

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 16, Issue 2

September 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



## Special Points of Interest

- **News you'll want to know from Larry Di-Pasquale is featured in the cover story.**
- **If you can't get on the Purdy website any more, read page two to find out why.**
- **Chaplain Fred shares news with you on page three under Mail Call.**
- **Ken Scott's story concludes on page four. Please respond with stories of your own.**
- **See what New London, CT has to offer you for your 2007 reunion. Pages five and six tell you all about it. Send in your survey promptly so the planning can be completed.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hello again shipmates, and all you Purdy ladies. By the time you receive this report, Labor Day will be history and Fall will be fast approaching. Karen and I didn't get too much motorcycling in this summer due to other weekend commitments, a lot of rain, and our bike sitting in the repair shop awaiting parts for almost three weeks. Hopefully we will get some rides in during September and October. Need to say a big 4.0 to VP Bill Dow and wife Janet for the outstanding mini-reunion/picnic they hosted at their summer home in Otis, MA on July 22. About ten shipmates plus spouses

attended, and there should be some pictures in this Report. (See pages 4 & 6.) The food was great, and all had a great time in spite of late afternoon showers. Karen and I really enjoyed seeing all of you at the picnic, and are looking forward to seeing you again at our next reunion in New London, CT. I'm expecting a good showing of shipmates for that reunion on April 25 - 29, 07 since it will be in the Northeast, and many of you live in this area. Please be sure to respond to the reunion survey in this Purdy Report as soon as possible so that ML&RS will know

your desires about the tours you would like during the reunion.

As many of you already know, our 08 reunion will take place in Branson, MO. The exact dates aren't set yet, but the reunion will be in April, 08, and we will be staying at the Radisson Hotel in Branson.

I'm sure many of you are members of AARP, and the Sept./Oct.06 AARP Magazine has a really good article about Branson. We should also have good attendance at that reunion, since Branson is centrally located in the country, and is easily reached by all shipmates

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no matter what part of the country they're from.

I hope that all of you have sent your annual \$5.00 dues to Sec/Treas James Meechan by now. If not, and you want to remain on the mailing list for this Purdy Report, send your check made out to "Purdy Association" to Jim as soon as possible. His address is: 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230. If you wish to pay your dues for two or more years, note that on your check, and Jim will send you a membership card reflecting the years paid. If you are feeling really generous, Jim will gladly accept donations to our association, and will recognize those donations in the Purdy Report.

VP Bill Dow told me that Purdy items are selling nicely. If you would like a quality Purdy jacket, T-shirt, sweatshirt or ball-cap, call Bill at **860-426-1278** for prices and shipping information, or you can e-mail him at:

**[bdowusspurdy@wmconnect.com](mailto:bdowusspurdy@wmconnect.com)**

Karen and I hope to see many of you at the reunion in New London next year. We also hope that there will be a large showing of first-timers for that reunion. If you have never been to a reunion, start planning now to join us in New London. I promise that you will have a great time, and you will never want to miss another reunion .

Sincerely ,  
Larry DiPasquale  
President , Purdy Association

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

## USS PURDY WEB SITE NO LONGER AVAILABLE

The USS Purdy web site is no longer on the Internet. I have pulled all files, photos and all related material from the site.

Tin Can Sailors who was hosting the site, moved and changed hosting service. This has been going on for several months now, and I no longer have any access to the web site.

I will instruct TCS to pull it down also.

I am going to turn the Purdy information to another person who has a large Navy web site. Things like the crew list was being handled by him anyway, so we won't lose that. He will also post any pictures I send him. Also, the Purdy history will be posted on his site.

I will inform those of you who are interested where files may be viewed.

Morris Plummer  
[usspurdydd734@sbcglobal.net](mailto:usspurdydd734@sbcglobal.net)

## 2007 USS PURDY REUNION

### APRIL 25-29

## NEW LONDON, CT

**NEW LONDON RADISSON**

### NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Cost of this issue is **\$273.44**.  
**This Purdy Report is being sent to dues paying members only.**

Thank you to the following contributors: P. H. Craig, Adolph Perrell, H. D. Purser, and Charles Sterling.

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PURDY REPORT is the official publication of the USS PURDY DD-734 Association. It is published quarterly in June, September, December, and March *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by dues to the Purdy Association by its members. All members are encouraged to support the newsletter by sending their contributions to the Association Treasurer.

The Purdy Report 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.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be an impossible task 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 PURDY family proudly welcomes the following recently located shipmates. We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

**Thomas Allen**

RR 1, Box 61  
New Martinsville, WV 26155  
304-455-3417  
tsallen@ovis.net

**Steve Stout (1959-62) MM2**

PO Box 62  
Mifflinville, PA 18631  
570-752-6543

**Stephen Knox (1959-62) SO3**

4115 Monica Ave SW  
Canton, OH 44706  
330-484-2387  
Knox-s@sbcglobal.net



## TAPS

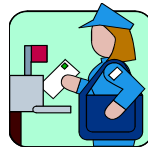
We regret to announce the PURDY REPORT was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. The entire crew extends the hand of sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

**Michael Popp (1951-52) FN Hosp.**  
Died November 2005

**Bert Happel**  
Date of death not reported

**Gerald Combs**  
Died August 10/2006

Anyone who knows of, or becomes aware of, the death of a shipmate, please notify the editor so that shipmate can be recognized in the newsletter and his name added to the Honor Roll.



## MAIL CALL

Ahoy Mates and Mates of Mates,

Judy and I are loving being part of the Purdy Family. We would like to say a special thanks to Richard and Ruth Eckert. We met them in Canandaigua, NY in 2002. Dick had a tin can sailor jacket on. I said "Hey, I was on the U.S.S. Purdy". He said, "Me too". Then he asked why we never came to the reunions. I said "We never heard of it". So he took our names, address and phone number, and you know the rest of the story. If you are glad we are there, Thank You. If you don't like us being there, it is Dick's fault. I got a note from Liz Bruce. She got her green shirt. Howard says he can keep track of her now. Thanks to Bill and Janette Dow, great picnic. I won't tell you all about it. I don't want to steal President Larry's thunder. Going to Maine in September and spend some time with John and Sweetie. Bob Johnson is contacting many new shipmates. Steve Knox, RE Smith, and Jim Lambert; we all remember Jim. He was one of the guys that the wall fell on in Greece. Thanks to Bob, we may see some of these guys next April in Connecticut. I tried to talk to Ken Petit but all we did was laugh. We went to a wedding in Camilius, NY. We met up with Bob Mersfielder. He served with Carl Pumo, Doug Harvey and the rest of that crew. I gave him Carl's number. Carl, if you want him to come to the next reunion, we will pick him up. Some of you may remember an RM named Jimmy Capello. He was also from Camilius. He died of cancer many years ago. I called Norm Bradley and Bob Strauss. I talked to Norm and told him we missed him, that we are praying for a speedy recovery and hope to see him and his lovely wife in Conn. I didn't get to talk to Bob, he is a "social butterfly"; always on the

go. How are things with Bob Fuller and Gerry LaBrun? I just bought a tiller from the LaBrun Motors in Canandaigua, NY. Hi Uncle Art. Look at Steve Tuzikow's picture. Great choice for Master at Arms. Who in their right mind would disobey his orders. I bet Betty, his wife, keeps him in line. All the new guys seemed to have a good time. Make sure you come back, Dom, Cletus, and Bob. Or as Cletus would say "Y'all come back here". Russ Mountjoy, keep watching the mail, it will come. Got an email from Veto Sinnopli. He said he was going to give me big kiss when he sees me. I can see Veto hasn't changed much. Sorry Veto, Judy will get mad. In closing, stay safe, and pray for our troops all over the world. May God be with you 'til we meet again.

In God's Love,  
Chaplain Fred and Judy the Cutie!

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with deep regret that I report to you the passing of my grandfather, HCSO alumni Mack D. Hewitt (*Last issue in Taps*). He passed away on August 7, 2005 after a long battle with Alzheimer's and a plethora of other health issues. He finally succumbed to aspiration pneumonia while in the care of LifePath Hospice in Sun City Center, Florida. He served on the USS Purdy from 1948 to 1953. He always had such great stories to tell about his time on ship, and truly loved going to the Purdy reunions until such time as his health forced him to stop making the journey.

Christopher J. Ivey

Shipmates,

Gerald Gene Combs of Grand Island, a retired welder, died August 10, 2006, in Mount St Mary's Hospital, Lewiston, after a long illness. He was 74. Born in Niagara Falls, he

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was a graduate of Trott Vocational School and served in the Navy during the Korean War on the USS Purdy, part of the only squadron at that time to circumnavigate the globe twice, once in each direction. He was a welder for General Motors' River Road engine plant in the Town of Tona-wanda for 23 years, retiring in 1994. Survivors include his wife, the former Georgette Corsaro and three sons, Glenn, Gene and Jamie.



**Scenes from the mini reunion held by Bill and Janet Dow this summer.**

## KEN SCOTT'S STORY

*A collection of memories written for his grandchildren and shared with us.  
Continued from March 2006*

We stayed in Athens a couple of days and weighed anchor to Port Said (pronounced Si-eed), Egypt. No one went ashore—not that anyone really wanted to. It was so hot the decks exposed to the sun burned our feet.

Egypt and Israel were in a standoff with Egypt dug in on one side of the canal and Israel on the other with anyone navigating the canal staring down gun barrels on both sides.

As we entered the Suez Canal, we had a half dozen men with M-1 rifles walking posts on each side of the ship. We were there but no one told us what we were watching for.

The Suez is about 105 miles long and in most places about a hundred yards wide, and throughout most of its length it is difficult for ships to meet so there were stretches where it divided into two large ditches running parallel so ships can meet and pass. To meet another ship is strange in that the ship you meet looks like it is just sitting out there in the sand some three or four hundred yards from you. There is nowhere along the canal the banks are more than just a few yards high.

Somewhere along the canal we came to a lake. I believe it was called Bitter Lake and while the ship was anchored we were allowed to swim. I jumped over the side, swam a short distance to the quarter deck, got out of the water and hit the hay. I don't think the word got around the ship

because not many people showed up to swim. Normally we were not allowed to swim from the ship unless you accidentally fell overboard.

We entered the port of Aden and tied up fore and aft to buoys. We went to Aden to refuel so we didn't want the ship swinging around when we were receiving fuel, the bow of the ship was secured with an anchor chain with the stern tied with a rope (hauser).

Bum boats came from everywhere after fueling was completed and we were just waiting for the other ships to take on their fuel. One of the boats had two men trying to sell a real live deer that was only about a foot in height. I don't know what kind of deer it was, but of course there was no way anyone on our ship could buy it.

Two men in another boat were just trying to bum a cigarette. "Hey, Joe, you give me cigarette?" A sailor got a pack from his pocket, held up two cigarettes and said, "Come after them." The man rowing the boat immediately rowed the boat to the buoy, his passenger bounced out onto the buoy and jumped on the anchor chain with both feet. Then, holding onto the chain with both hands, he walked up the chain on all fours just like a monkey. We had about fifty feet of anchor chain out but he covered the entire distance.

We cheered as he came up the chain. The man that offered the cigarettes tried to back out, but all the sailors demanded he give the man the entire pack. Someone suggested if we got caught with a man on the ship, it was going to cost him a lot more than a seven cent pack of cigarettes. He gave the man the pack of cigarettes and we escorted the man back to the anchor chain and watched as he made his way down it to the buoy.

About half way between Aden and Colombo, Ceylon, I celebrated my twenty-first birthday. Halfway around the world and I still had a birthday! We had a man that played music over the PA system just like a disc jockey. He tried to find a country music record for me and he finally played "Mom and Daddy Waltz" by Lefty Frizzel. I'll never forget that birthday!!

We pulled into Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) for a two day stop. While we were there our captain, along with the captains of two of the other ships with us, were involved in a car wreck and all three nearly lost their lives. We left our captain and he joined us later in Japan.

***This concludes Ken Scott's Story series. We want to thank Mr. Scott for sharing his memories with us.***

## 2007 USS PURDY REUNION, APRIL 25-29 NEW LONDON, CT

### ABOUT NEW LONDON, CT

This 350 year old early settlement is rich in history, from colonial times to today's high-tech industry. The city was attractive for its natural harbor and access to the ocean via the Long Island Sound. The whaling industry was born here, and shipbuilding and seafaring are still important to the region. The oldest continually operating U.S. Customs House is located on Bank Street downtown, and the city is home to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Major historical events include the burning of the city during the Revolutionary War by Benedict Arnold, the capture, trial and acquittal of the Africans on the slave ship *Amistad* after they overpowered their captors and attempted to sail to Africa, and the birth of playwright Eugene O'Neill.

The waterfront is one of the state's most active. Ferry service to the islands run year round from two municipal piers. Commercial fishing boats and slips for private vessels are located there, and the city boasts an excellent transportation center for ship and rail with a high speed railway under development to speed commutes to New York and Boston.

The Thames River and the Long Island Sound provide some of the most spectacular sailing in the region. The Monte Crisco Cottage, Eugene O'Neill's boyhood home, is a National Registered Landmark, and was the setting for "Ah, Wilderness" and "A Long Day's Journey Into the Night," two of his most famous plays.

### ATTRACTIONS

**U.S. Navy Submarine Force Museum & Home of USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571):** Located on the Thames River in Groton, CT, the museum maintains the world's finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy, and as such, is

the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. The museum traces the development of the "Silent Service" from David Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the modern Los Angeles, Ohio, Seawolf and Virginia class submarines. In 1986, NAUTILUS joined the Submarine Force Museum and opened to the public as one of the finest exhibits of its kind in the world. This is a "must see" for all.

**Naval Submarine Base New London:** Here is the birthplace of the submarine force, originally a Navy yard that converted to a submarine base in 1916. It was greatly expanded in World War II when the advent of nuclear power required an improvement in training and support facilities. By 1959, New London had become the largest submarine base in the world with 8,210 active personnel. In 1969, the base also took on logistical and training responsibilities for fleet ballistic missile submarines. By 1979, the base supported the new Los Angeles and Ohio class submarines. Today the Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE NLON) is where all submariners in today's Navy will be stationed for training and perhaps a tour onboard a fast attack submarine or with pre-commissioning crew while their new submarine is under construction. It is home to more than 40 tenant commands including the submarines and crews of Submarine Group TWO, the faculty and students of the Submarine School, and the Naval Submarine Support Facility (NSSF). The base supports twenty-one attack submarines and the Navy's nuclear research deep submersible NR-1.

**U. S. Coast Guard Academy & Museum:** The Academy's beautiful campus is on the Thames River and was founded in 1876. It has a proud tradition as one of the finest and most selective colleges in America. The

smallest of the five federal service academies, the Coast Guard Academy provides a four-year Bachelor of Science program with a full scholarship for each individual. The museum spans the two hundred year history of America's premier maritime service. The museum's collection features everything from models of a series of early steamships to the 270-foot cutter that plies the waters of today, the exquisite craftsmanship captures the changes in ship design over the last two hundred years. Other fascinating things include one of the only first order fresnel lenses on display in the U.S. This 10-foot tall set of prisms was initially installed in the lighthouse at Cape Ann, Massachusetts. There is a small collection of wood carvings, along with cannon, paintings, uniforms, and medals.

**Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center:** This is the world's largest and most comprehensive Native American museum and research center. Four acres of permanent exhibits depict 18,000 years of Native and natural history in thoroughly researched detail. The museum features life-size walk-through dioramas that transport visitors into the past, as well as changing exhibits and live performances of contemporary arts and culture.

**Florence Griswold Museum:** This is the home of the **Lyme Art Colony**, America's center of Impressionism. In a time of declining economy, the Griswold family turned their home into a boarding house, which eventually became a haven for artists in the early decades of the twentieth century. The artists found the setting ideal for their art work, and over the years the House became the center of America's best known impression-

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ist art colony, the Lyme Art Colony. Today this museum is more than the sum of its parts: it is an historic house, an art gallery, a garden paradise, an immortalized landscape timelessly linked to Impressionism. The museum houses a renowned collection of American art and the artifacts of a profoundly American town.

**Tour to Mystic:** The old whaling port and shipbuilding center of Mystic is home to **Mystic Seaport**, "The Museum of America and the Sea," the nation's leading maritime museum. More than sixty weathered buildings house old-style workshops, stores and other sites reminiscent of 19th century seaside American. There are demonstrations of shanty-singing, fish-splitting, sail-setting and other salty pastimes. You can watch the building, restoration and maintenance of wooden ships, the most impressive being the restored *Charles W. Morgan*, a three-masted wooden Yankee whaling ship built in 1841. Done up ready to embark on a hypothetical two-year voyage, the ship is filled with whaling memorabilia.

**Mystic Aquarium** has more

than 3,500 specimens of marine life from around the world—200 different species in more than 34 exhibits. The aquarium's exhibits are alive with an abundance of creatures that will perplex and amaze you. Five hundred of the most beautiful and exotic fish in the world share a 30,000 gallon Coral Reef exhibit—just one of the areas of the aquarium.

**Foxwoods Casino:** Try your hand at some of the games at the nearby casino. Foxwoods offers 5,800 slot machines, Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and Baccarat, including a smoke-free casino. Foxwoods also offers High Stakes Bingo, Keno, a Poker Room and the Ultimate Race Book. First class entertainers, such as Diana Ross, Julio Ingleisias, Paul Anka and Bill Cosby, are also another reason to visit. This can be an enjoyable evening's entertainment for anyone who enjoys games of chance.

Now that you have read about some of the things to do and see in the New London area, please take a few minutes to fill out and return the survey to the right. Tell us which attractions you are most interested in seeing during your reunion. Thank you for your participation.

## 2007 USS PURDY SURVEY

*Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can custom design your reunion to your wishes.*

### The Reunion

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? \_\_\_\_\_

Or only on Sunday morning? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.**

U.S. Navy Submarine Force Museum & Home of USS NAUTILUS \_\_\_\_\_

Naval Submarine Base New London \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Coast Guard Academy & Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center \_\_\_\_\_

Florence Griswold Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Tour to Mystic \_\_\_\_\_

Foxwoods Casino \_\_\_\_\_

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**RETURN BY OCTOBER 16, 2006**



**MINI REUNION AT BILL & JANET DOW'S SUMMER HOME**