



Whittier Soundings

April 2004 Roy Stoddard FC, Brad Wells VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XIV Issue 4

Training

Team Coordination Training

"Team Coordination Training is a Coast Guard program designed to increase team and crew effectiveness while reducing the potential for human error accidents."

Join members of the Whittier Flotilla over three Thursday evenings in May to participate in the Team Coordination Training course. This session is open to all interested auxiliary members.

Please sign up by contacting Mark Parmelee at potterview@gci.net

The sessions will be held at the BP Energy Center from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 6, 13 and 20.

Guest Speakers

Capt. Ron Morris, Lt. Mike Felkay, Ensign Don Davis from Anchorage MSO were the guest speakers for the April Flotilla meeting. Capt. Morris and the two staff officers gave a review of the MSO Anchorage duties and discussed issues regarding Homeland Security, Marine Safety and Security Teams, the Marine Transportation Act, Area Marine Security Plans and how the same may impact Whittier and other locations in Alaska.

SAFEboat Training

To All Whittier Flotilla members:

Its time again to think about our summer plans of boating and I have another opportunity for you.

The Whittier Safeboat 256611 will be out in force this summer and you might think about signing up for some time on it for training or just a familiarization ride. Patrols will be scheduled for weekends from May 15 & 16 until the end of September and into October weather permitting. Some Coxswains also run it on the Friday also.

If you are working on your Auxiliary **Crew** or Auxiliary **Coxswain** ratings it is an excellent way to get some training and signoffs done.

Remember—you do not have to be UTM rated to get regular Crew and Coxswain training while on 611 as a **Trainee**. This is especially true for those that do not have their own vessel like me! For those of you pursuing a UTM rating for running the Safeboats the more time you log on 611 the more comfortable you will be when your check ride time comes!

If you are interested in going out on 611 as a **Trainee** think about what weekends you might be interested in getting time on the boat and email me or call in the evenings to get signed up. We try to keep the maximum POB (people on board) to 4 as anymore than this and everyone is in everyone else's way---this means **TWO** trainees can go on each patrol along with the assigned Coxswain and Crew member.

Stewart L. Sterling III
AOINC 256611
Hm 907-349-5081 Cell 907-244-3711
stews@gci.net

National Safe Boating Week

**National Safe Boating Week
(NSBW) 22 –31 May**

Safe Boating is a YEAR ROUND campaign. Each year, a new campaign is developed and kicked off during NSBW. NSBW this year is scheduled to run from 22-28 May. Traditionally here in the 17th District (Alaska), we extend NSBW to cover two full weekends, and, to include Memorial Day Weekend. That means our kick-off for this years campaign will go through 31 May. **“Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It!”**, remains the slogan for this year.

We hope that each flotilla has some special activities planned for NSBW. Who is responsible at the flotilla level for planning NSBW activities? Ultimately, it is the Flotilla Commander’s responsibility but they are not the only ones that have a responsibility. Sometimes a flotilla will have a NSBW coordinator. Other times it is an additional responsibility of the Public Affairs Officer. Each Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) should be asking themselves the questions, “What can the program I manage do, that will bring additional visibility to our boating safety campaign?” Each member should be encouraged to share their ideas on how they think we can broaden our outreach during this annual kick-off, which coincides with the beginning of the boating season in Alaska.

From flyers advertising what we have scheduled, to the Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It! Logo on milk cartons, grocery bags, utility bills and in libraries; to proclamations signed by local dignitaries. From member training officers scheduling dockside training and providing public demonstrations at the same time (dewatering pump; flares, survival suit). From operations officers scheduling demonstrations involving towing evolutions and helo operations visible from the dock and narrated shore side for spectators. From vessel safety checks at the ramps to open houses at shore stations and/or SAFE Boats. From

scheduling a boating safely course and/or GPS class for those boaters that didn’t get a class this winter or spring and plan on boating for the first time this summer. These are but a few of the successes from previous events.

As we look to building a strong campaign, the key to success is planning. If your flotilla does not have a NSBW Plan, it is not to late to start. By starting now, you will lay the groundwork for future years and help to bring focus to your year round campaign.

Don’t forget once the plans are made, it is important to bring visibility to the events so that the people we are trying to reach, know of the opportunities.

Materials contained in the North American Safe Boating Campaign Kit can be viewed on their website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org/

I look forward to hearing what your flotillas plans are to include them in a district plan. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

COMO Barbara Sands
D17N NSBW Chairperson



Weather

**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
WEATHER SOURCES**
John Whitney, March 2004

Websites: PWS Observations and Weather
<http://www.wossc.gen.ak.us/sea/weather/weather.html>

(Includes: PWS Science Center Weather Station Network, PWSSC-Cordova, NOAA real-time buoys, Satellite Images, NASA SeaWifs, NW-Alaska Region forecasts and current weather observations)

<http://whittierak.yukontel.com/>
 (Whittier Web Cam from Begich Towers, 14th floor)

Whittier Harbormaster: 907-472-2330

NOAA Weather Radio:

- Whittier – VHF Channel 2
- Cordova – VHF Channel 2
- Valdez - VHF Channel 1

Coast Guard MSO Valdez:

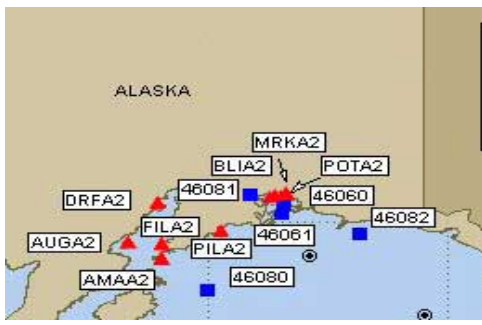
(Initially channel 16, switch to channel 22)
 Times: 0518, 0533, 1315, 1333, 1715, 1733, 2315, 2333 (NWS forecast updated at 0500 and 1700)

Dial-A-Buoy Weather Report:

- Dial 228-688-1948
- Select Menu Item #1
- Enter the five digit alphanumeric buoy code

(Buoys: Ester Island –46081, Middle Rock – MRKA2, Potato Pt. – POTA2, Central Sound – 46060, Seal Rocks – 46061, N. Gulf of Alaska – 46080, Pilot Rock – PILA2, E. Kayak Island – 46082)

Location of NOAA Weather Buoys in S. Central Alaska:



Awards

Aux Nav A & B: John Whitney, Sue Whitney
Aux Nav part A: Sig Murphy, Marty Keef
Aux Sar: Rae De Lay
VE Exam: Bill Morris, Jim Sipes

**Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary
Service Award +750 Hrs:**

- Ron Sands 10th Award
- Bob Harvey 3rd Award
- Mark Poe 3rd Award
- Roy Stoddard 3rd Award
- Kathy Lyday 1st Award
- Russ Lyday 1st Award
- Mark Parmelee 1st Award
- Cathey Sterling 1st Award
- Stewart Sterling 2nd Award
- Terry Stoddard 1st Award

**Coast Guard Meritorious Team
Commendation Aux Station Whittier:**
 Mark Parmelee & Ron Cothren

Captain Samuel Guill Award:
 Capt Morris presented Dennis Begen (Mat-Su Flotilla) Auxiliary Coxswain performing the greatest number of Patrol hours, on an Auxiliary Operational Surface Facility during 2003.

Congratulations to all for jobs well done!

New Members

Congratulations to our newest member Larry Wright, who received his Auxiliary Oath administered by COMO Sands.

Welcome to our Guests:
 Mary Lou and Dennis Begen, Bob Renke.

Vessel Safety Check

Contact one of the following for a **FREE/NO FAULT Vessel Safety Check** of your boat! They will schedule a VSC with one of the flotilla's Ten Vessel Examiners

Flotilla Commander

Roy Stoddard

(907) 349-7903Hm

(907) 552-2063Wk

summit.photo@gci.net

Flotilla Staff Officer - Vessel Exams

Russ Lyday

(907) 522-5052

rkl@acsalaska.net

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



17th District



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