

# USCGC CYPRESS

## “STRONG ARM OF THE GULF”

1ST QUARTER 2015

01 JANUARY 2015

### CYPRESS Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Haunted Ship

By: ENS Stephanie Knaup

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Haunted Ship	1
Buoy Tagging	1
Sailor of the Quarter	2
New Cypress Family	2
CO's Corner	3
NOAA Fish Call	3
Awards	3
Ongoing Inspections	3

Special thanks to all of the family & friends that volunteered to help with Haunted Ship. There is no way the event would have successful without your help both inside & outside the ship.

Thank you to USCG Auxiliary Flotillas 1-7 and 1-8, Navarre High School JROTC, and Mobile Chapter CPOA.

A special shout out to Mr. Delph for creating two new children's games for pier side entertainment!



Above: CYPRESS crew & volunteers pose for a picture after two nights of hard work.

In the spirit of Halloween & in support of our local community, we hosted a 3rd annual Haunted Ship. On October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 USCGC CYPRESS moored in downtown Pensacola at Plaza De Luna to offer free tours of Haunted Ship. Though tours were free, guests were encouraged to support the local non-profits by providing donations for Manna Food Pantry and OneBlood. People waited eagerly for the scary tour despite long lines of up to three hours. One Blood collected record breaking donations by introducing the fast pass for willing donors.



### Buoy Tagging

In the world of street art, a “graffiti tag” symbolizes an artist’s personalized style. The most prevalent tag is often done in a color that contrasts sharply with its background. Writers often tag beside their pieces, following the practice of traditional artists who sign their artwork. In ATON, where we consider buoy tending an art, tags have long been common place. When servicing another unit’s aid, a tag is placed inconspicuously on the buoy hull as a point of pride and friendly competition. Seen in the picture below, CYPRESS’ tag is a flexed bicep, symbolizing the strength and team work behind the strong arm of the Gulf.



Above: Sea Partners display.  
Below: By 5pm, the line was already 100 deep.



Above: FS3 Krauss & YN2 Suggs set up a shockingly scary chair to terrify Haunted Ship visitors.

By the numbers:

- **2,700 guests** in two nights.
- Manna Food Bank collected over **6,200 lbs** of food to help feed **2,000** homeless and needy in the Pensacola area.
- New partnership with OneBlood led to 109 units of blood, saving up to **327 patients** in our community



## *Congratulations to our Sailors of the Quarter!*

### **ET2 Michael McDonnell**



The Sailor of the Quarter for Fall of 2014 was ET2 McDonnell! Working behind the scenes both day and night, ET2 kept the ship's electronics, radios and computer network up and running. As the sole network administrator, ET2 rebuilt a total of eleven workstations ensuring the crew had the right tools to do their jobs! ET2 also earned his Inport OOD qualification. In doing so, he became one of only three E-5s to assume responsibility of the ship and the four man inport watch section. Congratulations ET2!

### **MK3 Brooke Hetrick**

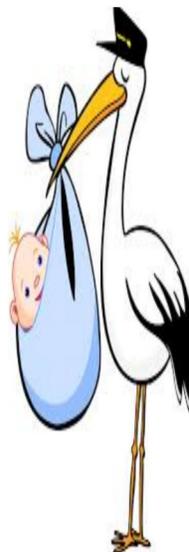
Congrats to MK3 Hetrick for earning the Winter 2014 Sailor of the Quarter. MK3 is instrumental in the completion of Auxiliary system maintenance, which allows CYPRESS to lift the crane, launch the boats and drop the anchor. In addition to duties as a Machinery Technician, MK3 Hetrick also is the only engineer qualified on both of the cutter's small boats. In the community, she is an active ambassador for the Coast Guard and coaches a junior soccer team! Congratulations to MK3 Brooke Hetrick!



## *Welcome to the CYPRESS Family!*



Kailyn Nicole LaBianca  
Oct 23, 2014  
7 lbs 5 oz.  
(Daughter of EM2 Labianca)



Bria Marie May  
Born Oct 30, 2014  
7 lbs 11oz  
(Daughter of EM3 May)



## Captain's Corner

Another busy fall quickly slipped away. The cutter kept busy, jumping from one mission to the next. In addition to the many missions and events already mentioned in the newsletter, we also supported a critical dredge project in Horn Island Pass. This waterway was widened by the Army Corps of Engineers to allow bigger ships into the port of Pascagoula, MS. Dredge projects promote development and commerce in the region and are a boost for the local economy. We were responsible for putting all of the navigational buoys back on station after the dredge project was complete. The crew did a fantastic job and was able to re-position all 14 buoys in just two days.

This fall also marked MKC Stewart's official induction into the Chief's Mess of the Coast Guard. Each prospective Chief partnered with a Junior Officer and networked with the local area Chief's Mess to complete a comprehensive set of requirements. LTJG Fennessey and ENS Grim were asked and eagerly participated in the indoc process. The journey finished in December with a Chief's Call to Indoctrination team building day and formal dinner held in Mobile, AL. Congrats MKC!

**-CDR Amy Florentino**



*Santa's little helper (LTJG Fennessey) hands a present to BM2 Jurgens' son.*



*Above: MKC Stewart at CCTI formal dinner.  
Below: BMC Laatz hooks a big one.*



## Lunch with Santa

Thanks to the morale committee for putting together CYPRESS' annual holiday parties. Not only did they put together a great party for the adults at Mustin Beach O'Club, but they also organized a popular family event for the kids. With the help of our Ombudsman, Mary Gross, Santa was able to host a lunch and present each child with a personalized present. Santa's little helper, LTJG Fennessey, helped organize the event which included lunch, art projects and cookie decorating. All kids were called up for a picture, present, and visit the big guy. By all accounts it beat standing in line at the mall for a photo op. Special thanks to HS1 Delph for organizing the craft stations, ENS Grim for taking pictures and ENS Knaup for setup/cleanup.

## Fish On!

In October, CYPRESS finished up a record breaking season of servicing NOAA weather buoys throughout the Gulf of Mexico. These critical aids provide weather data to meteorologists and are particularly important in forecasting the impact of hurricanes. Before CYPRESS answered the call for help, the data availability of the Gulf's weather platforms was at 40% compared to a national average of 74%. By the end of October, with CYPRESS' help, that rate had improved to 100%. While we worked hard to help NOAA, there were some hidden benefits. One part of working a NOAA weather buoy is ensuring the equipment works after putting it back in the water. This 3 hour "ground truth" period provides a great opportunity to fish. Because the weather buoys are often in isolated areas offshore, fish flock around. They feed on the plants and barnacles, which grow on the mooring. This makes fishing around NOAA buoys particularly fun until the sharks come by and scare the fish away.

***"Your professionalism, flexibility, and commitment to mission execution once again demonstrated the Coast Guard's ability to answer the call. Thank you for your assistance to the National Data Buoy Center and Bravo Zulu on a job well done."***  
**-NOAA's NDBC Director**

# Bravo Zulu

## Departed Crew Members:

*"May the wind always be at your back and the sun upon your face. And may the winds of destiny carry you aloft to dance with the stars."*

- FN Kenny Avans  
Letter of Commendation

## Crew Member Awards:

Thank you to all those that strive to create a safe, professional, and hard-working work environment onboard CYPRESS. Your hard work and good conduct has not gone unnoticed!

- Good Conduct Award:  
ET1 Williams  
HS1 Delph  
EM2 Labianca  
BM3 Wideman  
FS3 Bahn
- Temporary Cutterman Pin:  
SN Diana Brown

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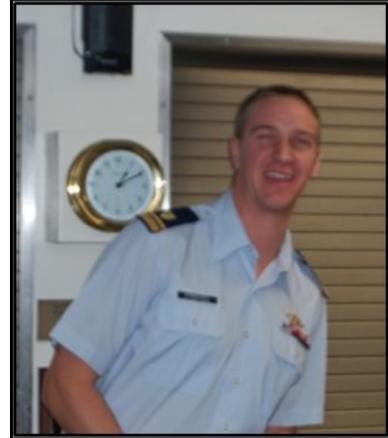
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Congratulations to HS1 Brandi Delph and LTJG James Fennessey on their advancement and promotion in November!



## ***Ongoing Inspections - By ENS Lindsay Grim***

During the first week of November 2014, CYPRESS completed its CART evaluation. CART (Command Assessment of Readiness for Training) is an inspection of a ship's readiness with regards to supplies, equipment, record maintenance, and ability to respond to emergency situations. CYPRESS was evaluated by an Afloat Training Group (ATG) which is composed of Coast Guard members of various specialties who graded their respective area of expertise. Electronic communications, medical readiness, damage control, engineering readiness, and navigation are only a few of the 10 components CYPRESS was graded on. Preparation for the thousands of checklist items began months before the inspection which paid off, as CYPRESS had a 94% average across all training areas.



CART is only the beginning, however. This April, CYPRESS will move on to the second phase of inspection, TSTA (Tailored Ship's Training Availability). CYPRESS will meet the ATG in Mayport, Florida, where for 3 weeks the crew will be tested on in their ability to respond to emergencies and simulated battle conditions while underway. Further inspections of equipment and policy will be conducted along with various drills and classroom training to ensure both proficiency of the crew and capability of training team members assigned to CYPRESS. All large cutters in the Coast Guard complete TSTA to ensure they are up to both Coast Guard and Naval standards. These inspections occur every 2 years; CYPRESS last completed TSTA in April 2013. and earned excellence awards in all training areas.

*Congratulations to ENS  
Dell'Isola for achieving  
100% readiness score on the  
Communications checklist!*