

# TRADEWINDS

## CGC KUKUI NEWSLETTER

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### Main Hawaiian Islands ATON Patrol

Following a long maintenance period of about seven months, in August KUKUI embarked on an Aids-to-Navigation (ATON) Patrol. Throughout the Charlie period, the crew expertly pre-positioned themselves for success: holding inport buoy deck training, navigation training at Pearl Harbor's ship simulator, and conducting numerous inport damage control drills. By August 13<sup>th</sup>, the crew was prepared, focused, and excited to get going.



*KUKUI works a Kawaihae Channel Buoy with Big Island in the background.*

KUKUI got underway and headed toward the Big Island to work several buoys on the Kona side. There KUKUI used both the cutter and dive team to work five buoys, including the Kawaihae Harbor Channel buoys, a Honokohau Harbor Channel buoy, and the sunken Kailua Kona Coast Guard Mooring Buoy, which was recovered by the dive team. After completing work on the Big Island, KUKUI headed back to Oahu to service a buoy in Kaneohe Bay and to disestablish three Ulapau Crater Weapons Range Danger Zone Buoys off the coast of the windward side of Oahu.

*Continued on next page.*

**Welcome aboard to our new Dive Officer, LTJG Nick Devine!**

**Fair winds and following seas to SN Nick Paoli!**

### Sailor of the Quarter:

**SN Anthony "A-Rod" Rodriguez**



*BMC Adkins presents SN Rodriguez with the SOQ plaque.*

Congratulations to SN Anthony "A-Rod" Rodriguez for being nominated as KUKUI's Sailor of the Quarter for Summer 2013. Keep up the great work!

# MAIN HAWAIIAN ATON PATROL (CONTINUED)



*The small boat and dive team replace a mooring buoy off the coast of Kailua Kona.*

While KUKUI normally works buoys in protected harbors and channels, every so often the difficulty level gets knocked up a notch. With no protection from the wind and seas, KUKUI was faced with the challenge of pulling 26 foot tall buoys in 6-8 foot seas and 20 knots of wind while working on the windward side of Oahu. This proved an excellent opportunity for KUKUI's conning officers, who were eager to embrace the challenge. All hands contributed to the safe completion of all evolutions.

After unloading a full buoy deck at Sand Island, KUKUI set out again to Kauai to work aids in Nawiliwili Harbor. KUKUI spent ten hours working a buoy that was partially submerged off Ninini Point. The next day, the dive team and small boat worked three more buoys in Nawiliwili Harbor.

After working a total of thirteen buoys off the coast of three different islands, KUKUI returned home after a productive patrol.



**Top:** Deck Force before unloading the buoy deck. **Middle left:** BM1 Summers conducts an air test. **Middle right:** BM3 Puglia releases a buoy. **Bottom:** DC1 Soto welds a leaking buoy.

# THE DIVE LOCKER

BY BMI PARTIN



*KUKUI Dive Team in front of the sunken buoy they recovered from Kaneohe Bay.*

Greetings from the Denizens of the Deep. It has been a busy quarter for KUKUI's Dive Team. First, we have to say congratulations and welcome aboard to our newly pinned Dive Officer, Lieutenant Junior Grade Nicholas Devine.

It's no secret that KUKUI has been having her unfair share of mechanical problems. These problems have accounted for several schedule changes, and the Dive Team has stepped up to help fill the operational void. As a force multiplier for the cutter in her primary mission of maintaining aids to navigation, the Dive Team has provided three discrepancy responses and worked nine buoys scheduled for servicing. Additionally, KUKUI divers assisted CGC RUSH with a pitch calibration of her controllable pitch propeller, assisted CGC KITTIWAKE with a depth speed log change out and intermediate hull cleaning, and assisted Surface Force Logistics Center in trouble-shooting a nasty vibration aboard KUKUI.

For those who are unsure what an ATON diver does, this next block is for you. ATON diving is good old-fashioned hard work. Divers can service almost any size buoy from the light down to the sinker. Divers have developed special procedures for floating, moving, cleaning, measuring, and positioning many types of channel markers. The dive teams onboard the USCG District 14 buoy tenders are six members strong, and on top of that diving is considered a collateral duty. So if you're looking for a challenge, seek out a deep sea representative and get to it....HOOYAH, DEEP SEA!

## PROMOTIONS:



*The XO congratulates the Captain, CDR Ramassini, on his promotion.*



*Captain presents LTJG Miltenberger with his LTJG promotion certificate.*



*ET2 Ruff with his cake after becoming a Petty Officer Second Class.*

# THE SEARCH FOR S/V C:DRIVE

On the evening of Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, KUKUI crewmembers received a call. A fishing vessel had sighted a derelict sailing vessel believed to be the sailing vessel (S/V) C:Drive drifting a five day transit west of Oahu and KUKUI was getting underway Sunday morning to investigate. S/V C:Drive, along with it's owner, had been reported missing over a month before at the beginning of October. The Coast Guard conducted a thorough search, but suspended it after a week of searching and finding no sign of the owner or vessel. With the new sighting, however, the case was reopened and KUKUI received operational tasking.



*SN Rodriguez scans the horizon looking for C:Drive.*

On Saturday the crew sprang into action, loading stores, planning the transit, and securing the cutter for sea. On Sunday, after stopping to fuel in Pearl Harbor, KUKUI began her transit westward. During the five day transit, KUKUI encountered ten foot seas off the beam and crossed the International Date Line. Upon reaching the last-known position of the sailing vessel, KUKUI began a search and, with assistance from a C-130 from CG Air Station Barber's Point, was able to locate the vessel.



*KUKUI boarding team prepares to board C:Drive.*



*BM1 Partin prepares to receive supplies from the buoy deck before boarding C:Drive.*

KUKUI's small boat transported a boarding team consisting of BM1 Partin and BM1 Laughlin to the drifting sailboat. The boarding team did not find any indication of what had happened to the owner, but they did collect evidence to aid investigators and personal items to hopefully bring some closure to his family. The boarding team marked the sailboat so that other mariners would not think it was in distress and set it adrift once more. As KUKUI steamed away, the Captain said a few words and read a poem in remembrance of the unaccounted for owner...a somber reminder of the possible perils of the sea.



*Boarding team and small boat crew returning to the cutter.*

On the transit back home, KUKUI took advantage of her time and rapidly switched into training mode. Crewmembers demonstrated admirable stamina and focus in completing a multitude of training exercises before arriving home in Honolulu.

# ENGINEERING

This quarter KUKUI's engineers have been extremely busy. It would be impossible to describe all of the numerous projects that they've completed to ensure that KUKUI is capable of completing her missions. One of the major ones, however, was completely replacing the turbo and ducting on the No. 1 Main Diesel Engine. A turbo is basically a large fan that forces air into the combustion chambers, making the engine more efficient and powerful. Upon returning from a transit to and from Midway Atoll, the engineers realized that rust from the ducting had badly damaged the turbo and it needed to be completely replaced. They rapidly acquired the necessary parts and completely replaced the ducting going to the No. 1 Main Diesel Engine, allowing KUKUI to return to an operationally ready status.



FN Ramos (left) and MK3 Rivas put a protective layer on the ducting to prevent rust.

## KUKUI Morale

In September, many KUKUI crewmembers took part in a morale day at Podium Raceway.



SN Ramos (before the infamous crash).

## XO's Corner

*Aloha Friends and Family of KUKUI. Our KUKUI crew continues to demonstrate impressive flexibility and resiliency as we work to keep ourselves and our ship ready to respond to all assigned missions. Over the past few months, we tackled a diverse cross section of evolutions ranging from Aids to Navigation to Search and Rescue to complex Maintenance and Repair operations. Our newest crewmembers have jumped right into the mix and are already contributing at high levels thanks to the close counsel and mentoring provided by our KUKUI veterans. The next few months will surely bring many challenges, but I am confident that we will continue to grow as a successful team.*

# FISH CALL, FISH CALL!



*FN Ramos, EM3 Reigosa, and DC1 enjoying the sun.*

Thanks to a generous donation of lures and other fishing supplies from our Coast Guard Auxiliarist, Mr. Ralph Scrivano, KUKUI has been able to enjoy some excellent fishing recently.



*EO and FS2 Hassilev show the wahoos that they caught off the coast of Ni'ihau on KUKUI's transit back from Midway Atoll.*



*Mr. Scrivano filets a fresh-caught wahoo.*



## Captain's Cabin

*Hard to believe another quarter has passed on by...as you can tell by the articles, we have kept busy! The crew continues to perform at high levels of excellence and with great enthusiasm and stamina. We wouldn't be able to be a solid team without those who operate behind the scenes of our personal lives at home. To our families, friends and numerous loved ones, thank you all for your continued support and ability to adapt to the many changes that emergent search cases and unexpected machinery casualties have imposed to the schedule. As I have said before and will continue to reiterate, with your support we will continue to: Prepare, Adapt and Keep Moving Forward!*

# LUCKY BAG



*LTJG Miltenberger addresses a group of over 100 local high schoolers, explaining how KUKUI uses science, technology, engineering, and math to accomplish our missions. Members of Deck Force demonstrated a buoy deck unload.*



*Members of KUKUI's crew participated in the annual Fisher House 8K Hero and Remembrance Run. The Fisher House is a military charity that provides housing to family members of wounded soldiers as they recover. The entire race route was lined with boots representing soldiers who have given their lives in combat since September 11, 2001.*



*SN Kelly mans the 50 cal during KUKUI's gun exercise.*

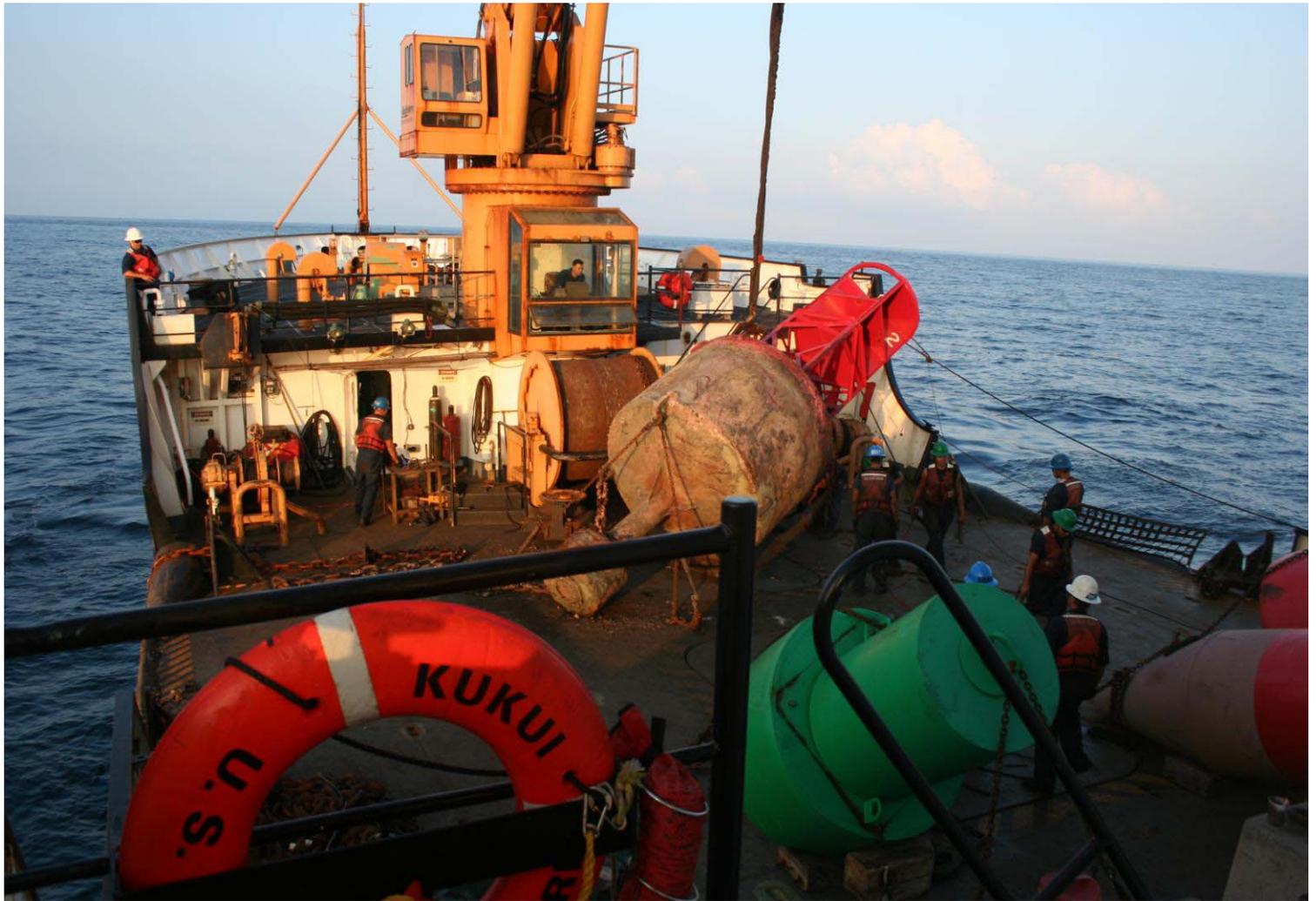


*Captain and OPS have fun preparing pizza on Wardroom Pizza Night while underway...yes, oven mitts make good hand puppets!*



*Captain congratulates DC3 Marks and MK1 Fisher after presenting them with the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. MK1 and DC3 earned their medals through swift action in the face of danger by pulling a contractor from an oxygen-deficient environment. Bravo Zulu MK1 and DC3 and to all who contributed to saving a life that day!*

# LAST CALL



*The view of Nihoa Island off in the distance as the crew readies the ship for returning to homeport after Midway.*



*Mission accomplished! Another aid left watching properly.*