

President's Message

By Rob McGowan

It is hard to believe, as I sit here at my computer trying to get comfortable with this brace on my knee (I broke my patella on a workout the day before USLA Nationals), that another summer is almost in the record books. It's a beautiful, warm, sunny August day and I can't believe one more summer is almost over.

It's been a very good summer for the California Surf Lifesaving Association. Our membership is at the highest level ever. We need to thank our sponsors Scott Hubbell of SHP Inc. and the USLA sponsor Panama Jack for the outstanding membership kits, that I am sure were, in a large part, responsible for our record membership numbers. Thanks also to Don Rohrer, membership chairman, and Gordon Gray, membership kit coordinator for their hard work. The membership kits included a nice bag from Panama Jack that was supplemented by a T-Shirt and a towel provided by SHP and our Regional sponsors Bud Light, Nissan and Lasseters Online (www.lasseters.com). Thank you to all of our sponsors.

The California Surf Lifesaving Championships were held at Will Rogers State Beach in Los Angeles County, hosted by LACOLA. Special thanks to L.A. County Chief Lifeguard Mike Frazer for his support. Mike came by for a visit on Friday, July 26 to have a look at the Junior Lifeguard competition, and was truly impressed by the turnout. We had over 1500 Junior competitors, in what may have been the largest field ever. It was a great day, there were some 3-foot plus waves to contend with, and I think all of the participants had a good time. Thank you to the L.A. County Junior Lifeguard Instructors, J.G. Director Charlie Kissell, and the Instructors from all of the participating agencies for a job well done. The event finished ahead of schedule due to outstanding organization and cooperation. We look forward to another great competition next year. The Lifeguard competition was held on Saturday, July 27, with more than 150 competitors. A big thank you is due to members of the Executive Board Don Rohrer, Bob Moore, Mike Beuerlein, Bill Richardson, Vince Lombardi, and Mike Bartlett for their help in officiating and running the event. Additional thanks are due to Bev Rohrer, Donna Richardson, Paul and Pat Francis, Gordon Gray, and the L.A. County Lifeguards that manned the IRB and PWC and helped out on the beach. Without the volunteer efforts of these dedicated people, the event would not have happened. Let's not forget Scott Hubbell and his staff who provided the staging, event T-shirt and awards. Scott also provided the water and sponsorship dollars that made the Regionals a reality. I look forward to an ongoing successful relationship with Scott

and SHP.

The San Diego Chapter hosted the USIA Nationals at Pacific Beach this summer, and by all accounts, it was as good as ever. Thanks again to the sponsors and the San Diego Organizing Committee for an outstanding event. Look for the TV show of the 2002 USIA Nationals on Fox Sports West.

In closing, I recently heard that one of our outstanding watermen, National and International champion, Paul Donahue is not doing very well. Paul survived a bout with brain cancer a few years back, but lately has been going downhill. Our prayers are with you Paul.



Multi-agency helicopter training; included were the Border patrol, Imperial Beach, Solana Beach, Encinitas and Del Mar