



# Whittier Soundings



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

Volume XX  
Issue 7

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August/September  
2011

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## Flotilla Commander Currents

The common definition for a flotilla is a small fleet of ships. In the case of the Whittier Flotilla it is not our boats we are known for but for our tremendous volunteerism. Every week our flotilla does much good work benefiting the Coast Guard and the boating public.



Have you seen the Whittier Station caboose lately? Sporting fresh paint and new decals, the caboose is looking very good. A minor mishap with some orange paint on the sidewalk may earn Dave the golden anchor but the facility is alive and well. Some Saturdays we have two individuals staffing the facility. July 16<sup>th</sup> both Jim and Terry were providing a service to the community.

With Chris's concurrence, the Whittier Flotilla is proud to have the youngest Flotilla Staff Officer in the district, perhaps the country. Samuel Warner has accepted his appointment to the position of Navigation Systems Flotilla Staff Officer. Samuel will be

working with Chief Moreland, the new Operations Training Officer, to become an aids verifier. If you note discrepancies in navigational aids please let Samuel know. Watch for newsletter articles from Samuel.

Linda Shogren continues to rack up hours volunteering for the Auxiliary. July 23<sup>rd</sup> she organized part of the Cardboard Regatta at Goose Lake. Working the event with Linda were Bill, Roy, Terry, Doris Thomas from the Eagle River flotilla and Sector Anchorage's Chief Roger Holland. Soon Linda will have flyers for our next Boating Skills and Seamanship class starting September 27. In the spirit of "it takes a village to run a BS&S class," these flyers will be important to distribute widely. Everyone in the flotilla can help by getting the word out about our fall class. Jim Hendley and I have met a couple times to talk about Public Education. He has taken on the task of FSO-PE with his full effort and that program is in good hands. Roy of course is busier than a one armed coat hanger. He is managing the Auxiliary in Alaska with finesse. The breadth of stuff Roy is doing on an hourly basis is amazing, and I only know a tiny bit of what he is working on. Without Roy at the helm, many fires would no doubt be out of control.

Thanks to all that are doing vessel safety checks, working the caboose, staffing 006, thinking about Public Education, and promoting boating safety in many other ways. I can't name all active volunteers and the wonderful things the flotilla is doing. This year is shaping up great and it is due to the involved members in the flotilla.

## Whittier Operations

By David Brubaker

I recently was asked to do a report on Auxiliary Operations out of Whittier in 2011. The report reflects that the number of Operational Facilities (6), Cases (7), Patrols and hours the Caboose has been manned are significantly lower than in past years. This seems to be similar to Auxiliary Operations within most of District 17 and even the nation. Our ages, the harbor renovation and the economy have had a lot to do with the reduction. Additionally, a subtle shift in the Coast Guard operations focus that significantly turned toward enforcement and security after 9/11 has also had an impact.

On a more positive note, the Flotilla has been able to gain two new SAFEBoat and Auxiliary Facility Crewman as John Hightower and Jim Hendley completed their check rides and became qualified crew. We now have three members, John, Jim, and Bill Reiter working on becoming Coxswains and 11 working on becoming crew qualified. Additionally, the Flotilla has three boat owners preparing to offer their vessels as facilities. Jim Hendley, Bill Reiter and Scott Thorsell have been actively gathering the necessary items to become a facility. Several more members including Frank Veith, Randy Sherwood, and Joe Kolaidko have indicated an interest in offering their vessels.

The Flotilla has had an active operations program since long before I joined in 1996. The number of lives saved, boaters assisted and vessels saved that the Flotilla has recorded since it became reactivated in 1978 may never be accurately known. I believe it is enough to record that the Flotilla has earned its reputation as a Coast Guard Force Multiplier and that the operations program has enabled the growth and experience of our members thus allowing better boating education, vessel safety checks and a positive rapport with the boating public.

## New Auxiliary Manual

Our NEW 710 page Auxiliary Manual has been published after a very long wait and a lot of changes. To download the large 7.6 MB file, please click on the following link.

[http://documents.cgaux.org/temp/Auxiliary-Manual-CIM16790\\_1.pdf](http://documents.cgaux.org/temp/Auxiliary-Manual-CIM16790_1.pdf).

Although the national office is not printing manuals I want to print out one or more of these manuals for use by the Whittier Flotilla. My hope is to provide a manual for those who will run for Flotilla or Vice Flotilla Commander in 2012 and that need to complete the Administration Procedure Course. Please advise me or a former flotilla commander if you are in a position in 2012 to run for office in the Whittier Flotilla. I'd be happy to have a copy of the Auxiliary Manual printed for you.

## Flotilla Web Site

At the August Flotilla meeting, we enjoyed hearing about our weather buoy from Andy Dixon of NOAA. After the meeting, he shared information on how to get the weather reports from the Whittier triangle site. Bill Morris kindly took the notes:

In the drop down boxes...Hours: 12...Select Station: Whittier

That should do it for hourly reports of weather at the Triangle. I went to the help guide for an explanation on reading the wind speed info...

Wind direction and speed (dddff) where ddd = direction in degrees on a compass and ff = speed in knots, so 24012 would be a 12 kt wind from the southwest (240 degrees) and 09003 would be a 3 kt wind from the east (090 degrees).

The Significant Wave Height document, which was presented at the last meeting, is now on the Whittier Website, PWS Weather page just above the picture of Buoy 46081.

<http://www.cgauxwhittier.org/pws%20weather.html>

This page also has links to tide tables in South Central, NOAA weather reports, buoy reports, Whittier local weather and different Cameras around Whittier, etc.

## New Members

Hi, my name is Janet Hohn. I have lived in Anchorage since 1992 and came here with my job at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I attended the June flotilla meeting and then began the membership process with help from Sue Whitney. I have had boating experience on the East Coast. I lived on a 47 foot power boat in Washington DC for six years and enjoyed years of boating on the Potomac and in the Chesapeake Bay. I began my liveaboard experience during the 70's as a graduate student at U of W in Seattle.



I recently purchased a 28' Bayliner with plans to operate it in PWS. I have had the pleasure of going out with Bill and Linda on the Arctic Lunacy for a helicopter exercise and towing exercise. With their gracious help, I have begun the on land training to become a crew member. I look forward to learning about boat safety in PWS and enjoying the fellowship of other boaters. I hope to meet most of you at a future meeting.

Hello, I'm James Larabee. This past May I purchased Papa's Dream from Russ Lyday. My family and I are new to power boating though we have lots of experience in the Alaskan outdoors. My wife Ann, son Jackson, and daughter Emily have enjoyed our trips into the Sound this summer but we know we have more to learn and we want to emphasize safe boating. That is one big reason why I have decided to join the Auxiliary. The opportunity to continue learning and to meet people in the boating community will be invaluable.



I work as a RN at St. Elias Specialty Hospital and I hope to tweak my schedule to enable me to attend as many Auxiliary meetings as possible. I'm glad to be a new member of the Auxiliary and I look forward to meeting each of you soon.  
James

## Flotilla Elections

The October Whittier Flotilla meeting is one of the most important meetings for members to attend. This is when the election of the 2012 Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander is held. Your attendance and participation in the election is encouraged. This your opportunity to help choose the incoming leadership.

## Training Opportunities by Samuel Warner

I recently attended the Wilderness and Remote First Aid course given by the American Red Cross and encourage my fellow Coast Guard Auxiliary members to also attend where possible. This course is designed for scouts, outdoor enthusiasts and those working in remote environments, teaching how to respond to an emergency when help may be delayed. Although I took this course primarily because of flying, boating enthusiasts would also benefit greatly. The course length is 16 hours and when I attended it was held Monday thru Thursday from 1730 to 2130. Topics include:

Primary and Secondary Assessments

Head (Brain), Neck and Spinal Injuries

Heat-Related Emergencies

Hypothermia

Altitude-Related Illnesses

Allergies and Anaphylaxis

Burns

Bone and Joint Injuries

Wounds and Wound Infection

A prerequisite for this course is to hold a current adult CPR/AED certification, I also attended their 4-hour CPR/AED course the week before. Where the cost for Wilderness and Remote First Aid course was \$135.00, the CPR/AED was \$55.00. For me, the training was well worth the cost.

Wilderness and Remote First Aid course is not held often and I do not know when the next will be held again but if interested in this course or any other, the American Red Cross may be contacted by calling (907) 646-5400.

Their web site is [www.alaska.redcross.org/](http://www.alaska.redcross.org/)

## Instructor Opportunity

The fall Boating Skills and Seamanship class starts Tuesday September 27. Many of you attended one of the BS&S classes and you know how valuable this course is to the boating public. For any current instructors needing instruction time to stay current or for those members working toward instructor qualifications, this is a good opportunity for you. For additional information about teaching, contact James Hendley 360-7165 or [hendley@gci.net](mailto:hendley@gci.net).

This is also a good time to still pass out the flyers and tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about the class. Russ and Kathy Lyday 522-5052 or e-mail [rkl@acsalaska.net](mailto:rkl@acsalaska.net) or Tom Kane 441-8182 or e-mail [kane2southard@acsalaska.net](mailto:kane2southard@acsalaska.net) are the contacts for students interested in taking this course.

<http://cgauxalaska.org/>

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