

Whittier Soundings



Newsletter of the Whittier Flotilla 170-02-04 District 17 Alaska

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Anchors Aweigh Boat Show February 2-11, 2007

By: Lou Jones Coordinator, Whittier Flotilla

First I would like to thank all the flotillas and auxiliary members who participated in this year's boat show. Without you, none of the good things in this report could have been accomplished.

The Anchors Aweigh Boat Show was held at Northway Mall, February 2 through 11, 2007. It was a festive and busy event. The Coast Guard Auxiliary provided seminars and exhibits and Coastie made appearances sharing boating safety information with the children.

The sponsor of this annual event is the Alaska Marine Dealers Association. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 people participated.

The Whittier Flotilla was the main coordinator for the Coast Guard Auxiliary activities this year with excellent participation by the Anchorage and Eagle River Flotilla's. Over 42 auxiliary members participated, contributing more than 278 man-hours.

In addition to manning the exhibit, providing seminars and operating Coastie our auxiliary members signed up 24 participants for Vessel Safety Checks and 17 prospective new members who have been invited to attend flotilla meetings. In addition several participants signed up for public education classes. Over 2,500 brochures and flyers were distributed to the public.

We believe this is a very beneficial event for the auxiliary and boating public. I recommend we continue to support this event.

Report on the Boat Show

BY: COASTIE

Hi everyone, my name is Coastie, and I just wanted to tell you about the boat show. As some of you know, I am the US Coast Guard 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 find talking to kids about safe boating is a whole lot of fun, but it is also a very important mission. Since Alaska leads the nation in recreational drowning, I feel I have my work cut out for me!

At the boat show I made lots of new friends. But I also got a chance to talk about what to do if someone falls in the water (don't jump in; throw them something that floats like a life ring). I got to explain about the "kids don't float" program (and the life jackets kids can use for free). And I even got to give out some cool stickers (which remind kids to wear their life jackets).

Granted some kids were too cool to talk to me. But lots of kids took the time to listen to what I had to say.

And while we were at it, some of the adults took time to ask questions too. I heard some very good questions at the boat show. One adult asked about open container. They knew it was not legal to operate a boat if the adult driving was drunk. But they wondered what would happen if the US Coast Guard did an on water inspection and one of their passengers have an open bottle of beer or wine. Another adult asked about life jackets and which

were the best kind. And more than one adult wondered how I could sing, dance, and tell jokes. I tried not to brag, I just said I had some very good helpers.

If you are a Coastie Operator and interested in working with me, let Rae De Ley, your Member Training Officer know. She can tell you about upcoming opportunities to help me with my mission.

District 17 Winter Conference

Ahoy District 17!

The District 17 training conference 2007 was a huge success. Members from South East and Kodiak arrived Thursday February 15 by USCG C-130. Members from Fairbanks and Valdez arrived by dog sled or pirate ship. We had 140 Auxiliarist pre-registered for the event and several others registering at the conference.



This year we also had visitors from the Alaska State Defense Force Coastal Command attend some of the training.

Friday morning offered AUXINFO by Noreen Folkerts and Marine Safety by Brad Wells and Sig Murphy followed by Communications by Richard Block and Operational Workshop by Chief Gross and Como Taylor.

AUXINFO provided more insight on how the record keeping process works, what it means to you and how important it is that you properly record your time.

Marine Safety gave us the tools to more easily get through the PQS requirements for the Trident Program. Brad and Sig introduced us to the various aspects of Marine Safety, gave us the informational sources to the required items and instilled a sense of the need for Auxiliarist to become involved in Marine Safety.



The comments following the Communications Training are testament to another excellent class.

The OPS Workshop covered new areas of the Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guide – Crew Member, Coxswain and PWC Operator. The new fatigue limits and what counts toward those limits, the new QE requirements, and the new way to count Coxswain hours. Chief Gross stressed the need to use POMS to request your orders and verify the orders are approved prior to getting underway.

After lunch those not required to attend Division Board Meetings could attend the Commercial Fishing Vessel class by Ken Lawrenson and the Un-Inspected Passenger Vessel by Rick Janelle and MST 1 Fernandez. Those not taking the training spent time visiting or shopping in the District Store.



The DCO Reception was held Friday evening. We had the Crows Nest for the reception and the Auxiliary renowned Moose Milk was served.



If you are asking yourself “what is Moose Milk”? Plan to attend the conference in 2008! This was a great time for everyone to visit, share information

on all the auxiliary events of the past year and to brainstorm new ideas for this year.



Thank you Commodore Robinson for a great event.

Saturday started with the opening ceremonies. Captain DeVries, Sector Commander, Sector Anchorage was our guest speaker for the event.



Captain DeVries explained how the conversion from MSO to Sectors works, the duties and requirements of the Sector, and the Auxiliary's role in Sector Anchorage's plan. Mayor Begich gave a speech stressing the importance of volunteerism and the Auxiliary's role in boating



safety.

Mayor Begich also spoke of how the city is improving, supporting the families of troops over seas, and suggested we consider the new convention center for future conferences.

Como Lois Conrado, Pacific Area Commodore,



CDR Val Welicka, Deputy Chief Director,



DIRAUX Sue Albright



and Admiral Brooks, D17 District Commander



all spoke recognizing the importance of the volunteer work of the Auxiliary.

During the Awards Luncheon the new elected officers were sworn in by Admiral Brooks,



and the appointed officers were sworn in by Como Robinson. During the luncheon, the Annual Service Performance Awards for RECRUITMENT, Public EDUCATION, VESSEL EXAMINER and OPERATIONS were presented. The 2006 WINTER CONFERENCE TEAM, 2006 OPERATION BIG LAKE TEAM, COXSWAIN ACADEMY TEAM, SOUTH EAST ALASKA BOATING SAFETY OUTREACH TEAM, FAIRBANKS BOATING SAFETY TEAM, AUXSTA SEWARD, AUXSTA HOMER, AUXSTA WHITTIER, and EMDEX were also presented.



After the luncheon Boat Crew Training with POMS Training was offered. And we had another chance to shop at the district store.

The theme for fun night, Pirates of the Arctic, carried through the conference. In the halls, in class rooms during breaks, and any time the phrases “Ahoy”, “Avast”, and other pirate type terms were bantered about. When the event began, if you didn’t know you were in present day, you would believe you were in the company of pirates.



The costumes were innovative and imaginative.



Fun night included grub, grog, and games.

The competition between Divisions was based on some of the PSAR skills. Teams from each division created their flag and then had to toss a life ring around safety cones and toss a rescue heaving line into a bucket.



Those participating in these events, especially the winning team members, should be sure to participate in the PSAR competitions for D-17’s team this spring.

Linda Shogren painted the faceless Pirate and Wench board where we could take photos – our faces with the pirate and wench clothing.



Chief Gross provided the most entertaining of photos, Chief as the pirate with his Sponge Bob balloon as the wench.



To the tunes of the DJ we had pirates dancing a jig and learning more popular and current dance



steps.

The raffle offered lots of good prizes from sweat shirts to folding chairs to guided kayak trips and glacier cruises.

Sunday we again had various training tracts. The morning started with Public Affairs by Doris Thomas, Static Display 101 by Noreen Folkerts, I'm a New Member by Lori Cook, and the State of Alaska Office of Boating Safety Cold Water Boating Video presented by Joseph McCullough. Joe invited Auxiliary members to assist it the remake of the video this spring.

Next was offered Recreational Boating Safety by Como Mike Folkerts, Operation Workshop by Como Gary Taylor, and land based Crew training and sign offs with various mentors available.



Lunch break meant break for most but the DSOs had a luncheon meeting to attend.

The afternoon offered Coastie Training by Doris Thomas and Noreen Folkerts, how to become a better Vessel Examiner by Jo Boehme and the last chance in the district store.

Our Formal Banquet began with the Color Guard from Sector Anchorage. After dinner the awards began.



First the Division Awards were presented followed by Auxiliary District Awards.

The Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Mark Poe and accepted by Natalie Poe.



Como Folkerts accepted the Presidential Unit Citation on behalf of the eligible membership.

After completing the awards portion of the banquet, Admiral Brooks spoke to us about the volunteer work we, about meeting the needs of our communities.

Commodore Robison closed with his comments urging us to continue to meet the needs of our communities and grow in number as well as in good works.

Thank you to our guest, the conference committee, the DIRAUX staff, and the US Coast Guard guests and to you, the members for all you do.

Public Education

Public Education is busy as usual in the Whittier Flotilla. The Basic Coastal Navigation class is just about wrapped up with final exam taking place on Tuesday February 27th. Advanced Coastal Navigation class will kick off on March 6th and will last through the end of April.

The early part of February found us trying something a little different; several of our instructors did “mini” presentations of chapters 1, 2 and 3 from the Boating Skills & Seamanship course during the Boat Show at the Northway Mall.



The training space - in the form of a small store (complete with lighted display windows) worked quite well for showing off some of our Auxiliary equipment in one and an array of Personal Flotation devices and other safety equipment in the other.



The price of the room was perfect - the Anchorage Marine Dealers Association donated the room to us. Some days, between presentations and when no presentations were scheduled we ran the slide show "OOOPS" or better titled "Why You Need a Boating Safety Course". The slides drew several people to our booth.

Coming in April: Americas Boating Course will be held on April 21st in Anchorage and April 29th in Whittier. Instructors (and want to-be instructors) mark your calendars now. This is a great course to start out your teaching career. For more info call Charlotte Jones at 332-4441

Member Training

By: Rae De Ley, FSO-MT

As some of you know on March 17th we have both land based sign offs for Crew, Coxswain, and Personal Water Craft (PWC) Operator and a refresher for Vessel Examiners. I hope some of you will take time to attend these workshops.

If you are unable to attend and acquire some land based sign offs, do not feel totally left out. Any person who is a qualified Auxiliary Crew, Coxswain, or a PWC Operator can help you with your land based sign offs. As a reminder, if you plan to attend the Crew Academy in Whittier the first week end in June, you should have your land based sign offs complete prior to the start of the Crew Academy.

Other training opportunities we have coming up are an 8 hour hazardous wastes class on March 24th and Team Coordination Training (TCT) on April 7th.

If you wish to sign up or if you have questions about any of these training opportunities, drop me a line at Rae_deley@hotmail.com.

Photos and Awards are posted on the District 17 US Coast Guard Auxiliary website.

New Members



Aaron Mann is a new member applicant. Aaron moved here from Colorado Springs, where he was initially introduced to CG Auxiliary at a local boat show and subsequently joined there. He is currently a lifeguard and swim instructor, interested in becoming Crew, PWC, Safe Boat, and Coxswain qualified. He holds PADI open water certification and is fully life guard trained and certified. Roy and Terry Stoddard are mentoring him and see him regularly at their workouts at YMCA pool.



<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

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