

# Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S MARINES, SAILORS, COASTGUARDSMEN,  
US MERCHANT MARINERS & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1963



## THE ROPE YARN GAZETTE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2019

### Scheduled Meetings:

The Patio Restaurant, Yuma CC

18 APR : GENERAL MTG 6 pm

Yuma Aviation  
Update

16 MAY : GENERAL MTG 6 pm

NL Scholar  
Awards

JUN : POT LUCK BBQ 6pm

### Upcoming Events:

AUG 24-26: NL's ANNUAL SAN DIEGO  
ADVENTURE

- FRI: Tour Navy (1300-1500)  
+ fine dining downtown
- SAT: Del Mar Races,
- SUN: Fun Brunch at the  
Brigantine, SD



GUARDIANS SHOW THEIR  
USMC SPIRIT IN PAINT *PG.8*



NAVY LEAGUE GENERAL MEETING  
RETURNS TO MCAS *PG.4*

Guest speaker: Mr. John Courtis,  
Director Yuma County Chamber of Commerce



### MARCH 2019

#### President

Dean 'doc' Hager

#### Vice President

Bob Nidiffer

#### Treasurer

Marie Michael

#### Secretary

Karen Nicklaus

#### Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

#### Membership

Bill Bonsky

#### Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Bob Nidiffer

Shawn McKeown

Chuck LeDrew

Rochelle Holman

Carol Underhill

#### Scholarship Committee

Nancy Ramsey

Rochel Thompson

Dean Hager

#### Questions / Comments?

#### Letters to the Editor?

#### Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

## 2019 AUGUST TRIP PLANS UNDERWAY FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS & GUESTS

Yes, it's that time again and your Council August Adventure Team is hard at work getting reservations, lodging group rates, and of course those nice Del Mar Races shaded tables at the finish line.

We are working with the Navy's Assault Craft Unit-One to establish another seaward tour of San Diego Bay and NAVSTA San Diego. Stand by for that as we work with their new PAO.

Members and guests should have info for reservations by early May.



### 2019 Yuma Navy League's San Diego Adventure

#### Friday, August 23rd



**Beat the heat!**



#### Navy League Tour!

(USN Assault Craft Unit – One)

- Tour: 1300 (1pm) > 1500 (3pm)
- Transport to USN Amphib Base
- Embark on Assault Craft. & Tour SD Harbor and Naval Station San Diego

#### Evening Dinner: SD Fun!

Friday Night Stay  
Holiday Inn, Bayside  
Group rates

#### Saturday, August 24th



#### A Day at the Races

- Del Mar, CA (\$25.00 /seat)
- 11am > 4pm (close)
- Shaded table group seating
- Valet parking at Del Mar Track
- Website: [www.dmtc.com](http://www.dmtc.com)

Saturday Night Stay  
Holiday Inn, Bayside  
Group rates

#### Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>



#### Sunday Brunch

- 1100 (11:00 am)
- East County off I-8

## ***COUNCIL EVENTS 2019***

Now that we have had our voting complete and have an authorized budget for 2019, scheduled donations and award events will soon begin. Members (YOU) are invited to attend and are encouraged to do so.

From sea cadet awards/scholarships nights - to cash donations for our adopted commands and youth programs, it's a great way to see where your fund raising dollars are ending up... and maybe even receive a nice "THANK YOU."



**Schedule of Events - Spring/Summer (subject to change):** Dates will be sent via email notification as they are firmed up throughout the year .

### **DONATION & AWARD SCHEDULE:**

28 MARCH \$411.00 MCAS YUMA Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron (H&HS)  
BARRACKS WALL MURAL COMPETITION.  
13 APR \$500 TERRITORIAL YOUNG MARINES AT MCAS  
18 APRIL \$1,000 YUMA NAVAL SEA CADET PROGRAM AT GENERAL MEETING  
25 APR \$1,000 N&MC RELIEF AT THEIR OFFICE, MCAS  
16 MAY \$3,000 2019 NL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLAR AWARDS AT GENERAL MEETING

### **EVENTS:**

mid MAY MC JROTC NL MEDALS & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS , KOFA HS  
27 MAY MEMORIAL DAY EVENT AT SEA TO SEA BRIDGE, YUMA AZ (0700)  
mid JUN SEA CADET AWARDS DAY, NL MEDALS & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS  
04 JULY MARINE, SAILOR, SOLDIERS OF YEAR AWARDS, YUMA AF PARK (0700)  
23—25 AUG YUMA NL's SAN DIEGO/DEL MAR TRIP.. BRING SOME FRIENDS ALONG!!  
01 SEPT 9-1-1 REMEMBRANCE EVENT - LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED  
06 SEPT YUMA NSCC COMMITTEE MEETING, YUMA AIRPORT BOARD ROOM (1500

### **DID YOU KNOW....**

**EVERY YEAR'S NEWSLETTERS MAY BE READ or PRINTED**

at:

**<http://www.yumanavyleague.com/>**

*Click on main page's "NEWS"*





**The 2019 NL 'Crusin Yuma' car show** had a record turn out. 110 cars, great music, and good eats. Sponsored by our Fortuna de Oro RV Resort, the event went a long way in supporting our JROTC college scholarship awards. See everyone next year!



Sailor & Marine Memorial Project

**MCAS YUMA Memorial Project:** Back in 2018, our Board of Directors determined that the existing memorial to fallen Marines and Sailors on board MCAS Yuma was getting a bit weathered and required remediation or relocation. A design was created and proposed to the air station's leadership with great results. Green Light! A team of Navy league members, base engineer, architect, and I&L Director was assembled to put the plan together for a new station flag pole and 12 ft steel Iwo Jima silhouette to be directly east of the Headquarters building. With the commanding officer's support, we hope to have a ground breaking by mid-2020. Your Navy League Council will continue to work community support issues and is dedicated to see this \$225,00-plus project through. More to come.. Stay tuned. **OooRah!**

**COUNCIL RETURNED to MCAS - contin.** The 2019 March general membership dinner meeting marked our first time in decades our organization had the authorization to meet onboard our first adopted command, Marine Corps Air Station (MACS), Yuma. It wasn't for command desire, it was strictly the costs associated with obtaining a catered meal and small room at the combined club. Fast forward fifteen years or so, and voila!.. thanks to the CO and recent changes to the club management and oversight, our Council was once again able to meet onboard MCAS. And, it was wonderful! Great food (good bar) in a wonderful sea services setting. With full tables, members were treated to a presentation from John Courtis who got everyone up to speed in what our Chamber of Commerce and the Yuma 50 organizations are doing for MCAS and our local marines. 2019 will see our own Yuma Council join the Yuma 50 in a collective approach towards team lobbying in support of MCAS Yuma.

**Yuma 50 membership: another way our small council can continue to punch above our weight!**



**Kofa MCJROTC Spring Crucible Skills Challenge & “Commandants Own” Visit****SPRING EVENTS. YOUR NAVY LEAGUE WAS THERE!**

Spring in Yuma never lacks for events to show Navy League pride in our adopted commands.

First up, veterans (and our Council liaison to Yuma's JROTC) were invited to watch local Kofa King MCJROTC cadets compete in a skills competition involving physical and close order drill skills. Its always fun to talk with the young men and women, and hear how this program is making a difference in their lives.

Next, was the annual visit to MCAS Yuma by the Marine Corps Band and Silent Drill Team. Nicknamed the “Commandants Own”, they commence their tour schedule right here in Yuma; offering several performances throughout the County. Navy League members always are welcome for shaded seating at these events. To ensure all members get invitations to public events such as these in the future, your Board has updated our email distribution list w/the CO's secretary and will provide updates as required.





FEB: As luck would have it, Yuma's skies parted, the sun shone, and thousands of local citizens took the opportunity to watch military demonstrations, enjoy music performances, and check out a myriad of displays and information booths aligned along downtown Yuma's main street.

Yuma Families, veterans of all eras, active duty Marines and Soldiers, all mingled together in a celebration of Yuma's historic connection with our armed forces. From explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) robots to historic displays by the AZ Buffalo Soldiers, Mesa Detachment; to K9 dog and martial arts demonstrations; to local musicians and free meals for veterans and active duty (courtesy of our Yuma Mission and Yuma 50), there was something for everyone this day. And, do not forget the APS sponsored kids play area! Thanks for the bounce houses, guys.

Started by two Navy League members six years ago, Y-MAD has growth from 1 block to the entire length of Main Street and continues to grow a bit each year thanks to the support of the Chamber of Commerce and city of Yuma. Now, coordinated by the Chamber's MIL Affairs Committee, we can't wait for next years' event!

To all 2019 participants,  
**Bravo Zulu!**



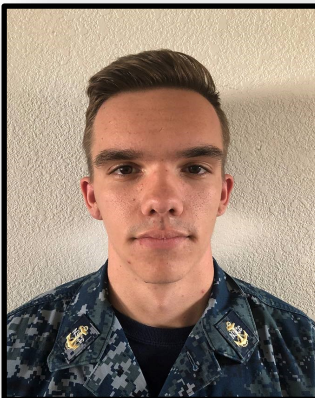
Left: Yes, we have National Sea Services in the desert southwest! Your Navy League ensures community awareness of our great sea services w/ displays by our Submarine Assoc, battleship USS Arizona replica, and great coordination with our active duty Marines - promoting & supporting!



## YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE



### ***MARCH: YUMA SEA EAGLE CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CARSON BLAKE SELECTED FOR INNAURAL NAVAL SEA CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.***



**"It is difficult to become a good leader. Younger people look up to you and you are more of a role model than you think. You must find new and efficient ways to motivate people to get your unit through the day."**

**-Chief Petty Officer Carson Blake**

This week-long immersion in Leadership and Ethics for our nation's top naval sea cadets will be an exciting journey of self - discovery, discussion, and debate with U.S. Naval Officers and Senior Enlisted personnel. Cadets will visit hallowed ground, walk historic sites, tour The Yard at the U.S. Naval Academy, be privy to behind-the-scenes politics and engage with

historians, authors, and explorers. Cadets will also experience the tradition of the Chief's Mess and land the Space Shuttle Discovery with the shuttle's former pilot and commander in the simulator with them. They will practice their leadership skills, learn new skills, and expand their networks. They will consider other perspectives throughout history, question "what we know - and how we know it". They will maintain their physical fitness with Pride Runs to pay their respects to those who have given their last full measure of devotion to keep us all safe and free. Finally, graduation will include a ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. in front of family, friends, and dignitaries.

### ***FEB: YUMA NL COUNCIL ADOPTS NEWLY ESTABLISHED UNIT; TERRITORIAL YOUNG MARINES***



While the Yuma Council has been a sponsor of Yuma's Young Marine (YM) program for decades, the Board of Directors and general membership agreed that, in light of this program's recent growth in leadership and training opportunities, a more robust support mechanism was worth exploring. Luckily, the League has adoption protocols - therefore, as of March 2019, the NLUS has formally adopted the Territorial Young Marines. This allows for increased communications, stronger financial ties, and yet another way the Yuma Council can support their success. With the recent initiative to support youth programs from air station CO, Col. Suggs, the Territorial Young Marines join our Naval Sea Cadets in training on board MCAS, Yuma. **BZ, Young Marines!**



CDR Solina (Director, Station I&L), scores the OP Enduring Freedom Theme



Sr. officer and invited VIPs check their scores



VIPs L>R: Mr. Koopmann (MCCS), Mr. Hager (Pres, NLUS Yuma), Mr. McShane (Ops)



MCAS CO, Col David Suggs addresses his Marines on job well done.

**H&HS CONTIN..** MARCH: In an effort to promote pride in their barracks, Squadron SgtMaj Casillas arranged for three decks to create, produce, and display their own individual murals—each constructed around a specific theme picked by each team. As luck would have it, due to the Commandant pulling all maintenance funds to assist east coast housing repairs from last years hurricane damage, the marines of H&HS found another opportunity to adapt and overcome. Smart marines: they called their Navy League! The next day (Sunday), saw each decks NCO meet with the Yuma NL council at the big box store; walking away with over \$400 of paint and materials. Coupled with some self-procured material and a lot of after-hours sweat, murals were painted on each deck and ready for judging on time.

Each deck's team did an outstanding job, however only one deck could receive the 'big Kudo' as top barracks display— This time, Deck Three rose to the challenge. **Bravo Zulu** to all Marine participants!

## NAVY LINGO.... WHERE DID THE TERM *ROPE YARN* COME FROM?

One afternoon per week at sea, usually a Wednesday, was reserved for mending uniforms and personal chores. Since it was an afternoon for rest from usual job assignments, much like Sunday, it was dubbed "rope yarn Sunday." Today, uniforms require less attention so rope yarn Sunday has been turned into other purposes; such as catching up on local gossip, catching a nap or taking early liberty.



***KNOW YOUR YUMA MARINES  
ADOPTED COMMAND 1965 —MCAS YUMA***



***COMMANDING OFFICER, HEADQUARTERS &  
HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, MCAS, YUMA AZ  
LTCOL JAMES PAXTON, USMC***

LtCol James C. Paxton attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, LtCol Paxton was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and reported to The Basic School in July of 1999. After completion of The Basic School, he attended primary flight school in Pensacola, FL and then intermediate and advanced flight school in Meridian, MS. He was designated a naval aviator in July of 2002. He reported to the Fleet Replacement Squadron, Marine Fighter Attack (Training) VMFAT-101 in Miramar, CA to learn to fly the F/A-18 in August of 2002 and completed training in October of 2003.

In October 2003, LtCol Paxton reported to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 212 aboard MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. During his time with VMFA-212 he conducted joint and multi-national operations and training on mainland Japan, Australia, Korea, Thailand, and Okinawa. He assisted with relief efforts in Medan, Indonesia in early 2005 after devastation caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. He attended TOPGUN in Fallon, NV in 2007 and was designated a Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor.

In June 2008, LtCol Paxton attended Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) in Quantico, VA where he had the opportunity to serve as president of his class. Upon graduation from EWS in 2009, LtCol Paxton moved to MCAS Cherry Point where he transitioned to learn to fly the KC-130J at the Aviation Training Unit and was subsequently assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252.

In January 2011, LtCol Paxton was assigned duties as the Air Tasking Order Development Officer in Charge of Regional Command Southwest, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). He completed Command and Staff non-resident seminar in June 2012.

After serving as Assistant Aviation Maintenance Officer and Aviation Maintenance Officer of VMGR-252, LtCol Paxton deployed with 4 KC-130Js and 88 Marines to Regional Command Southwest in support of OEF where he had the opportunity to serve as Detachment Commander from January to July 2013.

Returning from deployment in 2013, LtCol Paxton was selected by the Commandant's Professional Intermediate-Level Education Board (CPIB) to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio to earn a master's degree in Aeronautical Engineering. In April 2014 LtCol Paxton reported to the United States Naval Academy where he served as an Instructor of Aerospace Engineering.

In June 2018, LtCol Paxton was assigned duties as the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) in Yuma, Arizona. He is married to the former Lonnie Hamilton of Harmony, PA. They have six children, Kieran, Taegan, Bron, Cael, Laevyn, and Gard.

***WELCOME TO YUMA, LtCol PAXTON & FAMILY***

## NLUS YUMA COUNCIL

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nlusyumacouncil.org

American liberty is built on a  
strong national sea service.

"Speak softly and carry a big stick;  
you will go far"  
US Pres. T. Roosevelt

We're on the web!  
www.nlus-  
yumacouncil.org

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### MISSION TASKS OF THE YUMA COUNCIL

1. SUPPORT SEA SERVICE ACTIVE DUTY, VETERANS AND FAMILIES.
2. PROMOTE THE NEED FOR STRONG NATIONAL SEA SERVICES.
3. SUPPORT YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: YOUNG MARINES, MCJROTC, NAVAL SEA CADETS, NAVY LEAGUE CADETS

### YOUR YUMA NL COUNCIL "WALKS THE TALK"

In 1965, the Yuma Council adopted it's first command, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. Since that time, several base reorganizations have occurred. Currently, in-garrison adoptees include both MCAS Headquarters Staff and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). H&HS is responsible to the Base CO for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to keep it running as a small "community within the community". Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. With assistance from roughly 1,200 civilians who work aboard MCAS Yuma, they work to keep the station operational through the efforts of a variety of units and sections. Adopted sections include air traffic control, airfield operations, administration, logistics, range management, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, combat camera, aircraft rescue and firefighting, military police, postal, legal, public affairs, search and rescue, financial operations, and the dining facility.

Other adopted units include the USNS YUMA (EPF8), MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic, MCAS Branch Dental Clinic, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, US Navy League Cadet Training Ship Sandburg, Yuma Territorial Young Marines and the MCJROTC, Kofa HS.



***You do not have to be Veteran to join our Council!***

***THE US NAVY LEAGUE IS OPEN TO ANY  
CITIZEN WHO WANTS TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.***

***JOIN IN 5 MINUTES online at:  
<https://portal.navyleague.org/membership-join>***