

## Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

### News from Our Adopted Submarine



### USS Alaska (SSBN 732) Awarded Another "Battle E" !

Our adopted ballistic missile submarine, USS *Alaska*, has been awarded a second consecutive "Battle E" Award. This designates *Alaska* as the premier ballistic missile submarine in the US Navy's Atlantic Fleet during 2012. This is an incredible achievement by the crew of this boat, and a testimonial to their hard work and training, and to the leadership of the officers and



chiefs. Plans are underway for a trip by Savannah Council to visit USS *Alaska* to participate in the award ceremony honoring this terrific crew.

### January 22nd Dinner Meeting at the Carey Hilliard's

### CDR Joe Loring USCG, Captain of the Port



Savannah Navy League's first dinner meeting of 2013 will be held at Carey Hilliard's Banquet Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22. Our newly elected Officers and Directors will be sworn in to their positions, and our keynote speaker will be Commander Joseph Loring, USCG.

CDR Loring is the Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Unit Savannah (MSU), USCG. In this role, he leads over 200 active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian personnel to carry out a variety of statutory authorities as the Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge – Marine Inspections, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Federal On-Scene Coordinator in the State of Georgia. The MSU and the Navy League enjoy a long and mutually supportive relationship.

CDR Loring came to Savannah from an assignment with the Joint Task Force at NORTHCOM in Colorado. He has also been an Executive Officer of the USCG Pacific Strike Team where he provided emergency response and Incident Command System (ICS) support to national disasters, oil spills, and hazardous material release both domestically and worldwide. Additional assignments included a tour as the Safety and Environmental Health Officer for District 8 in New Orleans, LA from 2002 – 2006. He assisted in the Katrina relief effort and was responsible

for responder safety and for extending safety and health support to USCG families throughout the affected area.

In 1994 CDR Loring earned his commission from the US Coast Guard Academy. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Occupational Health/Industrial Hygiene from the Medical College of Ohio in 2002. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, a Coast Guard Commendation Medal, four Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and has earned the Marine Safety Insignia.

CDR Loring is married to the former Lori A. McAfee who hails from Attleboro, MA. They have three children: Jacob, Caleb and Corinne.

CDR Loring will discuss the current role of the MSU and certain aspects of his career.

**January 22nd  
Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm,  
Carey Hilliard Banquet Center**

11111 Abercorn St (across from Home Depot)

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$22 per person.

Please contact Aunette Shipes: [SavFoxey@bellsouth.net](mailto:SavFoxey@bellsouth.net)  
or call 912-330-0932. to reserve your place.

## Help Us Keep in Touch

This printed newsletter is published only once per calendar quarter. Our primary means of contact with members is through email – it's fast, inexpensive, and provides for quick feedback from members. Recently, our old email system crashed and is not coming back; therefore, we have converted to a new system. We are concerned that we may have lost a few email addresses

in that transition. If you have not been receiving emails from Savannah Navy League in the last couple of weeks, please contact Bruce Ellis at 912-660-5125. If you do not have access to email, please let him know that too. We want to maintain regular contact with all our members.

## Upcoming Navy League Events

### Dinner Meetings

Note that our 2013 Dinner Meetings will rotate between Carey Hilliard's Banquet Center and Johnny Harris Banquet Center on the following schedule:

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| January 22  | Carey Hilliard's |
| February 26 | Johnny Harris    |
| March 26    | Johnny Harris    |
| April 23    | Carey Hilliard's |
| May 28      | Johnny Harris    |
| June 25     | Johnny Harris    |



Carey Hilliard's Banquet Center is located at  
11111 Abercorn St. Ext.



Johnny Harris Banquet Center is located at  
1701 East Victory Drive



### St Patrick's Day Celebrations

We are expecting a US Navy ship visit over the St Patrick's Day weekend; visit details are still being worked out.

We also expect to have US Navy marchers in the St Patrick's Day Parade. Current plans call for crew members from the visiting USN ship, and crew members of our adopted submarine, USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732), and hopefully, some crew from our other adopted ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58).

### USS Alaska (SBN 732) Visit

We are planning a trip to Kings Bay to present Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year awards to members of the crew of our adopted submarine. Date and time are yet to be determined, so watch for emails on this opportunity.

## Savannah Council Continues to Grow

Congratulations! You are part of a very healthy and growing Navy League council. In 2012 your Savannah Council has added 34 new members bringing our active membership to 287 members. Tom Wright and Pat Yovich are our top recruiters for the year, responsible for 16 of the 34 new members. Great job Tom and Pat! Please remember to get to know these new council members and make them feel welcome and part of our council.

The Savannah Council is also one of the top ten councils in the country when it comes to retaining members. Nearly 90% of all active members in our council renewed their membership in 2012!

Your Board of Directors is working hard to continually improve the dinner meetings and quality of food, drink, and programs. We ask your active support by

volunteering and being active in the council. We are always in need of members to serve on the Board and committees, to help with the programs, fundraisers, and meetings. If you would like to become more active and enrich your Navy League experience, please talk to any Board member about your interest and / or ideas.

## INVITE A GUEST TO NAVY LEAGUE!



**Have you invited a potential member to Navy League using your Be My Guest Card?**

**Each paid member is entitled to two cards. Use them to recruit new SNL members! See Cliff Angers for yours.**

**Have You Paid Your 2013 Local Dues?**  
If not, you may pay at the check-in table on January 22nd

We also ask for your help in recruiting new members to keep our council active and growing. Consider bringing a prospective member to one of our dinner meetings. Take advantage of our Be My Guest Program whereby your guest enjoys one of our dinner meetings at no cost to them or you. Be My Guest tickets are available from Cliff Angers or at the check in table at our meetings. With your help we can keep the Savannah Council vibrant and growing. Remember, we are only as good as our members.

## WELCOME ABOARD! NEW MEMBERS - 4th Q



At our October dinner meeting, Navy League member Ron Lauretti (right) with new members Bruce Custis (left) and WWII veteran VADM Donald Custis, USN-Ret. Admiral Custis also served as Surgeon General of the Navy from 1973-76.

*Ayinda Afiba*  
*Audrey & Millard Biloon*  
*Bruce Custis*  
*Donald Custis*  
*Charles McLaughlin*  
*David Christensen*  
*Tonnie Glick*  
*Fred Nussbaum*

## 2012 Review

Total **revenue** for this past year was \$29,163; of this amount \$18,174 was regular/planned revenue and \$10,989 was from special events and other income. The planned revenue number was \$2,336 shy of budget due to the lack of a fund raiser which had been budgeted at \$4,000.

Total **expenses** for 2012 were \$26,970; of this amount \$16,438 was for planned expenses and \$10,532 was from special events. Planned expenses were \$4,062 below budget due primarily to lower than anticipated program expenses for Sea Cadet activity and lower than budgeted administration expenses. Your Council maintained its excellent record of spending the bulk of its funds on the sea services as 81% of ordinary expenses were program expenses.

Our **net gain** for the year was \$ 2,193.

Our **cash position** at the end of the year was \$18,825.

## *Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration*

### Remembering December 7, 1941

Savannah Navy League Past President Gary Johnson was the key organizer of a very successful Pearl Harbor Commemoration event, conducted on Sunday, December 2, at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA. About 150 people attended the event. The keynote speaker was CDR Todd Figanbaum, Commanding Officer of our adopted submarine, the USS *Alaska* - Blue (SSBN 732). He detailed the actions of junior officers and chiefs that enabled the USS *Nevada* (BB 36) to actually get underway during the attack on Pearl Harbor, thereby mitigating damage to her and her sister ships.



Navy Leaguers Sam and Barbara McLaughlin Larry and Marcia Wills.

## 2013 Membership Drive

The local council membership drive is off to a pretty good start netting over \$1,550 in special contributions. Contributors of \$100 or more are recognized as members of the **Commander's Quarters**. We thank all of you who have been generous so far and ask those who have not sent in their dues yet to do so ASAP. And please, be as generous as possible. Once again we have held our dues at \$15 but need the generosity of those who can afford it to help raise our revenues so we can keep growing in our mission to the sea services.



*Savannah Navy League*  
**Commander's**  
*Quarters*



World War II veterans in attendance.

## Savannah Navy League Pride

In the fall, 2012, Pat Yovich and Bruce Ellis kicked off selling Savannah Navy League logo merchandise, baseball caps and shirts to the members. This was a great success with members purchasing 20 baseball caps, 36 Men's and Ladies shirts. There are still an additional 6 baseball caps and 5 shirts left (sizes: 1 Men's Drifast Navy XL, 2 Men's White Regular Port Authority Large, and 2 Men's Navy Regular Port Authority Large). These items are available for purchase by members.

Plans are to solicit new orders quarterly, unless membership interest dictates otherwise. So, if you missed the opportunity to purchase these Savannah Navy League items, you will be notified of specific meeting/order dates. Sales will be overseen by Bruce Ellis. For those interested in purchasing caps and shirts on hand and/or future sales . . .



Contact info: email address [baellis60@gmail.com](mailto:baellis60@gmail.com) or call 912-660-5125. Thanks again for your support of the Savannah Council. **And remember . . . wear your items proudly!**

### ORDER FORM

I would like to order the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Savannah Council Logo Ball Cap(s) @ \$15.00 each** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Solid 6-panel brushed twill cap structured. Navy blue with gold embroidered logo

**Savannah Council Logo Polo Shirt - \$30.00 each**  
 Navy blue or White with gold embroidered logo. Sizes: S, M, L, XL

#### MEN'S STYLE

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### LADIES' STYLE

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  Regular  Dri-Fast @ \$30.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Savannah Council Navy League** TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



### OCTOBER

Our October 23 dinner meeting was held at Carey Hilliard's Banquet Center, and featured a very informative and entertaining presentation by U.S. Navy CAPT (Ret.) Tom Huff on the past, present, and future of naval aviation. As October was also Navy Birthday Month, we celebrated with a special Navy Birthday Cake. We were also honored to have 3 Star Admiral Donald Custis, a WWII veteran and former Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy, visit and help us cut the birthday cake.



### NOVEMBER

We held our November 27 dinner meeting at Johnny Harris Banquet Center, and were treated to a terrific presentation by USMC GySgt (Ret.) Aulton Kohn. His talk detailed his experiences in Vietnam where he survived a deadly ambush and was able to evade enemy forces for 58 days before rescue. He also discussed his current activities including his leadership of Beaufort County's "Young Marines" – school age youth he works with to instill the Marine Corps principles of respect, honesty, discipline, and duty. GySgt Kohn also helped us celebrate USMC Birthday Month with a cutting of the cake with his USMC sword.



### DECEMBER

Savannah Council celebrated the holidays with a Christmas Party at Billy's Place in downtown Savannah on December 7. A contingent of US Marines was present to collect toys for their annual Toys For Tots program. It was a very festive evening and a fitting end to another good year for our Savannah Navy League.



## Savannah Council Launches a New Website *Gary Johnson, Webmaster*



We now have a new website which uses the latest in internet technology and functionality.

Our old website was eight years old and served us well but it was time to upgrade to a new system which takes advantage of all the capabilities and functions that have evolved since our website first went online. The new address is <http://savannahnavyleague.us>.

The best thing to do is to take a look at it and familiarize yourself with its features and content. While you are there be sure to check out our facebook and You Tube sites which are equally important elements of our overall social media strategy.

One feature I think you will like is *Navy News* which is the feed from the official navy website which is updated daily. Also check out the links to other military websites on the bottom of the home page.

## PROMOTIONS

Two key leaders of our local Coast Guard units were promoted on November 1, 2012.

Both CDR Kailie Benson and BMCM Mark Adams have been key supporters of Savannah Navy League during their tours of duty here in Savannah. Savannah Navy League was happy to present both of them with a book and a gift of their choice from a premium catalog.



BMCS Mark Adams, Officer in Charge at USCG Station Tybee, was promoted to Master Chief (BMCM). His family helps pin his new rank.



LCDR Kailie Benson, Executive Officer of USCG Marine Safety Unit Savannah, was promoted to Commander (CDR). Her family participated in the ceremony.

I would encourage all of you to sign-up to become an authenticated member of the website and receive a password and user name. This will allow you access to private or restricted areas not available to the public.

A note on the platform which is called Drupal. It is an open-source web development system for online content and user communities. Drupal powers some of the busiest sites on the web, which includes over a million sites, including WhiteHouse.gov, World Economic Forum, Stanford University, and Examiner.com. It is also used by many military and governmental organizations.

We will be adding new functions to the website during the next year so be sure to make the website your online source of information about the Navy League and the Savannah Council.

If you have comments, suggestions or questions go to the **Contact** section and send an email to the webmaster.

## SAILORS of the QUARTER

Savannah Navy League was happy to join in recognizing the following Coast Guard personnel who were selected as outstanding performers in their units last quarter:

Each of these outstanding Coasties was presented with a book from the USCG Reading List and a gift of their choice from a premium catalog.



MST2 Taylor Mudrock – Sailor of the Quarter – USCG Marine Safety Unit Savannah



AET2 Gary T. Milliner – Enlisted Person of the Quarter – USCG Air Station Savannah



ME3 Ron Giles – Sailor of the Quarter – USCG Station Tybee

## 2013 Officers & Directors

**President** Tom Latham  
**First Vice President** Pat Yovich  
**Second Vice President** Mick McCay  
**VP Legislative Affairs** Tom Wright  
**Vice President** Larry Maurer  
**Vice President** Jeff Zureich  
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### DIRECTORS

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 Joe Tillman Dan Drake

**Past President** Bob Gephart

### Savannah Steamer Newsletter

**Editor** Position Open  
**Layout** Mick McCay  
**Photographer** Lynn Wright

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well-being are dependent upon strong sea services-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine.

The full-color printed edition of the Savannah Steamer is published quarterly; in addition, an online E-Newsletter is published each month and posted on the Savannah Council's website and Facebook page.

The Savannah Council of the Navy League is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

## Upcoming Events

|             |          |   |
|-------------|----------|---|
| January 22  | 6:00 PM  | Dinner Meeting - Carey Hilliard Banquet Center - 11111 Abercorn Street                          |
| February 5  | 5:30 PM  | Board of Directors Meeting – USCG Air Station   |
| February 26 | 6:00 PM  | Dinner Meeting – Johnny Harris Banquet Center – 1701 East Victory Drive                         |
| March 5     | 5:30 PM  | Board of Directors Meeting – USCG Air Station   |
| March 15    | TBD      | Planned arrival of a US Navy DDG<br>5:00 PM Jasper Green Ceremony                               |
| March 16    | 10:15 AM | St Patricks Day Parade with US Navy units from USS Alaska and the visiting US Navy DDG          |
| March 17    | 5:00 PM  | Tentative plans for shipboard reception aboard the visiting US Navy DDG at GPA – Ocean Terminal |
| March 26    | 6:00 PM  | Dinner Meeting – Johnny Harris Banquet Center 1701 East Victory Drive                           |

### Support Our Navy League Community Affiliates . . .



Visit our website at [www.savannahnavyleague.us](http://www.savannahnavyleague.us)

Official Document: Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States

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