

February 14, 2012

This set of pictures was converted from transparencies to digital. A couple of things to keep in mind:

1. The photos were shot, for the most part, from winter of 1973 to summer of 1974 while I was a senior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a twenty-two year old kid.
2. Our core group of surfing buddies was Greg DeLine, Steve Wheeler and myself, all goofy footers from Long Beach. Mike Smith and Lyle Johnson, both regular, from Ventura. And then there was Mike's and Lyle's dogs. All of us would pile into my 1961 Falcon station wagon and head out to the beach.
3. That short span of time produced what seems like an endless abundance of waves, ie., we never came back disappointed.
4. I shot the pictures with a Minolta SRT-101 SLR and a used modified 500mm telephoto plus a used tri-pod, both of which were purchased from a local pawn shop in San Luis Obispo. The camera came to me via a friend in the Navy who was stationed off the coast of Viet Nam in 1971.
5. There were no cell phones, so no pre-alerts from friends to let you know how the surf was.
6. There was no concept of digital photos so no instant re-dos and view of the pictures.
7. You sent in your rolls of film and if lucky had them back in three to seven days, sometimes longer.
8. Everyone knew how to pick up the camera and shoot these fast action scenes. There was little wasted exposures.
9. This set of transparencies was recently discovered in my garage while I was searching for some PVC pipe cutters.
10. This set of transparencies has made no less than ten moves coast to coast and survived each one over the decades.