

Whittier Soundings

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Check Out the Whittier Flotilla Web Page

Check out the Flotilla's website at <http://home.gci.net/~stews/>. This is actually Stewart Sterling's web page. There is a link to the Flotilla website from there. Stewart has done a great job of getting it set up. Parts are still under construction so if you have ideas or suggestion be sure to let him know. He thinks it will be complete enough by next spring to transfer it to the National Auxiliary website. Bob

Holiday Party – December 14th at the UAA Campus Center Den from 6:00 – 10:00. There will be a little business, a bunch of awards and recognitions, and a tremendous amount of fun!!

This year there is **not** an admission charge and we're having a potluck dinner. To participate in the Chinese auction bring a gift of \$15-\$20 value. Deanna Barbarick will be sending an invitation with a map link to all members; also she will be e-mailing a sign-up sheet for the Potluck dinner. We hope to see everyone there.

End of an Era: The Midnight Sun Auction - By Mark Parmelee

At the young age of 82 Stan decided to give up on selling the Midnight Sun Boat Company. He had been in business at his Mountain View store for 44 years and an auction was held November 8, 9, and 10 to get rid of the store's inventory. Herein I provide you with my auction experience.

Prior to the auction I devoted several of my lunch hours to previewing the items that would be going to bid. I decided to skip the Friday night auction and when I arrived on Saturday they were selling steering wheels, steering wheels and more steering wheels. A person

could buy a case of 14 plastic steering wheels for \$5.00 if you needed a case. I could not see my son's swing set covered with 14 steering wheels so I passed on the bidding.

The auction was conducted with some items shown on a screen by a PowerPoint presentation and smaller items held up at the auction house. Eventually on the screen flashed an anchor I was interested in. I confirmed the lot number with

what I had seen at the Mountain View store and I was confident the tiny claw anchors were what I wanted to use to demonstrate anchoring in the Boating Skills and Seamanship course. I looked up the price in my catalog and saw they went for \$8.88 + shipping. I got ready to flash my bid card and hoped to snatch one of them for \$5.00. Projected on the screen these anchors looked like huge Bruce anchors. The bidding started at \$5.00 and they each sold for \$45.00. I'm sure the "winning bidders" were less than happy. I noticed on Sunday the auctioneer was more forthright about the size of "sand anchors" than he was on Saturday. By about 4pm the auctioneer had a hoarse throat and gave up for the day. I went home empty handed.

On Sunday I returned to observe spool after spool of electrical wire being auctioned off. I did not need 500' of 14 gauge so I passed on the bidding. After a couple of hours nothing really interesting had come up and it was obvious the shop's inventory was not going to all be sold that day either. I was thinking that again I was about to go home empty handed.

During the Sunday auction I noted a container of Mercruiser gear lube on a back table. When the auction day was about over and it appeared

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they were not going to auction the lube, I took container and put it on an empty table in the front of the room. One of the auctioneer's assistants noticed and immediately put it up for bid. I won the bid for two of the 2-½ gallon jugs.

At that point I had had enough of the auction. I had purchased something and I experienced the end of the Mountain View store. I had spent 8 hours previewing or attending the auction and all told I may have saved \$100.00 on the gear lube. I am not sure all the effort was worth it but I gave it a try.

CLASSES AND TRAINING

For information about all Member Training, E-mail Mark Parmelee, potterview@gci.net . For information about Public Education, contact Brad Wells at bwells@washer1.com .

Auxiliary Air Observer - If you think you would be interested in training as an Auxiliary Air Observer contact John Hallinan at john.hallinan@faa.gov for information on this new program.

CPR/First Aid course - If you are interested in a CPR/First Aid course, contact Paula Brady at pbbbrady@alaska.net Paula is one of our newest members. Good job, Paula!

Nav Rules Class

Congratulations, again, to all 13 of you for passing the Nav Rules Exam. An outstanding achievement. Out of the class of 25 Auxiliarists, 13 were from our Flotilla. And all of you passed. Just great! Add Stewart and Cathey Sterling, who passed it in October, and you have a total of 15 Whittier Flotilla members in the Nav Rules Class of '02. Good job! Bob.

Looks like we may have some new Coxswain next summer!!

AUXILIARY SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Mark Parmelee has scheduled a course for the coming year:

What: Auxiliary Seamanship Course
When: start on January 7th, four consecutive Tuesdays
Where: BP Energy Center (Final confirmation from BP is still coming, but the plan is to meet from **6pm to 9pm**.)

The class is open to **only Auxiliary members** and it is a progression from the public's Boating Skills and Seamanship course. Topics include heavy weather seamanship, navigation rules and anchoring. There are two texts for the course. The first is a study guide available from the Auxiliary and the second is the comprehensive book referred to as Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling. (*The book is available at West Marine for under \$20.00 during the Holiday season.*) The Chapman's text is also available on a CD.

At this time Mark Parmelee working on the logistics for the class. He needs to know who is planning on taking the class. Who already has the auxiliary study guide and who needs an auxiliary study guide? If you have a copy of Chapman's and you are willing to lend it please let Mark know. Lastly if you are interested in being an instructor for the course please contact Mark. His email is potterview@gci.net.

If you are interested in being an instructor, contact Claude Barker at barker2@gci.net and ask for a student and instructor study guide. Contact Mark Parmelee to discuss which chapter you want to teach.