

Ventura Surf Club
PO Box 6305
Ventura CA 93006



January/February 2010



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

President's Message

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Ventura Surf Club and 2010! We are planning another fun filled year! The updated 2010 schedule is included in this newsletter. Some of the highlights include a Family Movie Night in February featuring *Surf's Up* with VSC member Bert Van Brande speaking to us about the making of the film. We plan to continue our short board division at each intra-club contest and once again return with the Tiki from our Battle Over The Line contest against Malibu Surfing Association (for the third year in a row!). We plan to have a booth at the Sacred Craft Surf Expo. We are hosting at least 2 pot-luck barbeques at the beach after our April and August intra-club contests and plan to once again have vendors at our annual C Street Long Board Classic in September. I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support of our club and hope to see everyone at our annual membership sign-ups on January 16 at Snapper Jack's (noon-3 p.m.). If you are not able to make it, you can mail the enclosed application with your payment or sign up online with a major credit card.

If you are reading this newsletter and are not a current member of the Ventura Surf Club, we invite you to join and be a part of your local surf club and community! Surfer's of all skill levels are welcome! The Ventura Surf Club provides a great way to meet other surfers and become active in the local surf scene. In addition to providing several surf-related events and surf contests for our members throughout the year, we also provide volunteer opportunities which support both our club and the community! I encourage everyone to join and become a part of the Ventura Surf Club family!

Wishing you all health, happiness and plenty of waves in 2010!

Sincerely,
Michael Mariani
President



2010 Event Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Host / Location</u>
01/09-10	Sat-Sun	Donheny Gathering of the Tribes	San Onofre
01/16	Sat	VSC 2010 Membership Sign-ups (noon-3 p.m.)	Snapper Jack's Taco Shack
01/24	Sun	Intra-Club contest	Middles
02/13-14	Sat-Sun	Big,Bad & Ugly	Morro Bay
02/20	Sat	VSC members - Family Movie Night w/Bert Van Brande & <i>Surf's Up</i> movie.	Yolie's Mex Grill 26 Garden Street
02/21	Sun	Intra-Club contest	Knuckleheads
03/21	Sun	Intra-Club contest	Solimar
04/11	Sun	Intra-Club contest followed by pot-luck bbq	Middles
05/16	Sun	Battle Over The Line (vs MSA)	County Line
06/19	Sat	Intra-Club contest	Middles
07/?? TBA	TBA	Intra-Club contest	Knuckleheads
07/?? TBA	TBA	Malibu Boardriders - Call To The Wall	Malibu
08/?? TBA TBA		Oceanside Noserider Contest	Oceanside
08/?? TBA	TBA	Intra-Club contest followed by pot-luck bbq	Middles
09/11-12	Sat-Sun	MSA Classic	Malibu
09/18/-19	Sat-Sun	C Street Longboard Classic	C Street
10/??	Sat-Sun	Swami's	Cardiff
10/30-31	Sat-Sun	Hobson Camp-out and costume surf with Santa Barbara Surf Club	Hobson
11/14	Sun	Final Intra-Club contest	Middles
11/21	Sun	Year End Luau and awards ceremony	TBA

Intra-club contests start at 7 a.m. - Please arrive 30 minutes early.

Intra-club contests are open to all current members. Entrant fee: \$5.

Points earned accumulate towards members annual totals for trophies.

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

Coalition events require sign-up and prepayment. Contact Jimmy Gray, VSC away contest coordinator.

IMPORTANT CHANGE:

Monthly Meeting Place Change for 2010!

Beginning in 2010, our monthly meeting place will change from Paradise Grill to Yolie's. Yes, the same Yolie's that we used to meet at (26 Garden Street @ Main St) and the location of our 2009 luau.

Annual membership sign-ups for 2010!

Our annual membership sign-ups will be held on Saturday, January 16 at Snapper Jacks (on Telegraph Rd across from college) from noon to 3 p.m.. Stop by, say hello, sign up and get your new club shirt & sticker!

New! Family Movie Night!

We plan to have our first family movie night in February with Surf's Up, including a discussion with Bert Van Brande about how he helped make the movie. Hope to see you and your family there!

New Hospitality Chair for 2010!

Beginning in 2010, the newly created position of Hospitality Chair will be filled by Jeanette and Joe Rameiri. This is a perfect fit, since these guys have entertained us with their multiple creative talents for many years!

Thanks to J&J !

VSC will attend 2010 Sacred Craft Surf Expo

The Sacred Craft Surf Expo returns to Ventura in April and the Ventura Surf Club will have a booth to promote the club and spread our aloha! This year's event will honor surfboard maker and local Reney Yater. Club members may volunteer to work our booth in shifts. We will be raffling off a surfboard and selling shirts to offset the cost of the booth. Those members that attended last year had a great time! This is a really fun event!



Missing The Point. Photo by Bert Van Brande

I called this picture "Missing the point" as the photographers were focussing on the contest while there was a lot of action at the point. Cheers, Bert.



Club Member Makes Two Rescues During Thanksgiving Swell

During our sizeable Thanksgiving week swell local lifeguards deservedly received most of the ink, making at least 22 rescues at the Ventura Pier, whose alongshore current, as any surfer knows, becomes something of an E-ticket ride during big swells. Lost in the media shuffle was club member Darryl Easter who performed two rescues of his own the day before Thanksgiving.

Darryl had just caught his second wave, delivering him into C Street's bay, when he heard someone shouting.

"I was going to get out of the water, but I turned around and looked and I saw this guy floating without a surfboard," says Darryl. "He was shouting something, but I couldn't really hear him because I had a hoodie on. I took off my hoodie and said 'What?' and he said 'Help!'"

Darryl got the surfer up onto his own board, well aware the current was now pulling them both toward the pier. A little shaken up, the surfer refused to lie down on the board. Darryl towed board and sit-up surfer in.

End of story? Not quite. After depositing the grateful surfer onshore, Darryl did what any right minded wave lover would do.

"I should have just gone in, but..."

Long story short, Darryl's timing isn't so good. Paddling back out into building sets sees him pushed in toward the beach and, once again, swept south toward the pier.

"The current was just raging through the pier," he says. "I figured I was going through, so I just turned around and lined up."

Darryl made it through unscathed. His board took some lumps. His wife made the accurate assessment.

"I came home and told her and she said, 'Well, you rescued two people today!'"





Bit's and Pieces

Reader Participation - Win \$\$\$!

WHAT'S A WATERY WORD WORTH?

Congratulations to new club member Mathew Faust, who may have just become one of the country's highest paid poets. Mathew's winning entry in our "Watery Words" contest earned him a \$25 gift certificate from Ventura Surf Shop. Stay tuned for future newsletter contests, all in the name of fun, and a little swag.

Winning Entry

Second Point

You paddle out at second point
on a cold, gray, 10 foot winters day.

dig in deep, break the lip,
take the drop, you're on the way

You crank a giant bottom turn
now, let your instincts lead the way.

suddenly, and by god's grace
all mortal fears - drift away.....

So let the faithful go to church,
This - is where we come to pray.

Being Yourself 24/7

Local surfer Dane Reynolds is widely regarded as one of the best surfers in the world. Apparently he's also able to keep things in perspective, and keep them pure and simple. Accepting an award at the 2009 Surfer Poll and Video Awards, Dane set the template that every Oscar winner should follow when mouthing the requisite thank yous.

"Thanks to Quiksilver for giving me stickers," said Dane, "and thank you Blair (his manager) for putting them on my surfboards."

New Contest!

SOUL MUSIC

The best surf songs of all time? A subjective call, but in this contest everyone wins. Blip your votes for best surf tunes to venturasurfclub@gmail.com. We'll put the top 10-12 songs on a CD and give 'em away at a future meeting.

Charging 24/7

Laird Hamilton has made a name for himself charging some of the world's biggest waves, but apparently Laird doesn't slow much on dry land either. Not long ago Laird found himself snowed in while visiting an upscale lodge in remote Alaska. While others might be content to sleep in, or at least stay in, here is how Laird dealt with cabin fever. Taking a chainsaw, he cut a hole through six feet of ice. Reportedly air temperatures were so cold that the hole, when left untended, began to ice over again in five minutes. Undaunted, Laird opted for the extreme spa treatment, first sitting in the sauna, then dashing across 100 yards of snow and plunging into the ice hole. Eventually tiring of this, he took out a snowmobile, rolling it several times before he had someone tow him behind the snowmobile on a snowboard. Then he headed into the forest to cut spruce trees (for firewood and hand-shaped stand-up paddleboards).

Your parents were right. There's always something to do.



Jim Bailey takes Ventura Aloha to Bangladesh

I'm going to Bangladesh for a month starting Jan. 9th. Turns out our Itinerary will take us to a surfing area in the south east. I'm putting a call out for a few extra supplies for the isolated and poor surfers in this region. A couple of leashes, an extra mag or two, old rash guard (long sleeves for the modest girls over there), etc. I can't take too much because baggage limits. But I can fly over a board for free on Emirates Airlines! I got a hold of Jon Wegener, and am trying to line up an alaia, due to its smaller size, sustainability, and the fact that they can learn to make their own with what they have there! There's an instructional video about Tom Wegener that Cyrus Sutton made, so I'm going to try and get a hold of that as well. The alaia will be heavily discounted according to Jon, but not free. I'm looking to the surf club to see if there are any people who would be willing to donate to this cause. Probably a couple hundred dollars would do it. I'm not sure yet, I'm talking with Wegener again today. Please let me know your thoughts. I'll put some links below, and a copy of a more detailed email I sent Wegener below. Meryy Christmas!

Thanks, Jim
805-794-3221

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7797565.stm A story on Jafar, Bangladesh's first surfer.
<http://boundforbangladesh.blogspot.com/> A link to the blog for the trip that I've just begun.
<http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org/> A link to the Rotary page that has some info about the trip.
<http://vimeo.com/5992002> A link to a 2 min. video about the Bangladesh Surf Club

Hi Jon,
My Goal

Thanks for giving me minute to tell you a little about our trip. Ultimately I am hoping that by January 6th I'll have an alaia (in any condition) and an instructional dvd to take to this pocket of surfers in southern Bangladesh. As you may be aware of, Bangladesh is a country of extreme poverty and I think the alaia's would be the only realistic way for the local kids to continue with surfing. With a few simple tools, a fallen tree, and practice, they should be able to make their own board; something no Bangladeshi kid in this poor region could ever afford. As far as I know, the Hawaiian non-profit, Surfing the Nations is the only group that has visited the area and they have brought some boards and equipment to help out, but this is obviously not sustainable. Of course I'll be taking them some stuff for the fiberglass boards they received from Nations, wax and leashes donated by Dan Malloy and some surf club friends. But I'd love to put surfing in reach to all the kids that want to learn. From the tone of your voice, I can tell you want to help.

Background

I was selected to be a part of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange team (GSE). Myself, and three other professionals (of varied fields) will be traveling with team leader John Kenyon to Bangladesh for one month, beginning January 9th. The purpose of the trip is vocational and cultural exchange with a strong ambassadorial ethic. We will be hosted by local Rotary districts all over the country, and will be visiting relevant work and cultural sites based on our professional and personal interests. We also will be meeting with Nobel Laureate, Mohammed Yunus toward the end of trip! We just received the finalized itinerary today, and it looks like we will be in for an amazing adventure. (I am attaching it below.) We will be home staying with local families of Rotarians in each place we travel. So it really will be a chance to meet and live amongst the people of Bangladesh.

From the Rotary website:

The Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's culture and institutions, observe how their vocations are practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

Jafar Alam

Another amazing aspect of this trip is that I have recently been able to connect with Jafar Alam, Bangladesh's first surfer (who knew?). He has an amazing story, and is doing a lot of good work to share surfing the poor children in his region of Cox's Bazar. I ran into Dan Malloy at a holiday party and he was excited to try and get some supplies for them. Dan had a huge flash of insight that we could try and provide them with an instructional video on making the alaia boards. Imagine the sustainability story in that! They could make their own boards from local resources, and this could be available to almost any young surfer no matter their economic status. Then I realized it wouldn't be out of the question to find a board that someone had the resources to donate or sell cheap. So here I am. We have a full day planned to spend with the Bangladesh Surf club and Jafar... I am stoked!

About Me

I've been surfing ever since my dad taught me in 1979. I college I judged NSSA's for a few years before moving to Santa Cruz. Currently, I am an 8th grade science teacher and I teach surf lessons through Ventura Surf Shop in the summers (no camps). I am the head judge for the C-Street Longboard Championships for the last three years. I usually ride a fish ;).

Thank You So Much For Your Time,

Jim Bailey
805-794-3221

This Surfboard for ONLY \$10

The Ventura Surf Club is offering this brand new 9'6" McTavish Fireball (and fins!) for raffle at \$10 per ticket. We are selling only 100 tickets. You may purchase tickets at many of our upcoming events (they will also be available for sale on the web site by the end of January). Proceeds from the raffle will be used to pay for our booth at the 2010 Sacred Craft Surf Expo.

Board details: 9'6" x 26" x 3" performance long board



Surfing the Net? visit us online at www.venturasurfclub.org

- * photos
- * videos
- * latest event schedule
- * links to surf related web sites
- * previous newsletters on-line

Using Facebook? Join as a fan of the Ventura Surf Club!



Travel News

Message from VSC member Andy Conlin sent via e-mail:

Hola Sufeareros and Sufeareras from Bocas Town on Islas Colon in the Boca del Toro archipeligo, northwest Panama:

Today I surfed Black Rock off Caranero Island. Interesting trip in that I learned you get on the launcha (no pangas in Panama, they're launchas) to go out the breaks surf ready as you're dropped off in the waves. Its too rough to land. Of course, I was dressed and expected to change. The Lancha took me to this small pier and I walked up a trail through jungle to get to the break. I realized then I forgot to bring trunks so I paddled out in my boxers. Felt good, but when I ducked dived they ended up around my knees. Ok though, for the first hour I was all alone.

Its a reef break with peaks here and there, then over hear again. There was a nice wind swell, about chest high with some overhead faces. After a half hour of figuring it out I started getting waves. I got three lefts and three rights. Its a short ride, but three of the waves were hollow and fast, and went for about 50 yards. I'd rented a 7' 6" Takiyama single fin, sort of a pin tailed fun shape. The biggest board I could find. I was hesitant until I caught my first wave. It rode much more stable than my 8' 0" and carved really well.

After a while two young ladys from Belgium, about 20, were dropped off. Fortunately I still had my shorts. They didn't have a clue, but were nice to look at. Eventually four guys came out. Two were locals and I got into jockeying with them, but it was all friendly. The water, about 85*. It felt good to get some waves and I needed the excersise.

To get back to town I hitched a ride on a 40' ulu; a boat carved out of a single tree powered by outboard. The thing must have weighed a couple of tons, but it rode much smoother than a launcha.

Check-a-ya later,

Andy Boy



Photo Credit: Tim Hanson

Consider an Epic Trip

We won't be selling our pages to advertisers anytime soon, but here's a trip outfitter you might want to place on your radar, and then squirrel away for a lottery win. In a brand new offering, outfitter EpicQuest concocts a fantasy formula. You revel in some of the planet's greatest outdoor playgrounds, accompanied by some of the planet's greatest outdoor athletes. For example you might heli-ski in Alaska's remote Tordrillo Mountains and be joined by the likes of Olympic gold-medallist Tommy Moe or extreme ski legend Jeremy Nobis. It's upscale stuff with no expense – and no opportunity – spared. A summer Alaska trip features heli-skiing in the morning, heli-fishing (think 50-pound king salmon) in the afternoon, and post five course meal - why not? – a late night powder run under Alaska's midnight sun.

Why should we care? They offer an Indo surf trip, that explores the outer Mentawai islands aboard the luxury yacht Indies Trader IV, with additional amenities like pro coaching and helicopter access. (www.epicquest.com)

We love to hear about your travels!
Send us your stories and photos for us to share!