

Greetings to All Beach Patrol Members and Supporters!

Submitted by: Sgt. Timothy Uebel

Looking forward to seeing everyone. Summer is just about here. Hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health, good spirits and most of all in good shape for the upcoming summer season. Springtime has finally arrived and all the snow from the Blizzard of 2010 has finally melted. It's a good time to get outside and keep up with your physical training in preparation for the upcoming season. To all the rookies entering rookie school: make sure you are keeping in shape for the approaching rookie training weeks. There will be a great deal of classroom and physical activities during rookie weeks. Myself along with Lt. Wes Smith and Sgt. Falcon are in the process of getting the curriculum ready and the training team together for the upcoming Surf Rescue Academy classes.

Just a reminder the Frederick Marathon and Half Marathon is scheduled for May 2nd. Anyone interested in running either of these races keep on training! The Ocean City Beach Patrol was well represented last year in the Half Marathon. I will be running the full marathon this year. It would nice to have someone from the Beach Patrol to run with.

Ocean City, Md. in The Past

Here are two pictures taken in the past. These two pictures were taken on Ocean City's beach. Some landmarks have remained unchanged and some have changed. Take a good look at these pictures and try and guess the location where they were taken.



Is Rescue Craft Duty in Your Future?

Submitted by Kristin Joson

Many people do not realize that in the State of Maryland, you are required to have completed a safe boater's course prior to operating a motor vessel. Further, having this training on file with Beach Patrol is a requirement for Jet-drive School.

You have two options to complete this requirement:

1. Find a course near you: <http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/nrp/boatingclass.html>
2. Take the course online: <http://www.boat-ed.com/Maryland/index.html> This course costs \$24.50 and is a 3.5 hour course

Complete the course, and bring your card with you at check in. Get it done, so you too can have Rescue Craft duty this summer!



answers: picture 1 - was taken in the late 1970s. location - 7th St.
picture 2 - was taken in the late 1970s. location - 15th St.
rock groin and of my step-father WOW that's a big rock pile!!

Current Staff News

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Submitted by Captain Butch Arbin

If you're talking about an OCBP beach house, the answer is more and more likely to be "yes". It is no secret that many of our beach patrol alums have gone on to achieve great things after leaving our ranks. This has been true since the earliest days of our organization. Many have become successful entrepreneurs. Others have gone on to become leaders in our military's special forces. Many have become attorneys or doctors. But, never before have we had so many of our members achieve such high levels of success while still active with the patrol.

A few years ago Lt. Wes Smith completed his doctoral degree at the University of Miami, where he was recently promoted to Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the Exercise and Sports Science Department, and where he works as a Clinical Assistant Professor. He is responsible for program development and is currently teaching eight different classes (possibly a UM record). Wes will be back for several weeks this summer to continue his work with the patrol's recertification program.

As many of you know, Crew Chief Mark Muller soon followed Wes by earning his PhD in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in underwater acoustics. Mark is an Assistant Professor in the Physics Department at Salisbury University. The classes he teaches include Physics, Statistics and Engineering. Mark is looking for-

ward to working on the beach again this summer where he has proudly led Crew 11 for the past few years.

In January of this, year Sergeant Jamie Falcon joined Wes and Mark by passing his "field exam", meeting the requirements to hold a PhD (ABD) in Public Policy through the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He has been an adjunct faculty member at that institution for five years, and also teaches at Anne Arundel Community College and the Community College of Baltimore County. Jamie's desired dissertation hypothesis is that the presence of offshore obstructions, such as artificial reefs, reduces the likelihood or severity of spinal injuries to recreational bathers. Sgt. Falcon will be working with Sgt. Uebel to lead the Surf Rescue Academy this summer.

Each of these professors has made sacrifices in order to remain a Beach Patrol employee while undergoing the rigorous course work, testing and research that their PhD programs required of them. We all benefit from the leadership and teaching abilities that they bring to our organization.

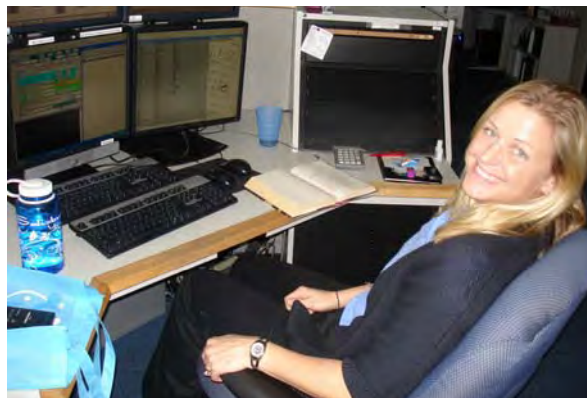
Congratulations to our newest doctor! For all of our other employees who are going to be manning the beaches this summer, don't let your time on the stand go to waste. Notice that Wes pursued his love of physical conditioning, something that he enjoys doing with the Beach Patrol, Mark analyzed dolphin sonar, and Jamie aimed at reducing spinal injuries in the surf. Wonder where they got all these ideas? Will you be the next BP PhD?

Sgt. Kauffman Takes Her Dispatching Skills Beyond the Beach Patrol

Submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Sergeant Colby Kauffman's voice is a very familiar sound over the Beach Patrol radio frequencies during the summer months. Her presence is felt even more after the Labor Day weekend as her dispatch rotations increase to fill the void left as other sergeants return to their off-season duties. This year, her voice has been heard over city radios even more in the winter as she worked part-time in the Emergency Services Communications Center as a call-taker and dispatcher for the Police Department. She started training in October and has progressed to the point where she can take calls and dispatch police officers on her own. Most of the calls she deals with are for traffic stops and business checks, but she recently used her experience as a BP dispatcher (and a mother) to calm a young girl who called 911 as her mother was being assaulted. One of the things that Colby likes about the Dispatch Center is the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) system that they use. Colby is quick to point out that Beach Patrol dispatchers play a much bigger role in our opera-

tions than the 911 dispatchers that operate out of the Ocean City Communications center. Another big difference for her working at the Public Safety Building, is that she can't always picture what is going on at the other end of a call as she can while dispatching for the Beach Patrol, where 17 years of experience enable her to more closely imagine what is happening at a scene. Colby currently works about 20 hours per week with the Communications Center, and will continue to work part-time during the summer months while she also works with the Beach Patrol. She is looking forward to working some night shifts during the summer. Things will surely get interest-



ing quickly as the weather warms up and crowds head our way.

Captain's Note: This is just one more example where one of our people have been seen away from their traditional City role and Colby is a wonderful example to the rest of the town, of the quality of our "temporary" employees. Although we will not all have an opportunity to work for other departments, we can all demonstrate on a daily basis the commitment and professionalism that we bring to the Beach Patrol and to the Town's workforce. I am proud to have Colby represent us in any way and know that she only makes the Beach Patrol look better in the eyes of those who have a chance to meet her. In fact I believe that Colby is the best-known Beach Patrol employee in the past 15 years and as recently as yesterday when I was introduced to someone for the first time, they told me they know Colby. Colby taught her kids to swim, and she has taken water aerobics from her. Thank You Colby!



Local News

Whale Washes Ashore in Ocean City

Submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

As many folks gathered at Shenanigans on the boardwalk to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the attention of the crowd was drawn toward the beach as a dead 27 foot whale came through the surf and onto the beach directly east from where they were busy celebrating. While this kind of thing happens every few years in our area, my attention was drawn to a particular passage in Nancy Powell's account of the event, as printed in "Ocean City Today". The whale washed ashore near 5th Street. "Then a rip current pulled it back into the ocean and it washed ashore again near Third Street at about 2p.m." That makes for some really good Beach Safety Presentation and EDU material, especially for down town, considering the whale, while only a baby, weighed 20,000 lbs. The largely intact whale was removed by Public Works, taken to a permitted site near the airport and buried there.

A week after Ocean City had a whale come ashore, Fenwick Island had a state record 61-foot dead whale wash up on its beach. This "fin whale" weighed approximately 100,000 pounds and could not be moved due to its enormous weight. Officials decided that the best course of action was to bury the creature where it was. Both the Ocean City and Fenwick whales were thought to have died as a result of being struck by large vessels.

This also serves as a reminder that if this were to happen during the middle of a sunny day in July that the SRTs on duty have a responsibility to perform. First of all, with any type of object in the surf, whether it be a live animal, a dead carcass, a disabled vessel or some other

type of debris we must ensure the safety of our beach patrons by clearing them out of the water and away from its path. Then, depending on what the object turns out to be, we must take further measures to keep people away and safe. If it is a live animal we need to protect it as well as the curious onlookers while notifying the proper authorities. If it is hazardous in nature then we need to clear a perimeter and call in the fire marshal or other agency. And, in every case we need to maintain a watch until the situation is resolved.

Stephen Decatur Swim Team



Coach Cawthern

Submitted by: Sgt. Cawthern

The 2010 Stephen Decatur swim team had another successful swim season. The boys' team took 13th in the state and the girls took 3rd in the state. I had a total of 20 boys and 17 girls on the team. Many sons and daughters are on the team whose fathers worked for the Beach Patrol in the past; Jake Blazer and Taylor Blazer, father Dave Blazer. Austin and Chandler Deppe, father Damon Deppe. Christian Yandle, father Mike Yandle. I also have swimmers on the team that have connections to the Beach Patrol. Zack Keiser, father works in radio maintenance. Bobby Layton, his father Larry owns Layton's Doughnuts which is a strong Beach Patrol supporter. Andrew Murrell, mother owns Patti's Beach Service Rentals north and south Ocean City. Josh Kirstein, brother worked for the Beach Patrol and father works for the Ocean City Police Dept. I also have many others who have participated in our Jr. Beach Patrol program. These include: Bo Deskins, Jon Rothermel, Josh Wilder who will be working for us this summer,

Lindsey Bankart, Caitlin Geiser, Katie Hansen, Cailey O'Brien-Sheilds and Jessica O'Neill.

Many of these swimmers will be swimming in our Capt.

Craig swim this July. And many of my swimmers will be trying out for the Beach Patrol in the years to come.





Equipment Update for 2010

Submitted by Sgt. Colby Kauffmann

Hello everyone! I cannot believe we are 2 months away from summer already! Looking forward to a warm and safe summer.

Please remember the following when filling out your equipment sheet:

New Rookies: It's ok if you are unsure of sizes, you will have the opportunity to try things on when you arrive on your check-in day (Sunday – day 1 of SRA) for equipment issue. I always get asked about changing the hat style chosen on original request forms. You won't receive a hat until the end of Surf Rescue Academy so you will have an opportunity to choose which style you want at that point. Just do your best guess as far as what you want and need to use for the summer.

Returning Guards: Please do not ask for more than 3 of any item, I just don't have that many. If there are specific things you like as far as your clothing goes (older sweats, newest sweats, older style bag, newer style bag, etc) be specific on your request. I go through each request personally when I fill the bags and will try to accommodate you the best I can. It is easier for me to give you what you like ahead of time than it is to switch things out when you pick stuff up.

I have received 48 new pairs of orange raingear, 60 new waterproof eqt bags, new sweats for SBFs, SRTs, and Crew Chiefs, new semaphore flags, new hats, etc etc etc. Each year we order new stuff to replace the older stuff and we are almost at a point of everyone having a new bag and new raingear. Crew Chiefs: I have ordered more waveking style shirts this year as requested after last year.

Please e-mail me if you have any equipment questions when you are filling out your request:

colbykauffman@yahoo.com

Have a great Spring!

Junior Beach Patrol Adding Sessions

Submitted by Lt. Ward Kovacs

Under the leadership of Sgt. Thompson, Sgt. Brabitz and Crew Chief Brabitz (Hammond), the Junior Beach Patrol has become one of the most popular programs in Ocean City. As soon as this year's registration for summer camps opened on February 1st, parents began sending in their forms to make sure their children would be able to attend the sessions of their choice. The success of the program can be attributed to Nick, Jeff, Aly, our dedicated Day Leaders, our Assistant Instructors and all of the SRT's that have staffed the program over the years. While we have been successful in bringing in large numbers of JBP members, we have not always been able to accommodate the growing numbers of children interested in the program. Several were relegated to a waiting list, even after we experimented with the expansion of our maximum number of participants allowed from 25 to 30, and even 35 for one week. After last year, it was determined that 35 was too large a group to manage effectively. We began looking for ways to grow the program without sacrificing the quality that had brought us to where we were. It was decided that we would try to add two afternoon sessions this year that would coincide with JBP weeks 4 and 5. These are the weeks when the registration number was highest, and also when our staffing levels are highest. This should allow us to accommodate more JBP members while maintaining a safe and effective member-to-staff ratio. This will also allow more SRTs to be a part of the program that has proven to be as popular among our guards as it is with the children.



Junior Beach Patrol Assistant Instructor Try-outs at Ocean Pines.