

# Sheriff Beefs Up Patrols In Troubled Surfing Area

By Ron Reeves  
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It was quiet in the Pleasure Point surfing area last night where Sheriff Doug James has added extra patrols to check suspicious persons or juveniles out after curfew. Six arrests were made.

James has continued his appeal to surfers and citizens to help quell vandalism and improper conduct with a threat of banning Pleasure Point surfing as an alternative.

James today said the publicity being given to the matter is making people less hesitant about reporting incidents in the surfing area.

"We've been getting some tips we never received before. Apparently they (property owners) are just getting fed up with it," he added. Many people witnessing law violators have refused to report them for fear of retaliation.

Tom Keinholtz, 19, president of the Pleasure Point Surfers association, has announced plans of his 12-member club to form a vigilante committee to patrol the beach "to keep those bums in line."

"We're going to police our own ranks," Keinholtz said. "We aren't going to let those dryland surfers foul up the works for us." Further anti-trouble plans will be made by the club over the weekend and at a meeting set for Monday evening.

At approximately 12:49 o'clock this morning deputies checked a car on Portola drive, arresting Dennis Carol Francis, 19, of 1505 Bulb avenue, and Alfred Eugene Echeverria, 25, of 5025 Soquel drive, after curfew—a 16-year-old Capitola girl was in their car.

Deputies said the girl's parents had not given their permission for her to be out. Court appearances were continued to this afternoon.

Deputies also picked up three San Jose boys found wandering in the Pleasure Point area about 1:30 o'clock this morning. The youths were held on curfew charges until their parents arrived to take them home. Deputies

said the parents had allowed the boys, ages 15 and 17 years, to come to Santa Cruz without adults and little money and no place to stay. Wednesday night two Los Gatos boys were picked up under similar circumstances.

Statewide attention has been focused on the stretch of beach where surfers have found good conditions for their sport. During the past several weeks troublemakers have dumped two cars over the cliffs and demolishing two others with rocks and bricks. Residents of the area complain bitterly of lewd conduct, wild parties with juvenile drinking, car clouting, general vandalism and noise.

Some residents report they have been "terrified" since the surfing crowds began to congregate. There are reports of petitions being signed by property owners to push closure of the beach to surfers. Sheriff James threatened to ask the board of supervisors to ban surfing if the problems don't cease.

Some typical Pleasure Point residence remarks are:

"They're a bunch of bums. They ignore speed limits and they're always drinking. They ought to surf somewhere else and make this area off limits."

"They certainly mess up the beach. They ought to clean up after themselves. They park on other people's property and slide their cars around. A lot of them come up here and use our water and park around here. We don't mind if they would ask."

"We're terrified, we haven't had a night's sleep in weeks."

"They park wherever they can and they're dirty. I love to see the young people have fun, but not all this trouble. I hope the law and the supervisors do something."

"Mostly they're good kids, they come here looking for band-aids or a glass of water or to use the bathroom. Those are good kids, but they're not all good."

"Surfing is a darned good sport, but I don't like some of these beatniks."

Some of the surfers commented:

"Basically, it's a summer thing. The whole thing will disappear when school starts."

"We've tried to patrol the area. We clean up, but, I hate to say it, a lot of kids from the valley just don't care and really mess the place up."

"Basically it's out-of-town kids. If they were local, we'd know them—we get to know each other out here."

Sheriff James this morning reiterated his invitation to meet with surfers who want to do something about the situation. So far such a meeting has not been scheduled.

Another aspect of the problem is reports of persons in their twenties who prey on the surfers who come to ride the waves. It has been put forth that car-clouting has become a science with binoculars and telescopes to spot surfers' cars and where they hide their valuables and car keys. When the surfers are seen on the waves, car-clouters raid the automobiles.

There are other reports of some houses for which up to 100 door keys have been made, allowing access for sleeping or parties.

An official of the sheriff's department this morning placed considerable blame on parents who allow their children to come to Santa Cruz or roam about without supervision or money.

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