

MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA

A NON-PROFIT MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Spring 2004

Issue 6

THE HAWSER

MAKING MARITIME CONNECTIONS
ACROSS ALASKA

New Maritime Security Regulations

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) has been actively involved in the development and implementation of the Coast Guard's new Maritime Security Regulations to ensure factors unique to Alaska are taken into consideration. To this end, our input led to the final regulations providing regulatory relief for many of Alaska's "isolated facilities". We were also able to delay the implementation of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) regulations for fishing vessels. Additionally, our input led to more practical compliance solutions tailored to the level of risk and consequences present in Alaska.

Captain Ed Page, testified at Coast Guard hearings in Seattle and D.C. and met with the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Security for the Coast Guard, Admiral Gilmour, Director of Port Security, Admiral Hereth and the 17th District Commander, Admiral Underwood, to seek practical application of the maritime security regulations for Alaska maritime facilities and vessels.

MXAK's position has been that in many cases the security risk for most ports, facilities and vessels in Alaska is low compared to ports in the lower 48. Additionally, in the event of a security incident, the resulting consequences would be relatively limited due to the low population density in our communities. The Marine Exchange prepared letters of relief from the regulations for small isolated facilities and prepared common sense and practical security risk assessments and Security Plans for facilities and vessels that were required to comply with the regulations.

MXAK's web site has been modified

to provide current information on the MARSEC level in effect, the applicable regulations and Coast Guard Navigation Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVICs) that disseminate Coast Guard policy on the security regulations.

Recognizing many in the marine industry are struggling with understanding these new regulations and are concerned about the potential cost of compliance, we expanded MXAK to include "Regulatory Compliance". Our objective is to provide assistance in complying with the suite of Coast Guard and State safety, security and environmental regulations in a cost effective manner.

MXAK has formed a team of prior Coast Guard Captain of the Ports and mariners who have developed practical solutions for complying with the security regulations and are available to prepare plans, conduct security audits and provide training. Inquiries regarding maritime security or other regulatory issues may be sent to info@mxak.org or call MXAK's office at (907) 463-2607.

MXAK has also been actively involved in the development of Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) which are required on SOLAS classed vessels. We have recently partnered with Weather News International and Secure Asset Reporting Service in providing this security equipment to vessels. The SSAS has the added capability of providing inexpensive position reports that can be tracked on MXAK's Automated Secure Vessel Tracking System (ASVTS).

More information on SSAS may be obtained from our "Vessel Tracking" section of MXAK's web site.



The Marine Exchange expanded its services to include Regulatory Compliance to aid the marine industry in meeting the new Coast Guard maritime security and other regulations.

Articles:

- **Maritime Security Regulations**—Page 1
- **Maritime Pride and Education**—Page 2
- **Automated Secure Vessel Tracking Service**—Page 2
- **Maritime Logistics Database**—Page 3.
- **Print on Demand Charts**—Page 3
- **Executive Director Comments**—Page 4.

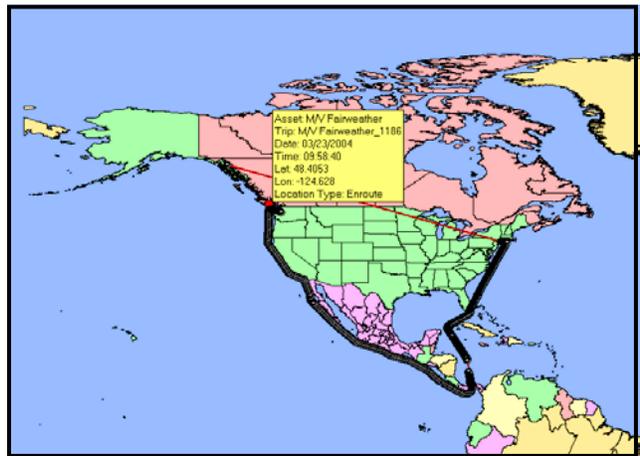
Maritime Pride and Education

Tracking of the AMHS High Speed Ferry FAIRWEATHER

The Marine Exchange tracked the newly launched Alaska Marine Highway System high speed ferry M/V FAIRWEATHER during the vessel's 8,500 mile voyage from the shipyards in Connecticut to Juneau, Alaska this spring. The sharing of the vessel's position to school children and others in Alaska on MXAK's web site highlighted this unique vessel as well as the unique job opportunities available in the maritime industry.

The Marine Exchange used the vessel's satellite based Security Alert System (SSAS) to send a position report every 30 minutes and displayed the information on the Marine Exchange's web site. The Marine Exchange previously tracked the Coast Guard's new buoy tenders the HICKORY and the SYCAMORE as they sailed from the shipyard in the Great Lakes to Homer and Cordova.

The M/V FAIRWEATHER is 235' long high speed ferry that has a maximum service speed of 36 knots and can carry 250 passengers and 35 vehicles. It is planned the vessel will sail between Sitka and Juneau and upper Lynn Canal ports of Haines and Skagway.

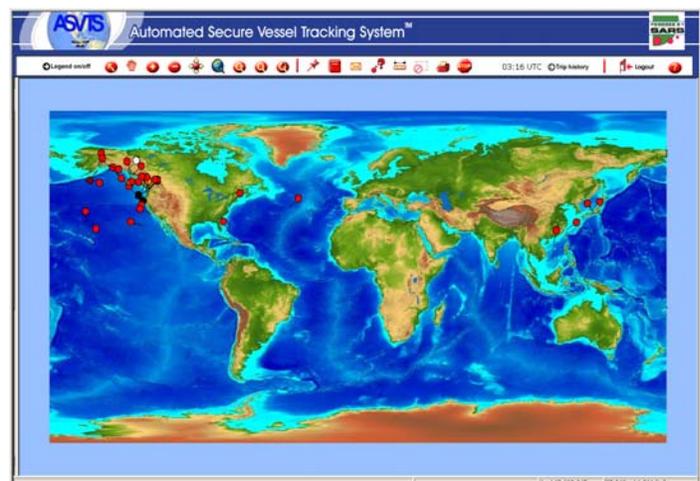


Automated Secure Vessel Tracking System (ASVTS)

The Marine Exchange of Alaska continues to lead the way in providing a low cost system that tracks vessels' locations in Alaska and around the world through use of satellite and other communications' technology. Led by Bill Benning, MXAK's communications manager, we've been able to use a suite of communications systems including existing GMDSS (Global Marine Distress and Safety System), VMS (Vessel Monitoring Equipment) and VHF based AIS (Automatic Identification System) equipment to track the locations of vessels to aid safe, efficient and secure vessel operations for the cost of a "latte a day".

The vessel information is provided to the Coast Guard as well as to vessel owner/operator and others authorized by the owner through a password protected secure internet site that displays the vessel's position on a GIS chart. We have partnered with Weather News International/OceanRoutes and SARS (Secure Asset Reporting Service) in expanding the capabilities of this tracking system. The graphic to the right shows a recent display of this system and vessels we are tracking around the world.

More information on ASVTS may be obtained from the Marine Exchange's web site www.mxak.org under the "Vessel Tracking" tab.



Maritime Logistics Database www.mxak.org



MXAK Web Site Expands Features

The Marine Exchange of Alaska's web site continues to expand the information provided to aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations. We now have several hundred pages of information on port logistics, security issues, regulations, emergency points of contact, maritime news, Notice to Mariners, vessel tracking, and other information. We have recently prominently posted MARSEC (Maritime Security) level in effect on our web site along with other maritime security related information to help aid compliance.

MXAK members are offered free posting of information on their businesses. We urge all users to support those responsible for MXAK providing this free web information service and serve as advocates for the maritime community.

Suggestions on information to be included are always welcome. We consider the web site as a dynamic information system that will continually require changes to best address the information needs of the diverse Alaska maritime community.

Print on Demand Charts



Patrick Thompson of McCurnin Nautical and Bill Benning of the Marine Exchange close the deal to partner on providing Print on Demand charts in Alaska



"Made in Alaska" Charts

Consistent with the Marine Exchange's mission of providing "communications, information and services that ensure safe maritime operations" MXAK has recently developed the capability to produce accurate up to date water resistant charts providing mariners the best available navigational data.

MXAK has partnered with McCurnin Nautical, a navigational supplies distributor out of New Orleans and Ocean Grafix, a chart printing company that has worked with NOAA, in developing an ability to provide "Print on Demand" charts in Alaska. MXAK has obtained a specialized printer, software and interface 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 a chart with all Notice to Mariners updates is downloaded from NOAA to the Marine Exchange and the chart printed on durable, water resistant paper. It is then shipped to the customer or picked up at our office. The cost is \$21.35 per chart plus shipping with volume with member discounts available.

The Marine Exchange can also provide other navigational publications and equipment through our affiliation with McCurnin Alaska. For more information check out our "Charts and Publications" section on our web site (www.mxak.org), call at (907) 463-2607 or call or send an e-mail to charts@mxak.org.



Captain Tom Gemmill pulls a new Print on Demand chart off Marine Exchange's printer.



Executive Director's Remarks: Captain Ed Page

As we approach MXAK's third anniversary in April we continue 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. Our vessel tracking, web information system and compliance support services have all been tailored to aid maritime security.

I am grateful to MXAK's Board of Directors for their support and guidance in developing our organization during a very challenging period. President Paul Fuhs, Captain George Capacci (AMHS), Stephanie Madsen (Pacific Seafood Processors Assn), Craig Tornga (Crowley Alaska), John Parrot (Totem Ocean Trailer Express and Salt Chuk), Ken Privatzy (New Horizon), Bill Abbott (Port of Homer), Simon Lisiecki (BP), Captain Hans Antonson (SE AK Pilots), Captain Pete Garay (Alaska Marine Pilots) and Captain Mike O'Hara (Southwest Alaska Pilot Assoc) have been the visionaries who have been the MXAK's plank owners.

The ongoing challenge for MXAK is to provide:

1. Needed vessel tracking, compliance, and maritime information services at a reasonable cost
2. Maritime advocacy to minimize the impact of regulations on our industry
3. Maritime jobs for Alaskans
4. Adequate funding to keep our web site on line and "our lights on" through membership fees, sale of services and contracts.

To date we've been able to do the above with a small dedicated staff. While our operations manager Paul Webb regretfully moved on to take a job with the Coast Guard we have brought on Captain Tom Gemmell (U.S. Coast Guard Ret) who has accumulated years of experience sailing Alaska waters, onto our team in a part time capacity. We've also had several other retired Coast Guard officers, including Dave Eley and Mike Conway, and other colleagues serving part time to help us with cope with the varied workload.

Alaska Secure Passive AIS (SPAIS)

In addition to what was listed earlier in this newsletter, one of the areas we are also presently working on is the development of what we refer to as the Alaska Secure Passive AIS (SPAIS.) We see maritime security as a "Shared Commitment" with industry and government working towards developing and implementing cost effective solutions. In an effort to provide a cost effective AIS capability in some re-

gions of Alaska, including but not limited to Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Unalaska, Seward, Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska we have been working with Port Graham Development Corporation (PGDC), and New Horizon's Telecom to develop a "today" AIS solution for the Coast Guard. We are proposing the installation of receive only, AIS equipment that will send the vessel data received to the MXAK Network Control Operations Control Center (NOCC) for dissemination to the Coast Guard, State, owner/operators, pilots, ports and other authorized persons. Both the Coast Guard and the State are interested in pursuing the development of this capability and we are hopeful we'll be installing and operating this system that will be part of our ASVTS display system this summer/fall. In addition to providing increased "Maritime Domain Awareness" to aid maritime security, this system will also provide maritime information to aid efficiency of operations. This system will also allow for the processing of vessel position information sent via satellite communications.

Membership

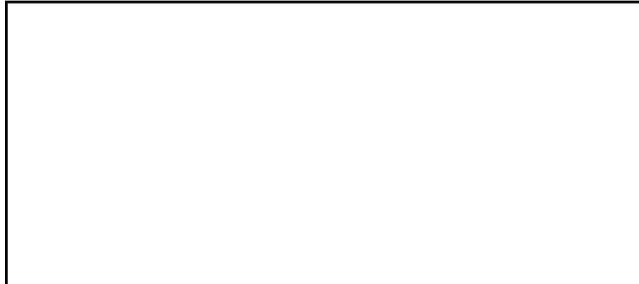
The strength of the Marine Exchange of Alaska is our broad based membership comprised of Alaska's maritime leaders. I am pleased to report Alaska Marine Lines, Alaska Tanker Company, and Boyer Towing Inc. have recently become full Directing Members, Tesoro Alaska an Associate Member and Security Services Northwest, OceanLogic, Taku Oil, Delta Western, and New Horizon Telecoms as General Members.

In closing, all of our programs support our mission statement; providing information, communications and services to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations. In several areas we are leading the way nationally. While this has been the most challenging job I've ever had, it is also the most rewarding. And despite the daunting workload, as you'll note by the picture below, I still find time to kayak!

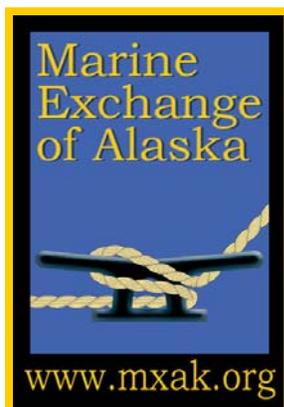


2 Marine Way, Suite 222
Juneau, Alaska 99802
907.463.2607 tel
907.463.2593 fax

MAKING-FAST MARITIME
CONNECTIONS ACROSS
ALASKA



**We're on the web at
www.mxak.org!**



The Marine Exchange of Alaska is 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.