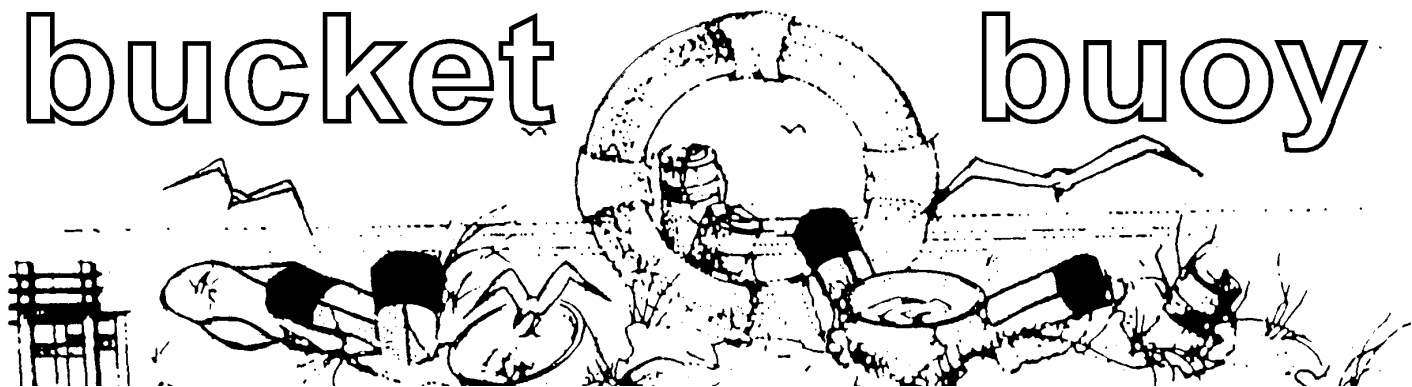


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

May 21, 2005

Here we go again. What else can I say? As we exit April, referred to by T.S. Eliot as “the cruelest month”, and enter May we sense the imminent change of season. The signs are all there. The tulips flaring, the sweet smelling lilacs blooming and the baby geese appearing with their parents along the parkways all hint of the time to come. But the truth is that they all pale as harbingers compared to the real sign of the impending summer, **the rehire!** (See picture below for the real rehire test)



For months now, at pools across Long Island, groups of winter weary lifeguards have been putting in both hours and miles swimming back and forth in a chlorinated liquid just to prepare for this day. We wish everyone the best of luck and this resounding message. **Welcome back!**

This year has not been the easiest one for your Executive Board. We met about twice a month throughout the winter both with the Board and with the State to try to workout our issues. As a negotiating body we were lucky to have joining us two of the best lifeguard equipment experts one could find anywhere, Bob Adler and Cary Epstein. Their knowledge made a big difference this year in both uniforms and equipment.

Unfortunately Tommy Hilfiger had to pull out as suppliers of our uniforms due to financial constraints. This left a big and unexpected gap in what we had anticipated for the summer. Fortunately Bob stepped in and working with the State has provided us with a package that not only looks similar to the Hilfiger uniform but in many ways is superior to what we have been issued in the past.

Cary, on the other hand, being an expert in anything electric that has to do with lifeguarding was able to convince the State to put 6 AED out to the beach front in the hands of lifeguards to help save lives in cardiac emergencies. He also was the driving force behind the new radios that we will be issued this year to replace the toy ones we had last year. Thanks Cary.

The timely passing of the budget in Albany, for the first time in twenty years, also adversely affected us. Once again monies were cut from the Parks temporary and seasonal budget. Tough decisions had to be made and discussed with the Union. Although we made out alright there were many changes. The biggest one is the closing of WE II during the week.

At one time WE II was one of the most popular beaches at Jones Beach. It was the place to go with the High School and College crowd. However, over the years, other beaches became in style and WE II's use diminished as its popularity faded. Although the State wanted to close the west end of the park to all bathing full time the Executive Board fought hard to at least keep it open on week-ends hoping that as trends change the public will once again rediscover the natural beauty of that beach.

On the other hand after years of lobbying we were successful in getting both pools open full time and (this one is quite a feather in our caps) RM4 open four (4) days a week. While the EBH Pool will be used mostly for day camps during the week the present administration seems to understand that it makes no sense to have millions of dollars worth of buildings sitting idle during most of the season while jamming the public into smaller and smaller areas.

This Parks Administration is also setting up a new State Park in Jamesport which hopefully will, within the next couple of years, include a bathing beach with lifeguard protection.

Unfortunately this winter also brought out information that led to several grievances against the State that are still awaiting resolution. As many of you know three of your Executive Board members are involved in litigation in Supreme Court having been sued for millions of dollars by a lifeguard who wasn't promoted to a coordinator position **that was never created**. In the course of that lawsuit depositions were held for days upon days which revealed some interesting facts. It was revealed that contrary to the explicit terms and conditions of our contract forbidding it, the State has kept secret files of lifeguards with negative information in them. Although our statewide contract states that this information must be shown to the lifeguard before being put in their personnel files, by having secret files, this information never has to be shared with the employee. Decisions negatively impacting an employee can be made without the employee ever having been given the chance to defend himself.

As soon as we found that out about these “rat” files we put in a grievance at the local level. In an absolutely amazing decision the State denied the Step 1 decision saying that these files were turned over pursuant to a subpoena and that even though the files were turned over and were testified to by the State's employee under oath, we didn't prove they existed??? However in the classic tradition of Orwellian doublespeak the State did say that “*If complainant(s) wishes to review their personnel folders, then he may make a request to do so pursuant to the Contract. If documents that are not contained in the employee's personal history folder are at issue, then the source of those documents will be determined and a subsequent decision will be made as to the disposition of those documents.*”

In other words the State will let you look for these secret files in a place they know they aren't, then when you can't find them they will make a decision what to do with them. Huh? I can't wait to see what Steve Levy does with this one.

In the same course of these depositions it was also revealed that the State was turning over private medical records without notifying the lifeguards concerned or waiting for a court order. The State's reply to that grievance was that since the plaintiff's attorney requested them we turned them over. Well so much for the privacy acts that Congress enacted.

Needless to say both of these grievances are going up to Albany for a Step 2 hearing. We will keep you informed.



In April, a contingent of close to 20 Jones Beach family and friends arrived in Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula for a week of clean waves, warm water, cold Imperials, great food, memorable moments and some tall tales of perfect tube rides to bring back for opening day at Jones Beach.



The Juniors gleaming pearls of Lifeguarding wisdom
JB JR LIFEGUARD TRYOUTS

By Scott Reigel

This year's tryouts will be held Saturday June 11, 2005 from 10 am-12pm at the East Bath Pool and Sunday, June 19th from 10 am-12 pm at the EBP.

The first session will begin Sunday, June 26th at 8:00 am – 10 am at the EBP. The program will run each Sunday through August.

The fee this year will be \$60.00 due at registration.

This year we will be hosting the 2nd annual JR tournament which will take place Monday, July 18th at the EBHO front.

Again, this program is ours and your help is needed (in pay status). We will need a pool of about 30 guards just to insure we have about 20 every Sunday. This comes down to a safety issue. Even if you can make a couple of weeks your help would be appreciated. So again, please call me at Field 6 or e-mail me at Sea-fire124@aol.com so I can start the list of guards. – Thanks



Don't forget the Thunderbirds this Memorial Day Weekend

USLA SUMMER 2005

By: Cary Epstein

Let me start off by saying welcome back to everyone! Today is finally the day that most of us have been waiting for since we left the beach last September! Hope everyone had a great winter and I know we are all looking forward another great season. A couple of things you need to know. If you have not checked out the lifeguard website go to www.jblifeguard.com. The site was designed for us so that you can find any important dates or information that you might need to know. Read the Bucket and Buoy in color, sign up for the JB chapter of the USLA, check the surf report, look at pictures, find out what's going on around the beach and talk or post a message on our new lifeguard forum!

On another note, the USLA has been working hard this winter to get our lifeguard tournaments and things ready for summer 2005. Don't forget to sign up and support the Jones Beach chapter of the USLA on the lifeguard website! While attending a USLA meeting this past winter, the mid-atlantic region expressed their condolences on the loss of JB lifeguard Matthew Lynch. Matt was a lifeguard at the West Bathhouse Ocean for several years and was killed fighting as a Marine this past October in Iraq. Matt always traveled with the competition team and for all the years he was a lifeguard was a proud member of the USLA. I am proud to announce that after several meetings with the mid-atlantic region, they have agreed to rename the run-swim-run the "Matt Lynch Memorial run-swim-run" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional lifeguard tournament this July in Delaware. This is something we should all be very proud of. As you walk around today, long sleeve t-shirts are being worn in his memory. You can purchase a long sleeve t-shirt in remembrance of Matt today for only \$15. All the proceeds will be going to the Matt Lynch Memorial Fund and to help build a memorial for him at the beach.

Show your support for the JB chapter of the USLA. Membership fee is only \$30. You can fill out your application on line and mail a check or money order made out to "Jones Beach Chapter USLA" and drop it off in the orange lock box in the CM shack or send it to: Cary Epstein 41 Avalon Road, Hewlett, NY 11557. All are welcome to participate in this years events and we especially hope to see a large group of JB lifeguards supporting this year's special event, the "Matt Lynch memorial run-swim-run". Looking forward to processing all your USLA memberships!

USLA Dates to Remember: USLA Regionals July 13th, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware (Show your support for Matt Lynch) - USLA All Womens Lifeguard Tournament July 27th Sandy Hook, NJ - USLA National Lifeguard Tournament in Virginia Beach, VA August 11th-13th



A scene from 2004's hurricane season as 2005's begins

CPR/AED UPDATE

By Frank Salino

Welcome back for the 2005 season. As you are aware as a member of The Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps you need to be certified annually in CPR/AED Pro. Below you will find information regarding the dates and times of the classes and how to sign up to reserve a spot. Please follow the instructions so that I can staff the classes with the appropriate number of instructors.

Each year the lifeguard corps offers six class sessions in pay status to re-certify its members. Each lifeguard who attends a class is paid for three hours of time. All of the course paperwork is dated 7/11 (July 11) and has been for the past three seasons. If you have attended the classes in the past and attend one this year, you are covered for the entire 2005 season. If you are one of the few who are certified on your own-you must have a date of 7/11/05 or later to attend one of the sponsored classes.

If you have had difficulty receiving your CPR cards at the beach in past and want to avoid any delays, bring a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the class and I will mail you your card. Otherwise the cards are given out by Captains a few weeks after 7/11.

To sign up for a class date just call or e-mail Frank Salino and leave your name, phone number and date requested. If you do not hear from me, all is good. I will contact you if there is any problem. Call (631) 968-8808 or e-mail FASalino@aol.com at least one week prior to the date requested.

When you arrive at the class session, bring \$15 cash. No checks or credit cards or money orders or travelers checks will be accepted. Sign in takes a few minutes, so arrive on time and park only in designated parking spaces. The class is scheduled for three hours. You will be asked to watch a video that lasts approximately one hour, take a written test and perform six practical tasks.

The dates, times and locations are as follows: June 11, 16, 21, 27 and July 6 at the WBH meeting room 7:00-10:00 pm and July 9 at Sunken Meadow east concession stand 7:00-10:00 pm

THE COMICS

Standing on the beach the other day, I was wondering why Frisbees look bigger and bigger the closer they get. Then it hit me.
 * * * * *

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and one night he's doing a show in a small club in a small town in Arkansas. With his dummy on his knee, he's going through his usual dumb blonde jokes when a blonde woman in the fourth row stands on her chair and starts shouting: "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does the color of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community and from reaching our full potential as a person, because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against, not only blondes, but women in general...and all in the name of humor!"

The ventriloquist is embarrassed and begins to apologize, when the blonde yells, "You stay out of this, mister! I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee!"