

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 81

Ocean City, N.J.

**MARILYN HUGHES FC
DAVID WILSON VFC**

JANUARY 2012

Editor: Art Zack FSO-PB

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Flotilla website: www.uscgaux-ocnj.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 11: Division Meeting, St. Peter's

January 12: Flotilla Meeting, St. Peter's

February 1 - 5 Atlantic City Boat Show

February 8: Division Meeting, Cape May

February 9: Flotilla Meeting, St. Peters

March 14: Division Meeting, North Wildwood

March 15: Flotilla Meeting, St. Peters

April 11: Division Meeting, Atlantic City

April 12: Flotilla Meeting, St. Peter's

April 14: Coxswain Meeting, TBA

FROM THE BRIDGE
COMMANDERS COMMENTS



Welcome to 2012! This is the year of a new administration and some new “stuff”. My goal this year to have more member training that is relevant to all members, bring some to meetings that are far away, and get more of our members involved in the organization. We have far too many who are ‘just on the rolls’ and do nothing. I will be working with David Wilson and the FSOs to help promote growth in all areas especially in the area of the number of operational facilities.

Another initiative I would like to, at least, try is to run a meeting using SKYPE, the online video software. I would like to try that at the February meeting. The software is free and is available for both MAC and PC.

Member Training for March, April, and May will concentrate on getting ready for the summer season. For you Coxswains, remember that April 14th is the mandatory Coxswain meeting; place to be determined.

So, I hope you have all had a wonderful, safe, and happy Holiday Season. See you on January 12th at St Peter’s.

Marilyn F. Hughes, FC-81,
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary

VICE COMMANDERS COMMENTS



I respect the confidence expressed in my election as Flotilla Vice Commander, pledge my intent to serve well, and look forward to a successful, and mutually beneficial journey in the coming year.

David Wilson, VFC
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary

FLOTILLA OFFICERS FOR 2012

FC	Marilyn Hughes
VFC	David Wilson
FSO-Communications	Jim Earle
FSO-Communications Service	Bob Babezki
FSO-Finance	Dave Wilson
FSO-Information Services	Howard Phillips
FSO-Materials	Janet Richardson
FSO-Marine Safety	Ruth Keck
FSO-Membership Training	Ken Wilde
FSO-Navigation Systems	John Bodin
FSO-Operations	Walter Alsegg
FSO-HR-Human Resources	Ed Henne
FSO-Public Education	Marilyn Hughes
FSO-Program Visitor	Joe Skutlin
FSO-Public Affairs	Terri Pierce
FSO-Publications	Art Zack
FSO-Secretary/Records	Mary Grant
FSO-Vessel Safety Check	Charles Wilkins

A special message from Bob Babezki

“I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members of Flotilla 81 for a dynamite year. In all methods of measurement, we had a great year, completely due to the dedication of you, my fellow shipmates. I ask that you give the new bridge all of your energy and dedication to our on-going Auxiliary missions.”

Regards Bob

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Art Zack FSO-PB

Now that I have completed my first year as editor of POLARUS, I can honestly say that my efforts were a big success. I did not do it alone. I had help from many members who contributed articles to educate and inform our members. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to write and share their knowledge with the membership. I also received a lot of photographs many of which were very good. The problem I have with photos is that I can't use them all. Even the ones I take. If I did, the newsletter would have 50 pages or more. There is no prize for the best photo but keep sending them because they make for a better newsletter. Make sure the photos are sharp and the subject matter is relevant to the article they accompany. Please send captions with the names of all subjects. Thank you again all for your help.

OPERATIONS
Walt Alsegg FSO-OP

This past season we performed 781 crew hours underway which is a 20% increase over 2010! We also added 5 new crew members for a total of 26. Currently we have 8 facilities and the possibility of adding two more in 2012. Due to budget cuts, the Coast Guard will probably lose one of their small boats so they will be looking to the Auxiliary for more help, especially for two boat training. This will give us a great opportunity to assist them and sharpen our skills at the same time.

Over the winter, remember to continue to check your Epirb monthly. I hope you didn't leave it on the boat! Also go over your PFD and other Personal Protective Equipment assigned to you to ensure they are clean and in good condition. Buy a stick of "zipease" at your local marine store and go over the zippers so they work smoothly.

Those of you who own facilities should mark the expiration date of your inspection on your calendar. Last year DIRAUX did not notify everyone and some of the inspections ran out. If your facility is not current, you won't be able to get orders.

Also over the winter, look into the many courses that are offered online on the national website or at nearby locations which you can find on the District 5NR site at www.5NR.org and click on "What's new in 5NR" They are all free and cover a variety of interesting subjects

The Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program

By Joseph A. Skutlin FSO-PV

The Recreational Boating Safety visitation program continues even though most boats are out of the water, PE classes have slowed down, vessel examinations are minimal and the boating public is now on vacation from the waterways and shore points. However, boating safety does not take a vacation and there are ample opportunities to reach out via boat dealers, marinas, boat shows and the internet.

Staff officers also interact with Vessel Examiners, Public Affairs officers, Public Education staff, Marine Services and the Navigational Systems officer. The Water Way Watch program continues. Test for the PV certification is available on our website. Two visits with a PV officer are required and the test can be taken online. Other staff officers are **Walt Alsegg, John Bodin, Bob Babezki, Dick Sorikin and Alan Wood.**

New Jersey First Aid Association Trade Show for 2011

The NJ First Aid Association Trade Show for 2011 was held at the Taj Mahal Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, N.J. beginning 20 October 2011

Flotilla 08-01 was represented in the event by **Bob Babezki** (VFC – 08-01) who organized the Auxiliary's participation, **Gloria Grumbein, Terri Pierce, Dick Sorokin, and Charles Wilkins.**

This event was geared toward the activities and equipment of EMTs and other first responders. Numerous local first aid associations were in attendance. First aid vehicles, both modern and antique, were displayed. In addition, emergency helicopter personnel from New Jersey's South Star and North Star programs were present.

The US Coast Guard provided a vessel on premises in the exhibition hall which was quite popular among the exhibitors. In addition, a helo demonstration was presented by the Coast Guard in the waters across the boardwalk from the Taj Mahal. **Walt Alsegg** of 08-01 helped organize and participated in this portion of the program.

The trade show proved to be successful and was a great opportunity for the Auxiliary to present its boating safety initiatives.

Charles Wilkins
FSO-VE 08-01

Charles Wilkins and Bob Babezki at the New Jersey First Aid Association Trade Show



Photo provided by Charlie Wilkins

VE ACTIVITIES OF FLOTILLA 08-01 DURING 2011

By the end of October, Flotilla 08-01's VSC program had essentially slowed down consistent with the decrease in boating traffic. Looking back at the season, there were many scheduled events at local marinas. The latest emphasis on Recreational Boating Safety led to the participation in two Safe Boating Week events under the direction of **Bob Babezki**, Flotilla Vice Commander and Chairman of the Recreational Boating Safety Committee.

The Boating Safety Week events were held at Ocean Heights Marina in Egg Harbor Township and All Season's Marina in Ocean City. Both Ocean Heights and All-Seasons were visited for the first time on a formal basis this year although in the past there had been requests for safety checks on a sporadic basis.

In addition, scheduled vessel safety check events took place at Larsen's Marina in Sea Isle City, Old Corson's Inlet Marina in Strathmere, The Yacht Club of Sea Isle City, Blue Water Marina in Ocean City, Whale Creek Marina in Strathmere and River Beach Campground and Resort on the Egg Harbor River in Mays Landing. Vessel safety checks also took place at Somerset Cove Marina in Egg Harbor Township, Harbour Cove Marina in Somers Point and Seaview Harbor Marina in Longport to mention a few.

The District's increasing emphasis on the Recreational Boating Safety Tactical Plan has exposed the need for additional qualified examiners. District leaders have suggested that all members who have contact with the boating public be VE qualified. According to Norm Fehr (DSO-VE), the importance of the one-on-one educational experience cannot be overestimated.

During 2011, Flotilla 08-01 had 11 members reporting vessel safety checks. There were a total of 316 exams performed according to the statistics available at the time of preparation of this article.

Charles Wilkins
FSO-VE. Flotilla 08-01



A STORY OF TWO FLOTILLAS

By Janet Richardson

I, **Janet (Simone) Richardson** was a “Philly girl”, born and raised in the Frankford section of Philadelphia. I am the youngest of six children. When I was 15 years old, my father retired and we moved to North Wildwood, NJ where I completed high school at Wildwood Catholic.



Gene was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri and is the youngest of 9 children. After graduating high school and seeing all of his “buddies” being drafted into the army, he decided to join the Coast Guard. He did his boot camp training in Cape May. Gene and I met at a U.S.O. dance in Cape May only 5 weeks into his training, and it really was “love at first sight” (corny, but true). We dated whenever we could during his time in Cape May and I was thrilled to be “his girl” at his graduation. Gene was sent to

Groton, Connecticut for advanced training in EN school. I, however, decided that I wanted to see the world and attended a school with the airlines to train to be a flight attendant. The school just happened to be in Hartford, Connecticut, so we were able to continue our relationship on weekends. Gene asked me to marry him on one of those weekends, and naturally, I accepted. After our time in Connecticut, we went onto separate adventures. I was hired by Braniff Airways and trained for a month in Dallas, Texas, and then off to a job with Braniff out of New York City. Gene was transferred to the ice breaker Mackinaw out of Cheboygen, Michigan. We continued our relationship mostly by mail (I still have all of his letters) and a phone call off and on.

Having not seen each other for a full year, Gene was able to make a mutual exchange from Michigan to Cape May to serve on the CG Cutter Unimac. Meanwhile, due to an ailing father, I left Braniff and returned to the Philadelphia area and began teaching school while continuing my college education at night school. We were married while Gene was still in the Coast Guard. Gene considered a career in the service and took the USAFI courses for his college degree. His desire was to attend OCS and become an officer, but decided to retire after his four years.

When Gene was discharged, we settled in Pennsauken, NJ, and adopted 2 beautiful babies. And our lives continued as civilians. We retired in 1995 and moved to Sea Isle City, NJ.

In the fall of 2003, we learned about the Coast Guard Auxiliary and we both joined flotilla 8-1 in Ocean City. Shortly thereafter, we left For Florida where we planned to winter every year. We became involved with Flotilla 9-6 in Bonita Beach, FL, where we took, and passed the Crew course as visitors.

After discussing our situation with both Flotilla commanders, we decided that since we were in each flotilla for half a year that we split our membership. We flipped a coin and I won, so here I am at 8-1. So, Gene is now a “permanent visitor” in NJ and I am a “permanent visitor” in Florida.

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Since 9-6 does most of their training in the winter, we have since taken AUXSEA, AUXCOM and VE courses. All in Florida. While we enjoy both Flotilla's, we both feel that 8-1 is "our home" We have made many close friends here and that is why we remain here in Ocean City, even after moving to Woolwich, NJ which is sixty miles away. Flotilla 8-1 is "stuck" with us!!

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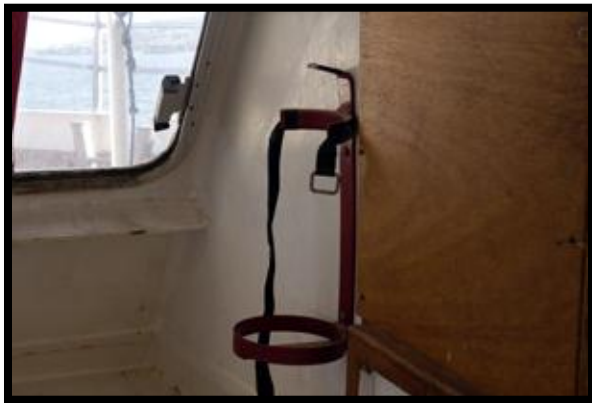
This is a Thru The Pelorus Extra Report

By Art Zack

I recently returned from a 14 day tour of Israel and in a word, it was fantastic. We traveled from the Golan Heights to Eliat and almost every place in between. Everyone who ever returns from Israel says that their guide was the best. They were right. Our guide was the best. He knew the history behind everything we saw. Wherever we traveled we saw young people in uniform carrying automatic weapons. I never felt nervous until we went for a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. It was a two hour ride with music and dancing. The boat was designed as a party boat with an upper and lower deck. There were over 100 people on the upper deck in an area about 30 feet by 50 feet. There were rows of folding chairs in the aft part of the deck and the forward part of the deck was open as a dance floor. It was wall to wall people.

If there were an emergency, it would be a tragedy waiting to happen. All the life jackets were in a large box hanging off the transom, covered with canvas, and tied down with rope. The three life rafts were in canisters hanging off the transom. They had quick disconnects, but they were also tied down with rope that was wrapped around the rail several times. The knots would be impossible to untie in a hurry, especially if people were jumping on you back, trying to get to the life jackets. Can you imagine the panic with 100 people scrambling over the chairs and each other to get to the life jackets and rafts, which were all on the transom. If that wasn't enough there was a propane tank in the middle of the lower deck with a grid to hold a pot for cooking. If it were to get kicked over and start a fire, forget about putting it out. There were three mounting brackets for fire extinguishers around the boat, but not one fire extinguisher was in sight. The brackets were all empty.

I'm not done yet. If the propane did start a fire, two of the four emergency exits were blocked. One had a padlock and the other had chairs and tables blocking the exit. As a member of the Auxiliary, I was probably the only person on board who knew how dangerous the situation was. In a foreign country, I didn't think it was a good idea to say anything to the captain but I was very thankful when we docked.



Photos by Art Zack

OUR NEW BRIDGE

By Joseph A. Skutlin and Art Zack

If you have ever driven over the 9th St. bridge in the last two years, You may have noticed construction that could rival the 8th wonder of the world. Tons of pre-formed concrete and steel bridge component are delivered weekly by barge from a facility in Cape Charles, VA to Ocean City N.J. by Shamrock Towing - Towboat /US. Many components are constructed on site by pouring concrete into wooden molds filled with rebar. Several members of Flotilla 81 are involved in the logistics for this major endeavor and improvement. When the project is completed, we will have two new 64 foot high spans and a new cause-way.





Photos by Art Zack



Photo by Joe Skutlin

Why Our Safety Patrols are Relevant
Robert Babezki

On the last patrol of the year in my facility, crewmembers **Terri Peirce**, **Gloria Grumbein** and I patrolled South from Corson's Inlet down to Avalon. As we were proceeding down the ICW behind Sea Isle City on October 8th, we noticed a 35' sailing yacht positioned in the middle of the ICW, but not moving. As we approached, we communicated with the skipper of the vessel, who told us that he had experienced engine failure while proceeding north in the ICW, against the tide, with no wind. He had anchored up and was awaiting TowBoatUS to come get him.

Since the vessel had anchored in the middle of the ICW and it was not readily apparent that the vessel was not moving, we decided to stay in the vicinity of the stranded vessel to make sure on-coming boats saw that the sailboat was anchored and that they steered clear of her. For 30 minutes, we circled around the stranded sailboat, keeping passing traffic safely away.

When TowBoatUS arrived, captained by Flotilla 81 member John Ryan, we were asked to remain with the two boats and escort them up the ICW to the sailboat's home birth. With our facility in the lead, the three boat convoy headed up the ICW. Our task was to keep passing boats at "No Wake Speed" as they passed the TowBoatUS, which had the stricken sailboat in a side-

tow. Large wakes would bounce the two vessels together, possibly causing damage to the vessels, which we tried to avoid.

Both the skipper of the sail yacht and the captain of TowBoatUS thanked us for staying with them during the tow in the narrow waters of the ICW behind Sea Isle City. Our presence helped to avoid any additional safety problems while a boater was waiting for and receiving assistance from a commercial towing provider.

IMPONDERABLE



In the state of New Jersey, if you are driving and an ambulance comes up behind you, you pull over to the side. What do you do in Venice on a narrow canal if an ambulance starts to ride up your wake? Do you stay on course and speed, slow down, shift in to neutral, turn to port, or turn to starboard?

AWARDS

At the October 13th meeting, two awards were presented



Ken Wilde FC presented **Ed Henne** with an award for satisfactorily completing all requirements and is designated a Vessel Examiner



Dan Hartman, Immediate Past Division 8 Commander, presented **John Bodin** with a framed certificate. John has successfully met all qualification requirements and is certified to be a coxswain in The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



The November 10th meeting saw six members receive well deserved award.

Walt Alsegg received the ANNUAL SERVICE PERFORMANCE AWARD for service in operations and operational support during the year 2011



Charles Wilkins received the COAST GUARD AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD for superior performance of duty for 3/22/2007 to 6/31/2011—Service in excess of 812 cumulative hours and is authorized to wear the Sustained Auxiliary Service Award ribbon.



Daniel McFadden received the COAST GUARD SUSTAINED AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD for superior performance of duty from 6/30/2009 to 6/30/2011 service in excess of 3070 cumulative hours.



Robert Babezki received the ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AWARD for service in operations and operational support during the year 2011. Bob also received the COAST GUARD SUSTAINED AUXILIARY SERVICE AWARD for superior performance of duty from 12/31/2009 to 6/30/2011-service in excess of 3353 cumulative hours.



Marilyn Hughes, our new Flotilla Commander, received the ANNUAL SERVICE PERFORMANCE AWARD for service to public education hours during the year 2011



Art Zack received the AUXILIARY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AWARD for service in excess of 60 vessel examinations

CHANGE OF WATCH

At the end of each year, Flotilla 81 celebrates the conclusion of its operations for the current year and the beginning of the New Year. This Change of Watch is significant in that it represents a continuation and continuity of leadership, from the outgoing Flotilla Bridge to the incoming Flotilla Bridge. This year, **Ken Wilde** transitions leadership to **Marilyn Hughes**. This transition is witnessed by the assembly of Flotilla 81 members and their guests, representatives from Division 8 and members of the Active Duty Coast Guard.

This year's event was held at the Crab Trap in Somers Point for the 14th consecutive time. In addition to the Change of Watch, it is also an occasion to present awards. This year, Assistant District Staff Officer for Public Affairs, **Bob Babezki**, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to **LCDR Jeff Craig**, Commander of Boat Station Atlantic City, for his continuing outstanding support of the Public Affairs Activities of Division 8 during the course of 2011.





Allen Wood presented **Ken Wilde** an award in recognition for his fine leadership as Flotilla Commander during the year 2011

Art Zack was selected The Auxiliariist of the Year in recognition of outstanding contributions to the cornerstone missions of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He will be presented the award when he returns from Florida in February.

As in past years, we have been honored to have guests from the Gold Side.



L to R- LCDR Jeffrey Craig, BM1 Peter Loreaux, Jennifer Loreaux, and Komp Craig.



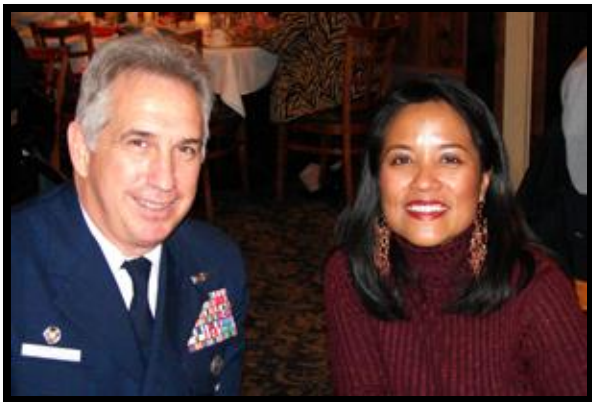
CWO Sean MaGarigal and wife Nancy

BMC Ryan McKenna and his wife **Erika** were also present. (Photo not available)

INVITED GUESTS FROM THE SILVER SIDE WERE ALSO PRESENT



IPDCDR Daniel Hartman. Daniel Hartman as outgoing Division Commander introduced new FC **Marilyn Hughes**. He shared some comments with the group about his views on Flotilla 81 over the past year.



Joseph Giannattasio is the newly elected Division 8 commander. He attended with his friend Gina.

As editor and photographer for the Pelorus, I usually attend all Flotilla functions with one exception, the Change of Watch. I had the choice of staying in New Jersey and freezing or accompanying my wife Minnie to Florida. I have some good friends who own cameras and they offered to take pictures for me. They followed through with over 100 pictures. I would like to use them all, but that would make a 50+ page newsletter. I have picked out several at random and please forgive me for not using captions. As I said in my first issue of Pelorus, you know who you are.





U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



If you have never been to Coast Guard Station Atlantic City, let me introduce you to Nucky, the station mascot. He fits right in with his custom fitted ODU. He is posing with his friends **SN Feller** and **FN Payne**, but the truth is, everyone is his friend. The care and feeding of mascots is not included in the Coast Guard budget, so Nucky must depend on the generosity of friends to survive. He is still a puppy and when he is full grown, he is expected to weigh 175 pounds. That is a lot of dog food. At the November flotilla meeting, Walt Alsegg suggested we donate money to help Nucky. The vote was unanimous.



Good leadership and fellowship have made Flotilla 81 the great organization that it is, and may it continue its fine work in the coming New Year.

Art Zack FSO-PB
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