

SKIM!!!



...a zine

SKIMBOARD



BOARDS - BAGS - WAX - TIDE CHARTS - LESSONS

P.D.'S HOT SHOP

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Logos for: DOMINION SKIMBOARDS, GLYDE SKIMIS, SUPPLY CO., and Siesta.

Contents...

skim japan
spot check - english bay
crosstown skim
product & thing reviews
rubber chicken tour - texada island
winter skimming
tips: the throw

Skim-itorial

Thinking outside Vancouver.

I'm sure I've skimmed most of the places in Vancouver, but even knowing that I've hit most of the spots, I'm still convinced that there's new places to hit... somewhere out there... Like new skate spots, skim spots sometimes creep up on you out of the blue.

Who would've ever thought that you could skim English Bay? I sure never thought that you could...

One of the first things I do when I go out of town in summer is suss out the skim situation. No ocean, maybe there's a lake with sand... is there a river somewhere... nice and wide? Some mellow shoreline... How about a slough, some big puddle in a grass field... maybe in winter a long hill and a couple inches of hard pack...

Flying into LA a few years back and staring out the window of the airplane, without thinking I found myself looking down along the coast, wondering if there were spots that weren't too steep or crazy with people. I know I know, there's lots of skimming in California... I've seen it, and it's wicked... but I can't do that... I'm not that coordinated... That's surfing for people who don't want to swim, or don't want to mess up their hair, or don't like sharks.

At Venice beach, people stared at me. Lots took pictures and sat down on the dry sand, watching me charge headlong into the surf, carving along, trying to milk a long ride on inch deep Pacific blue.

Most of the questions were as you'd expect.

Is that a small surfboard?

Where you from?

Is it because you can't surf that you do this?

Where'd you get that board?

The curiosity was all over the map. Some surfers were stoked, some laughed. Some skaters wanted to take a turn, while others looked at me like I was wearing rollerblades. In front of them, I rode terrain (can you call beach and ocean terrain?) that I'd never even seen before. Steep, fast washout, tons of gravel and shells that made my ankles look like I was bleeding to death. And it was fast... faster than I'd ever ridden before. It was downhill. I really learned the meaning of eating shit. And to top it all off, there was a three-foot wave at the end of that hill that I got to try and carve.

It was awesome, and made me appreciate what we have in Vancouver, but also made me curious of all the other spots out there, the ones like Texada Island

that Skull Skates did a demo at, the Japanese beaches that J Soy tore up, the back alleys of Vancouver that had some folks skimming in the white blanket of winter.

Skimming is everywhere... it just takes a while to see where it's at.



Skim Japan!



Skimmin' in Shizuoka

Last year my brother in law got married in Japan. I was told how hot it would be so I brought along my skim. I'm glad I did. I hooked up with Satoshi who runs the hotshop in Japan and he took me to the most well known spot in the area. Satoshi took me to the most well known skim spot in the area, unfortunately for me it was about a 45 degree angle beach with huge waves.... yikes, a far cry from Spanish Banks low tide.

Luckily Satoshi found one small flat area which was perfect to snap ollies off of, just like home...kinda..There were a few oddities at the beach, the most obvious being the tetrapods. Tetrapods are giant concrete forms poured in the shape of jacks like the type you played with as a kid. They are intended to stop big waves, which they do, but they are also great to get stuck in and drown and if mother nature meant for them to be there, she would have built them herself. For me though, they provided a pretty cool background for some of these photos.....





Spot Check

Skim other beaches... Kits

To me a big part of skimming is just getting out there. Prior to skimming, I was never really a beach guy and I'm thankful that skimming has introduced me to all the beaches in Vancouver.

One of the beaches I've always shied away from is Kits, mainly due to it being so crowded. Over the winter months though, driving past it during low tide, I've kept saying to myself... "I'm going to have to skim that one day..."

Well, I finally did, a lot of people relish rainy or overcast days in the summer but I love them because they are great to skim beaches like Kits. I rolled up got a free parking spot on the street and walked right out to the beach. What was really strange is seeing Spanish Banks to the west, I'm so used to seeing the city from Spanish.

Kits is a bit coved out like wreck, but does not have the sandbar the same way. It has a few little hips that jut out that provide some real fun flat terrain. It consistently has 6 inch to a foot tall waves lined up well with the flat sections so it's perfect for learning to ollie or carving in deeper water. The day we went was about 2', I think you could skim it a bit higher but it wouldn't be as good.

What really intrigues me though is the drain pipe. It's bright green and slimy like a big sea monster, why it's there, what it carries... I have no idea, but the real question I have is, 'can I ollie it?'





Crosstown Skim

A few years back at a really low tide, I found myself riding my bike to 3rd beach from downtown. As I rode along the seawall, I was amazed to see how much skim terrain there was. I had to stop every hundred meters or so, lock up the bike hit the beach and then onto the next. It was there I got the idea for the cross town skim. All I needed was a really low day, 3rd, 2nd, English Bay are all good when really low, Spanish is so great you can hit it at a mid tide and it's still fun and Wreck is good a bit of a higher tide. After sitting for a couple years, I thought this would be the best year to get it done.



8:30 3rd Beach:

I expected to do this alone but nope... my friend Paul Symons who was not only gimped (wrist surgery) but also had to work that morning came along to shoot photos. The real surprise though was the appearance of Dax... he got there before me even, turns out

he got off work early 2am, had a power nap, jumped on his bike and was ready for skimming.

He was more bright eye'd and bushy tailed than me, check out this front 5-0...



3rd was beautiful, I never really understood what surfers meant by how glassy it can get in the morning, but the waves were breaking so clean.

9:15 2nd Beach:

More of the same... which is a good thing, I've only skimmed this beach a couple times but I'll have to do the

3rd to 2nd combo again, I want to work it in with a trip to the pool, maybe some fries... make a day of it... OK... back to the skim tour.

Another ollie shot? That's what I was thinking so I thought it was a good idea to get us both in the photo... yeah...



Dax had a better idea to skim some rocks...

10:02 English Bay:

The worst part of English Bay is the seagulls... the best part for me at least... was the seagulls.



Dax pouring one out for PD who took a trip up cripple creek and binged up his Achilles.

11:00 Kits Beach

The bike ride from English to Kits was a warm up for what was to come later that day. It's a great way to travel I think, skim, bike, skim bike... we took a bit of a break here which was a bit of a mistake, Dax got a message that the crew was assembling at Spanish. Awww man... let's just get out of here... Nope... It was tough but we had a job to do, so we got skimmming Kits.



Spanish may be a better place to skim but Kits is great to shoot photos with the city so close.



11:45 Off to Spanish. On the way we passed through the gong show which is known as the Vancouver Folk Festival. We circumnavigated through a drum circle, got our ears candled

and got to Spanish before the stream was washed.

What do you think it was like at Spanish? It was the best skimboarding of the day, the whole Spanish Flyer team was there getting crazy. We stayed there for a while, it crossed my mind to even hit up the point too but we still had to get to Wreck.



After we ate a bunch of fries, which I'm still regretting.



2:19 Walk through the trails, if you've ever ridden to UBC, all you ever remember is 'the hill' doesn't matter how you get there, you remember it. Instead of taking this head on, we decided to take a quick stroll through the woods. We now had Norm the Storm with us to keep the stokage alive.

3:02 Dax meltdown. I don't think I could get through this issue without mentioning this. It could be no eggs and toast for breakfast, no cooler to keep his yogurt cool, or just a blazing hot day, any of these things and then some can cause D. Kenny to melt down.



The beauty is though, he always comes back twice as hard.

3:35 WREX 'N EFEX. I'm not sure if it was the walk in the woods, the last bit of bike ride, maybe it was nothing, Wreck felt even more surreal than usual. Pop shuvs, pecs and a photoshoot were all going on, and that was just the skimboarding. All we could really do is stand back and watch.



And throw in the last turn... because it's a long bike ride home...





Product & Thing Reviews:

Vans Mesa Shoe:

Picture this. It's late October. It's a sunny but not that warm of a day, and you've just finished skimming, just because the tide was right. It's not warm enough for sandals, and you hate the feeling of stuffing your sandy wet feet into your dunks or vans...

This is where the Vans Mesa shoe comes in. An eco friendly shoe, made up from bamboo, recycled car tires, and canvas, the Mesa is the ultimate après skim shoe. It doesn't matter if it gets wet, cause it has a moisture-wicking, anti-microbial bamboo lining.

Dry warm feet make the world a whole lot better. And maybe this wasn't the last skim of the year after all...



Stuff I'm into!

Dripping on wax: I use an iron and drip on the dry humps, let it dry then, rub on some of the softer stuff. Best technique I've found so far.

Rocker: I love the stuff... I'll like up as many boards as PD will let me finding the one with the most rocker. You don't dig your nose and it pops up that much easier when you ollie. Check out the new Skull boards to see what I'm talking about.

The innanet!

A huge part of why I really love skating is how localized it is. In large part for me, it's pretty much people that I see out week after week at the beach that make up my skim world. It reminds me a lot of my early years skating where I didn't have video, or the internet, just a magazine and no one to ask how to do things. It was great, learning to ollie took me a solid year, come to think of it, learning to ollie on a skim took me even longer. A big reason why we chose this zine format was it was intended to hit a very small audience, kinda like the lesser known Tupac: Strictly 4 my S.K.I.M.M.A.Z....

But I'm not turning my cheek to the benefits of stuff like the internet there's tons of really cool stuff up there.

Here are a few of my favourites :

www.tydlemag.com : if you're serious about inland stuff and hittin' rails... this is the best and only place to go...

www.vancouverisawesome.com : all things awesome in Vancouver including a bit of skating thrown in.

www.skimbc.com : a good resource of spots and has a message board.

<http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca> : all the tidal charts you need.

<http://www.jericho.ca/webcam/webcam.html> is a webcam which faces Jericho, it's a good indicator as to what's going on at Spanish.

www.skullskates.com : yeah dude!

www.booooooom.com : art art art... best taste in town.

www.myspace.com/wehavemeteoritesickness : my band....

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/> : I like to pretend for at least once a day that I know what's going on with the world...

More Stuff I'm into!

Banana Bread: This is the Spanish Flyers snack of preference when skimboarding, not to be confused with fries which are the meal of choice. Banana bread is best served with butter and some iced green tea with honey to drink, it also can keep the bread cold which is a must. Chocolate chips are optional but should be used sparingly. Overuse on a hot day can result in something like 'Yay! I have banana bread!... BOOOO! It looks like kaka...'



Fresh fruit: Man... BC is like ground zero for amazing fruit... If we only grew bananas, we would be set. Seriously, I love bananas... This year I've eaten more cherries than ever (pacing myself so I don't get the squirts), blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, peaches, nectarines, apples, yada yada yada... and I feel great.

Camping: We only do it for 3 or 4 days of the year, and I come back smelling like a hobo who has only eaten Hickory Sticks... but I love camping, straight up! Can't wait to go again!

Rubber- Chicken Tour: Texada Island



It's pretty tough to get the Spanish Flyers out to any other beach than Spanish, so when PD mentioned going to Texada for a two day skim camp, I hinted that I was available, I didn't want to miss this one... and before you know it, I was renting a van and picking everyone up at the Hotshop.

Getting to Texada, I thought would be a pain... 3 ferries? Actually, it's a great way to travel, drive, ferry, drive, ferry... sounds bad but beats the heck out of drive... drive... drive... the ferry rides were welcomed breaks and the scenery on them is just something else.....



Probably the most complicated thing on the trip was setting up the tents. I've seen PD free hand the best skim and skateboard shapes ever, he can fix pretty much any bike blindfolded... set up a tent? I'm not going to lie though... the rest of us weren't much better... how many skimboarders does it take to set up a pup tent... there is no punch line, the mere sight is enough comedy.



What we found is that pretty much none of us were campers... lucky for us, everyone around us were campers, and super nice ones too. I think all we cooked ourselves were like a hotdog each... everything else was table scraps provided by one of our gracious neighbours. I'm pretty sure it was out of pity... Out of all of us, I'd say Norm maximized his favours... I get a smore... Norm gets a back rub....



Texada is a beautiful place, I've been to a few other gulf islands, and Texada is right up there. The most memorable spot is the Quarry, when we were told to check out the swimming hole, I expected a small pond... Instead we were served up something that looked like a Mediterranean coastline, who the hell put this here? You got to see it to believe it.



The Skim camps went off with Dax leading the way. The kids were so amped to try new stuff, and learned so quickly. With a couple of them, I'm sure by next year, they'll be teaching us a few things. I think our main goal for the weekend was to get kids stoked on skimboarding and I think we succeeded.



Part of the festivities on the weekend was making lanterns, which were put out to sea. Kids decorated their bags, put wishes on them, one of our neighbour's who had lost her husband commemorated him on her's. Her grandson Trent, who had been at the skim camp early that day, put on his: "I WANT A SKIMBOARD". Without knowing this, Dax just being Dax, gave the kid one of his old skims, pretty much making Trent's summer. I wonder how many more lanterns he's made since... no more writing letters to Santa Claus...

That night the wind really kicked up... I don't think I slept that night. The skim gods were telling us our jig was up. Ryan had the brains to get up early and start packing. Good call, as the last tent pole was getting folded up, the sky opened up and let loose. We got out of there as fast as we could, but not fast enough to miss see little Trent in his pj's at the side of the road with his skimboard waving bye to us... pretty sure he slept with it...

Huge thanks for Sue for putting this all together... all the happy campers... and the local produce... if it wasn't for that... a bunch of dudes alone in the woods? It could have gotten ugly...

Snowball Fight! Winter Skimming...



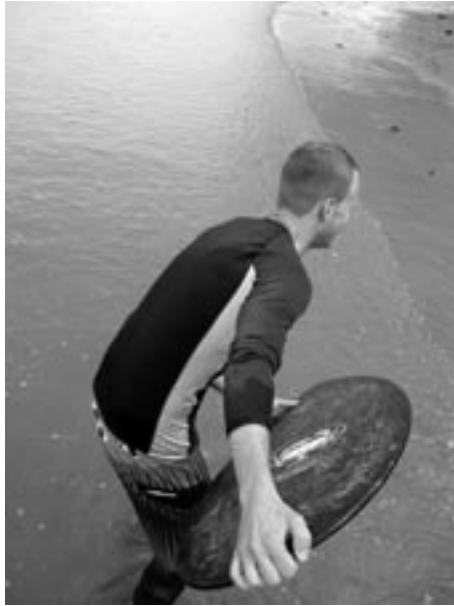
All that snow this winter made me go stir crazy to the point of hitting the streets to go skimming.

The cold hands and soggy feet were nothing compared to the fun we had doing bomb drops off of everything we could find, and the camaraderie of roaming around the streets looking for new terrain. Kits is known for it's beaches but it's got some serious hills too which we had tons of fun on.

Check this YouTube link for some winter skimming:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7wlvkF7BhM>



The Throw



The throw down is a huge part of skimming. The most common problem I see people when starting is too much moxy, not enough technique. The result is usually the board going nose first into the sand as the skimmer sprints by.

Dax has been skimming forever and has spent hours teaching and refining the art or step one:

When throwing your board, you want to make sure that the hand that's on the tail of the board, which is your lead hand when throwing the board is low. It must have a perfect follow through such as bowling, so as far as you pull back, you follow through forward, always staying and keeping the board below your knees. When you throw our board, think of throwing the letter under the door. Avoid throwing the board from a high point, slapping it down the water, causing friction and making it harder to gain momentum before jumping on. Your front hand is balancing the board making sure that it stays perfectly straight before releasing.

Skim Haikus

water underneath
eagle flies in the slight breeze
a day at the beach

new board with rocker
shoots off towards the city
I land on my ass

summer sun on high
sand like flames spreading quickly
hopping on one foot

Fries

Don't miss your number.
Ketchup, tartar, vinegar....
Chow, chow, chow....regret.

The point....

So...so...far away.
Could be good, maybe it's not....
Just can't leave the stream.

sunset and coffee
early morning drive and hike
wreck Beach skim at 6 am

shells under the sand
feet tearing throw clear puddles
they turn to dark red

Pop shuvs

Jump on big poppa...
Over a bouy, off a rail....
Whack...oh god my shin.

Wreck beach part deux:

Head on collisions....
Drum circles, push ups, Frisbee.....
I can't handle it....





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