

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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RESERVATION CUTOFF DATES

The reservation cutoff date for the Valley Forge 2003 Patrol Gunboat Association reunion is rapidly approaching. Hotel reservations must be received by the Sheraton Park Ridge no later than **July 6, 2003**. After that date, the hotel is not required to honor our special group rate of \$78.00. July 6 is also the cutoff date for all tours and other events. We will continue to accept tour 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. Those of you who attended the San Diego reunion are aware of the consequences of late registrations for buffet and banquet dinners. Once we reach the contract cutoff date, the hotel assigns our banquet room based on the number of people signed up for each specific meal. On the registration cutoff date for the San Diego Reunion, we had 128 people signed up for the Saturday Banquet Dinner. By the time the dinner actually took place, we had 171 people, an increase of 40 percent. At that point it was too late to arrange for a larger banquet room which is why we had people seated at tables on the dance floor. The Association also had to pay a surcharge for the additional meals. I always arrange for a few extra meals for those who are late registering, plus a small buffer for the member who just found out about the Association and wants to attend. But, 40 percent..... If you have not submitted your reservation package and check yet, you should do so as soon as possible in order to insure availability. Enough on that subject.

I received the first hotel pickup report, listing the names of all confirmed reservations. The numbers are actually a bit better than I expected, so thanks for registering early, it sure helps save what little bit of hair I have left. As of June 1, 25 members had made their reservations with the hotel and of those, 19 had completed their registration packages and sent them in to me. From those 19 registrations, I did a random drawing for the free upgrade. The results are on page 4 of this newsletter.

A reminder for those members living in the Valley Forge area and not staying at the Park Ridge this year. By all means, please do join us for the festivities. Remember however, the hotel in the business of renting rooms. The rates and other incentives we receive are based on a guaranteed number of "Paid Nights" that our group purchases from the hotel. Our contract with the Sheraton 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. If you live locally and plan to attend the Banquet Dinner on Saturday Night, particularly if you plan to consume alcoholic beverages, please consider staying at the hotel that night. If you still have not made your hotel reservations, you need to do so now. **This is very important.** The \$78.00 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 Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel to confirm any mail in reservations. You can call the hotel at (610) 337-1800.

A NOTE ABOUT TOURS

The registration packages are coming in and I am trying to keep the tour company up to date on our numbers for the tours. Participation this year looks very good, so we are rapidly approaching the point where we may need to move to a larger coach or perhaps a second smaller coach. In particular, the Thursday Amish Country and Friday Valley Forge tours are filling up fast. Please, make this easier for me, the sooner you get your registration packages in to me, the better.

The deadline for all registration packages is **July 6, 2003**. After that we can accept tour requests on a space available basis only. Don't get left out, the friends you want to spend time with at the reunion may be planning to join the group on a tour and while the Hospitality room is great, the tours are terrific. We did our best to arrange some wonderful tours for you to enjoy.

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Patrol Gunboat Association

ONLINE REGISTRATION

A well deserved Bravo Zulu goes out to our Web Master, Jim Thomas (The Virginia Jim Thomas) for getting the Online Registration form set up on the web site. We have come a long way from the web site that I initially set up for the Association. Frankly speaking, I was glad to be able to add a picture to the plain text site that I put together. Jim has spent long hours and a good bit of his own money maintaining the site and he deserves a good deal of thanks from the membership. If you get a chance, be sure to let him know what you think of the Gunboatriders.com web site.

The online registration form is now working and allows you to register for all events at the reunion. You simply fill in the blocks with the same information that you would enter on the mail in registration form. The online registration form will compute the prices for each event as well as total up the amount for your registration. Another great advantage to the online registration is that you can use a credit card to pay for your registration. Your payment will be made to an Association Paypal account that will be transferred to the Association checking account shortly after you send it. Be advised that Paypal charges us for this service, as close as I can figure it, the total charged runs a little more than 3.1 percent. This surcharge is added to the total payment automatically, so if you don't want to pay the surcharge, then mail in the registration form along with a check made out to Patrol Gunboat Association.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS

Well, it has finally happened. Between changing from dial up to Online DSL, then finally to an Online Cable ISP, I finally managed to screw



"Okay your father managed to get a mouse. Now how do we use it?"

up my computer to the point where I simply had no choice but to reconfigure the system. That also meant that I had to upgrade my browser and email program. I learned a long time ago that it was smart in my case to maintain all of my user files on a separate drive, so I didn't lose any critical files like the Association data base, newsletter or word processor files.

The only significant loss to the system was all of my email records. That includes all saved emails such as comments for the Gunboatriders "From the Mailbag" column, all of the interesting stories that I use as fillers in the newsletter and most importantly, all the email addresses of the members. So, as you are reading this article, how about sending me a short email message so that I can save your email address in my new, almost empty address book.

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>
Bassett, Brian E.	Antelope	04/01/2003
Canfield, Gary J.	Ready	05/28/2003
Conte, Mark J.	Green Bay	04/12/2003
Cramer, Michael	Douglas	03/28/2003
Davidson, Francis W.	Welch	03/11/2003
Donovan, William E.	Gallup	03/22/2003
Ekman, Paul N.	Gallup	05/27/2003
Ernst, Bruce L.	Marathon	05/05/2003
Evans, Craig A.	Grand Rapids	04/01/2003
Fagg, Charlie	Welch, Tacoma, Green Bay	04/27/2003
Farmer, William J.	Green Bay	03/09/2003
Gee, William S.	Defiance	05/11/2003
Guarneri, James M.	Chehalis	03/11/2003
Kaleita, Gary M.	Graham County	04/02/2003
Kaufman, Edwin J.	Antelope	03/22/2003
Kelley, Michael T.	Grand Rapids	05/27/2003
Shemke, Allan L.	Tacoma, COSRON THREE	04/17/2003
Tucci, Michael G.	Graham County	04/12/2003
Wilson, William W	Surprise	04/25/2003

2003 50/50 Drawing

Checking the data base, we have received \$954.00 in 50/50 tickets sales so far. We always do a fair amount of 50-50 ticket sales at the reunion, hopefully that will bring us up to the \$2000.00 mark. Remember, we count on the sales of 50-50 tickets to generate funds to help pay for reunion expenses such as the cost of printing meal tickets, name tags and name tag holders, entertainment for the Saturday Night Banquet and our annual giveaway items. It is my desire to have the majority of the reunion expenses paid for by those attending the reunion. While we do round up the cost of meals and tours, that generates a small amount of money for the Association. The registration fees also help offset expenses. I try to use the proceeds from the ballcap sales to pay for the ballcaps and raffle table items. This is the only income we have for the expenses associated with the actual reunion. I try to avoid using membership dues money to pay for reunion expenses. The purchase of 50/50 tickets is a great way to support the Association and provide funds for entertainment and hospitality room refreshments. Not only does it provide support, it gives you a chance to win a few bucks at the same time.



Ticket sales for the 50-50 drawing continue to be a bit slow. Even if you can't attend the reunion, your participation in the 50-50 drawing helps cover these expenses. Remember, we will be drawing three tickets and 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.

Patrol Gunboat Association

COMMEMORATIVE BALL CAPS & COFFEE MUGS

I really do enjoy doing these reunions. While there is quite a bit of work involved, it is a labor of love for me. One of the high points for me is when we get to the point where things finally start to come together. I start working on the hats and coffee mugs in early March, the final proofs are usually approved by mid May and in June we start to receive the shipments from the manufacturers. Variety being one of the many spices of life, this year I decided to make a change in our hats.



As always, we purchased quality "Made in America" ball caps from Eagle Crest. This year I included a case of white ball caps in addition to our regular blue ball caps. The hat patch is identical, the ship silhouette is in gray (Eagle Crest calls this color "Cinder") and the lettering is in gold. It's difficult to see in the black

and white image, but they do look great. The shipment of ball caps will be sent directly to the hotel and will be available when you register in the Hospitality room. Ball caps will be given "Free" to those members who purchase \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday night raffle drawing.

This year's coffee mugs are again being made by K&E Crafts. I will have a limited number of extra hats and mugs for sale at the Reunion for those who want more than one. The remaining hats and mugs will be available for sale to the membership on a first come, first serve basis, after the Reunion. We will also bring along a limited selection of previous year's caps and mugs for those who wish to complete their collections.



FROM THE HISTORIAN

The Association Historian, Dave Donaldson, has a new laptop computer and quality scanner. He will be bringing them to Valley Forge and will be available to scan photos, change of command booklets and anything else that might be of interest to the Association. Please feel free to bring along any memorabilia that you have, so that we can get copies for the Historian's files. We also plan to have a CD Burner available so that we can make copies of files available at the reunion. If you want to obtain copies of any photographs or other items from the Historian's files, be sure to see Dave in the Hospitality Room. Items that we would like to have are originals or copies of Commissioning Programs, Change of Command Programs, or any ship photos that you may have. We will scan them and immediately return them if you so desire. For more information, contact the Historian.

Dave Donaldson
779 NE Josephine Ct.
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503) 693-7010
email: rctfdd@worldnet.att.net

PREVIOUSLY FOUND MEMBERS

Each year following the reunion I send out the Post Reunion Edition of Gunboat Riders. While only those members whose dues are current receive all the newsletters, every member, regardless of dues status, receives the Post Reunion as well as the Pre Reunion Edition. As a result of this year's Pre Reunion Edition of Gunboat Riders, I have received quite a few newsletters back as undeliverable. These members had been in the data base and on the mailing list in the past, but seem to have become missing again. This is usually due to changes in address caused by moving. The Post Office will only forward mail for a limited period of time, after that mail is returned with "Forwarding Time Expired" stamped on the envelope. Please, if you move, let us know so that we can save the cost of having to send your newsletter twice.

Name

Allaire, Robert A.
Baerman, Larry E.
Beauchamp, Ronald
Bly, Leonard J.
Buttice, Robert W.
Dale, Henry
Dunn, Frank B.
Finley, Jeffrey A.
Franklin, Elvis L.
Fry, Scott A.
Gelacio, Edwin C.
Goslin, John H.
Gribbons, Paul V.
Guzzo, Albert
Harran, Jason E.
Hedwall, Kenneth E.
Hill, Donald L.
Knight, Warren J.
Lundquist, Keith E.
McCarthy, Sean
McDowell, Robert L.
Mohn, Bobby
Nail, Michael T.
Onyika, Albert L.
Pollock, Michael
Pritzkau, John
Ramsey, Robert L.
Sharp, Maxwell A.
Smith, W. T.
Terry, Robert C.
Vosseler, Paul
Washatka, Christopher G.
Williams, Larry L.
Williams, Thomas
Zernich, Gordon

Command

Grand Rapids
Gallup
Marathon
Green Bay
Benicia, Ready
Asheville
Green Bay
Marathon
Defiance
Grand Rapids
Antelope
Chehalis
Tacoma
Graham County
Douglas
Marathon
Ready
Crockett
Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids
Welch
Graham County
Tacoma
Canon
Canon
Welch
Beacon
Crockett
Beacon
Gallup
Graham County
Antelope
Tacoma
Ready
Douglas

If you know the new mailing address for any of these members, please let me know, so that I can get my data base updated and get these members back on the mailing list.

Patrol Gunboat Association

YOU ASKED FOR IT.....

Over the last few years I have had several members ask if I knew how we could get ships patches made for some of the Gunboats. Several members have researched having them made by companies overseas, as well as here in the US. The project is one that I have considered taking on, particularly since nobody has volunteered to do it for me. That is not a complaint by the way, like everything else having to do with the Association, I frequently mention needing assistance, but when it comes



right down to it, I just hate to turn anything over to someone else.

Last year at the Chicago reunion I noticed that many of the Antelope crew had shirts made with the Antelope's ships patch. That generated even more requests, both for the patches as well as for the shirts.

When I did the order for our hats this year I started working with Eagle Crest on having shirts and patches made. We now have Jerzees short sleeved golf shirts. I got them in red, white and blue, all with pockets.

Above the pocket in gold lettering are the words Patrol Gunboat Association, and below that is an embroidered image of one of the gunboats. Our first order included sizes small, medium, large, extra large and extra extra large. Since the initial cost was fairly expensive, I only got a few of each, so



they will likely go fairly fast. Our web master, Jim Thomas has put an order form on the web site for those who wish to order on line. I will continue to sell them until 31 July, at which time I will stop until after the reunion. My plan is to then take a good assortment of the shirts with me to Valley Forge. The cost of the shirts is \$20.00 each for small, medium, large and extra large. Extra extra large shirts are \$22.00 each.

Between now and July 31 you will be able to order them online from the web site and pay for them using a credit card and paypal. The price will include an additional \$2.00 for USPS mail and tyvec envelope. Be sure to email me first so that I can check and make certain I have you size and color in stock. These shirts are sure to go fast, but once I start to run out I will order additional shirts. At this price, the minimum for each order from Eagle Crest is 36 shirts.

They do look great by the way.

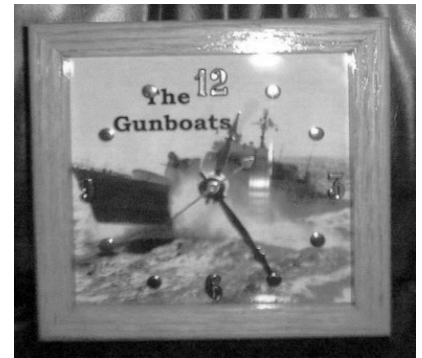
"ROOM UPGRADE"

On 01 June, 2003 we held the early reservation drawing. From those members who had both their registration package and room reservations completed by June 1, we did a random drawing. The winner was Harold and Nancy Lankford. Harold was stationed on USS SURPRISE (PG-97) and USS WELCH (PG-93). Harold and Nancy will have their room upgraded to a suite at no additional charge.

SHIPS STORE IN VALLEY FORGE

Many of you might have noticed that we have a link on our web site to K&E Crafts. Ed Reynolds from K&E makes many quality items for the Association. He will be available at the reunion with samples of his products and will be taking orders for later shipment.

The clock shown here is a sample he provided us a while back. The hull number has been removed and the name of the ship is not shown, but when you order you will be able to select the photo you want and have whatever you wish printed on the face of the clock. More information on what is available from K&E Crafts can be found on the web site.



Ed is one of our supporters, he provides the Association with several items for the raffle table each year. K&E also makes a financial contribution to the Association from the proceeds of each sale. Ed will be set up in the Hospitality Room with several items for you to check out on Thursday and Friday. He will be taking orders for delivery after the reunion.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE

Arrangements have been made for Airport Shuttle Service with Tropiano Transportation for our 2003 reunion.

Tropiano is providing a special round trip rate between the Philadelphia International Airport and the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel to our group for \$36.00.

You can make advance reservations with Tropianos by calling them at (800) 559-2040. You will receive a return trip voucher for use following the reunion. One way transportation to the hotel is \$21.00. You can also call them when you arrive by dialing "19" from the airport arrival terminal.

Patrol Gunboat Association

THE STORY OF TAPS

BY PHYLLIS SPEIDELL

Photo by John H. Sheally II
The Virginian Pilot

Most historians agree that Brig. Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield and Oliver Willcox Norton created today's version of taps. When Norton sounded taps for the federal troops, a Confederate bugler on the opposite shore picked up the melody, creating the echo version frequently heard on Memorial Day.

When taps sounds at Memorial Day services across the country, the simple melody will stir souls as it has for 140 years. Few listeners may realize that the familiar 24 note bugle call was first played at Berkeley Plantation on the James River west of Williamsburg, Virginia. Tourists stop at a plantation memorial to hear a recorded version as it drifts across the James. "I am a history buff but never realized taps was written here" said Rick Watrous, 70, and an 82nd Airborne veteran from Clarksville, Tenn.

Jamie Jamieson, owner of Berkeley, strolled the manicured grounds as he sorted fact from myth in the story of taps. The rolling lawns dotted with rose gardens and 583 hand-trimmed boxwoods were, in July 1862, the muddy encampment of 140,000 soldiers of the Union Army of the Potomac under the command of Gen. George B. McClellan.

The troops, exhausted from an unsuccessful attempt to capture Richmond, had pulled back to the plantation, where they battled dysentery, typhoid, heat and ravenous mosquitoes. The taps stories begin there.

In one popular version, Union Capt. Robert Ellicombe risked his life in a nighttime battlefield rescue of a wounded soldier. By lantern light, the captain discovered that the soldier, a Confederate by then dead, was actually his son, who had been studying music in the South and had secretly enlisted. In the son's pocket, Ellicombe found a scrap of paper with a few bars of music. When a bugler played the melody at the son's funeral, it was the first rendition of taps. "Absolutely, totally myth - just a grand old war story with not a bit of truth in it," Jamieson said.

Jari A. Villanueva, an Air Force bugler for 17 years and a bugle historian, agrees there is no evidence to back up the Ellicombe story.

Villanueva, a Baltimore-area resident, was the curator of the Taps Bugle Exhibit at Arlington National Cemetery from 1999 to 2002 and has researched numerous taps legends.

Credit should go, Villanueva and Jamieson say, to Brig. Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, a 31 year old New Yorker who considered the traditional evening bugle call, "Extinguish Lights," too formal and unmelodic. Butterfield could not read music, but he was familiar with all the command calls and could play a bugle. One evening he shared his inspiration with a young bugler, Oliver Willcox Norton of the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers. Some say Butterfield wrote

a brief melody on an envelope and asked Norton to arrange and play the tune. Others say the two together revised an existing call into what we know as taps.

Historians agree that when Norton sounded taps for the federal troops, a Confederate Bugler on the opposite shore heard and picked up the melody, creating the echo version - frequently heard at Memorial Day events.

Taps was first used in a military burial that same year.

A stained glass window in the Old Post Chapel at Fort Monroe commemorates the moment. Twenty years ago, Norton's descendants gave Jamieson a family heirloom - the battered brass bugle believed to be Oliver Norton's. The bugle, a standard Union army issue, is on display at the plantation.

Jamieson feels a kinship with the taps story. His grandfather, John Jamieson, was a drummer boy with McClellan at Berkeley, where he probably would have known Norton. At the plantation, a painting based on Civil War engravings and photographs includes a drummer boy watching as Butterfield and Norton create taps.

John Jamieson, a 12 year old impoverished immigrant from Scotland when he enlisted, survived the war to become a wealthy New York business man. In 1907, he fulfilled a boyhood dream by buying the decrepit Berkeley Plantation. Jamie Jamieson and his father dedicated their lives to restoring the site. But the song the plantation spawned has needed no such renovation. Taps is played 30 or more times daily at Arlington National Cemetery.

"It still affects me today as it did when I was a kid," said Villanueva, who still occasionally sounds the bugle. "Taps is more than a bugle call, more than a signal - it has become part of our National heritage."

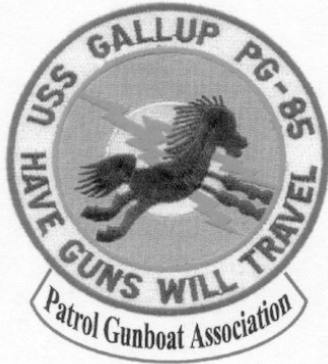


Patrol Gunboat Association

MORE GOOD NEWS

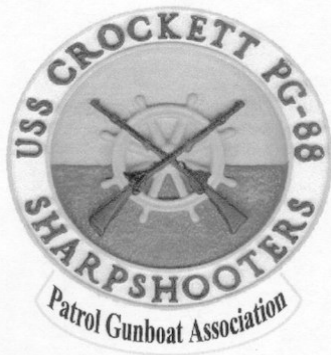
How many times have you wished that you still had one of the original ships patches. We started this Association almost six years ago, and I can't even guess the number of times I have heard someone mention that we should get ship's patches made again. It is a major project, and the cost of having patches made for all seventeen Gunboats as well as the various support staffs, tenders and squadrons is substantial.

One of our crewmembers started doing some of the leg work required to have the patches made a short while ago. The prices he had been quoted were simply too high to make it feasible. So, I contacted our friends at Eagle Crest and got the ball rolling. Here is some basic information that I have gathered from them.



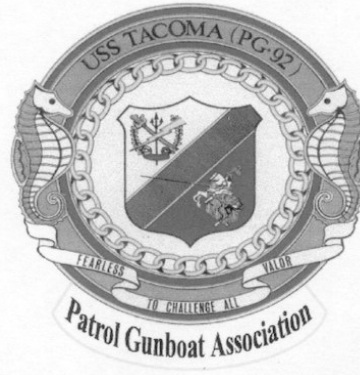
It simply doesn't make sense to have a poor quality patch made just for the sake of having one.

One of the things I have stressed ever since I began to organize this Association is that we are just that, an organization of Gunboat Riders. It is the Patrol Gunboat Association, not the USS Crockett or USS Canon Association. Our strength is in our unity. Of course there is pride in each individual ship's crew. Our pride in the accomplishments of each ship shows at every reunion, in every piece of correspondence, in every email, message and letter. But, the survival of this Association depends on all of us working as one, toward each goal as a unified group. For that reason, while we are having each ship's patch made, each patch will have a tab added to it with the words "Patrol Gunboat Association".



Our initial order was for fifty each patches. They will include the Crockett, the Gallup and the Tacoma. I selected these three ships for several reasons. First off, each of the three ships has a substantial number of members in the Association. Second, each of the sample patches were high quality, and the artwork was virtually ready for Eagle Crest to work with. Finally, we had to start somewhere. The cost of the three patches is around \$1,000.00. We could have gotten them for a lower price per patch if we had increased the order, but as it is, it will take a while to sell the fifty we ordered. My plan is to sell them at about \$2.00 over cost so that we can get more on order in the shortest time. The next patches ordered will depend on whether or not we have good quality artwork to work with, and what kind of response we get from those who want one (or two, or even three).

Keep in mind that some of the ships had very short life spans and the number of crewmembers in the Association is fairly small. It should be



obvious that the ships with a larger crew base will have to help offset the cost of the smaller ones. But, that is what we do, we take care of our shipmates, that issue doesn't concern me at all.

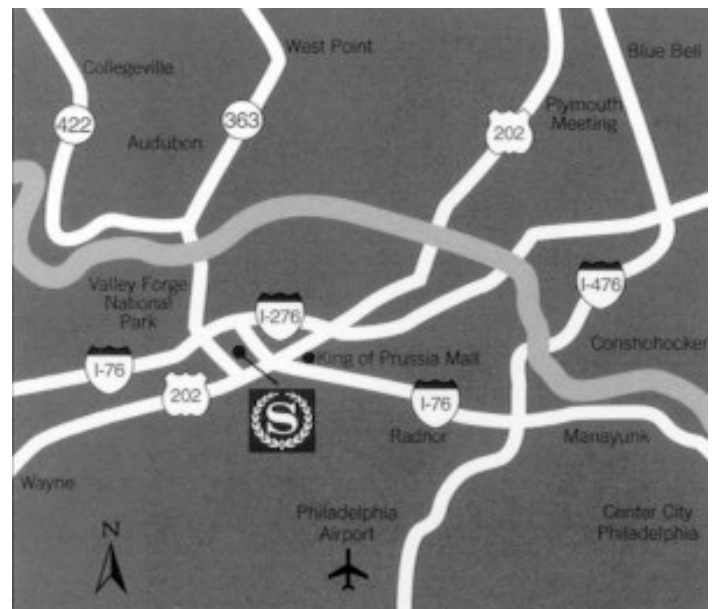
As you can see from the samples, these are the original patches, at least these are what have been submitted to the Association. There are several commands which we do need better artwork on. USS Canon

for example, our sample is fairly poor resolution and not in color. Anyone having a color image of the Canon's plaque or patch should contact me or our Historian, Dave Donaldson, so that we can get a good copy for the Association files.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL

The Sheraton Park Ridge from **Philadelphia International Airport**: Follow I-95 South to Exit 7 (476 North/Plymouth Meeting). Follow 476 North to Exit 16B (76 West). Follow 76 West to Exit 327 (Mall Boulevard). Turn right onto Mall Boulevard, at next light, turn right onto Gulph Road. Hotel is 1 mile ahead on the right.

From Pennsylvania Turnpike: Follow the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 326 (Valley Forge). Immediately following the toll, take Valley Forge Exit 327. Hotel is 1/2 mile ahead on the right.



From I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway): Follow I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway) to Exit 327 (Mall Boulevard). Turn right onto Mall Boulevard, at next light, turn right onto Gulph Road. Hotel is 1 mile ahead on the right.

Secured parking is free at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel. Once you arrive you should be able to leave your car in the lot since the hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to many places of interest.

Patrol Gunboat Association

ECHO FOXTROT

The aircraft carrier USS. Abraham Lincoln was finally inching up to the pier at homeport when the Captain of the ship noticed a sailor on the flight deck gesturing wildly with semaphore flags. He then noticed an attractive young woman standing on top of a station wagon, also waving semaphore flags.

Always concerned about security and never having seen something like this, the Captain barked at his Bridge Signalman, "What message are those two people sending?" The Signalman concentrated intently and soon advised the Captain, "Sir, he is sending FOXTROT-FOXTROT and she is sending ECHO-FOXTROT."

Not having any clue as to what these messages could mean, the Captain dispatched an armed MAA to escort the sailor back to the Bridge. The sailor arrived, out of breath from running up the many ladders to the bridge, and saluted smartly. "Seaman Endicott reporting as ordered, sir!"

"Seaman", shouted the Captain, "Who is that woman on the pier and why are you exchanging signals FF and EF?"

"Sir, that's my wife, Sir, and she wants to eat first!"

SIMPLE LOGIC

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Broni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers, "Sure, Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his AT&T cell phone. He surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulas. He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1586 sheep."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep." says the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the shepherd says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay why not?"

"You're a consultant." says the shepherd.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew; to a question I never asked; and you don't know a thing about running a business."

"Now give me back my dog".

KING OF PRUSSIA MALL

The King of Prussia Mall is within one mile of the Sheraton Park Ridge, our reunion hotel for this year. At last years reunion someone asked that we try to find a location for our reunions close to a good shopping mall. Well, they don't get any better or bigger than the "**Court at King of Prussia.**"

This is the only Mall in the country with **9 Anchor Stores.** It boasts a total of **450 stores** and **35 restaurants.** Now if that's not enough for you to "shop till you drop" then I give up. The best part of all is that it is only a short trip to your shopping experience of a lifetime. The Park Ridge provides courtesy transportation to and from the mall. Plan an extra day to do your Christmas shopping early.

An interesting bit of trivia: With the last addition, they used enough concrete at the Mall to fill the United States Capitol dome twice.

TIMELINE LEADING TO VALLEY FORGE

May 1777 Sir William Howe's forces, comprising 18,000 effective troops in position at New Brunswick and Amboy. Washington, with about 6000 Continentals, exclusive of cavalry and artillery and of 500 New Jersey militia (a total, according to Bryant, of 7300 men) broke winter camp at Morristown and advanced to Middlebrook Heights, ten miles from New Brunswick.

June British army moved to Staten Island, American force still at Middlebrook.

July 23 British fleet under Lord Howe sailed from New York with entire British army in command of his brother Sir William Howe, appearing briefly a week later at the capes of the Delaware. Washington encamped on Neshaminy Creek, 90 miles north of Philadelphia.

Aug. 20 The enemy appeared in Chesapeake Bay. On the 23rd Washington's army marched through Philadelphia and to Wilmington. The enemy disembarked upon the 95th at the Elk River, 54 miles southwest from Philadelphia.

Sept. 11 Battle of Brandywine. Retreat of Americans to Chester, Philadelphia and Germantown. Americans then numbered about 11,000 men, exclusive of Gates' command in the North. On the 15th, Washington advanced to Warren Tavern, on the Lancaster Pike, a heavy storm ruined the ammunition and led to a retreat to Yellow Springs and thence across the Schuylkill River near Phoenixville. Howe advanced at his leisure, covering a wide stretch of rich country. Upon the night of Sept. 19th, a body of Wayne's men, detached to operate in the rear of the British left flank, was surprised at Paoli, many being bayoneted.

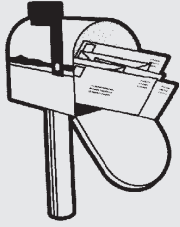
Sept. 21 Howe's columns reached the Schuylkill River in force, crossing at several points above and below Valley Forge. Upon the 26th they marched into Philadelphia, leaving a strong force in Germantown.

Oct. 4 Battle of Germantown, retreat of Americans to White Marsh, about six miles north from Chestnut Hill.

Nov. 10 Lord Howe's ships invested Fort Mifflin and Fort Mercer below the city. An incident of this movement was the Battle of Red Bank, N. J., in which Count Donop, the Hessian commander, was mortally wounded.

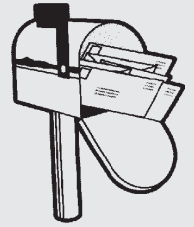
Dec. 19 After an exhausting march from White Marsh via Gulf Mills, Washington's troops arrived upon the hills at Valley Forge. Four days later nearly 3000 men of this force were sick or too nearly naked to do duty.

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-90):** If you read the short article on page 2, Computer Problems, then you will understand why there are no comments from the mail bag. The mail bag just happened to be located on the C Drive of my computer, and that drive is no longer with us, well at least the data that was on that drive is no longer with us.

Navy Philosophy

A Navy Chief stood before his CPO selectees with several items in front of him. When the session began, wordlessly he picked up a very large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about two inches in diameter. He then asked the group if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So, the Chief then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them in as he gently shook the jar. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the selectees again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

Next the Chief picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled in the space between the rocks and pebbles. Again he asked if the jar was full, and again the class responded with a unanimous yes.

Finally the Chief produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the remaining empty space. The group laughed.

"Now," said the Chief as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things, your family, your health, your children; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else, it represents the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there would be no room for the pebbles and rocks.

The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Pay attention to your health, take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal".

"Take care of the rocks first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand".

One of the selectees raised their hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The Chief smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers".

Recreational Vehicle Information

For those of you that are planning your trip to Valley Forge in a Motor Home or RV, you may park in the hotel parking lot if you are a registered guest. No hookup service or dumping of gray water is available. It is advisable to call the hotel in advance to make arrangements for where you should park. If you plan to stay at a park and need full hook up service, there are facilities available in the area.

The nearest facilities are:

Hidden Acres Campground

Pool, camp store, hot showers, playground, poolroom. Available water and electric per night or water, electric and sewer per night.

103 Hidden Acre Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
Phone: 610.857.3990

Philadelphia West Chester KOA

Seasonal campground on Brandywine River; guided tours of Philadelphia, Valley Forge, Amish Country; tenting, arcade, miniature golf, convenience store, planned activities, kabins, kottage, lodge, RV sites. Apr-Oct. Near Longwood Gardens.

1659 Embreeville Road
Coatesville, PA 19320
Phone: 610.486.0447

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
Richard Vesey	Asheville(PG-84)	04/16/1999
James Duffy	Chehalis (PG-94)	05/14/2003