

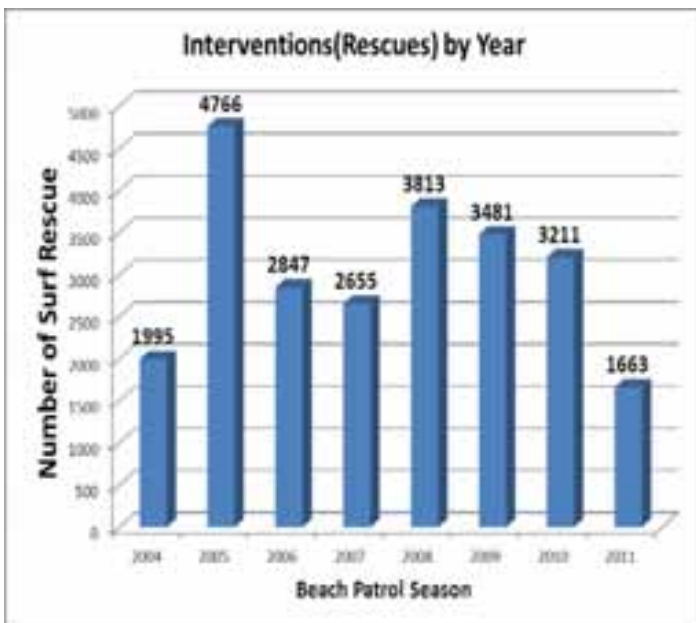
Data Collection and Statistics Update

For the third summer our crews had the option of submitting statistics on-line using Google Docs. Many Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs took advantage of the opportunity to enter their crew's data online which gave them the flexibility to do it at a beach house, or other location at a time and place of their convenience. Another technological advance came in the form of a "thumb drive" that was issued to each Crew Chief, pre-loaded with all of the season's current forms. This proved valuable when someone in the crew needed a specific form. What made it even more convenient was that they were all PDF fillable and savable forms.

All of this technology would serve no purpose if it were not for Debi and Stella (office associates) who collect all of the data and forms and enter them into an electronic format. Having this information available electronically allows me to quickly access information, perform statistical analysis and make informed operational decisions.

The 2011 season was statistically average in most of the categories for which we keep records, such as lost and found individuals, assistance from other agencies, minor first aids and preventative actions. However, response to serious medical emergencies was slightly higher than an average season. While the last weekend in August saw a tremendous amount of media coverage due to the predicted path of Hurricane Irene, overall our season was less busy with rescues than any season in the past ten years. Although there are many factors that impact these statistics, I believe that our increased focus over the past several years on the Education and Prevention aspects of our mission was the critical factor in reducing the number and severity of Surf Rescues.

If you would like to take a closer look at our statistics for 2011 and how they compare to recent years, you may visit our web site and follow the link to weekly bulletins where Secretary Malone reports the week's statistics, as well as the year-to-date statistics. Go to: [http://oceancitymd.gov/Recreation and Parks/Beach Patrol/bulletins.html](http://oceancitymd.gov/Recreation%20and%20Parks/Beach%20Patrol/bulletins.html)



The final statistics for the 2011 season which began on Saturday, May 28th and lasted 121 days ending on Sunday, September 25, 2011 were:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Urgent Ambulance | 144 |
| Ambulance | 162 |
| Police Assistance | 78 |
| USCG / MDNRP | 10 |
| Lost & Found Persons | 557 |
| Animal Control | 26 |
| Preventative Actions | 79739 |
| Interventions(Rescues) | 1663 |
| Minor First Aids | 1954 |
| North S.B. Population | 818 |
| South S.B. Population | 2598 |
| Beach Wheelchairs | 453 |

I would also like to thank all personnel involved with the collection of our statistics as it is very important to our mission and operations, and helps validate what we do every day.



Neck/back emergency on July 4th at the inlet.



Debi and Stella collect a lot data throughout the season and Stella does a great job reporting the weekly and year to date statistics in our bulletin. Here she is helping Mike with times at a qualifying swim .

Beach Patrol Receives Marine Animal Rescue Training

Submitted by Lt. Ward Kovacs



The Ocean City Beach Patrol has worked with the National Aquarium in Baltimore in several ways over the past twenty years. Beach Patrol Instructors even went to the Aquarium at one point to teach those involved in the dolphin shows how to stabilize and extricate members of their team if they were to sustain a spinal injury in one of their pools. As our stands dot the Atlantic shoreline for a ten-mile stretch, we are often the first agency to encounter marine animals that, for whatever reason, are either stranded or in the process of coming to shore. This makes our partnership with the Marine Animal Rescue Program (MARP), based at the aquarium, a natural fit. Over the years members of their team would come to Monday meetings to give an overview to SRTs in how to care for live, stranded animals. Sergeant Uebel would dutifully don the dolphin mask and lay down with his arms against his sides, his hands acting as flippers. Lt. Lee and others would then roll him onto a stretcher. Each summer, we would put that basic knowledge to work as we initiated care for dolphins, turtles, seals and other animals that found their way to the beach. For a few years the MARP team had an ambulance stationed at the Coast Guard station in Ocean City. Several of our officers were trained how to use the nets and equipment on the ambulance to move injured or sick animals to a protected environment were they could receive care. We were called on a few times to drive the MARP ambulance to stranded animals, once traveling all the way to Virginia to transport a seal pup that stranded on a marshy island near Chincoteague. The Beach Patrol has assisted the MARP team many times with the release of animals that were successfully treated and rehabilitated. We often drive them from their transport vehicles to the water's edge, and provide an extra level of crowd control as curious spectators rush in to see what's going on.

Our training for handling stranded animals has taken great strides in 2011. Members of the MARP team came to both of our Surf Rescue Academies this year and taught all of our rookies the basics of caring for stranded animals. Then, on Saturday, November 5th, 19 of our employees attended a MARP training class at Beach Patrol Headquarters that was arranged by Sgt. Falcon, and led by Jennifer Dittmar of the MARP team. Those 19 Beach Patrol employees received manuals and reference guides and, at the end of the class, were given their official MARP Staff T-shirts. Jennifer has agreed to hold additional "Marine Animal Rescue Responder" training during our season so others that were not available for the November 5th responder level training will have additional opportunities. We will be adding this newest training to our OCBPSRA certification program, and of course we will be designing a certification patch and certificate for those who complete this training.

(Continued on page 7)



Jennifer was an excellent presenter. Everyone enjoyed the training.

The following are the individuals and the season that they are beginning:

| | | |
|---------|-----------|----|
| Butch | Arbin | 40 |
| Skip | Lee | 30 |
| Ward | Kovacs | 30 |
| Tim | Uebel | 29 |
| Mike | Stone | 28 |
| Wes | Smith | 24 |
| Brent | Weingard | 23 |
| Rick | Cawthern | 23 |
| Marc | Bouloucon | 22 |
| Ed | Fisher | 21 |
| Colby | Kauffman | 19 |
| Dave | Haight | 18 |
| Mike | Bangert | 17 |
| Jamie | Falcon | 16 |
| Kevin | Reed | 16 |
| Mat | Postell | 16 |
| Debi | Tyler | 15 |
| Ryan | Cowder | 14 |
| Mark | Muller | 14 |
| Dustin | Stokes | 14 |
| Jake | Foy | 14 |
| Jason | Konyar | 13 |
| Jeff | Brabitz | 13 |
| Joe | Osborn | 13 |
| Garrett | Lee | 12 |
| Ben | Davis | 12 |
| Randy | Wheeler | 12 |
| Stella | Malone | 12 |
| Adam | Atwood | 11 |
| Alex | Desy | 10 |
| James | McVey IV | 10 |
| Ryan | MacCubbin | 10 |
| Steve | Fowler | 10 |

(Welcome Rookie Class continued from page 2)

email any questions you may have. To prepare personally you need to finalize all of your living arrangements as soon as possible. You may contact current members of the Patrol through Facebook or e-mail me ocbp@ococean.com and I will put you in contact with resources to find housing, which includes employee housing that is reserved for OCBP staff and is managed by the Ocean City Development Corporation. As you read through the rest of this newsletter you will have an even better idea of what the organization that you are hoping to become a part of is like. Just remember... this is the beginning of the greatest adventure of your life!



Permanent Assignment or “Where Will I be?”

Submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

Where will I be placed for the upcoming season? Can I switch crews? Can I have my old stand back? Can I have a stand in another crew? Can I sit in Crew Chief so and so's crew? These are all common questions for both new & returning personnel as we all think about the next Beach Patrol season. The easiest answer used to be, “Just ask 1st Lt. Lee or Lt. Stone.” As 1st Lt. Lee has changed roles, Lt. Stone has taken over doing the stand assignments and crew placements. The answer is still very much the same though, just ask Lt Stone. The Beach Patrol uses a procedure we refer to as “squatter’s rights” for crew placement and determining stand assignments.

Too many times, deals are made and things are promised that may not be accurate. Don't assume something to be true before asking the right person. Lt. Stone has an open door policy and works very hard to perfect the assignment sheet. Without an assignment sheet it is impossible to do the days off schedule. The sooner the assignment sheet is finished, the easier it is to do the schedule.

When return packets are mailed out the 1st of April, look for an assignment request sheet. Fill that form out completely and Lt. Stone will use that to consider your placement for the summer. If you change your mind, just put your new request in writing and date & sign it before sending it to the office. If a particular SRT sat a certain stand last summer then he/she may request to sit that stand for the upcoming season and it will usually be granted. There are some exceptions to that rule but we will not get in to that discussion unless one of those extraordinary circumstances arises and it will be dealt on an individual basis.

If an SRT were in a rover position for a crew, then he or she would have priority when requesting an open stand(s) in their former crew. If there is more than one rover interested in an open stand then the decision would usually come down to seniority and/or number of days worked. As always, there are some exceptions to the rule and any specific situations are discussed when necessary.

There is one other circumstance and that has to do with Assistant Crew Chief (ACC) appointments. If a person accepts an appointment to ACC, they give up their ability to request a specific stand. They may end up in the same crew but the possibility arises that their appointment could be in another crew. Another good example had to do with one summer in crew 16, every crewmember returned and there was a new ACC appointment. There really was no room to put another person in that crew so we worked with a neighboring crew to place one SRT nearby. My hope is that we have a high return rate for the summer of 2012 and that we have very few open assignments or stands! Last summer we also had fourteen of the seventeen Crew Chiefs (CC's) return, which allowed some room for advancement. What does the summer of 2012 hold? We will have to wait & see. One thing for sure, the OCBP will have all of its crews and stands full of qualified SRTs once the season begins!

Captains Note: For our new rookies it is important to understand that most rookies, and all rookies in the 2nd Surf Rescue Academy (June 2012) will be filling a rover position their first season. However, you will be asked to request the area of the beach you wish to guard. With ten miles of beach and 17 crews, rookies will be assigned to each area. Although the Beach Patrol tries to take into account the various requests made for assignments it is the needs of the Patrol that must be taken into consideration first and foremost.

(MARP Training continued from page 6)

This is just another example of our efforts to provide the best possible training to our employees. Having these skills and this knowledge helps us to fulfill our mission by caring for the beach environment, the animals that live there, and by keeping our human visitors safe and away from animals that can be dangerous when sick, injured, or when they feel threatened. Thanks to all of the participants in these latest training opportunities, and a special thanks to Jennifer Dittmar and the MARP team for making it all possible.

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



As a veteran lifeguard, Jack liked to explore other options before jumping into that cold water.



Testing and Recruiting



Testing 2011 – a Recap of Our Success!

Submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

The summer of 2011 was great for so many reasons. The Captain covered many of those reasons at our Monday

morning meetings and I am sure he's shared some of them with you on other pages of this newsletter. But one area is of particular interest to me and I am not sure he would have put the same sort of emphasis on it as I will here.

The August and September testing campaign was outstanding! You could focus on the weather and conditions, the number and quality of candidates, the incredible staff charged with conducting the assessments or the final tally of appointments! There is so much to be proud of this year with respect to testing. I was honored to have been asked to again assume a lead role in the administration of the testing program for future SRTs and want to be very clear that the success we achieved this summer rests solely on the energy and enthusiasm that the Sergeants and Crew Chiefs brought to the process. Their knowledge and experiences add so much to the testing campaign and they are truly the key factor in accurately assessing candidates.

The goal of every test is to first have the highest quality candidates show up and then to authentically and effectively assess their abilities and endurance. We do this to populate our Academies with the best possible future SRTs. The Sergeants create the proverbial "First Impression" when the recruits report for registration and the Crew Chiefs pick right up after that once the candidates are assigned to their testing "crews." From that point forth, the candidates are under the watchful eye of the Crew Chief and unlike years past, a lot of the instruction now provided during the tests is given by the Crew Chief instead of me. I think I like that improvement to the testing process the most! There is a real sense of ownership and responsibility cast upon the Crew Chiefs to do well and be thorough. The result is a well qualified, well trained, and thoroughly assessed appointee to Surf Rescue Academy.

I would be remiss here if I did not point out the fact that this year saw an amazing number of candidates report for the test. They did this without a single cent spent on advertising or recruiting. And that is all due to the outstanding efforts that our current SRTs put forth to talk about and inform their friends of the opportunities the Beach Patrol holds. Each of us is a part of the greatest recruiting resource the Beach Patrol has. Sure, Alex continues to keep open the Canadian Pipeline of recruits but Alex aside, all of us do the job of recruiting each and every day while we perform our duties, participate in workouts, interact with beach patrons and just be ourselves. There really isn't a finer group of individuals on the planet who embody putting

others before ourselves and valuing human life so much that we risk our own safety to protect and save others. Future candidates for testing see that in you and want to be a part of that sort of organization so, in the event you have not been thanked yet, please let me extend my appreciation on behalf of the Beach Patrol and the millions of beach patrons who go to Ocean City for their vacation.

At this time, we have no plans for conducting off-site testing. Our guaranteed appointments to Academy, coupled with our tentative list of appointments far exceeds our anticipated needs for 2012. However, just to be safe, please encourage your friends and associates to check the web site frequently for updates and information about testing. If there is a significant change in the number of personnel returning to Ocean City next year, our needs may increase beyond what we currently have. As for each of us, stay in shape, maintain your training and be the best person you can be!

Captain's Note: Successfully fulfilling all aspects of the Beach Patrol mission year after year depends on recruiting, qualifying (testing), training and employing the best Surf Rescue Technicians each season. Although it would be great to have 100% of the Beach Patrol's SRTs return each season that is never going to be a reality and so recruiting the next crop of rookies becomes everyone's job. As Skip has said for the most part recruiting has become a passive activity by just doing your job every day. Each year I get dozens of inquiries about "Lifeguard" positions, where the person tells a story of how they or someone in their family was "saved" by an OC lifeguard and now it has become their dream to join the Beach Patrol team, or they have always looked up to their lifeguard and are now ready to test for that position. I call this passive recruiting because it only takes doing your job and being a professional. The rest speaks for itself.

This year's testing statistics

| Summary of Pre-Employment Testing | | |
|---|----|-----|
| Number of Test Held | 2 | |
| Number of Candidates tested | 90 | |
| Number of Candidates offered appointments to SRA (pending availability) | 42 | 47% |
| Number of Candidates rejected | 48 | 53% |
| Number of Candidates tested by gender | | |
| Male (includes 2 JBP AI hopefuls) | 72 | 80% |
| Female (includes 1 JBP AI hopeful) | 21 | 23% |
| Number of Candidates offered appointments to SRA by gender | | |
| Male | 39 | 93% |
| Female | 3 | 7% |