

Official Newsletter
of the
**California Surf
Lifesaving
Association**
Fall 2022

The CALSURF

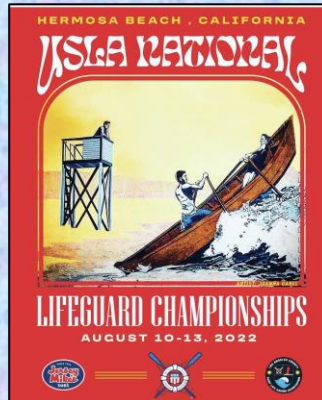
Volume 27 No. 2

Life on the Edge....



Photo: Joel Gitelson

Insert: Skip Prosser



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INSIDE THE CALSURF NEWS

President's Message	Page	3
Award Recipients	Page	4
Chief Howard Lee	Page	5
Chris Linkletter	Page	6
USLA Nationals	Page	7
US World Team	Page	9
Agency Profile	Page	12

EVENTS CALENDAR 2022/23

Fall CSLSA 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: October 6-7, 2022

Location: El Segundo, (LA County)

Fall USLA 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: October November 4-5, 2022

Location: Orlando Fl. (Southeast Region)

Spring CSLSA 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: (TBA)

Location: (TBA)

Spring USLA 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: (TBA)

Location: (TBA)

CSLSA 2023 Regional Jr. Lifeguard/Lifeguard

Dates: (TBA)

Location: Newport Beach

USLA 2023 National Jr. Lifeguard/Lifeguard

Dates: (TBA)

Location: Virginia Beach, VA

COMMITTEES

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THE CALSURF NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Humphreys President
California Surf Lifesaving Association

Fellow Lifesavers!

Summer is officially over, but as of this writing, the heatwaves are continuing. Hopefully, things are slowing down somewhat for you as you work to keep the public safe. Keep up the good work and stay safe!

The CSLSA has been very busy since our last newsletter. Some of the activities we've been involved in include:

- *working to enhance training programs*
- *assisting agencies to become USLA certified*
- *producing beach safety materials for our members to utilize*
- *assisting with regional and national lifeguard competitions*
- *promoting the profession of lifesaving.*

As such, all of our volunteers have been very busy working to fulfill our mission of promoting beach safety and professional lifesaving standards. To those volunteers, I'd like to say thank you for a job well done!

And thanks to these volunteers, the CSLSA continues to be leader in the U.S. (and worldwide) in setting

standards for professional lifesaving and public education. We are fortunate to have extensive resources and talent to do this. Whether it's through social media promoting public safety education or intense training methods and state-of-the-art equipment for enhancing lifesaving standards, our region is at the forefront of the profession

Of course, none of this happens by itself and I'd like to ask for your assistance. The CSLSA is in need of additional volunteers who have a passion for lifesaving and advancing the profession. There are immediate needs, as well as long term needs as "more experienced" volunteers will be stepping down. Regardless of your area of interest or expertise, the CSLSA will have a committee or position where we can use your help. And an area you may really enjoy serving in!

Volunteering with the CSLSA is fulfilling on its own. However, there are also some practical benefits for you. You'll meet other like-minded people outside of your organization, you'll pick up ideas to share at your agency, and personally, you'll not only be inspired and gain renewed motivation (at least I do every meeting) but you'll also gain excellent experience to improve in your profession and add to your resume. Don't underestimate this, by the way. As an example, a title such as "CSLSA Public Education Chairman" looks great on a resume whether applying for a promotion or even an job in a different field such as education. Talk to any manager and they'll attest that between two otherwise equally qualified candidates, those with volunteer work in a professional organizations stand out.

But the bottom line is that we need your help to continue doing the important work of the CSLSA. If you have an interest in getting involved, or even just finding out more about what's involved, please contact me at: President@CSLSA.org. We need your assistance - and who knows - you may find that you benefit from this as much as we do!

Thank you.

Bill

Bill Humphreys
CSLSA President

Congratulations to the Following Award Recipients:



MEDAL OF
VALOR AWARD



MEDAL OF
VALOR AWARD



BIG SUR OCEAN RESCUE

On Saturday, December 26, 2020, two fishermen entered the dangerous surf on their ocean kayaks at Limekin State Park. Limekin is on the Big Sur Coast where there is a cove leading out from the campground; it is also located at the south end of Big Sur, approximately 20 miles from the town of Big Sur. The surf was breaking 10-15 feet with an extreme shore break. Upon entering the water, the pounding shore break pummeled both men, separating them from their kayaks. The kayaks washed back to shore, while the rip current dragged both men out to sea. Each man was at least one-third of a mile from shore; they were now suffering from hypothermia and having difficulty remaining on the surface. The two men had been in the water for over an hour-and-a-half, and were now separated from each other by a substantial distance.

After responding nearly 60 miles to the scene, lifeguards Megan Brady and Erin Kothlow entered the water through the 15-foot surf. Brady was able to extract the first victim and handed him off to personnel waiting on the beach. She then reentered the water to assist Kothlow with the second victim. During their attempt to reach shore with the victim, the surf pounded them over and over again, pulling them back out to sea. After a monumental effort, and at great risk to their own lives, they were able to pull the second victim out of the water. Following their rescue, the rescued victims were treated on shore and survived the ordeal.

For their heroic rescues in critical situation circumstances, and at great risk to their own lives, **Megan Brady and Erin Kothlow were each awarded the CSLSA and USLA Medals of Valor.**

HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE

HELICOPTER RESCUE

While eating dinner with friends on a boat in Newport Harbor, at approximately 6:30 PM, on Saturday, February 19, 2022, off-duty Newport Beach Lifeguard Andrew Belden observed and was the initial responder to the crash of Huntington Beach Police Helicopter HB1 in Newport Bay.

He stripped off his street clothes down to his shorts, and dove into the 57-degree water in an attempt to rescue the helicopter pilot and his flight observer, who were both Huntington Beach Police Officers. Belden recounted that it's a Lifeguard's worst nightmare having one of the victims shouting, "Help me, my partner is still down there", and not being able to do anything about it.

Andrew was able to rescue and assist the pilot onto the Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol Boat, which had just arrived on scene. During his rescue attempts for the flight observer, Belden tried entering the helicopter, but was deterred by zero visibility and sharp metal and plastic shards caused by the crash. Even still, he dove on the crash site several times, but was unable to find or rescue the flight observer, Andrew Vella, who perished in the crash. The Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol was able to recover Officer Vella shortly thereafter.

For his immediate recognition of a critical situation, his heroic rescue efforts, and for risking his own life for the sake of others, **Andrew Belden was awarded the CSLSA and USLA Medals of Valor.**

Chief Lifeguard Howard Lee

By ADAM SANDLER

Howard Lee was a quiet man who got things done.

That's the consensus of those who knew the retired Los Angeles County Chief Lifeguard who died on April 27, 2022, at his home in Westlake Village. He was 87.

Lee retired in 1990 after 37 years of service, during which many notable changes and improvements in the lifeguarding profession were implemented.

From a rookie in 1953, to his retirement as Chief Lifeguard in 1990, Lee was part of several large structural changes, such as the agency's evolution from being a part of the Recreation and Parks Department to the Department of Beaches and then to the merger with the Department of Harbors, creating the Department of Beaches and Harbors. Partly as a result of the mergers, he was actually made Chief Lifeguard twice – once in the Department of Beaches and later became chief just before retiring with the Department of Beaches and Harbors. (The L.A. County Lifeguards are now part of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.)

Lee was also instrumental in the mergers of the lifeguard operations of the cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica into L.A. County's lifeguard program, establishment of lifeguard paramedic services on Catalina Island, and the implementation of 24-hour schedules for lifeguards – to ensure rapid response at night.

He was one of the founding members of the National Surf Lifesaving Association (NSLSA) the forerunner of the United States Lifesaving Association. Lee was actively involved in the growth of the NSLSA/USLA organization and its dissemination of lifesaving techniques and professional standards. Lee designed what is now the USLA's iconic, trademarked logo in 1964. Many years later he was awarded both USLA and California Surf Lifesaving Association Life Member status.



While his successes as an administrator are vast, Lee also participated in surf racing and was a member of the L.A. County competition team. In 1964, he and rowing partner Jack Campbell won the dory race at the Nationals in Huntington Beach. And it was Lee's appreciation for surf racing that continues to resonate.

"He was a Chief who was always part of 'The Crew,'" says retired L.A. County Lifeguard/Paramedic Joel Gitelson. "By being a part of the National Competition Team, he was liked and respected by the lifeguards."

After returning from the 1986 USLA National Lifeguard Championships in Galveston, Texas, where the L.A. County team had only eight members, Lee — who was then Assistant Chief — made it his mission to get more L.A. County lifeguards involved in surf racing. At the time, competitors paid their own way and took time off from work. His

efforts would soon turn the L.A. County team into the National Championships winning juggernaut it has become.

Lee contacted Bob Morris, the owner of Gladstone's restaurant, securing a \$10,000 donation to support the team and also pay for travel expenses to USLA events. The next year in Hawaii, the L.A. County team had more than 30 members and easily won the USLA Nationals. That was the beginning of an unrivaled run of National Championship wins.

“Howard made it financially feasible to send a team to compete,” recalls Bob Moore, who worked with Lee in the Lifeguard Division as a Lieutenant from 1983-1986. “His efforts put the team on a winning streak that continues today.” Lee also was considered even tempered and easily approachable. And he had a self-deprecating sense of humor.

Early in his retirement, Lee would attend the annual Lifeguard Alumni luncheon held at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club.

Former Chief Lifeguard Randy DeGregori recalls catching Lee at one of the luncheons looking intensely at a painting that was taped to the wall. It was a depiction by Dick Garrett of the Red Knights, which listed the names of lifeguards who had gone down to the sea for the last time. “I asked him, what are you looking for,” DeGregori recalls. “And Howard replies ‘I’m making sure I’m not on the list.’”

As Chief, during the height of popularity of Randy Newman’s song “Short People,” Lee wanted to test if the lifeguards were reading his Temporary Departmental Orders (TDO’s). He had the last line of this particular TDO read “If anyone calls me short, they’re fired.”

Moore describes Lee as an “unsung hero who put his nose to the grindstone and got things done. He didn’t do it for the accolades.”

But one accolade Lee approved of was the naming of a national competition award after him, “The Howard Lee Perpetual Trophy,” which is presented each year to the winner of the USLA National Lifeguard Championships in the large team category (agencies with over 200 lifeguards).

A photographer who followed the lifeguard competitions suggested the idea for a national trophy, modeled slightly after the Judge Irvin Taplin Bell trophy. The photographer obtained financing for the trophy and Moore — who at the time was President of the CSLSA — got the USLA to adopt the trophy as an award for the winning team.

It was presented to Lee in 1990.

“He was ecstatic and overwhelmed,” Moore recalled. “He was always a very humble guy. He really felt honored.”

Lee is survived by his wife of 63 years, Phyllis, and two sons Jeff and Greg, the latter a retired L.A. County Lifeguard Captain.



Jack Campbell, Actress Ali MacGraw, Howard Lee, and Don Rohrer (in back), at the dedication of the new Baywatch Malibu Rescue Boat

#####

Chris Linkletter

By ADAM SANDLER



Mentor, role model, trailblazer, competitor, groundbreaker and icon are just some of the

many adjectives often used to describe Chris Linkletter. There isn't any area of ocean lifeguarding — on the sand or off — that she hasn't made significant contributions to during her career and continuing in retirement.

Her career is heralded by many firsts, so it is perhaps fitting that Linkletter became the first woman ocean lifeguard to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual International Surf Festival Lifeguard Medal of Valor dinner held on August 3. She was presented the award in front of a large, enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers at the King Harbor Yacht Club in Redondo Beach. It was just the most recent first in a storied life of notable achievements.

During her 36-year career, Linkletter worked every one of the beaches protected by the L.A. County Fire Department Lifeguard Division, rising in 2014 to become the first female Section Chief before her retirement in 2021. She was the first woman trained as Swiftwater Rescue II level and was assigned to the Swiftwater Rescue team. Linkletter was the Department's first female Public Information Officer, the first woman background investigator, and the first woman promoted to Lifeguard Captain.

As a role model, Training Academy instructor and surf racing competitor, Linkletter has undoubtedly inspired many of the next generation of ocean lifeguards to work hard and achieve their goals. As a result, Linkletter was honored with the first Fire Department Lifeguard Trailblazer Award in 2018.

She was the first president of the L.A. County Surf Life Saving Association, and she recently became the first woman president of the International Surf Festival Executive Board. The ISF also for the first time named a new event after Linkletter in 2018, dubbed the Chris Linkletter Women's Surf Relay. It is a five-woman race with two swimmers, two paddlers, and one surf skier. Agencies from the area send their best women

competitors to participate along with the L.A. County teams.

Linkletter recently competed in the Jersey Mike's USLA National Lifeguard Championships in Hermosa Beach, CA where she competed in 7 races, including the grueling Iron-



woman. Her firsts included the age-group surf ski race and the 2 km run. She earned a solid 31.5 points. When she wasn't racing, Linkletter was ubiquitous on the course, supporting, counseling and encouraging the other competitors, helping them run their best race. I've been fortunate to be part of an organization where I was supported and encouraged throughout my career, and I was able to give the same to others," says Linkletter. "I'm also lucky that I can continue providing that encouragement to others through surf racing, and in the various organizations that I am involved."

#####

L.A. County Wins National Lifeguard Championships

By ADAM SANDLER



LA COUNTY NATIONALS TEAM

A nail-biting photo finish of the Taplin Relay in the final moments of competition helped the L.A. County Surf Life Saving Association (LA-CoSLSA) team score a decisive victory to win the 2022 Jersey Mike's United States Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships in Hermosa Beach on Saturday, Aug. 13.

But LACoSLSA's victory was seemingly never assured. Rivals, California State Lifeguard Association (CSLA), brought 86 more competitors to the event than L.A. in an unmistakable sign that its members wanted to win. And on Friday evening it was close: Less than 50 points separated the two teams.

Yet, by the end of the day on Saturday, the LA-CoSLSA team had widened the gap considerably and amassed a more than 420-point lead, thereby clinching a home-turf win. The L.A. team tallied an impressive 1793.125 points, compared with CSLA's 1369.503 total. It was L.A. County's 46th USLA National Lifeguard Championships win.

"We have a very deep roster, and the very talented athletes on the L.A. County Surf Lifesaving Association team battled hard every day

and consistently brought their 'A' game," said Jay Butki, president of the LACoSLSA. "The California State Lifeguard Association team came to win, and they challenged us in every event. It was a hard-fought victory.

"But the true winners are the beachgoers — members of the public — who visit the beaches protected by these competitor lifeguards, knowing that they are being watched by some of the finest ocean lifeguards in the nation, who had their skills, endurance, and fitness tested in this highly-competitive national event. Our L.A. County team will defend our title and compete against the fittest and fastest lifeguards next year in Virginia Beach."

More than 500 lifeguards from 43 USLA chapters competed during the three-day competition,



Miller and Murphy winning the Board Rescue Race

which ran Aug. 11-13. On Weds. Aug. 10, the first official day of the event, 315 Junior Guards competed. It was the largest USLA National Lifeguard Championships held on the West Coast since 2006 when the event was held in Huntington Beach, CA. The L.A. County team last hosted the event in Hermosa Beach, CA in 2016. Casey Francis of Ft. Lauderdale Ocean Rescue repeated as the Open Women's top points scorer, and Tom O'Neill of Riis Park, was the Open Men's top points winner. Last year's top Open Men's scorer, CSLA's Ben Brewer has joined the U.S. Coast Guard and did not compete to defend his title.

L.A. County had six athletes finish in the Top-10 of the Open Women's competition. Kelsey Cummings finished in second place, Jenna Solberg in fourth, Coral Kemp in fifth, Holly Maine in seventh, and Jen Noonan in tenth. (Noonan also landed in first place in points among Women Age Group racers). CSLA's Madison Feldman finished in ninth place, earning West Coast teams six of the Top-10 Open Women slots.

Cummings nailed five first place finishes: Surf Race, Surf Ski, Ironwoman, Board Relay with Maine and Kemp, and the Board Rescue with Maine. Cummings also earned second place in the Run Swim Run.

"It was great to have National's on our home beach and to get some of our new guards involved in surf racing," said Cummings.

"The team events clearly demonstrated our depth and quality."



Kelsey Cummings and Holly Maine winning the Open Women's Board Rescue Race.

L.A. women competitors also had solid showings in team events by taking three of the Top-10 spots in the Open Taplin (first/fourth/eighth), Rescue Race (third/seventh/ninth) and Board Relay (first/fourth/seventh). Similarly, CSLA women clinched a first in the Rescue Race, a third and ninth in the Board Relay, and sixth and tenth in the Taplin Relay.

Four L.A. County athletes finished in the Top-10 of the Open Men's individual competition. Brian



Ryan Bullock

Murphy came in second, Jake Miller in third, Pat Jacobson in eighth and Davy Thomas in ninth. Zane Booth, of Santa Barbara City came in sixth, giving five of the Top-10 to slots West Coast teams.

Murphy landed three first place finishes: Ironman, Taplin Relay with Chris

Javens, Stephen Blaauw, and Tim Burdiak, and Board Relay with brothers Bryce and Jake Miller. Murphy also earned thirds in Board Race and Surf Ski, as well as Board Rescue Race with Jake Miller.

Miller took first in American Ironman and was on his way to a win in the Board Race, until Booth caught a wave from the back which propelled him to shore. Miller finished a close second.

“Being able to get a couple of wins was great. But winning the Board Relay with my brother [Bryce] was really special,” said Miller. “And our team had a lot of new faces who came out to race.”

In the Age Group Women field, L.A.’s indefatigable Noonan secured the top spot, with Chris Linkletter taking third. Shannon Carr-Davey and Bridget Rome rounded out the Top-10 with seventh and tenth place finishes. CSLA’s Emily Hagen, Courtney Romero, Rebecca Levine-Thomas, and Kathryn Cooper landed in fifth, sixth, ninth and tenth (tie), respectively.

Notably, Noonan earned first place in six of her 45-49 age group events entered, a first in 35-39 age group Surf Boat race with Tiffany LaCasse of Palm Beach, and a second place finish in 45-49 Beach Flags. These age group wins were earned while Noonan was also competing in eight Open Women’s events and earning points in each. Eight of the Top-10 age group slots were owned by West Coast teams.

Led by surf-racing elder statesman Ed Heinrich, L.A. nabbed the top four places in Age Group Men, with Eldin Onsgard, Joel Gitelson, and Mark Montgomery ranking second, third and fourth, respectively. CSLA nabbed the next three spots with Ryan Gates, Jason Gabriel, and Randy Eickhoff. L.A.’s Tyler Morgan tied for

tenth place with Laguna Beach’s Wolf Hanke and Sussex’s Baily Noel.

As a result, eight of the Top-10 age group rankings were occupied by L.A. and CSLA racers, buoyed by Heinrich’s first place finishes in all seven of his races, and Eickhoff’s firsts in four of his. (He also earned Open events points). For the most part, CSLA competitors dominated the lineups in the Age Group races, while L.A. occupied the lion’s share of Open events rosters. “Our surf racing team this year exploded with massive support from our age-group division and lifeguard alumni,” said CSLA Team Manager Gates. “We had people reconnecting after 30 years of losing touch. It made for a very special weekend. And a lot of them were surprised when they walked away with medals after being away from the sport for so long. Our surf racing culture is now even stronger following our second place finish. The three days were time well-spent with each other.”



Kelsey Cummings has no fear, even with the media!

####

L.A. County Ocean Lifeguards Selected to Represent USA at 2022 Lifesaving World Championships in Italy



Jenna Solberg

Five L.A. County Ocean Lifeguards have been selected to represent the nation as part of the U.S. National Team, at the 2022 Lifesaving World Championships in Riccione, Italy, September 28 through October 2, 2022.

L.A. County Ocean Lifeguards Tim Burdiak, Kelsey Cummings, Holly Maine, Jake Miller, and Jenna Solberg— members of the L.A. County Surf Life Saving Association (LACoSLSA) Team — were chosen as a result of their impressive performances recently at the Jersey Mike’s USLA National Lifeguard Championships, held August 11-13 in Hermosa Beach, CA. Additionally, winning LACoSLSA team manager Joji Abasolo, will serve as assistant manager for the U.S. Team. v Santa Barbara City Ocean Lifeguard Zane Booth was also selected to compete. “These Lifeguards represent the best-of-the-best of ocean lifeguarding in the United States,” says Jay Butki, president of the L.A. County Surf Life-saving Association.” (LA-CoSLSA). “We know they will represent our team, the nation and the profession with pride, passion, and enthusiasm.”



Tim Burdiak

The 6-man, 6-women squad of elite ocean lifeguard athletes who will compete on behalf of the USA is sponsored by the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). The “Worlds,” as they are often called, attracts more than 3,000 athletes from nearly 50 countries. It is a unique event which tests the skills of lifesavers in a highly competitive environment with 21 lifesaving races held in a swimming pool and 21 lifesaving races held on the beach and open ocean.

**The US Team:
Men**

- Zane Booth (Santa Barbara City, CA).
- Tim Burdiak (L.A. County, CA.)
- Jake Miller (L.A. County, CA)
- Drew Modrov (Riis Park, NY)
- Tom O’Neill (Riis Park, NY)
- Mo Peacock (Wrightsville, NC).

**The US Team
Women**

- Amanda Calabrese (Hampton Beach, NY).
- Kelsey Cummings (L.A. County, CA)
- Casey Francis (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).
- Holly Maine (L.A. County, CA)
- April O’Gorman (Volusia, FL.)
- Jenna Solberg (L.A. County, CA).

####

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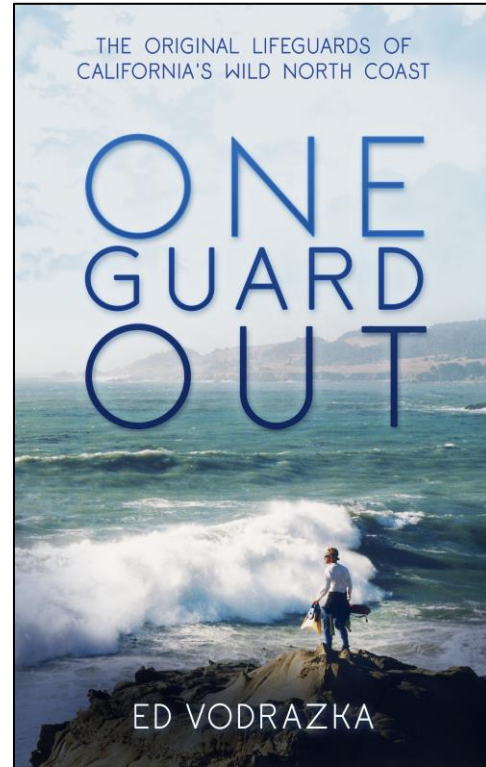
To book us for the 2023 Season
email Karen@JWPartyPictures.com

*As open-water lifesavers, our **MISSION** is to promote beach safety awareness and professional lifeguard standards through public education, training programs, exchange programs, junior lifeguard programs, competition, and other means. The ultimate goal is to prevent and reduce aquatic injuries, accidents, and death at open-water beaches in the Southwest Region of the United States Lifesaving Association.*

In his groundbreaking book "One Guard Out: Lifeguarding California's Wild North Coast, the Early Years," Ed Vodrazka has given the life-saving profession and all professional public safety responders an invaluable endowment; the story of men and women who accepted the prodigious challenge of working the cold, treacherous and rugged North Coast of California as ocean Lifeguards. These people are true pioneers who brought their skills and applied their knowledge to provide lifeguard service in an area that never before had lifesavers. Before they arrived, the number of drownings at Sonoma Coast beaches were staggering, unprecedented; local public safety agencies felt largely unable to deal with these many incidents beyond plucking the lucky ones from the water with helicopters or providing for the recovery of the remains of the deceased. It was generally conceded by the community, the fire and police services, even the State Parks managers and personnel that it could not be done, that it would be foolhardy to even try and establish a lifeguard service. The conventional wisdom had it that even lifeguards would die watery deaths in the attempt - like many of those hundreds of people who have expired over the decades recreating in or near what are the merciless waters of the Sonoma Coast. Although this is a collection of remarkable stories, it's much more than just that. Ed Vodrazka has woven into the narrative (intentional or not) observations on sociology, group dynamics and racial tolerance. The work as a whole reflects his thoughts on the importance of workplace harmony, the acrimony of workplace conflict, and the unpredictability of community distrust and activism. He has courageously shined a light on the struggle of the North Coast pioneers to overcome the issue of race relations and the mistrust it produced in a profession that has historically been the domain of Caucasian men. On a larger scale, these issues are still some of the most current and important of our times; the myriad trials and adversities encountered by the men and women of the original North Coast Lifeguard crew are a microcosm of navigating life in America in the 21 st Century. "One Guard Out: Lifeguarding California's Wild North Coast, the Early Years," is a fearless, meaningful, meticulously researched work that tells the enthralling

story of a unique time and place in the history of Ocean Lifeguards.

Mike Brouard
San Clemente, CA
5/25/2022



Available on [Amazon](#)



On Sept. 23rd Ed Vodrazka hosted and lecture, music and story reading event at the Historic Cottage at San Clemente State Beach.

In Memoriam



*A true legend of State Lifeguarding passed away on August 10th. **Eric Emery** started lifeguarding at Huntington City in 1954 and became a State Lifeguard in 1959, retiring in 1994. He is the father of the modern lifeguard training program, a mentor to thousands of Lifeguards and Jr. Lifeguards and a renowned teacher of English and literature in Huntington Beach. His contributions to lifesaving in Southern California are too long to list. He was a great man, and he will be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Sandy and son Chris. (From Mike Brouard)*



*A. County Fire Department Lifeguard Division Ocean Lifeguard **Derek C. Traeger** died tragically on August 14, 2022, in a traffic accident on the 405 freeway in Torrance.*



A Quick Look at the

LA County Fire Dept Lifeguards

CHAPTER: LA Co Surf Lifesaving Assoc Host of the Fall 2022 CSLSA BoD Meeting

The Los Angeles County Surf Life Saving Association (LACoSLSA) is a 501c(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation chartered to promote beach & open water safety awareness. We share the mission, goals and objectives of the CSLSA & the USLA.

The CSLSA is one of nine regions in the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA), which in turn is affiliated with the International Lifesaving Federation (ILS).

Affiliated Agency:

County of Los Angeles, Fire Department

1. Creation: 1914
2. Shoreline Guarded: 31 Miles
3. Permanent Lifeguards: 180
4. Seasonal Lifeguards: 650
5. Rescues 2021: 9,292
6. Junior Lifeguards 2021: 4,300

LA County Lifeguards provide rescue boat services, marine firefighting capabilities, and the only paramedic service to Catalina Island. Baywatch Avalon and Baywatch Isthmus operate as 24-hour response units, 365 days per year, out of the island's 2 main harbors. There are 3 other 24-hour response rescue boats, located in Los Angeles Harbor (Baywatch Cabrillo), King Harbor (Baywatch Redondo), and Marina del Rey (Baywatch Del Rey). Daily rescue boat services are provided by Baywatch Santa Monica and Baywatch Malibu. In addition to providing marine firefighting, LA County Lifeguards have specialized training for fire boat operations. Beach operations are handled by three Sectional Headquarters, located at Hermosa, Santa Monica, and Zuma beaches. Each of these locations staff a 24-hour response Rescue unit with a Captain and two permanent lifeguards, and they are part of the 911 system.

Chief Lifeguard: Fernando Boiteux
<https://fire.lacounty.gov/contact-us/>
Social Media: @lacolifeguards
CHAPTER Contact: info@lacoslsa.org