

Surfing Contests in Southeastern North Carolina, 1965 – 1968

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The following is a brief description of surf contests held in Southeastern North Carolina during the years, 1965–1968. Contests from South Carolina are also included if information indicates that individuals from Southeastern North Carolina competed in those events as well.

The First Annual Surfing Contest (June 12-13, 1965)^{1,2}

This appears to have been the first surf contest held in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, and quite possibly the first in the Cape Fear Region. It was sponsored by the Wrightsville Beach Jaycees, and included a field of 60 contestants. Results:

Senior Men's

1st: Fred Grosskreutz (Virginia Beach)
2nd: Robert Parker (Wrightsville Beach)
3rd: Jerry King (Wrightsville Beach)

Junior Men's

1st: Gary Rice (Virginia Beach)

Girl's Division

1st: Ginny Fergus

Pawley's Island Surfing Contest (April 2-3, 1966)^{3,4}

The contest drew 250 competitors and was "well represented with entries from the entire East Coast." However, there appears to be some discrepancy in the results. *Atlantic Surfing* reported that Mike Cary (perhaps Mike Curry) from Wilmington took first in the Boy's Open while Jeff Allan (perhaps Jeff Allen) from Wilmington took third in the same division. *Surfing East Magazine*, on the other hand, reported that Bill Foote (Virginia Beach) and Mike Schmidt (Miami Beach) were the top finishers in that division. *Surfing East* also reported that Sonny Danner won the Run-Paddle-Run race.

The Spring Surf Festival (April 8-9, 1966)^{5,6,7,8}

Sponsored by the Wrightsville Beach Surf Club, the Spring Surf Festival opened with surf heats in the morning and followed with a showing of Greg MacGillivray's "The Performers" to a packed house at the Crest Theatre. With the fanfare of a major event, it was reported in the local press, "An unexpected visitor at the first day of the Wrightsville Beach Spring Surf Festival Friday, was Greg Noll, one of the world's foremost surfers. Noll, known as "the bull" because of his build and reputation for surfing the giant Winter surf in Hawaii, operates a surf shop in Hermosa Beach, California. Noll said he was traveling south on U.S. 17 and noticed several cars with surfboards, followed them to Wrightsville [and to the event] which was held in front of the Lumina Pavillion ... Following the finals and semifinals of the surfing competition Saturday, a skate board contest will be held upstairs at Lumina Pavillion." Longtime local surfer, Will Allison, was in attendance, and remembered Greg stopping by to watch the skate board contest and that everyone's jaw dropped when he came in the door. He also recalled that 'Da Bull' was promoting his Miki Dora 'Da Cat' model surfboards on that trip. Results:

Seniors (18 and over)

1st: Paul Shirkey (Virginia Beach)
2nd: Robert Parker (Wrightsville Beach)
3rd: Jimmy Shepard (Wrightsville Beach)

Junior Men's (15-17)

1st: Tom Davidge (Wrightsville Beach)
2nd: Fred Grosskreutz (Virginia Beach)
3rd: Mike Curry (Wrightsville Beach)

Boys (14 and under)

1st: Kerman Beauford (Virginia Beach)
2nd: Billy Curry (Wrightsville Beach)
3rd: Skip Flowers (Wrightsville Beach)

Second Annual Surfing Contest (May 28-29, 1966)^{9, 10}

Sponsored by the Wrightsville Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce, the contest was dominated by the surf team from Virginia Beach, who not only took many of the top spots, but captured the team trophy as well. Results:

Senior Men's

1st: Bob Anderson (Virginia Beach)
2nd: Don Cafer (Virginia Beach)
3rd: Mark Irwin (Miami Beach, FL)

Girl's Division

1st: Sue Nicholson (Wrightsville Beach)
2nd: Judy Stiles (Atlantic Beach, NC)
3rd: Jean Thompson (Wrightsville Beach)

Junior Men's

1st: Claude Codgen (Cocoa Beach, FL)
2nd: Gary Rice (Virginia Beach)
3rd: Norman Grosskreutz (Virginia Beach)

Skateboard Contest

Charles Grissom (Virginia Beach)
Jimbo Brothers (Virginia Beach)
John Holland (Virginia Beach)

Boys

John Bothwill (Pompano Beach, FL)
Ed McQuilken (Virginia Beach)
John Holland (Virginia Beach)

Paddleboard Race

Sonny Danner (Carolina Beach)



Surfers at the 2nd Annual Surfing Contest. May 28-29, 1966.
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Folly Beach Surf Festival (September 7-18, 1966)¹¹

"Folly Beach, SC – Four New Hanover County surfers won seven trophies in the Folly Beach Surf Festival here this weekend, which drew competitors from as far away as Galveston, Texas. The four, and the events they won were: Mick Curry, 1st in the Men's Open, 2nd in the paddle race, and 3rd in the Junior Men's. Robert Parker, 2nd in the Senior Men's. Richard Verzaal, 1st in the Junior Men's. Billy Curry, 3rd in the Boy's Division. The four entered the competition as members of the East Coast Surfboard Competition Team."

Hunting Island Surfing Contest (October 29-30, 1966)¹²

"Beaufort, SC – Robert Parker of Wrightsville Beach won second place in the senior men's division of the Hunting Island surfing contest last weekend. Richard Verzaal was first in the junior mens division and Joe Marley placed first in the paddle race division. Both of these men are members of the East Coast surfboard competition team from Wrightsville, Wilmington, and Carolina Beaches."

North & South Carolina Surfing Championships (November 5-6, 1966)^{13, 14}

The *Wilmington Morning Star* reported, "Last weekend the North and South Carolina surfing championships were held at Isle of Palms, S.C. The winner in the Senior Men's division was Robert Parker of Wrightsville Beach. Richard Verzaal finished second in the Men's open and Junior Men's division." *Surfing East Magazine* reported the contest as the "First Annual Carolina Surfing Championships" and that 120 surfers from the Carolinas and neighboring states competed in the contest. *Surfing East* also added that it was sponsored by Dive and Surf Shop of Mt. Pleasant and the Trinity Competition Team of Isle of Palms. Results:

Men's Open

1. Mike Perea
2. Rich Verzaal
3. Mike Curry

Senior Men's

1. Robert Parker
2. Greg Holliday
3. Joe Funderburg

Junior Men's

1. Mike Curry
2. Rich Verzaal
3. John Sennett

Paddle Race

1. John Sennett
2. Allen Greg

Women's Open

1. Nancy Price
2. Sally Price
3. Kathy Dean

Boys

1. Dean Monk
2. Raymon Basha
3. Billy Curry

Novice

1. Butch Ward
2. Wayne Sutton
3. Dru Herring

Team Award

1. Trinity Team

South Atlantic Surfing Championships (November 12-13, 1966)^{15, 16}

"Kure Beach – More than 100 youngsters competed Saturday in a surfing contest, sponsored by the South Island Surf Club at Wilmington Beach. ... Surfers came from many coastal areas of the Carolinas, as well as from out of state points to compete, according to the Rev. Ronald Weinelt, pastor of Kure Beach Memorial Lutheran Church ... [he] will conduct a brief service for the surfers prior to the start of the contest Sunday."

Third Annual Surfing Contest (May 27-28, 1967)¹⁷

Held in conjunction with the Wrightsville Beach All-Fish Tournament and Sport Festival, the contest drew over a hundred entries. Unfortunately, to date no documents have been found recording the winners of the contest. However, the *Wilmington Morning Star* listed the following individuals as competing in the finals of the contest:

Senior Men's

First Heat: Donald Bailey, Kim Nielson, Harris Kawata, George Cogswell

Second Heat: Sam Gornto, Fred Grosskreutz, Robert Boyd, Bill Bringhurst

Third Heat: Bob Holland, Dick Catri, Bruce Clelland, Tommy Thompson

Junior Men's

First Heat: Mike Curry, Doug Lachman, Bobby Holland, Richard Luthringa

Second Heat: Eddie McCoy, Dennis English, Kenan Bedford, Ray McCann

Third Heat: John Bothwell, Richard Verzaal, John Seigler, Henry Tulberson

Boys

First Heat: Tommy Russell, Chip Joyner, Mike Morris

Second Heat: Jimbo Brothers, Edward McQuilkin, Bill Curry

Third Heat: John Thompson, Larry Wilson, Keith Thompson

Women's

Cathy Dean, Judy Stiles, Sally Price, Nancy Price

Novice

John Thompson, John Guthrie, Graham White, Mickey Marsh, Doug Harrelson, Sonny Watson, Ron Norton, Steve Smith

Fourth Annual Surfing Contest (May 26, 1968)¹⁸

Sponsored by the Wrightsville Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce, it was also one of the first contests sponsored by the Eastern Surfing Association (ESA) and quite possibly the first ESA contest in Southeastern North Carolina. The contest was split into two divisions, one for ESA members and the other for non-ESA participants. The following individuals were identified as competing:

<u>Boys</u> Trip Sloan Teddy Todd Bobby Wessell Charles Viccellio	<u>NON – ESA</u> <u>Junior Men's</u> Rogelio Varas Richard Verzaal Donnie Lentz	<u>Men</u> Duncan Currie Wayne Sutton Smith Vil
<u>Boys 1A</u> Dennis Lavendar Jimbo Brothers Christian Benford Mark Theriault	<u>ESA-Sanctioned</u> <u>Boys 3A</u> Brad Roland Benjie McRobe Billie Benson	<u>Mens 3A</u> Warren Bolster Chuck Kunes Mike Bowe Dick Catri
<u>Women's 1A</u> Nancy Polk Judy Stiles Honey Holland	<u>Mens</u> Marty Kesse Jim Mixon Don Hanna	<u>Junior Men's</u> Richard Verzaal Richard Miller Eric Sledge

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Citation:

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