

BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 13, Issue 2

April 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *Mike Nesbit has information about the 2008 reunion in Portland, OR in his Coordinator's Message on the cover.*
- *Welcome Mat on page two has nine new names for the roster. Welcome Aboard!!*
- *We heard from two shipmates for "Swabbie Stories" on page three. Get your stories in too!*
- *The rest of the responses to "How did the Navy benefit your life?" begin on page three.*

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Ahoy Bryce Canyon Sailors,

Our next reunion will be held in **Portland, Oregon, October 9-12**, and we've got some great things to see and do while spending time in Portland. On the Friday tour we'll be traveling to Astoria for a visit to the Columbia River Maritime Museum. This museum contains one of the finest displays of nautical artifacts and ship models in the country. We will also visit the Astoria Column, constructed by descendants of the fur trader, John Jacob Astor and the Northern Pacific Railway. This structure is the only one of its kind in America and is listed on the Na-

tional Register of Historic Places. The trip to Astoria will take you along the scenic Columbia River and when heading back home we will pass through the beach community of Seaside. On Saturday we will tour the Evergreen Air Museum, home of Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose airplane. This airplane is so big that it takes up half of the museum. A history of aviation is shown throughout the years with various planes on display. We will then move on to one of the many Willamette Valley Wineries for a tour. On our return from the winery we will take a Portland city tour, featuring Chinatown/

Old Town and Washington Park, home of 10,000 roses which gives Portland its name of "City of Roses." Saturday night we will have our famous raffle, gift exchange. At last year's reunion we raffled off 23 gifts thanks to our members. Many thanks for the tour suggestions by Garry Bevier, Cyril Buehler and Matt Neill. Our 2009 reunion will be held in Norfolk, Virginia and there will be a lot to see and do there. I always appreciate any suggestions on what you would like to see and do at these reunions. After all, these reunions are for the Bryce Canyon Sailors, their wives and significant oth-

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ers. This year many thanks to John Bozek who put together the following team of 18 Sailors to call all 700+ members on the mailing list to remind them of what these reunions are all about: Mike Foster, Dick Ingram, Tony Manuel, Robert Matteson, Bruce Campbell, Clyde Patrick, Greg Kruszka, Harry Heppler, Jim Erickson, Don Floyd, Roy Hendricks, Dan Hardy, John Manley, Bradley Nickey, Gary Bevier, Matt Neill, Gayle Teachout and Mike Nesbit. John Bozek not only made the calls, but completely updated our mailing list of BC Sailors. I can't thank all of you enough for your tremendous effort and enthusiasm. Don't forget to send in your \$20 ANNUAL BC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES. All this money goes in to our BC Association Account to support our Newsletters and some of our reunion activities. Also, don't forget to send in some of your adventures on the Bryce Canyon to "Swabbie Stories" or name of a lost Shipmate to "Where's My Shipmate?"

A special moment to remember a fallen Shipmate: **Elroy Snyder**, who passed away July 2007. Elroy was always at the reunions and was instrumental in getting me to take over as your President in 2004. Thanks, Elroy, you and your wife Nell will not be forgotten.

If you haven't been to a reunion yet, you're missing something very special. I'm Michael Nesbit ('69-71), your Bryce Canyon Association President and Reunion Coordinator—thenezz@cox.net; 619-562-5690. Thank you for being there.

Michael Nesbit

**2008 USS BRYCE
CANYON REUNION
OCT. 9—12
PORTLAND, OR
HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT**



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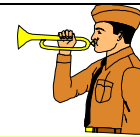
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TAPS

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.

Bruce Gregory
(1961-63) MM1 M Div
Died December 18, 2007

Boyce Foster
Died March 18, 2006

Michael Olson
Died November 27, 2007

James Martinson
(1957-60) EM2 E Div
Died December 3, 2005

Robert Geeter
Died January 12, 2001

Bill Lewis
Died June 5, 2001

Richard Spires
(1954-55) MM2
Died April 22, 2007

Milton Larsen
(1951-55) Radio Operator
Died February 21, 2007



SWABBIE STORIES

Dear Mike,

Well, the "Swabbie Stories" have certainly improved the newsletter. It's a great idea, keep it up. The success level of those former shipmates is very impressive looking back. You know if a lot of ex-servicemen would tell their story such as in the newsletter, someone could put a book together of service lives followed by their civilian lives. I'd like this to be the beginning of the Bryce Canyon Story (of the crewmen who became civilians) to let the other people learn what these people accomplished during and after serving their country. It could be used by recruiters someday. Also could be used to educate the legislators of the potential of people first serving their country then becoming civilians again and what a financial boost can do to help them with their educational pursuits.

Ronald Steinbiser

P.S. After serving with the Marines as a corpsman at Mt Fuji, Japan and Okinawa with landings in the Philippines etc and serving aboard the battleship Missouri during the Korean War as well as the Carrier

Coral Sea and Lake Champlain, it was quite a change to serve on the Bryce Canyon. It was different!!!

I was aboard the BC from 1951-1955 and assigned to the operations dept. as a radarman. It was sometime in 1952 that Minsk QM1 did a hypnosis demonstration before the evening movies. He hypnotized a swabbie and had him thinking he was dancing with a movie star, but the movie star was a wet deck mop. He was really loving that mop up. He also had someone trying to catch crickets and put them in his white hat. What was really funny was when he tried to put a new cricket into his white hat, one of the ones in the hat tried to escape. It is truly amazing what the mind can imagine.

Who remembers Boots the mascot that stayed on the signal bridge? I will never forget the night that Boots was barking at a dog in the movie and jumped off the 04 deck and landed in the XO's lap.

I would like to get in touch with anyone that served in the Operations Dept from 1951-1955, especially Chester Kilby, Frank Yoder, Dick Wickland, Billy Williams, Gerald Hodges and others that I served with.

As Bob Hope said, "Thanks for the memories."

Ted Marsh
395 Gingercake Rd
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-461-8170

HOW DID BEING IN THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

Here are the remainder of the responses to the question above. If you didn't get a chance to reply, it's not too late. We will be glad to publish your answer at any time in the future.

John Donahue:

I joined the Navy immediately after finishing high school. I chose to join the Navy instead of attending college because I was unsure of what I really wanted to do. I was always interested in engineering and technology, but having grown up in a small town, I felt a need to experience life in a different way and "see the world." Joining the Navy provided me with a very unique experience to utilize my technical interests/aptitude to do meaningful work that made a difference. The teamwork and leadership skills learned in the Navy were very valuable to me while in the Navy as well as in my civilian career. I can honestly say these skills have contributed to my success both in the Navy as well as my civilian career. Joining the Navy as an E1 and retiring as an O6 (Captain) provided me a unique position serving as an enlisted man, petty officer, Chief Petty Officer, and Limited Duty Officer (O2-O6). The Navy entrusted me with five (5) commands which I will

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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. The lost shipmates are:

Captain Galvani, former skipper of the Bryce Canyon circa 1964-1967

Contact Ronald Steinbiser, 1195 LaMoree Rd #112, San Marcos, CA 92078, Phone: 760-738-1128 and ML&RS, Inc

Chester Kilby, Frank Yoder, Dick Wickland, Billy Williams, Gerald Hodges—

Operations Department (1951-55)

Contact Ted Marsh, 395 Gingercake Rd, Fayetteville, GA 30214.
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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"

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remember fondly for the rest of my life.

Overall, I was blessed with being able to work and serve with some of the brightest, loyal and patriotic people in the Navy which I have not encountered in my civilian career.

I would not be the person I am today without the privilege of serving in the U.S. Navy.

Richard Hedwall:

The Navy placed me in electronics school (Treasure Island-52 weeks). That, plus the ever-lovin' G.I. Bill, led to an Engineering degree which led to a successful career.

Roy Akers, SK2 1956-60:

I can honestly say the Navy changed my life forever. I was 17 years old, a product of a nasty divorce, forced to go live with my dad at 13. I was failing in school and finally dropped out after my sophomore year in high school. I had no hope for the future. After boot camp I missed my school and was given sea duty on the BC. I was assigned to X Division because I didn't have a billet. I was literally cleaning urinals in the Chiefs' quarters and a storekeeper chief said I was a good worker and asked if I would like to be a storekeeper. The rest is history. I was sent to Class-A school from the fleet and once there became Class Petty Officer. I finished my GED while on the BC, had an opportunity to take the fleet exam for possible training at Bainbridge and then on to Annapolis. However, my skill level in math and English wasn't good enough for me to qualify. I was lucky enough to have been the one who made a replica of the BC that sat on top of the cake when we won our first gold E. In my last year, I went to Long Beach City College at night and in 1968 graduated from Chaffey College in Alta Loma, California. I went on to become a Production Manager & General Manager in the manufactured housing industry a few years later. After 11 years in that industry, I

moved into the foil insulation industry, where I have been for 27 years. I was the national industry association (RIMA) spokesman for 9 years and the president of RIMA for 8 years. My wife, my son and I started our own business in 1992 and sold it in 2005 to a major multi-national corporation. I'm in my final year and a half of a three year contract as president of our old company. Bottom line, if the Navy had not saved me, I have no idea what would have happened to my life. It also provided me the opportunity to meet my wife of 47 years. I never forget my time on the BC.

Tony Manuel:

I served four years aboard the Bryce Canyon (1966-70). I got to see parts of the world during the two West Pac's that I made that I would have never seen. I enjoyed working in the machine shop where I met a lot of good friends and to this day we are still in touch. In 1968, after returning from my last West Pac, a few of us went to the E.M. Club at Pearl Harbor and that is the night that I met the girl that I married after my discharge. We have been married for 38 years. We have been to six ship reunions and are looking forward to seeing everyone in Oregon.

Charles Looney:

Besides enjoying my time in the service while serving my country, I benefited from the G.I. Bill which paid for my college education from the University of Texas at Austin.

Jerry Bosh:

I joined as a child with nowhere to go and finished as a man with the whole world open to me, thanks to good leadership and training.

Don Schneider, EM2 1951-55:

I really did not apply myself while in high school. Just did enough to

get by. After boot I went to electrical school in Great Lakes. I did not have any high school math, but did well in school. I served with several guys in the 4th Division on ship that had attended some college. We always talked about taking classes while in port in Long Beach. Did not really follow up. I decided to go to college and become an accountant. I started in that program and had a high school friend in college who wanted to be a business education teacher, so I made the change. I taught for 6 years and then went into school administration. I spent 15 years as superintendent and 14 years at the Dept. of Public Instruction in Wisconsin.

My Navy experiences got me a good job part-time while in college. The Navy taught me responsibility and dependability as well as your word was your bond. The Navy experience was priceless and I served our country. The GI Bill paid for my college almost thru a Master's Degree as I went thru 4 years in 2½ years.

Thanks for the forum. I served with many good guys in the 4th Division on the Bryce Canyon.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 01/08 issue	\$2496.76
Received since 01/08	\$2895.00
Available for 04/08 issue	\$5391.76
Expended 04/08 issue	\$813.70
(4 pages/826 copies)	

Postage:	\$323.70
Paper:	\$ 99.60
Envelopes:	\$ 49.80
Copies:	\$265.60
Labor:	\$ 75.00
TOTAL:	\$813.70

Balance Remaining for 07/08
\$4578.06

Dues of \$20.00 are due in January of each year. If you have not already sent your dues, mail them to ML&RS at the address on page three. Be sure to indicate that it is for the Bryce Canyon Update.