



Surfing Bio

John D Sideris

Born: 12/14/1953-Olsurfing Soul

I began my surfing obsession on the Gulf Coast of Florida in Pensacola Beach. My surfing hero at a young age who influenced me and invited me into the family of surfers, was a prominent US Champion, Yancey Spencer. Reno Abelera, Gerry Lopez, MR, Shaun Tompson, Matt Bradshaw, and Jeff Crawford are a few more well-known influences.

All of the boys on the Gulf Coast were such an influence, until I had to join the US Navy in 1969. I survived the Vietnam War on an aircraft carrier and took my surfboard with me at sea. I had the opportunity to surf San Diego, Hawaii, Philippines, Mombasa in Africa, and many more countries in the Indian Ocean. I have surfed all but 1 corner of the US, exception being Maine. You haven't surfed till you are in 32 degree water with ice icicles on your stache.

My homeport was San Diego, Cali. I surfed some not so famous breaks back in the day, Wind and Sea, La Jolla, Ocean Beach, Sunset Cliffs, Swamis, Oceanside, Huntington Beach in Cali, Malibu, and south into Mexico. Salsupeidas, and K-38, along with Rosarito Beach were favs.

I was stationed in Hawaii where I got into more competition and judging. I had the opportunity to sit along with Rell Sun and help her judge some HAS competitions. It was an honor. Got to know Buffalo in Makaha and Sonny Garcia.

I convinced my Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station in Hawaii to allow me to have a surfing competition with all proceeds going to a Naval Charity. Once that was a success, I convinced him to sponsor our team to participate in the US Service Surfing Championships in California at Camp Pendleton. We took successive 1st place finishes over the 3 years I was coach. One really famous longboarder back then was a Marine, Kelly Rhode, who was a fierce competitor and always my competition nemesis!

I have been involved in Eastern Surfing Association since 1979 as a competitor, Western Surfing Association while I was in California, Hawaiian Surfing Association in Hawaii (Won some top 3 finishes). While in service, I competed and won some 1^{st-4th} place titles in military service surfing contests. I have been judging on and off for 35 years and most recently in the last couple of Eastern's competitions, was asked to help judge those heats while double

beaching. Chris B. and Barry P. are some of the guys I have judged with who are tremendous influence.

I will be 65 this year and am proud to be competing at my age with a 1st place (2016), 2nd, 3rd and 4th District Champ finishes in the over 60 division, Grand Legends.

Today, I still judge in our district competitions, Wahinee Surfing Championships at WB, and at ESA major surfing events. I love it and serve as the marketing Director for Southern North Carolina District. I have fund raising for surfing competitions for over 30 years and have raised allot of dough for those organizations!

The experience and friendships you develop by being involved in surfing as a volunteer, is so gratifying and a learning experience on a journey thru life. What a wonderful way to grow up, I am forever a Grom!