



Project Ecuador

Lifeguard Training, Volunteerism & Job Creation

Founders: Paul Dunning and John Pearce

Project Ecuador is an international lifesaving venture for the Long Beach Lifeguard Association. Our purpose is to train citizens in Ecuador to become lifeguards, then to help guide groups to become self sustained professional ocean lifeguard services and ultimately join the International Life Saving Federation. On the job training is conducted each year during “Carnival”, the 4 day national holiday celebrating the coming of Lent. Additional support in the form of lifeguard volunteers and rescue equipment is needed to continue the ongoing success of Project Ecuador as we expand from Guayas to Santa Elena northward.

Key Data:

- 635 of rescues with only three drowning deaths since Project Ecuador began.
- Total number of donated rescue buoys in Ecuador = 56. Two Way Radios = 45.
- USA Volunteers: 2007=3 (Playas), 2008=9 (Playas), 2009=25 (Playas 11, Santa Elena 14)
- Beaches supported:
 - Guayas: Playas
 - Santa Elena: Libertador-Bolivar, Marglaralto, Montanita and Olon.
- Total number of Ecuadorian Lifeguards trained =71
 - Playas 45 over 3 years with 19 still working.
 - Santa Elena; 26 working in 9 cities in 2009. Navy training ended in 2008.

Timeline and Summary:

- August 2006: Ecuador tourism official, Sn Esperanza and citizens ask for our help.
- December 2006: John Pearce and Paul Dunning train 23 lifeguards in Playas, Ecuador.

2007

- February 2007, Carnival: On the job training in Playas. Volunteers: *John Pearce, Paul Dunning and Tony Gentile*. Brought 6 buoys, uniforms and first aid supplies.
 - Beach crowds estimated near 40,000. Several rip currents, over 20 rescues, one life or death rescue. Hundreds of prevention advisories on land and via Navy boat. Several lost children returned to parents / to Red Cross
- 2007 Press Releases and Call for donations: Cash Donations near \$2,000
- 2007 Product Donations or discount received totaling near \$3,000 by:
 - Long Beach Lifeguard Association and the Long Beach Lifeguards
 - LA County Lifeguards, Orange County Lifeguards
 - Wet Paint
 - Viper Swim Fins
 - Marine Rescue Products, Inc.
 - Original Lifeguard Trunks dba USALifeguard.com
 - Bound Tree Medical
 - Kanvas by Katin
 - American Red Cross, Long Beach Chapter
- November 2007: Meeting with Ecuador Consulate General in Los Angeles. Lobbied for paid lifeguards. Letter drafted by Dunning/Pearce forwarded to the Governor of Guayas.
- December 2007: City of Playas hires 6 full time Ecuadorean lifeguards paying a living wage.

- 2007 Statistics: 50+ Rescues by Ecuadorians

2008

- February 2008: Pre-Carnival. Lifeguard training of 16 Ecuador citizens by Dunning and Pearce. Brought 16 buoys, uniforms, fins and first aid supplies.
- February 2008: Carnival. Ecuador state of Guayas erects 20 new lifeguard towers and hires 10 seasonal lifeguards for the peak season.
- February 2008: Carnival. Nine American lifeguards volunteer to help: *Long Beach Lifeguards – Marc Morimoto, Nick Korsgaden, Paul Dunning, John Pearce, Tyler Anderson, Jared Vargas, Molica Anderson, Kelsey O'Donnell and Los Angeles County Lifeguard-Matt Shafer*
 - Beach crowds estimated near 70,000. Swell up to 6 feet. Several rip currents, over 60 rescues, 15 life or death rescues. One drowning.
- April 2008: Presentation to California Surf Lifesaving Association
- Summer 2008: Article in [American Lifeguarding Magazine](#)
- October 2008: The United States Lifesaving Association presents Project Ecuador / LBLGA with the ***National Lifesaving Award***.
- 2008 Cash Donations \$5,300 plus Product Donations or discounts near \$2,000.
- December 2008: Ecuador Statistics: July – December: 205 Rescues and 451 Preventions

2009

- February 2009: Carnival. On the job Lifeguard training with 19 Ecuador lifeguards in Playas and 26 lifeguards in Santa Elena; North Zone. Spanish Training Manuals distributed. Brought 34 buoys, fins, radios, uniforms and first aid supplies.
 - February 2009: Carnival. Twenty Five American lifeguards volunteer to help: *Long Beach Lifeguards –Paul Dunning, John Pearce, Jeff Williams, Marc Morimoto, Brian Cruz, Matt Landis and Chase McColl. Los Angeles City Lifeguards- Rodney Williamson, Bridget Sronson, Ricky Franco, Ruben Carmona, Randy Brisneo, Greg Martinez and Jeff Martinez. Santa Barbara Lifeguards- Matt Hayes, James Hatsedakis, Scott Devore, Mark Erickson, Lee Ryan and Rich Hanna. LA County Lifeguards-Matt Shafer, Bill White, Alison Riddle. California State Lifeguard- Billy Larson and San Clemente Lifeguard Sean Stauden. Plus photographer Eric Linn and volunteers Monica Williamson, Bree Valbuena and Kristina Coutts.*
 - Playas beach crowds estimated near 70,000. Swell up to 8 feet. Several rip currents, over 80 rescues. One drowning.
 - Montanita beach crowds estimate near 10,000. Swell up to 12 feet. Over 213 Rescues and one drowning.
 - Olon, Libertador-Bolivar, Manglaralto beach crowds 1,000 to 5,000. Over 25 rescues.
 - February 2009: Letter to Rafael Correa, President of Ecuador requesting support.
 - February 2009: Project Ecuador signs letter of intent with Playas Lifeguard Association to pledge continued support.
 - 2009 Cash Donations year to date: \$1,700.
 - 2009 Product Donations or discounts received totaling near \$1,000.
 - March 2009: Website under development: www.ecuadorlifeguards.org.
 - March 2009: LA City Lifeguard volunteers honored by the Los Angeles City Council.
 - March 2009: Letter to Ministry of Tourism: Carnival summary and recommendations.
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- Next volunteer opportunity: Carnival 2010: February 13th – 16th.
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