

COAST GUARD CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2001

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 <http://home1.gte.net/ke7a/index.htm>, 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 via e-mail.

E-MAIL: My address is CGC@triad.rr.com & ad4pt@arrl.net. Members of the **Coast Guard Club** who have e-mail service, please let me know & I will add you to Appendix E of the call book. Additionally, Dick Anderson, ke7a@gte.net, & I need to know when you obtain, cancel, or change providers or addresses. After I changed providers from JUNO to Road Runner, I sent a message to all members who have e-mail & found that about a dozen had invalid addresses. Please take a look at Dick's Coast Guard Club page at <http://home1.gte.net/ke7a/index.htm> to ensure your address is listed correctly. You may also go to www.qrz.com and look up KE7A to link up or Search "USCG amateur radio operators net".

NEW YORK: Following the recent terrorist attacks in New York & Washington, D.C., the USCG is establishing Naval Vessel Protection Zones effective from Sept. 14, 2001, to June 15, 2002. The zones will provide for the regulation of vessel traffic in the vicinity of U.S. naval vessels in the navigable waters of the United States. A U.S. naval vessel is any vessel owned, operated, chartered or leased by the U.S. Navy; any vessel under the operational control of the U.S. Navy or a unified commander. Thousands of cruise ship passengers bound for New York are arriving into alternate ports this weekend under the USCG's watchful eyes after being delayed at sea. Although the Port of New York reopened under tight CG controls to commercial vessel traffic, the port remains closed to cruise ships. Ships originally bound for New York have been pulling into the ports of Boston; Providence, R.I., Philadelphia, Baltimore & Annapolis, Md.

12 Cutters from New England & the mid-Atlantic states, & numerous small boats from New York & New Jersey CG stations, are currently patrolling New York Harbour under the command of the 270-ft CGC *TAHOMA*, from New Bedford, Mass. CGCs remain on patrol outside most major ports along the Eastern seaboard, the Great Lakes & the Gulf of Mexico to ensure waterway safety & security. Commercial shipping continues to enter the Port of New York & New Jersey one day after the CG Captain of the Port (COTP) opened the harbour. The Port of New York & New Jersey is one of the busiest in the country. About 140 vessels entered the port daily until commerce was crippled following the World Trade Center tragedies. Only 20 commercial vessels have transited through the port since Rear Admiral Richard Bennis re-opened the Port. 19 deep draft vessels & two tugs with barges have been cleared to enter port; & 12 vessels & 13 tugs with barges are at anchorages outside the harbour. Large commercial vessels are restricted to transiting into the port through Ambrose or Sandy Hook Channels & must also meet specific safety precautions before the CG Captain of the Port authorises entrance. Additionally, vessels may anchor only if they intend to lighten their load in order to enter a berth & then only with CG approval. Recreational vessels are authorised to transit through the port, however vessels of any kind are still prohibited from entering the area near the Battery or in the Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull or Newark Bay without specific CG consent. The battery area is defined as north of Governors Island, south of the Holland Tunnel ventilators on the Hudson River & west of a line from Governors Island vent to the western Brooklyn Bridge support. The COTP has also permitted passenger ferry commuters to resume operations between all ferry slips within the port with the exception of ferry slips on Manhattan south of 14th Street. Each commuter vessel must have uniformed police officers on board. A "No-Wake" zone has been established around the lower tip of Manhattan.

CAPE COD: CG helicopters have been staged out of the CG Air Facility at ANGB Gabreski on Long Island to assist the transport of supplies & personnel.

USCG RESERVES: 230 reservists have been recalled to active duty to augment forces in New York City & Long Island & many others have been put on alert & are awaiting assignment. Logistics assessment, communications & maintenance support teams from Boston arrived in New York City to support land & waterborne efforts.

PORTSMOUTH: Ships from the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt* battle group continued to get underway, escorted to sea by Hampton Roads CGCs & boats. Farther north, CG activity in the New York City area intensified even further, with 12 Cutters still plying the harbour. More than 400 reservists, including 119 port security specialists, have been recalled to assist with the security, rescue & recovery operations in an operation now known as *Operation Guarding Liberty*.

BOSTON: The 110-foot Cutter *JEFFERSON ISLAND* & the 270-foot Cutter *SPENCER* are joined in regular patrols by reserve Port Security Unit 307 from St. Petersburg, Fla. At the same time, normal CG operations in the area—search & rescue, law enforcement, & fisheries enforcement—continue as usual.

LOUISIANA: In the Gulf of Mexico & the Midwest, CG units have also stepped up security, with the COTP in Houston & Galveston establishing safety zones around liquefied gas ships & cruise ships transiting the area. Watercraft less than 50 feet are barred from entering a 500-yard zone surrounding such ships; the CG also has established 100-yard safety zones around moored cruise ships. A security zone is also in place for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) & surrounding areas including Morgan City, Grand Isle, Freshwater City, & areas of the lower Mississippi River. So far, 672 reservists have been called up to help with operations in the Gulf of Mexico & the navigable rivers of the nation's heartland.

FLORIDA: In Florida & the SE, the CG has undertaken similarly stepped-up operations. Approx. 400 reservists have been recalled to beef up staffing in the area at small boat stations & marine safety offices.

USCG HQ. WASHINGTON: Many rumours & false reports concerning the USCG's security measures relating to vessels, crews, & passengers arriving in U. S. ports have circulated in the maritime community & some news media organisations. The gist of these rumours is that ships, crews, & passengers from particular countries would not be allowed into port & that certain crew & passengers for

some ships allowed to enter would not be allowed to leave their ship. These rumors are false. The USCG is enforcing a wide range of security measures on all ships entering U. S. ports, & these measures may include a thorough check of crew & passenger lists & identifications. For instance, the CG has long required ships arriving from foreign ports to provide 24-hour advance notice of arrival. These ships must now also provide a list of all persons aboard along with the advance notice. This requirement is being applied to all ships (including US flag) regardless of their country of registry, last port of call, or the nationality of those on board.

ELSEWHERE: CG members have also been dealing with tighter security, in addition to their normal missions. A total of about 1,800 CG reservists have been recalled nationwide. In the Great Lakes region, the CG is patrolling areas along the shores of the lakes & has recalled 101 of 741 reservists in the area to help with the increased load. In cooperation with Canadian authorities, CG personnel are boarding foreign-flagged ships at Montreal, Quebec, then conducting checks of manifests & crew lists as the ships get underway. CG helicopters also are increasing security in Chicago & Buffalo. Delays have been minimal, & traffic in the St. Lawrence Seaway is described as light.

SAR

ALASKA: A CG helicopter crew airlifted a 21-year-old woman having pregnancy complications out of Hoonah Saturday. The CG received a call from Sitka Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital at 7:09 p.m., requesting Jamie Weed be airlifted. The Sitka-based helicopter crew airlifted Weed & transported her to an awaiting ambulance crew in Sitka at 11:56 p.m. [This could be called "Life Goes On!"]

SEATTLE/ASTORIA/SACRAMENTO: A CG helicopter hoisted a 51-year-old man from a cruise ship 240 NM SW of Astoria. The CG in Seattle received notification that a man had a ruptured appendix aboard the cruise ship *Rhapsody of the Seas* and requested medical assistance. Communications between the ship & a USPHS doctor were established & CGAS Astoria launched a helicopter while a C-130 from Sacramento flew as cover. The man was delivered to waiting medical personnel at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland.

MISSION: Lives saved: 3,682; Drugs seized: 133,270 lbs of cocaine, 34,153 lbs of marijuana products; Migrants saved or interdicted: 3,453.

CGC COWSLIP: The decommissioning, which was originally scheduled for Sep. 27, has been delayed approximately 30 days. This announcement follows increased CG efforts to heighten port security in Oregon and Washington. *COWSLIP*, a 180-ft. buoy tender & one of the CG's oldest Cutters, was built in 1942. After being commissioned into service more than 50 years ago, the Cutter performed combat duty during World War II in the East Coast. Since 1995, *COWSLIP* has been working under the most demanding environment—in & around the mouth of the Columbia River leading to the Pacific Ocean.

NEW INSIGNIA: USCG helicopter rescue swimmers now have their own special uniform insignia to recognize their unique & dangerous duties. The first set of the newly authorized 'helicopter rescue swimmer insignia', or 'wings', were presented to the senior rescue swimmer in the CG, Master Chief Aviation Survival Technician (AST) Keith Jensen, at CG headquarters in Washington, D.C. today. "It's an honour to receive these wings on behalf of all Coast Guard rescue swimmers," said Jensen. "This special insignia recognizes the unique position of the helicopter rescue swimmer & I'm proud to wear them," he said. The new rescue swimmer wings were authorized by the Commandant on July 13. The insignia depicts crossed rescue swimmer flippers superimposed on a 'cross of life' (widely used as a symbol for EMT's) representing the swimmer's EMT skills, & gold wings denoting aviation.

COAST GUARD CLUB CALL BOOK: It is bound in a spiral binder & includes the latest changes. As of today the book is 1" thick—186 sheets of paper. If you want a copy of the call book, send a cheque for \$15.00 payable to **Don Gardner**. (Sold to CGC members only.)

COAST GUARD NETS: The Coast Guard Radio Amateur SSB Net is on the air each Saturday from 1200-1300 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.

COAST GUARD STORIES: Check Out: **Jack's Joint**, www.jacksjoint.com/, which has interesting Coast Guard short stories & scuttlebutt. I used selected short stories from this site for my version of **Coast Guard Stories, Vol. I** (volume II is pending). I will print the stories on my printer, put it in a spiral binder & send you a copy postage paid for **\$19.95**.

QUA? If you have a news item of interest to our members, especially reunion information, please send it in. Want to swap, sell, trade ham gear?

COAST GUARD PRODUCTS: Shop at the Academy Exchange, www.shopcoastguard.com/acatalog/

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.

CGC SPENCER: 11-15 October at Williamsburgh, VA. Contact Jack Shampine, 7393 Route #21, Cicero, NY 13039, fone 315 699 3127, or Hank Rogers, Jr., #342 Freedom CT, Baltimore, MD 21220, fone 410 335 6826.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 489 members in our Club as of 1 October (5 members recently Crossed the Bar). We are striking for 500 by the end of 2001! de AD4PT