

From the Association's Secretary



Registrations for our 19th Annual Reunion are coming at a record pace this year. I expect by the time you read this column (since I am writing in near the end of June) to have over 200 registered for the event. Having had 175 requests for information, we should conservatively exceed 300 in attendance. However, surprisingly, there are quite a few of our membership living in the vicinity of Las Vegas that have not shown an interest in the upcoming reunion. As emphasized in an earlier edition of this newsletter, you are not required to attend the entire four days, so if you can escape from the comfort of your home or the confines of your job or business, we would certainly encourage you to drop in and get acquainted with our group. The experience might just entice you to be in **full** attendance at our next reunion. In addition, those of you that live within a stones throw of our meeting place and plan to join us, we still need to know in advance of your intentions. Especially if you would like to participate in our Wednesday morning breakfast and General Meeting and the Banquet that evening. We are required to inform the hotel the number of persons that will be dining.



Dell Bancroft and I made an excursion to Chicago a couple of months ago to check out the proposals we had gotten for next years reunion. After looking at a number of facilities, we made the choice to hold the 2005 reunion at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Northbrook, IL. Further details will be available at the Las Vegas reunion and in the next newsletter. If you are unable to make it to this year's reunion, let's mark your calendar for Sept 28 - Oct 2, 2005 to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Hardly seems possible that we have been doing this for that length of time, unless of course you have missed a few along the way.

Over time, I have had suggestions that we hold a future reunion in Branson, Missouri. Well, as luck would have it, The Branson Veterans Task Force sponsored a familiarization program for Military Reunion Planners in late April, which I attended. While there is probably only one or two facilities which would comfortably handle a group or our size, the list of things to do and see is endless. However, the same problem exists as did six or seven years ago, when I looked into the possibility of holding a future reunion in Branson. **TRANSPORTATION is the big drawback . . .** unless you are driving; there is **NO convenient** way to get to Branson. If traveling by air, you must fly into Springfield, MO and then you still have a one and a half hour drive to arrive in Branson. Your options are either a rental car or limo service which is fairly costly. Experience has shown, that if access to a location is costly or not convenient our attendance numbers decline sharply. In fact, I just recently received a copy of the USS Sierra's Newsletter, in which, they too declined to consider Branson due to the difficulty with access.

Along those same lines, now is the time to start thinking and suggesting to your Advisory Board Members, a site for our 2006 reunion. By that time, we will be migrating back to the eastern section of the country. I have already received some preliminary proposals from a half dozen hotels in that area . . . this happens automatically when my name is published in periodicals as a contact person for our group. Get your suggestions in to your representatives, as we will be discussing this agenda item at our meeting during the Las Vegas reunion.

Here's wishing you all a pleasant and healthy summer. For those making the trip to Las Vegas . . . bring bucks. I have already made my contribution/deposit in an earlier trip, so I hope to make a withdrawal during this excursion.

—Ron



Keeping us informed of your address is very important ... to both of us!

- We want to ensure that our mail reaches you.
- We want to make sure you receive your copy of the "News."

Send all address changes to:

RON CURTIS
895 County Road 703
Bland, MO 65014

Name: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone # _____

Old Address: _____



DON'T FORGET
All dues payments and
orders for merchandise
are to be sent to
DELL BANCROFT,
Treas.

8135 SW 206 Terrace
Miami, FL 33189

e-mail: signondell@aol.com

Membership Dues

Yearly dues for membership in our organization is \$20. Checks can be made out to any of the Associations.

Life Membership Rates

If you have already paid your 2004 dues, credit for that amount will be allowed toward a LIFE MEMBERSHIP. We trust your integrity, no proof of birth date required.

AGE	LIFETIME DUES
40-55	\$ 170.00
56-60	135.00
61-65	120.00
66-70	100.00
71-75	80.00
76+	65.00



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**USS CURRITUCK, USS EVERGLADES,
TORPEDOMAN MATES ASSOCIATION**

**Balance Sheet
As of December 31,2003**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

CD-03/14/2008	5,000.00
PETTY CASH - ASST SECT	150.00
PETTY CASH - EXEC SECT	196.79
PETTY CASH - LOC AD24	202.81
PETTY CASH - LOC AV7/TM	163.59
PETTY CASH - NEWSLET	638.90
REGULAR CHECKING	3,531.08
REGULAR SAVINGS	2,009.58
Reunion Account	<u>1,813.58</u>

Total Checking/Savings 13,706.33

Other Current Assets

Inventory 8,461.15

Total Other Current Assets 8,461.15

Total Current Assets 22,167.48

Fixed Assets

Depreciation - Equipment -2,229.16

Equipment 2,229.16

Total Fixed Assets 0.00

TOTAL ASSETS 22,167.48

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity 31,252.54

Retained Earnings 139.29

Net Income -9,224.35

Total Equity 22,167.48

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 22,167.48



The Association's financial condition as of December 31, 2003 is shown in the Balance Sheet. The Association is in full compliance with the current IRS regulations regarding a non-profit organization of the Association's type. The Association's cash and other assets are sufficient for the continued activities of the Association.

-Dell Bancroft, treasurer

Look out Las Vegas, here comes “High Roller Ron” . . .

The Chinese Auction

Remember to bring an unwrapped gift that will be “auctioned off” to help subsidize the cost of the Hospitality Room. The article can be anything from a special handmade item to that really ugly clock that Aunt Clara sent you last Christmas. The “Auction” will be held on Wednesday and items will be on display as they arrive. remember to turn the gift in early for display.

★ ★ ★

Ship’s Store Volunteers

We’ve been very successful at past reunions in sharing this task among volunteers. Members volunteer an hour or so for a “watch” when the store is open. Don’t hesitate to volunteer and put your name on the list . . . it’s effortless and a great way to meet others.

★ ★ ★

Hospitality Room & Desk Volunteers

If needed, spend an hour or so meeting first and old timers with information at the front door or in the Hospitality Room. You are guaranteed an interesting time. Just ask the volunteers who stood watches previously – we had to talk them into being relieved.

Pedestrians beware – Consistently one of the worst cities in America for pedestrian deaths, Las Vegas streets are wide and fast; even the tourist-heavy Strip is eight lanes of traffic that can be moving well above the 30 mph speed limit during the day. Pedestrians violating the travel lanes are not given much concern by local law enforcement, either before or after they are struck, and physics are clearly on the side of the vehicle. Pay close attention to traffic signals, cross intersections only in crosswalks, only when the signal permits it and only after double checking traffic coming from all directions (always look over your shoulder). Most major Strip intersections now have pedestrian bridges to facilitate safe walking, as well as landscape barriers designed to prevent pedestrians from crossing in the middle.

Taxi pickups – Las Vegas cabs are prohibited from stopping for street-side hailers. Your best bet is to walk to an established pickup point at a hotel or shopping mall entrance and get a cab there.

Hurry up and wait – Unless you want to drive along the Strip for the experience of it (and it is amazing at night), the trip can be frustrating, especially on weekends, when visitors pack the boulevard. It can require two hours to drive what would normally take 10 minutes. If you’re in a rush, use Industrial Road and Frank Sinatra Drive (the latter of which is partially open, fully accessible in the fall) to the west, or Paradise Road to the east.

★ ★ ★

Mobile RV and Campgrounds

Las Vegas welcomes RV’ers and provides numerous campgrounds, RV parks and other services, rentals and storage facilities which cater specifically to recreational vehicle owners



2411 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Phone: 702/367-2411
Toll Free: 800/634-3101
Fax: 702/367-2478

Originally opened on July 1, 1976, in a 5,000-sq.-ft. building, Palace Station has evolved through a series of expansions into a modern resort hotel. Palace Station has served as a model for all the other "neighborhood" casinos in Las Vegas. Its formula blends popular gaming and dining choices with quality, value, convenience, and impeccable, friendly service. Nearly every other locals-oriented casino in town is still trying to duplicate it. Located just on the west side of I-15, Palace Station is about a mile from the north end of the Strip.

Room Description:

The Palace Station features 1,028 rooms with one king or two double beds. Each room can accommodate a maximum of four guests.

No. of Floors: 22

Payment Acceptance:

Visa, American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, JCB International, MasterCard, Discover

Casino:

The casino has more than 2,200 machines, 55 gaming tables, a 600-seat bingo room, two live keno games, a nine-table poker room, and a high-end slot area. more

Restaurants:

Casual Dining	Broiler Steaks & Seafood
The Gourmet Feast	Guadalajara Bar & Grille
Oyster Bar	Palace Cafe
	Pasta Palace

Entertainment:

Gabe Kaplan's Laugh Trax: ongoing

Fitness Center: Yes

Other Features:

- 24-Hour Room Service
- Shuttle Service
- In-Room Data Ports
- Parking Garage
- Business Center
- Shops
- Convention Meeting Rooms
- Ticket Service

Palace Station will take reservations for our group until **August 25, 2004**, after this date the hotel will take reservations on an availability basis and at the prevailing hotel rate.

Highlights of Las Vegas

From Frommer.com

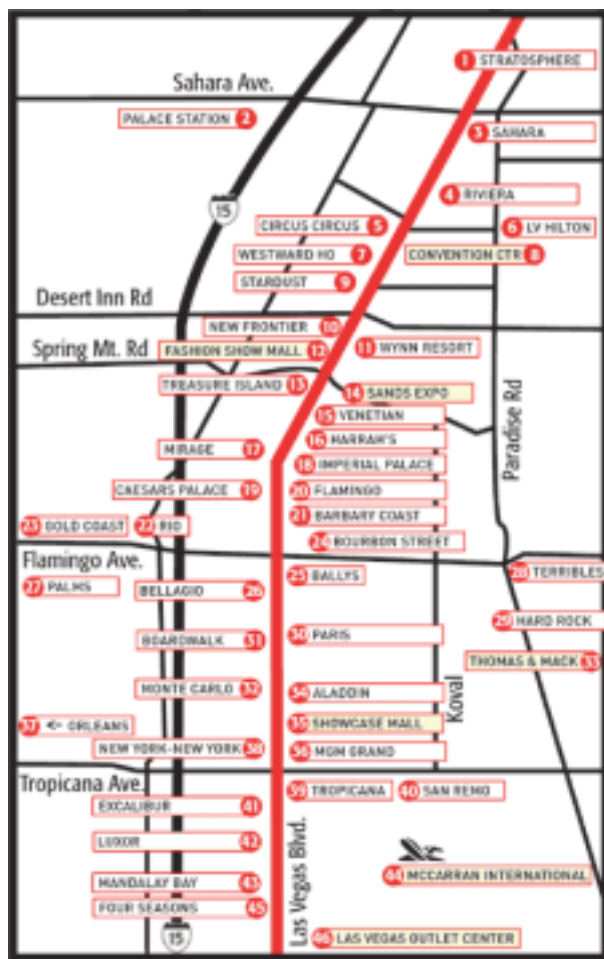
A Stroll on the Strip After Dark.

You haven't really seen Las Vegas until you've seen it at night. This neon wonderland is the world's greatest sound-and-light show. Begin at the Luxor and work your way down past the incredible New York-New York. If your strength holds out, you will end at Circus Circus, where live acrobat acts take place overhead while you gamble. Make plenty of stops en route to take in the ship battle at Treasure Island, see the Mirage volcano erupt, and, most of all, marvel at the choreographed water fountain ballet at Bellagio.

Casino-Hopping on the Strip. The interior of each lavish new hotel-casino is more outrageous and giggle-inducing than the last. Just when you think they can't possibly top themselves, they do. From Venice to ancient Egypt, from a rain forest to a pirate's lair, from King Arthur's castle to New York City, it is still all, totally, completely, and uniquely Las Vegas

An Evening in Glitter Gulch. Set aside an evening to tour the Downtown hotels and take in the overhead light show of the Fremont Street Experience. Unlike the lengthy and exhausting Strip, you can hit 17 casinos in about 5 minutes.

Buffets. They may no longer be the very best of bargains, as the cheaper ones do not provide the quality of the more pricey ones, but there is something about the endless mounds of food that just screams "Vegas" to us.



THE STRIP

Common Distances

Corner of Charleston to corner of Sahara
1.2 miles

Corner of Sahara to corner of Spring Mt.
1.5 miles

Corner of Spring Mt. to corner of Flamingo
1.2 miles

Corner of Flamingo to corner of Tropicana
1.1 miles

Corner of Tropicana to McCarran Airport
2.5 miles

Fremont St area to corner of Tropicana
5.1 miles

Stratosphere to Treasure Island
2.4 miles

Treasure Island to The Aladdin
1.4 miles

The Aladdin to the Luxor
.8 miles

Caesar's to the Hard Rock
1.1 miles

New York-New York to Treasure Island
1.5 miles



FREMONT STREET



An incomplete guide of Las Vegas' sights

★ ★ ★

Las Vegas has so many attractions and shows that it would require pages to list them. Below are just some of the world-renown sights. In addition to sightseeing there are hundreds of quality shows and big-name stars appearing all year long. Some of the attractions below charge a fee. Call ahead for further information.

Las Vegas reigns as the ultimate resort destination for adults, more and more attractions and activities in this desert city are suitable for the entire family. Theme parks offer every thing from heart-stopping thrill rides to family-style water fun. But that's just the beginning. Many resorts offer their own exciting attractions ranging from high-tech motion simulator rides and super fast roller coasters to a wide assortment of free entertainment.

SIRENS AT TREASURE ISLAND

Sirens battle in Buccaneer Bay in front of Treasure Island Hotel & Casino every 90 minutes, starting at 5:30 p.m. 3300 Las Vegas Blvd. S.(702)894-7111

DOWNTOWN'S FREMONT STREET EXPERIENCE

The \$70 million Fremont Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas has transformed five blocks of the famed thoroughfare into a pedestrian mall. Towering 90 feet above four of the blocks is a massive space-frame that comes to life nightly, featuring 2.1 million lights, and 540,000 watts of sound and music. (702) 678-5777

EIFFEL TOWER EXPERIENCE - PARIS LAS VEGAS

50-story, half replica constructed from the original Eiffel Tower plans. Visitors can take a guided tour via a glass elevator to the observation deck. 3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 946-7000 • 888-266-5687

ETHEL M CHOCOLATES FACTORY &

CACTUS GARDENS

On the way to Hoover Dam and just 15 minutes from the Strip is the Ethel M Chocolates Factory and 2-acre botanical Cactus Gardens. Free admission. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., Henderson, (702)433-2500

FANTASY FAIRE MIDWAY

Set in a magical medieval setting, Excalibur is a great place for the whole family. Attractions include a fire-breathing dragon, carnival games, jugglers, magicians, puppeteers and the Magic Motion Ma-

chine ride. 3850 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 597-7777

FOUNTAINS OF BELLAGIO

The 10-acre lake that glitters in front of Bellagio features hundreds of choreographed fountains - a nightly setting for a symphony of light and water. These unique "dances" are set to music and can be viewed from within the resort and on the Strip. 3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702)693-7111

HOOVER DAM/LAKE MEAD

An engineering wonder and one of the world's largest man-made lakes, Hoover Dam holds back the Colorado River to form Lake Mead. Over 100 miles long, Lake Mead boasts an incredible 550 miles of shoreline. Swimming, water skiing, camping, boating, scuba diving and fishing can be enjoyed.

LION HABITAT AT MGM GRAND

This three-story wild animal habitat located within the MGM Grand showcases a variety of lions and cubs, including one who is a direct descendant of the famous MGM lion. Guests can walk through the lion habitat, enclosed by a glass wall, for a unique encounter with these big cats. 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. So. 800-929-1111

MADAME TUSSAUD'S WAX MUSEUM

This unique entertainment experience combines 200 years of craftsmanship and modern technology to feature more than 100 lifelike wax figures of the world's most popular film, television, music and sports personalities. Located at The Venetian. 3355 Las Vegas Boulevard South(702)414-1000

MASQUERADE VILLAGE

The Rio's 41-story Masquerade Village is a combination of entertainment, food, shopping, luxury accommodations and gaming, woven together in an ongoing carnivale atmosphere. 3700 W. Flamingo Rd. (702) 252-7777

THE MIRAGE VOLCANO

A fire-spewing volcano lights up the night sky in front of The Mirage to the delight of thousands of visitors each evening. Eruptions occur (predictably) every few minutes. 3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702)791-7111

PHARAOH'S PAVILION

Visit In Search of The Obelisk, motion simulator; Games of the Gods Arcade; or the IMAX® Theatre featuring 3-D movies. Explore the history of ancient Egypt in King Tut's Tomb and Museum. Showing daily. Located in the Luxor. 3900 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702)

262-4500

SHARK REEF MANDALAY BAY RESORT CASINO

Transports visitors to an undersea ocean of fantastic sights, sounds and encounters. More than 2,000 animals representing 100 different species in 1.6 million gallons of water. 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 632-7777 • 877-632-7000

STRATOSPHERE HOTEL & CASINO THRILL RIDES

Big Shot: Shoot 160 feet into the air, experience zero-gravity, then free-fall back to the launching pad. **High Roller:** World's highest roller coaster. Makes two clockwise rotations banking at a 32-degree angle going 35 mph. Open daily. 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 380-7777

WHITE TIGER HABITAT AND LIVE DOLPHIN DISPLAY

At The Mirage, see live dolphins swim in a man-made pool of sea-water or visit the Royal White Tigers used in the stage show, Siegfried & Roy. 3400 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 791-7588

and just for the Ladies . . .

Las Vegas is rapidly developing into a mecca for shoppers. There are literally hundreds of retail stores at several regional shopping malls located within minutes of the Strip. Visitors will also find the most popular and exclusive names in retail at shopping malls actually located within many resorts. Some malls even offer an incredible mixture of world-class shopping and themed entertainment attractions. Additionally, nearby factory outlet malls entice shoppers with their own distinctive selection of factory-direct bargains. Below are some visitor favorites:

DESERT PASSAGE - ALADDIN RESORT & CASINO

More than 130 shops and 14 world-class restaurants. An adventure that will take you on a journey through the exotic marketplaces of North Africa. 3663 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 866-0710

FASHION OUTLET OF LAS VEGAS

400,000-square-foot fashion outlet center is one of the country's most upscale outlet malls. Primm, NV (702) 874-1400

FASHION SHOW MALL

More than 200 shops, prestigious department stores, international food court and exquisite array of restaurants. 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 369-8382

FORUM SHOPS AT CAESARS

Located in Caesars Palace Hotel & Casino, more than 100 shops in ancient Roman streetscapes, talk-

ing statues, gourmet restaurants. 3500 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 893-4800

GALLERIA AT SUNSET MALL

More than 140 shops and restaurants, including prestigious department stores. 1300W. Sunset Blvd. (702) 434-0202

GRAND CANAL SHOPPES AT THE VENETIAN

A unique shopping experience with boutiques that line an indoor Venetian-style plaza, complete with canals and gondolas. Featuring Davidoff cigars, Jimmy Choo shoes, Herve Leger, Sephora cosmetics, Mikimoto pearls, and many other fine retailers. 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 414-1000

LAS VEGAS OUTLET CENTER

Indoor factory outlet with 160 stores and two food courts. 7400 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 896-5599

LAS VEGAS PREMIUM OUTLETS

More than 120 designer and name-brand outlet stores offering savings of 25 to 65 percent every day. 505 S. Grand Central Pkwy. Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 474-7500 www.premiumoutlets.com/lasvegas

THE MEADOWS MALL

Contains 140 stores, services and eateries. 4300 Meadows Ln. (702) 878-4849

VIA BELLAGIO

Features world-famous retailers including Chanel, Moschino, Armani, Prada, Hermes, Tiffany & Co. and Fred Leighton Fine Jewelry, just to name a few. Located inside Bellagio. 3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S. (702) 693-7111

REMINDER



Have you made your room reservations?

Should be made by Aug. 25



Have you received the tour info packet?

Available from Ron



Have you sent back your completed packet

Should be returned by Aug. 10

Raffle Winner . . .

And the winner is
William Delori
(AV-7/'52-'55)



Att. all hands . . . update your e-mail addresses

If you have changed Internet Service Providers or have just started using e-mail, please e-mail Ron with your current e-mail address. Ron can update the Membership Roster in plenty of time before the reunion.



For those shipmates that have Web access the attached links below take you to FBI terrorist links and pictures of wanted terrorist suspects. Recommend we familiarize ourselves with these individuals and be on the look out . . . they could be anywhere! Obviously, report any alleged sightings to your nearest law enforcement agency.

<http://www.emergencyemail.org/terrorinfo.asp>
<http://www.fbi.gov/mostwant/terrorists/fugitives.htm>

Cruiser Sailors Assn.

Hello All, Sending you an e-mail from the United States Navy Cruiser Sailors Association. Many career Sailors and Marines not only served aboard cruisers but also ships of many types and those are the shipmates I want to contact with this message.

Our Association got underway in 1992 and we now have 4000 members that represent virtually every cruiser that served on our fleet. Membership is open to all those that served aboard a cruiser in Ship's Company, Marine Detachment, Flag and Aviation Divisions and all Sailors and Marines who are interested in coming aboard. Please put my message on your Association's webpage to help me spread the word. Those contacting me will be sent a free copy of our latest 50 page magazine. This issue has a full color photograph of USS Quincy CA-71 entering San Diego after her tour of duty in Korea. Hope to hear from you and have a great Navy day. Ronald J. Maciejowski, Membership Chairman, USNCSA. (MM2 USS Worcester CL-144) CLCANAVY@aol.com

Welcome Aboard . . .

Due to some poor copies of original applications, some bad handwriting, and not to mention some weak typing skills and eyes of the typesetter, there can be errors in the following list – if you think the errors may prevent former shipmates from recognizing and contacting you please advise and corrections will be made in the next issue.

The following names are of shipmates who have joined the association since the last newsletter was printed.

Currituck

Bradley, Darrell D. 27 Locust Drive, Yerington, NV 89447	775-463-4150	E5	1963-66
Fitzke, John L. 7205 Woodmore Oaks Drive, Citrus Heights CA 95610	916-729-2840	PN3	1953-54
Floyd, John H., Jr. 13536 W Marlette Avenue. Litchfield Park, AZ 85340	623-935-3304	ADCS	1957-58
Hagan, Joseph C. 7 The Knolls, Creve Coeur, MO 63141	314-872-8069	E4	1960-62
Halpin, Patrick 2975 Wardall, Cincinnati, OH 45211	513-662-4091	SK3	1960-62
Lazarcheff, Larry L. 7 Joan Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376	636-240-3818	QM3	1962-63
Martel, Raymond E. 15 Iron Street, Ledyard, CT 06339	860-464-9153	BM2	1957-58
McDaniel, John O. 7500 Major Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23505	757-423-2432	SK1	1957-58
McKinney, Gerald W. 655 NE Burnett Road #2, McMinnville, OR 97128	503-434-5090	SN	1960-61
Miller, Clair T. 130 Landis Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910	619-427-3591	FT1	1957-58
Rogers, Joel Pat 8463 Lake Louise Road, Toccoa, GA 30577	706-886-9155	ME3	1957-58
Vincentz, Richard C. 5850 Sky Pointe Drive, Apt. 1070, Las Vegas, NV 89130	702-645-5546	DC3	1960-62

Everglades

Banker, Charles E. 140 Hall Road, Gastonia, NC 28056	704-824-7762	TMT2	1954-58
Hazelwood, Wendell H. 3624 Falling Springs Road, Columbia, SC 29203	803-525-4032	SN	1963-65
Hillman, Gary E. 434 Elmhurst Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012	724-379-4386	RM3	1966-69
Myers, Ed 7380 NW Poplar Drive, Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-5089	EM3	1958-60
Schoenthal, Fred 2854 South Hampton, Bettendorf, IA 52722	563-355-5518	SFP3	1958-60
Taber, George E. 34 W. Warwick Avenue, W. Warwick, RI 02893	401-821-7298	BT2	1966-69

Torpedoman's Assn.

Ball, Dallas W. 530 W. Court Street, Weiser, ID 83672	208-414-3367	TMCM	1957-80
Mathisen, Thomas One Beach 105 th Street, Apt 8M, Rockaway Park, NY 11694	718-318-5380	TM3	1964-67

Mail Call



Please address
all correspondence to:

Ron Curtis
895 County Road 703
Bland, MO 65014

Please note that these letters have been edited
due to space considerations.

Dear Ron . . .
Currituck

. . . I don't know if anyone let you know that Jim Nikolaus passed away on March 12, 2004. Jim died in his sleep. He was 72. We sure lost a very good friend. Jim and I stayed close from 1953 until now. Leila and I plan on seeing all you guys in Las Vegas. We missed last year because of Leila's 50th class reunion. To keep peace in the family we attended that reunion.

—Bob Kreager

. . . I was assigned to the 'Tuck out of AE "B" school in 1960. She was in dry dock in Philadelphia undergoing an update. I was first class then and was on for a tour of two years. Near the end of that tour I passed the test for Chief and was 'awarded' another two years as E7. During my four years on the "Wild Goose" I learned a lot about the navy that was not in my 'Airdale' book as yet. It was not all that bad a deal. I actually enjoyed most of it. My wife was not so thrilled, but she was of good character and made it just fine. It was in those times that we made great friends that we still are in touch with after all these years. That kind of bonding is not available in civilian life. My reason for this letter is that I am interested in the next reunion in Las Vegas in Sept. My wife and I just enjoyed our 50th wedding anniversary and had considered going

to Las Vegas as one of the trips we planned to celebrate our lives. My wife has a sister and brother-in-law that live there. Plus we have other friends from our navy days that live in the western regions that we haven't seen in some time. We plan on seeing them too on this trip. This all depends on the gasoline producers and their financial ambitions, to some degree. Our car gets fair mileage so they will have to go a little more nuttier than they are now before we cancel.

—Benjamin F. Richards

. . . I wrote you about the upcoming reunion of the Currituck recently. Your response was appreciated. I had every intention to get involved this year, but our good intentions and our fate do not always coincide with each other. It seems my Doctor and my desires are at odds with each other. Such is life after you hit the seventies, I suppose. I would however like to get my name on the list of ex-shipmates of the 'Tuck. After all, I spent nearly one-fifth of my career on that tub.

—Benjamin F. Richards

. . . Received your Currituck Assn. flyer. I was surprised the association existed. I was on board 1957-1958 as an Aerographers Mate in the weather office and it seems like a hundred years ago. I regret I will not be attending the reunion of the association but wanted to acknowledge your correspondence and I have no objection to my name being included on any ships roster etc.

—Donald R. McGlynn

. . . My wife and I have never attended a reunion but we are looking forward to Las Vegas. We would appreciate receiving the reunion packet.

—Charles J. Maurer

. . . Received the last newsletter and read the note from William "Bill" Rickard. Couple of weeks ago I heard his condition was severe and one of our church

members and Pastor visited him in the hospital . . . they met his niece and she told them she was taking him to Maryland when he could travel. I don't think he was there over week when they said he died in his sleep. Hope all is well with you. I'm doing very well but miss the reunions. My grandson (16) and I attended a mini-Florida reunion in Clearwater for USS Brooklyn. Good to see the "ole" friends.

—Martha Guillebeau

. . . Thank you for the invitation to the Currituck reunion, however due to family medical problems I have not been attending any reunions although I'm sure it would be nice to meet some old shipmates. Memory is a bit fuzzy right now but I believe the following is the correct info of my time on the ship. I was on the Currituck (QM2) when she was recommissioned in Philadelphia in 1960 and stayed aboard thru Norfolk, thru the Panama Canal to San Diego, then to Okinawa where I was (in 1961) transferred to ComCarDiv One aboard the (I think- USS Ranger - CVA) at sea off Vietnam. I do recall QMC Tustin was our CPO but I'm afraid other names have faded on me. I hope this info can help you put some of the history of the Currituck. She was a good ship and I enjoyed the cruise. Best regards.

—T.Hood, QMCS, USN, RET.

. . . I served aboard the Currituck for a short time, about 3.5 months from Nov. 1957 thru Feb. 1958, as a MR3 in "A" div. Shortly after boarding we left for a cruise to the Caribbean. The crew was unmanned prior to decommission and I was required to stand watches outside of my classification in evaporators and after steering. The weather was bad and that was my first hurricane. How could one forget? Upon returning to the states we went to Philadelphia where the ship was put out of commission. The task compounded by a cold

winter left few fond memories. Having spent so short of a time onboard I did not form any friendships nor am I interested in joining the association.

—B. G. Sepaniak

. . . We regret we will not be able to attend the reunion in Las Vegas. Just returned from the F. D. Roosevelt reunion in Albuquerque and was surprised to see O. D. and Eleanor Patterson. Pat informed us that Frieda Patterson had passed away. I think that the members that were in Reno would remember Frieda as the excellent hostess at the 1992 reunion. Katherine and I hope to see you at the next reunion.

—Earl Park

. . . Thank you for sending the information about the reunion. We will not be able to make it this year. I have enclosed a check for membership dues. I have had some health problems the past few years. Two back surgeries and a bout with cancer. I'm doing OK now and hope to be around for a lot more years. We have other commitments or we would have loved to join you in September.

—Leland J. Ritchey



TAPS

JIM NIKOLAUS

HERBERT L. MITCHELL

WILLIAM "BILL" RICKARD

Everglades

. . . First I want to thank you and the Everglades Association for all your prayers and good wishes concerning my stroke. On January 23rd, I suffered a stroke about one o'clock in the morning. I was transported via ambulance to the Danbury Hospital. I spent three days in intensive care. I then went to the physical therapy. I spent two weeks in the hospital and was discharged in February. I continued my therapy in the Danbury Rehab Center here in Danbury. I have two weeks left of therapy. Everything is coming back ex-

cept my speech and balance taking a lot longer. In time I hope to be back to normal. Again thanks for your concern.

—John Rogers



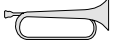
TAPS

EDWARD S. MUNNEY

Torpedoman's Assn.

... Just received a copy of the NEWS and always enjoy reading the issue but saddened about those unfortunate members who are struggling with the effects of advance age. I wish them all well. Also, please add my name to the list of those wishing to attend the reunion in Las Vegas and are requesting the packet of information regarding the event. Thanking you in advance, best regards,

—Chet Leonowich



TAPS

DAVID S. RINEHART

The single most important thing to remember when planning a trip to Vegas is to bring comfortable shoes. No matter what you do in Las Vegas you will have to walk quite a bit. Even if you're just in town to stay in a casino and gamble, you will have to walk across the casino at some point and they are on a super large scale, as is everything else in town. Even if you're just going to the hotel next door it may be up to a quarter of a mile walk —and that's just the outside part! The most comfortable shoes you own and a nice, thick pair of socks are most definitely the single most important thing to bring on your trip to Las Vegas. The next most important thing would have to be lots of money!



Nathan Good's AV-7 web site is back

In our last newsletter we learned that he had to discontinue the AV-7 web site due to problems he had with his service provider and etc. Well, Nathan has overcome the obstacles and is now back on line at the following URL: —

www.wildgoose.000k.net. (That is 3 zeros, not the letter O)

He is setting up a bulletin board also but not going to place a link to it on the home page, so as to keep off as many unauthorized folks as possible. that address will be: —

<http://wildgoose.000k.net/Invision/index.php>

It will be kept clean and free of foul language. All shipmates and recipients of the newsletter are welcome . . .



America's oldest active warship turns 43

By Journalist Seaman Christopher Koons, USS Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

USS KITTY HAWK, At Sea (NNS) -- USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), currently the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier, turned 43 years old April 29, with an under way cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the beginning of another year in the life of America's oldest active Navy ship.

"Kitty Hawk has now served under nine presidents," said Capt. Thomas Parker, Kitty Hawk's commanding officer, as he cut the ship's birthday cake in the aft mess decks. "Construction started on it when Eisenhower was president and concluded when Kennedy was president."

Parker also pointed out that Kitty Hawk has had 32 commanding officers, including himself, and had conducted 373,157 successful aircraft traps at the time of the ceremony.

"The ship is like a fine wine; it doesn't get older, it gets better," he said.

Standing alongside Parker as he cut the cake were 10 Kitty Hawk Sailors who shared the same birthday as the ship, April 29, some of whom said they felt great pride at being honored guests at the ceremony.

"I also first arrived in Japan on this day, so it's pretty cool," said Operations Specialist 3rd Class James Maley, of operations department.

"It fills me with pride to have the same birthday as Kitty Hawk," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 3rd Class Cristino Doctolero, of aircraft intermediate maintenance department (AIMD).

Kitty Hawk was commissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard April 29, 1961. It is the second U.S. Navy ship named after the town near which Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the first-ever successful, controlled, powered aircraft Dec. 17, 1903. Kitty Hawk's original homeport was San Diego.

Since then, Kitty Hawk has participated in operations around international hotspots, such as Vietnam, Korea, the Persian Gulf, the Balkans, Afghanistan and most recently, the war in Iraq.

Kitty Hawk took over the mantle of being America's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier in 1998 from USS Independence (CV 62), which was decommissioned that year. Also in 1998, Kitty Hawk joined with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 and arrived at its new operating location of Yokosuka, Japan.

After returning May 6 from service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Kitty Hawk entered an extensive maintenance and dry-dock period that concluded Oct. 17. The ship soon resumed its role cruising the western Pacific Ocean and is currently conducting operations during its Spring 2004 under way period.

Some Kitty Hawk and CVW-5 leaders said that despite its age, the ship is still in the prime of its life.

"The ship's a year younger than me, but it's still looking pretty good," said Senior Chief Photographer's Mate (AW) Jerry McLain, Kitty Hawk mess caterer for the chief petty officer's mess.

Kitty Hawk can continue to play a vital role as long as it has to, said McLain.

"It all depends on the time and resources put in to maintain it, but we already have proven that this crew provides great manpower," he said.

Kitty Hawk's performance supporting the global war on terrorism confirms that it's still a powerhouse, said CVW-5 Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Kenneth Green.

"Kitty Hawk has been in some of the hottest spots in the world recently, and it has performed fine," said Green. "It's still a great ship going strong."

Rear Adm. Jamie Kelly, commander of the Kitty Hawk Strike Group, said Kitty Hawk's crew should continue to take good care of their ship, providing it with tender loving care.

"The greatest crew in the fleet is giving it that care," he said.

VA Begins Chiropractic Care

WASHINGTON (June 25, 2004) - Veterans can receive chiropractic care at 26 selected Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities beginning this fall, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi announced today.

VA will hire or contract with doctors of chiropractic to provide the care. In consultation with VA primary care providers, doctors of chiropractic will offer patient evaluations and chiropractic care for neuromusculoskeletal conditions.

"Today, VA makes another significant improvement to the world-class health care we provide for eligible veterans," said Principi. "Veterans who will benefit from chiropractic services will now have the opportunity to receive chiropractic care to restore them to good health."

Locations where chiropractic care will be provided include Togus, Maine; West Haven and Newington, Conn.; Buffalo and the Bronx, N.Y.; Butler, Pa.; Martinsburg, W.Va.; Columbia, S.C.; Augusta, Ga.; Tampa and Miami, Fla.; Mountain Home, Tenn.; Columbus, Ohio; Danville, Ill.; Iron Mountain, Mich.; Kansas City, Kan.; Jackson, Miss.; San Antonio, Temple, and Dallas, Texas; Albuquerque, N.M.; Fort Harrison, Mont.; Seattle, Wash.; Sacramento and Los Angeles, Calif.; and Sioux Falls, S.D.

Eligible veterans in areas distant from these locations will also be able to receive chiropractic care through VA's outpatient fee-basis program after a referral by their primary care provider, and prior authorization by the department.

VA was authorized to offer chiropractic care and services under the provisions of section 204 of Public Law 107-135, the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001.



"Freezing Balls"

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many merchantships carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem – how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called a Monkey. But if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make Brass Monkeys. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!

And all this time, you thought it was an improper expression

Real Chiefs . . .

- . . . *Think Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and never, ever, be allowed to read books on leadership.*
- . . . *Don't have any civilian clothes.*
- . . . *Have CPO Association Cards from their last 5 commands.*
- . . . *Don't remember any time they weren't Chief's.*
- . . . *Propose like this "There will be a wedding at 1000 hours on 29 October, be there in whites with your gear packed because you will be a prime participant."*
- . . . *Favorite national holiday is CPO Initiation.*
- . . . *Keeps four sets of dress khaki uniforms in the closet in hopes they will come back.*
- . . . *Favorite food is shipboard SOS for breakfast.*
- . . . *Don't know how to tell civilian time.*
- . . . *Call each other "Chief."*
- . . . *Greatest fear is signing for property book items.*
- . . . *Dream in Navy Blue, White, Haze Gray and occasionally khaki.*
- . . . *Have served on ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.*
- . . . *Get tears in their eyes when the "Chief" dies in the movie "Operation Pacific."*
- . . . *Don't like Certified Navy Twill. "Wash Khaki" is the ONLY thing to make a uniform out of.*
- . . . *Can find their way to the CPO Club blindfolded, on 15 different Navy Bases.*
- . . . *Have pictures of ships in their wallets.*
- . . . *Don't own any pens that do not have "Property U.S. Govt" on them.*
- . . . *Don't voluntarily get the mandatory flu shots.*
- . . . *Don't order supplies, they swap for them.*
- . . . *Favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, "We keep you alive to serve this ship."*
- . . . *Think excessive modesty is their only fault.*
- . . . *Hate to write evaluations, except for their own.*
- . . . *Turn in a 4 page brag sheet for their evaluation.*
- . . . *Last ship was always better.*
- . . . *Know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.*
- . . . *Idea of heaven-Three good PO1's and a Division Officer who does what he is told.*
- . . . *Think John Wayne would have made a good Chief, if he had not gone soft and made Marine movies.*
- . . . *Use the term "Good Training" to describe any unpleasant task*
- . . . *Scraping the sides of the ship is "Good Training." Having to sleep on your seabag in the parking lot because there was no room in the barracks is "Good Training."*



The ultimate response to a Dear John letter

A Marine was deployed to Afghanistan. While he was there, he received a letter from his girlfriend. In the letter she explained that she had slept with two guys while he had been gone, and that she wanted to break up with him . . . AND, that she wanted the pictures that he had of herself back.

So, the Marine did what any squared-away Marine would do. He went around to his buddies and collected all of the unwanted photos of women that he could find.

He then mailed about 25 pictures of women (some with clothes, some without) to his girlfriend with the following note . . . "I don't remember which one you are. Please remove your picture and send the rest back." -Submitted by Donald I. Dillon II