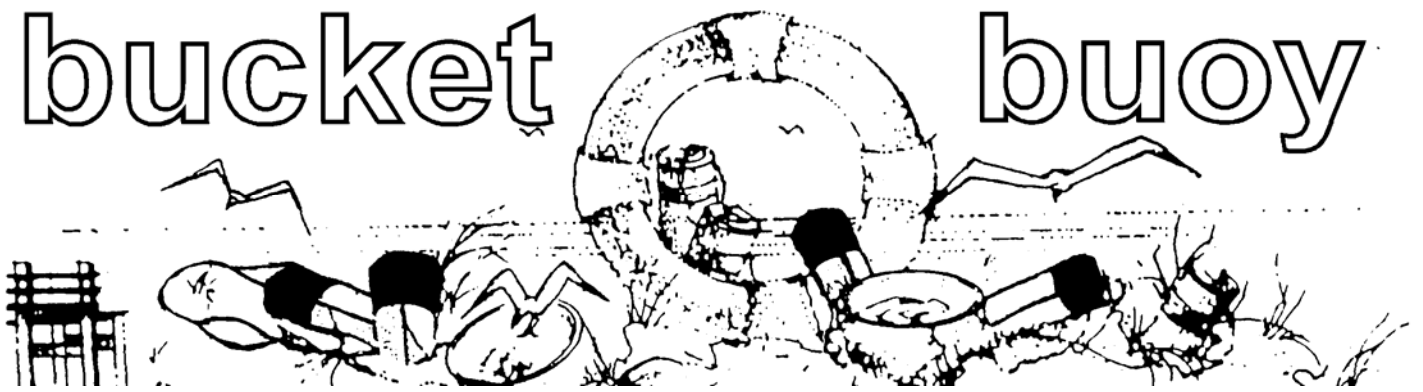


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

August 6, 2006

When Mel Gibson was arrested for drunk driving last week not too many people were upset. "Hey, things like that happen," they said. However, when it came out that during the arrest Mel had let loose a shocking anti-Semitic tirade, the national opinion of him quickly changed.

The concept of discriminating against someone because of their religious beliefs, especially Jews, has been so repugnant since the atrocities of WWII that it is rarely tolerated in an enlightened society. Unfortunately that does not appear to be the case in NYS Parks Department where it seems that blatant anti-Semitism is encouraged.

The story started this year with the denial of medical leave to the only Jewish Captain at the beach. Medical leave had never been denied to a lifeguard before and we found it strange that it was being denied this time. When requests by the same Captain were made for a second indoor test - which was originally promised by management - or a possible third try if necessary (as agreed to in negotiations), his requests were also arbitrarily denied. We found that denial even more bizarre.

Within the first few days of this year's opening we also had a situation where two members of the Executive Board, who also happen to be Jewish, were threatened with arrest for going into administration without shoes. Since this too had never happened before, we also found this a curious departure from the norm. Again the common thread was not just religion but also being an Executive Board member.

Fast forward to this week. Another Executive Board member finds himself in trouble, this time for giving a CPR course to a lifeguard who was away at Maccabiah Games. The course had an effective date subsequent to the actual classroom time, the same as for each of us who took the course on State time. The State decided **that this time** such dating might be fraud and initiated a police investigation. Coincidentally, both the lifeguard who Parks had the State Police investigate and the instructor who gave the course happened to be Jewish.

When a single incident occurs, it is easy to categorize it as an aberration, something that occurs only once in a blue moon. But when the details of many events show a common denominator such as racism, it is impossible to overlook the conclusion that something very insidious and disgusting is taking place. Considering the small population of lifeguards that are Jewish and the complete lack of persons of the Jewish persuasion in upper management (including the Coordinators' office) the number of incidents are particularly disturbing.

In this day and age, we do not want to believe that a New York State agency condones, nay, advocates discriminatory behavior by its management employees. However, facts are facts, and we are forced to wonder if this culture is something that exists only here on Long Island or is it something that is pervasive throughout Parks in all of New York State. *The bigger question is, Is anyone listening?*

In the interest of fairness, before this story went to print, calls were made to Sue Guiliani and Kevin Connolly to discuss their side of this issue; sadly, not a single call was returned.



A very fast Jr paddler leads the pack in practice



Could this be why the WBHP is always so crowded?

INTERBEACH RACES

We are happy to announce that the permits for the Races have been approved with one major exception. There will be no alcohol served at the post-race party. The State has claimed that they do not allow alcohol for any other group and thus will not allow it for us even though we have had beer at our party for years. This would be understandable if there had been problems in the past but we have done such a good job of policing our own that we have not had one instance of underage drinking at a party of ours in the last decade.

When the Executive Board found this out we looked for alternatives to the post-race party. One of the suggestions was to move the races to Friday through Sunday night and then have a post-race party at Mulcahy's. Unfortunately when we contacted them they informed us that they were closed on Sunday nights and that in order to open we would have to guarantee them a substantial profit. That would be feasible if we had control over our dues but since we are operating our union with no budget it could not be done. What that means is that we will be sticking to the original schedule.

This year's race t-shirts are being printed and designed by Tommy Darnaud of RM4. The cost is being covered once again by Marvin Levenson of Field 6 and also this year by Robert Cornacchia of Field 1. We are hoping to have them ready by the last day of the races and are thinking about distributing them according to the lists that Tommy Donovan will be receiving for the directory. (See LG Directory Article following)

With that being said, once again the schedule is as follows:
Thursday, Aug. 17th at Robert Moses 2 Surf Rescue 5:45 p.m. - 1 Man Line Pull 6:00 p.m. - 2 Man Line Pull 6:15 p.m. - Run Swim Run 6:30 p.m. - Beach Flags (All Age Groups) (Prelim.) 6:45 p.m. (Finals) 7:30 p.m. - **Friday, Aug. 18th at East Bathhouse Ocean** Iron Man 5:30 p.m. - Individual Kayak Race 6:00 p.m. - Individual Surfboard Race 6:15 p.m. - 2 Mi. Run (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - 10 Guard Ocean Relay 7:00 p.m. - **Saturday, August 19th at East Bathhouse** Surfboat Race 6:00 p.m. - Board Relay 6:15 p.m. - Surf Swim (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - Kayak Relay 6:45 p.m. 10 Guard Running Relay 7:00 p.m. - Tug of War 7:30 p.m. Pool Races (All Age Groups) 8:00 p.m. - Pool Relay 8:30 p.m. - **PARTY!**



Tommy and Mike take charge of their Juniors



Denise, Mary and Barbara, three of our former lifeguards, now Jr LG moms, get their workout in while their Jrs' practice

LIFEGUARD DIRECTORY

By Tom Donovan

I have been asked by Roy Lester to coordinate gathering the data for a new lifeguard directory. We have talked about this for years, now is the time to put it together. Shop Stewards - Please take responsibility for your fields, and check with other fields to insure that this information is gathered and sent back to me ASAP. I think we should include alumni also, so try to get as much of that as possible.

We want to get it done THIS SUMMER!!! That means the info needs to be put together by the end of next week, or sooner if you have it. It needs to be in some form of computer format, ie, excel, word, pdf, etc. I would like the following info: Full Name - Home address, Town, State, Zip - Second address (school, etc) - Home telephone - Cell telephone - Email - AIM - Year started at beach - Current field - Occupation

Please try to gather as much of this information that each lifeguard is willing to share. Please send it to my email address, I will forward it to Roy. Thanks for your cooperation. If you cannot help with this project please find someone at your field that can. Please forward this to whoever you would like. Alumni can contact me directly. - Thanks, Tom Donovan, RM4 - 631 669-0449 x242 or 244 Fridays thru Mondays or cell 631 804-3672 or tdono67@optonline.net.



Mini Juniors learning the fundamentals of a buoy

PRAISES FOR A BUOY

By Rich Malen

Last Sunday we had two of the inflatable buoys show up at our beach. I had heard about them from various sources, some good reports, some bad. One of the things that I had heard about was how easy it was to get through the shore break with them. Since we had some decent sized shore break that day I figured "no time like the present." I put the loop over my shoulder (which happened to be the right size for a change) and took off into the surf.

To give this a good test I dove into the shore break leaving the buoy trailing behind me. Instead of diving to the bottom and digging into the sandy bottom to hold on, preparing for the jerk from the wave grabbing the buoy, I just dove through the wave and glided through the water. What happened next, or actually

didn't happen, surprised me. I felt the slack come out of the strap leading back to the buoy but there was no sharp jerk like I was used to! It made getting through the shore break and white water A LOT easier.

I know the procedure on the foam buoys is to see which way the sweep is going and have the buoy trail you so the sweep keeps the lead away from your feet. With the inflatable buoy being so light my feeling is that it may be affected more by the wind than the sweep. I'll have to keep note of this for the future testing on my part. Either way, I didn't have my feet tangle in the lead during my little test.

All said and done, I am going to try to use these buoys as much as I can. For me some of the minor inconveniences (in my opinion) are out weighed by the pluses of this new buoy.

If anyone has feedback, please call me at RM3 on the week-ends or email me at richmalen@hotmail.com.

Editor's note: Here are some statistics and the website, supplied by Bob Adler: Buoy is 34" long with 36 pounds positive buoyancy (compared to under 20 pounds for our foam buoys), Coast Guard approved materials, **NO-pull back** in big surf due to hydro-dynamic design, 1" flat webbing used throughout, 4 breath oral inflation, quick easy deflation for storage/travel - <http://waterrescue.marsars.com/it050014.html>



We're not just full of hot air when we brag about the buoy

OUTER WEAR AT LAST?

By Bob Adler

For those of you who have wondered where it is, the Outer Wear uniforms, correctly ordered in November '05 down here on Long Island, for some reason had the Purchase Order held in Albany until late March 2006.

The manufacturer Original Lifeguard (formerly Thousand Mile) then had the material shipped to China for cut and sewing, and the finished jacket and pants arrived earlier this week in Los Angeles. The goods are being shipped to NY to be screened with our logo, and hopefully will be here for distribution by mid August. Keep the faith - There is a chance yet for this summer!



"Catch a wave and you're sitting on top of the pool"

THE COMICS

The following joke was sent in by a woman - Surprise, surprise Once upon a time there was a female brain cell which, by mistake, happened to end up in a man's head.

She looked around nervously because it was all empty and quiet.

"Hello?" she cried, but received no answer.

"Is there anyone here?" she cried a little louder, but still there was no answer.

Now the female brain cell started to feel alone and scared and yelled at the top of her voice, "HELLO, IS THERE ANYONE HERE?"

Then she heard a faint voice from far, far away.

"We're down here," came the reply.

IMPORTANT - General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, August 15th at 8:00 p.m. at Mulcahy's in Wantagh

Till next time - Roy J. Lester - e-mail: BucketBuoy@AOL.Com