



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 19 ISSUE 3

Bill Weiler, President
Denise Hein, Editor

March 2008

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

FEBRUARY EVENTS



RADM Harry Harris, USN accepts a small token of our appreciation for his participation at the February meeting from Pres. Bill Weiler.



Karen Weiler and Denise Hein, winners of the jewelry silent auction with RADM Harry Harris, USN.



NJROTC Color Guard from Nova High School with Major David Baldwin.

MARCH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

When - Saturday, March 15, 2008

Where - Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

Time - 11am - Egg Hunt followed by barbeque lunch

Menu - Burgers, Dogs and all the trimmings

Cost - \$15 adults

The Easter Bunny is the guest of honor. Face painting, games, bounce house will be available for the children. Reservations and checks, made to BCNL, to Don Bannister, 4922 NW 66th Avenue, Lauderhill, FL. 33319 NO LATER THAN MARCH 8. 954-747-3454 or exsnrg@comcast.net

CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

President - Bill Weiler - 954-344-4513
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Second VP - Bob Haab - 954-741-7299
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Secretary - Marianne Giambrone - 954-385-0545
Treasurer - Peggy Raben - 954-462-2178
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Denise/Robert Hein - 954-764-6366
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John Kiefer - 954-563-9619
Steve Naimoli - 954-564-1400
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Larry Ott - 954-771-1765
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George Reeves - 305-285-4845
Mark Stein - 954-974-0006
Al/Shelly Stein - 954-472-0285
Bob Viverito - 954-452-6961

E-MAIL— bcnavyleague@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008 has gotten off to a great start...the Installation of Officers aboard Caribbean Princess was a huge success, with RDML Mark Buzby, Commander of JTF Guantanamo conducting the installation following his well received remarks. Alan Starr's Sea Cadets did their usual outstanding job of presenting the colors, and the cocktail hour was followed by a gourmet luncheon in the ship's Coral Dining Room. The event was well attended by some 130 members and guests... for those that missed it, come on out next year!

On February 13th, I presented BM1 Mathew Parker, of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, the Sailor of the Year Award consisting of a certificate, a plaque, and a \$100 check. The presentation was made during morning quarters, with BOD members Celeste Keegan, Anita Carmel, and Telmo Ortega also attending.

In spite of a slightly delayed start caused by unusually heavy traffic delays, our February Valentine's Day Dinner Meeting was also well attended and very successful. RADM Harry Harris, Director for Operations for U S Southern Command, was our guest speaker, and he gave an informative overview of SOUTHCOM activities followed by a lively question and answer session. In a tribute to our female guests on Valentine's Day, 23 ladies answered "Yes" to my question: "Will you accept this rose?"

We were disappointed to learn that the venue for our traditional March event "Night at the Races" at Pompano Park was in the demolition process. Thus our only scheduled March activity at this time will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ at CG Station Fort Lauderdale, to be held on Saturday, March 15th, beginning at 11:00am. Watch for info on our April Dinner Meeting, and be sure to also make note of the dates for this year's "Fleet Week"...April 28th - May 2nd.

In closing, I would like to urge all of you that are reading this newsletter to take a step forward in your level of participation. If you are already on the BOD, do more! Assume a new or additional area of responsibility, or offer assistance to those that are currently doing the job. For those of you that just attend our Dinner Meetings, volunteer for the Board, or at least to assist with a committee. If you're not coming out to our events, give it a try...you may just surprise yourself and have a good time! We're trying to make everything more fun, so help us continue to grow and improve by taking an active role! If you're not sure how, send me an email or give me a call.....I'd love to hear from you!

Thanks for your support!

Bill

CAPT G. William Weiler, USN (Ret.)
President, Broward County Florida Council
Navy League of the United States

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 03 - Board Of Directors Meeting -
AutoNation Bldg, 7pm.
Mar. 15 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Bar-
Beque - Coast Guard Station
Fort Lauderdale
Mar. 16 - Palm Sunday
Mar. 17 - St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 23 - Easter Sunday
Mar. 31 - Board Of Directors Meeting -
AutoNation Bldg, 7pm.

NEW MEMBERS

Robert and Janet Eichman
6611 Oakhill
North Lauderdale, 33068-3821
954-971-0572
bobnlaud@bellsouth.net
Sponsor - Bill Weiler

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 02 Graeme Holman
Mar 04 Leroy Goldstein
Mar 05 Barbara Makris
Mar 07 Sondra Title
Mar 08 Jerry Van Beynen
Mar 15 George L. Reeves
Mar 27 Alan Stein
Mar 28 Larry Nelson
Mar 31 William Newell

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 10, 2008 - Tropical Acres Restaurant. Speaker will be CDR. John Daly. USCG - Commanding Officer TACLET South - the law enforcement units that go to sea with the Navy in support of drug and migrant interdictions.

FLEET WEEK 2008 - April 28 - May 2, 2008. The USS Iwo Jima will be the flagship for the week. Volunteers are needed for many events - contact Joe Millsaps at 954-649-4777.

News from the US Navy and the Coast Guard

Ceremonies honoring the Sailors of the Year for Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, USCGC Gannet and ANT Fort Lauderdale were held at the station on February 13, 2008 as part of morning formation. Fort Lauderdale Council sponsors the Sailor of the Year for the station.

Sailors of the Year USS BATAAN LHD-5



Left to right – ABH3 Kelly Corbey, Blue Jacket of the Year, HM3 Sean Donlon, Junior Sailor of the Year, MA1 Terri Ellis, Sailor of the Year. Our congratulations to these fine young members of our Navy as they pursue their respective careers.

Membership News

Visit our website at: www.bcnavyleague.org. It is very informative.

Council "Challenge" coins are now available. Cost - \$6.00. Contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545.

Reminder to ALL members – If you make a dinner reservation and do not cancel 24 hours in advance, you will receive a bill for that event. We are obligated to pay for the number of dinners we order. Thank you.

National Membership Dues Increase

At the National convention of the Navy League held in November, the board of directors agreed to increase membership dues, effective July 1, 2008.

Members are strongly encouraged to consider becoming life members before the dues increase goes into effect. An individual life membership currently is \$450; the husband/wife life membership fee is \$650. Don't miss out on this opportunity – you will never have to worry about paying dues again and will avoid any future member dues increases. More importantly, you will be providing financial support to the Navy League and its mission.

A summary of the changes in fees is listed below. Take advantage of the lower fees by paying your dues before July 1, 2008. Questions can be directed to Membership Chairperson Marianne Giambrone at giambrone@myacc.net.

	Current	Effective July 1, 2008
Regular (individual) Member	\$40	\$50
Two-Year Member	\$75	\$90
Three-Year Member	\$100	\$125
Husband/Wife Members	\$70	\$85
Life member	\$450	\$500
Husband/Wife Life Members	\$650	\$750

Travelers

Joe and Marianne flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina and then cruised around Cape Horn to Santiago, Chile before returning home.

Ailing and Recovering

Luke Thompspon had a fall and is on crutches – hope he will soon be hopping around again on two feet. Bob Haab has been very quiet following throat surgery – we hope to hear his real voice again soon.

Sympathy

Our condolences to Barbara Bone who lost her brother recently. Our deepest sympathy to YNC J. Chandler, USN, NOSC Miami, who lost her father.

Community Affiliates



Corcoran Associates
305-371-7612

Downtowner Saloon
954-463-9800

Grady Marine Construction, Inc.
954-523-1212

Gunn Allen Financial
954-315-3810

Resolve Marine, Inc.
954-764-8700

Ship Supply of Florida

Tropical Acres Restaurant
954-989-2500

SUPPORTERS

Bahia Cabana Resort
954-524-1555

Publix Cordova Road
954-847-2844

Second Edition Book Shop
954-431-0884

Wal-Mart
4700 Flamingo Road Cooper City

Wayward Sailor Pub
3045 North Federal Hwy. FTL

Ship Greetings and Events

No ships were greeted during February

SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

USS Leyte Gulf CG-55 Sailor in the Spotlight



**FC2(SW) DUSTIN O. GOWER
USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)
JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR**

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina

Duty Title: Assistant Chief Master-At-Arms

Time in the Navy : 6 years 6 months

Why I joined the Navy : Travel and to get out of a small town

Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience: Getting to visit Rome and leading my ships Visit, Board, Search and Seizure Team

Greatest achievement since joining the Navy: Voted as 2007 Junior Sailor of the Year

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy: Succeed at everything I do

Plans after Navy life: Settle down with my wife and kids

The thing I like most about my job is: Interaction with crew members on a daily basis.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Am I getting spring fever? Maybe it's writers' block. But as I sit at my computer, I think of my son on a Turkish ship as Chief of Staff for the Standing NATO Maritime Group in the Mediterranean. He can't just say, "I quit" or "I have spring fever and we'll shut down and everyone go home."

According to his e-mails, he has to keep the morale of all these people from different NATO countries and the six ships under his command continuing their purpose of keeping the seas safe from pirates, terrorists, and other malcontents.

Here, I sit at home with a globe, atlas, newspapers, magazines, T.V. coverage and I still have not figured why these countries can't live in peace. It's the way people think they need to exist.

Ulysses S. Grant said, "The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike at him as hard as you can and as often as you can and keep moving on."

I think we are doing just that. Now in order to keep the morale of our Sea Services up, as civilians, we need to support our Council. Come to our dinner meetings, the Easter Egg Hunt and write letters to our congressmen. It only takes about thirty minutes. If I can recover from my spring fever, you can too.

Denise Hein, Editor



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CNO Wants to Increase Ships for Navy
Navy News | January 15, 2008

CRYSTAL CITY, VA - Delivering the keynote address at the Surface Navy Association's 20th National Symposium Jan. 15, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead spoke on the importance of providing the fleet with the right number of ships, submarines and aircraft to achieve the objectives of the Maritime Strategy. "Our job, as the nation's leaders, is to ensure Sailors have the ships, the aircraft and the submarines that will enable them to accomplish the mission," said Roughead.

Roughead discussed the need to increase the number of ships in the Navy. Although 313 is commonly referred to as the "floor" of what the Navy needs, he emphasized that more ships are needed and that we require a combination of balance and quantity to build the Navy for the future.

"Three hundred thirteen is the numerical floor because it gives us global capabilities," he said. "At some point, quantity becomes a capability. As the commander in the Pacific and the commander in the Atlantic, I can tell you that I never had enough ships, even before we developed the Maritime Strategy," said Roughead.

Recognizing the need for new ships, Roughead nevertheless stressed the importance of the Navy working with the shipbuilding industry to control costs. He stressed the need for restraint and appetite suppression, explaining that it will take the combined effort from both the Navy and the industry to realize efficiencies in shipbuilding.

"I expect Navy leaders to take a disciplined approach in determining our needs," he said. "An approach based in the Maritime Strategy that strives to balance among the six core capabilities, linking each purchase to a capability or capabilities will be the test I will apply. To do this, hard decisions must be made in the short term to ensure a long term shipbuilding plan is viable."

The Surface Navy Association, founded in 1985 to "promote great coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare," is holding the three-day symposium at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City.

A Conversation With the Country
Defining a New Maritime Strategy for the Nation
Submitted by George Reeves

The Navy is setting out a series of strategic plans to guide its way forward in the 21st Century. The Maritime strategy is one element of a larger four-part structure that includes Vision, which is **Sea Power 21**, which encompasses Sea Strike, Sea Shield, Sea Basing, the Strategy phase, presently being developed, followed by Tactics and Resources.

This Strategy is being developed as a coordinated and collaborative effort with input from the Joint Staff, the Naval War College, Combat and Component Commanders, USMC, USCG, the U.S. Merchant Marine, business, academia, and those considered as our partners throughout the world.

An important element of this outreach effort is now being rolled out. That is, a Conversation with the Country.

Sea Service officers, coordinated by VADM John Morgan, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information, Plans, and strategy, are presently rolling out elements of the strategic thinking to the public via conferences in several cities throughout the U.S. including a recent one held in South Florida at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables with the participation of all Maritime Services.

While the media currently focuses on the heroic efforts and sacrifice of the foot soldier and Marine in Afghanistan and Iraq, ADM Morgan said "America doesn't understand why sea power is important. People take it for granted". He emphasized that 90% of the world's commerce moves by sea and the 80% of the world's population lives in coastal areas further mentioning that the Sea Services safeguard the seas from piracy, drug and human trafficking, port security, terrorism as well as major nuclear weapons. Not only in coastal areas but also in international sea lanes in coordination with our willing sea service allies.

In addition to VADM Morgan's setting the stage dialogue, Dr. Karl Walling, gave an in depth presentation entitled, "A Backwards Look at Some Forward Thinking Maritime Strategists" wherein he harkens back to the more defensive coastal minimalist naval approach of Thomas Jefferson vs. the more forward deployed and thereby expensive position of Alexander Hamilton. Walling made the points that since the early days of our Republic, tension existed among the three elements of sea strategies; the "Moat" as defense, the "Common" areas, protection of international waters for commerce, and the sea as a "Highway" to project power. He emphasized that we as a country have lived with these issues throughout our history and strategic discussions have covered the horizons between the extremes of Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt.

Additionally, Walling made the point that historically we have relied on alliances with major sea power nations to an even greater extent than we envision in today's difficult environment emphasizing the key assistance of the French fleet at Yorktown, the dependence on the Royal Navy to monitor compliance with the Monroe Doctrine in our Hemisphere given the dearth of our own naval forces, the joint efforts of the British in WWI and WWII irrespective of the historical adversarial positions in the Revolutionary War and in 1812 when they burned our nation's capital.

Walling's final question was: "How do we tailor our maritime strategy to accommodate the broad spectrum of maritime missions from humanitarian assistance to defeating a major power?"

The new maritime strategy draws the three sea services closer together and is the first to be adopted by all three service chiefs.

USCG VADM Brian Peterman, Commander, Atlantic Area said, "Ever since 9/11 there has been greater cooperation between the Navy and Coast Guard in performing their maritime missions and operations".

The luncheon speaker, ADM James Stavridis, Commander, Southcom, reviewed the relationships with Western Hemisphere partners where there is presently no active combat activities. He said that, "the military's focus in the Western Hemisphere is on counter narcotics, natural disaster relief, working with international partners, working with interagency counterparts as well as working with the private sector"

He pointed out the very positive impact of the hospital ship COMFORT's recent four month tour of the area offering medical aid to a dozen countries.