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Nick Penna Jr.'s STUFF



Nick Penna Jr. is a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, both in his professional life and in time off the clock. Owner and lead stylist of the chic SalonCapri, with locations in Dedham's Legacy Place and Newton Highlands, Penna is no stranger to the pressure that comes with staying at the top of Boston's competitive beauty game — and maintaining a longstanding family rep. His hair dynasty got its start in 1967, when Nick's parents, Nicholas Penna Sr. and Gina, opened the first SalonCapri in Hyde Park. But when Penna was growing up, he had no plans to take the helm of the family business: skateboarding was his passion, the sidewalk his speedway. Now he prefers waves and snowy slopes to concrete, turning to surfing and snowboarding to keep things chill when life at the salon heats up. We checked in with Penna to check out his **board collection** and get his take on life in and out of the water.

Describe your perfect day at SalonCapri. The ideal SalonCapri day for me is when everything clicks — high energy, energizing music, and my team of stylists creating great looks on clients who enjoy the experience. Life in the moment.

Now take us out of the salon and into the wild. What's your dream day on vacation? I have a family place up in Ogunquit, Maine. My perfect day takes place in September or October, hurricane season, of course, when the temperature tips 85 degrees and the swells are high. I head out for a four-hour date with my surfboard and finish up with my beautiful wife, Amy, cocktails, and a barbeque on the beach with family and friends.

You sound like a serious surfer dude. What waves around the world

have you yet to ride? Truth of the matter: I am not very good, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying the sport. I'm much better at snowboarding, but surfing is quickly inching up there on my passion grade. I'd love to surf the North Shore of Hawaii, Costa Rica, and Bali, Indonesia. All those exotic places are on my bucket list.

Maybe you could mix business with pleasure — open up a West Coast SalonCapri in Malibu and catch some swells? My wife, Amy, is from California. She came out for business and stayed for me. I promised her that one day we would return to California, but not to work. So when we go — and we will, Amy — it's all play. Promise!

We're rooting for you, Amy! But back to hair. Any tips on the perfect boarding 'do? Any hairdo that you don't have "to do," preferably a style that involves a lot of saltwater. Go for the messy, spiky look. People pay tons of money for that just-walked-out-of-water feel.

So what's up next on your personal passion voyage? Does it involve speed? Yes, on both the personal and professional fronts. I'm starting to really get into cycling. I can definitely see becoming addicted to that high-speed sport. Professionally, we at SalonCapri have some big surprises planned for 2012.

Let us in. What and where? It's a really big, exciting wave into the future for SalonCapri. We are expanding and growing, yet keeping an eye on our roots and heritage. You guys will just have to wait and ride it in when the time is right. . . . I look forward to sharing the news with Boston very, very soon!

— Anna Cheshire Levi an

PHOTO BY MICHAEL DI KIN

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