



Florida Women of the Waves

Photographs by Lisa Traveek

Women from all over Florida converged on Cocoa Beach for the third annual Women of the Waves weekend September 28-30. At least forty women and young girls gathered for two days to surf and share a little sister time. In its third year, the event is beginning to weave the webs that make it hard to tell the story of one life without telling the stories of the others.



There were plenty of peripheral people, too - their families, museum friends and the larger community - who also enjoyed the activities.

The weekend started with Ten Years of Women's Longboarding, a surf movie at the library. The surfing social was next on Saturday morning at Lori Wilson Park. Then, on Saturday night, a potluck barbecue rounded out the activities, with the music of the Aquanuts.

(continued on page 3)



Enjoy the Ride

The programs of the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum are supported in part through a grant sponsored by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and managed by the Brevard Cultural Alliance.



The beginning of another year at the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum is a time of anticipation. Up first is a new exhibit about Pat O'Hare, who came to Florida in 1963 and never left. He was one of the first to manufacture surfboards in the state. At that time his boards sold in the neighborhood of \$125. Pat had come to Cocoa Beach from Manhattan Beach, CA. There he began surfing at 15 and got in on the busy manufacturing industry, where he eventually worked for Greg Noll. In 1996, Greg Noll inducted Pat into the East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame, and he also has the distinction of having been inducted into the National Surfing/Wrestling "Ironman" Hall of Fame. Over the past 50 years, Pat shaped not only thousands of boards but also the rich surf heritage of Cocoa Beach. Stories like Pat's are the reason the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum exists. It's Pat's story, but if we tell it, it's also part of ours. And that's only the beginning. Join us for all the fun coming up this year.

THE COCOA BEACH SURF MUSEUM
www.cocoabeachsurfmuseum.org

A new year also means it's time for our Annual Meeting, where all our members join with the board as we look back and look forward to determine the best path to keep your Cocoa Beach Surf Museum open and functioning. Have you ever wondered just how all those exhibits and events happen? Who does it and how it is paid for? Well, this is not only your opportunity to find out but to help assure continuity to preserve and share the wonderful surfing experience we cherish. The Annual Meeting will be held on February 9, details as to time and location forthcoming.



- Sean O'Hare** / President Emeritus
- John Hughes** / President
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- Co-Editors / Dan Reiter/Athena Sasso

Learn more at our volunteer meetings on first Wednesdays at the museum, 7 p.m. Get in on the fun!

Wave Lengths

Published quarterly by The Cocoa Beach Surf Museum

Where possible, the editor has given credit for photographs

Please advise when additions or corrections are in order.

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See you in the water, *Tony*

Florida Women of the Waves (con't.)



Sharon said, "I want to thank all the people who made this event happen, and everyone who came out to support it. What a great weekend it was and a tribute to all us women who love to surf."

For more pictures and to watch Diana Wehrell-Grabowski's excellent film of the weekend, visit Florida Women of the Waves on Facebook. Special thanks to Sharon Wolfe-Cranston and Melody DeCarlo who produced the event, as well as all their volunteers.

Sharon assures us she and Melody are already making plans for next year.



The 2012 C2C

By John Hughes

Photographs by Georgette McWilliams

This year's Causeway to Causeway Challenge, held on October 27th, repeated a theme familiar to our events of the last year. That is, high winds and harsh weather that threatened to postpone or cancel the event. This time it was in the form of mutant storm, Hurricane Sandy. Sandy's timing was spot-on, delivering 25-30 mph northerly winds with gusts in excess of 35 mph. We agonized over whether we should cancel the race due to safety concerns, but Sandy perversely offered us a once in a lifetime opportunity to have a true downwinder in the Indian River. We decided to roll the dice.

Friday, the day before the race, we notified everyone that we were going for it. We already had over 20 pre-registered participants. We warned everyone that the contest could possibly be canceled the day of the race and to enter at their own risk. We also made the race an 11 mile downwind race only, since paddling back into the wind for 11 miles would be cruel and unusual punishment. This was a serious commitment as many people travel from far away and would have to spend money on hotels, gas and so on.



Saturday morning came and it was windy and cold. To our surprise paddlers started appearing early and by 8 am we had 37 entrants, shivering and eager to get going. The race started promptly at 9 am and men and women in SUPs, surfskis, cayucas, surf dories, traditional paddleboards and other paddle craft were away with the wind. The race volunteers quickly got in their cars and headed south to set up the finish line.

Surfski paddler and former Olympic kayaker Reid Hyle came in first, setting an 11-mile course record of 1 hr., 18 min. Gary Wise and Rob Mirlenbrink, both on OC-1s, came in second and third respectively with Gary squeaking by with less than a 50-yard lead. Everyone who came in had huge grins on their faces, describing conditions that were perfect for an 11-mile surf down the river.

Mickey King had the burners firing, taking shelter behind the restrooms to get out of the wind. The pulled pork sandwiches, black beans and rice and other grinds went quickly as paddlers refueled. The consensus was that this was the best post-race feed ever.



In the end the weather turned what could have been a disaster into an epic event that will be remembered for a long time by those who took the chance. The only downside is that if we have beautiful sunny weather next year, it will be a big disappointment!

Special thanks to our volunteers- Marie Hughes, Ron Casey, Tommy Ricketson, Bill and Debbie Tweedie, Jim Dale, Janet Marie Sikora Amendola, and boat operators George Trosset and Michael Slotin and Georgette McWilliams.

Thanks also to our sponsors, Poker Runs America, Paddle Style...What's Yours?, and Indian River Aikikai. See you next year.



Race Results

1 Reid Hyle, Surfski, 1:18:002 Gary Wise, OC-1, 1:27:583 Rob Mirlenbrink, OC-1, 1:28:334 Dain Buck, Surfski, 1:37:245 Patrick Klemawesch, SUP Ulim, 1:38:126 Brian Houston, Surfski, 1:41:527 Nick Bjork, SUP Ulim, 1:44:208 Austin Kerwin, Seth Cooper, Dory, 1:51:459 Chip Bock, SUP 14', 1:56:2010 Todd Waskuch, SUP 11'4", 2:01:5411 Greg Schmidt, prone, 2:04:2512 Diablo Rojo, Cayuca, 2:05:1513 Karen Mirlenbrink, SUP 14', 2:05:3114 Frank Dillenburg, SUP 14', 2:05:5215 Kristin Apotsos, SUP 12'6", 2:07:2016 Cynthia Aguilar, prone, 2:07:3517 Steve Updegraff, SUP Ulim, 2:10:0918 Eric Enrique, SUP 14', 2:10:5319 Amiee Ryba, Kayak, 2:10:5920 Alan Paris, SUP 14', 2:16:5221 Bruce Ryba, Kayak, 2:17:1722 Andrew Houvouras, SUP 14', 2:17:4623 Mark Essig, prone, 2:20:2924 Mike Wagner, SUP 14', 2:29:5525 Huff 'n Puff, Cayuca, 2:37:1826 Lindsay Shoop, prone, 2:38:3427 David Glassner, prone, 2:43:50Evil Twin, Cayuca, DNF



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.

(Check One)

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

Please mail your membership form and check to:

The Cocoa Beach Surf Museum
 P.O. BOX 321453
 Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-1453

Or you can use credit: (VISA, MC, AMEX, DISCOVER)

Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

3-digit code from back of card _____

Cocoa Beach holiday parade

Photographs by Shoretip

Who had the best float in the Cocoa Beach Holiday Parade? Is that a serious question? Thanks to Bill Tweedie, Melody DeCarlo, Marie and John Hughes, Pat Cuyno, Larry Rother, Casey Baker and Frosty, the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum looked rad - the best in the parade.



A little news

Kelly Slater may not have won another world title this time around, but he still came out No. 1 in the 42nd annual Surfer Poll awards. The best surfers, filmmakers and other surfing industry folks met to present the award to the top surfers, as voted by fans, as well as the year's best movies and performances. This year marks the 18th year Kelly was honored with the No. 1 spot, first winning it in 1993 - which basically means Kelly has *not* won it only twice in the last 20 years. That's a good run. On the women's side, Stephanie Gilmore of Australia took the No. 1 spot.

CBSM was recently awarded a grant by the Brevard Cultural Alliance. Thanks to everyone who worked to make the grant proposal successful. We appreciate the support of the BCA.

CBSM Sponsors

Waterman's Challenge, Film Series, Florida State Paddleboard Championships, C2C, Florida Women of the Waves

We want to recognize all the sponsors who support the programs of the Cocoa Beach Surf Museum. If your name belongs here and we have missed you inadvertently, please let us know so we can make sure to let everyone know about your valuable contribution. Please support our sponsors!

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EVENTS For further details follow us on Facebook



First Wednesdays, 7 pm
COCOA BEACH SURF MUSEUM VOLUNTEER MEETINGS
Join us at to see how you can be involved in exhibits, archiving, special projects and events. Don't miss the fun!

Third Tuesdays, 6 pm
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION MEETINGS
Meetings at Café Surfinista.

A LIFE LIVED - RICHARD KEITH SALICK
Enjoy the Richard Salick exhibit and, perhaps, see something you hadn't seen or learn something you hadn't known about Rich Salick's remarkable life.



HISTORY OF THE SURF MAGAZINE
Take a walk through history and appreciate the impact these words and images had on the evolution of surf culture.



KELLY
11-time World Champion, Cocoa Beach's own Kelly Slater, as the locals know him.



TBA
In the New Year we're planning an exhibit featuring Hall of Fame surfer **PAT O'HARE**, a reprise of the **BIG BOARD SHOW**, and more. Stay tuned!



SURF MOVIE!
January 19, 2013, 7:00 pm
Bustin' Down the Door, Australian and South African surfers revolutionized their sport in Hawaii during the winter of 1975. Doors open at the Cocoa Beach Library at 6:30. Free popcorn and healthy refreshments compliments of Sunseed Food Co-op.

I wish I had a picture . . .

By John Hughes

bi o lu mi nes cence (n) [bahy-oh-loo-muh-nes-uh_ns] -- the production of light by living organisms.

Living on the Indian River Lagoon has many benefits. Boating, paddling, surfing and fishing are all easily accessible. Whether in the ocean or the estuaries (the Banana and Indian rivers are actually very long and narrow estuaries) or the nearby freshwater lakes and rivers such as the mighty St. Johns (the only river in the U.S. that flows south to north), your only limitation is finding the time to have fun.

Over the last few weeks, we have focused our paddling time to after dark hours in order to experience the phenomenon of marine bioluminescence, where tiny sea creatures release energy by a chemical reaction in the form of light emission. It occurs when they produce a pigment that reacts with oxygen to create light. It is quite common and most people see it as a momentary bright stream of color behind the wake of their boats.

We never gave it much thought until Jim, a friend of ours and an SUP enthusiast, gushed about the amazing sights he had seen when paddling at night in the nearby mangrove islands. We weren't entirely sold on the hype until our first paddle with Jim and a group of friends.

We began our paddle in Cocoa Beach, across the canal from the mangroves. The first thing we noticed was splashes of color, like fireflies on steroids, every time the paddle entered the water. Streams of light flowed off the wakes of the paddleboards as we disturbed (or perturbed) the little critters.

Nothing could prepare us for what happened next. As we coasted through the flats, a resting place for the many fishes that reside in the river, hidden schools of mullet suddenly burst into a frenzy of activity. Blue and green splashes of light exploded all around us as the fishes fled from their perceived predators. Mullet left erratic zigzags of cold light punctuated by watery bombs of phosphorus as they broke the surface in flight. The larger predators, such as seatrout and redfish, fled in straight-line contrails like illuminated mini-torpedoes. Stingrays appeared as amorphous blue-green globes as they rose from the bottom and then sped away like underwater UFOs. As one paddler said, "It's like the 60s all over again!"

In the deeper water of the canals, hundreds of invisible needlefish materialized as wriggling S's and curlicues around us. On one trip, we witnessed a school of dolphin taking advantage of the luminescence and a full moon to indulge in a late night mullet snack.

Paddling at night has proven to be full of surprises. A different world is available just a few paddle strokes from civilization. Unfortunately, camera technology is not up to the task of recording what we experienced. I wish I had a picture...

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