

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

2nd Quarter 2015

From the Bridge

At a recent USCGAUX Division meeting, I heard a report of two separate, unrelated, early season recreational boating groundings in the Delaware Bay area. There were no injuries and no damage to either vessel, but both required commercial assistance in refloating. In both cases, the Coast Guard responded, stood by, and after the situations were resolved, the Coast Guard staff performed standard, routine vessel examinations and interviewed the operators.

Both operators were upset, however, because they insisted that they had top-of-the-line electronics, and were closely following their exact GPS tracks from last year.

I understand that the Coast Guard listened closely, but then politely pointed out that regardless of “last year’s GPS tracks”, the ripples, low waves, sea color and surface appearance of the water clearly indicated shallow water. The situations and conditions had changed from “last year”.

An old saying comes to mind: “It’s a poor mechanic that blames his wrench.”

As the summer boating season reaches its peak, let’s all maintain a watchful seaman’s eye, be aware of situational and environmental changes and be “Always Ready” to render assistance when needed.



FC David Wilson



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 Commander Presents Service Awards

Flotilla 8-1 April Service Awards

Four members of Flotilla 8-1 received special awards at the April 2015 Flotilla meeting. Walter Alsegg, ADSO-OPS East, received the Coast Guard Sustained Service Award from Flotilla Commander David Wilson for 6,886 hours of sustained service. If your head just exploded like mine did, it is well justified.

An average Auxiliarist may put in between 25 to 50 hours per year of service. Many do more and some do less. At 25 hours per year it would take 138 to 275 mere mortal Auxiliarists to achieve these total hours in a year. Walter is a legend in Flotilla 8-1 and an example of dedicated commitment to both the gold and silver side.

Ronald Reichenbach received recognition for 25 years in the Auxiliary; a virtual lifetime of service. Ronald served for many years in Flotilla 4-8 in Somerville, NJ as FSO-IS and FSO-MA. Charles Wilkens received an annual service award for his tireless work as FSO-VE and a Vessel Examiner.

Marilyn Hughes, IPFC and FSO, PE, received an annual service award as a Boating Safety Instructor. We are most grateful for her leadership and time commitment. Our waterways are safer thanks to Marilyn and our other instructors.

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 Branin

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

May Service Awards



VFC Bob Babezki receives the Sustained Service Award at the May Division 8 Meeting from DCDR Rich Weiss.

FSO-MT Connie Pritchard receives her Certificate of Membership from FC Dave Wilson.



Bill Quain receives the membership Service Award from FC Dave Wilson.

ADSO-OPS East / FSO-OP Walt Alsegg receives the Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award from FC Dave Wilson.

FSO-PV Ed Henne receives the Auxiliary Sustained Service Award from FC Dave Wilson.



We celebrate and appreciate their achievements, their service and their contributions to both the USCG and the USCG Auxiliary.



Six Reasons Why Everyone Needs to Take a Boating Safety Course

What were they thinking? / What did they forget to do?



2015 D-TRAIN

By: VFC Robert Babzeki

Every year, D5NR schedules a spring District wide training event, known as D-Train. At these events, courses are offered across many areas of study. At this year's Spring D-Train, held in Reading PA, courses were offered in Leadership, Public Affairs, Operations, TCT, Navigation Rules, AUX OP courses and the Coast Guard Mandatory Courses. As the Auxiliary firmly believes in training, the effort that District exerts in planning and executing this training event is an investment in each member that brings dividends to the entire organization. As the Coast Guard is asked to do more with less, they become more dependent on the Auxiliary. The only way the Auxiliary can fill the needs of the Coast Guard is by investing in member training and having the membership take advantage of training so we are able to step in where needed.

In addition to the outstanding training, these events promote Auxiliary Fellowship. This forum provides the chance to meet fellow Auxiliarists from other Flotillas and Divisions. To me, this is the most enjoyable aspect of these training sessions. To become acquainted with and form friendships with fellow members across the District provides me with great satisfaction. I have developed relationships and great friendships with members from Delaware and Pennsylvania that I stay in contact with all the time.

As I have had the privilege of being present at the last several D-Trains, I get to see which units participate the most in terms of the number of members that attend these events. It is interesting to note that units that send the most members to these events are the units that tend to have influence in District activities. As an example, Flotilla 82 in Cape May typically sends six to eight members to each D-Train. Participation in events such as this bring their members to the attention of our leadership, Consequently, members of Flotilla 82 hold 7 appointed or elected positions at District. Conversely, Flotilla 81 only sends only 2 or 3 members to D-train and has only one member serving as a District elected or appointed officer.

The last benefit of attending D-Train is the ability to meet our District auxiliary leadership and the members of the Coast Guard who have responsibility for Auxiliary. As our flotilla falls under the direction of the Fifth Coast Guard District, it is good to know who our leadership is and have the opportunity to meet them personally. This makes understanding the dynamics of what happens at District, National and the Coast Guard easier to understand.

I recommend that each member try to attend the next D-Train scheduled for September.



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Auxiliarist Profile

FSO-SR Mary Grant

By Mary Grant



I graduated from college in Michigan with a degree in Political Science. And later went back to school and received a degree in elementary education. I worked in various positions in industry for 10 years. Entering healthcare as a budget coordinator I worked my way up to Finance Manager and Reimbursement Manager for an intercity hospital over the course of 20 years. I transitioned to Director of Decision Support for 6 years and then took the same job with AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in New Jersey.

I have been around boats since 1978. The first boat was a 26' used for weekends on inland lakes and Lake Michigan. Since 1983 we have had a 17' ski boat we used for skiing and tubing. We brought the boat with us to Ocean City. The first time we put it in at Beesleys Point the boat conked out in the middle of Great Egg Harbor Bay. Another time we got stuck and I had to push us out of the muck. As a result my husband and I decided we both needed to take a boating safety class.

The USCG Auxiliary boating safety class was very enlightening and much needed and helped us understand what we didn't know. Class graduates were invited to join Flotilla 8-1... I was definitely interested and believed it would also give me skills, knowledge and confidence to more safely and capably boat in tidal New Jersey waters. This was also an opportunity to serve my country. I've been FSO-SR (Secretary) of Flotilla 8-1 for a number of years. As qualified boat crew I have been on patrol at Airshows, Night in Venice and routine maritime observation mission patrols. I have also volunteered at the boat show, and public affairs events.

After 10 years living in South Jersey I will be retiring in November and leaving the state. I will miss living by the water and will find and join another Flotilla wherever we move to. An Auxiliarist gets as much out of this organization as they put into it. I regret I never qualified as a vessel examiner and would have liked to become a watch stander. I encourage every Auxiliarist to be as actively involved as your time permits. Take advantage of the many opportunities available to expand your knowledge and skills while promoting boating safety.

Recreational Boating Safety and the Vessel Examiner

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

The United States Coast Guard publishes recreational boating safety statistics yearly. The 2014 statistics may be found at <http://uscgboating.org/statistics>.

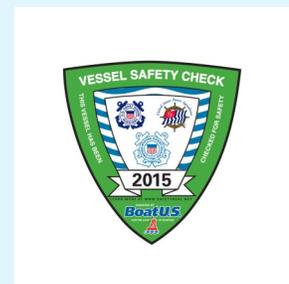
It is noted that the fatality rate in 2014 was 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered vessels - a 10% increase from the preceding year. Drowning represented the cause of death in 78% of the fatalities. 84% of the victims were not wearing a life vest. However, only 12% of deaths occurred in vessel mishaps where the operator had had formal boating safety instruction. Most mishaps involved vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Across the nation, New Jersey ranked in the lower 25% for the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels. In our geographical area (NJ,DE,PA, NY, and MD), only Delaware had a lower fatality rate than NJ.

Overall, the primary causes of boating fatalities have been operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, and excessive speed. The use of alcohol is a contributing factor in over 50% of boating accidents.

Because there is no direct statistical correlation between passing the vessel safety check exam and the fatality rate, the true value of the vessel safety check exam would appear to be the one-on-one contact that the examiner has with the boat operator – in effect, a “mini” boating safety course.

	Vessel Examination Events	
Sat 30 May	All-Seasons Marina	9 AM to 4 PM
Sat 6 June	Ocean City Yacht Club	9 AM to Noon
Sat 12 June	Seaview Harbor Marina	Start 9 AM
TBA	River Beach Resort and Campground	TBA
TBA	Blue Water Marina	TBA



We will be paying special attention to the Kidde fire extinguisher recall. Two extinguishers have been identified as needing replacement to date. We are giving boaters contact information for extinguisher exchanges as we become aware of them.

Getting to Know our Area Of Responsibility

The Great Egg Harbor River

By Michael David-Wilson, FSO, PB

In this column, Flotilla members will contribute articles to help members of the USCG Auxiliary and boating public to enhance their knowledge of our area of responsibility. Please let me know if you have something you would like to contribute.

Every boater has his or her preferred area to cruise and fish in. For many this is for well informed and practical reasons. For others it is because that is the only area they are familiar with. Whether we are Auxiliary boat crew or recreational boaters, the more we understand the waterways we travel the safer we will be and the more fun we will have. As boat crew we can expand our awareness of other areas to patrol and enhance our geographic awareness so we can locate a boater who is lost or in distress more quickly.

I'd like to start off by sharing something about my favorite waterway, the Great Egg Harbor River, where my wife and I chose to slip our boat. There is less chance of salt water encrustation forming on the hull and every cruise ends with a fresh water flush for the motor. Being further from the shore and the bay, it is more protected from major storms.

The river runs north to south, flows into the Great Egg Harbor Bay and then into the Atlantic Ocean between Ocean City and Longport. The further north, the calmer and more protected the waters become. There are many other rivers, creeks and tributaries that are great places to cruise, fish and picnic with family and small children. Even on a windy day pleasant conditions can be found for boating.

The river provides fresh, brackish and salt water environments which make it home to a wide variety of both fresh and salt water fish. As boaters, naturalists, fisherpersons and want-to-be fisherpersons, we can always find something fascinating to observe and / or new tributaries to explore. Power boaters, kayakers, canoers, paddle boarders and jet skiers can each find perfect conditions to operate their vessels in.

As tributaries meander, it is easy to become disoriented or lost; so it is wise to always carry a GPS chart plotter, VHF radio and / or cell phone with you. Be sure to file a float plan before you leave the dock. Be mindful of falling tides as tributaries may become too shallow to navigate or exit late in a tidal cycle. Bring plenty of water, snacks, suntan lotion and insect repellent when exploring tributaries.



Spring Preparation For OPS

By Walt Alsegg ADSO-OPS East

This season's first Boat Crew class began on March 28th and ended on May 2nd. Congratulations to all graduates.

FSO-PV Ed Henne has agreed to assist me with the Flotilla's inventory and inspection of equipment. This process will be conducted at the beginning and again at the end of the season each year going forward.

Coxswains need to log into AOM at the end of May to update their passwords, which have expired over the winter. No requests should be put in until 2 weeks prior to patrol.

Station Atlantic City will soon begin demolition of the old boat house. LCDR Moore will be replaced by Lt. Johnson. Change of Command will occur on July 2, 2015. The new OPS officer is BM1 Chandler who would like to re-institute boat training with the auxiliary on Mondays at Atlantic City and Fridays at Great Egg. Chief Marzi will be our Coast Guard liaison.

New meal rates at Coast Guard Stations will be in effect May 1, 2015. Lunch is \$4.65 under orders and \$7.70 if not under orders. For heightened security, auxilarists are asked to check in at the quarter deck when they arrive and check out at the quarter deck when they leave. Thank you for your cooperation. Night in Venice will be July 11, 2015. The Atlantic City Air Show will be September 2, 2015.



Test Your Knowledge of Our AOR

- From North to South, name 3 rivers that drain into the Great Egg Harbor River.
- Name at least 4 of 6 navigable creeks on the Great Egg Harbor River and Bay north of the Garden State Parkway Bridge.
- A power plant is located on the Great Egg Harbor River near the mouth of the _____ River.

Answers:

- South River, Middle River, Tuckahoe River
- Stephen Creek, Gibson Creek, Powell Creek, English Creek, Lakes Creek, Patcong Creek
- Tuckahoe River

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

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