

Spring 2026

Quarterly Newsletter Magazine

Volume 40 #1

OUTSIDE

California Surf Museum



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MEMBERS PARTY

Honoring Wade Koniakowsky

NEW EXHIBITS

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Celebrating the California Surf Museum at 40

DROPPING IN

Our visitors come from all over...

UPCOMING EVENTS



PRESERVING OUR SURFING HERITAGE • SINCE 1986

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events@surfmuseum.org

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Mission Statement

The California Surf Museum serves as an international repository and resource center on the lifestyle sport of surfing by capturing, preserving, and chronicling its art, culture and heritage for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations.

The Executive Director's Missive

They say a museum must be active for 50 years to reach its potential. If that's the case, we still have time to make that dream come true. But already we also seem to have hit our tipping point, where everything begins to fall into place. We can feel the energy and I hope members like you can feel it too.

It has been an amazing start to our 40th year of protecting, preserving and enhancing our rich, remarkable culture of surfing. Looking through the website, I think you will see the progress we have made.

Our board member from Italy, the indefatigable Seve Ricci, was quite eloquent in writing about our recent developments. It's a trait that he excels in, and even more impressively because it is in his second language! In a recent email he seems to have captured the spirit and vitality that the Board, the staff and the incredible volunteers have brought to our four decades of effort:

"What stands out to me the most is the growing visibility and relevance of the California Surf Museum, not just as a cultural institution, but as a living, dynamic connector between community, history, education, and economic impact.

"The outreach work with students, the City, Visit Oceanside, and industry leaders clearly shows how CSM is expanding its voice and presence well beyond its walls. That ability to tell our story to new audiences, locally and beyond, is what makes this moment especially exciting.

"I'm proud to be part of our CSM community that is so engaged, proactive, and aligned around growth, visibility, and meaningful connections. Looking forward to continuing to support and amplify this momentum."

Thank you, Seve!

For all our members and guests, please visit us soon, and please help us in continuing the California Surf Museum's work that has now become a major entity in both the surf world and the museum world.

Aloha Nui Loa, -JK

Jim Kempton

Executive Director

California Surf Museum



Severino Ricci at the California Surf Museum

2026 Members Party

It feels like yesterday that we lit the candles on our 25th anniversary. Fifteen exciting years have gone by, and we've continued to grow by leaps and bounds. **Our annual members party is a way to say "thank you" for your support!**

This year's event honored artist Wade Koniakowsky, who has helped visually capture many magic moments over the years, and whose stunning portraits of pioneer surfers line our walls. Wade has a deep connection with the ocean and surfing, and his sense of philanthropy has extended to our many galas, where the on-site paintings he creates are then auctioned off to the highest bidder. CSM is fortunate and grateful to have such an acclaimed artist as a partner.



Wade Koniakowsky



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

From Blacks to the Courtroom: Meet Danny – The “Honey Badger” of Surf & Law

Our new President has been selected for 2026. Danny Quisenberry—one of our most dedicated board members and former Vice President—has graciously stepped up to helm the California Surf Museum Board of Directors.

There’s a certain kind of person you find in surfing—the ones who can move seamlessly between worlds. Saltwater and strategy. Lineups and law books. Community and craft. Danny is one of those people. His story starts right here in Southern California, splitting time between academics and the ocean. At UC San Diego, that meant long hours studying—and longer sessions at Blacks Beach, where power, patience, and positioning are everything. It was an early proving ground, not just for surfing, but for mindset.

That balance continued at UCLA School of Law, where the classroom came with a built-in escape: Malibu and Leo Carrillo. Case law by day, clean lines by evening. Not a tradeoff—just a rhythm.

WHERE LAW MEETS LINEUP

Danny went on to become a founding member of the Association of Surfing Lawyers. A group rooted in the idea that surf culture and professional life don’t have to exist in separate lanes.

Professionally, Danny has built a respected career as an IP and litigation attorney, representing surfing entities alongside clients in art, music, and entertainment. It’s a natural fit—protecting creativity, culture, and the people behind it.

In the courtroom, he’s earned a reputation that sticks: “the Honey Badger.” Relentless. Focused. Not backing down.



Brett Morey, Danny Quisenberry and Larry Horton



Danny Quisenberry and Shaun Tomson

SERVICE BEYOND THE BREAK

But Danny’s impact goes far beyond his legal work.

He has served on the boards of the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce, multiple Rotary Clubs, and several think tanks—bringing the same energy he carries into the water into the communities he supports.

And then there’s the part we see up close at the California Surf Museum.

Danny doesn’t just show up when it’s time to talk strategy—he shows up when it’s time to move tables, hang displays, and make things happen. The kind of person who understands that building something meaningful takes both vision and elbow grease.

“
INTELLECT AND ACTION.
SERVICE AND STOKE.
LAND AND SEA.
THAT’S THE BALANCE.
AND THAT’S DANNY.
”

MORE THAN A TITLE

What makes Danny stand out isn’t just what he’s accomplished—it’s how he moves through it all.

He’s as comfortable navigating intellectual property law as he is reading a shifting lineup. As committed to service as he is to a clean wave. Always grounded, always contributing.

In a culture built on connection—to the ocean, to each other, to something bigger—Danny represents what it looks like to live that fully.

Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World

How a Princess, three Princes, a Duke and a Hawaiian Royal Minister's grandson introduced surfing around the globe

Ancient Hawaii developed the act of waveriding more than 600 years before European contact. When Captain Cook christened the Sandwich Islands in 1778, his ship's physician Dr. William Anderson noted the act of waveriding in his ship's log. He described it as what appeared to be a "supreme pleasure."



It was not an understatement. Pacific Islanders had been catching swells in both Tahiti and Hawaii for centuries. They were led primarily by the islands' sovereigns and their families. Surfing and the Hawaiian nobility are mentioned in almost every story in Polynesian oral tradition. They include feats of daring, romantic interludes, and epic sagas.

It would be more than one hundred years before surfing would spread beyond of the Pacific islands. But in the thirty years from the overthrow of the Monarchy until just after the 1912 Summer Olympics, surfing was introduced around the world. The cultural effect would not only change California but expand the experience of surfriding across the planet.

This exhibit presents the seminal period of surfing's development and captures the essence of a moment in cross-cultural exchange. It is also a story of fascinating Hawaiian personalities in a world now almost forgotten.

The surfboards and images in this exhibit are exact replicas of the surfboards they took out in foreign waves on three continents. Painstakingly recreated by Santa Cruz master surfboard shaper Bob Pearson, these rare wood beauties present a living piece of history.

After many visits to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Pearson meticulously measured and recreated exact replicas of the magnificent waveriding vehicles.





How the Royals of Hawaii introduced the Sport of Kings

A Princess, three Princes, a Duke and a Hawaiian Royal Minister's grandson would be the stately stars who initiated standup surfing to Europe, Australia and the United States.

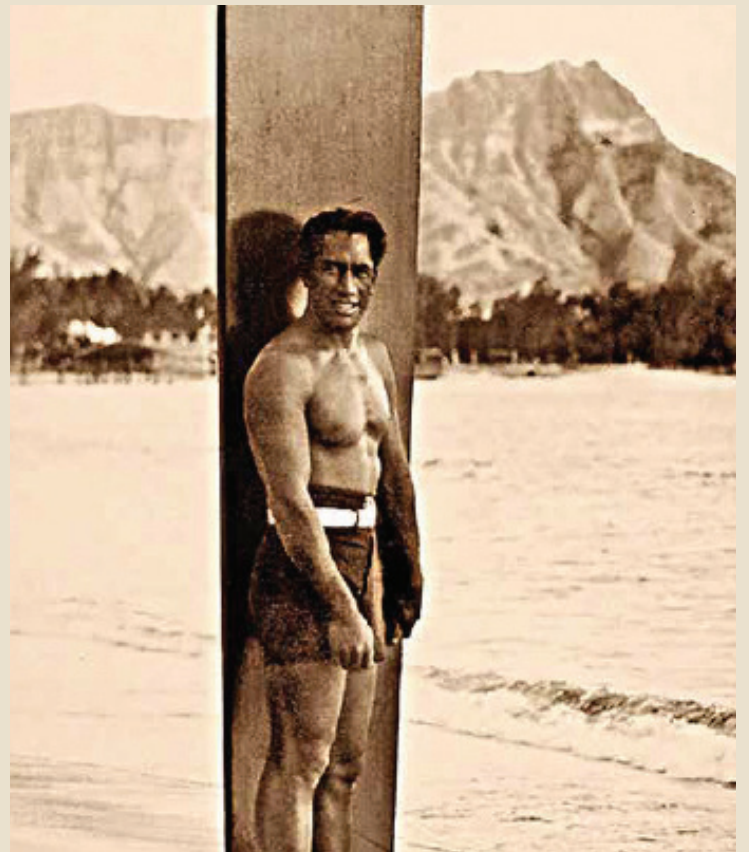
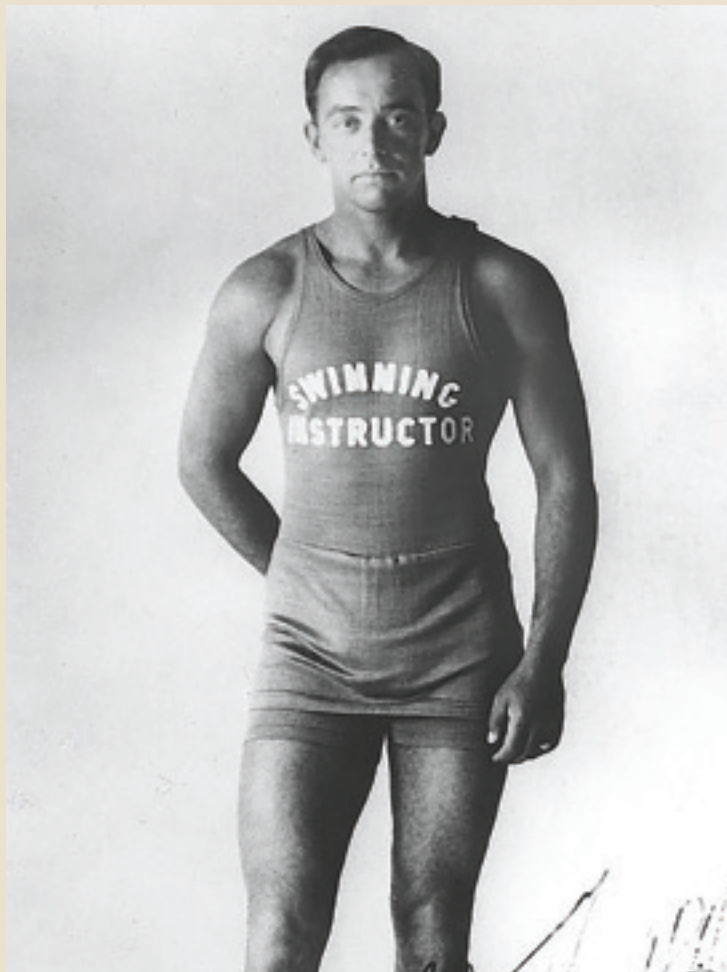
It began in 1885, when three Hawaiian Princes attending college at St. Matthews Military School in San Mateo, fashioned surfboards from redwood and took them out in the waves at Santa Cruz Bay, becoming the first official surfers in the Golden State. Their surfing foray into the West Coast waters was a historic event in California history, covered nationwide in the newspapers and magazines of the time.

Shortly thereafter, in 1892 Princess Ka'iulani, heir to the Hawaiian Crown, was studying at Great Harrowden Hall, in Northamptonshire, England. Homesick and missing her surfing, she took trips to Brighton, on the south coast of Sussex to ride the waves there. British beach-goers were astonished at her performances.

Great-grandson of King Kalakaua's minister, George Freeth was one of the finest surfers of his era. Invited by real estate and train baron Henry Huntington, Freeth's public demonstrations of surfing along Southern California's coast beginning in 1907, marked the inception of organized wave riding on the mainland United States.

In 1914, after an unprecedented string of record-breaking Olympic gold medals, Duke Kahanamoku set out on a world-wide tour. Duke Kahanamoku's visit to Australia on December 23, 1914 was a pivotal moment in the history of surfing in that country. His arrival in Sydney, and subsequent tour of Australia not only popularized surfing but also introduced the sport to a wider international audience.

Join us in a journey back to the late 1800s, when the sport we now watch in the modern Olympics was almost unknown to the world outside Hawaii.



Celebrating the California Surf Museum at 40

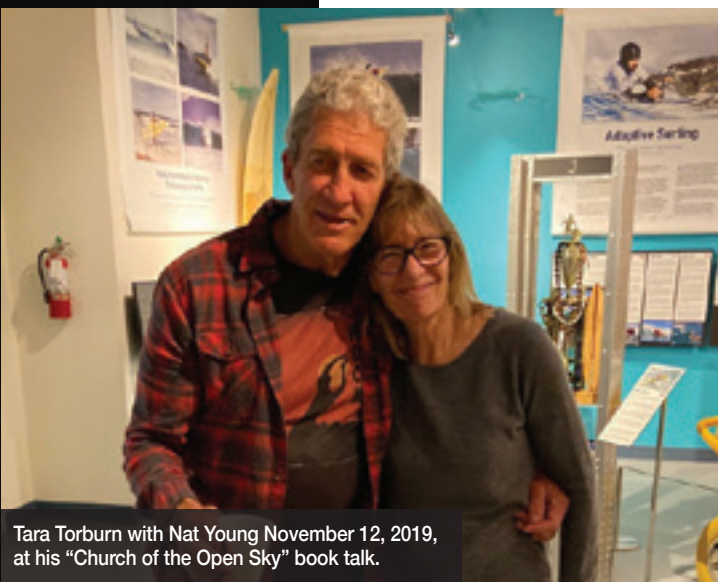
It's All About the People!

IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE MUSEUM, AND IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO RIDE THE WAVES AND MORE WHO MAKE THE STORIES WE SHARE.

—Tara Lee Torburn, Creative Director, Board of Directors Treasurer



Legendary surf photographer LeRoy Grannis and Oceanside's Mayor Dick Lyon (the first Navy SEAL Admiral!), just after they cut the ribbon for the exhibit "This is Grannis" featuring LeRoy's photography, August 28, 1993.



have been a volunteer with the California Surf Museum for 35 years. I started when the museum moved to Oceanside across from the Pier and was turning what had been The Pride's Inn, a run-down VFW bar, into a surf museum. So many people came together to make the space come alive! I remember a donated roll-up door and the mostly orange donated carpet (from a hotel? or was it a movie theater?) being installed. The building of the first exhibits with so many people involved to make it happen! The excitement of having so many people coming to visit and see just what the California Surf Museum was all about. I remember vividly we had the entire empty lot, where the Wyndham Oceanside Pier Resort now sits, where we were fortunate to host many informal gatherings and touching reunions, where even the surf legends, many of whose stories we would go on to tell, felt at home in the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.



Before the museum moved to Oceanside in 1991, it started at George's Restaurant in Encinitas in 1986, where I ate on occasion. It was there that some of the local not-quite-yet "old timers" gathered daily for breakfast. Owner Jane Schmauss had surfboards and more as décor. Local architect Stuart Resor has shared this story with me more than once: in a chance encounter with surf pioneer Woody Ekstrom on the beach, it made him realize that surf history and culture need to be preserved. Long story short, after an article in the local newspaper appeared about his idea, several people with different expertise came together to embark on creating a surf museum, which they called the California Surf Museum, Encinitas; the hope being that every community would have a California Surf Museum with their city's name following.



First the museum was a small display at George's. Then, in 1987 came the opportunity to move into a rent-free storefront in Moonlight Plaza in Encinitas. Their grand openings of the exhibits were accompanied by large gatherings of supporters and people interested in seeing what a surf museum was all about — including me. Among those early supporters were those with name recognition: Woody Ekstrom, LeRoy Grannis, Dale Velzy, and Donald Takayama, who set up his well-known BBQ to feed everyone.

In 1989, the museum moved south to an empty storefront in the Promenade Shopping Center in Pacific Beach, again rent-free. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to visit that location. But from a newspaper photo, we do know that Carl Ekstrom and Denny Aaberg helped cut the ribbon to open the museum's new location along with Gary Abrams, who would be managing the facility along with Jay Livesay and sharing the museum with even more people who may not have ventured north to Encinitas.

Next, in 1991, the museum moved to its Oceanside location on Pacific Street across from the Pier after the property owners offered the building and the entire fenced block rent-free. And that is where I began this story and my involvement as a volunteer.

From Pacific Street the museum moved to Coast Highway, opening there in 1997 after the vision and efforts of, again, so many people turned what had been a Rexall drugstore into the California Surf Museum. Then it moved to its current home on Pier View Way, opening in 2009, after years of negotiations with the City of Oceanside and turning what had been the long-closed Playgirl Club into what you see today. Both the Coast Highway location and the current location are in buildings owned by the City whose support has been unwavering.

Interestingly, we were lucky the renaming of the streets in downtown Oceanside happened before these last two moves. A shout-out to the locals: we could have been on Hill Street and Third Street! Not nearly as exciting sounding!

And now, as we begin our 40th year, we are looking at how to expand the size of the surf museum so as to better accommodate more exhibits and in-house events. I know you will be hearing more about this in the future — it will again require many people coming together and working together in a shared vision for the future of the California Surf Museum — just as the museum founders did back in 1986, and as has been done for every move since.

During my many years with the museum, my time commitment has increased exponentially as the museum has grown; it helps that I have slowly become mostly retired and have had more time to give. During all these years, the museum has grown because of all of the people who have come together — some for a short period of time, others who are here for a longer period — each bringing their expertise, and working and collaborating together, without ego, to grow the museum into what has become a well-respected and internationally-known destination, filled with Aloha.



California Surf Museum founder Stuart Resor (far R) presided over grand opening celebrations at the fledgling museum's first off-site exhibit at Moonlight Plaza in 1987. La Jolla's master shaper Mike Diffenderfer was on hand to cut the ribbon.



The 2010 Grand Opening of "Women on Waves" exhibit was filled with surf legends, past and present. From L: Donna Matson, Jim Kempton (hidden, with mic), Linda Benson, Eve Fletcher, Joyce Hoffman, Kathy Kohner Zuckerman (aka – the REAL Gidget), Jeannette Schumacher Prince, and Julie Cox.



Tara Torburn with Gerry Lopez April 7, 2018, at the grand opening for the "Salute to Pipeline" exhibit.



Tara Torburn with Ilma Kalama and Jericho Poppler March 15, 2023, at the screening of Joey Cabell's documentary "Joey Cabell: Legend of Surf."



BOB PEARSON

In early December, surfboard shaper Bob Pearson (Pearson Arrow Surfboards) dropped by the California Surf Museum to visit and peruse the CSM board collection. Executive Director and friend Jim Kempton gave Bob the grand nickel tour, complete with a run through the rare backroom archives. The Santa Cruz master board builder's love of surf craft made him an easy fan of the history-laden wave-riding collection in Oceanside. Said Kempton: "It was great to see him and great things are to come."



PETER HUGHES

Hawaiian-born and raised Peter Hughes stopped by CSM on a rainy Monday in mid-February. As a young man he sampled the North Shore with Eddie Aikau, Jock Sutherland and many others, driving a cab at night so he was free to surf during the day. Now living in Hilo, Peter made it a priority to visit CSM on a family getaway: "It's a beautiful museum — much more than I expected — and full of the aloha spirit. I will come again."

JOAN STANLEY AND JASON INCULANO

In early January Joan Stanley and her son Jason Inculano visited the Gordie board that Joan donated some years back. Joan, who now lives in Montana, was one of a handful of women surfers on the East Coast when she ordered this custom board from Gordie in the 1970s. It quickly became her favorite, and she surfed it in New Jersey, Florida and San Diego. The board was a hit in the 2024 "Stars, Cars, & Guitars" exhibit.



PT AND THE HBISM TEAM

CSM was pleased to host Peter Townend and a contingent from the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum on February 23. The group made the trip down to check out our floor plan and displays, and to chat at length with staff and volunteers who happened to be on duty. HBISM is temporarily closed through March, when it will reopen with a new exhibit: "World Surfing League – 50 Years." From L: Jodi McKay, PT, Jim Kempton, Jane Schmauss, Glenn Brumage, Denise McAllister, and Pierce Flynn.

TUESDAY MORNING GANG BRIGHTENS THE DAY

CSM was honored to host many of the lively Tuesday Morning Gang regulars on February 3. The TMG is made up of some of the most highly-regarded senior members of the area's surfing community who meet informally every Tuesday morning outside Cardiff's Seaside Market. Their credentials are noteworthy: surfers, shapers, paddlers, photographers, airline pilots, businessmen — innovators, all. While most of the original core group has gradually aged out, new faces have stepped in, and the weekly coffee klatches have been going strong for nearly 30 years.

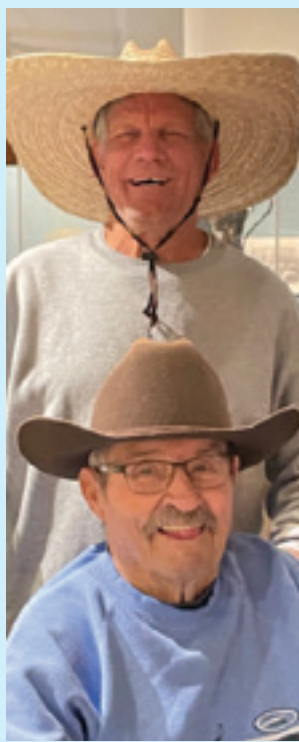
On this occasion, several members motored up to the museum to catch the recent "Surf Art" exhibit. According to author and keen observer, Jeff Duclos, what these individuals represent is "the embodiment of a time when storytelling and oral recounting of the past was greatly valued as a gift shared among those who give and those who receive."



North County icons Steve Anear and Ed Wright (formerly of Sunset Surfboards) bookend a Tim Bessell art board.



Cheer Critchlow, whose dynamic photo graced the front of Hansen Surfboards for decades, stands alongside a Thomas Rogo painting.



Big Wave Dave Carroll, who used to surf and skate for Hansen Surfboards, was on hand to escort 89-year-old Don Hansen around the exhibit floor.

Upcoming Events

Sunday April 12, 2-4pm: Grand Opening of the exhibit, "Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World."

Mark your calendars for these annual fundraising events:

- **Saturday, July 18, 3-8pm:** Third Annual Silver Skater Awards. Tickets now available. See page 12.
- **Sunday, November 22, 3-9pm:** 18th Annual Gala Fundraiser at the Seabird Resort and Spa, Oceanside.

Big Wednesdays on the calendar:

- **May 13, 6pm:** Shaun Tomson with his book "Surfers Code: The Stories Behind a Life-Changing Book"
- **May 27, 4-6pm:** Third Annual A. R. Gurrey, Jr. Photo Competition for middle and high school students awards presentation.
- **June 17, 6pm:** "The Aloha Shirt: Spirit of the Islands" author Dale Hope presentation about the history of the Hawaiian shirt.

Talk Story Nights to be scheduled:

- **Earth Day - Climate Crisis Presentation**
- **Drew and Maria Brophy** presentation about their book "COVID a Love Story: From tragedy to miracle — one woman's battle to save her husband and the community that rallied behind them"

Film Screenings to be scheduled:

- **Premiere: "Côte d'Ivoire"** surf origins on the southern coast of West Africa
- **Premiere: "Harbor Chronicles"** — the story of Seal Beach
- **"Now Days"** — a Red Bull film about the Super Six women surfers who dared — a 2026 surf film highlighting a new generation of women's surfing, featuring stars Caroline Marks, Caity Simmers, Molly Picklum, Sierra Kerr, Erin Brooks, and Sky Brown. The film showcases raw, progressive surfing and friendship and combines high-performance, technical surfing (airs, barrels) with the friendship and off-water lives of the surfers.
- **"Big Wave Guardians"** return screening requested by the lifeguards for lifeguards as it connects with their Water Safety Program. If you haven't yet seen this film, now is your chance! Or come watch it again — all are welcome! And meet many of our lifeguards!

NANCY GREENOUGH

Nancy Greenough, sister-in-law of George Greenough, came down from Santa Barbara to visit CSM in late November. She was pleased to see a Greenough kneeboard on our Timeline wall. The colorful kneeboard is a reproduction of the 1966-67 "Velo" model, and is on loan from Russ Gallice. While she was in the building, Nancy phoned George in Australia and was fortunately able to connect. "The timing of the call was just perfect," she noted. "And he was happy to hear that I was very much enjoying the museum displays."



Celebrating the History of Skateboarding and the presentation of the Silver Skater Award

Denis Shufeldt Co-emcee with Brian Logan • Hall Of Famer Kim Cespedes Guest Speaker



**Saturday, July 18
3-8 PM**

2026 HONOREES

**Nathan Pratt
Mike Williams
Curt Lindgren
Lance Smith
Steve Sherman
Kathy Bomeisler**

ADMISSION

- **Ticket: \$95**
- **Reserved table of 8: \$760**
- **Silver Skater Package: \$250**
Includes: One ticket to event, one dinner ticket, one drink ticket, one event t-shirt and hat, 13 tickets for Spin to Win (\$130 value), entry into a drawing for a California Surf Museum one year membership.
- **Silver Skater Package reserved table of 8: \$2000**

EVENT LOCATION

Veterans Association of North County
1617 Mission Ave. Oceanside 92058

