

# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

## GUNBOAT RIDERS

<http://members.visi.net/~macs/index.html>  
<http://www.onelist.com/community/gunboats>  
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VOLUME 3 - NUMBER 3

FALL EDITION 2000

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### 2000 - 2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Association dues for the 2000-2001 fiscal year are due on October 1, 2000. The 2000 fiscal year closed out with us having a total of 238

dues paying members. That is 33 more members than we had at the end of the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The membership present at the first reunion in Peoria, IL, in 1998 voted on annual dues of \$20.00. This is to cover the costs of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletters maintenance of the Association's Internet Web Site. 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. Those members paying dues also receive a copy of the Association Membership Roster with addresses and phone numbers of other former crewmembers.

During the past year, we have again reduced our initial start-up deficit and if this year goes as well as the previous two, we will be operating in the black by the time we meet in 2002.

Each and every year the continued success of the Patrol Gunboat Association is dependent upon your support. As our membership increases, we become more and more financially sound. As decided by the membership, annual dues are \$20.00. To determine if your 2000 - 2001 dues are paid, check the mailing label on the envelope that this newsletter came in. **If there is a "RP" on the label to the right of your name, then your dues are paid for the upcoming fiscal year. If there is a "RNP" or "RNP1" on the label, then your dues are not paid and should be remitted promptly.** 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.

### LATE ISSUE

I guess that I have a real advantage in that the Newsletter is pretty much a one man operation so far, so if it's late, well, then it's late. BUT, this time, I have a really good reason for delaying this issue of "Gunboat Riders". This edition announces the location of the next reunion, and frankly, I had difficulty in locating an appropriate hotel on the West Coast to host our 2001 Reunion. Finally, after a great deal of discussion with hotels from California to Washington State, we settled on San Diego, CA for our next reunion.

### 2001 REUNION SURVEY

Enclosed, you will find the Reunion Survey for the San Diego, California, Reunion that will be held in August, 2001. The survey requests basic information that will be of great assistance in making plans for tours, meals, bus transportation and guides. The 2001 Reunion will be held at the **Hanalei Hotel in San Diego, California from August 8 - 12, 2001.**

This will be our fourth reunion. During our annual business meeting we hear comments and suggestions from the membership in attendance and, so far, I have heard no complaints about our basic itinerary. Wednesday, August 8, will be an early check-in day. The hospitality room will open at noon and all meals on Wednesday will be on your own. Thursday will include a day tour on a charter coach. Lunch will be on you own during the tour. Thursday dinner will be on your own. Friday will again include a tour during the day, again with lunch on your own. Friday evening will feature a buffet dinner with light entertainment. As always, we will take a break from the festivities on Saturday morning for our annual business meeting. We will get back into the swing of things with a three to four hour tour on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday Banquet Dinner will include dancing to a live band. The room rate at the Hanalei Hotel will be \$109.00 per night plus tax.

If you feel, right now, that you will definitely be attending the 2001 reunion, barring some catastrophe, mark the **100% Sure** block on your survey. If you feel that you are going to give it your best shot, but reserve the right to change your mind, mark **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, then 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, 2000**. It is very important.

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# Patrol Gunboat Association

## 2000 RAFFLE WINNERS

Here are some of the highlights of the 2000 Raffle Table Drawing. Everyone that purchased \$20.00 in Raffle Table Tickets received a FREE Saint Louis Reunion Ballcap. So, everyone who purchased tickets came out a winner to begin with. Tickets for the Raffle Drawing were available only at the reunion and the winners had to be present to claim their prizes. A few shipmates were fortunate enough to receive some added winnings. Once again, we gave away a Dumas Model of the USS Crockett, 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. We also gave away 3 classic plastic Revell Models of the PG's that I acquired last year on E-bay. I took three of them to the reunion in Saint Louis and still have a few for future reunions. Interestingly, these models went before the free rooms. On the subject of free rooms, Harold Lankford and his wife won a free night stay at the San Diego Reunion. Homer Darrow won two free nights. Other items on this years raffle included a Lone Sailor Statue, two Singing Fish (yes, you read that correctly), a two piece luggage set, and of course, several sets of Association Coffee Mugs.

## 2000 50 - 50 WINNERS

Each year, we mail out tickets for those crewmembers who wish to participate in the annual 50 - 50 drawing. We use these funds to help pay for some of the expenses such as Hospitality Room refreshments, Raffle Table Items. Entertainment for Saturday Night and a myriad of other expenses we have every year.



Each crew member receives 12 tickets. Those who want to participate need only fill out the ticket stubs and return them to me along with a check for \$1.00 for one ticket, or \$10.00 for 12 tickets. We continue to sell 50 - 50 tickets throughout the year and at the reunion up until the Saturday Business Meeting. This year we sold \$1247.00 in 50 - 50 tickets. Of this, \$623.50 was distributed as prizes, and an equal amount was retained by the Association. The winners of the 50 - 50 drawing did not need to be present to win. The winners of this years drawing were:

**First Place: Richard Anderson, USS Tacoma \$311.75**

**Second Place: Bill Funk, USS Grand Rapids \$187.05**

**Third Place: Charles Burpee, USS Canon \$124.70**

Once again, two of the winners did not attend the reunion so they had their checks mailed to them. I want to say a special thank you 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 the 2001 Reunion. There are twelve 50 - 50 tickets included with this newsletter for the drawing that will be held following the banquet dinner in San Diego. 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>
Beal, Coy D.	Asheville	06/30/2000
Belgard, William P.	Welch	07/31/2000
Braunck, Anthony	Ready	08/02/2000
Braunck, Anthony	Antelope	08/02/2000
Brown, Thomas	Tacoma	06/07/2000
Copperwheat, David C.	Graham County	07/07/2000
Fitzsimonds, Gerald W.	Douglas	07/18/2000
Frailey, Fred	Marathon	08/15/2000
Hill, John	Tacoma	07/18/2000
Joseph, William P.	Ready	09/06/2000
Kaufmann, Kenneth D.	Grand Rapids	07/28/2000
Laughlin, Danny A.	Welch	08/30/2000
Lawson, John W.	Gallup	06/07/2000
Nelson, Don	Graham County	07/17/2000
Peichel, Douglas J.	Welch	08/27/2000
Perry, Greg	Crockett	06/30/2000
Reynolds, Roger R.	Canon	06/29/2000
Rogers, Roy T.	Tacoma	08/02/2000
Ruhe, Barnaby S.	Welch	09/05/2000
Schultz, Dale E.	Welch	08/28/2000
Sliker, Thomas S.	Gallup	08/16/2000
Thomas, James M.	Green Bay	07/18/2000
Verhulst, Durrion	Ready	06/29/2000
Walker, Joel N.	Ready	06/28/2000
Whitfield, James G.	Crockett	06/29/2000
Wilcox, Dennis J.	Crockett	07/17/2000

## REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

Each year we set up a Hospitality Room for everyone to relax in. This is basically where all the fun happens. While the Buffet Dinner, Banquet Dinner and tours are all arranged and scheduled, the hospitality room is where you can go to just sit and relax on your own. Here you can have a beer, a soft drink, some light snacks and some good company. It is the place to be whenever you have a few minutes of free time at the reunion. It is also where we set up displays of memorabilia such as ships photographs, complete muster sheets for the crewmembers, and complete copies of all the newsletters. There are also photograph albums with pictures from previous reunions. Dave Donaldson, our Historian does a fine job of providing the majority of this display as well as transporting it back and forth to the reunions.

While we were in Saint Louis, Nancy and I also took quite a few photographs that I will put in albums. Unfortunately, I was unable to get many pictures of the Hospitality Room or of the Saturday Night Banquet Dinner. If anyone who attended the Saint Louis Reunion has some good photographs that they would like to share with me, I would appreciate it. I would like original copies made from the negatives that I can keep and put in albums for others to enjoy. While I am especially looking for photos of the Hospitality Room and the Banquet, any photographs that you think would interest the rest of the Association would also be appreciated. I would also like to scan some of 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

## 2000 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 by the Navy Exchange for ships and shore commands. Each crew member who purchases \$20.00 in Raffle Table Tickets during the reunion receives a free ball cap. Additionally, everyone who registers receives a commemorative Patrol Gunboat Association Coffee Mug when they check in.



We have a number of 1998 and 1999 ball caps and coffee mugs left that are available on a first come first serve basis. I have gotten much better at guessing the number of people who will attend the reunions so we have fewer Saint



Louis 2000 ball caps left than we did in previous years. The 1998 and 1999 ballcaps can be purchased for \$10.00 each, plus \$3.00 postage. The 2000 ball caps can be purchased for \$15.00 each plus \$3.00 postage. The coffee mugs are \$5.00 plus \$3.00 postage for the 2000 mugs, the 1998 and 1999 mugs are \$3.00 plus postage. You can also purchase multiple hats and cups, just figure \$3.00 postage for each hat and cup combination.

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## JUST A DOLLAR

Take out a one-dollar bill and look at it. The one-dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant, then pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin

Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved. If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, and ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776. If you look at the right-hand circle and do a bit of research, you will see that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States. It is always visible whenever he speaks. Yet most Americans fail to see the significance of this seal.

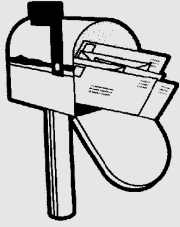
The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, the Bald Eagle wears no crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield is white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and clouds of misunderstanding appear to be rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one nation.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

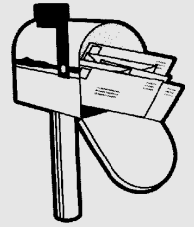
Many say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But, think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E PLURIBUS UNUM", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

**"WHY DON'T WE KNOW THIS?"**

# 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 Al Havanrek {PG-86}:** The facility for this year was perfect, a beautiful setting by the lake with shops, entertainment and restaurants close at hand was all that anyone could hope for. I'm looking forward to San Diego or wherever we may go with great anticipation. Thanks again for a most enjoyable reunion.

☐ **From Shipmate Bobby Strozier {PG-97}:** Three years in a row, the reunion was a real good time and perhaps even better this year than before. For those who missed shame on you. Charlie Moran got a call late Thursday and made it in Friday morning from San Francisco. I don't know if he thought it was worth it but some of us really enjoyed harassing him. Looking forward to seeing all of you next year in San Diego.

☐ **From Shipmate Brian Boortz {PG-87}:** I Although I wasn't able to attend the last two reunions I just wanted to say thank you for all your hard work. I keep up with both of the current guestbooks and really love reading about all the old times. I am already planning next year's trip to San Diego and will probably take the entire week off. Thank you once again.

## 2001, YOU ASKED FOR IT

As I stated earlier in the newsletter, I recently spent a few days in San Diego negotiating a contract for the 2001 Reunion. I must say, after this, buying a car will be easy. To start with, our group is still too small to command the attention of many of the hotel sales staff. While they want our business, our group will not generate the revenue that makes hotels fight for the opportunity to host our event.

I arrived in San Diego on Wednesday, September 13 and checked into the first hotel that we were looking at. The room rate would be \$139.00 and banquet and buffet meals over \$50.00 per person. My opinion was that they just didn't want our business.

The second hotel that I looked at was a huge facility with over one thousand rooms. The rate was an acceptable \$104.00 per night and the meals ran in the area of \$35.00 for both banquet and buffet dinners. The main drawback was that we would have to pay for the hospitality room as well as the free rooms that we gave away at the 2000 Reunion raffle drawing. Another drawback was that the only week that we could have those rates was the last week of the month. Our group would be a filler in this hotel, we would definitely not be their priority as far as service is concerned.

On to hotel number three. This hotel had an excellent rate, the meals were reasonable and the hospitality room was at no charge. They provided the complimentary rooms to fulfill our raffle table needs and were an excellent size facility so that we would be their main group during the week that we wanted. Oh yea, the hotel was old, maintenance was seriously lacking, the hallways were dirty, rooms in serious need of maintenance, the pool was dirty, and to make matters worse, it was painted salmon (you all do remember the color salmon). Next.

My last stop was the Hanalei Hotel. The room rate was a bit higher than some, lower than others. At \$109.00 we get to stay at a clean facility, the rooms are well maintained and the grounds are clean and very impressive. Our hospitality room needs are included at no charge

provided we meet our minimum room block. The hotel is providing the complimentary rooms to satisfy the raffle table requirements from Saint Louis. The meals will run very close to the \$30.00 limit that I have attempted to maintain. None of the hotels in the area provide free shuttle service from the airport and parking is not usually free. However the Hanalei has agreed to provide reduced parking fees for our group.

What this means to us is that for a family coming to the 2001 San Diego Reunion, it will cost approximately \$80.00 more this year than it did last year in Saint Louis. From what I have seen, it is a bargain for San Diego.

The Hanalei has 402 rooms with 14 one and two bedroom suites. There are connecting rooms available, and each room comes with it's own private balcony or patio. They are located in the Hotel Circle area of Mission Valley with easy access to the Airport, Sea World, beaches and Old Town, offering a complimentary shuttle to Fashion Valley Shopping Center, Old Town and the San Diego Metropolitan Trolley Depot. They also have a large outdoor pool, spa, gift shop, fitness center and sauna. There are two excellent restaurants where the food is outstanding.

As always, we have negotiated a standard rate for single, double, triple or quad, with a choice of King or double Queen beds. Each room comes with a coffee maker, cable television and in room movies, even internet access..

## 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.

<b>Shipmate:</b>	<b>Ship:</b>	<b>Departed</b>
Dale E. Schultz	USS Welch	07/1997

# PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

## GUNBOAT RIDERS

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

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ICQ-79121469

POST REUNION EDITION, 2000

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

## 2000 REUNION SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

### 2000 REUNION

Our Third Annual Patrol Gunboat Reunion was held in Saint Louis, Missouri at the Sheraton West Port Lake Side Chalet from August 9 - 15, 2000. We arrived one day early so that we could get things set up and ready for the first guests. While the bellman started to unload the car, we finished checking in and then headed to the room with three full loads of hats, coffee mugs, raffle table prizes, and all the assorted memorabilia that would start the displays in the Hospitality Room. While the bellman caught his breath, we headed to Sam's Club for several hundred dollars worth of soft drinks, pretzels, chips and other snacks. Then back to the hotel where we once again gave the hotel staff a workout as they moved the refreshments to the Hospitality Room.

Next came a meeting with the Hotel Staff. While Nancy Masterson was our sales representative and made all the arrangements for our reunion, Christine Harris was our direct liaison with the hotel and took care of making certain that all our needs were met while we were there. Next, back to the room to start to 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. 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



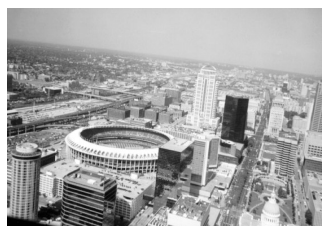
tickets for the raffle that would be held after the Banquet Dinner. And like last year, \$20.00 in raffle tickets got you a free 2000 Patrol Gunboat Association Ball Cap. Next came the Registration Packages. Each crewmember received an envelope with his name on it; inside was a full itinerary for the 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 crew members. Thursday started off with check in for new arrivals in the Hospitality Room, then off to catch the bus for our first tour. The Bus departed the hotel at 9:00 am for a narrated riding tour of Grant's Farm, the showcase estate of the Busch family. Grant's Farm is a wild animal preserve owned by the Busch family. It is home to animals from 5 of the 7 continents and we were treated to everything from White Tail Deer, to Bison to Llamas to a Kangaroo. After the wild animals, we got to visit

the Clydesdale stables and even spotted a Dalmatian or two. From the farm, we headed to the Budweiser Brewery to watch how America's favorite beer is made.

There were even some free samples. Nothing like a cold beer on a hot day. By 4:00 pm, we were ready to get back to the hotel and relax in the hospitality room. Wednesday evening, we were treated to a Wine and Cheese Reception to welcome us to the Sheraton West Port Lakeside Chalet.



Friday, we had the opportunity to ride up the world renowned Archway to the West. What a magnificent view of the city and of Illinois from the top. We even saw the courthouse where the Dred Scott Decision was handed down. From there to Union Station for lunch. A converted train station, Union Station houses dozens of restaurants and small shops. We finished the day with a riding city tour, stopping at the spectacular New Cathedral of St. Louis, home of one of the largest and most beautiful displays of mosaic art in the Western Hemisphere. We even had time for a ride through the site of the 1904 World's Fair. Again, as the tour ended, we were all ready to sit and relax for the drive back to the hotel. By 4:00, we were congregating in the Hospitality room once again. A cool drink and a handful of chips went well along with some fine conversation



with old friends. Friday night we held our buffet dinner. Like last year, I didn't arrange for any entertainment, so after a great meal, we basically entertained ourselves. One at a time, I invited all the wives who were stationed overseas to come to the podium and tell the group one or two stories that they most remembered about their time abroad. As I listened to some of the difficulties that the wives went through while we were at sea, I gained a new respect for what the Navy Spouse goes through.



We also had a special announcement at the buffet dinner. Montey Collins son, Marshal, is now Chief Petty Officer Marshal Collins. Montey has been a regular at our reunions and the entire group was glad to hear her announcement. Montey's husband Marshal was onboard the Defiance (PG-95). He passed away

# Patrol Gunboat Association

in 1997. Following the buffet dinner, as usual, we all retired to the Hospitality Room.

Saturday morning we held our annual Business Meeting. Coffee, tea and talk about the serious side of our Association lasted until close to 11:00 am. Then a quick bite to eat in the hotel restaurant, and we were again off on a tour, this time to historic Saint Charles. Our bus departed at 12:00 for a narrated riding tour. St. Charles is on the banks of the Missouri River and is a city that has been welcoming visitors since 1769. The nine block National Register Historic District, with its brick streets, gas lights and charming restored buildings, is the site for over 75 one-of-a-kind antique, craft and gift shops, plus a variety of quaint restaurants and wineries. You could easily imagine the early traders and trappers roaming the streets and pausing for a drink in the local taverns. There was plenty to eat and plenty to buy. You could almost hear the old French fur trappers as we headed back to the hotel for our Banquet Dinner.

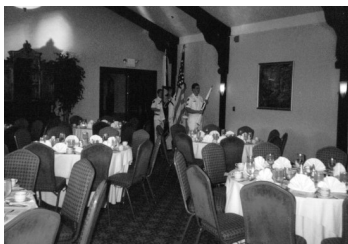


Saturday evening, for me it is a time of mixed emotion. The Banquet Dinner is the highlight of the reunion. But, it is also a time when I stop and realize that it is almost over. It is our formal event, at least as formal as we get during the reunion.

The bar opened at 6:00 pm, the attitude adjustment hour. The banquet hall was set and absolutely picture perfect. At 7:00 pm Paul Bennett, our Master of Ceremonies for the evening requested that the group take their places. Colors were presented by United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps, Inaugural Division. Sponsored by THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES, Saint Louis Council, the unit was established in March 1961.

The "Oldest and Boldest" at nearly 40 years old, Inaugural is the oldest unit operating in Navy Sea Cadet Corps Region 07 (Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska) and one of the oldest units operating continuously from the US Naval & Marine Corps. As I watched these fine young sailors as they proudly executed the Colors Ceremony absolutely perfectly, I couldn't help but think back to my days as a young sailor. Many things have changed since then, but many things have also remained the same.

Following the Posting of the Colors, we said the Pledge of Allegiance and played The National Anthem, the Invocation was read, and then as always, we observed a moment of silence out of respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The Color Guard then retired the Colors, the benediction was said and Paul Bennett invited everyone to join in for the 2000 Annual Banquet Dinner.



Once again, the food was great. The staff at the Sheraton West Port did a terrific job, the chef provided us with an excellent meal and I think everyone had plenty to eat. Following dinner, we were all treated to a fine presentation by our guest speaker for the night. Our speaker this year was LCDR James Morgan. LCDR Morgan was commissioned in 1998 from the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Missouri. While on active duty, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and served as the Damage Control Assistant aboard USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092). During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, he participated in board and search operations in the North Red Sea.



Transferring to the Naval Reserves in 1992, he served as Operations Officer of Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 112, a Commissioned Unit manned by Naval Reservists. From 1997 until 1999, CDR Morgan served with Special Boat

Unit 22 as a Patrol Leader and Det. Officer in Charge of a PBR MK III detachment. While at Special Boat Unit 22, he qualified as a Combat Craft Patrol Officer.

CDR Morgan recently assumed command of Inshore Boat Unit Fourteen, which is also a commissioned unit manned by Naval Reservists. These units are the sole provider of small craft coastal and harbor defense and are deployed continuously to provide antiterrorist protection for high value assets around the world.



Inshore Boat Unit Fourteen has recently returned from an operation in Mombasa, Kenya, providing security for the Military Sealift Command doing an off-load in Mombasa Harbor.

Commander Morgan lives in Saint Louis with his wife,

Stephanie, and son, Jack. It was fitting that we managed to locate a fellow "Brown Water Sailor" for this year's reunion. I think we all enjoyed his comments as well as seeing a shipmate is those fine looking "Sporting Greens" again.

We gave away over \$800.00 worth of prizes this year at the raffle drawing including another Dumas model of the Crockett. I also managed to acquire several 1970's vintage Revell Plastic Models of the Gunboats this past year which were also on the raffle table. Finally, we held the 2000 Saint Louis Reunion 50-50 drawing. The winners of this years drawing were:

**First Place: Richard Anderson, USS Tacoma \$311.75**

**Second Place: Bill Funk, USS Grand Rapids \$187.05**

**Third Place: Charles Burpee, USS Canon \$124.70**

Throughout the year I send all the members 50-50 tickets to fill out and mail in. Each crewmember receives 12 tickets. Those who want to participate in the drawing simply fill out the stubs and return them to me along with a check for \$1.00 for each ticket, or \$10.00 for all twelve tickets. I also send out tickets to each new member throughout the year. We continue to sell 50 - 50 tickets at the reunion up until the Saturday Business Meeting. The money from the 50-50 sales is divided equally, with half used for prizes and the other half for use by the Association. This money is 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 not present this year had their checks mailed to them shortly after we returned to Virginia Beach. 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 San Diego. Help support a growing Association by purchasing at least twelve tickets. Fill out the enclosed tickets and return them to me with your check if

you want to participate. You may purchase additional tickets 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

# Patrol Gunboat Association

drawing.

Finally, dinner was over, the tables were cleared off, the speeches ended and the prizes were given out. With lots of energy and , full glasses, it was time to enjoy the entertainment provided by "The South Side Johnny Band". The band's manager promised me that they would get some interesting audience participation.



I agree that he did keep his word on that. Perhaps someone will send me a few pictures of the couple who was dancing and singing with the plastic inflatable guitars. As the festivities drew to a close, many folks migrated back to the hospitality room for some quiet relaxation after a busy day. As the band was packing up and the staff was cleaning up, plans were being made to meet again in San Diego, California for the 2001 reunion. Everyone was sad to see it come to an end.

Sunday morning as the bellman was loading cars and folks were checking out, many were relaxing in the Hospitality Room discussing plans to once again meet at the next reunion. Lots of hand shakes and hugs, and lots of people saying:

**SEE YOU IN SAN DIEGO.**

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## A SPECIAL GREETING

### A MESSAGE TO THE PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

**Best wishes as you gather in Saint Louis for your annual reunion. It is a great honor for me to salute shipmates who, through their selfless service, have done so much to defend our nation's interests and freedom.**

**I have spent much of my naval service in ships and on the waterfront and I know in my heart that is where the Navy starts - in the Fleet. I will always cherish my experience in the Patrol Gunboat community and never forget the important role it has played in both my personal and professional development.**

**Gatherings such as yours are important, not only for you, but for our country as well. They strengthen the legacy of loyalty and tenacity which present day Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines are dedicated to uphold.**

**On behalf of the men and women of the U. S. Navy, please accept my personal salute and warmest wishes for an enjoyable reunion.**

Sincerely,

**VERN CLARK  
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY**

Friday, while preparing for the buffet dinner I was notified that I had the above fax waiting for me at the front desk. After reading it, I decided to share it with the membership at the banquet dinner on Saturday night. I have included here for you to read also.

I was thrilled to receive it, and even more excited when I noticed that in addition to signing this letter, the CNO penned in with a felt tip marker the following:

*Gunboat Sailor*

## SAN DIEGO REUNION SURVEY

I would again 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 the hotel and the final cost for all 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 averaged the results of the 1998 and 1999 surveys and developed a formula to compute a ratio of positive responses to actual attendees. I used this ratio to determine what we could expect for participation at the 2000 reunion and signed the contracts based on the results. This past year, out of 719 Survey's mailed, I received a total of 74 responses. Of those, 61 indicated that they planned to attend the Saint Louis Reunion. There were 20 crewmembers who were 100% sure that they would attend, 21 who were 75% certain and 20 who were 50% certain that they would attend. Using the data from the previous reunion surveys, we should have had an estimated 25 former crewmembers plus their guests in attendance in 2000. Next I factored in the number of attendees who came to Peoria and Falls Church without submitting a survey and used those figures to make plans for this years reunion. This year, we had 23 former crewmembers show up with out submitting a reunion survey.

This year, we had serious problems with the advance room block at the hotel, too. I computed the required room block based on the results of the survey. While we can be penalized for failing to meet our room block, the hotel can also refuse to honor the group rate when we exceed the guaranteed block. There is some flexibility here when we need to increase the block a couple months before the reunion, but when we are asking for additional rooms at the group rate after the cutoff date, many hotels are reluctant to agree. It was necessary to increase both the Wednesday and Thursday block twice and the Friday night block once. I found myself begging for additional rooms as late as a week before the reunion. Members who aren't certain they will be attending often fail to make reservations in advance. Even though there is a penalty assessed to the Association for late cancellations, we have always provided a full refund to those who have to cancel. There is simply no reason not to make advance reservations with the hotel. 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, two crewmembers elected to stay at a different hotel rather than pay \$149.00 to stay at the West Port. One other member had to stay at a different Sheraton on Wednesday night before he could get a room at the West Port. As far as I am aware, those were the only two instances where I wasn't able to get the rate reduced to our group rate for the entire 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 highest rate it can. Remember my favorite quote, "It's just business".

Simply put, I cannot over emphasize the importance of the Reunion Survey. Please try to have it completed and returned to me by November 30, 2000. This will make planning the 2001 San Diego Reunion much easier and result in a better Reunion for everyone.

**ITS A SURVEY, NOT A COMMITMENT!**

# Patrol Gunboat Association

## BUSINESS MEETING

The 2000 Business meeting was called to order by Terry W. McManuels at 9:00 AM on Saturday August 12, 2000.

The following statistics were presented to the members in attendance. As of July 25, 2000, there were 2,007 names in the Association data file. Of these, 670 were listed as regular members with a valid mailing address. Of the 670 regular members in the file, some are duplicate names such as those shipmates who served on more than one PG. The file held the names of 1,248 Missing Crewmembers, those who 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, 5 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 11 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 25, 2000, we had 243 regular dues paying members. These members receive all Association Newsletters and Correspondence. Members choosing not to pay dues receive only the Pre-Reunion and Post-Reunion Newsletters.

The subject of dues was discussed again this year. Association dues will remain at \$20.00 per year. As of July 25, 2000, we had collected \$4,765.00 in 2000 dues, \$740.00 for FY 2001 and \$60.00 for FY 2002 Dues.

For the benefit of the new members, our Association's Organizational Structure was again defined 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.

**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.

Our first reunion was held in the mid west, Peoria, IL, our second on the east coast in Virginia. This year we went back to the mid west for the second time. I have had many folks comment that we need to go to the west coast, specifically California or Washington State. Prior to this years reunion, I made contact with the Convention and Visitors bureau in several cities in California and Washington asking for information on hotels that would consider hosting our 2001 reunion.

The number of hotels that would be able to meet our requirements at any kind of a reasonable rate was very small. When we could get a reasonable rate (under \$150.00 per night), we had to pay \$50.00 per person for the banquet and buffet dinners. We could get a lower rate and pay \$400.00 per day for the hospitality room. We could have the hospitality room for free but could not bring in our own refreshments (figure a dollar a can for soft drinks times 35 cases, and the price for snacks would be comparable to that). A Washington State reunion would most likely mean Seattle. Our going to Seattle in 2001 and having a reunion comparable to what we have had in the past would likely mean that we would be paying in the area of \$150.00 per night and having registration fee's double.

California was a bit more receptive. San Diego had the most to offer as far as reasonable rates. The rates at the hotels we checked with ran from \$94.00 per night up to \$139.00 per night. The most economical facility that met our needs was the Hanalei Hotel. They agreed to our hospitality room needs and agreed to allow us to provide our own refreshments including beer. The buffet and banquet meals should run in the area of \$30.00 per person.

The membership discussed the plan to hold the 2001 reunion on the west coast. The majority agreed that we should go to California. The 2001 Reunion will be held in San Diego, California in August, 2001.

Paul Bennett made a motion that the position of Master of Ceremonies be held for only one or two years, thereby giving others a chance to participate. Following a discussion by the membership, the motion was carried. Howard Wick was nominated to fill the position at the 2001 reunion. Howard accepted the nomination and the membership elected him to the position.

A motion was then made and carried that we adjourn the 2000 business meeting.

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## LOOK WHO CAME TO DINNER

The following former crewmembers joined us at the 2000 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Harold Angell, Grand Rapids	Edward Enlow, Green Bay	George Kochik, Surprise	James Morgan, Honorary	James Showalter, Antelope
Paul Bennett, Crockett	John Faulls, Grand Rapids	Harold Lankford, Surprise	Charles Murphrey, Canon	Bobby Strozier, Surprise
Merle Bontrager, Grand Rapids	Hal Fonner, Crockett	Kenneth Lechman, Green Bay	David Nekola, Canon	Terry Tanner, Tacoma
Douglas Bower, Marathon	Richard Foote, Grand Rapids	Tom LoRusso, Sea Cadets	Terrence Pankowski, Ready	Larry Tatman, Tacoma
Michael Browning, Tacoma	Bill Funk, Grand Rapids	Wilfredo Lucindo, Gallup	Joseph Patton, Ready	James Thomas, Asheville
Charles Chupco, Crockett	Charles Harvey, Antelope	Alfred Marinelli, Antelope	Frank Phelps, Marathon	Ruben Thomas, Tacoma
Marshal Collins, Defiance	Albert Havranek, Antelope	Jack McFall, Beacon	John Pletsch, Crockett	Billy Walden, CCR-3
Homer Darrow, Defiance	Barry Hunter, Crockett	Daniel McGowan, Asheville	William Powell, Antelope	Danny Watson, Canon
James Davies, Gallup	George Ingram, Crockett	Paul McGurgan, Crockett	Paul Roberts, Antelope	Gary Wentworth, Antelope
David Donaldson, CCR-3	James Jarvis, Green Bay	Terry McManuels, Canon	Robert Rooker, Chehalis	Don West, Asheville
James Eaton, Surprise	Michael Kaprielian, Antelope	Albert Minzer, Tacoma	Ronald Sebert, Crockett	Dale Westby, Defiance
Terrence Eccleston, Tacoma	Michael Kenslow, Crockett	Robert Mitchell, Asheville	Sidney Sexton, Surprise	





## CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

### A MESSAGE TO THE PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

Best wishes as you gather in Saint Louis for your annual reunion. It is a great honor for me to salute shipmates who, through their selfless service, have done so much to defend our nation's interests and freedom.

I have spent much of my naval service in ships and on the waterfront and I know in my heart that is where the Navy starts - in the Fleet. I will always cherish my experience in the Patrol Gunboat community and never forget the important role it has played in both my personal and professional development.

Gatherings such as yours are important, not only for you, but for our country as well. They strengthen the legacy of loyalty and tenacity which present-day Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Marines are dedicated to uphold.

On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Navy, please accept my personal salute and warmest wishes for an enjoyable reunion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vern Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

VERN CLARK  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

*Gunboat Sailor*

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