



# Whittier Soundings



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

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## National Safe Boating Week

The week of May 21 through 27 is National Safe Boating Week. This event, held prior to the busy summer boating season, is a reminder to recreational boaters to be safe on the water. Whittier Flotilla holds a Vessel Safety Check Station in Whittier for the event. By holding early season vessel safety checks, the auxiliary provides the recreational boater with the knowledge the basic required equipment is on their boats.

Normally flotilla members also participate in the Whittier Harbor Clean-Up and have a cook out at the caboose. This year due to construction the clean up and cook out will be scheduled later in the season. The Vessel Safety Checks will be held at the Whittier Harbor boat launch ramp Saturday, May 21 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A number of other Vessel Safety Check Stations will be held throughout Alaska during this week and through out the boating season.

## Public Education

### Boating Skills and Seamanship

April 26<sup>th</sup> marked the end of a 9-week Boating Skills and Seamanship class. Once again it took a village to accomplish the course but special thanks go to Russ and Kathy for hosting and Tom Kane for his attendance and Dave Brubaker who was a regular participant. Thanks to all the instructors that provided enthusiastic talks. Jim Hendley with the help of Bob Harvey ran a great chapter on equipment for your boat. Sometime you will have to ask Jim how well signal mirrors work. Test night saw 31 take and pass the test with one student under 17 years old passing.

This class was remarkable for the super support the students had for the material. The first night one student, Tom, wanted to put together an award for the instructors. He knew that the class would result in saving lives. At the end, students expressed their appreciation and wanted to take another course.

## Guest Speaker

Darcy Dugan

Alaska Ocean Observing System

Thanks to Terry Stoddard we have a guest speaker for our May 11<sup>th</sup> flotilla meeting. Darcy recently gave a presentation to the Whittier Boat Owners Association and she has consented to giving a similar presentation to our flotilla.

Please come to our next flotilla meeting at 5:30 p.m. to hear Darcy's presentation on useful information for boaters. She will explain what is AOOS and you will come away with additional information to make you boating in Prince William Sound safer and more enjoyable. If you can't wait for the presentation you can check out [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org) now and click on access data.



The mission of AOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean information, gather specific data on key coastal and ocean variables, and ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data.



## New Member

By Bethany Kendrick

I would like to welcome our newest flotilla member Todd Woodruff. Todd, a mechanic, is originally from San Jose, CA, came to Alaska several years ago when Alaska Airlines gave him the opportunity to transfer out of California.

He became interested in the Coast Guard Auxiliary through his girlfriend Bethany. Todd was looking for something to do that isn't aircraft related and realized the Auxiliary will give him the opportunity to learn something new. When not working Todd's interests include church, scuba diving, hiking, and spending time at the birchwood shooting range.



## Flotilla History

Paula Krebs Reflects on her 20 years in the Whittier Flotilla

When I joined the USCG Auxiliary in March, 1991 there were 32 members in the flotilla. John Van-Dunin was the Flotilla Commander. He asked me to be the Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs and what a challenge it was for me then. Through his efforts the Whittier Flotilla started to really shine. In the fall of 1991 Whittier Flotilla received the national Commodores Best Flotilla Award.

In my Public Affairs work I made arrangements for radio broadcasts about our BS&S class. KLEF asked that I come to the station and actually do the recording. Took no time at all and after I left the station I turned on the radio in my truck. Guess what? They were airing the announcement right then within five minutes after I had made it. The next year I repeated recording with them. The morning following I awoke to my clock radio and, yes, I woke to my own voice in the announcement.

During the 1990s I contacted KSKA to include announcements for the USCG Auxiliary during their weather broadcast. It pleases me today to have Auxiliary announcements being made knowing that I started the process.

After three years doing Public Affairs, I was asked to take over the marine dealer visitation program. I made several new contacts not visited before and really got to know many of the marine supply dealers.

I've taught the Marine Radio for 15 years in BS&S for our flotilla. I have a strong prejudice about the mis-use of the radio. I've also taught "Road Signs" (ATONs), helped with the knots, and the most difficult "Weather". Being a retired university professor I feel at home in front of a class. About 9 years ago Bill Rome from Eagle River flotilla asked me to do the radio for their class. I've done it every year since for them.

Somewhere along the line I was asked to be the FSO for Navigation Aids which I did for quite a few years. I don't remember just how many. I started the "Adopt an ATON" in our flotilla. The intent was to give members who were not open for ordered patrols something meaningful to do and not take a lot of time. About this time, I started a photo directory of "Boating Hazards" which many flotilla members contributed to. I'm still working on this as there are 61 specific sites that there is information needed other than the boating charts.



*Paula Krebs receiving 20 year certificate and paddle from FC Mark Parmelee*

*photo by Cathey Sterling*

## Member's Corner

By Samuel Warner

Attention Pilots who rent their aircraft or wanna be Pilots who's always thought flight instruction or renting an airplane was just out of reach, check out what appears to be one of the best kept secrets in the Anchorage area.

Coast Guard Auxiliary members are eligible to join the Elmendorf Aero Club. You'll find that flight instruction and aircraft rental prices are hard to beat. For more information visit <http://www.elmendorfaeroclub.com/index.html>. Although the Aero Club's web site does not specifically list the Coast Guard Auxiliary as being eligible to join, the Operation/Safety Officer George Kulhanek states the Auxiliary is eligible. Also, feel free to ask Samuel about his experiences with the Aero club.



<http://cgauxalaska.org/>

<http://www.cgauxwhittier.org/>

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Space available: Flotilla members, there is space for your articles in the Whittier Soundings. Submit your ideas, articles and photos to FC Mark Parmelee or to FSO-PB Cathey Sterling for inclusion in the June newsletter. We know there is lots of great work done in our flotilla. Now lets share the news.