

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

<http://members.visi.net/~macs/index.html>
<http://www.onelist.com/community/gunboats>

VOLUME 3 - NUMBER 2

SUMMER EDITION 2000

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WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Each year as we continue to grow, we get new shipmates that are attending their first reunion. For those of you who fit into this group, here is a word of advise. As soon as you finish checking in to the hotel, your first stop should be the Hospitality Room for check-in. There, you will be able to purchase raffle tickets, additional 50 - 50 tickets, get your coffee mug and Saint Louis souvenir, and get a Saint Louis Patrol Gunboat Reunion Ballcap. Next, you should sign in the Association Guest Book, then register for the week's events and receive your tour and meal tickets, as well as get answers to any questions you may have. Once all the administrative items are taken care of, get a beer or soft drink, a handful of chips or pretzels and visit our Historian's display tables. Then grab a chair, sit down, relax and visit with some of your old shipmates.

REUNION CUT-OFF DATES

Remember, the cut-off date for reservations at the Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet is July 15, 2000. Rooms cancelled less than 24 hours prior to arrival and no shows will be charged. Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel. The phone number for the Sheraton West Port Hotel is (800) 822-3535. Make sure to advise the reservations personnel that you are with the Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in order to receive the special group rate of \$85.00 plus tax. If you plan to stay on days other than the primary dates of August 9 - 13, you will need to contact the hotel directly at (314) 878-1500 and ask for "In House Reservations" in order to receive these special rates. The \$85.00 rate is good for four days prior until four days after the reunion.

Reservations and payments for scheduled tours, meals and other activities at the reunion must be received by the Reunion Coordinator on or before July 1, 2000. Please use the reservation form included with the March Newsletter. Full refunds will be sent for all activities if cancellation is received by July 20, 2000. Make your checks payable to "PGRA" and mail to:

Patrol Gunboat Association
c/o Terry W. McManuels
1673 Kilt Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

DONT MISS MOVEMENT

I remember my early days in the Navy, the ultimate error in judgement was "Missing Movement", the worst thing that a sailor could do, having the ship sail without him. The best way to avoid "Missing Movement" was to always plan to be a bit ahead of schedule. If liberty expired at 0800, I usually tried to arrange my schedule so that I would be back to the ship by 0600.

The Saint Louis Reunion Sails on August 9 but in order to avoid "Missing Movement", your reservations must be in on time. You won't loose your stripes, nor will you end up restricted or doing extra duty, but you could miss out on some of the festivities if you are late with your reservations. Additionally, it is much easier to plan and arrange the reunion when we know how many people will be attending each event.

Don't miss the boat, get your reservation packages in the mail early so that you don't miss out on anything. **Remember, hotel reservations are due no later than July 15, 2000. Your registration package is due to me along with your check no later than July 1, 2000.** While I do have some flexibility with the registration cut-off, I need it to plan the events such as tours. I also try to make sure that new members, those that are located after the cut-off date, have an opportunity to join us at the reunion.

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Patrol Gunboat Association

"2000 BALLCAPS"

Once again, I ordered Patrol Gunboat Association Ballcaps from Eagle Crest INC in Jacksonville, FL. These are custom embroidered and "Made In America". They are identical in quality to the ones ordered for ships and shore commands by the Navy Exchange. As always, the hats will be available free with the purchase of \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Table Drawing. These ballcaps can also be purchased for \$15.00 each. After the reunion, any remaining hats will be available for sale for \$15.00 each plus shipping. We have also had special Commemorative Coffee Mugs made to celebrate our third annual Gunboat Association Reunion as well as a small souvenir unique to the 2000 Saint Louis Reunion. The coffee mugs and souvenir will be given out to every crewmember at the reunion during registration.

For anyone interested in collecting the entire set of hats and mugs, I still have a number of them from both the 1998 and 1999 reunions.

"POW/MIA FLAG"

As we celebrate and remember this Memorial Day, I want to share with you an article in "Veterans Journal" about the history of the POW/MIA flag.

History Of The POW/MIA Flag

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIA's. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all United Nations members states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution. On March 9, 1989, an official League flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony. The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where it stands as a powerful symbol of national commitment to America's POW/MIA's until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for U.S. personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it

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> |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Angell, Harold | Grand Rapids | 04/05/2000 |
| Armstrong, Dale W. | Chehalis | 03/16/2000 |
| Barrett, John | Welch | 05/30/2000 |
| Buhrlage, Gustav | Graham County | 03/15/2000 |
| Clark, James | Asheville | 04/05/2000 |
| Colbert, David R. | Asheville | 05/17/2000 |
| Fallon, Michael A. | Asheville | 05/06/2000 |
| Folts, Victor | Graham County | 04/13/2000 |
| Foote, Richard M. | Grand Rapids | 05/25/2000 |
| Halloran, Wayne M. | Graham County | 04/06/2000 |
| Hidalgo, Carlito D. | Ready | 03/24/2000 |
| Ihde, Richard A. | Grand Rapids | 04/06/2000 |
| Johnston, Lowell T. | PATDIV 21 | 05/11/2000 |
| Krupp, Joseph O. | Canon | 03/25/2000 |
| Lee, Ronald B. | Graham County | 06/01/2000 |
| May, Robert H. | Gallup | 05/12/2000 |
| McSorley, William J. | Ready | 04/06/2000 |
| Moore William | Beacon, Douglas | 03/13/2000 |
| Morris, Don | Green Bay | 05/25/2000 |
| Nermore, Arthur J. | Ready | 03/22/2000 |
| Prescott, William E. | Graham County | 04/10/2000 |
| Roberts, Roger K. | Asheville | 03/30/2000 |
| Skiver, Rex | Canon | 03/13/2000 |
| Snyder, Nicholas J. | Grand Rapids | 05/17/2000 |
| Totoris, Thomas E. | Canon | 04/20/2000 |
| Waldrop, Eugene | Crockett | 05/25/2000 |
| Wiest, Charles N. | Antelope | 04/06/2000 |
| Wilke, Randy | Gallup | 06/06/2000 |
| Wylie, James M. | Ready | 03/26/2000 |

"as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolve as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation". The importance of the League's POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIA's. Other than "Old Glory", the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, having been displayed in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982. With passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act during the first term of the 105th Congress, the League's POW/MIA flag will fly each year on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It is to be posted on the grounds or in the public lobbies of major military installations, as designated by the Secretary of the Defense, all Federal national cemeteries, the national Korean War Veterans Memorial, the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial, all United States Postal Service offices, the US Capitol, the White House and at the official offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veteran's Affairs and the Director of the Selective Service System.

Congressman Lamar Smith

Patrol Gunboat Association

2000 50 / 50 DRAWING

At of press time, there have been \$654.00 in 50/50 tickets returned. If we do as well on ticket sales at the Saint Louis Reunion as we have done in the past, the winner's share should again exceed our previous year. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, just drop a check in the mail to me for \$1.00 for each ticket or \$10.00 for 12 tickets, made out to PGRA. I will complete the stubs for you. It would help if you could send me return address labels for the stubs. Like last year, we will continue to sell tickets for the 50-50 drawing up until the day of the drawing. In 1998, we sold \$1120.00 in 50-50 tickets, making the total amount shared by the three winners \$560.00. In 1999, we sold \$1352.00 in 50-50 tickets. Ray Patin (PG-84) won the first prize, a check for \$338.00. The second place prize of \$202.80 went to Valentin Monsale (PG-95) and the third place prize. \$135.20, went to Toni Volk (PG-86). The remaining money from the 50-50 ticket sales is used to help pay for hospitality room expenses, entertainment, and other administrative costs associated with the reunion. The purchase of 50/50 tickets is a great way to support the Association. Not only does it provide support, it gives you an opportunity to cash in on big bucks at the same time. **Remember, you need not be present to win.** Tickets will be available until just prior to the Banquet Dinner, however, if you will not be attending the Reunion, you will need to mail your check to me before we leave for Saint Louis. I would suggest that you mail your check before August 1 just to be safe. We will have our drawings for the 50/50 winners on Saturday evening following the Banquet Dinner and Raffle Table Drawing.



BUSINESS MEETING

We will be holding a brief Business Meeting in one of the hotel meeting rooms again this year. Remember, this meeting is for everyone, including wives and other family members.

Topics will include Membership Growth, Association Finances, Plans for the 2001 Reunion and Event Planning. Comments and suggestions will be taken from the membership at this meeting also. As I explained to each crewmember when I first made contact with them, this Association and the reunions are a family affair. The reason I try to arrange interesting tours and quality meals is so that the reunion would be something that you would be proud to bring your wife and children to. Please join the membership in helping ensure our future continues to grow as well as make certain that our Reunions continue to be successful and entertaining events for the entire Patrol Gunboat Association Membership. That membership includes everyone in the Patrol Gunboat Family.

RV AND MOTOR HOME PARK

For those traveling to the Reunion in an RV or Motor Home, the following RV Parks have been recommended to me:

Sundermeier RV Park, (800) 929-0832
Saint Louis RV Park, (800) 878-3330

For additional information, contact the parks directly.

MISGUIDED WISDOM

One day in the Garden of Eden Eve called out "Lord - I have a problem!" "What's that Eve?" "Lord, I know you created me, and gave me this great garden and that hilarious snake..but I'm bored.."

"WHY?"

"Well, I'm lonely and I'm sick of apples while we're at it" "Then Eve- I shall create MAN for you..." "What's MAN??" "A flawed creature with bad traits who will be vain and give you a hard time. But he will be bigger and faster and like to hunt and kill. He'll look ridiculous at times, but he will satisfy your physical needs. He'll be rather witless and will delight in childish things like fighting and kicking around a ball and since he won't be smart - he'll always need your advice"

"So Lord...what's the catch.."

"Eve, like I said, he'll be vain and proud and arrogant so you'll have to let him believe I created him first...it will be our little secretWoman to woman."

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE

The Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet has complimentary airport shuttle service that picks up from the Saint Louis airport on the hour and on the half hour.

If arriving in Saint Louis on Southwest Air, go to Terminal Exit #15 and find the Sheraton West Port Shuttle. If arriving on any other airline, catch the hotel shuttle at the Main Terminal Exit #18. The shuttle will take you directly to the hotel. Make certain that you get off at the Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet. Shuttle service will also be available to take you back to the airport when you depart.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The **Sheraton West Port Hotel** is located at 191 West Port Plaza, Saint Louis, MO 63146. The hotel is about 10 miles from Saint Louis Airport (Shuttle Service is available). If driving, take I-70 to Saint Louis, then take I-270 heading South. Exit at Dorsett Road. Turn left on Dorsett. Get in right lane, go one block, turn right on Progress Parkway. Proceed one mile on Progress Parkway to the stop light. Continue straight into West Port Plaza.

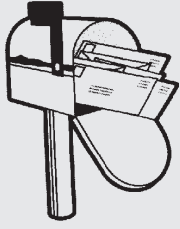
WE ARE ON THE INTERNET

The Patrol Gunboat Association Web Site / Home Page Internet Address is:

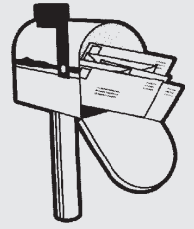
<http://members.visi.net/~macs/index.html>

You can also find the Web Site by using a search engine and searching for "Patrol Gunboat Reunion". I have placed a separate page for each ship, as well as Squadron's, Staff's 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. After the reunion, I will include a photo album using photographs taken in Saint Louis in addition to the photo's already posted from the 1999 Falls Church Reunion.

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 Jim Wylie {PG-87}:** My seagoing time on READY is still vivid in my memory. It's where I really learned to be a sailor. Everybody had to know something about the other guy's job to keep those ships going, and the camaraderie was outstanding.

☐ **From Shipmate John Kost {PG-95}:** Thank you for the newsletters. Thank you for putting this together, I hope to finally meet in Saint Louis.

☐ **From Shipmate Dave Colbert {PG-84}:** I just received my copy of SHIFT COLORS and was going through the Reunion section in the vain hope that there would be one in there that I would be able to attend. Well low and behold, there was, not only one that I could attend, but one that was a great period in my Naval career. I was on the Asheville when she was in Guam. We brought her back to the States and went to Great Lakes to go into the Reserves. I could go on and on but I won't. As we used to say "Lovers, Fighters, Gunboat Riders.

Thought for the Day

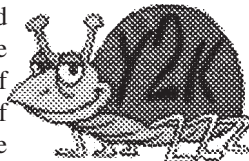
If a man speaks in the forest, and there is no woman there to hear him, is he still wrong?

THE "BUG"

So much conversation about a couple of digits! Let me also say that I am no computer expert. I will also say that I have not built a bomb shelter in the mountains, nor have I laid in supplies of military K-Rations, C-Rations or MRE's. I do have a generator, but I purchased that due to the many storms that we have here and the frequency that we seem to be without power. Having said this, I regret that on January 1, 2000, I was in fact not Y2K compliant?

Hell I don't know. As I understand it, the Y2K Bug is primarily a software program problem where the execution of the program is dependent on dates. If there is one thing that our data base program does have, it's dates. All that said, I can assure you of two things. Number 1, I have just purchased the latest state of the art computer with all the bells and whistles. It is Y2K compliant.

Having said that I will go on to number 2. I am still using an old database software program that I am sure is not Y2K compliant. Although it uses the appropriate date configuration, if your dues are paid to the year 2000, it will print out a date format like 09/30/00. Now, does that mean that the year is 1900 or does it mean that the year is 2000. Who really cares? I don't. But, if this really bothers you, just remember that before you complain, you just may owe 99 years in back dues. So, if you notice an error in your membership status, please let me know. I just may have to learn a new software program.



WHAT TO WEAR IN SAINT LOUIS

Saint Louis will most likely be fairly warm in August. None of the scheduled tour stops require anything other than what you would normally wear when out for a family outing on a summer day. I always stipulate in the contract that tour busses will have restrooms and air conditioning.

Dress for the Friday Night Buffet dinner is casual. A sport coat and tie would be appropriate for the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner.

RAFFLE TABLE PRIZES

At the 1999 reunion in Falls Church, Virginia, Garry Wentworth (USS Antelope) had his ticket drawn and he selected the Gift Certificate for a free Two Night Stay at the Sheraton West Port Hotel during this years reunion. Jim Thomas (USS Asheville) won the One Night Free Stay. Gary and Jim have been advised that their hotel bills will be credited with their free nights, courtesy of the Association. This covers the basic room charge, it does not include Room Service or any charges other than the Reunion Special Reservation Rate. Raffle tickets will be sold again this year and with the purchase of \$20.00 in tickets, you receive a free Saint Louis Reunion Ballcap.

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