

CGC MAPLE FAMILY-GRAM

USCGC MAPLE (WLB 207)
907-966-5470



Thank You All

It's been over six months since I assumed command of MAPLE, and I am now "finally" getting around to do what I should have done a long time ago, namely introduce myself and my family, and thank you all for the phenomenal support you and your families give the MAPLE crew. I especially appreciated seeing you on the dock as we pulled into homeport after being away so long in Seward. If you don't think it makes a difference you are mistaken, it makes a HUGE difference to us to know that you have missed us as much as we have missed you. Thank you for being there and thank you for the banners you made, next time I'll put in a request for better weather so they don't get wet and blown away!



We've been Busy

Looking back over the past few months I can see just how tumultuous a period this has been. Since August your Cuttermen have: Participated in one major, high profile SAR case under difficult conditions in horrible weather, chased down and marked a "run-away" coal barge (later to be identified as Russian in origin) assuring that none of the tankers sailing in and out of Valdez had a "rude awakening" in the middle of the night, attended an exhausting training week in Juneau, patrolled every waterway in South East Alaska, transited the entire Inside Passage, acted as Ambassadors of the United States when attending the Canadian Buoy Tender Round Up in

Victoria Canada, serviced 25 buoys and 20 shore aids, and, oh yeah, managed to survive a highly productive dockside maintenance period in Seward. Trust me I understand that this hasn't been without cost. I know that birthdays and anniversaries have been missed, and that at times you just want them home. I truly appreciate and am humbled at the way you all manage to keep things running "in spite" of us. There isn't a sailor onboard who would be able to get anything done underway if it weren't for you all keeping things going at home, we may not always say it, but thank you.

Hail and Farewell

Changes:

About the only constant thing with cutter life is change, and we have had quite a bit over the last few months.

We have said farewell to:

LCDR Mike Gatlin	ISC Kodiak
EMC William Ferdelman	Sector Key West, Engineering
EMC Jeffery Rowe	ESD Anchorage
EM2 Jamal Dallas	LORAN Station St Paul, AK
SN Taylor	BM A School
SN Lutz	ET A School
SN Jerrod Laflamme	A School
FS2 Scott	ISC San Pedro, CA
FN Aaron Coulter	Airman Program (AIRSTA Sitka)
BM2 Stott	USCGC BLUEBELL

And we have welcomed aboard:

ENS Anisa Khandkar	OCS, New London CT
EM2 Smith	Sector Grand Haven, MI
EM3 Newton Mak	EM A School
FS3 Robert McCants	FS A School
BM3 Tedla Manna	BM A School
BM3 Nathan Bush	ANT Sitka
BM3 Lori Hawkins	BM A School
SN Ryan Wagoner	Basic Training, Cape May, NJ
SN Matt Suskevich	Basic Training, Cape May, NJ
SN Patrick McCabe	Basic Training, Cape May, NJ
SN Joseph Garofalo	Basic Training, Cape May, NJ
FA Cody Hitt	Basic Training, Cape May, NJ

Each of these sailors and their families bring a wealth of new experiences to MAPLE and to the Sitka area. Some are old Alaska hands and some are pure Chilicoot. I know that the MAPLE ombudsman Emile Garry has tried her best to help make them feel welcome but I would appreciate it if you all went out of your way to help them fit in as well. Just speaking from personal experience, my first tour in Alaska it took me almost a year to figure out how to catch my first salmon and then only because an amused EMC took me under his wing and broke me of all my bad east coast habits. Between all the MAPLE families there are probably 100 years of Alaskan and Coast Guard family experience. What a waste not to share our experiences together and hopefully have a good time doing so. If you haven't met Emile her email address is mapleombudsman@yahoo.com. Please take the time to drop her a note and introduce yourself. She's been doing a great job of keeping all of you in touch with us while we are gone and has wealth of good information so please make sure that you are on her mailing and phone lists.

Thanks for the welcome

I also said I was going to introduce my family today, hopefully you have all had a chance to meet my wife Cindy, and daughter Allison. If not at the Christmas party, Spouses Club Meetings, or the Holiday Open House we hosted, then just out on town. Cindy loves to chat and truly enjoys meeting you all as she's out and about. If you see her around make sure you introduce yourself. Trust me, with a daughter who starts high school next year Cindy and I both are going to need a LOT of support...and shotgun shells.

Again, thank you for the warm welcome, and I look forward to meeting you all soon!



Clinton S. Carlson
Commanding Officer
USCGC MAPLE (WLB 207)