

Surf's up for Garrett McNamara

Ever feel confined in your cubicle? The ocean is **Garrett McNamara's** office. The waves are his coworkers, and he battles them daily. In November of last year, McNamara shattered the world record, surfing a 90-footer during the ZON North Canyon Show, off the coast of Portugal. Sixty feet is considered pretty impressive.

Watch the ride on YouTube; it's an awe-inspiring feat. The location where he surfed is in a so-called gap in the continental plate that acts like a funnel for freakishly large swells.

McNamara, 47, is always looking for the next big thing, literally. He's currently in one of his favorite places on earth, Miami Beach, checking out the scene. The extreme surfer, who is originally from Massachusetts and based in Hawaii, talked to us about his quest and what he does when he's safe on dry land.

What was your worst wipeout?

That depends on how you define worst. I had a broken back at Waimea on Big Island, lost all the skin on my leg from the reef at Tahiti. I was pounded so bad in Fiji that I didn't know what way was up. Had suck-bad wipeouts at Mavericks [in Northern California] that I was coughing up blood. There were many, many more.

What is your favorite surfing movie?

1987's *North Shore* with **Gregory Harrison**. "Always remember if the wave breaks here don't be there!"

What made you want to become a surfer?

I moved to Hawaii at 11. It was either be a surfer or be a surfer. Easy decision.

Has the ocean ever intimidated you to the point that you couldn't go in?

When I was 16 I vowed to never surf waves over six feet because I was scared.

What are your favorite hot spots to go when you're in Miami?

Joe's Stone Crab. The Living Room at the W Hotel South Beach. Ask for Tom, he's a fantastic mixologist. He made a garden margarita that was out of this world.

Favorite place to chill?

On a sailboat in the bay.

Favorite beach?

The main beach in South Beach for all the people-watching.

Best waves?

The north side of the Port of Miami.

Best hotel?

The Delano.

Best place for a coffee?

Anywhere that has some strong espresso.

Best place for surf gear?

Island Water Sports in North Miami Beach. They have a great selection.

Best thing about Miami?

It is like no other city with all the Art Deco and different cultural influences. Beautiful people, great food, and sunshine.

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