

Coast Guard Club Newsletter

July 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" spiral binder & will include a Certificate of Membership in the **COAST GUARD CLUB**. The USPS now requires that the book should not be sealed to be accessible to inspectors and may determine that it does not qualify for the Media Rate, which would increase postage. If that happens, I will have to increase the charge for the book to help offset the cost of mailing.

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.

Search & Rescue Situation Reports

SEATTLE The CG rescued 2 people after an off-duty Coast Guardsman noticed that their 20-ft sailboat had capsized in Port Angeles Harbour. CG Station Port Angeles issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB) & launched a 25-ft utility boat to rescue the Port Angeles residents. John & Martha Melcher were pulled from the 49-degree water by the CG crew minutes after the emergency call & were transported to safety at the Port Angeles Marina. Station Port Angeles later recovered the vessel & secured it at the Ediz Hook Boat Launch

JUNEAU A CG Station Juneau boat crew terminated a local boater's voyage Saturday night near Auke Bay & turned him over to a Juneau Police Department (JPD) officer for arrest on boating while intoxicated charges. The CG boat crew stopped 33-yo Eric Zemlicka to board his recreational boat, but Zemlicka failed to cooperate & resisted the boarding. CG boarding officers detained Zemlicka, transported him to Auke Bay Harbour & turned him over to JPD. Zemlicka registered a blood alcohol level of .127 percent.

CLEVELAND Four people were rescued from the water by the CG after their boat sank in North Coast Harbour near the football stadium. The CG received a report of people in the water & responded with a 41-ft rescue boat from the Cleveland Harbour station. Four Clevelanders were recovered from the water & brought back the station & released. The boat remains submerged & local salvage has been contacted.

PORTSMOUTH Six people were rescued, including 2 young children, from their foundering vessel approximately 25 miles E of Oregon Inlet, NC, by CG rescue personnel after their vessel started taking on water. Kevin Nunemaker of Nags Head, the Captain of the 24-ft recreational fishing vessel, radioed the CG for help after his vessel started quickly taking on water in its stern area. A rescue crew from Station Oregon Inlet arrived & pulled everyone except for Nunemaker off the distressed FV. Two members of the the rescue crew then jumped aboard Nunemaker's vessel & instructed him to keep driving, while they used a dewatering pump lowered to them by a helicopter from CGAS Elizabeth City, to save Nunemaker's boat. Rescue crews had trouble spotting Nunemaker's boat in the 5-ft seas until he fired off a signal flare that led them right to his position. Everyone onboard the recreational boat was also wearing their life jackets. The CG recommends that all boaters carry some form of signalling device, such as flares or personal marker lights. CG rescue crews directly attribute flares for the success of this rescue.

SAN JUAN The CG Command Centre in San Juan, received a report from the *Queen Mary 2* (QM2) that a 46-yo man was missing & had possibly jumped overboard after a verbal argument with his girlfriend. QM2 departed Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands with the missing listed as checked in & received a report from his girlfriend that she had found a suicide note from him. He was last reported seen by a cabin steward. A thorough sweep of the ship was conducted by the crew with negative results. The CG issued an UMIB & launched an HH-65 Dolphin helo from CGAS Borinquen to conduct a search. The QM2 was also directed to turn around & search along their original trackline. The HH-65 searched through the night & into the morning but was unable to locate the missing passenger. QM2 was allowed to continue to her next port of call in New York City but was forced to turn around & steam back towards San Juan because of a 2nd emergency. This one, a passenger suffering from heart problems, required a Medevac. A 2nd Dolphin helicopter & an HU-25 Falcon jet were launched from Borinquen to airlift the patient, who was delivered to Isla Grande Airport for further transport by ambulance to San Juan Centro Medico.

SEATTLE A CG helo rescued an injured 63-yo man from the Yaquina Bay Jetty. While walking on the jetty, Charles Lewis fell on the rocks & was injured. CG Station Yaquina Bay overheard local emergency personnel report the accident site was difficult to reach due to the rocky terrain. A 23-ft utility boat from Station Yaquina bay was launched & an HH-65 Dolphin helo, on a routine mission, was diverted to assist Lewis. The Dolphin, from CG Air Facility Newport, OR, hoisted Lewis off the rocks & transported him to waiting medical personnel at the Pacific Community Hospital in Newport.

SAN JUAN Severo Rodriguez, 70, from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, was rescued by the CGC *Chincoteague* after being found by a private airplane almost 48-hrs after he was expected home. Rodriguez was reported missing by his daughter to the CG Greater Antilles Section in PR after he did not return from a voyage. **His daughter joined the search effort & actually rented the plane & pilot who eventually found Rodriguez while flying a search area provided by the CG.** The CG conducted 8 additional searches of the most probable location where Rodriguez would be located based on the information provided. Also assisting in the search effort was PR Police Dept's FURA Unit helo. *Chincoteague* was also searching in the area & diverted to recover Rodriguez from his small boat once he was located. Rodriguez was reported in good condition & was given food & water by the crew of *Chincoteague*. Assisting in Rodriguez' rescue was the fact that he left a float plan with a responsible person shoreside who was able to notify the CG so that a reasonable search area could be developed. *Chincoteague* is a 110 ft Cutter home ported in San Juan.

ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY CG Station Alexandria Bay, working in conjunction with the US Border Patrol, seized 63 lbs of marijuana at the Leo Swamp Road Landing in Hogansburg. This seizure is a result of an on-going joint operation, coordinating US & Canadian efforts along the international maritime border to detect, intercept & deter illegal activity. The chase ensued on the St. Regis River when the suspect vessel entered US waters after leaving a place known to be a pick-up spot for illegal narcotics. After reaching the Leo Swamp Road landing, 2 of the 4 suspects fled on foot & were chased by a Border Patrol agent. CG boarding officers detained the remaining 2 suspects. 'This operation was an excellent example of the effectiveness of the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBET). Dept of Homeland Security agencies, CG & Border Patrol, working together, were successful in stopping this delivery. It would not have been as successful without the assistance of the St Regis Tribal Police, New York State Police or the Drug Enforcement Administration. All of these agencies are working together to protect our borders', said Cdr. Gus Wulfkuhle, 9th District CG chief of law enforcement. The contraband has an estimated street value of \$252,000. Also seized was a 20-ft jet boat valued at \$16,000.

SEATTLE The CG suspended the search for a 55-yo man after his body was found near Naval Station Whidbey Island. Jeffrey Scherling of Shoreline, WA, was found by Navy security officers on a beach at Cliffside Park. The CG received a call from an Island County Sheriff dispatcher reporting that a single person kayak was found by Navy security officers at Rocky Point on Whidbey Island with no one on board. CG Group/Air Station Port Angeles launched an HH-65 Dolphin helo & a 25-ft utility boat to search for Scherling. The Dolphin & the utility boat searched parts of the Strait of Juan De Fuca & Rosario Strait west of Whidbey Island.

KODIAK A rescue crew from the air station here medevaced an ailing crewman from a container ship about 200 miles S of Kodiak Island. Ted Ochoa, hometown unknown, was suffering from medical complications while working aboard the APL *Singapore* en route Dutch Harbour. Global Maritime contacted the CG Command Centre in Juneau requesting medical assistance for Ochoa. A CG flight surgeon was consulted & recommended the medevac. At the time of the call the APL *Singapore* was more than 300 miles off shore. The master was directed to change course toward Kodiak to close the distance the helo would fly to rendezvous with the ship. An HH-60 Jayhawk helo & crew, with a CG corpsman aboard, arrived on scene & hoisted Ochoa from the ship into the helo. An awaiting ambulance at Kodiak further transported Ochoa to Providence Kodiak Island Medical Centre.

NEW ORLEANS (QBM WA5GEV) Two helo crews from CGAS New Orleans were honoured with medals: 1 crew the Air Medal for saving 5 lives during Tropical Storm Bill, the 2nd highest award given for aerial achievement; the CG Commendation Medal was awarded another crew for rescuing 5 people during the storm. CGAS New Orleans averages 370 SAR cases a year & in 2003 saved 81 lives & assisted 83 others.

SAN JUAN Three stowaways were turned over to authorities in the Dominican Republic after they were removed from a tug & barge arriving in San Juan from the DR. The stowaways were spotted by the crew of the tug *Sea Islander* using a video surveillance system that monitors security on the barge. The master reported the stowaways to the CG Marine Safety Office. Crews from CG Station San Juan escorted the tug & barge to the pier where they boarded & searched the vessel, finding 3 Cuban males attempting to illegally enter the US.

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

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.

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

255-FOOTERS Plaza Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas May 2005. Contact 255 Sailors Reunion, PO Box 33523, Juneau, AK 99803.

MEMBERSHIP There are 558 members in our club. DE AD4PT, Don Gardner, 73 & Semper Paratus.