

## The Story of Wipe Out!

(Copied from <http://thesurfaris.com/history2.html>)

Surf music was pure energy and Wipe Out was and still is the reason for The Surfaris' existence; without it there would be no Surfaris' story. From the start, our acceptance was amazing, even before we did any recording. We started by playing teen center dances where everybody danced a new step called the surfer stomp. In order to expand our music we added a young saxophonist by the name of Jim Pash. We needed a manager if we were going to get better places to play. We met at Dale Smallen's photo studio and auditioned for him; he agreed to help us.

One night at Smallen's studio, Ronnie came up to me and said he had dream about a new song called Surfer Joe. He sang us the song and we helped him with some of the new verses, worked out the music and an arrangement. On a cold night in January 1963 armed with my learners permit, I packed the gear in my restored '56 ford pickup accompanied by my dad. My uncle brought Ronnie and his drums (Jim Pash was not at the session as his father needed him to work at their family business that night. Later, when his picture was printed on the back of the Wipe Out album with the rest of the band, he sued for damages and to have his picture and name removed, as he did not want any connection with the album).

We met at a place in the California desert called Cucamonga, and recorded Surfer Joe. In those days 45's required a B side so Dale asked us to play another song. We had not written a song before Surfer Joe so I suggested a drum solo type of song with simple guitar breaks. Ronnie started playing the famous Wipe Out solo and in about 10 minutes we had the song together. We needed a gimmick introduction so my Dad broke a plaster soaked board close to the mic and Dale Smallen let out a laugh and screamed "Wipe Out". We gave Dale the master tape and he took it to Hollywood, and by July 1963 it was #2 on the Billboard top 100.