

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS

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2005 DALLAS, TEXAS

It's hard to believe, but it is time to start over again, and of course, time to let you know where the next reunion will be. The 2005 reunion is going to take us to the Lone Star State, Texas. Originally we planned to try to arrange 2005 in Florida, but we simply had no success with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The folks in Dallas were much more cooperative, and the CVB in Irving Texas was chomping at the bit to get us to come there.

We left for Dallas on April 10th, 2004 and arrived in the Dallas / Fort Worth area late in the afternoon. Our site inspection was scheduled to start the first thing the next morning. I will say that the city of Dallas is absolutely beautiful. It is one of the cleanest cities I have ever been in. The hotels we looked at were some of the best properties I have ever visited. Room rates for most of the downtown properties ran in the \$110.00 - \$130.00 range. With some negotiations we were able to get the prices down to around \$90.00. Unfortunately every downtown property had a fairly high fee for parking, and the cost for a shuttle from the airport was substantial. We had pretty much narrowed the choices down to two hotels, but the room rate was still fairly high.

We also wanted to see what Irving, Texas had to offer while we were there. Irving is essentially a suburb of Dallas. When we arrived at the first hotel in Irving, I realized that we were directly across from the Dallas / Fort Worth Airport. It was also obvious that each of the hotels in Irving provided free shuttle service from the airport as well as free parking in most cases. By the time we headed back to Virginia, we had narrowed our decision down to three properties, all in Irving, Texas. After discussing the cost of meals and other concessions, we were down to two hotels. In the end it



was basically a coin toss. The Patrol Gunboat Association 2005 Annual Reunion will be held at the Marriott Dallas / Fort Worth Airport North Hotel in Irving, Texas. **The dates for the 2005 reunion will be from Wednesday, July 13th through Sunday, July 17th.** Our group rate will be \$92.00 per night, single, double, triple quad. The cutoff date for all hotel reservations is June 1st, 2005.



When I select a hotel for our reunion I consider the enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff as well as the condition of the property. I always try to keep the room rate as low as possible so as many crew members as possible would be able to afford to attend. What I cannot afford to do is sacrifice quality for a lower rate. There is no question that attending one of our reunions is expensive, but to hold our reunion at a poorly maintained low quality property in order to save money would be unfair to everyone. I am happy to say that we are definitely getting our money's worth at the Marriott. The

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hotel is very well maintained and the staff is professional and enthusiastic. The lobby area is beautiful, it's clean and well lit with plenty of room to sit and relax while you wait for friends to arrive. The sleeping rooms are clean and spacious and have all of the amenities you expect from a quality hotel.

We also spent quite a bit of time working out details other than the room rate before we signed the contract. Our special group rate of \$92.00 per night is good for single, double, triple, quad rooms. The rate is good from three days prior until three days after the reunion for those who wish to come early or stay late. The contract also provides us the necessary complimentary rooms for our raffle table as well as a free upgrade for our early registration drawing.

Our Buffet and Banquet Dinner prices are within our usual range, not to exceed \$31.00 for an adult buffet dinner and not to exceed \$30.00 per adult for the Banquet Dinner.

Our itinerary will be the same as in previous years, Wednesday will be an early check in day with a possible Cookies and Ice Cream Reception that evening. Thursday will include an all day tour; Friday will include a full day tour and the Friday Night Buffet Dinner. Saturday morning we will again have our business meeting. Our current plan is for the Saturday Afternoon tour to include an appropriate Memorial Service. As usual, Saturday evening will be the Banquet Dinner followed by live entertainment and we will say our farewells Sunday morning.

This may come as a surprise to you, I am including a 2005 Dallas Reunion Survey Sheet in the Post Reunion Insert. Believe it or not, the results of that survey will really help me plan the reunion. Please fill out and return this Survey Sheet at your earliest convenience. It really is important to me as well as the rest of the members. I am getting pretty good at estimating the numbers, but I simply cannot do it if I don't have a good response to the survey.

2005 50/50 Drawing

It looks like we are getting good results with the 50-50 drawing again. It is one way you can help support the Association even if you do not plan to attend the reunion. Remember, you do not need to be present to win. We sell tickets for the 50/50 drawing until right after the business meeting on Saturday morning. You should find twelve tickets along with this newsletter. Simply fill them out and mail them to me along with a check made out to: Patrol Gunboat Association. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$10.00 for twelve tickets. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, just drop a check in the mail to me for \$10.00 for each set of twelve. 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.

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 during the banquet dinner followed by the raffle table drawings.

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

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

Name	Ship	Contacted
Burns, John F.	Beacon	07/15/2004
Guiang, Eriberto	Welch	08/02/2004
Hampson, Gary W.	Welch	07/29/2004
Hughes, Joseph	Antelope	06/22/2004
Imbasciani, Michael A.	Chehalis	06/29/2004
Johnston, John E.	Crockett	08/02/2004
McGury, James M.	Grand Rapids	09/01/2004
Meyer, David E.	Ready	07/27/2004
Spencer, James R.	Tacoma	07/15/2004
White, Louis E.	Crockett	09/01/2004
Ziarten, Guy E.	Marathon	06/04/2004

READ THIS, VERY IMPORTANT

You will note that the address label on the envelope that this newsletter came in has some special information on it. Along with your name and address, the label includes your 2005 membership status. On the first line, following your name you should see your 2005 dues status and whether or not your email address will be published in the membership directory and linked on the web site. If you see "**05-RNP**" then your 2005 dues have not yet been paid. If you see "**05-RP**", then your dues are current for 2005. The next item is your preference for email publication in the membership directory and web site. If you see "**Email-Yes**", then my records indicate that you want your email address published in the membership directory and linked to your name on the Association

Your First and Last Name (05-RP, Email-Yes)
Your Command (Address-Y, Phone-Y)
Your Street Address
City, State and Zip Code

Web Site. If you see "**Email-No**", then that means that you don't want your email address released to the membership in the directory or on the web site. On the second line, following the name of your ship, you will see what my records indicate your want me to do regarding your address and phone number. If you see "**Address-Y**" then I will publish your mailing address in the directory. If you see "**Address-N**" then under your name I will enter "Address not released at members request". Finally, if you see "**Phone-Y**" then the directory will include your phone number. If you see "**Phone N**" then I will enter "**Not listed**" in the next directory. It is very important that you let me know if this information is not correct. Once the 2005 directory is published, it is simply too late to make changes. My goal is to publish the directory in January of 2005. Please let me know if you want your information changed as soon as possible. **A response is not necessary if your label reflects your current wishes.**

The sample label above for example, indicates that the member is current for 2005, that he wants me to list his email address in the membership directory and have our web master link his email address to his name on the ships roster. He also wants his mailing address and phone number published in the directory.

Patrol Gunboat Association

2004 REUNION

The 2004 Patrol Gunboat Reunion was held in Concord, California at the Holiday Inn, August 04 through August 08, 2004. We left Norfolk International Airport on Tuesday, August 3rd and headed west. We arrived in Concord early in the afternoon and got settled in. We spent most of the day unpacking and setting up. Another major project was getting the boxes of things that we had shipped to the hotel in advance. Once we retrieved those boxes and unpacked them, we headed to the local Sams Club to buy refreshments for the hospitality room. Ed Reynolds from K&E Crafts shipped the coffee mugs to the hotel. Eagle Crest shipped our hats. By the end of the evening we were all unpacked and ready for a break.



Family Reunion.....

Many of you know that my father Paul McManuels often joined Nancy and me at the reunions. It became a tradition where we could have a short family get together at the same time we were enjoying the company of shipmates from our time in the navy. He would come to the Gunboat Reunions, and I would go to his Canberra Reunions. It was a wonderful bonus for all of us. Now, in keeping with the tradition that was started several years ago, we were blessed with having both of my sons and their families join us at the reunion in Concord. It also helped to have some extra hands when it came time to set up the hospitality room. My grand daughter also helped me solve a major problem when I had to choose between what we were going to have at the Wednesday reception. The hotel offered us a choice, we had to select whether we would have wine and cheese or whether we would have cookies and milk. It was a difficult decision, but with Samantha's help, the problem was solved. We had cookies.

Pre-Con Meeting.....

Wednesday morning was the "Pre-Con" or Pre Convention meeting. This two hour meeting is an opportunity for us to meet with each member of the hotel staff, those management personnel who are responsible for each event during the reunion. We met the Catering Manager who would be responsible for the Buffet and Banquet Dinners, the Registration Desk Manager, responsible for checking in each of our members, the hotel bar manager, housekeeping, audio visual personnel, maintenance and security personnel, all the folks at the hotel who were responsible for making our reunion a success.

Hospitality Room.....

Following the Pre-Con meeting, it was time to get to work setting up the hospitality room. Our Historian, Dave Donaldson was already there and started setting up his impressive display. Once again we were fortunate to have access to the outside so that our smokers could take a smoke break without disturbing the nonsmokers. We set up the registration area right inside the door

so that everybody had a chance to hear Nancy's pitch for hats and raffle tickets when they checked in. They could also pick up their 2004 commemorative coffee mug and other giveaways as well as information about the area. Once people started arriving, Nancy began handing out registration items and much of what we had stored in our room. My son Paul and I got the snack tables set up and soft drinks on ice. And of course, we got the beer ready. The Hospitality Room is the center of the reunion. It is where everyone congregates when there is nothing scheduled for us to do as a group. We opened the doors to the Hospitality Room on time and started checking in members at noon.

As always, I want to thank my wife Nancy for all the work she does at the reunion, in particular at registration. She assists me with making certain that your registration packages are complete and error free. When you arrive she takes care of making sure that you are checked in and that you receive your package and goodies. She makes sure that you get an opportunity to purchase raffle table tickets and then get your "Free" ballcap as well as encouraging you to help with the 50 - 50 by purchasing additional tickets for the drawing.

Thursday, our first scheduled tour.....

Once again the tour participation during the 2004 reunion was excellent. I can't tell you how pleased I am to see such a great interest in the tours. On Thursday we headed out for San Francisco at 9:00 AM. By 10:00 there was still quite a bit of fog and it looked like we might not get to see much. Our first stop was on Treasure Island to get a good look at the San Francisco Skyline. Unfortunately the fog had not yet lifted and it looked like we might not have a good day for sight-seeing. After leaving Treasure Island we took a riding tour of the Financial District, the Marina, Nob Hill and the Civic Center. We also stopped at Twin Peaks Park for a breathtaking view, finally the fog was lifting. Our driver did the narration and showed us that he was well versed on the City of San Francisco. By 1:00 PM we were all ready for something to eat.

Our next stop was at Fishersman's Wharf. Many of us got off while the rest left on the coach and headed to China Town. I don't know how the food was in China Town, but Fishersman's Wharf is still as good as I remember it. At 3:00 the driver picked up those who went to China Town, then came back to Fishersman's Wharf to pick up the rest of us. By 5:00 we were back at the hotel and heading to the Hospitality Room.

Friday, a tour of the Wine Country, and of course the Friday Night Buffet Dinner.....

At 9:00 AM Friday we boarded the bus for Napa Valley and the Wine Country. Our first stop, the wineries of V. Suttui. After touring the grounds we headed to the winery itself to learn about the fine art of wine making, something that the Napa Valley is famous for. We browsed the cheese deli and then headed back to the bus. Our next stop was the town of Yountville for lunch. After lunch, we took a short bus ride to the St. Supery wineries. At St. Supery, we got to stroll through the wine fields and actually see the grape vines and enjoy a wine tasting presentation. A tour of the Victorian Atkins House and the barrel room followed. After a stroll through the gallery we ventured out to an outside garden area for our own private wine tasting party. When our driver showed up, we were all ready to sit back and relax. Some even took a short nap while we rode back to the hotel.

We arrived back at the Holiday Inn around 4:30. At 6:00 PM we opened the bar in the foyer to the banquet hall. Our Buffet dinner started at 7:00. As always, there was plenty to eat, followed by introductions from some of the new members. We tried to get each one to come up to the microphone and introduce themselves and tell us a bit about themselves. And, just like the last time, we got a few sea stories too.....

Saturday, Business Meeting, Tour, Banquet, Dancing.....

The annual business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning. The following statistics were presented to the members in attendance:

As of 30 July, 2004, The Association data base held 2,376 names of former crew members, of which we have located and verified the addresses and phone numbers of 951. These crew members are now on the mailing list for the Association Newsletter (Gunboat Riders).

The data file holds the names of 38 deceased crew members. (Included are those who died while attached to one of the ships.) Of the 38 deceased crew members, 5 have families who desire to be kept informed of all Association activities and wish to remain active and on the Association Mailing list. They receive all Association Newsletters and other correspondence. These members do not pay dues and receive an invitation to all reunions and other Association functions. There are an additional 33 deceased crew members who

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have been identified whose families have not been located or contacted, or, have been contacted and prefer to not to receive information about our Association or receive our newsletter.

The membership present was reminded about Association Dues, and agreed that dues should remain at \$20.00 per year. For the benefit of our new members, I will again quickly cover our membership structure.

Member Status "RP" - Those members who have responded to the membership dues request and are current with their annual dues. These members will receive all Newsletters and other correspondence regarding Association activities.

Member Status "RNP" - Those members who have not responded to the membership dues request. These members receive only the Pre-Reunion and Post Reunion Newsletters. The Pre-Reunion Newsletter is published in March and includes all registration forms and other items required to register for the reunion. The Post Reunion Newsletter comes out shortly after the reunion and it gives a rundown of the events and highlights of the reunion.

Member Status "M" - Status "M" which is the "MISSING PERSONS" list.

Member Status "D" - Status "D" which is our deceased shipmates. I would appreciate your input regarding crew members who have passed away. As you may have noticed, we have a column in the Newsletter called "Supreme Commander". In it, we share the information on our departed shipmates.

Other items that were discussed included the location of the 2005 Reunion as well as Association Finances, Association Officers and the events we schedule at each reunion. The members were reminded of the importance of filling out and returning the Reunion Survey as well as the need to make reservations early. A motion was then made and carried that we adjourn the 2004 business meeting.

Shortly after the business meeting, we boarded the bus for our tour of the USS Hornet. By 4:00 we were back at the hotel and getting ready for the Banquet Dinner.

Saturday Banquet Dinner.....

After returning to the hotel, we had about an hour before the Banquet Dinner Program started. Refreshments were available at the cash bar starting at 6:00 PM and the Banquet Room opened at 7:00. Our Historian, Dave Donaldson (CCR-3) presided over the Banquet Dinner and welcomed the members to the 2004 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion Banquet. Colors were presented by **The Mount Diablo High School ROTC Color Guard Detail**. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, the Color Guard retired the Colors, the Chaplain said the Benediction and Dave invited us all to join him for the 2004 Patrol Gunboat Association Banquet.

After dinner, Dave introduced the head table and our Guest Speaker for the evening, **LCDR Todd Trimpert** from **US Coast Guard Air Station, San Francisco, CA**. CDR Trimpert gave us some insight into what the Coast Guard is doing today to support the war on terror.

Following dinner, we held the annual 50-50 drawing. We will have another

50-50 drawing at the 2005 Reunion. There are twelve 50-50 tickets included with this newsletter for the drawing that will be held following the Banquet Dinner in Dallas. Help support a growing Association by purchasing at least twelve tickets. You may do so, at any time, by sending me a check or money order for the desired number of tickets along with sufficient address labels for me to place on them. Tickets will again be \$10.00 for twelve tickets or \$1.00 each. Make your check or money order payable to the Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association. **Remember, the winners need not be present at the drawing.**

Next came the raffle table drawing. Once again Jodi Bay, wife of Paul McGurgan (PG-88) came through with some goodies for the raffle table. This year she sent us another quilt along with a throw cover, both beautifully done in a Navy theme. Her donations each year result in the Association making additional money from the raffle table drawing. Unfortunately Jodi and Paul couldn't make it this year.

After the raffle drawing, we were entertained with music and dancing from Whitewater, a local country band. I had a great time and I hope everyone else did too. It was a great reunion as far as I am concerned, I do hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the reunion as much as I did.

Special thanks to my wife Nancy and my family for all their help and to Jodi Bay for her beautiful contribution to the raffle table. To Dave Donaldson, a wonderful display as usual, and thanks for assisting me with the banquet. To Wes Ronk, thanks for the plaques, I have received several calls from people who want to order them. Lastly, to the members of the Association who came and made this reunion a success, thank you, I hope you enjoyed the reunion.

Sunday brought the hugs and handshakes, and the promises to meet again next year. As the bellman was loading cars and folks were checking out, many were relaxing in the Hospitality Room discussing plans to once again meet at the next reunion.

SEE YOU IN TEXAS NEXT YEAR!

MILITARY HUMOR

On some air bases the Air Force uses one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?"

The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?"

The tower replied, "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to "Happy Hour."

LOOK WHO CAME TO DINNER

The following former crew members joined us at the 2004 Patrol Gunboat Association Reunion in Concord, California:

Harry Angell, Grand Rapids
Peter Baumann, Gallup
Alfred S. Berg, Asheville
Steve Bergren, Crockett
Lee Blankenship, Antelope
Lee W. Boos, Douglas
Tony Brauneck, Antelope
A. Craig Brooks, Grand Rapids
Robert C. Brown, Antelope
John F. Burns, Beacon
Bud Butterfield, Gallup
Fred L. Carozzo, Surprise
Robert L. Casey, Ready
Charles L. Chupco, Crockett
Monte E. Collins, Defiance

Jim Davies, Gallup
David Donaldson, CCR-3
Steve Fisher, Douglas
Skip Foster, Beacon
Bill Funk, Grand Rapids
Allen N. Gross, Gallup
Albert Havranek, Antelope
George E. Ingram, Crockett
Jake Jacobson, Antelope
Bill Joseph, Ready
Gerald R. Kirby, Douglas
Leo L. Klotz, Gallup
Harold Lankford, Surprise
John Larson, Gallup

Willie B. Lucindo, Gallup
Bill Lydon, Green Bay
Gene Mackey, Gallup
Robert L. Maples, Douglas
Jim McGranahan, Gallup
Terry McManuels, Canon
John G. Miller, Benicia
Al Minzer, Tacoma
Charles R. Moran, Green Bay
David J. Nikola, Canon
Terry L. Pankowski, Ready
Joseph A. Patton, Tacoma
John R. Perrigo, Antelope
Gary G. Peterson, Defiance

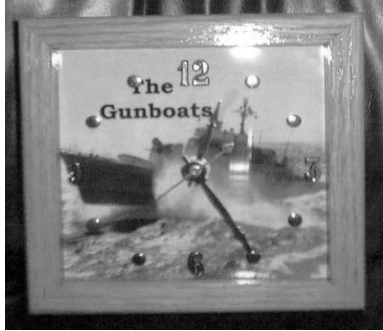
John M. Pletsch, Crockett
Bill Powell, Antelope
Mick Powers, Crockett
Rick Ranson, Surprise
Vernon L. Roe, Asheville
Wesley L. Ronk, Antelope
Chris N. Schadt, Douglas
Chuck Schmidt, Gallup
Jim Showalter, Antelope
Rex Skiver, Canon
Gary Stankey, Chehalis
Bobby J. Strozier, Surprise
Danny L. Watson, Canon
Gary G. Wentworth, Antelope

Patrol Gunboat Association

SHIPS STORE ITEMS

Once again Ed Reynolds from K&E Crafts made us some terrific looking coffee mugs for the reunion. He sent along several items for us to display in the hospitality room and of course, some order forms for those who want to order some of his products. You can also order Patrol Gunboat Association items on-line using Ed's web site. It is also linked to the Gunboatriders web site. If you don't go on-line and want order forms, just give Ed a call and he will get one to you.

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.



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. If you are interested in purchasing Patrol Gunboat Association memorabilia, call Ed at (540) 721-1980.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Association dues for calendar year 2005 are due by December 31, 2004. If your dues are not received prior to the mailing of the first newsletter of 2005, we will not be able to send it via presorted mail, that means that we have to pay first class postage to mail your newsletter. We have had excellent growth this year, our data base now holds the names of 2378 former crew members with names and addresses of 1018 crew members from the Gunboats and associated staffs. We had 254 dues payers collecting \$5,080.00 in annual dues in 2004. The money collected in dues each year is used to cover the costs of producing and mailing the quarterly newsletters, and printing and mailing of the Association Membership Directory. These funds are also used to pay for the mailing of over 700 newspaper and magazine press releases each year to announce the date and location of our next reunion. Press releases are produced and mailed between January and March of each year. Only those members paying dues receive a copy of the Association Membership Roster with addresses and phone numbers of other former crew members.

Each and every year the continued success of the Patrol Gunboat Association is dependent upon your support. My goal has always been to use membership dues to cover the cost of maintaining the Association. As a reminder, your dues status is printed on the mailing label sent with this newsletter.

BALL CAPS & COFFEE MUGS

If you want to keep your collection complete, be advised that I have less than one case of 2004 coffee mugs left. They are available on a first come basis. The price of the 2004 coffee mugs is \$5.00 plus shipping. I also have a limited number of hats left, in both blue and white.

If you are missing hats and cups from previous years and want to complete your collections, I have cups from 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. I still have hats available from each year. The price for the Hat and Cup set is \$16.00 (shipping included) for 2002 and earlier. The price for the 2003 Hat is \$10.00 (shipping included) and the price for the 2004 Hat and Cup set is \$25.00 (shipping included). All remaining Hats and Cups are available on a first come, first serve basis.

GUNBOATRIDERS SHIRTS

We now have a fairly good selection of 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.

These are very high quality shirts, and they look great. We make a little on the sale of these shirts, the proceeds are used to help pay for the individual ships patches that we are slowly getting for each ship.



If you would like to have one of these great looking shirts, simply send me a check for \$25.00 (\$27.00 for extra extra large) per shirt plus \$3.00 for shipping. Be sure to include the color you desire and size.

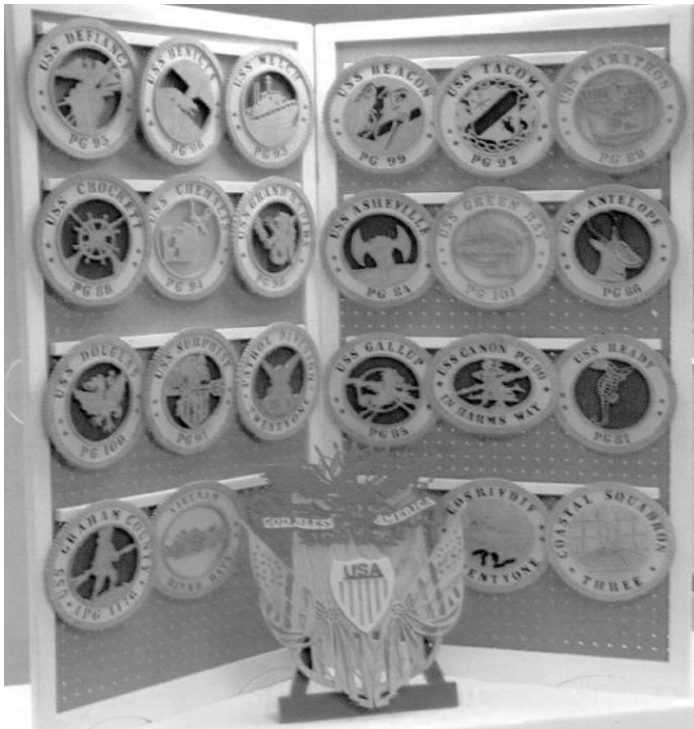
They come in small, medium, large, extra large and extra extra large. Make your check payable to "Patrol Gunboat Association."

CONCORD REUNION SURVEY RESULTS

Each year we send out a Reunion Survey to try to gauge the number of members who will attend the next reunion. I would like to remind you why it is so important that you respond to this survey. First off, remember that it is just a survey. It is a tool that I use to assist me in determining transportation requirements for the tours, how many tour guides and escorts we will need, where we will be able to arrange meals during the tours and a myriad of other details. This survey is my only way to estimate, in advance, how successful a reunion might be. The final negotiated room rate is dependent on the number of guests who will be staying at the hotel. The cost of the meals at the hotel and the final cost for all tours is determined by the anticipated number of participants. In short, the data gathered from the survey is essential to the efficient and cost effective arrangements of virtually every event during the reunion.

I averaged the results of our previous reunions and developed a formula to compute a ratio of positive responses to actual attendees. I used this ratio to determine what we could expect for participation at the 2004 reunion and adjusted the contracts based on the survey results. The results of that survey, out of more than 800 Survey's mailed, I received a total of 127 responses. Of those, 74 indicated that they planned to attend the Concord Reunion. There were 29 crew members who were 100% sure that they would attend, 22 who were 75% certain and 23 who were 50% certain that they would attend. I used this data to adjust the room block three months before the reunion. From our history it looked like we should have had a total of 34 members plus guests at the reunion. Of course, having 28 people show up at the reunion who did not respond to the survey made it a bit more difficult, and having 7 show up who never registered made for some more serious problems when it came to meals. Please, fill out your 2005 survey and send it back to me.

Patrol Gunboat Association

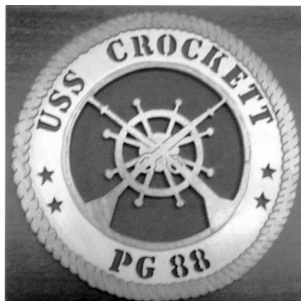


HAND MADE SHIP'S PLAQUES

Wes Ronk (PG-86) impressed all of us when he showed up in Concord with an incredible display of ships and squadron plaques. Each plaque was hand made and is a replica of the original ships plaque. I have no idea how long it took Wes to make these, but my guess is that it took close to a year. He must have started this project shortly after the 2003 reunion. When he was finished setting up the display, I asked him what he planned to do with them. He said that they were for the Association and that I could do what ever I wanted to do with them.



At first I thought about seeing if our Historian, Dave Donaldson wanted to add them to his collection of memorabilia, but then I realized that there was no way he would be able to include this display with the dozens of other things he brings to every reunion. So, I decided that we would hold an additional raffle and give them to the members. We sold special tickets for the plaques. When you purchased the ticket, you had to put the ship or squadron's name on the back. Prior to the banquet, we sorted the tickets by command and placed each group in a separate envelope. We held the drawing during the banquet dinner. Finally, when all the plaques were won, we put all the tickets back in the drum and drew one more. The winner of that ticket got to chose which command patch we would have made next.



So, the winner of that final ticket selected the USS Green Bay. We will be contacting Eagle Crest and should have the Green Bay patch made in the next few months. Proceeds from this special drawing will be used to pay for that patch. Our thanks to everyone who participated in this drawing.

DID YOU KNOW....

A Local Area Network in Australia is known as....
"The LAN Down Under"

2004 CONCORD REUNION 50 - 50 WINNERS

Those of you who have attended one of our reunions know that one of the highlights of the banquet dinner is the 50-50 drawing. We usually draw the first place ticket shortly after dinner starts, the second draw about half way through dinner and the third and final draw while desert is being served. It is really great when at least one of the winners is present at the banquet and we can give them their checks in person. As many of you realize, the money we generate from this program is essential to the Association for us to be able to pay for reunion expenses such as such as Hospitality Room refreshments, raffle table items and entertainment after the Saturday Night Banquet. Half of the money received from the sale of 50 - 50 tickets is awarded to the three lucky winners. Fifty percent of the prize money goes to the first place winner, thirty percent to the second place winner and twenty percent to the third place winner. The remaining half of the money is kept by the Association for reunion related expenses.

Each crew member receives 12 tickets. These tickets are included in one of the Association Newsletters. 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 until the end of the business meeting on Saturday morning.

This year we sold \$1374.00 in 50 - 50 tickets. Of this, \$687.00 was distributed as prizes. The winners of the 2004 50 - 50 drawing were:

First Place: Dave Donaldson, COSRON THREE \$343.50
Second Place: Gerald Kirby, USS Douglas \$206.10
Third Place: Charlie Bayer, USS Asheville \$137.40

The first place winner, Dave Donaldson is also the Association Historian. He also accepted the task of acting as the Master of Ceremonies for our banquet dinner in Concord. As soon as his ticket was drawn, he graciously donated his winnings back to the Association. We all certainly appreciate his generosity. The same should be said for Charlie Bayer, his check was returned to me with a large black "X" and the word "Void" written on it. He also sent a very touching letter along with the check. Thanks Dave and Charlie.

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
Bruce Gugler	Marathon (PG-89)	07/07/2000