



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

President's Message



HAPPY FALL! And on to the end of the year...can't believe how the time has flown! Even though July was a "downtime month," a few of us were busy building the relationships with the Family Readiness Groups of our USS *Alaska* submarine. Met many young ladies, children and just had fun! Please see the Family Services articles in this issue.

Our biggest events are coming: Providing THANKSGIVING DINNER again for our Sea Services and their families, AND we've invited the FRG (Family Readiness Group) of the Blue and Gold Crews of the USS *Alaska* to join us. The Blue Crew are deployed and some do not have any families in the area – but because of all of you and our newly formed Family Services Team, these young moms and wives have an extended family approximately 1 1/2 hours away! Please help support these events with your volunteerism, donations, or a cheery phone call to one of the families. ALL is very much appreciated!

August – the Sand Gnats Game! We had almost 200 in attendance with the Coast Guard and their families and our NL members! A Great Time had by ALL! We also had the USS *Farragut* in our port and provided a wonderful Navy League reception for the crew and city officials. Then, Alan and I had the privilege to fly out of Mayport on an Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and land on the USS *Iwo Jima*, as she made her way to her new homeport of Mayport! What an awesome experience!



And yes, the next event is our CHRISTMAS PARTY! And I can hear you now – Christmas Already? The date is **Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 at the Savannah Yacht Club.** Watch for more details.

I also want to take this time to THANK EACH and EVERY ONE of YOU for your support, phone calls, friendships, sharing ideas, and being the wonderful group that you are! We are truly blessed with your involvement and I look forward to seeing you all at the next dinner, Oct. 28 at Johnny Harris!


Pat Yovich

October 28th Dinner Meeting



Our October dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28th, at Johnny Harris Banquet Center, on East Victory Drive. We will hear from Col. Ed Wexler, USAF Ret. about his experience with the Honor Flight Network. Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that was established to bring our WWII and Korean War Veterans to Washington, DC so they may visit the memorials that were built

and dedicated to honor their sacrifices in past wars.

Johnny Harris
Restaurant &
BBQ Sauce Company

**October 28th
Dinner Meeting 5:45 pm,
Johnny Harris Banquet Center**

located at 1701 East Victory Drive
Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, October 24th.

The cost is \$22 per person.

Please contact Sybil Cannon: RSalty@att.net
or call 912-964-5366 to reserve your place.

The 4,000th Patrol

On the 19th of September, Tom Latham and OC Fowler represented Savannah Navy League at an event celebrating the 4,000th Global Strategic Deterrence Patrol. Beginning with the USS *George Washington* (SSBN 598) on November 15, 1960, the “boomers” have logged 4,000 patrols over those 54 years in defense of our country.

Keeping up that tradition was our adopted submarine, USS *Alaska*

(SSBN 732), which was just finishing up its latest patrol with the Gold Crew on board. Savannah Council’s support of *Alaska* is an important leg in a long, powerful tradition.

The featured speaker was Admiral Cecil D. Haney, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command.

Recognizing USS *Alaska* (Blue) Sailors

The Navy selects one day out of the year for the recognition and promotion of that year’s new Chief Petty Officers. This year that day was Tuesday, 16 September and Savannah Navy League was present in Kings Bay for the USS *Alaska* (Blue) ceremony. The newly minted Chief Petty Officers were FTC(SS) Adam Hustedde, ETC(SS) Justin Tarbox, ETC(SS) Nathan Nalley and ITSC(SS) Ryan Dolye.

Navy Leaguers present: **Pat Yovich, Alan Yovich, Joe Tillman, Katherine Tillman and Tom Latham.**

Later in the same day, awards were presented to sailors who earned them while the ship was out to sea earlier in the year:

1st Quarter

Sailor of the Quarter – ET1(SS) Aaron Nissen

Junior Sailor of the Quarter – MM2(SS) Andrew Nanny

Blue Jacket of the Quarter – MM2(SS) Joseph Broadwater

2nd Quarter

Sailor of the Quarter – MT1(SS) John Alden

Junior Sailor of the Quarter – CS3(SS) Kevin Larcom

Blue Jacket of the Quarter – CSSN(SS) Shavontae Harris



Newly pinned Chief Petty Officers (L to R): ETC Justin Tarbox; MMC Nathan Nalley; FTC Chris Hustedde; ITSC Ryan Doyle.



Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration - Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th

Savannah council will again sponsor the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day this year. At this ceremony, we pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and honor all those who selflessly served our nation at home and abroad during World War II.

This is the eleventh year that we have sponsored this event, and it has grown in popularity every year. The first few years,

there were 30 to 40 people in attendance, and the last 3 years we have had 200 plus at the event.

The annual remembrance event will take place at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th. There will be readings, music, and a tribute to Pearl Harbor survivors and WWII veterans. Other events include a Twenty-one Gun Salute, Two-Bell Ceremony, and presentation of a Flower Wreath.

Our principal speaker will be RDML Charles A. Richard, Commander, Submarine Group 10.

This ceremony is cosponsored by the Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States and the Fleet Reserve Association. There is no charge and reservations are not required. We hope you will plan to attend and be sure to invite friends and relatives. **Contact Gary Johnson at 912-644-7220 for more information or e-mail gary.john@comcast.net**



Guided Missile Destroyer USS *Farragut* in Savannah *Ed Robb*

We were pleased to host the USS *Farragut* (DDG-99), which made a port call over the weekend of August 15. The ship, which is homeported in Mayport, Florida, is the 5th Naval vessel named after Adm. David Farragut and the 49th ship of the Arleigh Burke class Guided Missile Destroyer (DDG).

On Friday evening, we started the weekend activities with a well-attended shipboard reception, which included ship tours. On Saturday morning, 18 crew members worked with the City of Savannah Housing Authority and painted two houses in the city. The City Housing Authority had organized this activity, and the residents were grateful for the willingness of the ship's crew to spend liberty time in this meaningful activity.

On Saturday afternoon, we sponsored the first Army-Navy softball game at Hunter AAF. The ship's softball team played an Army Ranger team. Thanks to the HAAF staff for organizing the games. We expect to sponsor more athletic events when other Navy ships call at Savannah.



Welcome Aboard!



City Councilwoman and Navy League member, Mary Ellen Sprague presents the Key to the City to CDR Grady Musser, *Farragut's* Commanding Officer.



Ed Robb, CDR Grady Musser, Pat Yovich, and Tom Latham



Reception entertainment



Council President, Pat Yovich presents a gift basket to CDR Musser.



Farragut "House Painting Team."

Farragut sailors participate in Navy League sponsored Army-Navy softball game.





Bob Gephart and Pat Yovich congratulate Station Tybee Sailor of the Quarter, Josh McBride.

Right: Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Sailor of the Quarter MST2 Amanda Dixon with Savannah Navy Leaguers **Pat Yovich, Ed Robb, O. C. Fowler** and MSU Executive Officer LCDR Omar Vazquez.

USCG Sailors of the Quarter

Station Tybee

FS1 Josh McBride 18 July 2014.

Marine Safety Unit Savannah

MST2 Amanda Dixon 18 July 2014

Air Station Savannah

AMT3 Jeffrey Maher 30 July 2014



Coast Guard Well Represented in Charity Golf Tournament

Savannah Navy League's Joe Tillman organized and arranged sponsorships for two local Coast Guard teams to participate in the Dixie Crystal / Joe Dreyfus Golf Tournament. USCG Air Station Savannah won their flight, and also had the low score for BOTH flights. USCG Station Tybee's team was 2nd in their flight. All in all, it was a fun day for the Coasties. Thanks to all who supported this event.



COPT Check Presentation

USCG MSU Savannah selected Wilderness Southeast to receive the net proceeds from the Captain of the Port Golf Tournament. CDR Amy Beach presented a check for \$5578 to the representative for Wilderness Southeast on August 8. Wilderness Southeast's mission is to utilize hands-on science teaching to enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills for underserved public middle school students.



Left to right: **Joe Tillman**, Navy League, Wilderness Southeast Representative, CDR Amy Beach, CO USCG MSU Savannah, LCDR Omar Vazquez, Executive Officer, USCG MSU Savannah

Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats

Another Successful Event

Despite the fact that mid-August heat and humidity in Savannah can sometimes be downright oppressive, the weather could not have been nicer for this year's annual Navy League-sponsored Sand Gnats game. More than 70 Coast Guardsmen and their families were able to enjoy an evening of baseball, food, and camaraderie in celebration of the Coast Guard's 224th birthday. Having recently assumed command of Air Station Savannah, this event not only provided me and my family with the opportunity to get to meet the families of air station personnel in an informal setting, but it also gave our crewmembers an evening of well-deserved relaxation at the end of a very busy Search and Rescue season. It was a wonderful evening and I am already looking forward to next year's game!

*CDR John Rivers
Commanding Officer, USCG Air Station Savannah*



Coast Guard Family Support

Attending the Navy League's Sand Gnat family picnic honoring the Coast Guard is such a festive time and a real opportunity to meet the Coasties' families. They are so enthusiastic and fun to be with. The children are everywhere having a grand time. It's a wonderful chance to meet the wives who are such enthusiastic supporters of their spouses. A very special group of ladies. We are truly lucky to have this 'connection' with them.

Karen Angers

Sea Cadets Update



The Sea Cadet's August drill was great. A speaker from the Coast Guard Academy came to talk with the cadets about the academy and what types of things they are looking for on application to the academy. The cadets also did a great job as the Color Guard at the Sand Gnats game.

For September drill, the cadets will be attending the kids fishing and safety event at Tybee Island on September 27th. They attended this event last year and had a great time. They also are planning to participate in the Veterans Day Parade in November, so they will be practicing marching drills in October to look their best come parade time.



USS Alaska Family Readiness Groups (FRG)

Déjà vu *Cliff and Francesca Bedell*

The Savannah Navy League was invited to their first picnic Saturday, August 9, 2014, at Kings Bay Naval Station with the Family Readiness Group (FRG) wives and families from the USS *Alaska* Gold Crew. What a treat!

First, let me say we felt so proud of these ladies. Some were there with their babies, some with teenagers, and some with family members. We even had a few solos, which would have been me 40 years ago – “Yes, déjà vu”.

As I sat and conversed with these ladies, I couldn't help but reflect on my experiences as a Navy wife away from home - thousands of miles away, feeling lonely, sad, and at times frightened at the thought that my husband, my sailor, and he was out at sea for weeks, a month, 6 months.

Present on Saturday were Jessica Eberle, the President of the Gold FRG group, and Amy Clemens, the Ombudsman, along with The C/O's wife, Deanna Gummer and approximately 30 other spouses/significant others and many of their children ranging from two weeks old to young teenagers. They all had a command of their responsibilities. These wives were just on top of the game. Their husbands would be proud of how their loved ones have accepted their roles as Navy wives. Way to go ladies!

Knowing that the Savannah Navy League is there to help the Gold and Blue crew FRG's is a huge comfort to these gals and their families.

The Savannah Navy League is looking forward to a long relationship with the Gold and Blue crews' FRG ladies, their husbands and families of the USS *Alaska*.

FRG Gold Date Night Winner



Savannah Navy League pulled together a “Date Night” gift to be raffled to a USS *Alaska* FRG member. Joe Tillman and Jeff Zureick assembled a package of free hotel nights, dinners, and tours for the couple here in Savannah. Congratulations to MM2 Mike Ford and Victoria Ford the lucky couple to win the Savannah Date Night grand prize.

Pictured left to right: Stephanie West, V.P. Victoria Ford, winner and holding the Savannah Navy League Date Night “Bag of Goodies”, Chandee Stip, Treasurer, and Jessica Eberle, President.

(A huge “thank you” to Joe Tillman and Jeff Zureick for securing a night at the Westin, a Trolley Tour for 2, and gift certificates to Huey's & Joe's Crab Shack for the lucky couple)

Generous support of Savannah Navy League members, especially for our newly formed Family Services, is the key to the success of these initiatives. Please respond with donations of cash and/or items when an appeal goes out. Contact Pat Yovich - patriciayovich@gmail.com

Alaska Blue and Gold FRG Picnics

Aunette Shipes

On a beautiful day in August, Sybil Cannon and I, along with Pat Yovich and others, attended a picnic of the USS *Alaska* Blue FRG and crew. There were lots of families along with children. We entertained the children, we blew bubbles, held cute babies, and the children had fun watching their daddies getting dunked in the dunking booth. It was a wonderful picnic and everyone enjoyed themselves.



We are so excited to be working with all of you this year! Thank you so much for the support you have already shown us. We are extremely grateful for everything your organization has done, and continues to do, for our sailors and their families.

Warmest regards,
Stacey, Nicole, Tracy, Sarah, Melissa, and Lisa
USS *Alaska* (Blue) FRG Board



Gold FRG members Rosy Lozano (left) and Stephanie Jordan.

Single Sailors' Bags

This was Alaska FRG Blue's annual election meeting with our special guests from the Savannah Navy League. Thank you for your support!

Stacy



(L to R): Stacey McKee, FRG Blue President; Pat Yovich, Savannah Navy League President; Lisa Figanbaum, Alaska Blue CO's wife; and Amanda Brown, Ombudsman.

Give SNL Logo Merchandise for the 2014 Holiday Season!!!

Giving SNL Logo Merchandise is great for family, friends, business associates, and future youth members. We have popular: Ladies sweaters, shirts and jackets; and Men's vests, shirts, and jackets. We have unisex tee shirts and baseball caps. These items are all priced to fit any household budget. However, some sizes may not be available due to recent sales. So contact Bruce and/or Ann Ellis immediately and we will get the orders to you in a timely matter. This will help drive membership and local fundraising drives in support of our projects for our military members.

You can call and/or email Bruce and Ann Ellis at (912) 660-5125 and email address baellis60@gmail.com.

Thanks, for your support of all Savannah Navy League Logo Merchandise products!

Bruce



NOTE: I would like to thank the Board of Directors and our membership for their support and prayers during my battle with Leukemia. Your support in obtaining SNL Logo Merchandise during my period of absentee truly supports this program of advertisement in our community. During my periods of treatment I have met many new doctors and nurses, which now are aware of our council and our mission in the community.

I would like to thank Mr. OC Fowler and Mrs. Ann Ellis, my wife for selling our Logo Merchandise at events and dinner meetings during the past summer.

Bruce



Monthly Meetings

After taking July off, the membership enjoyed an amazing evening on **August** 13th at Grayson Stadium supporting the U.S. Coast Guard with Family Night. The kids had a great time running around catching fly balls while the adults enjoyed cold beverages.

For our **September** meeting, we resumed our regular monthly get together at Carey Hilliard's where Captain Frank Warnekros, Master of the U.S. flag containership Maersk Denver, shared some of his favorite sea stories from his 36+ years of seagoing experience. Everyone was astounded by the video of his rescue of a sailor that was adrift in a typhoon 200 miles off the coast of Japan. The sailor was safely taken to Los Angeles, however his 35-foot sailboat was lost at sea.

Captain Warnekros also discussed the risks of piracy, a few of his close calls in pirate waters and how his company has gone about mitigating the threat since the Maersk Alabama attack.

Details for our **October** 28 meeting are on Page 1. We will be celebrating the Marine Corps' 239th birthday on

November 18th at Carey Hilliard's on Abercorn. Colonel William "Bill" Bowers, the Commanding Officer of the 6th Marine Corps District headquartered at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island, will be our keynote speaker.

Our annual election of officers and Board of Directors will take place at this meeting. The slate of candidates will be sent to all members via email.

Please mark your calendars on Thursday, **December** 11th for our annual Christmas Party. It's going to be from 6pm to 8pm. We're mixing things up by changing venues for this year's party. It will be held at the Savannah Yacht Club on Whitmarsh Island. We will again be collecting toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Be on the lookout for correspondence with more information.

Please make sure to RSVP in a timely manner to help us better manage our reservations. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

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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. Additional news to the members is posted via emails and updates to 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

Oct. 28, 5:45 pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting	Johnny Harris
Nov. 4, 5:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	USCGAS
Nov 18, 5:45 pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting	Carey Hilliards
Nov 27, Noon - 4:00 pm	Thanksgiving Dinner	CG Air Station
Dec 2, 5:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	USCGAS
Dec. 11 (THURS)	Christmas Party	Savannah Yacht Club

Treasurer's Report

First Nine Months 2014

Total Income through the end of September was \$ 34,369; total Expenses for the period were \$ 35,692 yielding a loss of \$ 1,583. After three quarters we are tracking slightly ahead of budget in terms of operating income and ahead of budget in terms of operating expenses.

As we gear up for planned Family Services activities we are hopeful of obtaining at least one additional company sponsorship as well as additional individual contributions. If you have any contacts or any thoughts of who we might contact for a sponsorship please let Pat or me know. Don't be shy, you may just have the best lead on the tip of your tongue!
Cliff Angers, Treasurer

Visit our website at www.savannahnavyleague.us