

A RIDE ON THE PENOBSCOT BAY

Auxiliarist Frank L. writes in about his trip on the Penobscot Bay:

Good Morning, all:

Took a trip on the USCG icebreaker "Penobscot Bay", leaving from Kingston, NY onto the Hudson River this past Saturday. It was very cold and windy, but extremely exciting and amazing. We (11 USCG Auxiliarists and their guests) were allowed to roam throughout the ship, except for the Engine Room). Most of the 11 spent the better part of their days in the Wheelhouse, where a bird's-eye view of the operation was observed.

The ice to be broken up varied in thickness from 18 to 24 inches but there was, thanks to the Coast Guard icebreaker's crew's continuing efforts, mostly small floe ice in the main channel. We encountered four large vessels in transit during the day, mostly tugboats pushing a barge or two. The icebreaker's mission that day was to break off the edges of the shelf ice, thus widening the passable channel width. The operational area was from Kingston south to the Rip Van Winkle Bridge in Catskill, NY (near Saugerties), and back. The broken-off pieces of shelf ice would eventually float down to New York Harbor and into the Atlantic.

All in all, a very enjoyable day. This trip showed the very useful way in which some taxpayers' dollars are spent.

Best Regards,

Frank L.