

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 2, ISSUE 4

OCT - DEC 2015

Scheduled Meetings:

JAN 21st: GENERAL MTG

6 pm

FEB 18th: GENERAL MTG

6 pm

MAR 17th: GENERAL MTG

6pm

Upcoming Events:

Jan 23rd: Annual NL Car Show

March 12th: NAS El Centro Air Show
w/Blue Angels

April: NASA Tour, Orion Space
Capsule, Yuma Defense
Contractors Complex

Yuma's Naval Sea Cadet Corps Color Guard Debuts at local Veterans Day Parade



YUMA COUNCIL BREAKS OLD DECEMBER HOLIDAY RECORDS!

Each year, council members volunteer their time to ring Salvation Army bells as well as gather gifts in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. 2015 saw our council team with Yuma's Sea Eagle Squadron to take over two (2) store fronts for the entire day. In addition, "TFT" Boxes were obtained for both NSCC Yuma Sea Eagles Squadron cadets and NL council members. The results? Wow. Council members, you can be very proud as we broke our previous one day's donation record for a total of over \$1,600 for children in need. In addition, we have already exceeded our toy box allotment from last year and have notified the Marine Reserves to forget boxes - but bring a trailer! It will be a very Merry Christmas for many Yuma kids.

THANKS TO YOU ALL!



DEC 2015

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Bill Bonsky

Treasurer

Rochelle Thompson

Secretary

Patti Michael

Master at Arms

Bob Maytum

Community Outreach Crew

Bill Bonsky, Chair
Barney Baraka, MAC
'doc' Hager, MCAS
Gary Tomlinson, Sea
Cadet Charities

Neptune Council Chair

Henry Chavez

Scholarship Committee Chair

Nancy Ramsey

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council
PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366

Email:

nlusyuma@nlusyumacouncil.org

FROM THE QUARTERDECK

~ a message from the President, NLUS Yuma Council

Dear Fellow Yuma Council members,

In the beginning of this year, we heard from MCAS Yuma's Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron Commander on the evolving role the Navy League plays in helping young sea service families when their active duty spouse is deployed far from home. We obtained a clear understanding of today's problems affecting our active duty and their families and where we could best focus our energies. To that end, 2015 saw a greater Yuma Council on-base presence, an adoption of the MCAS Yuma's Branch Dental Clinic, and direct family support of a young marine killed in the line of duty. Our fund raising efforts paid off well, with significant monetary donations to MCAS Yuma's single marine program (SMP), the station's Summer Swim & Pizza Nights, MCAS Navy & Marine Corps Relief... not to mention all those Birthday Ball cakes!

But we could not stop there. With an ever increasingly diverse and economically strapped population focused more on the daily basics of providing for loved ones, it is paramount that service organizations such as ours rise up and offer a helping hand. A key Navy League mission is the character development of our next generation and their education regarding both our rich naval history and the value of maintaining a strong, robust family of national sea services. Our council's recognition of student success with NL Yuma Scholar Awards was a great way to start. We then continued on to financially support our 140+ MCJROTC cadets, Yuma's Young Marines, and take the leading role in standing up Yuma's first Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit - The Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron! Thanks also to our Neptune Council, this year we doubled the number of Council Business Sponsors. Due to your efforts, our council is on track to donate a record twenty two thousand dollars this year back to our sea service community. For a small council - wow!

As 2015 draws to a close and we prepare for another challenging year, our new President and Board are well positioned to continue the Navy League's mission here in Yuma. As you have heard many times before, it's not what we say - it's what we do that is important. I personally want to thank each and every member who took the time to ring a salvation army bell, sell a few T-shirts, coordinate a concert or car show, or help us fund council charitable programs.

To you all - **Bravo Zulu!**

Dean D. Hager 'doc'
CAPT, MSC(FMF), USNR ret
2015 President, NLUS Yuma Council





HIGHLIGHTS ~ OCT - DEC 2015

YUMA VETERANS CENTER provides keynote speaker for October's Meeting:

October's general meeting saw Ms. Delphine Hamilton educating our membership on what the Yuma Vets Center does. The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include WWII and Korean Combat Veterans. The goal of the Yuma Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. On April 1, 2003 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs extended eligibility for Vet Center services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and on June 25, 2003 Vet Center eligibility was extended to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations within the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. On August 5, 2003 VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi authorized Vet Centers to furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel. *Thanks, Delphine.*

2015 NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL / OCT: This years Birthday event included plenty of Navy League activity. First, the Dental Clinic held announced to all in attendance the formal adoption of their unit by the Yuma Council. Then our sponsored speaker, HMCN William Wagner USN ret, stood at the dais and provided the keynote address. That's two speakers of the last three Balls. wow! The Wagners also joined our council - WELCOME!

MCAS Battle Color Ceremony / NOV: MCAS Yuma CO, COL Martinez USMC (shown L), provides a rousing speech to all in attendance. To our surprise and gratitude, the Yuma Council was singled out in the VIP acknowledgments as part of the MCAS family. At left, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Alexander Camacho, a corpsman with the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron search and rescue (SAR) section at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., rappelled out of a UH-1N Huey helicopter to deliver the ceremonial sword; with which COL Martinez cut the 240th Corps Birthday ceremonial cake provided (of course) by your Council.



WTI at Yuma / OCT: This fall saw Marines takeover Yuma's Kiwanis Park to take part in a non-combatant evacuation (NEO) exercise. The NEO provides students and instructors with realistic training that is consistent with missions performed abroad, in support of deployed forces. The exercise presents many scenarios that include food distribution, on-site medical care, physical security, force resupply and extraction. Exercises like the NEO prepare Marines to become tactically proficient in evacuation missions and enhances their ability to succeed while deployed to culturally-diverse locations around the world. "WTI is a course designed to train the trainer," said Col. James H. Adams, commanding officer of Yuma-based Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1. "We take these individual men and women, enlisted and officer, and get them up to speed with techniques and procedures we use on the battlefield. We send them back to their units to be the highly trained and skilled trainers for their units."

For nearly three decades, MAWTS-1 has hosted WTI courses in Yuma. The unique relationship the unit has with the community makes it one of the most important courses in the Marine Corps.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS - NOV 2015



VETERANS DAY PARADE 2015



VETS DAY NOV:

This year saw the largest Veterans Day parade in many a year with over 124 entries. The Yuma Council sponsored a large portion, including both the submarine SS Barbell and USS Arizona battleship replicas. The mighty Arizona gathered the best Patriotic Display Award for 2015.

Our NSCC Yuma Sea Eagles also were received with much applause from the crowd as recruits escorted both naval floats and cadets marched in formation. Leading the way was the Yuma Council membership followed up by the Sea Eagles' color guard in their first public outing.

Parade organizers, American Legion Post 19, was impressed with how the League's participation has grown and have invited us to lead our own Sea Services Division in 2016 - with JROTC, Young Marines, and our own Yuma Sea Eagles all together. Cool!

We had a great time - thanks to all of you and see you next year!



Our ladies had another great time during the Vets Day parade!



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS - DEC 2015

Yuma Military Appreciation Day

DEC: Yuma city planners decided January's Military Appreciation Day was so much fun, let's do another in December!

As one of this event's founders, the Yuma Council again set sail to support "Yuma-MAD" by sponsoring a large central display; including the SS Barbell submarine display and info booths for the Navy league, the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, MC JROTC cadets, Arizona Western College's Veterans Association, and Veterans Service Officers from Am. Vets Post #2.

We were fortunate to be close to both Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and the martial arts demos. Thanks to our active duty marines and personnel from the US Army's Yuma Proving grounds for great displays.

A good time was had by all... plus Henry says our beer booth actually made money!



New Board Sworn In DEC:

Yet another year is done and, as is customary, a new President and Board of Directors was sworn in by our member Emeritus, Mr. Joe Montoya, at our general meeting, DEC 17th.

With 2016 just around the corner, our Board will be knee deep in establishing organization liaisons, committee chairs; smoothing an annual budget - plus "that car show" January 23rd. Oh, and don't forget we need a new scholarship committee by January - time to Volunteer Now!

Let's make 2016 the best Navy League year yet!

Pictured L>R: VP Valerie Millsom, President Bob Nideffer, Secretary Maria "Patti" Michael, Adjutant Bob Maytum, and VP-at-large Mike Perry.





NAVY LEAGUE NOTES (FYI) - DEC 2015

Navy League Foundation

The Navy League Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Navy League Foundation awards scholarships to high school seniors who will attend college in the fall. Navy League Foundation Scholarships are available only to children and grandchildren of former

members of the Sea Services and those currently serving as well as members of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Awards are for \$2,500 each year for four years. The application deadline is March 1, 2016. More information can be found by contacting:

Stacy McFarland development@navyleague.org

or call (703) 232-5595/(800) 356-5760.

Have 'lil ones? Grandkids? Well, Santa can be tracked on your PC!!!

Tis the season for NORAD to track Santa. This is a wonderful opportunity for children who believe in Santa to experience tracking Santa on the internet and/or to call into a Santa's helper to see when Santa will arrive at their home.

WEBSITE: <http://www.noradsanta.org>---has a wealth of information including games, movies, music, stories that can utilized now. Don't wait till Christmas eve to view the site!!!

Phone number: [877-446-6723](tel:877-446-6723) (operating from 24 Dec 5 AM EST to 5 AM EST, 25 Dec)

via e-mail: noradtracksanta@outlook.com (operating from 24 Dec 5 AM EST to 5 AM EST, 25 Dec)

This is a really fun activity and if by chance you ever have an opportunity to be a Santa's helper at NORAD, you will have a great time. After all Santa doesn't come unless the child is asleep. Magic words for all!!!

Put the word out!!! Our third Annual Cruisin' Yuma Car Show charity event!



Where?

FORTUNA DE ORO
RV RESORT

What?

LIVE MUSIC, BBQ
DRAWING & 50/50
CASH GRAND PRIZE

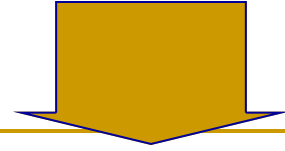
When?

0900 - 1500 (3pm)
SATURDAY
23 JAN 2016



Investing in the
Navy-Marine Corps Team

**NEW NAVY LEAGUE
INITIATIVE!**



During times of war and peace, United States naval forces play a unique role in defending our national security and projecting American force, influence and assistance around the world. Forward-deployed naval forces play a crucial role in countering threats from our enemies, promoting regional stability and responding to humanitarian crises.

The Department of the Navy is able to engage in numerous and diverse missions because it is flexible and forward-deployed. The fleet can quickly go anywhere and can work from international waters, uninhibited by foreign authority. The Department of the Navy will always respond with an enthusiastic “can do” whenever asked to take on a mission.

We are at a *Breaking Point*

We are concerned that if the Department of the Navy is required to continue to respond to crisis after crisis without the funding needed to build new ships, repair old equipment and provide routine maintenance to existing equipment, the nation risks permanent damage to our national defense and negative impacts on the domestic and international economies that rely on the safety and security that U.S. sea power provides. By many measures, current funding levels do not meet the Navy’s needs. The Navy’s Fiscal Year 2015 30-year shipbuilding plan clearly shows the Navy needs \$10 to \$15 billion more each year than it is currently set to receive in order to sustain a fleet able to address existing security needs, much less allow any expansion of Navy missions in the future. In addition, the Navy and Marine Corps need to “reset” the fleet after more than a decade of war operations and restore weapons inventories depleted in recent conflicts. These shortfalls all point to the need for more Navy funding.

Next Steps

The Navy League of the United States, as a nonprofit sea service advocacy group, is embarking on a new 16-month grassroots campaign, “America’s Strength: Investing in the Navy-Marine Corps Team.” Our goals are to increase the Navy’s top line budget to enable the Navy-Marine Corps team to:

- Build and maintain the 308 ships required (an increase from 289 today).
- Continue to provide vital combat support to our forces wherever they may be engaged.
- Update and maintain existing aircraft, invest in new designs and continue with critical modernization programs.
- Restore the fleet maintenance schedule that has been badly disrupted by 13 years of war combined with severe reductions in the number of ships.
- Invest in the next-generation capabilities necessary for the Navy to remain relevant in the future.

For more information, contact Sara Fuentes, Staff Vice President, Governmental Operations & Administration: sfuentes@navyleague.org

HELP OUR NAVY/MARINE CORPS !

WRITE A LETTER TO CONGRESS. CHECK OUT TEMPLATES at <http://www.americas-strength>.

**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

**PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366**

ADDRESS HERE

OUR GRATFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR MAJOR 2015 SPONSORS - SEMPER FI !!



E-mail:
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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-
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**THE YUMA COUNCIL , NLUS WISHES YOU ALL
A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY**

SEMPER FI!