

# TRADEWINDS

## CGC KUKUI NEWSLETTER

**Operation  
Duck Drop**  
Pages 3-4

**NOAA Buoy  
Ops**  
Page 5

**Departmental  
News**  
Pages 6-9

**The Dive  
Locker**  
Page 10

### ATON, ATON, ATON!



*KUKUI works Ala Wai Harbor buoys with Diamondhead in the background*

After a long, productive dry dock period KUKUI returned to Honolulu looking good and ready to get to work! We kicked off the summer with a Main Hawaiian Islands ATON Patrol, working aids off the coasts of Oahu, Molokai, Maui, and Kauai. Altogether, KUKUI worked 7 aids: 5 with the cutter and 2 with the Dive Team. We returned to Honolulu to hunker down for Hurricanes Iselle and Julio, but got right back to it two weeks later.



*BM2 Miller, BM1 Summers*



*SN Weems un-mouses the hook*

**Welcome aboard to our newest  
crewmembers:**

- **BMC Bob McCormick**
- **ET1 Manny Lugo**
- **MK1 Michael Wada**
- **YN1 Lisa Calhoun**
- **BM3 Nick Duran**
- **BM3 Tim Powers**
- **EM3 Josh Bredesen**
- **EM3 Dakota Petersen**
- **SNBM Pierre Materassi**
- **SA Joe Vega**
- **FA Trevor Barkhimer**
- **SA Nicholas Pestello**

**Fair winds and following seas to:**

- **LTJG Kenny Miltenberger**
- **MK1 Duke Sheesley**
- **SN Jake Thomas**
- **FN Luke Mooney**



# ATON, ATON, ATON! CONTINUED



***BM3 Wood and BM1 Laughlin discuss buoy deck setup***

In August, KUKUI embarked on our annual Midway Atoll ATON Patrol. It was an honor to be in Midway, the site of the Battle of Midway during World War II. Midway is now a National Wildlife Refuge, a National Memorial, and a National Marine Monument. In Midway KUKUI worked 16 aids: 9 with the cutter and 7 with the Dive Team. Despite some long ATON days, we were still able to explore the island, experience the history, and enjoy the pristine beaches and phenomenal wildlife.



***Nothing like the smell of the buoy deck first thing in the morning!***

## Midway Atoll



# OPERATION DUCK DROP

KUKUI completed Operation Duck Drop (as our Captain affectionately named it) during our Midway ATON Patrol.

**The Mission:** To transport 28 critically endangered Laysan Ducks to Kure Atoll, a tiny spit of sand spanning less than 200 acres located 48 nautical miles Northwest of Midway Atoll.

**The Ducks:** Laysan Ducks are the rarest ducks in the Northern Hemisphere! Although they used to span all of the Hawaiian Islands, in 1911 their population was reduced to 11, primarily due to invasive species. Before KUKUI transported the ducks to Kure, they lived only on Laysan Island and Midway Atoll.

**Why it's Important:** One of the Coast Guard's core missions is Environmental Stewardship. Having the entire Laysan Duck population on only two islands increased the risk that they'd be wiped out by a natural disaster, like a tsunami, or by disease. The more islands within their historical habitat that we can repopulate, the better chance they have for survival.

**The Players:** KUKUI worked in collaboration with biologists from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Hawaii Wildlife Center (a nonprofit).

**The Onload:** On the morning of September 9, KUKUI crewmembers helped load ducks the biologists caught in Midway into crates and onto the cutter. We got underway from Midway Atoll and transited to Kure Atoll.



*Captain Introduces Our Partners to the Crew*



*LTJG Kane, FNDC Ramos, MKC Landry*



*FNDC Ramos Brings Ducks Onboard*



*Loading up the CB-A-L*

**The Transfer:** Since there's no pier at Kure Atoll, KUKUI had to anchor several miles offshore and ferry the ducks and supplies back and forth using our two cutter boats.



*Cutter Boat Leave KUKUI*



*CB-L Transiting to Kure Atoll*



*BOSN Smith, MK2 Zapara, MK3 Hopper*

# OPERATION DUCK DROP CONTINUED

**The Release:** Four KUKUI crewmembers were lucky enough to help release the ducks. We held the ducks in small bags and hiked to the center of the island to release them in a large fresh water 'puddle'.



*ENS McGarry Holds a Laysan Duck*



*Releasing the Ducks*



*ENS McGarry, FS3 Gros, BM2 Miller*

**The Clean-Up:** While we were at Kure, we removed the marine debris that the residents (6 Hawaii DLNR employees/volunteers) had collected over the course of a year. When all was said and done, KUKUI removed about 10,000 lbs of old fishing nets, lines, floats, and other debris! We brought it back to Honolulu, where Schnitzer Steel picked it up and incinerated it, turning it into energy to power the Island of Oahu.



*Cutter Boat Removes Debris from Kure Atoll*



*BM3 Powers and SN Wiczorek Offload the Debris from KUKUI*

## Sailors of the Quarter:



*Summer 2014 – MK3 Mitch Hopper*



*Fall 2014 – ET2 Ryan Ruff*

# NOAA BUOY OPS



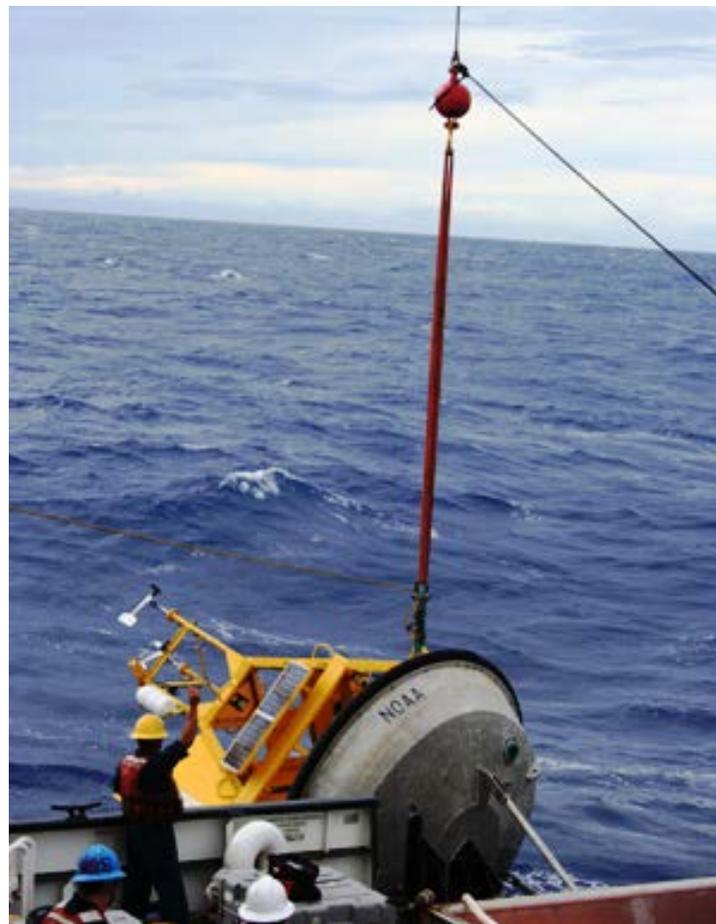
***BOSN Martin (NDBC) looks on as two technicians perform maintenance***

At the beginning of November, KUKUI embarked on our annual National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) patrol in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For the first part of the patrol, KUKUI transited about 200 nautical miles Northwest of Kauai to set a new weather buoy. KUKUI set the buoy in about 15,000 ft of water, and connected the buoy to the sinker using 6 nautical miles of line! The crew completed the operation in extremely challenging weather conditions – the first swells that the buoy measured were 14 ft – but thanks to everyone’s hard work and vigilance we were able to get the job done in a safe and timely manner.



***SN Kelly and BM3 Powers use a boat hook to spin the NOAA Buoy***

For the second part of the patrol we transited about 150 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu. KUKUI used our crane to haul the weather buoy onboard, allowing the NOAA technicians to complete much-needed maintenance. Unfortunately, due to an equipment casualty KUKUI, was unable to service the other two buoys that were scheduled, but we will complete the mission later this winter.



***BMI Summers directs the crane operator as KUKUI deploys the NOAA buoy***



***Keeping it real on the bridge (BMI Partin & Dive-O)***

# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT – NAVIGATION DIVISION

## BY LTJG KRISTEN HOLLOWAY

Summer 2014 transfer season brought quite a bit of change to normal operations up in the pilothouse. BM1 Partin was the only remaining member in Nav Division – the rest of us either shifted over from other departments onboard KUKUI, such as BM2 Miller from Deck, or arrived PCS from the mainland. BM3 Carballo, former pursuit coxswain and boarding team member, transferred in from Station Fort Lauderdale, FL, and I arrived from my previous tour onboard CGC WILLIAM FLORES in Miami Beach, FL. We quickly joined forces during the tail end of Dry Dock to prepare for heading back to our homeport in Honolulu. One highlight from the outbound San Francisco transit was BM1 Partin impressively conning the ship around strong propeller wash from two tugs operating in a narrow channel. The seven day 2,000 nautical mile sail to Honolulu was ideal for getting me, BM3 Carballo, and BM2 Miller up to speed on the bridge. With work to be done around Oahu, Molokai, Maui, and Kauai, the Nav Division laid down over 700 miles of trackline on paper and ECPINS (electronic charting system) for our Main Hawaiian Islands ATON Patrol. Underway, BM3 Carballo worked tirelessly to earn his Master Helmsman qualification, manning the helm for 10 restricted water transits as well as 9 different ATON evolutions.



***OPS loving her new mission – ATON!***

Post Main Hawaiian Islands ATON we switched gears to prepare for the upcoming Midway patrol where KUKUI was scheduled to service all aids in the waterway. The cutter and Nav Division worked in overdrive the first portion of the trip, notably working four aids in one morning. Once moored at Midway Pier, the KUKUI Dive Team took over the rest. Both BM1 Partin and BM2 Miller solidly contributed to the three rigorous dive days where the team logged over 770 minutes of bottom time. Although BM1 Partin had to cut the Midway trip short to attend Senior Bridge Management School in Yorktown, BM3 Carballo and BM2 Miller continued to maintain effectiveness up in the pilothouse. Both Petty Officers cooperated to carry out their increased responsibilities with their immediate supervisors gone. They kept the Nav Division running during the Midway to Kure transit, Endangered Laysan Duck transfer, and four day sail back to Honolulu.



***BM3 Carballo and BM1 Partin on the bridge during a NOAA Buoy evolution.***

Most recently, Nav Division coordinated bridge setup and laid out the most efficient tracklines to take KUKUI to the NOAA weather buoys located offshore Hawaiian Islands. Although unexpected events such as Hurricanes Ana, Iselle and Julio might have attempted to shake us off course, the bridge BM's maintained flexibility and were Semper Paratus throughout. Bravo Zulu to our new Nav Division all-stars! They continue to excel by keeping KUKUI navigating in safe waters, confirming proper aid assigned positions, and ensuring we always leave them watching properly.

# OPS DEPT – COMMS AND FS DIVISIONS

# SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

This summer the Communications Division welcomed ET1 Lugo, who joined us from ESD Moriches in New York.



**FS3 Gros and AUX Scrivano in front of KUKUI's delicious Thanksgiving Feast!**

The Food Services Division has been busy as usual! One major highlight was the incredible Thanksgiving meal that FS3 Jenna Gros and our resident Auxiliarist, AUX Ralph Scrivano cooked up.

This summer the Support Department also gained a new member – YN1 Lisa Calhoun. YN1 Calhoun joined us from the Base Honolulu Servicing Personnel Office.



**SK2 Laborce and HS1 Dias pin on YN1 Calhoun's First Class crow's. Congratulations!**

## KUKUI Krakens are Victorious!

In August KUKUI's soccer team, the KUKUI Krakens, won the Honolulu Coast Guard Soccer Championship! Our very own KUKUI Krakens, under the steadfast leadership of Captain Nick Devine and Assistant Captain Jesse Robb, beat all other area units to claim the title by defeating the Navel Engineering Division 3-2. Congratulations, Krakens!



# DECK DEPARTMENT

BY BM3 TIM POWERS



***KUKUI's Deck Force***

Aloha from the Deckies aboard the KUKUI! These past few months we've welcomed a lot of new shipmates: BMC McCormick, BM3 Duran, SNBM Materassi, SA Vega, SA Pestello and me, BM3 Powers. We say goodbye to SN Thomas – good luck in EM "A" School! I would like to thank everyone for welcoming us aboard and for helping all of us in getting qualified. I have never seen such a hard working group of individuals; whether tasked with scrubbing buoys or taking down the awning for about the 15th time, I am proud to be a part of the Deck Force on the KUKUI. Some of our crew (known as "The Boy Band") came up with a little jingle that can be heard, loud and proud, out on the Buoy Deck, motivating the crew and reminding our other shipmates who join us what we do, "HARD WORK WORK"!



***SK2 Laborce backs up BM3 Wood before he hooks a NOAA buoy (check out all the fish!)***

At the beginning of summer we wrapped up dry dock in Alameda, California. KUKUI got her second wind and is looking top notch thanks to the amazing work of the crew. This helped prepare KUKUI for three ATON trips to Maui, Kauai, and Midway Atoll, during which the KUKUI conducted multiple buoy evolutions. Midway was a once in a life time trip that we will never forget. Though the days were long, hot, and hard out on the buoy deck, I can speak for all of us when I say that the historical significance and beauty of Midway made up for it. While at the island of Midway we picked up some visitors. These visitors included 28 Laysan Ducks! The Laysan Duck is an endangered species and in 2004 there were only 576 ducks left in the world. The KUKUI played a vital role in helping bring the Laysan Ducks to their new home in Kure Atoll.



***BM1 Laughlin performs as Buoy Deck Supervisor***

Best wishes to KUKUI's family and extended family over the holidays! We are happy to announce that our very own one hit wonder, "The Boy Band", has made it onto iTunes before the holidays with their hit single "HARD WORK WORK," setting a smashing record with a grand total of 4 sales.



***SA Vega and SN Wiczorek do a Heat 'n Beat***

# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

BY MK3 MITCH HOPPER, POET LAUREATE (SELF PROCLAIMED)



***KUKUI's Engineers***

KUKUI returned to her birth, paint all fresh and new,  
Looking back now, our time on the coast really flew.  
The ship revamped,  
Down below, the engines are fully amped,  
Bells, whistles, and brass all shined to perfection,  
She shines so bright you can see your reflection!  
Deck force ready to set sail, for there is work to be done,  
To Midway we go, north by north west into the sun.  
Birds and burrows, we're cautioned to watch our step.  
Transport these ducks to Kure atoll,  
For that's where they must be kept.  
Saved a population and removed 10,000 lbs of debris,  
Nets, line, and trash, all gone thanks to the hard work of the U.S.C.G.  
Hurricanes and storms threaten us to sink.  
We brave the weather; Lono will never send our ship to the drink.  
Stock and store, we must be ready,  
Our work load with NOAA looks pretty heavy.  
So load the deck and cast the lines,  
This work that is done is the tie that binds.



***DC1 Kalen Conducts Training on the RAM Fan 2000***



***MK3 Hopper, Cutter Boat Engineer***



***MKC Landry and DC1 Kalen in The Hole***



***MK3 Robb Heads Down to Watch***

# THE DIVE LOCKER



**BM2 (DV2) Ryan Miller gets ready to dive in Midway**



**BM1 Partin checks MK3 (DV2) Robb's gear during surface supply air training**



**Former KUKUI crewmember YN1 Matt Kamalo dons a surface supply air mask**



**MK3 (DV2) Robb gets ready to splash during an ATON dive in Midway**

## XO's Corner

*The past few months were quite a whirlwind of activity for the hardworking crew of KUKUI. The newly reported crewmembers that arrived during the summer transfer season took advantage of our busy schedule to quickly learn the ropes and contribute to our mission success. Whether the challenge of the day was completing even more inspections, deploying our spilled oil response equipment, conducting ATON operations, working with partner agencies, enjoying morale events, or telling our story to the public, KUKUI's crew stepped up to the challenge producing results without complaint. Our success was possible because of support from friends and family, and for that we say thank you for a fantastic 2014.*

# LUCKY BAG



**BM3 Powers executes a graceful front flip off the dock in Midway**



**Deckies cool off after a long day of ATON work in Midway**



**FS3 Warner couldn't wait to get in the warm Midway water!**



**SN Thompson with Midway in the background**



**Pick-up volleyball in Midway**



**SN Ramos enjoying the beach in Midway**



**BOSN Smith and Joy got married on Oahu's West Side**



**Night cutter boat ops**



**MKC Landry was advanced to Chief – congratulations!**



**BM3 Powers teaches middle schoolers how to use a fire hose**

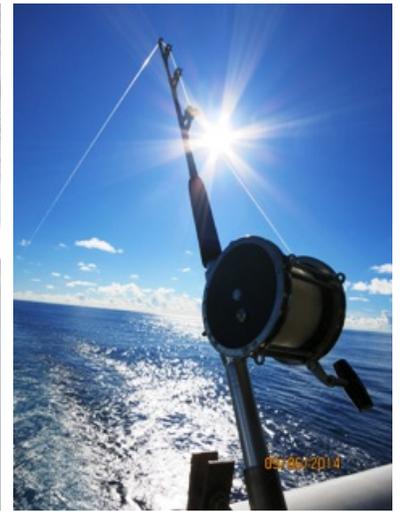
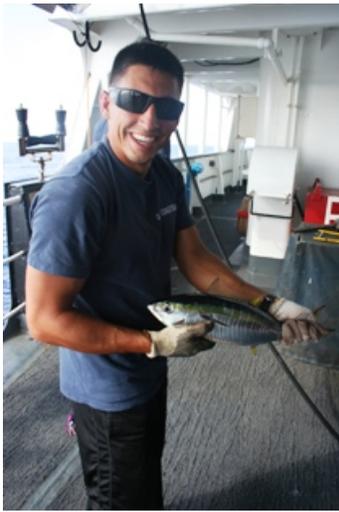


**SK2 Laborce and MK3 Hopper help a middle schooler don an FFE**



**ENS McGarry relieved LTJG Kane of the Bull Ensign**

# FISH CALL



## Captain's Cabin

*2014 was a fantastic year that brought about much change for the crew and families of KUKUI. We've seen advancements, promotions, births, marriages, historic sites, serene locations, supported the survivability of a critically endangered species, partnered with various local, state and federal agencies; all in the name of being the best stewards of our American Way of Life. Although we had our share of less-than-desirable things as well, the KUKUI Family embraced our organization's core values (Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty) and the Command Philosophy (Ship, Shipmate, Self, Community) and continuously pulled together in support, love and dedication to and for each other, to keep us thinking positive, and moving ever forward to continued success. I am humbled and proud to be a part of this fine ship and her crew. Thank you KUKUI Family for all you do!*

# KUKUI KEIKI



**On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Zach and Jessica Hassilev welcomed Cade Alexander Hassilev, weighing in at 8 lbs 15oz. Welcome aboard, Cade!**

**Top Left: Emily, Jessica, and Claire de la Cruz**

**Top Center: Elijah Arthur (FS3 Gros's son)**

**Top Right: Cade Hassilev**

**Bottom Left: Audrey and Gavin Ruff**

## Ship's Camera Selfies...really!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

