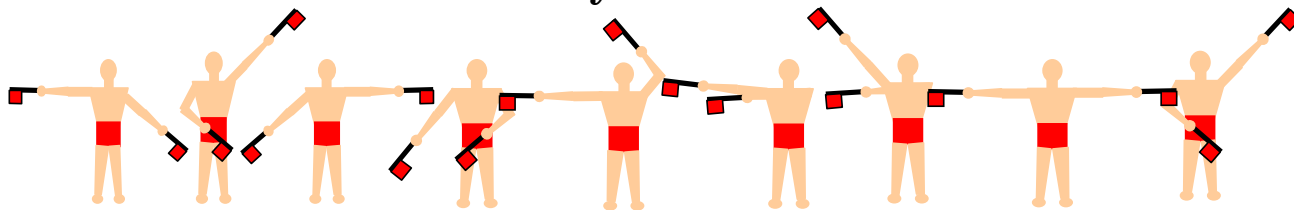


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 77

Newsletter

Spring 2024



Over Ninety Years of Saving Lives

Maintain Your Role in this Fantastic Tradition!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Messages from the Captain | 1-6 |
| Testing and Recruiting | 6-7 |
| OCBP News/Local News | 8-10 |
| Training | 10-11 |
| Local News | 12-13 |
| History | 13 |
| Calendar/Important Dates | 16 |



SRT Summer Sulin Rookie Graduation 2023.

Message From the Captain

The Town has Done its Part... Now it is our Turn to “Go Fishin” and Finish Filling our Boat!

In recent seasons I have often used the analogy of “fishing” to describe the difficulty in hiring Surf Rescue Technicians for each season. My analogy pointed out that many surrounding Beach Patrols as well as other employers were all fishing for the same “fish” in the same “pond”. Therefore, we must have the best “bait” to attract the fish so that we could fill our boat. Prior to this year we had attractive bait, but it wasn’t the best compared to the others fishing in that same pond. We were still able catch the best fish, but we were missing out on the large numbers that we had hoped for.

Following last season, which had 40 less SRTs than we wanted, and the least number of stands on the beach than in any previous year in our history (since Ocean City went to the MD/Del state line), I had a meeting with Director Joe Theobald and City Manager Terry McGean. During that meeting it was clear that the City Manager was fully aware of the current situation with our reduced personnel, and he assured me that he was going to ask the Mayor and City Council to move our starting pay to \$20.00 /hr. for SRTs. We also talked about many other incentives to not only attract new SRTs but also to retain employees for additional seasons. During a Mayor and City Council meeting in October, all the recommendations were accepted and approved!

The Town has done their part and has given us the best “bait” that we have ever had, but also better than any other seasonal Beach Patrol in the US. Not only is this

my assessment but it was confirmed as I spoke with a national J-1 student work and travel sponsor as she was certifying the Beach Patrol as a host employer for 2024.

As we went through the required, annual certification questioning and I was explaining our pay rate and each of our other employee incentives, she was unbelievably impressed and said she was not aware of any other employer in the US that offered such an incredible opportunity and as many incentives (I think she would have come to work for us if she could swim). Now, you need to share this incredible opportunity with others that you would like to guard next to.

To assist you in your recruiting, the pay and monetary incentive package that has been provided for the 2024 season includes the following:

- All employees received a 3% raise and any employee below grade 110 (Crew Chief) who worked a minimum of 400 hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day received a 2% step increase over the base pay for that position. Once this 400-hr. threshold is met, the returning rate will not re-set, but will remain in effect year after year going forward as long as you return without a break in service.
- Starting pay for Surf Rescue Technicians was raised 8.4% to \$20.00 /hr.
- The pay rate for Assistant Crew Chief was also raised 8.4% to \$20.60 /hr.
- Overtime pay for all employees was approved at 1.5 times your regular pay rate and the threshold for overtime was



reduced for Crew Chiefs and Sergeants.

- “Signing Bonus” - \$500 for all new and returning SRTs (SRT, ACC, CC, and SGT)
- “Rental Housing Stipend” - \$250 for anyone who is renting for the season to assist with the increasing cost of seasonal housing.
- “Critical Coverage Bonus” - \$1.00 per hour bonus for every hour worked after August 11th.
- “Post Labor Day Bonus” - \$250 for anyone who works at least 80 hrs. between LD and the final day of our regular season.
- “Returning Travel Stipend” - \$140.00 per return trip to work two or more days after August 11th
- “Recruiting Bounty” - \$500 for each person you recruit who works for the patrol (no limit).

Now it is up to you...

When you are excited about your experience with the Beach Patrol, that is contagious, and others will want what they see in you. Then, when you share with them this incredible opportunity and all the monetary benefits as well as the personal benefits and awesome significance of this career, they will want to take that next step.

Now that we have the best “Bait”, it is time for each of us to plan a fishing trip!



The Beach Patrol recruits 365 days a year. On a recent 10 day Work and Witness Mission trip to Jamaica, Captain Arbin spent a day off at the beach in Negril talking “Fishin” with a local life-guard, explaining to him how to apply for an SRT position. Everyone is a recruiter!

Invitations to Return Included with Spring Newsletter

The Spring Newsletter mailing includes the official *Letters of Invitation* for returning employees and *Letters of Intent* for those who have qualified for 2024 Surf Rescue Academy. Although, I have sent several emails asking for information through Google Docs, such as change of address and dates of availability, **responding to this mailing in writing is required** if you wish to be employed this season. Make sure that you read everything carefully, because



there are several requirements for being hired or rehired. We require 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 Thursday, April 25, 2024. If your signed employment agreement is not received by the due date, you may not be offered employment this season or will not be able to request a specific assignment and **will not be included in the selection process for Crew Chief or Assistant if you applied**. We have an impressive group of 56 rookies who are fully qualified and several “B” rated SRTs who are seeking a chance to return, and I need to let these people know ASAP whether they have a position or not. Additionally, more than 90 (40 at this time last year) candidates are registered for upcoming Pre- Employment Physical Skills Evaluations and more continue to register daily, 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 more outstanding candidates for Surf Beach Facilitator positions than ever before and may only employ nine each season. Do not 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, or requesting a particular stand, you must indicate this by the April 25th due date. 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 email and a link to schedule your check-in, drug test and equipment pick-up. Also included with the second mailing or email, will be directions to access and complete employment forms. Only employees who did not work last season will be required to complete the Town of Ocean City Application. All required forms will be available on-line and must to be completed before reporting for registration and equipment issue.

REMINDER: Invitations are only sent to those employees who received a summative rating of “A” by the ratings review committee and the Lieutenants and responded to the February Google form by March 15th. Failure to receive an invitation does not mean that you will not be allowed to work in 2024, but rather places the responsibility on the employee to pursue re-employment by having a meeting, e-mail or telephone conference to address the issues that resulted in their not receiving an invitation. 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@oceancitymd.gov to begin the process of discussing 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, Crew Chief

The Beach Patrol solicited applicants for Surf Rescue Technicians with Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association (OCBPSRA) SRT II, SRT III and Instructor certification who indicated a desire to apply for management roles as Assistant Crew Chief, Crew Chief. As of this date there are 12 candidates for CC and 21 candidates for ACC.

It is our intent to appoint Assistant Crew Chiefs and promote Crew Chiefs prior to the start of the 2024 season. On Saturday, April 27, 2024 the selection committee will meet to review all applicants for the positions and to review each person's employment history, past performance and availability before making recommendations to the Captain. The positions require the appointed Surf Rescue Technician to switch crews if necessary, and to assume all the responsibilities of the Assistant Crew Chief or Crew Chief position. Unwillingness to switch crews will certainly impact this opportunity. All Assistant Crew Chiefs and first and second year Crew Chiefs will also be required to attend a training session. It is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, May 23, 2024 and will include quad training, part 1 (first time quad certification), and quad re-certification (anyone who wishes to recertify from 2023). We also plan to start ride-a-longs the next day, so that we have as many certified operators to begin the season as possible.

Assistant Crew Chief

Serving successfully as an Assistant Crew Chief for a season is a requirement of OCBPSRA SRT III 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 nineteen of these positions each season, and it is my desire to fill those slots with nineteen first-time Assistant Crew Chiefs, whenever possible. However, if we do not have nineteen qualified, first-time candidates with good availability, we will choose former assistants that have applied. If our candidate pool does not allow us to fill all nineteen positions with first-time applicants, we will allow past ACCs to serve an additional year or years.

Assistant Crew Chiefs will be compensated at the rate of \$20.60 per hour (2024 rate). 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. An additional requirement for all ACCs again in 2024 is the completion of Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) certification and the ability to work two AM (8:00 – 10:00) or PM (5:30 – 8:00) extended patrol shifts per two-week schedule. This is a training position and is designed to be a one-season appointment. In the follow-

ing season, candidates who are not promoted to Crew Chief will be returned to the position on the pay scale where they would have been had they not been an Assistant Crew Chief (\$20.00 or \$20.40), but with full credit for days worked at the Assistant Crew Chief position.

Although not required, a letter of interest will be included with your file if submitted. A selection committee will review all candidates on Saturday, April 27, 2024 and make recommendations for this training position. Appointed candidates will be notified as soon as the selections are finalized.

Crew assignments are based on the needs of the Patrol and may require you to relocate away from an area you have served in for several years. The selection committee does take into account your request. 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.

NOTE: In the event that you have not completed OCBPSRA SRT II certification because you are only lacking the 100 days after completing probation, you may still apply. If you are more than 30 days away from the required 100 days or are missing any other requirements, including the additional NIMS courses which were due by December 31st, your name will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

Crew Chief

I am anticipating five Crew Chief openings for the 2024 season, with 17 qualified (SRT III) candidates. If you have indicated that you are interested in being considered for a promotion to Crew Chief, you have already received information on the promotion and selection process. In addition, all Crew Chief candidates will also be included in the ACC candidate pool. Crew Chiefs will be compensated at a rate of \$21.16 / hr.



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 and last season we made over 400 rescues over Labor Day weekend with only 34 stands along the beach. 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, everyone must be physically ready as soon as they take the stand. Thanks to SRT Everett Brown you can also warm up your semaphore skills and see how you rank against other SRTs using the site he has developed <https://www.beachsemaphore.com/>

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. This includes PSRTs through Crew Chiefs. Requalification requires meeting the minimum physical performance standard for both running and swimming. Rookies will re-qualify on Saturday morning at the end of their Surf Rescue Academy. This is our assurance that, although they have already passed our test, they maintained their conditioning and skill level since they successfully passed all aspects of the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. In some cases, this will be the first time that we have evaluated your running and swimming skills on the sand or in the ocean, although we would not have appointed you to SRA unless we had total confidence that your skills at an off-site test would transfer to the environment that we work in.

Crew Chiefs re-qualify on Saturday, June 22, 2024, just prior to SRA II’s re-qualification. By having Crew Chiefs re-qualify separately from the regular SRTs, that will allow them to act as safety officers and instructors during the regular SRTs’ Veteran Re-cert. We will also hold a separate Assistant Crew Chief Re-certification on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, so we can concentrate on topics that are pertinent to that specific position and the duties required. All Assistant Crew Chiefs are also required to attend training on Thursday, May 23rd, which includes “Mobile Rescue Unit” driver training and Quad re-certification.

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. We will update and re-emphasize Beach Patrol policies, procedures, and skills with the assistance of Crew Chief instructors. Skills such as neck/back stabilization and extrication, search and recovery as well as “rips, rocks and rescues” are always part of the day, and we will re-visit other job critical skills. We also update CPR and First Aid certifications on an alternating, yearly basis to assure that all employees are currently certified in both. This summer will be a CPR/AED review and a First Aid / Stop the Bleed re-certification year.

The dates that have been established for this year’s Veteran Re-certification are Wednesday, June 26th – June 29th and July 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th with Saturday, July 13th as the day for our 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 not be placed on payroll or be allowed to start work until you have successfully requalified. This is also why you did not receive an invitation to return. Each person who this affects was sent a personal letter offering them a chance to re-qualify at one of our off-site PEPSEs. The next opportunity for you to requalify before the start of our season will be at the Arundel Aquatics Center PEPSE on Sunday, April 7th, or the Ocean Pines PEPSE on Sunday, April 28th, which allows you to check-in with all other returning SRTs. The first chance during the season will be, Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 10:00, along with SRA I. If you are not available, or are unsuccessful, you will not be hired but may re-attempt re-qualifying on Saturday, June 1, 2024, during our final PEPSE for 2024.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ROOKIES: **DO NOT** show up out of shape if you want to work for the Beach Patrol this season. You passed the test and were offered an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy, now it is time to increase your training program, so you are ready for the challenges of working as a Surf Rescue Technician. Be ready both physically and mentally for long, exhausting days and nights. We will be emphasizing the physical challenges of performing all aspects of being a Surf Rescue Technician during your Surf Rescue Academy... **BE READY!!!** We have a stand waiting for you!!!



Important – Maintain Current Contact Information and Check it Frequently

The Beach Patrol needs to communicate in a fast and efficient way to keep everyone informed of important dates, deadlines, and other information. 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. Although I am unable to send attachments with a text message, I will also send the body of the e-mail message to your cell phone that we have on file. To avoid the problem of undeliverable messages, please make sure that you are keeping the Beach Patrol informed of any changes to your preferred email account as well as your mailing address and both your current cell phone number and the carrier that you are using (Verizon, Sprint, T-mobile, etc.). Text messages are sent through e-mail so having the correct cell carrier is critical. You must make it a priority to check the account as well as your spam folder and place the Beach Patrol -email address on your safe list. Often what has happened is, you provide a college e-mail address that was issued by your university and then, when you are no longer a student, it is closed and the first indication that the Beach Patrol has is a returned, undeliverable e-mail. This past fall I sent out several e-mails and text messages to both verify your OCBPSRA certifications and to verify contact information. As a result of multiple non-responses, many accounts were tagged as “Bad” and the February “Ratings Document” was not sent and your invitation to return was not included in this mailing. 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 this very inappropriate address is the first glimpse I have of this person asking the Beach Patrol to consider them for a job. If you are a Crew Chief or above you have a Town of Ocean City issued e-mail account and I suggest that you maintain it so it does not close and that you check it often. If you would like to provide a different e-mail address than the one you originally gave us, please e-mail the new address to the Beach Patrol.

Note: You can expect several e-mails following this mailing. Once I receive your returned paperwork and have entered all the information into the database, I will generate an e-mail that confirms the information as well as lets you know if anything else is needed. Following the April 25th deadline for returning the mailing, I will send an e-mail with important employee registration information with links to required documents and a request for scheduling your check-in. Some of the messages require action from you. Please check your e-mail and texts regularly.

Being and Remaining Drug Free is the Expectation

Passing the annual pre-employment drug test is not a goal for each of us, but rather an expectation of the Town of Ocean City and the Beach Patrol. The purpose of this activity is to assure that each of us is drug free, and, more importantly, that we remain drug free. I cannot emphasize this enough, there is no place in the Beach Patrol for anyone who is a drug user, regardless of what you may personally believe. Recent changes in various state laws throughout our country have led to a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the use of marijuana. Let me be totally clear about the Town of Ocean City and Beach Patrol’s position on this: Any use of marijuana or one of its derivatives will disqualify you from employment with the Town of Ocean City. Whether the marijuana has been “prescribed” for medical use or is being used as a recreational drug it will be reported as a failed drug screening, resulting in termination, and may impact your future career opportunities. You must also be aware that any performance enhancing supplements or recovery products that you may purchase legally that contain derivatives such as CBD (Cannabidiol) and THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), which can show up positive on a drug test, will also be reported as a failed drug test and will result in termination. If you “fail” the drug screening, the only option is for you to pay to have the same original sample “re-tested”, you will not be given the opportunity to provide a “fresh” sample. A copy of a memo from Katie Callan, HR Director; and Chris Parks, Risk Manager, has been included with this mailing and is part of the policy page which you are required to sign prior to employment.



Mobile Rescue Operator – Re-certification or New certification

An updated driving record is required each season for any Beach Patrol employee who will be operating any of our vehicles. I must have an updated driving record on file before May 15, 2024.

Previously certified Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) or Beach Patrol vehicle operators, who possess a current Maryland Driver’s License, will have a copy of your driving record requested for you at no cost. However, I do not have access to driving records for other states, so you must provide those at your expense.

As of last season (2023), I now have access to both certified and non-certified Maryland driving records. If you are a Maryland resident and possess a Maryland driver’s license you may request a copy of your driving record by

e-mailing me. Remember, you must make the request.



However, if you do not have a Maryland Driver's License and you plan to become certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) operator for the first time (new ACCs) or wish to renew your ATV certification this season, you need to obtain a current non-certified or certified complete driving record from the Department of Motor Vehicles (MVA) from the state that issued your driver's license. You may e-mail the driving record to Captain Arbin or mail it along with your returning paperwork in April, but we need it by May 15th. Newly trained Mobile Rescue Unit operators will need a copy of your driving record prior to becoming certified.

The Nevada Department of Transportation has put together a portal page where you can access DMV links for all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

https://dmvnev.com/50_state_dmv_list.html

Note: Current certification as a Mobile Rescue Unit operator is required for all Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs which includes a valid driver's license. SRTs who are not Crew Chiefs or Assistant Crew Chiefs are not required to certify or re-certify, however, once certified you may remain current by re-certifying on a yearly basis. All new and returning ACCs must become Mobile Rescue Unit operators, certified this season, and must present a copy of your driving record prior to May 15th. First time certification is a two-step process: Step one is attending an OCBPSRA classroom and skill training course (1st training is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024); Step two is being scheduled for a full day ride along with an OCBPSRA ATV instructor. Last year we successfully completed many of the step 2 "ride along" requirements on the next day. Based on that success we will be scheduling a ride along for many of you on Friday, May 24th, which provides the patrol with more certified "Mobile Rescue Unit" operators for use in filling various rolls. Any employee trained as an SRT who is Mobile Rescue

Unit operator certified, must agree to be available to work two AM (8:00 – 10:00) or PM (5:30 – 8:00) extended patrol shifts per two-week pay schedule.



Quad Certification with Sgt. Tim Uebel summer 2023

Testing and Recruiting



PEPSEs Experience Favorable Outcomes!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

Our 2024 test schedule is well underway and the candidates who are successful have been amazing. We are seeing a greater pass rate than in previous years and appointments to Surf Rescue Academy continue to climb. By the time this article goes to print, we will have completed three of the six scheduled PEPSEs this spring and are looking forward to the Arundel Aquatics Center (4/7), Ocean Pines (4/28) and Ocean City (6/1) tests. We are also seeing a stronger report of current and past Beach Patrol employees being listed as the way the candidates are finding out about the tests. That's great! We championed the recruiting incentive (along with a lot of other initiatives) to the Mayor and City Council and are glad to see them as an effective means of getting candidates to our tests.

We appreciate the droves who are coming out to support the testing process. Many, many current OCBP members are showing up to the tests to show their support, encourage candidates, and see who they might be sitting next to this summer. It is really encouraging to see a bleacher row full of red jackets during introductions and throughout the PEPSE events. Thank you to all who are taking an active role in the testing process. It is greatly appreciated. If you have an idea about a location for a test that we can research and potentially secure for the 2025 campaign, please reach out to Lt. Lee or Lt. Kovacs and share as much information as possible. We no longer go to the University of Maryland, the University of Delaware or Towson University or Frostburg Univer-

sity because we were getting little to no one showing up for the tests. If your college or YMCA, or community center pool is someplace where you believe we would be successful, and by successful, we mean 15-20 candidates passing the test, let's talk! We are always looking for fresh ideas and adjusting strategies to ensure all the stands are filled. Thanks



Surfing Beaches

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

This off-season has seen an incredible surge in SBF candidates unlike any we have seen before. Going from the numbers we had over the past few years we initially scheduled interview dates for four days.

Due to the numbers of interested candidates registering through our website and through the "Indeed" platform, we had to double the number of interview slots available. While we have a lot of interest in the open SBF positions, the challenge is always trying find those with availability from the first Training Academy through Labor Day Monday. We usually have to mix and match early and late availability in order to minimize the number of shifts where we have SBFs working solo shifts. Over the past few years, we have been able to use our JBPAIs to fill in some late-season openings, making the early season availability critical for SBF candidates. Thanks to Lieutenant Stone and CC Greiser for their flexibility in scheduling SBF interviews. And, thanks to SBF Grace Kline and SRT Callie Mull for blowing up the local interest in both the SBF and the SRT positions.



Each summer the OCBP employs Surf Beach Facilitators (SBFs) to work alongside our Surf Rescue Technicians to keep the area in and around the surf beaches safe for all beach patrons, surfers, and swimmers. There is no physical skills test for this position however the role of the SBFs requires them to be able to walk and run in the sand for much of their 9:30 am - 5:30 pm shift.

Semaphore Site – Learn, Practice, Challenge Yourself (reprint from spring 2023)

submitted by: ACC Everett Brown

For anyone looking to learn or brush up on their semaphore before next season be sure to check out beachsemaphore.com! For rookies there is a page explaining what messages are used for and how they are structured as well as common abbreviations and special signals. There are multiple ways to practice memorizing letters and begin reading words at slow speeds. If you want more personalized practice, you can create an account to have your progress tracked. Practicing before you are on the

(Continued on page 12)



Information



Documentation of “Last Day Working” Requirements!

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

It is important, whether you are a first time Beach Patrol employee or are returning for your tenth year, that you provide official documentation of your last full-time day of working, along with the required paperwork by Thursday, April 25th, 2024. 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 Thursday, April 25th, 2024**) 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 our April 28th and June (1st, 8th, & 15th) Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations (PEPSEs). If an SRT has limited availability, then we may have to offer one of those positions to someone who can offer the most availability which fits 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 have applied for a part-time position. We have required each applicant for part-time to commit to working a minimum number of days during our time of greatest need (“critical coverage” after August 11th), 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 in September (Fall Guarding/Patrol), then you appreciate our objective to keep 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 yards, is much more comforting and adds to maintaining a safe beach/ocean environment for our visitors.

Another example of how we try and meet this objective has to do with the way we administer our final Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation each season. We try to target candidates with late season availability. For the June tests (PEPSEs), we will 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 candidate(s) 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 greater availability through late September. We want to hire personnel that fit our needs and it is fiscally irresponsible to over-hire by letting a PT employee work just a few days to stay current!

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 (DUE to Captain Arbin by April 25th).

NOTE: You will receive a confirmation email (check junk mail / spam also), indicating that your paperwork was received and a confirmation that indicates if the proper documentation (of Last Day of Full-Time employment) was enclosed/received.

DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE IT!

This confirmation email will also include a link to schedule your:

check-in,

drug test,

and equipment issue DATE and TIME!!

Captain’s note: Late season availability is so critical that the Town has allowed us to put 3 incentives in place to help those of you who commit to work or return on week-ends.

Critical Coverage Bonus - \$1.00 / hr. paid at the end of the season for every hour worked after August 11th this season.

Travel Stipend - \$140.00 / trip when you return from over 110 miles away and work 2 or more days.

Post Labor Day Bonus - \$250.00 paid at the end of the season if you work 80.0 hours after Labor Day and the final day of our season, September 22, 2024.

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, & 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. OCBP 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 27 personnel who occupied part time slots. We also had some personnel who occupied part time slots until they became full time, or vice versa (due to injury, internships, military training or school). Most though, were part time for the entire summer. The number of part time slots for this summer has not been determined and I wanted to let everyone know (if interested) what is expected / required if applying.

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 – 20 days (or more) before June 16th & OR after August 18th, 2024. If a person is only available during the middle of our season, 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 mid-August, then Captain Arbin will allow me to work with that person. 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 along with the Spring newsletter!

Rental Assistance Available

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

The Town of Ocean City will work with Beach Patrol employees to help with the issue of needing all funds prior to moving into rental housing and earning your first paycheck. To qualify, you must be a returning, full-time employee who was A-rated for the 2023 season. The property owner or rental agent must be entered into the city's purchasing system in order for them to be paid. If you follow the **rental assistance** procedure and are approved, the Town will make the payment to the rental agency so you can begin living there and we will payroll deduct a portion of your rent each pay period until you have satisfied your debt to the Town. If you are interested

in possibly taking advantage of this program you must contact Lt. Ward Kovacs wkovacs@oceancitymd.gov by April 25th, the same day Employment Agreements are due to be returned.

If you need the Beach Patrol to verify the legitimacy of a prospective rental unit so you don't become the victim of a scam, please let us know and we will visit the unit and make personal contact with the rental agent or property owner.

Captain's Note: This program was developed and is intended for those who otherwise could not afford to relocate to Ocean City for the summer. This is a loan from the Town to secure seasonal housing and must be re-paid through payroll deduction. Each participant will be required to sign a legal loan payment contract. Additionally, again this season the Town of Ocean City provides a \$250.00 seasonal rental stipend for Beach Patrol employees who live in a seasonal rental while working for the Beach Patrol and are tenants on a legal lease and meet all requirements of the program.



Seasonal Housing for OCBP Employees - The Tarry-a-While Guest House 108 Dorchester St.

The restoration of the above Circa 1897 rooming house at 108 Dorchester Street was completed in May 2007. The Town of Ocean City, State of Maryland, OCDC and UMES Rural Development Center provided funding for this renovation. The OCDC relocated its office into the building's first floor. The upper two floors are reserved for affordable, seasonal housing for the Ocean City Beach Patrol employees. Thirteen OCBP employees can stay in this facility from May through September. OCDC manages and maintains this workforce housing facility where employees can live at the Dorchester Street facility. For additional information about this housing or for a housing application please contact the OCDC office at (410) 289-7739 or email questions to zach@ocdc.org.

Attention New Employees - Congratulations!

submitted by: Debi Tyler

You are about to begin the adventure of a lifetime and one you will never forget. You will also make lifelong friends along the way. You have come further than others by just passing the test. I know you are excited, and I am certain you want that to continue. That being said, it is extremely important that you come to your check-in date on time and fully prepared (you will be provided with a check-in date and time). Please make sure you read all the important papers you will receive from Captain Arbin, and follow each step needed for a smooth check-in process. Come to check in with:

Two Original ID's- (examples) original Social Security Card and your driver's license. OR your original Birth Certificate and School ID or Drivers License.

OR

You may choose to only bring one document if it's your UNEXPIRED Passport.

Other documents may be acceptable but must be listed on the I-9 federal form.

In addition to the correct ID documents, please make sure that all the paperwork you fill out is typed. (Completed electronically - HANDWRITTEN PAPERWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)

The Beach Patrol also requires that each employee use Direct Deposit for their pay. Therefore, you are also required to bring a typed filled out Direct Deposit Form which will include your bank router and account number. This is very efficient and enables employees to have easy access to their pay.

All the check-in forms are on our website, and you will receive instructions on the steps.



Equipment Update

submitted by: Sgt. Colby Phillips

Happy spring all! So glad to be gearing up for another great summer. Rookies, when you fill out your equipment form, please be sure to do your best at guessing



your correct sizes. If you don't put down the right size, that's okay as you will have an opportunity to check your bag when you pick it up. Equipment has steadily been coming in. Bathing suits, Anetek, new Crew Chief sweats, hats and more. Veterans, as a reminder when filling your equipment sheet, specify in the comments if you have specific preferences. I try to really accommodate everyone. Also, I fill bags in the order paperwork is returned, so get your paperwork back as soon as you can. Hoping everyone has had a great winter and see you soon!

Training

Ocean City Competition Teams

submitted by: Sgt. Travis Wagner



Ocean City Beach Patrol offers the opportunity outside of working long, sometimes physically demanding days on the resorts beaches to compete both locally, regionally, and even nationally. In the past we have even participated

in international competitions! Our ocean lifeguards (SRTs) show up in Maryland and Delaware beaches throughout the summer season to compete against other local beach patrols. Ocean City, MD hosts the first competition of the season in mid-June in the north end of town. These events include a long-distance beach run, run-swim-run relay, paddling events, and run relays. Our guards will travel into adjacent DE beach towns to compete in over a half dozen local Ocean Series competitions throughout the entire summer season.

In addition to local competitions, we travel to New Jersey for the USLA Mid-Atlantic Regional competition hosting patrols from Virginia all the way up to New York. This is where the competition really starts getting steep. Each summer, OCBP typically sends a dozen competitors to participate in 2 USLA events which include crafts such as the surf ski (think long, skinny, surfing kayak) and row boats along with all the other swimming and running events.

The super bowl of lifesaving sport occurs at the USLA Nationals competition which is on a rotating basis holding the competition in a variety of sites such as Florida, Texas, and California. The best lifesaving sport athletes in the country show up to demonstrate their physical prowess. Typically, each year the OCBP competition team has sent out representation to these competitions and placed as high as first place in individual events! Most recently Haley Wright (alumni) placed first 2 years in a

row in the 2k beach run and current OCBP SRT Brian Hoskins won the inaugural 100m individual soft sand sprint (with a leg injury) last season.

Going into my 20th season with the Ocean City Beach Patrol, I again plan on helping the competition team be the best version of itself while encouraging new personnel to join us in the mornings for physical training and just to have some with getting better at our passion – lifesaving! I want to thank my friends and crew chiefs who not only compete, but also step up outside of their normal required work hours to show up early and help set up courses, maintain equipment, and put in the hours of training that are required to make this all a reality! I could not do it without everyone else's help and dedication!

What did OCBP do last year?

Rescues: 2,068

Preventative Actions: 95,039

EMS Calls: 228

Lost and Found Individuals: 385



Representing OCBP! Jingle Bells 5K at Northside Park this past December. CC Katie Zgorski got 2nd overall in women's open. CC Tyler Khounsacknarath got 3rd in his age group. SGT Josh Wilder got 2nd in his age group. And Lt Kovacs got 3rd in his age group. Harrison Duncan also completed the run.

Beach Patrol 5K Beach Run

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Following this year's Jingle Bell 5K run at Northside Park, several of us went to a local restaurant for a bite to eat. During our conversation, Sgt. Wilder suggested that we should have a Beach Patrol sponsored 5K run. We followed that conversation with a planning meeting at Beach Patrol Headquarters. Our plan is for the inaugural event to take place after working hours on Wednesday, June 26th. This will give us an early season event to complement the later season Crew Comps. We hope to have the start/finish line on the beach in front of Malibu's Surf Shop, as they have agreed to sponsor the run. Ocean City Baptist Church members will be on hand to distribute bottled water, and we hope to get a food sponsor so that those coming right after work will have a chance to get something to eat, on site, following the race. We thought it would be best to limit the first-year event to current employees in order to get a feel for how the course works out before inviting others to join. There will be no entry fees, but T-shirts and some awards are being planned. We are also looking into accessible, no-cost parking near the event site. Thanks to Crew Chiefs Hurst and Zgorski and Sergeants Wilder and Wagner for their help and input on what we hope will be a fun and successful, annual event.

OCBP Bike Rides & Triathlon Club

submitted by: Sgt. Travis Wagner

Do you have a road bike (drop bar), race triathlon, or just want to try something fun and new in a group setting? Some of the veteran guards have been competing in triathlon and racing bikes for many years now and have developed a grassroots cycling and triathlon club. Personally, I began my cycling journey after graduating college as a D2 swimmer and looking for the next thing to compete in. Sgt. Postell asked me to tryout a triathlon event here in Ocean City. I bought my first Trek road bike in Ocean Pines at Continental Cycles and the rest is history.

Now looking back almost 20 years later, the evolving group still gets together a few times a week before work to put in some miles and usually a quick stop in Berlin for an espresso or a Cosmo (coffee smoothie). Although the bike tech, routes, and some of our friends have changed, if you have a road bike, bring it down to Ocean City this summer. If you do not have a road bike, get one and join us on our group rides. Because safety first, we all ride with a helmet, water bottles, plenty of snacks, follow the rules of the road, and encourage you to get some proper cycling shoes and pedals setup for maximum power transfer. If you have any questions about bike life or participating in the fun and challenging world of triathlon, please feel free to reach out this season to me or some of the crew chiefs and SRTs that have been involved over the years! Thank you to current crew chiefs Alex Siegel, Katie Zgorski, Luke Ramina, and Tyler Khounsacknarath for joining in on the fun and hosting rides in my absence! I hope to see some new faces this summer on the rides!

Local News

All Aboard! Winterfest of Trains a HUGE Success

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

The 2023 Beach Patrol sponsored Train Garden at the Convention Center saw record numbers this year. More than 600 citizens and guests enjoyed the sights and sounds of Lionel Trains for 41 days before Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. Our good friend, Frank Miller with the Special Events Department, Mike Stone and I shared the responsibilities of running the trains while the Welcome Center was open, but it was Bob Wagner who kept us all on track! Bob attended all 41 evenings and supported our efforts by serving as the Head Conductor of the event. His welcoming smile, stories galore and incredible understanding of the history of Ocean City are sights to be seen.

We offered kids, and adults who think they are kids, the opportunity to participate in a scavenger hunt and attempt to locate details in the display. New this year, we added a level 2 hunt that truly drew participants into the garden. This year's platform had nine operating trains on two levels and featured an Elf's Workshop complete with elves. There was a huge mountainous area and 10 more operating devices for children to activate while they made their way around the display.

The most unique component of this year's effort was the tremendous outpouring of support by the community in sharing the responsibility of setting things up. A drive-in movie theater, tunnels and bridges, aliens from another planet, and a reindeer runway were all either donated or imagined and installed on this year's display. Truly, it was amazing.

Plans for the 2024 display have already started and we are hoping to expand from the 18' round platform to a 24' X 48' multileveled, magnificent expression of imagination and intrigue. If you have any old train decorations, train items, or train sets that are no longer being used or have exceeded their interest-life, please speak to Skip or Mike and well see if we might be able to incorporate them in the next edition of the Winterfest of Trains Display. Happy (early) Holiday! It's never too soon to start planning.

The Salty Scoop

submitted by: Kristy Sulin

The Town of Ocean City employee newsletter, The Salty Scoop, continues to be a good, well received, and relevant source of information for the employees of TOC. I have contributed monthly articles during our season as well as off season with a variety of topics of interest, with a hope to educate and generate additional support (and

maybe even aid in recruiting) from TOC employees. This fall featured articles written about our testing season, Canada Recruiting Trip, the need for year-round recruiting, our Epic Labor Day Weekend and fall guarding, and our participation in the train garden and winter parade. Our articles, which are titled, "View from the Stand" are usually featured on the front page and are delivered every month via email to all TOC employees. Going forward, the Newsletter will be a quarterly production with the next edition to be published in May. If anyone ever has a topic they would like to see featured in the newsletter please feel free to reach out to me at ksulin@oceancitymd.gov. I am looking forward to an amazing summer of 2024. See you all soon!!



Captain's Note: This has been an important tool to inform all Town of Ocean City employees about the many aspects of our Patrol. Remember that most people not associated with our organization only see the SRT on the stand and have no real idea of all it takes to have that SRT there. With Kristy coordinating this effort and input from others, this has made a huge impact on how we are viewed by other employees and departments. Each one of you is a professional and does an amazing job every day, and I want others to recognize that!

(Semaphore continued from page 7)

beach will help you stand out and will help with communication especially in the beginning of the summer!

For veterans I've added a more difficult mode to practice with called "survival mode". With every message you get correct the next message is displayed faster. See how many you can get correct in a row – there is a leaderboard for the people with the best scores! The site is far from perfect, and I am always looking for improvements. If you have any cool ideas to

(Continued on page 13)

A St. Patrick's Day Spectacular!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

For a second year in a row, the OCBP was invited to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. This year, our good friends in the Surf Club requested that our entries be positioned together so that the full beach presence would be known. Special thanks to Sgt. Wilder for organizing the team of OCBP staff to be a part of the procession.

This year, we had a pickup, wave runner, two quads and a team of parade route walkers who handed out our Beach and Water Safety activity books (supporting the 1st aspect of our mission, "Education") and rack cards to prospective candidates. It is so much fun to be a part of the unofficial kickoff to the busy season in Ocean City and we are grateful to the parade organizers and our director for approving our participation. Maybe next year you can be a part of the fun!



(Semaphore continued from page 12)

add or come across any bugs, please reach out to me (Everett – everettbrown@gmail.com).

Captain's Note: This is the perfect example of an SRT who saw a need and made it his personal objective to help solve a real issue for our newest rookies. Everett was a rookie when he realized that learning and becoming proficient in this important communication technique was critical to his success as a new SRT. As a result, he has spent three years creating, updating and improving the beachsemaphore.com website. He was appointed as an ACC this past season. Everyone can make a difference for the betterment of the Patrol. What will you do?

History

CC History – CREW 18 – (140th St.)

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

This is a continuation of a task I started with in the last few Newsletters (Crews 1, 16, & 2 respectively). I had been thinking about doing this for several years and Crew 18 (the North Pole/State Line) is the fourth attempt/crew I've been working on. There might have been more crews in the early 70's but as far as I know we've had 17 crews from at least 1983 through 2017. In 2018, we added another Crew to accommodate for the number of stands we currently deploy when fully staffed. I only wish I had more access to information for the years prior to my first year on Beach Patrol (1984). That summer, I was a rover in Crew 17 (now crew 18) and my Crew Chief was Hugh Hommel. Hugh (long time OC Paramedic) would later marry Brenda Haren who is also a former OCBP alum and now a local educator for Worcester County Public Schools. Here is the information that I have been able to put together for 1983 (if you know any alumni, please ask) through 2023 (some missing info.).

1968 – (I believe 1968 was the first year for Crew Chiefs?)

1969 –

1970 –

1971 –

1972 –

1973 – Bill Baker (Crew 18 ½, 4 stands)

1974 – Bill Baker (Crew 18 ½, 4 stands)

1975 – Bill Baker (Crew 18 ½, 4 stands)

1976 – Bill Baker (Crew 18 ½, 4 stands)

1977 – Bill Baker (Crew 18 ½, 4 stands)

1978 –

1979 –

1980 –

1981 –

1982 –

1983 – Hugh Hommel

1984 – Hugh Hommel

1985 –

1986 – Damon Deppe

1987 –

1988 –

1989 –

1990 –

1991 – Steve Kenny

1992 – Steve Kenny

1993 – Steve Kenny

1994 – Rick Cawthern

1995 – Rick Cawthern

1996 – Rick Cawthern

1997 – Tom Sites

1998 – Tom Sites

1999 – Justin Fuchs
 2000 – Justin Fuchs
 2001 – Jake Foy
 2002 – Jake Foy
 2003 – Jake Foy
 2004 – Jake Foy
 2005 – Jake Foy
 2006 – Jake Foy
 2007 – Jake Foy
 2008 – Jake Foy
 2009 – Jake Foy
 2010 – Jake Foy
 2011 – Jake Foy
 2012 – Jake Foy
 2013 – Jake Foy
 2014 – Charlie Swartz
 2015 – Jake Foy
 2016 – Jake Foy
 2017 – Jake Foy (last year as Crew 17)
 2018 – Jake Foy (changed to Crew 18)
 2019 – Jake Foy
 2020 – Jake Foy
 2021 – Jake Foy
 2022 – Jake Foy
 2023 – Jake Foy

I had some help from Ward Kovacs (Old BP yearbooks), & Tim Uebel (Crew & group pictures) in compiling this list and will continue to do the same for other crews in future newsletters. If anyone reads this article and has any additional information to share, please let me know as being accurate is important for our history.

We had several CCs who were in Crew 17/18 for multiple years. However, Jake Foy has been there for TWENTY-TWO years & counting. If he returns this year (he is), he will continue adding to his legacy, thank you Jake & congrats on becoming a father!!

Captain's Note: When I was hired in 1973, I was sent to sit the Delaware line on my 2nd day (1st day was inlet). I was then assigned to crew 18 ½ as the rover. Since that crew only had 4 stands, I worked Monday – Thursday, from 136th street to 145th street. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday I worked in the Inlet Crew. We had 112 stands along the beach in 1973, which is more than we have today. In addition to semaphore each Crew Chief had a



phone on a pole for emergency communication. Since our old switchboard only had a limited number of “trunks” (line buried along the beach) the last 3 phones in the north crews were all on the same line. If they wanted to reach crew 18 ½ they sent a series of short and long rings to that phone. Things were much different 52 years ago!

Public Education Outreach – The part of our mission that is Year-Round

submitted by: Kristin Joson



With education being the first part of our 3-part mission (Education, Prevention and Intervention) and knowing that it is at the root of all that we do, it only makes sense that it occurs all year long. Even though most of the beach patrol members return to their other careers in the off season. Many of us continue to pass along safety messages off the beach in schools and other venues. Although most of these requests are for a Beach Safety theme there is also a strong recruiting component for both Junior Beach Patrol as well as jobs as a Surf Rescue Technician.

In early September we ended our Sundaes in the Park and our Life Saving Museum programs. Then, October kept us busy with educational outreach events. On October 7th we presented at the Showell Elem. Fall Fest and the Home Depot Kids workshop. On Oct 14th we were at Harbor Days. At these events we had a prize wheel for kids to spin and interact with the lifeguards. We also had loads of giveaways and each child could walk away with their own set of semaphore flags (thanks to Home Depot



Crew Chief Torey Hurst teaching beach safety to Ocean City Elementary 4th graders. Education is the first part of our mission; Education, Prevention, Intervention.

for donating the handles) and the code to practice all the letters. If that wasn't enough, we also had a quad and Jet Ski on hand for photo opportunities to the delight of many children and parents. It's always fun to be up close and personal with our first responders in the Town, whether it be lifeguards, Surf Beach Facilitators, Junior Beach Patrol Assistant Instructors, police officers or firefighters.

We have also been a part of the Water Safety Program in Worcester County Schools where every 4th grader participates in a day at an indoor pool where they learn all about how to be safe at the beach or around any body of water. SRT Nick Thompson, who is also the supervisor of Physical Education (Wicomico County Public Schools) helps coordinate this program and staff the instructors which many are actually lifeguards in the summer and teachers in the off season. In addition to our work with Wicomico County we are also very involved with our local schools in Worcester County and have already provided many sessions at multiple grade levels.

On March 20th CC Connor Lawrence and CC Luke Ramina worked again for the second year with police officer Howard Caplan to present to all of the graduating seniors in Howard County as part of their "Senior Week: Staying Safe in Ocean City" program.

We also have a number of Educational Outreach opportunities already scheduled for April and May with additional requests being made each week.

All in all, it has been another busy year of spreading the word about beach safety. The feedback has been extremely positive, and I expect next year to be even busier. If you are close enough to Ocean City during the off-season and would like to be a part of our safety presentations and other displays such as recruiting, contact Lt. Kovacs at headquarters and you will be added to the resource list. If you are asked to do a presentation off-site in your hometown, contact Lt. Kovacs and we will make sure you have anything you need for your presentation. An educated beach patron is a safe beach patron.

The dynamic duo, CC Connor Lawrence and CC Luke Ramina are always willing to give time to educate the public about beach safety.



Our partnership with the National Aquarium goes beyond our summer season and we offer advanced training for those who are interested. Our Beach Patrol Administrative Assistant Debi Tyler was ready to respond as a "Seal Steward" to the first incident of 2024 on February 7th.



A huge thank you goes out to Hook Optics and Niki Pino. Hook Optics is our amazing sponsor for the highest quality sunglasses. Niki is one of the owners that has worked with Kristin Joson to update our Water and Beach Safety Guide, giving it a fresh new look. The Ocean City Surf Club is also critical in this endeavor by donating each year to help supplement the printing expense. We love our partnerships!

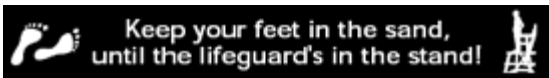
Calendar/Important Dates

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

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

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

Email: barbin@oceancitymd.gov



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

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



www.ococean.com/ocbp

Important, Important!!!!

In order to ensure 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. DTyler@oceancitymd.gov

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 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.

April 7 (Sun) PEPSE Arundel Olympic Swim Center

April 25 (Thurs) - Employee Agreements due back with request for assignment and documentation of last day.

April 27 (Sat) - Officer mandatory mtg (ACC appointments and CC Promotions)

April 28 (Sun) PEPSE Ocean Pines (reg. 9:00 - 9:45)

May 4 (Sat) Weekend patrol begins

May 18-19 (Sat-Sun) – Officer Work weekend, CC paperwork /check-in (no drug test on Sat)

May 19 (Sun) – Officer and CC Drug testing (9:00 – 10:30)

May 19 (Sun) – SRA I check-in (Drug test, paperwork, equipment, orientation)

May 19 (Mon) – May 30 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy I

May 21 (Tues) – May 26 (Fri) – Returning staff drug test and paperwork check-in and equipment pick-up (Time slot will be scheduled)

May 23-24 (Thurs– Fri) ACC Quad Training

May 25 (Sat) - 7:00 a.m. Prayer Service, 8:00 a.m. leadership meeting, 10:00 a.m. first day guarding

May 27 (Memorial Day) – 8:00 a.m. Weekly in-service mtg Convention Center

May 29 (Wed) - Paddle Board Safety Session

June 1 (Sat) - PEPSE (final for 2024) Ocean City (registration 9:00 - 9:45)

June 8 (Sat) - PEPSE not yet scheduled unless needed for staffing (reg. 9:00 - 9:45)

June 15 (Sat) -PEPSE not yet scheduled unless needed for staffing (reg. 9:00 - 9:45)

June 16 (Sun) – June 22 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy II

June 22 (Sat) – Crew Chief Re-qualification

June 25 - June 29 (Tues – Sat) – Veteran re-qualification and re-certification

June 27 (Thurs) – Rookie Graduation

July 13th (Sat) 7:00 am Annual Group picture day and 6:30 pm Capt. Craig Swim on 14th street