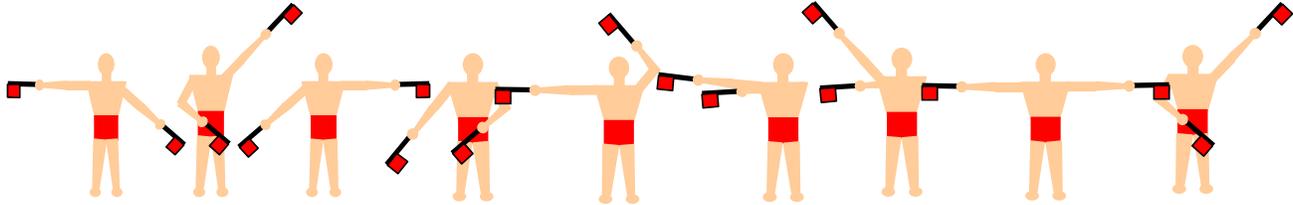


# Ocean City Beach Patrol



Edition 70

Newsletter

Fall 2020 / Winter 2021



Over Ninety Years  
of Saving Lives

Maintain Your Role  
in this Fantastic  
Tradition!

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**Rookie Graduation 2020**

## Message From the Captain

### A Season Like No Other

As I was preparing this Captain's message for last fall's newsletter, who could have predicted what would happen in this past year. Not only did Covid-19 take a physical toll on those who contracted the virus, but it also has had a significant impact on both the emotional and financial health of everyone involved.

We had finished the 2019 season looking forward to and preparing for what we believed was going to be a great 2020. We completed our August testing and were excited about a strong number of new rookies before we even began our off-site testing program. We held our February strategic planning session and our "Stop the Bleed" instructor course and followed it with a test the following day at the Salisbury YMCA on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We were packed and had everyone and everything ready for a road trip to York College for a PEPSE on Saturday, March 14th and then things began to happen in rapid succession. On Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon we still had the go ahead to hold our testing the next morning and had candidates still planning to attend from as far away as Canada but at 4:00 PM York College made the decision to close its campus and we were forced to cancel our plans. This was the start of what we now know was a worldwide pandemic that would forever change our lives.

Regardless of the pandemic we needed to accomplish our mission this past season just like we have for the past 90 years. From the beginning of this crisis, the Mayor and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) had daily briefings to monitor the situation and the impact on Ocean

City. I was a part of these daily conference calls as well as having face to face meetings with the Mayor and City Manager. I submitted an implementation plan with the understanding that we needed three full weeks lead time before we could deploy the Beach Patrol, rather than wait for the, "we are open" announcement and suddenly have our visitors return. If you remember, the Mayor's executive order prohibited visitors from coming to Ocean City and rentals were not permitted.

Throughout March and April, I was receiving dozens of e-mails from Beach Patrol personnel asking about our plans for the summer and if they would even have work. Unfortunately, we were not in a position to determine what was going to take place in Maryland or Ocean City as we approached summer. Regardless, I remained firm in my assessment, that we would have a summer season, and had a responsibility to provide the level of service that our visitors were accustomed to and deserved once they returned. How we approached this goal and how we would ultimately accomplish it would look quite different than any other season and would require input from the Beach Patrol leadership, as well as the full cooperation and understanding of every one of our Beach Patrol staff.

After consultation with the other members of the Beach Patrol leadership team we decided to plan for a "normal" summer. If we waited, we would not be ready, so the plan was to proceed as if we would start on Memorial Day weekend, although many



people still believed that would not be the start of this season.

To accomplish this, it meant we needed to perform all of our normal operations. We needed to send out our invitations to return in April and to be ready for the season we needed to complete our promotions and appointments. We also needed to hold additional testing and train our newest rookies.

To accomplish these critical tasks, we held the promotion weekend through zoom and were able to make the promotions and appointments on the date originally set. Surf Rescue Academy was our next obstacle. We needed our rookies on the stands, but they needed to be trained, and physical contact had to be part of that training. After much discussion, planning and alterations we were comfortable with the changes that were made as well as delaying the first SRA by two weeks.

A major challenge we faced was staffing a sufficient number of SRTs for such a season of unknowns since all of our opportunities for any additional testing had been canceled. Moving the first academy allowed us to add some last-minute testing which yielded great results and allowed those individuals to become part of SRA I.

Moving SRA I also allowed us to use the entire week before Memorial Day to schedule individual check-in and drug testing of returning employees, which limited the number of individuals in the same space and contact with each other. Additionally, we were able to schedule small group training for our new Assistant Crew Chiefs, which included quad certification and re-certification, prior to Memorial Day weekend. This also allowed us to cancel two group meetings that usually occur on the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. However, we did hold our opening prayer service, although very spread out. When I was asked if we were still going to have it, I said, without hesitation, "Absolutely, this is not the year to cancel it".

Although, many people were skeptical that Ocean City would open by Memorial Day weekend, it did. Not only did we have SRTs on the beach, but we also had as many as we had the year before. From the public's perspective, things looked no different than any other start of a season. However, internally we made numerous adjustments to our operation, so that our employees and the public would be protected. We issued additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to all staff and redefined our procedures and protocols after consultation with the Health Department and Emergency Medical Services. Each employee's health was monitored by a daily wellness check, for 100% of those scheduled to work and when we had a potential exposure, we followed a prescribed procedure. We altered how we performed routine operations such as weekly meetings, rookie supper seminars, our annual patrol picture, veteran re-certification, Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluations (testing) as well as other less noticeable changes.

After finishing my 48<sup>th</sup> season with the Patrol, I can tell you I have never been more proud of how our organization (the we) dealt with these most difficult situations and

brought a glimmer of "normal" to those who visited our beach this past summer. Thanks to the professionalism and dedication of each of you, not only were we able to fill our stands every day, we had higher staffing numbers than in any recent years. Thank you all. We are now facing a second surge of the virus and more uncertain times. However, the summer of 2021 is still coming and we need to be ready for whatever challenges present themselves. To continue to be successful as an organization we must continue to be understanding, flexible, adaptable and data driven. But I am confident that we have the right people in leadership positions to make the critical decisions required to remain safe while continuing to prepare and fulfill our mission.

It is because of each and every member of the Patrol that we were successful last season and will be successful again in 2021! Be safe, keep the faith, and I will see you in May.



### **Welcome Rookie Class of 2021**

I want to again welcome you into the Beach Patrol family and to the greatest adventure of your life. I assure you that this is just the beginning of a lifetime of wonderful Ocean City memories. You have taken the preliminary and most important steps toward a career with the Ocean City Beach Patrol when you successfully completed the Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation (PEPSE) and demonstrated to your testing administrators and the interview committee that you have the "Right Stuff". However, this is just the beginning of your adventure. Passing the test is a challenge you will never forget and will always remember with great pride, but now the real work begins for you and the Surf Rescue Academy instructors as well as the patrol's leadership. We are excited by the quality that each of you displayed as you became one of our first 30 rookies for the "Class of 2021". We depend on you to help us maintain our great traditions, and to become the future leadership that will continue to move us forward. I also want to let you know that the Town of Ocean City has increased your starting pay from \$15.25/hr to \$15.60/hr.

The entire Patrol has the collective responsibility of preparing you as a Surf Rescue Technician and you have the responsibility of arriving in the spring ready to take on the challenges of Surf Rescue Academy (SRA). We will provide you with the most comprehensive open water surf rescue training available. You will be taught by the best instructors available, anywhere. To be successful, you must use these next several months to prepare both personally and physically for the "Greatest Adventure of Your Life". To prepare physically you must continue to work on maintaining and improving your general physical condition and hone the specific skills needed for surf life-saving. Although we talked about where you needed to improve during your final interview, you should take time to look at our training web resources [www.ococean.com/](http://www.ococean.com/)

[ocbp](#) and contact our director of training, Lt. Ward Kovacs for training tips. Although it may be difficult to find a pool to train in during the winter, and running in the sand may only be possible at the beach, you must find a way to maintain your training and increase the intensity as you approach the start of SRA. Surf Rescue Academy is designed to train you in the physical skills required to be a successful SRT, but it cannot provide the necessary physical conditioning in one week to prepare you for the physical demands of the job. During SRA you will not only be utilizing your physical conditioning on a daily basis as you practice the skills of an SRT, but will repeat the run and swim portions of the test several times during your SRA week. On the Saturday of your training week, all rookies will be required to pass both the run and swim on the beach and in the ocean. Reporting to SRA out of shape, not prepared to participate at the physical level required of all rookies, or failure to meet the minimum run and swim requirements, will result in the loss of your position. You have earned an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy, however, it is the successful completion of all phases of that Academy that secures your position as an SRT and allows you the privilege of safeguarding everyone who chooses to visit our beach and swim in our ocean. The testing administrators who conducted your physical evaluation believe that you have what it takes, or else you would never have been offered a position. Now it is solely your responsibility to prove that we made the correct assessment of your abilities to succeed.

Although official offers of appointment to Surf Rescue Academy will not happen until the beginning of April 2021, in our spring mailing, I will be sending you a link by e-mail in late January, to a Google Docs form that will update your status and help the Patrol with planning. Once you receive the official offer in April and have confirmed your availability and submitted official documentation by return mail, your responsibility is to be fully prepared for the rigors of SRA and be ready to perform at the highest levels, both physically and mentally. As long as your availability meets the needs of the Patrol, you will be guaranteed a reserved slot in a Surf Rescue Academy. We have scheduled six additional testing opportunities to secure a position as a Probationary Surf Rescue Technician (rookie) for the 2021 season. There will be four off-site tests and a final Ocean City test to receive an appointment to a Surf Rescue Academy for the 2021 season. Our next Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation (PEPSE) will take place in Salisbury, Maryland in late February or early March, followed by PEPSEs in the York Pennsylvania area, as well as DC metro area (dates to be confirmed), with the final off-site testing taking place in Ocean Pines, just west of Ocean City on Sunday, April 25, 2021. Now that you are a part of our family, you have a shared responsibility to help recruit quality candidates that you would like to work with this summer (what an awesome gesture for a friend). If they are not available to attend one of the off-site PEPSE opportuni-

ties, they may still try out for a position for our 2021 season on June 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> in Ocean City. However, they will not be eligible for the Surf Rescue Academy (SRA I) that begins on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will miss approximately four weeks of paid work (almost \$3,000.00). Even if you test early, anyone from any PEPSE may choose to attend SRA II which reports on Sunday, June 20, 2021. Although we have many scheduled PEPSE opportunities, the Beach Patrol recruiters are working very hard to fill all positions as soon as possible, at which time we will stop hiring for the 2021 season and cancel future testing. To prepare personally you need to finalize all of your living arrangements as soon as possible. You may contact current members of the Patrol through Facebook or e-mail me [barbin@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:barbin@oceancitymd.gov) and I will put you in contact with resources to find housing which includes available employee housing, which is being reserved for new employees this season. Do any or all of these things but whatever you do, you must be ready! And remember... This is the beginning of the greatest adventure of your life.

### Travel Stipend 2020

For the second season the Town of Ocean City allowed us to provide a travel stipend for SRTs who returned to help cover the beach. This travel stipend is meant to offset the actual cost of returning to Ocean City to work once an SRT has moved away from the Ocean City area and relocated at least 110 miles away (distance to the west shore of the Bay Bridge). This is only a travel stipend and not a bonus for working the fall. It requires proof-of-travel in the form of a toll receipt or a copy of your EZ Pass statement.

This program has worked incredibly well and the returning SRTs allowed those who were working full-time to get a day off on the weekend. As a result, we had more stands following Labor Day than in any year in the past. We had 47 applicants for the stipends and reimbursed 109 separate trips at a total cost of \$14,388.00. Thank you to those who traveled and especially thanks to those who were able to work Monday through Friday.

### OCBPSRA

Included in this mailing is a copy of your Ocean City Beach Patrol Surf Rescue Technician certification record. The same information was sent to you as a

PDF attachment on or before Sunday, November 22, 2020 to the e-mail address you provided to the Beach Patrol. Included in that same e-mail were instructions to complete an online response form at the following address <https://forms.gle/yEo87Cxn85LaM28g9>.



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## SRT II

The following individuals currently have SRT-II certification and are eligible to apply for the training position of Assistant Crew Chief for the 2021 season. SRTs who have previously served in the role of ACC can apply for the position again, however it is the desire of the Patrol to have 19 first time ACCs to allow more individuals to receive this additional training. If you are interested in applying for one of the ACC positions, you will be asked to indicate your desire to apply when you return your Preliminary Intent form through Google Docs in January. The Assistant Crew Chief training position is a critical step in the process of developing a strong leadership succession candidate pool. It allows the Beach Patrol leadership to observe and evaluate your future potential based on criteria-referenced performance of the essential Crew Chief tasks.



**Note:** There are several SRTs who have completed all the criteria to receive SRT II certification, except the additional required NIMS courses (ICS 200 & 800). You may complete these courses at any time and your certification will be updated. However, to be considered for appointment as an ACC for the 2021 season you must complete these NIMS courses by December 31, 2020. An applicant who has completed all of the criteria for the SRT II certification, which is totally in your control, but is only missing the 100 days after probation, will receive favorable consideration if you apply for one of the ACC appointments. However, if you are missing anything other than the required number of days worked, I **will not** include your name for consideration.

Abrams, Aaron (08/13/2019)	Gusler, Aaron (11/11/2018)	Mull, Connor (06/29/2019)
Bauer, Cory (07/10/2017)	Hamilton, Rich (08/06/2018)	North, Olivia (05/24/2020)
Bavosa, Garrett (10/17/2018)	Handle, Anthony (07/09/2020)	Parkent, Christine (06/04/2019)
Becker, Christian (04/02/2017)	Hegarty, Emily (08/20/2017)	Ramina, Luke (09/02/2019)
Bennett, Zachary (12/24/2018)	Hufnagel, Alex (08/30/2018)	Rath, Andrew (07/19/2019)
Bingaman, Summerlyn (08/10/2020)	Khounsacknarath, Tyler (12/07/2019)	Rogers, Joseph (08/05/2018)
Braude, Taylor (08/21/2020)	Kopecky, Cierra (08/02/2017)	Sanders, Christopher (11/20/2019)
Bunke, Joseph (07/23/2019)	Krabbe, David (08/10/2011)	Schreiner, George (05/25/2020)
Bunke, Luke (12/29/2019)	Krause, Richard (09/04/2000)	Seibert, Shawn (08/15/2016)
Buonomo, Trever (06/09/2018)	Krivosh, Ava (01/05/2019)	Skilling, John (04/20/2018)
Collier, Carson (06/16/2018)	Kulp, Joanna (08/16/2017)	Stang, Caroline (08/06/2018)
Cope, Hannah (12/31/2019)	Lundegard, Reed (08/12/2017)	Stang, Grace (06/05/2019)
Cope, Jacob (12/10/2018)	McIntyre, Meghan (08/21/2010)	Walker, Jacquelyn (05/29/2019)
Dawson, Kali (12/31/2019)	McLaughlin, Colin (12/27/2016)	Warren, Dalton (09/13/2016)
DiPeso, Grady (08/06/2019)	Medtart, Donald (06/17/2020)	Williams, Emma (07/24/2018)
Ducey, Cameron (08/17/2019)	Monteferrante, Katherine (08/17/2019)	Young, Spencer (07/28/2019)
Gray, William (08/12/2014)	Monteferrante, Nicholas (07/21/2019)	Zgorski, Kathleen (08/22/2020)

## SRT III

The following individuals who were not Crew Chiefs during the 2020 season currently have SRT-III certification and are eligible to apply for promotion to Crew Chief for the 2021 season. All SRT-IIIs have previously served in the training position of Assistant Crew Chief and may re-apply for that position as well as Crew Chief since there are always far less openings at the CC position compared to the 19 openings at ACC. I am anticipating five openings for Crew Chief for the 2021 season although none have been confirmed at this time. You will be asked to indicate your desire to apply when you return your Preliminary Intent form through Google Docs in January. If you are interested in applying for one of the open Crew Chief positions, you will be asked to complete an application that will be reviewed by the selection committee, with offers made prior to Surf Rescue Academy I. An applicant who has completed all of the criteria for the SRT III certification, which is totally in your control, but is only missing the 200 days after probation, will receive favorable consideration if you apply for a promotion to Crew Chief. However, if you are missing anything other than the required number of days worked, I **will not** include your name for consideration.

Abrams, Aaron (08/25/2020)	Gray, William (08/26/2015)	Ramina, Luke (08/20/2020)
Bavosa, Garrett (06/26/2020)	Hegarty, Emily (06/16/2019)	Rath, Andrew (07/28/2020)
Becker, Christian (07/16/2017)	Hufnagel, Alex (07/09/2020)	Rogers, Joseph (06/13/2020)
Bennett, Zachary (07/09/2020)	Khounsacknarath, Tyler (08/08/2020)	Seibert, Shawn (06/17/2008)
Bunke, Joseph (08/01/2020)	Kopecky, Cierra (08/27/2018)	Skilling, John (07/17/2018)
Bunke, Luke (09/20/2020)	Krabbe, David (08/21/2012)	Stang, Caroline (06/07/2020)
Buonomo, Trever (07/07/2019)	Krivosh, Ava (06/06/2020)	Stang, Grace (06/18/2020)
Cope, Hannah (08/23/2020)	Kulp, Joanna (07/13/2019)	Walker, Jacquelyn (06/17/2020)
Cope, Jacob (08/15/2019)	Medtart, Donald (09/23/2020)	Williams, Emma (07/20/2019)
DiPeso, Grady (09/18/2020)		

**Captain's Note:** It is encouraging to see so many qualified SRTs that are ready to move into leadership positions. It is always a loss when a current member of the Beach Patrol leadership has to leave their position and move on, but knowing that we have prepared so many others to take over is what keeps this organization great. I want to give special thanks to Sergeants Davis and Sanzotti, who have shouldered the bulk of the OCBPSRA certification modules, but it is time for others to step up and lighten their load.

### Eligible for Sergeant Promotion

The following individuals have earned Instructor certification and are able to assist with OCBPSRA training and certification (paid) as well as are eligible to apply for promotion to sergeant when openings occur. All OCBPSRA Instructors have previously served as crew chiefs and may re-apply for that position. There are several crew chiefs who have completed all the criteria to receive Instructor certification, except the required Safe Boating certificate or 300 days after probation.

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

### OCBPSRA INSTRUCTORS

Bryan Clark	Alex Siegel
Jonathan Clouser	Arthur Smith
Harrison Fisher	Paul Vassalotti
Jacob Foy	Dustin Whittles
William Gray	Matthew Wojciechowski
Adam Payne	



## Returning Employees are the Foundation of our Success!

Although having a rich pipeline of highly qualified rookies to fill positions as our more experienced personnel move on, it is our returning people who assure that we carry on our organizational values and our legendary tradition of success. Look at the make-up of the 2020 Beach Patrol and you will be impressed with what it reveals. First and foremost, the experience of our organization surpasses the national average in full-time career professions. Of the 205 (192 in 2019) employees listed on our roster this past season, 70% were returning employees and 32% (31% in 2019) have worked for the Patrol for five or more years. What makes this statistic even more impressive is that 85% of our employees do not live in the local area and must relocate each season to continue working for the Patrol. In many cases these individuals have permanent homes and mortgages and must locate a place to rent each season in the Ocean City area, some of whom bring spouses and families and have purchased homes so that they can continue serving the citizens and visitors to our beaches. These are impressive numbers for a seasonal operation that does not provide any employee benefits, except amazing working conditions, and has only one full-time employee.

It is an understatement to say that our 2020 season was highly unusual. However, unlike other departments within the Town government, and the local employers in surrounding areas who had a severe personnel shortage, our numbers were stronger than ever. During the 2020 season we saw a diverse group of employees both by gender and location of permanent home towns. Permanent address listed 55 (27%) as non-Maryland residents, with 31 from Pennsylvania but no J-1 foreign student workers this season due to Covid-19. Our female contingent continues as a strong demographic with a 29% representation again this season, which is the highest in the history of the Patrol. With all these numbers we still have only 3.7% of our staff in off-the-beach roles (the lowest amount in our history), with the remaining staff dedicated to on-beach operations.

When you look beyond the numbers what this all really means is that we have a highly trained, professional, dedicated and experienced staff each season. None of this would be possible if we did not provide an inviting and quality work experience. This starts with the relationships between veterans and our newest employees and continues into the comradery that is nurtured in each crew, although that was a challenge this past season. It is further supported by the fair and equal treatment by supervisors and the openness in our evaluation and promotion process that lets everyone know that there are no hidden agendas or backroom deals. Thanks to the effort and professionalism that each of you contributes, anyone looking at the Beach Patrol organization can tell “WE”

are doing something very right. Our self-assessment indicates we are doing well, but when outside groups ask us for information on our success and even schedule the Beach Patrol to present to other professional organizations about our recruiting and retention practices, that reinforces that we “know what we are doing” and have a history that demonstrates our success.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have met the following longevity milestones. Although we are a seasonal / temporary operation it is a true testament to everyone’s dedication and professionalism that nearly a third of our staff have five or more years and over half of those have ten or more years working for the Town of Ocean City. Although we could not continue without new rookies joining our ranks each season it is important to maintain a balance of experience and “New Blood” and we continue to meet that balance by averaging less than one third rookie SRTs each season. What this translates to in the crews, is that the average crew only had two or three rookies this past season.

We celebrate all of our employees who have committed to work for the patrol whether for a season or a decade, but we present longevity awards for five-year milestones. I want to say congratulations and THANK YOU to each of you for faithfully serving the citizens of Ocean City and fulfilling the mission of the Beach Patrol.

### Milestone Seasons with the Beach Patrol Completed 5th Season in 2020

Cory Bauer	Cierra Kopecky
Trever Buonomo	Joanna Kulp
Carson Collier	Reed Lundegard
Rob Flynn	Elizabeth Miller
Rich Hamilton	Connor Mull
R.J. Hayman	Savannah O'Dell
Emily Hegarty	Jackie Pickering
Alysha Holmes	Kyle Skilling
Alex Hufnagel	Matt Slomba
Bobby Johnson	



## Completed 20th Season in 2020

Ben Davis

Stella Malone



Academy along with other training including “Stop the Bleed” (incorporated in 2020). Each subsequent year we provide one re-certification during our veteran re-qualification and re-certification day. We alternate between CPR years and First Aid years so that you will always be currently certified in both. This coming season is a CPR re-certification year and we will be reviewing First Aid and “Stop the Bleed” protocols.

### Having Served the Town for Over 20 Years

Jeff Brabitz (21 years )	Colby Phillips (27 years )
Jason Konyar (21 years )	Brent Weingard (31 years )
Jake Foy (22 years )	Mike Stone (36 years )
Debi Tyler (22 years )	Tim Uebel (37 years )
Jamie Falcon (24 years )	Ward Kovacs (38 years )
Mat Postell (24 years )	Skip Lee III (38 years )

### The Importance of Following all Policies

At the end of our season we were notified of a law suit that was instituted with the claim of a violation of Civil Rights. A man claimed that his Civil Rights were violated when our staff approached him about having a dog on the beach. Because the Town was put on notice regarding this claim of a Civil Rights violation, the Town was obligated to respond to the complaint. I first received a copy of the federal complaint from the investigator assigned to the case. The town also passed the complaint on to the Town’s attorney. In working with the attorney who had to file a written response by a specific date, I provided a written statement of what our official policy and procedure is when dealing with dogs on the beach and specifically “service animals”. I also provided a copy of our written policy statement as well as the handout that we have provided to our staff. The final step for me was affirming a signed affidavit that will become an official exhibit in the Civil Rights investigation.

In addition to my responsibility in the case, the Crew Chief who originally made contact with the individual as well as both area Sergeants who also had contact were required to provide written signed statements. The Attorney then followed up with interviews of all three. An Ocean City Police Officer and an Animal Control officer were also involved and responded as well. After the Attorney completed her interviews, she called to update me. She was impressed and confident that the Beach Patrol employees had done their jobs in compliance with both federal Department of Justice and Beach Patrol procedures and that she was able to provide a written response to the Civil Rights claim.

We both felt that from the first contact that the man was uncooperative, belligerent and confrontational. If he simply answered the question asked by the Crew Chief, “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?” or “What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?” the situation would have ended in 30 seconds, rather than taken an hour to resolve.

### Request for Certification Information

Each year I receive many requests for information on your training and certifications. I can generate an official letter that documents all of your training and certifications including NIMS courses and expiration dates of CPR and First Aid. However, copies of CPR and First Aid cards are often required for courses, training or off-season employment. I will do my best to assist you in getting those copies but the Beach Patrol does not have copies of these certifications in your file. Our CPR and AED certification comes from the American Heart Association (AHA) and are e-mailed directly to the e-mail address that you provided on the course registration form. I do not have any access to your account, but your instructor of record does and can have the card e-mailed again to you. First Aid certification is through the American Red Cross (ARC) and we print and provide a laminated certification card to you. Please place both of your cards with any other important documents. If you cannot locate these cards you can e-mail me and I will do my best to assist but it may take a few weeks to get you everything you need.

Certifications are for two years. New employees will receive both certifications the first year during Surf Rescue

This is an example of why we have and follow our procedures. Although, you may not always understand or even agree with our policies or procedures they are there to protect both you and the Town of Ocean City.

Always remember, “Do what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it, the way it is supposed to be done...NO EXCUSES!”

We cannot prevent people from filing lawsuits but we can minimize the chance of a successful outcome for them. I am proud of our people for their professionalism when handling this specific situation and equally proud of the job each of you does every day!



**SRT John Stout using his First Aid skills on 61st Street this past September.**

### **Beach Patrol Pay Rates Set to Increase for 2021**

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 is the second incremental increase in Maryland’s minimum wage to reach \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2025, which was voted into law in March 2019. The law **gradually** increases the state’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour, from the previous rate of \$10.10.

The federal minimum wage for covered nonexempt employees is \$7.25 per hour. In cases where an employee is subject to both the state and federal minimum wage laws, the employee is entitled to the higher of the two minimum wages. The \$15 minimum wage will not take effect in Maryland until January 1, 2025 with a gradual increase each year with this coming January moving to \$11.75 per hour. The following chart shows the implementation time line for Maryland.

January. 1, 2022	January. 1, 2023	January. 1, 2024	January. 1, 2025
\$12.50	\$13.25	\$14.00	\$15.00

### **How has this impacted the pay rates for Town of Ocean City employees?**

The Town has to move any pay grade that is below the new January 1<sup>st</sup> minimum each year to the new rate. As a result this also required the Town to adjust the rest of the pay table to maintain a separation between pay grades. The result benefited all temporary employees at the minimum of each pay grade. The following is the current and new pay rate for each pay grade.

JOB TITLE	2020 Season		January 1, 2020	
	Grade	RATE	Grade	RATE
Junior Beach Patrol Assistant Instructor	100	\$11.0000	100	\$11.7500
Surfing Beach Facilitator	102	\$12.0000	102	\$12.6500
Surfing Beach Facilitator - ACC	103	\$12.5462	103	\$13.1500
Surfing Beach Facilitator - CC	105	\$13.8322	105	\$14.2300
Surf Rescue Technician - Probation	107	\$15.2500	107	\$15.6001
Surf Rescue Technician - SRT I	107	\$15.2500	107	\$15.6001
Surf Rescue Technician - ACC	108	\$16.0125	108	\$16.3661
Surf Rescue Technician - CC	110	\$17.6538	110	\$18.0436
Sergeant	112	\$19.4633	112	\$19.8931

Although the Town did away with steps within pay grades over 10 years ago, the Mayor and City Council will allow Beach Patrol employees who were already on the step plan to be “grandfathered” in. Under the plan that takes place on January 1, 2021, those who are on a step above the minimum for that pay grade will remain at that pay rate. However, if the new minimum for that grade is above your current rate you will receive the higher rate, beginning January 1, 2021.

# Testing and Recruiting



## Recruiting Updates

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

Just as with off-site testing, recruiting opportunities will be few and far between this off-season. College campuses are closed to outside agencies and employment agencies are not hosting the events that they have held in recent years.

This is much the same as last spring, when the fears of Covid began to shut things down. Yet, we had one of our best years ever in 2020 as far as finding capable men and women to fill our staff. The high numbers were key in helping us to withstand and absorb the impact that the virus and other injuries had on staffing levels. While it is nice to be able to attend and to staff large recruiting events, our most effective recruiting is still done on a personal level between our current staff and those in their circle who they feel could do the job of an SRT. Please help us to fill our staff in 2021 like we did in 2020. The more people we have, the closer the stands will be in the shoulder seasons. The level of stress is much higher when stands are farther apart. High staffing levels also allows for rescue watercraft and quad ride-alongs in our peak season. It allows SRTs to be assigned for area tours on quads and to spend time on Jet Ski patrols. While incentives such as Hydro Flasks are nice additions, getting up in the morning knowing that you are going to work with a fully staffed, close-knit crew is the most effective inspiration to thoughtfully and actively search out those who can fill the role of SRT with the Ocean City Beach Patrol. Thanks for helping us prepare for 2020. Let's keep the momentum rolling through 2021.



## Off-site Testing Updates for Spring 2021

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

At this point, none of the college facilities that we have used for holding PEPSE tests for the past few years are allowing outside agencies to hold events on their campuses. We are waiting to hear back from the Salisbury YMCA. None of the colleges would speculate as to what restrictions would be in place for the spring semester. We will notify all employees of any changes to the status of our testing schedule.

**Captain's note:** During evaluation weekend (Nov 7<sup>th</sup>) we met to determine a plan for moving forward with off-site testing. With 28 candidates already signed up for our potential off-site venues, it is critical that we assure that they take place. With the uncertainty of any college testing and the reality that we cannot wait till February to firm things up, we are currently exploring other options such as private facilities, recreation centers and YMCAs. We are attempting to stay close to the locations where our PEPSEs have taken place in the past. If you know of a venue that will meet our needs, please contact Lt. Kovacs so he can explore the possibility.

## Recruiting and Testing

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

Hey Everybody! I hope this message finds you well and adjusting to whatever normal means to you in the place where you are. It was an interesting summer, to say the least, but one of the things the Beach Patrol can be most proud of is the recruitment and testing of potential candidates for the summer of 2021. You did a very good job talking with people, sharing your story and encouraging them to see what the Beach Patrol is all about.

We distributed 144 HydroFlasks as tokens of our appreciation for all the time and effort you put forth in the recruiting effort and we are grateful for that work. We've ordered a second shipment (we're almost out of the first) and Mat Postell is researching additional non-monetary compensation incentives to recognize those who already received a flask. There will be more to come on that as developments are made.

For now (yes, the summer of 2021 seems like forever away) please keep talking about your experiences on the beach, the lives you affected, the fun you had living in OC, and the challenges that you overcame to become an SRT. We always want current SRTs to return but understand that life's circumstances may not always allow for that. So, recruiting and testing remain the means we have to ensure that the 91 stands we deploy are filled each summer and that un-assigned spots, quad duty, boat duty, camps, and other opportunities during the summer can be staffed. Please continue to reach out to family and

# OCBP NEWS

friends, social media, teams at school, and other venues to spread the word.

No one really knows what 2021 holds but we all can do our part to prepare for the unknown. Please let Lt. Ward Kovacs know if you have any needs for recruiting supplies, posters, brochures, or displays. Thank you in advance for the effort you will put forth and for all you do for the Ocean City Maryland Beach Patrol.



**Lt. Skip Lee has served the Beach Patrol for 38 years. In his other life, he is the Director of Curriculum and Innovation and Design for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.**



**SRT Grace Stang manning one of our 120 life-guard stands .**

## STANDS, STANDS, STANDS!

submitted by: Lt. Skip Lee

For the first time in forever, the Beach Patrol got through the summer without any “major” stand issues. Public Works provided the replacement and repairs needed throughout the summer and each of you took care of the towers to ensure they were available the next morning when you reported to work. Special shoutout to Sgt. Kon-yar for the early morning work detail he supported to identify and repair stands right out there on the beach before guards reported to work and for diligently taking care of the Middle North throughout the summer.

Another big PLUS this year was getting the support of Jack Curry a couple of mornings to repaint the chalk board surface on the stands in order to make writing the tides, weather and surfing beach information easier each morning. Jack is a life-long friend of the Beach Patrol and supports us willingly to ensure we have what we need to do our job.

The paint crews were spectacular and I understand Huff is a monster with a power-washer. The stands are all freshly painted and stored for the winter. Lt. Kovacs and Sgt. Uebel have done a thorough analysis of the stands to determine which ones need to be disposed of and which ones still have some service left in them. Additionally, Lt. Kovacs will place orders with Public Works to replace all of the Junior Beach Patrol stands and as many SRT towers that are needed to open the 2021 season.

It goes without saying that there are a number of things that happen behind the scenes that make what we do between 10-5:30 possible so please know how much your efforts are appreciated and that they are not taken for granted. Stand care is just one example of that sort of thing and I just wanted to say thank you.

**Captain’s note:** An additional benefit of our AM and PM patrols as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Lee’s morning survey of the entire beach is that we see issues with stands in time to have it remedied before you are ready to report for work. Also, our presence on the beach (8:00 a.m.– 8:00 p.m.) deters some of the behavior that causes damage to our stands.

## PT-SRT Article

submitted by: Lt. Mike Stone

I want to thank all of the part-time SRTs who worked this past summer. We had sixteen-part timers in 2019, which is one more than in 2018. This past summer (2020) we had twenty-eight and they were ALL a big help as we worked to meet all of the normal scheduling challenges as well as those related to the COVID pandemic. PT personnel helped to cover for



veteran recertification, injured/sick SRTs, JBP, Camp Horizon, special duty, special request days off, testing, training, and or late season availability. Some were even lucky enough to assist Unit 5 with early morning duties, stand repair, or testing set-up (CC Fisher, CC Smith, & CC Emily Stang)!

The PT personnel from 2020 are as follows: Cory Bauer, Christian Beres, Summer Bingaman, Trevor Buonomo, Gabe Campbell, Carson Collier, Liam Deck, Cameron Ducey, Christian Ellis, Harrison Fisher, Will Gray, Eric Haney, Conor Johnston, Adam Keh, Dave Krabbe, Rick Krause, Colin McLaughlin, Emily Myers, Savannah O'Dell, Christine Parkent, Jackie Pickering, Jeff Roman, Matt Slomba, AJ Smith, Caroline Stang, Emily Stang, Emma Williams, Spencer Young,

The past several summers we have been encouraging PT personnel to work early in the season to help until all of our FT teachers become available. A person applying for a part time position must first be a returning guard in good standing. They should have been A-rated, passed semaphore, and be 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. Days after August 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 days after August 15<sup>th</sup>. The higher the number of days, the better chance you will be 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 me (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.** Every effort will be made to assign PT personnel to a familiar/requested crew but assignments will be based on the needs of the Beach Patrol. It would be nice if every SRT could come back and work a full time but that is highly unlikely. Remember to let me (Lt. Stone) know if you are interested in one of those part time positions. Your first opportunity will be the January preliminary intent form through Google Docs, but as long as you let me know by the April paper-work mailing, I can still send you the link to the part-time application.

## If Your Seasonal Housing Deal Seems Too Good to be true, You Need to be Aware.....



Let us help you verify SEASONAL HOUSING before you become the victim of a SCAM! Unfortunately, we have had employees arrive in Ocean City ready to move into the summer rentals they had arranged only to find out that no such rental existed, despite our repeated warnings. So how did they find this bogus rental property? The answer is through Craig's List.

Don't let this happen to you or your friends. Use a reputable local realtor and let us check it out before you send any money.

Another unfortunate practice by some landlords, is not providing what was promised when you were making arrangements for your apartment. Employees locate a rental through a private owner or "family friend" and are promised many things, only to find out that the landlord was not prepared to deliver all that was promised. But now you are in Ocean City and Beach Patrol is beginning in a day or two and you have already paid most, if not all of the rent by May 1st, and you have no other living arrangements. So, you are forced to accept this less than ideal situation.

Don't let this summer be just one more case of a scammer or a poor landlord taking advantage of you. Let us help you out by vetting the owner of the property and personally checking it out, if you can't get to Ocean City prior to moving in.

If you are a returning employee in good standing you may be able to qualify for the Town of Ocean City's, rental assistance program. To participate, you must find a property that is connected through a local real estate agency, and begin the application process with Lt. Kovacs before April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If accepted, the Town may be able to help you with some of the upfront costs, such as deposit or beginning rent, until you begin earning your salary with the Beach Patrol. Once you begin work, the funds will be deducted from payroll until all up-front costs are re-paid.

Another option is the limited employee housing at the Terri-A-While building, which is managed through the Ocean City Development Corporation and is located next to Beach Patrol Headquarters where registration and most training takes place. Again, this year I have asked them to reserve the limited spots for new employees since finding affordable housing is a challenge if you haven't lived and worked in Ocean City before. For additional information about this housing or for a housing application please contact the ODCD office at (410) 289-7739 or email questions to [glenn@ocdc.org](mailto:glenn@ocdc.org).

If you want any recommendations on possible housing or want to be connected to other Beach Patrol employees who are looking for roommates, please contact Lieutenant Kovacs [WKovacs@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:WKovacs@oceancitymd.gov).

## Junior Beach Patrol 2020

submitted by: Lt. Ward Kovacs

This past summer was obviously a challenging one in many aspects of our Beach Patrol season. Junior Beach Patrol was no exception. We were actually well into our guarding season when the final go-ahead was received to hold JBP sessions, albeit on a limited basis, and with many changes to the way we handled everything from registration to working around the bad weather days. We tried to enforce a measure of social distancing during check-in, with parents standing six feet from each other. We limited session sizes to 20-22, meaning that we had to call dozens of parents to tell them that their children were being dropped to the wait list, even though they had registered months earlier. The Governor's mandate, that no out of state residents could participate in recreation camps, made the hard decision for us, in many cases. We had more bad weather days this past summer than in all the years I can remember, combined. We were forced to retreat to the building for four sessions, and forced to cancel two days due to a tropical storm and a hurricane. Still, we were able to fill each session at our self-imposed maximum, with up to twenty-eight children on the wait list for each session. All this came on the heels of the most successful JBP season ever in 2019, a year that saw 238 members pass through the JBP ranks. We had all new JBPAIs this past season. We were unable to fill Sunny's spot (she was able to move into an SRT position at 16, based on a decision made during strategic planning last February), because of the late date that we were told we could run the program. We lost another candidate because of an underlying medical issue. Hopefully, we will fill our JBPAI ranks with five new AIs next summer, with Seth returning to round out the six spots (the other 3 successfully tested to be SRT's in 2021). Thanks to Emily Stang and Harrison

Fisher for working out the Coordinator position and to all the day leaders who continue to ensure the quality of the program.



**Jane Williams and Cate Alokones, two of the 3 JBPAIs who passed the test and will be in SRA 2021.**

## Thank You Thursdays are Appearing Again

submitted by: Kristin Josen



The Beach Patrol started a new public outreach initiative on our official Facebook page following the 2014 season and called it "Thank You Thursday". "Thank You Thursday" features a weekly posting of an un-solicited "atta-boy" that Captain Arbin has received complimenting the Beach Patrol during the past season. We thought this would be a good way to keep a Facebook presence in the "off-season" when the public is less aware of the Patrol.

Lt. Kovacs has been doing a great job and enjoys putting the Thank You Thursdays together with a picture and a safety message. We have enough to post each week until we are back in season next May. We do not post without the permission of the person who sent it. Captain Arbin has been working diligently to get the emails approved for the public to read on our Facebook page. So far everyone that he has asked has given a very positive response and said "YES" please post it. The comments and "likes" from those who have viewed them on Facebook have been overwhelmingly positive and have generated many additional complimentary responses that are posted as well as people re-sharing it to others.

This seems to be the perfect venue of sharing the many messages of gratitude and thanks that we received throughout this past season. Each "Thank You Thursday" post highlights a particular part of our mission and how our employees fulfill each of the goals of that mission. It lets the public know the many great things our lifeguards do on a daily basis and it gives credit and recognition at the same time. Whether it is an element of the training that our Surf Rescue Technicians receive, a particular rescue, or an interaction with our guards that left a positive impression on our visitors, we want to recognize the efforts of our staff to keep our beaches safe and welcoming.

Another important feature is that we highlight a safety tip that goes along with the "Thank You Thursday". With this Thursday feature we have seen a wonderful response to the posts and many people are choosing to share the post which brings an increased amount of traffic to the Beach Patrol Facebook page. 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! We hope you enjoy this outreach and help us spread the word about "Thank You Thursday" and the most important aspect of our mission, education!

# Information

## Watercraft Duty in 2021

Submitted by: Kristin Josen

Watercraft duty is a fun way to spend the workday with the OCBP and now, with a lot more time spent at home, is the perfect time to take your safe boater's course so you can make it a part of your 2021 summer. You can take the course online and be ready for Jet Drive training and certification at the beginning of this summer season. Even if you're not planning on taking Rescue Watercraft training the certificate never expires and is a requirement for OCBPSRA Instructor certification. The State of Maryland, requires you to have completed a safe boater's course prior to operating a motor vessel and it is also good if you wish to rent a boat or waverunner.

You have two options to complete this requirement:

Find a course near you: or take the course online: <http://www.boat-ed.com/maryland/> or (Google "safe boater's course" in Maryland) This course costs \$34.95

You can also go to Boat Ed's (boat-ed.com) online course and pick a different state to become certified. It has the same boating safety content as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) classroom course. This course is Maryland DNR Approved. It takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete and you complete it at your own pace over time.

Complete the course and E-mail a copy of your certificate to Debi Tyler ([DTyler@oceancitymd.gov](mailto:DTyler@oceancitymd.gov)) or bring your card with you at check-in. Get it done, start the course today, so you too can have Rescue Craft duty this summer!

Note: Rescue Watercraft Training is not available until your 2<sup>nd</sup> year, however, if you have a safe boater's certificate, get us a copy and it will be placed in your certification file so we will already have it when you're ready for the training.

### 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. We utilize many different technologies to communicate, plan and organize our coming season, but they all depend on our ability to contact you in the quickest and most effective method, which is through the use of email. However, each time I send out a group of emails I have several returned, pri-

marily because the account has not been maintained and is now "dead". To avoid this problem please make sure that you are keeping the Beach Patrol informed of any changes to your preferred email account as well as your mailing address, and that you 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. 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 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 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. As a convenient reminder for you, I often send a short text message indicating that you have an email waiting that needs attention. But just like email 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.)



### Mobile Rescue Operator – Re-certification or New certification

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

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Local News

### We say Farewell to two Long-time Council Members and Welcome their Successors



During this year's Ocean City Mayor and Council elections we lost two of Beach Patrol's longtime advocates and supporters. Both Dennis Dare and Mary Knight made the decision not to seek re-election for another term. Mary had been on the City Council for 15 years and most recently served as the Council Secretary. I will miss Mary on the council, mainly because she always looked out for our employees and asked the questions that allowed me to inform the entire council of our needs. Although she is no longer officially on the council, I am certain that her replacement will often seek her wisdom and guidance. After all, she was replaced by her husband, Dr. Frank Knight.

The other loss has a more personal impact on me. When I first met Dennis Dare he was the City Engineer and after a few attempts to secure a quality City Manager the Mayor and City Council showed great wisdom and asked Dennis to be the New City Manager. As City manager, I met with him on various occasions including budget hearings. During his tenure as City Manager the Beach Patrol budget allowed us to make great strides in securing a salary structure that was not only competitive throughout the Delmarva area, but put us at the top of all the surrounding areas. Another contribution that Dennis made is instituted by every SRT every day at 5:25. It was one day that Dennis was on the beach when he saw the "UP" signal and each SRT stood for five minutes before blowing off and leaving the beach, but that was all there was to it. So, the next time he saw me he asked why we don't get everyone out of the ocean before we leave so there is no chance that someone doesn't understand that we are going off duty for the day. My response was, "because we never thought of it". Starting the next day and continuing now for many years, we pull everyone out of the ocean before we leave for the day, thanks to a suggestion from Dennis. We will never know how many lives have been saved by this practice, but I assure you that it is dozens. Dennis also told me on many occasions, that one goal he had before he retired was to build a new Beach Patrol Headquarters. Unfortunately, he left the City Manager position before he was able to accomplish that goal. However, he wasn't done yet. Dennis made a successful bid for a council seat during the next election and told me, "Now I can finish my goal". Well, as they say, the rest is history. The next time you're in our building, go to the lobby and look at the plaque. You will see Dennis Dare's name prominently

displayed in raised letters, just below that of Mary Knight.

Although, it is always hard to lose dedicated elected officials who understand our mission and our operation, I want to welcome our two newest council members. Peter Buas and Frank Knight are beginning their first terms as members of the City Council and I want to congratulate them both.

We also want to congratulate Mayor Rick Meehan who was re-elected for another two-year term as well as Tony DeLuca and John Gehrig who successfully defended their council seats.

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*(Mobile Rescue Operator continued from page 13)*  
file before May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Previously certified Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) or Beach Patrol vehicle operators, who possess a current Maryland Driver's License, will have a copy of your driving record requested for you at no cost. However, if you do not have a Maryland Driver's License or if you plan to become certified as a Mobile Rescue Unit (quad) operator for the first time (new ACCs) this season, you need to obtain a current non-certified or certified complete driving record from the Department of Motor Vehicles (MVA) from the state that issued your driver's license. You may E-mail the driving record to Captain Arbin or mail it along with your returning paperwork in April, but we need it by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Newly certified Mobile Rescue Unit operators, even with a Maryland Drivers License, will need a copy of your driving record prior to becoming certified.

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

[https://dmvnev.com/50\\_state\\_dmv\\_list.html](https://dmvnev.com/50_state_dmv_list.html)

Note: Current certification as a Mobile Rescue Unit operator is required for all Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs which includes a valid driver's license. SRTs who are not Crew Chiefs or Assistant Crew Chiefs are not required to certify or re-certify, however, once certified you may remain current by re-certifying on a yearly basis. All new and returning ACCs must become Mobile Rescue Unit operators, certified this season and must present a copy of your driving record prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>. First time certification is a two-step process: Step one is attending an OCBPSRA classroom and skill training course (voluntary); Step two is being scheduled for a full day ride along with an OCBPSRA ATV instructor. Any employee trained as an SRT who is Mobile Rescue Unit operator certified, must agree to be available to work two AM (8:00 – 10:00) or PM (5:30 – 8:00) extended patrol shifts per two week schedule

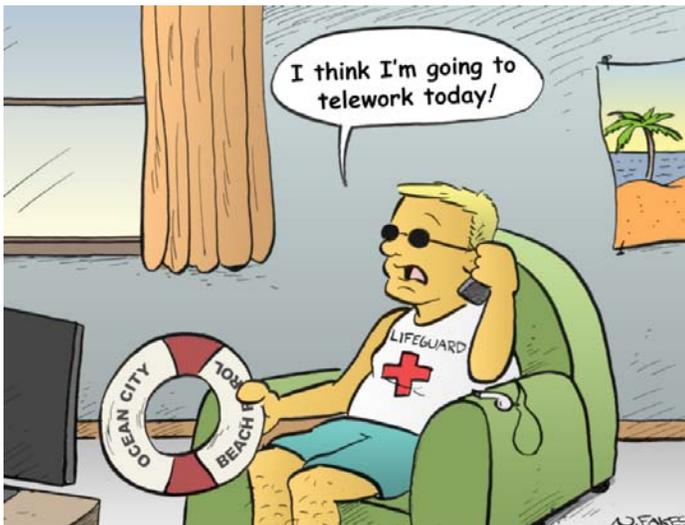
# Announcements



CC Harrison Fisher and his wife Stephanie had their second child in early November. Lucas Quynn Fisher was born 7lb 14oz. Mom and son are doing well! Congratulations.

## 20 Years and Counting

Although we appreciate all of our employees we highlight those with 20 or more years with the presentation of a special certificate signed by both the Department head and City Manager. This season we honored two of our dedicated employees at the completion of their 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Town of Ocean City as members of the Beach Patrol. Pictured below are Sergeant Ben Davis and Office Associate Stella Malone. For a list of other long term Beach Patrol employees check out the article on pages 6 and 7 of this fall/winter Semaphore News.

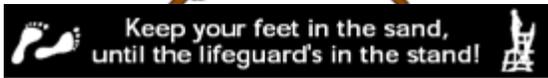


It is difficult for some professions to adapt to the new quarantine requirements, and the results can be quite hilarious. This highlights the struggles of everyone trying to continue making a living in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

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

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

Email: barbin@oceancitymd.gov



Follow us on Facebook, and Instagram



**www.ococean.com/ocbp**

**Do You Want OCBP License Plates?**

If you do, you must complete the following:

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



**Important, Important!!!!**

- In order to 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.

**January 1 (Wed)** - Penguin Plunge, Mayor's Open House  
**Late January** – Google Docs preliminary employment survey and interest in promotion to CC or appointment as ACC  
*Due to uncertain PEPSE dates and Locations the following are TBA*  
**February - March** - Strategic Planning (SP) (Officers and Crew Chiefs)  
**February - March (Sun after SP)**– Salisbury PEPSE (reg. 10:00 - 10:45)  
**March (Sat)** – York, PA Area PEPSE (registration 10:00 -10:45)  
**March (Sat)** – Metro DC area PEPSE (registration 10:00 -10:45)  
**March 29 (Mon)** - Mailing of Spring Newsletter (invitations to return included)

**April 22 (Thurs)** - Employee Agreements due back with request for assignment and documentation of last day.  
**April 24 (Sat)** - Officer mandatory mtg (ACC appointments and CC Promotions)  
**April 25 (Sun)** - PEPSE (off-site test) Ocean Pines (registration 9:00 - 9:45)  
**May 22-23 (Sat)** – Officer Work weekend , CC paperwork /check-in (no drug test)

**May 23 (Sun)** – Officer and CC Drug testing (9:00 – 10:30)  
**May 23 (Sun)** – SRA I check-in (Drug test, paperwork, equipment, orientation)  
**May 24 (Mon)** – May 30 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy I  
**May 25 (Tues)** – May 28 (Friday) - Returning Staff Drug Test and paperwork check-in and equipment pick-up (Time slot will be scheduled)  
**May 29 (Sat)** - 7:00 am Prayer Service, 8:00 am leadership meeting, 10:00 am first day guarding  
**May 31 (Memorial Day)** – 8:00 am Weekly In-Service MTG

**June 5 (Sat)** - PEPSE Ocean City (registration 9:00 - 9:45)  
**June 12 (Sat)** - PEPSE Ocean City (registration 9:00 - 9:45)  
**June 20 (Sun)** – June 27 (Sunday) – Surf Rescue Academy II  
**June 29 – July 10** – Veteran re-qualification and re-certification