



Whittier Soundings

Whittier Flotilla 02-04, District 17, Alaska



April 2005 Brad Wells FC, Sig Murphy VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XV Issue 4

Kids Day

Saturday April 16th 2005, a busy day for the Auxiliary in the Anchorage area. Anchorage Promise / Kids Day event was being held in the Egan Center. The Whittier flotilla had contracted for 2 booth spaces as we had done for Kids Day 2004. The turn out of children and parents was great, at times almost overwhelming. In 7 hours approximately 950 children tried on PFD's and received printed information to teach them to be safe and sound on and around the water. Officer Snook, Inky the Whale and Coastie activity books were given to the kids. Kids Don't Float stickers; tattoos and whistles were presented to the kids so they could signal for help when they need it. I would like to personally thank everyone that helped make 2005 Anchorage Promise / Kids Day a success. Thank You. *Roy Stoddard*

Incident Command System

By Roy Stoddard

April 16th 17th 2005 RCO Marie Scholle presented an Incident Command System (ICS/300) class to 3 active duty Coast Guard and 18 Auxiliary members here in Anchorage.



Auxiliary & Active Duty Coast Guard training together

We were shown "The Big Picture" just how multi-agencies with multi-functional involvement fits into the great puzzle of a Command Center.



RCO Marie Scholle instructing Active Duty Coast Guard and Auxiliary in ICS 300

We discovered that the principles in ICS are what enable emergency response agencies to utilize common terminology, span of control, organizational flexibility, personnel accountability, comprehensive resource management, unified command and incident action plans.



Students in tabletop exercises



Working together in ICS training

The real challenge is to get all the various agencies to work together in the most efficient and effective manner to complete the mission. ICS/300 is a class that everyone should be encouraged to attend, sooner than later.

Photos by Cathey Sterling



Great Alaskan Sportsman Show

The Great Alaska Sportsman Show Auxiliary booth was well attended this year. We had 1,645 visitors to the Auxiliary booth, which was next to the U.S. Coast Guard booth. A new attraction was added to the informational booth – an entry to win Binoculars donated by West Marine.

The entry form also included a section to request a Vessel Safety Check. 95 people from different areas of the state requested a VSC. Over 700 Alaska Boater's Handbooks were distributed as well as 1,100 life jacket whistles. 25 members from four different flotillas manned the booth throughout the event. To all who made this a successful boating safety event, thank you.

Homer SAFEBoat Dedication

By Dave Brubaker

Homer Alaska, April 16, 2005

The Homer Flotilla made another bold step here last Saturday when the CG SAFEBoat 275594 became the third to be owned by the Coast Guard and operated by the CG Auxiliary. All three boats reside in the District's 2nd Division with 611 in Whittier, 610 in Seward and now 594 in Homer.

LCDR Sue Workman was the Master of Ceremonies and CG District Commander Rear Admiral James C. Olson officiated at the ceremony. Others attending included the Mayor of Homer, District Commodore Mike Folkerts, officers and crew from the Cutters Sycamore and Roanoke Island as well as many Auxiliarists, friends and family.

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary President, who had played an important part in convincing District 17 to use CG boats with Auxiliary operators, as they do in Canada, also provided some background about how the program began. Retired LCDR Chris Honse, complete with beard, flew up from Oregon to witness the

continuation of this program, which began while he was our Director of Auxiliary.

The Homer Flotilla has a long history of operating other vessels. Rescue 21 is a non-profit organization with lots of CG Auxiliary membership dedicated to promoting safety at sea. Since the spring of 1984, the Flotilla has operated Rescue 21's vessel *Quannah P*, which has been credited with 354 rescues in its 20 year's of service to mariners in the Homer area.

The ceremony reminded me a lot of Whittier's ceremony in June of 2001. Leader In Charge (LINC) Gayle Forrest was present to "set the watch" and Past Commodore's Craig Forrest unfurled the colors aboard 594 while George Eischens commanded the watch. Members of the local CAP Youth corps provided the Color Guard and the Inlet Winds Community Band a 35-member orchestra from Homer provided excellent music.

Deep-fried halibut, hamburgers and hotdogs were served following the ceremony and 594 launched to give rides to guests. One of 594's first missions will be to serve as a training platform for this year's Coxswain's Academy which begins on April 22.



photo by S. Sterling

Prince William Sound Clean Up

The Prince William Sound Clean Up day will be held May 14th. For information contact Chris Pallister.



Boating Safety

Following article from U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety website:

The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is produced when a carbon-based fuel-such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil-burns. Sources on your boat may include engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters.

Why is it so dangerous?

Carbon monoxide (CO) enters your bloodstream through the lungs, blocking the oxygen your body needs. Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very quick exposure to high concentrations can kill you.

Early symptoms of CO poisoning include irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness. They are often confused with seasickness or intoxication, so those affected may not receive the medical attention they need.

Altitude, certain health-related problems, and age will increase the effects of CO. Persons who smoke or are exposed to high concentrations of cigarette smoke, consume alcohol, or have lung disorders or heart problems are particularly susceptible to an increase in the effects from CO. However, anyone can be affected. Another factor to consider is that physical exertion accelerates the rate at which the blood absorbs CO.

Emergency Treatment for CO Poisoning

CO poisoning or toxicity is a life-threatening emergency that requires immediate action. The following is a list of things that should be done if CO poisoning is suspected. Proceed with caution. The victim may be in an area of high CO concentration, which means you or others could in danger from exposure to CO.

- Evaluate the situation and ventilate the area if possible.
- Evacuate the area and move affected person(s) to a fresh air environment.
- Observe the victim(s).
- Administer oxygen, if available.

- Contact medical help. If the victim is not breathing, perform rescue breathing or approved cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), as appropriate, until medical help arrives. Prompt action can mean the difference between life and death.

Shut off potential sources of CO, if possible.

Correct ventilation problems and/or repair exhaust problems as appropriate. Investigate the source of CO and take corrective action, such as evacuating and ventilating the area or shutting off the source of the CO, while at the same time evacuating and ventilating the area.

Carbon monoxide can accumulate **anywhere in or around your boat.**

How can it accumulate?



Inadequately ventilated canvas enclosures.



Exhaust gas trapped in enclosed places.



Blocked exhaust outlets.



Another vessel's exhaust. CO from the boat docked next to you can be just as deadly.



"Station wagon effect" or back drafting.



At slow speeds, while idling, or stopped. Be aware that CO can remain in or around your boat at dangerous levels even if your engine or the other boat's engine is no longer running!



You're in command of your boating safety. Follow these simple steps to help keep carbon monoxide from poisoning you, your passengers, or those around others.

- Know where and how CO may accumulate in and around your boat.
- Maintain fresh air circulation throughout the boat at all times. Run exhaust blowers whenever the generator is operating.
- Know where your engine and generator exhaust outlets are located and keep everyone away from these areas.
- Never sit, teak surf, or hang on the back deck or swim platform while the engines are running. Teak surfing is **NEVER** a safe activity.
- Never enter areas under swim platforms where exhaust outlets are located unless the area has been properly ventilated.
- Although CO can be present without the smell of exhaust fumes, if you smell exhaust fumes, CO is also present. Take immediate action to dissipate these fumes.
- Treat symptoms of seasickness as possible CO poisoning. Get the person into fresh air immediately. Seek medical attention-unless you're sure it's not CO.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your boat. Do not ignore any alarm. Replace alarms as recommended by the alarm manufacturer.
- Follow the checklists provided on this website.
- Get a Vessel Safety Check. A VSC is a free bow-to-stern safety examination.

Helpful Checklists:

Each Time You Go On a Boat Trip

- Make sure you know where CO exhaust outlets are located on your vessel.

- Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
 - When docked, or rafted with another boat, be aware of exhaust emissions from the other boat.
 - Confirm that water flows from the exhaust outlet when the engines and generator are started.
 - Listen for any change in exhaust sound, which could indicate an exhaust component failure.
 - Test the operation of each CO alarm by pressing the test button.

Once a Month

- Make sure all exhaust clamps are in place and secure.
- Look for exhaust leaking from exhaust system components. Signs include rust and/or black streaking, water leaks, or corroded or cracked fittings.
- Inspect rubber exhaust hoses for burned, cracked, or deteriorated sections. All rubber hoses should be pliable and free of kinks.

Once a Year

Have a qualified marine technician:

- Replace exhaust hoses if cracking, charring, or deterioration is found.
- Ensure that your engines and generators are properly tuned, and well maintained.
- Inspect each water pump impeller and the water pump housing. Replace if worn. Make sure cooling systems are in working condition.
- Inspect all metallic exhaust components for cracking, rusting, leaking, or loosening. Make sure they check the cylinder head, exhaust manifold, water injection elbow, and the threaded adapter nipple between the manifold and the elbow.

Clean, inspect, and confirm proper operation of the generator cooling water anti-siphon valve (if equipped).



V E Inspection Day

May 21 & 22 we will have a Vessel Safety Check station at the Whittier Harbor. Several Vessel Examiners will be conducting the safety checks in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week. The beginning of boating season is a great time to remind the recreational boater to remember safety. It gives us an opportunity to make sure they have the required gear but also the chance to suggest other things they may want to consider for their safety.



Coastie will be at the Harbor for National Safe Boating Week to remind everyone to be safe and to wear his or her PFD.

Caboose Day

May 21 & 22 we will have clean up and maintenance day for Auxiliary Station Whittier. There will also be a fellowship during the weekend. This is a good opportunity for the new members to learn about the station and to meet with other flotilla members. Hope to see everyone there.



Auxiliary Station Whittier Dedication Ceremony, June 2001
Photo by S. Sterling

Coastie Training

Coastie makes new friends. *by Rae De Ley*

Last month the Whittier Flotilla had a Coastie Training Class. Five new Coastie Operators were trained and one Operator received a refresher. Some of you know what (or in this case WHO) Coastie is, but for those who do not...Coastie is a radio-controlled boat that can sing & dance & tell jokes. But most important Coastie is an educational tool to teach the school aged kids about safe boating.

While the adults take classes to learn safe boating or about navigation rules. Coastie keeps it simple, and teaches safe boating to kids. Like... What to do if some one falls in the water. And, why life jackets are so important. And even a bit about the law, school aged children on a dock in Alaska are required to wear a life jacket. Want to make friends with Coastie? Let your member-training officer know.

Heads Up

By Rae De Ley

So you are out on Prince William Sound for a day of fun, sun, & Auxiliary Training. What a great day! And you are learning so much. And then you realize that all that root beer you had to drink now needs a place to go. So you go into the head and get your self arranged. "Ahh that better!" "Humm, levers, & knobs & valves... Was this thing designed by NASA?!" And then your lucky rabbits foot falls in the bowl. DANG!! Now what do you do?

You might think it is long gone! But the odds are good that your rabbits foot will reappear later in the day, or even next week. After your not so happy host or hostess has spent time sweating and maybe cussing, while unplugging that head.

So be a good guest. If you have a problem or any questions about the head, ask your host or hostess for help or information. They would rather you ask questions, than plug up their head! And while you might not want that rabbits foot back, the odds are very good that if you do not see it again you will at least hear about it!



COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



17th District

<http://www.uscgaux.org/~170/>

Whittier Flotilla Web Site

<http://www.uscgaux.org/~1700204/>