

# NEWS FROM THE KEEPER OF NEW YORK HARBOR

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## Another Busy Quarter...

Welcome aboard! Katherine Walker finished her dry dock in October and returned to an operational schedule. Unfortunately, sandblast grit from the dry dock contaminated the hydraulic system and sea water intakes. However, our engineers arranged an immediate response ensuring that the plant remained ready to answer all bells with minimal impact on mission readiness. KW conducted a great deal of ATON this past quarter catching up on buoy services and



*KW transfers buoys from ANT Saugerties 49' BUSL.*



*CWO David Barkalow, Executive Officer congratulates Sea Cadet Serdinsky, the Aegis Division Cadet of the Year.*

Wounded Warriors for a harbor tour. KW's crew also attended several Navy League Dinners and a Sea Cadet Award Ceremony. To top everything off, the Morale Committee organized the annual Christmas Party held at the luxurious Excelsior Grand Ballroom in Staten Island. It was a great time with door prizes, music and dancing. Enjoy this edition.

*LT Amy E. Florentino  
Commanding Officer*

completing our semi-annual ice buoy run. We encountered some early winter ice, which hasn't returned, and enjoyed the Cutter Round Up in Newport, RI. KW also remained an active member of the community, hosting several public affairs trips including the Liberty Science Center Museum CEO conference. The CEOs came onboard to learn about electronic charting technology and Hudson River Geology. KW also hosted the Joint Service Foreign Non-Commissioned Officer Spouses conference attendees, and the



*BM3 Kyle Davenport explains safety procedures during a recent Public Affairs Trip*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bayonne Olympics	2
Wounded Veterans	2
Cutter Round Up	2
Christmas Party	2
Bayonne Olympics	3
NY Harbor ATON	3
Early Ice & ATON Ops with Saugerties	3
Prototype Buoys	4
Derelict Vessel	4
Meet the Crew	4

### BRAVO ZULU CORNER!

- *BM2 Steven and Tina Endicott had their second baby, a healthy baby girl named Gianna. Congrats!*
- *EMCS Frank Donze married his long time sweetheart, MSTC Bridget Harrell. Best of Luck!*
- *CWO David Barkalow was selected for the CWO to Lieutenant program and will be promoted in June.*
- *MK2 Jonathan Morris was selected as our Sailor of the Quarter for the 4th quarter. Great Job!*
- *Welcome aboard to Seaman Apprentice Joshua Rice-Vallandingham from TRACEN Cape May.*

## Despite Hurricane, KW attends Cutter Round Up.

KATHERINE WALKER braved the stormy October waters of Long Island Sound and southern New England to attend the District One Cutter Round Up in Newport, RI. Following Hurricane Noel up the shoreline, we steamed north to enjoy training and camaraderie with our fellow New England shipmates. Though the weather prevented Northern Maine cutters from attending, there was still quite a crowd with fifteen ships at the event. In fact, Katherine Walker had two 110' patrol boats moored alongside KW for the week. The goal of the confer-



ence was to provide a training and networking opportunity for District One cutters. The District staff used the event to meet with the command cadre on each vessel, discuss current issues and provide mission guidance. Crew attended a myriad of training sessions including cutter swimmer fundamentals, food service refresher, buoy positioning and many more. An address from the District Admiral and Command Master Chief gave the crew perspective about the Coast Guard's

recent activities and strategic mission focus. The enlisted assignment officers extensive career counseling session was another highlight, especially for people transferring this year. Katherine Walker's crew seized the opportunity to meet their peers and tour the other cutters. There was also time to take liberty and enjoy the sights of Newport. Bravo Zulu to the District Staff for organizing. We look forward to next year's event.



## Wounded Warriors Cruise

KW hosted several wounded veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in October. The veterans are members of the Wounded Warriors Project which empowers the veterans to beat their



*LT Amy Florentino with representatives from the VFW and Soldiers and Sailors Club.*

injuries and raises public awareness about their struggle. The veterans visited New York City as part of a tour sponsored by the Manhattan VFW and the Soldiers and Sailors Club. The weekend has become an annual event as some wounded warriors participate in the New York City Marathon. KW was happy to host the event, partnering



with the NY City Fire Department to provide a scenic harbor tour. The Soldiers and Sailors Club provided catered food for the guests and the VFW gave a surprise donation to KW's morale fund. The crew and veterans were treated to a patriotic fire boat display, stopped at the Statue of Liberty for photo ops and paused as we passed Ground Zero. The veterans were excited to participate and could not stop thanking us for the event.

If you would like to learn more info about the Wounded Warriors Project please visit : <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

## Christmas Party!

The morale committee did an great job planning and executing a elaborate Christmas Party for the crew in mid-December. BM1 Jennifer Whaley, MK2 Adam Abreu and BM3 Mark Posey led the committee that planned every detail from menu choices to reserving the elegant room at the Excelsior Grand Ballroom. The committee also organized games, a DJ, door prizes and a Secret Santa gift exchange. The Secret Santas were all very generous and EM2 Nunez loved his Electricity 1-2-3 book. After a great dinner, the crew enjoyed a little music and dancing. The hit of the night was the Santa Claus costume contest. Participants had ten minutes to dress their partner up as Santa using only colored plastic, tape, and cotton balls. The XO and his wife, Jane, secured a narrow victory with BM3 Davenport and SN Sheron as a close second. Excellent job to the Morale Committee.



## Early Ice makes for a busy December

KATHERINE WALKER's crew teamed up Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Saugerties, NY in December as the weather turned unexpectedly cold. Though recent weeks have been warm, ice made an earlier than expected appearance on the Hudson River and caused damage to several summer buoy hulls. The ice caused quite a bit of damage to lights and foam hulls (pictured above). Because the



ANT's 49' buoy boat could not operate in the conditions alone Katherine Walker assisted ANT Saugerties in replacing several of their summer hulls. The Wire escorted the 49' boat to correct shallow water discrepancies. Then they helped ANT Saugerties tow (pictured to the left) the winter hulls out to Katherine Walker who corrected the discrepancies before more damage was done. The week proved to be a great exercise in teamwork for all of the crews.

## All in a day's work!

Katherine Walker's area of operation includes some of the busiest waterways in the world. Because of this we often find unique buoy tending challenges. Shown below is a recent operation in Kill Van Kull (a waterway between Staten Island and New Jersey). The crew was conducting a standard buoy inspection and found a telephone pole tangled in the chain. The deck force did a great job as they safely brought the telephone pole on board, replaced the chain and left the buoy on station, watching properly.



## First Annual Bayonne ATON Olympics is a hit with the crew!

KATHERINE WALKER and her crew participated in the first annual Bayonne ATON Olympics in October. Run by Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) New York, it was a great morale building event for all hands. ANT New York planned a thorough day full of competition and excitement. Each crew designed a t-shirt and Sector New York provided judges. KW chose grey t-shirts with a drawing of the cutter on the back. There

were several events for all types of Coasties including knot tying, de-watering pump assembly and physical fitness. KW had a strong showing during the Olympics tying ANT New York for second place out of six teams. The crew had first place finishes in the Chain Pull (SN Steed and SN Smith) as

well as the De-Watering Pump Assembly (MK2 Saraduke and MK2 Abreu). A team made of LT Florentino, SK2 Douglas and FS3 Henry placed 2nd in the 1.5 mile relay race. FS3 Henry and SN Steed also placed 2nd in the Rescue Swimmer and Tender race. The crew of the Penobscot Bay took home first prize, but their victory is sure to be short lived as KW will come looking for the win next year.



Right: SN Steed and Smith Race to 1st place finish in the chain pull  
 Left: EM2 Nunez cranks out push ups.  
 Above: Teams assemble a de-watering pump.

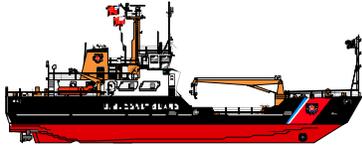


## *KW finds a derelict vessel on the Hudson*

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### *Keeper of New York Harbor*

**We are on the web:**

<http://www.uscg.mil/d1/units/cgckatherinewalker/>



During a recent trip on the Hudson River, Katherine Walker's crew spotted a derelict vessel near the city of Yonkers. At first, we geared up for a potential search and rescue case. After contacting Sector NY, we were tasked to get a closer look and take pictures. There was nobody on-board the vessel and it appeared to be vandalized. There were bricks and broken windows visible. The fenders were still attached but appeared to have been cut. Sector NY's command center contacted NYC Police Department and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps removed the derelict vessel from the shipping lanes and the law enforcement case was turned over to the NYPD.

## *KW tests new prototype ice buoy*

Every fall and spring, Katherine Walker's crew travels the waters of the Hudson River to complete a seasonal change out of 55 buoys. The summer buoys provide a better signal as most of them are lighted. The winter buoys don't provide the mariner with as good of a mark, but stand up to the ice and winter conditions. Almost 75% of the winter buoys are unlighted. The lighted winter buoys are durable enough to endure the ice, but often get dragged off station due to their shape. Building on the technology of laser emitting diode (LED) lights and a buoy designed in Finland, the Katherine Walker deployed four prototype aids this fall. The buoys are lighted and are easy to see visually and on radar. They are also light weight and designed to stand up to the icy conditions. Ideally, they will



be left in the river year round. If the buoys are successful, the mariner will have a better year round aid to navigation and the Coast Guard will save a great deal of money and time.

## *Meet the Crew!*



Seaman Kevin Steed joined our crew in February of 2007. He is happily married to Rachel Steed and is the proud father of daughter, Brooklyn. He is

also expecting a baby boy in May 2008. As part of the deck department, SN Steed is qualified in all basic watch sections. In addition, he is qualified as a cutter rescue swimmer, forklift operator and safety observer for boat deck and anchor evolutions. Seaman Steed is anticipating orders to Yeoman "A" School in spring 2008. At school he will learn administration, pay, and human resources support.



BM3 Mark Posey is a native of Friendswood, Texas and reported onboard July 2005. He is no stranger to the Coast Guard and was exposed to the service by his brother-in-law, CDR Al Dante Vinciguerra, who was assigned to

Tactical Law Enforcement Team South. BM3 Posey graduated boot camp in 2004 and reported aboard the 378' cutter Midgett. While assigned to Midgett, he was part of the deck force and earned qualifications such as helmsman, lookout and line captain. He graduated from Boatswain's Mate "A" school in June 2005 and reported aboard Katherine Walker. He has filled billets in both the Operations and Deck department while assigned to KW. He is an Inport Command Duty Officer, underway Junior Officer of the Deck, Crane Operator and Buoy Deck Rigger qualified. He is the cutter's morale officer and organizes all morale functions. He is also well on his way to Buoy Deck Supervisor qualifications. BM3 Posey is due to transfer this summer and hopes to be assigned to a Marine Safety and Security Team or Station. He is looking forward to following his brother-in-law's foot steps and earning law enforcement qualifications. He is shown here at a high school career day where he spoke to over 500 high school seniors about the Coast Guard.