



~~~~~ **HALYARDS** ~~~~~

**CALENDAR**

March 27 – Council Dinner Meeting, Sunbird Mountain Grill & Tavern, 1700

April 4 – Board meeting, IHOP, Voyager at N. Academy

May 2 – Board meeting, IHOP, Voyager at N. Academy

May 14 - Council Dinner Meeting, Judge Baldwin's Pub

June 6 – Board meeting, IHOP, Voyager at N. Academy

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Maybe I shouldn't admit it, but my wife, Gail, and I bailed out of Old Man Winter's domain, and spent January and February at our second home in San Diego. I was available by email and phone, but the rest of the bridge watch: Bunny Blaha, Art Cyphers, and Bill Lockwood, did a great job in my absence – which I appreciate. Here's to having a good team!

I had the opportunity in February to visit the Littoral Combat Ship Independence (LCS-2), open for public tour during the WEST 2014 military conference in San Diego. What an experience! This ship was unlike any I've visited before. Launched in 2008, this 418-foot, aluminum-hulled trimaran is designed for economy of crewing – each of the Blue and Gold crews numbers about 40 sailors. The water-jet propulsion system allows for operation in water as shallow as 15' and speed bursts up to 45 knots. The air operations deck provides a home base for two SH-60 Seahawk helicopters; *Seahawks* in this case having nothing to do with the Super Bowl...



Dick Cooper visiting the USS Independence (LCS-2)  
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**RECENT EVENTS**

**2014 Board of Directors Installed**

The 2014 Board of Directors was installed at the 14 January Council Dinner Meeting. Officers elected to the 2014 Board are:

- |                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| President                            | Dick Cooper   |
| VP Finance/Treasurer, Youth Programs | Art Cyphers   |
| VP Programs, Secretary               | Bunny Blaha   |
| VP Membership, Legislative Affairs   | Bill Lockwood |



Dick Cooper, Art cyphers, Bunny Blaha, Bill Lockwood, Steve Steffey (administering the swearing in)

The 2014 Appointed Officials were also announced:

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Webmaster              | Wayne Wolfe |
| Chaplain               | Roy Bebee   |
| <i>Halyards</i> Editor | Bunny Blaha |

Also at the 14 January Council Dinner, which was held at Biaggi's Ristorante, RDML Linda Fagan, USCG, Deputy Director of Operations, USNORTHCOM, spoke to the crowd of over 2 dozen Navy League and Coast Guard Auxiliary members about the mission, roles, challenges, and coordination between USCG, NORAD/NORTHCOM and other departments and agencies in support of national defense.



RDML Linda Fagan addressing the council

Senator Bernie Herpin gave a brief history of ships named for Colorado and announced his sponsorship for a USS Colorado (USS-788) license plate. Steve Kelly, Rocky Mountain Region President and NLUS Membership Chairman, updated the attendees on Navy League recruiting initiatives.



Senator Bernie and Linda Herpin, Steve Kelly, RDML Linda Fagan, Bunny Blaha



Bob Nelson, Rene and Steve Bethke, Judy Nelson, Sue and Art Cyphers



Penny and Bill Marshall, Claudia Hunter, CAPT (USCG) Tim and Wendy Tobiasz, Jack Hunter

### Honorary Members Elected

Additional business conducted at the 14 January Council dinner meeting included a members' vote to induct Pearl Harbor survivors Jim Downing and Doug Huggins as Honorary Members of our council. See the Winter 2013 *Halyards* for brief summaries of their experiences. They will be inducted at the March Council dinner meeting.

### Council Recognizes Sailors of the Quarter

The Colorado Springs Council supported the Naval Operations Support Center (NOSC) Reservist drill weekend on 8 March. NLUS Colorado Springs Council Sailor of the Quarter certificates were presented by Dick Cooper to 5 outstanding Selected Reserve and Full-Time Support personnel. He also gave a presentation on the

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Navy League mission after which many of the attendees picked up applications!



MA2 Gregory Romain, HM3 John Rodriguez, Dick Cooper, ITC Diana Ojeda

### WHAT'S NEW

#### Council Dinner Meeting – 27 March

Sunbird Mountain Grill & Tavern. 230 Point of the Pines. Social hour: 1700, Dinner: 1800. Brief business Meeting: Induction of Honorary Members, and Council members' vote on revised Bylaws. Guest speakers: Pearl Harbor survivors. We'll order from the full menu unless there are more than 25 of us, in which case we'll order from a short menu (6 entrée options). **Please RSVP to [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 719-471-8527.**

#### Council Dinner Meeting - 14 May

Judge Baldwin's Pub, Antlers Hilton. Social hour: 1700. Dinner: Order whenever and whatever you want from the full menu. Happy Hour prices 1700-1900! Eight Colorado-brewed beers on tap and more! No guest speaker. **Please RSVP to [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 719-471-8527.**

**Anyone interested in Navy League and the sea services is welcome at Council dinner meetings! You don't have to be a member! Join us for dinner!**

#### Membership Report

The Council welcomes new NLUS members

Julio Gutierrez  
Peggy Currin  
John O'Donnell

There are currently 99 NLUS members in the council area with 20 members involved locally. Annual dues for local Council involvement are \$15.00 for single membership and \$25.00 for a family membership. We encourage everyone to become active locally in support of our mission.

#### Navy Birthday Ball – 3 October

The 2014 Navy Ball will be Friday, 3 October, to take advantage of the Navy fans coming to town for the Navy-Air Force football game on Saturday, 4 October. The Ball will be held at the Antlers Hilton. Details TBA.

### Navy League Life Membership Sale

The Navy League’s local councils and national organization are working to ensure that we remain the premier advocate for a strong and efficient national defense capability, and we need your help. The public has a great opportunity to be a part of this endeavor, because the Navy League is a civilian organization and anyone can be a member. One of the most effective ways to help further these essential goals is to become a Life Member of the Navy League. Now is the best opportunity to do so! Life Member levels have been reduced by 10% for this special initiative. After 31 March, the rates for Life Members will be increased to correspond to the yearly dues rate. The current dues scale and on-line application can be found at [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org) Just click Join/Renew!

### Sea Service Picnic – 12 July

The Rock Mountain Navy Chief Petty Officer Association has invited us to join the family picnic fun, Saturday afternoon, July 12, 2014 at the USAFA Family Park Site #2. This event is always a lot of fun, and open to all in the sea services family. Please put it on your calendar and watch for details to follow.

### Help Us Make Our Council Better

Get involved! A handful of us have our hands full coordinating and conducting our Council’s activities – and there are more things we could do in support of our mission if we had more hands! Board members could use help with: guest speakers, programs, events, youth activities, recruiting, Navy Ball, the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee, etc. You can do as little or as much as you want. Attend a board meeting to find out what’s going on and what needs doing, or contact any of us to discuss how you can help, and share your ideas!

### Navy League Needs You

NLUS is looking for volunteers for regional presidents and national directors. If you’re interested, contact Dick Cooper or Art Cyphers. For job descriptions, see [http://navyleague.org/councils/operations\\_manual.html](http://navyleague.org/councils/operations_manual.html)

### Seapower Magazines

Bring your old *Seapower* magazines to our dinners. We will recycle them and promote the Navy League mission by donating them to local sea service organizations.

## IN OTHER NEWS

### H-Bomb Test Anniversary

March 1, 2014 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the successful test of a Hydrogen device at Bikini Atoll which yielded 5 times the megatons expected or planned for. At the time, although secretive, it received

international public attention. New Council member LT Jim Downing, USN (Ret.), remembers the March 1, 1954, test well. Jim, then CO of the USS Patapsco (AOG-1), had received orders to “Steam East at maximum speed” from a routine fuel delivery at Bikini the day before. At approximately 0630 and 200 miles away, he was called to the bridge to hear the OOD report a “brilliant flash of light to the West.” Unbeknownst to the crew, the era of the H-bomb had arrived. The heavily contaminated ship arrived at Pearl Harbor and unloaded its cargo, then proceeded to the “H” Pier to receive a prolonged decontamination. The ship and crew had received over 30 times the acceptable amount of radiation. Jim has certainly experienced more than his fair share of extraordinary historic events!



USS Patapsco (AOG-1)

### Armed Forces Day - 17 May

Armed Forces Day is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May. The 1<sup>st</sup> Armed Forces Day announced the unification of all the military forces under a single department of defense. Other purposes included increasing public understanding of military service and showing the military’s state-of-the-art equipment to the civilian population they were protecting. It is also a day to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

### Memorial Day – 26 May

A wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park, Monday, May 26, at 1000.

| BOARD OF DIRECTORS     |               |                                                                        |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Officers               |               |                                                                        |
| President              | Dick Cooper   | <a href="mailto:rcooper101@gmail.com">rcooper101@gmail.com</a>         |
| VP Programs            | Bunny Blaha   | <a href="mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com">bunny_blaha@msn.com</a>           |
| VP Membership          | Bill Lockwood | <a href="mailto:bklockwood@earthlink.net">bklockwood@earthlink.net</a> |
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| VP Legislative Affairs | Bill Lockwood | <a href="mailto:bklockwood@earthlink.net">bklockwood@earthlink.net</a> |
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| Secretary              | Bunny Blaha   | <a href="mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com">bunny_blaha@msn.com</a>           |
| Immed Past President   | Rod Gardner   |                                                                        |
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