Newsletter #5

August 8, 2014

THE BULLDOG

Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY News | Arctic Plunge | Coast Guard Day

FN Ramon Brea swims in the Arctic Ocean.

Mayor of Nome, Denise Michels, visits ALEX HALEY at a reception given on board for community leaders.

CDR Steve White delivers a well received speech on the unique history shared by our service and the City of Nome, touching on the importance of building and maintaining these types of relationships.

Coast Guard Day Photos by PA2 Grant Devuyst

Crew of ALEX HALEY and citizens of Nome gear up for a game of softball. Pushing through over two weeks of walking on waves, we overcame our sea-legs and had a great time. DCC Wilson was so excited to play he let an 8 year old strike him out… twice…

Celebrating Coast Guard Day

by Ensign Andrew Jaeger

After two weeks of calm seas and foggy skies Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY pulled into port on August 4th, 2014 in Nome, AK. This day was special as it was the 224th celebration of the Revenue Cutter Service, the precursor to the modern day United States Coast Guard! Once finally moored up, the whole crew gathered for a picture on the focsle. After liberty was granted everyone set out to explore the town. In the afternoon, ALEX HALEY was happy to host a reception for many of the community leaders of Nome. There were over 25 members in attendance, and they included the Mayor of Nome, the Nome Harbormaster, and leaders of the following groups: Bering Strait Native Corporation, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Nome Eskimo Community, Eskimo Walrus Commission, and Kawerak. After the reception, both Commander Steve White and Mayor Michels gave speeches about the historic relationship between the Coast Guard and Nome. This relationship dates back to a visit from the Revenue Cutter BEAR in 1881 to provide food to the native community. Three years ago, the Cutter HEALY performed a similar mission, breaking ice off the frozen shores on Nome, clearing a path for the Russian tanker Renda to delivery desperately needed fuel. Both missions were integral to the survivability of this remote Alaskan community.

The biggest hit of ALEX HALEY's Coast Guard Day Celebration was a softball game played by the Nome Youth Softball League and the command and crew of ALEX HALEY. Over 150 people were present at the game cheering on the mixed teams of crew and kids. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and pizza were followed by a giant Coast Guard birthday cake prepared by our resident master cake decorator SNFS Anna Jackson.

Through the rest of ALEX HALEY's visit in Nome, the cutter coordinated tours for over 200 visitors and completed two additional community service projects. Off the cutter, many people took to sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and shopping. The crew jam-packed their three full days in Nome with everything this unique Alaskan town has to offer, including the 160 degree hot springs, hiking Anvil Mountain, herd spotting Musk Ox and venturing out to find the "Last Train to Nowhere".

We graciously thank the city of Nome for their amazing hospitality. Until next time…

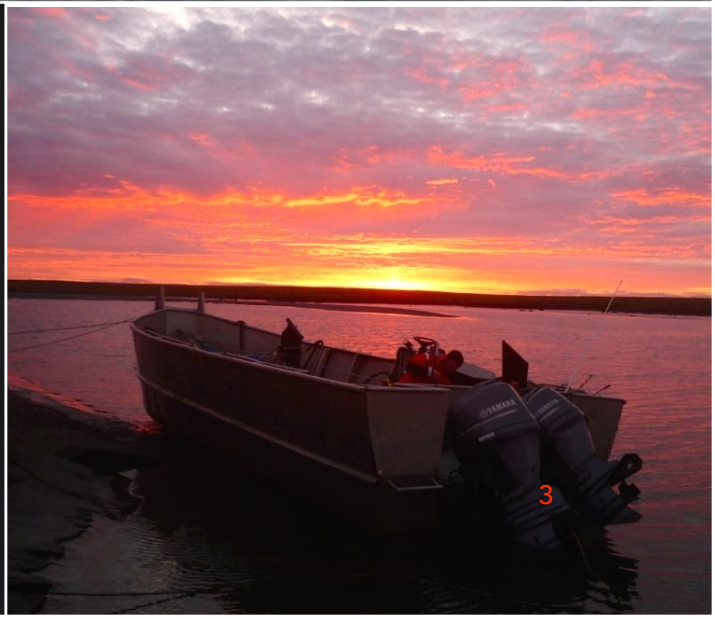
TOP: Crews from ALEX HALEY, Sector Anchorage and Station Valdez gather at Old St. Joe's Church for speeches presented by Nome Mayor Denise Michels and CDR Steve White, Commanding Officer USCGC ALEX HALEY. **MIDDLE LEFT AND RIGHT:** ALEX HALEY crew volunteer their liberty to help clean Nome beaches. **BELOW:** CDR Steve White leaps to catch the first pitch thrown at the softball game played with citizens of Nome. The first pitch was delivered by Gail Schubert, President of the Bering Strait Native Corporation. | Coast Guard Day Photos by PA2 Grant Devuyst

Alex Haley to the Rescue

by Ensign Joel Hill

While transiting in the vicinity of Nunivak Island, we received a direct request for assistance for a partially submerged vessel on July 24th, 2014. A Rescue and Assistance Team was dispatched, comprised of BM3 Michael Diaz, DC2 Jim Lovelace, MK2 Dan Anderson, Cadet First Class Dylan Finneran, and ENS Joel Hill. The small boat crew consisted of coxswain BM2 Theo Aniskoff and boat engineer MK3 Peter Madden. The team brought with them two portable pumps along with a plugging and patching kit. The vessel was located in a small fishing camp used by Alaskan halibut fishermen on the south side of the Nunivak Island. The camp was only accessible during high tides, so the team was transferred from the small boat to a shallow draft skiff that was owned and operated by one of the other local fishermen. Using his expert local knowledge, the assisting skiff captain was able to safety navigate the environmental hazards and deliver our rescue and assistance team safely ashore. Once on-scene, it was determined that in order to effectively dewater and repair the vessel, they would have to wait for low tide. Ultimately, our team was able to refloat the vessel and make repairs to the holes in the hull. The fishing captain and crew, who sailed over 70 nautical miles across Etolin Strait from mainland Alaska were greatly appreciative of the assistance provided. The vessel's importance to fishing, hunting and transportation in remote Alaska is an fundamental part of the survival and livelihood of the grateful crew.

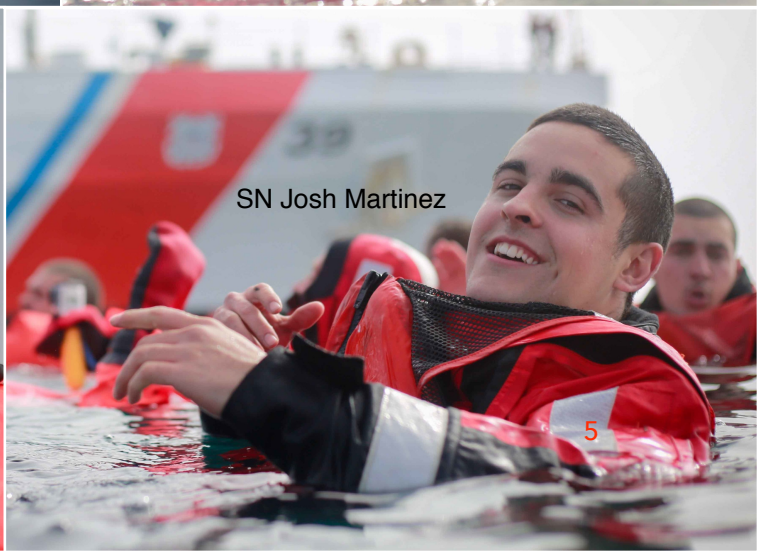
TOP LEFT: The partially submerged skiff rests just off the beach of a small fishing camp. **TOP RIGHT:** ALEX HALEY Rescue and Assistance Team wade through the shallows that are unable to be passed by small boat. Carrying with them are two portable pumps. **BELOW LEFT:** The Rescue and Assistance team work through the night to dewater and repair the skiff. Low lighting and changing tides made for slow, but steady work. **BELOW RIGHT:** The repaired and refloated skiff rests on the beach. Fully functional, the captain and crew of the small fishing skiff are now able to continue fishing and return home safely.



Arctic Waters Plunge

by Cadet First Class Jennifer Lane

ALEX HALEY has made yet another visit to the Arctic Circle! On August 2, 2014, we crossed over the boundary line of the Arctic Circle, located at the latitude of 66 degrees and 33 minutes north. This crossing officially initiated the crew into the Order of the Blue Nose, a title given to sailors who have navigated within the Arctic Circle. Special events such as these are typically accompanied by a traditional line crossing ceremony. ALEX HALEY commemorated this occasion with an exciting inspection of the ship's survival equipment. The brave men and women of the crew donned dry suits and immersion suits and leapt into the 38 degree water of the Chukchi Sea. Everyone enjoyed the unique opportunity to swim in the Arctic waters and will surely be telling this sea story for years to come.



FN Benjamyn Potvin

BM3 Parker Wall

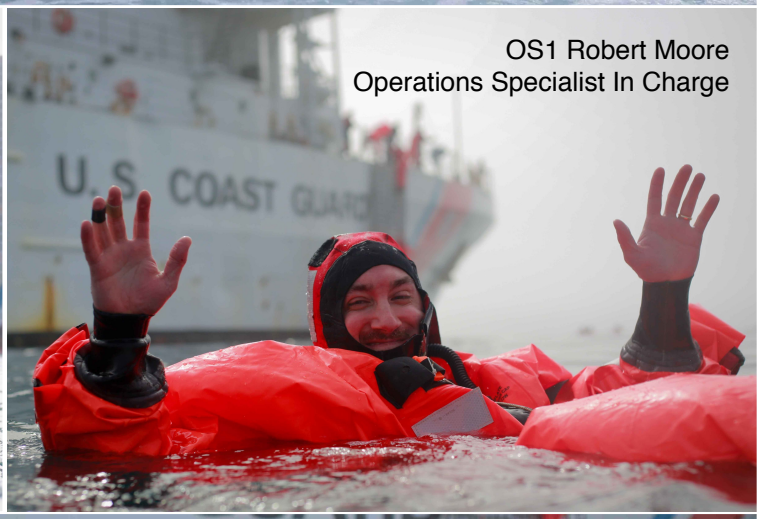
BMC Corey Bradshaw
Navigation Chief

EMCS Bill Kocsis

Command Chief

SN David Blincoe

Cutter Surface Swimmer



OS1 Robert Moore
Operations Specialist In Charge

FN Alex Medeiros

EM3 Zach Gott

MK3 Myles Moorer

MK3 Conner Kline

MK3 Robert Nogueria

SK3 Noel Cordero

Saying Goodbye to Shipmates

Transfer seasons can be hectic. As we all know, there are years when a handful of people transfer and then there are years where it seems like the whole crew transfers. This summer was no exception. With nearly 40% turnover, ALEX HALEY was left short a few positions when all the paper was settled. Luckily we were able to solicit those positions to a few squared away sailors. These three fine gentlemen proved to be an invaluable part of the crew. Their dedication to ALEX HALEY is commendable. They will be missed.

SK2 Thomas Holguin

"It was a pleasure having SK2 Holguin temporarily assigned to ALEX HALEY from Base Kodiak where he works in procurement. He arrived with a positive attitude and was ready to get underway. He has been a vital part of our shop during his time here by taking over reconciling, assisting with the OM&S fourth quarter inventory, creating all the property custodian designation memorandums for each department as well as managing the morale movie rotation in the evenings. SK2 Holguin took the initiative to assist in preparing the ship store's grand reopening by assisting with inventory and labeling items for sale. His hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated by the crew. SK2 has become a shipmate for life and is welcome back anytime. Bravo Zulu to you and fair winds and following seas."

by SK3 Noel Cordero

CWO2 Chandler Tyre

"Chief Warrant Officer Chandler Tyre - The Man. The Myth. The Legend. Following his PCS move to sunny Honolulu to stand up the new Regional Dive Locker, BOSN2 Tyre was asked to return to the mighty Bulldog of the Bering for one final victory lap around the Bering Sea. The wealth of knowledge and entertainment that he brought to the table was absolutely necessary for a successful first half of the summer patrol. While attached to the ship, Chief Petty Officer Tyre was pivotal in teaching new Junior Officers and Petty Officers the fundamentals of ship handling, and seamanship, culminating in an impressive performance at TSTA in January. A diver by trade, but a cutterman at heart, Mr. Tyre returned and continued to teach and mentor a whole new bridge team as ALEX HALEY patrolled from Kodiak to the Bering Strait and Arctic Ocean. His knowledge and mentorship on the bridge ensured the safety and skill to be maintained for patrols to come. From mid-watch "Hunt for Red October" antics to Ricky Bobby style pass-downs (I still don't know what to do with my hands), BOSN2 Tyre will be sorely missed. Thank you for all you did, you are truly a great friend, shipmate and mentor."

by LTJG Nicholas Powell

FS2 Robert Stous

"FS2 Stous was assigned to ALEX HALEY temporarily for the past few weeks from Training Center Petaluma, California, where he works for Morale, Well-Being and Recreation. Since reporting aboard, he has been an integral part of the crew, assisting in the loading, stowing and organization of food stores in excess of $ 75,000. He also assisted in the training of three junior Food Service Specialists and did not hesitate to fill in wherever he was needed. FS2's primary job onboard was midnight baker and midnight rations. Seven nights a week FS2 provided the mid-watch with a nutritious and delicious "breakfast" and a snack for the off going watch. During that same time, he ensured that all of the following days' deserts and breads were properly prepared. FS2's culinary expertise has had a noteworthy effect on the crew's taste buds and overall morale. You are welcome back to us anytime!

by FSC Joseph Cleary