

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 4

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SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE MCMANUELS FAMILY

As we enter the Holiday Season, let us give thanks for the many blessings that we have shared over this past year. I would like to use this last edition of "Gunboat Riders" of 1998 to personally say Thank You to all of the shipmates and their families that we have had the pleasure of meeting and corresponding with over the past year. You are truly an Outstanding Crew, proof that those who are veterans of the Gunboat Navy were and remain the best in the Fleet. Nancy and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a festive Holiday Season and a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year. Let us not forget that today, just like in the days of the patrol Gunboat Navy, there are many Shipmates, Soldiers, Airman and Marines that continue to support and defend the Flag, far away from home, loved ones and families. Please take a moment during the Holiday's to give thanks to our Veterans and say a prayer for their safe return. It is their vigilance and sacrifices that ensure our way of life and keep America strong.



Wishing each of you the Happiest of Holiday Seasons.

Terry and Nancy McManuels

1999 REUNION SURVEY

In the last newsletter I mailed each former crewmember a 1999 Reunion Survey. So far, I have had 67 of these surveys returned to me. As I stated at the bottom of each survey, it is not a commitment, it is just a survey that I use to help determine how many busses we will need for the tours, what size facilities we will need for meals during the tours and the number of rooms that will have to be blocked at the hotel. If I don't receive your survey, I must assume that you will not be attending the reunion. If at a later date you should decide to attend, it could cause some difficulties in the planning of the reunion and associated events. So, if you are definitely not planning to attend, please advise me. If there is a slim chance that you will attend, then check the appropriate box on the survey sheet and return it to me. I would appreciate your assistance, it makes planning a successful reunion so much easier.

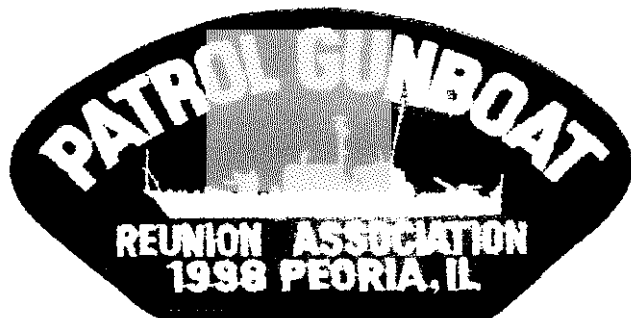
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Patrol Gunboat Association

"COMMEMORATIVE BALL CAPS AND COFFEE MUGS"

I initially ordered 250 ballcaps from Eagle Crest INC in Jacksonville, FL. These are custom embroidered, "Made In America" ball caps, identical in quality to the ones ordered for ships and shore commands by the Navy Exchange. These hats were given to each crewmember who purchased \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Drawing. I still have some remaining ballcaps that can be purchased for \$15.00 dollars each plus shipping, as long as they last.



I also have some coffee mugs left from the reunion. These cups have a "Watermark" of a PG on the front with the names of all 17 Patrol Gunboats listed on the reverse. The coffee mugs are \$5.00 each. Please include \$3.00 Priority Mail shipping. This will cover shipping for one hat, one coffee mug, or one of each. Make your check payable to Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association.

PATROL GUNBOAT Association



1998 Annual Reunion
Peoria, Illinois

USS ASHEVILLE (PG-84)
USS GALLOWAY (PG-85)
USS BIRNBAUM (PG-86)
USS BIRNEY (PG-87)
USS CROCKETT (PG-88)
USS HARRINGTON (PG-89)
USS CHASE (PG-90)
USS TACOMA (PG-92)
USS WELCH (PG-93)
USS CERRILLO (PG-94)
USS INFANTRY (PG-96)
USS BENICIA (PG-96)
USS SUPERIOR (PG-97)
USS GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98)
USS BRACON (PG-99)
USS DORRIS (PG-100)
USS GREEN BAY (PG-101)

WE ARE ON THE INTERNET

I have put together an Internet Web Site / Home Page for the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. The Internet Address is:

<http://members.visi.net/~macs/index.html>

I have placed a separate page for each ship, as well as Squadron Staffs and the Graham County on the Web Site. There is also a muster list of crewmembers that I have located, as well as a missing persons page. I have already started loading some photographs of the hotel in Falls Church, VA. I also have included an album with photographs from Peoria. If you have any pictures of the ships that you think would look good on the internet, please send them to me in either GIF or JPG format, or you can mail original photographs.

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

BELOW IS A LIST OF NEW MEMBERS THAT HAVE BEEN located since the last newsletter was published.

Name	Ship	Contacted
Ashe, Allen J.	Canon	10/26/98
Ayre, Donald	Canon	10/26/98
Brooks, Thomas J.	Crockett	11/06/98
Campanella, James J.	Grand Rapids	11/23/98
Edmonds, William R.	Tacoma	12/05/98
Fladd, Wirt R.	Tacoma	12/03/98
Gangloff, Lee A.	Canon	10/26/98
Halter, Le Roy William	Canon	10/26/98
Hoobner, Paul	Beacon	11/06/98
Hults, Rex	Crockett	11/06/98
Kowinski, Michael W.	Marathon	10/26/98
Lipnick, John	Graham County	12/03/98
Little, Carl	Beacon	12/07/98
McCulloch, Robert J.	Beacon, Asheville	11/10/98
Niccum, Harold E.	Canon	11/05/98
Razzotti, Eugene A.	Crockett	10/17/98
Tappe, Wayne G.	Canon	11/03/98
Trice, Binford T.	Asheville	10/01/98

WE'RE STILL GROWING

You might notice that we are growing more slowly since the last newsletter, there are definitely fewer names on the "New Members in File". There are a number of reasons for this. First, the last edition of Gunboat Riders was put together right after the Peoria Reunion. I had quite a few names that were added due to the efforts of those that attended the reunion. Many former crewmembers were listed only by their last name until additional information was added to lists located in the hospitality room. It is almost impossible to locate someone when all you have is their last name. If you can remember any other former crewmembers, especially if you know their full name and they are not listed as members of the Association, please let me know so that I can attempt to locate them.

Another reason we haven't added many names since the last newsletter is due to the amount of time I have spent planning the 1999 Washington, DC Reunion. More information on that later.

1999 50-50 DRAWING

So far we have received \$410.00 toward the 1999 50-50 drawing that will be held following the Saturday Night Banquet. Included in the Special Edition Newsletter were twelve 50-50 tickets. If you have not sent your check and completed stubs and you want to participate in the drawing, please do so. If you wish, you can use mailing labels on the stubs to save writing. Additional tickets for the 1999 drawing can be purchased by sending me a check in the amount of \$10.00 for each 12 tickets to be purchased. Just send some additional address labels for the tickets and we will put them on. At \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00, you can help to **SUPPORT YOUR REUNION ASSOCIATION**. Tickets will be sold throughout the year with the drawing of the winners following the Saturday Banquet. Make your check or money order payable to the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. Remember, the winners need not be present at the drawing.

Patrol Gunboat Association

REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

I have put some photographs in our Web Site that were taken at the reunion. As you browse through the index page, you will note that I have removed all of the Pre-Reunion information for 1998 and replaced it with the photo album. I would appreciate it, if anyone has some good pictures from the reunion, to select a few of the ones that you like best and send them to me for inclusion on our web site. If possible, please include some information on each picture such as when and where it was taken and if possible, the names of anyone in the picture.

You will also note that I have started the pages for the 1999 Reunion scheduled for August in the Washington, DC area. I will post additional information as it becomes available.

MOVING? PLEASE SEND ME YOUR NEW ADDRESS

I recently send a reminder about annual dues to some of our former crewmembers. Unfortunately, many of them had moved and I got their letters back. I purchase preprinted window envelopes with "Return Service Requested" on them so that if someone changes their address, I will be notified of their new address when the mail is returned. The good news is that I can then update my data file and re-mail the letter to you. The bad news is that I end up paying postage on two letters instead of one. There are also a few "SNOW BIRDS" in our group, former crewmembers with summer and winter addresses. There just isn't any simple way to automatically update my data base file to correspond with your move dates. The simple solution is that you must advise me of your change of address. Without this information, your mail will be returned to me and I end up paying additional postage to mail it a second time. If mail is returned without your new address, it is discarded and I change your membership status back to missing in my data file.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas—oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it—overspending, the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike.

The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team spon-

sored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of the team.

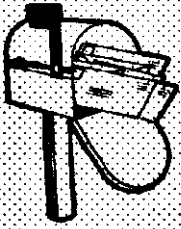
Mike love kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me.

His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition—one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

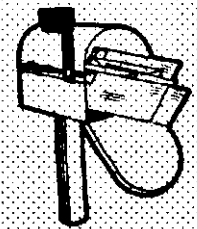
The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope...Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we all remember the Christmas spirit this year and always.

Patrol Gunboat Association



FROM THE MAILBAG



On this page, I want to print some of the comments that I have received from shipmates who either call or write to me. Due to space restrictions, I cannot include all of these comments. I will include those for which I have space in the current publishing period.

- ☐ **From Shipmate Mark McGahan {PG-85}:** Just got the newsletter, its really great. Wish I could have made the reunion this year but am putting next years on the calendar today.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Paul Heebner {PG-99}:** I am really happy you found me... I'm excited about the reunion in August 1999 and look forward to getting together with some of my old shipmates... The Beacon was truly the most rewarding duty station in my naval career.
- ☐ **From John Blackwell, MAR INC:** Thanks for the copy of "Gunboat Riders"... Best of luck... Thought you might like to know that both CANON and GALLUP, in storage at Panama City, FL, have ben transferred to the Ecuadorian Navy. Better get down there to say your goodbyes soon...
- ☐ **From Shipmate Ronnie L. Roberts {PG-90}:** Sorry we weren't able to attend... We do appriciate all the work you are doing.

50 - 50 OR RAFFLE TICKETS

I must apologize for any confusion regarding 50-50 and raffle table ticket sales. I thought I had made this fairly clear, but I guess I was wrong. Perhaps I need to have my wife re-read what I write. It seemed plain to me, but apparently it wasn't as simple as I thought.

We tried a couple of ways to generate funds for the Peoria reunion. The first thing we did was set up a 50 - 50 drawing. I mailed everyone in my data base a letter that included 12 tickets for the 50 - 50 drawing. We generated \$1120.00 in ticket sales, and awarded half of the proceeds as prizes following the drawing of three names at the Saturday Banquet. One winner was present, the other two had their checks mailed to them following the reunion. The other half of the 50 - 50 proceeds was used to help pay for the entertainment, refreshments, and other Association expenses.

We also held a raffle table drawing following the banquet. Tickets for this drawing were sold for \$1.00 each, and with the purchase of \$20.00 worth of tickets, we gave a free Patrol Gunboat Association Ballcap. These tickets were only available at the reunion and so the winners from that drawing were all present. The raffle table is completely seperate from the 50-50 drawing.

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT HITS THE STREETS

On December 12, 1998 I mailed out newspaper and magazine announcements to 565 newspapers and 64 magazines around the country. If your newspaper does not carry the release, it may be because it is not in my data base file. If you don't see the announcement in the next few weeks, please let me know the name and address of your local newspaper so that I can add it to the file.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Please send originals or copies of Commissioning Programs, Change of Command Programs, or any ship photo's that you may have to the Association Historian. I am ready to set up files for each ship and staff that comprise the Association. Include your name, address and phone number and e-mail address so that I may annotate each item with it's source. Please send any items that you wish to donate to:

Dave Donaldson
2603 Woodcock road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 683-5268

e-mail: rctfdd@tenforward.com

If you have any original photographs of your ship, I would appreciate it if you would have a copy made and send it to me so that I might have it scanned and placed on the Web Site. If you want the photograph returned, please make sure to include your mailing address and I will send it back to you.

The Supreme Commander

Following are names of Patrol Gunboat Shipmates that have met the Supreme Commander since the last edition of "Gunboat Riders". As this information is made available, I will include it in the following newsletter.

Shipmate:

Ship:

Departed