



JETTY

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Clam Jam #17, the best one to date, we think so...!

Brant Beach, NJ (September 17, 2023) – The 17th Annual Jetty Clam Jam went down in epic conditions thanks to swell from Hurricane Lee. The 68th Street beach in the Brant Beach section of Long Beach Township was packed with surfers, families and beachgoers, all entranced by the competitive surfing in 6'+ waves. Jetty initiated this event in 2007 with the goal of bringing the LBI Region's surf community together. A diverse group of (92) surfers participated in the event and ranged in age from 12 to 70. Three weeks ago the surfers were randomly paired together into teams with one younger surfer tied to one more experienced surfer. A median age is determined, the surfers are split into two age pools and then the pairings are called out as clam shells with the surfer's names are flipped over.

As the setup crew erected the judging scaffold in the dark the sentiment was that Lee passed by too quickly and that the swell had diminished, but a 6:38am sunrise revealed bombing 6-8' surf with an incoming high tide. Offshore winds prevailed all day and despite a late afternoon low tide, the wave size held strong. Round #1 surfing had the entire beach stoked with standout surfing from Mike Carvajal, Brian Aji, Brian Farias and Tab Hans. Right there you have a mortgage specialist, former Jetty intern, surf shop owner and a surfboard shaper. As the 2-on-2 man team battles progressed, the judges saw a barrage of made barrel rides and power surfing from Dave Werner, Kyle Calandra, Nick Rossi, Josh Law and Torr Cohen. Jetty's newest surfer/ambassador Noah DeSimone made it to the semifinals and was oozing with positivity. "I had an amazing run at my first clam jam. It wouldn't have happened if I hadn't gotten paired up with Torr Cohen. Overall, the Jetty Rock Foundation put on a really outstanding competition and I had a great day!" said DeSimone after the event. In a 20 minute final Dave Werner & Brian Aji took narrowly down Nick Rossi & John Gilman. "This year it all came together and I'm so grateful. I have been with Jetty since 2004 and I have been dreaming of this win since they started the contest 17 years ago", said Werner. All of their names will be engraved on the Clam Jam trophy, a giant clam carved by local surfer/creative Joel Dramis.

2023 marked the first time that the Clam Jam was a charitable event, which is odd for Jetty being that nearly every event that they run has a fundraising component. The Jam was moved under the Jetty Rock Foundation, Jetty's nonprofit arm, and held In Loving Memory of Pat Harrington, a clam jammer, LBI local and Jetty's biggest fan on all accounts. He lost his battle with cancer, but local scholarships in his name will now be funded by the event. Following its sister event, the Jetty Coquina Jam, surfers are urged to individually fundraise after they register. A first stab has raised in excess of \$6,000 which will be added to the event profits consisting of sponsorships, surfer registrations, on-beach garment sales, and a Priority Bicycles auction. Priority Bicycles built and donated a custom Clam Jam beach cruiser while major sponsors The Wright Law Firm, Barlow Buick GMC, Equity Prime Mortgage, K. Scott Construction, Shipwreck Rum, Tide Table Group and DE Ave Oyster House all financially contributed. The Jetty Rock Foundation is estimating that in excess of \$15,000 was raised from the 17th Annual Jetty Clam Jam!