

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

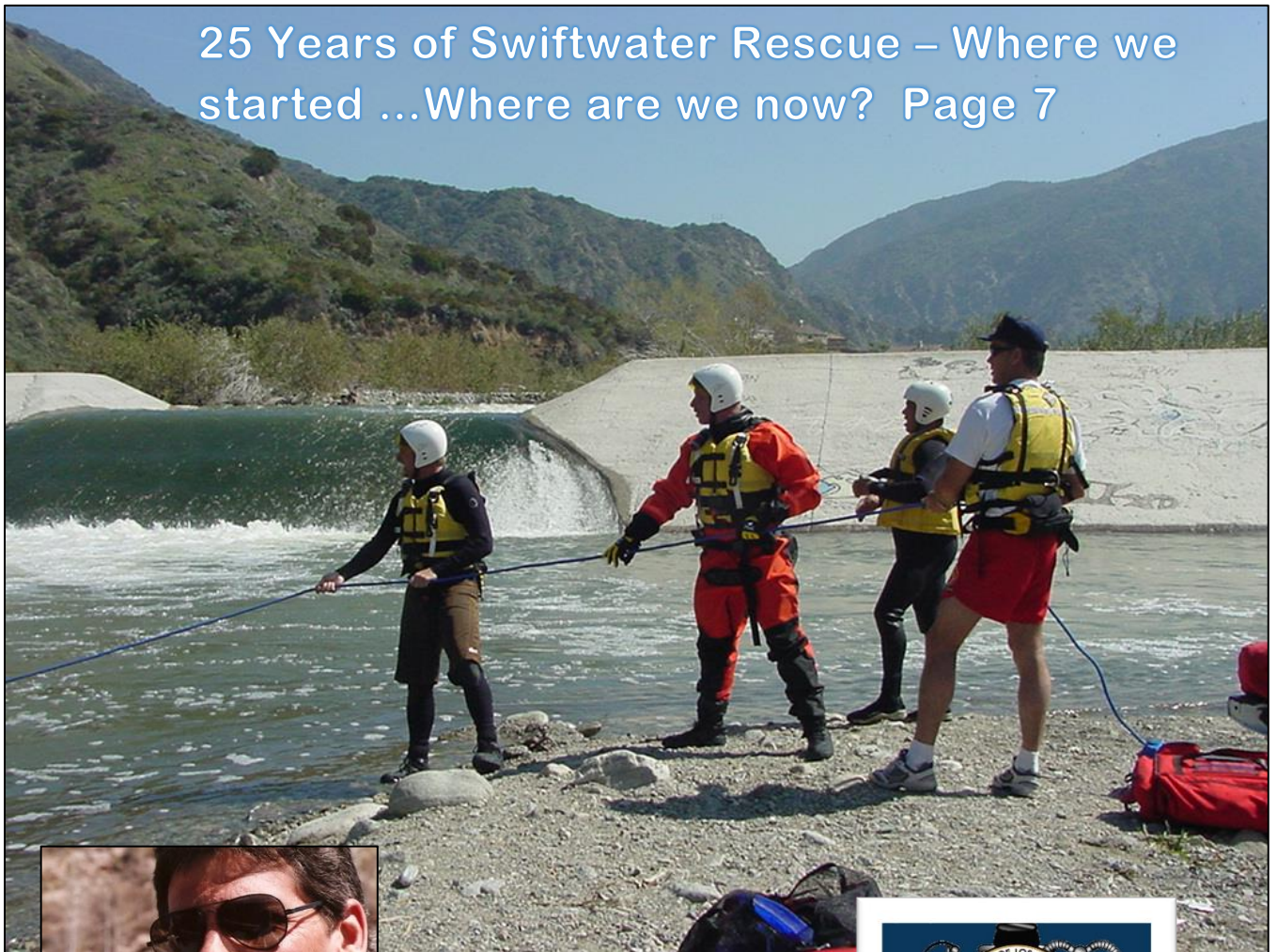
SPRING 2017

The
CALSURF

VOLUME 21 NO. 2

California Flooding? We're Ready Now!

25 Years of Swiftwater Rescue – Where we started ...Where are we now? Page 7



RICHARD GODINO

Also in this issue...



THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNDERWATER INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM (UICC)

2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Mike Beuerlein
Vice President	Bill Humphreys
Secretary	Kai Bond
Treasurer	Rob Williams
Advisor	Rob McGowan
1st Delegate	Mike Silvestri
2nd Delegate	Gus Avila
3rd Delegate	Jay Butki
4th Delegate	Casey Graham

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

Spring CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting
Port Huemene, CA Apr. 6-7 2017

2017 CSLSA Surf Lifesaving Championship
Silver Strand State Beach, CA on July 21 &
22, 2017

**USLA 2017 National Lifeguard
Championship** Daytona Beach, Florida on
Aug 9th - 12th, 2017

National Beach Safety Week
May 22 through Memorial Day, 2017

**World Conference on Drowning
Prevention** October 17th - 19th in
Vancouver, B.C.

USLA Fall 2017 Board of Directors Meeting
October 20th and 21st in Vancouver,
British Columbia

**Fall 2017 CSLSA Board of Directors
Meeting**
Los Angeles City (date: TBD at spring
meeting)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Bylaws/Policies & Procedures - Bill Humphreys
Certification – Vince Lombardi
Exchange – Doug Leach & Ms. Schwene
Grants – Mr. Busatto
Junior Lifeguards – Casey Graham & Mr. Egan
Legislation – Adam Sandler
Sport/Fitness – Jay Butki & Mr. Prosser
Membership – Charlotte Graham
Newsletter – Jim Hughes
Original Founders – Rob McGowan
Professional Standards – Shea Gipti
Public Education – Mike Silvestri
Public Relations – Kai Bond
Special Awards – Bill Richardson
Sponsorship – Gus Avila
Statistics – Ian Burton
Training – Mike Scott
Ways and Means – Rob Williams
Website – Bob Moore

Please compare with current meeting agenda on
CSLSA website for many new committee chairs.

THE CAL SURF NEWS

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P.O. Box 366, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
www.CSLSA.org FAX 714/374-1500

Managing Editor
Jim Hughes – LA County Lakes

Contributors
Gary Hild – LA County Lakes
Nancy Rigg - flood rescue subject matter expert,
writer-filmmaker.

Photo Contributors
Rob Welch
Nancy Rigg
Miscellaneous

Marketing & Promotion
Scott Hubbell – LA County



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MIKE BEUERLEIN

California Lifeguards lost another dear friend on January 25, 2017. Rich Godino passed away at the age of 68. He was a long time USLA member and competitor. Rich served as a CSLSA Committee Chairman and was Editor of the *Cal Surf News*. He also volunteered for many years as an official at Regionals and Nationals. In recent years, I was always inspired by Rich's commitment to lend assistance in any way possible, even when challenged by obvious health issues. Rich will always be remembered for his kind spirit and humble dedication to the profession of open water lifesaving. As CSLSA President, I had the honor of presenting Rich's wife, Jolie, with the USLA Award of Merit at his memorial service. Rich will be missed, but never forgotten...

Thank you to the Santa Cruz Surf Lifeguard Association for hosting the Fall 2016 CSLSA Board of Director's Meeting. Brendan Daly, Jill Bates and crew did an outstanding job with all of the events. Since then, the CSLSA Executive Board represented our members at the Fall 2016 USLA Meeting in Denver, Colorado. In addition, CSLSA Executive Board members have attended three Executive Board meetings. Our Executive Board will take information from the Spring 2017 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting to represent our members at the Spring

2017 USLA Meeting in Cape Cod on April 27th through 29th.

The Fall 2016 USLA Meeting was more successful than expected. CSLSA realized 3 of our 4 top meeting goals: approval of the California Marine Safety Chiefs Association (CMSCA) Specialty Training/Certification proposal, approval of our USLA Life Membership Policy voting change proposal and approval of our USLA Life Membership nominations. I am particularly pleased with the approval of Alex Peabody's Life Membership Award. I just wish he were here to receive it. Hopefully we can continue and build on our success with USLA in 2017.

The CMSCA proposed that the USLA Certification Committee offer specialty training modules and certifications to better standardize our profession similar to NFPA. This concept addresses the USLA strategic plan goal of stimulating more agency involvement and ultimately saving more lives. The USLA Certification Committee voted to create a project group to investigate the potential of expanding training and certification with specific courses. Kai Bond was selected to lead the project group with representatives from each region. Rescue Watercraft was identified as the initial curriculum for development. In March, Mr. Bond traveled to Galveston, Texas to lead a 3-day meeting to create a 40-hour basic curriculum.

Unfortunately, we were not able to accomplish all of our goals in Denver. All three of our Delegate Count proposals, to make the director to member ratio more proportionate to current membership totals, were defeated. We will not give up on this matter.

Additional USLA News

- After a lengthy waiting period that disrupted team selection and training, Gus Avila was reappointed as U19 National Team Manager and Casey Graham was reappointed as U19 National Team Coach. Unfortunately, despite their impressive qualifications and experience, Jay Butki and Skip Prosser were not selected for any National Team

management positions. With input from Mr. Butki and Mr. Prosser, I will be investigating the selection process, as it clearly needs to be significantly improved.

- National Beach Safety Week dates have been changed to begin on the Monday before Memorial Day and end on Memorial Day.
- USLA is considering increasing the cost of agency certification and is seeking input from all regions.
- Agencies are encouraged to apply for the USLA National Awards Program designed to recognize agencies that exceed current standards.
- Mr. Avila is no longer seeking a JG dues increase, but rather, a \$5 increase to registration fees at Nationals for JG and U19 competitors to be earmarked for the U19 Team.
- The World Conference on Drowning Prevention is going to be held in North America for the first time in decades on October 17th through 19th. As a result, USLA has elected to hold the Fall 2017 Board of Directors Meeting on October 20th and 21st in Vancouver, British Columbia. The date and location change will allow USLA meeting delegates to have the rare opportunity to attend the World Conference on Drowning Prevention.
- As a result of the Fall 2017 USLA Meeting being moved two weeks earlier, it will be necessary to adjust the Fall 2017 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting date scheduled to be hosted by Los Angeles City on October 12th & 13th.

The City of Capitola is in the process of reestablishing their Ocean Lifeguard Service and CSLSA Chapter. Toward that end, CSLSA sent them a letter of understanding. We are pleased that Assistant City Manager Larry Laurent will be in attendance at the Fall 2017 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting to introduce the City's recently hired Lifeguard management personnel.

Prior to the start of our March Executive Board Meeting, Bill Richardson and Bob Moore gave a presentation on proposed edits and corrections to the CSLSA Bylaws and Policies & Procedures. These proposals will be discussed in the CSLSA Bylaw Committee meeting and their recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Mr. Moore and Mr. Richardson volunteered well over 100 hours of time and effort toward this project and are to be commended for their continuing dedication to our organization.

Thank you to Jim Hughes for volunteering to serve as the *Cal Surf News* Editor and as liaison for the Public Relations Committee's recommended social media improvements to the CSLSA website. Likewise, I'd like to thank Mr. Richardson for developing the new CSLSA Medal of Valor.

The 2017 CSLSA Surf Lifesaving Championships will be hosted at Silver Strand State Beach by a coalition consisting of the Silver Strand, Coronado, and Imperial Beach chapters. JG's compete on July 21st and Lifeguards on the 22nd. The 2017 USLA National Lifeguard Championships will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida on August 9th through 12th.

A reminder to all Committee Chairs: please submit your pre-meeting and post-meeting reports to the CSLSA Secretary (kbond@lagunabeachcity.net) within the next week. This is very important for the posting of our meeting minutes on the CSLSA website as a historical record and source of information to our members.

Many thanks to Casey Graham and the Hueneme Lifeguard Association for hosting the Spring 2017 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting. We are pleased to congratulate them on achieving their recent tax-exempt status.

Lifeguards for Life!



Los Angeles County Underwater Instructor Program

In 1952 Al Tilman, the county's sports director was skin diving in Los Angeles County water and ran into several divers who didn't know what they were doing. One had a new underwater breathing unit. He wrote the following memorandum to the Director of Parks and Recreation:

June 10, 1952

To: Paul Gruendyke, Director LA County Parks and Rec.

From: Al Tillman, Sports Director

Subject: Skin Diving Classes

A new sport - skin diving - is becoming popular in the area. Recently, while diving in Palos Verdes, I ran into several divers in the water with me who didn't know what they were doing. One had one of the new underwater breathing units that allow divers to stay under for long periods of time. I have purchased this equipment for evaluation.

The Palos Verdes area in question is not covered by the Lifeguards and serious problems could arise if an accident occurs and if the County doesn't act proactively. This activity falls into the sports category and I propose that my department get involved in this sport and provide training classes. I believe that diving will grow in the future and we have an obligation to make the sport as safe as possible.

Let's get together soon to discuss the possibilities of a County sponsored training program.

cc. N. S. Johnson

Chuck Bollinger

The delivery of this memorandum started a chain reaction that would be felt around the world and affect millions of divers for decades to come. He teamed up with Los Angeles County Lifeguard Bev

Morgan and Ramse Parks, and was taught how to dive by scientific divers Conrad Limbaugh and Andreas Rechnitzer from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. They wrote a manual for a basic class and in the summer of 1954 the first public classes in the U.S. in both skin and SCUBA, were introduced. The classes filled with no problem. They had so much interest that they did not have enough instructors so that following year they set up an instructors training program and proceeded to have the first UICC (Underwater Instructor Certification Course) in the world in the spring of 1955. The Los Angeles County underwater program grew in all directions. An instructor's manual to guide and standardize the teaching was published. Los Angeles became the guideline program for a lot of the U.S. and by the late 50's was generating original research and resulting standard information for SCUBA know-how. They were besieged from everywhere with requests for materials to help set up similar programs. A special offering was launched to try and accommodate them, but it is politically taboo in tax payer's eyes for a county agency to work beyond its geographical borders. That's why in 1959 NAUI was formed. Los Angeles County's program, however, remains to this day one of the best programs in the world. Having gone through the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Certification Course is a status symbol - being in direct descent of the first organized public program. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreations Underwater Unit is designed to keep the residents and visitors as safe as possible while participating in the expanding sport of underwater diving. This is done by "Safety through Education". We will plan and develop underwater programs like:

- skin diver
- junior skin diver
- junior frogman
- junior diver

- scuba air snorkeling (SAS)
- rocks, rips and reefs (3 R's)



On July 1, 2012, the Lake Lifeguard Division of the Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation resumed responsibility for the direct oversight and management of the following Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation Underwater Unit programs.

In addition, the Lake Lifeguard Division plans to revive and re-instate the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructor's Association to assist the Underwater Unit in conducting these programs.

Lifeguard personnel who have direct oversight and management of the Underwater Unit programs are Los Angeles County Certified Instructors and former UICC graduates. It is the intent of the Underwater Unit to re-establish and continue the rich traditions associated with these programs by offering stand-alone Los Angeles County Underwater Unit continuing education and certification programs with no particular affiliation to an agency.

For further information please contact Gary Hild, Senior Lake Lifeguard, Los Angeles County Parks & Rec Lifeguard Division Underwater Unit Director.

lacunderwaterunit@gmail.com

Website: Los Angeles County Underwater Unit

www.lacscuba.com/



So long Richard

Richard Godino was one of the founding editors of the Cal Surf Newsletter. He worked tirelessly as an LA City Lifeguard for 42 continuous years. Richard's contribution to lifesaving is enormous. Richard was a founding member of the Los Angeles City Lifeguard Association, a longstanding member of both the California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association and the first director of the Citywide Aquatics Urban Rescue and Response Team. He fostered cooperation between multiple City and County agencies in his development of medical assessment training for lifeguards including the use and provision of Automated External Defibrillators,

In his quarter century of leadership as an Aquatic Director, Richard developed innovative aquatic programming and fostered a higher standard of professionalism for lifeguards.

Richard grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He attained his college degree in Geology and Cartography at San Fernando Valley College, (now CSUN). He leaves behind his wife Jolie, daughter Christy and sons Rico and Mikey, and six grandchildren. Richard was a true waterman, hero and friend...he will be sorely missed.



25 Years of Swiftwater Rescue

By Jim Hughes

It's hard to imagine that it was a quarter century ago when lifeguard services in Southern California entered the world of swiftwater rescue. Little was known at the time about the consequences, challenges and opportunities that would result from this new "techy", macho, high profile rescue operation. There was much enthusiasm in the lifeguard community.

It was only logical that lifeguards and swiftwater be put together. During this period, there was a significant opportunity for lifeguard services and fire departments to reach out to each other. mutual aid agreements were formed, inter-agency trainings were organized and run. It was also a solid justification to allow fire departments to absorb lifeguard services already funded by the same city or county. New technologies were emerging as the synergy increased.

Many of us in lifesaving have come to learn that it often takes a tragedy to turn the tide of bureaucracy. In the case of SWR, there were two notable drownings among the many that served to drive home the need for high-level attention, commitment and coordination between all first responder agencies, especially those up or down-stream of any urban river or flood channel. The first was the Earl Higgins drowning in 1980. While there was some media coverage and community concern, the real trigger in this case was the Mr. Higgins' fiancée, Nancy Rigg, who bore witness to the whole event, including the futile rescue and recovery attempts. It took nine months to locate her fiancé's body.

Nancy on her own initiative, began inquiring at the local level asking why wasn't the response coordinated better? Aren't there lifeguards who can do this? Better equipment? There were so many questions to ask and very little answers out there at the time. Eventually, Nancy began approaching firefighters and lifeguards themselves. Soon there was a tremendous support for Nancy Rigg's cause from many different Police, Fire, & Lifeguard agencies with the exact same goal. Yet, attention from above the front lines always seemed to fade as the rains would leave and other issues would detour funding commitments. This was the status quo for many years. It was literally a grass roots effort among a very few dedicated front-line first responders, who took it upon themselves to seek out training and equipment needs.

Teams, among lifeguard and fire agencies, began to form in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. Many of them were underfunded, understaffed and under equipped. Teams seemed to stay afloat (pardon the pun) only because of the personal commitment and foresight of the individuals on the teams themselves.

However, a second tragedy occurred in February 1992. As Angelinos flipped on their TV sets on a rainy afternoon they saw fifteen-year-old Adam Bischoff, floundering down the Los Angeles River, his blonde hair barely visible, arms flailing about, going under overpasses and through debris, going underwater for long periods then coming up again. It was hard to watch by any means. Firefighters hung ropes (or strung themselves) from bridges as police used their helicopters dodging powerlines to stay over the victim. Finally, the boy went under and didn't come up again.

Even some newscasters were obviously shaken and disturbed by the absolute helplessness of both the victim and his numerous would-be rescuers. By the end of the 1990's, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties all had Board or Council actions bolstering or creating swift water rescue teams utilizing lifeguards.

Today, in the US and Canada, surface water and swiftwater rescue is covered under National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1006 Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications, 2008 Edition. This standard contains two separate chapters that define the required knowledge, skills and abilities for surface water rescue (Chapter 11) and swiftwater rescue (Chapter 12). The use of the terms Awareness, Operational and Technician have been replaced by two levels of qualification: Level I and Level II.

Swiftwater rescue teams brought the best of each lifeguard agency into situations where they were really needed. They developed teamwork, mutual respect and cooperation between many lifeguard, police and firefighting agencies. They addressed issues such as radio communication, incident command and the other complexities of mutual aid responses, serving as a perfect precursor to the 9/11 terrorist attack which changed things in this country forever. But for first responders, it simply meant that SWR was quickly becoming “last year” and a new acronym WMD was in!

Additional Information:

FEMA

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-163e.pdf>

SWIFTWATER RESCUE NEWS

<https://swiftwaterrescuenews.wordpress.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.

HOLA

A Quick Look at the

Port Hueneme Ocean Lifeguard Association

Host of the Spring 2017 CSLSA BOD Meeting



Agency: Port Hueneme Lifeguards

- Governing Body: City of Port Hueneme
- Creation: Late 1960's
- Coastline Guarded: 1.1 Mile
- Permanent Lifeguards: 0
- Seasonal Lifeguards: 40
- Junior Lifeguards: 300 per Summer
- Rescues: 239 (in 2015)

The City of Port Hueneme is the only municipality in Ventura County that has its own lifeguard service. The department has existed since the late 1960s, and lifeguard coverage is in place from Memorial Day through early fall along the 1.1 mile long beach.

The entrance to the Port of Hueneme, a deep water commercial and Navy port, serves as the northern border of Port Hueneme beach.

Facing due south, with a large natural submarine canyon offshore, cold water and large surf are the norm during the summer months.

The lifeguard service is managed by Timothy Burrows, and the Junior Lifeguard Program is managed by Casey Graham.