



Alaska Information Scuttlebutt

Providing information, communications, and services to aid safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

New Year, New Records: A Holiday Season to Remember



It's been an *epic* start to 2026! We didn't expect to break snowfall records this early in the season—but here in Juneau, we've nearly hit our **annual total** before January even started.

While we continue operations at [MXAK](#), we know the challenges this [historic storm](#) has brought to our communities. From buried fire hydrants to submerged boats, it's been a time of digging out—literally and together. We've already seen several vessels lost under the snow load, but even more saved thanks to quick action from harbormasters, boat owners, and caring neighbors.



Let this be your reminder: check on your boats, lend a hand if it's safe, and help each other out. In true Alaska fashion, we weather the storm best when we work together.

Before the snow kicked in, we managed to sneak in a festive holiday gathering. Dressed as if we were heading somewhere tropical (wishful thinking), our crew took a moment to connect, share some laughs, and toast to the new year ahead.

From all of us at MXAK: **Happy New Year!** We're grateful to be part of Alaska's maritime story—and we look forward to the work ahead.

Always On Watch: Strengthening Maritime Safety Through VHF and 24/7 Operations



At the MXAK, standing watch isn't just a phrase—it's a commitment. Through our 24/7 operations and expansive VHF-FM network, we've become an essential communication link across Alaska's maritime domain, ensuring safety, awareness, and response in even the most remote and underserved areas

of our coastline.

Quietly Working, Always Listening

Every day, our Watchstanders monitor and relay critical information, often filling coverage gaps where other systems fall short. In fact, when Coast Guard Sectors are unable to reach mariners due to outages or coverage limitations, we're often their first call. And our team answers that call—day or night.

In just the past year, our VHF network has:

- Relayed **60+ Broadcast Notices to Mariners** and over **400 individual alerts** on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Transmitted **dozens of Urgent and Special Marine Information Broadcasts**.
- Stepped in to **assume radio guard more than 50 times** during R21 outages, ensuring seamless communications didn't miss a beat.

But numbers only tell part of the story.

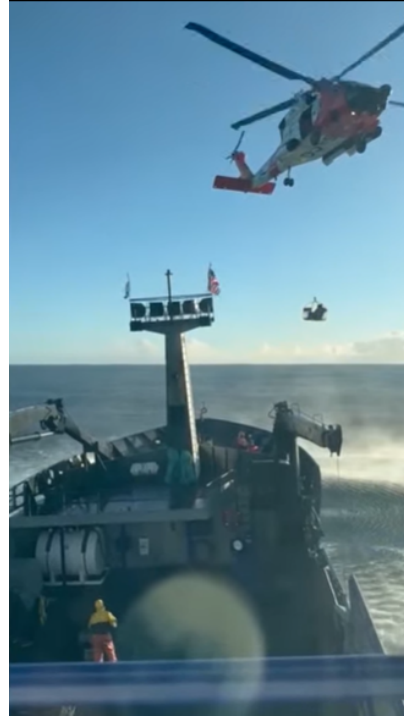
When Every Minute Counts

Our system has intercepted and responded to **MAYDAY calls**—one of which directly led to the rescue of three lives aboard the *YAHOO II*. In **other instances**, our ability to overhear and act on calls meant for the Coast Guard has changed the trajectory of emergencies in real-time.

In many other cases—**nearly 40 to date**—our engagement resolved potential distress situations *before* the Coast Guard needed to deploy costly assets, saving time, money, and ultimately, lives.

Trusted in Crisis

When Alaska faced high-stakes emergencies like the **Wrangell landslide**, a **helicopter crash**, **tsunami alerts**, and the **lithium battery fire aboard [M/V GENIUS STAR XI](#)**, MXAK helped provide coverage and communications relay across critical periods. What we do might not always be visible, but it's vital. Our integrated VHF and Watch operations continue to safeguard Alaska's maritime community. We're proud of the trust placed in us by the Coast Guard and mariners alike—and we'll keep standing watch, for all who rely on Alaska's waters.



A Pair of Milestones: Celebrating 10 Years with Rob & Shawn



At [MXAK](#), our mission runs 24/7—and for the past decade, two remarkable crewmates have quietly ensured it all keeps running.

Both are the kind of crewmates whose impact is most noticeable *when things go wrong*—but thanks to their tireless work, they rarely do.

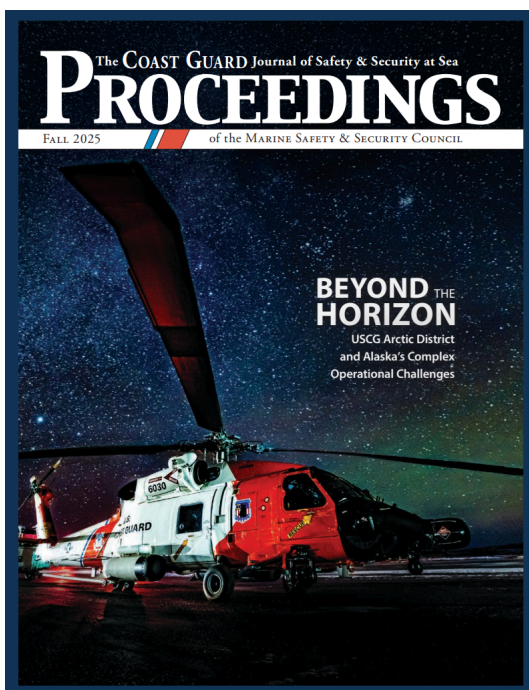
Rob Meyer, our trusted IT Systems Technician, served in the U.S. Air Force and later supported some of the world's largest networks. Here in Juneau, he's become the steady hand behind our technical systems—keeping servers humming, connections secure, and ensuring our operations center can respond at a moment's notice.

Shawn Mauldin, our Chief Solutions Officer and Facilities Service Manager, brings decades of maritime and IT leadership—from Coast Guard patrols in Southeast Alaska to international Arctic collaboration. Whether it's strengthening our AIS network or fixing a frozen pipe at HQ, Shawn's commitment to finding solutions—no matter how complex—has helped shape MXAK into what it is today.

We're proud to celebrate **10 years** of excellence, resilience, and quiet dedication. Thank you, Shawn and Rob, for being core members of the MXAK crew. Here's to many more years of smooth sailing—and a well-earned future filled with time with friends, family, and warm horizons.



Featured in *Proceedings*: A Line in the Sand for Maritime Safety in Alaska



[MXAK](#) is proud to be featured throughout the [latest issue of Proceedings](#), the U.S. Coast Guard's professional journal dedicated to maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. The issue highlights real-world collaboration between the Coast Guard, industry, and nonprofit partners across Alaska's challenging maritime domain.

In the article (pp. 20-22), MXAK's team describes how the organization has spent the past 25 years defining what responsible maritime domain awareness looks like in Alaska—identifying coverage gaps and building a statewide network of marine safety sites, weather stations, AIS infrastructure, VHF communications, and a 24/7 Maritime Operations Center. What began with a modest investment in 2001 has grown into a best-in-class system relied upon by mariners, industry, and federal agencies alike.

The article highlights MXAK's role as a **supplemental safety partner** to the U.S. Coast Guard, providing communications coverage in areas where geography, weather, or distance limit federal systems. A case study from November 2024 illustrates this impact, when MXAK received a distress call from the *M/V Yahoo* off Kodiak Island—information that enabled Coast Guard crews to rescue three mariners in severe conditions.

Beyond response, the article emphasizes MXAK's focus on **prevention**—from regulatory compliance and environmental audits in Glacier Bay National Park to real-time weather and traffic data that help mariners make safer decisions before problems arise.

Two additional *Proceedings* articles reinforce this collaborative model.

In "**Maritime Search and Rescue Across the Last Frontier**," (pp. 47-54) Coast Guard leaders describe a January EPIRB case in the Gulf of Alaska where MXAK provided critical radio coverage in a known communications dead zone, allowing Good Samaritan vessels and Coast Guard aircraft to coordinate a successful rescue. The article highlights how improved communication and industry partnerships have already reduced cruise ship medevac requests by 15 percent—freeing Coast Guard resources for higher-risk cases.



In "**Delivering Survival: Moving Fuel and Freight in the Last Frontier**," (pp. 66-68) industry leaders and Coast Guard partners describe how Alaska's remoteness demands flexibility, coordination, and shared situational awareness. MXAK is cited as a trusted intermediary—helping vessels, regulators, and responders manage risk in an environment where resources are limited and the consequences of failure are high. Our Executive Director Steve White underscores that increased traffic through the Bering Strait, combined with climate and food security concerns, makes collaboration essential.

Together, these articles paint a clear picture: Alaska's maritime safety net depends on **partnerships**. No single agency or organization can meet the challenges alone. Through shared information, local knowledge, and coordinated response, MXAK continues to serve as a conduit between government, industry, and communities—standing firmly on the side of progress and prevention.

As the Arctic evolves and maritime activity grows, MXAK remains committed to advancing safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally responsible operations across Alaska's waters.

AHOY Applications are OPEN for 2026!



Are you a high school **junior or senior** who's curious about Alaska's maritime?

Want to explore career paths *after* graduation—whether that's college, trade school, or jumping into the workforce?

Then it's time to set sail with **AHOY**, MXAK's internship!

What's AHOY all about?

- Hands-on exposure to Alaska's maritime and Blue Economy
- Real talks with industry professionals
- An engaging program that helps you figure out *what's next*

Graduating seniors receive a scholarship upon completion of the program!

Whether you're eyeing the engine room, the boardroom, or anything in between—we'll help you ask the questions and explore the possibilities.

Email your application to edriccarrillo@mxak.org

Let's explore what your future could look like—on the water or beyond.

Be Part of the Arctic Watch Community

From ice and weather updates to vessel alerts, storm notifications, and logged subsistence activity—**Arctic Watch** is here to help you make safer, more informed decisions on the water.

Whether you're representing your community, vessel, or just signing up for yourself, **enrolling is free and easy**. With just a little info, you'll get timely alerts that matter—delivered when they're needed most.

- Ice & weather conditions
- Distress calls and response updates
- Tanker lightering operations
- Environmental & subsistence activity logs
- Real-time situational awareness tools



You don't need to be in charge to be informed—just curious, caring, or connected to our coastal waters. As the saying goes, *it takes a village*—and your voice strengthens our

shared effort to enhance **safe, secure, and environmentally responsible operations** in the Bering Sea and Arctic.

[Sign up today](#) and join the growing network of Arctic Watch enrollees making a difference.

Lighting the Way – Together



We're proud to celebrate 11 years of the [Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association](#) and their newsletter—a heartfelt thank-you to the Marine Exchange of Alaska.

From the very beginning, [MXAK](#) has stood with ERLPA to preserve Alaska's oldest original lighthouse. Thanks to the vision of our founder, **Captain Ed Page**, and the hard work of MXAK crewmembers like **Jonathan Wood** and many others, we've been honored to provide everything from equipment logistics to hands-on volunteer time at "The Rock."

Whether it's hauling materials aboard the M/V CLEAT, supporting safe landings, or helping install protective fixtures before winter storms roll in—our crew has been proud to support this extraordinary community effort for over a decade. We believe in preserving maritime heritage just as much as advancing maritime safety.

You can read the full [ERLPA newsletter](#) and **subscribe** to support their mission. Thank you, ERLPA, for your kind words and incredible progress. Here's to opening the way for the public to come see all the hard work in 2026!

Checkout the new [Eldred Rock educational film](#) now playing on the Alaska Marine Highway System and for PBS!



MXAK Founder Ed Page captaining the way on the M/V CLEAT supplying "The Rock" with critical crew and supplies. Of course, it wouldn't be an adventure with Ed without a kayak!



Haines Fair Ed and Jonathan standing watch at the Eldred Rock Haines Fair booth with ERLPA Executive Director Sue York and volunteers.

PACTRACS Tip: How to View Vessel Traffic in the Last 24 Hours

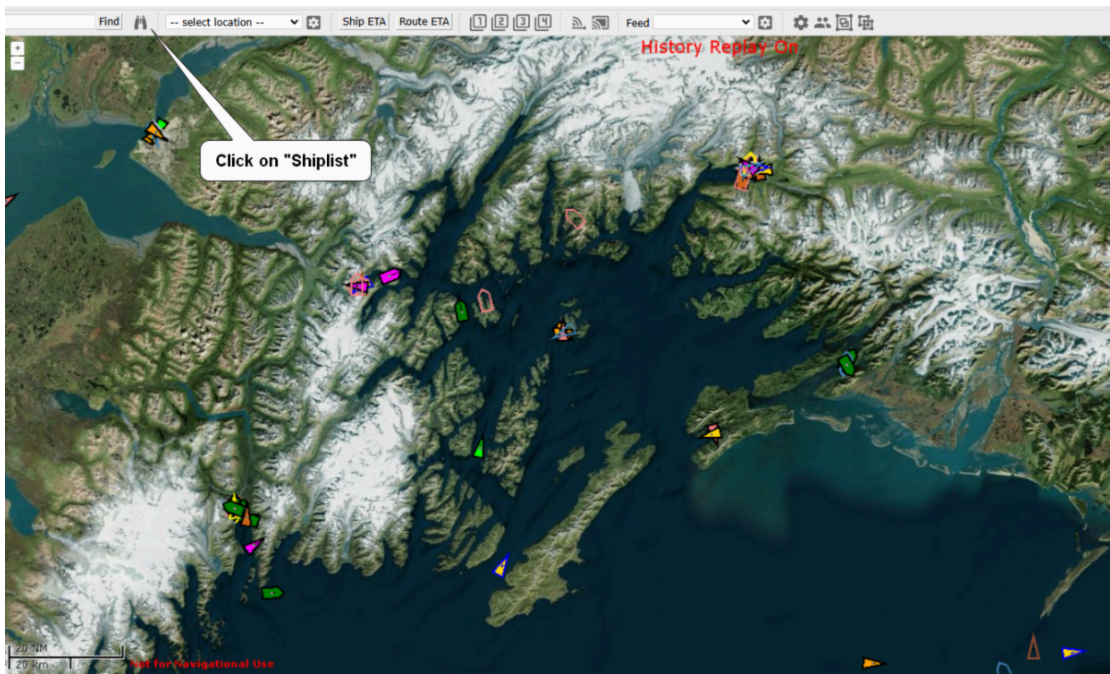
Ever wonder what vessels were in your area yesterday? Whether you're responding to a marine incident, curious about nearby vessel activity, or tracking historic maritime movements, **PACTRACS** can help.

Here's a quick tip from our Membership Coordinator Rick, on how to generate a list of vessels in a specific area from the past 24 hours—perfect for copying into a spreadsheet or sharing with others.

How to Do It:

1. Open **PACTRACS**
2. Click the **Binoculars icon** (*Ship List*)
3. A ship list will appear—use the dropdown to select your time range (e.g., "Past 24 Hours")
4. You can now easily **copy and paste** the data into a spreadsheet for your records or reporting

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give Rick or our Operations Center a call at 907-463-3064 or e-mail him at ricksypeck@mxak.org



Ship List

Area: ScreenTime Span: 24 Hours

☐ Refresh every 60 sec Set

MMSI

IMO

Apply Filter

Reset Filter

Filter Ships By:

Name

MMSI

48 Hours

10 Days

30 Days

90 Days

365 Days

All

Call Sign

Type

Destination

ETA

Last Seen

Src

Nav. Status

Latitude

Longitude

SOG

COG

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-08 12:31 (1m)

AIS

Under way using engine

60°32.791'N

145°45.913'W

0knt

226.4°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

USLGB

2026-01-15 20:00

2026-01-07 23:04 (13h 28m)

Dynamic

Under way using engine

60°03.716'N

146°09.684'W

12.4knt

116.7°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-08 08:04 (4h 28m)

LRIT

Not defined

60°53.757'N

148°08.832'W

0knt

0°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

SEWARD

2026-10-01 18:00

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

AIS

Moored

60°05.106'N

149°21.308'W

0knt

106.1°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

OUTSIDE BAY

2026-01-02 20:00

2026-01-08 12:02 (30m)

Sat

At anchor

60°38.630'N

147°27.087'W

0knt

125.4°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

VALDEZ

2026-03-25 20:20

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

AIS

Under way using engine

61°07.565'N

146°20.973'W

0knt

344.7°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

WHITTIER

2026-01-04 09:00

2026-01-07 18:10 (18h 22m)

AIS

Towing astern

59°59.133'N

145°16.783'W

8knt

103.1°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

SHIP ASSIST

2026-06-02 21:30

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

Sat

Not defined

61°06.381'N

150°37.148'W

8.1knt

243°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-08 08:00 (4h 32m)

AIS

61°07.329'N

146°20.637'W

0knt

258.9°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

CORDOVA

2026-03-02 16:00

2026-01-07 19:31 (17h 1m)

Dynamic

Under way using engine

60°22.979'N

146°54.145'W

15.6knt

174°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-07 13:36 (22h 56m)

Dynamic

61°07.445'N

146°21.696'W

0knt

0°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-07 15:17 (21h 15m)

Sat

Under way using engine

61°07.447'N

146°21.713'W

0.1knt

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

SEWARD

2026-07-28 11:00

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

AIS

Under way using engine

60°07.145'N

149°25.893'W

0knt

7.1°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

VALDEZ

2026-02-08 06:00

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

AIS

At anchor

61°06.819'N

146°17.714'W

0.1knt

146.3°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

VMT>CHB>VALDEZ

2026-01-09 04:00

2026-01-08 12:31 (1m)

Sat

Under way using engine

61°05.544'N

146°24.010'W

0.5knt

161.3°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

AIS

Moored

60°46.673'N

148°41.948'W

0knt

161.6°

ALC

367630000

W76300

Passenger ship

SEAL ROCK LINE

2026-01-08 21:00

2026-01-08 12:30 (2m)

Sat

Under way using engine

61°05.504'N

146°23.739'W

1knt

357.2°

Close

Help

Our Video Tells the MXAK Story

Learn how MXAK is making Alaska's Maritime Domain safer



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Marine Exchange of Alaska | 1050 Harbor Way | Juneau, AK 99801 US

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