
Beerbower, Charles A

Nickname Rate R Division R
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Meadville, Pa
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1956-02 **Years To** 1958-04
Civilian Occupation Pipe Fitter
Special Hobbies
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory Being on it
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 6
Special Comments

Bensinger, Gene

Nickname Ben Rate FP1 Division A
Spouse Rosalie **Hometown** Pottsville, Pa
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1953 **Years To** 1955
Civilian Occupation Electronics (Now Retired)
Special Hobbies Stamp Collecting, Golf, Photography
Favorite Memory Visiting other countries
Worst Memory Clean cargo tanks
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments

Bergener, Walter R

Nickname Bergie Rate MM2 Division M
Spouse Joana **Hometown** Monaca, PA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1951 **Years To** 1955
Civilian Occupation City Water Dept, Pumping Technician
Special Hobbies Golf, Photography
Favorite Memory Christmas & New Years in Marseille, France
Worst Memory Fueling all day and night
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Firehammer, Robert L

Nickname Bob **Rate** QM2 **Division** M
Spouse Phyllis **Hometown** Madison, WI
Ship USS Nantahala (AO-60) **Years From** 1953 **Years To** 1954
Civilian Occupation Store Management
Special Hobbies Partying and Classical music
Favorite Memory Stealing a cab in Gibraltar
Worst Memory Getting caught
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 15
Special Comments Have lots of room. Located on the Wisconsin River. Old shipmates are Welcome
Call 1-715-453-6324

Gargana, USN (Ret), CWO Thomas J

Nickname Tom **Rate** **Division** Supply
Spouse Mildred **Hometown** Cincinnati, OH
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1944-06 **Years To** 1945-12
Civilian Occupation Technical Writer (Retired)
Special Hobbies Reading, puttering around my farm
Favorite Memory Dropping anchor in Tokyo Bay, Japan, Sept. 8, 1945
Worst Memory Jap Midget Sub attack in Ulithi Lagoon Anchorage against various ships including
NANTAHALA. Sinking of Sister Ship USS MISSISSEMWA (A)-60 anchored in next
berth 500 yrs, 124 knot. Typhoon Dec 17, 1944.
Children **Grandchildren**
Special Comments

Gibbs, Jack E

Nickname **Rate** MM2 **Division** M
Spouse Rita **Hometown** Garden city, MI
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1954 **Years To** 1956
Civilian Occupation Tool & Die Maker & Training Associate
Special Hobbies Church, BOP Elks, Masonic, VFW
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 5
Special Comments

Hebert, Kirby P

Nickname Rate YN3 **Division** X
Spouse Gracie **Hometown** New Iberia, LA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1963-01 **Years To** 1965-08
Civilian Occupation Operating Manager for 6 counties for a large Natural Gas Distribution Co
Special Hobbies Fishing
Favorite Memory All the friends I made in the 2 1/2 years on board. Med Cruise, NATO Cruise, and a couple of Caribbean Cruises
Worst Memory Santo Domingo crisis, USS Nantahala was SOPA. We were one of the first ships there
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 3
Special Comments

Heim, Charles E

Nickname Rate RM I/C **Division**
Spouse Helen **Hometown** Buffalo, NY
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1946-07 **Years To** 1947-11
Civilian Occupation Millwright
Special Hobbies Golf, Photography
Favorite Memory Liberty in Singapore, Shanghai, Tsingtao, Colombo.
Worst Memory Anchor coming thru bow in heavy storm flooding all forward to depth of 40 Ft. All stores & Parts forward ruined. Motor launch smashed. Main deck valves bent parallel to deck.
Children 7 **Grandchildren** 15
Special Comments

Heim, William F

Nickname Bill Rate ETN3 **Division** E
Spouse Judy **Hometown** Philadelphia, PA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1960 **Years To** 1962
Civilian Occupation Retired
Special Hobbies Model Railroading, Motorcycles
Favorite Memory Med Cruise
Worst Memory Bad food and the night the entire meal was dumped overboard
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments My Navy years were some of the best of my life

Padgett, William H

Nickname Bill **Rate** GM3 **Division** 1st
Spouse Jeanette **Hometown** Jacksonville, Fl
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1945-11 **Years To** 1946-05
Civilian Occupation Steam Electric Power Plants for over 40 Years
Special Hobbies Restore Old Tools
Favorite Memory Ice Cream Machine
Worst Memory Looking down barrel of 45 Cal. Machine Gun-Safety Off, Finger on trigger
Children 0 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Pastore, Vincent A

Nickname Vince **Rate** Fireman **Division** Eng
Spouse **Hometown** Canandaigua, NY
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1948-06 **Years To** 1950-06
Civilian Occupation Sales (retired)
Special Hobbies None
Favorite Memory Crossing Equator
Worst Memory Mucking tanks
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments Can't make this year's reunion, but next one for sure.

Pinkman, John F

Nickname **Rate** Lt (jg) **Division** Eng
Spouse Frances **Hometown** Newark, NJ
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1944-09 **Years To** 1946-07
Civilian Occupation Manager of Logistics for Conoco Chemical
Special Hobbies Swim, Golf
Favorite Memory Going back to the West Coast for repairs
Worst Memory Iwo Jima, Okinawa
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 7
Special Comments

Saunders, Bruce W

Nickname Rate BM3 **Division** 2nd
Spouse Dale **Hometown** Southwick, MA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1966 **Years To** 1968
Civilian Occupation Laborer (retired)
Special Hobbies Camping, Grandchildren, Outdoorsmen
Favorite Memory Going across the equator as a shellback
Worst Memory Losing a fellow shipmate over the side
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 3
Special Comments

Schmitt, Karl A

Nickname Smitty **Rate** S 1/c **Division** Deck
Spouse Naomi **Hometown** Baldwin, NY
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1946-03 **Years To** 1946-07
Civilian Occupation Ice Cream Mfg/Distb
Special Hobbies Electronics, Investing
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory Almost being swept overboard during rough weather 4/16/46
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 5
Special Comments

Sellers, Edwin E

Nickname Double EE **Rate** WT 3/C **Division** B
Spouse Grace **Hometown** Chester, Pa
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1944-06 **Years To** 1945-12
Civilian Occupation Relay Tester, Substation Equipment-Power Co Meter Tester, Residential & Commercial Meter Equipment
Special Hobbies Youth Work, Boy Scouts of America, Reading, Traveling when possible.
Favorite Memory Being in Tokyo Bay, Japan for signing end of War.
Worst Memory When we were rammed by USS GUADALUPE also going through the Great Typhoon 12/44 off Japan
Children 1 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Strauss, Howard E

Nickname Lt (jg) **Division** Engr
Spouse Harriet **Hometown** Buffalo, NY
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1944 **Years To** 1946
Civilian Occupation Professor of Mechanical Engineering at State University of NY at Buffalo
Special Hobbies
Favorite Memory Celebrating V-E Day 1945
Worst Memory Collision at sea with another tanker in Jan 1945.
Children 5 **Grandchildren** 16
Special Comments Hope to see all NANTAHALA sailors in Buffalo in 2000.

Strugger, Earl

Nickname TE2 **Division** Commu
Spouse Jois Jane **Hometown** New York
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1954 **Years To** 1955
Civilian Occupation Management
Special Hobbies Tennis
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 1
Special Comments

Suhonic, Andrew B

Nickname High Pockets **Rate** WT3 **Division** Blk Gang
Spouse Margaret **Hometown** Lakewood, OH
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1944-05 **Years To** 1946-04
Civilian Occupation Machinist
Special Hobbies Fishing, gardening
Favorite Memory The good friends I made especially "Double Sellers" He got the salt out of our ships water.
Worst Memory The devastating catastrophes we were fortunate to get out of & escape, Phew! God was with us.
Children 0 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments Hi! YA Ole Salt Pals on the Nantahala. Pray Tell--Wishing you all well. Hanging tough. God Bless You!

Turner, Donald C

Nickname Rate MM3 **Division** Eng Rm
Spouse Pat **Hometown** Columbus, OH
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1953-05 **Years To** 1954-06
Civilian Occupation Welder
Special Hobbies Fishing
Favorite Memory
Worst Memory
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 9
Special Comments

Ulsh, Merle F

Nickname Rate PN2 **Division** O
Spouse Nancy **Hometown** Port Trevorton, PA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1955 **Years To** 1957
Civilian Occupation Labor Union Official US Postal Service
Special Hobbies Antiques
Favorite Memory Med Cruise 1956
Worst Memory "Mucking" Oil Tanks
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 8
Special Comments

Wegner, Henry L

Nickname Hank Rate EMC **Division** E
Spouse Mary **Hometown** Chicago, Il
Ship USS NANTAHALA & USS CADMUS **Years From** 1963-1965 **Years To** 1956-1958
Civilian Occupation Electrical Eng. Tech
Special Hobbies
Favorite Memory Overseas Liberty and crossing the Equator
Worst Memory None
Children 4 **Grandchildren** 2
Special Comments

Wunder, William E

Nickname Bill **Rate** CS3 **Division** Supply
Spouse Elizabeth **Hometown** Owego, NY
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1959 **Years To** 1961
Civilian Occupation Service Station Owner with Auto Repair Shop. Towing Service and Automatic Car Wash, Used Auto Sales
Special Hobbies Antique Cars, grandchildren, old coins
Favorite Memory Med Cruise
Worst Memory Escorting dead body
Children 2 **Grandchildren** 3
Special Comments

Yontz, Walter M

Nickname Mike **Rate** CS3 **Division** Cook
Spouse Spouse Deceased **Hometown** Fremont, OH
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1950-10 **Years To** 1952-05
Civilian Occupation Semi Truck Driver 34 1/2 Yrs.
Special Hobbies Bass tournament, Fishing and Hunting
Favorite Memory Going through Panama Canal and going to Japan
Worst Memory
Children 0 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments

Zaramba, Phillip

Nickname Buzz **Rate** GMG3 **Division** Deck/Fox
Spouse Joan **Hometown** Worchester, MA
Ship USS NANTAHALA (AO-60) **Years From** 1963 **Years To** 1966
Civilian Occupation Liquor Salesman
Special Hobbies Sports
Favorite Memory Playing Sports and visiting all the Ports of Call
Worst Memory Staying out to sea for almost 60 Days
Children 3 **Grandchildren** 0
Special Comments