

October 2011

Tide Lines



The newsletter of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 170-02-03, Kodiak, Alaska



From left, District 17 Commodore Roy Stoddard, Kodiak flotilla commander Mark Nymeyer and Sector Anchorage commander Capt. Jason Fosdick meet during a flotilla gathering at the Kodiak base in January.

Whatever floats your boat

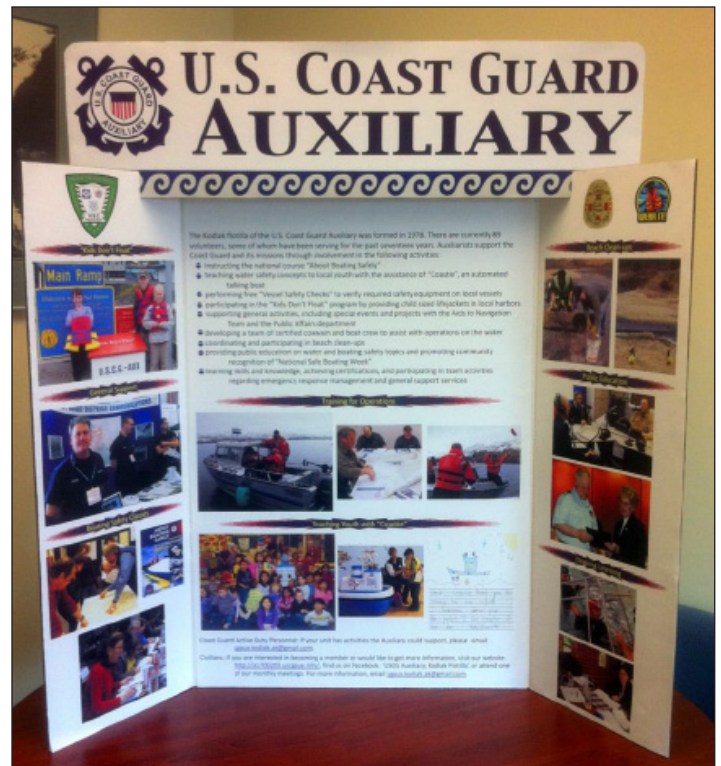
Still wondering how to get more involved in Auxiliary activity? Flotilla commander Mark Nymeyer has identified four areas of focus that will make the most of our strengths and opportunities. Every member should choose one of these as the basis of their volunteer effort for the coming year. Any choice guarantees some work, some fun, and safer boating for the Kodiak community.

• **Kids Don't Float:** We make life vests available at the harbors for boaters to borrow free of charge whenever needed. Volunteers are needed to monitor the supply and condition of the vests. A major goal for the coming year is to replace the current wooden storage chests with custom-made metal boxes. This is a good choice if you can make regular visits to the waterfront, or have an interest in building, painting and installing the new boxes.

• **Coastie:** Now that the Kodiak flotilla has its own animatronic tugboat, the sky is the limit. When Coastie appears at a school classroom or event, it's impossible to say who has more fun — the kids learning water safety or the adults operating the robot. Volunteers get to learn how to drive and talk for Coastie, and to work with the children. Coastie also needs roadies to help get around, and organizers to keep track of appearances.

• **Boating Safety Classes:** This is the bread and butter of our pri-

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Laura Slater created this static display seen by guests on base during the celebration this June of 100 years of naval aviation and 70 years of military in Kodiak.



Danae McKinney talks with kids and Coastie at MWR for Kodiak Coast Guard Day festival in August 2010.

Below: Tad Morris washes up in the Elks Club kitchen during the October 2010 Coast Guard Appreciation Event. Right: Al Morris, left, and George Kontra on a safety patrol in August for the St. Herman pilgrimage to Spruce Island.



Programs, from Page 1

many public education mission, where adults learn everything from terminology and rules of the road to trailering and emergency procedures. You can become one of the instructors with a little study and practice. It's perfect for someone who likes teaching or public speaking, or wants an opportunity to learn and improve at them.

- **Vessel Examinations:** Here's an area where the flotilla can make a huge difference serving the public and the Coast Guard. There are thousands of boats around here, but only a handful of qualified examiners. Leadership on the gold side has said they expect to rely more and more on Auxiliarists for vessel examinations.

If any of these programs appeals to you, ask your flotilla commander, vice commander or staff officers for guidance in getting started. You will be welcomed wherever you put your effort.

But that's not all

The flotilla will also continue having a presence at local special events, depending on opportunity and volunteer availability. We have had success with these in the past and earned some appreciation, but they can't happen without the initiative of flotilla members.

These events include Coast Guard Day in August, Crab Festival at the end of May, Earth Day beach cleanup, the Coast Guard Appreciation Event in October, and maybe a flotilla barbecue or two.

If you are willing to give a little more time herding and inspiring fellow flotilla members, consider becoming a staff officer. Here are two big advantages: First, the Coast Guard Auxiliary offers fantastic training opportunities in skills ranging from computer graphics and photography to leadership. Some training involves paid-for travel, and the skills will give you a boost at your day job.

Second, the flotilla needs leaders to make things happen, and to keep our little community fresh. Serving as a flotilla staff officer is one route to elected offices at the local, division and district levels, where Kodiak would benefit from more representation. And without new flotilla staff officers, you will see the same few folks trying to run things — forever,

Oh, there's one more perk. You get all the

acronyms you could ever want!

Look here for staff officer job descriptions: http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/public/staff_positions_defined.htm.

That's a rundown of the flotilla's needs and where we plan to aim our energy and resources. But like the active duty Coast Guard members, Auxiliarists can get involved in a bewildering variety of missions. All over the country, Auxiliarists volunteer their time and particular professional skills, leading to rewarding experiences and amazing adventures.

For example, the Coast Guard recently put out a call for volunteers to train in food services to relieve active duty personnel for short stints. You could find yourself flipping flapjacks on a cutter for a few weeks.

Do you speak Tagalog, Spanish, Chinese, or another Pacific Rim language? The Coast Guard often draws on Auxliarists for interpreter services.

Air Station Kodiak would welcome Auxiliarists to serve as watchstanders, lightening the load of regular crews who have to monitor communications constantly in case of an emergency at sea.

If you want to know more about these opportunities, ask around, keep your ears open, and explore the Auxiliary's national websites. You have to make it happen, since the flotilla is focused on our four main programs, but we can all cheer you on.

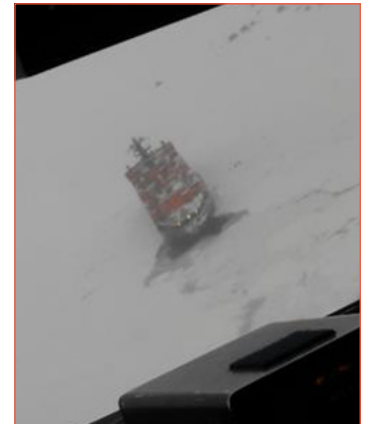
— Drew Herman, FSO-PB



Adm. Bob Papp, commandant of the Coast Guard, visited Kodiak in August. This is one of the challenge coins he sometimes gives as an informal thanks.

Next on your list

- Pay annual dues to Sheri Green by Oct. 15: \$40 per person, \$75 per couple.
- Decide what you want to do in the Auxiliary: Kids Don't Float, Coastie, boating safety classes, or vessel exams.
- Volunteer opportunity: Wash dishes for the Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner, Oct. 22 at the Elks Club.
- Come to the next flotilla meeting: Saturday, Nov. 12.
- Take an ABS (About Boating Safety) class, required for all members. Next class: Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Look over the new Auxiliary Manual: <http://uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/publications/comdtinst/default.asp>.
- Take ICS level 100. The Integrated Command System is now the standard structure all police, firefighters and other potential emergency responders use so different organizations can work together smoothly. Online instruction and test available from FEMA: <http://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.asp> or <http://www.cgaux.org/training/TETTraining.html>.
- Get to know the Auxiliary better by exploring the national website.
- Take the online Administrative Procedures Course to qualify to run for flotilla commander or vice commander: <http://www.cgaux.org/training/APC.html>.
- Listen to "Deck Watch," Fridays at 9 a.m. on KMXT 100.1 FM. The District 17 blog also has great Alaska Coast Guard news: <http://alaska.coastguard.dodlive.mil/>.
- **REPORT YOUR HOURS TO SUSAN NYMEYER.** Remember, doing any of the things on this list counts, and so does reading this newsletter.



Left: Bob Hough, standing, shows John Monahan how to use a nautical chart, during an advanced navigation class in February. Above: The Russian icebreaker Rosiya evacuates a science station near the North Pole last month, as seen from an Air Station Kodiak C-130. Auxiliarist Drew Herman was onboard the plane as interpreter.