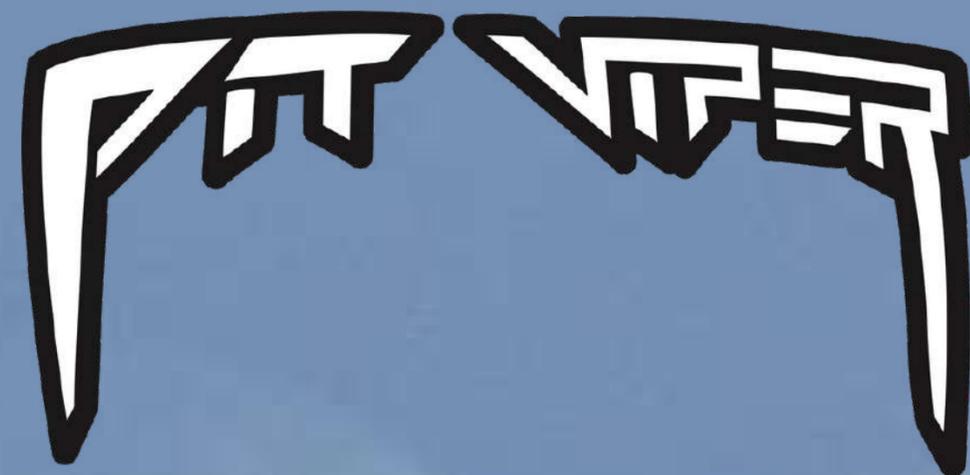


BRANDON SANFORD

PORTFOLIO

X



MEET

BRANDON

D.O.B: March 10, 1989

P.O.B: Vero Beach, Florida

Hometown: Cabarete, Dominican Republic

Nationality: Dominican / American

Nickname: BS

Sponsors: Volcom, Solid Surfboards

Race: Hispanic

Occupation: Entrepreneur, Athlete, Waterman





NOTABLE

ACHIEVEMENTS

5x National surf champion - Dominican Republic

3rd Master Of The Ocean 2018 - Dominican Republic

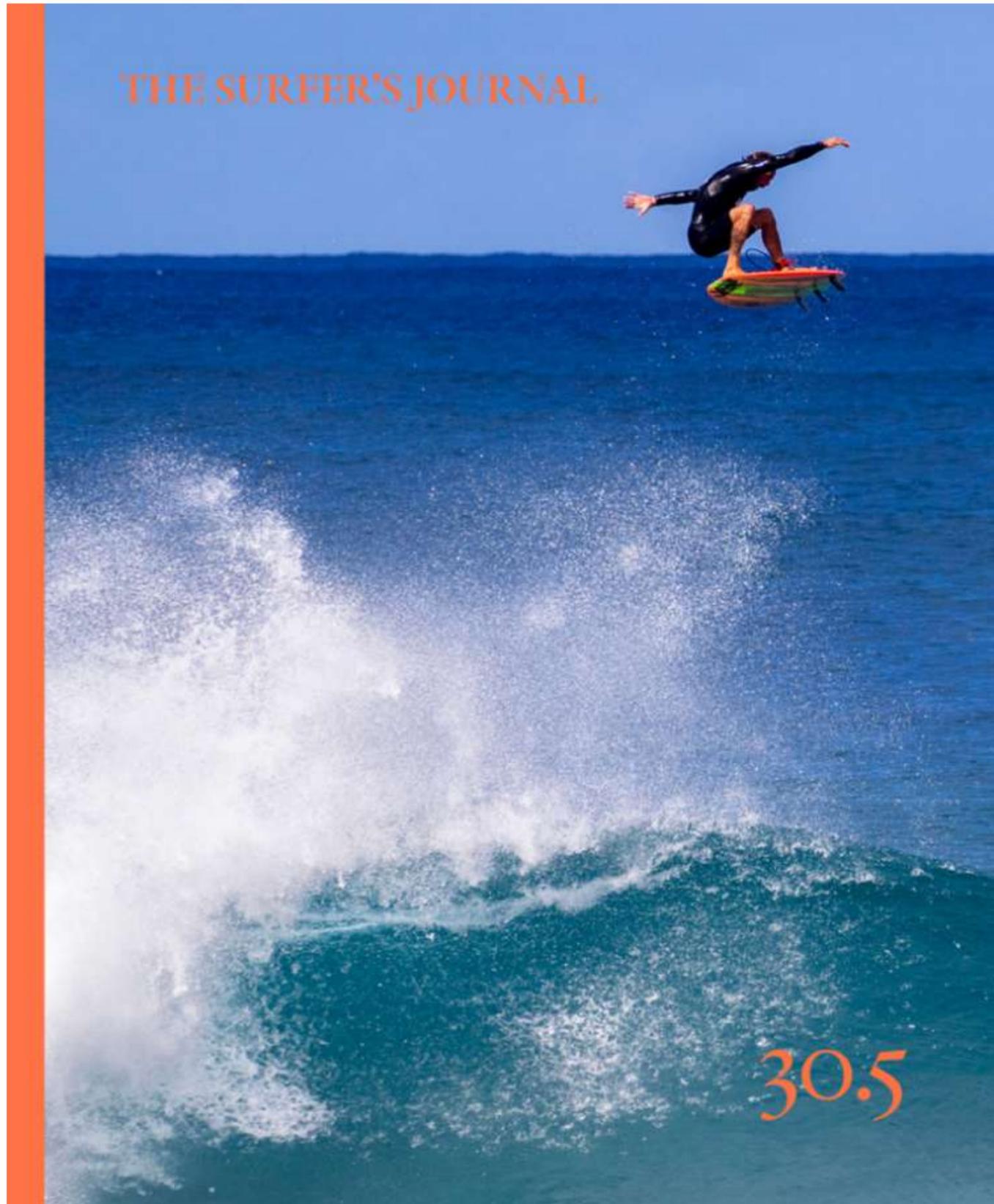
Volcom "EL HUECO" 2014 invitational - Peru

MEXPIPE WARRIORS 2019 invitational - Mexico

Double page spread "Surfers Journal"- 16 page article on DR by [Chris Klopj](#).

Half page "Pacific Longboarder" - 16 page article on DR by [Chris Klopj](#).

ACHIEVEMENTS



34 THE SURFER'S JOURNAL

Post-PI, Klopf worked his NorCal acreage, surfed his home breaks, and decamped to the Southern Hemisphere during the rain and cold of the northern winters. Driven and willfully recalcitrant, he's always taken pride in the old-school photographic disciplines. Follow focus. Continuous tone. Stopping down Fuji Velvia, then pushing the film past spec in processing for that gum-numbing late 80s color. It wasn't until deep into the aughts that he even tried digital.

Californian (now Bali-based) surfer Jared Mell remembers, "My first trip with

We bump past equestrians and shotgun-toting security. After a few minutes, the trail ends. Binding white sand. The sort of blue water that has you questioning any allegiance you might have to tropical Pacific waypoints.

Klopf was when I was 18. Costa Rica. We were hanging out after a good day with his measured sniper's finger clocking he gave me that Cheskie grin, holding up a Ziploc bag of exposed film, and said, "Fuckkk, grom, we did it."

Justin Quintal is more effusive regarding Klopf's craft.

"I think there's something different that Klopf does," says Quintal. "A little more old school, probably from shooting film for so many years. It's rare you see him hold the button down on his camera. He once told me, 'It's not a machine gun. I feel like he takes images with intention

and you see that in his work. I think his images stand out, and over the years he's retained a certain feel and a common thread."

As he tracked around the Pacific with his measured sniper's finger clocking Kentucky windage—Peru, Lombok, Queensland—he wasn't officially looking for a winter nest. But he wasn't *not* looking either. He almost found it in the most unsurprising location one might conjure.

"Yes, I ended up with a place in Costa Rica," he recalls. "It worked. Like I said, I'm a long-term guy. I'm not a 'surgical mission' guy. Today, CR is played out. It's like a global contingent of every nationality lives there and owns all the businesses. The locals are the ones that work for [them]. And the money to fund

the businesses comes from all, you know—they're South American or European or American or Canadian or whatever.

"And as a guy that likes to swim and shoot from the water, the crocs [are a pain]. Nowadays every river is filled with crocs, from Tamarindo to Ollie's. Every goddamned river.

"And if you leave anything in your car, it's going to be gone in Costa Rica. Instant smashed window. If you're in a parking lot of a ritzy hotel, your shit's gone. It doesn't matter if there's a security guard. So yeah, Costa Rica's done, man."

"What, Mexico? The places that I like don't have enough infrastructure," he says. "You end up living in the dirt. Nicaragua? El Salvador? Same deal as the Philippines: too hot, too dangerous."

OUR MAN IN THE ANTILLES 35

Finishing dinner, he lays out a plan to give me a survey of the Dominican coast, a soup-to-nuts rundown that he says will voice his love for the DR in ways words can't. Over the next couple of weeks, we do just that.

The North Coast—centered around the town of Cabarete—is a complex of sand banks, coves, and reefs. Each of them glows and wanes under an ever-changing set of conditions. One can be faced with onshore clogged at Reef A and, 300 yards away and unseen, Reef B is coming alive. Local knowledge is absolutely required. That's where the boys come in.

"The main surf spot—which I will mention because it's on Surfline [with a wave cam]—is Encuentro," says Klopf. "There's a surf camp, and the surf guides

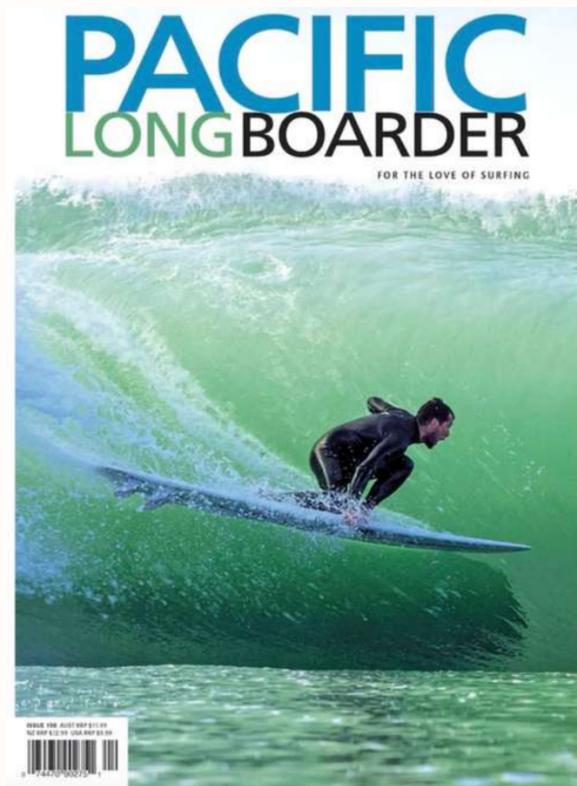
Native-born Brandon Sanford (*above*) has all shortboard bona fides in check, yet is not averse to slowing it down in the town-beach dishwater (*opposite*) when the mood strikes. Sanford knows all the nuance of his country's resources, using every scrap of meat on the north and south coasts. (*Overleaf*) Tommy Witt's green-board chronicles: This 9-foot, wide-tailed, secret-sauce finned Dane Perlee shape was employed liberally during Witt's three-month stay during the DR winter. In one of the few countries open during the global quarantine, Witt hunkered down and slid in peace.

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THE SURFERS JOURNAL

Issue 30.5

ACHIEVEMENTS



PACIFIC LONGBOARDER

Issue 108

(left) Tommy Witt with a sandbank to himself.
(below) Local Brandon Sanford. On a shortboard he can blast a 540 aerial flip, slide the tail sideways on the lip, and he charges fearlessly but totally new-school. He also rips on single-fin retro boards, and kite-surfs when the wind's up - but put him on a traditional longboard and his style changes drastically to a completely relaxed posture. He can still turn radically but can then perch so elegantly with ten toes wrapped. He's literally a surfing chameleon, and regarded as the best longboarder from the Dominican Republic.

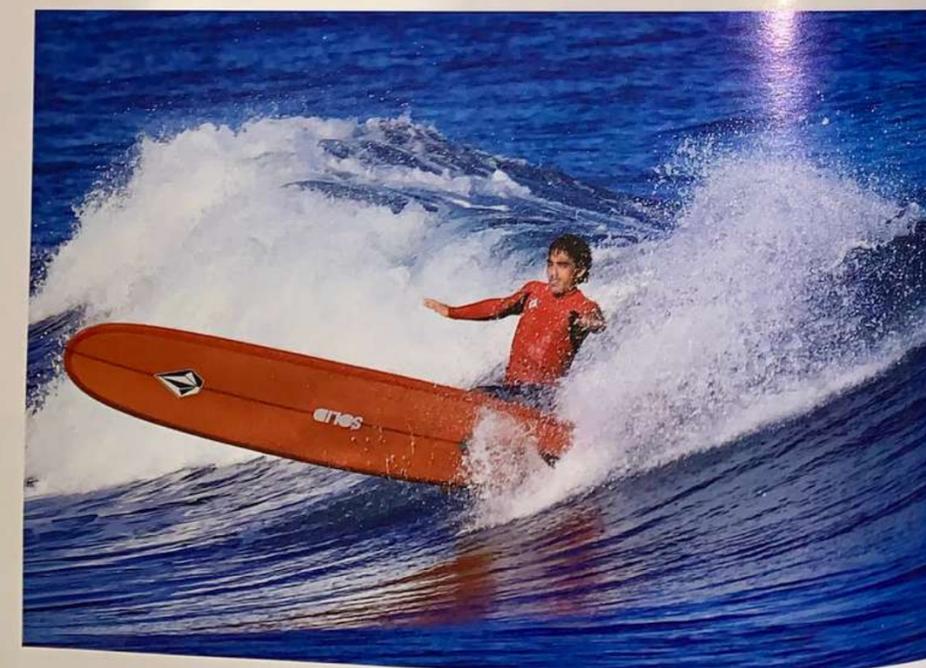


Compared to neighbouring heavily localised Puerto Rico just to the east, the Dominican Republic scene has literally no surf localism at all. It's non-existent! If you go out of your way to be friendly and sincere, you'll have local friends, and some who can surf really well also. Give a smile, get a smile (thanks Owl Chapman for this quote) has never been truer in this hidden aqua blue, jungle paradise. The Aloha spirit is here in spades.

You can find some local surf friends located in the north-east as most are from Cabarete - the windsurfing capital of the Caribbean. They work as surf guides, give lessons or offer surfboard rentals at Encuentro, which is really the only beach that's well known here. It's very consistent and has a SurfCam so you can check conditions from anywhere, and with maybe five different reefs right out front it's a good place to make contacts for further adventures, set up lodging, and guide you on some true exploration of this relatively inexpensive version of what is still a true paradise.

(left) Tommy Witt with a sandbank to himself.

(below) Local Brandon Sanford. On a shortboard he can blast a 540 aerial flip, slide the tail sideways on the lip, and he charges fearlessly but totally new-school. He also rips on single-fin retro boards, and kite-surfs when the wind's up - but put him on a traditional longboard and his style changes drastically to a completely relaxed posture. He can still turn radically but can then perch so elegantly with ten toes wrapped. He's literally a surfing chameleon, and regarded as the best longboarder from the Dominican Republic.



ACHIEVEMENTS



VOLCOM

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FREESTYLE

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ACHIEVEMENTS



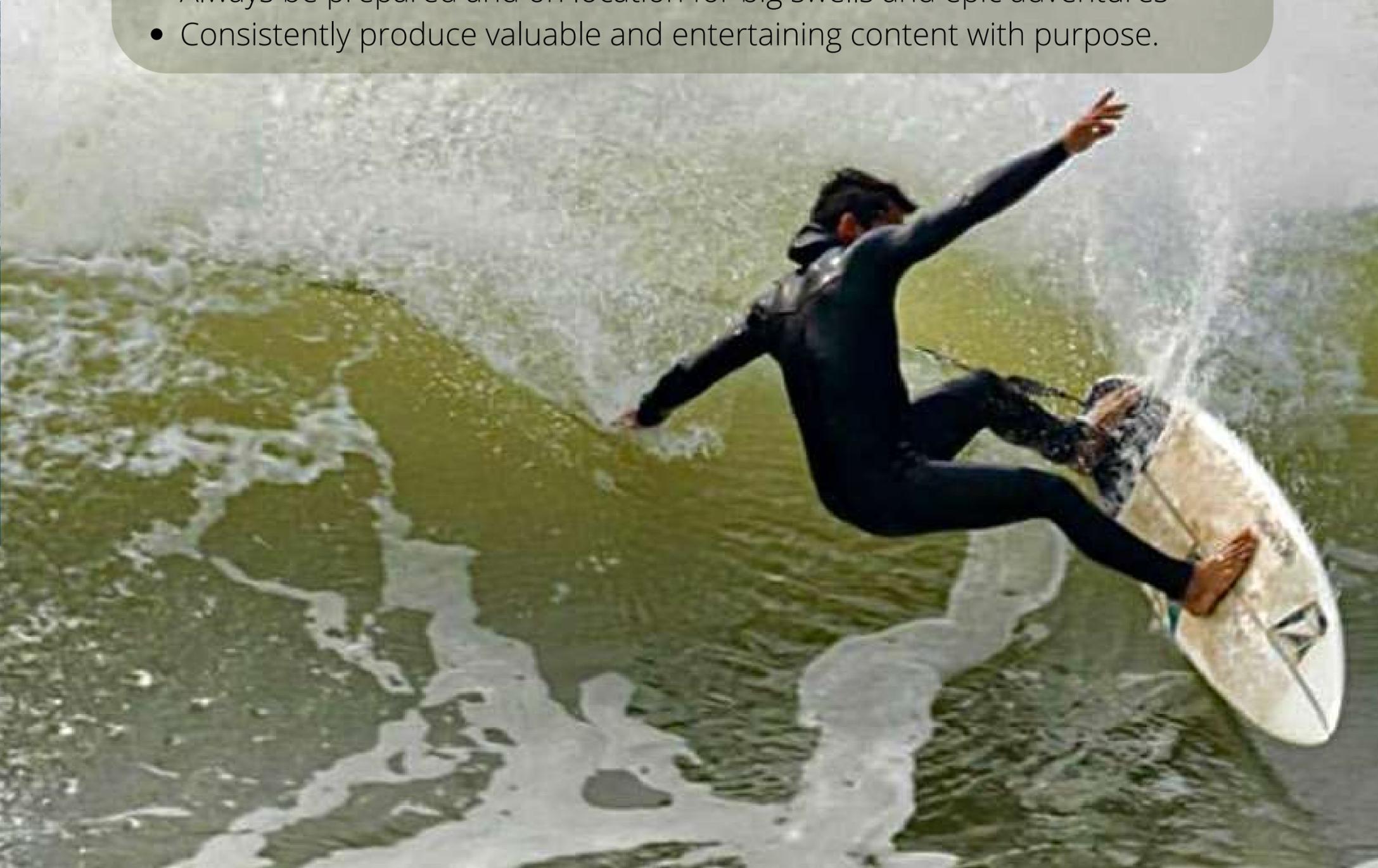
BRANDON SANFORD

[Brandon Sanford](#) was born in Florida, but raised in the Dominican Republic. He started surfing at age 7, after being inspired by the locals on his hometown beach.



GOALS

- Inspire and motivate the future generation of Caribbean and global surfers
- Pave new paths to a positive surf industry in Dominican Republic
- Gain trust of supporting establishments in Dom. Rep.
- Always be prepared and on location for big swells and epic adventures
- Consistently produce valuable and entertaining content with purpose.



PROJECTS

SURF | LONGBOARD | ART



“Cabarete is the capital of wave and wind sports in the Dominican Republic, and **Brandon** is a worthy son and representative of Cabarete”

- [Marcos Diaz](#)

SURFER / INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING HALL OF FAME

SURF



"Brandon's surfing is the true evolution of the sport. His progressive and artistic vision of surfing and his ability to explore the classic and stylish longboard surfing with modern high performance surfing while riding multiple different board shapes, makes him a one of a kind Dominican surfer." - [Ivan Herrera](#) **DOMINICAN SURF LEGEND**



LONGBOARD

"Longboarding has reinforced my stoke for the ocean and allows me to have no excuses for the flat days." [-Brandon Sanford](#)



"I met **Brandon** in La Saladita Mexico in a perfect wave for longboard surfing. He is good vibes and surfs very good. He does his longboard surfing calmly with class and his own style on top of his board"

[Augusto Olinto](#) -**MEXILOGFEST CHAMP 2018**



ART



Brandon's art is a delight to the eye. Like the waves of the ocean, one of a kind, never breaking the same way twice, it's a visual show that mirrors nature

ACTIVE PROJECTS



@riverflowdr
www.riverflowdr.com

The river flow business allows me to meet and network with all kinds of humans. its a perfect activity for all ages!



@dominicansurftrips

Brandon Sanford grew up shredding the reef-lined coast of the Dominican Republic. From an early age he pioneered the surf safari scene in the DR. Exploring the local breaks with Brandon, you will find his outgoing nature and love for surf and the ocean is contagious



ACTIVE PROJECTS



[@dominicanlongboardclub](https://www.instagram.com/dominicanlongboardclub)
www.dominicanlongboardclub.com

Social platform dedicated to promoting the dominican longboard scene



[@galeriaddonchiche](https://www.instagram.com/galeriaddonchiche)

Currently operating the art department out of my home studio





+1.809.837.SURF(7873)
somewhereindr@gmail.com
[@random.sancocho](#)