

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association

Newsletter

Vol. I, No. 21

November 2003

Gordon Cargill and Reunion Committee Moving Out on San Diego Reunion

San Diego – **Gordon Cargill** and his gang of (about) a dozen met at Gordon's house on October 25th and made some great strides toward squaring up the 2004 San Diego Reunion. Following is his report:

Meeting was held at my house with the following present: **Wayne Davis** and wife **Maxine**, **Gerald Steiner**, **Frank Dayak** and wife **Jean**, **Russell Sargent**, **James Romig**, my wife **Marge** and daughter **Cindy**.

A review of the hotel arrangements was in order to bring everyone up to date. A tentative itinerary for the reunion schedule was handed out and discussed. At the present time, the annual San Diego Fleet Week has not been finalized. The Blue Angles do not like to fly in San Diego in October – something to do with weather conditions. According to the Visitors Bureau, a decision will be made by the end of this year. If our reunion coincides with Fleet Week, great, if not we will still have a great reunion.

A review of the various tours was discussed and identified for each day. Types and times of tours were outlined and suggested to try and get the maximum time for those interested. These are tentative and may be revised. A final decision will be made by the end of the year in time for the registration form to go out in the 2004 newsletter. **Chuck Farnham**, a member who could not attend the meeting indicated he might be able to set up a tour of an active cruiser during the reunion. If possible, the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76),

if it is in port. A date will have to be established. This tour will not be on the registration form because it cannot be confirmed until very close to the reunion.

Jim Romig has taken the initiative to work on the registration desk each day. He will contact members who have done it in the past to see if they will volunteer again. ...

There have been several references for a band and a photographer that I will follow up on. Frank Dayak said he will make an initial contact with a Navy Band he knows and thinks they might do it free of charge for the banquet. A Color Guard is another function that will be looked into.

It was discussed that it might be nice to have 2-3 bottles of wine at each table at the banquet dinner. It was mentioned that each member at the meeting will try to contact one company who might be willing to sponsor (1) case of wine for the banquet dinner.

A suggestion was made to request attendees to submit a photo (with their registration form or at registration) from their Navy days to include in photographers booklet. Also possibly a collage to be put up at registration. ...

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th at my home. Gordon

NOTES

Copper Center, AK -- Received a call from a long-time member and shipmate **Al Roig** out in Copper

Center, Alaska. Al had some good ideas for the Association as well as some information that we will share later. Good hearing from you Al.

Alexandria, Va – We received the following story from **Ed Willis**, my neighbor over in Alexandria. It is an e-mail dated September 16, 2003, from an officer aboard the USS DOYLE -- it says a lot about the bond between sailors, regardless of nationality.

“Hello all,

This morning I witnessed another classy and emotional presentation by the German Navy. The FGS NIEDERSACHSEN (F208) who is part of our NATO battle group called us this morning at 8am and asked if they could pass close to Starboard. What we didn't know was that they had their whole crew topside in dress blues rendering honors to the United States for Sept 11th. From their main mast they flew our flag and they held their covers over their hearts.

Needless to say, the whole crew was choked up and a few tears formed in our eyes. Both ships stayed next to each other in silence for about 5 minutes. These are the days that remind me why I joined the Navy.”

Thanks for sharing this story, and please thank **CDR Orsini** for us as well.

La Plata, MD – Another shipmate, **Dick Scruggs**, BMSN, 2nd Division, ‘55-‘56, called a few days ago to say hello. Dick, who retired as a BMCS, now works for the Retired Activities Office at NAVSEA.

NEW MEMBERS:

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS ROCHESTER Association Members:

Willard R. Everitt
Melvin J. Hermansen
Robert "Lou" L. Lacey
John B. Long
Gerald "Jerry" McCloskey
Joseph L. Ryan
Robert "Bob" E. Seifert

Membership & Mailing Information

Cookeville, TN---One of the hardest things for us to do is to drop former members from the membership role and quit sending them Newsletters, but that is exactly what we have to do if membership is not up to date. The Association runs on its active membership. We can't thank you enough for renewing your memberships and doing it on time. Membership dues cover the period 1 January through 31 December. Sometimes, it's tough. Occasionally, we misplace our membership cards, sometimes, we simply forget. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, **we have put a procedure in place that will help you keep current. The year that the dues are paid up to will be indicated on the address label** just like the magazine subscriptions do. For example: Thomas Finnegan 03. (If HM, SP, or LM is after your name, the year will not appear. HM stands for Honorary Member, SP is Special Member and LM is Life Member.) If you wish verification or further information, Joe Hill will be glad to explain in detail. He can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone (931) 432-4848;FAX (931) 432-2534. E-Mail is: joehillsr@multipro.com. Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request.

Looking for a Boatswain's Mate – We have the pipe. All we need is a Boatswains mate at the next reunion to ensure its proper use. Any volunteers?

Ship's Store

We are still looking for a Storekeeper for the Ship's Store. I know that there are dozens of you that could do a great job of this. Come on ... you can do it! Call me at 703-671-3125.



Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President
Richard Becker, Executive VP
Bart Bartholomew, 2nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Treasurer
Storekeeper – Unfilled

Robert A. Litts, Secretary
James Young, MAA
Dennis Winkle, 1st VP
Frank West, Chaplain
John A. Turner, Mbrship (Hon)

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 Garry Phillips, 5731 4th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204

Chaplain's Corner

Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

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
Frederick M. Betts	CA	1997	Off	49-53
Bennie Gardner	SC	2003	1 st	51-55
Charles L. Gremling	OH	2003	5 th	52-56
Joseph J. Rahiya	CA	1994	R	55-
Frank E. Schreiber	IL	1997	R	55-58
Pierre R. Theriot	WA	2003	R	53-57
C. F. Thornell	AL	1991	R	56-



from Secondary Conn

by Garry Phillips

As the Marines would say, we are looking for a few good men. We have a need for shipmates who would be willing to serve as officers in the Association for two to four years in the various positions. Two positions are currently open, and we will have more before the end of the year. We need someone currently for the Storekeeper's job as well as someone to do the newsletter. Neither is overly time consuming, but they do require devotion to duty.

If any of you have any interest in serving the Association as an officer, please let me or one of the other officers know. At each reunion we have a business meeting where officers are elected and other business is conducted. If you are truly interested in helping the Association, let it be known and you will be a candidate for election at the next reunion.

Serving the Association is an honor, and I have enjoyed being the President very much. It provides an opportunity to meet shipmates and get to know them better. If you want a rewarding experience serving others, the USS ROCHESTER Association is the place for you.

I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a holiday season filled with health, happiness, and cheer. I look forward to seeing all of you in San Diego next year. Garry

Word of the Day

Scuttlebutt: If you want inside information, forget public relations releases and listen attentively to the scuttlebutt. Much of it is meaningless, but by mining this vein of talk you may come up with an occasional gem.

Scuttlebutt is half rumor and half gossip, of course. That is because it was first heard when British sailors gathered around a large butt, or cask of water. For no known reason, such a container was nearly always placed close to the vessel's scuttle, or hatch with a movable cover.

Crewmembers who went for a drink of water liked to exchange the latest rumors with their mates, so talk under a scuttle that sheltered a butt became "scuttlebutt".