



Savannah Steamer

2009 Mackie Award Winner

Founded May 15th, 1957

January, 2011 Vol. 37 Issue 1

Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

Sea Cadets Update *ENS Alexia Pittas Webster Executive Officer, Savannah Squadron*

The Savannah Squadron of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps continues to flourish thanks in large part to the active support of the Savannah Council of the Navy League and that of our gracious host command, USCG Air Station Savannah.

Over Winter Break, ten cadets and one adult leader participated in trainings in the snowy mountains of Tennessee. Cadets and staff left Savannah Christmas night to attend the nine-day training evolution. Savannah sent five cadets to Recruit Training, three to Petty Officer Leadership Academy, and one to NLCC Orientation. Our ALPO Michael McCumber served as a staff cadet for Recruit Training, and, our own AM1 Merrey served as the Division Officer supervising the moment-by-moment activities for Recruit Training.

The nine day training evolutions introduced our newest cadets to the Navy's core concepts and helped prepare our mid-level cadets for Petty Officer appointments. Overall, Savannah's cadets excelled in comparison to other units with nearly all of our cadets having been selected for leadership roles within their various companies. Most earned ribbons for physical fitness and marksmanship. Several earned



sharp-shooter or expert designations for their marksmanship ribbons.

At least one cadet was a member of the Honor Company for Recruit Training. Our cadets and staff returned home in the early morning hours of 3 January exhausted yet exhilarated by all of their accomplishments. Nearly half of our cadets who gave up their "winter vacation" for training were able to do so only because of the continuing, sustaining support provided by the Savannah Council. The unit remains deeply grateful for your support.

January Dinner Meeting

Former US Navy Diver to Make Presentation on Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary

Our next dinner meeting speaker will combine dazzling photos of shipwrecks and colorful marine life with dramatic stories of deep dives in our nation's National Marine Sanctuaries—America's "underwater national parks." Greg McFall is a former US Navy diver who now works as Research Director at NOAA's Grays Reef, the marine sanctuary located just off the Georgia coast. Greg is also a talented underwater photographer who takes stunning photographs of sea life, from the largest manta rays to the tiniest coral reef inhabitants. He has just returned from a record-setting deep



dive in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off the California Coast, as well as a series of dives last summer on WWII wrecks in the Atlantic.

We will also swear in our new officers and directors before dinner.

**January 25th
Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm,
Hunter Club - Hunter AAF**

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, January 21st. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Aunette Shipes at (912) 330-0932 or savfoxey@bellsouth.net to reserve your place.

President's Message

What Is the Navy League?



First of all, a belated "Happy New Year!" to all, and "Thank you!" for giving me the opportunity to be President of the Savannah Council for 2011. It's a tall order to follow in the footsteps of Gary Johnson, Jim Keller, and Tom Latham, but I will do my best.

Our council's Board of Directors has already selected an area to focus on in 2011, and that is to increase

awareness of the Navy League in Savannah and surrounding areas. How many times have you mentioned that you are a member of the Navy League, only to meet a puzzled expression and the response, "What is the Navy League?" This is not unique to Savannah, but it is a shame that after over 50 years in Savannah, we are so "invisible". It is our hope and intent, that by raising our profile in this area, we can attract more concerned citizens to champion the Navy League's mission of supporting our sea services, and the members of those services, as they protect our country and our way of life.

Bob

2010 Christmas Party

Marine Corps Toys for Tots Benefits from Generosity of Savannah Council Christmas Party Attendees

Larry Wills

Seventy-three Navy Leaguers and their guests gathered on December 9 at Billy's Place in downtown Savannah for good food, good drink and comradeship in celebration of the Christmas season. This year the focus of the Christmas party was the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Each attendee brought an unwrapped gift and collection boxes were overflowing. We were fortunate in having Major Bruce Hemphill and two other Marines there to collect the gifts and to be our guests for the evening. This change in the format of the Christmas party was in response to the input the Board received last year from the all-member survey. You told the Board you wanted something less formal and less expensive. This party must have met the membership's desires because response was very strong and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.



Pam & Bill Edwards, President Tom Latham



Karen & Cliff Angers



Shirley McCarthy & Debbie Keller

Sigrid & Phil Kirk

Membership Corner

Debbie Keller, *Chair*

Your 2010 Membership Committee of the Savannah Council **THANKS YOU . . . the membership**, for all your support during the year. **You** attended a “thing” called a “Membership Mixer” and made it a total success. **You** found **46 new members** to assist us in supporting our sea services. **You** supported the ship reception despite the weather. **You** gathered by the river, on the streets, squares, bases and pubs to honor our men and women who are keeping our Country **free**, and a wonderful place to live. **What a Great Year!**

Welcome Aboard to our new members **Beverly C. Baldwin**, wife of Life Member Max Baldwin, **Maynett and David Breithaupt** friends of Cliff and Karen

Lindholm and **Charles Bugajsky** whose wife is a USO volunteer and passed our “mixer Invitation” on to Charles. Look for our new members . . . we have lots . . . at the next event and invite them to join your table. These “newest” new members bring the **Savannah Council Membership Total to 290.**

FYI: The winner of the 2010 NLUS Membership Contest will be announced February 1, 2011.

As always, if you are in need of an application for a friend or have a question about your membership please contact Debbie Keller, dtkeller29@aol.com, 912-598-0940, or look for a member of the Membership Team at the back of the meeting room at our next dinner meeting.



CDR Lonnie P. Harrison and wife, Julie



Marcia Wills, Joost Gompels, Alice Robinson



Major Bruce Hemphill, USMC



Frank & Shirley McCarthy



Jihn Findeis and Sybil Cannon



Bill & Phyllis Aycock



Gary Johnson & Larry Wills



Gettin' Ready for the Green!

Saint Patrick's Day 2011 is just around the corner! This year, the Savannah Council is preparing to welcome a US Navy destroyer to town to take part in the annual celebrations. We will enjoy a reception aboard the ship, and the crew will march in the parade and take part in the Jasper Green Ceremony. As the event comes closer, we will announce the name of the ship, along with other details.



Naval History Trivia Question

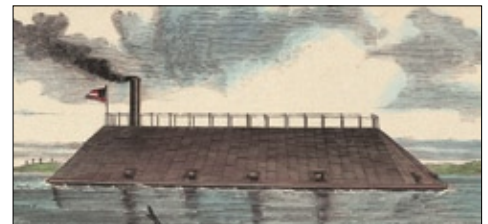
Did you guess the answer to last month's naval history trivia question?

Here it is again:

As regional leaders debate the proposed deepening of Savannah's harbor, their deliberations include the wreckage of the CSS *Georgia*, a Civil War ironclad warship resting on the riverbed adjacent to Old Fort Jackson National Historic Landmark. **What is the most popular nick-name of this vessel?** (hint: it derives from the gender of the Savannahians who funded its construction).

The answer:

The "Ladies Gun Boat" or "Ladies Ram." The *Georgia* was called by either of these names because Georgia's women spearheaded the statewide fundraising campaign for its construction. The word "ram" refers to the pointed metal prow designed to ram into enemy ships.



The trivia feature will take a month off and return next month!

2011 Officers and Directors

Our Officers and Directors for the next year will be sworn in at our January meeting. Please greet them with a "thank you" for their willingness to serve the Savannah Council. Much of their work is behind the scenes and requires hours of dedicated work. All their efforts are focused on a smooth-running organization with special attention to our mission of supporting our sea services in the Coastal Empire.

Officers

President	Bob Gephart
First Vice President	Michael Jordan
Vice President-Legislative Affairs	Frank McCarthy
Vice President	Mick McCay
Vice President	Larry Wills
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Frank McCarthy

Directors

Class of 2011	Class of 2012
Louis Hohenstein	Jeff Zureick
J.E.B. Harper	Larry Maurer
John Innes	Jerry Hogan
Class of 2013	Past President
Danica Grone	Tom Latham
Joe Tillman	
Alexia Pittas Webster	

Treasurer's Year End Report

For the 12 months of 2010, Savannah Council's **income** was \$15,805, with total **expenses** for this same period of \$19,425. Our **loss for the year** was \$3,620.

- **Compared to budget:** We fared quite well with income up \$2,970 over budget. Total expenses were up \$2,020 and our year-end loss was \$950 below budget. Nearly \$2,000 of our income overage came from early contributions in conjunction with our local dues solicitation.

- **Against our mission:** Your Council has done an excellent job in this regard as management expenses were \$810 below budget and accounted for only 22% of total expenses. All of our overage in expenses went toward program expenses directly tied to supporting the sea services.

We thank those of you who have already sent in your dues and generous special contributions. We urge everyone else to send in your checks as soon as possible. And, as others already have, please be generous with your contributions.

— Cliff Angers

VFA-86 Awards

Sidewinders in the Spotlight

Savannah Council members Mick and Connie McCay and Michael Jordan attended last month's Christmas party for VFA-86, the Navy F-18 Hornet squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

We recognized these sailors with a \$100 US Savings bond and a book from the Navy's reading list.



Chief of the Year:
AOC(AW) Burken



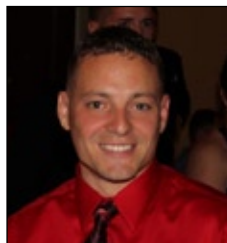
Blue Jacket of
the Year:
LSSN(AW) Age



Plane Captain of
the Year:
AEAN Blackwood



Junior Sailor of
the Year: AE2(AW)
Sanders



Sailor of the Year:
AME1(SW/AW) Keillor



Coast Guard Awards

On December 16th, Savannah Council members Bob Gephart, Mike Campbell, and Michael Jordan attended a ceremony at the US Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) facility at Station Tybee, honoring BM3 Brandon Sungur, who was selected Sailor of the Quarter for the First Quarter of this year.



In his remarks, BMC Dieckmann, the Officer in Charge of the ANT, explained that Sungur displayed an outstanding work ethic, leadership, military bearing, and a positive attitude, setting the tone for the entire crew.



(Left to Right) Chief Eric Dieckmann, OinC ANT Tybee, BM3 Brandon Sungur, Sailor of the Quarter, and Bob Gephart. BM3 Sungur was presented a book from the USCG Commandant's reading list, a \$100 US Savings Bond, and an invitation to attend our January dinner meeting as our guest.

INTERESTING STUFF

Called a figurehead, the carved sculpture that adorned many sailing vessels was not always a woman. It could be a man, or a representation of Neptune or other mythological figure, or a horse, lion or dragon, ie something that suited the name of the ship.



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Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Frank McCarthy
Directors	
Danica Grone	Larry Maruer
JEB Harper	Joe Tillman
Louis Hohenstein	Alexia Pittas Webster
Jerry Hogan	Jeff Zureich
John Innes	
Immediate Past President	Tom Latham

Savannah Steamer Newsletter

Editor	Michael Jordan
Layout	Mick McCay
Photographer	Lynn Wright

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.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 19th - 8 am

USCG Air Station Savannah - Sailor of the Year & Sailor of the Quarter Awards

Tuesday, January 25 - 6 pm

Monthly Dinner Meeting - Hunter Club

Saturday, January 29 - 9 am - 6 pm

Sea Cadets Boston Butt Fund Raiser

Tuesday, February 1 - 5:30 pm

Board of Directors Meeting - USCG Air Station Savannah

Wednesday, February 2 - 9 am

USCG MSU Savannah - Sailor of the Year & Sailor of the Quarter Awards

Our Navy League Community Partners -

- The Propeller Club • Crescent Towing • Savannah Riverfront
- Savannah Maritime Assn. • Savannah Marine Repair

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

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Savannah Navy League

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**SAVANNAH
COUNCIL**

Recipient of the Outstanding Council Award