

South Bay Chapter

After recent violence caused by pervasive localism at Palos Verdes Estates surf breaks (PVE), the South Bay Chapter of Surfrider Foundation has teamed up with the PVE Police Department, L.A. County Sheriff's Department, Surfline.com, concerned area surfers and other recreational users to make Palos Verdes surf spots safe and accessible to all surfers and beach users. Localism is a phenomenon in which surfers claim a nearby surf spot as their own territory and prevent "outsiders" from surfing through a variety of tactics including; harassment, intimidation, vandalism, and physical violence.

Palos Verdes Estates has a 30-year history of localism that prevents access to some of the best big wave breaks in California. A recent incident at a surf break known as Indicator in PVE has energized the South Bay Chapter and the surfing community to take action to end this "gang activity" and open PVE surf breaks to all users.

At a recent meeting between the South Bay Chapter, PVE Police Department and LA County Sheriff's Department the chapter created the following plan of action as part of their campaign to combat localism in the area.

- *Schedule regular surf and beach clean up days at PVE Beaches (Indicator, Lunada Bay, PV Cove and Haggerty's). The first clean up is scheduled for March 9, 2002 at Indicator. PVE PD will supply bags, gloves and haul out the garbage*
- *Establish a "Call Before You Surf" Program to alert PVE Police when surfers are going out at breaks where localism is prevalent. Police will keep a separate logbook to record the calls*
- *Organize a "Waterproof Camera Loan Program" so beach users can photo-document individuals who harasses or intimidate beach users*

chapter eco-activism

by Edward Mazzarella

- *Create a "Surf Watch Program" similar to the Neighborhood Watch Program. A team of trained volunteers will be stationed at surf breaks and on the cliffs during good swells to monitor and immediately report gang-like activities to the PVE police*
- *Raise the funding needed to put a web camera up at Lunda Bay. (They've already installed one at Indicator)*
- *Provide pertinent information on the chapter's web page and in their newsletter*
- *Explore the addition of municipal codes and ordinances that prohibit specific gang activities and mandate safe handling of surfboards and other surfing equipment*

On February 21, PVE Police Chief Timm Browne was the guest speaker at the South Bay Chapter's general meeting. He spoke to the crowd about the campaign to end localism in PVE area. The chapter hopes that this campaign will serve as template for other chapters and regions that face similar issues. As with all campaigns, the chapter will evaluate it one step at a time.

Cape Fear Chapter

The Cape Fear Chapter recently implemented the Respect the Beach program into Wrightsville Beach Elementary School as part of an ongoing effort to educate area students about coastal ecology issues. Along with the assistance of the school's guidance counselor, Cissie Venters, chapter members began teaching the introductory lessons of Beachology, the first unit in the Respect the Beach program.

Using a range of learning formats, fifth and third grade students will explore the many uses of the ocean, deepen their understanding of the coastal environment, and learn how to use mapping skills to determine the approximate number of miles of coastline that surround the seven continents. These activities will prove to be an essential base for future lessons because Cape Fear Chapter members will be working with students once a week until the Respect the Beach program is completed. The chapter hopes to expand the program in the next few months to other grade levels and area schools so that all students have an opportunity to share in this knowledge.

Surfrider Foundation's Respect the Beach program is a coastal educational program that includes field trips, classroom discussions and hands-on activities designed to reflect up-to-date scientific information and a holistic approach to understanding the coastal environment.

San Mateo County, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Chapters

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Management Plan is in the process of being reviewed and Surfrider Foundation's San Mateo County, San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz Chapters have all submitted recommendations. The work that has been done to improve water quality and non-point source pollution over the past 10 years in the sanctuary has shown positive results. Now, as the guidelines are up for renewal, Surfrider Foundation feels that this presents a fantastic opportunity to continue and expand these important efforts. The chapters feel that stricter legislation needs to be created and that greater enforcement of regulations needs to be implemented.

Some of the recommendations from the San Luis Bay Chapter included a request to extend the southern boundary of the sanctuary to Point Sal in Santa Barbara County and to ban the passage of oil tankers, except between Point San Pedro and Rocky Point. The Santa Cruz Chapter's recommendations included a request that coastal planning be addressed within the sanctuary's realm. Coastal erosion and armoring is a timely and most challenging issue within the sanctuary's boundaries. The deleterious nature of coastal armoring is to our coastlines is well-understood as a quick fix and at best, only a temporary solution.

The San Mateo County Chapter has requested that the sanctuary support a total ban on Personal Water Craft within its entire boundaries and that they adopt the language of Farallones Marine Sanctuary where a total ban on all PWC went into effect in October 2001. This request is based on the well-documented environmental impacts associated with PWC. All three chapters made recommendations on the use of PWC within the sanctuary that are consistent with Surfrider Foundation's National Personal Water Craft Policy. To find out more detailed information on the chapters recommendations, please contact the chapters directly.

Maui Chapter

In January the 12 Annual Ho'opliha Surf Classic was held in memory of Justin Roberson. The theme of this year's contest was "Save Your Ride", in reference to roadway safety and the popular surf sites, "Freight Train" and "Off the Wall", which will be destroyed by the proposed Maalaea Harbor expansion. The Maui Chapter, which has been heavily involved in a campaign to stop the proposed harbor expansion, was the recipient of contest t-shirt sales. Proceeds went toward the "Save Ma'alaea Campaign". Volcom Stone donated 36 dozen long-sleeved t-shirts with a local Hana artist design portraying a picture of Justin in the tube at Ma'alaea's Freight Train. The contest took place in waves ranging from four-foot to eight-foot close-out sets consisting of 11 contest divisions. The contest was organized by Maui Chapter Chairperson, Jan Roberson whose son Justin was killed in 1989 after accepting a ride from a drunk driver in California. Surfrider Foundation appreciates the Roberson Family involving the Maui Chapter as a beneficiary in this special event.

Westport Clean Water Classic

With a confused west swell hammering the Washington coast beach-breaks, Surfrider Foundation's 1st Annual Winter Clean Water Classic (February 16 & 17) set up shop in front of the Islander Motel, inside the Grays Harbor jetties, where (at least some of the time) the chaos was organized into genteel waves with the occasional rippable shoulder. Under the scrupulous eye of local contest impresario and Westport chapter chairman Rob Brown (who dished his own spot in the event to Lincoln City, Oregon shopmeister Mike Jipp), this was a well-oiled and enjoyable event with all the inter-generational camaraderie and stoke of some bygone golden era. Westport has soul!

Hosted by Surfrider's Washington State chapters, presented by Quiksilver, and sponsored by R.E.I.,

and a flock of regional surf and non-surf businesses. All entry fees included a one-year membership in Surfrider Foundation; contest proceeds benefitted Washington State chapters.

Special guest judges included amiable head judge Sonny Owens (once a denizen of Huntington Beach surf shops), Dan Calohan (master shaper of Plastic Fantastic fame), Kevin Ranker (Surfrider's Pacific NW regional coordinator), and former pro Jeff Booth (now a key man in sales for Quiksilver), who brought along a pile of Quik wetsuits for competitors to water-test.

Typical of these semi-annual Westport events, the social calendar was jam-packed with celebrity appearances and good times. Spectators at the Groins were entertained by the free-surfing of big-wave icon Peter Mel on Saturday, however, after Saturday night's all-ye-can-eat buffet and Dirty Birds dance at the Islander (and later the Shipwreck nearly rocked off its moorings), Mel made no further appearances till way late on Sunday.

As the contest ended, a light drizzle gave way to a true Grays Harbor downpour, and everyone packed into the Islander where Aloha Danny Fernandez was already setting the mood with his wonderful Hawaiian guitar and song. A perfect lead-in to the big raffle, and a great time for all, as surfboards, Quiksilver wetsuits, skateboards, and dozens of other items found happy homes. Then came the presentation of trophies — awesome creations by Mauna Kai Hawaii featuring nicely-shaped, removable model surfboards. The tribal celebration that followed echoed the age-old tradition of the successful hunt. —Drew Kampion

