

Cal-Surf News

Volume 5 Number 1

Winter 1998



In Newport Beach, the "Wedge" came alive with 15-20 ft. - plus breakers on numerous days when Southern California was pounded by a series of some of the most powerful hurricanes ever recorded in the Eastern Pacific related to El Nino.



Inside the Cal Surf....

| | |
|---|----|
| A Word From CSLSA's New President | 2 |
| Southwest Region Update | 3 |
| Message from the Past President | 4 |
| Incident Command System and Lifeguard Summer Operations | 5 |
| Training Academy Update | 6 |
| Orange County Hit by Biggest Storm in 70 Years | 7 |
| http://www.usla.org | 8 |
| 'Cal Surf' Seeking Advertisers | 8 |
| The Perils of Pauline | 8 |
| Lifeguards Raise \$20,000 to Benefit Moorhouse Memorial | 10 |
| Hawaii's First Female Lifeguard Passes Away | 11 |

A Message From the New President

by Bill Richardson, Huntington Beach

At the recent meeting of the CSLSA Board of Directors our biannual election of officers resulted in a few changes in individuals elected and the jobs they will be doing. The following new officers were elected:

- President - Bill Richardson,
Huntington Beach
- Vice President - Don Rohrer,
LA County
- Secretary - Mike Beuerlein,
Huntington Beach
- Treasurer - Bob Moore,
LA County
- Recurrent Rep, A.J. Summers,
Seal Beach

- Advisor/Past President - Chris Brewster,
San Diego
- Executive Delegates -
Steve Long, California State
Kai Weisser, Huntington Beach
- Alternate Delegate - Mike Halphide,
Newport Beach

I would like to convey a very special, heartfelt thanks to Rob McGowan and Eric Bauer who were not reelected for another term. Their efforts over the past two year term added to the overall effort. Their expertise and insight will be missed on the board.

With this new Executive Board

comes new challenges and perspectives. One of our challenges for the next two years is to fine tune the nationally based membership program to increase overall membership in our Region as well as the National to become a more representative organization of open water lifeguards.

One of my personal goals is to increase participation within the region to get an even more representative point of view. Although the CSLSA Executive Board provides the most representative group at the national level, there are issues, committees and direction that need more input from the rank and file. We can do a lot more toward our goal of educating the public, but need your assistance in doing so.

Some of the successes over the past four years include setting up and operating the CSLSA web site at: www.cslsa.org. With the web site we've stepped into the computer age to provide essential communication. The site contains information on the Executive Board, our Recurrent Job Survey and Chapter information. The site will continue to be upgraded to include public ed materials and additional information about CSLSA. It will also be linked to the USLA web site which is a much larger and more complex system of information. The USLA site can be reached at: www.USLA.org.

Through the efforts of Chris Brewster, CSLSA supported two major boating safety bills which were recently enacted. Both are specific to safety issues. One sets the minimum age of operations of a motorboat over 15 horsepower or 30 feet at 16 years of age, with an exception for those 12-15 years of age to operate under supervision of an onboard adult.

The other bans night operation of pwc's, wake jumping and spraying.

The recent ILS Medical/Rescue (Continued on p. 4)

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Executive Board:

- Bill Richardson -- President
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- Mike Beuerlein -- Secretary
- Bob Moore -- Treasurer
- A.J. Summers -- Recurrent Rep.
- Chris Brewster -- Advisor/Past President
- Steve Long -- Delegate
- Kai Weisser -- Delegate
- Mike Halphide -- Delegate

Committee Chairmen

- Chris Brewster -- Certification
- Rob McGowan -- Competition
- A.J. Summers -- Exchange
- Chris Brewster -- International Liaison
- Reenie Boyer -- Junior Lifeguards
- Chris Brewster -- Legislation
- Eric Bauer -- Membership
- Mike Bartlett -- Newsletter
- Mike Beuerlein -- Public Education

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

Southwest Region (CSLSA)

Regional Report Fall 1997 Board of Directors Meeting

by B. Chris Brewster, San Diego

Membership

Several California lifeguard agencies made USLA membership a basic element of tuition in junior lifeguard programs. Over 1,500 junior guard members were thus added to USLA membership roles this year. We made our junior lifeguard membership \$10, with \$6 to USLA and \$4 to the region.

CSLSA again provided a kit for regular members and we plan to do so again next year.

The national system had some bumps for us, with a few frustrations as it started out, but in over the long haul our numbers were good and we remain committed to the national system.

USLA Certification

A total of 23 agencies have now applied from the Southwest Region. This leaves only 11 agencies affiliated with USLA chapters which have yet to apply for certification.

Accredited Regional Lifeguard Academy

Five San Diego area lifeguard agencies, under the leadership of Lt. Nick Lerma, combined forces to create a regional lifeguard academy, accredited by a local community college and consistent with the USLA training guidelines, using the USLA manual as a basic text.

The academy was 80 hours in length, with first responder level medical aid training as a prerequisite.

Each agency selected candidates as per their usual hiring process, but advised those selected that actual hire depends upon successful completion of the academy.

Each agency contributed their own instructors, who were paid by the community college.

Students from South Africa, Argentina, and Mexico also participated in an effort to provide international opportuni-

ties. The highest scoring student in the course was the South African lifeguard.

Next year, the group plans several of these courses, with an ultimate hope of being able to hire from a pool of graduates.

Boating Safety Legislation

CSLSA supported two major legislative boating safety initiatives in California. Both were signed by the Governor and become law January 1, 1998.

1. Senate Bill 545 was sponsored by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Lifeguard Service. It raises the minimum age to operate a motorboat over 15 horsepower or a sailboat over 30 feet to 12 and requires that persons 12, 13, 14, or 15 who operate such boats must be supervised by an adult who is aboard the boat.

2. Senate Bill ... prohibits wake jumping within 100 feet of another vessel, spraying another person or vessel, and night operation of a personal watercraft.

International Medical/Rescue Conference

The International Life Saving Federation conducted an international Medical/Rescue Conference in San Diego in September 1997. Over 30 international speakers participated, with over 100 participants

from 13 countries.

Proceedings of the conference are available. See American Lifeguard Magazine for details.

Spring USLA Board of Directors Meeting Slated for Avalon

LA County is preparing to host the spring USLA meeting on Catalina Island, in the beautiful port town of Avalon, May 7, 8, and 9, 1998. The CSLSA meeting is tentatively scheduled for Solana Beach on April 23 & 24.

CSLSA Web-Site

A.J. Summers and Kai Weisser continue to maintain and update the CSLSA website. The address is: <http://www.cslsa.org>.

New CSLSA Officers Elected

I have stepped down from acting as president of the Southwest Region to devote more time to USLA national programs (certification, textbook, and the world wide web site) and the International Life Saving Federation. CSLSA Vice-President Eric Bauer has also stepped down to devote more time to agency matters. Thanks to those who served with me the past four years and the hard work done. Congratulations to the new CSLSA officers who took office in January for two years.



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President's Message

(Continued from p. 2)

Conference held in San Diego on September 15-17 was extremely successful. Copies of the proceeding are available through Chris Brewster for \$15 which covers the cost of production and postage. If you ever have a chance to attend one of these meetings in the future, you need to take advantage of the opportunity.

Also on the international scene is the success of the Club Tortuga effort led by Bob Burnside. Bob who is retired from LA County, Matt Karl of Huntington Beach and Ryan Wilkinson from Rhode Island, head the club's effort in supporting the Puerto Escondido Salvavidas program. There have been several articles in Cal Surf News about their efforts, (with an article in this issue on their unexpected and unprecedented rescue/relief effort during hurricane Pauline in October this year).

As I said the new board has many new challenges. The mixture of individuals appears to have a new flavor and is certainly one which can move toward mutual cooperation and success. Our desire is to serve the organization the best way we can. Our hope is that you will participate with us to keep CSLSA strong and in the forefront of the lifesaving movement. Together, with your help we can make a difference in people's safety and on the profession we have taken.

Have a great winter and stay safe.

From Ski Patrol to Lifeguard Chief, Brewster Steps Down from CSLSA Presidency

by C. Chris Brewster

When I was hired by the City of San Diego in 1979, I knew little of being a beach lifeguard. I was working at a ski area and had been a competitive swimmer in high school, but it was the intensive training my new employer provided that gave me the skills I needed to be a successful lifesaver.

Although there have been challenges and frustrations over my 19 years in lifesaving, I have never ceased to believe that being trained and given the opportunity to work as a professional lifeguard is one of the greatest gifts I have ever received.

Like many others, I soon developed an enduring commitment to my profession and I resolved to make every possible effort to make improvements where I could. In that regard, I have joined a cadre of lifeguards who devote untold hours volunteering our time to the United States Lifesaving Association and its member organizations.

No one, in any profession beyond lifeguarding, has the opportunity to impact the lives of others so immediately and so dramatically. We regularly intervene successfully in the struggle between death and

life. Our efforts are unlike those of any other public safety providers.

Unlike the surgeon who, no matter how well trained, must leave behind a scar, the alert lifeguard leaves no trace, just brings the victim back from the precipice of death to walk away on the beach. Unlike the firefighter, who can only limit the damage caused by a fire, the adroit lifeguard can prevent any injury whatsoever. Unlike the police officer who, with luck, catches the bank robber, the vigilant lifeguard intervenes before the loss can even occur.

In fact, more than any other public safety provider, the lifeguard has a responsibility and ability to prevent disaster, not just to respond once disaster has struck. And the number of persons alive today who would otherwise be dead is no doubt well into the millions.

Despite these realities, there has always been a struggle for lifeguards. It is a struggle for respect and recognition, a struggle for funds and equipment, a struggle for public acknowledgment of the vital

(Continued on p. 9)

Corrections from the last issue of the Cal Surf News:

On the cover photo caption, Huntington Beach Lifeguard Keith Woods should have been credited as the pier jumper.

On the Puerto Escondido Lifeguard Headquarters photo caption, Matt Karl was present for the inauguration of the facility, but not seen in the photo with Bob Burnside.



An increasing number of agencies are relying on the Personal Water Craft (PWC) as a fast and reliable resource to rescue victims and vessels when staffing levels are low. Huntington Beach Lifeguard supervisor John Beebe completes a late evening, multiple victim rescue utilizing the Yamaha Wave Venture to quickly reach victims swept offshore.

Incident Command System and Lifeguard Summer Operations

"How to Communicate with a Fire Chief"

by Tom Buckner, Encinitas Lifeguards

For the past several years many lifeguard agencies have been reorganized under fire and emergency services departments. The beliefs, values, tools and artifacts, or what those in the academic field of Organizational Behavior call the organizations' "culture" are extremely different between lifeguards and fire services. For example, lifeguards value being able to act independently. They see a victim, then rescue them. This is a one-on-one contact in sometimes extreme circumstances. An individual lifeguard is responsible for all facets of the rescue. Conversely, fire personnel are trained to act as a team with individual functions for the team members: Engineer/pumper/driver, fireman/rescuer, Chief or captain/command, EMT or paramedics/patient care.

Another aspect of the cultural difference between fire and lifeguard agencies involves communications. These communication differences are mostly on personal interaction level between fire crews and lifeguards and occur on the beach or during joint training sessions. Another level of communication exists between the Lifeguard Chiefs, Supervisors, or Captains and the fire Chiefs and other administrators of the Fire Department.

One of the hardest tasks of any lifeguard is to overcome the stereotypical image of the summer tower guard. Imagine the difficulties of explaining the job of lifeguard managers to Fire Chiefs. A recent class in the Incident Command System (ICS 200) introduced a new analogy which can be helpful when communicating with superiors in the Fire Service. ICS is a method to keep command and control of resources during any type of incident. It was developed for use during brush fires

where hundreds of fire personnel from different agencies with different capabilities are directed under one commander. These resources include hundreds of firefighters with hand tools on the line, various types of equipment including different styles of fire engines, water-tenders, helicopters, airplanes and bulldozers. ICS

"Operations Chief" is the ICS position which is responsible for getting the resources to where they are needed. This position is filled by the Lifeguard Lieutenant or Senior Guard in charge of scheduling towers and units. The "Planning," "Logistics" and "Finance/Admin" Sections are also areas where a Lifeguard Lieutenant or

".....convince your Fire Chief that during the high summer season the beach jurisdiction is actually being run as a four or five month "Incident.""

also includes an infrastructure to keep personnel rested and fed during an ongoing operation. There are methods to keep track of who is paying, how much will be paid and what will be paid for. Fire Chiefs and all fire personnel are required to have a thorough understanding of the Incident Command System.

Because of this, there may be a way to explain what it is that lifeguards do during summer operations. The key to this explanation is to convince your Fire Chief that during the high summer season the beach jurisdiction is actually being run as a four or five month "Incident." The Lifeguard Chief, Captain or Supervisor is the "Incident Commander." This commander will have "Deputy Commanders" which cover his days off. There will also be "Command Staff Officers: for Public Education, Employee Safety, Liaisons with Law Enforcement, Coast Guard, Fire and Emergency Services agencies.

There are "Section Chiefs" which report to the "Incident Commander." The

Senior Guard act as "Section Chiefs." These functions monitor daily breaks, days off, hours worked, and overtime. They also oversee the dispatcher and training functions for seasonal personnel.

Below the "Operations Chief" are the "Divisional Supervisors" in charge of geographic areas. These Summer Lifeguard Sergeants are responsible for daily coverage and assignments as crowds grow and rip currents change. Beneath them are the "Strike Team," the experienced guards who man the patrol vehicles or rescue/fire boat. "Task Forces" may be made up of combinations of rescuers, SCUBA divers, and/or medical personnel at a headquarters on rescue boats. Helicopters and vessels from other non-lifeguard agencies may be called in from their "Bases" by the "Divisional Supervisors" through the "Operations Chief." These titles of ICS correspond nicely with some of the duties of lifeguard managers and are helpful when arguing against the stereotypical lifeguard (Continued on p. 6)

Training Academy Update

by B. Chris Brewster, San Diego

In 1997, San Diego area beach lifeguard agencies combined with Miramar College to create the first regional ocean lifeguard training academy in America designed to prepare candidates for work as lifeguards with multiple employers. For 1998, the course has expanded to two sessions and prepares candidates for possible employment with eight governmental lifeguard agencies in the greater San Diego area.

The training curriculum is designed to meet and exceed the United States Life-saving Association's recommended curriculum and standards for advanced lifeguard agencies. The course is open to all persons and successful completion is no guarantee of employment.

"This course is extremely physically demanding. Excellent health and physical fitness are required and strong swimming skills are a must to pass the course."

Lifeguard agencies participating in the training course include Camp Pendleton, Coronado, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, North Island, Oceanside, San Diego, and Solana Beach. Persons interested in seasonal employment with these agencies during the summer of 1998 will need to successfully complete the training prior to being considered by the agencies for initial hire.

There is a prerequisite medical aid course, American Red Cross Emergency Response. This course is offered by the college or can be taken independently. It is 43.5 hours in length.

The lifeguard training portion of the academy is 80 hours in length. This course is extremely physically demanding. Excellent health and physical fitness are required and strong swimming skills are a must to pass the course. To be eligible to participate, students must pass a 500 meter swim test in 10 minutes or less at an

approved location.

The Emergency Response course will be offered twice. The first session is currently scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on March 9 - 12, 16 - 19, and 23 - 25. The second session is currently scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. April 29 - 30, May 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21.

The lifeguard training academy, "Introduction to Open Water Lifeguarding," is also scheduled twice. The first session is currently scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for March 28 - 29, April 4 - 8, 11, 18, 19. The second lifeguard training academy is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 30 - 31, June

6 - 7, 13 - 18. Students must enroll with Miramar Community College. Anticipated fees for California residents for Introduction to Open Water Lifeguarding (3 units) total \$103.50. Certain personal equipment must also be provided by students (swimsuit, swim fins, etc.). Anticipated fees for California residents for the Emergency Response course (1.5 units) total \$84.75. Tuition for nonresidents of California are expected to total \$131 PER UNIT.

NOTE: Each agency has its own employment requirements that may involve additional physical fitness tests, medical examinations, drug screening, vision and hearing tests, possession of a valid California driver license, a legal right to work in the United States, etc.

For further information and enrollment, contact the Miramar College Admissions Office, 10440 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, California 92126 or call 619-536-7844.

Incident Command

(Continued from p. 5)

imagery. This, however, is not the most important aspect of the comparison.

Using the ICS analogy will give the Fire Department's Chiefs and administrators a better understanding of the time pressures and responsibilities of a lifeguard agency as a whole. It is essential for the Chiefs to imagine summer operations as one long "Incident." We lifeguards must contend with changing environmental factors from no surf to large, dangerous surf. Some days there are no crowds. Other days there are crowds in excess of 10,000. We work eight, ten or twenty four hour shifts and must be rehydrated and fed. We must be rested after a long day in the tower or a long four hour session of nonstop rescues. Equipment must be ready at all times. Communications gear, rescue equipment, towers, vehicles and boats all must be prepared in the off season and care taken so it does not break down during the summer "Incident."

By thinking of the summer as a single long "Incident" the Chiefs may be more understanding of the needs of the lifeguard agencies which now come under their control. Hopefully this analogy will assist them in explaining our needs to those in charge of budgets as they continue to support lifeguards. I also recommend that all lifeguard agencies institute some basic training in the Incident Command System. This training will only improve our effectiveness in future disasters and other incidents where we may be called upon to use our aquatic expertise.

Orange County Hit by the Biggest Storm in 70 Years

Lifeguards Rescue Residents at Mobile Home Park

by Mike Bartlett, Huntington Beach

The media was in a frenzy! The much anticipated and highly publicized El Nino storm finally arrived on Dec. 6, 1997, dropping up to 7.6 inches of rain in Orange County and causing havoc for residents and businesses from Laguna to Huntington Beach. Two major storms, within three hours apart, dropped more than half the

“But you can only do so much before Mother Nature takes its course. Time will tell as the Winter of 1998 unfolds to reveal the actual effects of the largest El Nino condition of the Century.”

precipitation the entire county receives during an average year, forcing evacuations, causing mudslides, traffic jams, coastal erosion and the likes.

Downtown Laguna Beach suffered major flooding when rising waters caught residents by surprise. Highway 133 was nearly a river forcing passengers out of their cars which floated away. Lifeguards had to clear numerous spectators off the beach boardwalk for their own safety as the water eroded the beach area beneath the park.

In Huntington Beach, nearly 100 residents were evacuated and nearly 50 people were rescued from their homes by lifeguards and firefighters. The Del Mar Mobile Estates on Brookhurst near Garfield, which was flooded three times in the past 20 years, received its worst flooding ever. Almost two dozen of the 142

homes were severely flooded.

The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated shortly after the 8 am call for help went out. The Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division sent three, two-man teams with inflatable rescue boats and various swiftwater/flood rescue gear. Marine Safety Officers Steve Reuter and Mike Bartlett were among the first rescuers on scene.

“Looking back on the flooding, it was real alarming to see the looks on the faces of the many senior citizens,” said Reuter. “But that changed to reassurance when they realized that we were there to get them out.”

The Fire Dept. was first on scene after the 911 calls began flooding the switchboards. The Incident Commander immediately called for mutual aid from the Marine Safety Division for manpower and inflatable rescue boats.

“They (fire personnel) are always glad to see us when the water starts to get deep,” explained Reuter, who has responded to several major flood evacuations in the past 15 years. “The reason we're there is because we are part of the

team with Fire. We make sure our team is safe by backing each other up, handing out PFD's and helmets to those who need it.”

Although residents at the Del Mar Park were warned that flooding was a possibility, some were caught by surprise.

“It was heartbreaking to walk into people's homes that were three feet above ground with almost two feet of water inside!” said Bartlett. “Some residents were sitting high on their couches as the water level rose in their living rooms. They watched the flooding live on their TVs as we walked in to transport them out by boat. The phones were out but the electric power was strangely still on. Seeing people sitting in water watching TV was the most bizarre thing I'd ever seen. We don't recommend you try this at home.”

“It took two men to carry me out into the boat,” said Margaret Hearne, 87, who was forced to evacuate as waters rose between four and five feet. “I'd still be in my house if they hadn't knocked on my door saying I had to go.”

Many of the residents were senior citizens and disabled. One man was blind
(Continued on p. 11)



The Huntington Beach Pier claimed its first victim ever when a young local surfer was killed while “shooting the pier” in moderate 3-5 ft. surf. Joshua Dean Hall, 16, who had just made the HB High Surf Team, struck his head on a pier piling.

<http://www.usla.org>

by C. Chris Brewster

The United States Lifesaving Association and our sponsors, PhysioControl and Ambu, recently announced the opening of our new Internet World Wide Web site at <http://www.usla.org>. This site offers an unprecedented array of lifeguard and aquatic safety related information to people around the world.

The United States Lifesaving Association is America's professional association of open water lifeguards and water rescuers. This site is designed to further our efforts to improve upon the professionalism of aquatic rescuers and the knowledge of the general public about water safety.

The site opened with a unique online auction of one-of-a-kind items graciously donated by Baywatch producer and L.A. County Lifeguard Greg Bonann to help USLA fund the USLA national team's February trip to Rescue 98 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Hurry, the deadline for bids will arrive very soon!

There are no restricted areas of the site, but our members will particularly appreciate the wide variety of current information including upcoming USLA events, recent competition results and current rules, details on the Lifeguard Agency Certification Program and Aquatic Rescue

Response Team Certification Program, a listing of currently certified lifeguard agencies, and the USLA Bylaws. Many of these are in a downloadable format.

Both USLA members and others from across the US and around the world will be interested in the bulletin board, which will allow a free global exchange of lifesaving ideas. Post a suggestion, question, or comment and see what others think. Respond to those posted by others. Although USLA is an organization of beach and open water rescuers, anyone is free to use the bulletin board.

Ever wonder how many rescues are
(Continued on p. 9)

"Cal Surf" Advertising Rates

Magazine format on 8 1/2 x 11, black and white glossy:

- \$50 business card size
- \$100 quarter page
- \$250 half page
- \$450 full page

Please contact the CAL SURF NEWS managing editor, Michael Bartlett at (714) 898-6966, for questions or space reservations for upcoming issues. Please no alcohol or tobacco product advertisers. Thank you for your support in the lifesaving profession.

The Perils of Pauline

by Bob Burnside, Mexican Liaison

Arriving six hours before Hurricane Pauline struck the Mexican Coast, the State of Oaxaca Department of Public Protection was at full alert. Doctor German Cruz, Director, had already flown to the coast to coordinate for the impending disaster. His staff were setting up an emergency communication center, and preparing to dispatch relief supplies. By midnight the first reports of the magnitude of the hurricane came in. Winds exceeding 145 mph, 23 inches of rain, and total loss of all communications short of satellite call phones.

I was requested to leave by helicopter immediately to coordinate the Mexican lifeguards for rescue and relief work. The military helicopter crew bravely navigated canyon winds, dropping needed supplies to the devastated mountain villages. Upon

arrival on the coast, the Salvavidas had already rescued 4 people from the overflowing rivers and arroyos. We quickly organized a rescue and relief caravan, and proceeded south to the worst hit areas. The Salvavidas were the first emergency team that arrived in 6 pueblos during the next 10 days. They worked 10 days straight, 12 hours a day, only eating late in the evenings, and earned the reputation as "Heroes of Pauline" by all the people of the coast of Oaxaca.

On my departure, one of the young Salvavidas said to me, "Lifeguarding is about a lot more than just patrolling the beach, isn't it, chief?" I replied, "Yes! Lifeguarding is much, much more, and all of you are damn good ones."

A Word from the Past President

(Continued from p. 4)

nature of the job. How many times over the years have we seen the budgets of our counterparts in public safety services swell, while ours have declined? How many times have we seen the heroism of firefighters and police lauded, while that of the lifeguard is given short shrift? How many times has the seriousness of our job been questioned or even lampooned, despite its critical purpose?

From the beginning, I have believed that if the public and public officials knew more of the essential job of the lifeguard, many of these problems would be addressed. I learned from the start that local and regional arms of the United States Lifesaving Association are essential contributors to this educational process.

Over the past several years, the United States Lifesaving Association has made major steps forward on behalf of the lifeguard professionals it represents. Each of these steps, locally, regionally, and nationally, has come as the result of volunteer efforts of lifeguards themselves who decided to give back to their profession, to give back to their fellow lifeguards, to give back to the public who employ them. And there have been palpable gains toward enhancing the image of lifeguards, as well as our training, our equipment, and all of the other tools we need to do our jobs.

Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as president of California Surf Lifesaving Association in furtherance of these ideals, working shoulder to shoulder with others who have a similar commitment. It has sometimes been tremendously rewarding, other times equally frustrating, but I hope that CSLSA has been left a little bit better off, and I trust those who come after will be able to improve it even more.

I will continue on as chair of the USLA National Certification Program and as President for the Americas of the International Life Saving Federation.

As I move on, I fervently hope that an ever-increasing number of lifeguards at all levels will cast their lot with those of us who have taken on the commitment to leave lifesaving a better profession that we found it.

Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as president of California Surf Lifesaving Association in furtherance of these ideals, working shoulder to shoulder with others who have a similar commitment. It has sometimes been tremendously rewarding, other times equally frustrating, but I hope that CSLSA has been left a little bit better off, and I trust those who come after will be able to improve it even more.

<http://www.usla.org>

(Continued from p. 8)

made in a year by America's beach lifeguards? The statistics are here, including a five-year history. USLA affiliated lifeguard agencies can input their statistics online to make sure they're included.

Anyone can become a member of USLA. You don't even need to be a lifeguard. There's an online membership form, so you can sign up today and start receiving the many benefits. There's also an online subscription for American Lifeguard Magazine (which is included free with membership) and several recent ALM articles about lifeguard rescues that resulted in lifeguards receiving the USLA Medal of Valor.

You can read about the rich history of USLA and see a breakdown of the eight USLA regions on a clickable map. Click on a region and go to their site. You'll also find a listing of USLA officers and their email addresses.

Need a copy of The United States Lifesaving Manual of Open Water Lifesav-

ing? This book has become the bible of open water lifesaving. You can read a description, get ordering information, and even order online through a link to Amazon.com.

Want to know about the International Life Saving Federation, with over 120 national member federations worldwide, and its relationship to USLA? There's an entire section devoted to ILS and links to the ILS site.

The top ten USLA safety tips are here, along with a teaching guide. There's also information on National Beach Safety Week and how to have it recognized in your area.

Want to see some great graphics of lifeguards in action? The photo gallery is the place to go. If you have a neat graphic, you can submit it for consideration by the gallery curator and maybe your beach will be included in the exhibit.

Of course, we've included links to other quality water rescue sites from around

the world. If your site qualifies, you can submit it for consideration. Maybe it will be included on the list too.

Junior lifeguards have a section devoted just to them. It includes links to its own junior lifeguard programs.

This site has been under construction for over six months. It is a collaboration of the editor, B. Chris Brewster, various USLA contributors, and our design partners, Adtell. Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

Send them to Brewster at bcb@compuserve.com or just post them on the bulletin board. If you'd like to join our quality sponsors, PhysioControl and Ambu, there's still room on the site, just send in a proposal.

This site is dedicated to the improvement of lifeguard professionalism and the reduction of drowning. Make it your stop for lifesaving information.

And don't forget to bid on the Baywatch auction. Those items will go fast!

Lifeguards Raise \$20,000 on the 3rd and Final Mexico to Huntington Pier Pentathlon

Proceeds to Benefit the Vincent G. Moorhouse Memorial Statue

By Mike Bartlett,
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Labor Day Weekend is a great time to relax with the family, roasting hot dogs and soaking up rays at the beach. Can you imagine a group of athletes running 125 miles from Mexico to Huntington Beach in the name of charity and volunteer work? Well, believe it or not, it happened again! Twenty fearless men and women endured a rigorous, survival-of-the-fittest Coastal Crusade in record time and numbers. The run-swim-run event took place along Southern California's pristine coastline. The Team started at 7 a.m. from the US/Mexico border on Friday, Aug. 29, and finished at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, at the Huntington Beach Pier.

Ocean lifeguards, firefighters and law enforcement officers labored together for the benefit of the Vincent G. Moorhouse Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization raising money for a memorial statue. The athletes solicited donations for the Pentathlon Event which included 85 miles of beach running across sand and rocks, 30 miles of cycling across Camp Pendleton, over 8 miles of swimming around piers, harbors and cliffs, and 20 miles of paddling and kayaking. Their mission was to pay the final installment of the memorial statue for Moorhouse, a pioneer and founding father in modern surf lifesaving who passed away in 1992.

The group was comprised of several unique individuals who have conquered this Coastal Crusade before in 1993 and

1994. More importantly, the true inspiration for the event came from the man responsible for dreaming up this challenging event back in the 1970s. Ray Bray, a 58-year old retired Huntington Beach ocean lifeguard, did it again! Bray, who was recently honored as a Life Member of the Huntington Beach Surf Life Saving Association (HBSLSA), is recognized for his pioneer efforts and is respected in the profession as a surf lifesaving legend!

"Ever since I was a junior guard under Ray Bray's command, which was 25 years ago, he has always been an inspiration for me," said Dan Moorhouse, Vince's son and a paramedic for Santa Ana Fire Dept. "Since Ray was the one who dreamed up this event, it is fitting and very appropriate that he participated in this final one for the memorial statue."

Despite the many true stories of elaborate citations of heroism or sheer fearlessness, the Bray legacy continues since he had not ran the Mexico to HB Pier run-swim-run for over 15 years. Some said he wouldn't make it. But Bray proved to be a man among men and even beat out other much younger competitors during various stages of the survival-of-the-fittest event.

"Raymond is the most outstanding, knowledgeable, and adaptable individual to the surf environment in all of California Surf Lifesaving Association," explained retired HB Lifeguard Chief and former



Retired Huntington Beach Lifeguard legend Ray Bray, 58, is seen here kayaking around Dana Point with twenty athletes as part of the Coastal Crusade 97. The 125-mile, R-S-R Pentathlon was completed in a record three days.

Community Services Director Max Bowman. "I'm not surprised that he (Bray) didn't whoop the other competitors."

The three-day Pentathlon was roughly 30 miles of running in adverse conditions and about two miles of ocean swimming each day. In addition, it included a ten-mile ocean kayak around Pt. Loma on the first day, a 30-mile bike ride through Camp Pendleton on the second day, and a ten-mile paddle around Dana Point on the last day.

"Ray was one of the closest people with my dad," added Dan Moorhouse. "He Bray was definitely an inspiration for this final crusade. I don't want to be doing this event at 58, or even 38!"

The Event Organizers, Dan Moorhouse and Mike Bartlett, not only completed the event but are credited as the only competitors who successfully completed all three Coastal Crusades. The Team was comprised of the two organizers plus: Ryan Alderson, Keith Amberman, Ray Bray, Chantley Breezebeck, Jerry Cleeland, Mike Farr, Sean Haynes, Brian Hopp (also completed all three events), Lee Jacobs, Jeff Monroe, Brian Noonan, John Picken, TJ Roman, Tim Saldan, Bill Swearingen, and Dean Bunbury (New Zealand Lifeguard Exchange Delegate from KareKare). Some of the competitors dropped out due to physical constraints, but fortunately, no one received serious injuries.

(Continued on P. 11)

Mexico to HB Pier

(Continued from p. 10)

After five years of planning and organizing the three Coastal Crusades (93, 94, and 97), the HBSLSA in conjunction with the Moorhouse Foundation is proud to announce that they have raised the \$20,000 goal of funding the memorial. The 7ft. bronze replica of an endangered California Brown Pelican will be erected adjacent HB Lifeguard Headquarters in the June 1998 as part of the Pier Plaza Development Project. This is the first memorial of this kind to honor a lifeguard for their accomplishments in the surf lifesaving profession.

The HBSLSA, the Moorhouse Foundation, and the Moorhouse family would like to thank all the people who have made contributions throughout the years. Special recognition goes to San Diego and Newport Beach Lifeguards for providing Rescue Boat

support, Solana Beach and Oceanside Lifeguards for the use of their facilities, and various agencies like California State Parks (Steve Long), Camp Pendleton, San Clemente and other lifesaving agencies that let us leap, jump and trample over their areas without a permit. Special recognition goes to Melissa Karl and crew for organizing message therapy for the team, Fire Capt. Tom Shaw and Paramedic Gary Wuchner for medical support, and our support crew Mark Toyama, Shanna Moorhouse, and Jim and Shari Donaho for their patience.

"A special thank you goes out to Shari Donaho (HB Administrative Assistant and colleague of Vince) who dreamed up this memorial and helped make it a reality," said Moorhouse.

Orange County Storm

(Continued from p. 7)

while another elderly woman suffered cardiac pain and was rushed to the hospital after being extricated from her home via an inflatable boat. Another woman Helen King, 82, was sent back to the hospital after she was rescued. She was released from the hospital a day before the flooding after a hip-replacement surgery.

"It wasn't the temperature of the water that concerned me," said Reuter. "It was the taste of it that scared me. There

were paints, oils, and gas swirling around with lots of trash and other debris in the contaminated water."

Many agencies geared up for the predicted El Nino storms by increasing training, purchasing additional equipment and increasing staff. But you can only do so much before Mother Nature takes its course. Time will tell as the Winter of 1998 unfolds to reveal the actual effects of the largest El Nino condition of the Century.

Hawaii's First Female Lifeguard Passes Away

HONOLULU (AP) Rell Sunn, a pioneer in women's professional surfing, has died after a 15-year battle with breast cancer.

She died at her home Friday at age 47. Sunn, who helped organize the Women's Professional Surfing Association and founded the women's professional tour in 1975, was briefly ranked No. 1 on the tour in 1982.

Considered the world's top female longboarder, Sunn was inducted into the Surfing Walk of Fame in Huntington Beach, Calif., in 1996. She joined the late Duke Kahanamoku, the father of modern surfing and the first honored on the walk.

"Surfing's Sunny Ambassador" began in the sport at age 4, started competing at 14 and won her first contest at 16. She also was Hawaii's first female lifeguard.

Family members were saddened by her passing, but expressed relief that her pain was over.

"I'm happy because she's not suffering anymore," said Momi Kekaulana, an aunt.

Sunn is survived by her husband, Dave Parmenter, and a daughter, Jan.



