



"THE HELM"

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL

Volume 2017 Issue 1

February 2017

Inside this issue:

RDAC holiday party	2
Sea cadet news	2
Adopted ship news	4
NJROTC news	5
Council Board	5

Upcoming dates of interest:

- **NYC Fleet Week:** May 24 to 30.
 - **Annual Council dinner:** April 1; see story at right.
-



Outgoing Council
President Gerry
Tighe.

Annual Dinner April 1st:

Our annual members meeting and dinner will take place on Saturday April 1st at the Riverside Yacht Club (off I95 Exit 5). Kindly mark your calendars now. Full details, including an RSVP form, will be separately sent to members soon.

We are extremely pleased to announce that our principal speaker will be Vice Admiral Michael Gilday, Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and U.S. 10th Fleet. Fleet Cyber Command is responsible for the navy's cyber warfare programs. It conducts operations in cyberspace, the electromagnetic spectrum, and outer space to ensure Navy and Joint/Coalition freedom of action and decision superiority while denying the same to our adversaries. Its activities include cryptography that has proven decisive in American naval history.

With today's headlines highlighting hacking, cyber theft, and disruption of vital online infrastructure, Vice Admiral Gilday is a timely speaker for our Council. A surface war-

(Continued on page 2)



VADM Michael Gilday, guest
speaker at April 1st meeting.

President's Letter:

Greetings to all,

I am excited to announce that our guest and speaker at our annual dinner will be the new Commander of the Navy's Cyber Command and 10th Fleet, Vice Admiral Mike Gilday. Mike has commanded destroyers and a carrier strike group, and served at the White House as aide to two Presidents. We have been friends for 20+ years, and I am very appreciative that he is taking time to travel from Washington. The dinner is on Saturday, April 1st. We extend a special invitation to our new members from the Bridgeport Council. To all: invite friends and plan on joining us; it will be a special evening.

Our newest adopted ship, the USS Connecticut, is in work-ups, and will host a "Tiger Cruise" in March from Pearl Harbor. The ship's CO has offered us the opportunity to send a few members for this ride. We look forward to hearing about their adventure. A

bit closer to home, we are coordinating with Naval Submarine Base New London to offer Council members a tour of a submarine this spring, and possibly even get underway. We will keep you posted!

Finally, this is my last letter as President of our Council. At our annual dinner I will be turning the helm over to current Board member, Jason Wathen. Jason is a graduate of the Naval Academy and a former submariner, and I look forward to working with him on our Council.

Thank you to my fellow Board and Council members for all your support during my tenure. It has been my honor to serve as your President for the past five years.

All the best,

CAPT Gerry Tighe, USN (retired)
President, Western Connecticut Council

Annual dinner (continued):

(Continued from page 1)

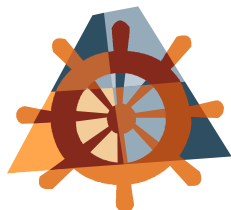
fare officer, he is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds two master's degrees, from Harvard and the National War College. At sea, he served on cruisers, destroyers, and aircraft carriers. His shore assignments included the White House where he served as naval aide to the President.

We anticipate a lively discussion of this increasingly important warfare area. Members should feel free to invite family and friends who have an interest in the sea services or in cyber warfare. It may be wise to return your RSVP form quickly, as we expect a sell-out for Vice Admiral Gilday and his important topic.

We will also briefly hold our Annual Meeting at the dinner for the election of Council board members for 2017.



Scene from a prior annual dinner.



SEAL Candidate holiday party:

Our local Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC) SEAL Candidate program held its annual Modified PST Competition and Holiday Party on December 27th at the Greenwich YMCA. It was attended by a record 220 people, including the three Gold Star Families whose sons were former candidates here: LT Michael Murphy, SOC Nate Hardy, and SOC Brian Bill. Competition trophies were awarded in their names. There were more than a dozen active duty SEALs in attendance, along with many program alumni parents, to give the families of current candidates the opportunity to learn firsthand about the Navy Special Warfare brotherhood and culture. After the competition, there was a BBQ that was thoroughly enjoyed by all hands. Council Board members Drew Bisset and Pete Kenyon are the CO and XO of this highly successful RDAC program.



Sea Cadet news:

DEALEY DIVISION CHANGE OF COMMAND:

On October 23rd the Naval Sea Cadet Corps' DEALEY Division and Training Ship MACINTYRE conducted a change of command ceremony. LCDR Jennifer Stannard, NSCC, was relieved by Chief Navy Counselor Miguel Amadiz, USN, as the new Commanding Officer. Presiding as the senior officer in charge was Captain Jerry Tighe, USN (retired), our Council's current President.

Jennifer leaves a legacy of excellence and accomplishment at DEALEY. Her 25 years of service is truly appreciated. She was awarded the Meritorious Recognition Ribbon for meticulously managing a division of fifty sea cadets from ages eleven to seventeen with unrelenting dedication, leading them to great achievements. Her efforts resulted in multiple



Outgoing CO cuts cake for incoming.



Sea Cadet news (continued):

cadets being recognized as Honor Cadets during training and leadership events throughout her tenure. Under her supervision, the division won numerous sea cadet intra-regional flagship and swimming competitions and was frequently awarded top honors in annual inspections. The division was recognized as a national top ten unit in 2015 and 2016. Jennifer continues to serve as she transitions to the NSCC New England regional Staff. We send our Council's best "fair winds and following seas" to her.

Chief Amadiz, a sea cadet in his youth, joined DEALEY in October 2014 as an Instructor and became Executive Officer in 2015. He instructed cadets in basic military requirements and leadership while conducting "hands on" instruction in seamanship, physical fitness and military drill. He served as escort officer and took sea cadets aboard USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17) while it sailed to Fleet Week in New York from Norfolk. He is currently the Leading Chief Petty Officer for Navy Recruiting Station Peekskill. He will bring experience and a strong connection to the active duty Navy as DEALEY's CO. Welcome aboard Chief Amadiz.

SWIM MEET:

Cadet swim meet took place on Nov 6th at Mass Maritime Academy. We had four League Cadets and four Sea Cadets compete. Our Sea Cadets (PO3 O'Brien, PO2 Burns, SA Marin, and SR Tautel) had a great experience, however the competition was fierce. Our League Cadets (LC1 E. Soljour, LC1 S. Soljour, LC1 Mullaly, and LC1 Gerace) won first place for every event and were awarded the first place trophy!

STAMFORD RECOGNITION OF J. STANNARD:

The City's Board of Representatives at the Stamford Government Center recognized LCDR Jennifer Stannard on November 9th for her 20 plus years of service to Stamford's youth. LCDR Stannard expressed her thanks to the Board but also her concern over our growing number of cadets and the shrinking room at the Marine Center, as the city uses more space.

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE & HOLIDAY PARTY:

On November 13th Dealey Division participated in Stamford's annual Veteran's Day parade. The parade concluded at Veteran's Park with a memorial service. Dealey Division's annual holiday party was held December 19th. Our Regional Director LCDR Mike Campbell, NSCC was in attendance to present PO1 Kaitlyn Kutz with the Regional Cadet of the Year Award. She is currently waiting on the results for National Cadet of the Year competition. PO1 Kutz also recently received an appointment to West Point. She will begin the program this summer for the Class of 2021. Congratulations Kaitlyn!



Final salute
as CO.



Champs.

Parade.



PO1 Kaitlyn Kutz (far right) with Dealey officers; Regional Cadet of the Year and off to West Point this summer.

Adopted ship news:

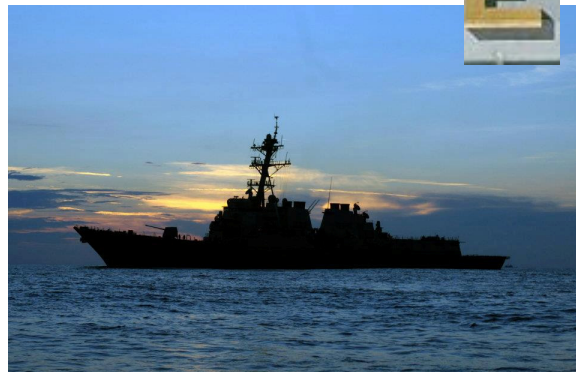


USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81):

For part of December, our adopted guided missile destroyer was tasked as OPFOR ("opposing force" for training other naval units, in this case a soon to deploy Carrier Strike Group) in the North Atlantic in winter. In the first quarter of 2017, the ship expects more dedicated underway training time, following the shipyard period in 2016.

In January, a new Executive Officer (XO), Commander Tom Scola, took over this 2nd in command position. He is originally from Pennsylvania, and enlisted in the Navy in 1997. He graduated Officer Candidate School in 2000, and has had assignments on destroyers and ashore as gas turbine lead instructor at Surface Warfare Officers School. We send our Council's best "welcome aboard" to the new XO.

We also continue to wish the ship's company well in this period of honing their already highly regarded operational excellence.



CHURCHILL underway on duty at sea.

USS Connecticut (SSN 22):

In late January, we received an update from the sub's CO, CDR Brian Tad-diken, that was written for the crew's families and for us:

"CONNECTICUT Families! Happy New Year! 2017 is off to a great start. That being said, 2016 was a tremendous year. We completed the shipyard period and went to sea! I can think of no greater reward for the Crew than to be free of the shipyard. Also, CONNECTICUT earned two awards in 2016. First is the Engineering Readiness Red "E." This is presented to the ship in the squadron with the best and most successful Engineering Department. However, it takes the entire crew to make the Engineers successful, so this is an award for the whole ship. I'm also extremely proud to report CONNECTICUT was awarded the Personnel Readiness White "P!" Technically, CONNECTICUT is not even eligible for this award, but our performance in the area of personnel readiness was superior to every other ship in the submarine force! Because of this, my boss received special permission to award us with the Personnel "P." This award is truly an entire CONNECTICUT FAMILY award...we would not have been so successful without the support from our family and friends. Thank you for helping the COB, XO, and I take care of the Crew and congratulations to all of you."

Bravo Zulu for these important accomplishments!

Also be on the lookout for a new "ship's store" to be added to the sub's website at: www.navyleaguewestct.org/USConnecticut.html We are working to make such items as ball caps and sweatshirts available for purchase.



SSN 22 underway in December 2016 after lengthy stay in the yards.

**Our Western
Connecticut
Council has 148
active members.**

Help recruit new 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 on the critical importance of sea power; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs. Over 200 Councils around 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.

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.

News: there is a new optional \$25 reduced annual NL dues rate, that substitutes online SeaPower magazine in place of the mailed paper copy. All other benefits are the same.

Local NJROTC news:

Bethel High School:

Bethel's Navy Junior ROTC program is working on a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) project called SeaPerch. It is an underwater robotics program sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. The students, who are all cadets and juniors, are building underwater vehicles from kits. This project teaches collaborative work, following an exacting step by step process in a technical manual and online training videos at www.seaperch.org. SeaPerch also teaches traditional shop skills, such as soldering and tool safety. The students must create a neutrally-buoyant robot for efficient travel through an underwater obstacle course. All this while using the science of buoyancy and displacement, and ensuring the waterproofing of electrical wires so they don't short circuit underwater. Additionally, their teacher, Lt. Commander Mark Dwinells USN (Ret), Bethel's senior naval science instructor, requires them to use laptops to access cloud-based spreadsheets to track their steps, the hours involved, and the procedures and lessons learned.



Bethel cadets building their SeaPerch sub robot.

By email on Jan 17th, Council members were invited to attend the 14th annual Bethel NJROTC Military Ball, to be held this year on March 5th. Nearby photos are from the March 2016 Ball. Members who have attended in the past say it is truly an impressive and fun event.



Bethel Military Ball.

Bridgeport Military Academy:

With 230 members, this NJROTC unit, based in a city magnet high school of choice, is one of the largest in New England. They participated in their second ever drill meet at nearby Bethel NJROTC in November. Though they did not place, they demonstrated much enthusiasm and effort. On Feb 3rd, they successfully completed the annual NJROTC admin and personnel inspection. On Feb 10th, their mid-year change of command and awards ceremony was held, where their first female battalion commander assumed command. In June, the school will graduate its first senior class of 88 students. At least 10 are going on to college and over 15 have plans to enter military service.



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

2016 Council Board*

OFFICERS

President.....Gerard Tighe
 Treasurer.....Richard Koch
 VP Sea Services.....Andrew Bisset
 VP Membership.....R. (Pete) Kenyon III
 VP Youth Programs...Stephen Gravereaux
 Chaplain.....Deacon Louis Howe
 Judge Advocate.....Douglas Brown
 Secretary.....Peter Brown

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Adams	Joseph Latwin
Miguel Amadiz	Don Logan
Marcus Arroyo	Theodore Jenkins
Louis DiGiusto	Robert Perkin
Edward Fitzgerald	Jennifer Stannard
P. Alan Gerard	Jason Wathen
William Gremp	John Weigold

Emeritus member:

David Ellis

* 2017 officers and board will be voted on at the April 1st dinner and meeting.



Council board member RADM John Weigold, Reserve Deputy Commander, US Pacific Fleet, with President Obama during visit to Pearl Harbor with Prime Minister Abe of Japan in December.

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

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



**Naval cyber warfare is the
topic of our speaker, Vice
Admiral M. Gilday, at our
annual meeting and din-
ner on April 1st. See
story on page 1.**

