



Savannah Steamer

50th Anniversary Founded May 15th, 1957

Newsletter: July 2007

Volume 33 Issue 7

Savannah Council United States Navy League

A Word from the President



Hello Navy Leaguers,

Some things I hope you will keep in mind and mark on your calendar.

- 50th Anniversary Dinner, September 25th, Hunter Club
- Christmas Party December 1st, at the Wilmington Island Club

That being said I just want you know that a lot of effort and planning is going into these events and we hope you will enjoy them.

We (Jim Keller and Bob Gephart) went to the Sammy B's (USS Samuel B Roberts) change of command in Mayport on June 17th. The ship was in for maintenance and repair following a grounding going into port in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We met the new CO as well as the outgoing CO Mark Weeks. The new CO, Wally Lovely, is enthusiastic about our sponsorship and will be great to work with. They are looking forward to coming

to Savannah. The ship left Mayport several weeks ago to rejoin the operations in South America and has been out of email contact so we are not sure where it is now. As soon as we can we will get an update and post it on the web.

The Return to Service Ceremony is being planned now for the USS Georgia. Sheila McNeill is heading up the planning function and is meeting with the Georgia councils to determine our participations and role and the events leading up to the ceremony. The ceremony will be in March of next year. More details will be forthcoming as they develop.

We have invited the Sea Cadets to come to our July meeting so that we can meet and talk to them. Fourteen of them went to boot camp in June so they should have some interesting experiences to talk about.

See you at the meeting.

Gary Johnson

July 24th Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M. Hunter Club

This month's speaker is Commander Jack Vogt, USCG, Commanding Officer Air Station Savannah.

CDR Jack Vogt, USCG is originally from Chapel Hill, NC. He is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a B.S. degree in Government. He was first assigned to the USCGC Jarvis, where he served in the Engineering Dept. Following several deployments in the Pacific he was selected for Naval Flight School and earned his wings in 1990. His first aviation assignment was at Air Station Los Angeles where he received the Federal Executive Board Heroism Award for a 1993 rescue mission. Later in



1993 he was assigned to Air Station New Orleans.

In 1997, CDR Vogt attended Purdue University where he received his MBA/Masters of Industrial Administration in 1998. From there he was assigned to the office of Aeronautical Engineering at Coast Guard Headquarters, during which time he

also completed the 2001 Advanced Management Program at the National Defense University.

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Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 or reservations@navyleague.us to reserve your seat, by Sun. Jul. 22nd.

Savannah's Recent Ship Visits

Our first visitor in late June was the French Frigate FS La Fayette which paid a port visit at the invitation of the City of Savannah and the Coastal Heritage Society to help commemorate the Siege of Savannah in October 1779. Numerous events including reenactments of the battle, a low country boil at the Railroad Museum and a reception on board the La Fayette were some of the activities involving Navy Leaguers and sailors from the La Fayette. We also were honored to have Captain Jean-Phillippe Rolland and four of his officers attend the June dinner meeting at which he made some very kind remarks concerning the hospitality shown by the Navy League. However, a competitive spirit still exists among navies of the world, and Ed Robb's Savannah soccer team handily defeated a team from the La Fayette by a score of 7-1!

A week later, Navy Leaguers welcomed the US Navy Aegis Cruiser Monterey (CG-61) as part of Savannah's July 4th celebration. Because the ship was here for a longer than normal visit (almost five days) many Council members had an opportunity to engage and meet with the ship's crew in small, informal group settings. They were smartly attired in white summer uniforms and easily recognizable anywhere in the Historic District. The July 4th reception on board Monterey was the highlight of their visit. The buffet offerings prepared by the ship's culinary staff were superb and the officers and crew were most gracious hosts during the reception and the fireworks that followed.

On July 20th the US Navy Aegis Cruiser Hue City (CG-66) will arrive for a brief Savannah visit. An on board reception will not be possible, but we will have an informal reception at one of the local downtown restaurants/pubs. Please check your e-mail and the Savannah Council website for additional details.

Because of increased security concerns, GPA has established more stringent procedures for access to their facility. Savannah Council leadership is working with GPA, the Coast Guard and others. It is hoped that a satisfactory resolution can be reached before our next scheduled ship reception in October.

--Jim Keller, V.P. Membership



Nominating Committee

At the meeting held on July 12, 2007, the board of directors approved a nominating committee comprised of Aunette Shipes, Ed Robb and Vice President Jim Morison. Two additional committee members will be selected from the general membership at the July 24th dinner meeting. The committee will recommend candidates to replace three outgoing directors and the officers for 2008. Their report will be presented to the board of directors at their meeting Thursday, November 1, 2007.



Savannah Council Adopted Units

USCGC Tarpon (WPB 8731)
 USS Georgia (SSBN 729)
 USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58)
 USCG Marine Safety Office, Savannah, GA
 USCG Air Station, Savannah, GA
 USCG Station Tybee Island, GA

ADM Adolph H. Blumenfeld Division,
 Navy Sea Cadets Command

NROTC Units
 Savannah State University
 Armstrong Atlantic State University

NJROTC Units
 Jenkins High School
 Johnson High School
 South Effingham High School

In Memoriam
 Admiral Owen W. Siler
 United States Coast Guard (Retired)
 1922 - 2007

Up Coming Events

July 24 Dinner Meeting
CDR Jack Vogt
CO, Air Station Savannah

August 3 to 10
Coast Guard Week

August 5
Sand Gnat Game and Picnic

August 28 Dinner Meeting
CAPT Bernard Jackson

September 25 Meeting
50th Anniversary

October 26
Coast Guard/Navy League Picnic

December 1
Christmas Party

January 26, 2008
Coast Guard Band

Coast Guard Week - Aug 3-10

A number of activities are in the planning stage:

- Reception on board a Buoy Tender on Thursday, August 2nd
- Demonstrations on Saturday, August 4th starting at noon – someone to man our booth needed
- Ballgame/picnic on Sunday, August 5th at 1:30 P.M. Must pay in advance. Hugh Robinson will be at a table at our next meeting, July 24th to collect \$12 per person.
- This year there will be a letter from the Mayor's office rather than a proclamation.

The Coast Guard picnic will be held on October 26th. A contract has been signed for the Coast Guard band to perform on Saturday, January 26, 2008. A committee is being formed; Robert Gephart, Treasurer; Tom Latham, Advertising; Mike Suerirro, JNROTC students to serve as usher, ticket takers, etc.

Mayor's office has advised that we are going to re-apply for the designation, Coast Guard City USA.

--Hugh Robinson

50th Anniversary Celebration

Preparations are underway for our 50th anniversary celebration on September 25, 2007. An important consideration is financing this grand undertaking. A 50th Anniversary Fund has been established and donations totaling \$1,400 have already been received from a number of members of the Savannah Council:

Mary Faye Craft	Charles Gibowicz	Mike & Anne
Tom Latham	Bob Gephart	Campbell
Jim Keller	Debbie Keller	Pat Lynch
Jim Beck	John & Mary Findeis	Cliff Angers
	Roy & Peach Hubbard	

Please join this group of generous Navy Leaguers
and send your check to:

Bob Gephart, Treasurer, PO Box 31006, Savannah, GA 31410.

Stay informed for last minute events and information:
<http://savannah.navyleague.us>

SAVANNAH COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE US
CHRISTMAS PARTY



VOGT . . . In 2003, CDR Vogt was assigned as Engineering Officer at Air Station Clearwater. During his tenure, Clearwater personnel were recognized for their outstanding responses to the 2004 Florida hurricanes, the Asian Tsunami and hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

CDR Vogt's decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. He is married to the former Mary Beth Sedlacek of Pensacola, FL and they have four children.

Sea Cadets

2007 Officers
and Directors

President
Gary Johnson

Vice Presidents
Jim Keller
Tom Latham
Sam McLaughlin
James Morison

Secretary
Debbie Keller

Treasurer
Robert Gephart

Judge Advocate
Mac Storm

Directors
Al Naismith
Pat Lynch
Betty McCarthy
Ed Robb
Aunette Shipes
Bill Edwards
Ellen Snedeker
Mike Sueirro
Philip Kirk

First Past President
Hugh Robinson

Second Past President
John Findeis

Adolph H. Blumenfeld Division Sea Cadets have been very busy the past few months. A Red Cross representative certified us in damage assignment. The Cadets will now be able to assist the Red Cross if we have a disaster in Savannah. The unit attended the Marine Corps air show in Beaufort in April and three Cadets were chosen to pass out flyers after the show. Over the last two months we have added six new Cadets who came to the unit very motivated and completed all requirements in time to go to recruit training this month. This fall we will have promoted nine to E2, one to E3, and one to PO3. This is the best summer we have seen in a long time. We plan to see the USCG three-masted barque Eagle when in port in Brunswick on August 3rd. We welcome back our PT instructors, Amber Roberts and Eric Beasley who recently served in Iraq.



04/21/2007

--Kevin Hay

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.

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