



Whittier Soundings

November 2004 Roy Stoddard FC, Brad Wells VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XIV Issue 11

Boating Hazards & ATON's

A Photo Project

By Paula Krebs

Two years ago the Whittier Flotilla voted to start two photo projects, Aids to Navigation (ATON) and boating hazard sites. The purpose is to document the appearance of each ATON and to present the appearance of boating hazards at high and low tide. This was thought to provide an opportunity for every Flotilla member to contribute to a project of the Flotilla and the final product to be shared with all.

Status: the numbers of sites have increased from 60 to 71.

Only 7 sites completed despite ongoing positive comments to keep working on this so everyone may improve their boating knowledge in Prince William Sound.

Many of the flotilla members have asked for a copy of the list of hazards sites but folks just don't seem to want to sign up to adopt a site. During the course of a single boating season a normal boater will encounter around thirty (30) or so of these commonly passed locations. At the speed we are currently working, the estimate to complete this much wanted product is about 10 years.

To give you a better idea of the appearance of the final product and to encourage you to "adopt" a site one of these will be featured in the Newsletter.

The first one is the "Floating Rock" in North Esther Passage, so called because everyone who hits it has it in a different place.



Esther Passage, North End off Port Wells

Lat N 55° 55.7'

Long W 148° 02.4'



Adapted from NOS chart # 16700

**North Esther Passage
"Floating Rock"**

Looking ESE from North entrance Esther Passage
Photos by John & Sue Whitney



High Tide April 27, 2003



Low Tide (+1.4) April 26, 2003

Search And Rescue



SEARCH AND RESCUE IS NO JOKE!

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday!
Please help me, my boat is sinking!"

For over 200 years the U.S. Coast Guard has responded to distress calls at sea. But lately, more and more of those calls are found to be false – hoaxes sent by people looking for kicks.

In 1990, the first year we began keeping statistics on rescue hoaxes, U.S. Coast Guard units responded to 205 hoaxes. This number has increased steadily every year.

The U.S. Coast Guard, along with the Federal Communications Commission and other agencies, is very concerned about the increasing number of search and rescue hoaxes.

Hoaxes hurt everyone:

- The U.S. Coast Guard by placing our people in danger by operating ships, boats and aircraft, responding to these false distress calls;
- The taxpayer by wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars annually; and
- Those really in distress at sea by interfering with legitimate search and rescue cases.

Are there penalties for issuing a false distress call? Check it out.

- 6 years in prison
- \$250,000 criminal fine
- \$5,000 civil fine
- Reimbursing the U.S. Coast Guard for the cost of performing the search

How much does the U.S. Coast Guard spend on its search and rescue cases?

- Each hour a U.S. Coast Guard aircraft is aloft costs about \$3,700 – and several may be used in a single search.
- Our medium size ships, referred to as cutters, cost roughly \$1,550 an hour to run.
- Even a U.S. Coast Guard small boat costs between \$300 and \$400 per hour to operate.

Is there a way you, as a law-abiding taxpayer, can help? Yes! If you hear a hoax call, or you have information which might lead to the perpetrator of a hoax, call the nearest U.S. Coast Guard unit or contact the Federal Communications Commission.

Article from the U.S. Coast Guard website



Fellowship

One of the rewards we have in the Auxiliary is fellowship. In the Whittier Flotilla that is very evident.

Our fall fellowship was well attended and hosted by John & Sue Whitney. With the guidance of Deanna Barbarick we had plenty of great food and a variety of snacks and beverages.



The fellowships allow us the opportunity to visit members that are involved in different aspects of the Auxiliary. We learn more about the interests and goals of each other and about the diversity of our Flotilla.

I encourage all members to attend the fellowships, especially new members for this is a great way to meet other members with the same interests.



Thanks again to Deanna for putting together another successful fellowship and thanks to John & Sue for sharing their home.

Members Corner

Barb's Strawberry Spinach Salad

- 9 cups cleaned spinach leaves, torn
- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- ½ cup light oil such as Canola or Vegetable
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 ½ tsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 Tbsp Poppy Seeds
- 2 Tbsp toasted Sesame Seeds
- ¼ cup (more or less to taste) sugar (or use Splenda)

Mix Dressing. Pour over spinach and strawberries at the last minute and mix thoroughly.

This recipe comes from a dear friend, Barb Seidl. Submitted by Mary Murphy.

Flotilla Leadership

November 13 incoming Flotilla Commander Brad Wells and Vice Flotilla Commander Sig Murphy held a staff officers meeting to set goals and schedule projects for the coming year.

The plan is to provide a calendar of projects and events to the membership, allowing time for members to schedule for the events in which they plan to participate.

This is a great way for the Flotilla to start the New Year; goals, scheduled events, projects designed to maximize our resources and offer training and practice to the members.

Thanks to our incoming FC, VFC and FSO's for your time and dedication to the Flotilla.

Change of Watch & Fellowship

A reminder to all December 11, 2004 will be the Change of Watch and the winter fellowship.

This will be held at the UAA Campus Den. Set up starts 6PM, Dinner at 7PM and the Change of Watch 8PM to 10PM.

This is a potluck dinner and we will have a Chinese Auction gift exchange. Bring your favorite dish, a \$15.00 gift if you wish to participate in the gift exchange. This event is great fun and allows you the opportunity to meet the incoming Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Staff Officers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Be sure to contact Deanna Barbarick dbarbarick@gci.net or Roy Stoddard summit.photo@gci.net for more information.



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