

Shmanners 412: Surfing

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[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to Shmanners.

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dude.

Teresa: [laughs] H—hello. I'm a dudette.

Travis: That's fair. That's fair. I often dude interchangeably, and I try to be careful about that. But I'm just a surfer guy from the '90s, you know? When you think about Travis McElroy...

Teresa: You think about surfing in the '90s.

Travis: I was gonna—yeah. Either surfing in the '90s, skateboarding in the '90s, inline skating in the '90s, hackkeysacking in the '90s. I lot of, what I would say, super cool dude sports in the '90s.

Teresa: Well, surfing's been—

Travis: I'm parasailing.

Teresa: —surfing's been cool forever.

Travis: Yeah, but a lot of people agree, I really brought it to its peak.

Teresa: Oh, in the '90s.

Travis: When you think about Travis, you think about surfing. When you think about surfing, you think about Travis.

Teresa: [laughs quietly]

Travis: That's what I've been told by numerous reputable sources.

Teresa: Oh, wait.

Travis: They call me the Tony Hawk of surfing.

Teresa: You're doing the wrong show. This is Shmanners, not MBMBaM.

Travis: Everything I've said has been 100% true so far.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I lived whole lives before you knew me, babe.

Teresa: You don't know how to surf.

Travis: No, I've forgotten now, because of the accident.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I can't talk about it anymore. Uh—I was there... on Big Shark Cove. And you'll never believe what's in Big Shark Cove.

Teresa: Is it a big shark?

Travis: A lot of big sharks. They should call it Big Sharks Cove, but apparently that's confusing.

Teresa: We are gonna talk about surfing today.

Travis: I already was.

Teresa: So grab your swimsuit and let's dive in.

Travis: Well, I assume, like, a rash guard and surf's up would be—can we try that again? Take two? I'm just gonna give you a little note.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Grab your rash guard and surf's up. Try that? And maybe with a bit of, like, a California accent.

Teresa: Grab your rash guard and surf's up... dude.

Travis: Grab your rash guard and surf's up, dude! Grab your rash guard. No, I'm starting to go—that's too Midwestern.

Teresa: [laughs] That's too—

Travis: Grab your rash guard.

Teresa: —Chicago.

Travis: Yeah. Anyways, hey, welcome to Shmammers.

Teresa: Alright. I'm all verklempt now. You're making me do accent and stuff.

Travis: Grab your ra—I can't get—I don't know why I'm doing that.

Teresa: [laughs] I don't know.

Travis: Hey, dude! Grab your rash guard and surf's up. I needed to start with hey, dude. And that got me into it.

Teresa: Oh, that—that's how you did it.

Travis: Yeah, dude. I needed something to drop in. That's a surfing term.

Teresa: It is. Starting with history, though, certainly surfing brings to mind the things that you have talked about, yes?

Travis: Travis.

Teresa: Yes. But rash guards and the '90s and dudes, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, it has a complex and rich history, surfing does.

Travis: I'm gonna guess in the, like, Pacific Islander culture? I don't think surfing was invented by white people. Let's say that.

Teresa: It was not. You are correct, sir. It was not. So, it originated in Polynesia in coast islands like Tahiti and Samoa and later Hawaii, right? Um, historians can't really pinpoint exactly when surfing started, because to these cultures it's almost always been, right?

Travis: Yeah, and it's interesting because I wouldn't have thought about surfing this way. But it's like boats, right? Like, it's not like one person invented boat. And then, like, shared it to everybody. Like, everybody was kind of working on their version of boat, because it was like, yeah, we gotta go out on the water and do things, so we need a way to do that.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: And if you think about it, like, there's not—I mean, the standing up part, obviously. But like, a kayak, a canoe, a surfboard, these individual sit on a thing and paddle out. It's not that varied, you know? As an idea of, like, long, thin, one person going out into the water with a paddle. Except a surfboard evolved into you paddle out with your hands and then stand up on it and ride waves. But I can see how they all, like, uh, evolved concurrently.

Teresa: We have a kind of pinpoint of the 12th century, where we have dated cave paintings.

Travis: I would never date a cave painting. Not good listeners. [laughs]

Teresa: Wah wah. Um, but like I said, like you said, we don't know the exact age. Um, but hundreds of years old. Hundreds. Many hundreds. Multi-hundreds. And there's evidence that kayak-like fishing boats were surfed in the shores of Peru, right? That date back as far as 5000 years ago.

Travis: What?!

Teresa: And there's also evidence of surfing off the coast of West Africa. So there's, like you said, there's lots of different, like, not even concurrent but, like...

Travis: But they weren't surfing on the tropical beaches of Europe?

Teresa: No.

Travis: Huh. Okay.

Teresa: And the general consensus is if you want to learn about surfing, the Hawaiian archipelago is one of the best places to begin your journey, because that's where surfing has kind of advanced the most, and it's where its history is best documented as an essential part of the culture there. And it's not just a sport, right? It has a very spiritual and social significance as well, which means that it has its own rules of etiquette.

Ancient Hawaiian society operated by a code of rules and taboos, and surfing was part of that, right? And so to participate, there were different levels, and you started with the wood. The wood of the tree that you carved your board from was sacred, and before getting to cut a tree, you would have to make offerings to the plants and—

Travis: I'm not making any jokes here because I'm sincerely fascinated.

Teresa: And traditionally you could use Koa wood. You could use breadfruit trees or wiliwili trees. And all of these had different cultural significances.

Travis: And I assume—haven't looked it up, but I assume that it's wood that's, like, more buoyant than others. Like, that you would want a wood that's strong enough to hold your weight, right? There's plenty of wood that

you couldn't do that on with a board as thin as a surfboard, right? That it would crack super easily. Like, you could use, for example, like, balsa wood, you know what I mean? It'd snap in half. But you don't want something that's, like, heavy and hard to move around.

Teresa: Well—

Travis: 'Cause you'd have to—well, you'd have to carry it!

Teresa: Uh, if you're royalty, people carry it for you.

Travis: Ohh.

Teresa: They also, for the waves, they prayed for waves with the help of a kahuna, which is a priest, who was an expert on the behavior of the water. In fact, the role of kahuna was so deeply entrenched in the culture that the surfing term kahuna is slang for a very large wave.

Travis: I'm also looking up the properties of Koa wood. So, when you cut it down, right? So, it's called shrinking, right? When it dries it doesn't shrink as much when the tree—like, going from green to dry wood, it doesn't shrink as much, and so there's a reduced risk of splitting and cracking as it dries, as opposed to other woods. So, like, you can run the risk of, like, when you do something and you get the splits in the wood, right? As it dries out. It doesn't happen as much with Koa. And it is a hardwood, and has high crush resistance and shock absorbance as compared to walnut, but it weighs 25% more, and its interlocking grain makes for an exceptional figure.

Its thin, light-colored sap wood surrounds the hardwood that woodworkers describe as lustrous, swirled marble.

Teresa: Beautiful. Um, so although there was certainly a hierarchy to surfing—

Travis: Oh, it can only be found in Hawaii as well, so that's another part. It's considered very special and, uh, rare.

Teresa: Like I said, although everyone could—although there was a hierarchy, everyone could surf. It wasn't relegated to just men or women. Everybody could surf. But the different surfboards had different shapes and sizes depending upon the surfer you were, the type of surfer you were, and where you stood in the community.

Travis: So where you stood on the board and where you stood in the community.

Teresa: [laughs] Um, so most Hawaiians would use a kind of midsize board that look a lot like the shortboards used in surfing today. Others would use a kind of rounded nose board, um, which is finless. Um, sorry. All of the boards used at that time in Hawaii were finless. So that the rider had to steer with their hands.

Travis: Oh, interesting.

Teresa: If you want to turn. Um, but chieftains had huge, huge boards called Olo boards, and they were beautifully carved and twice as long as today's longboards.

Travis: Wow!

Teresa: Um, like you said, very, very heavy.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: They could weigh up to 140 pounds.

Travis: Wait. 140?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. Well, I guess if you have a Jeep to drive it down there to the beach, you know?

Teresa: Or several people to carry it for you.

Travis: Yeah, that makes a lot more sense.

Teresa: Um, and so even though it was sacred, that doesn't mean it was stuffy. People loved to watch. People would swim, and compete, and place bets on things like who could ride the furthest or the fastest or catch the biggest wave, right? I think that that—you know, that is demonstrated in surfing competitions today, right? One of my favorite movies—see if you can guess it—

Travis: is it Surf's Up?

Teresa: Surf's Up! This is when—if you haven't watched it, listeners, it's when some penguins have a surf competition. And not only do they learn about themselves, they learn about surfing, they learn about each other. It's beautiful. I love it.

Travis: Um, I just looked it up. A longboard, like, 8 to 11 feet. So, like, twice that length?

Teresa: Yeah. That's amazing, right?

Travis: That's, like, as big as—like, you're taking your whole family on that. It's like a tour bus.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It's wild. You know what else is wild?

Teresa: What?

Travis: We're gonna take a break. Isn't that wild?

Teresa: Oh! That is wild.

Travis: For a word from some other Max Fun shows!

[theme music plays]

[music plays]

John: Hello, sleepyheads. Sleeping with Celebrities is your podcast pillow pal. We talk to remarkable people about unremarkable topics, all to help you slow down your brain and drift off to sleep.

For instance, we have the remarkable Neil Gaiman.

Neil: I'd always had a vague interest in live culture food preparation.

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[music and ad end]

Jordan: It's hard to explain what Jordan, Jesse, Go is about.

Jesse: So I had my kids take a stab at it.

Speaker 3: Probably weird stuff.

Speaker 4: You talk about...

Speaker 5: Jobs that'll annoy you.

Jesse: Uh-huh.

Speaker 4: ... hmm, business. I think you probably learned your lesson about talking business a couple of times.

Speaker 3: Grownup jokes that I don't understand and there's no point in making.

[all giggle]

Speaker 3: On a podcast, oh boy.

Jordan: Subscribe to Jordan, Jesse, Go.

Jesse: A comedy show for grownups.

Travis: Okay. So we got a big board.

Teresa: We got big boards. We got big [crosstalk]

Travis: We big boards! We got little boards. We got boards in between. Come on down to Travis's board stores!

Teresa: Board—board stores.

Travis: Yeah, I had to make it rhyme.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Uh, legally.

Teresa: Um, so we have that beautiful, rich history. And then we have white people.

Travis: What? A white man?!

Teresa: I know. Europeans started writing about surfing—

Travis: You're a-peein'.

Teresa: [laughs quietly] Okay? That was... harsh.

Travis: I'm not gonna sit here and be called peein'!

Teresa: In 1777, William Anderson, who was a surgeon on Captain Cook's ship, observed surfing in Tahiti.

Travis: Can I just say, this has nothing to do with the uh—the story you're telling right now. But whenever I hear Captain Cook's name it takes my brain a second to process that that's a real person.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: And not—because I think that there's a Captain Hook thing going on. I don't know. It just seems, like, too weird a name. It's like Captain Hook but he went to culinary school. Like, I think that that's what my brain is doing, for some reason? And every time I hear Captain Cook I'm like, "Oh, that's a real per—" okay. Go on?

Teresa: He wrote that, quote, "I could not help concluding that this man... " The man that he was watching surfing. "... felt the most supreme pleasure."

So he was like, "Hey. These dudes are having a great time." And he was a big fan. But as we have discussed time and time again, Christian missionaries have a tendency to ruin everything.

Travis: Especially when it comes to Hawaii.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Yeah, in which they heisted the entire country of Hawaii.

Teresa: Well, missionaries didn't heist the country. It was businessman. Like, white businessman.

Travis: [simultaneously] Well, it led to that eventually.

Teresa: Eventually.

Travis: Eventually it led. It started with missionaries. It led to white businessman.

Teresa: Um, they found it sinful because your body is out while you're swimming.

Travis: [simultaneously] Okay. Alright.

Teresa: I know, right?

Travis: And people were having fun. Just saying, it's sinful because people were having fun. You could do it on a Sunday morning or any time instead of going to church. It was a fun thing that made people happy, and so we had to kill it.

Teresa: People were taking bets on it.

Travis: No, I like that part.

Teresa: Gambling.

Travis: I'm sorry. I'm not gonna—

Teresa: No, they—they didn't like gambling either.

Travis: Yeah, I'm not even gonna dignify that with an answer, because listen, if I'm watching people surf and someone's like, "\$10 that guy falls off of his board."

I'm taking that bet every time! 'Cause I want to see that person succeed. And betting engages you in the sport more if you don't care about sports, like me.

Teresa: [laughs] But they—certainly they poo-pooed the surfing.

Travis: You didn't mean that as a pun, but in Polynesian culture there's a pu-pu platter. And [crosstalk]. Yeah.

Teresa: Oh, that's right! I didn't mean that. I meant that they said it was bad.

Travis: They gave a big stinky-face thumbs-down to it.

Teresa: And definitely other sacred parts of native Hawaiian culture, right?

Travis: You know that that was another part of it too, right?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Of like, "Oh, what's this? It's part of, like, a spirituality thing for you that's not... ours? Mehh, bububu."

Teresa: But that didn't destroy surfing nearly as much as the bacteria that they brought with them.

Travis: Oh.

Teresa: by 1890, Europeans and Americans had brought so many new illnesses with them to the Hawaiian archipelago that they decimated the population.

Travis: Ugh.

Teresa: It's about to get a little more depressing, so s—

Travis: Aww, man.

Teresa: Strap in for just a second.

Travis: I probably should've seen that coming, but...

Teresa: Uh, diseases such as yellow fever, measles, influenza, and a host of others took the population of Hawaii—

Travis: Boogie fever?

Teresa: No... from probably hundreds of thousands to about 40,000.

Travis: Oh my god, so more than decimated. Like...

Teresa: In the loosest sense of the word.

Travis: I'm trying to think, like... a fraction of people left.

Teresa: Yes. And like we mentioned earlier, the monarchy of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893.

Travis: In the worst way, by the way. I'm sure we—I know we've talked about it before 'cause we did an episode on—

Teresa: Yes we have. In the worst way.

Travis: But, like, if you don't know about the way that basically Hawaii was stolen from Hawaiians, like, even dragging America into it and, like, the American president being like, "I don't—no. What?" And then them like, "Okay, we'll wait for the next president to ratify it." It's messed up. Okay.

Teresa: Yeah. Uh, five years later, the United States annexed the island. But there's—

Travis: And that whole time the queen was kept in captivity, important to know.

Teresa: Yes. Uh, they kept their surfing culture alive, and they fanned the flames of the surfing revival. And the way that they did that is they took surfing overseas.

In 1907, a man named George Freeth traveled to the west coast of the United States, giving surfing demonstrations in southern California, where he was nicknamed the Hawaiian wonder.

Travis: I like that.

Teresa: It's very cool. And then in 1914, Olympic surfer Duke—please excuse me, I'm trying very hard—Kahanamoku made his way to Australia and New Zealand, and gave his own surfing demonstrations, which attracted enormous crowds and played an important part in the surfing culture—

Travis: [simultaneously] Oh yeah, it's big in Australia, right? Yeah, yeah.

Teresa: —there as well.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Um, but not everyone who loved the sport had the best reasons for promoting it.

Travis: Wrong reasons.

Teresa: Wrong reasons. A former South Carolina resident named Alexander Hume Ford moved to Hawaii and fell in love with the sport, but he was, um, let us say, a turd about it.

Travis: Hmm, strong words.

Teresa: He wanted Hawaii to become a state, right? He was really—

Travis: Was one of those.

Teresa: —one of those. He was one of those. But he was worried, because he's racist. He didn't like the indigenous people and the Asian people there.

Travis: So he fell in love with surfing, if it weren't for all the people.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And he used surfing as a way to attract more Americans to Hawaii, hoping they would come in as guests and then be so—and then fall in love with the scenery and the island life and surfing.

Travis: So he used surfing as a means of colonization.

Teresa: Indeed, indeed. And numerous writers and filmmakers and travel enthusiasts hopped on board with this dumb plan. And so he had a big hand in promoting those two surfers I mentioned for the wrong reasons. To try and get people to come to Hawaii.

Travis: [sighs] Yeah. Yeah.

Teresa: He wasn't entirely successful. I mean, not only did he not live—

Travis: But he was entirely stinky.

Teresa: Yes, entirely stinky. He did not live to see Hawaii become a state. But Hawaii remains one of the most radically and culturally diverse states in the Union, so.

Travis: And the most radical.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Actually, is... hmm. Is it radical or tubular?

Teresa: We'll go through some of those too.

Travis: It's mondo for sure.

Teresa: For sure. So there are now tens of millions of enthusiasts worldwide, and surfing has even become an Olympic sport.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: So, if you would like to learn to surf, I would suggest that you do a quick google. Learn about the sacred history.

Travis: Watch some YouTube videos.

Teresa: There are some really cool—

Travis: Don't learn to surf from YouTube videos. That was a joke.

Teresa: No, no, no. I meant—I meant [crosstalk]—

Travis: [simultaneously] But the picture of someone—

Teresa: The history.

Travis: —on their surfboard in the water with their phone pulled up like, "Okay. Where do we start?" Is very funny to me.

Teresa: There are wave chants. There are board carving rituals. And there are lots of ways that you can support native Hawaiians who keep these traditions alive today. Local surf shops are the least that you can do, instead of going to the big corporations. And you can learn about movements to decentralize the whiteness of the sport, right? And two places to do that, you can go to Project Decolonize the Surf and The Black Surfing Association, because it's really cool, and everyone should learn to ride the wave, but it's so much sweeter when you are respectful and you honor those that came before.

Travis: Indeed. Now, let's talk about some etiquette?

Teresa: Indeed. Respect is the name of the game, and everything that you do to enjoy your time surfing is all about respect. Right of way exists in more ways than one. So, the surfer closest to the peak of the wave always gets priority. And so there are no, quote, "drop-ins." I recall hearing that several times in the surfing competition in the movie I talked about, where one person drops in on another person's wave and everyone's like, "Whoa," right?

Travis: Don't do that.

Teresa: You don't—do not do that. In most cases you can't have two surfers on the same wave going the same direction, because it's dangerous. Right? Because the way that you disturb the wave when you surf can also disturb the other surfer.

Travis: You make a wake, basically.

Teresa: Exactly.

Travis: And imagine it's like, um, you're pushing, like, a shopping trolley, right? A shopping cart. And there's a big, uh, divot. There's a big, like, uh,

rut in—in dirt. And the wheel hits that, and what happens? That's the kind of thing that can happen on water with your surfboard.

Teresa: Right. Um, and so you shouldn't paddle around someone to get better access to the wave. That's also disrespectful. That's called snaking. So there's usually a lineup of people waiting to surf, and the furthest one out gets priority, although some longboarders might not use this rule very wisely. They should leave some waves to the shortboarders, right? So, you know, there is a theory to who picks up what wave.

Do not throw your board. That is also very dangerous. You should wear a leash, which is a tether on your ankle to the board so that your board doesn't get lost or hurt people.

Communicate with other surfers what you will do. For example, if two surfers are sitting in the middle of a peak and a wave opens to both sides, like an A, right? They should tell each other which direction they're going in, right? So that they don't cross paths or do things like that. That is an example where two people could ride the same wave because the trajectory is going on opposite ways.

And, let's see. Do not dive in headfirst, because you could be surfing over a reef. Um, but you also don't know how deep it is at any point, so you use your surfboard to protect your impact, right? And protect your head with your arms if you fall off or wipe out.

Travis: I would also say, and I'm—listen. This is me, Travis, as a dad, not me, Travis as '90s professional three-time gold-medal-winning surfer.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: I also won gold and silver in the same year one time. I don't—we don't—okay.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But I know in movies and TV shows you see, like, people going out early in the morning or something by themselves and having a very peaceful and serene—like, I'm just getting it in.

I would say that I would look at that, and if I found out my friend was doing that I'd be like, "If you're gonna go by yourself—which please don't go by yourself, go with somebody—please let people know where you're going, when you're going."

Kind of like hiking, that same kind of deal.

Teresa: I agree.

Travis: Of, like, call me when your time is done so that if you get hurt or something and I don't get a call I know. Right? Like, because if you're far—like, if you were to get knocked unconscious going underwater or something, you know, you hit your head on a rock and nobody's there, it's a problem. And I worry about you. You know what I mean?

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So be cautious. You can still do it. Have fun. It's just I worry about you.

Teresa: Respect the beach. Respect the ocean. And respect the other surfers, right? Um, you know, the locals, obviously they have priority. And if an outsider visits your beach, you know, share the love with them too, right?

You know, everybody's bound to wipe out a few times. It's possible to look silly. Maybe you'll get a little good-natured ribbing. But, you know, enjoy the sun and the ocean.

Travis: I would be willing to bet—the coolest thing? The coolest thing you could do—I've been thinking about this a lot lately. And this seems like a tangent, but go with me here.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: One of the reasons I like Ryan Gosling as an actor so much...
[laughs quietly]

Teresa: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: Is that Ryan Gosling is clearly a handsome, cool dude, who has absolutely no issue being a goofy doofy dude onscreen. If you look at Ken in Barbie, and you look at Fall Guy and The Nice Guys and stuff like that, right? He's not trying to be cool. And, like—anyways, I think the coolest thing anyone can do—

Teresa: Is be like Ryan Gosling.

Travis: —is to—yeah. I mean, ideally to be Ryan Gosling.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But I think the coolest thing that someone can do is to be okay being goo—like, making mistakes and being goofy and everything. And not make a big deal out of it. Because, like, the only way you get better is by failing.

That said, if you're new to the surfing scene, don't try to roll up using a bunch of lingo. Right? You gotta find out what's happening now. Gotta let it get into you naturally, you know what I mean?

Teresa: But there are several words that now everyone uses, right?

Travis: Tubular, radical, mondo, sick, gnarly, things like that.

Teresa: Stoked. That's a good one.

Travis: Now, here's the thing about gnarly. Gnarly's gonna trip you up, 'cause it's like sick, right? Or bad?

Teresa: But it's good.

Travis: It can mean both things.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Like that was a gnarly wipe out, or that was a gnarly ride. Both things can be true. Tubular? It's 'cause the wave, when it curls over, makes a tube. Right? A tubular wave is literally a tube, and you can surf down the middle of it. It's really cool! I learned about that from Point Break.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Based on my life. Did you know that?

Teresa: Is it?

Travis: Yeah. Well, in college I was a star quarterback, and then, ugh. My leg blew out senior year. Became an FBI agent.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: But now, pro surfer.

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: So, loosely Fast and the Furious is based on my life too, 'cause Fast and the Furious is based on Point Break.

Teresa: Back—back to surfer lingo.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Come—come—come back.

Travis: Oh yeah. I've been here.

Teresa: Come back. Here's one that I recall from the movie that I told you guys about. Caught inside. Um, so that means when you are caught between the shoreline and the breaking zone without anywhere to paddle, they say that you are caught inside. So it happens if you are wiping out on a wave and then you start paddling back towards your place in the lineup, right? Um, that's—it's very challenging, right? To come back. Because you usually have to, like, work through the waves by, like, diving under them and, like, keep paddling really hard. Very interesting.

Travis: [simultaneously] Say excuse me.

Teresa: Um, a quiver. Quiver is a collection of surfboards.

Travis: Hm, makes sense.

Teresa: That's pretty cool, right? Here's one. Goofy-footed versus regular-footed. What do you think that means?

Travis: It's the way you stand.

Teresa: Exactly. So the right foot in front and the left foot behind is called a goofy stance, and a left foot forward and the right foot on the back is a regular stance.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Named for George Geef, who originated the goofy-footed—George Geef, famous—famous surfer. Uh, I think Disney made a short cartoon about George Geef learning to surf.

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: Um, look up George Geef, G-E-E-F.

Teresa: Uh, wipe out we already mentioned. It's when you fall off your board while surfing a wave. You can also, quote, "go over the falls," which is a type of wipe out where the surfer gets sucked back over to the top of the wave and then free falls over the lip, right?

Travis: Wee!

Teresa: Ooh.

Travis: Wee!

Teresa: Yeah. [laughs quietly] There are different types of boards, right? So there's a thruster, which means that you are surfing a board with three fins. There's a twin-fin, which has the two fins in the back. They make a kind of fish—

Travis: [crosstalk] And now there's the Schick 5 fin, and it's the closest shave a surfer can get.

Teresa: This is a new one that I didn't know. Hang ten. Do you know what this is?

Travis: It's when your feet go to the end of the board and all ten toes are over it.

Teresa: [gasps] What?! How did you know that?

Travis: I'm a f—baby! It's 'cause I've been surfing since I was two years old!

Teresa: You have not! Stop it.

Travis: How else would I know what hang ten is?

Teresa: Maybe it's in one of those movies.

Travis: I've never seen a movie in my life. I'm too busy on the beach.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Shredding.

Teresa: Alright. And there's one more, which is a term you should know if you are planning to visit Costa Rica: *pura vida*. It's kind of a greeting, but

it's also a way of life, right? It's a term used to express optimism, and happiness, and living your life. And once you surf, you—

Travis: You're living that pure life.

Teresa: You're living that pure life.

Travis: That's right.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: [sighs] Man. I need to get down to the beach. I haven't surfed since last week. I miss it.

Teresa: That—that Ohio beach.

Travis: Down on the Ohio River, um, catching the wake from all the riverboats. Waving at the gamblers. Yeah, man. I'm gambling with my life every day out there. Just cuttin' and, uh, choppin' it up. Yeah, man. I'm revolutionizing the sport out here every day and no one's noticing, but that's the life. That's the life. You know what I mean?

Hey, everybody. Thank you so—

Teresa: Radical. Tubular.

Travis: Thank you. That means a lot to me... that you're making an effort to reach across and learn the lingo, finally, after being married for 46 years. It's nice.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: That you would make an effort to see things my way.

Teresa: You're sure goofy today. Goofy-footed.

Travis: I wouldn't... hmm! That's not my style, and if you ever—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: If you ever showed up to support me at one of my many, many competitions—I compete three times a week. And if you showed up to one of them? [sighs] It's okay. No, you go to our girl's soccer game. You support Bebe. But you won't support my—okay. It's fine! It's fine. It's fine. I'm [crosstalk].

Teresa: Listeners, I hope you've enjoyed Travis's elaborate ruse.

Travis: Oh my god. I've never been more offended. Thank you, everybody, for listening. Thank you to our editor, Rachel, without whom we could not make this show. Thank you to our researcher Alexx, without whom we could not make this show. And thank you to you for listening. You're radical! You're—

Teresa: Dudes.

Travis: You're radical dudes and dudettes and dude-os, which is the non-binary term I've just invented for dudes. Dudes, dudettes, dude-os. Duderinos? Dude... dudies. No.

Teresa: [laughs] No!

Travis: No, that's not it.

Teresa: [through laughter] Not that one.

Travis: Um... uh, let's see. Go to bit.ly/mcelroytours to see all of the places we're doing live shows for My Brother, My Brother, and Me and Adventure Zone for the rest of the year. We're gonna be at Rose City Comic Con. That was just announced. We're gonna be at Gen Con as well, and doing live shows all over the ding-dang place. Check that out. Uh, go to mcelroymerch.com. Check out the merch there. What else, Teresa?

Teresa: Thank you to Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run

Facebook group, Shmanners Fanners. If you love to give and get excellent advice from other fans go ahead and join that group today.

As always, we are taking your topic submissions, your questions, your queries, your... idioms! Send in those idioms to shmannerscast@gmail.com, and say hi to Alexx, because she reads every single one.

Travis: And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week!

Teresa: No RSVP required!

Travis: You've been listening to Shmanners...

Teresa: Manners, Shmanners. Get it, dude.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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