

THE SCUTTLEBUTT

The Newsletter of the *USS Buchanan (DDG-14) Association*

Spring, 2010

Vol. XI No. 1 <http://www.uss-buchanan-ddg14.org> Editor: David B. Malone

Our last reunion was held in Jacksonville, FL on February 24-28. Although the weather was a bit cold (in the '30s and '40s), a good time was had by all. Day trips were made to St. Augustine, and also to Mayport Naval Base and a brewery with guided tours on both trips. There were numerous museums in the downtown area that many of us visited, including a natural and cultural history museum, and a merchant marine museum. Also, the Jacksonville Historical Naval Ship Association has a small shop in a riverside mall called Jacksonville Landing, which was not too far from our hotel. Many of us made forays to this spot. The JHNSA is one of the organizations that is working to bring the USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) to Jacksonville as a museum ship. As you all know, the Adams is the namesake of our class and the only ship of the class still in existence. The JHNSA shop has many US Navy items to for sale, and has some wonderful exhibits from Navy ships that are now in mothballs. On the walls are old battle lanterns, MC units (the bitch box), bells, EOTs... you name it. Also, of interest to me (a former OS/RD) and any ETRs out there were, not just one... but two SPA-25 repeaters. One closed (so you could play with it... these were hands-on), and another one cracked open for all the O-scope hounds out there who spent countless hours slaving over these things to keep them running (Dino... this means you!).

The leader of the JHNSA is Bert Watson, and he came to our banquet on Saturday night as our guest and featured speaker. He gave us all a wonderful presentation of what they are attempting to do. Believe me... if anyone is going to get the DDG-2 to Jacksonville, this is the guy who is going to do it.

As you will read below, a few changes were made to our by-laws during the business meeting, and the next three reunions sites were selected. Following our pattern of a mid west, west coast, then east coast site for reunions, the following decisions were made. Our next reunion scheduled for 2012 will be held in San Antonio, TX. Our 2014 reunion will be held in Las Vegas, NV, and our 2016 reunion is slated for Washington, DC. The exact dates are to be determined by the executive committee. The reasoning for selecting the sites now was to give Tim Nightingale as much time as possible for him to line up hotels, tours, banquets, etc. The more time he has to work on these reunions, the better the deals he is able to obtain for us.

Tim did a terrific job in planning this reunion, and I thank him personally here. Without Tim's efforts, our job of hosting these reunions would be considerably more difficult.

BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

The Business Meeting of the USS Buchanan Association was called to order by President Dave Malone at 9:16 AM on Saturday, February 27, 2010 in Jacksonville, Florida. Members present (18) were:

Bruce Baile,
Bill Batterman,
Philip Beinke,
Rob Browning,
Carl England
Michael Heffernan
J. Wayne Holden,
Mike Jackson,
Thomas Kern,
Dave Malone,
Jay Melesky,
Tim Nightingale,
Lou Proctor,
Terry Rudisill,
Richard D. Skogman,
Stephen B. Smeltzer,
Ted Smigielski, and
Gerard F. Stanina.

Dennis Egge arrived at 9:35AM and Bob Walla arrived at 10:13 AM for a total of 20 members present.

Associate Member Marian Browning was present and collected dues and recorded minutes.

Rob Browning read the minutes of the 2008. A motion was made to pass the minutes. It was seconded and received 100% vote to accept.

Dave Malone had nothing to report from the President.

Rob Browning gave the Treasurer's Report submitted by Dick Zimmerman. Report included a paid membership of 60, 3 new members since December 2009, 8 lifetime members, and stated there is \$5495.52 in treasury as of 21 February 2010. A motion was made and seconded to receive the report. The treasurer's report was accepted by the membership.

Old Business: New products for ship's stores were revisited. Rob Browning will check into where the Adams Museum (JHNSA) gets their products made. (Post meeting note: Rob received the Eagle Crest, Inc., catalogue and information from the Adams Class Museum.)

New Business: Rob checked to make sure the bylaws were on the website. Rob motioned to add lifetime membership and associate membership dues to the bylaws. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Rob made a motion to change Article VI—Reunion and Business Meeting of the bylaws to read: "The location

of any future reunions and business meetings shall be determined in advance by the majority vote of dues-paying members in attendance at the business meeting. The final decision of the reunion locations and dates will be made by the Executive Committee.” Rob stated that the reason for the change was to assist Tim Nightingale in planning the schedules and reunions. The motion was seconded and passed.

Tim Nightingale supplied the results of his on-line survey showing the top five cities were: San Diego, Las Vegas, San Francisco, San Antonio/Galveston, and Baltimore/Washington D.C.

Rob proposed that the next 3 sites be Las Vegas, San Antonio, and Washington, DC. Discussion of the next reunion being in the mid-west, hotel rates in various cities, airfares, time of year, Branson, Williamsburg, Atlanta, Memphis, St. Louis, and Honolulu were suggested.

Discussion ensued on the Branson and San Antonio sites. Time of year discussion: March in San Antonio; May for Branson. A vote was taken and a tie existed. The Executive Committee will make the final decision and post on the website for Reunion 2012.

West Coast locations discussed—Motions were made to consider the following locations for the 2014 Reunion:

- Las Vegas (13 votes)
- Seattle (0)
- Honolulu (4)
- San Diego (2)

Las Vegas location was passed by the members present.

East Coast locations discussed-- Motions were made to consider the following locations for the 2016 Reunion:

- Washington D.C. (11 votes)
- Baltimore (3)
- Williamsburg (4)
- Boston (7)

Washington D.C. was passed by the members present.

Election of officers....Tim Nightingale made the motion to continue the current leadership for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and Lou Proctor seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A discussion ensued about better ways to keep track of membership. It was suggested that emails and dues reminders be sent to keep membership current.

The Midwest site for the 2012 Reunion was revisited when Bob Walla arrived. Bob Walla cast the tie-breaking vote for San Antonio. The executive committee will make the final decision on time of year and post on the website.

Rob Browning acknowledged Tim Nightingale for coordinating the reunion and Dave acknowledged Marian Browning for her efforts in supporting the business meeting.

A discussion took place on whether to give money to bring the Adams to Jacksonville. Tim explained there

are two groups. Holding off on making a donation until after the presentation by Adams Class Naval Ship Museum at the banquet. Dave Malone explained the hard feelings about the Saginaw group that has received money from the USS Buchanan Association. Tim Nightingale made a motion to draft a letter to and the Saginaw group with a copy to NAVSEA to pressure them to give the money back to our association. Dennis Egge seconded the motion and it passed that the executive committee would draft a letter.

There was discussion about the Buchanan website Crew List. It is password protected. ID is "crew" and password is "sea." The ID and password are not case sensitive. This was done to protect ship's roster/email from spamming.

Banquet will have a cash bar starts at 6:00 PM in the Amelia Room of the hotel. No photographer found so Michael Heffernan volunteered to take group pictures. Tim Nightingale requested pictures from the reunion be sent to him to post on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted by
Robin Browning, Secretary
USS Buchanan Association

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Dick Zimmermann, Treasurer

PAID MEMBERS (63)

Acosta, Javier; Backer, Bill; Baile, Bruce; Batterman, Bill; Beinke, Phil; Bishop, Jack; Blasetti, Lou; Borg, Gene; Brinley, Bill; Browning, Rob & Marian; Cameron, Ted; Casmier, Dave; Connell, Dan; Crosser, Tom; Daisley, Dick; Dirickson, Larry & Helena; Egge, Dennis; England, Carl; Fanene, Lynn; George, David; Gerrard, Gerry; Glidewell, Mel; Heffernan, Michael; Herrman, Larry; Hethcoat, William; Holden, Wayne; Howard, John; Jackson, Michael; Kane, Ken; Kern, Tom; King, Richard; Lauenroth, Donald; Lightwine, Robert; Looney, Glenn; Malone, Dave; Marak, Ron; McNary, Bill; Melesky, Jay; Moses, Glendon; Myers, Dean; Nightingale, Tim; Nolan, Randy; Norrod, Michael; Otis, Bob; Proctor, Lou; Rudisill, Terry; Sena, Pat; Sheridan, Tom; Sisco, Glenn; Skogman, Richard; Smeltzer, Steve; Smigielski, Ted; Stanina, Jerry; Stoysich, Claude; Taylor, Jim; Thacher, Phil; Ursich, Al; Walla, Robert; Wihera, Victor; Ziesmer, James; Zimmermann, Dick

NEW MEMBERS SINCE DECEMBER 2009

William Hethcoat	MACM (SW)	1981 - 83
Glendon Moses	RD2	1970 - 72
Jack Bishop	HT3	1971 - 72
Tom Sheridan	STG3	1971 - 73

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Javier Acosta	OS3	1971 - 75
Bruce Baile	SH3	1970 - 73
Bill Brinley	RD2	1967 - 70
Rob & Marian Browning	STG1	1975 - 79
Ted Cameron	STG3	1966 - 68
Wayne Holden	ET1/EW1	1968 - 73

Michael Jackson		
Tim Nightingale	SA (CS3)	1969 - 70
Lou Proctor	FTM3	1963 - 66
Steve Smeltzer	ETN2	1969 - 72
Al Ursich	FCC(SW)	1987 - 91

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 1 Nov 2009	\$6,386.06
Dues	714.00
Ship store sales	610.60
Ship store and reunion expenses	-1,222.52
Balance 30 April 2010	\$6,488.14

NOW ON THE BUCHANAN...

Moments in the life of USS Buchanan (DDG-14), taken from the ship's annual reports.

Forty Five years ago... 1965

In January of 1965, she deployed for the second time to **WESTPAC**. In March 1965, Commander Atkinson was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Harrison C. Murray. During the second deployment **BUCHANAN** was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in the South China Sea in support of strike operations over hostile territory.

Forty years ago... 1970

BUCHANAN steamed back into port on 12 March for upkeep and preparation for the Navy's Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection. The NTPI was held on the 23rd and 24th of the March in which the ship received a grade of Outstanding. The ship remained inport until the 30th of March when she got underway to conduct a week of 5"/54 Rocket Assisted Projectile evaluation tests and independent steaming exercises. The ship entered a one month tender availability with the **USS DIXIE (AD-14)** upon returning to San Diego.

Thirty Five years ago... 1975

During the first week of March, **BUCHANAN** was administratively reassigned from DESRON THIRTY-ONE to DESRON SEVEN to facilitate her stay in the yard during the deployment of DESRON THIRTY-ONE.ONE.

Thirty years ago... 1980

After having the hull cleaned, propellers replaced and rudders removed, in addition to SONAR being removed and replaced, **BUCHANAN** was floated out of dry-dock I on May 6 and berthed at Pier 2. This movement marked the midpoint of the Warship's regular overhaul. Once out of dry dock, the awesome task of upgrading systems and equipment still existed. Long days, hard hours, fortitude and professionalism paid off as **DDG-14's** guns and missile launchers were reworked, engineering equipment overhauled, new and bigger air conditioning units installed and HARPOON and Super RBOC were added to the hull of **BUCHANAN** to increase the WARSHIP'S capabilities for fulfilling her mission.

Twenty five years ago... 1985

BUCHANAN was in port Subic Bay 30 April - 05 May, before getting underway with the Battle Group to conduct operations in the South China Sea (06-11 May). On 12-16 May **BUCHANAN** was in transit to Pearl Harbor, with one-day port visit 17 May. **BUCHANAN** was underway 18-24 May, conducting a Tiger Cruise enroute to San Diego.

Twenty years ago... 1990

Following a short stay in Vancouver B. C. Canada **BUCHANAN** was underway on 7 March bound for Nanoose to complete CNO project 371 on 8 March.

With a highly successful operation behind her **BUCHANAN** steamed toward her homeport of San Diego arriving 14 March. The middle of March marked the beginning of the year's first 11R11 availability.

Additionally, **BUCHANAN**'s CIC team completed the radar assisted piloting team 'trainer receiving a score of 96.0 percent; the highest score -received by any ship during the past four years.

SEA STORY OF THE QUARTER

Rat Guards

Story by John Howard

Anybody remember the musical chairs berth shifts that used to happen at 32nd street? I was Ops Boss and CDO for a fun one we did on a Sunday sometime shortly after the 73-74 WestPac. The plant was cold iron so the shift was completely dead stick. I'm guessing that it happened in the morning and we had the oncoming and offgoing duty sections aboard and neither the CO nor XO came in for the shift. I don't recall much more than the fact that we were moved outboard a ship that had come in to 32nd street that needed to be pierside. After getting all the required line handlers together we hooked up the tugs and cast off. The other ship went pierside and as soon as she had doubled up we went outboard of her.

As is normal during evolutions of this sort the folks on the bridges were shooting the breeze as we were getting lined up just so, doubling up and the brow going over. It was at that point that the CO of the now inboard ship let me know that they had a rat problem aboard. He talked about a rat they had seen on board that was the size of a small dog. He wasn't sure he wanted to put rat guards between him and the pier, but he strongly advised that we put out rat guards between us and them. Hell, he was hoping the rats would like life ashore better than aboard his ship!

In the normal course of nesting ships at the pier it is standard operating procedure that the pierside ship put out rat guards. The outboard ships in the nest don't put out rat guards, because to do so would be a GREAT insult to the inboard ship. Anyway, I took the CO's advice and had the guys put out rat guards. And then forgot all about it.

The next morning when the captain arrived - it was Jim Roche - he saw the rat guards between the two ships and he had a fit! I got called on the carpet immediately and he chewed me up one side and down the other. When he stopped to take a breath, I explained that the rat guards were there on the recommendation of the CO of the inboard ship. I'm not sure whether he believed me or not, but he cooled off after a while. It was the subject of a lot of wardroom conversations that week. And 36 years later I can look back and chuckle about it.