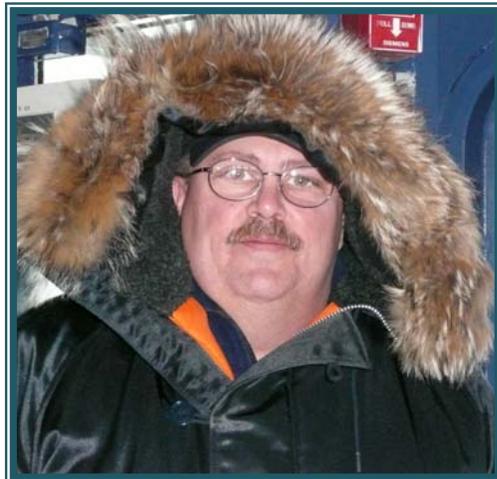
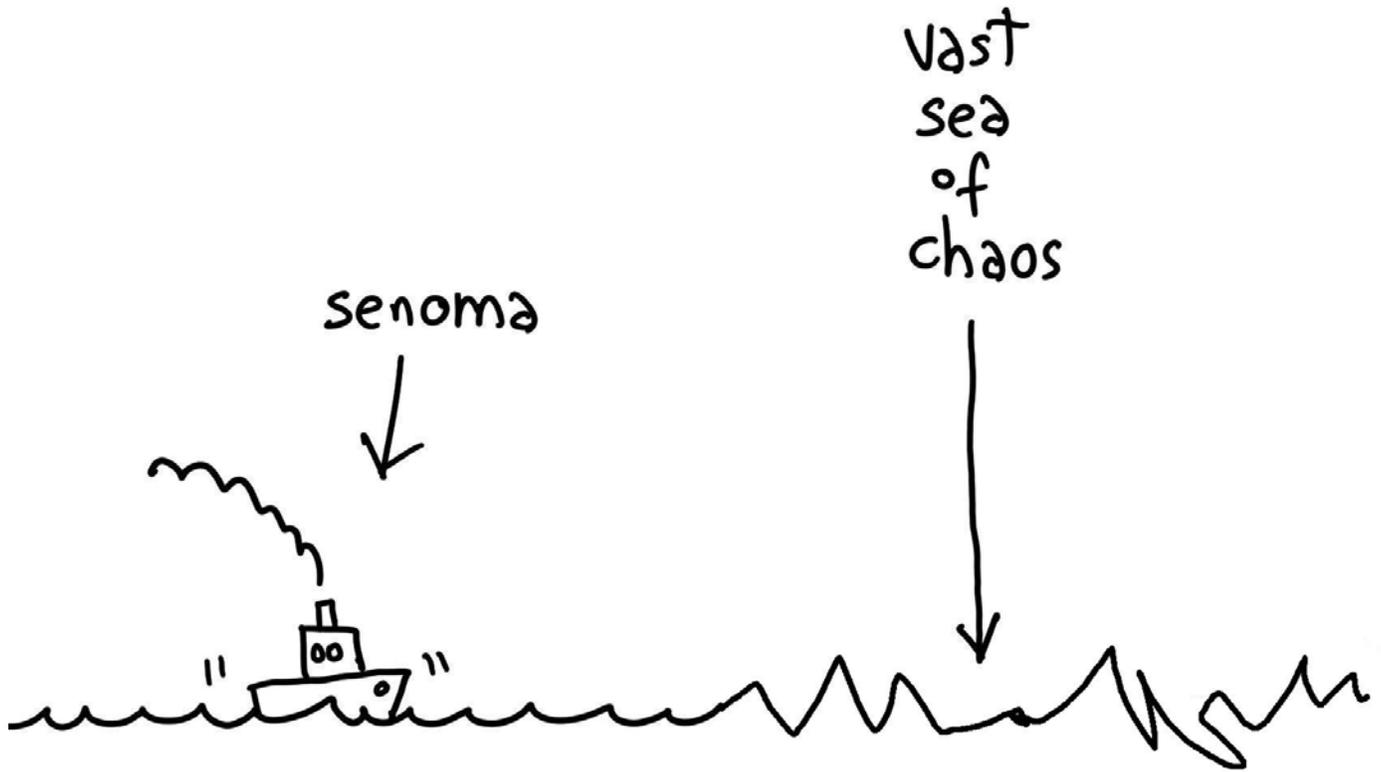


SENECA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 3

Nov-Jan 2007-2008



Northern Patrol on CGC TAHOMA (WMEC 908)

Nov - Jan 2007-2008

AHOY friends and family of SENECA!

Tragically, our beloved cutter SENECA was left at the Coast Guard Yards last September for maintenance. However, being the well-seasoned sailors that we are, nights were restless as we pined for an opportunity to return to the perilous seas ...where our hearts are.

But not to fret! With such motivation to challenge our sea legs and iron stomachs, we valiantly initiated the great crew swap of '07 -'08 with Coast Guard Cutter TAHOMA. From the first embarrassing radio call forth, the SEN-OMA legacy was born, and with that name followed two months of random, chaotic, and hilarious moments to look back on.

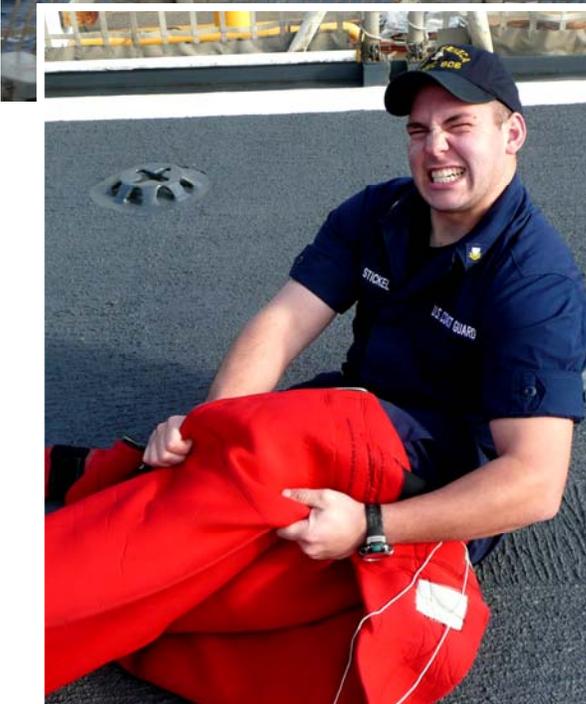
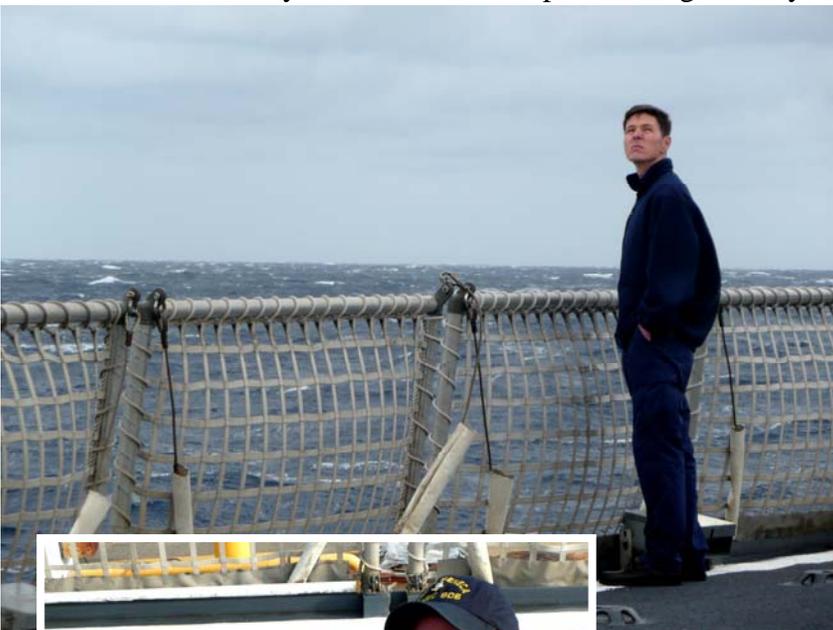
60 days have past since we graciously commandeered the TAHOMA and departed Maine on a daunting mission to keep the fishing fleet safe and honest. Ironically, we encountered a myriad of our own surprises along the way! From equipment casualties to injured pet

seagulls; I invite you to brace for the bizarre as I regale the tale of the mighty warship SENOMA and her recent adventures off the coast of ...New Jersey.

-ENS Hicks, Public Affairs Officer

As we headed out to sea, Chief Doscher knew something wasn't right. The barometer was dropping; the stars began to align... "Don the Gumby suits!" he said as SENOMA headed east into the sea of chaos.

Similar to the gracefulness of a gazelle daintily frolicking through a meadow, IT2 Stickle donned his Gumby suit with ease while SN Moisa, on the other hand, had no problem admitting he might require some assistance from ET2 Torrick.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



FS2 Romboldi, FS3 Pearce, and FS1 Deleon give away the secret to earning galley of the year.



Thankfully, ENS Robinson gave us an opportunity to make it through the holiday season with health and well being in mind, with the *Campaign to Maintain* and the *Race to D.C.*

With 48 hours of liberty on the line, a record turnout of SENOMA crewmembers participated in the *Race to D.C.* utilizing the cardio equipment in the hangar to see what team could be the first to log 500 miles. With annual weigh-in's right around the corner, HS2 Engstrom threw liberty incentives to anyone that could maintain their weight through the holiday season.

As SN Lopez demonstrates, this free liberty initiative is not to be taken lightly.

Over the patrol the crew logged 1,700 miles! And the winners? It was a close race, but team *Empire Strikes Back* consisting of CDR Kelly, LCDR Gagnier, LT Sabra, and BM3 Dunlap, took the lead with 359 miles logged, and the runner up: team *Knots and Ropes* (BM1 McLeod, HS2 Engstrom, YN3 Escobedo, and BM1 Nawrocki with a simultaneous personal best logging 299.9 of their 345 miles...by his lonesome).

Once the crew fell into the swing of shipboard life on SENOMA, a momentous realization became clear: When you are eating turbo-charged bacon all day, there has to be an incentive to work out! We cannot acquire our incredible athletic physiques playing *Guitar Hero* all night...



Special thanks to the FS's for the exceptional Thanksgiving and Christmas meals!



OPERATIONS/LAW

ENFORCEMENT



15 boardings, 5 search and rescue cases, 11 gale warnings, and 4 severe weather warnings...it was a hectic patrol for SENOMA! The action began when SENOMA was diverted south towards Bermuda to refuel a Jayhawk. The helicopter had been working on a search and rescue case and needed SENOMA's assistance to get back to Air Station Elizabeth City. Only a few days later, the Captain of the 94-foot lobster boat McKINLEY called the Coast Guard to report that his vessel was adrift with a failed transmission off of Nantucket Shore. SENOMA once again made it to the scene where MKC Dudley proficiently troubleshot and repaired a damaged gasket on board McKINLEY as we escorted the lobster boat back to Martha's Vineyard.

On December 20th, SENOMA headed approximately 270 miles east of Massachusetts to rescue Jean Ramon Collin, who had departed Halifax, Canada on a 29 foot sailing vessel, the GRAIL PILGRIN en route to Bermuda when he experienced an engine failure. The seas picked up to 22 feet as SENOMA kept a close watch on the GRAIL PILGRIN throughout the night until it was possible to lower a small boat to rescue Mr. Collin and head back west for an unexpected Christmas in Boston.

"I did not think anyone would come out that far for me. When I saw your boat...when I saw the TAHOMA, I ...I was so relieved." –Mr. Collin



The Operations Department also kept busy with a 50 cal gun shoot, flare training, helicopter operations, 11 rounds impressively expended from the 76mm gun that had not been fired in a nearly a year, and over 1400 hours spent repairing and improving various



radios, radars, televisions, and internet tribulations throughout the patrol.



DECK

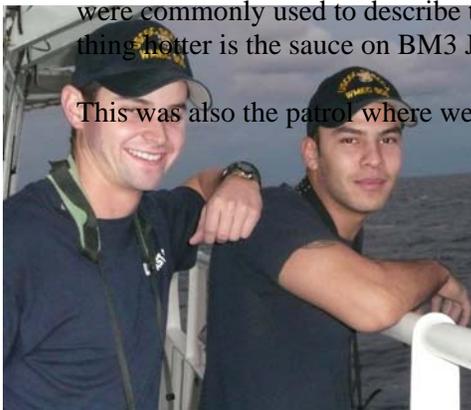
OUT ON



In the picture above, the deckies are fashioning new bridals for towing hawsers, which took countless man hours and the better part of a temps dropping below 40° F and gusts of wind the challenge standing lookout watches, conducting boat operations, handling wet mooring lines, breaking up ice on the bow, and setting up tows for both the fishing vessel McKINLEY and the fishing vessel KELLY SEA. ...and if facing the nearly unbearable elements outside was not fearless enough, the poor lookouts had to retreat to the pilothouse to stand watch on the helm, where ENS Collier kept the heater on full blast for the better part of the patrol. Eventually, phrases like “Can we take a log off the fire?” and “I believe it is hot enough in here to hatch baby chicks” were commonly used to describe the tropical state of the pilothouse. Most would agree that the only thing hotter is the sauce on BM3 Javier’s Wing Night.

new bridals for towing hawsers, which few days to complete. With sea water up to 50kts, Deck Department had quite

This was also the patrol where we learned how much BMC Sils loves seagulls!



E
N
G



From the shiny deck plates down in the hole of no return...

Here is the patrol in a nut shell; those crazy EM's hoisted the towing light several times in 120 foot seas, or as Frank the Frenchman would say, forty meters. Also, congratulations to EM2 Blais on his new baby boy Simon. A-Gang caught up on tons of sleep, as they live by the mantra *work hard, sleep hard*. But man-o-man, look at the teamwork from Main Prop, from the generator casualties to sporting the mustaches, great job. And finally, let us all thank those crazy DC's who put the damage in damage control with FN Carp's "this is my fire team and you can't have them!" and DC3 McKie's gingerbread FN Walker.

"Wash your hands, scrub your feet, without the heat, it would be too cold to sleep. Don't be afraid, have no fear because when you're on board you have the EnG-GA-NeeRs..."

FN X



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NFL Competition Results;

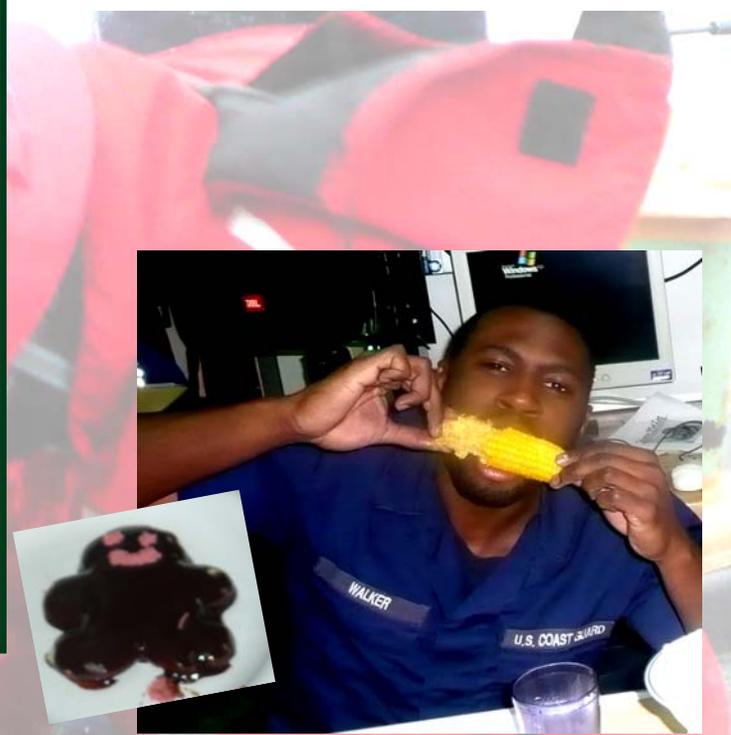
Each week crewmembers submitted their predictions for the upcoming games...

1st place: CDR Kelly:
86 wins, 38 losses

Runner up: ET2 Schiedel:
83 wins, 41 losses

Solid last place: MK2 Eckert:
44 wins, 79 losses

Thanks to MK1 Haynes for setting up both this and our trivia nights!





Damage Control University



Anticipating challenges in maintaining the crew's proficiency in damage control, the Damage Control Training Team devised an innovative training strategy to convene "Damage Control University." The division taught 16 new crewmembers the fundamentals of damage control communications, fire fighting, flooding, shipboard systems, and First Aid & CPR. To

ensure their training objectives were met, the team created tests challenging the students on the concepts and practical applications of shipboard damage control. As a result of the team's innovative approach, the students received their Basic Damage Control Qualification in only seven days!

Special thanks to LTJG Leyko, DC1 Bontrager, DC2 Thomasson, and DC3 Mckie for both creating and executing DCU!



Congratulations

DCU Peeps!

- SN Bekke
- FN Bresnahan
- OS3 Chancery
- SN Coble
- FNEM Fraccavento
- SA Jones
- DC3 Koch
- FNMK Mackenzie
- SA Moisa
- SK3 Musumeci
- SN Nesbitt
- FN Sharp
- SN Smith
- IT2 Stickel
- SN Wentworth

Valid Victorian
SK1 Heggarty



SUPPORT

Congratulations!

ADVANCEMENTS:

LTJG Hart
LTJG Leyko
LTJG Miller
SN Bekke
SN Lara-Nunez
SN Coble
SN Smith
SN Feliciano

AWARDS:

SN Leary
LOC
DC1 Bontrager
Permanent Cutterman
SN Feliciano
Sea Service
BM3 Gielarowski
LOC
FN Williamson
Sea Service
DC1 Bontrager
HS2 Engstrom
LTJG Leyko
DC3 Mckie
DC2 Thomasson
Merit. Team Commendation
DC University
DC1 Bontrager
Good Conduct
FS2 Romboldi
Achievement Medal
ENS Robinson
LTJG Leyko
SN Wentworth
SN Nesbitt
Merit. Team Commendation
Relentless Pursuit
ET1 Swisher
Sailor of the Quarter
GM2 Hammell / GM3 Cole
DCPO of the Quarter

WELCOME ON BOARD!!

SA Viehl
ENS Pichette
ENS Wiltshire

GUESTS OF HONOR:

CDR Davis, AREC
Mr. Collin
PA2 Pinneo
1/C Bebee

FAIR WINDS & FOLLOWING SEAS

FS2 Romboldi
OS3 Stenger
FN Carpenter
SN Gielarowski
SN Bekke

CASINO NIGHT and the unveiling of "Relentless Pursuit"

From June 2006 to December 2007, over 100 men and women from the United States braved howling winds and unforgiving seas to uphold Federal Law, protect natural resources, and recover lost souls.

Relentless pursuit chronicles over a year and a half of the CGC SENECA and her crew's countless miles traveled, far reaching adventure, hardship, and ultimate triumph!

ENS Robinson and the Morale Committee created the incredible movie "Relentless Pursuit" for the crew of SENECA, and after its premiere on the messdeck, it was only a matter of minutes before Casino Night kicked off with MK1 Munoz's horse races (that brought in over \$10,000!) and MPA's no-limit hold 'em in the Chiefs Mess. Once the Diet Coke started running low and the final cards were dealt, the grand prizes from Casino Night were auctioned off to the highest rollers. Congratulations to FN Doty for winning an all expenses paid small boat trip to land, two days before the patrol ended!

The Soda Queen,

SK2 Sharpe



YN3

Escobedo and FS3 Pearce



SK3 Musuameci

"The Mountain Dew Code R"

SN Bekke, your dance mo
inspirational... Congratulati
the dance off

PLEA
CALL



DOCS CORNER

Dear Family and Friends,

It is that time again time for new resolutions and for some of us, new moves. If you are departing SENECA this year I would like to pass on to you a few reminders. First, make sure you have all your

medications in order prior to departing; you can receive up to a 90 day supply prior to your PCS. Second, ensure that if you are traveling by land you know where the closest emergency room is just in case, because you will be unable to make routine appointments during your travels, only ER visits are allowed. Upon arriving at your final destination, talk with the unit HS or TRICARE personnel and update your DEERS data!

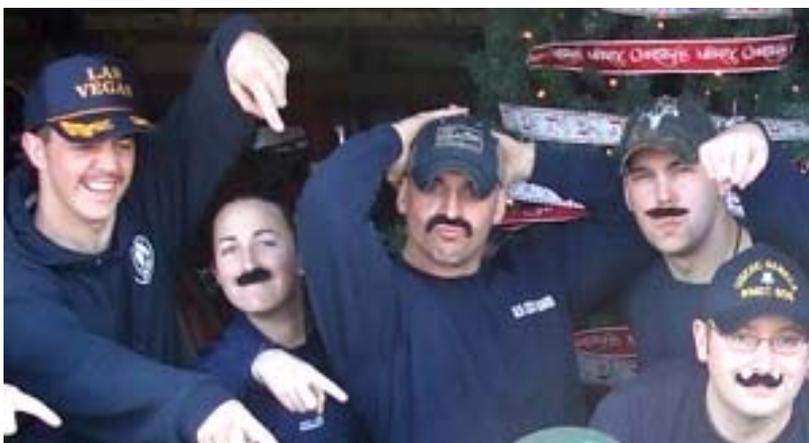
If you are making a New Year's resolution this year, whether it be to lose weight or to quit smoking, make sure you get all of the information prior to beginning. TRICARE will now cover CHANTIX and other previously unavailable medications, but only if you are enrolled in the MAYO support clinic. This step is very simple, quick, and can be done over the phone by contacting 1-888-642-5566.

Once again if there is anything that I can do for you please feel free to contact me!

V/r,
HS2 Christopher P. Engstrom

Holiday SHOUT INS!

“DEAR SENECA CREW: Good luck out there! We miss you back home...”



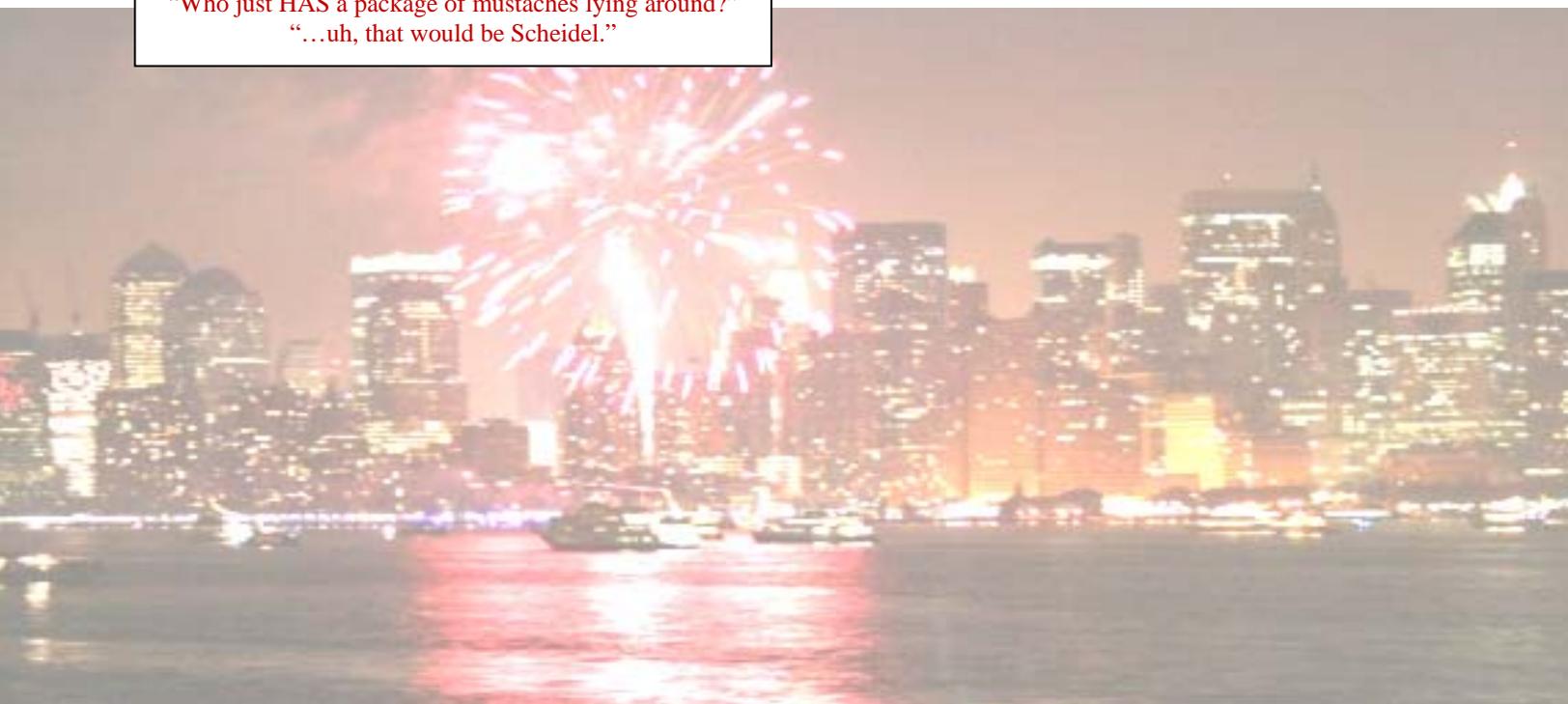
*“Who just HAS a package of mustaches lying around?”
“...uh, that would be Scheidel.”*

ENS ROBINSON

Happy New Year! Although we aren't physically together as this New Year begins, we are with you in spirit and looking forward to your return. Ryan passes along two words for the New Year, Southern California. We miss you and love you!
-Michelle and The Verdugo's

LCDR GAGNIER

We're so proud of you and love you so much!
We admire your hard work in your job and at home as Dad and husband!
Love, Brooke, Henry and Audrey



DC1 BONTRAGER

A wish for a Happy New Year. We love you Todd and are extremely proud of you. Can't wait to see you and your sweet girls. Keep warm.
-Dawn and Ken Wilt

YN3 ESCOBEDO

Merry Christmas our dear one. We wish we could be with you but know that is impossible at this time. We will all be at Vons and will be thinking of you and missing you terribly. Have a great day on Christmas and our prayers are with you during this great holiday!
We send our love and we wish you well.
Meemaw and Papa Hulsey

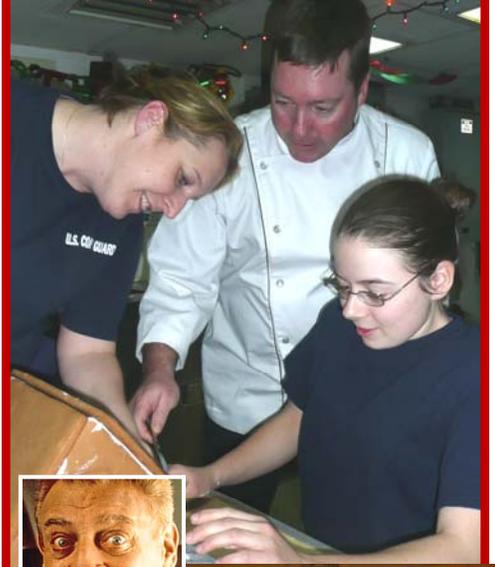


ENS KELLY

Happy New Year #1. Make 2008 a terrific year for yourself. Stay safe.
Much love, XO infinity -Meem

SN JONES

I'm proud of you for your dedication to the Coast Guard and keeping the rest of us that much safer every day. God bless you and keep you safe. Love ya! -Darren
Hello Sweetheart, We love you and are so very proud of the job that you and the rest of the services are doing for us. We miss you and you are always in our prayers. Please take care and stay happy. Lots of Love, Grammy
Hello Peaches, I am soooo proud of you. You are one of my greatest accomplishments! There are not enough hugs and kisses in this world to show you how much I love and believe in you. What a great way to start the new year! I will send as much fudge as I can and start looking up some cookie recipes. I even thought I would send brownies when at all possible. The family is so proud of you.
I can't wait to see what the year has in store for you.
I love you ~Mama



EM3 WILLIAMS

You and your shipmates are doing a fantastic job! We are proud of you all; the torch has been passed from my generation to yours! Well Done!
Emilia & Alan Behr



ET1 LADA

Hi ET1 Eric, ET phone home.
We sure did miss you at Christmas, but we know you are doing a great job. We're proud of you. Nathan made it home. Hope to see you soon. Love, Mom and Dad

FS3 PEARCE

Happy Holidays! We miss you and wish you were here hitting the slopes in Snowy Colorado. I am very proud of you and hope you have a great holiday season and stay safe! If by any chance your commanding officer reads this please give Randy the time off to come to his Aunt's wedding in May. We could not imagine getting married without my nephew there to stand up. Thanks, Merry Xmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza...and all the other holidays that make us peacefully unique, Love- Aunt Tina



Randy Ho Ho Ho----Lots of Hugs for you on Christmas. May your heart be filled with all that's bright. 'Twas a month before Christmas and all through the

place Not a box, not a stocking not a person had space. Three weeks before Christmas, and off to work we go. Running errands and watching for the snow. Two weeks before Christmas, There's no time to shop, cooking and baking, Christmas cards, I'm going to POP. One week before Christmas, Please grant us more time, family, friends and we just want a sign that your OK! Two days before Christmas and trying to have fun, but how can we get this all done? One day before Christmas your mail is in the sack, hope you got your package; see ya when you come back.

Balldeutsch!

Love Mom and Dad

MK3 DZIATLIK

Hi Chris! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! It's Christmas morning and I just talked to your Mom and Dad. They tell me that we'll be seeing you sometime in February and then you'll head down to Texas. Hope we get to see you then! And, have a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY – we'll be thinking of you on December 28!!!!
Lots of Love, Bob and P.K.



Chris, Just to let you know we're always thinking of you, but especially now during the holiday season and also because it's going to be your Birthday soon! Happy Birthday! Sent you a Christmas card and Birthday, but in case you don't get them in time, you know we didn't forget about you. Take care of yourself. All our love,
Aunt Donna, Jim and Jason

Happy 24th Birthday and Happy New Year - we love you very much and we're very proud of you. We look forward to your visit in February. Stay warm, stay healthy and watch out for low ceilings. –Mom and Dad



Chris, Happy Birthday, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year all in 1 week. I haven't seen you in ages, but decided to drop you a line to let you know I'm thinking about you on Christmas weekend. I'm know it's hard being away from family, because I'm here a thousand plus miles away from family too. I haven't seen any family since August. I respect you for what you've decided to do with your life, and wish you the best. Hopefully some day you can detour to Florida in your travels. Hope to see you someday soon. All is well here. Take Care, and just know you have people on land, thinking about you at sea during this 3 special occasion week. Hope they let you have a cocktail on that boat you're on. – Paul

FN BRESNAHAN

Hi Mike! Sorry we will miss you for Christmas! I sent you a Christmas Card. Love, Aunt Flo. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on your first year at sea! We miss you and we're proud of you!!! See you in January! Love, Mom
Keep up the good work. I am truly proud of you. Love, Dad.



Rachelle Bresnahan (6 YEARS OLD) SENDS A SHOUT OUT TO HER BIG BROTHER:
I miss you Michael. You're the best brother in the whole world.

DC3 KOCH

Feliz Navidad and Happy New Year.
We are missing you this holiday season.
We are very proud of you!!!
Love & God Bless, Mom and Dad
P.S. Nina, Braydee and Daily say they miss and love you...



OSC DOSCHER

Matt, I wish you the happiest New Year ever! May God richly bless you and Vickie and to the rest of the crew of Seneca I wish a "GREAT 08". Love, Mom

ENS COLLIER

I don't care what they say; you're not THAT obnoxious.
Here's to the WWE Smackdown,
stowaways,
and singing at the top of our lungs when SUPPO is trying to sleep.
xoxo, m and Petrie



seagull

FN DOTY

Sounds like you guys are having an exciting trip



with the SAR off

the Cape and all. The biggest thing we had a recently was the Papa Johns Pizza Parlor (behind McD's) burned. Careless smoking!! We saved the neighboring stores but gutted 1/2 of the pizza place. We will miss seeing you and Kelly at x-mas but I am sure we can catch up after you get back. We are all very proud of you and your shipmates! Uncle Mark



BM1 PERRY

I hope you are ok, I love you! -Dad

I love the Yankees!! -William

Thank you for everything you do. I love you, XOXO -
Deena

I couldnt be more proud! -Ma Dukes

-PULLIN- -Todd

Passing the **Candy Canes**

As we counted down the days to Christmas, Captain pulled out a box of candy canes and introduced the crew to a new way of acknowledging the efforts of our fellow shipmates. Captain took a candy cane from the box and gave the first one to XO. The next day, XO gave a candy cane to SN Gercon for his can-do spirit and initiative. MPA received one for his enthusiasm and energy. The chain kept growing... MPA put COB in the spotlight, and after COB followed FN Simon, SN Viehl, HS2 Engstrom, BM3 Javier, all of the FS's, our guest, Mr. Collo n, and eventually a candy cane was dedicated to the entire SENOMA crew for their patience, dedication, motivation, and hard work. Tis the season!

From the Captain...

Greetings from the Captain's Cabin

Interesting opening line if I do say so! We actually just finished up a patrol in TAHOMA, which isn't our ship, so it really wasn't my Cabin, but it was the CO of the TAHOMA's Cabin – confused yet! Well now

you can imagine how life was for us for the past 75 days or so. Pretty confusing at first, but the crew is a great and they quickly adapted to the slightly different life on board TAHOMA. Many of you are probably asking why we had to take another ship out on patrol – great question! The Coast Guard is currently going through the process of building new cutters to serve well into the 21st Century and that process takes some time before all the new cutters are on line to take the place of the older cutters. In the interim the Coast Guard is taking a 270' cutter and a 210' cutter off the line and rehabbing them at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, MD. While they do that the crews pick up another cutter that just came off patrol and take it back out on patrol. This process is a great way to allow us to keep the same number of cutters at sea without having to burn out the crews with back to back patrols with very little time off. We will be picking SENECA back up in late March and hopefully we'll be back in Boston in mid-April.

As you read throughout this newsletter we had a great patrol. We had some fun and performed a lot of different Coast Guard missions. The crew did a great job each and every day and we endured the cold weather and the holiday deployment. Thank you to everyone who sent in a "Shout Out" your loved ones will appreciate your support. Enjoy the inport period with your favorite shipmate and we'll write to you again soon after we pick SENECA up from the Yard. Happy New Year and thanks again for all your support!

Commander Bill Kelly
Commanding Officer
USCGC SENECA (WMEC 906)
<mailto:william.g.kelly@uscg.mil>