

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MCMANUELS FAMILY

As we enter the 1999 Holiday Season, please take a moment to give thanks for the many blessings that we have shared over this past year. Our Association is built on a solid foundation and continues to grow as we move into the new century. While we enjoy the festivities of the Christmas Season, pause to remember those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who continue to support and defend the Flag, our Flag, far away from home, loved ones and families. Remember that they, just like us, have families and loved ones who they leave behind when duty calls. Please take a moment during the Holiday's to give thanks to our Veterans and say a prayer for their safe return home. It is their vigilance and sacrifices that ensures our way of life and keeps America strong. Lastly, I would like to use this final 1999 edition of "Gunboat Riders" to personally say "Thank You" to all of the shipmates and their families who we have had the pleasure of meeting and corresponding with over the past year. Nancy and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a festive Holiday Season and a prosperous, healthy and Happy New Year.

*Wishing each of you the Happiest of Holiday Seasons.
Terry and Nancy McManuels*

NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Since returning from Falls Church, I have spent a considerable amount of time trying to figure ways to reduce the costs associated with our reunions. I realize that attending one of our reunions is expensive and not everyone can afford to join us. So, I have decided to make a few changes to the way we set up the reunion.

The selection of the hotels that we utilize is based on recommendations from Armed Forces Reunions in Norfolk, Virginia. Armed Forces makes the first contact with the hotel sales staff and provides a history of our previous reunions. Armed Forces also makes certain that any hotel that I visit regarding our reunions is a quality facility with a reputation for excellent service. The hotels recommended to me by Armed Forces are also able to meet our requirements for hospitality rooms as well as the banquet and buffet dinners. Compensation for this service is provided to Armed Forces by the hotel.

There is one area where we might be able to save a considerable amount of money. At the previous two reunions, the arrangements for all reservations, registration packages, name tags, tours and the associated tickets have been made by Armed Forces Reunions INC. This year, at the Saint Louis Reunion, Nancy and I are going to attempt to do this ourselves. I have already found that I can do the name tags; in fact, I produced and printed the watermark on the name tags for the first two reunions anyway. As far as tours go, I am using the same company that Armed Forces utilizes to arrange tours in Saint Louis. I plan to set up each tour with "Lunch on Your Own" to further reduce the cost.

The setting up of menu's has always been my responsibility, so there will be no change there. I have also been responsible for arranging the entertainment in the past, based on recommendations from the hotel sales staff and the host city's Convention and Visitors Commission. Like the 1999 reunion, there will not be

any entertainment following the Friday Night buffet dinner. We will have a guest speaker during the Banquet on Saturday with a live band to entertain us on our final night of festivities.

The above changes should be transparent to those who attend the Saint Louis 2000 Reunion. The only change that you will notice is in the registration procedures. You will receive the same basic registration package with the same forms to fill out. The only major change will be that you will mail your registration package directly to me instead of to Armed Forces Reunions. Once I receive your registration package, I will make all the necessary reservations and track meal and tour requirements and make the required reports to the hotel and tour company. All checks should be made out to Patrol Gunboat Association or PGRA.

It is my hope that these changes will reduce some of the costs and will allow a few more former crewmembers to join us for the 2000 Reunion in Saint Louis.

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Patrol Gunboat Association

I received this from a friend and thought it had some food for thought. The author has his own radio show in Rochester NY and also is a syndicated newspaper columnist. A little promo for his show says he is a veteran of the U. S. Army, a college dropout, and gun nut. He has his own web page. I mention all that so you can recognize where he is coming from as he offers his opinions. I'll grant you that he lays it on a little thick, but much of what he said has merit.

WHAT DOES COLUMBINE SAY ABOUT US?

The president said yesterday that the tragedy at Columbine should make us look critically at ourselves as a society and as a nation. That we should search out our obvious weaknesses and failings as a people and as a culture. The president saw Tuesday as a day of national shame. I don't see it that way at all.

I look at Columbine and I am proud to be an American. I am touched and inspired by the goodness and courage of average people, and the extent to which decency and faith spring from the American breast. I mean no disrespect, and I am not overlooking the great pain Tuesday's carnage wrought on so many lives and families, but as I look at what happened in Littleton I see proof not that things are going wrong in America, but that things are going right.

Countless people, from Joe and Betty America to their politicians and commentators, have waxed gravely about what the Columbine murders "say about us." A Utah state legislator said it all started when "they took prayer out of schools." Rosie O'Donnell ranted angrily that we must "stand up to the NRA." A minister at a Denver memorial service said "gun manufacturers must be held accountable for this tragedy." For two days on my radio show I have heard from people who blame abortion, poor parenting, a lack of personal responsibility, Bill Clinton, liberals in general and a growing lack of spirituality in our society. Each of them has seen some great flaw in the American heart that gave rise to the butchers of Columbine. And each of them has been wrong.

Because to see the two murderers and the evil they did as a product of our national soul, and then to simultaneously ignore the hundreds of heroes and the goodness they did is to misrepresent the truth. If the tiny evil minority is a product of this society, so too is the overwhelming good majority. If you look at our failures, you must also look at our successes.

I'm humbled to belong to a society which produced a hero teacher who, shot through the chest, his lifeblood gushing away, led a group of students to the barricaded safety of a classroom. For three and a half hours, as he knew he was dying, he calmed the students, and gave them direction. I am proud to know that my country raised the youngsters who clustered around that teacher, tending his wounds as best they could, keeping him conscious, using a cellular phone to call paramedics for advice. I am honored to share citizenship with the boy who thought to pull out the teacher's wallet so that he might look upon pictures of his family as he fought to stay alive.

It was this culture which produced another teacher, his charges hiding in a room, brave enough to stand with nothing more than a fire extinguisher to drive away a threat to his students' safety.

The teenagers who knelt to shield and comfort their wounded classmates grew up in this society. As they carried the injured to safety and stopped to pray with the frightened, they were acting out of a set of values they learned as Americans. One boy in the library threw himself on top of a fellow student, whispering to her to be calm, saying he would protect her body with his own. That boy, that hero, grew up in a world with legal guns, violent video games, hateful rock 'n' roll, no prayer in schools, countless abortions, grisly movies, Bill Clinton in the White House and record divorce rates.

Yet he, and hundreds of others, acted with the purest of human virtues and in a noble and selfless fashion. What does that "say about us?" It says we are a good people. And while we have weaknesses and challenges, we are fundamentally strong. Our heart is essentially good, our children are raised with natural decency. Lunch ladies shouted directions for students to flee, ninth-graders organized into groups for protection, children's cell phones told cops where the shooting was and when it had died down.

And in the wake of it all, children with shattered lives stood before cameras and politely and clearly told a nation what they had seen. Strong enough to care, strong

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>
Aftanas, Aleksander	Gallup	10/13/1999
Anderson, Richard B.	Tacoma	10/24/1999
Barger, Charles M.	Gallup, Asheville	10/12/1999
Borries, Robert B.	Tacoma	12/01/1999
Bory, Donald L.	Canon	10/12/1999
Bratton, Carlan	Asheville	10/18/1999
Burgess, Alton W.	Grand Rapids	10/06/1999
Burnett, Leland L.	Ready, Surprise	11/27/1999
Burris, William O.	Graham County	11/02/1999
Busching, William	Asheville	10/07/1999
Corry, Stephen O.	Grand Rapids	09/09/1999
Eacho, James F.	Marathon	11/14/1999
Emery, Sidney W.	Gallup	10/12/1999
Evans, David	Defiance, Graham County, PATDIV 21	10/18/1999
Evans, James M.	Graham County	10/12/1999
Gilbert, Kermit C.	Asheville	10/07/1999
Hamann, Glenn M.	Canon	11/02/1999
Hunter, Barry L.	Crockett	12/01/1999
Julian, Franklin D.	Asheville	10/07/1999
Kitchenman, Robert	Welch	11/22/1999
Kochik, George	Surprise	09/23/1999
Lamb, Gary	Tacoma	10/31/1999
Lander, Mikel E.	Ready	10/11/1999
Lechman, Kenneth J.	Green Bay	11/28/1999
Lucindo, Wilfredo B.	Gallup	10/13/1999
Meehan, Michael	Graham County	10/18/1999
Moore, Stephen C.	Tacoma	10/24/1999
Nunez, Roy A.	Crockett	09/10/1999
Parnell, Stanley	Asheville	09/28/1999
Ravago, Salvador R.	Antelope	11/28/1999
Reisner, Bob W.	Antelope	10/08/1999
Rooker, Robert B.	Graham County, Surprise, Chehalis	11/24/1999
Rupright, Michael W.	Grand Rapids	10/29/1999
Sassatelli, Reno A.	COSRIVRON TWO	10/27/1999
Sellgren, Charles A.	Gallup	10/19/1999
Smith, W. T.	Beacon	11/22/1999
Spayd, Steven H.	Green Bay	11/28/1999
Sward, Steven A.	Gallup	11/09/1999
Swarthout, Mark W.	Tacoma	10/04/1999
Walker, Mark D.	Gallup	09/22/1999

enough to endure, strong enough to witness. As the tears are wiped away and the shock and grief begin to fade, Columbine will leave me with pride. Pride in the students and teachers of that suburban school, one little community that represents us all. With dignity, compassion and courage.

The America those kids grew up in helped them to be some of the best and strongest people in the world. They are not the product of a failed society, they are the offspring of the greatest culture and nation on earth. The president who saw no flaw in himself is too quick to see a flaw in us. Those who hate our way of life, or who seek to use tragedy to advance their political causes, will see deep trouble in the American soul. But their perception is not true. It doesn't reflect us, it reflects them.

This is a good land. We are a good people. The children we raise are overwhelmingly decent and pure. For us to mistakenly assert otherwise is to deny them and their virtue. It is to deny the testament of the heroes of Columbine.

by Bob Lonsberry c 1999

Patrol Gunboat Association

ONELIST.COM

For those with access to the internet, Ed Wright (PG-86) started a ONELIST Community called "Gunboats". The Gunboats One List Community had about 30 former crewmembers in it the last time I checked. Ed tells me that he started the list so that members of the gunboat community could more easily contact each other and share their experiences with each other. Ed points out (and I agree) that it is difficult getting to know many of the former Gunboat Crewmembers that were on other ships or were on the same ship at a different time.

To access the Gunboat Onelist community, go to the following address: <http://www.onelist.com/community/gunboats>. Once you are a member, all messages that you send to the onelist community will go to each member. Each message that another members sends will also go out to you as well as the rest of the community.

EBAY AUCTIONS

A while back one of our crewmembers pointed me in the direction of an internet auction called Ebay.com. Since then, I have been bidding on some of the original Revel models of the Patrol Gunboats. I plan to put these models on the raffle table at upcoming reunions.

In the event you decide to bid on one of the models posted on Ebay, please let me know so that we are not bidding against each other. As it stands right now, I always place a bid for those models that are in new condition and still in their original boxes. If you see my internet address (macs@visi.net) listed as one of the bidders, please let me know if you want me to withdraw from the bidding. This way you will be able to acquire one of these models without getting in a bidding war with the Association.

ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

A note from the Historian: Thanks to everyone who added names and information to the Ship's Rosters in the Hospitality Room this year. Someone filled in some names on the Crockett Roster, apparently during Paul Bennett's time onboard. I can read all but two of them. Can whoever added this information please contact me and assist:

QMSN Ron Ba???, 11/68 - 11/69
E?? S??? Bo?ga?d, 10/68 - 10/69

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 two years 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

I AM THANKFUL

I AM THANKFUL.....

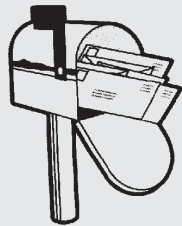
...for the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
...for the mess to clean after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
...for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.
...for my shadow who watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
...for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
...for all the complaining I hear about government, because it means we have freedom of speech.
...for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking.
...for my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
...for the lady behind me in church who sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
...for the piles of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
...for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been productive.
...for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.
...for getting too much e-mail, because it lets me know I have friends who are thinking of me.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!

DONATIONS

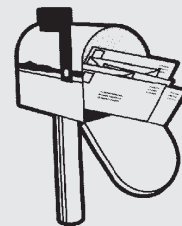
When I first started to put together this Association in 1997, my intent was for us to start holding an annual reunion for all the former Gunboat Riders from each of the seventeen Patrol Gunboats. At the first reunion in Peoria, Illinois (August, 1998) we discussed finances and decided to collect dues for each member at the rate of \$20.00 per year. Prior to that first reunion, I assumed the responsibility for all the expenses associated with putting together that first reunion. I did not do this by myself although I was prepared to do so if necessary. There were however several former crewmembers that sent me money to assist in this project. These funds have been listed in the data file and reported to our auditor as "Donations".

Following my return from Peoria, I created annual dues fields in the data file and now enter the dues paid by each member. The way the data file is currently designed, those that made donations during that first year had their first year dues annotated as "Paid" and their member status was marked "RP". Regardless of the size of any donation, the data file currently lists the member status as "Non-Dues Paying" (RNP) for those that did not send in dues for the 1999 - 2000 fiscal year. If you made a donation to the Association and want that donation converted to Annual Dues, please advise me so that I can change your member status accordingly. I sincerely appreciate the financial assistance provided by those former crewmembers who were generous enough to assist me in starting the Association. Hindsight being 20-20, perhaps I should have set a dues level in the beginning and entered all "Donations" as annual dues and posted them accordingly. I do hope that this explains the "RNP" status to those that donated money to the Association and still received a dues reminder letter from me.

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 Gary Lamb (PG-93, 92):** Tacoma showed me what sea sickness could be like. Great duty!!
- ☐ **From Shipmate Bert Kitchenman (PG-93):** Served from 73 to 75... Best duty in the Navy. Proud to be LOVER, FIGHTER, GUNBOATRIDER.
- ☐ **From Shipmate Steve Spayd (PG-101):** As you can see from the time on this e-mail, your phone call today kept me up way past my bedtime checking out the Website. Thanks for finding me.

Note: I ran this last year and liked it so much that I decided to print it again this year.

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 sponsored 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 loved 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.

I JUST FORGOT

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a somewhat irate crewmember reminding me that he had mailed me a commissioning book and a photograph of his ship along with a note requesting that I send them back to him when I was done scanning them for the Association. He also pointed out that he had included a note stating that he definitely wanted them back. He was certain that I had received them because I have that photograph on the ships page on our Web Site. He felt that two years was a bit excessive and that he really wanted his picture and commissioning book back.

During the first few months of this project, I received many items from former crewmembers, many of which were to be returned. After the first reunion in Peoria, our newly elected historian Dave Donaldson agreed to take custody of these items and create a traveling display that he would bring with him to the reunion. Items that were to be returned would be mailed back to their respective owners as soon as copies were made. Donated items would become the property of the Association. The photograph and commissioning book I mentioned above obviously fell through the cracks and were never returned. For that, I apologize.

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.

NONE