

The Bulldog Newsletter 13



January 28, 2015

THE BULLDOG

Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY News | Shipmates | MCPO Vanderhaden



Pacific Area Command Master Chief

Jason Vanderhaden Visits ALEX HALEY



MCPO Vanderhaden speaks with ALEX HALEY crew members June 2014.



MCPO Vanderhaden arrives on ALEX HALEY in the Bering Sea



MCPO Vanderhaden speaking with ALEX HALEY's non-rates.

Master Chief Vanderhaden has been the Pacific Area Command Master Chief for just under a year and ALEX HALEY has already had the luxury of meeting him twice. He is the senior enlisted advisor to Vice Admiral Ray, the Pacific Area Commander, on all Coast Guard missions within the Pacific Area, to include all units of Districts 11, 13, 14, and 17. All in all, Pacific Area's reach extends from the frigid waters of the Arctic Ocean to the frozen continent of Antarctica all the way to the eastern coast of Africa. Visits from an Area Command Master Chief are extremely sought after at the unit level. When Master Chief Vanderhaden, during his dockside visit in June, told the Bulldog of the Bering that he intended to return and sail with our crew, we were very excited. Not only did the Master Chief keep his word but organized the visit during a winter patrol within the Bering Sea. For five days Master Chief Vanderhaden spent time with the crew, experiencing first hand the daily operations of ALEX HALEY and the infamous weather in which she operates. While onboard, Master Chief met with the various pay grades passing information on the Coast Guard's



direction for the future. The crew's ideas, thoughts and concerns were also solicited and valued. Master Chief also offered excellent leadership training for the crew that was met with maximum participation. While not holding trainings or meetings, Master Chief was available for one-on-one meetings with members of the crew to discuss any and all topics. The five days onboard passed quickly, but during his short time with us Master Chief experienced a small storm with mild twelve foot seas and the joys of a "Bar-Pat" in the shelter of Beaver Inlet. During storm avoidance, Master Chief joined our Chiefs Mess in cooking pizza and preparing ice cream sandwiches for a grateful crew. Following dinner, Master Chief could be found in the ship's scullery, relieving days long past of mess cooking as a young non-rate. At his final quarters, Master Chief received recognition and appreciation for his time with us. Commander Steve White presented him with the coveted Bering Sea Sailor Certificate, a memento designating him an ALEX HALEY "Shipmate for Life". We thank Master Chief Vanderhaden for his time with us and congratulating him on his first patrol in the Bering Sea.

Sailor Of The Quarter - BM2 Michael Rones!



Since reporting to ALEX HALEY last summer, BM2 Michael Rones quickly became a lively and essential part of the crew. For more than six months, he has served as Deck Force's Leading Petty Officer, a position usually held by a higher pay grade. During this quarter, BM2 Rones oversaw the research, ordering and distribution of over \$12,000 worth of Rescue and Survival gear and personal protective equipment. This vital project allowed ALEX HALEY's boarding teams, boat crews and deck personnel protection from the harsh elements of the Alaskan winter. BM2 also managed an extensive overhaul of the ship's exterior, involving over 8,000 man hours of sanding and repainting all white surfaces. Always upbeat, BM2 Rones also organized several morale events for Deck Force. His infectious attitude and positive leadership has been a welcome addition to ALEX HALEY and we congratulate him on his selection as our Sailor of the Quarter!

Bering Sea Boardings!



ME1 Tobie Stanley

BM3 Parker Wall

GM3 Wyatt Laney

SN Michael Mackie



Engineering Works Overtime in Dutch Harbor



Above from left to right: MK2 Jonathan Broemeling, DC2 Jason Manor, MK1 Paidric Duffy, CWO4 Thomas Locklar, LT Michael Adams, MK1 Daryl Lirette, MK3 Brandon Ficht, MK3 Connor Kline, ENS Kristin Euchler, MK3 Christopher Sandrelli, FN James Quam, MKC Jason Ellison, EM3 Garric Sullivan, FN Hunter Campbell, and FN Zachary Ensor were all vital members of the rebuild.

Left: MK3 Brandon Ficht and MK2 Jonathan Broemeling pose with Control Pitch Propeller motor, which had to be lifted to access the pump

ALEX HALEY's engineers faced one of their biggest challenges in years, replacing a failed hydraulic pump and fixing a leak that allowed salt water to contaminate the starboard propeller shaft's sensitive hydraulic system. The engineering team, pictured above, worked continuously for four days installing a pump delivered by an Air Station Kodiak C-130. The project involved rigging the 600 pound motor off the failed pump, lifting the 340 pound pump and reassembling the system. The salt water leak was identified as a leaking heat exchanger. With many failed components of the heat exchanger, repair was not an option. The engineers were forced to scour Dutch Harbor for suitable replacements and devise a plan to mount and connect the new heat exchanger which was an entirely different shape and style than the original. The project concluded with flushing the hydraulics and thoroughly cleaning the entire system. Also deserving recognition, the Supply Department pulled off some "logistical miracles" to locate, order and supply essential parts and tools. The repair, which would typically be performed by contractors in a matter of weeks, was completed by the ship's crew in just four days, at a fraction of the cost, and returned ALEX HALEY to full capability.

Advancements!



Congratulations to SK3 Julia Skidmore (left) and DC2 Jason Manor on their advancements! SK3 Skidmore is a Storekeeper, a rate which she “struck” on her previous afloat tour, CGC MUNRO. Striking allows for a non-rate to learn a rating “on-the-job” instead of attending a regular class “A” school. DC2 Manor has been assigned to ALEX HALEY since 2012 and will be receiving PCS orders soon. His top picks are several river tenders in Tennessee and Florida, USCGC Cimmeron, USCGC Chena and USCGC Maria Bray. He will be transferring with his wife, Danielle, and their three boys, Jaxson and twins Liam and Brody.

Reenlistments!

Congratulations to BM2 Theodore Aniskoff and MK2 Jonathan Broemeling on reenlisting! CDR Stephen White (CO) and LT Michael Adams (EO) administered the reenlistments on the bow of ALEX HALEY Thursday afternoon. BM2 Aniskoff is transferring this summer to Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Bristol, Rhode Island. Originally hailing from Connecticut, BM2 is very excited to get back to east coast. ANT Bristol was BM2’s number one pick. MK2 Broemeling is transferring this summer to USCGC SEA LION in Bellingham, Washington. MK2 Broemeling is working towards his Permanent Cutterman’s pin, a uniform insignia designating more than five years of sea service and other notable shipboard achievements. The back to back afloat tours puts him within reach of this admirable goal.



FLIGHT OPS



SA Octavio Estrada

SN Joseph Gallagher

BM3 Parker Wall

SN Eric Speranza

SN Garcia Medina

SNBM Casey Blackwell



MK1 John Brown

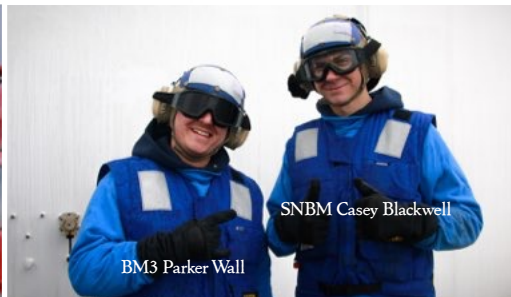
FN Seth Bergman

DC2 Jason Manor



SA Adam Guercio

SA Eli Neves



SNBM Casey Blackwell

BM3 Parker Wall



SA Adam Guercio

SA Octavio Estrada



SA William Willoughby



Deck Force!



AST2 Omar Alba



YNI Stephanie Fomby



LTJG Kelsey Freeman

Deadliest Catch Cameraman
Dan Lee