

July 8, 2008

## **Lifeguards will compete in regional competition at Siesta Beach**

For the second year, the Sarasota County Beach Patrol will host the U.S. Lifesaving Association (USLA) Southeast Regional Lifeguard Competition.

On July 14-15, lifeguards throughout the southeastern United States will again gather at Siesta Key Public Beach on Siesta Key. Over the two days, the lifeguards will engage in competitions such as rescue races, rescue board races, and landline rescues. Winners will move on to the national competition Aug. 7-9 at Manhattan Beach, Calif. Competitions will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

“We hosted the event for the first time in 2007,” said Eugene Ayers, Aquatic Safety manager for Sarasota County. “It was such a success that we were awarded the honor of hosting the event for the second year in a row.”

Sponsors for the competition include Mote Marine, Red Tide Wear, Siesta Watersports, Old Salty Dog, Monster Energy Drinks and the Daquiri Deck.

The USLA is a nonprofit, professional association of beach lifeguards and open water rescuers. USLA works to reduce the incidence of death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, national lifeguard standards, training programs and promotion of high levels of lifeguard readiness.