



Savannah Steamer

2009, 2010, & 2011 Mackie Award

Founded May 15th, 1957

3rd Quarter, 2012 Vol. 38 Issue 3

Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

President's Message



What a great quarter! Since our last newsletter in April, Savannah Navy League has been very active in many areas. **Your support** enabled us to present awards to sixteen individuals in various units that we interface with. That included three high school JNROTC programs, Savannah State's NROTC, three Coast Guard units, and the USS *Alaska* (SSBN-732). Joe Tillman led us in organizing the Take A Soldier Fishing Tournament and again in the Captain of the Port Golf Tournament, raising funds for Wounded Warriors, Hospice Savannah and our Sea Cadets. Tom Latham led thirteen of our members on a visit to USS *Alaska* at Kings Bay, that included awards to some of the crew, lunch aboard with the crew and tours of the boat. There were also other opportunities, like change of command ceremonies, Tall Ships volunteer opportunities and a terrific tour of the El Paso LNG Terminal here in Savannah.

So, what's next? Lots! We will be involved in recognizing outstanding performers in our local Coast Guard units as they recognize their Sailors of the Quarter. Our annual Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats is Wednesday, August 15, providing a great opportunity for a fun picnic dinner and ballgame experience with these Coasties and their families. Then on Saturday, August 18, our Sea Cadets will have their annual awards picnic at USCG - Air Station Savannah on HAAF – another opportunity to show our support of these dedicated young people. We also are hoping to pull together a trip down to Mayport Naval Station to visit with our adopted frigate, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG-58).

Be on the lookout for updates on these and other activities as we get closer to these dates. Your membership in Savannah Navy League gives you the chance to be involved, show your support for our local sea services and have a lot of fun in the bargain. Don't miss out!

Bob

July 24 Dinner Meeting at the Carey Hilliard's

Speaker: Scott Yackel



Our July 24 dinner meeting will be conducted at the **Carey Hilliard Banquet Center**, located behind the restaurant at 11111 Abercorn St, across the street from Home Depot. Our speaker will be Chatham County's Chief Pilot, Scott Yackel. He will describe the mission and functions of the Chatham County Aviation Unit, including SWAT, water rescues and aerial law enforcement in addition to mosquito control.

Scott is retired from the U.S. Coast Guard.

July 24th
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, July. 20th. The cost is \$22 per person.

Please contact Sybil Cannon at RSalty2@att.net
or call (912) 964-5366 to reserve your place.

Navy League Tours the USS Alaska and Presents Awards



A delegation of Savannah Navy Leaguers visited with the Blue and Gold crews of the USS *Alaska* on June 8th to present recognition awards and also take a tour on board our adopted submarine.

Bob Gephart, Tom Latham and Pat Yovich presented the following awards:

USS Alaska Blue Crew:

Sailor of the Quarter – FT1 Adam Hustedde
Junior Sailor of the Quarter – MM2 Zachery Taylor
Blue Jacket of the Quarter – LS3 Louis Williams

USS Alaska Gold Crew:

Sailor of the Quarter – MM1 Ben Alford
Junior Sailor of the Quarter – ET2 Adam Storkamp
Blue Jacket of the Quarter – STS3 Joshua Polasek

Other Savannah Council members enjoying lunch on board and a tour of the submarine were Shane Emmett, Michael Jordan, Don Kipp, Ron Lauretti, Dick Nelson, Jim Overton, Joe Tillman, Bob Tully, George Word and Alan Yovich.

USS Alaska (SSBN 732) Wins National Award

As reported in our last newsletter, the USS *Alaska* had been selected as the best submarine in Kings Bay for 2011 and received a Battle Effectiveness Award (“E”).

Coming on the heels of that award, the USS *Alaska* has been selected by US Stratcom to receive the Omaha Trophy which is awarded to the best SSBN in the entire fleet. As stated by Stratcom: “The USS *Alaska* flawlessly provided more alert coverage in 2011 than any other SSBN and completed more alert time than most SSBN’s combined. USS *Alaska* conducted three strategic deterrent patrols, maintaining 100 percent missile and communication readiness.”

Rear Admiral Joseph Tofalo, Commander of Submarine Group Ten said: “*Alaska* is the most effective stra-

tegic missile submarine team and has demonstrated unmatched abilities in mission readiness as one of the nation’s strategic assets.”

A presentation of the Omaha Trophy was made to both crews by Rear Admiral Tofalo on 16 June. Savannah Navy Leaguers Tom Latham and Joe Tillman were present as part of our continued support of this great ship.



The Admiral congratulated the crews on their effective teamwork and the honor that it brings to them as individuals and also to the entire Kings Bay

team. Their importance to the defense of our country is shown by the fact the sub force is 54% of the deterrence triad.

Sea Cadets

Our Sea Cadets' Growth is Encouraging

by Pat Yovich



We are pleased to announce that our Sea Cadets are GROWING! They just added 3 NEW cadets in June, and they hope to add two more in July, thanks to the good work and leadership of Michelle Sparks, Coordinator and, Kim McCumber, Instructor. Good Job!

learned and hear from a few of them, "Why they have joined the Sea Cadets."

August 18-19, at their Drill Weekend, (time to be announced) there will be an awards ceremony, and we Navy Leaguers are invited to attend. We would like for a huge showing of support for these youngsters and parents. We will also have an opportunity to share some of the exciting tours the US Navy and USCG have provided us. It is important that the parents know "WHO" is in support of their children and what the Navy League stands for.

We are excited at the growth – the growth of the Cadets, and the growth of our partnership with the Cadets and the parents. We look forward to more "joint meetings and outings" and all of **your** participation. It's a **TEAM** effort and **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Our Savannah Council of the Navy League supports this youth group, which consists of boys and girls, ages 10 – 18, from Chatham, Bryan, and Effingham counties who have an interest in the sea services. They have "drill time" the 3rd weekend of the month at the USCG Air Station on HAAF. (Saturday, 8 am – 4 pm and Sunday, 1 pm – 5 pm) They also have the opportunity to attend two weeks of summer training camp and additional training camps during the winter school break.

As part of our sponsorship, the Navy League has given 2 full scholarships (\$240 ea) and 2 partial scholarships (\$120 ea) for summer camps this year. In addition, we help with new uniforms including shoes. The money raised at our monthly dinner raffles goes towards helping these youngsters grow in their dream of military service.

Plans are for cadets to be part of our program in July – we all would love to see some of the "drills" that they have

Welcome Aboard, New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members this quarter:

BOB TULLY
ORMOND FOWLER

Savannah Council's Tall Ship Support

Quite a few members of Savannah Council stepped forward as volunteers to support the May 3 – 7 visit of the Tall Ships to Savannah. They attended orientation and training sessions, and were "on duty" for much of that weekend event. They all enjoyed their involvement - *see Pat Yovich's detailed report on page 4*. The complete list of volunteers follows:

Sea Cadets	Mike Campbell	Gregory Johnson
Kim McCumber	Ed Lavish	Al Townsend
Michelle Sparks	Pat Yovich	Gary Johnson
Mac Storm	Bob Tully	Tom Wright
Warren Onken	Hugh Robinson	Joost Gompels

Local sponsors were recruited from Savannah businesses to help with the costs of this event. Savannah Council member **Connie Ray** and a business partner chipped in to sponsor the USCGC *Eagle*. It's only through the efforts of volunteers and sponsors like these that Savannah can attract events like this. Thanks to all involved!

2013 Nominating Committee

It's almost time to begin selecting nominees for Savannah Council's 2013 Board of Directors. This committee will consist of one person appointed by the President, two current members of the BOD and two at large members. If you would like to be on this committee, please contact:

Larry Maurer at 598-0804
Larry.Maurer1@gmail.com , or
Larry Wills at 598-0268 lawlwills@aol.

TALL SHIPS IN SAVANNAH

Tall Ships and Liaison Officer? What Is That?

by Pat Yovich

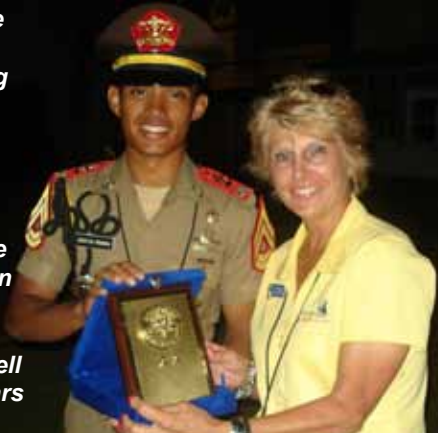
Who knew that belonging to the Savannah Council of the Navy League would have so many "neat and rewarding" activities to get involved in?

So far, here's my favorite. (and I feel like "I've only begun!") Sometime in March, Tom Wright talked about fourteen Tall Ships coming to Savannah in May. I thought that was pretty "neat" and that I might want to get involved, but how?

Next thing I knew, I was at a "Liaison Meeting" in April. All Tom said to me was, "You'd be good for that." **THAT?** I had no idea what "that" was. The meeting at River Street Inn was informative. I met some of the Tall Ship's Challenge staff and was asked, "Which ship are you on?" **ON?** I replied with, "None, as of yet." "Well," they said, "we have two that need another liaison, the *Lynx* and the *Dewaruci*". So, I blindly took the *Dewaruci* because it was a "foreign" ship, and it had a larger crew. Little did I know how I would eventually inherit 75 cadet adopted sons! Not to mention an additional crew of 86! (That's a total of 161)



One of the cadets presenting plaque to "Liaison Pat." The plaque has the Seal of the Indonesian Naval Academy on it as well as two stars the 2nd Year cadets.



CDR Bima presenting Pat a Certificate of Appreciation in the Commander's receiving parlor.



Pat's new Indonesian lady friends - three from NC, and one from Jacksonville. There were about 150 Indonesian guests for a private dinner aboard the Dewaruci one evening.



Pat and Cdr. Bima (center) at the Bon Voyage Party.

So, what does all that mean? As a Liaison Officer, it means: reporting to the Commander of the ship by 8:30 AM, briefing for the day; being the problem solver for ANY scheduling changes, personnel coming aboard, special visitors, challenges that may arise, i.e., 10 ft. tides that come in too fast and *BREAK* the aft gang plank; to “where is Ellis Square?” and, “how do we get across the river with our instruments?” just to name a few.

O.K., we were briefed in our liaison meetings for “who to go to.” I have a radio. I know how to *USE* the radio. I now have a contact person and I know how to radio that contact person. That’s all I needed to know. Or so I thought.

As a Liaison Officer, we basically stayed in “eye sight” of the Commander or Officer in Charge. We stayed with the ship, and gave as much help as we could and facilitated what was needed. And when requested by the Commander to be with him at the Captain’s party or crew party . . . we were there. In return, we were treated to some very unique Indonesian snacks, Indonesian tea, Indonesian beer (yes, beer and it’s *WARM* beer – learned that it’s made for room temp...very good, I might add!) We had special time in the Commander’s Receiving Parlor with visitors, translators, and special VIPs. And best of all, met the most wonderful group of cadets and officers of the Indonesian Navy.

The cadets are second year cadets of the Indonesian Naval Academy (similar to our U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis). But, none are married, or cannot marry until they become officers or leave the navy. About half of them spoke some English and all were very polite, disciplined, smart, and loved to share about their country. These cadets are also the prestigious Marching Band and Dance Troupe.

The officers again, were the finest and the elite of the Indonesian Navy.

And now, for the best – The Commander of the ship, *CDR. HARIS BIMA BAYUSETO*. (I addressed him as CDR. Bima) He ran a “tight ship” as you can imagine! He is a very fine officer, commander, and certainly well respected by all his crew, as well as Captain Saadi of the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C., Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, and Al Busyra Basnur (from Texas). These were just a few of the VIPs I met.

You can visit my Facebook page to see more photos, and click on the Commander’s link to see more of the *Dewaruci* and the sail to Norfolk, Baltimore, and Boston. Soon, they will be off to Halifax, then to Portugal, and elsewhere before returning to their home port in Indonesia in October, 2012. They will have been gone for 275 days.

This has been a special chapter in my life and that of Alan’s, too. The Commander and I have corresponded throughout his journey thus far, and will continue. Needless to say, we’ve been invited to Surabaya, Indonesia to the Commander’s hometown and to meet his wonderful family. It truly has been one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of my life. Will I do it again? In a heartbeat!

I encourage any of our Navy League members to step out and get involved with any of the activities that come our way. You’ll be blessed more than ever, and when you reach out and spend a little time at something “FUN,” you’ll reap rewards you never expected!

With heartfelt thanks to Navy League, especially Tom Wright, for this experience,

Pat Yovich,
Liaison to the Indonesian Tall Ship, *Dewaruci*,
May 3 – 7, 2012
Navy League Board Member

Pat facilitated presentation of Krispy Kreme donuts to the crew of the Dewaruci. Two Marching Band members and the Officer of the Deck accept the sweet treats.



Pat arranged for a local market to present fresh Georgia-grown vegetables to the crew of the Dewaruci.



The 2nd yr. Cadet Marching Band preparing to perform. The Dewaruci is in the background. And yes, these are the guys who climbed the ladders up to the spars!



A few of Pat’s new seventy five “adopted” cadets doing an impromptu dance.

USCG Captain of the Port Golf Tournament

Hospice Savannah Veterans Program and Sea Cadets Benefit

The 2012 Captain of the Port Golf Tournament was held at Savannah Quarters Country Club on April 27th. Twenty-seven teams (108 players) participated. Eleven of these teams were military teams, including one from the USS *Alaska*. Five of the military teams were sponsored by Navy League members. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah provided a low level helicopter fly over to start the tournament.



USCG MK2 Sean Bretz, a local Coast Guardsman who is undergoing extensive rehabilitation following a brain aneurysm a year ago, was able to attend and was driven around in a golf cart by one of the MSU sailors. Many of the players gave their raffle tickets to Sean, who collected many gifts.

Almost \$3000 was raised and has been split 80 / 20 between the Sea Cadets and Hospice Savannah's Veterans Program.

This tournament's success was the result of hard work by the Coast Guard MSU, and Joe Tillman of the Navy League. Plans are to continue this tournament in the future. Please continue your support of this annual event.

Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats

Annual "Night Out" for Coast Guard Set for August 15th



Save the date!!! Wednesday, August 15, 6:00 PM is the date / time for this year's Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats. We have invited all of our local Coast Guard units to bring their families and best friends to a picnic dinner followed by the Sand Gnats ballgame at Grayson Stadium on Victory Drive. We also hope to have a Coast Guard helicopter flyover during the National Anthem and for a Coastie to throw out the first pitch. Last year, over 250 Coast Guard personnel, family and friends attended this event – we hope to meet or exceed that number again this year.

These are the men and women who rescue people at sea, protect our port and maintain our waterways in safe, navigable condition. Don't miss this great opportunity to offer your personal support to these Coast Guard families and thank them for their service.

More details will be sent as we get closer to this event. This promises to be a fun evening for all.

3rd Quarter Meetings Wrap-up

APRIL



Col. James T. (Tom) Roberts, U.S.A., Ret. was our speaker for the April dinner meeting. Col. Roberts, who served in the Army for 34 years, is a Savannah resident. His enlisted and officer assignments included - Armor, Infantry, Artillery and specialization in Military Police training. He served two tours in Vietnam, first, during the Tet offensive and, subsequently, as an Army Training Advisor to the Cambodian Army. His final assignment in the Army was as Deputy Commander Criminal Investigation Command.

His presentation was about the past and current condition in Iran since the U.S. became involved.

MAY



Our May 22nd meeting speaker was Dr. Fran Bohnsack, the South Atlantic Gateway Director for the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) with responsibilities to assist ports in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Puerto Rico.

JUNE



LCDR Bill Strickland is currently the Assistant Operations Officer as well as a unit Instructor Pilot/Flight Examiner and Rotary Wing Air Intercept (RWAI) Aircraft Commander.

He spoke about some of his experiences while serving in the Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) in Jacksonville, FL where he served as a counter-narcotics Mission Commander from 2008-2011. In 2010, while on patrol in the Caribbean on board USCGC *Tahoma*, LCDR Strickland and crew were among the first responders to arrive in Haiti after the devastating earthquake hit the impoverished nation.

Coast Guard News

Air Station Savannah COC - June 7, 2012



RADM William Baumgartner, Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District officiates at the change of command for Coast Guard Air Station Savannah as CDR Greg Fuller (left) relieves CDR Tim Tobiazs.

CAPT Tobiazs' wife, Wendy, helps cut the cake celebrating his promotion following the Change of Command ceremony.

Station Tybee Change of Command and Historic Promotion June 1, 2012



June 1, 2012 - Chief Petty Officer Dale Pope is promoted to Warrant Officer at Ft Pulaski following the Station Tybee Change of Command. CAPT Mike White and CWO Pope's wife, Michele, apply his rank.



Chief Boatswain's Mate Eric Dieckman, USCG, accepts the Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award from CAPT Mike White, USCG, at the Aids to Navigation Team Tybee Change of Command.

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Savannah Steamer Newsletter

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

Treasurer's Report - First Half Financials Cliff Angers, Treasurer

Total **revenue** through June 30, was \$ 20,459; total **expenses** were \$13,428, resulting in a net gain of \$ 7,031. Revenue from ordinary activities (excluding special events ie: MSU golf event) was \$ 10,171 and corresponding expenses were \$ 5,541, yielding a gain of \$4,630. Eighty one percent of expenses went to Program Expenses in direct support of the sea services. Our **cash position** at the end of June was \$23,663. It should be noted that \$2,369 of this amount is from MSU's contribution from the golf event to the Sea Cadets and has been so earmarked.

Upcoming Events

TBD USCG – Air Station Savannah, Sailor of the Quarter
TBD USCG – Marine Safety Unit Savannah, Sailor of the Quarter
July 18 8:00 AM USCG Station Tybee Sailor of the Quarter
July 24 6:00 PM – Dinner Meeting, Carey Hilliard Banquet Center
11111 Abercorn St (across from Home Depot)
August 7 5:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting, USCG Air Station
August 15 6:00 PM – Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats, Grayson Stadium
August 18 11:30 AM – Sea Cadets Awards, USCG Air Station
August 28 6:00 PM – Dinner Meeting, Location TBD
Sept 4 5:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting, USCG Air Station
Sept 25 6:00 PM – Dinner Meeting, Ships of the Sea Museum – 41 MLK Blvd.

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.

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

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Savannah Navy League
PO Box 16918
Savannah, GA 31416