

Official Newsletter  
of the  
California Surf Lifesaving  
Association

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

**50th Anniversary**

**Ben Carlson**

**Hurricane Marie**



**BEN CARLSON**  
**In Memoriam 1982 - 2014**

**I COULD NOT HELP CONCLUDING THIS MAN HAD THE MOST SUPREME  
PLEASURE WHILE HE WAS DRIVEN SO FAST AND SO SMOOTHLY BY  
THE SEA**

**- CAPTAIN JAMES COOK**

## CONTRIBUTORS

### 2012-2013 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

On the Cover: West coast lifeguards lost one of their own in July - Newport lifeguard Ben Carlson

### INSIDE CAL SURF

Presidents Message Mike Beuerlein	Page 3
Newport Lifeguard One of the Best Meghann Cunnif	Page 4
50th Anniversary Celebration	Page 6
Hurricane Marie	Page 7

### 2014/15 CALENDAR

USLA FALL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6-8, 2014  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

COLD HANDS PADDLE  
MARCH 1, 2015  
CABRILLO BEACH

CSLSA SPRING MEETING  
APRIL 2015  
NEWPORT OR LACO - TBD

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Certification – Vince Lombardi  
Competition – Jay Butki  
Exchange – Doug Leach  
Special Awards – Al Pepito  
Legislation – TBD  
Membership – Charlotte Graham  
Newsletter – Richard Godino  
Training – Mike Scott  
Junior Lifeguards – Skeeter Leeper  
Website – Bob Moore  
Ways and Means – Rob Williams  
Public Education – Mike Silvestri  
Public Relations - TBD  
Professional Standards - TBD  
Grants - TBD  
Original Founders - Rob McGowan  
By Laws/Policies & Procedures - Bill Humphreys

### CAL SURF MAGAZINE

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*is the official publication of the*  
**California Surf Lifesaving Association**  
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NASA**

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### ARTICLES NEEDED!

Agency Profiles / How to Articles  
California Lifeguard History  
Junior Lifeguard Stories / Unusual Rescues  
Submit online to [newsletter@cslsa.org](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> of this 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 Carlson is a true hero and we will never forget him or his dedication to saving lives.

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 Seal Beach Lifeguard Association hosted the Spring 2014 CSLSA Board of Director's Meeting. Joe Bailey, Chris Pierce and Nick Bolen did an outstanding job with all of the events. Since then, the CSLSA Executive Board represented our members at the Spring 2014 USLA Meeting celebrating USLA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where it all began in Surf City U.S.A. In addition, CSLSA Executive Board members have attended two meetings and served as officials at regionals and nationals. Our Executive Board will take

information from this meeting to represent CSLSA at the Fall 2014 USLA Meeting in Virginia Beach, November 5-8. The yearlong celebration of USLA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will conclude in Virginia.

The Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Association successfully hosted the 2014 CSLSA Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard Championships. Thank you to the California State Parks, Orange Coast District for permitting our signature competition at their venue. Gus Avila, Chris Egan, Diego Bussatto, Al Pepito and crew did an outstanding job and are preparing to host again next year. Once again, we ran two courses and owe a debt of gratitude to Charlotte Graham, Bill Richardson and Bob Moore for their continued volunteer support. But, to run more efficiently in future, we will need more officials. If each chapter or agency could supply one volunteer, that would help immensely. Thanks to Scott Hubbell and *Beachsport* for their continued and vital support of CSLSA.

As I mentioned before, 2014 marks USLA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since the organization was founded in Huntington Beach in 1964, CSLSA arranged to host the historic Spring 2014 USLA Meeting at the Shorebreak Hotel in Huntington Beach. Rob Williams volunteered to serve as Chairman of the Organizing Committee and spearheaded a yearlong planning effort that culminated in a tremendously successful three day-event. This would not have been possible without a tremendous amount of sacrifice and support from the following people: Charlotte Graham, Bill Richardson, Al Pepito, Scott Hubbell, Adam Sandler, Rob McGowan, Skeeter Leeper, Mike Silvestri, Gus Avila, Bob Burnside, Kai Bond, Bill Humphreys and, of course, Rob Williams.

For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, CSLSA modified the regular USLA Board of Directors Meeting schedule to have committee meetings on Friday morning, with the Board of Directors Meeting concluding on Saturday morning, followed by the Educational Conference on Saturday afternoon. The Educational Conference focused on USLA's 50 years, featuring Past Presidents and the current President. A gala anniversary banquet was held on Saturday night, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The gala was a fun event open to all current and past USLA members. We hired a top-notch band and the dance floor was swinging. Thank you to everybody who volunteered and attended to make this an anniversary to remember! Make no mistake, this has been a monumental task and a true testament to teamwork.

**[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, from page 3]**

*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 was held on July 9th. The agenda featured a speaker from NOAA, the John Wayne Cancer Foundation, Gordon Graham and the presentation of the Excellence in Lifesaving Award to the family of Ben Carlson. Special thanks to Bob Moore for his presentation on CSLSA's 50 years of Lifesaving Excellence. We appreciate all of the agencies who continue to provide the staffing to keep *Project Wipeout* events (Orange County Fair, Imaginology, Festival of Children) going throughout the year.

CSLSA's partnership with the John Wayne Cancer Foundation (JWCF) is off to a great start and represents our largest Public Education program to date. Some 20,000 Junior Lifeguards throughout the state received 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. In addition, JWCF was a major sponsor for at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary USLA Meeting and provided ½ gallon pump jugs of sunscreen for every Lifeguard tower in the state of California

I would like to thank Adam Sandler for stepping up to serve as CSLSA's Legislation Committee Chairman and Ian Burton for volunteering to serve as CSLSA's Statistics Committee Chairman. We are still recruiting Chairs for our Professional Standards and Grant committees. Please see me if you are interested in an opportunity to serve.

The 2014 World Lifesaving Championships were held in Montpellier, France, September 17-21. Thank you to Gus Avila, Casey Graham and Chris Egan for coordinating the USLA Youth National Team and to Jay Butki for once again serving as the USLA National Team Manager.

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 Bill Humphreys, Rod Mellott, Ian Burton, Sarah Over and the San Clemente Lifeguard Association for hosting the Fall 2014 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting. Let's make the most of our time together and continue celebrating 50 years of Lifesaving Excellence.

Lifeguards for Life!

## ***Regional Competition***

### **JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS**



### **LIFEGUARDS**



Skane Scoggins Cal State  
By Scott Smeltzer



## **NEWPORT BEACH LIFEGUARD "ONE OF THE BEST"**

### **Meghann Cuniff**

**Staff Writer Orange County Register**

July 7, 2014

Ben Carlson loved big waves. The longtime lifeguard had surfed all over the world, and he'd mastered waves far larger than the 10- to 12-foot swells that pummeled the Newport Beach coastline Sunday, where he died while rescuing a distressed swimmer.

"It's just hard to fathom how it ended up the way it did on Sunday," said his father, Chris Carlson. "He knew all the techniques for big waves. It just had to be something catastrophic."

Carlson traveled from his home in Rancho Cucamonga on Monday to the Newport Beach lifeguard headquarters, where his only son had worked for 15 years.

Ben Carlson, who turned 32 last Wednesday, was pronounced dead at Hoag Memorial Hospital at 8:15 p.m. Sunday, about three hours after he disappeared in turbulent surf after diving from a lifeguard boat to rescue a swimmer. Carlson was one of two lifeguards on the boat and among about 75 lifeguards patrolling the city's six and a half miles of beaches, said Rob Williams, the assistant Newport Beach fire chief who oversees the Marine Safety Division.

"Ben was one of the best," Williams said.

His death is the first in the nearly 100-year history of Newport Beach lifeguards, Williams said.

Grief counselors were at the lifeguard headquarters at the Newport Pier to talk to Carlson's coworkers, many of whom helped searched for him Sunday evening. About 25 people were in the water, as well as seven boats from three agencies, a helicopter and 25 to 30 people on the beach.

"There's definitely grieving going on," Williams said. "But they're going about their jobs and they're honoring Ben right alongside it."

Ben Carlson moved to Newport Beach shortly after he graduated in 2000 from Etiwanda High School in Rancho Cucamonga, where he starred in water polo and swimming. He spent two years at Riverside City College before transferring to UC Irvine, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. And while many lifeguards stay a few years, Carlson kept returning to Newport Beach, despite offers to work elsewhere, Williams said.

"This was his passion. This was his life," Williams said.

And his swimming skills were so strong that his thirst for big waves didn't worry his father.

"If you saw him in the water, you just didn't have a worry in the world. He was so strong and so powerful," Chris Carlson said. "Even into his 30s, he'd swim harder and faster than new kids that were still in college."

Ben Carlson was hired in 2011 as director of beverage and bars for Wahoo's Fish Taco, said founder and owner Wing Lam, who described him as "full of energy."

"He lived a full life," Lam said. Lam saw Carlson last week and said he warned his friends about the turbulent surf in Newport Beach.

"He was the one telling everyone, 'Hey, be aware of the waves,'" Lam said.

Carlson loved to snowboard and skateboard, friends say, but his true passion was surfing. He was a brand ambassador for TAVIK, a surf apparel company in Irvine. TAVIK president Erik Paulsen shared photos of Carlson surfing huge waves around the world and said he'd

**One of the Best** - from page 5

known him for about eight years as “an amazing friend and waterman whose energy and passion inspired all around him.”

“You could always find him with a smile from ear to ear,” Paulsen said in an email. “He traveled around the world doing what he loved and living his life to its fullest. Words cannot explain.”

Ben Carlson's sister, Stephanie, lives in Corona del Mar with her husband, Jake Janz, and their two sons, with whom Carlson was close, his father said.

The United States Lifesaving Association in Huntington Beach issued a statement Monday mourning Carlson's death.

“Ben’s selfless commitment to a profession where one person races into the ocean to save another shall never be forgotten,” USLA President Chris Brewster said. “Our members stand together today with heavy hearts but renewed purpose in honor of Ben’s sacrifice.”

Williams said the man Carlson saved was not injured and was among 278 people rescued from the ocean Sunday. Williams agreed with what's become a commonly shared opinion in Newport Beach and beyond: Carlson is a hero.

“To give a life to save another, I don't know what the definition of a hero is, but that's what I take from it,” Williams said.

Mourners left flowers, cards and signs at a memorial for Carlson in front of the lifeguard headquarters Monday. His father saw them when he visited with Carlson's coworkers there and said the support is “genuinely comforting.” Flags stood at half-staff throughout the city.

Malarky's Irish Pub on Newport Boulevard, where Ben Carlson worked years ago, posted on its reader board: “BEN WOULD GO/WE LOVE YOU YOU WILL BE MISSED.” And people from all over the country have sent the city condolences, said city spokeswoman Tara Finnigan.

Chris Carlson said he finds solace in his faith and the fact that Ben “was a Christian kid who's now swimming in paradise with dolphins.”

He hopes his son's death encourages beachgoers to have more respect for the ocean and the lifeguards charged with protecting them.

“Don't look at them as a barrier to fun,” Chris Carlson said. “Bad things can happen when the surf is up.”





Current President Chris Brewster presenting 50th Anniversary medal to former President Max Bowman

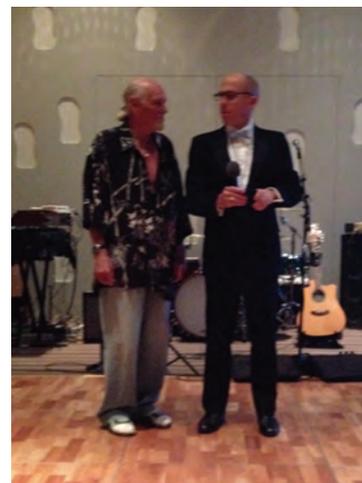
*Last April, lifeguards from across the nation came together in Huntington Beach to celebrate the hard work and dedication of a few individuals. These individuals, ten or less in the beginning, were led by the indomitable Bob Burnside. Their goal driven attitude, and the innovative chemistry between them resulted in the creation, in 1964, of the national and internationally respected organization known as the United States Lifesaving Association. Their accomplishments in just two years alone, changed the history of lifesaving in America forever. In April, we got the opportunity to thank them for this remarkable endeavor and the lasting effects. The last day of the three day event was dedicated to exhibits of that founding year and celebration of the individuals who made it happen. Here are a few pictures of the events:*



Former L.A. City and Santa Monica patches Before the “merger” with L.A. County



Past to present from left: Bob Burnside, Max Bowman, Joe Pecoraro, Bill Richardson, Don Rohrer, Byron Ware, Chris Brewster



Chris Brewster presenting medal to THE founding member - Bob Burnside

# Hurricane Marie

**THE END OF AUGUST AND THE BEGINNING OF SEPTMEMBER BROUGHT SOME OF THE LARGEST HURRICANE SURF EVER SEEN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MARIE ORIGINATED AS A TROPICAL WAVE OFF THE COAST OF AFRICA IN EARLY AUGUST AND THEN ENTERED THE CARIBBEAN BASIN ON 8/16. THE STORM CROSSED CENTRAL AMERICA AND BECAME TROPICAL DEPRESSION 13 ON 8/20 IN THE GULF OF TEHUANTEPEC OFF THE COAST OF THE STATE OF CHIAPAS. IT WAS QUICKLY UPGRADED TO HURRICANE STATUS AS HURRICANE MARIE ON 8/22 ; AND THEN UPGRADED TO A CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE ON 8/24 (THE SIXTH STRONGEST WEST PACIFIC STORM) AND WAVES BEGAN HITTING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST. IT FINALLY WEAKENED AND DISSIPATED BY 8/30, ALTHOUGH WAVE EFFECTS WERE FELT FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS.**



Courtesy - NASA



Photos of the Wedge, Newport courtesy Chris Carlson AP - Denver Post



Hurricane surf at Malibu - Joel Gitelson



Palos Verdes Peninsula - Joel Gitelson



Once a decade surf at Inner Cabrillo Beach - Zack Millett

## TOP TEN WESTERN PACIFIC STORMS

RANK	DATE	NAME	mmHg
1	1997	Linda	26.64
2	2009	Rick	26.76
3	2002	Kenna	26.96
4	1973	Ava	27.02
4	2006	Luke	27.02
6	2014	<b>MARIE</b>	27.11
7	1997	Guillermo	27.14
8	1994	Gilma	27.17
9	2002	Elida	27.20
9	2002	Hernan	27.20
9	2010	Celia	27.20
10	2014	Odile	27.23