Point Pleasant Historical Society

History Term Paper



Box 1273, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

Editor: Jill Ocone

June 2020

Please note that the June 2020 meeting has been canceled in accordance with local and state officials in response to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. We hope to see you all again on September 14!

Surf's Up In 08742

New Jersey's coastline has inspired and driven a surf culture like no other in the country with its sweet swells, beautiful breaks, and laid-back lifestyle. The coastline along 08742 plays a huge role in that surf culture and boasts one of the best breaks along the eastern seaboard at Jenkinson's North (Jenk's), next to the Inlet.

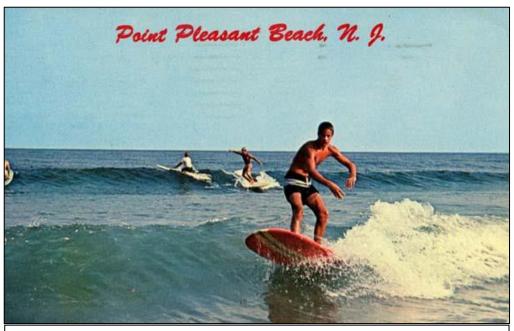
Surfing dates back to more than 4,000 years ago when islanders in the South Pacific floated on logs or reed bunches to travel from place to place. The father of modern-day surfing, original "Big Kahuna" Duke Kahanamoku, laid the foundation for New Jersey surfing in 1912 when he took to the waves off Atlantic City on his longboard. The five-time Olympic swimming medalist left an indelible footprint along the Jersey Shore as he started the movement that popularized surfing worldwide. However, according to local legend, the "Sandwich Island Girl" rode the waves off the Jersey Shore 24 years before Duke rode Jersey's waves in 1912. While her identity remains a mystery, an image of her surfing the waves off the coast of Asbury Park donned the cover of the August 18, 1888 issue of the *National Police Gazette*.

Surf films and music exploded in mainstream media during the 1960s and led to locals and visitors alike riding waves on longboards, short boards, and everything in between since. Jenk's has seen its fair share of novice and professional surfers ride its well-known breaks, which can be downright dangerous at times because of its fast-moving currents.

While surfing and summer go hand-in-hand, it's actually the winter waves that give New Jersey Surfers the reputation of being some of the toughest surfers in the world. The best waves tend to arrive off-season, with surfers running to ride the barrels in below-freezing temperatures. New Jersey also has the distinction of currently being the only East Coast state with both a Surfing Museum, housed at Tuckerton Seaport (https://tuckertonseaport.org/nj-surf-museum/), and a Surfing Hall of Fame, established in 2015 (http://newjerseysurfinghalloffame.com/).

The local surf scene today encompasses a lot more than scrapping for a ride on a storm-swelled break at one of many iconic sweet surf spots. The unique culture that has evolved includes surfers as well as surf photographers and videographers, surf artists and writers, summer surf camps for all ages, surf festivals and music, lingo and fashion trends, and a whole lot of locals on dawn patrol no matter what the season or the temperature. The breaks of 08742

continue to inspire surfers in their never-ending search for the perfect wave.



Postcard from Jerry Woolley's Online Collection. Caption: Circa 1960s Parlin greeting card. Scene is in Ocean County, possibly in Point Pleasant Beach.



The "Sandwich Island Girl" on the cover of the *National Police Gazette* in 1881. *Creative Commons/Public Domain*

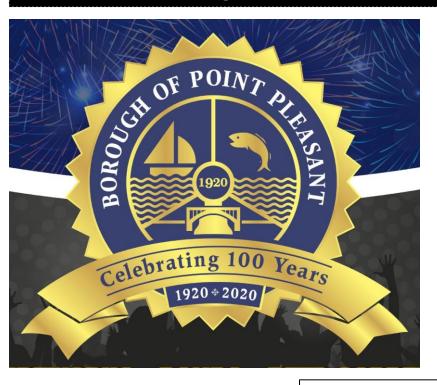
Visit our new website at pphsm.org!



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Point Pleasant Historical Society Serving Point Pleasant and Point Pleasant Beach



Point Pleasant Borough Centennial Celebration Postponed

Mayor Sabosik recently announced that the celebration to mark Point Pleasant Borough's 100th birthday, originally scheduled for May 16 at Riverfront Park, will be rescheduled for later in the year. In a recent *Ocean Star* article, Mayor Sabosik was quoted as saying, "We'll have a true celebration as we come out of this to celebrate 100 years and our victory over the COVID-19."

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Mark Your Calendar!
Point Pleasant Historical
Society 2020 Meetings7:30 PM at the Woman's
Club Building, 513 St. Louis
Avenue, Pt. Pleasant Beach:

Monday, September 14 Monday, October 12 Monday, November 9

December: An Old Fashioned Christmas at The Bennett Cabin (date TBA)

In accordance with the guidance from state and local health officials and our concern for our museum patrons, the Point Pleasant Historical Museum is closed to visitors until further notice.

How Well Do You Know Your 08742 History? Match the correct year to the event. Answers will be published in the next newsletter.

A.	1972	 began in the Bay Head marshes
B.	1979	 The year Lakewood Road (Route 88) became the first paved (or hard gravel) road in Ocean County
C.	1919	 The year the current bridge on Route 88 over the Point Pleasant Canal officially opened
D.	1916	 The year trolley service ended in the Point Pleasant area.
E.	1989	 The year the Lovelandtown Bridge on Bridge Avenue (Route 13) over the Point Pleasant Canal officially opened
F.	1883	 The year local scenes appeared on the big screen in the film "The Amityville Horror"
G.	1986	 The year the Point Pleasant Beacon began publication (the predecessor of The Ocean
Н.	1903	County Leader) The year both Jenkinson's Pavilion and the OB
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Diner burned to the ground