

# PELORUS 8-1

## PROMOTING BOATING SAFETY AND SUPPORTING THE US COAST GUARD



The Newsletter of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 8-1, 5th NR, Division 8, Ocean City, NJ

3rd Quarter 2015

### From the Bridge

VFC Bob Babezki



This summer has been an active one for our flotilla. While the June weather was not the best, July brought good patrolling weather. Our flotilla averaged a patrol each weekend day. We are in the unique position of having more facilities than coxswains.

Our membership recruiting activities have been successful. Our flotilla is in the process of adding 3 new members. We continue our efforts to add new members. In order to thrive, our unit needs to continuously add new members, expanding the scope of experience of our collective membership and to increase the number of trained members for Program Visitation, Vessel Examinations and Surface Operations Crew.

Training is a core value within the Auxiliary. We are fortunate in that we have so many training opportunities to enhance our knowledge as people and Auxiliary members. We need to really understand that this training represents an opportunity to improve ourselves as people and as Auxiliarist. It is interesting that so much of what we get as training in the Auxiliary is transferable to our everyday life, no matter what it is that we do.

Our Flotilla looks to be very busy with a number of activities on our Fall Activities Calendar. Beginning with the Atlantic City Air Show on September 2nd, continuing with the Ocean City Air Show on the weekend of September 10th, The Duct Tape Canoe races, our District Training Conference (DTrain) and Ocean City's Welcome Home night, this looks to be a very active Fall calendar. That means plenty of opportunity for all members to participate in new activities and to take advantage of new training events.

Flotilla 81 is set for a strong finish to the 2015 boating year and I invite all members to join in the activities. *Semper Paratus!*



*Flotilla 8-1, founded in June 1940, has the honor of being established prior to World War II, being the oldest flotilla in New Jersey, and being one of the first 5 flotillas in the country.*

*Proudly serving the US Coast Guard and promoting boating safety for 75 years!*

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# Flotilla 8-1 On Patrol



**Left:** Preparing for an Auxiliary night patrol. Lew Branin, Dave Latta, Bob Babzeki and Charlie Wilkins.



**Right:** Bob Babzeki recovering a piece of driftwood from the waterway.

Taking a break at River Beach Campground and Resort L-R Bob Babzeki, Bill Fithian and Larry Ogintz (053-18-05)



Auxiliary Patrol. Bill Fithian and Bruce Goldberg.



Auxiliary Patrol Tennessee Ave. Boat Ramp in Ocean City. Bruce Goldberg, Art Zack, Dave Latta and Bob Babzeki.



## Auxiliarist Profile

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## BOAT SAFELY

*Life jackets save lives. Always wear a life jacket.*

*An educated boater is a safe boater. Take a class.*

*A properly equipped boat is a safe boat. Get a free Vessel Safety Check.*

*Let people know where you are going. File a US Coast Guard Float Plan and attach a photo of your boat.*

**Flotilla 8-1  
Leadership 2015**

**Elected:**

FC: David Wilson

VFC Robert Babezki

IPFC: Marilyn Hughes

**Appointed:**

FSO-CM: Jim Earle

FSO-CS: William Fithian

FSO-FN: Kenneth Wilde

FSO-HR: Terri Pierce

FSO-IS: Lew Branim

FSO-MA: Janet Richardson

FSO-MS: Ruth Keck

FSO-MT: Constance Pritchard

FSO-NS: Open

FSO-OP: Walt Alsegg

FSO-PA: Terri Pierce

FSO-PB: Michael David-Wilson

FSO-PE: Marilyn Hughes

FSO-PV: Edward Henne

FSO-SR: Mary Grant

FSO-VE: Charlie Wilkins

## July Service Award



VFC Bob Babezki receives the Operational Service Award from FC David Wilson at July Flotilla Meeting.

## 4th of July Fireworks Patrol



Fireworks barge on its way to its station



Houseboat anchored without lights in the ICW

# VESSEL SAFETY CHECK - 2015

By Charles E. Wilkins, Jr., FSO, VE

As the 2015 vessel safety check program winds down, we look back on our season. The team of 0801 examiners has added Bill Fithian to its ranks. Longstanding, current examiners include Walt Alsegg, Bob Babezki, Gloria Grumbein, Ed Henne, Terri Pierce, Art Zack, and myself. Our summer activities have also included Dave Latta (Arizona 1141008).

Over the years, Art Zack has provided comprehensive coverage of Seaview Harbor Marina in Longport. He has consistently led our flotilla in vessel safety check numbers. Fortunately for Art, but unfortunately for our team, Art will be moving permanently year round to Florida. He will remain an official member of our flotilla, however, at least for the foreseeable future.

During 2015, scheduled VSC events have taken place at Ocean Heights Marina in Egg Harbor Township, Whale Creek Marina in Strathmere, All Seasons Marina in Marmora, Blue Water Marina in Ocean City, Ocean City Yacht Club and Seaview Harbor Marina. 2015 is the first season that we've operated under the revised Vessel Safety Check Manual. There have been no dramatic changes that have arisen as a result of the manual change, however, the Kidde fire extinguisher recall has prompted a more detailed approach to the fire-fighting situation. A few recalled extinguishers have been discovered and boaters in question have been provided with contact information for replacement. The recalled extinguishers were made in 2013 and 2014. We'll likely encounter fewer of these as time passes because presumably, the recalled extinguishers will have been removed from merchant's shelves.

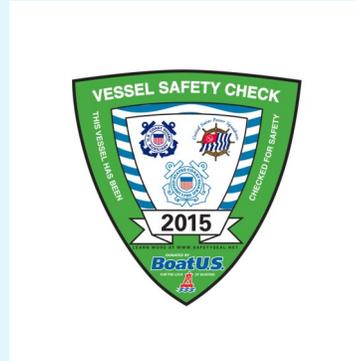
We have a limited number of examiners and our challenge for the future will lie in our attempts to provide comprehensive coverage to the very large number of marinas in our area of operations. The addition of examiners to our ranks is essential and will in large part depend upon increasing flotilla membership in general.



On Saturday 6 June, a VSC event was held at the Ocean City Yacht Club. We did about 10 boats which was pretty good considering the early season date and the threat of inclement weather in the morning which never materialized. Shauna and Baron Schlacter were present representing the club. Shauna, the Fleet Captain, had pre-scheduled the exams with boaters - so they pulled up to the main floating dock and then pulled away after the exam. Everything went smoothly. The oldest boat operator was 90 - and he passed.



Bob Babzeki conducting a Vessel Inspection.



Public Education Event  
Bob Babzeki and Dave Latta,



Bob Babzeki and Bill Fithian checking out a possible new Auxiliary Facility at River Beach Marina.

# Be a No Wake Hero; Not a Boating Zero!

By: Michael David-Wilson, FSO-PB

To many new and seasoned boaters alike encountering no wake zones commonly evoke feelings of deep frustration. There are many reasons why we sometimes feel they are an imposition and shouldn't apply to us. Some include:

- I'm going to miss the high tide and ideal conditions at my fishing destination.
- I'm trying to outrun an unexpected squall and need to get to safety.
- I told my wife I'd be home by dinner time and know there will be hell to pay if I'm late.
- I see many other boaters are not observing the no wake zone.
- I don't see the Coast Guard or State Police in the area; maybe just this once.....

**Why do We Need No Wake Zones?** A couple of weeks ago, on a beautiful sunny weekend, I observed the captain of a cigarette boat with triple 350's rev the throttles to the stops (1,050 HP) in the no wake zone just off the State Marina in Atlantic City. He did this in spite of the fact that he was passing both the State Marine Police Station and the Coast Guard Station. I was in a sizeable powerboat which was bounced around significantly. Other moving and stationary smaller boats, PWC and kayaks were violently tossed around and could have been swamped or capsized. Boat operators and passengers could have been thrown into the water. Nearby marinas were struck by the powerful wake and floating docks crashed around before settling down. A boat that was fueling repeatedly smashed against the dock.

**No Wake Zones Are Necessary and Serve an Important Purpose:** What follows is an abbreviated summary of important points taken from The New Jersey State Police Marine Services Website: [http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/maritime/bsi\\_barneгатbay.html](http://www.state.nj.us/njsp/maritime/bsi_barneгатbay.html)

**What is Slow Speed / No Wake Speed?** "New Jersey regulations define 'slow speed/no wake' as the speed at which a vessel moves through the water and is able to maintain minimum headway in relation to the vessel or structure being passed and producing the minimum wake possible.

**When Must We Observe Slow / No Wake Speed?** New Jersey laws require that the speed of every vessel be regulated so as to not cause danger or injury to persons or property, either directly or by the effect of the vessels wake. In addition, New Jersey regulations require that all vessels must be slowed to 'slow speed/no wake' when passing:

- A marina, pier, dock, wharf or abutment at a distance of 200 feet or less;
- Work barges, platforms or floats while actually engaged in work related activity;
- Through bridge openings of 400 feet or less;
- Through lagoons, canals and confined areas of less than 200 feet in width;
- Vessels not under command;

Emergency vessels displaying sequential flashing or rotating blue lights; or Vessels engaged in activities recognized by the Coast Guard displaying rotating or sequential flashing red and yellow lights.”

**What Can Happen If you are Stopped for Violating Speed Restrictions in a Slow Speed / No Wake Zone?** Oftentimes the official making the stop or boarding will use the opportunity to educate you about the regulations, warn you of possible penalties for a future violation and let you go. ***Remember we are personally liable for any damage we cause by our unsafe operation of vessels for existing conditions.***

**Special Cases:** “State Police, on the recommendation of the Commission or on its own initiative, may designate a specific area not included above based on congestion, visibility, safety, or other good cause. ***All vessels moving through these areas shall reduce their speed to slow speed/no wake within a 200-foot radius of the sign or buoy,*** in addition to any of the previously stipulated restrictions.

#### **How You Can Be a No Wake Hero:**

- Walk off 200 feet on land to help you visualize the minimum area included in a no wake zone.
- Be constantly aware of swimmers, skiers and tubers in the water; especially those wearing hard-to-see dark colored Type III PFD. When you see them, slow down and give them a wide berth.
- Be especially considerate of operators and / or passengers of paddle-boards, kayaks, PWC, canoes and other small boats. If you were in their position and saw your vessel coming your way, what would you be worried about and what would you hope the operator of the incoming vessel would do very soon?
- Slow down gradually to anticipate your approach to a no wake zone. Coming to an abrupt halt near the buoy still results in a significant wake.
- When operating at no-wake speed, trim the drive or outboard to a vertical position to ensure the smallest possible wake.

**Let's Embrace Our Responsibility:** We boaters and watercraft operators have a responsibility not only for the safe operation of our own vessels, but also for the safety of anyone else we share the waterways with. Missing the tide, outrunning the squall or getting home on time do not excuse us from this responsibility. The fact that other boaters are not observing no wake zones only underscores why it is so important that we do. The cumulative effect of damage caused by repeated boat wakes can cost property owners tens of thousands of dollars to repair or replace. Finally if the Coast Guard or State Police are not present to enforce regulations, we can help by offering our own good example and by educating offending boaters. Together we can make the boating experience safer and more enjoyable for all. Please share this information with Boating Safety Class students and the boating public. Let's be **No Wake Heroes** instead of **Boating Zeroes!**



# Auxiliarist Profile

## Constance Jenkins Pritchard, FSO-MT

I have owned my own training and business consulting firm, The Pritchard Group, for 22 years now. Now I primarily provide career management, executive, and leadership coaching and training, and my clients are from across the country and the world. For example, at the moment, I have clients in Russia, Uganda, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, NY, WI, MI, AK, DE, PA, and even NJ! I just finished (back in late July) 2 weeks of work in China. It's really fun work -- much of it is remote now, so I do a lot of video conferencing and some travel with my work. I have a master's in linguistics and a doctorate in education.



I joined the Auxiliary and Flotilla 8-1 in 2012. My late husband (passed away in 2012) was in the Coast Guard right after we finished college. It is a great organization. We had moved back to Ocean City in April 2012 after living in South Carolina for 36 years. It was a life long dream to live here.

I grew up here, and Paul was from upstate NY. We have 2 great daughters -- one lives in Chicago and the other in Charlottesville, VA. And now I have 2 amazing and fun grandsons (3 years and 5 months who live in VA). I have been helping out at the recruiting station in Northfield by tutoring some potential recruits who to pass the AVASB.

I am a sailor and still own a Sunfish sailboat. I admire the hard work of members of the flotilla. Since I am not a motor boat person (sailors tend to dislike motor boaters immensely) finding my niche in the flotilla is interesting and a bit challenging.

I am currently serving as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Member Training and admire the work of the Coast Guard and respect that of my fellow flotilla members. I do think it is important to find meaningful ways to contribute to your community. Those who contribute enhance the quality of life in the communities in which they reside as well as for themselves.

I encourage residents of Ocean and the surrounding area to consider joining Flotilla 8-1 and share their experience and knowledge. You can help Flotilla 8-1 have an even greater impact in carrying out its mission.

# Coast Guard In The News

## Coast Guard rescues 3 stranded jet skiers near Wildwood, NJ

Jun 23rd, 2015

<http://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-rescues-3-stranded-jet-skiers-near-wildwood-nj/2015/06/23/>



## PHOTOS AVAILABLE: COAST GUARD RESCUES 4 JET SKIERS STRANDED IN MUD NEAR CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ

JULY 01, 2015

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2554550/PHOTOS-AVAILABLE-Coast-Guard-rescues-4-jet-skiers-stranded-in-mud-near-Cape-May-County-NJ>



## N.J. fisherman recounts 4-hour fight for survival in Atlantic before Coast Guard rescue

Coast Guard rescues man 44 miles off Cape May, Aug. 2, 2015

A Coast Guard helicopter crew from Atlantic City hoists a 45-year-old man aboard the aircraft from a recreational vessel, which had picked him up after he tread water for four hours. The unidentified man was transferred to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City for treatment, Aug. 2, 2015. (Video provided)

## Coast Guard rescues 2 people and dog from boat fire off Ocean City, NJ

Aug 9th, 2015

<http://coastguardnews.com/coast-guard-rescues-2-people-and-dog-from-boat-fire-off-ocean-city-nj/2015/08/09/>

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/nj-coast-guard-rescues-people-dog-burning-sailboat-32982176>



# One Year and Counting

By: William Fithian, FSO-CS



Welcome to those of you who are new to Flotilla 81! As a relatively new member myself, I wanted to let you know that patience is a virtue, and the initial USCGA application process will likely test this virtue. However, while you are completing the process, please do not let this hold you back from participating in our Flotilla 81 events, programs, activities and training opportunities that are available to you. I have met a great group of people who have provided a tremendous amount of support and are willing to help get you involved in whatever endeavors interest you. Sometimes I feel that I am in “AP” (Approval Pending) purgatory, but I know this will change to “BQ” (Basically Qualified) any day now!

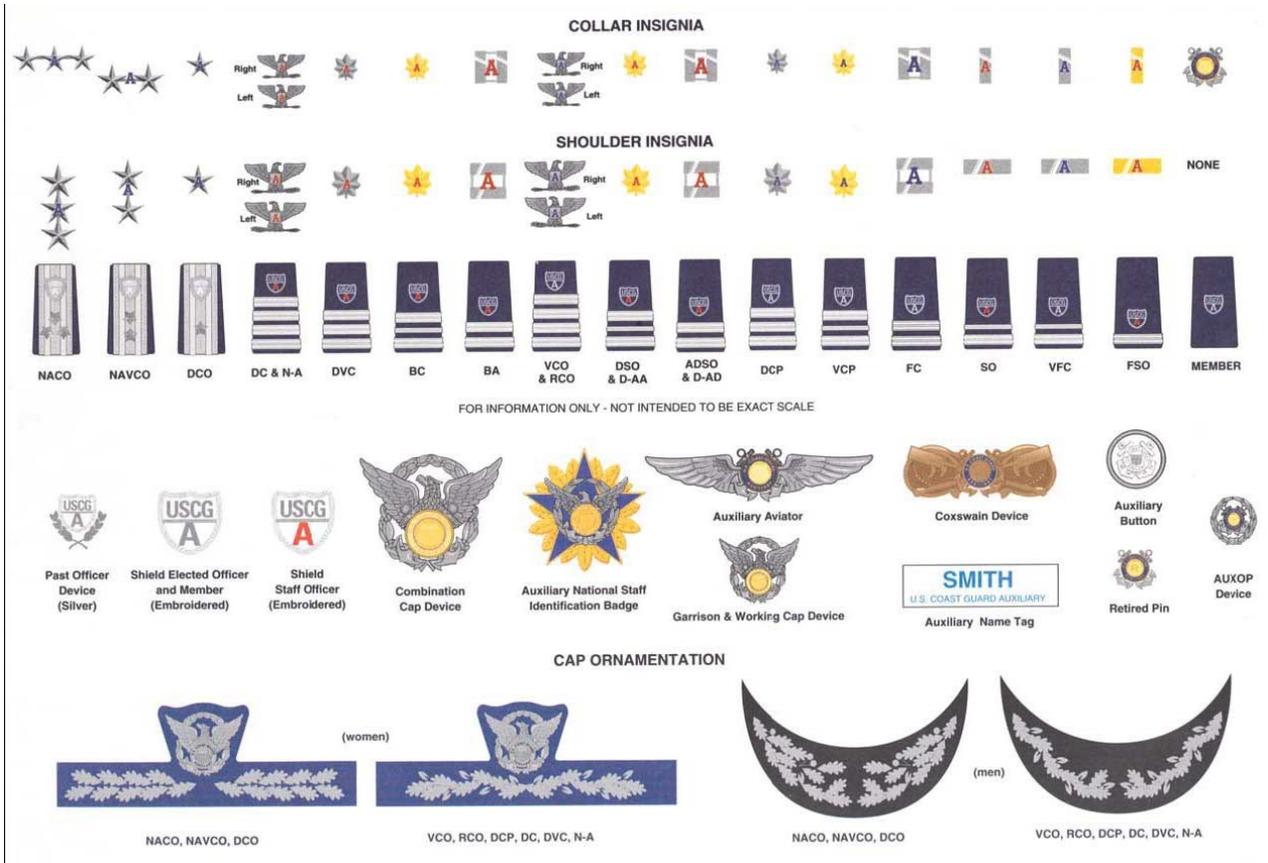
The Vessel Examination (VE) program has enhanced my knowledge of boating safety, and it just proves that even after over 20 years of boating experience, you can always learn something new. Conducting VE’s (acronyms are also popular within the USCGA if you have not figured that out already) have provided opportunities to meet people within the boating community and help them become safer boaters. Additionally, I love boats and conducting VE’s provides a chance to see all different types of boats in many boating locations. Once you have read through the VE manual and taken the qualification test, you will simply need to conduct five vessel exams under supervision, complete some additional paperwork and you will be qualified to conduct VE’s on your own. This can all be done while you are in “AP” status.

Another opportunity for training and participation in flotilla public relations activities while you are going through the initial application process is the recreational boating safety visitation program (RBSVP). This program was established by the Coast Guard to promote safe boating for the recreational boating public through our local businesses and marinas. To qualify, you simply need to read through the manual, pass an on-line examination, and conduct two site visitations under supervision. Our flotilla can certainly use your help and participation in this program.

I found that completing the training requirements for crew and obtaining crew certification was a great challenge, but also a lot of fun. Being out on the water and helping people become safer boaters has been a rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing my training as I work towards coxswain qualification. As a newly approved “facility” owner, I am lucky to also have an opportunity to learn more about the back bays and ICW within our patrol area, which extends from the Longport Bridge south to Corson’s Inlet, and Ships Channel through Great Egg Harbor Bay, and up Great Egg Harbor River to Mays Landing. As a rookie, I was not aware of all the activities Flotilla 81 supports within the community. I am proud to fly the CG ensign whenever out on patrol.

A number of flotilla staff officer positions may also be available, and there are additional flotilla programs that can use your help. Please talk with any Flotilla 81 member to obtain additional details and learn more about these opportunities to enhance your experience as an active member of Flotilla 81.

# USCG Auxiliary Insignia



## Fall DTRAIN Coming

### USCG Auxiliary D5NR Fall 2015 District Training and Board Meeting

**Dates:** September 11, 12 and 13, 2015

**Place:** Crown Plaza, Reading, PA

**To Register Go Online:**

<https://www.regonline.com/5nrfall2015>

**Deadline to Register:** September 1, 2015



# The Auxiliary is an Adventure!

Being an member of the USCG Auxiliary is exciting, inspirational, mentally stimulating, and growth oriented. Help boaters and swimmers in distress. Experience the excitement of search and rescue or helicopter operations missions. Protect the boating public while on maritime observation missions. Educate people to be safer boaters. Conduct vessel inspections to ensure the safety and seaworthiness of vessels on the water. Take advantage of advanced seamanship and specialized member training opportunities. Train and work side-by-side with active duty Coast Guard. Enjoy the comradery and friendship of like-minded and adventurous boating enthusiasts. The USCG Auxiliary lifestyle is right for us... Find out whether it is it right for you too.

## Join Us at a Flotilla Meeting

Meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday starting at 7:00 PM at Saint Peter's United Methodist Church, 501 East 8th Street, Ocean City, NJ 08226. Enter the building in the middle of the block between 7th and 8th Street on Central Avenue. Anyone is welcome. We hope you will consider becoming a member.

**Flotilla 8-1, The First USCG Auxiliary Flotilla in New Jersey, Est. June 1, 1940**

### Flotilla 8-1, Ocean City, NJ (053-08-01)

c/o

Michael J. David-Wilson, FSO-PB

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