

# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

## GUNBOAT RIDERS

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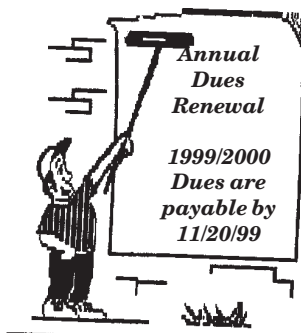
VOLUME 2 - NUMBER 3

FALL EDITION 1999

Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

### 1999 - 2000 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Association dues for the 1999 - 2000 fiscal year are due by October 1, 1999. Prior to the 1999 Business Meeting, we collected a total of



\$4,100.00 in dues for the 1998 - 1999 year and \$1,065.00 for the 1999 - 2000 fiscal year. The \$20.00 collected for Association annual dues is used to cover the cost of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletters and the cost of the Association Internet Web Site, as well as long distance phone expenses incurred when attempting to locate former crewmembers. These funds are also used to pay for the mailing of over

700 newspaper and magazine press releases each year to announce the date and location of the next reunion. These press releases are produced and mailed every March.

There is a remaining deficit from the costs associated with our first reunion. During the past year we have reduced that deficit by \$1,000.00. We are still on track to eliminate the deficit within the three year period. In Peoria, our expenses exceeded our income. This year in Falls Church, it looks like our expenses were almost exactly equal to our income. As our membership increases, we should become much more financially sound.

Each and every year the continued success of the Patrol Gunboat Association is dependent upon your support. Annual dues are \$20.00. To determine if your 1999 - 2000 dues are paid, check the mailing label on the envelope this newsletter came in. **If there is a "RNP" to the right of your name, then your 1999 - 2000 dues are not paid and should be remitted promptly.** If there is a "RP" to the right of your name, then your 1999 - 2000 dues have been paid and your membership expiration date is at least September, 2000. The enclosed Post Reunion Newsletter (Business Meeting Notes) lists the membership criteria for regular members who are dues payers and for those who are not.

### Volume 2 - Number 3, Combined Edition

This issue of Gunboat Riders includes the Special Post Reunion Newsletter. I like to distribute the Special Post Reunion Issue as soon after the reunion as possible, so I have included it with this issue to save the Association the cost of two separate mailings. The Mail Bag is being put in this issue only.

### 2000 REUNION SURVEY

Enclosed, you will find our Reunion Survey for the Saint Louis, Missouri, Reunion that will be held in August, 2000. The survey requests basic information that will be of great assistance in making plans for tours, meals, bus transportation and guides. The 2000 Reunion will be held at the **Sheraton West Port Hotel in Saint Louis, Missouri from August 9 - 13, 2000.**

Our reunion itinerary will be basically the same as in the past. Wednesday will be an early check-in day, hospitality will open at noon and all meals will be on your own. There will be a free Wine and Cheese Reception on Wednesday Night for early arrivals. Thursday will include a day tour and I hope to include lunch with the tour. Thursday dinner will be on your own. Friday will have a day tour, also including lunch. Friday evening will feature a buffet dinner with some light entertainment. Saturday morning will be the business meeting followed by lunch on your own. A short tour on Saturday afternoon and then Saturday evening will be the Banquet Dinner with dancing to a live band. The room rate at the Sheraton West Port will be \$85.00 per night plus tax.

If you feel, right now, that you will definitely make the reunion, barring some catastrophe, give me a **100% Sure**. If you feel that you are going to give it your best shot, but reserve the right to change your mind, give me a **75% Sure**. If you would really like to come but have a few obstacles in your way to work out, give me a **50% Sure**. If you know that you will not be able to make this reunion, the respond with **Can't Attend**. Regardless of your answers today, you can always change your mind at a later date. **Remember, it's a survey, not a commitment.** Please take a moment to complete this survey and return it by **November 30, 1999.**

#### Contents of the Patrol Gunboat Association News Letter

Membership Dues, 2000 Reunion Survey .....	1
Raffle Table Winners, 50 - 50 Drawing .....	2
Reunion Photo Album, New Members in File .....	2
Will Fred Be at the Reunion .....	3
Historian, Ships Pictures, Fifty Six Men .....	3
Ball Caps and Coffee Mugs, We are on the Internet .....	4
Old dog, New Tricks .....	4
The Supreme Commander .....	4
2000 Reunion Survey .....	Insert
Post Reunion Edition, 1999 .....	Insert

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## 1999 RAFFLE WINNERS

Here are some of the highlights of the 1999 Raffle Table Drawing. Everyone that purchased \$20.00 in Raffle Table Tickets received a FREE Falls Church Reunion Ballcap. So, everyone that purchased tickets came out a winner to begin with. A few shipmates were fortunate enough to receive some added winnings. First off, Stan Zalinka (PG-101) won the Dumas Model of the USS Crockett. This is a 52" plywood and fiberglass model. I put one of these models together a few years back and I have to say, it was a challenge. Stan assured me that he would be finished with it and have it on display at the 2000 Reunion. George Ingram (PG-88) won One Complimentary Night at the Falls Church Marriott, so one of his nights at this years reunion was free. Gary Wentworth (PG-86) won Two Complimentary Nights and James Thomas (PG-84) won One Complimentary Night at the 2000 Reunion. We had a Polaroid camera, a portable black and white TV, some video tapes and luggage on the Raffle Table also. I am not certain who won the luggage, but they must have seen Dave Donaldson, our historian, scratching his head and wondering how he was going to get all the memorabilia home, and donated the suitcase to him.

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## AND THE 1999 50-50 WINNERS



In a previous edition of the newsletter, I mailed out 12 tickets for those who wanted to participate in the Association's 50 - 50 drawing for 1999, that was held following the Saturday Night Banquet in Falls Church, Virginia. I also sent out tickets to each new member throughout the year. We continued to sell 50 - 50 tickets at the reunion up until the Saturday Business Meeting. As a result of those ticket sales, we raised \$1352.00 for the Association, an increase of \$232.00 over last year. Of that, \$676.00 was awarded as prizes at the drawing. The remainder will be used to help cover some of the expenses such as Hospitality Room, Entertainment, Raffle Table Items and a myriad of other expenses necessary to put on the reunion. The winners of the 50 - 50 drawing were:

**First Place: Ray Patin, USS Asheville \$338.00**

**Second Place: Valentin Monsale, USS Defiance \$202.80**

**Third Place: Toni Volk, USS Antelope \$135.20**

Ray wasn't at the reunion so we mailed him his check. Val Monsale had been at the reunion but had to leave early, so, we forwarded his winnings also. A special thanks to those who purchased tickets because, without these funds, it would be difficult to put on a high quality reunion.

We will again have a 50 - 50 drawing at next year's reunion. There are twelve 50 - 50 tickets included with this newsletter for the drawing that will be held following the banquet dinner in Saint Louis. Help support a growing Association by purchasing at least twelve tickets. You may do so, at any time, by sending me a check or money order for the desired number of tickets along with sufficient address labels for me to place on them. Tickets will again be \$10.00 for twelve tickets or \$1.00 each. Make your check or money order payable to the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. **Remember, the winners need not be present at the drawing.**

## NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

Following is a list of new members that have been located since the last newsletter was published.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Contacted</u>
Adams, James J.	Graham County, Ready	07/28/1999
Andrews, Harold E.	Gallup	09/07/1999
Aschenbrenner, James F.	Chehalis	06/22/1999
Beaver, Jerald C.	Marathon	07/10/1999
Bond, Albert S.	Graham County	08/23/1999
Byrne, Terry	Graham County	07/28/1999
Chen, Francis	Graham County	07/07/1999
Collins, Monte	Defiance	07/05/1999
Conley, Laurence D.	Gallup	06/22/1999
Costilow, Robert O.	Douglas, Graham County	08/16/1999
Curry, Michael J.	Graham County	07/29/1999
DesRochers, Joseph	Asheville, Welch	07/05/1999
Enlow, Edward S.	Green Bay	08/16/1999
Flournoy, Robert	Asheville	08/17/1999
Fry, Scott A.	Grand Rapids	08/03/1999
Graham, Art	Gallup	07/15/1999
Hains, John P.	Graham County	07/28/1999
Harris, Louie J.	Chehalis	08/06/1999
Hart, David T.	Tacoma	07/26/1999
Harvey, Charles F.	Antelope, Crockett, Marathon	08/16/1999
Herceg, David	Graham County	07/28/1999
Hughes, Roger D.	Surprise	06/22/1999
Kelly, John P.	PATDIV 21	07/28/1999
Mackey, Gene	Gallup	07/14/1999
Mandles, Martinn H.	Asheville	06/29/1999
Minnick, Edward J.	Surprise, Graham County	07/08/1999
Monahan, Robert P.	Marathon, Beacon	07/28/1999
Taylor, James R.	Surprise	07/29/1999
Tobin, Michael P.	Surprise	06/22/1999
Tucker, Charles F.	Asheville	08/08/1999
Vosseler, Paul	Graham County	08/16/1999

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## REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

I started saving photographs from the first reunion in Peoria and placed them in a photo album along with some of the memorabilia from the reunion. I included an original copy of the Banquet Dinner Program as well as the itinerary from the reunion. I took this album along to Falls Church for the new members to look at.

While we were in Falls Church, my wife and I also took quite a few photographs that I will put in the album. Unfortunately, I was unable to get many pictures of the Hospitality Room or of the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. If anyone that attended the 1999 Reunion has some good photographs that they would like to share with me, I would appreciate it. In the future, I will have to put "Take Pictures" on my list of things to do at the reunion. While I am especially looking for photo's of the Hospitality Room and the Banquet, any photographs that you think would interest the rest of the Association would also be appreciated. Once I have them, I will scan them and put them on the Association Web Site.

If you include your name and address with them, I will gladly return them if you so desire.

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## WILL FRED BE THERE?

I just wanted to take a moment to talk about a shipmate friend of mine from the Canberra Association. Before I tell you about George though, I wanted to tell you about Fred. Fred is the fictitious name of the one guy that so many former crewmembers ask me about. As each reunion draws closer, I receive calls from former crewmembers that want to know if Fred or Harry or Bill will be attending. As I listen to these calls, I wonder how very special the relationship must have been for someone to decide that they will attend a reunion only if some other particular crewmember is attending.

Every ship has one or two specific crewmembers that everyone wants to see. Perhaps a favorite chief or CO, maybe someone that was close to the family or someone that helped you out of a jam while you were onboard. Each time I hear someone tell me that they want to attend the reunion, but only if "Fred" is planning to come, I think about George.

George is a former crewmember from the USS Canberra. He is a World War Two Veteran who has made many of the Canberra's Reunions. A career sailor, he is involved in several reunions. I first met George in Virginia Beach, at a Canberra Reunion. All I knew about him was that he wanted to know if I played Acey Ducey. If I did, then we would get along fine, as long as I was willing to play a game or two with him sometime during the reunion.

Since that first reunion, I have made a point of always bringing along an Acey Ducey board and getting in as many games as possible. I met a total stranger at that first reunion and he has grown to be one of my favorite people. Time takes its toll on all of us; George is no exception. It appears that he may not make many more reunions due to some health problems. The reason I am telling you this story is so that you will understand my frustration when I hear statements like "I will only attend if Fred is coming." How very glad I am that I attended my first Canberra Reunion and had the opportunity to meet George. It saddens me to think that we may not have many more games of Acey Ducey to play. His friendship and camaraderie is something that I will always cherish. George is a great friend, his spirit and sense of humor always makes my day. Both my wife and I missed him at this year's Canberra Reunion and we sincerely hope his health improves. Had I failed to attend that first reunion where I met him, I would have missed the opportunity to find a good friend and a true shipmate.

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## ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Those who attended the 1999 reunion are sure to have been impressed with the display put on by our Association Historian, Dave Donaldson. I initially requested two eight foot tables for memorabilia that Dave would be bringing along for display. Dave filled those two tables, then another, then another. Needless to say, in the past year Dave has received quite a bit of Naval History on the Asheville Class Patrol Gunboats. Most of it is due to the generosity and willingness of former crewmembers who gladly share mementoes of their PG Tours.

On behalf of all those who enjoyed looking through four tables of history, I would like to say thanks to those who have made contributions to the Association. Anyone wanting to either lend or donate items to the Association should contact our historian.

**Dave Donaldson**  
779 N E Josephine Ct.  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
(503) 693-7010  
e-mail: rctfdd@earthlink.net

## FIFTY SIX MEN

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted... We shouldn't. So, take a couple of minutes while you enjoy the Veterans Day Holidays and silently thank these patriots. It's not much too ask for the price they paid.

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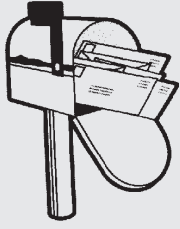
## SHIPS PICTURES

I am trying to complete the basic layout for our Association Web Site. I am missing photographs of the following ships:

USS ANTELOPE (PG-86)	USS READY (PG-87)
USS MARATHON (PG-89)	USS DEFIANCE (PG-95)
USS GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98)	USS BEACON (PG-99)
USS DOUGLAS (PG-100)	

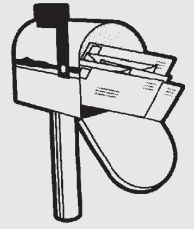
If anyone has an original photograph of any of these ships that I could borrow, I would appreciate it if you could send it to me. I want to scan the picture and transfer it to the Association Web Site. Once I have scanned the picture, I will return it to you. Please let me know before you send me a picture so I can avoid getting duplicates.

# 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 Steve Herbert {PG-90}:** I greatly enjoyed the Saturday Night Dinner. It was a real treat to see my Canon shipmates.... I am looking for a good PG Model. If anyone has some info, please forward it to me.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Robert Costilow {PG-100}:** Was just thinking about my years on the Douglas and wondered if there was anything on the Internet... there you were, much to my delight. Hope to come to next years get together.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Harold Andrews {PG-85}:** Served with Skipper, LCDR Spane in 1965 - 67... Tis the most memorable time in my life.... A great bunch of people to serve with.

## 1999 BALLCAPS AND COFFEE MUGS

Once again I ordered Ball caps 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. Each crewmember that purchased \$20.00 in Raffle Table Tickets at the 1999 Reunion received one free ball cap. Additionally, everyone that registered for the reunion received a 1999 Patrol Gunboat Association Falls Church Reunion Coffee Mug, as well as a souvenir canvas tote bag when they checked in at the registration desk. Those members attending their first reunion also received one of the souvenir puzzles that we had made for the 1998 reunion. We have a number of 1999 ball caps and coffee mugs left that are available on a first come first serve basis. The ball caps can be purchased for \$15.00 each plus \$3.00 postage. The coffee mugs are \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage. You can also purchase one hat and one mug for \$20.00 plus \$3.00 postage.

### PATROL GUNBOAT Association

Second Annual Reunion  
Washington, DC



Fairview Park Marriott  
Falls Church, Virginia

### 25th Anniversary Reunion 1974 - 1999

Home from Guam, MI  
USS ASHEVILLE (PG-84)  
USS GALUP (PG-85)  
USS ANTELOPE (PG-86)  
USS READY (PG-87)  
USS CROCKETT (PG-88)  
USS MARATHON (PG-89)  
USS CANON (PG-90)  
USS TACOMA (PG-92)  
USS WELCH (PG-93)  
USS CHEHALIS (PG-94)  
USS DEFIANCE (PG-95)  
USS BERNICIA (PG-96)  
USS SURPRISE (PG-97)  
USS GRAND RAPIDS (PG-98)  
USS BEACON (PG-99)  
USS DOUGLAS (PG-100)  
USS GREEN BAY (PG-101)

For those who may want to collect the entire set, we still have a limited number of 1998 hats and mugs. Total price for one 1998 hat and coffee mug is \$15.00, plus \$3.00 postage.

## IMPORTANT, READ THIS

I am just about ready to go to print with the **Association Directory**. I have requested that you advise me if you object to my listing your address and phone number in the directory, but the response has been disappointing. I find it difficult to believe that out of over 500 former crewmembers, all but 87 object to having their name and address published. **SO**, unless I hear otherwise, I will list your Name, Address and Phone Number in the Association Directory when I have it published in the next two months. Copies of this Directory will then be mailed to all members. **Remember, you must advise me immediately if you do not want your name, address and phone number published in the directory.**

## OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS

An Admiral retired after 35 years and realized a lifelong dream of buying a bird hunting estate in South Dakota. He invited an old friend to visit for a week of pheasant hunting. The friend was in awe of the Admirals new bird dog, "Chief".

The dog could point, flush and retrieve with the very best, and the friend offered to buy the dog at any price. The Admiral declined, saying that Chief was the very best bird dog he had ever owned and that he wouldn't part with him at any price.

A year later the same friend returned for another week of hunting and was surprised to find the Admiral breaking in a new dog. "What happened to ole Chief?" he asked.

"Had to shoot him," grumbled the Admiral. "A friend came to hunt with me and couldn't remember the dog's name. He kept calling him Master Chief. After that, all he would do was sit on his ass and bark."

## 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:

Dearth, Larry C.

### Ship:

USS Douglas

### Departed

03/24/99

# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION GUNBOAT RIDERS

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

POST REUNION EDITION, 1999

*Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261*

## 1999 REUNION FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

### 1999 REUNION

The Second Annual Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion was held in Falls Church, Virginia, at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel from August 11 - 15, 1999. The first reunion was great, the second was even better. My wife and I arrived at the hotel on Tuesday afternoon. We brought along everything for the reunion, loaded in the back of my truck. Since everything is so expensive in the Washington DC area, we purchased most of the refreshments in Virginia Beach and took them with us to Falls Church. Let me just say that the Bellman earned his tip when we checked in.

Then on to business. Tuesday was spent meeting the hotel staff, finding our hospitality room and getting it set up. All the boxes of hats, cups, souvenirs and memorabilia had to be unpacked and placed in strategic areas of our hotel room; one section for Hospitality Room supplies, another for Banquet materials. Each box had an assigned place where we could get what we needed, when we needed it.

Wednesday was the first official day of the reunion, starting with the setting up and opening of the Hospitality Room. While I would like to tell you about all the work that I did setting up the Hospitality Room,



I must admit that my wife, Nancy, did most of it.

As each crewmember arrived, they checked into the hotel and then headed for the Hospitality Room. There, they could get a cold soft drink or a beer and a hand full of chips or pretzels, and start the check in procedure. First came the signing of the Association Guest Register. Each crewmember then had an opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle that would be held after the Banquet Dinner. And like last year, \$20.00 in raffle tickets got you a free 1999 Patrol Gunboat Association Ball Cap. Next came the Registration Packages. Each crewmember received an envelope with his name on it, inside was a full itinerary for the week, name tags, tickets for the tours, and tickets for the buffet and banquet dinner. After that, most people headed for Dave Donaldson's display of memorabilia. Since becoming the Association Historian, Dave has collected many items from other

crewmembers. He brought a good selection along to Falls Church, and much was added by this years attendee's. By the end of Wednesday, twenty eight former crewmembers had arrived and signed the Guest Registration Book.

Thursday morning, the Hospitality Room was already busy with folks that arrived late Wednesday night. The registration table was open until 8:45, when we had to close and depart for the tour to the Navy Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the city tour and a fantastic meal at Hogates Restaurant. While at the Navy Memorial, we gathered some additional information on the Asheville's and our Historian, Dave Donaldson, found a good source of ship's photographs. For those of you that have never been to the Navy Memorial, I strongly suggest that you try to get there someday. It was quite interesting and the items on display will amaze you. The majority of the staff there are volunteers and were anxious to assist us.



The Vietnam Memorial. Just beyond description. It was just one of the stops during our day tour, but it was obvious that it generated many emotions for the group.

Most of us were quite ready to get back on our air conditioned bus for the remainder of the afternoon. Our tour guide took us on a driving tour of the city, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials as well as the Mall and Capitol Building. The weather was sunny and warm, so we were quite happy to spend the remainder of the afternoon on the bus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Friday morning, the registration desk opened at 7:30 AM and remained open until 9:45. As was expected, there were a few arrivals Thursday evening and they got checked in before we boarded the bus for the Annapolis Tour. Once we arrived in the city of Annapolis, we got off the bus and spent a couple hours on our own. Annapolis is a quaint little



town with many interesting shops and restaurants. We found a nice place for lunch and then headed back to the bus for the ride to the Naval Academy. Our group headed to the auditorium for a personal welcome and slide presentation, after which we split into three

groups for our guided tours of the Academy grounds. We were back on the bus and headed to the hotel by 3:30.

By the time we headed for the buffet dinner on Friday, a total of sixty eight people had signed the Guest Book. The buffet dinner was truly an exceptional meal. The atmosphere of the hotel banquet hall was the perfect place to sit down as a group and relax and tell a few more of those old sea stories. By the time dinner was over, most of us were ready to call it a night, although there were the hard-core late night folks that headed to the hospitality room for beer, chips, pretzels and cheese curls, and of course, more reminiscing.

Saturday morning, we held our second Association Business Meeting. As usual, there is a serious side to every event like this. Everyone, including the wives, are encouraged to come to the business meeting, grab a cup of coffee or tea and join in for some serious conversation. Following the Business Meeting, we boarded the bus for our tour of the National Air and Space Museum or for those that preferred, the Natural History Museum. Everyone was back at the hotel by 4:30 as we prepared for the Second Annual Patrol Gunboat Association Banquet Dinner.

The Banquet Dinner started with an Attitude Adjustment Hour from 6:00 until 7:00. The banquet hall opened at 6:30 and the Banquet started almost on time. Our Association President, Paul Bennett got things started with an official welcome to all. The Washington Naval District Color Guard presented the Colors, after which the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance and rendered honors with the National Anthem. Our Chaplain, Thomas Aiello then said the Invocation. After a Moment of Remembrance for those no longer with us, the Color Guard retired the Colors and the Chaplain gave the Benediction. The Banquet Dinner followed the opening ceremonies.

After dinner, Paul Bennett introduced the head table and turned things over to our guest speaker, Rear Admiral Rodney P. Rempt. Admiral Rempt gave an excellent slide presentation which featured the Patrol Gunboats in the Mediterranean. The presentation was both informative and entertaining. As a WestPac gunboat rider, I was not familiar with the activities of the "Boats in the Med". I will say that I distinctly remember (from other tours on other ships) how much calmer the Med was than the Pacific.

After Admiral Rempt's presentation, it was time for the 50 - 50 Drawing. Of the three winners, only one was present, the remaining two had their winning checks mailed to them after the reunion. Following the 50 - 50 Drawing came the Raffle Table Drawing as everyone got out their tickets. Dancing to the music of Patuxant followed. As the band packed up, the die hard's headed back to the hospitality room for, you guessed it, more sea stories.

All good things do come to an end. Sunday brought fond farewells and lots of exchanging of addresses and phone numbers. "See you next year" was a well used phrase as we departed Falls Church and headed for home.

## SAINT LOUIS REUNION SURVEY

I would like to explain a bit about the Reunion survey and the reason it is so important. First off, as I have said numerous times, it is just a survey, a tool that is used to assist in determining transportation requirements for the tours, how many tour guides and escorts we will need, where we will be able to arrange meals during the tours and a myriad of other details. This survey is our only way to gauge, in advance, how successful a reunion might be. The final negotiated room rate is dependent on the number of guests who will be staying at the hotel. The cost of the meals at both the hotel and during the tours, as well as the overall cost of the tours is determined by the anticipated number of participants. In short, the data gathered from the survey is essential to the efficient and cost effective arrangement of virtually every event during the reunion.

I took the results of the survey that was mailed out prior to the Peoria Reunion and created a formula to compute a ratio of positive responses to actual attendees. I then factored this ratio into the number of responses from the 1999 Reunion survey. Out of 450 Survey's mailed out, I received a total of 137 responses. Of those, 119 indicated that they planned to attend in 1999. There were 61 crewmembers who were 100% sure that they would attend, 32 who were 75% certain and 26 who were 50% certain that they would attend. Using the data from the 1998 Peoria Reunion, we should have had an estimated 91 former crewmembers and guests in attendance in 1999. In actuality, we had 71 former crewmembers at Falls Church, leaving a 20% error in our estimate.

Another area where we had some problems was the advance room block that we arrange with the hotel. Again, based on the results of the survey, we figured on needing a total of 205 total room nights at the 1999 Reunion. An additional 10% was added to that, based on the 25% increase in our membership during the past year. Failure to meet the contract room block can result in serious penalties, although this rarely happens. A penalty could have been assessed had we failed to meet 75% of our initial room block. In actuality, we made 74.5% of the room block and there was no penalties assessed against our organization. The lower than expected room count was the result of a couple of errors. To begin with, we had a larger percentage of former crewmembers staying in motor homes and campers than we did in 1998. The other factor in my misjudging the number of rooms required was the high number of former crewmembers who have family living in the area. These crewmembers didn't require accommodations at the hotel.

The last thing I want to comment on is those members who weren't certain that they would be attending and failed to make reservations in advance. Armed Forces Reunions policy is that there is a small penalty if you cancel your reservations after the cutoff date. Additionally, there can be penalties assessed by the tour companies if you fail to show up or if you cancel after the tour contracts are finalized. The Association's policy is that all cancellations will receive a full refund, regardless of when you cancel. If there are any penalties, the Association will absorb them out of our funds. In the past, I have tried to make this clear to everyone, yet again this year we had crewmembers show up at the hotel without making advance reservations. The results, one crewmember paid \$184.00 per night for two nights at the hotel. Another crewmember paid the hotel "Rack Rate" of \$204.00 for a room on Wednesday Night. We were able to get his rate reduced to \$89.00 per night for the remainder of the reunion. The bottom line here is, make your reservations early. When three people show up at the hotel and there is only one room left, the hotel will charge the higher rate.

I cannot over emphasize the importance of the Reunion Survey. Please try to have it completed and returned to me by November 30, 1999. This will make planning the 2000 Reunion in Saint Louis much easier and result in a better Reunion for everyone.

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## ADMIRAL RODNEY P. REMPT UNITED STATES NAVY

A native Californian, Rear Admiral Rempt was raised in the Los Angeles suburb of Van Nuys and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with the Class of 1966. He holds a Masters Degree in Systems Analysis from Stanford University and a Masters Degree in Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Initial assignments at sea included deployments to Vietnam as Terrier Missile Officer aboard USS COONTZ (DLG-9) and Weapons Officer aboard USS SOMERS (DDG-34). His first sea command was USS ANTELOPE (PG-86), one of four missile-armed Patrol Gunboats home ported in Naples, Italy. He also served as Executive Officer aboard USS DAHLGREN (DDG-43).

Rear Admiral Rempt commanded USS CALLAGHAN (DDG-994) during two Western Pacific and Indian Ocean deployments, winning the Battle Efficiency "E" in two different squadrons. Rear Admiral Rempt's third sea command was USS BUNKER HILL (CG-52) home ported in Yokosuka, Japan. While on BUNKER HILL, Rear Admiral Rempt served for 18 months as the Anti-Air Warfare Commander for SEVENTH FLEET and led the MIDWAY Battle Group in winning the Fleet AAW Award from among the nine battle groups deploying to WESTPAC in 1989.



Rear Admiral Rempt was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral by the FY 1994 Flag Selection Board and was subsequently ordered to be Head, Surface Ships and Combat Systems on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. In June 1994, the CNO assigned Rear Admiral Rempt as the Director, Theater Air Defense, where he was responsible for establishing requirements, planning and budgeting for Aegis Standard Missile, Surface Launchers, Cooperative Engagement and Ship Self Defense Systems.

In July 1996 Rear Admiral Rempt assumed duties as Program Executive Officer, Theater Air Defense. In this capacity he provided leadership for more than 25 air defense programs including serving as the U.S. Steering Committee Member for the NATO Seasparrow and Rolling Airframe Missile multi national programs. In May 1998, Rear Admiral Rempt was assigned as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Theater Combat Systems. As such, he is the principle advisor on the introduction of Naval Theater Ballistic Missile Defense and the development of advanced shipboard combat systems.

His personal awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (Third award with Combat "V" ), the Meritorious Service Medal (Third award), and the Legion of Merit (Third award). Rear Admiral Rempt and his wife Pam reside in Arlington, Virginia.

## *Comments from the Reunion Coordinator, Terry McManuels following the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner.*

At this time I would like to thank Admiral Rempt for joining us this evening and providing us a bit of insight on today's Navy. I would also like to offer a special thanks to Naval District Washington and their Color Guard Detail for arranging for this evenings Color Guard.

Here we are celebrating the second annual reunion of Patrol Gunboat Shipmates. Twenty five years ago, on the third of November, 1974, the last PG left the Island of Guam. Within a few short years, all of the Asheville Patrol Gunboats faded into Naval History. In today's Navy, very few sailors can conceive of a ship with a twenty eight man crew. I have to smile every time I hear about the Aegis Cruisers with their small crews. I don't mean to slight the Aegis Cruiser. I realize that they are manned by a small crew by today's standards, but I was fortunate enough to experience the best the Navy had to offer. Many years have passed since the decommissioning of the last PG, ships that were deployed to Vietnam where they served with distinction. Ships that served in both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets, home ported in CONUS, Guam and Naples, Italy. There are 241 former PG Sailors in my data file that retired after 20 plus years of service. Even if you figure those retired sailors all did just 20 years of active duty, and remember, many went on to 30 years, that works out to almost 5,000 years of Naval experience and history. The people that I worked for and with on CANON were the best the Navy had. I would go to sea with any of them again, they were true professionals, great sailors, great Americans.

I am as excited to be here for the second annual reunion as I was at the first. The PG Reunion is truly a "Red Letter" day on my calendar. We sailed the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea doing what United States Navy men have done for 200 plus years. For most of us, those days are now over. But, let us never forget why we are able to gather together and enjoy these festivities as free Americans. Today, you are the folks back home, you're ones that American Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines are risking their lives to protect. I loved my time in the Navy. Most military men and women in today's Armed Forces feel the same way now as I did then. They are the ones who now continue to carry on the duties and responsibilities that we took so seriously when we left our families to go to sea, when we left our wives and our children, when liberty expired on board for all hands. Remember, today the Boatswain still passes the word "**Underway, Shift Colors**".

The PG's distinguished themselves in every commitment, they were retired from active service with the satisfaction that they and their crews put forth their finest effort serving the Navy and the people of the United States. Please remember to keep today's young men and women in your prayers as they continue to carry on the proud traditions of the United States Navy. I want to thank each and everyone who came to join us and celebrate the Patrol Gunboat Navy.

A special thanks to Paul Bennett, Thomas Aiello and Richard Smoktunowicz for their time and assistance with this reunion. To my father Paul McManuels and the Canberra Association, thanks for your continued assistance. To Faye, Nancy and the rest of the wives and ladies, thanks for allowing us boys to come out and play again this year.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again next year when we gather together in Saint Louis, Missouri for the 2000 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion.

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## BUSINESS MEETING

The 1999 Business meeting was called to order by Terry W. McManuels at 9:00 AM on Saturday August 14, 1999.

Mr. McManuels started the meeting by giving the following membership statistics. As of July 1, 1999 there were 1,540 names in the Association data file. Of these, 546 were listed as regular members with a valid mailing address. Of the 546 regular members in the file, some are duplicate names such as those shipmates fortunate to serve on more than one PG. The file held the names of 927 Missing Crewmembers, those that have not yet been located.

The data file holds the names of 16 Deceased Crewmembers. (Included are those who died while attached to the ship.) Of the 16 Deceased crewmembers, 4 have families who desire to be kept informed of all Association activities and wish to remain active and on the Association Mailing list. They receive all Association Newsletters and other correspondence. These members do not pay dues and receive an invitation to all reunions and other Association functions. There are an additional 12 Deceased crewmembers who have been identified whose families have not been located or contacted, or, have been contacted and prefer to not to receive information about our Association or receive our newsletter.

As of July 1, 1999 we had 214 Regular dues paying members. These members receive all Association Newsletter and Correspondence. Members choosing not to pay dues receive only the Pre-Reunion and Post-Reunion Newsletters. Our Association Auditor gave a brief financial report which is available on request.

A discussion was held concerning Association dues. A motion was made and carried that we continue to collect dues at a rate of \$20.00 per year. As of July 1, 1999 we had collected \$4,199.00 in 1999 dues, \$1,065 in 1999 Dues and \$842.00 in 2000 Dues.

For the benefit of the new members, Mr. McManuels again defined our Association's Organizational Structure as follows:

**Member Status "RP"** - Those members that have responded to the membership dues request and are current with their annual dues. These members will receive all Newsletters and other correspondence regarding Association activities.

**Member Status "RNP"** - Those members that have not responded to the membership dues request. These members receive only the Pre-Reunion and Post Reunion Newsletters. The Pre-Reunion Newsletter is published in March and includes all registration forms and other items required to register for the reunion. The Post Reunion Newsletter comes out shortly after the reunion and it gives a rundown of the events and highlights of the reunion.

**Member Status "M"** - Status "M" which is the "MISSING PERSONS" list. This list currently holds the names of 927 former crewmembers.

**Member Status "D"** - Status "D" which is our deceased shipmates. I would appreciate your input regarding crewmembers who have passed away. As you may have noticed, we have a column in the Newsletter called "Supreme Commander". In it we share the information on our Departed Shipmates. Currently, I have identified 16 deceased crewmembers.

The membership was informed of the location of the 2000 Reunion, to be held in Saint Louis, Missouri in August, 2000. While not under contract yet, we are negotiating with the Sheraton West Port Hotel, Lakeside Chalet in Saint Louis, Missouri. We have made some of the basic arrangements already. The West Port Chalet appears to be one of the original Sheraton Tara Hotels. For those of you that have never been to a Sheraton Tara, they look like a castle. The Sheraton West Port is definitely a high quality hotel. As I said in Peoria, we could hold our reunions in a less expensive facility but we would have to sacrifice some of the things that we have here. We could go to a Days Inn or Motel 6 for example. While they might leave the light on for us, and the room rate would be much less, much of the money saved on room rates would then be eaten up due to the cost of transportation to a facility where we could have our buffet and banquet dinners as well as access to a hospitality room such as the one we have here at the Marriott. The membership was in agreement that we should continue to hold our reunions at high quality hotels.

A motion was then made and carried that we adjourn the 1999 business meeting.

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## SO, LOOK WHO CAME TO DINNER

The following former crewmembers joined us at the Second Annual Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in Falls Church, Virginia.

Thomas Aiello, Antelope  
Paul Bennett, Crockett  
Michael Brown, Graham County  
Eliot Butterfield, Gallup  
Francis Chen, Graham County  
Charles Chupco, Crockett  
Monte Collins, Defiance  
Homer Darrow, Defiance  
David Donaldson, CCR-3  
Terrence Eccleston, Tacoma  
Roger Feltman, Douglas  
Hal Fonner, Crockett  
Scott Fry, Grand Rapids  
Bill Funk, Grand Rapids  
Le Roy Halter II, Canon  
Thomas Hartrick, Crockett  
Albert Havranek, Antelope  
Donald Hawkins, Canon

Thomas Hayden, Marathon  
Richard Hayes, Gallup  
Paul Heebner, Beacon  
Robert Herbert, Canon  
Dennis Ingraham, Grand Rapids  
George Ingram, Crockett  
Daniel Jacobson, Antelope  
James Jarvis, Green Bay  
Byron Jones, Canon  
John Kelly, PATDIV 21  
John Kidd, Crockett  
William King, Ready  
Neil Kozlowski, Asheville  
Robert Krell, Ready  
Harold Lankford, Surprise  
Thomas Ledvina, Beacon  
George Lockway, Crockett  
Frank Lugo, Antelope

Bill Lydon, Green Bay  
Alfred Marinelli, Antelope  
Terry McManuels, Canon  
Albert Minzer, Tacoma  
Robert Mitchell, Asheville  
Phillip Mohler, Grand Rapids  
Valentin Monsale, Defiance  
Charles Moran, Green Bay  
David Nekola, Canon  
Robert Nolan, Welch  
Alton Patin, Asheville  
Ernest Patterson, Chehalis  
John Pletsch, Crockett  
William Powell, Antelope  
Rodney Rempt, Antelope  
Pat Robertazzi, Canon  
David Robinson, Canon  
Vernon Roe, Asheville

Ronald Ruggiero, Marathon  
Roy Russell, Grand Rapids  
James Showalter, Antelope  
Richard Smoktunowicz, Antelope  
John Stillwell, Crockett  
Bobby Strozier, Surprise  
Larry Tatman, Tacoma  
James Thomas, Asheville  
John Torek, Green Bay  
James Tufts, Surprise  
Richard Urban, Ready  
Lewis Volk, Antelope  
Larry Waterman, Marathon  
Danny Watson, Canon  
Gary Wentworth, Antelope  
Dale Westby, Defiance  
Stan Zalinka, Green Bay