

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

Fall 2025

The CALSURF

V o l u m e 3 0 N o . 2

Over the Falls!



Painting by Norton Wisdom



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EVENTS CALENDAR 2025

Fall 2025 USLA Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: October 23-25, 2025

Location Coeur D' Alene, ID (Northwest Region)

Spring 2026 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: April 16-17, 2026

Location: Santa Cruz, CA

2026 California Surf Lifesaving Championships

Dates: July 24-25, 2026

Location: (TBA)

2026 USLA Jr. Lifeguard/Lifeguard Nationals

Dates: August 5-8, 2026

Location: (TBA)

Spring 2026 USLA Board of Directors Meeting

Dates: April 21-22, 2026

Location: Biloxi, Mississippi (Gulf Coast Region)

COMMITTEES

Bylaw Committee.....	Bob Moore
Certification.....	Vince Lombardi
Exchange.....	Dr. Graham & Vianne Kelly
Fundraising.....	Brandi White & Byron Kine
Grants.....	Nikki Bryant
Junior Lifeguards.....	Mr. Sholl & Mr. Gibson
Legislation.....	Adam Sandler
Sport & Fitness.....	Jay Butki & Skip Prosser
Membership.....	Charlotte Graham
Newsletter.....	Jim Hughes & Mrs. Gibson
Prof. Standards.....	Sean Cary
Public Education.....	Lola Swank & Devon Beebe
Public Info. Officer...	Adam Sandler
Public Relations.....	Coral Kemp
Social Media.....	Isaiah Mullen
Special Awards	Austin Trinkle
Statistics.....	Ian Burton
Training	Nick Giugni
Ways & Means.....	Tony Sholl
Website.....	Steve Himes

THE CALSURF NEWS

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Presidents Message



Greetings, Lifeguards and friends,

2025 has turned out to be a very busy year for our region, and we still have about 3 months left!

Since our last meeting and the previous CSLSA meeting, a lot of activity has taken place. Most agencies completed training sessions for their new and returning staff. A summer of great weather kept the beaches and boardwalks busy. Competitors had a full schedule of races and competitions, and the CSLSA Board of Directors and committees continued the work of the association.

I have worked with Adam Sandler in preparing public messages for Beach Safety Week, as well as helping prepare a letter on behalf of our association, supporting Lifeguard wages, as well as correspondence supporting the House Resolution, attempting to classify Lifeguards as Safety Service employees. We have also continued to follow the Water and Air Quality issues in South San Diego County. It appears that there is a lot of new interest in this situation, and the results of the testing that our association and our members have participated in, is garnering attention from the health community, as well as many politicians from affected areas.

As a Region, we hosted the CSLSA Regional Championships, which took place on Dockweiler Beach, in L.A.

County in late July. We had great conditions for Regionals, and the competition was a great warm up for the USLA National Championships. Nationals were hosted by the Huntington State Beach Junior Lifeguard Association, at Huntington State Beach, and took place during the first full week of August. Nationals coincided with the 75th Anniversary of the State Parks Lifeguard, which was also celebrated at Huntington State Beach. These events all took place over 8 days and nights.

On the day before the competition began, we were welcomed with some great surf conditions. The surf required the officials to reschedule and move the start times and dates of some of the races. While a small number of events had to be canceled due to time constraints, the majority of the events did take place, and the racing was a great reflection on the skills that are necessary to be an open water lifeguard. The event was also used as for the evaluation and selection of the USLA National Teams, which will be racing in New Zealand in late November. At total of 7 Open and 8 Youth Team members selected for the Teams are from the Southwest Region. A big "Thank You!" goes out to all of the volunteers who helped in making all of the events successful.

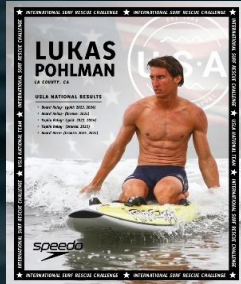
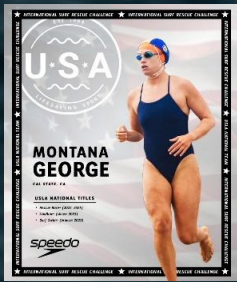
Here's to keeping our fingers crossed that the remainder of the year is safe and fruitful for all of our members, friends, and families.

Yours in Lifesaving,

Gustavo S. Avila, Esq. CSLSA President



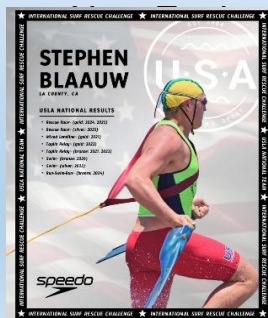
*As open-water lifesavers, our **MISSION** is to promote beach safety awareness and professional lifeguard standards through public education, training programs, exchange programs, junior lifeguard programs, competition, and other means. The ultimate goal is to prevent and reduce aquatic injuries, accidents,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



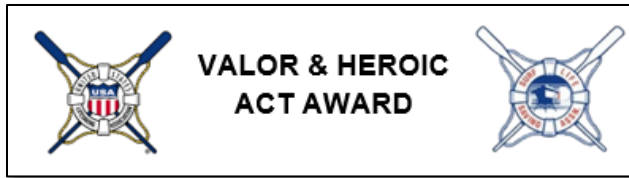
International Surf Rescue Challenge USLA OPEN NATIONAL TEAM

Sixteen elite athletes will travel to New Zealand in November to represent the United States at the 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge (ISRC). The competition will consist of thirteen of the best Surf Lifesaving National Teams from around the world. The ISRC was last held in 2023, in South Padre, TX where the US team used its home field advantage to finish third overall. The 2025 team hopes to build on that momentum.

Los Angeles County Ocean Lifeguards Stephen Blaauw, Holly Maine and Lukas Pohlman, California State Parks Lifeguards Montana George, Roman Higgins and Kali Wilding, and Laguna Beach Marine Safety's Claire Kelly are among the 16 elite surf racing athletes who will represent the USA and compete next month on the USLA Surf Lifesaving National Team during the International Surf Rescue Challenge 2025. The 13 Nations will compete from November 26 to 30, 2025 at Mount Maunganui Beach in



Congratulations and good luck to the USLA Surf Lifesaving National Team. To support them, please go to [USLA.org/TeamUSA](https://www.usla.org/teamusa).



MEDAL OF VALOR

Devon Beebe, Aaron Fletcher, Chris Terhune
"Four Kings"
 Long Beach

At 9:10pm on July 3rd, 2024, Long Beach Rescue Boat 1 received a report of a 48' sport fisher, Four Kings, with 10 people on board that drove into the Alamitos Bay Channel jetty and was taking on water. At the time of the impact four victims were up on the flybridge. Two of those victims were thrown forward into a seating bench. Two more were thrown into the console area, both knocked unconscious. Downstairs in the salon, the tables had become dislodged from their places by the impact and by the bodies that were thrown forward into them. Six victims reported crawling out from beneath the tables.

RB1 arrived on scene to find one person standing on the bow, exclaiming there was one victim still up in the flybridge. There was loud music and alarms sounding from the vessel. Eight injured survivors were found on the rocks. The vessel was actively sinking and pitching and rolling in the swell. RB1 Captain Aaron Fletcher, Fire Captain Paramedic Chris Terhune, and Marine Safety Officer Devon Beebe went to work triaging survivors.



Hull Damage - The "Four Kings"

Aaron dropped Chris off on the rocks to initiate patient care and request an MCI. Devon donned her wetsuit and boarded the Four Kings which was now underwater almost to the bow gunwales with water swamping the interior and stern deck. She assisted the victim on the bow to the safety of the rocks below then climbed the ladder to the flybridge.

Atop the flybridge, which was covered in blood, she found an unconscious adult male victim with a penetrating face injury. She attempted to move the victim to a flat surface but was unable given his weight and size. Devon yelled in an attempt to provide an update and request assistance, but her message was not received due to the loud music



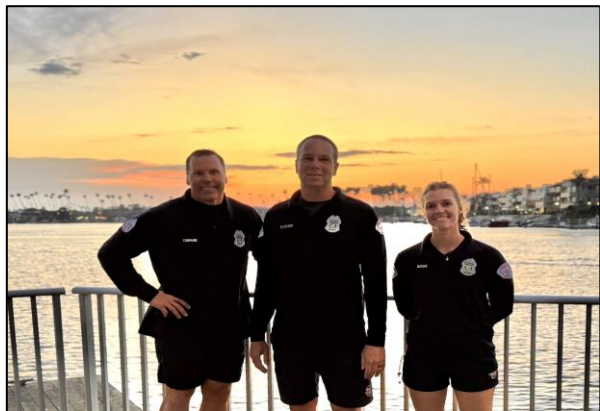
and tasks of the other rescuers. She climbed back down and brought Chris back with her. Together they moved the victim and placed AED pads on the patient. The monitor read asystole, and it was determined the victim was DOA. Devon and Chris returned to the victims on the rocks to continue care to a multitude of injuries including facial fractures, a collapsed lung, broken bones and contusions. Next the lines that held the boat to the rocks parted causing the sinking boat to list severely with the flybridge and deceased victim now in the water. Devon swam into the flybridge, which was now underwater, to retrieve the body. With lighting assistance from RB1 she was able to locate the body a few feet below the surface and swim him toward RB1. Devon and Aaron got the body up onto the swim step and then onto the stern deck of the rescue boat. In total three patients were ambulatory and the other six were transported to the hospital.

The California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association—organizations of dedicated lifesavers committed to the humanitarian cause of saving lives in the aquatic environment—are proud to present this **Medal of Valor to Devon Beebe & Aaron Fletcher** for their heroic life-saving actions. Additionally, we present

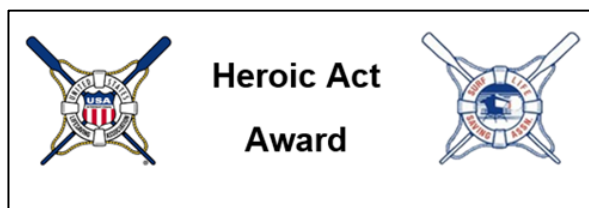
RANGE
 ESSENTIALS



the **CSLSA Public Safety Medal of Valor** and the **USLA Heroic Act Award** to Chris Terhune.



Chris Terhune, Aaron Fletcher & Devon Beebe



Zoe Chait

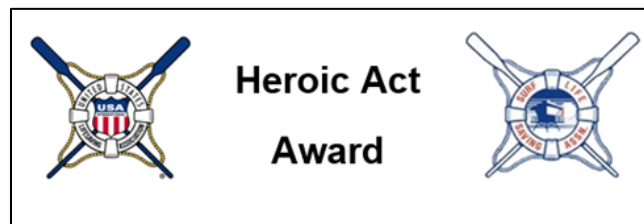
Linda Mar Beach

On November 21st, 2024, at 2:05 pm, a 911 call was made from Linda Mar beach for a surfer in distress. The surfer was waving his arms about 200 yards from shore and was being blown out to sea by strong winds. The US Coast Guard dispatched a rescue vessel from San Francisco Bay, but its arrival time was unknown. Air support was unavailable due to low cloud cover and precipitation. The air temperature was 57 degrees, and the water temperature was 55 degrees. The south-southeast wind was blowing at 23-30 mph with 39 mph gusts, pushing the surfer further out to sea.

Meanwhile, Zoe Chait, an off-duty State Parks Lifeguard, was surfing about a quarter mile north of the incident. She noticed the emergency vehicles and decided to investigate. After confirming the water rescue on Pulse Point, she grabbed her rescue buoy and fins from her vehicle and ran a quarter mile down the beach to check in with Incident Command. Recalling advice from her mentor, Riley Rhodes, Zoe introduced herself as an off-duty State Parks lifeguard and assured the firefighters that she

could manage the rescue. She entered the water, swam 800 yards to reach the victim, and secured him to her rescue buoy. With the help of another surfer, she towed the victim back to shore. The victim, exhausted from treading and paddling alone in the cold, stormy water for over thirty minutes, collapsed upon reaching the shore.

For her heroic life-saving actions, **Zoe Chait** was awarded the **Heroic Act Award** by the **California Surf Lifesaving Association** and the **United States Lifesaving Association**.



Scott Dixon

Los Cerritos Flood Control Channel -

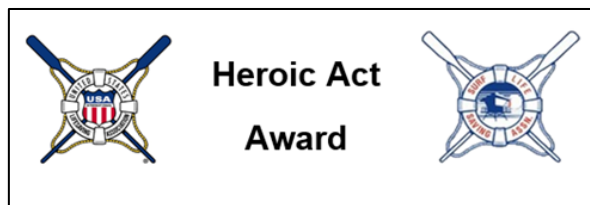
On December 6th, 2024, at 10:00pm Scott Dixon was off duty driving home with his family when he noticed a pickup truck veer into oncoming traffic at 35mph. The driver attempted to correct but ended up driving across the shoulder and down an embankment into the Los Cerritos flood control channel below. Dixon pulled the car over and asked his wife to call 911. He traversed down the rocky embankment and into the channel to swim to the vehicle.

Reaching the vehicle he found one patient, a male in his 70's, floating face up in the water and two inside the vehicle. Dixon swam the first patient to the bank of the channel. He then returned to the vehicle to assist extricating the two other victims. Once free from the vehicle, Dixon swam these patients to the bank of the channel. Long Beach Fire Department personnel assisted with patient extrication on the rocks and then transported patients to a local hospital.

Had it not been for the quick actions of a lifeguard in the right place at the right time, this situation could have had a very different outcome.

DragonSkin

The California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association—organizations of dedicated lifesavers committed to the humanitarian cause of saving lives in the aquatic environment—are proud to present this **Heroic Act Award to Scott Dixon** for his heroic life-saving actions.



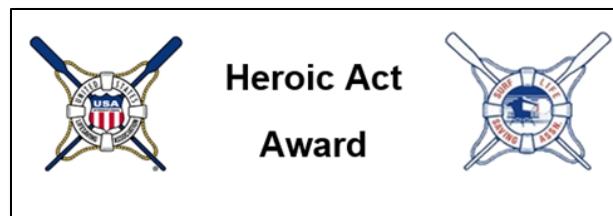
**Dean Frizzell, Ellie Sherlock
12th Street Rescue, Seal Beach**

On December 22nd, 2024, a significant winter swell hit Seal Beach, creating challenging conditions with strong rips, a longshore current, and eight-to-ten-foot waves. Lifeguard II Dean Frizzell was on patrol when he noticed a bodyboarder struggling to get back to shore near 12th Street. Dean entered the water to rescue the swimmer but faced difficulties due to the strong lateral current and big surf. Lifeguard I Ellie Sherlock arrived to assist Dean, and together they navigated through the challenging conditions, including threading the needle through the



12th Street

pier pilings. Their quick response, composure, and resilience ensured the victim's safety, and the victim suffered no injuries. For their heroic life-saving actions, **Dean Frizzell and Ellie Sherlock** were awarded the **Heroic Act Award** by the California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association.



**Steve Ayres, Maddie Gamette, Kailey Bayanat, Masen Karsten, Sam Muller and Brandon Tran
Outrigger Race Catalina to Newport Beach**

On September 8th, 2024, off-duty California State Parks lifeguards Steve Ayres, Maddie Gamette, Kailey Bayanat, Masen Karsten, Sam Muller, and Brandon Tran were serving as race safety for the historic Catalina to Newport outrigger race. During the race, a fifty-five-year-old Fijian paddler suffered a heart attack about 12 miles offshore. The lifeguards responded quickly, providing CPR and high-flow oxygen for over thirty-five minutes while navigating rough seas. They managed to maintain effective chest compressions and delivered over ten shocks with an AED during the journey to Newport. Upon arrival, the patient had a thready pulse and was transferred to the Newport Fire Department, who continued care in route to a local hospital. The patient made a remarkable recovery and was flown home to Fiji.

The California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association—organizations of dedicated lifesavers committed to the humanitarian cause of saving lives in the aquatic environment—are proud to present the **CSLSA Heroic Act Award and USLA National Lifesaving Award to Steve Ayres, Maddie Gamette, Kailey Bayanat, Masen Karsten, Sam Muller and Brandon Tran** for their heroic life-saving actions.

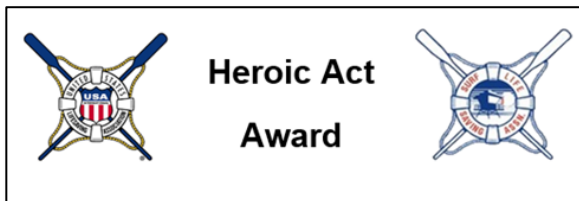


**Ben Coffey & Xander Mehl
Mitchell's Cove, Santa Cruz**

On December 23rd, 2024, Santa Cruz Lifeguard Lieutenant Ben Coffey and LG1 Xander Mehl were patrolling on their Rescue Water Craft near West Cliff Drive and Mitchell's Cove when they were dispatched to the Santa Cruz Wharf, which had collapsed with reported victims in the area. Before responding to the wharf, they noticed two surfers caught in 25-30' waves, which were much larger than the

15-20' waves the surfers had been chasing. The area was extremely dangerous, with sheer cliff faces and riprap rocks known as "death rocks."

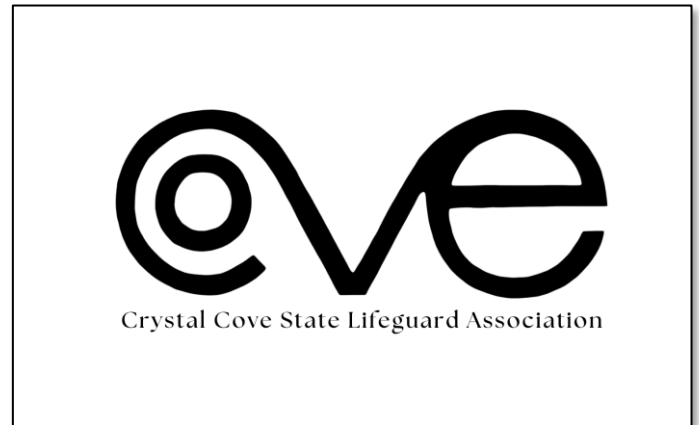
Ben and Xander decided to rescue the surfers first. They assisted the first surfer two hundred yards out past the impact zone into the channel before returning for the second surfer. As they got the second surfer on the sled, a massive wave began to close out on them, blocking their path to safe water. With no beach to land on and no way to punch through the wave, they were trapped. However, they managed to outrun the wave and make it to Steamer Lane, where they found a channel deep enough to get over the wave and the rest of the set. They then dropped the surfer at Cowells Beach and proceeded to assist with the wharf collapse rescue. The Board of Directors of the California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association—organizations of dedicated lifesavers committed to the humanitarian cause of saving lives in the aquatic environment—are proud to present this **Medal of Valor to Ben Coffey & Xander Mehl** for their heroic life-saving actions.



**Beau Wade, Brett Peoples, Chris Dominguez
South Side Rescue, Seal Beach**

On December 22nd, 2024, a large winter swell hit Seal Beach. It was a busy day with multiple rescues and several medical aids. Seal Beach Lifeguards were preparing physically and emotionally for their lifeguard Connor Lees' candlelight vigil that evening. Schools were just released on winter break and the public and surfing community was frothing to get in the water. There were strong rips, a longshore current and eight-to-ten-foot waves. About 2,000 candlelight vigil attendees were arriving when at 4:15pm Lifeguard 1 Beau Wade identified a swimmer near shore struggling to stay afloat. The swimmer was in waist deep water, facing continuous 8' shore break and a powerful current. Wade responded via ATV and entered the water with his rescue buoy and fins. He provided flotation and momentary control over the situation.

Lifeguard II Brett Peoples responded and entered the water to assist. The victim struggled to maintain control of



the buoy in the turbulent water and continuous dives beneath the waves. Peoples and Wade made the crucial decision to swim the victim further out to sea to await additional support. They navigated multiple sets before reaching the safe water beyond the impact zone.

Meanwhile, Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Chris Dominguez was assigned to the candlelight vigil. Monitoring the situation on the radio, without hesitation Chris responded Code-3 to launch the Rescue Watercraft. Dominguez launched the ski into 8-10' surf, maneuvered through the breaking waves and over to the victim and rescuers now near the end of the pier. The victim was loaded onto the rescue sled. Dominguez then skillfully navigated the watercraft back to a safe area on the beach. During this process the watercraft experienced performance issues and Dominguez had to account for a loss of power in the dynamic surf environment. Had it not been for Dominguez's swift and decisive actions, the situation could have easily ended in a drowning. The actions of Wade, Peoples and Dominguez undoubtedly prevented a tragic outcome. The lifeguards' decisive actions and ability to remain composed under pressure were instrumental in ensuring the swimmer's safety and survival.

The Board of Directors of the California Surf Lifesaving Association and the United States Lifesaving Association—organizations of dedicated lifesavers committed to the humanitarian cause of saving lives in the aquatic environment—are proud to present this **Heroic Act Award to Beau Wade, Brett Peoples, & Chris Dominguez** for their heroic lifesaving actions.





Back row: Ryan Gates, Chris Koerner, Ben Johnson, Ryan Peterson, Roland Mantecon, Hans Ruppenthal, Jack Akrop, Jack McLaughlin, Kyle Celinder, Jim Harmon, Bodie Yohn, Ben Butler, Jesús Menja, Josh Billotte, Rick Thomas, Phillip Toriello, Kevin Selna, Pat Lyons, David Botieff, Kai Scott, Rich Sprout. **Next row:** Sasha Hemmens, Paul Schuster, Trey Bernard, Dale Adama, Jim West, Mary Mansfield, Ben Schleicher, Megan Ditlof, James Clark, Herb White, Randy Eickhoff, Damian Walters, Tia Kalpakoff, **Front row:** Heidi Tufo, Hannah Jordan, Tristan Saltonstall, Willy Bradshaw, Nan Carroll, Brandi White, Emily Hagen, Rochelle Nock, Riley Nakayama, Ellen Faustine, Becky Levine, Marsen Karsten, Montana White.

Aggressive Bears Take Wieland Shield

By ADAM SANDLER

It was ten years in the making: The California team topped the Australians from Life Saving Victoria (LSV) by winning the biennial Wieland Shield Exchange competition on their home hard-pack with a score of 78 to 64.



The 2025 event between the USA team — dubbed the California Bears — and the Victorians was held on Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2 on Hermosa Beach, north of the Pier. It was held in conjunction with the International Surf Festival (ISF).

The two-days of competition for the Shield by the surf life-savers from Portsea, Torquay, and Half Moon Bay SLSC's may have been the focal-point, however the Australians were also treated and feted by their American hosts.

In addition to being recognized at the annual ISF Lifeguard Medal of Valor dinner, several LSV athletes also entered

local ocean contests leading up to the Shield, and afterward, with impressive results.

The baker's dozen of LSV athletes and coaches also observed California ocean lifeguard operations from San Diego to Zuma.

The two-day Shield competition featured 17 races overall such as Board, Surf and a Ski Relay during the day on Friday, and a pair of Taplin Relays run prior to the start of the Bud Stevenson Intra-crew Medley Relay on the first night of the ISF's Lifeguard Night Events.

The California team included L.A. County Fire Dept. Ocean Lifeguards Coral Kemp, Holly Maine, Stephen Blaauw, Jake Miller, and Alexander Cole. Santa Cruz Fire Dept. Lifeguard Sae Ackerstein, Laguna Beach Marine Safety's Claire Kelly and California State Lifeguards Sasha Hemmens, Montana George, Hayden Hemmens and Roman Higgins.



LACoFD Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Brian Murphy served as team coach, while retired LACoFD Rescue Boat Captain Jay Butki was its manager.

Saturday's daytime schedule featured Run-Swim-Runs, Ironman and Ironwoman, Mixed Taplin Relay, Surf Ski races and a Board Relay, to name a few.

The final event of the exchange, a Surf Rescue Relay, was held under the lights prior to the start of several surf racing events leading up to the ISF's Judge Irvin Taplin Medley Relay.

The women from the Bears Wieland Shield team topped off their hours-earlier win in the Surf Rescue Relay, by also nabbing first place in the ISF's Chris Linkletter Women's Surf Relay. Leading in points 35-29 after the first day of competition, the Bears kept the lead through the final event on Saturday evening with a second day score of 43-35. The 78-64 final tally reflected a decisive win, and in large measure a result of how well the Bears' women performed.

Winning the Shield was very special. We knew the competition would be tough, but we were up for the challenge," said Holly Maine, who also won the highly competitive Ironwoman race, an event considered to be the Australian surf racers bread-and-butter. "It was extremely inspiring to see how well our women's team did. We attacked each race with a united front, and it paid off."



*Back row L-R Jay Butki, team manager, Sasha Hemmens, Hayden Hemmens, Jake Miller, Stephen Blaauw, Sae Ackerstein, Alexander Cole, Roman Higgins, Claire Kelly
Front row L-R Montana George, Brian Murphy team coach, Coral Kemp, Lukas Pohlman*



Holly Maine celebrates USA

Shield events have a predetermined number of competitors, such as two or three per team, compete both in male only and female only races, as well as mixed teams. Relays and Taplin have more surf racers.

Points are awarded for first and second place, 4 and 2 points respectively, in team events, while individual races award points in places

first through fourth, 4,3,2,1 points respectively.

The LSV team boasted Half Moon Bay's Campbell Bohan, Jesse Coulson, Jack Slykhuis and Reidel Smith, Portsea's Harvey Larke, Xavier Purcell, Charlotte Mahon and Mackie Hunter, and Torquay's Harris Henderson and Ciara Walsh.

"We knew the California team would be strong on their home turf and they didn't disappoint. The competition

was fierce, but the camaraderie was just as strong,” said **Matt Henderson, co-coach of the LSV team**. “It was the all-around skills of the California team that really made the difference in the final point score.”

He added, “And even though we were disappointed to hand over the Shield, we made the most of the opportunity to jump into local events and managed to snag a few podium finishes along the way.”

The victory ensures the Victorian Red Gum Wood Wieland Shield perpetual trophy remains in California until it travels to the next Shield in Australia in 2027. LSV won the previous three Wieland Shield competitions, which were all held in Australia due to the pandemic and other issues.

The exchange was last held in the US in 2015, which was also won by the California team.



Treloar (center) is presented with a laser engraved wave pattern on olive wood to commemorate the 27th Wieland Shield

Prior to this year’s Shield competition, a few of the members of the LSV crew arrived early and participated in the CSLSA California Surf Lifesaving Championships held July 26 at Dockweiler Beach, and the Lifeguard events of the San Clemente Ocean Festival on July 19 and 20.

The LSV visitors were also feted at the ISF Medal of Valor dinner which celebrated the 27th Annual Wieland Shield. Members of Half Moon Bay SLSC who came to compete in the ISF’s Taplin Relay and the Linkletter Relay, were also present and recognized.

Prior to the official start of the Wieland Shield, the LSV crew visited California life-guard agencies, observed Rescue Boat Operations from the deck of a Bay-watch, learned about Junior Guard programs, mutual aid protocols, and shared life-saving knowledge and techniques, as part of the education and exchange components of the Shield tour.



Following the official conclusion of the Shield on Saturday night, some of the LSV athletes competed in the ISF’s Velzy-Stevens Paddleboard Race and the two-mile Dwight Crum Pier to Pier Swim early the next morning —with impressive results.

LSV’s Harrison crushed the Velzy Stevens race, coming in first by a wide margin. **Larke** finished the Swim in third place overall, and second in the Men’s category out of 850 swimmers.

Purcell earned 6th place among all swimmers. And not to be outdone by his racers, Shield team manager Anthony Purcell pulled 6th in 60-64 age group and had a strong finish at 170th overall.

Hunter, Smith, and Hayden Tierney won their age group divisions, 15-19, 20-24, and 40-44, respectively. Walsh earned second place in the 20-24 age group, finishing just seconds behind her teammate. The swimming quartet nabbed notable overall places of 20th, 8th, 16th, and 12th, respectively.

A few LSV lifesavers remained stateside to compete a week later in the USLA National Lifeguard Championships held August 7-9 in Huntington Beach, CA. Harrison came in second in the Open Men Board Race giving winner and 2025 National Board Champion Jake Miller a solid run for the title.

The Wieland Shield Exchange began in 1967 as a competitive and educational exchange between California (USA) and LSV (AU).

L.A. County Lieutenant Lifeguard Bob Burnside, who would eventually become Chief, is widely-credited with putting the first Wieland Shield in motion, which has been going for nearly 60 years.

State Celebrates 75 years

California State Parks Celebrates 75 Years of Lifeguard Service with Historic Gathering

Story from: Justin McHenry, Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division



Earlier this month, hundreds of current and former California State Parks lifeguards, family members and supporters gathered at Huntington State Beach (SB) for a historic three-day celebration for the 75th anniversary of the California State Lifeguard Association. Each night featured a different theme:



Night 1 was a social gathering and included special presentations to California State Parks' first female lifeguard, Sally Tuttle, an in-memoriam video and the premiere of a short historical perspective followed by music, dancing, socializing and historical displays.

Night 2 was an evening of awards honoring extraordinary acts of heroism and life-

time service. Two new honors were introduced, the Robert J. Isenor Award and the David A. Perry Distinguished Service Award (details of the recipients and the award descriptions are at the end of this article). The naming of the Distinguished Service Award in honor of David A. Perry was a surprise reveal, with Perry himself on hand to present and receive recognition.

Night 3 was an evening of storytelling, featuring food, music and socializing followed by three panels highlighting



Robert J. Isenor

Women in Lifeguarding, Surf Watch Over the Years, and The North Coast Lifeguards.

From its roots in the early 20th century, State Parks' lifeguard service has evolved into a modern, highly trained rescue force responsible for patrolling over 340 miles of coastline and over 970 miles of lake and river frontage within the California State Park System.

[Read: Additional Details](#)



Left: State Park Superintendent II Justin McHenry presents the Robert J. Isenor Award to retired State Park Peace Officer (Lifeguard) David A. Perry and (right) retired District Aquatic Specialist Jim Tucker. Perry became one of the service's greatest rescue boat operators at Huntington SB. The 99-year-old Tucker was the senior-most state lifeguard alumnus in attendance and proudly wore his original lifeguard uniform hat from the 1960s. Tucker was instrumental in the early development of several of the department's aquatic safety programs, including boating safety, seasonal lifeguard training, junior lifeguards and statewide scuba diving. Photos from Brian Baer, Communications and Marketing Division.



Cal-State Scores Solid Second at 2025 USLA National Lifeguard Championships while Sussex County Repeats Win



**Huntington State Beach, CA
August 6-9, 2025**

By ADAM SANDLER

The Sussex County Lifeguard Association nabbed a first place finish, while the California State Lifeguard Association placed second at the 2025 United States Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships held in Huntington Beach, CA., on Aug. 7-9. The Los Angeles County Surf Life Saving Association finished third.

The Sussex County Lifeguard Assoc. (SCLA) earned the Howard Lee National Championship trophy with its 1309.496 points. Cal-State finished with 1278.999 points, while Los Angeles County Surf Life Saving Assoc. (LACoSLSA) earned 993.497 points. A mere 39.497 points separated the two top teams.

SCLA picked up 13 Gold, 15 Silver and 10 Bronze medals totaling 38 across Open and Age group racers, while Cal-State took home 49 Gold,

33 Silver and 30 Bronze in its tally of 112. LACoSLSA's 48 medal count comprised of 17 Gold, 22 Silver and 9 Bronze across its Open and Age Group contingent.

SCLA secured a repeat of its 2024 Nationals win. It is the first team that is not from California or New Jersey to win the Lee Trophy.

"To win the National Championship for a second year in a row is a testament to the hard work, dedication and teamwork of our athletes," said **Matt Farlow**, SCLA president.



Surf was up at Nationals!

"And to have done it in California against some of the most elite competition in the country, is unprecedented."

The SCLA is an amalgamation of lifeguards from numerous agencies, such as the Delaware State Parks Beach Patrol, Rehoboth Beach Patrol, Dewey Beach Patrol, Sussex Shores Beach Patrol, North Bethany Beach Patrol, Bethany Beach Patrol, Sea Colony Beach Patrol, Middlesex Beach Patrol and Fenwick Island Beach Patrol.



Jake Miller crossing Open Men Board Race finish line closely followed by 18-year-old Australian competitor Harris Harrison from Torquay SLSC who was stateside to compete in the Wieland Shield. Harrison placed first in U19 Ironman and U19 Board Race

Notable Open finishes included LACoSLSA's **Jake Miller** winning the Open Men Board Race and also landing Open Men top points scorer with 94.375.

Holly Maine won the Open Ironwoman race and with teammate Coral Kemp grabbed Gold in the Board Rescue Race. Maine now travels to New Zealand as part of the USA team to race in the 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge.



Coral Kemp and Holly Maine winning Open Women Board Rescue Race National championship.

"This year's Nationals was an awesome experience. As surf racers we don't often get the opportunity to race in sizable surf and Huntington provided just that," said Miller. "I've had a few other successful Nationals, but this was by far my best performance. I am most proud of winning the Board title as that race has eluded me in previous years. Being high point scorer is an honor, but it is not possible without my teammates. We had a couple of great relays and team events that we were able to score points to go along with a few good individual performances." Cal-State's ubiquity with 87 competitors helped give it a presence in numerous races in both Open and Age Group categories. And its place on the podium wasn't determined until the final race of the competition.

"This National Championship will be remembered for a very long time," observed **Ryan Gates**, Manager of the Cal-State Surf Racing team. "Bombing surf, great weather, intense races, and the battle for the Championship title coming down to the very last race of the event, made quite an impression on both our new and experienced competitors. The team pushed hard all four days. We are thankful for several great days racing with friends against the best in the nation. Huntington State Beach is a great

venue and the HSB Junior Lifeguard Association put on a great event."

The strong Nationals showing continued the Cal-State team summer competition streak as it previously nabbed a first place finish in the 2025 CSLSA California Surf Lifesaving Championships, held July 26 at Dockweiler State Beach. By doing so, it continued a 12-year run winning Regionals that began in 2013.



Jake Miller Crossing finish line in First Place in Men's Open Board Race for National Championship.

Team totals USLA National Lifeguard Championships

Place	Chapter	Total Points
1	Sussex County	1309.496
2	California State Lifeguard Assoc	1278.999
3	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	993.497
4	Monmouth County	746.060
5	Hampton Lifeguard Assoc.	240.811
6	Jones Beach State Park	197.625
7	Volusia Surf Lifesaving Association	144.124
8	Santa Cruz Surf Lifesaving Assoc	120.125
9	Emerald Coast	78.000
10	Laguna Beach Lifeguard Assoc	77.000

Points by Region

Place	Region	Total Points
1	Mid Atlantic	2850.617
2	Southwest	2642.371
3	Southeast	889.561
4	South Atlantic	431.122
5	Gulf Coast	50.750
6	International	35.000
7	Unknown	14.000
8	Pacific Islands	2.000

Open Men Top Points

Rank	Name	Chapter	Total Points
1	Jake Miller	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	94.375
2	Thomas O'Neill	Riis Park	86.500
3	Hayden Hemmens	California State Lifeguard Assoc	79.250
4	Lukas Pohlman	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	73.812
5	Alexander Cole	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	59.500
6	Michael Faughnan	Riis Park	55.625
7	Brian Murphy	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	52.000
8	Roman Higgins	California State Lifeguard Assoc	47.312
9	Ryan Matthews	Monmouth County	47.125
10	Luke Sudol	Monmouth County	46.500

Open Women Top Points

Rank	Name	Chapter	Total Points
1	Casey Francis	Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue	118.250
2	Sasha-Lee Hemmens	California State Lifeguard Assoc	111.000
3	Holly Maine	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	89.250
4	April O'Gorman	Volusia Surf Lifesaving Association	85.250
5	Kelsey Cummings	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	76.750
6	Montana George	California State Lifeguard Assoc	65.500
7	Elizabeth Fry	Sussex County	61.625
8	Gwen Bencie	Boca Raton	61.000
9	Renae Jackson	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	59.375
10	Sophia Gulotti	Sussex County	53.625

Age Group Men Top Points

Rank	Name	Chapter	Total Points
1	Patrick Hemmens	California State Lifeguard Assoc	28.000
2	Chip McDaniel	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	21.000
2	Randall Eickhoff	California State Lifeguard Assoc	21.000
2	Ryan Gates	California State Lifeguard Assoc	21.000
5	Karl Tallman	California State Lifeguard Assoc	20.000
5	Patrick Jacobson	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	20.000
7	Bailey Noel	Sussex County	19.000
7	Josh Remaniak	Sussex County	19.000
9	David Griffith	Sussex County	18.000
9	Erik Burgan	California State Lifeguard Assoc	18.000

Age Group Women Top Points

Rank	Name	Chapter	Total Points
1	Michelle Davidson	Monmouth County	24.000
2	Becky Levine	California State Lifeguard Assoc	21.000
2	Robin Lang	Wrightsville Beach	21.000
4	Jenna Parker	Monmouth County	20.000
4	Mary Mansfield	California State Lifeguard Assoc	20.000
6	Jennifer Noonan	LA County Surf Life Saving Assoc	18.000
7	Alicia Warren	Delray Beach Ocean Rescue	17.000
7	Emily Hagen	California State Lifeguard Assoc	17.000
7	Kristen Winn	California State Lifeguard Assoc	17.000
7	Rachelle Nock	California State Lifeguard Assoc	17.000

Agency Profiles



A Quick Look at the
**City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety
Department**
Co-Host of the Fall 2025 CSLSA BOD
Meeting

The Marine Safety Department provides the City of Laguna Beach with the highest level of lifeguarding services and is recognized as an Advanced Agency by the United States Lifesaving Association.

- **Creation:**..... 1929
- **Coastline Guarded:**..... 8 Miles
- **Permanent Lifeguards:**..... 16
- **Seasonal Lifeguards:**..... 160
- **Beach Attendance 2024:**..... 9,059,587
- **Rescues 2024:**..... 10,831
- **Junior Lifeguards:**..... 550

The City of Laguna Beach, Department of Marine Safety protects over six million beach visitors along eight miles of the City's coastline. Every day of the year, lifeguards ensure safety and provide customer service to the visitors on the beach, boardwalk, and in the ocean. The Marine Safety Department provides the City of Laguna Beach with the highest level of lifeguarding services and is recognized as an Advanced Agency by the United States Lifesaving Association.

Marine Safety Chief: Kai Bond

For Agency information: <https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/government/departments/marine-safety>

For Foundation information: <https://www.lbolff.org/>



A Quick Look at the
Crystal Cove State Lifeguards
**Affiliated Agencies: State of California,
Orange Coast District**
Co-Host of the Fall 2025 CSLSA BOD
Meeting

- **Creation:**..... 1979
- **Coastline Guarded:**..... 3.2 Miles
- **Permanent Lifeguards:**..... 9
- **Seasonal Lifeguards:**..... 65
- **Beach Attendance YTD 2025:**..... 22,634
- **Rescues: YTD 2025:**..... 867
- **Junior Lifeguards:**..... 713

Situated between Newport Beach and Laguna Beach, Crystal Cove State Park was acquired in December 1979 from the Irvine Company. Prior to the park's creation, lifeguard services were handled in an ad-hoc fashion by Newport Beach and Laguna Beach. From 1937–1942, the southern portion of the cove (El Morro) was patrolled by the Orange County Sheriff's "Coast Patrol," led by former Laguna Chief Lifeguard Dana Lamb.

Following the State's purchase, Laguna Beach lifeguards patrolled under contract during the summers of 1980–1982. In 1983, California State Park lifeguards formally took over, beginning with one patrol jeep, a few towers donated by Laguna Beach, and a small crew covering the park's seven coves. Today, in its 42nd season of operation, the Crystal Cove State Park Lifeguard Service continues to protect park visitors and natural resources across 3.5 miles of coastline, including a Marine Protected Area and the El Morro watershed.

Chief lifeguard: Paul Andrus

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For Agency information:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21288

For Association information:

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