

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Wrightsville Beach, NC – Pier –To –Pier Swim

Saturday, September 8, 2007

Flotillas 10-01 & 10-09

Requested by USCG Sector North Carolina

Submitted by

Lou Ashe, FSO-OP Flotilla 10-01

Requesting Agency:

Mr. David Sokolofsky, Wilmington Family YMCA, requested U.S. Coast Guard support for this annual event.

BM1 Chris Schwalm, Operations Petty Officer, Station Wrightsville Beach requested USCG Auxiliary, Division 10, provide auxiliary provide support for this event. Flotilla 10-01, Wrightsville Beach, took the auxiliary coordinating action for this event.

Location:

In the ocean between Johnny Mercer Pier and Crystal Pier, Wrightsville Beach, NC

Auxiliary Flotilla Participating:

Flotilla 10-01 Wrightsville Beach NC
Flotilla 10-09 Hampstead, NC.

Coordination:

The YMCA event coordinator was Mr. David Sokolofsky, of Wilmington Family YMCA

The Auxiliary patrol coordinator was Elias R. Ashe, VFC, FSO-OP 10-01

The Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue coordinator was Officer David Baker

General description of mission:

During the pier-to-pier swim, our primary objective was to protect the swimmers by patrolling the waterway between the Johnny Mercer and Crystal piers by alerting and controlling all boating traffic in way of the swim route. Our secondary objective was to keep a watchful eye on the swimmers for signs of fatigue alert the Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue if you find a swimmer in trouble.

Auxiliary Facility participating:

OPFAC #1 - 20436 - Coxswain Jim Beecher, Flotilla 10-09.

OPFAC #2 - 25721 - "Odyssey", Coxswain Robert Licursi, Flotilla 10-01.

Conduct of the mission:

Approximately 250 swimmers will be racing from the Johnny Mercer Pier south to Crystal Pier on Wrightsville Beach, NC

Facility #1 took up a position on the seaward side of Johnny Mercer Pier, the starting point for the race. Facility #1 remained on station until the second wave of swimmers entered the water. When all swimmers were in the water, the facility continued to patrol the seaward side of the swimmers and follow them to the finish line, controlling boating traffic and watching the welfare of the swimmers along the race route.

Facility # 2 patrolled the swim line, between the piers, after the first wave of swimmers entered the water. While monitoring the lead swimmers, the facility crew controlled boating traffic, advised boaters of swimmers in the water, and watch after the welfare of the swimmers along the race route doubling back from time to time to assess the swimmer conditions.

Many times during the race both facilities, as well as the Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue, had to caution swimmers that they were too far off course.

Auxiliary Members participating:

Elias Ashey	Patrol coordinator	10-01
Jim Beecher	Coxswain – 20436	10-09
Robert Licursi	Coxswain – 25721	10-01
Robert Spencer	Crew member	10-01
John Covington	Crew member	10-03
Bill Ellerman	Crew member	10-09

AUXILIARY OPERATIONS ORDER:

Event: Pier-to-Pier Swim

Requesting Agency: Station Wrightsville Beach, BM1 Chris Schwalm, Operations Petty Officer

Patrol Order: Class is "CG Request"; Patrol Type is "Regatta"

Date(s): Saturday, September 8, 2007, - Start of race 0900

Location: Wrightsville Beach, NC – ocean side, between Johnny Mercer and Crystal piers.

Race Coordinator: David Sokolofsky, Wilmington Family YMCA 521-9622 x234

General description of mission:

During the pier-to-pier swim, our primary objective will be to protect the swimmers by patrolling the waterway between the Johnny Mercer and Crystal piers. Alert recreational boaters and control the boating traffic in way of the swim route.

The race route will start at either the Johnny Mercer pier or the Crystal pier, depending on the ocean currents that morning.

There will be between 300 to 400 swimmers in the water. YMCA lifeguards will patrol the beach along the swim route. Six (6) race marshals will patrol the swimmers using sea kayaks along with Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue

As the swim progresses, patrol the waterways between piers, controlling boating traffic along the swim route. If possible keep a watchful eye on the swimmers for signs of fatigue. Alert the Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue if you find a swimmer in trouble.

Auxiliary Facilities Participating:

- #1 - 20436 - Coxswain Jim Beecher, on station 0900 September 8, 2007.
- #2 - 25721 - "Odyssey", Coxswain Robert Licursi, on station 0900 September 8, 2007.

Weather Watch:

The weather conditions for the morning of September 8, 2007 are uncertain. There is some severe weather off the east coast, which may cause some high winds and a high sea state conditions along race line.

Currently, small craft warnings are up for the weekend.

The Patrol Coordinator will make a Go-NO Go decision no later than 0645 on September 8, 2007.

Mission specifics:

- Patrol coordinator Ashley will be aboard facility #2
- David Sokolofsky of the YMCA will be the race coordinator.
 - David will choose the swim course (start) prior to 0900 hrs on September 8, 2007
- All facilities will meet in Johnny Mercer Pier at 0845 for final coordination.
- All facilities on station by 0855.
- Race start time is 0900.
- Equipment recommended.
- Flashing/rotating lights – if available
- SLOW/STOP signs – if available

Uniform:

- Working Blue (Hoy Weather Outfit) or ODU, with dark boat shoes.

Radio Guard:

- Auxiliary communications on channel - 23A
- Wrightsville Beach Ocean Rescue – 23A
- Race communications on channel - **TBD**.

STATIONS:

Facility #1 will take up a position on the seaward side of either Johnny Mercer or Crystal Pier (the starting line). After the swim has begun, stay to the seaward side of the swimmers and follow the swimmers to the finish, controlling boating traffic along the way.

Facility # 2 will patrol the swim line between the piers during the first $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance in order to alert boating traffic that there are swimmers in the water. Then maintain station at the finish line (at either Johnny Mercer or Crystal Pier) until the end of the swim.

Cell Phone Numbers:

Elias Ashey	409-4048	Patrol coordinator
Jim Beecher	200-5668	Coxswain - 20436
Robert Licursi	231-3306	Coxswain - 25721

Elias Ashey
FSO-OP
Flotilla 10-01
