

Arctic Patrol Edition

September 2015

THE WAYPOINT



Pollywogs, Blue-Nosed Polar Bears, Golden Dragons, Shellbacks, and Salty Dogs... What do all of these things have in common? What, exactly, ARE they? Good questions. These are all sailors' badges of honor (well, not "Pollywog" which is what sailors are called before they attain these badges of honor). Crewmembers who have survived the rites of passage for having crossed various significant "lines" (of latitude or longitude) include Blue-Nosed Polar Bears who have crossed the Arctic Circle, Golden Dragons who have crossed the International Dateline (180 degrees west longitude), and Shellbacks who have crossed the equator.

As sailors accrue these titles, they become some really "Salty Dogs" – a title of respect within the seafaring community. WAESCHE sailors will attain not one but two of these titles this trip

– we initiated 75 new Blue-Nosed Polar Bears on the 9th of September and hopefully we will have the opportunity to initiate many more Golden Dragons before we come home.

Additionally, WAESCHE crewmembers are on track to earn the Arctic Service Medal during this deployment; yet another milestone in a nautical career. Truly, this is a SALTY crew deserving of serious respect!

But honorifics and medals are not why we do this job. WAESCHE crew members have chosen this vocation and do this job out of a sense of humanitarianism, patriotism, tradition and duty. Many of these crewmembers eagerly embraced the challenges of a tour in a National Security Cutter. Others didn't seek-out this assignment, but their country called them here because we need their unique skills to accomplish our missions. The medals and titles are nice, though, and very few people in the Coast Guard have had as many unique experiences as this crew. And it's important to me to make these experiences memorable. That's one of the reasons people go to sea; traditions.

So today I celebrate the salty dogs of WAESCHE – and the families and loved ones back home who support them. We get to do some pretty unique things and see some pretty obscure places in our line of work, but we couldn't do it without the support of our folks back home. We all know what dedicated patriots the crew is – and people often stop to thank them for their service, but we can't forget the patriotism and important service of our families back home. Were it not for them, we wouldn't be able to do our job. Thank you for your service.

On the left: IS1 Deets, OS2 DuVall, OS1 Castonguay, IS3 Gormley

On the right: ENS Orr, MK1 Ingram, CT11 Hutchinson, EM2 Evans, EM3 Johnson





A
word
from
the
Command
Senior
Chief

Last we spoke; we were in “sunny” Portland, OR. Well, today we are off the coast of “sunny” Point Barrow, Alaska or to quote Admiral Dan Abel of District 17, “most have heard of the ‘Last Frontier’. Today, WAESCHE stands on the very ragged edge of the last frontier”. Operationally, this has been a somewhat slow patrol, but the importance of our mission is no less than any other. By having a National Security Cutter in the Arctic, we continue to show Washington, D.C. and the rest of America, that the Coast Guard, though often forgotten, is vital to the security of the nation and our many resources.

We were able to showcase some of that earlier this month when Senator Murkowski of Alaska and the Commandant, Admiral Paul Zukunft, flew out to WAESCHE. The Senator is very familiar with the work we are doing, as her father was in the Coast Guard many years ago. She continues to be very impressed with not only the work the men and women in the Coast Guard are doing but with the amazing work you all are doing back home. When I had the opportunity to speak with her, the very first question she asked was about family and the difficulties you all face on the home front.

We thank you for all that you do and I especially thank you, because without you, my job would not be nearly as fun. Thanks and we will see you all very soon.
And dad, not sure if you get the newsletter, but I love you and Go Rams!

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, BM2 Bozeman joined the Coast Guard in June 2008 to seek a better job, career, and future. After boot camp, he went to CGC HAWK out of St. Petersburg, Florida. He knew that if he wanted to make the Coast Guard a career he wanted to be a Boatswain's Mate. He was also told by a mentor that the BM rate suited him. Following CGC HAWK, BM2 went to Boatswain's Mate training school (A-School) where he became a BM3. After BM A-School, he was assigned to a small boat station in Fairport Harbor where he met his wife.



Currently, onboard CGC WAESCHE, BM2 Bozeman has been a critical member of the Navigation division, as well as an instrumental instructor for cutter boat training. His expertise and leadership through a plethora of preservation projects during dry dock led to him being selected as the Sailor of the Quarter. During his time onboard, BM2 has conducted over 40 hours of small boat training, leading to the qualification of one Coxswain and two Boat Crew members. Petty Officer Bozeman also spends a lot of his time in training and professionally developing junior Boatswain's Mates.

BM2 is currently working towards becoming a BM1 while on this tour. Following WAESCHE, he is hoping for an assignment at an East Coast multi-mission boat station or Aids-to-Navigation unit. BM2 Bozeman aspires to be a Chief Petty Officer or a Warrant Officer in his future in the Coast Guard.





Born and raised in Queens, NY. SN Vargas joined the Coast Guard because she was always interested in the Service. From boot camp, she joined WAESCHE where she is currently on the list for Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) A-School. SN Vargas is very interested in aviation; she used to fly small planes before joining the Coast Guard. Another career path that SN Vargas is looking into is attending the Enlisted Selection Program at the Coast Guard Academy. If she is selected to attend the Coast Guard Academy, she wants to pursue a career as a pilot.

On WAESCHE, SN Vargas is a highly motivated member of the crew. She was selected as the lead Seaman earlier this year because of the responsibilities she assumed as the paint locker leader. She ensures a good inventory is being kept of all the items. She is always volunteering for events and representing the Coast Guard well. On the 4th of July, she presented the flag at the Oakland A's game.

Currently, SN Vargas is hoping to break-in as a Landing Signal Officer onboard WAESCHE. She wants to gain the additional perspective on helicopters by being on the flight deck and signaling the aircraft safely onboard. With her exceptional hard work and dedication, SN Vargas earned WAESCHE's Junior Sailor of the Month for the month of July.

JUNIOR SAILORS OF THE MONTH

As the whole crew probably knows, BM2 Kelton is proud to say he's from Texas. Prior to the Coast Guard, he was a lifeguard and growing up, he always knew he wanted to serve.

With his desire to serve and his love of the water, he joined the Coast Guard in 2007. Petty Officer Kelton knew he wanted to be a Boatswain's Mate so upon graduating boot camp, he was a part of the Aids to Navigation Team in Crisfield, Maryland for a year.

Following that tour, he went to Boatswain's Mate training school (A-School). Upon graduating A-School, BM2 Kelton went to Station Sabine, TX where he was advanced to 2nd class. On CGC WAESCHE, he is an influential and contributing member of the crew. He earns the title of being WAESCHE's Junior Sailor of the Month for the month of August because he always goes beyond the duties and responsibilities of a 2nd class Petty Officer. He is currently the only Petty Officer who is qualified as a Boarding Officer on board. Leading up to our Arctic Patrol, BM2 stepped up into the role of 1st Lieutenant for three weeks when the cutter was going through transfer season and members of the crew were either on leave or attending training.

During the last few weeks inport, BM2 Kelton managed projects and ensured the cutter would be ready to sail at the beginning of August.

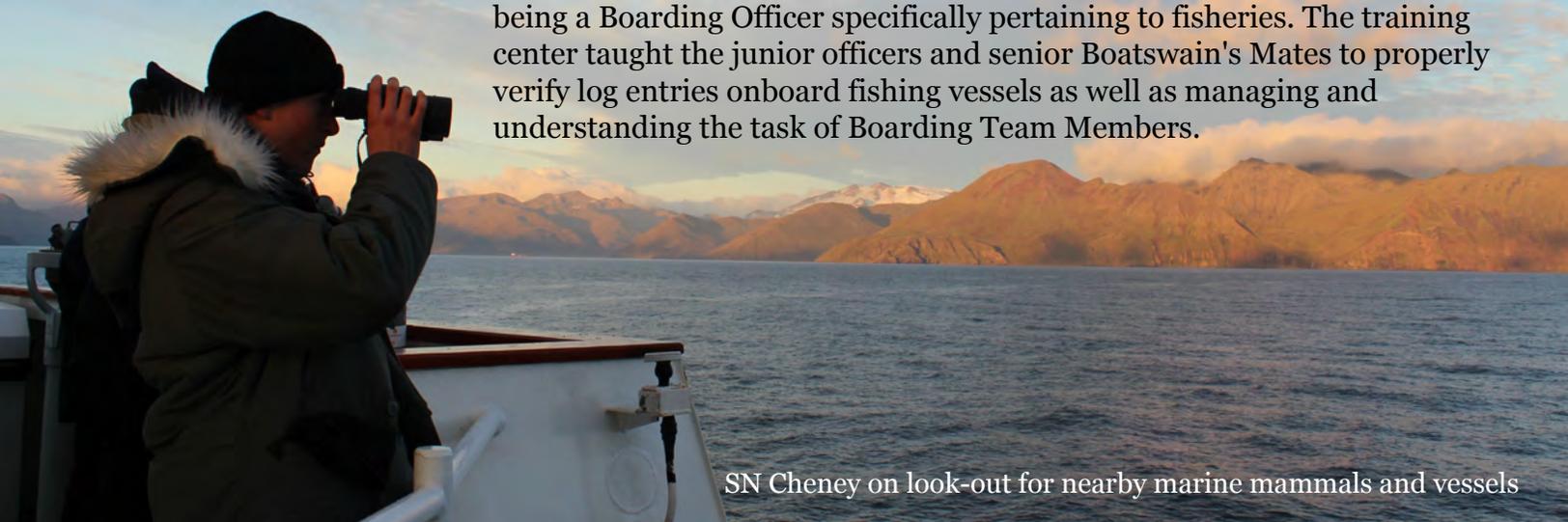
BM2 Kelton looks forward to going back to the Gulf Coast for his next tour. If he stays in the Coast Guard, he aspires to become a Warrant Officer. Lastly, but most importantly he is excited to see his 5-month old baby girl, Isla!



Operations Department

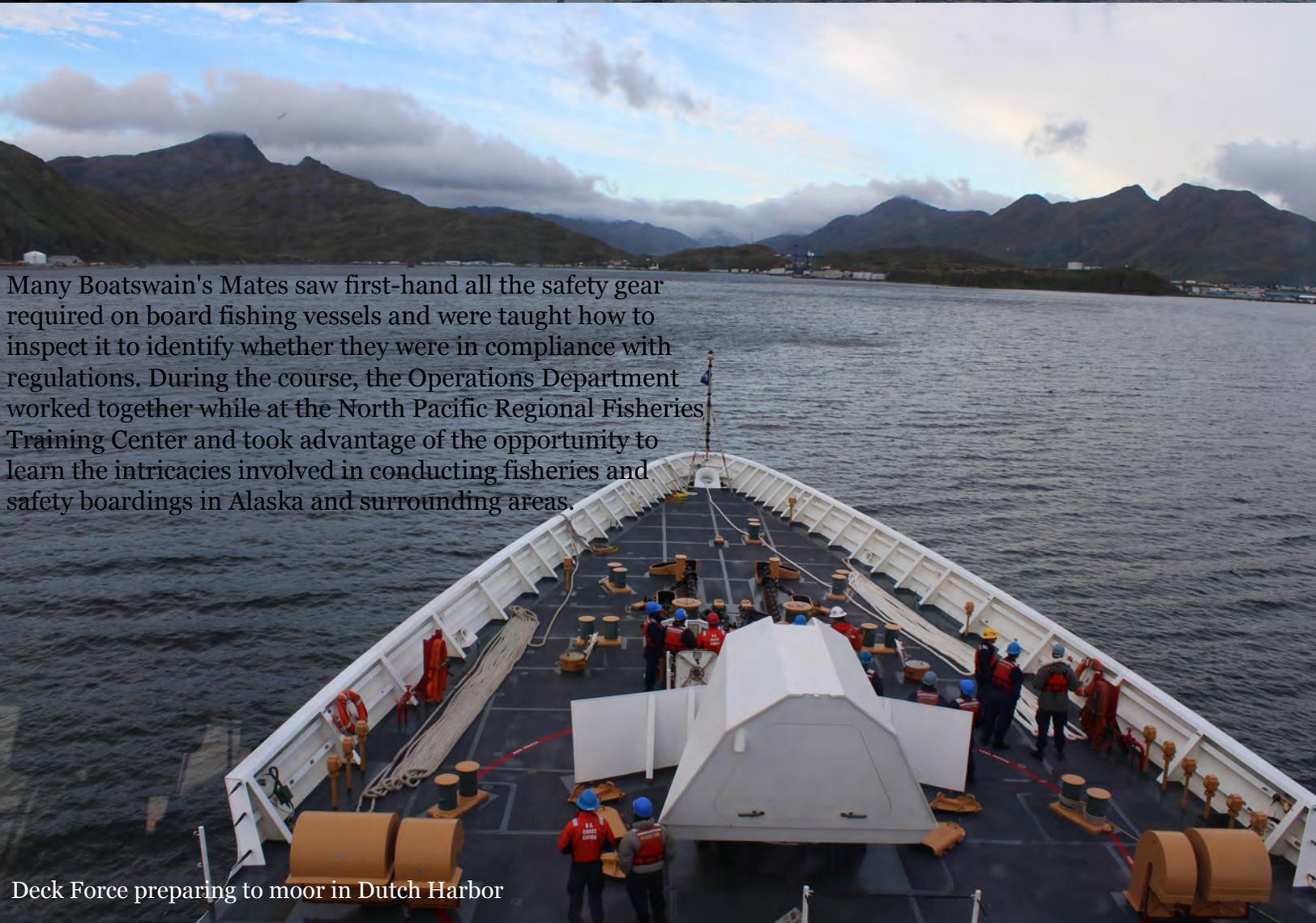
The Operations Department had the opportunity this patrol to send many of its members to attend the Coast Guard North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center (NPRFTC). The training center ensures Coast Guard boarding teams are prepared to conduct fisheries and safety boardings on commercial fishing vessels throughout Alaska. The NPRFTC covers a broad range of fisheries-related topics. Many of our Operations Specialists learned about the resources available to help them in tracking types of fishing vessels and identifying different fisheries regions around Alaska. The Operation Specialists had the opportunity to practice obtaining data on different vessels and relaying the information to the Boarding Officer.

Many junior officers and senior Boatswain's Mates learned the role of being a Boarding Officer specifically pertaining to fisheries. The training center taught the junior officers and senior Boatswain's Mates to properly verify log entries onboard fishing vessels as well as managing and understanding the task of Boarding Team Members.



SN Cheney on look-out for nearby marine mammals and vessels

Many Boatswain's Mates saw first-hand all the safety gear required on board fishing vessels and were taught how to inspect it to identify whether they were in compliance with regulations. During the course, the Operations Department worked together while at the North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center and took advantage of the opportunity to learn the intricacies involved in conducting fisheries and safety boardings in Alaska and surrounding areas.



Deck Force preparing to moor in Dutch Harbor

The Engineering Department is diligently training newly reported members following transfer season to complete both Machinery and Engineer of the Watch qualifications. This has been an extremely involved effort for all members; for those achieving their qualifications and for the committed veterans of WAESCHE.

Engineering Department



DC1 Witkowski, EM1 Espinosa, and MK3 Dyal teaching the crew how to use a P100 pump



DC3 Scarborough teaching how to don FPG

The Damage Control Division orchestrated an impressive day of training on all damage control equipment and systems, which offered fun hands-on practice and was a great refresher for the crew.



MK2 Terreri as a nozzleman



ENS Hulse applying a soft patch to a ruptured pipe

Main Propulsion Division deserves a big thank you and Bravo Zulu following the repair and rebuild of the ship's main propulsion gear system, keeping WAESCHE on track and operational.



GM3 Sanchez getting ready for a gunnery exercise

ENS Wu & SN Brooks looking out for nearby marine mammals and vessels during a gunnery exercise



Prior to departing on patrol and in preparation for CSSQT (Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trial), the Combat Systems department worked to make WAESCHE the first National Security Cutter with a fully integrated Gun Weapon System. During CSSQT, the department completed 26 live fire exercises and expended 300 rounds from the 57mm main gun to successfully destroy two



"Killer Tomatoes", three Low Cost Modular Targets and three High Speed Maneuvering Surface Targets.



Combat Systems Department

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Yeomans

From May through August WAESCHE Yeoman have been very busy with transfer season and the departure and arrival of 68 shipmates (34 departures and 34 arrivals).

With transfer season behind them, they are shifting focus to October's semi-annual weigh-ins and November's annual verification paperwork. Each November annual verifications take place to update and confirm members' life insurance policies, spousal life insurance, dependency status and death gratuity beneficiaries. This process involves the ship's yeoman, YN1 Weatherford and YN2 Pagozalski processing over 550 worksheets, in addition to their daily work of managing members' pay and entitlements, maintaining personnel data records, and personnel travel. While other crewmembers are serving more noticeably on the front lines of operations, the Yeomans onboard WAESCHE are also steaming full speed ahead, behind the scenes, providing logistics and support to all those operating onboard WAESCHE. Bravo Zulu to their efforts and a job well done for all that they do.



YN2 Pagozalski, YN1 Weatherford, SK2 Rich, and SKC Clark in the Ship's Office.

Storekeepers

With the 4th Quarter (QTR) of Fiscal Year 15 coming to a end, the SKs have been busy spending down the 1.2 million dollar budget set for WAESCHE. They have completed over 650 purchase requests and 65 purchase orders and 800 Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures (Milstrips). Furthermore, 4th QTR inventory for Operating Materials and Supplies (OM&S) parts yielded a 100% perfect score.



*Commandant and Senator
Murkowski's Visit*

CAPT Hendrickson
and ADM Zukunft
addressing the crew
at Quarters



OSCS Reed and ADM Zukunft



On September 5th, WAESCHE welcomed the Commandant of the Coast Guard and Senator Murkowski onboard. Congratulations to **BM2 Kelton & MK2 Nettles** for receiving the Commandant's Commitment to Excellence Award!

Senator Murkowski about to
address the crew

The Coast Guard's Evolving Role in the Alaska and the Arctic

The United States Coast Guard has a rich history of operations in Alaska and the Arctic dating back to the time when the Coast Guard sailed under the flag of its predecessor, the United States Revenue Cutter Service. Following the Alaska Purchase in 1867, the Revenue Cutter Service served as the sole law enforcement agency and primary search and rescue service for the territory and provided transportation for government officials, scientists, and medical professionals seeking access to more than 20,000 miles of Alaskan and Arctic coastline. During this time the Revenue Cutter Service conducted numerous rescues of distressed and stranded whaling ships, introduced reindeer to serve as a food source for the Native Alaskan Population, supported scientific research, and brought law and order to this largely unregulated region of the United States.

The Alaskan and Arctic operating environments have changed dramatically since the time of the Revenue Cutter Service and the Coast Guard has adapted over time to meet the challenges posed by these changes. Today, as in the time of the Revenue Cutter Service, the Coast Guard functions as a law enforcement presence and search and rescue service in Alaska; acting as one of the primary regulatory mechanisms for the nearly \$6 billion a year Alaskan fishing industry and conducting 534 search and rescue cases, in 2013 alone. The discovery of oil and the arrival of offshore drilling platforms in the Arctic brings new safety and security concerns to the region. As a result, the Coast Guard has increased its presence and is poised to react to potential oil spills and coordinate response efforts. The recent retreat of Arctic ice served as a catalyst for increased commercial vessel traffic by way of the Northwest Passage. The increase to vessel traffic may also lead to an increase possibility of search and rescue cases in the Arctic and need for Coast Guard assets in this area.

The sheer size of Alaska and the Arctic region coupled with the highly diverse and ever changing mission set performed by the Coast Guard in the region make it a highly challenging operating environment. WAESCHE is proud to continue the Coast Guard tradition of distinguished service in Alaska and she is well suited to carry out the mission as one of the Coast Guard's most capable platforms.

Written by ENS Joshua Gerry



WAESCHE spent time patrolling the Shell Drill Site.

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in Kodiak



On August 27, WAESCHE crew members got the opportunity to visit the NOAA National Marine Fisheries facility in Kodiak, Alaska. They got to examine species in a touch tank. They also received a tour of the current research projects being conducted at the facility.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS in DUTCH HARBOR



ME1 Lewis and OS3 Webb



BM1 Phillips and OS1 Hoxworth



F&S2 Pillow



On 17 September 2015, 26 crew members led by FS1 Merrill and OS1 Hoxworth, offered their liberty time to serve the local schools of Unalaska. While some volunteers demolished a dangerous playground structure, spread gravel, and painted a curbed fire zone area, others mowed a field, cleaned and organized two walk-in freezers and a dry-food storage area.



Overall, WAESCHE offered 104 man hours of community service and was commended by the school superintendent.

IT1 Ringpis

5K FUN RUN in DUTCH HARBOR



Runners before the start of the 5k!

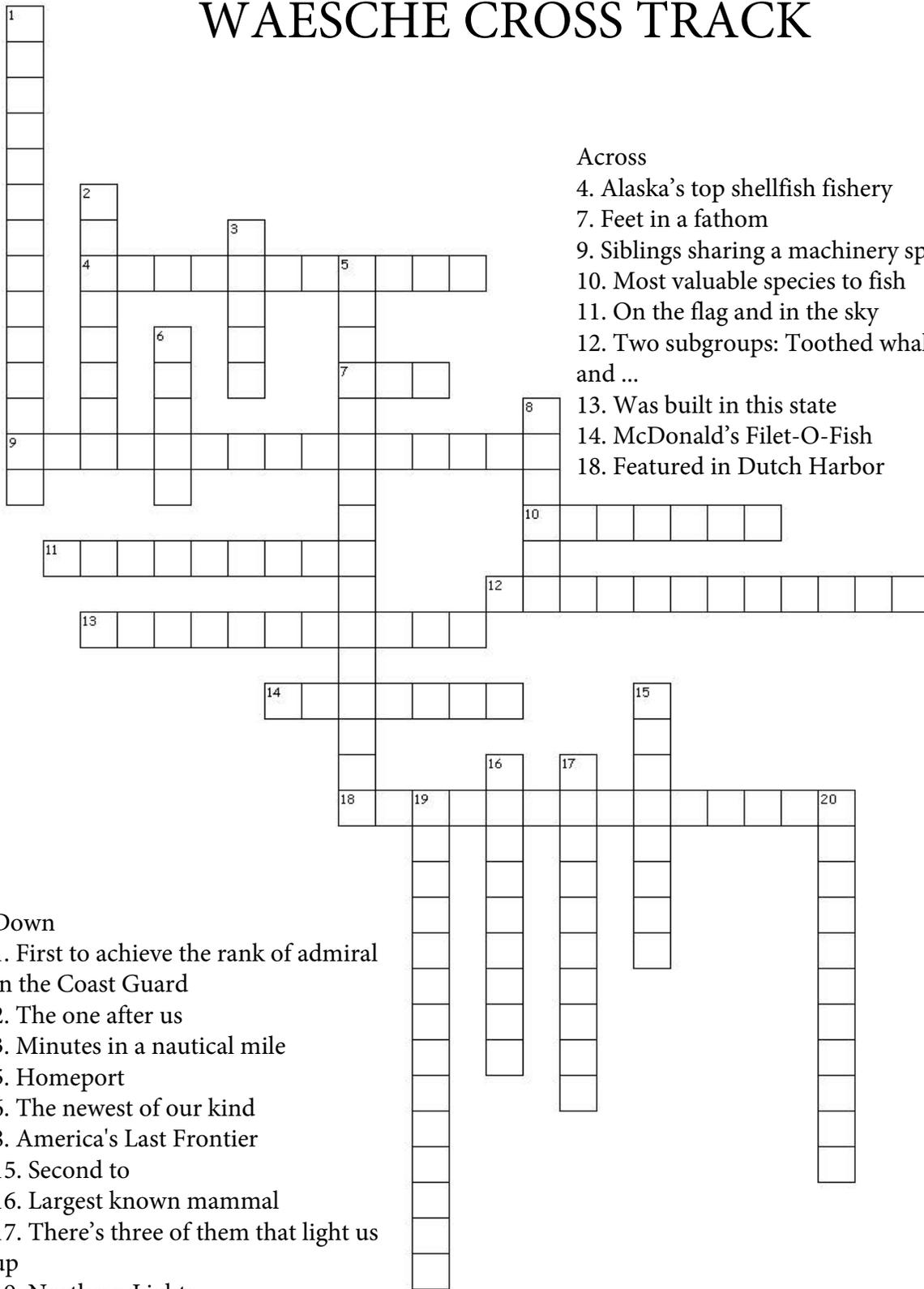


Our top finishers:
ET2 Kennedy,
ENS Orr, and
ENS
Marcenelle



A smile on
GMC
Tucker's face
as he finishes
his 5k

WAESCHE CROSS TRACK



Across

- 4. Alaska's top shellfish fishery
- 7. Feet in a fathom
- 9. Siblings sharing a machinery space
- 10. Most valuable species to fish
- 11. On the flag and in the sky
- 12. Two subgroups: Toothed whales and ...
- 13. Was built in this state
- 14. McDonald's Filet-O-Fish
- 18. Featured in Dutch Harbor

Down

- 1. First to achieve the rank of admiral in the Coast Guard
- 2. The one after us
- 3. Minutes in a nautical mile
- 5. Homeport
- 6. The newest of our kind
- 8. America's Last Frontier
- 15. Second to
- 16. Largest known mammal
- 17. There's three of them that light us up
- 19. Northern Lights
- 20. Current CO

THE HOME FRONT

Greetings Everyone!

As the summer comes to a close and we move into fall we have many exciting adventures awaiting us. Fall brings us new arrivals to WAESCHE, farewell to friends who have transferred, back to school time, apple picking season, pumpkin patches and cooler weather! Your new WAESCHE Ombudsman Team is looking forward to getting our families involved in some WAESCHE gatherings back home while our sailors are patrolling the high seas!

With this being our first edition as your new Ombudsman we wanted to introduce ourselves to each of you. The WAESCHE Ombudsman Team consists of three very excited spouses who are here to help you in any way we can; Nadja Espinosa, Laura Ann Phillips and Rebekah DuVall.

Upcoming Events:

October 11th- WAESCHE Family Gathering in Alameda Housing

October 14th- Coast Guard Preparedness Fair @ Coast Guard Island

October 24th- Bay Area CG Harvest Festival @ Coast Guard Island

Make sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page and email for information regarding these and future events/ information. We can be reached 24/7 via phone (510)847-1506, email (ombwaesche@gmail.com), or FB Messenger. We are very excited to be your new Ombudsman Team and look forward to working with and meeting everyone!

Your WAESCHE Ombudsman Team,

Nadja, Laura Ann and Rebekah

OMBUDSMAN TEAM



Buenos Dias Familias! My name is Nadja Espinosa and I was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. My family relocated to Florida when I was five and remained there until the Coast Guard transferred us. I met my husband Miguel (EM1 Espinosa) in 2002 and we were married in 2007. My husband joined the Coast Guard in 2009 and we began our new nomadic lifestyle with our newborn son. We did our first cross country road trip in 2013 when we transferred here from New Haven, Connecticut! While most of our family remains back east, California has stolen my heart. I love to travel and explore new areas, so living in a state like California that has so much to offer and see is right up my alley. Since moving to California I have gone back to school for my BSBA in Operations Management and am currently a stay at home mother/ student. We have a wonderful little five year old son with a heart of gold and two very energetic pugs that keep me busy while the ship is underway. I am excited to be a part of your Ombudsman Team and working with all our WAESCHE Families!

Greetings all! My name is Laura, and I am 30 years old, from Baltimore, MD. I met my husband (BM1 Phillips) through mutual friends at their wedding. He has been part of the USCG for 17 years, and we have been together for 8 of those. We've been stationed on the East Coast for the majority of his time in, and transferred here last summer from Ashtabula, Ohio after being at Annapolis, MD. We have a 10 month old daughter, Emily, who keeps me on my toes daily! I have a Masters in Social Work from USC (Go Trojans!), but am currently staying at home. I enjoy exploring new places, reading when I have some free time, working on crafts, and meeting up with other wives/moms. I look forward to meeting you as one of your Ombudsmen!



Hi there, my name is Rebekah DuVall and I am 28 years young. I was born and raised in Lancaster, CA. I joined the Coast Guard in 2008 and in 2009 I met my amazing husband whom I absolutely adore (OS2 James DuVall) while stationed on USCGC Mohawk out of Key West, FL. We have been married for four years now and have a three year old son named Paxton. We transferred here from Portland, Maine in 2014. I am now using my GI Bill to get my degree in Criminal Justice/ Maritime Enforcement. I am a photographer and I have an etsy shop making scarves! I'm looking forward to meeting all the families and helping with anything I can.



Photo taken by Irena Burkett, hiking Angel's Rest in Portland, OR



BM1
Phillip's
daughter,
Emily



OS2
DuVall's
son, Paxton



DC1 Witkowski's son,
Oliver



MKCS
Bolen's
son,
Finnien



BM2
Kelton
with Isla

IS1
Valentin's
son, Rylan



MKCS
Bolen's son,
Shea

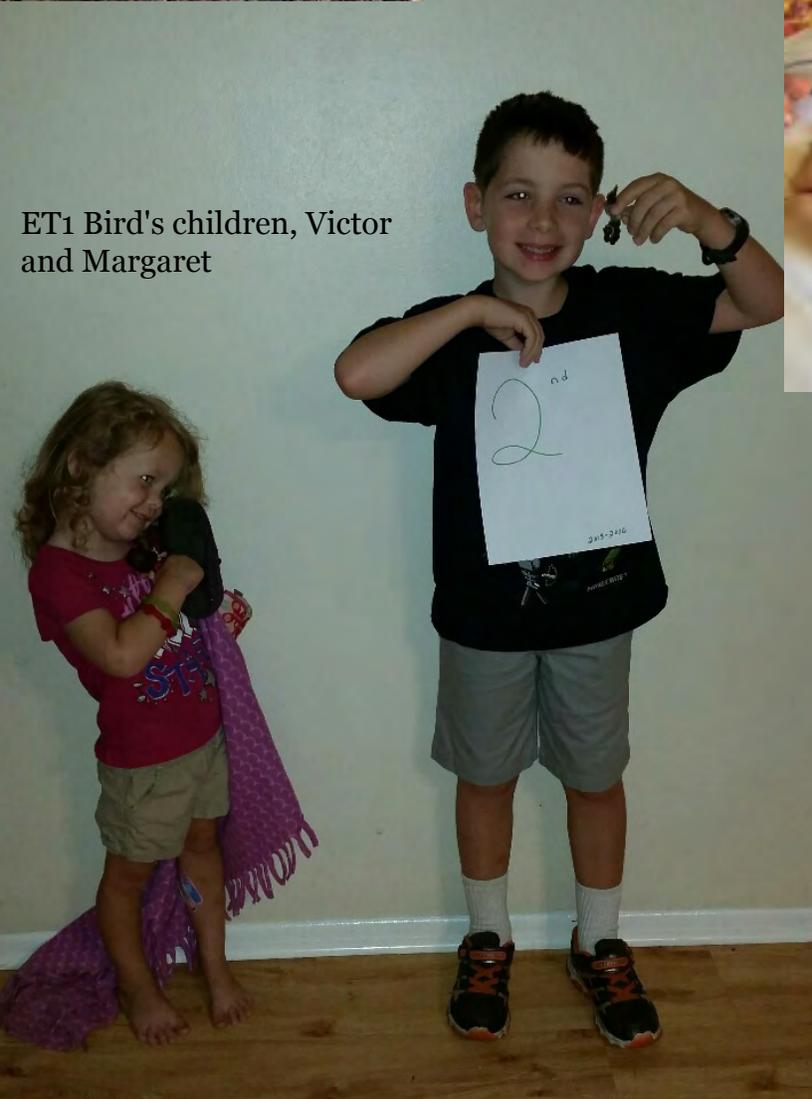


BM2 Kelton's daughter, Isla



OS1 Castonguay's
daughters, Laura
& Emilia

ET1 Bird's children, Victor
and Margaret



EM1
Espinosa's son,
Sebastian



DC1 Witkowski's son,
Oliver



EM1
Espinosa's
son,
Sebastian



GMC Tucker's family

ET1
Bird's
dogs!

MKCS
Bolen's son,
Finnien

SK2 Rich's
daughter,
Taylor