

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. III, No. 3

# Newsletter

July 2015

## From Secondary Conn...

*Garry Phillips*

What goes on in the Rochester Association between reunions? More than meets the eye. All that the general membership sees between reunions is the Newsletter, and surely that doesn't take much time. Wrong! The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is the editor and is responsible for collecting newsworthy material and publishing the Newsletter. While the task is rewarding, for a few days prior to publication, it can feel like a full-time job. Collecting articles, formatting, editing, printing, folding, addressing, stamping, and mailing are a part of each quarterly publication of the Rochester Newsletter.

The reunion planning committee is also busy working issues for our next meeting in Charleston. The Executive Vice President is responsible for reunion organization and execution. We have already had several teleconferences and too-many-to-count contacts with hotels and tour companies. We've signed a contract with the hotel and are currently firming up tours and all that goes with that. Thanks to the committee, we are far ahead of the curve.

The Secretary/Treasurer likely puts in more time than anyone in the Association. He receives membership dues, writes checks, makes deposits, and balances the checkbook every month. He keeps up with TAPS and reports deaths to Association board members and officers. More than that, he makes phone calls to next of kin, usually widows, of our shipmates who have passed on.

The Ship's Store is now operated by a new Associate Member, Betsy Phillips. She keeps the stock up to date and responds to orders for goods.

All these jobs are done by volunteers – people who love and respect *The Ship* and want to be of service to our Shipmates. They each deserve a sharp salute and a hearty “well done”!

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## From The 1st Vice President...

*Steven van Westendorp*

Here we (actually me) are, at a second effort to spread the news about our days in ROCHESTER... well perhaps not so much to spread the news of the day, as to rekindle the memories of our lives in those years gone by when we were younger, perhaps more adventurous, and in all likelihood not so wise in the ways of the world as we are today.

We learned (sometimes in the school of hard knocks) and arrived in this (for most) a happier state by means of the novel and fun experiences and having overcome some of those not so pleasant ones. For many it meant going to sea for the first time maybe in the face of war, maybe on a peaceful journey to far reaches of the oceans---a far cry from life on the farm and the comforts of home... a giant step into manhood.

We bonded friendships then, and we continue to build on them now. We develop new ones today as we grow a little more grey (for some!!) and a little less agile (I think that this applies to ALL of us!). We all have memories to share of the years gone by. The fondest give us the greatest pleasure. This newsletter is but one of them.

AND this brings me to the reason for this publication and those memorable reunions we celebrate. Remember, we don't live in the past, but we do CELEBRATE it. Send us a “sea story.” (We'd love to print some of them) but more importantly, share them in first person!

SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON IN 16!!!

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## Ship's Store

The Ship's Store is OPEN! If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Phillips at [Eliz\\_Phillips@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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

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## 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](mailto:svanwest53@gmail.com).

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## 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.

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Pete Russell, Executive VP
Steven van Westendorp, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Vacant, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.USSRochester.org)

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

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Happy July 4th

## SCUTTLEBUTT



### Underway, With Way On, But...

A young ensign had nearly completed his first overseas tour of sea duty when he was given an opportunity to display his ability at getting the ship under way. With a stream of crisp commands, he had the decks buzzing with men and soon, the ship had left port and was steaming out of the channel.

The ensign's efficiency had been remarkable. In fact, the deck was abuzz with talk that he had set a new record for getting a heavy cruiser under way. The ensign glowed at his accomplishment and was not all surprised when a seaman approached him with a message from the Captain.

He was, however, a bit surprised to find that it was a radio message, and he was even more surprised when he read, "*My personal congratulations upon completing your underway preparation exercise according to the book and with amazing speed. In your haste, however, you have overlooked one of the most important unwritten laws of the sea -- make sure the Captain is aboard before getting under way.*"

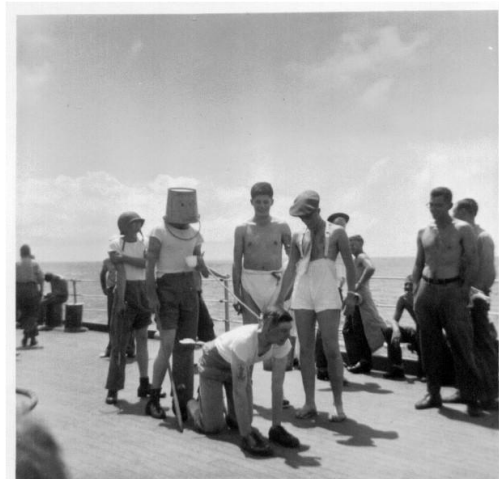
Submitted by Pete Russell

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## Donations Received

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

Pete Parnagian donated \$25.00 to the Association to help pay for Newsletter.



## Chaplain's Corner

### The Loving Father

Stories of shepherds in the bible reflect the love of our Heavenly Father. The 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm speaks of how a shepherd cares for his own. In Matthew 18 the story is told of one lost sheep and how the shepherd sought to find it. Jesus stated, "Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."

While reflecting on this, the story of Francis Thompson came to mind. He was born in a devout Roman Catholic family. He was sent to a boarding school to become a priest but it soon became clear he was not interested. His father, a doctor, tried to get him to study medicine but Francis had no aptitude for science. He wanted to become a poet and made his way to London at age 26. He soon became destitute and became an addict to opium. Before his death from tuberculosis he wrote a poem and described how God graciously pursued him as a "Hound of Heaven" that led to his conversion.

God loves people as seeks them in many ways. It may be as a shepherd or a Hound from Heaven. It is comforting to know that whatever our situation He cares for people.

The last of 5 thoughts on dealing with loneliness:

1. Differentiate between loneliness and solitude. Loneliness is when you are unhappy to be alone. Solitude can be good in that you can park a busy life and think.
2. Work on improving and making yourself happy. Do the things you enjoy.
3. Consider exercise. Caring for or bodies often gets set aside when we get busy.
4. Learn a new skill. Many things are available to us!
5. Do something big. Look at KFC and the dream the Senior Sanders fulfilled.

Life in our age bracket can be challenging. Our loving Father is present to help us make the best of life and enjoy it!

Prayerfully,

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

## New Members

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

Name Div OnBd

### New Associate Members:

*Rob Bogan* - Son of Raymond W. Bogan GM1 on Board 1946-1948.(Plank Owner) (Deceased)

*Aubree Howell* - Granddaughter to Horace Howell

*Patty Howell* - Daughter to Horace Howell

*Ruth Howell* - Wife of Horace Howell

Note: Horace Howell was a Seaman on board USS Rochesrer (CA 124) during the Years 51-54 assigned to 3rd Division.

*Mary Jane M. Van Arsdale* - wife of EMCS Clyde A. Van Arsdale USN (Ret.)

## 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.

## TAPS

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Charles L. Armdt	NC	2015	3rd/CR	51-54
Robert A. Hudson	CA	2015	Marine	50-51
Leo I. Lemmons	FL	2015	4th	48-52
John Mozol	WI	2015	N	47-48
Earl R. Reese	OR	2015	7th	51-55





## **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](http://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](mailto:peterussell@cox.net); or Joe Hill, (931) 432-4848, [nitecrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:nitecrawl@twlakes.net).

## **SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON!**

*Submitted by Pete Russell [peterussell@cox.net](mailto:peterussell@cox.net)*

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## From the Members...

I enlisted in the US Navy April 13, 1952. I went through 13 weeks of Boot Camp at San Diego, CA. After completion of Boot Camp and my 2 weeks leave, my Orders were to report to the USS Rochester CA 124, located in Long Beach, CA.

I was a Fireman Apprentice and was assigned to "B" Division and Fire Room #1. My service time aboard the USS Rochester was from August, 1952 to April 1956. In 1953 I attended Boilerman School at Great Lakes Naval Training Base. While there I met a young lady that later became my wife of 51 years. She passed away in 2005.

I achieved the rate of BT2 on active duty. After release from the USS Rochester, I joined the active Naval Reserves and trained on the Daniel A Joy DE 585 located in Chicago, IL. My discharge from the US Navy was April 13, 1964, for a total of 12 years Naval Service.

I still remember my service number and Company number from boot camp. Those were the good old days and I wish I could do it all again...

*Submitted by William W. Berkley, MAA*



*Eva Gabor during the filming of "Don't Go Near The Water", Long Beach, CA, June, 1957*

## 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:

***Einstein's Bagels***: 10% off baker's dozen of bagels (60+)

***Fuddrucker's***: 10% off any senior platter (55+)

***Gatti's Pizza***: 10% off (60+)

***Golden Corral***: 10% off (60+)

***Hardee's***: \$0.33 beverages everyday (65+)

***IHOP***: 10% off (55+)

***Jack in the Box***: up to 20% off (55+)

***Goodwill***: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)

***Hallmark***: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)

***Compare Foods Supermarket***: 10% off every Wednesday (60+)

***DeCicco Family Markets***: 5% off every Wednesday (60+)

***Food Lion***: 60% off every Monday (60+)

***Fry's Supermarket***: free Fry's VIP Club Membership & 10% off every Monday (55+)

***Great Valu Food Store***: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)

***Gristedes Supermarket***: 10% off every Tuesday (60+)

***Harris Teeter***: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)

***Hy-Vee***: 5% off one day a week (date varies by location)

***Greyhound***: 15% off (62+)

***Dollar Rent-A-Car***: 10% off (50+)

***Enterprise Rent-A-Car***: 5% off for AARP members

***Hertz***: up to 25% off for AARP members

***Econo Lodge***: 40% off (60+)

***Hampton Inns & Suites***: 40% off when booked 72 hours in advance

***Hyatt Hotels***: 25%-50% off (62+)

***InterContinental Hotels Group***: various discounts at all hotels (65+)

***Jitterbug***: \$10/month cell phone service (50+)

**NOW, go out there and claim your discounts - -  
- - and remember ----**

**YOU must ASK for your discount ----**

**No Ask, No Discount.**