



Savannah Steamer

Newsletter: March 2005

Volume 27

Savannah Council United States Navy league

Rhumb Line direct line between two points



The month of March is upon us and we are quickly approaching the festivities surrounding St Patrick's Day. Two ships will be visiting us in Savannah, the USS *Philippine Sea* (CG 58), Commanded by CAPT. Stephan J. Johnson, and the USS *The Sullivans* (DDG 68) Commanded by CDR Wade F. Wilkenson. The reception will be held Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM. Again we members welcome the addition of the St Patrick's Day officials attending this reception as well as our City's officials.

Twenty-four men from each ship will parade down Savannah's street on the 17th along with yours truly and our Navy Leaguer of the Year, Mary Nelson Adams. Our very own Sea Cadets will have a contingent lead by our Color Guard. I am headed out the door right now looking for a Kelley Green tie to wear for the occasion, and I have saved my green beads from last year. Also, parading with a contingent of the local US Coast Guard units from the Savannah Air Station and the MSO will be RADM Peterman, CO of the South Eastern Atlantic Coast Guard District, who is coming up from his headquarters in Miami, FL to be in this parade.

I feel proud to be representing the 280 members of our Savannah Council in the company of these men and women serving our country. Hugh Robinson, President

March Dinner Meeting

The meeting will be at the Hunter Club on March 22nd and will start with a social hour at 6:00pm. The cost is \$16.00. Call Sybil Cannon for reservations at 964-5366. Michael Jordan, a Navy League member, will discuss activities to promote and preserve the Forts and historical features in the Savannah Coastal area. He also has a good insight into Operation Iraqi Freedom from his visit to Iraq while with WSAV.

Our speaker: Michael Jordan

This is a picture of Michael reporting from the USS Truman in 2003. He is now with the Coastal Heritage Society.

Prior to CHS, Michael was co-anchor of News 3 at 5, 6, and 11 on WSAV-TV 3, Savannah's NBC affiliate. Michael was also the military reporter, traveling to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Cuba, Hungary, and other parts of Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean covering local military units. Michael has flown with the US Navy's Blue Angels and US Air Force Thunderbirds, steered the helm of a submerged nuclear missile submarine, landed and taken off from the deck of an aircraft carrier, and fired an M-1A Abrams main battle tank. In his spare time, Michael still reports occasionally on WSAV, writes for the weekly newsmagazine *Connect Savannah*, and fills in on various local radio broadcasts.



St. Patrick's Day

We are expecting USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) and USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) for St Patrick's Day and will sponsor a welcoming reception at Ocean Terminal at 6 PM on Tuesday, March 15th. If you are bringing a guest contact Tom Wright. Members are automatically included on the security list but spouses are not unless they are members.

USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), an AEGIS Cruiser home ported in Mayport, FL, is named after the World War II Battle of the Philippine Sea. She was commissioned in 1989 and has served extensively in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. Philippine Sea is 567 feet in length, has a crew of 360 and is commanded by CAPT Stephen J. Johnson, USN.

USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) is an AEGIS Destroyer home ported in Mayport FL and named after the five Sullivan Brothers who lost their lives during the Battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942. The Sullivans was commissioned in 1997 and has visited Savannah several times. She has just returned from a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Sullivans is 505 feet in length, has a crew of 320 and is commanded by CDR Wade F. Wilkenson, USN.

Picture of the USS Sullivans at sea.



JNROTC AND NROTC NEWS

Annually the Navy League, Savannah Council presents a certificate and the Theodore Roosevelt Medal to an outstanding Midshipman in the JNROTC programs in area high schools. This year's awards schedule is: Jenkins High School, April 25, Johnson High School, TBA, South Effingham High School, May 3.

The combined NROTC unit from SSU and AASU will hold its spring review April 14 at 3:00PM at the T.A. Wright Stadium. We will present the National Navy League Plaque and the Savannah Council Plaque to two outstanding Midshipmen. All Navy League members and guests are urged to attend this very interesting and colorful event.

We are working with the Public Affairs Office in Mayport to coordinate a visit and demonstrations to the South Effingham JNROTC classes by sailors from the USS The Sullivans. A special ship's visit is also being set up for all the JNROTC Midshipmen who would like an in depth tour of a Navy vessel. Mark your calendars for these events coming up.

Spring Awards Programs

NROTCU SSU Spring Review	3 PM April 14th	Wright Stadium
NJROTCU Jenkins HS Awards Dinner	April 25th	
NJROTCU South Effingham HS Awards Dinner	May 3rd	
NJROTCU Johnson HS	TBD	

Contact Jim Beck, jeksav@hotmail.com, for details.

By: Jim Beck

SHIP RIDE FROM SAVANNAH TO MAYPORT 19-21 MARCH 2005

The skipper of the Philippine Sea has invited 15 members, including up to 4 women members, to ride back to Mayport on the ship. The ship will depart Saturday morning, 19 March at approximately

0900. Hopefully they will meet a sub and an aircraft carrier at sea and carry out some maneuvers on the way to Mayport. The ship will arrive at Mayport on Monday, 21 March. This is an excellent

opportunity to be at sea with a real US Navy fighting ship and to witness the maneuvers. If you are interested call Robert Cannon at 964-5366 for more details and transportation back to Savannah possibilities.



Philippine Sea

Legislative Affairs

The Council Vice-President for Legislative Affairs is responsible for promoting a successful legislative affairs program for that Council. This individual reports directly to the Council President with a "heavy dotted line" reporting relationship to the Regional Vice-President for Legislative Affairs. To be consistent, legislative affair action is geared at the top National level to support our Navy's shipbuilding and other asset needs. Currently we are in a formative stage and will be directed by our National and Regional officers as to what specific programs to support in the near future by direct contact with our local elected officials.

Gene Buttle, Vice-President, Legislative Affairs. .

Membership Report

We warmly welcome a new Community Affiliate – Global Ship Systems. Global Ship Systems, located on the Savannah waterfront, is a worldwide provider of marine services. These services include machine shop repairs of props and shafts, engine works, welding, electrical works, carpentry and other finishes. Their motto is "On time, on budget, no exception." Global Ship Systems' members in the Savannah Council include the CEO Rob Creech, President John Stribling, Senior VP for Repairs John Bennett and Operations VP Lindy Brown.

Global Ship Systems is the Savannah Council's third Community Affiliate of 2005 along with Synergistic Dynamics and Carson and Company.

We also extend a "Welcome aboard" to Mr. David Bird. David is an executive with the Federal Government and also provides Consulting Services. One of his hobbies is collecting ship's caps. David lives here in Savannah with his wife, Lisa.

Year 2005 new member #6 is Mr. Richard Masterson.

Richard and his wife, Lori, are owners of the UPS Store at One Diamond Causeway. A hearty welcome aboard is extended to Richard Masterson.

Our Savannah Council membership now stands at 256 members. All members are requested to do please do their part in promoting memberships and keeping our Council energized with new blood.

Charles Gibowicz, Membership Chairman



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www.

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Sponsors

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Local Dues

Remember to get your local dues paid. The first notice went out January 15th and according to our treasurer we have only received 144 dues payments out of 260 members. The local dues are \$15 and goes to pay for our ship receptions, Sea Cadets and all of our other activities in support of the sea services.

**Send your check for \$ 15.00 payable to
Navy League Savannah.**

Mail to:

Ellen Snedeker, Treasurer

PO Box 31006

Savannah, GA 31410-1006

About Our Organization...

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. **Email gary.john@comcast.net or call Gary Johnson (644-7220) with change of address or email.**

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