



Huntington Beach Surfing Association Outstanding Surfer Award 1970-1975

One of the most important activities in any club is recognition of their outstanding member. Since HBSA competed in a number of club events throughout the year, it was important to recognize those members who supported the club by actively participating on a regular basis. Therefore, to encourage participation, the outstanding member award was presented to the club surfer who during the previous six months had the most contest points gained through club and open competitions. The annual HBSA Club Championships was a mandatory event for members trying for the award during the fall season.



HBSA had a great surfer, very active competitor, and all-around good member in the late 60s named Harris Kawata. Early in 1970, Harris was killed in a freak automobile accident. His loss impacted the membership a great deal. When the club decided to create an outstanding surfer award in early 1970, it was quickly determined that the award be called the Harris Kawata Memorial Award for the Outstanding HBSA Surfer.

The award shown, won by several of the top surfers in the area, sat in the surf shop supporting the member for six months until won by the next award winner. As an added incentive for participation, winning the award twice in succession retired the existing rotating trophy and a new trophy was to be purchased. The trophy shown above was retired after the last club championship in 1976. Randy Weeden and Bruce Gabrielson, after a 30 minute final, had ended in a dead tie for first at

the club championship that fall. However, Bruce had more overall competition points during the previous six months and had also won the trophy the previous spring.

Harris Kawata Memorial Award Outstanding HBSA Surfers

Spring 1970	Chris Hawk
Fall 1970	Steve Wurster
Spring 1971	Randy Lewis
Fall 1971	John Davis
Spring 1972	Mike Wilson
Fall 1972	David Nuuhiwa
Spring 1973	LaRoy Dennis
Fall 1973	Bruce Gabrielson
Spring 1974	Rusty Henderson
Fall 1974	Tim Wirick
Spring 1975	Jeff Smith
Fall 1975	Bruce Gabrielson
Spring 1975	Bruce Gabrielson