

JUNE 2008

THE BREAKWALL

USCGC HALIBUT (WPB-87340)

Newsletter



USCGC HALIBUT as viewed between Arch Rock, Anacapa Island (foreground). The background consists of the San Ynez Mountain Range.

photo by Brandon Blackwell

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Greetings

Friends,

Summer is upon us and needless to say June was a very busy month for HALIBUT. Please find in the newsletter a great story on the crews efforts from yet another search and rescue case involving a MEDEVAC from Avalon, Catalina Islands to Los Angeles of a critical care patient in less than 50yds of visibility. Additionally, I've started a series of Search and Rescue stories from the POINT BRIDGE era for your enjoyment.

This month we said goodbye to a shipmate, MKC Paul Rotolo and welcomed MKC Tim Pettengil, MK3 Gregory Cooper, and FA Richard Kurtze. Please enjoy the newsletter and as always, thank you for your continued support!

Best Regards,

LJG Paul Miller

Commanding Officer



HALIBUT CREW PROFILE



SN Alberto Castilleja

Age: 21

Hometown: Chula Vista, CA

Favorite Part of Job: Being Underway completing SAR cases, boardings, and helping the public in any way

Career Aspirations: Currently on the Health Services Technician "A" School List. Aspires to one day work on a sports team as a physical therapist.



HALIBUT Morale



CGC HALIBUT'S Morale Fund contributes directly to the Morale, Wellness, and Recreation (MWR) of the crew. Unit ball caps and T-Shirt sales contribute directly to this fund. If anyone is interested in supporting the morale program with either a private donation or through hat/t-shirt sales, please contact:

Paul.J.Miller@uscg.mil

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MK2 Daryl Lirette, MK3 Greg Cooper, and FN Kurtze work on HALIBUT's small boat.

CGC HALIBUT MEDEVACS CATALINA WOMAN

Story by PA3 Christina Bozeman

CATALINA ISLAND, Ca. - The Coast Guard Cutter Halibut transferred a 61 year-old woman from Catalina Island to Cabrillo Marina at about 2:00 a.m. this morning. The woman was suffering from major medical problems and was then taken by ambulance to Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The initial plan was to medevac the patient off Catalina Island by air, but, due to low visibility, it was decided to transfer her by boat instead. Bay Watch Avalon transferred the patient to the Coast Guard Cutter outside the harbor. The cutter then proceeded to Cabrillo Marina.

"We tied up the ship (at Cabrillo Pier) and transferred the patient to the fire paramedics, and they in turn took her to Long beach Memorial," said Lt.j.g Paul Miller, Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Halibut. "It was a tremendous effort by all the crew. It was definitely a team effort between Baywatch, Avalon, us and the Sheriffs."

MK2 Daryl Lirette, Assistant Engineering Officer added, "I'm proud of the cutter Halibut for responding like we did. It was early in the morning; people were tired. On top of that, we couldn't see in front of our faces. We made the boat as comfortable for the patient as we could and got her off safely. Everybody worked well as a team."



Long Beach CA



Anacapa Island CA



Marina del Rey CA

FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

HALIBUT said goodbye to their Engineering Petty Officer, Chief Paul Rotolo and Ombudsman Mrs. Jennifer Rotolo in a ceremony onboard the cutter. Chief Rotolo received a Coast Guard Commendation Medal for his outstanding performance onboard the cutter during his tour of duty. His wife Jen received the Coast Guard Swivel Shot Award for her tremendous efforts and support as unit ombudsman.



Marina Del Rey Open House



HALIBUT celebrated Flag Day with the LA County Lifeguards and Marina del Rey Sheriff's Dept. by hosting an Open House in the Marina. The cutter HALIBUT was open for public tours as well as Coast Guard Station Channel Islands visiting 47' Motor Life Boat.. Air Station Los Angeles performed a Search & Rescue demo in front of the CGC HALIBUT's mooring.

Pictures by Ray Pages, AUX



A little bit of R & R



HALIBUT wound down its June Patrol with a morale night in Long Beach. Dinner was hosted by GLADSTONES at Rainbow Harbor and coordinated through the LAX USO. HALIBUT would like to thank General Mike Teilman of the Bob Hope LAX USO and GLADSTONES for an excellent dinner and outstanding event.



HALIBUT's very own Coast Guard Auxiliary members joined the crew for dinner and a relaxing evening.



CGC POINT BRIDGE History:

The Search and Rescue Case of the Sailing Vessel MARY ROMER

As recounted by RD3 Wayne Smith, CGC POINT BRIDGE

The MARY ROMER (MR) SAR case occurred many years ago, on Saturday, October 27th to Sunday, October 28th 1983. This took place aboard the CGC POINT BRIDGE, an 82' Coast Guard Patrol Boat. The boat, normally based at Marina del Rey (MDR), was on a NorSar Patrol and was the B-0 boat for the area (Pt. Dume to Pt. Conception and all of the Channel Islands). We had cruised from MDR up the coast, and late Saturday afternoon made our way into Santa Barbara Harbor (SBH), hoping to tie up there for the night. We moored up along the outboard side of the CGC POINT JUDITH. All was quite for a few hours and we had our evening meal. A steady, drizzling rain began to fall. At 1900, CG Channel Islands called us. They had received an SOS from an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) located 113nm NW of SBH. In fact, the SOS had been picked up in three different states! The powers that be thought the SOS might be coming from a large ship. The MR turned out to be a 39' dismasted sloop, but we would not learn that for many hours.



We were directed by Group Channel Islands to get underway. The skipper barked at the Engineer (MK1) "light em off!" Within seconds the big Cummins Diesels roared to life. A couple of minutes later we slipped our mooring lines and were underway. Once outside SBH we laid out a track line and anxiously waited for the engine temps to raise high enough so that we could crank up the RPM's. Within a few minutes the engines were warmed up, the fans were turned on, and the throttles were shoved home. We were making 600 shaft turns and on our way!

The seas, which were relatively flat when we left SBH, now began to grow in size and the winds increased to a steady 30kts. The seas gradually increased in size from 10' to 12' to 15', and finally a steady 20'! We were still turning for 600 shaft turns and now (several hours later) we were really taking a beating. As if to signal a warning, the ships bell, mounted on the mast just aft of the wheel house, jumped out of its bracket on the mast and clanged to the deck. About the same time, the TV in the cabin, lashed down to the top of a filing cabinet by a webbed belt strap, shot out of its holding area, sailed across the cabin and imploded on impact, sending shards of glass about the cabin deck. Back on the bridge things were really getting nasty. The boat was pitching wildly and rolling from side to side in violent destroyer type snaps from port to starboard. The BMC who was on the bridge, stepped out of the wheel house onto the after deck of the bridge and launched his dinner to the main deck below. He was soon rendered so sick as to have to retire to the cabin.

The boat plowed on through the seas. She was now coming off of the top of the swells and dropping through space, leaving us with the sickening feeling of an elevator dropping out from under us. I was braced at the radar console in a semi-crouched position, holding on with both hands and both flexed knees jammed into the back of the radar. As the boat dropped off the back side of the swells, we were counting three and four before we stopped falling and hit the ocean with a shudder that shook your teeth down to your kidneys. This was repeated over and over...

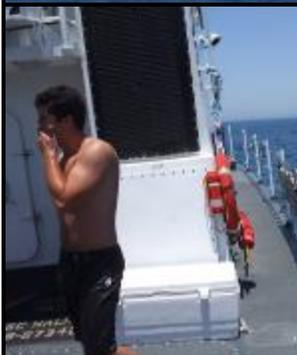
TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT MONTH'S BREAKWALL!

In addition to the SAR medevac case HALIBUT worked in June, the crew worked closely once again with California Department of Fish and Game Warden John Castro on Fisheries Enforcement around the Northern Channel Island. The operations yielded several State and Federal Violations.

Pictured bottom right is BM3 Tinajero handling a California Sea Lion that Mr. Castro seized during the operations.

Also pictured is the crew during a swim call at Avalon, Catalina Island.

ON PATROL



FS2's Recipe of the Month

Cooking the Coast Guard Way

MASTA SAUCE GRILLED TRI-TIP

- 4c soy sauce
- 4c sugar
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 (one) 1" long piece of ginger (fresh)
- 1/4c sesame oil
- 1 (one) 3-4lb piece of tri tip

- (1) Combine first five ingredients, heat until just before boiling, let cool to room temp.
- (2) Rinse and trim tri tip. Once sauce is cool, place tri tip in non reactive container and add sauce. Marinade over night.
- (3) Heat grill 400-500 degrees. Place tri tip fat side down, sear (4min), flip and sear other side (4min). Turn off one burner and finish cooking using indirect heat until preferred doneness.
- (4) Serve with remaining sauce and enjoy!



HALIBUT on You Tube

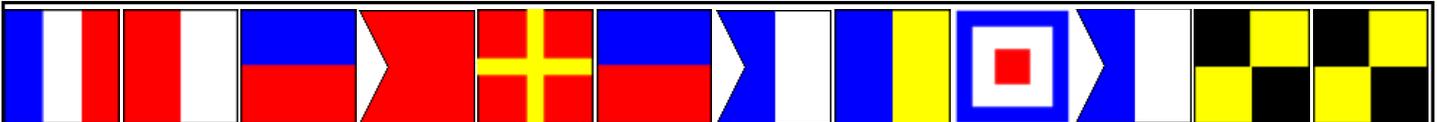
To see the latest CGC HALIBUT YouTube Video, please Go to:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=us+coast+guard+halibut&search_type=

Or click on the You Tube logo below

WELCOME ABOARD!



FA Kurtze, MK3 Cooper, 1/C Woods & MKC Pettengil (insert)



Homeland Security

THE BREAKWALL

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HALIBUT Morale ORDER FORM



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Questions? 310.823.2300 or Paul.J.Miller@uscg.mil



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