

Summer 2010

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Reunion 2011

May 18-22, 2011

Washington, D.C.

Holiday Inn Rosslyn

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The scholarship 'kings'



USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

Arlington National Cemetery ceremony slated for 2011

The USS Pyro Association will honor fallen shipmates during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, May 20, as the centerpiece of the 2011 reunion.

Overlooking Washington D.C., and manned '24-7-365' by the Third United States Infantry Regiment, the 'Old Guard,' the Tomb is visited by government officials, foreign dignitaries, veterans groups and just-plain-Joes from around the world to honor those who have died in the cause of liberty.

The Pyro wreath-laying will be followed by the impressive changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb.

The ceremony will be the highpoint in the reunion, which will feature tours of Washington's most famous military sites as well as the good time and comradeship of Pyro reunions, regardless of their location.

The headquarters hotel, Holiday Inn, Rosslyn, is located in Arlington, VA, just blocks from the National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, Washington's clean, safe, convenient Metro subway and within walking distance of Georgetown's shopping and nightlife. The Pyro hotel rate comes in under \$100 a night including tax, an unbelievable bargain in pricey Washington.

Make your plans now to be part of a Capital Bash, May 18-22, 2011.



Scholarship plan advances thanks to Sheipline plan, Wichtrich work

Back when some of us were mess cooking under Larry Sheipline's iron fist, his detail-oriented approach was less than a cause for joy. What a difference five decades make!

Pyro scholarships for offspring of Pyro sailors, approved by members at the 2010 reunion, are moving toward realization— with a few short detours — thanks to some outstanding planning by Sheipline and his former Pyro roomie, John Wichtrich, the 'father' of the scholarship program.

Larry has created a seven-page scholarship implementation plan including application forms and selection SOPs.

Here is the timetable with the goal of awarding the first scholarships at the

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Membership Matters

Scholarship plan proceeds

(Continued from page 1)

2011 reunion:

- Finalize the procedure document; present final document to the board for review/approval;
- Appoint members of the Scholarship Committee.
- Publicize scholarships in *Scuttlebutt* and other available publications;
- Committee reviews hoards of applications, selects finalists and assembles money, half from association treasury and half from member contributions;
- Finalists presented to membership meeting at reunion;
- Winners selected by lot at awards banquet;
- Funds delivered to selectees' schools;

Not that shoals didn't need to be navigated: A tentative plan to create a tax-deductible organization to accept contributions, unfortunately, proved undoable: Bush era tax law changes designed to stop wealthy folks from sending their kids to college with tax-free lucre mean a tax-deductible organization would be prohibitively costly to set up and would require extensive paperwork and reporting beyond the association's capabilities.

That said, the scholarship program is on its way to implementation.

If you would like to contribute or serve on the scholarship committee, contact John Wichtrich or president@ae-24.org.

No money, no honey...

...as certain ladies in Olanagpo used to say.

Well the same goes for your USS Pyro Association. Printing and mailing the *Scuttlebutt*, scholarships, reunions extras and memory book mailings all cost money.

Your dues — a bargain at only \$20 bucks a year — are an important source of the funds need to make our association even better. If you haven't paid your 2010 dues, please send a check to Treasurer Bill Hogan now.

Sorry, but effective immediately, we are unable to **mail printed Scuttlebutts** to shipmates who are more than one year behind on their dues.

Where's the Memory Book?

No end of excuses are available for delaying production of the annual post-reunion Memory Book.

The best — and usually most accurate — is delays encountered in the delivery of photos from our great team of amateur photographers.

That was the case again this year, but all the photos are now in hand and the target date for 2010 Memory Book publication is now set for on or about September 15.

The finished publication will be uploaded to the website and notice will be sent to all reunion participants with e-mail. A disk will be snail-mailed to reunion participants without e-mail.

Any paid-up member can also request a disk by writing president@ae-24.org.

Looking for 2012 reunion ideas

With the goal of giving members more input into possible reunion sites, the association solicited suggestions on 2011 reunion sites before the 2010 reunion.

Due perhaps to a limited time frame, Bill Peregrin provided the sole suggestion, Baltimore, MD — and came within 36 miles of getting his way.

Now we are again asking for advice, this time for 2012. Reunions are to be held throughout the country and the next reunion, all other things being equal, should be in the Central time zone.

We already have a 2012 proposal in hand from Baton Rouge, LA, that combines good hotel rates and a military-friendly environment. Other ideas?

You can do the preliminary research and provide a plan or simply pass on your ideas to president@ae-24.org.

Do we have your address?

Association Secretary Doug Wisher reports that *Scuttlebutt* copies sent by both e-mail and snail mail are being 'returned to sender, address unknown.' We've even lost some members completely after moves. If your information has changed, please let your shipmates know by writing Doug Wisher!

“The only thing a marine ever sang to me was ‘break out your ID and liberty card,’ but I know who’s boss in *this* brig, so please be impressed!”

From the president’s desk

By Jared Cameron

During my three years, eight months and 27 days of illustrious — if not always sober — Naval service, I always felt wonder at lifers’ ability do the same things over and over with passion. These days, I guess I have become a lifer and actually find a degree of pleasure in the Pyro Association seasonal cycle:

Each new year opens with the treasurer complaining that too few folks have paid their annual dues on time. (*Please pay your dues, people!*) But before much time can be devoted to dues doldrums, February and March come along: Panic time because too few members have signed up for the reunion three months in advance. But by the deadline — give or take a week or two — the usual suspects, a good mix of new faces plus some surprise shipmates get onboard. (*Please sign up early this year, folks!*)

Next, pre-reunion angst: Will the hotel play fair? Will the bus arrive on time? How will the snipes react to excessive sunlight? Who will show up at the executive committee drunk as a skunk? How to explain this ain’t 1966 and that there are no downtown \$49 hotel rooms in any major city? Can I last through the membership meeting without a smoke? Fortunately, recent reunions have gone well: great parties and great people getting together without major hitches.

But once the reunion is done, it’s time to put out a *Scuttlebutt*, gather photos for the memory book, find a reunion venue for the next year, make excuses for not having finished the memory book, seal a deal with the new site that includes the inalienable right to bring outside booze to the free hospitality room, announce the reunion and, finally, create and distribute the memory book. Then it’s Fall, time for a usually futile full court press to encourage early reunion signups, order association holiday cards, try to track down members who have moved or changed their e-mail addresses. Then the holidays, a Winter Scuttlebutt and the new year.

The year opens with the treasurer complaining that too few folks have paid their annual dues...Well, you saw *Groundhog Day*.

MY SUMMER VACATION: OK, thanks to spending some time with Pyro people, Da Wife has learned a lot about the noble Naval service. Still, I don’t think she gets the, ah, delicate relationship between sailors (‘squids’) and marines (‘sea-going bell hops’ and ‘brig guards’). Susan thinks you’ll be impressed because two colonels and 175 jarheads sang ‘happy birthday’ to her when she visited Quantico to give a speech on Women’s Equality Day with me as her bodyguard. The only thing a marine ever sang to me was ‘break out your ID and liberty card,’ but I know who’s boss in *this* brig, so please be impressed!



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Sad Tidings

AE-1 Veteran Leo Smith passed away at the Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo after a brief illness, Ann Rogozinski reports.

Lyle D. Olson, born July 14, 1938, passed to be with our Lord on May 23, 2010 at the age of 72 at sunrise at the Hospice Center in San Diego in his sleep with is loving wife next to him. He was in the US Navy for 28 years, retired, went to work as civilian Department of the Navy worker’s compensation investigator for the next 20 years before retiring, Edward Mendez writes.

Both shipmates will be honored at the association’s 2011 memorial service in Washington, D.C.

Pyro memories (AE-24)

Editor's note: How many time have you said, "I wish I could remember more details about my time on the Pyro?" Shipmate Bill Peregrin foresaw that and kept a journal of his Pyro days. In the previous Scuttlebutt, we sailed with Plankholder Peregrin through the Pyro's commissioning to October 5, 1959. Here is the next installment — just as Bill wrote -- through February 1960.

WILLIAM PEREGRIN'S JOURNAL

Memories of PYRO from letters sent home, talking with other shipmates and mostly entries from my log book, May 1959 to January 1961.

17 APR – Easter Sunday underway as before.

18 APR – Speed 30 RPM 6.5 knots, Injection temperature at 47 degrees #2 evaporator is making 720 GPH.

21 APR – Seven Months since I left my girl friend.

23 APR – Rendezvous with USS Cimarron AO-22 for replenishment of fuel.

25 APR – Rendezvous with USS Brinkley Bass DD-887 and USS Duncan DDR-874

alongside for Rearing.

26 APR - #1 fresh water pump burned out.

28 APR – 77 RPM 16.0 knots. In route for Subic Bay P.I.

01 MAY - Salt water injection temp. at 78 degrees Evaps making 625 GPH fresh water.

02 MAY – Underway as before.

03 MAY – Inj. temp. at 88 degrees. At 0200 Arrive Philippine Islands. At sea 21 days.



04 MAY – Olanapo, Zambales, Subic Bay P.I.

05 to 14 MAY – Routine in port watch standing and Liberty.

15 MAY – Shore Patrol at E.M.

club.

16 MAY – Buggeln, Dickson, Blanchard and Kynaston advanced in rating to 2nd Class.

17 MAY – Underway for Hong Kong, departed Subic Bay at 1100 hours. Injection temperature 90 degrees. Sea is very calm.

19 MAY – Arrive Hong Kong. What a place just

bring money.

21 MAY – Liberty — went to Tailor Shop for Clothes and other souvenirs. Eight months since I left my girl.

22 MAY – This is from memory. Seems that some PYRO sailors went to a bar in Hong Kong that also was visited by sailors from Great Brittan HMS AJAX. A PYRO sailor called one of them a 'limey' and all hell broke loose. The shore patrol showed up and took the PYRO sailors to the brig. A little while later the British sailors show up and explained that they had started the fight. The U.S. shore patrol has no jurisdiction over the British and had to let the PYRO sailors go. And the PYRO and AJAX sailors walk out of the brig, arms over shoulders and went back to the bar as friends.

23 MAY – Went on Liberty to tailor shop (LOA HAI SHING CO.) for final fitting of my clothes.

One of the sports coats is made of Italian silk. I was with Bob Parrott and Jim Thurman and the shop was very hot. Bob took the air conditioning unit



apart and found the filter all clogged up, so he cleaned it with soap and water, it worked better. That night we went to a high class restaurant for dinner. I had a vodka gimlet, shrimp cocktail, fillet mignon and crepe Suzettes for about \$4.50.

25 MAY – Used all but 4,000 gal. of fresh water out of the 80,000 we started with.

26 MAY – At 1100 underway for Sasebo. Making boiler feed and some fresh water. Injection temperature - 92 degrees hard for the evaporators to keep up with the demand.

27 May – Rearmed USS Henderson DD-785 and USS Chandler DD-717. Inj. Temp 90.

30 MAY – Arrive Sasebo, Japan.

31 MAY – Ship's party for starboard duty section. Pay day \$24.00.

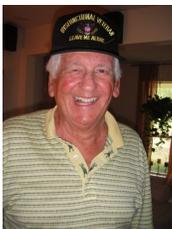
01 JUN – Ship's party for port duty section. Replaced all zincs on #1 evaporator. Total Gallons for month of May was 154,310 gal. total hrs. 284. Average 544 gals.

02 JUN – Replaced all zincs on #2 evaporator. Total

(Continued on page 5)

Pyro memories (AE-1)

AE-1 returns to CONUS



Well, not exactly quickly: it was several months later after the war ended. Thus, we were still in the South Pacific when we received the word to proceed to the states. It was a custom for returning ships to cruise around the harbor playing 'California, Here I Come,' that meant goodbye, we're going back home. We had a homeward bound return pennant flying from the mast containing one foot in length for each crew member with large balloons attached to keep it up out of the water. It was a great feeling to return to the states after the last war time tour of 26 months. All crew members received their share of the pennant, a one foot length, as a keepsake.

Note: This was way before CNN. We all dreamed of bands playing with dancing girls, etc. when we reached San Francisco. Wrong, there was no space available for ammunition ships to unload their cargo. Thus, we sailed up the west coast to an out-

of-the-way section of the Puget Sound Area, namely Port Discovery Bay, dropped the hook and stayed there for several months until space elsewhere was available. Leave was granted and I, being considered essential, received the very last 30-day leave.

It's now 65 years later and the majority of members of the crew have now shipped out to the Blue Sky Up Yonder. And things change including the norm today, one reads and notes, on how the public acknowledge and recognize the returning veterans. Meanwhile, the forgotten veterans gather together at reunions and swap lies about our Navy days and thus, we meet and greet old and new shipmates of the USS Pyro AE-1 and AE-24.

It's sad to note that so many crew shipmates from both ships will never ever make another USS Pyro reunion.

I reckon time waits for no one when our time period expires.

Bob Hauge

More of WILLIAM PEREGRIN'S JOURNAL

(Continued from page 4)

gal. 120,360. total hrs. 325 average 535 gallons.

03 JUN - At 1600 Hrs. departed from Sasebo.

05 JUN - Injection temperature 88 degrees.

06 JUN - At 0812 arrive Iwakuni, Japan.

08 JUN - Went on tour of Hiroshima Japan. 15 years after the A-bomb.

09 JUN - Underway from Iwakuni; continued through the Inland Sea.

11 JUN - Arrived at Yokosuka Japan at 0822. 12th to 15th conditions normal, Liberty port.

16 JUN - Haven't received any mail from girl friend for over six weeks.

17 JUN - Went on Liberty and bought a set of Noritake China for my sister Martha.

20 JUN Underway from Yokosuka, 21st to 24th steaming back and forth, temp 82 deg.

25 JUN - Arrive back at Sasebo. Injection temperature 75 degrees. Alarm on generator went off indicating low cooling water pressure. Called the Chief and started to bring second generator on line. Chief Shanander showed up and we went down to the lower level to take off the strainer lid, the basket



was full of jelly fish. We started to scoop out the jelly fish when the other generator alarm sounded. Chief said to pull the strainer basket and put the lid back on. "We'll just let the pump chop up the little F—ers

and pass them through the cooling system." It worked. It had something to do with the incoming tide, because the same thing happened the next night.

26-28 JUN - Non-normal routine because of jell fish.

28 JUN - Replaced # 1 salt water heater pump.

29 JUN - Had Shore Patrol duty at Dickman alley Sasebo from 1600-2400 hrs.

30 JUN - At 0600 departed from Sasebo, 1100 Inland Sea. Arrived at Iwakuni at 2136.

01 JUL - At 1300 departed from Iwakuni. Short stay?

02 JUL - At 0815 arrived Kobe Japan. Went on Liberty with Bob Parrott. Got Stinko. Received the letter from Mom that I was waiting for. *(Continued in next Scuttlebutt)*

Capital Bash Washington, DC: Tentative schedule May 18-22, 2011

After not-so-gently nagging reunion chairmen for **details now!**, the shoe was on the other foot as Pyro people demanded details and proposals dribbled in from suppliers. But now we can report a semi-firm schedule for

the 2011 Pyro Capital Bash reunion with the confirmation of a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Reunion events include the customary Wednesday evening Welcome Reception in the Pyro Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn.

Thursday morning is the Washington city tour including the Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, White House, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Tidal Basin, Kennedy Center, Embassy Row and other top civilian sites in the Nation's Capital. We'll make arrangements for an optional Potomac River dinner cruise that evening for those who wish to once again go down to the sea — well, river — in ships.

Friday will be 'Military Day,' including visits to the World War II, Viet Nam, Korea, Navy, and Air Force Memorials; Women in Military Service to America Museum and culminate with a wreath-laying ceremony during the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Saturday will include the unbridled joy of our annual membership meeting, election of officers and discussions about, perhaps even final selection of, the 2012 reunion site.

The reunion will end with the annual Awards Banquet and dancing. (In the end, holding the banquet on Friday to let folks with early Sunday flights dance the night away didn't work out due to hotel availability and the fact that many members arrive on the weekend too late for a Friday Fete.

The schedule is below. You can make your Holiday Inn Rosslyn reservations now by calling the hotel (directly is really best) at 703/807-2000 and mentioning the 'USS Pyro Reunion.' The room rate is \$89+tax /night and may be extended.

A worksheet for optional activities — tours and banquet — should be on the USS Pyro website by the end of September and will be included in the Fall *Scuttlebutt*, along with increasingly hysterical requests that you book early, which the Golays and all but the most stalwart Pyro-maniacs will ignore, causing further hair loss, rising blood pressure and other immeasurable pain to officers...



Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Arrive at Holiday Inn Rosslyn. Hospitality room opens for check-in at 3 PM.

18:00 — 19:00 Welcome reception in hospitality room

Thursday, May 19, 2011

10:00 — 13:00 Washington City tour

Evening: Optional Potomac dinner cruise

Friday, May 20, 2011

Morning free

13:00 Military Day tour of Washington and Northern Virginia memorials

15:15 Wreath-laying ceremony at Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery

Saturday, May 21, 2010

10:00 Membership meeting

18:00 Cocktails, individual and group photos

19:00 Awards Banquet

20:00 Dancing and other misbehavior

Colorado springs a great reunion on the Pyro

More from Reunion 2010



Old friends and new faces



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USS PYRO AE-1 & AE-24 ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Rate/rank(s) aboard Pyro: _____ Highest USN rate/rank: _____

Dates aboard USS PYRO (AE1 or AE 24) _____ to _____ Retired USN?

Separated under honorable conditions? Yes ___ No ___

To join: Send this completed application and a check payable to the USS PYRO Association for either annual dues or the lifetime membership amount appropriate for your age to:

Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901

Association dues

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Annual: | \$ 20 |
| Lifetime membership | |
| Age 50 or under | \$250 |
| 51 ~ 55 | \$200 |
| 56 ~ 60 | \$175 |
| 61 ~ 65 | \$150 |
| 66 ~ 70 | \$125 |
| 71 ~ 75 | \$100 |
| 76 ~81 | \$ 50 |
| 82 PLUS | \$ 25 |