



USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

NEW!
Lost At
Sea on
Page 5

Volume 28 - Number 2 - May 2012

Charleston Crowne Plaza Selected Hotel to be Site of 14th Bi-Annual Reunion



President's Report

President Gil Beyer

Everyone that has read our newsletter over the past several months should know that we are holding our next reunion in Charleston, SC.

I'm now happy to report that thanks to the hard work of our Reunion Host Jeff Kovite we have a specific place to hang our hats. That place is the Crowne Plaza Hotel in North Charleston.

Jeff has made several trips to Charleston from his home in Myrtle Beach to check out all the features of the potential venues in the Charleston area and, after much fact-finding, chose the Crowne Plaza. This hotel is located near the Charleston airport and adjacent to a major shopping mall.

In upcoming newsletters there will be more information about tours, room rates and other amenities in Charleston.

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Meanwhile, in our attempt to locate missing shipmates, we have listed those "Lost at Sea" on page 5, normally reserved for reunion updates.

Stay tuned, Shipmates, and start making plans to join us in Charleston in September 2013.

Gil



Reunion Host Signs Contract

Reunion Report From Jeff Kovite,
Secretary and Reunion Host

Now that the contract for the hotel has been signed, I'll be looking at some of the tours around Charleston ranging from plantations (*yes, there are plantations!*), to Patriots Point with the *USS YORKTOWN (CVA10)*, the *USS LAFFEY (DD724)*, and a trip to the *H.L. Hunley*, the first successful combat submarine.

If you have internet access, go to the www.hunley.org website for more on this amazing Confederate boat that destroyed a Union warship; then, soon after, sank to the bottom. It was only discovered and raised a few years ago.

For those who want to investigate the city of Charleston, point your cursor to www.charlestoncvb.com. What you will find is a city with a history that goes back to 1663, when King Charles II gave what would become South Virginia down to Florida, to the "Eight Lords Proprietors" to develop intocontinued on page 3



From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

As I sit here pondering what to write, I am reminded that it is never unfashionable or out-of-style to be patriotic. Shortly after this edition is released, we will be celebrating Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the 4th of July. Except for Flag Day, federal offices, banks, and most places of business will be closed in commemoration. It saddens me to see that for many people these holidays are viewed only as a day off from work, a day to have a cookout, and maybe drink a little too much - all without any thought of the meaning behind the celebrations.

I grew up in a small town in New Jersey where it seemed as if the entire community turned out to march in the Memorial Day Parade. My first recollection of this was in 1950, just five years after the end of World War II. Leading the parade were members of the American Legion, the VFW and the Women's Auxiliaries; also, the Fire and Police Departments, Boy and Girl Scouts, Brownies and Cubs, kids on bikes and others who followed along.

The parade started at my elementary school about a mile from our Municipal Building. At that time, speeches and prayers were offered, 21 gun salutes were fired, and the Fire Department Band played patriotic songs. Emotions ran high as the people reflected on the enormous sacrifices that had been made in the name of freedom. It was a time to be grateful and a time of pride - a time when it was okay to have a tear in your eye and a lump in your throat as you sang the *Star Spangled Banner*, and *God Bless America*, or placed your hand over your heart while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. To the best of my knowledge, that custom continues to this day.

What a wonderful way to grow up! I'm willing to bet that many of you had similar experiences during your youth. Surely, we were all patriots in service to our country, and as Gil would say, part of an unbroken chain.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day and the holidays to follow, let us remember those who continue the traditions, and of all our service members deployed around the world, the fallen, the wounded, and especially the families back home who have an equal, but different sacrifice of keeping the home fires burning. I salute them all with heartfelt gratitude and wish you all fair winds and following seas.

Sandie



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If You Move....

Don't leave your Navy family behind! We don't want to lose track of you.



Please let us know when you change your email, phone or home address by contacting anyone above. Send Ship's Store orders and "Fiske Mates" stories to:



Sandra Siciliano
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Reunion....con't from page 1

colonies. They named this city "Charles Town" in his honor. You would, too.

The economy at that time was ruled by rice, which they called "Carolina Gold," and indigo, a plant which is the original source of blue dye for denim and other fabrics. Intensive labor was needed to grow these crops and that is where the slave trade came in.

Charleston's beautiful harbor made the city into a slave trading center for the South. The business of buying and selling slaves was conducted at the Slave Mart, between Chalmers and Queen Streets, an area which is now a part of the historic district. These auctions ended in November 1863.

You can visit the Old Slave Mart Museum and learn more about this period in history when you are there. If you want more information on the Old South during this time, go to www.charlestonlowcountry.com.

In the next edition I'll write more about the history of the beautiful city of Charleston and the Low Country.

Jeff

Daily Noted

By the Secretary




Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

Our organization has an amazing 600 members, at least one member representing every day, from 1946 to 1979, that the ship was in commission. What a wonderful legacy.

The Association continues to progress, setting in place the venue of the 2013 reunion in Charleston, South Carolina.

Membership wise, since January of this year we received notice of five more shipmates who have reported to "The Great Boatswain":

- Michael J Gubitosi, Lt 1957-58
- Robert Goldsworthy, GM3 1950-52
- Lawrence Collins, BMSN 1953-58
- Harold Andrus, Lt jg 1948-50
- Robert L. Spotts, DKSN 1949-1950

In addition to those departed, our webmaster recently received an email from the son of a crew member who passed away twelve years ago:

"I believe my father, James Herbert Horton, was on this ship as I have one of his plaques. He passed away in March of 2001. Just thought we could get his name on the list, Thank you for your time, Sincerely, David Horton"

We would like to hear from any shipmate who may have served with James Horton and who could share a little more information with us and his son. With thanks to all, here's to fair winds and smooth sailing.

Jeff

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Flag Day is June 14








In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

President John F. Kennedy,
1 August 1963, in Bancroft Hall
at the U. S. Naval Academy.

Fiske Mates



**Featuring Harvey "Luke" Lucas
F2 on board Dec 1947- Dec. 1948**

"When I reported as a Fireman Apprentice to the engine room, someone asked me what job I knew, or could do. I had never had any training in the first three years of service, and I believed I would not get any training on this ship either.

I said I could do anything in the engine room. With a smile, he said "can you operate the throttle?", and I said "yes!". He didn't ask if I had done it before, and I didn't tell him - but - I had watched others do it!

A week later we got underway; the throttle was set up for in port and not for cruising, so I changed from port to cruising without changing the R.P.M.. They watched me for part of my shift and then vanished. For a year, I relieved a MM 1/c, and a MM 2/c relieved me.

Once, a high-ranking officer on a tour saw the throttle board with all the gauges and stepped between me and the board. I stepped back a long way and folded my arms because when someone steps in front of me and outranks me, he takes over. The officer with him said "I'm the lowest rank on board ship - if you don't know how to operate the throttle, you better move" - and he did!"

This is Your Column!

Fiske Mates want to hear from you!
Send (or email) a photo and a short memory of your time aboard to "Editor" USS FISKE. We'll send you a token of our appreciation in return!



The Treasurer's Report



**James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
1964-1967**

It is a pleasure to report to the membership of the Association that we are in continued good financial health. Incomes are slowly coming in with new dues monies or from Ships Store Sales, and our expenses are at their usual minimal level between reunions. As has been stated previously, a copy of the monthly financial report is sent to all officers and Past Presidents. Any shipmate wishing to see the financial position of your Association may contact me and I will see that you get a copy.

Our largest issue is the number of members that we are unable to contact due to address changes for either snail mail or email contact. We currently stand at 352 shipmates contacted via email, 214 through "snail" mailings and 44 "Lost At Sea". While this is a small percentage of the members, it is unacceptable to us as we would like to reach all members. The bottom line here is that if we don't keep in contact with you - you cannot keep in contact with us.

You will notice that the "Lost At Sea" listing is a new feature of your newsletter and will be published in all future editions until we find all of those who went "overboard". Please take a moment to review the list for you may know one of these shipmates and where he is presently living (or another status which we would also like to hear about). If you do, please either contact them to reach us or let me know where they are and I will contact them.

As you can see from other articles in this newsletter, the reunion plans for Charlestown, SC in 2013 are going very well. The details of your expenses for this will be in future newsletters as we get closer to the date of September 26-29, 2013.

Until our next newsletter, may you have calm seas and following winds in your travels.

James

Chaplain's Corner



**W. Frank Stancil
GMG3 1959-1963**

With the coming of a new season, blossoms, and warmer days, we often take a sigh of relief from the harshness of a long winter.

Springtime to many, brings thoughts of newness, pleasant changes and Easter. With these new beginnings in a fresh Spring season, it is fun to look forward to new activities. Remember, we are at our best, when we are serving others.

Praying for all of you to have good health and happy times.

Frank



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This beautiful coin measures 1 5/8" between its crisscross edges. It is two-toned shiny and textured gold with silver/nickel highlights. The DD and DDR ship's patches are featured in full color (one on each side). Finished and sealed with an epoxy coating, the coin is contained within a clear poly envelope. Yours to treasure for years to come!

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Last known addresses - returned as - no such number - unable to forward - or bad email address

Everett J. Allison	1312 Lewis Street	Salina	KS	67401
Mark L. Anthony	1493 Islington Street	Portsmouth	NH	03801
Marcus A. Arnheiter	Star Route, Lake Kezar	North Lovell	MA	04016
Gurney Atkinson	4194 Hog Valley Road	Mims	FL	32754
Bo Bartley	1401 Pennsylvania Avenue #904	Wilington	DE	19806
Lyle Berry	1021 Ralph-New Salem Road	Hibbs	PA	15443
Jerry Broskin	411 Bowers Road	Rockhill	NY	12775
Howard L. Coleman	1040 Main Street #218	Dunedin	FL	34698
Joseph Culbertson	218 S. Ridley Creek Road	Media	PA	19063
Robert C. Dale	P. O. Box 354	Rindge	NH	03461
Russell J. Doty	1806 S. Oakland	St. Johns	MI	43379
Theodore L. Durvin	2830 Danielstown Road	Goochland	VA	23063
Charles E. Ebberts	2662 High Bush Cove	Long Neck	DE	19966
Joseph D. Elder	P. O. Box 225	Dallas City	IL	62330
Brian Ely	11824 Forbidden Forest Circle Apt 101	Fredericksburg	VA	22407
Robert E. Enright	213 North Liberty Street	Arlington	VA	22203
Alexander Ferreira	36310 Century Drive	Zephyr Hills	FL	33541
Alan Hanesworth	P. O. Box 6554	Cheyenne	WY	82003
Dick Kinsley	50 Kings Neck Cove	Virginia Beach	VA	23452
William Kuhn	309 Ogden Road	Wenonah	NJ	08090
Leonard Joseph LeBlanc	622 Janice Allee	Cap Plele, NB	Canada	E4N1V6
Robert C. Litchfield	44 Guadeloupe Drive	Toms River	NJ	08757
Joseph H. McGowan	11403 Northwind Court	Reston	VA	20194
Ralph E. Moore	711 Watersedge Street	Englewood	FL	34223
Robert H. Muller	260 Claremont Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15229
Albert Orattip	3518 D Street	Panama City	FL	32404
Larry Rea	478 Harlem Street	Schenectady	NY	12306
Thomas Regan	49 Pit Brook #5-B	Nashua	NH	03060
James Riffenberg	P. O. Box 162	Jones	MI	49061
James H. Robinson	242 Cumberland Head Road	Plattsburgh	NY	12901
David Roddy	RFD # 1, Box 88	Highgate Center	VT	05459
Roger Selker	21277 Csh. Co. Road 105	Newcomerstown	OH	43832
Jean I. Sharrock	1584 River Road	Bucyrus	OH	44820
Richard A. Shea	10305 Rosemont Court	Fort Myers	FL	33908
Alan L. Smith	97507 Susan Place	Brookings	OR	97415
J. S. Stephens, Jr.	Ashley CB H205	Pensecola	FL	32503
Michael W. Stock	1196 Lee Road	Snellville	GA	30039
Kirk Swartfinguer	D28 Hickory Lane Hillside Colony	Stillwater	NY	12170
Mary Sawyer Swords	3708 54th Street Apt A	Lubbock	TX	79413
Edmund Tavares	40 Sidney Street	New Bedford	MA	02740
Roy Taylor	573 Horace Drive	Elgin	IL	60120
John Twomey	2971 Milton Place	Bronx	NY	10465
Thomas W. Wyatt	31 East Lemon Street	Beverly Hills	FL	34465
Robert M. Zakka	10 Nostrand Drive	Toms River	NJ	08757

We're Looking for Lost Shipmates - If You Know How To Reach Anyone Above, Please Contact James Rapson!





Gilbert E. Beyer,
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

Ship's Log Entries...



Historian's Report

As your Association Historian I feel it is my honor and privilege to keep alive the memory of the best ship I served on in the course of a twenty-one year career.

When I reported aboard *FISKE* in October 1960 she had just recently returned from a North-Atlantic NATO cruise that was 'interesting' to quote Mr. Spock of *Star Trek* fame.

I recently ran across this picture that was taken from the *USS KITTY HAWK* as she and the *FISKE* headed home from Bremerhaven.

You'll note that the bullnose is just barely above water but I think that she is headed down – not up – judging from the swells coming onto the bow!

I was told that *FISKE* lost much of the rigging that Deck Department had stowed on the 01 level aft of the

forward stack, many of the life rafts, and that one of the davits on the Motor Whaleboat was twisted almost 90 degrees. I don't know if the MWB survived. I have been told it was lost when the davit bent.

The word that was spread around the ship was that *KITTY HAWK* was calling on voice net every couple of minutes asking if we were still there since she couldn't see us ½ mile astern of her. I often wonder what the sailors of today would do in that situation. Granted - they are better trained - and probably smarter than we were - but even the littoral warships today are bigger than the *FISKE*. Oh well - that was then, and this is now.

While I promised to write about tattoos in this issue, there's only room for a brief introduction here:

Tattoos have a long tradition among Western seafarers. It seems to have started way back when the European nations began trading with the nations of the Far East and encountered the peoples of the South Pacific in the 17th & 18th Century.

Many of the Polynesian peoples underwent extensive - and I believe - quite painful tattooing over much of their bodies as initiation rites and a means of identifying tribal relationships, or both.

That aside, I intend to concentrate on more recent tattoo history when Boot Camp graduates went to North Chicago, Milwaukee, or downtown Chicago to become "real sailors". Most had to be very drunk to actually go through this "rite of passage". The "rest of the story" will appear in the August issue.

Gil

It's a Small World...

Throw a pebble in the pond and watch the rings go round and yond.

Well, it seems that it really is a small world. Frank Nicastro, our 1st Vice President, recently had some uplifting experiences in the halls of the Connecticut Congress that directly related to this newsletter.

As many of you know, Frank is a Connecticut State Representative who works tirelessly in the state capital serving his constituents and working on behalf of veterans. In a recent email he wrote: "..... Kevin Lembo, the State Comptroller, told me that his brother-in-law, **Bill Loening**, called him after reading the last newsletter.

Seeing the article and my picture, he asked Kevin to say hello to me for him. Shipmate Loening was aboard the FISKE from 1962-1965 as a BMSN."

"Then, a few days later, Tim Ackert (another Representative) came over to tell me that his father had served on the FISKE. RD2 Lloyd T. Ackert, Sr., was aboard between 1954-1958. Shipmate Ackert also called with a message to say hello to me after reading his newsletter. That's two! What a small world."

Indeed it is! Seems that our publication is just like a pebble in the proverbial pond. Editor

Storekeeper's News...

*with 2nd Vice President, &
Ship's Storekeeper, Sandie Siciliano*

Ahoy Shipmates! In the interest of space for this issue, let me say that Ship's Store has been very busy designing and buying goods and goodies in preparation for our next reunion in Charleston.

Also, look for some new items coming up in August just in time for holiday gift-giving!



Sandie ETN2 1975-1980



Frankly Speaking... on Government Matters....

with 1st Vice President, Frank Nicaastro



Frank Nicaastro
SOGSN 1959-1961

Shipmates,

Here we are heading into summer after one of the warmest winters and springs on record in Connecticut (no snow all winter).

In my last article we discussed two pieces of legislation that were passed, among many, by the Connecticut Legislature and signed by the Governor. Currently we are in session again and we have twenty-three (23) pieces of legislation that are pending for veterans, past, present, and future. I will try to briefly touch on a few of them.

H.B. 5395—An Act Concerning Custody Orders for Deployed Members of the Armed Forces: This proposed bill would prevent the parent who is watching the children while the custodial parent is deployed from taking custody away from the deployed parent.

S.B. 250—An Act Excluding Veterans' Disability Compensation from Property Assignment and Alimony in Dissolution of Marriage Proceedings: This title is self-explanatory in that the bill would protect veterans' disability compensation in divorce proceedings.

S.B. 198—An Act Concerning Desecration of War or Veterans' Memorials: Vandalism throughout the country has struck everywhere, including our veterans' memorials and monuments. This bill, if enacted, imposes a stiff penalty for anyone convicted of this crime.

S.B. 114—An Act Making Veterans Eligible for the Pretrial Diversionary Program: By providing alternative measures in criminal proceedings, this bill would help our returning veterans who are suffering from various illnesses.

Public Act 11-62—An Act Concerning Interest Owed on Property Taxes By Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty: Finally, late in the session last year, we passed this law to expand the waiver of property tax interest to armed forces members in Afghanistan and authorized municipalities to waive property tax interest for certain active duty members of the armed forces.

Frank



Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960

What's Up with the Web?

with Web Master, Steve Gilbert

The program that you use to read web pages is called a *browser*.

Almost all PCs sold today are delivered with the *Microsoft Internet Explorer* already in place. There are many other browser programs available. I use *Firefox* because it doesn't have so much advertising.

The Internet Explorer is from Microsoft and is a good and stable program. I use it too. Keeping your web browser up-to-date is vital for your own security. Hackers are very capable programmers and can find their way into your computer with ease if you are not careful. Microsoft updates Internet Explorer for me

automatically (as does Firefox).

Keeping your web browser up-to-date is vital in today's world of computer viruses and tracking/hacking tools. Updating is usually done automatically. If you don't have automatic updates turned on, click the *Start* button and type *automatic updates*. You'll get several resources from the computer. Or, use the *Help* screens that come with your computer. A few additional suggestions:

First, make sure your antivirus program is current. Usually the antivirus program can be found in the *All Programs* listing. Just because the program is listed does not mean that it is up-to-date. The program is like a magazine subscription. Usually, after



a year, you will be prompted to renew the subscription. When it expires and you receive the prompt, do so.

Second, make sure you are using an anti-spyware program. Your service provider (*Verizon, Comcast, CableVision, etc.*) often includes such a program as part of their services.

Check with them to see if you are getting an anti-spyware program. Using *Microsoft Windows 7* will automatically give you a program that can also be used. It is called *Defender*.

If you have questions, please email me at webmaster@ussfiske.org



- Steve

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Ship's Store

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