

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



News Letter

Vol. II, No. 12

November 2007

From The Secondary Bridge, I

Garry Phillips

Dear Shipmates,

Greetings from Iraq. Thank you all for keeping me in the loop on Rochester news. I just finished reading the latest Newsletter and showing it off to some of my co-workers, many of whom are former military. Then I made sure they saw the web page, which has never looked better. The military presence here is very strong, as you can imagine, and I was recently invited to join the newly formed Baghdad IZ CPO Mess. Makes me feel right at home!

As you may know, Betsy left her job to take a position here at the Embassy. We are fortunate to be able to room together in the same "hootch," which is essentially a small trailer. I am very fortunate to have her here, since this is strictly an unaccompanied tour for everybody.

The situation here is slowly improving. The violence has decreased, the economy is getting stronger, and more kids are going back to school. A brutal dictatorship has been demolished and a new government formed. The Iraqis held a free election of national leaders, and an independent judiciary is functioning. More electrical power is coming on line, more oil is being produced, and hospitals are seeing more patients. In spite of all of this, progress has been slow.

The progress is slow for a variety of very complex reasons. First, we have a bunch of crazies out there who want to kill us: principally terrorists who are pursuing a fanatical idealism based in religious zeal. The terrorists provide

encouragement and cover for other insurgents – disaffected Baathists and others with political axes to grind – and tribal and religious sectarianism. Add to this the constant and purposeful interference of Iran which wants to control Iraq, and we have what exists today: A very complex, dangerous, and difficult situation.

Why do Americans have to clean up the mess? It's pretty simple, actually. First, if we didn't do it, nobody else would. We have some really wonderful allies in this fight, but none has the resolve or resources to take it on. Second, the fight is ours. Most of the crazies we are fighting here in Iraq are members of the same club that drove three airplanes loaded with fuel and American citizens into three of the most important buildings in the United States, and tried to drive a fourth into the Capitol building in Washington, DC. Fortunately, the fight against terrorism started on board that fourth plane and forced it to crash into a field in Pennsylvania.

Please keep our young men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in your prayers. Believe me – WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam veterans – they would make you proud! They are smart, trained, and dedicated to doing a good job.

I am looking forward to the reunion in the Nation's Capital next October. Ed Willis, Pete Russell, and Chip Chipley have put in tons of hard work and good planning to make this reunion great, which we all appreciate. Call all of your old Rochester buds and encourage them to join us in Washington.

*Best regards,
Garry Phillips*

From The Secondary Bridge, II

Dick Becker, Acting President

Hi Everyone,

Well time is moving right along and it won't be all that long till we can all get together again and tell all our stories and "lies" about our days on the old ROCH. No matter which they might be, we did have a pretty good time while on board didn't we?

Who would have thought that after all these years we still have a fair amount of us around that seem to remember the same stories, with just a little bit of a twist to suit the teller. It's still a lot of fun. For those of you that have known me for any length, you will find this hard to believe, but I really don't have to much to say this time, so just save those pennies and see if we could all find a new member to bring to D.C. or remind an old one to come.

On behalf of all your Association Officers, I would like to wish you the very best for the up coming holidays and the very best for 2008.

SITREP 2

**USS Rochester Reunion: Washington, DC
2-6 October 2008**

Dedication of the **USS Rochester plaque** will take place during the reunion at the **Navy Memorial** on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. It's located across the street from the National Archives and about five blocks from the White House. The Memorial is an outdoor plaza and fountain made of haze-gray granite with a map of the globe inscribed in the middle of the plaza. To one side is the life-sized bronze statue of the "Lone Sailor." Around the circumference of the plaza bronze plaques depict the various branches and units of the Naval Services. A flagpole displays the national ensign and the admiral's flag. Yardarms carry signal flags spelling out "U. S. Navy Memorial." It's quite impressive. Military and civilian bands give concerts there in good weather.

Inside the adjacent building the Memorial features an auditorium, a computer center where one may access the **Navy Log** (names and bios of those who served in any maritime service), a well-stocked ship's store, a library, and the bulkhead where ship plaques are mounted. The Navy Log is on-line at www.lonesailor.org.

RADM Richard Buchanan, USN (Ret) heads the Memorial staff and he will host our dedication ceremony. For the ceremony shipmates and spouses will be bussed from the hotel to the Memorial. The program includes brief remarks by a few shipmates, and a reading of the names of the departed accompanied by a toll bell followed by taps. The group will then assemble at the Commemorative Wall to view the *Rochester* plaque.

A photographer will film the ceremony and standby outside for photos of shipmates alongside the "Lone Sailor." These photos will be included in the Reunion Photo Album along with those taken at the banquet.

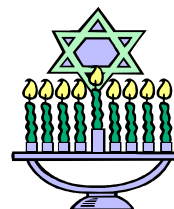
Future Situation Reports will feature other reunion events. Registration forms for the reunion will be included with the February, 2008 newsletter. The local arrangements committee includes Ed Willis (willis885@verizon.net), Chip Chipley, and Pete Russell.

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
James Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper

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 Gordon Cargill
11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127
(858) 592-9366

scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net



Rochester Duty

Gordon Cargill

November is the time of the year when the current year is about to end and a new one is about to start. It is during this time that we celebrate the various holidays that take place. Starting with Thanksgiving, going on to Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year usually means a special time in our lives. For me, it also has a very special meaning.

Upon entering the Navy and completing boot camp, I was assigned to attend the Class A Electricians Mate School at Great Lakes, IL. After graduation I was assigned to a ship that was in Japan. I reported to Treasure Island, San Francisco, to ship out in order to catch up with my ship assignment. There were four of us from EM School who were together and assigned to the same ship, Ray Boucher, Al Campbell, Larry Ingram and myself. We were put aboard a troop transport and headed for Yokosuka, Japan. A ten-day trip on a troop ship was not a fun experience. When we arrived in Japan, we found out the ship we were assigned to had departed to the States several days earlier. We were then reassigned to the Rochester.

This started another experience as the Rochester was operating off the coast of Korea and we were then put on a cargo ship heading to the Sea of Japan. Sailing in search of the Roch, we were transferred from ship to ship via the Hi Line mode and sometime even a "low line mode". It was by boatswain chair and even an ammunitions or supply box. It was a bit scary at times, especially when the cold water would splash on you. This was from the cargo ship, destroyer, and aircraft carrier to several other ships in between. After several weeks in the chase, we finally arrived back in Yokosuka, as the Rochester had returned to Japan. It was a good feeling to finally catch up to our duty ship.

During all this time of reassignment, chasing a ship around the Sea of Japan, and finally being aboard the Roch for a month or more I had not received any mail since leaving San Francisco.

I believe it was Christmas Eve when all of my mail arrived. One of the letters I received was from a young lady from New York. She lived in a neighboring community and the local newspaper, in those days, included the names and addresses of service men where a correspondence could be initiated. We wrote to each other and stayed friends until I was discharged after my four-year hitch. After that, things became serious and in September 1956 we were married. That young lady is my wife Marge and we have been together for the past fifty-one years and still going.

It was my Christmas present that I received aboard the Roch, in 1951 that brings back many memories of the Holiday Season and what it has meant to me. If it were not for my tour of duty aboard the Roch I probably would not have met my wife. The Roch has meant different things to each of us who were aboard at different times.

Reunion Registration Desk

The Association still needs additional shipmates to assist with the D.C. Registration Desk. To date we have the following who have volunteered to man the desk for periods of time still to be determined:

William W. Berkley
Lou DiRusso
Joe Hill
Don Lish
Harold W. Sewell
Don Schnirel

If we are able to get a few more volunteers no one will have to work the desk for long periods of time. Those shipmates working the desk will still be able to participate in all reunion functions.

Volunteers are to contact Joe Hill either by phone, U.S. MAIL or E-Mail.



Editors Column

Gordon Cargill, 1st Vice President

SHIPMATES BEWARE!

Some of our shipmates have been receiving e-mail from a USS Rochester store:

(ussrochester@jj-ent.com).

THIS STORE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH OUR ASSOCIATION.

It is a bogus site that is a for profit site. It would be greatly appreciated that all purchases be made thru the official USS Rochester web site or the Ship's Store Order Form located in the News Letter.

The last News Letter was sent out with a problem with the address labels. The printer pulled up the file for the 2006 membership list. It therefore had the wrong information as to when dues had been paid. The printers address file has now been purged and this problem should now go away. I apologize to all the members that thought there was a problem with their dues and especially to Joe Hill who was the recipient of phone calls.

Also in the last News Letter I had listed the individual who has engraved a number of shipmates Rochester Planks. Since the last time I have included his address it has changed. He no longer has the P.O. Box as his address. For those shipmates who may want to use his service, the following is the correct address now.

Label Up
Robin Henry
10021 St Francis Circle
Cypress, CA 90630
Tel. 714-828-9114

E-mail: labelupcw@sbglobal.net

New Members

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

Carl H. Stephens, BT3, B Division
Damon, TX, DOB 50-50

Membership & Mailing Information

Cookeville, TN – The Association runs on its active membership. Dues for 2007 should have been mailed soon after January 1st. There are still a good many shipmates who have not sent in their 2007 dues. Hopefully those who are behind will do it soon. The mailing label for the August 2007 newsletter indicated erroneously **06 on most every mailing label**. We are sorry for the confusion.

Some how the database pulled up for the printing of labels was an 06 database. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label. Those printed for the November newsletter should be correct. An example: Bill Jones 06. 06 would be the year your dues have been paid up to. Joe Hill will be glad to talk to you. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone: 931-432-4848. E-Mail: NiteCrawl@twlakes.net

Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER.

Please let Joe know your new mailing addresses, phone numbers and e-Mail addresses. Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

Honor The Rock

The following shipmates and wives have donated for the plaque since last publication in newsletter:

Anthony Buday
Roland A. Herriges
Kenneth R. Scroggins*

*Kenneth donated several months ago but was left off by mistake and for that we apologize.

Chaplain's Corner

Frank West

CHOICES

Upon arrival on the Rochester in January, 1951, certain choices were made for me. I was assigned to the Second division, to a five-inch gun mount and introduced to a Holy Stone to scrub the teak wood deck. The ice cycles that formed on the overhead of the gun mount due to condensation and temperature off the coast of Korea did not appeal to me. I discovered a choice to transfer to the "R" division was available to me and I made the choice quickly. This gave me the choice to attend Damage Control school at Treasure Island. This taught me several skills I have used over the years.

One of the most significant choices made on the Roc was attending the Bible study classes in the five-inch loading room. The Navigator material used in the class helped me to memorize portions of the Bible that has been beneficial to me over the years. This association assisted me in the choices I made on liberty and gave me the opportunity to visit missionaries in the various ports when we docked.

I recently observed my son teaching my granddaughters the principle of making good or bad choices. Joshua taught the principle in Joshua 24:15 when he challenged Israel, "Choose ye this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord".

Each day is filled with choices. I am thankful for the good choices I made on the Roc. Doing the right thing and making good choices is an opportunity for all of us as shipmates.

Frank West, Chaplain
fawest@jps.net



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>
Henry N. Box	CA	2007	7 th	51-55
Harold E. Fritz	AZ	2007	M	47-49
Robert (Bob) E. Hallett	CA	2007	A	56-59
Harry E. Makin	FL	2007	E	50-52
Leonard V. Sake*	CA	2001	R	46-47

*Plank Owner

Shipmate George & Hannah Lupton donated \$20.00 to the association. Thank you!

By-Laws of USS ROCHESTER ASSOCIATION

Article VI, Section 6. Secretary, Sub-paragraph E:

A Members Roster is mailed to each member when dues are received.

The Secretary shall prepare an Annual Roster and a supplement that is to be mailed to each paid up member when their dues are paid. This will keep every shipmate informed as to who is a member of the Association. If you know of someone who is not on the membership list, it is a good time to contact him and find out why he is not a member.



*By Steve Eighinger
Herald-Whig Staff Writer*

Roland "Moose" Schneider will never forget the first post-Korean War reunion of the USS Rochester's Fox Division.

"From 1955 to 1992, we had not seen one another," Schneider said. "When we finally were able to get together ... there were grown men with tears coming out of their eyes."

Those same grown men, now in their 70s, gathered again Wednesday, this time at TCBY at 18th and State in Quincy. The owner, Marv Hufford, was a member of Fox Division, which was part of a USS Rochester operation that served as the flagship for the 7th Fleet at different times during the height of the Korean War.

"This is a close-knit group," Hufford said. "We spent a lot of time together back then."

Hufford estimates there are probably between 20 and 25 men left from Fox Division, but most are unable to travel anymore. Eight found their way to Quincy, including Schneider, who lives in Frankenmuth, Mich., and is considered the "glue that holds us together," Hufford said.

Members of the Fox Division who gathered Wednesday told of patrolling the northern Yellow Sea on the USS Rochester, where temperatures dipped to 40-below zero, and about reaching the equator, where thermometers registered above 100.

"And that was all in the same week," said Carl Ray of Barbersville, W.Va.

The years have been kind to these men of valor. All were energetic and so very glad to see one another once more and swap tales.

"The stories have the chance to change over the years," said Ralph Spears of Prospect Heights, Ill. "They tend to get embellished a little."

The remnants of Fox Division gather in the off years, and there is a ship reunion every even year. The ship reunions started in 1992 and the Fox Division gatherings began in 1995 in Kansas City.

"What that means," Schneider said about the reunions, "is that I get to see these guys once a year."

Also making the trip to Quincy for the reunion were Bob Cadden of Erie, Pa., Ron Richards of Covington, Ga., Bob Page of Bowling Green, Mo., and Tony Kontowicz of Las Vegas.

The group ate lunch at TCBY, then spent the rest of Wednesday in and around Hannibal, Mo. They went up and down the Mississippi River as part of a boat tour and then gathered for an evening meal before parting ways for another year.

Obviously, this is a bond that will never be broken. The common denominator for all is a deep friendship forged on a battleship more than five decades earlier.

"These meetings are important to me because I consider these men true friends," Schneider said. "This is not like a high school reunion, because there are no jealousies or animosity. It doesn't matter what your social status is, or what you did for a living.

"We're good friends. That's it. Good friends."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Eighinger at seighinger@whig.com or (217) 221-3377
