

# Bill Eberwein, Class of 1971

The Eberwein family, German immigrants, settled on the Cape sometime in the 1890's. After the government acquired the Cape, the settlers were pushed down the beach southward. The Eberwein family ended up with quite a bit of beach front land just south of the Jetties Park in Cape Canaveral. John Eberwein, Bill's grandfather, homesteaded the land and then passed it down to Bill's father. Bill's father and mother bought an old army barracks, moved it to their beach property, and turned it into a their home. This is where Bill grew up.



Bill started surfing at ten years old on a surfboard that was about ten feet long and very heavy. He traded a spear gun to a guy in the local trailer park for it. It was a hollow board with wooden veneer. This inspired him to pursue a life of surfing and board making. His second board was a wake board his cousin found on the road and gave to him. It had a metal fin and a rubber bumper around the rails.

His first factory board was a *Weber*, which was red with orange panels and a red hatchet fin. Bill's mom bought the board from Ron DiMenna, when Ron Jons was at 3rd Street North in Cocoa Beach. He didn't know anything about surfboards but he just liked the colors.

Bill started making boards at the age of 15. Little Bill, as he was called by family and friends made his first surfboards in an old chicken coop in their backyard. He would buy the end pieces of foam blanks from *Oceanside* for \$1 each. It cost him \$12 to make these boards and he sold them for \$25 each. The *Oceanside Surfboard* factory was on the mainland, over in Rockledge, Florida. The short board revolution was in full swing, but the clark blanks that *Oceanside* used were still long. Each short board made resulted in a 3-4 foot end piece left over. Bill would take two ends, connect them in the middle with dowel rods and resin. The resulting 6-7 foot foam blank could then be shaped into an excellent little board. Many of the locals in the Harbour Heights neighborhood near Bill's home rode those boards for a couple of years. When he was 17, Bill got a job at the *Oceanside* factory polishing surfboards. He worked there for a year until the factory closed. His next job was polishing boards for the *Sunshine Company*. He soon was promoted to the glassing department. Soon after that Bill was glassing for Dick Catri's *Primo Surfboards*.

Bill's first big business venture came in 1974 when he and Steve Holloway started the *Lightwave Surfboard Company*. He shaped their boards at *Lightwave* as well as for other companies that came to them, including *Oceanside Surfboards*, and *Salick Surfboards*. He and Steve built thousands of custom surfboards that were sold all up and down the east coast. This business continued until their factory burned down in 1981. In 1981 Bill started the *Lip Quencher* board label, doing the shaping and air brushing. Bill moved to Hawaii in the 1990. Steve Holloway acquired full interest in *Lightwave Surf Company* and produced boards in Cocoa Beach for many years.

While in Hawaii, Bill glossed, polished, and sanded the overflow for the *Blue Hawaii* brand. Over the next 2-3 years he shaped boards for *Hawaiian Blades*, *Blue Hawaii*, *Bear Hawaii* (Randy Rarrick), *Willis Brothers*, and *Russ K* (The Long board champion). He also spent time in Japan shaping for *Bear Surfboards*. He In 2003 he worked for *Laminations Hawaii*, air brushing, fixing, and shaping boards. He moved back to Cape Canaveral in 2004 and started the *Hawaiian Salt Surfboard Co.*, the next year. He also manufactures the mainland brand of *Russ K* boards (Rusty Kealana, long board champion).

Resisting the urge to import cheap Chinese made boards, which most of your main-line shops sell these days, Bill continues the time-honored tradition of hand shaping each board. His shaping skills are legendary! Bill's custom surfboards are some of the finest in the world.

<http://hawaiiansaltsurfboards.com/index.html>