

Cal-Surf News

Volume 3 Number 1

Spring 1993



President's Message

More from Moore.....

It is 1993! Time is marching on and lifesaving must keep the pace. The region is working hard on behalf of its members. The business side of any organization is a boring process to most, but thankfully the CSLSA has a few dedicated representatives who continue to serve on behalf of the membership. Let's face it, the majority of the membership could care less about the by-laws, developing a poster on rip currents, certification, contracts, the national, other regions, competition, sponsorship, sharing of ideas, etc. But there are members that do enjoy parts of the organization i.e., some like to compete, others enjoy exchanging ideas, while education spurs interest in a few. There is something for everyone if you choose to get involved. If you choose not to get involved that too is your option. The mere fact that you support YOUR profession through joining the USLSA is most important. Times are getting tough, people are losing their jobs, the economy has been better, salary cuts are no longer a far fetched idea, (Continued on p. 6)

Tim (Crab) Dorsey Retires

EPIC, that's how the man himself would describe his lifeguard career. He originally was hired as a summer lifeguard in 1958 and eventually became the first full-time lifeguard employee in Seal Beach in 1962. His last promotion was in 1973, when he became the Lifeguard Chief, the title he held for almost two decades until his retirement last year. Who is this spectacle? He is Tim Dorsey, retired Chief Lifeguard of Seal Beach.

Tim, or more fondly Crab (a nickname he picked up from surfing Crab's jetty in Seal Beach since he was a child), has always loved the beach. He started out as a first class surfer, but later realized another passion, one that would pay the rent, lifesaving. Tim

revolutionized lifesaving. His most significant achievement was in establishing systematic lifeguard standards and operations while employed by the City of Seal Beach.

Tim was heavily involved in upgrading the position of lifeguard, not only in Seal Beach, but along the coast in general. He established advanced first aid techniques for injured people during the years prior to the advent of professional paramedic service in Seal Beach. He personally designed and built the first lifeguard observation tower on the municipal pier, as well as oversaw the design and construction of all lifeguard towers on the beach.

Tim's involvement did not stop (Continued on p. 2)

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Dorsey

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in Seal Beach. He served as President of the USLA from 1973-1975. Under the auspices of the USLA, Tim was able to travel to Africa, Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and England in order to promote standards of professional lifeguarding and ocean safety in these countries.

To know this man is to love him. This was quite evident at his retirement party. Over 300 of his "closest" friends joined together for a fond farewell luau on Seal Beach. It was a night to remember to say the least. And remembered Tim will be, if not for his bubbly, eccentric personality than for his most enduring legacy: During his 32-year career with the City of Seal Beach, Tim personally saved the lives of over

1700 distressed swimmers in the ocean waters off of Seal Beach. Good-bye, Crab, and Good Luck. You will be missed!

The President's Message

(Continued from p. 1)

business is leaving our area, etc. These reasons are something to think about when considering dropping out. If we don't care about our profession and the public we serve, we will all lose the edge of what we have learned and shared. Some lifeguards in other parts of the country have a "chair" instead of a tower. Other lifeguards must row their rescue boats instead of using a motor.

You may laugh, but it's true. Twenty dollars a year makes you a member of the region, national, and the world levels, and you don't have to do a thing if you so choose.

It might sound like a pathetic thought presented, but it always takes a few to benefit the many. Without the members, then the few would not have an opportunity to work and serve. Without the few working on behalf of the many then what will we have? So you ask, "What did he say?" What I said was we need each and everyone of you whether your interest level is high or low. Without your support, lifesaving as we know it would take a tumble. Bottom line, the public would suffer and some could die. From the sophistication of some of our rescue boats to the most basic way we put on our fins (as illustrated in the last issue), without this organization of networking and hard work, we would not have evolved to where we are today.

Apathy kills more than the spirit. It kills the profession not to mention people. Please renew your membership and get your peers to sign up for the 1993-94 year. If everyone signs up at the beginning of the summer, then the executive board, committees and their chairmen, competitors, etc. can focus on what is important to the profession and not waste time trying to exist by rounding up memberships. Thanks for your early support and we will see you on the beach this summer. Don't forget the national competition is in Hermosa Beach this summer. We want lifeguards throughout the country to visit all of our agencies when they come out for the nationals and see how we operate in Southern California.

You are the best, be proud and continue the tradition of the CSLSA.

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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 World Life Saving organization and participation in regional competition.

Featured Agency

Dropping by the San Clemente Marine Safety Division

The San Clemente Marine Safety Division is one of five divisions within the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Department. The goal of the Division is to maximize the safe and enjoyable use of the City's beach and pier.

Responsibilities of the San Clemente Marine Safety Division include:

- Lifeguard operations;
- Beach maintenance services;
- Administration of seven pier and beach related concessions;
- Representing the City on environmental concerns such as coastal erosion, pollution and off-shore oil drilling;
- Railroad contract administration;
- Federal and State disaster grants administration (we've been reimbursed two million dollars during the last eight years).

The Division's services fall into three general categories: Operations and Rescue, Prevention and Education, and Pier and Beach Maintenance Program.

The Operations and Rescue Program provides public safety and law enforcement services for approximately 2 million annual visitors to the City's ocean, pier, and beaches. The primary responsibility of the program's ocean lifeguards is to provide water surveillance, rescue and preventative activities. During the past 12 years, the City lifeguards have rescued over 21,000 swimmers. During the same period of time, there has not been a single drowning on San Clemente's beaches. Additionally, lifeguards work closely with the Police Department on law enforcement matters and the Fire Department on providing medical assistance.

The Prevention and Education Program is aimed at preventing the need for rescue or first aid assistance through public education. The program's Junior Lifeguard, Surfing, and School Education Programs teach and reinforce safe and enjoyable ways to use the beach and ocean. Approximately 350 youngsters, ages 10 through 17, participate each year in the Junior Lifeguard Program. Instructional Surfing programs are also offered. Additionally, ocean safety talks and demonstrations reach over 1,000 school age children and civic groups annually.
(Continued on p. 4)



The San Clemente crew, from Left to Right -Bottom Row: Kneeling, Jeff Harman, John Hammond, Larry Moore, Dan Jackson, Chris Cook, Kirk Schoonover, Brian Brower, Brandon Thomas, Lynn Hughes and Kevin Perkins. Second Row: Bill Humphreys, Mike Higgs, Carter Mudge, John McMains, Eric Burke, Tad Morris, Pete Halvorson, Todd McKenzie, Rod Mellou, John Sotter, Rich Chew, Tanya Porter, Stephan Holland and Gary Friedrich. Back Row: Jonah Braxton-Brown, Doug Barker, Mark Rowe, Steve Sanchez, Rick Erkeneff, Brian Russell and Charles Sommer. Missing: Steve Lashbrook, Steve Barrett, Brian Covert, Susan Kehoe, Richmond Mills, Eddie Moeller, Kent Sanders, Dan Sforza, Jon Stockdale and Kyle Thompson.

City of San Clemente

(Continued from p. 3)

The Pier and Beach

Maintenance staff provides cleaning, repair and development services for the pier and beach. The two full-time beach maintenance workers are assisted by two seasonal workers, as well as County assigned youth workers. Improved beach facilities, combined with new cleaning and maintenance techniques have helped the beach maintenance crew to keep up with increased beach usage. In recent years, the beach maintenance crew has been able to add some popular amenities to the beach such as additional playground and picnic facilities, palm frond palapas and landscaped planters.

OPERATIONS SCHEDULE:

During the summer months, San Clemente lifeguards are assigned to 9 towers from Avenida Pico to just south of "T" Street (2 linear miles), as well as 2, 2 man units. Additional guards are assigned depending upon crowd conditions. San Clemente lifeguards are on duty from 8 a.m. until dark and are on call 24 hours a day. Current surf, weather and tide information is available by calling the Division's recording systems at 492-1011 or 492-1012. The Division's business number is 361-8219.

STAFF:

The Marine Safety's core staff includes five full-time employees. The backbone of the operation are the approximately 35 hourly lifeguards.

Lynn Hughes, the Marine Safety Captain has been managing the operations for the Division for the past 12 years. He has 28 years of lifesaving experience. Lynn received his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University at Long Beach where he has pursued graduate work in public administration. He enjoys all water sports, especially fishing and is an avid triathlete.

Bill Humphreys, the Marine Safety Lieutenant started work with the City in 1977 as a part-time ocean

lifeguard. Bill is married with 2 boys. He graduated from SDSU and received his Elementary teaching credential from UCI. Often Bill is contracted by the City's computer department for various projects and teaching computer use to City employees.

Steve Lashbrook is our Marine Safety Officer and has been with the City as a lifeguard for 22 years. As an excellent swimmer he qualified for Olympic tryouts in 1968. Steve has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Colorado State University where he was a member of the All American Swimming and Water Polo teams. He spends as much time as possible skiing, mountain biking and fishing.

Rich Chew is our permanent ocean lifeguard supervisor and has been with the City as a lifeguard for 16 years. Rich is a past U. S. surfing champion and currently still competes as a professional longboarder. Rich is married with 2 daughters.

Helen McCue has been the Division's secretary for 17 years. She is a graduate of California State University at Long Beach with a BA in Education. Helen taught junior and senior high for seven years before moving to San Clemente. Her favorite past times are skiing, swimming, camping and raising orchids.

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES:

The 35 seasonal employees are mostly college students who return to the beach each summer for employment. Their average experience as a lifeguard is extremely high at almost eight years.

San Clemente Marine Safety would like to extend an invitation to everyone to stop by for a visit and tour. Hope to see you soon!

Submitted by Lt. Bill Humphries, City of San Clemente

CSLSA Selects Ching and Price as Delegates for the 1992-93 Lifeguard Exchange Program to New Zealand

The California Surf Life Saving Association has officially selected Eric Ching and Jennifer Price from Huntington City Beach Lifeguards and San Diego City Lifeguards, respectively.

The two will represent the region in the 1992-93 Lifeguard Exchange Program to Auckland, New Zealand, said the Exchange Program Chairman Kai Weisser.

The six-week exchange was designed "to benefit the lifesaving of New Zealand and to offer professionalism in lifeguarding standards," said Weisser.

"Ching was the first alternate last year and finished first overall this year among a tough field of applicants," said Weisser. "Price finished second."

Ching, 24, has seven years of ocean lifeguard experience, seven years as a junior guard, and participated in the 1985-86 Australian Jr. Guard Exchange. He hosted the Kiwi Delegates that toured California this past summer as well. He is a certified EMT, SCUBA, IRB, Swiftwater Rescue, deputized Special Officer and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Design from San Diego State University. His interests are in surfing, outdoor activities and art.

(Continued on p. 6)

Newport Beach J.G.'s

OUR TRIP TO GALVESTON

The City of Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards traveled by train to the 1992 National Competition in Galveston, Texas. The team consisted of nine Junior Lifeguards and three instructors. Was the trip a success? Just ask the Juniors....

Day 1: We met at the Santa Ana train station at 8 p.m. Took the train to L.A. and then slept on the train for the night. Our chairs tilted all the way back into a bed. We talked and then went to sleep. It was fun.

Bradford Strain 13

Day 2: Today we spent the whole day on the train. We got up and got breakfast from the snack window. Then we went to the lounge car for a first aid lesson. Then we went to our seats for free time. We had lunch in the dining car. At the end of the day we played Lifeguard Jeopardy and made an entry into our journals we kept during the trip. We had dinner in the dining car. Back to our seats and went to sleep for the night. It was fun being on the train for the day.

Nettie Alshuler 13

Day 3: After three days on the train we arrived in Houston, Texas. The train ride was fun, but I was happy to stretch my legs. We rented cars and drove to Galveston. We got our room assignments and checked into the hotel. We swam in the hotel pool. For dinner we had shrimp, crab balls, fish, crab legs and hushpuppies. The dinner was great!

John Jones 14



Newport Beach JG's visiting NASA

Day 4: The weather is hot and humid. After a good night's sleep we ate breakfast and went to Stewart Street Beach to work out. The ocean is really warm and the waves small compared to home. We ran, swam and paddled. Then went to the light museum on Galveston Island. There was a hot dog BBQ for all of the Junior Lifeguard participants. We played volleyball and met JG's from all across the country. Early to sleep because the competition is tomorrow.

Chris Richardson 14

Day 5: We got up early for the competition. All of the Junior Lifeguards participated in a March Past parade. We then took an oath to be good sports. I competed in 5 events, winning awards in two. The competition was really fun. The best part was meeting friends from different beaches and trading t-shirts. After the competition the Newport Beach JG's went horseback riding on a 1,000 acre ranch, which was the most fun ever. We then had a team dinner. We were all very tired at the end of the day.

Molly Melum 10

Day 6: Up early again. We went with all of the Junior Lifeguards to NASA for the day. It was very interesting. We all got NASA hats. I got my picture taken by a rocket. Tonight we went back to the seafood restaurant for more crab and shrimp.

Brady Barto 11

Day 7: Slept in! Went to watch the lifeguard competition and then played on the water slide and bumper cars for the day. We swam in the hotel pool and packed to go home. We boarded the train that evening and started back to Newport Beach.

Misty Mallory 15

Day 8: The train trip was good. We saw animals and plants. My friends and I played Game Boy and checkers. The train food was expensive but good. I would love to do this again.

Tommy Zavala 13

Day 9: Home. Thank you so much for the wonderful trip. I had so much fun. The train ride was a lot of

(Continued on p. 6)

New Zealand Exchange Delegates

(Continued from p. 4)

He (Ching) has some international travelling experience recently attending university classes in Taiwan, said Weisser.

Price, 31, has eight years of ocean lifeguard experience and experience teaching marine safety in the city's junior lifeguard program. She is a certified EMT, SCUBA, IRB and Marine Biology instructor. Her interests are surfing, diving and bird watching.

The program will commence in late December and conclude in mid-February as Ching and Price travel to New Zealand to train with the Auckland lifesavers.

The primary purpose of the exchange program is to enhance and promote professional lifeguarding standards, and to continue the camaraderie among Auckland and California lifeguards.

The exchange functions to serve the Auckland and California SLSAs in enabling their members to internationally participate in a professional environment during prime visitation seasons.

The delegates will learn from first-hand observation and training using lifesaving equipment ranging from IRBs to helicopters. Their goals are not to critique, but simply to explore and share different venues of rescue philosophy and styles of ocean lifeguarding.

Any member interested in applying for the exchange program in the future, contact the CSLSA Exchange Chairman, Kai Weisser, at (714) 536-5281.

Our Trip to Galveston

(Continued from p. 5)

fun. It gave me a chance to get to know everyone. When we got to Galveston I had the time of my life. Thanks.

Shayne Laughlin 13

As you can see, we have many happy memories from our trip last summer. This summer we are looking

forward to competing in California. The L.A. County lifeguards will be hosting the 1993 Junior Lifeguard National Competition on August 6-8 at Hermosa Beach. More information will be available after the Spring meeting.

Submitted by Reenie Boyer, Newport Beach J.G. Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Paddleboard Missing

The L.A. County South Bay Surf Racing team is missing a 12-foot Bennett paddleboard; it was misplaced at the Manhattan Beach PSLA event. If you have any knowledge of its whereabouts please contact Merrill Riley or Tracy Lizotte at (310) 372-2166.

The Cal Surf News solicits your help and support. Please contact Andy O'Leary at (619) 755-1569 or Jim Hughes at (818) 334-1065 if you wish to contribute news articles, photographs or any other information.



Lifeguarding, A Different Type of Current

By Andy Lerum - San Diego Lifesaving Association

Imagine yourself lifeguarding a stormy sea that throws heavy surf onto a rocky shore. Your level of preparedness is high and you continuously think of rescue scenarios which may occur at any time. Suddenly in the distance you see one of your scenarios come true; someone gets licked of a rock by a large set wave, dragged across a reef, then sucked out to the impact zone where death attempts to take over.

The success of a water rescue is often dependent on how quick the rescuer reaches the victim. An experienced lifeguard will read the surf and use timing techniques to expedite the response. Jumping off a rock into the backwash of the wave; running over an exposed reef between waves; and clutching to a fixed object when surf tries to reject you, are examples of timing techniques that require a keen sense of ocean knowledge. Fortunately each wave is followed by a period of slack in which a lifeguard can make progress towards a victim. Regardless of how large the surf is or how quick the intervals are a slack period will always exist.

“River Rescue Lifeguards may come head to head with obstacles unlike any along the ocean front.”

Recall the above scenario, your mission is to safely navigate yourself through powerful surf into a 'danger zone', hook up to the victim, and escape from the ocean who was once your friend. To some this may sound like a routine rescue, but lets alter the conditions and omit the convenience of having



Kirk Thomas of L.A. County during River Rescue training

intervals between waves and sets. You now face an overwhelming, relentless, current with no opportunity to make progress towards the victim. Does the term 'River Rescue' flash across your mind. This is the challenge that River Rescue Teams battle.

Let's complicate matters further; imagine arriving at the scene and not being able to locate the victim. If this were to occur in the ocean the search area would obviously surround the point at which the victim was last visualized. On a river, however, the victim could easily be downstream hundreds of yards or trapped under water by a strainer. The attempt to free someone from a strainer is positively one of the most difficult rescues to perform. The remote areas that rivers and floods travel only complicate rescue situations. River Rescue Team members often have to put themselves in life threatening situations therefore, advanced training is essential.

In the past, river rescues were attempted by which ever safety service agency arrived on scene first, most commonly the Fire Department. The techniques were often barbaric resulting in heroic suicide. Trying to perform a

swimming rescue as we do in the ocean has proven to be an ineffective method of rescue in swift water. Today, river rescue techniques are advanced and rely on state of the art equipment. Most of today's river rescues are performed on top of the water with the use of inflatable boats, rafts, or similar devices attached to tending lines from upstream. It's an advantage to have these lines attached to each side of the river but not always possible. Like ocean rescues, river rescues are time critical, but the degree of difficulty is often much higher. Rescue techniques will continue to improve, but there will always be times when things go wrong. River Rescue Lifeguards may come head to head with obstacles unlike any along the ocean front.

The role of Lifeguard River Rescue Teams in California undoubtedly promotes professional lifeguarding. All lifeguards involved in River Rescue should be commended for their commitment to professionalism. Good luck to all River Rescue Teams this year!

Related photograph on p. 11

Those Also Serve, Who Stand and Wait

By Greg Buchanan, San Diego

Safety service is a noble profession and lifeguards provide an invaluable and critical service. Lifeguards are often stereotyped as seasonal employees and lacking professionalism. These perceptions may be the reality of the uninformed but lifeguards themselves understand the importance of the job they perform.

Lifeguarding as a profession is a notion that is not universally understood. Most people throughout the country can relate to the necessity for police and fire services. They may never require these services but they accept that others may need the help and therefore the existence is justified.

The existence of year around lifeguard services is isolated to those areas where beach usage and rescue activity is tangible. Once a need is identified for lifeguarding protection, a professional, highly trained service becomes a requirement.

In the lifeguarding profession, staffing levels are highest during the summer and, where applicable, decrease during the spring and fall and are at the minimum levels during the winter months. The idea of winter lifeguarding is probably the least understood aspect of the whole profession. But, if the truth were known, the variety of activities and situations makes this time period very rewarding and filled with anxiety.

Winter lifeguarding immediately conquers up feelings of big surf and cold water every lifeguard expects to be challenged to the highest degree. In the winter season, assignments are highly variable and each assignment offers new and ever changing scenarios. The winter time is also filled with extremes. Some days are cold, rainy and windy while other days are dominated by Santa Ana conditions. Water temperature, surf size, swell direction and beach attendance are all influencing factors of the type of work day you will encounter.

As you prepare to lifeguard during

the winter, you begin to ask yourself many questions. For instance: Am I prepared to do the same job with a drastically reduced workforce? Can I bare the cold water? Will I successfully maneuver my rescue vessel in 30 knot winds? Can we perform a cliff

mentally draining test. They passed with flying colors but, then again, they were just doing their job.

Another day in December saw 6-8 foot surf and it seemed that every surfer in the county was in search of the perfect

“There is a never ending thought process that exudes expectation, anticipation and fear when one thinks about large surf rescues.”

rescue with a crew of 3 lifeguards? Can I keep myself alert and motivated during the slow times? Will I get the training I think I need? But most importantly, am I fit enough and smart enough to deal with the large surf? There is a never ending thought process that exudes expectation, anticipation and fear when one thinks about large surf rescues. It is the aspect of the job that sets us apart from all other professions. Lifeguards must possess the skill to rescue people from the water who can't save themselves. This skill requires that lifeguards be professional athletes as it relates to their water skills. It is this identifiable fact that makes lifeguarding so unique and lifeguards so special.

One such unique day occurred in November when the surf was running 4-6 feet from the NW and the water temperature was still over 65 degrees. As the lifeguards reported to the La Jolla area, they knew it was going to be one of those epic days. From the minute they got to work they were involved in Code III runs throughout the area. Water related emergencies due to inexperienced swimmers and numerous 911 calls of people in need of help dominated the morning. The hard hulled surf rescue vessel was requested to assist with maintaining safety at the beaches. At La Jolla Cove alone, the lifeguards rescued 20 victims. The lifeguards at that beach were put to a test - a physically and

wave. When the surf is at this height, even the surfers are not immune from life threatening situations and this day many were rescued. Most of the 10 rescues that day were in the Sunset cliffs area where surfers found themselves washed against cliffs after losing their surfboards. Depending on when the lifeguards arrived, we either jumped in the water and swam the victims away from the cliffs to safety or performed cliff rescues on the victims who were stranded in rocky coves. Those days are not easily forgotten and they are what lifeguards dream about.

Lifeguarding during the winter months does not mean you have any less job responsibilities. You are still responsible for performing water, cliff and boat rescues. You respond to medical aids and perform your EMT function and act as an enforcement officer for local and state ordinances. You continue to tow disabled boats and deal with impounded vessels. During the winter, you also respond to river rescue calls and are the first line defense against coastal flooding. In recent years, the winter activity seems to be on the increase and spring/fall lifeguarding has become tremendously challenging.

When all is said and done we should remember a few important points; Do not let your guard down, stay motivated and stay professional.

C O M P E T I T I O N

NEWS

By Rob McGowan

The summer of '92 is now just a memory and the water is only in the mid 50's, but there's still plenty of competition news. Congratulations are in order for L.A. County, California State Parks and Solana Beach for capturing the top three team spots at the 1992 USLA Nationals in Galveston, Texas. The six man team of Mitch Kahn, Craig Hummer, Paul Donohue, Dan Cortazzo, Eric Bear and Mike Nadolski placed a very respectable second place behind Australia in the Hawaiian Ocean Challenge. You may have seen the coverage on ESPN.

A ten-member team from California will be visiting and competing with New Zealand at the end of January. The team has received sanctioning from the USLA and a letter of introduction was sent to New Zealand by USLA International Liaison Officer Tom Daley. The members selected for the team include Phil Topar, Dan Cortazzo, Patty Richards, Deidre Fisher, Craig Hummer, Sean McFarland, Patrick Hemmens, Randy Eickhoff, John Scurlock and Eric Bear. Good luck and have fun.

We received an invitation to the 1992 BIP Resin Challenge from South

hosting the USLA Nationals in Hermosa Beach on August 6, 7, and 8th. The Junior Guard events will be on the 6th and will be run by their own officials - not the same corp of officials that work the senior nationals. This is to avoid "burn-out" of the officials. LACOLA needs to get an idea of how many surfboats (dorys) will be competing. If you plan to row at 1993 Nations, please call Ira Gruber or Phil Topar at (310) 577-5700. All boards, skis and dorys will be weighed at the 1993 Nationals, and it will be the responsibility of the competitors to make sure their craft meet the weight requirement. The 10' 6" paddleboard will again be a demonstration event for Open and Women, but the National Team paddlers for the World Lifesaving Titles in the United Kingdom, 1994, will be picked from the 10' 6" race. The Host Event will be a relay made up of 2 veterans, 2 masters, 2 seniors, 2 women and 2 open competitors. The race will consist of 2 runners, 2 swimmers, 2 board paddlers, 2 surf

for July 17, 1993. We're currently in negotiations with the San Clemente Ocean Festival, so, at this time we're not sure if regionals will be in San Clemente or somewhere else. We should have a good idea by the CSLSA Spring meeting.

News from the USLA National Competition Committee, the 10' 6" board was adopted for all divisions starting with the 1995 Nationals. This will include all events in which a paddleboard is used. As previously mentioned, the 10' 6" board will be a demonstration event in Women's and Open in Hermosa this summer. Proposed rule changes were submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Region in order to limit team size, or to limit the number from each team that can score in each event (ie - only the top two per team score). We will discuss these at the Spring meeting. The World Champion Interclub team from Cronulla SLSC, Australia has requested an invitation to come to California in 1993. The request was



Africa. Unfortunately, it got here too late, after entries had closed. ILO Tom Daley has written to South Africa requesting early notification for the next time the race is held. The Challenge is a four-day, 224 kilometer surf ski race from Port Elizabeth to Each London, South Africa. Anyone interested in competing in this race in the future please contact Rob McGowan or Tom Daley.

Looking ahead to the 1993 competition season, LACOLA will be

skiers and 1 dory team. Chapters may combine to make up teams.

The 1993 Nationals will be held in conjunction with the 1993 International Surf Festival, a yearly event hosted by the cities of the South Bay. The Taplin Relay is the premier race of the ISF and an invitation to compete in the Taplin has been extended to all USLA chapters. Let's see a good turnout from our region!

CSLSA Regionals are scheduled

forwarded to the ILO and we will likely be seeing them this summer. The Auckland SLSA would like to visit in 1994. The Huntington Beach SLSA is working on putting together a competition open to all World Lifesaving Teams sometime in August of 1994. Details will be forthcoming.

That's it for now. See you on the starting line.

COASTAL EROSION

By Dr. Cris Metzler, Professor, Mira Costa College, Cardiff, Ca.

Why are our beaches in Southern California so much smaller than they were in decades past? What can be done to stop coastal erosion and loss of property in our area? What effect is the recent rainy weather having on our shorelines?

In order to answer these questions, we need a basic understanding of sand supply and removal to our beaches. Sand is supplied to our shorelines by two major processes: stream and river input and direct cliff erosion onto the beach. Once sand arrives on the shore, it is moved both onshore and offshore by waves, sometimes forming sandbars (mostly in winter) and other times forming beaches (mostly in summer). The sand is also moved along the coastline when waves strike the shore at an angle. While this longshore movement of sand can be in either direction along the shore, the long-term average movement is from north to south in most of Southern California. Eventually the sand falls into submarine canyons and is drained off into deeper water. Thus, in any given area of our coastline we can examine how sand is

supplied, distributed and removed from that area. Such a geographically distinct area is referred to as a littoral cell. In our area littoral cells extend from Pt. Magu to Palos Verdes, Long Beach to Newport Beach, and Dana Point to La Jolla.

Human impact on the natural environment has altered the movement of sand through these littoral cells, however, Dams on the rivers and streams prevent sand supplies from reaching the shore. Jetties and harbor entrances inhibit sand from moving along the coastline. Additionally, while seawalls reduce cliff erosion and property loss they also inhibit sand supply. All of these human activities mean that we have smaller beaches, with less room for recreation and, for property owners, less protection from waves erosion at the base of the coastal bluffs.

Our recent drought has played a role in this process also. The meager quantities of sand being carried in our coastal streams below the dams had been largely trapped in coastal lagoons and estuaries because water flow had not been sufficient to get the sediment onto the beach. Things are looking up on this

front, though. The very heavy rainfall in the last few months has opened the mouths of the lagoons and large quantities of sediment have been flushed out of the lagoons and into the ocean. Hopefully this summer will see significant amounts of sand on our beaches.

The wet weather is not entirely good news, however, especially for those people who live or work right along the coast. The heavy rain has caused erosion to become a greater problem. Water adds weight to the cliffs and also softens the rocks. Also, infiltration of rainwater in the inland areas means there is more groundwater flowing out along the cliffs, further exacerbating the problem. So for property owners, the end to our long drought is a good news/ bad news situation. The prospect of larger beaches this summer, with the associated protection from wave erosion is offset by the prospect of slope failure due to water weakening the bluffs.

For beach goers, the situation should improve somewhat this summer, as the newly supplied sand returns. In the long term, however, the outlook is more problematical. Solutions have not been easy and will continue to be difficult as input from property owners, beach users and environmentalists conflict. Shall we remove all of our dams, harbors and seawalls? Could we simply not build along the coastline? We can bring in many truckloads of sand, although this is expensive and the sand simply moves along the littoral cell and eventually disappears into the submarine canyon. Dredging of lagoons and harbors does provide some relief, however this clearly is a problem that we Southern Californians will be dealing with for decades to come.



Coastal erosion at Cardiff, Ca.

Beware of Loose Lobster Traps

Heavy swells caused by winter storms have raised concern at Surfrider Foundation's San Diego chapter that the ongoing public safety threat posed by loose lobster traps washing into the surfline will be particularly strong this year due to increased numbers of uprooted traps. The life-threatening danger presented by these rusted traps and their buoy lines can be attested to by any surfer, swimmer or diver who has come face-to-face with one. Add to the formula the vast improvements in wetsuits and therefore, year round surfing, swimming and diving (the lobster season runs from the beginning of October to mid-March) and a direct, well-documented conflict arises between commercial lobster fishing interests and public safety. Divers and surfers have indeed lost their lives after getting tangled in lobster trap buoy lines.

What can be done individually and collectively about these hazardous traps? All surfers, swimmers and divers must remain aware that razor sharp traps ARE out there and that they can kill, disable or at least terrify. Surfers must make sure they use quick release leash lines only and NEVER wear them underneath their wetsuits.

The Surfrider Foundation proposes amendments be made to existing State Fish and Game regulations seeking greater restrictions on the distance lobster traps can be placed from public access beach areas. A system of fines also can be imposed on those fishermen who repeatedly set often poorly-weighted traps too close to the surfline. (During the past few years in Solana Beach alone, 80 of the 107 traps retrieved with registration markers still attached belonged to a mere 6 fishermen.)

Anyone interested in lending their support to this process of reform and accountability is asked to contact Anne Palmer of Surfrider Foundation at (619) 259-5520; FAX (619) 259-5214.



L.A. County River Rescue team developing their skills with training

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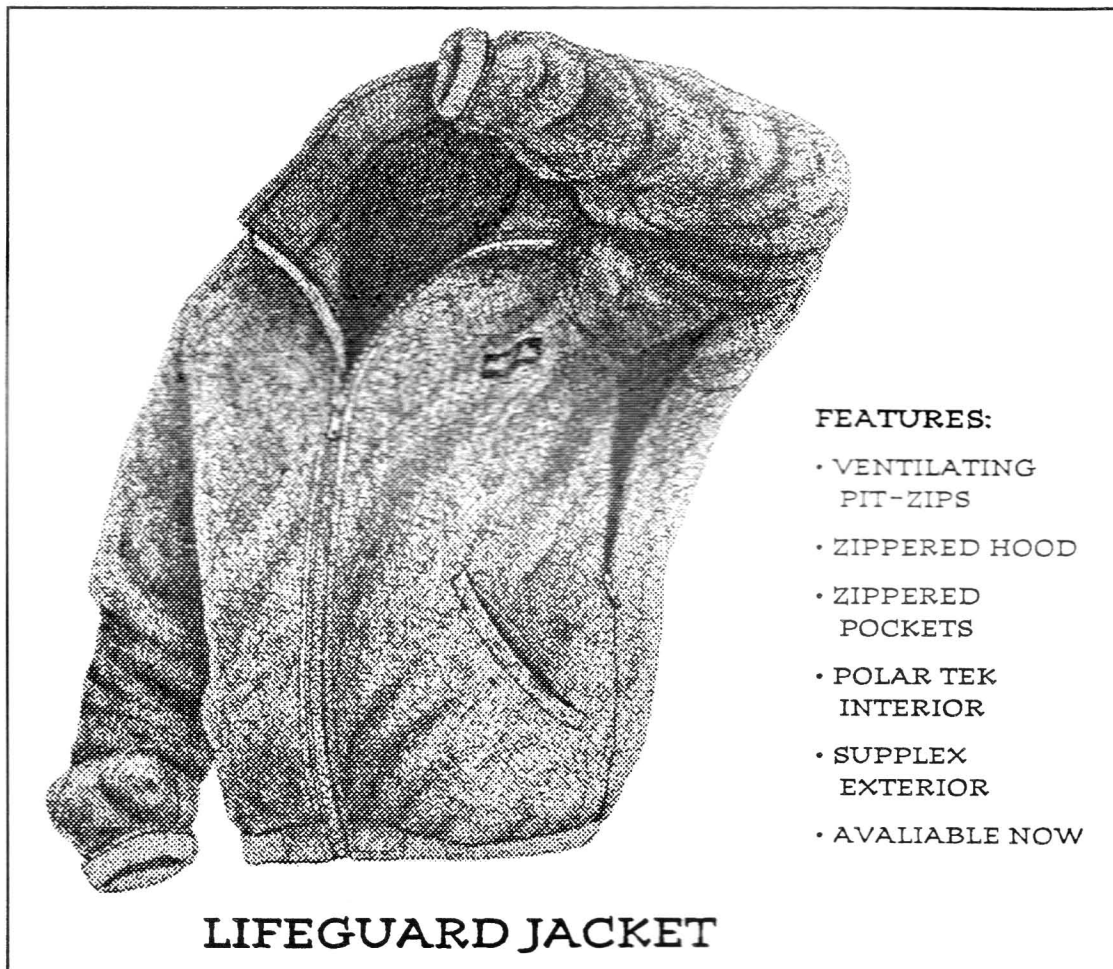
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