

Annex E – NACO 2015 AGM Report

Speakers Programme

The focus of this year's programme was shipbuilding and the associated industry. Difficulties in coordinating this programme with planned NACO meetings, availability of potential speakers from the marine industry and a somewhat shortened speaker programme due to the 2014 NAC conference made this a challenge. As many members know we are also challenged by the elements and member availability to ensure a full house for these talks in the winter months. That said, we came close to meeting our goal.

Chantier Davie and Irving Shipbuilding Inc. provided very insightful presentations and discussions with the members on their efforts to modernize their shipyards and associated production methods. We had hoped to complete this programme with a presentation from Seaspan Shipyards but due to scheduling conflicts this will be deferred to Fall 2015. This scheduling "moving targets" also prevented us from hearing from CRCN or his representative. This will be scheduled in the upcoming 2015/16 programme for sure.

Other speakers included Lee Carson who gave us an interesting talk on his participation in the 2014 Franklin expedition that located HMS Erebus. Robert Lewis-Manning volunteered and provided an insightful and informative presentation on the Canadian Shipowners Association, of which he is president. Hassan Elthaler provided a brief on better ways to coordinate the efforts of the numerous agencies involved in maritime security to provide commercial shippers, port facility managers and operators with products that are more comprehensive and useful.

I would like to thank my co-director Tim Addison for his efforts to seek out speakers, as well as NACO members such as Bob Bush, Chris Willmes, Ken Bowering, and Gord Forbes for offering to either identify a speaker on short notice, speak on subjects of interest to our members themselves, or simply offer sage advice on potential topics of interest. (and yes others did seek me out so thanks to you as well)

Finally we are always looking to members for ideas on the programme either as a theme or simply to identify potential topics of interest, potential speakers or means to educate you the member on issues so that you are better informed to support our Navy. I urge you, the paying NACO member, to speak, mail, write...to your speaker programme director and let him know what you, the member, want to hear!

Respectfully submitted,

David Soule
NACO Speaker Programme Director