

Editor FSO-PB Bob Babezki
Volume 1, January 2018



**William Fithian, Flotilla
Commander**



**Frank Bigley
Vice Flotilla Commander**

From The Bridge—FC Bill Fithian

Shipmates, I want to thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as your Flotilla Commander in 2018, and I will do my very best to continue the legacy of leadership that has been part of our Flotilla 81. I also want to express my appreciation for the support Bob Babezki provided as the leadership transition took place the end of 2017, and to all of you for helping this Flotilla maintain its reputation as one of the most active Flotillas in the country.

As we turn the page on our calendars to a new year, a fresh set of opportunities await as we move into 2018. A new Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander take on new leadership roles, a new group of Staff Officers start to understand their roles and responsibilities, and several new members begin their first full year of participation in what I expect to be a busy and fun boating season. There is always a sense of renewed energy as we start a new year and I look forward to working with our Flotilla 81 family this year.

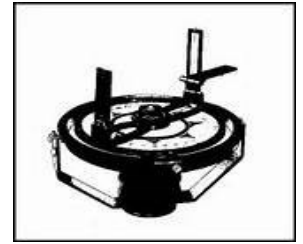
Although we are in the grips of a very cold winter season, now is the time to start preparing for the boating season that lies ahead. In addition to the various training activities that will take place in the Spring, we will also participate in the annual Atlantic City Boat Show. This event provides Flotillas in Division 8 with a source of new boaters who will take the NJ State required Safe Boating Class. As you will read later, Flotilla 81 has established the 2018 schedule for our ABS classes and you should help promote the classes whenever you can. Additionally, the AC Boat Show is a tremendous opportunity to discuss the many reasons to join the fun, and become an active member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. For those who will take part in this event, please talk with visitors to our booth about the many activities

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ETHOS

I AM A COAST GUARDSMAN.
I SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.
I WILL PROTECT THEM.
I WILL DEFEND THEM.
I WILL SAVE THEM.
I AM THEIR SHIELD.
FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.
I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.
I AM PROUD TO BE A COAST GUARDSMAN.
WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

Homeland Security



From The Bridge—VFC Frank Bigley

Shipmates, this year will offer many opportunities for each of us to support Team Coast Guard and to have fun. The upcoming operations season is already looking great. I've discussed our support opportunities with BM1 Panas who will be responsible for Station (Small) Great Egg this season. He hopes to work with a crew and facility each week to enhance training for his crews and for us. In the past, this has been a great opportunity to see how the Coast Guard conducts an operation and to mimic their procedures during our training sessions.

We will of course participate in public affairs activity focused on boating safety and ensure as many boaters as possible hear the message that safety on the water is everyone's responsibility. We will have a significant presence at the Atlantic City Boat Show to kick off our active year. Our very successful vessel inspection program and visitation programs will begin early in the season and offer all members an opportunity to impact boaters in the region and help save lives and protect property.

In short, this is going to be a great year for our Flotilla. I want to invite everyone to join in the fun while providing the support essential to Team Coast Guard.

Why The Auxiliary?

The United States Coast Guard and its auxiliary prime function is safety on the water. The auxiliary, made up of citizen volunteers augment the Coast Guard's effort to accomplish this goal. How is this accomplished?

The auxiliary uses many methods to promote water safety. They go out and patrol our waters. They promote safety by correcting negative behavior on the water and by being there when a boater needs assistance. and correcting poor safety practices. The public knows we're there and often give us a friendly wave.

The auxiliary visits marinas and marine stores distributing information literature promoting safe boating. They give safe boating courses that meet state requirements. Inspecting boats for safety is another function. Does the boat have the right lights, safety equipment, flares, and life jackets? Does the owner have the boat registered? Has he or she taken the Safe Boating Course?

The auxiliary is there for the public's safety. We aim to make your experience on the water as safe as possible, especially now when government funding is in trouble this volunteer organization is making our waters safer.

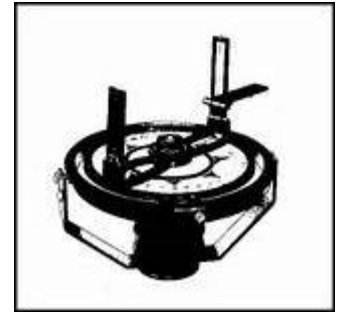
Spring D-Train

Members of 5th Northern District (5NR) will come together on the 2nd weekend of March (March 9th through March 11th) to share our ideas and to attend classroom training sessions. Event registration closes Feb 23rd. Where else can you receive training that equals that of the finest military force in the country? Where else can you rub elbows with like-minded individuals who volunteer their time and talents to save lives and protect our waterways? Where else can you share information and fellowship with long standing friends from across the District in many venues at this event? D-Train provides all of these opportunities and more. Register today at:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=2133180>

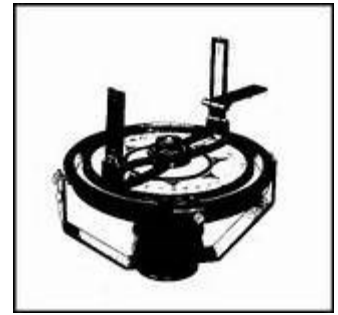
Atlantic City Indoor Boat Show

The Atlantic City Indoor Boat Show takes place at the AC Convention Center from February 28th thru March 4th. We need volunteers to man the booth to represent the Auxiliary and tell our story of Safe Recreational Boating. Most time slots are still open. Contact Joan Richio if you have any questions or if you want to sign up.



Appointed Officers

Communications (FSO-CM)	Francis Carlin
Comm Services (FSO-CS)	Bill Fithian
Diversity (FSO-DV)	Marilyn Hughes
Finance (FSO-FN)	Peg Byrne
Hum Resources (FSO-HR)	Warren Iredell
Infor Systems (FSO-IS)	Charlie Wilkins
Materials (FSO-MA)	Joan Richio
Marine Sciences (FSO-MS)	Ruth Keck-Ryon
Member Training (FSO-MT)	Warren Iredell
Nav Services (FSO-NS)	Jim Ryon
Operations (FSO-OP)	Bruce Goldberg
Public Affairs (FSO-PA)	Terri Pierce
Publications (FSO-PB)	Robert Babezki
Public Education (FSO-PE)	Marilyn Hughes
Marine Visitor (FSO-PV)	Warren Iredell
Sec/ Records (FSO-SR)	Joe Costello
Vessel Examination (FSO-VE)	Charlie Wilkins



From The Bridge—FC Bill Fithian (Continued)

and training opportunities that we offer as a member of this elite organization. Our Human Resources Staff Officer, Warren Iredell has an extensive listing of the many functions the auxiliary provides in support of the USCG. If people are willing to take time to complete the requisite training and qualifications, there are support functions that will interest just about anyone who wants to take on these challenges. We have choices to learn and participate in so many interesting activities that will interest just about anyone. We simply need to present this and get the word out to as many people we can. Let's work together to overcome the current "Best Kept Secret" stigma and get more people involved.

January is also a time for our Flotilla to set goals for the coming year, and the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Committee will be formed to start addressing the major events that we will support in 2018. This includes actively promoting and marketing our ABS classes, supporting the USCG in National Safe Boating Week, establishing our Vessel Exam (VE) schedule, and coordinating efforts to support the AC Boat Show. Frank Bigley is working with Station Atlantic City along with Station Great Egg (that will open in the Spring), to expand our efforts to support their training activities. We coordinated a series of training exercises last year as part of our normal Maritime Operation Mission (MOM) Patrols. We plan to support these efforts again this year and perhaps add more complex training exercises. We will also provide support for the AC Air Show, OC Night in Venice, and several paddle board charity events that take place throughout the summer.

We also need new members. I cannot stress enough the importance of getting new people involved and actively participating in our Flotilla activities. We continue to have a tremendous source of opportunities to learn and participate

This of course leads to another set of challenges for 2018. Our crew, coxswain and boat facility resources have declined the past few years for many reasons beyond anyone's control. Frank and Bruce Goldberg (our Operations Staff Officer) will be working to schedule training for new crew members, and we are looking at several options to expand the number of facilities that will be available to support the operations exercises and events that are planned. If any of our new or existing members are interested in qualifying for crew, please let us know and we will help you obtain the proper training for this fun and rewarding qualification.

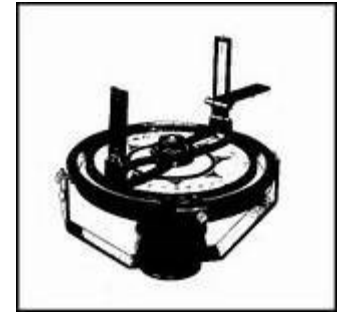
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Through the Pelorus

From The Bridge—FC Bill Fithian (Continued)

We also need new members. I cannot stress enough the importance of getting new people involved and actively participating in our Flotilla activities. We continue to have a tremendous source of opportunities to learn and participate in CG support functions that are unique to our location. We have a local Sector Office in Philadelphia, one of the most active ports in the country, that oversees many operations along the Delaware River and ports of Philadelphia; six active CG Stations; a very active Air Station; and a major Training facility in Cape May. This unique combination of CG facilities within a small geographic area is only available in one or two additional locations within the US. We have choices to learn and participate in so many interesting activities that will interest just about anyone. We simply need to present this and get the word out to as many people we can. Let's work together to overcome the current "Best Kept Secret" stigma and get more people involved.

Here's to a safe and fun boating season!!



ABS Course Dates

March 17th

April 28th

May 19th

June 2nd

June 23rd

July 21st

About Boating Safety

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

GPS for Mariners

June 3rd

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

All Classes at

St. Peter's UMC



Outgoing Flotilla Commander Bob Babezki present Warren Iredell with the 2017 FL-81 Auxiliarist of the Year Award.



Outgoing Flotilla Commander Bob Babezki presents the 10 Year Service Award to MOC Lew Branin.

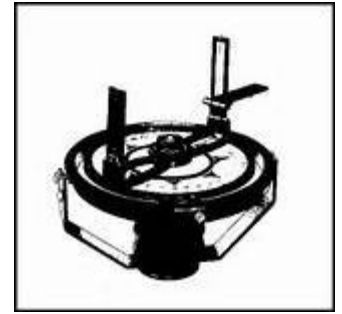


Division 8 Vice Commander Jim Hans and wife Kelly.



Division 8 Commander Cris Gleason speaks with members Dave Wilson and Peter Lanbrou.

Through the Pelorus



Images from the 2017 Flotilla 81 Change of Watch



FSO-PE Marilyn Hughes receiving her Auxiliary Achievement Medal from Station AC Commander LCDR Noel Johnson



Newly elected Flotilla Commander Bill Fithian addresses Flotilla 81 for the first time.



Newly appointed Flotilla Staff Officers are sworn in for their 2018 positions.



Transferring Former Flotilla Commander receives his Medal of Operational Merit from LCDR Johnson.



Master of Ceremonies Lew Branin chats with new Flotilla Commander Bill Fithian.



Recent additions to the Flotilla 81 membership; Joe Libby, Warren Iredell, Joan Richio and Peg Byrne.