

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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RESERVATION CUTOFF DATES

If it sounds like I may be repeating myself, well, it is because I addressed this issue before. We are approaching the cutoff date for reservations. The cutoff date for hotel reservations is July 1, 2001. That same date is the cutoff for tours and other events at the reunion. We will continue to take reservations on a first come, first served basis after the cutoff date, but you run the risk of missing out on an event if your reservation request is late. Requests for tours and meals will be accepted on a space available basis, with priority given to new members who have just found out about the Association. If you have not submitted your reservation package and check yet, you should do so as soon as possible in order to insure availability.



I have received the first Hotel Pick-up report that lists the names of all confirmed reservations. The numbers are basically in line with past years, which means that just like last year we will have many members making their reservations at the last minute. As of June 15, only 19 members had made their reservations with the hotel.

One other thing I want to mention is the issue of members attending the reunion but not staying at the hotel. I would rather you join us for the festivities even if you don't stay at the hotel. However, the hotel is in the business of renting rooms to their guests. The rates and incentives that the hotel provides to groups like ours is based on a guaranteed number of "Paid Nights" that our group purchases from the hotel. Our contract with the Hanalei stipulates a minimum number of paid nights that I estimated based on the results of the reunion survey that was mailed out with the December Newsletter. So, if you still have not made your hotel reservations, you need to do so now. **This is very important.** The \$109.00 room rate is only guaranteed until the cutoff date. After that, room rates will be determined by availability. It is also advisable to call the Hanalei Hotel to confirm any mail in reservations. You can call the hotel at (619) 297-1101.

A LOOK AT NUMBERS

I would appreciate it if you would take the time to read this very closely. I am not trying to confuse you with numbers, but it is very important to our future that you understand the procedures that I must use to determine our needs for the reunions. Please understand that the numbers that you see here are used by me and by the hotel sales staff in order to determine the prices and concessions that we receive when we contract for the hotel to host our reunions. Also remember that these negotiations start taking place more than a year prior to the reunion. Lastly, remember that the final determination of prices, complimentary concessions and total number of rooms blocked for the reunion are firmly set in the contract that I sign each year, as well as penalties for failing to meet these minimums. The only source for this information is the Reunion Survey and our historical data from previous reunions.

I use the data from the Reunion Survey to help determine the number of people we can expect to attend the reunion. Here is a look at the numbers so far.

I mailed out almost 600 surveys with the December edition of Gunboat Riders. As of this date, there have been 107 surveys returned. Of those 107 Surveys, there were 78 positive responses, either 50, 75 or 100 percent certain that they would attend. There were 29 responses stating that they would not be able to attend. I do a little manipulation of the numbers by comparing them to the three previous reunions. Historically, 17.7 percent of the 50 percent certain to attend will actually attend. Of those stating that they are 75 percent certain to attend, 63.5 percent actually do and of those 100 percent certain to attend, 82 percent actually have done so in the past three years. The following is a breakdown of the survey results for 2001 and

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WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Every year, in this edition of Gunboat Riders, I try to let those members attending their first reunion know what to expect when they arrive at the hotel. As soon as you finish checking in to the hotel, ask the desk for the location of the Gunboat Association Hospitality Room. This year we should be located in a special Hospitality Suite on the first floor of the hotel. The suite should open to an area with tables and access to the hotel swimming pool. This should be the first place you go to after checking into your room. The Hospitality Room is where you will be able to purchase raffle tickets, additional 50 - 50 tickets, get your coffee mug and San Diego souvenir, and get a San Diego 2001 Patrol Gunboat Reunion Ballcap. Next, you should sign in the Association Guest Book. Finally you will 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.

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the actual number of registrations that we have received so far.

The first column lists the event that we are looking at. The second column is the number (crewmember and guests) planning to attend based on the survey. Next is the number that I expect based on the percentages of attendees in the past three years. The last column is the number of guests that have actually sent registration packages and hotel registrations as of June 15. Keep in mind that the contract that we negotiate and sign is based upon the number of responses to the survey.

Plan to attend:	Survey	Estimate	Registrations
Reunion	165	106	55
Buffet	146	92	40
Banquet	160	104	82
Stay at Hotel	285 Nights	179 Nights	89 Nights

On July 1, the hotel is no longer required to honor the group rate for members wanting to attend the Reunion. However, we remain committed under the contract to purchase 180 paid room nights from the Hanalei Hotel. The Association agreed to purchase this number of rooms based upon the results of the survey. We also signed a contract for a buffet dinner for 90 people and a banquet dinner for 100.

The last thing that I want to comment on here is with regard to those members in the local San Diego area. I realize that if you live in San Diego it is much less expensive for you if you commute to your home during the reunion. Keep in mind however, that the hotel is providing the Association with several complimentary rooms that are based on our meeting our minimum number of paid nights. Please consider spending Saturday night at the hotel for several reasons. To start with, if you are drinking following the banquet dinner, then you will have a place to spend the night without risking an incident during the drive home. Secondly, your spending the night will help us meet the required minimum number of paid nights required by our contract.

DO YOU MISS THE GUNBOATS?

We just might have a real treat for you. So far we have given out three of the Dumas Models of the USS Asheville. This model is almost four feet long, it is made of plywood, balsa wood and fiberglass. I put one together many years ago and I assure you, this is no toy.

If all goes as planned, we will have a model of the USS Asheville in the Hospitality Suite for you to see. This model is like no other. To the best of my knowledge, it is the only one of its kind and will be on loan to the Association for the San Diego Reunion. It is not a Dumas Model, it is much larger. Unfortunately, that is all I can tell you at this time.

NO ENERGY SURCHARGE

In the March Newsletter, I told you about the \$3.00 Energy Surcharge that would be added onto the group room rate this year. This was the result of the increased price of gas and electricity.

After several phone calls and some negotiations with the Sales Manager at the Hanalei, they have agreed to waive this surcharge for our group. So, your room rate is still going to be \$109.00 plus tax during the reunion.

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

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

Name	Ship	Contacted
Angel, Douglas D.	Crockett	03/30/2001
Bentley, Howard	Cascade	05/07/2001
Bowen, George E.	Tacoma	04/05/2001
Kopp, Thomas R.	Crockett	06/06/2001
Long, Robert C.	Beacon	04/25/2001
McCarthy, Sean	Grand Rapids	04/24/2001
Mulcahey, Kevin E.	Green Bay	05/15/2001
Peckinschneider, Gary	Cascade	05/07/2001
Plante, Edward W.	Asheville	04/26/2001
Potter, Jay M.	Crockett	03/12/2001
Price, Terry A.	Douglas	06/06/2001
Scrimger, James E.	Crockett	05/15/2001
Sharp, Dale	Asheville	05/21/2001
Southerland, Franklin	Grand Rapids	05/29/2001

LOST AND FOUND

As most of you know, I am now retired from the Navy. I started my own business and that keeps me fairly busy. My involvement with the Association tends to fill in the gaps, but I still try to find a few extra minutes to work on locating missing crewmembers. It is a real joy when I do manage to locate one of our missing shipmates. Sometimes it is easy, one attempt and I add a name to the muster list. Other times it seems like I spend hours without any success. So, when several newsletters are returned to me with bad addresses, usually due to a crewmember moving and leaving no forwarding address, or ones that the forwarding order has expired, it troubles me. I spend a great deal of time locating our shipmates the first time, having to do it twice is quite depressing. So, if you move, be sure to let us know.

The following crewmembers seem to have been misplaced. If you have any information on the location of these shipmates, please let me know so that I can get them back on the mailing list.

Warren Knight, Crockett	David Pickel, Grand Rapids
John Goslin, Chehalis	Joseph Foster, Canon
Elvis Franklin, Defiance	Michael Pick, Welch
Ron Sebert, Crockett	Jason Harran, Douglas
Eddy Spencer, Green Bay	

BINNACLE LIST

Tom Hartrick (PG-88) finally used the patch/stop smoking just after the first of the year. After finishing the program and being totally smokeless for a month (after 40+ years of smoking), he had a heart attack on May 2. At the hospital, the testing revealed the total blockage of two arteries and the severe restriction of a third. After a triple bypass, he was released.

He went home for a week and then suffered a stroke on May 16. As of this date, the stroke has effected his sight, leaving him with only a small area directly in front and in the lower quadrant. This allows him to walk and eat unassisted but with great care to keep that very small vision area in focus. He may have slight improvement during the next month or so, but will be severely limited. The other damage caused by the stroke has been for the most part to his short-term memory.

If you wish to contact him email can be sent to bradleylk@aol.com or regular mail can be sent to:

Tom Hartrick
3 Prospect Street,
Pembroke, NH 03275.
Phone (603) 485-1024.

Patrol Gunboat Association

"2001 BALLCAPS"

This year, we will again have 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 usual, one ballcap will be 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. As a reminder, we still have a limited number of hats from our earlier reunions for those who want to collect the entire set. We will also have special Commemorative Coffee Mugs made to celebrate our fourth annual Gunboat Association Reunion as well as a small souvenir unique to the 2001 San Diego Reunion. The coffee mugs and souvenir will be given out to every crewmember at the reunion during registration.

We have changed companies for the coffee mugs. The 2001 mugs are a better quality and now we are able to use actual photographs instead of graphics. While they do cost a bit more,



I think that they are well worth the extra expense. I am still working on the souvenir for this year, but if all goes as planned, I think you will find it useful both during the reunion and after you get home.

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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2001 Membership Directory has been mailed out to all regular (RP) members. At this time, I have about 50 directories left. These will be mailed to members who bring their dues current as well as to all new dues paying members. The next directory will be printed in March, 2002.

If you have paid your 2001 dues and have not received your new directory, please let me know. You can verify your dues status by looking at your address label on this newsletter. You should have (RP) following your name on the top line.

SHIP'S STORE OPERATOR

Each year we have Ballcaps and Coffee Mugs made that are unique to that specific reunion. This year we changed the manufacturer of our mugs to a company called K&E Crafts. They make a much higher quality mug, which costs a bit more but is well worth the extra money. K&E Crafts specializes in items such as plaques, commemorative hotplates and other items that can be manufactured with photographs of your ship in Oak and Ceramic.

I am trying to get a sample selection to display at the San Diego reunion so you can see the quality of these items. The next thing that I need, before I can proceed, is someone who will take on the responsibility of the Association Ship's Store Operator. Access to the Internet is required, but other than that the job should only take an hour or two each month. You will be accepting orders and forwarding them to Ed Reynolds at K&E Crafts, collecting the money and sending the payments to Mr. Reynolds. The balance will be forwarded to the Association.

2001 50/50 Drawing

Checking the data base, it looks like we have had \$715.00 in 50/50 tickets returned so far. Last year we sold \$1247.00 worth of 50/50 tickets with a total of \$623.50 being awarded to the three winners. Don't miss out on your chance to win, it's for a worthy cause. We will continue to sell 50/50 tickets until the reunion banquet. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, just drop a check in the mail to me for \$10.00 for each set of 12 tickets. I will complete the stubs for you. It would help if you could send me return address labels for the stubs. Each year we use the proceeds from the 50-50 ticket sales to help with reunion expenses such as the cost of printing meal tickets, name tags and name tag holders, entertainment for the Saturday Night Banquet and a myriad of other expenses. 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. We will make our drawings for the 50/50 winners on Saturday evening, following the Banquet Dinner and Raffle Table Drawing.



SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

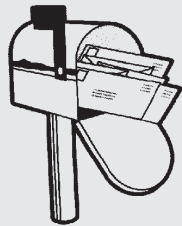
A man who brought a very limp dog into the veterinary clinic. As he lay the dog on the table, the doctor pulled out his stethoscope, placing the receptor on the dog's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, but your dog has passed away."

"What?" screamed the man. "How can you tell? You haven't done any testing on him or anything. I want another opinion!" With that, the vet turned and left the room. In a few moments, he returned with a Labrador Retriever. The Retriever when right to work, checking the poor dead dog out thoroughly. After a considerable amount of sniffing, the Retriever sadly shook his head and said "Bark".

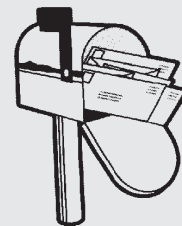
The veterinarian then took the Labrador out and returned in a few moments with a cat, who also checked out the poor dog on the table. As he had his predecessors, the cat sadly shook his head and said, "Meow." He then jumped off the table and ran out of the room.

The veterinarian handed the man a bill for \$600. The dog's owner went postal. "\$600! Just to tell me my dog is dead? This is outrageous!" The vet shook his head sadly and explained. "If you had taken my word for it, it would have been \$50, but with the Lab work and the cat scan..."

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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 Bill Busching {PG-84}:** I envy all of you attending the reunion in San Diego this year. San Diego was my favorite place to live out of all the duty stations in my 33 year career. Regretfully, I am unable to attend the festivities.

☐ **From Shipmate Brick Peele {PG-88}:** I hope that my business schedule will allow me to arrange my travel plans to attend the reunion in San Diego. I may be a last minute drop in, but will nevertheless try to schedule plans for what sounds to be a great time. Enclosed please find my personal check for my annual dues. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you and thank you for your personal efforts in organizing and expanding the Association.

THE AMERICAN SAILOR

I am the American Sailor.

Hear my voice, America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years, my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth and justice, and the rights of man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal-yours is but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future. I am the American Sailor..

I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop mizzen of Yankee clipper ships. Yes, I am the American Sailor, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the song of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation.

I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant, lonely lands. I am the American Sailor. It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of Monitor. I have suffered the cold with Peary at the North Pole, and I responded when Dewy said, "You may fire when ready Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine infested waters when our soldier's were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled the dark deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

I am the American Sailor and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle, and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine infested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartments of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese, and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world; on land, in air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again, but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again. Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

I am the American Sailor.

-Author Unknown

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
Franklin Southerland	Grand Rapids (PG-98)	03/2001