

OCBP Chapter of USLA

USLA Update

Submitted by Ryan Cowder

It has been a very productive winter for our USLA Chapter, and it will be an even more exciting summer. In fact, more than likely, it will be the best summer EVER! It will require a little bit of work by all of our members, but the rewards will be worth it.

First, we were able to add some new equipment to our entourage, including a new beach trailer for the boat, a new paddleboard, two new sets of fins and a road ready, legal boat trailer for traveling. Add this to our existing paddleboards and surfskis, and we have a “just add competitors” competition team!

The other very exciting news for this summer is the location of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships, which will be on July 14th in front of The Grand Hotel on 21st street in Ocean City! At the October Mid-Atlantic Region USLA meeting, I expressed Ocean City’s interest in hosting the Regional Championships (non-craft). I then had to begin planning a presentation for the December meeting to show that we were capable. Butch Arbin, Wes Smith (via phone conference), Skip Lee, Mike Stone, Ward Kovacs, Nick Thompson, and I met at HQ the day after Thanksgiving to plan out some ideas. In December, at the Regional meeting in Cape May, I presented the work that I had done so far and reinforced the fact that OC was indeed a viable venue for this event. Rehoboth was also interested in hosting it again this year, but Captain Kent Buckson agreed that Ocean City should be given a chance to be the host. Rehoboth has done an outstanding job in hosting the event for the past 15 summers. (By the way, 1991 was the last year that it was in OC at the Carousel. I was not around for the event, but I have heard nothing but great things about it from numerous people. The event wouldn’t have been successful without the work of two very important people, Skip Lee and Butch Arbin, and we are lucky to still have those two very valuable resources.) After all was said and done, the Region decided to allow Ocean City the opportunity to host the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships.

Hosting this level of competition is a major responsibility. First, we are expected to make it a great event. Secondly, we will be expected to represent with a dominating competition team. My goal is to make sure that both of those come to fruition.

There are several ways that you can help, and we will need everyone! Below I have listed the many ways that each of us can help make this the best season ever!

Become a member of our chapter! By being a member, even if you’re not competing, you’re supporting the mission of our Chapter and the United States Lifesaving Association. You can mail it in or simply return it with your paperwork when you check in at the beginning of the summer. NOTE: Payroll deduction is available but not until you have earned your first paycheck!

Be a volunteer on the day of the event! We will need numerous volunteers to help run the event, particularly as water judges, organizing the beach flags, and to work the registration table. Please avoid any other activities that would require you to submit a special request for the second week of July. We will need everyone to be available!

Join the competition team! If we are going to have a regional competition in Ocean City, then we better have a good team representing us. The time to start training for an event is now! Our competition team captain, Rick Cawthern, can answer any of your questions about the events. I have included a list of events below, and a description of each event can be found on the USLA National website, under competition rules.

Find a business to sponsor the event! In order to host a great event, we will need to provide some services/amenities for our guests. We are currently being sponsored by The Grand Hotel, Pepsi, Ocean 98 and Fish Tales. If you are aware of any other businesses that would like to be involved, please let me know. I have a sponsorship letter and form that I can email to you. Also, please inform me when you approach a business for sponsorship so that we do not repeat ourselves and look unprofessional.

Due to the size of the event, hosting the Regional competition will be on the forefront of our USLA’s agenda, but we also have another event this summer that will require some work. The 12th Annual Mitch Maiorana Run Swim Run will take place on July 24th on 7th Street at 6 pm. The registration form is already available from the OCBP

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Our official Ocean City Beach patrol Chapter
Logo created by Josh Giambalvo.

You can download a USLA membership application on our website. www.ococean.com/ocbp. Click on the USLA button.