



The Bucket and Buoy

The Official Newsletter of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps Dennis M. Kane, Editor Aug. 7, 2010

State of the Union

By Tom Donovan, JBLC President

August already? Summer again flew by at breakneck pace. How shall we remember the 2010 season? Everyone has their own memories, and I hope they will be good ones for all of you. When those stories are re-told, they will still be as fresh and funny as when they occurred.

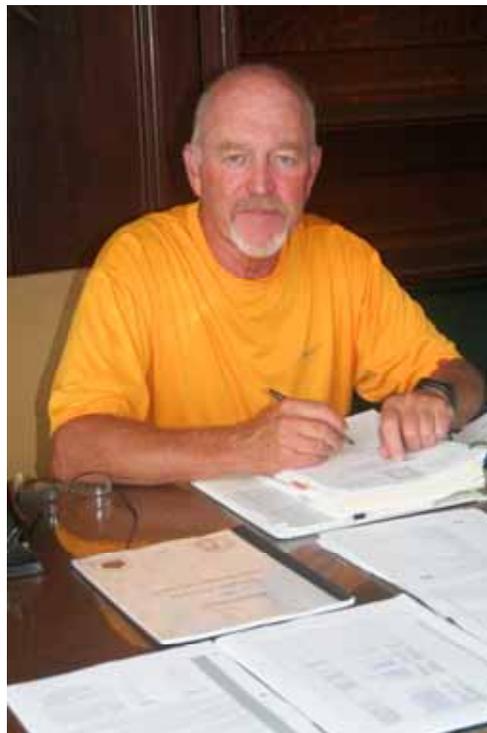
The JBLC continues to move forward. Our relationship with NYSUT/UUP grows stronger every day. I cannot say enough about the efforts continually put forth by the NYSUT/UUP leaders. They are always ready to supply whatever resource or advice we seek. Our move into NYSUT/UUP will prove to be one of the best things this Union has ever done.

Our struggle to obtain a raise and retroactive pay continues. Since a large percentage of the Corps attended our rally in July, you know we made our point to the beachgoers of Long Island, to Parks & Rec., to our elected State representatives and to Governor Paterson.

I again thank long-time lifeguard and Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg for his continuing support of the JBLC. Because of his efforts, and that of other legislators, we are optimistic that our negotiations will soon start again, and a settlement will be reached.

Your Union representatives, particularly your Executive Board members, continue to work hard to insure the best working conditions for all. Proper staffing levels at some of our facilities continues to be an issue, and solutions need to be found. Public safety is the real issue. Basing staffing levels on old ideas, personality issues and alleged budgetary restrictions, is not addressing the reality of packed beaches and pools. We also continue to address the issues of new and properly working equipment, shacks, stands, etc. A real cooperative effort is being put forth by Parks to ensure we are properly equipped.

Our Captains and Lieutenants recently met in a training workshop co-sponsored by us and the State, and the feedback from both groups has been very positive. Thanks to the LISPC Personnel Department for putting that workshop together.



Tom Donovan, JBLC President

With the closure of West End 2, Field 1, East Bath Pool, cut-backs at RM4, and shorter seasons at some of the pools and the Bay, many of our lifeguards lost their “homes” in the last two years. Through a series of meetings with management, strategies were developed and instituted. Although some facilities remain closed or lessened, everyone is working. We even had a New Hire test this year, and everyone who passed was offered a position. Our primary goals are to ensure that everyone continues to work, and that the public has beaches and pools fully open and safely staffed.

The Jones Beach Competition Team continues the tradition of excellence. They performed well at Smith’s Point, Rhode Island, the Regionals and the Nationals. Please let them know you appreciate their efforts. Our Junior Lifeguard program continues to dominate the local competition and training our future lifeguards. JBLC members show up every Sunday at 8 AM to train them, and they also deserve a thank-you from everyone.

Our traditional Inter-Beach Races started last week. This year, the schedule expanded to four days of competition. Changes to the fundamental scoring structure were proposed for this year. Those changes were intended to be positive for all. But change is not always accepted. After some debate, the proposed changes were modified, and it seems to be working out for all. I thank all those involved with the Races for their hard work and willingness to work towards our common goals. A great deal of work goes into making sure the Races are successful. Thanks also to Jones Beach and Robert Moses park management for their assistance and cooperation in these events.

All enrolled NYSLC members should have received self-nomination forms for the upcoming NYSLC elections. The term of office is two years (10/1/10 to 9/30/12). If you can commit to the duties and responsibilities of representing the JBLC as a Delegate, or the greater commitment of state-wide organization efforts as an Executive Board Officer, then I encourage you to step up and nominate yourself. Elections for those nominated will be held in September. Forms must be **received** in Albany by 8/25.

The JBLC Beach Representative Assembly (BRA) holds monthly meetings all year long. Your Beach Reps do an outstanding job of representing your interests. Our meetings are open to all, and I encourage all to attend. Believe me when I say that democracy is alive and well in the JBLC. Debate, discussion and voting on important issues takes place at our meetings, and your input is important. Please join us.

As your President, I am proud to represent you, the members of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. I am proud to speak loudly and clearly to any and all about the dedication and professionalism of one of the finest lifeguard organizations in the world. I will continue to put forth my best efforts to represent you and our common goals.

Your Executive Board and I thank you for your continued support. Many times I am told that ours is a “thankless job”. This is not true. Our efforts are noticed, and many thank us, and we truly appreciate that.

Leadership Meeting Schedule and Other Important Dates

Executive Board Meetings : Usually the Wednesday prior to BRA meetings, at Tom Donovan's home. These are open **only** to Executive Board members or invited guests. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Reports from committees are presented at the EB meetings. The committee Chair is expected to present the report in person (or thru an alternate). Each committee has been assigned a month to make its report. **Next Meeting**: September 8, at 7:00 PM.

Beach Representative Assembly (BRA) Meetings: Usually the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at NYSUT offices, 1000 Woodbury Rd., Suite 214, Woodbury. Winter meetings are held at NYSUT at 7:00 PM , and Summer meetings (June through September) at 7:30 PM at WBH upstairs. **Next Meeting**: Wed., Aug 11 at **7:30** PM, at WBH upstairs. Important meeting, as we will discuss our next public activity encouraging the State to give us a contract.

RM Volleyball Tournament: Wednesday, Aug.11. 9 AM start, 8 AM setup. \$20. BYO food & drink.

****Registration closed.****

JBLC Inter-Beach Races, Part 2: Thursday and Saturday, Aug. 12 and 14.

JBLC Inter-Beach Race Party: Saturday, Aug. 14. Johnny Malone's, Wantagh Ave., (at Jerusalem) in Wantagh.

Cornacchia's Golf Outing: Friday, August 20. (Date change) Contact Cornacchia or Hamill.

RM Cobra Kayak Contest: Saturday, August 28, 7:30 AM, at west end of RM5. Alternate date (if no surf on 8/28): September 4. Contact Roy Reynolds at 631.885.1926.

Angermaier Run-Swim-Run: Will not be held this year.

Stay Connected

We encourage you to get into the habit of viewing each website. Some of the same information will appear on both sites. But each will also have content specific to its intended viewers.

The JBLC is a chapter of the NYSLC, so NYSLC news is pertinent to you as well.

For the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps website, click here: www.jblc.net

For the New York State Lifeguard Corps website, click here: www.nyslc.net



Ricky Davis gets his 15 minutes of fame on the cover of Newsday.

on at area beaches



Lifeguards Chris Johnson, left, and Jeffrey Skillingford watch over Field 6 at Jones Beach.

THE FORECAST
 SATURDAY 84°
 SUNDAY 89°
 MONDAY 88°

Officials caution beachgoers in wake of drownings
 Full staffing of 450-plus lifeguards is expected

BY TILA SARACINICH AND BILL RUTER
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BEACH SAFETY

- Be careful. Currents and tides vary and can be dangerous.
- Always swim with a buddy and in guarded areas.
- Never swim at night.
- Stay hydrated.
- Regularly apply sunscreen.
- The water is rougher and less predictable at ocean beaches than at those at the Long Island Sound and bays.

The early season's spate of three beach drownings off Long Island has parks officials and lifeguards warning beachgoers over the July Fourth holiday weekend to swim only in guarded waters.

With temperatures forecast in the 90s during the highest beach attendance weekend of the year, state parks officials said they expect more than 100,000 people at Jones Beach and 80,000 at Robert Moses State Park. A full complement of 450 lifeguards will be working the state beaches, they said.

State parks regional director Ronald Filley said lifeguards will be patrolling unguarded areas because "we're all aware of what happened this spring at unguarded beaches," referring to drownings at Long Beach, Jones Beach and the Rockaways.

"People need to find out where the lifeguards are and that's where you want to swim," he said. "They are there to help you, not to spoil your fun."

Tom Downum, president of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps, said lifeguards will patrol consistently in areas where swimming is prohibited to keep people out of the water. "There is a tendency for people to go to the beach near where they park even if there are no lifeguards there, and some people don't like to be in crowds, so they go to an empty beach," he said. "We are always vigilant in that area."

If residents are unsure about their swimming ability in the ocean, Filley said, they should alert the lifeguards who will keep an eye on them.

Unlike the state parks, there are no areas of the beach at Long Beach without lifeguard protection.

The city's chief of lifeguards, Paul Gallegan, said a full complement of 200 lifeguards has been working the beach daily since June 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. "They are all trained," he said. "We try to maintain everything we do [every season]."

Bill George Gorman II, deputy regional director for the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, said the coming days are "by far our biggest weekend."

The forecast calls for sunny skies all three days of the holiday weekend and through at least Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. Temperatures on Sunday and Monday are expected to be in the low to mid-90s in some areas. Ocean breezes along the South Shore may keep high temperatures a few degrees lower.

In Jones Beach, Nicole Sorrell, 22, dove off Long Beach while on a field trip with her Harbor school. In Mine, a 10-year-old beachgoer drowned off Long Beach and a Queens Village man drowned at Jones Beach.

Pay Period

Payday

7/15–7/28

8/18

7/29–8/11

9/01

8/12–8/25

9/15

8/26–9/08

9/29

9/09–9/22

10/13

You must work at least **160** hours to be **ELIGIBLE** for holiday pay, which is then **PAID** after working **200** hours. **Rehire Test** pay should be received in your **first** check, and **CPR** in the check that covers the pay period when you took the class.

L-R: Heckscher's Brendan Grabowski, JJ Van Winkle, Ken Bohman, Ashley Sudano, Matt Milk, Meghann Barkey and Raphael Bystery.

L-R: Sunken Meadow's Paul Reilly, Cory Lapp, Danielle Distefano, Gary Hahn, Lisa Valentine and Peter Vratimos.



New Gear to Be Tested and Analyzed

Management has ordered, from MARSARS Water Rescue Systems, 12 newly-designed inflatable buoys and 12 updated rescue line buckets. Six of each will be assigned for a week to different ocean fields for testing and analysis. By summer's end, all JB and RM ocean facilities will be able to test and analyze these new items. Analysis forms should be filled out and returned to the "JBLC Equipment and Safety Committee" by way of Kevin Connelly's office at JB Administration.

Editor's Note: Since this gear is under analysis and not available to all crews, it cannot be used for our Inter-Beach Races.



The buoy and line prototypes are red. The actual gear will be yellow.

133 yards of "no coil" line that floats. Flexible lid permanently attached. Two handles and drain holes in bottom.



RM 3's Mary Kate Sullivan and Andrew Cunningham demonstrate the prototype rescue line bucket and inflatable rescue buoy. Immediately after the mock rescue, they are holding up the entire wet bucket and line with one finger! Try THAT with a wet manila line bucket!

“Mel Cuba Dies at 99; Saved 4 Drowning Orphans in Queens”

By DENNIS HEVESI

Published: January 16, 2010, NY Times, Page A26.

The winds were whipping toward shore that summer day more than seven decades ago when 105 orphans from the Pride of Judea Home on Dumont Avenue in Brooklyn stepped off buses for what was supposed to be a gleeful romp at the beach in Rockaway, Queens. It didn't turn out that way.

And it certainly wasn't the way that Mel Cuba, a husky 6-foot-tall lifeguard, had planned to mark his 23rd birthday — Aug. 8, 1933.

The tide was coming in and a rather rough surf was running that afternoon, when 40 of the “inmates of the Pride of Judea Home” — as The New York Times then referred to them — waded onto a sandbar, hand in hand and squealing with joy as the breakers rose. Neither they nor their chaperons on shore could have anticipated the huge wave that suddenly swept them away.

Lifeguards leapt from their high lookout chairs, climbed onto catamarans and paddled toward the screaming, flailing children. One by one, they lifted youngsters, some barely conscious, onto the pontoons of the catamarans.

Mr. Cuba, however, ran right into the water. Swimming 100 feet from shore, he grabbed one boy, then another, then two more. And somehow he managed to hang on to them, treading water for many minutes, until another lifeguard, Herbert Goodman, approached in a catamaran.

Mr. Goodman, The Times reported, had just plucked two children from the water, then “climbed aboard his catamaran and manned the oars to go to the rescue of Cuba and the four boys that he was supporting.” Exhausted, Mr. Cuba had to be carried ashore.

Although Mr. Cuba was one of six lifeguards honored by the city for rescuing 33 children, his heroics stood out from the rest, city officials said at the time. Still, in what remains one of the worst days in the history of the 11-mile sand spit along the south shore of Queens, seven children drowned.

Mr. Cuba, who later became a science teacher in Brooklyn, died on Dec. 6 in Delray Beach, Fla., his daughter Susan Rein said. He was 99.

Melville Cuba was born in Brooklyn on Aug. 8, 1910, one of two children of Samuel and Mary Cuba. In 1932, he graduated from City College, where he was a member of the water polo team. He was a lifeguard for 11 summers, starting in 1928. After working at a defense plant during World War II, he was hired as a teacher.

On the day that the 33 children were saved, the Queens borough president, George U. Harvey, issued a statement: “I shall recommend to the mayor and the Board of Estimate that medals of honor be awarded to those guards whose rescue work was outstanding. Notable among this number was Melville Cuba, a guard who carried four children safely to shore at one time.”

On Dec. 29, 1933, Mayor John P. O'Brien awarded medals of valor to Morris Borodkin, Michael Davis, John Frisco, Harry Epstein, Mr. Goodman and Mr. Cuba. Throughout his life, Mr. Cuba kept a bracelet bearing the city seal and the inscription “Melville Cuba: Lifeguard.”