



NAVY LEAGUE

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



Vol. X, No. 33

Colorado Springs Council

Summer 2016

HALYARDS

2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Jul 9 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Aug 6 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy
Sep 7 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, PAFB Club
Sep 10 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner Meeting – September 7

Location: The Club, PAFB

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

Price: \$25

Meal Options: London Broil, Chicken Cordon Bleu

Speaker: TBD

Please **RSVP** by **August 31** to Steve Bethke at stbethk@aol.com or (719) 359-3710.

2015 Outstanding Council

At the NLUS Annual Meeting in Charleston in June, it was announced that Colorado Springs Council was once again selected an Outstanding Council! Thanks to everyone who makes us "small but powerful!"



2015 #2 Small Council Newsletter

Also announced this year: our Halyards newsletter was recognized as the #2 Small Council Newsletter for 2015.

New Honorary Member

At the June Council dinner, the Council voted to make Daniel T. Griffin an Honorary Member of the Council. Griffin, of Colorado Springs, was the first Coloradan and possibly the first American killed in WWII on Dec 7, 1941, prior to the attacks on Pearl Harbor. He and his PBY crew were shot down while trying to take off from Kaneohe Bay after sighting approaching Japanese aircraft. Griffin was strafed and killed as he swam to shore.

New Members

Welcome aboard to new members: Christa Moen, Steven Hiebert, Carl Klotzsche, Tom Robison and Brian Bell.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this finds everyone into summertime fun. Below are a couple quick points to emphasize as you get into this quarter's Halyards.

First, congratulations are in order to our Colorado Springs Council for achieving "Outstanding Council" status for 2015. Your support of our activities made the award happen, and we were one of only 12 Councils selected, out of 260 world-wide!!!

Second, as I've mentioned before, NLUS has initiated an "Electronic Membership" which includes all the normal privileges, but the "Sea Power" magazine is delivered electronically instead of via snail mail. The cost is only \$25 a year, so sign yourself or a friend up today. Click on: <http://www.navyleague.org>.

Third, we've decided to push our next Membership Meeting to 7 September to de-conflict with summer activities. Watch the website and your emails for more details.

Finally, it's not too early to save the date for a couple of fall activities you won't want to miss. First is the USNA-USAFA Football Game at Falcon Stadium on 1 October. We are planning a tailgate party. Second is our annual Navy Birthday Ball – 15 October at the Hotel Elegante. Expect a lot more details on both.

CAPT (ret) Roy Rogers

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!



RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

USNORTHCOM 2015 Sailor of the Year

At our April Council dinner, Roy presented a SOY award to IS1(EXW) Kyle Wilson in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and exemplary performance at NORAD-USNORTHCOM/J24AP. Well done, Petty Officer Wilson! (See photo below.)

PCU Colorado (SSN-788) Crewmembers Visit

Also at our April dinner, were PCU Colorado crew members LCDR Stephen Col, Executive Officer, ETR1 (SS) Kurt O'Donnell, MMA2 (SS) Jason Lawrence, and EMN2 (SS) Luke O'Day. LCDR Col spoke about their visit to Colorado, the newest Virginia Class submarine, its modular construction, and its personnel. Upon entering the Naval fleet, this will be the fourth vessel named for the State of Colorado.

The boat has just passed its pressure hull completion milestone and is to be commissioned in 2017. While in Colorado Springs that day, the crew's activities included touring Garden of the Gods, speaking at Harrison High School and visiting with the ROTC folks. After lunch at Phantom Canyon, they spoke to classes at the Pikes Peak Prep Charter School K-12 and visited the Olympic Training Center.



(L to R), EMN2 O'Day, LCDR Col, ETR1 O'Donnell, MMA2 Lawrence, IS1Wilson, Leyna Wilson

Naval Sea Cadets

April dinner attendees also welcomed guest speaker Wayne Victor, a retired Naval Officer and media consultant employed at *The Gazette*, who presented insights into the media-military relationship.

Victor also discussed the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps which introduces teens to seamanship, naval history, STEM, and military instruction. Upon high school graduation, a high percentage of cadets join the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. Victor's key message was that the youth who experience the Sea Cadet program are enriched, well-trained individuals who learn to demand the best from themselves and others. He advocated for Spring 2016 *Halyards*

establishing a Naval Sea Cadet unit in southern Colorado because it is good for the youth and the country. Anyone interested in assisting with a local Naval Sea Cadet unit is encouraged to contact any Board Member.



Wayne Victor (center) addresses Council April dinner

IN OTHER NEWS

Local Tie to PCU Colorado

William Gregory, LTJG, USN, the son of Tom Gregory, CAPT, USN (Ret), an active NLUS member and local Blue & Gold Officer, graduated from NROTC at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute (RPI) with a major in nuclear engineering and reported in April to PCU Colorado (SSN-788). Well done, LTJG Gregory! We're all proud of you!

Tom and wife, Mary, also have a son, Matthew, in the Marine Corps Reserves who is selected to attend the Naval Academy; a son, Thomas, in NROTC at Embry-Riddle in Florida who wants to fly for the Navy; and a daughter, Elizabeth, in Army ROTC at Norwich University in Vermont. Keep 'em coming, Tom!



Tom Gregory and son, William, at his commissioning

Crewmembers Visit with Local NJROTC Cadets

PCU Colorado crewmembers were back in town in May for activities including the USAFA graduation. On May 31, Widefield High School NJROTC cadets and Doherty HS NJROTC cadets hosted four crewmen, received a briefing by the crew and asked good questions. The cadets were most impressed by a new bit of knowledge: one of the controls on this under-construction new submarine is an actual X-Box controller! The cadets could relate to that and were very enthused about it!

NOSC Family Picnic

Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson’s annual picnic on June 11 at the USAFA picnic grounds was a well-attended, fun event with great food, prizes and a bouncy castle. The highlight of the day was a moving retirement ceremony for BMC Chris Ortiz.



NOSC picnic attendees

USS Colorado Commissioning Committee Event

While crewmembers were visiting Colorado, the Commissioning Committee hosted a huge, exciting fund-raiser/reception on April 8 at Balistreri Vineyards in Denver. Retired Vice Admiral Jay Donnelly gave a presentation on Virginia Class Submarines. John Felder, noted Colorado landscape photographer, discussed his photographs of Colorado scenery, some of which he is donating for murals in the Crew’s Mess. Sponsors for the event were Balistreri Vineyards, Left Hand Brewing and the Navy League Denver Council.



(L to R) Bunny Blaha, Rivet Diagre, Elizabeth Boardman, Deborah Zeller, at Balistreri Vineyards event



(L to R) John Felder, Dick Cooper, ETR1 O’Donnell, MMA2 Lawrence, EMN2 O’Day

Spring 2016 *Halyards*

Colorado Military Taptoo Returns in 2016

The Colorado Military Taptoo will return to Colorado Springs with an inspiring, patriotic military entertainment spectacle that includes military bands, precision drill teams, dancers, singers, and the international massed Pipes & Drums.

Event Date: Saturday, August 27, 2016

Times: 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Venue: Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts
190 South Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs

Tickets and Info: <http://www.heroshow.org>

Navy-Air Force Football Game – October 1

Don’t miss the big event at Falcon Stadium! To purchase tickets in the USNA Parents Club block of seats close to the Midshipmen, go to <http://ev12.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro>. Then type in the promo code COLORADO. There is a seating preference box within the promo code; however, anyone who is purchasing through the group does not need to input anything in that box. **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! ORDER NOW - THE BLOCK WILL GO FAST!**



NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL 2016 – OCTOBER 15
SAVE THE DATE! DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

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