

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Groundswell Society presents

The 7th Annual Surfing Arts, Science and Issues Conference “Surfers and the Southern Ocean: History, Science and Legendary Surfing”

February 23rd and 24th, 2008

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California

Sumner Auditorium 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday - Scripps Pier 8 am to noon on Sunday

Did you know there's a place where ocean swells roll for over five thousand miles? Where there are standing waves big enough to swallow container ships? Where yesterday's mariners could be "caught inside" for months and today's surfers get the longest rides in the world? Those facts, and much more, will be the subject of SASIC VII – The 7th Annual Surfing Arts, Science and Issues Conference at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography on February 23 and 24.

“Surfers and the Southern Ocean” will focus on the most powerful wave-generating waters on earth, from the meteorology of Antarctic storms to the endless lines of two world-class point breaks. Highlighting the conference will be presentations from two living legends in their respective fields, oceanographer Dr. Walter Munk and surfer Shaun Tomson.

Saturday – February 24th – Conference Sessions

9 a.m. The Southern Ocean: A Most Remarkable Story

A presentation based on extensive research into the weather and history of the Southern Ocean by Glenn Hening from the meteorology of Antarctica to the ancient Peruvians veneration of 'corduroy to the horizon' to the great tall ship races through the Roaring 40s 100 years ago.

10 a.m. Where the Swell Begins -Dr. Walter Munk with Cher Pendarvis

Dr. Munk and Cher's presentation includes a history of swell forecasting, the origin of a south swell, movement of the swell energy across the Pacific toward San Diego, and the joy of riding the waves. A few San Diego surf spots that work best with south swells will also be described and illustrated using drawings, paintings and photographs. .

11:00 a.m. Waves Across the Pacific

A special reprise showing of the 1963 documentary about Dr. Munk's pioneering study tracing a swell from New Zealand to Alaska. Shown at last year's conference, this 30 min. black and white film is a must see if you haven't done so already.

1:00 Biofoam Update -Ned McMahon

A presenter at SASIC VI, Ned will be giving us the latest of earth-friendly surfboard materials.

1:30 Modern Surf Forecasting - Chuck Menzel, Wetsand.com

Along with Wetsand.com Forecaster Nathan Todd Cool, Chuck will present an overview of the technology behind today's surf reports that translate real time data coming out of the Southern Ocean into quality surf sessions for modern surfers

2:30 p.m. Epic Jeffrey's Bay, July 2007 - Shaun Tomson

Last July Shaun surfed J-Bay for 10 days straight under maximum conditions. His presentation will cover the storm conditions that created the waves, and show his amazing surfing at J- Bay, the planet's legendary right point break.

3:30 p.m. Baja Point Breaks, Then and Now, 1972 – 2007 - Richard Safaday

Richard will tell the story of Baja's Scorpion Bay, a place that depends entirely on the Southern Ocean for its remarkably long and perfect waves. The presentation will feature footage shot when the place was first ridden by surfers 30 years ago.

4:30 p.m. Wrap up and closing film

Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon the energy will shift to the beach with a morning of wave-testing a variety of surfboard and fin designs using new materials intended to reduce the impact of surfboard construction and use on the environment. Biofoam boards, chambered balsa, and even a reed surfing craft from Peru will be on the beach for near the pier for use by attendees and friends.

Registration is \$45 – includes parking, event t-shirt, and a box lunch for the first 100 paid registrants.

Students and seniors get in for free, but no shirt, no free parking, and lunch on your own. Seating is limited. Send a check made out to the Groundswell Society to the address below – or go to www.groundswellsociety.org and register on-line.

Groundswell Society

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