



The Bird's Eye View

Flotilla 3-3, Eagle River, AK



Volume 7, Issue 3
March 2008



Commander's Corner

Next meeting:

Monday, March 24

6:30 p.m.

**Former St. Andrew Church
Fellowship Hall**

Pizza Feed

Reminder: Bring your reports!



Team awards

In addition to the awards listed on Page 2, two of our members were cited with members of other flotillas for team efforts:

Bev Gurtler and Neal Lacy:

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Award for Operation Big Lake 2007.

Bev Gurtler: Coast Guard Meritorious Team Award for Operation Northern Edge 2007.

Inside this issue:

Commander's corner	1
Conference awards	2
Conference fun night	2
Conference summary	3
Outreach, anyone?	3
Calendar / Training	4

Many thanks to Bev Gurtler for all the hard work she has done for the Coast Guard Auxiliary over many years. She received many prestigious awards at this year's conference in Homer. Please see the accompanying article about awards in this newsletter. She is really a great asset to the Auxiliary! Please read about the other Auxiliarists from our Flotilla who received awards.

Upcoming events

Our March meeting will not be at the normal time and place. We will be having the pizza party at the BS&S class on Monday, March 24. Please come to the St. Andrews Church fellowship hall where the BS&S class is being held at 6:30 p.m. We encourage you to stay for Sam Albanese's presentation about weather.

The Sportsmen's Show will be coming up in Anchorage March 27-30. The Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will both have booths at the show. The Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show will be at the Multi-Use Sports Complex in Wasilla March 28-30. Robby Robinson has requested help with the Mat-Su show. Please e-mail Robby, Verlan Renke at borealis@mtaonline.net (376-8272) or myself if you can volunteer.

The flotilla meeting for April will feature speaker Chris Osowski from the State Safe Boating Council. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this meeting. He sounds like a no-nonsense guy about regulations. If there is another solution to a problem, he would rather solve it than regulate. See you April 15 at 7 p.m. at the V.F.W. (lower level) in Eagle River.

BS&S is chugging right along. Thanks to all who volunteer for this very worthwhile education. Members are welcome to attend any class session. The test and the last class are on March 31.

Talking to the Gold Side

Sector Anchorage is holding a commanders conference call the first Tuesday of every month. The cooperation between the Gold and Silver has never been better. Capt. Mark DeVries and Auxiliary Unit Liaison Officer Sig Murphy are making a great effort.

This month's call main topic was about doing more with Northern and Western Alaska Boating Safety Education. The State Boating Safety Office will also be helping in this effort. Dean and Nancy Terencio will be traveling to Barrow to start the Auxiliary's effort. This will be an information sharing event between the Coast Guard and the Natives about boating in Alaska's cold water environment. The Coast Guard does not want to hit town with enforcement first. They mentioned the comment "We are from the Government and we are here to help you" never goes over very well in rural communities.

If you want to know more about these monthly meetings let me know. We do have a direct line of communication with the Gold side through these monthly calls. You can always contact Sig Murphy, the Auxiliary Unit Liaison Officer, about any Coast Guard issues. Capt. DeVries really wants to make this cooperation work.

—Tom Suellentrop, FC

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Web site of the month:

**Alaska Marine Safety
Education Assn.
www.amsea.org**

**'Fun night' events featured food,
rescue scenario and farewell**



Tom Suellentrop presents LCDR Sue Albright with a multi-purpose tool from Flotilla 3-3. Albright, who will be retiring in the fall, was "roasted" at fun night and presented with an array of real and gag gifts.

Tom, along with S E. and Doris Thomas, wore rescue flags in keeping with the SAR theme of fun night. Participants also competed in a mock SAR planning exercise.



Members get "paychecks" at District Conference



Bev Gurtler is the first person in the district to receive the **RBS Device Award**, a newly-authorized national award that recognizes "extraordinary effort of Auxiliaries who consistently provide strong support to Recreational Boating Safety programs. It is awarded to members who spend 120 hours each year for two consecutive years conducting RBS in prescribed mission codes as reported in AUXDATA."

Making the presentation are District Commodore Michael Robinson and District 17 commander Rear Admiral Gene Brooks. Bev also earned the **Auxiliary Achievement Medal** for her dedicated work in the vessel examiner program by completing 76 vessel exams including Uninspected Passenger Vessel and Commercial Fishing Vessel exams in 2007. Bev also picked up the **Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award** as a Vessel Examiner in appreciation of outstanding volunteer contribution for completing 90 Vessel Safety Checks and 26 Marine Dealer Visits. She also received a **Certificate of Achievement** for performing 10 public affairs missions in 2007,

Tom Suellentrop accepted the **Commodore Roderic S. Carpenter Memorial Award** on behalf of the flotilla in recognition that it performed the highest number of marine inspections among flotillas with fewer than 30 members. Rod Carpenter, an avid examiner, was commodore 1979-80 and crossed the bar in 1990.



Doris Thomas took home a **Certificate of Achievement** for performing 10 public affairs missions in 2007. LCDR Sue Albright made the presentation. Charlie Audino, who was unable to attend, received a certificate for 55 hours of AuxData/AuxInfo data entry during the year.

(Stewart Sterling photos)



From my notes...

District conference offered something for everyone

Five members of Flotilla 3-3 braved stormy weather to attend the District 17 winter conference in Homer, Feb. 14-19. The mood inside Land's End Resort belied the foul weather, with Auxiliarists focusing on the tasks at hand, which included training, fun and fellowship.

We were able to get our mandatory 2008 PE seminar out of the way thanks to Dean and Nancy Terencio, Tom Suellentrop, FC, and I attended

the Division 3 meeting and picked up news to use, including invitations to the Red and Green Regatta July 20 in Fairbanks and the Anchorage Flotilla SAREX June 20-22.

Fairbanks has a new Coastie, but it is in Kodiak and will stay there until COMFISH is over. The Anchorage-based Coastie is still damaged, but Homer's can be borrowed if we need one for an event.

We will have a presence on Big Lake on Memorial Day Weekend. Richard Liebe of Flotilla 3-2 is POC.

Want to get smart on sectors? Go to the briefing on "New Sector Commands" on the Auxiliary national Web site. Factoid: Anchorage is the largest sector in the country!

Factoid: District 17 had 58,000 volunteer hours in 2007!

— Doris Thomas, VFC

Anchorage Flotilla shares training opportunities

Anchorage Flotilla 3-2 has developed a member training plan for 2008 and invited other flotillas to join them. Here are a few of the upcoming classes. If interested, please contact Richard Fairbanks at rfairbanks_bph@yahoo.com or phone him at 248-1427, or contact Nanci Terencio at nterencio@gci.net, phone 345-1654.

April 5: How to Read a Nautical Chart (open to the public), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Highland Tech High, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

April 26: Crew Station training (land based) practice and sign off if ready: Knots, 1st Aid, Radio, 8-10 a.m., followed by the public GPS course, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Highland Tech.

Future newsletters will include these training events on the calendar on Page 4.

Arctic challenges present Outreach options

*By Mike Folkerts, District 17
Recreational Boating Safety Specialist*

Outreach has always been challenging in Alaska. The enormity of the state and its remote communities combined with the ever-rising costs of transportation have made Recreational Boating Safety education very nearly impossible for all practical purposes. Auxiliary Flotillas have been established in Alaska for half a century and their track record for RBS has been exemplary, however, primarily in their home communities.

Certainly, there have been sporadic RBS 'forays' in outlying communities as opportunities would present themselves in the past, but no

organized effort has been made to sustain RBS outreach.

Today, we have been given another remarkable opportunity; to bring RBS to the North Slope of Alaska. The fabled Northwest Passage is now free of sea ice during the short summer months and commerce through the Arctic Ocean is now possible.

The Coast Guard is moving north and among the Coast Guard missions is RBS. Auxiliarists will be traveling to Barrow and beyond this summer to meet with residents and assist them with their boating safety needs. A recent agreement between the State of Alaska Office of Boating Safety and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will enhance the working relationship, especially

with RBS outreach and allow us to visit even more communities, especially in Western Alaska.

The Coast Guard has also taken outreach to new levels with plans for RBS enforcement in remote areas of Alaska. Enforcement is a critical part of boater education and CG law enforcement officers are specially trained and equipped to assist recreational boaters with education through enforcement.

If your Flotilla wishes to participate in RBS Outreach and has a particular community they would like to visit or an outreach project they wish to achieve, the flotilla commander should contact:

District 17 RBS Office

(907) 463-2297

Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg

Flotilla Calendar

- March 24** Pizza/flotilla meeting @
BS&S class
- March 27-30** Sportsmen's Show @
Sullivan Arena
- March 28-30** Outdoorsman Show @
Mat-Su Sports Center
- April 15** Flotilla meeting
- Apr 26-
May 4** D17 Coxswain Academy
in Homer



U.S. Department
of Homeland Security

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Official Business

Uniform update gets clarification

Questions have been asked about certain Auxiliary uniform matters following the recent Coast Guard Uniform Board 42 (UB42) meeting and issuance of an ALCOAST message.

Prior Military Service Insignia. Provisions in the Auxiliary Manual regarding Auxiliarists' wear of prior military service insignia other than Coast Guard still apply. One of UB42's determinations was that Coast Guard personnel are not authorized to wear prior military service insignia if not earned while in the Coast Guard. This determination does not apply to Auxiliarists.

ODUs. Various changes in ODU insignia were announced. They will be only summarized here because few Flotilla 3-3 personnel have the ODU uniform. For details see the March 13 e-mail message from Lori Cook.

Basically, Auxiliarists may use Velcro instead of sew-on insignia for the Auxiliary membership insignia or elected/appointed office insignia through January 2009. A final determination of permanency or revocation of this authorization will be made in February 2009. Metal collar insignia are still authorized for Auxiliarists, but only until sew-on standards are developed and stocks of them produced. The sew-on Auxiliary coxswain insignia is still the only qualification insignia authorized to be sewn on the ODU top. Sew-on standards for other Auxiliary qualification insignia are being developed and will be authorized for wear when stocks are produced. Sew-on insignia from prior military service other than the Coast Guard are not authorized to be worn on Auxiliary ODUs (or any other Auxiliary uniform).

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