A colorful way to spend free time

Coast Guard vols paint community center

By MARIANNE AmRHEIN
Correspondent

CATSKILL — The Catskill Community Center is receiving a fresh paint job thanks to volunteers from the U.S. Coast Guard and the generosity of Sherwin-Williams in Catskill, which provided 40 gallons of paint at no cost.

Lt. j.g. Brian Finney, executive officer on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay, out of Governors Island in New York Harbor, said their ship is an icebreaker that spends winters traveling the Hudson River between Manhattan and Albany.

Bill Doolan, former owner of Mike's Restaurant at Catskill Point, became acquainted with the crew from their overnight stays in Catskill. Because the river is now ice-free, Finney knew he and his crew would have extra time and contacted Doolan to see how they might help out in the community for two days.

Said Finney: "Normally, we have a lot to do and keep busy. The boat can break up to 30 inches of ice. But when we're slow, we like to find worthwhile ways to fill in our schedule."

During summer months, the 140-foot cutter patrols the coastal waters between New Jersey and Maine, checking fishing boats to see if they are in compliance with rules and regulations. Finney said the Coast Guard also can board recreational boats to check if all the required safety gear is on board. Another responsibility the crew has in the summer is lighthouse and buoy maintenance.

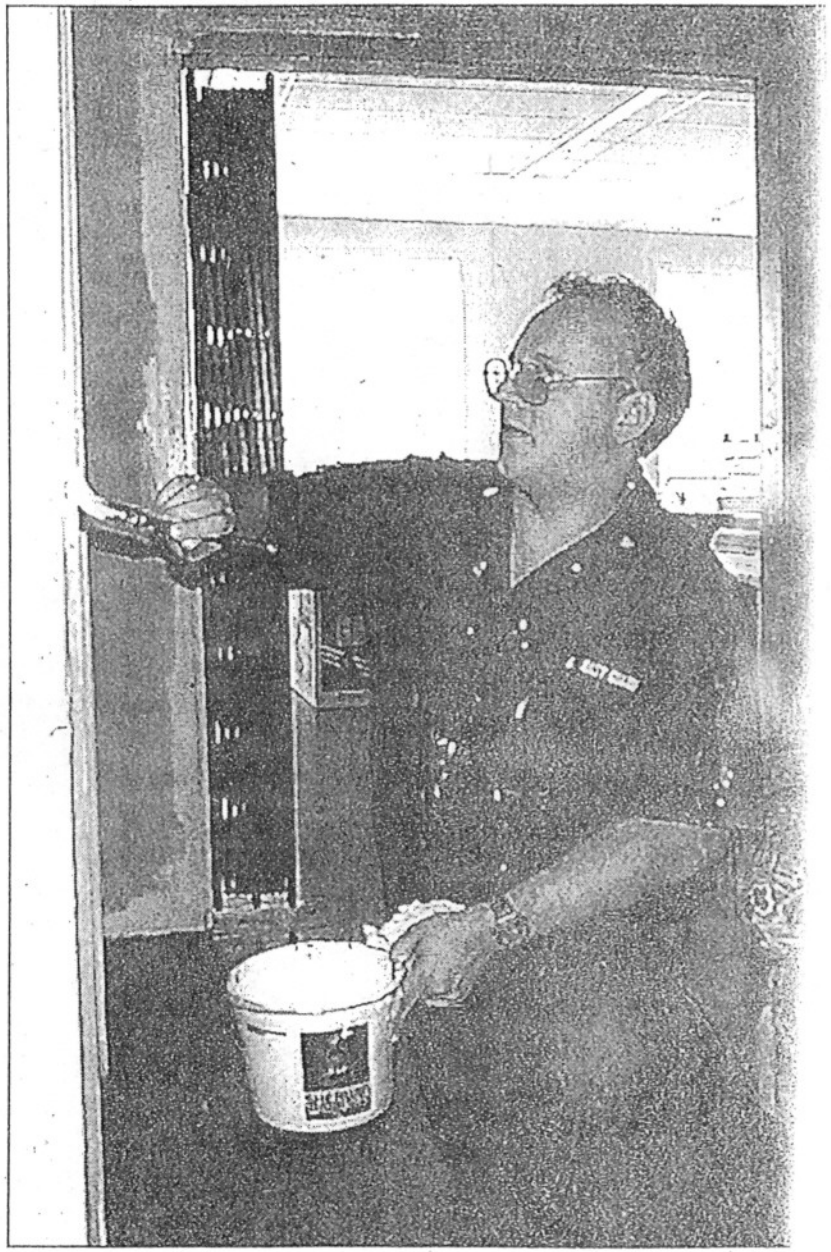
Finney said the primary mission of the Coast Guard is search and rescue, and they drop everything else when needed for such tasks. He said they spent three weeks off Long Island in search and recovery efforts after the explosion last July of TWA Flight 800.

The Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay has a crew of 10 volunteering their time at the Community Center and four at the Catskill police station, leaving three on board.

Catskill

'Normally, we have a lot to do and keep busy.... But when we're slow, we like to find worthwhile ways to fill in our schedule'

—Lt. j.g. Brian Finney, Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay



Freeman photo by Brian Holla

Eric Gillmore, a Daytona Beach, Fla., resident serving on the U Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay, helps paint the Cats Community Center.