

Volume 3, Issue 1

22 February 2011

USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)

Legends Begin Here

Greetings BERTHOLF family and friends!

The past several months have been extremely busy. November brought the end of our most recent 90 day JIATF-S patrol, reuniting us with you in time for the holiday season!

The new year has brought many challenges during this maintenance and repair period. All four departments have been diligently working to not only better the ship, but also to prepare for our upcoming District 17 fisheries patrol! This will be the first time a National Security Cutter patrols in District 17's Area of Responsibility, and we are excited to be given this opportunity!

As our families and friends, as the foundations of our very livelihood, you are irreplaceable. Without you, we could not do what we do. Thank you for your continuing love and support!

LTJG Beth Denicola

Inside This Issue:

Welcome Aboard	2
Meet the Crew	4
Divisional Highlights	6
Giving Back	10
Habitat for Humanity	12
Morale!!	14
Ombudsman	16
Captain's Desk	17

Quote of the Month

"Families are the compass that guide us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter."

-Brad Henry

Welcome Aboard!



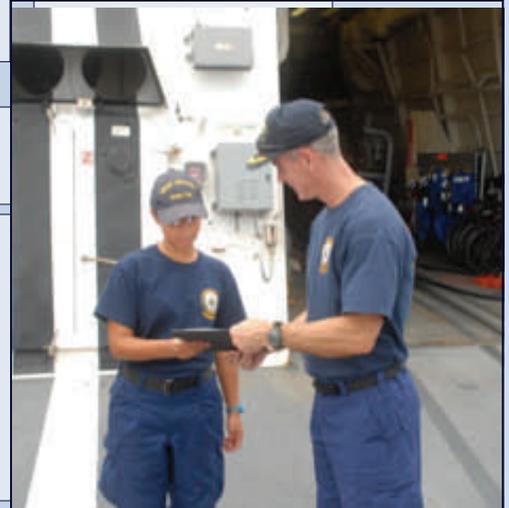
MK3 Walton
ET2 Brewer
OS3 Montanez
FS3 Trujillo
IT3 Stradford
BM1 Eddington
BM3 Walker
OS3 McCombs

SN Estrada
SN Arce
OS3 Weaver
SA Brister
SA Kearney
SA Graham
FN Callison
BM3 Colomo

Advancements!

FS2 Meister
LTJG Hsieh
OS3 Montanez
EM3 Ocampo
LTJG Denicola
LTJG Dyr Dahl
LTJG Poore

FS2 Odinkaeze
FS3 Trujillo
OS3 Weaver
YN3 Jefferies
MKCM Manzer
OS1 Thistle



Awards

1 Year of Sea Service:

SN Bryan
SN Reed
SN Vitale
SN Medina-Rodriguez
SN Croteau
SN Smithe
FN Carillo
SN Lawing
BM3 Bleyer

4 Years of Sea Service:

OS1 Thistle
MK1 Oksendahl

10 Years of Sea Service:

CWO Faivre
MKCM Manzer
FSCS Degnan



Good Conduct Award:

MK2 Rodriguez-Perez
FSCS Degnan
BM2 Neal
BM1 Zierk

“C” School Graduates

LCDR Adler—Command Security Officer
OS3 Alma—NSC Watch Operator
BM3 Bleyer—SCCS COMDAC-INS Operator
OSC Bramble—Command Security Officer
MK2 Daniels—Leadership and Management
LTJG Denicola—OPSEC Course
LT Doherty—SCCS COMDAC-INS Operator
OS3 Drewelow—NSC Watch Operator
BM1 Eddington—Stream Rig Operator
MK1 Fischer—MTU CM1 Course
MK1 Fischer—MTU CE3 Course
ET2 Goulart—GCS MK 160
ET2 Goulart—OSS MK46
OS3 Grindele—NSC Watch Operator
BM1 Humphrey—NSC Bridge Operator
CWO Langeslay—NSC Watch Operator
OS3 Linberg—NSC Watch Operator
ENS McHenry—Damage Control Assistant
FS2 Meister—Leadership and Management
FS3 Meyers—Nutrition and Wellness Cooking
OS3 Montanez—NSC Watch Operator
ET3 Okeson—OSS MK46
ET3 Okeson—GCS MK160
FS2 Pearl—Leadership and Management
FS2 Pearl—Advanced Culinary Skills
MK2 Perez-Flores—Leadership and Management
OSCS Roman—Navy EKMS School
MK2 Spaulding—MTU CE1 Course
MK2 Spaulding—MTU CM3 Course
MK2 Toler—Leadership and Management School
EM1 Urena—Advanced Analog Electronic Logic Controllers School
BM1 Zierk—CMPLUS Maintenance
FS3 Meyers—Wellness Cooking Techniques
FS2 Meister—Wellness Cooking Techniques



Good luck to our departing shipmates!

FN Fry – MK “A” School
SN Vitale – FS “A” School
SN Smithe – MK “A” School
SN Bryan – YN “A” School
SN Medina-Rodriguez – YN “A” School
SN Reed – Airman Training Program
FN Maloney – Officer Candidate School
SN Lawing – OS “A” School



Meet the Crew

John Walton

Rate/Rank: MK3

Age: 20

Department: Engineering

Last station: CGC BLACKFIN out of Santa Barbara, CA

A little bit about me: I'm from Queens, New York. The California lifestyle is not what I'm used to but I'm enjoying it.

Sports team: New York Mets/New York Jets

What's the most fun/interesting thing you've done in the Bay area so far? Almost everyday has been a good time. The Bay is a great place to be.



Joyce Kearney

Rate/Rank: Seaman

Age: 19

Department: Weapons Department

Last station: TRACEN Cape May, New Jersey. Boot Camp.

A little bit about me: I'm from Vermont and attended Castleton State College for a year with the intentions to get a degree in English. I horseback ride, play soccer and love to run.

Sports team: Boston Red Sox, Patriots and the Boston Celtics.

What's the most fun/ interesting thing you've done in the Bay area so far? Taking a trip to San Francisco and touring around the different shops and taking pictures of everything.

Meet the Crew

Jesse Graham

Rate/Rank: Seaman

Age: 21

Department: Deck

Last station: Cape May (boot camp)

A little bit about me: I enjoy hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities, I plan on attending AST a school.

Sports team: Bengals

What's the most fun/ interesting thing you've done in the Bay area so far? Everything out here is a different but fun experience, I enjoy being out here and everything the Coast Guard has done for me.





Operations

The Operations Department has been kept busy not only by required equipment maintenance and repair, but also by preparations for the ship's upcoming D17 fisheries patrol. The Combat Information Center (CIC) division has been diligently gathering resources for the upcoming patrol and ensuring that the department is well trained and prepared. They have also been training for the mission themselves, running drills to prepare for the upcoming underway period. They spent a week in Petaluma at the CIC WMSL Simulator and did several Search and Rescue scenarios to prepare for the D17 patrol. OS1 Montgomery, ME1 Bomentre, OSC Bramble, OSCS Roman and ENS Newton are working with a company that was hired to create a WMSL CIC qualification package for Watch stander and Watch supervisor. The input and work we did for this will have a very large impact as it will be the standard for all future WMSL's. The ELEX division has kept the ship's internet, phones, and electronic systems functional (instrumental to ship's operations), a daunting task that the division wholeheartedly tackles daily. Both CIC and ELEX have also been supporting seemingly endless contractors that have needed access to the ship in order to work on the systems onboard. It's not easy supporting and planning the ship's operations and ensuring our next patrol (and subsequent patrols afterward) will be successful, but someone's got to do it!



Weapons



Gunnery welcomes aboard GM2 Glenn Lees from Sector San Francisco, and looks forward to having GM2 Christopher Dimeglio back onboard in short order. Kudos to GM3 Nick Wetta for all his contributions to the ordnance program - his service onboard the last few months has been absolutely critical to the continued success of team BERTHOLF. In a way the lord of his own shop, GM3 has ensured that everything from ordering and maintaining needed equipment, training crewmembers in the use of ship's weapons, and preparing the cutter for its upcoming inspection in July has been accomplished. ME3 Mohammed Ansari also greatly contributed for the foregoing inspection, and has since been preparing himself for the upcoming patrol at Boarding Officer School in South Carolina - tough break! Last but not least, ME1 Brian Wilson has (almost) single handedly managed the cutter's LE program, organizing an entire week of training for the same (working closely with WAESCHE and other units, including the CG Auxiliary), ordering needed equipment, and in general being the first to help institute and implement the LE program on the only fully operational cutter in the WMSL fleet (no easy task!). Keep your eyes glued to your email (next newsletter) and TV, because BERTHOLF is on track to create a legend - no joke - with a team like this.



ENS Paul Ledbetter
Gunnery Officer



Engineering

It's great that we are ready for our operational mission in D17. But somebody has to make sure we can get there! The engines, the turbine, the generators...kind of important! Thank you to our engineers for working so hard to keep us afloat. Here are some inport highlights from the department:

Main Propulsion division is currently working to remove clean and inspect turbo's and coolers on all three Ships Service Diesel Generators. This cleaning and inspection will correct an overheating condition which developed during the last patrol. We are also completing a rebuild of the #2 Main Diesel Engine after a catastrophic failure of a bearing on the gear case. Removed all heads, pistons and connecting rods to recondition all heads.

Damage Control division is leading the efforts to secure all materials and equipment on board the cutter for the upcoming ALPAT where we expect to test the ships durability in the rough waters of the Bering Sea. Their unique skill to conduct welding aboard a ship is in high demand to complete this effort. They are also conducting maintenance to fire protection systems vital to ships survivability.



The electrical division is effecting repairs to the gantry crane motors and circuit cards. This allows the cutter to move small boats in and out of the notch enabling boardings and rescues at sea. They are also replacing breakers on the main switchboards which will ensure continuous uninterrupted power is provided to all equipment ship-wide.

The auxiliary division is conducting maintenance on our three small boats ensuring they are ready for the up coming patrol where the limits of their design will be tested. Aux is also conducting maintenance on the gantry crane, numerous valves ship-wide, ensuring our Reverse Osmosis plant is operational in order to produce fresh water for the crew.

Support

During this inport, the support department has been busy as ever! Here are some highlights:

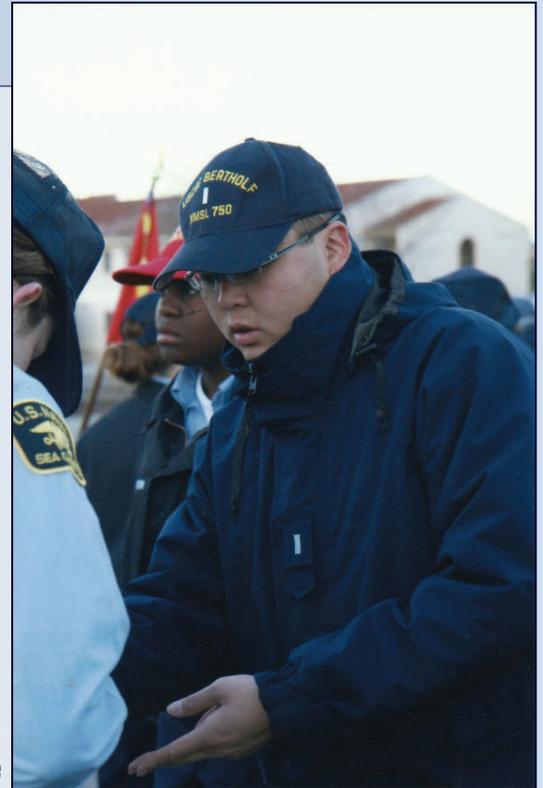
- FS1 James assumed the duties of Senior Food Service Specialist
- FS1 Reis assumed the duties of assistant Food Service Officer
- FS2 Pearl assumed responsibilities of Galley supervisor
- FS2 Meister assumed the duties of Mess Deck Master at Arms & Assistant Jack of the Dust
- FS3 Trujillo qualified as galley watch Captain
- FS3 Meyers assumed DCPO responsibilities
- YN1 Capehart continues to process/monitor PCSing personnel, currently managing 20 inbound and 16 outbound
- HSC Reck is one college class away from an AA.
- Suppo has completed his first course since starting back up with University of Phoenix Online, working toward his BA.
- HSC Reck and SKC Ortiz were both invited to their respective rates Summits as leaders of their profession. A great honor and both represented their rate and the BERTHOLF well.



Giving Back: Helping With the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a youth organization comprised of 13-18 year olds who have a desire in learning about the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine and introduce them to naval life, developing them in a sense of pride and patriotism. These young cadets go through a recruit training, otherwise known as boot camp. Cadets who successfully complete this program go on to attend advanced trainings closely resembling "C" school, learning the trade alongside their military counterparts. Cadets are instructed by both Sea Cadet Officers, senior cadets and augmented by active duty military staff who volunteer their time to teach these young cadets.

During the past winter standdown, I volunteered for a week to fill the role of Executive Officer for the Sea Cadet Recruit Training Command. Months prior to the Christmas time evolution, intensive planning was underway to outline the schedule for the week, choose senior staff cadets to fill the role of "company commanders" and gathering training materials to train these young recruits. On Christmas Day, the evolution was underway, and 150 recruits reported in under stern, concise instructions of senior cadets.



Giving Back: Helping With the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps



Over the next week and a half, I was thrown into the most intense leadership role; mentoring the 20 senior cadets that were in company leadership roles, training recruits on basic military knowledge, damage control and seamanship. At the end, I learned a lot of patience, mentorship, but above all, I felt great giving back to the youth program that has given

me so much.

Later this month, BERTHOLF will be holding a Sea Cadet Day, where LTJG Rafael Batlle and ENS Anne Newton have arranged for a small group of Sea Cadets to come train onboard BERTHOLF and train alongside their active duty counterparts. Sea Cadets drill at various locations including high schools, military bases, even community centers. Military installations are often considered valuable training venues as they offer a chance for the young cadets to see what the military is like. BERTHOLF and its crew are committed to strengthening its partnership with the Sea Cadet Corps in order to bring valuable opportunities to teenagers that have chosen to participate in such a valuable program.

**LTJG Jonathan Hsieh
Administrative Officer**



Habitat for Humanity

Community service has been on my mind for awhile now. I kept thinking that I wanted to do something to help the community...and then never acting on it because I'd convince myself somehow that I was too busy, too tired, and so on. So when the opportunity came up to go on a Community Service trip with the Ship, I thought it would be worthwhile. I read the description: a building project on a construction site. Definitely not my forte...but what could it hurt? That's why we're volunteers, right? We don't need to be experts...

I arrived at the construction site that morning armed with my coffee. At the time I wouldn't have told this to anybody, but I was pretty nervous. My construction expertise began and ended with Ikea...and here I was, standing on a construction site.

I was glad to see the familiar faces of the other BERTHOLF crewmembers that made it that day, and I forced myself to forget about being nervous as I talked to them, waiting for the day's work to begin. By the time we had our safety orientation, I was feeling a lot better.

Working beside my shipmates (no, I'm not trying to be corny), it took about 5 minutes before I couldn't even remember why I had been so nervous in the first place! In my group was ENS Ledbetter, HSC Reck, OSC Bramble, and FS2 Odinikaeze. The other group consisted of ENS Telesco, CWO Langeslay, and CWO Rutledge. We also had the chance to meet some other volunteers from the area, all of whom were extremely nice. And I got to use a power saw!! Definitely one of the best moments of the day.



Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity builds homes for low-income families. The families do pay for the houses, but there is no initial down payment. Instead the families help work on the houses themselves, allowing them to not only serve the community, but to also have a sense of pride in the home that they have bought and are living in. There is actually a website (Habitat for Humanity East Bay) that you can go to to register for events, if this type of thing is something you are considering getting involved in. Even if you have limited to no construction experience, I'd definitely recommend it.

We worked on building two fences on the site. This involved measuring and cutting wood, as well as hammering it in place. There were a few people on site with some construction experience, in addition to the Habitat for Humanity employees that were there. All of them were very helpful (and patient). There was also an option for people to work on furnishing an already-built home (painting, interior decorating, etc) for anyone who didn't want to work on the project outside.

Despite the cold rain that started about an hour after we began working (and continued for the rest of the day), it was a very worthwhile experience, one that I hope we will have a chance to do again.

-LTJG Beth Denicola

Morale!!

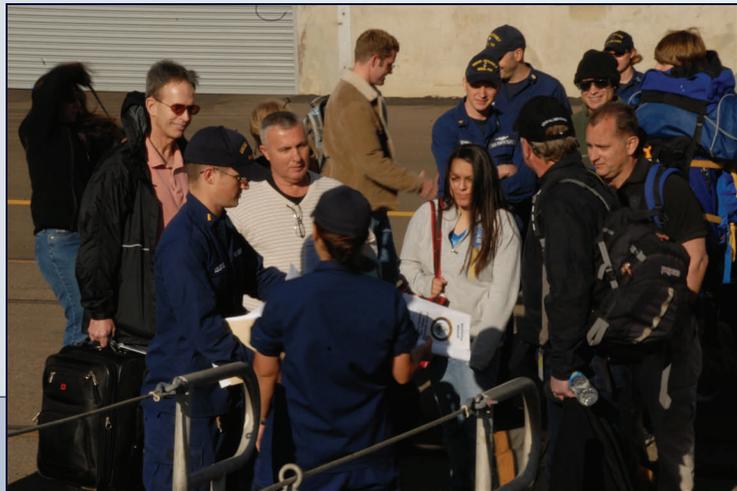
BERTHOLF Supporters,

This time around, BERTHOLF definitely has a couple of things to brag about. For starters, in the realm of sports, and in friendly competition with our sister ship WAESCHE, on two counts the cutter has emerged victorious in both football here on



base, and at the Bladium Hockey arena on Alameda island. But while letting our sister ship lose may be a blast, the reality is that these kinds of events are really only possible because of the positive relationships that have been built on the WMSL side of the cutter fleet - something else to brag about! I hope you all were able to attend either our tiger cruise OR our Holiday Cruise, but both were terribly successful due to your support and participation. Not only did the Tiger cruise give family a chance to see life underway on

our homebound transit (sorry about the bad weather!), but it also gave VADM Brown, Commander of all PACAREA cutters, a chance for his first on a WMSL as well. Again, teaming up with WAESCHE in December, morale was able to sponsor a large scale event with seventy crewmembers and family from BERTHOLF in attendance: a Holiday Cruise and Dinner on a ferry boat reserved just for us! And here's a shout out to BM2 Joseph Gonzales for his hard work in helping organize the event and create BERT/WAE Life Ring Ornaments to commemorate the same!



Morale!!

Renovations to our Crew's Lounge are also in order, and, to date, we have obtained a limitless supply of books (both fiction and professional) and Rosetta Stone software (with two laptops and equipment, to boot!) for crew use while underway; this due to the generous contributions of the Oakland Navy League, the Coast Guard Foundation, and (last but not least) departing member ETC Andrew Goldsmith. Looking forward, Morale is ramping up to prepare for the next patrol - where it is most needed. We anticipate numerous events from Fish Calls, Karaoke Nights (battle of the bands!), Various Competitions, Poker Nights to more Morale Skeet Shoots! Don't you wish you were underway? Well, maybe not - but rest assured: the cutter will continue to do its best to make sure your loved ones are in high spirits while we roam the high seas.

Stay Classy,
ENS Paul Ledbetter and BM2
Joseph Gonzales



Thank you Kim!



A big THANK YOU to Kim Faivre for all of the support she has provided to BERTHOLF during her time as Ombudsman! She and her husband, CWO Dan Faivre, are transferring to Portland, Oregon this coming summer. Best of luck to both of you, you will be missed!

Meet the New Ombudsman

A message from the new BERTHOLF Ombudsman:

Hello, everyone. My name is Megan Lee and my husband is BM2 Jonathan Lee. We have been married for a little over a year, however we have been together his entire five plus years in the Coast Guard. We don't have any children yet, but have two cats that keep us on our toes. I have a BS in Marketing with a minor in Anthropology from the University of Florida (Go Gators!) as well as recently attaining an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology. I am currently unemployed, for I am trying to find my niche in the career world. The Coast Guard has provided my husband and I with so much and has taken excellent care of us every step of the way. By volunteering for this position, I am able to give back. I truly look forward to working with all of you, your family, and your friends by providing a liaison relationship with the BERTHOLF Command, especially while deployed.



From the Captain's Desk

Good Day BERTHOLF Families and Friends.

Our extended inport period continues to be busy and productive. Just like a home or car, it always needs upkeep and repair. I hope you are enjoying the time with your family members inport, and that you had an enjoyable holiday season.

Our upcoming patrol looks to be an adventure in many ways. We will be performing missions the ship has not yet done, and will be operating in areas the ship has not yet visited. We will continue to learn more about our new ship and how we can best use it to serve the Coast Guard and the nation.

We are hosting a Pre-Deployment Seminar on 23 February. I highly encourage you to attend and to also join us for a BBQ preceding the seminar. In addition to hearing from various work-life, legal and other experts, you will have the opportunity to meet our new Ombudsman, Mrs. Megan Lee.

Lastly, please join me in thanking Mrs. Kim Faivre for serving as our Ombudsman. Kim and her family will PCS this summer, and will be sorely missed. Kim has been a great asset to the command, helping us keep you informed, helping you keep us informed, and assisting our families as issues arise.

Thank you as always for your support of BERTHOLF and our crew.



Captain John F. Prince

Public Affairs Officer
LTJG Elizabeth Denicola
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Tricare West
www.triwest.com
1-888-874-9378

Tricare Dental
www.tricaredentalprogram.com
1-888-622-2256

Overseas Information
www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas
1-888-777-8343 (option 4)

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Joyce.E.Kearney@uscg.mil

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Underway Mailing Address:
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USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL-750)
FPO-AP 96681-3904
Attn: (Member's Name)

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Bertholf2: 510-437-3451

OOD Cell Phone: 510-719-1854

CO Extension: 2221

XO Extension: 2222

American Red Cross: (202) 303 5000

In Case of Emergency...

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