The Fleet Sheet

Mayport Florida Council
Vol. 14 No. 6

Navy League of the United States
June 2013

From the Bridge

Ahoy - Mayport Navy League Shipmates!

First and foremost - we received notice that your Mayport Navy League Council was adjudged OUTSTANDING for 2012 - Congratulations to President Dennis Stokowski and his leadership team! Our National Director Betty Howard will receive the award for us at the Navy League National meeting in Long Beach, CA, this June!

The last part of April and through 17 May was one busy period for us - let's see if I can give you a flavor of the activities:

30 April - Your VP for Operations/Marine Corp Chair, Brian Kennedy, and I met with 1st SGT Bolding at Blount Island Command to present him with two books from the Commandant's Professional Reading List for the Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter for Q-1 and Q 2 of 2013. In addition, we took the opportunity to present Sergeant Mauro Feliz - with his Marine of the Year - Gift Book. SGT Feliz was home from his tour in Kuwait and we wanted him, and his wife, to start enjoying the many gifts that Betty Howard and her team had found for them.

3 May found the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, in town to conduct All Hands Calls at Naval Station Mayport and Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville - with a specific desire to have lunch with area Navy Leaguers. I was privileged to act as host and MC the the NAS Jacksonville lunch at which 29 of you were there, along with a total of some 95+ Navy Leaguers from Savannah, Camden-Kings Bay, St. Augustine and Jacksonville councils. Congressman Crenshaw joined us to hear CNO discuss how the Navy was laying out plans for the future in a very constrained budget climate and to hear CNO reaffirm his support for increasing the number of ships home-ported at Mayport as well as supporting the aviation programs at NAS. I have received a very nice "Thank You" note from CNO for our efforts in making that lunch a reality.

4 May was the day that our Treasurer and Jacksonville University Alumni, Bob Price, presented an officer's sword to the top midshipman at the JU NROTC commissioning ceremony - a great group of new leaders for our Navy-Marine Corps Team.

7 May - Your Board of Directors met to review our plans for the rest of the year - where were you? We would love to have you join us - first Tuesday of the month at Queens Harbour. Come chart the future course of your council!

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From the Bridge -Cont'd from page 1

8 May - Join Up at Culhanes - a new face or two and as usual - some fine cool Shandys and Irish food!

9 - 12 May was the Tournament Players Championship at TPC Sawggrass. Several of us volunteered at the concession stands fixing and serving food to the throngs in order to help fund our Sea Cadets activities. The Sea Cadets were there in force on Saturday and Sunday working to keep the course spotless - and they are truly appreciated as they are a responsible and aggressive team that does not need direction!

15 May was another Battle of Midway planning meeting - things to be finalized before the 1 June event - busy time!

16 May was the IA Luncheon held at NAS Jacksonville - **and this was a first!** We had been working to have our Marines at Blount Island, who essentially make the same deployment as a Navy IA , included in the event. **We had 5 Marines honored at this luncheon!** Colonel Michelsen and 1st SGT Bolding were there to stand tall with their Marines. Also, for the first time, there were some members of the Civil Service recognized - they had been called up in their reserve capacity as IAs. It was a wonderful event.

That evening, we had our Beach Diner catered light dinner at the Jacksonville Beaches Museum and History Park - with Emily Lisska, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society, discussing Jacksonville developments in the WW I and WW II years. The old Chapel rang with laughter - it was a great event coordinated by our Fundraising Chair, Patti Burger. Special thanks to Tulsa Welding School and Quinn-Shalz A Family Funeral Home for their sponsorship of this super evening!

17 May was the 26th Annual Memorial Service to commemorate the loss of 37 of our Mayport Sailors in the Iraqi attack on USS Stark. The event is hosted by the First Coast Commandery of the Naval Order and the Mayport Naval Station. This year, the Memorial Service was put together by the Mayport Naval Station 2nd Class Petty Officer Mess -and they did a superb job! I was privileged to offer the keynote remarks - that "privilege" makes you really stop and think about the loss, the families impacted, and your own values!

By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated the 71st Anniversary of the Battle of Midway with the 1 June gala dinner at the Renaissance Hotel at World Golf Village. As of now, we have 11 Midway Veterans and two widows planning to attend along with 10 POWs (including two Filipinos who were captured at Corregidor and were on the Bataan Death March!) and 13 Wounded Warriors from the Jacksonville Campus of the Wounded Warrior Project. Thank you for your support! Hope you were there!!!

Shifting gears - lets look at what our Navy has been accomplishing this past month!

First - while not Navy, per se, the large self-propelled floating platform and ballistic missile tracking radar (SBX & XBR) returned to Pearl Harbor from duty out in the Pacific in readiness for a North Korean ballistic missile launch. This radar can track a baseball size object a "grunch" of miles out and provide that information to our Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System. Returning to Pearl Harbor would indicate that the tension with North Korea has eased for the moment.

Second - your Navy's Aegis BMD test ship (USS Lake Erie out of Hawaii) again had a successful test against an increasingly difficult target. These tests prove the capability of evolving improvements to the Aegis BMD system that is installed in increasing numbers of our Aegis Cruisers and Destroyers - some of which are stationed here in our Mayport Naval Station!

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From the Bridge - Cont'd from page 2

Third - on 14 May - for the first time, the Navy launched the X-47B Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV) from the deck of an aircraft carrier - the USS George H.W. Bush. This is no simple drone! This is truly a combat aircraft - without a pilot - that can reach an altitude of 40,000 feet with a range of about 6 hours or 2,100 nautical miles and carry a payload of up to 4,500 pounds! After verifying the launch capability - they will test and prove the landing and recovery part of the development. I don't think that will be far behind!

Fourth - in the May edition of The Fleet Sheet, I mentioned that the Free-Electron Laser prototype was going to sea - and now I understand that another leap forward is also going to sea - the Electromagnetic Rail Gun. This new type major gun also had some really challenging new technologies to mature - seems that they are making good progress! The beauty of the rail gun (like the laser) is that there is no explosive powder in the ships magazine or in the "war head" of the round. The damage is done by the kinetic impact of the round. It has a range of 100 miles or more - and - most importantly, the "magazine" is actually the ship's generators that supply the electricity to create a high-speed electromagnetic pulse sufficient to propel the kinetic energy warhead. The result - an inexpensive, high-impact and long range offensive weapon. Think of the advantage this will have - not only for the ships, but also for our Marines (and Army) when they are well inland. If the Navy can provide fires support at longer range, less and less artillery and ammunition has to move over the beach with the Marines - this will be a huge win-win!

Many of you will be soon heading off for the summer vacations and family visits - I wish you all a wonderful summer time and ask that you practice "Defensive Driving!" I want you to have an unfair advantage on the road and I want to see you when you return - and hear of your adventures!

Thank you for your membership and support - you are the ones who make it possible for your Mayport Navy League to do so much for our Mayport area Sea Services and their families!

George Huchting
President - Mayport Navy League

June Guest of Honor

HSM 40 Commanding Officer Bill Walsh will be our guest of honor for our luau. He is currently overseeing the training of our newest navy helicopter pilot and the transition from the Seahawk SH 60B to the new state of the art SH 60R. He will explain to us how the new aircraft will impact the fleet. As a special treat, he is bringing two of his newly winged student pilots to also share with us the training process through a student's view.

The next night, Friday June 21st, we will have access to the simulators at the simulator building over by the helicopter hangers and a static display of the new Seahawk 60R. Members and their guest will be allowed to "fly" the simulator and see the new aircraft. We will start at 6:00 and run until 9:00. We encourage you to bring prospective members that you think might enjoy this opportunity and also children over the age of 12. Please limit it to one child since space will be limited. Please let us know by June 17th if you are coming and who you will be bringing. Please email Rick Costner at rick@aboutfloorsnmore.com to ensure you a spot.

News from Blount Island Command

1st Sergeant Trace Bolding, USMC
Sergeant Mauro Feliz, USMC
George Huchting, President, Mayport Council
30 April presentation of the Marine of the Year Gift Book and Basket to SGT Felix

Marine of the Year - Blunt Island Command - Sergeant Mauro R. Feliz, USMC

SGT Feliz returned home in April to his wife and his command, from his forward deployment to Kuwait. On 30 April, Mayport Navy League President George Huchting and our VP for Operations and the USMC, Brian Kennedy went to Blount Island and with 1st Sergeant Trace Bolding, USMC - presented SGT Feliz with the gift book and basket that Betty Howard and her team had prepared for him - some months ago! We felt it was really important to get the gifts to the Sergeant and his bride at the earliest so they could enjoy them as part of his homecoming! SGT Feliz was truly impressed and sincerely thanked the Mayport Navy League for their kindness and support. If you come to the Battle of Midway Dinner 1 June - you can meet him and his wife! The Sergeant will be carrying the Marine Colors in the All Service Color Guard as part of the din-

Non-Commisioned Marine Corps Officer - Blount Island Command - Recognition.

As part of our support for our local Marines - your Navy League provides a selected book from the Commandant's NCO Professional Reading List to the NCO of the Quarter at BIC. On 30 April, the first two books were provided to 1st Sergeant Trace Bolding at BIC for his NCOs of the Quarter for Q-1 and Q - 2/ 2013. **Congratulations to Corporal Edward A. Gonzalez USMC - NCO of the Quarter, First Quarter FY 13 and to Corporal Kristofer Mcfate USMC - NCO of**

1st Sergeant Trace Bolding, USMC with George

The Birdies for Charity & the Chip in for Youth

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY UPDATE:

And the winner is….our own President, George Huchting.

The total number of Birdies during the 2013 Players Championship was 1603 and George guessed 1582. Because his golf game isn't what it used to be, George has graciously donated the round of golf for two to our October Silent Auction. So all of you will have another chance to claim this prize!! Thank you, George.

Mayport Navy League raised a total of $910 during Birdies for Charity. Thank you to all who participated.

CHIP IN FOR YOUTH UPDATE:

The Chip in for Youth program ended April 26th and thanks to your support, we raised $825 for our youth programs. This is a strong showing for our first year of participation. We hope you enjoyed using your tickets at The Players Championship. Thank you

Jacksonville University Commissioning Ceremony

Sword Presentation to JU NROTC top Midshipman Steven DiGiannurio

On 4 May, our Mayport Navy League Treasurer (and JU Alumni) Bob Price presented an engraved officer's sword to the top Midshipman at the JU NROTC's Commissioning Ceremony. It is always a great event to see these outstanding young Sailors take their Oath of Office and swear support and defend the Constitution of the United States - Our next generation of future leaders are on the march! Congratulations to Ensign Steven DiGiannurio for finishing at the top of his class!

Calendar of Coming Events

2nd Wednesday	Every month - Monthly mixer - Culhane's Irish Pub - 5 to 7 p.m.
June 4th	Board of Directors Meeting - All are welcome! Queens Harbour - 4 p.m.
June 20th	Luau Dinner at Ocean Breeze - 6 p.m. CDR Bill Walsh Commanding Officer HSM 40 Guest of Honor
June 21st	Static display of the new Seahawk 60R A Special Treat - see page 3
June 24th	No Dough Dinner - USO

Enjoy
The Summer
Make it a safe one!

Coast Guard Picnic

On Thursday, 25 April, your Mayport Navy League hosted the Spring Picnic with Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville at the Coast Guard picnic pavilion across from their headquarters.

Mayport Navy Leaguers were joined by Navy Leaguers from St. Augustine and members of the Propeller Club.

Many thanks to our Don Mooers, Captain Allan and the Coast Guard's LT Campbell for making this happen - and to Sector Jacksonville who provided the super cooking and site support!

Special Thanks to our Sponsors for the Battle of Midway Dinner - 2013 It was a GREAT Success!

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Navy Federal Credit Union
VyStar Credit Union
First Coast Commandery - Naval Order

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*Navy * Marine Corps * Coast Guard * Merchant Marine * Mayport Sea Cadets*

News from the Sea Cadets

The Mayport Sea Cadets had training with Sector Jax on April 27. In addition to touring the various CG vessels, the cadets were exposed to a training explaining the various routes a cadet could pursue a CG carrier. The training also involved a lot of focus on the various aspects and missions the CG does on a daily basis.

On May 11th and 12th your Mayport Sea Cadets volunteered, back to back 12 hour days at TPC. This is our primary fund raiser for the year. The Cadets volunteer at TPC for the Recycling Department, which is a fancy name for collecting trash and picking up the course grounds. They are long days, but it creates a great camaraderie and a team building experience…..plus we earn a lot of money to support our unit for the entire year. On May 18th the Mayport Sea Cadet Color Guard Unit participated in a flag raising ceremony at Queens Harbor for Military Appreciation Day.

Thank you!

To all,

I can't thank our Mayport Navy League Sea Cadets enough for their professional and moving ceremony of raising the flag here at Queen's Harbour on Armed Forces Day.

This flag draped the coffin of my wife's uncle who had made it all the way through WW II only to have the plane he was coming home in crash into the side of a mountain.

There were approximately 100 people present at the ceremony and Pat Simone, a WW II veteran and Queen's Harbour resident, was recognized for her service along with the other Vets present.

Please extend our special thanks to Jim Young and the young men and woman of our Sea Cadets who added so much to this ceremony. They were fantastic!!!

Mike Manko
Mayport Navy League

Thank you to our Corporate, Business and Community Affiliates

Corporate Members

Tulsa Welding School

Business Members

Ashford University

Community Affiliates

All Purpose Printing and Graphics, Inc.
Atlantic Eye Institute
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Renaissance Resort At World Golf
Smart Pharmacy, Inc.

The Corporate Membership program is structured to help industry maintain a strategic position in front of key military, civilian defense, and homeland security decision makers. From Washington, DC programs to local events with our Councils nationwide, the Navy League can help enhance your company's

Community Affiliate Memberships demonstrates a company's commitment to the local council and a desire to support and advance the objective and purpose of the Navy League. This membership is designed for companies whose business is primarily local rather than national in scope. Community Affiliate membership demonstrates your desire to support young people through our special youth programs and scholarships.

Council activities range from special military installation visits and ship tours or cruises to a wide variety of social events as luncheons or dinners during which members of the Sea Services are honored or presented with awards. Council members work together to foster common local interest and to promote maritime issues of national importance.

And along the way, we have a great time!

Calling all business -

Join up as Community Affiliates and Support The Mayport Council and The Sea Services.
Community Affiliate membership is $400 per year.
Call Debbie Herrera, (904) 288-1901 for various levels of Corporate Membership.

Navy * Marine Corps * Coast Guard * Merchant Marine * Mayport Sea Cadets

Membership News

Folks - We **NEED** you to renew your membership -

Hornblower Marine Service (Mayport Ferry) - Community Affiliate

Fred Berley	Arthru W. Carlson	Bruce Enyeart
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Type of Membership
(Please circle one)

One - Year Membership	$50.00
Two - Year Membership Save $20 over 1 year rate	$90.00
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Membership Application

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Name (Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc.) First, Middle Initial & Last Name

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Expiration Date Signature

"It seems to me that all good Americans interested in the growth of their country and sensitive to its honor, should give hearty support to the policies which the Navy League is founded to further. For the building and maintaining in proper shape of the American Navy , we must rely on nothing but the broad and farsighted patriotism of our people as a whole."

----President Theodore Roosevelt (1905)

Mail your application to
NLUS, P.O. Box 2208, Merrifield, VA 22116-9958
or give to a Mayport Council Member

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ATTENTION ON DECK!

Please check out your Mayport Council's new website
located at:http://www.mayportnlus.org