

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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



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Patrol Gunboat Association

CHICAGO, THAT'S ALL I KNOW

The site inspection for the 2002 reunion in Chicago remains on hold until after the birth of my first Grand Daughter. Sorry, but that is a priority for me, I intend to be here when she is born.

Currently my trip to Chicago is planned for the last week in November. I will be inspecting four or five hotels and then selecting the location for the 2002 Reunion. After hotel selection we will start to work on menu's for the buffet and banquet dinners as well as tour arrangements and other entertainment. The exact location and prices will be published in the December Newsletter.

2002 REUNION SURVEY

Enclosed, you will find the Reunion Survey for the Chicago, Illinois Reunion that will be held in August, 2002. The survey requests basic information that will be of great assistance in making plans for tours, meals, bus transportation and guides. The exact location of the 2002 Reunion will be published in the next newsletter. Yes, I am once again behind the power curve but as always, I have a good, no, make that great excuse. I am going to be a grandfather. My youngest son, Paul, and his wife are expecting my first grandchild at the end of this month. The trip to Chicago will just have to wait. Right now I am planning to travel to Chicago at the end of November. The dates for the reunion will again be in August. Our preferred dates are from **August 21 - 25, 2002**, the second choice is **August 14 - 18, 2002**. I will select the hotel and start working on the contracts following my trip.

This will be our fifth reunion. We held another business meeting in San Diego and again we heard comments and suggestions from the membership in attendance. It appears that there are no complaints about our basic itinerary. Wednesday will again 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 your own during the tour, as will dinner on Thursday evening. Friday will again include a tour during the day, lunch will be on your own. Friday evening will feature a buffet dinner with light entertainment. As usual, we will take a break from the festivities on Saturday morning for our Annual Business Meeting. There will be a short tour on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday banquet dinner will include dancing to a live band. From the responses that I have received so far from Chicago, I am certain that the room rate will be less than the \$109.00 per night we paid in San Diego.

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, 2001**. The responses to the 2000 survey were much better than in previous years. It only takes a few minutes to fill it out and it is essential for me to have this information in order to plan a successful event.

2001 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 the 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 \$2035.00 in 50 - 50 tickets. Of this, \$1017.50 was initially distributed as prizes, and an equal amount was retained by the Association. The winners of the 50 - 50 drawing do not need to be present to win. The winners of this year's drawing are listed in the Post Reunion Newsletter

2001 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 still have a number of 1998, 1999 and 2000 ball caps and coffee mugs left. 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 do of the previous years. For those of you who want to own a complete set from each reunion, we will be selling them until they are all gone. One set, consisting of a ballcap and a coffee mug will be available for \$10.85 plus \$5.15 Priority Mail Postage. This price is for the 1998, 1999 or 2000 reunions. The 2001 Mug and Cap set is \$19.85 plus \$5.15 Pri Mail Postage. You can also purchase multiple hats and cups, just figure \$5.15 postage for each hat and mug combination.

Contents of the Patrol Gunboat Association Newsletter

<i>Chicago, 2002</i>	2
<i>Reunion Survey, 2002, San Diego Reunion 50-50 Winners</i>	2
<i>San Diego Ballcaps and Coffee Mugs</i>	2
<i>FY 2001 - 2002 Membership Dues</i>	3
<i>2001 Raffle Table Drawing Winners, Reunion Photo Album</i>	3
<i>New Members in File</i>	3
<i>From the Mailbag</i>	4
<i>September 11, 2001</i>	4
<i>San Diego Post Reunion Edition</i>	Insert
<i>2002 Chicago Reunion Survey</i>	Insert

Patrol Gunboat Association

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES, 2001 - 2002

Association dues for the 2001-2002 fiscal year are due on November 20, 2001. The 2001 fiscal year closed out with us having a total of 2073 names in the data base, with 741 valid addresses. Membership dues are used to cover the costs of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletters

and to pay for the mailing of over 600 newspaper and magazine press releases each year to announce the date and location of the next reunion. Press releases are produced and mailed every March. Members paying dues also receive a copy of the Association Membership Directory with addresses and phone numbers of other former crewmembers, the cost of which comes from membership dues.

During the past year, we have again reduced our initial start-up deficit. At the present time the funds in the

Association Checking account exceed the amount owed out. Since starting out in 1998, we have finally become solvent and are now operating in the black.

Each and every year, the continued success of the Association is dependent upon your support. To determine if your 2001 - 2002 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 "RNPI" 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.

2001 RAFFLE WINNERS

Here are some of the highlights of the 2001 Raffle Table Drawing. Everyone that purchased \$20.00 in Raffle Table Tickets received a FREE San Diego 2001 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 have acquired on E-bay. I also have some for future reunions. Jim Eaton (PG-97) won one free night at the 2002 Reunion, Bobby Strozier (PG-97) won two free nights.

Two hand made quilts were donated for the raffle table, they were on display in the hospitality room and were some of the first items selected. A special thanks to Paul McGurgans wife Jodi (PG-88) and to Ed Enlow's wife Sherry (PG-101) for their hard work and generosity. I have never made a quilt, nor do I ever plan to, I have seen first hand what is involved in making them.

Other items included a Lone Sailor, One Year Membership, the Painting of the Crockett, a set of luggage and believe it or not, a Dancing Ostrich.

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>
Beachy, John S.	Ready	08/28/2001
Burbage, Robert R.	Tacoma	07/18/2001
Busch, Joseph P.	Canon	07/23/2001
Carey, Hal F.	Asheville	08/14/2001
Chaidez, Frank Lee	Asheville	07/08/2001
Clark, Robert J.	Gallup	06/13/2001
Dziekan, Henry	COMCOSRON THREE	08/14/2001
Goldman, Harold J.	Honorary	07/11/2001
Hauge, Kurt C.	Marathon	06/24/2001
Kirby, Gerald R.	Douglas	09/16/2001
Koch, Steven B.	Asheville	07/30/2001
Koch, Steven B.	Chehalis	07/30/2001
Lynch, Robert B.	Surprise	07/18/2001
McAninch, Douglas L.	Chehalis	06/24/2001
Peele, Leigh B.	Crockett	06/13/2001
Tinsley, James R.	Welch	07/22/2001
Tracy, David	Beacon	08/14/2001
Wallace, Timothy W.	Crockett	08/11/2001
Wilson, Art	Graham County	08/19/2001

REUNION PHOTO ALBUM

Each year we set up a Hospitality Room for everyone to relax in. This is basically where all the fun happens. San Diego was no exception. The basic difference was that the Hospitality Room in San Diego was a Pool Side Suite.

One of the items that everyone seems to enjoy is the display of memorabilia in the Hospitality Room. This includes many photo albums that have been put together with pictures of the past 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.

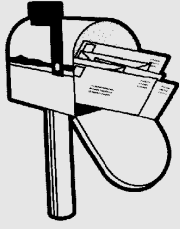
When the reunion ends the very first thing I usually do is make a note to myself to remember to take pictures at the next reunion. It seems that I can manage to set things up, arrange meals and tours and the other festivities, but when it comes to taking photographs of the actual reunion, I just seem to always forget. If anyone who attended the San Diego Reunion has some good photographs that they would like to share, 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. We 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, they will be returned, if you so desire. The name and address of the Association Historian and Web Master are:

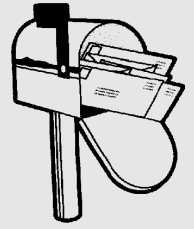
<http://gunboatriders.com>
Web Master
James Thomas
6000 La Salle Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

Patrol Gunboat Association
Historian
David Donaldson
779 N E Josephine Ct.
Hillsboro, OR 97124

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 Terry McManuels {PG Association}: We will never forget. In sorrow we mourn those lost, in gratitude we embrace those around us, in sympathy we reach out to those who grieve. GOD BLESS AMERICA.** Like most of us, Nancy and I have hoped that our children would never know war. But once again, the best and brightest that America has to offer are headed into harms way. Join us in saying a prayer for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, that they return home safely. Our prayers are with those whose lives have been devastated by recent events.

September 11, 2001

It's my job to have something to say. They pay me to provide words that help make sense of that which troubles the American soul. But in this moment of airless shock when hot tears sting disbelieving eyes, the only thing I can find to say, the only words that seem to fit, must be addressed to the unknown author of this suffering.

You monster. You beast. You unspeakable bastard. What lesson did you hope to teach us by your coward's attack on our World Trade Center, our Pentagon, us? What was it you hoped we would learn? Whatever it was, please know that you failed.

Did you want us to respect your cause? You just damned your cause. Did you want to make us fear? You just steered our resolve. Did you want to tear us apart? You just brought us together.

Let me tell you about my people. We are a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political and class division, but a family nonetheless. We're frivolous, yes, capable of expending tremendous emotional energy on pop cultural minutiae -- a singer's revealing dress, a ball team's misfortune, a cartoon mouse. We're wealthy, too, spoiled by the ready availability of trinkets and material goods, and maybe because of that, we walk through life with a certain sense of blithe entitlement. We are fundamentally decent, though -- peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it. And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God.

Some people -- you, perhaps -- think that any or all of this makes us weak. You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals.

IN PAIN.

Yes, we're in pain now. We are in mourning and we are in shock. We're still grappling with the unreality of the awful thing you did, still working to make ourselves understand that this isn't a special effect from some Hollywood blockbuster, isn't the plot development from a Tom Clancy novel. Both in terms of the awful scope of their ambition and the probable final death toll, your attacks are likely to go down as the worst acts of terrorism in the history of the United States and, probably, the history of the world. You've bloodied us as we have never been bloodied before.

But there's a gulf of difference between making us bloody and making us fall. This is the lesson Japan was taught to its bitter sorrow the last time anyone hit us this hard, the last time anyone brought us such abrupt and monumental pain. When roused, we are righteous in our outrage, terrible in our force. When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice. I tell you this without fear of contradiction. I know my people, as you. I think, do not. What I know reassures me. It also causes me to tremble with dread of the future.

In the days to come, there will be recrimination and accusation, fingers pointing to determine whose failure allowed this to happen and what can be done to prevent it from happening again. There will be heightened security, misguided talk of revoking basic freedoms. We'll go forward from this moment sobered, chastened, sad. But determined, too. Unimaginably determined.

THE STEEL IN US.

You see, the steel in us is not always readily apparent. That aspect of our character is seldom understood by people who don't know us well. On this day, the family's bickering is put on hold. As Americans we will weep, as Americans we will mourn, and as Americans, we will rise in defense of all that we cherish.

So I ask again: What was it you hoped to teach us? It occurs to me that maybe you just wanted us to know the depths of your hatred. If that's the case, consider the message received. And take this message in exchange: You don't know my people. You don't know what we're capable of. You don't know what you just started.

But you're about to learn.

By Leonard Pitts of the Miami Herald