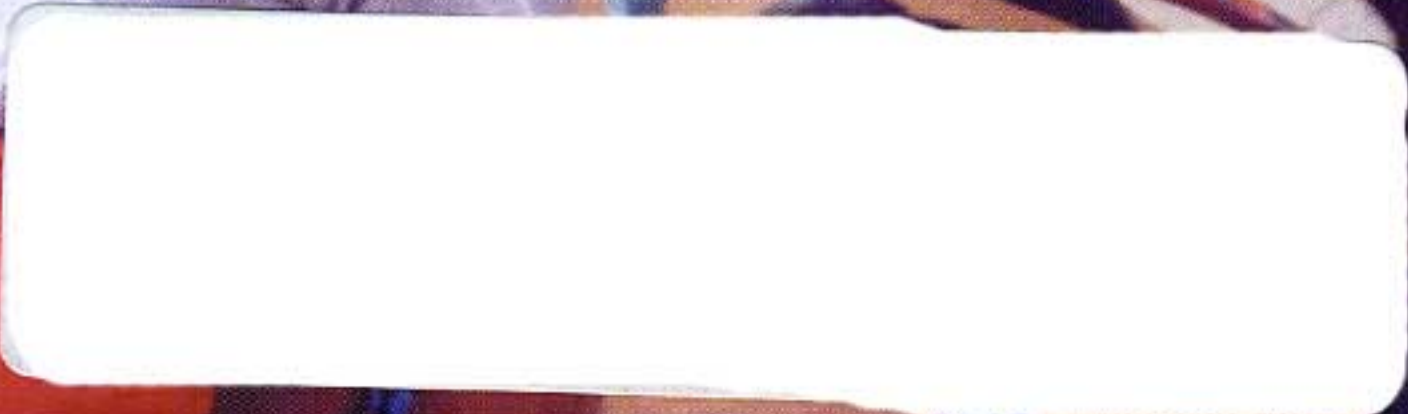
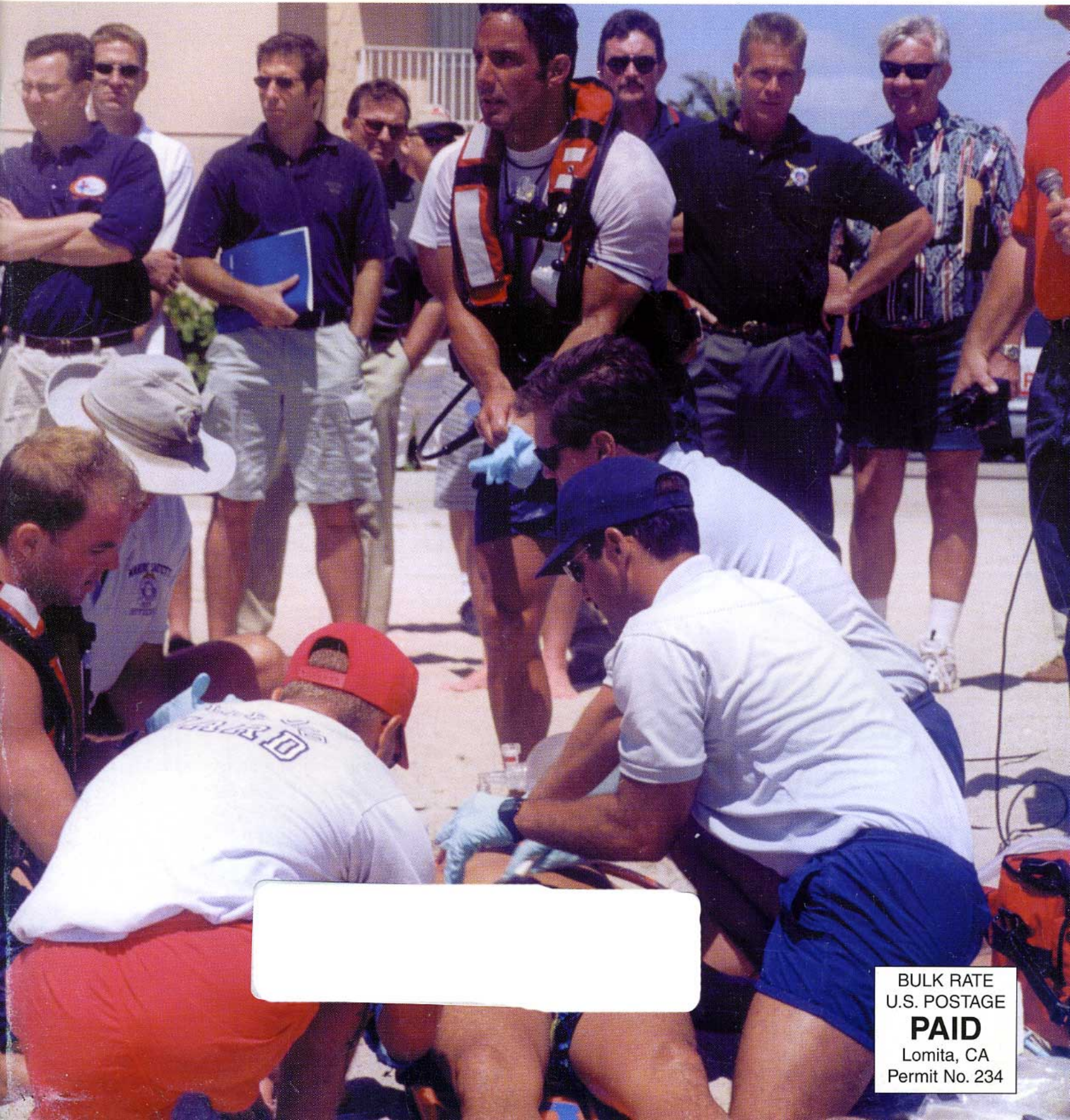
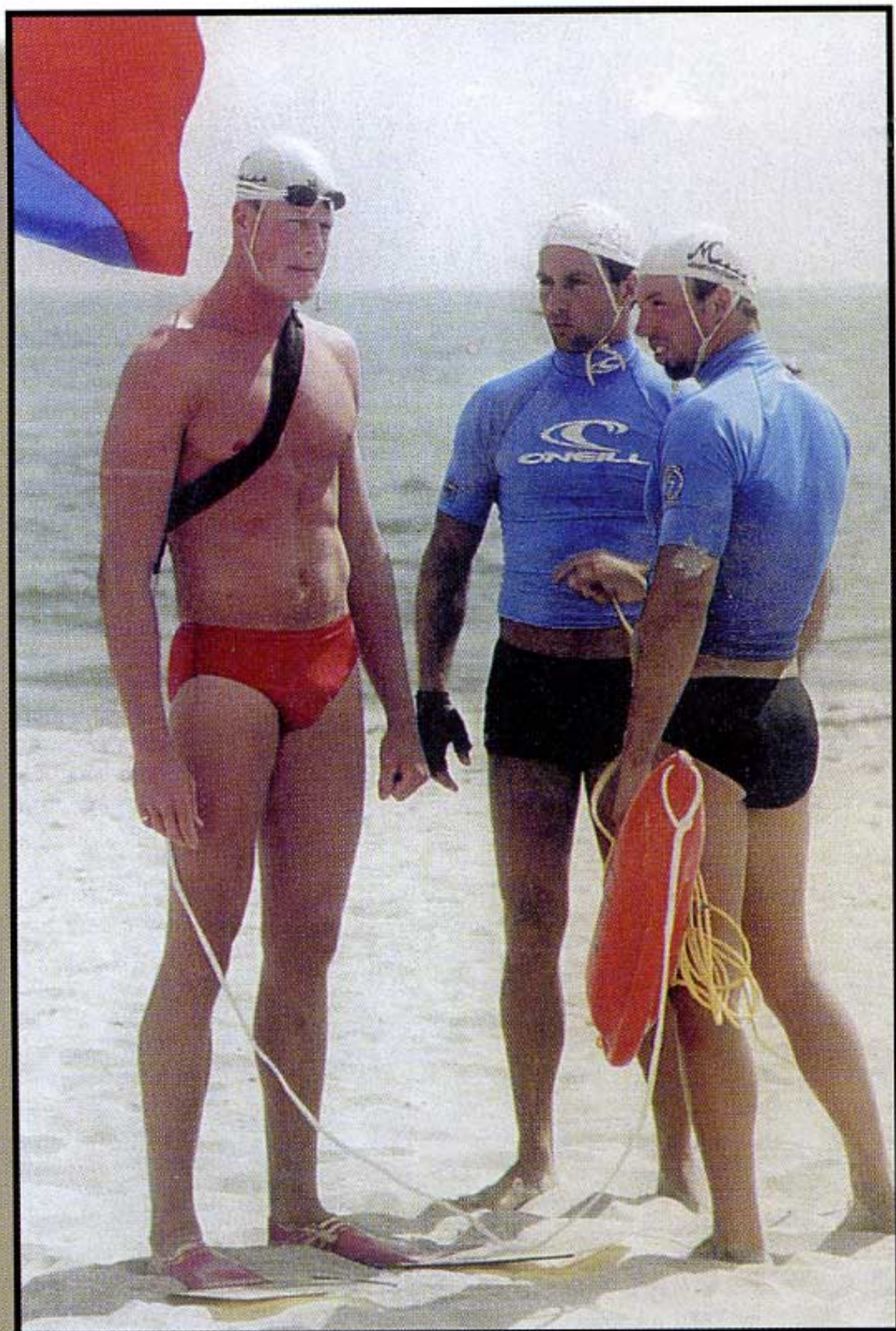


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United States Lifesaving Association Mission Statement www.usla.org

The United States Lifesaving Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the profession of lifesaving. The USLA promotes the profession of lifesaving in the United States and worldwide as a professional endeavor and as a means of public safety. It informs, educates and fosters the development of its members and the public in the realm of lifesaving. It encourages the growth of lifesaving in local chapters from a county and state level and in schools.

The USLA serves as the governing body for openwater lifesaving in the United States and as a participant in international lifesaving organizations and projects. It is structured to enhance the democratic procedures contained in its bylaws. All correspondence other than for the magazine should be sent to: USLA Corporate Office, P.O. Box 366, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

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President's Message

By Don Rohrer,
L.A. County



What a time for professional lifesaving! It will be my honor to serve as your president for the next two years. I look forward to consigning my time and energy toward advancing our profession and heightening our efforts to promote water safety through education and public awareness.

On the twenty-fifth of May at Miramar College in San Diego, California, history was made when the profession of lifesaving took a great step forward. Throughout the years, many of us have strived to equate our services with those of law enforcement and firefighters. In some cases, we have been successful. In others, there still remains work to be done to achieve parity with our contemporaries in other public safety venues. At Miramar College, on behalf of the membership of the United States Surf Lifesaving Association, it was my great pleasure to present to Michael Clegg, Jr. an Associate of Science Degree in Open Water Lifeguard Professional. Mike's specialized diploma is the first in the country and most likely the world.

Persuading the Miramar faculty to develop a curriculum paralleling that of fire science and law enforcement fell on the shoulders of Lieutenant Nick Lerma, Lieutenant Greg Buchanan and others from the San Diego City Lifeguard Service. My sincere congratulations are extended to these professionals for their many hours of collaboration in working towards the common goal of improving the training and education for all lifeguards.

This is the first issue under a new editor. I wish to extend my appreciation to Tim Gallagher, the

former editor of ALM for his many years of dedicated service. He has turned a simple communiqué between USLA regions into a professional journal enjoyed worldwide. I know that Mike Bartlett, our new editor, will continue the fine tradition and add his special talents to report interesting and informative news on open water lifesaving.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find an article authored by Captain Bob Moore on the passing of Dwight Crum. Beyond his words and the well-deserved tribute to this lifeguard legend, I would like to share with you my first encounter with Dwight. I was working for Los Angeles City California Lifeguards in 1955, in a tower known as "South Channel". To the left of the tower was a steep sloping beach extending approximately one-half mile. To the right was a long and narrow jetty. Due to the steep, sloping beach, rescues in this area happened in a very quick manner...usually in "shore break" conditions and "gutter rips". Any size surf combined with a south ocean swell, meant a lot of rescues near and

oftentimes around the adjoining jetty. Our rescue flotation devise (RFD) for the City was an inflated tube with the customary line and strap attached. As one can imagine under these conditions, an inflated rescue tube did not fare well around the jagged and mussel-encrusted rocks. Knowing that our neighboring counterparts, Los Angeles County, used the traditional rescue metal can, I used my friendship with these guards to search out a "County can". They referred me to a Captain Dwight
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United States Lifesaving Association

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American Lifeguard Magazine Relocates to the West Coast

By Staff

After seven years of dedicated service as the Editor of the American Lifeguard Magazine, Tim Gallagher is stepping down in order to focus more attention on his new duties as City Manager for Avon-By-the-Sea, New Jersey. Replacing Mr. Gallagher is Michael Bartlett, a Marine Safety Officer with the City of Huntington Beach, California.

At the Spring USLA National Meeting, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Bartlett met to finalize the plans to transfer the daily operations of the ALM from New Jersey to California. Mr. Bartlett will operate as the new Editor for future issues of the ALM in summer 2000.

In an effort to better serve the membership and meet advertising demands, the new staff has proposed to produce three issues per year versus the quarterly format. The current, four issues per year publication format is very difficult to maintain and the membership as well as advertising companies need consistency in ALM's ability to meet deadlines. The three-issue format is an obtainable goal especially considering the USLA is a non-

profit, charitable organization with a limited budget.

Once the magazine operations relocation to the West Coast is in place, the new ALM Staff will work towards meeting print deadlines set for a Winter Issue, a Pre-Summer Issue, and a Post-Summer Issue. This deadline format coincides with the bi-annual USLA National Meetings, with the exception of the Winter Issue, and will better able the staff to coordinate with the various regional representatives for reports, feature articles, competition stories, photographs, advertising, etc.

The new editor is no rookie to print journalism. With a Masters in Business Administration, a BA in Communications, and a minor in Journalism, Mr. Bartlett currently heads the CAL SURF NEWS magazine, a bi-annual publication of the California Surf LifeSaving Association and has been the Managing Editor since 1993. He has experience as a freelance reporter for the Huntington Beach News, two years as a reporter for the California State University Long Beach daily Forty-niner Newspaper, four years

as the Editor of the SandScripts HB Lifeguard Newsletter, and the Publication Editor in high school of both the annual and campus newspaper.

Other ALM staff members include Greg Farry, who will continue as the Financial Advisor and USLA Treasurer, and Renee Story, a private contractor from LA County who will act as the Design and Typesetting Manager. Mrs. Story has worked with Mr. Bartlett for over seven years with the CAL SURF NEWS magazine and also produces several other private company newsletters. Additionally, Eric Sandy, Del Mar, and Vince Lombardi, Camp Pendleton, will be replacing Mr. Bartlett as the CAL SURF NEWS Co-Editors and have agreed to assist Mr. Bartlett with the production of the ALM.

If you are interested in sending an article for publication in the next issue of the American Lifeguard Magazine or have questions regarding advertising, etc., please send it preferably via email to Mr. Bartlett at uslaalm@aol.com, or snail mail to USLA ALM, Michael Bartlett, 15481 Cottonwood Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Having been out of the "game" for three years, I wanted to comment and congratulate everyone on what I see as an increased rivalry between the East and West coasts. Not to leave out anyone in between, but BRAVO to the EAST for finally believing they can win. Obviously, congratulations also to the WEST for retaining the crown. I say "West" because even though it was L.A. County who won, never have there been more competitors venture across the Great Divide to take part in championships.

On that note, hats off to Patrick Richardson in San

Diego, whose fund-raising efforts for his team ignited a fire in L.A. County, which in turn spread through the rest of Southern California. I can only assume that a similar smoldering ember began in Monmouth County only to erupt into a blaze that would eventually engulf the East all the way down to Cape May.

Kudos as well to Fosters, the Cape May Beach Patrol, and Tim Gallagher and his crew for putting on one of the best and certainly most competitive championships I have ever been a part of.

Finally, for every single lifeguard and junior lifeguard who took the time to travel to Cape May,

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Team USA at "Rescue 2000"

Team USA Brings Home Two Silver Medals from "Rescue 2000" World Lifesaving Championships. Strong Finish Earns Invitation to 2001 Goodwill Games

By Tim Gallaher, Avon-By-the-Sea

Five of the nation's top professional lifeguards captured two silver medals during the "Rescue 2000" World Lifesaving Championships recently held in Sydney, Australia.

Andreas Roestenberg of Sea Girt, N.J. finished second in the men's 200-meter swim with obstacles pool competition, and four American women - Laura Bolger of Brielle, N.J., Maggie Hogan of Tinton Falls, N.J., Diane Graner-Galles of Manhattan Beach, Calif., and Heather Hansen Irurzun of Delray Beach, Fla. - teamed up to win a second place medal in the women's tube rescue race.

Overall, Team USA finished eighth among 25 international teams, as individual team members placed among the top 10 finishers in one-quarter of nearly 40 ocean and pool events at Rescue 2000. As a result of its strong showing, the 12-member national team has earned an invitation to the next

Goodwill Games, where lifesaving events will make their debut in September 2001.

Team USA manager Tim Gallaher of Avon commended his squad for a solid performance in the four-day competition, which was won by the Australian team for the sixth time. Earning a total of

"It was quite a challenging experience, and we're proud to be heading to the Goodwill Games next year."

29 medals, Australia recaptured the world crown in this biennial event from New Zealand, which it lost for the first and only time in 1998.

"We were competing among the best in the world, not only in the ocean but in the pool," Gallaher said. "It was quite a challenging experience, and we're

proud to be heading to the Goodwill Games next year."

He explained that because most of Team USA members are surf lifeguards, they are less adapted to pool events, compared to teams from such European countries as Germany, Belgium and Italy.

However, one of Team USA's most impressive performance at Rescue 2000 came in a "team" pool event - the simulated emergency response competition in which it was the only team to "rescue all 12 victims" from the water, although it finished in sixth place. This race involved giving teams two minutes to complete a lifesaving scenario, as members maneuvered around obstacles to retrieve weighted rescue mannequins from the water.

The U.S. contingent also boasts an older team of professional lifeguards, who range in age from **to page 5.....**

*USLA Team
Photo before
Governor's
Dinner,
Australia
2000.
Photo by Gene
Weise*



Rescue 2000



Andreas Roestenbey finishes in 2nd place in 200-meter - Sydney, Australia. Photo by Gene Weise

18 to 39, in contrast to the teams from such countries as Australia and New Zealand, which are comprised of younger "surf club" members who serve as lifeguards year-round and even Olympic athletes, said Gallaher, who's been managing the team since it began competing in 1990.

While several Team USA members are full-time college students, others have full-time careers as firefighters, paramedics and swim coaches.

Besides having the opportunity to compete against the best lifeguards in the world, the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) will benefit in another way from Rescue 2000 - taped footage from the championship events will be used to produce an instructional video on lifesaving techniques that will be shown to its members throughout the country.

While Team USA will begin preparing for the 2001 Goodwill Games, to be held in Brisbane, Australia, it also is looking ahead to the next World Lifesaving Championships, scheduled for Daytona Beach, Fla., in 2002.

"We'll be placing a bigger emphasis on our pool events, since that's where we can benefit the most in improving our overall performance," said Gallaher.

Meanwhile, Team USA's members, six men and six women from New Jersey, California and Florida, are planning to continue with their lifesaving activities and competition training this summer.

Silver medal winner Roestenberg will head this month to Hawaii for the OceanMan International Challenge before competing in the U.S. Olympic Swim Team trials in August. The 27-year old, who recently launched a new swimsuit company, will also return this summer to Sea Girt as a lifeguard.

As for the four female members who took home

the rescue relay silver medal, Irurzun, 31, who is Delray Beach's ocean rescue/emergency medical technician supervisor, will compete in the 2000 Hawaiian International Oceanfest. Bolger, 18, will again be a summer lifeguard in Bradley Beach, N.J., before returning to Princeton University as a sophomore in the fall.

Hogan, 21, will resume her guard duties in Sandy Hook, N.J., and then will begin her senior year at the University of California in Santa Barbara. Graner-Gallas, 35, will resume her career as a swim coach and lifeguard in Los Angeles County, Calif. She and team member C. Paige Gallas were the only mother-daughter pair to compete in the World Lifesaving Championships. Paige, 18, will return to New Jersey this summer as an Avon lifeguard and plans to enter Princeton University in the fall.

The national team's other members include: From California: Craig Hummer, 34, Manhattan Beach; Mitch Kahn, 39, San Clemente; and Erika Keithly, 26, Ojai. From Florida: Victor Fox, 24, Hollywood; and Shaun Gibson, 25, Pompano Beach. From New Jersey: Matt Nunnally, 30, Avon-by-the-Sea.

Team USA was sponsored this year by Travelways, a global passenger services company based in Howell, N.J.



Mitch and Victor Fox finishing rescue board race along with partners Craig Hummer and Matt Nunelly (5th Place). Photo by Gene Weise

2000 Competition Calendar

1. Mid Atlantic Regionals:

- a. 12 July - Rehoboth Beach, DE; Beach and Swim events
 - b. 19 July - Belmar, NJ; Craft events
- Middle Atlantic Juniors: 24 July - Wildwood B.P.

2. South East Regionals:

20-21 July - Hollywood Beach FL.

3. Monmouth County

- a. 24 June - Jungle Row - Deal Lake Asbury Park; 4.5 mile - any fixed surfboat)
- b. 1 July - Old School Wood Boats Race (Hankins, Van Sant, Nawes, Robinsons, Asays); 10 miles Bradley Beach NJ

4. Open Events

26 July Ladies Nationals - Gateway Park, NYC, Carl Martinez

5. South Jersey Chief's Assn. (South Jersey Rules) Events

- a. Superathlon: Cape May - 17 July: 2.2 mile run, 1.5 mile row, 1.4 mile swim
- b. Beschen-Callahans: North Wildwood - 14 July; Doubles, singles, long swim, run relay
- c. Wildwood BP Ladies Invitational - 26 July; Doubles, singles, long swim, surf relay with can
- d. Cape May County Chmps (Wildwood Crest) 7 July; Doubles, singles, long swim, surf relay w/o can

6. Southwest Regionals - 19 July - Imperial Beach

USLA Nationals - 7-13 August Crystal Pier, San Diego



Dory Racing at the 1999 USLA National Championships, Cape May, N.J. Photo by Frank Arena

The Rise of Imperial Beach - Imperial Beach Lifeguards

By Jennifer Shelden,
Imperial Beach

If your only image or memory of Imperial Beach is a rough town filled with gangs, drugs, and violence, you really need to cruise south and visit the new I.B. With the financial support of the Port of San Diego, I.B. has turned a new leaf. Riffraff is gone, parks and street ends are remodeled, a new and improved Pier Plaza is built, and a State of the Art Safety Center named after surf legend and lifeguard hero Allen "Demsey" Holder is opening in November of 1999.

The core of Imperial Beach is its beach, and because of this, these improvements have had a massive impact on the Lifeguard Service. The Lifeguard Service has spent a long time playing catch up. From struggles to get year round staff to financially being able to afford modern rescue equipment. I. B. lifeguards made due at a level well below that in which has become standard up and down the coast. For the lifeguard service and the town itself things are definitely looking up.

Imperial Beach's coast spans 2 miles, running from the most southern point of Coronado to the most northern point of Tijuana Estuary National Refuge. The southern boundary lays one mile north of the Tijuana River mouth while the north boundary lies at the popular YMCA Camp Surf. The beach itself is decorated with two rock jetties on the north end, a 500 yard Pier centrally located, beach front homes and various shops. In reference to lifeguarding the beach is home to four portable towers, one Pier tower, and the old style lifeguard main tower at the end of Palm Ave. Come November 1999 the Main Tower will be torn down and replaced by a portable tower and the service will move into the new Safety Center at the foot of the Pier.

Staffing

The lifeguard service is staffed with 24 seasonal lifeguards and 2 permanents. There is 1 captain, 1 sergeant, 6 seasonal lifeguard II's and, 18 seasonal lifeguard I's. Imperial Beach seasonal lifeguards work a maximum of 1000 hours per fiscal year. These hours are spread throughout the year per employee, enabling seasonal staff to be scheduled year round.

The lifeguards stay very busy performing



Imperial Beach Captain Robert Stabenow and seasonal LG-1 Oscar Alvarez in front of their new Safety Center.

approximately 500 aquatic rescues and 300 medical aids a year. The beach has on average 2-million visitors a year. The aquatic rescues are usually due to I.B.'s big surf and strong rip currents. To those that are familiar with I. B., it is known for picking up almost any swell, maintaining great shape, and being very consistent. With these conditions combined with glassy days and endless sunshine, I. B. has great summer crowds. In addition to aquatic and beach safety lifeguards are responsible for enforcing City Beach and Pier Municipal Codes, with the San Diego Sheriffs' sub station located in the Safety Center enforcement issues are resolved rapidly.

History

Imperial Beach Lifeguarding dates back to the early 1920's. The earliest I.B. lifeguards were true watermen; they came down to the beach to surf, hang out, and save lives. During this time these were the most qualified individuals, with the most water knowledge. In these early years of I.B. lifeguarding there was no established service, no records were kept, just passed down stories of all the lifesaving heroic acts. In 1938 I.B. would be graced with the arrival of Allan Holder. Holder amazed on lookers with his wave knowledge and ability to surf I. B.'s biggest waves at the Tijuana

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Imperial Beach ... from p 7

Sloughs. In 1940 Holder became Imperial Beaches first official lifeguard working for the county of San Diego. Holder over the following years, with a very limited budget, established a lifeguard service that would impress any modern day lifeguard. With only an eight person staff Holder and his crew would perform 300 to 400 rescues a summer. Holder was so dedicated to the lifestyle, he lived with several other lifeguards in a beach front home known as the "White House". This was a house where lifeguards could live if they needed a place, and it was also ideal for responding quickly to any emergency.

Since Holder's time Imperial Beach has experienced some great milestones. In 1994 the Port of San Diego acquired the "trust" for the tide lands and funds services through a contract with the City Imperial Beach. The Imperial Beach Lifeguard Association was established in 1992. In 1999 all employed EMT lifeguards were trained and certified in both defibrillator operation and Combi-tube, making I.B. the first lifeguard service in San Diego County to have this certification.

Employment Opportunity

Imperial Beach hires seasonal lifeguard I's who have successfully completed the 80 hour Miramar College San Diego Regional Lifeguard Academy and American Red Cross's Emergency Response course. Lifeguards are hired on a per need basis. Lifeguard II's are promoted from within the department after being selected by an interview panel. Candidates are required to be an EMT and have worked a minimum of 2000 hours. Permanent positions are an open hiring process and there are hopes for additional permanent positions to arise in the future. Requirements for permanent positions are extensive and vary due to



1999 Imperial Beach Staff, with Captain Robert Stabenow and Sergeant Jennifer Shelden in the center.



Imperial Beach Summer Beach Crowd.

position. Contact City Personnel for further questions on job requirements and announcements at (619) 338-4331.

Water Quality

Not only has Imperial Beach improved in looks and atmosphere, but the water has cleaned up as well. Due to the federal sewage plant located on the Tijuana River being on line since November of 1998, I. B.'s water problems have practically dissipated to nothing. To spread an understanding, in 1998 the water was contaminated 191 days and in 1999 as of November the count is 17 days. All of these days fell prior to May and were due to rain run off. Because of the previous water problems, I.B.'s water is monitored and tested religiously. Beach goers, rest assure that your health is definitely being guarded at Imperial Beach.

Junior Lifeguards

The Junior Lifeguard Program was established in 1996 by Seasonal Lifeguard II Robert Patton. It was an immediate success, drawing kids from the whole South bay area. In 1998 the program took a hard hit due to water quality, but has since recovered and is once again thriving. The program runs two 4 week summer sessions, with approximately 60 kids in each and building. I.B. is considering an experimental fall weekend JG program in the year 2000.

Equipment

Imperial Beach, in recent years has had the fortune to step up in equipment. The beach is patrolled by three lifeguard trucks, and two all-terrain vehicles. The service also owns one personnel water craft, and one 17 foot ridged hull inflatable boat. Every lifeguard is certified as personnel water craft operator by their third year of service.

Imperial Beach has definitely come a long way in a short time. The thing that has remained the same in this ever changing town; is still and will always be "Classic Southern California." Where the surf is good, the sun is hot, the people are friendly, and the lives are guarded and saved by some of the finest lifeguards.

Certification Program

By B. Chris Brewster,
San Diego

The USLA Lifeguard Agency Certification Program was initiated in 1993 to evaluate and recognize lifeguard agencies which meet recommended USLA standards in the areas of training, lifeguard fitness, and lifesaving equipment. In the few years since its creation, the program has come to include over 80 open water lifeguard agencies, large and small, from throughout the US.

The program is based on recommended standards set by the Board of Directors. These standards represent a national benchmark for lifeguard agencies to meet. USLA does not certify lifeguards or lifeguard instructors individually. Instead, USLA certifies lifeguard employers. The USLA certification system is therefore, in effect, an accreditation system for local lifeguard training programs.

Leaders of lifeguard agencies who believe they meet the standards can complete an application that is freely available for download from our website – USLA.ORG - in the Certification section. The cost to apply is \$250.

Once an application is received, it is sent to a volunteer Certification Officer in the USLA region where the agency is located. The Certification Officer reviews the application and works with the agency to evaluate compliance. In cases where further information is needed or the agency needs to take some further actions to meet USLA requirements, the Certification Officer facilitates the process.

Once the Certification Officer believes that the agency is in compliance, the application is returned to USLA for review by the Chair of the National Certification

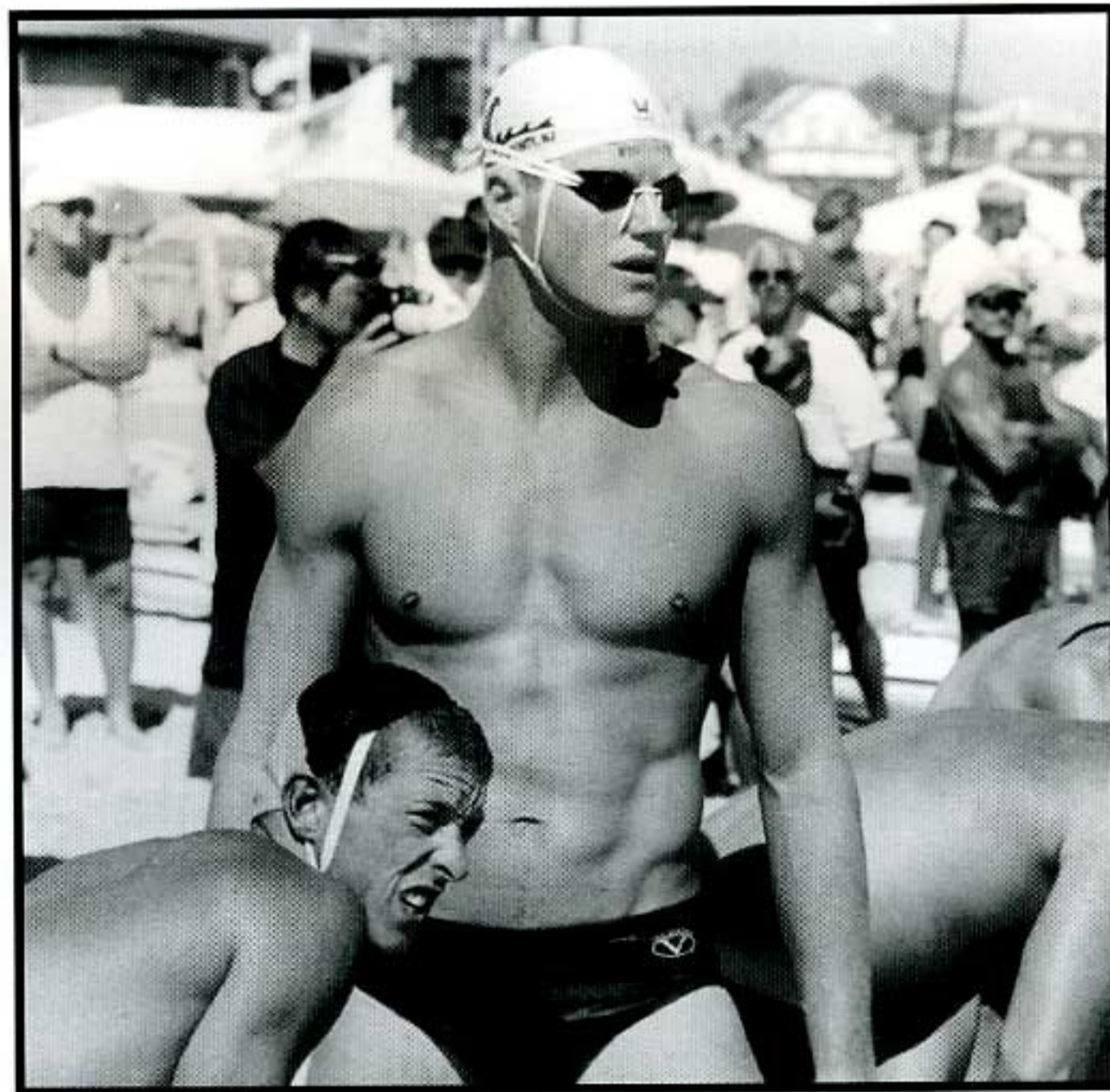
Committee. It is then filed for review at the next USLA Board of Directors meeting. At each Board meeting, the National Certification Committee - which is composed of one representative from each region, the Chair, and the USLA Medical Advisor - reviews the applications and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to whether an agency should be certified. The Board of Directors makes the final determination.

Lifeguard agencies approved under this process are certified for a three-year period, at the end of which they must apply for an extension, paying the current fee. This allows USLA to conduct triennial audits to ensure continued compliance and allows for modifications to the standards.

Lifeguard agencies may be

certified at the regular level or the advanced level. Generally, the advanced level involves more extensive training and higher medical aid certification of lifeguards, to the extent of First Responder for hourly lifeguards and Emergency Medical Technician for full-time lifeguards (if any).

Developing consistent national standards in open water lifesaving was a goal of USLA from its inception. This benchmark has resulted in significant improvements to the professionalism and quality of care provided by American lifeguards. If you would like to see a list of currently certified agencies, please check the Certification section of USLA.ORG. If your agency isn't yet on the list, why not apply today and show that you measure up?



Andreas Roestenbey before the finals of the Run-Swim-Run in Cape May, NJ at the USLA Nationals in 1999.



Women begin their run-swim-run relay at Cape May USLA Nationals, August 1999. Photo by Frank Arena.



Ready For the Storm

By Norm Rooker,
Paramedic, San Francisco

Each year an average of 200 Americans drown in flash flooding. More than in airline crashes or domestic terrorism. Flash flooding is the top weather-related killer of both victims and would be rescuers, ahead of earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. With the continued urban sprawl accompanied by the recent El Nino and La Nina storm patterns there seems to be an ever increasing need for swiftwater rescue.

The Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards in Swiftwater Rescue is the top award in this area of special rescue/operations. It is the only internationally recognized award of its type and was designed to both promote safe swiftwater rescue programs and to honor swiftwater rescuers.

Co-founder of the award, Nancy J. Rigg, who lost her fiancé Earl Higgins when he jumped into an LA flood channel in an attempt to rescue a child being swept downstream in fast moving water, has created an emotionally powerful video "READY FOR THE STORM." This video has been produced to honor the program as an incentive for their latest fund raising drive.

The 3 ½ minute video is set to the moving song "READY FOR THE STORM" by Scottish singer-composer Dougie MacLean who graciously allowed his music to be used in this video to assist in educating

the public both about the hazards of swiftwater rescue and about the award. Filled with numerous haunting images of the power of moving water and multiple rescues under trying conditions, this is the present for anyone involved in swiftwater rescue and makes a great attention getter for your swiftwater community education programs.

For a minimum donation of just \$15.00 to the NASAR Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards Fund you can receive a copy of "READY FOR THE STORM". Donations should be made out to: National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR for short) Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards. Mail your check along with the name and address where you want it shipped to: CFS Press, 68 Finalee Ave., Asheville, NC 28803.

To make a donation on line or to learn more about the Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards in Swiftwater Rescue you can log on to www.cfspress.com. Once there, go to the bottom of the page and select the Higgins and Langley Memorial Award banner.

Thank you for your time, interest, and hopefully support of the Higgins and Langley Memorial Awards in Swiftwater Rescue.

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Dwight Crum 1922 - 2000

The Passing of a Legend

by Robert A. Moore,
L.A. County

Contributions by Dick Douglas, Los Angeles County Lifeguard and Michael Macdonald of the Easy Reader

He was a lifeguard's lifeguard. If you were to have met Dwight Crum, your instant reaction would be, he is a nice, quiet person. He was not the type of individual who demanded attention nor did he ask anything of anyone that he would not do himself. Dwight had that Gary Cooper quality, quiet, committed to a cause, and got the job done. Many individuals in Dwight's era were boisterous, gregarious, and held to a different standard.

In 1941, Dwight was hired as a recurrent lifeguard for Los Angeles County. He was a young man who loved the ocean. "Times were different then", Dwight once said. Lifeguarding was not regarded as a 'safety profession.' "Men like Rusty Williams and Bud Stevenson, (both former chief lifeguards) insisted we act like professionals." This made an impression on Dwight, who was the consummate professional throughout his career.

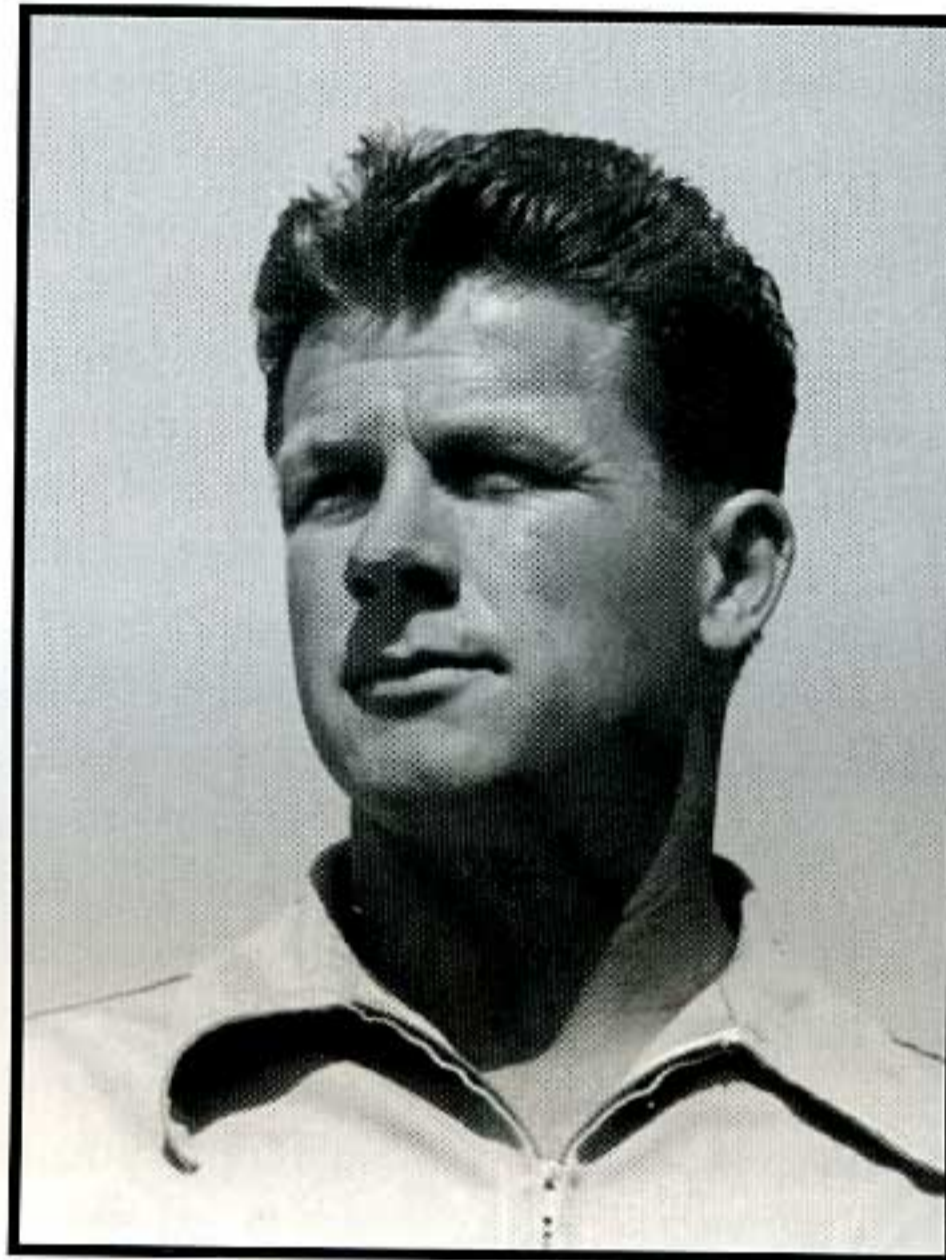
Dwight grew up in Compton, California. He used to take the streetcars to Long Beach before the Federal breakwater was constructed where he enjoyed surf similar to the Huntington Beach type break. "I learned how to swim in the surf by watching other people," Dwight said. He went to the University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. He served in the Navy during World War II as a Lieutenant on a minesweeper as a deck officer, clearing the way for invasion fleets from New Guinea to the Philippines. "We were at the Battle of Leyte Gulf," Dwight said. "Then at Zamboanga, on Mindanao Island, we hit a mine and our ship was destroyed." Dwight was then assigned to Long Beach after that, and worked as a lifeguard in Hermosa Beach on his days off. He married his lovely wife Ginny in 1946. When the war ended in 1947 he was appointed permanent lifeguard. Dwight was promoted to lieutenant in 1952 and then captain in

1954. During an interview for an article in the Easy Reader, Dwight said, "We started at \$5.60 a day, so all guards with families had to have second jobs back then." Dwight resorted to skin diving to add to the family income. Lobsters and abalone were a popular item back then, "There was a Japanese nursery who would give us 50 cents apiece," he said. SCUBA was later invented and put an end to this source of revenue. For many years, Dwight was a respected water polo and swimming referee.

Dwight served the Los Angeles County Lifeguards for 35 years. He was known as Captain Crum for 18 of those years. During his rein as Captain, he was involved as one of the founders and served as Vice President of the National

Surf Lifesaving Association (now known as the United States Lifesaving Association).

Los Angeles County Lifeguards were in the Parks and Recreation Department until 1969. In 1969, with help from the Board of Supervisors and a lot of hard work from the core lifeguards, the Department of Beaches was formed. Dwight was asked to hang up his red trunks and put on a tie. This new department of lifeguards for lifeguards had to work if Dwight's convictions were to succeed. Dwight reluctantly accepted the Assistant Director position and served in that capacity for four years until he retired in 1974. Dwight's degree in business administration, extensive experience in the field, and respect from the politicians, local communities, peers, and subordinates played a key roll during his administrative tenure. He was the quiet leader and he carried his message to the people who controlled the purse strings. This helped lifeguards. If lifeguards have support, then the public can be served. Although Dwight did not feel as comfortable in his role as an administrator, going to meeting after meeting, his sacrifice from what he loved, "Making rescues," allowed the lifeguards to receive and carry his baton to the next generation.





Crossed oars and L.A. County's lifeguard emblem in flowers, the Taplan Bell, and Dwight in Lifeguard uniform.

Michael Macdonald's article in August 1994 titled, "The Beach Captain" said it all. Dwight felt the most comfortable as the Captain of the Southern Section. He was in the position of having input in the decision making process, but most importantly he could still make rescues. "I remember working a riptide in Manhattan Beach, being dog tired, then turning to find Captain Crum right beside me," said recurrent lifeguard Dick Douglas. "He had been in the water making rescues." "There are still people, who refer to Dwight as Captain Crum," said his wife of 53 years Ginny Crum. "Sometimes I still think of him as Captain Crum," Douglas said, "even though Dwight has been a friend for many years." "I don't have to look very far for a role model," said his son, Section Chief Gary Crum. "My dad was always there to make a rescue. He said "the most important component of lifesaving is a well-trained guard with a (rescue) can." Gary has continued Dwight's legacy as Section Chief of the Southern Section. Reminding Gary of Dwight's love for the beach and making rescues when exiting the water himself after a rescue, "My dad (Dwight) was my best friend.....this one was for you Pop," Gary said with his can strap still across his chest. It was



Units from Lifeguard Agencies up and down the coast lined up on both sides of Avenue C in Redondo Beach to memorialize Dwight.

a tribute to his father for the fundamental principle of not believing that you are too good or important not to wear the red trunks and make the rescue. Like father, like son.

During a presentation ceremony where he received Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to Lifesaving, Dwight reflected. "There is a camaraderie among guards that stems from the love of the ocean. I have never been around a finer group of people." Ginny Crum adds, "When we're at San Onofre surfing, we're all just friends from the youngest guard to those who have retired. There is something special about being a lifeguard." Upon receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Dwight, somewhat embarrassed to be recognized for what he believed in and felt he was just one of many others who felt the same, said "Thanks."

Dwight served as Chairman of the International Surf Festival for 16 years. He was instrumental creating the Surf Festival. He felt that the community should have an opportunity to see what lifeguards did and the skills that they possess. The events were showcased at night under the lights. They expanded into many events that included everyone. He was also responsible for creating the international exchange with lifeguards from Australia. "Dwight wasn't real good at delegating responsibility," Ginny Crum remembered. "During those years, he ordered the lights and grandstands, organized the competitors, he did just about everything." He also was the announcer until he lost his voice and turned it over to another lifeguard. His love for swimming led to his swimming the Hermosa Beach Pier to Manhattan Beach Pier 2-mile swim race. He held the Pacific Coast Conference in the 440 yard freestyle in 1942 and continued swimming in the ocean. "I used to like swimming in the pier to pier race during the festivals, because for a little while I didn't have to answer any questions or the telephone," Dwight said. The swim was later named after Dwight in his honor. His last race was at 72 years of age. Dwight swam a mile a day until he suffered a stroke in 1999.

During a particularly hot spring day in the early 1960s, Captain Crum's Southern Section made 1,056 swimming rescues. That one day total was quite impressive, a record that is one of the highest totals for a one-day period ever recorded in the Southern Section. When interviewed, Dwight was quoted as saying, "We were pretty busy that day," another example of his quiet understatement. Dwight also did not mention that he was in the water contributing to the total of lives saved. Dwight reflected on a rescue that he had on another occasion. He hit the water in a

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Junior Lifeguard Selected as Winner at Youth Expo

By Eric Bauer,
Newport Beach

Alec Bauer, a 2nd Lieutenant Junior Lifeguard in Huntington beach, was a Division winner at the 2000 Orange County Youth Expo in written and visual arts with poetry and a mosaic. The theme of the Expo was "heroes, and Alec wrote his poetry about a lifeguard and created his interpretation of the California Surf Lifesaving Association logo in mosaic. Alec is a 5th grader at Smith Elementary School in Huntington beach; his teacher is Tom Watt. Congratulations, Alec.

Lifeguard

*For those who work in this heroic profession,
we should stop and give thanks for their courage and strength.
Their love of life is their job each day,
Watching the water, earning their pay.
A medal of valor should be awarded each day,
For the risks that are taken day after day.
Give up their own to save another,
The lifeguard can be compared to no other.*



Dwight Crumfrom page 13

rip current and the rescue escalated into seven persons in need of help. "I managed to talk the people down and got them in after a few minutes of hard swimming." This story led to Dwight's analyses of lifeguarding techniques. "The most important factor is having people who are good swimmers. A good ocean swimmer with a (rescue) can and a pair of binoculars is the foundation of our service," Dwight said. "You take one fast swimmer, you train him/her with the most experienced guards, then you send him/her to a hot area and let them make rescues. You don't become a real lifeguard until you almost lose somebody. Then it all becomes very clear what we do," added Dwight. A story related at Dwight's Memorial Service by our now President of the United States Lifesaving Association, Don Rohrer, "I asked Dwight if I could borrow a rescue can to use at our Los Angeles City beaches (different agency in the 1950's and 1960's that included some rivalry) or even pay for it. We had the lifeguards, but not enough equipment. Dwight gave me the can and said you are going to save lives with it, keep it," Rohrer said. One of Dwight's proudest records was ten years on some of the world's busiest beaches without a drowning.

"He seldom got mad," Dick Douglas said, "but you didn't want to disappoint him." "Dwight led by example, whether it was a surf rescue, an accident, or a cliff call, you could expect to have Captain Crum

next to you. He was the epitome of hands on. It kept him young and in-touch." He served as a model for many up and coming lifeguards. These up and coming lifeguards are now the leaders of the organization and instrumental in making the profession what it is today.

March 6, 2000, many lifeguards and friends from up and down the coast paid their respects to Dwight and his family at Avenue C in Redondo Beach. Speakers said, "We will miss the infamous pause on the telephone, standing on the beach side-by-side with the Captain, and the fact that he was very special and has the tremendous respect of everyone he has ever worked with or considered him a friend." He cared for his family, friends, profession, and his community. He was a man's man. He loved his family, friends, traveling, the beach, and most of all - He loved being a lifeguard.

The family would like to thank members of the California Surf Lifesaving Association who attended in uniform, with vehicles, and boats. His service was a celebration of what lifesaving has become. Dwight started out with a metal rescue can and a bicycle. Your presence had a strong impact on the family and they will be eternally grateful.

Dwight, you will be missed, but your spirit lives within us. We thank you. Lifesaving thanks you. The public thanks you.

Water Quality Issues Pose High Risk for Guards

By Ken Kramer, California State Parks

New standards close beaches and raise concerns about lifeguard safety and closure policies.

Summer beach crowds got way more than they bargained for this year along Orange County's beaches. Bright yellow "beach closed" signs, hypodermic needles, and mysterious waterborne bacteria greeted disappointed visitors for much of the summer.

The beach closure struck just before the Fourth of July weekend at Huntington State Beach and lasted nearly three months. The closure eventually spread to much of the city's coastline while health department officials searched for the elusive source of bacteria. After an exhaustive and costly effort, officials are still puzzled by the high counts and are now pointing towards urban runoff as the primary suspect.

The worst part of the Huntington Beach closure is the sad fact that it is not likely to be the last. On a positive note, there has never been such massive local public awareness of the vital role clean water plays to our way of life. As pressure on the environment increases from exploding coastal development, the threat of sewage and contaminated urban runoff reaching our oceans, bays, lakes, and rivers increases proportionally.

While these closures erode the public's confidence to safely recreate in our waters, they also damage the treasured image of a healthy California Beach community. Perhaps most importantly though, they pose a real and serious health concern for the lifeguards and aquatic safety personnel responsible for managing them.

In order to safeguard it's employees and ensure public safety, *operational policy must send a clear message* that ALL water quality closures will be consistently and strictly enforced. This includes

adequate posting, press releases, public education, high visibility patrol, and, when necessary, citation and physical arrest to prevent water contact.

If these steps are not taken, lifeguards and other aquatic safety personnel may be exposed to health risks in the event that an aquatic rescue is required. In this case, an employer faces the possibility of increased liability exposure, while the employee may suffer lifelong medical problems.

As a result, the CSLSA is providing these guidelines for managers and administrators to consider.

- Penal Code section 409.5 provides the legal authority for lifeguards to enforce closures issued by the county health department.
- Where applicable, local ordinances should be updated to include health department issued water quality closures.

- Due to elevated and unhealthy levels of bacteria, fertilizers, road oils, animal waste and litter, employees should be cautioned not to have water contact near storm drains, and outlets of creeks and rivers during and after rain events.

- Employees engaged in flood or storm related aquatic rescue response should be issued approved protective equipment such as dry suits, etc.....

- Employees exposed to possibly contaminated water should immediately seek appropriate medical treatment and follow established reporting procedures.

- Additional information regarding water quality closures and beach advisories may be obtained by contacting local county health care agencies.



Huntington Beach Lifeguard Nick Spruil tapes off a section of beach closed during the summer of 1999 water contamination that affected a portion of City Beach and a large portion of Huntington State Beach for most of the summer season. Officials said the source of the contamination was attributed to storm drain runoff.

Buddy Belshe Honored for 50 years of Service

By Eric Bauer, Newport

Buddy began his lifeguarding career in the summer of 1950 with the City of Newport Beach, where he worked for 27 years as a permanent employee, retiring as Captain on October 29, 1987. Buddy did not leave lifeguarding at that point either. Because of his passion for lifeguarding and love of helping people, he still lifeguards in the field as a seasonal lifeguard for Newport Beach.

Buddy's accomplishments also include participation with and service on the board of the USLA (formerly the NSLSA) as Vice-President and Secretary during the early 60's. Buddy has also served on the board of the CSLSA and the NBOLA in various capacities. He attended the first World Lifeguard Congress in South Africa, and was instrumental in organizing the 2nd World Congress in Newport Beach. He has toured Ireland, Wales, England, and Australia as a representative of professional lifeguards and the USLA.

Buddy is also an avid lifeguard competitor. He has no equal as a lifeguard competitor, competing on a regional and national level and winning many National Titles. Buddy also is untouched in many non-lifeguard competitions as well.

My words here cannot completely describe the feats and accomplishments of Buddy Belshe, but I am glad that the City is taking this moment to honor Buddy for his contributions to lifeguarding and to the City of Newport Beach. Buddy continues today as one of the best, if not THE best lifeguard our department has. If Buddy is on duty, you can rest assured that the water is being watched diligently and he is ready and capable of responding to save another life.



Buddy Belshe, shown here with his mother after finishing the Annual Huntington Beach Pier Swim in September 1999, was recently honored by the City of Newport Beach for his 50 years of public service

President's Reportfrom page 2

Crum. I shared my dilemma with Dwight, and he did not hesitate in offering me what I needed. When asked if I could pay for it or at least sign it out, Crum replied, "Heck, you're a lifeguard just like us, go make rescues." For a long time, I had to hide the County RFD from my superiors, but thanks to Dwight, a lot of rescues were notched on that yellow aluminum can.

What Crum did by his response was to cross a philosophical difference between the City and County as to which RFD was the most effective in saving lives. This, however, never entered his mind. His goal was to make working conditions for the

guard in the tower the best that they could be. It was a lesson I carried with me for some thirty plus years in lifeguard management. There has been no one in our profession who has displayed more credibility or integrity in fulfilling his or her duties or advancing lifesaving than Dwight Crum. While he will be sorely missed, his legacy lives on in the minds and hearts of all who had the good fortune of knowing and working beside him.

Because of Dwight and others like him who have and continue to work diligently for the purposes and mission of USLA, our future as a viable worthwhile organization remains strong. Financially, we are fiscally sound and in the process of developing new ways and means to strengthen that position. The

2000 Nationals in San Diego, California, promises to be one the best. I look forward to working with the numerous national committees and hope to match their enthusiasm and commitment in achieving goals that may well affect millions of open water users.

And finally, for purposes of improving communication between the membership and this office, I am proposing an "Ask the President" segment on our website. This is currently being considered. In the meantime, should you find a need to communicate on any matter relating to the USLA, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at rohrer@bnet.org or by phone at [310-379-9162](tel:310-379-9162).

I wish you all a safe and productive summer.

Aloha, until our next issue.

PWC/Lifesled Emerges as Preferred Tool for Ocean & Rough Water Rescues

By Gary Fisher, Oceanside

Public Safety Agencies around the world embracing new system for saving lives

OCEANSIDE, Calif. - Lifeguards and public safety agencies around the world are embracing an innovative rescue system that already has saved hundreds of lives, and promises to save thousands more in extreme rough water situations such as ocean storms, heavy surf, rip currents, flooding rivers and other life threatening situations.

Born in the huge waves and treacherous currents of Hawaii, the system merges the speed and agility of personal watercraft (PWC) with an extraction device, or rescue sled, that is pulled behind the PWC, enabling rescuers to quickly extract victims from rough water and deliver them safely to shore or out of danger. Hawaiian lifeguards Brian Keaulana and Terry Ahue are credited with originating the system, initially conceived to improve rescue efforts on the North Shore of Oahu in Hawaii, where surfers and beachgoers regularly encounter some of the world's most powerful waves and currents.

After years of research and development, the PWC/sled system is becoming standard issue for rough water rescues the world over, in some cases surpassing widely used Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB) in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. The system was first conceived in 1989, when Keaulana and Ahue were operating a private water patrol company in Oahu, using surfboards and paddleboards for rescues. The two became interested in PWCs as rescue devices after seeing new sit-down model produced by Yamaha - the typical stand-up models popular at that time were considered unsatisfactory for rescues. However, even the sit-down version would not work on its own without a flotation device to carry victims to safety. "Without the sled, it is impossible to pick up somebody instantly," explains Ahue. "You've got to stop, grab the victim, then the victim has to climb up onto the PWC. If the victim is unconscious or exhausted, the PWC on its own doesn't work." Keaulana and Ahue hit upon the idea of a sled that could be secured to the PWC. With the help of fellow lifeguard Melvin Pu'u, they began modifying bodyboards and experimenting with different attachment methods. The biggest challenge was building a sled that could withstand the stress of being pulled behind a fast-moving PWC in rough water conditions, compounded by the weight of one or more

victims. Handles were another vital feature of the sled, allowing rescuers and victims to hang on while being pulled to safety.

In 1990, Keaulana and Ahue came across a unique bodyboard being used during surfing contests at Makaha organized by Brian Keaulana's father, Buffalo, considered Hawaii's most respected waterman. Manufactured by Gary Fisher of Oceanside, Ca.-based Wahoo International, also a sponsor of the contests, the boards were larger and stronger than the mass-produced bodyboards the lifeguards used in earlier experiments. "Gary was making boards for the big guys in Buffalo's contest, and we knew he could make sleds for us because it was the same concept and the materials were superior," Ahue says. "They were very durable but the wrong shape for our use, so we asked him to streamline them and install handles. He did some R&D, and we went through a trial and error process until the design was perfected. Over the years we've been using the Wahoo LifeSleds' because they are stronger and can withstand weather better than the other ones. From there, the whole concept just took off."

The new rescue system was not initially welcomed with open arms by the Honolulu City Council. As a recreational toy, personal watercraft were drawing increased criticism as noisy, polluting machines that detracted from the aesthetic beauty of the ocean. City officials were more interested in the inflatable rescue boats, the primary rescue vehicle used in Australia and other countries. It was in this atmosphere that Keaulana and Ahue organized a demonstration of the system for City Council members at Ehukai Beach, adjacent to the famous Pipeline surf break, during a large swell. The demonstration involved predetermined "victims," and lifeguards with swim fins and surfboards, IRBs, and the PWC/sled device as rescuers. "The lifeguards with surfboards took up to a half hour to rescue the victims," recalls Ahue. "Then we sent the IRBs out. They were better. Then we launched the PWCs and sleds, and we were able to bring the victims in within three minutes. They became convinced that the sled was the way to go, and began allocating money to help develop it." The lifeguards performed a similar

PWC/Lifesled ...from page 17

demonstration during an international lifesaving convention in New Zealand, a die-hard supporter of IRBs. Ahue reports that even old-school Australian lifeguards were impressed with the PWC/sled system.

The word spread, and Keaulana and Ahue were invited as far away as China and Taiwan to demonstrate their system's effectiveness compared to inflatable boats. Rescue agencies learned that PWCs require less time and effort than IRBs during beach launches. Once a victim is located, especially in relentless surf conditions, the PWC can maneuver quicker and easier between swells. With the LifeSled at water level, little or no lifting is required, in contrast to the inflatables.

To test the system in non-ocean conditions, Ahue launched into the swift waters of Waimea River.

"I'd see all these storms in California and the mainland, these big overflowing rivers where lifeguards would try to grab people stranded on cars and in trees. I would like to try it in those conditions. I rode it up and down the Waimea River when it was running strong, and it does work. I'm confident it will work in flood situations."

"From high surf to open water conditions, to lakes and rivers, the use of the PWC as a rescue boat has increased and been enhanced with the use of rescue boards," says Shawn Alladio, a veteran life saving expert who serves a variety of organizations including the California Department of Waterways, the Professional International Jet Sports Boating Association, and the International Surfing Association. "In some situations it's a matter of life and death. Timing the rescue down to a matter of seconds can be the difference, not only for the victim, but the rescuer as well. The rescue board adds a new element to offset previous limitations in rescue procedures, such as capsizing rescue vessels and the distress of victims that physical injury or fatigue created." Bob Davis of Connecticut-based MARSARS Water Rescue Systems Inc. believes rescue sleds such as the Wahoo LifeSled are superior to other extraction devices such as wire baskets in certain situations. Davis, who served in the Navy in Vietnam, says the method of fastening extraction devices to PWCs is also crucial in lifesaving situations. "The basket was a popular extraction device because it could be adapted to just about any type of personal watercraft through a single hookup point in the rear," says Davis. "But in my opinion that's a dangerous situation, because if your craft loses power, the basket is going to sink. With a sled rescue, if your craft fails for whatever reason, the victim is still

out of the water. That is one of the key benefits of the sled versus the basket rescue. Another problem with baskets is that they have a propensity to windmill, or flip over underway. With the Wahoo three-point hookup, that prevents the windmill effect from happening."

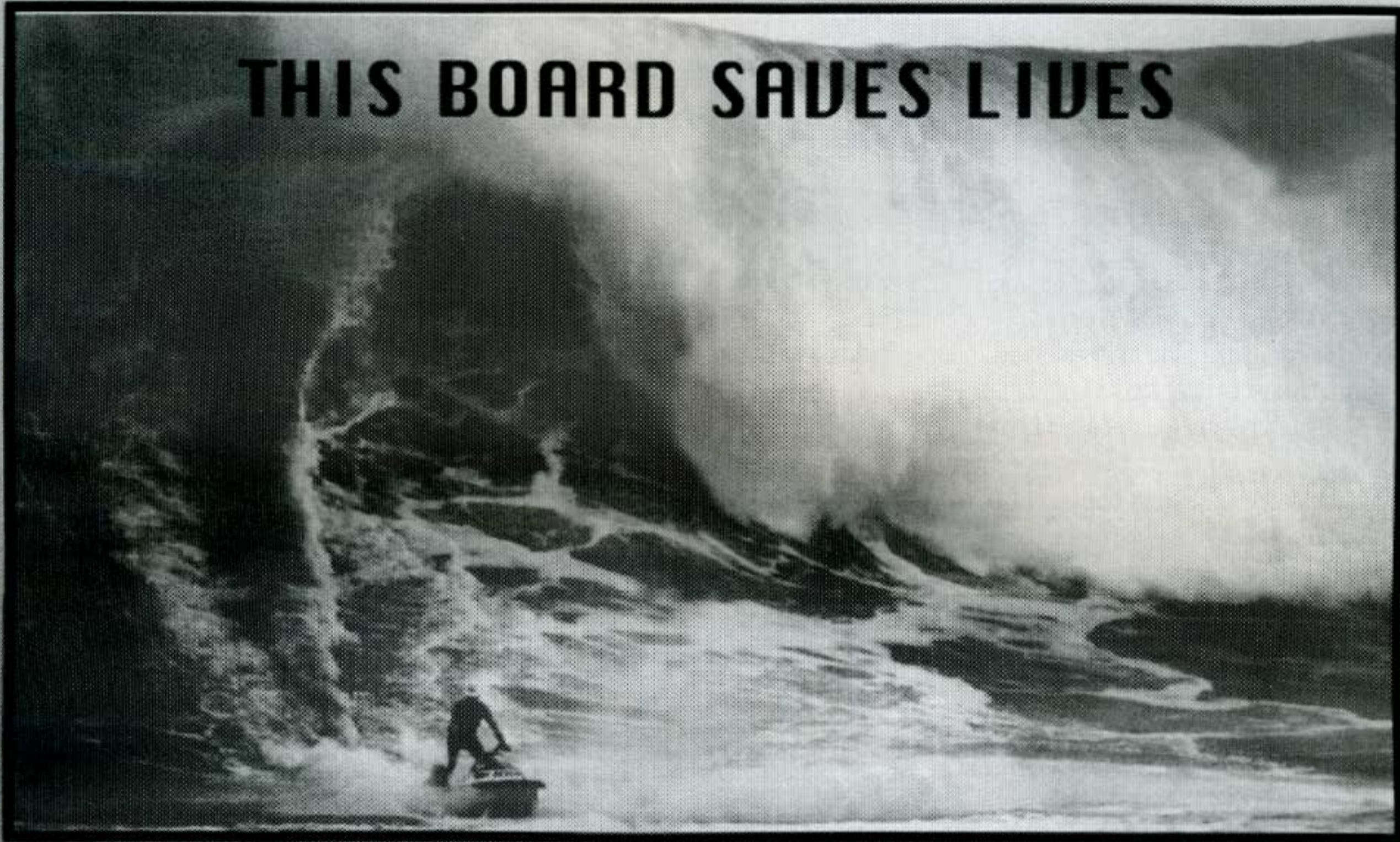
In addition to saving lives, the rescue system is now playing a vital role in the emergence of tow surfing, and was featured in the recently released IMAX film, "Extreme." Ken Bradshaw, co-director of the World Tow Surfing Association who is credited with mastering the biggest wave ever ridden by a surfer, is another strong advocate of the LifeSled. "The LifeSled turns a toy into a tool," says Bradshaw. "Otherwise the PWC is strictly a recreational vehicle. My opinion is that a PWC should never be taken out without a sled attached to it." Bradshaw and his girlfriend, women's professional surfing champion Layne Beachley of Australia, are among a growing number of surfers using PWCs and the LifeSled to launch into huge waves that otherwise could not be caught with human paddling strength alone. The system is also used to retrieve surfers after rides, and carry them to safety after wipeouts. Wahoo LifeSleds are the sled of choice for surfers and rescuers in such big wave venues as Todos Santos in Mexico, Mavericks in Central California, and for an upcoming competition held 100 miles off the California coast at Cortez Bank. At the 1999 Pipeline Masters in Hawaii, the LifeSled was used to rescue former world champion Derek Ho after he was knocked nearly unconscious by a bad wipeout.

"In tow surfing you may need to search for surfers being held underwater in an area larger than a football field," explains Bradshaw. "Once you see a head pop up, you have only a few seconds to respond before another wave comes. There's no way you could retrieve that surfer without the sled. You would have to wait for the waves to end, which could be too late." This year, the Association of Surfing Professionals will experiment at select locations with the PWC/sled system to ferry surfers back outside after completing rides, eliminating the time spent paddling back out. Eliminating this "down time" will make surfing contests more exciting, as well as improve the safety factor, Bradshaw and ASP officials contend.

Originally created for recreation, both personal watercraft and hard composite boards such as the Wahoo LifeSled have quickly evolved into vital lifesaving tools for lifeguards, fire and police departments, the Coast Guard, and other agencies committed to safety in ocean and swift water situations.

For more information on the Wahoo LifeSled and its application in rescue situations and tow surfing, contact Gary Fisher at Wahoo International, (760) 967-7873, or visit the web site: www.lifesled.com.

THIS BOARD SAVES LIVES



Westside O'ahu Lifeguard Brian Keaulana

+ **LIFESLED** +



North Shore O'ahu Lifeguards Terry Ahue & Melvin Pu'u



SPECIFICATIONS

- 62" X 36" X 4.5" (6.4 ft³ displacement) 33 lbs.
- Easily floats two adults.
- 3-point hook-up system allows tail pivot.
- Extremely durable composite construction.
- Non-invasive hook-up to most PWC's
- Bright, weatherable yellow / coast guard orange.
- Replaceable nose guard.
- Ten internally bonded handles (no hull protrusions).
- Tacky-when-wet deck & handles.
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51 – 50 !

Police code for suspects exhibiting unstable behavior due to substance abuse, psychological problems or both.

by Eric Sandy, Del Mar

"I'm gonna kill you" he threatened. "You guys are crazy, get off me or I'll kill you".

With expletives deleted, that's what the "51-50 suspect" was screaming. He was frantic, belligerent, violently thrashing. Even though he was only average size, it would take three officers to forcefully detain him, pinning him to the ground.

Soon, deputies from the Sheriff's Office (SO) arrived to transport the man to jail.

From the initial contact, this had been a strange case. A citizen near the beach had stopped an enforcement officer to report a car break-in. What was bizarre about the break-in was that the suspect was still bashing away at the rear hatch of the car when the owner returned. Even when confronted by the driver and two friends, the suspect refused to leave, claiming it was his car! He finally fled the scene although still raving defiantly.

A short time later, another "disturbing the peace" report gave the same physical description as the car break-in suspect. Again, when first contacted, the man had been unusually hostile, refusing to even stop to answer questions. As Lifeguard Chief Pat Vergne approached to ask for identification, the suspect began swearing and took off in full sprint. The chase was on. Howling about police brutality before anyone had touched him, the man scampered over fences and through yards. He broke garden gates, trampled through shrubbery and then tore down an alley on a stolen bike. Pursued by S.O. squad cars, lifeguard trucks and various personnel on foot, the suspect cavorted wildly for over 20 minutes. After running through a drainage ditch he scampered up onto the roof of a building and broke into an office. But by now, the suspect was surrounded. One of the City officers climbed over a flower trestle to corner the suspect, then flushed him down a flight of stairs to where the final struggle began.

No, this wasn't a TV re-enactment of some urban

cop show. This was the beach!

And, it wasn't a late-night scene from any big-city beach. This was Del Mar!

Mellow Del Mar, where the surf meets the turf, where the quiet village basks in the sun, where the beachfront real estate costs more than Malibu. And, this was on another slow Sunday in November, when the beach crowds are sparse.

The clear lesson? The growing problems of an ever more violent society are spreading to even the most peaceful enclaves, and we had better be ready!

But how does the City of Del Mar Community Services Department, whose primary concern is keeping the beach and ocean safe, prepare for 51-50's?

The same way they prepare for any other emergency. They build an organization based on employees who are multitalented, dedicated and willing to change.

They recruit and train people with wide ranging skills who develop a strong sense of teamwork and pride, who will do what it takes to get the job done.

Law enforcement at the beach is not new. Several years ago,

California State Lifeguards became "peace officers", wearing firearms with their swimming trunks.

In Del Mar as in San Diego, full-time staff have been "city officers" with law enforcement responsibilities for some time. What seems to have changed is the frequency and intensity of the law enforcement contacts as the surrounding population and the beach attendance has grown.

A recent article in LEQ, published by the San Diego County District Attorney's office, discussed the increased incidents of crime at the beach. "It may be a sign of the times that Penal Code section 241b, assaulting a law enforcement officer, was amended to include lifeguards".

Rick Gould, lifeguard/statistician for the United States Lifeguard Association has done an excellent job of compiling data from a broad spectrum of lifeguard

"Interagency exchanges can become a key element in combating beach crime by coordinating law enforcement efforts."

51 - 50 !

...from page 20

agencies across the country. His work shows national totals of over 618,000 law enforcement warnings, 6,219 citations and 866 arrests in 1998 alone. Have these numbers changed noticeably in the past five years? Comparing contacts per beach attendance, is there a trend towards more lifeguard involvement in law enforcement? Does City of Del Mar data show a similar statistical picture?

As of this writing, the numbers alone from Del Mar are inconclusive. In some cases, statistical categories have been adjusted, regrouped or re-named. This has made it more difficult to precisely track changes and trends. Additionally, Del Mar has contracted with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office (S.O.) for additional law enforcement patrols on the beach. Many contacts that previously were noted in the Lifeguard HQ log are now reported in S.O. logs. Regardless of who does the counting, there are definitely more incidents on the beach each year that require misdemeanor citation, detention or arrest. Several of these cases had the potential for escalated violence therefor requiring a call for S.O. back up. Even without precise numbers, it is obvious that crime at the beach in Del Mar is increasing.

Information exchanges with nearby agencies reflect similar situations. In fact, the same individual who had given Del Mar officers such a protracted chase was later arrested in San Diego. It seems he had been brandishing what looked like a revolver near the Mission Beach Lifeguard tower. During his arrest, this suspect again repeated his threat to "kill a lifeguard". He was later arrested again.

This time he was attempting to car-jack a vehicle with a knife. A few weeks later, California State lifeguard supervisors responded to a complaint at Torrey Pines Beach. The suspect fit the description of the 51-50 from Del Mar and San Diego arrests. In this case the charges were indecent sexual exposure. Given the similarity of the suspect's description, all officers used great caution, anticipating violence. Thankfully, the suspect was not the same person as the other incidents.

Following the incident in San Diego, their Lifeguard Service published a valuable information bulletin with a photo of the 51-50. This bulletin was distributed to other agencies and became the basis for important criminal data accumulation.

Frequently, criminals follow an identifiable pattern of behavior that includes choice of location. Inter-agency exchanges can become a key element in combating beach crime by coordinating law enforcement efforts. Not only do beach safety agencies need to continue to guard the beach and the water, they must now also watch their backs.

Where Are All the Old Enemies?

by Bob Burnside,
L.A. County

Where are the old enemies? Where are the people we loved, and loved to hate? The ones that rowed so hard or swam so fast and always got the wave 10 or 12 feet away while you floundered in the foam or the boat broached and you slid faster and faster away from the finish line. Where are the ones that stirred you like a Celtic warrior and made you braver and harder, and able to push thru the pain, the ones that made you better?

The sands of time are draining and ghosts of our collectives past don't inhabit patrol headquarters anymore. The oldest enemies have become welcome and everything has changed.

I saw Joe, that savvy reader of currents, direction and waves. An uncorrected scoliosis has sapped his strength and left him crippled and unable to swim or body surf any longer. It would be no fun to race him anymore. Hugh, the large and stoic bowman, always carefully doling out his understanding of rowing technique is now equally careful about his weight and blood pressure, but paradoxically is cheerier now that we are grayer. Dave the slim, funny junior guard who we helped grow up and used to be so much younger than us has weight problems that are out of control, and Richard the All-American swimmer has rheumatoid arthritis and can barely walk much less swim.

They still have races for those of us who are able to compete, but the field thins and many faces are unfamiliar. There is no burning intensity, we don't demonize competitors any more, and the adrenaline rush that accompanied the approach to any starting line has disappeared. The disappointments of any loss or perceived slights are all gone now as are the beautiful young things who waited on the beach to see us triumphant, consoling the pain of losses and supporting us you like Arthurian knights carried on his shield. They too have grown old and gray.

There is a fine, new young generation of racers and warriors surely as serious and probably far better than we were, but they are unfailingly polite to "greybacks" and cordially make way for the few who love to relive triumphs of long ago youth.

I am content to "race". Thank you USLA.

Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguards

By Dave Simcox, Program Coordinator, Huntington Beach

In 1964 the Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguard Program was founded under the direction of Lifeguard Chief Vince Moorhouse. The program started with only two instructors and 56 boys, ages 9-17 (girls were not allowed until 1973). Chief Moorhouse, an ex-Navy Seal, fashioned the junior lifeguard program to run more like a military "boot camp" than a summer recreational program. The boys were directed to clean and maintain the facilities, stand at attention during roll call and while receiving instructions, accomplish extraordinary physical feats, and disciplined with physical activity, usually push ups, for any misbehavior. It wasn't very long before it was learned that these strict methods of instruction were very positive instead of negative. The boys gained pride for themselves and for the program while depending on one another for teamwork. As each day passed, they became stronger and grew into confident lifeguards. Through the years, these strict teaching methods became the standard for the Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguard Program. Today with 24 instructors and just under 1000 participants, we have relaxed our teaching style, just a little, to allow for the 1990's attitudes and behaviors. However, many of the old traditions are still maintained by the instructors today.

In 1974, I was assigned as a junior lifeguard instructor. I had just finished four years of military service in the U.S. Navy and knew it would be a good fit into the semi-military type program. My first year I was assigned to the "C" Group, ages 9-11 years, the second year I was asked to take over the program coordinator position. I

was also applying for a California Teaching Credential so I would be available for the Summer Season. At this time the program was approaching approximately 250 participants both boys and girls with 5 instructors. The program grew slightly each year until the early 1980's. At this time the State of California had discontinued sum

and the impact the program has on our beaches, the support of our city has been essential in the success of the program.

4. GREAT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF. We have been fortunate to have many long term instructors, many of them professional teachers. Even the instructors who are not

"Any Beach City who does not support a junior lifeguard program is missing one of the best opportunities for public relations, for a lifeguard development program, for a top quality sports youth program, and for providing a top quality educational program that teaches discipline and appreciation for the ocean environment."

mer school and the Junior lifeguard program in Huntington Beach would experience a huge increase, it jumped from 350 to 650 participants in just one year. From this time on the programs popularity had taken off and it wasn't long before the program would reach 1000. I attribute the success of our junior guard program to 4 factors:

1. THE DISCIPLINE. It's magic, the kids really respond to the discipline. It makes our program easy to run, if everyone is doing it it's not so bad, it is one of the key elements concerning safety in our program, and our parents love it.

2. GREAT PLAYGROUND. Our beach and surrounding areas are our city's greatest resource and it's most popular recreational activity. All our junior guards learn how to appreciate it and how to take care of it.

3. CITY SUPPORT. The City of Huntington Beach has always realized that their junior guard program is special. Because of liability

professional teachers are involved in some way with education. Also all of our instructors are some of the best beach lifeguards to ever work for the City of Huntington Beach.

The junior lifeguard program in the City of Huntington Beach has produced at least 50% of our beach guards and countless others who have worked for many other beaches and many other pools. I feel that any person who participates in any junior guard program will be a better person because of that experience. Any Beach City who does not support a junior lifeguard program is missing one of the best opportunities for public relations, for a lifeguard development program, for a top quality sports youth program, and for providing a top quality educational program that teaches discipline and appreciation for the ocean environment.

Be sure to visit us on the web at www.juniorguard.com

Lifeguard Labor Pool Very Shallow

By Richard Wolf,
USA Today

USA TODAY

May 26, 2000

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A critical shortage of lifeguards threatens many of the nation's pools and beaches as they prepare for this weekend's traditional opening of the summer season.

Washington, D.C., is offering \$12 an hour in hopes of hiring the 180 lifeguards needed to staff about 20 outdoor pools. Unless it finds 55 more guards, the city might have to limit the number of swimmers at peak times.

Schlitterbahn Water Park in New Braunfels, Texas, needs about 100 more lifeguards to fill its 600-guard contingent. Until they're hired, the park will stagger operating hours of different attractions.

Massachusetts has hired fewer than half of the 427 guards it needs to cover state beaches and pools. Less-popular beaches might be unprotected this summer, and other facilities might have limited hours.

And in Cincinnati, aquatic coordinator Jincey Yemaya is hiring guards as young as they come — at age 15 — in order to open 46 municipal pools. If she's short-staffed, the city will have to adjust operating hours and shift guards from pool to pool. "This is the hardest year we're having," Yemaya says.

There once was a time when a lifeguard's job was a plum assignment: Sit in the sun, chat with your friends and earn spending money. But today, high school and college students often can earn more working at a grocery store or a fast-food restaurant. And their opportunities are increasing: Pools and beaches now must compete with Dell and Microsoft.

"If your choice is between a wonderful job as a lifeguard at the beach making \$7 an hour or \$20 an hour working for a dot-com company, the decision may be purely economic," says Chris Brewster, chairman of the United States Lifesaving Association's national certification committee.

The American Red Cross has been training about 190,000 lifeguards annually for the past three years. But that's not enough to keep up with growing demand. Now the agency is putting children as young as 11 through junior lifeguarding programs to get them ready to work at 15.

A private firm, Ellis & Associates, trains 43,000 guards each year, mostly for water parks and municipal pools. "It gets a little bit harder each year, because teenagers can make more money flipping

burgers than they can in a guard's chair," the firm's Nathan Oostman says. "Also, they don't have that added risk and liability of somebody drowning on their watch."

Today's lifeguards often have to be trained to use more complicated equipment such as a defibrillator, which corrects an irregular heartbeat.

Regardless of their heroics, they still can face legal action. "Lifeguards are getting hauled into court, even after they've saved a life," says Shawn DeRosa, waterfront program coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. "Combined with the pay scale, guards are saying it's not worth it."

While the supply of lifeguards shrinks, the demand for them grows. There has been an increase in the number of water parks over the past few years. About 1,000 water parks attracted 68 million customers last year, marking the seventh straight year of record attendance.

To combat the shortage of lifeguards, employers are raising pay, subsidizing training, advertising online and recruiting from as far away as Canada and Australia.

In the nation's capital, lifeguards can earn \$12-\$13 an hour and get reimbursed for Red Cross training. Officials in Austin, Texas, throw in uniforms, movie passes and parties and \$150 year-end bonuses. Unless thousands of lifeguards are hired during the next few weeks, pools could be forced to limit their hours and operations. Beaches could be posted with signs that read, "Swim at your own risk."

Some experts fear that, in an effort to stay open, pools and beaches might have near-drowning situations because the staff was not certified," says B.J. Fisher, director of the American Lifeguard Association.

The situation isn't dire everywhere. Some parts of the country, such as southern California and Florida, recruit lifeguards year-round and offer better pay.

California's famous surf beaches have fewer problems attracting lifeguards, partly because they pay up to \$20 an hour. The city of Los Angeles is ready to staff 55 pools, four lakes, camps and the beach with

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Flipped off!

By Eric Sandy, Del Mar

Was it the Kiwi Curse? Or was it the cruel finger of fate that flipped the boat? Surely, it wasn't just a coincidence. The two rescues had too much in common. After almost a year to the day, over the same rock reef, Del Mar Lifeguards were involved with another dramatic rescue involving their Inflatable Rescue Boat.

Last year it was "Balloon Down". Twelve passengers were rescued from the frigid surf when their hot air balloon went down in the ocean off Del Mar. One of the key characters in that rescue had

timer", LH has been with Del Mar seemingly since the last ice age or before the freeway, which ever came last. Versatile is Larry's middle name. He's a true renaissance lifeguard. LH is a licensed electrician, a handy plumber-carpenter-painter, a fine piano player, dancer and national-class masters swimmer.

Larry just happened to come by the HQ to see "what up". Well, the surf was up.

Monday, January 31 was the biggest day in Del Mar since El Nino stomped us.

through the gnarly shore-break with no problem. They had powered south easily staying away from the clean-up sets. The two surfers at 8th Street had been mercifully washed in so the boat was cleared to go north.

Even from the elevation of the HQ, there were moments when we couldn't see the IRB between the swells. Squawking excitedly on the boat's radio, LH was telling us about the huge 8' BACKS of the waves! We guessed he was just showing off his "Hawaiian Scale" wave knowledge. By the time the

"With that unmistakable nervous giggle, part excitement, part concern, Mark gave his assessment. "I think we're in trouble!"

been boat operator Mark Rathsam, fresh off the plane from his IRB training in New Zealand. This year, Mark was in the boat again, but this time it was other crewmembers who had just returned from Kiwi-land IRB training. And once again, the entire episode became a terrific learning experience, a training exercise far beyond the wild imagination of any instructor.

As before, the training lessons reminded us of the importance of staffing, communication, equipment, leadership and backup, backup backup.

Staffing for any small agency means cross trained versatile employees and keeping as many part-timers available as possible. One of the key players in this latest boat rescue was Larry Helland. "LH", also known as the "the nail" as in "tough as", is a veteran guard with years of big water experience. Although a "part

The huge westerly was pushing ten feet at dawn and just kept growing. As the tide dropped the dark humps were stacked to the horizon. Our line-of-sight indicators gave us guesstimates of twelve-foot faces but with nobody out, it was hard to be sure. By noon, the cloud breaks were going off. Big billowing peaks were feathering in spots that broke only every five years or so. One of these breaks was off the Del Mar Rivermouth, way outside over a deep rock reef.

The wave was shifty and especially unpredictable since we seldom saw it break.

So of course, it was here that Mark and Larry decided to take the IRB.

No, they weren't joy riding. Some brave souls had made it out at 8th Street, about a half-mile from the HQ, so Lifeguard Chief Pat Vergne had OK'd the IRB patrol.

Mark and LH popped out

boat got to the Rivermouth, about a mile north, we had to use our "big eye" monster binos to keep them in sight. Then the real fun began.

Way, way outside off Rivermouth, two surfers had somehow made it out into what they thought was the lineup. In these conditions, anybody in the water is a potential rescue regardless of skill level. So, Mark and Larry thought this would be a great opportunity to make sure these surfers were ok. Powering through some monster sets, the IRB made it to the outside area past where the biggest waves had been breaking. The two surfers were tentative but alert. They assured our crew that they were well outside the surf zone. Famous last words...

From HQ we could see a mega-set beginning to show well north and outside of where the IRB was idling. Mark and LH also saw the set and began to rev the engine

getting ready to head for the deeper water. The engine sputtered and coughed. With the big blue mountain of water bearing down on them, Mark decided to head at an angle for the shoulder instead of risking a reverse pitch under the vertical lip. They made it half way up the shoulder. Then, as the wave's wind started to push under their bow, the boat hurtled over the top of the lip.

Airborne, spiraling, doing a fine imitation of a Dolphin's kick-out, the boat spun over the back of the wave and landed keel up. Now things would get dicey.

Mark and Larry surfaced quickly and got the boat righted. Mark even managed a few frantic pulls on the starter cord but to no avail. It was then that the rest of us knew that we'd be in on the action. With that unmistakable nervous giggle, part excitement, part concern, Mark gave his assessment. "I think we're in trouble!"

His understatement of the year was a blithe reference to that inevitable next wave, always bigger than the one you just made it over. We could see this masher starting to tumble a hundred yards outside of the boat. By now, our guys needed no prompts. They had put on their fins, firmly strapped on the radio and were relaxing away from the boat, waiting for the inevitable thrashing.

Meanwhile, back at HQ, the backup plans were already in gear. Loud and clear "10-2" communication was vital. The communication lessons from this incident involved equipment and staffing. One pleasant surprise with our equipment was how well the portable radio worked in the water, even after the severe dunking. The plastic bag type radio case proved to be a winner.

Effective staffing revolves around an alert dispatcher and on this day, it was a crusty veteran of 27 years service, Jim Lischer, "on the comm.". Jim had the boat locked in on the big eyes and it was

his excited exclamation, "they flipped", that got the rest of us moving. Also a boat operator, Jim alerted Enrique Montoya to prep the second IRB for a possible rescue mission. Enrique, like Rathsom last year, had just gotten off the plane from New Zealand and was rarin' for action.

Having a second boat is essential. Just as lifeguards work best in pairs, so it seems do IRBs. A situation as heavy as this one, way outside in huge surf, demands another IRB, a helicopter or maybe a hot-air balloon? Stored in the boat shed at 20th Street Lifeguard sub-station, the second IRB could be in the water in less than ten minutes. In that same time frame, any other backup efforts, even by the strongest paddlers or swimmers, would still be getting pounded in the surf line. As it turned out, the second boat wasn't needed. But, it was a great lesson to know how quickly we could respond when

called for.

Further backup was responding from all over Del Mar. Lifeguard Chief Vergne, this time with a wetsuit, was ready to either man the second boat or take the comm. at HQ. Former lifeguard and iron-armed paddler Mike Emerson was responding from his coat-and-tie job at City Hall. Other guards staffing the nearby Community Center were sprinting to the HQ, hoping to get into the action.

The loud and clear communication that the boat crew needed help had set into motion the response from all available hands.

The obvious examples of leadership came from the usual suspects including Pat and Jim. Having been in similar situations with the IRB, Mark was now a young "seasoned vet". His crewman LH has always been the type to speak softly but get the job done, especially when things get tough. Fresh from their Kiwi training, Enrique, Andy Buser, Kurt Lager and Tyler Grant were almost disappointed that their new skills were not needed in the backup boat. They were clearly the newly emerging leaders.

Other lessons? Oh yea, Mark and Larry can swim in through the gnarliest shore break even when it's sucking up, top-to-bottom-pitching. They both made a few trips down with the rinse cycle, bouncing off the reef and getting rag-doll rolled.

Mark managed to not only hang on to the boat radio but even broadcast some garbled updates about their progress.

Also noted; those IRBs are self-rescuers! Bobbing and weaving like some

punch-drunk boxer, that boat wallowed all the way in to the beach by itself.

And, following some WD40 resuscitation, the motor even started!

USLA's Top Ten Safety Tips

- 1. Swim Near a Lifeguard**
- 2. Learn To Swim**
- 3. Never Swim Alone**
- 4. Don't Fight the Current**
- 5. Swim Sober**
- 6. Leash Your Board**
- 7. Don't Float Where You Can't Swim**
- 8. Life Jackets = Boating Safety**
- 9. Don't Dive Headfirst, Protect Your Neck**
- 10. At Home, You're The Lifeguard**

Heroic Acts

by Steve Long,
California State Parks

The following awards were approved at the fall USLA meeting and forwarded to their respective regions for presentation:

Meritorious Act Awards for Angela Long and Wendy Hawkins, surfers who responded to assist Mr. Carl May, who had suffered a cerebral aneurysm while surfing at San Onofre State Beach, California, September 17, 1999. Their quick action in assisting the unconscious victim prevented a possible drowning.

Heroic Act Award for Josh Peterson, who recovered the unconscious body of 14-year old Kenneth Tuck from a rip current at Oceano Dunes, near Pismo Beach, on April 20, 1999. Mr. Peterson struggled to keep the boy afloat through significant surf conditions and was seriously exhausted after the rescue. The young victim was successfully resuscitated on the beach and made a full recovery.

National Lifesaving Award for Steve Miller, an off-duty San Francisco Firefighter, for the rescue of two exhausted swimmers at Ocean Beach, CA, on August 22, 1999.

National Lifesaving Award to Frank Hsiedh, an off duty San Francisco Firefighter, for the rescue of two exhausted swimmers and one unconscious swimmer at Ocean Beach, CA on September 2, 1998.

Meritorious Act Award to Jack Meyer, Mike Brown, Larry Schmidt (non lifeguards/surfers) for quick response and rescue of two boaters who were thrown from their capsized boat in surf at Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey, on September 22, 1999.

National Lifesaving Award, Team Commendation to nineteen members of Leone Beach, Chicago, Lifeguard Station for multiple rescues in extreme conditions on Sherwin Beach, Chicago, on August 1, 1999.

The Committee has received additional information regarding the Manasquan Inlet rescue and will consider National Lifesaving Awards for Tom & Eric Bateman and Chris Barnickel, off-duty lifeguards who provided an after hours response to this rescue.

Not Just Another Day at the Office....

by Mike Bartlett,
Huntington Beach

On Saturday, July 10, 1999, at approximately 1230 hours, 16 lifeguards responded to the scene of a mass rescue between Towers #9 and #11. Nearly 20 swimmers and 10 body boarders were rescued in a huge flash rip current in which 13 of the 16 lifeguards were in the water assisting victims during various phases of the mass rescue.

The massive rip current formed after a set of 4-6 foot waves rolled ashore and combined with the near peak of the low tide. Multiple swimmers and body boarders in several different groups were pulled 100-200 yards offshore. The rip current was so powerful that two rescue vessels on scene were rotating in the current despite the operator's efforts to keep the bows of the boats pointing out to sea. Some of the guards were able to pull the victims out of the rip with the side current, while others simply gathered the victims together and rode the current out to the boats. Parents on the beach were yelling for help as they watched their children being pulled offshore. All of the victims were rescued and escorted safely to shore.

Responding to the Code III call were two rescue vessels, four lifeguard vehicles, Towers #7 through #134, a relief guard,,, HQ Unit personnel and the communications dispatcher. Tower Zero personnel said that the mass rescue was the largest rip current they have ever seen with that many victims.



California State Lifeguards perform surf rescue.

Club Tortuga Officials Sign Agreement to Implement Permanent Lifeguards in Oaxaca, Mexico

By Bob Burnside,
LA County

On Nov. 11, 1999, Mexican government representatives from the State of Oaxaca, along with the U.S. Consulate and the USLA "Club Tortuga", signed a historical agreement creating Mexico's first government subsidized Permanent Lifeguard Corp. The Statewide Water Safety Master Plan, submitted to the Oaxacan Government in 1996, has now been adopted by the newly elected governor and will be implemented immediately!

The Club Tortuga President, Matt Karl of Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division, signed the formal "letter of intent" with the Director of Civil Protection of Oaxaca, Senor Hector Gonzales. The signing formalizes the enactment of the agreement.

"We finally got the gold ring!" said Bob Burnside, LA County Chief Lifeguard (ret.) and Club Tortuga Founding Father. "It's been a long time on the merry-go-round but it was well worth the ride."

Club Tortuga Liaisons Chief Jim Holland and Joaquin Venado will coordinate with the state government to quickly implement the agreement.

In other Mexican lifesaving developments, Acapulco lifeguard volunteers received a week of lifeguard training from California State Lifeguards Gus Avila, Al Pepito and Al Fimlaid all from Huntington State Beach. Some 80 Mexican lifeguards were trained by the American team of volunteers. Equipment, training and lifesaving manuals (Tortuga Spanish Lifeguard Manual) will greatly assist in the development of professional standards in Mexico. A



Meeting with Oaxaca State Government to implement a Water Safety Program & full-time lifeguards are, from left to right, Joaquin Venada (US/Mexican Liaison), Manuel Maza (Chief of Oaxaca Fire Dept., Bob Burnside (Ret. Chief Lifeguard, L.A. County), Senora Murat (Wife of Governor of the State of Oaxaca), Mark Leyes (U.S. Consulate - Oaxaca), Matt Karl (President "Club Tortuga"), Hector Gonzalez (Director of Civil Protection).

true Mexican National Lifeguard Association is forming now with a foothold in Mazatlan, Cancun, Acapulco, Puerto Escondido, and Ensenada as the key areas.

The Club Tortuga American Lifeguards are taking the message "Lifeguards for Life!" and "brothers together for safer beaches" across the borders to prevent drownings.

Should you wish to be part of this important journey, contact Matt Karl, Club Tortuga President at 714-536-5281, and congratulations to all who have kept the mission of water safety for all people moving forward.

Regional News

Mid-Atlantic Region by Tim Gallagher

It was a mild winter season in the Mid-Atlantic Region, but still a very busy one for the USLA. Our membership for 1999 was 995 members, one of our largest membership totals in many years. Once again, our Region will be supplementing the national kit with either a T-shirt or a bag. Our Junior Lifeguard membership is also on the rise and we expect an increase again this year.

Our public education team under the direction of Tom Daly has been hard at work. We just ordered another 5000 coloring books for distribution this spring. The rip-current posters supplied by the national were a big hit - so much so that we are in need of more. The region also purchased laminated "Water Safety Tips" cards this year for distribution to junior lifeguards and elementary students.

Dave Shotwell has been hard at work with the certification committee. Our "riff" with the South Jersey Chiefs Association seems to be lessening and hopefully progress will be made in this area. New applications continue to come in for national certification and many agencies are recertifying. All agencies in New Jersey are up for renewal of their State certification, and Dave has recruited Tim Harmon of the Sea Girt Beach Patrol to help him in assuming some of the responsibilities in that area.

Our competition schedule for the summer has been set. Our non-craft events will take place in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, while the craft events will be held in Belmar, N.J. Our regional junior lifeguard competition, traditionally held in Avon-by-the-sea, has been moved to Wildwood, N.J. on a one-year experimental basis. Morey's Pier has graciously agreed to fund the entire cost of the competition, thereby enabling the region to reduce the registration fee, while at the same time receive increased revenues from the competition.

Federal beach replenishment projects have been taking place in our region for the past three years. The increase in sand and the changing of the bottom of the swim areas has caused an increase in rescues due to ripcurrents. Also, the "notching" of our jetties or grounds has increased problems for our lifeguards. After hour response teams are also on the rise in our region, with many of these teams being credited with many rescues.

In December we held our elections and the following people were elected for the next two years:

President - Tim Gallagher, Vice-President - Tom Daly, Secretary - Ed Zubrowski, Treasurer - Greg Farry, Recurrent Representative - Buzz Mogck, Advisor - Charlie Hartl.

South Atlantic Region by Mike Hensler

The South Atlantic Region has had a good winter season. We have had a recent election, and the following are the results: President - Mike Hensler, Vice-President - Tom Gill, Treasurer - Mickey Hutto, Secretary - Mikki Bowie, and Advisor - Paul Pivec. I am happy to say that we have a good membership kit for the region to , hopefully, boost our membership. It will consist of a T-shirt, sunscreen, and a bag in addition to the national mail out kit that we can expect to following with registration by the national membership committee.

Our region continues to operate harmoniously among the members, and we expect a big summer season. Our regional and junior competition will be held in Daytona Beach, hosted by Volusia County.

Volusia County is now slated to host the International Lifeguard Competition in 2002. We expect to have a large event, which will also include a safety symposium of an undetermined duration as of this writing. Additionally, we would like to see the National USLA meeting scheduled for the same time frame to allow a greater national participation and the availability of more help for us to utilize in running the competition.

Northwest Region by Cathy Wiederhold

Summer is in full swing. Some of our beaches opened on or before Memorial Day and some in mid-June. Recruiting has continued to be a challenge in most parts of the Region this summer. Again Junior Lifeguard Programs and Lifeguard Academies continue to be an integral part of each agencies success in staffing the beaches each summer.

East Bay Regional Parks continues to be the leader in the Northwest Region in Junior Lifeguards. This year they are expecting approximately 350 young people to join their ranks. Last year 271 Junior Lifeguards took part in their program. That was up from 183 in 1999. Congratulations East Bay for your super successful program.

The Northwest Region will be hosting it's annual USLA Regional Lifeguard Competition on July 19 at Yorty Creek, Lake Sonoma, California.

Membership continues to be our major initiative here in the Northwest. If you or your agency is interested in more information about USLA in the Northwest, please contact one of the Regional Officers:

President, Cathy Wiederhold, 425-488-2589
Vice President, Sabrina Spear, 707-565-3341
Treasurer, Jim McCray, 707-528-4718
Secretary, Paul Fordyce, 510-482-6031

Be sure to visit the official USLA website and the Northwest Region at USLA.Org.

Southeast Region by Clint Tracy

Since the November 1999 Southeast Regional elections, the SER has entered into a new phase of leadership. The new SER Executive Board hopes to invigorate our region with new blood, and we are looking forward to hosting the 2001 National Championships.

The first competition of the 2000 SER USLA Sprint Series in Delray Beach attracted many new faces. Teams from Brevard County, Clearwater Beach, and Pinellas County journeyed from far to attend. The 14th annual competition provided good practice for San Diego with larger than usual surf. Seas were 4'-6' swells with heavy NNE winds to complicate matters.

The Regional Council is excited about its new members and Chapters joining the SER. Manatee County Marine Rescue has 16 new members and Panama City Beach's Beach watch Chapter was initiated in March. The Brevard County Chapter has made projections of having as many as 80 new members this year. This amount of new members would easily surpass the 26 SER members needed to gain another National Board Director.

The site is still undetermined for the July 15th, 2000 SER Junior Lifeguard Championship. However, the City of Hollywood will host the July 21 & 22nd 2000 Fosters Regional Championship and it should be a good trial run for possibly hosting the 2001 national Championships. The Regional Council has approved paying for one room per Chapter at Hollywood's race site. This benefit is for Chapters traveling from outside of Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties, and will be for the nights of the 20th and 21st. The SER is looking to working with Fosters on a promotional/fund-raising night in addition to the Regional Championship.

Special Recognition goes to SER Secretary Kenneth Thompson for his development of the EMS Basic Life Support Lifesaving competition series. This series helps demonstrate that Open Water Lifeguards are a vital link in the EMS chain of survival. The SER hopes that EMS competitions will spread to other USLA Regions, and eventually becomes a USLA Nationally sanctioned competition.

Finally, special thanks to co-committee chairs Chief Jim Shoemaker and Lt. Joe Taylor of the City of Hollywood's Fire-Rescue Beach Safety. These gentlemen planned and executed the Spring 2000 National Meeting from start to finish.

Great Lakes by Joe Pecoraro

There have been some major changes in the Great Lakes Region, especially at the Chicago Park District. Joe Pecoraro, Kirk Kleist and Charles Hines, the three senior members of the Beach & Pool Unit retired. This leaves a void of over 120 years of experience in the Unit. A temporary acting manager has been appointed, but a selection process for the permanent head is still in progress.

We have no idea how this will affect membership in the Chapter, but many of the veteran members of the USLA have vowed to recruit membership even if there is no Chicago Park District help. The Great Lakes water level is at an all time low, which means there can be problems along the revetments. Jumping and diving accidents present an ever-present problem and the challenge to educate the public will be great.

As with everyone in the country, lifeguard recruitment will be a big challenge in the growing economy. It is our swimming and junior lifeguard program that will in the end be the source of our well-trained lifeguards. As usual, Chicago will respond to the challenge of a hot upcoming summer.

Southwest Region by Steve Long

The Southwest Region Executive Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis to conduct the business of the Region. The CSLSA was successful in writing a grant proposal for \$3000 to provide for an overhaul and update of our region's website. Look for the improved site to be back in service at CSLSA.org this summer..

Our Regional Lifeguard Championships will be held July 19th and 20th at Imperial Beach, Ca. This is a new venue and we all look forward to visiting the new lifeguard facilities on this beach this summer.

Our region produced a quality embroidered baseball cap to include in our local membership kits. A

Letters to the Editorfrom page 3

congratulations go to you. Not only for being a part of the weekend, but for pushing the level of competition to an all-time high. Take a look at the final figures; never have there been so many different winners and the teams represented in the results more widespread. The winners and the rest of the field have raised the standard.

For that reason, I can only hope the Clash of the Coasts continues, because the heightened competitiveness has heightened awareness of your abilities, and subsequently your jobs as lifeguards. And... isn't that the ultimate goal?

Who'll make it in the Millennium?

Sincerely,

Craig B. Hummer, L.A. County

Dear Editor,

Back in 1990, a friend and myself were walking the beach in Jersey in the middle of January. The water was in the 40's. We were both experienced ocean guards and traveled surfers. What we witnessed was something neither of us had seen before. A low flying plane caught a platoon in the surf about 200 yards from the beach. We looked at each other with that, "Oh shit" look on our faces - the look every experienced ocean guard knows. We peeled our coats and boots off and jumped in.

We got to the plane and it was submerged upside down with the pilot still harnessed in. The copilot was banged up pretty good and feared the thought of jumping in the water. My friend went for the pilot and succeeded in removing him, then we both worked on reviving him.

We spent ten minutes prepping for the swim in. Neither of them know how to swim; this compounded by their fear increased the challenged we faced. Our body core temperature was dropping. We managed to trick them towards the edge of the plane and strong holded them into the water. It was the largest battle of my life. We had no torps. We almost had to drown them to save them. We got to the beach as authorities began arriving. We received proclamations and many awards, and still to this day don't know how we survived the water temperature for close to twenty minutes.

Bobby Howell, New Jersey Rescue

Regional Newsfrom page 29

refrigerator magnet with our logo and an aquatic safety message was distributed to our member chapters.

Thank you to Chris Brewster and the City of San Diego for the tremendous effort and support they have generated to ensure an outstanding event for our lifeguard competitors, friends and spectators. Watch for Chris on special segments of MTV's summer programming.

A significant number of Southern California Lifeguard agencies have been linking with the local community colleges to receive college accreditation for their lifeguard academies. Our region has established a Training Officer's Committee who are creating a standardized lifeguard academy curriculum. Information on the committee's efforts will be shared at the Fall 2000 National Meeting, which will be hosted by the City of Newport Beach.

The Southwest Region wishes lifeguards throughout the nation a safe and productive summer. We look forward to seeing you in San Diego and Newport.

Lifeguard Shortagefrom page 23

600 -700 lifeguards.

Atlantic City thrives on its reputation as home of the oldest paid beach patrol in the USA (109 years). For \$80 a day and up, it attracts teachers, firefighters and even a doctor and a dentist this year.

But more typical of the nation is Austin. Last year, the city used the cast of TV's Baywatch to help promote hiring lifeguards. This year, still 300 guards short of its 700-guard workforce, it faces a choice: Use the pools less or work the guards more. "It's killing us this year," aquatic manager Farhad Madani says.

One expert has taken matters into his own hands. At Penn State University, director of aquatics Tom Griffiths trains financially needy students as lifeguards and offers his own certification.

Former President of World Life Saving will be Honored at Dedication

By Mike Bartlett, Huntington Beach

Max Bowman, President of World Life Saving from 1988 through 1993, will be honored in commemoration for his 46 years of public service and lifesaving education at the Huntington Beach Lifeguard Tower Zero Dedication Ceremony this summer. The Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30, 2000, at 11am on the Huntington Beach Pier in front of the brand new, state-of-the-art Lifeguard Tower Zero.

Max began his career as an ocean lifeguard with the City of Huntington Beach in 1954. He advanced through the ranks of Lifeguard Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Director, Deputy Director, and subsequently in 1984, to Director of the Community Services Department. Retired in 1990 with 36 years of public service, Max forged a legacy of accomplishments as a lifeguard, director, and as an ambassador to world lifesaving.

Transforming the beach patrol into a year-round, professional marine safety operation, Max helped refine the Perimeter Defense System designed to safeguard the public through preventative actions. Max was instrumental in acquiring 2½ miles of beach area to the control of city government and represented the city as a keynote speaker at numerous professional forums. Advocating the Junior Lifeguard Program designed to educate our youth and recruit future ocean lifeguards, Max also headed many international lifesaving educational tours.

A Charter Member in the local, regional, national, and World Life Saving Associations, Max served all as an Executive Member from 1964-1995. Mirroring his career with the city, Max advanced through the organization's officer positions and culminated his career as President of World Life Saving, 1988-1993. For his dedicated term, he was recognized as an Honorary Life Member in all four organizations. Conferred in 1994 a Grand Knight in the Order of Life

Saving by the International Life Saving Federation, Max is well known in lifesaving circles around the globe from England to Australia as an "ambassador to world lifesaving." His leadership significantly shaped a profession that is respected for its heroism and commitment to public safety.

This dedication is significantly symbolic in that Max was instrumental in physically designing and building the original Tower Zero structure in 1963. Max along with city staff raised Tower Zero on the pier to stand as the focal point for ocean rescues for almost 40 years! For these historical reasons and for his extraordinary commitment to the advancement of the profession as an "ambassador to world lifesaving," may this dedication constitute a fitting and respectful tribute to a most deserving champion of public safety.

The Dedication Ceremony will include distinguished speakers United States Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, State Assemblyman Scott Baugh, USLA President Don Rohrer, and several local leaders. More importantly, Mr. Bowman will be honored with an unveiling of a solid bronze, 28" x 38" plaque commemorating Max for his life-long dedication to public service and lifesaving education. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend the Dedication Ceremony on August 30, please contact Mike Bartlett at (714) 960-8880 x6014.



The "old" Tower Zero stood as a focal point for ocean rescues for almost 40 years. Photo circa 1963.

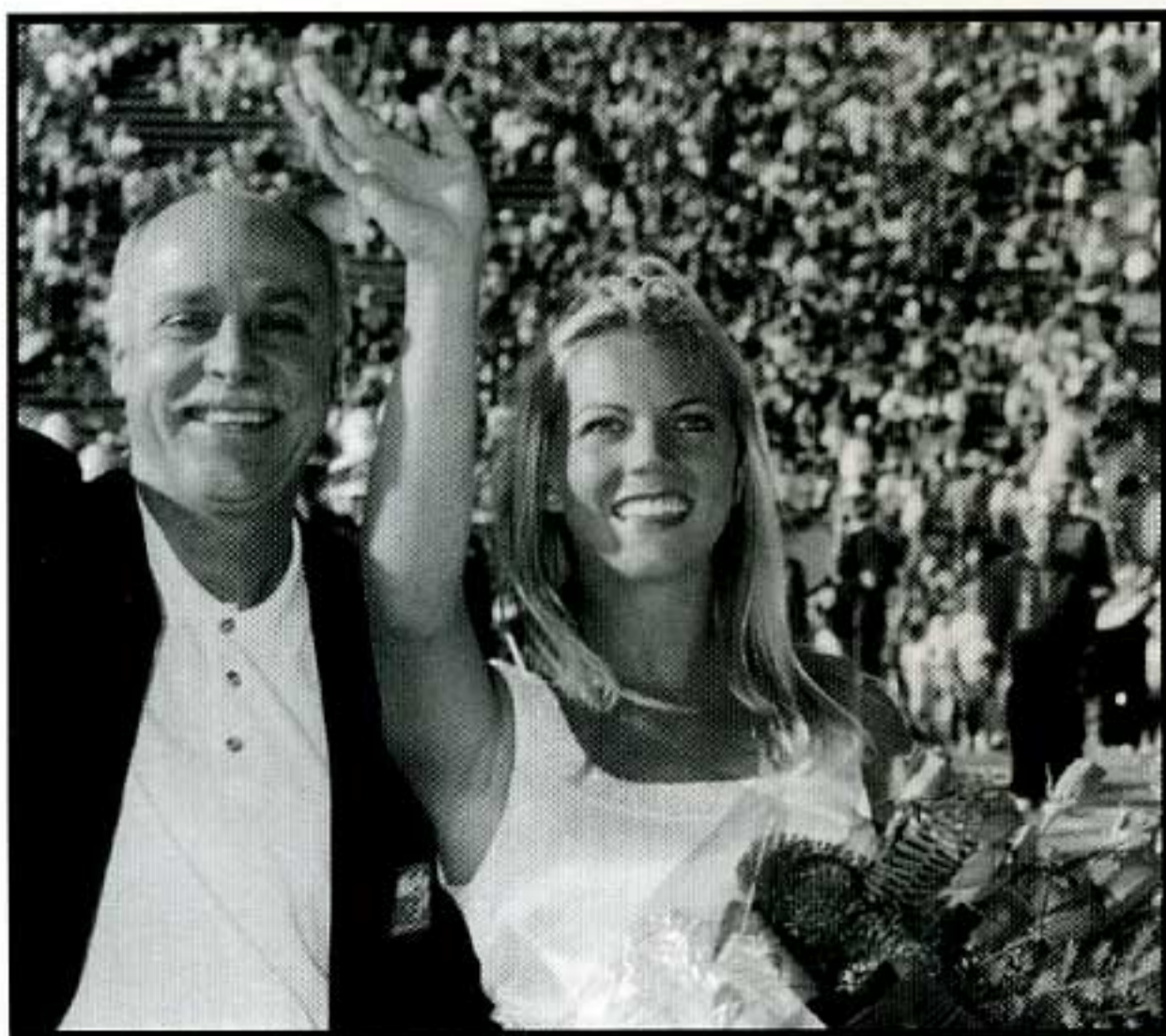
News Briefs

Monmouth County NJ Chapter Lifeguard Gets Crowned Homecoming Queen at Clemson University

Kristy Johnson of Bradley Beach, NJ was crowned Homecoming Queen at Clemson University last fall, the first Queen who was not affiliated with the Greek sorority system at Clemson. After competing for the title with 20 other girls, Kristy was chosen by the student body to represent them at their homecoming game on October 2 against North Carolina. Clemson won 21-20!

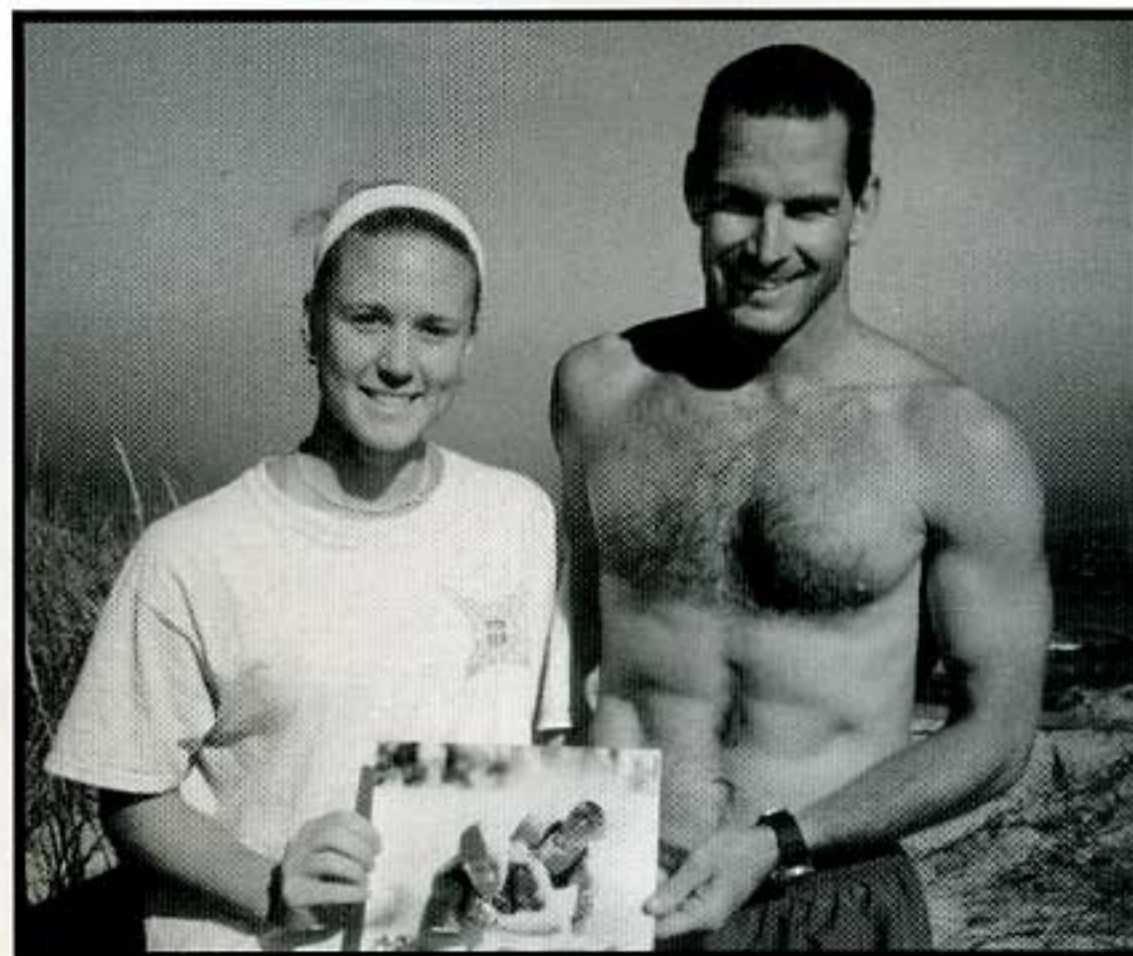
Kristy is a senior finance major at Clemson, where she competes on the Water Ski Team, placing seventh at the National Competition held in Sacramento, California, but First Place in the Southern Atlantic Conference (SAC). She competes in three events for the team: "slalom, trick, and jump." She also enjoys rowing, wakeboarding, running and mountain biking. During her summers, however, she guards, along with her two brothers, in Bradley Beach, N.J., where her father, Dick, a veteran guard of 25 years, is the beach and lifeguard supervisor.

Having guarded for 7 years, Kristy is now a Beach Captain as well as the Director of Bradley's Junior Guard program. She competes for her beach patrol in the local lifeguard tournaments as well as in the USLA Mid-Atlantic Regionals. Last summer she competed for the first time in the USLA Nationals in Cape May, N.J. representing Monmouth County in women's surfboat, beach flags, sun-swim-run and beach run. She is now looking forward to another summer on the beach, along with competing for both her beach patrol and for the Chapter. This may be her last hurrah, however, since she will graduate in December. There is interest in graduate school, though!



The New England Region Awards Competitor

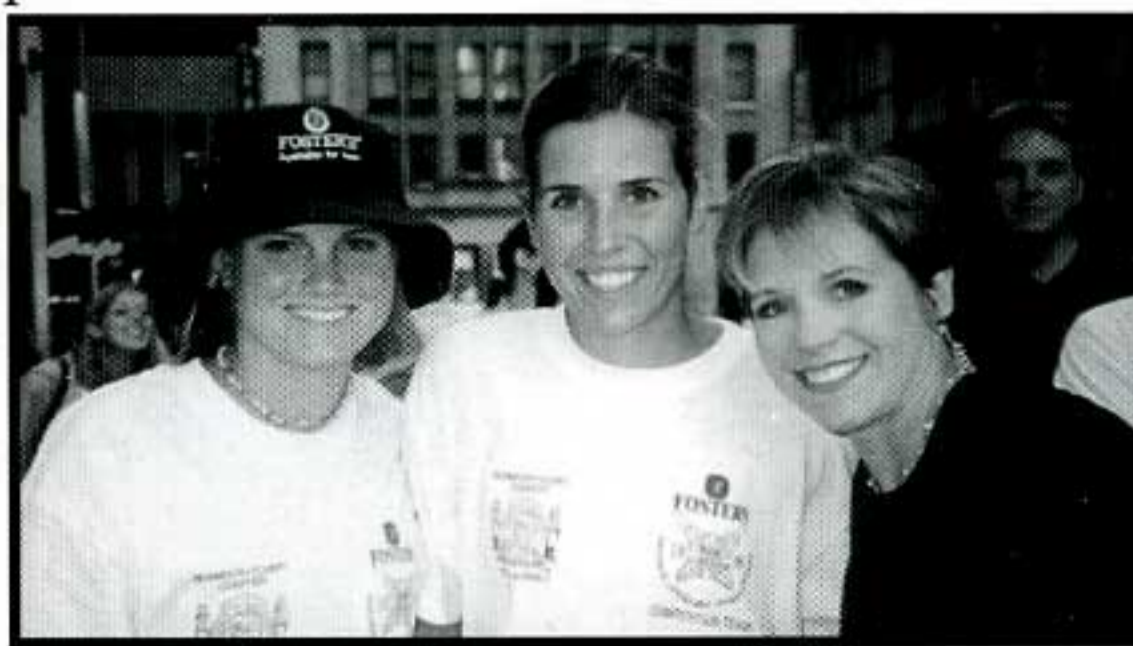
The New England Region had nine competitors competing last summer at the USLA Nationals in Cape May, organized by Katie McCully of Eastham, Mass. Emily Estes, pictured below, was awarded a picture depicting the final run of the woman's beach flag event in which Emily took second place. Emily, however, won the women's open beach run. She is a junior at Yale University and is one of their top runners in winter and spring track. Hopefully, more competitors from the Cape will participate in future USLA Nationals. Katie has been a top competitor at the Nationals and in Chicago.



Emily Estes of Wallfleet Beach, Cape Cod, MA with the picture presented to her by her boss and fellow competitor Jody Craven.

Monmouth County Lifeguard Visit NBC-TV

Upon an invitation by NBC-TV and the Today Show with Katie Couric, the below picture was taken outside their studios at Rockefeller Center, NYC, last August 9th just after the USLA Nationals in Cape May, NJ. Pictured with Katie are (L-R) Maggie Hogan and Holly Noonan, both lifeguards at the "Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area" (NY/NJ), who competed for the Monmouth County Chapter of the USLA at Nationals.





Hollywood, FL lifeguards perform Rescue Demonstration as part of the USLA Educational Conference at the Spring National meeting hosted by the Southeast Region on May 4 - 6, 2000.

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