



Also inside:



Chris Morse's successor, Angela Patangan, takes her place as NOSCO President. More from Angela on page 2.

Navy Fleet Gift Shop

News

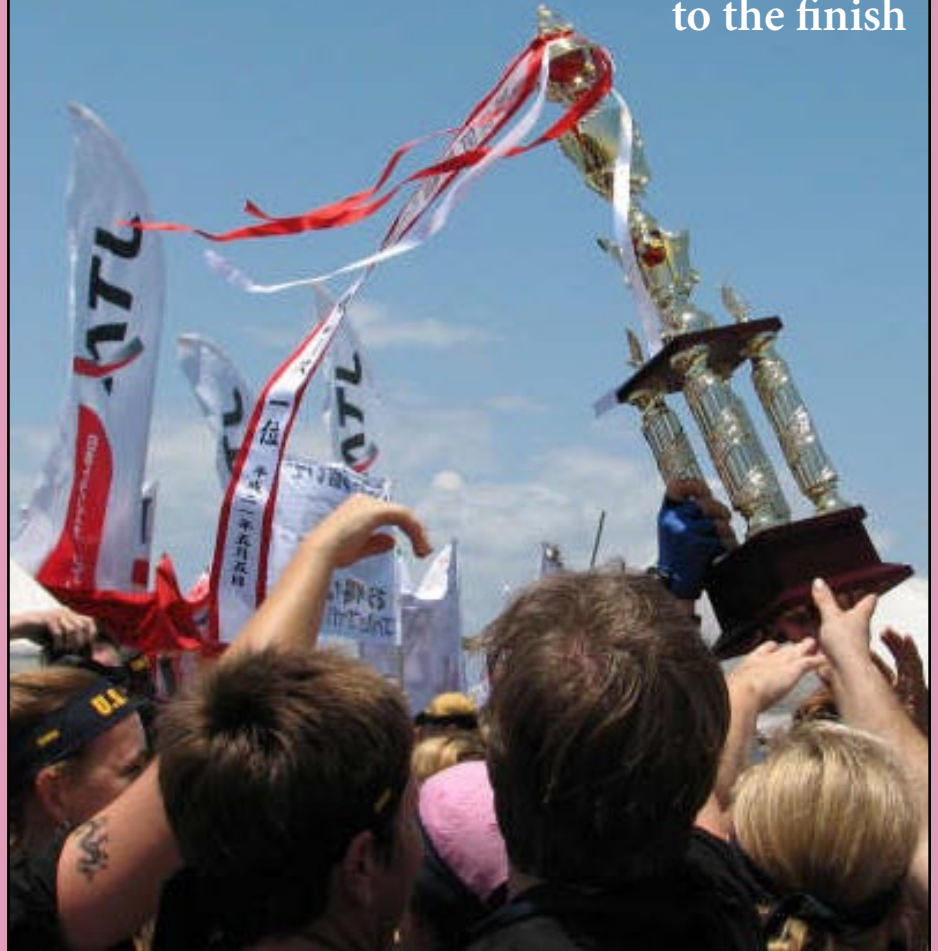
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NOSCO end-of-year picnic

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Dragon boat racing: one woman's race to the finish



By Jennifer Schrager

Standing in freezing thigh-deep water of the East China Sea, rain pouring around me at 5:00 a.m., I ask myself, "What am I doing?"

As I push my paddle deeper through the water thinking of the coveted trophy that sits proudly at the front of USNH Okinawa, I realize I am embarking on more than a cultural experience — I am part of the the women's Navy dragon boat team.

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...from our president



Summer Greetings to all of you!

I am so excited and honored to be your President for 2009-2010! What an incredible opportunity to work with such a fabulous group! Each of us on the board is dedicated to making this a wonderful year! NOSCO is an incredible organization to be a part of! I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with everyone this year and meet all of you! I have been on Okinawa for almost a year and I have had the opportunity to see funds earned at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop and through our fundraisers help support both American and on-island charities through AWWA and we were able to give scholarships to several students preparing for college. What an AWESOME feeling to know that we are making a difference in other peoples lives!

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who give a bit of their time to help at the Navy Fleet Gift Shop! Another huge "Thank you" goes out to all of the volunteers who have been such an incredible help as we have transitioned over the past few months at the gift shop. This year I would love to see not only the same volunteers but, it would be wonderful to see many new faces as well! Every person's help makes the shop a success whether it is for an hour a month or a regular weekly time!

I want to also take the opportunity to thank last year's NOSCO board. Your time and efforts were not only appreciated by the members of NOSCO but also by every life that you helped touch this past year with donations, scholarships and funding for AWWA. A special "Thank you" to Chris Morse whose efforts as NOSCO President for the past two years have been amazing. Her shoes will be very tough to fill! She has been an incredible leader and friend to many of us and she will be missed!

To all of our NOSCO members leaving the island this year... we will miss you! To those of you staying...I look forward to this journey with you! As we take a small break for the summer please stay in touch with your coffee groups. If you are traveling, have a wonderful time and may your travels bring you safely back to Okinawa!
I look forward to a great year for NOSCO!

Warmest Regards,
Angela Patangan

June news from the Navy Fleet Gift Shop

FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 21ST!
STOP BY FOR GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR
THE SPECIAL MAN IN YOUR LIFE!

Vendors this Month!

June 3-6: Watercolors by Rachel Dutton

June 10-13: Uptight, Textiles from India

June 17-20: Obi Handbags by Natalie Kinkade

June 24-27: Watercolors by Marisa Johnson

Navy Fleet Gift Shop Staff

If you have been in the gift shop lately, you
might have noticed some new faces!

We welcomed some new members to our
team & would like to pass along an
updated employee list:

Ana Kukowski- Director

Amy Pettle- Merchandise Manager/Buyer

Laura Seng- Buyer

Caroline Hutto- Bookkeeper

Jessica Hampton- Operational Supervisor

Angie Wolfgang- Shop Assistant

Krystal Lawson- Shop Assistant

Erina Iho- Shop Assistant

Summer hours start June 3rd at the Home Store: Wed-Sat 10am-3pm

Looking for a way to spend your
summer days? Come in and volunteer!

Naval Hospital

By Lori Tramont

The Navy Hospital Coffee Group had a farewell dinner for Carla Thorson at the Habu Pit on May 14th. We had delicious Mongolian BBQ, and Rene Pachuta presented to Carla a beautiful handmade oriental quilt that she created. Each quilt square had a coffee member's signature and several photos of prior coffee events were also incorporated into the quilt. What a wonderful keepsake for Carla to remind her of Okinawa! Carla also gave Lori Tramont and Annette Switzer each a kokeshi doll and beautiful Okinawan glass pendants and earrings for farewell gifts. It's hard to believe it's the end of the year. Thanks for some great memories!



Coffee Talk

CTF-76



By Colleen Cooney

We gathered at Tonneau (The Barrel) Restaurant for some delicious izakaya-style food on May 7 to say farewell to Stephanie Ouellette. Also, a big congratulations goes out to Jessica Grant and her family, they welcomed a new baby boy - Wyatt - on May 15. Everyone is healthy and happy!

Recently, we voted to include all command spouses in our group, and a meeting is planned for June 9 to welcome newcomers and discuss everyone's wishes and ideas for the future of the group.



Any comments or suggestions about *The Seagull* can be submitted to Editor Colleen Cooney at cmcooney77@gmail.com

Dragon boat racing...

from pg 1

We were competing for a third consecutive win at the Nirai Kanai dragon boat race in Naha. Held during Golden Week in May, Nirai Kanai is the largest of its kind on Okinawa. It is an honor and a privilege for US armed forces teams to be welcome to this event. It's a chance for service members, their spouses and civilian employees to come together and compete in a local event.

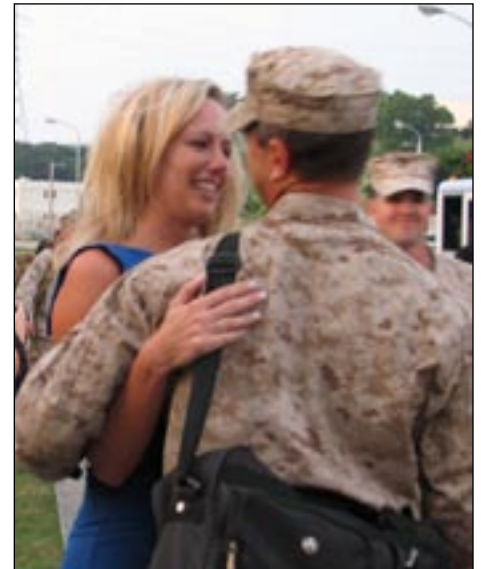
But, for me, this was more than a cultural experience. My husband, LCDR Jason Schrage, deployed to Afghanistan in October with CLB-3. Having pictures and stories of the strenuous practices, coming together as a team and all the bumps, bruises and scrapes along the way, filled my e-mail messages with something more than the general routine of the day. It gave me something new and different to share and another reason for him to be proud of me in his absence.

Race day came and we were



ready. We had several perfect practices behind us and a dedicated coach, Amy Kreig, to lead the way. Her words were always inspiring and always truthful. She built us into a group of 38 strong, powerful paddlers who worked well together as a team. We lined up and walked to the dock where we would load up in the huge 30-seat boat. We walked past spectators in the crowd with our men's team chanting, "Navy! Navy!" Approaching the dock, the adrenaline was pumping. We were ready to put 12 weeks of practice to test. Hours and hours of early morning practices all came down to 6 minutes. And when the gun sounded,

Jennifer welcomed her husband home from Afghanistan recently.



we did not disappoint. We started our fast 15 in perfect synchrony giving us a strong lead, but it was the Navy signature turn around the buoy that put us ahead of the rest. Finishing with a time of 5:51 seconds, we had won. Beating all other services and Japanese teams, we were the strongest women on the water that day and had much to be proud of. But the highlight for me that day was not the trophy as I had thought—it was the phone call from Afghanistan with the question, "How did you do?" And my answer was simply "We won."





Thanks to everyone that made it out to NOSCO's end-of-year picnic! With Nap's catering lunch, door prizes, and even a bounce house for the kids, a great time was had by all!



AWWA Corner

By Amy Pettle, AWWA Chairperson

Each month, NOSCO donates money to various American and Japanese charities through AWWA (American Women's Welfare Association). Your Navy Fleet Gift Shop dollars and volunteer hours make these donations possible!

Recent Grants:

American

• American
Kubasaki Boys Basketball, \$334.98 (Hong Kong Invitational tournament fees and airfare)

Okinawa Consolidated Troop Philmont Crew, \$334.98 (High-Adventure Expedition to Philmont Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico)

If your organization would like to apply for a grant through AWWA, applications can be obtained by emailing our AWWA Board at awwaokinawa@yahoo.com. Please contact me directly with any questions concerning AWWA at ampettle@yahoo.com.

The Navy Fleet Gift Shop

is on
SUMMER HOURS!

Wednesday thru Saturday
10am – 3pm*
(until September 1st!)

*Kids' Cottage hours on Saturday are
Noon – 2pm

Happy Birthday

Stephanie Brooks	June 5
Meredith Bolton	June 6
Colleen Cooney	June 10
Jody Torres	June 14
Nobue Lowrey	June 14
Susan LaBanc	June 15
Sandra Kreh	June 22
Dorinda Guzman-Williams	June 22
Salley Westcott	June 26
Bernadette Castillo	June 28
Anna Aho	June 28
Kelli Dillon	June 29
Mamie Gire	June 29



Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Camp Foster: Bldg. 5674, 645-7808, M-Fri 0830-1600

Camp Hansen: Bldg. 2339, 623-5043, M-Fri 1000-1400

NMCRS Budget 4 Baby class opens your eyes to the realistic cost of raising a child. Look at your current income, then add on estimated costs of basic baby items. THEN top them off with all the things you WANT for your baby! Can you afford everything in today's economy? Did you remember to include the cost of taking baby to see the grandparents??? How do you budget for both needs and wants for that new family member? NMCRS B4B class will start you off right financially. Receive a free layette that includes bibs, onesies, crib sheets, and more! Thursdays monthly - call for dates, locations, and times; NMCRS Foster 645-7808.

If you are interested in Financial Readiness, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is the BEST place to Volunteer. We train you in Budget/Spending Plan preparation, Understanding the Leave and Earning Statement (LES), basic casework, and more. NMCRS runs the latest version of Microsoft Office Suite, Volgistics volunteer management software, and private casework management software. Volunteering with NMCRS gives you a brilliant opportunity to maintain or update your computer software skills, financial management skills, and resume while providing a vital service to Marines and Sailors on Okinawa. See www.nmcrs.org to find out more about Volunteer opportunities with Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Call us to learn more!



Did you know that . . .

Volunteering at your local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Office may add years to your life? A 10-year study at the University of Michigan found that people who did no volunteer work died at an earlier age than those who volunteered at least once a week. Volunteering has added benefits: a sense of accomplishment, a dose of self-respect, and a boost of self-confidence. It can also serve as a reminder that, relatively speaking, your troubles might not be as severe as they seem.

NMCRS Volunteers are men and women, civilian and military -- active duty and retired, officer and enlisted, and their family members. Maybe even you!

NMCRS: Seeking New Volunteers!

www.nmcrs.org