



Whittier Soundings



Newsletter of the Whittier Flotilla 170-02-04 District 17 Alaska

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Flotilla Commander Currents

By Mark Parmelee

Our flotilla is blessed with some incredibly giving individuals. We have a strong group of folks that understand the value of public service and all the wonderful things the auxiliary accomplishes in part due to their efforts. For example at this month's meeting Linda Shogren will be receiving two auxiliary sustained service awards. That is 1,500 activity hours.



Linda also received an earlier award of 750 hours in 2010. At my full time job I did not work as many hours as Linda volunteered in 2010. Our flotilla has so many that give and give. Within our flotilla, some of our greatest volunteers are Dave, Bob, Tom, Russ, Rae, Barb, Ron, Linda, Stewart, Cathey, Roy and Terry. These individuals have all donated a minimum of 3,750 hours in their Auxiliary "career." Some individuals such as Roy and Jim are right now giving 110% and show no sign of stopping.

For many years, the Whittier Flotilla membership has hovered around 100 members. At the beginning of 2011, we were at 97 members including Samuel, Debra and Jim. The flotilla has 17 Flotilla Staff Officers, a group of assistant staff officers, a vice flotilla commander and a flotilla commander. In my 12 years with the flotilla there always have been about 20 folks putting in the hours and hours to make the flotilla the success it is. Many of these 20 folks have been the same individuals.

Right now, I'm hearing and seeing an opportunity for a new group of volunteers to get involved in the flotilla. A natural progression is happening within the Whittier Flotilla. I pretend it is not happening to me but there is no doubt that the flotilla is aging. As I write this, we have six members or recent members of our flotilla in Texas for retirement or preretirement. A few of our past leaders, including Mark, Mike, and Jack have recently passed the bar (as they say in the Coast Guard.) I believe the maturing of our flotilla suggests that 2011 is an important year to position the next wave of auxiliarists for leadership positions.

Wikipedia tells me that in 1906 Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto observed that 20% of the pea pods in his garden contained 80% of the peas. Pareto also re-

alized that in Italy 80% of the land was owned by 20% of the population. Today this 80/20 Pareto Principle is often extended to volunteers in churches and non-profits. This means 20% of the members do 80% of the volunteer work. The Principle, no doubt with some burnout, has worked for the Whittier Flotilla as well but I'm wondering if there is a perfect storm in the future. Many of the 20% of the members that have successfully run the flotilla for years are ready to engage and train the next leaders of our flotilla.

I'm not suggesting that our current crop of auxiliary leaders are ready to cash in their chips but a few are hinting there may be other things besides the auxiliary in the future. Not every mover and shaker in the flotilla has sold or is selling their boat but a number of them have sold or are selling their boats. In particular, I understand there are 28' and 45' Bayliners that would sell for the right price. Boat ownership is not a leadership requirement but the number of boats sold or listed for sale may be an indicator for the future.

One of my goals for 2011 is to bring on new folks to take on leadership roles. Bill Holzheimer and Dave Brubaker are Assistant Flotilla Staff Officers helping the Vessel Exam and Member Training FSO's get started. Jean Holzheimer is getting a uniform and practicing her salutes to attend a "C" school to help Bob Harvey with Information Systems. Rick Sparenga is actively looking for an assistant for dealer visits. Ideally, every staff officer position would have an assistant to backfill, provide advice, and help with the program. Please see me, Stewart or the respective Staff Officer if you are interested in helping one of our 17 staff positions.

In 2011, I would like to build leadership through the use of mentors. One auxiliariest working with another is an effective and fun way to get folks certified. We should have a strong member-training program but an effective companion to member training is to have an extensive mentor program. Mentor opportunities that I am aware of right now include Frank Veith and Jim Hendley are looking to become instructor certified, Samuel Warner wants to become a vessel examiner and Debra Vanderbilt and Scott Thorsell seek crew status. Bob Harvey is expertly working with Jean to teach her the ins and outs of Information Systems. I would love for 2011 to be a year the flotilla movers and shakers take on even more responsibilities and mentor the next wave of flotilla members. The 20% of the flotilla that is doing 80% of the work is a busy group but I believe there is truth in the saying "If you

want something done, give it to a busy person." The task for individuals that want to do more with the flotilla is to partner with a mentor. Please seek out a mentor for what you are interested in doing in 2011. I think our wonderful volunteers will gladly give you the time you need to get involved. The first step though is yours. You need to ask someone to be your mentor.

Public Affairs

Anchors Aweigh Boat Show

The Whittier Flotilla hosted the Anchors Aweigh Boat Show booth this year from January 27 through January 30. Visitor numbers were low in the early

days but many visitors were seen by Sunday the 30th. Whittier Flotilla, volunteering 32 hours, and the Sector Anchorage active duty staffed the booth most of the time. Thanks to the active duty members recruited by LTJG Ferko



Bill Morris

and all the Whittier Flotilla members that helped. In addition, thank you to the Kenai, Anchorage, Eagle River and Mat-Su Flotilla members that helped staff the booth.



Linda Shogren



Katie Parmelee

Auxiliarist of the Year

Whittier Flotilla Auxiliarist of the Year

The Flotilla's Auxiliarist of the Year is Rick Sparenga. Rick is highly motivated, staying busy with a full time job and his many auxiliary activities. Rick is involved in the operations program qualified as a qualified crewperson on both the SAFEBoat and the OPFACs.



Rick is a Program

Visitor, Vessel Examiner and a Public Education Instructor. Congratulations Rick and thank you for all you do.

Member Training

Auxiliary Seamanship

Eleven members of the Whittier flotilla along with active duty and other auxiliarists enjoyed the first night of the Auxiliary Seamanship Course January 24th, 2011. From the Whittier Flotilla we had Samuel



AUXSEA Students



Scott Thorsell leads the class

Warner, Debra Vanderbilt, John Hightower, Kevin Combs, Katie and Mark Parmelee, Jim Hendley, FSO Scott Thorsell, instructor Jim Chase, instructor John

Whitney, and co-instructor Sue Whitney.

The course was well organized by Scott. Jim and John gave great presentations. John talked about heavy weather and Jim discussed assistance to boats in distress. Students came away from the course saying they learned many things they did not know before and were glad they attended. The course continues in a self study format until February 24th when a



John Whitney



Jim Chase on Skype with Dave Brubaker

Navigation Rules session and a written test will be offered. Please contact Scott right away if you want him to have a test ordered for you. Tom has put much of the self study information you need for the course on our website at

<http://tinyurl.com/4rx8661>

Please contact Scott if you have any questions as pwsxplr@gci.net.

Team Coordination Training

March 22, 24, and 31, 2011

Individuals interested in participating in the operational, on the water, program with the Auxiliary all need to take an 8 hour Team Coordination Training, TCT, session every five years. The Whittier and Anchorage Flotillas are facilitating a session occurring over three evenings at the BP Energy Center from 6 pm to 9 pm March 22, 24, and 31, 2011.

All auxiliarists in or out of the boat program are welcome to attend. We will look at case studies; do role plays, games, and a number of other activities to cover communication, assertiveness, mission analysis, decision making, leadership, and other topics. If you plan on attending, please RSVP Mark Parmelee at potterview@gmail.com.

Member's Corner

by Tom Kane

The Coxswain Academy 2010

The Coast Guard made the decision they would no longer support the NSBs (Non Standard Boats). This meant that here in District Seventeen (D17) the decommissioning of all of our SAFEBoats (Secure All-around Floatation Equipped boats) and replaced with standardized boats. The Boats that would replace the NSBs are 25' Homeland Security Response Boat Small: Defender Class As or Bs. This boat change affected Whittier, Seward and Homer, as well as Petersburg in the Southeast. These boats were considerably different than the NSB's and for that reason a total retraining and recertification had to be undertaken for the entire SAFEBoat Operations Staff.

The idea of the Valdez Coxswain Academy came about because of the above. In addition, the Homer Coxswain Academy had not been budgeted for several years because of expense. Going to Valdez would be much more cost effective since two of the new 25's were already stationed there. CG facilities in Valdez could be used cost free. The Active Duty people who had been running the boats on a daily basis were there to train the Auxiliary Coxswains, providing valuable info for the smaller groups of learners. With the ice free Port of Valdez right outside the door there was plenty of 'hands on' experience.

Dave Brubaker offered to use his 45' boat the "Kindred Spirit" to haul us back and forth. The elimination of airfare from Anchorage to Valdez and back for the 11 attendees further reduced the cost of having the academy in Valdez. It was a great trip over and a little "nautical" coming back. The scenery was awesome and there was not another boat on the water. It was the middle of April after all. The 255006 came

back with us to Whittier were she would start a new life. The summer before she was one of the two boats used in "Arctic Outreach" up on the North Slope.

The group that went to Valdez include Coxswains from all over D17. These Coxswains were to be trained for a week and then would go back home to



train their flotilla's SAFEBoat Operations group. The group of Coxswains consisted of Dave Brubaker (Whittier), Stewart Sterling (Whittier), Tom Kane (Whittier), Gary Taylor (Anchorage), Richard Fairbanks (Anchorage), Mike Coffing (Homer),

Jim Richards (Homer), Bruce Jones (Petersburg) and Tom Reinarts (Petersburg). Also along was our D17 OTO (Operations Training Officer) Chief Jerry Gardner, and ENS Allie Ferko from Sector Anchorage.

In Whittier, the training and certification process started on the very first weekend of May. Dave and Stewart took out the SAFEBoat and Tom Kane, Mary Southard and Rick Sparenga took out the "Dolci", and we started training Whittier's SAFEBoat Coxswain and Crew. First up was Cathey Sterling who was then qualified to crew with Dave while Stewart could act as QE (Qualifying Examiner). By the end of May, we had only one or two left and they received training later in the summer as time allowed. Having all of our people certified so early was a huge accomplishment and it meant that there was a full staff to crew the 255006 for the whole summer, with patrols every weekend and several weekdays.

SAFEBoat 255006 was used extensively as a training platform for trainees this summer. It is not as comfortable in this regard as the 276612 with its compartment up front and roomy cabin. She cruises easily at thirty knots but has a diminished range from the 612.

If you would be interested in participating as a volunteer in the Coast Guard Auxiliary this is one of the paths that is open to you. You can help protect and save Prince William Sound boaters, and enjoy the fun of training and Crewing on this boat and eventually operating it as a Coxswain. Come and experience the energy rush of speeding to a SAR case and the sense of satisfaction that comes from helping others. Be part of this highly respected group of people who routinely save the lives and property of our fellow boaters.



Training and recertifying in Whittier

New Member

Jim Hendley

If you have not already done so, please welcome Jim Hendley our newest member to our flotilla. A graduate of our Fall BS&S class and an attendee of our Christmas party, Jim is quite quickly blending into our flotilla. He operates a 22' Sea Sport that is equally at home zipping off to Montague Island as well as being anchored up for several days in a protected bay. Jim is looking forward to learning with us and has an extensive instructor background that appears a perfect match for our boating courses.

Jim was born in Palatka Florida in 1953, raised mostly in Florida and Georgia where his parents were from, joined the military in 1975 and attended rotary wing flight school in '76/'77. Stationed in Korea, Germany, Cyprus, Alabama, Georgia and finally here at Fort Richardson from '94 and retired in 98 as Chief Warrant Officer 4. Jim has been employed by US Customs since '97. During his military career, he was an instructor pilot, instrument flight examiner, standardization instructor at Corp and Army levels and Adjutant General for US Army Alaska. He has a

bachelor's degree in Aviation Management/Business Administration from Wayland University and Masters in Political Science from Laverne University.

Jim married Jennifer in 1978. They have three children, James Jr. (Married with daughter and his wife is currently a nurse at EAFB Hospital), Sheila (married and lives in San Diego, CA) and Westley (currently attending UAA). Hobbies are hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, snow machine, snowshoeing and pretty much anything out doors.

<http://cgauxalaska.org/>
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