



Whittier Soundings



Whittier Flotilla 02-04, District 17, Alaska

September 2006 Sig Murphy FC, Russ Lyday VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XVI Issue 9

THE AIR SHOW

Hi everyone, my name is Coastie, and I just want to tell you about the air show. As some of you know, I am the USCG Auxiliary's mascot and youth education ambassador for boating safety. With the help of two Auxiliary members, I communicate boating safety messages to kids. I can tell you the air show was a whole lot of fun.

While the grown ups were at the table talking about boating safety, or learning about joining the Coast Guard or the Auxiliary, I am out front talking to kids. I remind the kids about being safe on the water. I hand out stickers, whistles, and tattoos with a safe boating message. I made lots of new friends. And I got very excited when kids told me they always wear their life jacket!!

In case we have not met, I just want to say that working with me has been called fun and rewarding. I have one person who is behind the scenes who is my voice and operates my radio-controlled movements, and the second person is out front working with the kids. I regularly appear at Kid's Day at the Egan Center, local boat shows, and at public schools. If you saw the Fur Roundy Parade a few years back, you would have even seen me taking part in a Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission. The Whittier Safe Boat Auxiliary Vessel 611 was in need of a tow, and I was happy to help! If you are interested in working with me, let Rae De Ley, your Member Training Officer know. She can tell you how to be a Coastie Operator.

By: Coastie

AMLOC

District 17 was honored to be chosen for AMLOC School (Auxiliary Mid-Level Leadership and Management Course Part A) September 22 through 24. Jay Croy, an RCO elect from Minnesota and Marie Scholle, VCO elect from Fairbanks Flotilla presented the class to members representing 11 of the 13 flotillas.

The class provided insights to leadership roles, needs, styles, and goals. We were introduced to the "Generations" concept of member recruitment and retention. For those not familiar with the differences in generational recruiting and retention techniques you can access the information at this site:

<http://cos.auxnaco.org/documents/Auxsurvivalin21stCentury.pdf>

A new guide has been developed to help with new member retention. This guide is available at:

<http://www.auxtdept.org/PDF/NewMemberFirstSixMonths.pdf>



*Marie Scholle & Jay Croy Instructors
Photo by Stewart Sterling*

The class pushed us from our comfort zones by relocating members, dividing up tables, and recreating workgroups throughout the course.



The results showed us how we are able to adapt to new environments and the needs of the group, overcome personal discomfort, and develop a team attitude to work in a cohesive and productive manner.

Integrity for a leader is paramount and it is important to maintain in order to be respected and trusted. Effective leadership requires a high level trust by your flotilla, division and district membership.

Throughout the class the importance of communication was apparent. The changing groups had to develop new communication skills based on the diversity of each group. Communication, to be effective, has to clearly and accurately send and acknowledge information, instructions, and commands; and providing useful feedback. We were also made aware that leaders often have some limitations regarding the information they can communicate due to their sensitive nature, confidentiality or personal privacy issues.

The class was guided in the various steps in team building through participatory tasks given each group. This gave us insight to team building stages which became evident as we worked through the tasks.



Team building exercises - Photos by Stewart Sterling

Through all the instruction, interactive tasks, discussions, and various group dynamics, we all gained tools to use as we continue to grow in the Auxiliary as individuals, officers and leaders.



AUXILIARY MEMBERS NEEDED! APPLY WITHIN

BY RAE DE LEY, FSO-MT

Last week end was the District 17 C School Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer Course (AMLOC). Many leadership issues were discussed, including the growth of the Auxiliary that will be required to continue to meet our mission under the USCG. I was not aware that the Coast Guard Auxiliary was losing members. I knew the Silent Generation (people born between the years 1927-1945) and the Baby Boomers (1946-1964) made up the majority of the members of the Auxiliary. But I was not aware that these members were ending their memberships. Some members leave the Auxiliary because they have developed other interests or because of age concerns. But some members leave because the Auxiliary is just not a good fit for them. In some cases they were not receiving the training they desired nor meeting their goals.

The bottom line is that the Auxiliary membership has dropped from 38,000 members in 2004 to about 30,500 members in 2006. With the final deadline approaching for the Personal Security Investigation, it is estimated that another 5,000 members will leave the Auxiliary between now and the end of 2006. In D17 the impact of the PSI program is much less. We may lose 20 members by the end of 2006. D17 has actually grown in membership this year from 358 members in 2005 to 395 currently. Nationally, the current loss of membership could make it difficult for the Auxiliary to expand their programs, and in addition, there might be less activity in some programs.

So as Coast Guard Auxiliary members what should we do? I think we need to try hard to retain our current members. That means being tolerant of each others choices and encouraging each others talents.

And I think we need to try hard to gain new members. According the population demographics provided in AMLOC, we need to market our

mission to the younger generation, and when they attend meetings help them to feel welcome. Generation X (1965-1985) are said to not really be interested in joining organizations.

But they do like high tech toys such as computers and personal water craft (PWC). In order to gain their interest, we might try to advertise the Auxiliary Operations Program including patrols by PWC.

Generation Y (1986-2006) are said to be more interested in joining organizations. In addition they are said to have a desire to make the world a better place. They seem to have a stronger sense of country and an interest in patriotism. In order to gain their interest we might try advertising the Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Programs.

If the Auxiliary is going to survive and thrive in the 21st Century, we need to retain our members and gain new members.

Flotilla Elections

Be sure to attend the October Flotilla meeting. We will be electing our new leaders at this meeting. At this time Russ Lyday and Bill Morris are running for Flotilla Commander. Claude Barker, Bill Morris and Robert Renke are running for Vice Flotilla Commander.

District Elections

District Commodore elect: Michael Robinson
District Vice Commodore elect: Marie Scholle
Rear District Commodore elect: Roy Stoddard
Congratulations!

The eDirectory

The following link is to the Auxiliary eDirectory. This site is easy to use and makes a quick convenient way for other Auxiliary members to contact you by email.

<http://www.auxedirectory.org/index.php>



Discarded Radio Beacon Triggers False Alarm

SEATTLE - The Coast Guard received a distress signal from an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, or EPIRB, registered to a boat home-ported in Missoula, Mont. Wednesday.

No people were in trouble, but the Coast Guard didn't know that when they first received the signal. However, it wasn't long before they discovered the call was a false alarm.

The owner of the EPIRB had failed to un-register the device when he sold his boat, the 42-foot motor vessel Good Medicine, to a man in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. After a series of phone calls between the Coast Guard District Office in Florida and the broker who sold the boat, it was learned the EPIRB was thrown some time during the week of June 18-24.

EPIRBs are devices intended to save lives by transmitting a signal to rescuers with the position of troubled boaters. When they are improperly disposed of they can cost the Coast Guard valuable time and taxpayers thousands of dollars in resource costs.

The International Maritime Organization and the Coast Guard recommend that unwanted EPIRBs be disposed of by either removing the battery and shipping the unit back to its manufacturer or rendering the unit inoperable by demolishing it. The EPIRB should also be unregistered with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in any case when the unit has been disposed of or transferred to a new owner.

The Coast Guard routinely refers cases involving the non-distress activation of an EPIRB (either as a hoax, through gross negligence, carelessness or improper storage and handling) to the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC can prosecute cases based upon evidence provided by the Coast Guard, and will issue warning letters or notices of apparent liability or fines up to \$10,000.

By following the rules for proper EPIRB disposal, boaters can save themselves a lot of trouble and the Coast Guard an unnecessary trip to the dump. For more information on EPIRBs, please contact NOAA at 1-888-212-7283.

Article from the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Web-Site

Recreational Boating Accident Statistics

The recreational boating accident statistics for 2005 are available at:

http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_stats.htm

As promoters of boating safety we can use the statistics to target the recreational users most at risk and tailor our public education, vessel safety checks, and handouts in our marine dealer visits to meet those needs. Our creativity in meeting the needs of the target groups will benefit all involved in boating safety.

Operations Qualifications

For all members working on operational qualifications; Boat Crew, Coxswain or Personal Watercraft Operator, the boat crew qualification check list is on the following page. This list keeps you informed of the items required to become crew qualified.

There are several items required that can be accomplished during our off water season – winter. Our flotilla traditionally holds one or two land based crew / coxswain sign off sessions usually in March. You may contact any qualified crew member to work on crew sign offs or any qualified coxswain to work on crew or coxswain sign offs. Contact your member training officer for information about classes you may need. If you have any other questions your operations staff officer can help.



BOAT CREW QUALIFICATION CHECK LIST

DATE

- Operational Support (OS):** Favorable background check has been completed to OS level. Applicants (AP Status) cannot train underway or "hands-on" _____
- Basically Qualified (BQ):** Upon proof of successful completion of a Boating Safety Course*, Director's Office changes Member status from IQ to BQ _____
Ref: *Auxiliary Manual* COMDTINST M16790.1F, Chap 8, Par B.1.b
- Crew Sign-Off Sheets:** All items on the Sign-Off Sheet found in the *Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide, Appendix A* have been signed off by qualified Crew/Coxswain/QE _____
Ref: *Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual*, COMDTINST M16794.51 (series) and *Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide, Volume I: Crew Member*, COMDTINST M16794.52 (series)
- Team Coordination Training (TCT):** As listed on Crew Sign-Off Sheets (5-yr recert) _____
- ICS-100:** Found on the National Auxiliary Website Online Training or on FEMA Independent Study Website* _____
- IS-700:** Found on FEMA Independent Study Website* _____
- Operations Workshop:** Annually or by DIRAUX direction - Contact FSO-OP* _____
- QE Qualification Letter:** Letter from QE indicating type of qualification completed _____

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COXSWAIN OR

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATOR (PWO) QUALIFICATION

DATE

- Coxswain Trainee must show 28 Hours Underway as Qualified Crew in AuxData** _____
- Coxswain Sign-Off Sheets:** All items on the Sign-Off Sheet found in the *Auxiliary Coxswain Qualification Guide Appendix A* have been signed off by qualified Coxswain/QE _____
Ref: *Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual* COMDTINST M16794.51 (series) and *Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide, Volume II: Coxswain*, COMDTINST M16794.53 (series)
- PWO Sign-Off Sheets:** All items on the Sign-Off Sheet found in the *Auxiliary PWO Qualification Guide* have been signed off by qualified PWO/QE _____
Ref: *Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual* COMDTINST M16794.51 (series) and *Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide, Volume III: PWC Operator*, COMDTINST M16794.54 (series)
- NavRules** (5-yr recert) _____
- ICS-200:** Found on FEMA Independent Study Website* (ICS-100 previously done for Crew) _____
- IS-800:** Found on FEMA Independent Study Website* (IS-700 previously done for Crew) _____
- Operations Workshop:** Annually or by DIRAUX direction - Contact FSO-OP* _____
- QE Qualification Letter:** Letter from QE indicating type of qualification completed _____

** Please make sure these items have been submitted to the Director of Auxiliary Office and are recorded in the AuxData System.*

To confirm the necessary tasks are in the system, please have your Flotilla Staff Officer for Information Services (FSO-IS) check your training record and submit any missing necessary documents to the Director's Office for input when your Crew/Coxswain/PWO Sign-Off sheets are submitted.

For additional tasks for the District 17 Non-Standard Boats (NSBs) contact your Flotilla Staff Officer for Operations (FSO-OP).

These items are necessary for initial qualification in the Operations Program. Recurrency tasks must be completed as directed following the initial qualification.



Member Training

The Auxiliary Weather class will be held October 23rd at the MOA Development Services Training Room and October 24th and 26th at the BP Energy Center 6 pm to 9 pm. Contact Rae De Ley for information.

Fellowship

Our fall fellowship will be held Saturday October 28 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Roy & Terry Stoddard's home.

The fellowship offers us the opportunity to visit with members we may not often see, to share ideas and to enjoy the company of a great group of people who share a common goal. For more information contact Deanna Barbarick.

Thank You

As always we wish to say Thank You to the DIRAUX office and staff for providing us the training opportunities and support to our members traveling for training.

A special thanks to Lori Cook for all her support during AMLOC-A 2006.



<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

<http://a170.uscgaux.info>

*FSO-PB Cathey Sterling
P.O. Box 210643 Anchorage, AK 99521
907-529-7353 alaskaaux@gci.net*