



Whittier Soundings



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

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Tom Kane, FC Cathey Sterling, VFC

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Cathey Sterling, FSO-PB

2009 Light Lists

By Paula V. Krebs

Navigation Systems District 17 Staff Officer
Flotilla Staff Officer for Aids to Navigation

The Light Lists for 2009 have just been released. This is a requirement for every operational vessel. You can access the list on the web and print from there the pages you need for Prince William Sound. It is not necessary to purchase the entire book, you can download just the required pages.

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/LightLists/V6.2009.pfd>

You want to print out pages for Prince William Sound, **pp237-239 (electronic pages)** which are document pages 203-205.

While you are in the site I suggest you view the following as visual reminders and with good commentary of useful information:

Page	Topic
3	Aids to Navigation System
9	USDGPS Sites and Identifying Number
12	17 th District Unit Listing (USCG vessels)

14-26	Introduction and Preferences (good information)
27-30	Glossary of Aids to Navigation
31-32	Abbreviations Used in Broadcast to Mariners
33	Characteristics of Lights

There is a wealth of introductory information in the NAVCEN site. I think you will be interested in most of this and I encourage all of you to visit this.

ATONS Survey

The Coast Guard is now seeking information on navigational aids in Prince William Sound. The survey can be found in the Local Notice to Mariners dated 14/09 at

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/d17/lnm17142009.pdf>. The Prince William Sound Survey starts on page 42. Boaters with extensive knowledge of Prince William Sound may want to consider completing a survey.

Pre-Season Preparations

Boating season is here and now is the time to complete the pre-season preparations.

This year there are a few extra items to consider when getting your boat ready for summer.

When going through the pre-season check list, be sure to check the U. S. Coast Guard Boating Safety site, <http://www.uscgboating.org/>, for the latest recalls and safety defects. One notable item on the recall list is the Kidde XL Fire Extinguisher. Check all your safety items for wear, expiration dates, and that the items are in serviceable condition.

Whittier Access

By Dave Brubaker, DCDR-2

The Whittier access road between the first small tunnel and the main tunnel remains closed after DOT PF Geologists determined the rock wall that slid at 2130, April 11th is still too unsafe to allow vehicles to regularly pass. At least one emergency vehicle (Girdwood ambulance) has been allowed in and out since the rockslide. Whittier officials, DOT and even the Governor's office have been involved in trying to determine what to do. There is some fear that additional blasting may weaken the short first tunnel.

This event has made a new definition of limited access. But residents seem quite resilient and willing to do what it takes to continue. The train service to Whittier has helped and currently one passenger car makes 2 trips each day to Portage and back. I'm told the Portage parking lot is filling up with cars that residents use to get back and forth to Anchorage. The Klondike Express arrived in Whittier on Tuesday. They plan every other day trips in May and early June. Meanwhile the weather turned absolutely beautiful this week and the snow is melting fast.

Whittier Access Information

Current information for access to Whittier may be found at a variety of locations. Listed here are a few of the web site addresses providing current info.

A review of the Alaska Railroad site indicates all rail travel Whittier will require reservations.

<http://www.alaskanavigator.org>

<http://www.akrr.com/>

<http://511.alaska.gov/>

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/creg/whittiertunnel/index.shtml>

Before traveling to Whittier, be sure to check for current updates.

Membership Training

COASTIE Training

There is a Coastie training Sunday April 26, noon to 3pm in the Highland Tech building, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. See attached promo.

Vessel Examination Workshop

The VE workshop will be Tuesday April 28, 6pm to 9pm at the BP Energy Center.

Summer Plans

By Rae De Ley, FSO-MT

Members, I just wanted to mention that there will not be a Coxswain Academy this year. This is due to budget issues. But that does not mean that there will not be plenty of opportunities for training time.

The Safe Boat will be going in to the water in April. The Patrol schedule for Safe Boat Coxswains has already been set. A week end has been selected for the members who need a check ride on the new Safe Boat. And I have already had some members ask for Safe Boat training time for June and July.

If you want to go out on the Safe Boat out of Whittier as a Trainee, drop me an email or give me a phone call. I can be reached at Rae_deley@hotmail.com I will put you in contact with the proper Coxswain, and we will get you set up with a loaner flotation work suit.

Have questions about the Safe Boat? Need a Crew book for sign offs? Want to schedule some time to work on your sign offs toward Auxiliary Crew? Talk to me at a meeting or drop me an email.

Team Coordination Training

TCT looks at human error components of risk management. The program is designed to provide all members of a team the tools and knowledge to reduce the exposure to risk.

risk (rɪsk)

n.

1. The possibility of suffering harm or loss; danger.
2. A factor, thing, element, or course involving uncertain danger; a hazard.

man-agement (mænɪdʒmənt)

n.

1. The act, manner, or practice of managing; handling, supervision, or control.

Mark Parmelee, Tom Kane and Gary Taylor presented the fifth year 8 hour TCT course April 11.



From top to bottom,
Mark Parmelee, Tom Kane, and Gary Taylor

The class of 17 students worked case studies, discussed videos, asked pertinent questions, and developed risk management strategies.



All TCT photos courtesy of Rick Sparenga

Learning and implementing team coordination skills reduce the chance of preventable accidents and injury. Training and practice keep our operational skills fresh and ingrained. On our safety patrols the goal should be minimal hesitation in employing the skills needed to safely, and to successfully complete the mission.

Events

A Vessel Exam Station, the Whittier Harbor Clean Up, and Fellowship Cook Out are scheduled May 16.

Operation Big Lake, which includes Vessel Exams, On Water Training, and a weekend of Fellowship is scheduled Memorial Day Weekend Friday May 22 through Sunday May 24.

New Members

Please welcome our new member applicants.



Scott Thorsell joined the flotilla this month.

Membership Anniversaries

March Anniversaries

Paula Krebs	JOINED 19 MAR 91
William Morris	JOINED 27 MAR 03
Linda Shogren	JOINED 27 MAR 03

April Anniversaries

Sheila Hillegeist	JOINED 02 APR 00
Tony Hillegeist	JOINED 02 APR 00
Kevin Combs	JOINED 04 APR 04
Jean Holzheimer	JOINED 28 APR 04
Tom Kane	JOINED 30 APR 04
Bob Renke	JOINED 30 APR 04
Richard Lord	JOINED 05 APR 05
Charles Price	JOINED 05 APR 05
Fred Masterson	JOINED 13 APR 05
Kirk Whitehurst	JOINED 26 APR 05
John Orella	JOINED 02 APR 07
Danny Wagner	JOINED 02 APR 07
Kristine Wagner	JOINED 02 APR 07

Thank you for your dedication to the Auxiliary
and the Whittier Flotilla.

National Safe Boating Week kicks off May 16 – 22, 2009. The Wear It Campaign is familiar to all.



National Safe Boating Week
May 16-22, 2009

The National Safe Boating Council has developed a “brand” Wear It logo this year. Below are the examples pertinent to Alaska and the Auxiliary.



For questions about National Safe Boating Week in Alaska, contact Sue Lang, NSBW Chairperson.

suelang@alaska.com



<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

<http://a170.uscgaux.info>

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