

AICC Chair Report

AICC Meeting, January 14-15, 2014, Arlington Virginia

Prior Meeting, June 18, 2013

- * First teleconference meeting
- * National Ice Center participation on Healy cruises
- * Risks for using Barrow as science team transfer point
- * Icefloe website improvements
- * Healy photolab conversion
- * CTD operations
- * Continuous samplers
- * Agency, STARC and Coast Guard reports

New Berthing Policy on Healy

- * Gives guidelines for how to accommodate scientists, artists, writers, teachers, news media and others on a not-to-interfere basis with funded deployments
- * Separate from funded science party decisions to accommodate science party members that are not critical to the funded mission
- * Policy posted on icefloe.net
- * Application to join ship also on icefloe.net

USCG Artist in Residence

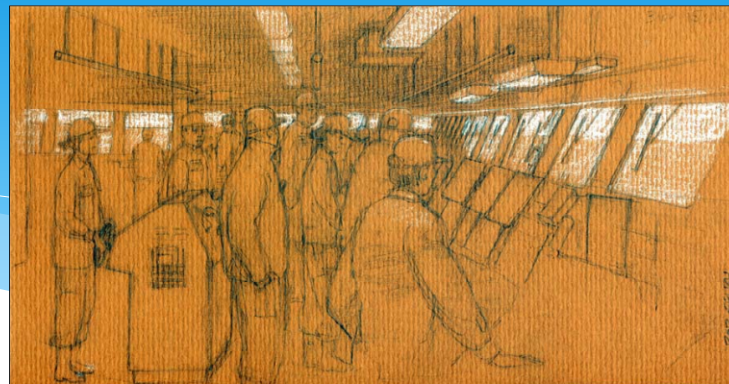
Artist's Sketchbook

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy's Deployment to the Chukchi Sea

July 29—August 15, 2013

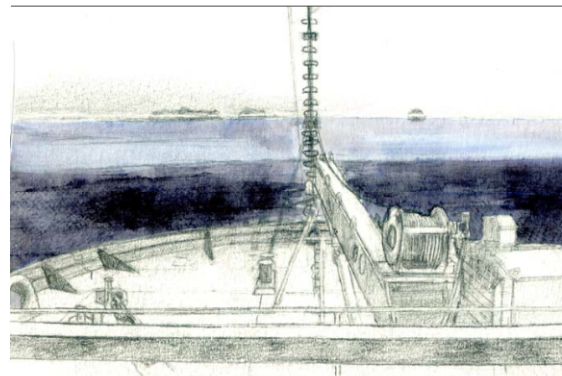
Drawings and text by Bob Selby

From July 29 to August 15, 2013, Coast Guard Cutter Healy, the service's largest ice breaker and research vessel, deployed to the Arctic Ocean under Capt. John Reeves with 44 scientists aboard. Under the aegis of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Healy scientists probed the water column and ocean floor in order to establish a basic understanding of the Chukchi Sea ecosystem. With a grant from Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., where he teaches, Coast Guard artist Bob Selby was able to arrange a trip to the Healy to be aboard the cutter during this deployment. His sketches provide vivid portraits of the cutter's crew and scientists' daily life aboard the ship.



Underway

At the center, Lt. Cmdr. Jacob Cass directs the operation on the Healy's bridge. After frustrating delays caused by missing luggage, the July research cruise to the Arctic has begun. A barge anchored nearby makes it tricky to get out of our parking spot, but we edge out smoothly as we exit Dutch Harbor and set our course for the Arctic Circle. Between orientation sessions and safety drills on the flight deck, the scientists prepare the labs and conduct whale and wild life watches. Crew and scientists alike seem excited to be under way at last.

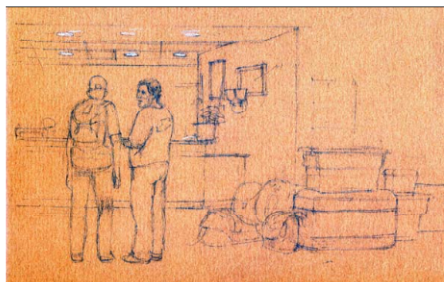


Sailing the line

Thursday, the first of August. Our first glimpse of Big and Little Diomedé islands occurs in fair weather with good visibility. A ribbon of mist graces the rocky escarpments as we approach on seas smooth as glass. Big Diomedé on the left is Russia. Little Diomedé on the right is the United States. Further to the east we can make out mainland Siberia. The International Date Line makes an odd jog here in order to parse the strait between the islands precisely so we are, in effect, sailing the line between today and tomorrow. At Little Diomedé we tack into American waters and pause. In the light of the midnight sun, the scientists and crew test the winches and apparatus before sailing on to our first station.

Stress

The lobby of the Grand Aleutian hotel in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, is stacked with baggage and gear for scientists preparing to ship out on the USCGC Healy, an ice breaker that doubles as a research vessel. On our last evening before shoving off, chief scientist Lee Cooper and a colleague are more concerned with what's *not* here. The tiny airline that serves this island lost twenty pieces of luggage. Subsequent flights produced only some of the missing bags, delaying departure for the Healy and sending harried scientists scrambling around the village for boots, sweatshirts and underwear. Logo wear for Dutch Harbor, Alaska, becomes ubiquitous aboard ship.



Preparation

Although the first day aboard the Healy is spent in harbor, the day is a busy one for the 44 scientists and the Coast Guard personnel charged with their support. As the crew sorts out berthing details and prepares for sailing, the scientists prepare for 15 days of research in the Arctic Sea. On the Healy's fantail, a Ring Net sprawls out as Dr. Philip Alatalo of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute directs Heather McEachen of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and Stephen Elliott, a Coast Guard officer currently completing his Masters in oceanography, in the assembly. The net will be used to gather zooplankton specimens for later study.



Commissioned Painting by Bob Selby



UNOLS Council

- * October meeting cancelled due to government shutdown
- * Not able to attend next meeting in March
- * A lot of on-line activity, including response to Nature editorial that criticized ship construction strategies, including Sikuliaq

Healy Cruises

- * All three Healy research cruises this year undertook work in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; one was supported by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and two by NSF. A fourth short cruise for demonstrating unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned underwater vehicles for oil spill applications, was supported by the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology unit.

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Polar Star

- * Deployment to Antarctica
- * High visibility deployment in news media due to challenges incurred by other icebreakers

