



OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week of August 26, 2013 to September 1, 2013

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 40th STREET-Southwest corner on steps

OFFICERS' MEETING: Cancelled

CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs

SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE

AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs

CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)

GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs—Jennifer Dittmar, the National Aquarium MARP Stranding Coordinator, will speak.

LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: Cancelled

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season; you are encouraged to complete Dispatch Training and certifications from outside agencies, such as Safe Boaters, NIMS, SCUBA, ETC.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 34th St. / Rainbow (112th St.)

Tides: High: 1209hrs

Low: 1837hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs
Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 32nd / The Quay (108th St.)

Tides: High: 1300hrs

Low: 0642hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs
Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

Ocean City MARP Stranding Training
OCBP HQ Training Room
Monday, August 26—Dorchester St.—1800hrs
Required for instructor certification



S.R.T. Name:	Monday 8/26/2013	Tuesday 8/27/2013	Wednesday 8/28/2013	Thursday 8/29/2013	Friday 8/30/2013	Saturday 8/31/2013	Sunday 9/1/2013	CREW
Daily Assignment								
Rescues								
Preventative actions								
First Aids								
								Totals

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 30th St. / Marigot Beach (101st St.)

Tides: High: 1356hrs

Low: 0733hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Concerts on the Beach—*Randy Lee Ashcraft & the Saltwater Cowboys*—2000hrs—N. Division St.

Movies on the Beach—*Rise of the Guardians*—Carousel Hotel—2030hrs

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 28th St. / Mid-Plaza (97th St.)

Tides: High: 1457hrs

Low: 0826hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Beach Wedding—5th St.—1100hrs

Sunset Park Party Night—*Poole & the Gang*—S. Division St.—1930hrs

Movies on the Beach—*Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away*—27th St.—Princess Royale —2030hrs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2013 —Pay Day

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Mike Stone

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 26th / 94th St.

Tides: High: 1557hrs

Low: 0921hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Labor Day White Marlin Tourney—Sunset Marina—1730hrs to 1930hrs

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2013

OCBP 2013 Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation #2: Dorchester St. & Boardwalk—1000hrs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 24th / 92nd St.

Tides: High: 1650hrs

Low: 1016hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Labor Day White Marlin Tourney—Sunset Marina—1730hrs to 1930hrs

Beach Wedding—28th St.—1830hrs

Equipment Turn in Procedure for Full Time Changing to Part-Time

If you live more than 30 miles away, you are required to turn in all equipment once you end your full-time position (available 7 days a week). If you are working part-time after this time, you will pick up equipment before you are scheduled for duty.

The Exiting Process

Reminder!

Make sure that you have completed and turned in all necessary paperwork, equipment, and/or provided the required official documentation before leaving.

Bring the following to Headquarters:

- Notification of Last Day Agreement
- Official Documentation of your Next Commitment
- All Uniforms and Equipment
- Fall Employment Agreement

Testing staff needs to report to HQ at 0900hrs!

Recruiting Opportunities

Our 2nd Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation for next season will take place on Saturday, August 31st. This will be the last test of the season. Remember to mention this testing opportunity to potential candidates that you know or meet on the beach. Registration begins at 1000hrs on the beach at Dorchester St.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 22nd St. / 90th St.

Tides: High: 1737hrs

Low: 1108hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer replica tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Daily tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Labor Day White Marlin Tourney—Sunset Marina—1730hs to 1930hrs

Beach Weddings—41st St.—1500hrs

Beach Lights Spectacular—N. Division St.—2130hrs, 2200hrs, & 2230hrs



Keep your feet in the sand,
until the lifeguard's in the stand!



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2013—Labor Day!

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 40th STREET-Southwest corner on steps

OFFICERS' MEETING: 0700hrs

CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs

SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE—Last test for 2013!

AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs

CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)

GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs

LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: 0945hrs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet (Conditional) / 20th St. / 88th St.

Tides: High: 1820hrs

Low: 1158hrs

Special Events: 16th Century Spanish Explorer tall ship *The Galleon* —3rd St. bayside— Last day of tours-0900hrs to 1800hrs

Reminder

If you are not returning to work after Labor Day, all equipment must be returned after work Monday, or it will be deducted from your last paycheck. Once deducted, you will have to wait for reimbursement, which may take an additional four weeks.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

FALL PATROL MEETING—HQ Training Room—0830hrs

OCBPSRA: Physical Skills Events are completed for this season.

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 18th St. / 86th St.

Tides: High: 0634hrs

Low: 1243hrs

UPCOMING 2013 BEACH PATROL EVENTS

Aug. 31—OCBP Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation

Write this on your chair sign and give out brochures to interested individuals.

Sept. 3	Fall Patrol Meeting-Training Room—0830hrs
Sept. 22	Last Day of 2012 Season
Sept. 23	First Day of Extended Patrol
May 26	Memorial Day—1 st Day of 2014 Summer Season!
Nov. 25	Fall Newsletter
April 1	Spring Newsletter & Invitations to Return

Upcoming Town of Ocean City Special Events

OC Hotel Week	Various Participating Hotels	Aug 19-29	www.ococean.com for details
Concert on the Beach	<i>Randy Lee Ashcraft & Saltwater Cowboys</i>	Aug. 28	N. Division St. 2200hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>Rise of the Guardians</i>	Aug. 28	Carousel Hotel 2030hrs
Movies on the Beach	<i>Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away</i>	Aug. 29	Princess Royale 2030hrs
Arts on the Dock		Aug. 29	OC Fishing Pier 1600hrs
Sunset Park Party Night	<i>Poole & the Gang</i>	Aug. 29	S. Division St. 1900hrs
Tall Ship Event	<i>The Galleon</i>	Aug. 21-Sept. 2	3 rd St. Bayside 0900hrs -1800hrs
Concert & Cruzers	<i>Tommy Edwards</i>	Sept. 8	Somerset Plaza 1500hrs
Sunfest		Sept. 20-23	Inlet Lot 1000hrs to 2200hrs
Park Place Jewelers Beach Treasure Hunt		Sept. 21-22	
Concert & Cruzers	<i>Troy Mawyer</i>	Sept. 22	Somerset Plaza 1500hrs
ESA Surf Contest		Oct. 5	48 th St. or Inlet Dawn to Dusk
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk & Run		Oct. 19	Inlet 0730hrs

<u>Stats.</u>	<u>Week 13</u> 8/12/13 to 8/18/13	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2013	<u>Week 13</u> 8/13/12 to 8/19/12	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2012	<u>Week 13</u> 8/15/11 to 8/21/11	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2011
Action						
Preventions	2960	26436	2467	53411	3435	76630
Rescues	127	1629	24	2306	31	1420
Minor First Aid	104	1149	104	1241	190	1881
Ambulance Calls	26	117	16	187	25	281
Police Calls	7	122	6	110	6	67
USCG/MDNRP	2	8	1	6	0	8
Lost/Found Persons	24	380	50	467	38	507
N. Surf Beach Population	22	622	33	472	2	517
S. Surf Beach Population	227	2343	42	3435	178	2310
Inlet Surf Beach Population	3	581	26	933	17	725
Beach Wheelchair Usage	39	393	38	389	44	400

DO NOT FORGET THE BEACH PATROL WHEN YOU MAKE CHANGES

If you make any changes in the contact information that you have on file with us, it is your responsibility to let us know. If this coming season is as we predict, we will not be allowing personnel to return who have missed deadlines. Having mail returned or lost in forwarding may cause you to miss an important deadline.

E-mail – With free accounts and school accounts that are often changed you need to let us know immediately. We use e-mail to keep everyone informed of events and activities as well as confirming information and to get out quick updates.

Winter address – This is used to send U.S. mail such as newsletters, incentive checks, invitations to return, and other paperwork.

Permanent address – This address is not used by the Beach Patrol but is used by the Town of Ocean City to send tax information (W-2).

Request for Recommendations

Between seasons, I am often asked to complete references and recommendations. If you need me to provide something like this for you, I ask that you make the request in writing. In that request you should give me any information that will help me in giving you the best possible recommendation. I will need to know whom it goes to and if there is a particular format or form that is required. It will also be helpful to remind me of some of the Beach Patrol activities that you have been involved in, such as JBP, Camps, special duties, etc. I also will need a fair amount of lead-time since personnel files are secured in Ocean City while I am in La Plata. You may send your request by e-mail or if you are required to mail to a physical address, you may use:

Captain Butch Arbin
134 West Quail Lane
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Help Wanted
YMCA Pool Lifeguard Position Available

The Pocomoke YMCA is in need of part-time lifeguards for the hours of 1100hrs to 1600hrs.

If interested, contact MaryBrad Kelley:
lsfitdir@yahoo.com



We are looking for Banquet Houseman this fall/winter to help with our conventions. If any of the lifeguards are looking to supplement their income when BP slows down please send them my way.

The hours are pretty flexible and can work around any schedule.

Mark Elman, General Manager
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842
410-524-3535 ext.7158
www.clarionoc.com

Employee Evaluations – Not the Entire Picture

Although having satisfactory evaluations is very important, they are only one aspect of each employee's summative performance rating. Employee commendations, incidents, responsibility for equipment, amount of time worked, amount of time taken off, fulfilling work agreement, and last day worked are all considered by the review panel. Only once a full and complete assessment is made will a final recommendation be made to the Captain, regarding an employee's status for the next season.

OCBP Question-of-the-Week for The Worcester County Times

This Week's Question: I heard a lifeguard telling a friend that the OCBP has already started to test for lifeguards for next summer (2014). He said they already had one test on Saturday, August 10th and the next would be this Saturday August 31st. Why are you testing now for next year? What does testing mean and what can I expect if I pass the test?

Because of the unique demands of the job, the Beach Patrol does not require or recognize certification or past experience with other agencies. All individuals seeking employment with the Ocean City Beach Patrol must successfully complete all aspects of a 10 phase pre-employment physical skills evaluation. Testing for the OCBP is offered in Ocean City and occasionally at select off-site locations if needed. Once a candidate passes the physical skills test and a personal interview, he/she is appointed to a Surf Rescue Academy (67 hours of paid (\$12.99 hr) physical skills and classroom instruction) to be trained in all aspects of surf rescue and first responder skills. After passing a mandatory drug test and successfully completing Surf Rescue Academy, rookie Surf Rescue Technicians are assigned 3 weeks of supervised probation where additional training will take place.

The next on-site tests in Ocean City after this Saturday will be in June of 2014. If interested please register on-line and check-in beginning at 10 A.M. at Dorchester Street on the Boardwalk. Because we have such a high return rate from one season to the next, it is important that anyone hoping to secure a position for 2014, test as soon as possible. Although we have scheduled testing through June 2014, recent experience has shown that we might not need to hold any testing after our August 31st test. Therefore, testing maybe suspended at anytime.

The reason we begin testing now is to take advantage of the great ocean conditions (warmer water) while recruiting those individuals who have spent a summer living and working in Ocean City but were under a misconception that they did not have the necessary credentials to seek employment as an ocean lifeguard. As these individuals have met Surf Rescue Technicians who are currently working for us over the summer, they come to realize that we provide paid training (\$12.99 per hour and \$14.07 after completing probation) and certifications in Surf Rescue Academy; we require each candidate to pass all phases of the Pre Employment Physical Skills Evaluation which includes a personal interview and receive a recommendation from the evaluation team to receive an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy. These potential recruits have already spent one summer in Ocean City and are familiar with the area and have already solved the problem of securing seasonal housing, although anyone is encouraged to test and we do have employee housing available on a first come first served basis. Therefore, when they accept an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy they are most likely to follow through and actually accept the position the following season (we loose a few recruits each year to personal logistical concerns).

A major reason that we also start testing a year ahead is that we want to have the opportunity to attract and hire the best. With a national lifeguard shortage, we work year round to assure that we have 100% of our positions filled each year, while many other local governments and beach patrols have to close pools, close beaches or reduce coverage.

We encourage anyone interested in becoming a Surf Rescue Technician (lifeguard) to speak to the lifeguard on your beach, go to our website or contact Beach Patrol Head Quarters (410- 289-7556) and register for a specific testing opportunity. For specifics on requirements, test locations, dates, and times, please refer to our website www.ococean.com/ocbp. Click on the JOBS button or email ocbp@ococean.com.

SRT of the Week Crew Chief Travis Wagner

Crew Chief Travis Wagner has been a member of the OCBP for 9 years, with the last 6 as Crew Chief. He sits in Crew 15 at 120th St. He is an active member of the USLA, the competition and dive teams, the triathlon club and he also instructs for the OCBPSRA events.

During the off-season, Travis is a high school Spanish teacher and coaches the varsity swim team in the Philadelphia area. For recreation, he trains for triathlons, surfs, dives, and travels. He also likes to go surfing, snowboarding, mountain biking and diving.

Travis is pictured with his crew that covers from the Carousel to 126th street.

The lifeguards of the OCBP are glad to answer any of your beach and water safety questions.



Important Notice

Please note the dates and times of the remaining weekly meetings and adjust your calendar accordingly.

Monday, August 26
Convention Center—0800hrs

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)
Convention Center—0800hrs

Tuesday, September 3 (Start of Fall Patrol)
HQ Training Room—0830hrs

Beginning on Sunday, September 8, the weekly meetings will move to City Hall on Sundays.

Sunday, September 8
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 15
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 22
City Hall—0830hrs

2013-2014 Off-Season Contact Information

The following numbers and addresses will ensure that you have all available means to communicate with the OCBP. Keep this page available for future reference.

Ocean City Beach Patrol
P.O. Box 158
Ocean City, MD 21843
410-289-7556

Rec. & Parks: 410-250-0125

Captain Butch Arbin
134 Quail Lane
La Plata, MD 20646
240-349-2834

barbin@oceancitymd.gov.com
barbin@ococean.com

ocbp55@comcast.net
mkstone13@hotmail.com

Lt. Skip Lee

slee@oceancitymd.gov

Lt. Mike Stone:

mstone@oceancitymd.gov

Lt. Ward Kovacs:

wkovacs@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Ryan Cowder

rcowder@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Tim Uebel:

tuebel@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Ed Fisher:

efisher@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Rick Cawthern:

rcawthern@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. James McVey

jmcvey@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Brent Weingard:

bweingard@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Jamie Falcon

jfalcon@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Mark Muller

mmuller@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Colby Kauffman:

ckauffman@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Steve Fowler

sfowler@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Jeff Brabitz

jbrabitz@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Ben Davis

bdavis@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Mat Postell

mpostell@oceancitymd.gov

Sgt. Jason Konyar

jkonyar@oceancitymd.gov

Debi Tyler

dtyler@oceancitymd.gov

Stella Malone

smalone@oceancitymd.gov

Kristin Joson

kjoson@oceancitymd.gov

gpostell@aacps.org

jkonyar32@yahoo.com

debiocbp@aol.com

bystarlight@verizon.net

kjoson@ccboe.com

ryancowder@hotmail.com

timtubal@gmail.com

Edward_Fisher@fc.mcps.k12.md.us

surfrac@comcast.com

vwgti8181@yahoo.com

hairear@aol.com

jfalcon465@yahoo.com

mwmuller@gmail.com

colbykauffman@yahoo.com

sfowler85@gmail.com

brabitzj@yahoo.com

OCBP DIVE TEAM

Tentative Fall & Winter Schedule

October-Date TBD

Oyster Dive

Eastern Bay (Kent Island)

October 12-14

Outer Banks Trip

North Carolina with Sea Colony Scuba

TBD

National Aquarium

Baltimore

March 16-23 (not all)

Spring Break Trip

West Florida

April 18-20

Twilight, Night Dives

Fort Lauderdale Air & Sea Show (working)

Sergeant Falcon sent an email to the Dive Team list on Sunday, August 18. If you did not receive it and you want to be on that list, you must send him an email: jfalcon465@yahoo.com ~ or ~ jfalcon@oceancitymd.gov



Sat 8/17/2013 11:49 PM

Captain Butch Arbin,

My family and I vacationed in Ocean City this past week and enjoyed the beach each and every day. I have three young daughters whose "perfect day" involves swimming in the ocean and playing in the sand, and we all did that for about 6 hours each day of our stay in OC. As I swam with my children, relaxed on the beach, and took in the many sights and sounds that come with the crowded beach I came to make some very specific observations that I want to share with you.

I've been a public school teacher and basketball coach for 18 years, and have a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. In fact, leadership and organizational excellence is a passion of mine. I read and study characteristics of outstanding leaders and organizations and love to understand the core principles of excellence that lead to success; admittedly, I do this because it's a love of mine and, I like to believe, it helps me in the classroom and as a coach.

The reason I'm emailing you is because, during my week-long stay in OC, I witnessed a few serious incidents on the beach with swimmers in distress. I witnessed firsthand the way your team rushes to support one another in situations that may ultimately change the lives of people they have never met. Their hustle and competence were inspiring, to say the least. Later in the week, I took it upon myself to question a couple of your guards on the work that they do and, in talking to them, their pride and love for their job was infectious. They genuinely love what they do, and are so proud to talk about their work, which leads me to my next point. Employees, teammates, etc. who love and take pride in what they do are the result of outstanding leadership and exemplary organizations that are motivating their teams to "make it happen" for each other and for those that they serve. In my view, Maryland's OCBP is THE model for excellence, teamwork, and service. Your team is not only highly skilled/trained, but your willingness to create the safest, most enjoyable experience for each beachgoer is to be commended, respected, and admired.

The BEST teams/organizations that I've studied are those that eagerly support one another in their quest to be their best. Although I'm a lifelong Maryland Terrapin fan, it's hard not to notice the way the end of the Duke basketball bench jumps, screams and shouts for the success of those on the floor during the game. They seem invested in the idea of being part of a winning team. The way your guards support one another shifting and backing each other up during a rescue (please excuse the obvious lack of proper jargon) is remarkable and to be recognized. Everyone hustles to be a piece of a successful outcome. The lifeguard going out for a save can do so knowing that his/her teammates want them to be winners. That's not common.

Please excuse the length of this email as that's not really my style, but I just couldn't let my respect and admiration for your team go unpraised. A great moment occurred in the car on the way home last night: my young daughters were talking about how cool the lifeguards were. My oldest, age 9, is on our local swim team and actually said she may want to be OCBP one day because they're awesome! Never doubt that you all are heroes to those that you serve.

Please make sure that your staff is congratulated for being a model for teamwork, excellence, and service. Those that enjoy the beaches of Ocean City, Maryland, owe each of you a debt of gratitude. Thank you and your guards for being the silent assurance my family needed to enjoy our time on the beach this past week.

All the Best,

Calvin Skelton
Bel Air High School
English Department
Girls Basketball Staff

Dear Captain Arbin:

Our family just returned from our vacation in Ocean City, Md. We stayed in Ocean Pines and went to the beach daily at the Ocean Pines Beach Club between 49th St and 50th St.

We would like to commend the young men and women of your staff for their professionalism and courteousness. One guard in particular, Kevin Stang, stood out as a shining example of what the Ocean City Beach Patrol is all about. Kevin is friendly and professional. He warned the beachgoers about dangerous shorebreaks, found lost children and dealt with all the other potential beach problems (i.e. rip tides, flying umbrellas, holes in the sand, ball playing etc.).

The town of Ocean City has every right to be proud of these young men and women. You and your staff of officers are to be commended for training these highly competent life guards.

Thanks to the Ocean City Beach Patrol for making our stay on the beach safe and enjoyable.

Hans Ruppenthal and Family

Thanks for Saving Me Today

This is to thank the lifeguard in the chair at 122nd street, this morning Sat 17 Aug.

At about noon today, my 11 year old son was in the waves at 123rd street, when he got caught in a very strong undertow (rip tide?) and couldn't make it back to shore. I was standing on the beach at the time watching him, and was not sure if he was in trouble or not. Finally I jumped in and with the help of 2 others in the water, got him started back to shore. However, I also got caught in the undertow, and was being pulled away from shore. I realized I was now the one in trouble, getting very tired from being pounded by the waves and trying to stay afloat and fighting the current, and now starting to swallow water. I yelled for the others to call the lifeguards as I realized I was not going to be able to make it in, and was now in danger of going under. I had no sooner called for help when suddenly out of nowhere a young man appeared next to me and calmly told me to grab onto this red float. As I did this I realized he was an Ocean City Lifeguard. In an instant I went from nearly drowning, to simply floating and working with the lifeguard to kick my way back to shore. As we did this, the lifeguard would tell me when a wave was about to hit us so I wouldn't become startled and panic. Soon he said "You should be able to stand here", which I did, and still having to fight against the outgoing current, made my way onto the beach. I quickly thanked him as I tried to catch my breath, and after I assured him I was OK, he left. I was so trying to regain my breath and worried about my son that I forgot to ask his name.

So, please pass on my sincere thanks to this young man.

My thanks as well to all the others on the Ocean City Beach Patrol. I have been coming to O.C. for over 40 years, and have always been impressed with the caliber of these young men and women protecting us on the beach. I have witnessed many rescues over the years, but never imagined that one day it would be my son and me! Thank goodness the O.C. Beach Patrol is on the job.

Thanks Again For Keeping Us Safe.
Bob Billheimer, Eldersburg, MD

Wed 8/21/2013 9:25 PM

It was our pleasure to meet Andy at his 94 th street chair this past Monday. He had to run into the water to check the safety of a young boy and then invited all the beach goers to visit his stand. Andy introduced himself and explained due to the rain on Sunday the pop up rip currents were around and people needed to be aware and watch for his signals. Everyone thought Andy was warm and welcoming to OC!

Kudos to you and Andy! Please pass along our thanks for making the beaches safe.
Kerry Petz
Arnold, MD

Butch,

Thank you for all you and the Ocean City Beach Patrol do for the citizens and visitors of Ocean City. For several years now my family has had the pleasure of swimming at the beach near our condo on 90th Street; under the watchful eye of a fantastic Lifeguard named Lucie Lagace.

Although the ocean is a ever changing and dangerous environment, my wife and I feel a little more at ease when we see Lucie in the stand. Lucie is an outstanding Lifeguard who takes the time to not only warn people of dangers, but educate them as well. Both my daughter Shannon, age 11, and my son Joshua age 9, have learned a great deal under Lucie's care. Besides being an excellent Lifeguard, she is one of the kindest and friendliest people you would ever meet; with her calm mannerisms, gentle spirit and unmistakable French Canadian charm, it would be hard to imagine a better Ambassador for the Ocean City Beach Patrol or the town of Ocean City.

For these reason and a multitude of others, could I respectfully request that a commendation letter from the town of Ocean City be presented and placed in her employee file?

Please feel free to call or email me if you require any additional information.

With my sincere appreciation for all you (and you team) do for our town,

Wes & Linda Ridgley
(Shannon and Joshua)