

*Published by 5th Northern District - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Vol. 110, No. 2
Fall 2011*

Prisps



District Fall Conference and Banquet

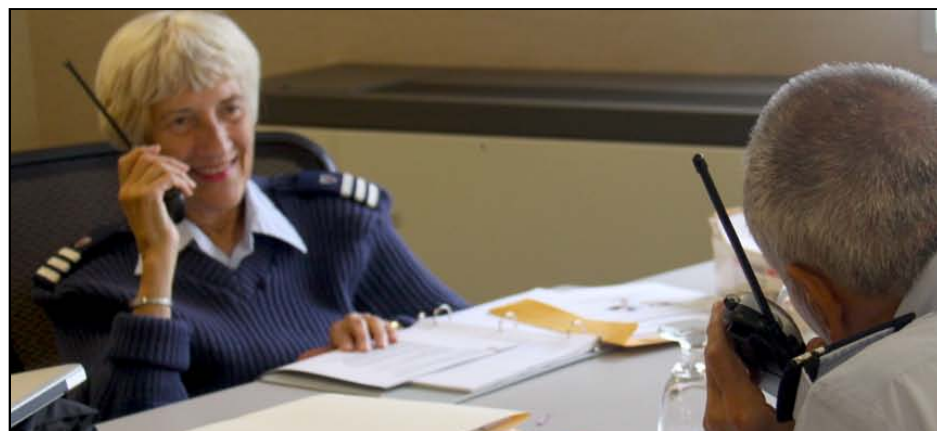
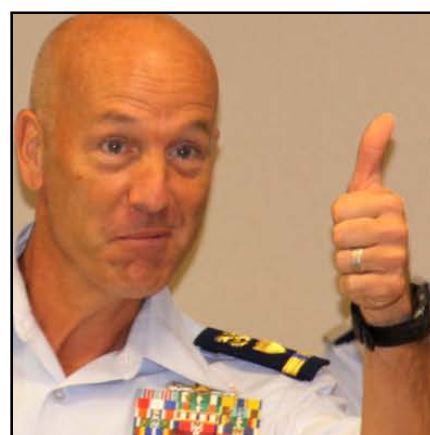
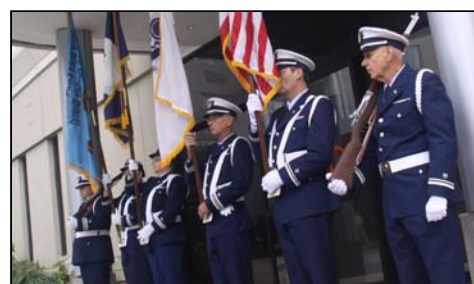


PHOTO CAPTIONS (Left to Right from Top)
COMO Harold "Robby" Robinson addresses the conference attendees.

Russell Rosensweig FL13-10, Donald Gerhart FL12-2, and John Willwerth FL14-1 receive their AUXOP awards from CAPT Meredith Austin, CAPT Gregory Case, and CDR Terry Johns DIRAUX. CWO Sean McGarigal.

The 5NR Color Guard team 2011. CDR Johns DIRAUX presents LT Ryan Popiel (AUXLO AIRSTA Atlantic City) an award for his work with the Auxiliary. Thomas Don FL79 really enjoys the Conference Fellowship.

Aline "Lindy" Harrison TCO teaching Telecommunications Operator (TCO) course. Jan Munroe FL4-11 presents Everbridge. Ken Christy TCT-F offers TCT 8hr class.





USCG Auxiliary
Fifth Coast Guard District NR
1 Washington Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Our Staff...

Joseph Giannattasio	DSO-PB, <i>Editor</i>
Carolyn J. Dunch	ADSO-PB Central
Marjorie Ignozza	ADSO-PB East
Stanley W. Olsen	ADSO-PB West
Phillip P. Stamm	ADSO-PB Historian

Topside is published at no expense to the U.S. Government or the U.S. Coast Guard. Cost of publication is borne by the dues paying members of the 5th Coast Guard District Auxiliary (Northern Region), a volunteer, unpaid civilian body whose mission is to assist the regular Coast Guard in promoting and maintaining safety on the water.

Reprints of pictures or copies of articles appearing in *Topside* may be made by other publications provided proper credit is given and a copy forwarded to the Editor of *Topside*.

Table of Contents

Lubber's Line	3
What's New	4
District Awards	4
Extra Fathom	5
Around the District	6,7,8
District Photo Scrapbook	9,10
District Auxiliarists in Action	11,12
Auxiliary Landmarks	13
Division 3 Picnic	13
Profile in Service	14
In Memoriam	15
Topside Guidelines	15
Historian's Corner	16
Pictorial	17,18

On the Cover:

Flotilla 82 Auxiliarists participating in their Flower Boat Ceremony are joined by a young onlooker. The Flower Boat Ceremony has been held on the beach in Cape May, NJ every Memorial Day since 1966.

Photo by Elaine Silverlight, FL82.

Editorial...

A Time For Reflection

I TRULY BELIEVE that focusing on the future is more valuable than dwelling on the past. Yet there are moments that almost require us to reflect and celebrate; sometimes nostalgia is appropriate. As the 5NR Missions season comes to a close, we take this opportunity to enjoy some of the summer's spectacular moments.

Each and every featured article and photograph is now a part of the history of this dynamic District. They are Auxiliarists who are on top of their game, members propelling 5NR forward, creating change—sometimes big, sometimes small, but change nonetheless. They have ranged from from Jake Lincoln FL83 and Bill Holmes FL83 with an innovative project to Lou Hahn's useful NJ boat registration information. They are outstanding members like FL13-1 Paramedics Don Christopher and Jim Wintrose as well as Michael Colondrillo M.D., PDCDR 08, and the D5NR ASAR Team.

As most, if not all, of us know, success comes from having a solid support system. And our District's success is due from our members, like those featured in articles by Gene Morris DCAPT-E, Joe Ciccone FL79, Jim McClellan FL82, Ed Wandell FL10-6, Betsy Bauer FL16-7, Edna Winans FL74, Allison Revy FL72, Ira Dolich FL66, Bob Babezki FL81, and K.C. Murphy DCAPT-W.

We are fortunate to see our members in action from photos shot by Kathy Eickemeyer FL72, Alfred Grimminger FL12-5, Art Zack FL81, Linda Jones FL84, Howard Friedman FL83, Mel Borofsky PDCAPT, Charlie Wilkins FL81, Paul Rudolph FL84, Krista Tinney FL32, Steve Hewitt FL72, and Bruce Long PDCAPT.

John Burns FL82 and Harry Dyer FL69 bring to light some fascinating historical facts for our enjoyment.

We close the season on a solemn note with Phil Appenzeller FL82 sharing his experience being underway onboard USCGC IBIS. Unfortunately, our shipmate Phil passed over the bar prior to this issue being published. He was a member who immensely enjoyed the Auxiliary, who felt passionate about actively supporting the Coast Guard through both words and deeds.

On behalf of TOPSIDE, I would like to express my appreciation to our Publication Staff Officers and contributing members. As much as this note is a celebration of what this past year has been, it is also about what comes next. Summer always flies by too quickly; I have yet to meet an Auxiliarist who says otherwise. But this simply means the exciting transition that happens as summer gives way to fall is here—and from there, we roll into Auxiliary elections, staff appointments, and Change of Watch ceremonies. Just another reason to look forward to the future.

Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-PB
 Editor-In-Chief

Fouled Lines: In the last issue of TOPSIDE, the story titled *Auxiliarist is a Thanksgiving Helper for the Active Duty* was incorrectly credited, it was actually written by Daniel J. Murphy FL2-76. Also, the photo accompanying the article entitled *CFVE's Making a Difference* included a mistaken caption. The photo of the CFVE in action was Jim Lafferty FL44. As editor I regret this error, not a *lapsus calami* but a *lapsus mentis* on my part, and I am pleased to correct for the record.

Lubber's Line

Choices and Challenges

K.C. Murphy, District Captain West

Many of the finest people I have ever known are Auxiliaries. The generosity of giving time, energy and resources never ceases to astound me. When you consider what we accomplish as a volunteer service it is beyond incredible. The cooperation and organization demonstrated is pretty amazing. We are bound together by our commitment to provide service to the Coast Guard, to the public and to each other. The oaths that we took as members and officers are more of an underscore of the values that we all live by rather than sworn promises. The Core Values of "Honor. Respect. Devotion to Duty." are more than just words. We count on each other to do what we say that we going to do. We expect that all of us will do the right thing.

As we get more familiar and comfortable with the rules and traditions, the Auxiliary becomes a dependable and secure place. For many of us the Auxiliary is a refuge from a world becoming more and more devoid of traditional values. For others, the Auxiliary is reminiscent of what was best about military service. It is a place where the rules apply equally to all and everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

Over time we come to completely rely upon each other. Formality breaks down and is replaced with familiarity. Human nature allows for short cuts; omissions of procedure become accepted. A crew skips over the pre-underway check-off, after all, everyone knows the boat and each other. A request jumps the chain, bypassing a couple of levels on the way in the name of efficiency. To ensure that a vessel is available for an upcoming currency mission, a facility inspection form gets submitted without an actual inspection.

A crew member, leaving early, gets credit for a full 8 hour patrol—it's the end of the season and without the hours he will fall into REYR... This is all done in the mistaken intent of helping members. Most of these actions might not be considered to be "all that bad"—they are done "for the good of the order." Ironically, a member's ability to "help" in this manner is directly proportional to their experience level. The more experienced, the higher the authority, the greater the ability to interpret what is the "right thing" to do. To quote a past Director, "There is no right way to do a wrong thing."

Judging how "right" or "wrong" an action is introduces morality into the equation. Morality is relative. We would all agree that killing someone is morally wrong, yet our serving military have a sworn duty to kill the enemy. In the Auxiliary we don't face such grave duties. However, in discharging our responsibilities we must abide by a crucial word that is not in any of our oaths: integrity. When an action is put against the standard of whether it is done with integrity, the gray areas disappear. An action is either within the bounds of integrity or outside.

It is tempting to substitute "integrity" for morality. However, there is a crucial aspect of integrity that is too often overlooked—especially in a volunteer organization. We are all busy; the most productive, the busiest. A promised action slips past deadline in favor of another with a higher priority. We don't get to paperwork because we are too busy doing... We slip out of integrity. The path back is not easy, but critical. We must get back to those expecting our intended action and provide a revised, responsible expectation. "I planned on getting to that report last week-

end, but it looks like I won't get it to you until next Thursday." We help each other on patrol... What about reaching out to an overtaxed shipmate and offer to help that member back into integrity?

If, as a leader, you have been disappointed in a member's performance, ask yourself how you can help that person get back into integrity. When human nature tempts us to make an individual wrong for an action or inaction, lead the individual back to integrity. The intention was good, the performance was bad—however, the individual is not bad, but rather, out of integrity. Live with integrity and those around you will do likewise. And when you find yourself out of integrity—and we all get there—get back on track. Our very viability is dependent upon our maintaining our integrity.

DIRAUX Awards

5NR ASAR Team

Reported by J. Giannattasio

At the Division 7 Awards Dinner CDR Terry Johns presented the D5NR Director's Special Recognition Award to the team members who represented the District at the Area Search and Rescue (ASAR) Team competition in Yorktown, VA on July 22nd and 23rd.

The Team members Richard Wager 07-12, Lee Frost 07-02, Tom Lillis 07-12 and Ron Portz 07-12 were commended on their dedication, time, and personal sacrifice while serving as members of the Team.

A Special Recognition Plaque was given to their Division Commander to be displayed in a prominent location with the names of the ASAR Team members.

What's New

New Ideas and New Opportunities for Members

FL83 Produces Metal Auxiliary Plaques and Grave Markers

Article by Jake Lincoln BA-ACHA and Bill Holmes FC FL83

Flotilla 83 announces the availability of a cast USCG Auxiliary plaque/marker. These beautiful cast markers are suitable as lawn or home ornaments or grave markers. They are available exclusively from USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 83 in bronze or aluminum and come with an 18" rod.

Bronze Marker with an 18" brass Rod is \$65.00 each.

Aluminum Marker with an 18" Aluminum Rod is \$45.00 each.

Contact or Purchase with check made payable to USCG Aux FL83 and mail to:

John T. Lincoln
1309 Emerson Ave.
North Cape May, N.J. 08204-2108



Inspecting a "Home Built" Vessel

Article by Lou Hahn VE FL86
Photos by J Giannattasio DSO-PB

Mr. David Rutherford is quite an accomplished carpenter. He and other craftsman and women re-constructed the oyster schooner MERWALD, currently the State of New Jersey's official tall ship. He also built from plans, a Skiff and named it Orion. The project took three years in two phases. The first two years were spent constructing the basic hull and the third year building the cabin.



I recently attempted to perform a Vessel Examination on the Orion. The boat was not registered, therefore I was not able to examine it.

I thought that I would pass on some of the "hoops" that must be jumped-thru to inspect a "Home Built" boat:

1. The owner must take the boat to a New Jersey State Marine Police facility (Mr. Rutherford

trailed the boat to the State Marine Police barracks at Hereford Inlet, North Wildwood, NJ).

2. There, they will use a check-off list to ensure that the home built meets all applicable state safety requirements.

3. If the boat passes, the owner will take a copy of the form to a New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) facility for registration. The MVC in addition to issuing the registration certificates will provide the boat owner an adhesive backed metallic plate with the boats Hull Identification Number (HIN).

4. The owner is responsible to place the plate in one of the two acceptable locations prescribed by Federal regulations.

All of this accomplished, I proceeded to examine the Orion which passed with flying colors.



PHOTO CAPTION: Bill Gifford's home-built 2-man, fully submersible submarine is inspected by Joe Giannattasio, VE FL82 at a marina in Longport, NJ.

District Awards

AUXOP

Daniel Toms	2-76
Frank Williams	2-04
Phil Walmsley	3-05
Brian Stumm	4-22
John Percy	6-09
Walter Alsegg	8-01
Donald Gerhart	12-02
Russell Rosenzweig	13-10

AUXOP

Stanley Wojciechowski	13-10
Douglas Wilwerth	14-01
Frank Azoulas	16-01
Michael Bennett	16-03
Richard Catania	16-03
Dorothy Smith	16-05
Robert Kady	16-07
John Bemiss, Jr.	16-08

COXSWAIN

John Yowell	10-06
-------------	-------

NATIONAL AWARDS ~ 1st. Place Photography(2) ~

Joseph Giannattasio	8-02
---------------------	------

Members Going the “Extra Fathom”

Dedicated to Outstanding Members

Auxiliarists Cited as Paramedics

Article by Eugene Morris DCAPT-E
(Photographer Unknown)

On the night of September 30, 2010, Pennsauken Police, along with personnel from Pennsauken Emergency Services and Medic 45 from VIRTUA responded to the 6500 block of Henwood Avenue regarding a shooting. A second shooting was also reported in the area of 4400 block on Beacon Ave. Both incidents involved the same shooter and he was found to be in the home on Beacon Ave. which was fully involved with fire. Two gunshot victims were found at this location. As EMS services arrived they encountered another victim with a gunshot wound to the chest.

All EMS units were advised the scene was not secure and the shooter was still on the loose and in the area. Despite the direct threat to their safety, all EMS personnel along with those from Medic 45 which was manned by two paramedics, who are also Auxiliarists, Don Christopher and Jim Wintrode, remained on the scene actively treating their patients.

Shots from the shooter could be heard in the area where the medics were treating their patients. The shooter was engaged in the rear yard of the residence where he was armed with a handgun and a gas can. Refusing to follow commands by the officers the shooter charged the officers whereupon they shot and fatally wounded the shooter.

The Camden County Hero Scholarship commended the combined efforts of all involved for their professionalism in handling a very tragic situation. Auxiliarists Christopher and Wintrode (pictured below) were recipients of a Unit Citation Award.



Left to Right:
CDR Simon Esan, Joan Colondrillo, Michael Colondrillo M.D.,
COMO “Robby” Robinson, CDR Terry Johns DIRAUX.

Division 8 Auxiliarist Awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal

Article and Photo by Joe Giannattasio, SO-PB 08

During the March Division meeting, Michael Colondrillo MD, PDCDR 08 was awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal by CDR Simon Esan.

The award reads in-part:

Auxiliarist COLONDRILLO is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as a physician at Health, Safety and WorkLife Regional Practice Cape May from November 2009 to December 2010. ... As a physician board certified in OB/GYN with over 40 years of experience his addition to recruit processing activities was met with great anticipation by health services staff eager to expand services and learn new skills. During this period he volunteered his professional expertise and services throughout 42 recruit processing evolutions and screened nearly 500 female recruits ensuring that they met accession standards and were fit for unrestricted military service. In addition to his patient care work, he provided valuable mentorship to staff Medical Officers and Physician Assistant student externs in the field of Woman’s Health including practical experience performing gynecological examinations. ... Auxiliarist COLONDRILLO’s perseverance, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Reading this issue in B&W?
topside is always in **color** on
the 5NR website:
www.5nr.org/topside

Around the District

Happenings within 5NR submitted by our Members

Don't see your Flotilla or Division featured?

Just submit a digital photo or article so everyone can enjoy the accomplishments within your unit.

FL79 Establishes "Kid's Don't Float Stations"

Article and Photograph by
Joe Ciccone

On May 21, 2011 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 79, located in Forked River, New Jersey, had representatives Fred Jaekel and Joe Ciccone present to Townsends Marina a Kid's Don't Float Life Jacket Station. This station allows boaters to borrow life jackets for the day if they have forgotten or have more crew than anticipated. Within the Life Jacket Stations are jackets not only for adults but also for children of all ages.

Our thanks go out to Jim Mc Geoch (owner/operator) and Kim Costantini for participating and allowing this station to be placed in their marina. Also participating in the presentation were Flotilla Commander M. Kiely and Vice Commander A. Frizziola. Commander Jay Greiner attended and had representatives from Coast Guard Station Barnegat on hand for questions and answers about the Coast Guard.

Representatives from the New Jersey State Police Marine Division sent Troopers Weiner and Graczyk. The Lacey Dive Team attended to show their ongoing support not only for this Life Jacket Station but also as a reminder for all to keep it a safe boating season. Representatives were President B. Wall and Chief Diver D. Streno, our thanks to the dive team for their continuing support.

Thanks to our Flotilla 79 members for their support and their attendance. Finally, a special thanks to Lacey Home Depot for taking the task of building and

donating to the community yet another Life Jacket Station. Thanks to Jerry Pentangelo Assist. Manager and his team for joining us at this presentation.



Left to Right:
Flotilla Commander Maurice Kiely, Team Leader Kid's Don't Float program Fred Jaekel, Townsend Marina Owner/Operator Jim Mc Geoch, Team Member Kid's Don't Float program Joe Ciccone, Flotilla Vice Commander Al Frizziola. (More pictures on page 17)

As a reminder to the community there are now 4 Kids Don't Float Stations located at the following marinas located in Forked River, New Jersey: Elks, Marina at South Winds, Ricks and Townsends Marina. Feel free to visit or borrow any life jackets so that the day of boating is fun as well as safe. Happy boating.

Touring Coast Guard Training Center Cape May

Article and Photo by Jim
McClellan FL82

Do you remember that strange warm feeling you get when you revisit a place from your earlier years? The memories of the house you grew up in, your old neighborhood, or the school you attended? Well, the USCG Training Center Cape May base tours can and has rekindled such memories for many veterans.

Recently, I was privileged to assist in a tour for a gentleman, Lou Waller who was sta-

tioned at the Training Center in the 1940's. Lou participated in action in the North Atlantic during World War II. Now in his mid-eighties, he was given a chance to reminisce thanks to the hospitality of the United States Coast Guard and its team of dedicated tour guides – all CG Auxiliaries.



Lou's friend, also a CG veteran joined him on the tour. These former servicemen and their families were provided a guided tour of the base with the highlight for them being a tour of one of the 210-foot cutters. The joy on their faces and the appreciation they conveyed is something I'll long remember.

Want a great way to draw attention to your VE station?

Why not bring something big, with USCG Auxiliary signboards on it! Here Rick Kettinger FSO-VE 10-6 speaks with a boater at Lake Noxkamixon in front of an OPFAC.

Photo by: Ed Wandall FSO-PA 10-6



Around the District

Happenings within 5NR submitted by our Members

Don't see your Flotilla or Division featured? - Just submit a digital photo or article so everyone can enjoy the accomplishments within your unit.

"Whale of a Day" for Flotilla 86

Article and Photos
by Lou Hahn FL86

Flotilla 86 has participated in Lower Township, NJ's "Whale of a Day" event for the past six years. Eight blocks of the Cape May Beach section of the community are blocked off to create essentially an old fashioned block party.



Above: FL86 members Brenda Hollway, Frank Matone and Peggy Wright.
Below: MK2 Steven Buckner, Lou Hahn FL86, and BM1 Grube.



The Flotilla set up an informational display table to not only promote boating safety to the civilian recreational boating public but to also pitch membership into the USCG Auxiliary. We also stress the importance of the operation of a safe recreational vessel and offer Vessel Examinations. We also remind the boating public that any person 16 years of age or older who operates a Personal Watercraft or a power vessel over

16 feet in length must have taken, passed and possess a certificate that states that he or she has taken the mandatory State of New Jersey Boating Safety course. We posted the remaining BSC classes that we will conduct this year.

This year's exhibit was greatly enhanced by the addition of the static display of the 25 foot "Fast Response" boat that was provided and manned by Petty Officers from Boat Station Cape May. The Guardians conducted guided tours of the Twenty-Five footer much to the kids delight.

Our FSO/PA Rob Riehl deserves the entire credit in securing the prime spot for the display, the liaison between USCG STA CAPE MAY and the Flotilla for the static boat display and ensuring that there were Flotilla members present for the eight hours of the display.

Flotilla 16-7 Training Meeting

Article & Photo by
Betsy Bauer FSO-PB

Dennis Georgia, FSO-VE 16-7 & SO-VE Div 16, presented flotilla 16-7 members and VE members of the division with a thorough and interesting VE workshop. He filled the boat house!



Dennis presented this through his own excellent power point presentation, covering three general aspects/areas of VE: the

general VE process, requirements, forms, exams, etc.; the OPS facility requirements/examination (more involved than for non-facility vessels) and SUBS (Sport & Utility Boats such as kayaks, canoes, PWC's, etc.)

He noted that 54% of all SUBS accidents result in death. Dennis provided a variety of vessel examination materials and handouts for all in attendance.

History of our Vessel Examinations Program "FIRST JOB"

Researched by
Harry Dyer FSO-PB FL69

In 1938 the Coast Guard had been charged by Congress to maintain boating safety standards. After WWII, in 1947 the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary were urged to pursue peacetime activities; the paramount purpose to promote safety and efficiency in operation of all motor boats and yachts. The method to accomplish this embraced two fields - CME (Then called "Courtesy Motorboat Examination") and classroom instruction. In 1947, the CME program had become an important contributor to small boat safety at sea (Public Education was launched in 1948).

Our Mission was then and remains today the "First Job" for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The first Vessel Examiner Guide was authorized in December 1953. (By 1956 Public Education had an 8 lesson BS&S course). As they say, the rest is history.

Is your Flotilla or Division participating in events which may be interesting to other Auxiliarists in the District? Just send articles or photos to TOPSIDE

Around the District

~ Continued ~

Happenings within 5NR submitted by our Members

Flotilla 72 Promotes NSBW, VE's and Fellowship in an All-In-One-Week Effort

Article by Allison Revy, SO-PA 07

Photos by FSO-FN Kathy Eickemeyer, FL 72,



Coxswain Training with DIRAUX in Division 07

Article and Photo by
Edna Winans SO-PB 07

Bob Keene FL7-11 and Richard Wagar FL7-12 spent a beautiful summer afternoon last August undergoing their Coxswain three-year currency maintenance on Bill Beihl's (FL7-12) facility with CDR Terry Johns DIRAUX onboard.

The towing exercise was done with Lou Salado's (FL7-12) facility at ICW 42 under the watchful eye of Bill, QE and Commander Johns.

The Coxswain currency check is always challenging let alone with DIRAUX in attendance. However, Bob and Richard passed!



At a recent vessel safety check station, members of Flotilla 72, Fifth District Northern Region; decided to shoot a short home video, about wearing life jackets, to send to ABC's Good Morning America.

The flotilla's FSO-VE Sharon Hewitt had scheduled a VE station at Great Bay Marina in Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey for Saturday morning, May 7th. Because it was the Mother's Day weekend, Sharon didn't expect eleven other members to show up. The band of brothers (and sisters) ran the complete gamut of the Auxiliary by including elected officers, staff officers and members.

After setting up an information table and a few signs to promote the VE station; the group set about shooting a short home video about promoting the National Safe Boating Week theme of always wearing life jackets and submitting it to the ABC News daily program "Good Morning America".

After getting approval from the marina owner, impromptu scripting and several quick rehearsals; the budding group of actors, actresses, directors and producers were able to video a 15 second home video asking viewers to "Always Wear Life Jackets." Along with the video; the production also produced a good old-fashioned fellowship session with joking and laughter all-round.

Because the video was to be submitted to a regional television media outlet; approvals were needed from higher up the "Chain of Leadership". After receiving a say-so, the video was also submitted to ABC and several Southern Ocean County, New Jersey online web TV news and community sites; in an effort to get the most mileage out of the session.

On Thursday evening, May 12th, Flotilla 72 received a proclamation from the Little Egg Harbor Township Committee at its bi-monthly meeting; declaring National Safe Boating Week in the township. The declaration points out the importance that recreational boating plays in the local economy and the need to stress safe boating; while thanking the flotilla for its commitment to boating safety.

During the proclamation acceptance ceremony, Flotilla 72 was recognized for the close ties the flotilla maintains with the community and local organizations such as contributing to the Inter-Church Food Pantry; or working with local environmental commissions and the Jacques Cousteau National Coastal Education Center.

Prior to the township meeting flotilla members also attended the dedication of a friendship tree, planted at the neighboring Little Egg Harbor Senior Center; where the flotilla holds its monthly business meetings, PE classes, fellowship events and Member Training. Auxiliary members, members of the township governing body and attending residents then walked to the neighboring township Administrative and Law Center, after the tree dedication, for the council meeting and proclamation.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

(On Left) Members of Flotilla 72 in final scene of home video promoting "Always Wear Life Jackets".

FSO-PA Steve Hewitt making VE during video production.

District Photo Scrapbook ...



PHOTO CAPTIONS:

(Clockwise from Top Left) Underway Crew training in Cape May harbor. Howard Davis, Aircraft Commander ready for patrol. Jim Skelly VCDR-13. William Hartley FL83 presents an interactive Boating Safety Class. Shannon Burns FL82. Joe Giannattasio and VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara. Irene Mead FL82 assists Avalon, NJ Beach Patrol members taking a Boating Safety Class. Mary Grant FL81 preparing to receive a tow line from OPFAC 241291. Don Heer VCDR-08. Crew Training at USCG STA ATLANTIC CITY. June and Bob Layton FL66 enjoying the conference formal banquet.

Photos: Linda Jones FL84, Bob Babezki ADSO-PA, Howard Friedman VFC 83, Mel Borofsky PDCAPT and Joe Giannattasio DSO-PB



... picture yourself in **topside**!

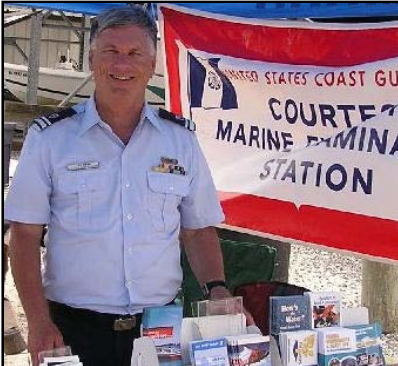


PHOTO CAPTIONS:

(Clockwise from Top Left) FL81 members Art Zack and Bob Babezki during Atlantic City Air Show. FL82 Watchstanders and Trainees onboard USCGC IBIS; Don Dobson, Joe Giannattasio, Shannon Burns and John Burns. Irene Mead FL82 on patrol. FL84 members on patrol at the "Nights in Ventnor" boat parade. 5NR District and Division Bridge members at the Conference Board Meeting. Howard Friedman VFC FL83 manning an Information Booth. Paul Rossiter TCO (left) teaching Communications. Eugene "Gene" Morris DCAPT-E. Krista Tinney and the Litter Bug at SECTOR SEA PARTNERS.

Photos: Charlie Wilkins FL81, Paul Rudolph FL84, Howard Friedman FL83, Krista Tinney FL32 and J. Giannattasio DSO-PB



Send us your photos!

We need pictures of members in your area. Just email them to **topside**.
joetasio@verizon.net

District Auxiliarist in ACTION

On Patrol with USCGC IBIS

Article by Phillip Appenzeller, WS, VFC FL82

Photos by Joseph Giannattasio SO-PB 08

“Aye sir, 135 at 20 knots.” I synchronized the duel throttles and pushed the throttle forward. The USCG 87 Medium Endurance Cutter IBIS quickly picked up speed and I steadied the boat at 20 knots. The Officer In Charge (OIC) again called out, “Okay, lets find some targets!”

The BM1 looked over the radar screen, locking on to several blips; the AIS system identified the name and registration of nearby fishing vessels. Using a Personal Digital Assistant with a NOAA account the Officer of the Watch (OOW) determined when each vessel had last been boarded and if any violations had been cited. Within 10 minutes three targets had been identified and their courses plotted; two inbound and one outbound.



“Helm take me to the nearest inbound target,” ordered the OIC.

“Aye sir,” I took the boat off of autopilot and steered 30 degrees to port on an intercept course. 15 minutes later a small dot one point off the port bow was our target. The OIC picked up the radio and made contact with the vessel, told her of our intention to board her. Their captain complied immediately.

The boarding team assembled on the bridge as the OIC quickly went over the procedure as to how and what each

member was going to do during the boarding. We closed in on the target. “Helm, slow to clutch speed and turn past her stern into the waves to launch the small boat (RIB). “Aye-aye, sir!” I responded.



PHOTO CAPTIONS:
Phil Appenzeller, VFC FL82.
USCGC IBIS docked at USCG STA CAPE MAY.

The boarding team assembled on the fantail, the deck crew had readied the RIB. After everyone was onboard and ready, the stern-gate was raised and the RIB slipped out the stern of IBIS, quickly turning and proceeding to the port side of the fishing vessel for boarding; the port side being the lee side. IBIS paralleled the vessel's course for the hour it took to complete the boarding.

After the boarding team was recovered, the deck was then secured for our passage to the next target. I helmed IBIS for two boardings and was then relieved. After the third boarding, chow was served; it was hot and delicious, lobster tails, stuffed shrimp and she-crab soup and salad. I jokingly said that they are going to have trouble getting rid of me.

After chow I went to my rack and slept off-and-on for a few hours, getting up during the mid-watch and coming up onto a darkened bridge. It had been 38 years since my Merchant Marine days and it brought back a lot of old

memories as we made way at 10 knots through a black sea and starry night. Back to the rack.

Rising at 0630 in time to assist the deck crew with readying the RIB for more boardings. The OIC was polite but authoritative in his conversations with the fishing vessels captains. The crew was extremely professional while their duties were being performed, none of the playfulness displayed at off times, always conscious of the inherent danger of the environment they operate in.

It was a privilege to be included in the IBIS crew. There was the comment about a couple of “old guys” on the fishing vessels they boarded, they were born in 1951. I reminded them that 1951 was a very good year, being born in 1951 myself! We had a good laugh as informed them they made me feel right at home and accepted as one of them.

As we put back into port and headed down the Cape May Inlet, I was in the galley ready for lunch. Over the intercom came OIC's voice: “Phil, stop eating and report to the bridge.” One last task: Under the expert supervision of the OIC I eased IBIS into her berth. Once the lines were secured I was dismissed from the bridge.

The OIC told me after lunch to go home and get some rest, the weariness of the night apparently showing on my face.

“Thank you Sir. I will comply gladly!”

In June, Phil Appenzeller was awarded the Auxiliary Cutterman's Insignia. Sadly, our Shipmate Phil passed over the bar soon after submitting this article. It's an honor to include Phil's story posthumously as a celebration of how much he enjoyed actively participating in the Auxiliary and its many functions. - Editor

District Auxiliarist in ACTION

Auxiliarists Serve as Instructors for U.S. Military in Antigua

Ira Dolich, TCT-F

Antigua is a part of an island chain in the Caribbean Basin known as the Lesser Antilles. It is a “world away” from the familiar AOR of most Auxiliarists. Yet, in early March, Dan Maxim and Ira Dolich, members of Flotilla 66, traveled to Antigua with a group of 20 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists to serve as instructors/interpreters for the U.S. Military’s Tradewinds 2011 Exercise.



Tradewinds 2011, in its 27th year, is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored annual exercise conducted in the Caribbean Basin designed to improve responses to regional security threats. Tradewinds is a joint-combined, interagency exercise and involved U.S. personnel from the Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard, Joint-interagency Task Force-South, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with forces from: Antigua-Barbuda (host nation), Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. More than 1000 exercise participants took part in Tradewinds 2011.

While a small number of Auxiliarists served as instructors in past years, Tradewinds 2011 was the



first time the Coast Guard Auxiliary was asked to participate in the annual exercise. The Auxiliary Team served as instructors and interpreters. The Auxiliary instructors not only taught the classes but also developed the courses themselves. Working with

the Coast Guard Auxiliary Interpreter Corps, simultaneous translation to Spanish (and some Creole French) assisted the instructors in personnel getting the same lessons and instructions at the same time.

Teamed with other Auxiliary instructors, Dan and Ira developed course material on subjects such as the Incident Command System, Marine Domain Awareness, Risk Assessment/Team Coordination, Communications, Radio Wave Propagation, Voice Procedures, and First Aid for Command Center Personnel. In addition to classroom instruction, other Auxiliary members could be found assisting small boat operations, at firing ranges and at Antigua Barbuda Defense Force Headquarters. Also, an Auxiliary Communications Trailer was shipped in from Miami to provide communications for the exercise. Several Auxiliarists manned the comms facility during the entire Tradewinds exercise.



While this assignment was an unusual opportunity for the Auxiliary, the leader of the Auxiliary Contingent, John Cooper, USCG Auxiliary International Department said, “This was a great opportunity to provide a worthwhile service for our military while intermingling with our partners in the Caribbean. Auxiliary members were recognized for their professionalism and knowledge by Headquarters Staff and we have already been asked to participate in next year’s exercise in an even expanded role. Mission accomplished.”

Add to the above, meeting and making new friends and you have the ideal experience and evolution that the Coast Guard Auxiliary seeks to provide to its members and the U.S. Coast Guard.

PHOTO CAPTIONS (From Top):

Flags and representatives of the participating countries.

Ira Dolich presenting ICS to attendees.

Dan Maxim teaches Team Coordination at the exercise.

Auxiliary Landmarks

Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorial

Story by John Burns, AUXLO Station Cape May, FL82

Photo by Joseph Giannattasio, FSO-PA FL82

At the southern tip of New Jersey, Cape May is a Victorian-era seaside resort that is home to the United States Coast Guard Training Center (TRA-CEN). The base is the primary training center for all Coast Guard recruits. On the entrance drive into the base, off Munro Avenue (so named in honor of Douglas A. Munro, the only Coast Guardsman awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II) there is a small memorial garden with shady benches and a monument with these words:

"The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian volunteer arm of the United States Coast Guard; brave men and women who donate their time and expertise to support the Coast Guard and improve boating safety."



Muriel Lewis, a charter member of Flotilla 2-76 in 1976 and past Flotilla Commander, developed the idea for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Memorial. Recently she recalled that it took about two years from inception to complete the garden. Although Ms Lewis developed the idea, she is quick to share the kudos with those who assisted her. Specifically she noted that without the help of the former Fifth Northern Director of the Auxiliary, now-retired Commander Steve Minutolo, and then-Commodore Robert Perrone, the idea might not have moved forward as quickly as it did. She pointed out that the cost for the monument was borne by the Fifth Northern District of the Auxiliary.

Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara dedicated the monument in the spring of 2002. "It was an honor to participate in the unveiling of the Auxiliary Memorial at Training Center Cape May," she said. "It is a fitting tribute to the dedicated volunteers who contribute daily to the success of the Coast Guard. Situated between the Cape May harbor and recruit training campus, the monument reminds us of the many ways in which Auxiliarists serve, from operations on the adjacent waterways, to communications watch at Station Cape May, to instruction at the training center's classrooms. We would not be able to accomplish our missions without the help of so many talented professionals who proudly give their time and resources. Semper Paratus and my personal thanks to all members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary."

topside

It Just Keeps Getting Better!

Story and Photo by Gene Morris DCAPT-E

This year Division 3's annual picnic started out a little better than last year.

First off it wasn't as hot and the rain held off until cleanup was well underway. I would like to thank Dan Tinney for all his help in advertising and spreading the word regarding the picnic. And how about Joe Smith who secured a bus and drove members to and from the picnic. We could never forget all the wives who cooked and brought deserts and the ever popular Tom Morrissey who paid the bill.

This picnic is held as a small gift back to all the Auxiliarists who work so hard at helping the Coast Guard and putting in the tremendous amount of time carrying out their duties.

We were pleased both the Gold and Silver side were well represented and appeared to have a good time. This entire event was well attended and could have come about without the effort of your Div 3's VCDR Don Heer. And for that I, on behalf of the members of Division 3, wish to thank you Don for your tireless efforts in putting this affair together.

We are looking for a larger turnout next year and I'm sure it will be just as grand.



Profiles In Service

Outstanding Members of Flotilla 12-05

Photos by Alfred O. Grimminger FL12-05



PHOTO CAPTION: (Left to Right) Louise Ruff receiving her Certificate for 45 years of Service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary with Peter Branker FC FL12-05.

Merton Walton Receiving his Certificate for 30 Years of Service to the Auxiliary from Peter Branker FC FL12-05.

Who was recognized for their service in your Flotilla or Division?

Why not share the honor with the rest of the District - just email the citation and a picture of your unit's deserving Auxiliarist to **topside** at: joetasio@verizon.net

Your membership in the Auxiliary allows you to take advantage of this high benefit card as well as other benefits in being a member of the Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

About Pentagon Federal Credit Union

Over 937,041 members worldwide
More than \$13.9 Billion in assets
Full range of financial services
Superior rates, proven service

Top Rates & Offers

Member Benefits *

Coast Guard Auxiliary Association Visa Platinum Cash Rewards

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association are eligible to apply for an *exclusive* Coast Guard Auxiliary Association credit card. Support your Coast Guard Auxiliary Association while reaping these rewards:

- 5.00% Cash Back on Gas Paid at the Pump
- 2.00% Cash Back Paid Monthly on Supermarket Purchases
- 1.00% Monthly Cash Rewards on all Other Purchases
- 0.25% Goes towards your Coast Guard Auxiliary Association to support USCG Auxiliary programs

5-Year ARM, Fixed for 5 Years

4.500% / 3.612% APR

New & Used Auto Loans

3.99% APR

Fixed Home Equity Loans, up to 120 months

4.99% APR

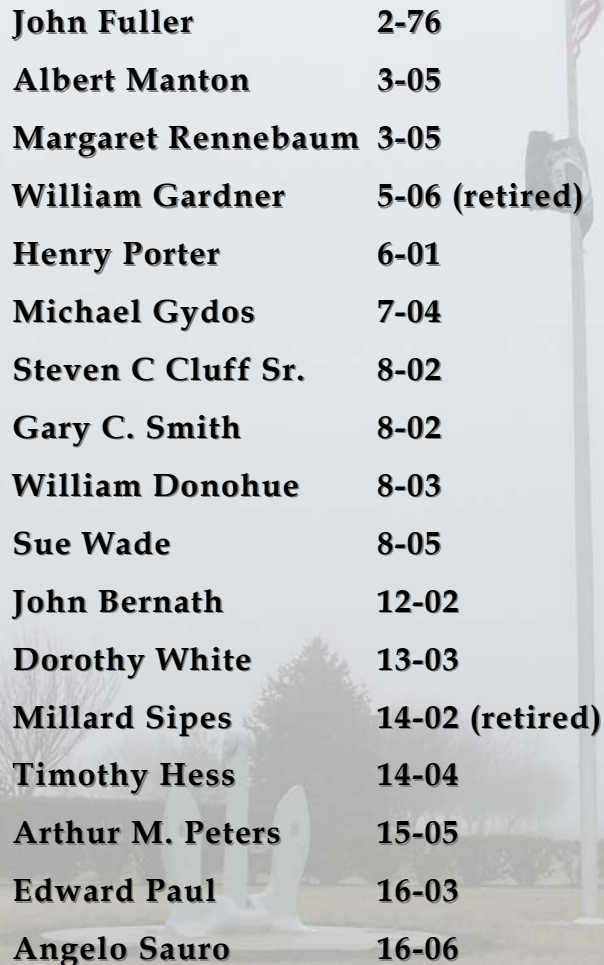
Have you applied for yours yet?

* Offer subject to change at any time. Additional terms and disclosures

<https://www.penfed.org/productsAndRates/overview.asp>

In Memoriam

DECEASED SINCE LAST CONFERENCE



John Fuller	2-76
Albert Manton	3-05
Margaret Rennebaum	3-05
William Gardner	5-06 (retired)
Henry Porter	6-01
Michael Gydos	7-04
Steven C Cluff Sr.	8-02
Gary C. Smith	8-02
William Donohue	8-03
Sue Wade	8-05
John Bernath	12-02
Dorothy White	13-03
Millard Sipes	14-02 (retired)
Timothy Hess	14-04
Arthur M. Peters	15-05
Edward Paul	16-03
Angelo Sauro	16-06

TOPSIDE Submission Guidelines

1. KEEP IT SIMPLE: Articles and stories of any length up to 700 words are welcome. TOPSIDE has no set minimum number of words.
2. Every article or photo caption should answer the basic questions: Who is this about? What is this story or photo about? Where and When did the story take place? Why is the action being done? and How is this performed? Always provide the name of the photographer and author's name.
3. Take pictures from NO MORE than 10-12 feet away from your subject. Set your camera for the highest resolution possible. Check your camera's documentation on how to do this.
4. When writing an article for submission never use all capital letters unless you are typing an acronym, and always spell out the complete name the first time followed by the abbreviation or acronym in parenthesis after it. Thereafter, the acronym may be used.
5. All submissions to TOPSIDE should be forwarded to your respective regional ADSO's.

All of this information and more can be found on the Public Affairs website. www.auxpa.org.

Joseph Giannattasio DSO-PB, Editor

PS General Slocum Memorial Service

by Robert N. Babezki, ADSO-PA

With flags flying from the Auxiliary Honor Guard, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter overhead and an Auxiliary vessel anchored offshore, the June 15th memorial service to mark the PS General Slocum excursion steamboat disaster of 1904 took on a somber tone on the beach in Strathmere. For the last two years, Division 8 has been co-hosting a memorial service that honors the victims of the General Slocum fire. This year, the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary provided a significant contribution to the memorial service.

The General Slocum disaster, which took place on June 15 1904, was a case where many of the estimated 1,021 persons who perished that day could have been saved if the safety equipment on the General Slocum had performed properly. Tragically, without careful inspections, the safety equipment aboard was left to languish to the ravages of time and moisture. When needed, the equipment failed. The General Slocum tragedy was the New York area's worst disaster in terms of loss of life until the September 11, 2001 attacks.

After the fire in New York, the hulk of the General Slocum, was converted into a coal barge and renamed the Maryland, which eventually sank in a Nor'easter on December 11, 1911, ¾ of mile off of Corsons' Inlet in Strathmere, NJ. Each year there are two memorial services held on June 15th ; one in the New York City neighborhood where most of the victims had lived, the other in Strathmere where the final remains of the General Slocum lie beneath the waters.

The District's Honor Guard, commanded by John Jedrejczyk (FL 6-9) was present in full dress uniforms. The USCG AIRSTA Atlantic City provided a helicopter flyover of the beach ceremony at the moment of the start of the fire, 10:15 AM. A prayer was lead by the minister of the local Lutheran congregation, to which most of the victims belonged. Robert Babezki FL 81, representing the District's PA Department, spoke briefly as to how this tragic event lead to changes in public policy that have saved countless lives since. Also present was CDR Terry Johns, DIRAUX.

At the conclusion of the service, a wreath was taken from the beach to the wreck site by the lifeguards of the Upper Township Beach Patrol, who delivered it to a Auxiliary Utility Boat (UTL). The crew of the UTL placed the wreath on the ocean over the gravesite of the General Slocum, in the hope that the lives lost that day should not have been in vain. We, of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, practice today those safety procedures that were identified in the General Slocum accident investigation as lessons learned in the name of safe boating.

~ Photos on page 17 ~

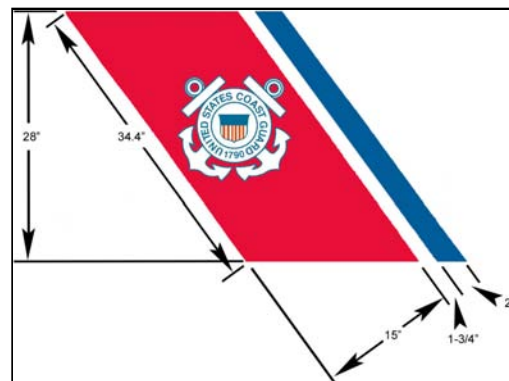
Historian's Corner

The History of the Coast Guard's slash or "Racing Stripe"

Researched by Joseph Giannattasio, ADSO-AV [PA]

The distinctive red slash or "racing stripe" did not appear on USCG cutters, boats, aircraft, stations, vehicles, signs and printed forms until relatively late in Coast Guard history. President John F. Kennedy was the "father" of the well-known Coast Guard racing stripe. During his presidency, Kennedy approved a proposal for improving the worldwide visual identification of the U.S. government. Part of the improvements included the addition of the now-famous racing stripe to Coast Guard vessels. It consists of a narrow blue stripe, a narrow white stripe between, and a broad CG red bar with the Coast Guard shield centered. The stripes are canted at a 64 degree angle, coincidentally the year the Racing Stripe was designed. Kennedy was assassinated before the new stripe was added April 6, 1967.

Authorized Auxiliary vessels also carry the Racing Stripe, but in inverted colors and the Auxiliary shield.



5NR Auxiliarist's Photo earns Coast Guard Channel's Photography Contest

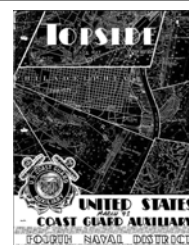
Eileen Koehler's (FL 84) photo (below) won the Coast Guard Channel's Photography Contest in May. This is a photo of the first ever Auxiliary helo-ops team out of STA ATLANTIC CITY, working directly with AIR STA AC. The boat crew consists of a hand picked Auxiliary crew in a USCG facility totally manned by Auxiliary personnel.

In photo, Glen Westerfeld and Ernie Philips.

Way to Go Eileen!



Art Zack FL81 is multi-tasking. In between vessel exams, he has time to read a Coast Guard coloring book to two future boaters.



Read the very first issue of TOPSIDE from March, 1943. Just view or download from the 5NR website:

www.5nr.org/topside/topside.php

OLD TOPSIDES NEEDED
the District's collection is incomplete.

If you have old issues of TOPSIDE (pre-date 1995) please send them to the Editor. We are in the process of digitally archiving all past issues so everyone can enjoy them.

Just email the Editor:
joetasio@verizon.net
and we'll arrange shipping.

**Do you have any old photos depicting Auxiliary or Coast Guard events and missions?
Help preserve them by sending originals or scanned digital copies to us at **topside**.**

Parting Shots



PHOTO CAPTIONS:

(Clockwise from top left) UTL Helo OPS Crew (left to right) Glen Westervelt FL85, Joseph Smith FL32, Walt Alsegg FL81 with Gen. Slocum ceremonial wreath. Bob Babezki ADSO-PA and CAPT Ronald Sinn USMMA (ret) and the 5NR Color Guard during the Gen. Slocum ceremony. [read the full story on page 15]



Jon Bomengen DCDR-07 and Jim Skelly VCDR-13 during an Eastern Area EXCOM meeting.

5NR Distric Captains Robert Roetz (C), K.C. Murphy (W) and Eugene Morris (E) are sworn in for their second-term of elected office at the fall conference. John Yowell FL10-6 receives his Coxswain Award at the Fall Conference. FL84 OPFAC in the "Atlantic City Salutes America Armed Forces" Parade. Howard Davis FL34 piloting during an Air Patrol.



Photos: Bob Babezki ADSO-PA, Linda Jones FL84, Steve Hewitt FL72 and Joe Giannattasio DSO-PB



Parting Shots

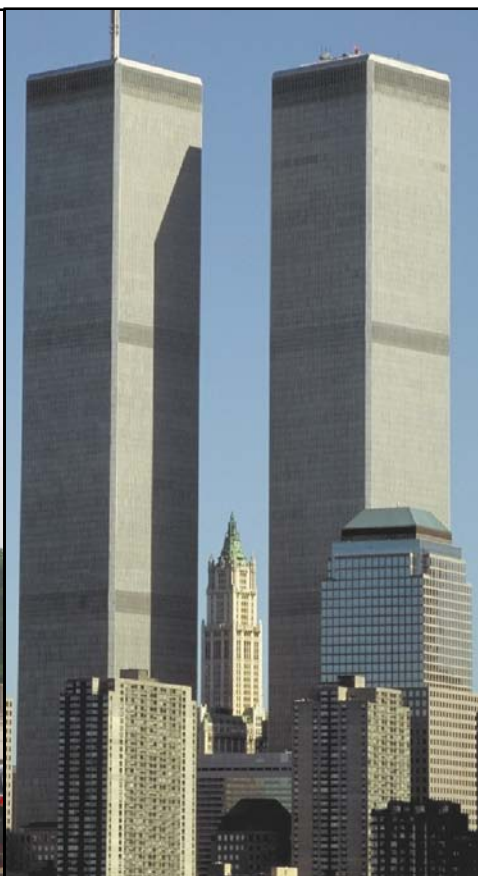


PHOTO CAPTIONS:

(Clockwise from top left) COMO Robinson lowers the National Ensign to half-mast as the 5NR Color Guard stands watch during the 9/11 Memorial Service at the Fall Conference. John Jedrejczyk FL69 plays taps from an overlooking hill.

Bruce Long DPDCAPT-E on patrol with STA CAPE MAY's new 45ft patrol boat.

MarlinSpike taught by Coasties is always a popular training event at the Conference.

Shanon Burns WS-trainee working a firehose. Simulated Damage Control for AuxCrew training at TRACEN.

Phil Appenzeller VFC and Rich Weiss FC during a Flotilla 82 Meeting.

Photos by Bruce Long, PDCAPT, J. Giannattasio DSO-PB.





You're smart.



We know you look for the best deal.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Assoc. VISA Platinum Cash Rewards

- ▶ **5%** cash back on gas paid at the pump*
- ▶ **2%** cash back on groceries*
- ▶ **1%** cash back on everything else
- ▶ **.25%** of your purchases supports Coast Guard Auxiliary programs

Apply today.
800.247.5626
PenFed.org/CGAuxA



If you can find a better deal, take it!

All rates and offers current as of December 1, 2009 and are subject to change. *Visa USA determines which transactions are classified as paid at the pump and which stores are classified as supermarkets. Military commissaries are considered supermarkets. Fuel purchases for airplanes and boats receive 1% cash back.

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union now offers membership to Auxiliarists. The agreement includes allowing members to obtain a special Auxiliary VISA Platinum Cash Rewards credit card that provides 1% cash back to you-paid monthly as well as 0.25% going to the organization to support Auxiliary programs.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY 5NR
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
1 WASHINGTON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147-4393

Address Service Requested

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

DSO-PB D5-NR

