

BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 9, Issue 4

November 2004

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS BRYCE CANYON AD 36



Points of Special Interest

- *There were some "Hot Flashes" at the 2004 reunion! Read about them in the cover story.*
- *A list of reunion attendees is on page two. See who you missed if you weren't there.*
- *Nine newly located shipmates are listed in Welcome Mat on page three.*
- *A letter from Doug Williams about his son who was wounded in Iraq is on page three.*
- *See what San Diego has to offer on pages three and four.*

2004 REUNION IN TUCSON WAS GREAT

Tucson, Arizona was the site of the 2004 USS Bryce Canyon Reunion on October 14-17. The Hilton Tucson East Hotel hosted the event attended by forty-four former shipmates and thirty-eight guests. The registration began around noon on Thursday and continued for the rest of the afternoon. The hospitality room provided a spot to gather and see who had arrived while enjoying the snacks, cold drinks and coffee. Then at 5:00 PM the official start of the reunion, the welcome reception was held. This was the first time the entire group came together, and they

enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fellowship. The remainder of the evening was spent relaxing at dinner or sharing stories in the hospitality room.

Friday's breakfast buffet was followed by a tour to Tombstone, America's best example of 1880 Western heritage. Just by luck, Tombstone was celebrating its birthday, and lots of folks were dressed in Western costumes. This made the visit even more special. Tombstone's famous sites include the OK Corral, Bird Cage Theater, Tombstone Epitaph and the Crystal Palace Saloon, where notables

like Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and the like once gathered. On the way into town, a stop was made at Boothill Graveyard, the burial place for the town's first pioneers. Upon returning to the hotel, many gathered in the hospitality room for refreshments and some serious discussions!

The evening's festivities were full of fun and frivolity! First came a delicious Mexican-themed dinner, and then surely one of the highlights of the reunion—entertainment by the "Hot Flashes." They are a group of women, ages 50-80, who tap danced and put on a great show! Their performance was fabulous,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and everyone was really entertained by it.

Saturday's tour was a trip to Tucson and all it has to offer visitors. The tour included the Barrio Historico, the finest collection of adobe homes in the Southwest, El Tiradito Shrine, El Presidio neighborhood, quaint La Casa Cordova, the oldest adobe home in Tucson, the Historical District where the Plaza of the Pioneers is located. Then a visit was made to the beautiful "White Dove of the Desert," the San Xavier Mission which is celebrating its 207th birthday. After lunch at Sweet Tomatoes, the tour continued on for a breathtaking outdoor tram ride through Sabino Canyon, with views of sparkling mountain streams and majestic mountains. The final stop of the day was at De Grazia's Gallery in the Sun, featuring adobe construction and De Grazia's art. The tour returned to the hotel in time for the 4:00 PM business meeting. At the business meeting, Michael Nesbit was chosen to be the reunion coordinator for 2005. The group chose San Diego, CA for the 2005 reunion site. Everyone was encouraged to call everyone they know and invite them to the 2005 reunion so there will be a large group in San Diego.

The pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session began at 6:00 PM, followed at 7:00 PM by the USS Bryce Canyon banquet. Chairman Charles Mullan welcomed the attendees to the banquet. Following the meal, the group was entertained by a three-piece jazz band, but only a few brave souls got out on the dance floor. Most were satisfied just to sit, talk and enjoy the music.

Sunday morning's breakfast was the last event of the reunion. After the buffet, the memorial service was held. John Manley led the service which is in memory of all deceased USS Bryce Canyon crewmen. Bell Ringer was Donald Schnirel. Following the service it was time to part company for another year. San Diego and October 2005, seems a

long time to wait, but it will arrive quickly. If everyone gets in touch with someone else about the reunion, it will be the biggest and best yet. Hope you will be there.

2004 REUNION ATTENDEES

Calvin & Margie Aitch
 Jack & Lori Bach
 Frank Beavers
 Harry & Wanda Bequette
 Knut & Akemi Berland
 Garry & Lynda Bevier
 Edward & Ellen Boaz
 John & Nancy Bozek
 Charles & Betty Brown
 Clarence & Beverly Buse
 James & Elaine Dougherty
 Dick & Pat Finn
 Dick & Elaine Garcia
 Louis & Juanita Gardemann
 Ronald & Marian Genuit
 Ronald & Carla Hardenbrook
 Danny & Marlene Hardy
 William & Peg Hart
 Harry & Peggy Heppler
 Paul & Dorothy Heppner
 Eldon & Tiffani Hoover
 Leo & Nellie Hultgren
 Paul & Karen Hunn
 Richard & Donna Ingram
 James Kamler
 Francis Kane & Joan Lemieux
 William & Jean Kluth
 George & Betty Knight
 Gregory Kruszka
 Victor & Claire Levin
 John & Rita Manley
 Tony & Virginia Manuel
 Charles & Alice Mullan
 Michael Nesbit
 Bradley & Marion Nickey
 Clyde & Mary Lou Patrick
 Richard & Barbara Pruitt
 Donald & Joan Schnirel
 John & Maureen Seagrove
 Donald Showaker
 Roy & Nell Snyder
 Kenneth & Jan Sudweeks
 Gayle & Barbara Teachout
 John Tully

Total Members: 44
Guest: 38
GRAND TOTAL: 82



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.

Joseph Cerniglia (1959-60)
 1723 Summit Dr
 Lake Geneva, WI 53147

J.L. Pickens (1958-60)
 1616 Lambert Rd
 Greenback, TN 37742

J.W. Pinkston
 1260 Lake Dr
 Newport News, VA 23602

Gerald Rosdahl
 10308 10th Ave Cir S
 Bloomington, MN 55420

John Elliott (1958-60) DTN D Div
 5326 Vickie Dr
 San Diego, CA 92109
 858-581-3255
 john@roel.com

Donald Showaker
 (1968-71) SF 3/c E-4,R-1 Div
 4010 Meadows Ln
 Oakley, CA 94561
 925-625-3180

Bob Christensen MM3 Eng
 P.O. Box 743
 Bethel Island, CA 94511
 925-684-2950
 tlcroses@earthlink.net

Richard Thomas (1976-80) IC3
 1449 N 125 W
 Sunset, UT 84015
 801-777-9092
 Richard.thomas@hill.af.mil

Jack Lysaker
 102 Prince St
 Dublin, GA 31021
 478-272-5663



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.

Lloyd Olson
(1959-61) IC2 E Div
Died August 2004

Frank Spencer
(1965-66) CDR XO
Died March 15, 2004

Don West
Date of death not reported

Harold Cressy HM3
Date of death not reported

Anyone knowing of, or learning of, the death of a shipmate, please inform ML&RS so his name can be added to the Honor Roll and included in TAPS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 07/04 issue **\$43.15**

Funds Received since 07/04
\$913.00

Funds Available for 11/04 issue
\$956.15

Funds Expended 11/04 issue
\$411.15

Postage:	\$171.50
Paper:	\$52.85
Envelopes:	\$30.20
Copies:	\$90.60
Labor:	\$66.00
TOTAL:	\$411.15

Balance Remaining for 01/05
\$545.00

Send contributions to ML&RS PO
Drawer 11399, Hickory NC 28603.
Be sure to state it is for the Bryce
Canyon Update.



MAIL CALL

To: Bryce Canyon Update
Subject: Iraq

Our son, 1st Lt. Steve Thompson, USMC, was seriously wounded by a roadside bomb on April 15th while serving as Aide to Major General James Mattis, Commander, 1st Marine Division. (This was his second tour.) Thanks to titanium plates in his left leg and right arm, he has returned to duty at Camp Pendleton while receiving physical therapy for the arm. He was selected for flight school before being injured. His goal is to once again pass the physical exam and PT test for flight school. We believe he will do it.

Doug Williams (1957)
1601 Moccasin Hollow Rd
Sarasota, FL 34240-8846

Editor's Note: We wish Lt. Thompson the very best in his recovery and in his goal to be accepted once again to flight school. Also, a huge thank you for his service and sacrifice for our country! We ask his family to keep us informed of his progress in the future.

ML&RS, Inc.

PREVIEW OF SAN DIEGO - 2005 REUNION

Beautiful **San Diego, CA** will be the setting of the 2005 USS Bryce Canyon reunion. The **Handlery Hotel** will be the host facility for the **October 13-16** event. Below is a brief description of some of the famous sites in the San Diego area for you to consider as tour destinations during your reunion. Please read the preview and then fill out the survey on

page four. We will use your responses, along with your coordinator's input to plan your activities for the reunion.

San Diego is a great location to host a reunion. The history of modern San Diego begins with Alonzo Horton, the former New Englander. In 1867, he purchased nearly 1,000 jackrabbit-infested acres (for about 27 cents each) along the harbor, initially giving away lots to anyone who would agree to build on them. By the turn of the century, "New Town" contained more than 300 buildings and had replaced Old Town as the center of San Diego commerce.

As we explore the downtown you will see Horton's legacy lives on in the unique citadel of shopping and dining that bears his name, **Horton Plaza**, located in Gaslamp Quarter where Horton's development first began.

The 16-block **Gaslamp Quarter** has become the hottest place since the development of Horton Plaza in 1985 and the creation of San Diego Convention Center. Also, there are round-the-clock activities in the area with shops, galleries, coffee houses, theatre spaces and dozens of restaurants.

On the waterfront is the **San Diego Maritime Museum** showcasing San Diego's rich maritime past. It consists of the century-old windjammer *Star of India*, the steam ferry *Berkeley* and the luxury yacht *Medea*.

We have established a really good relationship with the Public Affairs Office on the Naval Base, and barring alerts, or some other special occasion, we can normally arrange a **guided tour on an active duty ship**. We of course have no control over the type of ship. A recent reunion we hosted in San Diego got a 3 1/2

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

hour tour of USS VALLEY FORGE and were treated like VIPs. It was the highlight of the reunion for many of the men.

Along the Embarcadero toward the Convention Center you'll find not only the city's working tuna fleet but also part of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet. The city's maritime history is actively commemorated in **Seaport Village**, a 14-acre waterfront shopping and dining complex that recalls the days when cargo ships would make the dangerous journey from New England around Cape Horn.

Downtown San Diego encompasses much more than the harbor area. The most famous attraction is **Balboa Park**, another reminder of Alonzo Horton's civic vision. Just north of the central business district, the park covers 1,200 lush acres and contains some of the most fantastic architecture ever assembled in one place:

- 13 Museums**
- Art Galleries,**
- Reuben H Fleet Space Theater**
- and Science Center**
- Simon Edison Centre for the Performing Arts**
- San Diego Junior Theatre**
- Starlight Bowl**
- California Tower**
- (with its working 100-bell carillon)

Balboa Park is also the home of the world-famous **San Diego Zoo**, which houses 800 different species in the enclosures carefully designed to resemble the animals' natural habitat. The entire Zoo is designed as a 100-acre tropical garden and can be visited on foot and on

a special three-mile guided bus tour.

Just across the harbor from downtown San Diego lies the quaint village of **Coronado** which is accessible by the four-lane, two mile long San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. It is also connected to the mainland on the south by a long, narrow sandbar known as the **Silver Strand**. The jewel in the Crown City is the historic and fascinating **Hotel del Coronado**, which has attracted the rich and famous since its opening in 1888.

The north end of Coronado is occupied by **North Island Naval Air Station**, and the east is the headquarters for the Naval Amphibious Base.

The scenic drive down the Silver Strand will take us just across the border into Mexico to **Tijuana**. Tijuana is a shoppers mecca, and even if you don't spend a peso, the trip is worthwhile.

Now decide which of these attractions you would like to see on the agenda for your **October 13-16, 2005 reunion at the Handlery Hotel in San Diego**. Mark them on the survey form on page six and return it to us so we can customize the activities according to your wishes. We want to make your reunion truly yours by giving you what you want. Please let your voice be heard. Registration packets will be mailed approximately 90 days before the reunion is scheduled. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

**2005 BRYCE CANYON SURVEY
SAN DIEGO**

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. Let your voice be heard.

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening?
_____yes _____no;

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group _____
or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday _____?

Do you prefer the hotel Luau on Friday night _____
or have the evening free _____?

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet? _____yes _____no

Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda :

- _____ Gaslamp Quarter
- _____ San Diego Zoo
- _____ San Diego Maritime Museum
- _____ Coronado
- _____ Naval Air Station & Amphibious Base
- _____ Point Loma
- _____ Embarcadero
- _____ Tijuana, Mexico
- _____ Seaport Village
- _____ Horton Plaza
- _____ Balboa Park
- _____ Old Town

**Mail surveys by
February 21, 2005 to:**

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603**

**Or Fax:
828-256-6559**

CALIFORNIA FACTS

- One out of every eight United States residents lives in California.
- California is the first state to ever reach a trillion dollar economy in gross state product.
- California has the largest economy in the states of the union.
- If California's economic size were measured by itself to other countries, it would rank the 7th largest in the world.
- It is estimated there are approximately 500,000 detectable seismic tremors in California annually.
- California is known variously as "The Land of Milk and Honey", "The El Dorado State", the "Golden State" and the "Grape State."
- There are more than 300,000 tons of grapes grown in California annually.
- California produces more than 17 million gallons of wine each year.
- The redwood is the official state tree. Some of the giant redwoods in Sequoia National Park are than 2000 years old.
- The California poppy is the official state flower. The California grizzly bear is the official state animal.
- California holds two of the top ten most populous cities: Los Angeles and San Diego.
- The highest and lowest points in the continental United States are within 100 miles of one another. Mount Whitney measures 14,495 feet and Bad Water in Death Valley is 282 feet below sea level.
- Death Valley is recognized as the hottest, driest place in the United States. It isn't uncommon for the summer temperatures to reach more than 115 degrees.

2005 BRYCE CANYON SURVEY-SAN DIEGO

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MAIL SURVEYS BY FEBRUARY 14, 2005 TO:

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

**OR FAX:
828-256-6559**

Reunion format:

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

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group
or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday ?

Do you prefer the hotel Luau on Friday night
or have the evening free ?

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet? yes no

Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda :

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaslamp Quarter | <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Zoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Maritime Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Coronado |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naval Air Station & Amphibious Base | <input type="checkbox"/> Point Loma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embarcadero | <input type="checkbox"/> Tijuana, Mexico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seaport Village | <input type="checkbox"/> Horton Plaza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balboa Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Town |

Your comments and suggestions are welcome:
