

Ahoy!  
There be booty  
in Charleston!

# USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 29 - Number 2 - May 2013



## Finalize Your Reunion Plans!

Many Special Activities on the POD



President Gil Beyer

### President's Letter

September is fast approaching! As the seasons change, we are looking to have a bang-up celebration at our 14<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Charleston, I know that our reunion host, Jeff Kovite, and Sandie Siciliano, our Ship's Store Clerk, are working very hard to make it so, along with our Treasurer, James Rapson, who is making every penny count.

Hopefully, as you read this, most of you will have made your travel plans and reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. If you haven't reserved your room yet, I strongly urge you to do so forthwith. Information regarding room reservations and meals is critical to the planning process and our financial obligations to the hotel.

We have silent auction items - new hospitality activities are in the works - tours and banquet plans are complete, and you'll find an insert inside with the registration form.

To finalize the arrangements, all you need to do is make your selections and return them as soon as possible. We can also take deposits, just pay in full by 15 July.

Personally, with all of the charm and history that

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Charleston has to offer, I am looking forward to visiting Patriots Point and seeing the *USS Yorktown (CV-10)*, the *USS Laffey (DD-724)*, and the *USS Clagamore (SS-343)* before she becomes a reef off the Florida coast as planned.

continued on page 3

### Reunion Report From Jeff Kovite, Secretary and Reunion Host

Charleston is shaping up to be a grand reunion! Beginning Thursday, visit the Hospitality Room, or enjoy activities on your own. Friday and Saturday have planned tours of Patriots Point, the Citadel, and the Magnolia Plantation. The Registration Form insert lists all fees for tickets and transportation. If you are attending, please fill out and return as soon as possible for planning purposes.

One way to travel in the city of Charleston is to reserve space on the hotel shuttle for a 20-minute ride that will take you to the Visitors Center. The fare is \$10.00 round trip.

The Visitors Center has a five-story parking garage that offers free parking with a handicap placard. Once there, you can hop on a free trolley that runs all around the city on any one of three different routes. Jump off at any of the designated stops to walk around, shop, dine, or visit other attractions; or, take one of several narrated tours. Once back at the Visitors Center, return to the hotel whether by car or shuttle. Hotel parking is free.

An even better way to see the sights is to take one of the many narrated tours that originate from the Visitors Center. Among them are harbor tours, dinner cruises, and a ferry to Ft. Sumter. If you drive, consider car pooling as another option.

continued on page 5





## Notable Quotes

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace."

**President Theodore Roosevelt**  
(Second annual message to Congress)  
2 December 1902

*President's Message.... con't from page 1*

Sherry and I are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones during this Reunion. I'm looking forward to swapping sea stories with old shipmates and hearing some new ones from those that have joined our association since we last met in Milwaukee. Until then may we all enjoy fair winds and following seas.

- Gil

USS FISKE DD/DDR 842  
14th Bi-Annual Reunion  
September 26-29th 2013  
For Reservations Desk, call:  
**1-843-744-4422**  
(or) reserve online at:  
**www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc**  
**Group Code USF**  
Room Rate \$130.53  
(includes 13.5% hotel tax and two breakfast buffets)



## Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961

I hope you are all as excited as I am about the upcoming reunion. It promises to be one of our best – lots of interesting things to do and a good turnout of shipmates. There will be a serious side, though, and that will be the all hands business meeting on Saturday at 14:00 hours. The two main subjects of discussion will be where we hold our reunion in 2015 and the election of officers. Regarding the former, I urge everyone to think long and hard about where you would like the next reunion to be. Recommendations will be cheerfully accepted.

The election of officers is also an important issue. I know your navy experience taught you never to volunteer for anything, but consider this an exception to the rule. There are several positions that need to be filled, and we need shipmates to step forward to assist. This is a small organization, so if the work is spread out, no one gets overworked. Please think on that and promise yourself that you'll join our merry band of volunteers. I assure you that it will be a rewarding experience, as your newsletter editor as attested.

Since my last report we have added four more names to our *Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates*: **Richard W. Anderson**, Esn. (retired as Captain), whose first duty station after graduation from the US Naval Academy in 1947 was DD-842, died in January; **David H. Dawes**, EM3, who served on the Fiske in 1961, passed on 2/1/13; ET2 **Ernest G. Starcher**, 1956-60, died 2/5/13, and **Dennis Hall**, RD3, 1965-67, who passed on 3/20/13. Their names, along with all the others, will be read aloud during the reunion banquet to the tolling of the ship's bell. They will not be forgotten. I wish you fair winds and calm seas,

- Jeff

**HELPWANTED:** Willing and able deck hands to assist in various reunion activities. Must be cheerful, positive and agree to work for nothing. No heavy work - just good fun - and all the free snacks and drinks you can eat and drink! To sign up, just check "volunteer" on the registration form.

### *Do you Need Glasses to Read the Newsletter?*

Space constraints force us to keep the type at 11 points (a compromise between 10 and 12), while our aging eyes might prefer something larger like 14, 16, or more. This is one reason we encourage you to get your news by email where you can view it as large as you like to make it easier on your eyes while saving the Association the ever-rising cost of printing and mailing a hard copy.

We're not cheap - just looking out (pardon the pun) for you! If you have a computer, please try this option - you'll be glad you did!

- Editor

...see Editorial on page 7

**VISIT THE WEBSITE!**  
**WWW.USSFISKE.ORG**



**UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!!**  
**WEBMASTER@USSFISKE.ORG**

**Home Delivery!**





# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

In reading the other articles for this newsletter, I have to echo my excitement about the upcoming reunion. Although I've been a member of the Association for over twenty years, the first reunion I ever attended was in Newport, 2007. That was the result of seeing a "want ad" in the newsletter looking someone to handle ship's store.

What fun, I thought, as the phrase "*never volunteer for anything*" ran through my brain. Oh well, what the heck, so I called Charlie Thompson, the Treasurer at the time.

He was obviously excited about getting a volunteer, even commenting that his wife, Barbara, would be thrilled to empty a closet. Almost immediately (*the next day, to my best recollection*) Charlie and then 2nd Vice President Al Whitaker (who happened to be in the area), made a beeline from Panama Beach, down the west coast of Florida to my home, with ship's store in the car. Oh no, I thought, what have I gotten myself into this time?

That's how it all started, but let's backtrack a bit. For years, I was happy just getting the newsletter - even ordered a hat once - and that was that. You might be asking at this point, why, as a member, did it take so long to attend a reunion? The answer is simple: I didn't know anyone; there was no one on the roster that I had served with, and I thought I would be out of place - especially having been the only woman in the crew. But now, as the newly appointed Ship's Store Keeper, there was no choice but to attend.

And that, my fellow shipmates, began some of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences I've ever had in my life. I got to know you, and that has been priceless!

Maybe you've felt this way too. Perhaps you've said "I'll go one of these days", and never do - but think on this - as we get up in years, travel becomes more difficult, health and financial issues pop up, and we might not have the same "*joie de vivre*" as before, but let me convince you that you'll never know how great it can be if you don't go.

It doesn't matter if you don't know someone - you will find others with shared interests and have fun swapping seas stories together about how the old gal was when you were aboard. We offer activities for everyone, even the ladies, so all will have plenty of fun. Finally, ponder this: A day will come when it will end, so please try to attend! - Sandie



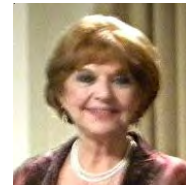
## U S S F I S K E

(DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.  
558 Westbrook Court - Paramus, N.J. 07652



### President & Historian

Gilbert E. Beyer, (208) 265-0950  
vintage40@frontier.com



### First Vice President

Frank Nicastro, (860) 585-6070

franknicastro@comcast.net

misschopin@tampabay.rr.com



### Second Vice President

Ship Storekeeper & Newsletter Editor

Sandra E. Siciliano, (813) 920-6833

misschopin@tampabay.rr.com

### Secretary

Jeff Kovite, (703) 201-2892

jkovite@juno.com



### Treasurer

James Rapson, (401) 781-5879

jrrapson@cox.net

### Chaplain

W. Frank Stancil, (919) 467-7547

fandjstancil@nc.rr.com



### Master-at-Arms

John Degnan, (718) 634-9665

jbdatlolphin@aol.com

### Webmaster

Steven Gilbert, (908) 276-5790

sgilbert@msn.com



### **Return to Sender - Unable to Forward**

Our esteemed Treasurer, James Rapson, keeps a well-maintained roster of all members. Even so, with every issue, we have newsletters returned for lack of a new address, or a forwarding address that has expired, etc.



We know that moving can be difficult, but we ask that you try to remember to notify us if and when you change your address, phone or email.



The USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. is a Not for Profit Corporation under the IRS Code 501 © 19 rules and incorporated in the State of New Jersey. This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to all members of the Association.

**Website: WWW.USSFISKE.ORG**



# Government Matters

## Veterans Funding Act

**WASHINGTON, D.C. February 26, 2013:** Chairman Jeff Miller (FL-01) and Ranking Member Mike Michaud (Maine-02) introduced the Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013. The bill would require Congress to fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs' discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, ensuring that all VA services will have timely, predictable funding in an era where continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are all too frequent.

"If there is one thing people in Washington and across America agree on, it's that we should never let funding for veterans become a casualty of Washington gridlock. I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill, which would simply enact into law the widely accepted view that America's veterans should not be held responsible for Washington's inability to reach an agreement on how to cut spending. Our veterans were there for us when we needed them the most, and the Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 will ensure they have our support during their time of need." Miller said.

Currently, Congress funds the medical care portion – roughly 86 percent of VA's discretionary budget – at the beginning of each fiscal year. Providing the remainder of the discretionary budget – roughly \$8 billion – up front would make it easier for VA to plan for key investments in information technology, claims processing and construction projects. ...continued on page 7

# The Treasurer's Report




James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg  
1964-1967

I thought that I should start this article a little earlier than I usually do so that I would not send the Editor over the edge and be the last to submit for this newsletter. That now presents the next problem - what to write about.

One of the most important issues that any organization can experience is the election of officers to guide their activities. In the case of a Treasurer, we hope that you DO NOT elect a Treasurer who wasn't at the meeting, is the third cousin of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President on his wife's side and is apparently the only member who knows how to write a check. That is NOT a valid option in today's world.

Besides being an active member of the Association, the Treasurer must be well versed in accounting, banking, management and the multitude of rules on both a state and federal level that govern the Association.

The Treasurer should also be an experienced manager, able to communicate well with others, be intuitive in the evaluation of different circumstances and hopefully present a coherent program to resolve whatever fiscal situation the Association finds itself.



The Treasurer must be able to say "NO" firmly, with certain reasons, when expenses are reaching a danger point.

The Treasurer must be fair and friendly to all as he puts his arm across your shoulders to speak to you about your Association; all the while he is reaching into your pocket to extract another year's dues from you. If he is doing this correctly, you are probably smiling as he is folding your money, recording your dues payment and depositing it in the bank for future use.



The bottom line is that it is much more than writing checks to pay the bills. It is about preserving the current situation and providing the management information to the Officers and Board Members that will allow them to intelligently govern your Association.

In a few short months we will again meet for our Bi-Annual Reunion in Charleston, SC. Your responsibilities as members of the Association are to ensure that YOU have the correct leadership in place to ensure the future of the Association. It is not an easy task, but one that no member should ever turn down or abdicate to others. To be involved is to be aware.



To be aware is to secure the future.

May you have fair winds and following seas in all of your travels in life until the voyage is over and the anchor is let go for the final time. SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON!



- James

*Editor's Note: Treasurer James Rapson was presented with the "Editor's Gold Star Award" for his early submission, as newsletters are months in the planning before printing & distribution.*



# USS FISKE

14th Bi-Annual Reunion at Charleston, SC  
SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2013



## REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse or Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years served on board \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO AVOID ERRORS! DEPOSITS ON GRAND TOTAL ACCEPTED!		
Hospitality Room Fee:	Number _____ @ \$15.00 PP	Total \$
Contingency Fee to support Reunion:	Number _____ @ \$ 8.00 PP	Total \$

BANQUET MENU MEAL OPTIONS:		Make your choice and indicate how many below	
Sliced Sirloin with Burgundy Mushroom Ragout	Number _____ @ \$35.00 PP	Total \$	
Baked Tilapia with Lemon Buerre Blanc	Number _____ @ \$35.00 PP	Total \$	
Onion Crusted Chicken with Dijon Cream Sauce	Number _____ @ \$35.00 PP	Total \$	
Vegetarian: Pasta Primavera with Fresh Garden Vegetables	Number _____ @ \$35.00 PP	Total \$	
<b>Specify any special dietary needs:</b>			

BANQUET ONLY		
Choose from menu and list total number of meals here:	Number _____ @ \$45.00 PP	Total \$

FRIDAY 9/27: Patriots Point & Optional Citadel Tour: Bus Departs 09:00 - Returns approx. 17:00		
Pay on board for all expenses except bus (\$25.00 PP) Admission: \$15.00 ea – Hot Lunch on the Yorktown \$8.50, or grab a casual lunch on deck at the concession stand. <i>(Those not continuing to the Citadel will be bussed back early)</i>	Number _____ @ \$25.00 PP	Total \$

SATURDAY 9/28: Magnolia Plantation Tour: Bus Departs 09:00 - Returns approx. 15:00		
Fee Includes admission and bus transportation.	Number _____ @ \$55.00 PP	Total \$

<b>SHIP'S STORE:</b> For reunion specials, caps and shirts, please see Side B of this form. <b>If you are ordering from ship's store for pickup at reunion, add amount here:</b>	\$
<b>If you have not paid your dues, or wish to make a contribution, please add here:</b>	\$
<b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:</b> USS FISKE (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc	<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b> \$
	Amount (or deposit) enclosed with form: \$
	Balance Due Not Later Than July 15, 2013: \$

<b>Mail To:</b>	USS FISKE (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. c/o James R. Rapson, Treasurer 244 Park View Avenue Warwick, RI 02888-2541	<b>VOLUNTEERS!</b> If you might be able to help in Hospitality, please check here _____
		<b>SHIP'S STORE SURVEY: Caps &amp; Shirts</b> Please turn over to Side B of this form. <b>➔</b>

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:	
All hotel reservations are to be made directly with the Crowne Plaza Hotel 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418.	
<b>Front Desk: 1-843-744-4422 Online: <a href="http://www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc">www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc</a> - Mention Group Code USF</b>	



# Ship's Store Reunion Survey



## SHIRTS

DD/DDR T-Shirts - Blue or Grey  
\$12.00 - S, M, L, XL, XXL

This survey is being taken to save money for the Association. We have spent a lot of cash in the past years to buy on-the-shelf inventory such as caps and shirts, along with even more money to ship or transport them to reunions.

We have shirts, but not in all sizes or colors. In order to make sure we have enough at reunion, should you choose to buy a shirt, please assist by letting us know the color and size you prefer. You are under no obligation to purchase - this is just to help us know what we should order and how many we should have on hand! Thanks for your assistance! **Please check off below!**

If I buy a shirt at reunion, I would prefer to have      Blue (or)      Gray . My shirt size is           

## CAPS

Embroidered  
DD-842 or  
DDR-842  
with ship logo

We've purchased a limited number of the cap styles (shown below) in blanks and then have them embroidered with DD-842 and DDR-842 at a cost of \$6.00 for the embroidery. This was to satisfy shipmates who did not want the combination of DD/DDR-842 on the cap. Because of the expense, if you were to purchase one or more of the hats below, what would they be, and would you want DD or DDR on your cap? We want to have enough of both on hand should you choose to purchase. **No obligation to buy - they will be available based on input! Circle your choices below.**



If I buy a cap at reunion, I would prefer (circle your choices above). I prefer **DDR-842 (or) DD-842**

**COMING TO A  
REUNION  
NEAR YOU!**



**PERSONALIZED  
TAILGATE  
CHAIR!**

**Large Gold Lettering on the Outside Back Panel!  
USS FISKE DD-842 or USS FISKE DDR-42**

**With your Name or Nickname, Rate and Years of Service.**

Includes carrying case  
and two drink pockets!  
Supports over 300 lbs!

Samples will be shown in Charleston and orders taken. We must have a minimum of 24 to order. Your personalized chair will be shipped direct to you  
Approx. price \$30.00 (includes custom embroidery) + shipping.

## YOUR OWN PERSONALIZED MUG - \$15.00!

(\$25.00 if shipped)

Charleston Reunion Mug at same reduced Price!  
Last in the Collector's Series - \$10.00 off Regular Price!

This special price is made possible because we pay \$8.95 shipping, regardless of how many are ordered. Personalized with your name and rate. It will be waiting for you at reunion.

Please print clearly to avoid errors!

Personalized Mug: Name or Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

(check one below)

Qty	Price	Description	Color	Rate	Years	DD	DDR
	15.00	Personalized Mug					
	15.00	Charleston Reunion Mug	Reunion Design - last in the series			N/A	

Order Newport, Post Falls, and Milwaukee Mugs for the same price to complete the Collector's Series

Please add amount to the Grand Total on Side A: **ORDER TOTAL \$**

**INQUIRIES: Sandra Siciliano, USS FISKE - Ship's Store Keeper - 6528 Steeplechase Dr. - Tampa, FL 33625**

\* Note: Fiske Logo is representative and may not be your configuration.

## REUNION SPECIAL - \$15.00

PPP: Pre-Order-Pre-Pay-Pick Up



Black, White, Cobalt Blue or Green (not shown)

# Fiske Mates Of the Year



Our sincere thanks to the following shipmates who gave us their stories and photos this past year:

- 02/12 - Jim "Ace" Melvin - ETN2 - '67-'69
- 05/12 - Harvey "Luke" Lucas - '47 - '48
- 08/12 - Tommie Green - SD4 - '50 - '51
- 11/12 - Dave Taylor, Lt - '66 - '68

**WANTED:** Shipmate willing to be a "Fiske Mate" in future editions of the news! Contribute to the history of the *Fiske* by sharing your stories and photos - funny, sad, glad, or bad! Must have served on the Fiske (anytime). If interested, contact the Editor.



## Government Matters.... con't from page 4

It would also give Congress a greater level of oversight on multi-year funding proposals, with one year building off of the next. During the 112th Congress, members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee fought to ensure that VA would be completely exempt from cuts under the sequester, and this bill is an extension of those efforts, supporters say.

"Our veterans sacrificed all they had for our protection, now it's up to us to protect the care and benefits they have earned for their service. The Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 is a common-sense approach to ensuring that arbitrary budget cuts won't jeopardize the care and benefits America has promised our veterans, and I am proud to cosponsor it," Michaud said.

- Editor

## Editorial

### Keeping the Coffers Healthy

from the 2nd Vice President

One of best bargains around has to be the \$10.00 membership dues that we solicit every year from shipmates.

For ten bucks you get a newsletter four times a year. For ten bucks we are able to fund a reunion every two years. For ten bucks we are able to support other worthy organizations with donations of our own. All this, and more - for just ten bucks.

As far I know, the dues have never been raised. I recall when I caused an uproar a few years ago by suggesting we send a postcard that said "Pay the Dues - Get the News" - that idea was quickly dropped like a hot potato!

One might say I have a unique perspective in serving as both Editor and Storekeeper. I know what it costs to keep things going for purchasing, printing and postage, and believe me, every member is getting the full money's worth, and more - for ten bucks. The newsletter alone is expensive. The point here is to encourage you to get it by email if you can. You can still print off a hard copy. If that's not an option for you, try to make a timely dues payment. We are counting on you to make it happen. Send your ten bucks (or more) today!

- Sandie

Note: Our policy has been to never leave anyone out if they cannot pay their dues.

## Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3  
1959-1963

God made the world with its towering trees, its mighty oceans and tranquil beaches. He fashioned the majestic mountains, the cool green valleys and the quiet woodlands. God set the moon into its orbit and placed the stars in the heavens. He saw how often we would need someone to share our inner thoughts and motives, someone who hears not merely the words we speak, but our deeper feelings for which there are no words. Someone who knows the words of silence and listens without judging. That is why God gave us our friends and our special shipmates. Thank you Lord.

Frank



## NOTICE - LAST CALL!



Patches - DD or DDR  
Large - \$7.00 Small \$5.00



Ship's patches will soon be extinct because of the cost, and minimum purchase requirements.

Regrettably, only a few remain of each size and designation.

We will continue to search for another vendor, but unless one can be found, we have no choice but to discontinue this item.






Free History and Rules with every order!

**\$13.00 ea, or 2 for \$25.00**

**Order from Ship's Store**

*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!*

**Fiske Challenge Coins**

**What's Up with the Web?**

Steve Gilbert  
YN3 1958-1960

with Web Master, Steve Gilbert  
Will return in November



Gilbert E. Beyer,  
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

# Ship's Log Entries...



*A majestic ship was she,  
that sailed the seven seas,  
we were the crew  
who saw it through,  
and logged our history.*

## Historian's Report

### Attn: 70's Crew Members:

I am in dire need of your stories about your time aboard the Fiske for our soon-to-be-published book "FISKE TALES". Please email me asap at [VINTAGE40@FRONTIER.COM!](mailto:VINTAGE40@FRONTIER.COM)

I'm looking forward to being in Charleston this September! I'm excited for three reasons: First, the Yorktown - who spent her last year of active service (late 1969 to mid-1970) as an ASW carrier operating with the Atlantic fleet - so there is a chance that Fiske was part of her "Hunter-Killer" group at one time or another.

Secondly, the Laffey was part of TF77 off the east coast of Korea in early 1951 - the same time the Fiske was part of TF77. Laffey also did counter-battery fire against North Korean targets during that deployment

so they possibly operated together.

I'm still looking through the rest of the Laffey history for any other linkages.

And third, the Clagamore is intimately connected to Fiske, acting as the 'quarry' during ASW exercises in late October 1971.

It has been reported that 'at approximately 2200 hours on 10 October Fiske and Clagamore collided'. Apparently Clagamore tried to surface while under Fiske. A report from Shipmate **Russ Sheridan** said that Clagamore collided with Fiske's port side forward, rolled under, recontacting starboard side aft.

Both vessels reported 'minor exterior damage' but note should be taken that Clagamore was decommissioned about 18 months later. Additionally, Shipmate Sheridan says that much of Clagamore sail-mounted antennas were missing when she surfaced.

Clagamore immediately detached and headed for New London, while Fiske continued to participate in the exercise and returned to Newport in early November. I can't help but think

that Fiske must have left a dent somewhere - think I'll take a close look while we're at Patriots Point! - Gil



## Storekeeper's News...

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



ETN2 1975-1980

As promised, exciting things have been happening in Ship's Store!

New hats along with other items have proved popular, and sales are up.

Your support of Ship's Store is key to the viability of our Association. I want to take this opportunity once more to thank generous shipmates who continue to add "fair share shipping" donations to their orders to help us defray the escalating cost of shipping and postage. BZ to all!

- Sandie

## ✂ 2nd 2013 Dues Notice! ✂

**DON'T DELAY - SEND TODAY - WE NEED YOU!**

Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.



Send To:  
USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.  
c/o 244 Park View Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888



Your kind cooperation will help us reduce the printing costs of notices along with the mailing expense of \$.46 cents per notice.

**NOTE:** For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated. See Editorial on page 7.



# Charming Charleston... Tours & Tips

Reunion Report... con't from page 1

## ***Patriots Point Tour & Citadel Parade Review***

Among the contents of the goodie bag and registration package you'll receive will be a booklet listing great places to eat and shop in the city.

In addition to the tours, we've suggested several other activities; maps and tourist guides will also be included and might be helpful for booking reservations on your own.

For the bargain hunter, the hotel is very near the Tanger Outlet. Of course, the Hospitality Room and Ship's Store will be open long hours all through the reunion. Hang out there and renew old friendships - many surprises are being planned to make it more than a "bull session" - you'll love it!

The Patriots Point tour will allow plenty of time to explore the *USS Yorktown*, *USS Laffey* and the *USS Clagamore*. You can buy a casual lunch on the *Yorktown* at a concession stand on the hanger deck, or enjoy a more substantial meal in the CPO mess. At approximately 14:30, the bus will leave for the Citadel, the famous military college. This part of the tour is optional. Anyone not wishing to stay for the parade review need not disembark; they will be bussed back to the hotel to rest up for the evening activities. For those who do stay, there will be a half hour break to stroll around the grounds before the parade starts at 15:45. At 16:30, the bus will return to bring everyone back to the hotel by approximately 17:00.

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## ***Magnolia Plantation Tour***

This tour is from 09:00 via bus, returning at 15:00

The Magnolia Plantation promises to be breathtaking with its rich history and beautiful gardens. It is the area's oldest plantation. Considered by many experts to be "*the most beautiful garden in the world*" for over one hundred years, its reputation today is kept alive by plantings which offer the maximum color possible during every season. There is beauty at every glance! This magnificent plantation is history personified. Walk through the historic gardens, learn about the slave cabins, and enjoy the petting zoo for young of all ages. Tour the house and take a 45-minute tram ride through the rice fields and wildlife habitat (completely narrated). Come see the home of the Draytons since 1676!

- Jeff Kovite and Sandie Siciliano  
collaborated on this article.



## ***On Your Own Shopping and Attractions Fort Sumter***

Decades of growing strife between North and South erupted in civil war on April 12, 1861, when Confederate artillery opened fire on this Federal fort in Charleston Harbor. Fort Sumter surrendered 34 hours later. Union forces would try for nearly four years to take it back.

*Where the American Civil War Began*



*Admission is free*

*National Park Service Ferry Tickets are \$16.00 ea.  
Transportation is on your own - hitch a ride or carpool!*

There's no better way to experience Charleston and her history than from the deck of a Spirit Line yacht. The Spirit of Carolina offers a unique dining experience with breathtaking views of the Charleston harbor. Featuring two enclosed climate-controlled dining salons, open observation decks and a full-service onboard galley, she is finely appointed with handmade bars, brass fixtures, Oriental carpets, ten-foot ceilings, spacious, handicap-accessible restrooms and expansive bay windows.



Enjoy an unforgettable three hour harbor tour as you savor a three or four course gourmet meal, choosing one of five entrees. There is music, entertainment and dancing on each of the two dining decks. Dress is "nice casual". High heels are not recommended. To book a reservation for this, or the many other harbor cruises, call 1-800-789-3678 or visit their website.

### ***Websites to Explore***

[www.explorecharleston.com](http://www.explorecharleston.com)

*Well worth the visit for information!*

[www.magnoliaplantation.com](http://www.magnoliaplantation.com)

[www.patriotspoint.org](http://www.patriotspoint.org)

[www.spiritlinecruises.com](http://www.spiritlinecruises.com)

[charlestonculinarytours.com](http://charlestonculinarytours.com)

*For those with an appreciation  
for history and a passion for food*



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