



From The Bridge—FC Bill Fithian

### Boating Season Winding Down!!

It feels like boating season just got started, and now it's over. It has been a very active few months, which made the summer season seem to fly by. I guess the old adage; "to kill time, try working it to death" applies this season. Thanks again to everyone who worked very hard to plan, coordinate, and execute all the activities that have been very successful so far, this year.

Special recognition goes out to the RBS Committee, and the ABS class instructors and coordinators for an outstanding student enrollment year. As you know, one of our main objectives within the Auxiliary is to promote boating safety for the public. The ABS classes are a key aspect to meeting this objective and we taught the boating safety class to over 150 new boaters this year. This is a 25% increase over 2017, which is a significant accomplishment. We will continue to develop and improve our marketing efforts into 2019 to keep our student enrollment growing.

Our flotilla was the first within Division 8 to receive the NACO 3-Star Diversity Award last month. This program was established to promote participation of members within each Flotilla, along with improving interaction of Flotillas with their communities. This program is evaluated annually, and we are well on our way to ensure the requirements are met for 2018.

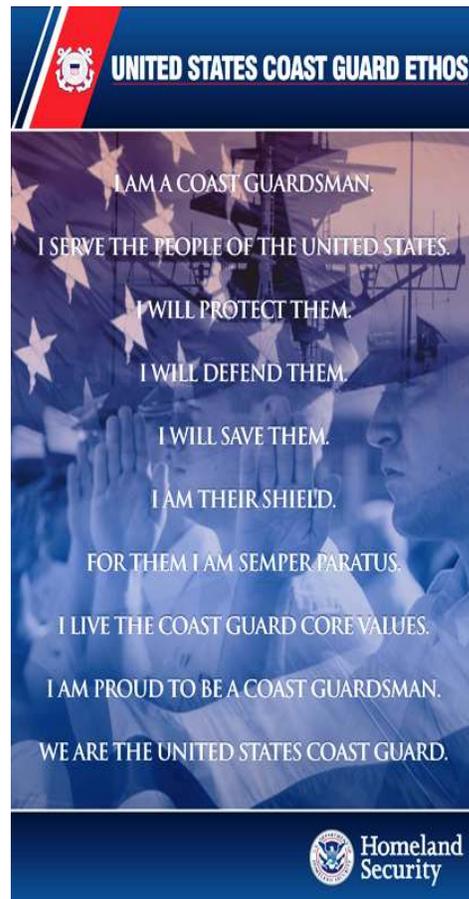
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William Fithian, Flotilla  
Commander



Frank Bigley  
Vice Flotilla Commander





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## From The Bridge—VFC Frank Bigley

Shipmates:

We are coming to the end of the operations season for 2018. Although the weather has been difficult this year, we can all be very proud of the work that was done. Throughout the season, we supported the goals of the Coast Guard at events such as the Paddle for a Cause, Ocean City's Night in Venice, the Atlantic City Swim and the Atlantic City Air Show. Weather permitting, we will provide support for the Ocean City Air Show and the Atlantic City Iron Man Swim.

We have five members of the Flotilla who are working through the requirements to qualify as Crew. A QE day has been scheduled for late in September and we hope to have everyone qualified before the end of the season.

When you combine this activity with the large number of vessel examinations conducted, the very significant number of visitations and the outstanding success the PA team has had at numerous events, it has been a great year and we should all be very proud.

### **Boating Season Winding Down!!**

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Thanks to those who planned and participated in the annual Ocean City Night in Venice and Atlantic City Air Show. These are two key community events that we support each year. Our VE activity is winding down, but we successfully qualified two new people this year (Joan Richio and Joe Costello) and conducted over 150 vessel exams so far this year. Our Program Visitation efforts have also been successful this year. We have conducted over thirty PV's so far and a new plan has been established to match our current qualified PV members with specific marinas to focus our efforts at these key locations.

Our patrol season is winding down and Frank Bigley has been busy finalizing the Division 8NR training and qualification check-offs for new and existing crew members. In addition to the NIV and AC Air-show, our Flotilla coordinated or participated in the Ocean City First Responder Exercise held in July, and the Ocean City Air Show in September. We also participated in several MOM (Maritime Operation Mission) Patrols and assisted CG Station Great Egg in joint training exercises. Our Flotilla has accumulated over 260 patrol mission hours of various types so far this year.

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## Boating Season Winding Down!!

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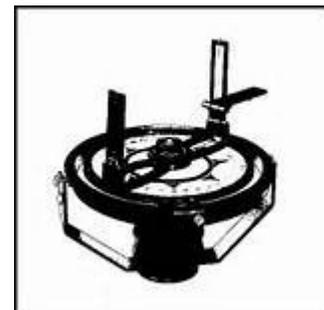
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I participated in an AUXAIR search and rescue (SAR) mission that was set up to simulate a lost hiker in the woods. The mission was the first of its kind and altered SAR strategies to take place over land near a wooded area. Search coordinates were supplied, and an orange distress flag was deployed in an area where the hiker was lost. This mission was successfully completed, and the results were recently published in the NJ Hiking newsletter.

Our annual Flotilla picnic was a success and a good time was had by all who attended. Special thanks once again to Jim Earle who coordinates this activity and sets the Flotilla up with use of the Log Cabin in Margate City to host the event. The 2018 fall D-TRAIN was held in early September and was well attended by members of our Flotilla. This District 5NR training event is held twice per year in Reading, PA and I encourage everyone (especially our newest members) to participate whenever possible. Details of the spring 2019 DTRAIN will be available early next year, and I will keep you posted.

Please continue to take advantage of any interaction with the public 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.



### **Making Ice for Station Great Egg**

Over the course of this summer, members of Flotilla 81 became aware that Station Great Egg did not have an ice machine. That means that in the summer months, there was always a shortage of ice to cool beverages that the active duty personnel at the station needed to stay properly hydrated while on duty.

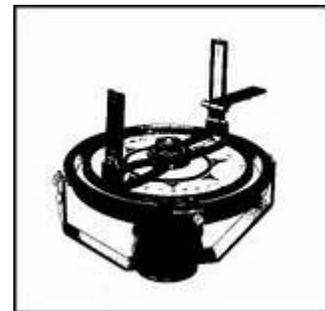
One of our flotilla members took notice of this deficiency and took action. An anonymous donation of a portable ice maker was made to Station Great Egg. The portable ice machine was delivered on August 9th.

The thanks of Flotilla 81 and the active duty members of Station Great Egg go out to this member who saw a need and filled it without fanfare.

*Semper Paratus*

### **Appointed Officers**

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



## **The Most Historic Town In Atlantic County**

By Levi Fox

Published by <http://www.shorelocalnews.com>, July 8, 2018

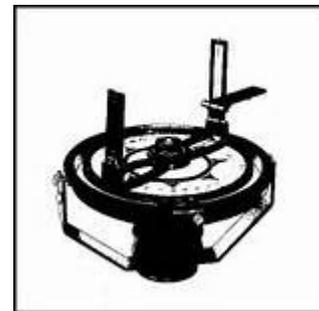


Long before Atlantic City was initially founded in 1854, prior to the carving out of Atlantic County from Gloucester County in February of 1837, what would become the city of Somers Point was first populated in the 1690s. In 1694 the first ferry was established between Beesley's Point, in Cape May County, which had been settled even earlier, and what would become Somers Point. The next year, John Somers, a Quaker, purchased 3,000 acres of property from the same English speculator whose lands were later bought by the founders of Scullville, in Egg Harbor Township, and Conoverstown in Galloway. In 1720 Somers' son, Richard, began work on the Somers Mansion, Atlantic County's first building, which, in the nineteenth century, had additions made which gave it more of a Victorian style, complete with wrap around porches. The building was restored to its original Flemish Bond brick form by the The Works Progress Administration in the 1940s, and is now being supported by the new non-profit group, Patriots for the Somers Mansion.

In 1737, Judith Somers, Richard's wife, gave birth to a son named for his father, who would serve as a Colonel in charge of the Third Battalion of the Gloucester County Militia, in the American Revolution. The Colonel is buried, along with his wife, Sophia, at one of multiple Somers Family plots throughout the community, this one located on the highest point in town, which today sits next to the New York Avenue School building. Colonel Richard Somers' son, likely the town's most famous resident, is also honored with a monument on the grounds, though he was buried half a world away. U.S. Navy Commandant Richard Somers, was born in 1778 at site of the tavern his father had founded eight years earlier, on the corner of Shore Road and Bethel Road, and attended school in Philadelphia, before sailing to the Mediterranean in 1804. Although he engaged in numerous naval actions, including the rescue of three hundred sailors that had been captured by Barbary Pirates, Somers is most recalled for the way he died.

Commanding the U.S.S. Intrepid, a captured pirate ship that some sources say was rechristened again as the U.S.S. Inferno before battle, Somers perished while en-route to Tripoli harbor, after having converted his vessel into a fire ship rigged to explode adjacent to enemy boats. Somers and twelve of his crew were buried at a Protestant Cemetery in Libya, though efforts are ongoing to find a diplomatic way to bring their bodies back to the United States. Somers himself is widely remembered throughout the nation with at least six naval warships named in his honor, dating back to the 1840s, and a marker at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, founded that same decade. In the town that was named for his great-grandfather, he now has a bust, dedicated in 2013, sitting next to a mural describing his life (and death) painted just two years later. This mural sits on the wall of an addition created after the old City Hall, built in 1906, was converted into the town library. This allowed the old church, built in 1886, that had been serving as the community's library to become the Somers Point Historical Museum, only a few blocks away from the Atlantic County Historical Society's museum that was founded in 1913.

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## The Most Historic Town In Atlantic County

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The old City Hall site and the two museums sit just across Shore Road from the Bayfront Historic District, which was established in 1989 on the National Register of Historic Places, following community frustration at the destruction of one of the town's iconic houses the year before, to create a parking lot. This area of town is home to numerous homes and businesses constructed from the 1880s through the 1920s; a range of once popular architectural styles from bungalows to Queen Anne Victorians, as well as a monument to locals who defended the community in the War of 1812, which was constructed in 1923. Having grown up in one such home, built by Captain Charles Steelman and his wife Elvira, in 1892, I was glad to become Secretary of the Somers Point Historical Preservation Commission, which was created to protect the historical architecture in the neighborhood, as we move into a future where my community is now known for, among other things, the country's largest crabbing tournament.

### Stockton University Coast Day

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was invited to be an exhibitor at a new community engagement event at Stockton University's brand new Atlantic City campus. The event was called Atlantic City Coast Day, and took place on October 20, 2018 between 10 am and 3 pm.

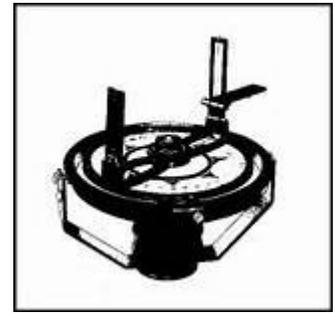
The focus of Coast Day was community outreach, education, and engagement about any coastal topic. The bulk of the exhibitors and speakers covered scientific topics, but social, economic, health, historical, and many other topics were welcome as long as the focus is on the coastal zone. The event also highlighted the research and scholarship by Stockton University's faculty, staff, and students, and the potential for Stockton to collaborate with the Atlantic City community.

Auxiliarists from Flotilla 81 and Flotilla 84 participated in the day's event.



FL-81 FC Bill Fithian speaks with a Stockton professor at the Coast Day event. (Photos by Auxiliarist Bob Babezki)

# Through the Pelorus



## Night In Venice

July 28, 2018



Each year, the residents of Ocean City host a nighttime boat parade called Night in Venice. This parade, which starts at dusk at the Coast Guard Station in North Ocean City, celebrates the history and culture of Ocean City. Each year the parade has a different theme. This year's theme was Old TV Shows.

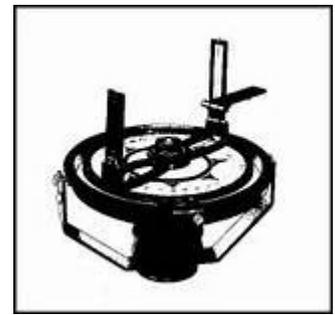
To provide security afloat for this event, the Coast Guard Auxiliary joins forces with the Active Duty Coast Guard, the Ocean City Marine Police, the New Jersey Marine Police and this year the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office (afloat). Two Auxiliary facilities participated in this year's event. Facility AUX 1: Calvin Barteckho, Bob Fritz and Mike McKenzie; and Facility AUX 2: Bill Fithian and Jim Ryon.

After sharing a hearty joint meal at Station Great Egg, a pre-mission brief was held at the Station, where each security resource was given their assignment for the evening and communications protocols were established. Commanding this year's event was BM1 Greg Panas, Commander of Station Great Egg.



Auxiliary Crew assemble before departing on patrol. From left, Jim Ryon, BM1 Panas, Robert Nicotera, who handled the radio Communications, Bob Fritz, Bill Fithian, Jim Ryon and Bob Babezki. (Photo by Auxiliarist Warren Iredell)

BM1 Panas conducting the pre-mission brief. (Photo by Auxiliarist Warren Iredell)



**2018 Night In Venice Boat Parade**



Security resources staged to deploy for the Night In Venice sunset parade (above).  
Auxiliary members waiting for our fellowship meal with the Station Great Egg Active Duty crew (below).  
From left, Jim Ryon, Bill Fithian, Bob Fritz, Mike McKenzie, Marilyn Hughes and Bob Babezki.  
Photos by Auxiliarist Warren Iredell.





## Flotilla 81 Receives Three-Star NACON Diversity Award

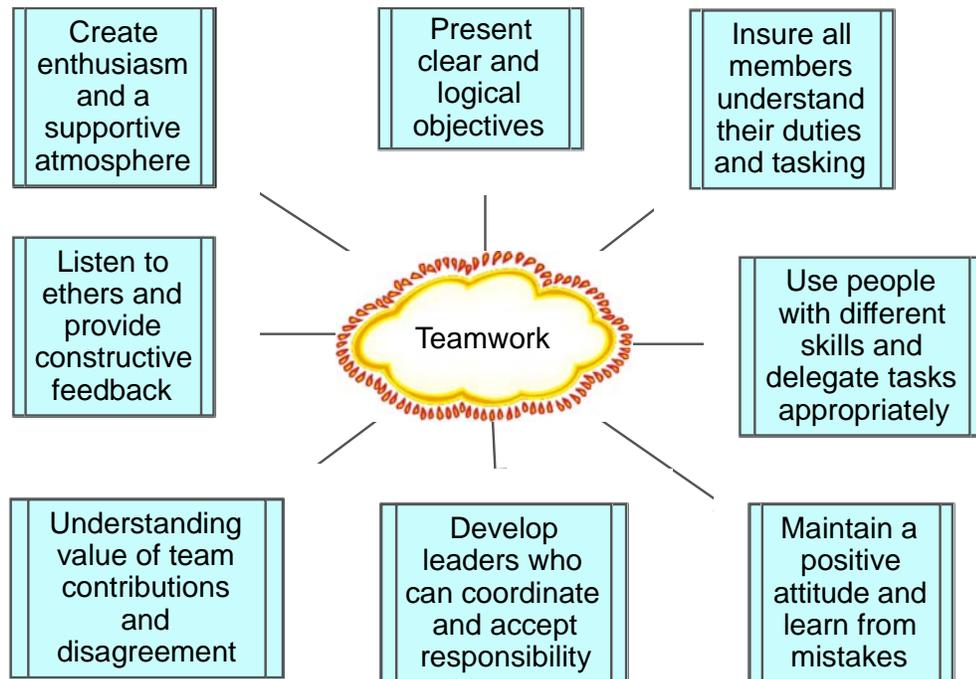
Marilyn F. Hughes, DSO-DV/CR

The first in Division 8, Flotilla 81 worked as a team to gather the required information. The Coast Guard and the Auxiliary take diversity seriously and understanding what diversity is and is not is paramount to running our flotillas.

First of all, diversity is NOT quotas, sensitivity training, Affirmative Action or total assimilation. Diversity is about the people and their unique talents of our members and the members of our teams. It is how we value one another and think which translates into how we act.

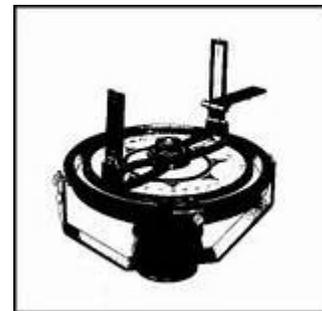
Diversity is a matter of readiness when we train for mission excellence. It is about how our leaders understand the value of building these diverse and inclusive teams. It is also about developing the individual differences to help all members achieve their individual goals while supporting our missions.

If you look at the seven principles of TCT (Mission Analysis, Leadership, Adaptability/Flexibility, Communication, Assertiveness, Situational Awareness, and Decision Making) you will see that the underlying idea is diversity. Working together, a team accomplishes more. Mother Theresa once said, "I can do things you cannot do, and you can do things I cannot do. However, together we can do great things."



Recruiting and retention are priorities for the Coast Guard and the Axillary as well as diversity. If we recruit a diverse membership we support our future growth. Promoting inclusion supports member retention and leadership development which in turn, helps to build effective teams.

When we appreciate diversity, we enrich our organization and the world.



## Breaking News

### Elections

During the month of October, both Division 8 and Flotilla 81 held their annual elections for officers that will be taking office on January 1st. The Division 8 election, which took place at the North Vineland Firehouse, on October 10th saw Vice Division Commander Jim Hans (FL-86) elected to the post of Division Commander. Immediate Past Flotilla 81 Commander Bob was elected to the position of Vice Division Commander. Both officers were then frocked to their new positions immediately after the election. These officers will be formally sworn into their new offices at the Division 8 Change of Watch, that will take place at the Tuckahoe Inn at Beesley's Point on December 1st. (Photos by Auxiliariist Lou Hahn)



Flotilla 81 elections, held the next evening on October 11th, saw the re-election of both Flotilla Commander Bill Fithian and Vice Flotilla Commander Frank Bigley to a second term. These officers will be formally sworn into their new offices at the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch, that will take place at the Crab Trap in Somers Point on December 11th.

### Change Of Watch

#### **DRESS—Both Events Service Dress Blue or Appropriate Civilian Attire**

The Division 8 Change of Watch will take place at the Tuckahoe Inn at Beesley's Point on December 1st. . All member are invited to attend. Tickers are \$33 per person. RSVP, to Marilyn Hughes with Check NO LATER THAN November 23rd , 2018

1200 hours: Cocktails (cash bar) - 1230 hours: Luncheon Prime Rib, Crab Cakes, or Chicken

The Flotilla 81 Change of Watch will take place at the Crab Trap in Somers Point on Thursday, December 11th. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. RSVP, to Marilyn Hughes with Check NO LATER THAN December 7th , 2018

Cocktails (cash bar) beginning at 1800Hrs, dinner starting at 1900 Hrs. Dinner Selections are :Beef , Crab Cakes or Chicken.