

# BLUE NOSE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUG '15

Dutch Harbor  
Photo Credit LT  
McCroskey



## Blinding Me with Science

One mission down, one incredibly long mission to go. As this is written, 1501 is in the books. Three weeks were spent with Coast Guard Research and Development Center Teams experimenting on new technologies at high latitudes. We were accompanied onboard by the Mayor of Nome, AK, as well as media members from Al Jazeera America and the Audobon Society. Ice was broken, temperatures dropped, and the ship didn't see darkness for nearly a month. After the completion of the first mission, the crew stopped for rest and relaxation in the small town of Seward, Alaska. We said goodbye to CAPT Stanclik, our Executive Officer, and said hello to the man taking over, CDR Karl Lander. By the time this reaches you, we will have been in and out of Dutch Harbor for fuel and supplies and deep in the heart of our second and longest mission....to become the first U.S. ship to travel unaccompanied to the north pole!

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### Joke of the Month

"I don't know what to say to people when I first meet them, so I talk about the Healy. Turns out it's a great icebreaker."

-LCDR Eileen Beck



Herd of walrus near Hannah Shoals

Photo Credit BMC Loherr



# Research and Development Center

The first of two AWS 2015 missions, the Coast Guard Research and Development Center rode along and brought some toys with them. Among the multitude of separate tests and operations performed by the RDC, the largest was an Arctic Search and Rescue operation. HEALY and shore based Helicopters using experimental heat detection technology were mobilized to locate a "Thermal Oscar", a floating practice dummy artificially heated to emit a thermal signal.



"Oscar"



Oscar taking a dip



Members of the RDC assist in helo coordination



Here comes the Cavalry



Rescue Swimmer Landing on the Ice

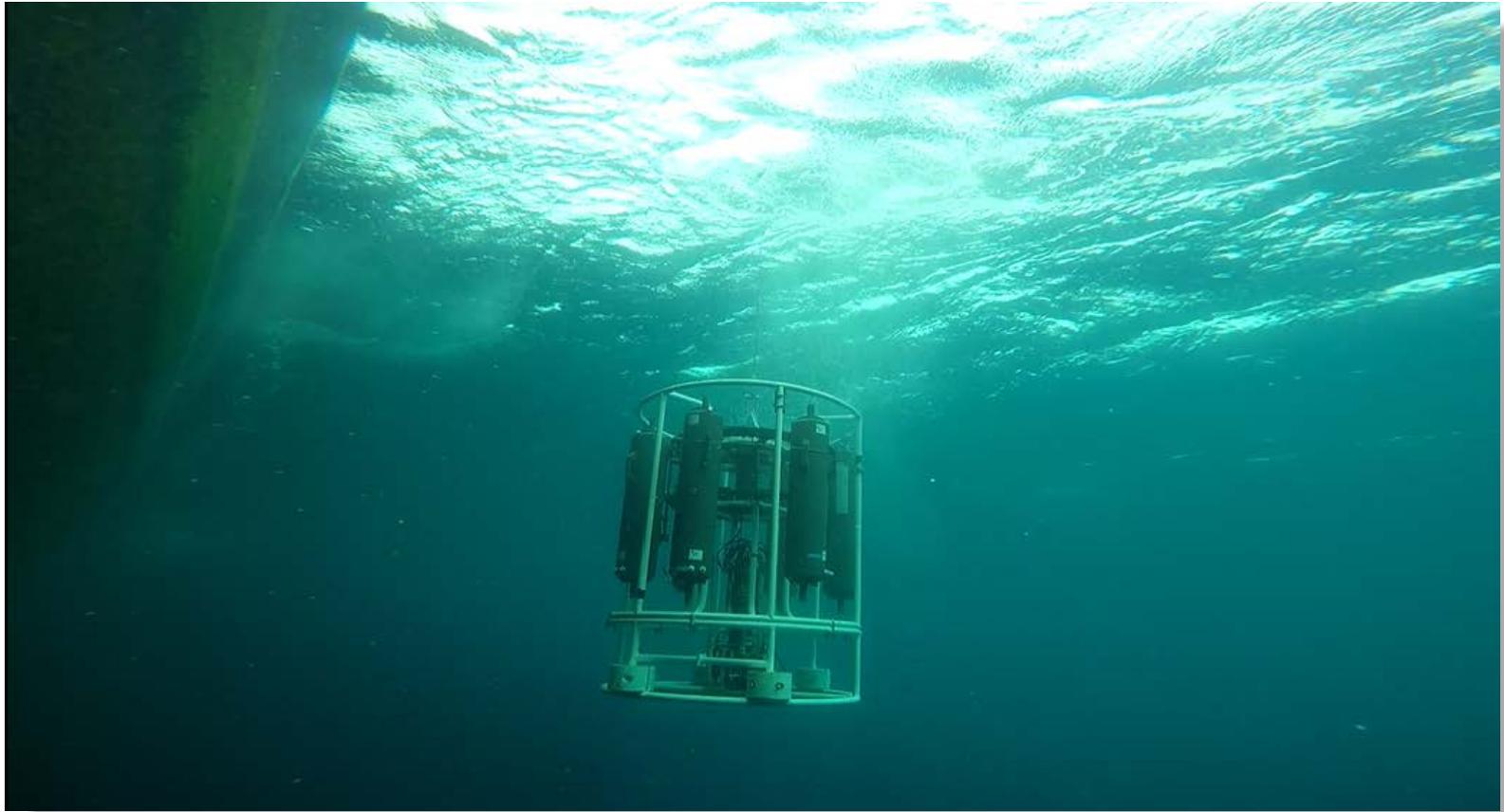


Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer finds Oscar, mission accomplished.

# PUMA

One of the toys the RDC brought with them was an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle referred to as the PUMA. The PUMA was equipped with a camera capable of streaming live video which the ship had patched into a channel on the entertainment system which allowed the crew to view the ship from the sky. The UAV was primarily launched with a strong throw and was captured with a wide net. This vital piece of equipment could prove useful in assessing disasters such as oil spills from overhead.





Underwater shot of a "CTD", a device lowered into the water by a winch and measures Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! HEALY Crew with the RDC and their "Aerostat" weather balloon.

# Community Service

Each year during HEALY's visit to Seward the crew volunteers to perform community service. This year the project was assisting the American Legion trim and clean their local cemetery. Approximately 30 HEALY sailors offered four plus hours of their liberty time to Post #5 moving headstones, and the end result...a freshly manicured memorial.





## Burial At Sea

On July 22nd HEALY conducted the burial at sea of Mr. Donye Winston Kessler, a former second class Fire Control Technician in the U.S. Navy. Led by CAPT Hamilton, volunteers from the HEALY crew performed the ceremony on the ship's fantail. The following article was written by an anonymous HEALY crewmember and voluntarily offered to the Blue Nose Tribune for printing.

### Fail, Conquer, Defeat, Repeat

Mr. Kessler himself has me pondering not only the life after life but what it means to actually live as well. Failure is inevitable. Success is variable. A legacy is what we leave behind when we have passed on from this world. Even though not all of us will leave as legends, how we live and struggle impacts more people than we may even care to fathom. One sentence can become someone's breaking point or flame that ignites them into a passionate upward spiral. Our circumstances sometimes leave us pondering what it means to truly live and what the purpose of it all is. The question we all want universally answered: what is the purpose of this life? To be frank, I do not believe the answer to that question will ever be determined. However, that is the answer in and of itself. We don't know. The mystery, "what ifs" and unknowns are what keep this life worth living. So when we're anxious about what will happen in the future, be reminded the future is not here yet and now is what really matters. I dare to say the present is the future. When we are haunted by our pasts, be reminded that we will never get it back and only have one direction to choose. We may be barely crawling or in an all out sprint, either way you have forward momentum. Here's to you Mr. Kessler, may you rest in peace and know that you have left a legacy on this earth that will always remain. Thank you for your service and duty to this country. We cannot understand the level of sacrifices you made during your time here. We salute you.



# Fair Winds and Open Leads

## CAPT Greg Stanlik

We say fair winds to the latest HEALY member to depart. CAPT Greg Stanlik heads to northern California for a desk job with a view and more head room. One of very few officers to have ever held more than one position on HEALY, the former Engineer Officer and now former Executive Officer has endured many aches and pains. None of these are from the crew, but from being too tall for the ship. A closet Seahawks fan, avid science fiction geek, wine afficianado, and obvious resistance (card game) spy, CAPT Stanlik narrowly avoided becoming LT Keplinger's minion.

-LT Keplinger



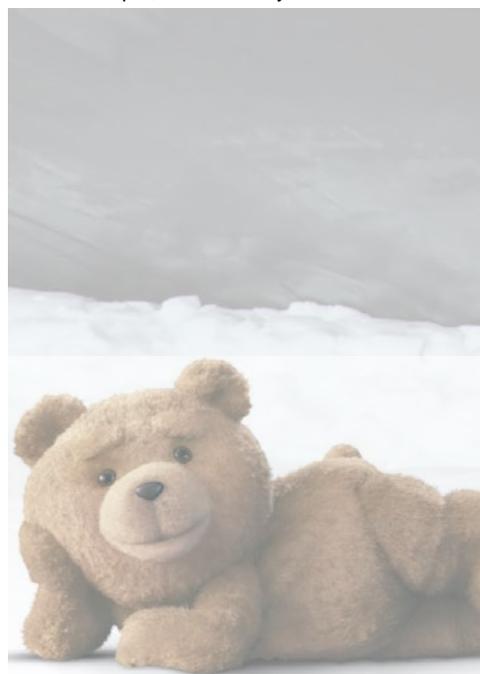
Hmm, what's my ideal summer afternoon?



I see a spot, over there by the red LeBaron.



I don't think this is a mustang, guys.....guys?



Go Hawks!



Yes, my minions, go forth and fetch snacks.

All tuckered out from a successful tour.



# POLAR BEAR'S REALM

It wouldn't be an arctic excursion if the current HEALY Polar Bears didn't properly welcome a new selection of people into the circle with a traditional line crossing ceremony. This is a time honored tradition that, at the end, nets one a sense of accomplishment, a very special certificate, and the ability to wear red clothing while above the arctic circle. Obviously with a tradition such as this, discretion is the word. With that in mind, we here at the Blue Nose Tribune will not tell you or show you the ceremony which leads the distinguished title of "Honorable Polar Bear".

Instead, please enjoy these adorable baby animals.





## MOVIES WE'RE MISSING

EACH ISSUE, RECENTLY TRANSFERRED MEDICAL OFFICER LT KEPLINGER PROVIDES A ONE WORD MOVIE REVIEW JUST TO LET US KNOW WHAT WE'RE MISSING. FIRST UP.....MINIONS!



# "BANANAS!"

-LT Keplinger

# NOTES FROM THE CABIN

CAPT JASON HAMILTON



Greetings HEALY family and friends! We have been underway for almost two months and are approaching the midpoint of our deployment. AWS-1501 was a resounding success as we accomplished all research objectives. We evaluated several new technologies for Coast Guard use in high latitude operations. These technologies show great promise for improving communications, navigation, and search and rescue in the Arctic. It was truly a pleasure to host a diverse and interdisciplinary science team drawn from Government, Academia, and Industry, including professionals from NOAA, NORTHCOM, Office of Naval Research (ONR), Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR), ConocoPhillips, Insitu, Era Helicopter, University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks, and the Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence - Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) as well as Coast Guard colleagues from the Research and Development Center, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Dive Locker East & Dive Locker West, Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-0922 and CG-926), and District Seventeen.

Having such a well rounded team allowed us to broaden our partnerships to improve our Arctic operational capabilities, in direct support of the Coast Guard's Arctic Strategy. By working together we collectively expanded our knowledge, capacity and resilience. In particular, the testing of unmanned aircraft in the Arctic environment, coupled with the successful demonstration of interoperability between UAVs with manned CG and private SAR assets was a significant accomplishment. Our validation of the High Frequency communication network, and testing of the satellite-based MUOS system in the Arctic will drive future investment in infrastructure to cover gaps and dark zones. In fact, the Secretary of the Air Force, Ms. Deborah Lee James, hailed us on MUOS and we briefly discussed the ongoing mission.

I am proud of the crew's AWS-1501 accomplishments and we have come together as a team ready to take on the challenges of AWS-1502. Those challenges include providing access throughout the arctic as the backbone to conduct cutting edge science with the goal of becoming the first unaccompanied U.S. surface vessel to reach the north pole. AWS-1502 will include a 65 day u/w period between port calls. This will be challenging for all of us. Know that your love and support will buoy us and enable HEALY to accomplish this historic mission. Thanks again for all your support and dedication back home.

Best Regards,

Captain Jason R. Hamilton

