

Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



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

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The Rope Yarn Gazette

A TIME FOR THANKS. A TIME FOR GIVING.

Even for a small Council such as here in Yuma, the holiday season brings a renewed vigor to our members in supporting scheduled events, presenting sponsored donations, and (especially this year) adapting to unexpected opportunities.

Our Fall began by donating \$1,000 to our fellow MCAS Yuma Sailors Birthday Ball and MCCS Yuma Marine family Christmas events. Our thanks to Bob Englehardt alerting us of a young Marine son's situation allowing us to coordinate a last-minute gift opportunity from "Sailor Santas" (see Pg 7).

Community service continued with our Council providing hundreds of wreaths for veterans graves at Sunset Vista Cemetery alongside Young Marines and Naval Sea Cadet volunteers (thanks Winnie Moir). Earlier this December, we saw council members ringing the bells for Red Kettle donations with Naval Sea Cadets to another single day's charity record. To cap the month, a team will be acquiring over a dozen Service flags to be presented and mounted in each veteran Sailor and Marines room at Yuma's recently opened Veterans Home (see Pg 7).

While most of these events were annually scheduled, our Council also had the unique privilege this year of proposing and subsequently co-hosting the Tunnels to Towers (T2T) 9-11 mobile display with the city of Yuma (see Pg 2). The generosity of Mayor Nicholls, his city staff and local first responders was rewarded with over 3,100 citizens having the opportunity to experience the museum for free. It was a reminder to everyone to give thanks for both our active duty and local fire/police/medic responders for what they do each day in service to Yuma and our nation.

Ed.





YUMA, AZ

DEC 2023

2023 Council Officers

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Nancy Ramsey

Treasurer

Rochelle Thompson

Secretary

Winnie Moir

Judge Advocate

Bob Engelhardt

Membership

OPEN

Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Arlyn Duval

Mike Swift Jr. & Sr.

Scholarship Committee 2023

N. Ramsey

R. Thompson

Winnie Moir

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Please contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

NAVY LEAGUE CO-HOSTS 9-11 DISPLAY



Escorted by over 50 veteran motorcyclists, fire trucks, ambulances, and law enforcement vehicles with lights blazing, the T2T 9-11 display "Never Forget" rolled into downtown Yuma for a two day stay. No group was more excited to watch the approaching motorcade than Navy League Yuma Council members assembled on Main Street.



L>R: NL's 'doc' Hager and YFD Captain Evancho provide remarks during opening ceremonies.

"We heard about this display and discovered it had not been in AZ since 2014 and never to Yuma, according to Yuma's Council President Dean 'doc' Hager. "After doing our homework, we contacted the T2T folks and found them to be excited that a southwest city would love to be a regional host for the museum."



1st Shift, L>R: NL's Winnie Moir, Bob Engelhardt, 'doc' H, Arlyn Duval, and Mike Swift Sr. Not pictured: Nancy Ramsey, Joe and Bob Jungers, and Rochelle Thompson

So, proposal in hand, 'doc' met with Mayor Nicholls, and with his blessing, partnered with city and county departments, established a working team and helped make it happen. A big *Bravo Zulu* to our city events coordinator and Yuma County Fire and law enforcement professionals!

Our council established the display truck's escort with local and veteran motorcycle groups, managed the crowd flow, dispensed water when needed, and ensured the lines moved smoothly. Active duty MCAS Marine volunteers assisted the rig's operator in setting up and tearing down the display in typical Marine professional fashion. *Semper Fi.*



Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron cadets looking sharp

We were overjoyed to see so many citizens and families experienced a slice of living history. According to the Mayor, city hall still is receiving positive reviews of this event... and now, it appears there is a desire for a repeat visit at a future MCAS Yuma Air Show. *BZ, Yuma!*

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP? Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy. You can log in to NL National's web page to check. ...even RENEW on-line right there!

QUESTIONS?: Email us via yumanavyleague.com or even attend a general meeting, they're open to the public. Meetings are always advertised on our Facebook page.
Current member renewal question?: contact 'doc' Hager.

**2023 DONATION EVENTS**

NAVY & MC RELIEF, MCAS YUMA:	MAR	2023 - COMPLETED!
YOUTH PROGRAMS (3):	APR	2023 - COMPLETED!
OSBORNE JONES SCHOLAR AWARD	APR	2023 - COMPLETED!
SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM:	OCT	2023 - COMPLETED!
MCAS NAVY BALL:	OCT	2023 - COMPLETED!
YUMA CHILDRENS BURN FUND	DEC	2023 - COMPLETED!
MCAS CHILDRENS GIFT(s)	DEC	2023 - COMPLETED!

KEY COUNCIL EVENTS

13 DEC	HOLIDAY DINNER / GIFT EXCHANGE, WEST WINDS, RV RESORT, 1800-2000
16 DEC	WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - DISTRIBUTION ON SITE VOLUNTEERS
20 JAN	EVENT: NAVY LEAGUE'S <i>CRUISIN' YUMA CAR SHOW</i>
25 JAN	GENERAL MEETING, WESTWINDS RV RESORT, 1800 - 2000
07 FEB	EVENT - IMPERIAL COUNCIL'S BIG STEAK NIGHT w/"BLUE ANGELS"
29 FEB	GENERAL MEETING, WEST WINDS RV RESORT, 1800 - 2000
16 MAR	EVENT: COUNCIL HOSTS YUMA MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY, 0900 - 1500
28 MAR	GENERAL MEETING, WEST WINDS RV RESORT, 1800 - 2000

**YOUR NAVAL TERM OF THE DAY: BELLS**

Bells: Naval method of indicating the time of day aboard ship, usually over the 1MC. One bell corresponds to 30 minutes past the hour. Bells will only be rung as a single strike, or a closely spaced double strike, with a maximum of eight bells (4 sets of 2). Bells repeat themselves every 4 hours. For example 2 sets of 2 bells, followed by a single bell (5 total) could be 0230, 0630, 1030, 1430, 1830, or 2230.

Also a method of requesting speed changes from the Engine Room using the Engine Order Telegraph (EOT), normally from the Bridge. (example: 1/3, 2/3, Full, Standard, Flank, B1/3, B2/3, BI, BEM)



The 2023 NAVY BALL was well attended



Sea Eagles' First aid training



Veterans Day MCJROTC color guard



FALL 2023: The US Navy Birthday Ball was a huge success this October with Yuma Naval Sea Cadets in attendance for the ceremonies. The month was capped off by cadets experiencing the 9-11 mobile display. In November, scheduled youth leadership training commenced with performance awards being presented to both our sponsored MC JROTC and Young Marines. Our Sea Cadets, Young Marines and MC JROTC color guards also looked sharp for the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Top regimental unit for 2023, our Territorial Young Marines also saw their commander, Roy Davis, recognized as the region's top volunteer.

Congrats to all!

In addition to council members hosting community events, we got to enjoy the company of our air stations new Medical Officer-in-Charge LCDR Kevin Hoang, MSC/OD, USN at our November general meeting. It is always nice to get a current heads up on clinic taskings and hear of future changes that could affect retirees and active duty alike. Members commented to LCDR Hoang on the increased pharmacy service as "very much appreciated" and that the clinic always appeared shipshape.

The evening's proverbial "icing on the cake" was meeting Marine Air Group-13's Group Flight Surgeon, LCDR Catie Cole, MC, USN. Aviation medicine is a primary support activity for our tenant wing squadrons - one the medical personnel execute very well at the Group Aid Station (GAS). The GAS is co-located within the stations medical spaces and services the aviation medicine needs of the co-located Marine Corps squadron personnel and their families. Preliminary discussions were held that evening concerning possible adoption of the GAS. This would include all medical support personnel assigned to VMFA-122 "Flying Leathernecks", VMFA-211 "Wake Island Avengers", VMFA-214 "Black Sheep", VMFA-225 "Vikings", Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron VMU-1, Aviation Logistics Squadron MALS-13, Marine Wing Support Squadron, and the MWSS-371 "Sand Sharks". Stay tuned shipmates!

DEC: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & ORNAMENT GIFT EXCHANGE: Our annual Christmas Dinner at the West Wind RV & Golf Resort did not disappoint! Well attended w/tables full, end-of-year business was efficiently conducted with 2024 Officers elected and future events unanimously approved.

2024 Officers are: President Dean 'doc' Hager, Vice President Nancy Ramsey, Treasurer Rochelle Thompson, Secretary Winnie Moir, and Judge Advocate Bob Englehart. Community Liaison changes for 2024 has Mike Swift Jr (LT Col, USMC ret) transitioning from Young Marines to MCAS Yuma and 'doc' Hager and Arlyn Duval managing our youth programs support tasks. Great work - Happy Holidays!



This summer, MCAS Yuma hosted yet another change of command. **Welcome the air station's new CO, Colonel Jared K Stone, USMC.**

Col Stone attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a 2ndLt in 1998. Upon completion of the Basic School in June 1999, 2ndLt Stone was assigned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, FL for training as a Naval Flight Officer. After completing follow-on training at NAS Whidbey Island as an EA-6B Electronic Countermeasures Officer (ECMO), 1stLt Stone reported to Marine Electronic Attack Squadron 4, aboard MCAS Cherry Point. While assigned to Cherry Point, he deployed with VMAQ-4 and VMAQ-2 in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH; Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; and for a Unit Deployment Program (UDP) rotation to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

In 2004, Captain Stone executed orders to MAWTS-1 at MCAS Yuma, AZ. While at MAWTS-1 he served as an instructor in the EA-6B division, as the Electronic Warfare subject matter expert in the Aviation Development Tactics and Evaluation (ADT&E) department, and he augmented multiple fleet squadron deployments in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Leaving MAWTS-1 in 2008, Captain Stone reported to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Texas for conversion training as a Naval Aviator. While in Corpus Christie, he was promoted to Major and winged as a Naval Aviator in August 2009.

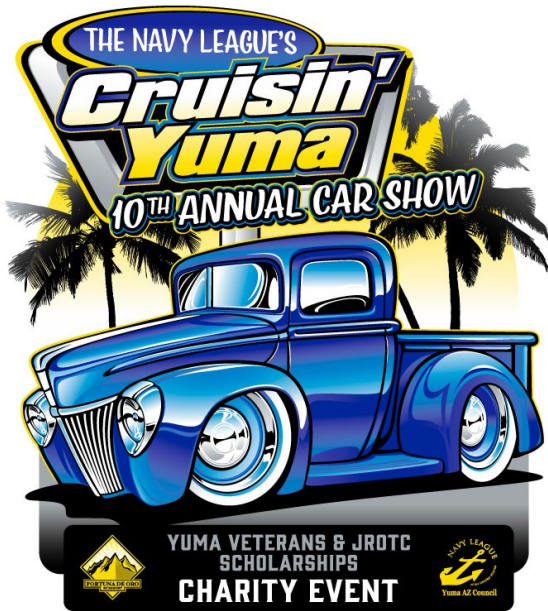
After completing training in Corpus Christi, Major Stone reported to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for KC-130J training and follow-on assignment to VMGR-352. He was then assigned to an Individual Augmentee (IA) billet as the Camp Commandant for the Marine Corps site command at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan he flew in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM with VMGR-352 det-A. After returning from Afghanistan, Major Stone served at VMGR-352 as the Aircraft Maintenance Officer, deployed to Djibouti Africa as the 11th MEU Detachment Officer In Charge (OIC), and served as the squadron Executive Officer.

In July 2013, Major Stone reported to U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart Germany. He served as a Team Chief in the AFRICOM Joint Operations Center (JOC) and then worked as special assistant to the Commander of U.S AFRICOM, in the Commander's Action Group. During this assignment, he was awarded an additional MOS as a Foreign Area Officer, completed Joint Command and Staff College (JPME II) in Norfolk Virginia, and was promoted to LtCol.

In July 2016 LtCol Stone moved to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point to take command of the KC-130J Fleet Replacement Detachment (FRD). At the FRD, LtCol Stone was responsible for all initial and refresh training for KC-130J pilots and aircrew and served as the KC-130J NATOPS model manager. At the completion of this tour in 2019, LtCol Stone executed orders to Newburgh, New York to take command of MAG-49 Detachment B, Site Command Stewart.

In 2021 Col Stone was promoted to his current rank and executed orders to the Marine Corps War College, followed by orders to Headquarters Marine Corps to serve as the Current Operations Officer at Capabilities Development Directorate, DC CD&I. While in this position he was selected to command MCAS Yuma.

Col Stone's personal decorations include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air Medal Single Mission Award with Combat "V", Air Medal Strike Flight with numeral 8, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal.



Cruisin' Yuma Car Show: Once again our friends at Fortuna de Oro RV Resort have laid out the welcome mat for our council and our Great Car Show charity event. Scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, local auto clubs are already planning on making this another full-to-busting celebration of all things automotive! Applications will be available in both paper and electronic versions starting this October.

- 120+ hot rods, classics, muscle cars
- Live music, BBQ, T shirts
- 50/50, silent auction
- Free to public

Funds raised this year are targeted to JROTC college scholarships and local sea service veteran families-in-need.



Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Air Show: Always a favorite, MCAS Yuma will be opening up its flightline to the public Saturday, March 9th, for a great all day event. America's largest aviation training base for fleet marine expeditionary forces and our allies, it provides a wonderful opportunity for sea cadets, young marines, and our MCJROTC cadets to showcase themselves, recruit, and assist in event support.



Yuma Military Appreciation Day (Y-MAD): Wow, what a spring! Immediately following the USMC air show, Y-MAD celebrates its return, Saturday, March 16th, to main street after several years of COVID cancellations. Fun Fact: Two Yuma NL council sea service veterans founded Y-MAD w/the city in 2015.

A great celebration of Yuma's military history, current displays from Army/Navy/Marine Corps commands, and on-site services helping local veterans, Y-MAD has been a great community family event. For 2024 our Council, partnering with over 50 local veterans service and support organizations, active duty Marine Corps and Army commands, is taking the lead to bring this back in full swing! Can't wait. **Oooo Rah!**



Blue Angels "Big Steak Night": Hosted by the Imperial CA NL Council, the annual USN Blue Angels meet and greet is scheduled for February 7th. Yuma NL members usually attend and this next year is no different with two tables of Yuma Council members signed up.

What has become an institution is that Yuma always hosts the USMC C-130 pilots. Always a great time swapping stories and getting to know the 2024 Blue Angels staff.

LAST MINUTE WISHES FULFILLED



Fm Pg 1 A Nice Holiday Story: We received word just last week from the local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter that a dozen active duty Marine families had been identified as in need of assistance to ensure all their children had a Christmas gift. After each family was "adopted" for this task, it was discovered one boy (of a family of three and 1 vehicle) still needed a bicycle to get to school.

Seeing this as an easy fix, we contacted our Yuma Submarine Veteran shipmates and, as partners, provided the bike. Glad to help. Thanks to our local DAV and base chaplain in allowing us to help make someone's Christmas a bit brighter.

FLAGS FOR SEA SERVICE VETS

Fm Pg 1 As a member of Yuma's Military Affairs Council, we were contacted this December by Yuma's AZ Veterans Home to see if we could help them out. Recently, resident sailors asked if they could have a US Navy flag on their room wall. A brief visit to the facility was all it took - of course we can help! So, after the holidays, we'll have a council team purchase US Navy and USMC flags for each resident. Hmm, think we better double check to see if we need a Coast Guard flag as well. We'll keep everyone in the loop for a group visit when flags are ready for delivery.



NLUS Yuma
 PO Box 393
 Yuma, AZ 85366

**Thanks to our 2023 -24 partners
 in our mission to support our sea
 services, veterans and JROTC**



LODGE 476



AMERICAN VETERANS OF YUMA

E-mail:
 nlusyuma@
 nlusumacouncil.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*

Respect



**DEC 16th: Yuma's active duty Marines
 and Sailors join with Young Marines and
 Naval Sea Cadets in support of
 Wreathes Across America ceremonies
 at Sunset Vista Cemetery. Wreathes
 were placed on every veterans grave.
 BZ everyone!**

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