

Coast Guard Club Newsletter

May 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 going to WWW.USCGRADIO.NET, click on the Membership Form link & fill in the blanks. Please ensure that you clearly state whether you are adding, changing, or deleting information.

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.

SHIP(s) INFORMATION regarding the vessel(s) you served on, for those who have access to the Internet, may often be found by using the GOOGLE search engine. With GOOGLE, you type the name of the ship, such as USCGC GRESHAM, or WAVP-387, or WHEC-387. Many Google sites have pictures of the ships or provide information on how you can obtain a print. Unit patches & ship models are often found for sale.

STATISTICS 6 February 2004: Drugs seized; Cocaine, 73323 lbs; Marijuana, 11577 lbs. Migrants interdicted: 3589. Lives saved: 1934.

Search and Rescue SitReps

KIA DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal gave his life to prevent homicide bombers from destroying the Basra oil terminals. Bruckenthal was the 1st Coast Guardsman KIA since the Vietnam War. He was aboard a 6-man boat that was sent to intercept 3 explosive-laden dhows that were heading to the terminals. One of the dhows exploded as his boat drew near to inspect it. The blast flipped the boat, killing 2 USN sailors immediately. Bruckenthal died of his injuries.

WASHINGTON An overhaul of the CG provides only half the ships & 2/3 of the aircraft it needs to protect the 95000 miles of US shoreline, a study said. To meet the security challenges in the wake of the Sept. 11 2001 attacks, the US should double CG purchases & speed up its 20-year 'Deepwater' programme started in 2002, the study by the RAND think tank said.

BOSTON CGC CAMPBELL, came to the aid of the FV *Triunfo* 120 miles E of Chatham, MA after the *Triunfo's* propeller became fouled with a net, leaving the vessel adrift with no means of propulsion. The Campbell transferred *Triunfo* to a rescue boat from CG Station Brant Point in Nantucket for further towing of the vessel & its 4-man crew to the Juliet mooring anchorage 2 miles offshore in Nantucket. *Triunfo*, homeported in New Bedford, had been underway since April 16th fishing for NE multi-species fish.

Last fall, *CAMPBELL* moved from its former homeport of New Bedford to Kittery, ME. Despite the relocation, the Cutter has maintained an active presence on the George's Bank fishing grounds & continues to support the New Bedford fishing fleet.

NEW ORLEANS - A CG Aviation Training Centre Mobile, AL jet crew located 2 missing boaters aboard their capsized vessel about 60 miles SE of Cape San Blas, FL. Kenneth Heybrock, 49, & his son Joshua, 18, of **High Point, NC**, left for a short trip in an 18-ft sailboat. Family members expected them back before dark & called the CG when they did not arrive. CG rescue crews from Station Panama City, the CGC *BONITO*, ATC Mobile, AS New Orleans & AS Clearwater searched for more than 40 hours in an area extending more than 100 miles SE of Cape San Blas. A helicopter crew from New Orleans hoisted the boaters & transported them to an airport in Apalachicola. [*They returned here OK.*]

HOUSTON Rescue crews are assisting the Matagorda Sheriff's Dept. in a search for a missing swimmer in the Colorado River, near Matagorda, TX. The crew of CG Station Port O'Connor, received a call requesting their assistance in the search for a 20-year-old, black male from Houston. According to the sheriff's report, the young man had spent the afternoon at the beach with 4 friends. Two young women from his group went swimming in the river & were overcome by the current. The young man, reported to be an excellent swimmer, entered the river near the south jetty to assist his friends. He rescued 1 young woman & brought her safely to shore. He then went back & rescued the 2nd young woman. He then went out a third time to assist a young boy who was having trouble. The boy made it to shore safely, but the rescuer was last seen struggling against the current & waves near the north jetty.

ST PETERSBURG The crew of a CGAS Clearwater HH-60 helicopter rescued Robert Gallant, a 47-year-old fisherman, who suffered from a fishing hook stuck in his hand while fishing on board the FV *Bold Venture*, 130 miles W of Sanibel Island.

MARINETTE, WI The new CGC *SEQUOIA* was launched into the Menominee River at Marinette Marine Corp. The Cutter will be placed into a temporary 'In-Commission Special' status. The Cutter's official commissioning will take place at her homeport of Apra Harbour, Guam. *SEQUOIA* is the 15th Juniper Class Seagoing Buoy Tender & the 10th 'B Class' Cutter built Marinette Marine Corp. Currently the CG has contracted for 11 'B' Class Cutters. The 'B' Class Cutters will join the 5 'A' Class Cutters built by Marinette Marine that are operating worldwide.

SAN JUAN, PR The CG continues to intercept record numbers of migrants attempting to illegally enter the US. Working closely with ICE, Customs, & Border Protection including the Border Patrol & Puerto Rico Police Dept's FURA unit, record numbers of lives are being saved & the borders of Puerto Rico patrolled with vigilance. In FY 2004 (1 Oct 2003 to present). 4,685 migrants have been interdicted, compared to 2,476 migrants all of FY 2003. Already, FY 2004 interdictions in the Mona Passage are the most since FY1996 & if they remain on their current pace will exceed all previous years. Since 9 April the CG has successfully rescued & repatriated 414 DR migrants from 7 different boats (yolas). The Dept. of Homeland Security migrant interdiction mission is conducted for 2 primary purposes: maritime border security & the safety of life at sea.

PROVIDENCE 27 April 2004, marks 1 year since the Bouchard tank barge *B. No. 120* ran aground & spilled approximately 55000 gallons of Number 6 fuel oil in Buzzards Bay. CG Marine Safety Office (MSO) Providence has been working with several of its partners the past year to clean up the spill & to implement changes that can help prevent a similar disaster in the future. To date, more than \$40 million has been spent on cleanup efforts. 99.8 percent of the shoreline areas that were oiled as a result of the spill have been cleaned, inspected by a combined team representing federal, state, local, & responsible party representatives, & found to meet the cleanup criteria under Massachusetts state law. A state-licensed company, Geolnsight, Inc, was designated to direct cleanup operations with oversight by the Mass.s Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) & CG in September 2003, when the Buzzards Bay Unified Command transitioned from the emergency response effort phase to a longer-term remediation effort under the oversight of DEP. The cleanup effort continues. MSO Providence is working with the Corps of Engineers at Cape Cod Canal on a proposal to expand the Corps' electronic coverage of Buzzards Bay through use of the Automatic Identification System (AIS). Under the proposal, the Corps would monitor commercial traffic via AIS signals emanating from vessels transiting in Buzzards Bay & notify either the vessel itself, the CG, or both, if the vessel was detected veering from its intended route. An operational prototype of this proposal may be tested this year. The CG also plans to expand its shore-side AIS infrastructure to enable vessel tracking & improved navigation safety & collision avoidance in areas such as Buzzards Bay. The US Attorney announced a \$10 million criminal settlement with Bouchard Trans. for the Buzzards Bay oil spill.

NEW ORLEANS CGC *CYPRESS* is scheduled to return to CG Base Mobile, AL. The *CYPRESS* deployed to Haiti 26 February in support of Operation Able Sentry, the US government's response to increased migration, following Haiti's domestic unrest. While deployed, the crew took part in a variety of missions, including alien migrant interdiction, law enforcement; AtoN, assisting the CG Maritime Safety & Security Team 91104, based out of Galveston, as well as assisting the Marines & the Haitian CG. The crew created a safer route on waterways in Port-au-Prince & Cap Haitien, Haiti, by establishing about 25 aids to navigation, both shoreside & afloat. This navigation system allowed for a safe & navigable passage for stabilisation forces from the US, France, Canada & Chile. Additionally, the crew's efforts provided for a waterborne commerce system in & out of Haiti. The crew also helped to rebuild the Haitian CG Base. The Mobile-based *CYPRESS*, a 225-ft seagoing buoy tender, was commissioned in October 2002. The mixed-gender crew of 47 Coast Guardsmen is responsible for ensuring the proper operation of AtoN from Apalachicola, FL to the Mexican border.

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 CAMPBELL 20-24 May. Contact Gordon Bell, VP, 75 Hillcrest AV, Chalfont, PA 18914, Fone 215 822 2426 or email CaptBell@Comcast.net.

EM(Tel), TT, & IT 25-28 June Red Cloud, NB. Contact Joe Shuck 402 756 2472, Bob Stephens 360 457 0817 or Ray Snow 540 729 1045.

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 MACKINAW 8TH reunion & 60th anniversary at Cheboygan, MI. Contact USCGC MACKINAW Assoc, PO Box 69, Cheboygan, MI 49721 or e-mail gpsnider@hotmail.com.

CGC MENDOTA Shell Island Ocean Front Resort, Wrightsville Beach, NC. Contact USCGC MENDOTA Reunion, PO Box 822, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.

CGC WESTWIND Wyndam Hotel, 101 W Fayett St, Baltimore, MD 21201, fone 410 385 6700. Contact Alex Mavica at amavica@optonline.net or fone 845 352 7040.

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.

COAST GUARD CW OPERATORS 27-31 October at Las Vegas, NV. Further info contact J J Huffman, email bird63@ak.net.

83-FOOTERS 14 August at Port Townsend, WA. Details at web site www.uscg83footers.org

MEMBERSHIP There are 553 members in our club. DE AD4PT 73 & Semper Paratus.