

The first demonstration began when Fred Libby alerted the group that a swimmer was in trouble in the heavy surf. Rescuers grabbed the equipment and headed for John Shedd who was indeed waving madly and calling for help. Ken Hanan donned the life vest and proceeded out with the surf board. Charles Hammond had the life ring while Fred McCall held the line. But it was Pete Peterson (Ah, Youth!) who got there first with the torpedo and his father carefully guided them in with the line attached -- a very important part of the rescue procedure. To rush it, is dangerous.

Asked how he felt when he found himself in trouble out there, Shedd said that he could see the rescuers coming and he had the utmost confidence that he would be saved!

The Petersons then explained to the group the comparative merits of the devices. The ring is difficult to pull through the water and sometimes difficult to throw against the wind. It is best for rescues close to shore. The torpedo is easier to carry out and is useful because it has a harness attached to it, allowing the rescuer to use his arms freely to swim out to the victim. The surf board is the best when the victim is far from shore because it is the easiest to move over the water.

Points that were emphasized: Have someone call the Rescue Squad while you are attempting to save the victim. Have someone on shore to orchestrate the rescue. Have concern for the rescuer; you cannot help somebody if you are not safe yourself. The victim is very likely agitated. Speak calmly to him and reassure him so that he does not panic and endanger you both. Proffer the rescue device for him to grab but try to stay out of reach yourself.

Gil Millington, representing the Rescue Squad, gave advice on what to do once the victim is safely on shore. Once again it was emphasized that the Rescue Squad should be called. Complications can develop when the person is unconscious, and if the person has no pulse it is important to lose no time in starting CPR. He urged everyone to learn the procedure.

Millington also warned the group to stay away from the Portuguese man-of-war, identified by the purple "tent" floating above the water. It can have tentacles 50 feet long behind it. If stung, the best treatment is to apply a mixture of 2 parts water and 1 part ammonia to the affected area. A bottle of this preparation is available in the equipment shed beside the steps. In severe cases call the Rescue Squad.

It was then noticed that two swimmers were in difficulty at the same time. Fred Libby was out too far and was waving his arms while Tiffany Garrett (Oh more youth!) could be seen frantically waving for help from another direction. The rescuers were quick to respond -- but for some reason they all headed in the direction of Tiffany. She was "saved" by Ken Hanan with the surf board. (He's the mayor, after all). By the way, has anybody seen Fred lately?

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 * IMPORTANT *
 * Joan Libby and Gil Millington, certified teachers of the CPR procedure, will set *
 * up a class whenever there are at least 6 people ready to take it. We urge you to *
 * take advantage of this opportunity. It takes only 4 hours of your time. Get your *
 * group together and give one of them a call. You'll be glad you did. *
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The next meeting for the PKS Food Co-op will be Wednesday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Get you orders together -- Delivery will be July 13.

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