

History/Alumni

Lifeguard Legends

Submitted by: Kristin Joson

The Alumni from the early 40's and 50s are often referred to as "Legends of Lifesaving". I try to keep in touch with these former OCBP lifeguards. They are the only ones that can tell us what it was truly like to be a lifeguard in Ocean City during those times. Many of us reading this newsletter weren't even alive when they guarded the Ocean City beaches. Captain Craig is greatly missed. He was an invaluable resource and friend to me. He loved reading our Semaphore Newsletter and played a big part in helping with the editing and writing the history articles. I enjoyed visiting him and working alongside him in his den, learning what it was like in Ocean City in the beginning as it became a resort town and how lifeguarding in Ocean City evolved.



It's hard for many of us to imagine what Ocean City was like in the very beginning; It sure has gone through a lot of changes. If you are ever in the Dunes Manor Hotel, take a walk down the back hall where the pool entrance is. There are probably about 50 vintage photographs of Ocean City. If you look closely you might be able to find one of the original stands that looked like a box. A walk down this hallway is definitely worth the stop and will help you get an idea of what OC looked like back in the day of the lifeguard legends. Eells Boyd (OCBP 1951 -1955) is one of the lifeguard legends that has played a key role in keeping the alumni communication chain alive and well. Eells Boyd guarded in the early 1950s and currently lives in Whitehall, Maryland. I asked Eells how the term "Legends" came to be. He said, "When I was organizing the first reunion for the year 2000, I contacted Ed for suggestions. And in the conversations he said something similar to: 'It will be good to get all of the legends together again.' And this was mainly originally to be the 1950s guards and maybe early to mid 60s. And we had forgotten about the 1940s, so of course the reunion included them. So I guess originally the legends were the 1940s through mid 1960s. Now, as time goes on, I guess that should be increased!" I agree with Eells that as time goes on we can increase who goes into the "Legends" group. I know you all would agree that anyone that guarded in OC in the 40's, 50s, and 60s can definitely be considered a Lifeguard Legend.

Eells reports that he stays in touch with Chuck Austin, Jack Chew, George Feehley, Lucky Jordan (1945-1955), Jim Kelly, Art Miksinski, Clark Moran, Gerry Schuh and Ed Smith. Chuck Austin lives in Frederick, MD and helps his son with a business in Baltimore. Jack Chew lives in Ft. Lauderdale and is one of the few "legends" who remains there after joining the Ft. Lauderdale Beach Patrol years ago. He retired as a captain in the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department. George Feehley, "Mr. Ocean City," lives on 15th

St. and has been in O.C. over 50 years. Lucky Jordan lives in Titusville, FL, near the cape, and was one of the pioneers who started the migration to the Ft. Lauderdale Beach Patrol years ago. Jim Kelly lives in Berlin, MD and with Lucky and the late Bob Agnew, started the migration to Ft. Lauderdale. Art Miksinski lives in Towson, MD, and is a retired Baltimore County math teacher. Clark Moran lives near Towson and has retired from a successful career with Ferris Baker Watts and RBC brokerages. Gerry Schuh lives on Solomons Island, Southern Maryland, and retired as a successful insurance broker in Ft. Lauderdale. He too migrated to the Ft. Lauderdale Beach Patrol years ago. Ed Smith lives in Jacksonville Beach, FL. He and his wife, Barb, both retired from successful careers at Amtrack. Eells Boyd is retired from teaching at Towson University and is a free lance writer

I try to keep in touch with the OCBP guards from every era. I love to hear their perspective on serving on the Beach Patrol. Every year we get a small group of alumni guards that come out to participate in the Captain Schoepf Relay. They often share the impact OCBP had on

their lives as well as the impact they made on families whose members were saved from the sometimes treacherous Atlantic Ocean. No matter what era an alum guarded in Ocean City, after listening to some of the stories and reminiscing, it understandable why most of them end their stories and email communications with "OCBP Forever!"



Captain's note: There are now thousands of Beach Patrol alumni throughout the world. If

you know any or happen to meet someone who tells you they once worked for us, please direct them to our website and have them contact Kristin. It is amazing at how varied and successful these past guards are and we want to keep in touch.



THE OCEAN CITY MARYLAND FISHING GROUNDS

Submitted by: Lucky Jordan, OCBP Lifeguard Legend 1945-55

I think it was during the second OCBP reunion that the question was circulated asking who remembered the fishing grounds offshore. There were very few answers in the affirmative. That was surprising to me because there were quite a few of the former OCBP members from my years there and I remember those grounds very well. Jim Kelly remembered them as he was born and raised in Ocean City and Bill Pacy should remember them as most of the 1945 patrol had swam out to them more than once during the summer as part of the weekly conditioning session.

For those who don't remember or were on the patrol in later years, you could see the fishing grounds from the south end of the beach on a clear day. They were approximately a mile off shore and you could see the poles within and around the perimeter of the grounds and the netting from one pole to the other. You could also see the fishing boats congregating around the grounds on a good fishing day. It's just a guess that the grounds were approximately 50 to 60 yards in diameter with deep water on all sides but only three to four feet deep within the grounds as if they were installed on a plateau. After the swim out, we would hang on the poles and rest prior to the swim back. Sometimes you could see the shadows of good size fish preying on the smaller fish hanging outside the netting of the grounds.

My last swim out to the grounds was in the late summer of 1945 with a group of other guards on a cloudy overcast day through two to three foot ground swells with a slight fog laying between the crest of the swells. I had taken a little bit longer to look around and the other guards headed back before me. Just as I let go of the pole I had a hold of, when I started back, I saw a good size dorsal fin cutting through the fog about 10 to 15 feet from me which helped me decide to stay very still for a very long time in the same place with a very pronounced pounding in my chest. Finally, after an unknown amount of time I started back with a very slow subdued breaststroke, very slow movements and maintained that pace until I was back on the beach at the high water mark. It took me three times as long to get back to the beach as it did to swim out to the fishing grounds and an equal amount of time for the pounding in my chest to subside. It certainly wasn't the last or only time I encountered a shark in my life having served time in the US Navy with open water experience and years of spear fishing in south Florida. But it was one of the scariest because it was the first time and it was easier to keep an eye on them in the clear ocean waters off the coast of south Florida and around the Caribbean islands.

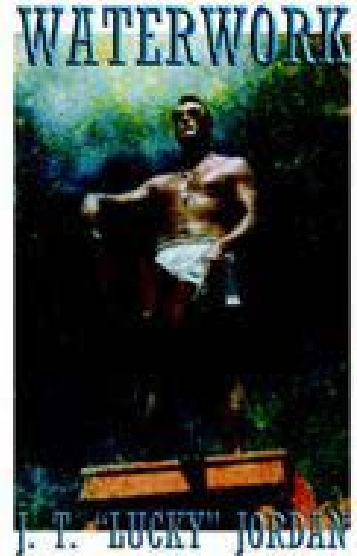
I have no idea when the fishing grounds off Ocean City were removed or how. When I returned to work on the patrol in the fifties, they were gone.

Lifeguard Legend and Author

Submitted by: Kristin Joson

Years ago Lucky Jordan, former OCBP lifeguard (1945-1955), felt moved to write a book called Waterwork. This was in response to his family's request that he tell the story of his life and the unlikely career path, from brick mason to aquatic pro-

fessional. Lucky brought some copies to the recent alumni reunion where he was able to autograph copies and sell them. I have a few that were left over for sale. He has also written other short stories that I personally have found enjoyable to read, "The Boardinghouse", "Uncle Jamie & Me" and "The T-Street woods". You can go on-line to Amazon, E-Bay, Booksamillion, any of the other book webs to purchase these books. You can also download his, "The Boardinghouse", a mystery thriller with the e-book option on the Red Lead Books web.



Lucky's most recently published book is called Bogie's Rules. It should be of special interest to anyone reading this newsletter in that it is a story about Zachariah T. Bogen, an itinerant surf lifeguard who has the need to wander from one beach job to the next in the late 1940s through the 1950s. While working on this newsletter, I have not had the chance to read the entire book, but already there have been several times that the OCBP has been mentioned and a few lifeguards that I actually know by name. "Bogie" is a fictitious character who represents the true story of the two men who originated working east coast northern beaches in the summer and southern beaches in the winter in the early fifties. In this instance he finds himself working on the Fort Lauderdale Beach Patrol for the winter season where his personal philosophy of life and loyalty involves him in an adventure he would never have believed possible.

While trying to find out what happened to a spear fishing buddy who has disappeared, Zach ends up as a captive on a uncharted Caribbean island where an illegal drug operation is headquartered. Forced to work in the coca fields while waiting for an opportunity to escape, Zach is caught up in the middle of a deadly mutiny within the organization itself while his big brother and friends seek to locate him for a rescue attempt. In the meantime, Zach has to rely on all of his past training and experiences, especially his waterman skills to survive.

When I talked to Lucky as he was writing the book, the plan was for Bogie to show up in other beach resort towns in other plots as well as back in Ocean City. The story takes place in the era when Lucky was a guard. At one time I asked Lucky if he could make Bogie spend some time living in the old Beach Patrol barracks on Dorchester Street since he actually had a hand in getting it for the patrol in 1951 & 52. He said, "Absolutely!" so we will have to read the book to find out if that actually was included. It is interesting to note that the specific location of the original barracks is the current OCBP parking lot now. It would be fun to read about a character living in the old lifeguard barracks.

Last fall Lucky Jordan was featured on an MPT (Maryland Public Television) special on the building of the Chesapeake Bay

Bridge. He was asked to be a part of the documentary because he was guarding the beach the day the bridge actually opened for the first time. He was warned by Captain Craig that Ocean City would see crowds like they had never seen before and he was right. It changed Ocean City forever. Lucky was also instrumental in establishing the Swimming Hall of Fame.

It is amazing to me the rich history of the beach patrol that can still be told by lifeguard legends such as Lucky Jordan. I enjoy his visits each time he is in town. His memories and stories of lifeguarding and Ocean City are truly a treasure.

If you are interested in an autographed copy of Waterwork, please email Kristin Joson at kjoson@oceancitymd.gov. The books sell for \$28.00

Captain Craig sees RED pink

Submitted by: Harvey Evans (OCBP 78'79'80'81'82')

The summer of 1982 I was Crew Chief of Crew 3 at the 7th street rock pile. I had a great parking lot behind me at the Majestic Hotel. It was the second best CC spot on the beach. When I started on the Beach Patrol our standard issue uniform was a blue tank suit/speedo by a company called Ocean Champion, two pairs of grey sweats and a green shirt (where the term Green Bean came from.. shortened to "BEAN") until you passed the semaphore test. Then you were issued two white T-Shirts with Beach Patrol on the front. The Sweats were screen printed with OCBP on the back of the shirt and on the left front leg of the pants. It was a great look and I loved the colors. We turned our gear in the same as today, at the end of the season (for me, it was Halloween weekend). In the mid 70's the guys worked until just before Thanksgiving.

So anyway it was the second or third week of the summer and rumor had it that the Captain (Craig) had ordered all new gear and it was late in coming in. I remember the day like yesterday. 602 and a truck 551 were headed up the beach stand by stand and handing out new sweats "Red". Bright Red sweats, t-shirts and suits. One by one they spent two days handing out all the new gear. The dilemma was lost kids. I never had to spell blue before, I just pointed to my trunks. So at the end of my first red day I went back to my house which I shared with other guards (Lt. Mark Warren, Sgt. Vic Velton, Chris Fisher, Hal Gamble, Dale Hodges, and other assorted guys). We all came home looking like "Big Red Pills". All the sweats were numbered now. What a nightmare to deal with at the end of the year. Well the first thing Mark Warren did was to gather all the sweats and shirts and put them in the wash, with extra hot water and a load of bleach. After putting them in the dryer, they came out nice and faded to a nice shade of pink/red.

Well at the next meeting my house showed up in our off red sweats. They looked a couple of summers old. Well Captain Craig was regaling about our new color and how to care for them. No Bleach, No hot water and as he panned the crowd saw us, the pink group. He stopped for a minute and continued his talk. Captain Schoepf could not hold back his tears. He knew what we had done and was in shock, but not surprised. That was the summer of all summers. The poor guys today have such strict rules because of that summer. We bent almost every rule as far as we could, without getting fired.

So I feel that I was lucky to guard when I did. I went from speedo and a metal buoy to the red and plastic buoys of today. Except for the hair styles and the shorter shorts, my pictures look just as the Beach Patrol of today.

(See page 33 to view an original suit in its box that was issued to Butch Arbin in 1973.)



Crew 3 in 1982 : from left to right
Jane?, Reid Roan, Harvey Evans, Mike Burke, Tom Yates,
Dave Gomer

GROWING UP BEACH PATROL

By: Dr. Sean Williams (SRT '83-'84, CC '85-'87, Sgt. '88-'90, Lt. '91-'93)

For most of us, the Ocean City Beach Patrol is something to be proud of; an accomplishment, an unforgettable experience, a family. These feelings stay with us long after our lifeguarding days are over (take it from someone who knows). Working the beaches of Ocean City helps to mold us into who we will become. It teaches us about responsibility, camaraderie, teamwork, and enhances our confidence and self-esteem. It is an experience that many of us have recommended to our friends, siblings, and for some, our children. I know at least a few of you have children (that you know about). Even those of you who don't will someday be able to relate to this.

Most of you currently on the Patrol probably don't know me; but, you've heard of my father, former Lieutenant Warren Williams. He's the guy for which the "Crew Comps" are named. My father worked on the OCBP for 40 years, until his sudden death in 2003. My parents actually met on the beach during my dad's rookie year in 1963. Being the only child of a life-long lifeguard, I got to "grow up beach patrol". Between the OCBP and his "real job" at N.A.S.A., I didn't get a lot of one-on-one time with my dad. However, to me, my life was pretty normal. I didn't mind spending almost every day of every summer on the beach from 10 to 5:30. In my world, it was pretty cool that I got a custom-made, 1/2 scale torpedo buoy with flags and a whistle for my fifth birthday. It wasn't weird that I was fluent in semaphore by the time I was eight years old, or that I made my first rescue in a rip when I was ten. This was my world with a father who loved the OCBP like a second family. Sure, we didn't get to spend much time playing catch together, or learning the fundamentals of football. Instead, I learned a knowledge, love, and respect for the ocean that most people will never know.

So, it came to no one's surprise (except, for some reason, my father's) when I tried out for the patrol at age 18. I guess, in my teenage years, my interest in the Beach Patrol waned a bit. I ran a beach stand and was quite comfortable sitting on my butt all day, chatting with friends, and reading the guard's semaphore. Plus, I waited tables at night, which helped to fatten my wallet. I suppose my teenage laziness helped to foster an apathetic attitude toward the OCBP. So, when I was finally old enough to take the test (18 at that time), I decided that I wanted to continue running the beach stand and waiting tables. My dad, although obviously disappointed, never pressured me to try out that summer. I'm sure it was hard for him to understand why his only son would not want to be a part of his "second family". He did, however, give me a subtle reminder the day before the first test of the season. I guess it must have been his "hail Mary" pass that got me out of bed early on that Saturday morning, and had me swimming a quarter mile in 56 degree water an hour later. I will never forget the look of surprise on my dad's face when I walked onto the beach that morning. Needless to say, I passed that test, and I thank God that I had that spontaneous change of heart.

During my early years of guarding downtown, I got to experience many dangerous, peculiar, and humorous situations... but, that's potential fodder for future articles. These were the unforgettable years that had the biggest influence in shaping me as a person. I worked my way up the ranks and eventually served as a lieutenant with my dad. Unfortunately, I had to eventually "retire" from the OCBP to enter the next chapter of my life. However, I will never forget many of the experiences, or the friends that I made during those years.

This brings me to the present. Now I am a dad, to two awesome kids; and I would love for them to be third generation Beach Patrol. But, at this point, neither of them shows the slightest interest in guarding. Not even Junior Beach Patrol (I wish they had that when I was a kid)! Granted, I'm no longer



Lt. Warren Williams , Sean's father with Sean's son Parker in 2000.

on the patrol. My kids aren't "stuck on the beach" every day through the summer. They don't get dragged to the Beach Patrol office or to meetings where they are surrounded by 150 other members of the "family". They only see the pictures on the walls of their home; pictures of daddy and pop-pop back in their glory days. Maybe those pictures will someday spark some interest. Like my dad, I know I can't pressure them; it will have to be their decision. All I can do is plant the seed, by telling them the stories, and teaching them the ways of the beach. Maybe someday they will choose to follow that path, or maybe they will run a beach stand, or wait tables. Either way, it will be their decision. Either way, their dad will be proud.

Captain's Note: For those of you who never had the good fortune of knowing Warren or Sean, I can assure you it is your great loss. These good men helped shape the lives of many of our Beach Patrol family over the years. As a Dad of one of our current SRTs (My little son Mike) I can tell you that I couldn't be any more proud of him and just like Sean's Dad, I was equally surprised when my son Michael showed up to test without even talking about it, much less working out or training. Sean is now a chiropractor with a practice in West Ocean City. He continues to help the Beach Patrol by volunteering as an official during Mid-Atlantics and other ways.

Living the Beach Patrol Way

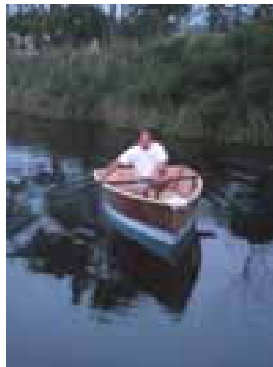
Submitted by: Sgt. Nick Thompson (OCBP 1998 - 2009)

With the holiday season approaching I just wanted to give a shout out to every one at the Ocean City Beach Patrol. It feels like just yesterday I was taking the test to become a rookie. That was the summer of 1998. Some of you may not even know who I am but one thing is for sure, you may relate to what I am about to write, some day in your near or not so near future. As my 12 years on the beach patrol came to an end in 2009 I came to a realization that I wanted to pursue other things in life. In order for me to pursue those things in life I just knew that I would not be able to give my all to do the job of Sergeant for the beach patrol. This is the beach patrol way that we all know and love. Believe it or not that is what I owe my current existence to. You see the beach patrol experience for me is a life-long experience that instilled in me many things from many people and continues to this day. Even though I am not wearing the uniform, the beach patrol way seems to be ingrained in me with whatever I partake in. If it is with my career as a physical educator, a husband, a father, a boat builder, or student I try to always do my best, learn and grow from my mistakes, help others succeed, and oh yeah always follow the "early is on time" polycys". There is not a day that goes by where I do not think about my many days in the sun in my OCBP uniform and the people who I shared those times with. Whether it was red, navy, or royal blue I was always proud to serve for such an honorable organization. As I look back it seems as though those days in Ocean City flew by and now I can see how much a gift they were for me and my future. "Thank You" Captain and the beach patrol family. I wish everyone Happy Holidays!



Editor's Note: Nick currently works for the Wicomico County School system where he is a Physical Education teacher. He has taught PE at Prince Street Elementary for 7 years. Nick is continuing his education and pursuing his Masters Degree in Administration. He is just 2 classes away from becoming certified in Administration, which will allow him to apply for a supervisory role in the school system. One of his hobbies and dreams ever since I have known Nick is boat building. Being away from the Patrol has allowed him to pursue this dream. In his spare time he is currently building a 14-foot flat bottom skiff. It is ironic that in the summer of 2009 when an ancient post beam from a boat washed ashore, Nick was the responding supervisor to help bring it in. It was the size of an 18-wheeler and had Roman Numerals carved in the side. He had the interest then. Who knows perhaps that is what sparked the interest now. (It's kind of like the recent story of Brent and the Sea Turtle). Nick is also a family man. He has a lovely wife, Lindsey and an adorable son, Colton. At a church event just recently, Nick was in charge of a fun run for children. This was an event that was held just before the big event for adults, very similar to what we do at crew comps with the kids before the guards do their run. So Nick is right, the beach patrol is a gift that is not only a part of his past but continues to be there daily as I am sure we can all relate.

Captain's Note: It always hard when our loyal and dedicated personnel have to make that very hard decision to back away from daily involvement with the Patrol. However, seeing someone who has grown up on the Patrol (I can tell you Nick is just one of many who I was blessed to watch become a man from the boy who showed up at the test) follow a dream and move on to multiple successes makes me personally proud of not only the person but also of our organization. Nick no longer wears the uniform of the OCBP, but his impact is still evident in several areas, most notably the Junior Beach Patrol. Thanks Nick!



Pictured above is Nick's 14ft flat bottom skiff. He is still working on it but plans to take it out in the Indian River Bay a lot this summer. He is naming it "Colton's Toy".

Iron Guard

submitted by: Sgt. Jeff Brabitz

This year's Iron guard was a first ever! We had our first ever tie, between Sakell and Steeley. This was in part due to our new competition set-up, with having multiple heats instead of having one big race and not having teams involved. Doing the heats worked out really great and there was a lot of focus on the times rather than just beating the person next to you. So for those of you who thought you couldn't do it, or just want to get a team together, make sure you sign up for the Pizza Tugos Iron Guard for the summer of 2012. Again this is a FREE event to all OCBP personal and as always free slices of OC's best pizza will be provided by Pizza Tugos.



Aaron and Nick always make the Beach Patrol proud at any competition. They are both dedicated Beach Patrol employees that are in peak condition as athletes as well as Surf Rescue Lifeguards. I'm sure Aaron will tell you the Vita Coco plays an important role!



It is hard to believe, but Captain Arbin still has his suit issued in 1975 in the original box. Of course it is going in our museum.

Note: *His first year was in 1973 at age 15. Perhaps this will be a story for the spring newsletter.*

CLASSIFIED

Do You Want OCBP License Plates?

If you do, you must complete the following:

1. Obtain an application by requesting one
2. Complete the application form with vehicle information and owner information
3. Sign the application and send a check for \$50.00 back to Headquarters
4. The Captain must sign off on approval and mail to the MVA.



John P. Dunnigan Photography

Don't forget photographer John P. Dunnigan did our professional group pictures. <http://jpdphotography.com>. If you didn't get all the prints you wanted or would like other merchandise with your picture on it, its not too late. You can choose from wallet to poster size. Also, tons of really cool merchandise available with your fav photos on them such as playing cards, coasters, stickers, key chains, jewelry boxes etc. " Parents love to get pictures of their children as gifts, especially awesome Beach Patrol shots. Email John if you have gift giving ideas that include photographs of the Beach Patrol.

johndunnigan@comcast.net

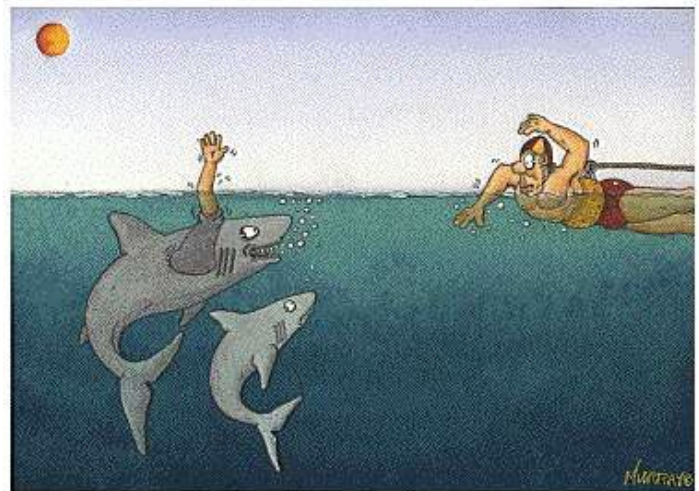


Jenny looks great in her individual shot. Individual shots are taken after all the crew shots

Announcements

Tom Shuster to Receive Award

Recreation and Parks Director Tom Shuster has been selected to receive the Distinguished Professional Award by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Network of the National Recreation and Park Association. He will be presented with the award on November 2nd in Atlanta. Mr. Shuster served as President of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association in 2010-2011, and has held several positions with national and regional organizations. He has been our director since 1998, and has been working in the parks and recreation field for 40 years. Congratulations to Director Shuster!



"SEE SON....THIS IS WHY I SAVE THESE BITS."

Just a little bit of Lifeguard humor.

For Sale

New Skate Board Never used from Malibus surf shop The Skate Board is a "Lost" Brand skate board fun shape. Still has price tag on it...

Listed for 159.00 Aly will part with it for 100 or best offer. If interested please e-mail bra-bitza@yahoo.com



OCBP Chapter of USLA

An Unbelievable Summer for the USLA Chapter

Submitted by Sgt. Ryan Cowder

A few years ago, the officers of our USLA chapter created some goals to set a direction for our chapter. Those goals included an arsenal of equipment, organizing a major competition on our own turf, and putting our chapter on the map at the national level in terms of competition. After the summer of 2011, I'm proud to say that those goals have been accomplished!

Over the past few years, we have slowly but surely accumulated multiple pieces of competition equipment. We have an extensive array of paddleboards, fins, surf skis, and a boat and have done our best to keep them in good working condition. In fact, very soon the boat will be moved to storage for the winter inside a warehouse in West Ocean City to keep it out of the weather.

Also, for two years in a row, our chapter was fortunate enough to be able to host the Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition in Ocean City on 21st St. in front of the Grand Hotel. It gives me great pleasure when I get to inform beach patrons that we were the champs for both of those years. The last two years, we also sent a large team to the crafts event in NJ, which was historically underrepresented by our chapter in previous years. Our comp team was able to secure our victory as regional champs at those crafts events.

For those of you that follow the location of the National event, you're well aware that it changes coast from year to year. This year it was on the east coast in Cape May, NJ, a small ferry ride for our competition team. We sent the largest team to Nationals that I can ever remember and represented our chapter, our beach patrol and our town very well. When it was all said and done, we walked away in 6th place as a chapter and brought home several medal winners and even some national champions!

Some of you, especially our competition team, realize the significance of a sixth place finish. Many chapters throughout the country are setup so that the membership of the chapter is fed from multiple beach patrols. For example, the Sussex chapter in Delaware consists of a combined effort from all of the Delaware beach patrols. Our chapter is only fed from the Ocean City Beach Patrol, which makes performing well at a National level more difficult. It is also why a sixth place finish overall is so commendable.

I would like to congratulate our medalists from Nationals once again. Sam McElvaney was a National Champion in the Beach Flags. The Women's 4x100 team also took 1st place, which consisted of Jenny Webb, Kelly McGrath, Liz VanderClute, and Sam McElvaney. The Men's 4x100 team took 2nd place, which included Derek Snyder, Jack Stang, Ryan Grantham and Shane Neumann. Liz VanderClute took 2nd place and Rick Cawthern took 3rd (age group) in the 2 km run.

Again, we are more than pleased with our performance this past summer and understand that we have challenges ahead of us. With the economic status of our country and the people living in it, it becomes increasing difficult to get members to join as well as get sponsorship from local business. We do our best to put our sponsors in the best light possible so that they gain from our accomplishments.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday season from the Ocean City Beach Patrol Chapter of the USLA. I also look forward to working with all of you again next summer! It will be here before you know it!

Captain's Note: Although the OCBP has been involved with the USLA since the 70's, the chapter has never been better organized or stronger. Winning the Mid-Atlantic regionals and placing so prominently in National competition is a far greater achievement than most of you realize. I have been involved in the USLA in Ocean City since we first formed a local chapter and have been a part of every Mid-Atlantic Lifeguard championship we hosted from the first one. I was even responsible for establishing the guidelines for several of the events, however as a Beach Patrol our focus has always been to hire "Lifeguards" first. Although other patrols look for "athletes" that can help them win races, we only hire personnel that can serve the citizens of Ocean City and meet the needs of our patrol. We have often turned away some awesome athletes because they did not have the type of availability that is needed to cover our beaches (often nationally ranked swimmers need to leave in early August). So what we have are legitimate "working" lifeguards who may wish to compete and we require them to take days off without pay if they are going to represent Ocean City. Therefore, when they are not competing they are working on a stand like every other SRT, which makes our strong finish even more incredible. GREAT JOB TEAM OCBPUSLA!



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



The OCBP Competition Team won the Mid-Atlantics Regional Championship for the 2nd year in a row.

Calendar/Important Dates

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

For winter correspondence
please send to:
Town of Ocean City
PO box 158
Ocean City, MD 21842
Attention: Beach Patrol

Phone:(410)289-7556
OCBP Headquarters
109 Dorchester Street
Ocean City, MD 21842

Email: barbin@ococean.com



We're on the Web
www.ococean.com/OCBP

OCBP WEB www.ococean.com/ocbp

Our web presence has gone through many changes throughout the years and continues to evolve. Bill Funkhouser has been instrumental in the conversion from the old site to the new. Others have also worked with our web editor to make it as informative and user friendly as possible. People use our website as a tool to learn more about the OCBP, beach/water safety and as an OCBP employee resource. If you visit the site and see information that needs to be updated or if you have an idea or contribution for the web page, please contact our Web Editor/Public Relations Coordinator, Kristin Josen at [kjosen@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:kjoson@oceancitymd.gov)

Important, Important!!!!

- In order to insure your W2 and your tax refund get to you, contact City Hall with any corrections on your permanent address.
- Also contact Debi if your phone number, mailing address or email address changes. DebiOCBP@aol.com
- You should contact or cc Kristin with your email address change so she can keep the website updated and current

The mission of the Ocean City Beach Patrol is to provide for the safety and well-being of the beach patrons of the Town of Ocean City, Maryland, who participate in beach and ocean-related activities. This mission includes **educating** the public, **preventing** potential accidents, and **intervening** when necessary and appropriate, both on the beach and in the adjacent Atlantic Ocean waters. The Patrol intends to fulfill its mission by:

- Recruiting the most highly qualified candidates.
- Employing qualified individuals for administrative and educational positions, competent surf rescue technicians, and public-minded surfing beach facilitators.
- Training personnel with the most current information, technology and equipment.
- Outfitting personnel with current, well-maintained, and appropriate equipment.
- Upholding the highest standards of professionalism; to present knowledgeable, capable, and reliable Surf Rescue Technicians to the general public.

Discover an Ocean of Fun!
Ocean City Recreation & Parks