



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 81

Ocean City, N.J.

KENNETH WILDE , FC
HARRY NORCROSS, VFC

January 2010

Editor: FSO-PB Bob Babezki

Flotilla website: www.uscgaux-ocnj.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 13, 2010: Division 8 Meeting –
FL 81, Stainton Senior Center, Ocean City, NJ

January 14, 2009: Flotilla 81 Meeting –
Stainton Senior Center, Ocean City, NJ

February 3rd – 7th
Atlantic City Boat Show
Atlantic City Convention Center

February 9, 2010: Division 8 Meeting
FL 82, Shack, Yacht Ave., Cape May, NJ

February 10, 2010 Flotilla 81 Meeting
Stainton Senior Center, Ocean City, NJ

March 13, 2010: Division 8 Meeting –
Wildwood Civic Center

March 14, 2010: Flotilla 81 Meeting -
Stainton Senior Center, Ocean City, NJ

March 12 & 13th
Spring Conference – York, PA

June 3, 2010: Flotilla 81, 70th Anniversary
Party, Flanders Hotel, Ocean City, New
Jersey

2010 Flotilla Officers

Kenneth Wilde, FC
Harry Norcross, VFC
Jim Earle, FSO-CM
Bob Babezki, FSO-CS
Bob Babezki, FSO-PB
Dave Wilson, FSO-FN
John Bodin, FSO-NS
Howard Phillips, FSO-IS
Bonnie Bonner, FSO-MA
Ruth Keck, FSO-MS
Bill Quain, FSO-MT
Joe Skutlin, FSO-PV
Walt Alsegg, FSO-OP
Terri Pierce, FSO-PA
Marilyn Hughes, FSO-PE
Beverly Ryan, FSO-PS
Mary Grant, FSO-SR
Charlie Wilkins, FSO-VE

AUXDATA TOTALS END OF 2009

PE CLASSES	7
PATROLS	32
PATROL HOURS	152
VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS	242
MARINE DEALER VISITS	122
TOTAL MISSION HOURS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES:	8,577 HOURS

“WELL DONE”

FROM THE BRIDGE

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Kenneth Wilde FC 8-1



Harry and I want to thank you for your trust in us and we will do everything to maintain that trust. We want to be inclusive and are always open to ideas and comments from anyone. We want everyone to get the most out of their Auxiliary experience and encourage all to take advantage of all that is available to them. We will look into making more opportunities available. We encourage all members to participate to engage in on-water activities and, if interested, become crew or coxswain.

I feel our Staff Officers are the best in their respective fields in the Auxiliary. I have confidence in every one of them.

We want to maintain and expand our relationship with the Coast Guard who have been very supportive of us. We are fortunate to been in an area with this level of support.

We want to raise our visibility with the public both on the water and off. We will look into what Public Education courses are desired and try to present them.

As was done before, will track proficiencies and certifications and send notices to make sure no one goes in arrears. As always try to get these done early.

We are still in the process of finding a permanent home. We will be working with the county, city and private organizations to find an appropriate meeting place.

We look forward to a great year in a great flotilla.

Semper Paratus Ken Wilde

VICE COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Harry Norcross, VFC

First, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

I am looking forward to spring and the start of on water operations. Last year was great and this coming season promises to be even better with at least two more boats on the water and maybe more. Our off water activities should prove exciting also and I see nothing but good things ahead for Flotilla 8-1.

WHERE WE CAME FROM

Robert Babezki, FSO-CS

As our flotilla approaches its 70th birthday, I have begun investigating the history of the Coast Guard in general and of our flotilla in particular. I wanted to be able to place our flotilla in some sort of historical perspective that could provide us with a reaffirmation of our mission today.

During the late 1930's, war clouds were gathering over Europe, Africa and China. The U.S. Coast Guard, after having served with the US Navy during the First World War, began looking to the future. It was realized that if war came to America, the initial threat to our security would come over water. Several forward thinking officers of the Coast Guard began looking at ways to mobilize resources. During 1939, several discussions took place which resulted in Congress passing the initial legislation creating the Auxiliary. At that point in time, the *Coast Guard Reserve Bill* which was passed in June of 1939, created a volunteer Reserve. Later, in 1941, Congress created a formal Coast Guard Reserve, and the units formed under the 1939 law were renamed Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Ocean City flotilla was the fifth unit formed in the country. We were chartered on June 1, 1940. That was 18 months BEFORE Pearl Harbor. Our Ocean City flotilla was numbered S-5. The other initial units were S-1 in New York, S-2 at the Atlantic City Tuna Club (disbanded in 1955) and two units (S-3 & S-4) along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania.

Currently, the Ocean City Flotilla is the oldest Coast Guard Flotilla in New Jersey. We also appear to be the oldest Flotilla that is still serving in its original location. The two flotillas in Pennsylvania have moved, recombined and changed. Efforts are

underway to try to clarify if either of the two original units on the Delaware River still exist in one form or another. The status of the S-1 Flotilla out of New York has not yet been determined.

These original Auxiliary units have lost many of their original formation documents, including Flotilla 81. There are efforts underway to begin to formalize the collection and preservation of Flotilla records for the future. There is an archive of Coast Guard Auxiliary history at East Carolina University. Locally, District 5NR has an Historian who is collecting records from as many sources as can be identified in order to preserve where we came from.

As flotilla members, much of what we do and why we do it, arises from where we came from. Happy 70th birthday.

FLOTILLA 81 CHANGE OF WATCH

Flotilla 8-1 had their yearly Change of Watch dinner and ceremony at the Crab Trap Restaurant in Somers Point on December 10, 2009. This annual event acts not only to formally change our leadership, but to formally make awards to those who performed outstanding service.

Invited guests include the local Coast Guard that we work with throughout the year, and our own Auxilliariat leaders from the District and Division.

Allan Wood, our Flotilla Commander for the past two years passed the baton to Ken Wilde, our new Commander and his staff. Special thanks should go to Allan for the terrific job he did over the past two years.

Our flotilla not only grew on paper (hours and missions accomplished) but the membership and participation grew also.

Ken Wilde, our new leader will have the support of our flotilla. I'm sure he will make every effort to continue our outstanding record of achievement. We know that that the flotilla operation is a team effort and all must play their part for us to succeed.

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DIVISION 8 CHANGE OF WATCH

The Division Change of Watch was held December 5, 2009 at the Tuckahoe Inn.

Guests from the gold side included representatives from DIRAUX, Sector Delaware Bay, Station Atlantic City, Station Cape May, TRACEN, and Loran Station Wildwood.

Our flotilla was well represented. **Harry Norcross** received the Division Commander's Award for his work on the major marine events this past year as well as Station Liaison Duties. **Marilyn Hughes** received the Auxiliary Commandant's letter of Commendation for her many contributions to the Auxiliary. **Ken Wilde** was sworn in as our new Flotilla Commander and **Harry Norcross** as new Vice Commander for 2010.

Division Staff Officers from our flotilla were sworn in as well. These included:

SO-PE **Marilyn Hughes**
SO-CS **Bob Babezki**
SO-PA **Joe Skutlin**
SO-MT **Ken Wilde**
ASO-OPS **Walt Alsegg**

Boating Safety Awareness in Greece

Story and Photographs by
Peter Lambreau

Greece is a small country surrounded by the salt water of the Aegean, Ionian and part of the Mediterranean Seas and has more than 3,000 islands. From the time of the Iliad and the Odyssey, the Greeks (Hellenes) are born sailors and have a love affair with the sea.

Unfortunately, what we take for granted in the USA, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, is not in existence in Greece and other Mediterranean countries. Even simple things like a life jacket the Greek boater ignores, even though it is part of the Hellenic Coast Guard Regulations.

In the USA, the life jacket is the most important companion of a fisherman or boater. Most Greek boaters don't wear a life jacket even though the weather is not very nice most of the time. Small boats 15' to 20' with one person on board ignore the life jacket completely. Their excuse is that they know how to swim and forget the fact that most of the time one gets hurt while falling overboard.

I write this in expressing my appreciation of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for the teachings to the USA boater.



Peter Lambreau has been a member of Flotilla 81 since 1996. He has served in the

Greek Navy as a Chief Petty Officer Engineer and is a USA Merchant Marine Officer.

A View From The Blue

Bill Quain

It is 2010, the start of this century's second decade! How did THAT happen? It seems like just last month it was the first decade!

A new decade deserves a new direction in Member Training, and that is just what we delivered at the January meeting. And, it is just what we will continue to deliver all year.

When Flotilla Commander Ken Wilde asked me to accept the role as FSO – Member Training, he really got me motivated. With the help of Assistant FSO-MT Dick Sororkin, we put together a strategy to raise the level of Operational Awareness in the Flotilla. Using advanced technology, and drawing upon the expertise within our Flotilla, we plan to use our Area of Responsibility (AOR) as the framework for Training.

Walt Alsegg kicked off the year with a guided tour of the AOR. Like most members, I really did not know the boundaries, and it was interesting to see what a typical Patrol covered. FC Ken Wilde furnished the computerized charts and navigation system. Walt periodically used "Google Earth" to focus on specific areas.

Of course, there was a technology scare before the Member Training! But, FC Wilde called on his son, who rushed over to the meeting to boot up the program and get us on track. At future meetings, we will again use the technology to create new patrol problems, and to teach basic chart and navigation concepts. Our goal is to make sure that each and every Flotilla member is familiar with our AOR, and to give them a fundamental knowledge of inshore navigation skills.

We can't keep top-notch training like this to ourselves. FC Wilde is also the Membership Training Officer for the Division. He has already invited other Flotillas to take advantage of 8-1's initiative. And, we are seriously looking at ways to use the same application to help the active duty Coast Guard train newcomers to our area.

So, get ready for a full year of high-quality training, and keep your pencil sharpened. You never know when a former college professor like me will give you a test.

JUST WHAT IS A PELORUS?

In appearance and use, a pelorus resembles a compass or compass repeater, with sighting vanes or a sighting telescope attached, but it has no directive properties. That is, it remains at any relative direction to which it is set. It is generally used by setting 000° at the lubber's line (a fixed line on a ship's compass indicating its heading). Relative bearings are then observed. They can be converted to bearings true, magnetic, grid, etc., by adding the appropriate heading. The direct use of relative bearings is sometimes of value. A pelorus is useful, for instance, in determining the moment at which an aid to navigation is broad on the beam. It is also useful in measuring pairs of relative bearings which can be used to determine distance off and distance abeam of a navigational aid.

If the true heading is set at the lubber's line, true bearings are observed directly. Similarly, compass bearings can be observed if the compass heading is set at the lubber's line, etc. However, the vessel must be on the heading to which the pelorus is set if accurate results are to be obtained, or else a correction must be applied to the observed results. Perhaps the easiest way of avoiding error is to have the steersman indicate when

the vessel is on course. This is usually done by calling out "mark, mark, mark" as long as the vessel is within a specified fraction of a degree of the desired heading. The observer, who is watching a distant object across the pelorus, selects an instant when the vessel is steady and is on course. An alternative method is to have the observer call out "mark" when the relative bearing is steady, and the steersman note the heading. If the compass is swinging at the moment of observation, the observation should be rejected. The number of degrees between the desired and actual headings is *added* if the vessel is to the *right* of the course, and *subtracted* if to the *left*. Thus, if the course is 060° and the heading is 062° at the moment of observation, a correction of 2° is added to the bearing.



The instrument was named for one Pelorus, said to have been the pilot for Hannibal, circa 203 BC.

THE END HAS COME

While its end has been rumored for some time, it's now official. The 2010 DHS Appropriations Act mandates that the U.S. Coast Guard will terminate the transmission of all U.S. Loran-C signals effective 2000z 08 Feb 2010. At that time, the U.S. Loran-C signal will be unusable and permanently discontinued. This termination does not affect U.S. participation in the Russian-American or Canadian Loran-C chains. U.S. participation

in these chains will continue temporarily in accordance with international agreements.

Awards

October 2009



Ken Wilde receives Coxswain Award
October 15, 2009 meeting from District
Captain East (DCAPT-E) Bruce Long

Janet Richardson - was designated as a
Vessel Examiner/Facility Inspector

December 2009



Marilyn Hughes - Auxiliary Commandant's
letter of Commendation - presented at the
Division 8 Change of Watch.



Harry Norcross – Division 8 Commanders Award, presented at the Division 8 Change of Watch.



Robert Babezki - Flotilla 81 Commanders Award, presented at the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch



Harry Norcross – Flotilla 81 Auxiliarist of the Year, presented at the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch

Photo Gallery



Outgoing FC Alan Wood at the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch



Outgoing FC Alan Wood at the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch



Outgoing FC Alan Wood the Flotilla 81 Change of Watch