

Surfing Walk of Fame Honor Roll Recommendation

Nominee's Name: Huntington Beach Surfing Association

Category: 2019 Honor Roll

Based on the criteria of the 5 categories, explain in a short paragraph why you believe this organization should be considered as a nominee. List their achievements, contributions to the sport, history, and other information pertinent to the nomination.

Huntington Beach Surfing Association was a dominant force in the surfing world during the sport's formative years, contributing to both the culture of the sport and also to Huntington Beach's recognition as Surf City, USA. Before HBSA the dominant surfing areas were Malibu, South Bay, Doheny, and San Onofre. After HBSA, Huntington Beach Pier was the sport's dominant location.

Max Klepfer formed the first formative club around 1964 and remained president until 1967 when Bruce Gabrielson took over. Bruce remained president until the club officially folded in 1979. Many club members subsequently went on to compete as the Whole in the Wall Gang.

At it's peak, HBSA had 78 members consisting primarily of the core surfing community from Seal Beach, Los Alamitos, Westminster, Garden Grove, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, and of course Huntington Beach. There were also a few members from Hermosa, Torrance, and Oceanside. Members consisted of highly ranked competitors in all age groups with multiple members regularly placing and winning at the US Championships, WSA 3A and 4A competitions, and even Hawaiian competitions. Many members still live in the area today and have attended several reunions. A new social club with many original members has also formed.

While California had many surf clubs, HBSA was the top club of its time, winning 38 straight competitions, one on one challenges, multi-club competitions, and WSA contests where club scoring was present. It had an open challenge out to all other clubs in California either at their home break or any other break. It also competed against clubs in Mexico and as a group took several trips to surf breaks there.

HBSA was active both socially and culturally. HBSA activities were regularly mentioned in the Huntington Beach News, the Daily Pilot, and the LA Times. Additionally, not only did it regularly hold local surfing events and have a member writing stories for Surfer magazine, it was able to influence the United States Surfing Association Rules Committee, the manner in which the US Surfboard Championships was held, and was directly responsible for creating the Huntington Beach Residents Contest. Members also helped run many of the early high school competitions in the area.

In conclusion, Certainly no other club has had the same influence on Surfing's culture as did Huntington Beach Surfing Association. It is well disserving of a spot on Surfing's Walk of Fame.

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Date: 9/12/2018

