

## 40 do a swell job on surfing record

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CARLSBAD – It can get crowded in the lineup, but 40 people on one wave?

It took 16 tries, but surfers at South Carlsbad State Beach yesterday managed to unofficially break into the Guinness Book of Records for having the most surfers on the same wave, with 40 finally standing simultaneously and riding toward the shore.

The record of 38 was set in December 2002 on Manley Beach in Australia.

"My heart is thumping, this is so rad," said Pat Weber, surf teacher and owner of the San Diego Surfing Academy in Carlsbad. Weber put together the event to benefit the North County chapter of the Special Olympics and to celebrate his 10th anniversary teaching surfing.

About 50 surfers ranging in age from 11 to 60 paddled out into the 2-to 3-foot surf under generally sunny but slightly hazy skies and waited while Weber stood on the shore and coached them through a loudspeaker.

"Turn your boards toward the beach and get ready. I see a set approaching," he yelled. "Party wave!"

That was the signal for everyone to hop on their boards. The surfers had to remain standing at least five seconds for the record to count.

Three professional surfing judges with the Coalition of Surfers ran along the shore, counting the number of surfers standing during each try. They will provide affidavits to Guinness to validate the count. They will also send in a videotape of the feat.

Weber said he hoped to raise \$10,000 for the Special Olympics. Participants paid a \$10 fee to enter, which also bought them a lunch with a raffle at the Elks Club in Cardiff. "It was hard to get everyone together at the same time, but when the right wave came we all knew it was the one," said surfer Grant Lee, 23, who helped set the record.

Several spectators both on the beach and on the bluffs above South Carlsbad State Beach watched and clapped loudly when it was announced the surfers had beaten the record.

"It's awesome," explained Liz Ryan of Fullerton, who was enjoying the sunshine and the spectacle while on vacation with her family. "I am going to call my friends in Australia and tell them we broke their record."

Weber said he is not sure when they will get the official word from Guinness.

But he said he knew there were enough skilled surfers in the water to get the job done.



DEBBI FARR BAKER / Union-Tribune  
Surfers pose for a group shot on South Carlsbad State Beach prior to their attempt at breaking the Guinness Book record for the most surfers riding the same wave at the same time.

"Everyone was trying their hearts out," Weber said. "It was so cool to all get together and do something worthwhile."

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