

Some tidbits about our 49th state.

Alaska is larger than combining Texas, California, and Montana together, larger than combining the total area of the 22 smallest U.S. States.

We have 3,197 "officially-named" natural lakes and over 3,000,000 unnamed natural lakes. Lake Iliamna, eighth largest lake in the U.S. covers 1,150 square miles and is 988 feet deep at its deepest. Ninety four of our lakes have a surface area covering more than 10 square miles.

The longest river in North America, the mighty Yukon has 1,875 miles winding through Alaska of its 2,298 total river miles.

We have a challenging and much longer coastline than all of the lower 48 states combined, with an estimated tidal shoreline of 47,300 miles at high tide.

One of the world's largest tides occurs in Turnagain Arm, just south of Anchorage – tidal differences can range more than 35 feet.

We share two oceans, the North Pacific and Arctic, and three seas; Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort.

The most perfect volcanic cone on Earth, Mount Shishaldin on Unimak Island rises to 10,000' above the North Pacific.

We haven't even touched on other Extremes, like our highest temp of 100, recorded at Fort Yukon, 8 miles inside the Arctic Circle on June 27, 1915, or our lowest temp -80 recorded at Prospect Creek on Jan 23, 1971.

Whittier Alaska, only 75 miles southeast of Anchorage, averages 197.8" of rain and 249.1" of snow annually. Our Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, connecting the Seward Highway south of Anchorage with the City of Whittier at 13,300 ft. or 2.5 miles long it is the second longest highway tunnel and the longest combined rail and highway tunnel in North America.

The tallest mountain in all of North America is Mount McKinley "Denali to our native people"; her south summit reaches 20, 320' into the sky.

Oh! Many of Our cities not served by road, sea, or river can only be reached by air, foot, dog sled, or snow machine.

Our Auxiliary families of District 17 range from our Southeast Alaska Panhandle city of Ketchikan, North to Barrow, West to Nome, and to our South central Alaska City of Anchorage.

Think of it in terms of flying across the United States, from the Southeast city of Miami, North to New York, West to Los Angeles, and to the South central City of Houston.

As you can see from these statistics, the Seventeenth District U.S. Coast Guard and our CG Auxiliary have a BIG job in a REALLY BIG State.

Commodore Roy Stoddard

