

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.

Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Late June 2011

Deposit Balance \$ _____

USS Kitty Hawk book markers

Courtesy of Tom Armstrong, the last mailing included a book marker that was "salvaged" by Tom Armstrong before the USS Kitty Hawk was being decommissioned. Thanks Tom!

USCG Commandant admits "can't meet Arctic needs"



USCGC Healy WAGB 20

I suspect it is not something that every one didn't already know, but the Commandant of the U S Coast Guard says they can not meet current or future Arctic needs. With the melting ice in the region, many new opportunities have been created. These include new shipping lanes, new access to fish stocks, oil and gas drilling, tourism, mineral exploration and possible international border changes and or disputes. Russia has a dozen or more icebreakers, China (with no Arctic border) is building an icebreaker. The U. S., well, we currently have one operational and it is deployed to the Arctic until December 2011 (USCGC Healy WAGB 20). Our two other icebreakers (USCGC Polar Star (WAGB-11) and USCGC Polar Sea (WAGB-10)) are sitting in Seattle, Washington with one being decommissioned and it's crew being transferred to the other. That one is undergoing repairs to temporarily bring it back in full commission. Then a

decision will have to be made soon to fully renovate both at a cost of \$500 million each or start to build new icebreakers at a cost of \$1 billion apiece. It is interesting to note that the USCGC Healy is more of a scientific platform than a major icebreaker. I recall the turbulent discussions on trying to get funding for a new icebreaker, and finally it was sold to congress that it would be multipurpose, having space for scientists and their equipment, thus, her main focus was not icebreaking, but scientific deployments. Perhaps this will be how the USCG will get funding for new icebreakers, promise new concepts, perhaps a bio-fuel cutter, running partly on solar power?

China extending military reach

By Jonathan Marcus
BBC Defence and Diplomatic Correspondent



A maritime arms race is under way in the South China Sea. Beijing is rapidly developing a host of military capabilities that will enable it to project power well beyond its own shores. It is already the dominant regional naval power and many of its new systems could one day threaten US naval dominance as well. No wonder then that so many of its neighbors are worried; particularly those like Vietnam and the Philippines who are engaged in long-running maritime disputes with Beijing. According to Dr Andrew Erickson, a China expert at the

US Naval War College: "China does not want to start a war, but rather seeks to wield its growing military might to 'win without fighting' by deterring actions that it views as detrimental to its core national interests." Three weapons systems are emblematic of China's broadening strategic horizons. China's first aircraft carrier will begin sea trials later this year. Late last year, the first pictures were leaked of the prototype of Beijing's new "stealth" fighter. And US military experts believe that China has begun to deploy the world's first long-range ballistic missile capable of hitting a moving ship at sea. Dr Erickson says China's capabilities thus far have been focused on developing a regional anti-access or area denial strategy to prevent Taiwan from declaring independence. In part this strategy rests upon developing credible weapons systems to hold US carrier battle groups at risk should Washington elect to intervene. Ever since the Pacific campaign of World War II, aircraft carriers have been the dominant means of projecting naval power. American carrier battle groups incorporate large flight-decks with a diverse array of aircraft for a variety of missions. Each carrier is accompanied and protected by several other warships and submarines. China too is now entering the carrier race, albeit from a standing start. An old Soviet-era carrier - the Varyag - was purchased from Ukraine and has been extensively refitted. China's first carrier will operate the new J-15 Flying Shark strike fighter, based on another Russian design, the Sukhoi SU-33 jet. No, a chapter cover is not in the planning.

Check out the naval items on eBay. Proceeds go to Decatur Chapter. Seller: CGCOVERGUY

Information published here is not guaranteed.

Visit the Universal Ship Cancellation Society web site at: www.uscs.org/