

FREESTYLE SCENE REPORT

J A M M I N , D E M O S & M O R E

By Maria and Richy Carrasco (Contributing writers: Gary Holl, Frank Lee & Bob Staton)

JAMMIN IN SO CAL

Keeping the stoke alive through the years with consistent freestyle events in Southern California and beyond – SK8KINGS held not just one but two So Cal skate jams in January. Kicking off the new year, the crew gathered first at a favorite Huntington Beach spot for a day of non-stop skating action. A couple of weeks later, timed for the weekend the ASR Show comes to town, Jam #2 went down at the San Diego Embarcadero overlooking the harbor.



Primo Desiderio, Christian Hosoi and Per Welinder
So Cal Jam – Huntington Beach CA. Photo: Maria Carrasco

Both jams had a great turnout of legendary pros and up and comers mixing it up. Being in So Cal we are blessed to have such great skaters who either live here or visit often – so you just never know who will drop in. Besides the SK8KINGS pros — our jams



Diane Desiderio – So Cal Jam – San Diego CA
Photo: Tony Newman

have brought out friends like Per Welinder, Aaron Murray, Christian Hosoi, Jim Grey, Wally Inouye, Ed Economy, Patti McGee, Chris Chaput, Chicken, Kevin Harris, Terry Synnott, Darryl Grogan, AJ Kohn, Lynn Cooper, Bobby “Casper” Boyden – the list just goes on. Heck one time Rune Glibberg just happened to be walking his dog at the park in HB where we were jamming and he stopped to hang out for a bit. It’s all about having fun.

JAMMIN WITH GARY HOLL IN NOR CAL

Weekly jam sessions have been going on for a few years now in Northern California. Local



Gary Holl – Nor Cal Jam – San Francisco CA. Photo: Wally Sueyoshi

pro and all around skater Gary Holl heads up the gatherings every Sunday in Mountain View. Every Sunday?! Now that’s dedication. Gary says – “Having weekly gatherings may seem like overkill but everyone knows the session is on and pending their schedules they can drop by and ride. It’s fun and everyone pushes each other to progress and learn new stuff. By bringing together a wide variety of skill levels we are able to make everyone feel welcome . . . from beginners to veterans“ There are several people that have shown up over the years that were new to freestyle and within months of joining the sessions improved to the point where they picked up a sponsor or two. Visitors to Northern California interested in freestyle often make it a point to stop by and skate with the local crew.

FLATGROUND 101 – GEORGIA

Created and presented by local skaters Frank Lee and Alan Benson, Flatground 101 is a skateboarding class designed to give kids a more complete view of skateboarding. The first offering of this new program happened at TNT Skatepark



Frank Lee -- Surf Expo Demo – Orlando FL
Photo: Maria Carrasco

in Georgia in February. The event included a snapshot of skateboarding history, lessons on equipment, a learn to ride clinic and a prize-filled jam session. The participants were treated to a skate demo showcasing both old school and modern flatground tricks and during the clinic -- an opportunity to try different types of rides: slalom, freestyle, and longboards. This first of three planned sessions to be hosted at TNT was sponsored by Tum Yeto, Sk8Kings, Khiro Skateboard Products, Ambush Boarding Company, Woody’s Halfpipe and Oust Bearings. “There is more to skateboarding than just riding. Skateboarding is about the people, the culture, and the history. Giving back helps build strong networks and relationships, things that are necessary to sustain and help it progress.”

FREESTYLE HALL OF FAME

With new chapters in history being written every day – the World Freestyle Skateboard Association (WFSA) has set out to document freestyle’s illustrious past and honor the key players from all over the globe who have helped shape what skateboarding is today. The first group was recently inducted into the official Freestyle Hall of



Freestyle Hall of Fame Inductees (l-r) Maria Carrasco, David Carrasco, Rene’ Carrasco, Stefan Akesson, Darryl Grogan, Rene Marubayashi, Keith Butterfield, Richy Carrasco, Denis Paulson, Michael Brooke – San Diego CA
Photo: Randy Carrasco

Fame at one of the tribal gatherings we call skate jams. Stay tuned for a full feature on this subject in a future issue of CW. ■

For more info and pics on the above happenings — along with a calendar of upcoming contests and events visit: sk8kings.com