



From The Bridge—FC Bill Fithian

It's FINALLY boating season!!

After a rather long winter and cold, rainy Spring, we are finally able to get on the water. I appreciate everyone pulling together to plan, coordinate, and execute all the activities that have been very successful so far, this year.

Our new Flotilla Staff Officers have done a tremendous job learning their new responsibilities, and we will continue to support each other as we navigate the remainder of 2018. We have accomplished quite a bit so far, this year. We have a new telephone answering system that is working well and is saving our Flotilla over \$40 per month! The RBS Committee established a plan to increase enrollment in our ABS classes, and we have met our projected goal for 2018, and we still have two classes remaining this year! We are tracking to exceed our 2017 enrollment by over 15%. Marilyn Hughes and all the Flotilla 81 instructors continue to do an outstanding job pulling the ABS program together. We tend to overlook the amount of time and effort it takes to coordinate these training classes, but this effort is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to those who participated in the AC Boat Show, we had another very good turn out with interest in ABS classes, VE's and especially important, joining the Auxiliary. Special thanks once again to Bob Babezki for coordinating this massive effort. We have participated in several PA events, including Bayfest (thanks to Terri Pierce for getting this event set up), and the Memorial Day event on the OC Boardwalk. Our Flotilla also participated in the Memorial Day Service held at the Tabernacle in OC.

(continued on Page 2)



William Fithian, Flotilla
Commander



Frank Bigley
Vice Flotilla Commander

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ETHOS

I AM A COAST GUARDSMAN.
I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.
I WILL PROTECT THEM.
I WILL DEFEND THEM.
I WILL SAVE THEM.
I AM THEIR SHIELD.
FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.
I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.
I AM PROUD TO BE A COAST GUARDSMAN.
WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

Homeland Security



From The Bridge—VFC Frank Bigley

Shipmates:

I hope all are finally enjoying the weather and you have had a chance to get out - even better if you were able to get out on the water. The Flotilla has been very busy. By now, you are aware of the excellent work done by Bill Fithian and Howard Davis during two AUXAIR missions over the area. In April, they flew over the area from Brigantine to Corson's Inlet at the southern end of Ocean City to make some very useful photos. Bill and Howard timed the flight to coincide with low tide. This allowed them to photograph the three inlets (Brigantine, Corson's and the Great Egg) during the most difficult time for navigation. They also identified and photographed areas along the ICW where shoaling was severe enough to cause a potential danger to navigation. In May, Bill and Howard again took to the skies and photographed the inlets and ICW from Sea Isle to Cape May. Both sets of photographs have been used by the Coast Guard to set rules for use of the inlets. Our Flotilla was able to put together a poster warning mariners of the shoaling that exists throughout the area. Many of the shoals formed or increased over the winter. LTCD Johnson, the commanding officer at Coast Guard Station Atlantic City has said how these pictures aided the Coast Guard.

(continued on Page 4)

It's FINALLY boating season!!

Our patrol season is now getting started and Frank Bigley has been busy coordinating the training and qualification check-offs for our new and existing crew members. We are also getting our boats ready for patrol season and Joe Costello is offering his boat as a new facility for 2018. There are several patrol missions on the schedule already, and the annual NIV will take place July 28th this year. The AC Air Show is also scheduled to take place August 22nd. We coordinated a series of training exercises last year as part of our normal Maritime Operation Mission (MOM) Patrols. Frank is working on a plan and schedule to support these efforts again this year and perhaps add more complex training exercises.

I participated in two AUXAIR missions that collected aerial photographs during low tide of the major inlets from Brigantine to Cape May, and several known problem areas along the ICW. The photos are posted on line and please contact me if you wish to obtain the links to these two mission photograph sessions. Earlier this season, the AUXAIR group conducted a simulated hunter in distress mission that will be summarized later in this publication.

(continued on Page 3)

It's FINALLY boating season!!

(continued)

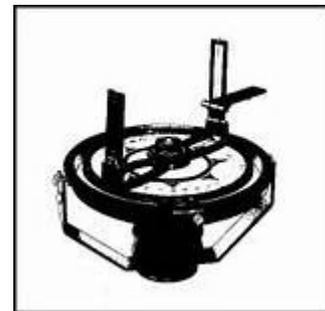
Please continue to use the various PA events, VE's and Program Visitations to continue our efforts to recruit new members. Once again, I cannot stress enough the importance of getting new people involved and actively participating in our Flotilla activities. We continue to have a tremendous source of opportunities to learn and participate in CG support functions that are unique to our location. We have a local Sector Office in Philadelphia, one of the most active ports in the country, that oversees many operations along the Delaware River and ports of Philadelphia; two active CG Stations; a very active Air Station; and a major Training facility in Cape May. This unique combination of CG facilities within a small geographic area is only available in one or two additional locations within the US.

We have choices to learn and participate in so many interesting activities that will interest just about anyone. We simply need to present this and get the word out to as many people we can. Let's work together to overcome the current "Best Kept Secret" stigma and get more people involved.



Appointed Officers

Communications (FSO-CM)	Francis Carlin
Comm Services (FSO-CS)	Bill Fithian
Diversity (FSO-DV)	Marilyn Hughes
Finance (FSO-FN)	Peg Byrne
Hum Resources (FSO-HR)	Warren Iredell
Info Systems (FSO-IS)	Charlie Wilkins
Materials (FSO-MA)	Joan Richio
Marine Sciences (FSO-MS)	Ruth Keck-Ryon
Member Training (FSO-MT)	Warren Iredell
Nav Services (FSO-NS)	Jim Ryon
Operations (FSO-OP)	Bruce Goldberg
Public Affairs (FSO-PA)	Terri Pierce
Publications (FSO-PB)	Robert Babezki
Public Education (FSO-PE)	Marilyn Hughes
Marine Visitor (FSO-PV)	Warren Iredell
Sec/ Records (FSO-SR)	Joe Costello
Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)	Charlie Wilkins



Somebody Wins and Somebody Loses

By Charlie Wilkins



When Walt Alsegg and his wife Lynn moved from Somers Point and transferred from our flotilla to 21-04 in Reading, Pa., it is unlikely that his new flotilla realized the value of the gift that they had received.

Walt enrolled in the Auxiliary more than 15 years ago. He enthusiastically guided us through all aspects of USCGAUX endeavors. At the time of transfer, Walt was a Coxswain, Vessel Examiner, Instructor, Program Visitor and QE. He had held a multiplicity of positions within our organization and had achieved AX2 status. He devoted countless hours to our Operations program and through his efforts, our flotilla came to enjoy a status of mutual respect between Auxiliary and Coast Guard.

Everyone in our flotilla improved because of Walt's presence. He emphasized discipline, uniformity, and adherence to rules and procedures. As a mentor and teacher, he is unsurpassed. We wish Walt and Lynn well in their future endeavors and expect to maintain contact with them as the years roll by.

ABS Course Dates

July 21st

About Boating Safety

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

All Classes at

St. Peter's UMC

Somers Point Bay Fest

By Terri Pierce

The annual Somers Point Bay Fest took place on Saturday, April 28th. The Public Affairs booth was set-up at 8:30. The festival started at 9:30 and ran until 5:00. Due to the loss of the Flotilla's PA tent, our flotilla activities were cut short by 4:00. Manning the PA booth during the course of the day were Charlie Wilkins, Joe Costello, Joe Libby, Warren Iredell Joan Richio and Ed Henne.

The event was considered a success as many questions about boating safety were answered by the members in the booth, including 4 people signing up for Vessel Examination and many inquiries regarding our Safe Boating Classes.

Shipmates (continued from Page 2)

As in past years, the Public Affairs booth at the Somers Point Bay Fest was a great success. Terri Pierce, Gloria Grumbein and Bill Quain manned the booth and provided information and advice throughout the day. To open our celebration of National Safe Boating Week, Bob Babezki, Joe Libby, Bill Quain and Joan Richio manned a booth on the Ocean City Boardwalk providing information to all passersby on the proper use of life jackets, general tips for safe boating and addressed questions related to our area of operation. The event was the perfect start to the week long recognition of the need for safety on the water.

HuntAir Operation



Date: 19FEB2018
From: Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-AV D5NR
RE: DeBrief – Operation HUNTAIR
(HUNTer/AIR Training Exercise)

On 19FEBRUARY2018 there was a successful practice evolution of an Auxiliary aircraft performing a search and visual locating of a lost sportsman in a small duck boat in the back-bays off Ocean City, NJ and vectoring an Auxiliary Land Mobile Radio Facility (LMFR) Team to the location. This is the first documented mission of this type in 5NR. The purpose to determine and photo-document the practical challenges of locating camouflaged individuals and vessels in a marine environment and directing first responders to the location. The findings may prove useful in targeting practical boating safety information to hunters and sportsmen and exercise the interoperability of air and ground radio teams.

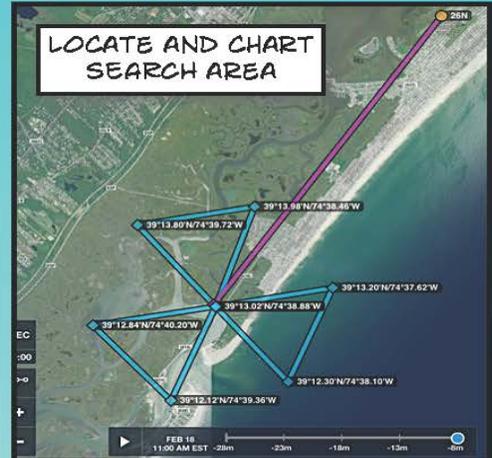
Mission Overview:

- 1.) Participants rendezvous at Ocean City (NJ) Airport 26N for mission pre-brief.
- 2.) Auxiliary Land Mobile Radio Facility (LMRF) transports and launches a tethered (unmanned) small duck boat and decoys at Corson's Inlet State Park.
- 3.) Auxiliary Aircraft takes-off and establishes Radio COMMS with LMRF.
- 4.) Aircraft flies to the general location and conducts a Victor-Sierra search pattern attempting to establish a visual of duck boat.
- 5.) Secondary evolutions involve monitor/document use and effectiveness of Visual Distress Signals (Orange Distress Flags and Signal Mirror) by LMRF Team.
- 6.) Upon completion of exercise, assets rendezvous at Ocean City Airport (26N) for debrief.

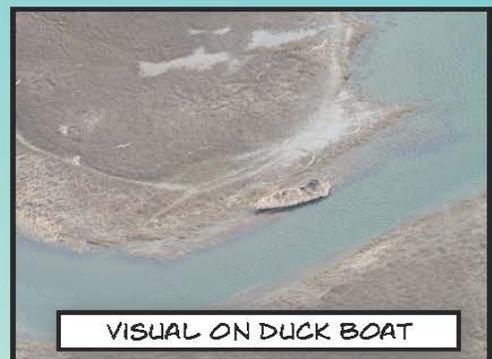
LMRF AND DUCK BOAT
READYED FOR LAUNCH



LOCATE AND CHART
SEARCH AREA



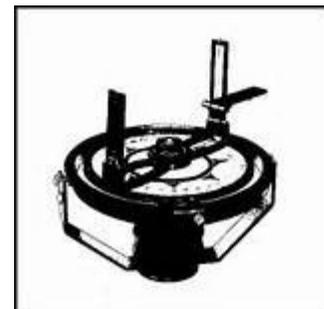
VISUAL ON DUCK BOAT



ORANGE DISTRESS
FLAG DEPLOYED



AUXAIR AND MOBILE RADIO TEAM
(L to R) B.Fithian, F. Bigley, J. Giannattasio, H. Davis



Vessel Safety Check Season

By Charlie Wilkins, FSO-VE

Vessel examiners of 08-01 are beginning their Vessel Safety Check 2018 season. Our examiners include Bob Babezki (IPFC), Bill Fithian (FC), Frank Bigley (VFC), Lew Branin, Peg Byrne, Terri Pierce, Gloria Grumbein, Ed Henne, Bob Hess, Warren Iredell, Joe Libby, and myself. New examiners to be qualified this year are Joan Richio and Joe Costello. A total of 9 new flotilla members were enrolled in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Most of these will have achieved VE certification by the end of 2018.

Marinas visited in 2017 include Blue Water Marina in Ocean City, Ocean Heights Marina in Egg Harbor Township, Whale Creek Marina in Strathmere, Bay Club in Ocean City, Ocean City Yacht Club and Seaview Harbor Marina. 2018 sites will include Smith's Marina and Somers Point Marina as well. Many other sites will be visited by examiners on an individual basis.

Our official safety check event season began at Ocean Heights Marina on 26 May. VE requests were higher than usual in spite of the early date of event. Excellent weather was a factor. At this event, Joe Costello did his 5 qualifying exams under supervision. Lew Branin, Joe Costello, Ed Henne and myself were present. This event marked the beginning of the Flotilla 81 observance of National Safe Boating Week.

On 2 June, All-Seasons Marina in Marmora was visited. This combined VE-PA event will mark the end of our annual National Safe Boating Week celebration. Warren Iredell, Bob Babezki, Joan Richio, Joe Costello, Joe Libby and I conducted many Vessel Exams. The weather was questionable, causing a very light turnout of boat owners.

Our Vessel Examination program continues with exams on June 9th at Smith's Marina & Somers Point Marina, which sit nest to each other. Examiners Bob Hess, Joe Costello, Bob Babezki and I conducted a few Vessel Exams. Again, questionable weather caused a very light turnout of boaters.

June 16th marked the last of our scheduled VE events at Blue Water Marina. Better weather caused a much higher boater turnout for Examiners Bob Babezki, Bob Hess, Joe Costello and myself. WE were able to conduct more Vessel Exams at this event than at any other event so far this year.

2017 finished with a substantial increase in vessel safety check numbers as compared to recent prior years and hopefully the trend will continue. Imposed upon us are additional tasks. This includes a requirement to pay special attention to fire extinguishers in view of the recent massive Kidde recall. Also, the VE workshop of 2018 included a section highlighting carbon monoxide poisoning - there are no definite NJ regulations with respect to carbon monoxide monitoring equipment at this point but the problem has been well documented and many boat manufacturers are putting carbon monoxide detectors on board.

(continued on Page 7)



Vessel Safety Check Season

(continued from Page 6)

Official boating safety statistics are compiled on a yearly basis and are available at www.uscgboating.org. The most recent available statistics are those of 2017. Although numbers vary from year to year, there are findings that generally remain consistent. For example, 80% of boating fatalities occur in vessels where the operator had no formal boating education. Less than 15% of deaths occur in vessels where the operator had received a nationally approved boating education certificate. At this point, there is no significant correlation between the vessel safety check and the accident rate – only a small percentage of registered vessels undergo the voluntary safety check exam.

Absence or malfunction of required equipment is rarely a cause of boating accidents. Lack of education, misjudgment and inattention are major causes of mishaps. The true value of the vessel safety check is the opportunity for the examiner to convey important safety information on a one-to-one basis to receptive boaters with special attention to those in the “1st time” and “high-risk” categories.

Flotilla 81 now has more certified Vessel Examiners that at any time in the recent past. This is due in large measure to the efforts of Charlie Wilkins, our Flotilla VE Officer. Coming into the 2016 season, the Flotilla had 12 certified Vessel Examiners with two examiner trainees. These two individuals have since completed their training, giving the flotilla 14 Vessel Examiners, or 33% of our Flotilla members are Certified Vessel Examiners.

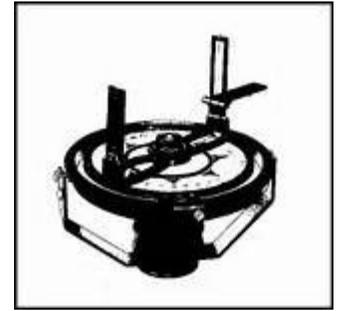
Images from the 2017 Flotilla 81 Vessel Examinations



Flotilla 81 Vessel Examiners at Whale Creek Marina
Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Flotilla 81 Vessel Examiners at The Ocean City Yacht Club.
Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Images from the 2018 Flotilla 81 Vessel Examinations



Warren Iredell performing a Vessel Exam at Somers Point Marina. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Newly certified Vessel Examiner Bob Hess at Somers Point Marina with IPFC Bob Babezki. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Ed Henne Performs a Vessel Examination at Ocean Heights Marina. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Lew Branin and Joe Costello at Ocean Heights Marina. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.

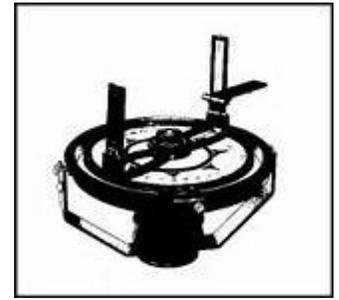


Peg Byrne and FC Bill Fithian at All Seasons Marina. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.

Shipmates

(continued from Page 4)

Charlie Wilkins scheduled and managed several events where boaters were able to get their vessels examined. These events give boaters a chance to review the required equipment and the status of their lights, horn and other on-board safety equipment with a qualified vessel examiner before the season gets underway. This is one of the best preventive measures boaters can take. The examination is free and the results are only shared with the boat owner.



Assult on Patcong Creek

By Charlie Wilkins, FSO-VE

On 23 June, Somers Point's Assault on Patcong Creek Crab Tournament took place as scheduled between 0900 and 1600. As in previous weeks, the weather forecast for the event was decidedly dismal. As before, the event was held at an "off-water" location. During our presence, however, no wind or rain occurred. The event seemed less well attended by the public than in previous years, however, the same number of vendors were present along with copious quantities of food and live music. We fielded questions concerning vessel exams, boating safety classes, boating safety certificates and Auxiliary membership. The Bigley/Fithian display on shoaling in our area of operations received attention. No vessel exams were performed. Present were Bob Babezki, VFC Frank Bigley, and myself.

The Assault on the Patcong Creek is the largest crab tournament in the country. Proceeds from the tournament go towards conservation activities on the Patcong Creek and the Great Egg River.

Images from the 2018 2018 Assault on Patcong Creek



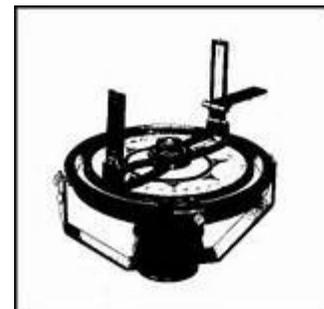
FSO-VE Charlie Wilkins at the PA Booth. Photo by Bob Babezki.



IPFC Bob Babezki at the PA Booth. Photo by Charlie Wilkins.



Results of the Crab activities. Photo by Bob Babezki



Delaware Bay Waterman's Memorial Service

By Ronald Zuggi
Public Affairs Officer

Coast Guard Station Fortescue is a seasonal Coast Guard Station and not very active. However, this year the active duty crews are getting more involved within the local community. On second week of May, BM2 Ryan Keegan and MK2 David Young arranged to attend the Fortescue Boat Captain's Association. These two Coasties were very well received. The discussions covered the Coast Guard's role in assisting and protecting the boating public. The Coast Guard is here to work with the local emergency responders on training or to provide any help we can offer.

On Saturday, June 2, 2018 I had arranged for Station Fortescue to attend the Delaware Bay Waterman's Memorial service. I was part of this committee as the representative for the Coast Guard.

The memorial was held at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris, NJ. A Brass Bell was placed at the end the dock overlooking the Maurice River. Below this bell are the names of 120 Oystermen who lost their lives in the performance of their livelihood. The bell was unveiled and blessed in a ceremony followed by brief remarks and a reading and ringing of the bell for 120 of those who lost their lives in the bay.

The family and friends were very happy to see the presence of the Coast Guard. The McBride family thanked the Coast Guard members for attending the service. They stated the Coast Guard had for searched for two days looking for her father, God Bless You.

The Coast Guard Crew is as follows:

- BM 2 Ryan Keegan- Coxswain
- MK 2 David Young - Boarding Officer
- SN Jerritt Jones—Boarding Team Member
- SN Todd Eldredge- Boat Crewman

The crew also participated in the boat parade. A job well done!



Editors Note: The owner of the TowBoatUS operation mentioned below is owned by 30 year FL-81 member John Ryan.



News Release

June 17, 2018
U.S. Coast Guard 5th District PA Detachment Atlantic City
Contact: Coast Guard PA Detachment Atlantic City
Office: (609) 813-3888
After Hours: (757) 434-6043
[PA Detachment Atlantic City online newsroom](#)

Coast Guard rescues 6 people after boat catches fire near Ocean City, NJ

PHILADELPHIA—The Coast Guard removed six people from a 41-foot pleasure craft after the boat caught fire near Great Egg Inlet, New Jersey, Sunday.

A person aboard the boat on fire contacted the Sector Delaware Bay command center via VHF-FM radio channel 16 at 4:25 p.m. for to request help.

A 29-foot Response Boat-Small crew from Station Great Egg launched to rescue the mariners in distress.

When the boat crew arrived, TowBoatUS was already on scene. The station boat crew safely removed all six people from the boat and transported them to Seaview Marina in Ocean City.

TowBoatUS personnel extinguished the fire and towed the boat to C-Jam Marina in Somers Point.

“Fires happen on boats more often than you think,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Redilla, coxswain during the case. “A fire on the water is very serious, since help can be far away. Always check your fire extinguishers before you get underway to make sure they’re ready if you need them.”

-USCG-





United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

23 JUN 2018
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 013/18

SUBJ: 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

1. On June 23, 2018, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates its 79th anniversary of outstanding service to the U.S. Coast Guard, the American public, and recreational boaters and professional mariners around the world. In recognition of this celebratory waypoint in its distinguished history, the Auxiliary headlines the "Coast Guard Compass," the official blog of the U.S. Coast Guard. Auxiliarists Rich Mihalcik (First District - Southern Region, National Director of Government and Public Affairs) and Kevin Conquest (Eleventh District - Southern Region, National Division Chief - Cyber) have again teamed to provide a richly-deserved testament to the Auxiliary's remarkable contributions and unparalleled heritage of gallant service.

2. Please read this inspirational article at: <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/>

3. Happy Birthday, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary!

 SHARE



Questions for the Coast Guard?
[Contact Us](#)



Shipmates

(continued from page 8)

Early in June, the Flotilla supported the Paddle for a Cause where many entrants tried to complete the journey around Absecon Island on paddle boards. The crew provided safety support and made sure local boaters stayed far away from the paddle boarders. Thunder storms were predicted but held off until all had a chance to complete the trip. The organizers of the event were very grateful for our service. Later in the month, the Flotilla supported a Coast Guard drill, serving as a vessel taking on water and on need of assistance. A Coast Guard 29 foot Response Boat—Small (RB-S) was dispatched and ultimately towed the Auxiliary Facility to a safe dock behind Longport.

Also in June, the Flotilla partnered with Coast Guard Station (small) Great Egg and the Ocean City Fire Department to help design and manage a drill for local first responders. Three lifeguards were stationed on islands either side of the 9th Street Bridge and served as victims who were out paddle boarding and injured by the wake of a passing vessel. To add to the complexity of the drill, the lifeguards were positioned in areas that were difficult to access and were surrounded by shallow areas made even worse by excessive shoaling. Bill Fithian and Calvin Bartechko were stationed in Bill's facility in the northern end of Rainbow Channel. They watched over one of the lifeguards and provided the biggest wrinkle of the exercise when they placed a practice dummy ("Oscar") in the water to serve as a fourth victim and initiated a full search of the area by the first responders. Throughout the drill, Warren Iredell maintained radio contact with the lifeguards to ensure all were safe.

Of course, the big events are still to come. FSO-OP Bruce Goldberg is actively planning for our support of Night in Venice and we are already talking to the Coast Guard about the Atlantic City Air Show. The boating season has started off strong and looks like it will only get better. Hope you all have an opportunity to join in the fun. If you would like more information about participating in events like these, please contact Bill or me and let us know your interests.

Frank Bigley

Vice Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 8-1, Ocean City, NJ