

# Sunset

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exposed to the Coast Guard and get a sense of flavor for our missions, what it means to have Coast Guardsmen in your community, what we do and why we serve.”

Gibbons said the Sunset Parades, which are typically held once a month during the summer, give the public a mere glimpse into the training received at TRACEN through the observation of company formations and limited interaction with the recruits.

“Our gates are often closed and the work we do here is often quiet compared to what the public gets to see. So, they get a chance to see our recruits in training and get a sense of the size of the operation that we run here,” Gibbons said. “Not many know that over 80 percent of the Coast Guard’s workforce get their initial training right here.”

According to CWO Donnie Brzuska, public affairs officer at TRACEN, there will be over 300 recruits marching in Sunday’s Sunset Parade from six different companies, most just a week or two from graduation before moving on to their specialized techni-



Photos by CWO Donnie Brzuska, USCG  
Left, a drill instructor passes between Coast Guard members demonstrating a rifle drill during a recent Sunset Parade at US Coast Guard Training Center-Cape May. Above, a training company marches in the Sunset Parade.

cal training. Brzuska said the Coast Guard Day event will be one of the largest Sunset Parades this year in terms of recruits and will also welcome the Coast Guard band, precision drill team and local musical group, the Cape Harmonaires.

Gibbons said Sunset Parades often honor a specific organization or group of people linked to the Coast Guard. The first ceremony of the summer on July 7 recognized the American Red Cross, while all veterans of the U.S. military were honored in the parade prior

to that. The Sunset Parade on Coast Guard Day will acknowledge members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the contributions made by the organization every day. Gibbons said the Coast Guard Auxiliary was established in 1939 as a volunteer organization to assist

the Coast Guard in carrying out its vital missions. He said members of the Auxiliary do essentially everything the Coast Guard does but are not actually enlisted in the branch. The Auxiliary, which has over 30,000 members nationwide, conducts safety and security patrols, search

and rescue missions, homeland security efforts, teach recreational boating safety classes and perform commercial fishing and vessel examinations. Gibbons said the Auxiliary not only contributes greatly to the Coast Guard in performing missions, but also acts as a cost saver due to it being a volunteer organization.

“In addition to what the Auxiliary at large does for the Coast Guard in terms of volunteering their services to help with our missions, just here locally we have more than 20 volunteers who do everything from giving tours of the base to teaching in our classrooms and preparing meals for the families who come in on graduation day,” he said. “It really frees up the work time of our active duty members so they can concentrate on vital duties and missions.”

The Sunset Parade on Sunday, Aug. 4 will begin around 7:45 p.m. Guests should be seated at the parade field by 7:30 p.m. The next Sunset Parade will be held Sunday, Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. and will honor Cape May City, the home to TRACEN and a designated Coast Guard

# Ruane

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to be active and you’re on the beach. There’s really no negative side to the job,” Lexi added.

Lexi said the family’s life-guarding saga began back in the late 1960s, when her great aunt, Dolores Fischer, served as the nurse for the beach patrol. Her father, Jim Sullivan, served as a lifeguard in the early 1980s. She said her oldest sister, Ashley, met her husband, Matt Peoples,

when they both served as lifeguards in the early 2000s. Brian and Sean said their sister, Laura, then served as a lifeguard in 2005.

When Lexi first began life-guarding eight years ago, she was the youngest of the Ruane family, serving with Ashley, Matt and Laura, but is now the eldest serving alongside her younger cousins.

Tim said all of their parents grew up in Wallingford, Pa., and vacationed in Cape May each summer. Lexi is the only

local out of current group of Ruane family lifeguards. She spent most of her life in Cape May and is a graduate of Wildwood Catholic High School. Jack said the family used to have a summerhouse on Corgie Street in Cape May, but bought his year-round home on Tranquility 28 years ago. Although, the house is far from tranquil between the months of May and August

when the entire family comes for the summer, which Lexi said has been as many as 17 people at one time.

“Each family would get a room – the Sullivan room, the Ruane room and the Haines room,” she said.

Jack’s late wife, Barbara, who passed away in 2008, was considered the caregiver of the family. Lexi and Tim can recall her bringing

them extravagant lunches on the beach nearly everyday in the summer, which they said were large enough to share with the rest of the beach patrol too.

“It was like a six course meal that somehow fit into a little bag,” Lexi said.

“She used to do all kinds of things like that,” Jack said. “She was a great lady.”

Tim said the family had a public bench at Madison

Beach dedicated to Barbara Ruane’s memory after she passed.

“Madison is our beach – that’s where the family always went,” Tim said.

After the sun sets on summer and the lifeguards are off duty, all of the Ruane’s will head back to school and wait for May to come around again so they can return to Tranquility.

Tim currently attends West Chester University for accounting and international business while Lexi has graduated from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania and is presently going for her Master’s degree in English literature at Boston College. She is hoping to become a col

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TIDES AUGUST 2013 Eastern Standard Time				
	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
31	3:38	4:16	9:28	10:33
1	4:37	5:09	10:21	11:28
2	5:32	5:58	11:12	
3	6:22	6:43	12:17	12:00
4	7:07	7:24	1:00	12:44
5	7:50	8:03	1:40	1:26
6	8:29	8:40	2:17	2:06
7	9:07	9:15	2:52	2:45

Moon Phases  
New Moon, Aug. 6  
First Quarter, Aug. 14  
Full Moon, Aug. 20  
Last Quarter, Aug. 28  
Apogee, Aug. 3,30  
Perigee, Aug. 18

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