

SENECA eNewsletter – 8 May – 11 June 09

Good day, Shipmates.

This is a bit different than previous eNewsletters as I am only going to share some important dates and events. We are enjoying the full maintenance tempo of a dry dock. Both rudders, fin stabilizers, and anchors are removed for maintenance. One shaft has been removed and the other is nearly there. We have been unable to start our Main Diesel Engines as they have been taken apart since the second week we arrived at the shipyard.

You are enjoying the hospitality of a local hotel. You were all moved off as the compressed out of the water period force the shipyard to work through the third shift (2200 to 0600) which does not allow for sleep and is a safety issue. I was pleased and appreciated our Maintenance and Logistic Center Atlantic contractor response to your needs by getting you 52 rooms a day after the shipyard increased their work schedule. Please enjoy the pools, area, and movie theaters.

We are a third of the way through the dry dock availability period with about a third of the work completed. We're on track to finish on time, but it will require a lot of hard work by both us and the shipyard workers.

We've had some great morale events at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital Gym, at Harbor Park with multiple baseball games attended for the hometown Tides (AAA), on our Mess Deck with wings by BM3 (where he introduced his newest wing "The Nightmare"), and at Bush Gardens with more to come. I've included some recommended morale links at the bottom of this eNewsletter.

Please continue your excellent safety record in the yard -- wear our PPE. I also challenge you to make good, safe choices on liberty and leave for good, clean fun.

Boston Community Service Opportunity:

BZ, Shipmates!

Boston's Project Bread's Walk for Hunger

www.projectbread.org/goto/SENECA

Sunday 03 May 2009

Thank you: 6 walkers. It was a good 20 mile stroll through the neighborhoods of Boston.

Raised \$1,200

During the same time that we raised more money for our fellow Guardians during the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) Fund Drive than last year. Your generosity during our country's economic woes is inspiring

Friday, 08 May: Underway for Dry Dock in Norfolk, VA. It was a very nice day with a bit too much wind for getting underway in our close mooring with SPENCER so we used some tugs to help us out. We stood to sea and encountered the Volvo Ocean Race Fleet returning to Boston.

Volvo Ocean Race: <http://www.volvoceanrace.org/>

Sunday, 11 May: Arrived in Norfolk, Virginia standing into Chesapeake Bay on a sun filled day a pod of over a dozen Striped Dolphins greeted us off Cape Henry Light just as we passed the Morse Alpha Buoy. We came in from the North and slid in behind the US Navy Guided Missile Cruiser USS San Jacinto (CG 56) headed to anchor and ahead of the Container Ship MISS FLORIDA who was headed to Baltimore via the Chesapeake Channel. SENECA took the Thimble Shoal channel. This weather was much better than the pea soup fog we'd patrolled through from just southeast of Cape Cod to the southern port of New York Bight, about 40 miles ESE of New York City.

Striped Dolphin: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/stripeddolphin.htm>

USS SAN JACINTO: <http://www.sanjacinto.navy.mil/default.aspx>
or http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=800&ct=4

Saturday, 30 May: SENECA was positioned above a marine railway and lifted out of the water. She was high and dry on a very calm day at high tide during a six hour, safe evolution. We expect to be out of the water until the end of June, at least 30 days. :

<http://www.colonnaship.com/>

For family and friends of SENECA: If you would like to know more about our fine cutter and myself, please visit these web sites.

Cutter SENECA <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcSeneca/>

USCG District One (D1) <http://www.uscgnewengland.com/go/doc/778/228815/>

Be well, God bless, Semper Paratus ~ Always
Ready, Sincerely,
wjw

CDR Wm. J. "Willy"

Wolter Cutter SENECA

(WMEC 906)

~ Dry Docked Colonna's Shipyard Norfolk, VA.

~ Repairing & renewing for the next couple of years of mission execution & for our next generation of cutterman.

~ SENECA relief ETA 2027.

***** CO Recommended Morale Links *****

Commodore Theater (movies) Portsmouth, VA:

<http://www.commodoretheatre.com/>

Tides AAA Baseball (ballpark across river from Colonna's Shipyard) :

<http://norfolk.tides.milb.com/>

Military Circle Mall:

<http://www.galleryatmilitarycircle.com/>

Military Circle Mall Cinemark Theater:

http://www.cinemark.com/theater_showtimes.asp?theater_id=298

Virginia Beach:

<http://www.vbfun.com/visitors/theBeachLife.aspx>

USN MWR:

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/cnrma/index.htm>

(click on Norfolk, Little Creek, or Dam Neck, which is south of Virginia Beach)

Dam Neck Beaches:

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/DamNeck/MWR/Recreation/Beaches/index.htm>