



Whittier Soundings

November 2003 Mark Poe FC, Tony Hillegeist VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XIII Issue 8

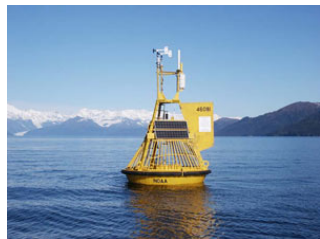
Auxiliary Patrols

September 27th was the last of the regularly scheduled safety patrols for 611. It was foggy in the morning but turned out to be a beautiful day.



We took pictures of Pigot Point Day Marker and of a hazard to navigation – the infamous birds standing on water (assisted by the floating log).

Our patrol took us by the new NOAA weather buoy 46081 located **60°46'31" N 148°12'17" W** between Ester Rock and North Culcross passage.



You can access information from this buoy at: http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.phtml?station=46081 Nice to have local area information for the boaters of Western Prince William Sound.

After taking a closer look at the buoy and several photos we continued the patrol South through Perry Passage checking the Day Marker on the North East point of Culcross Island.



The patrol continued through Culcross Passage with little boat traffic all day.

It is obvious the recreational boating season is winding down at this time of year.



We received a call from Whittier Harbor about a boat with out drive failure about a mile and a half from the harbor. We notified CG Valdez of the situation. CG Valdez issued a MARB, which was answered by a Good Samaritan just as 611 arrived on scene.



The Good Samaritan took the vessel in tow to the harbor mouth where the harbor skiff then assisted the distressed vessel to dock. 611 stood by until the vessel was safely escorted to dock. This marked the end of the patrol year for 611.

All photos courtesy of Stewart Sterling



Environmental Concerns

Whittier Flotilla Science Project - Exxon Valdez
Beach Survey
By John Whitney

In conjunction with scientists from NOAA-Hazmat in Seattle, Whittier Flotilla had the opportunity to participate in on-going monitoring program to evaluate the recovery of beaches from the 1989 oil spill. Ten sites around the Knight Island complex were visited, with two auxiliary vessels joining the science team aboard the P/C DocWallopier. This is an adopted science project by the Whittier Flotilla and in particular, one of our member families (Blakers) has a child using it in a school science project dealing with the biological evolution of beaches. This year, noted PWS archeologist Chris Wooley was also aboard, providing additional valuable historical information.

Dr. Alan Mearns, senior NOAA ecologist, has been doing this every year since the 1989 oil spill to study the effects of various shoreline cleanup techniques including natural recovery. One of the techniques that were heavily used to clean the thick oil from the shorelines was high pressure hot water flooding. Even though this technique removes substantial amounts of oil, it is recognized that it also sterilizes the beaches and NOAA is interested in learning the recover rate of beaches cleaned using this technique as compared/contrasted with other techniques or no cleaning at all. Dr. Mearns has been monitoring over a dozen sites that were heavily oiled and cleaned with various techniques, as well as sites totally unoiled. The methodology has been to compare the exact same areas, boulders, and rock faces using both photography and a very detailed quantitative analysis.

On a spring tide at the end of June, the P/C Whitor (Blaker's) and the P/C Wave Walker (owned by John Coombs, but with auxiliarist Chris Pallister aboard) joined the DocWallopier in Northwest Bay on Eleanor Island to begin the monitoring tour. Over the next couple of days, we

traveled to monitoring sites in Upper Passage, Lower Passage, Bay of Isles, Snug Harbor, Crab Bay, Shelter Bay, and Herring Bay. Every one was busy looking for and occasionally finding residual Exxon Valdez oil buried in some of the shorelines as well as seeing a variety of intertidal organisms, such as fucus, periwinkles, barnacles, mussels, snails, etc., and hearing Dr. Mearns describe and show with photographs how these beaches have changed since 1989. He has basically concluded that oiled beaches left to clean themselves recovered more rapidly than those cleaned with high pressure, hot water washes and that the PWS shorelines are highly dynamic and always changing.

Another highlight of the trip involved visiting the old LaTouche town site, where we explored and heard Chris Wooley describe how this thriving village of several hundred folks back in the 1930's had evolved to a ghost town, been sold and razed, and is now available as remote, get-away, view lots for sale.

At this time, Dr. Mearns plans another monitoring survey for the summer of 2004, his fifteenth continuous year with this program. Again any auxiliarists will be invited to participate, and it is hoped that some of the future observations might be taken over by interested auxiliary personnel.



Photo courtesy of John Whitney

The NOAA/Whittier Flotilla crew just having completed a tour of the old LaTouche town site. Folks L to R are: Tory Blaker, Chris Wooley (archeologist), Dr. Alan Mearns (NOAA shoreline ecologists), Cheryl Blaker, Ross Blaker, and Whitney Blaker.



Member Training

Member Training 2003
Whittier Flotilla
Mark Parmelee FS0-MT

In January 2003 we had about 15 students take and pass AUXSEA class. Five auxiliaries served as instructors.

On April 12, 2003 we concluded a very successful AUXCOM course. We had 7 students participate in the class, 7 auxiliaries teaching and one active duty member teach.

On April 15 and 29 we had an innovative mentoring session for Crew and Coxswains. Ten prospective crew/coxswains sought sign offs and eight mentors worked with students on an individual and a group basis. We practiced line throwing, using actual fire extinguishers and using other hands on material.

Many of our members participated in District and Division Training Opportunities:

- February District training in Anchorage
- April 5th and 6th Operations training
- 611 Coxswain academy
- June 16-20 training in Seward

Currently four auxiliaries are participating in the AUXACN class being taught on Tuesday nights. They join 19 members of the general public taking the Basic Coastal Navigation Class. This training started September 16th and will continue through the spring.



Photos courtesy of Roy Stoddard

The AUXWEA course started September 18, 2003. Lead by Dave Goldstein fifteen lucky auxiliaries are participating.

On October 9th at the DOT conference room at 4111 Aviation Drive at 6pm Jim Chase taught the Sexual Harassment Prevention Course with 12 members in attendance.

Vessel Examiners

Whittier 02-04 Vessel Examiners:
“CONGRATULATION” On a Job Well Done, for the 2003 Vessel Exam Season you, the Whittier Vessel Examiners completed a grand total of “111” Exams. With our Energetic and Outstanding examiners Whittier presently has, the 2004 season is looking even brighter. We currently have 3 members studying to become new vessel examiners and 2 qualified examiners looking into becoming Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners. Again! CONGRATULATION and Thanks to ALL OF YOU Roy...



Auxiliary Station Whittier

Auxiliary Station Whittier now has a Light House.



Photos courtesy of Roy & Terry Stoddard

Thank you Mark Poe for another outstanding job!



Membership

Congratulations to Brad & Linda Wells our newest Whittier Flotilla Auxiliary Coxswain!

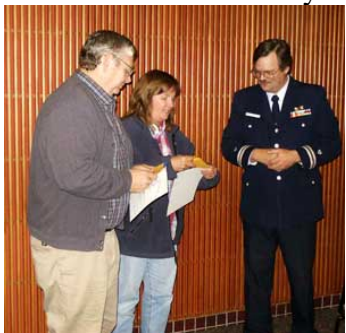


Photo courtesy of Stewart Sterling

Brad & Linda Wells receiving Coxswain certificates from Flotilla Commander Mark Poe

Congratulations to Russ & Kathy Lyday and to Rae De Ley our newest Whittier Flotilla Crew!



Photo courtesy of Stewart Sterling

Rae De Ley, Kathy Lyday & Russ Lyday receiving Crew certificates from Flotilla Commander Mark Poe



Photo courtesy of Stewart Sterling

General Membership meeting October 8, 2003



Member's Corner

Bettles Lagoon Wildlife Bonanza
By Sue Whitney

Has anyone started next season's "must-do" trip lists? We highly recommend Bettles Lagoon for wildlife viewing, the closer up the better. In July, we spotted a porcupine swimming off the eastern shore; we at first mistook him for a small bear, until he landed and waddled up into the brush and trees. White-faced harbor seals curiously followed our approach into the lagoon and our quiet paddle by kayak around the south island. Sea otters fed and played continuously inside the lagoon. Visiting again in August, we watched a family of five river otters playing to the left of the waterfall along the grassy shoreline; eventually they disappeared out of sight into an underwater hole. Their trails on shore eerily resembled the matted grasses of bear travels. Tidal flats at the south end of the lagoon teemed with gulls and an occasional eagle. We waded up the farthest right-hand tidal stream in late August and actually had to work not to trip on splashing chums so thick in numbers in their attempts to move upstream. Since the stream banks were full of well used and recently traveled game trails alongside the salmon-filled stream, we didn't linger long. We suggest sharp eyes and good bear lookouts, but definitely a look-see for anyone curious about the wildlife.



Golden Anchor

Golden Anchor Nominations
By Mark Parmelee

Many of you are aware that at the last Holiday Party I received the Golden Anchor for breaking down in Wells Passage. For anyone unfamiliar with the award the anchor is presented annually for a boating event that occurred the previous season. Folks that take unplanned swims in Prince William Sound or have a rock named for them are high on the list for receiving the award. Each year the holder of the anchor has the last say on who it will get it for the next year.

I am now seeking nominations for folks that did crazy, stupid or silly things this past summer. Please provide your comments to me at potterview@gci.net and you can be assured the anchor will be granted to a deserving recipient. In my presentation I would like to run through several escapades for the season and I already have several events in mind. I could still use more dirt though. You may want to nominate yourself so I get the facts correct. Please don't remind me of the crazy things I did last year, as I will not issue the award to myself so.

Please mark your calendar for December 13th and attend the Holiday Party so you can defend yourself and correct the facts of the matter. Don't sneak out before I make the presentation, I will still issue it to the most deserving individual if they are there or not. I am looking forward to someone else having the anchor next year.

Reminders

We will celebrate Neptune and the Equinox at our Fall party at John and Susan Bury's from 5:30 TO 9 PM Saturday, October 25th.
Contact Deanna Barbarick for additional information. dbarbarick@gci.net

Annual Dues

We are off to a great start in collecting our 2004 membership dues. A BIG THANK YOU to all our members who have already paid and a reminder for all others that we need to collect your dues by the end of November 2003. Our dues amount for 2004 has not changed, still \$30.00. We must pay the National and District dues account's for each member shown on our membership roster as of 31st December 2003 even if the member as not paid..

Thank You.. Terry Stoddard FSO-FN

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



17th District

Whittier Flotilla Web Site
<http://www.uscgaux.org/~1700204/>