

DIVISION

8

MARINER

USCG AUXILIARY
FIFTH NORTHERN

SUMMER VOLUME 11
2010 NUMBER 3



70th Anniversary



Flotilla 81



Flotilla 81 knows how to mark a historic milestone with style! Members, leaders from the "Silver" and "Gold" sides, and invited dignitaries enjoyed experiencing this auspicious occasion in a beautiful setting, making the Flotilla's 70th "Birthday" an enjoyable and memorable experience.





~ Flotilla 81's 70th Anniversary ~

What it All Means

Robert Babezki, FSO-PB

It is not often that we, as individuals, get the opportunity to participate in what could be considered an historic milestone. Normally, we do not even perceive the magnitude of an event that we may be witnessing. Such events tend to get lost in the hectic rush of our daily lives.

However, we were fortunate to be able to share and savor a unique experience with our fellow shipmates. I refer to the 70th anniversary of the founding of Flotilla 81, Ocean City New Jersey, of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Our flotilla recently celebrated this event with a gala dinner at the Flanders Hotel on June 3, 2010.

But what was so special about this event and the circumstances it commemorates? In 1939, with war clouds gathering in Europe and the Far East, visionaries within the U.S. Coast Guard saw a need to mobilize resources from the public to begin providing safety and security to the growing fleet of recreational boaters along the coasts of the country. Seeing that the Coast Guard was the only member of the nation's armed forces without a reserve component, Congress enacted legislation in the summer of 1939 to organize a volunteer force of private boat owners into what was then known as the Coast Guard Reserve. This was the beginning of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The first organized flotilla in the auxiliary was formed at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City in November of that same year. Flotillas were later organized during the spring of 1940 in Atlantic City, two on the Delaware River in the Philadelphia area, and the fifth in Ocean City on June 1st, 1940.

The Ocean City Flotilla is now the oldest, continually active Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla in the State of New Jersey. The service provided by our Flotilla during the early years of World War II stand as a bold testament as to what can be accomplished by a band of volunteers working towards a common goal. The Ocean City Flotilla provided more hours of patrols during 1942 than any other Auxiliary organization. Ocean City also had the only Flotilla operated and staffed hospital in the country.

When we gather as a group each month, and address our normal tasks that have been assigned to us, we tend to forget those that have gone before us and what they achieved. Our 70th anniversary party was a chance for us to glimpse what our organization means to others in our community, in local government and to the Coast Guard itself. Invited guests US Congressman Frank LoBiondo, NJ State Senator Jeff Van Drew and NJ State Assemblyman Nelson Albano all praised the outstanding work that Flotilla 81 has provided to the Ocean City community over its seven decades of service.

What we do in the Auxiliary is important. It is important to our community as a whole. It enriches our lives and positively impacts the lives of many other people. Our teamwork with the active duty Coast Guard further proves that we can and do make a difference to our country. So, take this opportunity to enjoy the thanks that we have earned from the people whom we serve. Semper Paratus!

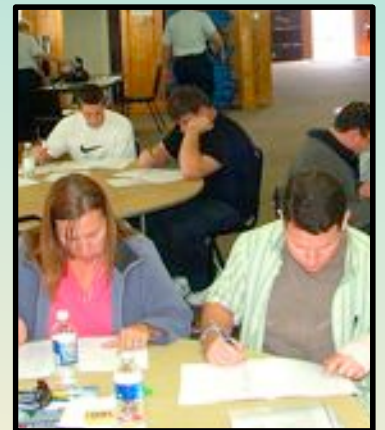


Division-Wide Public Education Class



In April, Division 8 conducted its first unit-wide PE class in Sea Isle City. Held at the Sea Isle City Community Lodge, each Flotilla participated by providing an instructor to present each class chapter.

Besides promoting the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary and Boating Safety to, this project allowed every Flotilla to actively support the Division and reinforce team integrity among all members. It also provided a great opportunity to observe different teaching techniques from other talented and experienced Instructors within the Division.





Coxswain QE at STA Great Egg in August:
L to R: Candidate Jim Earle (FL-81), QE Dan Hartman (FL-82), Candidate Lew Branin (FL-81) and Candidate Bill Hannin (FL-85).
Photo by Walt Alsegg



The Recruit Graduation Breakfast at TRACEN, (A.K.A. The Breakfast Club) remains an important and popular Auxiliary supported mission. TOP (LtoR) Marga Matheny FL82 and Brenda Hollway FL86 serve it up hot. BELOW: Nelson Brown FL82 is happy to pour.



Howard Friedman FL-83 is awarded his AUXOP by COMO Jack Witemeyer. **Way to go Howard!**



Crew of 27' UTL prepare for the July 2, 2010 Fireworks patrol at STA Atlantic City.
L to R: Bill Hannan FL-85, Scott DiStefano (FL-85), Ernie Phillips (FL-84) and Eileen Koehler (FL-84). - Photo by Dave Latta.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL CONFERENCE
(SEPTEMBER 10 & 11)
IN DIVISION 8!

OCTOBER 2, 2010:
HANDS-ON COMPUTER
CLASS AT TRACEN CAPE
MAY. POC IS BRUCE
LONG
dcp08@comcast.net

FIFTH NORTHERN
REGION'S MEMBER
TRAINING DATABASE:
[http://www.5nr.org/
member/memtrain.php](http://www.5nr.org/member/memtrain.php)

LUCKY BAG: THURS
1200-1300
2ND & 4TH FRI
0900-1300



Coxswain QE at STA Great Egg, July.
L to R: Coxswain Walt Alsegg (FL-81), QE Bruce Long (FL-82) and candidate Bob Babezki (FL-81). - Photo by Dave Latta.

WANT TO SEE
ARTICLES ABOUT,
AND PHOTOS OF
YOUR MEMBERS?
SEND THEM TO
MARINER



Flotilla 84's informal monthly breakfast get-together at a local restaurant is a popular tradition.
L to R: Pete Fhurman, Paul Rudolph, Neil Wannan, Tom Klein, Ernie Phillips.

Although it is the third issue, I consider this issue to be THE BEST since taking the helm as Editor. Why? - Because this issue contains articles and photographs from our members. Thanks to Bob Babezki, Dave Latta, Walt Alsegg (and a friendly waitress) for sharing what our members are doing within the Division.

- Joe G. Editor