

Community

CONNECTION

SUMMER 2015

Millville's Wheels and Wings draws big crowd

MILLVILLE, NJ—On May 9 and 10, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds took to the skies over Millville Airport, roaring engines deafening the delighted crowds below, to begin a fun-filled weekend at the Millville Wheels and Wings Airshow. After an 11-year absence from performing locally, the Air Force jets drew larger-than-ever crowds who were itching to see America's Ambassadors in Blue. Joining the headline act in the sky were the Golden Knights, the official 18-person parachute team of the United States Army, and several vintage WWII warbird planes.

An especially powerful aircraft in the show was the F/A-18F Super Hornet, a U.S. Navy fighter jet. The Hornet is always a crowd favorite. At ground level the traditional classic car show made this the only event in the region to bring cars and planes together. The show also entertained the crowds with exhilarating aerobatics including the Geico Skytypers. Following a four-year hiatus, the Airshow drew more than 40,000 spectators to the Airport for a weekend of history and amazing performances. The show benefits the Millville Army Air Field Museum. ■

Cape May County is 'Coast Guard Community'



DRBA PRESENTS RESOLUTION—(L-R) Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald M. Thornton, DRBA Commissioner Becki Wilson, TRACEN Commanding Officer Captain G. Todd Prestige, and Vice Chairman Jim Hogan smile as the DRBA representatives deliver a framed resolution commemorating the Coast Guard honor.



CAPE MAY, NJ—Cape May's Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN) had good news for Cape May County on May 8. The county had been officially named a U.S. Coast Guard Community—a long-sought honor and one in which Cape May became only the second county in the entire nation to receive this desired designation.

At the announcement ceremony attended by several hundred guests and a battalion of USCG recruits, the training center commanding officer Capt. Todd Prestige welcomed a number of dignitaries, including Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Paul Zukunft and Congressman Frank LoBiondo.

In presenting the official designation to the county's Board of Chosen Freeholders and mayors, Adm. Zukunft noted that not only does Cape May

County have the sole recruit training center in the entire country, the great relationship between the two entities has been invaluable, dating back to 1791.

Rep. LoBiondo noted that the USCG and the county are essentially now one and the same, as they are fully integrated both economically and socially.

In celebration of the honor, on May 9, TRACEN was open to the public for a festival which included trolley and boat tours, a free concert, food, and activities for kids. This event was followed on Sunday, May 10, with a dual Coast Guard/Mother's Day celebration at the Cape May Ferry Terminal.

The third day of celebration included a Kegs 'n' Eggs breakfast featuring Cape May Brewery craft beer, as well as free exhibits and activities all afternoon. ■

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Scaffolds on the northbound span towers



During May 2015, Blastech Enterprises, Inc., of Baltimore, erected overhead platforms and scaffolding at the bridge towers of the northbound span (New Jersey bound) of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. The work is associated with the Steelwork Painting Program for both spans of the bridge, which was approved by the Commission in October 2014. The project cost is \$12.9 million and is expected to be completed by December 2015. ■

Lewes Terminal gets electric vehicle charging stations



LEWES, DE—Two electric vehicle charging stations at the Lewes Ferry Terminal opened for business on March 30. The Authority received the charging stations through a collaborative research program agreement between the University of Delaware (UD) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environ-



mental Control (DNREC). The Program, "Charging-Up Delaware," is designed to promote a network of charging stations to facilitate long-distance trips with electric vehicles in Delaware.

"The charging stations are really convenient and easy to use," said Laura

Trethewey of Rehoboth Beach, DE, who was the first customer to use the charging station. "It's a great service for both locals and Ferry customers who are looking for a place to recharge their electric vehicle."

The Level 2 charging stations, which are located in the public parking lot near the terminal building,

are available during the Ferry's normal business hours. The DRBA maintenance department installed both stations and terminal signage directing EV owners to their location. These stations are available at no charge, on a first-come, first-served basis. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Sen. Carper visits Dassault and FlightSafety



SAFETY—Sen. Carper and Center Manager Ralph Lintelman of Flight-Safety International check out the inside of a flight simulator at ILG.



NEW CASTLE, DE—U.S. Sen. Tom Carper visited Wilmington-Philadelphia Regional Airport recently. The Senator, who is very interested in aviation issues, sought to gain useful insight from two large aviation companies with a presence at ILG. ■

USEPA grant made to Ferry



LEWES, DE—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a grant to the DRBA of nearly \$1 million that will help bring new clean air technology to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant will help replace the propulsion engines in the ferry boat M/V Delaware with EPA-certified engines that are anticipated to annually reduce fuel use and carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter emissions.

“We are grateful that the EPA recognized the importance of repowering M/V Delaware,” said Health Gehrke, Director of Operations for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

“For every \$1 invested through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, we get over \$13 in health and economic benefits in return,” according to U.S. Senator Tom Carper, co-author of the DERA. “The changes made to these ferry engines will be a breath of fresh air for the folks that live here in Lewes and in New Jersey,” he concluded. ■



DelMoSports powers across the Bay with a new event in Delaware

Escape From Lewes Open Water Swim Classic

the most exciting open water swimming race on the East Coast



LEWES, DE—DelMoSports, known for creating award-winning triathlon experiences, is taking its expertise to Delaware with the Inaugural Escape From Lewes Open Water Classic 5k and 1 mile swims, on Sunday, September 27.

No other event on the East Coast features such an exciting number of elements: the ingenuity of DelMoSports, the scenic terrain of Cape Henlopen State Park, and the thrill of leaping off a massive DRBA ferry vessel to begin the race.

The **Escape from Lewes Open Water Classic** is sure to become an instant favorite among the thrill-seeking, competitively driven swimming community. “We’re proud to host this unique sporting event and see the Lewes Breakwater Harbor as the perfect location,” said Governor Jack Markell.

DelMoSports organized **Escape**

the Cape, a triathlon in which participants leap 12 feet from a ferry vessel into the Delaware Bay. The the Open Water Classic will begin in the same exhilarating way.

The DRBA is a perfect partner for hosting these world-class races, according to DRBA’s Executive Director Scott Green. He also noted that the new **Escape from Lewes** provides a great opportunity to showcase the Ferry’s waterfront facilities which are perfect for mega-events such as concerts, festivals, and various sporting contests. “For us, it’s about helping make each spectacular event one that will not soon be forgotten.”

The **Escape From Lewes Open Water Classic** is both a USMS and WOWSA sanctioned race. Swimmers of all ability levels will be able to test their skills in the event, which features wetsuit and non-wetsuit categories along with junior, masters, and triathlon



A triathlete jumps from a ferry.

Delaware aviation leaders form advocacy group



DOVER, DE— Delaware Governor Jack Markell joined members of the Delaware Business Aviation Association



(DBAA) board of directors, the state’s aviation business leaders, government officials and prospective members to commemorate the newly formed Delaware Business Aviation Association.

Held at the Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, the event touted the importance of the aviation industry to Delaware. The new advocacy group was formed to provide assistance and professional support for the aviation community in Delaware, according to DRBA Airports Director Steve Williams, the group’s founding chairman. ■

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Cape May Airport hosts unmanned aircraft testing



CAPE MAY, NJ—Is it possible to integrate drones into a manned aviation network to help prevent collisions between aircraft?

A wind speed measuring device, set up on the tarmac at Cape May Airport as part of data collection efforts by the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership on June 19, may help find out the answer to that question. This was the first time the Partnership tested aircraft in New Jersey.

Controlled by a pilot in the central

command center, the drone was observed by researchers. The aircraft used was an RS-20 Unmanned Aircraft System with a wingspan of more than 17 feet.

“The development of sense-and-avoidance technology is a critical path toward the safe introduction of unmanned aircraft systems into the nation’s airspace,” said David Yoel, chief executive officer of American Aerospace Technologies Inc. American Aerospace Technologies is the first unmanned

aerospace tenant at Cape May Airport.

“The aircraft was equipped with sensing equipment that allowed it to monitor its position in the airspace.”

There are a number of possible uses for the drone technology.

For instance, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, who joined Freeholder Will Morey at Cape May Airport for the drone testing, said she was pleased to see the progress being made. She noted that drones would be hugely beneficial in responding to emergencies after major storms.

The Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership is comprised of New Jersey universities, Rutgers, Rowan, Stockton, and Princeton, as well as Virginia Tech. Their collective testing data will provide the Federal Aviation Administration with a better grasp on the potential integration of drones into flight patterns with manned aircraft. The FAA will decide whether unmanned activities have met safety standards. ■