

Whittier Soundings



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

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Russ Lyday, FC **Bill Morris, VFC**
Cathey Sterling, FSO-PB

July 2007

Fourth Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta

By Linda Shogren, DSO-PA

I would like to extend a hearty thank you to all Whittier Flotilla members who came out to volunteer their time on Friday, July 20th at Goose Lake Park. Municipal Parks & Recreation Department had four staff people working the regatta, and they needed many more volunteers to help manage the event safely. They were most appreciative of the assistance from the Auxiliary. West Marine was also a major participant, one of their employees was the announcer, and they contributed many prize items besides life jackets and printing the posters.

Our members helped with tasks such as registering and marking the boats, and examining to be sure they were only made from duct tape, card board, and glue.



Other members manned a table giving out safe boating/water safety literature and coloring books for the kids.



Still others helped fit life jackets and launch or beach boats so no kids were at risk while getting into or out of their boats or if their boats sank.

The best part was watching the kids try to make headway in their homemade boats.



Patrols in Prince William Sound

By Rae De Ley FSO-MT

The kids were really creative with their boats, designs, and names and put some time into building them...The Viking ship "Ice Dragon" with attached outriggers had everyone oohing and aahing. Some entrants wore costumes to go along with their boats. Lots of crafts of all sizes and shapes entered the Regatta including some "wanna" be pirates, and of course, the Black Pearl!

This event had many young kids, parents, spectators and other park users enjoying this hot summer day and several lifeguards were on duty keeping an eye on the busy beach and launching areas.

There was one emergency with an employee that had a seizure, Russ Lyday called 911 immediately and Rae De Ley and others assisted the victim till the fire department showed up.

Though this was our first time participating in this event we added an experienced adult water safety element and our uniforms, perhaps, helped with crowd control. Kids could identify the Auxiliary members and ask questions or ask for help.

All-in-all this was very positive exposure for the auxiliary! We could help more in the future, now knowing what to expect. This was a lot of fun and I hope we do it again.

Whittier flotilla members who helped out were Russ and Kathy Lyday, Charlotte and Lou Jones, Terry and Roy Stoddard, Rae De Ley, John and Sue Whitney, Bethany Kendrick, Bill Morris, Linda Shogren and Doris Thomas from Eagle River Flotilla.



*All Cardboard Boat Regatta photos
courtesy of Roy Stoddard*

Through out the summer members of the Whittier Flotilla conduct Safety Patrols in Prince William Sound. They act as the eyes and ears of the USCG, and are also available for missions such as Search and Rescue or Marine Safety Patrols.

One of the great aspects of joining the Auxiliary is that you do not need a large motor boat, or even a boat at all, in order to participate in Patrols. A member who does not own a boat may take part in a Patrol on the SAFEBoat or an Operational Facility (OPFAC). A number of Auxiliary members have had their personal boats inspected, and often need additional crew for Patrols.

Some members display the blue USCG Auxiliary Flag that indicates that this boat is an operational facility. You might have also noted a sticker with a wreath and large placards on the boat that states USCG Auxiliary and Patrol. These boats when acting under orders of the USCG are on Patrol. They check in by radio with the USCG on a set schedule, generally every hour. They monitor Channel 16 on the marine radio. They keep their eyes open for vessels or mariners who might be in need of assistance. They tow vessels in distress to safe harbor when directed by Coast Guard. In return for their efforts, the USCG reimburses them for the cost of their fuel when they are on patrol.

While on Patrol, an OPFAC might go check out the USCG Aids to Navigation (ATONS), to confirm that they are on station, and all is well. They might run into Blackstone Bay and practice their man over board retrieval, and also stock up on ice for the cooler. At the end of their Patrol day the Coxswain will radio the USCG, indicate their Patrol is complete for the day. They then go off the USCG clock. They may anchor up in a cove for the night. They may spend some quality time watching the sun set over the water, or even take in a little post dinner island exploration by kayak.

I joined the USCG Auxiliary in part to get out on the water of Prince William Sound, and I have had some great experiences boating with the Auxiliary. I had the honor of doing Patrol during the Seward Salmon Derby in zero visibility.

From the Auxiliary SAFEBoat, I had a first hand look at the USCG Boarding Teams in action. I can honestly say, from listening to the radio traffic, that it is a very bad idea for boaters to talk back to these boarding officers.

On another Auxiliary Patrol, I acted as one of the look outs, while we searched for an over due boat. When we did find these guys they sure were happy to see us. They had been out all night in an open boat, and were out of both food and water.

While on Patrol as Auxiliary Crew or as a Trainee I have also stood many an hour of tow watch, set and retrieved anchors, stood look out watch, and taken the helm of a 42 foot motor boat while working its way through Culross Passage.



Want to get involved in the Auxiliary Operations Program? Get out your Crew Books and work on the sign offs. Need some one to get you started on land based sign offs? Give me a call or drop me an email. I can get you an Auxiliary Crew Book or even start quizzing you on tasks to help get you ready to make Auxiliary Crew. In addition if you are interested in going on the SAFEBoat as a trainee this summer, contact me and I'll get you on the schedule.

Operation Big Lake

By Rae De Ley FSO-MT

Last Memorial Day week end, I drove out to the Matanuska Valley to take part in the USCG Auxiliary Operation Big Lake. This was a joint exercise by several of the Flotillas to both remind the public to be safe on the water, and to provide training opportunities for Auxiliary Members.

There was a station set up for people to have their boats inspected for safety. There was information for members of the public who might be interested in joining the Auxiliary (Aux). There were free booklets on boating safety and on the Kids Don't Float Program.

There was also an Auxiliary Personal Water Craft (PWC) training program for members who wished to become PWC Operators. There were Safety Patrols on Big Lake by boat and by PWC. There was some time to socialize with members of the other Flotillas. And there were even lessons in the best way to eat King Crab.

For myself I took part in Operation Big Lake to put in some Patrol time and to conduct some Vessel Exams (VE). But I also made sure to study hard when the lessons were given on King Crab eating. I can honestly say these lessons were both very rewarding and delicious!

Do you want to get involved in the Auxiliary Personal Water Craft (PWC) Program? Would you like to meet members of other Flotillas? Have you ever been on a Safety Patrol on fresh water? Would you like to conduct a few VEs? I highly recommend that next May you take part in Operation Big Lake.

I expect that I will see you there.

PWC Operations

Members interested in PWC training need to contact Richard Fairbanks of the Anchorage Flotilla. Richard is the Assistant District Staff Officer-Operations (ADSO-OP) PWC South Central. Schedule with him for training or if you need patrol time to maintain your PWCO (Personal Watercraft Operator) qualifications. Richard will have the Auxiliary PWCs in Seward during the Silver Salmon Derby.

Sacrificial Anode (Zinc) Confusion

By Mark Parmelee

It is well known that salt water and metal can be a formula for corrosion. To prevent important underwater metals from corrosion, anodes are placed on the metal to sacrifice themselves instead of your prop shaft, outdrive, or trim tab. It is important to carefully select the anodes to protect underwater metals on your boat.

The standard anode that comes with Mercruiser outdrives is an aluminum alloy. When Mercruiser makes the outdrive, they do not know what kind of waters the outdrive will be operated in and the aluminum alloy works well in a variety of conditions. This is the type of material you will typically be offered if you go to a Mercruiser dealer and buy anodes. The main drawback is that they are expensive. A secondary drawback is if you have mistakenly also put a zinc anode on your outdrive, the zinc will be consumed quickly. If one uses an aluminum anode then all the anodes on the outdrive must be made of aluminum. (For those of you that don't know, a Bravo outdrive has a minimum of four anodes to protect it from the saltwater).

For freshwater applications a magnesium alloy gives the best performance. In saltwater a magnesium anode would wear away prematurely. They are not recommended for Prince William Sound.

Zinc anodes are less expensive than the aluminum anodes and work just as well in the salt water according to correspondence from Canada Metals. The key is to not mix zinc and aluminum anodes on the same outdrive. Examining the packaging will usually tell the composition of an anode. If that does not work checking the part number against a catalog will tell if it is made of zinc.

Lastly, price will tell as a Port Supply zinc anode will be much less than a magnesium anode.

If you don't mix anode types they will last fairly well on an outdrive in the Whittier harbor. If they don't, you have mixed anode types or are experiencing stray current corrosion perhaps the subject of another article.

Sound Communication Commercial Cooperation

By John Whitney, FSO-MS, FSO-EP

Our flotilla's kayak assistance guides have been given to the skippers of the Aurora, Chenega, and Klondike Express, as requested by the Valdez radio watch in the Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Center.

An overview of the notebook was given to the skippers. They are extremely grateful and appreciative to the Auxiliary for its efforts here.

Dialogue is always welcome as these larger craft strive to keep the Sound a safe place. Their skippers are very interested in how larger vessels affect kayakers or smaller boats and the precautions they take to lessen their impact.

One important items stressed concerning catamarans (like the Chenega) is that we recognize and publicize that while a large catamaran's wake appears relatively benign, it is very high energy and can become extremely dangerous for small craft in shallowing waters or while beached on a shoreline.

NMMA Certification Safety Labels

In case you are asked by a boater, two (2) new safety labels are required to be placed on all new boats manufactured in the United States. They are: Prop Helm Label (NW 207-07) - "Rotating propeller may cause serious injury or death. Shut off engine when near persons in the water.", and Prop Transom Label (NW 208-07) - "Rotating propeller may cause serious injury or death. Do not approach or use ladder when engine is running." Both labels are available from the [National Marine Manufacturers Association \(NMMA\)](#).

[Posted: 02 JUL 2007. Source: Stuart Soffer, N-MS]
Above article from National USCG Auxiliary web site.

National Marina Day: 11 August 2007

August 11th has been designated as National Marina Day by the [Association of Marina Industries](#). This event will provide the Auxiliary with a great opportunity to develop and/or strengthen our Recreational Boating Safety and Security partnerships. A Team approach is suggested, utilizing our Recreational Boating Safety specialists (Public Education, Program Visitor & Vessel Examiner) and supported by a public affairs member to maximize the delivery of our RBS message. The Team could establish a menu of services for that day: VSC station, PE workshops (GPS, life jacket selection/fitting, AWW, etc.), and/or a boating safety exhibit. [Posted: 16 JUL 2007. Source: Peter J. Urgola DC-V]
Above article from National USCG Auxiliary web site.

West Marine Stores Announce 10% Discount

West Marine has scheduled a 10% retail in-store discount in honor of the USCG Anniversary. The dates of the discount will be August 4-11, 2007. All USCG Auxiliarists, USCG active duty and reservists and US Power Squadron members are eligible for the discount. The discount coupons will be available in the stores. [Posted: 19 JUL 2007. Source: John Potts, DC-B]
Above article from National USCG Auxiliary web site.



<http://a1700204.uscgaux.info>

<http://a170.uscgaux.info>

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