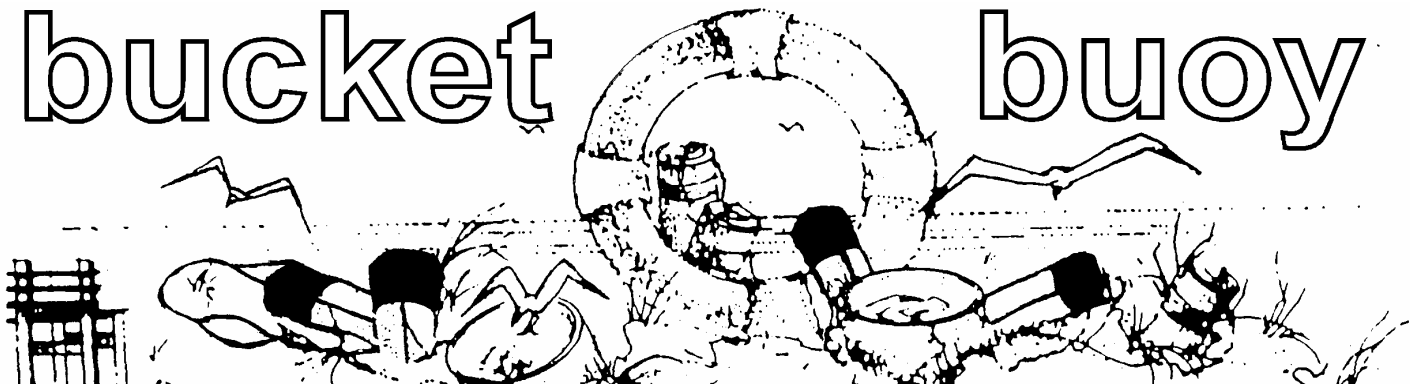


# bucket buoy



**Dear Fellow Lifeguards:**

**June 12, 2005**

There is no sadder way to start an issue than the reporting of the untimely death of one of our brothers. Casey Pasquale passed away Friday night at the age of 30.

I personally have known Casey since he was born. I watched him develop from a little sand rat to a wonderful young man. I watched as he discovered the ocean as a little boy and grow to love it as an avid surfer.

I remember how John, his father and my first Lieutenant, was so proud when Casey was born. I will never forget the crew shot where John brought little 1 year old Casey up with him to the stand for the annual picture. Of course Casey eventually became a lifeguard and a fireman following in his Dad's footsteps. There never seemed to be any question as to him doing anything else.

I remember how often I would see him out in the waves, even during the coldest of winters, surfing along, always with a smile on his face and always seeming to know everyone in the water. I remember the day we were all surfing and one of the girls dislocated her shoulder in the waves. Casey came running out of the water and left his board on the beach to make sure she was accompanied to the emergency room. He stayed there to make sure they didn't cut her wetsuit off to X-ray the shoulder (it was a brand new full winter wetsuit and Casey knew how pissed she would be if it was chopped up) and he didn't leave to get back to his board until he knew she was okay. Talk about having your priorities straight.

I remember talking to him between sets as he would tell me about his father and what he had been up to. Casey would tell me about John's trials and tribulations and how he worried about his Dad's health. You could tell how much he loved his Dad. And then a wave would come in and Casey would lie down on his board, take a few strokes and surf across the beach so obviously enjoying his life and his passion.

There always seems to be something unfair when someone so young and full of life is taken from us. He was our brother as a lifeguard, a friend as a fellow surfer and just a wonderful guy. I am really going to miss him.

The wake is being held at the Bartholomew Funeral Home, 302 S. Bedford Ave, Bellmore, New York 11710 (516-785-0225) on Monday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30p.m. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at St Barnabas Church, Bellmore.



*Casey Pasquale & Dad in his very first crew picture*



*Bob Adler trying to keep order to 300 Jr. contenders*

## **JUNIOR LIFEGUARD TRYOUTS**

This Saturday tryouts for the Junior Lifeguards were held at the WBHP and it really showed the success of the program. About 300 aspiring Juniors showed up willing to vie for a chance to work with the best Lifeguard Corp in the world. It was surprising how many nine years olds alone there were. The heats seemed to go on forever. What was even more surprising was the talent some of these kids showed, many of them showing that even at their age they could qualify for the Corp. From the looks of things it appears that the JBLG Junior Competition Team will be the one setting the standards at all Junior LG contests this year. Go Team!!!

There will be another tryout on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am so if you know a youngster that may be interested please let them know. And PLEASE, PLEASE volunteer to help out on Sunday mornings. You can do this in pay status and your help is really needed. It has been shown that teachers are among the most influential people in a child's life. You could be the one making that difference. Give it a shot, please. For info call Scott at Field 6 or e-mail him at [Seafire124@aol.com](mailto:Seafire124@aol.com) in some



*They look exhausted after swimming in that chilly water*

## **ROOKIE TRAINERS NEEDED**

The JBLC Rookie trainers (you Rookies remember them – the guys and girls that you thought the State hired to torture you but who you later realized actually made you better lifeguards) are looking for some group leaders for this year's training. The people they are looking for must possess; a positive attitude, self confidence, good communication skills, knowledge and competence in all lifeguarding skills and equipment and a broad base of prior experience to share with the rookies.

They must also be competent in analyzing relevant movements and be able to provide critique in a positive manner. They should be strong role models for the rookies they lead.

If this sounds like something that you would be interested in please give Ed Peters a call at Field 6 – ext. 618.



*Eddie moves the "Board" as Steve watches at last night's draft*

## Stalking a Killer That Lurks a Few Feet Offshore

By CORNELIA DEAN -Edited from the NY Times - June 7, 2005

When people think about natural hazards, they usually think about tornadoes or hurricanes or earthquakes. But there is another natural hazard that takes more lives in an average year in the United States than any of those - rip currents.

Each year in American waters, rip currents pull about 100 panicked swimmers to their deaths. According to the United States Lifesaving Association, lifeguards pull out at least 70,000 Americans from the surf each year, 80 percent from rip currents.

Because these drownings and near drownings occur one by one, year-round, up and down the coasts, few people recognize rip currents as a major hazard. Only in recent years have meteorologists and coastal geologists begun to measure rip currents precisely in the field and model them in detail in laboratory wave tanks.

The goal is to save lives. The researchers hope to devise ways of predicting when and where rip currents are most likely to occur, so managers will know when to add lifeguards or close the beaches.

Rip currents are often erroneously called riptides or undertow, but they are not caused by tidal action. And although waders knocked off their feet by rip currents may end up underwater, the currents themselves pull people along the surface, not down.

Usually rip currents are narrow. But sometimes, according to the National Weather Service, they can be hundreds of yards wide. And although they usually run out of steam just beyond the breakers, they may carry swimmers hundreds of yards offshore.

Rip currents form when wind, wave and beach conditions combine to push up water on the beach so that when it flows back out to sea a large volume is squeezed into a relatively narrow passage at a low place in a sandbar, perhaps, or under a pier. A result is a swath of fast-moving water that cuts across the surf zone, where waves are breaking, carrying sand, seaweed and, sometimes, swimmers with it. In fact savvy surfers rely on rip currents for free rides beyond the surf zone.

But unwary bathers may wade into the water only to find themselves suddenly swept away. If they keep their heads and swim across the current, parallel to shore, they can escape its grip and make their way back to the beach.

But swimmers who try to fight rip currents quickly exhaust themselves and may drown. Would-be rescuers are often among the casualties of rip currents. That was apparently what happened Sunday at Rockaway Beach, Queens, where rip currents are not uncommon. Three 16-year-old boys were swept away - one escaped, one was rescued, but the third is missing, and a man who tried to save him later died of a heart attack.

Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University in Miami, said some people called rip currents "the drowning machine," because of their almost mechanical ability to exhaust swimmers.

Dr. Francis Shepard, the pioneering marine geologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, drew conclusions about rip currents through simple observation of the beach in the 1940's. For example, Shepard found that that they were stronger when wave heights were bigger, and fewer but stronger in heavy weather. They also seem to have more force at low tide.

Much of what Shepard had to say about rip currents has held up, Dr. Thornton said, adding: "We do know that rip currents are stronger when the wave heights are bigger. We have measurements, and they also are stronger when the tide is lower."

But when Dr. Thornton and his colleagues analyzed data from instruments on the California coast, they found that rip currents created in nature did not necessarily resemble those created in computer models or in laboratory wave tanks.

"There are probably 100 arguments why rip currents form on an open beach," said Dr. Jamie MacMahan, a postdoctoral fellow at Monterey who worked with Dr. Thornton in San Diego and at Monterey Bay. "There are lots of hypotheses."

While working on his doctorate at the University of Florida a few years ago, Dr. MacMahan participated in efforts to correlate data from sensors on buoys off Daytona Beach with rescue logs of

the town's lifeguards, to see whether offshore wave patterns were linked to rip currents at the beach. It was a good place to work, he said, because the beach is blessed with an array of instruments attached to offshore buoys that track wave characteristics.

But it was difficult to draw firm conclusions from the data, he said, because lifeguards do not always use the same standards in logging a rescue as rip related. Also, if rip currents are occurring, lifeguards may order people out of the water, reducing the number of rescues just when the hazard is greatest.

Worst of all, Dr. MacMahan said, was "the human factor," the fact that people do not go to the beach at uniform rates. They go mostly on weekends and in good weather.

Rip-current drownings and near drownings occur on every state with an ocean coast, most often in California and Florida, which have long coastlines and long beach seasons.

According to Jim Lushine, who retired this year as warning coordinator at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Miami, 296 people drowned in rip currents in Florida from 1989 to last year, more than the total killed in the state by lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes combined.

Mr. Lushine, who presented this data at a recent conference on beaches at Florida International University, said that nationwide only heat, which on average kills 237 Americans a year, is a more lethal natural hazard than rip currents. Shark attacks, the perennial media favorite, barely rate a mention in Mr. Lushine's roster. On average, 0.6 Americans are killed by sharks each year, he said.

Mr. Lushine has developed a scale that combines wind, wave and other factors to rate the risk of rip currents as high, medium or low, and some weather service offices now include the risk for rip currents in their forecasts.

It is not clear how useful these warnings will be, Lushine conceded in his presentation, because rip currents are highly localized. Dr. Holman said it might one day be possible to post camera systems at individual beaches and print out daily maps of where rip currents are flowing.

"The lifeguards are very interested in this," he said, "because a map makes it a little more meaningful."

Meanwhile, though, even scientists who are researching rip currents agree that the most important way to reduce rip currents deaths is to teach people how to swim, and how to swim their way out of a current. "The biggest thing is not to panic," Dr. MacMahan said. "The more we can educate, the better."



*AJ and charges getting ready for a 100 yard swim*

## THE COMICS

### Some of Life's One-liners:

When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met

I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol

I intend to live forever - so far, so good

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

Quantum Mechanics: The dreams stuff is made of

Support bacteria - they're the only culture some people have

The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.



*Claude and his group well before the ocean swim*