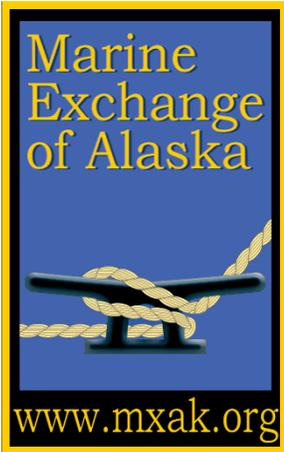


# MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA NEWSLETTER

*a non-profit maritime organization established to serve the Alaska maritime community, providing information, communications and services to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.*



## Marine Exchange of Alaska Enters Eighth Year

We can all be proud of what we are accomplishing through the Marine Exchange of Alaska that is entering the eighth year of providing information, communications and services that aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

Thanks to the support of the maritime community, the Board of Directors, and the tireless energy of our Executive Director, Ed Page and small dedicated staff, we've far exceeded our initial expectations and have developed systems that have regional, national and international application and benefit all segments of the maritime community.

Obviously, 9/11 had a tremendous impact on our nation and the marine industry. In response the Marine Exchange adjusted services to aid maritime security (vessel tracking) and assisted by providing cost effective and common sense solutions for complying with the new maritime security regulations. The Marine Exchange has also expanded services to include providing charts and publications and assisting compliance with the plethora of safety, security and environmental regulations. Every new program taken on has had to pass the litmus test of being in alignment with the Marine Exchange's Mission Statement.

The tragic Selendang Ayu and Alaska Ranger sinkings resulting in loss of life in the Aleutians along with the grounding and abandonment of the Empress of the North in

Southeast Alaska serve as reminders of the hazards of going to sea and the consequences of maritime casualties. The Marine Exchange's vessel tracking system that is supported by the Coast Guard, the State of Alaska and the marine industry is a tool that is proving to be instrumental in prevent-

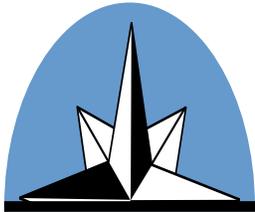


M/V Selendang Ayu

ing and responding to marine casualties as well as increasing the coordination and efficiency of maritime operations.

Through the Marine Exchange we are putting our best foot forward with the public and showing the marine industry are responsible stewards of our diverse maritime and vital operations.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of where the Marine Exchange is today and where the organization is focusing future efforts. Thanks to the steady increase in membership from almost all sectors of the Alaska maritime community the Marine Exchange has been able to develop and bring on line programs that aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations. Again, thanks for your continued support in making Alaska's marine exchange the most progressive in the nation!



"We've exceeded our initial expectations and have developed systems that have received regional, national and international applications and benefit all segments of the maritime community"

Paul Fuhs  
President



## Marine Exchange of Alaska's Vessel Tracking System Expands to 47 Alaska AIS (Automatic Identification System) Receiving Stations

The Marine Exchange's vessel tracking system has undergone major expansion the last few years with the build out and operation an extensive AIS (Automatic Identification System) and satellite tracking network. With Coast Guard, State and marine industry funding and support the Marine Exchange presently operates 52 AIS sites from Prudhoe Bay, west to Adak and south to Ketchikan covering approximately 200,000 square miles of Alaska waters. Our goal is to have a network of 100 AIS sites operational by 2010 that will provide even greater coverage further aiding safety, efficiency, environmental protection and emergency response.

The vessel information obtained by Marine Exchanges' satellite and AIS network can be displayed via various web accessed display systems including Google Earth. The system also has automated alert features that can send e-mails and phone messages when specified vessels cross or enter designated areas.

The Marine Exchange's vessel tracking system was used in the early stages of M/V Selendang Ayu incident when the Coast Guard first learned the vessel was in danger and located and tracked the vessel to aid salvage and rescue efforts. An hour after being called by the Coast Guard the vessel was being tracked every 15 minutes up via satellite communications until the time it grounded and lost power.

The system was also used to aid response operations when the passenger vessel *Empress of the North* ran aground and abandoned ship last year. The Coast Guard used the system to determine the location of the vessel as well as the locations of vessels that could render assistance.



The Marine Exchange has built a Network Operations Control Center to receive and process the vessel information and data received. Technical information on the system can be obtained from Bill Benning, the Marine Exchange's operations manager, at [billbenning@mxak.org](mailto:billbenning@mxak.org).

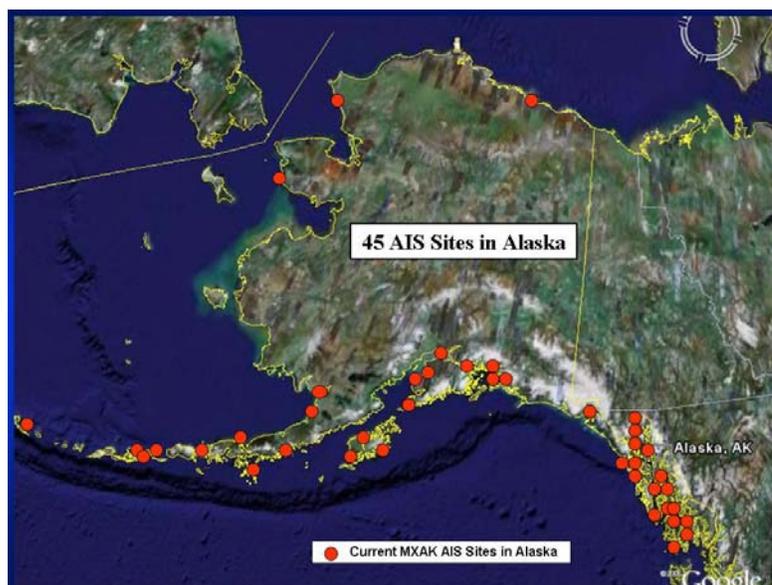
Several low cost satellite tracking alternatives are also used to track vessels including Inmarsat C equipment and self contained, battery operated Globalstar satellite transponders for barges and other vessels where a temporary solution is needed or no power is available. Tracking of vessels ranges from \$3-\$5.00 a day depending on polling frequency and whether both AIS and satellite communications systems are used.

## Marine Exchange Alaska Vessel's Tracking System (cont'd)

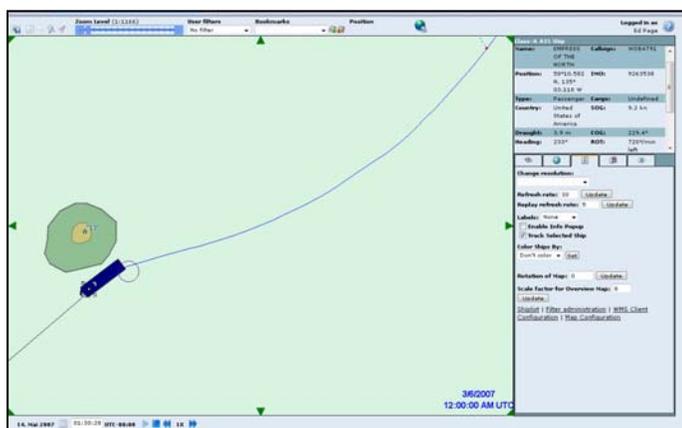
Companies or individuals interested in having access to vessel tracking information for specific vessels or regions covered by the tracking system should contact John Adams (johnadams@mxak.org) Ph: (907) 463-2607 for more information on the available services and fees.

Marine Exchange's vessel tracking information and data is restricted to persons, companies, or organizations with a role in aiding safe, secure, efficient and/or environmentally sound maritime operations.

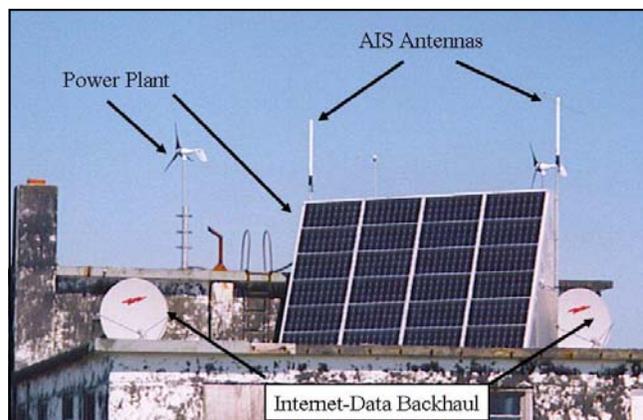
The Marine Exchange's vessel tracking system has already been used to aid emergency response to several marine casualties in Alaska. Daily, the system improves the efficiency of maritime operations, **someday, it will save a life!**



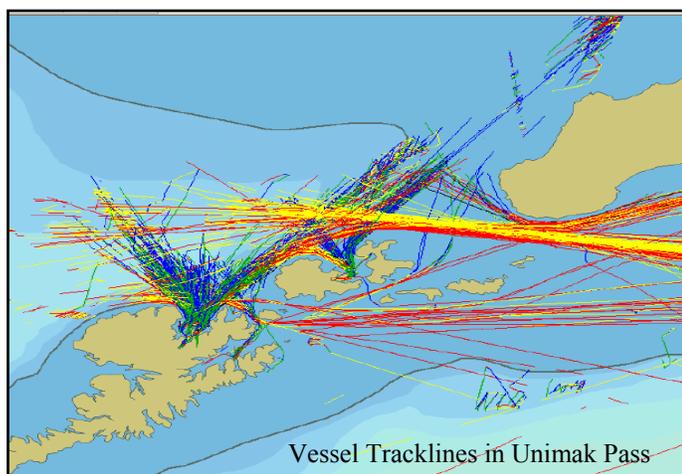
Red Dots Depict Marine Exchange's Present 47 AIS Sites



*Empress of the North Incident  
Vessel Tracked with AIS Network*



*Scotch Cap AIS Receiving Site in the Aleutians*



Vessel Tracklines in Unimak Pass

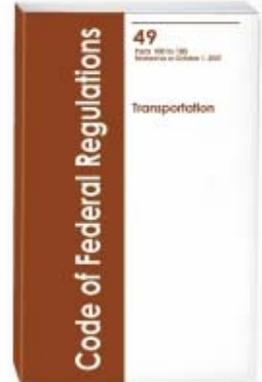
### Vessel Tracking System Features

- + Trip histories
- + Traffic analysis
- + Display of vessels in area
- + Search and locate vessels
- + AIS and LRT (Long Range Tracking)
- + AIS coverage includes West Coast & Hawaii
- + Charts, Maps, and Google Earth Displays
- + Automated E-mail alerts when vessel arrives, departs geographic area

## Regulatory Compliance

The Marine Exchange has been actively involved in assisting the Alaska maritime community comply with a wide range of State and federal regulations in a cost effective manner. The revenues generated by the fees to perform this work help pay for our advocacy efforts, operation and expansion of our vessel tracking program and overhead costs. Examples of some of the recent projects we've been involved in are:

- Development of Vessel and Facility Security Plans
- Conduct of Vessel or Facility Tailored Maritime Security Training
- Conduct of Annual Security Audits
- Development of Oil Transfer Operations Manuals
- Development of Vessel Safety Plans and Safety Management System



These services have been provided from as far north as Kivalina, west to Adak and south to Ketchikan.

All members of the Marine Exchange have available to them a day of free consulting services providing assistance in complying with a wide range of maritime regulations. Additionally, the MXAK web site and e-mail newsletter routinely provide information on new regulations.



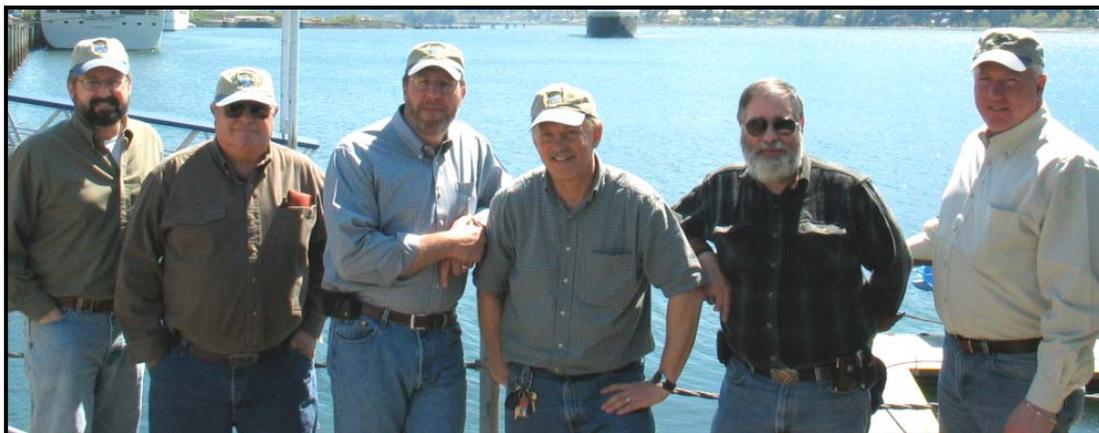
## TWIC Transportation Worker Identification Credentials



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) mandate for all licensed and documented mariners and shore based transportation workers who require unrestricted access to waterfront facilities and vessels subject to the maritime security regulations to have TWIC is a big challenge for Alaska. Due to the need to travel long distances to go to enrollment centers compliance with TWIC is disproportionately higher than any other region of the U.S. Over the last two years the Marine Exchange staff have met with the Coast Guard and TSA in D.C., Senator Stevens' staff and the TWIC enrollment contractor, Lockheed Martin, to develop ways to minimize the cost of complying with TWIC in Alaska. These discussions have led to the establishment of mobile enrollment centers around the State.

Through tapping the extensive Marine Exchange network four fixed and eight mobile enrollment centers are being stood up around Alaska to reduce the cost of meeting this new regulation. Without establishing mobile enrollment centers, the need to travel to a fixed enrollment center two times, once to enroll and once to receive the card, would require two plane trips for thousands of Alaskans. It is projected millions of dollars that would be expended in travel, lodging and lost time will be saved through the establishment of mobile centers. More information on TWIC, enrollment center locations and dates of operation can be obtained by selecting the TWIC link on the Marine Exchange web site. Presently fixed centers will be in Juneau, Anchorage, Nikiski and Valdez and mobile centers in Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Haines, Skagway, Cordova, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor. Marine Exchange staff will also be able to enroll persons in TWIC at other locations in Alaska.

## Who's Who at the Marine Exchange



*John Adams, Don Bodron, Brett Farrell, Ed Page, Leo DeMeo, and Bill Benning*

Over the years the Marine Exchange staff has expanded to best tackle the growing workload taken on by our vessel tracking system and other services provided to the Alaska maritime community. The present crew brings diverse talent and over 100 years of Coast Guard experience, as well as years of experience in the Navy, Army and the maritime industry. When you call the Marine Exchange you will end up talking to one of the above.

- John Adams: a prior Navy officer with a passion for maritime lore, John came on board this spring as our Business Manager.
- Captain Don Bodron is a NY Maritime graduate who served in the Coast Guard for 27 years in a wide range of assignments, including Chief of Marine Safety for Alaska. He heads up Special Projects.
- Brett Farrell, another retired Coast Guard officer, was prior enlisted, and had a varied career serving on numerous vessels. His underway time these days is on his 50' ketch when not doing his Asst. Director duties, conducting security audits or installing AIS sites. Brett's been our lead in bringing on line TWIC enrollment solutions that are easing the cost and pain of compliance.
- Captain Ed Page, another retired Coast Guard officer who stood up the Marine Exchange in 2001 based on Los Angeles-Long Beach Marine Exchange which he worked closely with while serving as the Captain of the Port in that area. Ed's the Executive Director.
- Leo DeMeo served in the Army for years, in the State legislature and in the marine industry before coming on board as Data Base and Long Range Vessel Tracking Manager.
- Bill Benning, yet another retired Coast Guard officer, served in the communications field and managed the Coast Guard's comms system in Alaska before retiring. As Operations Manager he has developed the AIS and satellite tracking system when not sailing as Captain on his charter boat.

*Ed Page in DC after testifying at a Senate hearing on ways of preventing marine casualties and oil spills after the Cosco Busan incident in San Francisco Bay. Ed testified how application of new technologies can help prevent maritime incidents.*



## Charts and Publications

### “Made in Alaska” Charts

Consistent with the Marine Exchange’s mission of providing “information and services that ensure safe maritime operations” MXAK has obtained the capability to print accurate up to date water resistant charts in our office in Juneau providing mariners the best available navigational data.

To provide this “Print on Demand” charts capability MXAK has obtained a specialized printer, software and software thinterface that allows the downloading of up to date chart data and the printing of “Made in Alaska” charts in our Juneau office. Upon ordering a chart, the data for printing an up to date chart with all the Notice to Mariners updates is downloaded from NOAA and the chart printed on durable, water resistant paper then shipped to the customer or picked up at our office. The cost is \$24.50 per chart plus shipping. Volume and member discounts are available.

The Marine Exchange can also provide navigational publications and equipment through our affiliation with McCurnin Nautical. For more information check out our “Charts and Publications” section on our web site ([www.mxak.org](http://www.mxak.org)), call at (907) 463-2607 or e-mail [leodememo@mxak.org](mailto:leodememo@mxak.org).



*Leo DeMeo of the Marine Exchange Printing out a navigational chart complete with recent Notice to Mariner Changes and Updates*

## “Exchange” of Maritime Information

The name “Marine Exchange” goes back to the 1800’s and refers to the exchange of information on the arrival of vessels to facilitate maritime trade. Over the last two hundred years Marine Exchanges have emerged as “honest brokers” and “trusted agents” of maritime data. Present day Marine Exchanges tap emerging vessel tracking and communications technologies to provide more accurate and timely information on vessel arrivals and other maritime information to aid maritime safety, security, environmental protection and efficient trade. Today, the Marine Exchange of Alaska brokers information via:

- Our Maritime News and Information Web Site
- E-mail Newsletter
- Printed Newsletter
- Vessel Tracking System
- Coast Guard/Industry day Workshops

Information on the implementation of TWIC (Transportation Worker Identification Credential) in Alaska is provided via our web site and e-mail newsletters to keep the marine community “in the know”! Marine Exchange of Alaska’s web site, managed by Captain Don Bodron, is designed to provide the ability for the maritime community to “pull” information from the internet. The web ( [www.mxak.org](http://www.mxak.org) ) provides maritime news items, regulatory information



*The Marine Exchange web site can be accessed at [www.mxak.org](http://www.mxak.org) and is the gateway for Coast Guard safety notices and regulations, maritime news, vessel tracking, TWIC information and other data.*

## “Exchange” of Maritime Information (cont’d)

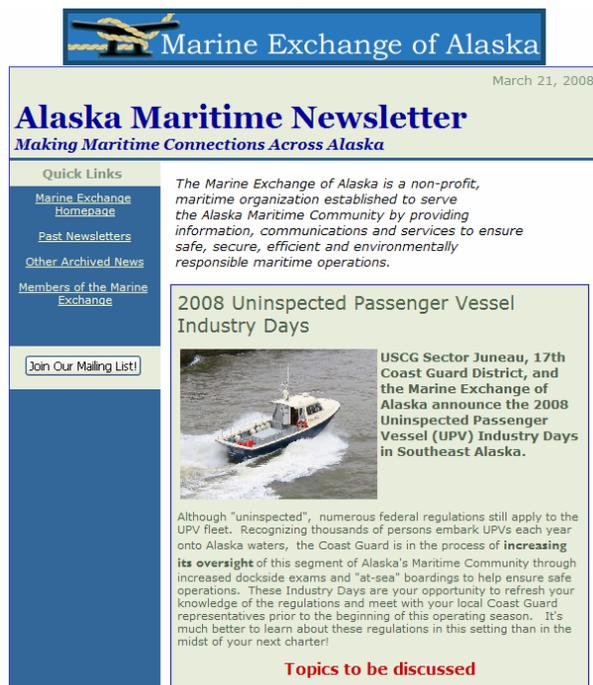
The Marine Exchange also “pushes” information via an e-mail newsletter generated by Brett Farrell on an event driven or monthly basis as appropriate. The last several newsletters have been focused on providing information on TWIC and the establishment of mobile enrollment centers to minimize the cost of compliance by the Alaska maritime community. If you want to be added to this mailing list you can get enrolled by going to the Marine Exchange of Alaska web site and select the [“Sign up for the Marine Exchange Newsletter”](#) and provide the information requested.

We also broker information via our periodic printed newsletter “Hawser” authored by John Adams that provides more general information on Marine Exchange programs, services and direction.

The Marine Exchange has also sponsored several outreach sessions around Southeast Alaska port regions with the Coast Guard to provide information on passenger vessel safety, TWIC and other regulatory issues. We welcome suggestions on issues and venues for future sessions.

Lastly, we broker real time information on vessels’ locations through our vessel tracking system that was addressed earlier in this Newsletter.

As always, our web site and other information systems are dynamic and continually changing and suggestions on information to be included are always welcome.



**Marine Exchange of Alaska**  
March 21, 2008

### Alaska Maritime Newsletter

*Making Maritime Connections Across Alaska*

**Quick Links**  
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The Marine Exchange of Alaska is a non-profit, maritime organization established to serve the Alaska Maritime Community by providing information, communications and services to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

#### 2008 Uninspected Passenger Vessel Industry Days



USCG Sector Juneau, 17th Coast Guard District, and the Marine Exchange of Alaska announce the 2008 Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) Industry Days in Southeast Alaska.

Although “uninspected”, numerous federal regulations still apply to the UPV fleet. Recognizing thousands of persons embark UPVs each year onto Alaska waters, the Coast Guard is in the process of **increasing its oversight** of this segment of Alaska’s Maritime Community through increased dockside exams and “at-sea” boardings to help ensure safe operations. These Industry Days are your opportunity to refresh your knowledge of the regulations and meet with your local Coast Guard representatives prior to the beginning of this operating season. It’s much better to learn about these regulations in this setting than in the midst of your next charter!

**Topics to be discussed**

## Marine Exchange Visitors

Telling the Marine Exchange story is key to our developing wide based support of the “Shared Commitment” concept that has proven to be instrumental in the accomplishments made to date. Support from the marine industry, state and federal agencies as well as environmental interests is key to our success in providing information, communications and services to aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

This past year we’ve been visited by Senator Murkowski, Senator Stevens’ staff, Governor Palin’s husband and Chief of Staff Mike Nizich, Governor Hickel, DEC Commissioner Larry Hartig, Executive Directors of the other Marine Exchanges around the U.S. as well Coast Guard officials from D.C. and Pacific Area.



Governor Wally Hickel with Ed Page and Paul Fuhs



Todd Palin (Governor Palin’s husband) in yellow shirt and Chief of Staff Mike Nizich in blue shirt visited the Marine Exchange



Senator Murkowski with Paul Fuhs and Ed Page .

## Executive Director's Remarks: Captain Ed Page

Well into seven years of operation the Marine Exchange continues to grow in membership and in services provided. While starting a new organization in the post 9/11 environment has been challenging, our Board of Directors recognized the need to modify our services to address the emerging security challenges. Accordingly, our vessel tracking, web information system and compliance support services have all been tailored to aid maritime safety and security.

I am grateful to MXAK's Board of Directors for



their support and guidance in developing our organization. President Paul Fuhs, Stephanie Madsen (At Sea Processors), Craig Tornga (Crowley

Alaska), George Lowery (Totem Ocean Trailer Express), Ken Privratzy (Horizon Lines), John Stone (Port of Juneau), Captain Hans Antonsen (SE AK Pilots), Captain Pete Garay (Alaska Marine Pilots), Captain Tom Colby (Alaska Tanker Co.), Captain Mike O'Hara (Southwest Alaska Pilot Assoc) and Don Reid (AML) have all been visionaries who have recognized the need and benefits of having an Alaskan marine exchange. They have provided the foundation for the Marine

Exchange to serve the Alaska maritime community for 100 years in the future saving lives and property and protecting the environment.

Our present and ongoing challenges are:

- Providing vessel tracking, compliance, and maritime information services at a reasonable cost,
- Advocating for the maritime industry to minimize the impact of regulations.
- Providing more maritime jobs for Alaskans to serve in.
- Ensuring adequate funding to keep our "lights on" through membership fees, sale of services, grants and contracts.

Recently, thanks to the support of the State legislature and the Governor, we were successful in securing State of Alaska funding to further expand our vessel tracking network in the Aleutians, Arctic, Southeast and Western Alaska. We will be standing up a 24 hour watch to ensure we can respond around the clock aiding maritime safety.

While much has been accomplished over the last several years, are future plans are more ambitious than ever! Today we have 47 AIS vessel tracking sites in operation, by 2010 we'll have 100, many of which will be in remote and challenging locations!

## Membership

As noted throughout this newsletter, the Marine Exchange is supported by various funding streams received from the Coast Guard, State of Alaska, the marine industry membership and the sale of services provided. Membership fees have funded our information brokering and maritime advocacy efforts, the most recent being the development of options for reducing the cost of complying with TWIC.

Presently we have members from almost all segments of the marine industry; pilots, tanker and container operators, tug and barge operators, ports, facilities, fishing industry, oil spill response organizations, and passenger vessel operators whose combined support has been instrumental.

Members are entitled to discounted rates for all services (vessel tracking, regulatory compliance assistance) and products (charts and publications). Members can also call the Marine Exchange staff at any time for assistance on a wide range of maritime matters.

Most importantly, the Marine Exchange is a non-profit maritime organization charged with providing services that help members ensure that maritime operations in Alaska are safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible!

