

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



## News Letter

Vol. II, No. 24

November 2010

### CHIT-CHAT From the PRES

Hi Everyone,

Well another reunion is in the books, and it was a dandy. A little smaller this time, but really a fun time. In case you haven't heard yet, we are going back to San Diego for 2012 and looking forward to a Super time again. Jerry McCloskey made the suggestion and Gordon Cargill jumped right in also. You'll be hearing a lot about this in the coming months. We also talked much in depth about membership going down and attendance at the reunions being off a little. From these talks came the forming of a group to actively pursue the hunting down of ship mates that we may have missed and get the association on the up swing. Pete Russell will be heading up this group and I'm sure you will be hearing from him or his group in the near future. Also Frank West is pounding the weeds also.

For those of you that were there, you probably heard the chatter about how I got bushwacked into being President when Garry left town, and lots of joking about it. Well we had the election and now that it's over let me put the jokes aside and tell you that being elected to be your President for the next 2 years is a really big honor. To be able to lead this group forward & try to enlarge our membership and the attendance at the reunions will be our biggest chore. I am looking forward to the next two years & hope to see a whole bunch of you in San Diego.

Thanks again,  
*Dick Becker*



### Membership & Mailing Information

#### **DUES FOR 2011 ARE NOW DUE!!**

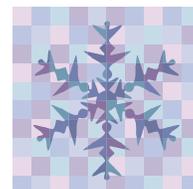
*Cookeville, TN* -**Dues for 2011 are due after January 1st.** It is now time to pay your dues for next year. Hopefully those who are behind will mail their dues in soon. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your News Letter. An example: Pete Smith 09 would indicate your dues have been paid up for the year 2009. If you are not sure, Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone Number 931-432-4848. E-Mail: [NiteCrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:NiteCrawl@twlakes.net)

**THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES AND IF A SHIPMATE HAS DIFFICULTY PAYING THEIR DUES, LET JOE HILL KNOW. THE OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION HAVE PREVIOUSLY VOTED TO GRANT AND WAIVE DUES REQUIREMENTS. NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO INVESTIGATE.**

#### **SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS**

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER SHOULD SEND THESE CHANGES TO JOE HILL. A REMINDER VIA E-MAIL TO JOE OR A NOTE WILL DO.

Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.



**USS Rochester Association  
Minutes of meeting Held at  
Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel & Convention Center, Milwaukee, WI  
23 September – 27 September, 2010**

This is the 11th meeting of the Association. It was held at the Wyndham Airport Hotel on Saturday, 25 September 2010.

Meeting called to order at 1430 by President Richard D. Becker.

Minutes of meeting held at Arlington, Virginia on 05 October 2008 read and approved by all present.

Financial report read and approved subject to audit. Joe Hill made motion to approve subject to audit, Dick Becker 2nd, all present approved.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion made to accept slate of officers, 2nd and approved.

Officers Elected/Appointed:

Richard D. Becker – President  
Ed Willis – Executive Vice President  
Gordon Cargill – First Vice President  
Donald Schnirel – Second Vice President  
Joseph S. Hill – Secretary/Treasurer  
Frank West – Chaplain  
William W. Berkley – Master-At-Arms  
Larry R. Stone – Storekeeper (Appointed)

Elected Executive Board Members

Reelected to Four Year Term:

Louis DiRusso  
Merlin Scheller

**OLD BUSINESS**

Question asked if a standing committee for reunion planning and execution had ever been created. Answer NO. No further discussion made.

Comment:

Duties of this committee would be to:

Approve budget.  
Insurance.  
Financial support.  
Signature of contracts.  
Program approvals (tours.)  
Communication (newsletter.)  
Advertise in Veteran's magazines.

Question asked if a charter had ever been written to explain to committee their duties and relationships. Answer NO. No further discussion made.

Motion made and 2nd to keep the number of shipmates whose dues are paid by the Association at 10. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion made and 2nd to cease donations to the Rochester CA 124 Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp. Discussion followed citing non-responsiveness of Sea Cadet Unit leadership, and voluntary nature of the Association donation. Motion passed.

Motion made and 2nd to take money in Scholarship Fund and put in General Funds. Motion passed.

Motion made and 2nd to leave dues at \$25.00. Motion passed.

The Association President, Richard Becker, introduced a discussion about the declining membership, in large part as a result of aging and members passing on, and asked for ideas on what could be done. A motion was made and 2nd to form a Membership Committee. Pete Russell volunteered to coordinate this "Shipmate Search" effort. Bob Rowe, Jerry Lawler, D. Keith Moon, Jack Conner, Lou DiRusso, Verland Hanson, Dennis Winkle, and Jim McKerley offered their assistance at the meeting. A form for this purpose is to be included in the next newsletter to compile a listing of remembered shipmates from their "Cruise Books," or other sources.

A discussion of resources followed, with a motion made and 2nd to include research with the Bureau of Naval Personnel, the National Navy Memorial, and the U.S. Cruiser Association to identify and locate living shipmates who served on Rochester.

*List of Cities suggested for the next Rochester reunion:*

Portland, Oregon and Seattle/Bremerton, Washington brought up. No one living there that would put the reunion together. NO VOTE TAKEN.

It was decided to have next reunion in San Diego, CA – 2012 with 53 votes. Date of reunion to be decided by reunion committee at a later date. Gordon Cargill and Jerry McCloskey will head up the San Diego reunion. Tentative date: week of October 1, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 1630 hours.



**Happy Holidays from the Cargill Family ~ Gordon, Marge, Cindy & Fred too!**

## Milwaukee Reunion Highlights

When I first began to assemble activities for our reunion in Milwaukee, I thought this will be easy. As I moved along and began to explore the possible activities that would be enjoyed by the attending shipmates, it became clear that my task would be a daunting one. The details that needed to be dealt with were almost overwhelming. One of my daughters reminded me that, in an event of such scope "Murphy's Law" will surely apply.

That reminder was in the back of my mind throughout the event. If there were any missteps, I was certainly not made aware of any such thing. Thankfully, the members of the planning committee, Dick & Raejean Becker, Merle & Shirley Scheller, Bill Berkely, and Larry & Mary Stone were on the front lines solving any minor problems that may have arisen. At one of our meetings, it was decided that I would be available to deal with any major issues. Thankfully everything went as planned.

I would like to thank my wife Janet for putting up with my grumpy moods for the last two years, Joe & Judy Hill, Pete Russell, Ed Willis, Gordon Cargill & Chip Chipley as they were all instrumental and more than willing to help in making our reunion a success.

The Wyndham Hotel was most accommodating of my many requests for free use of hotel facilities for our hospitality room, the ship's store, and reception/banquet rooms. A proclamation plaque by the City Council of Milwaukee was presented to the Association thanking us for visiting their city, but most of all for the service to our country aboard the USS ROCHESTER.

The reception was well attended and everyone seemed to have partaken of the fine bar potables and the scrumptious hors d' oeuvres.

All tours seemed to have been enjoyed by all, although the Friday city tour was unable to witness the spectacular opening of the Brise Soleil at the Milwaukee Art Museum due to high winds. Kay Collins, our tour guide, showed her deep knowledge of the interesting history of the city of Milwaukee & the old ethnic neighborhoods & the fact that the Miller Brewing Co. brews many beers sold under different labels. One very interesting fact was the rivalry between two Milwaukee Settlers, Solomom Juneau & Byron Kilbourn, which resulted in many

angled bridges spanning the Milwaukee River.

The report on the "RIVER CRUISE": Visibility of the city was somewhat obscured due to darkness. The food was acceptable, but not outstanding, because it had to be prepared off site.

No visit to Wisconsin would be complete without a sampling of "Beer & Brats" and these were enjoyed during the city tours and of course, "Octoberfest at the Bavarian Inn". The Midwest hospitality became evident when a shipmate misplaced his wallet. After a couple of phone calls, the wallet was found and delivered to the hotel by one of the Bavarian Inn's employees with its contents intact including cash.

The banquet turned out to be a truly gala event. The Presentation of Colors by the local chapter of the Sea Cadets, followed by a stirring rendition of our National Anthem and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was followed by the tolling of the bell, as the names of 45 shipmates who have passed since our last reunion was read. This brought tears to my eyes as this reminded me why so many who have given so much to make America, albeit not perfect, the greatest country in the world.

The banquet room was festively and patriotically "Red, White & Blue" decorated by the hotel staff. The food, in my opinion, was on a par with that of a 4-star restaurant, expertly prepared and exquisitely presented.

You may view many candid pictures of the reunion, see a short video clip and place orders if you wish. Please log on to [www.RSVPvideo.tv](http://www.RSVPvideo.tv) or you may call John or Kathy Hall at (847) 249-4122.

As for me, and hopefully all who attended the reunion, this was a most gratifying event. The reminiscing of times spent aboard our beloved ship USS ROCHESTER with my old friends and making new acquaintances is something I will treasure forever. A fact of life "WE ARE GETTING OLDER". Because of many different reasons, whether it is for reasons of health, economy, or travel distance, please consider visiting SAN DIEGO in 2012 and hopefully you too, upon your return home, can say "WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD".

I have additional "VISIT MILWAUKEE" lapel/hat pins. If you wish to receive some, call or E-mail me at [jrigoni@aol.com](mailto:jrigoni@aol.com) or (847) 360-8957.

SEE YOU IN SAN DIEGO IN 2012!

*John Rigoni*

# 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 send it to [scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net).

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## Association Officers

Richard Becker, President	Ed Willis, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.USSRochester.org)

Rochester Museum and Science Center  
[www.rmsc.org](http://www.rmsc.org)

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## Military Humor

Q: How do you know if there's a fighter pilot at your party?

A: He'll tell you.

Q: What's the difference between God and a fighter pilot?

A: God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

Q: What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?

A: A jet engine stops whining when the pilot shuts it down.



# Chaplain's Corner

## REFLECTIONS

Many good things happened during the Rochester Reunion in Milwaukee that is encouraging to reflect upon. The weather, a bit windy, but was great. The committee did an excellent job in planning and plans were executed perfectly. The all day city tour was delightful. The art museum wings could not open due to the wind but was beautiful to tour. The tour of the large church with the beautiful stained glass windows and paintings were inspirational. Visiting the Harley Davidson museum gave an insightful presentation of what vision and engineering can accomplish.

The Banquet and related activities reflected well thought plans. As names of the 45 shipmates were read that had passed away since our last Reunion, the bell tolled and the sound of taps heard, we were mindful of those shipmates that had served with us. The door prizes, many of which had been made by our shipmates from scrapes of the planks on the Rochester, were given out. It was amazing to see the creativity that went into making bowls, pen sets, base for a weather station and other items.

The bigger picture was a reminder of the diversity in culture, spiritual formation of churches and colleges providing education and employment opportunities in the city. I am reminded God leads in green pastures and by still waters. Additionally when we walk through valleys He provides the comfort and help needed at the moment. May we look forward to the goodness and blessings of the Lord. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

*Frank West, Chaplain*  
[fawest@jps.net](mailto:fawest@jps.net)

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## Military Humor

During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel.

"Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the Colonel, coming over and handing him the keys ... "Yours is."

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# 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
Morton B (Mike) Fine	ME	2010	Fox	49-52
Basil W. Jenkins	TN	2010	M	55-59
Wayne Kilgore	GA	2010	3 <sup>rd</sup>	59-60
Dana G. Ordway	NH	2010	S-1	57-59
Robert L. Thompson	IL	2009	7 <sup>th</sup>	52-54
Gary H. Wasson	TX	2010	O1	58-61

## Ship's Store

First of all, our hats are off to John & Janet Rigoni and all their assists ! The 2010 Ship's Reunion went smoothly & a good time was had by all. In spite of the COLD weather and tough economy, everyone we spoke with was having a good time.

Some good news: Due to the response to the Zippered Hoodies jackets, your Ship's Store will be stocking them as a regular item. Our shipment came in and we'll be getting the ones ordered at the Reunion in the mail. The golf shirts were also in that order, so now we have a goodly supply of those, too. THINK CHRISTMAS !!! Our special Bar-B-Q aprons should be here soon, too.

Those who have already requested personalization of your selections, need have no concerns. They will be personalized prior to shipping. If there are any others who would like to have personalization added to your orders, please let us know and we'll take care of that important detail. We regret that we cannot embroider on the Baseball Caps.

It is also important to let you all know that we are out of USS Rochester coffee cups. There are no plans to replenish them at the present time.

From your Ship's Store: Have a Happy Turkey, a Merry Christmas, and a Great New Year.

Larry & Mary Stone  
Ship's Storekeepers

## Reunion Pictures

The reunion pictures are on the Web. Go to [www.RSVPvideo.tv](http://www.RSVPvideo.tv) on the left you will see "USS ROCHESTER PAGE." Click on the icon to view pictures.

Please, spread the word and use your email address book to let any shipmates know of the pictures availability.

## Reunion Photographs

Should anyone wish to have photographs published on the web site they may forward the photos to Joseph West, Web Master:

Joseph West, Community Associations Network, LLC  
24410 Lakeland Street, Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
Phone: (248) 910-1114  
e-Mail: [jwwest@communityassociations.net](mailto:jwwest@communityassociations.net)

## New Members

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

Name		Div	OnBd
Alexander Baumgartner	EM2	E	51-55
Melvin J Hermansen	RM2	OR/7 <sup>th</sup>	57-58
Lonnie "Leo" Holder	LTJG	OS	57-59
Edwin F Surface	RM3	CS	52-55

## Military Humor

At one point in time during his career, Admiral Hyman Rickover, the father of the Nuclear Navy, was commander of a carrier task force, and had his flag on the carrier.

For exercise, Adm. Rickover walked a lap around the flight deck every day. It became custom for the sailors to approach the Admiral during his walks, and gripe, complain, etc., and the Admiral would take care of the problems brought forth by the crew. It was a great morale booster.

Well, the day came when Admiral Rickover was reassigned to Washington, and a helicopter carried him off. The crew was so despondent at his departure that the helmsman wasn't paying attention to his job, and the carrier hit a sandbar.

Yes, they grounded the warship he walked on.