

RIGHT: Photo by Fred

Stoughton taken from atop the Shores bathroom. Left to Right: Sandy Neilson, Mark Hunter, Doug Jones, Greg Spaniol, Kurt "Archie" Ledterman, Dave Merriam, Dave Lott, Dennis Murphy, Jim Evans, Fred Evans, Mike Blevins, Kirk Ward.



At the end of the meeting, a heated discussion broke out concerning the Association's name and longboard requirement for members. "One group felt there should be a minimum size board, such as 9 ft. The other group wanted a more soulful gathering of surfers, and board size shouldn't matter," remembers **Mike Blevins**.

Longboard stayed in the LJSLA name for the next twenty years, although board length requirements were not enforced. Most members had embraced the longboard renaissance of the eighties and carried it forward with style. In 1987 a team comprised of **Kirk Ward, Cliff Hansen, Ron Jones, Fred and Jim Evans** placed 11th with their "expression session" at the San Onofre Global Longboard Championship. In other competitions, **Dennis Murphy** or **Skip Frye** came along for the ride.

With its easy nature LJSLA also attracted surfers looking for a way back to the water. While sitting on the beach, **Reed Ellis**,



a former shortboarder, looked out and saw a surfer "pull a soul arch and streak across a wave." He bought a longboard and headed to the Shores. "I met all the guys then," Reed says. "They just welcomed me in."

And then the next generation began to catch on. "I had no interest in surfing. It was my dad's thing," says **Mark Etchings**, whose dad **Gary "Rambo" Etchings** was the Association Secretary. Then one hot afternoon at the Labor Day party with the members' longboards spread out on the grass by the bathroom, young Mark asked Kirk Ward if he could take his board out. "I still remember. It was a Takayama David Nuuhiwa noserider. Yellow rails with a square

tail. That's how I learned to surf," says Mark, a lifelong longboarder. "Those parties were great. I'd surf one board for a while, then bring it in and borrow another one. But you had to ask after the beer'd been flowing a while or they'd say no," Mark laughs.

Activism, surf competition, social and family activities, charitable contributions have been the traditions of La Jolla Shores Surfing Association from the beginning. But the heart of the Association is something simpler. As Greg "Rex" Spaniol puts it, "We were just a bunch of good friends who surfed and hung out at the Shores. All in all it was a good time."

Thank you to the following for their stories and materials: Dave Merriam, Mike Blevins, Greg Spaniol, Kirk Ward, Ron Jones, Don Laughlin, Mark Etchings, Reed Ellis, Bill Andrews, Margaret Wiesehan; and to all early members of the La Jolla Shores Longboard Association for their legacy. The surf club thanks Alex Finlayson for her research and write up of this article about our club history.

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Left to Right: Jim Evans, Gil Petzen, Joe McGoldrick, Dana Gavis, Tim Gillam, Cliff Hansen, Dennis Murphy, Fred Evans, Bill Andrews with kids Kris & Eric, Kirk Ward, Curt "Archie" Ledterman, Dave Merriam, Greg Spaniol, Micky Minor, Sandy Neilson, Pete Enyeart, Dave Cozzens, Mike Blevins. Front: Jim Thorpe, Ted Cassidy.

