

WINGSPAN



Vol. 15, No. 17

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

August 13, 2009



VJ-Day in Times Square - Aug. 14, 1945
Japan surrenders unconditionally, ending World War II



Commander, AETC speaks at NASCC
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Retiring in Style
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Meritorious Unit
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7th Annual Navy Regatta – a festive event



Yachts approach the starting line of the Military Challenge Race during the 47th Annual Navy Regatta Aug. 1-2

Story and photos by Bob Torres

There was laughter, hooting and hollering during the two-day 47th Annual Navy Regatta on Aug. 1 and 2.

The race began from downtown as five classes of sailing vessels, some with crews partially made up of active duty servicemembers, on Saturday.

A couple of hours later they were seeking berthing waters as they slid inside the breakwaters near Sunfish Beach at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

There was plenty to cheer about as traditional favorites waited to hear how they fared in the race; results would be announced later that evening at the Bay Club.

Expectations ran high as their times would be calculated and re-calculated for accuracy.

“In my 33 years in the Navy,” said Rear Adm. Mark Guadagnini, Chief of Naval Air Training, during the Saturday night awards ceremony, “this event has brought

more smiles than any other event I can remember.”

The awards ceremony that was already filled with laughter, became even more festive as the night wore on.

Earlier that day, 11 entries in the “Titanic Cup” set the stage for this “anything-that-can-float” category of sailing vessel built and sailed by intrepid active duty sailors and DoD civilians from the Air Station.

The “Bedpan Bullet,” an almost hand built sailboat, took first place honors with the Commanding Officer (Capt. Randy Kelley) and Executive Officer (Capt. Edgardo Perez-Lugo) of the Naval Health Clinic winning the cherished “Toilet Cover” award.

There were protests about the vessel because it so much resembled a sailboat.

However Kelley produced receipts and explained how he had

Regatta continued on page 8

Blackhawk Golf Tournament nets \$15,000 for Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

by Rod Hafemeister

Despite a slumping economy, the Ninth Annual Blackhawk Memorial Golf Tournament was a resounding success at its major objective: raising money for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society.

Matching last year’s fund-raising, the Aug. 3 tournament at Padre Isles Country Club raised \$15,000

for NMCRS.

“It was a superb tournament,” said Tambi Parker, Director of the NMCRS serving Corpus Christi, Kingsville and Ingleside. “There were 32 teams of four. We raised \$15,000 – same as last year.

“That brings the total over the life of the tournament to \$95,000.”

The tournament was created

and still mostly run by Amy Bridges Jacobs and her family.

Jacobs husband, Lt. Shawn Jacobs, was one of four HM-15 Sailors who were killed in an Aug. 10, 2000 crash of their MH-53E Sea Dragon.

She began the tournament to honor her husband, an avid golfer, *Blackhawk continued on page 9*



(above) Photos of the Sailors killed in HM-15 crashes who are memorialized in the Blackhawk

Golf Tournament. (right) Ed Mickley sinks a tricky putt.

Photos by Bob Torres



Skipper's Column

by Capt. Randy Pierson



Pierson

history within NASCC.

As our manpower and resources become

On behalf of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, I extend my most heartfelt thanks and admiration for the resounding local effort in our hosting of the 47th Annual Navy Regatta on Aug. 1-2.

As is clear from its title, this event has a long and pride-filled

more constrained, it becomes more critical we have a true "All Hands" effort, both Officer and Enlisted, both Military and Civilian.

This year's flawless event sported almost 50 entrants in the various racing events, supported through three yacht clubs.

Noteworthy this year was the reinvigorated participation of the Titanic Cup, when 11 entrants from NASCC and tenant organizations took to the "Seas" to demonstrate their shipbuilding, manning and tactical sailing expertise.

Of course it was the Titanic Cup where our military and civilians were able to stretch the limits of creativity and humor, yet aggressively compete for the cherished toilet bowl seat trophy – a long-time Regatta Treasure to be had!

Thanks for a great Regatta

Looking back at the three receptions and three races, I must say I am as proud as can be at how we pulled off the three-day event.

The accomplishments were only made possible through all the military volunteers and supporting Commands. Without volunteers, the event would be cost-prohibitive and we would no longer be able to support it.

MWR did a great job and I most appreciate the great numbers of TW-4 volunteers. The success of this weekend is only due to dedicated individuals across the installation.

Finally, a most heartfelt thanks to the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, supported by the Bay Yacht Club, for their amazing generosity and remarkable support to each and every one of us.

See you next year!

Wingspan

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Chaplain's Message

by Lt. j.g. Rob Fasnacht, Chaplain

I just finished a week of leave, and I am exhausted!

Many of us look forward to coming back to work from vacation because our time away from work was so busy.

Yet when we return, we somehow have more weeks' worth of work to catch up on than weeks we took off.

Sometimes, it seems better not to leave at all.

Abandoning vacation time should not be an option.

We need leave from work to refresh ourselves and to spend quality time with our families, friends, and hobbies.

But when we try to load a year's worth of relaxation into one or two weeks, we simply overload ourselves with busyness and activities.

The result is exhaustion from the very event that was meant to refresh us.

That is why we must be diligent in taking one day off a week to rest.

In the Bible that is called "Sabbath."

According to the Book of Genesis, God created the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested from His labors of creation. On the seventh day, God ruled over His work.

When we find time to take one day off a week, we get to rule over our work and do not allow our work schedules to dictate our lives.

Many of us, however, are ruled by our work. We are workaholics, and our jobs, families, and personal health pay a huge penalty when our priorities get out of whack.

Vacation from the vacation

I truly understand how hard it is to find a day off – remember, I work every Sunday.

Therefore, I must prioritize rest and relaxation throughout the week, and I cannot expect one busy vacation to provide the rest I need.

So I urge you to make rest a priority!

You need to be purposeful in finding time to relax and breathe, to reflect and refresh.

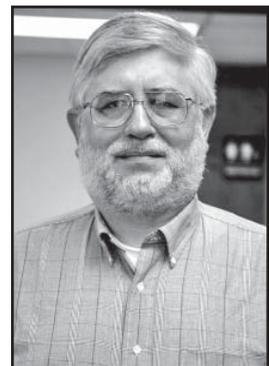
When you can do this once a week, your work week will be more productive and your vacations more fun.



Fasnacht

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

the boat from Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

First, congratulations to Capt. Randy Kelley and Capt. Ed Perez-Lugo, the clinic's Commanding Officer and Executive Officer, for the outstanding job they did designing, building and sailing their boat.

Some people questioned whether or not the "Bullet" met the \$75 limit rule. But when

Well, the 2009 Titanic Cup is over and the good news is, we beat all of Training Air Wing Four's entries – we beat the Commodore's challenge.

The bad news is, we still lost – we came in second to the "Bedpan Bullet,"

I saw it the day before the race, I was pretty sure it did – assuming that, like our boat, much of it was built of "found" materials.

After the race, Kelley shut the critics down with a detailed list of his expenses.

Again, congrats – it was a good design, well executed and well sailed.

Which brings me to MY excuse... I mean, explanation.

I blew it.

There were a couple of problems, but they all stemmed from something outside the race itself. The tow line, used to tow the boat over to the pier for the start, was rigged incorrectly.

This led to the tow boat having multiple problems getting us to the starting point, including pulling us backwards, sideways and every which way.

We ended up coming into the pier wrong and spent quite a bit of time getting turned around – including getting untangled from the "Bullet" – and tied off properly.

Titanic Cup - Titanic Race

That left me with little time to convert from towed to sailing rig, including converting the towline to a sheet for the sail. (Shoulda had more rope.)

My crew, the Skipper's daughters Brooke, Alyssa and Shelby, were terrific. They instantly did what I directed and helped where they could, but the makeshift rigging on the "Shark" is somewhat tricky to set up without having it rip away, so I basically did that myself.

The square rig we've used for two years wants to "go" as soon as it catches air – so the idea is to let it flap and not to actually set it until race starts.

(Shelby gets special credit for girl-handling the makeshift keel I put together on race day when I realized that, unlike in 2008, we weren't going to have a straight downwind run.)

With many more boats in the race this year, the starting line was rather crowded. And

Editor continued on page 19

Worship Services

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AF Air Education & Training Commander visits Training Air Wing Four

by Lt. Bethany King, TW-4 PAO

Gen. Stephen Lorenz, one of the top Air Force leaders, visited Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on July 24.

As Commander of Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Lorenz oversees all Air Force schools and training.

He came to NASCC to serve as honorary guest speaker at Training Air Wing Four's July 24 Aviation Designation ceremony, where he met the 17 newest aviators and pilots.

Lorenz also held an All Hands Air Force meeting in the ballroom of the Bay Club and met all of the resident Air Force instructor pilots and students that teach and train here.

Lorenz flew in from Randolph on a TC-12 and was greeted by Chief of Naval Air Training, Rear Adm. Mark Guadagnini.

The reception party also included NASCC Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Pierson; Training Air Wing Four Commodore Capt. Dave Price; CNATRA Chief of Staff Capt. James Crabbe; USAF Lt. Col. Bob Blagg, Commanding Officer of VT-35; and Cmdr. Dennis Crews, Commanding Officer of VT-31.

His day then included a couple of meetings with CNATRA and the leadership of Wing Four, pertaining to joint training.

Then he held the "All Call" for the Air Force members attached to Wing Four on the topic of leadership, before speaking at the



winging ceremony.

At the end of his day on board NAS Corpus Christi, flew back to Randolph in a T-44C.

As the AETC Commander, Lorenz is responsible for the recruiting, training and education of Air Force personnel.

His command includes the Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces and Air University, as well as Air Force Basic



Training and technical schools.

AETC trains more than 340,000 students per year and consists of 12 bases with more than 88,000 active-duty, Reserve, Guard, civilians and contractors, and 1,485 trainer, fighter, and mobility aircraft.

Prior to his current assignment, Lorenz was Commander, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is a command pilot with 3,500 hours in 10 aircraft.

(left) Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Commander of Air Force Air Education and Training Command, held an 'All Hands' meeting with Air Force personnel aboard NASCC during his July 24 visit for the Winging Ceremony. (below) Lorenz presents Air Force 2nd Lt. Danelle R. Mangelsdorf with her Certificate.

Photos by Hugh Lieck Event Photography



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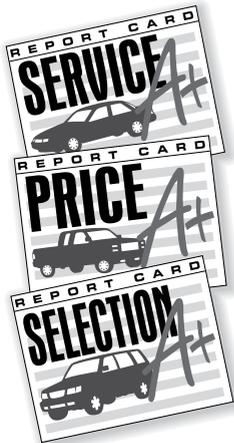
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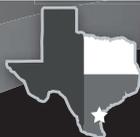
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Senior Chief Newland before and after



When Senior Chief Christopher Newland was 'piped aboard' (above) for his July 31 retirement ceremony, he had no idea what was in store for him.

After laudatory (and other) comments from other chiefs and the traditional presentation of awards honoring his 26 years of service, NASCC Command Master Chief Pat Flavin took charge. Under Flavin's direction, members of the Chiefs' Mess stripped Newland of his uniform and turned his trousers into cut-off shorts (left), leaving him in flip-flops, a flowered shirt and sunglasses.

Dressed in his new 'retirement uniform,' Newland was 'piped ashore' for the last time. (below) Photos by Rod Hafemeister

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'Guide to Group Riding' Class forming

by Dan Miller, Motorcycle Safety Instructor

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group – whether with friends or with an organized motorcycle rally – is the epitome of the motorcycling experience.

A "Group Ride" is one of the great on-roadway motorcycling experiences; a great way to share the fun and camaraderie of motorcycling.

But riding in a group also presents extra challenges compared to riding alone.

The NASCC Safety Department is offering a Group Riding Class to help you deal with those challenges.

Whether you are riding around the bay or riding across the country, this class will help make the ride safer and more enjoyable for you and others in your group.

Topics covered will include: Legal Issues, Group Ride Planning Points, Appointing Lead and Sweep, Hand Signals, Roadside Emergencies, Riding with Passengers and Inexperienced Riders, Proper Formation and much more.

Take advantage of this FREE training event and make all your group rides safer and more enjoyable.

Class will be held Sept. 14 at the Navy College from 6 to 9 p.m.

Seating is limited so please do not show up unless you receive a "Notice of Acceptance" from the instructor.

Register for the class via email to: Daniel.j.miller4.ctr@navy.mil no later than Sept. 10 or, for more information, contact the Motorcycle Safety Instructor, Dan Miller, at 961-1690.

Until then...be safe out there.

Motorcyclists who ride in groups, like these participants in the 2008 CNATRA Motorcycle Safety Ride, face extra challenges in both organization and safety. Join NASCC Motorcycle Safety Instructor Dan Miller for a special Group Riding Class on Sept. 14.

Photo by Michael Antoine, NAS Ingleside PA



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Better Body Boot Camp graduates first class



The NASCC Fitness Express on July 29 graduated its first Better Body Boot Camp class. BBBC is an eight-week lifestyle and weight-management challenge program that includes fitness assessments and nutritional guidance. The top three graduates, in order, were Capt. Holly Bennett, Karen Cowan and Rachel Pisarski. Pictured with MWR Director Dave Sullivan and BBBC Coordinator

Terry Serna are graduates: Holly Bennett, Bonnie Covert, Karen Cowan, Dale DuBose, Estella Espinoza, Yolanda Garcia, Joanne Gonzales, Laura Hebert, Arlene Jimenez, Cary Kazmaier, Jan Magil, Ed Perez-Lugo, Rachel Pisarski, Rusty Pitre, Verba Plumb, Cleo Rocha, Lanetta Ostermiller, Guadalupe Serna and Carrie Richardson.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



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Regatta continued from page 1

hand-sewn what looked like a sailboat's sail. It was actually a tarp.

It finally "passed muster" as a makeshift entry.

The Bedpan Bullet now stands proudly in front of the Naval Health Clinic for all to see.

The Clinic's second entry, "X-ray Vision," made up of PVC pipe and a plastic covering, did not fare as well as it had to be towed in and did not finish the race.

Sunday was the Military Challenge Cup,

when each boat was required to have a military member at the helm – some experienced and some not.

The race ended back downtown, with a buffet and awards ceremony at the Corpus Christi Yacht Club.

"This shows a perfect partnership between the Navy and both downtown yacht clubs," said Capt. Randy Pierson, Commanding Officer of the Air Station.

"It's a maritime experience, almost five decades old, that brings us together, where we can all have a lot of fun!"



47th Navy Regatta Final Racing Results

Navy Regatta, Saturday Aug. 1

150B Class: 1st Place *Agape*, Greg Turman;
2nd *Windswept*, Larry Frank;
3rd *Kinderspell*, John Bell.

150 A Class: 1st Place *Sweet Lelani*, Mark Rock;
2nd *Elan*, Bruce Swart;
3rd, *Curandero*, Robin and Alan Dinn.

All Sails B Class: 1st *The Skank*, Brant Koepke;
2nd *Thunder Chicken*, Ed Bonner;
3rd *Happy Dance*, Corey Harding.

All Sails A Class: 1st *Stoopid Monkey*, Darren and Chris Corley;
2nd *Creola*, David Wilson;
3rd *Mas Cervesa*, Tony Hauglum.

Best corrected All Sails: *The Skank*, Brant Koepke.

Military Challenge Cup, Sunday Aug. 2

150B Class: 1st *Kinderspell*, John Bell;
2nd *Windswept*, Larry Frank;
3rd *Brandy*, David Frank.

150 A Class: 1st *Sweet Lelani*, Mark Rock;
2nd *Elan*, Bruce Swart;
3rd *Warrior*, Hal Peterson.

All Sails B Class: 1st *The Skank*, Brant Koepke;
2nd *Thunder Chicken*, Ed Bonner;
3rd *Happy Dance*, Corey Harding.

All Sails A Class: 1st *Red*, Phil Davidson;
2nd *Wasabi*, Richard McIntyre;
3rd *What If*, Steve Lewis.

Best corrected All Sails both ways: *The Skank*, Brant Koepke.



Organizing family members present a \$15,000 check to Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at the Ninth Annual Blackhawk Memorial Gold Tournament. Pictured, from left: Amy Bridges Jacobs; her mother, Lynn Bridges; niece Hannah Bridges; local NMCRS Director Tambi Parker and Barb Sheffer, Director of Volunteer support for NMCRS worldwide.

Blackhawk continued from page 1
and raise money for NMCRS, because her husband was prior enlisted and dedicated to helping enlisted members.

Last year, the tournament expanded to include memorials for three HM-15 Sailors killed in a Jan. 16, 2008 crash.

Barb Sheffer, the Director of Volunteer Support at NMCRS Headquarters, where she oversees 3,400 volunteers worldwide, came down for the tournament and was very impressed.

"It's a wonderful event, very well organized," she said. "Just the family community that surrounded the organization was new for me – most are big corporate events and golf tournaments.

"And this is Amy Jacobs and her family and their sincere desire to give back, as well as all the family members involved with the other losses in that organization."

Unlike most charity events, the Blackhawk Tournament is tightly focused on its dual mission: Remembering those who died and raising money in their honor, she said.

She added that the all the details were as well organized as at any major fund-raising event.

"It's also the community at large that supports the tournament," Parker said. "We had a couple of World War II veterans out there – and they're so humble, like their

service was no big deal." Although the HM-15 Blackhawks will be leaving Naval Air Station Corpus Christi later this year for a new home on the East Coast, plans are to keep the tournament an annual event.

Parker said that besides the tournament, Amy Bridges Jacobs has begun volunteering at the local NMCRS office.

"To watch her growth through the years as she's moved forward has been heartwarming," Parker said.

NMCRS is the primary relief organization for the Navy and Marine Corps, with a strong emphasis on helping those in financial need and counseling them on how to manage money.

Although it gets office space on bases, it gets no funding from the government and lives on donations and other fund-raising.

Besides offering financial counseling and financial assistance, the NMCRS has a Visiting Nurses program.

And its Visiting Nurse Combat Casualty Assistance Program provides advice and support to wounded service members and their families.

The Corpus Christi NMCRS office also sends visiting nurses to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio on a biweekly basis to work with wounded service members and their families.

Navy Ball Golf Tournament

Friday, Aug. 21 - Gulf Winds Golf Course

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Tournament is a four-man scramble. Entries may put their own four-man team in or sign up as individuals and be placed on a team. tournament will consist of 18 holes with prizes, food and fun. Closest to the pin on all Par 3's.

Sign up at Gulf Winds Golf course, Fitness Express and E-Street Gym by Aug. 19. For more information, call Jim Day at 961-3250 or james.e.day@navy.mil

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Jeri Nix is incoming NASCC Ombudsman

Assisting Barbie Baker until Baker leaves in October

Story and photo by Rod Hafemeister

Jeri Nix jokes she's "probably nuts" for taking her new job, but said she's looking forward to the challenge of helping Sailors and their families.

As of late July, Nix is the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Ombudsman Alternate, the back-up to Ombudsman Barbie Baker.

That's as much transition as assistant, though – Baker leaves the job in October and Nix will become the primary Ombudsman.

"I enjoy helping people and just want to be of service to the military families," she said. "I work at the church, doing odds and ends. Right now, I'm refitting the teachers' work room, getting it reorganized."

Nix is the wife of ET2 Dewayne Nix, one of the Ground Electronics folks you see at many events. They have three children, Michaela, 11, Glenn, 5, and Marley, 3.

But that's not enough to keep her busy – she still volunteered to be an ombudsman.

And she knows what she's getting herself into – she served a year as an ombudsman at their last command, the USS Hue City, based in Jacksonville, Fla.

"It's a lot of weird hours," she said. "Sometimes intense phone calls. But in my experience, overall, it's always rewarding when you are able to help somebody, whether it's a bad situation or a good situation."

"If you are able to give them the information that they want and that they

need, you become their confidante. That's what I hope to be."

Even though she has experience, Nix said she is grateful that she gets a few months working with Baker and learning the ropes at NASCC.

"I think this will be different, because this is a shore command versus a sea command," she said. "So I know things will be a little different from that aspect."

"But the referral agent part should still all be the same. I think as long as there's a friendly voice on the other end of the line, people will be responsive."

The most common issues she's dealt with are money problems and separations – often linked together.

"You've got your husband or your wife deployed and the other one is left at home," she said. "And they're not sure how to handle finances. Or what to do with planning their time – those were the two biggest things."

"They wanted to know, 'What do I do when they're gone?' I finally got them into setting a schedule, getting them a calendar and writing 'get up at this time, have breakfast at this time.'"

"Everything was scheduled, to help them get through that first two months it took them to get through that transition of their spouse being gone and them taking on the mother and father roles."

Many spouses also find themselves responsible for the household finances for the first time, Nix said.

"They think, 'Oh, I've got \$1,000,' and they go spend it – and without thinking 'I've got this bill and this bill and this bill,'" she said.

When Nix speaks, you can hear her Mobile, Ala., upbringing.

She grew up around the military – her father spent six years on active duty in the Air Force and another 14 in the Reserves.

"It took some convincing to get Dewayne into the military," she said. "We had been married four years before he joined."

With a baby on the way and limited career advancement options, Dewayne enlisted in the Navy in May 1998, she said.

"We did three back-to-back sea tours," she said. "This is our first shore duty."

Nix and her husband have been at NASCC about a year, so she expects to have about two years aboard as ombudsman.

"I look forward to the challenge," she said.



NASCC Command Master Chief Pat Flavin presented Jeri Nix with her formal designation as NASCC Ombudsman Alternate on July 29.

Jeri Nix has set up a special email address for ombudsman business: nasccomb@gmail.com. She can also be reached by phone at: 361-446-9482.



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Sailor team with 'Amazing Luck' wins ten-grand wedding package

Story and photo by Bill W. Love, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office

Two Sailors stood victorious in the Bridal Boot Camp Obstacle Course Contest in Corpus Christi July 26.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class (FMF) Jeremy Stack of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi's branch at Kingsville (BHCK) and his fiancée, Engineman Third Class Brenda Acevedo, were the first couple to finish the course and win a wedding package worth more than \$10,000.

"We are still in shock about winning," said Acevedo. "It seems unreal, but we are so thrilled to have won and we look forward to planning our wedding!"

Stack is a lab technician at BHCK and his bride-to-be works at Naval Air Station Kingsville (NASK).

The obstacle course highlighted the daylong bridal shopping extravaganza at the American Bank Center's annual Wedding Fair.

The fair includes vendors and retailers who can help couples with their needs before and after the big day.

Almost 30 couples entered the contest by mailing a short story to the panel of judges about how they fell in love and why they deserve to win.

"Jeremy and I met at the 2008 Navy Ball at NASK," said Acevedo, a New York City native. "We sat at the same table, hit it off and we have been inseparable ever since. I feel as if it was meant to be because, together we have amazing luck!"

Stack and Acevedo, who became engaged on Valentine's Day 2009, were one of three finalist couples selected at the end of the day to race the course.

Obstacles included building a tiered cake and hopping with it through tires, donning wedding attire and sifting through chocolate liquid in search of matrimonial rings, and embracing each other for a speedy tango across the finish line.

"The toughest part of the challenge was the Kayaking," said Acevedo, "because neither of us had ever done it. I know Jeremy takes directions well, so he listened to the advice the local boater gave us and he did great!"

"So I just listened to Jeremy the whole kayaking ride."

Despite Stack's attention to detail, he says that he was completely unprepared for one of the obstacles.

His future bride shaved him with a bladeless razor after applying shaving cream, and he simultaneously applied makeup to her face.

"I don't know the difference between blush and eye shadow," confessed Stack. "All I noticed were the colors, and when we were finished Brenda told me that I had applied eye shadow to her cheeks."

"I'm glad we worked as a team so well, which is a good sign I'd say."

Stack and Acevedo are planning their wedding for January 2010.



Brenda Acevedo and Jeremy Stack, Sailors assigned to NHCCC, were the winners of the 2009 Bridal Boot Camp Obstacle Course contest held July 26

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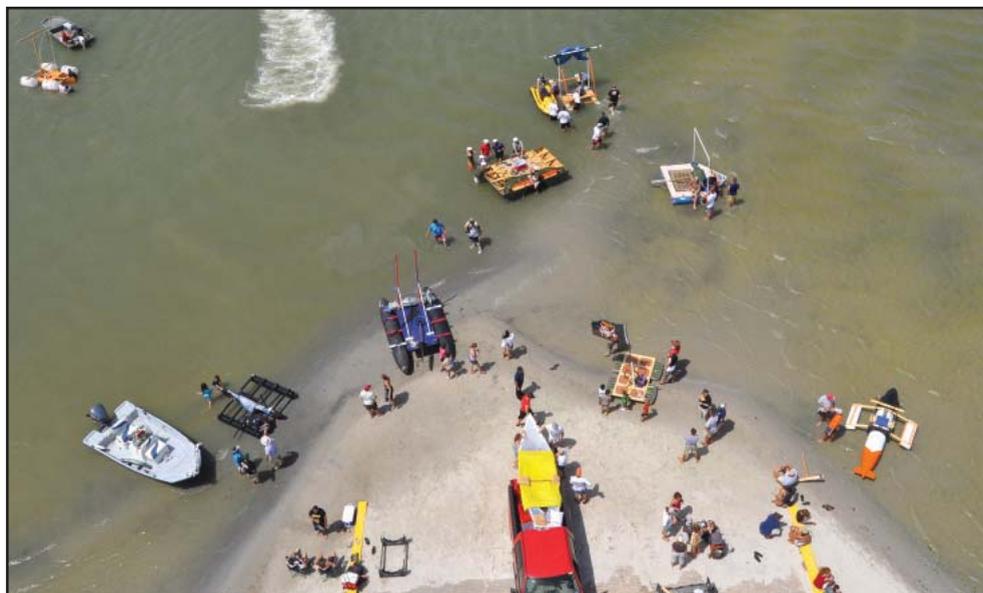
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TITANIC CUP - AUG 1

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This year, 10 boats entered the Titanic Cup - 11, if you count the unofficial 'party barge' - the race for pride, glory and a wooden toilet seat trophy using homemade boats.

Entries included everything from a parachute-towed barge to a pirate 'ship' using air mattresses to float to a full-blown sailing rig.

(above left) A bird's eye view of the Titanic Cup entries preparing for the race.

(above right) One crew learned the hard way that, as good as a parachute is at catching wind - it's even better at catching water.

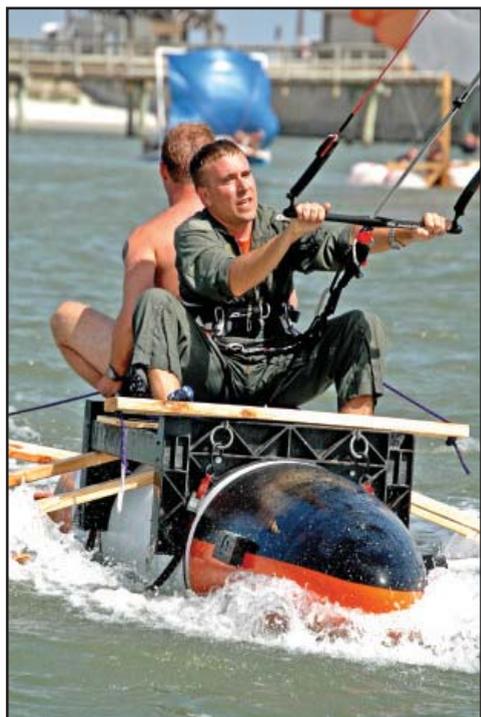
(below right) Last year's winner (middle boat with shark's teeth), representing Naval Air Station Corpus Christi with a crew that included NASCC CO Capt.

Randy Pierson's daughters, got turned around in the crowd at the start and had to play catch-up the whole race.

(below left and center) VT-27 took advantage of a loophole in the rule prohibiting actual sailing gear and used a kiteboarding kite to power their drop tank fitted with outriggers. They took the early lead, but capsized - and, unable to right their vessel, fell far behind.

(left) The winning vessel was the 'Bedpan Bullet' crewed by Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Commanding Officer Capt. Randy Kelley and Executive Officer Capt. Ed Perez-Lugo. A drop tank with outriggers, it benefited from a triple-sail rig - mainsail, jib and 'spinnaker' - all of them homemade.

Photos by Bob Torres



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Winging — July 24



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gault, Chaplain; Cmdr. Kevin Nash, XO Sector Corpus Christi Coast Guard; Maj. Gabe Fabbri, XO MATSG-22; Butch Escobedo, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Col. Robert K. Blagg, USAF, CO VT-35; Cmdr. Dennis R. Crews, CO VT-31; Capt. Dave Price, Commodore TW-4; Rear Adm. Mark D. Guadagnini, Chief of Naval Air Training; Gen. Stephen Lorenz, USAF, Commander, Air Education and Training Command.

1st Lt. Timothy Charles Bexten, USAF; 2nd Lt. Joseph David Borchardt, USAF; 1st Lt. Eric Daniel Gonzales, USAF; Lt. j.g. Craig D. Johnson; 2nd Lt. Jon-Mark Alvin Koetitz, USAF; Lt. j.g. Fabio Laporta, Italian Navy; 1st Lt. Douglas Findlay Mabe, USAF; 2nd Lt. Danelle Rae Mangelsdorf, USAF; Lt. j.g. Christopher Zell Matthews; Lt. j.g. Gabriele Parmegiani, Italian Navy; Lt. j.g. Patrick James Reilly; Lt. j.g. Stephen Paul Rice; 1st Lt. Raymond Jonathan Roe, USAF; Lt. j.g. Lex Anderson Smith; 1st Lt. Benjamin Carter Spain, USAF; Maj. Marlin D. Williams, USMC; Lt. j.g. Marco Zitelli, Italian Navy.

Military Members of the Quarter - 2nd Quarter 2009



Military Members of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter of 2009 were honored at a luncheon Aug. 6. Awardees included: HM-15 – AD1 Allison Cashat, Senior Sailor; AD3 Alicia Lyons, Junior Sailor; and AMAN Rohit Nautiyal, Bluejacket (not pictured, deployed); NAS Corpus Christi – AO2 (AW) Christopher Polson, Senior Sailor; ACAN Brittany Dietert, Junior Sailor; NHCCC – HM1

(FMF/SW/AW) Shannon Bia, Senior Sailor; HM2 (FMF) Steven McKinley, Petty Officer; HN Matthew Keydeniers, Junior Sailor; US Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi – BM1 Matthew Deane, Senior Military; DC2 David Stauffer, Petty Officer; SN Jeff Linberg, Junior Military; MATSG-22 – Sgt. Christopher Williams, Marine of the Quarter.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



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NASCC CO Capt. Randy Pierson presented Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Gault, Chaplain, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Third Award) during the Command Quarters ceremony Aug. 4. Gault is leaving for assignment on the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74).

Photo by Bob Torres

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Achievement Medal for BM3 Armstrong



NASCC CO Capt. Randy Pierson presented Boatswain's Mate Third Class Dashaun L. Armstrong with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during the Command Quarters ceremony Aug. 4. Armstrong received the award in recognition of his work as assistant work center supervisor at the E-Street Gym from May 2007 to August 2009. Photo by Bob Torres

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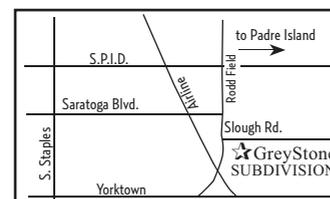
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A: In a study published by the *Journal of Family Psychology*, researchers investigated the problems of 131 couples during their stages of the early years of their relationship: (1) before marriage; (2) during the first year of marriage, and (3) after the birth of their first child.

The results of the study found that money was the number one problem at all three stages of the relationship.

Jealousy was a big problem before marriage but declined thereafter.

Relatives were a big problem before marriage and again after the first child was born.

Communication and sex became greater problems after marriage and after the first child was born.

Relationships with friends, religion, and alcohol and drugs were more of a problem before marriage.

Problems having to do with recreation declined in importance after marriage and then rose after the first child was born.

Q: My husband and I are concerned with the status of today's economy. How are families and relationships being affected by the economic crunch?

A: Research has indicated that economic distress has a significant effect on the individuals and families involved.

Unemployment and employment uncertainty are associated with depression, anxiety, psychophysiological distress, and mental hospital admissions.

One study found the level of economic status affects mortality; the advent of poverty, for example, increases the hazard of dying for both men and women.

In a different study, men's unemployment was found to

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Garcia continued from page 16

be associated with increased psychological distress for their spouses.

In fact, women show more anxiety and depression when their spouse is unemployed than when they are unemployed themselves.

Other studies have shown that unemployment lowers self-esteem, which, in turn, is related to a lower level of self-mastery and to an increase in depression.

A study published in the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* has shown that income loss and economic strain are negatively associated with marital quality and family satisfaction due to financial conflicts, the man's psychological instability, marital tensions and hostility, and lack of warmth and support.

Mounting economic pressure makes men more irritable and short-tempered, increasing their hostility in the marital relationship and causing them to behave more punitively in their parent's role.

Ruben G. Garcia, Ph.D., LMFT is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and co-founder of The Healing Institute. Submit your questions to Dr. Garcia via email at troubadour55@hotmail.com or contact Dr. Garcia at (361) 814-4556.

New to the Base?



by John Kummer, FFSC

Several base and community organizations have teamed up to welcome new families to the area.

We will be hosting our new Family Welcome Program on Sept. 1, from 10a.m. to Noon at St. Joseph's Hall (Bldg 333) next to the Naval Health Clinic.

It will be followed by a free lunch hosted by the base Chaplain, Noon to 1 p.m.

This event is open to all branches of service.

If you are new to the area, please join us as we present all the important relocation information you might need to make your tour here most enjoyable and productive.

Topics to be discussed include: installation overview, key base and community resources, child care, housing, education, employment, and more.

Registration is requested. For more information or to register please call 361-961-2372.

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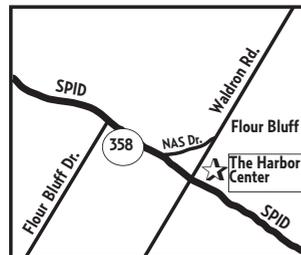


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Children and fire

NAS Fire and Emergency Services

NAS Corpus Christi continues to have a low rate of fire in comparison to nationwide trends.

Nationally there are 5.28 fires (all types) per 1,000 population, while at NASCC the actual rate is 0.88 fires per 1,000 (total population/all occupancies and types of fire), and a residential rate of 0.29 fires per 1,000 (residential population, including transient populations in "residential type occupancies.")

This is great news for us, but there is still more that can be done.

Did you know that 50 percent of child fire deaths affect those under the age of 5?

Escaping from a fire can be difficult for very young children who generally lack the motor skills and mental capabilities needed to quickly escape a burning building.

Young children are not able to sense danger in the same way as adults. They have a very limited ability to react quickly and properly in an emergency situation as well as little control over their environment. This increases their risk of death and injury in a fire.

Protect your kids ... install and maintain smoke alarms and residential sprinklers and practice home fire escape plans to ensure your children will be safe if a fire were to start in your home.

The U.S. Fire Administration provides fire prevention information to teach children and their caregivers about the dangers of fire.

Children and Fire – Life Saving Tips

- Keep matches, lighters and other items used for ignition in a secured drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children.
- Teach your children to tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Always dress children in pajamas that meet Federal flammability standards. Avoid dressing children for sleep in loose-fitting, 100% cotton garments, such as oversized t-shirts.
- Teach children not to hide from fire-fighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location.
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if clothes catch fire.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside. Get out and stay out.
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm.
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.

Remember, prevention starts with you!

As of 2004, 96 percent of homes in the United States had at least one smoke alarm. However, only three-quarters of all homes had at least one *working* smoke alarm.

Editor continued from page 2

when the starting horn blew, we bumped and bounced – and got sideways before I could get the sail set and the rudder into play.

It took a couple minutes to get the boat sailing properly; the girls actually grabbed the sail and held it in place while I adjusted the rigging.

But once underway, she showed her speed. We basically were the last off the starting line – but quickly caught up and passed most of the other entries.

We moved into second place about the time the “Bullet” crossed the finish line, as near as I could tell.

There’s still a debate going on about whether or not we could have beat the “Bullet” if we’d had a clean start. I’m not sure – she was a fast boat with a lot of sail and probably a better design for wind coming at a 45 degree angle.

Either way, we had a lot of fun – and there’s always next year!

Photos: As always, Bob and I took way more photos than we can possibly use in the Wingspan. I’m currently working on a way to post some of them online, but as of press time I’m not sure if it will be on the NASCC public web site or one of the free photo posting sites. When I get them up, I’ll post the link at the Regatta illustration on the front page of the NASCC web site: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/CorpusChristi/index.htm>.

I also should have links to photo albums from the NHCCC PAO and the Coast Guard PAO.

Enjoy!

**NASCC part of
CNIC Meritorious
Unit Commendation**

Navy leaders have awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to Commander Navy Installations Command and its subordinate units, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

Those eligible for the award include military and civilian personnel assigned to NASCC between Feb. 1, 2006 and Jan. 31, 2009.

The citation states: “Through a complex alignment of Headquarters, Region, and Installation processes, executing \$9 billion in multiple appropriations and integrating more than 52,000 facilities and 57,000 personnel into a single enterprise, CNIC was able to drive facility recapitulation rates down 17 percent and optimize operational support to the Navy global shore enterprise....

“By their superior achievements, outstanding performance, and loyal devotion to duty, the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees of Commander, Navy Installation Command reflected credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

For more information, see the CNIC Gateway at: <https://cnicgateway.cnic.navy.mil>.



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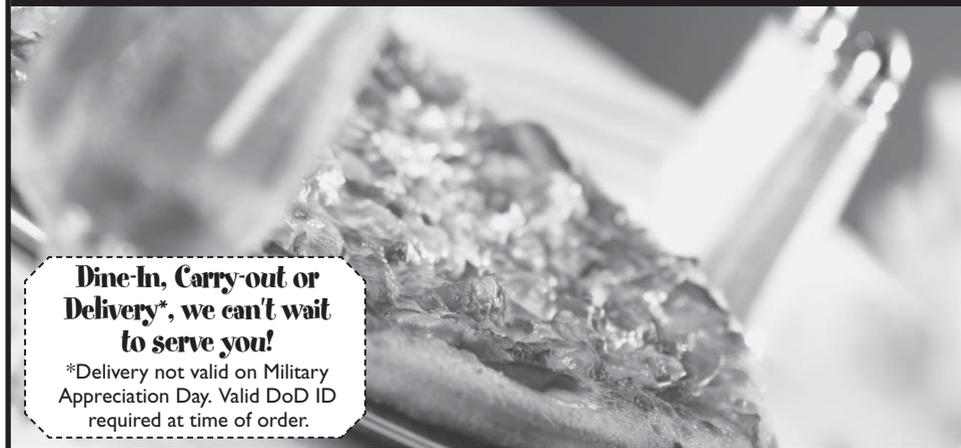
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NEWSLETTER OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

August 2009 ISSUE



USS CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN 705)



Corpus Christi Council

Established -1947

"The objective and purpose of the Navy League is simple - to educate & motivate the American people with regard to the role of sea power"

CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA SERVICES (NAVY~ MARINES CORPS ~ COAST GUARD ~ MERCHANT MARINE)

Since its founding in 1902 — with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt — the Navy League of the United States has provided a powerful voice for a stronger sea service to Congress and to the American People. The Navy League has grown to become the foremost citizens' organization to serve, support, and stand with all the U.S. sea services — the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

With oceans bordering its eastern, western, and southern coasts, the United States is indeed a maritime nation and it requires strong sea services — a critical element of homeland security and peace.

The Navy League has compiled an impressive record of accomplishments by members who are recognized for their integrity, patriotism, and community service. Since the Navy League's founding, it has grown to become a worldwide organization with more than 60,000 members in 250 councils. Council membership includes more than 250 corporate and community affiliate members. ([Corpus Christi NLUS Community Affiliates - 16](#))

Today, the Navy League's original mission is focused on two main initiatives. First, the Navy League's public education efforts are designed to inform the nation, and its political leaders, of the vital importance to the country of comprehensive and fully-prepared sea services. Second, the Navy League, primarily through its councils, provides support for active duty sea services personnel and their families. In keeping with its educational objective, the Navy League also supports America's young people through successful youth programs, including sponsorship of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, the NJROTC / MCJROTC and the Navy League Foundation Scholarship Program.

Your Local Navy League Council

The Navy League devotes time, money and energy to support and improve the well being of American service personnel and their families. Local councils adopt ships and shore commands; reward and honor enlisted personnel of the year; host dinners and balls for military personnel; and visit and support family members left behind when spouses and parents are deployed. In addition, they have planned, executed, and underwritten the ceremonies connected with the commissioning of new Navy ships or openings of new military buildings; raise money and provide volunteer workers for fleet week activities; and host birthday celebrations for the various sea services. In keeping with its educational objective, the Navy League also supports America's young people through successful youth programs, including providing numerous local and national scholarships.

RULES FOR MWR ACCESS

NLUS members may apply for a MWR Access Card with picture. The expiration date will be equal to the expiration of their Navy League Card/ not longer than 3 years.

To simplify the process, NLUS members may email **1) NAME - 2) Date of Birth 3) Driver's License Card Number / State** to CorpusNavyLeague@aol.com. This will be forwarded to Base Security and back to you with your NLUS Member Number. After 3 days - check at Pass and Tag / Flour Bluff Gate - to see if your card has been approved. Be prepared to show your Drivers License, current proof of insurance, and registration.

This card is not needed by Military Dependents/ Retirees who already have an issued Military ID Card.

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Quail Unlimited banquet helps Escondido Ranch



The South Texas Chapter of Quail Unlimited's annual fundraiser banquet also is a way to help restore game habitat at the Navy's Escondido Ranch. In the last four years, STCQU has donated \$70,000 toward the ranch's habitat restoration and maintenance projects — and they hope to raise enough to do more this year. Escondido Ranch is a hunting ranch managed by Naval Air Station Kingsville's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department, offering a south Texas hunting experience to military members and DoD civilians. The STCQU banquet will be held Aug. 29 at the J.K. Northway coliseum in Kingsville. The menu will include quail, nilgai, feral hog, shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, veggie and fruit trays, and home-made cookies for dessert. Advance tickets are \$75 per person; \$125 per couple. For more information, call: 361- 592-6723, 361-877-9894, or 361-568-3536 or visit their website: www.stcqu.org.

Photo by Hugh Lieck

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Grand Opening for ITT



The Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT) office will host a Grand Opening of their new location on Friday, Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ITT recently moved to Building 1785, next to the Post Office in the NEX parking lot and they are going to cut the ribbon on their new digs at 11 a.m.

There will be free hot dogs, soda and cake; a Moon Jump inflatable and a chance to meet Bugs Bunny! There also will be drawings for giveaways for vendors. Scheduled vendors include: Natural Bridge Caverns, Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi Hooks, Corpus Christi Sharks, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and US Hospitality.

For further details or more information, please call 961-3961.

Visit the ITT office between 8:30 a.m, and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for all your ticket & travel needs!

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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