

THE PIRATE

Newsletter of the USS Carpenter Shipmates Association



June 2011

President's Message

We just recently concluded our 9th Annual Reunion of the USS Carpenter Shipmates Association, Warwick, Rhode Island and Plantations of Providence. Yes, that is the official name of the State we just call Rhode Island. For those of you that couldn't make our gathering this year, we had a great time. I commend the Search Committee, along with the Board, for the selection of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Warwick. Overall, the hotel staff treated us very well, and the people of RI are a friendly bunch. But they speak with a strange accent, and if you are from the South, it's usually connected with the word, "Yankee." But I wouldn't hang on that too long; the hospitality was truly of the "South." They were great! And we had a good time. Wish the rest of you had been there.

Also, if the ladies of our group had not pitched in the way they did there would have been only a mediocre get-together. The women of the Carpenter Shipmates Association attending our reunion truly put the icing on the cake for us, in many ways. Plus they are fun to have along. Its was truly a fun week-end.

This was a special time for me. I have finished my first year as your president. Next reunion will be election time for someone else to step up to take my place. The time for this job has gone really fast. So keep next year in mind. I'd like to see all of us together for this next year. Our search committee is now looking westerly for a next year location. We are centering on Denver but that doesn't mean that's where we are going. But we are looking along the eastern side of the Rockies, somewhere. Let me have your suggestions.

Our speaker for the banquet was Admiral James R. Hogg, accompanied by his wife Anne, and also, Captain Kenneth Lyons, who in an earlier time had commanded the USS Wasp. After conclusion of the Two Bell Ceremony, I was privileged to call Admiral Hogg back to the podium to

present him with a beautiful plaque, and as I began to make the exchange the standing ovation became so enthusiastic for the Admiral I could not hear my own voice. The whole event was terrific. The keepsake programs we had were designed, printed, and shipped to us at the hotel by Ernie Silva, our new Webmaster. Captain Carpenter had skillfully pieced together a most beautiful plaque for the Admiral which exhibited a double row of four stars, representing the Admiral's rank, with our words of appreciation. Another highlight of the evening was the Hawaiian style pineapple table decorations, again by our ladies headed up by Marge Nolan, including the individual silk flower leis' given to all present. The group photos with everyone wearing their leis' tell the story. We are still members of the Pineapple Fleet, and it came through, loud and clear.

One last thing. Pam Brown came through for us again with all the arrangements. And husband John Brown with friend Chuck Philipian, were with us the whole time and did everything needed to ensure we had a great time. Again, thanks to all for being there and thanks to everyone that pitched in to work so diligently. Our organization is truly blessed and indebted to you for those efforts.

joel weinbaum, FTG3, '65-'66
President, USS Carpenter shipmates association

FROM THE HISTORIAN

As I have stated many times, I wish to thank all of you who have contributed items of interest to the Shipmates Association and also I am very appreciative, as are the Board members, to those of you who have loaned me your cruise books and other items to copy.

At this point, we have cruise books that were published for all of the deployments of the '50's and '60's So far, I have located only two cruise books for '70 and '71-72. The Carpenter went to San Francisco in 1973 for major repairs and changed home port from Pearl and soon after was assigned to the Naval Reserve Training force so for you shipmates who were aboard Carpenter from '73 and beyond and have knowledge of any cruise books during those years, or can provide some sea stories or other historical data, please notify me at the email address below.

Other historical data that is available for review at the reunions include: photos and other memorabilia from past reunions; personal sea stories and journals; general history, statistics and ports of call; Pirate Newsletters; and "Snippets, Tidbits and Scuttlebutt".

In addition to maintaining all this data, my emphasis for the coming months will be collecting autobiographies. If you would be willing to provide same, I will send you a short sample of what we would like to see in your write-up.

Phil (Shep) Shepard
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Vice President's Message

Ahoy Pirates!

The 9th USS Carpenter Shipmates reunion in Warwick RI was a great success. The accommodations at The Crowne Plaza were the best that we have had. Gatherings Plus put together very interesting tours of Historic Providence and Newport including a visit to The Breakers Mansion built by the Vanderbilt family in the 1800's. We also toured the Battleship, Massachusetts, the Destroyer Joseph P. Kennedy and the Submarine Sea Lion at Battleship Cove. It was interesting to learn that the Kennedy family provides no assistance to the foundation maintaining the Kennedy, even though it is named for a family member and another family member once served in the crew.

There were 48 people in attendance, including first timers Leonard Harris and Jerry Lyons. Also, Plankowners Eugene Magill, Ed Graham, Jim Burton and Stengle Watkins were present and performed the Two Bell ceremony to honor our departed shipmates. Also joining us was Capt. Pat Carpenter USN (Ret.) and his wife Ann. They have never missed a reunion since we started in 2003. We found it interesting that some of us can't remember what happened yesterday but when it comes to "sea stories", we can remember every little detail.

During the business meeting, the By Laws were amended to give direction for the memorabilia given by Pat Carpenter, to be presented to a Naval History Museum, if or when the association ever disbands. Also, a committee was appointed to search for a site for our 2012 reunion, with direction that it be held in the west. The committee will recommend three sites to the Executive Board for final determination. Those present voted to raise annual dues from \$20 to \$25 beginning immediately. All those present brought some great raffle gifts and the Ships Store did a brisk business. All of the profits go to the association treasury.

Our Guest speaker was Admiral James Hogg, USN (Ret.) who was joined by his wife Ann. Admiral Hogg is in charge of the CNO Strategic Studies Group, and a former Tin Can Sailor. His presentation informed us of naval weaponry of the future, which involves lasers and unmanned aircraft. He also entertained us with "sea stories" about his days at sea. Our own "Doc" Dougherty once again shared some of his humorous escapades while on board Carpenter.

There will be elections at the 2012 meeting and anyone interested in running for office needs to let the Executive Board know. We encourage some of you younger folks to get involved in the activities of the association. Remember, we have a new webmaster and website and the address is <http://usscarpenterdd825crew.us> . Please keep us informed if you change e-mail, snail mail address, or telephone numbers.

We hope to see you in 2012.

Jimmie Kennedy

Secretary's notes

Well, the Ninth Carpenter reunion is now one for the history books. What a great time we had; touring, eating and of course reminiscing. With Cape Cod, Boston and Connecticut all so close it's a great region to vacation. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend it.

A wonderful addition to our reunion this year was the donation of a dozen 12" x 17" Pirate Flags by Plankowner John G. Brooks PCCS (ret). John is unable attend our reunions due to physical reasons; but with this display of camaraderie, his presence was surely felt. The flags were center pieces for the welcome dinner and the banquet on Sunday night and everyone felt they made a great display. The members present at the annual meeting have directed me to send a Carpenter hat to John as a token of thanks because of his thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank You, John!

The **Two-Bell Ceremony** was held for the shipmates that we were informed died this last year. To our departed crewmates: Plankowner- John Rainbolt YNC '49-52, Sam Conboy '56-58, George Durham '50-53, Jim Richards ? , Douglas "Rocky" Rothwell '69-73, Al Salisbury '56-57, Dave Smith ? , Elden Robels '51-53.

Let's all plan ahead. The 10th annual reunion is next. We can all make it special. Start planning and saving now. If all goes as in the past the reunion will be held between Easter and Mothers Day. For 2012, this time frame would be from April 8 to May 13. A big slot I know, but at least it gives us time to make personal and group preparations.

I hope all is well and please keep us informed of any changes.

Marty Wilson, Secretary

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