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President's Message



Thank you for all of your support and your many contributions to the success of our Navy League Council. It is important for you to know that from Atlanta to Charleston to Savannah to Kings Bay to Mayport (and lots of other places) - Savannah Navy League is known and respected for your many contributions and creative hard work.

Please feel proud. **You have earned it.** And with your continued support, the rest of this year is going to be even better.

Tom
Tom Latham

Our Own Pat Yovich Receives the Outstanding Civilian of the Year Award

For her work with the military through the Savannah Navy League, Pat Yovich was honored by the Military Affairs Council and the Savannah Chamber of Commerce as "Outstanding Civilian of the Year 2016" at the Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Westin hotel on May 26, 2016. Bill Cathcart, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and Savannah Chamber Military Affairs Council Chairman, was the emcee.

Lt/General John M. Murray, Deputy Chief of Staff, US Army presents the award to Pat as Bill Cathcart looks on.



Below (l-r): SSgt Chad Edsall, USMC; ENS Lance Landers, SSU NROTC; Cpl Clint Horton, US Army; Pat Yovich, Savannah Navy League; PO Robert Harris, USCG; SrA Trayvonne Baker, USAF.



BASEBALL and PICNIC!



Following the tradition of the annual Sand Gnats event, Savannah Navy League has organized a USCG Family Night at the Savannah Bananas on Wednesday, July 27, starting at 5:30 PM at Grayson Stadium on Victory Drive. Cost is \$22 per person for Navy League members, which includes the ballgame and all you can eat hamburgers, hotdogs, and chips plus beer and wine for adults, sodas for the kids. It will be a fun evening with all our local Coast Guard families. This event is made possible by the generous support of Georgia Ports Authority, the City of Savannah, and our Savannah Navy League. Please RSVP by July 20 to Hugh Robinson - email hughalice@aol.com.

WHO

U. S. Coast Guard Savannah
Navy League Savannah Council

WHAT

Annual Picnic
Baseball Game



WHEN

Wednesday, July 27th
5:30 pm (17:30 hr)

WHERE

Grayson Stadium
Victory Drive and Bee Road

Savannah Navy Leaguers Tour the Trident Training Facility at Kings Bay Submarine Base

On April 14, several Savannah Navy Leaguers traveled to Kings Bay Submarine Base to visit the Trident Training Facility. They were treated to an in depth tour of this fantastic facility, that essentially duplicates all possible conditions that could occur on a submarine at sea, including major water leaks, fires, and other unhappy situations. An informative presentation and luncheon followed the tour, making for a very pleasant visit to Kings Bay, where our adopted submarine, USS *Alaska* SSBN 732, is based.



Submarine Birthday Ball

by Tom Latham



(l-r): Chief of the Boat (COB) Brian Doebler, Savannah Navy League president Tom Latham, CDR and Mrs. Gummer, and Navy League board member, Bob Gephart.

The Kings Bay 116th Submarine Birthday Ball was held in Jacksonville on April 30. Savannah Navy League was represented by Tom Latham and Bob Gephart, along with the leadership of our adopted submarine the USS *Alaska*, Commanding Officer Craig Gummer and Chief of the Boat Brian Doebler.

The submarine ball commemorates the anniversary of the U.S. Navy's Submarine Force. On April 11, 1900, the U.S. Navy purchased John Philip Holland's revolutionary submarine and renamed it the USS *Holland* (SS-1), America's first commissioned submarine. Since then, submariners have been patrolling the depths of our oceans, taking the fight to enemies and providing maritime security around the world.

Savannah Navy League Bear Goes To Sea by Tom Latham



One of our important family programs is to provide Baby Gift Bags to the families of the ships and units we are supporting - and those bags have an adorable teddy bear with a shirt that says Savannah Navy League.

Just before leaving port on a recent patrol, the *Alaska* Blue Commanding Officer, CDR David Forman, invited one of the bears to join them. As you see in the photo, the Bear has done a fine job of representing SNL and the ship's families.

Editor's Note: We are hoping that the Bear will receive a nice promotion upon his return to Kings Bay.

Ron McCready, OIC of Station Tybee, is Promoted to Master Chief



On May 2, Officer In Charge of USCG Station Tybee, BMCS (Senior Chief) Ron McCready was advanced to BMCM (Master Chief), the highest enlisted rank in the US Coast Guard. Captain Gary Tomasulo, USCG Sector Charleston Commander, presided over the ceremony. Less than 1% of USCG personnel ever reach the Master Chief level. SNL presented a gift catalog to the new Master Chief.

Awards Presented to Sailors of the Quarter

USCG Sailor of the Quarter awards were presented at three of our local USCG units. Each awardee was presented a gift catalog and a book from the USCG Reading List.

ME3 Chelsea Bender - USCG Marine Safety Unit Savannah, with Bob Gephart, O.C. Fowler, CDR Beach, Tom Latham, and Joe Tillman.



AET3 Michael Bootle - USCG Air Station Savannah with Tom Latham and O.C. Fowler



SN Jan Glarum - USCG Station Tybee with Bob Gephart and O.C. Fowler.

Captain of the Port Golf Tournament a Success

Savannah Navy Leaguer Joe Tillman did another fantastic job organizing and managing the 2016 Captain of the Port Golf Tournament at the Savannah Harbor Golf Resort on Hutchinson Island. Joe recruited 30 foursomes, including seven military teams. Joe also found sponsors for the military teams so they did not have to pay the entry fee. Joe, along with OC Fowler, Scott Martens, and Leo Norkus, pulled together 72 donated raffle prizes valued at \$8000. Lunch was donated by Dickie's BBQ at no charge, and the weather cooperated resulting in a fun outing for all. The USS *Alaska* team from Kings Bay won first place, both Net and Gross. The proceeds from this event were split between Savannah Navy League and a charity selected by USCG MSU. The net result is a significant boost to Savannah Navy League's financial status - see Treasurer's Report for details.

Changes of Command at Station Tybee and USCGC *Chinook*

Several Savannah Navy League members attended the Change of Command at USCG Station Tybee on June 23.



BMCS Keith Kucera (left) assumes command of Station Tybee from BMCM Ron McCready (right). CAPT Gary Tomasulo is presiding.

Captain Gary Tomasulo, USCG Sector Charleston Commander, presided over the Change of Command. Officer in Charge BMCM Ron McCready is leaving Station Tybee for a West Coast assignment, and is being succeeded by BMCS Keith Kucera, who is transferring in from Boston.

Later that same day, CAPT Tomasulo presided over the Change of Command for the USCGC *Chinook*, also at Station Tybee. BMCM Mark Adams, who was OIC of Station Tybee prior to BMCM McCready, is replacing BMCM Charlie Salls as OIC of the 87 ft cutter, USCGC *Chinook*.



BMCM Mark Adams (left) prepares to assume command of USCGC *Chinook* from BMCM Charlie Salls (right).

Savannah State University Annual Spring Review

Savannah Navy League participated in Savannah State University's annual NROTC Spring Review at their stadium. Navy League awards were presented to Freshman Midshipman 4th Class Dennorris Allen and Sophomore Midshipman 3rd Class Cierra Swiney. SNL also donated funds to assist with event expenses.



(l-r) Savannah Navy League board member O.C. Fowler, MIDN 4/C Allen, MIDN 3/C Swiney, Tom Latham Savannah Navy League president.

From: "Alexander Ontivero" <aontiver@student.savannah-state.edu>
To: les85a@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 9:48:08 AM
Subject: Message of Gratitude

Good Morning Sir,

On behalf of the entire Savannah State NROTC unit I would like to express our gratitude for Navy League's very generous donation. With your donation we were able to buy a selection of food that was of a higher quality than it has been in previous years, as well as we were able to provide food for our honored guests. Again I would like to say thank you for you donation and for your support of the Midshipmen company.

V/R
MIDN 1/c Ontivero A
Midshipman Logistics Officer

Savannah Council Awards NJROTC Cadets

Savannah Navy League continued its annual participation in award ceremonies at the three local high schools with Navy JROTC. Each school selected one cadet to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal from the Navy League, and SNL donated \$300 to each NJROTC program to assist with summer training camps. This year's awardees were:

Jenkins High School	Cadet Ikema Ozobin
Johnson High School	Cadet Corey Campbell
S. Effingham High School	Cadet Halena Nicome



Sea Cadets' Summer Filled with Training *by Lori Sidener*



Summer is a busy training time for our Savannah Squadron Sea Cadets. Five cadets attended summer training during June and three more will attend in July. Those cadets that have completed training gave positive feedback. Cadets are planning to provide a color guard for the July 27th Coast Guard Savannah Bananas game and are looking forward to the event. The squadron is scheduled to receive first aid training at the August drill, and will receive first aid and CPR certifications at that time.

Two cadets graduated from Sea Cadets June 25. One was accepted into the USCG Academy Scholar program, and the other enlisted in the Navy. Savannah Squadron wants to thank Savannah Navy League for their continuing support.

Second Quarter Dinner Meetings Featured a Full Slate of Engaging Speakers

by Craig Maggioni

This past spring we had a fantastic lineup of speakers. CDR Paul Burkhart, CO of LCS Crew 109, updated the membership in **April** about the progress of the LCS program. Our **May** meeting was a wet one (DELUGE THUNDERSTORM!). CAPT Gary Tomasulo, the USCG Sector Commander, was able to make the trip down from Charleston to discuss the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard and more specifically, the comings and going of the Sector. In **June**, we had Alberto Perez-Vergara from Gulfstream Aerospace give a presentation on the special mission aircraft that Gulfstream produces. Our fall lineup is going to be tough to top these speakers, but we are up to the challenge! For our meetings, please make sure to RSVP to help keep our numbers accurate.



July is Our Annual USCG Baseball - Picnic. Regular Meetings Resume in August.



US Army Ship *General Frank S. Besson* LSV-1 (Logistics Support Ship) Visits Savannah *by Ed Robb*



A 273' LSV is somewhat similar in design/construction and in purpose to the Navy's former LSTs. It can carry vehicles, cargo and, like an LST, it can beach for discharge from a bow ramp in as little as six feet of water. It also has a stern ramp.

After communication with the crew of the vessel to welcome them to Savannah, Navy League members were invited to an on-board

In mid-April, the U.S. Army Vessel, *GENERAL FRANK S. BESSON* (LSV-1) made a port call to Savannah. Thanks to the City Dockmaster, Shawn Emerson, for notifying us of its expected arrival at the City Docks. The vessel is home ported in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Among its deployments, it has supported our mission in Iraq.

change of command ceremony. We gave the crew a briefing on Savannah, its history and landmarks, followed by a social gathering with the crew at Kevin Barry's.

We look forward to a return visit of this vessel and any other U.S. Army Vessels.

Family Support Update

by Shirley McCarthy

U.S. Coast Guard Ombudsman

Allison Garfield, the Air Station Ombudsman, was recognized at a ceremony for her outstanding support to all the Coast Guard families in the Savannah area. Allison's husband, Tim, has been transferred to Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, NC.

Tom Latham, President of Navy League, presented her with a \$100 gift certificate to be used at a restaurant of her choice at their new station. The Navy League ladies FRG support group hosted a luncheon at the Gryphon Tea Room for her as well. Our best to the entire Garfield family!

Ashley Bush has volunteered to be the "Interim" Ombudsman until a new Commanding Officer has chosen a permanent one. Ashley has a lot of great ideas and is very energetic; the FRG team looks forward to working with her.



USS Alaska Blue and Gold FRG (Family Readiness Group)

Thanks to the generosity and support of the SNL members, we were able to deliver to both the Blue and Gold FRG several baby gift bags and Single Sailors Goodie Bags. Both groups are very appreciative for all we do for them and are fully engaged in helping each other while patrols are conducted.



LCS Update

Crew 110 Commissioning Set for August 5 at Mayport *by Pat Yovich*

Our Savannah Navy League's adopted ships, USS LITTLE ROCK (LCS 9) and the USS SIOUX CITY (LCS 11) are sitting in the Menomonee River in Marinette, WI being outfitted all on the inside.

The three crews, Crew 108, Crew 109, and Crew 110 are training and anxiously waiting for their ships to come to Mayport, their new home, sometime in 2017.

CREW 110 will be Commissioned on FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 at 11:30 am in Mayport and will officially be adopted by our Savannah NL. We will be presenting them with their special Crew 110 Challenge Coin, and our Savannah NL Mug. They have limited seating – so the first 20 who RSVP to Pat will be attending. We have to have your names for security purposes.



The "Plankowners Certificate" will also be presented to the crew. It's exciting to be "growing and learning" with all three crews and LCS SQUADRON TWO staff, as these ships are being built and our Savannah Navy League recognition programs already put in place!

Treasure's Report First Half of 2016

Through June 30, Savannah Council's Operating Income was \$ 22,852 against Operating Expenses of \$ 13,859 for an Operating Gain of \$ 8,993. This income and profit are positively impacted by the City of Savannah Grant and the GPA grant.

Total Income for the period was \$ 39,491 against Total Expenses of \$ 27,445 for a Total Gain of \$ 12,046 through the first six months of the year. These outstanding results have been generated through the hard work and generosity of our members and benefactors as well as through MSU's Captain of the Port Golf Tournament which netted us \$ 3,307 — Thank you Commander Beach and Joe Tillman.

Our cash position continues to be strong for all of the reasons stated above.

We had \$ 30,343 in the bank at the end of June.

Cliff Angers, Treasurer



Welcome Aboard!

Savannah Navy League is happy to welcome our newest member . . .
Jan H. Boekenheide

National Navy League Convention Convenes Close to Home

by Pat Yovich



The NLUS National Convention was held in Charleston, June 16 – 19, 2016. Representing the Savannah Council were Tom Latham, Pat and Alan Yovich, Chuck and Barbara Towles, Tom Wright, and Jeff Zureick.

The Council Presidents' Breakfast was well attended along with the Mentors from the Communication Committee (Pat Yovich is one of the Mentors) Jeff attended the National Membership Committee, which he is part of now, also.

The Recognition Luncheon was held, but several of the Council awards still had to be finalized, and we know we are receiving one!

Pat Yovich was elected as a new National Director.

The next National Convention is in Milwaukee,, June 20 – 24, 2017. There already is talk about a day trip to Marinette, WI to tour the boat yard where our adopted LCSs are built!

Savannah Navy League Logo Shirts Available to Order



Men's Polo Shirts \$30.00
Blue or White
Small –XXX Large
Ladies Scoop Neck Tee \$27.00
Blue or White
Small-X large

Savannah Navy League logo will be embroidered on each shirt on the left hand side.

If you have apparel that you would like the Navy League Logo embroidered on the cost would be \$10.00
All orders must be pre-paid
Prior to ordering



Payment may be made on the Savannah Navy League Website using PayPal.
Or checks may be made out to the Savannah Navy League
Send to:
Shirley McCarthy
39 Southerland Rd
Savannah, GA 31411
Questions? Call Shirley McCarthy at 598-2166

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Visit our website at www.savannahnavyleague.us

Tues, July 12 3:30 pm - Joe's Crab Shack – Welcoming Reception for new USCG COs and spouses

Thurs, July 14 5:30 pm - Alaska Blue Awards from Patrol #96 – St Mary's GA

Fri, July 15 – 10:00 am - Change of Command – USCG Air Station Savannah – HAAF

Wed, July 27 - 6 pm - Coast Guard Family Picnic – Savannah Bananas Grayson Stadium

Tues, August 2 – 5:30 pm BOD Meeting at USCG Air Station - HAAF

Fri, August 5 – 11:30 am - LCS Crew # 110 Commissioning- at Mayport Naval Station

Tues, August 23 – 5:30 pm - Dinner at USCG Station Tybee

Tues, Sept 6 – 5:30 pm – BOD Meeting at USCG Air Station HAAF

Tues, Sept 20 – 5:45 pm – Dinner Meeting at Carey Hilliards – 11111 Abercorn

Fri, Sept 30 - Change of Command - Alaska Gold – Kings Bay – Time TBD

Upcoming Events

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

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 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.

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 Editor Bob Gephart
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