

ALUMNI NEWS



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Captain John "Cosmo" De Pree, CO, PNS

Commanding Officer's Comments

Greetings Alumni, and Welcome to the Spring Edition of Your Newsletter!

OSU Food Drive

From March 1-31, the Beaver Battalion participated in the annual OSU Food Drive, led by MIDN 2/c Morris and MIDN 2/c Hurley. In the spirit of charity and showing our commitment to those in need, we were able to collect a staggering 5,934 meals and raised over \$1,780 in cash donations!

In other words, this year, the Beaver Battalion collected almost *double* the number of meals as last year – enough to secure First Place (Bravo Zulu to our two OIC's!!) – for the first time since the I've been here as the Professor of Naval Science. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the battalion's efforts to give back to our community!



MIDN 2/c Morris and MIDN 2/c Hurley

Battalion News (con't)

Spring Break Trip

Over spring break, seven members and two staff of our Beaver Battalion visited NAS Whidbey Island to learn about the Naval Aviation community and the future platforms they could have the opportunity to fly. Tours were made of several squadrons and aircraft, including the P-8 Poseidon, EA-18G Growler, and NAS Whidbey's Search and Rescue (SAR) detachment. Our MIDN also toured the Boeing aircraft factory in Everett, gaining a deeper appreciation for the engineering, fabrication, and manufacturing effort to produce both civilian and military aircraft.



Battalion News (con't)

Scholarship Activations

Congratulations to MIDN 4/c Darian Grady and MIDN 4/c Trayce Ward, on activating their 3.5 year On-The-Spot Sideload Scholarships on April 3rd and April 9th, respectively. The On-The-Spot scholarships were introduced last year to incentivize early scholarships to high performing College Program Midshipmen before the normal end-of-summer sideload scholarship window. We are Dam Proud of these two outstanding midshipmen now on scholarship!



Battalion News (con't)

Leadership Conferences

Thanks to the generous support from Alumni, Taffrail donation funds this Spring supported three leadership conferences across the United States. MIDN 4/c Hays and Young (left photo) had the incredible opportunity to attend the Naval Academy Leadership Conference, MIDN 3/c Strobl and MIDN 4/c Harris were able to attend the Notre Dame Leadership conference (center photo), and MIDN 4/c De Castro and Russell (right photo) represented the Beaver Battalion at the Yale Leadership Conference. We continue to be thankful for your generous support to allow these experiences to continue – thank you!!



Battalion News (con't)

Northwest Navy Competition

From April 4th to April 6th, the Beaver Battalion traveled to the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID to compete in the annual Northwest Navy competition, hosted by the combined Washington State University / University of Idaho NROTC unit. Our midshipmen, officer candidates, and MECEPs competed well in a variety of sports and military evolutions with determination, grit, and good spirit to take home second place overall. Fan favorite events included:

- Wrestling. Where MIDN 4/c Moreno pinned her opponent from UW in about 30 seconds – who also turned out to be a state champion from Washington (talk about WOW!).
- Flag Football. Where MIDN 4/c Larson continued to impress as our walk-on QB with back-to-back performances (remember our impressive victory over Army ROTC back in December?)
- Basketball. With SSgt Bice providing a dominating performance on both offense and defense!

Every year we have this amazing opportunity to show off our athletic abilities and strengthen connections that will carry forward into the careers of our students thanks to donations from the alumni group. We look forward to taking first place next year when we travel to the University of Washington!!



Battalion News (con't)

Joint Service Review



Alongside OSU's Army and Air Force ROTC units, the Beaver Battalion marched in this year's Joint Service Review (JSR) to kick-off parent's weekend on May 2nd. JSR is our annual parade for the university president, with coordination responsibilities rotating between ROTC units each year. With Army planning this year's event, OSU President Jayathi Murthi attended alongside COL Ballard, US Army National Guard, who served as the guest speaker and reviewing officer. Our Navy and Marine Option Midshipmen certainly looked sharp, led above by Spring Term BnCO MIDN 1/c Brett Rucker.

Battalion News (con't)

Spring Awards



On May 2nd, the Beaver Battalion also conducted our annual Spring Awards Ceremony. With the help of our donors and sponsors, 61 awards were handed out to our midshipmen, officer candidates, and MECEPs. These Marines and Sailors put forth their best throughout the year, working hard to improve themselves morally, mentally, and physically. We are proud to recognize their accomplishments with scholarships, plaques, and other well-deserved awards and gifts. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible and has given so much to support our students!

Battalion News (con't)

Joint Service Olympics



Competition never stops at the Beaver Battalion! On May 5th and 6th, we competed against Army and Air Force ROTC in the annual Joint Service Olympics. With two days of sports and physical trials, this competition gives all our units a great and fun opportunity to put our physical training to the test and go head-to-head! Congratulations to Air Force ROTC for their victory this year. All three units put on a strong display and showcased the fighting spirit of our Oregon State ROTC units. Go Beavs!

Battalion News (con't)

Iron Owl



On May 16-18th, five members of the Beaver Battalion traveled to Klamath Falls to compete in the annual Iron Owl Challenge – a grueling weekend of tough physical activity, consisting of a PFT, three hours of swimming endurance, a MURPH, and many more endurance challenges. In addition to testing physical ability, our midshipmen were challenged academically with mathematics, tactical planning, land navigation, and first aid. The event finished off with a marksmanship competition. These midshipmen are the toughest of the tough and a few of them are working hard to enter the Special Warfare community. MIDN 1/c Brett Rucker (center above) took special honors as the peer selected most inspirational participant. BZ!

Battalion News (con't)

USMC Ruck



On May 9th, our Marines and Sailors in SEMPER FI club conducted a 7.5-mile hike around McCulloch Peak in the OSU McDonald-Dunn Research Forest. Aimed to build strength and endurance as well as expose our students to long rucks, this is a hike in formation with packs weighing between 45-55 lbs. depending on year group.

Battalion News (con't)

Spring Picnic



On May 31st, we celebrated our third annual Spring Picnic. This is a morale event at Chintimini Park in downtown Corvallis with a BBQ and games, as well as a farewell for our graduating seniors. These seniors read off their “Senior Wills”, a playful and meaningful moment where they relive some of their favorite memories and old jokes with the battalion. Each year we have ended with a fantastic game of slow-pitch softball.

Battalion News (con't)

USMC Spring Field Exercise (FEX)



On June 7th, our SEMPER FI club held their Spring Field Exercise (FEX) at Najaf Training Center in Camp Adair. This year's event was a long day for our marines, beginning with a 0500 muster directly transitioning to a 4.5-mile ruck run. The day was filled with Leadership Reaction Courses (LRCs), Small Unit Leadership Evaluations (SULEs), and Land Navigation. These FEXs prepare our marines for their time at OCS where they will eventually earn their Eagle, Globe, and Anchors (EGAs). At the end of the day each midshipman conducted an evaluation of his/her peers, ending the year with good feedback to take into future training.

Battalion News (con't)

Spring Commissioning

On June 13th, the Beaver Battalion conducted our Spring Commissioning ceremony for eight newly commissioned officers! Six new Ensigns and two new Second Lieutenants entered the fleet after four long years of academics, physical training, and practical leadership evolutions. A big congratulations to these young men and women who have embarked on a career of service in the surface, submarine, and USMC communities. We thank them for their time here and everything they have contributed to our battalion, and we look forward to great careers for all of them. Hopefully, we will see them at future alumni events! A special thank you goes to our guest speaker, VADM ret. Kelly Aeschbach, who had the pleasure of commissioning her son, ENS Connor Aeschbach, alongside his peers.



Battalion News (con't)

Spring Commissioning (con't)



Congratulations to the following (left to right above):

ENS Collin Adler - Submarines

ENS Connor Aeschbach - Submarines

ENS Diana Cruz – Nuke SWO

ENS Jack Haldeman - SWO

ENS Renee Jones - Nuke SWO

ENS Dillan Ohalek - SWO

2ndLt Brett Rucker - USMC

2ndLt Joshua Switzer – USMC Aviation

Battalion News (con't)

Commencement



The following day, on June 14th, our newly commissioned officers had the distinct pleasure of attending the OSU Commencement Ceremony where they once again took the oath of office, alongside their Army and Air Force counterparts. These young men and women have taken their final steps out of Oregon State: turning their tassels, receiving their diplomas, and walking off into a bright new

Battalion News (con't)

Upcoming Events

Summer Cruises

Throughout this summer, our midshipmen are taking part in cruises around the fleet. Participating in NSI, CORTAMID, or at sea on their 2/C and 1/C cruises, these students begin to get a taste of what their lives will be like as future officers in the United States Marine Corps and Navy. We look forward to hearing their summer cruise stories!

New Student Orientation

At the end of the summer, the unit will be welcoming 17 new students – 14 Scholarship and 3 College Program – into our battalion with our midshipmen-led orientation on campus here at Oregon State University. We look forward to receiving these new students into the battalion and to beginning the training of a new generation of warfighters!





CAPT DAVID EDLING

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

USCG RETIRED

FINAL RANK
Captain

SERVICE YEARS
1969 - 1999

LAST DESIGNATOR
OFF-USCG Officer

PRIMARY UNIT
1997-1999, USCG Harbor Defense Command Unit (HDCU-110) San Diego, CA








BRIEF MILITARY HISTORY

Commissioned June 6, 1969 as a Distinguished Naval Graduate from the NROTC program at Oregon State University. First assignment was sea service aboard USS Duncan DD-874 which was deployed for combat service in the waters of Vietnam in 1970. Second assignment was as Executive Officer and Navigator aboard USS Lipan ATF-85 which also deployed to Vietnam in 1971. After Law School selected as an attorney for the U.S. Coast Guard. After five years as a USCG JAG Officer began 20 years of USCGR service with multiple Commanding Officer assignments including a command war zone assignment for Operation Desert Storm deployed to Saudi Arabia, Commander Reserve Group San Diego, and CO Joint Navy/Coast Guard Harbor Defense Command, San Diego, CA.

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Ed.note: I received the above input from Captain David Edling, OSU 1965-1969. Dave was the Battalion Commander Fall 1968.

Farewell Shipmate

We learned of the passing of Glenn Munkres on April 19, 2025 at home in Forest Grove, Oregon. He will be in-urn at Willamette National Cemetery and ashes scattered at the Hawaiian Islands in the summer.

Alumni Scholarship Award Presentations

This year's Alumni scholarship awards were presented to Midn Ryan Ireland, Midn Cole Voelpel and OC Ashton Keana'aina. Congratulations to this year's awardees. Best wishes for your continued success.



Midn Ireland



Midn Voelpel



OC Keana'aina

Alumni Coordinator
Doug Neve USN '81

Alumni Coordinator Notes June 2025

Dam Proud Day was successful in raising over \$24,000 towards the Alumni Scholarship fund at the OSU Foundation. Our endowed account now stands at approximately \$140,000. Many thanks to Kevin and Yvette Cady and Mike Sharp for their matching challenges and to all that donated on Dam Proud Day and throughout the year. Please consider future donations to the scholarship fund to support the NROTC students.

The Alumni Scholarships were presented at the Spring Awards Ceremony on May 2nd by Paul Odenthal and Dave McMorries, both Class of 1988. Several students and their parents personally thanked us for the support the Alumni provide to the program. Our financial and moral support are much appreciated.

Doug Russell, CDR USN ret, Class of 1986, is the newest member of the Advisory Committee.

The Beaver Battalion – Alumni Tailgater is set for October 11th this year; Homecoming against Wake Forest. Game time is 12:30. Our event will start about three hours ahead of the game. I once again encourage attendees to bring and sponsor a young person that would be a candidate for the NROTC Program. The young man that attended last year now has his heart set on becoming an officer in the Marine Corps.

Next year will be milestone anniversaries for the classes of 1955, 1965, 1975, etc. If anyone would like to head up reunion activities for those classes (or any other), please let me know and I will provide database excerpts so you can round up your classmates.

Please update your contact information if your email address changes. We have lost track of several alumni when they have retired and left us with a business email address. Also please encourage other alumni you know to get in touch with us to be added to the email list. They can either contact me directly or sign up from the website.

Fair winds and following seas to all!

Doug Neve USN 1981

OSU NROTC Alumni Coordinator

dneve9876@gmail.com

OSU NROTC Beaver Battalion Alumni Tailgater 2025

The Annual OSU NROTC Beaver Battalion Alumni Tailgater will take place on October 11, 2025 behind the NROTC Unit at Cascade Hall. The start time will be three hours ahead of the Homecoming football game against Wake Forest. Game time has been announced as 1230 so the Tailgater will start at 0930.

We will again rely on donations to defray the costs of the event and request that you consider making a contribution whether you plan on attending or not. The generous donations make the Tailgater possible and are very much appreciated! The Tailgater is our main social event of the year and brings together the past, present, and future of OSU NROTC. Thanks in advance for your support this year.

This will be a catered event once again. We are honored to sponsor the Unit midshipmen and officer candidates and their significant other. Cost to attend is being determined. You can confirm your attendance by sending an email to dneve9876@gmail.com.

The Tailgater is an opportunity to introduce a young person to Navy ROTC and help build the unit. Please consider sponsoring and bringing a young person that might have an interest in joining NROTC at OSU. The tailgater is a great way to introduce someone to the program.

Donations to support the Tailgater may be made in one of the following ways. The same methods will be available to pre-pay attendance once we determine the cost to attend.

1. Checks made out to **OSU NROTC Alumni** and mailed to:

Doug Neve

36393 Blueberry Drive

Lebanon, OR 97355

2. Venmo: Username @NROTC-Alumni.

3. PayPal: Username @NROTCAlumni.

Questions on Venmo and Paypal should be directed to Terry Robertson at terrychevy53@comcast.net.

We have a block of tickets reserved for the homecoming game against Wake Forest. Tickets will go on sale on July 28 th at this link: <https://osubeavers.eventue.net/promotions/NAVYROTC>. We are also planning to televise the game on the quarterdeck at the Unit.

Thanks to all and hope to see you at the Tailgater! Go Beavers!

Doug Neve

2024 Tailgater



OSU NROTC ALUMNI WEBSITE

<http://www.osu-nrotc-alumni.us/>

Editors Note

Oops! In the Feb 25 newsletter I mis-identified Mark Sloat. It was he (and not his wife Aimee) who brilliantly flew the incredible A-7.

The following was my input in the February newsletter. ***“OK!! I’m officially out of articles for the June newsletter.”***

As you can see from the contents of this edition I received a single alumni input (thanks David) so I decided to publish this edition as is. I know that we’re all busy but every alum certainly has a tall tale of adventure, a bar story, there I was at 60,000 feet inverted and out of gas, or a leadership lesson learned that can be shared. The audience is not just fellow alums; but, every OSU Midn has access to these newsletters. Don’t be afraid to pass on what you learned to our future warfighters.

I’m interested to see what I receive for the next edition (October ’25). Your input of any length would be appreciated.

Email me at kencollier73@gmail.com

Semper Fi

Ken

Alumni Group Volunteers

Alumni Group Coordinator

Doug Neve, '81 (USN)

dneve9876@gmail.com (763) 464-4864

Newsletter Editor

Ken Collyer, '73 (USMC)

kencollier73@gmail.com (737) 215 9471

Alumni Group Webmaster

Steve Beals, '90 USN

bealsey@gmail.com

Treasurer

Terry Robertson '67 USN

terrychevy53@comcast.net

Alumni Advisory Committee

(In addition to above)

Mark Ripkeyy '84 USN

Mike Morrissey, 68 USN

Steve Easterday '72 USMC

Doug Fullaway '74 USMC

Jim McCrae '72 USN

Ron Swingen '59 USMC

Steve Beals '90 USN

Vivian Zumstein '80 USN

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