

bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 2, 2006

Here we are, at the peak of summer already. The Fourth! The water is even trying to warm up enough for some comfortable non-wetsuit swimming. The key word is trying. We get a day of tepid water and then back into the low 60's. What that usually means is warm water in September and October. And a late tropical storm season, (maybe even later than last season, when we had tropical storms through December.) Could mean a fall of waves!

Meanwhile back at home and in the present, our fight with NYSCOPBA and NY State Parks continues. Since Parks disbanded our Shop Stewards and Executive Board, we have put in an Improper Practice Charge with PERB in Albany, charging Parks with multiple violations of the Taylor Law.

Whether Parks wants to admit it or not, the JBLC is a valid employee organization under the Taylor Law and as such can not be interfered with without violating New York State Law.

Although there is no question that NYSCOPBA caused the disbanding of our local union, Parks, who has been dealing with the JBLC for about 35 years, should have just ignored the request. Instead they were too anxious to comply, figuring that we would just go quietly into the night without NYSCOPBA's support. Guess they are finding out now how wrong they were.

What amazes me even more is the blatant disregard NYSCOPBA has for our rights and problems. With all our troubles, we haven't seen them come down at all this year to help us out.

They make all sorts of promises but refuse to put anything in writing. Steve Levy and Bob Adler have been waiting since May 3rd for a letter from NYSCOPBA on lifeguard issues. For the last week and a half it has *"been in the mail."*

Grievances sent up to NYSCOPBA seem to disappear into a black hole. We are still waiting for answers for a grievance from 1999 and haven't heard anything about this year's grievance. But every two weeks, like clockwork our paychecks have \$17.59 taken out of them, even if you only worked 2 hours during that period.

What I really don't understand is the drive by certain lifeguards at a RM beach to get the NYSCOPBA cards signed. These advocates keep spreading the same distorted facts that NYSCOPBA feeds them, that if we fill out the cards we can vote for our shop stewards. No matter how many times you show them **in writing in NYSCOPBA's own constitution** where it clearly and unequivocally says that you have to work 6 continuous months in order to vote for or be considered for a shop steward's position, these lifeguards close their eyes to that fact and answer the same mantra *"but NYSCOPBA promised..."* Unfortunately when we tell them to tell NYSCOPBA to put it in writing, their hearing suddenly shuts down and somehow nothing ever gets written down.

The fact is that NYSCOPBA's anxiety to have us sign their cards seems to be strictly financial. You should note that if you sign the cards you not only can not ask for you agency fee shop money back, but you also authorize NYSCOPBA *"to make any adjustment deductions necessary for the purpose of payment of annual dues and/or insurance premiums"* (Hey, read it yourself).

The best part, however, is the letter they send with the packet where they tell you why you should fill out the card. To quote, you should fill out the "'Payroll Authorization Card' (Membership Card)" because *"Membership in NYSCOPBA will provide you with the eligibility to purchase additional insurance at group rates, attendance at Association events, the power to vote, and any other benefits offered to the members of NYSCOPBA."*

It seems that NYSCOPBA and their advocates speak with forked tongue. Their letter promises that if you sign a membership card which waives your right to get a refund for part of your dues you get all these benefits including *"the power to vote."* Well in the past we signed the cards, had our dues taken out and here we are, seven years later and we still don't have the power to vote but they have over a million dollars of our dues. Not a bad deal, unless you happen to be a dues paying lifeguard.



Bob Adler instructs on "bagging" in a very crowded RM5 shack

FRANK'S CPR STUFF

By Frank Salino

Only two chances left to get re-certified in pay status this year. Better make plans to get to one of these classes. Because over 200 of you still need to attend, expect both classes to be very crowded. Get there on time, have \$15 in cash, sign in with me (Frank Salino), fill out your information clearly, give the info sheet back to me, watch the video, take the written exam and get an 85 or better, perform the six skills stations and get the instructors signature, sign out with me (Frank Salino).

I don't care if you have a busy schedule, I don't care if you want to go see a concert/have a date/feel like crap/had to close the beach.....Just get your ass to the class on time and be nice. All rookies should get to a class.

All lifeguards who get CPR/AED on their own should take the class. Every lifeguard in the Corps and every lifeguard on medical leave should take the class. If all of you get on the 7/11 date, we won't have so much confusion and pain next season, and we won't have so many lifeguards get signed out, miss pay, not able to start work, have to drive to Mineola to hand in a class list so they can work. Listen to me, I don't know who or how this will be done next year, but if we all have the same expiration date, it will be easier on you and the new CPR/AED organizer to do it.

Here are the last two dates and times and locations: **Saturday July 8 at West Bath House 7-10pm and Monday July 10 at Sunken Meadow 7-10pm** – See you there.



All the Jr.'s want to know is "How come Tony gets a raincoat?"

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD UPDATE

By Steve Levy

The first official week of the Junior Lifeguard program was greeted with torrential rains, hundreds of smiles, and few dozen or so parents who were wondering why in the name of Thomas Jones were they standing under a tent at the East Bathhouse on a Sunday morning. Since the Corps never lets a little bad weather deter it from doing its job of protecting the public, it was only a matter of informing the

13-14 and 15-16 age groups that we would indeed be training (groans from the parents, "You're really going to make them go out in this weather?"). With so many of the Junior Lifeguards in both age groups being returning participants, they were unanimously gung-ho. Naturally, the new members of each group weren't sure if the Team Leaders and their assistants were going to pull some Marquis de Sade training techniques out of their hats but these fears were short lived; pretty soon all the groups were running the beach, practicing their ocean entries, and laughing and cheering up a storm.

What is needed are more lifeguards who can help out as Assistant Team Leaders every Sunday morning from 7:45 to 9:45 through mid-August with a particular need of helping out with the younger Junior Lifeguard groups. Again, these two hours are in pay status. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Riegel at Field 6, x618.



The Jr.'s ask: "Push-ups in the mud? - Are you guys crazy?"



The opening day parade float at Zachs Bay - Photo by Barkan

STROKE IDENTIFICATION

Thanks to Paul Butler for this - Part 2 of last week's "Spotting" next week

During a BBQ a woman stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) and told everyone she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, the woman went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Her husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital and at 6:00 pm, she had passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ - had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke perhaps she would be with us today.

Each year an estimated 600,000 Americans experience strokes, which are interruptions of the blood supply to any part of the brain, resulting in damaged brain tissue. Of these victims, 160,000 die, making stroke the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Those persons this dread killer does not immediately send to the grave are often left with lifelong debilitating infirmities of speech, movement, and even thought.

It only takes a minute to read how to recognize a stroke. A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...**totally**. He said the trick is getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patient within 3 hours, which is tough.

Remember the "3" steps. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today).

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of strokes and prevent brain damage.

PS - Editor's note: I looked this up in Urban Legends as I am suspicious of e-mail folklore and found out it to be true!

SWIM ACROSS AMERICA

By Chris Coffin

For those of you who don't know, (some of you do), this will be my 20th year as an Ocean Lifeguard and will be spending another summer with The Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps at Field 6.

For the past few years we have sent a team to swim in the SWIM ACROSS AMERICA event. It is a fund raiser fueled by swimming enthusiasts and athletes to raise money for cancer research. Each year I have been able to personally raise over \$1000, and my team over \$10,000.

This cause is especially important to me. My mother is a cancer survivor. In 1986 my mother battled breast cancer and had a double mastectomy to remove numerous lumps in her breasts. In 1991, I lost a college buddy to cancer just months after graduation.

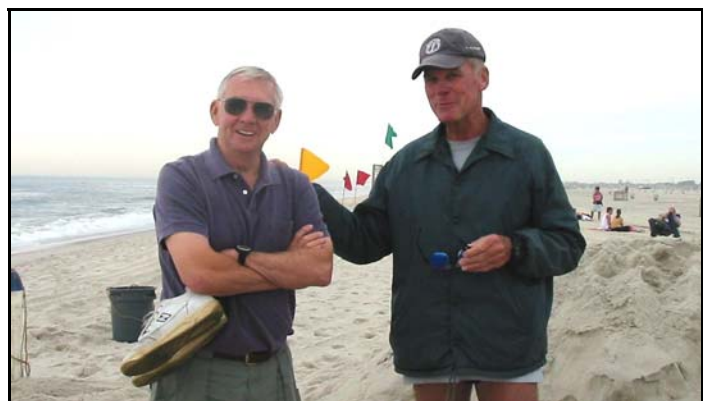
I'm sure that most of you know some one who is battling cancer, has battled cancer and won, or have lost a family member or friend to cancer.

This summer I will be swimming a 3 mile open water swimming event to benefit cancer research through SWIM ACROSS AMERICA. Their website and link are below:

http://www.swimacrossamerica.com/nassau_suffolk/ns_swim.html

If you would like to make a donation (of any amount) please write a check to SWIM ACROSS AMERICA and on the bottom of the check write "Swimmer: Chris Coffin." Mail it to: Chris Coffin - 3 Fourth Place, Apt 5 - Brooklyn, NY 11231

Thank you so much for reading this..... ENJOY THE SUMMER!



Going down memory lane with Bernie and Jay at EBHO

OTHER NOTES AND NEWS

Letter to the Editor: Dear Editor: I thought you'd enjoy this photo of my dad, Bernie Rottkamp, and Jay O'Neill, taken June 17, 2006. My parents, three sisters and I were in NY for a wedding. It was great to see Jones Beach, as my siblings and I had not been there since we were kids. We missed not being able to meet Reggie Jones, and offer our sympathies on the loss of his wife.

My sisters and I left with Jones Beach T-shirts and sweatshirts for ourselves, husbands and children. - Sincerely, Jeanne Rottkamp Yeagley, Avon, Ohio

Condolences: Arthur Norelius passed away yesterday at the age of 78. He is survived by his Wife and Son, Paul Norelius. He was a JB Lifeguard for about 30 years. There will be a service for him sometime in August at RM II west side and his ashes will be spread in the ocean at Democrat Point. We offer the family our condolences.



Harold gives the thumbs up after passing the CPR at RM5

THE COMICS

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double-pane energy-efficient kind. Yesterday, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the windows had been installed a whole year ago and I hadn't paid for them yet.

"Helllooooo?" Now just because I'm an ex-blond doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So I told him just exactly what his fast-talking sales guy had told ME last year. Namely, that in just ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves!

"Helllooooo?" (I told him). "It's been a year"

There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up.... He hasn't called back, probably too embarrassed about forgetting the promise they made me. Bet he won't underestimate a blond again.