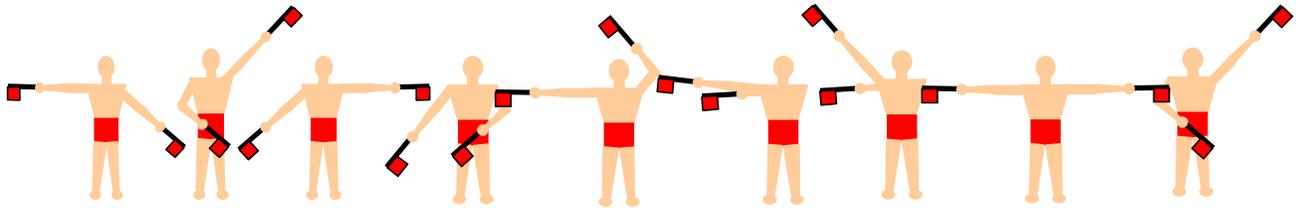


Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 73

Newsletter

Spring 2022



Over Eighty-five
Years of Saving
Lives

Maintain Your Role
in this Fantastic
Tradition!

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Message From the Captain

Where Does Time Go?

It is hard for me to believe that this Summer will be my 50th year working for the Ocean City Beach Patrol. After 50 seasons I am as proud of my association with the Patrol as I have ever been, and am as excited to put on the uniform as I was the first time I walked on the beach wearing a green shirt and the tank suit.

Back in those days each person was given a tryout date, sometime in June, once Captain Craig returned from his teaching in Missouri. I was scheduled to test on June 16, 1973 along with 30 other candidates. Although I passed the test, only the fastest 15 swimmers were hired. Back then, the swim was the first part of the test. I was a runner, not a competitive swimmer, so I returned home to Baltimore and took a job as a pool lifeguard at the Cromwell Bridge Road Holiday Inn. That July, I returned to Ocean City for my family's vacation and along with my parents went to meet Captain Craig. Like a lot of high school kids, I was impressed with myself and proudly told Captain Craig I was a pole vaulter, to which he replied, "Well, son, if I need someone to vault over the pier, I will call you". But he went on to say, "I had to release a man, so I have an opening. Can you come back tomorrow and test?" I returned the following morning (7/11/1973, Captain Craig's Birthday and my anniversary) along with my parents. I was introduced to Lieutenant John Swivel who was going to administer the test. We walked out to the rocks and my parents went to the pier to watch. I remember how rough the ocean looked (later I learned it was called a nor-easter) but I wanted to be on the Patrol, so I started the swim. I still remember swimming and swimming and going up and down in the waves trying to keep an eye out for the pier. After what seemed like a long time, I

remember hearing a voice yelling to me, but didn't see anyone else out in the ocean. Then, all of a sudden, when I went up a wave, I saw Lieutenant Swivel in the trough below me (I will never forget his white zinc nose) and he said, "Come back in!" I said I didn't want to quit, but he said in the conditions I had proved myself and I had a job. Meanwhile, the inlet Crew Chief, Mark King, told my parents there is no way I could pass on a day like this, so they went back to the apartment. When I got back, they said, "Don't feel bad. You can try again," but I told them I had passed and needed to report the next morning. They hardly believed it.

Since I was hired while vacationing with my family, and they would be returning home to Baltimore on Saturday, I needed a place to stay. Captain Craig made a call to a lady named Mrs. Jarman who ran a rooming house at 105 Talbot Street. (I can see my original room out my office window.) Her husband, Jimmy Jarman, was the person who started beach stand umbrella rentals in OC. My parents and I went and met her, and she offered me a bed in one of the rooms. The cost of the room was going to be \$12.50 per week, paid before the start of each week. For that amount she provided clean sheets and towels each day. Since it was a rooming house there was no AC, no phone, no TV, and no place to keep food or to cook. But eating wasn't an issue. I had two donuts and a chocolate milk every morning at "Meisters Donuts" on the boardwalk, and lunch at Billy's Sub Shop at 140th Street. Every evening, for dinner, I had 2 slices of pizza



and a medium Coke. The pizza place was Lombardi's, which later became The Dough Roller, and my dinner cost exactly \$1.00. But, in my second year I got a night job at the pizza place and was able to eat for free!

Another difference between 1973 and today is the absence of training. I was sent to Crew 1 and sat the rocks with the guard assigned to that stand. But at 12:00 he left for his 45-minute lunch break (yes, lunch was 45 minutes) but since we did not have lunch rovers until 1976, I was left alone with a strong current moving south toward the rocks. Well, you can imagine what happened! Yes, a girl on a raft (boogie boards had not been invented) was moving toward the rocks and was unable to get in on her own. I was hoping the guard would return from lunch. I saw him walking back across the beach, but he just motioned for me to go. So, on my first day I had my first "pull." After the "pull" I returned to the stand just as the guard to my north left for his lunch, leaving the stand empty. So, for the next 45 minutes, I stood watching both my water and his. With only three lunch shifts, you were either watching the empty stand to your south, at lunch, or watching the empty stand to the north.

At the end of the day, I was given my equipment (bathing suit, 2 green shirts, sweatshirt, sweat pants, whistle and buoy). I was told to report to 145th Street, the last stand in Ocean City. I met the Crew Chief, Bill Baker, who became my Crew Chief and mentor for my first 3 years. He was the Crew Chief of Crew 18 and ½. Yes, we had a half crew that only had 4 stands and I was the rover. Since that only gave me four days of work, I was in that crew Mondays through Thursdays, and in Crew 1 Fridays through Sundays. I worked 7 days a week that first summer. Because we were on salary, it didn't matter how many hours or days we worked. We got a week's pay regardless (\$92.80 per week). Another difference is the number of stands on the beach in 1973 which were more than we have today. Each crew had 6 stands, so that gave us a total of 112 stands. Today we have 91 stands although we have more employees, but without lunch rovers you didn't need that second rover. If we were short, we just were required to work all 7 days. Starting with that first rescue, and over the next seven years, I had many pulls (what we called rescues) and was involved in many medical assists. Although I can't recall every rescue, every medical emergency, or every CPR, there are some I will always remember.

Another difference between my early years and today's Patrol is the consistency in training, policies, and procedures. We were neither trained nor equipped for first aid or CPR, or even "mouth to mouth" resuscitation. It was threatened each year that we would have to re-swim the test to re-qualify, but it didn't happen for my first few years. Eventually we were required to swim the test, but the entire Patrol did it together before work, and the run was an up and back. Just imagine swimming around the pier with over 100 other guys, getting kicked and pushed and running 200 yards and then turning back as the rest of the group was still running at you. Eventually we added CPR certification as a marathon night at the firehouse, but still no first aid training or any first aid supplies.

Promotions were not applied for. If Captains Craig and Schoepf and the officers liked you, they would just make you a Crew Chief and you got an extra \$5.00 a week. On the other hand, if they didn't like you, any one officer could give you a "C" rating and that was the end of your OCBP experience.

In 1976 I was named a Crew Chief and was assigned to 127th street (the CC stand). This was also the first year we had Crew Comps. There was always the talk that the best guards were downtown, and the North guards just couldn't perform as well athletically. Well, in that first Crew Comps, all events were won by Crew 18 ½ except the run, which I won, which ended the talk about who was the best (the plaque is located on the 2nd floor). The next season I was moved down South to Crew 1, and after a few weeks settled at North Division as the Crew 2 Chief for two years. That was also the year that the officers developed the OCBPSRA program that would eventually become part of the certification and promotion process that we still use today, although the original levels were all based on physical performances. Since I was still on the stand as a Crew Chief, I was required to complete all events in the OCBPSRA sequence and was not "grandfathered" in.

It was my seventh summer when I was promoted to Sergeant. In those days we carried badges and were sworn in as Police Officers by the Chief. The beach was divided into three areas, and we were paired as a team with a Lieutenant. Each week the Lieutenant would rotate to the next area going North and the Sergeant would rotate to the next area South. If you were assigned the South area (inlet to 27th street) you walked the area since we didn't have a vehicle for the South. We didn't have radios, but each Crew Chief stand had a phone that was on a pole a good distance back from the water, so it didn't get washed out. So, as we walked the area, if there was an emergency it would come to us by semaphore, and we would run to that location. I have run over a mile to a search and recovery that occurred at 23rd street. As you can tell, I have been incredibly fortunate to have experienced many of the changes that have occurred over the past 50 years: the addition of 2-way radios, raingear, training, watercraft, quads, USLA, surfing beaches, facilities, equipment, and fair and consistent evaluation and promotion practices. These and many other improvements have occurred before you even thought about the greatest job you will ever have.

I can't reflect on the past 50 years without giving thanks to those people who have made this adventure possible. I must start with my Mom. As a 15-year-old on vacation with my family, I saw the lifeguards of the Beach Patrol doing their job and thought, "Wow! If I was one of those guys, it would be incredible." I met a Crew Chief on 45th street, and Mark McCleskey took the time to talk with me. He even invited me to a OCBP party (I didn't go). But like many kids, all I did was talk about being an Ocean City Lifeguard. It was my Mom who wrote to Captain Craig and got the details of trying out. I honestly don't know if I would have ever followed through had she not taken that first step for me. Another connection I had with the Patrol was Greg Pitman. His father worked with

my Dad and had been on the Patrol the year before I started (1972) and he told me about the testing. But honestly, I think he told me we had to swim uphill and do other impossible tasks.

Not only am I grateful for the people who were important to the start of my career, but also for the many who encouraged and influenced me along my 50-year journey. One was my High School mentor, Don Wann, who, after retiring, came to work for the Patrol. Of course, there were many other members of the OCBP family over the years who impacted me not only as a member of the Patrol, but also as a man.

My family has been with me, too. You've read about how my parents encouraged me. Then, Penny, my wife of 40 years (who I met in Ocean City), and both of our children, Katie and Michael, have spent every summer and most weekends traveling to and from Ocean



1975 Crew 18.5 Butch Arbin (top center)

City. Penny has sacrificed much in the past 4 decades to allow me to “play” lifeguard each summer, and I am both blessed and grateful for their love and support.

Ultimately, it is each of you who makes this job significant. I am blessed each day by that association. Thank you all for 50 amazing years!



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 a 2022 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 28, 2022. 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. We have an impressive group of 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 60 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 several outstanding candidates for Surf Beach Facilitator positions and 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 28th 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 1st. Failure to receive an invitation does not mean that you will not be allowed to work in 2022, 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 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 email 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.

Don't Let a Lack of Housing Ruin Your Summer!

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. For several years the Ocean City Development Corporation (OCDC) has come to our aid with very affordable, yet limited employee housing. At my request, the OCDC has limited most of the employee housing to first year employees for 2022. Since returning employees have an established network of contacts, it is easier for them to acquire housing. At the time I am writing this article, there are still spots available. Therefore, it is critical that you do not wait if you have not already secured your housing arrangements. We are

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(Housing continued from page 3)

counting on you whether you are a returning employee or are preparing to enter Surf Rescue Academy. In several recent seasons, we had individuals who were unable to report to our training academy because they never obtained housing. They waited until the week before SRA to start looking. We also had groups of individuals during three different seasons, 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 available 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.

The Town is also working with Beach Patrol employees to help with the issue of needing all funds prior to moving in and earning your first paycheck. 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 will payroll deduct a portion of your rent each pay period until you have satisfied your debt to the Town. If interested in possibly taking advantage of this program you must contact Lt Ward Kovacs by April 28th, the same day Employment Agreements are due to be returned.



Applicants for Assistant Crew Chief, Crew Chief and Sergeant

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 Chiefs, Crew Chiefs, and leadership positions as Sergeants.

It is our intent to appoint Assistant Crew Chiefs and promote Crew Chiefs prior to the start of the 2022 season. On Saturday, April 30, 2022, the selection committee will meet to review all applicants for the positions and to review each person's employment history and performance before making recommendations to the Captain. These positions require the appointed Surf Rescue Technicians 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 26, 2022, and will include quad training, part 1 (first time quad certification), and

quad re-certification for anyone who wishes to re-certify from 2021.

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 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, 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 \$18.20 per hour (2022 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 in 2022 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 following 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 (\$17.75), 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 30, 2022 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 consider 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 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 seven Crew Chief openings for the 2022 season, with 31 qualified (SRT III) candidates. If you have indicated that you are interested in being considered for 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.

Sergeant

We have 17 current employees who hold the OCBPSRA Instructor level certification which qualifies them for this position. The Sergeant process is longer and more detailed using the following steps and was started on March 1st.

1. Solicit and compile a list of interested candidates (March 1, 2022)
2. Conduct a review by the entire officer group of the list of all “qualified” candidates and discuss each individual in terms of the needs of the Beach Patrol (Completed March 5, 2022)
3. Communicate the procedures with each Sergeant candidate (March 14, 2022)
4. Solicit each candidate’s perception of the character traits that are most important for the role of Sergeant
5. Have each candidate consider their OCBP employment history then reflect on and identify three current or past Sergeants who have a trait or traits that align well with their own character and explain the reasons for selecting these role models
6. Provide each candidate a full Sergeant job description so that each person is fully aware of and able to meet or exceed expectations
7. Provide each candidate with a questionnaire that requires a response
8. Conduct an in person or virtual interview with each candidate
9. Make job offers by mid-April so that each new Sergeant is able to participate in Strategic planning and Crew Chief promotions and Assistant Crew Chief appointments

Criteria Used to Make the Final Selection of Sergeant:

- Candidate’s ability to meet the needs of the patrol
- Recommendation from the Sergeant cohort
- Past experience and performance as a Crew Chief
- Past experience and performance of entire Beach Patrol career
- Additional contributions to the Beach Patrol organization
- Ability to meet the availability needs of the Patrol



2021 Assistant Crew Chiefs



2021 Crew Chiefs



2021 Officers

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 emails, 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

(Continued on page 6)

(Important Contact Information continued from page 5)



body of the email 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, your current cell phone number and the carrier that you

are using (Verizon, Sprint, T-mobile, etc.). 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 email 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 email. This past fall I sent out several emails 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 January “Ratings Document” was not sent. I would suggest that you create a private email account that uses your name and is professional sounding. You would not believe some of the email addresses I receive from potential employees. Often, these very inappropriate addresses are 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 email 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 email address than the one we have been given by you, please email the new address to the Beach Patrol.

Note: You can expect several emails following this mailing. Once I receive your returned paperwork and have entered all the information into the database, I will generate an email that confirms the information and lets you know if anything else is needed. Following the April 28th deadline for returning the mailing, I will send an email with important employee registration information with links to required documents and a request for scheduling your check-in. Some of the messages require action by you. Please check your email and text messages regularly.

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 physi-



cally until Veteran Re-qualification/Re-certification. However, everyone must be physically ready as soon as you take the stand. Thanks to SRT Everett Brown you can also refresh your semaphore skills and see how you rank against other SRTs using the site he has developed (see article on page 13). <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 requalify on the Saturday morning at the end of their Surf Rescue Academy, this is our assurance that, although you have already passed our test, you maintained your conditioning and skill level since you successfully passed all aspects of the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation. 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 requalify on Saturday, June 25, 2022, just prior to SRA II’s re-qualification. By having Crew Chiefs requalify 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 Recertification on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, so we can concentrate on topics that are pertinent to that specific position and the duties required. Recertification 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 recertification year.

The dates that have been established for this year’s Veteran Recertification are Wednesday, June 29th – July 2nd and July 5th – 9th with Saturday, July 9th as our Patrol group picture and Captain Craig Swim day. 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 requalify last season on your first attempt, although you did requalify 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 requalify at one of our off-site PEPSEs. The next opportunity for you to requalify before the start of our season will be at the Ocean Pines PEPSE on Sunday, April 24th, which allows you to check-in with all other returning SRTs. The first chance during the season will be, Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 10:00, along with SRA I. If you are not available, or are unsuccessful, you will not be hired but may attempt requalifying on Saturday, June 4, 2022 during our final PEPSE for 2022.

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!!!



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. 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, will result 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.

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.

Last day of Beach Patrol has moved again for 2022

Hopefully for the last time....

The Town of Ocean City has moved Sunfest to OCTOBER 20-23, 2022. Since we have committed to continue Fall Guarding until the Sunday of Sunfest weekend each season, we would be unable to maintain adequate safe staffing this late into October if we continued to use Sunfest as the determining factor of our final day on stands. Sunfest has not always been our final day and the history of our final day has evolved in the following manner.

(Last Day continued from page 7)

History – In the 1970's the Patrol was paid a salary and not an hourly wage. As a result, when Captain Craig and Assistant Captain Schoepf left the Ocean City area around Labor Day, those left in charge continued to report to work and regardless of how long the office was open, would receive a full paycheck. This often continued into November. However, once the Town hired a City Manager, they began ending the season in mid-October. The next change occurred once the fall festival "Save Six for September" transitioned into SunFest, and the date of this event settled into the third weekend following Labor Day. We adopted this as the official final day for having stands on the beach.

However, Sunfest has moved each year for the past three years which makes planning for both staffing and budgeting difficult. The solution was to set a final day that could be determined for years to come, based on the calendar rather than an event that might move again.

Using the original planning for Sunfest as the third weekend following Labor Day, we have confirmed this as the official final day for having stands on the beach each year going forward. Therefore, the final day for this season will be Sunday, September 25, 2022. We will have our extended maintenance teams remove all stands starting on Monday, September 26th and begin the process of repainting stands and closing our facilities. We will provide mobile patrols the following weekends and plan to end most operations on Monday, October 10, 2022, which is Columbus Day. Those interested in being accepted for the extended maintenance crew, will have the opportunity to indicate that on your last day form.



Mobile Rescue Operator – Re-certification or New Certification

An updated driving record is required each season for all Town of Ocean City employees who operate a vehicle. If you were certified or re-certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) or Beach Patrol vehicle operator during the 2021 season, I must have an updated driving record on file. If you possess a Maryland driver's license, I can request a current copy of your driving record, at no cost to you, and you will not be required to provide it. If you

are a Maryland driver becoming certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) operator for the first time (new ACCs) this season, I can also provide you with a copy of your driving record. Just make that request to me. However, if you do not have a Maryland Driver's License, 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 operators, even with a Maryland Driver's License, must have a copy of your driving record on file with Beach Patrol 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 (valid driver's license required) is required for all Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs. SRTs who are no longer Crew Chiefs or Assistant Crew Chiefs are not required to 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 the training. First time certification is a two-step process: Step one is attending an OCBPSRA classroom and skill training course (Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2022 with a 2nd opportunity TBA); Step two is being scheduled for a full-day (paid) ride along with an OCBPSRA ATV instructor. Any 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 schedule.



CC AJ Smith is Head Lacrosse Coach at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He will be returning this summer to assist Training Officer Dan Pogonowski with Surf Rescue Academy.

Testing and Recruiting



Recruiting Updates

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

When comparing the current number of Probationary SRTs appointed to 2022 Surf Rescue Academies to past years, it's easy to see that we're not where we want to be.... yet. Low PEPSE registration numbers and the cancelled York Col-

lege test were not helpful. While we still have more tests scheduled, it is important that everyone does their part to ensure that we have adequate staffing levels to fill all our crews for the summer. Many of us have been trying to think outside the box to reach potential candidates. We've placed guard stands along the boardwalk with recruiting posters stapled to them and "take one" boxes filled with testing flyers. We've mailed recruiting posters to high school counselors and athletic directors in the region. Skip and Kristin have worked to update our webpage to make sure it's giving accurate information and we've posted our information on the large marquis in front of the convention center. We have registered for several job fairs in the region, and we've staffed recruiting tables at Salisbury University. Still, we know from history that the vast majority of new employees come to us after being referred by current employees. Our SRTs live, work and go to school within the optimal target market for recruiting. Please reach out to those around you who you feel would be a good fit for the Beach Patrol. Wear jackets and shirts that have our name or our logo when you're at school and in the gym so that they may invite inquiries from those around you. We need to fill our staff, not only to provide a safe beach for our residents and visitors, but so that we can have unassigned SRTs and we can staff all of the other things we have scheduled like Junior Beach Patrol, watercraft tours, safety presentations and camps. Having a full roster is the most important ingredient for having a good summer, with stands at a comfortable distance apart, extra ATV coverage and adequate workout breaks. Remember, recruiting is everyone's responsibility!

Surf Beach Facilitators Needed

submitted by Lt. Ward Kovacs

While we have been actively looking for SRT candidates since last summer, another staffing need has arisen over the winter months. With several of our SBFs from last year moving on to other full-time jobs and others moving on to other regions of the country, we are looking to fill our ranks with qualified candidates for 2022. We started giving interviews at the Salisbury YMCA PEPSE

test and we will be interviewing at several other locations heading into spring. We are looking for men and women who can be on their feet walking in soft sand for hours at a time. Successful SBFs must also have excellent communications skills to work with beach patrons and the surfing community. The pay for this position is \$15.65. If you know anyone who would be a good fit for the position, please have them contact Lt. Kovacs or fill out the Google Docs form from the tab on our website.



Testing Efforts and Outcomes

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

The 2022 Testing Campaign is well under way and by the time you receive the Semaphore Newsletter, it will be two-third complete. Our three August tests were some of the best we've ever administered and the candidates who passed are outstanding Academy appointees. The weather conditions were outstanding, and the engagement of our staff was awesome! We've carried that level of excitement into the off-site testing portion of our Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations with two more events behind us and a third event cancelled due to weather.

Our first off-site test took us back to the Salisbury YMCA where the staff there welcomed us and our recruits to a day full of assessment. Many Crew Chiefs and current guards showed up to see the new candidates and make their own assessment. In the end, we offered appointment to only a small percentage of the number of

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(Testing Efforts continued from page 9)

people who signed up but the ones we got are going to be great. We immediately set our sights on returning to York College of PA after a two-year absence from that incredible facility. Unfortunately, mother nature had other plans for us being there. We literally waited until the last minute to cancel the test after confirmed weather reports showed up to 6 inches of snow being dumped on the York area the morning of our test. We simply could not risk our staff or any of the candidates being in harm's way while travelling. Disappointing, especially after Lt. Kovacs worked his magic to get us back on campus, but Safety First! Then, we pivoted our attention to Annapolis. The site of our first off-site test in 1993. The day was beautiful, and the team was greeted by the largest turn out for a test this season. We had the good fortune of hosting two "Fast Track Back" candidates who performed great and earned their way onto our roster. We also assessed and appointed four new candidates to Academy. That brings us up to speed with testing for the moment, but we will leave you with this. The outcomes have been awesome. Our newest Academy Appointees are going to make super SRTs. We just need more people to test.

We have three more testing opportunities for this summer; Salisbury University (April 3), Ocean Pines (April 24) and Ocean City (June 4). Please invite one person to any of these PEPSEs. Thanks for your support.



All the way from Canada, Veteran SRT Guillaume recruited Rosalie and brought her to the Annapolis test. She was appointed a spot in our Surf Rescue Academy.



Hydro Flasks – Thanks for having a conversation submitted by Lt. Skip Lee

Our previous City Manager, Doug Miller, spoke at length about offering non-monetary means to recognize employees. Thanks to Mat Postell and the recruiting team, the proposed Hydro Flask Initiative was born. Members of the Beach Patrol who recruit people to take our test and then have that person tell us that you are the one who told them about the test are recognized with the presentation of a Hydro Flask water bottle. It is just a simple way of expressing our appreciation for having that conversation and encouraging a friend to show up. That seems to be the challenge these days. A lot of people sign up, but we are experiencing less than half of the people who actually register for the test show up the morning of the PEPSE. By creating a personal relationship with the recruits – whether that's through meeting them at the gym or on a team, we get people to take our test and the Beach Patrol thanks you for that effort with the Hydro Flask. These keep your refreshments ice cold all day while out on the stand and it is a nice thing to have on those hot summer days. While we realize there are intrinsic and extrinsic motivators for recruiting candidates to take our test, we just wanted to thank you for your effort with this display of appreciation. Keep sharing the word. Thanks!



The following people have recruited someone who participated in one of our Spring PEPSE events. Please contact Lt. Lee to get your Hydro-Flask.

**Valerie Haney
Morgan Johnson
Zach Johnson
Guillaume Bedard**

**Zach Newman
Sam Borsh
Michael Young
Fiona Coleman**

OCBP NEWS & INFO

Limited Part Time Positions Available

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone



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

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

This past summer we had close to 25 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 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 who is interested know what is expected and required.

The first requirement is that you have been full time prior to becoming part time, and you must be in good standing. The second requirement, and one of the most important factors, is that you must be available for 15 – 20 days (or more) before June 17th & OR after August 21st, 2022. 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 August 15th, then Captain Arbin will allow me to work that per-

son early if there is a need. Each person who applies will be considered based upon his or her availability.

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

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 April 28, 2022. 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 28, 2022** 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 24th and June 4th Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations (PEPSE). 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 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 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 4th test, 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

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(Documentation Last Day continued from page 11)

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 28th).

NOTE: You will receive a conformation email (check 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**



Rental Assistance for Returning Employees submitted by Lt. Ward Kovacs

Finding affordable housing for seasonal employees has certainly been a challenge over the past few years. While some of the places that used to cater to the seasonal workforce have been turned into Air B&B rentals others have been razed and replaced with expensive condominiums. The Town of Ocean City is looking at different ways they can assist the city's departments that rely heavily on seasonal staff. One of the ways they are helping Beach Patrol members is through the rental assistance program that was started several years ago. For qualifying, returning, "A" rated employees, the town will pay your rent up front and then deduct money from payroll throughout the summer to recoup the funds. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Lt. Kovacs to begin the process. It can take a few weeks to complete the pro-

cess and have a check sent to realtors or property owners so get started early. The deadline for applying for the rental assistance program is April 28th.

Attention New Employees - Congratulations! submitted by: Debi Tyler, Administrative Assistant

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. 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.

In addition to the correct ID documents, please make sure that all the paperwork you fill out is typed. (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 of the check-in forms are on our website, and you will receive instructions on the steps. I am here to help, so please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions. DTyler@oceancitymd.gov



Debi Tyler with her grandson Reef at JBP last summer.

Vehicle Updates

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

The good news is that six of our seven trucks are scheduled to be replaced. The bad news is that the vehicles coming to us from other departments must first be replaced and, as most of you know, new vehicles are nearly impossible to find due to the shortage of computer chips and other supply chain issues. While the city is prepared to purchase new vehicles, there simply aren't any to buy.

We did make out well with our three new quads this year. Instead of settling for green quads like last year, we were able to purchase three new, red ATVs and they have already been delivered. Knowing of the shortage of ATVs around the country, we started the bidding and purchasing process for 2022 models back in October of last year.

The same supply chain issues that affect trucks and ATVs have also caused inventory problems with personal watercraft. Again, we knew of the problems and ordered a new Jet Ski much earlier than in previous years. Our new Jet Ski was due to be delivered back in January, but there is another problem with the model we ordered. Kawasaki put a recall order out for the model we ordered due to problems with the front canopy covers on the units. It seems they tend to break off in rough water and sometimes hit the operators. Kawasaki has come up with a "fix" for the problem and our Jet Ski should be here before summer. The recall also affects the Jet Ski that we bought in 2021, and it will soon be taken back to the dealer to be retrofitted with new canopy hardware.

Beachsemaphore.com – New and Improved Website

submitted by: Everett Brown

Hey everybody! This winter I have worked to improve the semaphore website (beachsemaphore.com) and wanted to quickly share about the new features that I have added. The biggest change is that the website now functions on mobile phones as well as desktops. For the veterans who want to use the site, I worked on making the sending look more realistic and less robotic at higher speeds. I also added a new practice mode called "survival" where each message gets faster and faster until you get three wrong. It comes with an arcade style leaderboard; who can read the fastest on OCBP? The last big update is an account system. If you create an account, the speeds you like to practice at are stored. In the next few weeks, I will be expanding on this feature to give personalized practice suggestions to help rookies learning semaphore. If you find any bugs or have any ideas for new features reach out to me!

Captain's note: This is a great example where an employee was self-motivated to make a positive contribution to the entire Beach Patrol. After realizing the difficulty that rookies had in learning semaphore so that they could

effectively communicate with other SRT's, Everett took on the challenge of creating a product that filled the need. What he created is an incredible website that not only teaches semaphore but is even designed to help refresh the veterans and he continues to add enhancements. Thank You Everett!



Junior Beach Patrol Heading for Another Record Year!

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

A few years ago, I was excited when we hit the 200 mark with JBP members in one season. Then last year we reached another milestone when we soared past 300 members to reach a record 326. We are already poised to repeat that success in 2022 with early registration numbers growing daily. As of March 16, all of the six four-day morning sessions are filled with 30 members each week and a total of 66 on the wait lists. The three afternoon sessions are also filling quickly with 23, 12 and 14 registered. Several of our Assistant Instructors from last year have already been appointed to Surf Rescue Academy for the coming season and others are weighing their decisions as to what role they will play in the coming season. Regardless of how many JBPAIs we will need to replace this summer, we have already tested and interviewed more quality candidates than we can hire. The JBP tee-shirts have already arrived, and the Ocean City Surf Club has repeated their generous donation from last year by donating two more brand new soft-top rescue boards to JBP. All we need to do now is fill our Academies with new SRTs so we can staff this wildly success-

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(Junior Beach Patrol continued from page 13)

ful program. Thanks to all the coordinators, day leaders, SRTs and JBPAIs who have made JBP such a quality experience for the thousands of children who have joined our family over the years.

Captain's Note: The JBP program is not only an award-winning program but has become an incredible recruiting tool. However, with our first priority as having the maximum number of stands on the beach for as many days as possible, the continuation of the JBP program is at risk if we don't recruit, hire, train and schedule enough SRTs to allow us to also staff the JBP program. I do not want to be in this position come July, so recruiting is the only solution.



JBPAIs 2021

Social Media

submitted by: Kristin Joson

To keep our social media venues active throughout our off season, we started a public outreach initiative on our official Facebook page and Instagram following our 2014 season and called it "Thank You Thursday". "Thank You Thursday" features a weekly posting of an un-solicited "Ata-boy" that Captain Arbin has received complimenting the Beach Patrol during the past season. We continued with these posts of gratitude, then added something new this past off-season called Trivia Tuesday, posting a trivia question and answer on Tuesdays. We thought this would be a good way to keep a social media presence in the off-season when the public is less aware of the Patrol and its always a great time to educate our followers about beach and water safety. Lt. Kovacs has been doing a great job and enjoys putting the Thank You Thursdays together with a picture and a safety message. The comments and "likes" from those who have viewed them on Facebook have been overwhelmingly positive and have generated many additional complimentary comments that are posted as well as people sharing them with others. An important feature of both the "Thank You Thursday" and "Trivia Tuesday" posts is

that we highlight a safety tip that goes along with the message. As more and more people are drawn to our page, we have a great opportunity to further our mission of educating and informing the public about beach safety. If you have not visited our Facebook page, check it out and keep looking for "Thank you Thursdays." You may be the next SRT featured or a member of a crew that has received a group commendation! If you want to contribute to the "Trivia Tuesdays" just email Kristin with the questions that you have been asked by beach patrons and the answer you gave them. Short and sweet is always good for social media so it shouldn't take you too much time to email it to Kristin. As always, if you share a commonly asked question and it is posted with the answer, we will also include a picture of you, with credit for the contribution. We hope you enjoy this outreach and help us spread the word about "Thank You Thursday" and "Trivia Tuesday" and the most important aspect of our mission, education!

Captain's Note: In addition to the Thank You Thursday and Trivia Tuesdays we also do a weekly post on Sundays to enhance our recruiting efforts. Kristin is very willing and enjoys sharing pictures of our lifeguards in action. Ava has been very helpful over the winter sending pictures that Kristin has requested if she doesn't have a certain guard in her files. If you have pictures that you want to see on our social media page, please feel free to email them to Kristin kjoson@oceancitymd.gov. You can also text them to her at 301 751 3021. Although our Facebook page and Instagram is mainly to educate the public, we want to always put the best out there. If you have a social media interest or talent, you can email recruiting posts to her as well. She is always open and willing to work with fresh ideas. Just remember that our social media presence is an official representation of the Town of Ocean City and must always meet the guidelines that they have established. We are also planning to establish a social media work group to get input and ideas on making our social media even more effective, with representation from areas and crews. Let Kristin know if you want to be a part of this group. Join Kristin in this team effort to make our social media presence the best it can be.



Captain Arbin posing with his son SRT Michael Arbin 2009

Dive Team Update

submitted by: Sgt. Jamie Falcon



2022 will be year twelve of the dive team! Last summer, we tied with 2018 for the largest number of us on the trip. Twenty-one of us made the trip. For 2022, everything is in place to mirror the 2021 schedule. The dive trip is scheduled for the weekend of July 23. We will depart on Saturday and return Monday evening. It is always those days of the week so it is across two scheduling weeks. That way it can be everyone's regular day off for each week. Currently, our expectation is to have the Open Water Certification classes on Wednesday evenings (that is the basic certification). We expect the first night, the orientation night, to be Wednesday, 6/22 during SRA II.

In October, we did the annual oyster dive trip in Eastern Bay. Due to changing regulations, we used the Falcon's boat for this trip. Each Marylander had his/her limit in oysters in less than an hour, or one tank of air. The water temperature was 62 which is pretty typical for that time of year, maybe a couple of degrees warmer than average. The conditions were flat and the sun was bright and warm. The air temperature was 64 when we started but it was a really beautiful fall day. That dive is shallow, 12', and the visibility is what you would expect in the Chesapeake Bay; it isn't the Caribbean. But, we typically see a few small native Rockfish and some crabs running around and we go home with something tasty for several dinners. In the photo: Jamie, Jack and Ella Falcon, Sam Borsch, Chris Sanders, Kevin Reed and Dundee Pacquette.



This spring, at the end of April, a group of us will again be making the whirlwind trip to Fort Lauderdale to assist Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue with their air and sea show. Their event sees packed beaches and they invite lifeguards to come from around the country to come and help. This gives us an opportunity to experience that as well as to get in some diving and to start summer on the beach, a beach, a little early.

If we follow the same plan as we have in the past, we will leave Thursday afternoon, drive through the night, and do a dive or two on the way down on Friday. One year we went all the way west to Tampa and dove in the shark tank at the Florida Aquarium. Another year we dove in Blue Grotto and Devil's Den. They are just west of Gainesville. This year, I am hoping to find a dive location closer to the east coast, along the direct path to Fort Lauderdale. We will work for the City of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday. Much of their beach will be shoulder to shoulder people for the airshow. It looks like our beach around 17th Street for our airshow but instead of a few blocks, their event draws about a mile and a half of that size of a crowd. They station us at a guard stand. Each stand in the crowded area will have 4-6 guards. We will stand along the water's edge about 30' apart and rotate around or on the stand. It is really quite different than what we are used to and a neat experience. Last trip, CC Vassaloti and I were assigned with one of their full-time guards to a stand outside of the main airshow area. The crowd there was comparable to our typical beach. We were able to each do a run, swim and paddle through the day. Since that was on flat, clear water with the temperature in the mid-80s, it was really, really a fantastic way to start our summer season. Saturday, we will rush from work to a dive shop just under a mile away from the heart of the air show. We will go out on their boat for a two dive, two tank, trip. They do a twilight dive followed by a night dive. Both times I have done this with them, we dove a wreck first then drifted along a reef for the night dive. The wreck typically holds a Goliath grouper that everyone but me saw. Last trip, on the night dive, we saw a sea turtle and big cobia among other cool aquatic life along the reef. After the night dive, we will crash for, hopefully, a good six or seven hours of sleep. Sunday, we work a full day, grab dinner somewhere and drive through the night. We get back to the Annapolis area mid-morning on Monday. A week or two later we get a direct deposit for a few hundred bucks. Net, it's slightly less than, or maybe the same as, the diving costs, split gas and split lodging costs. We don't make money, we make memories (exit Ewen McGregor through a door to a beach with "The Whole Wide World" by Cage the Elephant playing)!

TRAINING

Surf Rescue Academy

submitted by: Training Officer Pogonowski

Crew Chiefs:

If you are available to help during the first academy, please make sure I have all your availability as soon as possible. I will do my best to mix in veteran crew chiefs and new crew chiefs. The sooner I know who is available the better.

PSRTs:

Let me first say, I am excited for another year with the OCBP. The first thing you need to concentrate on is securing housing if you have not done so already. The second thing you need to concentrate on is your fitness. The training staff and I are expecting you all to come into academy in fantastic shape. We do not have the time to get you into shape during academy. If you are not ready to go it will be obvious! I recommend mixing swimming and running into your schedule a few times a week. Come with a positive attitude and be ready to learn. Yes, the water will be cold. Yes, we will be getting wet every day. Yes, it will be a very challenging week. But, if you come in shape, work hard, and listen, it will be the best summer of your life! I look forward to meeting everyone.



Iron Guard/Strong Guard

submitted by: Sgt. Jeff Brabitz

Now that masks and large group gatherings are a thing of the past, I would like to re-introduce the Pizza Tugos Iron Guard!

The Iron Guard is a FREE competition for OCBP members. The race consists of a 1000-meter swim, 2-mile run, and a 2000 paddle. It is a friendly competition with huge bragging rights to determine who is the Iron Guard of the year, followed by some great slices from our sponsor Pizza Tugos. The date is to be determined. Also, I'll be looking to bring back the Strong Guard competi-

tion this summer to show enormous feats of Strength! Keep an eye out this summer for sign ups and start getting ready for these fun, FREE events.



Sgt. Jeff Brabitz explaining how to work with the Coast Guard during an inlet rescue at last year's Rookie Graduation. Jumping off the boat is always a highlight of the day!

Top Performance Starts with Proper Nutrition

submitted by: MzFit

Lifeguarding is hard work. So how does the OCBP make it look so effortless? By maintaining a level of fitness that is fueled by proper nutrition.

Nutrition is the king of results. Everything hinges upon this. If you can do one thing right, make sure its this. Building and maintaining muscle, losing fat, staying healthy, all rely very heavily on what you put in your body.

THE BREAKDOWN: Aim to consume enough calories to get through an active workday, but not so much at once that you feel sluggish on the stand. This can vary from person to person and weight to weight. Try to avoid huge meals and instead eat consistently throughout the day to avoid tiredness and cramps while training or on a rescue. Meal prepping is key. Make a grocery list of foods that can be easily eaten on the stand. Examples: Peanut butter, salad, rice cakes, lunch meat, chicken, trail mix, mixed nuts, fruits & vegetables.

Designate 1 day a week to meal prep & put your meals into containers that are easily accessible and can be stored in your cooler. Your meals should include a protein, carbs, and fats. Example: Chicken sandwich on bread or rice cakes with a slice of cheese and fruit on the side. Have trail mix or mixed nuts to graze on throughout the day along with lots of water.

When smaller meals are eaten throughout the day, it keeps

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your metabolism, as I like to say, “Steady Eddy,” as opposed to eating a large sugary meal that spikes your blood sugar making you crash and burn only to repeat the vicious cycle over and over again.

With smaller meals throughout the day, your body will maintain the energy levels it needs to keep your mind focused on the job at hand. Watching your water and keeping Ocean City’s beach patrons safe.



Crew Workout Areas and Equipment

Submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

Last summer proved to be a bonus year with crews expanding the components of their workout and equipment they use to meet the ever-growing demands of the job. Many crews added a buoy and anchor to the daily list of essential equipment. A call to the area supervisor brought an added paddle board to the crew and thus, morning workouts took on a whole new dimension. Imagination now remains the only barrier to an incredible morning pump.

I had the good fortune of jumping into some of those workouts last summer and while I admit my times were nowhere near what the guards on the stands were getting, I enjoyed the camaraderie those workouts created and the fun that I had doing them. I want to give Crew Chief Payne another shout-out for assisting me with building all those pull up bars and to the Fall Patrol for pulling them all out of the sand (safely) and returning them to their winter storage locations. It’ll be an early season focus to get them back on the beach for use while the water is still cold, but the energy is high. If you have an idea that can be implemented systemically, feel free to share it with me or Sgt. Wagner and we’ll see what we

can do to make it a reality. Until then, keep training and bring your imagination to the stand this year. Who says the ACC is the only person who can make up a workout? Stay Strong!!

Proposed Change to the Land Line Competition for Crew Comps

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

For the past several times when the Land Line competition has been contested the overall results (based on a hand-held timing device) have been extremely close. To increase participation in this event, we are proposing that the “victim” for this event be tasked with swimming out to the line as part of the competition instead of being carried by Jet Ski to the line. We would also add a “monitor” to the team who is responsible for using binoculars and determining when the “victim” reaches the line to inform the rescuer when to go. This recommendation was put forth a couple of weeks before the 2021 Crew Comps by someone other than me. It was determined that there was simply too little time to incorporate this change into the practice and line-up, so it was tabled until 2022. Not wanting to repeat the 2021 experience, we are putting forth this proposal now, in April, not July for crews to adjust accordingly. Ultimately, the outcome of adding another competitor to the event will spread out the finishers and the final results will be easier to determine and more reliable.

This also aligns to the USLA rule change of 2018. On the starting signal, the victim enters the water, swims to touch the allotted buoy, signaling arrival by raising the other arm to a vertical position while in contact with the buoy. The victim then waits in the water on the seaward side of the buoy. The landline swimmer with shoulder strap or harness already on, swims in the assigned lane to the victim. Only the landline pullers may feed line to the swimmer. When the swimmer reaches the victim, the swimmer raises one arm in the air as a sign to the pullers to commence pulling. The victim must hold onto the rescue can with both hands at all times and may kick. Upon signal from the swimmer, the pullers pull victim and swimmer to the beach. Tying any knots in loop form is not permissible. Carrying the line in loop form by the rescuer is permitted.

Launching the rescuer into the water by the pullers is not permitted. Competitors must start from the correct allotted position. Competitors swimming to and signaling from the wrong buoy shall be disqualified. The victims must keep in contact with their flag buoy until receiving the rescue can from the swimmer. At the start of the race the swimmer and the pullers must be behind the start line in their designated lane. *Note 1: The buoy is defined as the buoy only and does not include any attaching ropes and/or straps. Competitors must visibly touch the buoy above the water line before signaling their arri-

val at the buoy. *Note 2: Competitors may touch buoys and buoy ropes but are not permitted to use buoy ropes to drag themselves along the course to reach their allotted buoy.



When Minutes Matter - American Red Cross Updates

submitted by: Sgt. Jason Konyar

The American Red Cross has come out with new teaching materials that all instructors must implement by September 1st of this year. Our beach patrol recently renewed our licensed Training Provider Agreement, purchased two new instructor kits, ordered additional first aid supplies, and our new instructors are getting familiar with the updates as we speak.

As you know, we only use the American Red Cross (ARC) for our first aid training and this upcoming season happens to be a first aid year for veteran recertification. This summer, rookies and veterans will be again learning the basics of first aid: Check, Call, Care. These 3 Cs have not changed over the years, yet one difference you will notice is during the initial body check. We will no longer perform a head-to-toe check on adults or a toe to head check on children. This year we will be learning about a “focused check.”

The last ARC update had a strong emphasis on blood-borne pathogens. This time around, the emphasis is on controlling life threatening bleeding. As a patrol, we are ahead of the curve on this topic since we have been teaching Stop the Bleed for the past few years and already have our quads equipped with tourniquet kits. The ARC does, however, provide additional information on the topic and has even changed the way we will apply direct and/or indirect pressure.

There are a few other changes we will be discussing from the new updates; however, we all know that the key to success when dealing with situations west of our stands has not changed. As the “first” first responders on scene, we need to take control of the situation, remain calm and reassure those involved that everything is going to be okay.



In the photo from the Dive Team pictured left to right are: Sean Siebert, Dave Krabbe, Paul Vassaloti, Jamie Falcon, Kevin Reed, Grayson Sipes

SAVE THE DATES!

submitted by: Sgt Jamie Falcon

Calling for volunteers... Ironman 70.3 Eagleman Triathlon: Sunday, June 12, 2022 Ironman Maryland Triathlon: Saturday, September 17, 2022. Both events are in Cambridge, Maryland. We have been asked to provide volunteers to assist with water safety for these events. To participate, you will need to be scheduled off from OCBP. The Ironman Committee offers a stipend to volunteers and it is a lot of fun. This is an opportunity to network with an organization with an extensive following of athletic families to help us with recruiting. For further information, contact Sergeant Falcon.



Equipment

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.

Hoping everyone has had a great winter and see you soon!

TOWN NEWS

My New Position in TOC HR

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

Wow! What a difference a couple of months make! In the end of January, I retired from AACPS after 32 years of service to the students, teachers, families, and community of Anne Arundel County. I found all the positions I held rewarding but the one I enjoyed the most was teaching adults. Fast forward to today and I'm here to tell you I have been afforded the greatest opportunity on Earth. I was hired as the Professional Growth and Development Coordinator for the Town of Ocean City, and I get to work with amazing people all year long. It's a dream come true, and I have thoroughly enjoyed expanding my understanding of the full-time employees here in the Town as well as meeting the newest people to the city. I get to work with supervisors from all the departments. We explore learning needs of their employees. We build curriculum to meet those needs and I get to assist them with delivering that learning.

Here in the Human Resources office, we have also re-imagined the On-Boarding process for new employees and that effort has been quite rewarding. With the wealth of experience that currently exists in Ocean City, coupled with a great attitude to share life and employment experiences, we have really made this work most enjoyable. New employees get the important information they need to be successful right from the beginning AND they receive on-going support as they get use to their new roles and responsibilities. We continue to enhance this experience and make it better with every modification.

As for me, nights and weekends are still Beach Patrol time like it has been for the past 32 years but my days are now spent in Ocean City living the proverbial dream. I look forward to seeing everyone real soon. Live your best life!



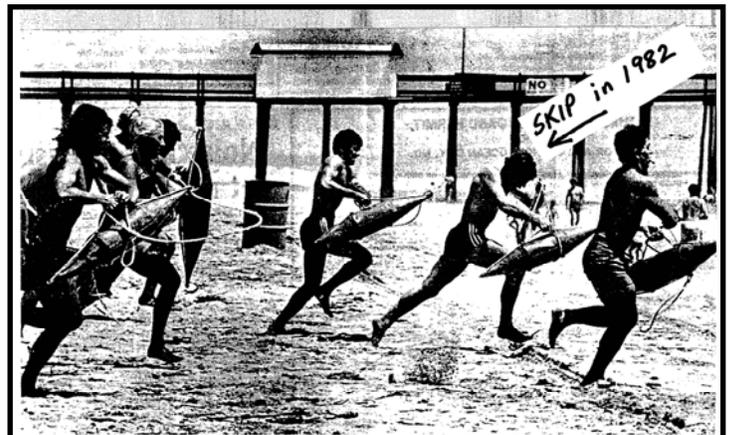
Large Private Events Coming to the Beach this Summer

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Ocean City is going to host several large events this summer. Some will be familiar, but others will be held for the first time in 2022. The first event that may impact us will be the "Bull on the Beach" bull riding event scheduled for June 3rd-6th. This event will be held in the Inlet parking lot. While it will take up a fairly large area, I have been told that our crew one and SBF employees will still be able to park in the lot. The following weekend will see the OC Airshow return, featuring the United States Air Force Thunderbirds. The event will be staged in the usual footprint in Crew four's area.

While not a new event, the "Marlinfest" that has been held on the ball fields at 3rd Street has been moved to the Inlet beach for 2022, since the ball fields will be under renovations at the time. This event will correspond with the White Marlin Open and will feature a large screen showing the Marlin Tournament weigh-ins and arts and crafts. Also planned for the Inlet beach and areas just north of the pier will be a concert event from September 30-October 2. The C-3 corporation is hoping to bring in some big acts for the multi-day, multi-stage event.

Captain's Note: The addition of these events has caused the Town to move the familiar SunFest to late October, which is why we have established our final day as the third Sunday after Labor Day (September 25th), rather than our traditional Sunfest Sunday.



(scan of a newspaper from 1982) A mixture of determination, strength and anticipation is apparent on the faces of this group of lifeguard hopefuls as they make a dash for the surf during a tryout test Wednesday near the pier. Lifeguard officials said seven of the 30 who tried out during the annual ritual would be hired after results of the grueling six-hour testing were compiled.

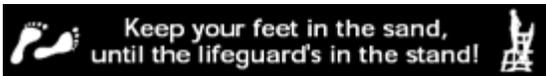
(photo by Dom Fiorlle 1982)

OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

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

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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.



Calendar/Important Dates

April 2 (Sat) Ocean City Job Fair

April 3 (Sun) PEPSE Salisbury University

April 23 (Sat) – Strategic Planning

April 24 (Sun) - PEPSE (off-site test) Ocean Pines (registration 9:00 - 9:45)

April 28 (Thurs) - Employee Agreements due back with documentation of last day.

April 30 (Sat) - Officer mandatory mtg (ACC appointments and CC Promotions)

May 21 (Sat) – Officer Work weekend, CC paperwork /check-in (no drug test)

May 22 (Sun) – Officer and CC Drug testing (9:00 – 10:30)

May 22 (Sun) – SRA I check-in (Drug test, paperwork, equipment, orientation)

May 23 (Mon) – May 30 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy I

May 24 (Tues) – May 27 (Fri) – Returning Staff Drug Test and paperwork check-in and equipment pick-up (Time slot will be scheduled)

May 26 ((Thurs) - ACC and CC seminar with Quad certification and re-cert.

May 28 (Sat) - 7:00 am Prayer Service, 8:00 am leadership meeting, 10:00 am first day guarding

May 30 (Memorial Day) – 8:00 am Weekly In-Service MTG

June 4 (Sun) - PEPSE (final for 2022) Ocean City (registration 9:00 - 9:45)

June 19 (Sun) – June 27 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy II

June 29—July 9 (Wed– Sat) – Veteran re-qualification and re-certification

July 9 (Sat) – Annual Patrol picture

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

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.