



The Cuttermen

**Winter 2010
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*'The Cuttermen' is the Official Newsletter of
the Coast Guard Cuttermen's Association*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual meeting will be in April 2011 in the Washington D.C. area.

Next Cuttermen's call 1400 on 13 January at the SNA Symposium at Hyatt Crystal City, VA.

Submit an article for The Cuttermen, next issue is March 2011

From the Commandant, Lifetime member of the Cuttermen's Association

Shipmates and Cuttermen,

Landsmen and civilians often ask what draws me so strongly to the sea. While the wonders of the sea are many, shipmates are certainly one of the main reasons. For people who serve on or over the water, the term "Shipmate" represents the unique bond that is formed when the people you serve with, and their families, become part of your extended family.

Family is the only word to describe persons with whom you spend 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, operating vessels and aircraft, sometimes in the most treacherous conditions of sea and sky, and executing challenging, often dangerous maritime missions. The bonds forged on Cutters, when we entrust our lives and livelihoods to our shipmates, are deep and last entire careers—if not lifetimes. This is why the top of my Commandant's coin simply states one word – "Shipmates."

I am proud to introduce this first-edition of the Cuttermen's Association Newsletter. Whether you are a Cuttermen or not, all of us that share the bond of "Shipmates" have a duty to preserve our rich maritime heritage and share our enthusiasm for sea service with others.

This first-edition newsletter begins what we intend to build into a robust forum to share and discuss our common interests. We have already established links with Coast Guard history enthusiasts. I urge you to check out the Association's website at www.cuttermen.org.

There is much more to come. I'm excited about the Association's creation, and I look forward to watching it grow. We have set a goal of enrolling 1790 members by August 4, 2011. I hope you enjoy the newsletter! *Semper Paratus!*

Sincerely,

R.J. Papp, Jr.
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Ancient Mariner of the U. S. Coast Guard



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'The Cuttermen' is published four times annually as the official publication of the Cuttermen's Association which contributes to preservation of the history of Coast Guard Cuttermen and the recognition thereof. Correspondence may be sent to:

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Or emailed via our website:

www.cuttermen.org



From the President

Welcome to the Cuttermen's Association, an organization dedicated to the sailors of the Coast Guard fleet past, present and future. We are now well over four hundred members - men and women, officers and enlisted, active duty and retired, and a few special friends of cuttermen. You are the organizational plankowners! A special welcome to those members who have already purchased lifetime memberships - thank you for your faith and support.

Throughout my thirty-year career I've wished for a national Cuttermen's Association, and thanks to each of you this is now a reality. The life of a cutterman is not an easy one and it shapes a character that is uniquely honest, incredibly hard-working, and very practical...as well as inevitably tolerant of a wide range of personalities. This is not a group one wishes to leave behind as they transition from active duty!

So who are we? We are a non-profit social organization that provides a place for past and future shipmates to connect, a source of mentoring for cuttermen still on active duty, and eventually a collection point for information that should prove interesting to active duty and retired alike. We're still setting up and sorting out, and I appreciate your patience. We are powered solely by volunteers, including the demanding jobs of Webmaster and Treasurer, and we still have too many active duty and too few retired volunteers. If you have a little time you can spare, now is a great time to contact us and obtain a chance to shape our organization through heading or joining a committee. Take a look at our By-laws and the website to see if there is something you'd like to influence. We welcome your thoughts and efforts.

Board members and I agreed to serve only one year during this founding period. Elections will be held in April, 2011, at a national meeting in DC to discuss by-laws, validate plans, and elect new leadership. Watch for details on our website, and think about whether you would be interested in a leadership role.

All good organizations promote healthy and thoughtful debate. We will be no exception, and have already found an issue that has introduced the spice of discussion among members - the degree of affiliation the Cuttermen's Association will share with the Surface Navy Association (SNA). We've asked ADM Tozzi to share his thoughts. As a Board Member of SNA and an active cutterman and member of the Cuttermen's Association, ADM Tozzi can explain the value of SNA membership better than anyone. For now we are financially and organizationally separate.

If you are a cutterman and a lawyer willing to offer pro bono help to the Cuttermen's Association as we set up, we have a special leadership opportunity for you. As we work out the national procedures and details and establish local chapters, we could really use your help. Call me.

It has been an honor laying out the trackline of our organization, honoring our profession, and touting the successes of cutters and cuttermen around the world and throughout history. Thanks for your support in getting our association underway!



OUR COMMUNITY

Current Silver Ancient Mariner

*Tenth Coast Guard Silver Ancient Mariner
Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Steven Hearn*

After attending basic training at Cape May, New Jersey in 1981, SN Hearn was assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter CHILULA. After completing Boatswain's Mate "A" School, he was assigned the Coast Guard Cutter RED CEDAR.

Master Chief Hearn's first assignment ashore was as the Executive Petty Officer of Aids to Navigation Team, NEW HAVEN, with a subsequent tour at Aids to Navigation Team LONG ISLAND SOUND. He returned to a sea going billet as Executive Petty Officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter CHOKEBERRY, and then received his first orders as Officer in Charge for Aids to Navigation Team CHINCOTEAGUE. He has since been the Officer in Charge of Coast Guard Cutters CHOKEBERRY, CHIPPEWA, OBION, CIMARRON and KANKAKEE.

Master Chief Hearn, a Master Cutterman, was authorized to wear the permanent enlisted cutterman insignia in 1986.

Master Chief Hearn is also a Licensed Merchant Marine Officer with an endorsement of Unlimited Master of Towing Vessel and Master of Motor Vessel.



Current Gold Ancient Mariner

*Thirteenth Coast Guard Gold Ancient Mariner
Admiral Robert Papp*

Admiral Papp is the 13th Gold Ancient Mariner of the Coast Guard which is an honorary position held by an officer with over ten years of cumulative sea duty who is charged with keeping a close watch to ensure sea-service traditions are continued and the time-honored reputation of the Coast Guard is maintained. He served in six Coast Guard Cutters and commanded the Cutters RED BEECH, PAPAW, FORWARD, and the Coast Guard's training barque, EAGLE. Admiral Papp leads our service as the current Commandant.





Mentor's corner: Underway is the only way!

RDML Sandra Stosz
(Cutterman since 1987)
Director of Reserve and Leadership

Responsible for executing eleven honorable and significant missions, the Coast Guard is first and foremost a seagoing service. Our proud history began with the Revenue Cutter Service, and for the past 220 years, Coast Guardsmen – including women for the past generation – have been serving our Nation at sea.

How sea duty transformed me and served as the foundation of my career

When I first joined the Coast Guard in 1978, I entered the Academy as a member of the third class with women; up until 1976, all of the service academies had been closed to women. In my day, the attractive thing about the Coast Guard was that women were allowed to serve in every class of cutter with berthing accommodations, including our 378-foot high endurance cutters, which at the time were equipped with modern weapons systems. This was not the case with the Navy, which restricted women to support vessels. I joined the Coast Guard to take advantage of the opportunity and adventure that comes with going to sea.

My seagoing career started out inauspiciously with bumps on my head from too many encounters with the boom on the Academy's Flying Junior dinghies. I spent a good deal of time "in irons" and seriously wondering if I had made the right decision by joining a seagoing service. But, once I learned how to harness the power of the wind, for the first time in my life I felt truly empowered!

I spent part of three summers sailing in the tall ship EAGLE at the Academy, and part of two summers participating in the offshore ocean racing program – in addition to intercollegiate dinghy racing during the school year. This prepared me well for my first ship, CGC GLACIER, a polar icebreaker. I picked GLACIER to see the world – to sail the four winds and seven seas, if possible. As a division officer and deck watch officer, I was provided leadership opportunities unavailable to most 22-year-olds. One of the most powerful, intense feelings I have ever had was being alone on the mid-watch, 50 feet or so up off the deck in the aloft conn, breaking ice in Antarctica, with the safety of 220 shipmates on my shoulders, and the silhouette of 13,000-foot Mt. Erebus as my guide.

To offset the challenges of the icebreaking mission, and the punishment we endured crossing the "roaring forties" and the "furious fifties," the crew witnessed numerous versions of the Aurora Australis and other celestial phenomena and enjoyed liberty in a host of enchanting South Pacific islands – I have spectacular memories of the people and scenery in Apia, Western Samoa; Papeete, Tahiti; Suva, Fiji and the Hawaiian islands. Other liberty ports during my three years serving in polar icebreakers took me to the top of Machu Picchu, to Milford Sound in the South Island of New Zealand, and to the Blue Mountains in Australia.

My twelve years at sea included three years as senior boarding officer in a medium endurance cutter, leading hundreds of all-male boarding teams; serving as the first female in three of my six ships; and serving as commanding officer of two cutters – a 140-foot icebreaking tug and a 210-foot medium endurance cutter. I served in red, black and white hulls on both coasts and the Great Lakes. Now that is real diversity!

Leading Self and Leading Others

Without a doubt, a career at sea was the right choice for me - It was the foundation of my growth and development as an officer. There is absolutely no better place to develop the Leadership Competencies associated with Leading Self and Leading Others (see the Coast Guard's 28 Leadership Competencies) than at sea. Sea duty enabled me to achieve potential I never knew I had - it transformed me from an individual into a shipmate, and from a rather shy, not-so-confident young woman into an assertive leader.

I found full personal and professional satisfaction in the relationships, command opportunities, adventures and challenges that a seagoing career offered. A full career at sea might not be for every woman, but even one tour at sea will provide the firm foundation on which to build the qualities and core values that are key to success in our officer and enlisted corps.

Congratulations to RDML Stosz on her recent assignment
 as Coast Guard Academy Superintendent.

Mentor's corner: Underway is the only way! (continued)

Final Advice on How to Succeed at Sea

A career at sea offers unmatched opportunities, but with those come considerable challenges, and I offer these "Four P's" to help you steer a steady course:

- **Performance:** This is the key to your success – you will earn respect from the start if you perform well, and earning respect is critical.
- **Preparedness:** Preparation = Performance. All it takes to prepare is effort – there is no excuse for not taking the time to prepare. Live up to our motto, Semper Paratus. Use your resources, particularly the Chief's Mess.
- **Presentation:** Earn the respect of your subordinates, peers and superiors. Your goal onboard ship should be to be respected, not to be liked. If you present yourself in a professional manner that exudes business, confidence and humility, you will set yourself up for success.
- **Persistence:** Keep trying, even if you fail time and again. You will eventually get it, and will likely end up better for having worked harder. Do not resign yourself to mediocrity – always reach for the next goal.

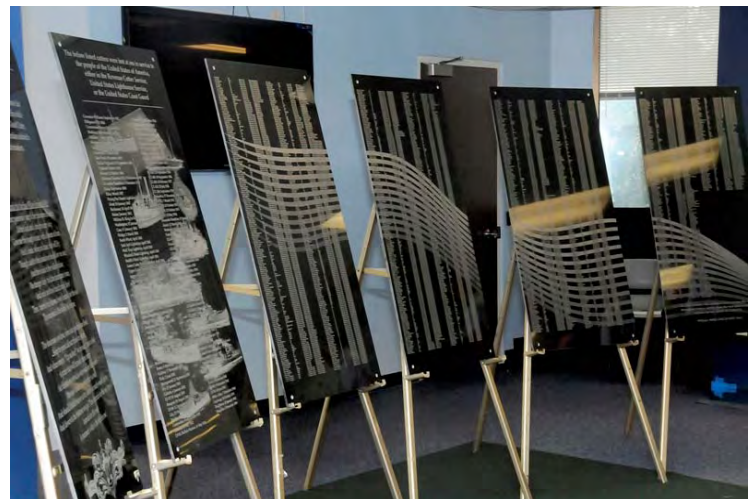
Serving at sea offers adventure, challenge, opportunity and the ultimate empowerment. If you are not already a cutterman, or on your way to becoming one, try it – it will bring out the very best in you – and it will serve as the perfect foundation for your Coast Guard career.



Pics!!!!



On Wednesday 14 April 2010, the Coast Guard Cuttermen's Association was created in a signing ceremony on the bridge of USCGC KENNEBEC, moored at the Washington D.C. fireboat pier.



Granite plates that list the names of fallen Cuttermen and the ships they served in, along with the poem "Hurrah for the Sea". The plates are permanently mounted at Coast Guard Headquarters.

Who can join the Cuttermen's Association?

Regular Membership: All former & present members of the USCG having earned a permanent or temporary Cutterman Insignia. Designated persons of other military services and foreign governments who have sailed on USCG cutters while involved in exchange programs between the USCG & their respective service or government.

Associate Membership: Any person not eligible for Regular Membership who, in the opinion of the Executive Board are supportive of the interest and goals of Coast Guard Cuttermen.

Our goal is 1,790 members by 4 Aug 2011, see the website to join!!! www.cuttermen.org

Master Cutterman

During the years since the Ancient Mariner program began in 1978, there has been confusion in some areas as to the program's criteria. Ancient Mariners were thought to be cutterman with the most accrued sea duty, as opposed to the cutterman with the earliest receipt of the permanent cutterman insignia or longest serving permanent cutterman in service.

After the selection of the Gold (Officer) Ancient Mariner in 2006, a discussion began about the possibility of recognizing the Coast Guard member with the most sea time. Discussions continued through the fall of 2006 relating to the title and design of this certificate. Based on raw data provided by the Personnel Support Command (PSC), Topeka, KS, CWO Paul E. Dilger, CO of USCGC ABBIE BURGESS had the most sea duty of any current Active Duty member. He was enthusiastically chosen as the first Master Cutterman.

The Cutter Training Division, working with the Customer Service Branch of the Headquarters Support Command, designed the Master Cutterman certificate. With the help of the Coast Guard Historian, images of all the cutters that CWO Dilger served in were added, personalizing this prestigious certificate.

The draft certificate, with an appropriate "Digest", was routed to the Commandant's office via the chain-of-command on 16 April 2007. The Chief of Staff, VADM Papp, concurred with the recognition and was interested in the proposed long-term program. The Commandant, ADM Allen, approved the concept of the certificate; however, he returned it because the text was not "salty enough". A second attempt at "salty language" also failed. Finding that our "saltiness" was lacking, the Commandant wrote the text himself and signed the final certificate on 16 May 2007.

The first Master Cutterman certificate for the officer with the most sea time was presented to CWO Paul Dilger at his retirement ceremony on 27 July 2007.

The second certificate for the enlisted member with the most sea time was presented to BMCM Mark Romesburg on 07 March 2008.



Master Cutterman's Certificate

Coast Guard Master Cuttermen

1. CWO4 Paul Dilger
2. BMCM Mark Romesburg
3. CWO4 Garrett VanHoesen
4. CWO4 Keith Raisch
5. CWO4 Randy Salenski
6. CWO4 Thomas Svejcar
7. FSCS Anthony Williams
8. FSCS Jeffrey Brophy
9. CWO4 James Robson
10. BMC Stephen Ross
11. CWO4 Todd Murphy
12. CWO2 James Bigbie
13. CWO4 Bradley Stevens
14. CWO3 Michael Moretti
15. EMCM Christopher Janssen
16. LT Richard Blaszk
17. BMCM Henry Strehle
18. CWO4 Douglas Tribou
19. MKC Paul Hicks
20. CWO3 Charles Reynolds
21. LT David Unger
22. LT Robert Lewald
23. BMCM Stephen Hearn
24. BMCM Jeffrey Sherman
25. BMC Gregory Papineau
26. LCDR Stephen Matadobra
27. CWO2 Mark P Gilmore
28. FSCM Kenneth D Sylvester
29. CWO3 David Slobojan

Bay Area Forming Local Chapter

Congratulations to the Bay Area (San Francisco) cuttermen, who are well on the way to forming a local chapter. At a cuttermen's call held by RADM Sullivan, Deputy PACAREA Commander and Forcecom Commander, they elected local chapter officials. Congratulations to the newly elected *pro tem* officials!

President: CAPT Kelly Hatfield
Vice President: LCDR Steven Adler
Secretary: GMC Michael Phillips
Treasurer: OSCM Lisa Starliper

Paperwork is on the way to the national board, on approval they will become the first "Official Chapter" of the national association. For information on forming your own local chapter see the Association by laws on the cuttermen.org website.

Thanks ADM Sullivan for hosting that group's second and very successful cuttermen call.

Honoring our past:

Memorial Remembers Cuttermen Who Made Ultimate Sacrifice

Written by CDR Glynn Smith

On October 20th, 2010 the new Cutterman's Memorial, dedicated to those lost in the line of duty while serving aboard our cutters, was dedicated at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Etched into the Memorial's six granite panels are the names of the fallen and the ships they served in, along with the poem "Hurrah for the Sea" and a Cutterman's insignia. Set into the background are some of the cutters and battle streamers.

"These shipmates were simply doing their duty, performing the mission," said Adm. Robert Papp, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard. "They gave everything to our Service and Nation. This Memorial is a small token of our appreciation. We can never forget them."

Coast Guard cuttermen are a proud group with a long history of service to our Nation that dates back to the first cutter, believed to

be Revenue Cutter VIGILANT, which was launched in March 1791. ADM Papp's words highlight a stark reality known and shared by all cuttermen who operate in a dynamic and demanding environment at sea. While we honor and remember all Coast Guard shipmates lost in the line of duty, the Memorial was established to remember those who gave their lives aboard cutters in service of their country.

The Coast Guard has operated more than a thousand different cutters across its 220 year history. They span the age of wind driven sail, steam powered paddle wheels, and diesel-electric driven propellers. They saw intense action in war and peace, operating in all corners of the globe. They also include legendary names like EAGLE, BEAR, HUDSON, and TAMPA. But behind all of the technology, operations and exploits, are the people: the cuttermen.

"When I entered the Coast Guard Academy, all I wanted to do was be a cutterman," said Papp. "I spent much of my career at sea fulfilling the responsibilities of our Service. I could not have imagined doing anything else."

While cuttermen have performed great feats in service to our Nation, they have also known great sacrifice. We have lost 124 vessels, 83 of which were during wartime operations. Since 1917, 1242 cuttermen, our shipmates, have made the ultimate sacrifice. Among them, 11 crewmembers of the Coast Guard Cutter Cuyahoga, which was lost 32 years ago at 8:45 p.m. near the mouth of the Potomac River in a collision with the 521-foot Argentinean bulk freighter Santa Cruz II.

"Our work is difficult and sometimes dangerous," said Papp, adding, "The sea is unforgiving—it always has been."

Cuttermen at Surface Naval Association Symposium

All members are encouraged to attend the upcoming Cuttermen's Association Board meeting at the Surface Navy Association (SNA) National Symposium. The board meeting will be held at the symposium so cuttermen can view displays, meet other Naval operators and see the latest innovations in industry. The symposium will be held from 11-13 January 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City, VA. The SNA is a likeminded association incorporated in 1985 to promote greater communication amongst military, business and academic communities with an interest in Naval Surface Warfare. Many high profile leaders are featured in the schedule, highlights include:

11 Jan	1030-1245	MCPO Cantrell	Enlisted Roundtable Panelist
	1500-1545	MCPOCG Leavitt	Define Future Force Panelist
12 Jan	1345-1430	ADM Papp	Coast Guard Update with Q&A
13 Jan	1230-1400	Cuttermen's Association Board Meeting	
	1400-1530	VADM Parker	Cuttermen's Call Speaker

For more information, including a full schedule, go to the SNA website: www.navysna.org.



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