Spring 2007



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Sign up now for Reunion 2007!

Forty plus Pyro people have already signed up for hotel rooms for the 2007 reunion in Philadelphia and shipmates from the Philly area will add to the total. But there's still room for **you**. But remember: The deadline to sign up for the reunion hotel is **April 10 and** tour reservations need to be in by **April 1**.

Sign up now so you don't, well, miss the boat. With a great location, fun activities, a memorable memorial service and a bevy of shipmates returning after years of absence, there are dozens of good reasons for joining the fun in Philly.

But Bob Hauge — known for telling it like it is as the former Scuttlebutt editor — has a unique and sadly true view of this reunion: Perhaps the last chance to bid farewell to old friends. Please read his moving piece, *Twilight sailors*, in the next column.



USS PYRO Scuttlebutt



Reunion deadline looms! Twilight sailors

For many of us remaining AE-1 sailors, this may well be The Last Reunion. That's why I call us *Twilight sailors:* This may be the final chance for us to say *sayonara* to each other and to younger shipmates before we 'jump ship' for the last time!

I ask: What do you AE-24 sailors intend to do as AE-1 sailors push our luck with various illness and handicaps? **Be there!**



Many of us have enjoyed numerous Pyro reunions. We can enjoy many, many more in the future -- IF the Philly Reunion has a large turnout.

We owe it to each other to make the scene, to renew old acquaintances, to swap sea stories (*lies* to civilians) and to enjoy the comradeship of yesteryears. Maybe we even might get lucky and hear a sea story that has never been told and retold a dozen times or more!

All you have to do is sign up and make your hotel

reservations **now**. Reunion Chairman Larry Sheipline has put together an excellent reunion program, but he needs the head count to get "the show on the road" and to make countless necessary last minute arrangements in order to make this a *Reunion to Remember*.

To my AE-1 shipmates: I urge y'all to make up your mind RIGHT NOW and act accordingly. Only if old, former *Pyro-maniacs* like you and me show up can we save the association officers from walking the plank!

Now y'all understand why I refer to the AE-1 as the *Twilight Sailors*: This may be our last port of call. Who knows? Who cares? I certainly do! Do you? — *Bob Hauge*

Holiday Inn agrees to limited accommodation for smokers. See page 2. Updated reunion details pages 6-9

Smoker's rights - and wrongs - at the Holiday Inn

s anyone who served in the Navy knows all too well, life is not always fair. And, it seems, there's no honor among innkeepers.

Some reunion participants who reserved smoking rooms at the Holiday Inn in Philadelphia received proof of that unfortunate fact of life in the



form of a phone call from a hapless hotel functionary who informed them that smoking reservations would **not** be honored due to the hotel's decision to go smokefree on May 1, 2007.

It will come as no surprise to those acquainted with the

corporate world that the hotel didn't bother to inform the association of this substantial change in terms until officers got wind of the situation from Millie and Art Derry on March 12.

While smokers are a relatively small percentage of those who have signed on for the reunion, shipmates stick together: Reunion Chairman Larry Sheipline — despite being a non-smoker himself immediately sounded general quarters and went to battle stations with the hotel. Larry played hardball for smoker's rights: He checked with other Philadelphia hotels in the hope of finding a comparable alternate site. No dice. He worked his way up the Holiday Inn corporate food chain, parrying misstatements about Philadelphia's anti-smoking ordinance and blather about 'corporate policy.'

The bad news and the good news

The good news: After a showdown with the hotel's general manager on March 16, Holiday Inn agreed to provide a very basic in-hotel smoking lounge on the same floor as smokers' rooms. The bad news: All individual members' rooms — even those confirmed in writing by the hotel as smoking rooms — will be **non-smoking**. On AE-24 and likely AE-1 as well, smoking on deck bought you three days in the brig. At the Holiday Inn, a puff in a non-smoking room can result in a \$250 cleaning charge.

The bottom line

For the association's non-puffing plurality of members, this brouhaha results in no change at all.

For those who booked smoking rooms, it means the you'll have to walk down the hall — but not go outside — for a nicotine jolt, an inconvenience at least partially compensated for by the knowledge that your association fought hard for your rights.



News you can use

Items of interest to veterans and retirees

George Leasure suggest that association members check out a new veteran's website called *Together we served.* It's still in its formative stage, but it's free and needs a Pyro presence.

http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/index.jsp

Pyro webmaster C. Ray Nichol reports that a change of servers and ongoing site improvements caused temporary outages on some website pages including the guestbook and photo area. The site is now back to normal. C. Ray adds these hints for adding material to the site:

-If you want a memorial for an individual in addition to the Memorial list, please send me a eulogy, photo or a write-up of remembrance for me to include on the Memorial page.

-The photo section is under construction and I am adding a few albums a week onto the site. It is slow going with adding the photos and then matching up the descriptions and information with the photo.

-If someone has photos, please send them to me, check the link on the Photo Page for instructions for photo submission

-The Guestbook is back up and running with new steps for higher security to protect the both the individual's personal information and to protect the site against spammers.

Spring 2007



If you haven't signed up yet, do so now! It will be a great time with great people."

Officers

President

Jared Cameron

Vice President Billy L. Eckstine

Secretary
Douglas Wisher

Treasurer **Tom Sanborn**

Appointed Officers

Scuttlebutt Editor
Jared Cameron

Chaplain Vance Worrell

MAA Jasper Strunk

Historian Tony Sieverin

Nominating Committee Gary Golay Jasper Strunk From the president's desk By Jared Cameron

One of the first things most sailors learn in boot camp is the ancient, honored military adage, *Never volunteer for anything.*

Fortunately for all of us, some folks like Larry Sheipline, Bob Hauge, Tom Sanborn, Gary Golay, Ellie Fricke, Bob Smiley, The Iversens, Rick Tully, C. Ray Nichol and dozens of other USS Pyro veterans and family members disregard that sage advice when it comes to taking on jobs for our association.

This week when there was danger of our Philadelphia reunion *going up in smoke*, Larry Sheipline won Permanent Pyro Hero status by going to the mat to get a fair shake for the approximately one-fifth our members who had booked smoking rooms in Philadelphia. He has earned all our thanks for doing a job for love that most folks wouldn't do for love or money.

Of course, where there are heroes, there are also villains. And — at least to me — the villain of this story is the management of the Holiday Inn Historic District. They have every right to designate their property as smoke-free, but they don't have the right to spring their plans at the last minute on groups who have booked rooms and banquets months ahead. Am I jumping to conclusions to think that information delay was planned to minimize cancellations? I don't think so. But even if we're not crazy about the innkeeper's reservation service, the hotel will be a great reunion site.

While we smokers are the butt — I've been wanting to say that all week — of so many laws and programs based on 'health considerations,' it is interesting to note that many of the folks who booked smoking rooms for this reunion are World War II veterans and Pearl Harbor survivors. They have survived both war and nicotine to a ripe old age. They'll survive this reunion hiccup as well.

This writer is a believer in not getting mad, but getting even. That said — and not precluding the idea of, say, providing photos of a WWII vet smoking outside the Holiday Inn with a t-shirt stating, "I survived the sneak attach on Pearl Harbor and I'll get through the Holiday Inn's sneak attack, too!" to the local media — our job here is to put this incident behind us and have a great, fun reunion.

So if you haven't signed up yet, do so now. It will be a great time with great people.

Constitutional Convention. The U.S. Constitution was written just a few blocks from our reunion venue. So it is altogether fitting and proper that the 2007 reunion includes revision of association bylaws. Two proposals that will be discussed at the membership meeting: Granting lifetime membership status to widows of AE-1 and AE-24 vets and amending the bylaws to allow spouses to serve as association officers. Whether or not you will attend the reunion, let us know about your opinions on these proposals and any ideas you might have for updating and improving the bylaws.

Officer's country. Remember, all association officers except the treasurer are up for election at the association general meeting. If you would like to serve or nominate a member, please contact Nominating Committee members Gary Golay or Jasper Strunk.



Tom Sanborn's Pyro memories

As engineers go, so goes the ship

There is more truth than fiction to that statement when you first report aboard PYRO, no matter what your rate or your job, no matter how small it may seem to you.

Chuck Moshenrose, the Chief Engineer during my tenure as MPA on the ship, had a plaque mounted with those words on it in the engineering log room to remind all who entered that no matter what we did......it was for the good of the ship and its mission in the Seventh Fleet. That's where my respect for this great ship and its crew started and I was never to serve aboard another ship with the same espirit d' corps.

Over the years, images and events come to mind of my year among PYRO's engineers, which have provided some material here to share with you The black gang:

Who originally painted the octopus on the condenser intake pipe? It was there when I came aboard in 1967 and had been there awhile.

Has anyone in the fire room or engine room ever seen MMC Martz light or smoke his

cigar or pipe or fail to provide any baseball statistic you could name? Extra points if you can tell me why he slept with his life preserver without fail???

What is lignum vitae and what is it used for? If you get that right, what is blue dycum and what again is that used for?

Pass GO and collect \$200 if, on the few occasions they let you out of the hole:

You actually had a flying fish land on the deck, you cleaned it and had a mess cook fry it for you.....can imagine your girlfriend reading that letter back home about a fish that flies. HMMMMMMMM

Do any of you know if they ever captured the "phantom __hitter?"

The man was a master of deception with or without a roll of toilet paper on his

person. He left regular deposits, of

varying sizes in very clever places not apt to be found necessarily on the same day. Could never figure out the vendetta direction....just gave him a wide berth.

One more bit of nautical trivia, but a truthful one.....Ever wonder why, in the days of sail when Jared Cameron was in knee pants, the platform where the two lookouts stood watch at the top of the mainmast was called the "crow's nest?" And to go with that---the expression of the shortest distance between A & B is "as the crow flies?"

Well guess what.....they trained crows to fly on command and they would always fly the shortest distance to the nearest land even though it could not yet be seen from the mast. Where they kept the crows while underway was termed "the crows nest." Now, how about that!!!!! Amazing that hummingbirds

come back from South America every year.....and a crow is not stupid either.

If the above sheds some daylight into your senior moments of your own seafaring days......please share your memories with us.







Tom's list

Subic Bay in 1967 Tom's favorite Olangapo Clubs

Chicago Club—don't shoot pool with the natives! East End Club—long jitney ride but well worth it... remember the gorilla suit with two lovelies wrestling inside?

Paulines----the best for last------crocs and iguanas eating chickens more fun alive than dead------



training table for monkey meat gourmets...fried bucket of monkey meat plus a six pack of San McGoo......you won't straighten out till your third

trip on the line.....but you WILL be acclimated.

The great outdoors in Olangapo

- Not a good idea to lean way over the bridge railing to watch the boys diving for your pesos in __hit River. Attempted to take a picture of same—deep sixed a brand new Nikon motor drive camera—state of the art from the ship's store. He probably got the peso and the camera. I never saw either.
- Ever had an iguana be just a little bit quicker than your caddy and eat your golf ball before you

could get to it to play your second shot? And that was right after I had to use a rope tow (as in skiing) to get up to the 12th tee—not exactly a golf cart course!!



- Why is it that everyone only hit doubles at the softball games on Grande Island, P.I.? Remember ---that's where the keg was!!! It was years later back home before I could swing away so I could actually run past second base!!! It was amazing the crowd that showed up on second. Maybe we should have pitched from there towards home and continued the game backwards—give that some thought.
- Ever seen a skinny kid crawl into the barrel of that Japanese 14-inch gun and get stuck? I did.

THE SNIPE'S LAMENT

Now each of us from time to time has gazed upon the sea and watched the mighty warships pulling out to keep this country free.

And most of us have read a book or heard a lusty tale, about these men who sail these ships through lightning, wind and hail.

But there's a place within each ship that legend's fail to teach.

It's down below the water-line and it takes a living toll - - a hot metal living hell, that sailors call the "Hole."

It houses engines run with steam that makes the shafts go round.

A place of fire, noise, and heat that beats your spirits down. Where boilers like a hellish heart, with blood of angry steam, are molded gods without remorse, are nightmares in a dream.

Whose threat from the fires roar, is like a living doubt, that at any moment with such scorn, might escape and crush you out.

Where turbines scream like tortured souls, alone and lost in Hell,

are ordered from above somewhere, they answer every bell. The men who keep the fires lit and make the engines run, are strangers to the light and rarely see the sun.

They have no time for man or God, no tolerance for fear, their aspect pays no living thing a tribute of a tear.

For there's not much that men can do that these men haven't done,

beneath the decks, deep in the hole, to make the engines run.

And every hour of every day they keep the watch in Hell, for if the fires ever fail their ship's a useless shell.

When ships converge to have a war upon an angry sea, the men below just grimly smile at what their fate will be. They're locked below like men fore-doomed, who hear no battle cry,

it's well assumed that if they're hit men, below will die. For every day's a war down there when gauges all read red, twelve-hundred pounds of heated steam can kill you mighty dead.

So if you ever write their songs or try to tell their tale, the very words would make you hear a fired furnace's wail. And people as a general rule don't hear of these men of steel,

so little heard about this place that sailors call the "Hole." But I can sing about this place and try to make you see, the hardened life of the men down there, 'cause one of them is me.

I've seen these sweat-soaked heroes fight in superheated air, to keep their ship alive and right, though no one knows they're there.

And thus they'll fight for ages on till warships sail no more, amid the boiler's mighty heat and the turbine's hellish roar. So when you see a ship pull out to meet a war-like foe, remember faintly if you can, "The Men Who Sail Below."

-Anonymous



A memo

to the reunion chairman

by Jared Cameron



Sure, Philadelphia is a great city. Though their smoking lamp is out, our reunion hotel is in an outstanding location with rooms at a rate far lower than we could get if we walked in off the street. The tours are outstanding. And the memorial service will be unforgettable.

It's great that Philadelphia is home to America's "most historic square mile." Certainly, the fact that the city boasts more Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings than anywhere other than Paris got the Little Woman all excited. Even the old tars among us are impressed with the fact that Philly is the 'home' of the U.S. Navy, the city where the sea service was first created and the initial four ships were outfitted.



No doubt about it, Philadelphia is a great city for a vacation. A big city with neat neighborhoods that are walkable. And there's a heap of history plus good shopping.

For those of us on the East Coast, it's really convenient by car or train – by bus for some of our Pennsylvania shipmates. And to tell the truth, these days a ticket from San Francisco or San Diego to Philadelphia doesn't cost much more than a ticket from San Francisco to Los Angeles if you're a bargain hunter.

The chow's great too: Everything from cheese steaks and pasta in Little Italy to Bookbinder's seafood to fine fusion food for food snobs.

But maybe we're 'selling' the wrong thing here. After all, a Pyro reunion is about much more than a place.

It's all about the people.

For me, the chance to re-live The Old Days at sea (and on shore, too!) while sharing a brew with old shipmates and new friends is the major attraction of a reunion. And as Bob Hauge points out, the

association is not exactly filled with spring chickens, so we better make hay and drink grains together while the sun shines.

So in this final pre-reunion Scuttlebutt, let's show some photos of the attractions, but let's also spotlight some of the folks who will be there. After all, they're the stars of the show!











Spring 2007



Reservations for Reunion Hotel Holiday Inn Historic District www.holidayinn.com/philadelphia-historicdistrict. 1-800-THE-BELL (843-2355)



REUNION HOTEL LOCATION: Our reunion hotel is a three-star, eight story,

full-service hotel located within walking distance to over two dozen bistro/ethnic/fusion-type restaurants; several antique shops and galleries; and immediately adjacent to Independence National Historical Park. This 45acre national park features the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall - where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were created - as well as over a dozen other buildings closely associated with the Colonial period that are open to the public. Home to some of the first neighborhoods in the city, the Historic District is a combination of old-fashioned cobblestone streets and bright neon cafes and bustling galleries.

REUNION ROOM RATES: The USS PYRO Association's group room rate is \$129.00 per night for single or double occupancy, plus 14% state and local taxes. Additional room occupants will pay an additional \$17.00 per person per day. This rate includes a complimentary hot buffet breakfast. The hotel will honor these group rates 2-days prior and 2-days post reunion departure. A discounted parking rate of \$10.00 per day is provided for the Pyro Association versus the normal \$20.00 per day rate in the high- rise-parking garage. However, parking is limited to vehicles less than 6.5 feet in height. **Our group room rates are less than two-thirds the typical three-star hotel rates for this ideal Philadelphia visiting period.**

RESERVATION PROCEDURE: Call the hotel reservations desk at **1-800-THE-BELL**. Identify the reservation as part of the USS Pyro group room block. Alternately, reserve a room on-line, within the USS Pyro group room block, by using the three-letter code, **PYR**, while logging on to <u>www.holidayinn.com /philadel-phia-historicdistrict</u>. All reservations must be made before April 10, 2007.

Where to learn more...

Get more information on Philadelphia, the National Historic Park, Battleship New Jersey and the Holiday Inn Historic District at these web sites:

> <u>www.gophila.com</u> [Greater Philadelphia Marketing Organization]

> <u>www.pcvb.org</u> [Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau]

<u>www.independencevisitorcenter.com</u> [Independence National Park]

www.battleshipnewjersey.org [Battleship New Jersey]

www.holidayinn.com/philadelphiahistoricdistrict

See yah in Philly Reunion check list

Make sure there's room at the (Holiday) Inn: Call 1/800-THE-BELL — that's 1-800/843-2355 for folks who find numbers expressed as letters annoying — to reserve your room.

Be sure to mention the USS PYRO Association when making your reservation to make sure you get the great group rate. DEADLINE: 10 April 2007







Check out great restaurants and tourist attractions to visit on your own.



Call or write shipmates and tell them, "See yah in Philly!"

Updated Reunion Schedule 2007 Philadelphia

May 2-6, 2007

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Afternoon: Arrive and check-in; rooms available at 4:00 PM

3:30 - Reunion Registration Desk open in Betsy Ross Room

4:30-6:00 - Hospitality Reception in Betsy Ross Room off hotel lounge with locally brewed Yuengling beer, chips, hard & soft pretzels and lemonade. [Event #1: \$14.00 per person]

May 2, 2007, Wednesday Evening

Dinner on your own at one of the many area restaurants within walking distance.

Executive Committee Meeting, Location TBD

May 3, 2007, Thursday

Complemintary Breakfast in hotel dining room

9:00 AM: Period-attired guides will meet us at hotel to begin a three-hour walking tour of the "... most historic square mile in the United States," including Liberty Bell, Carpenters' Hall, Franklin Court, Betsy Ross house, Christ Church and Elfreth's Alley. (Numerous breaks will be provided throughout the walk.)

After lunch break at area food court in a historic building, we will tour Independence Hall and Congress Hall, with prearranged admission tickets. [Event #2: \$12.00 per person]

Remainder of afternoon free to visit the Liberty Bell Pavilion, U.S. Mint or other sites in the National Historical Park area.

Dinner on your own at one of many area restaurants within walking distance.

May 4, 2007, Friday

Complimentary Breakfast in hotel dinning room

9:00 AM – Approximately 2 ½ hour Orientation Tour of Philadelphia area in Motor Coach equipped with rest room. Return to hotel area for lunch. [Event #3: \$18.00 per person]

1:30PM, Friday Afternoon– Motor Coach picks us up at the hotel and transports us across Delaware River to bow of Battleship New Jersey

- USS Pyro Memorial Service on deck with seating, PA speaker and biodegradable wreath to honor our deceased shipmates [Memorial Service Subsidized]
- o Guided tour of top-side spaces and gun turret

Motor coach returns us to hotel about 5:00 PM

Dinner on your own at one of many area restaurants

Saturday, May 5, 2007, Saturday evening

Complimentary Breakfast in hotel dining room

9:00 AM -Association Business Meeting in hotel meeting room

Remainder of day free for sightseeing, shopping or visiting with association members.

- **6:30-7:15 PM** –Cocktails [Cash bar] and photographs
- 7:30-8:45 PM –Banquet Dinner and Association Commentary [Event #5: \$40.00 per person]

Entrée selections: Pan-seared, eight-ounce Filet of Salmon Served in a Creamy Dill Sauce

Spiced Roasted Rib-Eye of Beef Served in a Burgundy Demi Glaze

A pasta-based vegetarian option can be provided, if necessary

8:45-11:15 PM –Music for dancing and socializing {Music cost subsidized}

May 6, 2007, Sunday Morning

Complimentary Breakfast in hotel dining room

Checkout [Check-out time is 12:00 noon] and depart or remain in Philadelphia for an extended holiday. [Reunion hotel rate valid for two additional days, both before and after reunion]

[Event #4: \$24.00 per person]

USS PYRO AE-1 & AE-24 Reunion

2-6 May 2007 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

UPDATED REGISTRATION

Pease Type or Print Clearly

Name.....

Spouse/Guest.....

Address.....City...... State.....ZIP.....

REUNION OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

2 May 2007

[Wednesday, Late Afternoon] – Log-In & Get Acquainted with old Shipmates in Betsy Ross Room, Holiday Inn Historic District Hospitality Room Reception.

\$14.00 per Person x Number of Persons Total \$......

3 May 2007

[Thursday Morning] - Three Hour, Guided Walking Tour of Historic District and Early Afternoon Admission to Independence Hall & Liberty Bell Pavilion. *(Numerous breaks will be provided throughout the walk.)*

\$12.00 per person x Number of Persons...... Total \$.....

4 May 2007

[Friday Morning] - 2¹/₂ Hour Motor Coach Tour of Philadelphia area,

\$18.00 per person x Number of Person ... Total

\$.....

[Friday Afternoon] - Motor Coach to Battleship New Jersey, Guided Tour of Ships Top-side Spaces & USS PYRO Memorial Service [Memorial Service Subsidized],

\$24.00 per Person x Number of Persons Total \$.....

5 May 2007

[Saturday Evening] -

6:30 Cocktails [Cash Bar],

7:30 Banquet Dinner, [Note: Dinner meal selection will be made at Reunion Log-in during the afternoon of 2 May]

8:45 Dance, [Music Cost Subsidized]

\$ 40.00 per Person x Number of Persons...... Total \$.....

Total Amount of Enclosed Check - \$.....

Make checks payable to USS Pyro Association and mail to:

Larry Sheipline

72 Leearden Road

Hershey, PA 17033-2176

Cut-off Date for optional event reservations and payment

1 April 2007

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

USS PYRO ASSOCIATION Douglas Wisher, secretary 1022 Winding Way Covington, KY 41011

> Email: wisherdj@fuse.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL Address Correction Requested Forwarding and Return Mail Guaranteed

*** THE P	RIDE AND TRADITION FOREVER ***
	AE-1 & AE-24 ASSOCIATION
1	Membership Application
Name:	Date of Birth:
Address:	City:
State: Zip C	Code: Telephone:
Spouse's Name:	E-mail address:
Rate/rank(s) aboard Pyro:	Highest USN rate/rank:
Separated under honorable cond To join: Send this completed a <u>tion for either annual dues or</u>	or AE 24)toRetired USN? litions? YesNo application and a check payable to the USS PYRO Associa- the lifetime membership amount appropriate for your age to: Tom Sanborn, Treasurer USS PYRO Association 114 Long Point Drive aint Simons Island, GA 31522
	USS PYRO Name: