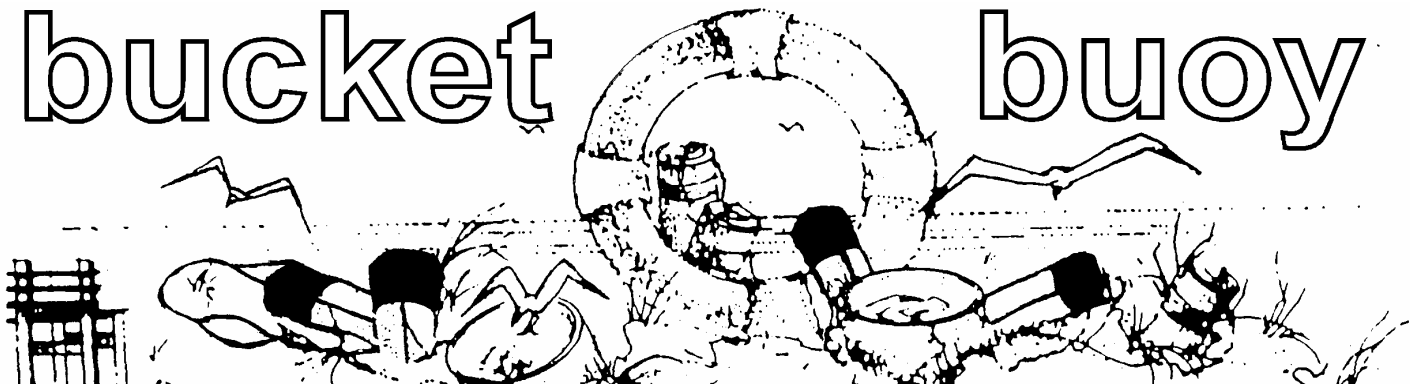


# bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

May 28, 2007

First of all Happy Memorial Day to all. And Thank You to all that this day honors, among them some of our own brothers.

Memorial Day always seems to signal the start of the summer season. I have always thought of summer as being comprised of a series of stages leading to the inevitable winter season. In our world the first of these stages are the rehire followed closely by the air show.

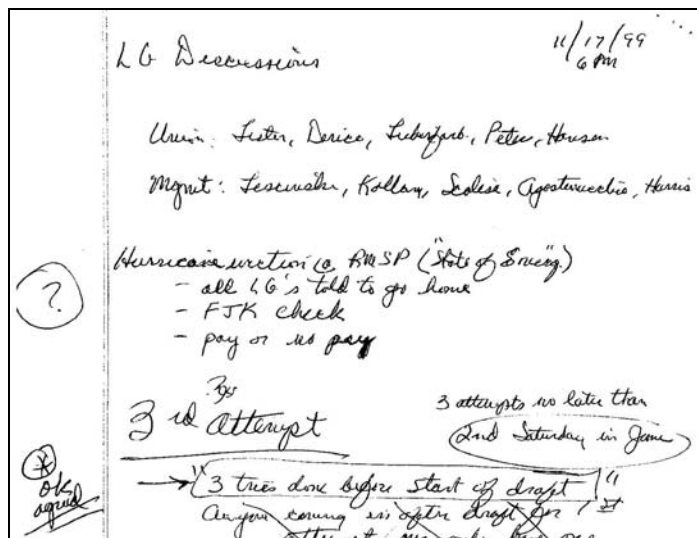
While they are both behind us now, a quick personal opinion on both. The air show was it usual self; loud and spectacular although I tend to favor the Blue Angels over the Thunderbirds. I will admit it does bring the people down to the beach. The rehire on the other hand was a disgrace. The State, after promising years ago that the Captains would be back up timers, eliminated them and had State workers timing the lifeguards as a back up to an electronic system that didn't work. From my understanding the State asked Bob Ortof to bring his equipment down to do the timing. That meant that there were no numbers on the side at the half way point for any swimmers to check their speed. I also meant that the finishing times were not all displayed which also was discouraging.

While all of this was not only a unilateral change in our contract it all seemed clearly calculated to make the maximum number of people fail. (Add to that the fact that the water was extra low so that the pool was wavier and slower than usual.) What made the situation even worse was the fact that, although we had come to an agreement with the State that the Captains' times were official over the Coordinators, in one situation where a lifeguard's entire half century career was on the line, the State insisted on taking the Coordinator's 1:20:17 over a Captain's time of 1:19:95. (And with great restraint I am not putting in any opinion of that move.)

Finally, in the ultimate slap in the face to the Lifeguard Corps the State, after agreeing to give a third chance to anyone who didn't pass the rehire as long as it is done before the draft, refused to honor their agreement, **saying such an agreement doesn't exist.** The third try was negotiated in when the Lifeguard Corps agreed to accept the run as part of the rehire test. The third try was part of the payback.

Although in fairness I have to acknowledge that Linda Spahr claims not to have remembered seeing that in the meeting minutes, as it stands now the State is refusing the 3<sup>rd</sup> try.

In order to show the Corps that this is what we actually negotiated, not only did I pull our minutes from those meetings but also noted the fact that it was mentioned in 2 Bucket & Buoys and in a letter sent to the entire Corps. However, just to get back up, I "FOIL'ed" for the State's minutes, written in their own handwriting, from that time. As you see below not only did the State have it in their notes, but also had the legend on the side that said "Agreed."



It is actions like these that make issues like the type of swimsuit one is allowed to wear important. The State asks us to change the rehire to accommodate a run. We are against it and don't agree. The State then makes us a promise that if you allow the run to be introduced as part of the rehire we will give people three tries to pass. We say OK and a deal is struck. Then a few years later the State blatantly lies to us and says that there was no deal. Is that good faith? Do we just keep allowing them to take things away from us, things that we won in negotiations through normal give and take. At what point do we make a stand? When there is nothing left it will be too late!



The brothers Hepworth at the rehire – Welcome Back

## LETTER TO THE STATE

Over the years the Lifeguard Corps has had one person that is deemed an expert on equipment – that person is Bob Adler. This weekend Bob was a participant and Lind Spahr a partial witness in a rescue where it seems the individual will be paralyzed for the rest of his life. It is well known that anytime there is a spinal injury, speed to the hospital is one of the most relevant differences between a full recovery and life as a paraplegic. The reason for that is because the injury it self is often not what causes the damage. The injuries often also produce vascular injury with resultant ischemia or hematoma (typically extradural), leading to further damage. All forms of injury can cause spinal cord edema, further decreasing blood flow and oxygenation. Damage may be mediated by excessive release of neurotransmitters from damaged cells, an inflammatory immune response with release of cytokines, accumulation of free radicals, and apoptosis. In other words, stop the swelling and you often stop the damage. Every second counts and something like a locked phone box can make a major difference between walking and a wheelchair. With that said here is the letter Bob wrote after the incident with minor editing.

Linda: - So today was pretty interesting, eh? Management's big worry was about a bathing suit. Guess they forgot about safety though! Seems we opened Field 6 without an AED until 1:30 PM, after many calls to operations. The phone was locked and no key was available (even the big boy couldn't find it, and in front of you no less, I heard.) So what if we couldn't summon the EMT through the radio room by a landline when a 34 year old broke his C3/4 in the shore break and will be paralyzed. Oh yeah, and the "Water Safety Office" (what a misnomer that is) had as part of the Scalise "Edict of NO", #3 under Beach Operational Protocol, part of your May 9, 2007 summary of the April 24, 2007 Lifeguard Supervisory meeting... "no personal cell phones". Good thing we ignore the three pages of tripe Scalise puts out each year as filler to impress his bosses. Nothing is safety related for three pages, if you haven't noticed! So one of our senior guards makes the call through (516)

785-1600 and gets the JB recording, and has to call a second time to get to an operator to reach operations to summon the EMT.

Back to today's observations. The replacement for the O<sub>2</sub> regulator only took two hours after repeated calls to operations by the LT. The east crow's foot has no sign, is missing a bottom foot and has rusty nails exposed. The main stand is tilted forward and at an angle with no pile in front. Oh, and for the second year the rungs are too far apart, not a standard distance, and the seat is too wide to allow easy access to the foot stand area. How would the so-called WSO know this since they never climb it (or can't climb it?) The new wing stands are certainly lighter, thank you, but the rungs to climb up on are too narrow and hurt your feet and there is a cross brace in the way of climbing.

Then, being the analytical safety person I am, I checked out the abortion of adding a manufactured leash to manila line from a Burnside buoy. This is, as I understand it, a test idea by Kevin Connelly's suggestion. I like Kevin very much, but he has no ocean rescue experience I believe, nor has ever swum out a line. The Rescue Line System I co-develop with MARSARS, a well know industry leader in ice and marine rescue, solves the problems of lines. But since I helped develop it it seems Scalise won't recommend it, or has some lame reasoning that the splice broke after five years. I don't believe he ever imparted the information I personally gave to him and Mr. Leschinski over the negotiations table, that the deployment is to have the splice inside the yellow bag to prevent UV breakdown, and re-splice six feet shorter every three years, or that they should be washed in fresh water after the season is over.

So, now let's get to buoys. It was quickly noted that there were not sufficient buoys at Field 6 to open properly two wing stands each way (east and west). As to the buoys that were then delivered via Chuck Barr, the loops are sized for Gigantor. The industry standard is 25 inches, throat to grab (Navy and Coast Guard terminology for spliced loops). (Surely the experts in the so-called WSO will know this nomenclature as well when tested by you.) The Rescue Line System and Inflatable Rescue Buoy uses 26 inches throat to grab as we discovered it to be more comfortable and still secure for a swimmer. The buoys delivered had an average of 31 1/2-inch loops throat to grab. That puts the loop at 63-inch diameter, not the 50 to 52 inches advisable. Now the Coordinators (their real title, not WSO) will tell you that a knot may be tied to size it correctly so it is better to be too big. I don't know if they ever had to run down to a wing stand to back up and grab the extra buoy on the foot of the wing stand and make a rescue. There is no time to start fooling around making knots! Also, if a smaller guard, say a female, I can name many who are small of stature and in great physical shape...the 63-inch loop will most likely slip off of them. Why are we still making buoys in the year 2007? The test of the Inflatable Rescue Buoy never had a chance last year. I suspect, because I had input into it. Where are the data and results of the testing?

Ok, then we go to the new "5/16 inch polyethylene line" per your May 9, 2007 summary. First off it is polypropylene, and I question if it is 5/16 of an inch, it looks to be 1/4 inch. Never mind that, the loop is spliced of the same material, and it will cut the swimmer in heavy surf. Whose idea was this one, rather than purchasing the Rescue Line System? Oh, right, it is claimed it is difficult to repack the bag, but the WSO never bothered to train the LT's per the Lifeguard Manual in the proper procedure. So again it was sabotaged. Great experts, when was the last time they swam a line in heavy surf? Enough of equipment right now!

Sorry, but I have to report failure of equipment at Central Mall (CM). Bill Stockdale in First Aid was cautiously guarding the AED on the boardwalk until 1500 (3:00 PM) when it is supposed to be at the CM Main Stand where it can be used to save a life if needed. I believe Stockdale already has his own! The CM Lifeguard Shack was in shambles with broken glass and exposed nails everywhere upon opening it for the beginning of this season. The 500+ people (Patrons) in the Lifeguard Area by Main Stand broke the phone line, so the LT went to the Coordinators for a beach radio to summon "500", but were given a Lifeguard radio. So upon calling 500, they got themselves...way to go Safety Experts in the WSO!

Oh, yeah there was no key to the shack initially, so many guards were detained from getting to the Main Stand, which really wasn't a Main, but two wings put together so as not to confuse the pilots (really, nearing Mach 1?) Then there was no wing stands to deploy to cover the crowds, so foot patrol ensued. Why do you suppose we use wing stands? Maybe to get a better sight advantage of the people in the water? Why not have them at the most crowded facility on this day? Please ask your "water safety experts". Oops, they were back in their office (aided by Bob Hirten I also found out) worrying about a speed-enhancing bathing suit...rubbish!

So now tomorrow, the Coordinators have assigned two 0745's to keep the crowds out of the CM lifeguard area. Why wasn't it properly snow fenced off? I guess that speed-enhancing suit got in the way of their thinking again. Or maybe it was the design of the

-Till next time - Roy J. Lester - e-mail: [BucketBuoy@AOL.Com](mailto:BucketBuoy@AOL.Com)

daily operational sheet, which just makes useless paperwork as to where each lifeguard sits each hour. Is this so they can have a job scrutinizing the daily's to try to find a lifeguard, or officer who hasn't properly document this minutia? It seems very similar to the fluff Scalise used to fill the three pages as part of your May 9, 2007 review of the April 24, 2007 meeting. Did his "Edict of NO" impress you? We certainly weren't. Why does the WSO need to be advised of the same things the park Managers are being advised of. If the senior ranking officer declares a modified schedule, they did it for a reason. It would be eye opening for you to review this "Edict of NO" with the likes of Steve Levy, Cary Epstein, and myself to enlighten you of the fluff he is producing.

Speaking of Cary Epstein, he happened to be down at CM today enjoying the Air Show at his facility where his friends all work, even though he is not on the clock. Scalise gave him a rash of sh-t for contacting operations to help out with the plethora of lost children, when it got out of control. This management team of yours has some strange ways of promoting esprit-de-corps, don't they? They cause the problems then blame it on others who solve them. Nice payback. - Bob Adler



## The brothers Rush at the rehire-back for another year JR. LIFEGUARD UPDATE 2007

By Scott Reigel

HELP WANTED - Our Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard program would not be the success it has been without the help of you, the Jones Beach Corps. Every year you step up on those Sunday morning and are there to help. So again, this year, I am asking for your help (in pay status), to make this work.

Tryouts will be at 8:00 am on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June at the WBP. We could use some timers and runners for the sign ups.

The first day of the program will be Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 AM at the EBP and will run each Sunday until August 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Tournament will be held on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at the East Bath Ocean.

Every year we have former Junior Lifeguards that are now Jones Beach Guards and now it's your time also to give back and help out the kids. Besides all the group leaders from last year that are going to help me this year, I would like to see some new faces get involved. So thanks again for all the help and drop me an e-mail at [seafire124@aol.com](mailto:seafire124@aol.com) or call me at Field 6 or at 516-698-8104 to tell me that I can put you on the list



## Levy & Hlavak at rehire-Nope, definitely not brothers

### THE COMICS

Apologizing in advance for some really bad puns

Did you hear that the world's tallest man got fired from the circus? He was so concerned about his cholesterol he switched from butter to Crisco. Unfortunately he didn't realize it was shortening.

\* \* \* \* \*

How do you make a hot dog stand? You take away his chair!

\* \* \* \* \*

Two hats were on a rack when one hat said to the other, "You stay here. I'll go on a head."