

"The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

March/April, 2012

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NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES



Presidents Message

Our Council's 2012 program is off to a rousing start. Your Board met on January 28th to develop the program for this year and then, on February 23rd, our installation dinner at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. You will find a current calendar of events for 2012 further on in the Sea Chant.

For those of you who were not at the installation dinner our Council received a 2010 Honorable Mention award from National Headquarters for our 2010 support of sponsored units, donations to various sea service units, dinner events and various activities. Out of 25 Councils in No. California/Nevada, only two received National awards. In view of the fact that the award was based on events that happened on Mrs. Jeanne Sharkey's watch, we asked her to be the custodian of the plaque.

I would like to return our attention to 2011 for a moment as there certainly are several "Bravo Zulu" (at-a-boy) awards for our Council:

To all our Council members for their dynamic support of the Council Board, sponsorships, donations and dinner events. We could not have done it without you.

To the 2012 Officers and Board Members Nominating Committee. Thanks to Dick Brumbaugh and Pete Van Putten and their lovely wives for all their work in gently persuading members to accept positions on the Board.

To the 2011 Officers and Board members for all their hard work and support they have given me this past year. I truly am amazed by their enthusiasm and dedication. What a great team it is.

And last but not least, to my wonderful wife Barb. She is my mainstay, my rock.

2012 is shaping up to be a great year. We have a wide variety of events coming up to include the commissioning of the newest Coast Guard Cutter, the Dorothy Stratton by the First Lady, Michelle Obama on October 31st. This will be followed by a joint Contra-Costa and Sonoma Council luncheon at Two Rock, the Coast Guard Training Center on April 20th. Shortly thereafter, on April 26th we will hold the annual Sea Services Awards dinner at Zio Fraedo's.

Please come join us.

Jim Harbuck

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Jeanne Sharkey

Welcome New Members

Photographers



Al Romine

Ltjg Steelhamer

SPONSORS

No New members this period



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.



**Election & Installation of Officers & Directors Dinner
Captain Marc P. Lebeau, USCG guest speaker**



U.S. Coast Guard New Fast Response Cutter

The **Sentinel class Cutter**, previously known as the **Fast Response Cutter**, is part of the United States Coast Guard's Deep-water program.^{[1][2]} At 46.8 metres (154 ft) it is similar to, but larger than the 123-foot extended Island Class Cutters, like the USCGC Mata-gorda. 24 to 58 vessels are to be by the Louisiana based firm Bollinger shipyards, using a design from the Netherlands-based Damen Group, with the *Sentinel* design based on the company's Stan 4708 patrol vessel.

On March 14, 2007, Commandant Thad Allen announced that they had withdrawn from a contract for the construction of the vessels, but had not entirely cancelled the program.^{[3][4]} The new program would focus more on "off-the-shelf" technology.

Plan of the proposed USCG *Sentinel* class cutters - modified from the Damen Stan 4708 patrol vessels.

On September 26, 2008, Bollinger Shipyards was awarded US\$88 million to build a prototype.^[5] The cutter will be the first of a series of 24-34 43 metres (141 ft) cutters built to a design largely based on the Stan 4708 patrol vessels from the Netherlands firm the Damen Group.^[6] The South African government employs similar vessels for environmental and fishery patrol.^[7] The first cutter will be named USCGC Bernard C. Webber, and all future Sentinel Class will be named after enlisted Coast Guard heroes.^[8] *Bernard C. Webber* will be stationed in Miami. The *Bernard C. Webber* was launched on Thursday, April 21, 2011, and is expected to be commissioned some time later in the year.

The vessels will be armed with a remote-control 25 mm Bushmaster autocannon and four crew-served M2HB .50-caliber machine guns. They will have a bow thruster for maneuvering in crowded anchorages and channels. They will have small underwater fins, for coping with the rolling and pitching caused by large waves. They will have a stern launching ramp, like the Marine Protector class and the eight failed expanded Island Class cutters. They will be manned by a crew of 22. Like the Marine Protector class, and the cancelled extended Island class cutters, the Fast Response Cutter would deploy the Short Range Prosecutor Rigid-hulled inflatable for rescues and interceptions.^[10] According to Marine Log, modifications to the Coast Guard vessels from the Stan 4708 design include an increase in speed from 23 to 28 knots (43 to 52 km/h; 26 to 32 mph), fixed pitch rather than variable pitch propellers, stern launch capability, and watertight bulkheads.

USCGC Bernard C. Weber

Class overview	
Operators:	 Coast Guard
Planned:	58
General characteristics	
Displacement:	353 <u>long tons</u>
Length:	46.8 m (154 ft)
Beam:	8.11 m (26.6 ft)
Depth:	2.9 m (9.5 ft)
Propulsion:	2 x 4,300 kilowatts (5,800 shp) 1 x 75 kilowatts (101 shp) <u>bow thruster</u>
Speed:	28 knots (52 km/h; 32 mph)
Endurance:	5 days, 2,500 nautical miles (4,600 km; 2,900 mi) Designed to be on patrol 2,500 hours per year
Boats and landing craft carried:	1 x <u>Short Range Prosecutor RHIB</u>
Complement:	2 officers, 20 crew
Armament:	1 x <u>Mk 38 Mod 2</u> 25 mm automatic gun 4 x crew-served <u>Browning M2 machine guns</u>

Ships

On October 27, the Coast Guard released the names of the first 14 Coast Guard enlisted heroes for whom the Sentinel-class FRCs will be named. **See Next Page**



Name	Number	Builder	Launched	Commissioned	Home port	Status
Bernard C. Webber	WPC 1101	Bollinger Shipyards	2011-04-21		Miami, FL	Under construction, launched
Richard Etheridge	WPC 1102	Bollinger Shipyards	2011-08-19		Miami, FL	Under construction, launched ^[13]
William Flores	WPC 1103	Bollinger Shipyards	2011-11-10		Miami, FL	Under construction, launched ^[14]
Robert Yered		Bollinger Shipyards				Under construction

In early January, President Barack Obama at last unveiled his administration's defense strategy. With the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan ending, the new focus will be on the Asia-Pacific region. The President promised the military will be "agile, flexible, and ready for a full range of contingencies." But, as observers have been expecting for months, there also will be deep spending cuts—more than \$450 billion over the next ten years. Budgetary reduction, that sword of Damocles hanging over all defense discussions, is a now a reality—and a theme in many of our features this month.

Cutting the budget requires making tough choices, and someone always leaves the table unhappy. In an austere fiscal environment, some may view supporting functions such as professional military education (PME) as expendable luxuries. This needs to change, says Naval War College Professor Thomas Mahnken. In this issue he provides an assessment of the current condition of PME. Unfortunately, because of current attitudes in the Navy over the relevance of historical studies, and budget hawks taking aim at educational programs, Dr. Mahnken barely gives PME a passing grade amid the so-called "fog of peace."

In promoting the central importance of operational art for the successful prosecution of war, Naval War College Professor Milan Vego, *Proceedings* Author of the Year for 2011, sees an anti-intellectual bias in the U.S. Navy. He reminds readers that throughout history, the most effective commanders have been both scholars and warriors.

Navy Lieutenant Eric J. Madonia reaches into the Navy's own history to demonstrate that what served the victors of World War II so well can do the same for their 21st-century counterparts. He advises professors of military education to train students for leading at the operational level using critical thinking and logic along with wargames—returning to lessons developed by Navy officers a century ago.

But professional military education in the United States is especially lacking, warns retired Army Colonel John M. Collins, in producing individuals who have the kind of intellectual tools needed to consistently deter—or win—all types of wars. He advocates a reordering of our nation's system of strategic education and the creation of a National Security Institute.

While the shrinking budget is on everyone's mind these days (at least in the Pentagon), despite the conventional naval wisdom, the budget is not a strategic issue, but a tactical one, points out Navy Commander Michael Junge. Until the Navy recalibrates its approach, he argues, its failure to see the strategic forest for the budgetary trees will continue.

Smaller budgets also will have inevitable effects on the forces at the proverbial "pointy end of the spear." With Iran and China so often in the news and on the minds of DOD planners, it can be easy to forget concerns closer to home. But Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr. isn't about to let that happen. He reminds us that for years, the U.S. Coast Guard has maintained a presence in the icy Northern waters. And now that much of that ice is melting and the Arctic's water-routes are becoming busier than ever before, the service is seeing its mission in the region concomitantly expand. The harsh, isolated climate takes a heavy toll on equipment and personnel, and the Coast Guard will need infrastructure to support operations along the northern Alaskan coastline. It is a realm that, like any frontier, is rife with both new opportunities and new challenges.

The good news is that the Coast Guard is getting some relief for its aging fleet. According to the service's two area commanders, Vice Admirals Rob Parker and Manson Brown, the new Sentinel-class fast response cutters will be "a game changer in the littorals" and one of the most versatile platforms in the Coast Guard's history. These vessels are set to take the place of the aging Island and Protector classes of patrol boats, and then some. As the admirals say, "You haven't seen anything yet.

"Meanwhile, the Navy wrestles with its own questions on Fleet size and strength. How many ships? What kind? What missions will they perform? These are just a few of the questions naval watchers ponder. But one debate should end now, says retired Navy Captain Michael Miller and consulting executive Robert Gray. The Navy and the public are ill-served by arguments pitting the DDG-51 and DDG-1000 destroyer classes in competition. The authors call for a broader examination of how both ships can help the Navy meet its national-security obligations.

Paul Merzlak, Editor-in-Chief

America's Cup 34, San Francisco, California

John Craig has been brought on as the PRO for the 34th America's Cup and all the regattas leading up to it. If ever there was anyone qualified to take this on, it's Craig. In the 11 years he's served as the St. Francis YC's Racing Manager, Craig has orchestrated many truly world class events. And it's not as though he's done like one per year . . . most years it's more like one a month! We've helped out on Race Committee for a couple St. Francis events, and have never ceased to admire Craig's professionalism, level temperament and ability to juggle so many competing demands on his time. In Craig, the ACRM gets someone who already has well-established relationships with the Coast Guard and Vessel Traffic Service, not to mention someone who is a Bay Area resident with deep ties to the sailing community here. Congratulations to both Craig for being chosen for, and taking, the job, and to ACRM for making a slam dunk on



The proposed course for America's Cup 34 shall offer spectacular shore-side viewing for the big event. Situated between Alcatraz and the City shoreline, the race course offers up-close viewing from any number of locations along the City-front, with the marina Green and Crissy Field among the prime locations. The exact course would change depending on the weather conditions, and that a transit channel would be open along the shoreline to allow small boats and ferries access to the Bay during the 3-4 hours per race day that the restricted zone would be enforced.



America's Cup organizers eliminate major parts of development deal

America's Cup race organizers decided to cut the heart out of a proposed development deal with the city, giving up on plans to overhaul Piers 30-32 south of the Bay Bridge, Mayor Ed Lee announced today. However, the elite yachting races, beginning with exhibition matches on the Bay in August and culminating with the trophy competition next year, will go on as planned.

The America's Cup Event Authority, led by billionaire Larry Ellison, to put on the regatta, has been locked in intense negotiations with city officials on a final deal to prepare San Francisco's waterfront for the races.

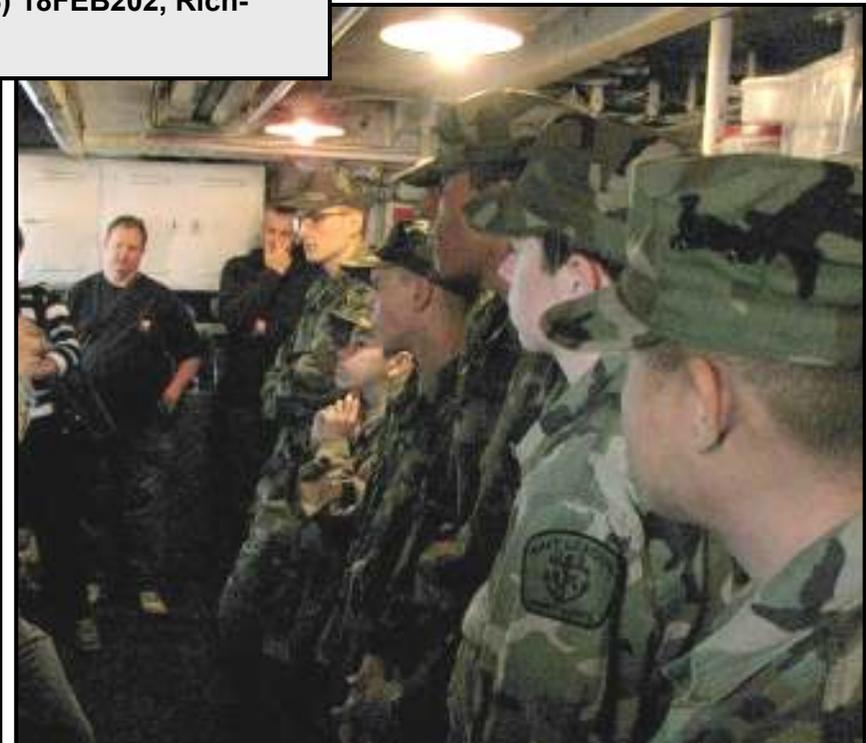
A key component of the proposed agreement was to give the Event Authority a 66-year, rent-free lease on Piers 30-32 and title to Seawall Lot 330 across the Embarcadero. In exchange, the Event Authority would pay \$55 million to stabilize Piers 30-32, a conjoined single pier on the prime waterfront location that was to be used as a home base for some of the racing teams. *Now, all of the teams will be based out of Pier 80 further south. George C. Knies*



SEA CADETS — DIABLO SQUADRON/TRAINING SHIP CONCORD



Martial Arts training (MA 1-4) 16FEB2012 at Verrett Karate; photos by LTJG Steelhammer
USS Iowa & SS Red Oak Victory tour (USS Iowa 1-3) 18FEB2012, Richmond, CA; photos by LTJG Steelhammer



Jan.	28	Annual Planning Meeting—Kiwanis Hall, Martinez
Feb.	23	Election/Installation of Officers/Directors—Zio Fraedos
Mar.		NO COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
C	31	USCG Legend Class Cutter Stratton Commissioning
Apr.	02	Council Board Meeting—USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
O	20	Visit USCG Training Center Two Rock with Sonoma Council
	26	Sea Services Awards Dinner—Zio Fraedos
May	01	Council Board Meeting— USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord (Tuesday)
M	04	Council Board Meeting— USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
	22	USCG—Station Vallejo Cookout
I	Jul.	NO COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
	04	July 4th Parades (Concord, Pleasant Hill)
N	Aug. 06	Council Board Meeting— USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
	16	ANT— BBQ USCG Station San Francisco, YBI
G	23	USCG B'Day Dinner—Zio Fraedo's
S	Sep. 10	Council Board Meeting—USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
E	Oct. 01	Council Board Meeting—USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
V	04-07	Fleet Week Activities (Blue Angels) - Aspen
E	25	USN/USMC Birthday dinner—Zio Fraedo's
N	Nov. 05	Council Board Meeting—USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
V	Dec.	NO COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
E	07	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Event
N	15	Toys for Tots— Christmas Brunch

Activity to be scheduled:

Visit to Naval Air Station—Fallon Nevada



DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mar. 11	Daylight Saving Time
Mar. 15–17	Am. Legion B'Day
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 20	First Day of Spring
Apr. 01	Palm Sunday
Apr. 06	Good Friday
Apr. 16	Income Tax Due
May 08	VE Day
May 13	Mothers Day
May 19	Armed Forces Day
May 22	National Maritime Day
May 28	Memorial Day

**Contra Costa Council of the
Navy League of the U.S.
4551 Alhambra Way
Martinez, CA 94553-4405**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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City	State	Zip code (+4)
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29 Leeds Court West * Danville, CA 94526-4311		

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