



The wild, wild crew at the Wildwood State Beach

AN ANONYMOUS THANKS

Two weeks ago we carried a story about a lifeguard that got injured in the surf. Although still not back at work, the lifeguard is rapidly getting better and will be back to their old self faster than the Doctors would want. Although they still wish to remain anonymous, I hope they hurry up back. We miss them.

I felt like Humpty Dumpty. I went over the falls in a rescue and was no longer in one piece. I don't recall what Humpty's injuries were but my right shoulder dislocated and remained in a position unknown to me. Fortunately, emergency room doctors were able to put me back together, the State picked up the tab and I now carry around a little bottle of pills that make me happy.

I am okay. I will return to the beach and I expect to recover long before running out of outlandish stories to tell inquisitive strangers when asked, "What happened to your arm?" That day however, I was not okay. I was in severe pain, I was scared, I had difficulty breathing and, for some reason, wanted desperately not to cry.

Almost daily we participate in or witness lifeguards, park police and emergency medical personnel assisting patrons. It is rare however, and thankfully rare, that we are on the receiving end of that help. It is on that end that you learn just what an awesome job we really do!

I have never felt so helpless nor have I ever felt such gratitude. The most horrific experience of my life taught me just how invaluable our labors are.

The Field 6 lifeguards provided me not only with immediate assistance, but took care that when I was transferred from the water to the stretcher to the helicopter it was done with ease and without the trauma of more pain. Medical personnel likewise. And when I could think of nothing but the pain, my fellow guards took complete responsibility and control of the situation. It was the lifeguards (past and present), park police and medical personnel that decided I should travel by helicopter, filled out the emergency forms, gathered my belongings, accompanied me to the hospital, and even drove me home. And during the perpetual wait for my lift to the hospital it was the comforting words, looks of concern and constant reassurance from my fellow lifeguards that gave me both physical and psychological stamina. Thank you!

Each day we assist patrons. It may be running a rescue, administering first aid or uniting a lost child and parent. We may stop to recognize that these commonplace endeavors truly save lives but we rarely do we recognize that our words of assurance, attention and presence also serve to rescue patrons.

A big thanks all those that helped put me back together and another one on behalf of all those patrons that have also been the recipient of a lifeguard's, park police or EMT's help, assistance, care, compassion, or time. Applause for a priceless service!

My condolences to Humpty Dumpty, apparently the kings men do not compare to Jones Beach lifeguards.

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING
SATURDAY - JULY 24, 1999
WBH Meeting Room 3:30 PM

TOMMY TOOBS ONLINE

USLA Memberships (United States Lifeguard Association)
 If you attended the USLA Mid-Atlantic Regional Lifeguard Tournament in Rehobeth Beach, Del. and have not paid your USLA

Membership Dues (\$30) you must contact me immediately. Failure to pay these dues is jeopardizing the opportunity for lifeguards from our Chapter to enter into the USLA Nationals to be held in Cape May, NJ, Aug. 6th & 7th. Contact information below.

Observation and Opinion - " Ask not what your country can do for you, but what YOU can do for your country " - JFK

Already this year, we have had a least 2 Lifeguard related competitions, The Long Beach Races and The USLA Mid-Atlantic Regional Lifeguard Tournament. Next week we have the Long Beach Biathlon. Most of you have known about this race from previous years, reading this column or some other source. But lets get to the point here. Over the past few weeks and years referring to Jones Beach Lifeguard representation in these competitions is atrocious ! hideous ! appalling ! . We are becoming the laughing stock of lifeguard organizations on the East Coast. Here we are the largest bathing facility probably in the World with a staff of 444+ lifeguards and we can't pull together the enough highly competitive guards to compete in local or regional lifeguard competitions. With the exception of the regular few (just read the Bucket & Buoy Race results) who have been attending these competitions, performing in back-to-back events and placing in each, I commend them for their extreme outstanding athletic abilities. What is outstanding about each of these individuals, They take Initiative ! Take Charge ! They are Self Motivated ! They take Responsibility in getting the proper equipment from the " State " to go to these tournaments. Why ??? To have FUN, represent The Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps and to maintain our leadership and demonstrate that our lifeguarding skills are the best

The Long Beach Biathlon is next Sunday July 25th. As it stands right now I have "3" competitors for the Men's Team (6 required), and "0" for Women's Team (6 required). As I stated last week the deadline that I am submitting teams is (today) Sunday July 18th. In past years, I submit the teams and enter myself as an individual. - Get up off your butt and " see what you can do for the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. " - Comments to this article are welcome and will be posted in issues to come.

Contact: Tommy Meehan, WEII, x-601, or (516) 221-3425.



Hecksher pool lifeguards closing up for the day

THE COMICS

"I have good news and bad news the defense attorney told his client. "First the bad news. The blood test came back and your DNA is an exact match with that found at the crime scene."

"That's horrible!" cried the client. "What's the good news?"

"Your cholesterol is down to 140."

* * * * *
 Two guys drove to a gas station in a remote district for a fill-up because they heard about a contest being offered by the station to patrons who purchase a full tank of gas. When they went inside to pay, the men asked the attendant about the contest.

"If you win, you're entitled to free sex," said the attendant.

"How do we enter ?" asked one guy.

"Well, I'm thinking of a number between 1-10, if you guess right you win free sex."

"O.K. I guess 7," said the guy.

"Sorry, I was thinking of 8," replied the attendant.

The next week, the two returned to the same station to get gas. When they went inside to pay, one guy asked the attendant if the contest was still going on.

"Sure," replied the attendant. "I'm thinking of a number between 1-10, if you guess right, you win free sex."

"2," said the guy.

"Sorry, I was thinking of 3," replied the attendant. "Come back soon and try again."

As they walked back to the car, one guy said to the other, "You know, I'm beginning to think this contest is rigged."

"No way," said the other guy. "My wife won twice last week."