

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. III, No. 1

Newsletter

November/December 2014

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2015

From Secondary Conn...

Garry Phillips

“Good Things Come in Small Packages.” I know you have heard that old saying, and this time it rings completely true. While the San Antonio reunion was smaller than usual, it was definitely one of the best, if not the best of all. It is difficult to put my finger on the *why* button – but it was great. All our reunions have been good and have had their high points – whether the hotel, the tours, the hospitality room, the banquet – but this one was special. In the end, I think it was the camaraderie. No small credit for its success goes to the Reunion Committee, headed by the indomitable Peter Russell, and including Joes Hill, Bill Berkley, Lonnie Holder and Dick Becker.

I was privileged to get acquainted with many of the Shipmates that I had only known by name before. I got to meet and talk with spouses and girlfriends, children, and grandchildren. I especially want to thank the children & grandchildren & caregivers that accompanied Shipmates to San Antonio. We old guys really enjoyed meeting you and we appreciate your dedication.

The membership reelected Joe Hill as Secretary/Treasurer; Frank West as Chaplain; Bill Berkley as Master-At-Arms; & myself as President. Pete Russell was elected as Executive Vice President (a position he was already filling temporarily); and Steve van Westendorp was elected First Vice President, replacing Gordon Cargill. Dick Becker was reappointed Storekeeper. The position of Second Vice President remains vacant until it can be temporarily filled. Frank Dayak, Merlin Scheller, Don Moon, and Chip Chipley will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

Some important issues were addressed at this year’s business meeting. First, after considerable discussion, we decided to open “Associate

Membership” to all shipmates’ family members. This will increase membership and keep the ROCHESTER afloat for many years to come. **The decision required us to change the Association’s bylaws, and is reported below***. Another decision was to reduce the Ship’s Store operation since it is no longer self-sustaining. A few items will be available in the future, but stocks will not be replenished.

Thanks again to all who made this last reunion a wonderful success. Let’s do it again in Charleston!

***Change to the Bylaws – Establishment of “Associate Membership”**

Article XIII of the USS ROCHESTER Association’s Bylaws establishes the procedures for amending the bylaws. On September 29, 2014, the committee of the whole met in its Designated Business Meeting to consider, in part, a motion to establish a new “Associate Membership” for the Association. The motion, as amended, would establish a dues-paying, voting, Associate Membership for spouses and *bona fide* descendants and relatives of ROCHESTER Members (See Article III, Section 1). The amendment and motion were seconded, discussed, and passed by two-thirds majority, as required by Article XIII.

The Amendment shall be as follows:

“Associate Membership” to the USS ROCHESTER shall be open to spouses and *bona fide* descendants (including adopted or step children) and relatives of any military personnel who served aboard the USS ROCHESTER while underway. Associate Members are subject to the same privileges and requirements as “Voting Membership” as described in Article III, Section 1, of the “Constitution and Bylaws of the USS Rochester Association.”

2016 Reunion

The USS ROCHESTER (CA-124) is Sailing to South Carolina! AHOY!

Planning has begun for the next USS Rochester Reunion, which will be held in Charleston, SC in the Fall of 2016. Stay tuned for further news as it happens!

In the meantime, if you have questions, the USS Rochester Charleston Reunion Planning Team is Dale McElroy, Pete Russell, Jim McKerley, Ron Richards and Steve vanWestendorp.

2014 San Antonio Reunion Photos

Reunion Photos can be viewed in USS Rochester Picasa Web Album.

Everyone who attended the reunion in San Antonio should have received an invitation by email to access and view a “Web Album” that we put together using Google Picasa. Currently, there are about 200 pictures in the album...including a great group shot taken at the Cibolo Longhorn Ranch dinner Thursday evening. Whether you attended the reunion, or not...and would like to access the album, please email Pete Russell at peterussell@cox.net for more information.

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 Drive, 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

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 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.rmsc.org

Hello From A New Publisher...

Steven van Westendorp

IT'S A BEGINNING---AND A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW—ESPECIALLY ON SHORT NOTICE. But here we go, anyway...I am the “new kid on the block” whose job it is to carry on and help keep alive the personal and, in many cases, professional bonds of a time long passed.

Of course, your newsletter has endured over many years under the guidance of Gordon Cargill, who consistently came up with a document which helped to keep us in touch with several years in our lives of unparalleled memories. It continues to help maintain that bond—in the case of nearly all of us—of solid friendships formed early in our lives...and those which developed in the course of ROCHESTER reunions. And beyond...

But, let's not get too maudlin as we consider the glorious—and sometimes, not so glorious—years we have spent together. (Some were more humorous—or some were sad). They all are a time gone by which, in retrospect, opened our minds and experiences to the world beyond home and onwards to the lives of sailors at sea, whether it be exploring the mysteries and excitement of the Far East, or the happy homecomings which were a part of life in Southern California. It mattered not if we spent hot and grueling hours at General Quarters, were squiring the Commander of the Seventh Fleet as we “showed the flag” to the far reaches of the Orient (often including a little R and R in Hong Kong) or just carrying on with “ship's work.” For some of us war was real---for others of us life at sea was not so perilous. Nonetheless, let us always remember, wherever it was, WE SERVED. Now, our mission is to keep the heritage alive.

And, through communities such as ours, we can keep the flame alive!

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.

Donations Received

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

Bill Berkley turned in \$47.00 from the Reunion Coffee Donation to Association Treasurer. Thanks to "All Hands" who made a donation.

Baskin Culpepper and daughter Kimberly donated \$317.00.

Jess Johnson donated \$100.00.

Steven van Westendorp donated \$50.00.

New Members

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

| Name | Div | OnBd |
|--------------------|------|--------|
| Crabill, Robert E. | Fox | 50-52 |
| Crotwell, James A. | Fox | 53-55 |
| Hyman, Jack L. | B | 59-61 |
| Stanko, Paul M. | K/OI | 57-59* |

*Returning previous member

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 2013 or 2014 after your name, **Please** send in your past Dues. **The 2015 Dues will be due January 1, 2015.**

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 |
|----------------------|----|------|---------------------|-------|
| Clarence O. Baumann | CA | 2014 | A | 48-52 |
| James W. Edwards | KY | 2014 | OE | 58-59 |
| Michael Giacchetta | FL | 2014 | FOX | 51-55 |
| Ray D. Hutchinson | CA | 2014 | S-2 | 52-55 |
| Ralph J. Hoffman, Jr | MI | 2013 | M | 47-50 |
| Jack E. Myrick | IL | 2013 | Fox/1 st | 50-54 |
| Arthur Riola | HI | 2014 | A | 56-59 |
| James A. Sexton | CA | 2014 | M/MM2 | 55-59 |

(note: wife deceased)

From The Members...

Navy Terms and Trivia - Quoted from Goatlocker.org

Chewing the Fat "God made the vittles, but the devil made the cook was popular saying used by seafaring men in the last century when salted beef was the staple diet aboard ship. This tough cured beef, suitable only for long voyages when nothing else was as cheap or would keep as well, required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, just as if it were chewing gum and referred to this practice as Chewing the Fat."

Courtesy of Joe Hill

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### Retired Affairs Office

RAO BULLETIN is a bi-monthly document of the Retired Affairs Office aimed at informing retired military personnel of benefits and services to which they might be eligible. The Bulletin is far too lengthy for inclusion here, but is well indexed by topic area, such as VA, VETS, VET LEGISLATION, MILITARY, HEALTH CARE and many others. It is well indexed and tells how to subscribe to the Bulletin. Contact [roemo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roemo@sbcglobal.net) for further information and how to subscribe.

*Courtesy of Joe Hill*

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Scuttlebutt

An eager Boot stepped aboard the USS Rochester in Long Beach but failed to salute the colors or the quarterdeck. He was brought to an abrupt halt by the Executive Officer. "Say, boy, do you know who I am?" queried the Exec. "No sir, I am new aboard here," came the snappy reply. "Well, I am the Executive Officer of this ship," put forth the X.O. "That's a good job, don't foul it up," said the boot.

Courtesy of the US Naval Air Station, Green Cove Springs, FL "Transmitter" circa 1931, and Pete Russell

Chaplain's Corner

Loneliness

Everyone has to cope with loneliness to some degree at one time or another. One thing that helped on the Rochester was mail call. Remember how we would hold a letter to our chest and dream.

Different kinds of loneliness are described in the bible. David hiding in a cave from Saul stated, "Look to my right and see if anyone is concerned for me. I have no refuge. No one cares for my soul". We could speak of Elijah and Jonah. However going to a quote from Mother Teresa, "The most terrible poverty is being unloved."

James Dobson states, "A strong loving family helps the lonely." I appreciated the families at the Reunion. Legislation was changed to encourage more families to meet with us in the future. A study at the University of Phoenix suggested fifteen items that may help with loneliness. I will mention the headings of the first five:

1. Comfort Yourself. Realize you are not alone. Being lonely doesn't mean there is something wrong with you.
2. Get involved in activities . Volunteer with your community. Join groups with the expectation of having fun.
3. Don't allow yourself to wallow. Get your mind off of how you feel. Take a walk, ride a bike or explore hobbies. Keep yourself busy.
4. Do social activities by yourself. Go out for a dinner, see a movie or do something you enjoy. It is sometime helpful to have "me" time.
5. Consider getting a pet. Pets have been domestic companions for centuries for a reason. Winning the trust and affection of an animal can be a rewarding experience.

Develop a close friend you can share your joys and burdens with. Should you have no one to call, I will always be glad to answer my phone.

Prayerfully,

Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net

Senior Discounts

Here are some more Senior Citizen Discounts at Various Businesses. They may vary at time and locations...but you MUST ASK for your discount:

Applebee's – 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)

Arby's – 10% off (55+)

Ben & Jerry's – 10% off (60+)

Bob's Big Boy – varies by location (60+)

Boston Market – 10% off (65+)

Burger King – 10% off (60+)

Chick-fil-A – 10% or free small drink or coffee (55+)

Chili's – 10% off (55+)

CiCi's Pizza – 10% off (60+)

Denny's – 10% off; 20% off for AARP members (55+)

Dunkin Donuts – 10% off or free coffee (55+)

Banana Republic – 10% off (50+)

Dress Barn – 10% off (55+)

Albertson's – 10% off first Wednesday (55+)

American Discount Stores – 10% off every Monday (50+)

Alaska Airlines – 10% off (65+)

American Airlines – various discounts for 65+

Amtrak – 15% off (62+)

Alamo – up to 25% off for AARP members

Avis – up to 25% off for AARP members

Budget Car Rental – 10% off (50+)

Best Western – 10% off (50+)

Clarion – 20% to 30% off (60+)

Comfort Inn – 20% - 30% off (60+)

Comfort Suites – 20% - 30% off (60+)

AMC Theaters – up to 30% off (55+)

Bally Total Fitness – up to \$100 off membership (62+)

Cinemark/Century – up to 35% off

AT&T – Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$29.99/month (65+)

HAPPY NEW YEAR