

Coast Guard Club Newsletter

March 2004

WHO RECEIVES THIS NEWSLETTER? Members who have an upcoming birthday, each potential **Coast Guard Club** recruit, & any Coastie I write to. This Newsletter is posted on the Web at WWW.USCGRADIO.NET (KE7A's web site), WWW.JACKSJOINT.COM & at WWW.FREDSPLACE.ORG. If you can receive e-mail files & would like a copy of this Newsletter each month, please contact me. **Coast Guard Club** members may **update** their mailing address, call sign change, & any other information about their CG service, station equipment or email address by clicking on the Membership Form link & fill in the blanks.

COAST GUARD CLUB CALL BOOK is bound in a 1-1/2" spiral binder & will include a Certificate of Membership in the **Coast Guard Club** suitable for framing. If you want a copy, send a cheque for \$15.00, which includes postage, payable to Don Gardner.

BOOKS: **Coast Guard Stories** Vol. III is completed. Each of the three volumes costs \$15.00.

Search and Rescue SitReps

PORTSMOUTH, VA – CGC *BEAR* is scheduled to return to Portsmouth after a patrol that began 5 days before Christmas & netted over \$77 million worth of cocaine. As a multi-mission cutter, the crew of the 270-ft Cutter *BEAR* conducted several duties while on patrol, including search & rescue, homeland security, law enforcement & counter-narcotics. The first of 2 drug seizures on the patrol occurred January 23 after *BEAR* was notified of a possible go-fast vessel suspected of drug smuggling. *BEAR* launched their over-the-horizon (OTH) small boat & an armed helo to intercept. When the helo crew located the go-fast, it sped away, offloading bails of contraband into the ocean & initiating a high-speed chase. After repeated warnings to stop, the helo crew fired disabling shots into the go-fast's outboard engines, bringing the chase to a halt. 20 bales of cocaine (1,628-pounds) were seized, & 4 smugglers were detained on the *BEAR* as a result. The 2nd drug interdiction took place 2 days later, similar to the first. After notification of a suspected drug-smuggling go-fast, *BEAR* deployed its OTH & helo to intercept. The helo again used disabling fire to take out 2 of the go-fast's 3 engines, & were joined in the pursuit by USS *McClusky* (FFG-41), who launched their helo & continued tracking the go-fast until the suspected smugglers surrendered. *BEAR*'s crew then recovered 46 bales of cocaine & detained 3 more suspected drug smugglers. All 7 detainees were turned over to ICE agents for prosecution, & 5,594 lbs of cocaine to the DEA in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In the past year & including the recent patrol, *BEAR* has prevented a total of 4.5 tons of cocaine from hitting the streets of America.

HONOLULU -- Crewmembers from a C-130 Hercules airplane & an HH-65 Dolphin helo crew from CGAS Barbers Point responded to an aircraft that was experiencing engine trouble 440 miles NE of Kahului, Maui. The aircraft, a 2 engine Piper Navajo with 1 person on board, was en route to Honolulu when he first contacted the FAA with a report of engine failure. The Hercules & Dolphin located the aircraft & followed it to Kahului Airport. While attempting to land, the Piper crashed before reaching the runway.

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- CGAS Savannah, Ga., crewmembers rescued 3 Georgia fishermen 62 miles E of Sapelo Sound, GA after their 37-ft sport FV *Ray A One*, homeported in Townsend, GA capsized sending all 3 men scrambling into a life raft. The men were forced to abandon the *Ray A One* & engage the EPIRB. The signal was immediately picked up by CG watchstanders in Miami. CG rescue crews in Savannah flew the 62 miles & located the men inside the life raft. The rescue was challenged by 20 knot winds & 20 ft seas but within 15 minutes all were hoisted inside the helo safely & taken to CGAS where local EMS were waiting to treat any needed medical concerns. The cause of the accident is unknown. The fishermen stated they were asleep when the *Ray A One* capsized & sank within minutes. Because the 3 fishermen chose to have properly working safety gear like the EPIRB, they are still alive today.

MIAMI -- The 270-ft Portsmouth, VA, based Cutter *TAMPA*, moored at Integrated Support Command Miami to offload 1,340 lbs of cocaine, which *TAMPA*'S crew disrupted from a go-fast smuggling attempt, Jan 27. *TAMPA*'S embarked HH-65 Dolphin helo spotted the go-fast heading N in the Caribbean at speeds of about 35 mph. The Dolphin was soon accompanied by a UH-60 Seahawk helo deployed from USS *McClusky*. As the chase ensued, the crew of the go-fast jettisoned approx 50 bales of contraband into the ocean while fleeing S. The British Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, *Wave Knight*, with an embarked CG law enforcement team, was diverted to recover the jettisoned bales. The pursuit forced the go-fast into Colombian waters, where Colombian Navy aircraft & vessels attempted to locate the fleeing go-fast, but without success. 26 bales of cocaine, weighing approx 50 lbs each, were picked up by RFA *Wave Knight*, & transferred to *TAMPA*. About another 1,200 lbs of contraband are believed to have been lost at sea. All 26

bales will be handed over to DEA. Since Jan 20 almost 20,000 lbs of drugs have been stopped by various Portsmouth based CGCs working under the Joint Interagency Task Force South, in Key West & the 7th CG District Command Centre. This is the 4th smuggling attempt thwarted by the crew of *TAMPA* since October, tallying up a total of approx 13,000 pounds seized or destroyed at sea. So far in FY 2004, which began Oct 1, there have been 27 major interdiction events in the Caribbean, resulting in the seizure or disruption of more than 50,000 lbs of drugs bound for the U.S., already more than all of FY-03.

SAN JUAN, PR -- CG air crews are searching for an airplane that disappeared from ATC while flying from San Juan to St Croix. Air traffic controllers lost radar contact with the aircraft, a model 112 Alpine Commander, a light single-engine aircraft. So far, 5 search flights have been conducted. The first search & rescue effort was made by the crew of an ICE aircraft, which diverted from its law enforcement patrol to search for the missing plane. A CG HH-65 helo was launched from Air Station Borinquen & completed a night search. The same helo then completed a first-light search. A CG HU-25 Falcon jet flew an updated search pattern this afternoon & a 2nd HH-65 flew an additional search. So far, none of the searches has found anything. Authorities also confirmed with regional airports that the plane was not safe on the ground. 'Sadly, we have yet to locate any sign of the plane or the person on board. Our search effort continues with the hope of finding survivors', said Mr John Ware of the CG Greater Antilles Section.

SAN JUAN, PR -- A CG port security boarding team discovered 3 Dominican Republic stowaways when it conducted a sweep of the *MV Delphinus*, a 379-ft cargo ship that arrived here from Rio Haina, DR. The sweep of the vessel was conducted immediately. The stowaways were detained & searched with officers finding 2 large knives on the stowaways, who were then turned over to the custody of ICE agents. 'We found the stowaways when we were conducting a sweep of the cargo hold', said CG boarding officer Roberto Gonzalez. This is the 2nd group of DR stowaways found on a vessel arriving here from that country in the past 2 days. 'The CG is very concerned about the increased numbers of DR stowaways we are finding on vessels arriving from that country', said CAPT William J. Uberti, CO of CG Marine Safety Office San Juan. 'We will continue our efforts to closely inspect vessels arriving here from the DR', he added. Members of port security boarding teams, also known as sea marshals, have proven highly effective in protecting U.S. ports in the post-9/11 era. They board high-interest vessels at sea before the ships enter port to ensure their safe arrival & also conduct sweeps of other vessels after they have reached port to check for stowaways, illegal cargo & threats to maritime homeland security.

HOUSTON -- A CG boat crew from Station Galveston medevaced a 65-yo woman from the cruise ship *Celebration*. The woman had reportedly fallen down a stairway & broken her hip. The CG crew was escorting the *Celebration* out of port when the accident happened. The woman was transfer to the CG rescue boat & taken to Station Galveston, where EMS awaited.

LA PUSH, WA -- CG Station Quillayute River boarding officers terminated the voyage of the *FV Yun Ye* due to flooding. Boarding officers found flooding in the engine room in several locations & in the steering space. The *FV* will not be allowed to leave until the repairs are completed & inspected by the CG.

GOODBYE RM SPARKS: On 1 July 2003 CAMSPAC retired the historic 'sparks' from the rating badge as the CG restructures its work force, replacing that specialty with 2 others: Operations Specialist & the Information Technology Specialist, neither of which will carry the symbolic sparks in its insignia.

CG NETS: The CG Radio Amateur SSB Net is on the air each Saturday from 12-1300 ET on 14300 (14313 alternate). At 1300 ET the Net shifts to 14327 & continues, usually for about 30 minutes. Dick Anderson, KE7A, in the Dallas-Ft Worth area, is the NCS. A CW Net with Fred Goodwin, K7LF, as NCS, is on 14052/7052 & runs simultaneously.

REUNIONS

CGC CASCO: Any former crewmembers who would like to be placed on a mailing list of shipmates & activities that includes a reunion every several years, contact: Gordon C Kelly, P O BOX 141, Lyon, WI 53148.

COAST GUARD AIR REUNION: 17-18 May, Reno. For further info contact ADC Bob Haley, Ret., 317 Jesse Ave, Roseville, CA 95678-2035, fone 916 782 7509, email behaley@aol.com

AP TRANSPORT (CG-MANNED): 13-14 June at Newton, MA. Contact Chuck Ulrich, 35 Oak Lane, New Hyde Park, NY 11040, fone 516 747 7426.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 545 members in our club. DE AD4PT 73 & Semper Paratus.