



## **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Whittier Flotilla**

### **Combined Report - February Minutes and FSO Reports**

#### **WHITTIER FLOTILLA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Flotilla Commander Bill Morris at 5:30 pm. followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Members Present:** Bill Morris, Tom Kane and Mary Southard, Claude Barker, Dave Brubaker, Jim Chase, Sylvia Condy, Mel and Ellen Cooper, Larry Cutting, Rae De Ley, David Gillespie, Bob and Nancy Harvey, Tony and Sheila Hillegeist, Bill and Jean Holzheimer, Lou and Charlotte Jones, Bethany Kindricks, Paula Krebs, Russ and Kathy Lyday, Sig and Mary Murphy, Wendell Nelson, John Orella, Mark Parmelee, Suanne Shogren, Stewart and Cathey Sterling, Roy and Terry Stoddard, Timothy Winters, Craig and Lisa Woolard

**Guests Present:** Brad and Linda Wells of the Ketchikan Flotilla, David Noro, Marty Keef and his wife

**Secretarial Report:** Sylvia Condy presented the January minutes. A motion was made by Sig Murphy and seconded by John Orella to accept the minutes as presented for November 2007 and January 2008. A quorum was not present at the January meeting to approve the November 2007 minutes.

**Financial Report:** Terry Stoddard presented a corrected 2007 Year-End Financial Report. It was accepted, a motion made by John Orella and seconded by Paula Krebs. The January and February treasurer's report was accepted as presented by a motion from Paula Krebs, seconded by Stewart Sterling.

A native basket was purchased by Terry Stoddard for the Diraux's (Director of the Auxiliary) retirement gift. It will be given to the Diraux at the annual District 17 Winter Conference in Homer. The gift went over budget; a motion was made to increase the amount of money for the gift by Lou Jones, seconded by Sig Murphy. It was suggested the basket be filled with pistachio nuts, one of the Diraux's favorite snacks.

Bill Morris reviewed a plan made at the January meeting to take \$2000 from the treasury and divide it among the people who attend the D17 Homer Winter Conference. Discussion followed. Jim Chase suggested the receipts for the Winter Conference be given to the treasurer by the end of February 2008, and then the money divided. The motion was amended by Lou Jones, and seconded by Roy Stoddard.

Vice Flotilla Commander Tom Kane called for **FSO Reports:**

**Staff Officers E-mail Reports for Feb 13, 2008**

Will Frost FSO-MA: Nothing to report.

FSO-PS. Sue Whitney reports that our winter orientation session for prospective applicants occurred on 07 February 2008. Ten past prospective applicants from 2007 and seven new prospective applicants from 2008 were invited. Paperwork is nearly complete for one applicant. Special thanks to current members who helped with facility arrangements, interviews, questions responses, fingerprinting, ID pics, public education outreach, dues collection, and enrollment application completion. Members braving the cold to join the effort: Linda Shogren, Bill Morris, Nancy and Bob Harvey, Kathy and Russ Lyday, Jean and Bill Holzheimer, Terry Stoddard, Tom Kane, Sig Murphy, and Sue Whitney. See Tom Kane for video clips of live action.

FSO -MS&EP. John Whitney reports the newest addition to caboose library: The Opening of a New Landscape, Columbia Glacier at Mid-retreat, by W. Tad Pfeffer. For those with books on loan, please remember to return them to John at one of our flotilla meetings. Second, before heading out, winter boaters are reminded to check National Weather Service website for buoys that might be down from recent storms and not yet returned to full performance. And, finally, any expecting soon-to-be coxswains with an operational facility are encouraged to speak with John for their complimentary personal copy of the PWS Kayak Assistance Guidelines; otherwise, the Guidelines are available for \$25, if sufficient copies are on hand or have been compiled ahead.

FSO-PB Cathey Sterling. First, I would like to thank all for your contributions to the January edition of Whittier Soundings. I encourage all members to provide articles and photos and to offer suggestions on what information you want to see in the newsletter. With your support we can continue to have an informative and interesting newsletter.

FSO - Academy Admissions Partner...I called the high school career counselors in the area, to make sure they had enough Academy materials, and to keep in touch. Sylvia Condy

FSO-IS Bob Harvey.

**WHITTIER FLOTILLA SUMMARY OF MEMBER ACTIVITY – 2007**

Members of the Whittier Flotilla reported a total of 19,282 hours in 2007. These hours were spread across 15 different Mission Categories including ATONs, Safety Patrols, Administrative Support, Marine Safety, Member Training, RBSV Visits, Public Affairs, Public Education, Recruiting and Vessel Exams. At year end we had 112 Members and 83% of them reported at least some hours. 70% of the hours reported were Mission “99”, 17% were Safety Patrols and SARs and 6% were Public Affairs. We continue to encourage all members to keep track of the time they devote to Auxiliary activities and to use the on-line, e-mail system for reporting their hours. Our Goal for 2008 is to have 90% of our membership report their time.

FSO-AN, Paula Krebs. Aids to Navigation (AN) Sign up to “Adopt an ATON” for this coming summer. I’d like to have two folks checking each ATON. I only ask that you “visit” with a float by two times during the summer, scan with the binocs, and take a picture at least once. There are only about 14 ATONS which we regularly go by so having an ATON visited for a total of 4 times during the summer is about right. When you sign up on the list passed around I’ll e-mail you the report form with the light number, etc. so you only have to fill in the blanks. If a problem is noted I’ll contact the proper folks to have it taken care of.

Dave Brubaker--Whittier Detachment Leader’s Report for Feb 13, 2008

I’m sitting here at 3 a.m. your time, temperature is 55, should get up to 75, only a few wispy clouds, no wind, 10 brown ducks are waddling in the neighbor’s yard, the sunrise is breathtaking and golfers are streaming down the number one fairway. Tell me again why I’m flying back up there next Tuesday? Last week a golfer put a ball through my back window. He emailed me to say he wasn’t “liable” I emailed him back to say “yes, but you are

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responsible”. Sig, tell me again the difference between liability and responsibility. Anyhow, in true “golf tradition” he gave me a check for \$135 to repair the window. I think it’s sort of like the difference between enforcement and compliance. In the end, only the boaters themselves can make boating safer or golf scores more accurate. Sounds like a job for the CG Auxiliary.

I had to take the VE test twice, but I’ve completed 3 of my 5 Vessel Safety Checks Sunday and hope to do 2 or 3 more this weekend. None have passed so far. The “swim test” in the Corpus Christi pool was a hoot; I’m not sure how swimming 75 yards in a heated pool is anything like crashing into 38-degree water up there. Bill has asked me about the future of the **Whittier Detachment**. When you subtract the children, the uninterested, the ineligible, the unable and the unwilling-to-live-12-months-a-year-in-Whittier from 182 it doesn’t leave many to draw from. The original intent was to include only Whittier residents in the Whittier Detachment, but I’m not sure that can be accomplished. Anyhow, I plan to make one last push this year to see if we can keep our 7 current members and enroll enough to have 15 sustainable members.

Speaking of Mission’s Impossible, I guess I’ll be the DSO for **Aviation** again this year. I’m confident that my selection is based on the fact that nothing has been done the past two years. Ah yes, but in a State that boasts 1 in 6 of it’s population as pilots, that status quo can not long survive. In fact several members and non-members are anxious to get started flying their own planes on CG missions right now. This enthusiasm couldn’t come at a worse time. TBO (time between overhaul) requirements and drastic budget cuts are making this impossible mission almost non-existent. I’m not sure how boaters would fare if they were required to perform an extremely expensive overhaul of their engines every 2000 hours or every 12 years. 8CR (that’s the Eighth Coastal Region that includes TX, MS, LA and some of NM) has lost 85% of its fleet this year. Bottom line is that it’s time to prepare. Budget availability and SAR demand will eventually make Alaskan Aux Aviation a reality. I want to identify what things we can do now to make this happen more smoothly later.

Sorry this is so long, but I really want to salute Bill and Tom for doing the FSO reports this way. It’s a lot better to say these things in writing before the meeting thus saving meeting time to answer the member’s far more important questions.

FSO-Report Public Affairs- Linda Shogren

The next class to be advertised is BS&S starting March 6th. I will have a notice sent to the Daily News and ads for other publications.

During the Homer Conference all members are welcome to sit in on a Public Affairs/Publications class hosted by myself and the DSO for Publications, McKibben Jackinsky at 8am on Sunday.

Taking Roy’s Photography Class on Saturday should be a priority for any one wanting to take better and award winning photos! (I peeked)...it will be a great class.

There is a New National Auxiliary Publications Contest, Public Affairs Contest and a Photography Contest involving projects produced between Jan. 2007 to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Next year’s competition will be from May 2008 to April 30, 2009. I will explain details at the meeting. The Publications Contest is for newsletters but other categories are open to all. More information will be posted on the district web-site.

I am looking for some new creative ideas or suggestions from members for projects that we could do for our flotilla that could be entered.

FSO – OPS. I will be sending out the worksheet for the operational schedule for Opfacs and the 611 before the end of the month. Start thinking about your summer schedule, boating season is creeping up on us.

FSO-MT Rae De Ley - I have three classes or training events on the horizon.

Feb. 23rd-Shore Based Sign offs for Aux Crew, Coxswain, and Personal Water Craft Operator.

March 20th-Sexual Harassment Prevention.

April 5th-8 Hour Team Coordination Training (TCT)

Folks can contact me for info, or they can check the website for info.

FSO- CS Some of the buttons on the Aux Info page have been updated so that they open to the current year 2008 when pressed. Some others, which are infrequently used are still unchanged and will open to the year 2006 when pressed. There is a reminder note in red next to these buttons that you should check the year and change if necessary. I will be updating the Member Training schedule shortly to reflect Rae class schedules (See her report just above.)

### Staff Officers Oral Reports

**Vessel Safety Checks Report:** Lou Jones is looking for more VE Examiners. The flotilla has about 15/16 qualified examiners. Lou feels we need more. He urged members to contact Rae De Ley, and learn the vessel examination course online.

A meeting will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March for VE issues. Dave Brubaker suggested UPV examiners were also needed. Discussion followed.

**Fellowship Report:** Deanna Barbarick announced that an April 12<sup>th</sup> fellowship will be held at her newly remodeled house. Details and directions to follow.

**Member Training Report:** Rae De Ley announced that Jim Chase and Mary Southard would be teaching a Sexual Harassment Class. March 20<sup>th</sup>. Morris Bldg. 6pm.

**Public Education Report:** Russ Lyday reported that 40 people finished up the BCN class. On March 6<sup>th</sup> a BSS class begins. April 12<sup>th</sup> an ABC class starts. There are one or two openings for instructors for these classes.

**Aids to Navigation Report:** Paula Krebs urged members to photograph ATONS this summer; she circulated a sign-up sheet among auxiliary members to select the ATON for which they will be responsible.

**Division Captain Report:** Sig Murphy reported that Brad Wells had gone on patrol on the Cutter Anacapa in the Wrangell Narrows, last Monday, to remove snow from the ATONs. Sig explained the significance of one member voting nay on all motions was in honor of the memory of Mike Barbarick. Mike would automatically vote nay following discussions.

Sig spoke of the National Training in St. Louis. There are changes in the Sector relationships with the flotillas that he will be talking about in Homer. Our Sector is located in Peterson Towers. We have an excellent working relationship with our Sector.

The Call-Up was very successful; all flotillas did call-ups. Our Sector was first in the nation.

**Detachment Leader Report:** Dave Brubaker reported that the new Whittier Harbormaster had arrived. He formerly was the Harbormaster for Friday Harbor in Puget Sound.

Dave inquired about a Watchstander Class. Lt. Louann Hollenbach has sent information regarding the class to Bill Morris. The dates for the class are not yet available. Sig Murphy added that the Sector wanted to give the full Coast Guard class to Auxiliary members, as the Auxiliary form of the class, Sector did not feel was adequate.

**Rear Commodore Report:** Roy Stoddard has volunteer sign-up sheets for the upcoming Sportsman Show that he will send to all flotillas,

Roy announced that the bus leaves tomorrow for the Division 17 Conference in Homer. He passed out the class schedules for the conference. Roy stated that the Instructor Classes were required. Tom Kane will videotape the TCT, the Instructor, and the Operations Workshops.

Roy and Terry Stoddard presented the Auxiliarist of the Year 2008 Award to Dave Brubaker. The Stoddards had received the award in 2007, and had chosen Dave as the recipient this year. It will be Dave Brubaker's job to choose and present the trophy to the 2009 Auxiliarist of the Year next year.

**New Business:** Terry Stoddard reported that the 2008 Budget needed to be approved. Charlotte Jones made a motion to approve the 2008 Budget, Mary Murphy seconded the motion; the motion carried.

**Awards:**

Dave Brubaker, Tommie Brubaker, Tom Kane, Rae De Ley, Cathey Sterling, Sig Murphy and Terry Stoddard were given Sustained Service Awards.

David Gillespie and Timothy Winters were sworn in as new members.

John Orella and Claude Barker have completed the Seamanship Specialist Course..

**Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.** The motion was made by Lou Jones, seconded by Sig Murphy.

[Fellowship to follow at the Lone Star Steakhouse.](#)