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NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 64, Issue 11

November 2011

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ Raymond Craigmiles

RADM Terry Benedict, Speaker for the Marine Birthday Luncheon – Nov 8

Rear Admiral Benedict, the Director of Strategic Systems Programs plays a major role with programs at Naval Base Kitsap and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker to celebrate the 236th USMC Birthday.

Rear Admiral Benedict graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982 and then continued his education at the Naval Postgraduate School, University of Phoenix, the Defense Acquisition University and Carnegie Mellon. He served on the USS Henry E. Yarnell (CG 17) then reported to Strategic Systems Programs in 1988. Within the SSP, he has been involved in almost every aspect and on May 7, 2010, he assumed command of Strategic Systems Program.

Lt. Col. Carlin and Sgt. Major Smith will lead the Marine Force Security Battalion in their early Marine Birthday Celebration. They will honor the oldest and youngest Marine in the room at the traditional cake ceremony and we will be



recognizing some of their outstanding Marines and Sailors of the Battalion.

This is also your opportunity to bring unwrapped gifts or money for the Toys for Tots program. These toys will help bring cheer and smiles to local military children.

Please contact Diane Garrett at CTC by November 3 to make your luncheon reservations.

Don't Miss Out!

Call CTC now for your luncheon reservation
360-782-5500



President's Message

Thanksgiving time is here and we have many reasons to be thankful.

This might be the time to think of inviting a military family to join you for a meal during the holidays or to participate in the Marine "Toys for Tots" program or the many other ways to share with others.

We are pleased that Admiral Benedict will join us at our regular luncheon on November 8 to help celebrate the 236th Birthday for the Marine Corps. The Maritime Force Protection Unit and SWFPAC will also join in the celebration and we hope that many others will participate. Please make your reservations early so that we have enough food and seating available for you.

The Super Committee will have their report ready to share before Thanksgiving and we want to stand firm on the need for having a strong, well equipped military.

Your vote is important, so please make certain that you mail in your ballot before November 8.

Area councils are working together to provide a special party for the crew of the USS Abraham Lincoln, as it gets ready for deployment. Mark November 2 on your calendars, Naval Station Everett MWR is

preparing a picnic from 1 to 7 pm on the Commons there and all of our members are invited.

Over 40 organizations participate in the Veterans Day program on November 11 at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion at the fairgrounds. The doors open at 9 am and the program starts at 10:30 am. Between 1500 and 1800 people usually attend making this event the largest Veterans Day program in the state. Our council is proud to coordinate and fund this great event. Thanks to Kitsap Sun, Raytheon, the County Commissioners and Crazy Eric's Drive-Ins for all of their help.

November 14 is the Heroes' Welcome planned by Navy Region Northwest and Naval Base Kitsap Fleet and Family Service to honor and recognize Individual Deployers or Augmentees and their families. Plan on coming this year to show your support for these wonderful people.

Check out the Tour of the USS Turner Joy and the Bremerton Naval Museum. Now is the time to really take time to visit these wonderful treasures.

Larry Salter has been busy putting together a special program for our December luncheon that celebrates the Centennial of Naval Aviation so put December 13 on your calendar now and make your reservations.

Check "Planning Ahead" for more details for each of these events.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Heroes' Welcome, Coming Home Again Monday, November 14

Bring the whole family to this special event presented by the Naval Base Kitsap Fleet and Family Support Center in honor of the sacrifices made by our Individual Deployers and their families in the Pre-, Mid- and Post-deployment state.

The event includes vignettes of those deployed, a special guest speaker, a Memorial for those who have been lost, an Information & Resource Fair, and appreciation gifts for the families.

When: 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Where: Jackson Park Community Center
90 Olding Road
Bremerton, WA

This event is open to the public and is exceptional. Plan on attending and saying thank you to these families.

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council is proud to support such a worthwhile event for these young men and women who give so much to us.

Veterans Day, November 11



Join us at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion on the Fairgrounds as we pause to remember and honor our veterans. Doors open at 9 am so that you can view the many displays and visit the 25 booths. The Twin Towers steel beams from 9/11 will be on display as well as antique military uniforms and vehicles. Arrive early so that you find a place to sit as over 1700 people are expected to attend.

The actual program begins at 10:30 am with pomp and circumstance of a very formal Parade of Colors. Rear Admiral Douglass Biesel, Commander, Navy Region Northwest and Governor Christine Gregoire will welcome everyone. County Commissioner Josh Brown will introduce all of the dignitaries and the representatives from the participating organizations.

The Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of Navy League is proud to provide the coordination and funds for this memorable event along with 42 other organizations. Special thanks go to Navy Veterans and Navy League members and Earle and Sandra Smith for their hard work throughout the year to make certain that this program is very special.

This year, the keynote speaker is a Vietnam veteran who became a medical doctor after leaving the service. He has been in family practice in our area for more than 20 years and now heads a longevity clinic in Tacoma. He hosts a regular radio talk show about health and aging and occasionally refers to his time in Vietnam.

Crazy Eric's will again be providing free refreshments following the program.

Marine Corps Security Force Battalion What is it?

Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Bangor, traces its lineage from the establishment of the former Marine Barracks, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on 16 September 1896. The Barracks grew steadily with the shipyard.

Marine Barracks, Bangor, was established in January 1964, with the activation of Ammunition Depot. The Barracks was re-designated Marine Barracks, Naval Torpedo Station, Keyport, although physically remaining on board the Bangor annex. On 1 February 1977, with the activation of Submarine Base, Bangor, the Barracks was re-designated Marine Barracks, Bangor.

On 1 February 1987, with Corps-wide reorganization of Security Forces, Marine Barracks, Bangor, was re-designated as Marine Corps Security Force Company, Bangor. On 2 July 2008 the company was re-designated to Marine Corps Security Force Battalion.

Currently, Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Bangor, is the largest of

the Marine Corps Security Force Battalions in the world and contains both Marines and Sailors working together. Marine Corps Security Force Battalions are independent Commands, capable of self administration, organized to support and accomplish their own particular mission. Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, Bangor, is in direct support to Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific. Since its reorganization in 1977, the Battalion has been awarded a Navy Unit Commendations, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, and a Commandant of the Marine Corps Certificate of Commendation.

On July 14 of this year, Lt. Col. Curtis D. Carlin relieved Lt. Col. Zachary White, in a very moving Change of Command Ceremony at Bangor, as Commanding Officer of the Battalion. Lt. Col. Carlin had just returned from a deployment in Iraq. He and Sgt. Major Smith are looking out for their troops and making certain that they are ready for any emergency.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2012

Will Lent, Chair of the Nominating Committee thanked the following committee members for their hard work this year in preparing the slate of officers for the 2012 year: Larry Salter, Terry Halvorson, Byron Faber and Helen Miller.

The following slate was presented at the October council luncheon and will be voted upon at the November 8 luncheon.

President	Carolyn Dankers
Vice President	Tim Katona
Secretary	Heidi Hottinger
Treasurer	Ruth Bond
Judge Advocate	George Rose

Nominations from the floor will be invited prior to any vote on November 8.

Navy Ball



Left to right; Beverly Good, Doug Garner, Dodie Garner, Patricia Germaine, Byron Faber and Carolyn Dankers having a good time. Not pictured; Ruth Bond, Susan Larsen and Cris Larsen.

This year's Navy Ball was held on October 13th at Bangor's Trident Ballroom and 13 Navy Leaguers were treated to a memorable formal event complete with two stage side tables reserved for the Navy League and a crowd of 300 sailors and several members from the other services.

The theme of this year's 236th Navy Birthday Ball was "Remembering our

Past to Secure our Future." The guest speaker was Leon Carroll, NCIS luminary and former assistant to the director of NCIS. He is a former US Marine Corps officer and is currently the technical advisor to television's #1 show, "NCIS." Leon showed us a video from Abby congratulating Navy Base Kitsap for our Navy Birthday Ball and delivered a photo of all of the cast members with



autographs. We also learned several interesting insights into the filming of this popular show and the lives of its now famous cast.

Following the presentation the stage was turned over to dancing and the sailors and their spouses / significant others did not disappoint. The volume was turned up and a good time was had by all.

Submitted by Doug Garner

Our Navy League Cruise by G. Rose and B. Faber



Some of our group getting ready to enjoy another exciting adventure. Left to right: Pat Germaine, Jana McConnell (George Rose's niece), Carol Meteney, Janet McConnell (George Rose's sister), and Betty Friewald. Happy Birthday to Carol and Betty.

On September 24th, a number of Navy League members and family left for a cruise from Vancouver, BC. The group boarded the NCL ship the Norwegian Star leaving Vancouver, BC cruising to Los Angeles with stops at Nanaimo, Victoria, Astoria, Or., and San Francisco.

Everyone on the trip opted to stay at the Ramada Inn at SeaTac for the first night of the trip. The next morning there was a large new Shuttle Express bus waiting outside the Ramada to transport us to King St. Station to catch the Amtrak Cascade to Vancouver. Upon arriving in Vancouver, we were transported to the Norwegian Star where we all had balcony rooms. We sailed at 4:00 pm, and then the real fun began. We had seven nights of food, entertainment, and relaxation, and there were a few drinks consumed now and again. We had a cross section of weather, some rain, some sun, but no matter what, we were going to enjoy the trip.

Upon arrival in Los Angeles, some of the group disembarked to go locally to visit family there, and the others boarded another Shuttle Express van and were transported to the Long Beach Airport to catch an Alaska Air flight back to Seattle.

The food was great along with the enter-

tainment and of course the fact you were on vacation for eight days made it even more relaxing.

The trip was put together with the help of Parker Cruise and Tours in Kent. As planning goes, we couldn't have had a better partner in planning this cruise as the hotel, bus transportation, the train, ship, and airline were all where they should have been for us, and everything went as it should have gone, and even on time.

Arriving in the Los Angeles terminal, a vote was taken of the cruise group, and it seems that the feeling of everyone was that we are all going to have to do another cruise again next year.

We are going to look into a cruise for next year, as of yet we don't know which cruises will be offered for the Northwest, but when we find one that looks like a lot of fun, we will advise the council.

Please keep checking your monthly news for the next cruise, and should you wish to join us, please contact George Rose to sign up.

Submitted by George Rose



George Rose, his sister and niece aboard a cruise from Vancouver, BC to Los Angeles. Thanks George for arranging another great opportunity for Navy Leaguers.

Several members of the Bremerton Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League (and George Rose's very nice family members) met prior to the cruise on the evening of Sept 23. The next morning in the pre-dawn darkness, we were bussed to the King St train station in downtown Seattle for our train ride to Vancouver to meet the cruise ship. The train ride was very scenic along the eastern shore of Puget Sound. We saw literally hundreds of fishing boats from Edmonds to Mukilteo.

We boarded the Norwegian Star in Vancouver BC and immediately began the eating program at the buffet with vigor. It was a very pleasant day to watch the harbor activity there.

The first port of call the next day was Nanaimo BC. It was lightly raining but was a good chance to spend the day exploring the port town.

That evening was pleasant enough, but the Captain announced that the weather was predicted to get somewhat rough the next morning, so we sailed directly to Victoria & tied up at the dock before the winds hit. While docked, we could see the winds howling across the inner harbor & in the open Straits of Juan de Fuca. That, plus the horizontal rain, meant that many folks didn't get off the ship to go ashore.

The next port of call was Astoria, Oregon. However, during the night, the winds were "brisk" and the seas certainly reflected the windy weather conditions. The Captain announced that the Port of Astoria was closed, so we couldn't go into it. The ride during the rough conditions was interest-

**Cruise continued
on page 5**

Cruise (cont'd)

ing. Sometimes we were walking up hill & immediately afterwards, we headed back down hill. The only people walking straight were those who were drunk!! As good sailors, we made sure we didn't miss any meals.

After a further day at sea, the seas calmed & sailing was very pleasant.

The morning we came into San Francisco in dark before dawn, we could hear fog horns well prior to going under the Golden Gate Bridge. Even through the fog, we could see the lights on the bridge deck above.

The day in San Francisco was cool and clear. Some of us got to go on the Alcatraz tour, where one of the things we learned that may be useful, is that the tours to the Rock are sold out way in advance, so anyone planning on going there on a future trip to SF will need to book early through the National Parks system - <http://www.nps.gov/alca/index.htm>.

Several of our folks gathered on an upper deck forward before heading out beneath the bridge again in the dark. We were amazed at how close the top of the ship was to the bottom of the bridge.

Another calm & pleasant day at sea followed, with some sightings of Dahl's porpoises, and a few whales.

Overall, the entertainment (even some "Cirque de Soleil" type performances) and the food were high quality. Service is always great on a cruise ship. Many of us participated in the daily games of trivial pursuit and did well, but didn't win any prizes.

Before pulling into the Long Beach harbor at San Pedro, we decided that we definitely will set up another cruise for next year. It is tremendous fun & there is no scrubbing of the decks or standing watch to spoil the delights.

Submitted by Byron Faber

FT1(SS) Christopher Howard, Senior Sailor of the Quarter (Fire Control Technician First Class Petty Officer, Qualified in Submarines)

Petty Officer Christopher Howard was selected as the Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility Pacific Northwest Sailor of the Quarter from April 2011 to June 2011. Petty Officer Howard's outstanding performance as the Shop 67L (PC/Module & Printer Repair Shop) Lead Maintenance Technician was demonstrated during USS Nevada's (SSBN-733) emergent Voyage Repair where he expertly managed and led a shop of eight civilian and two military personnel through 28 mission critical work orders that were accomplished ahead of schedule. His efforts directly contributed to the ship's successful Voyage Repair and follow-on strategic deterrent deployment. Leading the way in safety, his outstanding management skills were instrumental during a critical electrical safety check on the shop's 112 pieces of shipboard equipment in response to the organization's upward trend in personnel mishaps. He supervised the inspection of each piece of equipment, ensuring all NAVOSH and PSNS & IMF requirements were within the prescribed periodicities, which contributed to the shop's excellent record for zero electrical safety deficiencies for calendar year 2011. As a result of his mature leadership he was hand-selected to qualify as a Command Duty Officer, a position designated to Junior Officers, Chief Petty Officers and the highest performing First Class Petty Officers at the command.

ET2(SS) Yusef Ali, Junior Sailor of the Quarter (Electronics Technician Second Class Petty Officer, Qualified in Submarines)

Petty Officer Yusef Ali was selected as Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility Pacific Northwest Junior Sailor of the Quarter from April 2011 to June 2011. Petty Officer Ali's outstanding performance as an Electronics Technician in Shop 67A (ESM/Radar/IFF Repair Shop) and Boat Lead for USS Louisiana (SSBN-743) was demonstrated by coordinating five routine and 23 corrective maintenance actions including the challenging repair and reinstallation of six Early Warning System drawers and the delicate and tedious task of removing a Radar System Waveguide for preservation. He presided as President of the IMF Second Class Petty Officer Association from June 2010 through June 2011. Under his leadership, one of the Association's significant accomplishments was concurrently featured in the Salute, Northwest Navigator, and the Refit Review magazines in recognition for their efforts in the restoration and beautification of Mr. Edgar Austin's gravesite, a gentleman who once owned the land which is now Naval Base Kitsap.

Dear Friends of the STENNIS - October 13

As I write this letter, JOHN C. STENNIS and crew are rapidly approaching the halfway mark of our deployment. Our Sailors continue meeting their daily requirements and challenges with great conviction and resolve as we contribute to combat operations in the FIFTH FLEET Area of Responsibility. Unlike the majority of American's, I am truly blessed for each and every day I witness the true fighting spirit and resolve of our nations very best!

In late September, we carried our "liberty with a purpose" message to the Kingdom of Bahrain, serving as ambassadors for our country. First and foremost, Vice Admiral Mark Fox, Commander of FIFTH FLEET, selected our ship to host many very influential decision makers in the region. On separate days the ship hosted the Kazakhstan Chief of Navy, and the Bahraini Crown Prince himself for official visits onboard. During the Crown Prince's visit, we honored him as our guest for a special luncheon which included the Chief of the Royal Bahraini Naval Force and U. S. Charge D' Affaires, MS. Stephanie Williams.

Next, we hosted an evening reception which included regional diplomats, Bahraini business leaders, and high profile expatriates from the United States, Australia and Great Britain. All of our guests marveled at

the diversity and professionalism of our Sailors during their time onboard. Finally, while in port in Manama, our Sailors contributed to local community relations projects by mentoring local high school students in English-immersion classes. Sailors and students alike enjoyed this cultural exchange.

Last Saturday, STENNIS had the privilege of receiving several distinguished guests. The new Chief of Naval Operations ADM

Jonathan Greenert, his wife Mrs. Darleen Greenert, Deputy FIFTH FLEET Commander RDML Charles Gaouette, and MCPON Rick West all took time from their schedules to visit our crew at sea in the Arabian Gulf. This was ADM Greenert's first shipboard visit since assuming office as CNO, and he was amazed by our Sailors' morale and purpose in executing their duties. The CNO and MCPQN spoke to all hands, witnessed our transit through the Strait of Hormuz from our bridge, and answered numerous service-related questions from our officers and crew.



Captain Reis, CO of the USS John C. Stennis welcomes our new Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert to the ship

At this moment, JCS Sailors continue to support sustained combat operations over Afghanistan as part of ENDURING FREEDOM. Only days ago, they performed

the same tasks to support NEW DAWN over Iraq, protecting Iraq's fragile democracy. STENNIS is in the midst of a seven-week period at sea and Sailors are feeling a great sense accomplishment and pride. To maintain morale, we are planning a "steel beach picnic" to include a USO band for entertainment. This will provide a welcome break for everyone and allow Officers and Chief Petty Officers to share in the cooking and serving of our Sailors.

In closing, we are excited to go about each day in service of our great nation and to celebrate our Navy's 236th Birthday. We remain forward deployed accomplishing our nation's tasking - preserving the greater peace, while providing critical air support to our coalition partners and sister services on the ground in Afghanistan. Our crew thanks you for continuing to keep us in your thoughts and prayers - we will always appreciate your friendship and thoughtfulness. And, as always, JOHN C. STENNIS remains committed and dedicated to mission accomplishment through safe and effective flight operations.

Warmest Regards,
R. REIS, Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



CNO Greenert addresses an "All hands" aboard the USS John C. Stennis

Planning Ahead

For best service, register early for the luncheon and the tours.

October 26-30 Navy League of the U.S., National Convention, Chattanooga, Tenn.

November 2 Deadline for lunch registration, Call CTC at 360-782-5500
USS Abraham Lincoln picnic, NAVSTA Everett 1 –7 pm
Air Station, SFO, Port Angeles, Award Ceremony, 2 pm

November 6 Set your clocks back one hour!

November 8 Luncheon, Marine Birthday, Trident Ball Room, Bangor
11 am - Networking, Program, 11:45

November 9 Board Meeting, Drake Evans home, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
Seattle Council-Marine Birthday Celebration
Lake Washington Council - Honoring Special Units

November 11 Veterans Day, Kitsap Sun Pavilion, Fairgrounds
Doors open at 9 am

November 14 Heroes' Welcome, 5:30 –7:30 pm, Jackson Park Community Center

November 19 Tour of USS Turner Joy and Bremerton Naval Museum
Contact Byron Faber, if interested

November 24 THANKSGIVING



An F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to the Black Aces of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41 prepares to launch from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). John C. Stennis is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and support missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Benjamin Crossley/Released)

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Navy League of the United States Mission Statement and Goals

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that it's national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marine.

Navy League Goals

- 1. Educate national leaders and the nation.**
- 2. Support the men and women of the sea services.**
- 3. Provide assistance to the sea service families.**
- 4. Support the youth program.**