



Whittier Soundings



Whittier Flotilla 02-04, District 17, Alaska

December 2006 Sig Murphy FC, Russ Lyday VFC, Cathey Sterling FSO-PB Volume XVI Issue 12

Change of Watch Holiday Party

The annual Change of Watch / Holiday Party held December 9 at the Campus Den was again a great success. We again had a potluck dinner including turkey, ham, and with several members bringing delicious dishes.



This year we will take the recipes and make Change of Watch / Holiday Party recipe cards. Those who haven't sent their recipes please email them to Cathey for printing.

After the dinner, FC Sig Murphy presented each of his FSOs a certificate of appreciation for a job well done and his thanks for their support through the year.



One of the most important items of this meeting is to swear in the new Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander.



Russ Lyday and Bill Morris received their oath of office by Sig Murphy.



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Russ and Bill in one of their first duties after taking office announced their FSOs for the year. The new FSOs were sworn in and presented with manuals on the duties of their office.

Next we had the Golden Anchor award. This award is given to the member that does something which causes their first thought to be "I hope no one saw that". We all have those times and we are usually fortunate enough to not be seen. Of course someone always gets caught. Last year Jim & Yvonne Chase received the Golden Anchor.



The recipient is always wondering how long it will take to find the next deserving person. This year, Jim knew during our SAREX the most deserving Golden Anchor 2006 recipient would be Bill Morris.



Jim even wrote a poem for the award ceremony (see last page for poem).

The next item on our agenda was to present the Whittier Flotilla Member of the Year award. Stewart and I were the 2005 Whittier Flotilla Member of the Year recipients and with that award is also the duty of selecting the 2006

recipient/s. With a flotilla like ours it is a difficult thing to choose one person or couple to receive this award. We have so many members that do so much for the flotilla and the auxiliary. All deserve the award but this year, Roy and Terry Stoddard were the clear choice.



Thank you, Roy and Terry, for your dedication to the Whittier Flotilla and USCG Auxiliary.

Then we come to the gift exchange. Jim Chase was our master of ceremony for this event. Jim comes well prepared, providing written instructions on the rules for the gift exchange.

Jim passed around the "hat" with numbers for each member who brought a gift and all were hoping to get #1. When Jim got to our table for us to chose numbers, he informed us #1 had been



pulled. It was easy to guess Sig Murphy had been the lucky one.



Several items changed hands the maximum of three times, one a water color painting by Mark Poe.



After all were done, Sig made the rounds checking all the gifts then making his final choice.



It was all good fun with a bit of luck in getting the gift you want on the last round.

We thank Deanna Barbarick for her efforts on securing the Campus Den and getting the potluck organized. Thanks to Jim Chase for his efforts as MC for the gift exchange.

Thanks to all for a wonderful fellowship, good food and for the incoming Flotilla FC, VFC, and all FSOs.

Thanks to all for a great 2006!

*All photos courtesy of Stewart and Cathey Sterling
with the assistance of Mark Parmelee*

Flotilla Commander's Corner

It is a great honor for me to serve as your Flotilla Commander for 2007. The Whittier Flotilla is a just a great bunch of folks doing some great things to assist the Coast Guard. Kathy and I joined the Auxiliary in 2000 with the intent of "making some boating buddies". But it did not take long for us to get caught up in the fun and satisfaction of training and of helping other boaters learn to be safer on the water. There is something about this organization that is contagious.

Whittier has accomplished so much in the last few years because we have a large core of dedicated people. Under Sig Murphy's leadership, 2006 was one our best years ever! I want to say "Thank You" to Sig for your leadership and to all our members who gave so much in 2006. Our EMDEX exercise in July was a tremendous success and set a new standard for cooperation between the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. Our Operations Program has become so successful that we have exceeded the Coast Guard's goals—something that is unprecedented. Our Member Training and Public Education programs also continued to perform at an extremely high level of excellence. So you might ask, "How can we improve on 2006?"

Looking toward the future, we can see that there are many challenges before us. Even as we strive to maintain the level of excellence we have achieved in our core missions, there are new opportunities created by the changing mission of the Coast Guard and the pressures of a continuing tight budget.

In order to conserve fuel and to optimize our operational effectiveness, we will be implementing an operations plan to assign patrol areas to our facilities and to limit the number of facilities on patrol. We will also be taking steps to optimize our use of the SAFEBoat for patrols and training.

We want to help all members get involved, to find their niche, and to feel like part of the flotilla.



That is one of our primary goals for 2007. There is an ongoing need for new crew members, vessel examiners and instructors. There are many small jobs that require no special training. These include working the information booths at the upcoming Anchor's Aweigh Boat Show and the Sportsman's Show. There is also a whole host of other mission areas that we have not even addressed. Nobody can do everything. Trying to do so is a recipe for burnout. But our "One Brick Mentality" is alive and well- if everyone will carry one brick, the job will get done. I invite everyone to pick up a brick and join us in 2007.

Russ

The New Academy Admissions Partner's Role

By Sylvia Condy

The primary role of the Academy Admissions Partner (AAP) is to refer young people with interest in attending the Coast Guard Academy to the Academy's Admissions Officer. Typically an AAP volunteers 10 to 16 hours of their time per year. Volunteer activities include:

1. Communicating with high school counselors, science and math teachers, coaches and students about the benefits of attending the Academy
2. Representing the Academy at college fairs, boat shows, etc.
3. Providing CDs, brochures and posters to high schools as needed
4. Making graduation or award assembly presentations to high school students who have been appointed to the Academy
5. Having informational interviews with prospective candidates

Academy Admissions Partners include alumni of the Academy, active duty and reserve personnel, parents of former and current cadets, and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

We currently have seven AAPs in Alaska including two in Anchorage and one in Eagle River. I have contacted the Anchorage and Eagle River Partners, and they are not currently active in the program due to health concerns and lack of time. The other Partners are parents of current cadets and retired Coast Guard personnel.

In the former Career Counselor position, the flotilla would do extensive screening and interviewing of the potential candidate. Following a lengthy process, the flotilla would recommend the candidate to the Academy. This procedure proved inefficient. The Academy now does the initial screening and in some cases, flies a potential candidate and their family to the Academy for interviews. The new AAP position consists in primarily developing relationships with school counselors, teachers and coaches and providing informational material to high schools. What appears to be lost in this new process, is the mentor type relationship the flotilla had with the candidate. Formerly, the flotilla would proudly follow "their" cadet through the four year academic experience until graduation. Some of this type of mentorship relationship could be recouped, it seems, if we invite Academy candidates to flotilla meetings after their acceptance to the Academy and provide "hometown" emotional support.

Membership

We are currently at 110 members OS-approved, with 3 applicants still awaiting approval: Katie Parmelee, Suanne Shogren, and Vincent Browne.

Sonia Hoppe, John Lachelt, and Tim Moyer each received OS approval and moved out of initial applicant category.

Dis-enrollments or transfers were accepted for 5 others. If anyone would like updated rosters, Kathy Lyday can always email a copy.



Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard Seventeenth District

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 19, 2006

Contact: Public Affairs

Ph: 907 463 2065

CRITICAL EPIRB ADVISORY FOR COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ALASKAN BOATERS

JUNEAU, Alaska - The Coast Guard wishes to remind all boaters that beginning January 1, 2007, both 121.5 and 243 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) are prohibited from use in both commercial and recreational watercraft in Alaska, and worldwide. Boaters requiring an emergency rescue beacon aboard their vessel must have a digital 406 MHz model.

The January 1, 2007, date to stop using 121.5 MHz EPIRBs is in preparation for the February 1, 2009 deadline when satellite processing of distress signals from all 121.5/243 MHz beacons will terminate. Following this termination date, only the 406 MHz beacons will be detected by the International Cospas-Sarsat Satellite System which provides distress alert and location data for search and rescue operations around the world.

The regulation applies to all Class A, B, and S 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs. It does not affect 121.5/243 MHz man overboard devices which are designed to work directly with a base alerting unit only and not with the satellite system.

This change was largely brought about by the unreliability of the 121.5/243 MHz beacons in an emergency situation. Data reveals that with a 121.5 MHz beacon, only one alert out of every 50 is a genuine distress situation. This has a significant effect on expending the limited resources of search and rescue personnel and platforms. With 406 MHz beacons, false alerts have been reduced significantly, and, when properly registered, can usually be resolved with a telephone call to the beacon owner. Consequently, real alerts can receive the attention they deserve.

When a 406 MHz beacon signal is received, search and rescue personnel can retrieve information from a registration database. This includes the beacon owner's contact information, emergency contact information, and vessel/aircraft identifying characteristics. Having this information allows the Coast Guard, or other rescue personnel, to respond appropriately.

In the U.S., users are required by law to directly register their beacon in the U.S. 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database at: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/> or by calling 1-888-212-SAVE. Other users can register their beacon in their country's national beacon registration database or, if no national database is available, in the International Beacon Registration Database at <https://www.406registration.com/>.

The United States Coast Guard is the lead agency for coordinating national maritime search and rescue policy and is responsible for providing search and rescue services on, under and over assigned international waters and waters subject to United States jurisdiction.



AUXINFO One-Click Reports

by Bob Harvey & Stewart Sterling

When you report your time spent on Auxiliary activities, the information is entered in the AUXINFO System. Your Certifications, Awards and Training are also entered in this computerized system. You can check on your information in AuxInfo by going to the website at www.auxinfo.uscg.gov. You do not need a password.

The problem is that the AUXINFO system is not very user friendly. You have to know some uncommon terms and procedures and work through the system to bring up the data you want to see.

In an effort to make the information more usable and more easily accessed, we have pre-programmed the most common AUXINFO Reports and made them available from the Flotilla Website. Just go to the Flotilla Website at <http://a1700204.uscgaux.info/> and click on Members, then AUXINFO Reports and then on a report that interests you.

What will come up is a page in AUXINFO showing that information. You are in the AUXINFO system at that point and can move from this page if you want to see more or different data or even another Member, Flotilla or Division, District and National data.

Here is a summary of the AUXINFO reports available thru the Flotilla's Website:

- 1) MEMBER HOURS: This shows all Flotilla Members and their 2006 hours.
- 2) MEMBER AWARDS: This shows every Member who has received an Auxiliary award. To see your own Awards, click on your name and then click on "Nest Columns" at the bottom of the "All Awards" drop down menu.
- 3) CERTIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES: This shows every Member who has qualified in a specialty area such as Coxswain, Crew, VE,
- 4) Instructor, etc. You will need to scroll down and across to see the whole report.
- 5) REYR AND REWK: These acronyms are used to indicate that a Member has not completed a minimum annual (REYR) requirement (such as 5 Vessel Exams) or attended a required workshop (REWK). Check this report to see if you are REYR or REWK.
- 6) FLOTILLA FACILITIES: This report lists the Flotilla's type and number of Operational Facilities.
- 7) FLOTILLA DEMOGRAPHICS: This report shows the Flotilla's membership by age group, gender and ethnicity.
- 8) RECERTIFICATION/CURRENCY MAINTENANCE: This report lists training/classes required to maintain Certification and whether a member has (or has not) satisfied the requirement.
- 9) PQS AND JQR: This shows the Standards and Requirements a member has satisfied.
- 10) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: This shows various courses and training taken such as APC, AuxOp Specialty Courses and IS 300 and 400.
- 11) WORKSHOPS: This shows workshops taken.
- 12) AUXOP PROGRESS: This shows the 6 AuxOp Specialty Courses and who has taken what.
- 13) OPERATIONS TASKS: This report lists various mandatory tasks required for certification and re-certification.
- 14) IS TASKS: This shows members who have passed IS 100, 200, 700 and/or 800.
- 15) UNDER WAY HOURS: This lists Coxswain and/or Crew hours by type of Mission for 2006. To see other years, click the down arrow in the "CY2006" box.
- 16) SAR HOURS: This shows Search and Rescue hours for Crew and Coxswains for 2006.
- 17) SAR LIVES SAVED: This is a Flotilla statistic showing number of lives saved during Search and Rescue missions in 2006. You can select a particular year as above.



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- 18) SAR PERSONS ASSISTED: This is also a Flotilla statistic. You can select All Years (meaning since 2002) or a particular year.
- 19) SAR PROPERTY VALUE: Same as the above two except it shows the dollar value of property saved.
- 20) MARINE DEALER VISITS: This shows members qualified as RBS Visitors and the number of visits made.
- 21) VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS: These reports show the number of vessel exams done by Vessel Examiners. All 4 types of exams are available by clicking the separate links.
- 22) PUBLIC EDUCATION: These 3 reports show number of students enrolled, number who graduated and the number of Courses (BSS, ABC, BCN, etc) the flotilla has presented. They are set to "All Years" which means back to 2002. A particular year can be selected by clicking on the down arrow next to the "All Years" box.
- 23) PUBLIC AFFAIRS MISSIONS: This is a Flotilla report showing the various PA Missions since 2002.
- 24) PUBLIC AFFAIRS ATTENDANCE: This is also a Flotilla report. It shows the number of members of the public who attended, or were contacted during the course of, the Flotilla's various Public Affairs events.

Please take a minute and check out these reports. It is a work in progress and can be changed or modified. We would like to have your reactions and suggestions. Send them to Stewart Sterling (stews@alaska.com) or Bob Harvey (bnharvey@gci.net)

The following poem is written by Jim Chase.

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An Ode to a Rode!
Anchors on purpose a weigh
A lot!
When met by humans for Movement
They sometimes say
NOT!
We ask what noise trees make when
Felled in the
Forest,
Now ask what noise Toes make
Of our winner
Bill Morris!

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COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



17th District

<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>
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