

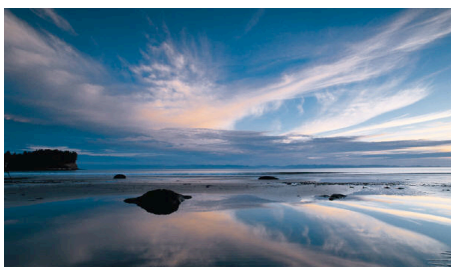
SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES

NEWSLETTER

SATURDAY JULY 24, 2010

Hi Everyone,

It has only been a few weeks since our last newsletter yet there is still so much to tell you about.



FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that I must tell you we lost another one of our members. Mr. William McDowell of 4th Division from USS FDR passed away July 1, 2010, the same day our last newsletter was sent, at 7 PM from Stage IV lung cancer. I will always remember Mr. McDowell as he was so excited to join Squadrons & Shipmates that he sent in his application on another reunion organization's application form where he had once been a member. His daughter said he was fine up until Father's Day and then he deteriorated very quickly. I did have the opportunity to talk with him on the telephone after he joined and he was very excited about a reunion that involved two aircraft carriers. Our sincere condolences to Bill's family.

On June 12, 2010 Cookie Sukup, wife of Squadrons & Shipmates member, John Sukup, lost her battle with cancer too. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to John and his family.

These are reality checks for all of us that we are never guaranteed our tomorrows. We all joined reunion organizations with the intention of attending a reunion. I hope we all can meet each other very soon, either in Atlanta or San Diego. Please reserve the last week in October 2011 for our 2nd reunion and a visit to the USS Midway Museum.

2010 REUNION

Your officers are working very hard putting together the reunion in Atlanta and all the preparations are nearly complete. I met with the management at the hotel last week and they are getting things ready for us. We have already made two deposits to the hotels so I hope we don't have any cancellations. If there are any members who still want to attend, you will need to call me as all our allotted rooms are gone. However, I will try and get you a room at one of the hotels at our group rate. We have a decent size group and no one will get lost in the crowd. Everyone should feel like they belong to our organization. Packets are ready and waiting for all those who have registered and we are looking forward to meeting everyone soon at our Inaugural Reunion!

NOTE: We have attendees coming from as far away as Washington State. Our most adventurous member is Arlene Zeiter who is the widow of Plank Owner (1945) George C. Zeiter of USS Midway. She is coming from San Francisco, California and will be driving to Atlanta by herself. Before leaving for the reunion she will be attending a golf tournament in San Luis Obispo and will then be driving across

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Interstate 40. She said she would be willing to let, up to three "hitchhikers"

who live along I-40 catch a ride with her. You would only need to help with the gas expense. She has a SUV that seats 7 people. So here is your chance to have a ride to Atlanta and back if you live along Interstate 40. If you are interested, her e-mail address is aczav@earthlink.net. I would love to see someone ride with her; I know I'll be anxious until she arrives in Atlanta.

NEW MEMBERS

I want to recognize some new members with some distinction but because they are very modest, I had to search out their accomplishments myself. Commander Batson, who joined as a Charter Member last month, is one of the seven pilots from USS Midway who shot down a Mig during the Viet Nam War. Robert Doremus was in the plane as his navigator that day. Although Mr. Doremus was pondering his decision to join, I received his application last week and he sponsored Mr. Batson.

Thanks to Raleigh Plesko, your President Pro-tempore, we now have a plan in place to honor all Prisoners of War from our two ships. Each POW would receive a free, Lifetime Membership in Squadrons & Shipmates. In addition, they will

receive a free hat. This idea was fully supported and was quickly approved by Doug Micklon and John Schwinghamer.

Unfortunately, Mr. Doremus was shot down and was captured on another mission and spent 7 years, 5 months and 19 days at the infamous Hanoi Hilton with John McCain and other POWs. Wil Franke was the pilot in the plane that day and we hope he will come aboard also. Mr. Batson's e-mail address is on our latest roster and Mr. Doremus' e-mail address will be included on our next roster, Rob.Doremus@gmail.com. Please welcome these two brave men to our organization.

We have asked both of them to be guest speakers at our San Diego Reunion next year and I don't think you want to miss their stories and the opportunity to shake their hands.

I would also like to recognize Bill Rigney of Canyon Lake, Texas who joined as a Lifetime Member in June. Bill will be our Historian and will be submitting naval related stories for our newsletters from time to time. Also, Richard Marqua of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, who is an author and private investigator, will be one of our editors for the newsletter. He writes

very eloquently and I am sure you will enjoy his articles.

BOARD MEMBERS

Daniel Roney from Urbana, Illinois filled the last position on the Board this month. Daniel served aboard USS Midway in X-Division. We are excited to have him as our newest board member.

ANNUAL RENEWAL FORMS

Somebody please remind me not to go anywhere in July next year when annual renewals are due. I am sure the post office was glad I got home judging by the large pile of mail that was waiting for me when I returned from Kentucky. Remember, all Annual Charter Membership dues are due during the month of July. If they are not postmarked by July 31st each year, the annual dues will revert to the Regular Membership fee for all future years, which is more than double the Charter Membership dues. This condition is part of our By-Laws and cannot be changed unless the entire membership votes to change it. In essence, this will be your **FINAL REMINDER** to send in your renewal on time to continue to pay \$4.10 or \$4.20 per year. Please do not let it lapse. Your Charter Membership dues are the most inexpensive of any US Naval Reunion anywhere. A renewal form is

attached to this e-mail. This procedure was put in place to be sure the membership dues were paid on time. It would be a shame to have any Charter Member let the reduced rate for their dues lapse forever. We are all very lucky to be Charter Members of the organization, so please treasure what we have.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We have had a number of Charter Members become Charter Lifetime Members since our last newsletter, which helps ensure the stability of our organization. Ren Boyd made good on his promise from last November. I have his permission to share his letter with you and it is on page 13 of this newsletter. Ren is one of our 5 nonagenarians so you “youngins” who are still in your 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s or 80’s may want to consider a Charter Lifetime Membership while we still have some available. The following members have renewed as Lifetime Members, in addition to Ren Boyd, Plank Owner, Kenneth Limbacher; Wilbur Kirkwood; Robert Northway; Leonard E. Cutrell; Kenneth Radek; Jesse Dunham and Earl Frampton.

Since it is not realistic to expect a 100% renewal, Lifetime Memberships may quickly pass 75% on August 1st. In that case we would not be able to

issue any more Lifetime Memberships until we have more regular members join. If we find ourselves in that situation, a waiting list will be created and the members with the lowest membership number will be the first to obtain a Lifetime Membership when they become available. We had one member submit a second Charter Lifetime Membership. After I checked my records three times, I had to call him and tell him he was already a Lifetime Member. *He then told me that it was for his second lifetime.* We also had another member submit annual dues and he is already a Charter Lifetime Member. We sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm and support of our members.

If I have not made myself clear, let me try again. If you are a Lifetime Member, you are done submitting dues for the rest of your life. We do not have a graduated scale as some organizations, meaning the younger you are, the more you pay for Lifetime Membership. We have **one rate** and it doesn’t matter how young you are. We hope the younger members see the value in the Charter Lifetime Membership.

Right now we have about 55% in Lifetime Memberships. If there are any members who have a high

membership number (above 300) who are contemplating becoming a Charter Lifetime Member, now is the time while you have the chance.

NEW CHARTER MEMBERSHIPS

To be very clear about this one-time transition period which extended the Charter Membership period, if you just joined in June or July of this year, you are required to pay 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 dues as ALL Charter Members are doing, so either \$4.10 or \$4.20 is due before July 31st. As the officers extended the Charter Membership period until August 15, 2010, those members still have to pay both years of dues to be fair to the rest of the Charter Members. Two years of Charter Membership dues are still less than one year of Regular dues plus the dues will be less than 50% of Regular dues in all future years. If anyone has any questions, please call me, 404 497 0943.

TEE SHIRTS

By now you should have received the e-mail regarding our new line of tee shirts. I was excited to receive as many orders as we did in the first few hours and they are still coming in. The cost will be around \$15.00-\$22.00, depending on the size. They will look great with your new hat.

They will be sold first at the reunion in Atlanta and then an order form will be available similar to what we have for the hats. The shirts are 100% cotton and are pre shrunk. They weigh about 6.1 ounces, on average. We do not have the final cost price yet. When we receive it from the supplier, we will be able to figure our Retail Price to the members. Our retail price will include shipping, handling and any sales tax.

The current plan is for the initial order of shirts (48 blue and 24 white) to be shipped to Atlanta for the 1st reunion. The shirts that are not sold at the reunion will be sent to John and Noel to ship to the members. Both John and Noel agreed to handle the tee shirts in addition to the hats. We need to send them some **Kudos** for the great job they did with the hats. John will be handling the navy blue and Noel will handle the white shirts. We will have 8 different sizes in each color. The sizes will range from Small through XXXXX Ex-Large. We already have orders for all the different sizes in both colors and the initial order is completely sold out. We will be placing a second order after the reunion. A navy tee shirt photo is at the end of the newsletter. If you want in on the second order, please send in your orders now. If you need me to resend the e-mail about the tee shirts, let me know.

ID CARDS

Every member whose membership number is 0 0 0 1 to 0 3 5 0 should have his/her ID Card. Membership numbers 0 3 5 1 to 0 3 7 0 are in my possession and will be sent this week. Pete Klestinec is now producing membership numbers 0 3 7 1 to 0 3 9 0 and has already

sent those members the proofs. If you do not respond to the e-mail about the proof, and your card is wrong, it will be produced wrong. Please respond to him even if your ID Card is correct. He will be producing those ID Cards on July 29th. Members 0 3 9 1 to 0 4 1 0 will be sent to Pete on August 1, 2010.

BUSINESS CARDS

Raleigh Plesko has formatted a business card for all the officers and they can be made available to the membership as well. A copy of my business card is below. If you would like some for yourself, Raleigh is willing to put your name on the card and send you the design. You can have either picture of the ship you served on. You can then go to Office Depot, or wherever you choose, buy the correct Avery card stock and print your own business cards in any quantity you want. We cannot do the physical printing for you because there will be a cost in getting them to you. Please let Raleigh know if you are interested. The next time you meet someone, you will be able, to hand them, a business card with the web site and office telephone or your telephone number on the card.

