



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

# Flotilla 81

Ocean City, N.J.

HENRY ALAN WOOD, FC  
KENNETH WILDE, VFC

April 2008  
Richard S. Keast, FSO-PB

Number 4 Volume 2

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Flotilla 81 Meetings 2008, Senior Center

(Unless noted otherwise)

15 May, 12 June, 10 July,  
14 August, (Picnic at Log Cabin),  
11 September, 9 October, 13 November,  
11 December (Change of Watch)

## DIVISION MEEINGS

Division 08(5NR) Meeting  
2008 schedule

14 May Fl 85 Civic Center Brigantine  
11 June Fl 86 Cold Springs Church  
Lower Township

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Conference, 2008 Gettysburg, PA  
19 Sept. to 21 Sept.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION (PE)

ABC Class Dates 2008 (Saturday),  
Senior Center, Ocean City,  
8:00 AM -5:00 PM  
3 May, 17 May, 7 June, 28 June, 13 September, 18  
October

## FROM THE BRIDGE

I am very pleased with the attendance at the January, February and March meetings. We averaged 25 per meeting even with those who

were out of the area in Florida and the Rio Grande valley for the winter.

The boating season is quickly approaching and it's time to think about spring activities. I would like to see our new members and veterans

help support Terrie Pierce in her Public Affairs activities at Bay Fest in Somers Point the end of April. This is an excellent event to get the word out for Boating Classes, Vessel examinations, and potential new members. The end of April will be very busy and we'll need all hands participating.

Operations will be starting soon and we should be looking to prepare our Auxiliary facilities for patrol season. We are in the process of training five new Coxswains at this time. Chris Winans FSO MT instructed five candidates in the Navigation Rules and Bruce Long, SO-Ops conducted the closed book test on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. All five candidates passed the test on St. Patrick's Day with the luck of the Irish and excellent instruction by Chris. This test is the highest hurdle in the quest for Coxswain rating.

Two members were accepted for the Crew School at TRACENT Cape May in June. Congratulations to Lewis Branin and Edward Shulde for their acceptance in to District Crew School with only 30 slots available. They should be signed off by the end of training.

We have a potential SARDET for Station Great Egg the last two weekends in April weather



Permitting. All Operations people should keep this in mind.

I would like to welcome our newest members Amanda Quain and Mary Grant who are now on the roster, and Edward Henne along with Gloria Crumbein who have their applications at DIRAUX for processing. We also have Maryann Blumer who has completed the paper work for application.

We have had over fifty students take the ABC class in March, all passed.

Henry A. Wood FC 8-1

## VICE-COMMANDERS REPORT SPRING 2008

We will be pairing up our new members with flotilla members that have been in some time. This is to help them get through some of the unfamiliar language, acronyms and ways of the Auxiliary and Coast Guard.

This was a good idea put forth by our IPFC Walter Alsegg. (**IPFC = Immediate Past Flotilla Commander**)

Our coxswain course is in progress. All students are doing well so far. We've added some Facilities in the past year or so the extra coxswains will be advantageous to us. Remember coxswains can get coxswain hours when participating in patrols as crew.

Facility owners should get their boats ready early. Don't forget to go over list of what's needed when you put items back on your boats or in a ready bag. If you have one, check your DSC radio and its connection with an interfaced GPS so you can receive DSC distress calls in full format.

CPR/AED classes started March 31 at the Cape May County Police Academy. This is good knowledge for anyone to know. Thanks to Dave Wilson for arranging this for our flotilla.

Kenneth R. Wilde FVC 81

## Biography John T. Plasket III

I was born on February 10, 1926 in Camden, NJ. I was raised in Merchantville, N.J., where family had a home and business. The home was above the family business, John T Plasket, Inc, Electrical Contractors.



There was John T.Plasket, Sr., John T.Plasket, Jr., (my father), and 3 uncles.

I graduated from Merchantville High School in 1944.

Enlisted in Navy in 1944 as Seaman 1/C Radio Technician. Was sent to Great Lakes Radio Technical School, made Radio Technician, 3/C. Then was sent to Treasure Island, San Francisco, Electronic Technical School-Radar and Sonar, made Electronic Technician 2/C. I then went to Long Beach California, (Pacific Fleet home port), assigned to USS Appliaican AGC-1. There I installed first type loran on ships in harbor.

In 1946 was assigned to USS YMS 430-Mine Sweeper, based at San Pedro. CA.

In 1946 I shipped out to Coco Solo, Panama Canal Zone. In 1946 I shipped out to Charleston, SC. Decommissioned there. I was released from active duty 1946.

I was recalled to active duty in 1951, and was assigned to USS Wm. T. Powell – DER-213, Destroyer Escort Radar Picket Ship, based at Philadelphia Navy Yard. The ship was on Reserve Training duty. Also during this period I made ET-1/C.

In 1952 was released from active duty. In 1953 and 1954 attended Drexel University, Philadelphia., PA.

For 40 years I wase employed by Robbins Electrical Distributors as outside salesman for the Philadelphia and South Jersey Areas. Later became a partner in Robbins Electrical Distributors, finally retiring in 1991.

Other activities include-

President of New Jersey Electrical League  
Potentate of Crescent Shriners  
Fire chief- Merchantville, NJ

Fire Coordinator, Camden County, NJ  
Fire Coordinator-New Jersey State, Primary  
duty, Forest Fires.

In 1993, joined Flotilla 07-89, Rotunda West,  
Fl., while living on my 42' Grand Banks trawler at  
Harbortown Marina, Placida, FL. There, I  
completed Coxswain and AUXOPs Qualifications.

I patrolled Boca Grand Pass every Saturday  
and Sunday. Had a SAR where two women and two  
children were rescued from a disabled vessel.

Later I transferred to District 5, Fl 81. At that  
time, the flotilla met on 3<sup>rd</sup> deck at Station Great  
Egg. BM-2 Korker wanted auxiliary watch standers.  
I volunteered and was trained by PO Valentine,  
(now CPO), supervisor was Senior Chief Fisher. I  
stood watch Fridays and Saturdays. I received  
Coast Guard commendation for a SAR case.  
Eventually Station GE was closed.

I was assigned to Grp Cape May Operations  
Center where I handled Helicopter Operations.,  
supervisor CPO Bear.

When Stn GE reopened. GE AOR was assumed  
by Stn ACY, and since I did not wish to go to ACY,  
discontinued CG activities.

Later became FSO-VE, Fl -81. Also became  
VFC Flotilla 81, and then became FC.

## **Taking a Step Inside**

by Robert Babezki, FSO-CS

As a new Flotilla member, I recently celebrated  
my 1 year anniversary of being recruited into the  
Auxiliary. I returned to the scene of the crime, so to  
speak, at the booth at the Atlantic City Boat Show.  
However, this time I was standing on the other side  
of the table and was the one answering questions  
and recruiting others to join. I thought that I would  
reflect how in the course of one year I had made  
such a change.

For me, joining the Auxiliary was one of those  
things I always wanted to do that I set for myself  
when I was younger. As I go through life, I am  
trying to accomplish all those things that were on  
my "list". What I am finding is that there is more to  
my being a member of the Auxiliary than just  
joining and attending the monthly meetings.

When you first join any organization, you tend  
to sit back and watch what is going on in the group

and try to understand the dynamics that are in  
action. In many cases, when one joins, it takes a  
long while to move beyond this initial stage. So  
many new members spend their time at the  
meetings watching what goes on, but are missing  
out on the fun of actually "doing" stuff.

I was fortunate in that I became actively  
involved early on. Since my interest is in  
computers, I started out helping the person who was  
managing the Flotilla website. When this person  
wanted to take a step back to pursue some other  
personal interests, I was asked to step up into the  
role of managing the website. That led to me being  
nominated for a Flotilla Staff Officer's position, or  
FSO.

Becoming a FSO opened up some very  
interesting doors for me within the Auxiliary. It  
gave me the opportunity to attend Division  
meetings to see and hear what the other Flotillas in  
our area are doing. It also gave me a chance to meet  
some of the Division officers who are from other  
Flotillas. The perspective that I gained from  
attending the Division meetings was significant in  
that it brought to me a better understanding of the  
organization of the Auxiliary at various levels.

The Auxiliary sponsored a training session in  
January for all appointed (STAFF) flotilla officers  
in our Area. I had the opportunity to attend. As a  
new FSO, I had thousands of questions in my head  
of what I needed to know to perform my new  
responsibilities. I came out of that training session  
with 90% of my questions answered, and paths to  
research the answers to the other 10% of my  
questions that remained open. It is very rare that  
any training session delivers that kind of  
performance. In addition, I had the opportunity to  
meet other FSO in my area of specialty and trade  
notes with them on how they do their jobs.

So, here I am, one year later, standing in the  
Coast Guard booth at the Atlantic City Boat show,  
next to Active Duty personnel and Auxiliary  
personnel at Division and Area levels, getting to  
know them and what they do, while answering the  
question from interested individuals, "Why did you  
join the Auxiliary?"

Boy, have I come a long way.

# The View from the Blue

By Bill Quain

In future issues of Pelorus, we will continue to feature stories of interest, news items, and nautical observations from the waters around Flotilla 81's operational area. If you come across any "view from the blue" worthy stories, contact me at [billquain@aol.com](mailto:billquain@aol.com), or 609-399-2119. (I will be assisting Dick Keast in publishing Pelorus.)

## President Asks Boaters for Help

There was a very interesting article in the Atlantic City Press on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. President George Bush asked the nation's small boaters to keep an eye out for possible terrorist activities. Needless to say, all members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary should be routine observers on our waterways.

My family and I just moved back to Ocean City after many years in south Florida. A few years ago, an alert Coast Guard Auxiliary member spotted a suspicious man in a boat near a major bridge in Miami. It turned out the man was working with a terrorist cell. He was examining the bridge pilings as a possible target.

Let's all stay alert and make sure our "view from the blue" is safe and productive this season.



Transfer member Bill Quain and his daughter, new member Amanda Quain. Amanda is a junior at Ocean City High School.

## CG AUXILIRY ACTIVITIES



New member Mary Grant Welcomed by FC Wood



FC Wood congratulates Lew Brannin after being sworn in at recent meeting



ACY Boat Show- VFC Wilde, Rear Commodore Emery, IPDCP Mike Collondrillo, Joe Skutlin



Somers Point Bay Fest 04-26-08 Fl 81 booth. Manned by- Terri Pierce, Linda Robinson, Fred Ruddick, Lew Brannin



Somers Point Bay Fest This guy wanted to join Flotilla. Terri said, you'd make a great look- out, but sorry- uniform pants are only 42" long.