

BIG BOARD SHOW

A collection of some of the most sought-after boards in the surfing world is now on display at the museum. Roy Scafidi has spent years collecting them, some from unlikely places. Some are in their original condition, some have been restored. Some of them are stunning, some are rare. Each has its own story.



One of the most noteworthy boards is a 1957 Hobie Balsa, shaped by Hobie Alter and restored by Randy Rarick. Roy salvaged it from its original owner, who was storing it in his rafters. The Hobie folks came to Roy's shop to take pictures and measurements of the board and renamed it the "Legend Model."

Another Hobie board in the exhibit is a 1959

Hobie stock with all orange pigment, which Roy obtained in a trade. It was used behind a boat in the Colorado River and has never been in salt water.

Another highly collectible board in the exhibit is the 1966 Greg Noll Da Cat, which Roy got in Rhode Island from under someone's porch.

Surely one of the most interesting boards is a 1965 Jeffrey/Dale. It features Piet Mondrian-

inspired art (cubical abstract with asymmetrical patterns). Sometime in the mid 60s, an unnamed artist went to about twenty different board companies and did artwork on these boards in the Piet Mondrian style. They were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. Roy bought the board ten years ago from a guy who got it at a garage sale for ten dollars.

There's a rare Dewey Weber Pig, a 1964 Hobie Phil Edwards, and a 1968 Dextra with original Peter Max artwork on the deck. When Roy found it in Rhode Island, it was covered solid with red

paint. He took it to George Robinson to refinish, and when he began sanding the red paint off, the Peter Max artwork was revealed.

You'll be surprised, too, at what you will uncover at this gorgeous exhibit. It opened in September and will run through January, so don't miss the chance to see a truly unusual display of the finest surfboards ever made. ▀

You can help!

We're getting increased traffic in the Museum lately. Please consult your schedule to see if you can help out with some open docent shifts. We provide a docent at the museum from noon to 2 p.m. every Saturday, and docent training is available. If you can help, please email Jim Dale at jdale12@cfl.rr.com.

CBSM is on Facebook

Follow the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum on Facebook! Become a fan.

CBSM in Beachside Resident

Thanks to Lani Mucha for writing about CBSM in the Beachside Resident, and to the Resident for helping us keep the beaches informed about our programs.



Photo Dr. Diana

THE COCOA BEACH SURF MUSEUM
www.cocoa beachesurfmuseum.org

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Wave Lengths

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Where possible, the editor has given credit for photographs
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Enjoy the Ride

What does it mean, exactly, to preserve surfing history? How, who, and for whom?

Our exhibits and programs have informed and entertained a widening group of people interested in surfing lore, culture and heritage. And from time to time, there's an opportunity to make a leap – I mean a big leap – in our ability to preserve history for future generations.

We have recently acquired imaging equipment and licenses that will enable us to take our print collection digital and enhance our capacity to serve as a resource for research both to the curious and to the academic. The lead on this project is our archivist, Dennis Bennett, and Jeff Cranston has been working on the technical issues.

This is the exciting next step in our evolution from a mere repository of hard objects to a trove of digital history more accessible to all.

Recently, we have been presented with several opportunities to expand our abilities to preserve surfing history. You'll read in this issue about Rod Rodgers, who accessed our magazine archives in his research for The Paipo Board Project. We look forward to working with Rod on his research.

We are also working with Rod Faulds and Paul Aho at Florida Atlantic University, who have received a grant from the Florida Humanities Council to produce a traveling exhibition entitled "The History and Culture of Surfing in Florida." We lent our recommendation to the Council on behalf of this grant and are in the process of building a collaboration with Rod and Paul to not only host the exhibit in Brevard County, but also to assist with the research for the project.

In 2010, we will launch new projects to preserve the stories of the first generation of local surfers. It is so exciting to watch this all-volunteer organization advance because of the varied talents, vision, and energy of its members and friends. We want to hear your ideas and find out what talents you have to share to make 2010 the best year yet for preserving surfing history. See you in the water, *Tony*

C2 Shinin' C

By John Hughes

The Third Annual Causeway-to-Causeway 22-mile Challenge once again welcomed its participants with weather that defied the online weather prognosticators. Predictions were all over the map prior to the race and, in reality, welcomed paddlers with an exhilarating downwind leg followed by a punishing headwind on the way back.

Forty-eight paddlers arrived early Saturday, October 17th, to test themselves for the 22-mile trip on the picturesque Indian River. Paddlers came from all across Florida as well as from Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina and Colorado. The course began at Lee Wenner Park at Cocoa Village and turned around eleven miles downriver at the Pineda Causeway. Those paddlers wishing to do only the 11-mile leg exited at the boat ramp and were provided with transportation back to the starting point.

The C2C was open to all paddlecraft. As a result we had an eclectic collection including SUPs, prone paddleboards, surfskis, surf boats, racing kayaks, and an OC-1 outrigger canoe. The big change this year was how many stand-up paddlers have moved up to cutting-edge racing SUPs. The difference became apparent as several of these paddlers were able to stay at the front of the pack with the fastest of the other craft. It was interesting to note that the fastest craft was a surfski, followed by the OC-1, a kayak, a prone paddleboard and a surfboat - proving that no particular craft dominated the race. The standouts of the event were led by Tristan Fiedler with an eye-popping time of 3:45:30 on his surfski. Ken Miller was close behind in his OC-1, Anita Allen came in third in a kayak and young uber-paddler Jeff Noel came in at 4:01:54 on his prone unlimited paddleboard. Jim McCrady and his teammate rowed their surfboat to a 4:03:26 finish, while Gary Wise and Chip Bock continued their SUP rivalry with Chip closing the distance behind Gary since their last meeting.

Of course, not everyone was there to paddle to total exhaustion. We had quite a few people participate just for the fun of paddling. Two young women, Stephanie Williams and Sara Fussell, who had never paddled a distance race, came with their boyfriends and did quite well on the 11-mile course.

We had one gentleman, Steve Gailey, who had just picked up his first SUP the day before the event. Matt Wise (14), son of Gary Wise, finished his first long-distance paddle on a surfski, proving that dad didn't have to worry about him after all.

Ample food was provided after the race to help replenish depleted stores of carbs and protein. This was perhaps the most enjoyable part of the event, giving everyone the opportunity to meet and talk story. Marie Hughes and Melody DeCarlo were in charge of food preparation. Hungry paddlers chowed down on Marie's world famous pulled pork and Melody's fabulous brownies and hummus. Sunseed Coop provided plenty of organic fruit and other healthy snacks. A special effort was made to ensure that the vegetarians had non-critter grinds available.

A raffle was held afterward, with the big item an SUP paddle donated by Carl Beulac of Rainbow Distributing. The lucky winner was Felix Berlingeri, for whom this was the first C2C.



Photo Marie Hughes

Events like this are not possible without the hard work of our volunteers. Special thanks to Marie Hughes, the unofficial Organizer of Just About Everything. And a big Mahalo to the folks that volunteer for almost every event-Bill Tweedie, Melody DeCarlo, Ron Casey and Jim Dale.

Crucial to an event of this size are the boat operators who provide safety and support to the paddlers. Thanks to Greg Hargis, Dave Dedrich, Barry Dix and their loyal crews (floggings will continue until morale improves!).

Our next major paddle event will be the Florida State Paddleboard Championship held alongside the Easter Surf Festival during Easter weekend. This 7-mile race is open to prone and stand-up paddlers. ▪

Join the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum

and help preserve surfing history. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and special invitations to museum events. New memberships include a museum T-shirt and member discounts.

(Check One)

STUDENT	25.00	_____
SURFER	30.00	_____
STOKED	50.00	_____
OHANA (FAMILY)	60.00	_____
KAHUNA	100.00	_____
PATRON	500.00	_____
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Photo – Debbie Tweedie

Name _____

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T-Shirt size (Circle One): S M L XL XXL

Please mail your membership form and check to:
The Cocoa Beach Surf Museum
P.O. BOX 321453
Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-1453

Museum Members can join Surfrider at a discount!



Check One:
 Regular (\$15.00) _____
 Student (\$10.00) _____
 Family (\$35.00) _____

What Surfrider Chapter are you interested in?
 (see <http://www.surfrider.org/chapters1.asp> for a list of chapters)

Toes Up

©By Tom Fucigna, Hobe Sound, FL

Adult white mullet (*Mugil curema*, commonly referred to as silver mullet) are common year-round in central to south Florida. They have been reported as far north as North Carolina, and juveniles have been found in Chesapeake Bay, but they all head for warmer water in the fall. Pods exit the ocean inlets, congregate into large schools and shuffle southward along the shoreline, sometimes blackening the sea for miles. Perhaps for similar weather-related reasons, or maybe just due to the power of suggestion, schools of other species, from three inch herring to twenty pound jacks, run with the mullet, resulting in the surf zone becoming a veritable piscine smorgasbord. Cast netters fill coolers, and hook and line fishermen toss lures or live baits amongst the huddled masses, angling for the gamefish and toothsome predators that follow and feast upon the schools.

The annual mullet run is usually preceded by southern Florida's first noticeable cold front, with the causative pressure changes or wind patterns commonly resulting in a rideable swell, or at least some wind-wave moosh that beats the summer's flatness. Thus it is that watermen and truckloads of fish may find themselves mingling in the waves beneath a bleak October sky, where our story begins.



Photo James Wieland/ Meteorologist/WPTV NewsChannel5

There's a familiar old aroma
wafting o'er the crested dune
and I'm thoroughly marinated in the broth
Because I've hurled myself in headlong
to the stockpot as it churns
thrown caution to the wind
to ply the ocean's briny froth

The fall has dropped in swiftly
with a cold snap and cloud-filled skies
and the seashore crowd has packed it in
and headed home
As the grey day's end approaches
I'm straddling the deck
bobbing in the murky depths
out here all alone

The mullet run has come through solid
southbound schools show in the break
and largish beasties cruise the bar
seeking something they can take
I'm just a tasty morsel
the slowest swimming bait
dangling my goodies
out here in the mullet shake

The wind's whipped up a frothy head
as crashers spew their foamy wakes
I'm the cherry on the sea's whipped cream
out here in the mullet shake

▪



Photos
Parade - Tim Chastain
C2C - Marie Hughes
Opening - Dr. Diana



EVENTS



1st Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

COCOA BEACH SURF MUSEUM VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

at the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum located inside the Ron Jon Watersports building. If you would like to volunteer or are interested in museum activities, stop by. All welcome.



3rd Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION MEETINGS

The Cocoa Beach chapter of the Surfrider Foundation holds its monthly meeting at the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum, inside the Ron Jon Watersports building.



Now through January 2010

THE BIG BOARD SHOW

Jaw-dropping exhibit runs most of the way through January. Don't miss it!



January TBA

BLUEGREEN

New surf movie – East Coast premier at the Cocoa Beach Library. Date and time TBA.



April 2-4, 2010

46th ANNUAL RON JON EASTER SURF FESTIVAL



April 3, 2010

FLORIDA STATE PADDLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS and OPENING OF DICK CATRI EXHIBIT

Stay tuned to our web site and Facebook for announcements and details



California Road Trip: Battle of the Paddle

by John Hughes

Sometimes it is necessary to get away for a while. A break in the pressures of daily life to set a new pattern, to get your life back on track. This year had been very stressful for Marie and me. Something had to be done. So we traveled west, to the opposite side of the continent, to see what promised to be a very special event.

Because of our involvement in organizing the museum's paddleboard racing events over the years, we had met a number of people involved in the sport on an international level. One of these people is Barrett Tester, who organized The Battle of the Paddle October 3rd and 4th at Doheny State Beach Park in Dana Point. Barrett founded the first Molokai to Oahu paddleboard race and developed it into the Quiksilver Edition Molokai Crossing, the most prestigious event of its type in the world. After leaving QSE, Barrett was recruited by Rainbow Sandals to organize a series of paddleboard contests including The Battle of the Paddle. The BOP was promoted specifically for the fast-rising sport of Stand up Paddle racing, offering a purse of \$25,000, by far the most ever offered for this type of race. This promised to bring the best competitors in the sport.

This was all the reason we needed to justify the trip. It would give us the opportunity to meet with Barrett again and see what it takes to put on an event of this size. So we made our reservations to stay for three days in Dana Point. When we arrived at John Wayne Airport, the first thing we noticed was the incredibly dry and pleasant weather. After enduring one of the longest hot and sweaty Florida summers I can remember, the change was a welcome relief.

Since the contest wasn't until Saturday we rented a car to go touring. Our first stop was San Juan Capistrano, site of one of the earliest Spanish missions. It was an interesting visit for history buffs with a striking, well-preserved adobe cathedral. Our next stop was lunch at the San Clemente pier. The pier was huge, the view was great and the sandwiches were good. I also discovered that it gets flat in Cali too, as there were only little ankle slappers to amuse the tourists and desperate locals.

After lunch we went to see the Surfing Heritage



Museum, also in San Clemente. The museum is located in an unassuming industrial warehouse in the hills west of town, which gives no hint of the significance of what is inside. That is something that deserves its own story, but it is a "don't miss" stop for anyone interested in surfing history or who wants to see every surfboard he or she has ever lusted for displayed in one place. The museum is open for four hours each weekday and you can fondle the rails of your favorite board without getting your wrist slapped. They're surfers; they understand.

On Saturday, race day, we headed down to the contest site, a 10-minute walk from our hotel. The previous day's sunny California weather was just a memory as a southern low had arrived overnight. The weather was much cooler (Marie says friggin' freezing) and the wind was blowing at 15 to 20 mph. The Ocean, flat the day before, had windy three- to six-foot swells rolling into the beach. That didn't seem to discourage anyone though. The parking lot overflowed with vehicles loaded with paddleboards. Hundreds of incredibly fit men, women and children unloaded gear and headed to the beach for the contest. Tents and canopies covered the park that comprised the expo site. Vendors displayed what seemed to be every SUP on the market and all the accessories that go along with them. Manufacturers represented included C4, Hobie, Starboard and many others, most of whom had their product available to try out in the water.

Nearly 400 competitors had entered the BOP's

events. Saturday's schedule was to be the open age group race and the headliner event, the invitation-only Elite Race. Some of the elites included Jamie Mitchell, Chuck Patterson, Dave Kalama, Aaron Napoleon, Gerry Lopez and Colin McPhilips, to name a few.

The first event was the open age race which was a rectangular course starting and ending at the beach. With over 100 entrants, the paddlers were sent out through the surf in waves of twenty. This included paddlers as young as 10 and old as 70+, as well as 30 or more female competitors. They had to paddle through waist- to head-high waves to get to the course and return to the beach. It soon became apparent who had trained for surf conditions and who had not. The unlucky or inexperienced were quickly separated from their crafts, which resulted in what I can only describe as carnage. Eight or ten paddlers at a time would attempt to surf in on the same wave and when one went down he would take out the others like dominoes.

The waves took in the riderless boards in a near-shore demolition derby. Boards and bodies bashed around while paddlers tried to retrieve their boards or just get out in one piece. It was also quite amazing to see the skill of the paddlers as they surfed their 16-18 foot boards for 200 yards to the beach. If you squinted your eyes you could imagine seeing Waikiki in the 1920s, with Duke and the beach boys standing tall in the combers.

The four-mile course of the Premier Elite race was a more complicated route, requiring the paddlers to enter and leave the water to run through a chicane (basically a short maze) on the beach after each lap. Additionally, one end of the course went near the marina jetty, which came dangerously close to an exposed rock reef at the low tide. The competition was fierce, no doubt fueled by the possibility of winning \$10,000 for first place.

Jamie Mitchell won, of course, making an apparently seamless transition from prone super-paddler to stand up super-paddler. However, the surprise second place finisher was fourteen-year-old Slater Trout, who finished only two minutes behind Jamie. Slater had come in 32nd in last year's race. By the way (or should I say BTW) Slater, who currently

lives on Maui, is originally from Pensacola. Danny Ching, from Hawaii, finished out the top three.

After the race, Rainbow Sandals pulled out all the stops for a big luau. Entertainment included a full troupe of traditional Polynesian dancers from Tahiti, including a fire dancer. The headline act was Titus Kinimaka, best known as a big wave charger from Kauai. He is also a talented musician who put on a great show of traditional Hawaiian music. The Hawaiian fare was literally more than we could eat. Also available was Primo beer to wash it down. This was not the Primo I remember from my island days, it was actually drinkable.

Sunday morning featured the 10-mile distance race from Doheny Beach down to San Clemente pier and back. The weather had not let up through the night. If anything it had deteriorated. The first leg had the 15 to 20 mph wind at the paddlers' backs. But the return leg was against the wind all the way - brutal conditions for stand up paddlers. Despite that, the top finishers posted some remarkably fast times. The top male finisher was Danny Ching from Hawaii, with a time of 1:33:15. The fastest woman was Brandi Baksic coming in at 1:55:12.

But the sensation of the race was 10-year-old Riggs Napoleon, son of Aaron, who finished in 2:11:16, humbling quite a few adults on the way. Another surprise was that three out of the top four were riding Ohana SUPs, a small Hawaii-based company, sailing past most of the major manufacturers.

We were able to talk to Barrett from time to time to learn what it takes to put together an event of this magnitude. The main lesson is that it costs a lot of money. Rainbow Sandals' expenses were X followed by a bunch of zeros about half of which it recouped through entry fees and vendor fees. This is something that is beyond the means of the museum for the foreseeable future. In any case it will probably be a while before popularity of SUP racing on the East Coast reaches the levels present in California and Hawaii. Nevertheless we gained some valuable insight into contest organization and had a great time doing it. The people we met over there in the surfing and paddleboard communities went out of their way to welcome us and share the spirit of Aloha.

We are ready to go back any time. ▪

The Paipo Project

By Rod Rodgers

We recently had the honor of hosting Rod Rodgers, a paipo board enthusiast who had contacted us earlier in the year asking if he could access our archive of surfing literature to help research the history of paipo boarding. He finally made it down. Unfortunately his research mission was severely hampered by an incredible run of good surf. However, he was still able to leave the water long enough to grab a tote full of magazines from the museum and come to my house for a day to scan images from the museum's archives, my personal collection of tattered magazines dating from the mid-60s on up, as well as some more obscure surfing related books.

Rod also met Roy Scafidi at Oceansports World to document several paipo boards in Roy's collection, and Roy introduced him to a friend who has a substantial collection of paipos. This gave him plenty of material to keep him busy for months. – John Hughes

What is a paipo? Is the word Hawaiian? Who invented the paipo board? Does anyone still ride paipos? How do you make a paipo? Simple questions, but not so simple answers. That is one of the reasons we started the Paipo Research Project.

Paipo boards are known by several different names depending upon time period, locale, size, and materials. They have been called surfboards, bellyboards, lamaroos, bodyboards, lunch trays, kioe, skim boards, kneeboards, coolites and many other terms, but are most commonly known as bellyboards and paipos. Regardless of the name used, these boards are intended to be ridden prone, i.e., on the belly or with the body on the board. A distinguishing characteristic that generally separates a paipo from its cousin, the contemporary bodyboard, is that the paipo features a hard surface unlike the soft surfaced bodyboards. Speed with control is another common denominator

Available evidence suggests the first boards surfed upon the waves were ridden prone – probably for centuries before the Hawaiian Islanders mastered the art of surf riding boards erect style. Evidence also suggests that the term *paipo* is Hawaiian in origin even though the word is not to be found in any ancient Hawaiian dictionary. In a forthcoming book, *Hawaiian Surfing: Traditions From the Past*, John R. K.

Clark identifies and describes the types of surfing that native Hawaiians did, one of which was *pae po'o*, or prone board riding. He notes that while it's true that "*paepo*" can be translated as "night landing," Clark has since learned that the original word was actually "*pae po'o*."

Paipo boarding probably reached its zenith in the 1950s and 1960s, before being eclipsed by kneeboarding and bodyboarding in the 1970s. After lying dormant for a couple of decades the sport has experience a growing interest around the world. Although you won't find waveriding magazines featuring paipo board advertisements, there is a lively cottage industry and increasingly surfboard builders are including paipos as part of their board line. One such builder, Austin Saunders, made his first paipo two years ago according to my specifications, and has since built and sold over 200 boards and shipped nationwide and around the world. The boards are marketed on his website just like his other surfboards. From simple homemade wooden boards to high-tech fiberglass/epoxy creations, boards ridden with and without fins - there is no standard design or way to ride a bellyboard – people like variety!

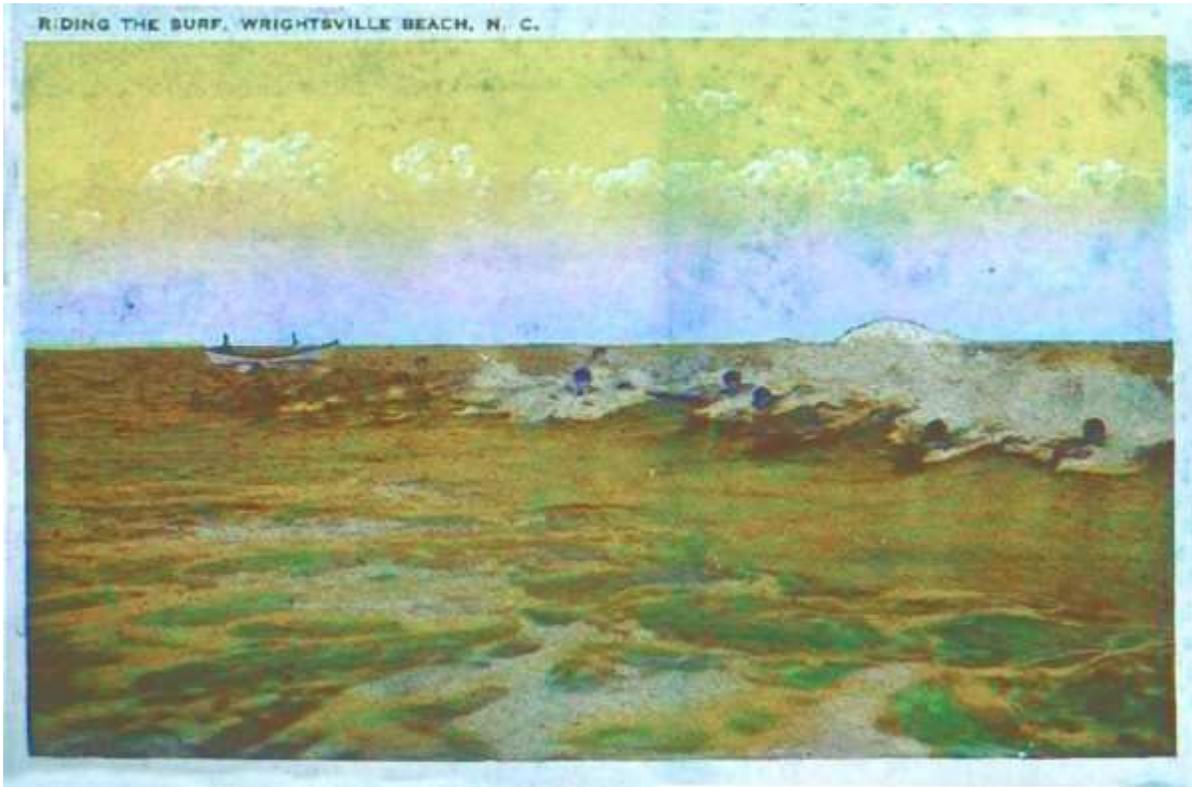


The World Belly Boarding Championship, in Cornwall, England (September 2009). Photo courtesy of Kaloptic.

The Paipo Project aims to document this diversity: the boards, texts, the surfers past and present, and photographs. The majority of published stories and photos are contained in old magazines that are identified by memory or trawling through back issues. Often these magazines are no longer published and are collector's items. Old publications often did not name the surfers. This has required

detective work often facilitated by tracking down and interviewing the surfers involved or their families. Older boards are now collector's items in more demand than when they were being originally sold or made. Interviewing these surfers brings to life and records this history which would be lost, while recording the boards that were ridden opens up private collections to a wider public and can influence would-be shapers and surfers.

More information at <http://mypaipoboards.org>.
Photos in this article from <http://mypaipoboard.org>



The post card is identified as being printed sometime in the 1920s. Exact date is still being researched. It clearly shows kids riding wooden paipos (bodyboards) and at least one alaia-sized board. Posted on the Legendary Surfers Blog, February 22, 2009. Post card image courtesy of Skipper Funderburg. (Remember him? See our Fall 2009 issue of *Wave Lengths* at www.cocoabeachsurfmuseum.org.) See Funderburg, Joseph. *Surfing on the Cape Fear Coast*. Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDash Publishing, LLC, 2008.



Photos
Parade – Tim Chastain
C2C – Marie Hughes
Opening – Dr. Diana
Paipo - <http://mypaipoboard.org>

