



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 81

Ocean City, N.J.

KENNETH WILDE , FC
HARRY NORCROSS, VFC

October 2010

Editor: FSO-PB Bob Babezki

Flotilla website: www.uscgaux-ocnj.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 13, 2010: Division 8 Meeting
FL 82, The Shack, Cape May, NJ @7:30 PM

October 14, 2010 Flotilla 81 Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, 7th & Wesley Ave.,
Ocean City, NJ @7:30 PM

November 10, 2010: Division 8 Meeting –
FL83, North Wildwood Community Center,
North Wildwood, NJ @7:30 PM

November 11, 2010: Flotilla 81 Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, 7th & Wesley Ave.,
Ocean City, NJ @7:30 PM

December 4, 2010: Division 8 Change of
Watch, Tuckahoe Inn, Beesley's Point, NJ.
@ 12:00 Noon.

December 9, 2010: Flotilla 81 Change of
Watch, Crab Trap, Somers Point, NJ. @7:30
PM

FROM THE BRIDGE

Vice Commanders Comments

Harry Norcross VFC 81

Well, summer has come and gone. It seems like yesterday we were making plans for summer patrols and events. We had a very good season, mainly due to the work ethic and attitude of our flotilla in general. Someone was always there to pick up the slack when another member was unable to. Our members accomplished every task given to them and performed it well. I know for a fact that other flotillas did not enjoy this luxury. What a first class group of people make up Flotilla 81, and in addition, I would be remiss not to mention that we had the very capable help of several members from flotillas outside our division and district. I personally thank you all for making Flotilla 81 what it is.

OUTSTANDING.

Semper Paratus Harry Norcross VFC

2010 FALL CONFERENCE

Bob Babezki, FSO-PB

This year, the Fifth Northern Fall Conference was held locally at the Dolce

Seaview Country Club and Resort in Galloway Township, NJ near Smithville. This placed the event within easy commuting distance for almost all members of the Flotilla.

This season's conference focused on professional development. Included in the sessions were training in the AUXCHIEF program, The AUXSEA course (part of the AUXOP program) and Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership.

In addition to attending the training sessions, this event gives members the opportunity to meet with the current leaders of the District, as well as the future elected leaders. It also provides a forum to meet your fellow Auxilistrists from outside our Flotilla and Division. If you are in a staff position, this becomes an opportunity to meet your up-line Officers face to face and to develop a personal relationship with them.

Our local District representatives went to a great deal of effort to bring this conference to the eastern part of the District, after many sessions in Central Pennsylvania. The Spring Conference is scheduled to take place in King of Prussia, PA in March of next year. While this is not in New Jersey, it is in suburban Philadelphia, which is still within reasonable traveling range for many of our members. I recommend that all members seriously consider investing a day of your time to participate in this event. You will find it is worth your while.

OVER THE BAR

Howard Phillips, FSO-IS

BEATRICE JUNE "BONNIE" BONNER, was 69 years old when she passed away peacefully at her home in Woodbine, NJ. Bonnie shared a home with Marilyn Hughes for over 25 years.

Bonnie joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on 29 September 2000. Since that time she had served Flotilla 81 as Secretary and Materials Officer. She also owned a boat, the "Rosie II", which she offered to the Flotilla as an operational facility. In addition she served Division 8 as their Secretary for two years. She was also an AUXCHEF and really enjoyed cooking. Many of us remember her refreshments at Flotilla and Division meetings. Her greatest joy as an AUXCHEF (and her last assignment) was cooking for the Change of Command for Adm. Carrie Thomas in Quarters "A" at Training Center, Cape May .



Bonnie was born in New York state, attended Bellevue School of Nursing in NYC, after which she began her lifelong career as a nurse, nursing administrator and care giver. After her retirement, she remained active by extensive volunteering and community service. She was very active at her church, St. Peters United Methodist Church in Ocean City, NJ and, of course, the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

A Memorial service, which was a celebration of her life, was held at St. Peters and was very well attended by many shipmates in uniform representing Flotilla 81. Her ashes were committed to the sea at a service performed by Marilyn Hughes off the Coast Guard 47.

We fondly remember “Bonnie” Bonner. and look forward to meeting her again on the other side of the bar.

TO MY AUXILIARY FAMILY

Marilyn Hughes, IPDCDR-08

Thank you for all the cards, Mass cards, words of encouragement and offers of help during this time of great loss. Bonnie was a great friend to me and she truly enjoyed the fellowship of all her shipmates. She loved serving her country as a Flotilla and Division officer and as an AUXCHEF.

Her ashes were scattered off a Coast Guard 47' on August 9th. For those of you who go out in the ocean the exact coordinates are

**39° 18.856 N
074° 22.648 W.**

I truly miss her as do our two puppies, Mysti and Bridie. Please keep us in your prayers.

Again, Thank You.

SUMMER OPERATIONS RECAP

Walt Alsegg, FSO-OP

Our flotilla accomplished a great deal this past summer on operations missions, and I want to thank everyone for their dedication and enthusiasm. Following our spring class, Bob Babezki and Lew Branin completed all their qualifications and became coxswains. Two more members, Jim Earle and John Bodin are in the final stages of completion and should become coxswains soon. We also assisted

Dave Latta, who already was a coxswain in Arizona, to become qualified in our AOR and helped members of Flotilla 8-5 gain coxswain status for three of their members.

We added two new facilities to our operational fleet bringing our total up to 7, and we will gain more when additional persons transfer to our flotilla this fall. Many safety patrols were performed in our AOR and all operational persons were able to get enough hours to stay current.

One of our major functions is to assist the Coast Guard at Marine events with maintaining security zones. This summer we provided two boats for the July 4th fireworks, four boats for Night in Venice, one boat to assist Flotilla 8-4 at the Ventnor Green Kayak Parade, two boats at the Kennedy Park Power Boat Races, and one boat for “Nightmare in Strathmere”. In past years our largest event was the Atlantic City Air Show, however due to high seas, the practice day was cancelled completely and on show day the CG limited participation to boats over 25 ft. Our flotilla still came through with crew to man two of the large boats that did go out. The last event of the season in September required four boats for the Ocean City Air Show and two boats for the Atlantic City Power boat races. Although our crews were ready to go, Hurricane Igor kicked up the seas again forcing cancelation of all Auxiliary facilities.

I look forward to the 2011 boating season and hope for calm seas!

GRIM NEWS

Charles Wilkins, FSO-VE

The latest statistics on recreational boating safety have just been released. These are statistics based on the year 2009. Overall, there were more than 12,000,000 boats

registered in the U.S. during that year. The number of boats registered increased by 0.23% over the preceding year.

Unfortunately, the number of deaths from boating-related accidents increased in 2009 by 3.8% over numbers for the previous year. In 2009, there were 736 deaths stemming from 4,730 accidents.

The causes of the fatalities were similar to those encountered in previous years. Operator inattention, operator inexperience, excessive speed, improper lookout and alcohol consumption were cited as being important reasons for these fatalities. It's important to note that alcohol consumption played a significant role in 16% of the deaths.

Open vessels were involved in 46% of the accidents, PWC's in 22% of the accidents and cabin vessels in 14%. The rest were canoes, kayaks and pontoon boats.

As before, the current statistics indicate that use of a life jacket is critical and perhaps the most important deterrent to boating-related deaths. 75% of the fatalities in 2009 were attributed to drowning. 84% of the victims were not wearing a PFD. As vessel examiners, we have an opportunity to change this situation. We have to alert the boater to the fact that the life vest is not just another fixture on the boat. It's not enough to just look at the vest and put another check mark on the form. When trouble develops on a vessel, the most important thing that should be done immediately is to apply the vest. Often, things go bad quickly and the boater may not get another chance.

As examiners, we can't take anything for granted when it comes to boat equipment. How many times have we seen boaters with the latest high-end equipment but lacking in the knowledge to use it? Parents know that their children's food bill seems to increase as time goes by. By the same token, last year's

life vest may not suffice as far as growing children are concerned. As we emphasize the importance of the PFD and go over it in painstaking fashion during the exam, the boater should appreciate the seriousness and importance of the situation.

The latest boating statistics also highlighted another very important fact. 86% of the deaths occurred in situations where the operator had not taken a boating safety course. As vessel examiners, we have the opportunity to administer a miniature safety lecture in the course of our vessel safety check and let's hope that this makes a difference as far as future statistics are concerned.

GUEST AUXILIARISTS

Robert Babezki, FSO-PB

Ocean City prides itself on being one of the best places to vacation in the State of New Jersey. So, it should not be surprising that our Flotilla attracts Auxiliarists that come to the Ocean City area to vacation in the summertime.

For the last two years, our flotilla has hosted Auxiliary members from Wisconsin, Arizona, Florida and Cherry Hill. These Auxiliarists participate in our monthly meetings, our annual summer picnics and operational events.

Why is it that these individuals choose to share with us their fellowship and comradery?

Dave Latta, a member from Mesa, Arizona states: *"I can't say enough about how great it has been to work w/ everyone in 8-1. From the VE's w/ Bob Babezki, Charlie Wilkins and I, to the help Walt Alsegg has given me in the getting my boat registered as a facility. Most recently I was able to take advantage of the training given at the 5NR Fall Conference. It's been a great summer*

and I look forward to next year and again working w/ the OC flotilla.”

Gene Richardson, a member from Ft. Meyers, Florida writes: *“Initially Janet and I joined Flotilla 81 in Sept. 2003 when we were living in Sea Isle. Since we winter in Fort Myers Beach, Florida we visited Flotilla 96 in Bonita Springs and quickly became involved that first year. We took our boating crew classes and qualified during that first winter. After returning to NJ we decided that it was only fair that one of us would shift south. A coin flip decided that it would be me. Therefore, I am a "permanent guest" in Ocean City and Janet is a "permanent guest" in Florida. Since 81 does most of their training courses during the winter, we have obtained most of our qualifications in Florida (AuxCom, AuxSea, Boat Crew and VE) However, my heart remains with Flotilla 81, with the warmth and friendship within the Flotilla. Although Flotilla 96 has been very inviting, I still feel more like a member in 81 rather than a guest. I think everyone always feels very welcome in 81, whether a visitor or a guest.*

TRAVEL TO ALASKA

Art Zack

As a boater, wherever I travel in the world, I always seem to be drawn to water. I have traveled to Alaska three times, and each time I ended up on a boat. I once read a travel article in the Inquirer about Homer Alaska, a small fishing village on a spit of land at the end of nowhere on the Kenai Peninsula. It sounded like fun so Minnie and I packed up our gear and off we went. We found a small hotel and rented the bridal suite for \$85.00 a night. The suite was large and bright with big windows, but we noticed that the light bulbs were low wattage. Since we like to read at night, we asked for an extra lamp. We felt pretty stupid when we went to bed at 11:00 P.M. and it was still light out.

We then went to the marina to check out the boat situation. It was a steep walk down the dock because it was low tide and there was a twenty five foot tide. We found a captain with a thirty-eight foot boat and signed up for the next day. We had to purchase a license to catch a king salmon and pay a \$10.00 fee; there is a limit of one salmon per person. Minnie and I both caught our limit, and we each caught our limit of two halibut. The halibut ran about 35 pounds. It was a fantastic day on the water. We spent the next few days driving around, soaking up the beauty of Alaska and taking hundreds of pictures. On our way back to Anchorage, we stopped in Seward. We boarded a sightseeing boat and went whale watching in Prince William Sound. We were lucky and got some great pictures. If you like adventure and nature's beauty, you have to put Alaska on your bucket list.



(Photo by Art Zack)

A VIEW FROM THE BLUE

By Bill Quain, FSO-MT

Are You Better? (Dedicated to Bonnie.)

As we finish our season, and prepare to elect officers, I think it is time for all members to ask themselves one question, "Am I Better?"

Of course, you are naturally going to ask me "Better at what?" or "Better than what?" My reply is simple, "Better than you were last year."

Being an Auxiliarist means growing – as a shipmate, as a member, and as a volunteer who serves the public. It is our responsibility to take responsibility! Each of us needs to determine the best path to follow, but each of us should make it a priority to learn new skills, and to put them to use.

If you want a role model for becoming a better shipmate, remember our dear friend Bonnie. She exemplified the selfless spirit of service. She not only trained to carry out missions, she used her kindness, patience and good spirit to keep us all fed at the meetings.

Are you better at any of the skills that are essential for safe boating? Do you know our waterways better than you did last year? Were you paying attention when Ken taught us about the GPS, and how it works? Have you put any of this knowledge to use this year so that you will understand it better?

Finally, what have you done to become a better public servant? We all took the same pledge to help the public and support the mission of the Coast Guard. Are you any better this year than you were last year at fulfilling this promise?

Shipmates, here is the good news. If you have not become better, it is not too late. It is never too late. There is even plenty of time left in 2010. We still have three months to go.

Our operations may be winding down for this year, but that shouldn't matter to any of us. Our time as Auxiliarists is not ending with the close of the boat ramps. It lasts as long as we

keep it alive. If you aren't better than last year, don't worry about it. Just make sure you are better by tomorrow – and every day after that.

OLDER MACHINE, NEWEST PROGRAM

Howard Friedman, FSO-MT, FL-83

Earlier this week, I purchased the Military Appreciation Edition of Office 2010 (\$80). It is the Home and Student version and has the main four of the seven features of Office. (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote) The primary reason for purchasing it was to upgrade from my Office 2000 version and since the only features I use are Word and PowerPoint, this edition is right for me. Right for me, but what about for my machine?

With exciting thoughts of many of the new features I had experienced at the PowerPoint 2007 Class I had just taken at TRACEN, I opened the package to begin downloading the application onto my computer. Thinking that the container contained a CD-ROM, I was surprised to find a DVD inside. Although my machine runs Windows XP, it does not open DVDs. What to do?

Following the instructions in the Quick Start Manual for this situation, I went online to the Microsoft download site and entered the Product Key numbers from the manual. As prompted at the site, I clicked on the Install button and, with anxious anticipation of spending the afternoon creating a new PowerPoint presentation for the member training session at my flotilla's upcoming meeting, watched the download process begin.

The first installation was a Click-And-Run icon on my desktop. Little did I know, whether due to the age of my computer, the efficiency of the modem, or the download program itself, some of the files in

the Click-and-Run program were corrupted. The result was a long (several hours) incomplete installation. Frustrated, I tried the installation again. Better (faster) but still incomplete. Now what to do?

Going to the Microsoft support site listed in the manual, I finally was in contact with a person that could help. Sharing my computer, he analyzed the problem, removed the corrupted files, and installed a clean version. (The above two sentences took about a minute to write but the actual phone and support process took three hours.) Seven hours

elapsed from the time I tore the cellophane off the box until I was finally able to open Word and PowerPoint.

So what did I learn, and can share, from this experience? While most of our modern technology consists of self contained items, items whose upgrades are gotten via the purchase of new models (TVs, appliances, automobiles, phones, etc.), newer computer software is often installed in older hardware. Like many May-December relationships, sometimes, not all the time, difference issues in computer technology may arise and may take time to resolve.

Awards
July 2010



FC Ken Wilde presents IPFC Alan Wood with the Outstanding Contributor to 2009 RBS Visitation Program Award. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents FSO-NS John Bodin the Membership Service Award for 5 years of Service. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents FSO-MT Bill Quain the Membership Service Award for 5 years of Service. (Photo by Bob Babezki)

September 2010



FC Ken Wilde swears in new member Nick Sedberry (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents the Certificate of Completion of the Patrol Specialist Course to Ed Henne. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents the Coxswains Certificate of Achievement to AFSO-CS Lew Branin. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FSO-OP Walt Alsegg presents the Official Visitor's Certificate to Dave Latta, our unofficial seasonal member from Mesa, Arizona. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents the CG Sustained Auxiliary Service Award to FSO-MS Ruth Keck. (Photo by Bob Babezki)



FC Ken Wilde presents the CG Sustained Superior Performance Award to FSO-OP Walt Alsegg. (Photo by Bob Babezki)

September 2010 (Continued)



CDR Terry M. Johns (DIRAUX) presents Coxswain Certificate of Achievement to Robert Babezki at the D5NR Fall Conference. CWO3 Sean McGarigal pins the Coxswains Device onto Bob's uniform. (Photo by Joe Giannattasio)

Photo Gallery

Scenes at the Flotilla 81 Picnic



Jim Earle, FSO-CM showing great satisfaction at another Flotilla 81 Annual Picnic done well. Thanks again Jim. (Photo by Charlie Wilkins)



Flotilla 81's Annual Picnic at the Log Cabin in Margate. (Photo by Charlie Wilkins)