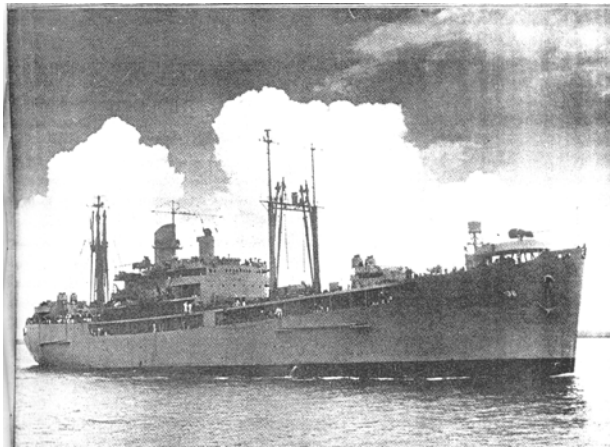


BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 11, Issue 4

October 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *A report on the 2006 reunion in Annapolis is our cover story. It was a great event as you'll see. A list of attendees is on page 3.*
- *Mike Nesbit's Coordinator's Message is on page two.*
- *Six new names are under Welcome Mat on page three.*
- *Knut Berland submitted "Coast Guard Christmas" on page three.*
- *Read about what San Antonio has to offer for your 2007 reunion. See page four.*

2006 REUNION WAS A GREAT TIME

The Baltimore/Annapolis, MD area was the site of the 2006 USS Bryce Canyon (AD-36) reunion. The reunion began on the afternoon of Thursday, October 12 and ended Sunday morning October 15. Twenty-three former crewmen and twenty-one of their guests attended the event which was held at the Holiday Inn BWI in Baltimore. The first official event, the Welcome Reception, was held at 5:00 PM Thursday, but almost everyone had already met in the Hospitality Room which had opened at registration time with refreshments for the weary travelers. Mike Nesbit, Reunion Coordina-

tor, welcomed everyone during the reception and made the necessary introductions. Those who had not met in the Hospitality Room then got a chance to get acquainted and make plans for dinner with old friends or to invite the newcomers to join them. After dinner most everyone returned to the Hospitality Room to visit and to look over the memorabilia that some had brought for display.

After Friday morning's private breakfast buffet, the group loaded up the bus for a tour to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. A guided walking tour of the Academy gave them an up and close

view of where our nation's finest young men and women live and study. It was an impressive visit, leaving everyone feeling grateful for these young people's dedication. The group agreed that they wanted to also tour the city of Annapolis, so they left the Naval Academy and went into town for a visit. The Quartermasters Club was the choice for the noontime meal, and everyone was well pleased with their day in Annapolis. The bus returned to the hotel in time for the 3:30 PM business meeting where Mike Nesbit was again elected to serve as the Reunion Coordinator. The 2007 re-

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union site selected was San Antonio, TX and Portland, OR was chosen for the 2008 reunion site. Following the meeting there was time for some relaxing before the evening's events began, then at 6:00 PM the social hour began, followed at 7:00 PM by the Maryland themed dinner buffet. The meal included Crab Soup, Crab Cakes, Chicken with Chesapeake Sauce, etc. It was an amazing display of Maryland's best. After dinner came the entertainment. Everyone had been asked to bring along a small gift representative of his/her hometown or state. These gifts were put on a table and numbers were drawn for them. But, the twist was, when your number was drawn, you could either take an unopened gift or one that someone had already chosen and opened. It was great fun seeing what each person had brought from his/her state and what everyone ended up taking home.

After another delicious breakfast buffet, Saturday's tour was to Washington, DC. The highlight of the trip was the visit to Arlington Cemetery and getting to observe the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony. As an added bonus, the US Air Force Thunderbirds flew directly over the group and did their "Missing Man" formation. The Air Force Memorial was being dedicated so the group got to see several formations representing the planes that were flown in all the wars or police actions in which the Air Force has been involved. It was a very special occasion for everyone. Stops were made at the Vietnam, WWII and Korean memorials and the Navy Memorial. A drive-by of other famous Washington monuments was made, making it another great day of touring.

The evening began with the pre-dinner cocktail hour at 7:00 PM, followed at 8:00 PM by the USS Bryce Canyon banquet. Everyone was called into the banquet room by the playing of "Anchors Aweigh," then when everyone was seated, the Pledge of Allegiance was re-

cited and the National Anthem sung. Mike Nesbit made the welcoming remarks and dinner was served. It was a festive evening, and everyone enjoyed the lively conversation and laughter with tablemates.

Sunday morning's private breakfast buffet was the last item on the agenda, and it was here that the Memorial Service was held. The short service honored all men from the Bryce Canyon who had passed away. Their names were read and a bell was tolled in their memory. The service was led by Garee Harrison and Mike Nesbit. Following the memorial, it was time to say good bye to the 2006 reunion and start looking forward to 2007 in San Antonio. Everyone was encouraged to tell all their former shipmates what a great time they had had at this reunion and to encourage them to join in the fun next year. We hope to see you in San Antonio.

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

AHOY BRYCE CANYON SAILORS:

Our recent **2006 Reunion Oct 12-15 at Annapolis, Maryland** was a huge success. We had approximately 50 members in attendance and we toured the **Naval Academy at Annapolis**, and spent the rest of the day touring the great town of Annapolis, shopping and eating the wonderful food. On Saturday, we went to **Washington DC** and toured the great Monuments, the Vietnam Wall, World War II and the Korean Monuments and other DC sites and had lunch at Union Station. We then spent the rest of the day at **Arlington National Cemetery** where we visited the Kennedy and Audie Murphy grave sites and saw the changing of the Old Guard. The Holiday Inn was a great place to stay and the dinners and breakfasts we had were fabulous. We had our first gift exchange at the Satur-

day Banquet (which will become a yearly event) was great entertainment along with the surprise gifts that everyone brought. We are trying to move these reunions around the 4 Time Zones throughout the US, so that it's convenient for everyone to make a reunion. We also plan 2 years in advance for your future planning, so you might attend. We have over **1000 names on the BC mailing list**, so we would like to have more of you try to attend and meet the shipmates you sailed with on the BC and also meet new people and share their experience on your ship. Everyone attending has made new friends, visited new cities and had a great time with their shipmates, so try and make the next reunion, I guarantee you'll be glad you did.

Please send in money to the Military Locator during the year, earmarked for the Bryce Canyon Reunion, so we can keep the 4 NEWSLETTERS throughout the year coming. You can also read the newsletter on the Web Site: www.mlrsinc.com, (that's M L R S I N C . C O M - l o w e r case) however I think the newsletter is more fun to get, but we have to support it, and help pay for the POSTAGE otherwise we can't mail out the letters. Each Newsletter reports the Balance of funds for the next Newsletter, so keep informed. If you have any suggestions for future reunions or events, e-mail me @ thenezz@aol.com or call me at 619-562-5690. Start saving your pictures or mementos for next year's Raffle. I also had some Bryce Canyon plaques made up from a mold, so call or e-mail me if you would like to purchase one. Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year in San Antonio, Texas.

Mike Nesbit
Reunion Coordinator

A SPECIAL THANKS TO LYNN FROM THE MILITARY LOCATORS FOR MAKING THE 2006 REUNION A SUCCESS.

2006 REUNION ATTENDEES

Harry & Wanda Bequette
Edward & Ellen Boaz
John & Nancy Bozek
Bruce, Susan & Allan Campbell
Timothy & Emme Cortelyou
Doyle & Jamie Cox
Donald & Susan Floyd,
Mary Mortensen & Norma Querry
Wendell & Reva Garber
Danny & Marlene Hardy
Garee & Carol Harrison
William & Peg Hart
Harry & Peggy Heppler
Richard Ingram
George & Betty Knight

Gregory Kruszka
Anthony & Ginny Manuel
Robert & Nancy Matteson
Matthew Neill & Lillian Adams
Michael & Misty Nesbit
Clyde & Mary Lou Patrick
Elroy & Onelda Synder
Mobray "Stu" & Barbara Steward
Thomas & Helen Wallace

Total Members: 23
Guests: 21
GRAND TOTAL: 44

COAST GUARD CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through each state,
Coast Guard families
Were starting to celebrate.

Just then from the White House
Came an urgent call,
A crisis had arisen
That would affect one and all.

In fact the State Department
Was in such a frantic,
For Santa Claus had just
Landed in the Atlantic!

It was foggy as ever;
Rudolph had made a big blunder.
Santa, sleigh, and eight reindeer
Were all going under.

Though the stockings were hung
By the chimneys with care,
Poor Santa was gurgling,
"I'll never get there."

When what to his wondering
Eyes should appear;
But some Coast Guard Cutters
With their rescue gear!

The officers and crew
Were so lively and quick;
Sure was a lucky break
For Good Ole Saint Nick.

With a nod from the captain,
They went right to work.
Rudolph was embarrassed,
He felt like a jerk.

Poor Santa was soggy,
But as anyone could see,
He was very grateful
To the USCG!

And we heard him exclaim
As they towed him from sight,
"If it weren't for age and weight,
I'd enlist tonight."

Submitted by Knut Berland

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.

James McKeown 1956 Eng
Died October 17, 1999

Joseph Leary (1950-51) PhM1/c 3rd
Div
Died June 29, 2006
Burial in Arlington National Cemetery
July 28, 2006

Marvin Jungkans
Died June 5, 2006

Orville Lotz
(1952-53) S3/c StrKpr
Died August 19, 2005

James Rogers
Died May 6, 2006

Richard Cord (Ens)
Died April 14, 2006

Rannie Forehand
Died July 2006

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.

Lewis Sponheimer (1977-80)
450 E Bradley Ave
El Cajon, CA 92021
619-258-5708
lspon@aol.com

Rosamond Rogers
405 Sixth St
Radford, VA 24141

Mike Currier (1973-76)
301 Saddlebrook Dr
Krum, TX 76249
757-416-2182
mcurrier2004@yahoo.com

Samuel Reed
(1969-72) MR3/PO3 R-2 Div
236 Beech Rd
Patton, PA 16668
814-674-8066
junereed@verizon.net

Ed West (1980-81) R Div
4350 Monroe Ave NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-585-8222

John Shaw
100 Markirk Ln
Butler, PA 16001
724-865-9550

2007 REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO, TX

The 2007 reunion of the USS Bryce Canyon will be held in San Antonio, TX.

For those of you who are not familiar with the San Antonio area, a brief description of some of the sites and attractions in the city will be included in the newsletter. You will be asked to fill out the survey of the attractions you would most like to see or do during your time in San Antonio. ML&RS, Inc. will take your survey responses and plan your reunion based on the results and input from each reunion coordinator.

One of the most popular attractions in San Antonio is the **River Walk**, a two-and-a-half-mile, scenic pathway bordering the San Antonio River as it meanders through the heart of the city. It's *the* social hub for visitors and locals, the best place in town for strolling, and a mecca for restaurants, bars, night-clubs, and shops for browsing or buying. Brightly-colored river taxis cruise by on their way to take you to the next port of call.

Of course, San Antonio is known for its **Spanish missions** also. The missions are known for their architectural design and are a physical reminder of the Spanish Empire's past hold on this area. The most famous of these missions is the **Alamo**. Today a shrine and museum, it was the site of a fierce battle in 1836 between 189 Texan volunteers and 4,000 Mexican soldiers. The volunteers lost the battle, but "Remember the Alamo!" became the rallying cry of the Texan Revolution, which ended in a victory for the Texans and independence from Mexican rule.

One lesser known visitor's site that has been enjoyed by other reunion groups is the **San Antonio Shoe Factory**. It is much more than just a shoe store—Coca Cola is still ten cents a bottle, popcorn is a nickel a bag and all the candy of any kind that you can stuff into a bag is only \$1.50. And shoes, and shoes and shoes! Emelda Marcos' heaven!

In the city of Fredericksburg, TX is the **Admiral Nimitz Museum**. The Nimitz Park has three parts, the Nimitz Steamboat Hotel and Museum (boyhood home of the Admiral), the Japanese Peace Garden, and the History Walk of the Pacific War. In all, there are nine acres of outstanding displays from WW II. This museum rivals any military museum in the country and is a must for every veteran's group in the San Antonio area. Fredericksburg's main street (where the museum is located) has a wonderful collection of stores, shops, beer gardens, and restaurants.

Also available is a guided **tour of the city of San Antonio** where you will learn of its history and also see the modern, thriving city that it is today. You'll visit the Mexican Market area, full of bargains and good food. Tour Fort Sam Houston with its military museums and visit San Antonio's famous sunken gardens. San Antonio is destined to be one of your favorite cities. You'll probably want to return for a longer visit in the future, but for now, plan on being part of the USS Bryce Canyon reunion in 2007.

2007 BRYCE CANYON SURVEY

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the Chairman's input.

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening? yes no;

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings?
or just on Sunday?

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? yes no

Please indicate your choice of activities by checking the attractions you would like to visit:

River Walk

Spanish Missions

The Alamo

San Antonio Shoe Factory

Admiral Nimitz Museum

San Antonio City Tour

Mail, fax or e-mail survey by
December 15, 2006 to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service
P O Box 11399
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

OR FAX:
828-256-6559

Or you may do the survey on the
Website at:
www.mlrsinc.com/brycecanyon

Those not attending the reunion
may print an order form for the
2006 Memory Book from the web-
site.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 07/06 issue **Minus \$97.05**
Funds Received since 07/06 **\$695.00**
Funds Available for 10/06 issue **\$597.95**
Funds Expended 10/06 issue **\$600.94**
(4 pages/799 copies)
Postage: \$263.67
Paper: \$71.91
Envelopes: \$35.96

Copies: \$159.80
Labor: \$69.60
TOTAL: \$600.94
Balance Remaining for 01/07
Minus \$2.99

Funds will be needed for the next issue. Send contributions to ML&RS at address to right. Mark for the Bryce Canyon Update.