

### **Not on My Watch! Cont'd from page 10**

To attain public safety positions, applicants must compete in a competitive service. While candidates must possess the minimum qualifications to test, only the highest achievers are selected to protect life, limb and property.

“Most people wouldn’t want a doctor who had a 70% average in school operating on their family member. Likewise, only the finest mental and physical competitors gain employment as lifeguards”, said Michael Beuerlein, President of the California Surf Lifesaving Association. “Safeguarding the public trust, in a dynamic and sometimes hazardous environment, is an awesome responsibility that requires special skills that very few possess.”

When it comes to public safety, the goal isn’t to simply deliver service. Safety service professionals are expected to perform at a higher level. In a moment of inattention, a small error can result in death. The public demands their safety and there is a higher premium paid for this expectation. Clearly those who are passionate about their profession will likely seek to perform at a higher level and deliver “quality” service. If it is your house on fire, your child’s education, or your life on the line, the distinction in the type of service demanded is undeniably for “delivering quality service.”

### **Moving Forward**

Despite the challenges we face, public servants must maintain a positive attitude to get the job done together as a team. As lifeguards, we must work together, share ideas, standardize our profession, and commit to a plan of action to prevent drowning. Don’t let your guard down. Stay ahead of the curve - think ahead, work together, and don’t let a human life slip through your grip. You may not be able to do much to save the public from the Great Recession, but you may be able to make a difference one day at a time and one life at a time. Always keep in mind, NOT ON MY WATCH!

**Editor’s Note:** Michael S. Bartlett has been employed as a Marine Safety Officer for the City of Huntington Beach since 1992 and serves as the President of the Marine Safety Management Association. He has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and has been the Managing Editor of the *American Lifeguard Magazine* since 2000.

## **COMPETITION COLUMN**

**NOTES FROM THE  
SPORTS DESK**

**TIES THAT BIND  
CRIS DOBROSIELSKI**

I recently returned from a trip to Miami Beach, where I proudly watched a fellow former Salisbury Beach Lifeguard and lifelong friend get sworn in as a Judge for the State of Florida. While in the Sun Shine State, I also had the privilege of having a meeting with three-time Olympic Swimming Gold Medalist Rowdy Gaines regarding the central points of my upcoming book, with the goal of adding more perspective, anecdotes and insights from one of the most accomplished athletes on the planet. When the ceremonies and meetings were over I had the luxury of taking in the warm green waters of the south Atlantic and the smooth sprawling sands of some of the finest beaches in Dixie.

With the upcoming CSLA, USLA and ILSA competition season on the horizon, I used my early spring trip as a vehicle to jump start my competition preparation. Each morning started with some combination of soft sand jogging, open water or long course swimming and paddle training around the perfectly positioned buoys that line the southland shores.

Mid-day I transitioned into Cuban coffees, frozen yogurt, and set off exploring and strolling to beat the heat. Linen pants and big sombrero, I was rolling Miami Vice style. I closed out most days with a low intensity sunset training session to add a bit of volume to my training week and then it was on to the other important stuff: reconnecting/rehydrating with old friends, telling stories and creating new memories. The common bond I had with almost all of the people that made my trip so satisfying was formed through time spent protecting the public, competing and riding the high waves coast to coast over the last three decades.

Generosity and good will flowed liberally and abundantly from current Miami Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood Beach Lifesavers as well as from former

## Ties That Bind, cont'd. From page 11

North Atlantic comrades and even from family members of former co-workers. Headquarters, equipment closets, organized practices, homes, refrigerators and hearts were opened up to me and shared generously without measure.

In those moments when I was not training, connecting with old friends or wrestling with my surrogate nieces and nephew (kids of a former guard), I would often sit quietly on the beach to take in the delicious warm winds, reflect and restore. I realized, not for the first time, but perhaps more clearly than ever, just how deep, strong and important the people, experiences, victories and defeats of my lifeguard days are to me and how they've forever shaped my life. They are intricately woven into the fabric of my life and they have, in large part, shaped the compass I use to navigate the world.

"Lifeguards For Life" is not just a slogan; it's a personal, emotional, if not "spiritual" reality for many of us that have been in the trenches and have had our lives literally in the hands of our workmates or who have pursued common goals and invested hundreds if not thousands of hours to achieve momentary success in competition.



Successful finish at Rescue 2002



Competitors celebrate camaraderie and success

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

**Scott Hubbell  
Productions**



**DaFIN**

**BUD  
LIGHT**

 **beachsport.org**

**LOVE  
YOUR  
OCEAN**

*World Famous*  
**KROQ**  
106.7 FM

### ATTENTION: LIFEGUARD ARTISTS

The CSLSA and the Membership Committee is offering a **\$250 stipend** for use of original artwork developed by a member. The art will be used on Association T-shirts or other membership items. The artwork should have clean lines and use a maximum of 5 colors, and should be approximately 8 ½ x 11 in size. Any subject matter is welcome, but the ideal artwork will capture the essence of lifeguarding throughout Southern California. Please contact Membership Chair Charlotte Graham at [membership@cslsa.org](mailto:membership@cslsa.org) for more information.