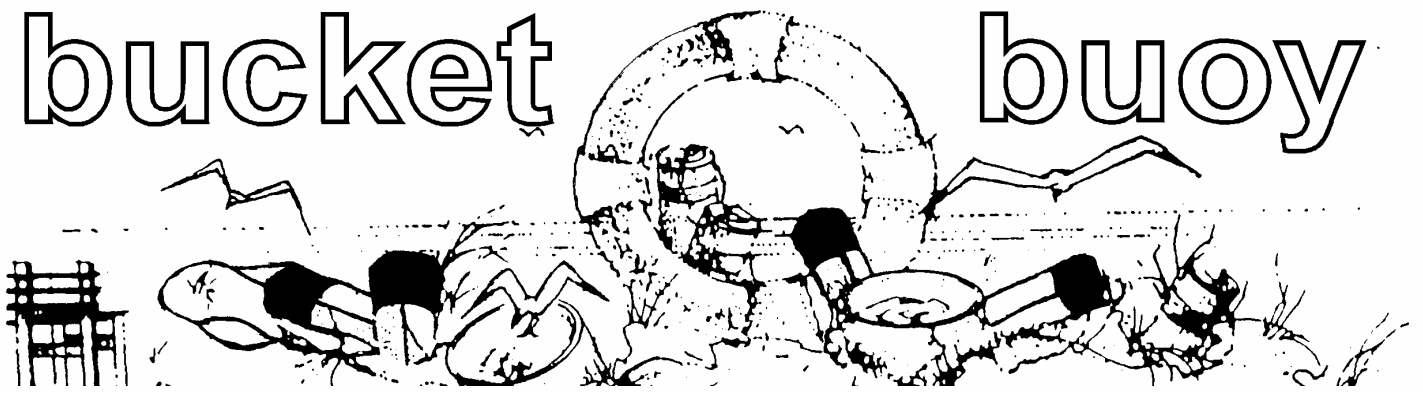


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

June 18, 2006 – Happy Father's Day

Thursday afternoon, the remnants of the first Tropical storm of the season blew by Long Island albeit far out to sea but close enough to give us an afternoon of swell. Although the morning had been flat, by the mid afternoon there were overhead sets coming in with a straight north wind.

Of course, we week-enders didn't even know about it until Saturday when we were subjected to story after story about incredible rides on a perfect afternoon. Hey, haven't you guys heard of telephones? What about us poor slobs stuck in our offices? Are we not humans too? If we are cut, do we not bleed? If there are waves do we not leave work and surf?

But speaking of surfing, it looked like some of our message is finally getting across. Saturday, a memo came out that put surfing back in our program. The rules are still the same. No surfing in protected area ("areas designated by green flags extending out to the sandbar if applicable.") Wear a lifeguard rash guard or T-shirt and a whistle so public knows you are a lifeguard. Any board stored in shacks or shed are done so at your own risk. Finally, "no standing while patrolling on state issued surfboards in front of protected bathing area at any time while beach is open for swimming."

These are the rules we have lived with for years. We have no problem with them and are happy that the State finally came to their senses. On the other hand I have to applaud the Corps for sticking together on this issue. It was clear that the Lifeguards were not going to put up with this nonsense and that storm clouds were brewing. Congratulations Lifeguards - you stuck together and on this one **you won!!!**



Look at all this bundled talent giving the new hire test

THE NEWEST ATTACK

In their never ending quest to disrupt and harass the lifeguard corps, the State managed to sink to a new low this week. On Friday evening the State called up several of the new hires who they had already promised jobs and had already given uniforms to and told them that they were no longer had a job. The reason – they didn't have 20/40 uncorrected vision (even thought they had perfect 20/20 vision corrected).

As anyone who has been around knows, in the past in order to be a Lifeguard on the ocean one has to have 20/40 corrected vision. This has been the case for the last 30 or so years, since the advent of contacts. So why the sudden change?

Well it seems that over the years more and more of the lifeguard corps has gone to contacts to correct their vision. The reason for the shift in vision is that any society that spends the amount of time that we Americans do, reading and sitting in front of our computers, are bound to have deteriorating distance vision. Why do you think we see so many ads for eye glasses and contacts? That is the price we pay for living in an intellectual nation.

In the past we had applauded the State for their progressive thinking in realizing that the contacts of today can be used for

swimming as if a person's vision was perfect. After all which is better, 20/40 uncorrected or 20/20 corrected?

The truth is that the danger of swimming with contacts is the possibility of infection, not so much that the contact will fall out. Today, when disposable contacts are all the rage, that worry no exists. The fact is soft contact lens adhere better in water than they do on dry land. So what is the problem?

I know many of you are getting tired of reading of the constant attacks on this union by the State. The truth is that the State would be happier if all the "old guys" just went away. Unfortunately for the State, even with all their efforts of screwing with the rehire test and constantly changing what they have negotiated, the "old guys" keep coming back in record numbers.

So what does the State go and do? They decide to secretly, and without any of the required negotiations, change the physical requirements for new lifeguards. And when do they do this? The night before these new hires are to report to their jobs.

Once again I hear from members of the corps, "well so what, it doesn't affect me." What is so scary is I even hear that from members of the Executive Board.

Yes, they do have a point, **this year** it doesn't affect them. But if we sit by and let the State unilaterally change the physical requirement for the job it will just be a matter of time until it affects **YOU**.

We have seen the unrelenting attacks this year. Although some of "the 17" were finally rehired, there are still several of them who the State has refused to rehire. When I inquired why some were rehired and not others, I was told that it was because of the severity of the crime and the recentness of the events.

So let's look at the crimes of some of these non-hirees. How about attempted trespass six years ago! Or surfing at Robert Moses. You can't make this stuff up.

And where is NYSCOPBA while our guys are being denied employment. Yesterday when I spoke to Keith Zokul he told me it was the weekend and he would have to get back to me on Monday. Well we shouldn't expect too much for our \$100,000 worth of dues each year. After all it is "the weekend."

We are still awaiting an answer from them as to how we can have Shop Stewards when none of our members are qualified due to the six month continuous employment rule. For some reason, NYSCOPBA refuses to answer that question.

We have asked for years for a constitutional amendment so that our members can vote. Not only has that been turned down by the main body of NYSCOPBA, but additional requests to reintroduce the amendments (which we drafted at their request last year) have been ignored. Yet, every two weeks, our dues come out like clockwork.



Brian M. gets pumped up at this morning's GC triathlon

THANKS FROM THE HEART

By Reggie Jones

It was 1948, and there was a beautiful young girl working as a cashier at the East Bath house. Naturally, I was hitting on her. She told me she was 18, but she was only 17. Her older sister told her not to go out with that L.G. Reggie Jones; he was too fast. FAST? It took 3 dates to kiss her.

We married and I was so lucky to have such a wonderful wife for 58 years. I've been blessed to have great sons with her. Betty passed away recently, and I will be spreading her ashes in the ocean off the East Bath house as she requested, because it was where we met. I wish to thank all the lifeguards that have become my second family for their warm felt support.

Thank you, Reggie Jones



Former Lifeguards Ron Hoffman and Nancy Lynch with their Jr. LG daughter - The tradition continues

JR. LIFEGUARDS 2006

By Scott Reigel

2006 marks the seventh year for the Junior Lifeguard program. From 21 participants the first year to well more than that expected this year, the program has not only exceeded my personal expectations but has also become a personal favorite of our Group Leaders and their assistants. Which is why beginning **Sunday, June 25, 2006 from 8-10 AM**, I'm hoping that all the Group Leaders for the 2005 season elect to return to help train our Junior Lifeguards again this year. We will also need many assistants to work with each group.

The program is held at the East Bathhouse Ocean/Pool and will run **every Sunday** morning through August 13. Not only will you receive two hours in pay status but you'll also experience the fulfillment of teaching young children and teenagers things such as the ins and out of lifeguarding, how to appreciate and read the ocean, and how to train as a lifeguard.

The Junior Lifeguards will participate in a variety of competitions throughout the summer including, on July 17, the Third Annual Jones Beach Lifeguard Junior Lifeguard Tournament. More information is available on www.jblifeguard.com. Once again, thanks to all who have worked with the Junior Lifeguard program in the past as well as to those who will be part of its future. Extra special thanks to our sponsors, FPL Energy and Sundown Ski and Surf.



Scott taking applications for this year's juniors

HONORING FRANK'S LIFE

On Saturday, June 24th at 9:00 am at the veranda of the EBHO at Jones Beach a simple service will take place, which will include the launching of an ocean dory, in celebration and commemoration of Frank Russell's life. Frank was a long time JB-RM lifeguard and a dear friend to many. The dory has been donated by the generosity of his friends and family in Frank's name to the JB RM Lifeguard Corps and will be assigned to Robert Moses Field 2.

If you plan to attend a favor of a reply via e-mail or phone would be appreciated so that the caterer can be provided with an approximate number for light refreshments following the service. Please respond to David Russell: drlanyc@aol.com or 718-891-8146

Beach attire is acceptable. Please come rain or shine.



Paul tells little Joan Cash his funniest RM 5 joke

THE COMICS

A man is in bed with his wife when there is a rat-a-tat-tat on the door. He rolls over and looks at his clock, and it's half past three in the morning. "I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks, and rolls over. Then, a louder knock follows.

"Aren't you going to answer that?" says his wife.

So, he drags himself out of bed and goes downstairs. He opens the door and there is a man standing at the door. It doesn't take the homeowner long to realize the man is drunk.

"Hi there," slurs the stranger. "Can you give me a push?"

"No, get lost! It's half past three! I was in bed!" screams the man as he slams the door. He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened.

She remarks, "Dave, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby sitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"

"But the guy was drunk," says the husband.

"It doesn't matter," explains the wife. "He needs our help and it would be nice to help him."

So, the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs. He opens the door but he can't see the stranger anywhere in the dark, so he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push?"

He hears a voice cry out, "Yes, please."

"Where are you?" shouts the homeowner.

The stranger calls back, "I'm over here, on your swing."



New hires (before the vision cut) await their assignments