



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"



Vol. IX, No. 29

Colorado Springs Council

Summer 2015

~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

2014 #1 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

<http://www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org/>

CALENDAR

Jul 1 - Council Dinner Meeting, AFA Falcon Club, 1730
Jul 11 - Board Meeting, IHOP, 2290 Southgate Rd, 1030
Aug 8 - Board Meeting, IHOP, N. Academy, 0930
Sep 2 - Council Dinner Meeting, AFA Falcon Club, 1730
Sep 4 - Board Meeting, IHOP, N. Academy, 0930

WHAT'S NEW

Colorado Springs Council Declared Meritorious!

We knew it all along, Council members, but the Navy League of the United States has declared our Council to be one of 10 **Meritorious** Councils, of 240 Councils world-wide, in 2014. Dick Cooper, Council President in 2014, was quick to point out that the entire Board of Directors acted as a unified team: "No one ever turned down a request to help out on a project. It was as if we were of one mind."



More Good News! *Halyards* is #1 Newsletter!

NLUS announced that our *Halyards* newsletter took 1st Place among small councils for the 2014 Donald M. Mackie Award. The award honors excellence in both print and web-based communication and was named for Donald M. Mackie, an instrumental figure in establishing "Sea Power" magazine.

Both awards were accepted for the Council by Dick at an awards presentation during the National NLUS Convention in Tampa, June 17 – 21.

--- BRAVO ZULU! ---

Council Dinner Meeting – July 1

Location: USAFA Falcon Club

Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:45 pm.

Buffet w/chicken parmesan and roast beef au jus: \$30

Speaker: LTCOL Bob Hotchkiss, Commander, 11th Recon Squadron, Creech AFB, Indian Springs, NV.

Topic: UAVs/Drones

Please RSVP by 29 June to Steve Bethke at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

Anyone interested in Navy League, the sea services, or our speakers/topics is welcome at any of our events. You don't have to be a member of NLUS!

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

First, there are a couple of key events coming in early July. Our Membership Dinner on Wed, 1 July at USAFA's Falcon Club (1730) will feature a unique look at Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). LTCOL Bob Hotchkiss is one of the Squadron Commanders at Creech AFB in Indian Springs, NV, where they operate the Predators and Reapers in combat overseas. The second big July event is NOSC's "100 Years of Navy Reserves" Picnic at Ft Carson on Saturday 11 July. Details are in this *Halyards*.

The second "hot button" is Membership. The Navy League is dependent on an active Membership. You can help us reach our Membership goals for this year by signing up a new member. Bring someone to one of our dinners or events and they'll find it's always an engaging group of people.

Finally, our Theme for this *Halyards* is "Congressional Outreach." As you may or may not know, one of Navy League's core missions is to educate Congress on critical Sea Service issues. We have National and Regional Legislative Representatives, but our local Council Legislative Affairs POC is Bill Lockwood (bklockwood@earthlink.net). Bill has a great relationship with Colorado Springs Congressional Delegations, and can assist you should you want to reach out to them on your own. There is also a great Navy League resource in the "Voice to Congress" website that Navy League maintains. If you feel like contacting your Congressmen, there's a fill in the blank template for that, and THEY DO RESPOND! The website link is: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/>.

CAPT (Ret) D.A. "Roy" Rogers

Council Dinner Meeting – September 2

Location: USAFA Falcon Club

Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner seating: 6:30 pm.

Menu: TBA

Speaker: TBA

Please RSVP to Steve Bethke at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

Four Ships Presentation - July 16

Dick Cooper will make a presentation on “Four Ships Named USS Colorado” at 7:00 pm, Thursday, July 16, at the Palmer Lake Historical Society, Palmer Lake. This 25-minute presentation will take you through our state’s namesake Navy ships from the Civil War era to the under-construction fast-attack submarine USS Colorado (SSN-788). Admission is free and refreshments will be served. The presentation is in the historic Palmer Lake Town Hall. Take I-25 Exit 161, west on Highway 105 to Palmer Lake, then turn left at the ball park.

2015 Navy Birthday Ball – October 10

Save the Date! Location: Antlers Hilton. Details TBA.

RECENT EVENTS

USS Colorado Crew Visit

The commanding officer and several crewmembers of the under-construction USS Colorado (SSN-788) visited its namesake state April 28 – May 1. Crewmembers making the trip were:

- CDR Ken Franklin, CO
- ET1 Joseph Gaines, Leading Petty Officer for Reactor Control Division
- MM1 Andrew Stuhr, Reactor Laboratory/Mechanical Division
- EM2 Kyle Peterson, Electrical Division
- YN2 Joshua Craven, Yeoman

Highlights of their visit included:

- Legislative tributes in the Colorado House and Senate
- A reception at the Governor’s Mansion with military, government and business leaders of Colorado
- Announcement of the winner of the ship’s crest design contest
- A presentation by Dick Cooper of his “Two Bells” history of the 4 ships named Colorado (Spring *Halyards*)
- A tour of the Broncos facility at Dove Valley
- Visits to local schools
- A visit with the NROTC unit at CU Boulder and to view artifacts of the battleship USS Colorado (BB -5) at the CU University Memorial Center
- Dinner with commissioning committee members at the Buckhorn Exchange



Dick Cooper (L), USS Colorado Crew, Peyton Manning and Broncos

Programs

Our May 7 Dinner at the Falcon Club was addressed by two – count them, two! – well-informed speakers from USNORTHCOM. COL Brian Dietzman, NORTHCOM Speechwriter, led off, joined by CAPT Steve Mucklow, Executive Assistant to ADM Gortney. They discussed NORTHCOM’s mission and current real-world threats that they monitor and to which they respond.



COL Dietzman (L), CAPT Mucklow (R)

2015 Regional Meeting – May 15-16

The annual Rocky Mountain Region Meeting kicked off with a Gala Dinner on May 15 honoring Colorado’s USNA, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and NROTC selectees, and Naval Sea Cadets. ADM William Gortney, Commander, NORAD/USNORTHCOM, directed the keynote address at those youngsters, with a presentation which was equally informative, inspiring and entertaining!

The next day was filled with reports from Colorado, Denver, Colorado Springs, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah, and dinner. Hundreds of NLUS members, spouses and supporters attended and enjoyed a great event and comradery.



L to R: Steve Kelly, past Rocky Mountain Region President; Heidi Ruster, Salt Lake City rep; Naval Sea Cadet PO1 Alex Mueller; Naval Sea Cadet PO2 Stephen Dante; Denise Hough, prospective NLCSC member; Rachel Hough, USNA Candidate; Kay & Bill Lockwood



ADM Gortney (R) addresses USNA, USMMA and NROTC candidates

Membership

We currently have 92 NLUS members in our area and 70% of memberships expiring last month were renewed. With the termination of council dues this year, all NLUS members in the Colorado Springs area are now considered to be Council members. New local members include: Steven Hiebert, Larry Orcutt, and Tamara San Agustin. Welcome aboard, Shipmates!

Youth Programs

The Mesa Ridge Navy JROTC has earned the coveted Distinguished Unit Award for the 15th consecutive year! This award is from Naval Service Training Command, Navy JROTC Program Office.

Along with the bragging rights, the Senior Naval Science Instructor may nominate up to 5 cadets to each service academy as do senators and congressmen. Mesa Ridge has five former cadets currently at all 3 academies as a result of this powerful award. Senators and Congressmen are limited to 10 students at each academy at any time. It is possible they may only be able to nominate 1 student from the entire state in some years, so you can see how important this award may be for cadets hoping to attend the service academies.

The award period was for school year 2014-15 and was formally presented May 5th, 2015. Mesa Ridge is also the Colorado State Navy JROTC State Champions for the 15th consecutive year for overall program strength in military drill, academics and physical fitness! There are 151 cadets in the Mesa Ridge Unit! Congratulations, cadets!



Cadet CDR Zachary Jacelon, Cadet CO, and LCDR Don Pletcher, USN (Ret), Senior Naval Science Instructor

Ship's Crest Design Winner Announced

After reviewing over 140 entries, the Commanding Officer and crew of USS Colorado have selected Michael Nielson as the winner of the Senior Division Ship's Crest Design Contest. Michael hails from Arvada and is currently an Ensign in the Navy undergoing Nuclear Power Training in Ballston Spa, New York. His design will be made into the official ship's crest.



Support Colorado's Submarine!

The USS Colorado (SSN-788) Commissioning Committee raises funds for Commissioning Week social events, supports and maintains a connection with the crew for the life of the boat, and sponsors crew visits to Colorado. Your donations and support are welcome!

<http://usscoloradocommittee.org/>



Deborah Zeller, VP for Public Relations

New Board Member

In June, Council President Roy Rogers appointed Deborah Zeller to fill the vacant Vice President for Public Relations position through the remainder of 2015. Debbie is an Ohio native and staunch military supporter. She has lived all over the country as an Air Force brat and Navy wife.

During her 27 year tenure as a military spouse, she actively supported commands' ombudsmen as well as the spouses and families of the ships' crews. While in Connecticut, Debbie developed a guide to assist ombudsmen in their performing their roles. She served as treasurer of a military spouses' association and helped facilitate the 25th anniversary reunion of the USS Gato (SSN 615). She became a Navy Leaguer in Georgia. Deb is delighted to be a member of the USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee and an active member of Colorado Springs Council.

Debbie is a nationally certified school nurse with a Master of Science degree in Nursing. In keeping with her spouse's frequent reassignments, she has been employed as a registered nurse in a variety of clinical and administrative settings.

Debbie has been an invited guest speaker at state and national conferences and has been recognized at the state and national level for her service as a nurse leader. She now enjoys being a health consultant and member of HopeNET's medical advisory board. She hopes to apply skills gained as president of a state nurses' association to enhancing public relations and community outreach for this Council.

Debbie moved to Colorado Springs last summer to join her husband, Randy. They have a daughter and son who attend college in Virginia.

Welcome aboard, Deborah!

IN OTHER NEWS

Navy Reserve Centennial

Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Fort Carson kicks off their observance of the Navy Reserve's 100th anniversary on July 11, with a picnic, fun and games for the general public in Iron Horse Park at Fort Carson, noon to 4 pm. Volley ball, tug-of-war, ultimate frisbee, bounce house, face-painting, and more! Team registration is open until July 1. POC: PS2 Richardson, morgan.richardson@navy.mil, 526-2964. Join us for a good time and good food!

Veterans Cemetery

Congressman Lamborn announced at his March Veterans Advisory Board meeting that a contract has been let to a local Veteran-owned firm for the design of the new VA cemetery at Rolling Hills Ranch. The first burials at the cemetery are expected to take place in 2018. Reservations are not being taken.

Honor Guards

Bunny has compiled a list of honor/color guards available in our local area for military funeral honors, ceremonies, etc. Contact her at bunny_blaha@msn.com or 471-8527 if you would like a copy.

Dinner & A Rodeo – July 3

The Pikes Peak Chapter of MOAA invites current, retired and former officers of the 7 uniformed services, their families and friends to a western buffet dinner and the Ride for the Brand Ranch Rodeo on Friday, July 3! Location: Norris Penrose Arena - Hank's Club Terrace Buffet: 5:30-7 pm. Rodeo: 6:30 pm Adults: \$28; Children (6-12 years old): \$14 Reservations: <http://www.ppcmoaa.org/Chapter-Events> Questions? Email or call Bunny Blaha at 471-8527

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