

"The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

February, 2011

Volume 34, No. 1



NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES



President's Message

For those of you who were at the Installation Dinner, you will recall that I talked about the "shock and awe" of becoming President. The "shock" was that, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would ever have the pleasure and the honor of becoming your Council President. This is especially true due to the fact that my military career was as a member of the U.S. Army. The "awe" was that as I became the leader, I was following in the footsteps of the Immediate Past President, Jeanne Sharkey. Thank you Jeanne for all you have done and will continue to do for our Council.

As we begin the New Year, it is worth repeating just exactly why our Council is needed.

We're a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and our government that the United States of America is a maritime time nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent on strong sea services. Locally, we actively sponsor nine sea service military units and a great Sea Cadet program.

How do we accomplish this mission? We do it through our dynamic Council. The Council is strong due to its membership and great Board of Directors. To sustain our programs we need to focus on membership retention and the recruitment of new members. We have a great Membership Team on our Board; however, they can't do it alone. As Council members we need to take every opportunity to encourage current member participation and actively recruit new members.

The Board of Directors have authorized a busy 2011 event schedule that promises to not only be fun, but fully supports our mission. With that thought in mind, please mark March 24th on your calendar for our annual Sea Services Awards dinner.

James Harbuck

Jim Harbuck, *President*

William Kinsey, *First Vice President*

Lorraine Hughey, *Editor*

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Youth Affairs: Lorraine Hughey

Membership: Jack & Gynithe LaSalle

Secretary: Lois Terrell-Cashman

Treasurer: Stephen Cruikshank

Corr. Sec.: Myriam Clark

Immediate Past President

Jeanne Sharkey

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Welcome New Members

Members

Harkleroad, Mike
Anderson, Roland
Light, David L. (Wife) Yoko
Beisheim, Naomi
Sanchez, Ted (wife) Tamara
Aberer, Jim (Wife) Sandy
Donovan, Patrick L.

Sponsors

NLSAC
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Howard Rudiger
Jack & Gynithe La Salle
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Pete Van Putten
SFBAAL

Welcome to the Contra Costa Council! The mission of the Navy League of the United States is to inform the American people and their government 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 — The United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and the United States Merchant Marine. **Our Goals are:**

- Educate National Leaders and the Nation
- Support the Men and Women of the Sea Services
- Provide Assistance to the Sea Services
- Support Youth Programs

Our Council has activities to meet these objectives, and we welcome your participation and assistance — a few hours a month. We look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Navy League to Participate in 2011 "Sail-in"

Navy League partners with the U.S. Maritime Coalition

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Navy League of the United States has announced its partnership with the U.S. Maritime Coalition for this year's Congressional "Sail-in" taking place on Capitol Hill on May 4, 2011.

The "Sail-in" is an event to increase Congressional awareness of the importance of America's maritime industry to the security of the United States and gain support for the programs necessary to the success of the United States' flag merchant marine and maritime workforce.

This year's "Sail-in" is particularly important because of the dramatic changes to the 112th Congress and need to inform new members. Individuals within the American maritime industry come from across the country to Washington to participate and inform Congressional leaders of the importance of the maritime industry to the well-being of the United States. These meetings will educate Members of Congress of the role the Maritime Industry plays in national defense, overseas trade, and the sustainment of American jobs.

"We had folks from 20 states, 48 congressional districts, 28 companies, 9 unions and labor organizations, and 10 related associations," said VADM Albert J. Herberger, a former U.S. Maritime Administrator and Navy League member. "That's a powerful message to Congress."

If interested, please visit <http://www.maritimeindustrysailin.com> for more information and register (at no cost) for the event.

The Navy League is a non-profit civilian organization with more than 50,000 members worldwide whose mission for more than 100 years has been to educate the American people and their leaders about the enduring importance of sea power to a maritime nation, and to support the men and women of the U.S. sea services.

For additional information, go to www.navyleague.org or contact Liz Drummond at (703) 312-2880 or email at ldrummond@navyleague.org.

COUNCIL COORDINATES FOURTH PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE BANQUET

The Contra Costa Council and veterans groups throughout central county sponsored a banquet at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building on December 8th as a remembrance of the tragedy at Pearl Harbor 69 years ago. The theme was "To Honor "those who were there!", the USA/USN/USMC/USCG, USMC and mothers of sons and daughters in military service participated in the celebration. Many enjoying the evening had never served in a military service but wished to "Remember Pearl Harbor", as the slogan from those terrible years of World WarTwo recalled.

Rear Admiral Winston W. Copeland, Jr. USN (Ret) was the guest speaker. Admiral Copeland, a distinguished Naval Aviator Commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Battle Group, a test pilot, recipient of the Silver Star for gallantry in action the Bronze Star

with Combat V, a corporate success and now head of his consulting firm focusing on leadership.

Four Pearl Harbor Survivors joined us and were introduced. They were Ed and Jean Wallin (USS Monaghan), Lloyd and Juanita Childers (USS Cassin), John and Marge Tait (USS St. Louis) and John and Pat Egan (USS San Francisco).

Council President Jeanne Sharkey was inspired to organize the first dinner in 2007 by her concern that so many of our younger generations do not have sufficient knowledge of our history to realize or appreciate what took place at Pearl Harbor on that Sunday morning in 1941 and the impact the ensuing horrific battles in the Pacific had on our nation and its people. Her desire is to make the dinner events a remembrance of that event....lest we forget. ©

Jeanne's 'Farewell' Message

Dear Council Members:

Sincere thanks to all of you for the thoughtful 'retirement' gifts that were presented to me at the January election/installation dinner.

The donation in my name to the USCGC (Dorothy) Stratton (WMSL 752) commissionin (due to happen Spring 2012) is the first donation for this event. Very nice!! But even nicer was the gift card to Trader Vic's, one of our very favorite places.

It has been a real pleasure to serve as President of the Contra Costa Council. Our enthusiastic dedicated Board has been wonderful to work with. It has made the job of President easy.

I certainly wish our new leader, President Jim Harbuck, and his 'sidekick' Barbara, much success and hope they enjoy his term as President as much as Bill (the Duty Driver) and I enjoyed mine. I know he is going to do a great job.

Again, to all of you, THANK YOU!! We have a wonderful Council and wonderful members.

Jeanne Sharkey

Jim Harbuck Relieves Jeanne Sharkey As President

Retired career Army Colonel Jim Harbuck was installed as Contra Costa Council President on January 20 to take the gavel from Jeanne Sharkey. Jim and the Council's large and enthusiastic Board of Directors began the 2011 year with dinner at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building.

Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, USCG, Commander of the Coast Guard's Force Readiness Command, and Deputy Commander of the Pacific Area. was the guest speaker and praised the Navy League for its mission and efforts on behalf of the nation's sea services. Admiral Sullivan, who will be retiring on April 1, after a distinguished career, has had a close relationship with our Council during his duty assignments in our area. His wife, Teresa, is a member of our Council.

Installed as officers were William Kinsey, First VP; Lorraine Hughey, VP for Youth Affairs; Jack & Gynithe La-Salle, VP Membership; Bill Sharkey III, VP Communications, Lois Terrell, Secretary; Myriam Clark, Corresponding Secretary and Steve Cruikshank, Treasurer.

Directors for 2011 include: Richard and Mary Brumbaugh, Bruce and Christine Clegg, Harold Gill, Edward Haynes, Dan and Fay Hungerford, Lester Marks, Roger and Holly Meininger, Gus and Noreen Perscheid, Alfred and Josephine Romine, Ed and Ruth Stevenson, Jim and Betty Wyrick, Marjorie Burns, Peter and Ann Gates, Trevor and Wren Hall, James Harwood, Robert and Joan Holmoe, George Knies, Byron Meade, Richard Miller, Ken and Marjorie Robinson, Pam Speka, Don and Susan Tennenbaum, Peter and Connie Van Putten.

Elected as Board Members Emeritus for their many years of dedicated service were Nanette Lamb, Howard Rudiger and Jack and Betty Yates.

Council Sets Plans for 2011 Activities

The calendar for Council activities for 2011 was set by the Council leadership on January 22 at its annual planning session. The schedule includes an event each month with 'trips' to interesting facilities, a ride on our adopted USCGC ASPEN, a Friday lunch at the Coast Guard's Training Center at Petaluma, entries in the July 4th parades in Concord, Pleasant Hill and Danville, a Chinese lunch and light house tour on Yerba Buena Island with a ride on an 87-foot Patrol Boat, dinner meetings honoring the Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps birthdays, a tour of the Livermore Labs, a BBQ at USCG Station Vallejo, a BBQ on Yerba Buena Island with the Aids to Navigation Team, Fleet Week events, a visit and tour of the Travis AFB

Museum with a guard dog exhibit and the annual Toys for Tots Brunch at Christmas time.

Museum with a guard dog exhibit and the annual Toys for Tots Brunch at Christmas time.

President Jim Harbuck has urged members to take part in any activities which interest them. Flyers for each event will be sent to all members for signups about three to four weeks prior to the event date.

All events are meant to give our members a chance to expand their knowledge of the various units and facilities as part of the "educating the public" mission of Navy League. Public support of our service members is a vital issue.

Coast Guard Bay Area Ball in San Francisco

The biennial Coast Guard Bay Area Ball will be held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel on April 2. All Navy League members are invited to attend the evening of dining, dancing and a traditional ceremony recalling the history of the Coast Guard's involvements around the world. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp is expected to attend this special event.

The Navy League is assisting Junior Enlisted and Junior Officers to attend by raising funds to supplement the cost and are members of the planning committee.

The cost for Navy League members is \$100 per person. For information please call Jeanne Sharkey at 925-228-1375.

Navy League of the U.S. Sonoma County Council Invites YOU To Join THEM for a Terrific Lunch!

Where: Coast Guard Training Center at Two Rock (Petaluma)

When: Friday, March 18th, 2011

Cost: \$10/person for this Friday seafood buffet

Noon: Lunch in the Galley. (We enter after Coasties finish lunch)

Program being planned for after lunch

How to get there:

- 1. From Highway 101 in Petaluma, take the Washington East offramp and head west THROUGH Petaluma.**
- 2. Washington East becomes Bodega Highway and the USCG Station is about seven miles toward Bodega Bay. A large sign on the LEFT will tell you where the Station entrance is.**
- 3. Each vehicle must have registration, insurance proof and each occupant must have photo ID. We need names for the gate**

For information call (707) 538-3344 or (925) 228-1375 RSVP Deadline Monday, March 14th, please!

Everyone Must Be On The Gate List

Mail to: James Sorensen, 1139 Halyard Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4968

Please make checks payable to Sonoma County Council, NLUS

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for _____ lunches at Two Rock.

Attending will be _____ Phone _____

EGYPT... HISTORY REPEATING?

George C. Knies

In 1956 I was a LTjg serving in the USS RANDOLPH CVA-15 as a member of VA-46 "Clansmen" flying Grumman F9F-8 Cougars. Attack Squadron 46 was the first Jet Attack Squadron in the Navy commissioned in June 1955 at U.S. Naval Station Cecil field, Florida. Eight months after commissioning we came aboard the RANDOLPH for it's shake down cruise at Guantanamo Bay Cuba in February and March 1956. We returned to the RANDOLPH again in June for an operational Sidewinder firing evaluation and demonstration for members of Congress, and in July for the Mediterranean deployment. The squadron had 18 officers, 14 of which were pilots, 120 enlisted men and 14 Cougars. All pilots logged more than 100 arrested landings during the cruise and the "Clansmen" had the distinction of making the RANDOLPH'S 17,000th, 19,000th and 20,000th landings since it's re-commissioning.

This was my first Six Fleet cruise in the sunny Mediterranean. During this deployment RANDOLPH was engaged in "**Operation Watch and Wait**" which centered primarily in and around 'Point Moses". This point on the charts at Latitude 35 North and Longitude 19 East, some 181 miles southeast of Malta was our operating area for an entire month. It was here that a great part of the Sixth fleet watched and waited for results of the Egyptian-Israeli conflict. Our squadron provided day and night CAP for the U.S. fleet as well as support for the Marines evacuating U.S. Nationals from Alexandria and Cairo.



Author mounting his F9F-8 Cougar on flight deck USS RANDOLF 1956

Operating in this area the same time were units of the British and French fleets steaming to their commitments in Egypt. While airborne we were in constant contact with waves of British jet bombers and fighters flying to their operations in the police war.

This operation was my first combat experience, providing me with combat time in my pilot's log book, a silk map of the entire area as well as a silk "Blood Chit" (several Arab Dialects offering \$\$\$ in gold for my safe return) similar to those worn on the back of WWII Flying Tiger leather jackets. I never forgot one in-country mission intelligence briefing that included a rather indelicate warning concerning my well being if captured; ask me about at one of our upcoming events. During night hours RANDOLPH flew a gigantic American Flag illuminated by many flood lights. Following a month at sea and several at-sea replenishments consisting mostly bunker, Aviation and JP fuel, we finally made landfall in Naples, Italy, at last: beer, wine, fresh vegetables, and meat other than ham that had a silver sheen.

A news comment this morning said the Navy was standing off-shore Egypt; further commentary addressed the long term working relationship between the U.S. and the well equipped modern Egyptian military, that at this stage were in a "**Watch and Wait**" scenario. Beware the Muslin Brotherhood...here we go again, another Iran? Good and Bad Dictators or alternatives — Communism? Sharia Law? Over the years I have witnessed the fall of many Dictators — Batista in Cuba, Rafael Trujillo (El Jefe) in Dominican Republic and a few years later Che Guevara's attempted Coup there, then there was Haiti — Francois Duvalier (PaPa Doc) and Jean-Claude Duvalier (Bebe Doc), but that's a story for next time. ©



INSTALLATION DINNER JANUARY 20TH



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RADM Timothy S. Sullivan

VADM (Ret.) Jody Breckenridge

Installation Dinner held at the Lafayette Veterans Building



2010 SEA CADET FUND RAISER WINNERS

One of the most important activities of the Navy League is it's Youth Program - the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. In October, you received your Drawing sheet asking for your voluntary support Tickets were drawn at the annual Sea Cadet Christmas Ball held on December 19th at the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton, CA. We had a Buffet catered dinner, raffle drawing, crazy DJ and low lights for dancing. As always...the kids loved it!Here are the winners:

Grand Prize A five day four night Mexican Riviera Cruise for two from San Diego, aboard The Carnival Lines.

Mary Schaub
P. O. Box 471
Newfoundland, PA 18445

2nd Prize - NAXA 7" Digital LCD TV w/DVD Player

Agnelia Mortweet
615 Calle Wenté
Morgan Hill, CA 95039

3rd Prize - Olympus T100 12 megapixels 3xZoom Camera

Dave Frederickson 911 Coach
Stockton, Ca 95209

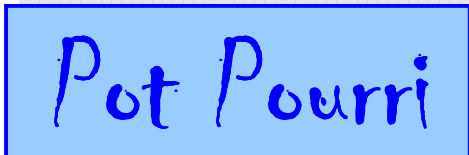
4th Prize - Galilco 12x50 Precision Binoculars

Dan Felger
560 N St. S.W.
Washington DC 20024

As in the past, we had incentive prizes for the cadets.

1st Prize - 2nd Prize - 3rd Prize - 4th Prize - 5th Prize - 6th Prize -	\$100 Bond - \$50 Bond - \$50 Bond - \$50 Bond	- Bryan McKane - Wahoo Division, PA Ian Abinsay - T.S. McCampbell, CA Larry Kimball - San Joaquin Division, CA * Taylor Jacoby - Constitution Division, MA * Owen Trent - T.S. Pampanito, CA * John Williams - RADM Parks Battalion, CA
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This year our Council donated \$619.00, so we received a check for \$309.50 as our share of the money donated. This goes into the Sea Cadet check book for their use as needed. We THANK all of you who supported our DIABLO SQUADRON NSCC/T.S.CONCORD NLCC units.



Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea - Jules Verne, Captain Nemo – Nautilus

The SIRENS, they say, had maidens' features, but from the thighs down they had the forms of birds. One of them played the lyre, another sang, and another played the flute. By these means, and by clever, knavish, and deceitful words, they persuaded passing mariners to linger, thus causing their destruction. That is why the island where they lived was full of the bones of those who had perished. The SIRENS are thought to be three, but the names given are more.... Alas there is many a salt that can confirm that fact.

Contra Costa Council Installation Guest Speaker

RADM Timothy S. Sullivan was the Guest speaker at the Contra Costa Council Installation Dinner at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building on January 22, 2011. Rear Admiral Sullivan assumed the duty of Commander, Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) in June 2009 in addition to his position as Deputy Commander, Pacific Area. FORCECOM maintains sole responsibility for the current and future readiness of the entire Coast Guard workforce, Prior to that, he was Commander, Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific. He has also served as the First Coast Guard District Commander and Commander, Maritime Defense Command One as well as the senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland security serving as the primary coordinator between the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security as well as operational advisor to the Secretary during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He is a 'familiar face' to many of us as he has spoken to us and has attended our Council functions over the past several years. The Admiral's wife, Teresa, is a member of our Council.

Where Old Ships go to Die!

From "Marine Update" by George C. Knies

Somewhere off the coast of India tonight, a small flotilla of doomed ships waits for high tide. From the shore, their forms are silhouetted on the horizon by the moonlight: a super-tanker, warship, car-ferry--nearly 20 in all. They have come from every corner of the world to this spot. In the morning light, they will fire their engines for the last time, and hurl themselves onto the beach.



Welcome to Alang, where old ships go to die.



I spend a lot of time talking about new ships, but today I thought you might be interested to know about this odd little corner of the world where so many ships end up, the granddaddy of all ship-breaking yards.

Alang is first and foremost a beach with an eccentric tidal system--high tide happens once every 2 weeks. Every high tide brings a new delivery of old ships,

beaching themselves like wayward whales. When the tide recedes, the workers descend, and the dismantling begins.



First, everything that can be detached is removed; beds, tables, ovens, carpets. Then the engines are dismantled and removed piece by piece. Then the hull and body slowly unravel one section at a time, under the blowtorches of 300 workers.

Ships are built from the bottom up, hull first, but they are chewed up starting at one end, as taller and taller cross sections are removed. Everything is salvaged--steel, pipes, ducts...everything. Much of what is removed is trucked directly to customers, and the rest ends up in a string of roadside warehouses near the beach.

Alang is one of the most dangerous places on Earth to work, with 13 deaths in the past 3 months. Workers are exposed to hazardous wastes and toxic gases from the ships they harvest, but the poor and desperate still flock there for jobs. As many as 40,000 workers dismantle more than 350 ships per year.

The shipyard discourages visitors, and photography is forbidden, most likely due to international concerns about working conditions. But I've read accounts from eyewitnesses who said the sight of one massive ship after another missing one half, insides hanging out, is both sad and awe-inspiring. This is especially true when a former U.S. Navy Essex Class carrier was the victim. Recently we have utilized our carriers as artificial reefs off the East and Gulf coasts, a more dignified end to gallant ships. ©

**Contra Costa Council
Navy League U.S.
4551 Alhambra Way
Martinez, CA 94553**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today!

I am not a U.S. Citizen *I am a U.S. Citizen*

Name(s) (Mr., Mrs., Dr. etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name		
Name of Spouse: (Mr., Mrs., etc.) First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name		
Address: Number, Street Name, (Apt., Ste., P.O. Box)		Date of birth
City	State	Zip code (+4)
Home Phone	Business Phone	E-Mail
Sponsor's Last Name Sponsor's Membership # New Member in Council		
<u>MAIL APPLICATION TO:</u> Gynithe E. La Salle		
29 Leeds Court West * Danville, CA 94526-4311		

<u>Type of Membership (Please Check One):</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual One Year Membership.....	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Husband/Wife One Year	\$85.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Two Year Membership.....	\$90.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual three Year Membership.....	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life Membership.....	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Husband/Wife Life Membership....	\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty Military Spouse.....	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate One Year (non US citizen).....	\$50.00
<u>Method of payment:</u>	
Check enclosed (Made payable to: NLUS) or	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	
Card #	Exp. Date
Signature	