



PACIFIC COD

JACO B'S LADDER

AND A
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in rough seas, when the challenge of transferring from the smallboat to the Jacob's Ladder is all about correctly timing the up-and-down movement and catching the ladder at the peak of the swell. "If you don't get on the ladder and move up quickly, you stand a chance of being struck by the smallboat when it comes back up on a larger swell," Scott explained. "Step from too low and the smallboat may strike you. Step too late and you'll fall 20 feet/6 meters down to the smallboat as it rides down the backside of a wave."

"The day I fell in, it was a rough day at sea. As the smallboat reached the crest of the wave, I stepped onto the icy sponson, which is often used as a stepping point to the floor of the smallboat, and slipped, falling about 20 feet/6 meters, all the way from the crest to the trough of the wave." While his feet fell into the bow of the smallboat, his upper body spilled into the icy water. As the crew struggled to pull Scott into the boat, his body was freezing in the 35° F/1.7° C waters. "The person who pulled me into the smallboat said I was icy. My suit was already starting to form ice crystals. Everywhere he grabbed was too slick to keep hold of me, and I continued to slide further into the water. Finally, he reached into the water and grabbed my gun. The pistol grip provided an excellent stronghold until someone else could grab my gun belt."

With the heaving waters compromising the smallboat's stability, the driver's biggest concern was making sure Scott wasn't crushed between the smallboat and the fishing vessel. After what seemed like several minutes, crew members were finally able to hoist Scott's body into the smallboat, and they began to inch their way across frigid waters in a race for the ship that was still a few miles away.

"I was rushed back to the ship where it was determined that my fingers, now pink and light purple, were frostbitten. For the next two weeks my fingertips remained numb, and it wasn't until I had a good sense of touch in my fingers that I returned to my boardings," Scott continued. Unfortunately, Scott was no longer able to tolerate being in the freezing temperatures of the transit between vessels or the -30° F/-34° C temperatures of the fishing boats' freezers.

"Luckily, my tour was nearly complete and I had already served the ship well." Lucky indeed.

SCOTT XXXX: FIRE CONTROL TECHNICIAN, USCG

Scott XXXX is a Fire Control Technician in the United States Coast Guard and an avid bicyclist and Volkswagen enthusiast. When he's not riding a bike, he can be seen tooling around in his 1998 Volkswagen Jetta TDI. If you're a Volkswagen Driver with an interesting job, hobby or pastime, we'd love to hear from you. Write us at editor@vwdriver.com.



Scott XXXX has been traveling into the wild for as long as he can remember. As a kid growing up in Pasadena, Texas, he was introduced to what would become the three loves of his life: bicycling, ham radios and later on, cars, the Volkswagen turbo diesel engine, TDI, to be exact. While he doesn't believe that Volkswagen models are the fastest cars on earth, he does believe they're very underestimated. "Diesels are definite underdogs, but much quicker than people expect. They're very tunable and can be quite fun and spirited to drive," Scott boasts.

If his love for his 1998 Volkswagen Jetta TDI, a car he affectionately refers to as Stealth, is any indication to just how deep his passion runs, it may be accurate to call him a true enthusiast. Not one to be single-minded, Scott's enthusiasm for biking is also unbridled. In fact, when we caught up with him at port in Unalaska, he was taking advantage of some free time to go for a ride over the island.

In addition to the trail riding he squeezes in whenever (and wherever) possible, Scott's also looking to become more involved in an event around the San Francisco Bay area that teams up a blind rider with a sighted one to compete in tandem races. As if that's not enough, he also finds time to care for a pet python, three turtles and a tank of South American fish.