

# Skateboarding

Skateboarding was born in the late 50s as a toy that children used to build in the streets and began to create the first companies which started to build this new very popular toy.



In 1965, the popularity of skateboarding suddenly collapsed. Most people thought that skateboarding fashion was over, like the hula hoop. Skateboard companies failed, and the people who wanted to skate had to build themselves their own skateboard.



In the spring of 1975, skateboarding had an evolution burst into the sport we see today. In Del Mar, California, took place a slalom and freestyle contest at the Ocean Festival. That day, the Zephyr team showed the world what skateboarding could be.



In 1963, skateboarding was at a peak of popularity, and companies like Jack's, Hobie and Makaha started holding skateboarding competitions. At that time, skateboarding was mostly downhill slalom or freestyle. Torger Johnson, Woody Woodward and Danny Berer are some well known skateboarders at the moment.

Deposits 40 1960-1970 1960-1970 41 The Skateboard Bible

Like most skaters in the early '60s, I started skating on a 2 x 4 piece of hardwood that I cut into the shape of a surfboard and put professional roller-skate wheels on it. That board lasted several years and finally I had the opportunity to join the Hobie skateboard team. In 1966, I became the captain of the Hobie International Skateboard Competition team and national skateboard champion, holding the record for continuous Frontside 50ft, as well as the longest heeler, nose wheelie, and nose-riding spinnies over 100 yards. I trained with the team throughout the Southwest United States.

Around 1974 I got back into skateboarding after attending the California Institute of the Arts, and joined the Zephyr skateboard team in 1975. We went to several contests during a two-year period, where I was champion of many events. I also developed the advertising for Jeff Ho and Skipper for the Zephyr skateboard, and helped Stacy Perabo and Paul Hoffman make many of the tricks I'd developed in the '60s, after the Zephyr team dropped out of existence, I went to G&K Skateboards and then on to Powell-Perris to develop the advertising along with E. R. Steyk III. We won the Skateboarder magazine award for Best Advertising during the first year of Powell-Perris.

Since that period of time, I have been successful graphic design business, and I'm still very involved in the skateboard industry, designing logos, skateboard graphics, advertising, and websites for the likes of Zephyr Skateboards, the Marin del Rey skate park, Z-Sports, Old-SchoolStyle.com, Z-Boy, Jeff Ho Zephyr Productions, Santa Monica Airline, Ace magazine, and others. **Leo Dawson**

The first skateboards were made with wooden boxes on boards with wheels attached to the bottom skate. As you might imagine, a lot of people have been hurt in the early years of skateboarding! This caused controversy in several states where it was abolished for a time.



Skateboarding has started for the first time in 1950, when all the surfers in California came up with the idea of trying to navigate in the streets. None really knows who has built the first board- on the contrary, it seems that several people came up with similar ideas at the same time without being successful.