



USCGC BERTHOLF

NEWSLETTER



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF (Photo by PA3 Anderson)

April 9th, 2008 - Greetings from U.S. Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF (WMSL-750), the first of the Legend Class Cutters!

BERTHOLF was underway for small boat trials the last week of March, where personnel practiced driving and launching the small boat from the stern launch. Both small boats performed exceptionally well during the testing. This week starts acceptance trials; various Coast Guard and Navy personnel will be aboard conducting inspections to ensure that the cutter meets all requirements. BERTHOLF is currently on schedule to meet an April 30th delivery date.



In the mean time, BERTHOLF crewmembers have been ramping up their preparations and have been working some long days and nights. We have been attending hands-on familiarization classes, practicing damage control techniques, as well as achieving weapons qualifications. Additionally, crewmembers can be seen in BERTHOLF's passageways until midnight participating in department specific classes as well as exploring the

ship and its systems.

The crew has participated in firefighting drills in a wet trainer at the shipyard. The drills were designed to simulate aspects of a fire underway. Fire teams don their



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firefighting ensembles and charge into the compartment and practice extinguishing the fire. The teams also practiced erecting shoring to support structural damage and patched ruptured pipes which sprayed water. Damage control training like this is conducted to ensure that all hands can capably assist in an emergency situation; unfortunately the fire department can't be called when the cutter is in the middle of the ocean!



In addition to all of our cutter obligations, BERTHOLF crewmembers have been participating in community service projects like assisting the local Habitat for Humanity chapter in rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, crewmembers have also been participating in our own team building events, like the Legendary Reindeer Games. The Reindeer Games are events that allow each department to compete in a variety of activities from volleyball and basketball to photo scavenger hunts and cardboard boat building. Each department earns points depending on their success, which goes towards winning the Reindeer Game trophy.



The next few weeks are looking to be extremely busy. In addition to our training we will be loading all of our outfitting equipment, supply parts, as well as personal items. We are all eagerly anticipating the Coast Guard's acceptance of BERTHOLF, which is one more

step in the direction of our arrival to Alameda. We will keep you all posted on our progress!

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"Legends Begin Here"

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