

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 37

August 2014

From Secondary Conn...

Garry Phillips

Time to get excited and time to register for the 2014 ROCHESTER reunion in San Antonio! This Newsletter includes all the information shipmates need to sign up for what promises to be a great reunion. The Reunion Committee has worked overtime, burned the midnight oil, and has made all the arrangements from registration to farewell breakfast. So far, the planning has gone flawlessly.

The only change we had is that the hotel changed its name. The name switched from Crowne Plaza to Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk. This change is reflected on the Registration Form. Everything else is the same, including the management staff at the hotel.

Again, I want to encourage you to sign up early and avoid the rush. Call your buds and tell them to register. We are looking forward to having a very good time!

Dear ROCHESTER Association Board and Officers,

It is my unfortunate duty to announce the resignation of our shipmate and fellow laborer in the cause, Ed Willis, as Executive Vice President for the reasons stated in his email. I am pleased that he is resigning for good cause and not from any discord.

On behalf of the Association, I want to thank Ed for his excellent service and many hours of labor. Personally, I want to thank him for the great advice, support, and wise insight he has given me over the years - not to mention friendship.

Ed, upon accepting your resignation, we wish you the best in your efforts and challenges in the future, and we hope to see you in San Antonio!

Best regards,
Garry Phillips

Dear Garry,

Due to personal reasons, I have to resign from the Executive VP slot. I feel guilty that Pete (Russell) has to do what my job description requires, and so I recommend him for the Executive VP position.

Ed Willis

Association Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's Officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill, 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127-1229. If you would like to submit an item of information or a story to the newsletter, mail it to the address above or email it to: scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net.

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Pete Russell, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Pete Russell, 2 nd VP
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Association website:

www.USSRochester.org

Rochester Museum and Science Center

www.rmsc.org



From The Members...

I read with interest my August 2013 Newsletter. Three things caught my personal interest. The first was about a personal friend and special member Lowell (Boots) Bailey. We called him Boots. I served with him in the 7th Division in 1954-55. We continue to talk to each other at least 3-4 times a year. Bailey and I went on many liberties together and had a ball. We were first loaders on the 3" 50 gun mount located on the starboard side under the bridge. He on the left side and me on the right side of the gun. When firing we had to have a fixed 3" .50 shell up and rotated into the Breech every 3 seconds. It was a blast.

To answer Joe Ryan's article about going up the Saigon River to the Saigon waterfront in 1953. We also went up the river on our 1954 cruise. Put the bow into the bank while tugs on the stern moved us around causing us to be facing down river. The dates were 2/17/54 to 2/20/54. We were in Saigon for 3 days. The Frenchies were fighting The Battle at Dien Bieu Fu at that same time. We were there as a show of support. The French lost that battle and as a result they pulled out of Vietnam. Like the world police men, the US thought we took over the Vietnam debacle and 12 to 14 years later, we had to pull out after losing many a good man.

I bought one of Stanley Muci's canes. It is a beautiful piece of work, and has engraved on the left side: USS Rochester CA 124 Task Force GLC. I use it all the time!

I was on board 12/53 to 10/55, when I was transferred off the Rochester to the USS James E Kyes DD 787 and we steamed to the Marshall Islands where I took part in the August 1956 Atomic and Nuclear bomb tests. I witnessed 17 shots called Operation Redwing. That was awesome to watch. What a way to finish my active duty in the US Navy.

Sincerely yours and Anchors Away,
Gerald (Jerry) Cetto, SH 3/C
7th and S-3 Divisions



Greetings from Redding, California. After reading a few personal experience notes, I thought someone may be interested in one of mine.

We all know the constant boredom that existed even off the coast of Korea, but one day while receiving stores (at sea), a net hit the deck hard enough to break an apple box. I picked up the corner stake and it occurred to me that I might be able to whittle a wooden chain. I had seen one when I was a youngster. I had a small three blade pocket knife and using that, I proceeded to carve a chain with a cage and ball. Soon after I started, carving in chow line or while waiting for the movie, shipmates began showing interest and the ships store sold all of the pocket knives they had. You could see a stick protruding from a hip pocket, a bulge in a front pocket from the knife and small chips here and there. One day while sitting topside, my sunlight was blocked and I looked up to see an officer. He said, "You! You're the one! You started this thing, didn't you?" "What?" I asked. "This carving" he said. "No," I said, "folks have been doing this stuff was before I was born." I then noticed he was a Medical Officer and he accused me of causing more injuries to the ships crew than the enemy. As he left, I did recall seeing a few shipmates with band aids on fingers. I am including a picture of that chain. I don't know what the wood is, but it may be Georgia Poplar.

Chaland B. Scrivner, BT1

P.O. Box 720435
Redding, CA 96099
530-246-9668



I certainly appreciate all the efforts everyone puts toward The Rochester Association and enjoy the Newsletter. I wish I were able to attend the reunions but as they say, the mind is willing but the body isn't able. I took note of Bill Robinson's comment about submitting stories of interesting or wacky things that happened aboard ship. Take care and God Bless.

*Randy Steffen, SN
58-60, 6th Division*

5017 Golfridge Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130
702-396-0046
U_s_bluejacket@cox.net

Fringe Benefits of Shipboard Life or How I Got In Trouble Again...

At quarters one morning I was informed I was being assigned to a three month tour of mess cooking. After quarters my shipmates went, "OH OH Randy, who did you get PO'd at you?" Worried that I might have done something wrong, I made a resolution that I do the best job I could and (somehow) get back in favor, for whatever I might have done. At the time, it hadn't occurred to me that being assigned to mess cooking was a normal rotation of duties shared by most of the divisions.

I was assigned to duty in the scullery and I discovered the work was not that bad. The scullery was inspected often for cleanliness and proper operation and we never failed an inspection and received several Bravo Zulu's for our efforts. One of the Mess Deck Master At Arm's, a BM 2, "Boats," was great to work for and helped me with my 3rd Class studies. One evening after the mess decks had secured, the scullery was clean and the brass piping inside the dish washing machine was made to gleam by running powdered orange drink mix through the system with hot water, I thought, "there might be an ancillary use and benefit of the dish washing machine." All cups and bowls were placed on a perforated plastic rack to pass through the washing cycle. MY GREAT IDEA: I went down to my locker and collected six of my white hats. Back in the scullery I filled the dish washing machine with clean hot water, added a little bleach and placed the white hats on a plastic rack and started the washing process. After about five seconds of operation, the BM 2 walks in and seems to be in the mood to talk (to this day I don't

remember what the conversation was about). The washing machine was steadily chug-chugging my white hats through the process. When Boats saw the first of my hats come out the finish side of the machine his face turned purple, his eyes bugged out and he grabbed me and with the broad side of his foot, kicked me hard (ROCKS AND SHOLES) in my hip pockets!

For a moment, I thought Boats was going to strangle me, but then he calmed down and called me more names than I have ever heard at one time. He asked me if I would ever do such a stupid *+&%#@ thing as that again. Rubbing my hip pockets, I promised, "no Boats, I won't." He didn't report me and we got along well after that.

The day before I was relieved from mess cooking, Boats came down to my berthing compartment and said, "Randy, the next time at sweepers, never ask for a MOP! Always ask for a swab." He went on to say, "A mop has a detachable head and a swab doesn't. We don't have any mobs onboard." I asked, "is that why I was sent mess cooking?" Boats shrugged his shoulders and just smiled and walked away. I never made that mistake again.

Senior Discounts

Share this information with your senior friends.
More to come in future Newsletters.

YOU MUST ASK FOR YOUR DISCOUNT!

Boston Market: 10% off (65+)

Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)

Chili's: 10% off (55+)

KFC: free small drink with any meal (55+)

Sweet Tomatoes: 10% off (62+)

Alaska Airlines: 10% off (65+)

American Airlines: various discounts for 65+ (call before booking for discount)

Southwest Airlines: various discounts for ages 65+ (call before booking for discount)

U.S. Airways: various discounts for 65+ (call before booking for discount)

United Airlines: various discounts for 65+ (call before booking for discount)

Association Dues

The 2014 Dues were due on January 1, 2014. PLEASE look at the mailing label and slightly to the right of your name is the Year in which Dues were last credited. If there is a 2012 or 2013 after your name, PLEASE send in your past Dues and don't forget your current Dues for 2014.

Change of Address, Email, and Phone Number

To keep the mail flowing to your in box, please file change of addresses both mail and email, and/or phone numbers with Joe Hill. This should keep the information flowing without interruption in service.

Chaplain's Corner

FRENZY RELIEF

Our culture clamors for attention. Commercial ads on TV, smart phone ads, newspaper sales telling us what we have is no longer good and we need their product. It is confusing trying to sort out health care. Shopping is becoming a mad maze of people. How do we fit in and keep our minds clear for the important things of life?

Psalm 46:10 translated in the Message states, "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything."

One of the good things about the Roc it was easy to find a quiet place to read, write letters, meditate, and develop a personal relationship with God. We could shuck off the maintenance issues, general quarters, and standing in chow line and as the Apostle Paul stated to Timothy, "Exercise yourself unto Godliness."

An old chorus states, "Shut in with God, in a secret place, there in His presence beholding His face, gaining new power to run in the race, I love to be shut in with God".

As we begin the New Year, I encourage you to set aside some of the frenzy things which demand our attention. You will find Prayer is the best relief from frenzy.

Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

The Ship's Store

Just a reminder that the Ship's Store is closed until March, 2014. In the next Newsletter there will be an order form. Currently the Ship's Store is close to being fully stocked.

Dick Becker

Storekeeper

715-263-3452

Windyridge@cltcomm.net OR
rochesterkid@hotmail.com



TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Alexander A Campbell, Jr	MA	2013	E	51-55
Robert R. Cosgrove	MO	2013	OI	56-58
Xon Hanna	IL	2013	CR/OR	53-57
James W. Kayden	IN	2013	X	48-50
Joseph A. Panni	NY	2013	A	50-52
Harold A. Plienis	ND	2013	OE	58-61
Wilson E. Townsend	CA	2005	CS/CR/5	52-54
Jimmy M. Young	CA	2013	Marine	49-51

New Members

We wish to welcome aboard the new USS Rochester Association members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Kay Hanna (Honorary Member)		
Julie Young. (Honorary Member)		

Donations Received

The Association wishes to thank the following people for their generous donations:

Homer D. Meeds donated \$10.00.

Ralph E. Paschen Jr donated \$10.00.
