

HAMPTONS

THE LABOR DAY ISSUE

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Beauty

TYRA
BANKS

PLUS
RICHARD JOHNSON REPORTS
ALEXA RAY JOEL HITS HER STRIDE
AT HOME WITH **AVIS RICHARDS**
IN A CARROLL PETRIE MANSE
NEWSWEEK'S LALLY WEYMOUTH
IS ON TOP OF THE WORLD
AUTHOR **MICHEAL GROSS** ON THE MET
HOLLY PETERSON COVERS THE LOCAL
SKATEBOARDING SCENE

ABRIDGED GUIDE TO
EAST HAMPTON

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ABOUT TOWN



On the Rails

Why the skateboarding kids are really all right.

BY HOLLY PETERSON | PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUNSHINE MARGARITIS

WHEN SKATEBOARDERS roll through town, they look at everything differently than you and I would. They see a park bench on a sidewalk or steps with an iron handrail and all they can think is: "Could I skate that? Could I grind it? Is it makeable?"

Many of the kids that skateboard in the Hamptons take it up because they don't like the usual team sports. "Lots of kids get rejected from teams," says George Williams, a skateboard instructor with the Flying Point Surf School. "With skateboarding, it's just you and your board. You're on your own." But that's not to say that skateboarders aren't a tight-knit group. "We're definitely a 'more the merrier' type of group because it's cool to watch someone new do tricks," says Jake Alegria.

At a recent skateboard exhibition at the author's home, a rider awaits his turn to show his stuff.



TOP: The Southampton skateboard crew (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): Beau and Xander Peterson, Jack Kimball, Benji Avram, Jaypo Pollak, Josh Dolson, Jake and Derek Alegria, George Williams, Justin Gulija and Joe Tropea.
BELOW: Kimball and Avram look on



“He’s not stealing our wave; we don’t argue like surfers and we aren’t territorial. There’s plenty of time for everyone to do their thing.”

Skateboarders tend to hang in packs out here partially because they feel beaten down. (There’s no skateboarding anywhere in town.) Mark Zucchero, who owns the area’s six Flying Point Surf & Sport shops, says skateboarders get stigmatized as derelicts for no reason. “The cops sometimes go after them in the parking lots like they just found John Dillinger,” he says. “Most of them are good kids though. I know them well because I have to carry 20 brands of each bearing, truck and deck. Each kid is so particular about what they want.”

My 10-year-old, Jack, has seen the skateboarding light. (Actually, it might be more accurate to say that he’s completely obsessed with the sport.) To help him feed his passion, I signed him up for dozens of lessons through the Flying Point Surf

BOARDING BOUND

Skate parks that are ready to roll

EAST HAMPTON SKATE PARK

16 Abrahams Path, East Hampton
Summer: Daylight hours
School year: 2 PM–dusk

MONTAUK CITY SKATE PARK

South Essex Street, Montauk
Daily 10 AM–dusk

NORTH SEA SKATE PARK

1370A Majors Path, Southampton
Daily 10 AM–dusk

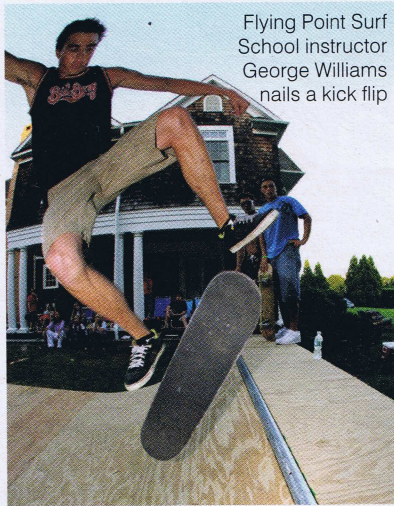
RED CREEK SKATE PARK

102 Old Riverhead Road, Hampton Bays
September–June: Monday and Wednesday–Friday 3–7 PM;
Saturday–Sunday noon–7 PM
July–August: Daily noon–8 PM

THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD SKATE PARK

Stowsky Park, 101 Palaski St., Riverhead, 208-3826
June 29–September 6: Daily 2–10 PM

Shop with Williams at the Red Creek skate park just west of the Lobster Inn in Hampton Bays. (Word on the street is it’s the best one around since “all the others are *beat*.”)



Flying Point Surf School instructor George Williams nails a kick flip

Things got really crazy when Williams and his roommate, Derek Alegria, built us a half-pipe in our backyard. One weekend we held a skateboard exhibition with the best riders around. They boosted huge airs and nailed long tail slides with heavy slams along the way. (Translation? A bad wipeout–Jaypo Pollak left with an eight-inch battle wound down his right calf.)

To see these guys support my kid—who happens to despise the pressure of team sports—and welcome him into their crew assured me that none of them were derelicts. Far from it. The smile on Jack’s face made me want all of them to move right into my home for good. “Mom,” said Jack upon hearing the proposal, “that would be *sick*.” H