

# BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2008

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



### *Points of Special Interest*

- *President Mike Nesbit's column about the 2007 reunion in San Antonio is our cover story.*
- *See a list of reunion attendees on page two. We hope your name will be added to the list for 2008.*
- *See who wrote in to "Swabbie Stories" this time. Their letters are on page three.*
- *Your answers to "How Did Being in the Navy Benefit Your Life?" begin on page four.*

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

AHOY Bryce Canyon Sailors,

Our October 18-21 Reunion in San Antonio, Texas was a Great Success. There was approximately 58 sailors and spouses in attendance. Everyone agreed that San Antonio was a great place for the reunion and hope that we choose that site again in the future. We spent time in the Alamo and the shops in downtown San Antonio. We went to Fredericksburg, Texas and toured the famous Admiral Chester Nimitz Museum and went in the house he grew up in. We had lunch in town and then went shopping. We also went to the famous

San Jose Mission in San Antonio and spent a lot of time in the Riverwalk Restaurants and shopping areas. We all went on the river boat tours at night. The Holiday Inn where we stayed on the Riverwalk was great, and the food was outstanding. Our Western Night Banquet was a "Great Hit" and we raffled off 23 prizes which included a framed 20 X 18 picture of the Bryce Canyon which was the Grand Prize. I want to thank Rita Manley for the blanket; Harry Heppler and Matt Neill and Bob Thompson for the CDs of prior reunions and Bryce Canyon photographers that made our raffle a huge success.

Dan Hardy won the "Navy Metal Chow Trays" and is probably eating on them as we speak. The Best Western Costume Couple was a very close race so the \$100 prize was split between Mike and Mitsy Nesbit and Jim and Sue Erickson. The gift exchange was also a lot of fun. I want to thank everyone that brought gifts for the raffle which netted over \$700. The money will go into the Bryce Canyon account. I also want to welcome the new members that showed up for this reunion. Every reunion we increase our attendance with new Sailors that sailed on the BC, and we all

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(Continued from page 1)

thank you for coming and hope to see you again at another reunion. The next reunion in 2008 will be held in Portland, Oregon and our 2009 reunion will be in Norfolk, Virginia. The 2008 reunion will be at the end of September or the beginning of October, which is now in the planning stages. I appreciate any suggestions on what you would like to see and do, because, remember, these reunions are for the Bryce Canyon Sailors and I'll do my best to continue to make them fun and exciting. Thanks for your support.

Don't forget to send in your \$20.00 Annual Membership Dues for the New Year. (The membership forms will be in the January Newsletter.) All this money goes in the Bryce Canyon Association Membership Account to support the Quarterly Newsletters and future events at the reunions to help reduce costs. Thank you very much for your support in this endeavor.

I'm starting a new column in the newsletter called "Where's My Shipmate?". Please send in names of shipmates you would like to locate and find and the dates when they were on the ship and maybe someone in our membership might know where they are and help you find them. Please e-mail the names of these shipmates and also any interesting times you had on the BC to "Swabbie Stories" to [karenMLRS@charterinternet.com](mailto:karenMLRS@charterinternet.com). We're also going to try and send out the Reunion Reservation schedule in April and July for earlier planning. Hope to see you all at the next reunion. I'm Michael Nesbit, your Bryce Canyon Association President and Reunion Coordinator, e-mail [thenezz@cox.net](mailto:thenezz@cox.net) or 619-562-5690. Thank you and remember if you haven't been to a reunion yet, you're missing something very special.

Mike Nesbit

## 2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Garry Bevier  
Edward & Doris Boaz  
John & Nancy Bozek  
Cyril & Millie Buehler  
Donald & Pearl Bulanek  
Clarence & Beverly Buse  
Bruce & Susan Campbell  
Richard & Lila Crinigan  
James & Sue Erickson  
Donald & Susan Floyd  
Michael Foster  
Danny & Marlene Hardy  
William & Margaret Hart  
Roy & Linda Hendricks  
Harry & Peggy Heppler  
Richard Ingram  
James Kamler & Lora Hughes  
George & Betty Knight  
Gregory Kruszka  
Amos & Tess Loomis  
John & Rita Manley  
Tony & Virginia Manuel  
Robert & Nancy Matteson  
Matt Neill & Lillian Adams  
Michael & Mitsy Nesbit  
Clyde & Mary Lou Patrick  
Richard & Janet Silvernail  
Mobray "Stu" & Barbara Steward  
Gayle & Barbara Teachout  
Robert & Marilyn Thompson  
Thomas & Helen Wallace

<b>Total Members:</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>58</b>

**Published By:**

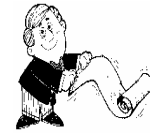
Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc  
PO Box 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

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828-256-6559 (fax)

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Web site: [www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon](http://www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon)

"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"



## WELCOME MAT

**Richard Seppala**

(1965-67) FT3  
2462 Forest St  
Maplewood, MN 55109  
651-484-7294  
[dseppala4@yahoo.com](mailto:dseppala4@yahoo.com)

**Ronald Ross**

(1963-66) ET2 Electronics  
7924 Mount Curve Blvd  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445  
763-424-9892  
[rossrdja@embarqmail.com](mailto:rossrdja@embarqmail.com)

**John Bergquist**

(1964-66) ENS/Lt(jg) Supply  
1280 Dunberry Ln  
Eagan, MN 55123  
[bergiej@comcast.net](mailto:bergiej@comcast.net)

**Doug Downer (SKMC)**

9030 Whispering Pines Rd  
Beaumont, CA 92223  
[dougandruby@msn.com](mailto:dougandruby@msn.com)

**Joseph Kronberger**

(1953-55) MM2 Machine Shop  
2633 Williamstown Rd  
Franklinville, NJ 08322  
856-629-4342

**Robert Thompson**

(1952-54) RM3 Ops  
612 Oak St  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
608-839-4622  
[bmtspock@charter.net](mailto:bmtspock@charter.net)

**John Parsch**

(1969-71) Repair  
1 Woodlawn Terrace  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
814-695-7191

This newsletter can also be accessed at the web site [www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon](http://www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon).



## TAPS

The Bryce Canyon Update learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

**John Bodenhamer (1951-53)**  
Date of death not reported

**Cecil Peterson, Jr. (Medic)**  
Died May 18, 2004

**William McEwen**  
(1950-51) SKG3 Supply  
Date of death not reported

**Ralph Provost**  
(1950-52) FT2 R Div  
Died September 16, 2007

**Elroy Snyder**  
(1953-57) SK2 Supply  
Died July 2007

**LeRoy Johnson (1970-73)**  
E-7 Chief Boilerman B&M Divs  
Died October 25, 2007

**James Boyer**  
(1955-57) BC 4th Elec Rep  
Died December 21, 2007

**CDR Robert Kronberger**  
(1964-68) LCDR Eng  
Date of death not reported

**John Bair (1988)**  
Date of death not reported



## SWABBIE STORIES

Dear ML&RS,

You can list me as a lost and found. I was on the Bryce Canyon from 1952 to 1955. If it hadn't occurred that this year I had finally been able to find my close friend, Merton Esmond, from my Bryce Canyon days, I wouldn't be contacting you, as Merton sent me your newsletters. He and I, unfortunately, lost each other's addresses and after all these years my wife and I being in his hometown, were able to connect with him. Needless to say, we had much to talk about.

About 1954 I bought a used banjo/mandolin in Long Beach, CA in a second-hand shop. On board ship I would sit in a corner of the machine shop in the evening and teach myself how to play it. All the guys in the machine shop threatened to throw me and the mandolin over board. As time went on, I learned to pick a few hoe-downs. One day Merton Edmond came over to me and started a conversation. He mentioned that he played the guitar and if I was interested he would write home to have his guitar sent to him. When Mert received his guitar, we began to practice together and as time passed, we got fairly good. We were asked to join the ship's band, so we played in bars and on other Navy ships.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Kronberger

Dear Editor,

I often wonder if any of my old shipmates are still living. If you could, publish my name and address. I would be very appreciative. Thank you kindly. I was in the pipe shop '51 to '53, Pipefitter 3/c FP3.

Lyle Pointer  
13191 NE 8th St  
Williston, FL 32696

ML&RS,

I ran around with a ships serviceman named Bobby Eugene Wright. He was from Lubbock, Texas. I would like to know if anyone knows how to contact him.

Thanks,  
Harold Captain  
4183 Sylvia St SE  
Salem, OR 97317

Hi,

I still have my cruise books from 1957-59. I was on the ship '56-'60. Volume 12 Issue 4 got me really thinking. I worked out with the gedunk guy. The screw being repaired! That's when I knew why the ship shook so much slopping water in a stormy sea. A reunion in Boston would be nice, but I'd take Pensacola, Fla.

Gold E. What a thing! I was proud to wear it.

Norman Delage  
Heavy Machine Shop, R2 Div



## WHERE'S MY SHIPMATE?

Looking for a lost shipmate? Send in his name and any information you have about him and we'll see if anyone can help you locate him. Our first lost shipmate is:

**Bobby Eugene Wright** from Lubbock, Texas (when in the Navy).

If you know of his whereabouts, contact ML&RS, Inc and also Harold Captain, whose address is above in "Swabbie Stories."

## HOW DID BEING IN THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

*Editor's Note: The question above was posed in an e-mail to all shipmates. The following responses were received. I wish to thank all those who replied and hope that those of you who do not have e-mail will answer for the next issue. Mail your responses to ML&RS, Inc to the address on page two. **We had such a good response that we don't have room in this issue for all of the answers.** The following were chosen at random and the rest will be used in the April issue. Thank you so much for such an overwhelming response!*

### **Michael Nesbit:**

Going to Boot Camp in San Diego and being assigned to the Bryce Canyon which was stationed in Pearl Harbor, gave me a greater understanding of the sacrifices that military members make everyday for their country and fellow sailors which gives you a better respect for your fellow man. I believe this makes you grow up a little faster and appreciate how precious the meaning of life is and you should do something good while you're on this earth. I try to pass this philosophy on to other people in my daily life. I spent 6 years in the Navy and 21 years in the US Air Force and the meaning is the same, Duty, Honor, Country.

### **Bob Donoho:**

Well, the Navy benefited me in several ways. First, it was probably a good maturing experience. Second, it allowed me to see how other people in the world lived (mainly Japan) and appreciate what Americans had. Third, it allowed me to get a college education from the GI bill. I ended up with extended GI benefits due to the fact that some changes in the GI bill happened during my college days and I ended up with 54 months of entitlement, enough to get me through my Ph.D. And I'm sure that my Navy experiences benefited my teaching ability at California State University, Chico. I learned some things in the Navy that are good for a lifetime.

### **Roger Barrie:**

I didn't have much going for me when I joined the Navy. However, after spending 20 plus years in service, I came out a much better person. I need structure, discipline and guidance, which were obtained in there. I do however, wish I had concentrated more on the academic end of it, but the Navy was my education. I've been out now nearly sixteen years and have been gainfully employed the whole time and am thinking about my second retirement.

### **Fred Casebolt:**

I benefited in many ways. Seeing the world, meeting the best people on earth and meeting my wife of 23 years. It also helped immensely when my son joined the Navy. I helped along in the process in all aspects of becoming a member of Navy Special Warfare.

### **Chuck Moulder:**

I joined the Navy when I was 17 years old. It was 1956. When I joined, my best friend, who was almost like a brother, and I were just bored with the life we were living. We joined together and was around each other for the four years we were in the Navy. At the time it didn't seem like a big deal, but as the years have gone by, I have come to realize that I learned a lot from my time in the Navy. I learned to respect my elders, I was able to travel places I never would have done if I hadn't joined the Navy—Japan, Hawaii, Kodiak, lots of places. At the time I joined I didn't think I was serving my country, but as the years have gone by, I have come to realize that it's a good feeling. There are lots of other things that I learned. I could go on and on, I will just say it was the best years of my life.

### **Tom Gleason:**

The Navy helped my retirement years. After 32 years active USN and 18 years additional working for the Navy as a civilian contract surveillance rep. My retirement income is comfortable. Navy, Federal, Social Security, and VA disability for asbestosis.

### **James I Harris, SK:**

There are positive and negatives everywhere without exception... but the Navy is unique!

Being a part of the U. S. Navy benefited my life in many facets throughout the years, during service and in civilian life. For me, the Navy instilled a need and a sense for instruction, work ethic, responsibility, discipline, unity, fellowship, self distinction, self-worth and self-respect. Naval benefits brings one's level of accomplishments and character to a heightened level of an inner-expansion of pride and worth, while expanding upon one's duties and personal abilities to serve and accomplish goals.

Naval work and travel was an experience and an adventure of a lifetime...for which I am thankful. Just to learn and to visit varying ports and becoming accustomed to the different and varying peoples of this planet, most of whom are decent people, is a blessing benefit in itself.

Sailing aboard a vessel, standing at the forecastle of a ship (foc'sle or bow) and/or the ship's fantail while staring and studying the sea at sunrise or sunset, as the weathering elements of warm, cold, calm or blowing wind challenges your being and changes you. Such moments allow you to lose yourself in the thoughts and memories of a maturing mind and personality (*within wonderment as the sea slips by*) as a sailor's dream is set in motion and choreographed within the rhythm, time and conscience of the soul.

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As a recipient of Education and Home Loan assistance via G.I. Bill, i.e. I received my GED while in the Navy, went to two universities and three different colleges, mainly to enhance my station for my future employers. Without my U.S. Navy enlistment, none of this education would have been possible; nor my first purchased home.

Without the U.S. Navy benefits, many men and women would be leading rather mundane lives in search of hope and purpose, a very different reality from what many currently now realize. I salute the U. S. Navy and its "Good Abundances" that it does lay trust to its inheritors (active and the former) the U.S. American Sailors.

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**Ken Daniels:**

Outside of seeing a bunch of the world and how other people live, the Navy showed me how great our country really is. The Navy also gave me a trade. (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration). I now own my own company in California and at 66 I am still going strong.

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**Stephen Templeton:**

I learned patience and what I didn't want to do the rest of my life.

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**Robert Williams:**

Being in the Navy was beneficial to me because it gave me the GI Bill, which I used to obtain a college degree, after which I was commissioned in the Army. I spent six years on active duty in the Army and thirteen years in the Army Reserve. I now receive a military pension plus TriCare for Life, which is worth its weight in gold.

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**Hank Zwetsloot (IC2):**

I joined the Navy in August of 1957, just 6 months after arriving in California as an 18 year old immi-

grant from the Netherlands. I joined for several reasons: **1.** I could see that serving with other young men would give me a common cultural experience that would help me adapt to life in America much faster. **2.** I would learn the language quicker and **3.** I needed to be on my own and not a drain on my parents who had to support 5 other children from 6-19 years old. I very much enjoyed my Navy time and lucked out by being in the peacetime Navy from 1957-1961. I spent 3½ years on the B.C. (in the Gyro Compass Repair Shop) and learned a good trade, interior communications which later in life helped me get a job as a Marine Electrician at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. I eventually retired from the shipyard Nuclear Engineering Dept in 1990. Tell everyone that being in the U.S. Navy was a very good experience for me. My 14 grandkids enjoy hearing stories about my service time and I even get to play free golf at a local golf course on Veterans Day because I am a veteran!

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**Bruce Derksen:**

The Navy taught me patience, (I had none when I joined) and most of all, I learned that I would be doing a lot of things in life that were not to my liking. Overall, the Navy was a great learning experience that cannot be taught in a university. I would do it again!

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**Dick Seppala:**

I was young and very immature when I enlisted in the Navy. My grandfathers and my dad were sailors, so naturally I wanted to be one too. I wanted to serve my country and make my parents proud. I learned a lot from my shipmates. I worked hard and I saw the world. It made me grow up. I enjoyed almost every day I spent in the Navy. I got my GI Bill, went to college, and worked for a Fortune 500 company. I was Chairman of our School Board, ran for mayor, and I own my own business. I couldn't have done

it without my Navy experience. I will always be grateful for the time I served in the Navy.

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**Bruce Campbell,**

While in the Navy my rate was Data Processing Technician. I received much training, both classroom and on the job training (OJT). After the Navy, I stayed with the computer field, working at several large and varied corporations (such as credit card manufacturing, educational, and labor unions). I worked my way up the ladder from Computer Operator to Senior Computer Operator to Lead Computer Operator, to Data Center Supervisor, and finally Data Center Manager. I managed for over 30 years. But, as with most occupations, management and the computer field in general has a down side. For example: working weekends, being on call, vacations cut short, off-hour telephone calls, and of course, difficult employees. The Navy training was a springboard for many job opportunities the average person would not ordinarily have had. Fact of the matter is, without the Navy training I'm not sure where I would have found myself today, truck driver? Carpenter? Or some other form of blue collar job? (Nothing wrong with blue collar work, though.) I have since left the manufacturing arena and became a successful contract technical writer, and using all of the job training experience and tools originating in the U. S. Navy. I had no qualms about enlisting, in fact while in boot camp I received my draft notice for the Army. It was very funny, as I showed it to our company commander and he mumbled several obscenities about the Army level of IQ, and said, "I'll take care of it."

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**Armon Collman:**

**1.** It saved me from the draft and being an Army (Helo pilot) or Marine Grunt having to do the bidding of an administration that put us (as a nation) where we shouldn't have been for the financial gains of the rich. (And they say history doesn't repeat itself!)

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2. It took me out of Po-dunk, (Klamath Falls) Oregon.

3. It gave me the best sense of being a team member than any other job/profession I've been in since.

4. It taught me the lack of respect a few could have for others when they thought their rank was all they needed in life to lead.

5. It provided me with the ability to travel to far flung lands.

6. It immersed me into vastly different cultures where I could learn about the history and customs of others first hand.

7. It made me truly appreciate the bounty of food, education, and opportunity this nation has for us and others to share.

8. It allowed me to be in the place where I would meet my future wife (Hawaii) and later, son.

9. It gave me an opportunity for continued higher education that I might not have had otherwise.

10. It gave me the experience of using Navy correspondence courses to get ahead in the Navy and coincidentally and oddly enough, the first step in my career with the city of Portland, Oregon.

#### Gerald Ryals:

My training in the field of Electronics was responsible for me being able to say that I never was unemployed that wasn't by my own personal design. Also, the experience of being led by some pretty good leaders and then some of them training me so that I think I became a fair leader myself was important in virtually every facet of my life. The navy experience was for me, as I am sure it was for many, an awakening to the world around me in many ways. Working with and even playing with people of so many different backgrounds rounded out my personality and enabled me to actually see other viewpoints and accept differences in people and objectives. In short, the Navy made me into a secure, responsible and educated individual,

able to meet the many demands and challenges of life and be successful.

#### Paul Heppner:

I served on the USS Bryce Canyon from 1951 to 1954 as an electronic technician. Because of this background, I had decided to attend the Milwaukee School of Engineering after my discharge. I left the BC in February of 1954 while the ship was in Japan. I was returned to the U.S. as a transient on the USS Yorktown. While in transit, I was summoned to a meeting with the ship's "Education Officer." (I told him I had never heard of an education officer.) He asked me what I planned to do upon release. I told him I planned to attend MSOE. He explained to me the benefits of attending Purdue University. Since I was a native Hoosier, tuition would be much less and, in the final analysis, a degree from Purdue would carry more weight. I heeded his advice and have never had any regrets.

#### Don Chinery:

The Navy taught me discipline, order, authority, line-and-staff principles and I got a chance to see a lot of the world and countries at a very young age. I had a chance to meet many great people and I was well prepared to fit into a well paid civilian job that I retired from 20 years ago at the age of 49.

#### Ted Williams:

My life continued after Navy life because I stayed in the same field while I was in the Navy. I took printing in high school and was able to attend Naval Printers School. I never was rated above seaman because they froze the rate (Letterpress) but continued offset or lithography rate and I didn't change rates so ended my career seaman printer. I ended my career as lead printer for the city of Portland, OR and have been retired 11 years now.

#### Anthony Scalise:

Being in the Navy and serving in the Repair Crew of the Bryce Canyon gave me life experience that would lead me into my civilian career as a mechanical engineer for 33 years with Hughes Aircraft Company and Raytheon Systems Company. As an extra benefit, I worked with and became friends with men of integrity and I am proud to have served with them.

#### James Kepner:

I think the Navy made me to grow into a man and find direction and drive in my life. I was in college when I joined up, but had no real idea as to what I was going to do or be in life. I was an electronics tech while I was in and got a job with an electric utility right after discharge. I'm sure the Navy training got me the job and it paved the way for a 35 year career. Thank you U.S. Navy!!!

More responses in the next issue!  
Thanks to all who participated!

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 10/07 issue **\$2496.76**  
Funds received since 10/07  
**\$725.00**

Funds available for 01/08 issue  
**\$3221.76 - \$100.00 for door prizes = \$3121.76**

Funds expended 01/08 issue  
**\$1094.50**

**(7 pages/776 copies)**

Postage:	\$302.64
Paper:	\$186.24
Envelopes:	\$ 46.56
Small envelopes	\$ 12.00
Copies:	\$434.56
Labor:	\$ 112.50
TOTAL:	\$1094.50

**Balance Remaining for 04/08**  
**\$2027.26**

**Dues of \$20.00 are due in January of each year. Use the enclosed envelope to return your 2008 dues.**