The Bulldog Newsletter 15

March 27, 2015

THE BULLDOG

Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY News | Back At It | Ombudsman Appreciation

INPORT RECAP INSIDE

MK3 Myles Moorer braves the weather as a small boat engineer while conducting law enforcement.

Friends, family and shipmates,

This last inport went by quickly! We had 36 days between two patrols in the Bering Sea. During those 36 days, the crew did an outstanding job of readying the cutter for another patrol. Our Law Enforcement teams spent time each week at the range, practicing and qualifying with their weapons. The small boats were underway each week as well, training new coxswains and boat engineers. We installed new computers and computer systems. New electronics were installed to track and monitor our helicopter and improvements were made to help open and close the hangar. The engineers repaired the ship's propellers and their controllers; they repaired electrical generators and made important safety upgrades to the main switchboard. We loaded on ship's food and supplies and honored two shipmate's moving into retirement. We enjoyed a visit from the Area Commander and shared a luncheon cooked entirely in crock-pots. Lastly, we met with the District Seventeen staff in Juneau, our boss during the patrol, and our law enforcement partners at the Fisheries Service. Most importantly, we took time off. Some traveled off island to visit family and some enjoyed staying home with friends on Kodiak. Shipmates: thank you for your service. Friends families: thank you for the support you give to our sailors.

Very respectfully,

LCDR Brian Chambers, XO

INPORT RECAP

STAYING PROFICIENT AT THE RANGE

When in port, ALEX HALEY does not rest; the time ashore is used to engage in drills, fix any damaged equipment, and to gain or renew vital qualifications. Crewmembers pictured here are Boarding Officers renewing their shotgun and rifle qualifications. Pistol qualifications are also coordinated inport, as each of our boarding team members are required to carry one. TOP: LTJG Kelsey Freeman. LEFT: IT1 Patrick Godfrey (front) and DC2 Jason Manor. RIGHT: LTJG Thomas Hernandez.

OS1 ROBERT MOORE RETIRES

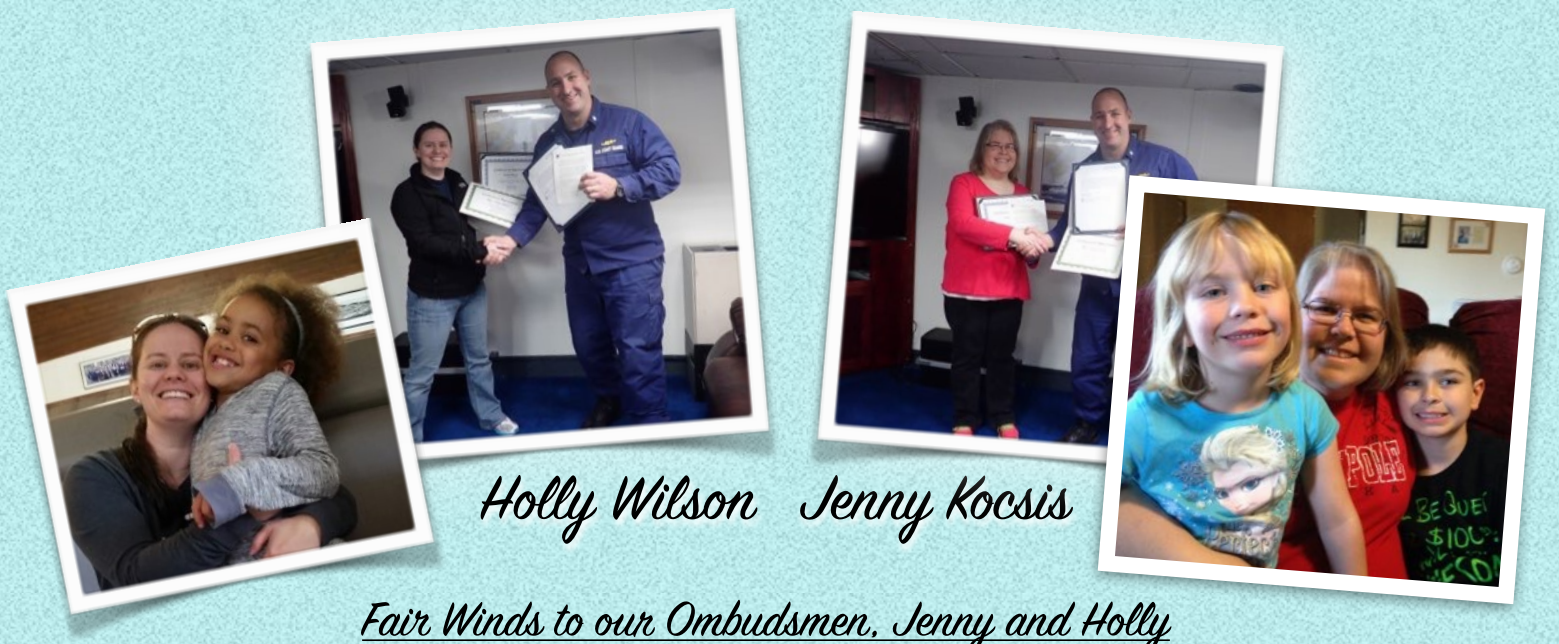
During this inport, we said farewell to OS1 Robert Moore. The retirement ceremony was attended by the crew, Base Kodiak's Color Guard and OS1 Moore's family via video conferencing. Fair winds and following seas, OS1. The ALEX HALEY crew wishes you a peaceful and happy retirement. LEFT: ALEX HALEY's First Class Mess presents OS1 Moore with an engraved oar. RIGHT: The Moore family watches the ceremony via FaceTime.

VICE ADMIRAL RAY VISITS ALEX HALEY

On February 18th, Vice Admiral Ray, the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area Commander, visited ALEX HALEY as we returned from our winter Alaska patrol. Admiral Ray was touring the Seventeenth District with its Commander, Rear Admiral Abel. While aboard, Admiral Ray toured ALEX HALEY and met with our crew members to discuss shipboard life. Afterward, the crew sat down with the Admiral and asked questions about where the Coast Guard was heading, what policies were changing and how it would affect us and our families. Admiral Ray engaged the crew in an informative Q&A session, addressing a diverse group of subjects brought forward by an equally diverse group of people. Thank you , Vice Admiral Ray!

Top: Fireman Ben Potvin tells VADM Ray about his family. Left: VADM Ray recognizes MK2 Dan Anderson for his hard work as Boat Engineer, leadership of the fueling program and his efforts during the Women in Engineering Event with Kodiak High School..

OMBUDSMAN APPRECIATION DAY!



Holly Wilson Jenny Kocsis

Fair Winds to our Ombudsmen, Jenny and Holly

On Thursday, March 26th, the Coast Guard celebrated Ombudsman Appreciation Day. Since Admiral Gracey established the Ombudsman program in 1986, the outstanding volunteers who have stepped up to serve in this important role have left a lasting positive impact that resonates across the Coast Guard every day. These ombudsmen have shown kindness and dedication that's lead to the program becoming the strongest component of the Coast Guard family support network. I would like to offer my most sincere gratitude and thanks to Jenny Kocsis and Holly Wilson for serving as the Bulldog's Ombudsmen!!! They have done a great job providing this vital service to our crew and families.

Jenny has been Co-ombudsman for the past year. How she finds the time to serve as Ombudsmen while while raising two kids, helping run the Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs, volunteering at the school and a host of other volunteer activities is amazing! Jenny's husband, Senior Chief Bill Kocsis, is retiring in May after 22 years of faithful service. They will be moving to Michigan to start the next chapter of their adventure. Thank you Jenny, not only for your service as an Ombudsman, but as a military spouse. You are an amazing person and it was a pleasure to work with you.

Holly has served as Co-Ombudsman for two years. Again, an impressive undertaking considering she is an active duty Coast Guard Health Services Technician and is a very active mother of four very active kids. Holly will be transferring to Northfield, New Jersey to serve as a Coast Guard Recruiter. Her husband, Chief Spenser Wilson, will be serving at Sector Delaware Bay. Thanks Holly for your positive attitude and selfless service. We were lucky to have you!

We were able to have Jenny and Holly down on the cutter for lunch just before this patrol. We gave them Certificates and Letters of Appreciation from the Commandant, the Commandant's wife and myself. All these documents expressed the importance of the Ombudsman and our appreciation. However I would like to say one more time, THANK YOU BOTH!!! It cannot be said enough.

Very, very respectfully,

Steve

Commander Steve White
Commanding Officer
Cutter ALEX HALEY

TO OUR CO-OMBUDSMANS FROM COMMANDER, PACIFIC AREA

"On this 29th anniversary of the Coast Guard Ombudsman Program, THANK YOU! On behalf of the 13,000 Coast Guard personnel in Pacific Area and their families, Donna and I thank you for the vital role you play in keeping our Coast Guard Family strong and healthy. Whether you have recently become an ombudsman or have been one for many years, thank you for volunteering to make every day better for Coast Guard families. From welcoming new families to the area, to keeping families connected with their loved ones while on duty, to connecting them with support services in their time of need, you play a pivotal role. Your dedication and sincere compassion truly contribute to the success of our Service. Happy Anniversary and again, thank you.

Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray and Donna R. Ray

Meet Our New Team!

The crew of ALEX HALEY would now like to welcome our new team, Wendy Lirette and Emily Campbell! Wendy hails from New Orleans, Louisiana and has been married to MK1 Daryl Lirette for eleven years. The Lirettes have three children, Mikayla, 16, Jackson, 8, and Elijah, 5. She has previously served as an Ombudsman during their time aboard USCGC HALIBUT in New Orleans. In her free time, Wendy enjoys hiking and exploring Kodiak with the family dog, Champ. We're looking forward to having her Ombudsman expertise onboard. Emily is originally from Klamath Falls, Oregon. She has the pleasure of having been married to EM1 Anthony Campbell for the past seven and a half years. The Campbell's have two children, Westin, 4, and Vairalee, 3. Emily is also an avid crocheter, painter and writer. Wendy and Emily will officially take over on 15 April.

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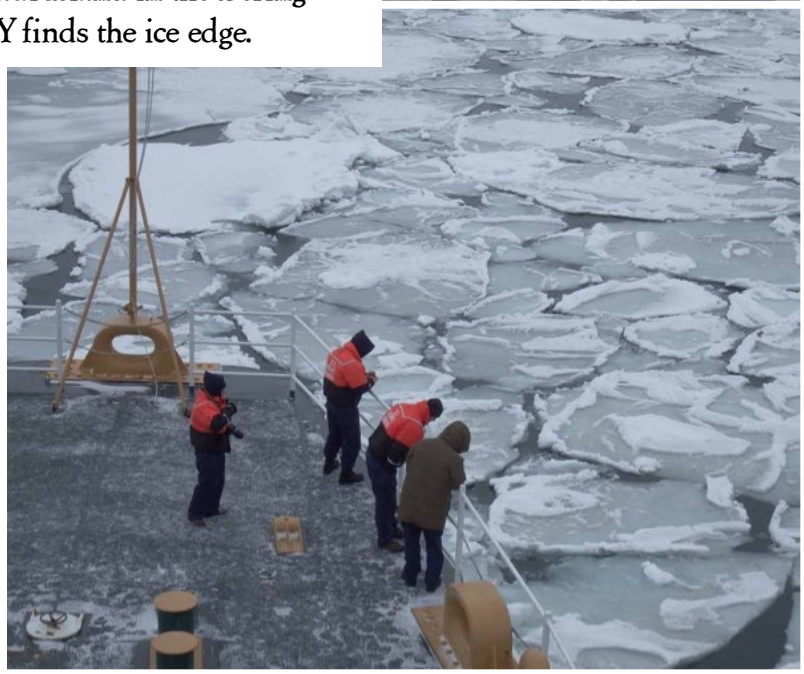
Seeing The Ice Edge!

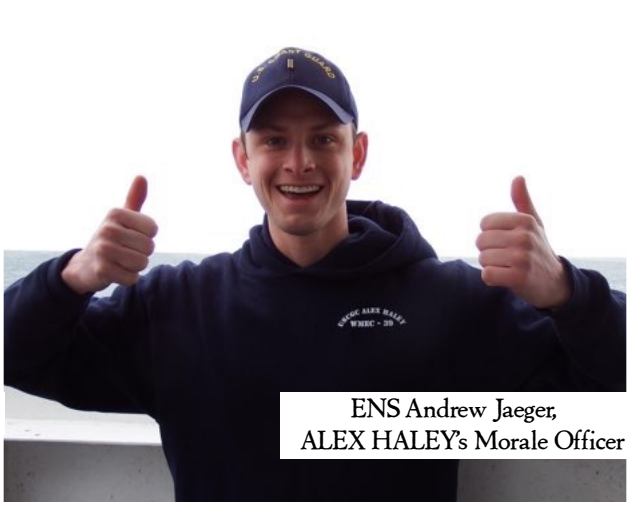
20 miles north of St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea, ALEX HALEY finds the ice edge.



SN Jakob Faulk

SN Cody Price

BM3 Parker Wall



ENS Andrew Jaeger, ALEX HALEY's Morale Officer

SN Joseph Odetto

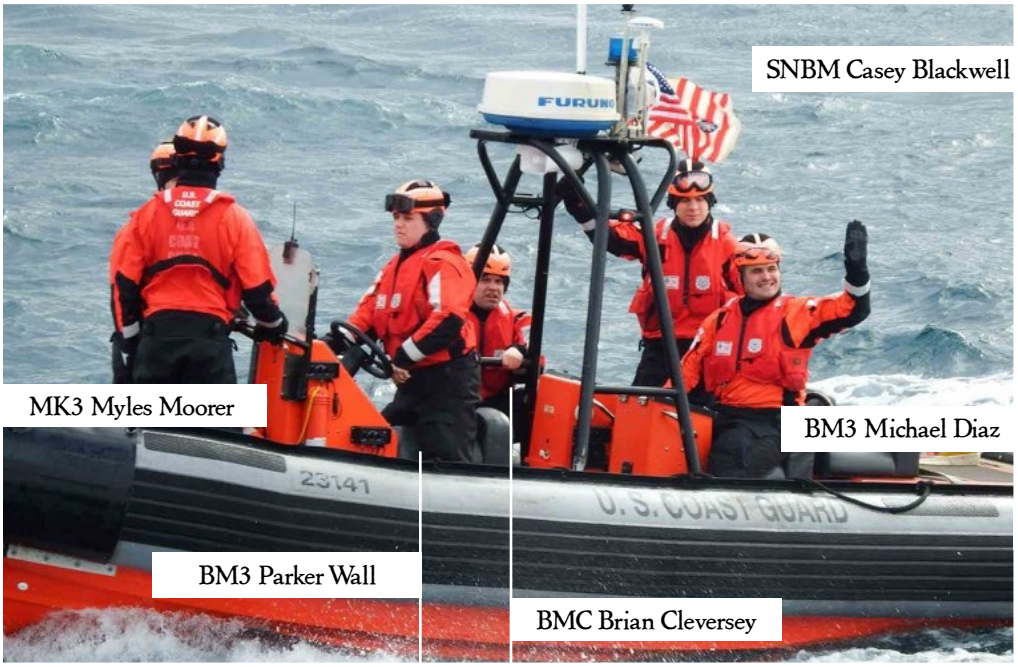
MK3 Myles Moorer

BM2 Theo Aniskoff

ET2 Joseph Zappia

SN Juan Carlos Garcia Medina

SN Eli Neaves



SNBM Casey Blackwell

MK3 Myles Moorer

BM3 Michael Diaz

BM3 Parker Wall

BMC Brian Cleversey

SN Eric Speranza

RANGE PHOTOS BY: PAI KELLY PARKER, OTHER PHOTOS BY: OS3 DALE ARNOULD AND OS3 JESSE KRISTOFFERSON