

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 28

November 2011

CHIT-CHAT From the PRES

Hi Everyone. Time flies, and here it is a couple months since our last newsletter. Summers usually go pretty fast around here anyhow, but they say that the older we get, the faster time goes. When I get older I'll have to check that out (HEH HEH). As long as I'm on the old things, I would suppose that most of us don't remember, or possible didn't even know it but, August 15 was the 50th year anniversary of the Decommissioning of the Rochester. Yup, August 15, 1961 was the date that she was taken out of Commission. To this day, I guess I can't think that it was a good idea to do it, but they didn't ask for my input so that's that. Even as young as I was at the time, it still has some real super memories and a good way to start my journey though life.

Since the last letter, we have added a few new members due to the hard work of Pete Russell and his crew contributing many hours, calls and letters. Hope this last flyer will bring in some more for the reunion.

Once again, I hate to sound like a broken record, but hope all of you are making plans to join us in San Diego. I love those get togethers. If you haven't been to one yet, you will love it also.

In closing folks, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Be safe and take care until the next newsletter in February.

Dick Becker



AHOY, ALL USS ROCHESTER SHIPMATES

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT to ALL HANDS to let you know that the U.S.S. Rochester Association will be having a ship reunion in the Fall of 2012 in San Diego. Dates are: October 8 - 12, 2012. Our website is www.ussrochester.org

Hotel Site: Horton Grand Hotel, 311 Island Avenue in Downtown San Diego.

Web site: <http://www.hortongrand.com>.

The location is known as the Gaslamp District in San Diego and in the heart of downtown activities. This is not the large type commercial hotel, it is a smaller, older historic hotel that will be mostly filled by shipmates.

This is a great opportunity to relax and re-connect with your shipmates, exchange sea stories, and enjoy the many restaurants, historical sites, and attractions within walking distance of the hotel or by trolley. We hope you will be able to join us.

Chairman Reunion Committee: Gordon W. Cargill 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, California 92127-1229. Phone: 858-592-9366. E-mail: scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net

Committee Members: Don Parker, sdparker@sbcglobal.net, Frank Dayak, dsingolf@aol.com, Jerry McCloskey, geepeem@cox.net.

Mark your calendar, and prepare to make reservations to gather with your shipmates for a heart-warming experience in America's Finest City.

Gordon Cargill

Fox Division Reunion

Twenty Fox division shipmates, spouses, and friends enjoyed a fantastic reunion August 21-26.

The reunion began with 3 fun-filled days in Frankenmuth, Michigan's unique small Bavarian-style town, and the state's #1 tourist destination. All commented about the town's cleanliness, and beautiful and plentiful flowers lining the streets. Then we moved on to 4 days Up North, to Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island. Highlights included a high-speed ferry to the Island to begin an Island tour by horse-drawn carriage (motorized vehicles are not allowed on the island), visiting historic Fort Mackinac, browsing the many fudge shops and other venues on the Island, and dodging the many other tourists, bicycles and numerous horse-drawn carriages.

Shipmate consensus suggested that as we get older, we're getting better, and we are definitely enjoying our old friends company and stories more as the years grow. We hope to see our Fox buddies again at our next gathering."

Rochester Museum & Science Center

The museum is located at 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY.

The procedure for viewing the USS Rochester exhibit is still the same -- notify the front desk and someone will let you into the Eisenhart Auditorium. You can call 585-271-4320 for our reception desk. Of course, if the Eisenhart Auditorium building is open for an event, the exhibit is immediately accessible. This procedure is necessary because we do not have that building continually staffed and we cannot leave it unlocked.

Lea Kemp

Lea Kemp
Librarian/Archivist
Rochester Museum & Science Center
585-271-4552, x315

From The Editor...

I am taking the liberty to retype a hand written letter that was sent to me.

August 30, 2011

Dear Gordon,

I am writing for my husband, David Cordell, from the R Division. He was on board 1951-1955. It seems ironic the August 2011 newsletter contained an article on Alzheimer's, as David had to go into a nursing home in June, because of it. Alzheimer's is devastating.

His dementia began in 2007. I am so glad we went to the reunion in Branson in 2006. It was the only reunion we ever attended.

I took the August newsletter to the nursing home and read the jokes to David. Laughter is the best medicine you know.

David had a good time in the Navy - he was single then. He was discharged in July and we were married in December.

He loved the USS Rochester and was pleased to get a plank from it in Branson. I know I speak for David when I say, "Best Wishes", to all his shipmates. "No e-mail address".

Alta Cordell
127 Randy Circle
Gun Barrel, TX, 75156

Association Officers

Richard Becker, President	Ed Willis, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
Bill Berkley, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper
Louis DiRusso, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director

Association website:
www.USSRochester.org

Rochester Museum and Science Center
www.rmssc.org

Chaplain's Corner

BE THANKFUL

An "attitude of gratitude" is critical in becoming a thankful person. The Psalmist stated, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and praise His name". (Psalm 100:4) What we have, rather than what we don't have, is one of the factors in developing a thankful spirit.

I continue to be thankful for the experiences aboard the Rochester. Those were formative years. For example, the Master at Arms stated, "Young man, if you want to go through this chow line, you will have to remove that rebel flag off your foul weather jacket!" The Bible study class helped me in developing a thankful attitude.

The Pilgrims had many things they could have complained about. Yet, they counted their blessings rather than gripe. An old song states, "count your blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done".

As we look forward to our next Reunion, I am thankful for all the shipmates gathered where we can celebrate being thankful for all we have.

Cheerily,
Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

Networking The Rochester Way

PART I – Searching For Shipmates

It can accurately be said that the "Great Rochester Shipmate Search of 2010-2011" is a good example of what can be achieved when Rochester Association Shipmates band together for a common, and very special, purpose...as it was when we proudly served aboard "The Gray Ghost". This was the case with our just-completed search for information on our fellow Shipmates of years past, and a concerted effort by a dedicated team of Association members to make contact with as many as possible. Born in a conference room during the 2010 reunion in Milwaukee, the yearlong project quickly gained support and, with the hard work of the following members making phone calls and writing letters, hundreds of our comrades learned of

the Association dedicated to the memory of the U.S.S. Rochester (CA-124). As of the end of October, we are proud to report that 29 have joined or re-joined. Once again, many thanks to all the following for your participation in this project and your service to the Association: Bob Rowe (OR and OI Div) [and originator of the idea for the project], Keith Moon (E Div), Jerry Lawler (S-1 and S-2 Div), Jim McKerley (OE Div), Randy Steffen (6th and 7th Div), Maury Havelock (6th and 7th Div), "Moose" Schneider (Fox Div), Rod Neal (B and R Div and Officers), Dick McCarthy (4th and 5th Div), Lonnie Holder (OS, CR, OI, and N Div), Jack Conner (CR Div), Verlan Hanson (OR and OI Div), Kirk Ferguson (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Div), Dennis Winkle (X Div), John Blevins (M Div), Lou DiRusso (R Div), and Joe Hill. BRAVO ZULU!

PART II – Spreading The Word

In the meantime, in the interest of putting to good use the information compiled from the search effort, we prepared flyers announcing the U.S.S. Rochester Association 2012 Reunion. Joe Hill has mailed them to over 500 non-member shipmates for whom we believe we have good contact information in Association records. The first batch went to shipmates in the Western States at the end of September and the second batch to Eastern, Midwestern, and Southern States in October. The following Association members have graciously volunteered to act as Points-of-Contact for their State/Region to receive phone calls from interested recipients. Their service also exemplifies the Rochester Spirit...thank you one and all: Kirk Ferguson, Jerry McCloskey, Frank Dayak, Irv Citron (new 2011 member), John McAuliffe, Randy Steffen, John Blevins, Vern Veron (new 2011 member), Lonnie Holder, Lou DiRusso, Jim McKerley, "Chip" Chipley, John Rigoni, Dennis Winkle, Keith Moon, "Moose" Schneider, Jerry Lawler, Carl Ray, and Harold Sewell. We are hopeful that we will see many new shipmates (lost, but not lost) that will be able to join us in San Diego. HUZAH!

*Submitted by Pete Russell
"E" and Fox Divisions, 58-61*



TAPS

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

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
Byron Cannon	FL	2011	OS	57-59
Paul R. Case	AR	2010	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd	56-61
Raymond K. Clark	TN	2011	4 & H	52-56
William A. Couch	MA	2011	R	47-50
Dyer R. Dymont	WA	2007	Fox	50-52
Joseph L. Galvao	CA	2011	3 rd	46-53
Pete L. Guerrero	CA	2009	6 th	48-53
Ward B. Kent	OR	2011	X	56-58
James A. Larson	CO	2007	E	57-59
Cecil D. Milam	NC	2010	?	?
Joe A. Mooney	NC	1991	M	47-47
Paul E. Perona	CA	2005	?	?
James R. Tweedy	ND	2011	Fox	51-54
Louis A. Unger	AR	2008	R	57-58
Bobby L. Vinson	SC	1999	7 th	57-58
Robert C. Warren	WA	1997	R	?

Ship's Store

Hello Shipmates and Ladies,

Here we are again, the last newsletter before Christmas. Are you thinking of presents from the Ships Store? If not, I think I'll cry on Mary's shoulder. The Store articles make wonderful gifts and stimulate fond (and other) memories, along with some good sea stories. Remember, we are here for you and we aim to please. NOTE: If you are thinking of "My Grandfather's Ship" items, please order BEFORE 5 December to ensure Christmas delivery.

We had some equipment failures and mechanical problems, both human and electrical. We believe them to be solved now, or at least we can work around them if needs be.

We sincerely wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Be safe and may God bless you each and every one. God willing, we'll see all of you in San Diego for a great reunion. It looks like Gordon has put together another GOODIE.

Smooth winds and following seas,
Larry and Mary Stone

How To Obtain a Cruise Book

Shipmate Salvatore "Sam" Albano called Joe Hill and stated that shipmates are always looking for a copy of their cruise books, but at times have difficulty finding one. Copies of cruise books may be purchased in CD form from the following website: www.navyboy63.com. The service is reliable and pretty quick. Cruise books in CD form are available for any Navy Ship that offered cruise books.

New Members

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

Name	Div	OnBd
Richard Grindstaff	CS	51-53
Frank A. Parr	E	53-54
Gary A. Patton	B	56-60
William A. Wood	S-2	57-59

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.



The USS Rochester CA 124 Sails Again



2010 Warship Models Underway Photo Contest
Winner: Charles Lamm for the 1/8 scale model of
the USS Rochester, CA124

Several years back I wanted to start a new model project. While I like battleships in 1/8 scale (1 inch = 8 feet) they become too large to carry to the lake. Heavy cruisers seemed to fit nicely for size, detailing, and lots of guns. This project would become my flagship. My friend, Maxie “Bud” Cox, 3rd Div, 54-57, served aboard the Rochester and really wanted me to build this ship. After researching the ship’s history, it was a perfect fit. It would challenge me to build a model worthy of the ships’ history. Hopefully I have achieved this. I have built a 1957 version with 3” 50’s.



All of my projects are radio controlled and float in the nearby lakes. As a member of the North Carolina Model Shipbuilders, we are on patrol monthly carefully watching for sneak attacks from notorious ducks and turtles. We build model warships in 1/8 scale and run together at Rocky Mount City Lake. Annually we hold a National fleet run on the second Saturday of October, with models coming from across the country to run with us.

The hull came from Scale Shipyard Yard as did the fittings and most of the guns and directors. The wood is from the main deck of the Rochester. I got it from my friend Maxie Cox. This way a piece of the Grey Ghost goes to sea every time the model does. The deck has over 2,500 pieces.



The following website shows the detail and what it takes to build a model of an active operational ship.

<http://www.wmunderway.8m.com/wmucontest2010/2010.htm>

As a Navy veteran myself I feel it is important for us to preserve our ships history. I served on board the USS Guadalcanal LPH-7, 1971-75.

Charles Lamm



My friend, a former crewman, was there and did not know about the dedication or how much was finished. He was quiet surprised. Bud Cox on the left and Charles Lamm on the right.

Brass Monkey

*From the Department of the Navy – Naval
Historical Center
Submitted by Joe Hill*

"The word Monkey is of uncertain origin; its first known usage was in 1498 when it was used in the literary work Reynard the Fox as the name of the son of Martin the Ape. "Monkey" has numerous nautical meanings, such as a small coastal trading vessel, single masted with a square sail of the 16th and 17th centuries; a small wooden cask in which grog was carried after issue from a grog-tub to the seamen's messes in the Royal Navy; a type of marine steam reciprocating engine where two engines were used together in tandem on the same propeller shaft; and a sailor whose job involved climbing and moving swiftly (usage dating to 1858). A "monkey boat" was a narrow vessel used on canals (usage dating to 1858); a "monkey spars" are small masts and yards on vessels used for the "instruction and exercise of boys;" and a "monkey pump" is a straw used to suck the liquid from a small hole in a cask; a "monkey block" was used in the rigging of sailing ships; "monkey island" is a ship's upper bridge; "monkey drill" was calisthenics by naval personnel (usage dating to 1895); and "monkey march" is close order march by US Marine Corps personnel (usage dating to 1952). (Sources: Cassidy, Frederick G. and Joan Houston Hall eds. Dictionary of American Regional English. vol.3 (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1996): 642; Wilfred Granville. A Dictionary of Sailors' Slang (London: Andre Deutch, 1962): 77; Peter Kemp ed. Oxford Companion to Ships & the Sea. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976); 556; The Oxford English Dictionary, New York: Oxford University Press, 1933; J.E. Lighter ed. Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang. (New York; Random House, 1994): 580; and Eric Partridge A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. 8th ed. (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company): 917.)

"Monkey" has also been used within an ordnance context. A "monkey" was a kind of gun or cannon (usage dating to 1650). "Monkey tail" was short hand spike, a lever for aiming a carronade (short-sight iron cannon). A "powder monkey" was

a boy who carried gun powder from the magazine to cannons and performed other ordnance duties on a warship (usage dating to 1682). (Source: The Oxford English Dictionary. New York: Oxford University Press, 1933.)

The first recorded use of the term "brass monkey" appears to date to 1857 when it was used in an apparently vulgar context by C.A. Abbey in his book "Before the Mast", where on page 108 it says, "It would freeze the tail off a brass monkey." (Source: Lighter, J.E. ed. Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang. (New York: Random House, 1994): 262.)

It has often been claimed that the "brass monkey" was a holder or storage rack in which cannon balls (or shot) were stacked on a ship. Supposedly, when the "monkey" with its stack of cannon ball became cold, the contraction of iron cannon balls led to the balls falling through or off the "monkey." This explanation appears to be a legend of the sea without historical justification. In actuality, ready service shot was kept on the gun or spar decks in shot racks (also known as shot garlands in the Royal Navy) which consisted of longitudinal wooden planks with holes bored into them, into which round shot (cannon balls) were inserted for ready use by the gun crew. These shot racks or garlands are discussed in: Longridge, C. Nepean. The Anatomy of Nelson's Ships. (Annapolis MD: Naval Institute Press, 1981): 64. A top view of shot garlands on the upper deck of a ship-of-the-line is depicted in The Visual Dictionary of Ships and Sailing, New York: Dorling Kindersley, 1991); 17.

"Brass monkey" is also the nickname for the Cunard Line's house flag, which depicts a gold lion rampant on a red field. (Source: Rogers, John Origins of Sea Terms.) (Mystic CT: Mystic Seaport Museum, 1984); 23.)



Honorary Members

Honorary Members are very much part of the USS Rochester Association. Honorary Members are widows who have indicated they wish to remain part of the USS Rochester Association. The officers of association vote to authorize their Honorary Membership. A letter is then prepared for the association President to sign, and then mailed with an Honorary Lifetime Membership card to the new member. There are no dues. Attendance at reunions are encouraged. Family members may also attend the reunions. Purchases from ship's store may be made. Newsletters are mailed to members when published.

New Honorary Members

Mrs. Ellie Couch.
Mrs. Lavonne M. Tweedy.
Mrs. Sheri Holman - Reinstated

Listing of Honorary Members

Mrs. Peggy Allen
Mrs. Eva R. Anthony
Mrs. Rose Antonino
Mrs. Donna M. Baroch
Mrs. Betty Bogan
Mrs. Rose Ann Brennan
Mrs. Eva M. Carter
Mrs. Betty-Jayne Catherman
Mrs. Georgie A. Chalupa
Mrs. Helen Christman
Mrs. Caroline "Scotty" Clark
Mrs. Linda Clifford
Mrs. Marguerite Cook
Mrs. Hida Corduan
Mrs. Ellie Couch
Mrs. Eleanor "Eily" Croneberger
Mrs. Clare M. Doyle
Mrs. Beverly A. Dumler
Mrs. Lou Ellen Dunbar
Mrs. Florence Dunkelberger
Mrs. Joanne Evanick
Mrs. Carol Fritz
Mrs. Helen Fross
Mrs. Avonne Gravel
Mrs. Edna L. Green
Mrs. Anne N. Hamilton
Mrs. Shirley H. Hart

Mrs. Anita Hefley
Mrs. Barbara Himes
Mrs. Sheri Holman
Mrs. Eloise B. Illanne
Mrs. Norma Ingram
Mrs. Peggy Johnson
Mrs. Mary Kazzee
Mr. Lea Kemp, Archivist Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, NY
Mrs. Margaret Kowolik
Mrs. Lola J. Linwood
Mrs. Judith Litts
Mrs. Rebecca C. MacDonald
Mrs. Enriqueta L. Makin
Mrs. Shirley Mason
Mrs. Diana Mendoza
Mrs. Alma Meola
Mrs. Carol Mitchell
Mrs. Maria R. Moyer
Mrs. Janet P. Nelson
Mrs. Carol Ordway
Mrs. Elizabeth Osborne
Mrs. Beverley Osborne
Mrs. Patricia S. Powers
Mrs. Betty J. Reeder
Mrs. Karen R. Robinson
Mrs. Victoria Rothweiler
Mrs. Juleen P. Session
Mrs. Betty Ann Shaver
Mrs. Gladys E. Shelly
Mrs. Mary Simms
Mrs. Colleen K. Smith
Mrs. Sylvia Smith
Mrs. Marjorie A. Sprague
Mrs. Lynda Stanbridge
Mrs. Randell Stites
Mrs. Dorothy M. Tatom
Mrs. Doris Tew
Mrs. Lavonne M. Tweedy
Mrs. Carol Vizcaino
Mrs. Joanne White
Mrs. Joan White
Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" Wilson
Mrs. Bea Wright

