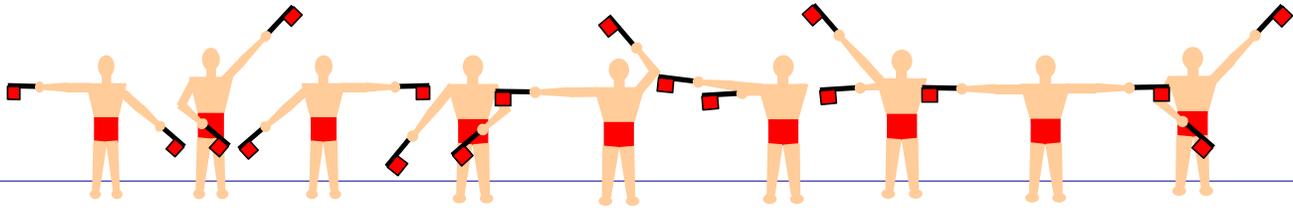


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 63

Newsletter

Spring 2017



Over Eighty Years
of Saving Lives

Maintain Your Role
in this Fantastic
Tradition!

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There are two more opportunities to join our team for the 2017 season on April 30th and June 3rd.

Message From the Captain

The 2017 Season is going to be the best in many years!!!!

As I begin my 45th season with the Patrol, I am reminded that each season is unique with its challenges and its rewards. However, all indications point to the 2017 season promising to be the best Beach Patrol season in many years.

Not a day goes by that something isn't being done for the future of the Patrol. Although we call the fall, winter and spring the "off-season" the Beach Patrol never really has an off season. This is the time of year when we are closing down the past season and preparing for the coming season and beyond. We are busy recruiting, testing and interviewing for personnel, inventorying and ordering equipment and supplies, corresponding with 100's of inquiries, preparing articles and safety messages for magazines and guides, getting our buildings, stands and vehicles ready to be put into service, attending and holding planning meetings and preparing and defending a budget that takes us into the 2018 season.

With all this going on, each season is also a fresh start (much like the start of a new school year for those of us who are educators). I am very excited about the upcoming season. One huge reason is our perspective employee numbers. When we are fully staffed, we are able to have more flexibility with scheduling and can provide additional opportunities, training and special duties. Staffing is looking strong with a high number of returning employees and the addition of the 71 rookies who have already been offered an appointment to one of our Surf Rescue Academies. With the two Pre-Employment Physical Skills

Evaluations (PEPSEs) that are still scheduled for this season, we are looking at the best staff numbers in recent history. It isn't just the number of SRTs, but the energy and enthusiasm of all the candidates has been amazing. Even more important to me has been the passion and excitement of the Beach Patrol staff who participated in administering each PEPSE. We have awesome employees! Another major factor in my optimistic feeling about the upcoming season is the tone of this year's "Strategic Planning" weekend. We had great dialog and there are several ideas that have come out of the weekend that should be a positive change to some of our policies, procedures and operations.

An additional factor that will benefit the entire Patrol is the stable leadership that will continue to move us forward. I am only anticipating the need for two SRT Crew Chiefs and an SBF Crew Chief. The officer ranks are also stable for an additional season, although that may change based on some individuals' opportunities. One real benefit that the Town of Ocean City has with the Beach Patrol is the experienced and highly professional leadership that we have at the Crew Chief level and above. The effectiveness and dedication of this group would be impossible to replace if we were like most seasonal departments and our staff only remained for two or three years. Retention of quality, experienced employees is even more important for our

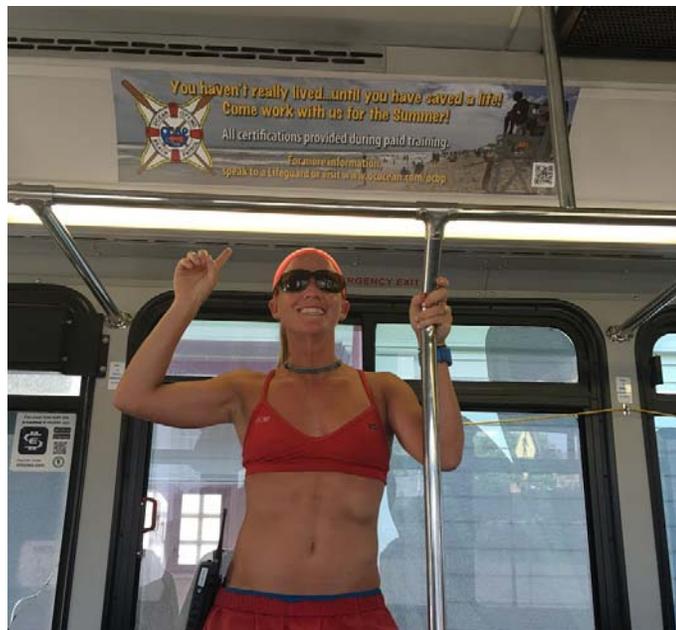


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(2017 Best Season continued from page 1)

long-term success as an organization than recruiting new employees to replace those that move on.

These are the greatest years of your life and we are fortunate to have an awesome job that gives us significance. Embrace the opportunity and do your part to make the 2017 season our best ever!



CC Kelly Keefe points out the message on a local bus as part of our recruiting campaign, “You haven’t really lived until you have saved a life!” Come work with us for the summer!



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 2017 Surf Rescue Academy. Although I have sent several e-mails asking for information through Google Docs, such as change of address, and 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 as 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** as well as the “Cad Employee Information Sheet”, must be returned to Captain Arbin at his La Plata, Maryland address using the enclosed, pre-addressed stamped envelope, by Friday, April 28, 2017. 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 71 rookies (more than ever before) 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 whether they have a position or not.

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, everyone must be ready physically by the time you get here. Requalification/Recertification is a yearly responsibility for all Beach Patrol employees depending on your job description. For those of you who are returning for your third year or greater, you have been through this before. However, for anyone who was a rookie last season this will be a new experience.

Additionally, 26 candidates have registered for upcoming Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations 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 10 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 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. Failure to receive an invitation because your summative rating was a “B” does not mean that you will not be allowed to work in 2017 but rather places the responsibility 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 at 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.

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, everyone must be ready physically by the time you get here. Requalification/Recertification is a yearly responsibility for all Beach Patrol employees depending on your job description. For those of you who are returning for your third year or greater, 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 have 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 24, 2017 just prior to SRA II’s re-qualification. By having Crew Chiefs re-qualify separately from the regular SRTs that allows them to act as safety and instructors during the regular SRTs’ “Veteran re-cert”. We will also hold a separate Assistant Crew Chief Re-certification on Monday, June 26, 2017, so we can concentrate on topics that are pertinent to that specific position and the duties 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 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 First Aid review and a CPR/AED re-certification year. The dates that have been established for this year’s “Veteran re-certification” are Tuesday, June 27th – July 1st, July 5th – July 8th (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 on Saturday, May 27, 2017 along with SRA I or as soon as you return for the 2017 season, before being placed on payroll. If you are unsuccessful you will not be hired but may re-attempt re-qualifying on Saturday, June 3, 2017 during our final PEPSE (test) for new employees.

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 testing 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 a Surf Rescue Technician. 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!!!**

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 2017 season, on Saturday, April 29, 2017. 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 28, 2017.

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 18 positions each season, and it is my desire to fill those slots with 18 first-time Assistant Crew Chiefs, whenever possible. However, if we do not have 18 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 18 positions with first time applicants, we will allow past ACC’s to serve an additional year or years. But you must let us know you are interested in being considered.

Assistant Crew Chiefs will be compensated at the rate of \$15.39 per hour. 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

(Continued on page 4)



(ACC Applicants Sought continued from page 3)



review all candidates on April 29 – 30, 2017 and make recommendations for this training position. Appointed candidates will be notified as soon as the selections are finalized.



ACC Matt Marx posing for a picture after a wonderful Beach Safety Presentation at the Life Saving Station Museum last summer. Matt attends Virginia Tech and can't wait to get back on the beach this summer!

son 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 and 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 cannot ask this other person to just work from August 3rd through September 12th and it is fiscally irresponsible to over-hire by letting them 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.

Documentation of Last Day Working Requirements!



It is important that whether you are a first time Beach Patrol employee or 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 28, 2017 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 June 3rd Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. We have to work within a certain budget 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 a part-time position as we 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 21st), 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 sea-

Importance of a Current E-Mail Address and Cell Phone Number



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. Additionally the Town of Ocean City is beginning to e-mail “Direct Deposit” pay stubs to employees rather than print them out and distribute. 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 not only are you keeping the Beach Patrol informed of any changes in your preferred e-mail account but you also must make it a priority to check the account. 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. 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 that 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 city issued e-mail account and I suggest that you maintain it so it does not close and that you check it often. There now is a banner that tells you when you need to change

your password as long as you sign in on a regular basis. 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.

As a convenient reminder for you, I often send a short text message indicating that you have an e-mail waiting that needs attention. But just like e-mail messages I receive several dozen "Message Undeliverable" returns and have no means of contacting you. Please let us know both your current cell number and the carrier that you are using (Verizon, Sprint, T-mobile, etc)

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

Don't Let a Housing Issue Keep You From the Greatest Summer of Your Life!

Affordable, quality housing is essential to accepting a position with the Beach Patrol for the summer. Unfortunately this one issue has caused several quality candidates to turn down a position with the patrol when they were unable to secure adequate housing for the season. In recent years the Ocean City Development Corporation (OCDC) has come to our aid with some affordable employee housing. However, with the demolition of several of the units that surrounded our old Beach Patrol Headquarters between Somerset and Dorchester streets, we have gone from 40+ beds to just 13 starting with the 2016 season. Although we are thankful for any help we can get, we have far more individuals applying for this limited housing than can be accommodated. As of this article's draft there is still one spot available for a female.

Therefore, it is critical that you do not wait if you have not already secured your housing arrangements, because we are counting on you whether you are a returning employee or are preparing to enter Surf Rescue Academy. Last year we had 5 individuals who were unable to report to our second academy because they never obtained housing. They waited until the week before SRA. We also had groups of individuals in both 2015 and 2016, who made all of their arrangements and payments on-line and upon arrival learned that the apartment didn't exist and lost all of the money they had paid.

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.

If you need housing or have extra space in your unit, please e-mail me at barbin@oceancitymd.gov and I will use our e-mail distribution list to try and connect you with others.



2016 Crew Comps overall winners, Crew 12

MOBILE RESCUE OPERATOR



Mobile Rescue Operator – Re-certification or New certification

NEW REQUIREMENT for 2017 SEASON –

If you were certified or re-certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) operator during the 2016 season and have a current Maryland Driver's license, I can now get a current copy of your driving record and you will not be required to provide it. However, if you do not possess a Maryland Driver's license or if you plan to become certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) operator for the upcoming season, you need to send 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, along with the enclosed paperwork. Newly certified Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) 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://www.nevadadot.com/Contact_Us/Links_to_Other_DOTs.aspx

Note: Current certification as a "Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) operator", is required for all Crew Chiefs. SRTs who are not 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 ACCs will be given the option to become "Mobile Rescue Unit (ATV) operator" certified this season but must present a copy of your driving record prior to the training.



Sgt. Rick Cawthern and Captain Arbin monitoring Veteran re-certification and the search and recovery module

TESTING & RECRUITING



Recruiting and Testing – A Great Season so far!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

If we were to equate this year's Recruiting and Testing campaign to how well this summer is going to be, I think all of us should be looking forward to what is shaping up to be an incredible season. The recruiting team from last summer coupled with the individual efforts of our Surf Rescue Technicians (and a proud retired Crew Chief,

Alex Desi) have created a gigantic pool of candidates taking our test. It is one thing to talk about the Beach Patrol but it is a far different animal to get people to take our test. This year, YOU are doing great work in sharing the opportunities with your friends and family and getting them to show up for our Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations. What's even better is that those people who are coming are passing our assessment at a much better rate than in past years.

To date, 71 candidates have been appointed to Surf Rescue Academy and we have made the decision to hold the Ocean Pines Test just to make sure anyone who might have been training for the Salisbury or York tests has one more opportunity to satisfactorily pass our assessment. Plus, from previous experience, we know that not all who are appointed to Academy actually show up because of any number of reasons. We are very hopeful, given the tremendous effort our appointees to Academy have made, that those statistics will be diminished or vanished this year and ALL of our new hires will report.

The Testing Program is truly firing on all cylinders. Under the leadership of the Officer Group who oversees each and every element of our off-site tests, the crew chiefs have really brought a new dimension to the testing process. In the exit interviews, candidates who make it through the entire day often share how they feel "connected" already to the Beach Patrol and how they can't wait to be a part of the family. They share how they have created relationships right there in the middle of exerting more effort to achieve something than they have ever done in their life and yet, have the capacity to make friends, share the struggle and reach deep within themselves to reach a goal. The Crew Chiefs are the common denominator in all of this. I want to personally thank all of the Officers for making their part of the testing campaign "personal" and for all they do to create a consistent and rigorous assessment experience for all of our candidates. I also want to thank the Crew Chiefs for their love of this job and how much they demonstrate the importance of caring and compassion while being extremely thorough in their evaluation of the candidates – and for Debi, Stella and Kristin (and Tyler) for keeping us all organized, promoting the PEPSE experience, and making the process efficient.

For anyone who might have a friend or family member interested in working for the Beach Patrol this summer, PLEASE urge them to meet us in Ocean Pines on April 30th at

the Sports Core. It would be our goal to hold the Ocean Pines test and hire all the candidates we need to fill academy so that we do not need to hold the June test in the ocean. Don't let your friend or family member miss out.

Looking forward to seeing everyone real soon – two months from the day I'm writing this article for the newsletter.



Beach Patrol Headquarters in High Demand this Off-season

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

While we are used to seeing many people moving around our building in the summer months, this winter has proven to be a very busy one at Beach Patrol Headquarters, especially in our classroom. Human Resources has used our classroom for several leadership development classes. Bob Rhode from Emergency Management has held several Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meetings and training sessions here. The Coast Guard Auxiliary brought in members from around the region for CPR training, and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) has scheduled Critical Incident Stress Management training for emergency providers over a recent weekend. One of the factors for the increase in building use is the renovations that are being made to the Town's communications center. That work has forced the dispatchers to move into the classroom in the Public Safety Building. The other factor is that more and more people are becoming aware of our facility. The National Search and Rescue School team from the Coast Guard is using the classroom for a weeklong training session for Coast Guard members and MD Department of Natural Resources Police from around the region. And, we will be hosting an Ocean City Air Show meeting in the coming weeks. All of this activity verifies one of the "selling points" we used to encourage the city's leaders to build this new facility. It also allows us to finally be able to do something to help some of the agencies who have done so much for us over the years, like the Coast Guard, with our floating dock system, their help with Rookie Graduation and all of our competitions for which they set and retrieved marker buoys.

OCBP NEWS



Crew Comps 2016 - Return to Glory!

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

Where were you on the evening of July 30th, 2016 at 6:30 pm? I hope you were on the beach at North Division St. with me enjoying the Ocean City Beach Patrol's annual Crew Competition. If you were not there you missed out on a

great evening of competition and fun!

The overall winner of Crew Comps this past summer was Crew 12 from the Middle North. Crew 12 (champions in 2012 & 2013) defeated the two time defending champions from the South, Crew 1 (Summers 2014 & 2015). CC Steve De-Kemper and ACC Shawn Seibert, with a nice mix of both rookies & veterans, were able to fend off all other challengers. The other members of Crew 12 are as follows: Kyle Anderson, Carson Collier, Raphael Dubois, Bryson Ericke, Kelsey-Claire Gallagher, & Josh Remaniak. They secured first place with a score of 43 points. In second place with 33 points was Crew 14, followed by Crew 7 in third place with 29 points. Crew 14 was led by CC AJ Smith and ACC Tim Jackson and Crew 7 was led by CC Kevin Johnson and ACC Dan Lurie.

I wish I could mention every crew but that would take half the newsletter. I will, however, mention the winners of each event. They are as follows:

Run Swim Run

- 1st Crew 12
- 2nd Crew 14
- 3rd Crew 7

Land Line

- 1st Crew 12
- 2nd Crew 7
- 3rd Crew 14

Soft Sand Relay

- 1st Crew 4
- 2nd Crew 10
- 3rd Crew 13

Paddle Board Relay

- 1st Crew 12
- 2nd Crew 6
- 3rd Crew 2 & Crew 9

Tug of War

- 1st Crew 14
- 2nd Crew 13
- 3rd Crew 10

There were many close races and it was incredible to look at the actual times of the double-heat races on the stop-watches. That just shows the level of fitness and hard work by each and every crew to maintain their physical conditioning. I also have to thank the Sergeants, Captain Arbin & 1st Lt. Lee for all of their hard work. Sgt. Uebel, Sgt. Weingard and Lt. Kovacs were also out there on wave runner duty and often miss all of fun. I should also thank Joan Holthaus for her help in running the OCBPSRA store. The highlight of the evening for me though, is watching the final event as Captain Arbin runs



the Tug of War! We will see who defends their titles next year as crews begin to take shape and the fun, but tough workouts are implemented. Crew Comps is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 29th, 2017 at 6:30 pm. The location is to be determined but will hopefully be at North Division St. again in front of Quiet Storm Surf Shop. For now though, Crew 12 of the Middle North is the reigning champion. They will have the honor of flying the Crew Comps Champions Flag. Congratulations to all who helped or participated, in any way, to make the event such a success!



Captain's Note: I want to give a personal and special THANK YOU to Bill Dreibelbis who is the owner of Quiet Storm Surf Shop who has been the headline sponsor of the annual Crew Competition for the past 3 years (main store is located at North Division). Bill is a big supporter of the Beach Patrol all year long but his support of this annual event takes it to a new level. Bill has designed and supplied a commemorative Crew Comp T-Shirt each year for all participants and officials as his Thank you to each member of the patrol.

Equipment Updates and Swim Preparation

submitted by: Sgt. Colby Phillips

Happy Spring everyone! Just a reminder to returning guards to be specific when filling out the "Equipment Request" and indicate if there is anything extra you want with your equipment. First year guards, please do the best you can in filling out the sizes. You will have an opportunity the first day to meet with me and make any changes. Several equipment items that are not returnable are available for purchase, if you want extra pieces (hats, whistles, bathing suits). Females will be issued 2 bathing suits (1 piece or 2 piece), however if you wish to have a pair of Men's trunks you will be required to purchase those for \$30.00. We will also be placing a personalized "OCBP Surf Rescue" jacket order early in the season. These jackets are the only piece of personal equipment that you may wear "on duty" all other equipment must be issued by the Beach Patrol. Thanks all!! See you soon!



Pre-Season training opportunity

Anyone wanting to prep for the swim may swim at Sports Core indoor Pool with Beach Patrol ID from May 1st to June 15th for \$3. This could be a great pre-season crew outing and training with others is more motivating. Any questions, email me at colby9115ocbp@gmail.com

INFORMATION



Part-time-SRT Information

Submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

I want to thank all of the part-time SRTs who worked this past summer. We had 15 part timers in 2016 which is right in line with the normal 15 – 20 from summers past. They were a big help covering for veteran recertification, days off for competition coverage, injured/sick SRTs, special duty, testing, training, and late season availability.

They are as follows; Sam Deeley, Billy DePaola, Emily Gartrell, Pat Hagar, Karen Hessler, Joe Keefe, Garrett Lundegard, Tom Lurie, John Miller, Dan Pogonowski, Kevin Reed, George Souranis, Abbey Shobe, Liz Vanderclute and Dylan Whittles.

There has definitely been a change from previous summers as we have been encouraging part-time personnel to work early in the season to help until all of our full-time teachers become available. A person applying for a part time position must first be a returning guard in good standing. They must have been A-rated the previous season and be an SRT I (off probation). If they meet those basic criteria, they then must commit, in advance, to a minimum of 15 or more days between the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through Sunfest Sunday as well as attending one of the veteran re-certification dates for returning personnel. Days after August 15th are also very helpful. Unless someone works every weekend from mid August through the end of September, 15 days is a tough number to reach. Some of the part-time personnel will take vacation time or work three or four day weekends to get their days in. We use August 15th as a preferred date for more part time work because that is when we start to see an increase in full time personnel returning to school. What that does is give us personnel later in the season when we need them the most.

If you are unable to return to the Beach Patrol in a full time capacity then you may find yourself applying for one of those part time positions. Just remember that we are looking for at least 15 days starting with either late May / early June availability or any days after August 21st. The higher the number of days, the better chance you have of being offered a position. Another point to consider is that you are working days that you have committed to in advance. That means if you tell Lt. Stone you will be down to work then you will be on the schedule! In other words, you are expected to follow through with your commitment. It would be nice if every SRT could come back and work full time but that is highly unlikely. Remember to let Lt. Stone know if you are interested in one of those part time positions.

Captain's Note: The enclosed "EMPLOYMENT INTENT and AGREEMENT" has a place to indicate that you wish to apply for a part-time position for the 2017 season. Once the form is returned you will receive a link to an online "Part-time application". Remember, that as long as you continue employment with the Beach Patrol you will maintain all status and certification and can return to full-time without re-testing or attending Surf Rescue Academy. Part-time has been a great

option for many of our staff as they needed to pursue other opportunities for one or more seasons.



OCBPSRA Certification Program Evolves

submitted by: Sgt. Ben Davis

The Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Association is the certifying organization for the Surf Rescue Technicians of the OCBP. Several Officers and Crew Chiefs got together this February, and discussed how to take the certification system forward. The idea that came out of the meeting was to take the "check list" of events, and combine them into a cohesive course. This also gave us the flexibility to add additional components as needed.

Surf Rescue Academy teaches SRTs all of the critical skills they need to be successful on day one of their guarding careers (solo on a stand). Once all four of the probationary requirements are met, the Probationary SRT (P-SRT \$13.29) is moved to SRT I status and receives a pay increase (\$14.65). There were no changes to this program.

The new **SRT II course** is designed to complete the surf rescue knowledge and skills of an SRT I, and prepare them to take on the added responsibilities of an Assistant Crew Chief. There are skills which we believe all SRTs can benefit from, but are not considered basic skills, therefore are not included as critical skills taught during Surf Rescue Academy. During the course (4 sessions), SRTs will learn to make rescues with equipment, give beach safety presentations, and demonstrate physical fitness beyond the requirements of an SRT I. Completing the course plus 100 days on the job after reach SRT I, meets the requirements for SRT II certification, and makes a person eligible for the Assistant Crew Chief training position (\$15.39).

[Past certifications: One Mile Run, One Mile Swim, Beach Safety Presentation, Rescue Board.]

The new **SRT III course** is designed to further ACCs leadership abilities and operational knowledge. It will prepare them to take on the role of a Crew Chief. The program starts with Quad operations training (1 session), and continues over 3 sessions with a combination of physical fitness requirements, and directed leadership instruction. Completing the

course plus 100 days on the job after reach SRT II, Assisting at Rookie Graduation, having a Successful ACC appointment, and a full day of Communications training meets the requirement to complete SRT III certification, and be eligible to apply for a Crew Chief position (\$16.96).

[Past Certifications: Quad Operator, Run-Swim-Run, 200m Soft Sand Sprint, 2 Mile Run.]

The physical events we all remember are still embedded in the course, but they are just one part of it. SRTs will sign up for and complete the whole course. There will be a lead instructor for the whole course monitoring participants' progress.

As we transition, you will be given personalized information early in the season that tells your current certification status, and what you need to do to move to the next step. You will not have lost anything.

As a few side notes, prior to using a rescue board, you must attend training on safe usage of the craft. This can be done during brief "Safe Rescue Board" trainings done near the end of each academy, or is also part of the SRT II course. The Rescue Board training in the SRT II course is much broader.

The Junior Beach Patrol Instructor and Jet Drive programs are side certifications, and are not included in SRT II or SRT III courses, but familiarity with these special operations is included. Jet Drive is open to second year and above personnel who have completed a safe boater's certification, and JBP Instructor is generally limited to second year or above personnel (previous JBPAIs are eligible during year 1 and are given credit for JBP instructor training). Mobile Rescue Unit operators (ATV) re-certification is available to all staff previously certified when appointed as an ACC and receiving original certification.

Attention New Employees!

submitted by: Secretary Debi Tyler

Is your primary residence outside the United States?

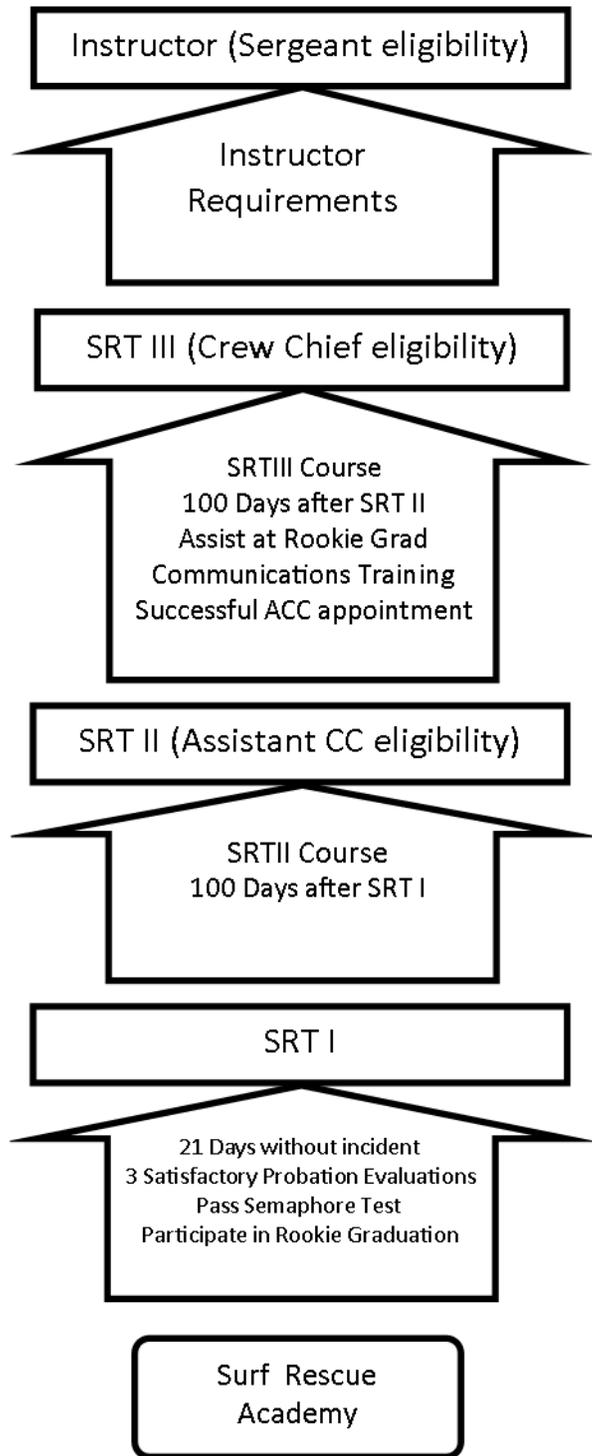
Do you plan to be a Surf Rescue Technician on the beach this summer?

Is this your first summer working for the Beach Patrol?

If you answered yes to the above questions then your first step **must** be to apply for your social security number **as soon as you get to the states**. The Social Security office is not open on weekends and your report day is Sunday. Therefore you must plan to arrive a few days (week day) before your academy starts so you can make application for a US social security number. If you have a number from a previous job in the US then you will not need a new number, but must bring the Social Security card that was issued with you.

The Ocean City Beach Patrol will be unable to put you to work unless you are prepared when you report at check-in with a receipt from the Social Security office stating you have applied for your number or a current Social Security number.

Do not ignore this or wait until the last minute. You worked very hard to get here so make sure you follow through with this very important final step in your journey to work on the beach. See you at check-in.



Training



2017 Ocean City Surf Racing Competition Team *"Every rescue is a race."*

submitted by: Sgt. Rick Cawthern

Let's bring back the tradition of competition, fun, and winning to the OCBP Surf Racing Team. From 2010-2012 we won every Ocean Series Competition, and we dominated the USLA Mid-Atlantic Regional competition, earning us the title of Mid-Atlantic Team Champions. Our goal this summer is to bring back those dominating performances once again. In order to achieve these goals, we need to organize and work as a team. During the first weekend in June (date TBD) we will hold an interest meeting. At this meeting we will elect training coaches for each discipline of the competition team. Disciplines include swimming, sprinting/running, paddling/crafts, and strength & conditioning. If you are interested please see me or Travis Wagner. A schedule will be created with team workouts. We plan on having team tryouts for each competition. In order to compete in the week's competition, your attendance will be mandatory at the tryouts. A schedule of the Ocean Series Competitions and the USLA competitions will be distributed in May.

It is my hope the OCBP Surf Racing Competition Team will be more organized than ever. Starting with our first Rookie Academy to our re-certifications, I will be keeping track of all the male and female top finishers in the swim and run. Once our top swimmers and runners are identified, I will invite these athletes to compete for the top spots. Those swimmers and runners in the top spots during each race (or "swim off") will advance to the next race. Based on participation, the number of athletes to advance to the next round will be determined. The final swim and run will identify our fastest runners and swimmers for the summer of 2017. These races will not be timed due to the various conditions of the wind, water, and sand each day. This will ensure the same conditions for everyone for each race. So start training!

As of now the USLA Mid-Atlantic Non-Crafts Championships will be July 12th at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The USLA Crafts will be the following week on July 19th at Silver Lake, New Jersey. This year there will be a new event added to the Mid-Atlantic Championships named the "Ironguard," which will be a run, swim, and paddle. The USLA National Championships will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida on August 9th-12th. If you would like to attend Nationals you must be a part of the OCBP Surf Racing Competition Team, attend Mid-Atlantics, and be an active member of the USLA. To help with our equipment needs and travel expenses, we will need to fundraise. Please share any ideas to support this endeavor.

In order to reach our goals, we need your help! Those who are interested in being active members of the OCBP Competition Squad should plan on competing in the local and regional competitions, as well as training on your days off and after hours. This will help ensure we bring our best to the competitions, but more importantly that we continue to provide safety to our patrons along our 10 miles of pristine beaches. I'm looking forward to a safe, successful, and competitive season!



OCBP Group Rides

submitted by: CC Travis Wagner

Last season OCBP took to the local roads of Worcester County and surrounding areas on a series of weekly group bike rides. A small gang of beach patrol cyclist enthusiasts met on a weekly basis for an early morning group ride. Abilities ranged from Category 1 nationally ranked cyclists, to experienced triathletes in training, to first time group ride newbies.

Everyone enjoyed the comradery and overall safety of group riding. Rides tend to range 15-25 miles in distance and pace is determined by the ability of those in attendance. Rides started early at 6:30 am and would usually return by 8:30 am with plenty of time to rest and refuel before 10:00 hours. Guest participants included locally ranked cyclists from Ocean Velo Club in Salisbury and elite road cyclists from Pennsylvania.

If you are interested in participating in our OCBP casual group rides, please consider acquiring a road bike, triathlon bike, or a rigid hybrid bike. Checking Craigslist, or borrowing a family member's unused bike is a great way to start. Bring your bike to Ocean City as a mode of transportation and also to partake in the weekly group rides. In addition to a reliable bike, a helmet, water bottle, spare tubes, sunglasses, and appropriate cycling or athletic clothing are mandatory.

Front and rear lights, portable bike pump or CO2 cartridges, a bell, and snacks are also good items to have along for a group ride. This is a great way to build your VO2 max, increase overall conditioning with zero impact and train to participate in the OCBP Triathlon! Get your bike tuned up and start getting those miles in now! Contact Sergeant Wagner pertaining to group rides or any questions you may have. Don't forget your padded lycra chamois.

The Free 2017 Competition Series

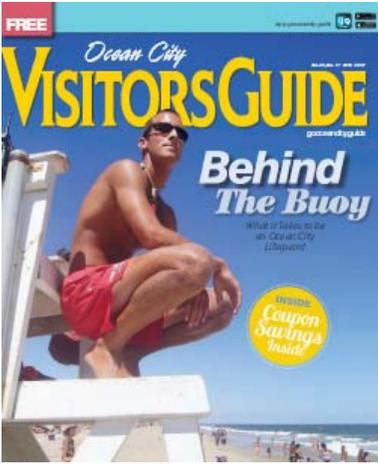
submitted by: Sgt. Jeff Brabitz

Since it's the summer of 2017, Unit 17 is pleased to announce that the free competition will continue with bigger and better staging of the Iron Guard and Strong Guard. As always these are free to the OCBP guards, SBF's, CC's, ACC's, officers, and Spouse's. These events couldn't be possible without our sponsors, Pizza Tugo's and World Gym. Their contributions keep the events free and fun, with great prizes and as always an excellent time for all who participate and volunteer. The locations of the events will be at the 130th street beach for the Iron Guard and 66th street for the Strong Guard. So get ready and train hard for this upcoming summer. We'll see you soon for the summer of 2017.



Jeff always makes these free competitions fun. Here he is pictured with Jenny Cawthern.

Local News



Beach Patrol Gets Safety Message Out and Helps People Understand Who We Are

Submitted by: Kristin Josen

Because you are reading this in the newsletter, you already know what a great communication tool our newsletter is. It is distributed not only to current personnel but we have it

available electronically on our OCBP webpage and we email it to other people with an interest in the Beach Patrol. My role as the Public Education Coordinator is to get the Beach Patrol's safety messages out in as many venues as possible. This past year we were featured in more publications than ever before; getting our safety message out and fulfilling the part of our mission that includes **educating** the public, which in turn helps with the second part of our mission of **preventing** potential accidents. It was exciting to have Crew Chief Tom Lurie featured on the front page of the Visitor's Guide last year along with an article devoted to the Beach Patrol and what it entails to be one of the lifeguards protecting all 10 miles of Ocean City.

This past year we continued to be featured weekly in 4 of the local papers. We appreciate the positive relationship we have with the local papers. Together we save countless lives by giving weekly beach and water safety advice. Another exciting publication that we will be in again this upcoming season is the Landmarks book. This is a beautiful hardbound book that vacationers to Ocean City can view in their hotel room. Landmarks will be available this year in 8600 rooms in Ocean City, reaching 3 million overnight visitors! They will continue to include our safety tips. We want to thank Luke Howard for including us in his publication.

We also have worked closely with Sandy Phillips, "Inside Ocean City" Project Manager, to get the Beach Patrol represented in this publication. Sandy tries to keep "Inside Ocean City" in the best hotels, so that the readers will patronize the sponsors of the book. She also distributes to property owners. Inside Ocean City is also used for corporate recruiting by some of the large companies here on Delmarva, and it is distributed to developers to share with new homeowners. That's over and above the 3 million reached in the visitors' market.

When I first saw these books, I was attending an educational conference in Ocean City. I noticed that there was a beach patrol represented in the book but it was not our beach patrol. Seeing this motivated me to pursue getting our beach patrol and our message in these quality publications. As a result, the beach safety information contained in the books is better than ever.

Last year Sandy included an extensive piece on the double lives of our beach patrol. It gives people a chance see the professional lives we lead while we are at our other jobs away from the beach. Its nice to know that other resorts will have our beach patrol featured in their Landmarks and Inside Ocean City. We may be saving lives all up and down the east coast, not just our 10 mile stretch. When you are out in any of our local hotels visiting friends and family, remember to look for the Landmarks book and Inside Ocean City. We are committed to the relationships that we have developed to get our safety messages out with both of these amazing publications.

Captain's Note: Although "Inside Ocean City" and "Landmarks" books are not to be taken from the hotels, both publications give us hundreds of copies that we use at beach safety booths around our region.. Additionally, we provide a copy to every SRT and SBF, so that when someone walks up and has a question about a restaurant or activity for their family you may loan them your copy to look at while they are on the beach. This is not only part of being an "Ocean City Ambassador", but also helps you develop a relationship with those you are responsible for on your beach. These relationships lead to the many letters I receive each season that are praising your efforts or just thanking the patrol for having such awesome people making their stay enjoyable. This leads me to another communications tool that we use to get our message out. Our weekly "Thank You Thursday – Facebook post". Ward and Kristin post a letter each week (I get permission from the writer) that I have received, giving credit to the SRT, SBF or crew that they reference and Ward uses the writer's perspective to weave in a safety message or educate the public about our operation. This allows us to have "year round" presence and continue to provide safety information to our visitors and beyond.



Technology Upgrades at Headquarters

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Many of you saw the final stages of work being completed on the 1,000,000 gallon water tower on 2nd Street this past summer. When the tower finally went into service a few months ago, the town quickly had the two tanks it replaced, removed. Along with the old tank at Worcester Street, went our previous wireless link to the city's network. Fortunately, the city had planned ahead and installed fiber-optic cable to replace our connection. So far, it has worked very well. It is more reliable, and substantially faster. At roughly the same time, the city switched from Ricoh copiers to Sharp units. The copier at our building is quite a bit smaller, but includes all of the same features. Last, but not least, the city has also replaced all of its phones with a network based system that has some nice features. Once we figure out how to use them, we will be able to have our office phones forwarded to our cell phones. Captain Arbin is able to get an email message with the text of each phone message left to the 7556 main number.

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

Calendar/Important Dates

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

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

Email : barbin@oceancitymd.gov



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



- March 30** Mailing of Spring Newsletter
- April 28** Employment Agreements due back
- April 17-18** SRA/JBP Planning
- April 29-30** 1st Officer Mandatory Weekend, ACC appointments and CC promotions
- April 30** Pre-Employment Off site Test—Ocean Pines
- May 21-22** **Opening Set up**
- May 21** CC paperwork
- May 21-27** **SRA I**
- May 22-26** Returning Drug Test
- May 24-26** Paperwork Equipment pick up for veterans
- May 27** 7:00 am Prayer Service, 8:00 am Leadership meeting, First Day Guarding
- May 27** SRA I re-qualifying Run and swim and Early Vet Re-qualification (pre-selected)
- May 29** **Weekly meeting Convention Center 8:00 am**
- June 3** SRA I Supper Seminar
- June 3** Pre-Employment Ocean Test
- June 18 - 24** **SRA II**
- June 27** **Veteran Re-Certification begins**

For a complete up to date calendar click on the Employee Calendar link on the home page of the Beach Patrol website

OCBP WEB www.ococean.com/ocbp

Do You Want OCBP License Plates?

If you do, you must complete the following:

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



Pictured to the right, CC Kelly Keefe and former Sgt. James McVey help Howard County Public Schools by presenting beach and water safety for Safety Week with Corporal Howard Capland, OCPD. We get our safety messages out any chance we get!

Important, Important!!!!

- In order to insure your W2 and your tax refund get to you, contact City Hall with any corrections on your permanent address.
- Also contact Debi if your phone number, mailing address or email address changes. DebiOCBP@aol.com



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.