

Captain "Slim" Russell Scholarship Awarded to Naval Sea Cadet Aaron Reger

At the Council dinner meeting on the evening of May 15, Cadet Aaron C. Reger of our *Maritime Eagles* Sea Cadet unit was presented the first annual Captain "Slim" Russell memorial scholarship. The award is named for one of our former Council members, the late Captain Allard G. "Slim" Russell, USN(Ret), a distinguished combat veteran of both WWII and the Korean War. Captain Russell was a self-described "Proud veteran and Naval Aviator," and was named an honorary member of the 1st Marine Division for his service on Guadalcanal in defense of USMC forces on that island during WWII. His numerous awards and decorations included two Distinguished Flying Crosses and five Air Medals.

In Slim's honor our Council now awards an annual \$1250 scholarship for a local

student to attend the rigorous week-long "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) program at the National Flight Academy aboard NAS Pensacola. This year's recipient is Cadet Aaron Reger of our *Maritime Eagles* Sea Cadet unit, and his selection by our scholarship committee was an easy one: Aaron maintains a straight-A grade-point-average at the Sarasota Military Academy where he is finishing his sophomore year. In February he participated in the 8th annual Florida State Chinese Championship. He is in his 3rd year with the Sarasota Scullers Youth Rowing Program and recently won a bronze medal at the Florida State Sweeps competition. This summer he will be attending the US Naval Academy Rowing Camp and next year he will be a Captain for his JROTC class at SMA.



Mr and Mrs Reger, LT(JG) Forcucci, Cadet Reger and President Rocklein

He plans to attend the National Flight Academy program in late July. After graduation from SMA he hopes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and become a Naval Aviator.

Congratulations to Aaron and his parents, John and Rebecca Reger. We're proud to have selected him for this special program and look forward to hearing from him about his adventure in Pensacola.

US Coast Guard Station CORTEZ



USCG Station Cortez

We will be saying goodbye to two key players at Station Cortez next month. BM2 Craig Engler has served at Station Cortez for four years. He reported as a Boatswains mate third class and will be leaving as a second class. He is a senior coxswain and Officer of the Day at the Unit. His training and experience at this unit has been a major contributor to the success of several search and rescue cases during his tour that enabled mariners to get home safely and be reunited with family. He served as the First Lieutenant during the last two years of his tour. In this role he was responsible for ensuring our unit and its assets were ready to respond to Search and Rescue at all times. Furthermore, the exemplary appearance of the unit and its assets over the last two years is a direct

reflection of BM2 Engler.

BM1 Russell Ackerman will also be leaving us shortly. He is completing his three year tour as the station Executive Petty Officer. BM1 Ackerman had oversight of every department at the unit. Upon arrival, his professionalism and experience were apparent. Crew morale immediately improved upon his arrival. He has been a mentor to the crew in qualifications, career paths, finances, family matters, and personal matters. He has administered the unit with excellence as shown in the recent compliance inspection. During this inspection there was only one error in several hundred points of inspection which is rare to say the least. His most notable achievement while assigned was successfully passing the Sector and District Officer in Charge Boards for Multi Mission Ashore and Afloat. BM1 Ackerman will be promoted to Chief soon and will have the opportunity to command his own unit due to these efforts.

Both of these members have been crucial to the success of our unit over the past several years. They will be truly missed. We wish them fair winds and following seas in their future endeavors.

US Coast Guard Cutter CROCODILE

BM1 Adam Pedzich reported to Croc in July 2011. He made E7 while a member of the Crew of USCGC Crocodile where he served as the Executive Petty Officer (XPO). He is moving to Coast Guard Station Niagra to be its Officer-in-Charge.

FS2 Jared Beville has served on board CROCODILE for 2 years and will be heading to Station Dauphin Island Alabama, where he and his lovely wife will be purchasing a home. Some of you might remember FS2 Beville from our last Sailor of the Quarter dinner as he was celebrated as the CROCODILE SOQ for the last 6 months.

BM2 Bure was only with us for one short year; however, his contribution to the cutter was large. BM2 Bure will be leaving us in light of his advancement to the rank of BM1/E-6. BM2 Bure and his family will be staying in the area and he will be just moving down the pier to the CGC OKRACOCKE.





...from the Council President

a time to celebrate, reflect and look forward

Great News! Sarasota-Manatee Council Chosen As "Outstanding Council"

Early this month our Council received some terrific news: We were chosen as an "Outstanding Council" by the national organization for the calendar year 2012.

This is quite an accomplishment: Of nearly 250 Navy League councils throughout the world, only 13 of us were chosen for the highest category of award, placing us in about the top 5% of all councils. A number of factors were considered in the selection process: Council operations, membership, retention, youth support, sea service support, and much more.

This recognition is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of many of our members and, at the risk of omitting anyone who played a part, I think it's appropriate to mention several of our people were instrumental in our 2012 successes and the justifiable recognition that followed. They're (somewhat) in alphabetical order:

- Marla Vignocchi—*President 2011 and 2012*
- Roger Betts—*National Director Emeritus*
- Al Burda—*Past President*
- June Moore—*Vice President, Membership*
- Dick Petrucci—*Vice President, Education*
- Jerry St. Germain —*Golf Tournament Director*

Marla provided the tireless leadership. Roger and Al were the "corporate memory" and experienced "vets" who gave Marla and the board their best efforts and advice. June Moore was (and is) our bulldog of recruiting and retention; while our national organization is losing membership June and her efforts have helped our local council membership to *grow!* Dick Petrucci has run our youth education programs, ensuring appropriate recognition of deserving youth in our area. Last (and certainly not least) Jerry St. Germain directed another *very* successful charity golf tournament. Without Jerry's efforts, we would not have the financial capability to do all of the great things we do for our youth programs and our local active duty folks. Well done and thanks to ALL the people who contributed to our success.

Let's keep it going.

Tim

Dr. David Mann Addresses May 15 Dinner Meeting

Dr. David Mann, PhD, was the featured speaker at our May 15 dinner meeting held at the Bird Key Yacht Club. The founder and president of Sarasota-based Loggerhead Instruments, David has an extensive background in marine life and underwater acoustics, starting with a bachelor's degree in Neurobiology and Behavior from Cornell and including a PhD in Biological Oceanography from MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Over the past 10 years he has studied hearing and acoustic communications in fishes, manatees and dolphins.

Dr. Mann's presentation took his audience on a very interesting and informative "tour" of his oceanographic research exploits, from Johnson Atoll near Hawaii where he studied sound production in damselfish, to the eastern Gulf of Mexico where he has recorded and studied activities of grouper and other sea life, often using acoustic recorders of his own design and manufacture.



Dr. Mann

COMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendar for the following Council events planned for the upcoming year. Some dates are tentative and details are in the works, but here is what we're looking at for the next several months:

- June 19** 6 p.m. Naval Academy Appointees and ROTC Scholarship Awardees Heritage Oaks G&CC
- July 17** TBD - Tour Coast Guard Station Cortez and Florida Maritime Museum Followed by Lunch in/near fishing village of Cortez
- Aug 21** Luncheon Meeting - Program & Venue TBD
- Sept 18** Dinner Meeting - Program & Venue TBD
- Oct 16** Dinner Meeting/Navy Birthday, Speaker Capt Damisch -*Venue TBD*
- Oct 18** Navy Birthday Ball A La Carte Pavilion, Tampa
- Nov 6** Annual Earl Fowler Charity Golf Tournament-Heritage Oaks G&CC
- Nov 20** Dinner Meeting Marine Corps Birthday - Venue TBD
- Dec 7** Holiday Party/Annual Membership Meeting-Gold Coast Distributors (Tentative)
- Jan 15, 2014** Dinner Meeting - Program & Venue TBD
- Feb 19, 2014** Joint Meeting with Propeller Club- Sara Bay CC



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Of The United States**
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VISION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States will be the preferred resource for the education of the United States Congress and the American Public on our sea services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services - United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine.

GOALS

- Educate national leaders and the nation.
- Support the men and women of the sea services.
- Provide assistance to sea service families.
- Support youth programs.

Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League Honors Local JROTCs

On Wednesday April 17, 2013 at its annual meeting to honor local JROTC's at the Plantation Golf and Country Club, Council President Tim Rocklein of the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League of the United States presented two scholarships each amounting to \$1000 to Navy JROTC cadets from North Port High School and gave out medals to outstanding cadets from both North Port High School and Venice High School. Council President Rocklein also gave the VHS MC JROTC Unit a check for \$1000 to fund its activities.



Navy League President Tim Rocklein giving VHS Marine Corps JROTC Military Instructor Master Gunnery Sergeant Frank Troxel USMC(Ret) and Cadet Tyler Adams, the unit's Commanding Officer a check for \$1000 for unit operations and leadership training.)



Navy League President Tim Rocklein giving NPHS Naval JROTC Cadets Philip Stekol and Taylor King \$1000 scholarship checks as their parents look on.)



Navy League President Tim Rocklein presenting the Navy League's Teddy Roosevelt Medal to Cadet Tyler Adams of VHS and Cadet Jahmai Gonyea of NPHS as their parents look on.)

North Port High School NJROTC Report

As the year comes to an end so does the reign of the Cadet Commanding Officer. This year's unit was led by C/Commander Santos Martinez. Through drill meets and football details, color guards and pole details, he has left an outstanding imprint on the cadets following him. His legacy will be forever remembered, long after his graduation. Chosen to fill in his shoes is C/Lieutenant Devon Poulos. A cadet of impeccable demeanor, C/Lieutenant Poulos is ready to face any challenge thrown at him. As of now, there has been no one chosen to fill in the position of Executive Officer.

Moving right along, there have been many major changes to the Unit Chain of Command. Operations Officer is now C/Ensign Johnathan Meise. Known throughout the unit as someone of great leadership skills, C/Ensign Meise is also the new Color Guard commander. Appointed to be Administrative Officer is C/Ensign Nathalie Argueta. This past year, C/Ensign Argueta served as the unit's Public Affairs Officer. Serving as the new Cadet Master Chief is C/MCPO Alex Citrullo. C/ Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Wuethrich and C/ Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Baylor are serving

as the Male Supply Petty Officers. Female Supply Petty Officer is C/ Petty Officer 1st Class Ashley Troutman.

Armed Drill Team Commander is now C/ Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Atwood. Unarmed Drill Team Commander is now C/ Petty Officer 3rd Class Hailey Howett. C/ PO3 Howett came to the unit near the end of the year. She has shown herself to be someone who is a quick learner and adds her own flair to the drill card. Athletic Team Commander is C/Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerome Pittman. C/PO2 Pittman also came to us later in the year but has proven to be an incredible runner and willing to take over the athletic team. Rifle Team Commander is C/Petty Officer 1st Class Nick Vietri. C/PO1 Vietri, like C/Ensign Meise, has been known to show unparalleled leadership skills. The appointed Armory Petty Officer is C/Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Harding. Academic team Commander is C/Petty Officer 1st Class Zhang Karillo. Since his sophomore year, C/PO1 Karillo has served as the unit's Assistant Academic Team Commander. Last but not least, the Public Affairs Officers are C/Petty Officer 1st Class Logan West and C/Petty Officer 2nd Class David Escobar.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps Maritime Eagles News

The Maritime Eagles presented colors at the Annual Pork Butts and Blues Festival which was held on March 24th at the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post 9226 in Ellenton Florida. It is always an honor for our unit to participate in community events that benefit the veteran community. After completion of the colors presentation the cadets changed out of their dress white uniforms and put on their NWU digital uniform and assisted with parking cars, trash/recycle cleanup, and other assigned tasks. We look forward to participating in this event again next year.

April was a fun morale and team building drill. The cadets and the staff met at Livingston's Family Amusement Center in Sarasota for an afternoon of fun. We wanted to bring the cadets closer together and get them interacting with one another. Even though the majority of the cadets attend Sarasota Military Academy in Sarasota, it is possible to not interact with their shipmates due to their school schedule. The cadets took on the officers in an upscale game of laser tag. This game of laser tag is played with paintball guns and shoots rubber balls similar in size to paint balls. They don't stain but they still leave a mark in the form of a welt if shot. The cadets put up a pretty good match but ultimately lost to the

officers at the end of the match. Personally, I am glad we won because we would have never heard the end of that if we lost.

May is a very busy month for your Maritime Eagles Division. They will be marching in the Lakewood Ranch Memorial Day Parade on Sunday May 26 as well as the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade on May 27th. Your Maritime Eagles Division will be marching a full color guard detail along with our unit's parade banner. On May 31st, the Maritime Eagles Division will be presenting colors for Everglades University's Summer Commencement. We were invited for the first time last year and have been asked to return again. Everglades University was very impressed with the unit's presentation and hopes to continue a great and long lasting relationship with our unit.

Next month we will have several cadets heading to Recruit Training in Belle Glade. Their training will last from June 16th through June 29th 2013. They will be pushed to their limits in every possible way. Recruit Training provides each cadet with a sample of what our service men and women go through along with the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Andrew Forcucci, NSCC

JUNE MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Remember to "update" your 2013 ROSTER with the following additions & changes)

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ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSE MEMBER: Donations to support our JROTC Units, USCG/CORTEZ, USCG Cutter CROCODILE, SEA CADETS, YOUNG MARINES, Council Support and Navy League Guests:
Steve BARTEK
Roger BETTS
Cliff BERMANN
Barry BROWN
Marty DONNER
Dane & Sandra HAHN
Jack HARMON
Don HARVEY
June MOORE
Dick PETRUCCI
Tim & Nel ROCKLEIN
and all the participants in the "Pot of Gold" drawings

CHANGES IN 2013 ROSTER:
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IN MEMORIAM

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