

Volunteer Life Saving Corps 2024 *Annual Report*



113th Season
Saving Lives Since 1912

Property of

Volunteer Life Saving Corps

Established 1912
Chartered April 17, 1914

**2024 Annual Report
One-Hundred Thirteenth Season**

Captain Timothy J. Kline



112th Annual Banquet
November 2, 2024
University of North Florida

IN MEMORIAM

This Annual is dedicated to those members who have lost their lives since last year's reporting, and to Mary Elizabeth Proctor, the nurse who drowned at Pablo Beach on July 7, 1912.

10-07-2023	W'1965	Thomas "Greg" Nelson, PC
12-19-2023	S'1960	Preston Howland
01-24-2024	S'1945	Leonard Leroy Melton, Jr
02-17-2024	S'1998	William "Kyle" Rouse
04-20-2024	S'1947	Silas Eugene "Gene" Sleaf, HR
04-29-2024	W'1948	Richard F. "Dick" Crabtree
07-04-2024	W'1969	Patrick J. L. Carleton
10-08-2024	S'1961	Richard "Dick" Govignon, Sr

Upon doing research, the following names were found that had not been reported in previous annuals.

04-24-2002	"C" 1939	James Wilburn Phillips Jr.
01-24-2003	s' 1946	Fred K. Brooks
03-07-2008	w' 1944	Gordon Brantley Jr.
04-05-2009	1939	Edgar O. Iwanowski
07-11-2011	s' 1950	Charles Wallace "Wally" Sears, Sr.
08-28-2012	1937	Charles Marvin Diebel
09-24-2012	w' 1951	Charles Thomas "Tom" Crabtree
09-22-2013	2s' 1951	Jerome T. "Jerry" Wendell
08-06-2014	"C" 1s' 1944	John O. "Jack" Wager
07-31-2017	w' 1949	Raymond William Gage, II
06-17-2018	s' 1949	William Andrew "Andy" Woolington Jr.
04-20-2020	w' 1945	Herbert R. "Bert" Oatman - "HR"
04-27-2021	s' 1946	Constantine "Deno" Mastrogianakis
10-12-2021	w' 1952	George Henry Brown III

The Surfman's Prayer

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Protect the members of the Corps,
Brave guardians of our ocean's shore;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril by the sea.

God, Who dost still the ocean's deep,
Guide those who daily vigils keep.
Grant them courage, strength and skill
Their Corps to serve, thy law fulfill;
Oh, hear as when we pray to Thee,
For those who serve Thee by the sea



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1912





Call to Order.....Jim Emery
 The Surfman’s Prayer.....Zane Harper
 Welcome.....Captain TK Kline
 Introductions.....Jim Emery
 Recognition.....Jim Emery

Dinner

Rescue/Assist Citations.....Captain TK Kline
 Awards.....Capt. Kline and Jim Emery
 Gerry Wilson Scholarship.....Sean O’Brien
 Change of Staff.....Captain TK Kline
 Welcome Recruit Surfmen 2024

CLOSING

Board of Directors

President Jim Emery PC S’72
 Vice-President Maurice Rudolph W’87
 Treasurer Sean O’Brien PC W’75
 Secretary Susan Wallis
 Medical Director Danny Pulido W’94
 Corps Captain Timothy Kline S’06
 Valerie Gregg W’96
 Brian Hancher
 Mark Holtsinger S’71
 Jason Marques
 Jack Morgan
 Karen Nasarallah
 Josh Roberts
 Greg Sutton
 JF Tullis
 Tom Byerly W’60, Archivist



2023-2024 Corps Staff

Captain Timothy Kline S’06
 Lieutenant Richard McDill W’05
 Instructor Anne Garner W’12
 1st Mate Kris Jolly W’96
 2nd Mate Garrett Tirado W’17
 3rd Mate Zach Proctor W’12
 Ass’t Instructor Ethan Newell W’19
 1st Quartermaster Jeff Billhardt W’09
 1st Registrar Valerie Gregg W’96
 2nd Registrar Steven Jolly cW’23

Special Awards

Surfman of the Year.....Britt Sanders
 Recruit Surfman of the Year..... Ryan Lydon
 Retired Man of the Year.....Ryan Karish
 Spring Training Award.....Scott MacDonald
 Education Award.....Anne Garner
 Adolph Cone High Point Award.....Jordan Barrow
 Oetjen First Aid Award.....Jared Newell
 Inter-Crew Swim Meet Award.....Kris Jolly, Crew 1
 Captain’s Award.....Spouses of Active Membership
 Golden SpoonBill Horn & Gregg Sutton
 Outstanding Alumni Contribution.....Danny Pritchard
 Regardless of Time or Place Award.....Kris Jolly & Valerie Gregg
 Richard Riley Servant Leader AwardSean O’Brien & Maurice Rudolph
 Gerry Wilson Scholarship.....Anne Garner

Three-Year Certificate Recipient

Joseph Kohlhaas cW’ 2022

Retired this Year

Katie Karnes W’2016

Citations of Merit for Rescue

Zane Harper (2) S’23, Joseph Kohlhaas cW’22, Timothy Kline S’06, Michael Chanatry cS’23, Ryan Lydon (2) W’24, Marco Pulido W’24

Five-Year Certificate Recipient

Valerie Z. Gregg W’1996
 Jeffrey Billhardt W’2006 (5th yr in 2023)

Certificates of Merit for Assists

Zane Harper S’23, Zach Proctor (2) W’12, Laird Flint W’24, Dan Leonard S’10, Ryan Karish W’09, Nathan Arnold (2) cS’24, Ben Spinowitz W’24, Ryan Lydon W’24, Michael Chanatry (2) cS’23



Significant Figures in the Corps



Billy Posch, or Master Sergeant William R. Posch as he came to be known, was the commodore of Summer Class '99. Posch impressed classmates and instructors alike with his impressive resolve, dedication and commitment, coupled with the confidence that made his presence felt in any room. After his entrance into the corps, Posch qualified as a Pararescueman in the early 2000's. He served with honors in the Middle East and Africa, being recognized as one of the Air Forces 12 outstanding airmen in 2014 for his work extracting 126 Americans from Juba, South Sudan.

Tragically, Posch was killed in action on March 15, 2018, after his helicopter crashed in western Iraq.

Posch's legacy in the corps cannot be overstated. The six-mile Posch Run is named for him, in recognition of the fact that he dramatically reshaped the training methods of the VLSC, moving it towards a system that helped instill recruits with fitness and vitally important life-saving skills. His legacy as a hero who served from the shores of Jacksonville Beach to the skies of Iraq will never be forgotten, by the Corps or the greater rescue community.



Jim Thames was another member who demonstrated similar heroism. A Fletcher High graduate, Thames became a member of the Corps in the early 60's. Thames joined the US Navy and during the Vietnam War served two tours of duty as a SEAL. He received recognition for his valor in battle in the form of three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars, one posthumous. Like Posch however 1st Lieutenant Thames' honor brought him tragedy as his team was ambushed in Vietnam and Thames was killed in action in 1971. Through his

sacrifice, his team completed its objective. Thames demonstrated how the Esprit de Corps is one of bravery in the face of danger, and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.



Finally, consider a member whose military career is one of success unmarred by tragedy - Vice Admiral P. **Gardner Howe III**. Undoubtedly influenced by the example of Thames, Howe attended the United States Naval Academy and spent over 36 years serving his country in uniform as a Special Warfare Officer (SEAL). Howe commanded units from Bahrain to Hawaii, with deployments in SW Asia and participation in Operations Earnest Will, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and many others. His storied career

includes significant assignments, such as serving as the 55th President of the US Naval War College, the first SEAL to hold the position, and Commander of Joint Special Operations Command Pacific.

A Jacksonville native, Howe demonstrates the integrity, leadership, courage, and discipline expected of every member of the VLSC, and provides a brilliant example of the success that the Corps prepares its members for so excellently.

Thank you to all who have set examples for us to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Commodore Nathan Arnold C'S'24



~~Dear Mrs. Posch,~~ ^{SOZYU}

26 March 2018

I am writing to express my condolences on the loss of your son, Billy.

Billy and I didn't know each other, but in some ways, I feel as if we're like brothers. While separated in age by a couple decades, Billy and I were both "surfmens" in the American Red Cross Volunteer Lifesaving Corps and both served in the military.

I've always found something very special about the people drawn to both the Lifesaving Corps and the military. They share a unique combination of exceptional physical capabilities, a love for small-unit camaraderie and teamwork, and above all, a selfless and dedicated commitment to service. Billy is a shining example of these very special people.

From the beaches of North Florida to the far reaches of the globe - most recently Southwest Asia - Billy brought these traits to bear for the benefit of others. The world is a better place because of Billy's presence in it, and he will be sorely missed.

I know these traits don't just appear, but rather are developed by parents, family and role-models. Thank you for instilling them in Billy and I'm sure his legacy will live on in the lives of his sons, Kia and Jackson.

With great respect and sincere condolences,

P. Gardner Howe III
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

REGARDLESS OF TIME OR PLACE...

The ethos, regardless of time or place, is instilled in all of us during recruit class. For many, it drives their first few years in our beloved organization and often becomes a personal core value. As these members grow beyond the walls of ole #2 and become impactful citizens, we can only hope that their time with the VLSC left an imprint.

For some, the VLSC becomes a calling. Life has taught them to manage their energy and personal time appropriately. The VLSC has taught them to always be ready to act when you are needed. This year's staff was honored to have two of these individuals serving amongst its ranks, who just happened to be classmates. Past Captain Kris Jolly (C'W'96) and Valerie Zevens-Gregg (W'96) both entered the mighty Volunteer Life Saving Corps in the Winter Recruit Class of 1996.

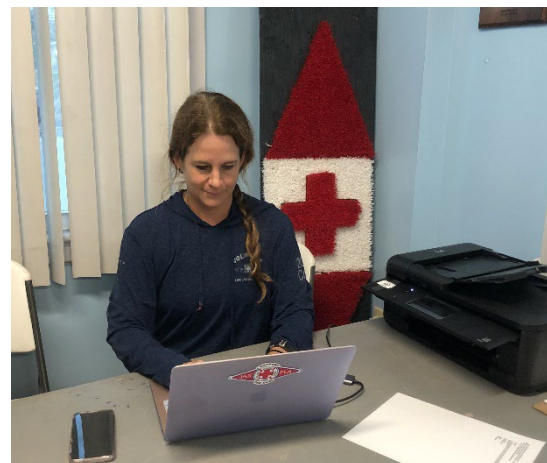
Valerie's life brought her a family and career, although she was never far from the beach. Valerie was an active alumnus for the Corps and is a volunteer for Sisters of the Sea. But when the VLSC needed all hands in 2022 she did not hesitate to answer that call and ask, "Where do you need me?" Valerie has taken charge of the Registrar department, embracing one of the most instrumental and underappreciated positions on Staff. Valerie will enter her 4th Season as Registrar in 2025, gracing the VLSC once again with her time as a leader behind the table.

Kris's path led him to advance his career as a first responder, rising through the ranks of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department to become a District Chief. With membership numbers low, and the need for servant leaders high, Kris did not hesitate to step up and serve as 1st Mate for the 2024 season. Kris's mentorship to Senior Staff Officers was crucial through situations that required the wisdom and presence of a respected Past Captain.

The Volunteer Life Saving Corps would like to express our sincere gratitude for both of their leadership skills during the 2024 season.



Since <+> 1912



RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

NEWELL, JARED W'2017; NEWELL, ETHAN W'2019; KARNES, KATIE W'2016; KOHLHAAS, JOSEPH cW'2022; BARROW, JORDAN S'2023

Rescue of 1 victim on 9/10/2023

On Sunday, September 10, 2023, Central Beach called in a flag drop. Surfmen Katie Karnes W'16, Joseph Kohlhaas cW'22, Jared Newell W'17, and Recruit Surfman Jordan Barrow S'23 got on the truck and arrived on the scene in time to see Surfman Ethan Newell W'19 pulling an unresponsive victim out of the water just south of his tower.

The patient was not breathing, presented with bloodshot eyes, cyanosis of the lips and fingers, and no longer had a pulse by the time the truck arrived on the scene.

The guards began CPR immediately, hooked up the patient to a BVM at 25 L/m, applied an AED, and loaded the patient onto the truck for transport all within 2-3 minutes. E. Newell, Karnes, and a JBOR Lt all took turns with compressions and Kohlhaas led in back-boarding the patient for transport. The truck arrived at the end zone at Beach Blvd before the ambulance got there and continued to provide high-quality care until the hand-off was made to fire rescue. The patient reportedly regained a pulse at the hospital.

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue for the guards named above on 9/26/2023

(NOTE: this was awarded at the 2023 banquet, but was not printed in the 2023 Annual Report)

HARPER, ZANE S'2023 KOHLHAAS, JOSEPH cW'2022

1 Rescue, 1 Assist for Harper

1 Rescue for Kohlhaas on Sunday 11/23/2023

On Sunday, November 23, 2023, around 3:00 pm, peg called in a flag drop at Pablo ramp. 2nd Quartermaster Joseph Kohlhaas and Surfman Zane Harper were on the back of the responding truck.

Arriving at the scene, three victims were spotted in a rip current. The first victim was a younger girl struggling to keep her head above water approximately 50 yards offshore. The other 2 victims were the girl's brothers who were closer to shore, barely standing. The older brother was struggling to hold onto his younger brother, trying to fight being pulled into the rip.

2nd QM Kohlhaas grabbed a buoy and swam out for the girl who was farther from shore; Surfman Harper went to get the brothers. The two brothers were assisted into shore by Surfman Harper, who then assisted 2nd QM Kohlhaas in carrying the girl to the responding truck.

Once all victims were safely ashore, oxygen was administered through a nasal cannula to the younger brother, and a non-rebreather was used on the girl; the older brother didn't need oxygen. Once all victims' lungs were checked for water it was determined that it was safe to release them to parental care.

It is believed that if the older brother was not trying to help his younger brother, he would have been able to come to shore himself. Without the older brother helping, the younger brother would have been in more danger and would have been caught in the rip.

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue for Kohlhaas, and 1 Rescue, 1 Assist for Harper on 01/23/2024

HARPER, ZANE S'2023

Rescue of 1 victim, 2/11/2024

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, mid-afternoon, I was surfing with a few buddies at Central Beach. Conditions were fair with an east wind and inconsistent 3 ft sets. I was at the outside break, which was about as far as the JBOR swim training buoy due to a sandbar and low tide.

I was facing north awaiting a fresh set when I heard a desperate yell coming from the beach. I could see who I later determined to be the victim's father yelling and pointing behind me. After looking south, I noticed a distressed bather struggling to keep his head up. I immediately paddled to the bather about 40 yards away, made my presence known to him, and got him on my board. The bather was a Hispanic boy likely 7-10 years old.

Once I got him on my board, I was able to swim him in with one arm securing the boy and the board. I was able to keep the boy calm reassuring him of his safety and talking with him the whole way in. I successfully got the boy safely ashore where his father was anxiously waiting. In a brief conversation with the boy and his father, I educated them on the dangers of rip currents and asked the boy if he had swallowed any water. I determined the boy was safe to release to his father, but advised they walk to the lifeguard station to get his lungs checked.

I then returned to my surf session.

Approved by Staff for Rescue of 1 victim on 02/27/2024

KLINE, TIMOTHY S'2006

Rescue of 1 victim on 5/12/2024

On Saturday, May 12, 2024, while putting out the north end of the beach with Ocean Rescue Lt Reimann, a flag drop was called at Casa Marina, followed quickly by a call for a flag drop at North Beach. We immediately responded in the JBOR truck, dropping an ocean rescue guard off at Casa Marina before stopping between Casa Marina and North Beach to assess the scene.

There was a group of 5-7 bathers exiting a rip current, and one girl was holding a buoy with no guard amongst the group. We then spotted two guards who were struggling to get a victim to shore. Conferring with Lt. Reimann, I decided to enter the water to assist. Approaching the guards, I identified them as Alison Perry and Lt Claiborne Wilson performing a passive assist rescue on a large unresponsive victim.

I passed my buoy to Perry and began helping get the victim in. Then Surfman Joseph Kohlhaas met us in the water, having arrived on the second truck. A buoy chain was formed until we could touch the sand. I assisted Perry and then as Wilson was supporting the unresponsive victim, a wave caused him to lose his grip on the victim. I immediately went under the surface and pushed the victim up to get his airway above the water.

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

I directed four guards to perform an effective lift as I signaled to the truck that oxygen was needed. We moved the victim to the back of the ocean rescue truck, and I told Lt Reimann that we needed to call for Jax Fire and Rescue resources. I continued to emphasize the urgent need to apply oxygen and to get him on a backboard to ensure his quick transport to the truck access at 8th Ave N, while the victim's mother was getting hysterical.

I was able to get the mother's number to relay to the rescue crews to access patient history. The efficient and timely movement from the water, application of oxygen, and transfer to higher medical care led to the unresponsive victim beginning to regain consciousness before being transferred to JFRD.

Approved by Staff for 1 Assist each guard on 10/8/2024

PROCTOR, ZACH W'2012

Assist of 2 victims on 5/27/2024

At approximately 1810 on Monday, May 27th (Memorial Day), JBOR Lieutenant Savanna Coker and I (3rd Mate Proctor) were functioning in an operational capacity to pull the north guards off the beach at the 1800 hour of the guard. We utilized JBOR vehicle 604 for this assignment while we cautiously drove through large crowds of beachgoers to safely and efficiently prepare the north guard towers to go out of service for the day.

As we slowly approached the pier, I noticed the lifeguard on North Beach cautiously holding his flag while intently making eye contact with a small group of bathers directly in front of Casa Marina. I noted that the North Beach guard had judged the bathers were out too far and had not been making any progress within the past 10 minutes. At this moment Lt. Coker and I agreed to delay the guard pull, to stage between Casa Marina and 8th Avenue North beach proper to make our final assessment of the two bathers.

I deployed a pair of binoculars to better visualize the acuity of the situation, and our findings were what we had expected. I observed two young pediatric victims on boogie boards floating approximately 35 yards past the breakers at near low tide. They both displayed a decent stroke but were simply not making any progress back to shore on their own.

I immediately took off all my first-line gear including my hat, sunglasses, and Fanny pack and began to deploy a paddle board for a potential water extrication. As I approached the water's edge, I made note of the current and entered the water at an appropriate angle to slingshot myself to the victims much faster.

Once I established patient contact, I introduced myself as a VLSC lifeguard and quickly asked if they were alone and had swallowed any water. My general impression of the two patients was that they were stable, and both said they did not swallow any water. Both patients were exhausted and could not paddle anymore on their boogie board. I then explained my role and instructed the two to get onto my paddle board so we could make our way back to shore safely. We paddled through the surf without complications and even caught a wave back in, to meet with Truck 604. Both patients were assessed and then released to self as parental guardians could not be located at the time. I educated the patients on the dangers of the rip currents they were playing in and instructed them not to swim in the large gaps between lifeguard towers, and not to swim

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

without parental supervision. Both patients were stable and denied all medical complaints of shortness of breath, chest pain, and dizziness.

With my professional judgment, the patients were not in an imminent threat of drowning due to their personal floatation devices, but due to the lack of progress on their end, would have been stuck outside the breakers without my intervention. Because of my actions, the two bathers were safely returned to shore, regardless of time or place.

Approved by Staff for an Assist of 2 victims on 6/4/2024

CHANATRY, MICHAEL cS'2023

Rescue of 1 victim on 6/16/2024

On Sunday, June 16, 2024, I was sitting Surf Motel. Around 12:10 pm, I noticed a group of three bathers who had just stepped off a sandbar into deeper water. One of the group became distressed when they started trying to get back into shallow water. He began to panic and cry out to the other two. People on shore also noticed and heard the man yelling for help.

I dropped my flag, grabbed my buoy, and entered the water about 40 yards north of my tower. I made contact with the victim about 50 yards offshore. He was floating on his back and refused to take my buoy. I then locked him in a cross-chest with the buoy and swam him in to shore. He stated he ate too much food before getting in the water and was unable to swim.

I safely brought him to shallow water where we could both stand, and I walked him out of the water. He was assessed by the Mate on the truck and released to his family.

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue on 6/18/2024

LYDON, RYAN W'2024

Rescue of 1 victim on 6/23/2024

On Sunday, June 23, 2024, I was sitting Surf Motel at 3:30 pm when I noticed a bather who had gone far offshore. He looked comfortable and in control, but there was a lot of chop on the water and a strong south wind. With these conditions in mind, I kept an eye on him.

Less than a minute later, the bather had been carried out farther north by the wind and current, putting him directly in front of my tower. At this point, I could see he did not realize how far out he had drifted.

I then started to whistle at him; he acknowledged and began trying to swim back closer to shore. When no progress was made, he began to panic and signaled for help. I dropped my flag, grabbed my buoy, and entered the water to swim out to the victim.

We made it safely back to shore just as the truck arrived. 2nd Mate Garrett Tirado evaluated the victim and released him to himself. I informed the victim that he should stay in no more than waist-deep water.

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue on 6/25/2024

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

FLINT, LAIRD W'2024

Assist of 1 victim 7/4/2024

At 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 4th, I was sitting Casa Marina and observed a bather enter the water slightly to the north of me. Almost immediately, I see her repeatedly get knocked down by waves in thigh-deep water. She was unable to stand and catch her breath between each wave, so I called in a flag drop.

As I swam out to her location, a surfer reached her and began to place her on a surfboard. I took the woman and placed her arm around my shoulder, as she was struggling to stand up. While I was bringing her to shore, I talked to her and asked if she had swallowed any water. She was sputtering and coughing a lot and was finally able to tell me that she had.

As the truck arrived on the scene, I made sure to signal for oxygen while I took the woman's vitals by my tower. Handing her over to the officers on the responding truck, I returned to my tower to continue scanning my water.

Approved by Staff for Assist of 1 victim on 10/8/2024

PULIDO, MARCO W'2024

Rescue of 1 victim on 7/14/2024

On Sunday, July 14, 2024, I was sitting Pablo Ramp at 6:00 pm when the beach was being pulled. I noticed a man who was slightly south of my tower standing in chest-deep water. In the next instant, he couldn't stand and started to splash and panic.

As soon as I saw this, I dropped my flag, grabbed my buoy, and entered the water. When I reached him, I announced that I was a Volunteer Life Saving Corps member and was there to help him. I handed him my buoy, and he grabbed it and held on tight.

I was bringing the victim in when a Jax Beach Ocean Rescue member met me in the water, and we started a buoy chain. Together we helped the victim onto shore, and he immediately left and went to his friend.

I returned to my tower as the beach was still being pulled.

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue on 7/16/2024

LYDON, RYAN W'2024

Rescue of 1 victim on 7/21/2024

On Sunday, July 21, 2024, I was sitting Weimer's Lodge around 4:15 with Recruit Surfman Nathan Arnold shadowing. We were about to move the tower, so RSM Arnold stepped down as I

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

stood up to wave my arms. As this happens, we hear a woman about 30 feet south of our tower call out for help.

She was standing at the water's edge and her daughter, about 11 years old, was directly in front of her just past where she could stand. She was facing shore trying to dog paddle in, but she couldn't swim.

I throw my flag, radio the drop and make it out to here where she grabs onto the buoy, and I pull her in. She was very shaken and not in good shape when 2nd Mate Garrett Tirado arrived in Truck 1912. Her vitals were taken and then released to her mother after a few minutes, and we got back on our tower to watch our water.

Approved by Staff for 1 Rescue on 7/30/2024

LEONARD, DAN PC S'2010, Retired

KARISH, RYAN W'2009, Retired

Assist of 1 victim on 8/17/2024

On Saturday, August 17, 2024, I was a volunteer for the HammerHead Ocean Marathon as a race starter for the 1k swim. As I approached 8th Ave South to start the race, I immediately noticed something was off. There was neither a lifeguard stationed in waist-deep water with a buoy nor a guard on a paddleboard by the start buoy, as planned. Concerned, I contacted the race organizer, hoping someone would arrive before the race began.

A little after 8:00 AM, I got the call, and the Hammerhead race officially started. The conditions were rough, and out of an abundance of caution, I decided to follow the swimmers into the water, staying close in case anyone needed help. I saw a woman struggling with the waves and suggested she dive under them to push through, but she was too exhausted and decided to head back. I asked if she needed assistance, but she declined, seeming strong enough to make it to shore on her own. I stayed in chest-deep water until the last swimmer passed the buoy, then began to retreat towards the shore, all while keeping an eye on the participants.

As I neared the shore, I noticed a man trying to return to shore but was clearly struggling. Wishing I had a buoy, I immediately swam towards him. Spotting a surfer nearby, I whistled and pointed to the swimmer. The surfer acknowledged with an "okay" signal, but I still felt uneasy and continued toward the exhausted man. When I reached him, I offered my help, but he insisted on swimming back on his own. I reassured him, telling him everything was going to be okay, and that we would swim back together.

Although he was making progress, it was slow. I encouraged him to take his time, trying to keep him calm and prevent panic. We made it most of the way, but the backwash of the waves began pulling us out when we reached the shore break. Just as he was running out of steam, and I was contemplating an active unassisted rescue, a lifeguard on a paddleboard appeared like a superhero. That lifeguard was Retired Man Ryan Karish.

RM Karish offered the man his board, which he gratefully accepted, and Ryan paddled him the rest of the way in while I swam alongside them. The man was unhurt and safely made it back.

Approved by Staff for 1 Assist for both named guards on 8/20/2024

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

ARNOLD, NATHAN cS'2024

Assist of 1 victim on 08/18/2024

On Sunday, August 18, 2024 around 11:37, I was shadowing Surfman Jordan Barrow at Weimer's Lodge when a girl on a boogie board began to be pulled out by a rip current about two blocks south of us. Her mother and grandmother began waving for help and we immediately called in a flag drop.

We grabbed a buoy and ran south to enter the water towards the victim. I was able to reach the victim first, who was in waist-deep water holding her boogie board but not able to make any forward progress due to the rip current. I handed her my buoy, swam out of the rip current, pulled her in, helping her walk to the truck to have her vitals accessed. She was a little frightened but had not swallowed any water and was then released to her family.

Approved by Staff for 1 Assist on 8/20/2024

SPINOWITZ, BEN W'2024

LYDON, RYAN W'2024

Assist of 1 victim each guard on 09/22/2024

On Sunday, September 22, 2024, Ben Spinowitz and Ryan Lydon accompanied Ocean Rescue Lieutenants Mackey, Lee, and Coker on a truck patrol after pulling the beach. Coker and Lee were in the cab of the truck with Mackey and Recruit Surfmen Spinowitz and Lydon in the back.

Due to the conditions of the day and circumstances from the previous day, everyone was closely watching the water. While heading north on the truck patrol, in front of Casa Marina, Lt. Lee noticed a pair of distressed swimmers about 20 yards further north of the truck. She shouted to the back of the truck and Mackey, Spinowitz, and Lydon grabbed buoys and entered the water.

The two victims were a young boy and his dad, who was trying to pull his son in, but was failing. By the time the guards made contact with the two victims, they were only about 20 feet from shore. Even though both heads were above the water, they were in obvious distress as they were gasping for air and making very little progress coming in.

Mackey and Lydon approached the son first, grabbing him and getting him to shore, while Spinowitz assisted the father to shore. Once on shore, both victims began to calm down and their breathing returned to normal. At this point, the Ocean Rescue lieutenants took vitals and asked the victims if they had swallowed any water or had trouble breathing. No adverse effects were noted and the two were released.

Approved by Staff for 1 Assist for each guard on 10/8/2024

RESCUE AND ASSIST NARRATIVES

CHANATRY, MICHAEL cS'2023

Assist of 2 victims on 09/29/2024

On Sunday, September 29, 2024, I was sitting Mack Shack on a relatively calm day. There was a mild southwest wind and 1-2 foot swell. I was watching a group of 3 young females approximately six years old drift north to south about 60 yards as they were playing in the surf on the inside in chest-deep water. The girls were being watched by a woman standing on the beach, tracking their drift.

They eventually drifted into a slew and were caught immediately in a rip current that put them just over their heads. I whistled at them to get them to come in. One made it into chest-deep standing water but the other two began to drift further out and apart from each other. They panicked and began to bob and attempt to yell for help.

At 11:50 am, I called in a flag drop, ran down the beach about 30 yards, and entered the water, as the mother got the daughter who was standing. I assisted one of the minors with my buoy, pulling her in to stand. Another bather, who thought I was whistling at him, was coming in and reached the second child before I did and grabbed her to hand off to me.

Once everyone was on shore, the mother thanked me, saying that's why she was in front of the lifeguard tower, in case the girls had trouble in the water. The girls were shaken and crying but they did not need any further medical attention.

Approved by Staff for 2 Assists on 10/8/2024

ARNOLD, NATHAN cS'2024

Assist of 1 victim on 10/13/2024

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, around 1800 hours, Recruit Surfman Ryan Lydon and I were on the final truck patrol with Jax Beach Ocean Rescue. After going north first, we were headed back towards the station when we saw a swimmer in distress around Casa Marina.

We tried to call him out of the water but he appeared unable to make progress. Grabbing a buoy and running towards the water's edge, we noticed he was swimming parallel to the shore in the shallows. Taking a few dolphin dives to reach him, I realized he was in a rip current and a few feet from a drop off created by the recent storms.

I assisted him to shore where he shook my hand to thank me, as I asked if he had swallowed any water. He responded that he had not and he received no further medical attention.

Approved by Staff for 1 Assist on 10/15/2024

BOD President's Message

Continuing the VLSC Legacy in the 21st Century

Since returning to the beach 18 months ago, on Memorial Day, 2023, the Volunteer Life Saving Corps has confirmed that we are still the best ocean rescue lifeguard agency around. Our members continue to exemplify excellence in beach practice, setting an example for others to emulate.



In 2024 we were able to staff four towers throughout most of the season, largely due to the selfless devotion of the old salts who volunteered to serve. And we graduated six recruit surfmen, adding some youth to the organization. We thank the staff and backbone for their dedication in making our 113th season a success!

Our number one goal for the coming season remains recruiting. Finding new ways to attract the best young recruits may be difficult, but when has the VLSC ever shied away from a challenge? It was not simple for Clarence McDonald and Lyman Haskel in 1912, it was difficult for those members in 1917-1919 and 1941-1945 to maintain the VLSC through two world wars, and securing funding for building, renovating and adding to the station were monumental tasks. The names and faces may change, but the *Esprit de Corps* lives on. With the same determination as those who served before us, there is no task that our current membership cannot accomplish.

We have a great staff, a strong backbone, an active alumni, and a diverse board of directors. Together, we can make 2025 the most successful year in our storied history!

Esprit de Corps,
James W. Emery
S'72, RM, PC, Board President



CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE 2024

(as influenced by leaders before)

To all members of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps, past and present, I'd like to extend a heartfelt congratulations. Your dedication to service, sacrifice, and friendship has continuously kept the shores of Florida's First Coast safe every Sunday and national holiday, since 1912.



This year we saw six competent and qualified individuals pass their final tests and join our ranks as a Recruit Surfman. These new members did not disappoint, immediately engaging with the opportunities afforded to them by the century-old rank and structure of the mighty VLSC. As these young members continue to mature, let us remember that growth is not guaranteed, it is learned. Their growth is dependent on Retiredmen getting active, Surfmen staying engaged, Old Salts showing up, and beyond anything else, a consistent display of respect throughout the generations.

While the Corps' backbone is kept strong by the Surfmen, out of these ranks must come members willing to take on the responsibility of leadership. Whether sitting behind the table as a Staff officer or being active on a committee, this organization will only yield what we put into it.

As we continue to move forward, a thoroughly trained group of individuals expected to respond promptly regardless of time or place, we must ensure that we stay true to our expected standard and perpetuate our hard-earned institutional knowledge.

Each and every person that has donned that distinct VLSC uniform has made an impact on our beloved Corps, some possibly more than others, but NONE have marked it as much as a few may feel they have. It is inevitable that soon, a collective of notable VLSC historians (3 year men on their off hour) may decide that one member stands above all others, indispensable and without reprieve. However, it is not so. When that member retires the mighty VLSC will continue to roll on. Years later when their name is mentioned an eager Recruit Surfman will ask, "Who's that?" Fret not, your impact was essential.

To all those before us, who stood tall and proud on the line, know this, the Volunteer Life Saving Corps of 2024 has kept faith with you. To the innumerable people, organizations and businesses who do not take the Corps for granted and who do many kind things for our selfless Volunteers, thank you. To those on the sidelines contemplating your return to this important mission, don't wait. To our future leaders, always USE your voice to protect the backbone. To our dedicated membership, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. It has been a true honor to serve as your Captain.

Respectfully Submitted,
Timothy J. Kline, S'06 (R'13)



Biography of Timothy “TK” Kline



Tim Kline, known as TK, has dedicated over 15 years to serving his community and country. He started his journey as an ocean lifeguard with the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (VLSC) at just 16 years old. I had the privilege to watch this young man as he grew throughout his recruit class, constantly being tested and constantly persevering. It was clear early on that he was a natural-born leader and would go on to do great things. In 2008, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he distinguished himself as a Pararescueman, earning the Commandant’s Award for leadership in the rigorous Indoctrination course. His military career included deployments to Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, where he operated in high-stakes environments and executed critical rescue missions. Little did he know these skills would continue to help guide him through many years of servant leadership and dedication to the people around him.

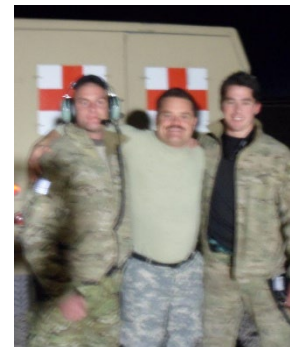
An accomplished athlete, TK walked onto the University of Florida football team as a safety in 2013. We presume he could not get a ride near Tallahassee. In 2014, on behalf of the VLSC, TK acted as the primary consultant for the Jacksonville Jaguars as they created a lifeguard program for their newly installed stadium pools. While stuck in Gainesville he simultaneously served in the Air Force Reserve and pursued a Bachelor’s degree in Telecommunications. After graduating, he balanced his time between running a field clinic in the Middle East and rigorous martial arts training in Asia. By this time in his life, it was clear that anything he put his mind to was achievable.

In 2017 TK combined his love for martial arts with his telecommunications expertise by co-founding Duval Productions LLC and establishing the Grappler brand. During the COVID-19 pandemic, TK returned to the U.S. to work in an ICU at New York Presbyterian Hospital, showcasing his commitment to healthcare. He later became an astronaut recovery specialist for SpaceX. Regardless of time or place, a Corps guiding motto, had clearly been internalized for TK at this point.

TK has trained over 100 returning lifeguards annually and has worked internationally to improve drowning prevention techniques. His extensive experience in austere environments, coupled with his certifications as an ACLS and NREMT-Paramedic, positions him as a leader in both emergency response and community service.

His unique background allows him to analyze challenges from various perspectives, always striving for honest and effective solutions. He remains deeply connected to his roots, serving as Captain for the 2024 VLSC season. It has been a wild ride and an honor serving alongside this man.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lieutenant Richard McDill W’05 HR’13

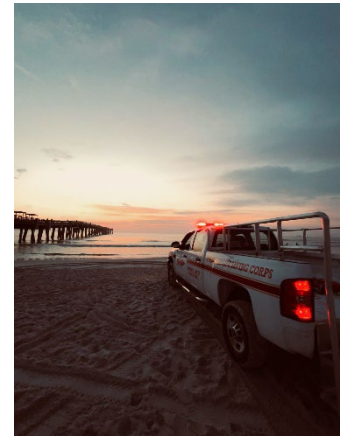


Recapitulation 1912-2024

<u>Captain</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Rescues</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>F/A Cases</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Clarence McDonald	1912	?	?	?	?	?
Clarence McDonald	1913	?	?	28	65	?
Clarence McDonald	1914	14	28	18	30	?
Lyman G. Haskell	1915	?	?	?	86	?
Oskar L. Schubert	1916	?	?	?	?	?
W. J. Schubert	1917	6	?	1	4	360
W. J. Schubert	1918	10	9	30	33	320
W. J. Schubert	1919	15	0	4	23	400
W. J. Schubert	1920	22	7	10	120	783
W. J. Schubert	1921	32	2	13	47	1,904
Oskar L. Schubert	1922	46	0	6	115	4,649
Oskar L. Schubert	1923	44	6	46	417	5,510
John J. O'Rourke	1924	48	17	66	497	6,603
J. R. Simpson	1925	48	66	196	506	6,275
Earl G. Marx	1926	60	79	45	158	7,523
J. R. Simpson	1927	59	25	116	485	8,131
R. Glover Weiss	1928	79	18	7	335	8,281
Harry J. Lewis, Jr.	1929	71	39	30	747	9,596
Harry J. Lewis, Jr.	1930	72	19	15	418	10,199
Frank W. Sherman	1931	82	32	27	472	11,941
LeRennie Anderson	1932	78	21	11	439	12,172
Turner O. Houston	1933	68	20	49	464	10,500
Turner O. Houston	1934	74	35	25	410	12,566
Arthur W. Platt	1935	70	7	2	461	11,941
George E. Harman	1936	66	15	19	580	11,433
George L. Tedder	1937	104	13	10	529	16,974
Carroll C. Miller	1938	106	25	8	544	13,818
James F. Howard	1939	103	18	11	510	16,649
Wayne E. Ripley	1940	83	16	17	292	15,308
Howard Klicker	1941	86	8	11	603	14,604
W. Clyde Miller	1942	55	9	5	602	10,900
Jack E. Graham	1943	47	15	16	695	10,177
R. Aluis Reynolds	1944	45	19	22	676	11,369
R. Aluis Reynolds	1945	70	54	53	712	13,214
Robert J. Irby III	1946	118	5	18	367	13,547
Kenneth F. Brooke	1947	89	86	16	261	11,780
Kenneth F. Brooke	1948	83	17	10	312	13,302
L. Vernon Howard	1949	93	13	20	407	16,069
L. Vernon Howard	1950	86	8	5	370	14,607
Frank A. Grisham	1951	85	30	29	446	13,190
Robert J. Irby III	1952	86	15	29	453	16,770
James Rae Brown, Jr	1953	81	19	44	716	15,076
Charles D. MacLean Jr	1954	91	2	14	378	17,182
Charles S. Oliver	1955	90	13	23	354	15,649
Richard Bracewell	1956	78	9	19	517	17,880
William E. Thompson	1957	80	44	52	947	19,562

William E. Thompson	1958	102	7	31	326	22,585
William E. Thompson	1959	100	14	42	520	24,011
E. Ray Maxey	1960	96	18	50	377	21,315
Gerry Wilson	1961	74	4	8	86	20,423
W. E. Thompson	1962	75	6	4	313	20,169
Gerry Wilson	1963	95	28	22	544	19,286
Bernard E. North	1964	101	36	41	332	20,328
Joel V. Varn, Jr.	1965	93	34	33	707	20,953
Keith Riechmann	1966	86	53	54	653	10,616
George Patrinely	1967	105	18	11	183	15,633
Harold Mills	1968	119	21	6	246	25,157
Robert J. Irby III	1969	79	25	14	144	20,236
Gerry Wilson	1970	76	15	11	129	15,635
Gerry Wilson	1971	70	13	4	211	16,743
Kenneth W. O'Neill	1972	86	51	31	49	14,454
Carl O. McKenney	1973	86	31	44	120	16,672
Donald R. Wolfe	1974	88	11	17	200	15,900
Thomas G. Nelson	1975	78	2	11	172	17,095
Richard M. Riley	1976	60	13	10	78	13,965
Thomas G. Nelson	1977	78	5	1	150	16,007
Robert A. Nelson	1978	61	9	20	372	11,864
Scott Gilbert	1979	57	19	8	162	12,335
Randy McNeal	1980	67	10	2	70	12,679
Richard Tarkington	1981	56	7	1	39	12,363
Sean O'Brien	1982	49	10	1	33	9,454
James Emery	1983	66	2	2	60	16,206
Michael Lucas	1984	81	1	2	102	13,021
Hank Isaacs	1985	81	2	3	109	14,290
Douglas Barrow	1986	64	6	8	87	12,393
Fland Sharp	1987	60	6	2	47	9,769
Rick Stowe	1988	71	8	2	51	11,677
Richard M. Riley	1989	80	7	4	43	13,548
Mark Muraski	1990	82	1	3	151	15,602
Mike Leverock	1991	86	6	0	47	16,889
George Patrinely	1992	110	2	3	85	16,290
M.Matheson Cory Jr.	1993	91	6	0	58	16,015
Eric E. Reimer	1994	104	7	0	141	16,340
Don Alread	1995	89	NIA	NIA	NIA	16,751
Pete Ironside	1996	89	1	0	121	14,146
L.W. Chrisman	1997	89	3	0	163	13,470
Maurice Rudolph	1998	93	0	0	78	15,362
Brian J. Miller	1999	99	4	7	337	14,728
Brian J. Miller	2000	119	4	5	69	20,083
Michael J. Howe	2001	122	6	5	51	19,564
Maurice Rudolph	2002	88	4	4	28	17,825
Christopher Brock	2003	116	1	1	?	20,621
George Paugh	2004	88	7	13	?	18,485
Kris Jolly	2005	86	11	5	112	20,854
Thomas Wright	2006	110	14	10	74	22,568

Charles Bond	2007	103	17	14	31	24,293
Thomas Wright	2008	83	20	6	?	18,493
Thomas Wright	2009	132	29	13	85	20,340
Corey Wright	2010	88	7	3	113	23,646
James Lentz	2011	110	19	5	265	23,667
B. Taylor Anderson	2012	102	35	9	48	28,830
George Paugh	2013	115	33	20	86	29,601
Jelisse Marrero	2014	102	34	18	73	24,267
Matt Duffy	2015	116	45	13	43	21,584
Bill Horn	2016	83	32	14	47	23,506
J. Casey Donnell	2017	90	13	24	56	24,221
Dan Leonard III	2018	89	37	36	116	29,060
Maxwell Ervanian	2019	108	11	33	41	26,591
Mikey Atkins	2020	113	11	14	24	7,414
Maxwell Ervanian	2021	85	11	33	51	21,250
Trent Dalldorf	2022	35	12	72	10	7,092
Tommy Cassaro	2023	30	7	8	0	7,072
Timothy Kline	2024	34	8	20	33	10,055
TOTAL for 113 Years			1,946	2,213	26,955	1,630,471



PAST CAPTAINS 1912-2024

Captain	Yrs Served	Captain	Yrs Served
* Clarence McDonald	1912-1914	* Thomas Greg Nelson	1975, 1977
* Lyman G. Haskell	1915	* Richard M. Riley	1976, 1989
* Oskar L. Schubert	1916, 1922-23	Robert A. Nelson	1978
* W. J. Schubert	1917-1921	Scott Gilbert	1979
* John J. O'Rourke	1924	Randy McNeal	1980
* J. R. Simpson	1925, 1927	Richard Tarkington	1981
* Earl G. Marx	1926	Sean O'Brien	1982
* R. Glover Weiss	1928	James Emery	1983
* Harry J. Lewis, Jr.	1929-30	Michael Lucas	1984
* Frank W. Sherman	1931	Hank Isaacs	1985
* LeRennie Anderson	1932	Douglas Barrow	1986
* Turner O. Houston	1933, 1934	* Fland Sharp	1987
* Arthur W. Platt	1935	* Rick Stowe	1988
* George E. Harman	1936	Mark Muraski	1990
* George L. Tedder	1937	Mike Leverock	1991
* Carroll C. Miller	1938	M. Matheson Cory, Jr.	1993
* James F. Howard	1939	* Erik E. Reimer	1994
* Wayne E. Ripley	1940	Don Alread	1995
* Howard Klicker	1941	Pete Ironside	1996
* W. Clyde Miller	1942	L.W. Chrisman	1997
* Jack E. Graham	1943	Maurice Rudolph	1998, 2002
* R. Aluis Reynolds	1944, 1945	Brian J. Miller	1999, 2000
* Robert J. Irby III	1946, 1952, 1969	Michael J. Howe	2001
* Kenneth F. Brooke	1947, 1948	Christopher Brock	2003
* L. Vernon Howard	1949, 1950	George Paugh	2004, 2013
* Frank A. Grisham	1951	Kris Jolly	2005
* James Rae Brown, Jr	1953	Thomas Wright	2006, 2008-09
* Charles D. MacLean, Jr	1954	Charles Bond	2007
Charles S. Oliver	1955	Corey Wright	2010
Richard Bracewell	1956	James Lentz	2011
* William E. Thompson	1957-59, 1962	Taylor Anderson	2012
* E. Ray Maxey	1960	Jelisse Marrero	2014
* Gerry Wilson	1961, 1963, 1970-71	Matt Duffy	2015
* Bernard E. North	1964	Bill Horn	2016
* Joel V. Varn, Jr	1965	J. Casey Donnell	2017
* Keith Riechmann	1966	Dan Leonard III	2018
* George Patrinely	1967, 1992	Max Ervanian	2019, 2021
Harold Mills	1968	Mikey Atkins	2020
* Kenneth W. O'Neill	1972	Trent Dalldorf	2022
Carl O. McKenney	1973	Tommy Cassaro	2023
* Donald R. Wolfe	1974	Timothy J. Kline	2024

Honorably Retired Members

All RetiredMen

Joseph Abdel-Malak	Rick Carter	Creighton Fiscina	Joel Jenkins
Billy Albritton	Tommy Cassaro	Gary Fiske	Kris Jolly
Don Alread	Robert Caudill	Mike Fitzpatrick	Davey Jones *
Andy Altee	Charles Chase *	Abby Fleischmann	Emmett Allan Jones *
Edwin Anderson *	Wayne Chattaway, Jr	Henry Forbes *	Ben Joseph
Taylor Anderson	Jake Chrisman	Albert Fortunato	Alison Justice
John Atkins	Mike Christian	Rick Foster	Katie Karnes
Mikey Atkins	Joey Civello	Bill Fudge	Nick Karnes
David Baggot *	Robert Clark	Julian Fulcher *	Ryan Karish
Joseph Baker	William W. Clark *	Marion Fulcher *	David Killian
Warren Baker *	Gerald M. Clarke *	Alaric Gardine	Paul Kirk *
William P. Barret *	Felipe Contreras	Annie Garner	Arthur J. Kirkland
J. Vann Barrett	Cleve Cooney	Richard Ghiotto	E. Vann Kirkpatrick *
Mark Bartleson	George R. Coalow *	Ross Ghiotto	Scott Kiseljack
Gary E. Bass	Don Connor	Jeffery Goldstein	Timothy Kline
Bobby Baughn *	Mickey Copa	Lisa Golger (Med)	Ernest C. Knight *
Bill Beach	A. Francis Copp *	Eric Goodling *	Karl Kruer Jr *
Dylan Beaver	Dan Corn	Chris Gorman	Steven Lafond
Billy Beckerleg III	Jon Corn *	William Greenwood *	Nathan Lang
Nick Beenen	Jud Cory	Todd Grenadier	Jim Langen *
Randy Belyew	Matt Cory	Marshall Griggs Sr *	Bradley Langenberg
Herman Bernrueter *	Vince Coursey	Cameron Gwynn	Josh Langley
David Bew Jr	Chris Cox	Tim Hall	Joe Larizza
Travis Blakeslee	Bill Crabtree	Bertrand V. Hanes *	Chris Lavelle
Lowe Blenus *	Jim Crabtree	George Hapsis *	Frank Lee *
Eric Bohn	Bret Creech	Harry Hardwick *	Fred Lee *
Taylor Boice	Phil Crider III	Ronald Harman *	James Lentz
Charles Bond	Trent Dalldorf	Clements Harper IV	Daniel Leonard III
Jerry Bowers *	Damon D'Arienzo	Oscar Harper Jr *	Mike Lerian
John Bowler	Coby Davis	Demian Harris	Nicholas N. Leslie *
G. Dudley Bowman *	Earl Denney *	Holden Harris	Gill Lineberry *
Paul Joe Boyer	Mark Dennis	Jesse Harris	Matthew Lydon
Danny Brice *	J. Casey Donnell	Cecil D. Harrison	Mike Lucas
Chris Brock	J. Caleb Donnell	John Harrison *	Geoff Lutz
Thomas Brock	John Donovan	Ben Hedstrom	Charles D. MacLean *
Neal Brock *	Jimmy Dover *	Martin Hedstrom (Med) *	Andrew MacDonald
Jesse Broemer	Matt Duffy	Lester Heilig *	Scott MacDonald
Mike Brown	Sean Duffy	Alex Himmelburg	Tom Mackey
Scott Brown	W. Harold Duguid *	Kevin Hodgkins	Peter Maloney
Dalton Bruce	James S. Dukes *	Alan Hogan *	Martin "Milo" Manley
John Burnfield	Phill Eddins	Mitch Holtsinger Jr.	Jelisse Marrero
Bill Burns, Jr	Robert E. Eisemann *	Bill Horn	Russell C. Marshall *
Bob Burns	Scott Eleazer *	Elmore C. Horton *	E. Ray Maxey *
Dave Burt	Rob Emahiser	William C. Howard *	Richard A. Maxwell *
Morris Butler *	Jim Emery	Jay Howe	Aaron McBride
Tom Byerly	Theodore Engle *	Charles Howell *	Roby McClellan *
Elise Byrd	Katie Engmann Ghiotto	Jimmy Hughes	Ronald McCrone *
Jason Caffey	Earl L. Enn *	Robert J. Irby IV	Richard T. McDill
Duncan Campbell	Nicole Emerson	Chase Isaac	Gerald McHale *
John Carraway Sr	Maxwell Ervanian	Hank Isaacs	Paul McKiniry
Paul Carswell	Andrew Faus	Bryon Iveson	Walley Meskel

Honorably Retired Members

All RetiredMen

Yves Messinese
Caroline Metcalf-Parker
Walter Middlekauf Jr *
Josh Middleton
Brian Miller
David Miller
Jim Miller
Lawrence Miller *
Murray Miller
Rob Miller
Richard Moriarty Jr
Mark Muraski
Brian Murphy
Artsiom Naidzich
J. David Naughton Jr *
Jim Naughton III
Pat Neville
James Niblick *
Harry Norris *
Herbert Oatman *
Kyle O'Conner
Earl Paul Oehler *
Sean O'Brien
Lukas Orlandi
Jimi Palmer
Robert Park *
Steve Park Sr*
Roshan Patel
Shawn Parnell
George Paugh
Norman W. Peck *
Robert C. Peck *
George Penn Jr *
Morris Perkins *
Allen Perry
Sam Peters
Barrett Phifer
William Eli Phillips
Jerry Pilcher
Mark Pilcher
Vasili Pleqi
Donny Podany
John Poling *
Thomas E. Poole *
Ernest Porter *
Billy Posch *
Bill Pound *
Neil Powell
Andrew Price
Danny Pritchard
Zach Proctor

Glenn A. Rainey *
Francis Rampacek
Sean Rampacek
Sean Raulerson
William Reagan III *
Charles Reasoner *
Greg Reimer
Jack Richards *
Richard Riley *
Russell Robbins
Jason Rodriguez
Jerry Rodriguez
Paul Roettges
Josh Rossie
Norman Rountree
Maurice Rudolph
Monica Ruggerio-Drigiff
George Rung *
Chris Saggau
Tim Saggau
Tom Sandlin Sr
Charlie Santana
Bobby Sale *
George Sares
Isaac Schafer, Jr
Andrew Schmidt
Austin Schoenberg
William Seary Jr *
Brandon Sempsrott
Justin Sempsrott
Alex Seward
Brian Sharpe
Allison Shemenski
Kaitlyn Shemenski
Ken Simmons
Josh Singletary
S. Gene Sleaf *
Bill Smallwood
Lutrell Smith
Richard Smythe
Chris Soulbey
Patrick Span *
David Stearns
David "Opie" Steeg
Travis Stewart
H. Atwood Stokes *
Mark Sugden
John L. Sutton *
John "Wimpy" Sutton*
Rick Tarkington
Brian Taylor

Jamie Tejera
Jim Thames *
Gordon VanDusen
Peter Vergenz
Adam Vogel
Doug V. Towson
Byron Vance
Brian Walcutt
Joseph Walcutt
Paul Walker
Rolfe Wall
Chrissy Wallis-Henry
J. McBride Warren *
David Warrington
Walter W. Weaver *
David Webb
Nick Wellington
Robert Wells *
Matthew Welsh
Harold Wesley *
Sean Whelihan
Scott White
Kaitlin Whited
Jason Wilderotter
Larry Wills
Gerry Wilson *
Mel Wilson
Henry J. Wood *
Michael J. Wood *
Corey Wright
Shaunn Wright *
Thom Wright
Wil Wygal IV
Taylor Wyman
Tom Yeager
Havis York
Glen Znamirovski

* Deceased



Katie Karnes W'16 Retirement Party

Dear Staff,

It all starts in 2007, when my family got stationed in Florida, my brother and I joined the local swim team, and our coach signed us up for Jr. Lifeguard Camp. A few years later, my brother joined the ranks of the mighty VLSC as part of the class of summer '11. Shortly thereafter, I knew I would join the corps too, because in classic little sibling fashion, I thought "Anything Nick can do, I can do."

February of 2016 brought the start of my time with the corps. Recruit class taught me that sheer determination & willpower will get you way further than you think, and I learned that through persistence & dedication, any goal is achievable. I take this mindset with me wherever I go and when I feel myself wavering, I think back to struggling through TC and the feeling I had when I finally earned my corps suit.

In 2018 I had the honor of sitting behind the table as quartermaster. During that time, I learned what kind of leader I am. I did my best to lead by example and be the kind of junior staff officer I wanted to see when I was a low(er)man. Being in charge of the station at the end of the day, I realized I love working with the recruits- something I aim to continue to do whenever possible. Coolest of all, being on staff that year allowed me to vote on my brother's retirement letter.

The corps has undoubtedly shaped me into the person I am -from a spastic recruit surfman who didn't know when or how to stop talking, to the pillar of excellence you see before you today©. The corps changed me in little ways, like how I introduce myself and the way I respond to stress. It also changed me in major ways, like introducing me to patient care and sparking a passion that led me to pursue med school. On Sundays and holidays, and Tuesday nights, I learned how to have fun at work and find new ways to entertain myself during off hours. As some of you know, I used to be (and still am) wound up a little tight. But that just goes to show you, there's no kink a few of the Boyz can't work out.

Over the last decade, I've watched the corps change just as much as I have. We are more unified than I've seen, we trust each other more, & we are more focused on our standard of care & our mission to keep the beach safe. That being said, I must admit I miss the jackassery that used to fill the station on rain days, but I have no doubt that The Boyz will find ways to bring that feeling back. I've seen our ranks bigger but look at our membership in 1917 & you'll see the corps is much more than the number of active surfmen. Short story long, I love the corps. In addition to everything else I've mentioned, I got to watch my commodore become captain and three of my classmates retire. Speaking of retirement: Staff, may I retire? I'd be awfully proud to join the ranks of the Old Salts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. D. ...', written in a cursive style.

INDIVIDUAL SERVICE POINTS

2023-24 Staff	Class Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours	YTD	Rescues	Assists	First Aid
Kline, Timothy - Captain	S'06	11	334	2592	2	4	1
McDill, Richard - Lt	W'05	10	571	2576	0	0	3
Garner, Anne - Instructor	W'12	10	478	2800	0	1	6
Jolly, Kris - 1st Mate	W'96	9	221	2001	0	0	9
Tirado, Garrett - 2nd Mate	W'17	7	286	1541	0	1	0
Proctor, Zach - 3rd Mate	W'12	9	271	2257	5	2	5
Newell, Ethan - Ass't Instr	W'19	4	531	1453	1	0	0
Billhardt, Jeff - 1st QM	W'09	6	262	1652	2	0	10
Gregg, Valerie - 1st Registrar	W'96	5	374	1184	0	0	0
Jolly, Steven - 2nd Registrar	cW'23	2	256	581	0	0	0

Surfmen	Class Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours	YTD	Rescues	Assists	First Aid
Barrow, Jordan	S'23	2	352	534	0	0	0
Chanatry, Michael	cS'23	2	250	423	1	2	0
Harper, Zane	S'23	2	283	469	2	1	0
Kohlhaas, Joseph	cW'22	3	256	685	3	1	0
Newell, Jared	W'17	7	218	1990	3	2	1
Sanders, Britt	S'00	4	269	858	1	0	0

Senior Surfmen	Class Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours	YTD	Rescues	Assists	First Aid
Pulido, Danny	W'94	4	116	874	0	0	1

Active RetiredMen	Class Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours	YTD	Rescues	Assists	First Aid
Abdel-Malak, Joseph	W'12	9	189	2080	2	2	0
Atkins, Mikey	W'11	14	152	4255	2	6	6
Beaver, Dylan	W'00	11	161	2233	2	0	4
Duffy, Matt (PC)	W'99	13	80	3231	4	0	21
Emery, Jim (PC)	S'72	10	324	4174	3	4	16
Ghiotto, Ross	S'00	9	40	1939	3	0	14
Karnes, Katie	W'16	8	107	1842	0	1	0
Karish, Ryan	W'09	10	160	2578	3	3	14
Leonard, Dan III (PC)	S'10	13	65	3062	2	1	3
Pleqi, Vasili	W'12	8	68	1881	1	2	5

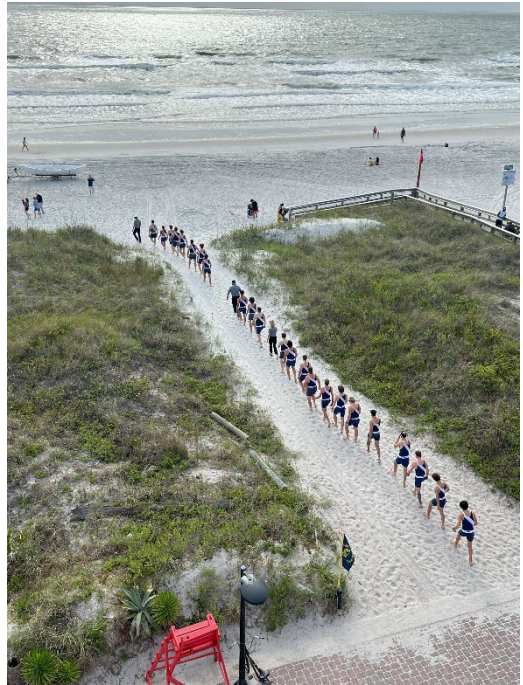
Recruit Surfmen	Class Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours
Arnold, Nathan	cS'24	1	278
Flint, Laird	W'24	1	444
Lydon, Ryan	W'24	1	467
Turner, Liam	cW'24	1	444
Pulido, Marco	W'24	1	475
Spinowitz, Ben	W'24	1	445

YTD	Rescues	Assists	First Aid
278	0	1	0
444	0	1	0
467	2	1	0
444	0	0	0
475	1	0	0
445	0	1	0

Retired Men	Class/Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours
Anderson, Taylor (PC)	W'02	10	11
Barrow, Doug (PC)	W'74	9	2
Beckerleg, William	W'83	12	56
Bohn, Eric	W'08	8	5
Bruce, Dalton	W'13	8	8
Burnfield, John	W'76	8	5
Byerly, Tom	W'60	8	16
Cassaro, Tommy (PC)	W'05	10	19
Civello, Joey	W'03	8	4
Cooney, Cleve	1st S'83	8	6
Coursey, Vince	W'91	8	5
Duffy, Sean	W'03	8	2
Eddins, Phill	1st S'67	8	5
Fitzpatrick, Mike	S'67	9	10
Fleischmann, Abby	W'16	8	15
Goldstein, Jeff	S'68	14	7
Harrison, Duggan	S'69	8	5
Horn, Bill (PC)	S'87	12	16
Isaacs, Hank (PC)	W'92	8	5
Karnes, Nick	S'11	8	2
Lang, Nathan	W'04	8	2
Lavelle, Chris	W'87	8	5
Lucas, Mike (PC)	S'77	8	4
MacDonald, Andrew	W'12	8	7
MacDonald, Scott	W'87	12	19
Maloney, Peter	W'94	8	3
Manley, Marty	S'86	8	4
McKiniry, Paul	S'68	9	3
Meskel, Walley	W'08	8	1
Messinese, Yves	W'06	8	2
Miller, Dave	W'94	8	1
Muraski, Mark (PC)	W'74	8	7



Murphy, Brian	2 nd S'74	8	13
Neville, Patrick	S'85	8	13
O'Brien, Sean (PC)	W'75	10	54
Palmer, Jimi	W'89	8	4
Pilcher, Jerry	S'76	8	2
Pritchard, Danny	S'68	9	51
Rudolph, Maurice (PC)	W'87	9	68
Ruggiero-Dragiff, Monica	W'08	8	2
Soulby, Chris	W'92	9	40
Tarkington, Rick (PC)	W'69	8	6
Wallis-Henry, Chrissy	cS'98	8	7



Inactive Alumni

	Class/Yr	Service Years	2024 Hours
Auld, Steve	W'73	4	4
Avera, Josh	W'17	6	2
Bonn, Kenneth	S'15	6	2
Carter, Gabi	S'18	4	2
Daniels, Amaris	S'20	3	61
Garner, Brian	W'83	4	25
Gleeson, Chris	S'04	4	2
Gleeson, Mike	S'04	4	4
Golden, Dennis	W'80	2	3
Holtsinger, Mark	S'71	6	18
Klusmeier, Frederick	W'13	6	1
LeClair, Vance	S'71	3	8
Marson, Jordan	W'11	5	22
McBride, Kyle	W'04	5	2
Moore, Jim	W'81	1	11



4TH ANNUAL CLAY SHOOT

November 17, 2024

- It rained heavily before the event and rained when it was over. The weather was perfect for the actual shooting time.
- Everyone enjoyed the BBQ food truck lunch
- All shooters were safe, no injuries.
- The VLSC netted \$13,500 profit.
- Thank you to PC Charles Bond.



DECK THE CHAIRS 2023

November 2023-January 2024

This year at DTC we had to build our own chair. Because of a donation from Rick Tarkington, we were able to do that. Thanks to Mikey Atkins who supersized the building of the chair and thank you to Hank Isaacs who had the signs made that were displayed by the chair.

We helped during the setup, having to do a variety of different tasks. A good group of people showed up to help. They were: Brian Murphy, Rick Tarkington, Sean O'Brien, Mark Muraski, Jerry Pilcher, Hank Isaacs, Vance LeClair, Thomas Yeager, Steve Auld, Jim Emery, Brian Garner, Paul McKiniry, Jimmy Hughes, Bill Horn, and Amaris Daniels. Thanks to Kurtis Loftus who gave us space to put up our chair, which was in a very visible location.

During the teardown of DTC, we did different tasks in addition to taking apart our chair to store for next year. Thanks to the following people who showed up to help with the breakdown: Lans Stout, Vance LeClair, Rick Tarkington, Dugg Harrison, Brian Murphy, Phil Eddins, Mark Holtsinger, John Fernsler, Paul McKiniry and Mike Fitzpatrick

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Pritchard S'68



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Past captain Taylor Anderson and I flew out of Jacksonville early on the 5th of December and into Liberia, Costa Rica. Upon arrival, we picked up the rental car and snacks for the ride. We drove about 2 hours to a beautiful Airbnb only 200 yards from the beach. We met up with the Surf Simply crew and did introductions.

The next day we went back up with them to the Surf Simply resort and did basic classroom work, buoy rescues, back boarding and taught students to recognize potential patients. That day we also received our surfboards which we used later that night.

The next day was shorter. We started the morning surfing, then went to the classroom and finished teaching the students CPR. Once we finished in the classroom, we went out to surf again that night.

The next morning, we went out surfing again, then taught an early class where we finished going over medical practices and began teaching trauma-related care. After class, we picked up four-wheelers and went to a bar on the top of a mountainside to survey a separate beach that we planned to use during class the next day. After this, we went to go and watch the sunset on the beach with a pack of stray dogs.

The next day, we woke up early to return the four-wheelers and began preparing for tests on Saturday. During testing, we would analyze the student's proficiency in CPR and first aid practicals, as well as rescue simulations in open water scenarios. Once a student passed all the written and practical tests, we gave the student a certificate of completion. Then when all the students received their certificates, Taylor and I went out for drinks and dinner.

The next morning, we returned the surfboards and rental car and got on our flight home.

Respectfully submitted,
Surfman Joseph Kohlhaas cW'22

VLSC SPRING TRAINING REPORT 2024

Spring training this season started out at the Parks and Recreation building after a small fire at the Station downstairs kept us from going upstairs due to smoke damage. We had a promising showing of Old Salts and returning guards! Captain Kline led the charge by filling everyone in on his expectations for the year, followed by the ethics class and sexual harassment class by BOD President Jim Emory and Past Captain Maurice Rudolph.



This year we had a very small group of instructors trained to recertify the Boys. Thanks to Retiredman Scott MacDonald, who was able to get six new members through the instructor class, with another six going through the class this summer. Moving forward we will have no problem scheduling training - Thanks Scotty! This spring some of us became EVOC certified which helped us earn our BEVO (Beach Emergency Vehicle Operation) certification with the USLA. We are one of six advanced agencies in the nation to obtain this certification!

Most of our classes were held at Fluid Realty since we didn't have access upstairs. Another big thank you is due to the owner of Fluid Realty, Surfman Britt Sanders! As if our normal routine of spring training wasn't turned upside down enough, the Fletcher pool was also undergoing renovation. We started training at the UNF pool for several weeks until Fletcher was reopened. The three Mates held "Mate Day" for the winter recruits where we went over beach practice, tower etiquette, surf entries, a missing person search, and a mock flag drop with rescue and buoy chain. We finished the day with a friendly paddle competition!

To say that this spring training was long would be an understatement with all of the twists and turns! But we were ready and extremely proud on opening day! We had another great showing of active and retired members when the guards were inspected by the Board of Directors. There was a great opening day ceremony on the beach with the Mayor and City Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
1st Mate Kris Jolly C'W'96
Retired Past Captain



First Day Spring Training 2024, at Parks and Rec



2024 WINTER SOCIAL

February 10, 2024

“Columbian Hall” of the Knights of Columbus

Saturday evening’s actual weather of about 70 degrees, zero rain, and a mild wind reinforced that the planned menu of CHILI COOK-OFF had been a sound choice. Chili in February is usually welcomed.

The guests who brought the assorted chili’s arrived ready to compete for the prize. Slight problem: the building was locked and the KoC contact with the keys could not be found. Rumors of a stretcher party began to circle amongst the crowd. As a backup, the American Legion Jax Beach verbalized that we could shift to their place, but the food would not be permitted. Stretcher, stretcher,

Honorary Member Barbara Sperbeck arrived on the scene. She happened to have the contact information of someone west of the intercoastal that could *possibly* still have door keys. He was contacted and agreed to head over, privately hoping that the alarm codes had not been changed.

Success – doors opened. Attendees were able to get inside, and the food was laid out for the evening. No alarm, no police. Yeah.

Contest submissions came from 13 alumni and/or spouses:

John Atkins	Mikey Atkins	John Burnfield	Jim Emery
Scott Gilbert	Valerie Zevens-Gregg	Mark Holtsinger	Dan Leonard
Paul MacLean	Jimmy Moore	Sean O’Brien	Danny Pritchard
and Tim Saggau			

After tasting and sampling, the votes were tabulated.

Grand prize	Paul MacLean
2 nd place	John Burnfield
3 rd place	Jim Emery

Additionally:

- current students of the 2024 winter recruit class made their introductions.
- special mention was made about the w’ 1965 Class who had four members in attendance: (G. Fiske, W. Gause, J. Shedd, & N. Sullivan);
- a 50/50 raffle was won by Chic Acosta, w’ 1967, who deeded his \$\$ winnings back to the VLSC – thank you.



Respectfully submitted
“PC” Sean O’Brien, w’ 1975

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 30, 2024

Adventure Landing Amusement Park – Jacksonville Beach

Fortune again found its way to the *Volunteer Life Saving Corps*. Like the past several years, Adventure Landing asked for assistance setting up the Easter Egg Hunt. We also aided in controlling and monitoring the three different age groups at each of the three “hunts” at 9am, 10am, and 11am.

This annual event occurs on Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. While many alumni were unable to participate, the Corps’ appreciation is extended here to those who helped make this event a success:

Steve Auld	Tom Byerly	Jake Chrisman	Jim Emery
Dugg Harrison	Mark Holtsinger	Christine Jones	J J Kohlhaas
Vance LeClair	Marty Manley	Mark Muraski	Sean O’Brien
Susie Park	Danny Pritchard	Maurice Rudolph	Jack Sares
Leslie Sares	Chris Soulby	Susan Wallis	& Easter Bunny

Combining the entrance fees of the Egg Hunts plus proceeds from their raffle gift prizes, Adventure Landing donated \$ 3,233 to the *VLSC*. Esprit d’ Corps

Respectfully submitted
“PC” Sean O’Brien, w’ 1975



WINTER 2024 RECRUIT CLASS

It all started one wet and cold February morning. Prime Day One Winter Class weather.



Due to the ice machine blowing up and catching the station on fire, we started the first class at Parks and Rec. We ended the day with a soggy beach run in soft sand since there was no Training Committee on the first day. As we ran from the station to 8th Avenue South, the precipitation started blowing sideways at us in what felt like a very-ticked-off-Elsa-from-Frozen-rain.

The recruits were already showing strength by their lack of complaints as I taught them “Build Me Up Buttercup” and the classic VLSC cadence that my Winter 2012 Commodore wrote. At that moment, it started to feel like a legitimate recruit class. I sensed an enjoyment of grittiness as I explained to them it would all be worth it, as they would feel

like Buzz Light Year during the timed portion of the run, running *with* the wind. As the class progressed the station fire had us hopping from Parks and Recreation to Movement Mortgage, and finally ended the last weeks back at home #2. By week 3 we had one quit, and then another, and then another, and 6 Recruits progressed into the last week.

Commodore Liam Turner became commodore a little later in the class, the last week. But don’t be fooled. Turner showed natural leadership qualities from the start. So, when the old Commodore was absent, Turner would be Acting Commodore and when the old Commodore quit, it was an easy decision, but as we know, NOT an easy job. I appointed him Commodore hours before the most daunting part of the Recruit Class- *pool test*. There’s no doubt this young man EARNED this title. He was the kid who would jump straight into the hands-on learning without hesitation. He encouraged his classmates as they all faced their own struggles through the class, with a humble attitude. He has resembled our motto “When in doubt, go” from day 1.

Recruit Laird Flint has a great attitude and a big personality. Always with the inquisitive theoretical “What if” scenario questions, it was a pleasure having him in the classroom lead the comedic relief in a respectful manner. When his classmates struggled with their swim, he gave helpful tips and encouragement. Even though swimming was the least of his worries, he continued to push himself to break a 7:00 550-meter swim every Sunday. I’m excited to see him beat a lot of these old salts during the Meninak!

Recruit Lydon was quiet with a good sense of humor and incredibly observant! He was consistent, made the highest grades in his written tests, and laughed at my jokes (yay!). Recruit Ben Spinowitz gets the “Most Improved” superlative as he started with a swim time of over 15 minutes. He grinded to drastically improve his swimming technique going from a Tarzan stroke to a more fluid freestyle technique, which knocked nearly 7 minutes off his swim time from Week 1 to Week 11. His rescues came naturally to him as he is a blue belt in jiu-jitsu, but the rest of the time at the pool showed true determination.

At first, I honestly couldn’t decipher if Recruit Marco Pulido really wanted to be here, *at first*. By week 3, I realized he just has a great poker face! Something I could learn from him. As we started the Emergency Medical Responder course, he showed interest by quietly answering questions as I had to do that awkward teacher thing to ask a question and hope someone would break the silence. Marco always took criticism with a positive attitude, which is not easy for a 15-year-old recruit.

Recruit Class is a beast of a challenge. I tell prospects you must be a triple threat. Triple threat: mental strength, physical endurance, and emotional maturity. You should at least have an inkling of these qualities and be willing to develop them to maintain the right attitude from the beginning of class onto membership. I am so stoked to see these 5 young men grow within this organization and even more excited to see how the Corps will support them as they set the highest of goals and continue to push themselves to do big things. This is only the beginning, boyz!

Respectfully submitted,
Capt TK Kline W'12, HR

Winter 2024 Recruit Class
L-R: Assistant Instructor Ethan Newell, Ben Spinowitz, Liam Turner, Laird Flint, Ryan Lydon, Marco Pulido, Instructor Anne Garner



VLSC 26th Annual “Fishbait” Thompson Charity Golf Classic



Our tournament on May 22nd, 2024 at Hidden Hills was a huge success!!

We had 100 golfers and the golfer’s gift was a windbreaker vest – front zipper top to bottom, pockets near the front of the vest with zippers and embroidered with the “Fishbait Thompson” Charity Golf Classic logo.

Not only did we raise over \$17,000 but we also had a Hole-in-One sponsor from George Moore Chevrolet on Atlantic Blvd. Thank you, Justin Moore and George Moore Chevrolet!!!

Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who donated items for the Raffle and Silent Auction. And a gigantic ‘Thank You’ to the Golf Committee...

Dugg Harrison S’69, Bill Beckerleg III W’83, Danny Pritchard S’68,
Sean O’Brien W’75 (PC), Perke Robinson S’57, Bette Robinson,
Cheryl Jolly, Barbara Sperbeck (Past BOD)

Your commitment is appreciated very much!!!

Our Sponsors:

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- George Moore Chevrolet

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- Sons of the American Legion - Post 129 - Mate Sponsor

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19 Proud Members Of the 1975 Winter Recruit Class
Mark Del Pezzo, Inc. CFA s’1977 - Chartered Financial Analyst



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In Tribute to Richard Riley PC(2) w'1968 - Sponsored by Winter Class of '1987

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Steve Park Sr., s'1963 "HR" and
Davey Jones, s'1964 "HR"

Steve and Cathy Auld
Steve Auld, w' 1973

(handmade artwork by Danny Pritchard, s' 1968 "HR" – one of the auction items)



**VLSC MATE DAY – WINTER / SUMMER CLASS
APRIL 7TH & JUNE 30TH, 2024**



<+> VLSC MATE DAY <+>

Mate Day is a training headed by the VLSC Mate Department to orient recruit classes to live beach operations and begin to tie together all the information absorbed through classroom time with the Instructor Department. Although the day is not as knowledge heavy, Mate Day makes up for this deficit while making it more physically laborious for each class and having fun at the same time.

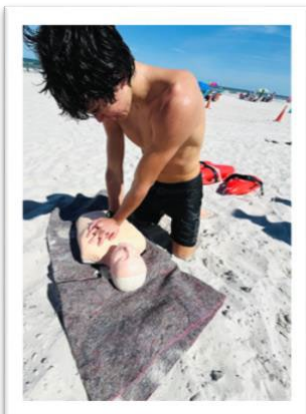
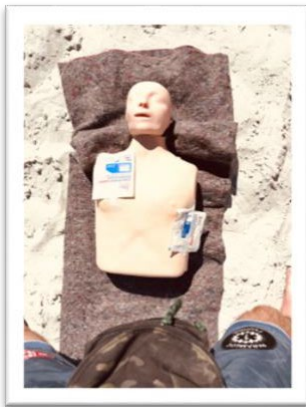
We met early at the Jax Beach Lifeguard Station early and began by a brief intro to the history and organizational applications of our Surf Dory. Thanks to Retiredmen Max Shafer and Jimmy Palmer, each class was adequately trained to use this piece of historic lifesaving equipment. Thereafter we broke into groups to perform simulated open water rescues with due attention to proper form to increase water confidence and first-time success with each recruit.

Training for submersed victims in the water was thoroughly lectured on within the classroom and beach proper. The class took focus on identifying geographical landmarks as well as how to take a quick scene history to maximize the odds of a successful patient recovery. Paddle Boards were also utilized for open water training where each recruit was able to perceive a victim in distress, properly deploy the device and retrieve your victim without causing any additional duress to yourself or your patient.

Finally, before we broke for the end of day, we simulated a mock case where the mates had tied together all the aspects of our recruit education. Recruits sat on a tower and began to scan their water for potential threats using the information from beach practice. Once a victim was visualized, the recruit flag dropped and ran to the ocean to rescue. The recruits then began a rapid patient assessment and identified signs/symptoms of serious patient illness and applied BLS methods to care for a patient including 5 rounds of CPR with the help of an Automated External Defibrillator.

Mate Day is not just another recruit class Sunday; this day is meant to solidify all the information digested within the class and stimulate critical thinking under tremendous physical stress. More importantly, Mate Day is meant to have fun!!

Respectfully Submitted,
2nd Mate Zach Proctor (R'W-2012)



2024 SPRING SOCIAL

April 27, 2024

“Columbian Hall” of the Knights of Columbus

This was our second Social for 2024.

On purpose, it is held the evening before the annual Opening of the Beaches parade which is also the *VLSC*'s Opening Day ceremony at the Station. The thought process is that a Saturday night event added to the Sunday activities would present a fun-filled weekend for *VLSC* members, alumni, and guests.

With Cinco de Mayo coming up in a week, the theme of the evening for the Social was Taco's. The main chefs, Danny (s' 1968) PRITCHARD and Jimmy (w' 1981) MOORE, had shells and either beef or chicken ready to go for the meal. All enjoyed themselves.

Although the “all Fletcher” class reunion kept some alumni away from this event, a good time was had by all.

During the evening, we had a 50/50 drawing. The purpose was to help purchase a large wall mount television that can assist with Recruit classes as well as refresher training at the Station. The lucky ticket belonged to Scott (w' 1977) White “HR.” He chose to return his winnings to the *VLSC*.

A total of \$ 245 was put aside for the forthcoming TV purchase.

Looking forward to the next Social:
Saturday, July 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted
“PC” Sean O'Brien, w' 1975



OPENING DAY REPORT

April 28, 2024

The sun filled the horizon as Truck 1912 (with surf dory in tow) was staged on the sand just north of the Life Saving Station. Retiredmen unloaded the deli board and Recruit Surfmens shuttled folding chairs down to the beach as the VLSC's membership, distinguished guests, friends, and family arrived at #2 Oceanfront. Spring Training was complete, crews were assigned, and the dedicated men and women of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps were ready to guard the beach as we have for over a century.

After Roll Call the Boyz made their way to the beach in a flawless march to begin the formal "Presentation of the Guard" by Captain Tim Kline to BOD President Jim Emery. Once all members were accounted for and in formation behind 1st Mate Jolly, Emery and Kline expressed their sincere gratitude to all those involved in ensuring the VLSC is set up for success in its 112th consecutive season.

The active guard was then presented for "Inspection" by the Board of Directors and thanked by the City Council along with members of the public. After the ceremony was concluded and pictures were taken, guests were invited for breakfast and tours of the historic Life Saving Station.

Throughout the day spirits were high and incidents were low, leading to a great turnout for the Opening of the Beaches Parade. The VLSC stood out amongst a line of first response vehicles, being the only to sport a truck bed pool (lifeguard not included). Whistles and waves were ever present to the public as the Boyz brought an undeniable energy to the parade. A good time was had by all.

Let this report stand as proof that the mighty VLSC is back in full force. We have an ever-growing group of individuals thoroughly trained in life saving and first aid. You can count on us regardless of time or place. When in doubt, we will go. Esprit de Corps <+>

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Timothy J. Kline (S'06)
Lieutenant Richard McDill (W'05)

O.D. 's Report

- Number of Officers - 4
- Number of guards – 6 + 4 recruit surfmen
- Number of towers on the beach – 3

Distinguished Guests:

- Mayor Christine Hoffman
- Councilman Bill Horn (PC)
- Councilman Gregg Sutton (BOD)
- Councilman John Wagner
- City Manager Mike Staffopoulos
- Ocean Rescue Captain Rob Emahiser



FILL THE BUOY - FUND RAISER

The intersection of Beach Boulevard & Third Street - Jacksonville Beach
Sunday 04-14-2004 -and- Saturday 05-04-2024

At face value, this should be the most boring fundraiser the VLSC tackles.

After all, as a volunteer one basically walks for two hours back and forth on asphalt pavement. Or, for that lucky individual, they get to walk back and forth on a concrete median placed at a thirty degree or so angle. “Youngsters” are eliminated from the selection process since the City permit mandates participants must be at least 21 years old. Plus, zero shade and buildings that often obstruct possible breezes.

However, if your body can withstand the repetitive walking – the community will reward you. We are basically asking drivers to view our hand-held signs and then, if so inclined, donate their loose cash and bills into our cut-in-half Buoys.

What transpires, though, in that brief encounter between a volunteer and the vehicle participants is inspiring. Comments and actions include:

- parents giving their kids the money so they can toss in the Buoy;
- having a Mercedes give you a dollar but a rusty bomb giving you \$20;
- questioning the City’s poor actions towards the VLSC;
- years ago, in high school, I dated a lifeguard do you know ????
- I know a volunteer guard;
- keep up the good work;
- I wish I could give more, but here’s all I have today;
- My (*fill in the blank family member*) was a VLSC member back in; or
- that special donor that hands you a hundred-dollar bill.

By way of the two collection dates, the Corps profited \$ 4463.

Appreciation goes to: Vince COURSEY, Mark DENNIS, Jim EMERY, Dennis GOLDEN, Ryan KARISH, Vance LeCLAIR, Peter MALONEY, Paul McKINIRY, Jimmy MOORE, Mark MURASKI, Pat NEVILLE (twice), Jamie O’BRIEN, Sean O’BRIEN (twice), Jimi PALMER, Danny PRITCHARD (twice), David STEEG, Norm SULLIVAN, and Rick TARKINGTON (twice).

Respectfully submitted
“PC” Sean O’Brien, w’ 1975



2024 MENINAK OCEAN MARATHON

The 91st marathon swim began at 7:50 AM on August 27th, as swimmers plunged into the calm waters from the Ponte Vedra Club, heading north towards the lifeguard station. The serene sea conditions, with virtually no current, set the stage for a challenging race. Despite these conditions, Cleve Cooney triumphed with a time of 1:13, marking his 3rd fastest time ever.

The average swim time this year was 1:46. For comparison, the fastest average time recorded was in 1950, when the last swimmer finished in 1:36 among a field of 29. On the other end of the spectrum, 1944 saw the slowest average time of 3:51, with the last of 21 swimmers taking 5:31 to complete the course, and 3 swimmers dropping out. The 1937 race was notable for having 31 starters, but only 10 finishers, including Vann Kirkpatrick and Henry Wood, who did not complete their inaugural swims.

The marathon's scheduling has shifted over the years to adapt to various challenges. Initially held in August, the event was moved to July in 1954 due to frequent storms. The start time, originally set for mid-afternoon, was adjusted to 1:00 PM in 1973, then to 11:00 AM in 1984, and further to 10:00 AM in 1992. Since 2016, the swim has started at roughly 8:00 AM or earlier.

In recent years, Cleve Cooney and Bill Horn have been the dominant forces, with Cleve notching his 14th win in his 39th swim at the age of 57, showcasing incredible endurance and consistency. Looking ahead to next year, the anticipation is high as Sean O'Brien prepares to complete his 50th swim and a new generation of swimmers are expected to bring fresh energy to the competition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Byerly, HR W'1960



Back row Standing, L-R Lt Richard McDill, Brian Garner, Mike Lucas, Cleve Cooney, Bill Horn, Joey Civello, Jeff Goldstein, Sean O'Brien, Pat Neville, Ryan Karish, Ryan Lydon, Marco Pulido, Danny Pulido
Kneeling, L-R Anne Garner, Michael Chanatry, Chris Soulby, Maurice Rudolph, Jimi Palmer, Valerie Gregg, Liam Turner, Laird Flint, Ben Spinowitz

PLACE	Name	Class	TIME
1	Cleve Cooney	1s' 83	1:13:08
2	Bill Horn (PC)	cs' 87	1:18:44
3	Joey Civello	w' 03	1:21:05
4	Laird Flint	w' 24	1:24:27
5	Michael Chanatry	cs' 23	1:29:22
6	Mike Lucas (PC)	s' 77	1:34:40
7	Pat Neville	s' 85	1:39:25
8	Ryan Karish	w' 09	1:41:24
9	Chris Soulbly	w' 92	1:42:22
10	Liam Turner	cw' 24	1:45:23
11	Maurice Rudolph (PC)	w' 87	1:47:56
12	Ryan Lydon	w' 24	1:50:10
13	Anne Garner	w' 12	1:51:02
14	Jimi Palmer	w' 89	1:51:45
15	Marco Pulido	w' 24	1:55:14
16	Danny Pulido	w' 94	1:58:27
17	Brian Garner	w' 83	1:58:31
18	Ben Spinowitz	w' 24	2:07:37
19	Sean O'Brien (PC)	w' 75	2:14:59
20	Jeff Goldstein	s' 68	2:38:32



Overall Winners L-R
2nd Bill Horn, 1st Cleve Cooney, 3rd Joey Civello



VLSC SUMMER SOCIAL

Saturday, July 27, 2024

The tradition continues.

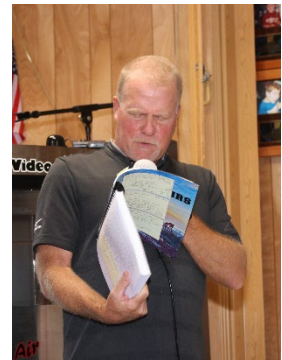
Morning: Active and honorably retired members (20 in all) competed in the Annual Meninak Ocean Marathon. Cleve Cooney, 1s' 1983, proved once again that he excels in swimming by winning first place for the *fourteenth time*.

Evening: Party.

Over ninety individuals of the VLSC family gathered Saturday evening at the Columbian Hall off Penman Road to enjoy our unique fellowship. With over ten different appetizers being provided by those with above-average cooking skills along with sufficient beverages – all seemed satisfied.

The attendees ranged from the evening's most senior, s' 1957 Perke Robinson (four-time Marathon winner 1957, 58, 59, & 60) to a few of our newest Recruit Surfmens who joined this year.

Past Captain Bill Horn commandeered the microphone and presented COJB City Councilman and VLSC BOD Member Greg Sutton. Greg's mother (women's auxiliary), father, and uncle were all active VLSC members decades ago. Greg read from a book about the beach community.



The few pages that he read aloud were written by his uncle, 'Wimpy' Sutton 1s' 1944. It detailed a few of the VLSC entrance procedures and some of the initiation activities individuals had to complete decades ago. There were many oohs & ahs from those listening as the narrative was well received.

Flickering lights at 9:45pm signaled the end was near. A good time was had by all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone September 28th for the *2nd Annual Oyster Roast* being organized again by our friends at American Legion Post #129,

Respectfully submitted,
PC Sean O'Brien, w' 1975

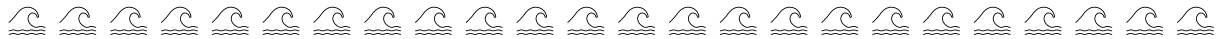


INTER-CREW SWIM MEETS

June 24 and July 15, 2024

On Monday, June 24, 2024, with optimal surf conditions, the awaited crew swim meet is about to be underway. As the first swim meet of the year, hope is high to see which crew will be victorious in the swim events.

The first event was a paddleboard relay. The distance was a bit farther than expected, but both crews remained strong and steadfast on their course. The next event was an inter-crew beach flag race. It came down to the last beach flag, secured by Crew 1, proving themselves dominant in these events. Lastly, the third and final event was a full crew rescue with a buoy chain. A member of the opposite crew was chosen to be the victim. Full stride, crew 2 took the win in this event. Alas, crew 1 was the winner that day.



On Monday, July 15, the date of the second swim meet, we first had Picture Day. Thanks to Brian Murphy for always being there to take pictures. After all the group shots were taken, the boys were ready to get the competition moving. The pressure was on for Crew 2 to play catch-up following their loss at the first swim meet. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation.

The first event of the evening was a 4x100 soft sand run relay. The boys kept their knees high and arms pumping. Fast feet secured the win for Crew 1. The second event went to the water with a full crew surf entry relay. Both teams sprinted into the water with haste, swam to the crew member standing in the chest-deep water, and sprinted back on to the beach to tag their next teammate. Once again, Crew 1 was the winner; already securing two wins meant that a third event was unnecessary. Crew 1, with 1st Mate Kris Jolly, was declared the Inter-Crew Meet winner.

Respectfully submitted,
2nd Mate Garrett Tirado, W'2017



SUMMER 2024 RECRUIT CLASS

Summer Class 2024 screening day started strong with ~10 prospects. By week 3 it dwindled down to half that, and on Graduation Day we welcomed the lone wolf Commodore Nathan Arnold into the mighty ranks of the VLSC.

Commodore Arnold showed up every Sunday, every Tuesday, and every study session held. He immersed himself in the material, and even helped tutor his classmates that were the weakest links. On Intense Questioning night it was clear that this would be a one-man class by the end, as the other recruits did not exhibit a grasp of the medical and open water knowledge needed to keep the bathers of Jax Beach safe.

Through the whole class, Arnold no question, had the best attitude, and though he struggled physically, his determination embodied the essence of the Corps. I will never forget the Sunday, standing on the pool deck with Honorary Mama Wallis and her daughter Retired-woman Commodore Chrissy Wallis, Assistant Instructor Ethan Newell, and Captain Kline. The hours of work Commodore Arnold had put in to train to meet the standards paid off. As he approached the wall completing his 550-meter swim, we all cheered that he passed, and then gave him crap saying this is only the beginning of his training.

Graduation Day Commodore Nathan Arnold had the biggest smile of accomplishment, as he was surrounded by all the people who helped him improve and saw his growth and perseverance week by week. My only regret with this class, is it should have probably been a one man show a lot earlier in the class, and I was kind of doing a disservice keeping the weak links in just because of the pressure to boost membership numbers. Assistant Instructor Ethan and I tried to bring up our concerns with the other recruits not pulling their weight and had a very supportive staff. But my key take away is, trust the process. The 12-week process of embedding EMR, open water lifesaving, history, with an emphasis on CPR cannot be diluted. We have our standards, and we should never lower them to satisfy numbers of members. Quality over quantity; not everyone learns the same way, but that is different than recruits who are clearly not putting in the work. Commodore Nathan Arnold now Recruit Surfmen Nathan Arnold has the heart of volunteerism. I have no doubt his work ethic will lead him to improve in his weak areas, as we all become more aware of after joining the mighty ranks of the VLSC. But that same work ethic will lead him to greater achievements.

Thank you for not giving up. Esprit de Corps! <+>

Respectfully submitted,
Instructor Anne Garner, W'12

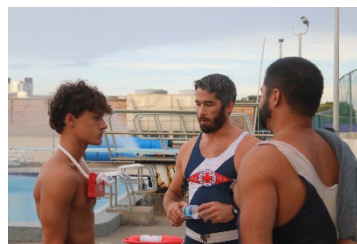
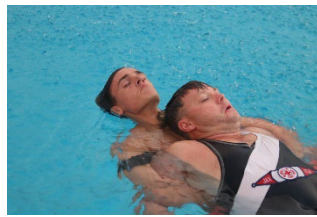
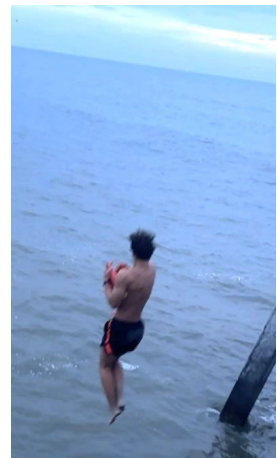
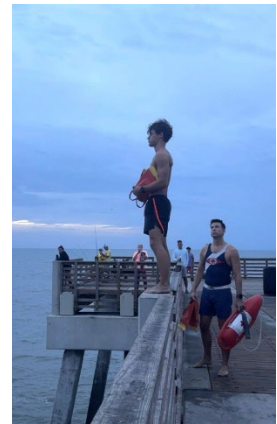


*Commodore Nathan Arnold
Summer 2024*

Compact jump water entry training on the pier, during the wee morning hours of Test Sunday for Summer Class 2024.



(left to right) Retiredman Training Committee Ryan Karish, Recruit Surfman Ben Spinowitz, 1st Registrar Steven Jolly, Commodore Nathan Arnold, RS Ryan Lydon, RS Marco Pulido, RS Liam Turner, Surfman Britt Sanders (photo cred Captain Kline)



Getting Arnold ready for pool test

At Summer '24 Class graduation. L-R Recruit Surfman Ryan Lydon, Ass't Instructor Ethan Newell, Instructor Anne Garner, Nathan Arnold, Captain TK Kline, TC Chairman Ryan Karish



DELIBOARD

April 28 Opening Day
Paul MacLean, Sean O'Brien
Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips



May 19
Brian Garner
Turkey wraps, roast beef wraps, watermelon, chips, shrimp salad, mixed fruit, ice cream



May 5 - Big Boss Man Team
John Burnfield, Danny Pritchard, Tom Byerly
Pulled pork and chicken tacos, beans, salad, sausage and cheese dip, mini chocolate bars



May 12
Jim Moore
BLT's turkey and bologna sandwiches, potato salad, chips and cookies.



May 27 Memorial Day
Brian Garner
Club Sandwiches on Ciabatta buns, steamed shrimp, watermelon, pasta salad, chips, ice cream



June 2
Chris Lavelle
Make-your-own sandwiches Canadian bacon, turkey, ham, roast beef; pasta salad, chicken salad, mac and cheese, assorted fruit, chips, cookies, popsicles, ice cream.



June 30
GOLDEN SPOON WINNER
Bill and Karry Horn, Greg Sutton
Smoked ribs, chicken and sausage, red beans and rice, mac and cheese, green beans, assorted fruit.



July 4 Independence Day
Mark Holsinger and son Ben, with Danny Pritchard
Philly cheese steak, coleslaw, blueberry bread pudding, bean dip, and M&M cookies.



July 14
Hank Isaacs and Danny Pritchard
Ham sliders, turkey wraps, orzo salad, brownies, and Reese's chocolate.



July 21

Mike Fitzpatrick

Smoked pork loin, bbq beans, coleslaw, chimps and dip.



July 28

Chrissy Wallis-Henry, Anne Garner, Susan Wallis, Valerie Gregg
Assorted cold subs from Angie's, fruit and assorted snacks, juice, cookies



Aug 4

Brian Garner

Chicken fajitas, pasta salad, chips with queso and salsa, watermelon, and ice cream



Aug 25

Mike Fitzpatrick, Phill Eddins

Fajitas, tacos, yellow rice, refried beans, assorted condiments, nachos, flan, grapes, strawberries



Aug 18

Danny Pritchard

Stromboli, sub sandwiches, pasta salad and cherry cheesecake

Sept 1

Mark Holtsinger, John Fernsler and wife

Shrimp salad, chicken salad, assorted deli meat plus condiments, pasta salad, cream cheese squares and plums



Sept 2 Labor Day

Tom Byerly and Danny Pritchard

Smoked baby back ribs, mac and cheese, fruit salad, bowtie pasta salad, brownies, lemon squares



Thank you to Danny Pritchard for encouraging Alumni and Retiredmen to help feed the Boyz!

COMPETITION TEAM REPORT

The Competition Team grew a lot this year with the cohort of Recruit Surfmens, and especially after S'24 graduated freeing up Instructor Garner to coordinate and lead regular practices.

On July 10th and 11th, we headed to North Myrtle Beach to compete in the South Atlantic Lifesaving Association (SALA) Regionals. We had three recruit surfmen and three old salts compete. Unfortunately, many of the events were canceled due to weather, but we got busy killing time surfing the paddleboards and floating in the hotel's lazy river. With very little practice and zero competition experience, the goal for RSM Flint, RSM Lydon, and RSM Pulido was to simply not get last. We competed in the Paddle Rescue Relay, Beach Flags, 90m Race, 2k Beach Run, Surf Race, and Taplin Relay. Mama Wallis and Bill Horn did significantly better, Mama Wallis placing first in her age group in multiple events and Bill Horn did great on the surfski.

Regardless of the results, we had a great time competing against some of the best in our South Atlantic region, and learned a lot. It was very good to build some camaraderie with the JBOR guys that had a team there, as well.

In the off-season from competitions, practices are rolling as we prepare for next season. Most of our equipment is being stored at the Alamo. We have many boards and skis, for anyone who would like to train for next year. There is no strict schedule for practices but text Instructor Garner if interested; we'd love to see a lot more of the Boyz come out and represent in future competitions.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Lydon, W'2024



BOD Member Susan Wallis, PC Bill Horn, RSM Laird Flint, RSM Ryan Lydon, PC Jim Emery, RSM Marco Pulido



2nd Annual Sons & Salts Oyster Roast

September 28, 2024

The **SONS** (“Sons of the American Legion”) and the **SALTS** (“Volunteer Life Saving Corps”) joined forces again. With 10 or so individuals as committee members, meetings began several months ago intending to make this year’s event better than 2023.

A mathematical report would include:

- 1 set up 20 foot by 40 foot open sided canvass tent, with tables and chairs
- 1 outside bar server
- 1 muffin & dessert bar
- 1 pot of Bouillabaisse
- 1 pot of Minorcan Chowder
- 1 pot of Jambalaya
- 2 pots of Halibut Chowder
- 3 pots of Clam Chowder
- 4 food servers
- 4 oyster cookers - chefs
- 20 ± Silent Auction prizes and gifts
- 32 bushels of fresh oysters
- 150 entrance tickets

Additionally, the guests enjoyed outside music performed by “Banjo Billy.” Later in the evening, inside music was provided by the “Matt Altman Band.”

The financial numbers were not finalized before the publishing deadline. However, it could easily be stated that this was not only a fund-raising endeavor but also a **fun** raising event.

Respectfully submitted by:

a fun time was had by all



PICNIC GUARDS

Date	Organization	Event Type	Event Description
1/15/2024	Our Lady Star of the Sea Preschool	Instruction	Water Safety Class
4/27/2024	Water Safe	Instruction	Pool Guard / Water Safety Class
6/8/2024	Sisters of the Sea	Guard	Surf Clinic
6/18-19/24	HEAL (Autism Group)	Volunteer	Surf Clinic
6/20/2024	N FL Regional Hospital	Instruction	Water Safety Class
7/27/2024	Meninak Club	Guard	Ocean Marathon
8/17/2024	HammerHead Triathlon Club	Guard	Ocean Marathon
8/25/2024	HammerHead Triathlon Club	Guard	Triathlon
9/7/2024	Sisters of the Sea	Guard	Surf Contest

HammerHead Ocean Marathon and Olympic Triathlon

The HammerHead Ocean Marathon is in its 19th year, created by HR Chrissy Wallis cS'98 and Susan Wallis as an event for local swimmers, to benefit the VLSC Competition Team. Over these years, more than \$65,000 has been raised and donated to the Comp Team and the Corps. Supported by more than 300 swimmers in previous years, it is a local favorite swimming event that draws people even from out of town. Corps members are the water safety crew and help manage the post-race food and awards, in addition to setting up and breaking down the course in the water. The HammerHead Olympic Triathlon held the following weekend also depends on the Corps to guard the triathletes in the freshwater swim at Camp Blanding.



Above photo: TK Kline briefing lifeguards before getting in the water at the Ocean Marathon.

Top Right photo: swim start at Camp Blanding

Right photo: Mikey Atkins, Jared Newell, Dylan Beaver, Bill Horn, and TK Kline after making sure all triathletes exited the swim.

As race director of both events, I appreciate the support from the Corps to put on these two events that can only happen with the volunteers on site.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wallis, BOD



Girlz in the Corps

**Honorably Retired*



1995 Winter	Bandi Morford, commodore Lianna Rothstein	2012 Winter	Lauren Badenhoop Nicole Emerson * Anne Garner * Sam Peters * Summer Miranda Powell, commodore
1996 Winter	Valerie Zevens-Gregg		
Summer	Tiffany Gardner-Sral		
1998 Winter	Krissy Cerrato Kerri Dalpe	2013 Winter	Elise Byrd *
Summer	Chrissy Wallis-Henry*, commodore	Summer	Olivia Pigg
2000 Winter	Lisa Golger	2014 Winter	Gabrielle Porter
Summer	Abbi Furnas	Summer	Alexis Wingate Flowers
2001 Winter	Jelisse Marrero *	2015 Winter	Macy Scott
2002 Winter	Allison Justice* Suzanne Willis	Summer	Caroline Metcalf-Parker * Autumn Utech
2003 Winter	Bonnie Brogdon Elise Brown Morgan Courtney Katie Engmann-Ghiotto* Louise Jakobsen Elizabeth Layfield Suzanne Martel	2016 Winter	Abby Fleischmann * Emma Grenadier Katie Karnes* Chelsea Peters Cami Wight
Summer	Jessica Czervionke	2017 Winter	Faith Amerson Casey Hayford Luciana Nunez 1 st Summer Danielle Baugh
2004 Winter	Jessica Thompson	2018 Winter	Kendall Allebach Jackson Jones Kaylen McMullin Eva Mowlam Summer Gabi Carter Mary Neligan
2005 Winter	Hannah Bloom Rachel Bryson		
Summer	Bailee Hedstrom	2019 Summer	Christine Arrington Mia Carter, commodore Avery Shaver
2006 Winter	Inna Gudiyev Jenn Purcell	(first all-girls Class)	
Summer	Anastasia Vaccaro Kaitlyn Shemenski *	2020 Winter	Savanna Coker Emily Miller, commodore Alma Yerkin Summer Amaris Daniels Faeryn Lee
2007 Winter	Alyssa Massaro		
Summer	Olivia Creavy Stephanie Smith, commodore	2021 Winter	Kenzie Glenn Vireda Kerlin Arianna Phomvongsa Summer Anna Wilson
2008 Winter	Kaitlyn Morris Monica Ruggerio * Catherine Woodcock		
Summer	Allison Shemenski *		
2010 Winter	Anna Porter Jodi Richmond Kaitlin Whited *		
2011 Winter	Morgan Langley Eva Porter Martha Stolzenberg		

BOLD = 2024 Active

QUARTERMASTER REPORT 2024

What a year! What an incredible group of people! I feel honored every time I get involved with this organization and the extraordinary men and women in it. The new recruits this year are cut from a different cloth. I couldn't ask for a better group—strong and smart, just like they built them back in W'09...

This marks my third year as QM, and it has been an amazing three years. The first two were especially difficult without a station. Trying to operate and lifeguard some beach events without access to equipment, without a truck, and without being able to drive on the beach was incredibly challenging. It made me realize all the hard work that generations of men and women put in to get us to where we were before we were locked out. But that's the past.

This year has been fantastic. We were back in Station #2, and it felt like home. JBOR, who are our brothers and sisters, felt just like that. As QM, I relied heavily on JBOR Captain Rob Emahiser throughout the year, and he was always generous in lending tools or sharing knowledge.

I'd like to give a few shoutouts:

- **Danny Pritchard** for always keeping us fed
- **Brian Murphy** for taking all our amazing photos
- **Susan Wallis** for keeping the corps organized
- **Sean O'Brien** for throwing our events and helping the QM department whenever possible
- **Captain Kline** for being our strength and giving us direction

Lieutenant McDill—last but certainly not least—for his invaluable support and guidance. I cannot thank him enough for his leadership, especially when it came to the mountain of projects we completed and still need to tackle. Without his ability to manage and plan, I'd probably still be sitting at the station, overwhelmed and not knowing where to start.

As QM, there is still much to do. I had, and still have, so many dreams for the building and equipment. While I accomplished some of them, there are still many more to go. Some notable achievements I was able to complete this year include the medical supply cabinets and the training bags for the instructors.

If you visit the station, please be patient with us. We've been doing our best to keep things running while balancing our lives outside of work. There's still more to be done, but with everyone's help, we can achieve it.

Next year, **Jordan Barrow** will be stepping in as QM. I need to spend more time with my family and my 4-year-old daughter. Jordan is incredibly smart, and I have no doubt he'll make a lasting impact on the building and the department. He is now officially inducted into the QM brotherhood.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Billhardt W'09



REGISTRAR'S REPORT 2024

We started off the 2024 Season with two registrars: Valerie Gregg and Amaris Daniels. The off-season was great with plenty of help getting personnel files updated as well as templates created and updated for the upcoming season.

Spring Training started off with a bang and we had all of our ducks in a row. Certain paperwork was able to be submitted that very first day. Then, sadly, Amaris had to step down in the Spring and we were down to one registrar. A few months later, there was an unfortunate pole-vaulting accident that put 1-year man Steven Jolly on medical leave. Not wanting to lose his involvement completely, staff, along with the BOD, approved a one-year exception to have a 1-year man on staff in a non-responding and non-voting role.

And then there were two! What a relief to not have to read meeting minutes at every meeting and then have to go straight into taking minutes. Thankfully, Steven made a full recovery and was able to get back on the beach in June. He graciously continued to fulfill his role as 2nd Registrar as well. We had some cameo appearances as substitute registrars by Retired Man Vasili Pleqi, Instructor Anne Garner, and newly Retired Woman Katie Karnes.

A perk of the season for the Registrar Department (specifically the 1st Registrar Valerie Gregg) was the donation of a Mac laptop by Recruit SM Ben Spinowitz. This was a blessing as my poor, very old laptop has a horribly broken screen and is very, very slow. The rest of the season went smoothly for the registrar department. Thank you all for a great 2024 season.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Gregg, W'96



2024 Crew
Days

Crew 1	4/28
Crew 2	5/5
Crew 1	5/12
Crew 2	5/19
Crew 1	5/26
Crew 2	5/27
Crew 1	6/2
Crew 2	6/9
Crew 1	6/16
Crew 2	6/23
Crew 1	6/30
Crew 2	7/4
Crew 1	7/7
Crew 2	7/14
Crew 1	7/21
Crew 2	7/28
Crew 1	8/4
Crew 2	8/11
Crew 1	8/18
Crew 2	8/25
Crew 1	9/1
Crew 2	9/2
Crew 1	9/8
Crew 2	9/15
Crew 1	9/22
Crew 2	9/29
Crew 1	10/6
Crew 2	10/13

CREWS



Crew 1 - 1st Mate Kris Jolly, Laird Flint, Britt Sanders, Jeff and Shelby Billhardt, Marco Pulido, Valerie Gregg, Jordan Barrow, Ryan Lydon, Ben Spinowitz, Zane Harper. Missing Mikey Atkins, Matt Duffy, Ryan Karish, Ross Ghiotto, Dylan Beaver, Vasili Pleqi, Dan Leonard, Danny Pulido



Crew 2 – Steven Jolly, Mate Garrett Tirado, Michael Chanatry, Laird Flint, Katie Karnes, Ryan Lydon, Joseph Abdel-Malak, Ben Spinowitz, Marco Pulido, Joseph Kohlhaas. Missing Jared Newell, Liam Turner, Nathan Arnold



Crew 3 – 3rd Mate Zach Proctor, Ryan Lydon, Ben Spinowitz, Marco Pulido, Laird Flint

GROUP PICTURES and RANDOM PICTURES



Front row, Commissioned Officers Instructor Anne Garner, Captain Timothy Kline, Lieutenant Richard McDill.
Left Column: 1st Mate Kris Jolly, 1st Registrar Valerie Gregg, 1st Mate Garrett Tirado, 2nd Registrar Steven Jolly, 3rd Mate Zach Proctor, Joseph Abdel-Malak.
2nd Column: 1st Quartermaster Jeff Billhardt, Ryan Lydon, Mikey Atkins.
3rd Column: Britt Sanders, Marco Pulido, Dylan Beaver.
4th Column: Ben Spinowitz, Michael Chanatry, Ryan Karish.
5th Column: Laird Flint, Joseph Kohlhaas, Dan Leonard
6th Column: Zane Harper, Katie Karnes.
7th Column: Jordan Barrow, Ethan Newell
BOD on the truck, from left to right: Maurice Rudolph, Susan Wallis, Sean O'Brien, Danny Pulido, Scott MacDonald, Jim Emery, Mark Holsinger





2023-2024 Staff:

Standing: Captain Timothy Kline, Lt Richard McDill, Instructor Anne Garner, Assistant Instructor Ethan Newell, 1st QM Jeff Billhardt with Shelby.

On Truck: 1st Registrar Valerie Gregg, 3rd Mate Zach Proctor, 2nd Mate Garrett Tirado, 2nd Registrar Steven Jolly, 1st Mate Kris Jolly.



RETIREDMEN

Standing: Sean O'Brien, Jim Emery, Scott MacDonald, Maurice, Richard McDill, Anne Garner, Ryan Karish, Joseph Abdel-Malak, Katie Karnes, Dylan Beaver, Dan Leonard.

On Truck: Kris Jolly, Mikey Atkins, Timothy Kline

A FAMILY AFFAIR, Legacies

Steven Jolly cW'2023 with Kris Jolly cW'1996

Marco Pulido W'2024 with Danny Pulido W'1994



CAPTAIN KLINE AND THE GIRLZ:

Valerie Gregg, Katie Karnes,
Anne Garner



All smiles in the Boatroom





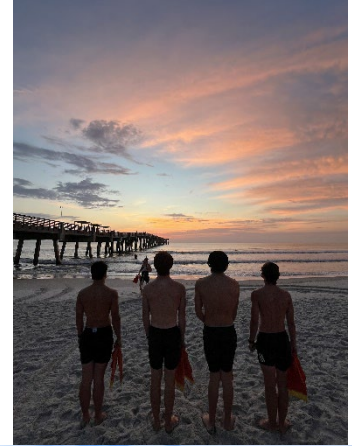
Gary Fiske installing new VLSC signs at Adventure Landing and on the Welcome to Jax Beach sign.



Doug Barrow and George Sares at Alumni Social



Inter-Crew swim meet strategy discussions



Past Marathon winners looking to defend their titles. Mike Lucas, Bill Horn, Cleve Cooney, Joey Civello



BOD members at Opening of the Beaches
 Standing: Capt TK Kline, President Jim Emery, Medical Director Danny Pulido, Retiredman Phill Eddins, Valerie Gregg, Maurice Rudolph, Josh Roberts, Jason Marques.
 On Truck: Treasurer Sean O'Brien, Gregg Sutton, Training Officer Scott MacDonald.



Alumni Social Fun with Anne and Val



Recruit Tower pulls



At the Ice men Game



Ready to keep the beach safe.

Polar Plunge January 1, 2024



Yves, Jake, Britt at Polar Plunge

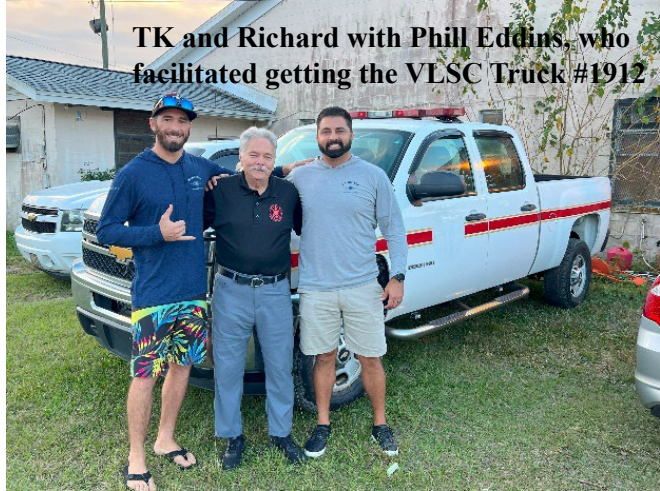


TK's MMA fight and all the supporters.

Ross Ghiotto, Dylan Beaver, Britt Sanders



TK and Richard with Phill Eddins, who facilitated getting the VLSC Truck #1912



Every shadow has a story to tell...



TOTALLY AWESOME!



Winter Recruits on the line, Test Sunday

Opening Day with JBOR and VLSC



Amaris Daniels and TK Kline at the Science Fair, promoting the VLSC



SBDP is Proud to Support the VLSC!



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All entrées available at 11:00 AM.

Ask about our Early Bird Specials served from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

The Boyz want to thank Brian Garner for the multiple times he donated his restaurant recipes for deliboard.



Meet the new large finish swim buoy for the Corps Ocean Marathon sponsored by the Meninak Club. Compliments of Britt Sanders and Fluid Realty

Wishing the 2024-2025 Staff the best of seasons

Richard McDill

RYAN KARISH

Jared Newell

**GARRETT
TIRADO**

*Joseph
Abdel-Malak*

**ANDREW
MACDONALD
PAZ**

Ethan Newell

Jordan Barrow

Valerie Gregg

Alex Santana

Until we meet again, keep whomping.

Spring Training begins January 26, 2025

