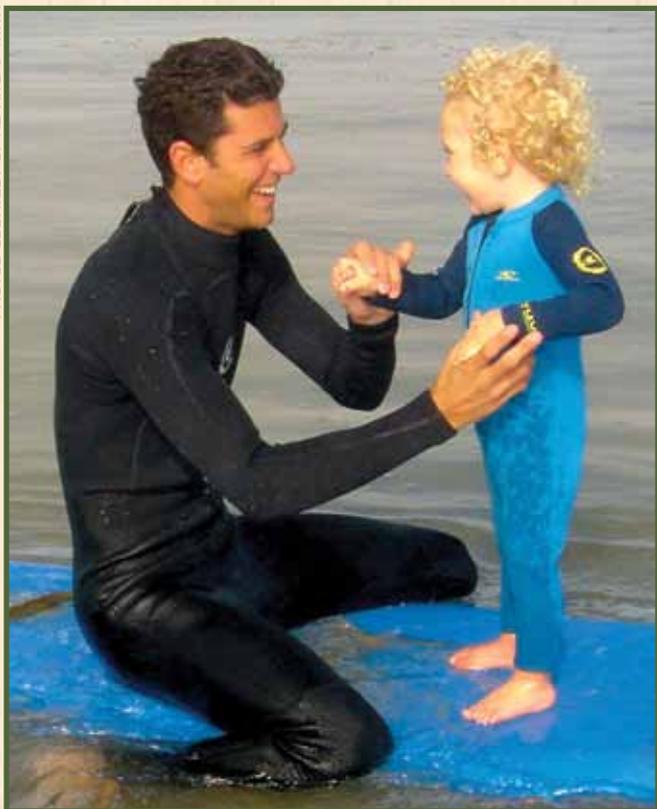


MWR is Mission Essential

at NB Kitsap

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NB KITSAP MWR



Paddle-boarding lessons are popular with families at NB Kitsap.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities and programs at NB Kitsap, Wash., are mission-essential, providing sailors and their family members with benefits that are key to their quality of life.

“The MWR program is linked to mission readiness,” states Beth Leone-Mullins, MWR Installation Program manager, NB Kitsap, who has been working with Navy MWR worldwide for 27 years. “It is essential to provide quality facilities and programs that are affordable to both the active duty and family member that have a positive impact on their well-being. A happy/satisfied sailor or family member positively impacts Navy mission readiness. It is essential that those who are deploying know that MWR is here for their families when they are not.”

RECREATION CENTERS

NB Kitsap has a total of three recreation centers, with one located at Bangor and two located at Bremerton. “At Bangor, the facility is a Liberty Center with eligibility limited to single active-duty military,” notes Leone-Mullins. “At Bremerton, the Recreation Center is all-hands and is open for use by all authorized MWR patrons. Bremerton also has a Liberty center available for single active-duty military.”

In 2007, the base converted a 28-lane bowling center into what is now called the all-hands Bremerton Recre-

ation Center. Total cost of the project was \$467,000, and the facility’s services and functions include: recreational library services for youth and adults; six lanes of bowling (QubicaAMF and Brunswick equipment); gaming tables (pool, foosball, air hockey and ping pong); youth gaming tables (pool and air hockey); a movie lounge; 12 individual game-playing stations; 10 large flat-screen TVs with X-Box 360 and Wii consoles for one to four players; eight leather recliners; 28 Internet computer work stations; WiFi; a quiet study room; a multi-purpose room; 60-inch TV viewing area set up like a living room; Navy Exchange (NEX) vending machines; information and entertainment ticket sales; and a monthly calendar of programs/activities.

“The facility is very popular and is frequented by our active duty, retirees and family members,” says Leone-Mullins. “There is a little something for everyone. At the end of FY12 our estimated patron count was 112,681.”

The recreation center will be getting some additional upgrades in the near future. “We are in the design phase at this time,” notes Leone-Mullins. “The renovation will include reconfiguring the service counter and administration space to include snack bar services and outdoor rental equipment, installation of laser/black lights to the bowling lanes, upgrading facility lighting, interior painting and the installation of a music sound room.”

Leone-Mullins says the base is also currently in the design phase of renovating the Bangor Liberty Center. The project includes the moving of its outdoor gear rental services to the building that houses the Liberty Center, and creating a counter that will serve both the Liberty and outdoor rental patrons. “This



The Bremerton Recreation Center has gaming tables for pool, air hockey, foosball and Ping Pong, as well as gaming tables for youth.

Best Facilities/Recreation



The children's library area within the Bremerton Recreation Center.

concept is part of a bundling initiative in order to prepare for a future with less funding," she points out.

For the equipment rental program, the Pacific Edge Outfitters facility houses rental and retail items, provides oversight to the base picnic and park areas (along with their reservations) and manages an RV storage lot. This program also administers an adventure program that offers seasonal programs such as kayaking, snowshoeing, whitewater rafting and stand-up paddle boarding.

"We strive to provide our customers with top-of-the-line equipment in order to ensure they are getting the best out of their recreational experience," explains Bill Gatlin, manager, Pacific Edge Outfitters. "Additionally, it is of benefit to our program not only from the customer-satisfaction standpoint, but also imperative from a business standpoint for us to have quality equipment that can last over time and stand up to consistent use."

As far as camping equipment goes, the facility carries name-brand equipment such as Kelty and Marmot for tents and sleeping bags, JetBoil personal stoves, Coleman cooler and camp stoves, and Deuter backpacks. For winter outdoor recreation equipment, the facility carries Black Diamond climbing gear, MSR snowshoes and Redledge apparel.

For mountain biking enthusiasts, the facility has Raleigh Talus 29er bikes, which "have been very popular with our customers," notes Gatlin.

The facility also has a variety of brands it offers for paddle sports, including SUP ATX stand-up paddle boards, Emotion and Prijon kayaks, and Wenonah canoes. "All are quality watercraft that have held up really well for us, and provided a lot of positive feedback from customers," says Gatlin. "Overall, I believe that we offer very high-quality equipment that is aimed to please the customer, as well as stand up to the increased use of being in a rental facility."

TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

NB Kitsap offers outdoor recreation programs year-round, taking advantage of the rich natural resources around the base and within Washington State. "In the winter, we offer snowshoeing, tubing and bald eagle float trips," notes Leone-Mullins. "And in the spring/summer we offer kayaking lessons, kayaking trips/evening paddling, stand-up paddle-board lessons, biking

trips and whitewater rafting."

Another popular outdoor program is the annual Paddle, Pedal and Pack event. Participants paddle five miles across the Hood Canal, cycle 10 miles along the Olympic Peninsula's scenic highway 101 and hike two miles up Mt. Walker. "This is a very popular program that sells out every offering," says Leone-Mullins. "We also offer a family kayaking lesson program. This allows families to arrange for a private lesson with our guides at their convenience. I am proud to say that we have an outstanding outdoor recreation adventure program with very experienced guides."

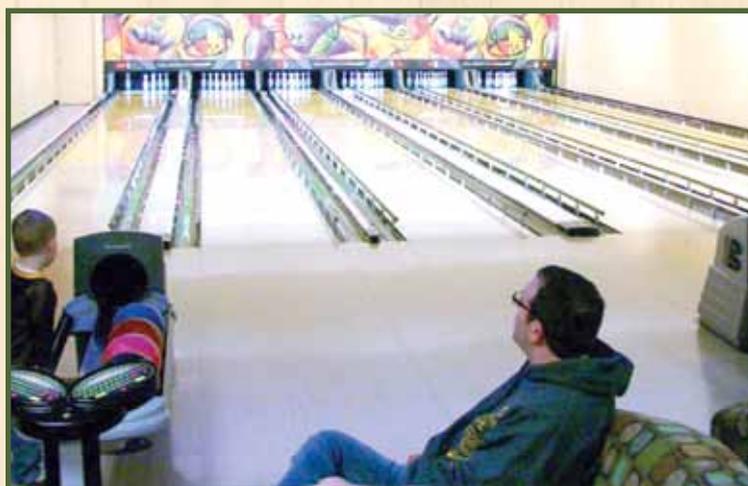
MWR also has a Tours program that offers a monthly calendar of trips. Excursions include a variety of year-round seasonal festivals; sightseeing in Canada; winter sleigh rides; shopping at the outlet stores; whale watching; zip lining; trips to local National Parks — Mt. Rainer and Mt. St. Helens; wine tasting; horseback riding; Twilight tour (associated with the movie/book); and more. "This summer we have programmed a two-week trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks," she points out. "We also have a Design a Trip program that allows a group to create a trip where they want to go, designed around their availability; we do the driving."

The Tours and Outdoor Programs are available to families and their children, and Outdoor Recreation modifies programs to meet specific needs.

In addition, Leone-Mullins points out that the MWR Deployed Support Services Division, which focuses on the afloat commands, coordinates and organizes fitness and recreation equipment aboard ships and submarines; trains active duty funds custodians on how to manage their on-board recreation fund and prepare for annual audits; issues a variety of outdoor equipment at no cost, which directly supports Command recreational gatherings; and coordinates and executes homecomings.

"Our goal is to provide positive recreational and athletic opportunities that contribute to the development of lifelong leisure skills or discovering the area of which they have relocated," she says. "MWR does a great job serving our patrons with quality programs and facilities. I am very proud of my team and what they bring to our sailors and families. The customer experience is our focus."

—GRF



The Bremerton Recreation Center has a six-lane bowling center.