

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



NewsLetter

Vol. II, No. 29

February 2012

CHIT-CHAT From the PRES

Greetings Everyone, I hope you all had happy and safe Holidays. We had a dandy, even without any snow around. We stayed home with the kids this year and didn't miss the snow at all.

Last month in the NewsLetter I was so proud of myself for remembering the date of the ships decommissioning but I wasn't all that good. It turns out that last year (2011) was the 20th anniversary of the Association. It started back in 1991 up in Randolph, MA by the following shipmates: John Thompson, Lou Di Russo, Farrell Ferguson, Bill Couch (deceased), and Chaplain AW Robinson (deceased). We can thank these dedicated few for the start of what has become a biannual tradition of getting together to renew friendships and acquaintances. Every year it seems to get better even though our membership has declined. It took a lot of work in getting shipmates notified of the Association's start up, setting up the first reunion and the subsequent follow up of membership and reunions.

Hope I didn't miss anyone. The next reunion in 1993 was my first and it has been getting bigger and better due to the help of all the people that make it go and all the ones behind the scenes that you don't see. We are going to want everyone to start making your plans final for the reunion in San Diego so we can get some numbers and counts. As most of you know at the General Meeting during the reunion, we pick the location for the next reunion. This is usually a seat of the pants type thing and we sometimes have a hard time finding a location. What if everyone starts to think about it now and maybe we can come to your area in 2014. There are many exciting places out there if we can get the locals to jump in. We've never been to Texas, New Orleans or a lot of other places. Get your thinking caps on guys.

Talk to you all again in a few months.

Dick Becker

SAN DIEGO REUNION 2012

Time is moving forward and it will not be long before we gather at the Horton Grand Hotel in San Diego for our reunion from Monday Oct 8 thru Friday Oct 12. Now that the New Year is behind us, things are starting to pick up momentum. The Hotel is anxious to start receiving reservations. This is not a large hotel, like the main chains, but more on the boutique style – smaller & more intimate & friendly. Reservations **MUST** be made via the telephone 800-542-1886. You must indicate you are registering with the USS Rochester Reunion. The rate for the room is \$125.00 per night. If you try to register on-line you will get a message there is no rooms available for those dates. We have blocked almost all of them. ***It is imperative that you book your hotel rooms early.***

Parking at the hotel is \$25.00 per day. Presently in negotiation, is parking at several parking lots within three blocks of the hotel for a lower rate. Parking will be addressed completely in the May News Letter.

The Hotel is located in the heart of the Gaslamp District of downtown San Diego. This is the prime location for many fine restaurants, light food & watering holes, all within walking distance of the hotel.

The various tours and activities that have been set up for shipmates were selected to try and appeal to all attending. The San Diego Visitors Bureau said they will try to provide excellent weather for our reunion.

As with past reunions, there will be a request for volunteers to help at the registration desk. Jerry McCloskey has agreed to coordinate the Registration Desk. He will set up the schedule and hours each volunteer will assist in checking in attendees. It is a very important task providing information each attendee will be required to have. If you would like to volunteer for the Registration Desk, please contact Jerry at 949-495-2919 or email at geepeem@cox.net.

Looking forward to another successful reunion!

Gordon Cargill

Chaplain's Corner

RESOURCES

Knowing the resources for our needs in life and how to connect with them is important for our well being. For example, our local newspaper publishes a list of resources available for the citizens in our county monthly that include health, transportation and recreational activities. Having family and close friends are excellent resources.

I recall having a special medical need in my life. The resource that gave me encouragement was Psalm 50:15 which states, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will honor me". I was delivered from a serious medical issue.

As we face issues in our senior years, prayer is one of our important resources to have readily available. I am looking forward to the fellowship with all of you in San Diego!

Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

VA Blue Water Claims Update 21

Joe Hill sent the following information that may be of interest to those shipmates that may have been involved with AGENT ORANGE.

The list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Era has been updated with 47 more vessels and expanded information for others. The list of 214 vessels, maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is of particular interest to those former service members experiencing health problems related to herbicide exposure, as it may help expedite their claims for VA health and disability benefits. To view the list, go to:
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentora/ngc/shiplist/list.asp>.

[Source: NAUS Weekly Update 20 Jan 2011]



Ship's Store

Greetings Shipmates and Your Ladies,

We hope you had a great Christmas and the New Year has started well for you all. And, we hope plans for the Ship's Reunion in San Diego this Fall is first on your schedule for the Fall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please note that we have coffee mugs again in the Ship's Store. These are really great mugs. They fit very comfortably in the hand and carry real well. The mugs have "USS Rochester CA124" and a silhouette of the ship on one side. The other side is "The Gray Ghost of the Korean Coast."

We also have a letter opener with the Ship & name as a new item. The cups and openers are from a different supplier, so we have been able to keep the prices reasonable.

The "turn-around" time on your orders continue at the top of our "Important Issues" list. We realize there are times when it takes longer than normal and we are diligently working to reduce those times.

Winter has not really hit us here in Central Illinois yet, as it has in other parts of our Country, but we know it's coming! We hope you are managing, wherever you might be.

We hope to have plenty of items in stock for you to choose from. If you think of something you think would sell that we don't have, PLEASE let us know. Our phone lines: 217-460-0611 and 217-924-4109. Email is: mdlrstone@gmail.com

Smooth seas and following winds,
Larry and Mary Stone

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.rmasc.org

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
Clifford W Beck	LA	1996	S-2	57-58
Cyril J. Bombard, Jr	OR	2011	E	49-52
Clarence J. Buck*	SC	1998	A	46-48
Salvador F. Cortez	PA	2010	4 th	47-51
Maxie E Cox	NC	2012	3rd	54-57
Lawrence E. Drake	MN	2011	A	52-56
Robert E Fickle	TX	2011	Fox	49-52
Paul G Gaston	OK	2011	Fox	49-52
Alfred R Gunsallus	MO	2002	B	51-54
Walter D. Hartley*	CA	2008	Fox	46-47
Bobby G. Huchinson	OK	2005	S-1	53-55
Marceina Huchinson	OK	2007	B	52-54
Curtis L Hutchens*	FL	2007	1st	46-49
Donald D. Johnson	ND	2004	X	57-58
James A Larson	CO	2007	E	57-59
Thomas F. Long	GA	2007	H	54-55
Ray Marino	CA	2011	?	?
Robert J. Oberst*	SC	2011	A	46-50
Thomas D. Rae	VA	2011	Fox	48-52
Jack W. Rambo	TN	2001	R	56-58
Jerome L. Ritterbush	NE	2007	R	56-58
Jerry Rutland	NY	2010	H	51-53
Warren G. Stevens	WI	2011	E	51-53
Donald R. Strong	MO	2010	E	50--?
Floyd M. Symons	VA	1998	XO	61
Robert (Bob) Zeszotarski	PA	2011	R	51-54

*Plank Owner

Family Inquiry

My father in law, James Otis Watts, served on the USS Rochester 1952 to 1953. He is 81 years old. I would be interested if any of his shipmates would send me some information on his time aboard ship. Thank you.

Bruce Scott

19090 Liv 435, Dawn Mo 64638.

New Members

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

Name	Div	OnBd
Harry (Jim) J. Dumond	Fox	55-58
Paul D. Hughes	5 th	52-54
William D. Lipsky	CR	51-52
Homer D. Meeds	OI	48-51

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 Dues

Eleven shipmates have still not sent in their dues for 2011, and now the 2012 renewals are due. Folks have been pretty good about sending in their renewals., but we still have some outstanding. PLEASE look at the mailing label and slightly to the right of your name the year in which dues were last credited will be indicated such as 2010 or 2011. If there is a 2010 or 2011 after your name, please send in your current dues.

Shipmates Request

Received a letter from Mrs. Melvin Shipley that they are trying to locate a 1950 Rochester Cruise Book in hard cover. If anyone has a copy that can be purchased or donated please contact:

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Shipley

P.O. Box 216

Carlisle, IN 47838-0216

Phone: (812) 398-2072



Anniversary

John and Judy Thompson celebrated 60 years of marriage on November 17, 2011.

Correspondence

November 27, 2011

USS ROCHESTER ASSOCIATION

TO ALL THE SHIPMATES OF RAY MARIANO

Dear Sir:

The last time in San Diego reunion, we attended. Ray and I had enjoyed it very much, and it was wonderful to meet every one. It was the best reunion we ever attended. So sorry to inform you, Ray Marino passed last April 20, 2011. May his soul rest in peace. I will be missing that enjoyable reunion in San Diego.

So long.

Sincerely, Mrs. Rosalina B. Marino

Lost and Found

Submitted by Joe Hill

The below listed shipmate was discovered while another one of our crew members was out and about wearing his Rochester Ball Cap:

Lipsky, Bill
1100 Vista Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926-9572
Phone: 509-925-3040
Rank or Rate: RM3.
Division: CR.
Years on Board: 1951-1952
Spouse: Virginia

We are hoping to see Bill and Virginia at the San Diego Reunion.

Donation Received

The Association would like to thank shipmate Darrel L. Bush for his \$50.00 donation.

Item of Interest

“Congratulations Pacific Battleship Center, you have been awarded the IOWA BB-61”

The ship is scheduled to have an official opening July 4 2012 in the San Pedro/LA Harbor as its home-port and a tourist attraction. During our Reunion gathering in October, if there is enough interest in a group going to San Pedro to visit the IOWA and the possibility of a visit to the S.S. LANE VICTORY, a tour will be scheduled. This ship was built as a merchant ship. During the Korean War, she would rescue over 7000 Korean refugees from Wonson. She would also evacuate over 3800 U.S. troops, 1100 vehicles, and 5 tons of supplies from Hungnam while under fire. (See August 2011 News Letter)

The Older Crowd

Submitted by Joe Hill

The older we get, the fewer things
Seem worth waiting in line for.

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Some people try to turn back their odometers.  
Not me!  
I want people to know 'why' I look this way.  
I've traveled a long way  
And some of the roads weren't paved.

~~~~~

One of the many things
No one tells you about aging
Is that it is such a nice change
From being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful,
But being old is comfortable.

First you forget names,
Then you forget faces.
Then you forget to pull up your zipper.
It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

