



Whittier Soundings



Whittier Flotilla 02-04, District 17, Alaska

March 2006 Sig Murphy FC, Russ Lyday VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XVI Issue 3

Whittier Flotilla Detachment

By Sig Murphy FC

As all of you are aware, our Flotilla members who live in Whittier have asked to form a Detachment of the Whittier Flotilla. This has my support, and that of the membership, and I recommend the same by way of the chain of leadership and management to the Division Captain, Roy Stoddard, who is responsible for forming any new Detachment and obtaining approval from the District Commodore and Director of Auxiliary.

This can be a great asset to our members who reside in Whittier, to our Flotilla by increasing our presence in the city of Whittier, and to the Auxiliary and District 17 as a whole by eventually augmenting rapid Search and Rescue response and other Auxiliary activities in western Prince William Sound.



As the Flotilla Commander, I have the responsibility to appoint a Detachment Leader who will ensure that the Detachment members, as members of the Whittier Flotilla, follow all applicable Coast Guard and Auxiliary policies and procedures and receive all of the benefits of membership including help from our Flotilla Staff Officers. I intend to appoint Dave Brubaker as the Detachment leader as soon as we receive approval for the formal formation of the same. Dave is one of our past Flotilla Commanders and resides in Whittier during the boating season.

I sent the following letter to all Flotilla members who reside in Whittier to provide a formal outline of what a Detachment is, and explaining the interrelationship between the same and the sponsoring Whittier Flotilla:

1. As addressed in COMDTINST M16790.1F.A.7, a detachment is a Flotilla sub-unit, not an independent unit. Detachment formation enables a small group of three or more Auxiliarists to carry out some Auxiliary activities as directed by the sponsoring Flotilla and to take advantage of the Flotilla's existing staff. Detachment members are members of the sponsoring Flotilla and are subject to all Coast Guard and Auxiliary policies and procedures, which govern the sponsoring Flotilla. Missions performed by a Detachment are counted as activities of the sponsoring Flotilla.



2. A Detachment is usually formed either to create a functional unit such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary First Southern Region's AUXAIR detachment, or when auxiliary members reside in a remote area that inhibits them from participating in many Flotilla functions.

The city of Whittier is not a remote area. Whittier is normally within a half an hour drive of the Municipality of Anchorage (Girdwood) and an hour from Anchorage proper. However, even though the majority of Whittier Flotilla activities occur in or near Whittier, the present winter tunnel hours of operation cause an inconvenience to Flotilla members living in Whittier if they wish to attend the winter monthly Whittier Flotilla Meetings or fellowships in Anchorage. Thus, a Detachment composed of Auxiliarists who are residents of Whittier, will enable those members to carry out Flotilla approved missions during the winter months and generate local interest in the Auxiliary and support the recruitment of new members.

3. Assuming the formation of the Detachment is approved, as the Whittier Flotilla Commander (FC), I will appoint a Detachment Leader, who holds the status and wears the insignia of a FSO. The Auxiliary Detachment Leader has the responsibility to assign detachment members to duty according to the provisions of the Auxiliary Manual, with the consent of, and coordination with, the Flotilla FC who maintains general supervision of the Detachment.

4. The Whittier Flotilla, as the sponsoring Flotilla, has the following responsibilities to the detachment:

- a. The Flotilla will recognize and accept detachment members as full Flotilla members.
- b. The Flotilla will provide appropriate staff support, including member training and qualification.

- c. The FC will maintain regular communications with the Detachment Leader.
- d. The FC will meet with the Detachment Leader and with as many Detachment members as can attend at least twice a year in Whittier.
- e. The FC will depend on the Detachment Leader to ensure the Detachment's activities and members support Auxiliary purposes and follow all established governing policies.

5. Detachment members are full-fledged, voting members of the Whittier Flotilla who pay dues and are entitled to all benefits of Flotilla membership. Each Detachment member is encouraged to attend Whittier Flotilla meetings as often as possible. The Detachment will have the designation of Whittier City Detachment, Flotilla 017-02-04.

Reporting Your Time

By Bob Harvey

All Members are encouraged to keep track of the time they devote to Auxiliary activities and to report it on a regular basis. This record of volunteered hours is important - not only to the individual Member but to the Flotilla and Auxiliary as well.

There are various ways to report your time but the easiest is by e-mail. Just go to www.cgaux.org and click Forms, then E-mail Forms and then follow the directions from there. It's paperless and painless! If you have questions call Bob Harvey at 345-0932 or email him at bnharvey@gci.net.



Lighthouse Keepers

By Virginia Thomas

Since transferring to Cordova last July, Whittier Auxiliarists Stacy and Virginia Thomas have been endeavoring to increase the organization's presence in that area. Stacy is a 2nd Class Boatswain's Mate stationed on the 225 foot buoy tender Sycamore.

As qualified instructors and recreational vessel examiners, they are looking forward to the upcoming boating season. They plan to teach the ABC class this spring; conduct recreational vessel exams and hopefully get qualified as commercial vessel examiners this summer. They are also working with a few individuals who have shown interest in joining the Auxiliary.

On February 15 and 16 they had a unique opportunity to reach out to the younger population by participating in the Cordova Historical Museum's school classes program.

Stacy and Virginia dressed as lighthouse keepers to teach 150 children in fifteen separate visits about life at a lighthouse and how a Fresnel lens worked.

The Museum houses the 3rd order Fresnel lens from Cape Saint Elias.



The children were very attentive during the presentation and asked many interesting questions. At the end, Stacy and Virginia paperclipped a small photocopy of the keeper's lapel device (a 'K' inside a rectangle with loops on each end) to each child's collar making them keepers.



Virginia Thomas
USCGC Sycamore Ombudsman
USCG Auxiliary-Instructor/Rec Vessel Examiner
PO BOX 623 Cordova, Alaska 99574
907-424-7900



*I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea
and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
-John Masefield*

US Lighthouse Service merged with the
Coast Guard - 7 July 1939



Cape Saint Elias Light

Location: SOUTH END OF KAYAK ISLAND
 Station Established: 1916
 Year Current Tower(s) First Lit: 1916
 Operational? YES
 Automated? YES 1974 (as per Mark De Loach, MK1, USCG)
 Deactivated: n/a
 Foundation Materials: ROCK
 Construction Materials: CONCRETE
 Tower Shape: SQUARE ON CORNER OF FOG SIGNAL BLDG
 Markings/Pattern: WHITE ART DECO
 Relationship to Other Structure: INTEGRAL
 Original Lens: THIRD ORDER, FRESNEL 1916



HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

- Congress approved the construction of a light station at Cape St. Elias in October of 1913, appropriating \$115,000 for the construction. Residence of Seattle objected and requested a lightship be used instead. The request was rejected and construction began in 1915. A third order Fresnel lens was installed.
- Lighthouse was first established in 1916 at which time the U.S. Signal Corps installed a wireless station at the cape. The keepers were put in charge and could then notify people in Katalla of approaching ships.
- In 1927 the station was equipped with radio beacon facilities -- the second such facility in Alaska.

- Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Ref #75002157
- Automated in 1974
- In 1998 a Solar Powered Vega optic was installed. The original lens is in Cordova Museum in Cordova.
- A preservation group began restoration efforts in 2000 by repairing roof of keeper's quarter.

From the US Coast Guard Historic Light Stations Information & Photography website.

Public Affairs

The Great Alaska Sportsman Show will be held April 6 through 9 at the Sullivan Arena. This is a great opportunity to promote boating safety to the public. For information contact Roy Stoddard RoyStoddard@gci.net

Public Education

Boating Skills and Seamanship continues through April at the BP Energy Center. This is another class with a large attendance. Thanks to all offering time as instructors to this class.

Americas Boating Course (ABC) will be offered in Whittier April 22. Contact Charlotte Jones FSO-PE for additional information. cljones@alaska.net

Fellowship

Our spring fellowship will be held Saturday April 15. The fellowships are another wonderful time to meet with members and plan for the boating year. Deanna Barbarick will send out information about time, location and potluck dishes requested.

Member Training

Auxiliary Seamanship will be offered Saturday April 15. For information contact Rae De Ley FSO-MT. rae_deley@hotmail.com



Land Based Crew & Coxswain Training

Saturday March 18 twenty one members of Whittier Flotilla met at Mark Poe's shop to work on crew and coxswain training. We started offering this a few years ago to help members qualify for all the off water requirements so they could devote our short boating season meeting the on water requirements.

The use of Mark's shop offers protection from our cold and icy weather to practice throwing the heaving line, use of a boat hook, fire extinguisher practice, and other qualifications. Several members were able to receive signoffs for various qualifications during the day.



Photo by Russ & Kathy Lyday



Photo by Stewart Sterling



Photo by Russ & Kathy Lyday



Photos by Stewart Sterling



Photo by Stewart Sterling



Photo by Russ & Kathy Lyday



Photo by Russ & Kathy Lyday

Thank you to all working on your qualifications. And thank you to the qualified crew and coxswain for offering your time, skills and talents to assist our membership in meeting their goals.



Operations Workshop

The operations workshop and POMS training will be offered March 26th at Gary Taylor's workplace – the People Mover building.

The operations workshop is mandatory in District 17. For further information contact FSO-OPS Tom Kane. kane2southard@gci.net

TCT

Team Coordination Training will be offered Saturday May 6 in Whittier by Mark Parmelee and Cathey Sterling. It will be held 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Begich Towers. TCT is one of the requirements for Crew, Coxswain and PWC Operators.

For those traveling to Whittier for the course you will need to catch the 7:30am Tunnel. It is suggested you bring a lunch. Further information will be sent by email prior to the class. If you are interested in participating in the class, contact Mark Parmelee: potterview@gci.net or Cathey Sterling: cathey@gci.net

TCT will also be offered in Homer Saturday, April 22. If you plan to attend this secession of TCT, contact COMO Mike Folkerts.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



17th District

<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

<http://a170.uscgaux.info>

*FSO-PB Cathey Sterling
P.O. Box 113287 Anchorage, AK 99511
907-529-7353 alaskaaux@gci.net*