



Velkommen til
Petersburg, Alaska
ALASKA'S 'LITTLE NORWAY'



Sjøreise



Norwegian for 'VOYAGE' < SHÛ-OR(rrr) ay seh >

Winter Edition Nov. 2007 – Jan. 2008 ~*~ Petersburg Flotilla's Monthly Newsletter ~*~ Vol. II, No. 1

Newsletter published before the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Linda Wells by email at: bradleyw@gci.net Articles always welcome!

"It was one of the best adventures I have ever had."

By Judy Reinarts *September 2007*

Auxiliarists Use Chart Work and Seamanship in Unknown Waters...
Here it is folks, the adventures of the Reinarts, bare-boating a 47-foot Sea Ranger Pilothouse in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington state. To begin with, it was stated in the specs that the boat had GPS – only, did I learn, when we did a walk-through on the boat, that it was an ancient form of GPS...not the chart plotter GPS that I was accustomed to. Well, I almost became hysterical with fear that there was no way we could leave the dock without a chart plotter GPS. To make a long story short, my husband, Tom, sat me down and reminded me that he had been in the Navy and that it was no problem doing coordinates and bearings on a chart. We had already done our itinerary in the order of which ...
(see pg. 2, Adventure Story)



*Judy Reinarts onboard Summer Wolf at Sucia Island
-Photo by Tom Reinarts*

Major Events in Review:

Dec. 11-15: Public Education courses were presented to new Wrangell members Jim and Becky Carter visiting here.

Dec. 22: Christmas Party with the Coast Guard at the Elks: Auxiliary members were invited to bring spouse or friend to this event. There was a gift exchange, dinner, and music. We met the families of the Anacapa and Elderberry!

Jan. 11: 1800: Advanced Coastal Navigation (Ch. 7) begins in the Council Chambers. Books are available for new students. Held Fridays and Tuesdays through January 29.

Feb. 1: First Friday Flotilla meeting to be held at the USCG Moorings. Flotilla Commander Tom Laurent and Vice Flotilla Commander Bruce Jones to be sworn in.

Feb. 11-15: Leadership and Management course held in Petersburg at the Moorings.

Feb. 15-17: District Conference in Homer,

**Expanding Horizons
In the Aleutian Islands:**

By Linda Ensign *October 2007*

Members Tell Their Story...



Patrol Vessel STIMSON where Neil Ensign serves as First Officer is moored in Dutch Harbor -Photo by Neil Ensign



*October colors on the hillside behind the Ensign's apartment
-Photo by Linda Ensign*

We're pretty much settled in and quite happy in our new surroundings. One of my first impressions of Unalaska was that it is a "normal" town filled with friendly people that go about their daily ... *(see pg. 2, Aleutian Islands)*

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Adventure Story, continued:

islands we would visit first, second, and so on. Tom and I sat down and he calmly wrote down the bearings and coordinates for the first island we would visit. As we backed away from the dock I was still uncertain that we could find our way, but I didn't tell Tom that, and that we were headed for unknown waters, waters that had shoals and rocks, and all this without my beloved chart plotter GPS! I planted myself next to Tom at the helm, keeping my finger on the chart of what next we were to look for: buoys, distinguishing outcropping of land, etc. To my amazement, I actually began to realize that Tom knew what he was doing and, guess what – we made it to our first destination.

As we traveled on, noting our coordinates and bearing for the next island before pulling up anchor, I began to feel that this is what real adventure is all about (who needed that dumb GPS anyway!). By the third day, I was actually plotting our course and writing down the bearing and coordinates, of course with Tom's help, just to make sure I didn't make a mistake and ground us. I still have a lot to learn about bearings and coordinates, but I can honestly say it was one of the best adventures I have ever had. I learned how important it is to know bearings and coordinates and that there is no need to have a nervous breakdown because, if you have faith in the system and follow those little numbers on the chart, it will always get you to your destination safe and sound.



*Sucia Island Tide Pool
-Photo by Tom and Judy Reinarts*

Editor's Note: Tom and Judy Reinarts are charter members of the Petersburg Flotilla. They are very active in flotilla activities and Auxiliary Boat Crew and Coxswain studv.

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Aleutian Islands, continued:

lives just like anywhere else. I suppose most of the stories I'd heard were from fishermen that were just here in between fishing trips; a much different perspective from someone who lives and raises a family here!



*Unalaska and Dutch Harbor viewed from off WWII roadways
-Photo by Neil and Linda Ensign*



*Neil Ensign inside a WWII structure situated above Unalaska
-Photo by Linda Ensign*

Anyway, I was pleasantly surprised as I was expecting kind of a frontier town atmosphere. There is a wealth of WWII history in this area, and everywhere we've hiked there are ruins of barracks, bunkers, etc. to be seen. After viewing several different sites, I need to get to the WWII museum and look at pictures so I can have an understanding of what I'm looking at. It is fun to explore these areas!

Neil hasn't seen much sea time due to the engineer's illness, and a broken pump on the boat; but that's been good--gave us a chance to get settled! I'm job hunting--nothing yet, so I'm keeping busy hiking on nice days and sewing on the other days! It's been awhile since I've been at home full-

time--of course, Neil thinks that I should spend my days baking cookies and pies for him! Silly man!



Linda Ensign hiking in sunny Fall weather

-Photo by Neil Ensign

Neil leaves in December for a week at a shipboard fire fighting class in the Seattle area. He should breeze through that with his fire science background. Hopefully, he'll get another certificate--you know how he loves that! And it'll be another item added to his resume!

Oh, and since it's right before Christmas, he'll have a great opportunity to buy his wife a Christmas present! You can get anything here to outfit a boat and a fisherman, but that's all! Thank goodness for internet shopping!



Neil Ensign on a day off, hiking with Linda and their miniature Schnauzer, Molly

-Photo by Linda Ensign

Editor's Note: Neil and Linda Ensign are responsible for inspiring Petersburg citizens to form a Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla after many years of work to build interest there. An opportunity for work aboard the Patrol Vessel STIMSON brought the Ensigns to Unalaska for an indefinite period of time. Neil and Linda continue their studies to complete Auxiliary Boat Crew and Coxswain. Neil is the Petersburg Flotilla FSO-CS and FSO- CM, which is possible to accomplish at a distance.

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USCG Auxiliary District 17 Alaska
Petersburg Flotilla, Division 01 - 04

Flotilla Staff Officer Positions:

2007 Alphabetical LISTING:

<i>FSO –AN, OP</i>	<i>Scott Mooneyham</i>
<i>FSO –CM, CS</i>	<i>Neil Ensign</i>
<i>FSO – FN</i>	<i>Bruce Jones</i>
<i>FSO – IS</i>	<i>Jody Maisano</i>
<i>FSO – MA, VE</i>	<i>Tom Laurent</i>
<i>FSO – MS</i>	<i>Judy Reinarts</i>
<i>FSO - PV-RBS</i>	<i>Rick Greene</i>
<i>FSO – MT, PS</i>	<i>Brad Wells</i>
<i>FSO – PA</i>	<i>Judy Forgey</i>
<i>FSO – PE</i>	<i>Margaret Reddy</i>
<i>FSO - PB, SR</i>	<i>Linda Wells</i>

Please let the Vice Flotilla Commander know your interest and assist in any of these activities! We value your help!

Key:

<u>AN</u>	<u>Aids to Navigation</u>
<u>AV</u>	<u>Aviation</u>
<u>CM</u>	<u>Communication</u>
<u>CS</u>	<u>Communication Services</u>
<u>FN</u>	<u>Finance</u>
<u>IS</u>	<u>Information Services</u>
<u>MA</u>	<u>Materials</u>
<u>MS</u>	<u>Marine Safety & Environmental Protection</u>
<u>MT</u>	<u>Member Training</u>
<u>OP</u>	<u>Operations</u>
<u>PA</u>	<u>Public Affairs</u>
<u>PB</u>	<u>Publications</u>
<u>PE</u>	<u>Public Education</u>
<u>PS</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>
<u>PV-RBS</u>	<u>Visitation Program</u>
<u>SR</u>	<u>Secretary/Records</u>
<u>VE</u>	<u>Vessel Safety Checks</u>

Flotilla Staff Officer Position:
FSO-SR (Secretary/Records)
Is available for 2008. Notes are taken during regular meetings and emailed to members. Please consider and contact Linda Wells at 518-0626. Thank you.

Petersburg Coxswain Academy May 10-19, 2008

Contact Brad Wells 518-0559 to be on the list of candidates for the 2008 Academy. The list will be used to fill four seats in the class this year. Another academy will be held in 2009. Until the Academy starts, all members are encouraged to come aboard SOTA, OPFAC 403277, or the SAFEboat when it arrives in Petersburg this spring.

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Public Education:

Advanced Coastal Navigation began January 11, 2008, at the Petersburg City Council Chambers. The sessions will run on Fridays and Tuesdays from 1800 to 2200. Sessions study current sailing, tide and current table work - about the action of the moon and sun to influence the current strength and height of water at any specific time, radar to understand vectors formed when encountering a passing or approaching boat with unknown speed and direction, and then learning voyage planning and Fuel calculation brings the course to completion for a well rounded look at what boaters need to understand for safety and economy on the water. Join us. This prepares members for the AUXOP test for Navigation Specialist. The skills learned as navigation specialists are invaluable for building confidence at the helm..

Member Training

-By Brad Wells IPFC, FSO-MT

If you' desire to complete study for becoming an Auxiliary Boat Crew or Coxswain, make an appointment for study with a mentor. Call me at 518-0559 or Linda at 518-0626. Please bring your Auxiliary Boat Crew (or Coxswain) PQS (Personal Qualification Standards) Manual. Many answers may be found within the larger volume called the Boat Crew Seamanship Manual. A CD with other manuals is available as well. Contact me for a copy.

A Rules of the Road (Navigation Rules) class may be scheduled in February; contact me to sign up on the class roster.

On-line you can take the Instructor Course test. February's District Conference will feature many workshop choices.

Thank You!

During the past year it has been a pleasure to serve as Flotilla Commander and watch the flotilla charter and start floating on its own. What I enjoyed the most was finding so many members who did amazing work on their own that helped Petersburg become a much safer home for boating. Early last year the harbor was cleaned up alongside with members of the community and the Coast Guard. Classes were held, a booth featured the Kids Don't Float program, and members studied to earn the Boat Crew Member status. Wasn't the Chartering Ceremony in June spectacular? The flotilla continued to grow with new members and some members extended their Petersburg backyards all the way to Unalaska, Ketchikan, and even the San Juan Islands of Washington. Some in nearby Wrangell made the effort to fill a niche for their own community by joining and beginning studies with us. A few were shipped off to Hawaii and the East Coast and on to their own separate courses being plotted beyond our reach. And now the new leaders of the flotilla bring a bright perspective on the new year ahead. So, thank you all for the great experience, the fun, the practical work, and the hope of a strong flotilla in the future.

-- Brad Wells (Immediate Past Flotilla Commander – IPFC).

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2008 Will Have Its Shining Moments

– An Interview with the 2008 Petersburg Flotilla Commander, Tom Laurent

Tom Laurent attended the November 2007 Flotilla Commander's Academy held at the Naval Reserve Training Center on Fort Richardson, northeast of Anchorage, Alaska. Leaders from all over the state were represented. The focus of the academy was "**How to Lead Your Flotilla – and how not to get over-committed**". It covered the use of forms, how to manage and plan, and also how to attract a variety of different generations. Tom found that the average age of Auxiliarists in Alaska is around 43-years-old (people with jobs, families, and commitments). Nationwide, District 17 is the youngest district by 4-5 years. D17 is the fastest growing Auxiliary in the nation. The reason is unknown, but in recent years there has been a grass roots interest in boating safety combined with volunteer service. Tom enjoyed his stay in Anchorage, taking a room in Fort Richardson's Army Hotel which afforded a complete suite. While there, he spent considerable discussion time with the DIRAUX, LCDR Sue Albright and the Auxiliary's Operations Training Officer, Chief Bob Gross. These key individuals will be coming to Petersburg this winter to present more details on AUXSARDET Petersburg and the OPFAC 256609, and how we can utilize these tools. A CD has been prepared for Petersburg members with several manuals of information on operating the SAFEboat including the Non-Standard Boat Operator's Manual and the Defender Class Operator's Manual. Please contact Brad Wells for a copy. Members who will be attending the Petersburg SAFEboat Coxswain Academy need to be Auxiliary Crew qualified and have passed the Navigation Rules Exam by May, with the hope that they will also have fifteen hours of sea time aboard an Auxiliary boat as qualified crew. Chief Gross will be coming several times during the spring and summer to assist in training. With the SAFEboat arriving at an unspecified time in the early spring, there will be much available time to train aboard it. Then when it comes to having a commissioning ceremony for the SAFEboat, the idea is to post pone the date until later in the year after we all become accustomed to its use and purpose. At this time the Coxswain Academy in Petersburg is proposed for May 9th through the Little Norway Festival, with space for four to six students.

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To:

Taking time to follow your footprints!

–Photo by Tom and Judy Reinarts