



# Savannah Steamer

**Founded May 15th, 1957**

April 2009

Volume 35 Issue 4

## Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President



### Now Hear This,

As we review the activities of the first quarter, Savannah Council can be proud of what has been accomplished as we seek new ways to support the men and women of our country's Sea Services. Working with our local adopted five Coast Guard units we have significantly expanded the awards and recognition programs. Additionally, we have responded to requests from the Guardian units to support, and in some cases participate with them, in a wide range of social and sporting activities. Savannah Council also is

taking a more active role in supporting our sponsored Sea Cadet unit and three NJROTC units.

Support for our adopted units includes a financial component, but more important is the recognition on a personal level. It is this latter category of involvement which could benefit from your help. Tom Latham has put together a team of dedicated members to represent the council at the recognition and awards ceremonies and other events. However, Tom's team needs to be expanded and this is where your participation is so important. Involvement in recognition events is one of the most rewarding activities in which the Council participates. Please contact Tom at [lathcons@aol.com](mailto:lathcons@aol.com) or 912-598-9179 and volunteer several hours of your time for this most meaningful activity.

Several events are scheduled for the near future. As mentioned in a recent Savannah Council email, an NOAA ship (Delaware II) will be making a brief visit to Savannah on April 24 and 25. Contact Jim Keller [Jimkeller29@aol.com](mailto:Jimkeller29@aol.com) or 912-598-0940 for more details. Also, arrangements have been made for a tour of the Elba Island LNG facility on May 12. Contact Jim Morison at [gmori100@aol.com](mailto:gmori100@aol.com) or 912-598-7131 to reserve a space. An air show, featuring the Navy's Blue Angels, will take place on May 16 and 17 at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station.

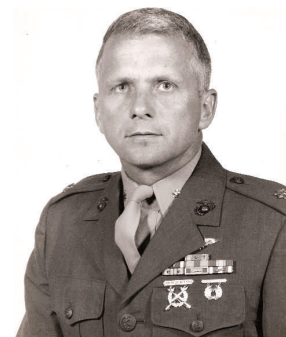
I look forward to seeing you at the Hunter Club on April 28. In the meantime, thanks for your continuing support of the men and women of the Sea Services of our country.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller, President

**April 28th Dinner Meeting  
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club**

**LTC Fred Craig, USMC (Ret.)  
Former Blue Angels Pilot**



***For more details and reservation instructions, please turn to page 3 . . .***

## Upcoming

April 24  
NOAA Ship Delaware II  
Port Visit

April 25  
Commissioning of USS Truxton  
(DDG 103)  
Charleston

April 28 Dinner Meeting  
LTC Fred Craig, USMC  
(Retired)  
Blue Angel Review

May 5  
Board of Directors

May 12  
Elba Island LNG Tour

May 16 – 17  
Air Show  
Beaufort Marine Corps Air Sta-  
tion

May 26 Dinner Meeting  
Colonel Gregg Brinegar  
CO, Marine Air Group 31

## LNG Plant Visit

Arrangements have been made for Savannah Council members to tour the Elba Island LNG facility on May 12, 2009, beginning at 9:00 AM. To expedite the tour, which takes several hours, we will car pool to the facility from a central location. Further details will be furnished as they become available. In the meantime, to reserve a space (the tour is limited to 30 people) or for additional information, please contact Jim Morrison at 598-7131 or [gmori100@aol.com](mailto:gmori100@aol.com).

## Membership Corner

Our current Navy League of the United States member count is **302**. Our current Savannah Council member count is **210**. As you can see there is a bit of a difference in these memberships numbers. Please know that it is important to our work that you support our local council by paying local dues because all of your \$15.00 local dues stay right here in Savannah. These dues help us to fund and expand the numerous service award programs for the Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy units in the Savannah area. Long story short, **KEEP THOSE LOCAL DUES COMING**.

The next item I would like to mention this month is **RETENTION OF MEMBERS**. It appears that the Navy League of the United States as a whole is feeling the strains of losing members and not being able to replace them with enough new members to keep a level membership base. Therefore, each Council has been asked to do our best to “hang-on-to” current members. This means that each of us needs to renew our USNL Memberships in a timely fashion as they become due and remind our friends to also do so. Your membership committee is making personal contact with each member before their membership expires but you, as a personal friend, have a lot “more pull” than we do with your buddies. **PLEASE GIVE THEM A CALL**.

Finally, but definitely not least, is the introduction and welcome of **NEW MEMBERS**, Ben T. Franklin, sponsored by Edwin Feiler and Robert R. Howell, sponsor unknown. Please introduce yourself to these folks at our next function. Please contact Debbie Keller with any membership requests at 912-598-0940 or [dtKeller29@aol.com](mailto:dtKeller29@aol.com).

## In Memoriam Captain Harry E. Jennings

**April 4, 2009**



Captain Harry E. Jennings, 90, died Saturday, April 4. A former member of the Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States, Captain Jennings was a Liverpool, England native who served with distinction in the British Merchant Marine during WWII. Captain Jennings became an American citizen in 1958 and spent many years as Savannah's Town Crier.



## Our Next Speaker:

**April 28th Dinner Meeting  
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club**

**LTC Fred Craig, USMC (Ret.)  
Former Blue Angels Pilot**

Speaker for the April 28<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting will be LTC Fred Craig, USMC (ret). A graduate of Auburn University and the Armed Forces Staff College, he served twenty four years as an aviator in the Marine Corps. For three years Fred flew aircraft #2 with the Blue Angels. He flew 100 missions in F4 phantom jets providing close-in air support for ground troops in Vietnam. He retired from the Marine Corps with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1982.

From 1982 to 2003 Fred was a civilian aviator/pilot, and he recently moved to Savannah from Pensacola, FL. In his presentation at our dinner meeting he will focus primarily on his experiences as a member of the Blue Angel team.

## Reserve Your Seat Today!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT A NEW RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE IS IN EFFECT!!**

**Reservations must be made by Friday, April 24th by contacting Sybil Cannon at 912-964-5366 or RSalty2@aol.com.**



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Annual Savannah  
Council  
Christmas Party  
will be held  
Friday, December 11,  
2009  
at the Savannah  
Yacht Club**

## NOAA Ship Visit Scheduled

On April 24 and 25 NOAA Ship Delaware II is scheduled to make a brief overnight stop in Savannah to replenish stores and supplies. Delaware II is a 155 foot multidisciplinary platform which conducts fishery and living marine resource research in support of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole, MA. For those of you who are interested, tentative arrangements have been made for tours of the ship – probably Friday afternoon. The ship has requested the number of tour participants be limited to 18 (3 groups of 6 people). If interested, contact Jim Keller at 598-0940 or Jimkeller29@aol.com to get your name on the list. Further details will be furnished as they become available. Additional information about Delaware II is available at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/delaware2/>.



## From Our March 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The speaker at the March 24<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting was COL Jeffery M. Peterson, USMC who is Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC. A 1982 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville he was commissioned second lieutenant in December 1982. He contrasted today's Marine Corps with the one he joined. In those days the corps was frequently seen as an alternative to jail, and a judge gave two of his brothers that choice.

In today's Marine Corps 90% of the recruits are high school graduates. 60% of them must pass an aptitude test, and the bottom 30% are judged not qualified to serve. Other requirements include mental health where 10% of those with ADD and ADHD are rejected. Those with more than two dependents and single parents are ineligible. Tattoos are carefully controlled – they may not be visible when wearing the uniform. Offensive content is not permitted. This is not your father's Marine Corps!



Council President Jim Keller presents a small thank-you gift to COL Peterson at the end of Peterson's presentation on March 24th.

## St. Patrick's Day Events



(clockwise from top top) The Navy League convertible, provided by Jim Keller, appears live on WTOC-TV's parade coverage as it passes by the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Driver Michael Jordan, passengers, LT Kyra Van Echo (CO, USCGS Sea Dragon), SGT Joshua Fralich, USMC, and MS3 Joshua Jackson, SSU NROTC; Tom Latham poses with LT Van Echo and BMCM Peter Desillier (CO, USCGC *Tarpon*) during the March 15th reception at Kevin Barry's Pub on River St.; CAPT Donna Cottrell (CO, USCG Air Station, Savannah) relaxes with LT Van Echo prior to the parade.

## Savannah Council Expands Support of Sea Services

One of the Navy League's primary goals is to "support the men and women of the sea services." To date, that has tended to focus on recognition awards for individual superior performance by the men and women of our sea services.

In order to expand that support in a way that will be of value to a wider range of sea service members, Savannah Council has introduced a program of "seminars" presenting information and guidance on subjects that will be of importance to a wide range of sea service members.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Savannah Council facilitated a seminar on current real estate issues for members of Coast Guard's Air Station Savannah, Marine Safety Unit and Tybee Island. The timing was especially important as Spring and Summer is the regularly scheduled time for the transfer of military people from one assignment to another. As such, our local Coast Guard members were looking for guidance on how to handle issues such as sale and/or rental of their current homes and/or rentals and how to handle new station assignments.

Given the fact that this was a useful and effective seminar, a follow-up is being planned for late April on tax and property management issues.

These problems are not restricted to our local Coast Guard units. We are working with the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station to provide similar assistance as needed with their squadrons.

--Tom Latham

At right, Savannah Council President Jim Keller poses with Savannah State University NROTC Award Winners Darrius Smith (left) and Brandon Richardson (right) following the unit's Spring Review on April 16th.

## Recognition Awards Honor Sea Service Members

The Savannah Council's recognition award program is an effective means of thanking the superior men and women of our sea services for their outstanding performance. Currently, quarterly and annual awards are being presented to members of the Coast Guard at the Marine Safety Unit and Air Station Savannah; members of logistic squadron 31 (MAL3-31) at Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station; members of a Navy Strike Fighter squadron (VFA-86) at Beaufort; *and crew members of USS Samuel B. Roberts* – our recently adopted ship.

These awards are usually presented at squadron and unit musters by Navy League members, which allows the recipients to be recognized in front of their peers. Each awardee receives a book selected from the Navy, Marine and Coast Guard recommended reading lists and a \$100 U.S. savings bond. Awards differ somewhat depending on the units, but are generally presented to Blue Jackets of the quarter, Junior Sailor of the quarter, Marine of the quarter and Guardian of the quarter. Annual awards are also presented in these categories.

All Navy League members are welcome and encouraged to attend these motivational events.

--Tom Latham



At left, SSU NROTC Midshipmen pass in review during the annual Spring Review on April 16th. Photos by Lynn Wright.



## Treasurer's Report

### 2009 Officers And Directors

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Jim Keller

Vice Presidents  
Tom Latham  
Bob Gephart  
Jim Morison  
John Innes

Secretary  
Virginia Latham

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Sam McLaughlin  
Michael Jordan  
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Warren Onken  
Don Civitanova  
Frank McCarthy  
Larry Wills

First Past President  
Gary Johnson

Newletter Editors  
Phil Kirk  
Michael Jordan

Photographer  
Lynn Wright

Thru the First Quarter Savannah Council revenues were \$4,845, expenses were \$3,089 leaving a net gain of \$1,756. In reviewing our financials it is important for all our members to know the vast majority of the money we spent in 2008 and the spending we have budgeted for 2009 are directly expended on our mission of serving the sea services. It is a fact that about 70% of all of our spending is directly attributable to Sea Cadet and youth programs, naval programs and awards and USCG programs and awards. The remaining 30% is attributable to management, administration, membership and fund raising programs and expenses, which is a very efficient use of our funds.

Savannah Council has a new postal address: P.O. Box 16918,  
Savannah 31416

Our last dinner meeting had an attendance of only 50 people. While this was on the very low side for us, it was doubly disappointing since we had reservations for 70. Hunter House was generous this time in not charging us for absentees since they had prepared for a much larger attendance. The next time we may not be so fortunate. **Please make and honor your dinner reservations for all future dinner meetings.**  
--Cliff Angers

**The Navy League of the United States** is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people 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-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine.

Check our website at <http://savannah.navyleague.us>

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