



# Whittier Soundings

December 2003 Mark Poe FC, Tony Hillegeist VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XIII Issue 9

## AIM Program

To the Whittier Flotilla and AIM Review Board

I want to sincerely thank you for helping me attend AIM Week at the Coast Guard Academy. It was a tremendous experience that I will never forget. The week at AIM truly gave me an accurate understanding of the rigors of academy life, as well as an appreciation for the tremendous opportunities appointment to attend this great institution would offer. I was quite challenged at AIM in ways I never imagined. The cadre was most impressive in teaching us to work as a platoon team and to exercise mental and physical discipline. In fact, I ran the fastest mile I've ever run in my life while being pushed by my fellow AIMsters. I also had a very enjoyable time, with the sailing and the chance to explore the cockpit of a helicopter being some highlights. I intend to apply for acceptance to the Academy and look forward to interacting with you and the other Coast Guard Auxiliary mentors throughout this process. Please accept my apologies for not writing sooner, but I have been quite busy settling into my senior year studies. Thank you again for all you did to help me attend this wonderful program.

Sincerely,

Drew Hatter

## Member Training

Several members of Whittier Flotilla recently received their Auxiliary Weather Specialist certificates after successfully completing the weather class taught by Dave Goldstein.

Congratulations to All!



*Photo courtesy of Roy Stoddard*

## Flotilla Meeting

Flotilla Commander Mark Poe and Vice Flotilla Commander Tony Hillegeist at the November Flotilla Meeting



*Photo courtesy of Roy Stoddard*

As the end of the year draws to a close, a sincere thank you Mark and Tony for all your efforts.



**FSO - PA**

Bringing 2003 to a Close

Happy Holidays to the Whittier Flotilla from the FSO/PA,

It is unseasonably cold in Whittier, so summer must be over.

It was an eventful year around the Sound and Whittier Harbor. New harbormaster(s) (again this year), a new dock and support facility under construction, a new marina to begin construction, new harbor ownership pending, harbor expansion being considered, are the outward signs of a changing local neighborhood. With all this activity in the Whittier Harbor, kayakers as well as other mariners will need to be especially diligent while underway.

In the wake of the USFS capacity study usage parameters have changed for uplands use in Harriman Fjord and Blackstone Bay. Some campsite hardening in Blackstone was completed. The upshot is that it is getting more crowded out there.

The National Wildlife Federation published "The State of Prince William Sound" in 2003. It is an excellent synopsis of the various components and effects of users of our local marine environment.

The road to Shotgun Cove will begin construction, the cruise ships will arrive in Passage Canal, manifestations of the Homeland Security Act will be visible, and parking will still be a problem in 2004. Never a dull moment around Whittier, these days.

I have attached some photos from our summer, if Cathey is willing to print pictures of boats without motors. Thanks to all, who navigated around the slow moving speed bumps.



Photos courtesy of Peter Denmark

I enjoyed my experience as FSO/PA, as well as meeting the members of the Flotilla. Taking the Coastal Navigation course with some of my staff was time very well spent. I am looking forward to more, next year. Living in Whittier will make my winter meeting attendance spotty, so please feel free to keep in touch. I am looking ahead to another kayaking day for all interested Flotilla members and family in May. I will look forward to seeing you on Mother's Day, if not before.



Photos courtesy of Peter Denmark

Thanks to all for a great boating season,

Peter Denmark

**Looking forward to a new year.**

2003 was a good year for the Auxiliary and the Whittier Flotilla. We offered several public education classes with great attendance. Auxiliary members participated in the many Auxiliary classes offered. The Auxiliary was well represented to the public in appearances of the Safe Boat at Military Appreciation Day and the Fur Rondy Parade. Coastie made appearances in schools, Kids Day at the Egan Center, the USAF Air Show at Elmendorf and in the Fur Rondy Parade. Members made marine dealer visits did vessel safety exams, manned booths in the boat shows, Alaska State Fair and other public appearances. Flotilla members attended District Conferences, Coxswain Academy, Pac Area Training and other district wide training. We performed Operational Safety Patrols on privately owned Operational Facilities, on the Safe Boats and on the Polaris Loaner Program PWC. We qualified new Auxiliary members, Auxiliary Crewmembers, Auxiliary Coxswain, UTM Crewmembers and Coxswain, Vessel Safety Examiners, Auxiliary Air Observers. Lets make 2004 another successful year.



## 2004 Flotilla Staff

**FC** FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
ROY STODDARD

**VFC** VICE FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
BRAD WELLS

**FSO-AN** AIDS TO NAVIGATION  
PAULA KREBS

**FSO-AV** AVIATION STAFF  
DAVE BRUBAKER

**FSO-CC** CAREER COUNSELOR  
JOHN BURY

**FSO-CM** COMMUNICATIONS  
MIKE BARBARICK

**FSO-CS** COMMUNICATION SERVICES  
STEWART STERLING

**FSO-FN** FINANCIAL  
TERRY STODDARD

**FSO-IS** INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
BOB HARVEY

**FSO-MA** MATERIALS  
CLAUDE BARKER

**FSO-MS** MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL  
JOHN WHITNEY

**FSO-MT** MEMBER TRAINING  
MARK PARMELEE

**FSO-MV** MARINE DEALER VISITOR  
TONY HILLEGEIST

**FSO-OP** OPERATIONS  
JIM CHASE

**FSO-PA** PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
PETE DENMARK

**FSO-PB** PUBLICATIONS STAFF  
CATHEY STERLING

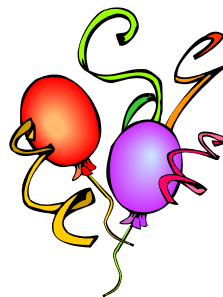
**FSO-PE** PUBLIC EDUCATION  
LINDA WELLS

**FSO-PS** PERSONNEL SERVICES  
KATHY LYDAY

**FSO-SR** SECRETARY/RECORDS  
MARK POE

**FSO-VE** VESSEL EXAMINATION  
RUSS LYDAY

**FELLOWSHIP CHAIRPERSON**  
DEANNA BARBARICK



## Holiday Party

You are cordially invited to attend the  
2003 USCG Auxiliary Whittier  
Flotilla Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13, 2003  
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
UAA Campus Center Den (see link to map)  
<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/map/>

This will be a potluck dinner.  
Those who are not bringing ham, turkey, potatoes,  
green vegetables, and the other essentials, please  
bring your favorite potluck dish.

6:00 - 7:00 arrive, set up your dishes and mingle.  
7:00 - Dinner  
8:00 - Program and gift exchange

We will have the Change of Watch, swearing in  
our new officers, raffle drawing, and the fun gift  
exchange.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange,  
please bring one gift per person, cost not to exceed  
\$20.00.

RSVP with your name, how many will attend, and  
what you plan to bring by  
December 1 to [dbarbarick@gei.net](mailto:dbarbarick@gei.net)



## Member's Corner

### Reflections on Cruising in Prince William Sound

Since the time we began boating in PWS three summers ago, we have often found ourselves sharing our enthusiasm about boating in the sound with friends and acquaintances, many of whom have never had this experience. A common question is, "So do you fish or what exactly do you do out there??" That always brings a smile for us as until you've experienced it, it can be hard to explain why cruising in PWS is such fun!

So why do we love boating in PWS? For us it's so many things, but to name just a few...

It's about spending hours on end exploring the beaches and watching the kids delight in the tiny critters, cool rocks, and so many other things that they find.

It's about being anchored in a cove with no one else in sight and surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in the world and knowing too, that this beauty didn't just happen.

It's about sitting on the flybridge watching the eagles soar and listening to their chatter.

It's about cruising through beautiful icebergs and catching a few pieces for the ice chest as well.

It's about meeting new friends who share your love of the Sound and enjoying a night ramped together to share adventures and friendship.

It's about cruising with no place in particular to go, just to enjoy the beauty around you.

It's about running on a beautiful sandy beach, feeling the sand beneath your toes.

It's about watching those wonderful critters; the otters and seals, as they peer curiously back at you.

It's about exploring small coves and beaches via your dingy or kayak.

It's about watching whales cruise by your boat and then giving you a show as well.

It's about finding a berry patch and eating as many as you keep.

It's about soaking up some rays on a beautiful day while listening to the kids a short distance away, making an imaginary house out of a cool spot they have found on shore.

It's about watching a puffin soar over the water and then dive for something tasty down below.

It's about sitting in awe of the glaciers and listening to the thundering sound as pieces break away.

It's about coming into the harbor after another wonderful adventure, with the kids giving a big hug and thank you for the wonderful time they have had and thanking the Lord above for such wonderful times to share as a family.

Boating in PWS is about all of these and much more as well and at this time of thanksgiving we are most grateful to be so abundantly blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy such a gorgeous place.

Cheryl Blaker





## Fellowship

Several Flotilla members enjoyed the Fall Fellowship. We shared good food, fellowship, and fun and worked on some of the future needs of the Flotilla.



*all photos courtesy of Stewart & Cathey Sterling*

Everyone enjoyed John & Susan Bury's hospitality. Thank you John, Susan and Deanna.



Where's the future Flotilla Commander?

**COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**



**17th District**

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