



NOW HEAR THIS!

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



Volume 65, Issue 02

February 2012

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- ★ Vigor Shipyards
- ★ Concurrent Technologies Corp

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- ★ Air Management Solutions
- ★ AMI International
- ★ BAE Systems Support Solutions
- ★ Concurrent Technologies Corp
- ★ Dimension 4
- ★ EHT Enterprises, Inc
- ★ EJB Facilities Services
- ★ Evergreen Transfer & Storage
- ★ First Command Financial Planning, Inc.
- ★ FMA Chapter 14
- ★ Kitsap Sun
- ★ Land Title Company
- ★ Military Air Cargo
- ★ National Center for Manufacturing Sciences
- ★ Pacific NW Defense Coalition
- ★ Patriots Landing
- ★ Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems
- ★ Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort
- ★ TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Coast Guard Rescues 15-year-old Hiker



On November 21, 2011 a 15-year-old hiker fell over 150 feet while hiking in the Olympic Mountains and a helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles was the only asset available and capable to respond.

Coast Guard helicopter pilots and aircrews are trained primarily for search and rescue missions in the maritime environment. They are proficient at lowering a rescue swimmer to the water or delivering a rescue basket to the deck of a pitching ship. They are trained for the worst case scenario - skilled at flying in stormy conditions, on a dark night near unique terrain to save lives. But here in the Pacific Northwest, they must train for an additional scenario. With mountains in close proximity on every side of Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles, duty crews are occasionally called upon to execute rescues in the alpine environment as well.

On November 21st, one helicopter crew from Port Angeles was presented with this challenge. It was just after

midnight when Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound in Seattle received a report of an injured hiker who needed to be air lifted to a hospital. A 15-year-old boy had fallen nearly 150 feet down a steep embankment on Pyramid Mountain near Port Angeles and broken both his ankles nearly 20 hours prior. The Olympic National Park rangers and the Clallam County Search and Rescue crew were on scene and had determined it was not safe to carry the boy out of the woods and they were requesting helicopter support as a last resort.

At 6:30 a.m., the duty pilots, LT Larry Santos and LT Neil Penso, were woken up with the call informing them of the situation and requesting them to launch a helicopter. The weather that morning was not ideal, with low cloud layers and shifting winds creating an uncertain operating environment. The boy's position was approximately a 10 minute flight from the air station but even with such a relatively

Cont'd on page 5



President's Message

Welcome to an exciting new year filled with possibilities.

First of all, welcome to the USS Ronald Reagan. We are delighted to welcome you and your families to the great Pacific Northwest. You are definitely in Navy country where business and community leaders will welcome you with open arms. You will find many retired military veterans everywhere you look. They understand and appreciate what you are doing for your country and are here to help you in any way possible. Of course, our council and all of the other military support organizations are here to support and honor you.

In the next few months, our council will officially adopt and reconfirm commitments to several commands, including the USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730), the USCG Air Station/ Sector Field Office in Port Angeles, the Maritime Force Protection Unit

at Bangor, the USCG Station Seattle and the Marine Corps Security Force Program at Bangor. We have been working with these units for quite awhile and so it is exciting to sign formal documents confirming the relationships. Last year about this time, we held a joint adoption for the USS Bremerton (SSN 698) with the City of Bremerton and the Puget Sound Naval Base Association.

We are always looking for people who want to become more active with the council activities whether it is to serve on committees or to help on special events. Please let me know how you might like to get involved or if you just want to find out more about the possibilities. The easiest way to reach me is by email c.dankers@wavecable.com.

Thanks for the good work that so many people are doing to provide support for our military and I look forward to seeing you at the February 14 luncheon, Trident Ball Room, Bangor at 11:30 a.m.

Carolyn Dankers

Join Today – Your Membership Benefits the Sea Services and ...

★ Maintains dialogue with Members of Congress on important maritime issues, which may affect active duty, reserve and retired personnel.

★ Coordinates with the Military Governmental Liaisons of Information for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard to keep the American people informed on key issues of importance to our nation's maritime interests.

★ Sends "Action Alerts" and Special Reports on matters of vital interest to America's sea services to Navy Leaguers, Members of Congress and key national leaders in the public and private sector.

★ Sponsors youth programs & awards for the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Kitsap Battalion and works with three local Junior Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). These programs instill in America's young people traditional values of honor, courage and commitment, plus encourage interest in the sea services.

★ Sponsors many Navy and Coast Guard commissioning and decommissioning ceremonies.

★ Sponsors local recognition programs for sea service personnel, e.g., "Sailors/ Marines/ Coast Guard of the Quarter and Year."

★ Coordinates and hosts activities designed to bring the community and military together.

★ Supports Sea Service families through Operation Holiday Spirit and related activities.

★ Supports monthly lunches to hear regional leaders discuss current events or to learn more about major historical events.

★ For more information, contact the Membership Chair, Larry Salter, salter@ctc.com



The Nimitz-class aircraft carriers USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) join for a turnover of responsibility in the Arabian Sea. Both ships are deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Colby K. Neal/Released).

**Navy League of the United States
Bremerton-Olympic
Peninsula Council
Post Office box 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312**

“Troubled Spots Around the World” Topic of our February 14 luncheon



Mr. Guy Stitt will once again bring us up to date on the latest news of what is happening around the world.

Mr. Stitt is an internationally known expert on naval acquisition, shipbuilding and maritime industrial issues. The world's leading shipbuilders and naval systems providers have relied upon Guy and his team for insight and strategic advice to shape decisions driving billions of dollars of naval construction.

For 26 years, his company has been tracking the industrial activity of 151 countries operating an ocean-based navy. Guy's unique perspective of naval acquisition issues stretches from deckplate to boardroom. He enlisted at age 17 and spent five years as an operational U.S. Navy submariner before going on to serve as test and trials engineer for the FFG-7 new construction program. He built upon this unique experi-

ence to found AMI and has spent the last 26 years as an advisor to shipyards, navies and governments on naval ship issues.

We know Guy Stitt as a life member of Navy League and as past president of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council. He currently serves as our Ambassador and is our major fund-raiser. Guy is a very active member of the Puget Sound Naval Base Association and is active in the East Bremerton Rotary. He is also a life member of the U.S. Submarine League, U.S. Submarine Veterans, U.S. Naval Institute and the American Society of Naval Engineers. Guy is well known for his tremendous on-going support of the men and women in the military.

This is a luncheon you won't want to miss. Make your reservations now for the February 14 lunch by calling CTC at 360 782-5500 as soon as possible.

Don't Miss Out!
Call CTC now for your luncheon reservation
360-782-5500

NL Council Recognizes Outstanding Sailors

IT1 Nicole O'Donnell

While displaying outstanding supervisory skills, she managed “Don't Ask/Don't Tell REPEA, Navy Reserve Order Writing System (NROWS) and Defense Travel System training support for nearly 900 Navy Reservists. She supervised the allocation of more than \$2.7 million dollars in training funds and the processing of travel claims. Additionally, as security manager, she coordinated over 50 official security visits. Her outstanding accomplishments culminated in her selection as NOSC Kitsap Sailor of the Year for fiscal year 2011.

PS2 Enrique Hinojosa

Petty Officer Hinojosa's exceptional initiative and resourcefulness was instrumental in processing 4,520 drill transactions, 125 officer and enlisted gains and 40 discharges/separations supporting the nearly 900 Navy Reservists assigned to NOSC Kitsap. As Educational Services Officer, he screened over 400 service records for time-in-rate and rate eligibility resulting in a dramatic increase in exam eligibility and participation. His outstanding accomplishments led to his selection as NOSC Kitsap Junior Sailor of the Year for fiscal year 2011.

EM3 Glendon Govender

While assigned to NOSC Kitsap on temporary duty, he controlled the allocation of over \$2.7 million dollars in annual training funds and processed over 1,300 defense travel system vouchers and travel claims for the pay and reimbursement of 2,080 separate sets of reserve training orders. As NOSC Kitsap's direct Liaison to the Citibank Government Travel Charge card, he efficiently managed and tracked balances of over 600 separate travel card accounts. His outstanding accomplishments culminated in his selection as NOSC Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Year for fiscal year 2011.

Note: NOSC = Naval Operational Support Center

USS Ronald Reagan



The Lone Sailor welcomes the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Photo by Greg Jose.

Welcome to the 3,000 men and women who pulled into Bremerton in January.

This mighty carrier has been deployed five times in the past six years, including being the first U.S. ship to respond off the coast of Japan after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. According to the Kitsap Sun, Air Wing 14 flew more than 300 sorties and delivered more than 350,000 pounds of supplies to isolated areas on the damaged coast.

Reagan sailors and shipyard sailors will split 490,000 man-days during the \$218 million renovation. Some will assist in the renovation, some will attend special schooling and some will be assigned to other areas.

We need to continue showing respect to these fine young men and women as they and their families try to fit into our communities. We will see

many of these people in our grocery stores and our churches in the schools. Find out if you can be of help in providing directions or just providing a warm welcome.

Many of you remember RDML Symonds talk about being Captain of the USS Ronald Reagan on her maiden voyage from the east coast to San Diego in 2004. His stories of bringing her through the Straits of Magellan were thrilling. He talked of his momentary reluctance to leave the ship for a few days to participate in the final ceremony for President Reagan. He looked so stately walking Mrs. Reagan to her seat at the funeral, but I am certain that his mind was on his ship.

We look forward to having Captain Burke and his crew participate in our luncheons while they are here and perhaps we might even be able to arrange a tour aboard the ship.



Cars fill the deck of the USS Ronald Reagan as she pulls into Bremerton

Coast Guard Rescues - Cont'd from page 1



turbulence; this causes variations in airflow through the helicopter rotors and presents a constant challenge for the pilot at the controls. LT Santos expertly maneuvered the helicopter into position continually adjusting power and working within the difficult conditions.

Once in position, Santos carefully prepared for the hoist and evaluated all of the factors that would influence the evolution. It was a dangerous hoist and even small errors could mean the hoist had to be aborted - or worse. Santos was well practiced at 30 to 50-foot hoists over the water, but this would be one of the few high altitude hoists he had ever preformed in such close proximity to tall trees and steep mountain slopes. He began the hoist hovering at 250 feet in order to avoid all obstacles but with only 245 feet of available hoist cable he would have to descend

slightly, reducing their clearance over the tree tops. Flight Mechanic, AET2 Nate Casciato, operated the hoist, to lower the rescue swimmer and EMT, AST3 Andrew Wilson, to the scene using 240 feet of the 245 foot cable.

During the first attempt to lower Wilson down to the scene, the long length of cable being used, combined with the varying mountain winds, caused him to develop an uncontrollable swing so Casciato aborted the hoist. On the second attempt he was able to successfully deploy Wilson safely through the trees to the mountainside. Wilson was then faced with a rigorous 10 minute climb up the cliff, navigating nearly 200 feet of loose rock and fallen trees to reach the boy and prepare him for the hoist to the helicopter.

The rescue swimmers stationed in Port Angeles receive supplementary training on mountain rescue techniques. Wilson was able utilize that training, scale the vertical surface and make on scene decisions necessary to get the boy into the helicopter. After determining the boy's location was not conducive for hoisting a

rescue litter, Wilson, with the assistance of Olympic National Park Rangers, rigged a rope system to carefully lower the boy down to an area more accessible to the helicopter; a task which took nearly an hour. During that time, the helicopter returned to the air station to refuel.

When the air crew returned to the rescue scene, the shifting winds had died down which made it easier to execute the recovery hoist. Wilson and the other rescuers had the boy ready in a more clear area and ready to hoist. The crew was cautious to ensure the boy was not injured further while extracting him from the mountain site. By 12:30 p.m., the boy was safely hoisted onto the helicopter and flown to Olympic Memorial Center in Port Angeles. Wilson stayed behind so the helicopter could depart scene immediately and expedite delivering the boy to advanced medical care.

The hiker was treated for his injuries and able to go home with his family that same evening. Wilson, however, had a much tougher and longer trek to get back home that day. Since he stayed behind, he had to hike out with the other rescuers approximately three miles during which he volunteered to carry some of the rangers' gear. In return, they provided him a ride back to the air station; it was nearly 5 p.m. by the time Wilson returned.

Santos, Penso, Casciato and Wilson all showcased the Coast Guard's motto - *Semper Paratus*. They demonstrated that Air Station Port Angeles is always ready and willing to take action when requested. Even when the mission is dangerous and pushes the limits of their training, this crew, along with Coast Guard members at every unit in the service, is willing to serve the communities that have learned to depend upon them.

Air Station Port Angeles maintains three of the 101 MH-65C Dolphin helicopters in the Coast Guard. The MH-65 is a multi-mission, Short Range Recovery helicopter with an endurance of 2-3 hours and a max range of 350 nautical miles. Its top speed is 175 knots and maximum gross weight is 9,480 pounds. Missions for the MH-65 include Law Enforcement, Airborne use of Force, Homeland Security, Marine Environmental Protection and of course Search and Rescue.

*Submitted by Public Affairs Officer
LT Keidi Niemann*

close location, Santos and Penso carefully evaluated the forecasted weather enroute and the anticipated on scene conditions to determine if the flight could be safely executed. The weather was improving slowly and the pilots watched and waited until they could fly the mountain pass on a low visibility route that the air station already had in place through one section of the Olympic Mountains. Just prior to 10 a.m. the decision was made to launch, the pilots briefed their crew and loaded the helicopter.

Once on scene, the crew developed a better picture of the rescue environment and situation. The boy was at the bottom of a near vertical slope and completely surrounded by trees averaging 100 feet in height. The pilots and aircrew had to determine a timely plan due to the operating limits of the MH-65C Dolphin, the Coast Guard's Short Range Recovery helicopter. When operating a helicopter in the mountain environment, higher altitudes mean thinner air which translates to less power available for the helicopter. Additionally, the rugged terrain creates continually shifting winds and

Adoption of the USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730)



The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Nebraska (SSBN 739) returns to its homeport of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor following a strategic deterrent patrol. (U.S. Navy photo by Ray Narimatsu/Released)

The Blue and Gold crews of the USS Henry M. Jackson welcomed Board members from our Council and the Greater Everett Council to sign the formal adoption papers promising that we would “be all things necessary to aid in any way we can to promote the rapport between

the military and civilian arms of the maritime services ...”

Alan Beam has been acting as our official liaison to the submarine for two years getting to know the leaders of both crews. The USS Henry M. Jackson was originally adopted by the Everett Council and then by the Gig

Harbor Council. When the Gig Harbor Council merged with our Council, we promised that we would continue the relationship with this submarine. Because of the special relationship the Greater Everett Council had with Senator Henry M. Jackson, they became partners in the adoption.

We enjoyed lunch on the submarine and then had a wonderful tour. We ended the day with a formal signing of the adoption papers and the opportunity to help recognize some of their very special crew members. We also exchanged some gifts, including a very special presentation by one of our new board members, Bob Lamb. Bob had participated in two election campaigns for Senator Jackson many years ago and had a straw hat and a poster from those campaigns that he presented to the boat.

Members of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation joined us for the event and shared some great stories of the Senator.

Captain Terwilliger commented that the adoption was just the start of the relationship between the submarine and Navy League. We look forward to many years of working together.

2012 Sub Officers' Birthday Ball

“Commander, Submarine Group 9 is hosting the 2012 Submarine Officers' Birthday Ball on 21 April 2012 at the TRIDENT Ballroom, Bangor Plaza Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. We look forward to having veterans attend this event. By visiting our website (<http://www.bangorsubball.com>), you can keep up to date on tickets sales and fundraising events, provide feedback for next year's ball, and visit our online merchandise store. Thank you for your support.”

CHEN CHANG
LT, SC USN
ASSISTANT SUPPLY OFFICER
NAVAL SUBMARINE
SUPPORT CENTER BANGOR



Military Appreciation Day & Informational Fair



Welcome USS RONALD REAGAN
&
Welcome Home USS JOHN C. STENNIS

Saturday - March 31, 2012

****Kitsap Sun Pavilion – Kitsap County Fairgrounds****

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Silverdale Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee

<http://www.silverdalechamber.com/>

Planning Ahead

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

February 8	NL board Meeting, Café Noir, Silverdale, 5:30 pm
February 9	Last day to register for the monthly luncheon, call 360 782-5500
February 14	Luncheon, "Troubled Spots around the World," Trident Ball Room, Bangor, \$15.
February 20	Presidents' Day
February 28	Tour of Keyport, 8:45 a.m., Keyport Museum
March 8	Last Day to register for the monthly luncheon, call 360 782-5500
March 13	Luncheon, "Angel of Vietnam," Trident Ball Room, Bangor, \$15.

Strong Navy League Supporter Passed Away Dec 31, 2011



RADM, USN (Ret.) Scott L. Sears passed away peacefully at his home in Warrensville, NC on Dec 31st after a long battle with Multiple Systems Atrophy. His last active duty command was as Commander, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI. Rear Admiral Sears graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966. Earle Smith knew him as a junior officer on the USS Barbel back in 1966. Earle was the Executive Officer of the Barbel at the time and this was Scott Sears first submarine assignment.

In 1995, upon completion of his tour as commander of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, he retired from the Navy. Following his retirement from the Navy, Scott was employed at AT&T, General Dynamics, and Raytheon. It was in this capacity that he traveled out to attend several of our Navy League's "Armed Forces Day Gala" functions at the Admiral Theatre. Navy League member, Ron Testa remembers that RADM Scott Sears was instrumental in Raytheon's strong support of our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council.

Earle Smith spoke with Scott in March of this last year, but it was already very difficult for Scott to form words. Earle remembers him as a very sharp young officer and as such a nice person.

Submitted by Sandra Smith

2012 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Carolyn Dankers 360.769.7415 c.dankers@wavecable.com
Vice President	Tim Katona 360.674.2628 mayflower616@donobi.net
Secretary	Heidi Hottinger
Treasurer	Ruth Bond
Judge Advocate	George Rose
Immediate Past President	Carolyn Dankers

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

- ★ Tom Danaher
- ★ Drake Evans
- ★ Byron Faber
- ★ Patricia Germane
- ★ Robert Hoag
- ★ Robert Cairns
- ★ Doug Garner
- ★ Dodie Garner
- ★ Bob Lamb
- ★ Will Lent
- ★ Helen Miller
- ★ Larry Salter
- ★ Tina Salter
- ★ Erin Sorensen
- ★ James Walkowski

Now Hear This! is the official newsletter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and provided to all members.

Editorial Board Carolyn Dankers
Susan Larsen

Graphic Layout Kirk Piering

Published by Raytheon

We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquires should be sent to:

Editor
Now Hear This
PO Box 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312

or email: c.dankers@wavecable.com



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
Navy League of the United States
Post Office Box 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Silverdale, WA
Permit No.111

Address change requested

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.**