



THE HELM

Western Connecticut Council Newsletter

Volume 2013 Issue 1

January 2013

Roosevelt speaker at dinner

Inside this issue:

Rebuilding Together	2
SEAL RDAC party	2
Sea Cadet news	3
USS Churchill news	4
Membership	4
NJROTC update	5

Mr. Ted Roosevelt IV was our speaker at the Council's Annual Meeting and Holiday Dinner at The Red Barn Restaurant on December 11th. He is the great grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, who was instrumental in supporting the Navy League shortly after it was formed in 1902. Our speaker served as a Navy officer with Underwater Demolition Team 11, including two tours of duty in Vietnam; and then with the State Department as a foreign service officer. He is currently Managing Director at Barclays Capital.

His engaging presentation and knowledgeable answers to questions from the floor were well received by the large gathering.

Also at this event, members voted for 2013

Council officers and Board members (see complete list on page 5).



Speaker Ted Roosevelt (right) with Council President Gerry Tighe.

President's Letter

Season's greetings to all.

We finished off a good year with a great Holiday Dinner with over 100 people joining together for a memorable evening. Our guest speaker, Mr. Ted Roosevelt IV, entertained us with his talk, and then engaged us in a lively Q and A session.

I would like to welcome our new Council officers: Rev. Richard Futie as our Chaplain and David Martin as Treasurer; and the newest member of our Board, Chris Hughes. Thank you for volunteering your time and effort.

In 2013, the Western Connecticut Council will continue to focus on--and support--our local youth programs, including the Sea Cadets, Naval Junior ROTC, and the Navy SEAL Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC). We are currently working on the logistics to allow our top notch Sea Cadets and NJROTC cadets to join a ship in Norfolk, and sail with her to New York for Fleet Week. This will afford a significant and memorable training

opportunity and I think a few of the Instructors may also enjoy "getting underway" as they cruise the Atlantic to New York harbor.

As part of this effort, I spoke to the Executive Director of the Sea Cadets at Navy League headquarters. He is fully supportive, and would like to assist with transportation expenses to Norfolk. But as our country's financial situation worsens and the Defense budget is severely reduced, the Navy has not yet renewed the Navy League grant designated for Sea Cadet training. A grant is expected, but at a reduced level. He is optimistic that the League will be able to assist our efforts when the grant is received.

I look forward to working with our Council in 2013.

Stay warm,

Gerry Tighe, Captain US Navy
President, Western CT Navy League

Upcoming dates of interest:

- **Rebuilding Together:** April 27 - see page 2
- **Speaker event:** tentatively in Mar. or Apr. - separate member note will go out beforehand.
- **Fleet week:** NYC, May 22-30.



Annual *Rebuilding Together* in April



Rebuilding Together (RBT), the community outreach program that the SEAL RDAC Candidates and our Navy League Council participate in is scheduled to take place the last Saturday in April, the 27th. Our group is usually assigned a veteran's home to fix up where the veteran either physically or financially can't keep up with home maintenance.

To date we haven't received an assignment so if you know a veteran (or widowed spouse of a vet-

eran) who needs help in home maintenance, let us know or contact Tom Cuddeback at 203-962-4060 or 203-348-5626.

If you would like to be involved in the project, contact the volunteer coordinator, Council officer and retired Captain Drew Bisset at 203-325-9240. Thank you.

SEAL RDAC holiday party:

The 19th Annual SEAL RDAC Holiday party was held Dec. 27th at the Greenwich Boys & Girls Club. The event was sold out and, despite inclement weather the day before, there was a record turnout of 200 people including SEAL Candidates and their parents, SEAL RDAC staff and families, and active duty SEALs and their families.

The highlight of the event was honoring the families of three fallen SEALs: LT Mike Murphy, SOC Nate Hardy, and SOC Brian Bill, all of whom had graduated from the local SEAL RDAC mentoring program and who lost their lives in combat for our country.

To further honor these heroes and their families, the SEAL RDAC Candidates performed a competitive Physical Screen Test. Memorial trophies in the names of the 3 fallen SEALs were awarded to the top finishers. In addition, a new SEAL was sworn into the Navy that evening by Captain Gene Dubicki USN (ret).



Posters of three fallen SEAL heroes.

Afterwards, very inspiring speeches were delivered by Steve Hardy, father of the late SOC Hardy and Master Chief Terry Moy USN (ret), legendary BUD/S instructor and proctor.

Everyone was treated to a fantastic BBQ donated at cost by Marshall Odeen, and then Candidates and their parents networked with the active duty SEALs and their families. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to our Holiday Party sponsors who helped underwrite the costs of the event: Eyal Shapira, Jerry Lombard, and Rob Perkin. Special thanks to Bob DeAngelo, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club for hosting the event.

***Special thanks* to all who contributed via the Council to Sea Cadet and SEAL RDAC programs during 2012! A letter is being sent to each for tax-deduction purposes.**

Sea Cadet news:

Thanksgiving Baskets:

Dealey's cadets volunteered to assist in the production process of Thanksgiving baskets for those in need in Fairfield and New Haven counties. Food and supplies are donated and, on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving, hundreds of baskets are assembled and distributed. Brought to the unit's attention by Jennifer Amon (mother of Sea Cadets Brandon & Tyler Mehlhouse and daughter of retired Master Chief Rick Amon), it resonated with cadets and staff. Looking sharp, the cadets were put to work assembling baskets, and then moved to traffic direction, loading and other duties. The Division looks forward to participating next year. Bravo Zulu to all who participated.

CPO Davidson Wetting Down and Chief training:

Chief Petty Officer Matthew Davidson started off the new year with the traditional Wetting Down party for his shipmates and invited guests, held at the parish hall of St. Mary's in Ridgefield. A great evening of ceremony, toasts, commendations, and food! Matt is only the 11th Dealey Cadet to become a CPO in its 53 year history. During the evening, six new cadets took the Cadet Oath. BZ to the Davidson family for a great party and thanks to Council members who supported the event.

Prior to the Wetting Down, in December, Matt was put through his paces in a new tradition at Dealey. USN Chiefs Mark Adams and Patrick Henri worked with Matt to make the transition to Chief. This 'transition' concluded with CPO (select) Davidson and a cadre of Dealey Cadets journeying to Fall River Massachusetts early on a Saturday morning. Former Dealey CPO Kyle Webb flew up from Washington, DC for the event.

The group went aboard the battleship ex-USS Massachusetts (BB-59), with permission to board given by SK1 Armand Vigeant, a ship's plankowner who served onboard through her decommissioning in 1946. The ship was involved in numerous amphibious assaults in the Pacific. He provided a tour including his berthing area, where an 8 inch shell exploded (fortunately, he was at his duty station). Vigeant, 90 years young, was an inspiration to the cadets. He was treated to the cadets reciting the Sailors Creed and singing Anchors Aweigh and the Seabee Song. The evolution continued with a tour of the battleship and a fire drill aboard the ex-USS JP Kennedy (DD-850). Finally, an abbreviated 'Heritage Minefield' and other tasks were accomplished by CPO Davidson. He clearly understood the importance of the role of Chief to both the command and cadets.

Recruiting:

The ranks of Dealey Sea Cadets (age 14 – 17) and Training Ship Macintyre League Cadets (age 11 – 13) are growing! We ended the year with more cadets than we have seen in over 25 years. LMC Mark Adams, MCC Patrick Henri, and HM1 Zachary Deutscher (former Dealey cadet) are supplementing the Staff. We look forward to a banner year. If you know of a girl or boy interested in our fine unit, ready to learn about our maritime history and the customs and traditions of the Navy, and to experience the adventures associated with each, contact us at:

www.dealeydivision.org



New CPO Matthew Davidson, with his parents at Wetting Down event in January. Matt's dad, John, is a member of Dealey's staff.



WWII vet Armand Vigeant addressing cadets aboard battleship Massachusetts. We recommend a visit for sailors and landlubbers alike and, if you are lucky, share a cup of joe with Armand!



LT Stewart Latwin, former Dealey CPO and US Naval Academy '08, returns to NAS Norfolk from a 6 month detachment with HSC22 on board USS Iwo Jima; with his parents. His dad, Joe, is a Council board member and Dealey staff member.

USS Winston S. Churchill news:



Our Council-adopted ship, the Norfolk-based guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), has been deployed overseas since June 20, 2012. The deployment is expected to be an extended nine months, three months longer than usual, a major sacrifice for the families involved. They are supporting the Navy's 5th and 6th Fleets in Europe and the Middle East.

Among the news we have recently received from the ship are these interesting figures for the deployment:

- the ship has traveled about 35,000 nautical miles through the end of November;
- has sailed an average 9 nautical miles per hour and burned a gallon of fuel every 12 yards, enough in total to keep the whole crew in gas for their cars for 5 years;
- conducted 23 replenishments-at-sea, seven pre-action calibration firings of the 5" gun, seven crew-served weapons shoots, and two small arms qualification shoots resulting in the expenditure of over 10,000 rounds of ammunition;
- had 52 sailors selected for advancement during the latest advancement cycle, more than any other destroyer in the Navy!

Details of other deployment events, including the ship's Crossing of the Line in October, and participation in the combined merchant and naval exercise called Lucky Mariner in December, are too extensive to include here. Summaries of these events, along with more photos, are available in the section of our Council website dedicated to Churchill's deployment at:

<http://www.navyleaguewestct.org/deploy.html>

We continue to wish the officers and crew of the Churchill, deployed on the high seas in our nation's defense, full success in their mission and a safe return home.



Seaman Joseph White, from Urbana, Ohio, stands as look out on the starboard bridge wing.



Congratulations to all the Churchill crew members selected for advancement!

NL membership:

Help recruit new Navy League members

The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear mission: to support the members of the sea services; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs. 270 Councils throughout the world continue to carry out this mission. Membership is open to all interested citizens, whether they ever served in uniform or not. There is strength in numbers in accomplishing our important mission.

Please renew your membership and help recruit new members. Invite potential new members to attend Council events. Membership sign-up and renewal forms are available online at our Council website, www.navyleaguewestct.org then click "join/renew". Or ask any Council Board member for a form. Thank you.

**Our Western
Connecticut
Council has 133
active members.**

NJROTC news :

Bethel High School NJROTC:

The 251 cadets in the Battalion at Bethel High School Navy JROTC are currently finishing their annual Marksmanship Training. All cadets in Bethel participate, and safety procedures are emphasized in all classes. The Bethel cadets are taught that personal responsibility is a social force that binds us to behave in a manner that is respectful of each other. Marksmanship is a tangible way to demonstrate their ability to focus, follow exacting procedures, and apply self-control; traits that contribute to success in academic classes and other activities.

The Bethel Cadets who attended enjoyed the annual Council dinner and meeting Mr. Roosevelt.

The cadets are also excitedly preparing for their annual ball, with most participating in etiquette classes and formal ballroom dance instruction after school.



Bethel cadets pose with Mr. Ted Roosevelt at the Council Annual Dinner in December. Pictured from left are cadets Lucy Shea, Brian Bergen, Romana Pilepich, Kenneth Roper, Julia Buzak, Maria DeSimone, Ellis Havelock, and Benjamin Milositz.

See our Council's award-winning website for special features and timely updates that occur between the quarterly editions of this newsletter at:

www.navyleaguewestct.org

2013 Council Officers and Board:

OFFICERS

President.....Gerard Tighe
 Treasurer.....David Martin
 VP Sea Services.....Andrew Bisset
 VP Membership.....Robert Kenyon III
 VP Youth Programs...Stephen Gravereaux
 Chaplain.....Rev. Richard Futie
 Judge Advocate.....Douglas Brown
 Secretary.....Peter Brown

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Adams
 Louis DiGiusto
 Peter Dixon
 Edward Fitzgerald
 William Grep
 Chris Hughes
 Joseph Latwin
 Don Logan
 Robert Perkin
 Jennifer Stannard
 John Weigold



Sea Cadet color guard at Annual Dinner.

**Western Connecticut Council
Navy League of the United States**

c/o E. Fitzgerald
111 Nursery Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877



**Navy "Blue Angel" F/A-18 inverted over El Centro California
on January 15th on a training flight.**

