

PATROL GUNBOAT ASSOCIATION

GUNBOAT RIDERS



<http://gunboatriders.com>
<http://www.gunboats@yahoo.com>
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Terry W. McManuels 1673 Kilt Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (757) 479-2261

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MCMANUELS FAMILY



As usual, it is very late at night, Nancy has gone to bed and here I am once again struggling to get an edition of Gunboat Riders ready for the printer. In my defense I would say that the passing of my father as well as being the executor of his estate has made this last year a very difficult one for me. But then I also must admit that time just seems to go faster these days. There just doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day, or perhaps I just don't use them as wisely as I should. I admit it, I am always a bit tardy when it comes time to get the next edition of the newsletter ready to go.

So, where is this Christmas article going? Well, I just spent a fairly stressful week dealing with my fathers estate. That certainly is not conducive to my having much of the Christmas spirit. But, on my desk sits the most recent batch of pictures that Nancy had taken of my granddaughter Samantha. She is certainly the high point of my life these days. And, whenever I think of my father, I remember how much she made him laugh and smile.

Death is simply another part of life's rich pageantry as my wife Nancy

would say. With so much of my life spent in the Navy, most of it as sea, I never spent much time with my father. Once I retired I tried to do better, but like many people, I will never feel that I gave him as much time as I should have.

So, what is the point of this article? Well, along with the Christmas graphic that I always include as my substitute for more than a thousand Christmas cards that I should send to the members of the Patrol Gunboat Association, I am including a special gift, a little advise from the "Ole Master Chief".

Take the time to spend with family. If your parents are still alive, do your best to enjoy their company while you can. We all have busy lives, trust me, if you wait until you are not busy, it just might be too late. Become involved in their lives while you can. If you have to choose between coming to the reunion or spending time with your folks, then visit your folks. Better still, bring them to the reunion and let them become a bigger part of your life. I assure you, you won't regret it.

The Holiday Season is here and I know that I am truly blessed. I have my health, my family and my friends. I do hope that each of you feels as fortunate as I do.

Being able to join my shipmates from the Patrol Gunboats is another special blessing that I am truly thankful for. Every email, every letter and post card and every phone call reminds me of how fortunate I am to have had the privilege to serve in the United States Navy, to serve this great country, and to have been lucky enough to do so on a Patrol Gunboat.

I know that I don't need to remind anyone that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines continue to go in harms way. The best men and women that America has to offer continue to support and defend the Flag far away from home, loved ones and families, and the end is still not in sight. Please take a moment during the Holidays to give thanks to the Veterans who put their lives on the line everyday. Keep them in your thoughts and say a prayer for their safe and quick return home. It is their

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vigilance and sacrifice that ensure our way of life and keep America strong.

*From our home to yours, we wish
each of you the
Happiest of Holiday Seasons.
Terry and Nancy McManuels*

All of us from the McManuels family would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a festive Holiday Season and a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year. We are looking forward to seeing you in Texas in July, 2005.

HELP! PGRA WEB SITE WEBMASTER NEEDED

Jim Thomas (that's the other Jim Thomas) has been our Web Site Webmaster now ever since we got the new web site started. Jim took us from the plain and simple pages that I had originally loaded using my personal ISP and created the top notch site that you see today. In return, we paid Jim the handsome sum of \$20.00 per year for his time and labor (we exempt the Webmaster from paying annual dues). Jim agreed to manage the web site in exchange for paying dues, and he has also paid for the cost of the web site out of his own pocket. But, it is time for a change. Jim advised me several weeks ago that he is about ready to pass the torch on to someone else.

What we need is someone who is willing to take on the task of Webmaster. The Association will cover the cost of maintaining the site, all annual fees and costs of maintaining the site. We will also cover the cost of whatever software you may need. Right now the site is produced using "Frontpage" software.

Please give me a call if you are willing to assume the job of Webmaster. Thanks from all of us in advance.

PHOTO'S WANTED

Our Historian, Dave Donaldson is looking for any photographs of the Gunboats for inclusion in the Association Archives. All photographs will be returned if you want them back. If you have any that you would be willing to send him, please mail them to Dave at:

Dave Donaldson
779 N E Josephine Ct.
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Gene Van Orden is also looking for photographs of any of the ships depicting battle damage from duty in Vietnam. Gene's address is:

Gene VanOrden
4336 40th Street
Grandville, MI 49418

NEW MEMBERS IN FILE

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

Name	Ship	Contacted
Bangert, Ron	Crockett	12/22/2004
Bradshaw, Jeff	COMCOSRON THREE	10/28/2004
Espinoza, Ramon J.	Surprise	12/22/2004
Frantz, Joseph C.	Graham County	10/28/2004
King, Rick W.	Marathon	11/18/2004
Singstock, David J.	Gallup	10/28/2004
Staten, Lloyd W.	Canon	11/01/2004
Zabel, Carl W.	Graham County	12/22/2004

MESSAGE FROM BILL GATES

If this is not true, it should be. I got this from a shipmate and thought I would put it in the newsletter.

To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice. Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to anything in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

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BALLCAPS AND COFFEE MUGS

This is just a reminder that we still have a good selection of Ballcaps and Coffee Mugs available from most of our reunions. The price for the Ballcap and Mug set is \$16.00 for all reunions up to and including 2003. The cap and mug set for the 2004 reunion is \$25.00. Priority mail shipping is included in this price.

Since I am on the subject of available memorabilia, be sure to check out the K&E Crafts Website. The internet address for K&E is http://www.kec-co.com/gunboat_riders.htm. Ed Reynolds from K&E is a former sailor and he is dedicated to making the finest products available. The Patrol Gunboat Association memorabilia manufactured by K&E is all top quality, reasonably priced and guaranteed to meet your approval.

Ed will also do special orders utilizing your graphics when possible. In the event you do not have access to the internet, feel free to call K&E at (540) 721-1980 for more information. The Association receives a percentage of all sales. This money goes into the general fund and is used to support our administrative expenses. K&E Crafts also donates items each year to be given away at the reunion as raffle table prizes.

2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Well shipmates, it's time to do another membership directory. The 2005 directory will use the same format as the 2004 directory, however the print will be slightly smaller. I am doing this so that I can do the mailing at the reduced bulk rate. As you can imagine, the cost of postage for newsletters and the annual membership directory is our biggest administrative expense.

The 2005 directory will include your report date and the date you transferred off your boat. Keep in mind that the only information I have to go on is what you have sent me. If you have never sent me the dates that you were stationed on your ship, then those fields will be blank in the directory. I have also managed to include the number of reunions you have attended in the directory. Next to your name you will find one star (★) for each reunion you have attended. If you have been to all of the reunions, then you will find seven stars right after your name. Also remember, the only information I have on those who have attended the reunions is the registration forms that you sent in prior to the reunion. I have already found several members who have attended reunions, but since they didn't register in advance, the information was never added to the data base. If you find a mistake in the directory, please let me know and I will make changes to the file which will be reflected in the next directory.

As always, if you have requested that I not release your information, the directory simply lists your name and "Address not published at member's request".

2005 DUES STATUS

Back when we held our first business meeting in Peoria, we voted on Association Membership Dues. The membership present at that first reunion decided to set dues at \$20.00, and we have continued to collect this amount ever since.

Dues are used primarily for costs associated with running the Association. Our biggest expense is the cost of printing and mailing newsletters and our annual membership directory. Many members save their newsletters, so I always have them printed on 60# paper. This increases the cost to print the newsletter, and on occasion, increases the cost of postage for mailing. Right now there are 2312 names in the data base file. Of that number, we have mailing addresses on 1084 people. We closed out 2004 with 256 dues paying members. That makes the cost of mailing the newsletter to those 256 members \$94.72 for postage alone. Two of the newsletters weigh more than one ounce. The Pre Reunion and Post Reunion editions go out to all 1084 members. With the weight of these two editions being over one ounce, the cost for postage is more than \$650.00 for each special edition of the Gunboat Riders newsletter.

The cost of the membership directory is also substantial. We are financially secure, and even though we are no longer in debt, I still try to be responsible with your money. Another major expense is the cost of producing and mailing out the annual press release.

We collected \$5120.00 in 2004 dues, and have currently collected \$3220.00 so far in dues for 2005. All dues paying members receive the membership directory along with an Association membership card.

Your dues status is printed on the mailing label sent with this newsletter. The sample label shows dues status for both calendar year 2004 and 2005. To determine your dues status, check the label on the

Your First and Last Name	2004 Status
Your Command	RP
Your Street Address	
Your City, State and Zip Code	2005 Dues
	Not Paid

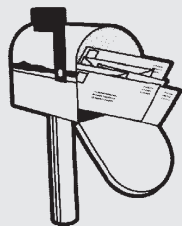
envelope that this newsletter came in.

Name and address information is on the left side of the label. On the top right side of the label is your member status for 2004. If there is an "RP" under 2004, then your 2004 dues were paid. If there is an "RNP" or "RNP1", then your 2004 dues were not paid. On the bottom right side of the label is your dues status for 2005.

The sample label indicates that the member has paid their 2004 dues, but has not paid their 2005 dues. Unless your dues are paid prior to the next newsletter, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until the 2005 Dallas Pre Reunion edition. You will also not receive the new and exciting 2005 Patrol Gunboat Association Membership Directory and Membership Card unless you send in your dues check. I will have additional membership directories printed, but when they run out, there will be no more until 2006.

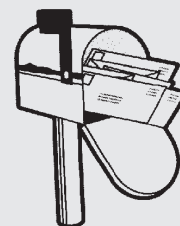
Family members of deceased Gunboat Riders receive the annual Membership Directory and are exempt from paying dues. Honorary and Associate members are also exempt from paying dues but do not receive the Membership Directory. If you have any questions, feel free to call me or send me an email message and ask for clarification.

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FROM THE MAILBAG

On this page, I want to print some of the comments that I have received from shipmates who either call or write to me. Due to space restrictions, I cannot include all of these comments. I will include those for which I have space in the current publishing period.



☐ **From Shipmate Lee Blankenship (PG-86):** Terry -- Just a very quick note to let you know that I really enjoyed the Concord reunion and appreciate all the hard work that you and Nancy put into making it a success. Not only was the facility very good, the staff were extraordinarily accommodating and helpful; the hospitality room was perfect for our needs; and the meals were top quality. And, it was a nice touch that the City of Concord adopted a proclamation recognizing us during the reunion; it doesn't cost anything, but it does show an attention to detail that helps to make us feel welcome.

WE HAVE GOLF SHIRTS

I just placed another order for Golf Shirts from Eagle Crest. Currently I have all colors and sizes in stock. I really don't want to tie up the Associations money with a lot of inventory sitting on the shelf, so I try to keep just a few of each on hand. When I run out of one particular size or color, I place another order. The price of the shirts is now \$25.00 for small, medium, large and extra large. Extra extra large shirts are \$27.00. This price includes postage for me to mail the shirts to you. Right now I have a full inventory of sizes and colors, so if you want one of these great looking shirts, red, white, blue or green, simply send a check made out to the Patrol Gunboat Association for the appropriate amount.

Ship's patches for Tacoma, Crockett and Gallup have been selling at a slow pace, and since we had to order at minimum of 50 each, we have plenty in stock. Thanks to the money we generated from the raffle of the plaques that Wes Ronk donated at the Concord reunion, we have ordered the USS Green Bay patch and it is now available.

Ships patches are \$12.00 each, with the Association paying postage to mail them. Please do not send me money for any patches that we currently do not have, it makes the bookkeeping a real problem for me. Just let me know what patch you want and I will let you know when they are in. If you want Tacoma, Gallup, Crockett or Green Bay patches, send me a check for the appropriate amount and I will get them to you as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

I wrote a special program for use in my data base file to download data and print membership cards for members of the Association whose dues are current. If your membership dues are paid for calendar year 2005, then your card will be included with your membership directory. The directory will be mailed out sometime in February. This data file has been set to merge specific data from the data base. Your ID Card should reflect your first year of continuous membership. For example, if you paid dues in 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005, missing year 2002, then your card states that you have been a continuous member since 2003. Your card also includes an expiration date, that date would be December 31 of the last year for which your dues are currently paid.

VALLEY FORGE INCIDENT

As many of the members know, we had a problem in Valley Forge at the 2003 reunion. As always, we had a hospitality room set up for the attendees to spend their time when they weren't out on tour or otherwise occupied. Our historian, Dave Donaldson had set up an excellent display of memorabilia, as usual. We also had a table set up with most of our raffle table prizes on display. Apparently someone decided to help themselves to the majority of the raffle table prizes on Friday night. There were several other items taken that night, including some personal items brought in by some of the members.

One item in particular that was taken was a ship's plaque from the USS Gallup (PG-85). This plaque belonged to Bill Spane, the commissioning CO from the ship. Bill was unable to attend the entire reunion, but he was kind enough to bring his ship's plaque for us to display to the members in the hospitality room. Most of the items that were taken were easy to replace, but I will always feel badly about losing Bill Spane's plaque. I am certain that nothing will ever replace it.

If you were at the Concord reunion you should have noticed the hand made plaques that shipmate Wes Ronk made for us. Wes made one plaque for each of the Gunboats as well as most of the staff commands. I just received a copy of a letter that Bill sent to Wes. It was a thank you letter. Wes made Bill Spane a new Gallup plaque and sent it to him. Nothing will ever replace the original ship's plaque, but thanks to Wes Ronk, Bill Spane now has a USS Gallup plaque to hang on the wall. Thanks Wes, you are a true shipmate.

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
Kenneth Barnett	Tacoma (PG-92)	05/2004
Peter Bauman	Gallup (PG-85)	08/23/2004
Glendel Love	Crockett (PG-88)	12/2004
William Wilborn	Ready (PG-87)	11/22/2004