



Now Hear This!



Navy League of the United States

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council

Volume 62, Issue 03

March 2009

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NEW MEMBERS

- ★ Jon Demars
- ★ Deborah Gero
- ★ Mark Kipps
- ★ Lois Lato

USS Alabama (SSBN 731) Demonstration and Shakedown Ops



There are many benefits to belonging to the Navy League. Even though Friday was the 13th, it was a lucky one for some of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council. We were invited to go to San Diego to observe a "Missile Shoot."

Upon checking into the hotel in San Diego on Thursday afternoon, we learned that it would be a DASO (Demonstration and Shakedown Operation) using a Trident II (D5) launched from the USS Alabama (SSBN 731), with a missile prepared at Bangor.

Family members of the crew, people who developed the missile & are in charge of the program, and Navy League invitees were among guests. Busses took about 140 people to the ship at the submarine base at Point Loma. We boarded the USNS Waters, a 457 ft ship

used for mission support & tracking and were off to the Pacific well before dawn. They gave us a few briefings about what to expect, showed some short videos about the testing program, and took us on tours of some of the non-restricted areas. We were told that they have had 125 consecutive successful launches.

The Navy had an extensive brunch for us, and provided each small subgroup with a guide. An hour or so before launch, the Alabama came alongside, about 3-4,000 yards away, & held station for a half hour. It then submerged with a great rush of

air from the ballast tanks, and the countdown began. It was exactly as we've all seen on television, but much more exciting when seen in person. The noise was incredible, even from 4,000 yards away. The overcast meant that we couldn't see the separation of the 1st & 2nd stages, but they did tell us that it was successful & within normal mission limits.

On the way home, we enjoyed a "steel beach picnic" and set up a BBQ on the rear deck of the ship. It was a full, tired and pleased group of people who got off of the USNS Waters after dark that evening, realizing that we had a rare opportunity to see a US Navy operation concluded very successfully. Congratulations to our Sailors.



President's Message

This month I would like to spend a few minutes on communications. Our Navy League mission statement, "The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government 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 – US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard and US Merchant Marine." Your council attempts to inform the American people in several ways.

We conduct educational programs at our monthly luncheon meetings that are effective in informing our members as well as the general public that attend. We provide a council web site and a council newsletter, both intended to keep you informed of meetings, programs, events, and trips and tours of interest to you. We organize events such as the Lone Sailor statue, the Armed Forces Gala, and assist the Navy with events such as the recently completed Trident 1000th patrol celebration. We also educate the public through youth programs, Sea Cadets and NJROTC.

We think we are doing pretty good, but can we do better? What means of communication works best for you? Do you frequent our web site? Do you receive our electronic copy of the newsletter every month? Are you on our e-mail list so that you can receive notification of events that we didn't know about when the Newsletter was written? If you have ideas to help us improve our communications and/or can assist us in doing so, please contact me or any member of our board.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Armed Forces Gala on Saturday, May 16, and the dedication ceremony for the Lone Sailor statue on Saturday, May 23.

Thank you for your support of Navy League and our Sea Services.

Dave Thomas

BROLPN Travels to Washington DC to Visit Members of Congress

Grass Roots Presentations to our Members of Congress are still the priority of the Legislative Affairs Committee. We will be traveling to Washington DC in hopes of meeting with Senators and Representatives from the NW Region.

We need to let the Members of Congress know our desire for strong Sea Services including a Fleet size of no less than 313 ships. We are awaiting the new Maritime Policy to be updated. "The Nation's imperative must be to ensure the Maritime Services have the equipment, personnel and realistic training needed to fight and win in major combat operation." From: 2009-09 Maritime Policy Statement Navy League of the United States.

Please go to the National web site and see what is available– www.navyleague.org. With all of our members watching this site and helping to contact our Members of Congress, we have a good chance to reach them so they know our wishes to keep our Sea Lanes open and free as well as funding the needed ships, material and supplies.

Book Signing

**Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport
Author Talk and Book Signing**

**Saturday, 21 March 2009 2:00 PM
In the Auditorium
Free**

Gannon McHale was a crewmember on USS Sturgeon during the Cold War. He is an actor and has appeared on Broadway. His television credits include: *One Life to Live*, *The Doctors* and *Unsolved Mysteries*.

"*Stealth Boat is an elegant and unflinching memoir of life inside one of America's most accomplished Cold War fast attack subs. Energized with delicious details and smile-provoking humor...*" Stephen Johnson

2009 NW Regional Conference

Mark your calendar for attending the Navy League Northwest Regional Conference on April 17 and 18. Please RSVP early for the committee to properly set event planning and make this a memorable conference hosted by the Tacoma Council. All Interested Navy League members are eligible to attend. This is your opportunity to get involved and help to make our Council continue to be designated as an "Outstanding Council of Navy League."

See the flyer in this newsletter.

*Submitted by Carol A Meteney
Northwest Coastal Area President
National Director*

Bulletin Board

from the Board of Directors

■ Plans are underway for a Return to Service Celebration for the USS Alabama. Gary Gunderson is heading this committee. If you would like to serve, please contact Gary or any Board member.

■ Johann Schoberl was approved by the Board as a new Board member and will be presented for a vote at our February luncheon.

■ The 2009 Budget was submitted by Tim Katona, Treasurer, and approved. For information or a copy of the budget, contact Tim.

■ Dave Thomas, Strategic Planning Committee, has suggested the need for a Communications Chair to oversee Public Affairs, Media, Newsletter and the Website. There is also a proposal to consider having more than one Vice President for the Council to improve the natural progression and expectation for members to move forward in office. He has asked for input from the Board Members and Council Members. Strategic Planning Committee members were appointed – Mark Lowe, Norma Parker, Carolyn Dankers and Carol Meteney.

■ Tim Katona volunteered to perform the Sea Cadets financial audit. An annual audit is required.

Northwest Navy Notes: March 2009

A Legacy of Readiness

By Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest

March is an important month in Naval history. On March 9, 1847, our Navy completed its first large amphibious operation in Vera Cruz, Mexico, landing over 10,000 Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines on a hostile shore without a single fatality. On March 8, 1854, Commodore Matthew Perry opened trade negotiations between the United States and Japan. On March 25, 1898, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt proposed that the Navy investigate the military application of Samuel Langley's flying machine, thus beginning naval aviation. And in that same month, USS Holland, the first practical submarine, was launched.

In March, 2009, it's certainly appropriate for all of us at Navy Region Northwest to be grateful to the Navy Sailors of the Nineteenth Century for their pioneering efforts in war, peace, and technology. I believe the most sincere and valuable way we can demonstrate that thanks is by improving on the phenomenal groundwork they laid for us. All around our Navy and our Region I see that happening.

Implementing the Fleet Response Plan (FRP) is one of the most effective ways we're maintaining our readiness, and living up to the high standards set for us more than a century ago. Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead, recently commented on what the FRP has done for the Navy: "Under the Fleet Response Plan, Sailors have taken our Navy from a force that on September 10th, 2001 could only deliver two carrier strike groups, to the force that today can deploy three carrier strike groups, surge three in 30 days, and have one more CSG on its way in 90 days. The incredible flexibility this gives to the combatant commanders and the agility it gives to the Commander in Chief are national assets that must be



resourced as such."

At every base around our Region, I see the Northwest Team working to retain that flexibility and responsiveness. We're providing first-class support to our Sailors and their families, and we're maintaining the Navy's finest ships, aircraft, and submarines. Right

now our aircraft carrier, USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74), and our Prowler squadron, the Yellow Jackets of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 132 are at sea – flexible, mission-tailored forces ensuring the nation is prepared for the inevitable crises that require the supremacy of naval aviation. Surface combatants like our currently deployed USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) are ready with the flexibility to carry out missions across the spectrum of capabilities. Our Everett-based destroyers and frigates are multi-purpose - they can quickly transition from delivering Tomahawk missiles to delivering humanitarian aid in the midst of conflict and disaster, and their utility stretches out over decades.

While it is difficult to predict the future, we know there will always be forces that threaten the sovereignty of peaceful nations, and that disasters, natural and manmade, will affect us and our allies. The Fleet Response Plan ensures that the Navy is ready to respond when and where we're needed.

This month, as in every month, the Navy Region Northwest Team is implementing the FRP, keeping our Navy ready for war, committed to peace, and a leader in technological innovation. We have a responsibility to those who came before, and a responsibility to future generations so that they can look back on March, 2009 and be grateful to us for the Navy we gave them.

Commissioning of USS Stockdale (DDG 106)

Santa Barbara Council has been tasked with sponsoring the Commissioning of our newest Destroyer, USS Stockdale (DDG 106).

Economic times are tough, however if we all give a little we can accomplish a lot, especially bringing this ship to life. The Santa Barbara Council is looking for contributions from anyone that may have served with VADM Stockdale and would like to personally contribute.

Please visit the web site. <http://www.usstockdale.org/index.html>

- Click on "Media Gallery" to see ship's sea trials video.
- Click on "The Commissioning" to see events/activities.
- Click on "Contribute" to see time left before Commissioning.

Please contact the Santa Barbara Council office, information on web site, with any questions or if you would like to get further involved with this event.

Thanking you in advance for your support!!!! Fair winds and following seas,

Grant W. Ivey
VP: SBNL, ND: NLUS,
AP-LA: NLUS
(310) 392-1275

PSNBA Publishes It's Winter Newsletter

For those council members who would like more information on PSNBA, the Winter 2009 edition of the PSNBA quarterly newsletter is now available to download from their website, <http://www.psnba.org/>. This installment includes an update from one of their Board members regarding PSNBA's involvement with the Puget Sound Partnership, a message from Congressman Norm Dicks and a message from Representative Jay Inslee.

Meet Your Board Members

Johann Schoberl



Meet **Johann Schoberl**, the newest board member of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council.

Johann, born in Darmstadt-Arheilgen, W. Germany, immigrated to the US in 1965. For the most part, he grew up in the great state of Florida, and claims Jacksonville as his hometown.

Upon graduation from a parochial high school, he entered the United States Navy and attended basic training in Orlando. During his first four years in the service, he worked as a Jet Engine Mechanic stationed in Key West. In 1982, he became a naturalized citizen. During his first reenlistment, he changed his profession and became a submarine hunter. As a 'Hydro-Acoustic Engineer', he flew in the Lockheed Martin S-3A/B Viking and P-3C aircrafts. He also served onboard the USS Nimitz (CVN-68), USS Constellation (CV-64), and USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) aircraft carriers. Proudly he claims, "I am a retired United States Naval Aircrewman!" After twenty-years of service, in 2000, he transferred to the Fleet Reserve.

Currently he works as a contracted Field Engineer with Raytheon and teaches a web-based product to our active duty military personnel. He also tests and evaluates developed web-based courseware. His line of work provides him an exciting opportunity to install local area networks, develop and host websites, and dabble in graphic design technology.

He holds a BS degree in Professional

Aeronautics with a minor in Aviation Business Administration (ABA) from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), Daytona Beach, Florida. Currently, Johann is a graduate student with the University of Phoenix pursuing an Information Systems degree. He holds two certifications, Web Technologies and Web Programming. He is a qualified Master Training Specialist and a Six Sigma Specialist.

On the personal side, he enjoys spending quality time with his family, and has three children (all grown and married). In 2007, he and his wife became new grandparents. He loves to golf, enjoys riding his Honda Goldwing and camping in the 5th wheel.

Johann likes being involved within the community. He is a Past Worthy President (PWP) from the Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE), Port Orchard. For the past three years, he has been the company Veteran's Group President. He is active in church leadership as the Chairman of the Board. Johann has been a member of the Navy League since the fall of 2006. He says he looks forward to the "adventure" of new things which everyday brings.

In Memoriam

Jorgen Nelson

Past President 1978-1979
Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula
Council Navy League
And Bremerton Jeweler
1925 – 2008

Captain Frederick Kela, SC, USN, (Ret.)

Past President 1988
Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula
Council Navy League
And former Naval Supply Center,
Puget Sound Commanding Officer
1930 – 2008

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Membership Committee Solicits Help from Council Members

Membership Services prime role is to serve current members and promote retention. This is a huge and important task and we only began to scratch the surface of what could and should be done in this area. The challenge is to meet the needs of the membership. We need to identify those needs.

Approximately 1 out of 55 of our members attend our monthly luncheons. We held two After Work Socials last year and they were well attended by our Board Members and a few others. How do we get more members and guests to attend? How do we get new members involved? How do we encourage all of our members to participate at some level? We have talked about a new member interest survey, but what should it include? How do we let our members know of services available to them? Do we have a clear idea of our expectations of community affiliates? Do we know enough about their interests and needs? These are just some of the questions that need to be addressed.

We are looking to our Membership on some of these issues and would like to know how we can best meet the needs of our members so that we can continue to be the biggest and best in the Northwest. If you would like to be on the Membership Committee or just have some ideas for the committee, please contact Carolyn Dankers, Mark Lowe or any Board Member.



Dave Thomas welcomes EHT Enterprises, Inc. and President Annalee Todd as a new Community Affiliate with the presentation of a Navy League plaque.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



TACOMA COUNCIL

PO Box 923, TACOMA, WA 98401

E-MAIL: tacomanlus@yahoo.com

(A 501-(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)

"Citizens in support of the sea services"



Attention NW Navy Leaguers

Tacoma Council, NLUS
is proud to host the:

2009 NW Regional Conference

April 17-18, 2009

Tacoma Elks Lodge

1965 S Union Ave

Tacoma WA 98406

Event begins with Friday evening

1730 Cocktails in the lounge

1830 Seafood Buffet @ **\$20/each**

0900-1700 Saturday Workshops with
Bill Waylett, Sr. Dir. Regional Activities

1200 Luncheon @ **\$12/each**

1730 Cocktails in the lounge

1830 Awards Banquet @ **\$24/each**

(Choice: New York steak or Salmon)

Registration: \$25/each plus meals payable
in advance by April 7, 2009: Tacoma Navy League,
P.O. Box 923, Tacoma, WA 98401-0923

Suggested lodging: La Quinta Inn & Suites
Tacoma: 253-272-7400 or Lakewood: 253-582-7000

Contacts:

Steve Hunt @ 253-471-7766 <thehubbahubba@clearwire.net>
or Roger Olsen @ 253-752-2844 <cwoolsen@yahoo.com>

Bremerton Port Floats a Boat Show at New Marina



Now, in the depths of winter witnessed by our beloved Lone Sailor, could be time to think about spring and getting out on the water. The first-ever Kitsap Harbor Festival, slated for Memorial Day weekend will straddle the Bremerton and Port Orchard marinas, and will offer boat shows, sailing regattas and "poker runs," and **"The Dedication of the Lone Sailor."**

The Lone Sailor Dedication Ceremony will be on Saturday May 23, at 2:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend. A reception to recognize those that made this event possible will be held at the Oyster Bay room at the Conference Center on May 23 (by invitation only).

For information on the upcoming Kitsap Harbor Festival, call (360) 377-3041 or e-mail ca@bremertonmsa.org.

USS MISSOURI (BB-63) SUBJECT OF MARCH 10th NAVY LEAGUE LUNCHEON

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Banquet Room in the basement of the **Keyport Naval Undersea Museum**, 610 Dowell Street, Keyport, WA. Base access is not required, since the Museum is just outside the Keyport Base. As you approach the gate, the entrance to the Museum will be up the hill on your left.

Retired Navy Captain Will Lent will provide a photographic tour of the historic battleship USS Missouri (BB-63). He will show how she was changed from her WWII configuration to get her ready to serve in the Gulf War. He will show photos of her



to 19.7 inches thick.

The public is invited to attend. Everyone, including members, must make reservations. The food is catered, so it is important to have an accurate count on the number of meals. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than noon on Wednesday, March 4th. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.

212,000 horsepower propulsion plant, boilers, turbines, reduction gearing and her 17-foot propellers. Special emphasis will be provided on the operation and firing of her 16-inch main battery guns and associated projectiles. The USS Missouri is armed with steel plating up

ARMED FORCES DAY GALA MAY 16th – "SAVE THE DATE"

This year's "Armed Forces Day Navy League Gala" will be held on Saturday, May 16th at the Admiral Theatre, which is located between 5th & 6th on Pacific Avenue, Bremerton. The Admiral Theatre staff will be taking all reservations. Call the Admiral Theatre at 360-373-6810 or 360-373-6743 to make your reservation.

Mark your calendars now. Additional details will be provided in the April newsletter and on our website.

Linda Gentile, will be the entertainment with her "The American Piano Show" ([www.](http://www.AmericanPianoShow.com/)

[AmericanPianoShow.com/](http://www.AmericanPianoShow.com/)). Based out of New Jersey, she is on a world tour this year that includes seven cruises, two performances in California (Palm Springs & Fullerton), one in North Carolina, one in New Jersey and one in West Virginia. Her show is family oriented and very "red, white & blue". Gentile is an amazing mix of beauty, comedic charisma and piano virtuosity. She will perform from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. For those that wish to by-pass the dinner, tickets for the 8:00 p.m. show only are available for seating in the balcony. These tickets are \$15/person.

CNO Admiral Gary Roughhead Visits Naval Base Kitsap

Sailors on board Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Bangor gathered at the base theater Feb. 17, for an all hands call with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). During the CNO's three-day visit, he met with Sailors on board submarines, toured the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, met with community leaders, and visited naval installations in the Northwest region.



On Tuesday, February 17, members of our Board of Directors and Council attended a Community and Naval Reception for Admiral Roughhead at the Fountain Room, Fountain Park, in Bremerton sponsored by PSNBA where they heard a rousing address by Admiral Roughhead and Congressman Norm Dicks. Our congratulations go to PSNBA for a 1st Class Affair.



MA1 (SW/AW) Marc T. Lucas was honored for being named Kitsap Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter 2008.

This Naval Base Kitsap Security awardee was presented with a plaque provided by Patriot's Landing, a gift certificate to a local restaurant, photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography and a Ferrari ride provided by the Ferrari club and Byron Faber. These awards were presented by President David Thomas and Alice Thomas, Awards Chair. MA1 Lucas was accompanied by his spouse, Shanna, Commanding Officer, Mark Olson, CMDCM (SS/AW/SW) Kevin Monroe and MAC Garber.



(2nd from left) PSSA Alice Monique Taylor was honored for being named Kitsap Blue Jacket of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter of 2008. (middle) PS2 (AW) Shelimarie Sarte Embestro was honored for being named Kitsap Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter 2008. These Personnel Support Detachment awardees were presented with plaques provided by Patriot's Landing, a gift certificates to a local restaurant, photo sittings provided by Hudson Photography and a Ferrari rides provided by the Ferrari club and Byron Faber. These awards were presented by President David Thomas and Alice Thomas, Awards Chair. The Awardees were accompanied by (left) Chief Butch Santos. (right) Captain Mark Olson, Commanding Officer Naval Base Kitsap, joined the awardees for the presentation.

United Rentals: Partnership on the Job New Community Affiliate

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of Navy League is pleased to welcome United Rentals as a new Community Affiliate. United Rentals serves customers in North America through more than 650 locations, including a full-service branch in Bremerton, Wash., where the team takes a partnership approach to customers and the community. This extends to United Rentals' relationship with the military, explains Daniel Dykema, branch manager for United Rentals in Bremerton.

"United Rentals has thousands of employees across the country who are involved in MWR, military support organizations, quality of life projects, and

who often donate rental items and time to support major events on bases," Dykema notes. "It's really about being part of the solution, helping to bring about a successful outcome. That's the benchmark we use to measure our success."

Customers of United Rentals have access to hundreds of types of rental equipment for construction, remodeling and industrial needs, as well as supplies, OEM parts and new and used for equipment for sale. The company has invested over \$4 billion in its rental fleet; as a result, best-of-breed technologies are available for aerial work, temporary power needs, home and commercial

construction, excavation, water removal, climate control, surface preparation and more.

United Rentals experts are always available for site visits, disaster recovery planning, or simply project advice. Call a local branch or use the company's 24-hour toll-free number: (800) UR-RENTS. Requests can also be made online at unitedrentals.com.





Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
 Navy League of the United States
 Post Office Box 626
 Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

Postage for your newsletter has been provided by



Planning Ahead


	Wed	Mar 4	Board of Director's meeting - 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Wed	Mar 4	Deadline for making reservations For March luncheon
	Tuesday	Mar 10	Monthly Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 am Keyport Undersea Museum
	Saturday	Mar 21	Gannon McHale Book Signing - 2:00 pm Keyport Undersea Museum
	Wed	Apr 1	Board of Director's meeting - 5:30 pm Reid Real Estate, Silverdale
	Wed	Apr 1	Deadline for making reservations For April Luncheon
	Tuesday	Apr 7	Monthly Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 am Keyport Undersea Museum
	Tuesday	Apr 7	Deadline for making reservations 2009 NW Regional Conference
	Fri-Sat	Apr 17-18	2009 NW Regional Conference Tacoma Elks Lodge, Tacoma WA

Coming Events

	May 16	Armed Forces Gala
	May 23	Lone Sailor Dedication
	May 25	Memorial Day Ceremony
	May TBA	USS Alabama Return To Service

This Date in History

March 11, 1942 – In a PT boat, LCDR John Bulkeley leaves the Philippines to take General Douglas MacArthur to Australia

 **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.

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