

*The nautically inspired weathervanes at SURFSIDE were created by **West Coast Weathervanes**, a unique consortium of artists led by LizAnne and Ken Jensen of Santa Cruz, California. We encourage you to visit their website. They are true masters of the art of crafting weathervanes. (www.westcoastweathervanes.com)*

The Art of Crafting Weathervanes

Handcrafted, free form, repoussé weathervanes are extremely time consuming to make. Starting with a paper pattern unique to each design, the artists trace the pattern onto a sheet of copper and then cut the individual pieces out by hand with metal shears. To give texture to the surface, like the mermaid's scales, they use custom shaped hammers. The three-dimensional shaping of the design is completed with rawhide hammers on leather sand pillows, anvils or custom blocks. Because no molds are used, each weathervane has individual variations, making it unique.

Two opposite halves of each section of the design are built and soldered together to form a hollow body. This can be tricky since the pieces must match exactly. Just before closing up the final seam on the vane, a penny from the year it is made (or in the case of Surfer Chris, the year he was born) is slipped inside – an old weathervane-making tradition that symbolizes good luck. Each artist creates a weathervane from start to finish, and individually signs the vanes.

Julia the Mermaid

We picked a beautiful mermaid to greet friends as they enter SURFSIDE. A mermaid is a legendary aquatic creature with the head and torso of a human female and the tail of a fish. Our mermaid, Julia, is 4 feet in length with a copper torso tail and gold leaf plated head and tail. The emerald colored eyes with blue pupils are made from handcrafted emerald glass.

Surfer Chris

Our largest weathervane overlooks the surfers at the southern end of Narragansett's Town Beach. The design was taken from an actual photo of a local surfer, "Chris", surfing off Narragansett's Point Judith lighthouse. The surfer's wetsuit and hair are copper; the face, feet and hands are gold leaf; and the waves are cut out of heavy brass and then plated with a combination of gold leaf and palladium. The brown eyes are made from translucent colored glass.



Seahorse

The Seahorse design was chosen to compliment the stunning Seahorse weathervane atop The Dunes Club at the north end of the Narragansett Town beach. It consists of a copper Seahorse and brass and gold leaf plated ferns and sea floor. The eyes are made from translucent emerald colored glass jewels.

Gray Whale

The Gray Whale consists of a breaching copper gray whale with a brass splash. The whale's eyes are made from handcrafted glass with black pupils.