

Columbia River Waterway Watch Training



Barry Owens, FSO-IS, Dana Bergdahl, FSO-PB, and John Hilbrands, ADSO-PA-S at Bingen, WA (Photo by Steven Banks)

VANCOUVER, WA – On July 30, 2011, members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 7-8 participated in Waterway Watch training. John Hilbrands led the all-day session in which Barry Owens and Dana Bergdahl attended. The training took place along the Columbia River, beginning near Caterpillar Island, at the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife boat launch in Vancouver, *Washington, and ending in Bingen, Washington.*

During the 154 mile round trip, most, if not all, public boat launches were examined. Of particular interest, when viewing the Vancouver Landing, participants noticed what appeared to be a suspicious vessel with registration numbers obscured. This was reported to the Clark County Sheriff's Office as well as MSU Portland.

During the fourth stop at Marine Park in Vancouver, Washington, John Hilbrands provided vessel examination instruction to the participants.

The remainder of the trip was educational and water activity along the river was heavy in most locations, including numerous kite boarders, wind surfers and boaters of all kinds.

###