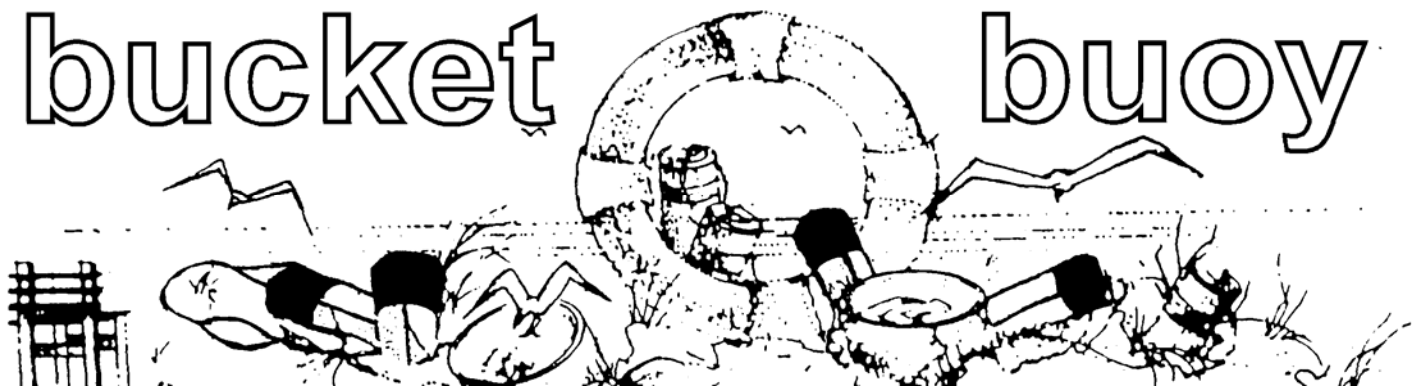


# bucket buoy



**Dear Fellow Lifeguards:**

Happy Father's Day to all you fathers out there. And to all you sons and daughters, make sure you give homage to the guy who gave you life. To be honest, however, I have to say that the best Father's Day gift any father has ever received is the gift they receive the day their child is comes into this world. Although we as fathers may not show it all the time or say it, there is nothing in the world that we are prouder of than our kids. So from all us dads out there, to all you kids, we just want to say thank you for being born.



*Scott says kids aren't only great to have but, when they get old enough, you can put them to work taking Jr. LG applications!*

## UNION UPDATE

This week we had our first summer Shop Stewards Meeting. Because the State has forbidden us to meet on the clock or on State property we met at the NYSUT headquarters in Jericho at 7:00 pm. (A special thanks to NYSUT for being so generous with their resources.)

The major topic of discussion referenced this year's elections for both Shop Stewards and Executive Board. It was decided that we should have the Shop Stewards' election as soon as the Constitution allows it (the Constitution reads "the July Fourth weekend"). Since July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday this year it was voted to have the elections on June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>.

To assure the integrity of the process this year's Shop Stewards' election will have forms that must be filled out and signed by the majority of a beach attesting to the election of the Shop Steward. See Cary's letter below for the full details.

It was also announced that elections for the full Executive Board will take place the beginning of August with the petitions submitted by the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. More information on that will follow in future *Bucket & Buoy*s and on the website.

It was also announced that NYSCOPBA has come to an agreement with the State regarding our raises for the last four years. Although we still have yet to receive official confirmation of this, our understanding is that NYSCOPBA agreed to no money for the first year (except for non-seasonals who get \$800 for that year) a 2.5% raise for the second year, a 2.75% for the third year and a 3% raise for the fourth year. (An average of 2.1% a year when compounded.)

It is our understanding that this raise for seasonals was the lowest in the State for any State employees and guess what – as we understand, we don't even get to vote on ratification like the full timers do. Well worth the \$300,000.00 in dues the lifeguards send up there each year.

Finally, I can't seem to get out of my mind the words of Sue Guliani last week when the union asked to be present at the weekly rehire test. (A right that was agreed to for years past.)

**Happy Father's Day June 17, 2007**

Sue's comment "I don't see any Union here" was reinforced again this week when the State refused to let the Union in to check the water temperature of the West Bathhouse Pool before the rehire test. Although numerous lifeguards commented how cold it seemed (well below the negotiated 68 degrees to take a rehire test) Sue refused to let the Union in to check the temperature, once again deciding that she "didn't see any union here."

**CARY'S LETTER:** To All Members of the Lifeguard Corps-

During the week of July 1st, the beaches will be holding elections for Shop Stewards for the 2007 season. It is extremely important that each field elect a representative (shop steward) and 2 alternates for your facility. This person(s) should be present at the shop stewards meetings which will occur every 2 weeks starting June 26th, 2007. (The rest of the dates can be found in the online calendar).

Having a representative from your field is the only way we can learn about what your individual problems, concerns and or thoughts are both good and bad. It is also a crucial way for the Executive Board to be able to pass on information within the Lifeguard Corps. Typically the shop stewards bring back important information to their fields. We are really trying to enhance communications, by having official representative from each field within JB, RM and the outerparks.

After your election is complete, you MUST have the majority of the lifeguards at your individual fields fill out the Beach Representative Election Form. You can find this form under the Member Forms section of [www.jblifeguard.org](http://www.jblifeguard.org). **YOU MUST be logged in as a member in order to get it!** Please print it up for your field. Once it is complete with a representative, 2 alternates and lifeguard signatures, a copy should be held for the lifeguard shack and one photocopy should be given to Cary Epstein for record keeping. Please try to cooperate as we are trying our hardest to make this the most legit organization as possible. The form can be dropped off at the CM shack or scanned and emailed to [cary@jblifeguard.org](mailto:cary@jblifeguard.org).

I appreciate your cooperation. - Cary Epstein - CM



*Waiting in the rain at last week's new hire test*

## LETTER TO KATE MCKEE

*This is a letter Acting President Bob Adler wrote to Kate McKee of NYS Parks regarding last week's genius and safety conscious move of giving failing LG candidates official LG suits to keep and wear whenever they want-Way to go!*

**Kate;** You may not be aware of a severe breach of the fiduciary responsibility to the public on the part of management at last Sunday's (6/10/2007) Long Island Region Lifeguard New-Hire Procedure. JBLGC issue bathing suits were freely handed out to candidates.

I outlined to you in my emails of June 3rd and 5th that there would be a problem with the announcement by LI management that only "standard" bathing suits could be worn during the New-Hire Procedure. Management's decision to issue to candi-

dates official lifeguard uniforms, and **NOT** make any effort to retrieve them from those who failed is unconscionable. Our own lifeguards who have since left the Corps do not wear their uniforms while on the beach unless they are prepared to back up active members and are capable of it, plus they are trained in our procedures.

Imagine the potential for disaster if an ocean rescue is in process and someone is in an official JBLGC uniform who is unfit and incapable of performing our procedures? It is similar to someone impersonating a police officer or firefighter at the scene of an incident. Freely handing out our uniforms to unfit candidates is no different than if the NYPD handed out real badges to those taking the written NYC Police Officers test, not knowing who might pass.

I hesitated to send this email to you immediately after the New-Hire procedure because I was approached on Saturday morning June 9th by my West End 2 Captain, clearly acting as a conduit for management, to inform me that if I continued my letter/email writing, management would instruct Park Police to target lifeguards for infractions, especially those assigned to West End 2 at Jones Beach where I am stationed at full opening. I took this as a threat by management and fear for my friends and fellow lifeguards, however after discussing the situation with representative lifeguards from across the region I realized the significance of having had bathing suit uniforms issued to failures at the New-Hire Procedure. I personally am in a unique situation in-so-far-as my income and/or pension is not in jeopardy from retaliation by management, whereas many of my fellow lifeguards fear this retaliatory tactic, which has been used often in past years. Therefore I felt morally impelled to send you this email.

Please answer how this situation is going to be addressed. My emails and two phone calls to your office last Friday prior to the New-Hire were ignored and I find this unprofessional and in light of these safety concerns irresponsible. - Bob Adler

## COMPETITION TEAM TRYOUTS

There will be tryouts for the lifeguard competition team competing at Smiths Point and the Newport Beach Lifeguard Tournaments on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> at the EBHO at 8am. We are looking for swimmers, paddlers, beach flaggers, pullers, rowers, distance and sprint runners. All are welcome and we encourage you to attend!! If you have any questions you can contact Gregg Solnick or Mike Scanlon at RM2 or Cary Epstein and Brad Hepworth at the Central Mall.

## B-MAC

Given the national speed limit of 55 mph, one can imagine how it must feel to go 45 mph on a 19 pound bicycle screaming down a San Francisco hill. That is the way Brian McDonald, or more commonly known as **B-Mac**, spends his leisure time.

Brian, a top-rated triathlete, (and Boatswain at Field Six) got his start in triathlons ten years ago after playing lacrosse for Stonybrook University. Since that time, Brian, who spends his winter teaching school in Garden City, has compiled an impressive list of wins in the local triathlon circuit. Recently, Brian was selected to participate in the prestigious Alcatraz triathlon, one of the nation's toughest.

This triathlon involves a swim from Alcatraz Island to the city of San Francisco, a distance of 1.5 miles in 53 degree choppy water with currents that were formerly famous for making Alcatraz an escape proof prison. This is followed by a 18 mile bike and finishing with a 8 mile run.

While the distances themselves may not seem that impressive compared to Hawaii's Ironman, the aspect that makes this race so difficult are the incredibly steep hills (and the dreaded 300 plus sand steps) that the athletes must transverse along the route. While at one point there is a 6 mile bike climb, the old adage of "*what goes up, must come down*" applies here too.

Coming down as Brian did, at 45 mph is a terrifying experience. Not only does the wind whistle past your ears so loud you can't hear anything else, the force of the speeding air tries to rip your helmet from your head. Every bump, if taken wrong, could mean months in the hospital (if you are lucky). But for Brian, this is just another "*day in the park*."

Brian, who competes for Team Runner's Edge, not only is a strong biker, but a great swimmer, and even faster runner. He enjoys the support from his wife who allows him to train even

though they have a newborn infant, Mary and a toddler, Stephen.

Today, Brian spent the early part of his Father's Day competing in the Goldcoast Triathlon, where he finished in the top 8, out of almost 1,000 participants. Of course, his wife and his son were there to cheer him on.

When asked about the transition from the violent game of lacrosse to the much more passive sport of triathlon, Brian's only comment was "*If they only gave us sticks on the bike, think of how much better I would be.*"



B-Mac at today's Tri with All-Americans Kevin & Kerry Simmons

## A LIFEGUARD POEM

By Bob K

*Ode to the Lifeguard Draft - Non-lifeguard observation, 2007*

Empty stand on blue still water  
 No moon shining brightly  
 Hears lifeguards nervous chatter  
 Hides deep fear what happens when this ends  
 He who has made his bed of sand  
 Waits lonely all winter for the summer months  
 Organized chaos of who goes where  
 How much longer do we wait  
 Open spots that no one wants  
 Can't fool me with this silly mess  
 There they stand with arms crossed and big smiles  
 Pretending to be hot bouncers at local bar  
 Flirting with the chick at the door  
 Sorry waves too big to save you in this mess  
 But I did barely pass the test  
 Old ones and young ones  
 Secret society brothers still believe they can perform  
 Pray loud that no ones goes under on your watch  
 Only ocean goddess can teach him some respect  
 She doesn't care he has 40 years or a rookie  
 Only she can make both honest -- old timer and newborn fool

## THE COMICS

*Since its Father's Day the jokes today are to help men understand women  
 So here are the words women often use and what they really mean*

- 1) **FINE:** This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.
- 2) **Five Minutes:** If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. Five Minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.
- 3) **Nothing:** This is the calm before the storm. This means something, and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with nothing usually end in fine.
- 4) **Go Ahead:** This is a dare, not permission. Don't Do It!
- 5) **Loud Sigh:** This is actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A loud sigh means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you about nothing. (Refer back to #3 for the meaning of **nothing**.)
- 6) **That's Okay:** This is one of the most dangerous statements a women can make to a man. That's okay means she wants to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake.
- 7) **Whatever:** Is a women's way of saying \_\_\_\_ YOU!
- 8) **Don't worry about it, I got it:** Another dangerous statement, meaning this is something that a woman has told a man to do several times, but is now doing it herself. This will later result in a man asking "*what's wrong*", for the woman's response refer to # 3.