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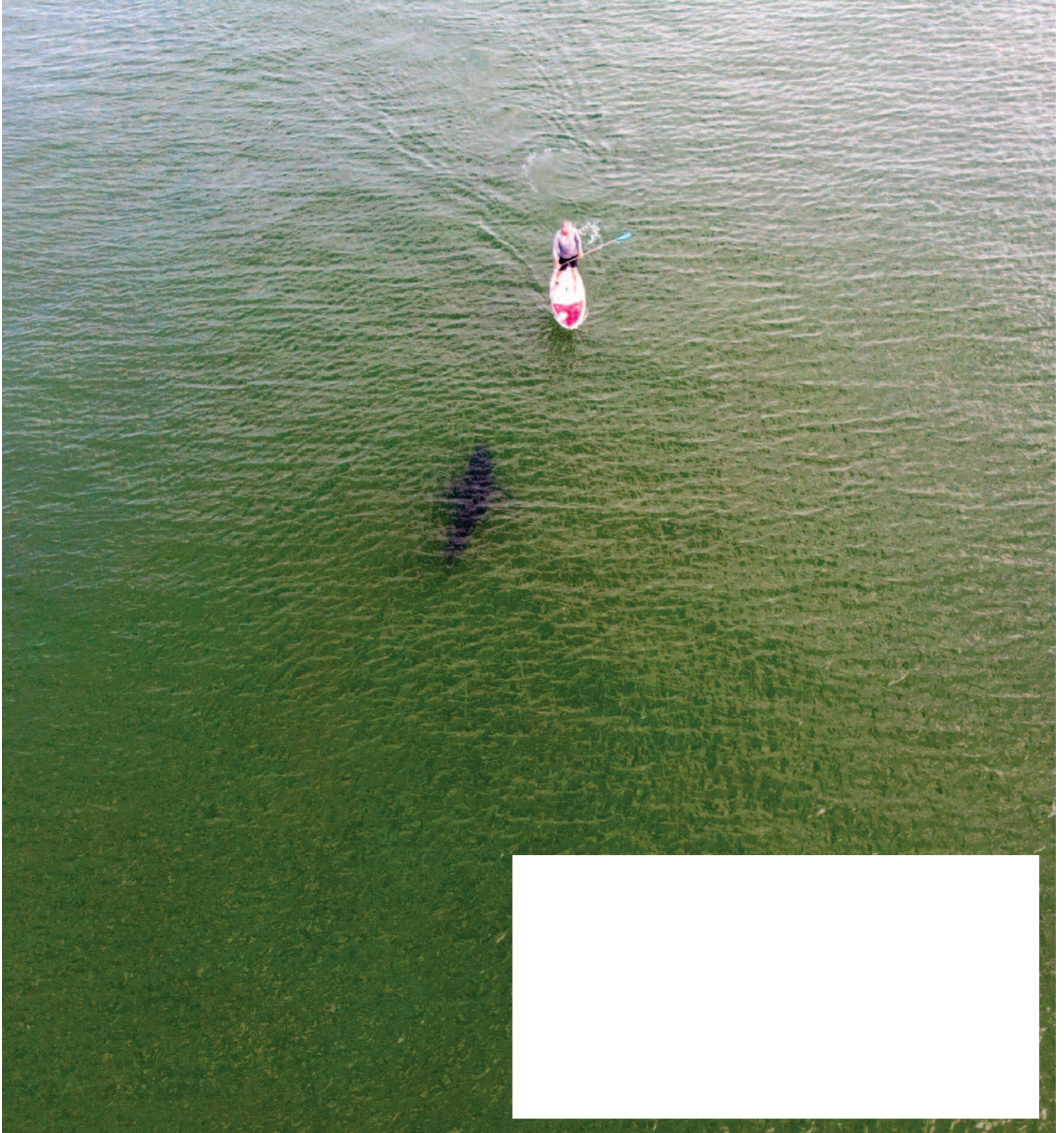
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Do you have a story or a photo you'd like to contribute?  
Contact the editor at: [alm@usla.org](mailto:alm@usla.org).



**United States Lifesaving Association**  
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We are America's nonprofit, professional association of beach lifeguards and open water rescuers. The USLA works to reduce the incidence of death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, national lifeguard standards, training programs, promotion of high levels of lifeguard readiness, and other means. Corporate address: P.O. Box 366, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 or [president@usla.org](mailto:president@usla.org).

## American Lifeguard Magazine™

American Lifeguard Magazine™ is the official magazine of the USLA, mailed February 1, June 1, and October 15 to about 10,000 members and subscribers. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the USLA. We welcome stories, photos, and advertising which target our audience of athletic, beach oriented people. Our junior lifeguard members (our largest member category) range in age from 8 - 18, with an average age of 12. They are about 55% male, 45% female. Our lifeguard members (professional, alumnus, and life) range in age from 16 to over 85, with an average age of 29. They are about 80% male, 20% female. Readers include lifeguard agency chiefs, junior lifeguard program administrators, and others involved in purchasing decisions. Promote your products and services by delivering your message directly to lifesaving professionals through the only magazine targeting beach lifeguards in the US. We rarely pay for articles or photos, but give full credit. We pay \$100 for cover photos.

**Deadlines** for contributing stories, photos, or advertising to ALM are April 1 (summer edition), August 1 (fall edition), and December 1 (winter/spring edition), unless a later date is approved by the editor. You are encouraged to contribute earlier, as this increases the possibility of selection.

**Address all inquiries to the editor at: [alm@usla.org](mailto:alm@usla.org).**

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**Cover Shot:** Nauset Beach Patrol lifeguard Cody DeGross took this photo using a drone before his shift started on July 29, 2018. Nauset Beach is in the town of Orleans, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. In the shot, Roger Freeman of Hingham, Massachusetts is paddling his stand-up paddleboard about 30 yards off the beach as a great white shark swims in his direction. For perspective, the SUP is 10 feet long. There has been great attention to the presence of great white sharks off Cape Cod in recent years. The first Massachusetts fatality of a human due to shark attack since 1936 occurred off Cape Cod on September 15, 2018 and there have been two nonfatal bites of humans in the past six years, one on August 15, 2018. The sharks commonly feed on seals, which are present in large numbers in the area. On August 14, 2018 a shark attacked and apparently killed a seal in the nearshore swimming area at Nauset Beach during normal bathing hours. Credit: Cody DeGross, [codydegrossphoto.com](http://codydegrossphoto.com)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peter Davis, Galveston, TX

At the 2018 USLA National Lifeguard Championships in Virginia Beach I got to talking with a few guys from the USLA's Northwest Region. One thing I love about going to Nationals is that you get to share ideas about lifesaving and USLA in informal settings with all kinds of people. These guys were sharp and we were talking about all kinds of stuff. But it got good when one of them asked about the future of the USLA and what are the current issues and challenges that we are facing.

We talked about how our lifesaving legends still walk among us. By that I mean that many of the people who founded the current version of the USLA as a truly national organization are still giving their time as officers, officials, and volunteers. We still benefit from their wisdom and experience, but we have to be careful to not take it for granted.

We talked about various strategies to involve successive lifeguard generations in the USLA to plan for the future, which has been a hot topic among the USLA leadership for several years. How do we involve more people and better plan for a future where the USLA can continue to have and increase the positive impact it has had? There are a number of things we're looking at.

Some things are elegant in their simplicity. We're increasing the recognition of our volunteers. For example, at the Nationals the people who have served as officials for 5, 10, 15, and 20 or more years received awards. Not much for all that work, but it's a token of how much we appreciate their work.

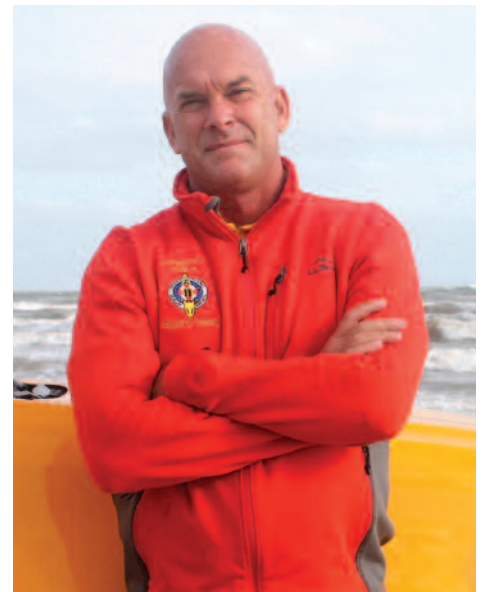
I've been competing for going on 35 years and I'm amazed every year at how hard the officials and volunteers work so we can go out and compete. I've done both and can assure you that

officiating is much harder than competing! But at all levels just merely letting people know how much their contributions mean is not only the right thing to do, but it's a way to encourage those and more people to volunteer.

Other strategies are more complicated, because they involve changing the way we've done business for many years. At the next USLA meeting in Delray Beach, Florida from October 31st to November 3rd we're trying out an idea that has been kicked around for awhile. We're going to beef up the educational component of the conference and spread it out over several days. It's a first step and a bold move. So come join us and let us know how we can best serve you!

The hope is that we'll attract new lifeguards, lifeguard supervisors, and managers who will come for the conference and participate in other ways while there. Once they see all the good stuff going on in committees like Public Education, Heroic Acts, Certification, Membership, Junior Guards, Lifesaving Sport, etc, they may be motivated to participate in future conferences and volunteer more at the local and regional level.

Eventually, once a year we could also offer training with opportunities for national certification in selected topics preceding the meetings and conference. Some topics discussed are instructor level training/certification for PWC, Training Officer, Supervisor etc. Or training/certification in topics like Social Media for Public Safety Agencies, Swift Water Rescue, Emergency Beach Driving Operation, Boat Handling, and much more. The spring USLA Board of Directors Meeting and Educational Conference will be in San Antonio. We're working on a Swiftwater Rescue Technician Certification course before the meeting that will meet national fire standards.



Aside from the conference/training idea there are many other exciting new developments going on. From a new app for the national championships to the new textbook and online training support materials, a new statistics program that will let us do way more stuff with the data we collect, public education scholarships, and increased membership benefits. And new types of courses will be rolling out from the recently completed Personal Rescue Water Craft (PRWC) course to upcoming ones like Vehicle Operations, Boat Operations, etc.

All in all, it's a really exciting time to be involved with the USLA because there is an upwelling of enthusiasm to find ways to better support our members, member chapters/agencies, and the beach-going population. So, ask at your local level how best to become more involved in our family and our profession. And come to Delray Beach or San Antonio or both. We're better when everyone is part of the conversation.

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Peter Davis, USLA President

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# HOW ONE MAN SHAPED THE WILDWOOD BEACH PATROL

Joe LaRosa and Ed Schneider



*Wildwood Beach and Boardwalk circa 1905. Credit: Schneider Collection*

Frank S. Hoffman better known as “Dutch,” is a name synonymous with the history of South Jersey ocean lifesaving, the City of Wildwood and, most importantly, the Wildwood Beach Patrol. For thirty-seven years, Dutch Hoffman spent his life ensuring the safety of the millions of visitors bathing in the ocean in the City of Wildwood. Through that life a history of lifesaving unfolds.

Like many Wildwood lifeguards who have served through the years, “Dutch” was not originally from Wildwood. He was born in Philadelphia in 1906 and lived in a small house at 818 Locust Avenue in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where he attended the local schools.<sup>1</sup> He earned his nickname from his family’s ancestry.

Always athletic and physically strong, Dutch played football and basketball. He also spent a short time at the Pennsylvania Military Institute where he played on the basketball team and started on the football team as fullback.<sup>2</sup>

In his late teens, he began his lifeguard career in the resort areas of Pennsylvania, during the summer months.<sup>3</sup>

The Wildwood Beach Patrol began its existence in 1905 with the appointment of the first Municipal Wildwood Beach Patrol Captain. The “life saver” staff would grow by single digits until 1912, mirroring the slow growth of the cities of Wildwood and neighboring Holly Beach.

In 1912, Wildwood and Holly Beach would coalesce into one destination on the Seashore Rail Line — Wildwood,



*Wildwood Beach Patrol 1912. Credit: Schneider Collection*

New Jersey. As part of the consolidation, Wildwood created a professional paid public lifesaving force of approximately 17 patrol members.<sup>5</sup> As World War I ended and the “Roaring Twenties” unfolded, Wildwood expanded as a tourist mecca, rivaling Atlantic City as the premier summer beach destination in New Jersey.



*(Wildwood property advertisement). Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*

In summer, thousands of tourists and visitors arrived by train daily, with transportation by automobile slowly growing over time. In the summer of 1927, at age twenty, Dutch traveled to Wildwood to become a lifeguard. He successfully earned a lifeguard position on the beach patrol under Captain Gerald Livezey, who had just replaced Captain Bill Gardner.



*Wildwood Beach Patrol 1927 – Dutch is second row fourth from left. Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*



*Wildwood Beach Patrol Boat circa 1927.  
Credit: Schneider Collection*

Dutch soon discovered his passion for lifeguarding. He worked his way through the ranks, starting as a lifeguard and rising to lieutenant sometime in the early 1930s (records don't exist to provide a specific date). Eventually, he became one of the most trusted lifeguards on the beach.



*Wildwood Beach looking north  
from Wildwood Crest 1933.  
Credit: Schneider Collection*

Dutch was helping supervise the beach when the first women lifeguards took the stand in Wildwood in 1933. They were the exception rather than the norm, but Wildwood was one of the earliest beach patrols to staff women.



*Wildwood women lifeguards demonstrate  
rescue techniques for onlookers circa  
1933. Credit: Schneider Collection*



*Wildwood women lifeguards at their  
stand circa 1933.  
Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*

In 1935, along with fellow Lieutenant Joseph Franko and four other lifeguards, including William "Smokey" Martin and Wilburt Augustine, Dutch was appointed a member of the "Special Speed Patrol." The Speed Patrol would use special Pacific "surf boards" to make rescues. These "surf boards" would be an addition to lifeboats and "made a 100-yard rescue 20 seconds faster."<sup>6</sup>



*Speed Patrol. Credit: Schneider Collection*

Lieutenant Hoffman was on hand for the opening of the 1935 Lincoln Avenue Beach Hospital, a state-of-the-art facility with a full-time physician.<sup>7</sup> The current Wildwood Beach Patrol Headquarters has occupied the footprint of the original Lincoln Avenue Beach Hospital since 1989.

A further development in 1935 was the opening of the Wildwood Beach Club, the first municipal Beach Club of its kind.<sup>8</sup> The Beach Club was located in the area between north of the Beach Hospital and Schellenger Avenue. The club hosted live music, beach sports, and even had palm trees. It was entirely staffed by lifeguards, who were assigned to the area to monitor sports and recreation activities.



*Wildwood Beach Club circa 1937.  
Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*

Hunt's Family Pier was also opened that year on the boardwalk. The season saw a major social change with the symbolic end of Victorian era: Mayor Doris W. Bradway allowed jersey-less bathing suits for male beach patrons.<sup>9</sup> Women's beach attire also became more revealing.

During the Great Depression, though the country and New Jersey suffered economic stress, vacationers still visited Wildwood for a day at the beach. Each summer seemed more popular than the season prior, according to period newspapers. The 1935 season was judged to be the best for tourism since 1929, just months before the historic stock market plunge; and 1936 was to be just as prosperous.<sup>10</sup> Whether the reports of escalating attendance during each depression summer were true or not, Wildwood was promoted as a popular summer escape destination.

The summer season of 1936 saw the departure of Captain Livezey, who was replaced by Winfield Inglee. Inglee maintained the changes that occurred under Livezey.<sup>11</sup> During the height of

*continued on page 9*

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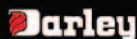
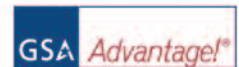
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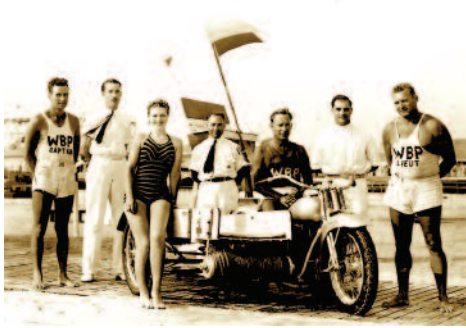


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Captain Winfield Inglee and Dutch circa 1936.

Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum

the Great Depression, the patrol would grow to over forty staff members. Captain Inglee though, lasted just one year as the head of the patrol.

In 1937 another season of early June crowds and warm weather caused Wildwood Beach director Mike Malley to increase the early season lifeguard staff from a skeleton crew to full protection.<sup>12</sup> It was in this year that Frank "Dutch" Hoffman was appointed Captain of the Wildwood Beach Patrol. He would hold that position for the next twenty-five summers.

As the resort prospered, Wildwood Beach Patrol continued expanding until there was a lifeguard stand placed every block. Two lieutenants supervised these stands. Beach patrol staff included two medics, six beach policemen, and two



Captain Hoffman and lieutenants circa 1940's.

Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum

matrons, who assisted the medics and helped with daily operations of beach patrol headquarters.

Dutch worked six-months a year as the full-time Captain of the beach patrol. In the six winter months he was employed by the city as an electrical inspector. Meanwhile, the city's leaders endeavored to make Wildwood a year-round resort.

The spring of 1939 bloomed like prior years as America was coming out of the Great Depression, with one exception. Wildwood was still a top vacation destination of the Atlantic Coast; but war was on the horizon. The Empire of Japan was saber-rattling and German U-boats were patrolling less than 20 miles off the New Jersey coast.<sup>13 & 14</sup>



Credit: The Philadelphia Inquirer

Two summer seasons would pass before the United States would enter the war. The 1941 season, just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, brought a new tradition to Wildwood Beach Patrol: the daily raising of the flag and the playing of the national anthem on the boardwalk.<sup>15</sup>

Once war came, Captain Hoffman's lifeguard force would feel the pinch of war, as more than 26 of his experienced men would enlist to exchange their WBP tank suit and whistle for a military assignment.<sup>16</sup> Before enlisting, one of these men, Charlie Elnor, sat the stand for Dutch during the summers of 1942 and '43. Elnor recalled hearing explosions off the Wildwood coast on summer nights and oil patches washing up on the beach in the morning, as freighters fell victim to German U-boats.<sup>17</sup>

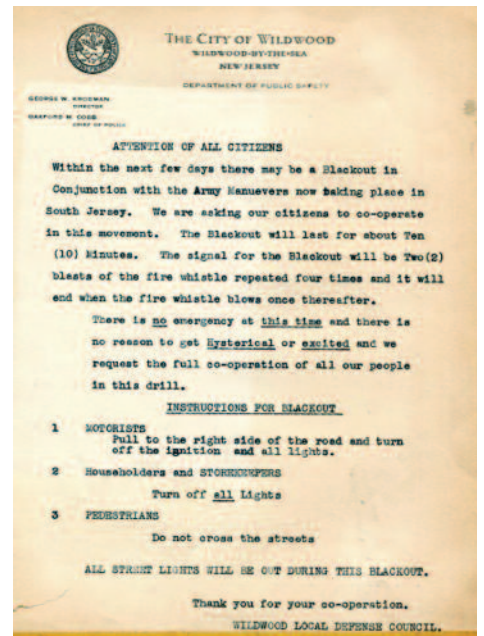


Wildwood Beach Patrol 1941.

Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum

Lifeguard Elnor also recalled that replacing the lifeguards who went to war meant working with many young and inexperienced lifeguards, driving Dutch to be a strict disciplinarian. Charlie Elnor would eventually leave the Wildwood Beach Patrol, join the U.S. Navy and, fortunately, survive the war. Undocumented is how many members of the WBP served or how many were as lucky as Charlie to return.

The Second World War in Europe ended in May 1945. Soon after, the first wave of European Theater soldiers began to return to the United States,



City of Wildwood blackout order. Credit: wildwoodvideoarchives.com

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A German U-Boat surrendered off the coast just south of Wildwood in 1945.

Credit: *The American Warrior*

just in time for the summer season on the East Coast. In July, the armed forces issued massive furloughs to soldiers and sailors returning home.

Not surprisingly, the post-war years saw a tremendous growth in tourism. Though still affected by staff shortages caused by war, Dutch had the beach patrol prepared for the boom that was to hit Wildwood.

The first black lifeguards to work the Wildwood stands were hired by Dutch in the 1940's, less than five years after he became captain. This predated President Truman's Executive Order 9981 (1948) that ended racial discrimination in the United States Armed Forces.<sup>18</sup>



Captain Hoffman circa 1950.

Credit: *The George F. Boyer Museum*

The summer of 1946 was to be the first summer with a full staff of veteran lifeguards since the start of the war.<sup>19</sup> Twenty-six lifeguards returned to their positions in the stand. Included among the group were Joe Petro, coach of St. Joseph's football squad, and Jimmy Woodside of Temple University. In a letter to Dutch, Woodside expressed his interest in returning to Dutch's force all the way from his post in China.

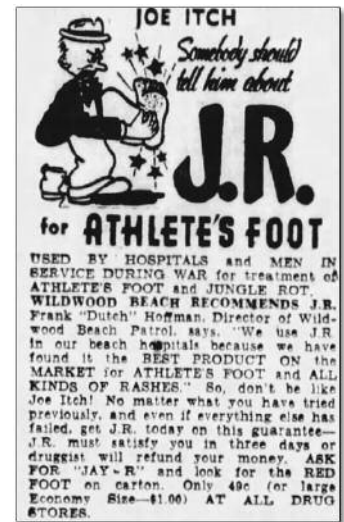
Personally, Dutch received attention from the growing economic boom and the notoriety of being the Captain of lifeguards at the "World's Finest and Safest Bathing Beach." He became a product spokesperson for Noxzema skin cream, stating "Noxzema quickly cools and soothes – even severe cases of sunburn."<sup>20</sup> He also touted the benefits of J.R. for athlete's foot. Dutch's name, image and words emblazoned packaging and national advertising for both product brands.



Captain Hoffman appears in a Noxzema advertisement in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* – 1950.

Credit: *Philadelphia Inquirer*

As the volume of post-war visitors to the island grew, so did the resort's nightlife on the west side of the boardwalk. The Doo-Wop era was in rock-and-roll infancy. Wildwood's clubs offered top-rated entertainment which, in turn, fueled an additional increase in visitors, music venues, hotels, and vehicle traffic.



Captain Hoffman promoted an athlete's foot remedy – 1953.

Credit: *Delaware News Journal*

Enhancing access to Wildwood was the construction of the Garden State Parkway between 1946 and 1957; which allowed people to travel to the beach en masse by car, a trend that would eventually lead to the end of the Wildwood's dependence on rail lines. American Airlines revolutionized travel even further with nonstop flights to the Cape County Airport from southern New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.<sup>21</sup>

Summer nights were filled with music and dance. Bill Haley and the Comets first performed "Rock Around the Clock" at the HofBrau Hotel in Wildwood on Memorial Day weekend 1954, adding to the birth of rock-and-roll music. The sheer number of people visiting the clubs at night increased due to 1950's popular culture; but by day, the premier attraction was the vast expanse



The Wildwood by the Sea sign directed travelers the shore town - 1950.

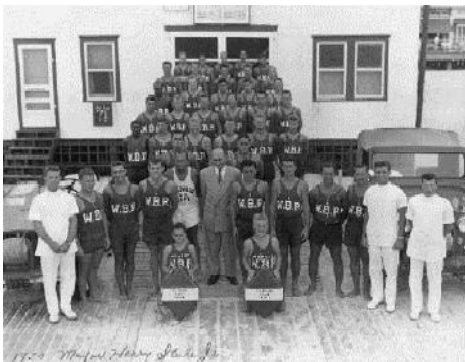
Credit: *The George F. Boyer Museum*



*New Lifeguards receive their uniform from Captain Hoffman on the ramp of Lincoln Beach Hospital circa 1945. Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*

of the Wildwood Beach and the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Serious and conscientious about his responsibilities, Dutch was described as “all business.” Former Wildwood guards have described him as a combination father, coach, leader, confessor, and strict (former guard’s emphasis) disciplinarian. “He was always up front with us, told us what he expected from us, and held us accountable for actions, and you always knew he had your back,” said one of Dutch’s lifeguards, Joseph Olwell.<sup>22</sup>



*Wildwood lifeguards – 1953. Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum*

Prior to working on the Wildwood Beach Patrol, first year lifeguards had to pass a ten-day training period, taught by a WBP lieutenant. This new lifeguard training has become known as ‘Rookie School.’ “Dutch was among the first in South Jersey to institute a rookie school to test and train new lifeguards.”<sup>23</sup>

Public safety was Dutch’s primary concern as the leader of the Wildwood Beach Patrol, and he was acutely focused

on that responsibility. Prior to World War One, drowning fatalities on 5-Mile Beach (the island where the Wildwoods are located) were a monthly and sometimes even a weekly occurrence, with individuals and groups of individuals succumbing to the sea.

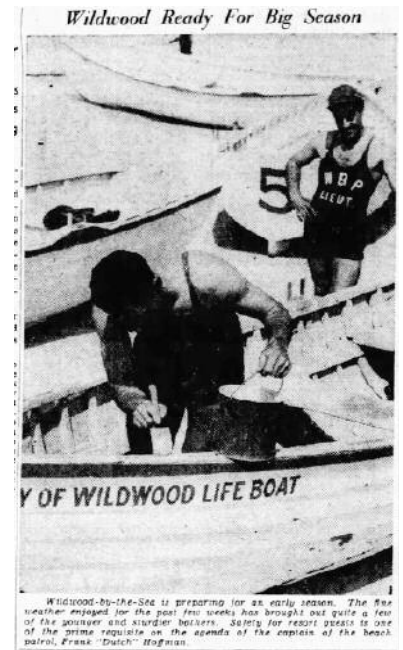
When the municipal lifeguard force in Wildwood expanded in the shore town’s boom of the 1920’s, the acceptance that drowning deaths would inevitably occur every few months or even weeks changed. Safety and prevention became the focus. Preventive lifeguarding meant that the frequency of drowning deaths gradually reduced to years and eventually decades.<sup>24</sup>



*Lifeguards practicing rescue techniques from a motorized WBP rescue craft circa 1950. Credit: Philadelphia Inquirer*

Dutch had witnessed his first drowning death on the beach in Wildwood on June 17, 1929 when he, along with Captain Livezey, attempted to rescue Fredrick Coons and James Young.<sup>25</sup> Coons could not be revived by beach surgeons and both Hoffman and Livezey were saddened by the failure to uphold the record of no drownings in five years. In response to this sobering reminder of the unforgiving power of the sea, as a guard, and then as a supervisor, Dutch continually ensured that equipment was always well maintained and effectively used during rescues.

A former guard stated, that Dutch, “loved boat layout.”<sup>26</sup> Boat layout is a preventive strategy of placing lifeguards in a surfboat on the east side of the bathing crowd, keeping the public from



*“Lifeguards painting boats for the season.” Credit: Philadelphia Inquirer*

venturing to unsafe depths. Layout is still used as a preventive lifeguarding tactic. Whether by use of boat, rescue board, rescue flotation device, or personal watercraft, lifeguards are off the stand, close to the crowd, to help prevent drowning.<sup>27</sup>

Wildwood lifeguards were not always content with their pay. From the post-war economic boom until his death in 1962, Hoffman’s crew went on strike twice for better wages, better gear, and professional treatment from city politicians. Major work actions occurred in 1950 and Dutch’s last year on the beach in August 1962.<sup>28 & 29</sup>

The strikes brought the attention of national news agencies. In navigating the news headlines, lifeguard demands, and city government, Captain Hoffman was at once hard-nosed, compassionate, and forgiving. In the end, compromise prevailed; professional lifeguards went back to work protecting the safety of the bathing public on the beaches of Wildwood.

Frank “Dutch” Hoffman died peacefully at his home in Wildwood of a heart attack on November 25, 1962. That

*continued on page 13*

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The legendary Captain "Dutch" Hoffman circa 1942.

Credit: The George F. Boyer Museum

evening, Hoffman was probably following the 28-14 win by the Philadelphia Eagles over the Dallas Cowboys on a chilly fall evening.<sup>30</sup> He was survived by his wife Edith, and daughters Joan and Barbara, along with three grandchildren. He was buried offshore at Tabernacle Cemetery in Erma.<sup>31</sup>

The death of Dutch Hoffman led to a vacuum in beach patrol leadership for the coming summer of 1963. As spring arrived, one of Dutch's top lieutenants, John Capacio, was appointed the new



Mike Regosch on top of the stand at 26th Street in the summer of 1975.

Credit: Regosch Collection Philadelphia

Captain of the Wildwood Beach Patrol. Captain Capacio was a former Navy man who would take the helm of the patrol from 1963 to 1977.

Honoring Dutch and his legacy, Captain Capacio began a lifeguard competition in his memory during the summer of 1963. Over the decades, the race has grown to encompass all the South Jersey Beach Patrols. The Frank "Dutch" Hoffman Memorial Lifeguard Championships is recognized as a "Big Three" or "Triple Crown" race in South Jersey lifeguarding along with the Margate, "World War II" Memorials and South Jersey Lifeguard Championship.

The Dutch Hoffman Memorial Races are now traditionally held on the last Friday in July at the Lincoln Avenue beach in Wildwood. The event is a celebration of one man who came to a New Jersey shore town and created the "World's Finest and Safest Bathing Beach." The love of public safety, community service, and competition is the legacy of Captain Frank "Dutch" Hoffman.

**Editor's Note:** Joseph A. LaRosa, Jr. is a retired Wildwood lieutenant with 50 years of service. Ed Schneider is Captain of the Wildwood Beach Patrol, with 30 years of service. They extend special thanks to The George F. Boyer Museum, the Wildwood Beach Patrol Alumni Association, and the numerous lifeguards and friends of the Wildwood Beach Patrol for contributing to this article.

<sup>1</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Tue, Jun 18, 1929 – Page 13

<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania Military College Program, 1926 (Special thanks to Widner University Library)

<sup>3</sup> The Cape May Star and Wave (Cape May, New Jersey) – Thurs. Nov 29, 1962 – Page 1

<sup>4</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Mon, Jul 10, 1905 – Page 3

<sup>5</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Wed, Sep 27, 1916 – Page 6

<sup>6</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 2, 1935 – Page 62

<sup>7</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 2, 1935 – Page 62

<sup>8</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 30, 1935 – Page 66

<sup>9</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 2, 1935 – Page 62

<sup>10</sup> Articles researched from 1895-1965 highlighted the emphasis that each Wildwood season was better than the season prior.

<sup>11</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 28, 1936 – Page 38

<sup>12</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · 20 Jun 1937, Sun – Page 60

<sup>13</sup> For information regarding the U-Boat patrols off the coast of New Jersey [www.uboa.net](http://www.uboa.net)

<sup>14</sup> The American Warrior, Accessed June 2018, <https://theamericanwarrior.com/tag/u-858/>

<sup>15</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · 31 May 1942, Sun – Page 20

<sup>16</sup> The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) · Wed, Jun 5, 1946 – Page 11

<sup>17</sup> Charlie Elner, WBP Lifeguard, Oral History

<sup>18</sup> "Executive Order 9981" Harry S. Truman Library, July 26, 1948

<sup>19</sup> The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) · Wed, Jun 5, 1946 – Page 11

<sup>20</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) 05 Jul 1946, Fri – Page 12

<sup>21</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Jun 10, 1951

<sup>22</sup> Joseph Olwell WBP Lifeguard, Interview, February 2017

<sup>23</sup> Joseph Olwell WBP Lifeguard, Interview, February 2017

<sup>24</sup> Zelizer, Viviana Pricing the Priceless Child: The Changing Social Value of Children, 1994 – This work is a sociological discussion of how people, not only children, came to be more valued in the early 20th century

<sup>25</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Tue, Jun 18, 1929 – Page 13

<sup>26</sup> Joseph Olwell WBP Lifeguard, Interview, February 2017

<sup>27</sup> Wildwood Lifeguard Manual, 2018

<sup>28</sup> Courier-Post (Camden, New Jersey) · Mon, Aug 7, 1950 – Page 9

<sup>29</sup> The Central New Jersey Home News (New Brunswick, New Jersey) · Mon, Aug 13, 1962 · Main Edition – Page 11

<sup>30</sup> Pro Football Reference, Accessed June 2018, [https://www.pro-football-reference.com/years/1962/week\\_11.htm#all\\_def\\_stats](https://www.pro-football-reference.com/years/1962/week_11.htm#all_def_stats)

<sup>31</sup> The Cape May County Gazette (Cape May Court House, NJ) · Thurs, Nov 29, 1962 – Page 3

# TAKING INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Adam Uehara and Kenichi Ballew-Haskett

At its best, ocean lifeguarding is more art than science. Where we work, in Los Angeles County, nothing beats the symphony of a south swell running six feet on a summer Saturday afternoon with multiple long, defined rip currents sweeping unsuspecting body boarders and waders a quarter mile out to sea. Those rip currents can have power and strength equal to a Class V rapid.

The experienced lifeguard supervisor conducts a variety of resources including directing rescue boats, rescue water craft, and multiple tower guards to optimal positions to intercept victims before they give up all hope and submit to the mythical undertow gods. To the public watching this on the beach it looks like a well-oiled machine running in complete harmony as guards appear to be walking on water and porpoising in complete synchrony to their victims. To us it is the reason we chose this profession.

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*The experienced lifeguard supervisor conducts a variety of resources.*

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These are days when sunburns and chafed legs are guaranteed, rescue counts are in the hundreds, and hours seem like minutes. At the end of your shift you pause for a quick minute to watch the sunset, waiting for the green flash as a signal to drop your last shutter and secure your tower to do it all again tomorrow.

As the world becomes more complex and standards of accountability rise, marine safety organizations need to adapt with the tides and continue to support the communities we serve.



*Lifeguard Section Chief Kenichi Haskett working as Public Information Officer during a search for a missing jumper off the Santa Monica Pier in June of 2016.*  
Credit: Los Angeles County Fire

Beach activity is at an all-time high and major incidents are becoming more frequent.

The Los Angeles County Lifeguards in recent times have been part of emergency responses to some dramatic events including multi-casualty incidents at the Santa Monica Farmers Market and Venice Ocean Front Walk when motorists ran into unsuspecting patrons, a lightning strike at Venice Beach, and a marine oil spill at Manhattan Beach. Planned swim and beach events are more frequent and larger than ever. Many of them have resulted in medical related fatalities and mass rescues due ocean conditions and novice participants.



*Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Lidia Barillas assigned as the Public Information Officer explains booming operations at Marina Del Rey during a tar ball incident.*  
Credit: Los Angeles County Fire

To properly manage and document these incidents, we have successfully implemented the Incident Command System, commonly referred to as ICS. Our adoption of the ICS system can be attributed to our merger with the fire department twenty-five years ago, which they used as a tool to manage large scale wildfires and all-hazard incidents. And, of course, after 9-11 the US Homeland Security Act of 2002 mandated use of the National Incident Management System.

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*After 9-11 the US Homeland Security Act of 2002 mandated use of the National Incident Management System.*

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Our organization is no different than many others in that there is reluctance to change the way things have been done in the past. Like many other lifeguard organizations, we still sarcastically use the ICS acronym to define our firefighter siblings as “I Can’t Swim.”



*Los Angeles County lifeguards provided Fireline Paramedic (FEMP) services to support the firefighters on Catalina Island, California for the Island Fire in May 2007. Lifeguard Section Chief Mickey Gallagher was one of the Planning Section Chiefs for the incident.*

Sarcasm aside, ICS is as valuable to lifeguards as it is to firefighters. Many incidents have been successfully resolved without a formal ICS implementation, but it is hard to deny that incident failures are typically due to the lack of well-defined objectives, planning, accountability (unclear chain of command and supervision), communication, defined roles, and expectations.

The ICS system is designed to be completely scalable depending on incident size and complexity. Every lifeguard organization can implement ICS, whether running a standard medical call, such as a stingray sting, or a mass rescue. The Incident Commander, typically the lifeguard supervisor managing the call, determines the need for more resources and manages the entire operation.

The greater challenge is managing large scale incidents and events proficiently and effectively, due to their low frequency and complexity. A common approach is to pass command to an arriving firefighter supervisor, but when the call is mostly water related is it not the resident ocean expert who is the best qualified incident manager?

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*The greater challenge  
is managing large  
scale incidents*

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Just as in other high-stakes professions, to maintain the title “ocean expert” LACoFD lifeguards adhere to Malcolm Gladwell’s 10,000-hour rule (that 10,000 hours of “deliberate practice” are needed to become world-class in any field) and engage in continuous ongoing marine incident management training.

Within the Los Angeles County Fire Department, many Lifeguard Division personnel are trained and qualified in

ICS positions. Qualified lifeguard personnel are rostered with the department’s local Incident Management Teams (IMT). This has taken lifeguards far from the beach to support the department’s mission.



*LA County Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Charlie Picarro on assignment as a Training Specialist at the massive Carr Fire in Northern California in August 2018. The Training Specialist ensures that trainees’ paperwork is properly completed during deployment, so they can be qualified in their respective positions.*

IMTs are routinely deployed to manage natural disasters, such as wildfires and mud and debris flows. They also deployed when a major gas leak at Aliso Canyon required mass evacuations and in the Willowbrook area when contaminated water systems threatened public health.

Some of the roles that lifeguards fill on an IMT are planning, public information, communications, finance, and logistics. In addition, several of our lifeguard personnel are rostered on Federal and State (Calfire) Type 1 Incident Management Teams. These lifeguards



*Coauthor Adam Uehara served as Planning Section Chief for a multi-agency response to a Palmdale, California mudslide in October 2015. This photo is just after an operational briefing. Credit: Los Angeles County Fire Department*

have responded all over the state, country, and U.S. Territories to respond to wildfires and all-hazard incidents. Lifeguard Captain Danny Douglas, for example, responded to Puerto Rico to assist after the Hurricane Maria with his Type 1 Federal IMT.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department also has a specialized Memorial Management Team that helps plan funerals for fallen department members. It includes lifeguards. We have assisted numerous outside agencies with planning during those tough times when tragedy has struck one of their department team members.

One funeral we assisted was that of the line of duty death of lifeguard Ben Carlson of Newport Beach. Unfortunately, we also helped manage two active duty deaths of lifeguards in our own department with our Memorial Management Team.



*Los Angeles County lifeguards participate in a drill for Marine Air Sea Disaster Plan with the U.S. Coast Guard, Los Angeles County Sheriff, and Los Angeles County Fire Department in May 2018. Credit: Los Angeles County Fire*

The knowledge and experience gained by being part of the Incident Management Team is invaluable and prepares our personnel to better handle planned and unplanned incidents that we encounter. The documentation and processes implemented (planning, operational briefs, debriefs, after-actions) help lower the department’s exposure to liability, improve our provision of public safety, and, most importantly, enhance safety for our own personnel.

*continued on page 17*

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The networking and relationships made during deployments of these multi-agency teams are immeasurable. Our colleagues and ourselves have greatly benefitted from those relationships developed inside and outside the department to further enhance the department, division, and hopefully the lifeguard profession as a whole.

When implementing an Incident Management Team within your organization or working to become part of an existing IMT, there are several things you can do to prepare. Take the FEMA or State Fire Training ICS position courses. Train and drill within and outside your organization. Implement the ICS system on local events (lifeguard tryout swims, triathlons, JG competitions) and incidents that run extended operational periods (missing swimmer search that goes into the next period).



*Ocean Lifeguard Specialist  
Kealiinohopono Barnes working as  
Public Information Officer at the Carr  
Fire in Northern California in August  
2018. Credit: Los Angeles County  
Fire Department*

The United States Coast Guard conducts numerous all-hazard marine based drills. With department approval you can update your status and availability in the national Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). It is the same

system used by many fire departments when they deploy department strike teams and other equipment to fires outside their departments' jurisdiction.

Lastly, consult all available resources, especially other lifeguard organizations that already have established incident management teams. Lifeguarding is a selfless and passion driven profession – we can all learn from one another's advancements.

*Adam Uehara is a Marine Battalion Chief in the Lifeguard Division of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He has been lifeguarding since 1997. He is qualified as a Planning Section Chief under the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS). Kenichi Ballew-Haskett is a Marine Battalion Chief in the same department. He has been lifeguarding since 1994. He is qualified as a Public Information Officer under the CICCS.*

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# THE LIFEGUARD DIVER – PART II

Rob Brown and Blake Faumuina

*Note: The first issue of this series appeared in the summer 2018 edition of ALM*

The “aqualung” self-contained underwater breathing apparatus was patented in 1946 and became commercially available after World War II. As the popularity of scuba diving increased, so also did the rate of injury and fatality. In the early 1950’s, Los Angeles County Lifeguard Bev Morgan helped to develop one of the first dive instruction programs. This was in response to high scuba accident rates and no available formal training programs for the general public.

It is a natural extension of the job that scuba diving has become a part of the operational culture of many lifeguard agencies. Lifeguards have been involved with public safety diving for over 70 years and developing open water, lifeguard specific, standards and curriculum should be part of the next evolution.



*A member of the San Diego Dive Team.  
Credit: San Diego Lifeguards*

The purpose of scuba for lifeguards is to safely and effectively perform public safety dive operations to protect life, property, and the environment. It is important for us to define the term “public safety diving.”

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines public safety diving as, “Diving solely for search, rescue, or related public-safety purposes by or under the control of a government agency.” From this we can identify public safety diving by purpose of our dive and understand that repairing buoys or salvaging sunken boats crosses into the commercial diving realm.



*Night dive training, Oceanside Dive Team. Credit: Oceanside Lifeguards*

Public safety divers (PSD) respond to aquatic emergencies with the inability to plan the date, time, location, and conditions. This may be in high surf, strong currents, the middle of the night, inclement weather, poor to zero visibility, or in potentially contaminated waters. Normally, these conditions are not appropriate for safe recreational diving. Specific skill sets, beyond entry level recreational scuba training, are typically required for these dive missions.

Search patterns, rescue techniques, body recovery, submerged vehicles, evidence recovery, and even light salvage can all be expected of a public safety dive team. Accountability for safety of divers is significantly higher than other types of diving, as more risk is assumed and time pressures are a normal part of the assignment.

The primary mission of lifeguard divers is to rescue submerged victims in an emergency situation. Section IX of the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) required course curriculum (RCC) for agency certification outlines Search and Recovery operations. Knowledge of search area factors, search patterns, surface equipment, scuba, and body recovery are all listed.

This, coupled with a USLA standard of diver certification for advanced lifeguard agency certification is where an effective public safety diver training program becomes important to the safety and success of our lifeguards.

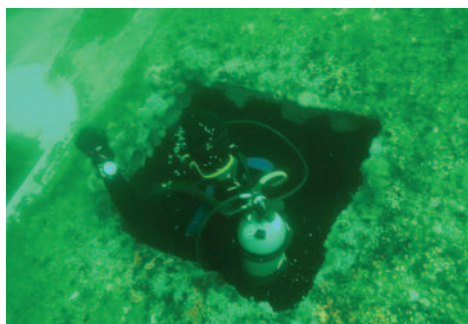
It is important to recognize that our affinity for the water and recreational dive experience does not guarantee the kinds of skill sets necessary to safely operate as public safety divers. Scuba diving is an equipment intensive activity in and of itself, and utilized for emergency responses. Generally, lifeguards will not rely on routine call volume to prepare us to perform safely and effectively in dive rescue.



*Credit: San Diego Lifeguards*

The USLA Advanced Lifeguard Certification standard states that “any lifeguard who will be required to utilize scuba in the course of employment must, at a minimum, be certified as a scuba diver at the basic level by a nationally recognized certifying agency.” With rare exception, these courses are geared toward recreational scuba diving. They do not encompass the knowledge and skill objectives outlined by the USLA’s required course curriculum.

As lifeguarding continues to professionalize and the mission refines, training standards become more important. Proper training keeps rescuers safe, reduces agency liability, and provides a high level of service to the public.



*Training on the sunken Canadian destroyer Yukon off San Diego.  
Credit: San Diego Lifeguards.*

Different scuba groups have different scopes of responsibility. One crucial difference between recreational diving and public safety diving by lifeguards is that the dive is defined by the mission.

In recreational diving, the goal is to have fun in the underwater world. When PSDs are deployed, they have a more serious task. PSDs do not get to choose when and where they will dive, although there are safety limits even in public safety diving. The conditions are rarely ideal by recreational standards and the hazards are real.

Lifeguard PSDs are typically responding to an emergency with adrenalin flowing as they search for someone lost underwater. The associated stressors accompanying the diver underwater can complicate simple decision making. As we

know from other rescue disciplines, training and experience allows PSDs to more effectively execute their mission in a demanding environment.



*Submerged victim rescue training on bailout systems.  
Credit: Oceanside Lifeguards.*

There is an alphabet soup of dive related agencies and organizations governing different kinds of dive operations. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) governs commercial diving operations, the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) sets standards for scientific diving, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) maintains guidelines for public safety dive operations. Even the International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) has Rescue Diver Standards to which one can refer.

The dive community is as diverse as the bodies of water that has lifeguards. From the early days of twin hose regulators and rubber suits to the modern re-breathers and mixed gas technical diving, scuba divers have developed techniques and tools to dive in the highest risk environments.

There is significant experience in the scientific community, technical diving, and lessons from commercial and military operations that can inform a lifeguard dive standard. You will find that every dive group outlines basic underwater skills that must be mastered in order to be safe and competent divers. There are equipment standards and usage relevant to a training curriculum tailored to the needs of expected missions.



*Hard line communications with full face mask to topside line tender. Light Salvage & Recovery course, Dive Rescue International, Los Angeles County.  
Credit: Blake Faumuina*

No one of these alone however, can specifically meet our needs. Clearly, an entry level recreational scuba certification does not adequately address the USLA’s recommended course curriculum for search and rescue. Conversely, we do not have a public safety diver course available from any training agency that specifically addresses the needs of the open water lifeguard in the surf environment. A training standard developed with and sanctioned by the USLA, which meets the current USLA curriculum, would provide safe, consistent training and tactics to agencies nationwide.

In addition to the operational effectiveness realized by a lifeguard-centric dive training program, training programs can reduce agency liability. Vicarious liability is the legal concept that a person or organization can be held responsible for the actions, or omissions, of others and the level of training and proficiency they have been provided. In today’s litigious world, having divers in a lifeguard agency that are not trained to an accepted public safety standard is a sure opening to liability.

Agencies which fail to properly select, train, track training compliance, and adhere to accepted practices may be found negligent in civil court. Protection from this liability involves

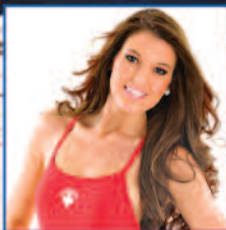
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# UNITED STATES LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION PURCHASE PROGRAM

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*continued from page 21*

the development of training standards, operational guidelines, and the application of the dive team's role in the chain of response. Adoption of a USLA dive standard vetted by professionals would be an added layer of defense against liability.

While there is not a course that is specifically designed for open water lifeguard operations, there are many professional level training agencies in the United States. These programs generally refer to NFPA recommendations for public safety dive response and require a basic recreational certification before entering their curriculum.



**Night dive training vehicle search and entanglement drill.**

**Credit: Oceanside Lifeguards**

Very often, these classes are delivered by third parties (i.e. dive centers or independent contractors) who will come to an agency and deliver a standardized program. Their public safety dive programs are generally designed for an initial rescue response to a drowning incident in lakes, slow moving rivers, and ponds.

Some agencies emphasize in-house instruction. In-house trainers are developed utilizing standardized professional programs with the training certification managed by the on staff agency training head. This allows for internal standardization, industry standard support, and gives the agency control over the mission profile of the dive team.

It's important to note that these courses can be very cost-effective. The



**Lifeguard divers prepare for search and recovery operations to locate the victim of a boating accident in a San Diego area reservoir. Credit: San Diego Lifeguards**

intent of this article is not to discourage lifeguards from tailored training as lifeguard public safety divers, but to open a path for agencies to do so in a way that benefits their community, agency, and personnel. The need for emergency diving occurs infrequently, but when it does, lifeguards should be prepared.

Whichever training model is utilized, the most important is to have an instructor that is objectively certified to teach scuba diving at the level to which the program is being conducted. While there are no open water lifeguard dive classes, each training agency has specialty classes that capture the skills necessary to dive more safely in the open water environment.

Preventive lifeguarding has fundamentally changed the public's ability to enjoy protected waterways very little chance of drowning. The expectation placed on lifeguards' ability to respond to emergencies has expanded over the years and underwater rescue is a part of



**Submerged vehicle response scenario, initial guard signals two victims, diver prepares entry.**

**Credit: Oceanside Lifeguards**

that. Scuba training and standards have not kept up with that expectation.

The USLA's advanced Lifeguard Certification states the need to be certified as a diver and the curriculum outlines the basic knowledge and skill standards for underwater search operations. In an increasing litigious world, the tactics, techniques and procedures for lifeguard divers should be identified and standardized for the safety of lifeguards, their employing agencies, and the public they serve.



Blake Faumuina is a Beach Lifeguard Lieutenant with the City of Oceanside (California) Fire Department. He is currently the Lifeguard Division Dive Officer. Lt. Faumuina is certified as a Public Safety Scuba Instructor (PSSI) under Dive Rescue International and has 20 years of diving experience under the City of Oceanside dive teams.

Rob Brown is a Lifeguard Sergeant with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguard Services Division. He has 18 years of lifeguard experience and been a member of the San Diego Dive Rescue Team for the last seven. Sgt. Brown holds several public safety dive qualifications including PADI Master Public Safety Diver and Dive Rescue International Dive Rescue Specialist.

# LIFESAVING TRAINING FOR SURFERS

Leslie Schwene

At beaches throughout the world, surfers are sometimes the first to respond to assist people in distress. This probably occurs most often in the absence of lifeguards, but sometimes it takes place at or near lifeguard protected beaches. Surfers are typically well versed in surf, understand rip currents, and they have a flotation device with them; but how well prepared are they to safely rescue others?

As a lifeguard in Huntington Beach, California for nine years and a seasonal supervisor, I know that we sometimes find ourselves working collaboratively with surfers to assist individuals who are not water savvy or are in distress. Surfers are frequently in the water before and after lifeguards are on patrol; and many believe there is an inherent responsibility to look out for one another's safety while in the water. In our area, surfer-assisted rescue situations are more common in our off-peak season – October to May – when lifeguards are minimally staffed along the 4.7 miles of Huntington City Beach.

Over the past several years, there have been many incidents where surfers who were already in the water responded to assist fellow surfers, swimmers, and other water users when an emergency arose. Many of these calls were the result of water hazards, such as rip currents and large surf; medical emergencies, including seizures and cardiac arrest; and traumatic injuries, like head

and neck injuries, sometimes caused by a surfboard or striking the Huntington Beach pier.



*Surfers receive advice before an in-water session. Credit: Leslie Schwene*

In 2016 the Huntington Beach Surf Lifesaving Association (HBSLSA), a USLA chapter, decided to offer a training program to local surfers called Surfers Awareness in Lifesaving Techniques (SALT). Molded after similar bystander rescue education initiatives that have been implemented in other countries, but specifically tailored to local hazards, the program teaches basic lifesaving awareness to the local surfing community. The HBSLSA is a non-profit organization made up of current and former Huntington Beach lifeguards focused on public education about beach and ocean safety and building relationships within our community.

Surfers generally possess stronger water skills compared to the average layperson. The HBSLSA sought to capitalize on the existing skills of this population by providing an awareness training that could help them provide a potentially lifesaving intervention to an individual in distress. The overarching goal of SALT is to increase awareness and to “minimize or reduce the amount of water-related fatalities and injuries” through teaching the individuals to “Recognize, React, and Respond” when confronted with an emergency.

The SALT program is a 2-hour course taught by lifeguards who volunteer to teach the awareness training and practice the rescue skills with participants in the water. The first hour takes place in the classroom, with a visually engaging presentation that details how to recognize potential hazards and victims who are in hazardous areas by interpreting body language and other visual cues.

SALT highlights various ways surfers can assist others in distress, from the most basic level of verbally coaching someone out of a hazard to making a full-contact rescue utilizing a surfboard, if necessary. The presentation also utilizes videos and footage from actual rescues where surfers assisted others to shore and requested a response from lifeguards and other emergency services.



*Surfers receive practical in-water training. Credit: Leslie Schwene*

The second hour of the course is spent in the water with lifeguard instructors teaching the various in-water techniques for both conscious and unconscious victims, as well as learning how to organize help from other surfers. The in-water portion of the SALT class is critical to teaching and practicing the techniques, so that the first time they are used will not be during an emergency.

The HBSLSA hopes the participants of each SALT class become more confident in their abilities to assist a distressed or injured individual if they are



*Surfers begin with an in-class session. Credit: Leslie Schwene*

*continued on page 27*



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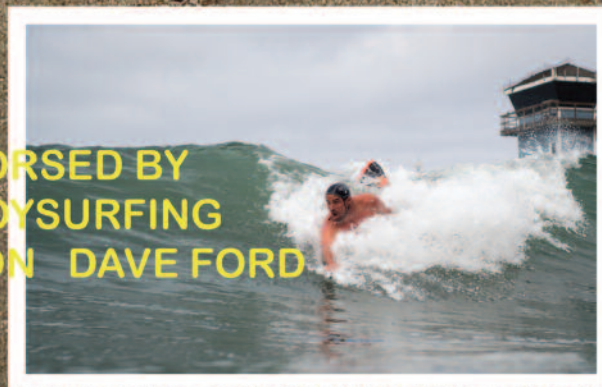
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continued from page 24

ever in that situation. A key message we stress throughout the course is personal safety for the potential rescuer. We encourage them to get involved only if they are comfortable that they will not become an additional victim.



**SALT leadership team: Leslie Schwene, Greg Eisele, Chief Mike Baumgartner, Doug Leach, and Sterling Foxcroft.**  
*Credit: Leslie Schwene*

A major benefit of the SALT program is its scalability based on the skill-level of the audience. It can be technical and give water-users hands-on techniques that may save a life in the water, or it can only be a basic awareness training for individuals who might see something from the beach and actively engage the response of others. This program could be tailored to the location where it is being presented, based on its local hazards and the types of frequent water users who may provide that initial assistance in an emergency.

Currently, the SALT program has put on multiple courses for local high school teams, surf clubs, and groups of local surfers. It's hard to know how often SALT techniques are used by those we train. From time to time the HBSLSA and other lifeguards do hear of surfers who have assisted others using the SALT techniques.

If you are interested in learning more about the SALT program or obtaining the curriculum and presentation materials, email the HBSLSA at [HBSLSA@gmail.com](mailto:HBSLSA@gmail.com).

# Lifelines

**USLA Educational Conference and Board Meeting:** The USLA and the Southeast Region will host an expanded educational conference during our biannual Board of Directors meeting in Delray Beach, Florida from November 1-3, 2018. The meeting will be held at the Delray Beach Marriott, 10 North Ocean Boulevard, Delray Beach, Florida 33483. Join us.

**Lifesaving World Championships 2018:** The International Life Saving Federation sanctions the Lifesaving World Championships every two years. The next event will feature a return to beautiful Adelaide, Australia. If you've ever wanted to visit Australia, this is a fantastic opportunity. You can cheer on the U.S. national teams or compete in the master's division. Adelaide is in the state of South Australia, a short flight from Sydney and Melbourne. Details at: [www.lifesaving2018.com](http://www.lifesaving2018.com)

**Women in Lifesaving:** USA Founding President Bob Burnside conducted a bit of research and published stories of some of the pioneering women in lifesaving. There are photos and references to many of the women who were first in the profession. He calls them "Neptune's Daughters." You can find Bob's blog at: <http://chieflifeguard.blogspot.com/>.



**World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2109:** Ever been to Africa? The biennial International Life Saving Federation World Conference on Drowning Prevention will take place from October 8-10, 2019 in Durban, South Africa. The WCDP is an extraordinary event that brings lifesavers, medical experts, scientists, prevention experts, and others together globally. There are so many excellent presentations that they are provided in tracks with four or five taking place at once, but also plenary sessions that include the entire group, which most recently exceeded 500. While you're there, why not visit the beautiful city of Cape Town or visit one of the extraordinary game preserves, like Krueger National Park? Details and registration at: <http://www.wcdp2019.co.za/>.

The USLA has arranged for deep discounts and special deals with leading companies that offer products of value to USLA members. Visit the USLA Home page (at the bottom) or the USLA Store, at: [www.usla.org/store](http://www.usla.org/store)

Example discounts available to you:

- **25-50% off Hobie polarized sunglasses** (including special deals on prescription sunglasses)
- **\$30 off DaFin swim fins**
- **Special discounts on Ford automobiles.**

As well, lifeguards, chapters, and regions can purchase clothing and other items with the USLA logo embroidered on them at Uniserv GuardGear. And you can purchase rings with the USLA logo from Jostens.

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# JERSEY MIKE'S 2018 USLA NATIONAL LIFEGUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Jersey Mike's 2018 United States Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships capped off an exciting and fierce week of competition on August 11, crowning the Los Angeles County Surf Life Saving Association the national champions for the 29th time in the past 31 years on the sands of Virginia Beach. L.A. County reclaimed the coveted Howard Lee Trophy after having it wrestled away by Monmouth County (N.J.) last year in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The event started on Wednesday with the Junior Guard competition, in which future lifeguarding hopefuls competed in nine events and three age categories for individual titles. More than 300 participants in USLA-affiliated junior lifeguard programs from across the country set the tone for the rest of the week through their lifesaving skills and sportsmanship. The young lifeguards from the Hampton Lifeguard Association in New York were especially impressive, taking home several individual gold medals.

Under clear blue skies, Thursday marked the start of the professional competition. The USLA crowned age group champions in the Surf Boat Race, Surf Ski Race, American Ironwoman, American Ironman, and Beach Flags events. Preliminary and semifinal rounds were also run for a variety of open events.

On yet another gorgeous day, open champions were crowned in a number of events on Friday. In the board race, Monmouth County's Gwendolyn Bencie beat out L.A. County's Coral Kemp, while Hampton lifeguard Ryan Paroz took gold on the men's side.

In the open American Ironman competition, Hollywood Beach's Boki Corsovic wowed spectators by pulling away from the rest of the field in the 1400-meter course that includes a swim

leg, a board leg, a solo surfboat leg, and a beach sprint finish. In the surf race, L.A. County's Kelsey Cummings, who swam competitively at both the University of North Carolina and Michigan, showed off her skills by pulling away from the rest of the competition to win gold.

As usual, the highlight of the four-day event came under the lights on Friday night with the highly-anticipated open Beach Flags event. Packed bleachers surrounded the pit, with several hundred more intrigued boardwalk pedestrians stopping to check out the action below.

On the women's side, Amanda Calabrese continued her dominance. The Hampton lifeguard beat out Jessica Wallace on the final sprint to win her fourth straight Beach Flags national title. The men's even saw two New York lifeguards battle it out for first place. In the end, Nader Golshahr, representing Jones Beach, was able to get the better of Long Beach's Tim Cabasino.

On Saturday, the final day of the USLA Nationals, L.A. County was able to hold onto the sizeable lead they were able to open up over the first two days of the professional competition. In the morning, Louisiana State University track star Harrison Martingayle took home the men's 2k Beach Run, while Sussex County's Emily Ritter won gold on the women's side. In the Surfski race L.A. County's Timothy Burdiak and Renae Jackson both took home gold.

With L.A. County's lead already firmly in place, a lightning storm rolled through Virginia Beach Saturday evening, unfortunately putting an end to the week's competition slightly early.

The gracious Virginia Beach Lifesaving Association and City of Virginia Beach were first-rate hosts on the sands

adjoining the oceanfront boardwalk, creating a setting fit for the nation's largest lifesaving event. Vendor tents selling the latest in lifesaving gear and local food trucks lined the sands, while spectator bleachers were filled with people soaking in the action.

Team and individual point leaders are listed below:

**Howard Lee Trophy** – Overall Points Open and Age Group combined 'A' Teams with ranking, chapter and total points:

1. LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc., 1244.252
2. Monmouth County (N.J.), 832.002
3. Virginia Beach Lifesaving Association, 301.754

**LACOLA Trophy** – Overall Points Open and Age Group combined 'B' Teams with ranking, chapter and total points:

1. Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue, 224.752
2. Smith Point, 213.752
3. Riis Park, 202.00

**Men's Overall Points Top Finishers**

1. Hayden Hemmens – Newport Beach Ocean Lifeguard Assoc., 92.250
2. Ryan Paroz – Hampton Lifeguard Assoc., 51.000
3. Jake Miller – L.A. County Surf Life Saving Assoc., 49.125

**Women's Overall Points Top Finishers**

1. Jenna Solberg – L.A. County Surf Life Saving Assoc., 94.000
2. Kelsey Cummings – L.A. County Surf Life Saving Assoc., 89.500
3. April O'Gorman – Volusia Surf Lifesaving Association, 85.750



Photos courtesy of Joel Gitleson

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# PARTING SHOT



Nauset Beach Patrol lifeguard Cody DeGroff took these photos using a drone before his shift started on July 29, 2018. Nauset Beach is in the town of Orleans, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod. In the shots, Roger Freeman of Hingham, Massachusetts is paddling his stand-up paddleboard about 30 yards off the beach as a great white shark swims in his direction. For perspective, the SUP is 10 feet long. There has been great attention to the presence of great white sharks off Cape Cod in recent years. The first Massachusetts fatality of a human due to shark attack since 1936 occurred off Cape Cod on September 15, 2018 and there have been two nonfatal bites of humans in the past six years, one on August 15, 2018. The sharks commonly feed on seals, which are present in large numbers in the area. On August 14, 2018 a shark attacked and apparently killed a seal in the nearshore swimming area at Nauset Beach during normal bathing hours. Credit: Cody DeGroff, [codydegroffphoto.com](http://codydegroffphoto.com)



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