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USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

Sign up now for a *sentimental journey* to the 2008 Pyro reunion

**The Pyro Association's
Three 'Wise' Men**



**Wish you and yours a
memorable Christmas,
Hanukkah, Kwanza, New
Year and Ramadan!**

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*Gonna take a sentimental journey
Gonna set my heart at ease
Gonna make a sentimental journey
To renew old memories*

A reunion association is all about nostalgia. So where better to relive the days of yore than at the place where it all began: Dubuque, Iowa, the site of the very first USS Pyro Association reunion a quarter of a century ago?

That's why you're invited to take a sentimental journey with shipmates, spouses and friends to the 2008 USS Pyro reunion **May 14-18 , 2008**, at the Holiday Inn Dubuque.

This will be a reunion with a difference: Away from big city prices, participants will enjoy under- \$90 hotels rooms, a hospitality room providing beer and refreshment rations limited only by good sense for \$15 **for the entire reunion period** and a great banquet dinner for under \$35. Along with the sea stories, wild tales of in-port misbehavior, nostalgia and bragging about grandkids that are central to every Pyro reunion, reunited sailors and spouses will have plenty to make this sentimental journey a great vacation: a river boat cruise with onboard memorial service, a trip to The Field of Dreams Movie Set, a visit to the National Mississippi



River Museum and Aquarium and — when group activities are done — a river park, casino gambling, a brewery, a winery, shopping opportunities, a greyhound track, nearby cornfields, a discount mall, a cable car, some neat architecture, plenty of eateries to explore on your own and maybe even a Veteran's Day Parade for those who have an urge to march.

Reunion Chairman Bob Hauge has worked hard to put together an outstanding program for 2008 and — most admirably — avoided the impulse to get all CPO-like and hysterical about early reservations.

Now it's time for you to take some steps:

- 1) Reserve the dates: May 14-18, 2008
- 2) Make your room reservation at the Holiday Inn.
- 3) Sign up for tours and reunion events.

Check list, sign-up form and full schedule on pages three, six and seven.



PyroPeople



Cooke-Sanborn nuptials

Association Treasurer Tom Sanborn, who served on AE-24 in 1967 and 1968, wed Elaine Cooke November 17 at the Second Baptist Church of Waycross, Georgia.



These particular wedding bells won't be breaking up this old gang of ours: The new Mrs. Sanborn has been around the military all her life, according to Tom.

A resident of Watertown, NY, by way of Boston and Portland, ME, the bride retired as head nurse at Fort Drum, NY, home of the famed Army 10th Mountain Division. In this role, Elaine Cooke supervised some 120 nurses. After retirement from the military, she worked as a trauma nurse at a medium security prison, acquiring both medical and interpersonal talents that will likely come in extremely handy in her marriage to Tom and at association gatherings.

The couple plans to honeymoon — where else? — at the Pyro reunion in Dubuque followed by a trek to Sioux Lookout, Ontario, located 240 miles north of International Falls, MN. From Sioux

Lookout the couple will board a seaplane for a 125 mile trip to *"our outpost cabin on our own private lake--only cabin on it--solar lights/batteries--indoor john, hot and cold running water, indoor shower--water out of the lake which you can drink--pump is solar/battery also---hot water--propane powered--big pot belly stove in middle of cabin, propane fridge and freezer.*

"NO PHONE NO TV NO RADIO NO JOB NO PEOPLE." the groom reports. *"...radio telephone with plane--boat, 15 HP supplied plus gas... plane returns middle of week to check on you--make sure you don't need anything---leave message on blackboard--pots, pans all utensils all supplied---you bring food, sleeping bags and fishing tackle--that's it--sleep on real beauty rest mattresses ."*

Little old winemaker Al...

A day without wine is a day without sunshine...



Ever wonder how shipmate Al Hansen, a BT2 on AE-24 from 1959-61, stays so mellow and even-tempered?

It turns out Al is a wine-maker, creating, according reliable sources, some pretty fair fare.

Inda plays for American Legion



David Inda (FT, AE-24 1975-77) was one of the stars of the show at the American Legion World Series in Bartlesville, OK, in late August.

But instead of going for the fences with a baseball bat, he won the audience by playing the Native American flute.

In order to share his Native American culture, Dave took up the flute 3 1/2 years ago. He started practicing on his lunch hour before graduating to public performances.

The Native American flute has achieved some measure of fame for its distinctive sound, used in a variety of New Age and world music recordings. The instrument was originally very personal; its music was played without accompaniment in courtship, healing, meditation, and spiritual rituals. Now it is played solo or along with other instruments or vocals both in Native American music and in other styles.



Sentimental journey reunion

By Bob Hauge, 2008 Reunion Chairman

Yes, just like the song, we're "going to take a sentimental journey," this time to Dubuque, Iowa, for the USS Pyro 2008 Reunion. This is where it all began in the city of Dubuque on the banks of the Mississippi way back in 1983.

Will history repeat itself like in The Field of Dreams? I say yes! "If we hold it, they will come!" We certainly hope so — and for good reason: The time is getting shorter for the Twilight Sailors and ya'll are candidates in the far flung future, heaven forbid. Thus, for sentimental reasons, we encourage your presence at this reunion.

So let's all join together and make our 25th reunion a Blast from the Past!

Bob

Make your list and check it twice
so at the reunion
you can be naughty and nice!



- Make your reservation at the Holiday Inn Dubuque: Call: 1/563-556-2000, ask for reservations and be sure to mention the USS PYRO to get the **super reunion rates**.



- Sign up for the reunion tours and activities that ring your bell. Send the form on page six along with your check to Treasurer Tom Sanborn. While it's a fun part of USS Pyro Association membership to torture your officers and reunion chairman, please don't dally. The great prices that have been negotiated for the 2008 reunion require early deposits. Generally speaking, officers go into panic mode around the middle of January when those deposits on tours and dinners fall due.



- Reserve your seats early if you're flying to Dubuque! Dubuque Airport is served by American Eagle from Chicago O'Hare airport. There are 175 seats available daily at this writing, but when those seats are gone, it's a 200-mile drive from Chicago.

2008 Reunion checklist



From the president's desk

By Jared Cameron

Difference of opinion is what makes horse races, Navy ships and reunion associations.

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

If I don't say so myself, this is a pretty darn good Scuttlebutt! While much of that quality is directly attributable to the great skill of the editor (hey, if I don't sing my praises, who will?), the big difference lies in the variety of material that you, the members have, passed on for inclusion in this edition.

The late and much-missed Ray Gillman was never shy about stating his opinions. One of his pet peeves was 'too much reunion stuff' in *The Scuttlebutt*.

"We need more news about members!" he'd growl with a gleam in his eye.

Well, we are a reunion association, but Chief Gillman had a point. We do need more news about members. Trouble is, all too often only the bad news reaches *The Scuttlebutt*; most folks keep the good news to themselves.

This quarter was an exception. Tom Sanborn, The Hansens and David Inda shared their life and times. John Wichtrich provided his albums for scanning, Tom Sanborn shared his in-boiler experiences. Gary Michael got daughter-in-law Lisa to send along some neat replenishment-at-sea photos. Bob Hauge provided more research on the Mt. Hood disaster. (It's feast or famine with *Scuttlebutt* contributions, so the Michael photos and the Mt. Hood material will appear in the next edition.)

Also, a number of people wrote or passed along worthy e-mails, (thankfully, not one of which repeated the patently false story about a long-dead senator's wife being poised to take millions from veterans' retirement funds). Thanks to Dwight Kauffman, C. Ray Nichol, Roger Martin and William Brown for their contributions.

So if you like this news-filled Scuttlebutt, you can make it happen every edition by sending the news and photos of the Days of Our Lives to your Scuttlebutt editor. Otherwise, you'll look forward to more nagging about signing up for reunions and perhaps even Cameron family vacation photos. So get to it!

Speaking of the Brown epistle (see opposite page), I guess it proves that you can please most of the people most of the time and some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time. While admittedly association officers are selected more for their willingness to serve than 'genius,' we do pick reunion locations based on feedback from members. While the both Pyros were, indeed, West Coast ships, far more AE-1 and AE-24 veterans now live away from the West Coast than on it. And more than a few of those who do live on the West Coast voted to muster in Dubuque.

Difference of opinion is what makes horse races, Navy ships and reunion associations. Whether you want to sign the *Scuttlebutt's* praises or express your displeasure, this is the place to make your voice and opinions heard.

OK, we've gone 11 paragraphs *without* nagging you about signing up for Dubuque: All the information and forms are included in this *Scuttlebutt*. The plan is a good one, the location should be great fun and — as always — good friends and shipmates will make this Sentimental Journey reunion memorable. So why not make hay and your reservations while the sun shines? (Sorry, Iowa brings out those agrarian allusions.)

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,



From the (e) mailbag



At The Scuttlebutt, we get — as they used to say — stacks and stacks of letters, though most of them are touting little blue pills and body part enhancements. Here are a few of the recent notable and printable ones.

Reaching out to Iraq veterans

Just a thought. When you are making out your Thanksgiving or Christmas card list this year, also include one for the following address:

**A Recovering American Serviceman
C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C 20307-5001**

If you like this idea, pass it on to your friends.

Dwight Kauffman (AE-24)

Navigating the Pyro website

Now that I have the Guestbook running, I have tackled the photo section. I have started to input the photos and will be continuing with them and adding the comments as we had before. It is going to be a long, drawn out process, but I will keep plugging a way at it! You can access it by clicking on *Photos* in either of the navigation menus.

When you check out the Gallery if the fonts are too small then just hold down the CTRL key and hit the + and that will make things easier to read. I am pursuing a way of having bigger text from within the program, but it takes a while to learn.

C. Ray Nichol, Pyro webmaster

E-mail changes

- **John Fox:** johnpfox@verizon.net
- **Fred Hamlin:** fredhamlin@gmail.com
- **Tom Moulton:** tommoulton@sbcglobal.net

Put your news in *The Scuttlebutt*

Share the events of your life with shipmates. Send news and photos to scuttlebutt@comcast.net or to Jared Cameron—3808 Brighton Court — Alexandria, VA 22305.

Ire over Iowa

Here you go again, so the guys on the West Coast are not able to attend, I realize that genius isn't your bag but THAT WAS A WEST COAST SHIP NOT EAST COAST.

I WILL NOT BE RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP

William W Brown

(FTG2, AE-24 1961-64)

Shipmate Billy Goodman

Just FYI I was reading through the memorials and have been aware that most think that Billy Goodman died in a fire at Yokosuka. I did quite a bit of research and found out that there was no fire there at all. I contacted a man who was stationed there during that time and he told me he never heard of a fire there. Also I contacted Military records in MO and found out that Billy was discharged from the Navy in 1969. After further research with Ray Gillman prior to his death, I was able to contact Billy's ex- wife who told me he was living in Oregon and would try and get a message to him for me. As of yet I have not been able to contact him, but I suspect he is alive and well according to those I have spoken with.

Anyway, just thought you might like to know.

Roger (Marty) Martin

DUES DUE JANUARY 1

Remember: Annual association dues of \$20 for 2008 are payable on January 1, 2008. To save money and keep your dues low, the association does not mail bills.

Please use the form and send your check to Tom Sanborn at the address shown on page 10.

USS Pyro Association 2008 Reunion

Dubuque, Iowa

May 14-18, 2008

Pease Type or Print Clearly

Name.....

Spouse/Guest.....

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

REUNION OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 14

[Afternoon] – Log in and get reacquainted with old shipmates in JS Deluxe Room 4th Floor

18:00 — 20:00 Reception and Hospitality Room membership with **refreshments included throughout the reunion.**

\$15.00 per Person x Number of Persons Total \$.....

Thursday, May 15

17:30 - Memorial service and Mississippi buffet dinner cruise including prime rib with entertainment on the Spirit of Dubuque

\$45.00 per person x Number of Persons..... Total \$.....

Friday, May 16

Dubuque area tour by motor coach including the National River Museum and Aquarium (admission included), River Park, downtown, deli lunch at Country Junction Restaurant and a visit to the Field of Dreams Movie Site

\$35.00 per person x Number of Person ... Total \$.....

Saturday, May 17

[Saturday Evening] -

16:30 Cocktails [Cash Bar],

17:30 Banquet Dinner, [Note: Dinner meal selection will be made at Reunion Log-in during the afternoon of 2 May]

19:00 Dance, [Music Cost Subsidized]

\$ 32.00 per Person x Number of Persons..... Total \$.....

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

Make checks payable to USS Pyro Association and mail to:

**Tom Sanborn, Treasurer
USS PYRO Association
114 Long Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522**

A Blast From the Past
USS Pyro Association 2008 Reunion
Dubuque, Iowa
May 14-18, 2008
Plan of the Day(s)

Wednesday, May 14

Arrive Dubuque and check in at the Dubuque Holiday Inn: **It's official: Nightly rate is \$79 plus tax for an estimated total *under* \$90!**

1800-2000 Beer Blast From the Past Welcome Reception in the hospitality room JS Deluxe Room 4th Floor Enjoy refreshments limited only by good sense and spousal regulation at this Welcome Reception and in the hospitality room throughout the reunion. — **Hospitality room : \$15 per person**

Afterwards, there's a free Holiday Inn Happy Hour in the main floor bar or you're free to dine on ribs at the Holiday Inn or check out Midwestern and river cuisine on Main Street.

Thursday, May 15

Explore Dubuque on your own. Shop on Main Street, ride the cable car, explore the Grand River Center, check out the suds at Dubuque Star Brewery or swap sea stories with shipmates in the hospitality room

1730: Depart hotel for Memorial service and Mississippi buffet dinner cruise including prime rib with entertainment on the Spirit of Dubuque **Dinner cruise including transportation: \$45.00**

Friday, May 16

08:30 Dubuque area tour by motor coach including the National River Museum and Aquarium (admission included), River Park, downtown, deli lunch at Country Junction Restaurant and a visit to the Field of Dreams Movie Site

13:30 Return to hotel. **Tour including transportation, lunch and all admissions: \$35.00**

Dinner on your own, a visit to the casino or go to the dogs — test your canine speed gauging skills at the Greyhound Park.

Saturday, May 17

10:00 Association business meeting

More quality time with your shipmates or time for shopping and exploring

(Possible, but at this writing growing more doubtful) March in Dubuque's Armed Forces Day Parade (watch this space for news on whether or not a parade will be held in 2008.)

16:30 Cocktails (cash bar), group and individual photos

17:30 Awards Banquet with choice of prime rib, New York strip steak or Grilled Salmon **Dinner: \$32.00**

19-23:00 Dancing to the music of our youth with disk jockey

Sunday, May 18

Check out and head home...

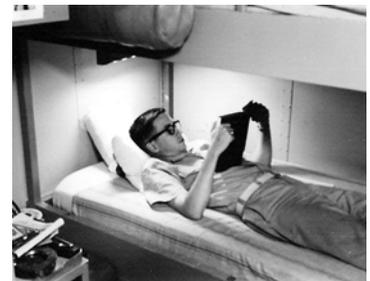
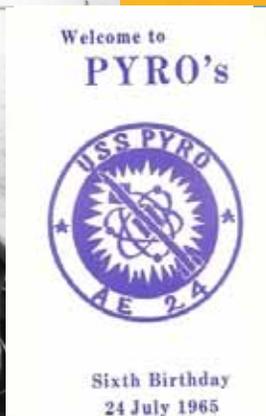
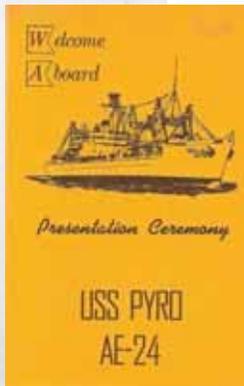
NOTE. REUNION ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE FROM WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY SO YOU CAN HEAD HOME ON SUNDAY.

dubuque has a population of around 50,000 and is located on the banks of the mississippi river approximately 200 miles west of chicago's o'hare airport. all air service to dubuque — currently about 175 seats daily — is provided by american airlines from chicago o'hare.



John Wichtrich's Navy

Selected photos scanned from John Wichtrich's (AE-24, 1963-66) photo albums



Snipe-world

Classic sea stories: The Stewed MPA

I reported aboard PYRO in March Of 1967 as a brand spanking new Ensign fresh out of Fleet Engineering School in San Diego by way of Newport, R.I. OCS, and before that an MBA (that's where the Navy no doubt got its inspiration) for putting the round peg in the round hole in putting a Purdue engineer in the engineering department on a ship. I had been idling my days at Wisconsin working on my PhD---piling it ever higher and deeper and keeping from getting my ass shot off in the Army which was really getting serious obtaining more cannon fodder as they were shoveling a lot of it by 1967. But I digress.....

I had been aboard about two weeks and had found out that a snipe was not a marsh bird with a long beak that you hunted with a shotgun, but rather a sailor who seldom saw the light of day, stayed grimy and was pretty good with tools as he was invariably asked to keep a lot of The Canoe's Club's floating piles of junk running long after a rusty near death had already occurred. Chief Martz held sway on the machinery side and Chief Mann was the head BT in charge of the black gang in the "hole." I was just beginning to figure out that signing the engine logs and standing under the deck blowers were my main duties. Let me tell you, you haven't sailed anywhere until you have been back and forth across the South China Sea at least five dozen trips in a cruise. The air coming into the air ducts was just main deck air and it felt COLD in the engine room ---I can believe that fire room temperatures approached 120 degrees many a day except when it rained----- --the monsoon season was rain also that can't be believed.....but that is another story.

But to the "meat " of this wandering tale.

One morning I descended the usual three ladders to main control---relieved my watch and looked over to the fire room and I observed a large crowd standing around an open access door to what I had learned was the "mud drum" of the boilermost appropriately named. Number One boiler was shut down and all connecting steam lines etc. shut off and tagged...I hoped. For the object here was for the new MPA to crawl headfirst into this pregnant hotdog, flashlight in hand, on your back to observe the hundreds of boiler tubes about one foot above your head---ostensibly looking for any signs of moisture carryover in the tube ends, which will pit the tubes leading to.....well..... you don't want that to happen!!!

Strange things happen to a brave college kid---but the crew tends to find how long this ensign will remain as an engineer or in the NAVY whatsoever. Apparently it was quite a battle to GET the MPA inside the drum and in many cases.....a real exciting time getting him out!!!!

CLAWS – STIR—PHOBIA!!!!

And it ought to be spelled that way!!!! The usual solution was a fire hose. The opening was so small in the access door that you had to put one arm down to your side tightly and the other arm way over your head and kick with your feet to even get started in and it was a cinch that no one else could crawl to calm you down-----BUT....there was always your feet---once they soaked you down. I remember to this day HALE BT2 and SCHULTZ, BT2 (oil king) telling me some of the gory details of prior candidates rescues.

While I was in there the thought never left my mind of the steam power of the other boiler running at full power and if one valve was open just a crack---time for:

STEWED MPA!!!!

Bring on and add to stew pot: Potatoes, onions. Stewed tomatoes, celery and season to taste. Be done in a flash.....literally. The guy who invented the pressure cooker knew what he was about!!!!

All's well that ended well.....never got a grade.....just acceptedcontinued to learn the NAVY way---- -----you did all right if nothing was said and the smiles from the black gang at quarters was the only grade I needed.

Tom Sanborn ENS, USNR
Somewhere in the Tonkin Gulf
June 1967

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

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

Email:
wisherdj@fuse.net



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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

USS PYRO 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:

Tom Sanborn, Treasurer
USS PYRO Association
114 Long Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522