

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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CONCORD, CA - 2004 RESERVATION CUT OFF DATES

The cutoff date for the 2004 reunion in Concord, California is rapidly approaching. Reservations must be received by the hotel no later than June 27, 2004. I know that I tell you this every year, but every year we have one or two people paying a rate higher than the rest, simply because they waited too long to make reservations.



Remember also that if we fill our room block, the hotel is under no obligation to increase it. The ability to raise the room block gets more difficult the closer we get to the reunion. If the room block is full and the hotel will not increase it, you will not receive the group rate, even if it is before the actual cut off. We received an excellent package from the Holiday Inn, don't miss out on the chance to attend a San Francisco area reunion simply because you procrastinated on making your room reservation. At \$83.00 per night, this is an outstanding opportunity to see San Francisco.

I think that we did a great job at arranging for tours this year too. We were caught off guard in Valley Forge last year when quite a few more people purchased tour tickets than we expected. Remember, we have to make our plans based on the response to the pre-reunion survey. This year, just like last year, the survey response indicates that we should only require one 47 passenger coach for the tours. So, that is all we contracted for, one coach. Last year we ended up paying a significant penalty in order to get a second coach for two of the tours. Once again, your early registration will help the Association save money and make this a great reunion.

I will accept reservations for tours until the cut off date. After June 28, I will accept reservations on a first come, first served basis as long as there is space available. Priority will be given to new members who have just found out about the Association. Tickets for tours will also be available at the reunion in the event there are seats available on the bus. If you have not submitted your registration package and check yet, you should do so as soon as possible in order to insure availability.

On May 15, I received the first hotel pickup report for the 2004 reunion. As usual, the numbers are fairly low, for some reason folks just prefer to wait to make their reservations. I have reviewed the list of people who had made their hotel reservations and compared it to those who have sent in their registration packages. Craig Brooks (Grand Rapids) from Redmond, OR is the winner of the early registration drawing. He and Irene will receive a certificate from the hotel for a free breakfast at the "Cafe Bravo" restaurant during their stay. Every year we try to do an early registration drawing for those members who get both their registration package and hotel registration in early. On May 15th we had 17 people who had sent in their registration package and had also registered at the hotel for the reunion. I'm sure however, just like in previous years, we will again have some members making their reservations at the last minute.

A reminder for those members who live in the San Francisco area and who might not be staying at the hotel this year. I would rather you join us for the festivities even if you aren't staying at the hotel. Remember however, the Holiday Inn is in the business of renting rooms to their guests. The rates and incentives that the hotel

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provides to groups like ours is based on a number of "Paid Nights" that our group purchases from the hotel. Our contract with the Holiday Inn 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. In the event you live locally and plan to attend the Banquet Dinner on Saturday Night, particularly if you will be consuming 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 \$83.00 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 Holiday Inn to confirm any mail in reservations. You can call the hotel at (925) 687-5500.

2004 50/50 Drawing

We seem to be getting back on track on the 50-50 ticket sales finally. Remember, you do not need to be present to win, and the 50-50 drawing is a great way to support the Association. 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. Even if you no longer have the blank ticket stubs, simply send a check for your ticket purchase and I will complete tickets 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 name tags and event tickets, buying name tag holders, paying for entertainment for the Saturday banquet and many 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 some big cash prizes at the same time.

Even if you can't attend the reunion, your participation in the 50-50 drawing helps your shipmates by helping with reunion related expenses. You will have three chances to win. Winners not present at the reunion will have their check mailed to them as soon as we return from the reunion. We do the drawings for the 50/50 winners on Saturday evening, following the Banquet Dinner and Raffle Table Drawing.

ATTIRE FOR THE BUFFET AND BANQUET DINNER

We will follow our usual agenda when it comes to group meals again this year. Friday we will have a buffet dinner in one of the hotel banquet rooms. There will be no entertainment scheduled, no formal speakers and seating will be on a first come basis. Appropriate attire for the buffet dinner will be what ever is comfortable; slacks and a shirt for guys, shorts if the weather is warm. Ladies, for the Friday night buffet dinner, slacks or shorts, again depending on the weather. Basically, whatever you feel is comfortable casual attire is appropriate for Friday night.

Saturday night is our more formal banquet dinner. A suit, sport coat and tie or simply a nice shirt and pants would be fine. I will trust the gals to know what is right for them, lets face it, they usually know what is appropriate. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes and be ready to strut your stuff, we will have a live band following the dinner in Saturday night.

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>
Bongard, Stephen J.	Cockett	05/09/2004
Bridges, Jerry N.	Gallup	04/25/2004
Chandler, Malcom M.	Douglas	04/06/2004
Comer, Harry F.	Welch	05/08/2004
Dombrowski, Adolf H.	Canon	05/10/2004
Doria, Anthony T.	Douglas, Graham County	04/08/2004
Ekin, Robert	Gallup	05/21/2004
Kerner, Frederick C.	Welch	03/20/2004
Matott, Roderick C.	Graham County	04/15/2004
Morton, Earnest J.	Gallup	04/07/2004
Organeck, Stan	COMCOSRON THREE	04/18/2004
Porter, George M.	Tacoma	05/29/2004
Wade, Albert N.	Gallup	03/20/2004

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Each of us (I assume) has his or her own little quirks, those special things that we do that we feel are cute, knowing full well that they may be quite irritating to others. One of my special talents is the ability to guess what is inside wrapped packages. I don't know why I can get pleasure from guessing correctly what a present is, long before I open the package. I won't assume all the guilt here, frankly my family goes out of their way to tell me that there is no way I will be able to guess the contents of a package, only to be disappointed when I do so correctly. Of course, sometimes it is pretty easy to do.

Christmas morning, 2002 there was no doubt that the contents of one particular package was a flag pole. I had seen them before, and a 40 foot flag pole in 10 foot sections was really the only possible thing it could be. Well over a year later, I finally got it placed in the yard. I was so excited to finally get an American Flag for the house, one that would be noticed by everyone.

I am so proud to be an American, proud to be a Veteran and proud to display the colors for all to see. On Memorial Day, I lowered the Flag to half mast, as is appropriate. However, I forgot that it should have been raised back to full mast at noon. It was definitely my mistake, one I will not make again. So, why am I telling you this story? I am telling you this because while it is admirable to show our patronage by displaying the American Flag, we, particularly as Veterans, should do so correctly.

There is absolutely nothing else we can do to better show our support for our troops than to proudly display the American Flag for all to see. But, a dirty, torn or frayed Flag shows disrespect and a lack of pride in ourselves and our country. Flags that are mounted on automobile windows and subjected to high speed driving simply will not last and should be replaced or removed as soon as they show signs of wear. Recently I was driving down the street and saw an American Flag laying in the street, obviously one of the types that mount on an automobile window. I don't know how long it had been there, but I stopped and picked it up. I am not opposed to these Flags, but they simply will not hold up to long term use.

The moral of this story, of course I think it is a great idea to show our patronage by displaying the American Flag, but,

Let's do it right, or not at all.....

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U.S. FLAG CODE (4 US CODE 1)

Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures, and some 66 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U.S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.

A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference. It was not until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections (36 U.S.C. 171) Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem, (36 U.S.C. 172) the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery were included.

The code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. It does not impose penalties for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states and to the federal government for the District of Columbia. Each state has its own flag law.

Criminal penalties for certain acts of desecration to the flag were contained in Title 18 of the United States Code prior to 1989. The Supreme Court decision in *Texas v. Johnson*; June 21, 1989, held the statute unconstitutional. This statute was amended when the Flag Protection Act of 1989 (Oct. 28, 1989) imposed a fine and/or up to 1 year in prison for knowingly mutilating, defacing, physically defiling, maintaining on the floor or trampling upon any flag of the United States. The Flag Protection Act of 1989 was struck down by the Supreme Court decision, *United States vs. Eichman*, decided on June 11, 1990.

While the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe additional rules regarding the Flag, no federal agency has the authority to issue 'official' rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code may be fairly tested: 'No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.' Therefore, actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.

The following information is taken from Title 4 - FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES - of the United States Code Chapter 1 - THE FLAG - as provided on the Internet by the Legal Information Institute at Cornell University School of Law.

Sec. 1. - Flag; stripes and stars on

The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be fifty stars, white in a blue field.

Sec. 2. - Same; additional stars

On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.

Sec. 3. - Use of flag for advertising purposes; mutilation of flag

Any person who, within the District of Columbia, in any manner, for exhibition or display, shall place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing, or any advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America; or shall expose or cause to be exposed to public view any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign upon which shall have been printed, painted, or otherwise placed, or to which shall be attached, appended, affixed, or annexed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, or drawing, or any advertisement of any nature; or who, within the District of Columbia, shall manufacture, sell, expose for sale, or to public view, or give away or have in possession for sale, or to be given away or for use for any purpose, any article or substance being an article of merchandise, or a receptacle for merchandise or article or thing for carrying or transporting merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign, to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the court. The words "flag, standard, colors, or ensign", as used herein, shall include any flag, standard, colors, ensign, or any picture or representation of either, or of any part or parts of either, made of any substance or represented on any substance, of any size evidently purporting to be either of said flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America or a picture or a representation of either, upon which shall be shown the colors, the stars and the stripes, in any number of either thereof, or of any part or parts of either, by which the average person seeing the same without deliberation may believe the same to represent the flag, colors, standard, or ensign of the United States of America.

Sec. 4. - Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which

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it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all., should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Sec. 5. - Display and use of flag by civilians; codification of rules and customs; definition

The following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States. The flag of the United States for the purpose of this chapter shall be defined according to sections 1 and 2 of this title and Executive Order 10834 issued pursuant thereto

Sec. 6. - Time and occasions for display

(a) It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(b) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(c) The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

(e) The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

(f) The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.

(g) The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

Sec. 7. - Position and manner of display

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

(a) The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection (i) of this section.

(b) The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

(c) No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to, or in place of, the flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof: Provided, That nothing in this section shall make unlawful the continuance of the practice heretofore followed of displaying the flag of the United Nations in a position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations.

(d) The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

(e) The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

(f) When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first

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and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

(h) When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

(i) When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

(j) When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

(k) When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

(l) The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

(m) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day. As used in this subsection -

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) The term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) The term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

(n) When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

(o) When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

Sec. 8. - Respect for flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

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(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

(e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

(k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Sec. 9. - Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Aliens should stand at attention. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Sec. 10. - Modification of rules and customs by President

Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.



**I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag
Of The United States Of America
And To The Republic For Which It Stands
One Nation Under God Indivisible
With Liberty And Justice For All**

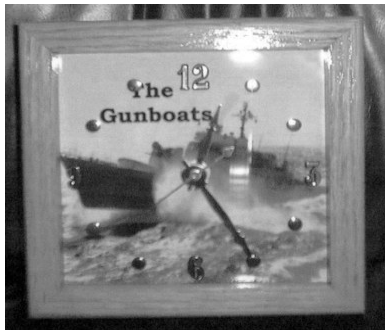


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SHIPS STORE ITEMS

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 sent along several samples of his products along with order forms for those of you who wish to order them.

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 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 is also the one who makes our commemorative coffee mugs each year. In the event you wish to order any of his products, order forms will be available in the hospitality room.

FROM THE HISTORIAN

The Association Historian, Dave Donaldson, will be bringing his laptop computer and scanner again this year 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.

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HOSPITALITY ROOM

For those of you who are attending your first Patrol Gunboat Reunion, I want to mention the Hospitality Room. Once you are settled in to your room, the Hospitality Room is the next place you should go. When you get there you will receive your registration package, a schedule of tours and other events and meal and tour tickets for those events you signed up for when you registered. You will also receive your free 2004 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion souvenir and coffee mug. As always, we will be selling tickets for the Saturday night raffle table and 50-50 drawing. Remember, with the purchase of \$20.00 in raffle table tickets, you receive a "Free" Ballcap. The hospitality room will open at noon on Wednesday and remain open until noon Sunday. There will be free snacks, soft drinks and beer available throughout the reunion.

GUNBOATRIDERS SHIRTS

When we do the order for shirts this year we will also order shirts for delivery at the reunion. We will have Jerzees short sleeved golf shirts in red, white, blue and green, 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.

At the bottom of your registration form for this years reunion there



is a line for you to order shirts for delivery in Concord. Once we reach the registration cutoff, I will place the order with Eagle Crest and have your shirts shipped directly to the hotel. The price for the shirts is \$25.00 each for small, medium, large and extra

large. Extra Extra large shirts are \$27.00 each. If we have a sufficient number of shirts ordered to receive a lower price, the difference will be returned to you at the reunion during registration. I don't plan to bring extra shirts, so be sure to order yours when you fill out your registration form. They do look great by the way.

BALL CAPS & COFFEE MUGS

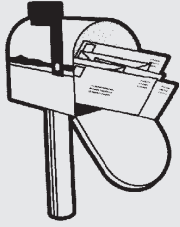
For those of you who will be attending their first Patrol Gunboat Association reunion, we will have 2005 Concord California Reunion coffee mugs and ball caps available at the hotel. The ball caps are being made by Eagle Crest, they are American manufactured quality ball caps made by the same company that makes ball caps for the Navy Exchange and many commands today. Our commemorative coffee mugs are made by K&E Crafts from Virginia. They are custom made specifically for us to commemorate this reunion. The shipment of ball caps and coffee mugs will be sent directly to the hotel and will be available during registration. Ball caps will be given to those shipmates who purchase \$20.00 in raffle tickets for the Saturday Night Raffle Drawing. Commemorative Coffee Mugs will be given to each crewmember during registration. I will have a limited number of extra mugs for sale at the Reunion for those who want more than one. The remaining hats and mugs will be available for sale on a first come, first serve basis after the Reunion. We will also bring along a limited selection of previous years caps and mugs for those who wish to complete their collections.

MILITARY HUMOR

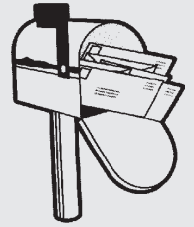
A Master Chief Petty Officer and an Admiral were sitting in the barbershop. They were both just getting finished with their haircut and shaves, when the barbers reached for some after-shave to slap on their faces.

The Admiral shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a whorehouse!" The Master Chief turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put some on me, my wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

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 Carl Fleenor (OSV Peter W. Anderson): Hello, my name is Carl Fleenor. I'm the Asst. Engineer of the OSV Peter W. Anderson, formerly known as USS Antelope, PG-86. I take care of all the Admin / Supplies and Records for Engineering. I wanted to pass on to you of the current status of the Anderson.

We entered Atlantic Drydock, Jacksonville, FL, around the end of December, 2003 with the intent to have some work done prior to departing for Puerto Rico. The yard found problems with both Main Propeller Shaft's Coupling Splines and Shaft Splines. Repairs could be done, but the owners decided to push ahead and replace the Anderson. This has been on-going for the past year, with the replacement coming on line sometime near the end of this year. Currently the Anderson is sitting pierside, Atlantic Drydock, riding high due to the Shafts being pulled (Stern Tubes plated), no fuel, fresh water or such onboard, just shore power.

The USEPA will finalize the paper work shortly and start sending some of us over to inspect / prep the replacement vessel, formerly known as Bold, T-GOS 12. It's main propulsion is diesel electric, 224 ft long, 43 ft wide, 15 ft depth, 10.5 kts at 2,100 tons, slightly bigger than the Anderson.

I've turned over to Atlantic Marine the current engineering equipment listing and engineering spare parts at our warehouse. It seems that they are interested in purchasing the Anderson for conversion to a yacht. There are several brokers also interested in the Anderson for the same reason. So hopefully the Antelope / Anderson will continue to "Shine & Sail".

I have been aboard Anderson for the past 15 years. I can say, that I never been on any other vessel that had such a "Special Quality" about it. As I have told many a people who ask why I remained on the Anderson rather than move on to bigger and better things, "This boat has such class... When you look at the Antelope/Anderson, even with all of the additions, she looks like she is moving, even when she is sitting still". I wanted to be a part of that and I have been. I have never second guessed myself on this.

If I could do my life over, I would join the Navy sooner, get orders to one of the PG's and be a part of the special group that evolved from them. "What an experience it has been, to have sailed on the Antelope / Anderson"! As far as I'm concerned, there won't be another one like her.

As I inform other USN shipmates that have contacted me over the years, I'll pass on to you the status of the Anderson / Antelope as it happens, when it happens. EPA & Metson Marine Services, our company currently has about half of the crew standing watches on the vessel while she is on the water due to her current condition. She is still in "Safe Hands". Thanks for your Time.

Carl Fleenor, Asst. Engineer, OSV Peter W. Anderson

THREE DOGS

Three handsome male dogs are walking down the street when they see a beautiful, enticing, female Poodle. The three of them fall all over themselves in an effort to be the one to reach her first, but end up arriving in front of her at the same time.

All three of them are speechless before her beauty, slobbering on themselves and hoping for just a glance from her in return. Aware of her charms and her obvious effect on the three potential suitors, she decides to be kind and tells them, "The first one who can use the words liver' and 'cheese' together in an imaginative, intelligent sentence can go out with me."

The sturdy, muscular Black Lab speaks up quickly and says, "I love liver and I love cheese."

"Oh, how childish," said the Poodle. "That shows no imagination or intelligence whatsoever."

She turned to the tall, shiny Golden Retriever and said, "How well can you do?"

"Uh - I hate liver but I like cheese," blurts the Golden Retriever.

"My, my," said the Poodle. "I guess it's hopeless. That's just as dumb as the Lab's sentence." She then turns to the last of the three dogs and says, "How about you, little guy?"

The last of the three, tiny in stature but big in finesse, is a small mixed breed mutt. He gives the Poodle a smile and a sly wink, turns to the Golden Retriever and the Lab and says, "Liver alone; Cheese mine!"

BUSINESS MEETING

A quick note about the Saturday Morning Business Meeting. At the 1998 Reunion in Peoria, some crewmembers were under the impression that the Business Meeting was for crewmembers only. This is not the case at our business meetings. As I explained to each crewmember when I first made contact with them, this Association and the reunions are a family affair. The reason I try to arrange interesting tours and quality meals is so that the reunion would be something that you would be proud to bring your wife and children to. We discuss future reunions and Association finances as well as take suggestions from the membership. That membership includes everyone in the Patrol Gunboat Family.

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:

Frank Norris
Garry Epple

Ship:

Asheville (PG-84)
Marathon (PG-89)

Departed

07/16/2002
01/25/1994