



Winter 2025

The Ship's Whistle

An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

Calendar

- Jan 27 Annual Meeting (see below)
 - Mar 17 +/- Navy ship visit
 - July 4 +/- Navy ship visit
 - October USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) Commissioning (TBA)
 - 202? USS Thomas G. Kelley (DDG 140) Commissioning (?)
 - 202? USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Commissioning (?)
-



Thanks to our generous Members, we contributed a **record 700+ toys** to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive for distribution by Marines to needy families in eastern Mass.

A Special Meeting in lieu of the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the United States will be held on 27 Jan. via ZOOM. The Agenda includes election of Officers and the Board. If you desire to attend on ZOOM, contact tomhjr@gmail.com for the link.

SEA CADET NEWS

Massachusetts Bay Division



Provided the Color Guard at the Boston Celtics game on New Year's Eve. Earlier, they held a quick practice before entering the Garden. Cadets SN Sommer, SA Murphy, SA Williams, SA Cohen, SA Rosenberg, and RC Kulbaski served on the color guard. The Executive Officer, LTJG Jones Admin Officer, INST Sommers, INST Ross represented the Officers.



Gosnold Division helped prepare over 800 packages for shipment to troops overseas. They also regularly greet Cape Cod Symphony's Saturday evenings' concertgoers at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center.



Squadron 7 Zulu held seamanship training aboard Battleship Massachusetts at Battleship Cove in December.



Worcester (CL 144) Div. Sea Cadets took on the high ropes course challenge last Summer and soared beyond expectations! From tackling daunting heights to mastering complex maneuvers, each cadet pushed their limits and demonstrated true courage. This experience wasn't just about fun—it was a powerful lesson in teamwork



Gloucester Sea Cadets - David G. Ouellet Division Cadets hard at work donating their time Christmas morning for the annual American Legion Post 3 Christmas Meal program which fed over 400 people Christmas morning.



Deck Log on New Years

The [deck log](#) of a Navy and Coast Guard ship is an official record in which the Officer of the Deck notes vital information on course, speed, weather and other critical factors. However, a time-honored tradition permits the mid-watch (12-3 am) on New Year's Day to write their deck log entry in poetry. An example:

*T'was the night before wait; what did I say?
Forgive me, I've mixed up the wrong holiday.
For you see, on the seas, it can get quite mundane.
This week alone, thrice, I've been called the wrong name!
And rank, and rate, and gender no less,
But whoosah, breath in, there's no time to stress.
For its New Year's Day, if you're wondering when,
So with that, let me start over again:
Once upon in a time in a land far away
We'd returned to Fourth Fleet for one more underway.
"Catching drug smugglers" the name of the mission,
Disguised as small boats supposedly fishin'.
Like bloodhounds fresh on a new T.O.I.,
Flight quarters away and it's time to fly.
LEDET attached always second to none,
Simply shining their guns 'til it's time for some fun.
I'd hate to be smugglers, cuz they're going to jail.
Operating area: the Caribbean Sea, blue,
Steaming independently, just the 99 crew.
"We'll see so many islands!" the Captain did say,
But all that we saw was Guantanamo Bay.
I must include plant status or they'll throw a cow,
And use my rotting corpse as a temporary brow.
So 1A, 1+2 A/C's running online
#1 reefer cooling rations just fine
2B GTM, 1+2 GTG,
EMCON Condition Delta, readiness condition III.
SWSP 1+2+5 ready,
And FP 2+5 Pumping firemain steady.
Look at that, worked it all in, oh aren't I clever?
(Though I can't tell a lie, it took me forever.)
With the countdown complete, I can lay to my rack;
[Redacted] OOD, keeps the ship right on track.
[Redacted], the Conn, eyes forward and keen,
Through the night, ensures no contact goes unseen.
Dreams of holiday routine, I'll quickly shelve,
For I must be up early for the 09-12.
Happy New Year to all from our tropical tour,
We look forward to the Yards all 2024.
Happy New Year's, everyone.
(Author:: **Quartermaster 2nd Class Anthony Bentley - USS Farragut (DDG 99)** in 2024.)*

Support our Midshipmen by attending upcoming Naval Academy Athletics:

- January 22: Women's Basketball at B.U.
- February 5: Men's Basketball at B.U.
- February 22: Women's Basketball at Holy Cross
- March 22: Men's Lacrosse at Holy Cross
- March 23: Men's Tennis at B.U.
- March 29: Women's Lacrosse at B.U.
- March 29-30: Intercollegiate Sailing at Marchiando Team Race (Boston, Mass.)
- March 30: Baseball at Holy Cross
- April 6: Men's Tennis at Holy Cross
- April 21: Boston Marathon (Monday)
- April 26: Men's Heavyweight Rowing at Charles River
- May 2-3: Men's Track & Field at Patriot League Championship (Worcester, Mass.)
- May 2-3: Women's Track & Field at Patriot League Championship (Worcester, Mass.)
- May 18: Men's Heavyweight Rowing at Lake Quinsigamond (Worcester, Mass.)
- May 18: Men's Lightweight Rowing at Lake Quinsigamond (Worcester, Mass.)

Get more involved in Navy League. Volunteers are welcome. Board meetings are held monthly on ZOOM. Activities are being planned now.

Contact President Tom Hennessey at: tomhjr@gmail.com.

How to get a Member? Ask him or her! Information and Applications on line at www.navyleague.org.

The Ship's Whistle is published by The Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the U.S., 25 Dorchester Ave., P.O. Box 51662, Boston, MA 02205. To be removed from this mailing list, contact: Editor: Ivan Samuels at go2navy@verizon.net.