

PAWCATUCK PILOT

Volume 16 Issue 1

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PAWCATUCK AO-108



Points of Special Interest

- **Dave Willis and Mark McPherson both encourage you to attend the 2009 reunion in their columns on pages one and two.**
- **Who was the best officer you served under on the Pawcatuck? See what others had to say on the subject on pages two and three.**
- **Welcome Mat on page three has five new members for the Pawcatuck family. See who they are and contact them if you remember them from your days in the Navy.**
- **The Christmas Menu from an unknown year is printed on page three. It was submitted by Nicholas Lee.**

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Otherwise known as Willis's Words of Wisdom

Shipmates and members of the Pawcatuck Family,

Hello once again from sunny Arizona. It was a hot summer, but now the weather is getting real nice. During the day in low 80's and high 40's at night. I hope all of you had a good summer.

We are five month away from our next reunion. The reunion will be in Baltimore, MD at the Holiday Inn. This will be our 17th annual reunion. The dates will be the 23rd of April to the 27th. Many of us feel this will be one of the most important reunion's that we will attend. On the 24th of April we will be going to the Navy Memorial to dedicate a plaque in memory of our ship and to remember all who served on our great ship. This reunion we would like to surpass the 100 mark for atten-

dance. I hope many of you will bring your family members for special event. I know that we are having hard times. So when you receive this newsletter please send your reservation into MLRS so they can start working on the tours. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

We are changing our schedule this year. We will start our welcome at 1600 on Thursday the 23rd. After the welcome we will conduct our annual meeting. This is so we are not rushed for time as in the past. This will give us a full day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the tours. We will conduct our banquet on Sunday evening starting at 1800. Also for Thursday and Friday evening everybody is on their own for meals. Saturday we will eat at the hotel.

Also Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings we are on our own for breakfast. Monday morning will be a private breakfast buffet at the hotel. Remember this is a four day reunion and this will cut down the cost of meals at the hotel.

Since our last reunion we were notified of eight shipmates who have passed away. These will be remembered at our memorial service at the Navy Memorial on Friday morning the 24th. The memorial service will be outside providing the weather is nice. So please come for this special event to remember not only our ship but also our shipmates.

I hope the packet will be in this issue of the newsletter. If it is please send in your reservations as soon as you can.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Until we see you all in Baltimore have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and a wonderful new year.

Yours

David Willis Reunion coordinator for the USS PAWCATUCK AO-108

MCPHERSON'S MESSAGE

BEARING DOWN ON BALITMORE 2009 REUNION

Shipmates and Family Members:

2009 USS PAWCATUCK AO - 108 REUNION, The Holiday Inn, Baltimore, Maryland, 23 APRIL 2009 through 27 APRIL 2009.

I hope that all shipmates and family members have set their course to attend the 2009 reunion. Not only will this time allow us to enjoy the friendship of each other again, it will also afford us the opportunity to see the sites and historical areas in our Nation's Capital as well as the main purpose for the selection of this years' reunion site, which is the dedication of our ship's plaque at U S Navy Memorial. I can assure all hands and family members, that this is something that our group should be quiet proud of.

I would now like to say THANK YOU to each and every one of my shipmates and their families, for your prayers and support which Shirley and I have received since we last assembled, for the passing of my brother, after spending 4 months in the hospital. It is a great feeling to know that we are truly a band of brothers.

As noted in Dave Willis's report, we have lost 8 shipmates this year. Our Memorial Service will be held at the Navy Memorial and the Chaplin will be conducting this year's service, and we will be laying a wreath at the Memorial in honor of all our departed shipmates.

I was so honored this year to be present and be apart of the Funeral Service honoring one of our departed brothers, Herb Strickland. There were a total of 12 members of our group that attended and I am sure that it not only added to his passing, but brought comfort to the heart of his wife and family.

I also would like to let you know that our family has grown in numbers, as our daughter was married on 31 OCTO-

BER, on Catalina Island, City of Avalon, California, to a fine young man. They will make their home in Irvine, California and I am sure that they will be very happy.

As I stated in the last newsletter, if you have any suggestion or ideas, feel free to contact one of the committee members. We are always open to your suggestions.

In closing, let me ask all of us to continue to spread the word to those shipmates that have never attended one of our reunions, as well as those who could not make some of the previous reunions, to try and arrange to attend this years' reunion. Also if you know of any family members of our departed shipmates please try and encourage them to attend. Let's try and make this 2009 reunion to be held at The Holiday Inn, Baltimore, Maryland, one of the biggest that we have had thus far. Make your plans and mark you schedules.

I look forward to seeing all shipmates during the 17th Annual Reunion to be held in the Washington D C/Baltimore, Maryland area.

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Financial Statement

Balance after 06/08 issue
\$1215.88
Funds received since 06/08
\$140.00
Funds available for 12/08
\$1355.88
Funds used for 12/08 issue
\$273.15
Balance remaining for 03/09 issue
\$1082.73

From now on the Pilot will be mailed **only to those who have returned the coupon to receive it by postal mail**. This issue was mailed to all because it is included with the registration packet. At other times those with e-mail may access the newsletter on the internet at www.mlrsinc.com/pawcatuck. Please continue to contribute \$5.00 for the publication of the newsletter. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc at PO Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603

THE BEST OFFICER ON PAWCATUCK

Editor's Note: This is the question we posed to Pawcatuck shipmates for this issue of the newsletter: "Who was the best officer you served under while you were aboard the Pawcatuck? What made him a good officer? Are there any examples that you recall that caused you to think of him as the best officer you served under?" Here are the responses:

Gary Nassau:

During my tour on the Pawcatuck I served under two Captains. The second, Captain Roy Barnes, was by far the best officer I served under during my short Navy career. Besides having an imposing stature at 6'3", weighing in at approximately 230 pounds, he was knowledgeable, experienced handling both ships and men and understanding what motivated his crew to excel at their jobs.

One example of the respect he had earned from his peers was an incident where our bow was crossed by a carrier at too close range. Captain Barnes had the presence of mind to make the proper maneuvers to avoid what could have been a classic disaster at sea. Shortly thereafter, we received a message from the Captain of the carrier apologizing to Captain Barnes for causing the incident and embarrassing one of his good friends.

In the year I served under Roy Barnes, there were numerous incidents where I considered him not only my captain, but also my friend. Our tours on the Pawcatuck ended at approximately the same time and I lost contact with him. I am sure his career ended successfully having achieved flag rank.

Capt. R. L. Jerns USN (Ret):

Since I was the executive officer, the only one I served under was the Commanding Officer. I must admit that I liked him above all the Commanding officers I served under on

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

other ships. I spent a few months under his predecessor and was happy when Capt. Mazzoline came aboard and became the new C.O. What many of the crew may not have known was that he was also a contributor to the revision of the book **Knights Modern Seamanship**. He contributed to Part 1, Ships and Boats. I enjoyed serving under him. He gave me the confidence needed to go on and command my own ship, the USS Boulder (LST 1190). I cannot stop here, I must also mention the support I got as XO, and finally the last CO of the PAWCATUCK, from two of the Mustangs, the Chief Engineer and the First Lt. Sorry my memory will not recall their names, other than Lt. Runion (1st Lt) and Tom ?? (the Chief Engineer). These two Officers were the core of success that the Pawcatuck gained in all of its operations.

Bill Houff:

I was on USS Pawcatuck from 1986-1987. The captain of the ship during the latter part of our cruise and the transit back to Norfolk was Stephen Ferguson. He was a young man (mid-30s) and while he ran a tight ship, he made the Mil-Dept feel very welcome. Capt Ferguson allowed us to share the officers' lounge. This contributed to the overall camaraderie that was shared with the mates and engineers. There were many nights of watching Miami Vice, playing Hearts or Spades, and sharing the fellowship of some great people.

Editor's Note: Because it was requested that the newsletter and registration be mailed together, there was not as much space for newsletter items as usual. Therefore, there were some submissions that I had to save for a later issue. If your submission does not appear, please accept my apology and know that it was appreciated. Karen Hoyle, Editor, ML&RS, Inc



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates have been located recently. Welcome aboard. We hope to see you at the reunion and that you will take an active part in the association. We welcome:

Ron Smerker (1956-60) MM2
12501 Ulmerton Rd Lot 29
Largo, FL 33774
727-596-7475

William Frith, Jr. (1961-63) HM
7411 Rising Sun Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19111
215-342-6132
wfrith2@hotmail.com

William Mellon (1966-69) BM3 2nd Div
PO Box 175
Lathrop, MO 64465
816-528-6697
melons@grm.net

James Oken (1966-69) 2nd Div
772 Debra Dr
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-439-3203
jimnchris772@netzero.net

Arnold Irvine (1970-72) LT(jg)
5 Drumcliff Dr
Warren, PA 16365



TAPS

Herbert Strickland
1961-68 SF1 R Div
Died September 21, 2008

Michael Rudd
Died October 20, 2008



MENU

Turkey Noodle Soup
Crisp Saltines
Shrimp Cocktail
Roast Tom Turkey
Roast Leg of Pork
Giblet Gravy
Whipped Potatoes
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Bread Dressing
Buttered Whole Grain Corn
Buttered Asparagus
Lettuce Salad
Thousand Island Dressing
Stuffed Celery Sticks
Chilled Cranberry Sauce
Apples Winter Pears Tangerines
Fruit Cake
Pumpkin Pie w/Whipped Cream
Ice Cream
Assorted Candy Mixed Nuts
Assorted Breads Butter Patties
Hot Rolls
Coffee Tea Milk

L. Heyworth Jr. Captain USN

Commanding Officer

R. P. Miles LCDR., USN

Executive Officer

G. T. Hall LTJG, SC, USN

Supply Officer

R.C. Crates ENS, SC, USNR

Commissary Officer

COMMISSARYMEN

J.L. Nistelbeck CSC

J.H. Crouse SN

E. Morris CS2

M.G. McCracken SN

O.F. Chauncey CS3

L. Tucker SN

J. R. Shepard CS3

R.G.Pace SA

Mess Hall MAA

R. D. Johnson GMG1

Submitted by Nicholas Lee. Not dated.