

Carving For Peace

A movement forward, one carve at a time.





The 102 degree heat in Jericho did not dampen enthusiasm for longboarding.
Photo: M. Brooke

LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE



Arthur Rashkovan teaches in Sderot. Photo: Alice Martins

I am composing this editorial on what is our last full day here in Israel. *Concrete Wave* has spent a full month in the Middle East, spreading the joy of longboarding to communities far and wide. You'll learn the details of our mission further on in this issue. It was truly an incredible and deeply humbling experience. We are very happy to report that it exceeded our expectations, and plans are under way for more initiatives.

We called our tour "Search/Spark/Stoke," and that's exactly what we did. Although I came up with the idea of Longboarding for Peace, I am very much determined that ownership of this idea belong to longboarders worldwide. To that end, there's no board of directors, and we don't have any celebrities endorsing our efforts. If you're reading this magazine, we simply encourage you to start your own initiative that helps promote peace. If you'd like to share what you're doing with us, we'd be happy to publish it.

When it comes to peace, there are indeed many layers. There can be peace-building initiatives between nations, between religions and even within communities. I had a hunch that longboards could be used as a way to build relationships and foster peace. I also knew that simply sharing the joy of riding with as many people as I could reach would

add to my overall enjoyment of my visit. Many longboarders would agree that spreading the stoke can be as much fun as the act of riding. The photo above was taken in Jericho – an area most Israelis don't visit these days. While the politics of the Middle East is highly complex, longboarding proved one of the best ways to simply put a smile on people's faces. These kids had never ridden a skateboard before, yet within 15 minutes they were rolling around, having a blast. The sheer exuberance of both the Arab and Israeli kids made me hopeful for the future.

Some might dispute that a deck with two trucks and four wheels could be an instrument of peace. They can't comprehend or begin to understand the potential that a longboard represents. But we know *Concrete Wave* readers are different. We know you don't just see the opportunities that longboarding presents, you act upon them. On many of the beaches in Israel there is a sign written in Hebrew, English and Arabic. It states simply, "Go in peace." We heartily agree.

Enjoy the issue!
Michael Brooke,
Publisher



“THIS WAS A UNIQUE PEACE-BUILDING INITIATIVE THAT WAS PRESENTED TO US, AND IT TIED IN PERFECTLY WITH THE KINDS OF THINGS WE WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN.”

Matt Olsen guides a freshly minted skater in East Jerusalem. Photo: Alice Martins

LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE

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BY MICHAEL BROOKE

The roots of how Longboarding for Peace came about start with a not-for-profit skateboard organization called Skateistan. Inspired by the fantastic work that Oliver Percovich is doing in Afghanistan, I thought, "Well, I could do something like that ... but rather than build a park, I'll bring the longboards to the kids and see what happens." I just didn't know exactly what kids and where exactly I would do it.

One day in the winter of 2012, an idea just sprang out of my mind: Longboarding for Peace. I decided I wanted to bring longboarding to one of the world's most conflicted areas: Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

I contacted my friend Abraham Paskowitz, sales manager at Carver Skateboards, for some advice. The Paskowitz family are surfing royalty and have deep roots in Israel; I figured that Abraham must have some contacts there.

My hunch and Abraham's help led me to Arthur Rashkovan, who is one of Israel's top surfers and one of the co-founders of a program called Surfing 4 Peace (along with Abraham's brother David, their father, Dorian

"Doc" Paskowitz, and surfing mega-star Kelly Slater).

As I suspected, the idea made total sense to Arthur. "We have made great gains in building ties between surfers across political and cultural borders in the past few years," he told me. "Expanding our programming to include longboarding was a natural progression. We can include more people, and longboard when there are no waves."

I decided to call the tour "Search/Spark/Stoke" and soon found myself teamed up with Matt Olsen, the director of Explore Corps, a not-for-profit organization devoted to youth-focused projects in outdoor education, recreation and the arts. "This was a unique peace-building initiative that was presented to us, and it tied in perfectly with the kinds of things we wanted to participate in," Matt said.

Of course you can't just show up in a place with some longboards and hope that things will work out. You also need solid contacts and careful planning. Thankfully, Surfing 4 Peace works with the Peres Center for Peace, a not-for-profit organization based in Jaffa that promotes peace-building between Israel and its Arab

neighbors. Tami Hay-Sagiv, director of the Peres Center Sport Department, and project manager Sivan Hendel worked hard to ensure the demos all came together. I am very grateful for their hard work.

Putting together this tour required a fair amount of cross-continental logistics. *Concrete Wave* is based in Toronto and Explore Corps is in Baltimore, Maryland. With Arthur and the Peres Center seven hours ahead, it took some time to coordinate things. The most stressful piece of the initiative was ensuring the timely delivery of the longboards and helmets. Nine boxes were carefully packed by Buddy Carr at his Oceanside, California, warehouse. We had huge support from Map-cargo International, who helped subsidize the shipment. But once it got to Israel ... well, let's just say we got tangled in red tape on a number of occasions. Fortunately, Arthur has experience with getting surfboards into Israel, and the gear landed just a few days before our first demo in Jaffa.

More than a dozen skateboard companies graciously provided product. *Concrete Wave* has some truly amazing advertisers who understood the impact that the Search/Spark/Stoke Tour could have. I am so very grateful for their support. All 30 longboards and 30 helmets will be left with the Peres Center for future events.

Documenting the proceedings were two photographers and one videographer. Yair Hasidof regularly shoots skateboarding and is based in Tel Aviv. Alice Martins is a Brazilian who works with Surfing 4 Peace and has photographed extensively in Gaza. Uri Richter is an American-born Israeli who is creating a short documentary of the tour. All three captured some incredible moments. Within hours of Yair's and Alice's images being posted on Facebook, tens of thousands of people had seen them and numerous people had left many positive comments.

The first demo was held at the Peres Center in Jaffa and took place on July 5. Jaffa is a mixed town, i.e. it has both Jews and Arabs living together. The team assembled an hour before the demo to unload the car and coordinate things. The demo featured a local martial arts club performing first. The kids sat patiently watching the kung fu moves but were pretty excited to get on the boards. Joining the club were about 15 Jaffa locals. It was extraordinary to see the children interact with their Tel Aviv neighbors. Normally, these kids would not run into each other, and yet here they were having a great time rolling around



JAFFA



מרכז פרס לשלום
 مرکز بيرس للسلام
 The Peres Center For Peace



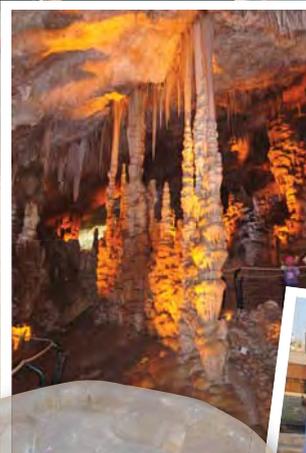
Instructions on what to do next provided by Yoni, Mickey and Arthur at the Jaffa demo. Photo: Yair Hasidof



The stunningly beautiful Peres Center for Peace located in Jaffa. Photo: Alice Martins



Mickey Kook instructs a Jaffa local. Photo: Yair Hasidof



THE SIGHTS

Israel is small but packs in a huge amount of diverse terrain and tourist attractions. Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are just bustling with all kinds of activities. Jerusalem is deeply religious and spiritual; Tel Aviv is pure adrenaline, and you can get up to all kinds of shenanigans. Up north are incredible waterfalls and hikes. The beaches of Israel are simply beautiful. While the waves may not be on a par with Huntington or Hawaii, surfers are just as passionate. If you need to take a break from skating or surfing, there are literally dozens of museums dotted everywhere. Be sure to float in the Dead Sea.



Kickflip on a Sderot bomb shelter. Photo: Yair Hasidof



Taking a break in Sderot. Photo: Alice Martins



Arthur Rashkovan is not only a great surfer, he rips on a skateboard too! Sderot skatepark. Photo: Alice Martins



Having a ball in Sderot. Photo: Michael Brooke

joyfully on longboards. Yoni Ettinger, a pro longboarder for Earthwing Skateboards, explained the basics of skateboarding, and the kids followed his direction – most of the time! Once they felt somewhat balanced, they immediately started rolling faster. “I have been teaching skateboarding for many years, but most times, I have taught people who have at least some experience,” Yoni said. “Watching these pure beginners learn quickly was wonderful. Seeing them so stoked was like a gift for me.”

As each minute passed, the kids grew more and more passionate about riding. Mickey Kook of Surfing 4 Peace found the experience truly transformative. “It is so easy to get caught up in what the media choose to show us, [but] reality always has a way of surprising us, [to] change and open our minds,” he said. “I can definitely tell you that many minds were opened.”

I knew after the Jaffa demo that we had achieved something magical. The kids there skated for more than two hours and were hounding the Peres staff about when the next session would be. The question was, what would things be like in an environment like

East Jerusalem and the Palestinian city of Jericho?

With our first session under our belts, we felt energized but cautious, as our next event was to be held in the town of Sderot, which is located one kilometer from the Gaza Strip and had been bombed just a week before the team arrived. Before the demo got underway, care was taken to locate the closest bomb shelter.

Sderot is the kind of place that you only hear about in the news but rarely visit. Yet with more than 40 children and their parents enjoying the pure energy of longboarding, there is no doubt that the tour brought some much-needed smiles.

“Sderot was an absolutely incredible experience and truly emotional for everyone,” said Tami Hay-Sagiv. As the demo finished up, one young child from a fairly impoverished family would not let go of the board that Tami was holding. “I will never forget the look in his eyes,” she said.

THE DRIVING

Gas costs about \$7.00 per gallon in Israel. Cars that would sell for about \$15,000 in North America (like a Toyota Yaris) can cost almost double. For these reasons alone, we feel that longboarding as a way to commute will catch on in Israel.

However, a word of warning: People drive like maniacs in Israel. Signaling to change lanes seems to be a rarity; getting cut off is par for the course. Highways are good, but the traffic jams during rush hour rival those in Southern California; traffic can just crawl.



Matt Olsen of Explore Corps (left) and Arthur Rashkovan of Surfing 4 Peace load up the van for our journey to East Jerusalem and Jericho.
Photo: Michael Brooke



This was her first time on a longboard, but that didn't stop her one bit! Photo: Michael Brooke

EAST JERUSALEM



Yoni lends a hand to a young Palestinian at the Shuafat refugee camp. Photo: Yair Hasidof

The following day, Thursday, July 12, began early. We assembled at 8 a.m., and thanks to the generosity of the Peres Center, we had a chartered tour bus for our day's travels. With all permits and paperwork being handled by the Peres Center, the group took to contemplating the opportunity that lay before them. As most readers are aware, the political situation is very complex in the Middle East. Geography plays a huge role in where people feel safe to go. Most Israelis don't visit East Jerusalem, and getting into Jericho requires special permits. The tour picked up our local guide at the East Jerusalem border crossing, and as the bus plunged into what was for many uncharted waters, we all just went with the flow.

"I was nervous about going to Palestinian territories," Yoni said. "I figured I was going to look like an alien to these people. But what I quickly discovered was that we had a bond, and that bond was longboarding."

Upon entrance to the school, located in the Shuafat Refugee Camp of East Jerusalem, we were greeted by the sights and sounds of a puppet show. About 45 minutes later, the skate session was under way. While the boys took to the longboards as one would expect, it was truly exceptional to watch young Palestinian girls and women hop onto the longboards too. I kept marveling at how surreal the whole thing was. I was smiling as I realized we were creating something you probably don't see every day. But changing perceptions can only come when people are given opportunities to experience something different. I am quite sure these women never expected to be riding skateboards that morning, but I also think they probably were not expecting to meet up with Israelis and interact so closely with them. It was a mixture of surrealism and pure stoke.

Yoni says the East Jerusalem demo was the highlight of the trip. "I held the hands of a middle-aged Palestinian women who needed me for balance," he said. "I could feel how happy she was, and that, in turn, made me very happy."



At the Western Wall T's Sivan Hendel (Peres Center), Anwar Zeidan (our guide) and Miriam Jacobs (Peres Center). Photo: Yair Hasidof



As the demo wrapped up, we prepared for a tour of Jerusalem via the Arab Quarter. Anwar, the local contact for the Peres Center, and our translator, took us to one of the best shawarma places in all of Israel. The group bonded over delicious food and took in the beauty of Jerusalem. Yoni was unable to get his longboard through the security at the Wailing Wall, but quickly skated and met up with the group for their journey to Jericho.

Before entering Jericho, the bus picked up a journalist and photographer from the *Ma'ariv* newspaper. Jericho was recently handed back to the Palestinian Authority. The city sits at an extremely low point and has been inhabited for more



THE FOOD & DRINK

Israel seems to have mastered the art of fast food to go. Pita with falafel balls and veggies can be picked up for about \$5; if you want shawarma, prepare to pay at least \$9. Humus winds up on pretty much everything here. If you crave fresh fruit and veggies, Israel is a delight. As meat is expensive, folks eat a lot of cheese. Eating in restaurants can get expensive. Beer is relatively cheap but other forms of alcohol are pricey. Yoni Ettinger introduced me to a knock-off of Jägermeister that wasn't too bad.



Thanks to the generosity of S-One and Triple 8, all the kids had helmets. Fortunately, they could accommodate all sizes! East Jerusalem demo. Photo: Yair Hasidof

than 10,000 years. We were waved through without any hassle. As the bus entered the city, the group got a clear view of the Oasis Casino. The casino used to be a popular tourist attraction but now lies dormant and desolate. It is next to a five-star hotel, giving the visitor a rather odd juxtaposition. Before the demo, we took a trip on the gondola that takes you to the top of Jericho. The view is spectacular, but there were few tourists that day.

As the heat of Jericho is pretty intense (it regularly hits over 100° F), the demo took place in the early evening. The boards and helmets were unloaded and a simultaneous translation began. The 25 kids took to longboarding quickly. They were fresh off a soccer practice, and some removed their soccer cleats to get a better footing on the board. Over the course of an hour, a bond developed between Arabs, Israelis and those from North America. Even the *Ma'ariv* folks could be seen rolling around on a board.

"This truly was an amazing experience," said Mickey Kook. "The energy the crew had was unreal. It was filled with unforgettable moments that will last a lifetime."

Sivan Hendel also echoed those feelings. "This tour came together as a strong and empowering experience for the children," she said. "I know they felt the impact of everyone on the team."

Photographer Yair Hasidof said he was very glad he got to participate. "No matter which child I photographed, all children had the same facial expression of pure happiness," he said. "I felt for that moment the conflict was laid aside and everyone could enjoy longboarding. It was a rare and very special moment."

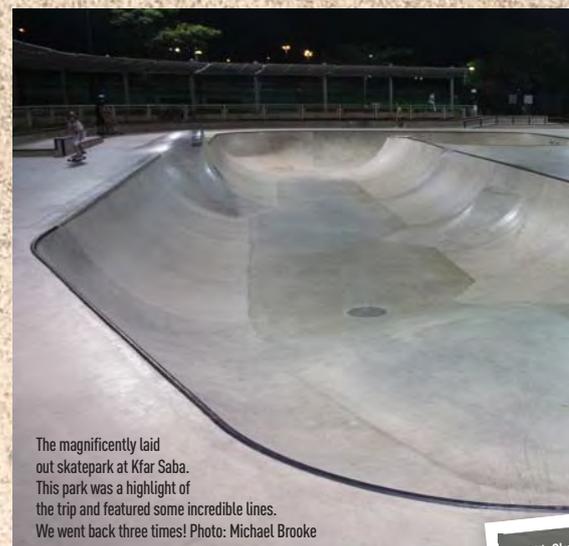
Sivan Hendel ensures the helmets fits snugly.
Photo: Yair Hasidof



Pure stoke in East Jerusalem.
Photo: Yair Hasidof



The almost-ready skatepark at Modi'in. When this baby is completed, people will travel from all over Israel to skate it. Photo: Michael Brooke



The magnificently laid out skatepark at Kfar Saba. This park was a highlight of the trip and featured some incredible lines. We went back three times! Photo: Michael Brooke

THE SKATE SCENE

Since Israel is located in a very sunny climate, it's pretty much year-round skating. Sure, it can rain like crazy in the winter months, but most of the time it's warm, and it has several very good skateparks that appeal to both street and transition skaters. We were very impressed with the Herzliya and Kfar Saba parks. The downtown Tel Aviv park is big and has a constant stream of traffic. Although we did spot two or three poor parks, the new skatepark in Modi'in (just 45 minutes from Tel Aviv) will more than make up for them.

The longboard scene is growing like crazy in Israel. Ben Kaufman and Alon Meiri head up DaSilva Boards. We met up with them in their Tel Aviv manufacturing plant. They are seeing an increased demand for their decks and are starting to export in larger quantities with each passing month.

Ben and Alon introduced me to Shlomi Eini of the Galim Surf School at Dolphinarium Beach in Tel Aviv. We had three surf/skate sessions at Galim and they were packed with kids. Shlomi is an incredibly generous guy, and I highly recommend you search out the school if you find yourself in Tel Aviv.

We also met up with Tomer Ifrach, owner of Slik Surf/Skate in Herzliya. Slik is known as the longboard shop for Israel and the locals are very proud of the scene they are creating.

For Arthur Rashkovan, the various events produced many incredible memories. "I remember the kid in Jaffa who just didn't want to leave," he said. "I remember in Sderot the very proud girl who kept shouting at her mom to watch her skate for the first time. I'll never forget the image of the one kid in Shuafat who ate a pita and skated at the same time. But most of all, it is the memory of one skater in Jericho who wouldn't let me go - he kept calling me and shouting 'More! More!'"

After the success of our four demos, I was eager to do more. I received an email from a longboarder in Haifa named Elan who wanted to put together a demo, and we were able to do one there. Elan's house was located right by the sea, and soon the locals gathered for both a skate session and drum circle. It was a truly wonderful night.

Everyone involved with the Longboarding for Peace experience understood the message of "Search/Spark/Stoke" and decided to act accordingly. When I first told people in Canada that I was planning to go to the Pales-

tinian Territories, they honestly thought I was insane. There was serious concern for my well-being. But I can assure everyone that with the help of Surfing 4 Peace/Explore Corps and the support of the Peres Center for Peace, our trip was safe and accomplished something truly significant. We got people to think differently about themselves and the world around them. I see this as an important first step in opening minds and creating a climate for change and eventually peace.

Tami Hay-Sagiv of the Peres Center says it was amazing to see kids from the most shy to the most confident all rushing to the skateboards, keen to start exploring and trying out different moves. "Everyone felt included," she said, "both boys and girls, old and young, Hebrew speakers and Arabic speakers." She said Longboarding for Peace made everyone feel young, rejuvenated and free from the heavy conflict that surrounds people there. "This was an inspiring experience for all of us! It made us all realize again how powerful sport is, especially when you utilize it in the service of peace." **CW**

Happy camper in Jericho.
Photo: Yair Hasidof



Group shot at Galim Surf School. We had a great time with the staff and kids.
Photo: Michael Brooke



Alon and Ben of DaSilva Boards.
Photo: Michael Brooke



Gili Levi, the proud owner of Israel's longest-running skate shop. Photo: Michael Brooke

OUR SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support from the following companies:

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- Landyachtz Skateboards
- Loaded Longboards
- Mapcargo International Ltd.
- Never Summer
- Orangatang Wheels
- S-One Helmets
- RPG Trucks
- Tech Deck
- Triple 8 Helmets

Shop specializes in longboards. Owner Tomer and his brother Omer. Photo: Michael Brooke



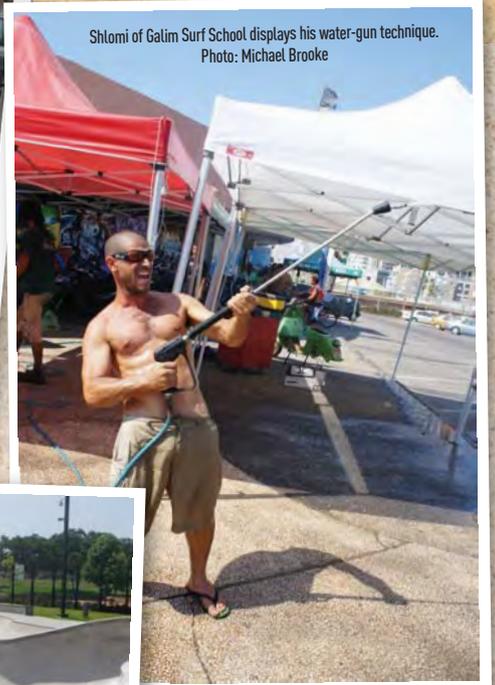
Tal Saporta - a talented female Israeli surfer.
Photo: Yair Hasidof



Alon and Ben of DaSilva Boards present a boy named Erez with his first longboard. To say he was stoked beyond belief is an understatement. His sister was very jealous indeed. Photo: Michael Brooke



Shlomi of Galim Surf School displays his water-gun technique.
Photo: Michael Brooke



Wonderful waves of cement at the Herziya skatepark located about 10 minutes from Tel Aviv. Photo: Michael Brooke



AHOUSAHT

FIRST LONGBOARD NATION



Kyle Martin



WORDS & PHOTOS BY GRANT SHILLING

Ahousaht First Nation is found on a verdant slab of lush rain forest brushed by the hard-charging waves of the Pacific Ocean. The isolated village on Flores Island has a population of 900 and is accessible only by float plane or boat; it's a 40-minute boat ride from Tofino, on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

We have gathered here on the First Street Wharf in Tofino on an unusually sunny October morning to deliver longboards and love to the village and hopefully strike up a friendship. Often First Nation communities in Canada live in isolation from the non-aboriginal populations. This is not just a function of physical distance but also a distance based on preconceptions and history. Our effort is one small attempt to bridge that distance.

Landyachtz crew members Liam McKenzie and Kyle Martin, Nuuchahnulth worker Beth Luchies, my 11-year-old son Levon and I are up early for the adventure and getting our sea legs on.

Our skipper for the trip will be Eddie, an Ahousaht resident.

We load up the boards into the stern of the boat, where they look like oversized fishing lures. Liam and Kyle sit in amongst the boards and we release the stern and bow lines from the dock and head out into Clayoquot Sound. In imme-

diate view is the volcanic-shaped Lone Cone Mountain, iconically sharpening the view to the village of Opitsaht, ancestral home of the Tla-o-qui-aht people of the Nuu-chah-nulth nation. The village of about 200 lines a beautiful south-facing sand beach on Meares Island. Opitsaht means "where the sun meets the horizon." The simplicity of the translation of the original place names of Vancouver Island is a constant reminder of the relationship between the aboriginal peoples and nature.

Staring out from Opitsaht is a totem pole. On the totem is the personification of D'sonoqua, the wild woman of the bush who came from the moon to the ocean and up the rivers into the forest. She holds beneath her breasts a platter of serpents that contain the power, the force of the sea – a force with which the surfer, cousin to the longboarder, tries to live in harmony. Balance is all here.

The sleepy crew all stare out from the boat, enchanted by our surroundings. The wake of the boat inscribes our ephemeral presence in these waters as Eddie points to a group of porpoises off our bow.

Gray whales annually migrate through these waters, bears and wolves dot its shores and salmon and cedar form the material foundation for a culture. Out here we are reminded in a most graceful manner, as shaped by nature and the story-telling myths of the original peoples of these surroundings, that we are the visitors here.

Ahousaht can be translated to mean "people living with their backs to the land and mountains on a beach along the open sea." As the boat pulls into view of a group of houses, Eddie points and says, "This was the whole village ... this was it ... then they closed the residential schools and our people came back and the village grew."



Liam McKenzie lends a hand to keep things in balance.



Skipper Eddie ensured a safe passage.



We received great support from Triple Eight/Sector 9, who donated 25 helmets for the project.

Much of that growth takes place in a suburb up on a hill, linked to the village by the only two kilometers of asphalt on the entire island.

Most prominent from this view from the boat is the characteristic shape of reserve housing, and lurking above it a cross.

The church cross is a reminder of the residential school presence here. These church-operated, government-funded boarding schools for First Nations children began in Ontario in the 1840s and extended across Canada in the 1880s. Children were often forcefully removed from their homes and families and kept with other children in isolation from their families. Residential schools were a forceful and shocking attempt to suppress traditional aboriginal language and culture in the absence of parental influence in order to assimilate First Nations children into the new colonial society. The effects were devastating, including brutal discipline and sexual and psychological abuse. Numerous reports have blamed the schools for contributing to the high rates of substance abuse, suicide and family dysfunction amongst First Nations people. Sadly, Ahousaht has suffered this history.

Here in Clayoquot Sound two residential schools were in operation, one in Ahousaht and another on Meares Island. They finally closed in the early '60s. Many adults of Eddie's generation were the last to experience the horror of the residential schools.

Greeting us on our arrival at the Ahousaht wharf is an SUV with an open gate, numerous dogs and some smiling faces. The gravel road is dotted with huge potholes and the SUV is filled to the gills with us and the boards as we slowly bounce along to Maaqtusiis High School. The school is a year-old facility wrapped in First Nations carvings and artwork and designed with a West Coast modernism, reflecting an outlook of looking forward.

Greeting us are school principal Scott Maschek and Margaret Dick.

Margaret will be our guide in Ahousaht. She left the village as a teenager and went to the "Big Smoke" of Vancouver, only to get lost and in trouble there, and came back home to the village of Ahousaht to grow her roots. Now 40, Margaret is a mother of four. Her official title is School Support Worker, but unofficially she acts as a den mother of the village.

Absenteeism and attitude, explains Margaret, are two of the challenges facing educators in the school system in Ahousaht. She discreetly points out one boy to me: "He is the ringleader," she says. "If he decides that he is bored with a class, he just gets up and leaves the class, and a large group of students will follow him. There is nothing the teacher can do."

The first group we are to work with are 15 students for their physical education class. The students walk along the gravel roads of Ahousaht until they reach asphalt. Most of the vehicles here don't have licenses on them, as the unpaved roads fall outside the Department of Motor Vehicles Act. The growth of longboarding here might make for a convincing argument for more asphalt!

We gather in a circle to open up some of the gorgeous boards Landyachtz has graciously supplied. The initially shy students begin to loosen up and a few start slipping on Sector 9 helmets.



We ask for a show of hands of kids who have longboarded before. One hand goes up. The kids break into groups of two and tentatively, curiously get on board. Giggles follow the board riders, and laughter will define our entire day.

The ringleader that Margaret had pointed out earlier is now interacting with students he would otherwise never talk to. The sometimes cruel and painful aspects of high school hierarchy break down as the wheels on the boards go round and round.

Unexpectedly the English class shows up. Word is out, and all the kids want in. "I'm not sure this has much to do with English," mentions the English teacher.

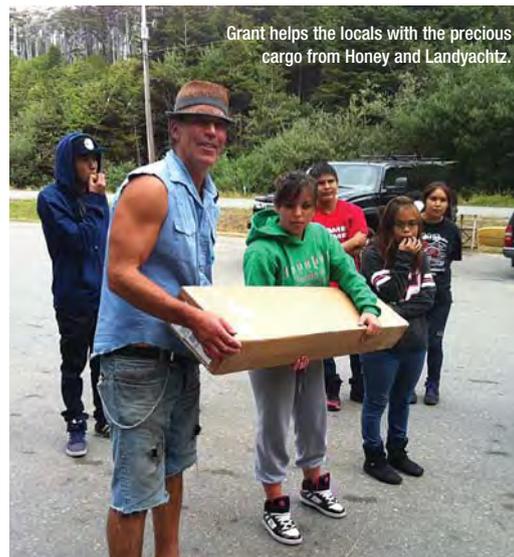
"You kidding? How about five paragraphs on their experience here?" suggests one wise guy.

During a break we join a group of elders in the lunch room. Pancakes and juice are offered and stories shared. What is clear from our discussion is that Ahousaht's future will be shaped by honoring their culture and yet moving forward. This longboarding project is one small step in that direction.

Outside the lunch room Margaret's pickup truck has been loaded up with longboards and sits in the parking lot outside the high school. The elementary school kids who haven't joined us to this point want to give them a try. On a driveway-size slab of concrete in front of the high school, the kids let loose. We let them know if they meet up with us after they get out of school, they are free to ride with us.

The day is spent riding the asphalt south toward the new development and north to the old village. The ride acts like a longboard telegraph line that connects the arc of the past to the future: the original village of Ahousaht and the future suburb.

The suburb accommodates the growing population that Eddie earlier referred to and creates local employment. As we longboard through the subdivision, many of the workers are amused by our presence. The few cars and trucks pass us



Grant helps the locals with the precious cargo from Honey and Landyachtz.





Kyle instructs a local in the finer points of longboarding.





Just one of many happy campers!

We didn't just stop with longboarding – surf session in the Pacific.



at a snail's pace. Everybody knows everybody here and these are their children, so they go slow.

Here are a few of those kids:

A young girl in a bright pink outfit passes her surprised dad, who is framing a house.

"Whatcha doing?" asks her dad.

"Longboarding! It's awesome!"

Her dad giggles.

A big teddy bear of a boy steps on a board. A broad smile opens under a Sector 9 helmet. The boy has fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), a condition caused by maternal consumption of alcohol during pregnancy that results in a variety of cognitive and behavioral challenges. Liam guides the unsteady boy on his board until ... until ... until he is finally able to let go of Liam's grasp and coast on his own. Both teacher and student sport broad smiles.

Another girl has Usher Syndrome, a rare, incurable genetic disorder characterized by deafness and blindness. She is helped onto the board by Haley, her gym teacher. Haley and the girl just beam with the rush of the ride and the small victory of getting on board.

A boy named Braden has quickly picked up the basics of riding and is now learning how to slide on a longboard under the tutelage of Kyle Martin.

The sunny day is punctuated with the pungent smell of cedar and salt air and the steady sound of the Cah! Cah! of crows, now pierced by the school bell marking the end of the school day. The bell acts like a starter's pistol, and the elementary school kids literally sprint from school to get to the promised session with the longboards.

And here comes a squadron of kids toward us.

"My sides hurt," complains one girl, running hard.

"Keep running," urges her friend.

And she does. **CW**

Experiencing a new-found sense of freedom.



Thanks to Margaret and the Ahousaht First Nation for their warm welcome. Thank you to the fine folks at Landyachtz, Sector 9 and Honey Skateboards. Thanks to Eddie for the boat rides. Thanks to Michael Brooke for his help.

Grant Shilling, a writer, artist and street outreach worker, is the author of *Cedar Surf: An Informal History of Surfing in British Columbia* (cedarsurf.com) and *Surfing with the Devil: In Search of Waves and Peace in the Middle East* (surfingwiththediabol.com).

Longboarding for Peace:

PERU

BY STEVE Q.

OWNER, ROAD SHARK BOARDS

AMBASSADOR, LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE



It is said that the more a person has of something, the less they value it; the opposite is also true. This was told to me by one of our team riders, Renzo Santos, as we sat and watched a kid beat his skateboard on the ground to protest a missed trick. Contrast this with the image of other kids who have much less and treat their equipment like a treasure. Then, contrast this further with the image of families in places that don't have paved roads (or sewers, or running water, or electricity), who live in houses the size of most bathrooms, who are focused on finding enough to eat every day and for whom a skateboard is completely out of reach.



Longboarding for Peace has been inspiring a lot of us to “search, spark, stoke.” It inspired me to create an event in Peru. When I contacted my friends at Concrete Wave, they were excited and instantly supportive. They not only sent me lots of stuff to distribute, they also got their friends at Triple Eight to kick in. Our boards feature Seismic wheels, so when we contacted them, they were also great and gave us a ton of stuff to distribute. Dan Gesmer, my friend and owner of Seismic, added the idea of also doing something more for the truly desperate.

Peru is a place where a large percentage of people are living with less. It is also a place where longboarding has caught on in a big way. The people that have access to all of the required equipment also have easy access to great downhill terrain and have become excellent, world-class competitors. The people that have less, after working very hard for a long time, might be able to buy a longboard. But safety equipment is a luxury most cannot afford.

Wanting to try to help different groups that have less and also have a pro-level tournament is tricky. So we broke the event into several different parts.

Saturday, December 1, 2012, we put on an event in Chorillos (south of Lima in a place where they have less but are not destitute). We were able to distribute a large amount of safety gear to this group, plus a bunch of wheels and bearings, to help them advance while staying safe. We spent about five hours at the event with 30 kids and had a blast; not a bad way to spend a Saturday.

On Sunday, we had a longboard slide jam — and a series of contests. The help that local longboard shop Hightide gave the event was invaluable. They organized banners, race cones, an announcer and judges and essentially ran the event. Anybody else planning a similar event should not forget how valuable local stores are to making it successful.

As the time was winding down, it still didn't feel like we had completed our mission here. So we organized the purchase of bulk staple food and had it bagged with chocolates and presents for kids. We were happy to be able to provide food for a week for about 30 families in a community called San Juanito, scattered in the middle of the world's second-largest graveyard.

I hope this sparks and stokes more events, and I hope people search for ways to help the communities that we sell our products in. Longboarding for Peace!

Visit youtube.com/roadsharkboards for videos. **CW**

■ LONGEST SLIDE (DECEMBER 2 EVENT)

- Sub-14: Gonzalo Brandon
- Sub-18: Juan Manuel Piñas
- Open: Marko Arroyo Torres (72 feet)

■ BEST TRICK COMBINATION RUN

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sub-14 | Open |
| 1. Gonzalo Brandon | 1. Martin Rodriguez Abad |
| 2. Rodrigo Zuzunaga Molfino | 2. Jonathan Jacobs Luna |
| 3. Phublico Porras | 3. Renato Kaya |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Sub-18 | Mujeres |
| 1. Juan Manuel Piñas | 1. Rafaella Malaga |
| 2. Mariano Correa | 2. Andrea Torres |
| 3. Paulo Gargurevich Urbina | |



More than 25 kids showed up for the demo at the local skatepark.



A huge thanks to our sponsors: Roadshark, Seismic and Triple Eight.



Marko Arroyo Torres won the Open division of the Longest Slide event.



Renzo Santos is now working with Road Shark Boards to develop their programs in Peru.

Longboarding for Peace: HOUSTON, TEXAS



Our core group of skaters loves every minute of the session!

By MIKEY SEIBERT
Photos: ANDREA WALLACE

Houston, Texas, has the highest number of millionaires per capita of any city in the USA. Yet 17% of the population lives below the poverty line. Those people mostly live in poorer neighborhoods, often called ghettos. Houston's main ghettos are broken up into wards. The Fifth Ward is where world-renowned rappers the Geto Boys are from. It also happens to be where I grew up. Surrounded by drugs, prostitutes and gangs, we didn't really have a lot of options. My best friend Andy and I got involved in drugs and gangs at an early age. We made all the wrong decisions and took all the wrong paths, all of which were leading to prison or death. The skateboard gave us an opportunity to escape our horrible surroundings. We could hop on a metro bus and go anywhere. We chose downtown.

Downtown Houston was like Disney World for skateboarders in the early '90s. The police did not bother us, there were no gangsters, and the bad in our daily lives did not exist anymore. It was great! I started skating in 1987 at the ripe old age of 10. My father was a surfer, and being in Houston without surf, he





” THE PIECE OF WOOD WITH FOUR WHEELS WAS MY TICKET OUT OF HELL. IT TOOK ME ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MADE ME SOME OF MY GREATEST FRIENDS AND LED ME TO A DECENT LIFE.

was like a fish out of water. In his mind, skateboarding was the next best thing. He got me my first skateboard and taught me to jump off launch ramps, and my mother would tote me to the Skatepark of Houston any chance she had. We would sometimes go without other things in life, yet I *never* went without a board. My father would wear shoes with holes in the sole because he spent his shoe money to get me a board. So when I decided I was going to dedicate my life to the board, my parents were as supportive as if I told them I was going to Yale. When you grow up poor, the simple things in life can make all the difference. The piece of wood with four wheels was my ticket out of hell. It took me across the country, made me some of my greatest friends and led me to a decent life.

A few years ago I injured my back skating a rail. Not wanting to quit skating, but knowing I couldn't jump down stairs anymore, I wasn't sure what was going to happen. Then a friend introduced me to longboards. I chose the wrong style board and wheels, and in turn I did not have that much fun doing it. It did, however, keep me rolling. I was down for life.

After moving away from Houston for more than a decade, I moved back. I wanted to support the city that had given me so much. Needing a local shop, and being the kind of guy that only supports core shops, I got turned on to Carve Skate Shop. The guys running the shop were Neal Roberts and Sean Cook, two amazingly knowledgeable longboarders. Neal helped me pick a board that suited my riding and what I wanted to do. It made a world of difference, and I fell in love with the longboard. At first it was just cruising and carving, then pumping and racing garages. Powersliding was natural to me since it was a fun trick we did in the late '80s. Having such a great time, I immersed myself in the longboard culture.



Slevin is 5 and a pure natural.

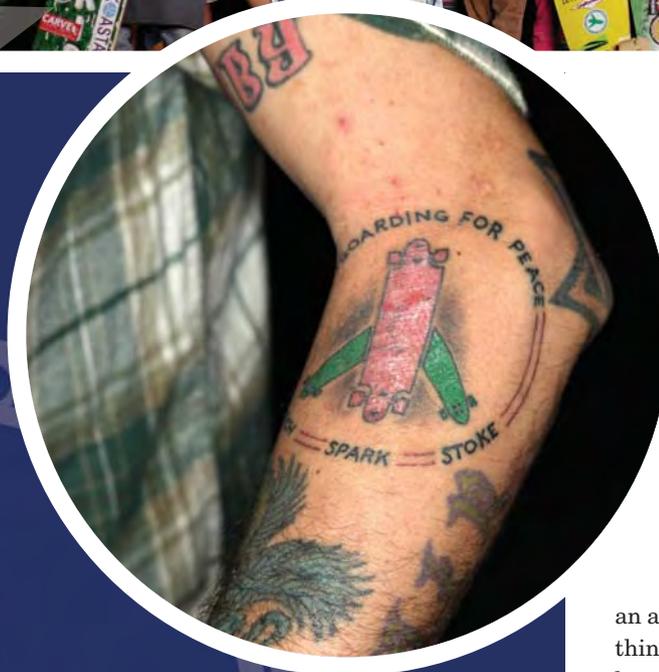


Greg Nobles helping the kids learn to skate.



Passing out the gear to the kids. They are so appreciative of receiving it.

Sharing the stoke in Houston.



” THESE KIDS WHO HAD NO REAL PROSPECTS AND WERE BASICALLY WRITTEN OFF BY SOCIETY AT LARGE NOW HAVE A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND CREATIVITY. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY CAN BE THEMSELVES.

One day as I was reading *Concrete Wave*, I came across an article on Longboarding for Peace. It was showing the great things they were doing and the stoke they were building. I knew I had to be a part of such a great movement.

Several emails and phone calls later, I was in. I was now part of L4P. And I knew the direction I wanted to go: Because I was from Houston and got started skating in Houston, and because Houston had poor kids in gangs, why not set up a branch of L4P here? Now L4P Houston is a reality.

I hooked up with the guys at Carve to see if they wanted to help. They were so down.

I also got in touch with Esteven Azcona at Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA), an arts center for underserved and underprivileged children. They were more than excited to have us. My intent was to take longboarding to kids who were poor — I mean really poor; kids from neighborhoods rife with gangs and drugs — and give them something fun and creative to do. Something to take their minds off the troubles they faced in everyday life. I mean, a board with four wheels got me out, so maybe it could do the same for them.

I estimated that we might get 10 to 15 kids to sign up and try it, and figured maybe six to 10 of those would really dig it and keep coming back on a weekly basis. I was wrong. Twenty-two kids, aged 2-16, came to the first session. Some of them were actual gang members — one of whom was 16 and covered in tattoos and already had a 2-year-old son.

Well, they enjoyed it so much that they kept coming back. We are up to 38 kids now, and it grows by at least two to five kids each week. I have been told they are doing better in school and respecting authority due solely to the fact that they don't want to get in trouble and have to miss our sessions. What a great response!

Companies like Loaded, Klever, Landyachtz and Restless donated more boards than I ever expected. These companies really believe in the cause and deserve our support and respect. Without them and others like Churchill Mfg., Crossroads, Big Myth, Sweet Spot, these Wheels and Abec 11, none of this would be possible.

These kids who had no real prospects and were basically written off by society at large now have a sense of purpose and creativity. They understand that they can be themselves. Even though we are longboarders, how we choose to ride is up to us and no one will judge us for it. It's a good mirror for life. We are all humans, and how we choose to live and dress is our choice and no one should judge us for it — whether it be emo, punk, prep or anything else. These are the values I am trying to teach with L4P Houston. At L4P Houston we have had a wonderful outpouring of support, locals have come to teach, Carve has helped with helmets and time and MECA has given us a facility.

The program is growing every day and has a 100% retention rate. Not one single kid has dropped out or stopped coming. By the time you read this, we should be close to 50 strong. We have been doing slide clinics, board dancing and fundamentals like pumping, carving and stopping. The kids have grown not only as riders but also as people. It's been absolutely fantastic and will continue to be — all thanks to the longboard and the longboard community.

I would like to thank all those involved, and I am sure I will forget some. But I am asking you to support these companies. Let them know you are supporting them because they support us. Thanks to Restless, Pablo and Loaded Boards, Klever Skateboards, Landyachtz, Carve Skate Shop, Churchill Mfg., Abec11, these Wheels, Riviera and Divine, Koastal, LongboardLarry, Navigator Trucks, Bomb-squad Longboarding, S-One Helmets, Crossroads, Big Myth, Bustin, Phat Deanz and *Concrete Wave* magazine. Search, Spark, Stoke. L4P for Life! **CW**



Street kids turned into longboarders.



MECA Houston: The steps to change for the kids.



Georgiah picks it up quickly.

TRAVELS WITH THE HUMBLE HIPPIE:
**PEACE, LOVE
AND LONGBOARDING
IN MOORE, OKLAHOMA**



By **DUSTY RAY** | Photos: **LIZ RAY**

I AM NOT EVEN SURE HOW TO GO INTO THIS, so I am just going to jump right in. By now you have all heard about the huge tornado that ripped through Moore, Oklahoma, on May 20, 2013, taking the lives of 24 people and destroying 13,000 homes. When I heard about it I was sick to my stomach. I couldn't just sit around watching the news rerun the horrible story over and over. So I called up a few friends in the longboarding industry and got into action. I wanted to get my ass to Moore ASAP to see firsthand what these people were going through. I wanted to be of some kind of help, and all I could think about was all the families that had just lost everything they had. My mind-set was simple: I knew these families were just like mine and would all be thankful it was over. They would all be amazed and shocked, and then they would all just want to get back to living.





KEEPING IT REAL

I wanted to bring something new into the lives of the people in Moore. They had all just gone through the most unreal event of their lives. I knew they would all be looking for something to help fill their lives with joy and happiness. I didn't know how I was going to do it, but I knew Longboarding for Peace was going to help me in assisting these folks.

It only took three days to get more than 50 longboards kicked in from all kinds of companies. I loaded up all the product, and my family and I headed to Oklahoma. We had more than 1,200 miles to drive, and there were still tornado warnings and huge thunderstorms all across the Midwest, but Longboarding for Moore was "in fool swing" and on the way.

The first day of driving wasn't even that bad, and we made it from San Diego all the way to Albuquerque, New Mexico. All the time I was driving, I kept thinking about how the families of Moore must be feeling.

That night in our hotel room we watched the TV special that the Country Music Association held for the victims of the tornado. I remember thinking, How the hell am I going to help this horrific situation with just a bunch of longboards? The CMA raised \$50 million for the Red Cross, and all I had was 50 longboards. Thank God for Liz, my beautiful, awesome wife. She told me, "Dusty, everything counts,

and those people of Moore are going to be so happy to know that some ol' boy from halfway across the United States cared enough to drive 1,200 miles just to bring them and their children a little hope and happiness." I sure am glad Liz knows exactly what to say and when to say it. She has the best way of keeping it real.

The next morning we were up early and ready to roll. I turned on the Weather Channel to see what kind of storms we would be headed into. That was a big mistake. The map was red all across the country with storms, storms and more storms. I couldn't believe it. It seemed like Oklahoma couldn't catch a break. These people had just survived an F5 tornado, one of the biggest ever recorded, and now there were even more headed their way. I am not going to BS you. I was as nervous as a drunk in church. Here I was, 700 miles from home with more than 500 miles to drive to get to Moore, and all 500 miles were going to be in BIG storms. I procrastinated a little and sat glued to the Weather Channel.

I finally I felt like I had a handle on things by about 9 a.m. We pulled up a storm-watch app and headed east. I felt like a storm chaser as we watched the storms form all around us as we buzzed on into Oklahoma. I felt we were in some kind of a safety bubble. It was crazy. You could see us as a little green dot on the radar, but otherwise it was all red, with major storms all around us. As we moved, the storms moved with us. I felt safe even though there were tornados touching down all around us.

RIDERS ON THE STORM

After a few hours of driving, we had to pull into a shopping mall and take cover in the storm shelter in the basement. It was just like in the movie *Twister*. We came hauling ass into the parking lot and there was a tornado on the ground less than a mile from us. I slid our car up on the sidewalk and told my family to bail out and run inside to safety. There were highway patrol officers at the entrance directing us which way to run for cover.

This was the scariest part of the trip. My family made it inside before me, and by the time I got inside they were nowhere in sight. I could hear the tornado getting closer and louder. Things were being blown around, and a loud, trainlike noise was the only thing you could hear. I ran in the direction the police officers told me to go, but it was confusing to be in a huge mall that I had never been in, and I was worried about my family.

When I got down to the lower level of the mall, the security guards were waving at me to get in the tornado shelter, but I still had not found my family. I was yelling for my wife and daughter and was starting to panic; I worried that maybe they had gone the wrong way and had not found the tornado shelter. The mall was huge, with two levels and lots of hallways; all the stores were closed down, all the gates locked down.

I got one of the policemen to radio around to the other storm shelters in the mall and ask if anyone knew Dusty Ray; I figured they would hear my name before

they heard their own. Thankfully, it worked, and about five minutes later I got word that my family was at the other end of the shelter. More than 200 people were all stuffed into that long, skinny, bending brick hallway, so you could not see from one end to the other. The tension in that tight little hallway was so thick you could cut it with a knife.

And then, just like that, it was over. They opened the big metal doors to the shelter and told us it was clear and we were safe to go. The tornado had just missed landing right on top of us, and I was thankful everyone was OK. Babies were crying, mamas were calming their small children, fathers were hugging their families and strangers were helping strangers. Everyone felt a little more thankful for what they had.

This frightening experience put everything into perspective for me. This was just a small taste of what the families of Moore had experienced. Though it was just a close call and was only 10 or 15 minutes of chaos, my heart was pounding. I was only away from my family for a few minutes, yet I could feel how much more we loved and cared for each other just from knowing we could have just lost one another forever. I was not worried about my own safety for one second; I was only worried about the safety of my loved ones.

The hard-working volunteers who came to share their strength and support.



The devastation in Moore was astounding, but so was the spirit of kinship and cooperation.



ROLLING INTO MOORE

What a long, strange trip it had already been, and we had not even made it to our destination yet. Finally we rolled into Moore to meet up with some fellow longboarders from around the area who were helping put the whole thing together.

What we found when we got to Moore was overwhelming. Words and pictures cannot do it justice. The destruction and chaos were spread over such a large area that it was difficult to take it all in at once. Your mind could not process all of what you were seeing. Trucks were sitting in the middle of homes, trailers were left flat as a pancake, and entire neighborhoods were gone — 13,000 homes leveled.

We met up with BC Longboards' Brett Daniel and Marshall Cooper, a couple of corn-fed good ol' Oklahoma boys, plus the one person who really caused me to want to do something for the people of Moore — Neil Wieland, who had posted a picture of himself on Facebook riding his longboard through the path of destruction the tornado left behind. These dudes are as cool as they come. All of them live, work and skate right there in Oklahoma. They all wanted to do something for the families that had lost everything they owned.

The guys from BC Boards had put the word out that Longboarding for Peace was going to be in town handing out boards and doing some skate clinics at the Moore High School, and longboarders from all over the country showed up to assist us in our mission to bring some joy and happiness back into the people's lives. Among them was Billy Angus, who came all the way from Republic, Missouri, to help put together boards and spread the stoke. This guy keeps popping up at all kinds of events and is so helpful — just a straight-up dude. Besides

Billy, many other people and companies chipped in product and time. I am including a list of all of them at the end of this article. Please show them some support; without them we could not do the things we do.

The day of the event was the first beautiful day since we had left San Diego. The sun was shining, the sky was blue and longboarders were out in full swing. By noon all kinds of families had found their way over to our tent.

The people I met that day changed my life forever. The amount of caring, loving, thoughtfulness and thankfulness that I witnessed in Moore was simply astounding. We handed out longboards to families and kids all day. One guy I met, Chris Dewitt, brought his daughter Taylor and his son Sebastian. Both got new longboards and became members of the Longboarding for Peace army. Chris, Taylor and Sebastian stayed and skated with us all day. Since then I have heard back from Chris, and he tells me they are all skating every night. This is what I live for: seeing Longboarding for Peace change people's lives right in front of me.

A young man named Jory Pratt also showed up to the event. Jory had lost the most of anyone I met in Moore. His mother was in the hospital after a car was thrown through the roof of their home and landed on her, and his younger sister, Sydney Angel, was in Plaza Towers Elementary School when the tornado hit. Unfortunately, 9-year-old Sydney did not make it out.

I want to ask all of you to take a few minutes and think about the 24 people who lost their lives on May 20 in Moore, and those who were left behind. Jory lost his home and his little sister. This young man had just been through more than anyone else I had ever met, and he was coming to our event looking for something, anything. As I watched him ride his new longboard all over the high school parking lot, I remember thinking to myself how strong this young man was and how happy I was that I had come to see such wonderful strength in humanity.

HEARTBEAT CITY

All of the volunteers and some of the new Longboarding for Peace family went for a tour of the tornado devastation by riding our longboards right through the neighborhood in which 13,000 homes got blown away. Seeing this on the news or even from a car is nothing compared to seeing it by riding through the middle of it on your longboard. My youngest daughter, Hayley, skated along beside me, holding my hand at times. I could feel her heart beat and see her compassion as we rolled through the debris.

As we cruised down the streets, we stopped and talked to families who were digging through what was left of their homes in search of family photos and things dear to their hearts. One family we met was a father named Montie and his two beautiful kids, Joshua and Brianna. We had run out of longboards by this point, but we shipped two bad-ass Loaded decks out to these two awesome, brave youngsters as soon as we got back to San Diego.

The vibe in Moore was absolutely incredible. I have traveled a lot of places for a lot of reasons, and I can

honestly say I have never seen more people be kinder to one another in one place in my entire life. Everyone in Moore realized that even though it may have seemed like they'd lost everything, the reality is they have more

than they need. They are all thankful to be alive and have so much respect for each other. The community in Moore could teach us all a thing or two about what it truly means to be a good neighbor. Thank you to the people of Moore for showing my family and me the better side of humanity.

The point I want you all to get is this: It doesn't take \$50 million to make the world a little bit better place; it only takes the will to try. That's all my fellow longboarders and I are doing. We are on a mission to bring some joy and happiness to wherever they are needed.

You all can jump on your board and help us help others. You can bring support our efforts by shopping at thehumblehippie.com and by joining us on our future missions. I will be posting things we have done, along with our future plans, on our website. It's time to join our army — the Longboarding for Peace army. Let's roll! **CW**

Until next time, keep it real.

Dusty Ray, aka The Humble Hippy

The Humble Hippy and Longboarding for Peace would like to thank:

BC Longboards

Bern Unlimited

Bombsquad Longboards

Burning Spider Longboards

Core Extreme Sports

Daddies Board Shop

Loaded Longboards

Metro Wheels

Original Skateboards

Paris Trucks

Sector 9

Triple Eight

These companies are the ones who made it all possible. Please let them know you heard about the awesome things they are helping us do. Show these companies support and give them some love.



This kid was stoked out of his mind with the gift of a new longboard.



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE: UPDATE

A lot of things have happened since we last reported on Longboarding for Peace in British Columbia and Peru in the January issue. The following are some updates. We want to thank all our sponsors who generously provide product. We are especially grateful to all the volunteers who step up and lend a hand. If you want to help spread the stoke, just email mbrooke@interlog.com. Whether it's helping to build peace between enemies, forge peace in neighborhoods or just bring someone some peace of mind, we're interested in hearing from you. Read, get inspired and then step up!



SAN DIEGO

A Hawaiian Pig Roast Appreciation Luncheon was held at the San Diego Police Department Southeastern Division on March 20, 2013. Pastor Dennis Martinez and the Training Center sponsored the event to thank the officers for their service in the community and their dedication to youth diversion through the Off The Street Program. Longboarding for Peace has joined the OTS collaboration by making its first donation of five skateboards and helmets to OTS, a community service for after-school skateboarding clinics aimed at reducing truancy and juvenile delinquency in Southeast San Diego. Special thanks to Riviera, Sector 9, Deville, Buddy Carr Skateboards, Churchill and S-One Helmet Company for their contributions, and to the San Diego Police Department for their daily community service.

Photo: Dennis Martinez (in red shirt) and Harvey Hawks with Officers Chad Crenshaw, Scott Smith, Tyler Deyling and Captain Tony McElroy of the SDPD Southeastern Division.

OASIS

The students from Oasis School in Toronto were inspired so much by L4P that they created this one-of-a-kind deck. oasisskateboardfactory.blogspot.ca



SECTOR 9

Harvey Hawks (left) stands with Sector 9's EG Fratantaro. Sector 9 has been very generous and donated quite a bit of product to our movement. **Photo:** Jeff Budro





AARON'S APPLE

L4P teamed up with Restless Boards to create this unique charity deck for the children's charity Aaron's Apple. The charity's primary goal is to help families cope with overwhelming medical costs. Aaron's Apple helps families pay for expensive medication and treatments. aaronapple.com



PEEDS WHEEL PROGRAM

Gage is 3 years old and has been battling leukemia (a blood cancer) for the past three years. While he has been in the hospital, his parents have been exposed to the reality of how many kiddos are suffering and fighting cancers and diseases. The one thing that pulled them through was a reward at the end of a harsh treatment procedure. So Gage's parents decided to create the PEEDS wheel. It's a new bright orange 70mm race wheel that will be used to generate funds that will directly purchase toys for kids. The toys will be given to them by their doctors and nurses during children's hospital visits. The PEEDS wheel is teamed up with Longboarding for Peace and will be sold through churchillmfg.com.



THE HUMBLE HIPPIE – AKA SOLE MAN

Joy and happiness are not just words we say; I practice what I preach. We decided to have a shoe drive to collect shoes for people in San Diego who needed them. The mission statement of Longboarding for Peace gave us our start: search, spark, stoke. We searched for a way to create some peace, joy and a little happiness in a few people's lives. An idea sparked for a shoe drive, and then we just kept stoking it until we had 200 pairs of shoes to help those who need them.

When we started this I was only concerned with creating some joy and happiness in some strangers' lives with some new kicks. What I did not realize was how much the people involved, including myself, would get from helping others. The joy and happiness that was created with this simple small shoe drive affected everyone involved in ways we never imagined. It's hard to tell who is helping whom. Ask yourself this one question: What would happen if everyone did what you do? Help us spread some good vibe by doing something nice for someone who could use it.

To everyone who donated shoes, thank you for helping us kick evil's ass. When we help others we help ourselves. Mike Barringer at The Shoe Bank in Texas, you are an inspiration to all of us; thank you for shoeing us the way. Keep it real, everyone. Be the change you want to see. Dusty Ray, aka the Humble Hippie.

RETURN TO JAFFA, ISRAEL

By Michael Brooke | Photos: Yahav Trudler

After the ISPO trade show wrapped up in Munich, I traveled back to Tel Aviv, Israel, to meet up with workers at the Peres Center for Peace. It was a follow-up to the tour we had done in July 2012. On February 11, 2013, we organized a longboard session of about 30 Arab and Israeli children. Although these kids live close by each other, they never really get to hang out. Longboarding for Peace is there to forge these relationships.

You can't get any more perfect than waves, concrete and peace combined in one location. A huge thanks to Tami Hay-Sagiv and Sivan Hendel from the Peres Center for their hard work.

A local girl from Jaffa enjoys her first moments of gliding on a longboard.



Yoni Ettinger and Michael Brooke say it all with longboards at the Peres Center.



Well, that's one way to do an ollie! Yoni Ettinger lends a hand (and a foot).



Everyone enjoyed pizza at the conclusion of the event. It definitely helped bring people together through the magic of sharing slices.





LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE DECK

Nathan Bishop proudly shows off his incredible grip tape work on the Longboarding for Peace Deck. The deck will be on permanent display at Longboard Labs in Vancouver, BC.

Artist Haley Herrington worked extremely hard on creating the bottom of the deck. Look for an artist profile on Haley in an upcoming issue.



LONGBOARD LOFT'S NEW FULL CIRCLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

As the sport grows and skate tech turns over faster and faster, one of the most profound results is the massive quivers of old equipment stashed in closets or piled in cars of skaters around the world. New York City's Longboard Loft is looking for new ways to translate what would otherwise be waste into stoke for skaters who wouldn't otherwise get the chance to skate. In conjunction with Longboarding for Peace, the Longboard Loft has just rolled out its new Full Circle Exchange Program.



"I think Longboarding for Peace is challenging everyone to think outside the box and outside of themselves," says Loft owner Ryan Daughtridge. "We wanted to be a part of the movement here in New York City, and we're stoked to roll out this new program that will benefit our customers and our community."

The new program is simple: Customers can exchange old equipment for a 10% discount on comparably priced new equipment. Looking for a new set of the hottest new thane? Turn in your old wheels and get them under someone who will appreciate them so much more than your bedroom closet. It's not a new concept and it's not rocket science, but it's powerful when a highly visible, award-winning skate shop goes out of its way to actively and creatively support a cause.

"We are delighted to be working with the Longboard Loft," said Concrete Wave publisher Michael Brooke. "We encourage other shops to step up and copy this idea and spread the joy of longboarding to those who may not get an opportunity."

So next time you start jonesing for that new setup, take a page from the Loft Crew and think about how your old equipment could change the life of a skater in need. And if you're headed to New York City, make sure to take all of your old gear and swing by the Longboard Loft at 132 Allen Street in Manhattan to experience one of the world's most epic longboard stores. **CW**



GUNS 4

THE STREETS HERE IN VENICE, CALIFORNIA, are both a beachside paradise and a gang war zone, where in the same afternoon you can see beautiful girls skating to the beach and police helicopters buzzing over a crime scene. The shootings have slowed a bit since Google moved to the hood, but we're still armed to the teeth, and with so many guns easily bought with a fistful of dollars, it's no wonder people are using them against each other. The U.S. is the most armed country in the world, with 89 firearms for every hundred residents, more than 1.5 times as many as the next country, Yemen. That's 270 million guns in America right now, and yet we continue to debate the reasonable necessity of requiring background checks for weapons purchases, or limiting the magazine capacity of assault weapons. Without such combat-capacity weapons, incidents like the one in Sandy Hook, N.J., would be far less deadly.

It's frustrating to watch this debate lurch on and to have so little influence on its course. Having been a part of the Longboarding for Peace program in Israel, I've seen what a positive force just riding a skateboard can be, so I resolved to take the initiative and try to have a positive effect a bit closer to home. Why not literally help take guns off the streets by trading them for longboards? I had heard there was a gun buyback program here in Los Angeles, so I set out to see how Carver could participate. After weeks of calling around, I found out that there was going to be a gun buyback on the weekend of May 4. I finally connected with right people at the LAPD and the mayor's office and told them about the idea of trading guns for skateboards, and even though it was all last-minute, they thought it was a great idea and were stoked to include us in the event. It tied in perfectly with the idea of not only getting the guns off the street, but also giving kids in the inner city something else to do. We decided that we'd focus on using the boards for the assault weapons exchange, while they gave out \$100 gift cards for handguns and rifles.



Neil Carver (third from left) with California Rep. Janice Hahn and L.A. police officers. Photo: Lance Dalgart

By NEIL CARVER

LONGBOARDS



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ANONYMOUS
GUN BUYBACK**

**TURN IN YOUR GUNS
TO RECEIVE A RALPH'S GIFT CARD!**

UP TO (While supplies last) UP TO

\$100 | \$200

GIFT CARD | GIFT CARD

FOR HANDGUNS, SHOTGUNS & RIFLES **FOR ASSAULT WEAPONS AS CLASSIFIED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Quantities of the gift cards are limited & subject to availability. We reserve the right to limit the number of gift cards an individual can receive regardless of the amount of firearms surrendered.

PLEASE TRANSPORT YOUR FIREARMS UNLOADED AND IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR VEHICLE

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2013
EVENT TIME: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

**4 LOCATIONS ACROSS
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

2013 ANONYMOUS GUN BUYBACK LOCATIONS

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| CENTRAL LOS ANGELES LAPD Northeast Area LAPD Fire Academy Frank Hochkins Training Academy 1700 Stadium Way Los Angeles, CA 90012 | SOUTH LOS ANGELES LAPD Harbor Area Park & Ride Parking Lot 1300 West Pacific Coast Highway Wilmington, CA 90744 | SOUTH LOS ANGELES LAPD 77th Area Sacred African Methodist Episcopal Church 7900 South Western Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90047 | VALLEY LAPD Van Nuys Area Van Nuys Masonic Building Assoc. 14720 Sherman Way Van Nuys, CA 91405 |
|--|--|---|--|

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PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL SITES FOR INFORMATION ON THE GUN BUYBACK

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For More Information Contact: 1-877 LAPD 247

By the time we showed up at the San Pedro Harbor at 10 a.m., they had already collected hundreds of guns, and even a bunch of assault weapons. I had never seen any of these kinds of weapons in person before, and here was a table piled high with them. We were proud to see an Uzi come in and one of our boards go out. Even with only a dozen longboards, in our small way we were happy to be trading wood, aluminum and urethane for steel and bullets, and inciting play instead of violence. By the end of the day, 1,170 weapons had been taken off the streets, including 49 assault weapons. So today, on this sunny California day, some of those same streets are instead hearing the peaceful hiss of soft urethane roll by while another longboard works its magic. **CW**



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE: UPDATE

Things continue to build with the Longboarding for Peace movement. We are so fortunate to have such strong support from the longboard community. Companies are stepping up, and slowly but surely things are growing. If you'd like to get involved, feel free to email mbrooke@interlog.com.



SPAIN

Jose María de la Cierva of Deportes Loco of Spain decided he wanted to coordinate an event in Spain. He managed to get a number of Spanish companies on board and create a fundraiser for Caritas (a charity that aims to build a better world). Pictured is Jose's son, Luke.

TEXAS

Clayton West, president of Evins Skateboard Company, became aware of the Longboarding for Peace movement while watching things go down on Greg Noble's Facebook and Instagram pages. As soon as Clayton saw the first photos of the kids with huge smiles learning to longboard, he knew he was going to have to be involved. Shortly after, Clayton met up with Greg at the Texas Sizzler slalom event in Hockley, Texas.

Clayton came up with the idea of producing a deck for L4P. He then got in touch with Mikey Seibert and a set of specs were drawn up. It turned out that Evins team rider Zachary Piccolo was already helping Evins design a board with similar parameters. Clayton forwarded the L4P emblem to artist and avid longboarder Kristin Maxwell, who created the beautiful art for the board.

For every L4P deck they sell, Evins is donating a deck to Longboarding for Peace. Evins will make the donation regardless of whether the board is sold directly through their website or sold wholesale to one of their retailers. evinsboards.com



JAPAN

Kazuya "Backdoor" Takeuchi created this beautiful logo. It will wind up on T-shirts and stickers. If you're inclined to create a riff on the logo, just contact us.



MAXIM COSSETTE

A few months ago we received a phone call from Maxim Cossette, a longboarder/banjo player. He told us that during his upcoming cross-Canada tour, he plans to spend some of his time onstage to promote and explain Longboarding for Peace. You'll learn more about this in the next issue.



CINDY WHITEHEAD

Cindy worked tirelessly with the folks at Dusters to create this unique “Girl is Not a 4 Letter Word” deck. Part of the proceeds will go to the Girls Riders Organization. Notice the Longboarding for Peace logo on the tail. This photo was taken at the Skateboarding Hall of Fame. Christian Hosoi was inducted. *Photo: Ian Logan*



NEW RECRUITS AT THE ARBOR STORE IN VENICE

We delivered a fresh batch of stickers to the shop back in May and were pleasantly surprised to find a wonderful reception.



NATIONAL POST, TIMES OF ISRAEL

We are starting to get mainstream attention for Longboarding for Peace. *The Times of Israel* documented Mikey Seibert's incredible work in Houston, and Canada's *National Post* explained the concept of using longboards as a way to teach balance to students.



CHAMPSTILES

Woodburning artist extraordinaire Chris Burns presented us with this beautiful piece at the Roarocket event in March. We were so stoked on Chris's artwork, we had to share it with readers. To see more, visit champstilestoronto.com.



KOTA

KOTA Longboards, in partnership with Merrill Middle School in Denver, Colorado, will launch a Longboarding for Peace program this fall. Merrill is a Denver public school that serves students from more than 30 countries. The Longboarding for Peace message and program are a perfect fit for this diverse group of 6th, 7th- and 8th-graders. KOTA Longboards will donate four decks to students who successfully complete the program. They hope to expand to program to other schools in 2014.



AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL, TORONTO

We teamed up with Evolve Skate Camp to bring Longboarding for Peace to Amesbury Middle School in Toronto (above). We'll have a full report next issue. Huge thanks to all our volunteers who made the day truly magical. *Photo: Daniel Rinzler*

MAUI AND SONS

Less than a mile from Arbor's Venice shop, you'll find Maui and Sons. Cheryl Johnson has been an incredible supporter of Longboarding for Peace and placed a banner in her shop. If your shop needs a banner, just let us know.

STEP ON STEP UP



ENLIST TODAY
longboardingforpeace@gmail.com



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE: UPDATE

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CRIB-BOMB



We proudly sponsored Bricin Lyons and his infamous Crib-Bomb tour. The tour continues all the way until November.

L4P JOINS UP WITH SWIPE4THEKIDS



Swipe4TheKids is a sustainable funding source for youth enrichment programs. It's made possible by partnerships between local businesses and an electronic payment platform. Longboarding for Peace will be working closely with them to ensure that longboards get to those who need them. This includes schools, community centers and a variety of skateboard nonprofits. swipe4thekids.com

LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE IN SPAIN FROM A FLEA MARKET TO SOUP KITCHENS

By Alfredo "Red" Prados

In Spain we have an economic crisis. But it goes deeper than this. Poverty has led to whole families having to rely on charities for help. Caritas is one of these. Among other services, it operates soup kitchens that feed people in need. But Caritas is currently overwhelmed by the amount of people who come to them.



Natalia and Chema are skaters who live in Toledo. They thought about how they could help with such a dramatic situation. They found the answer in Longboarding for Peace, and thus was born the idea of a charity flea market, where donated longboard items would be sold and the money would be given to Caritas soup kitchens. The material donations would come from brands, distributors, stores and individuals.

Natalia and Chema contacted some brands and shops, recorded a video about the idea and posted it on the Internet. Soon they were adding more and more partners. The market was held in Madrid on Saturday, June 8. The site was a former book shop owned by Chema's relatives, who generously allowed the sale to go without any additional costs.

We started to review and put prices on the donated items. They included complete longboards, both new and used, new decks, trucks in perfect shape, different types of wheels and all kinds of accessories. It was not yet 10 a.m. when we received our first buyers, and it did not stop all morning. As more and more people arrived, a line was formed in order to pay. Outside the shop, on the boulevard, a group of people started skating and sharing newly purchased material. Others set up their decks with the new accessories. It was amazing to witness such a spirit of solidarity. Strangers joined to skate and share their decks and experiences. This spirit that prevails in the longboard fellowship was and is truly magical.



As the morning went on, the material disappeared, but people still found things to buy. At one point, there were two identical new decks. One was grabbed by a boy, the other by a girl. Suddenly the boy's brother wanted another deck, but it was already taken by the girl. The boys' mother had to make them participate in the solidarity about sharing the deck as brothers.

Natalia and Chema's work has been a lesson in humility for me. While returning home, I thought about the importance of these gestures. Their event helped raise almost \$2,000 for Caritas. All help is necessary, but what is more important is that such acts are changing society's awareness about the importance of working together.

HOUSTON, TEXAS UPDATE

By Mikey Seibert

Photos: Michelle Chaney



AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eight students were awarded complete longboards at Toronto's Amesbury Middle School in June. They were deemed most improved students and are pictured with Principal Steve Bannerman and Vice Principal Cherylann Samuel-Graham. We will be implementing a program at the school in the fall of 2013.

WARPED TOUR 2013

Longboarding for Peace teamed up with Music Saves Lives on the Vans Warped Tour to help present the Passport Program. Here is Big D and The Kids Table along with Crown the Empire.



Things have been going really well here in Texas. We are up to 60 kids in our Houston program, a lot of whom are progressing at an amazing rate. We are about to start incorporating mathematics, morals and maintenance into our programs, teaching the kids about the mathematics of building boards, ride heights and turning angles, as well as how to maintain their boards. I have named Neal Roberts as director of the Houston program, as well as Richard Supernaw as the head instructor. This is so I concentrate on getting the rest of these programs, plus more, up and going.

We have started a new program at a battered women's and children's shelter. Look for a full article on this in a future issue.

Our program in La Feria, Texas will have started by the time you read this. It will incorporate most of the towns along the Texas/Mexico border, which is a super poor, cartel-ridden area. I felt it would be a great next step in our peace movement. I asked Clayton West of Evins Longboards if he could direct the program, and he jumped at the chance!

Darrion Meckle, one of the groms from our Houston program who just turned 18 and moved to Oahu, Hawaii, will be starting a Longboarding for Peace program there.

Thanks to great guys like Neal, Richard, Clayton and Darrion, as well as awesome companies like Landyachtz, Klever, Nuke, East Coast Customs, Creation, Satori, Rey, Stella, Bustin and of course Longboard Larry Peterson.

The car pictured in the top photo was painted by the father-son team of Rodney Blaha (father) and Austin Blaha. It's a 1978 Super Beetle! Austin is a big-time longboarder in Houston and a Longboarding For Peace supporter. He recently broke his ankle at Angie's Curves. While recovering, he and his dad decided to paint the car as a Longboarding for Peace Bug.



Greg Noble helps out a young skater.

Longboarding for Peace: WATTS ★ CALIFORNIA



Words and Photos:
HEIDI LEMMON

I went to the Watts after-school skateboard program to help out just before Christmas. I came prepared to put on a small contest and give away a few prizes. Turns out the kids really could not skateboard. They didn't know any tricks and were frustrated trying to learn them, so I suggested a "race." They were very excited, so that's what we did. Our first problem was they raced right into the fence — not a good way to stop. So I set up a cone and they were to "race" around it.

It was too much fun. They had not yet learned to turn but did they "get" the race part. Their enthusiasm was high, and they were so cute it was irresistible. I took some great pics of them racing their little hearts out and came home and thought, "Who could I show these to that would really 'get' what happened today?"

I decided to send the images to *Concrete Wave*. Michael Brooke and I share the same views on boarding and kids. I waited for his "Looks like a fun day; wish I was there" response. Instead I got back:

MB: Want to set up a race program?

Me: Don't have product or \$\$\$ to fund it.

MB: What if I can get you product?

Me: Sure. Why not?

The next day Michael started to get commitments for donations, and by January we had enough product to start five school programs!

I have worked with Woodcraft Rangers, The Salvation Army (covers Watts and South Central youth) and my own coaches for years, so we just started with the people we knew best. We are in the following schools:

- Le Conte Middle School
- John Liechty Middle School
- Manual Arts HS
- Salvation Army (elementary school age)
- SPAI team mobile program

Liability coverage is still difficult to find, with only a few underwriters in the USA and none in Canada. There are still not that many programs like ours, so the insurers are not making any profit if there is a claim, and there have been several. Most claims are filed by spectators or workers, so if you have a program, please keep your spectators out of the skate area. Any workers who come in should be required to carry their own workers' compensation insurance and name your park/program as an additional insured before they enter the area.

Coach Jeffrey Harris with Carshawn Lewis, Lamar Blaylock and Cartrel Lewis.



Vertron Russell coaches Samantha Rivera on her first time on a longboard.



Hernando "Cortez" Jones gets into the action.



Chryssie Banfell, coach and event coordinator for Woodcraft Rangers.



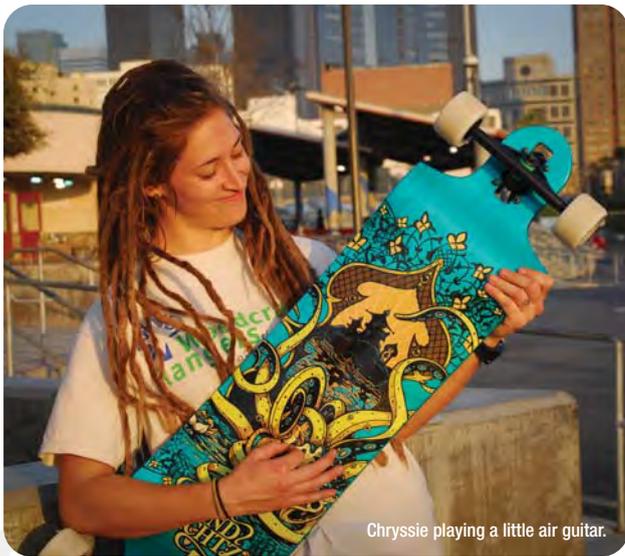
Huge thanks to Arbor team manager Noah Lewkow for helping to set up 33 completes.



The biggest advantages of setting up a L4P program are:

- You don't need a skatepark, just flat ground and some cones.
- It's easy to learn, so all the kids can participate and have fun, even kids who are out of shape.
- It's relatively safe — no big drops, no flying boards.
- It's much easier to get the kids wearing helmets and pads — which are really a must if you go anywhere near a hill.
- The Salvation Army program covers the youth in South Central and Watts areas of Los Angeles and has been a solid skateboarding program for almost eight years. The students were curious about the giant boards and a bit nervous to ride them at first because they are fast! But the speed was tempered by the stability of the board and the soft wheels, and in no time they were flying all over the flatground area. By day two, they were starting at the top of the quarterpipe so they could get their speed up to make it around the cones. Some kids were right into the style, and some had fun just sitting on the decks luge-style.

At the end of three weeks we advanced three riders to the Army Race Team (ART), and they each got a crazy race helmet donated by Raskullz. They had to show style, speed and skill to make the team.



Chryssie playing a little air guitar.

LONGBOARDING IS FOR ANYONE

These five programs are off to a good start and we see a lot of potential. The No. 1 problem facing our nation's youth is obesity. This is the first generation who are not expected to outlive their parents. Most sports have placed such an emphasis on winning that by the time you're 10, if you're not in the top 5% you will be cut from the team. Youth sports are a nightmare focused on winning and marketing.

But longboarding is a lifestyle activity focused on style, fun and friendships. Of course we have amazing pros, but at this level we work to keep the focus on skills and character building. We include all the kids in the fun and advance the ones who show the desire. However, we never leave anyone out. Longboarding is for everyone, whether you are cruising down the boardwalk, riding to school or bombing a hill at 70 mph.

Do we love it? YES! Will we keep it going? YES! Do our street coaches love it? YES! Do the kids love it? YES! YES! YES!

Huge thanks to all the sponsors: Khiro, Honey, Carver, Landyachtz, Never Summer, Paris, Churchill, Arbor and Loaded. **CW**



Annika Vrkljan came up to L.A. to do a mini ramp demo at the Salvation Army but decided to learn longboarding first.



Irene Chong, Principal of Le Conte Middle School

PRINCIPAL IRENE CHONG

and fellow teacher Greg Delger started working on a skatepark/skateboard program at Le Conte Middle School in Hollywood more than five years ago. They started with just a ramp but now have one of the first permanent skateparks at a school and possibly the first at a middle school. Getting the park was a long, hard journey that required passion and lots of political maneuvering. The biggest hurdle schools still face is liability, and Le Conte partnered with Woodcraft Rangers to lessen the liability. Woodcraft Rangers runs after-school programs on many L.A. Unified School District campuses and has skateparks on 14 of them, with Nike as a main sponsor.



L-R: Woodcraft Rangers coaches Pablo Ramos and Steve Corona, SPAI coach Vertron Russell and Loaded ambassadors Petter Hagman, Camilo Céspedes, Alexander Lundgren and Alexander Ellhage.

COACHING

We chose several existing after-school skateboard programs to work with to set up longboard programs. The first step was to get the buy-in of the coaches, who were all pretty hardcore street skaters. We lucked out with Chryssie as she had some experience with downhill and sliding. For the rest, we relied on their superior skating skills and presto! Coaches with style!

Coaching requires patience, skating skills and people skills. If the kids don't relate to you right away, chances are they won't relate to what you are teaching. When you hire your coaches, how they relate to the kids is the No. 1 criterion for a successful program. Pick the coaches who care about the kids and have a lot of patience, because it is an exhausting program.

If you need assistance in setting up a program or event, contact Heidi@spausa.org, and for insurance, contact Kat@athosinsurance.com.



Photo: Rick Tetz

WE CAN BE HEROES . . .

The above two photos were taken on October 22, 2013. *Concrete Wave*, in conjunction with Longboarding for Peace, worked with Canada Blood Services to get longboarders to donate blood. The plan worked, and dozens of longboarders from

across Canada rolled up their sleeves and gave the gift of life. Some people might find this story somewhat unusual for an action sports magazine. My sense is, however, that the world of longboarding can accommodate a lot of different stories.

I've known Patrick Switzer and Anna O'Neill for many years. I've seen them both rise through the ranks and mature as strong competitors. It was quite a trip to see Patrick's devoted fans at last year's Board Meeting in Toronto. Anna has made quite a name for herself in the Philippines. While I am proud of their accomplishments on a race course, I am doubly proud to have them come out and support the Blood from Boarders initiative.

We hope that this event turns into a regular affair. Our next goal is to team up with Music Saves Lives and start a longboard blood-donation program in the USA. From there, the plan is to eventually go worldwide and get 50,000 longboarders to donate blood. This will help save the lives of 150,000.

A number of people who don't longboard sometimes ask what makes it so special. There are all kinds of responses. Skaters will tell you they definitely enjoy the freedom, the speed and the blissful feeling under their feet. But I'd say there is one thing that definitely rivals all these feelings, and that's the amazing people you meet through longboarding. So here's to the heroes, both on and off the race course.

Enjoy the issue!

Michael Brooke, Publisher

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2. Rider: Cami Best
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CONCRETEWAVEMAGAZINE.COM

Concrete Wave is published by North of La Jolla Inc. Subscriptions (5 issues) are US\$26 FIRST CLASS or CAN\$26.

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PERU: THE RETURN

By Steve Quinn and Anahí Rossel

The kids came flying down the hill in the rain—racing, sliding, some falling—but all smiling and laughing. First, down San Isidro, known for smooth speed runs and some intense tight turns. Then, down the S of



La Molina, to work on how to enter corners and how to do pre-braking. And, finally, down Valle Hermoso de Surco to work on handling speed and to let some of the better riders cut loose. These were kids from Chorrillos, a neighborhood on the south side of Lima, Peru—all at risk and underprivileged. A group called Alto Perú organized the event with the support of sponsors including *Concrete Wave*, Longboarding for Peace, DB, Jet and Road Shark Boards.

Local surfer-skater Diego Villarán started Alto Perú nearly 10 years ago—informally at first by lending kids his surfboards, and later creating full formal programs to incentivize good behavior by lending equipment and offering training for surfing, longboarding, self-defense and break-dancing. Joined by Matías Ballón and others, it was organized into a full nonprofit organization that is making a real difference in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Peru. The neighborhood is famous for being a battleground site in 1881 during a war with Chile. It still is a battleground, but now the enemies are drugs, crime and quitting school at a young age. Many of its at-risk residents end up in jail or worse.

I have traveled to, downhill and worked in more than 40 countries in my lifetime; the extremes of Peru are something I have seen in few other places.

Peru is a country full of potential, but where the vast majority of the people have few opportunities. The rich live in neighborhoods next to the poor, with great views of beautiful beaches in front and blocked views of poverty behind. There are many excellent spots to ride, and some of the top riders in the world come from here, including Felipe Malaga, Marko Arroyo, Gonzalo Brandon and others. With the mighty Andes Mountains



nearby, smooth roads in the foothills and seemingly endless surf spots, it is a country made for action sports.

Almost all of the younger generation are die-hard longboarders, it seems, or want to be. The cost of equipment is more than double what you would expect to pay in the United States. There are small groups of wealthy children that have the best, most modern boards, racing leathers, helmets, slide gloves, etc., and large groups of others who could not afford those things without years of saving and sacrifice. Few of the poor people can afford to buy a board, much less safety gear. Some have to beg, borrow or steal to ride.

I own a company called Road Shark Boards. When I first came to Peru a few years ago, there was little doubt that the sport was on fire here. The streets and hills were so full of riders that it was completely amazing. It was like a scene from California during the '70s, but with longboards.

I organized a Longboarding for Peace event in Peru in 2012, working with Seismic Wheels and Triple 8 to organize materials for that event. It was featured in the January 2013 issue of *Concrete Wave*. As I was planning several trips to Peru in 2013, CW publisher Michael Brooke and I were

talking about a second event there. Soon after, we were contacted with a request to organize an event with a local Peruvian nonprofit, Alto Perú, to do an event near Lima.

Anahí Rossel, the person who contacted LFP, takes up the story from here:

Everything started when I came across LFP on Facebook. They had shared an article by Neil Carver from Carver Skateboards about weapons being exchanged for longboards in the USA. The article was so shocking and amazing I simply decided to congratulate LFP for their work and for the sharing of information of this kind. In my message I didn't just congratulate them, though; I also told them that if they ever wanted to make any event in Perú, they should let me know to see if I could be of help on any level. The answer came faster than I expected, saying they had been here before but they would certainly love to come again. That's when I got in touch with the guys of Alto Perú.

Alto Perú (www.altoperu.org) started in 2004 with some free surf lessons for the kids in the neighborhood of Alto Perú, Chorrillos, Lima. Little by little it evolved into a nonprofit organization (

in 2010) dedicated to creating athletic and cultural spaces for low-resources kids in the neighborhood. That way the workshops and activities started to grow and get better, turning Alto Perú in a place where positive values and love of sports like surf, downhill and Muay Thai were being shared.

When I met with Alto Perú representatives Diego Villarán and Matías Ballón, we decided we were going to plan the most amazing day of full downhill that we could for the kids who practice it—kids who didn't just love longboarding as we did but who were also behaving in the neighborhood, at school and home. After a lot of planning, we met again, jumped in a van with the kids and started our trip.

The day was cold and wet. It had been raining all night long and we thought it would be a disaster! But surprisingly, the kids were really excited and enjoyed the challenge of riding on the wet pavement. The hardest part was trying to control everyone's excitement and getting them all to ride safe. At the end we decided they would take turns using the helmets because, you know, no helmet no riding—and we were a few helmets short.

We visited three classic Lima spots during the day and headed back home in the evening. We were all very tired but happy. The kids had so much fun and got to visit spots that they couldn't before because of the distance. We had free gear provided by sponsors Road Shark Boards, DB, Jet and Cloud Ride Wheels. We rewarded those kids who showed not only riding potential but also good and kind hearts. The only condition for giving them the boards was that they promise to stay on track, both in school and in the neighborhood.



It was the most amazing day, and we would definitely do it again. There's nothing more incredible than seeing the smiles on those kids' faces when they're on a board, practicing the sport that we all dearly love!

Thanks to Renzo Alvarado for the support and all the awesome photos, to LFP, *Concrete Wave*, Road Shark Boards, DB, Jet, Cloud Ride Wheels, Alto Perú and everyone else involved with making this possible.

So, what does Alto Perú need to continue its work? They say they need safety equipment, like helmets, slide gloves, knee pads and racing leathers, plus more longboards. They also need sponsors that can support the organization overall. Road Shark Boards donated several complete longboards (with Seismic Wheels), as did DB Longboards (Cloud Ride Wheels) and Jet (Abec 11 Wheels). It is a good start, but they need more.

We challenge others to support Alto Perú-type organizations and Longboarding for Peace wherever they find themselves. Working hard to make the world a better place is worth the hassle—plus you get to go longboarding a lot! **CW**



LANDYACHTZ DONATION OF 125 COMPLETES



A HUGE note of thanks to our good friends over at Landyachtz, who have donated 125 completes. Yes, you read that correctly – that's more than \$35,000 worth of longboards! We are beyond stoked with this donation. It means we can now open programs in Hungary, Vietnam and Malaysia. We will also be expanding LFP in Houston and Toronto.

UNITED KINGDOM ON BOARD



Chris Pearson lives in the coastal community of Cornwall in England. In early October 2013 he contacted LFP and things immediately started to roll. He has started building a network, and workshops are coming soon. We look

forward to seeing great things coming out of the United Kingdom.

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES AND HEMA QUEBEC

In what is surely a first, LFP created a national day of giving blood. Dozens of longboarders rolled up their sleeves in five different places across Canada. Thanks to Switchback Longboards, Longboarder Labs, Royal Board Shop, Longboard Haven, Top of the World and Restless for stepping up. Remember, each time you give blood, you save three people. If you would like to bring this initiative to your country, just contact us directly at mbrooke@interlog.com.



NEW PINS AND NEW WEBSITE

Thanks to Heidi Lemmon, we now have longboardingforpeace.org.



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE UPDATE



KIDSPeACE & LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE TEAM UP

By Kendall Vrana

For two years Brian Fitch has been a facilities coordinator at KidsPeace Residential Treatment Facility in N. Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. KidsPeace is a safe haven for kids in a variety of different crises that works to rebuild their futures. His role includes organizing events and activities for the kids. Brian is also a team member of the Faceplant Boardriders.

In the spring of 2012 Brian started a "Learn to Longboard" program with a group of the most practiced applicants. It was an immediate success, and the kids loved it, leaving the sessions each week asking what they were going to learn and where they were going to ride next! These sessions provide a constructive outlet and teach important "coping skills" that help the kids deal with a variety of issues for which they are receiving treatment.

In May 2013, KidsPeace held the first Faceplant Boardriders "Skate for Peace" charity event on campus. The event was a resounding success and had a great turnout, raising \$1,400 for program equipment. Looking to stretch the budget and expand the program as much as possible, Brian discovered Longboarding for Peace. Triple Eight donated 10 helmets, Riviera sent three completes and Landyachtz sent seven completes.

Longboarding is based on progression, and Longboarding for Peace has definitely given KidsPeace and Brian a strong push! The donated equipment has been an invaluable asset for the program and all kids involved.

RETURN TO AHOUSAHT FIRST LONGBOARD BUILDING NATION

Story and Photos by Grant Shilling

The spray-paint outlines of longboard decks mark a concrete playground by the sea in the shape of the desire for something better—something right here: a skatepark.

Following up on our wish to build a lasting relationship with the people of Ahousaht, the Landyachtz crew of Mike Perreten, Liam McKenzie, Wolfgang Coleman, Nuu-chah-nulth outreach worker Beth Luchies and I arrive by boat on a sunny spring day at remote Flores Island on the west coast of Vancouver Island. As documented in *Concrete Wave*, we had come here in the fall of 2012 to offer longboarding lessons and leave some boards and helmets behind. We had told the kids we'd be back to build boards, and here we are, with a boatload of decks, wheels, trucks, grip tape, power tools, art supplies and an adventuresome spirit. We load a pickup truck on the wharf at Ahousaht with decks, trucks and wheels that will be drawn on, designed and assembled by the kids of Ahousaht.

The kids were ready for us.

A girl with a sharp pair of glasses and a ready and enchanting smile earnestly asks, "Who are we building the boards for?"

"You get to build your own board."

"Really?" she asks in disbelief as her face lights up.

We throw down bed sheets and paints, paper plates and brushes on a concrete pad by the sea. It takes some time for ideas to percolate and designs to appear. Liam demonstrates with masking tape how to make abstract patterns on the decks, Wolf makes up a simple stencil with the word *Ahousaht* on it. One of the kids makes a cross on her board with the masking tape; several others follow. Given the complex, often troubled history of the



church's interactions with the First Nations people, we are all a bit surprised.

The years of the church have left their mark here in all sorts of facets beyond and including residential school. The recovery centers are often Christian-run, and offer one of the few times children get to see their parents sober, explains an Ahousaht worker.

In addition to crosses, NBA team logos are celebrated; basketball is huge here. Several boards act as memorials to the dead. In Ahousaht there were 105 attempted suicides last year. The kids' involvement with this project is a shot at hope.

It occurs to Landyachtz co-founder Mike Perreten that a halfpipe could be built here. Isolation will work to the kids' advantage, he figures. There will be lots of time to practice. Something to do. F-U-N. Good clean fun. To skate well you have to skate with a clear mind. Some very talented skate professionals will emerge from Ahousaht, and their example will encourage others, is the hope.

The kids end up designing and assembling more than 30 boards. Once again we plan our return with the dream of a skatepark. The spray-paint outlines of longboard decks give shape to that dream.



Photos: Alex Mof

BLOOD FROM BOARDERS

Longboarding for Peace teamed up with Restless Longboards in Montreal, Quebec, for our Blood from Boarders initiative. Hema Quebec were thrilled with the response, and plans are under way to do a full month of blood donation in 2014.





TRIPLE EIGHT

A huge note of thanks to Triple Eight, who stepped up and donated additional safety gear that will be used by at-risk youth in San Diego County.



48-MONTH WORLD TOUR BY LONGBOARD

Imagine a *four-year* world tour by longboard. Well, for Giovanni Barbazza, such a tour is no dream; it's a reality, starting this spring. The tour will raise money for SOS Children. LFP is thrilled to be on board. We will be supplying Giovanni with LFP pins and stickers, and we'll be covering his progress with each issue.

MALAYSIA, THE NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRALIA

Our movement keeps growing internationally. Joey Bidner, our associate editor, spent a month in Malaysia. We will have a full report in an upcoming issue. Flavio Badenes has stepped up for the Netherlands, and things are starting to happen in Australia too.



RAT ROD STUDIOS

Longboarding for Peace has joined up with Ottawa-based Rat Rod Studios for a brand new skateboard game. Developed for iPhone, the first edition of the game was downloaded more than 10 million times. Look for several of our logos throughout the game.



SANCTION SKATE SHOP

Pierre Moati (pictured on the left) is a longtime reader of *Concrete Wave*. He decided he wanted to step up and help someone in need this past Christmas. At his place of work he volunteered to take care of a present for a child from a needy family. Pierre visited his local skate shop, Sanction, and arranged for a gift. He met up with Charles Javier, co-owner of Sanction, and together, their act of generosity made one boy very happy indeed.



REWARDS AT AMESBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

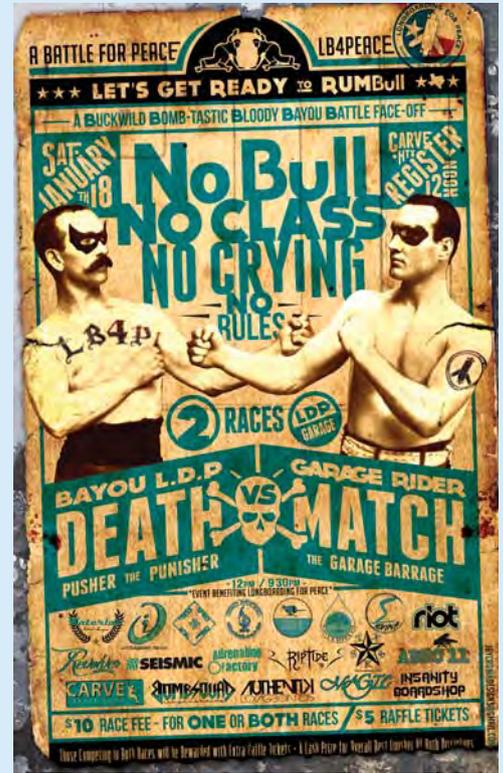
Thanks to the generosity of Landyachtz, 10 completes were donated to Amesbury students. Those students who showed the most progress this past semester were rewarded with a complete longboard. The school is located in Toronto and has really embraced the Longboarding for Peace program.



CTV BC: The Last Word: Skateboarding for Peace Tom Edstrand of Landyachtz

CTV NEWS

A huge thanks to CTV news reporter Brent Gilbert, who did a very nice piece on the movement. You can watch it here: bit.ly/IHCa7q



HOUSTON, WE HAVE A RIVALRY!

Team NoBull Longboarders is hosting "A Battle for Peace" in Houston, Texas, on January 18, 2014.

Wait a minute. A battle? For peace? Let us explain.

Longboarding encompasses many disciplines. Within that circle of disciplines are two that are very far apart on the spectrum: long distance pushing/pumping, aka "LDP," and garage riding. Both of these longboarding groups are fiercely proud of their skills and endurance, but they often look upon each other with a loving disdain. To say it's a rivalry would be understating it.

Team NoBull Longboarders is looking to bring these two disciplines together for a peaceful battle benefiting Longboarding for Peace to settle the age-old question: Who is better—the Long Distance Pusher or the Garage Rider? There will be two races to answer the question: an LDP of 14 miles throughout the city of Houston during the day, followed by a midnight outlaw garage race with both disciplines competing against each other.

Beyond the amazing flyer designed by Team NoBull rider and Texas longboarding scene artist Jay Cronin, a "who's who" of longboarding companies is supporting this Longboarding for Peace event: Bomb-squad Longboarding; Carve Skate Shop; Waterloo Wheel Design; Evins Skateboards; Riot Boardsports; Revolver Board Company; Insanity Boardshop; Dave's Hippy Oil; Cheetah Oil; Crossroads Longboards; AuthentiK Longboards; Big Myth Skateboards; Magic Bearings; Iliffe Truck Company; RipTide Bushings; Texas Skate Shop; Seismic Skate Systems; and Abec 11.



Men's Race - photo by Erick Barrandey

HOUSTON - A BATTLE FOR PEACE

by Greg Noble

While most of the longboarding nation was buried in snow and ice, only dreaming of the spring when they could get their longboards out, Houston was balmy and the race scene was as hot as usual. The NoBull Longboarding Team hosted its first "Battle For Peace" race. The race format was typical full contact Texas fashion, with a long distance push(LDP) race of 7 miles in the afternoon along Houston's Bayou near downtown, followed by an outlaw garage race at midnight. The event brought out Texas' finest in both disciplines and Team NoBull set another garage race attendance record of 99 racers at an outlaw garage race.

Houston happens to be home of one of Longboarding For Peace's most active and successful chapters led by Mikey Seibert, Neal Roberts and Richard Supernaw. Every Friday and Saturday these guys teach a couple of dozen kids self-esteem through the sport of longboarding. Texas' stoke and support for the longboarding scene through racing, huge garage sessions, downhills, and slide-jams, is reaching legendary status. We are excited to see the next

wave of talent which will come out of the Grom Army that is Longboarding For Peace Houston.

The LDP race was Houston's first "pushing wood" race and was won by Kaspar Heinrici, a legend in the LDP discipline race, followed by Clayton Nalley, and third place was captured by Dave Angelus.

The garage race was a nasty, full-contact, high speed adventure. The Open

class was won by Joey Specht, followed by Clayton Nalley, and Bobby Waldron. The top three were all members of Team NoBull. Clayton Nalley won the title of Triple "D" which was the Dual Duel Discipline Award for the best overall finish in both races.

The women's title was captured by Kris Haro. Erika DiLalla came in a close second and Taylor Jandl took third. Taylor is a new shredder on the race scene and this was her first podium spot!



Grom Race - photo by Erick Barrandey



The race was successful due to the fantastic support of the sponsors:

Bombsquad Longboarding, Waterloo Wheel Designs, Revolver Board Co., Carve Skate Shop Houston, Iliffe Truck Co., Seismic Skate Systems, Big Myth Skateboards, RipTide Bushings, Magic Bearings, Evins Skateboards, Texas Skate Shop, Riot Boardsports, Insanity Longboards, Crossroads Skateboards, Klever Skateboards, NUKE Wheels, Geaux Meeshell Designer Skateboards, Rey Trucks, MuirSkate.com, Galaxy Urethane Co, Kandy Krush, Daves Hippy Oil and Sikk Shades By Eddie Bauer Jr.

Additionally, the race could not have happened without assistance from the following people: **Greg Noble, Dawson Noble, Richard Supernaw, Neal Roberts, Shannon Cox, Anthony Bernabeo, Mikey Seibert, Gillian Seibert, Clayton Dalme, Angela Meckle, Darrion Meckle, Danny Schultz and Humberto Salcedo**



sPACyCLOUD

The Urban Street Wear brand, sPACyCLOUD from Washington DC released A new collection of jackets with Longboarding For Peace patchwork on the back. The visual aesthetic comes from the urban influence on skateboarding, longboarding, and the skate lifestyle. sPACyCLOUD.com



COLUMBIA CHAPTER

Alex Grundy originally hails from California, but currently lives in a city called Soacha in Colombia, South America. Soacha is a poor and dangerous city about an hour south from the capital of Bogota. We met Alex via Wayne Gallipoli of Surf Rodz. "I was first introduced to Soacha in 2010 when I was doing an 8 month volunteering trip here in Colombia" explains Alex. "While with the volunteer organization I was teaching English as a second language as well as an after school sports program I started." Alex says he quickly fell in love with the community and is currently working on a number of projects. About a year ago he founded a longboard class. He purchased all the boards and gear out of his own pocket. "The kids are all learning really fast and it keeps them safe and out of trouble." The class has about 15-20 kids depending on the day. There are boys and girls ranging from 5-17 years old. And the class is steady growing. As for the future, Alex is planning on co-founding his own elementary school here in Soacha.

RIDE FOR SHIFT

Ride for Shift is a movement of positivity, love, responsibility, and community that shares elevating and inspiring stories. The project is the brainchild of Coco Tâche-Berther, publisher of 7 Sky Magazine. The magazine's focus is on snowboarding, surfing and skateboarding. Learn more at rideforshift.com



SWIPE FOR THE KIDS

Longboarding for Peace is working in conjunction with Swipe 4 the Kids. They sponsored a luncheon during the Agenda Trade Show as a way to introduce themselves to the industry. They have introduced a fantastic service for local business; whereby a portion of merchant fees are redirected towards community youth programs. If you're a shop looking for a great way to help your community, contact swipe4thekids.com

GUN BUY BACK #2 – SAN DIEGO

A number of companies are helping out with our second gun buy back in San Diego. It will be taking place this spring and promises to be four times larger than our first buy back in San Pedro. A huge thanks to Landyachtz, Carver, Madrid, Abec 11, Jet, Buck Trucks Ladera, Rainskates, Tracker, Paris, Globe, Silver Trucks, Buddy Carr Designs, Loaded, SDS and Primitivo. You will be hearing more about this buy-back in the June issue.



Jay Consoltoy, Pug Hicks and Vinny Rada of Buck Trucks



Longboarding for Peace is a global movement of peace, balance and justice powered by longboarders. We empower people to step on, step up and make great things happen in their communities. Visit longboardingforpeace.org for more information



NETHERLANDS

We have some great things brewing in the Netherlands. Thomas Christopher Slager is teaching kids how to longboard, and selling t-shirts to pay for helmets. This June, Jesse van Hulst, and friend, Robbert van Haften, will go on a longboard trip through several different countries. They will start in the Vondelpark in Amsterdam and will end in Kopenhagen in Denmark after 500 miles. Their journey is to promote longboards as a viable form of transportation.



AMESBURY PROJECT TORONTO

A huge thanks to Sheldon Norton who created a 17 minute film on our program at Amesbury Middle School in Toronto. You can see the film at vimeo.com/90798452. In April we showed the documentary to all 600 students and they were thrilled with it.

We also wanted to acknowledge the generous donation of thirty completes to the school by Landyachtz.

SKATE  DONATE

We are delighted to announce that we have joined up with Skate 2 Donate. Their mission is to bring communities together and strengthen them. The non-profit strive to promote local art, music, and business through events. As they state proudly: "we are skaters, we will unite, and we will grow as big and as rad as we possibly can." skate2donate.com



David Milgaard spent 22 years in a Canadian prison for a crime he did not commit. He is one of Canada's most well known wrongfully convicted persons. You can't have peace without justice. This fall, Longboarding for Peace will be traveling to a number of colleges with David to ensure people learn from his story. In May, Longboarder Labs in Vancouver, BC, sent David and his son Robert some LFP completes. These decks were designed by the co-owner of Longboarder Labs, Rick Tetz.



MEXICO

Cesar Bojorquez contacted us from Tijuana with this report.

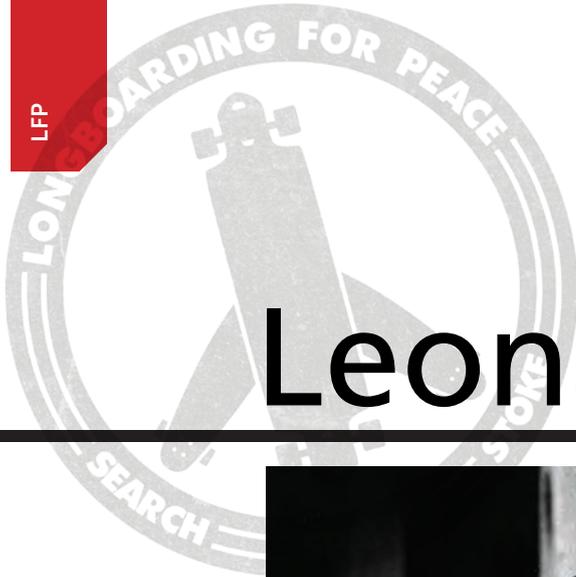
"In recent months longboarding has been growing a lot in this city. This is a great thing since this city has been through a lot. There's poverty, unemployment, deportees and violence, and we deal with them everyday. There is a growing community of skaters, of which I am part of, and we mostly skate in a spot near Tijuana's Beach. Once or twice a week a van full of kids arrives at our spot driven by Connie. She volunteers at a foster home and brings kids to skate. We really like her because, other than being really nice, she gives us lifts to the top. The kids really enjoy going skating. I was speaking with some of my friends and we thought it would be a good idea to help Connie by teaching the kids how to skate safely"

We are working with Cesar to get the kids helmets.

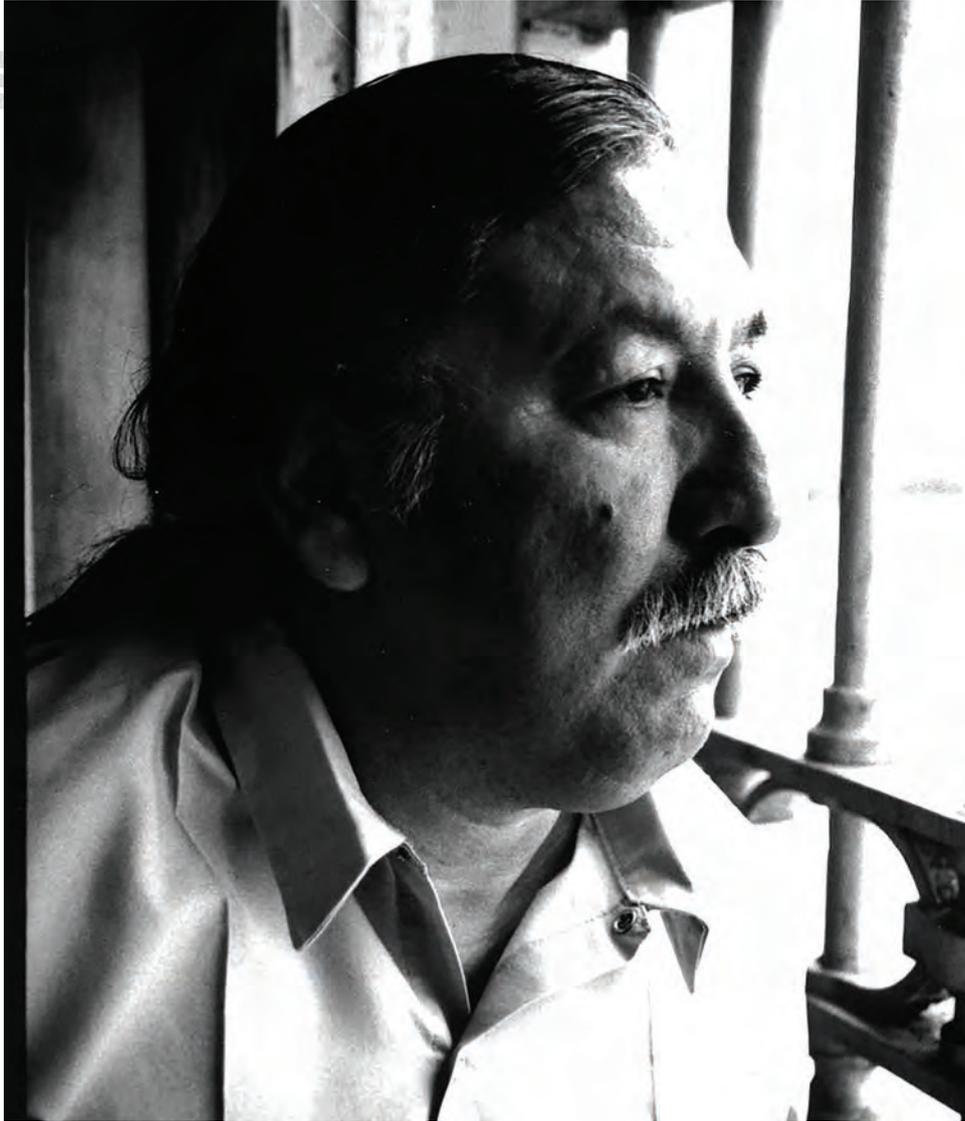


ETHIOPIA SKATE

Ethiopia Skate began as a peer group of young skateboarders led by 16 year old Abenezer Temesgen. With the help of Sean Stromsoe, Aurelio Macone, Thom Estifanos, Addisu Hailemichael and so many friends they have grown this grassroots movement substantially. Their vision is to connect Ethiopian skateboarders with each other and coordinate opportunities for foreign skaters to link up with locals and skate spots around the country. They encourage the youth to attend school and to practice English with native speakers, while learning more about themselves through skateboarding. Ethiopia Skate also wish to see more public places for skateboarding and more access to skateboard equipment, as we help guide this influential youth culture. This is where LFP comes in. Thanks to Landyachtz, 10 completes are heading with Sean on his return to Addis Ababa this summer. A documentary of his exploits will be coming later on this year.



Leonard Peltier



One of the most amazing things about Longboarding for Peace is that it connects people in some truly remarkable ways. For example, I had no way of knowing that my idea about using skateboard graphics would morph into such a unique story.

BACK STORY:

Leonard Peltier is a Native American man who has been imprisoned for over 35 years, despite evidence that supports his being wrongfully convicted. He is a writer, an artist, a father, a grandfather and a warrior for human rights, peace and freedom. He is a man who stood up to protect innocent people within the Oglala Lakota community during a time of violence, lawlessness, and intimidation on their reservation. The case has become one of the most controversial in United States legal history and the focus of numerous books and Hollywood films. The story of Leonard Peltier encapsulates the story of generations of Native American people fighting for their basic civil and human rights and the survival of their culture. It plays out during a time in American history when standing up for freedom and truth was ignited in the hearts of people of all races; and took the form of protests and occupations, both violent and non-violent alike. Sadly, the stage set for those who stood for truth, justice and freedom was often violent and with tragic outcome.

In 1975, traditionalist members of the Oglala Lakota community on the Pine Ridge Reservation asked if the American Indian Movement; an organization which upholds Native American rights, would come to protect them from members of their own tribal government who were carrying out terrorist activity against the community. A heated confrontation between the FBI and AIM members broke out, and two FBI agents and a young Native American man were shot and killed. Leonard Peltier, a member of AIM, was convicted of murdering the agents in 1977. Leonard has never denied that he was at the shoot out on Pine Ridge, however, he has always maintained he did not kill the agents. Since then, the fight for Leonard's freedom has continued. There is no clear reason why the U.S. government has refused leniency to Leonard Peltier. Even after another AIM member, who was legally protected and could not be charged, confessed to the killing in 2004, and even after the US government stated they could not prove Leonard killed the agents.

Amnesty International considers Leonard Peltier a political prisoner of the United States, he has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times and his supporters range from the Dalai Lama, to Nobel Laureates, and Queen Elizabeth II.

During the first skateboard boom of the '60s, skateboard graphics were generally a logo on the bottom of the board. It wasn't until the 1978 when Dogtown started to showcase Wes Humpston's artwork that skaters started to understand the power of graphics under a deck. Things started to get very intriguing once politics were fused with skate graphics. A new book from Seb Carayol called *Agents-Provocateur: The 100 Most Subversive Skateboard Graphics of All Time* has just been published. It traces the history of board graphics and delves into the political and social implications behind the art.

As our movement of peace, balance and justice continues to move forward, I thought it might be appropriate to work with an artist to highlight a specific political issue that related to justice. It wasn't long before I came upon the story of Leonard Peltier. His tribulations through the justice system might be unfamiliar to some readers but they are of vital significance. Quite coincidentally, the moment I decided to feature Peltier's story, an acquaintance emailed me to ask if I would be interested in working with an artist looking to get into skateboard graphics. This artist turned out to be Rachel Tribble, and what I didn't realize was that she was quite connected to the plight of Native Americans. It was as if the stars had aligned.

Rachel's connection to the Native American world was formed when a friend invited her to a sweat lodge a number of years ago; "I was pretty sure I wouldn't connect with the sweat lodge; but my friend persisted and one cold winter night I went; and life was never the same" explains Rachel. "I found myself among proud people, surviving in a society that had been at war with them for hundreds of years."



Board graphics by Rachel Tribble - photo Thomas Winter

As Rachel listened to the stories of survival, she learned about AIM; the American Indian Movement. This was a group of Native American activists who had originally organized in the late 1960's in response to horrific brutality inflicted upon Native people by the Minneapolis police.

Living in Minnesota, Rachel's awe and respect for the Native people, their community and their ceremonies, grew. She was invited to a prayer ceremony on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in northern Wisconsin. Gangs had started to infiltrate the youth on the Reservation and a young man had been killed. "A call had gone throughout the community for help and I decided I wanted to go pray" recalls Rachel.

There was a man there who spoke strongly of Native rights and the importance of standing up for the people. "I was horrified as I learned of the broken treaties and going to jail because a man went fishing. The ceremonies I attended and languages I heard had been illegal until the 1970's!"

Over a few years Rachel became friendly with the man who had been speaking in that house, and as they grew closer he introduced her to his family. "His grandparents, his mother, his father and his uncle; they were loving people and had been some of the original members of AIM."

By the mid-1990's Rachel had given up working as an artist and had fully dedicated herself to the Native American community. She went onto marry the man who had been speaking in that house.

In 1998 Rachel attended the Honor the Earth Pow Wow. It was the first time she had ever met the founding members of AIM or heard them speak; and it was the first time she heard about Leonard Peltier. Now, fast-forward 16 years later, and Rachel has created this artwork as a tribute to Leonard.

Rachel Tribble
photo - Thomas Winter



To sign the petition to free Leonard Peltier, please visit www.leanardpeltier.info



AMESBURY PROJECT TORONTO



In June, we completed a full year at Amesbury Middle School in Toronto. In the previous school year there had been 129 suspensions. With the introduction of the Longboarding for Peace Program, suspensions fell to 32. Thanks to the generosity of Landyachtz, we have given away 30 completes. To give you an idea of the kind of impact this program is having, we are proud to publish part of a letter from a student who received a Landyachtz complete.

DEAR LANDYACHTZ:

When I first heard that I was getting a longboard I was so happy, I didn't know what to say. I wanted to buy a longboard a few months ago but even if I had the money my parents wouldn't let me buy it. They really don't understand why it is so great to ride it. They just think that it is a piece of wood with wheels. Now that I have my own longboard they start to understand how happy I am and that it makes me feel very good to ride it. Longboarding teaches you about balance in life because when you are riding it you have to keep balance so you don't fall off. In life, just like in longboarding, you have to take turns and make choices. Longboarding is a perfect example of peace and balance. I am so proud and happy to be part of Longboarding For Peace. I promised my teacher and myself to be a good example for other students who want to join this "army".

Yours truly,
Hayyan

UNITED KINGDOM



LFP UK's first year is continuing to go from strength to strength with the addition of a new UK branch that specializes in landpaddling, along with the Southwest branch returning for another year at local schools as well as many charity events. longboardingforpeaceuk.webs.com

LFP JOINS UP WITH THREE ORGANIZATIONS



SPREAD THE STOKE

Spread the Stoke is a new non-profit that puts skating equipment into the hands of under-privileged and at-risk children. It matches them up with riders from the local communities, and provides a mentor to teach them how to ride safe and responsibly.

facebook.com/spreadingstoke



The Swiss-based **Non-Violence Project** and LFP announced in July that we would partner together to help spread a message of peace. NVP's mission is to inspire, motivate and engage young people to understand how to solve conflicts peacefully. Over the past twenty years, they have reached over 6 million students. Nonviolence.com



Justice is a pillar of LFP, and October 2 is Wrongful Conviction Day. The **Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted** (AIDWYC) is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, advocating for, and exonerating individuals convicted of a crime that they did not commit. In honor of the work that AIDWYC is doing, artist Beto Janz created this image.

Aidwyc.org

LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE



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CURVE LAKE



LFP traveled to Curve Lake, Ontario in July to participate in a workshop called SK8LIT. We presented our balance program to First Nation students. They learned about literacy, photography, art, and how to skateboard. Deborah Berrill helped create the program and she understood LFP's desire to teach balance coincided with The First Nation Medicine Wheel. The wheel is divided into four equal parts. If a person is grounded in all four quadrants; intellectual, spiritual, emotional and physical, then balance and harmony are achieved. Thanks, once again, to a generous donation from Landyachtz, Curve Lake is now enjoying a quiver of eight completes. The students also had a special guest artist attend – Kieran McGregor, formerly of the Oasis Skateboard Factory. Kieran customized each deck with stencil art.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABS

LFP is proud to announce that we have formed a partnership with Swappow. Swappow is a new mobile and online marketplace where action sports participants and the industry can swap, sell and share any pre-owned equipment in exchange for cash, credits, or just to help others get riding/rolling more economically. Swappow.com



We also teamed up with the folks from Sports Tag ID. This precision made ID can make a huge difference in an emergency situation. The ID contains engraved vital information such as your name, blood type and key emergency contacts. Sportstagid.com



BLOOD FROM BOARDERS

October was our month to kick off our annual blood drive. Texas based artist Jay Cronin created this exceptionally cool poster to promote the October blood drive campaign. If you missed giving blood last month, you can always roll up your sleeve and (blood) bank your karma right now.

Our friends at Restless Boards organized a blood drive in Montreal, Quebec. Canada is currently undergoing a blood shortage so we were proud to help spread the message.



Latitude Longboards created a custom deck for Blood from Boarders. The company will be on Indiegogo to fund a limited production run of this model through November. latitudelongboards.com

In honor of all those boarders who gave blood, artist Rachel Tribble created this painting.



GUN BUYBACK SAN DIEGO



In San Diego, over 115 guns have been stolen in home burglaries in the first six months of this year. The goal of a gun buy back effort is to get some of those unwanted and unsecured guns out of homes before they fall into the hands of criminals. The first gun buy back took place last year in San Pedro California and was the brainchild of Neil Carver.



Our second gun buy back built upon the initial success we had in San Pedro. The local media were all over the story and traffic was blocked up for over a mile. People brought in a wide variety of pistols, sawed-off shot guns and even Uzis. One person even brought in hollow-point bullets.



Skate legend, Dennis Martinez, worked in conjunction with the United African American Ministerial Action Council. His Off the Streets program has worked with UAAMAC on a number of previous occasions. Special thanks to Harvey Hawks who spent countless hours gathering and building the skateboards.

A huge debt of gratitude to the following companies who generously donated product:

ABEC 11, Adrenalina, Buddy Carr Designs, Buck Trucks, Badlands Skateboards, Carver, Churchill MFG, Deville, Globe, Ladera, Landyachtz, Loaded, Madrid, Navigator, Ollie Angel, Orangatang, Paris, Rainskates, Riviera, Stella, Silver Trucks, West Coast Ride Shop

MEXICO



In late August we received a report from César Bojórquez on behalf of LFP Tijuana. The donation of twelve helmets from Predator has gone a long way to ensuring these kids ride safe. Note Cesar's last sentence.

"Last Sunday was a happy one at "El Tunel" which is the spot where we usually skate down in Playas de Tijuana. Not only was it a beautiful sunny day but we also gathered to give out the helmets we got from Predator. The kids from Niños de la Promesa were so stoked to get them I could hardly get them to gather for a picture. Connie sends her thanks to you and everyone involved in this act of kindness. My friends and I from Longboarding Tijuana are also grateful for the help and will continue to work on making a difference in these kid's lives. BTW I'm donating blood for the first time in my life this October."

LONG BOARDING FOR PEACE

ETHIOPIA



Sean Stromose is a documentary filmmaker who has spent a great deal of time in Ethiopia. When he contacted us to explain that he was headed over there to work with Ethiopia Skate, we were able to set him up with 10 Landyachtz completes.

We went to a large orphanage in Addis with 10 longboards. When we arrived at the cement basketball court, 20-40 kids were already waiting, talking amongst themselves so eager to skate. We had three Ethiopian instructors, skateboarders from Ethiopia Skate, and 10 helmets. It was hard at first to create any sense of order with all

the excitement that day. Most of these kids had already seen a skateboard, either on TV or on the street nearby where kids from Ethiopia Skate often ride. None of them had ever tried pushing before. We broke the huge group in to two sessions, groups of 20 kids; two per board/helmet. Addisu and Yared, two of our mentors, taught the class in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. On the first day, barely an hour and a half in, all the kids had already figured out how to cruise straight, as well as the difference between pushing forward and turning in circles; one of the life-lessons practiced with Longboarding For Peace. The crowd surrounding the court grew each day, as the faculty and other children gathered to watch. It was a heart warming experience for everyone involved.



DUSTERS X GIRL IS NOT A 4 LETTER WORD BLACK CRUISER COLLAB

Everywhere you look, girls are out there skating; from streets, to parks and pools, they are tearing it up and making people stop and look at how far the progression has come.

It's time to keep encouraging girls to be even more bad ass out there. Just in time for Valentines Day, Dusters California is releasing a new matte black version of the Girl is NOT a 4 Letter Word board, this new cruiser has a super stealth look and feel.

To go along with the new look, Dusters creative director, Nano Nobrega, decided to take skaters Beverly Flood and Cassie Oseguera to a private backyard location and let them loose to ride both boards for an upcoming girls only skate video. These two girls were throwing down trick after trick and having a blast, showing that this cruiser board is not just for 'cruising', and that girls can show up and 'bring it' anywhere they go.

The new Dusters California GN4LW cruiser will support Longboarding for Peace. This time around Dusters and Cindy have teamed up to match one another dollar for dollar to donate a portion of the board's proceeds to the Poseidon Foundation, which helps kids all over the world get involved in skateboarding.



Beverly with a bad-ass backside 5-0. Photo Ryan Ashburn

So, get out there, and live life balls to the wall, do epic sh*t, and take every dare that comes your way, because you can sleep when you're dead.

girlisnota4letterword.com



Cassie Oseguera throwing down a blunt. Photo By Ian Logan

LONGBOARDER LABS

Based in Vancouver, BC, Longboarder Labs created this custom prize wheel to bring awareness to LFP while at the same time stoking the hell out of their customers. Prizes range from free stickers to a year supply of trucks or wheels.

Longboarderlabs.com



BLOOD FROM BOARDERS

While October is our official month to get boarders to donate blood, any month works. In November, we gathered members together from Toronto's longboarding community. Pictured here is Rob Sydia, co-owner of Longboard Haven. Rob has been donating blood for over 2 decades. The shop also just won best skate shop in Now Magazine's Readers' Choice Awards.



LONG BOARDING FOR PEACE

VIETNAM by Anna-Selina Kager



It's been just over a year since Viet Shred, a project to support skateboarders in Vietnam, started changing lives of Vietnamese skateboarders. The project started slowly in Ho Chi Minh City, but then exploded in Mui Ne. There, I met three guys who were completely frothing

on skateboarding: Binh, Cuong, and Quoc Khanh.

The guys invited me over for the best Vietnamese BBQ and some fun skating near Mui Ne's white and red sand dunes. We had a fantastic and unforgettable time, but I soon realized that the guys' equipment was limited. They used old gear that was useless for their style of riding, not to mention preventing the guys from advancing their skills. They simply needed better gear, but had no idea how or where to get it. They had no financial resources and there was no longboard shop in Vietnam.

The solidarity in our community makes it easy for skaters to travel the world, learn from each other and provide support to grow the sport and facilitate an international platform. Longboarding For Peace, the Concrete Wave Magazine, Landyachtz Longboards, Singapore's Longboard Love Boardshop, Vietnam's The Bike Shop and private donors supported Viet Shred with boards, wheels, safety gear and logistics. Thanks to all of them for their help!

Viet Shred is building a platform that enables skaters to explore Vietnam together with local skaters. Last year, we led Arto Rohde

(Bastl Boards, Cloud Ride Wheels), Deen Mondt (Sickboards Longboards, CTD Pucks, PNL), and Dani Gaislerova (Sickboards Longboards, CTD Pucks, Steez Distribution, Rey), and others through the concrete jungles of Vietnam. They have all been having an amazing time over there!

Viet Shred has been growing rapidly after receiving international support. Binh, Cuong and Quoc Khanh go skating and scouting for new spots every day until sunset.

Still, Viet Shred needs even more support. Just recently, Nguyen, our project manager, started planning the first official Viet Shred slide clinic. We can't wait to welcome some more international riders in Vietnam to shred down roads between rice paddy fields, slurp coconuts, and grill fresh seafood on the BBQ together.





Roller Pride skating school and Nevsky Surf longboard shop are offering regular free master classes for adults and kids in Saint Petersburg to promote the longboarding movement in the city. The initiative started several years ago as a slide clinic in Saint Petersburg and gave a push to many riders, resulting in some of them getting sponsorships from local distributors. The instructors who hold these master classes are longboarding pioneers and prime movers in Saint Petersburg, and are all skilled and experienced coaches truly devoted to their work.

"More and more people are coming to us in order to learn basic longboarding skills. Not so long ago, we could hold one master class for all of them at the same time, but now we have to divide them into several groups, as our indoor rink cannot accommodate them all any longer!"

We are teaching such basics as: the correct stance and balance, gravity centre control, working with the knees and the body, take-off, slowdown, and making a turn. This is usually enough to start surfing in such a flat city as Saint Petersburg. However, we are also looking for talented youth with a thirst for knowledge, offering them additional and more intense classes with elements of style and stunts. This way, we are forming the basis for simple recreational longboarding, with further style and skill development," says Ivan Pankratov, director at Nevsky Surf and senior instructor at Roller Pride.



KIDSPeACE

Kids at KidsPeace Residential Treatment Facility are rolling strong with the help of Longboarding for Peace. Under the supervision of Brian Fitch, Facilities Coordinator at KidsPeace and team rider of Faceplant Boardriders, clients who live on campus and have worked through various treatment goals are rewarded with the opportunity to skate. One rider said the class "made me strive to behave to have the opportunity to skate when I had nothing else to look forward to." KidsPeace will be hosting the third Annual Skate for Peace as a continued fundraiser for the program on May 16th in Orefield, PA.

Kidspeace.org



COUNT ME IN

Count Me In is the world's largest youth-led movement, helping teens find their passion through local volunteerism. LFP has teamed up with Count Me In for their conference in Toronto in April. Through innovative programs and broadcasts, the organization provides youth with tools, resources and mentorship. Their goal is to inspire local involvement, leadership, and grassroots social innovation.

Cmimovement.com



RADNUTS

At the ISPO show in Munich, Germany, we collaborated with Non Universal Nuts. These custom-bearing protectors were strictly limited edition.

Nonuniversalnuts.com



NATHAN BISHOP

The griptape master has come up with another inspirational piece of art. This is his tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.



LONG BOARDING FOR PEACE

Local Hero Award – Betty Esperanza



Longboarding for Peace is proud to feature Betty Esperanza as the first recipient of our Local Hero Award. Hailing from Montreal, Quebec, Betty's dedication to helping youth spans almost two decades. With her Skateboards for Hope charity, Betty has made an extraordinary impact on many communities. In particular, her

work in Cuba has been truly remarkable.

Until recently, most Americans could not even imagine visiting Cuba. However, as a Canadian, Betty was able to travel there for years. She feels that there is something magical about Cuba, its people, the sweet smell of the sea breeze and the sounds of vintage cars bustling on the streets of Havana. "I discovered Cuba more than 15 years ago on a business trip and then returned faithfully for 12 years, 2 to 3 times annually to soak up the sun and the Cuban hospitality."

On a family trip (Betty was married to a Cuban native at the time), her family, including her two young sons, stayed in a modest Cuban home in Buena Vista. "We had a dreamy long vacation with family, friends and local musicians," recalls Betty.

"I had brought many items for my sons to play with, thinking at the time they might get bored. Was I ever wrong! My sons would wake up at the crack of dawn and disappear into the neighborhood to play with their new friends. They would come home at sunset when the street lights would start to flicker."

Betty took the skateboard that she had brought with her and headed out to the streets. "There were so many potholes that I didn't try to do anything daring. There were children watching me. One in particular had his eyes glued to my board." Betty called him over and proceeded to teach him some skateboarding moves. After a while, Betty thought "I'll just give him my skateboard. It's one less item to bring in my suitcase." Betty never suspected that this act of giving would change her life and the lives of the kids in that remarkable Cuban neighborhood.

So began a pattern of Betty bringing two extra-large suitcases filled with gifts whenever she visited Cuba. She returned every 3 or 4 months with skateboards, chocolate and other sought after



Betty Esperanza Photo: Jennifer Mahon

items for the children.

Each time she visited Cuba, she was subject to the wary eyes of the customs officials. "Every time I said to them that these were gifts, which they were. I knew I risked serious consequences if a customs agent thought otherwise. I was conscious of the fact that these gifts might be mistaken for black-market goods to be sold in Cuba. But I was convinced that the customs agents would understand that I was simply being a good humanitarian, and that my items were, in fact, gifts for a sport that ultimately has no borders."

Betty flew under the radar for many years until a Facebook post shed a spotlight on her efforts. Skateboards For Hope was thereby introduced to the public. "At first, I was reserved about my role because I feared of losing the freedom to bring skateboards into Cuba. But all that disappeared when I realized that I was making a statement that donating skateboards could educate the masses about skateboarding and its culture," says Betty.

She became the godmother of Skateboards For Hope when Cuban skater Yojani Perez declared her his "godmother". Their relationship grew to the point where Betty mentored him about sustainable projects that would aim to break the cycle of poverty.

"Skateboarding has enabled me to express my creative outlet for sustainable development and community outreach. It has bridged the gap between youth and elders, and, most importantly, has helped shred taboos and give hope to kids. The ideas have spread to the point that Cuban youth are now

Photo: Betty Esperanza



connected to youth in Uganda and recently to First Nations in Quebec. There are now at least 300 Cuban youth spreading peace and I am grateful to partner with LB4P and CW to help facilitate a worldwide dialogue."

Yojani Perez played the major role as a Skateboards For Hope ambassador. His leadership and positive influence has united his community in support of skateboarding culture. In just short two years, Yojani has been at the forefront of building a skatepark, a school program and a community center.

Yojani and Betty have similar dreams: that one day Havana will host the World Cup of Skateboarding and that there will be no borders that separate skateboarders. Thanks to Betty's courage and conviction, there could someday be a champion skateboarder from Cuba.

Photo: Betty Esperanza



For more information, please email: info@skateboardsforhope.com or visit skateboardsforhope.com.

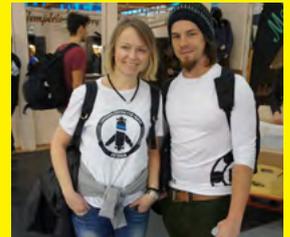
Anya Mielniczek

Anya Mielniczek is a Toronto-based artist who has been moved by the state of the environment and the treatment of resources and wildlife. She is the artist behind For What it's Worth, a series of nine skateboard decks inspired by the current circumstances of some of the world's most well-known wild animals. "With this series, I hope to shed light on the plight of these animals and am therefore donating 10% of the proceeds to organizations helping wild animals today." anyamielniczek.com



New LFP Divisions

Karit Johnson and Chris Jacobs of Ionic Flux have opened up a chapter of LFP in Estonia. They are planning a number of events this summer and fall.



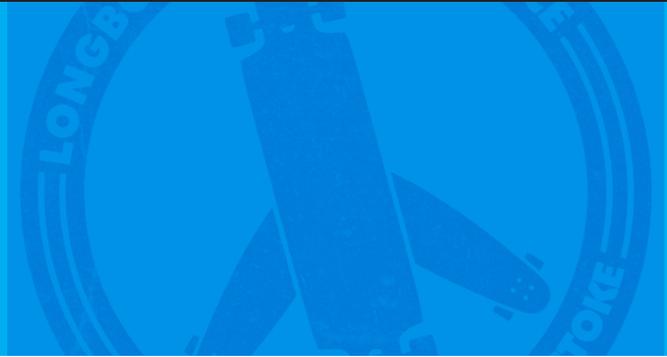
We are also proud to announce that we have established a LFP in our second African country - Uganda.



Finally a huge thanks to Marius Pozan who has stepped up and founded LFP Poland. If you'd like to establish LFP in your country, email mbrooke@interlog.com



LONG BOARDING FOR PEACE



Mexico Report— Edward David Hernández



We're getting close to the ninth month of activities and the kids are developing their skills just fine. I am learning so much about them and their communities too. We have developed a great bond with each other.

A couple of months ago we had the annual Monterreal Longboard Fest event sanctioned by the IDF. We had some visits from skaters around the globe and we had a blast racing. After the competition, some of the skaters stayed in town for a while. I invited a group of friends to come over to visit the kids and skate with them: Fabián Gutierrez, the Sector 9 rider from Mexico City; Brian Sandoval, a Gravity Skateboards team rider from Costa Rica; and Juan Van Dusen, owner of a small gloves company here in Monterrey.

The kids were excited about the visits, mostly because they have never known people from outside the country. They enjoyed their time to the fullest, learning new tricks and watching these advanced riders skate. The skaters were amazed at the quantity of kids in the program, but they managed just fine.



We had some parents visiting also that day. They were able to speak with us and clarify any doubts about longboarding. They got to know more about the people teaching their children. All the parents were really happy about the program in their community. They were quite supportive and encouraged the kids to keep up practicing in the classes. Future plans include visits to other municipalities so they can have the chance to actually skate in an open environment.

TRAVELS IN ONTARIO

Over the past several years, we have done a number of workshops at Amesbury Middle School in northwest Toronto. In May, we gave a Never Summer setup to Grade 7 student and he was extremely stoked. So far we have given away more than 30 completes to the school.

Also in May, LFP went out to do a workshop in Guelph, Ontario, and worked with Wyndham House, a nonprofit that works with at-risk youth. The response was excellent, and we plan to return very soon.

In July LFP visited the town of Bancroft to spread our message at the Wheels, Water and Wings festival. There's a pretty cool skate scene in Bancroft and the skatepark is a lot of fun. We are working with the town to bring LFP to local schools in the fall.

Workshop in Guelph, Ontario.



COLLABORATIONS

Longboarding for Peace is now working with two unique nonprofits: Skatetofight and Pathways to Peace.

SKATETO FIGHT

Skatetofight is an organization created by two friends who struggle with mental illness and use skateboarding as a form of therapy. Their idea is to help others who struggle with the same or similar problems. The main goals of Skatetofight are to prevent suicide and create a skating community where those who struggle with mental illness can feel safe to share their feelings and receive help from their fellow skaters. They want to create a nonjudgmental, positive skateboarding family where everyone helps everyone with their problems and helps to create long-lasting friendships and save lives. skatetofight.com

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

Pathways to Peace is a U.N. Peace Messenger Organization that helped to launch Peace Day in 1981. LFP has teamed up with this organization and we invite you create an event of your own, or just commit to riding for peace on September 21. This year's theme is "Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All."

We asked Sheva Carr and Erin Toppenberg of Pathways to Peace to contribute to Concrete Wave in honor of this special date.

How will YOU contribute to the International Day of Peace on September 21? By following your inner flow, of course.

Did you know that whether you are cruising on a longboard, quietly meditating or joyfully dancing to music, you may be contributing to world peace? What is Peace anyway? There are sweet and syrupy definitions that we may conjure up in our head of the world all singing "Kum ba yah" while holding hands in a big circle. Or we may define Peace as Webster does: a state of tranquility and quiet, and freedom from oppressing thoughts or emotions. And the wise man known as Martin Luther King once said, "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."



Peace is our intrinsic nature. It is a surrendered flow into being at one with the dance of creation. It is harmonious rhythm that is tapped. It is coherence of the heart. For when we are in touch with our hearts' truest desires, we are in flow; we become living peace. That peace that one finds can serve as an energetic resonance for more to access and find this flow.

A beating heart emits an electromagnetic field that can be detected many feet away from the body. This field affects those around you profoundly. The Institute of HeartMath has done many studies on emotions and how they affect the heartbeat rhythm, and in turn what is being projected out into the space/field around you. When we access a positive emotion, whether a calm, tranquil feeling, a feeling of appreciation or a feeling of stoke for whatever activity we are embarking on, we are literally contributing to world peace through accessing our own inner peace.

The International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is observed around the world each year on September 21. It was established in 1981 by U.N. Resolution 36/37, in which the United Nations General Assembly declared it a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. Furthering the day's mission, the General Assembly voted unanimously in 2001 to adopt resolution 55/282 establishing September 21 as an annual day of nonviolence and ceasefire.

Pathways to Peace is a peace messenger organization that was key in establishing this Day of Peace more than 30 years ago. Its people have been

working to create a Culture of Peace by understanding that peace is an expression of humanity and therefore will take many forms. The eight pathways they envisioned all lead to a more harmonious experience for all. Ultimately it is in the understanding that we are all pathways to peace.

Avon Mattison, the co-founder of Pathways to Peace, worked to create this day, along with the adoption of the noon minute of silence/moment of peace. It is a practice that is acknowledged daily, not just on Sept. 21, but by many groups of people 365 days a year around the planet. Avon realized as one of the first Peacebuilders that Peace is much more than merely ending war. Our personal and planetary Peace are inseparable. Our individual and collective thoughts, words and actions – on a daily basis – contribute to building a culture of Peace.

The modern peace movement is not about anger and outrage and marching in the streets. The peace movement today is doing the work of quietly transforming the culture from the inside. As we grow and become more and more aware of ourselves as energetic systems, and learn more of the way we interact and affect one another, we realize the impact we have on each other. When we are in appreciation for self, we can access appreciation for another more readily. When we can be a bit more compassionate with ourselves and our family and friends, we are more able to access compassion for those around the world whom we don't know. When we are more peaceful within, even for a minute a day, we are absolutely contributing to world peace.

Peace is not simply the absence of war. It is a virtue; a state of mind; a disposition for benevolence; it is confidence. It is about finding the flow, and mindfully, heartfully experiencing it full-out. On September 21, what will you do? Whom will you do it with? And what will be your state of being that you contribute to the collective – even if only for a moment? Minutes turn into days, turn into weeks, turn into movements.

Let's roll!
pathwaystopeace.org

LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE

GIFT CARDS AND SKATEBOARDS FOR GUNS

By Harvey Hawks Photos: Meredith Estel

On Dec. 19, 2015, Longboarding for Peace, in conjunction with the United African American Ministerial Action Council, Off the Street Youth Diversion Program, elected officials and law enforcement, participated in San Diego's seventh annual "gift cards and skateboards for guns" exchange. In exchange for an unwanted firearm, participants received a high-quality skateboard or a gift card valued at \$100 for rifles, shotguns and handguns and \$200 for assault weapons—no questions asked. Law enforcement agencies and private citizens donated \$20,000 for gift cards, and skateboard companies including Carver, Loaded, Orangatang, Bustin, Flying Aces and Primitivo donated an abundance of skateboard parts to make available nearly 200 skateboards and longboards for the event. Carver Skateboards graciously offered to assemble the donated parts into complete setups, equipping every board with Carver trucks, and donated more than 100 beautifully crafted Carver completes for the event. The gates at the Bryco Building had to be opened early due to the

large number of people showing up. The collection continued until just after noon, netting some 242 pistols, rifles, shotguns and assault rifles. People of all ages and walks of life turned in firearms for gift cards and skateboards; the majority of them exclaimed their happiness at receiving a high-end skateboard to give as a Christmas gift. Of particular interest this year were a number of young fathers who had made the decision to remove the potential threat of firearms from their homes in exchange for skateboards for their young children.

The overall feeling and sentiment of those who participated in and organized the event was hope for a peaceful future, knowing that each weapon removed for the streets reduces the cycle of gun violence that plagues our society. This was the second year that Longboarding for Peace participated in the San Diego gun exchange. Another event is being planned for early 2016 in the greater Los Angeles area.



EAST COAST CUSTOMS & SHARE THE STOKE

This past October, East Coast Customs partnered with Share the Stoke Foundation to stoke out some kids in Portugal. This non-profit normally travels the world setting up surf programs for kids who can't afford boards but need a positive outlook and way to express themselves. On this last trip, however they decided to take it to the concrete and give these surfers a way to play outside of the water. The pavement was the perfect place to practice those turns on a skateboard. A huge thanks to East Coast Customs for donating to these kids halfway around the world! For more info visit eclongboards.com and sharethestokefoundation.org.



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE

KIDS, BOARDS AND DREAMS

By Mariusz Pozan, Founder of Longboard Kids and Ambassador of LFP Poland



I was nine when I became a tournament ballroom dancer. I dreamed about helping other kids bring their dreams to life in

my own ballroom dance academy. After six years I realized that ballroom dancing at a high level is available only for the elite due its expense. It wasn't my world, and my dream made no sense anymore. Instead, I joined a team of sailing scouts. The leader, Maria Markuszewska, has for the past 50 years taught children respect for work and other people through sailing. After I finished college, I moved to Ireland and was working for a charity preventing cruelty to children (ISPCC). After this, I moved closer to the sea where I could surf and became a swimming teacher for kids.

A few years ago I had a wish to move to Germany and learn the language. I chose a place called Selzen. It's a tiny village from the year 782 with an amazing infrastructure of asphalted paths and hills surrounded by vineyards. It is perfect for longboarding. After some time, I began to notice there was some tension in the community. There were people harboring some very unkind stereotypes about people from Poland. It was then I decided I wanted to do something for kids. I wanted to break the prejudice that runs like a river through generations. I wanted to give the kids a surf and snowboard feeling in their own town, and using longboards was the best way to achieve this goal.

I bought few a longboards, created the Longboard Kids Instructor's profile and Longboard Kids logo and began "tolerance lessons." Despite having some of my course posters being destroyed, I didn't give up. I went out a second time and hung them back up. My first course started with 15 kids. We were rolling and speaking about values that are important in a sustainable world. In return they



were teaching me German. After the course, they borrowed my longboards and kept chatting with me.

When my longboard project appeared in a German newspaper, parents from other villages started to bring their kids. Other villages and towns were inviting me for courses where I could spread a spirit of "magic longboards." Later I met a Norwegian, Phil Merken, who created the Longboard Kids Crew in Nuremberg. He told me about a worldwide movement helping repair the world through longboarding. I wrote to Michael and proudly became a Poland ambassador for Longboarding for Peace.

I came back to Poland to set up Longboard Kids as a charitable foundation, where LFP is a very important link in the chain of goodness. We're swapping kids' dreams from getting the newest smartphone or video game to having a longboard. Plans are underway for a Polish and German Longboard Kids meeting. International friendships are our solution for intolerance.

We are traveling around big and small communities showing people that longboarding is for everyone. Please follow Longboard Kids on Facebook and YouTube.



JORDAN



LFP worked with Globe Skateboards and Landyachtz to bring 20 complete skateboards to the Word Is Yours Festival in Amman, Jordan on October

2-3, 2015. About 1,000 people made their way to 7Hills Skatepark to listen to local hip hop and support some young shredders. Check out [facebook.com/thewordisyoursfestival](https://www.facebook.com/thewordisyoursfestival) and stay tuned for more updates about our work in Jordan.



BEERCAN AND IXO BOARDS

Thanks to the generosity of these two companies, LFP was able to raise almost \$600 for the Canadian nonprofit organization Association in Defence of the Wrongfully Convicted. Visit aidwyc.org to learn more.



THE JUERGEN GRITZNER TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Words: J. Gritzner



The story of "Cuban Linx," aka the "Juergen Gritzner transportation project," began in the summer of 2015. Ian Comishin and Kalie Racine of Kebbek Skateboards, encouraged by the historical political changes in Cuba, had the idea of bringing 100 completes of my Alps board to Cuba to support and energize skaters there.



Cuba's largest skatepark is El Patinodoro. The park is the most popular hangout for all action sports and was created with recycled materials. Photo: Andréa Sévigny

Cuban kids love to skate,

but it's often been difficult for them to get equipment. Many use the boards and shoes that friendly travelers leave behind. Several skate crews around Havana care for the community by supplying their fellow skaters with gear whenever they can, and U.S.-based crews like Amigo Skate and Cuba Skate have also done a lot to ensure Cuban skaters are rolling. But we all wanted to do more.

Even though we were planning on giving the boards away for free, it still took a lot of planning and negotiating to make it happen. The biggest challenge we faced was trying to get permission from the Cuban government to legally bring that many boards. No skate company had ever shipped that many boards to Cuba.

On Jan. 3, 2016, a group of us finally landed in Cuba. Our crew consisted of Kalie Racine from Keccak (team rider and project organizer), Soren Johnstone from Vancouver (the magic man behind the

lens) and me, Jürgen Gritzner from Graz, Austria.

During our time in Cuba we met many skaters, including Yojani Perez and Carlos "Charley" Emmanuel. They were a combination of crazy and relaxed. Above all, the energy level was remarkable.

After arriving in Cuba on a solid 73-degree Cuban winter day, we met up with "Skateboards for Hope" founder Betty Esperanza, Andréa Sévigny (of Montreal's Les Vagabonnes) and Justin Darrow (First Nations ambassador) to skate the city for a bit. We were blown away by all the new impressions we saw just cruising around Old Havana. The central core of the city has so many colors, and there is so much life on the street. It's hectic, but with a relaxed vibe in the background. It was just amazing to feel that mixture.

After that we went to a "slide jam" we'd heard about and brought a couple of longboards to give away. When we

arrived, however, we soon found out that "slide jam" in Cuba meant something totally different than we'd expected – in this case, a street skate contest with two flat rails and a stair set. It was called a slide jam because when you jump on a rail you most likely SLIDE on it.

At first, it felt strange to bring longboards to a street skate contest. But as soon as I started skating with the locals I found out that every kid who was street skating also had a longboard at home or just loved longboarding as well. This was so awesome for me to see – a big family of skaters no matter what board you ride! I have always dreamt about this kind of atmosphere, and here in Cuba it does exist.

After we gave away some boards, shirts and stickers I joined the second part of the contest. It was a five-stair set with a short run-up and a gnarly landing with cracks everywhere.

The next day we met up at El Cristo for



Kebbek founder Ian Comishin wraps up the completes. Photo: Soren Johnstone



Yojani Perez, Ambassador of Skateboards for Hope Cuba and Andréa Sévigny from Montreal, a Skateboards for Hope fan. Photo: Betty Esperanza



This was the last run of the day and a little gasoline was added to make things more dramatic. A sleeveless Yojani Perez and Frank Gonzales Guerra slide through fire to the finish line at El Cristo. Photo: Ruth Maria Cabrera Carvaja

some practice runs for the upcoming race on Sunday. The road we were supposed to skate was next to the house Che Guevara used to live in and was definitely one of the sketchier roads there. It had bad pavement with lots of cracks and holes, but we wanted to ride. Unfortunately, it was pouring rain so hard that we had to wait for an hour before it finally cleared up a little and skaters started to show up.

That session was fun, and it felt more like surfing than downhill skating. Everything was so soaking wet that we had to leave after two hours of skating. We also met some guys from Amigo Skate who told us about a contest at the only skatepark in Cuba.

We decided to get to the contest early to get familiar with everything and help clean up the skatepark. There were mud spots everywhere, but brooms, sun and motivation helped get it cleaned up.

The atmosphere at the contest was a pleasure. Everybody showed up! Street skaters, longboarders, BMX guys, graffiti artists, inline skaters, here and there a scooter rider; it was all one big family. The skating in the contest was equally inspiring. We saw some crazy maneuvers, half of which were performed on some very beaten-up equipment.

The day after the park contest, the downhill race took place on El Cristo.

Again, shortly after we arrived, the weather switched to rain. Nevertheless, many people showed up, and all of them were so hyped to ride or watch the race that there was no turning back anymore. The race had to happen, so everybody was cool with riding in the rain.

In its own way, the race was as wild as the previous day's park contest. Besides the rain and the holes and cracks in the pavement, there were pieces of glass on the road in some places, and we could never be really sure whether traffic at the finish line had been blocked. So riders in the semifinals actually had to avoid a bus coming up the hill on the straight section. I think it was the sketchiest race I ever had the pleasure to compete in.



Juergen with a skater by the name of Alfredo who was very stoked to receive a complete set-up.
Photo: Andréa Sévigny

Still, the race was run and winners were declared, and Kalie and I had the honor to serve the champagne to the lucky ones on the podium. It was amazing to have been part of that. I felt blessed. My pro model served as first prize, along with a helmet, slide gloves, T-shirt and more. So much stuff was collected to give away by different people, especially for this race. There were many smiling faces that afternoon.

The next few days after the race it rained quite a bit, but we kept busy by doing interviews, meeting people and filming little bits of skateboarding around town whenever it cleared up for a few hours.

It was a crazy two weeks that we lived through. There were intense ups and downs. For example, kids were waiting for us at the hotel lobby almost every night because they were so stoked. We had a number of what felt like never-ending searches for ATMs that would work. There were many special moments



Best trick contest in Havana.
Photo: Andréa Sévigny

skating with the locals in the rain. We had a blast jumping off the ferry from El Cristo Island to Old Havana with Kalie and "Charley Brown," and driving around in those American classic cars. Our final memory of trip was a skate session with our favorite locals. In such a short time it really felt like we had become part of a family.

CHASING CUBA

By Betty Esperanza - Skateboards for Hope

A quiet revolution is happening in the streets of Havana, and it's not what you think.

The longboarding scene has become the "sport du jour," next to street skateboarding and surfing. Longboards are now sharing the crowded streets with other types of skateboards, bicycles loaded with coconuts, vintage American cars from the 1950s and Russian Lada cars, remnants of the Cold War. The U.S.

commercial, economic and financial embargo is still omnipresent, and although relations between the U.S. and Cuba have been improving of late, the changes are not as evident on the dinner plates of Cubans, and it certainly hasn't changed anything for skateboarders who depend on donations of equipment to practice their favorite sport.

Two longboarders, Carlos "Charly" Manuel and Belkis Lupez Correa, recently joined the Longboarding for Peace mission. (Please like the Facebook page!) With blood, sweat and tears, they meet up regularly at the famous El Cristo with little or no protection. Their home-made gloves are made of flattened beer cans or squished water bottles loosely strapped onto a gardener's glove - taking recycling to a whole new level!

El Cristo is a must-see tourist attraction. You can hop on a packed bus to get up the steep, winding road to the top. But if you want to skate back down, say a prayer before you push off (whether you are a believer to not), because your



The racers at El Cristo didn't let a little rain dampen their spirits during the downhill contest. Photo: Ruth Maria Cabrera Carvaja

braking skills will be put to the test, and deep pendys are not an option in two-way traffic.

Carlos Manuel has a dream to develop the Cuban longboarding scene at an international level. When I asked him why he felt the desire to become co-president of Longboarding for Peace Cuba, he said, "I believe we can educate everyone to learn and understand more about how longboarding can create harmony and balance in the life of youth. We can demonstrate freedom and peace by uniting everyone through sports. It's why Longboarding for Peace resonates with my values. It's a no-brainer."

The other co-president, Belkis represents the strong feminine insurgence of longboarders who are competing alongside their fellow male counterparts. At only 5 feet 3 inches, she bombs down hills fearlessly, eclipsing some of her 6-foot-tall male teammates with ease. "I really hope to inspire more girls to longboard," she says. "It's predominantly male, but I believe girls can succeed in

marking their territory on the streets in Havana."

The local recreation and educational programs have come a long way too. While the rest of the developed world is implementing transportation regulations and skateparks, Cuba is still lagging behind with social stigma. However, the popularity of the sport is creating a need for municipalities to develop recreational status so that skateboarding is deemed legal. Now that's good news for everyone.

For skateboarders, it's a sigh of relief to be able to practice out in the open.

However, it's a long way from being fully recognized and funded. That's why donations of equipment and infrastructure are so vital in Cuba. So on your next vacation, pack up extra gear, make new friendships, and know that your contribution will bring peace and harmony to the future of Cuban youth. And don't forget to carve your passion into the streets of Havana!



LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE

MEXICO By Edward Aviña



It's been an amazing last few months here in Mexico. Since the last report we have had new supporters. Bern Unlimited donated 12 helmets to keep our classes safe, Landyachtz Longboards donated their new line of boards to keeping us rolling fresh, and Epix, a Mexican brand of drinks, has been hydrating us.

LFPMX also has evolved to a more serious job by working alongside government, educational and philanthropic institutions to get our PatinaPorLaPaz program to more people, and developing agendas that benefit more people outside of the longboard scene. We have intervened in forums of citizen initiatives and entrepreneurship trade shows, and now we are part of an initiative from the World Economic Forum called Global Shapers, in which we team up with very talented people in charge of making projects with a social impact.

Our team got bigger too. Ely Puente is a street skater from Monterrey with a great heart. She volunteers to assist the classes and share her skate experience with the kids, and they are more than stoked to have a skater girl rolling with them and

motivating them to improve their skills.

The Longboarding Dead costume sesh was a celebration for Dia de los Muertos and Halloween, organized by LFPMX and Landyachtz México in a spot known as Zombieland in Monterrey. As a way to rehabilitate abandoned public spaces and share safe spots to skate with the community, LFPMX gathered local crews to work together in the development of a track for the event.

Located near the spot is a road next to cheap motels and industrial parks with destroyed cabins. So we relocated a bunch of used tires that were abandoned and waiting to be burned at this abandoned spot. The tires were placed down the road to create a slalom track, along with some natural features such as bushes that grew on the road, making it super fun to skate no matter your skill level.

Participants enjoyed competing in a slalom event, and they took home some goodies. They also got involved in building safer spots for the community and to aid the #PatinaPorLaPaz program to keep the kids rolling.



Juan, Johan and Nico show off their new Bern helmets.



The LFPMX crew proudly display their new shirts.



Riders testing the slalom track at Zombieland.

MIDDLE EAST



In early February 2016, LFP ventured to Jaffa to work once again with the Peres Center for Peace. We

had a terrific session comprised of Arabs and Israelis at the port. The LFP program was also introduced at the Hand in Hand Schools in Jerusalem and the North. We taught over 250 kids in two days.

Jaffa session at the port.

Hand in Hand School located in the Galil, Northern Israel



COLLAB WITH ALUMINATI SKATEBOARDS



Aluminati created two boards for LFP. One was delivered to Shimon Peres. The other wound up in the hands of 4-year-old Wojtek Budzan, who enjoyed himself immensely at the ISPO trade show in Munich.



Wojtek with his mother, Dominika Budzan.

BRAZIL



This past spring, Julie Quenneville found herself traveling to Brazil, and she decided to bring the spirit of Longboarding for Peace with her. "It took me about one week to appreciate my new environment," Julie says, "because living in a favela meant being in a very noisy environment. At night kids are playing outside till very late and you can listen to your neighbor singing."

Julie began venturing out at night with Bruno (the manager of the hostel) to find out more about the local kids, taking three boards with her. "There was a bunch of little kids, mostly around 5 to 11 years old, and they were kind of shy first," she says. Within about five minutes of her starting to ride one of the boards, the kids were asking her help to find balance and learn new tricks. The kids and Julie skated all night together, and she saw firsthand the spark of happiness in their eyes. "I introduced some stretching and balance exercises to do before longboarding to help them," she says. "They were really thankful, attentive and taking the advice seriously."

One night when Julie came back home after riding with the Guanabara Board team, a group of kids descended and started screaming her name. "They invited me to join them for a session and gave me big hugs," she says. "The love that I received was awesome. The kids were shining." Julie says the experience gave her the desire to keep teaching.



USA/NICARAGUA - PROJECT LUMINA



For the past six years, Project Lumina has been cultivating tomorrow's feminine rebels and leaders of bad-assery (aka "Luministas") by subverting the dominant feminine culture of judgment, need for perfection and fear. Project Lumina is a global community of women and girls focused on encouraging each other to shine in their hearts and be brave. They do this through the experience of travel and community service.

Project Lumina has been focused mainly on surfing in Nicaragua as the catalyst for change and growth. However, thanks to a generous donation by Never

Summer Industries, the girls are now rolling on concrete waves. Six completes were donated to the kids at the Los Quinchos orphanage in Nicaragua in June 2016 in order to share the joy of longboarding with them.

projectlumina.org





LONGBOARDING FOR PEACE

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND By Christopher Bohn



On August 7, 2016, we had a really awesome day with the youth from the local refugee camp. The kids come from a number of different countries including Eritrea, Mali and Afghanistan. Thanks to the generosity of Loaded Boards, we were able to ensure each rider

had their own complete. We brought 11 kids to cruise our local track. It's four kilometers of pure asphalt surfing through our public traffic system.

I would like to thank Kilian, Aaron, Michael and Jeremy of Number.One skate shop in Lucerne for being the best peace and longboard ambassadors I could imagine. Big thanks to our cook, Philip, who served tasty wraps for lunch at the local pumptrack. Also big thanks to Connie, Christophé and Manuel for capturing it all on camera. The entire experience was truly magical and we are continuing to ride.



BUSKERFEST



We combined both LFP and a new program called The

Magic of Balance to present to attendees of Buskerfest in Toronto. Over 3,000 people visited our booth over the Labor Day weekend. The youngest participant was 3 and the oldest was in their 70s. We showcased both longboards and a number of balance products. A huge thanks to Restless, Loaded and LAAVVA, which all helped sponsor the event.



INNOCENCE CANADA



As most people know, LFP works to promote peace, balance and justice. Over the past several years, LFP has worked with Innocence Canada, an organization dedicated to helping free the wrongfully convicted.



On October 5, Durham College co-hosted Ron Dalton to mark Wrongful Conviction Day. In 1989 Dalton had been convicted of second-degree murder of his wife and spent nearly nine years in prison. However, in 2000 he received a second trial, in which the court determined his wife had accidentally choked on a bowl of cereal, and Dalton was fully exonerated. More than 60 students attended Dalton's presentation and were truly moved by his alarming tale.

innocencecanada.com