

Coast Guard Club Newsletter

August 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, plus reunions news, & unit patches & ship models are often found for sale.

Search & Rescue Situation Reports

NAPLES A CG pilot found 3 people, missing more than a day, waving their life vests for attention on the deck of their disabled boat. CG officials called them 'lucky' after they were found about 20 miles off Marco Island. 'They didn't have a VHF radio & said they had no electronic equipment', said PO2 Judy Silverstein. The boaters said that they had engine trouble after they embarked on their fishing trip.

CLEVELAND The CG would like to officially introduce the new 'Defender Class' Response Boat located at Station Cleveland Harbor. This new modern Response Boat is the first of its kind in the Cleveland area & will be used to support the CG's continuing SAR missions & to protect our nation's ports & waterways. These boats will replace nearly 300 non-standard shore based boats & provide standardised platforms. The Defender Class includes specific Maritime Homeland Security requirements that were incorporated into the design after 9/11, including boat speed of 40+ knots, capability to mount light machine guns, transportable via C-130 aircraft & a full cabin to protect crews from elements on extended patrols.

MIAMI The CG has new restrictions for vessels & vessels without nationality less than 100 metres long travelling to Cuba. These vessels must have a CG-issued permit in order to travel from US territorial waters to Cuban territorial waters. The regulation replaces a previous 3-mile security zone around the Florida Peninsula. Violators caught without a permit may receive a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each day they are in violation & can receive an on-the-spot ticket for up to \$10,000. Anyone who knowingly violates this law is subject to criminal penalties, imprisonment & vessel forfeiture. The new federal regulation is a result of Presidential Proclamation 7757, signed Feb 26, which grants the Secretary of Homeland Security & the CG the authority to establish rules & regulations to regulate the movement of specified vessels from US territorial seas into Cuban territorial seas as such movement might disturb the international relations of the US. The new proclamation increases the scope of a presidential proclamation signed in Feb 1996, which gave the CG authority to establish a 3-mile security zone around the Florida peninsula prohibiting all vessels 50 metres in length or less from entering Cuban waters. This came shortly after Cuba shot down 2 US aircraft in international airspace.

SEATTLE Oregon CG units saved a 42-ft FV from sinking. A 47-ft motor lifeboat crew from CG Station Yaquina Bay the 3-man crew of the FV *Two Fishers* were able to keep the vessel afloat after it began taking on water 17 miles W of Newport. *Two Fishers* transmitted a Mayday call over VHF Channel 16 after they discovered their vessel was taking on water. CG Group/Air Station North Bend heard the Mayday call & launched an HH-65 Dolphin helo from Air Facility Newport to assist, Station Yaquina Bay launched 2 47-ft motor lifeboats as well. The helo was able to successfully lower a dewatering pump to *Two Fishers*, but the crew was unable to operate the pump. When one of the motor lifeboats arrived they passed a 2nd dewatering pump to the sinking vessels' crew. The crew dewatered the vessel & is currently operating under its own power with an escort into Yaquina Bay.

JACKSONVILLE CG rescue crews from Station Charleston & Air Facility Charleston launched to rescue a 35 yo-male who was having an epileptic seizure 25 miles SE of Charleston on a 22-ft pleasure vessel. The man, reported to have a history of epileptic seizures, was stable but unconscious. The CG flight surgeon recommended an immediate medical evacuation. The individuals on the vessel used a VHF radio to call for help. Station Charleston immediately launched a 47-ft rescue boat & Air Facility Charleston launched an HH-65 helo to assist in the rescue. The man was safely hoisted to the helo & transferred in stable condition to the Medical University of South Carolina.

SEATTLE Three men were rescued from the Nehalem River Bar in OR after their boat capsized in 8-ft swells. CG Station Tillamook Bay received a report from a local 911 dispatcher informing them that a 14-ft pleasure craft had capsized on the bar. The CG immediately issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast to mariners in the area who

could provide assistance. A 47-ft motor lifeboat & a 23-ft utility boat were deployed from Station Tillamook Bay & an HH-6Ø Jayhawk helo from Group/Air Station Astoria, was launched. A Good Samaritan rescued the operator of the vessel & crewmembers, who were all wearing life jackets, from the 52-degree water. The men were transported to Brighton Marina to awaiting emergency medical technicians. Station Tillamook Bay's 47-ft motor lifeboat towed the capsized vessel to the Brighton Marina.

JACKSONVILLE CG rescue crews suspended their search for a man, his 17-yo son, another man & his 15 & 17-yo sons after a crew on a Naval vessel located them 3Ø miles E of Charleston. The family members were found in good condition in their 23-ft red & white centre-console boat after running out of gas. The CG rescue crews were notified by a family friend shortly after midnight after the 5 boaters had not returned. Rescue crews of CGC *Yellowfin*, an HH-65 helo from Air Facility Charleston & a HC-13Ø aircraft from Elizabeth City searched more than 1,5ØØ square miles before a Navy vessel located the 5 survivors.

HOUSTON A helo crew from CGAS Houston medevaced the captain of the *Lady Agnes III*, a shrimp boat located approx 6 miles E of Crystal Beach, TX. A watchstander at CG Group Galveston received a relayed call that a deck hand on the *Lady Agnes III* had stabbed his captain in the eye & face with a knife. The CG despatched an HH-65B Dolphin helo from CGAS Houston & 2 25-ft rescue boats, with boarding teams, from CG Station Galveston. The rescue boats arrived on scene & the boarding teams provided first aid to the injured captain. The helo hoisted the captain & transported him to the U. of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He is in stable condition. The Galveston County PD will conduct an investigation.

MIAMI The search for 15 missing migrants in Mona Pass near western Puerto Rico was suspended.

SAN DIEGO CAPT John E Long will assume COTP & Federal Maritime Security Coordinator responsibilities from CAPT Stephen P Metruck. Two separate commands, Activities & MSO San Diego are to be consolidated into the new command.

ANCHORAGE CG officials are investigating the cause of a boat accident in Resurrection Bay. 161 passengers were evacuated from a tour boat after it struck a submerged object near Fox Island & began taking on water. The boat was about 2 hours into a half day tour when the captain turned into a harbour that was know to have many rocks. Extensive damage was done to the boat, but it is repairable. Anyone scheduled for 1 of their half-day trips will be sent on a competitors ship or given a full refund.

FT LAUDERDALE Three men were charged with possessing about \$2.5 million worth of cocaine that 2 of them smuggled into the US from the Bahamas. Both men were arrested by the CG after the 26-ft pleasure craft they were on was stopped about 7 miles off Ft Lauderdale. Coast Guardsmen found 138 kg of cocaine covered by life jackets in a storage compartment. Both men admitted trying to smuggle the drugs. With help from one man, ICE agents made several telephone calls to an unidentified person to arrange the pickup. A man in a white Honda parked nearby and got into the van, where he was immediately arrested. The man said he was paid \$5,ØØØ to drive the van to the Broward Mall in Plantation & abandon it. The 3 men are charged with possession, & the men from the boat were faced with smuggling charges.

WASHINGTON, DC The Senate sent to the President a bill that approves spending \$8.2 billion for the CG. The bill increases personnel from 37,ØØØ to 45,5ØØ & gives officers authority to carry firearms & make arrests for maritime security violations. The legislation in addition requires the development of a long-range vessel tracking system & a plan to improve the collection & sharing of maritime intelligence by federal agencies.

HONOLULU The CG is continuing it investigation of an incident involving the dive boat *Blue Dolphin* & passenger vessel *Spirit of Kauai* that resulted in serious injuries of 2 divers. Following the incident, the cruise ship *Pride of Aloha* provided medical attention to the divers until a Navy H-3 Sea King helo could transport them to awaiting EMS at Lihue Airport. Also despatched was a HH-65 rescue helo from CGAS Barbers Point. CG investigators have conducted drug & alcohol testing of vessel crewmembers & are awaiting results. Interviews of crewmembers & passengers on both vessels continue.

CG NETS The CG Radio Amateur SSB Net is on the air each Saturday from 12-13ØØ ET on 143ØØ (14313 alternate). At 13ØØ ET the Net shifts to 14327 & continues, usually for about 3Ø minutes. Dick Anderson, KE7A, in the Dallas-Ft Worth area, is the NCS. A CW Net with Fred Goodwin, K7LF, as NCS, is on 14Ø52/7Ø52 & 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 CW OPERATORS 27-31 October at Las Vegas, NV. Further info contact J J Huffman, email bird63@ak.net.

255-FOOTERS Plaza Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas 15-18 May 2ØØ5. Contact: 255 Sailors Reunion, PO Box 33523, Juneau, AK 998Ø3.

MEMBERSHIP There are 564 members in the [Coast Guard Club](#). DE AD4PT, Don Gardner, 73 & Semper Paratus.