

Sur nos côtes

Jean-François Sarda a remporté la première étape de la coupe de France 2010. Second volet à Anglet le 17 juillet. Un billet pour Hawaï est à gagner comme tous les ans. L'Angloy Joël Badina s'était imposé au général en 2009. Le Bodysurf Challenge est organisé par la commission bodysurf de la FFS avec la collaboration de Watermansport.



Being that it is a summer break, only breaking during south swells, a lot of the guys tend to hang up their fins for the winter and not surf much until May 1st. From May 1st until October 31st, the Wedge is closed to all board sports from 10am-5pm all day every day. I guess you could say training starts May 1st for a majority of the guys. Myself and a few others try and stay in the water year round so we don't have to start from scratch once the Wedge season begins. My good friend Potato Head (a lot of the guys have nicknames at Wedge) tends to try and see how big his belly can get in the off-season. He usually has the same shaped stomach as Santa Clause in May but it goes back to normal by the end of September. He rips no matter how big he is though so it doesn't really matter!

Most of us have seen pictures of that incredible but so bad ending session you have done out there with Kay Santos and Steve Kapela, (Tim has probably bodysurf the biggest wave never bodysurf at the Wedge but one guy died drowning) can you tell us more about that day ?

That was a HEAVY HEAVY week-end.

A few of the HSBA guys were in town that week in July to catch a pretty big swell that was heading our way. I think there were 8 of them in total. Steve Kapela, Kai Santos, and crew were in full effect, charging hard.

That Friday, the swell was supposed to peak. As the tide filled in through the morning and the swell started to build, things got ugly. Typically, the ideal swell we like to see for perfect, rideable Wedge is from 180 degrees. That day I believe the swell was from 210 degrees which can be extremely dangerous because of the current that pulls towards the rock jetty. Around 11:30am, I was able to snag one of the only waves that had a rideable shoulder. I wouldn't say it was the "biggest" wave ever

bodysurfed at Wedge, but it was definitely the biggest thing I've ever ridden). I didn't realize it, but the wave I took was the second of eleven waves in the set and I got caught inside and took the worst beating I've ever experienced. I had an asthma attack and one of my fins fell off but was still attached to my leg, making it much more difficult for me to swim. I literally almost drowned. After finally making it out with the assistance of Steve Kapela and Sean Starky, I quickly got on a lifeguard boat and asked the guards to drop me off in the harbor. Once I was on the beach, the day went from bad to worse. While sitting on the beach recovering, I noticed a guy struggling, trying to swim out during a large set in an area you don't want to be when it's big. A bunch of us jumped up and quickly tried to figure out a way to help him. My friend Starky, along with one of the lifeguards, grabbed their fins and jumped in the water to help the guy. A large wall of whitewater went over the man and he suddenly disappeared. Fred Simpson, my friend Thomas, and I ran out on the rocks to help direct Starky as to where the swimmer was. After about 4-5 minutes of searching the water in the most dangerous area next to the jetty, he was finally able to locate the swimmer and struggled to pull him out to the lifeguard boat. It was unfortunately too late and he was ultimately pronounced dead at the hospital. RIP.

I am still amazed at the heroic effort that Starky put forth and the teamwork that was displayed by all that day. Unbelievable! I even think one of the Hawaiian guys was issuing CPR to the guy on the boat while in route to the ambulance. Pretty amazing to see everyone work together like that.

It's your first winter on the North Shore of Oahu, how do you feel, and how was it ?

One week is not enough! For the most part, the waves on the North Shore were too big to surf.

Fred and I scored some fun Pipe and Waimea Shorebreak a couple of the days when the swell was smaller. We also got some insanely good surf on the Westside of the island. I was definitely humbled by the energy of the ocean over there. I had a much different perception of what it would be like before I got there. Pipe had so much more power than I had expected but DAMN that wave is fun! Overall, it was a great trip. I can't wait to get back there.

You have been travelling a lot, where have you had the best bodysurfs ?

I love to travel. Wish I could do it more. My favorite waves thus far have been in Bali and New Zealand. They both are swell magnets and there always seems to be somewhere to surf no matter what the wind direction is. My mom is a Kiwi so I've had the opportunity of traveling to New Zealand quite a bit throughout my life. A few places I'd like to visit are the West Coast of OZ and Fiji. I'm hoping to get over to France this year too. The waves look insane over there and there seems to be a great community of bodysurfers!

Do you believe in the future in a développement of bodysurfing business ?

I definitely think that there is great potential in the sport of bodysurfing. It is the most natural form of wave riding and there are so many people that enjoy doing it. I feel that companies within the surf industry should capitalize on this potential. I've come to understand that a few French companies are supporting and sponsoring a few bodysurfers and I think it's awesome. I would be stoked to be able to get paid to travel and surf around the world. Who wouldn't? That would be insane!

Anything else to say Tim ?

Being that this is my first and probably only "interview" that I'll ever get, I feel that I should say something of importance.