers to work on a pilot project call Econexion Surf Adventures. With the help of Kim as the travel ambassador, he held a Surf Clinic in the town of Pimentel, located in the north of Peru



(pictured with Kim). Beside the surf clinic and the interactive activities, they donated clothing, surf accessories, wetsuits and surfboards. It was a great experience of sharing and happiness. Winter was also the season of big waves and a good excuse to work out and to challenge himself snowboarding in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe. For summer Yvo plans to start teaching private surf lessons between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, CA.

Port Aransas, TX NSSIA instructor Puddy Albright (with a group at right) is upgrading and improving his surf lesson leash design with a custom molded piece to improve any twisting up of the cord, like Bob Neely is experiencing with his SUP leash. He went to Encinitas in March to work out the leash and fin manufacturing details. He also just started his spring season. He says the temperature just hit 80 degrees and the Spring Break season is heating up.



Gerry Kantor of Leucadia Surf School (with hat left) reports that he has his beach permit moved from Grandview beach in Leucadia where he started and was located for 8 years, to Moonlight Beach, the main beach in Encinitas, which has much better beginner waves, a higher maximum number of students allowed in his permit (from 12 at Grandview to 36 at Moonlight), and

bathrooms, a lot of parking, a snack bar, and which is very easy for people to find being straight down Encinitas Blvd from the freeway. He is very happy to get moved to Moonlight, a site he has been wanting for years. Currently, for the easter break, it has been very busy. He has also recently acquired a lot of new wetsuits and boards, and is looking forward to a very, very busy summer season.

NSSIA Director Lou Maresca writes that he gave lessons every month through the coldest winter Florida has ever experienced. He also spent alot of time on the North Shore of Oahu where he met Jamie O, Michael Ho, Fred Hemmings, Ross Clarke Jones, Andy, Kelly, Rob Machado, The Malloys, Reno, Buttons, Brock and Herbie Fletcher to name a few. Surf was surrealistic at times, but soooooo good. People

have many misconceptions about the North Shore. It is really not as crowded as Florida except for the month of the triple crown and Eddie.....even then there are plenty of spots to surf with low crowd and high fun levels. The food, culture, history, mythology, and scenery are unreal too. The locals all extended Aloha to him and the vibes were great.

NSSIA Huntington Beach instructor Taylor Gibbs says the winter was exciting this year. El Nino brought a couple huge swells through Huntington Beach, and like every winter, he had a blast trying to harness every one. Although he hasn't been able to surf as much as he would have liked this season due to an overstuffed college schedule, he took every chance he got to ride some of the world's most consistent surf. He also says his surf school website design is being published and the sun is shining bright lately. The Haiti Surfathon is being hosted by his Mahalo Surf School in Huntington Beach. The details aren't established yet, but the funds donated will go directly to a non-profit organization providing supplies and medical aid to Haitians.

NSSIA Coach Jaz Kaner writes winter in Southern CA was the usual mixed bag: Scattered calls from the hotels – lessons for people escaping ice storms in Michigan. We had one pretty heinous run of weather in December. Biblical rains, flooding, and the ocean became this usual polluted stew of runoff pollution, logs and trash floating everywhere. Surf was running ten feet plus with a jagged closed-out horizon under stormy skies. It was miserable. A friggin waterspout hit at the Huntington Beach pier. Jaz copied a picture of it and emailed it to the hotels saying, "Hey, how come we're not getting any surf lessons lately?" The phone rang not ten minutes later. It was a hotel. They had a group that wanted a surf lesson. Jaz politely explained why it wasn't going to happen. (They were from Michigan).

NSSIA instructor Tom Saulnier (right) reports he spent another winter up at Jay Peak, Vermont. He's been coordinating Special Events trying to make a property purchase. He is also looking forward down the road to his snowboard resort having a wave pool that he could do inland lessons at. He also wants to upgrade his level and start training additional surf instructors to be certified by NSSIA in Southern Maine for this summer.



NSS IA CA instructor Jill Nakano reports the business has had it's ebb and flow with it being a spectacular winter season for the slopes and less so for surfing in Orange County except for a few blasts of perfect surf. The storms have messed up the local

sand bars making it a bit challenging but I'm looking forward to some spring cleaning and better conditions soon. Glad to say that people are starting to book for the summer months with east coasters making west coast plans to hit the surf in July, Wahine Kai Surf Club and Surf to Save the Planet have enlisted her - so every seasonal change brings new opportunities!

Oregon NSSIA instructor Sony Owens writes that it was a pretty harsh winter for old timers on the North coast of Oregon, The Seaside cove has been rideable from time to time but the swells have been too big from the El Nino event, on the other hand some of the other areas have been going off for guys and girls that can ride 2x overhead and have a steady stream of boards available or lots of materials to put them back together after they break on the rocks and in the impact zones. Went to Hawaii in Feb. to get some smaller surf and see the sun had a fun trip surfed at Hanalei Bay nearly every day on the inside breaks with the rest of the kooks. Outside point was averaging 6 to 10 foot Hawaiian most every day.

NSSIA Director Kali Montaro reports his Big Kahuna Surf has been granted a TM (trade mark) and is in process of becoming Registered. He has also signed agreements w/Joyo's Surf Camp & Bobby's Surf Camp both at G Land and is the authorized representative for both Indo surf camps. Sales have been picking up and should be a banner year for both surf camps. After a slow start to 2010 due to poor weather conditions, Spring Break has been awesome with a 20% increase over sales instruction over last year. His Big Kahuna Surf Camp Summer Surf Camp is SOLD out again this year. Kali is currently working with Board Retailers Association (BRA) and Surf Expo for NSSIA to do a seminar at Surf Expo September 2010.

This is from Matt Cole and Matt Linton near San Francisco. This winter has been a bit slow at the University of Surfing. The swell has been pounding and so has the rain. We did get involved in a few projects though that are taking surfing to a whole new level. As well, we have launched SUP lessons as a new way for people to get involved in the ocean. We have developed a Surf PE class section called Ocean Discovery Education. In addition, we are pushing our Surf Coaching, trying to increase surfers wave count, safety and stand up time. We also will be sending out our surf school brochure to corporations and schools to promote our team building events! This looks to be a great spring and summer as El Nino continues to rock and the weather begins to improve.

NSSIA instructor Turner Horton reports that this winter he decided to pursue a surf instruction job fulltime in Maui, going out there on a whim. It took about a month and a half until he settled in really good with a surf school that instructs in front of the Westin in Ka'anapali on the west side. From what he's learned thus far, certification and resumes don't mean much there but local knowledge of surf breaks and surfing experience do. It also helps to know a few key people and to stay humble.

NSSIA instructor Steve Horton reports winter on Tybee Island brings bigger waves periodically, but as the water temperature approaches 48 degrees, these old bones tend to look toward landward activities. In the absence of trips toward the equator,

the Coastal Georgia/Low Country Surfrider chapter provides a venue for me to keep in touch with the local surf community and participate in some worthwhile projects.

Along with the standard meetings and clean-ups, the chapter started a beach water quality project this winter. It is being funded by the Coastal Management Program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and NOAA. Over the course of the study, Surfrider volunteers will conduct field surveys to compare beach water quality in areas of high bird density to control areas. More information is available in the Surfrider publication "Making Waves". With the March 31st release of "The Last Song", a movie filmed last summer on Tybee Island, we are preparing for a busy season for all businesses on Tybee to include adult surfing lessons and our menehune surf camps.

NSSIA instructor Al Mahoe from Alysha Surf School in Hawaii writes he had to book his lessons for mid-day when the ocean wasn't so cold. He also said if the winds are variable the night before, then booking lessons in the mornings wasn't so bad. For Hawaii winters are better than summers...REASON everyone wants to run from there colder climate!

Southwest NSSIA instructor David Van Druff reports this past winter he surfed triple overhead waves on the island of Molokai, HI, with longtime friend and surfteamate for WaveTrek/Greek Surfboards John Van Ornum. Waves were the largest he has ever witnessed or rode. He surfed 5 of his 7 days on the island. Average daily temp 75 degrees, water temp 72 degrees. Everyday there were not more than 5 surfers out including him. He got to see whales, dolphins and a rare monk seal. Spring surfing has taken him to Huntington Beach and Oceanside with the waves 4-6 feet and the H2O temp a chilly 57 degrees