

## BOARD TESTER Sean Mattison

Former pro surfer Sean Mattison is riding a wave of good fortune. At 36, he's made an indelible mark in surfing. He has a "wonderful" wife and three kids, who all surf, too. And he has a job for which any surfer would trade an endless summer. "I feel very blessed."

Every morning at 5:30, Mattison goes to work—in the ocean—testing surfboards with his dawn patrol for about three hours. "I'll pass the boards around and get feedback." Then he's off to Surf Ride Boardshops in Oceanside, where he makes his living as a board buyer, and calls in test results. "I deal with the world's best surfboard manufacturers."

It's a win-win for everyone: Board designers get invaluable insight from a surfing pro at no cost (Mattison refuses cash compensation); thanks to his suggested design tweaks,



### SNAPSHOT

**PROFESSION:** Surfboard Tester and Buyer

**AGE:** 36

**NAME/PLACE OF BUSINESS:** Surf Ride Boardshops in Oceanside

**HOW LONG IN THIS BUSINESS:** 10 years

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** Gets all his surfboards for free

**WHAT HE LIKES BEST ABOUT HIS JOB:** "Being a true surfer and riding the best equipment on the planet. And, I get to help a lot of people surf better."

nearly 14,000-square-foot store carries only the best brands. It has become THE place to buy a surfboard and Mattison is THE man to see. "I get so many calls... it's out of control."

While there's no "perfect" surfboard that fits every condition, Mattison has his favorites. "I have a Glen Pang shortboard that's unbelievable." And he loves fish by Mike Hynson. "The Twinzer is probably one of the fastest boards ever." In fact, Mattison helped

surfers surf better ("I get great satisfaction from that."); and "Mad