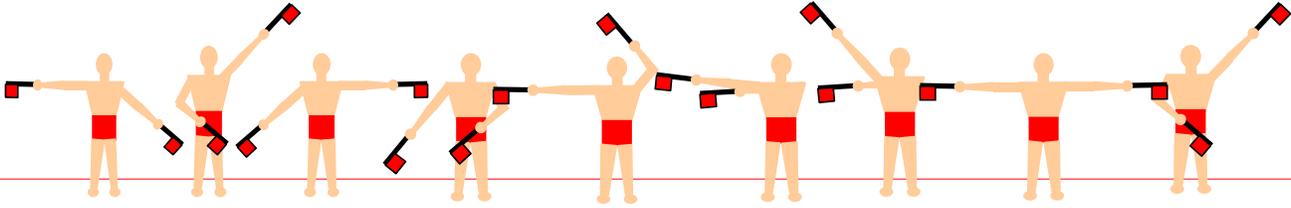


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 59

Newsletter

Spring 2015



Over Eighty Years
of Saving Lives

Maintain Your Role
in this Fantastic
Tradition!

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There is one more opportunity to join our team for the 2015 season on June 6th.

Message From the Captain

Each Summer is a New Beginning

As I begin my 43rd season I reflect on last summer as the most challenging and difficult season in my Beach Patrol career, a feeling that was shared by most in supervisory positions. As a result, by the end of last season everyone was glad to pack away the equipment and finally turn off the radios and say farewell to the 2014 guarding year. However, for those of us in leadership positions the Beach Patrol year never ends, we just switch to beginning preparations for the coming season. I needed to find some way to bring a positive light on the Patrol and all of you who do such a fantastic job every day. For years I have received countless unsolicited letters and E-mails from strangers who felt the need to write and tell me about the impact you and other Beach Patrol members have had on them and their families and the significance that you hold in the lives of their families. Beach patrons often tell me that they will return to Ocean City as a vacation destination because of the amazing lifeguards. This is far more important than most of us realize, since our visitors have a choice of where they spend their vacation time. This is why we are often seen as "Ocean City's Ambassadors". Of course you have heard me at our meeting each week read what we call "Atta Boy" letters, but they have always stayed in our group and we haven't shared them with others. That is when, talking with Kristin Josen, our Public Education Coordinator, we developed the idea of "Thank you Thursdays" with several purposes in mind. First of all, we wanted to share encouraging and uplifting actual

encounters between our staff and the public. Based on feedback this was accomplished in ways I never could have imagined; secondly, as a method to not only keep an interest in the Patrol during the long, cold off-season, but to present actual accounts of the positive impact you have on a daily basis and then relate it to a safety message. Prior to posting the letter, I would write back to the writer explaining what we were attempting to do and requesting their permission to publish their letters. Amazingly, not only did everyone say "YES" but in almost every case they took the opportunity to write even more about the experience they had in Ocean City. Ward Kovacs took over the responsibility to write an appropriate safety message related to the subject of each letter and, when possible, also posted photos of the person or persons they wrote about. A recent "Thank You Thursday" had over 37,000 views in a single week.

Some of those off-season activities have re-energized us for a new beginning in 2015. Throughout the fall and winter we were able to witness the construction of our new headquarters and were excited about its progress. On January first I participated in the Penguin Plunge and saw several of you there to cheer me on, or maybe to just watch me swim in the ice cold water. After leaving the event I attended the annual Mayor's open house which we have participated in for many years. However, this was the first year that the venue moved to the Convention Center and the newly opened



Performing Arts Center. This was a great location and the number of citizens that attended where more than I had ever witnessed at any past open house. Ward Kovacs set up a great, highly visible Beach Patrol display in the entrance hallway and Mike Stone staffed it until we returned from the plunge. Mike greeted and spoke with numerous visitors to our table, many who wished to share positive stories about their interactions with Beach Patrol employees. You are all great ambassadors for OC. I had the opportunity to meet all of the newly elected City Council members and wish the returning members a Happy New Year and thanked them for their help and support in moving ahead with the Beach Patrol Headquarters. We held an off-site test at York College on the last day of February and had an exciting day with many of our leadership attending as instructors, along with many current employees who stopped by to say "hi" and support candidates that they had recruited. Although the facility is incredible (that is why it is our first choice for an off-site PEPSE), the organization and execution of the event by Skip Lee made it a huge success and our candidates and their families saw how professional our staff is. For most of you, you just showed up on the day of the PEPSE and everything was organized and ready to go. To make that happen it took months of planning and Ward spent the weeks leading up to the PEPSE, preparing our vehicles and packing our equipment for the long trip to York, Pennsylvania. Thanks to the instruction and motivation provided by our Crew Chiefs and Sergeants, we were able to offer appointments to Surf Rescue Academy to 26 great new employees, most of which will be available for SRA I. Additionally, we held tryouts and interviews for JBBAI and SBF. It was a successful uplifting day with friends and co-workers and everyone is just waiting for the start of a great season. The following weekend was our annual Strategic Planning days. Although, this is not one of my favorite activities, it is probably the most important weekend of each year, because we take an honest look at our operations and work to improve each coming season. We have held the Strategic Planning activity for many years and many newly implemented changes that have occurred were born during these weekends. This activity is required for our officers and office staff, but is optional for our Crew Chiefs although most do attend, because they want to have a voice in the future direction of our organization. This type of activity is a real risk for those in leadership and that is why most organizations wish to stay away from this type of forum. Many topics were discussed and you will see some changes as a result of this year's planning weekend. However, the absolute highlight of the weekend was three small group tours of the new HQ under construction. The excitement on each of the tours was felt by everyone and was followed up by the beginning of planning for the move into our new home after we start our season and soliciting suggestions for items we may not have considered at first. One example of an idea that is being implemented came from the off-site testing at York, when several of our instructors used the locker room to change from their bathing suits into dry clothing to complete the outside portion of the PEPSE, they used a bathing suit dryer appliance. Following this suggestion at Strategic Planning on Sunday, Ward began researching the available products and I wrote a justification. Although, it meant additional wiring and moving some of the locker room space

around, the next time you want to dry your suit in 10 seconds, you will be able to.

Now we all just need to focus on having a great 2015 season and no one is more important than making that happen than YOU! SEA YOU AT THE BEACH!

Invitations to Return Included with Spring Newsletter

Again this year, the Spring Newsletter mailing includes the "official" *Letters of Invitation* for returning employees and *Letters of Intent* for those who have qualified for a 2015 Surf Rescue Academy. Although, I have sent several e-mails asking for information through Google Docs, such as change of address, as well as dates of availability, **responding to this mailing in writing is critical** if you wish to be employed this season. Make sure that you read everything carefully because there are several requirements for being hired or re-hired. Again this year, we are requiring "official" confirmation of your last day of full-time work to be returned with your Employment Agreement. Employment Agreements, *Letters of Intent* and **proof of last day** must be returned to Captain Arbin at his La Plata, Maryland address using the enclosed, pre-addressed stamped envelope, by Friday, April 24, 2015. If your signed Employment Agreement is not received by the due date, you may not be given employment this season. We have an impressive group of 51 rookies (103 tried out) who are fully qualified and a number of "B" rated SRTs who are seeking a chance to return and I need to let these people know ASAP about whether they have positions or not. Additionally, 60+ people have registered for the June 6th Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation and more are registering each day, including several past employees who missed a year or two, and I need to determine how many openings we will have. We have also held interviews with 8 outstanding candidates for Surf Beach Facilitator positions and only employ 9 each season (several are returning from last season). Don't let any of them take your position because you didn't bother to reply to this mailing. Please take the time to complete all paperwork accurately and be aware that your **availability will have an impact** on our ability to hire you this season. If you are interested in applying for a part-time position, in requesting a particular stand, or if you are seeking a promotion, you must indicate this on your *Employment Agreement*. Once your agreement is received, a second packet will be mailed to first-time employees including information based on your responses to the first mailing, returning employees will receive additional information by E-mail. Also included with the second mailing or E-mail, will be directions to access and complete employment forms, that will be available on-line and must be completed before reporting for registration and equipment issue.



sponsibility on the employee to pursue re-employment by having a meeting or telephone conference to address the issues that resulted in the “B” rating. Although the issue or issues that resulted in the less-than- satisfactory summative rating may have been dealt with during the past season, they are not erased and do impact your employability. Employees who do not receive an invitation, but who wish to return to the Beach Patrol this season, must contact Captain Arbin by e-mail barbin@ococean.com to set up a conference and discuss the conditions for a possible return. This is not a change in policy and has been explained to every employee, by me, personally.

Applicants for Assistant Crew Chief are Being Sought

The Beach Patrol is seeking Surf Rescue Technicians with Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association (OCBPSRA) SRT II (Basic) certification to apply for leadership roles as Assistant Crew Chiefs. It is our intent to select Assistant Crew Chiefs prior to the start of the 2015 season, Saturday, May 23, 2015. The position requires the appointed Surf Rescue Technician to switch crews if necessary (unwillingness to switch crews for an ACC position will certainly impact future opportunities), and to assume all the responsibilities of the Assistant Crew Chief position. They will also be required to attend a training session, along with first and second year Crew Chiefs, scheduled for the evening of Sunday, May 24, 2015.

Serving successfully as an Assistant Crew Chief for a season is a requirement of OCBPSRA SRT III (Advanced) certification, which itself is a prerequisite for the Crew Chief position. The Assistant position provides the candidate pool from which future Crew Chief promotions are made.

There are 17 positions each season, and it is my desire to fill those slots with 17 first-time Assistant Crew Chiefs, whenever possible. However, if we do not have 17 qualified first-time candidates, we will choose former assistants that have applied. Therefore if you are interested in being considered for an additional year’s appointment to Assistant Crew Chief, make sure that you note that on the “EMPLOYMENT INTENT and AGREEMENT” form included in this mailing. If our candidate pool does not allow us to fill all 17 positions with first time applicants, we will allow past ACCs to serve an additional year or years. But you must let us know that you are interested in being considered.

Assistant Crew Chiefs will be compensated at the rate of \$15.69 per hour (\$15.25 if hired after 2010). Each position will be filled by appointing an SRT II to the rank of SRT II - Assistant Crew Chief with all the responsibility and accountability that the position carries. This is a training position and is designed to be a one-season appointment. In the following season, candidates who are not promoted to Crew Chief will be returned to the position on the pay scale were they would have been had they not been an Assistant Crew Chief, but with full credit for days worked at the Assistant Crew Chief position.



Crew assignments are based on the needs of the Patrol and may require you to re-locate away from an area you have served in for several years. An ACC with early and late season availability may be assigned to a crew with a Crew Chief who arrives later due to career responsibilities and whose late season availability only includes weekends. Just remember that the ACC training position is a required step before your first promotion to Crew Chief.

The first step in the process is to circle “YES” on the “EMPLOYMENT INTENT and AGREEMENT” form included in this mailing, indicating your desire to be considered for the position. Although not required, a letter of interest will be included with your file if submitted. A selection committee will review all candidates on May 2-3, 2015 and make recommendations for this training position. Appointed candidates will be notified as soon as the selections are finalized.

Documentation of Last Day Working Requirements!

It is important that whether you are a first-time Beach Patrol employee or you are returning for your tenth year that you understand and provide official documentation of your last full-time day of working. Examples of this would be a school calendar, letter of employment, travel documents, VISA termination date, etc (not a letter from your Mom). This documentation must be returned along with your Employment Agreement by Friday, April 24, 2015 to be processed for employment this season. This information is critical as we make decisions about who we employ and how many potential openings may still exist for the June Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. We have to work within certain budget restraints and can only hire a certain number of full-time employees. If an SRT has limited availability then we may have to offer one of those positions to someone who can offer the most availability to fit the needs of the Beach Patrol. We are also looking for committed employees who make the greatest effort, and in some cases, the biggest sacrifice to serve the organization. This policy has been used successfully for several years with all personnel who applied for part-time positions as we required each applicant for part-time to commitment to working a minimum number of days during our time of greatest need (“critical coverage” after August 15th), when the Beach Patrol starts to see a decrease in the number of full-time personnel. If you have ever guarded during the end of August or September then you appreciate our objective of keeping the maximum number of stands on the beach as long into our season as possible. Having the SRT next to you 300 yards away rather than 500 is much more comforting and adds to maintaining a safe environment for our visitors.

Another example of how we try to meet this objective is how we administer our June Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation and target candidates with late-season availability. For the June testing only, we require each candidate to complete a form that indicates how late into our season they will be available. If we have more candidates pass all phases of the testing than we have available openings then we will choose the candidates who have the greatest availability.

It is my responsibility to assure that the Beach Patrol is

fulfilling its mission of keeping everyone safe on the beaches in Ocean City. To do this we need to be adequately staffed throughout the season. The Beach Patrol budget fully supports our mission and provides the funding to fill all positions. However, if we hire or re-hire someone who can only work from July 3rd through August 2nd we are choosing them over another person who may have availability through September 12th. We can not ask this other person to just work from August 3rd through September 12th and it is fiscally irresponsible to over-hire (letting both work), just to allow someone to continue employment.

In short, we are asking each employee to give the Beach Patrol as many days of work as they can.

Start looking for your documentation today and make sure it is returned with your employment agreement.



Limited Part Time Positions Available submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

This is the time of the year when everyone starts waiting for his or her invitation from Captain Arbin, and the OCBP, about returning for the upcoming summer season. It would be easy if everyone was able to return full time, but that is highly unlikely!

That is where the opportunity for a part time position comes into play. The Beach Patrol has a limited number of part time positions available every summer and you might be interested in one of them.

This past summer we had 15 personnel who occupied part time slots. Some of the personnel occupied part time slots until they became full time, or vice versa. Most though, were part time for the entire summer. I would estimate around 10 or so part time slots for this summer and want to let everyone who is interested know what is expected / required.

The first requirement is that you have been full time prior to becoming part time, and you must be in good standing. The second requirement, and one of the most important factors, is that you must be available for **15 or more days after August 15, 2015.**

If a person is only available during the middle of our season

(Continued on page 8)

Iron Guard & Strong Guard Competition

Submitted by: Sgt. Jeff Brabitz

Just a reminder that there will be a FREE competition happening again this summer. The annual Pizza Tugos Iron Guard will take place again this summer for all current OCBP members at 130th street. This race has been held every summer and is a free event, with the prize of bragging rights to the champion and of course delicious pizza at the end. So Train hard and get ready! Also coming back for another summer is the Beach Patrol Strong Guard Competition. Last year was the second summer of this event and with a huge turnout, it aims to be a premiere event for the upcoming summer. Again this is a free event and with prizes for the top male and female and amazing feats of strength this is an event you don't want to miss.

Importance of a Current E-Mail Address

Each spring the Beach Patrol needs to communicate in a fast and efficient way to keep everyone informed of important dates, deadlines and information. The quickest and most effective method is through the use of E-mail. However, each time I send out a group of E-mails I have several returned, primarily because the account has not been maintained and is now "dead". To avoid this problem please make sure that you are keeping the Beach Patrol informed of any changes in your preferred E-mail account and that you also make it a priority to check the account. What often happens is that students provide a college E-mail address that was issued by a university and then when they are no longer students the accounts are closed and the first indication that the Beach Patrol has is a returned, undeliverable E-mail. I would suggest that you create a private E-mail account that uses your name and is professional sounding. You would not believe some of the E-mail addresses I receive from potential employees. Often, the first glimpse I have of a person who is asking the Beach Patrol to consider them for a job is a very inappropriate E-mail address. If you are a Crew Chief or above you have a city issued E-mail account, and I suggest that you maintain it and check it often so it does not close. If you would like to provide a different E-mail address than the one we have been given by you, please e-mail the new address to the Beach Patrol.

You can expect several E-mails following this mailing that require action by you.

Be Ready to Perform All Aspects of the SRT Position – It's Your Responsibility

Whenever you return to the beach to begin the season, you must be ready to perform all aspects of your duties, from day one (in 2012 we made 156 rescues Memorial Day weekend). This includes not only the skills that you have been trained to perform (CPR, Neck-back, search and recovery, etc) but most importantly that you arrive in top physical condition. Although rookies will have to prove their fitness from the first day of Surf Rescue Academy, returning SRTs will not be evaluated physically until "Veteran Re-qualification/Re-certification". However, they should be ready physically by the time they get here. Requalification and Recertification are yearly responsibilities for all Beach Patrol employees depending on your job description. For those of you who are returning for your third year or more, you have been through this before. However, for anyone who was a rookie last season this will be a new experience. Requalification is required of all personnel who are primarily assigned to a stand, which includes PSRTs through Crew Chiefs. Requalification requires meeting the minimum physical performance standard for both running and swimming. Rookies will re-qualify on the Saturday morning at the end of their Surf Rescue Academy; this is our assurance that, although you have already "passed" our test, you maintained your conditioning and skill level since you successfully passed all aspects of the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. Crew Chiefs re-qualify on Saturday, June 20, 2015 just prior to SRA II's re-qualification. Having Crew Chiefs re-qualify separately from the regular SRTs allows us to have them act as safety personnel and instructors during the regular SRTs' "Veteran Re-cert". We

will also hold a separate Assistant Crew Chief Re-certification on Monday, June 22, 2015, so we can concentrate on topics that are pertinent to that specific position and the duties that are required.

Re-certification is the reviewing, updating, practicing and perfecting of all the skills required to perform your duties. Each year we emphasize some new skills while practicing those skills that we know are going to be necessary in the performance of your job. In recent years we added the use of masks during search and recovery, a station that simulated a rescue from a sand hole collapse and Rescue Watercraft operations. Skills such as neck/back stabilization and extrication as well as “rips, rocks and rescues” are always part of the day and we will revisit other critical job skills. We also update CPR and First aid certifications on an alternating, bi-annual basis to assure that all employees are currently certified in both. This summer will be a CPR/AED re-certification year.

The dates that have been established for this year’s “Veteran Re-certification” are Tuesday, June 23rd – 27th, June 30th, July 1st and Saturday, July 11th (also Patrol group picture and Captain Craig Swim). These dates are very important if you are considering applying to work part-time this summer. You must agree to be available for a Requalification and Recertification day or you will not be considered.

Failing to re-qualify or re-certify are grounds for immediate suspension with possible termination and you will no longer be considered a current employee, which would mean starting over by passing a full test in a subsequent season. There is no reason or excuse not to be ready to perform the physical skills required of your position. This is usually not an issue, but you must train early and train hard.

SPECIAL NOTE TO RETURNING SRTs: If you failed to re-qualify last season on your first attempt, although you did re-qualify on a subsequent attempt, you will only have one attempt to requalify this year before facing immediate suspension. You must be prepared to requalify as soon as you return for the 2015 season.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ROOKIES: Do not show up out of shape if you want to work for the Beach Patrol this season. Be ready both physically and mentally for long, exhausting days and nights. We will be emphasizing the physical challenges of Surf Rescue Academy... **BE READY!!!**



Why Leadership?

submitted by: Sgt. James McVey

As I enter my 13th year on the Ocean City Beach Patrol, I realize the significant role this job has had on my life, and my professional career as a teacher. When I think back on my early days of the patrol, my focus as I walked onto the beach each day was to make sure everything I was doing would be acceptable by my crew, and the leadership ranks. I wanted my water and beach to be one of the safest in Ocean City or if I am being honest I wanted it to be the safest in Ocean City. This drive and dedication were the foundations that led me to observe, learn, and evaluate as much as I could about an organization that I had only begun to understand. As many of you are entering into your second or third year with the patrol, you will have the opportunity to begin growing as a leader. One of our focuses at strategic planning has been to find areas that we can continue to

help our organization grow in. This weekend is filled with a lot of positive comments about the work all of you do on a daily basis, but also some challenging conversations as each person brings a unique perspective to the leadership of our patrol and how we can continue our growth. As a team, we discussed how we work to develop leaders on our patrol. Even though after 8 years of teaching and continually finding myself saying, if only we could be more like the Beach Patrol, we would be much better off. I and more importantly we agree that as an organization we have room to grow. Through a team effort of Crew Chiefs, and Sergeants, we have begun the process of developing a leadership focused OCBPSRA program. This new approach will be focused not only on physical skill ability, but now a training program that helps our SRT’s become ACC’s, and our ACC’s become CC’s and eventually Sergeants. Our goal is to help develop those who are interested in contributing more to the patrol. Although we are in the early stages, we will be having meetings with our new group of ACC’s to help train them on the daily routine, and expectations their new role will serve with our patrol. The opportunity you gain from serving as a leader on the patrol will serve as great experience for the day you have to make a decision to move on from the beach. We look forward to this summer and the continued growth of our patrol.

Captain’s Note: Under the direction of 1st Lieutenant Skip Lee we have begun using a new evaluation tool to help grow our Sergeants and as a result help them contribute to the growth of the Patrol. James and Matt Postell have identified a professional growth goal of developing and implementing a leadership training and mentoring component for New Crew Chiefs and Assistants as well as anyone desiring to move into these roles in the future.



Surf Rescue Academy

submitted by: Sgt. Mark Muller

It is of the utmost importance that you arrive to Surf Rescue Academy both mentally and physically prepared. Each day of the academy is physically strenuous and mentally demanding. Your training begins during check-in Sunday. You will need to thoroughly read the paperwork and ensure that everything is filled out 100% correctly and that you have the appropriate IDs. If you fail to do so you will not be allowed to continue in academy. In addition, you will begin learning all the Beach Patrol policies and procedures during Sunday check-in. For Monday, you will be expected to report to middle inlet on-time in full uniform. Do not be late; early is on-time and on-time is late. You must have your whistle, first-aid kit, buoy, and be clean shaven. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during academy, leave them at home or lock them up in your personal vehicle. If you do not have a secure place to keep your phone you may check it in with an officer each morning of the academy and it will be returned to you at the end of each day. With the exception of footwear, non-issued clothing of any type is strictly prohibited.

It is highly advisable to arrive in Ocean City several days prior to the start of academy. You will want to use this time to immerse yourself in the ocean and start acclimating to the temperature of the water. You will be spending a significant amount of time each day in the ocean and you must be able to

OCBP NEWS

Surf Beach Facilitators and Junior Beach Patrol Assistant Instructors

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Last year we were unable to hire several of the SBF candidates that we interviewed because of scheduling conflicts, full-time job offers and internships that developed between the time they were interviewed and the time positions were offered. Fortunately we were still able to hire some of our top selections. This year, we moved the dates a little closer in efforts to avoid last year's issues, and were successful in doing so. We offered positions to our top five candidates and all were able to accept appointments to the first academy.

The JBPAI staff had two employees age out of the program following the 2014 season, but both will continue to work with the Beach Patrol. Chris Monteffereante passed the PEPSE last summer and will enter academy as a Probationary SRT. Cailey Pawlowski will work as an SBF in 2015. Filling the four open slots made for very difficult decisions for the interview committee members as more than a dozen highly qualified candidates passed the PEPSE and went on to interview for the few open positions. Many of these 14 and 15 year-old athletes passed the test in the ocean in times that would qualify for PSRT positions. If the quality of the new JBPAIs is any indicator of how the 2015 season will unfold, it should be another great year for the 20th Anniversary of JBP!

Training

Save the Date: Ocean City Competition Team

submitted by: Sgt. Rick Cawthern

We will have a meeting during the first couple of weeks in June to organize this summer's upcoming competition season. But until then keep the following dates and activities in mind and keep training.

July 8th Mid-Atlantic non-crafts-Rehoboth Beach, De.
July 15th Mid-Atlantic crafts-Spring Lake N.J.
July 29th-All-Womens Comp-Sandy Hook, N.J.
Aug.6th-8th Nationals -Daytona Beach, Fl.
*Ocean Series dates will be determined on April 18th.

There are other competitive events offered to our staff, such as Captain Craig Swim, Rehoboth Olympics, Beach Patrol Triathlon, Iron Guard competitions, Softball, Volleyball, Floor hockey, Swim Ocean City and our big patrol wide event... Crew Comps. Others may be added if there is enough interest.. We have several members who play ultimate Frisbee, and there is going to be a big tournament this summer on the downtown beaches.

If anyone is interested in organizing swim or run work-outs please contact Sgt. Cawthern

(Surf Rescue Academy continued from page 5)

perform in the cold temperatures. Your week in academy is not the week to be out partying in Ocean City. Each night you should focus on eating healthy, getting plenty of rest, studying your training manual, and practicing semaphore. It is advisable to begin learning semaphore before you start academy. Each day in academy you will need to bring plenty of fluids (water, Gator Aid, etc.), healthy snacks, and Vaseline or Gold Bond to prevent trunk rash. On behalf of the training staff, I welcome you to academy and look forward to you becoming a member of our team. Sgt. Muller, SRA Coordinator

Equipment Updates

submitted by: Sgt. Colby Phillips

Happy Spring everyone! Please when filling out your equipment requests be as thorough as possible so I can have everything ready upon pick up. Rookies, do your best in picking your sizes. You will have an opportunity to try things on when you meet with me on the first day of academy. Thank you all!

New Trucks, Trailers, Quads and PWC for 2015

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Beach Patrol has received, from Public Works, a full-size pickup to replace 605. This replacement truck will also be numbered 605. The Fire Marshal's Office transferred a full-sized Suburban that will replace the Explorer that went to auction in the fall. This will be numbered 606, and will be assigned to Lt. Stone. He is excited to have a truck that is big enough to transport "the store" again. We have also purchased a trailer that will be outfitted to serve as a utility trailer for the Junior Beach Patrol. Our plan is to create a trailer with sand tires that can be loaded with all of the JBP equipment, be pulled with a quad, and be stored in the garage each day. This trailer replaces the trailer that was sold with the Jet Ski that went to auction last year. The Jet Ski that we purchased for this season is a 2015 model that is the same as the model we have purchased for the last 9 years. It was bid without a trailer since the trailer that we usually buy each year will be the one allocated to JBP. The Jet Ski is black and Kawasaki green. This year's ATVs are again Honda Rancher models, but they were bid as automatics for the first time, and will arrive in mid-April. At last month's Strategic Planning Meeting the sergeants requested that we have emergency lights installed on the three new quads this year, and those lights have been ordered for all three ATVs.

Train for your retest at a local indoor pool

Thanks to our own Sergeant Colby Phillips who just happens to be the Aquatics Director for Ocean Pines, we have the opportunity to train at an indoor pool. Ocean City Beach Patrol members may use the indoor Sports Core Pool in Ocean Pines, beginning May 15th from 7-8:30pm, Monday through Friday to prepare for your retest. Sessions will continue through June 15th at a cost of \$2. Please present your employee ID card when you arrive.

Local News

Drug-free is more than just passing a drug test.

Each season you return to work for the Beach Patrol, you are required to pass a drug test. However, passing the drug test isn't the real objective from the Beach Patrol's perspective, but rather to employ a drug-free workforce. Drug-free doesn't begin and end with the drug test, but is a personal commitment to live a life free of illegal substances and to remain that way. Regardless of your personal feelings about a recent trend across our country to legalize the personal use of marijuana (I will tell you I think it is one of the worst things we could do) the Town of Ocean City is remaining true to its policy of zero tolerance for illegal drug use. This also applies to taking prescription medications that have not been prescribed to you. Therefore, when you report for registration and equipment issue be prepared to take your yearly drug test, and if you are taking any prescription medicines have a copy of the prescription with you.

After all, you are looked up to by many people on your beach, especially kids, and we must set a positive example for our future generations. I am so proud when I talk with parents in the JBP program to be able to claim that all of the instructors working with their children are drug-free, positive role models. Unfortunately, the other side of this issue is that a failed drug test will be in your file and could jeopardize your future plans after Beach Patrol.

Be and stay, Drug Free!!!

Smoking Restrictions Finalized

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

For over a year there have been efforts to bring Ocean City's policy on smoking more in line with neighboring resorts. Those efforts have led to a smoking ban for the boardwalk and a restriction for smoking on the beach. Smokers must stay within 15 feet of the designated smoking receptacles on the beach. There will be additional signage to direct smokers to these areas. Vaping is also included in the restrictions. The most important thing for the Beach Patrol concerning the new legislation is that our employees will not be responsible for enforcing the restrictions. That has been made clear from the City Manager from the beginning of the process. There will be a phone number available for those wishing to make a complaint that will then alert the police.



New Headquarters Taking Shape

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Anyone who has been around the Beach Patrol for more than a few years is bound to have found themselves doing something that never crossed their mind as they rounded the pier on their initial tryout swim. Captain Arbin wasn't thinking about preparing the budget for the whole patrol. Lt. Stone had no idea he would be scheduling 200 employees every week, and 1st Lt. Lee did not dream that he would someday be coordinating the very same test that he first took in 1982. I certainly never thought we would be researching office furniture, working on specs for a 30' flag pole and choosing locations for utilities, work stations and appliances for a three-story building. But, with the new Beach Patrol building beginning to look more like the artist's renderings and less like the cinder block shell that it was just a few months ago, all of these things are now taking place. Those who attended the Strategic Planning Meeting last month will be pleasantly surprised to see how many of their suggestions were incorporated into the building, even at this late stage. The suggestions that we were unable to include were certainly not left out for a lack of trying. City Engineer Terry McGean has carefully considered every suggestion and request, trying to make them all work within the budget. Right now, the showers are being installed in the locker rooms, the roof is almost completed and the windows are mostly installed. I watched the elevator parts being unloaded the other day, and they are ready to start with drywall this week. These are truly exciting times for the Beach Patrol, and we must remember to thank all those who made it possible, from elected officials and appointed officials, to retired officials (Tom Shuster), and all those sergeants and crew chiefs who simply asked "What about trying this..."

Recruiting and Testing

submitted by: 1st Lt. Skip Lee

In what can be considered a productive Summer Testing Campaign, the Beach Patrol was able to recruit, test and appoint a great group of P-SRTS to Surf Rescue Academy in prepara-

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Calendar/Important Dates

March 30 Mailing of Spring Newsletter
April 24—Employment Agreements due back
April 25—26 SRA Planning Weekend
May 2– 3 1st Officer Mandatory Weekend, ACC appointments and CC promotion's,
May 9—16 **Opening Set up**
May 16 CC paperwork
May 16—17 **Officer Work Weekend Optional**
May 17—24 **SRA I**
May 18—22 Returning Drug Test
May 20—22 Paperwork Equipment pick up for veterans
May 23 7:00 am Prayer Service, 8:00 am Leadership meeting, First Day Guarding
May 25 – Weekly meeting Convention Center 8:00 am
May 30—SRA I Supper Seminar
June 6 - Pre-Employment Ocean Test and Early Vet Re-qual (pre-selected)
June 14 – 21 **SRA II**
June 22 **Veteran Re-Certification begins**
For a complete up to date 16 month calendar click on the Employee Calendar link on the home page of the Beach Patrol website

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then he or she does not fulfill the need we have for the shoulder seasons (May & September). The Beach Patrol has the highest number of full time personnel available during the middle of the summer. It only makes sense that part time personnel be available early and or late. If a person has good availability after August 15th, then Captain Arbin will allow me to work that person early if there is a need. Each person who applies will be considered based upon his or her availability.

If you are unable to return full time to the Beach Patrol this summer maybe you have what it takes to fill one of the limited part time slots. Please contact Lt. Stone after return invitations have been sent out in April!

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tion for the 2015 Season. Those appointed are considered by the testing crew chiefs as “a great group of candidates” who possess the physical skills and mental focus to be outstanding additions to our staff. We look forward to working with them and hope their training has continued through the winter to prepare for this spring's challenges.

When Lt. Stone and I began running the numbers for the summer, it became apparent that there would potentially be a short-fall at the beginning for the summer and for those who worked last year, you know what I mean. The first academy of 2014 produced fantastic rookies who hit the beach running...but there simply were not enough of them and we learned a great deal from that. To be sure the same situation would not repeat itself this summer, we made the decisions back in November, right after evaluation weekend, to advertise and hold an off-site test. Traditionally, this test attracts candidates who either did not know about the beach patrol or were unable to take the summer Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations during the summer. Our plan returned us to York College of Pennsylvania, an outstanding location and facility! This year, upwards of seventy candidates pre-registered with forty seven showing up on a brisk February Saturday.

With a strong contingent of crew chiefs and officers ready, those forty-seven candidates we put through the strenuous demands of our evaluation. For six hours, they ran, swam, carried, lifted, learned, listened, reacted, sprinted, scanned, towed, rescued, dragged, and responded to circumstances set before them as we evaluated their capacity to contribute to the patrol. In the end, a great group of candidates received appoint-

ments which positions us well with a May Academy that is full and an opportunity appoint a couple more candidates to our June Academy during our June 6th PEPSE in Ocean City.

We have spent a lot of money in the past on recruiting campaigns in news papers, radio and the internet job sites but the truth remains that our best recruiting results come from word of mouth effort of our current and past employees. If you know someone you'd like to sit next to this summer – someone you trust to guard your family while you are on lunch or your day off, please let them know about our June 6th test. WE will have limited opportunities for additional hires but we always give consideration to those who come to with a relationship to the beach patrol. Please ask your friends, co-workers, and family members now so that they have the time and opportunity to train for what some consider the hardest thing ever accomplished in the course of a single day. Be a part of the tradition!

If you have questions about PEPSE to want to have someone contact the beach patrol, please feel free to give them my name and e-mail. I can be reached at slee@oceancitymd.gov. Happy training and see you in a couple of months or sooner!

OCBP WEB www.ococean.com/ocbp

Our Mission: 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 Surf 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.

