

Whittier Soundings



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

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Auxiliary Volunteer Time Every Hour is Significant

By Kathy Lyday

The 11 hours of work moving the Auxiliary equipment was accomplished quickly because everyone grabbed a “brick” and “the wall was built” quickly. It was not difficult, in fact, it was fun.

Now, each member is responsible to report that hour because if they aren’t reported, they didn’t happen!!! Folks have remarked that they don’t turn in hours because they don’t feel their contribution was “significant”. If one person did the same job in 11 hours (even though that couldn’t be done as the person would have to make MANY trips and travel time would add up, plus fatigue would set in long before that!!!) would that be significant enough to report? Because we are a “one brick mentality” flotilla the opposite is true—it is more significant that 11 people report one hour than one person report 11 hours!

We now have about 110 members in our flotilla. If each person contributes (and reports) one volunteer hour a month, that is the more than one full time person working two full weeks! What we do is important!

The reported hours are used by the Coast Guard to secure funds for more training and equipment for Auxiliarists.

But I didn’t do anything...and that’s the point!!

By Kathy Lyday

Saturday morning, March 3, eleven Whittier

Flotilla members joined together to move the personal protective equipment and other flotilla equipment into a more permanent storage facility.



Because there were so many “helping hands” the feat was accomplished in less than an hour. Many thanks, to all who participated.

Public Affairs Aux 12 C-School Jacksonville, Florida

By Linda Shogren

I left Feb 14th for Jacksonville to attend Auxiliary Public Affairs boot camp. I needed skills I don't have regarding writing news articles, photography and dealing with media for interviews,

We had three days of training at Sector Jacksonville Coast Guard base on the St. John's River. The agenda covered: Fundamentals of Auxiliary Public Affairs, Professional Ethics and Perceptions. Setting up a Booth Exhibits, (they prefer L shaped Displays), News Writing, Principles of Journalism, Writing for Publication, Photography: Digital vs. Film, and Elements of composition, along with practice exercises. We also we learned about News and Media Relations, Interactions and Interviewing.

On Saturday we took a break and toured the 175 foot CG Buoy Tender "Maria Bray" that was moored on site.



The class learned to salute the commanding officer on the bridge and the US flag as part of protocol when boarding a Coast Guard vessel.



Conducting Television interviews on camera was our last assignment with our instructors interviewing each of us in a "Geraldo Rivera", "Dan Rather" or shotgun "Rapid fire" reporter style.

One subject that was stressed over and over was; any communications, (oral or written) with the general public, including Auxiliary meetings or classes... **Please don't use acronyms or slang, spell out names or pronounce them. The #1 reason for the Auxiliary losing members in the nation is new members not understanding the jargon being discussed in their first Auxiliary meeting. They never go to another meeting.** The same goes for boat shows, school classrooms etc. Of particular note, we were asked to request members to "please talk to kids about using Lifejackets, not PFDs; even little kids understand lifejackets, PFDs is not registering with kids, even teenagers.

Classmates & New Friends

One of the highlights was meeting fellow Auxiliarists from all over the country and learning about their different regions, there were some surprises. I found out that: New Jersey - Cape May area has the biggest concentration of recreational boaters in the country... mandatory boating classes became state law in January of 06, each of 12 flotillas in the area had ABC Classes all year long, and each class had up to 100 students. Atlanta Auxiliarists boat out of the biggest lake in the south, Lake Sidney-Lanier. From Arizona; the desert is more fatal for boaters than the Atlantic. It seems the Colorado River and Lakes Mead & Powell have lots of boaters that leave their brains behind after soaking up too much beer and sunshine.

Florida has 6,000 Auxiliarists. They volunteer time patrolling regattas, fishing tournaments, boat parades, beaches, the ICW (Inter Coastal Waterway) and might encounter or report fast boats with drugs, refugees, sharks and whales. Others patrolled the Super bowl last year keeping an eye on the hundreds of "tailgate parties" going on around them on the water. Florida Auxiliarists also make up a huge majority of the patrol forces for Cape Canaveral and the Space Shuttle program saving NASA and taxpayers around \$40,000 each year.

I learned more in three days about public affairs than I had in 3 years doing ads for our flotilla. The C Schools are the best way to get a handle on what the Auxiliary is hoping to achieve with its public affairs program and fast track the officers so they

know what's available for them to use in their communities, and they have the tools to accomplish those goals with support from National Public Affairs. The instructors were part of the national press corps, at the same time very passionate about what they were trying to teach...students who had only been in the auxiliary one month and 6 months understood completely what was expected of them. I highly recommend these training camps to all who can find the time to attend.

Weather

The NOAA National Weather Service Alaska Region Headquarters Web Site has changed the weather map. The new map includes instantly recognizable warnings and advisories for marine hazards. To view the information go to:

<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>

Governor Palin has declared the week beginning March 25, 2007 to be **TSUNAMI AWARENESS WEEK** in Alaska. Please [Click here](#) to view the proclamation. (03/22/07)

*From NOAA National Weather Service
Region Headquarters Web Site*

Navigator EMDEX Article

The winter edition of the Navigator is now available on the "what's new" page of the U S Coast Guard Auxiliary National web site. In this issue is the article about the Whittier EMDEX on pages 18 through 20. How exciting to have national exposure of our organization and the great joint training exercises we are involved with. If you don't receive the Navigator, you can read the article online at:

<http://www.auxadept.org/navigator/2007WINTER.pdf>

Be sure to take a look on the national site for all the new information.

<http://nws.cgaux.org/index.html>

This is your access to online training and other useful information.

Auxiliary Knowledge Base

The [Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary](#) (CG-3PCX) receives and replies to many questions about Auxiliary policies every week. To inform Auxiliarists of some of the most frequently asked questions, especially those which are not necessarily or easily found in Auxiliary manuals or Coast Guard instructions, the Office of Auxiliary has created the [Auxiliary Knowledge Base](#). The purpose is to keep Auxiliarists as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc. All information contained therein and linked is official policy and information.

[Posted: 19 MAR 2007. Source: CG-3PCX]

From the USCG Auxiliary National Web Site

Memorial Plaque

The membership of the Whittier Flotilla decided to make a Memorial Plaque. The project has been the collaboration of several members; from the concept, the research on materials and design, to the finished plaque.



It is a small token of thanks for time dedicated to the Flotilla and the Auxiliary, a remembrance of leaders, mentors, and of friends. May these friends be remembered in our hearts; this Memorial Plaque a token of our thanks for their service for all to know.

Operations

By Tom Kane

Everyone is aware to some extent of the changes to the operations program that has occurred since the beginning of the year. There is a lot of procedural stuff that has yet to be assimilated at the flotilla level.

There are new requirements for Crew and Coxswains beginning this year. Both Crew and Coxswains must have a minimum of 12 hours underway. The previous requirement was 8 hours underway. At the same time, annual re-certifications for coxswain and crew are no longer required. Both Crew and Coxswains must now have a QE check ride every 3 years instead of every 5 years. So it all evens out; 4 extra hours per year, no annual re-certifications, and check rides every 3 vice 5 years.

To get existing Crew and Coxswains on the new check ride schedule it will be phased as follows: Members whose last check ride was in 2002 or 2003 are due this year. Members whose last check ride was in 2004 are due in 2008 and members whose last check ride was in 2005 or 2006 are due in 2009. Members who get qualified this year will be due in 2010.

The Operations Workshop is not required this year. However both Crew and Coxswains must complete the 1 hour TCT refresher course each year.

A search of AUXDATA showed that eight people will need to have check rides this summer. They are C. and S. Sterling, R and T Stoddard, K Lyday, P Thiel, R DeLey and S Hillegeist

Another change this year is to the procedure for arranging for a QE check ride. This is the procedural stuff I referred to initially. When an individual is ready for a check ride there will be a process for setting up the time of the check ride. It will not be the same as we are accustomed to, where we could go directly to a QE and ask him when he had time. We will start scheduling check rides soon. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this might cause you in the short term.

Another change was made to the requirements for Coxswain. An aspiring coxswain must take an on line test to gauge his or her knowledge of the operations manual. The email stating that you passed must be shown to the mentor who will

check off the task. The link for the test is <http://cgexams.info/testing/>. It is an open book exam. Since we will have three new coxswains early this spring it would be advisable for them to take this test as soon as possible.

A reminder to mentors who will be mentoring some of the new members that will be coming to you soon, there are new procedures for us as well. They include a new Signature and Initial Identification sheet attached to the checklist; we will also have to check off all of the tasks in the Boat Crew Qualification guide and not just the appendix, which is what we are used to doing. Every task must be initialed, no more squiggly lines through tasks to show that they were completed. And we must sign the bottom of every page, etc.

The schedules for the OPFACs and SAFEBoat are nearing completion and will be sent to all the coxswains soon. I want to thank you all for your cooperation in getting your preferred dates to me so that Russ and I could try to accommodate you as much as possible.

Navigation

By Paula Krebs

Current Light List information can be found at: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/LightLists.htm> You will find a wealth of information in this valuable site. Below are many I find useful. Pages 285-290 apply to Prince William Sound (Section 18). There are several other topics at this site that folks might be interested in. I find it useful in many ways:

- Aids to Navigation System (p 3-6)
- US DGPS Sites and Identification Numbers (p 7)
- USCG Seventeenth District Unit Listing (p 12)
- Navigation Information Service (p13-24)
- Differential GPS (p 25)
- Glossary of Aids to Navigation Terms (p26-28)
- Abbreviations used in Broadcast Notice to Mariners (p 28-31)
- Characteristics of Lights (p 32)

Light List Corrections to Volume VI of the USCG Light List are also found at this site as well as GPS Status, and DGPS Status.

New Members

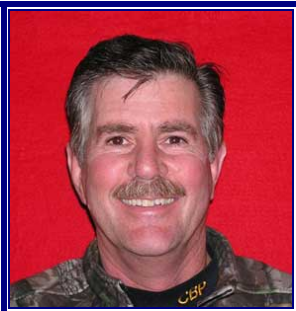
Personnel Services reports that we have several new member applicants in process of having paperwork completed and mailed to Lori Cook.

All attended our orientation meeting at Morris Communications building last Thursday, March 22nd, arranged by Linda Shogren. Finger prints were taken by Nancy Harvey with Jean Holzheimer assisting. Digital ID photos were taken by Bob Harvey. Exam review was conducted by Kathy Lyday. Citizenship was verified with Sig Murphy. Review of oath and involvement was handled by Russ Lyday. General questions were fielded by Bill Holzheimer and Bill Morris, plus all other members as time allowed. Let's welcome our in-process applicants:

Kriss and Dan Wagner, John Orella, Dave Bronfman, and Ron Sencibaugh. Their contact information will be included in Whittier roster very soon.



Kriss Wagner



Dan Wagner



John Orella



Dave Bronfman



Ron Sencibaugh

HAZMAT

At the request of the Whittier Flotilla, Marie Scholle presented a refresher course in HAZMAT Saturday March 24. Members from Whittier, Anchorage and Eagle River Flotillas attended. Thanks to those who set up the class and Marie for instructing.



<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

<http://a170.uscgaux.info>

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