



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 3, ISSUE 3

OCT 2016

Scheduled Meetings:

The Patio Restaurant,
Ave A Yuma, AZ

20 OCT: General Mtg 6 pm

17 NOV: General Mtg 6 pm

DEC (tbd): Holiday Party 6pm

Upcoming Events:

13 OCT: Navy Birthday Celebration,
BHC MCAS Yuma

15 OCT: League's Dinner Concert

10 NOV: MCAS Birthday Celebration

11 NOV: Veterans Day Parade

DEC: Holiday Bell Ringing



YUMA NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL OFFICIALLY ADOPTS SHIP & CREW: USNS YUMA (EPF-8)



August 2016: 33 Yuma citizens braved the flood waters of western Louisiana and gulf humidity of Mobile to participate in the christening of the Navy's latest ship to bear the name YUMA. A fast transport to be assigned to our Military Sealift Command, the YUMA will be manned by approx. 23 civilian merchant marine crewmen - whose compliment can be augmented as necessary by active duty U.S. Marines and Sailors.

During the VIP Reception (August 19th), senior Sealift commanders and Yuma's Mayor Nicholls were on hand to witness our council's formal adoption of the YUMA and her crew.

For more, see page 6



"DINNER IS SERVED"

Yuma Naval Sea Cadets serve up tasty meals for deploying U.S. Marines and their families.

See page 4



OCTOBER 2016

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Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

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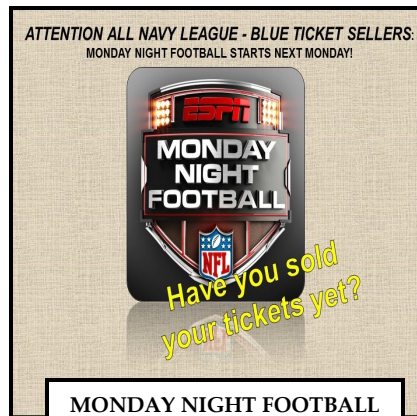
LOOKING FORWARD - PLAN TO GET BUSY!

With the temperature's cooling off and everyone returning home, our fall season is upon us... and what a season to look forward to! Our football fund raiser is almost sold out and final preparations are underway for our second dinner "Concert under the Stars." November has the League participating in the Vets Day Parade for Year 4 - alongside our Navy Sea Cadets, MCJROTC; and USS Barbel and USS Arizona replicas - plus experience the Marines annual birthday of the Corps celebration on the MCAS parade field. What fun! ..and don't forget to plan for taking a few hours for Bell Ringing again with cadets for charity this December.

See you at the events! Ed.



CONCERT UNDER THE STARS
1260 S. AVE 4 1/2 E, YUMA AZ
SAT - OCT 15th, 2016



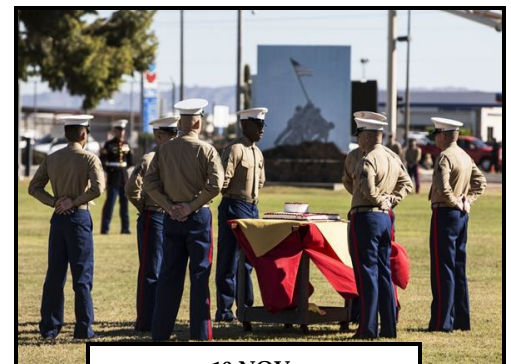
**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
FUND RAISER**



NL CAR SHOW
FORTUNA DE ORO RV RESORT
SAT - JAN 21ST, 2017



**11 NOV
YUMA VETS DAY PARADE**



**10 NOV
USMC BIRTHDAY EVENT**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ~ JULY>SEPT 2016

NL AUGUST TRIP San Diego, CA





NAVY SEA CADETS ~ A BUSY SUMMER

JULY: Even though the sun was a scorcher these summer months, our Navy Sea Cadets were busy, busy, busy! New recruits traveled to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton for recruit training (RT) - their boot camp. More seasoned cadets traveled to facilities in Southern Utah and central California to attend advanced training in STEM-related subjects. Several cadets studied underwater robotics of the "Sea Perch" program; building their own submersibles. Other cadets kept their studies above the waterline with subjects like computer defense "Cyber Patriot", unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and Rocketry. Once back, they shared their experiences with our younger / newer cadets. In addition, August saw most cadets taking advantage of our summer's "down time" in hosting a successful fund raiser car wash plus a full day visiting the USS Midway (CV41) in San Diego!

For more photos, check out: www.facebook.com/navyseacadetsyuma



MEALS (contin. From page 1): SEPT: Community Service for our cadets is a privilege - as helping others demonstrates a commitment to our community and instills a positive feel to helping others w/o reciprocity. This summer, American Legion Post 19 and the Yuma Mission asked for help in providing family dinners for Marines and family members of MWSS-371; the unit was soon to deploy overseas. After days of calling local groups, only one youth group responded: your Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron! Face painting and inflatable "bouncers" were provided for the little ones, and 800 spaghetti dinners were provided over the four day event. **BRAVO ZULU, Everyone!**



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED - USS ARIZONA RESTORATION



APRIL - SEPT 2016: Invited by the National Park Service to appear again in Pearl Harbor HI for the 75th anniversary of the Dec 7th attack, the pressure was certainly on for YUMA's owner, Mrs. Sartain! The miles and Arizona sun had certainly taken their toll with stress cracks, a hull delaminating, and faded paint throughout.

Remembering the enthusiastic reception our community gave her last Military Appreciation Day; she turned her attention to Yuma for help. So, enter the new team of volunteers headed up by the Navy League Yuma Council. Hearing of

her need, no time was wasted. Within one day, a wonderful group of "can do" folks was assembled right here in lil' old Yuma. COX INDUSTRIAL SERVICES provided work spaces and great tradesmen for body and paint. RELIABLE TRAILER SALES helped with fixing the ship's three axle trailer (No brakes!) and SONJAS BANNERS PLUS donated decals for the hull numbers. Head cheerleader and overall project manager throughout the summer was our own 'doc' Hager.

To make this a truly Arizona State project, youth leadership programs from around our region were invited to participate. Our own YUMA SEA EAGLE SQUADRON (US Navy Sea Cadets) hosted volunteers from El Centro CA and Tucson AZ sea cadets, plus Yuma's own MCJROTC for tens of hours of community service sanding the superstructure. Arizona Navy League members from Phoenix and Yuma contributed cash directly to the ARIZONA's 501c3 to offset unforeseen repairs (major hull repair and those darn trailer brakes).

But, how can one get this big ship to Hawaii? While the replica was being restored, 'doc' canvassed every avenue to find a sponsor who would assist the Arizona's transport to Pearl Harbor. Pacific Rim shipping firm MATSON NAVIGATION stepped up and absorbed all costs/fees for the ship's transport as a donation to the Navy League of the United States (approx. \$25,000). Thanks to the generosity of MATSON, Mrs. Sartain will see her BB39 transported via sea once again to the National Park Service's USS Arizona Memorial Park for a December 7th Remembrance; plus our very own Yuma Sea Cadets will be her honor guard for the event's parade in Honolulu. So now it's September - hundreds of man hours, tons of sandpaper and sweat later, we're done! We repaired USS YUMA and got her Pearl Harbor Day transport funded. Yuma and the Navy League can be justifiably proud that, because of our citizens' can-do attitude our State Icon will sail again (on her trailer) for years to come.

HEADS UP !!

BB39 will return for the YUMA VETERANS DAY PARADE, 0900-1100, 11 November.

Members: Make Plans to be in the parade with fellow Navy Leaguers!

A "re-commissioning" will be held at Am. Legion Post 19 immediately following the parade.

USNS YUMA CHRISTENING

The USNS YUMA, is the eighth of ten (10) Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels (formerly joint high speed vessels, or JHSV) and was constructed in Mobile Alabama by Austal USA under contract with the U.S. Navy as part of a \$1.6 billion block-buy contract.

EPF 8 is a 338-foot shallow draft aluminum catamaran and a multi-mission, non-combatant transport vessel characterized by high volume, high speed, and great flexibility. It is able to transport 300+ Marines and their gear, or 4 M1A1 Tanks, or special operations missions of various kinds. It is the fourth U.S. Navy ship to be named Yuma as a tribute to the residents of the Arizona city and their close ties with the military. When Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus officially named EPF 8 "USNS Yuma" in April 2014 he said, "...with her ability to operate in areas that might be otherwise inaccessible, USNS Yuma may well be the only part of America, and her Sailors the only Americans, some people in the world will ever see."

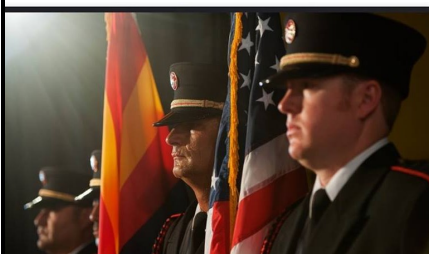
Prior to the Saturday christening, a VIP dinner reception was held Friday night. Key members of Austal USA, the US Navy, US Military Sealift Command, and Mayor Nicholls spoke while participating in a "stepping the mast" ceremony. Next, the ship and "plank owner" crew was formally adopted by Yuma's NL Council. Participating in the event was council representative, Dean Hager, Yuma Mayor Nicholls, and USNS Yuma's skipper CAPT Gommo, MSC. CAPT Gommo stated he will ensure to maintain a close relation with Yuma as the ship readies for it's transfer to active service by years end.



National sponsor of YUMA's christening, Secretary Janet Napalitano with Yuma AZ council's Dean Hager (CAPT, USNR ret) and Mobile AL Council President Terry Gillbreath (CAPT, USCG ret).



Champagne bottle broke 1st try!



Yuma's Fire Fighter Color Guard looked sharp!



ADOPTION SUCCESS

Commander of the USNS YUMA, CAPT Gommo (MSC), stands with Rear Admiral Thomas Shannon (USN), Military Sealift Command and NLUS' representative 'doc' Hager during the formal NL adoption proceedings. Adm. Shannon voiced his support of periodic visits by CAPT Gommo to Yuma AZ for NL council updates on our latest ship to bear the name YUMA.

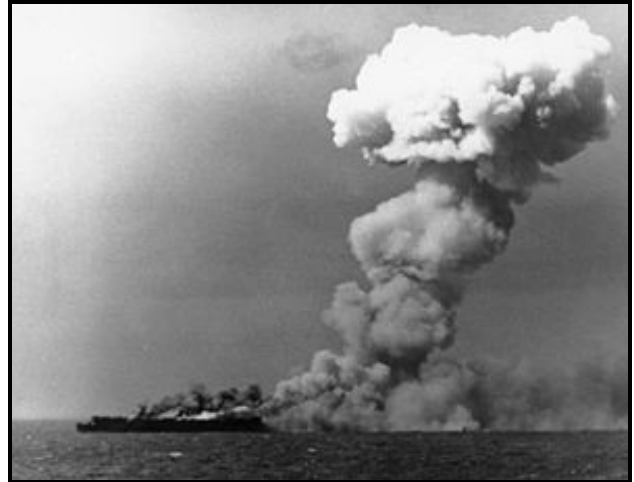


September 14, 2001 (9/11)

The hospital ship *USNS Comfort* is activated and sent to Pier 92 in Manhattan to help with the medical needs following the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center.

Naval History Slice

October 23–26 **Leyte Gulf** - US invasion of the Philippines produces a decisive battle with the Japanese fleet including four main actions - the Sibuyan Sea, Surigao Straits, off Samar and Cape Engano



The light aircraft carrier *Princeton* on fire, east of Luzon, 24 October 1944.



All Navy League members are encouraged to take the time and read the Navy League's annual Maritime Policy Statement. To truly be an advocate of strong national sea services, all of us must be versed in the facts and be "citizen spokespersons" when the opportunity presents itself.

NLUS Maritime Policy

The sea services in April 2015 published their revised "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower," and the National Security Council has released its "National Security Strategy." The Navy League and its members must help Congress and the public understand the negative effects of budget caps and the indiscriminate across-the-board cuts of sequestration to the sea services — in terms that people outside the military can understand.

How do I get up to speed on this Navy stuff? No problem! To read the full report, check out:
<http://navyleague.org/files/legislativeaffairs/maritime-policy-statement.pdf>

The League's policy statement is produced by the League's Maritime Policy and Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Analyses and recommendations in the Maritime Policy Statement are derived from multiple sources, including the expertise and decades of experience of our members themselves, open source materials, and public information from the seagoing services.

NLUS YUMA COUNCIL

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**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

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Your YUMA NL COUNCIL

In 1963, 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, and US Navy League Cadet Training Ship Sandburg. Supported units include Yuma Young Marines and Yuma MCJROTC.

YUMA NAVY LEAGUE MEMBERS:

**COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR
VETERANS, NAVY SEA CADET CORPS
AND MC JROTC.**

**YUMA VETERANS DAY PARADE
NAVY LEAGUE IN AUTOS**

**POST PARADE BREAKFAST
AT BURGERS & BEER**

