

Official Newsletter
of the
California Surf Lifesaving
Association

The **CALSURF**
V o l u m e 1 9 N o . 2

**L.A. County Lifeguard Death on Duty
Cold Hands Paddle A "Snowy" Day at Huntington**



CONTRIBUTORS

2012-2013 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Mike Beuerlein
Vice President	Bill Humphreys
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3rd Delegate	Jay Butki
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 Newsletter – Richard Godino
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 Original Founders - Rob McGowan
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 Statistics - Ian Burton

On the Cover: The "Honorable" Tim O'Donnell at the annual Cold Hands Paddle.

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CAL SURF MAGAZINE

Cal Surf News Magazine
is the official publication of the
California Surf Lifesaving Association
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2015 CALENDAR

USLA SPRING MEETING
 APRIL 22-24, SOUTH PADRE IS. TEXAS

 ISA WORLD PADDLE BOARD CHAMPS
 MAY 10 - 17
 SAYULITA, NAYARIT, MEXICO

 MAUI JIM OCEANFEST
 JUNE 6-7
 LAHAINA, HI

 ROCK2ROCK PADDLE BOARD RACE
 JUNE 21
 CATALINA ISTHMUS

 SAN CLEMENTE OCEAN FESTIVAL
 JULY 17-18
 SAN CLEMENTE

 CSLSA REGIONAL CHAMPS
 JUNE 25
 HUNTINGTON STATE

 JUDGE TAPLIN RELAYS
 AUGUST 1
 HERMOSA BEACH

 USLA NATIONAL CHAMPS
 AUGUST 6-8
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL.

 CSLSA FALL MEETING
 OCTOBER 9 - 10
 LACO

ARTICLES NEEDED!

Agency Profiles / How to Articles
California Lifeguard History
Junior Lifeguard Stories / Unusual Rescues
 Submit online to newsletter@cslsa.org

The CSLSA is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of California. Its principle goals are water safety, education, and the promotion of professional lifeguarding standards. These goals are accomplished through beach safety presentations to school groups, educational exchange programs with members of the International Lifesaving Federation and participation in regional and national competitions.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MIKE BEUERLEIN

Lifeguards risk their lives every day to prevent the tragic loss of life. So when a Lifeguard loses his life in the line of duty, it sends shock waves throughout the entire lifesaving community. On July 6th of last year, Lifeguards across the world watched in horror as one of our brothers lost his life to save another. Ben Carlson was an expert waterman and had personally saved hundreds of lives during his 15-year career as a Newport Beach Lifeguard. Ben made the ultimate sacrifice when he leapt off the deck of the Newport Beach rescue vessel in 12-foot surf to save more lives. Ben is a true hero and we will never forget him or his dedication to saving lives. For that reason, Ben Carlson has been recently nominated for the California Medal of Valor, the highest honor bestowed upon a public safety professional by the State of California.

It's hard to believe that out of such utter, unexplainable tragedy, sometimes something good emerges. Ben's death serves as a constant reminder to all of us of the perils of our profession. But more importantly, it draws public attention to the dangerous environment that Lifeguards serve in on a daily basis. The Ben Carlson Foundation was formed in the aftermath of the tragedy and has already been successful in raising significant funds to educate beach visitors on the hazards that exist along our coastline. CSLSA is looking forward to partnering with the Ben Carlson Foundation on many public education projects in the years to come to reduce the incidence of injury and fatality on our beaches.

Ironically, just 15 minutes prior to Ben's tragedy, at the same location, CSLSA almost lost second member.

California State Parks Lifeguard Scott Underhill was body surfing when he was flung on to the sandy bottom by a massive wave. Unconscious and floating beneath the ocean surface, Scott came in contact with an unknowing Lifeguard's leg. When he was pulled to shore, it was discovered that Scott was pulseless. Upon arrival at the hospital, x-rays revealed that his vertebrae had been shattered in two places. As Scott lay in the hospital comatose, doctors didn't know if he would survive. Remarkably, Scott not only survived and is walking and talking, but he recently requalified to Lifeguard again this season at a California State Beach.

I am pleased to provide an update on CSLSA activity since our last Board of Director's Meeting. Much of my work is routine, involving handling or routing inquiries, providing support to committee chairs and chapters, and representing CSLSA. I would like to thank many of you who have done so much work between the Board meetings. Clearly, the business of CSLSA does not stop at the closing of each Board meeting. Without your diligence, the work of CSLSA could not go on.

The San Clemente Lifeguard Association hosted the Fall 2014 CSLSA Board of Director's Meeting. Bill Humphreys, Sarah Over and crew did an outstanding job with all of the events. Since then, the CSLSA Executive Board represented our members at the Fall 2014 USLA Meeting in Virginia Beach, concluding USLA's 50th Anniversary celebration. In addition, CSLSA Executive Board members have attended two Executive Board meetings. Our Executive Board will take information from this meeting to represent CSLSA at the Spring 2015 USLA Meeting in South Padre Island, Texas, April 23-25.

Project Wipeout remains as CSLSA's signature public education program. Ian Burton (CSLSA's *Project Wipeout* Coordinator) and Mike Silvestri (CSLSA Public Education Chairman) continue to do a great job working with Linda Reuter (Hoag Hospital's *Project Wipeout* Director) on the *Project Wipeout* Committee. This year, the Lifeguard Conference will be held on Wednesday, July 8th. The agenda this year features spinal injury treatment, airway management for drowning, Critical Incident Stress Debriefment, the new *Project Wipeout* DVD and the Excellence in Lifesaving Award. We appreciate all of the agencies that continue to provide the staffing to keep *Project Wipeout* events (Orange County Fair, Imaginology, Festival of Chil-

[**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**, from page 3]
Children) going throughout the year.

CSLSA's partnership with the John Wayne Cancer Foundation (JWCF) continues to be solid and represents our largest Public Education program to date. 27,000 Junior Lifeguards throughout the state will receive critical education this summer on skin cancer recognition and prevention. Educating these 9 to 17 year old children is a vital step in cancer prevention for communities up and down the California Coastline.

The 2015 California Surf Lifesaving Championships will be held on July 24th for the Junior Lifeguards and July 25th for the Lifeguards. We once again thank the Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Association for stepping up for the 2nd year in a row to provide an excellent venue for our regional competition. As always, Scott Hubbell continues to provide sponsorship and support for our programs.

At our Fall 2014 Meeting, Mike Silvestri asked that CSLSA create a committee for social media. This includes all types of social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to promote CSLSA events. This new committee would support all of the other CSLSA committees. I recommended that the committee be formed and that recruitment for the position would begin at this meeting. I also suggested that it be a sub-committee of the Public Relations Committee. We are still recruiting Chairs for our Professional Standards and Grant Committees. Please see me if you are interested in an opportunity to serve.

Our Treasurer, who coincidentally happens to be the USLA Treasurer as well, recently identified a new financial institution for USLA accounts. Mr. Williams is willing to do the same for us if the CSLSA Board of Directors authorize. He will discuss this later in the meeting agenda.

CSLSA Board Members continue to be actively involved in the California Marine Safety Chief's Association, the Orange County Marine Safety Chief's Association and the Orange County Training Officer's Association. These collaborations can only serve to elevate our profession in the years to come.

Many thanks to Skeeter Leeper, Gary Conwell, Rob Williams and the Newport Beach Lifeguard Association for hosting the Spring 2015 CSLSA Board of Directors

Meeting. Remember, today is a trial for our 1-day agenda, so let's try to get it all in effectively and efficiently. We will take input on the trial at the end of this meeting. Let's make the most of our time together.

Lifeguards for Life!

FALL 2014 CSLSA MEETING SAN CLEMENTE



OUR HOST FACILITY



OLE HANSON BEACH CLUB



PRESENTATION TO BEN CARLSON'S PARENTS



THE VENDOR DECK

VETERAN L.A. COUNTY LIFEGUARD DIES ON DUTY



By Joseph Serna, L.A. Times
Photos courtesy L.A. County Fire Dept.

Veteran Los Angeles County lifeguard Brian Kutil died Jan. 15, 2015, in a swim exercise at a Manhattan Beach pool. (Credit: Los Angeles County Fire Department)

Brian was described as a “happy-go-lucky guy” who “gave 100 percent everyday,” by lifeguard section chief Chris Linkletter.

The 42-year-old was participating in an annual 500-meter recertification swim exercise at Mira Costa High School, according to a news release from the county Fire Department’s Lifeguard Division.

About 7 a.m. other lifeguards on the pool deck saw the El Segundo native struggling in the water and rushed to pull him out of the pool.

Kutil was treated by fellow lifeguards and Manhattan Beach Fire Department paramedics before being transported to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Police officers shut down intersections so rescuers could get Kutil to the hospital as fast as possible, said Inspector Chris Reade with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Despite “heroic efforts,” he was pronounced dead at the hospital

It was not clear what caused Kutil, described as a lifeguard specialist with 20 years in the division, to become ill during the annual recertification swim.



Lifeguard Specialist Brian Kutil is seen diving off the back of Baywatch Del Rey in Venice Beach on Sept. 16, 2014. (Credit: KTLA)

“All of us are shocked by this terrible early morning news,” Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby said in the release. “Our hearts go out to his family, friends and his Fire Department family. Please keep everyone in your thoughts as we mourn his tragic loss.”

A spokesman for the Lifeguard Division said Kutil was among those who worked to rescue nearly 200 people in one day from strong rip currents that hit the county’s coast in September.



The 12th ANNUAL TIM O'DONNELL HONORARY



By Richard Godino
Contributoers - Fred Sardisco
and Jason Welke

This little known but now popular event was started in 2002 by two Los Angeles City lifeguards. While working a tower together, Fred Sardisco and Jason Welke, made a wager about paddling around the lighthouse at the end of the San Pedro Breakwall.



Fred Sardisco



Jason Welke with the day's catch



Paddle craft lined up for the start of this year's race

Later that day, the chat evolved until they had decided to make the paddle a bonafide annual event. At the time there were only two other big races in the area, the Rock2Rock and the Catalina Classic, so another race south of the other two at their own beach made sense. They also decided to do it annually on March first, the middle of winter, rain or shine, and that the race would be free to participate. Jason came up with the name *Cold Hands Paddle* because of the unusually cold water at Cabrillo Beach year round. At any rate another City lifeguard, Tim O'Donnell came to become the inspiration for this race. Tim was a veteran guard and had become their influence in paddling, lifeguarding and just getting in the water to do anything. They would often use Tim's Unlimited Class Bark paddleboard to practice longer distance paddling. Fred says, "Tim is such an all around great guy. He should run for honorary Mayor of San Pedro. I'm sure he would win." Jason and Fred decided to name the race the *Tim O'Donnell Memorial Cold Hands Paddle* to honor Tim. When Tim heard about the name he immediately contacted Fred and Jason and begged to differ about the status of his life. At that point, they agreed upon the name, as it stands today, *The Tim O'Donnell Honorary Cold Hands Paddle*.

Fred and Jason worked hard and were fortunate to connect with several willing sponsors through friends, family and other lifeguards and paddlers. Some of the sponsors: Lifeguards Frank and Maria Bird at Akolu, www.akolu.com; Joe Bark, Charlie Hutchins and the whole Bark family and Team; legendary doryman, lifeguard and all around waterman Mike O'Donnell (Tim's brother) and his business Harbor Physical Therapy; and fellow City lifeguard Andrew Park and his company, Carapace Wetsuits. And there are more, too numerous

COLD HANDS PADDLE, from page 6 to mention who helped with the set-up, hand outs and everything else, including the City and County life-guards who both lent patrol boats for the race.



Ready to paddle 2015

In 2007, the race became the annual sponsor of the Ocean of Hope Campaign "O2H" and the



Dory men Gus Cortez and partner Sarcoma Alliance., www.sarcomaalliance.org. The



Vintage T-Shirt Design 2009

Ocean of Hope is comprised of a team of athletes raising funds for those affected with cancer. The Cold

Hands Paddle donates all funds that are raised through the race to the Ocean of Hope Campaign.



Starting line 2009



Vintage T-Shirt Design 2006

CHARITIES BENEFITED



Dedicated to the sea of people affected by cancer





PHOTO COURTESY ALLEN SCHABEN

JUST ANOTHER SNOWY DAY IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA

***HEAVY HAIL FROM A MARCH THUNDERSTORM MAKES HUNTINGTON BEACH
LOOK LIKE CHICAGO. THE PALM TREES IN THE BACKGROUND AND THE
SURFER STRETCHING ON THE BEACH ARE REMINDERS WE'RE STILL IN
SURF CITY***