

Ship Report Transcript

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

By Joanne Rideout

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It's time for the Ship Report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. It's Tuesday, May 21st, 2024.

Well, let's start out with some Marine weather. We'll see if we have time for some ship schedule information. And then I want to talk about a new ship in Astoria. One of Astoria's new Coast Guard cutters has arrived in town and she is at the 17th Street dock by the Maritime Museum. And you can go see her there. I'll talk a little bit about the ship and who she is named for, a very special person.

But first, a look at our Marine weather. We have a front arriving this morning, bringing rain into the forecast through Wednesday. Seas become increasingly steep later today into Wednesday and then subside Thursday. High pressure returns on Thursday, followed by another weather disturbance Friday into Saturday when a chance of rain returns. Small craft advisory in effect from this morning through Wednesday morning. And we have southwest winds 15 to 20 knots, gusting to 25. Seas 3 to 5 feet building to 5 to 7 feet in the afternoon. Wave detail: west six feet at 7 seconds and southwest two feet at 16 seconds apart. And rain is in the forecast.

Quick look at our ship schedule. Today we have the Star Subaru as our only inbound rush so far, arriving from China, headed for the Astoria Anchorage. She'll be there by about 2:30 a.m.. And she will eventually be picking up soda ash upriver. In Longview.

Well, a very fun thing to announce. Drum roll... Astoria has a new Coast Guard cutter. Her name is the David Duren, and she arrived yesterday and is currently docked at the 17th Street dock by the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. She is a new ship and one of a type of vessel called a fast response cutter or an FRC. David Duren will be the first of three forces homeported in Astoria.

FRCs are named after Coast Guard enlisted heroes and are a key component of the Coast Guard's surface fleet, here's what the Coast Guard said in a press release.

“Recapitalizing the capabilities of the 1980s era Island class, 110 foot patrol boats. Each has a top speed of 28 knots and is equipped with artillery, an interoperable command and control systems. These capabilities help our Coast Guard members successfully conduct missions such as ports, waterways and coastal security, fishery patrols, search and rescue and national defense.”

So a little more about this ship, the Duren. She's 154 feet long. That's a bit more compact than the alert and steadfast, which are 212 feet each. And she also has a stern launch and recovery ramp for a 26 foot long over the horizon interceptor cutter boat. So she has an extra boat on board that she can deploy as needed. So a very highly equipped brand new ship.

And the person she is named for really seemed like an amazing person. The Duren is named for Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer David N. Duren, enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1965, who served four years in the Pacific Northwest. Duren became a heavy weather coxswain and graduate from the Coast Guard's National Motor Lifeboat School in 1969, right here in Alaska, becoming certified as Coast Guard surfer and number 100 while serving as officer in charge at Coast Guard Station Depoe

Bay in Oregon. Duren performed a series of heroic rescues that would contribute to his rightfully earned nickname as Big Wave Dave, as well as respect as a forward leaning and compassionate leader.

In 1979, Duren and a fellow crew member responded to a distress call from a small craft sinking in the surf off Oregon's Siletz River Bar, skillfully maneuvering through, breaking eight foot surf and floating debris from the sinking vessel. He located the two survivors, frightened, but alive in the water. Duren overcame a sporadically functioning motor pounding surf and the presence of dangerous breakers to guide his craft back to shore, where emergency vehicles waited.

In the following year, Duren organized a team of surface swimmers to rescue three boys stranded on an offshore rock surrounded by a quickly rising tide at Oregon's Fogerty Creek State Park. Battling the surf tide and the boy's growing fatigue during led his team in forming a rescue line to assist the boys to the beach and bring them to safety. When the last boy was knocked off the rock separating him from his would be rescuer. Duren disregarded his lack of a wetsuit, swam to the boy's aid and brought him safely to shore.

During his tenure at Station Depoe Bay, Duren received two Coast Guard medals for exceptional heroism and the Douglas Munro Inspirational Leadership Award. Deployed on search and rescue cases more than any other officer in charge and participated in 250 cases in one year. Personnel under his command received a total of 24 medals and awards after 28 years of service. Duren retired in 1993.

So a pretty distinguished person that our new Coast Guard cutter is named for. Now, the Coast Guard has ordered 65 of these fast response cutters to date. The Duren is number 56. Thirteen are in Florida. Seven are in Puerto Rico. Six in Bahrain. Six in Massachusetts. Four in California. Three each in Alaska. Guam. Hawaii. Texas and New Jersey. And two each in Mississippi and North Carolina. Future AFC home ports include Kodiak and Seward in Alaska.

The Duren will be at the 17th Street dock until later this year, when a permanent mooring facility will be ready for her at Tongue Point. In the meantime, enjoy her presence on the dock by the Maritime Museum. The Coast Guard will hold a commissioning ceremony for the David during there at the Museum Plaza on June 27th

And I walked down there yesterday to the 17th Street dock to take a look at her. And as I was standing there admiring her, one of her crew walked down the gangplank and down the dock where I was standing.

I said, "Is this one of Astoria's new Coast Guard cutters?"

He said, "Yes," and smiled.

And I said, "Welcome to Astoria!"

Well, in a slightly different topic, the Astoria Yacht Club sailboat races have started for the season and will be happening off Astoria and Warrenton on Tuesday evening. So tonight you'll see them out there beginning around 6 p.m..

I'll post race results on the Astoria Yacht Club Facebook page and on the ship Report Facebook page. If you'd like to get involved in sailboat racing on one of these boats, here's the deal. Races happened

between privately owned sailboats and boats are often looking for crew. So if you become crew, you will be a guest on someone's boat.

To look into getting involved, go to the Astoria Yacht Club website and click on racing main page and then ISO in search of captains or crew. You can fill out a form there and submit it and find out what opportunities there might be for racing this season.

You'll need your own PFD - that's a life jacket - although you might be able to borrow one the first time out. It's a lot of fun and you'll learn a lot, but you have to like the wind, not mind getting wet and be happy jumping around a lot and working as a team. I did it for a long time and it was a wonderful experience.

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