

Ventura Surf Club
PO Box 6305
Ventura CA 93006



October 2008



WWW.VENTURASURFCLUB.ORG



***The Ventura Surf Club exists to preserve,
promote and perpetuate the values, beliefs
and essence of surfing.***



Message From The President

A very big THANK YOU to all the Ventura Surf Club members for their help at the annual C Street Longboard Classic. It was great to see everybody helping and making this event another success! This is the fourth year that the C Street Museum Foundation has produced this event with a goal of opening a permanent surfing museum in Ventura. The Thursday following the contest, I met with the director and curator of the Ventura History Museum to discuss a permanent exhibit in their newly remodeled museum. While discussions are on-going, we seem to be headed in the right direction! A demo DVD was created for the museum folks to show them what we could offer the museum. The DVD included both vintage and contemporary surfing, along with some clips for our oral history project, *The History Of Surfing in Ventura*. Thank you to Ian Mariani for his creative editing! If you would like to see the demo, please visit the "video" page on the surf club web site. We have lowered the e luau ticket price, so I hope to see all of you there! PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED FORM TO SIGN-UP AND PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY! WE NEED AN ACCURATE HEAD COUNT! I am really looking forward to 2009! It should be a very fun year for our club! We have added a shortboard division and plan to repeat those very popular contest/bbq/meetings! We are ordering shirts early this year, so we will have them available at our club sign-up in January (see other notice in this newsletter).

Thanks to everyone for the continued support!

Michael Mariani



The following story was written by VSC member Ken McAlpine. It was originally published in American Airlines magazine, *American Way* in 1996. Ken lives in Ventura with his wife and two boys. He makes his living as a writer for many magazines like *Outdoor*, *Sunset*, *Dive* and others. He has also published some books; the most recent was "Off Season" – a very enjoyable read! He has a new book due out next year which involves our Channel Islands (he won't tell us any more). Ken can be found doing "research" in the water most days with his two boys and sometimes his wife. Ken is also the interviewer for our oral history project "The History of Surfing in Ventura". He is one of the most positive persons I have ever met! Enjoy the story and thank you Ken!

Michael Mariani

Mexico

Life is about hope and ours is sky-high. JT is leaning forward, stabbing his finger repeatedly at the scene unfolding before us. "Look at that! Look at that!" he says. On the TV, a surfer dances across a perfect wave. The wave reels on and on and on. The surfer dances across its face under an impeccably blue sky; JT moans in the background. Finally the wave dissipates, and the exhausted surfer falls off his board. "God," sighs JT. "What would you give to be that guy?"

JT, forty-eight, is typical of the older surfer. With a wife, a daughter, and a mortgage, he has to work some gruesome hours as a lawyer for the local planning department in our hometown of Ventura, and only gets to surf, at best, once or twice a week. In most situations, JT is a rock of maturity and urbane reason – until he sees good surf, in which case he suddenly begins grunting and flapping about madly as if someone has just poked him in the eye with a stick.

Few bonds are as intense as the one between wave and surfer. Each surfer is enraptured for his or her own reasons, reasons that can sometimes be difficult to fathom, as most young surfers communicate via monosyllabic bursts punctuated by hoots and grunts. But having surfed for twenty years, I feel safe in saying that surfing satisfies certain deep elemental needs: the need to connect with nature, the need to test oneself against the elements, the need to duck responsibility and get the hell out of the house.

This thrall is often white-hot. The young surfer is convinced he will spend his life traveling the world, hacking through malarial jungles, eating grubs, and defying convention in pursuit of perfect waves, ridden, with just a few close friends, against an impossible exotic backdrop. Unfortunately, as the surfer ages, other imperatives arise, such as the need to keep the bank from foreclosing on the house. And so the surfer relinquishes the dream.

Or so I thought, until JT plopped down on my couch and began his shameless pandering with the video he had received from Baja AirVentures, a San Diego-based outfitter. JT explained that the company would fly us from Brown Field, a small airstrip at the edge of the Mexican border, to a surf spot deep in Baja. There, off a rocky point sixty miles from anything remotely resembling a road, we would surf glorious waves, our immediate needs catered to in grand style.

We would camp under the stars. We would eat lobster hauled scabbling from an azure Pacific. We would watch smoky-red sunsets hiss into the sea. Most important, we would only be gone three days, so our wives would let us go.

We would travel with six other friends, most of them in their forties, all of them surfers who surf too little. We would escape the crowds and indulge in every surfer's fantasy. Perfect waves, all alone. JT shook his head slowly.

"This," he said, "could be the trip of a lifetime."



(continued on page 4)



Anteater Adventures

I moved back down to UC Irvine the end of September, and was sad to leave home. After I was all settled in my apartment, I headed out to the Anteater Involvement Fair. All the sororities, frats, and clubs on campus set up tents in the park and recruit new people. The surf team lost more than half the team last year when a bunch of the guys graduated, so we really needed some new people. Most of the people that hit up our tent have never surfed before, and we weren't surprised. "Do you guys give lessons?" We'd respond, "No... we compete, but we may give lessons sometime..." After hours of not much progress we packed up and headed to the Del Mar Fair Grounds for a Save Trestles hearing.

One of the guys on the team is really passionate about saving Trestles and he was on the list of people to speak. We got there in the late afternoon, and it had been going on since the early morning. There were booths all outside in the parking lot where you could make signs, get you face and arms painted, write letters to government officials, and join Surfrider and other environmental organizations. We made our way through and went to the other side that was for the 241. They had a huge map up showing where it could go and men trying to explain that the construction and design of the road would not interfere with the surf break. My buddy was talking to the guy and pushing all his buttons, so we left to go inside.

Once inside there were hundreds of people wearing Save Trestles gear and the "Save the park, stop the toll road" shirts they were giving out. It was really a site to see; I've never seen so many diverse people all together fighting for a cause. Then there was the orange-shirted pro 241 crowd. Their shirts said, "Live better, build roads," and on the other side "Less traffic, more jobs" and I thought to myself... California is a really special place to live, why can't these people see that, and understand that if you don't like the traffic, MOVE. After all, we can't move the land and surf. We've heard that they were getting paid to be there, and every time one of them spoke, they were quickly booed. We heard hours of speeches from different environmental agencies who presented information both for and against the project. After all the agencies spoke, the public took over. Old, young, surfers, campers all told their stories about how the road would impact their lives. Of all the speakers, the one that stood out most to me was a young boy. He had bright blond hair and a Save San Onofre shirt. He must have been ten years old, and barely tall enough to reach the podium, He talked about how his family surfs and how much a part of their lives the ocean is. He very coherently gave his speech and touched the audience with his urgency that the project will take away a precious part of California that future generations should get to enjoy. I think what really drew the audience to the young boy, was that he was young. He is the next generation and we were touched to see that in a day of TV. and video games, there still maybe hope that kids will get out there and enjoy the world. He ended his speech asking the panel to consider the future generations and walked back to his seat through a standing ovation and cheers from all the supporters.

As the hearing went on, we got closer and closer to my buddy's name on the list to speak. Unfortunately, they ended right at eight thirty and my friend didn't get to speak. So we left disappointed, but with a lot of valuable information. I could write pages on all that I learned, instead I'll give some internet links, and encourage you to read about it and make your own judgments. If you're at all interested in the cause, either for or against the road, I encourage you to attend one of the hearings and learn more, we really enjoyed the experience, and I'm more eager to become more involved.

<http://www.surfrider.org/savetrestles/> <http://www.savetrestles.com/>



Peace, love and keeping the beach clean, *Amanda Heetand-Pamieri*



DATE	DAY	EVENT	HOST/LOCATION
October 11 th	Saturday	Intra-Club Contest	<i>The Wall</i> (Between Faria and Hobson)
October 14 th	Tuesday	VSC Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m. - <i>Guest speaker – Dave Ogle</i>	<i>Paradise Grill & Bar</i>
October 31 st – November 2 nd	Friday through Sunday	Hobson Campout with Santa Barbara Surf Club Friday night is “trick or treat” and haunted house. Saturday is the Costume Surf Contest	<i>Hobson State Park</i>
November 9 th	Sunday	<i>Last VSC Intra-Club Contest</i>	<i>Solimar</i>
November 11 th	Tuesday	VSC Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Guest speaker – Jenn Feinberg, ocean policy consultant, will present a short talk on protected marine areas	<i>Paradise Grill & Bar</i>
November 16 th	Sunday	VSC Annual Luau	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion</i>

For the most up to date calendar information, visit www.venturasurfclub.org.

Mexico – continued from page 2

Baja California is a fat, 800-mile long finger of harsh and beautiful landscape that juts between the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortes. There are mountains as high as 10,000 feet and lush valleys thick with date palms, but most of Baja’s terrain is desert – dirt, broken rock, and gray-brown scrub that looks like it’s been baked at 450 degrees for an eternity, which it has. This moonscape ensures that enormous slices of Baja are devoid of human life – good news if you desire solitude, bad news if you’ve become reliant on AAA.

The conditions are precisely why Kevin Warren established Baja Air Ventures. A surfer himself, Kevin first started flying into Baja with friends to log air hours toward his dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot. Initially, he flew his buddies to Scorpion Bay, a fairly well-known Baja surf spot popular with gringo surfers. But while buzzing low over the coastline, they couldn’t help but notice lots of other spots that were plenty isolated, with better surf. Where possible, Kevin would jounce the plane to a landing, and he and his buddies would pile out to surf perfect waves – alone. Word spread, and people started calling Kevin at home. In 1992, a full-time business was born. “The airplane,” Kevin told me, “is the ultimate off-road vehicle.”

Indeed. Before we left I consulted some road guides to Baja. Only one mentioned the spot where we were headed, an isolated fish camp 260 nautical miles down the Pacific coast.

“Head west from Tres Enriques,” it read, “and kiss your ass goodbye.”



(continued next month)



BITS & PIECES of VALUABLE Info

SHORT BOARD DIVISION TO BE ADDED IN 2009 SEASON

For those of you that ride short boards or have family members that ride them: We will offer a shortboard division in 2009. In addition to offering something different to our existing members, we hope this new division will bring new members to VSC, so please tell your friends that ride those height challenged boards! Elaine Reasor has agreed to organize the division. We intend to have just one, open division for all ages and genders to start. The idea is to get out there and have some fun on those shortboards! The shortboard division will surf at each of our intra-club events. The standard \$5 fee will still apply for the contest, so you can surf both long and shortboard events for just \$5!

Membership Input Required

We currently mail a paper newsletter every month to every member. The costs to mail the newsletter continues to rise. We also post the newsletter on the website every month so any body can read it via the website. We are looking at raising our membership fees in 2009 and I was wondering if people would like the option of not receiving a paper newsletter? One idea would be to offer the paper newsletter as an added cost to the annual membership fee. This allows us to hold the membership costs down and allow people the option of paying extra to receive the paper newsletter. We could offer the paper newsletter at \$10 per year extra. The other option is to raise the annual membership fees by \$10 to everyone and mail the newsletter to all.

2008 Club Shirts

There are no more 2008 shirts and no plans to print anymore. There are a few people that did not yet pick up their shirt(s). If you do not pick it up by the luau, it will be given away as raffle fodder !



Ventura Surf Club

2009 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UPS

The January 2009 club meeting will be combined with our 2009 membership sign-ups. The sign-ups will be on Saturday, January 17th from 12 pm to 3 pm at Snapper Jack's in Ventura. NOTE: **THE 2009 CLUB SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP WHEN YOU SIGN UP!** Everyone that signs up on this day will also receive a free Snapper Jack's taco! Check the www.venturasurfclub.org calendar for a complete schedule of events !

Current membership is 80

SPEAKERS AT OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS - DON'T MISS OUT!

Our October meeting will feature Dave Ogle from Ogle Vision. We watched one of Dave's movies, Reflections at our last meeting. Dave will be speaking to the club about his movie making, as well as selling some of his movies on DVD. We will also be raffling off a couple of Dave's movies - one raffle ticket will be give to each member in attendance at no charge!

Our November meeting will feature a short talk by Ocean Policy Consultant Jenn Feinberg from Natural Resources Defense Council. She will be discussing marine protected areas off our Southern California Coast.



Ocean or Landfill?

I took an Ocean and Climate class this past school year, and thought that a lot of the information that I learned would interest other surfers. The health of our oceans and its creatures directly impacts our lives. One major concern is the use of plastics. There are numerous Eastern and Western garbage patches that circulate around the Pacific. Currents sweep debris from developing countries from all over the world resulting in a massive 3.5 million tons of plastics, nets, factory byproducts, and other debris.

The Great Garbage Patch, as it has been named, floats between Hawaii and San Francisco. Plastics outnumber sea life with a 6 to 1 ratio. I'm sure you've heard about the larger animals, like the millions of birds, seals, and fish that die from eating the plastics, but have you ever thought about the smaller creatures? The impact of the garbage patch has a direct correlation with global warming. Since the massive entanglement of plastic bottles, toys, shoes, and other trash is so dense, it blocks the sun from the top layer of phytoplankton that live near the water surface. Like other plants, these plankton use sunlight as energy. If they can't get sunlight, they don't photosynthesize the carbon dioxide in the water. When carbon dioxide levels rise, the water temperature rises. Studies at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego have shown that this microscopic plankton also is very important in absorbing the sun's radiation. When the populations deplete, the sun's radiation that would normally be absorbed by the plankton, is instead reflected back into the atmosphere, contributing to higher atmospheric temperatures.

Other than impacting sea life, the garbage patch dumps tons of broken up plastics on beaches. In many remote places, you can find "Plastic sand" beaches, where the patch has dumped so much ground up plastic parts, that instead of sand, it's plastic pellets.

I encourage anyone that loves the ocean and beach to learn more about these garbage patches. Below are a few sites I looked at or Google the Great Garbage Patch for more information and organizations working on clean-up projects?

I've noticed that the whole environmentally friendly thing has become quite trendy with shirts and bags everywhere saying "Save the Planet," "Recycle," and so on. But I ask that you don't buy into the trend, instead be active. We can not change the developing countries trash regulations, but we can pick up trash and recycle locally.

I know you all love to surf, just imagine if you couldn't because of a chunk of plastic and trash the size of Texas floating off of C Street. Well, the chunk is out there...

"Just as you don't have to be a business major to open your own business, you don't have to be an environmentalist to create change."

Keeping the peace, love, and beach clean- Amanda

<http://www.greatgarbagepatch.org/>

http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-ocean2aug02_0,5274274_full.story

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s735612.htm>

