



# Voyager

## THE LAKE WASHINGTON & EVERETT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

**VOL. 105 DELGENE PHILLIPS - EDITOR WWW.LAKEWASHNLUS.ORG SEPTEMBER 2023**

### FUTURE EVENTS

Board Meeting TBD  
Dinner Meeting TBD  
Scuttlebutt Social Hour-3rd Wed

### ABOUT US

The Lake Washington & Everett (LW&E) Council is part of the Navy League of the United States, [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)

### SUPPORTED UNITS

USCG Base Seattle  
USCGC Healy (WAGB 20)  
USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)  
USCGC Blue Shark (WPB 87360)  
USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)  
Undersea R & D Detachment  
Liberty High School NJROTC  
Snohomish High School MCJROTC  
U. of Washington NROTC  
Naval Station Everett Division USNSCC  
US Naval Station Everett  
Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN  
Destroyer Squadron Nine  
USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53)  
USS John S. McCain (DDG 56)  
USS McCampbell (DDG 85)  
USS Kidd (DDG 100)  
USS Gridley (DDG 101)  
USS Sampson (DDG 102)  
USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)  
Afloat Training Group - PACNW  
Branch Health Clinic Everett  
Regional Support Organization - PACNW  
Naval Operational Support Center Everett  
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard &  
Intermediate Maintenance Facility

### LHS NJROTC Academic Team Finishes Third At The Joint Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) Championships

*By John Deehr*

*Photos by Anna Ream Photography*

Alice Cooper sang, "School's Out For Summer!" Not so for some of the cadets of Liberty High School NJROTC program. Just two days after school concluded for the year, Patriot Company's Academic Team, led by senior and team captain Cadet LT Jefferey Lin, and seniors Cadet LCDR Eowyn Ream, Cadet PO1 Rachel



*Left to right: Chief Spears and cadets Rachel Kollarmalil, Jefferey Lin, Shreyas Kolwalker & Eowyn Ream*

Kollarmalil, and sophomore Cadet PO2 Shreyas Kolwalker, traveled to Washington, DC, 23-27 June 2023, to compete in the Joint Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB) Championships. This is the second time in the last three years Patriot Company's Academic Team has qualified for the national championships. JLAB is a nationwide leadership and academic competition between all JROTC units (Army, Air Force, (continued on page 3)

## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Welcome to the September 2023 edition of *Voyager*, the Mackie Award winning newsletter of the Lake Washington & Everett Council Navy League. The previous three months have been jam packed full of goodbyes, welcomes, and humbling experiences to say the least. July brought the end of CAPT Saboe's command of US Coast Guard District 13 and the beginning of RADM Charles E. Fosse's assignment as District Commander. We wish CAPT Saboe (*below*) all the best on his next assignment and he will be



## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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missed here in the Pacific Northwest. August brought us all the adventures of Seafair's Fleet Week, kicked off with the Parade of Ships including USS Barry, USCGC Henry Blake, and three Royal Canadian vessels - HMCS Yellowknife, HMCS Nanaimo, HMCS Edmonton. The evening closed with a beautiful Welcome Reception hosted by the Seattle Navy League recognizing all of the Navy League sponsored commands' Sailors of the Quarter. Consuls General from around the world were in attendance along with many local dignitaries. It was quite an experience to see so many distinguished people gather in support of our Sea Services. In August we also said goodbye to the USS Momsen, which was homeported in Everett just shy of 20 years. Our council hosted a farewell event at Scuttlebutt Restaurant to say thank you for the many years of service to our region. Thank you also to the Silver Tips, Funko, and AquaSox for generously donating hundreds of items to the sailors of the USS Momsen to commemorate their time here in Everett. Photos from that event and the Scuttlebutt welcome reception for USS Barry are on pages 12 and 13.

*Karmin*

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## Monthly Sailor Support Event Schedule



Open to all Navy League members and  
 LW&E Council supported units

**Time:** 3rd Wednesdays from 1600 to 1900  
**Place:** **Scuttlebutt Family Restaurant**  
 1205 Craftsman Way  
 Everett, WA 98201

**Schedule:**  
 20 September - USS Barry Welcome  
 18 October - TBD  
 15 November - TBD

(continued from page 1)

Navy, and Marine Corps) around the world. Teams are made up of four primary and two alternate cadets from the Naval Science 1-3 classes (Naval Science 4 cadets are not eligible to participate). Two qualifying rounds are conducted during the school year and these rounds are completed entirely online. The six cadets making up a team take one 50 question test covering such subjects as math, science, history, English, civics/government,



**Left to right:** Cadets Ewoyn Ream, Rachel Kollarmalil, Shreyas Kolwalkar, and Jefferey Lin prepare for one of the preliminary rounds of the JLAB competition.

etc. and answer the test as a team. Teams scoring in the top 50% move on to the second round. The second round is conducted in the same fashion with the top eight teams from each service branch moving on to the in-person championships at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. During the in-person championships, the eight Navy teams competed against one another during five rounds of competition. After the five rounds, Patriot Company was in second place with three wins and two losses and moved on to the semifinals. Unfortunately, Patriot Company found themselves on the losing end in the semi-final round but still brought home the Third Place trophy out of over 800 Navy JROTC academic teams that entered the competition! During the four day event, the cadets also had the opportunity to tour Washington, DC, that included various monuments/memorials and the National Air and Space Museum and the International Spy Museum.



## LW&EC BUSINESS AFFILIATES

### Corporate Sponsors

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- ◆ Heritage Bank
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- ◆ US Family Health Plan (USFHP) at Pacific Medical Center
- ◆ Vertical Path Recruiting, Inc.

Through their financial contributions, these business affiliates demonstrate their commitment to LW&EC-NLUS, to the mission of the Navy League, and their desire to support young people through our programs and scholarships.

### Partners

- ◆ Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League
- ◆ Seattle Council of the Navy League
- ◆ Tacoma Council of the Navy League

## News from Lake Washington & Everett Council Supported Units

The University of Washington Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps second cruise highlight of the summer saw *(below left to right)* midship-



men Murray, Schreiner, McMichael and Lu spending three weeks at New Student Indoctrination (NSI) as midshipmen instructors. They supported the drill instructors and Recruit Division Commanders (RDC) in the mentorship and training of midshipmen candidates who will be joining their units this fall. MIDN McMichael also attended NSI, as a candidate, after being part of the unit as a college programmer for the past year.



On **USS Sampson (DDG 102)** commanding officer CDR William M. Bencini presented DC2 Dustin A. Lucas *(above)* his Sailor of the Quarter certificate and YNSN Antonia M. Carter *(below)* her Blue Jacket of the Quarter certificate.



**USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)** participated in Seattle Seafair Fleet Week including the fleet Parade of Ships *(below)* and was also open for tours.



*Photo by Patrick Sand/West Seattle Blog*

On 2 July 1994 **USS John S. McCain (DDG 56)** was commissioned in Bath, ME. On 2 July 2023, the crew of USS John S. McCain celebrated her 29th birthday with a commemorative cake *(at left)* and a steel beach picnic.



On 7 July 2023 CDR Brian Laws (*at left*) assumed command as the 22nd commanding officer of **USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53)**. Thank you to CDR Franklin (*at right*) for your leadership and dedication.



In late July, **USS Kidd (DDG 100)** (*above*) completed an integrated live fire exercise at sea with USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) and USS Sterett (DDG 104).

At the end of July, **USS Gridley (DDG 101)** sailors kept busy with hands-on training, leadership exercises, and celebrating their shipmates! To kick off the week, a few USS Gridley sailors got



CDR Ryan D. Collins (*above right*) was relieved by CDR Seth K. Powell (*above left*) on 15 June 2023, as commanding officer, **Afloat Training Group (ATG) Pacific Northwest**. Before being relieved, Collins took the podium and expressed his gratitude for all those who served under him and thanked all the ATG Sailors. CDR Collins will be retiring and spending much deserved time with his family. Afloat Training Group Pacific Northwest provides surface ships, including US Coast Guard, with education, training, assessments and certifications to maximize training efficiency and effectiveness.



to spend a day off ship at High Trek Adventure Park, as part of the CREDO program, where they participated in archery (*above*), games, and even a high ropes course (*next page*)! These exercises gave each sailor a chance to develop as leaders and learn team building skills. Medical training was also at the forefront of the training agenda onboard USS Gridley this week. Members of the



ship's Medical Training Team and the VBSS team attended Combat Life Saving (CLS) classes and tested out at the end of the week. Sailors were graded on their ability to practically apply the life-saving skills they had learned throughout the training. To wrap up the week, USS Gridley had a chance to celebrate with a number of sailors and note their accomplishments as they advanced or wrapped up their tours aboard the ship. USS Gridley ended the week with a command picnic, giving sailors a chance to enjoy the beautiful PNW



summer weather together with great food, games, and music! It also provided an opportunity to celebrate BM3 Miller's reenlistment above!

On 2 August, the annual Seafair & Navy Program for Seattle Rotary featured RADM Jennifer Couture, USN, Commander of **Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN** and Eric Corning, Seafair CEO.

**USS Barry (DDG 52)** (*below*) along with US Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Navy ships was in Seattle moored at Pier 46 South (north of USCG Sector Puget Sound) on 3-6 August as part of the festivities for Seattle Fleet Week. USS Barry participated in the Parade of Ships through Elliot Bay, followed by a week of events where the public was invited to free tours of the ship.





class, earned the title of Honor Graduate. She certified her dog Kilo as a therapy dog and volunteers at the University of Washington Medical Center to help both staff members and patients cope with stress. To help her shipmates manage

*Above left to right: ADM Linda L. Fagan, HS1 Mullen & Master Chief of the Coast Guard Heath B. Jones*

HS1 Manon Mullen was meritoriously advanced to HS1 during a recent **USCG Base Seattle** visit by ADM Linda L. Fagan, Commandant, USCG. HS1 Mullen serves as the Physicals Petty Officer at Base Seattle Clinic, facilitating flight physicals for CG Air Station Port Angeles during the absence of a Flight Surgeon, and was instrumental in the Physicals Department's transition to the new electronic health record system. She recently completed Behavioral Health Technician "C" School at Fort Sam Houston, TX and, as the only USCG student in the

their mental health, she also serves as the Clinic Morale Petty Officer, spearheaded a Base Morale hiking challenge, and is seeking approval to integrate Kilo into the Behavioral Health Program by taking him on unit visits and utilizing him as a medium in group therapy sessions.

TAIWAN STRAIT - Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer **USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)** (below left) and Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa (FFH 341) conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit 9 September (local time) through waters where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law. The ships transited through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state. Ralph Johnson and Ottawa's bilateral transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the commitment of the United States and her allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific. Cooperation like this represents the centerpiece of the approach to a secure and prosperous region where aircraft and ships of all nations may fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows.



*Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jamaal Liddell*

## A family legacy forged in steel: Five generations of Shop 11-17 work supervisor Greg Robins' family have worked at PSNS & IMF

By Ben Hutto, PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

When Greg Robins (*below*), work supervisor, Shop 11/17, Shipfitters, Forge and Sheetmetal, graduated from South Kitsap High School in 2002, he had some ideas about what he wanted to do for a living. *"The one thing I did know was*



*that I didn't want to work at the shipyard,"* he said. Working at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (**LW&E supported unit**) wasn't something with which he was unfamiliar. Four generations of his family had worked at the shipyard, starting with his great grandfather, George McKelvey, who took a job in the sheet metal shop in the 1920s. McKelvey's daughter, Mae, followed in her father's footsteps and took a job during World War II driving a crane for Shop 51, Electricians and selling war bonds, where she met Wilbur A. Sauer, the man who would become Robins' grandfather. The family lore is that when Robins' grandfather Sauer saw Mae McKelvey, he wanted to impress her and see her as often as he could, so he became determined to buy more war bonds than anyone else at the shipyard. The tactic worked and, after a brief courtship of 21 days, the pair were married. *"So I guess the shipyard is the reason I'm here,"* Robins said with a chuckle. Despite the family legacy, Robins graduated high school with an eye toward becoming a draftsman. Robins took jobs working in retail outlets as he pursued an associate degree at Olympic College. But, as he

got close to earning his associate degree two years later, Robins' father encouraged him to apply for the apprentice program. Despite being leery, Robins put in his application and was accepted. It began his career in the shipyard and continued the family legacy Robins' father, Richard, had been carrying on since 1976, when he was accepted for an apprenticeship in Shop 17, as a sheet metal worker. The elder Robins worked a total of 37 years in that trade before finally retiring in 2020. Taking the torch from his father, Robins worked hard and completed the Apprentice Program in 2010. It involved a lot of hard work and learning fabrication skills of the trade. But Robins' efforts eventually caught the attention of Shop 11/17's leadership and he was offered a position as the industrial liaison for Shop 31, Maintenance in 2009, prior to completing the apprenticeship. Robins tackled his new job with enthusiasm and was soon providing the metal work and guards for the shop. After working in several other departments and codes at PSNS & IMF, Robins was promoted to his current position as a work supervisor. The years of work have been full and rewarding, Robins said. *"I've seen a lot of things here,"*

he said. *"There were a lot of projects that many people were skeptical about during COVID. We had to install six thousand barriers to help keep people safe. There was a need everywhere and a lot of people warned me that we didn't have the resources to get it done. They were wrong."* Robins said he has continually seen the men and women he works with overcome similar challenges, regularly. *"Honestly, it has made me like and respect the people I work with more,"* he said. *"It's really rewarding to work with people like that. It's not just about what we do. For me, it's about the people I work with. For us, it's about what we can do to make things better for the people we work with."* Equipped with a family legacy, a strong group of co-workers and love for what he does, Robins is glad he followed his father's advice 18 years ago. Robins is now a father with two children of his own and another one on the way. How would he feel about one of his children following in his footsteps and working in the shipyard? *"I don't know,"* he said with a grin. *"My first daughter helped me take a mountain bike apart and put it back together at one year old. She likes having a wrench in her hand. You never know."*

## District 17 Buoy Tender Olympics

*Photos by PO2 Alexandria Obrien*

Council-supported unit **USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)** was busy in August by participating in SeaFair Fleet Week (*underway below*) and also taking part in the Buoy Tender Olympics held in Juneau, AK, on 16 August 2023 as a part of the 17th District annual Buoy Tender Round-up (BTR). Buoy Tender Round-up is a week-long event that gives the participants an opportunity to receive specialized training, provides discussions to enhance operations, and tests seamanship skills. The Buoy Tender Olympics took place on the third day of BTR and consisted of several events designed to test the participant's seamanship, build camaraderie, and strengthen relationships among the crews and our partners. Crews from USCGC Cutters Kukui, Cypress, Elm, **Henry Blake**, Anthony Petit, Elderberry, and US Army divers participated in multiple events including a chain pull,



line toss, boom spot, tug-of-war, and the heat-and-beat. The chain pull (*above*) consists of two teams pulling apart a pile of 1,700-pound chain with hooks, dragging the chain to the other end of the

playing field, and “faking” the chain out on the other end. Faking the chain means laying it on the deck in an organized serpentine pattern. The first team to do this wins. This is practice for the crew members who regularly have to manage similar chains while tending buoys. The line toss consists of teams from each cutter throwing a heaving line across the deck to a target. The heaving line has to land on the target in order for the crews to collect points. This simulates the real-life process of rescuing people in the water. The boom-spot event entails a crew member from each cutter operating the cutter's boom, that's carrying a full bucket of



water, through an obstacle course. The person who loses the least amount of water from the bucket wins the game. This practice in operating the boom enhances the boom operator's precision. The heat-and-beat (*above*) consists of crews from each cutter heating a rivet and hammering it into a shackle which is required when a section of the mooring chain connected to the buoy is worn too thin and needs to be entirely replaced with a new chain. Buoy tender crewmembers compete to finish their heat-and-beat in the fastest time.





Photos  
Courtesy of  
Karmin Pincus



## USCGC Healy (WAGB 20) Arctic Operations

On 11 July, USCGC Healy (WAGB 20) departed Seattle for a months-long Arctic deployment. Healy's deployment supports the USCG Arctic Strategy while providing critical training opportunities for Polar sailors and future operations in the Arctic.



*"We're excited to begin our Arctic deployment to the high latitudes,"* said CAPT Michele Schallip, Healy's commanding officer. *"Our deployment will support scientific exploration to increase understanding of the changing Arctic environment and associated impacts. We'll also have opportunities to deepen the Coast Guard's cooperation with our allies, and partner nations through engagements and joint exercises to promote regional stability, security and strengthen our collaborative partnerships."* Schallip assumed command in June, having previously served as executive officer. A Healy fire team (*below*) simulates fighting a fire during flight operations training in the Gulf of Alaska on 22 July 2023. The crew conducts regular training to ensure and maintain readiness in both day-to-day operations and emergency situations.



USCG photo by PO3 Class Briana Carter



USCG photo by PO3 Class Briana Carter

PO1 Michael Martini, (*above*) a Healy boatswains mate, prepares a winch for deployment of an Arctic Mobile Observing System glider (*below*) in the Beaufort Sea, 30 July 2023. Healy is designed to conduct a wide range of research activities, providing more than 4,200 square feet of scientific laboratory space, numerous electronic sensor systems, oceanographic winches, and accommodations for up to 50 scientists.



USCG photo by PO3 Class Briana Carter

Able Chef Sienna-Marie Keen (*below*) of the Royal New Zealand Navy prepares food while aboard Healy in the Arctic Ocean 6 September. Two RN Zealand Navy chefs temporarily joined the Healy as part of a military exchange to enhance interoperability and joint service objectives.



US Army photo by SGT Carter Acton



**USS Momsen (DDG 92)** was honored at Scuttlebutt Restaurant on 19 July as the ship was scheduled for a change of homeport from Everett, WA to San Diego, CA.



*Left to right: CDR Rebecca Wolf USN, USS Momsen Executive Officer; CAPT Elaine Collins USN, Retired, former Commodore DESRON 9 & Karmin Pincus, President - LW&E Council, Navy League US*



**USS Barry (DDG 52)** was honored at Scuttlebutt Restaurant in Everett, WA at a regularly scheduled ship's reception on 20 September. Karmin Pincus's photos seem to indicate that the Barry crew enjoyed the occasion of the official welcome by the Lake Washington & Everett Council.



LAKE WASHINGTON & EVERETT COUNCIL  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
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*Voyager*, official newsletter of the LW&EC NL-US, is published electronically in March, June, September and December and provided to all members. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: *Voyager* Editor, P.O. Box 547 Bellevue WA 98009-0547 or email to: editor@lakewashnlus.org

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your email address is correctly updated!***



## NAVY LEAGUE *of the United States*

### Lake Washington & Everett Council

#### CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA SERVICES

**Lake Washington & Everett Council is your community organization that:**

Supports Puget Sound Sea Services: USCGC Healy, USCGC Henry Blake, USCGC Blue Shark, USCG Base Seattle, USS Jimmy Carter & Undersea R & D Detachment, Naval Station Everett, USS John Paul Jones, USS Kidd, USS Gridley, USS Ralph Johnson, USS Sampson, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN, Regional Support Organization - Pacific Northwest, Afloat Training Group - Pacific Northwest, Naval Operational Support Center Everett, Branch Health Clinic Everett and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility

Supports local Naval Reserve Officers Training Units and US Naval Sea Cadet Corps:

- Liberty High School NJROTC and Snohomish High School MCJROTC
- University of Washington NROTC and US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Naval Station Everett Division
- Increases awareness of the diversity of maritime units in Puget Sound
- Conveys the pivotal role of Puget Sound sea services in national and regional security
- Furthers understanding that maritime commerce is the cornerstone of our region's economy.

#### ***Navy League of the United States Mission Statement***

***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.***

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