



Whittier Soundings

January 2004 Roy Stoddard FC, Brad Wells VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB **Volume XVI Issue 1**

Holiday Party

The 2003 holiday party was attended by many of the flotilla members. It gave members time to visit with each other and to discuss plans and ideas for the upcoming year.



Photo by Stewart Sterling



Photo by Stewart Sterling

Flotilla members sharing sea stories and discussing ideas



Photo by Stewart Sterling

Wondering which member will receive the Golden Anchor



Photo by Stewart Sterling

Sig Murphy, Roy Stoddard and Mark Poe

We enjoyed sharing a potluck meal with members bringing a favorite dish. Our Division 2 Captain, John French, joined us for the festivities and food.



Photos by Stewart Sterling

Bob Harvey carving Turkey



John French DCP2
And Flotilla Members

A gift raffle and a "Chinese Auction" gift exchange with some gifts changing hands many times and the Golden Anchor award (article on page 4) added to the fun and excitement of the evening.

The time was used to swear in new members and flotilla staff officers, presents some members with membership training awards and for the official changing of the guard.



Barbara Sands &
New member
Sylvia Condy



Photos by Stewart Sterling
2004 Whittier Flotilla Staff Officer



Roy Stoddard receiving
command from Mark Poe



Mark offering words of wisdom
to Roy about Flotilla Leadership

Photos by Stewart Sterling

We also recognize a flotilla member as outstanding member of the year. This year Russ & Kathy Lyday shared the award for their outstanding performance in recruiting new members, becoming VE's and taking on new challenges and tasks.



Photo by Stewart Sterling
Bob Harvey presenting Flotilla Member
Of the year to Kathy & Russ Lyday

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the fellowship gatherings. It is a time to meet members you don't know, develop new friendships and keep up to date with what is going on in the flotilla.

Thanks to all the members for an outstanding year, all your hard work and for making us a strong flotilla.

District Conference & Training

Any one who wishes to attend the 2004 Winter District 17 conference and training needs to fill out a registration form and transportation request. All requests will need a TAD form filled out also. Anyone needing copies of the form and TAD may contact the Flotilla Commander or me, your FSO-PB for a copy to be e-mailed to you. The registration form may also be found on the Whittier Flotilla Web Site, Member Info Page.

The flyer for the conference is on the next page of this newsletter.



2004 Conference
Registration.doc



Crossing the Bar

We lost one of our long time Auxiliary members Monday December 29, 2003. Margaret Jessee died at home in Battle Ground, Washington. Private services have been held. As you recall, Jack died in May 2002. Please include the Jessee family in your prayers and thoughts.

Roy Stoddard

Margaret and Jack Jessee were very special people, to their family, their friends and to the Auxiliary. Their dedication and selfless, tireless efforts in support of the Auxiliary were legendary in Prince William Sound.

We were lucky to be able to dedicate the Whittier Auxiliary Station to Jack while he was still alive, so that he could see his vision come to life.

The Whittier Flotilla was and is very much a part of Jack and Margaret Jessee and always will be.

Fair winds and following seas to the Jessee's as they cross the bar before us. They are together again and forever.

Mike & Noreen Folkerts



**SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
2004 District Training Conference
and Awards Banquet**

**JUNEAU, ALASKA 12-16 FEBRUARY 2004
WESTMARK BARANOF HOTEL**

Fishing in February . . . it's time to reel in our members for the 2004 District Conference. As part of the commitment we made to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, we owe it to ourselves to become better acquainted with our "fellow workers". Through joint training, sharing of ideas and fellowship, we can become a better functioning overall unit.

This year's Conference will be held in beautiful downtown Juneau, Alaska. Here's your opportunity to spend a weekend in Juneau for a minimal amount of money . . . and in the process get to share information from around the state . . . spend a little time with your fellow Auxiliarists to increase our effectiveness in the world of boating safety.

SAFETY & SECURITY . . . The focal point of this year's conference. We will have information available from all of the District Staff Office positions as well as from some of our active duty counterparts. It will be a good way for newer members to become acquainted with what we are about and who we are. In the process they may find an area of interest they didn't even realize existed.

TRAINING . . . Three different training tracks will be offered Saturday and Sunday:

1) Public Education: Including how to effectively run a PE class, an introduction to Coastie the Safety Boat, computer training and even a little information on digital photography

2) Operations: The 2004 Ops Workshop that can be taken back and given at the Flotilla level, information on the PWC Program, the issuing and care of Personal Protective Equipment, Search Patterns and Comms Procedures.

3) Aids to Navigation / Vessel Safety Checks: Learn about the ATON program, Vessel Safety Checks, including Commercial and 5-Star inspections, carbon monoxide information and more.

There are 30-40 slots available in each track. Choose your track and spend the weekend advancing your skills in that particular area. There will be tours of the Command Center for each group and a few surprise events for all.

AWARDS . . . Share in the accomplishments of 2003 at the Awards Luncheon on Friday and the Awards Banquet on Sunday evening. All a part of the registration fee!

FUN . . . there will be plenty. Meet and get to know some of District 17's Active Duty . . . Sport your finest fishing attire at Saturday's Fun Night, including modeling your ugliest fishing hat . . . it could be a prize winner! . . . Cheer on your Flotilla's entry in the Dead Fish Race . . . that could be worth the trip alone . . . and you could go home with a fabulous door prize!

FAREWELLS . . . Our Director of Auxiliary, LCDR Chris Honse is retiring in the spring of 2004. This will also be our Operations Training Officer, Chief Dave Borg's last D17 Conference before he transfers next spring. LCDR Honse has requested his retirement ceremony be included at the Annual Awards Banquet on Sunday evening. The honor of this event alone would make the trip to this year's conference worthwhile!

Airfare too expensive? . . . NO EXCUSE! The accommodating crew aboard "Red Tail" airlines will provide your transportation aboard a luxurious C-130 at no cost . . . even if you are not on reimbursable orders.

Hotel too expensive for several nights? . . . NO EXCUSE! There will be alternative housing offered by your fellow Auxiliarists and even by active duty in the Juneau area willing to welcome you into their homes.

SO FOR JUST THE \$99 REGISTRATION FEE. . . you can spend a fun-filled weekend in Juneau! You will travel to Alaska's Capital city on Thursday, February 12. Spend Friday, Saturday and Sunday soaking up information and having fun and return home on Monday, February 16. **Don't miss it!**



Golden Anchor

The Whittier Flotilla has an annual Golden Anchor award given for a boating event during that season. Mark Parmelee proudly presented the award to Keith Lindsey. Keith wasn't there to receive his award which was thoughtfully presented to him at the January Flotilla Meeting.



Mark Parmelee presenting the Golden Anchor

Golden Anchor recipient story

I tell you this with some trepidation. However, as two of your newest members, I think we may end up high on your list.

We have been boating for more than 20 years. Our last boat, "Miss Adventure", a 26' Bayliner lived up to her name. We contemplated naming our newest purchase "Another, Miss Adventure", but rejected the name and stigma for the more refined "Nanny K". A 37' Tollycraft was surely no "Miss Adventure".

On our 2nd voyage we "stuck" the 60lb Bruce in 150' of water in Agnes cove. We tried for an hour to "unstick" the stupid thing. After almost breaking the forward deck in half, we elected to cut away the anchor chain. Fortunately, I am a thinking sailor. I knew that if I tied a float to the end of the chain, I could swing the boat around and pull the anchor out with my hydraulic pot puller. Well, I suppose I should have done the math, because a large buoy will not float the

weight of 150' of 1/2-inch anchor chain. Straight to the bottom she went! So adding insult to injury,

I threw away a \$45 float along with my anchor and chain.

Well as eager boaters, we elected to go out the next weekend. We decided we would use our "lunch hook" and anchor retrieval system, since we broke the windless the previous weekend. All went well until time came to "retrieve" the anchor. Since we had little experience with the system, we didn't get the anchor all the way up to the ball. My first mate (really the admiral) asked if she should back up. From the bow I shouted yes... and give it some gas. The next thing I knew, she was coming off the power. I asked what was up. She tells me that the inflatable is upside down under the swim step. Sure enough, boat and motor are upside down. Of course, it will not come out before a bolt protruding through the swim step tears a 6" long gash in the side of the inflatable. Now the boat is too heavy to pull out of the water, as one side is full of water. No problem I thought, I will use the davit and hoist her up.

Wouldn't you know it.... no power to the davit. We finally man handled the boat onto the swim step a secured her for the trip back to Seward. As we start back, I noticed that the depth finder was not working. As I begin to look around... nothing is working! No radar, gps, stereo, water pump... NOTHING. Total electrical failure! Fortunately, the motors were already running. As you may imagine, we headed straight for the slip and promptly hung a For Sale sign in the window.

Fortunately, no one bought the boat. We have since repaired or replaced all the stuff we broke over that week. It just goes to show.... I don't care how long you have been boating.... it is really hours on the equipment, not hours on the water that counts. I am "pretty sure" that we will not do that again. With any luck.... you won't either.

Signed,
Captain and Crew of "Nanny K"

Thoughts from the IPFC

From the IPFC US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Whittier Flotilla, Mark Poe

That is a powerful title. One which I am proud of. We don't wear funny things on our hats and go by names of animals. We are part of the US Coast Guard. Have you watched the news? There are plenty of crazies to go around. Kids shooting Kids, unhappy employees shooting co-workers, suicide bombers and freeway shooters. I didn't even mention Iraq. Would you invite a person you didn't know into your home with your family there? Why would you? What if you were in the military and already a target for trouble? Think long and hard about this.

I have been on two CG. Cutters, three CG stations and several military bases, all with only a little Auxiliary ID card. I was very surprised when I joined the Auxiliary that a background check was not required. I am sure NOT surprised NOW. I served in combat in the military and I didn't trust anyone who was not wearing my uniform. Can we ask the men in service to do that now? Trust us because we said we are good guys. I know each and every one of my fellow flotilla members; I have shaken your hand and looked you in the eye. I have invited all of you to my home. Do I trust you? Yes! BUT, I would not expect total strangers in uniform to trust me, not alone you!

I had a high level clearance in the military. The optimum word being HAD. Now I will fill out the paperwork and see if I can get another. Is it a pain, Yes! But when a guard asks for my ID he will know that he can trust me. If its too much bother for you or an invasion of your privacy, well OK, but don't fly anywhere. They want me to take off my shoes!! Two IDs and look at my toothbrush. That is an invasion of privacy!!

I ask that you look upon this as not what it does to you, but what it does for you. If you still feel that it is too much for you to do then I will be sorry to see you go.

Thank you, Mark Poe IPFC

Member Training

Member Training Garage Sale

At the February Flotilla meeting a number of member training study guides will be offered to those who want to self-study and take the exam on line.

Members that have extra study guides or crew seamanship manuals they no longer are using are encouraged to bring them to the "garage sale." All study guides are available at no cost to auxiliary members. This is a great time to clean out the Auxiliary manuals you do not need and to get them to someone who will use them this winter.



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