

Bruce "Snake" Gabrielson's 22nd Annual Luau

September 5, 2010

After a few days of decorating and arranging, my annual luau went off without any last minute hitches, like a hurricane, loss of power, or major storms for a change on Sunday, September 5th, the day before Labor Day. The luau was held at my home and the adjacent Wave Trek Surf Shop and in the National Surf Schools and Instructors Association (NSSIA) offices across from the Chesapeake Bay in Chesapeake Beach. Partiers started arriving around 3pm, with the first surf band, White Crush (above), kicking off the live music around 4 pm. Folks came in from as far away as the Outer Banks of North Carolina, but most lived in Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia or Delaware.



Some of the many things attendees were treated to included an artificial beach with fire pit, the Dale Velzy shaping equipment collection, antique boards, a greatly expanded surf art and

photo exhibit, a surf school and SUP display which also included stickers and flyers for various products, a skateboard exhibit that included one of the 100 special made Makaha Skateboards signed by Larry Severson and Rick Dowden, and an exhibit by the Global Surf Network (GSN).





Atom Bumz Surf Band



Among the exhibiting artists and photographers, several of whom were present, included Cortney Trostle, Kim Hamrock, Bonnie Preziosi, Tracy Bensing, Dave Soble, Brian Maglietta, Kevin Gabrielson, Tarin Gabrielson, and Kim Gabrielson.

By time the Atom Bumz surf band started to play, the hula contest had been held, the Hawaiian potluck food judging was over and the luau was in full swing. Mary Kerns and her son Ryan won the best costume male and female award. Joe and Marilyn won best Hawaiian main dish and dessert with Jason, and Kim taking seconds in close judging. Joe's daughter also won the Hula contest.



Probably one of the most popular activities was a bean bag tossing contest that lasted all day until it was too dark to see well. Another popular activity was getting your picture taken on a wave (HA HA).

The luau went on till evening with the K-39 surf band getting in a short session before the Atom Bumz returned. At dark the Tiki torches and the bonfire on the artificial beach were lit and the traditional token board sacrifice was held, followed by a short fireworks display. Funny thing happened with the board sacrifice. This year I had a small Styrofoam board for the sacrifice. The bonfire was going strong and I couldn't get close so when I tried to throw the board on, it lifted and flew clear back behind the fire pit. Had to retrieve it and then nudge it in from the front again. I hope that doesn't jinx good waves for the upcoming year. Following the board sacrifice was a fireworks display.



Rob Beedie of Global Surf Network had set up a large outdoor screen and played surf films during the last band set plus for a long time after. Kevin Buff played some acoustic guitar songs in front of the fire with the surf films going on in

the background. Interesting that the bonfire kept everyone sitting in beach chairs warm, although a number of partiers still spent time at the nicely decorated bar on my deck.



Although I have a lot of room for parking, after watching Sam Teague get his large SUV with boards on top out of the parking area, I think I'll get some grading done to expand the parking for next year.