

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. III, No. 4

News Letter

October 2015

From Secondary Conn...

Garry Phillips

All of my ROCHESTER shipmates are veterans and are eligible for a broad range of benefits through the Department of Veteran Affairs. I am often amazed at what veterans do not know about their benefits. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions.

There are several ways you can determine what your benefits are. First, you can call your local Veteran Services representative, almost always listed in the phone book. Second, go online and search for "Veterans Benefits." An excellent site is <http://www.va.gov/>, where you can select "Explore VA Benefits" and read all about them. For health benefits, a good number is 1-877-222-8387. For monetary benefits, a reliable number is 1-800-827-1000 (telephone pass numbers are 1, 0, then 4). My VA service advisor recommends calling your local representative where you live.

Assistance ranges from health to education to loans – and more. Check it out. I bet you'll be surprised.

On another subject ...

One of our greatest rights in the USA is the right to vote in free elections. 2016 will see elections for the office of President, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, state legislatures, and numerous county and city offices. Veterans are usually active participants in the political process, but less than 40 percent of eligible voters turned out in 2014. In some localities, less than 20 percent make the decisions. If you are registered, great! If you're not, I encourage you to get registered and exercise your right, duty, and responsibility. You can make a difference. Don't leave weighty matters up to a few.

and finally ...

The 2016 ROCHESTER Reunion in Charleston is now less than a year away. The hotel is set and rooms may be reserved on or after 15 October 2015 – this year! Each reunion, we try our best to improve, and the 2016 reunion in Charleston is shaping up to maintain that tradition. For more detail, I refer you to Pete Russell and Joe Hill's article further in the newsletter. Registration Forms will be in the February Newsletter.

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 Steven Van Westendorp, 1108 Vestavia Woods Dr, Raleigh, NC 27615-4612. 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: svanwest53@gmail.com.

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Pete Russell, Executive VP
Steven van Westendorp, 1 st VP	<i>Vacant</i> , 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Secy/Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
William W. Berkley, MAA	Richard D. Becker, Storekeeper
Frank Dayak, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director
Charles L. Chipley, Jr., Director	Donald K. Moon, Director

Association website:

www.USSRochester.org

Rochester Museum and Science Center

www.rmssc.org



Ship's Store

The Ship's Store is OPEN! If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Phillips at Eliz_Phillips@yahoo.com or calling 731-336-4090.

If you would like to see our entire line of USS ROCHESTER (CA-124) items, or if you desire a larger size than what is listed here, please go online to www.WSSRochester.org or contact me via the email address or phone number listed above. I'm looking forward to helping each of you find just the right item to show your ROCHESTER pride!

Betsy Phillips

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.

New Members

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

Name	Div	OnBd
McIntyre, Harry	OR	58-61
Robert, Earl	CR	56-58

New Associate Member:

Meredity L. Jaques - Daughter of Alfred L. Jaques

Association Dues

The 2015 Dues were due on January 1, 2015. Your current dues status is noted near your address on mailing address block. If there is a 2013 or 2014 after your name, PLEASE send in your PAST and CURRENT DUES.

Donations Received

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

Mrs. Carrie M. Cotrell donated \$50.00 to the Association to help pay for Newsletter in honor of husband James A. Cotrell.

SCUTTLEBUTT



Pray

As the storm raged, the Captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here know how to pray?" One man stepped forward.

"Aye, Captain, I know how to pray."

"Good," said the Captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets - we're one short."

Flying Commercial Air

While he was flying to San Francisco on a commercial airline, the Pacific Fleet Admiral struck up a conversation with his elderly seatmate. She asked him how he liked the Navy.

"I love it," he answered. "It's the best thing I've ever done."

"How nice, sonny" she said. "So do you think you'll make it a career?"

Submitted by Pete Russell, from American Legion Post 292 (Dillsboro, Indiana) Website

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
Eugene Bieber*	FL	2015	Fox	46-58
James A. Cotrell	CA	2015	Fox	53-55
Frank D. Palovich	CA	2015	S-2	55-58

*Plank Owner

Answers to "How Much Do You Remember"

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. b 8. c
9. b 10. a 11. b 12. c 13. a 14. c 15. a
16. a 17. a 18. b 19. a 20. c

17-20 correct: You are not only older than dirt, but obviously gifted with mind bloat.

12-16 correct: Not quite dirt yet, but your mind is definitely muddy, ready to muck up others.

0-11 correct: You are one sad excuse of a geezer.



ALL HANDS – AHOY! – REUNION UPDATE

***The U.S.S. Rochester
(CA-124) is Sailing to Charleston in 2016***

We are still more than a year away, but we hope this **update** will help you decide to join us in Charleston and reunite again with the jolly crew of the “Rochi Maru”. This **additional information on the preliminary schedule** is of interest to everyone, including the many new Associate Members who have joined this past year.

We have again engaged Military Reunion Planners to work with us in obtaining the very best arrangements and pricing for the reunion features we know the Association membership desires...they did a great job for us in San Antonio. The Reunion Planning Team is: Dale McElroy, Pete Russell, Jim McKerley, Ron Richards, Steve vanWestendorp, Joe Hill, Bill Berkley, and Betsy Phillips. **Here is the latest information:**

DATES: Thursday, October 6, 2016 – Monday,
October 10, 2016

CROWNE PLAZA CHARLESTON AIRPORT HOTEL

4381 Tanger Outlet Blvd.
North Charleston, SC 29418

Phone: 843-744-4422 Fax: 843-744-4472

Internet: www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc

The Crowne Plaza is located about 2 miles from the Charleston International Airport, and offers **complimentary shuttle service to/from the airport**, Tanger Outlet Mall, Amtrak, and over thirty restaurants within a 3-mile radius. Shuttle service is also available seven days a week from 0800 – 2330 via the *Historic Downtown Shuttle to the Visitor’s Center*, with pickup location directly across from the hotel at the Tanger Outlet Mall. **Hotel parking is complimentary.**

We have reserved a block of **40 rooms** at the hotel for the reunion at the rate of **\$129 per night, plus tax, which includes 2 full breakfast buffets per room, per day.** This rate is available 3 days prior to, and 3 days following our contracted dates, based on availability. The hotel will accept reservations for the reunion beginning in **October 2015.** Each guestroom features a 42” HDTV,

coffee maker, mini refrigerator, in-room safe, and complimentary wireless internet (WiFi). The newly designed guest baths feature late bamboo, frosted glass, marble tile, and sliding carriage door. The Crowne Plaza has an outdoor pool and patio, 24-hour fitness center, and the full-service *Sweetgrass Restaurant*.

During our stay, we will have **three tours for you to choose from...**showcasing the culture of Charleston and surroundings; desirable “free time” to explore on your own; and suitable time to relax in the **Hospitality Suite** and share remembrances with your shipmates. MAA Bill Berkley promises to keep the coffee pot “stoked” and plenty of snacks on hand. Storekeeper Betsy Phillips forecasts a newly-organized **Ship’s Store** with Rochester ball caps and selected Rochester-themed clothing items. **Here is a preview of the tours:**

FRIDAY – Historic Charleston City Tour followed by your choice of either going on an afternoon **Charleston Harbor Cruise** after lunch, or remaining in town to explore on your own/take a horse-drawn carriage ride on your own, etc., and returning to the hotel by motor coach with the harbor cruise group, or browsing around and returning to the hotel earlier via the *Historic Downtown Shuttle from the Visitors Center*.

SATURDAY – Magnolia Plantation and Gardens Tour

<http://www.magnoliaplantation.com/admissioninfo.html>
South Carolina's premier plantation, founded in 1676, believed to be the only plantation in South Carolina still under original family ownership. We will have a guided tour of the Plantation House and explore the oldest major garden in America, continually planted since the 1680s, and take a narrated tram ride through the grounds.

We plan to begin registration for the reunion in **February 2016**, with the registration form to be included in our quarterly U.S.S. Rochester newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call or e-mail Pete Russell, (703) 569-7733, peterussell@cox.net; or Joe Hill, (931) 432-4848, nitecrawl@twlakes.net.

SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON!

Submitted by Pete Russell peterussell@cox.net

Chaplain's Corner

Comfort in Security

There is much unrest in the turbulent times of our culture. Questions arise as we look at the world economy and the uncertainty of the future. It is a comfort to trust the Lord of the future with all the issues of life.

Bible promises that we well known can be comforting. A friend sent me a new look at the 23 Psalm with some notes giving assurance of how encompassing the Lord's care is. I share it with you:

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd - *That's Relationship!*

I shall not want - *That's Supply!*

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures -
*That's Rest!***

**He leadeth me beside the still waters - *That's
Refreshment!***

He restoreth my soul - *That's Healing!*

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness -
*That's Guidance!***

For His name sake - *That's Purpose!*

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death - *That's Testing!***

I will fear no evil - *That's Protection!*

For Thou art with me - *That's Faithfulness!*

**Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - *That's
Discipline!***

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies - *That's Hope!***

**Thou annointest my head with oil - *That's
Consecration!***

My cup runneth over - *That's Abundance!*

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life - *That's Blessing!***

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord - *That's
Security!***

Forever - *That's Eternity!*

As we come to the fall and Holiday seasons may we find comfort and security in the thoughts that come from this Psalm.

Prayerfully Yours,

Frank West, Chaplain

fawest@jps.net

From the Members...

The Mighty Mekong River

The Mekong River is the world's 12th longest river, 2,703 miles, and drains an area of 307,000 square miles, and discharges 110 cubic miles of water annually into the South China Sea. The source of the water flowing into the river is the melting snow on the Tibetan Plateau of China, running southward through Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Looking at the Mekong Delta land surface from an airplane, it looks like a huge broken glass window pane with hundreds of large and small canals traveling in every direction from the Mekong River and its tributaries to the South China Sea. There are very few roads, the people travel on sampans and junks.

During the spring and summer months when the snow melts in the 17,000 foot Tibetan Himalayan Mountains, the Mekong Delta's rivers and canals are filled with water, spilling over into the thousands of rice paddy fields, nurturing the annual rice crop. During the fall and winter months the rivers and canals reduce to low ebb, the fields dry out and the farmers grow and harvest various grain crops, like wheat and oats, as well as vegetables and fruit crops, like watermelons, cantaloupes, cabbages, and potatoes.

In the spring and summer months, the Mekong River and its many tributaries are flowing at speeds of 5 to 10 knots, churning and tumbling muddy water such that good swimmers will drown. In the fall and winter months the water levels in the Mekong River drop 30 feet or more and the sediment will settle to the bottom resulting in crystal clear water; the daily tidal changes in the South China Sea will reverse the flow of the Mekong River as far north as the southern border of Cambodia, 60 miles or more.



Submitted by CDR John Kirk Ferguson, USN (ret) who served aboard U.S.S. Rochester from 1959-1961 and later, following other Fleet assignments, served in the Republic of Vietnam as Commander, Strike Assault Boat Squadron TWENTY operating in the Mekong Delta. Kirk lives in Riverside, CA.

How Much Do You Remember

Submitted by Joe Hill

Let's see how much you remember, and how many of these you can recall.

- In the 1950's, if you had a flat rear tire, you often had to remove the?
 - Necker knob
 - Curb feeler
 - Fender skirt
 - What color flash bulbs did Dad use for color film?
 - Blue
 - Pink
 - Plaid
 - What was the parking brake called when you were a kid?
 - Emergency brake
 - Pull Stop
 - Breaker
 - Way before Air Jordan, what was a kid's shoe of choice?
 - Buster Brown
 - PF Flyers
 - Old Stinkers
 - In what year did Dewey Defeat Truman according to the Chicago Tribune?
 - 1946
 - 1948
 - 1952
 - Before the Orkin Man, what technology was part of most home bug deterrence?
 - Shoe Fly
 - Fly paper
 - 50 mm Phlit gun
 - Dixie cups had what printed on their tops?
 - Secret decoders
 - Movie stars
 - WW II propaganda slogans
 - What was the prevailing method of birth control in the 50s?
 - Heavy lifting and cold showers
 - Fear
 - Girdles and crinoline petticoats
 - Jimmy Durante said what at the end of every show?
 - Aloha, my friends.
 - Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are.
 - Remember, wherever you go, my nose will get there first.
 - Popeye the sailor man; I'm strong to the finish, _ _ _ _ _ , Popeye the sailor man.
 - cause I eats me spinach
 - my dad was big and Finnish
 - the music a bit tinnish?
 - You ordered and the waitress called, "Knock the horns off one, and drag it through the garden." What did you get?
 - 86 the customer, then kick him out the back door
 - Rare hamburger or steak with tomato and lettuce
 - Cooties
 - Lincoln Logs were for what use?
 - A diary of the presidency
 - Keep track of fat cats who sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom
 - Building toy structures
 - Ward and June bring what to mind?
 - A popular TV series called Leave it to Beaver
 - A Chicago family of butchers and knife sharpeners called The Cleavers
 - Inventors of the clicker, Jack Ward and Ernest June
 - Cops and Robbers, Cowboys and Indians, and Zorro are all forms of what?
 - Alcoholic beverages
 - Capitalism
 - Children's play
 - What was the cheapest way to turn a bicycle into a motorcycle?
 - Baseball cards in the spokes
 - Rig an electric motor with a very long cord
 - Turning left into the path of a Harley
 - Tinker toys date back to when?
 - 1914
 - 1949
 - 1967
 - What was the worst thing that could happen to you when being picked for a team?
 - Getting picked last
 - Getting your uniform dirty
 - Not having the team tattoo
 - If we dared to swear and our parents heard us, we immediately found out what _ _ _ tasted like.
 - Hot sauce
 - Soap
 - Sarsaparilla
 - What was one thing the Lone Ranger and Roy Rogers would never do?
 - Kill someone
 - Shot a squirrel
 - Eat lima beans
 - What convertible offered an optional radio that automatically increased its volume as the car accelerated?
 - 1912 Franklin
 - 1943 Jeep
 - 1957 Ford Thunderbird
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