

The Bulldog Newsletter 12



January 5, 2015

THE BULLDOG

Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY News | Holidays | Training | Underway College



Christmas on ALEX HALEY

ALEX HALEY celebrated the holidays this year with many events coordinated by the ship's morale committee, headed by ENS Andrew Jaeger. On both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there were several events that raised the holiday cheer on board. The crew enjoyed many Christmas cards flown in from numerous schools around the country as well as the Girl Scouts of America Troop #3399. Many baked goods were also received from our friends and families, collected by the Base Kodiak Chaplain's Office.

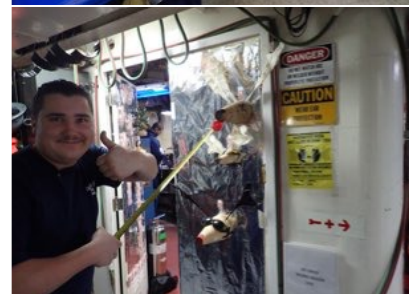
FS3 Anna Jackson kicked off our first event of Ornament Making, allowing crew members to hand craft an ornament to send home or display on the ship's tree. Next up was the Ugly Sweater Contest. While members shared with us several sweaters fit for the title, EM2 Sean Fadeley won with arguably the ugliest sweater in Alaska. The most competitive event, however, was the Door Decorating Contest. Members of any berthing area or work space were able to enter the challenge by decorating their door in the most festive way possible. Our judges, FS2 Robert Vernon and BM2 Michael Rones, were grading creativity, originality, and overall holiday spirit. Members of the Combat Information Center (CIC) with their overwhelming aura of a Winter Wonderland, including a cardboard mountain range, festive lights, and numerous hand-cut snowflakes, won the contest.

After a fun-filled day, ALEX HALEY went to sleep to await a tactical, at-sea boarding by Santa Claus. The crew woke Christmas morning to snack filled stockings, courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard Head Quarters in Washington, DC. Snacks and candy are of course coveted at any deployed military unit, but the real joy was found in a hand knit hat for every member of the crew. The knit hats were made by members of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. After a slow Christmas morning, with our heads warm, we picked up the competitive spirit again with Gingerbread Houses. Teams had several hours to construct their best Gingerbread House. With final entries ranging from a barely standing shack, a two-story home, to even a Coast Guard Cutter, our judges, the Chief's Mess, came in to have a look. And again, the Operations Specialists and Electronics Technicians of CIC took home the prize. Incorporating flashing lights, color coordinated Fruit Loops and a Ninja, they created a homey winter dojo. Later in the afternoon, both Support and Deck departments presented their ALEX HALEY themed "12 Days of Christmas" to an amused crew. The holiday celebrations ended that evening with a wonderfully prepared ham and turkey Christmas dinner, leaving everyone filled with memories of Christmases past.

We appreciate greatly and especially thank all of our friends and family members who took a moment to write a card or send a care package to a sailor away from home. It is difficult to be away from our families during the holiday season, yet it is a challenge made easier by the camaraderie and friendship the crew of ALEX HALEY exemplifies everyday.

Story By ENS Andrew Jaeger

Special Thanks to Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA for our hand-knit hats!



Small Boat Training

ALEX HALEY takes advantage of a beautiful winter day near Akutan Island for small boat training. ALEX HALEY was able to launch both small boats and conduct various drills as well as offer morale rides to members of other various departments.

BM2 Michael Ronces



MK3 Rob Nogueira



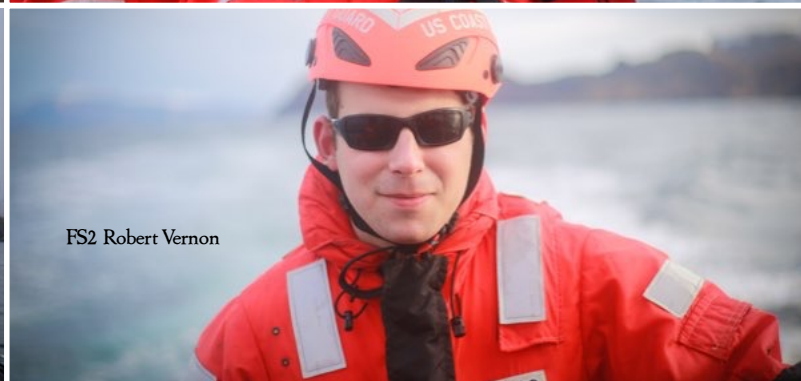
FA Zachary Ensor

MK1 Daniel Brown

BM3 Jared Elliott



SN Michael Mackie



FS2 Robert Vernon



CG23141 practices approaches to ALEX HALEY



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ALEX HALEY Hosts Financial Management Course



In conjunction with the Afloat College Education program, ALEX HALEY embarked Professor Isaac McKnight from Vincennes University during the first half of our patrol. 18 of our shipmates successfully completed the “Personal Finance Management” course and earned three credit hours. The students received funding support form Coast Guard Tuition Assistance.

The college course provided an excellent opportunity for crew members to learn more about decisions related to spending, saving, borrowing and investing. Classes were held five days a week for five weeks with an option of a morning or evening class. This flexibility allowed students to choose which class to attend while still meeting the demands

of the cutter’s operational missions. Professor McKnight was very impressed with the camaraderie of the crew and their dedication to continuing education.

Professor McKnight, a former Coast Guard Reservist from Louisiana, holds a Bachelors of Science and a Masters of Business Administration from Louisiana State University. He has participated in the Afloat Professor Program since 2006 and has administered course material at over 19 Navy and Coast Guard units. Professor McKnight has previously sailed with USS NIMITZ, USS JOHN C. STENNIS, USS RONALD REAGAN and USCGC POLAR STAR.

Story By LTJG Cameron King

“This class was a great learning experience. I will use the information learned to create a plan for a stable and successful financial future”

-BM3 Michael Diaz



“As a potential first-time homebuyer, I will be able to demonstrate a better understanding of financial management. This course gave me the insight needed to properly plan for the future.”

-GM1 Brandon Hayward

Thanks For The Cards, America!



MKC Christian Grunden



ET1 Brent Taylor

We would like to send a gracious thank you to the boys and girls who sent us Holiday Cards from around America. Students from George Washington Elementary in Lodi, California, West New York Middle School in West New York, New Jersey and girls from Girl Scouts of America Troop #3399 spent time this year making hundreds of greeting cards for our sailors at sea. The crew enjoyed the various depictions of ALEX HALEY and the warm and unique greetings contained within each card. We would also like to thank U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Ms. Renee Feinberg of Lodi and Mrs. Cynthia Varrichio of West New York for coordinating this special surprise.



SN Grant Bowers



SK1 Daniel Mitchell



FN Ramon Brea



GMI Brandon Hayward



FS3 Keven Narvaez