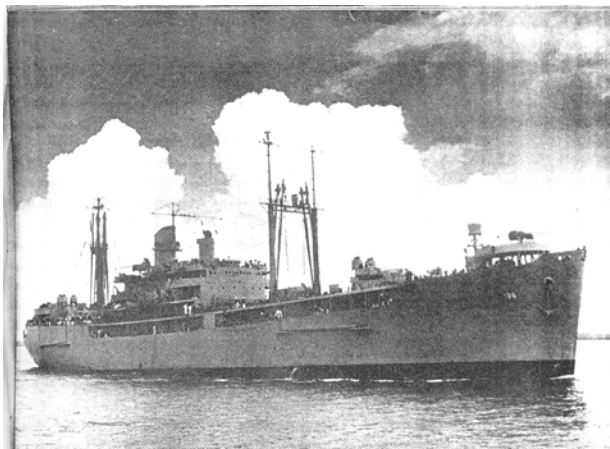


# BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 10, Issue 3

July 2005

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



### Points of Special Interest

- *Mike Nesbit promises the time of your life at the 2005 reunion. See what he has to say in the cover article.*
- *Welcome Mat on page two has 15 newly located shipmates. Welcome aboard!*
- *Two shipmates share some memories of their time on the Bryce Canyon in Mail Call on page three.*
- *Jim Harris sent in a photo of BC in Hong Kong in 1956. See page three.*

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

### Ahoy Bryce Canyon Sailors,

There is only 3 more months until the **"Big" Bryce Canyon Reunion in San Diego, CA, October 13-16**. I have been advertising our reunion in all the Military Publications and have been receiving e-mail and phone calls from all over the US. This is going to be the biggest Bryce Canyon Reunion to date, definitely one not to miss. The Military Locator & Reunion Service, which sends out your newsletters, has been doing a lot of work to make this reunion a success. As you know, the newsletters are free to you, however, we would like you to make a

donation during the year to help pay for printing and postage so we can continue to mail out the BC Updates. Send your contributions to ML&RS, Inc., PO Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603, **made out to ML&RS, Inc. with a note that it is for Bryce Canyon Update**. Thank you.

We have some great events planned during your stay in San Diego. One of the tours will be aboard the USS Midway, which served the US for 47 years. **I guarantee you'll have the time of your life at this reunion.** It's always an emotional high seeing old friends and meeting new ones,

and listening to all the "Scuttlebutt" from the enlisted, Chiefs, and Officers that proudly served aboard the Bryce Canyon (AD-36). My name is Michael Nesbit, and I'm your San Diego Coordinator, who served aboard the BC from '69 to '71 in the Repair and Personnel Office. I can be reached at 619-562-5690 or e-mail @ [thenezz@aol.com](mailto:thenezz@aol.com). Please tell any former shipmates to call me for information. **I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Reunion in October.**

Mike Nesbit  
Reunion Coordinator

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The UPDATE is the official publication of the USS BRYCE CANYON Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the BRYCE CANYON. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

ML&RS, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be impossible to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.



## WELCOME MAT

The USS BRYCE CANYON Association announces the following former crewmen have recently been located. Welcome aboard and we hope to see you at the next reunion.

*Jose Guerrero (1975-79) E-7*  
596 Pineridge Ct  
Bonita, CA 91902  
2jmg3@cox.net

*Bruce Campbell (1965-67) MA3*  
3162 Isadora Dr  
San Jose, CA 95132  
408-729-6088  
techwrtr@bayarea.net

*Michael Malone*  
3660 Thom Blvd  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
702-889-8055  
mikemalone@prodigy.net

*James Wildman*  
5051 E Lincoln St #7E  
Wichita, KS 67218

*Bob Bowman (1961-65)*  
777 E 3rd St Apt C-315  
Pomona, CA 91766  
909-234-4750

*Robert Matteson*  
2525 Sweetwater Trail  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
407-679-9402

*Chuck MacHus*  
4089 N Hammel Way  
Fresno, CA 93727

*Regilado Tagudar (1959-62) Supply*  
21735 S Main St  
Carson, CA 90745  
310-549-7237

*Richard Huffer (A Div)*  
2122 Cypress Cross Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33810

*Gerald Kirwin (1951-54) EM2 E Div*  
5416 Rumsford Ln  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-425-8085  
randgkirwin@earthlink.net

*Emmett McCleerey*  
1314 N Gibson Ave  
India, IN 46219

*Fred Carnathan (1951-54) MR-1*  
4481 Mount Henry Ave  
San Diego, CA 92117

*Randall Emert (1973-76) SKSN*  
3027 W Antoinette St  
Peoria, IL 61605  
emtronics@insightbb.com

*Frank Conkling*  
3024 W Michigan St  
Evansville, IN 47712

*Michael Tribble (1969-70) E-4 Eng*  
740 11th St SW  
Bandon, OR 97411  
541-347-4286  
michaelt68@yahoo.com



## 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 widows, families and friends of the deceased.

*Thomas Kaufman*  
1953-55 IM3 3rd Div  
Died June 29, 2005

*Melvin McGinnis*  
Died May 4, 2005

*Ray Craine*  
Died March 11, 2005

*Fred Millwood*  
Date of death not reported

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

*Albert Bondurant (1960's) DK1  
Died January 7, 2005*

*John H. Walk  
Died July 2002*

*George Hancox  
Died December 31, 2000*



## MAIL CALL

Bryce Canyon Update,

Completed my first tour of duty in the Navy 26th December 1947. Went back in August 1950. I am a plank owner. Men aboard her at the time might remember we had a talent show. I won first place as a single and the first place as a group. I left the Bryce Canyon March 1953.

I retired from the Navy April 26, 1968. I went to work as a deputy with the sheriff department. I later was elected sheriff and stayed there until January 1983 (Covington County, AL, county seat at Andolusia, AL).

I then worked as inspector at Eglin Air Force (civil service). I retired there, then worked with US Forest Service. I hung it all up October 2004. I live on a farm 5 miles west of Florala, AL. I've been here since 8-8-68. I'm playing around with horses now. The Lord has blessed me with good health.

Glen Chambers  
2231 Glen Chambers Rd  
Florala, AL 36442-7204

Bryce Canyon Update,

Nothing of great note about my service on the BC. Shortly after I came aboard, she was put in dry dock at the Long Beach Ship Yard. That is when she was fitted with the helipad. I worked in Operations Division in the Communications Center as a Radioman. We pretty much shut

down our operations and the CommCenter at Long Beach protected for us. We just ran messages back and forth when we weren't chipping paint. The Radio Room got a face lift, but as I recall our equipment remained pretty much the same, except for a fancy new patch panel. Our Operations Officer was LTJG Rutherford. I enjoyed the time I spent aboard and had some great times with my shipmates through Operations Division and the rest of the ships' company. We were homeported in Long Beach, but I was discharged shortly after we went to San Diego.

I have fond memories of the ship and crew. I just wish I had made a better effort to keep in touch with my Navy buddies. I guess we all got too busy making a life for ourselves. Looking forward to the reunion.

Regards,  
Jim Wildman



## USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36 IN HONG KONG 1956

*Submitted by Jim Harris*

## I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Hear my voice, America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years, my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth, justice, and the rights of man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal-yours but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future.

**I am the American Sailor.** I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop mizzen of Yankee clipper ships.

Yes, **I am the American Sailor**, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the song of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation. I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant, lonely lands.

**I am the American Sailor.** It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of Monitor. I have

suffered the cold with Peary at the North Pole, and I responded when Dewy said, "You may fire when ready Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine infested waters when our soldiers were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled dark, deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

**I am the American Sailor**, and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy, and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle, and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard, and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine invested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartment of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**I am the American Sailor.** I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese, and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world; on land, in air, on and under the sea.

Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

## I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

*Taken from: "Navy Club of the United States of America", Spring 2001*

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 04/05 issue **\$207.89**

Funds Received since 04/05

**\$310.00**

Funds Available for 07/05 issue

**\$517.89**

Funds Expended 07/05 issue

**\$520.80**

**Postage: \$240.96**

**Paper: \$60.24**

**Envelopes: \$30.12**

**Copies: \$120.48**

**Labor: \$69.00**

**TOTAL: \$520.80**

Balance Remaining for 10/05

**Minus \$2.91**

**Funds will be needed for the October issue.** Send contributions to ML&RS PO Drawer 11399, Hickory NC 28603. Be sure to state it is for the Bryce Canyon Update.

#### *Published By:*

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

828-256-6008 (voice)

828-256-6559 (fax)

**dinamlrs@charterinternet.com**  
**karenmlrs@charterinternet.com**

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

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

**USS BRYCE CANYON  
2005 REUNION**

**OCTOBER 13-16**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**

**HANDLERY HOTEL**