

WINDANSEA SURF CLUB

WINDANSEA SURF CLUB'S 3RD HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

It all began one summer in 1963. **Michael Hynson** got word of a "club contest" to be held in Malibu. The best part for Michael was that they were going to clear the water for the contest so that there would be only four or five surfers in the water at a time. At Malibu, that was a dream come true.

Michael worked on Grand Avenue in Pacific Beach for Hobie at that time. He asked Hobie if he would sponsor a club if Michael put tone together. Hobie said yes, including the hiring of a bus to get everyone to Malibu. So Michael got together with **Billy Caster** and **Chuck Hasley**, and the three of them began collecting all the locals they could to recreate the "WindanSea Surf Club."

All La Jolla's finest were regulars at the "Glad Hand," which was a classic, two-story bar owned by Tommy Carroll at the north end of Girard (on the dip) in La Jolla. It had a couple of pool tables upstairs with an ocean view. Its usual crew included **Danny Prowell**, **Tiny Thomas**, **Butch Van Artsdale**, **Ron Hodge**, **Mike Diffenderfer**, **Billy Graham**, **Dean Perry**, **Lee Keffer**, **Kenny Easton**, **Earl Gilday**, **the Cheneys** (David and Tweak), and **Beans**, all three Patterson brothers (**Bobby**, **Raymond**, and **Ronald**), **Dell Cannon** and **Allen Nelson**.

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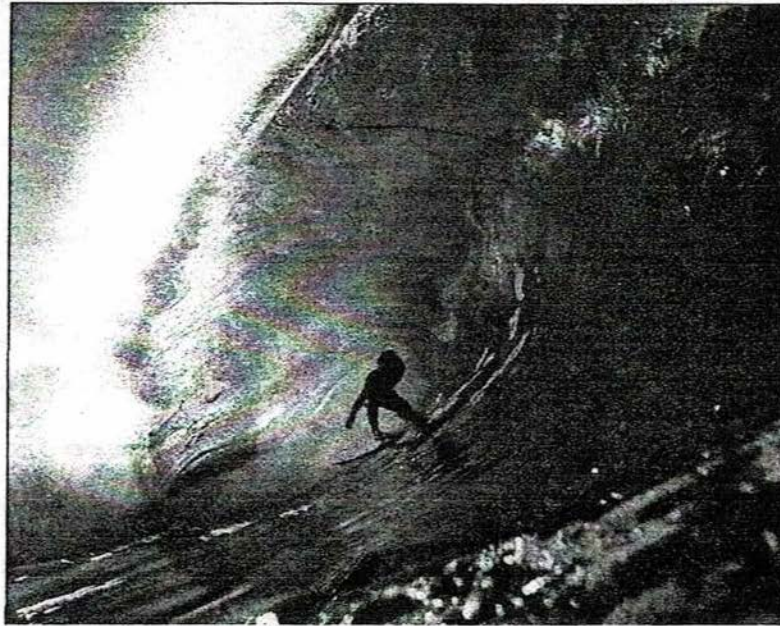
president, Hobie would be sponsor, and we would load up the bus to Malibu with everyone who was willing and able. Anyone who went on the trip was in the club.

We put a keg of beer on the bus (the majority of the "Glad Hand" regulars signed up) and headed north to Malibu, making many stops along the way for more brave souls all the way up the coast. Other joiners along the way were **Skip Frye**, **Joey Cabell**, and **Michael Hayley**. That bus ride was the original Magical Mystery Tour!

We reached Malibu about the time the sun rose, and the bus driver quit the moment he parked the bus. He walked away, never to be seen again. We had come to win and succeed. Windansea was the best!! Hence the beginning of what is to this day the greatest and most soulful surf club of all time.

Thank you Michael, Chuck, and Billy for creating one of surf history's greatest adventures. I sincerely apologize for anyone who I left out of this story. It is remarkable to me that I remember *any* of this.

Melinda Merryweather



Modern day ripper **Carter Elliott** looking rather small in a rather big "secret spot" barrel in Surfer.

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