



Whittier Soundings



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

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Cathey Sterling, FSO-PB

Flotilla Commander's Corner

By Mark Parmelee

June marks the end of a series of Friday Whittier tunnel inspections. Thanks to all the inspectors and to Dave for the use of his motor home in Bear Valley. Catching a captive audience waiting for the tunnel is a win for everyone. We get to make important contacts, individuals get their boat inspected at a convenient time, and the Coast Guard gets safer boaters. Ross has done a great job coordinating this early season program. If you are a vessel examiner, it is possible he still has names from the boat show that would still like a 2011 inspection.



June should see our remaining operational vessels get underway. Until just recently the number of operational vessels could be counted on two fingers. Roy and Terry have been gearing up and Bill and Linda have an interesting lemonade in their starboard fuel

tank. The Whittier Station SAFE boat has had a series of Charlie status events already this year. June 11 and 12 mark on the water training for those active in the program and for those wanting to get started in the program. Soon we should see John Hightower and Jim Hendley certified as crew members. Scott Thorsell, Debra Vanderbilt, and Samuel Warner are not far behind. Thanks so much to Dave Brubaker for his persistence this year in getting crew members qualified. If you are interested in becoming a crew member this is definitely the year to pursue your qualification.

June 8th marks our next flotilla meeting. In July we will take our summer break. Historically the June meeting is hard to achieve a quorum but with Roy Stoddard's help the standing rules now only require 25% in attendance.

Best wishes for a safe and successful summer. May you have fair winds and following seas.

MEMBER TRAINING

By Mark Parmelee

Although having its share of startup problems there are a new set of courses for auxiliarists, reservists, civilian and active duty members of the Coast Guard. Courses range from Suicide and Sexual Harassment to Influenza Awareness. The website for the "Mandatory Training" is not operational yet. When the training was available on an early web site at least one Alaska auxiliarist took all but one of the courses in a short time. By the end of the summer the program is expected to be fully functional. We have been advised that auxiliarists will have five years to complete the eight courses.

Joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary

By Samuel Warner

I was asked awhile back by Cathey Sterling if I'd consider writing about why I chose to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary at 17 and still in high school. Following are some of my thoughts, memories, and current experiences regarding the Auxiliary.

I believe a person should serve their community one way or another. But why the Auxiliary you ask, when there are so many other good community services in which a student may participate? For me the Auxiliary not only serves the community it provides an opportunity to gain more practical knowledge and experience in an area I enjoy, boating. I don't even need to own a boat to fully participate. I believe in the Auxiliary's mission of relieving the active duty Coast Guard of some of its workload through educating the public, vessel exams, and local search and rescue. Another reason I chose to join while still a student is that I'd be able to participate where the hours of service are flexible depending on the level of involvement I choose.

What initially steered me to the Auxiliary are the



FSO-IS

By Bob Harvey

FC Mark Parmelee has approved a change in leadership for the Information Systems program. Effective this month, Jean Holzheimer replaces me as the Flotilla's IS Officer. She has been assisting me for the past 6 months and she attended the Aux10 IS C School in May. She is now well versed in the AuxInfo and AuxData systems as well as being knowledgeable and competent to do all of the data entering. So... from now on .. please send your reports to Jean at holzak@gmail.com . I will remain the DSO-IS and available to assist Jean when/if needed. Thanks for your past cooperation and support and please extend the same to Jean.

fond memories I have of my younger days where I would accompany my dad doing vessel exams and dropping off boating brochures at West Marine or other locations. On occasions while boating, we would raft with other Auxiliary vessels for a potluck. Sometimes I'd help the Auxiliary with beach clean-up at the Whittier harbor and afterwards partake in a BBQ at the Whittier Flotilla's caboose.

What I realized early on is that we were meeting many good people from different walks of life and all the while providing a service to the community.

Since joining a mere six months ago, I was able to attend the District Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage, the Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty Course, the Boating Skills & Seamanship Course, the Leadership Management Training Course, certified Vessel Examiner/Facility Inspector, and have completed many Vessel Safety Checks. These courses and events would not have been possible if not for dedicated volunteers serving in the Auxiliary. But most importantly is the fellowship. I've had the privilege of meeting and associating with many good people in the Whittier flotilla, of which I'm a proud member, as well as the Anchorage and other flotillas.

<http://cgauxalaska.org/>

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

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