



# Whittier Soundings



**IPFC**

**Robert P. Harvey, FC**

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**Mike Folkerts,**

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**District Conference** – The District Conference for Coast Guard Auxiliary District 17, Alaska was held during February 15 – 18, 2002 in Fairbanks. Getting there was half the fun, especially when the bus hired for the trip got stuck during the lunch break. There were welcome speeches from the mayor of Fairbanks and NAVCO-P Barb Sands during the opening ceremonies. A series of workshops and seminars took place during the day, followed by Fun Night, Fairbanks style. The District Awards Banquet for 2001 was held the last night. All were amazed at the sheer amount of effort put forth by the Alaskan Auxiliary. Of course, Whittier Flotilla took home their share of the “gold” during the awards ceremony.

Anchorage Flotilla and the Civil Air Patrol, presented Search and Rescue (SAR) program



*“Admiral Barrett presents the Dept. Of Transportation Partnering for Excellence awards to the members of the Whittier Task Force. The Admiral is presenting DCP2 Mike Folkerts and IPDCO Barb Sands the actual awards the Task Force received in Washington D.C this past November. From left to right; Commander Chris Honse and Rear Admiral Thomas Barrett of the US Coast Guard and Div. Commander Mike Folkerts and West-Pac Regional Admiral Barb Sands of the Whittier CG Auxiliary.”*

**Civil Air Patrol and CG Auxiliary Work Together** – Skip Widfeldt, a member of the

where the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is working together with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Coast Guard and Air Force. The purpose of the program is to have the Auxiliary and CAP train together to increase the effectiveness of SAR missions. The idea is that the CAP can cover a lot of area in a relatively short time, but they do not have the ability or expertise of dealing with objects in the water, where the CG Auxiliary does. The planes are fast at locating, but much less efficient and slower at recoveries, where boats are slower at locating, but more efficient and faster at recoveries. The CAP is taking CG Auxiliarists up in the planes with them to train them how to assist the CAP in locating objects in the water, plus they are teaching the Auxiliarists how to properly communicate with the planes. The CAP is outfitting some of their planes with marine band radios to make communications easier. If anyone is interested, contact Skip through the Anchorage Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**Safe Boat in Seward** – With the success of Safe Boat 611 in Whittier, the Coast Guard is thinking about issuing a second boat to the Seward Coast Guard Auxiliary. If this happens, they will be depending on the Whittier Auxiliary members who are qualified in Safe Boat operations to assist the Seward Auxiliary. We may need some volunteers this summer, so keep this in mind. There will be plenty of opportunities to train for crew qualifications on our own Safe Boat in Whittier this summer. Two trainees can ride along on each patrol, so if you are interested, call Mike Folkerts or e-mail at, [mandn@gci.net](mailto:mandn@gci.net)

**Operation Patrols for Summer 2002** – In order to participate in operations this coming summer you **MUST** attend an Operations Review and Workshop. This is coming from



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the guys up top and we do not have an option. If you do not attend a Review, you cannot participate in operation patrols as a Coxswain or Crew. A time has not been set in stone yet, but you can contact Barry Moore or Mark Poe for a time. **(There will be a Review after the March 13<sup>th</sup> Flotilla meeting this month.)**

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Survey** – All members received the Survey last month, but Bob Harvey has asked us not to complete it until some of the questions are answered. The information from this Survey will be used as database of Auxiliary members' skills, qualifications and interest to give the Coast Guard, Dept. of Transportation and Dept. of Homeland Defense a broad knowledge of what members are qualified to do. Mike Folkerts and Barb Sands both indicated that the Auxiliary, nationwide, will have more responsibilities this summer, including increased Search and Rescue responsibilities.



*“Our own Bob Harvey and, Fairbanks Auxiliary member, Gigi Lamoine participate in a training exercise at the Dist. Conference. They were trying to figure out how to switch seating arrangements without tipping the boat over!”*

***From the Poop Deck*** - Didn't get anywhere near as much snow as was expected. There has not been the need to clean the deck of that heavy white stuff. There is still a lot of room on the sign-up sheet, but some weekends are full. E-mail me, or see me at the meetings to get your name on the list. Keep in mind that there will be a "DECK" party on April 27th for a Grand opening. Spring is just around the corner. *Mark Poe*

**BE SURE TO ATTEND THE MARCH FLOTILLA MEETING. A VERY SPECIAL AWARD IS BEING PRESENTED!**

### **COMING EVENTS:**

March 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:30, Flotilla Meeting, BP Building  
March 23 – 6:00 pm, Spring Flotilla Potluck, at Mark and Natalie Poe's house. Contact Kathy Lyday or Deanna Barbarick for details.

### **CLASSES**

For information about all classes, E-mail Mark Parmelee, [potterview@gci.net](mailto:potterview@gci.net)

March 12 – Advance Coastal Navigation written exam (course exam or AUXACN specialty course exam)  
March 19, 21, 26 and 28<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 9, Weather Specialty Course  
March 23 – 10 to 3, CPR class (no location yet)  
Coming up – Seamanship Specialty Course

