

Discover how surfing got its start on the North Coast

Husband-and-wife authors to share stories, sign books at Cleanline Surf Shop

SEASIDE — Cleanline Surf Shop will host a book signing event “Oregon Surfing North Coast.” Authors Scott and Sandy Blackman will be available from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13 to autograph their books and share surfing stories and memorabilia with surfing enthusiasts. Cleanline Surf Shop is located at 60 N Roosevelt Drive.

The book, published by Arcadia Publishing, covers the history of the local North Coast surfing culture, which began in Portland, Seaside, Cannon Beach and Pacific City in the 1960s.

Seaside teens discovered surfing in the summer of 1962 when they met San Diego, California, surfer Dana Williams. Stationed with the Navy at Tongue Point near Astoria, Williams recalls, “In 1961, I was surfing Fort Stevens, South Jetty, both sides and sandbars. In 1963 we were part of Hoppy Swartz’s USSA (United States Surfing Association) and the third club to form.”

1963 Seaside High School classmates and charter Seaside Surfing Association members Mark Hansen, Jerry Alto and Tibby Utter credit Williams with starting surfing around Seaside. More locals joined the SSA



Submitted photo courtesy of Dennis Smith
Dallas Cook is featured on this Seaside postcard, surfing the Cove.

throughout the decade until the club disbanded in the late 1960s.

Utter remembers, “We spent time at Dana’s Seaside house talking about surfing, girls, looking at Surf Magazines and drinking wine.”

Alto remembers, “Dana was the key: He had a surfboard and was from San Diego.”

Seaside High School student and SSA member Dallas Cook recalls, “I was living in Gearhart when I borrowed a Hawaiian Olo board from



Six of the charter members of the Seaside Surfing Association are shown preparing for a cool dip. Jerry Alto, Dana Williams, President of SSA, John Alto, George Nelson, Tibby Utter and Mark Hansen represent half of the club which has 12 charter members. Note the specially designed wet suits used by the year around enthusiasts.

Submitted photo courtesy of Jerry Alto

A 1963 newspaper article from the Seaside Signal features members of the Seaside Surfing Association. Pictured are, from left, Jerry Alto, President Dana Williams, John Alto, George Nelson, Tibby Utter and Mark Hansen. Missing charter members not in photograph are Joe Camberg, Mike Zalk, Ed Hendrickson, Norm Wilcox, John Spence and Bill Forness.

the Gearhart Hotel. I used it for a summer until Wally Pashal took it out and broke it. I was 16 in 1963 when George Daggatt, Needham Ward and myself (ordered) longboards that were delivered by train. They were too big for the truck freight.”

Personal recollections by Oregon’s North Coast pioneer surfers and their vintage photographs are featured in the book.

The Blackmans have lived their entire lives along the Oregon Coast. Scott, a

pioneer surfer, has been photographing the evolving surf culture for 50 years. Sandy is a successful write and sto-



Submitted photo courtesy of Mark Hansen

Seaside High School classmates and charter Seaside Surfing Association members, from left, Mark Hansen, Tibby Utter and Jerry Alto gather for a group picture.

ryteller. Together, the Blackmans have become the historians of Oregon surfing’s pioneer years. Their first book, “Oregon Surfing Cen-

tral Coast,” and their Facebook page “Oregon Surfing: Past and Present” document the early history of the sport in the state.

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