



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

A Word from the President



**Tom Latham, President
Savannah Council, Navy League
of the United States**

Something Special for September Meeting

We are pleased to announce a very different location and format for our September meeting. On September 28, we will be meeting at the Coast Guard's Station Tybee!

This event will include a Coast Guard water rescue demonstration with a helicopter from Air Station Savannah, and an opportunity to tour their boats, to be followed by a buffet dinner.



For Savannah Council, this is an exciting opportunity to be with some of our local Coast Guard in a situation where they will be demonstrating their rescue skills and our members will experience being present at an active duty station.

All details are yet to be worked out, but we anticipate that the demonstration will be in the 6:15 to 6:30 frame, with the buffet set for about 7:15. Car pooling arrangements will be arranged as may be needed.

Given the unique nature of this meeting, there will be more communication between now and then, with a firm deadline for sign-ups.

Please get this on your calendar now.



Tom Latham

September 28th Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M., Coast Guard Station Tybee

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, September 24th. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Sybil Cannon at 912-964-5366 or RSalty2@att.net to reserve your place.

A New Twist on Our Christmas Party



Responding to feedback from our membership, a committee of the Board of Directors has planned an exciting change for our annual holiday party this year. Departing from our usual format of a dinner party at a private club with dance music, we'll gather for heavy hors d'oeuvres at a popular downtown lounge where beer and wine will be available from a cash bar. The cost will be no more than \$25 per person — much less than in years past. We're focusing on Toys For Tots, the US Marine Corps program which brings a bright Christmas to thousands of needy kids in our area each year, so

plan to bring an unwrapped toy. Here are details on the event:



Date: Thursday, December 9, 2010

Place: Billy's Place at McDonough's 20 E. Perry St.

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Buffet Appetizer Party - all you can eat

Cost under \$25 per person - will firm up the price later but probably \$23 to \$24. CASH BAR

Coast Guard Picnic Gets High Marks



Chief Jim Bodenrader, OIC at USCG Station Tybee, throws the ceremonial first pitch and gets congratulations from Gnate the Gnat.

The Savannah Council

hosted a fun evening for all the local US Coast Guard units at the Sand Gnats game at Grayson Stadium on Wednesday, August 18.



This consisted of a picnic dinner with hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, chips, cookies and drinks for all. Chief Jim Bodenrader, OIC at USCG Station Tybee, threw the first pitch – a high, hard one that the Gnats catcher was just able to snag. Air Station Savannah provided a helicopter flyover just after the National Anthem that added some extra feeling to the evening.

Total attendance was 192, which included 163 USCG personnel and their families and friends, with lots of children in the mix. The youngest child was just two weeks old! There were also 29 members of the Navy League and USCG Auxiliary at the event. The local USCG units attending included Marine Safety Unit Savannah, Air Station Savannah, USCG Station Tybee, USCG Recruiting Office, and the USMC Reserve Unit at HAAF.

The tickets for USCG personnel, family and friends were offered at a reduced rate, thanks to sponsorship provided by Georgia Ports Authority, Savannah Sand Gnats, and the Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States.



Savannah Council Recognized as Outstanding

The Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States has been singled out as an Outstanding Council.

The award recognizes our council for excellence in a variety of areas, including Membership Growth and Retention, Community Education Activities, Youth Activities, and Council Activities, as well as our efforts with local media and our legislators. National Navy

League officials will present the award to 2009 Savannah Council President Jim Keller at the Navy League's 2010 National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, October 20-24.

We'll likely never know which specific things singled us out for the recognition, but a quick scan of the Savannah Council's activities in 2009 certainly makes our excellence clear. In addition to regular engagement with local media and our Congressional Representatives, we hosted real estate and property management seminars for all local Coast Guard personnel, supported recreational activities--including our annual picnic at the Sand Gnats game – for the local Coast Guard, and provided funding for the sailing program for Naval ROTC midshipmen at Savannah State and Armstrong Atlantic State Universities. Our members were also involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Jasper Green



SAVANNAH COUNCIL

Recipient of the Outstanding Council Award

Ceremony, the NROTC Spring Review at Savannah State, the Sea Cadet Drill Competition, the Navy Birthday Ball in Beaufort, the 1,000th Trident Patrol Ceremony at Kings Bay, and numerous change of command and commissioning ceremonies throughout the area. We co-sponsored the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum and the visits during the year of the US Navy Cruiser *San Jacinto*, two Coast Guard cutters, and a NOAA research vessel. Our recognition programs benefitted personnel in area Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy units and high school NJROTC programs, as well as the crew of our adopted ship, the frigate USS *Samuel B. Roberts*. And we can't fail to mention the fantastic list of outstanding speakers at our monthly meetings – ranging from the commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division to the pilots who guide massive container ships up and down the Savannah River.

Says Council President Tom Latham, "There is no way that Savannah Council could have received this recognition without the powerful support and contributions of our many dedicated members. We are extremely fortunate to have a membership that understands what it takes to support our sea services. Thank you for your good work on behalf of the wonderful young men and women who are defending our country."

The Savannah Council has been recognized for excellence in the past. We were recognized as a Meritorious Council in 2004 and an Outstanding Council in 2005.

We have many reasons to be proud of our Savannah Council – and it's great to know our national organization recognizes our efforts, too.

Naval History Trivia

Did you guess the answer to last month's naval history trivia question? Here it is again:

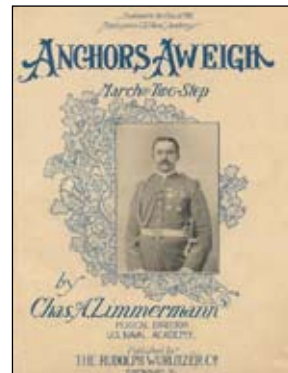
Name the commissioned United States military vessel originally christened in honor of the person in this photograph:

ANSWER: The US Coast Guard Barque *Eagle*, which was formerly the German naval warship *Horst Wessel*. The individual in the photos is Horst Wessel, a Nazi party activist who was murdered in early 1930. The steel-hulled sailing ship named in his honor was transferred to the US as a war prize at the end of the Second World War, and now serves as the training ship for thousands of Coast Guard cadets.



NOW HERE'S NEXT MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

When and where was the first performance of the US Navy's march, "Anchors Aweigh?"



From Our August Dinner Meeting ...

Col. Todd Freeseaman, commander of the Georgia Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) filled two roles at our August 24th meeting at the Hunter Club, delivering his own presentation and filling in for 165th Airlift Wing commander Col. Jesse Simmons, who missed the meeting due to an illness. Freeseaman did a fantastic job, informing our members about the numerous types of aircraft from around the nation flown here for training at the CRTC and affiliated Townsend Bombing Range each year, as well as the multi-million-dollar economic impact of that training on our local area. Freeseaman's aide and Public Relations Officer, MSgt. Bucky Burnsed, was also our guest at the meeting.

We honored several area Coast Guard members for a job well done, recognizing Marine Safety Unit Savannah Guardian of the Quarter MST1 Drew Caldwell as well as the crew of chopper 6565 from Air Station Savannah – LT Jeff Jacobs, ENS Chris Tamburello, MT3 Kevin Lee, and AST3 Andrew Sinclair – for rescuing a swimmer caught in a rip current off Hilton Head Island on July 15th.



Col. Todd Freeseaman



MSgt Bucky Burnsed



The crew of helicopter 6565: Swimmer, AST3 Andrew Sinclair, LT Jeff Jacobs, and ENS Chris Tamburello



Paul Rue and Gary Johnson



MSU Savannah Guardian of the Quarter MST1 Drew Caldwell

Oktoberfest Ship Visits Cancelled

The two US Navy Cyclone-class patrol vessels that were scheduled to visit Savannah for Oktoberfest next month have been forced to cancel their plans due to maintenance issues. Please take note that, as a result, our planned reception at Kevin Barry's on Friday night, October 1st will no longer take place.

Navy League National Convention



REMINDER:

The Navy League's 108th annual National Convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront October 20 - 24.

Register online @ www.NavyLeague.org

U.S. Navy Living History

The last remaining vestige of Teddy Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet," and the oldest steel-hulled warship afloat, could soon be consigned to a watery grave, unless supporters can find \$20 million to save her. The iconic cruiser USS *Olympia*, moored in the Delaware River in Philadelphia, is slowly rusting at her moorings and faces the potential of being sold for scrap or reefed by the US Navy. The Independence Seaport Museum, which took over stewardship of the *Olympia* in 1996, has spent more than \$5 million annually on repairs and maintenance since – but does not have the estimated \$10 million it would cost to dredge the marina and tow the ship to a dry dock for repairs, nor the additional \$10 million for an endowment required to care for the cruiser in perpetuity. The ship should have been dry docked every 20 years, but instead has been bobbing in the river since 1945.

The *Olympia* marks a turning point in naval architecture, boasting a steel hull and hydraulic steering, as well as sails and Victorian interiors. It was on her bridge that Commodore Dewey issued his famous order to begin the battle of Manila Bay in the Spanish-American War. The vessel's final mission was bringing home the body of the WWI

USS Olympia Fights for Survival



Unknown Soldier from France in 1921.

The *Olympia* will close to visitors on November 22nd. The Friends of the Cruiser *Olympia* are rushing to raise \$2.5 million by January 2011 to take custody of the ship and begin initial repair work.

Find more information at the following websites:

Independence Seaport Museum
www.phillyseaport.org

Friends of the Cruiser *Olympia*
www.cruiserolympia.org

New NCOIC at Coast Guard Station Tybee

A hearty Savannah-area welcome to SCPO Mark Adams, the new Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge at Coast Guard Station Tybee. Adams comes to Station Tybee from Portsmouth, Virginia, where he last commanded the cutter *Shearwater*. His wife Amy, 14-year-old son Chase, 12-year-old daughter Ashley, and 11-year-old twin daughters Jeana and Julie are living in Kinston, North Carolina.

On Friday, August 27th, Chief Adams relieved the retiring BMC James A. Bodenrader, a New England native who plans to remain on Tybee Island with his family as he enjoys post-Coast Guard life.



Savannah Council Secretary Bob Gephart (right) with SCPO Mark Adams, the new Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge at Station Tybee..

2010 Officers & Directors

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Savannah Steamer Newsletter

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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.

Tuesday, September 14

Board of Directors Meeting
Coast Guard Air Station Savannah
Hunter Army Airfield

Tuesday, September 28

Monthly Dinner Meeting
Coast Guard Station Tybee
Details to be Announced!

Tuesday, October 5

Board of Directors Meeting
Coast Guard Air Station Savannah
Hunter Army Airfield

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 26

Monthly Dinner Meeting
Hunter Club

Thursday, December 9

Christmas Party
Billy's Place at McDonough's
20 E. Perry St.
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Treasurer's Report *Cliff Angers, Treasurer*

Through the first 8 months of 2010, Savannah Council's **income** was \$12,205 which includes admission receipts from the Coast Guard/Sand Gnat picnic. **Expenses** through the end of August were \$14,999 against a full year target of \$17,405. **Loss** to-date is \$2,794. Currently we have \$19,429 in the bank.

SPECIAL THANKS to Phil Kirk for editing last month's Steamer in Michael Jordan's absence.

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

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



**SAVANNAH
COUNCIL**

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