



# The Shade Tree

CGC OAK (WLB-211)



## LOST AT SEA EDITION

- There & Back Again...
- Qualifications Aplenty!
- What's Up Doc?
- New Crew Members Ahoy!
- ET Movie Review: Avatar



# *There & Back Again... A Patrol South*

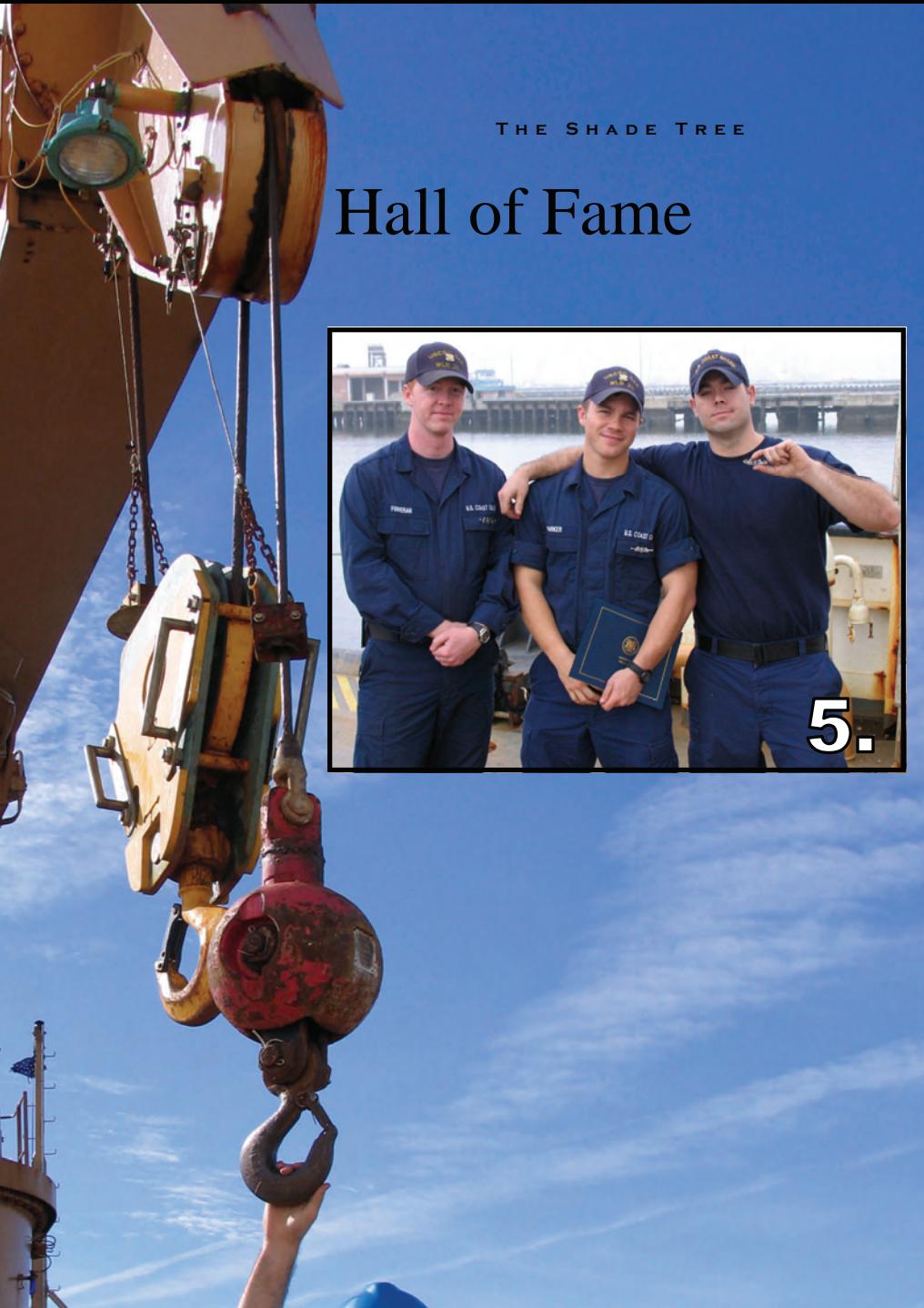
For a growing number of readers the Shade Tree is becoming known as a monthly newsletter which highlights the adventures and achievements of OAK and her crew. Originally this issue was intended for release in the middle of December; but thanks to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season— its release was delayed. Only a few short days ago Port Au Prince, Haiti endured a 7.0 magnitude earthquake; it's been an estimated 200 years since the island nation weathered such a natural disaster. Being that Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world, one can only imagine the devastation and suffering the people are experiencing. OAK and her crew members are steaming south to do what we do best.

The waterway channel leading into Port Au Prince harbor must be reestablished, surveyed, and properly marked for the safe passage of larger relief vessels. The people need crucial supplies including food, clean water, housing, and medical equipment. Most importantly the people desperately need help from well educated and trained responders. The photos surrounding this article illustrate the goodwill OAK crew members generously provided to the Haitian Coast Guard during our last deployment. It is time to go to work again... this time the stakes are even higher.

Please keep MK1 Ponder and EM1 Luciani in your thoughts and prayers; they were on scene during the earthquake and managed to stay safe. Plans to reunite the pair with OAK are currently underway.

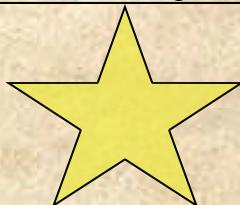


# Hall of Fame



# Hall of Fame

- 1.** EM1 Luciani earns a Rigger Qualification and his very own Blue Hard Hat.
- 2.** FS1 Tabor earns both a Crane Operator and an Acetylene Torch Operator Qualification.
- 3.** MK1 Ponder takes his place among the OAK elite with a Permanent Cutterman's Pin.
- 4.** BM3 Bessant sports his hard earned Blue Hard Hat and takes a spot as a Buoy Deck Rigger.
- 5.** FN Finneran snags a Temporary Cutterman's Pin, SN Parker takes home a Sea Service (1yr.) Ribbon plus a Temporary Cutterman's Pin, and MK3 Baugh earns his own Permanent Cutterman's Pin.



- One in every 1,000 babies is born with a tooth.
- A person will die from lack of sleep sooner than they will from starvation, which usually takes a few weeks.
- Humans have 46 chromosomes, peas have 14, and crayfish have 200.
- Each person sheds 22 kilograms of skin in his or her lifetime.
- More germs are transferred shaking hands than kissing. (YAY for kissing!, LOL)
- A fetus only acquires finger-prints at the age of three months.
- Guys are more likely than girls (by a ratio of 3-to-2) to have bad acne.
- We share 98.4% of our DNA with a chimp, and 70% with a slug.
- Human fetuses react to loud rock music by kicking. (ROCK ON kids!!!)
- At just 12 weeks the human fetus can scowl and squint.



**What's Up Doc?**

# Here's to the Red, White, and BROWN?

Ah yes, the time has come once again to officially welcome a new crew member to the OAK. David Curtis Brown spent his early years putting Winchester, Virginia on the map. Self-described as an “average” student, Brown attended John Handley High School. His hair on the other hand was anything but average; sporting 6” liberty spikes at times. Reportedly, the eye injury rate of his punk rock skate boarding crew skyrocketed in a matter of weeks.

Brown enjoys a variety of music genres from country to punk and alternative rock; seriously— from Eric Clapton to Rancid... that's a nice play list mix. Being a moderately outdoorsy guy, Brown sports a black '06 Nissan Exterra to get him in and out of the backwoods with no problem. Did you know our new shipmate braved the Ketchikan, Alaska scene at his last duty station? “I really enjoyed the fishing out there, especially deep sea... but I never got the knack of fly-fishing.”, explained Brown.



Originally, Brown was interested in pursuing the AST (Rescue Swimmer) way of life in the Coast Guard. But a good ‘ole recruiter worked some magic and POW!— Brown is headed down the EM road. Aside from his flexible attitude with regards to the needs of the service— he’s got some needs of his own. On his list of things to do before he turns 30 Brown intends to finish his Associate’s Degree, get involved with Habitat for Humanity, and get into the Marathon scene.

So far, our new crewmember hasn’t checked out much of Charleston and wants to get out and explore. Brown enjoys spending time on the beach, checking out area historical sites, and expressing his artistic side with a bit of classical 6-string guitar action. Welcome to the family Brown!

Prior to the Coast Guard Brown was attending school and working towards an Associates Degree in general education. After discovering that public speaking class was definitely not a favorite, plans to finish the degree were put on hold. Brown has worked as a forklift driver, a life guard, and pursued some EMT/volunteer firefighting action



**Shackles the Bear...  
Coming to a classroom near you!**



ENS English is cranking up an initiative to bring all the action and adventure of the OAK into local classrooms. This program is geared towards elementary school children from first through fourth grade. The first step in the master plan is to visit individual classrooms and introduce our Coast Guard bear to the children and explain OAK’s mission while fielding initial questions. While we are out and about, Shackles

will show up in all kinds of different pictures that will be sent via email to our classroom connections. The fun photos will provide a chance to teach them about water safety, team work, weather, marine life, and many other areas of learning. Shackles the Bear may need a stunt double; those iguanas in Cuba are unpredictable... See ENS English for more information if you would like your child’s class to participate.

VOL



Above—OAK crew members participated in the Annual Holiday Cards for Heroes event held at Sector Charleston. Children handed out cards to military members on base and return got a personalized tour.

Right—OAK crew members banded together to hydrostatically test all of the ship's fire hoses; which ensures good working equipment during an emergency.



## PHOTO CORNER



-Sports Day action is hard to beat, especially playing football on a frosty winter morning.-



## C G C O A K (W L B - 2 1 1)

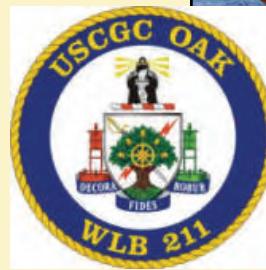
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### Calling All Artists!

The Shade Tree is soliciting for OAK related art work to be illustrated on the cover of our next issue. Submissions must be creative and representative of our crew, ship, and missions.

\*See ENS Radcliffe for more information



**~Decora, Fides, Robur~**  
**"Honor, Faithfulness, Strength"**



Hello Shipmates, I will be flying solo for this month's review of 2009's blockbuster Avatar. This movie was created by the legendary James Cameron. The man who brought us Terminator and Aliens and for the ladies the biggest grossing movie of all time, Titanic. Its 450 million dollar budget is the largest for any film created. Next time I see Mr. Cameron... lunch is on him!

In short, around 2154 the RDA company is mining the distant planet Pandora for a precious metal. RDA employs a group of scientists and former Marine mercenaries to exploit this ridiculously expensive resource. Since humans can not breathe in Pandora's atmosphere, scientists genetically created humanoids call Avatars. Avatars are controlled by their genetically matched human operators via a cool machine that I need in my house. The plot is definitely a "been there done that" ordeal, but is delivered in an amazing fashion. To truly enjoy this movie to the fullest, do yourself a favor and watch this bad boy in IMAX 3D. Four words... To Cool For School.

## ET Movie Review:

### Avatar

Sam Worthington plays the part of Avatar pilot Jake Sully, an injured Marine war vet hired in place of his murdered twin brother. James Cameron brings back Alien alum Sigourney Weaver to play the part of Dr. Grace Augustine, the head of the Avatar program. Dr. Augustine wants to move the Na'vi people peacefully while the head of the mercenaries Colonel Quaritch prefers brute strength. Jake ends up making a deal with the Colonel, but later realizes his wrong doings.

The journey Jake makes with the Na'vi people is one not to be missed. It is woven with love, growth, and acceptance into the Na'vi clan. Cameron's vision of Pandora is ri-donk-u-lus. Lush environments, original characters, and the creation of a civilization equals great stuff. Something for everyone in this affair... action, love, adventure and a bit of well delivered cheese. Colonel Quaritch's role provides for some good comic relief.

He dons a fake tan and plays the salty grunt role to a tee. Quaritch to his new recruits, "You are not in Kansas anymore; you are on Pandora ladies and gentlemen. Respect that fact."

This movie uses every bit of the 300 million it cost to bring it to life. I did not think to myself one time that I was watching a CG animated movie; it is done that well. I have viewed 3D movies in the past and none come close to the immersion level I felt with this film. Total length pushes the 3 hour mark which is not a big deal for a movie lover, but may be an issue for some with less endurance. Avatar is not perfect and the jury is still out on whether this is my favorite movie of the year. Don't go in there for a "life changing" experience but do take it for what it's worth. An extremely well put together work of art that may change the way movies are made. Clear a few hours of your schedule and make that trip down to the Citadel Mall IMAX. Avatar deserves a solid 4 buoys and one 40' Garde Cote vessel. Until next time... Have a great new year.

