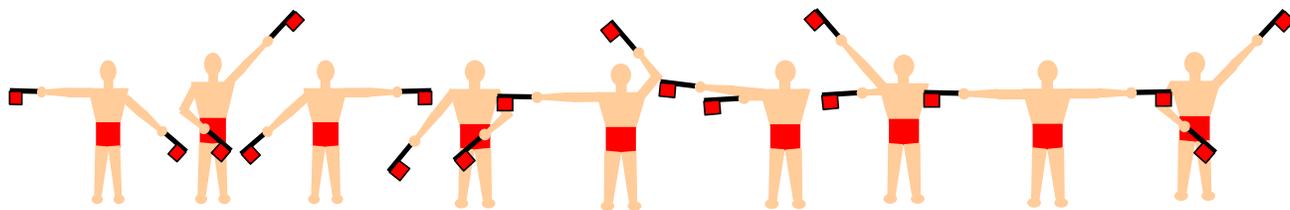


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 62

Newsletter

Fall 2016/Winter 2017



Over Eighty-five
Years of Saving
Lives

Maintain Your Role
in this Fantastic
Tradition!

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Message From the Captain

More Than Tradition

Although the Ocean City Beach Patrol has been around for over 85 years, we have evolved with the changing role that we have been given by the Town of Ocean City, while still maintaining many of the core values and attributes that have made us great.

As we assess how we are performing as an organization we must look at many factors and how well we are fulfilling our mission. One factor that lets me know that we are doing well as an organization is the current feedback I receive from our visitors and patrons. But another source of feedback that has special meaning to me is from past employees who understand our mission and the role of the Beach Patrol within the Town.

Although I hear from past employees each season, every third year many return to Ocean City for a reunion. This was one of those years, and during the weekend of October 14 -16th many past employees of the Beach Patrol gathered for three days of fun and fellowship. The reunion this year brought together guards from as far back as the early 1940's and as recent as the 1990's.

At these reunions, I have the opportunity to meet many of the older guards from before my time (over 45 years). I also reconnect with guards from my time in the 70's, 80's and 90's. The one common comment I hear is how proud they are of what they see in today's SRTs. This is a real tribute to all of you but particularly to those who are training our newest em-

ployees and the crew chiefs and sergeants who continue to mold these new PSRTs and PSBFs into professional SRTs and SBFs.



What makes these comments so meaningful is that so often in organizations past employees have a feeling that it was so much better while they were there. But most alumni that I talk to really feel that the current Patrol has really moved forward with the times. They are proud to have been a part of the evolution and see today's Patrol as far more professional and the individual employees as more highly trained.

I have always felt a great responsibility to our past to continue the foundation that we were built on and have an obligation to become the best Beach Patrol that we could become. After all we owe that to the tax payers and visitors to our Town and it is the expectation of the Mayor and City Council.

Having the approval and admiration of those who came before many of you is a real testament to the work you do every day.

This past summer one of our Alumni, Bob Wagner who was a Lieutenant during the 1960's relocated to Ocean City from Baltimore and spent many days on the south beach. He told me about watching one of our guards for several days and telling a friend that he could tell by watching that this was a veteran guard. One day he walked up to speak with the guard only to find out that the SRT was in his 2nd week on the stand. Bob was so impressed that a rookie SRT was

so well trained and mentioned that he performed as though he had been on a stand for several seasons. This is absolutely a reflection on how our Surf Rescue Academy prepares our newest employees for the expectations of the job.

Alums like Bob have watched our testing, training, veteran recertification and other activities and have only become that much more impressed with our modern Patrol. Even past SRTs from my tenure have taken time to let me know how impressed they have been with the performances they have witnessed on the beaches in OC.

One particular comment I hear is how the experience gained on the Patrol has helped them in their chosen careers. One aspect of the job that we teach, although not calling it by name, is "Situational Awareness". This is more than just the scan, it is taking in lots of data using all of our senses and knowing what is happening or what may be about to happen. For our people who have gone onto the military or law enforcement this is a true survival skill and they have often returned to me to say "thanks".

In conclusion, whether you work for the Patrol for a season or many years you play an important part in carrying our traditions forward and moving the Patrol into the future. If we all do our parts then years from now we can look at the Patrol and feel proud, not only of how it was during our tenure, but more importantly, proud of how it has continued to evolve and meet the expectations of the Town and our visitors into the future.



Dr. Sean Williams awards Vic Sprecher (74 years old) for finishing strong in the under 50 swim category. Vic guarded OCBP 1963, 64 and 65. Vic also organized and directed the 2010 and 2013 OCBP reunions. Thank you Vic for all your work and efforts. Vic also brought us the Emily Rescue Demonstration.



Welcome to the rookie class of 2017

I want to again welcome you into the Beach Patrol family and to the greatest adventure of your life. I hope that this is just the beginning of a lifetime of wonderful Ocean City memories. Although you have taken the preliminary and most important steps toward a career with the Ocean City Beach Patrol when you successfully completed the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation (PEPSE) and demonstrated to your testing administrators and the interview committee that you have the "Right Stuff", this is just the beginning of the adventure and not the end. Passing the "test" is a challenge you will always remember with great pride and we have included a specially designed sticker to commemorate that feat. But now the real work begins for you and the Surf Rescue Academy instructors and the patrols' leadership. We are excited by the quality that each of you displayed as you became one of the 35 newest rookies. We count on you to help us maintain our great tradition and to move us into the future.

We have the collective responsibility of turning you into a Surf Rescue Technician and you have the responsibility of arriving in the spring ready to take on the challenges of Surf Rescue Academy (SRA). We will provide you with the most comprehensive open water surf rescue training being taught by the best instructors available anywhere. To be successful you must use these next several months to prepare both personally and physically for the "Greatest Adventure of your life". To prepare physically you must continue to work on maintaining and improving your general physical conditioning and honing the specific skills needed for Surf lifesaving. Although we talked about where you needed to improve during your final interview you should take time to look at our web resources www.ococean.com/ocbp and contact our Director of Training, Lt Ward Kovacs for training tips. Although it may be difficult to find a pool to train in during the winter and running in the sand may only be possible at the beach, you **MUST** find a way to maintain your training and increase the intensity as you approach the start of SRA. Reporting to SRA out of shape or not prepared to participate at the physical level required of all rookies, will result in the loss of your position.

Although official appointments to Surf Rescue Academy will not happen until the beginning of April 2017, I will be sending you a link by E-Mail in early February, to a Google Docs form that will update your status and help the patrol with planning. Once you receive the official offer in April and have confirmed your availability and submitted official documentation by return mail, your responsibility is to be fully prepared for the rigors of SRA

and to be ready to perform at the highest level both physically and mentally. As long as your availability has not changed you will be guaranteed a slot in a Surf Rescue Academy. Several appointments will also be given to others based on performance, past connection with the Patrol and late season availability if they plan to leave prior to Labor day. We have scheduled three off-site tests and a final Ocean City test to receive an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy for the 2017 season. Our next Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation (PEPSE) will take place at Salisbury University on Sunday, February 12, 2017 followed by a second PEPSE on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at York College in Pennsylvania with the final off-site testing taking place in Ocean Pines (just outside Ocean City) on Sunday, April 30, 2017. Now that you are a part of our family you have a shared responsibility to help recruit quality candidates that you would like to work with this summer (what an awesome gesture for a good friend). If they are not available to attend one of the off-site PEPSE opportunities they may still try-out for position for our 2017 season on June 3rd in Ocean City. However, they will not be eligible for the Surf Rescue Academy (SRA I) that begins on May 21st and will miss approximately four weeks of paid work (almost \$3,000.00). Even if you test early, anyone from any PEPSE may choose to attend SRA II which reports on Sunday, June 18, 2017. Although we have all these scheduled PEPSE opportunities, the Beach Patrol recruiters are working very hard to fill all positions as soon as possible, at which time we will stop hiring for the 2017 season and cancel remaining tests.

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 barbin@oceancitymd.gov and I will put you in contact with resources to find housing, which includes employee housing through the Ocean City Development Corporation. Do any or all of these things but whatever you do..... you must be ready! And remember... this is the beginning of the greatest adventure of your life.



Rookie Graduation this year will be June 29, 2017.

Change Comes Following Election

submitted by: Captain Butch Arbin

I am sure you are all instantly thinking about the Presidential Election. I understand why that would be your first thought after all that happened in our national elections, but I am writing about the local Ocean City election that also took place on November 8th. The governing body of the Town of Ocean City is an elected Mayor and seven City Council members. This year the Mayor's position along with four council seats were up for election. For all concerned it seemed like there would be an uncontested election with all incumbents running un-opposed. That was until the final day of filing when John Gehrig Jr., a 5th candidate for one of the City Council seats filed to run. Although the mayor was still able to run with no opponents we now had 5 candidates trying for 4 seats. Up until the filing deadline there was no need to campaign since all were running for their own seat. However, once Mr. Gehrig entered the race the four incumbents needed to let the citizens of Ocean City know they were seeking re-election and signs began to appear all over town along with ones for John Gehrig. When the votes were tallied not only was Mr. Gehrig successful in his run for City Council but he managed to receive more votes than any other candidate.

Name	Vote Total
Rick Meehan	1894
Douglas S. Cymek	1175
Dennis W. Dare	1355
Tony DeLuca	1496
John Gehrig, Jr.	2026
Mary Knight	1310

I want to congratulate Mr. Gehrig and wish him the best as our newest City Councilman. I look forward to getting to know him and helping him get to know his Beach Patrol. I also wish to congratulate Dennis, Mary and Tony for retaining their seats on the council. The unfortunate side of a contested election is that someone has to leave the position. In this case it was Doug Cymek who is a strong supporter of the Beach Patrol and has been a very selfless public servant for many years. Most recently Doug was instrumental in passing the Shark Fishing Ban (ordinance) last summer and was very helpful in securing our new Beach Patrol Headquarters. I will personally miss Doug as a City Councilman but wish him the best in his future endeavors and hope that he stays connected with the Patrol in some way.



Doug Cymek and his grandson participate in the Emily demo.



Ocean City is a great place to work and vacation!



Lt. Kovacs, the Cymeks, Capt. Arbin, and Captain Kirstein pose with Emily after the demonstration.



SRT Abbey Shobe recruiting at the Job Fair.



The above pictures were taken last March in York, P.A. at the off site test and last May at the Aquatics Center in Ocean Pines. We got some great rookies from these off-site tests. Some of these candidates passed the test that day and were offered an appointment to Surf Rescue Academy. We hope to get more rookies at our upcoming off-site tests. Remember to keep recruiting.

Included in this mailing is a copy of your Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association certification record. The same information was sent to the E-mail address you provided when you checked in at the beginning of the season as a PDF attachment on Saturday, November 12, 2016. Included in that same E-mail were instructions to complete an online response form at the following link <https://goo.gl/forms/zsmfsfPjyGFM9dS22>.

The following individuals currently have SRT-II (old Basic) certification and are eligible to apply for the training position of Assistant Crew Chief for the 2017 season. SRTs who have previously served in the role of ACC can apply for the position again, however it is the desire of the patrol to have 17 first-time ACCs to allow more individuals to receive this additional training. The Assistant Crew Chief training position is a critical step in the process of developing a strong leadership succession candidate pool. It allows the Beach Patrol leadership to observe and evaluate your future potential based on performance of the essential Crew Chief tasks. Note: There are several SRTs who have completed all the criteria to receive SRT II certification, except the additional required NIMS courses. You may complete these courses at any time and your certification will be updated.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bernier, Antoine (12/12/2015) | McIntyre, Meghan (08/21/2010) |
| Brockmeyer, Michael (03/04/2016) | Miller, John (06/20/2008) |
| Burvee, Nicholas (10/03/2016) | O'Malley, Kevin (12/20/2014) |
| Calogero, Anna (06/05/2015) | Oakey, Caroline (05/19/2015) |
| Fink, Tyler (08/01/2014) | Payne, Adam (07/16/2015) |
| Gartrell, Emily (11/29/2014) | Reed, Kevin (09/25/2011) |
| Hagar, Patrick (08/06/2014) | Remaniak, Joshua (07/20/2016) |
| Hessler, Karen (07/27/2013) | Seibert, Shawn (08/15/2005) |
| Hovington, Melanie (05/05/2016) | Shobe, Abbey (08/10/2014) |
| Jackson, Tim (05/01/2014) | Siegel, Alex (04/12/2016) |
| Keefe, Joseph (07/28/2011) | Stang, Adelaide (05/19/2015) |
| Kopchak, Chris (01/15/2016) | Stang, Emily (11/28/2014) |
| LaCasse, Charles (04/28/2016) | Stang, Shelby (08/26/2014) |
| Latgis, Ryan (11/30/2014) | Thomas, Isaac (08/30/2016) |
| Lurie, Daniel (03/19/2016) | Whittles, Dustin (07/06/2016) |
| Lurie, Thomas (08/02/2011) | Wojciechowski, Tyler (03/13/2016) |
| Lurie, Tucker (08/09/2013) | Wolfersberger, Haley (08/01/2016) |
| Marx, Matthew (11/25/2015) | Wyatt, Zachary (04/04/2016) |
| Masser, Mitchell (07/24/2012) | |



The following individuals who are not current Crew Chiefs have earned the SRT-III (old Advanced) certification and are eligible to apply for promotion to Crew Chief for the 2017 season. All SRT-IIIs have previously served in the training position of Assistant Crew Chief and may re-apply for that position as well as Crew Chief since there are always far less openings at the CC position compared to the 17 annual openings at ACC. I am anticipating three openings for Crew Chief for the 2017 season although none have been confirmed at this time. You will be asked to indicate your desire to apply when you return your "Preliminary intent" form through Google Docs in February as well as in your return employment agreement in April. If you are interested in applying for one of the open Crew Chief positions, you will be asked to complete an application that will be reviewed by the selection committee in late April with offers made prior to Surf Rescue Academy I. Note: There are several SRTs who have completed all the criteria to receive SRT III certification, except the additional required NIMS courses. You may complete these courses at any time and your certification will be updated.



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brockmeyer, Michael (05/28/2016) | Masser, Mitchell (07/25/2013) |
| Hessler, Karen (07/08/2015) | Miller, John (07/03/2009) |
| Jackson, Tim (06/12/2015) | Oakey, Caroline (08/29/2016) |
| Keefe, Joseph (08/09/2012) | Payne, Adam (08/29/2016) |
| LaCasse, Charles (05/28/2016) | Seibert, Shawn (06/17/2008) |
| Lurie, Thomas (08/23/2012) | Wojciechowski, Tyler (08/24/2016) |
| Lurie, Tucker (08/14/2014) | |

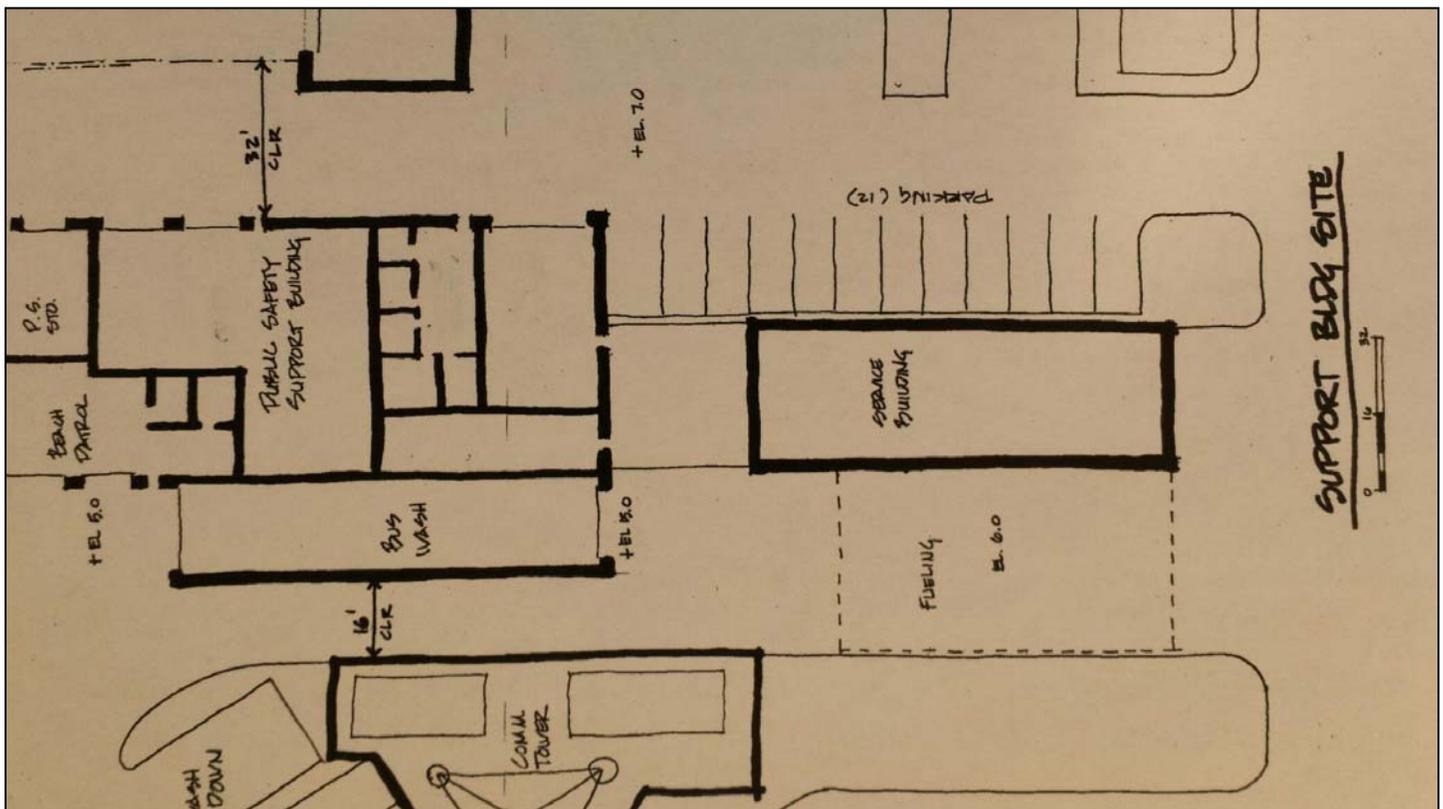
The following individuals who are not current Sergeants have earned Instructor certification and are eligible to apply for promotion to Sergeant when openings occur in the future. All OCBPSRA Instructors have previously served as a Crew Chief and may re-apply for that position. There are several Crew Chiefs who have completed all the criteria to receive Instructor certification, except the additional required NIMS courses or Safe Boating. You may complete these courses at any time and your certification will be updated once we receive a copy of your certificates. At this time I am not aware of any openings at the Sergeant position for the 2017 season, but hope to finalize the status of the current Sergeant group before March.

Clark, Bryan (06/14/2015)
 Clouser, Jonathan (05/28/2013)
 DeKemper, Steven (08/15/2010)
 Fisher, Harrison (06/15/2012)
 Foy, Jacob (07/29/2002)
 Gray, William (08/20/2016)
 McGrath, Kelly (05/26/2012)

Padley, Andrew (05/24/2016)
 Pogonowski, Daniel (05/28/2011)
 Sevier, Travis (06/17/2014)
 Smith, Arthur (05/19/2015)
 Vander Clute, Elizabeth (03/24/2016)
 Vassalotti, Paul (09/16/2015)
 Wojciechowski, Matthew (05/25/2016)



Regardless of information on openings, you will be asked to indicate your desire to apply for one of the ACC training positions or a promotion when you return your "Preliminary Intent" form through Google Docs in February as well as in your return employment agreement in April. If you are accepted as an applicant for an open position, you will be asked to complete an application packet that will be reviewed by a selection committee at the end of April. Any promotions will be completed as early as possible and prior to Surf Rescue Academy I.



Future Plans for 65th street

Our middle north crews work out of the trailer at 66th Street which is affectionately referred to as "The Beach Cabana". Although it is hardly an attractive facility to work out of, it has been altered as much as possible to meet the Beach Patrol needs. Still, it is lacking in functionality and will soon be part of a new building that is part of a much larger project. The new building will see much of the Public Works compound between 64th and 67th Streets replaced. It will be divided into segments that will house Juvenile Services, OC1 (the town's mobile command post) Fire Marshal's storage and police storage. While the size of the overall footprint will not be much different than the cabana, the layout of the area will be much more conducive to our needs. See the drawing below. For a more detailed article see page 11.

Returning employees are the foundation of our continuing success!

When I look at the make-up of the 2016 Beach Patrol I am amazed at what it reveals. First and foremost the experience of our organization surpasses the national average in full-time career professions. Of the 189 employees listed on our roster this past season, 1/3 (33%) have worked for the patrol for five or more years. What makes this statistic even more impressive is that 88% of our employees do not live in the local area and must relocate each season to continue working for the patrol. In many cases these individuals have permanent homes and mortgages and must rent a place each season in the Ocean City area. Some of them even bring spouses and families. These are impressive numbers for a seasonal operation that does not provide any employee benefits (except amazing working conditions) and has only one full-time employee.

During the 2016 season we saw a diverse group of employees both by gender and home towns. Permanent addresses listed showed 52 (28%) as non-Maryland residents, with 26 from Pennsylvania and 8 foreign workers (7 Canadians). Our female contingent continues as a strong demographic with a 25% representation which remains higher than our average of females over time and more than last season (2015). With all these numbers we still have less than 4% of our staff in off-the-beach roles, with the remaining staff dedicated to on-beach operations. When you look beyond the numbers, what this all really means is that we have a highly trained, professional, dedicated and experienced staff each season. None of this would be possible if “WE” didn’t provide an inviting and quality work experience. This starts with the relationships between veterans and our newest employees and continues into the comradery that is nurtured in each crew. It is further supported by the fair and equal treatment by supervisors and the openness in our promotion process that lets everyone know that there are no hidden agendas or back room deals. Thanks to each of you, anyone looking at the Beach Patrol can tell “WE” are doing something very right. Of course we think we are doing well, but when outside groups ask us for information on our success and even schedule the Beach Patrol to present to other professional organization about our recruiting and retention practices, that reinforces that we know what we are doing and have a history that demonstrate our success. Congratulations to the following individuals who have met longevity milestones. Although we are a seasonal / temporary operation it is a true testament to everyone’s dedication and professionalism that a full third of our staff have 5 or more years and half of those have 10 or more years working for the Town of Ocean City. Although we could not continue without new rookies joining our ranks

each season it is important to maintain a balance of experience and “New Blood” and we continue to meet that balance by averaging about 25% first year SRTs each season. We celebrate all of our employees who have committed to work for the patrol whether for a season or a decade, but we present longevity awards for 5 year milestones. We had three of our employees this past season who achieved significant tenure with the Patrol by completing their 20th season, each one has contributed significantly to the organization and we owe each a debt of gratitude. I want to say congratulations and THANK YOU to Jamie Falcon, Mat Postell and Kevin Reed for faithfully serving the citizens of Ocean City for twenty years.

5th Season in 2016

Mike Brockmeyer
Cate Calogero
Bryson Ericke
Tyler Fink
Pat Hagar
Tucker Lurie
Mitch Masser
Kevin O'Malley
Dustin Whittles
Haley Wolfersberger

10th Season in 2016

Kalani Linnell
Meghan McIntyre
Dan Pogonowski
AJ Smith
Liz Vander Clute

Over 15 seasons

Ben Davis (16 years)
Stella Malone (16 years)
Jeff Brabitz (17 years)
Jason Konyar (17 years)
Ryan Cowder (18 years)
Jake Foy (18 years)
Debi Tyler (19 years)
Jamie Falcon (20 years)
Mat Postell (20 years)
Kevin Reed (20 years)
Colby Phillips (23 years)
Rick Cawthern (27 years)
Brent Weingard (27 years)
Mike Stone (32 years)
Tim Uebel (33 years)
Ward Kovacs (34 years)
Skip Lee (34 years)



Kevin Reed receiving his 20 year recognition award

Best Lifeguard ball since the 1930's.... or was it the 1930's at the Dunes Manor that night?

Well, if you were fortunate enough to be in attendance at this past season's award banquet then you understand my point. This year's banquet was a themed event and it was billed as "Flappers and Fellas" and was intended to reenact the first "OCBP Lifeguard Dance" of 1931. Attendees were encouraged to dress the part and in the spirit of the event, individuals and often entire crews dressed in period attire. The event was a huge success and we have Jamie Falcon and his planning committee to thank. This was the best banquet that I have attended in my entire 44 years with the patrol. My only concern is how Jamie will top it next year... just another reason to return for 2017!



Our own flappin Debi and Ryan Cowder dressed the part



Original Photo and tickets from the 1931 Lifeguard Ball



Some of the "outfits" that made the event so much fun.

Testing and Recruiting

Recruiting and Testing

submitted by: 1st Lt. Skip Lee

With an incredibly successful summer recruiting and testing campaign behind us, our sights are now set on off-site efforts to attract, recruit, and test the most highly qualified candidates available. Each and every one of us plays an integral part in this and quite honestly, it really isn't something that should be "somebody else's" responsibility. The summer recruiting campaign headed up by Sgt. Postell and the Recruiting Crew produced outstanding new hires and we'd like to take that same momentum into the off-season with equally successful results, buoy our numbers, and have the best recruiting class possible.



As I shared at this year's banquet and awards celebration, the crew chiefs have really made a huge difference in not only the administration of the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations but also in the unsurpassed amount of knowledge our PSRTs are gaining from their testing experience. The post-test interviews have substantiated the fact that our new-hires are leaving their testing experience with a great deal of understanding of what lies ahead of them. Thank you Crew Chiefs!

Found included in with this Fall/Winter Newsletter are a couple of items of recruiting interest. The first is a full color poster that we ask you to post in a very visible location (contact us if you need more copies). This could be on a message board, a bulletin board near the gym or pool, or somewhere you feel candidates capable of passing our test will see it. The second are a couple of brochures for you to actually hand to other people who you think you'd like to work beside. This is really an opportunity for you to strike up a conversation about the Beach Patrol and talk about your experiences and what you like most about the role of the SRT and the fun you have living in OC for the summer. And finally, we've included newly designed stickers for both our new hires and our current SRTs to proudly put on a car, a dorm door or any appropriate place to let others know the accomplishment they achieved in passing the test to become an SRT. Congratulations to our 2017 PSRTs!

If you have a recruiting idea, want to set up an OCBP table at your school or need supplies to give to a team or to hand out at an event, please let Sgt. Postell know immediately. In turn, he'll coordinate with Lt. Kovacs on shipping the materials. Thank you in advance for your efforts towards recruiting. We look forward to testing those you've inspired to take our PEPSE! Have a great off-season and see you in May!

Captain's Note: This past summer we increased our efforts in recruiting and had recruiters setting up at several Ocean City events and near the Boardwalk in the evenings. Thanks to Sgt. Mat Postell, for heading up a recruiting team and coordinating several committee meetings to formalize our re-emphasized recruiting efforts. Our post-season results of rookies who have been given an appointment to Surf Rescue Academy confirms the success of our efforts with greater numbers than we have had in more than four years and more than twice as many as

this time last year (35 compared to 15 last year). Now it is time to step it up even more and maintain our momentum. We have three off-site opportunities that would still allow a rookie to attend the first SRA in May 2017.

Testing 2017

submitted by: 1st Lt. Skip Lee

On every publication and advertisement we produce having to do with Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations, we include a clause that reads "testing will be suspended once all available positions are filled." As the Director of Testing, I would love for the summer of 2017 to be the one when we invoke that clause and call off all additional testing opportunities because Academy is filled to capacity. It has never happened. Maybe this is the year.



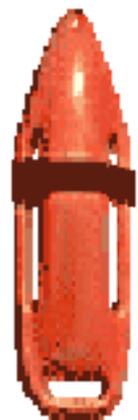
The August/September testing program yielded 35 amazing new hires (compared to 15 at this time last year). I would debrief with the crew chiefs after each of the tests and learn how much they thought their group of candidates exceeded expectations. That's good for all of us! What we need to do now is get those who we recruit to the tests and through the evaluation. All of us can help with that. Often, interested candidates contact beach patrol and ask for information. Captain forwards their message to Sgt. Postell who in turn puts them in contact with a Crew Chief or SGT who lives in close proximity to the candidate. When that happens, we hope that the candidate feels a sense of connection to the patrol, perhaps has a training partner, and hears about the beach patrol from the perspective of a guard. This is all in preparation for showing up and taking our PEPSE.

This year, we are hosting three off-site tests and currently have one test scheduled in Ocean City for June (with the possibility for more if we need them). We will be on the campus of Salisbury University in February, on York's Campus in March and at the Ocean Pines Sports Core in April. This equal distribution of opportunities is done strategically to not only give our candidates ample time to train but also to maximize the availability of our staff to conduct the most appropriate test possible. Here are the Dates and Times:

Salisbury University
Sunday Feb. 12
Registration 10:00 to 11:00
Test start 11:00

York College of Pennsylvania
Saturday March 11
Registration 10:00 to 11:00
Test start 11:00

Ocean Pines Sports Core
Sunday April 30
Registration 09:00-10:00
Test Start 10:00



(Testing continued on page 10)

(Testing continued from page 9)

Ocean City Boardwalk

Saturday June 3

Registration 0900-1000

Test Start 10:00

Please continue to share testing opportunities with those you meet and please work with them to prepare appropriately for the PEPSE. Remember – long distance running does not prepare a candidate for the test. It will build endurance for a multi-rescue day in the summer but really does not work the fast twitch muscle fibers that are called upon for the test. Swimming beyond 500m in preparation for the swim portion of the test IS a good idea and you should encourage candidates to go 550 or even 600 when training. Lifting weights will support the candidate in multiple ways. Not only the body lifts and the chair drag, but also the running sprint test and the holds and releases portion of the test.

If you have any questions about the test, please feel free to contact Lt. Kovacs at OCBP HQ during the winter or e-mail me at slee@oceancitymd.gov. Happy Training!

Captain's note: Getting someone to sign-up to test, show up to test and pass the test may seem like all we need to do. But in recent years we have lost several successful candidates who earned an appointment to Surf Rescue Academy by doing all three of these but never accepted the job. Please watch your E-mail for information on rookies who may live near your home town or attend school with you or near you and then please reach out and make them feel like part of our family. We want to keep them connected since we already know they have what it takes to be successful in SRA.

OCBP NEWS

BEWARE OF SEASONAL HOUSING SCAMS

Submitted by Captain Arbin

Unfortunately, in our past two seasons we have had employees arrive in Ocean City ready to move into the summer rentals they had arranged only to find out that no such rental existed. In 2014 a group of employees from Canada were all excited to finally arrive in Ocean City Maryland ready to start work. When they went to the address that was given to them by the landlord that they had been communicating with what they found was a unit that was being renovated and was not owned by the person who they had paid the entire season's rent to. Not only did they lose all of their money but they didn't even have a place to live. So how did they get connected to this scammer...? Craig's List. The scenario repeated itself again last season when a few of our rookies found themselves in the same situation. Fortunately for both groups the Beach Patrol family as well as others stepped up and they were able to remain in Ocean City and take the job that they worked hard to secure. Don't let this summer be the third in a row with a scammer making you their "mark". Let us help you out by vetting the owner of the property and personally checking it out, if you can't get to Ocean City prior to moving in.

Seasonal Housing Survey Submitted by Captain Arbin



I am conducting a seasonal housing survey to be used for two main purposes:

First - To determine how much it is costing Beach Patrol employees to relocate to hold a seasonal job in Ocean City. I will be using this information during budget hearings to lobby for increased wages and other means to assist employees with securing seasonal housing.

Second - To develop a list of potential rental properties and owners that I can contact and begin negotiating arrangements for acceptable seasonal housing and then work with those owners to encourage renting to our employees.

If you were an employee of the Patrol during the 2016 season you should have received an E-mail with a link to the on-line survey. If you have already completed it... thank you for your time. If you missed that E-mail, please take a few minutes to complete this important survey if you have not already done so. This is the link to the on-line housing survey <https://goo.gl/forms/5F6qLmz5ACOOS8Z33>

Late Season and Closedown Not as Eventful as the Past Few Years

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

For those of you were not able to join us for the end of the season, you didn't miss much by way of rescues and emergencies. The final weeks of 2016 followed the pattern set throughout the summer with low rip currents and mild surf. That is a good thing considering the large numbers of beach patrons and swimmers that were lured to Ocean City by the amazing weather we had for most of the late season, and into fall. There were days in late October where beach crowds appeared to approach summer numbers. Closedown went well with Crew Chief Sevier leading a stand painting crew at the Gorman Avenue lot in the north, and Crew Chief Vassalotti leading the crew in the south. Sergeant Uebel oversaw the operation and coordinated the movement and storage of stands. Following the stand work, there was a small crew tasked with cleaning the Headquarters building leading up to the open house held for the alumni who attended the reunion. Our old buildings didn't really have anything that was worth cleaning, but we now have a beautiful facility that requires things that we never had to worry about before, like polishing the stainless steel elevator and water fountains, cleaning the locker rooms, and power-washing the 2nd floor balcony.



Stands cleaned up and secured in their winter home.

Future Replacement of 66th Street Trailer

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

While the trailer at 66th Street is affectionately referred to as “The Beach Cabana”, it is hardly an attractive facility from which to work. Looks aside, it has been altered as much as possible to meet our needs, but it is still lacking in functionality. Anyone who has tried to put three quads in the structure can attest to that. The good news for Sergeants Konyar and Brabitz is that there are plans being made to replace the cabana, hopefully for 2018. We have been invited to take part in two planning meetings over the past few weeks to discuss our needs for a new building. The building will be a part of a much larger project that will see much of the Public Works compound between 64th and 67th Streets replaced. The building will be divided into segments that will house Juvenile Services, OC1 (the town’s mobile command post) Fire Marshal’s storage and police storage. While the size of the overall footprint will not be much different than the cabana, the layout of the area will be much more conducive to our needs. Much of the design is based on drawings and plans that Lt. Lee and Capt. Arbin (then a Lt.) worked on decades ago when rumors started surfacing about a possible construction project in the offing. Public Works Director Hal Adkins and one of the project Directors, Dean Dashiell have gone out of their way to listen to our requests and to include us in the planning stages. There will be two ground level garage doors, eliminating the need for a ramp, and making it much easier to move equipment around in the building. There is a “wash station” with sand traps for vehicles and quads just outside the garage doors. We have also asked for some of the appliances we incorporated in the new headquarters building such as a water bottle filler and a bathing suit water extractor.

Captain’s Note: Although a construction trailer that had served many purposes around town wasn’t an ideal Beach Patrol sub-station, it was a cost saving replacement for a trailer we used to rent each season. Once we received it we began making alterations so it would be serviceable. We had an area of the side removed and replaced with a garage door and an access ramp. First Lieutenant Lee reconfigured the bathroom and installed a shower. We also removed built-in work stations and counters to make room for up to three ATVs. Although this “Outpost” has served us well, when Hal Atkins approached Skip and I several years ago and told us they were removing the water tower that it was under and needed to move it, he also indicated he just hoped it would not fall apart during the move. At that time he also told us of the future plans to use the lot it sat on, but that he would assure we had a space in the future Public Works complex that was scheduled to be built. As always, Hal has come through and is looking out for the Patrol. Not only do I appreciate what he does for us, he is one of the best assets that the

Town of Ocean City has.



Sun setting on the cabana for good?

INFORMATION

Watercraft Duty in 2017

Submitted by Kristin Josen



Watercraft duty is a fun way to spend the workday with the OCBP and now is the perfect time to take your safe boater’s course so you can make it a part of your 2017 summer. You can take the course online now and be ready for Jet Drive training and certification at the beginning of this summer season (check the online employee calendar for scheduled Jet Drive training). In the State of Maryland, you are required to have completed a safe boater’s course prior to operating a motor vessel.

You have two options to complete this requirement:
Find a course near you: or

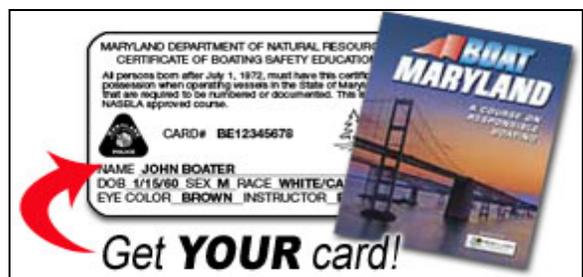
Take the course online: <http://www.boat-ed.com/maryland/> or (Google “safe boater’s course” in Maryland) This course costs \$29.50



Boat Ed's (boat-ed.com) Maryland online course has the same boating safety content as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) classroom course. This course is Maryland DNR Approved. Registration is free and you pay only if you pass. It is a 3.5 hour course that you complete at your own pace over time.

Complete the course at a location near you or online, and bring your card with you at check-in. Get it done, start the course today, so you too can have Rescue Craft duty this summer!

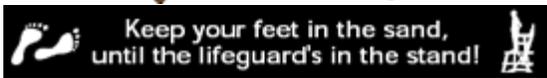
Captain’s note: The safe boater’s certificate never expires and will also allow you to rent a PWC or boat on a day off. If you obtain any certifications related to your position with the patrol send a copy to Beach Patrol so we can add those certifications to your OCBPSRA record and your personnel file. In addition to a Safe Boater’s Certification, we would also like to have copies of any water safety certifications, SCUBA as well as emergency medical certifications. An updated copy of your OCBPSRA record was e-mailed to you in mid-November and is included with this mailing. On it, we asked for a confirmation of its accuracy. If we are missing information it is your responsibility to make us aware so we can do any necessary research and correct your record, before you apply for a position or attend any specialty certifications.



For winter correspondence
 please send to:
 Town of Ocean City
 PO box 158
 Ocean City, MD 21843
 Attention: Beach Patrol

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

Email: barbin@oceancitymd.gov



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



- January 1** Penguin Plunge, Mayor's Open House
- February 12** off –site PEPSE Salisbury University
- March 4-5** Strategic Planning Weekend
- March 11** off –site PEPSE York PA, York College
- March 31** Mailing of Spring Newsletter with official invitations to return
- April 28** Employee Agreements due back
- April 29** ACC appointments and CC Promotions
- April 30** off –site PEPSE Ocean Pines
- May 20 – 21** CC paper work, Officer's Work weekend
- May 21—28** SRA I
- May 22—26** Returning Drug Test
- May 24—26** Paper work equipment pick up for veterans
- May 27** 7:00 am Prayer Service and first day guarding
- June 3** Final PEPSE Ocean City
- June 18 – 25** SRA II

OCBP WEB www.ococean.com/ocbp

Do You Want OCBP License Plates?

If you do, you must complete the following:

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



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

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.