



Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

President's Message

Getting Our Message Out There

Joe Tillman, Bob Gephart, and Tom and Lynn Wright all attended the Navy League – South Atlantic Coast (SAC) Region Meeting in New Bern, NC the weekend of February 11 – 12. Most of the councils from NC, SC and GA were represented. Our close neighbor councils – Hilton Head, Charleston, Atlanta, and Kings Bay were all there. NLUS sent two representatives to help us better understand the NLUS website and its capabilities regarding membership, and a good training session introduced us to the revised Navy League presentation highlighting Coast Guard capabilities and challenges. That presentation is available for us to present to Savannah audiences like Rotary, Kiwanis, school and church groups, and others. Lots of good ideas for council activities were exchanged amongst the group. The 2012 SAC regional meeting will be held in Savannah next year, and Savannah Council's Joe Tillman is taking charge of those arrangements.



Bob Gephardt (left) and Jim Keller (right) with Bill Culler from the Coastal Carolina Council, which hosted the Region Meeting.



Jim Keller (back row, far left), Bob Gephardt (back row, third from right), SAC Region VP for Membership and National Director Tom Wright of Savannah (back row, far right), Joe Tillman (front row, far left), and Debbie Keller (front row, second from left) with other attendees at the recent Region Meeting.

March Dinner Meeting

Bob

Army Corps Commander to Address Harbor Deepening

COL Jeffrey M. Hall, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, will be the featured speaker at this month's dinner meeting at the Hunter Club on Hunter Army Airfield, Tuesday night, March 22nd. The event begins with a social hour starting at 6pm, dinner at 7pm, and the presentation at 7:30 pm.



COL Hall provide a brief overview of the mission of the district with a focus on its key civil works project--the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP). He will

discuss the engineering, environmental, and economic issues related to the project. A Question and Answer period will follow the presentation.

We expect this to be a very well-attended meeting, so be sure to make your reservation as soon as possible.

**March 22nd
Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm,
Hunter Club - Hunter AAF**

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, March 18th. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Aunette Shipes at (912) 330-0932 or savfoxey@bellsouth.net to reserve your place.

Savannah Sea Cadets Excel During Recent Inspection



Savannah Squadron recently underwent its annual inspection at USCG Air Station Savannah which was witnessed by our own Jim Keller and members of the Air Station's Command staff. LCDR N. June Tillett, Director of Region 6-2 performed the annual inspection on 20 February, 2011 at the Air Station and awarded Savannah Squadron a 3.512 out of a possible 4.0. This score represents a substantial increase over prior years and puts the Squadron in an elite class of units nation-wide.

The Squadron's success is largely attributable to the record of achievement demonstrated by the Cadets themselves and to the sustaining support of our Navy League Council. With no exceptions, those cadets eligible to complete correspondence courses and trainings did so and every cadet advanced as soon they were eligible.

Savannah Council members should be aware that without their generous support, particularly in terms of scholarship money for economically disadvantaged cadets, the unit as a whole would not have scored nearly



as well because fully half of our cadets attending basic and advanced trainings in 2010 would not be able to go without significant financial assistance.

For the year 2010, Savannah Squadron boasted growth to 28 cadets seven of whom completed both the BMR (Basic Military Requirements) course and graduated Recruit Training. Five cadets completed at

least one advanced training and several completed two or more advanced trainings.

The Webster twins graduated and PO3 N. Singleton and PO3 M. McCumber have taken over the Leading Petty Officer (LPO) and Assistant Leading Petty Officer (ALPO) positions. Cadets S. Gregory, Suddath, and McLeod, all earned their Petty Officer appointments and have assumed various leadership roles within the unit.

Savannah Squadron hosted the first annual Basic Airman Training in Savannah last Spring aboard USCG Air Station Savannah and again enjoyed advanced Boat Training with our local Coast Guard Auxiliary. Over the Summer, cadets attended Recruit Training, NLCC Orientation, Petty Officer Leadership Academy, Helicopter Combat School, Religious Specialist Training and served as staff cadets for various Recruit Trainings around the South East. Cadets earned ribbons for academic achievement, community service, physical fitness, recruiting, color guard, and for exemplary service.

Ten cadets attended various trainings over Winter Break including NLCC Orientation, Recruit Training, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy. We expect to train an additional six cadets over Spring Break both at the Air Station and USCG Boat Station Tybee. The cadets' achievements are indicative of the remarkable drive and enthusiasm being shown by our current class of cadets.

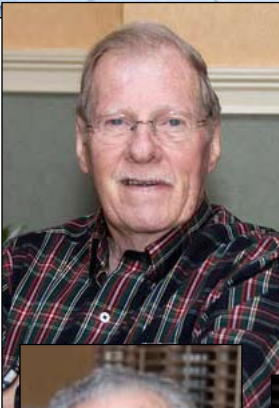
The cadets and adult staff remain particularly grateful to the Savannah Council of the Navy League for its generous and sustaining support.

February Meeting

Catching up with the "Sidewinders"

Thanks for CDR Max McCoy and CMC Travis Brummer for a great presentation last month on the members of VFA-86, our Navy Hornet squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. The program centered on the "Sidewinders" recent extended deployment aboard the California-based carrier USS *Nimitz*, as well as their upcoming moving to Naval Air Station Lemoore, California.

We were pleased to have Air Station Savannah Guardian of the Month IS3 Ryan Sullivan as our special guest at the meeting.



Honoring the Men of USS ALASKA

Savannah Council Members Help Recognize Outstanding Submariners

Savannah Council Immediate Past President Tom Latham and several council members traveled to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia on Thursday, March 10th to help recognize noteworthy sailors from the Gold Crew of our newly-adopted submarine, USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732).

Latham presented US Savings Bonds and books



from the Navy's official reading list to Sailor of the Year MM1 (SS) Jayme M. Crossley and Junior Sailor of the Year MM2 (SS) James M. Smith. Tom also gave the crew a brief explanation of the Navy League's mission and thanked them for their service which is so critical to the security of our country.

Given the Gold crew's upcoming deployment later in the year, Latham presented the Commanding Officer, CDR B. Cory Jackson, with reading material on behalf of the Savannah Council.



Tom Latham presents a book to USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732) Gold Crew Commander CDR B. Cory Jackson.



Tom Latham makes a presentation to USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732) Gold Crew Junior Sailor of the Year MM2 (SS) James M. Smith.



Tom Latham makes a presentation to USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732) Gold Crew Sailor of the Year MM1 (SS) Jayme M. Crossley.

“And the Rockets’ Red Glare . . . “

Naval Living History Museum Arrives in Savannah



A living example of our nation's naval history pulled into port earlier this month, and is still tied up along River Street for all to see. The tall ship *Lynx*, a 122-foot-long recreation of a War of 1812 US naval privateer, slid up the Savannah River on March 2nd and will be in town through March 28th. Public tours are available at the dock for \$5, with the option of sailing excursions for an additional fee. For information on the ship's opening hours and more, visit www.privateerlynx.org.

Maritime History Trivia Question

Here's Last Month's Question Again:

The Steam Ship *Savannah*, commanded by Captain Moses Rogers, made history in 1819 when it became the first steam-powered vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Name the US President and two foreign leaders who visited the ship.



Answer:

President James Monroe rode the SS *Savannah* on the Savannah River to Tybee Island and back on May 11, 1819. After the steamship crossed the Atlantic, she was also visited by the Prince of Sweden and Norway and the Emperor of Russia.

Now here's This Month's Question:

On August 19, 1812 the USS *Constitution* engaged the British frigate HMS *Guerriere* off the coast of Massachusetts. After a 35-minute battle, *Guerriere* had been dismasted and captured and was later burned. It was one of our young nation's earliest naval victories in the War of 1812. Can you name the American commander who was in charge of *Constitution* during the battle?



Treasurer's Report

The audit of Savannah Council's financial numbers for 2010 has been completed and everything was found to be in good order. Our budget for 2011 has been reviewed and approved by the Board. Goals for the budget were threefold:

(1) Continue to devote the large majority of expenses toward programs that directly support the sea services (82% of budgeted expenses are for such programs)

(2) Increase support of the Sea Cadets consistent with their growth and the specific wishes of those generous donors who made special contributions in conjunction with our dues drive (Sea Cadet support has been increased \$2000)

(3) Increase support of the Navy as we celebrate the adoption of USS *Alaska* with a proper reception, gift for the boat and recognition awards (Navy awards and programs have been increased \$2750 for 2011).

	2010 Actual	2011
Budget		
Income	\$15,805	\$18,915
Expenses	19,425	24,255
Gain/(Loss)	(3,620)	(5,340)

Bank Balance January 1, 2011: \$18,614

Cliff Angers, *Treasurer*

Changes Coming to the Savannah Steamer

Newsletter Goes Quarterly, Full-Color, and Online Starting Next Month

Exciting new developments are just around the corner for the *Savannah Steamer*, our council's award-winning newsletter. Starting in April 2011, we will begin printing our newsletter in full-color, once each quarter. While we will no longer be producing a printed newsletter each month, we will begin e-mailing an e-newsletter to all members who have provided e-mail addresses, also starting next month.

We are excited about these changes to the *Steamer*, as we believe they will bring an added air of professional to our printed material, and help take our council further into the "digital age."

Please contact *Steamer* editor Michael Jordan at mj@cosmosavannah.com or (912) 713-8411 if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming changes.

2011 Officers and Directors

President	Bob Gephart
First Vice President	Michael Jordan
Vice President	Frank McCarthy
Vice President	Mick McCay
Vice President	Larry Wills
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Frank McCarthy
Directors	
Danica Grone	Larry Maurer
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

Tuesday, March 22nd, 6pm
Monthly Dinner Meeting
Hunter Club, Hunter Army Airfield

Tuesday, April 5th, 5:30pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Room, Air Station
Savannah
Hunter Army Airfield

Tuesday, April 26th, 6pm
Monthly Dinner Meeting
Hunter Club, Hunter Army Airfield

Saturday, April 23rd
Adoption Ceremony for USS *Alaska*
(SSBN 732)
Kings Bay, GA
Time TBA

Our Navy League Community Affiliates



Savannah Marine Repair
www.savannahmarinerepair.com

Savannah Riverfront
www.riverstreetsavannah.com



Savannah Maritime Association
www.savannahmaritime.com



Crescent Towing www.crescenttowing.com

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

Official Document: Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States

Savannah Navy League

PO Box 16918
Savannah, GA 31416



**SAVANNAH
COUNCIL**

Recipient of the Outstanding Council Award