

# THE DECKPLATE

Volume 7 Issue 1

March 2009

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3)



### Special Points of Interest

- Coordinator Ron Spagna keeps you informed on what is going on with the association in his article on the cover.
- Find out what's going on with the ladies in the Ladies Corner on page three.
- We have 16 new names of shipmates who have responded with their addresses for Welcome Mat on pages 3 & 4.
- Do you remember your first day at Boot Camp? Barry Pate shares his story on page four.
- You'll enjoy Michael Clark's tale about two arch enemies on pages 4 & 5.

### COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Hello Schofield family, The holidays are all finished, winter is almost done, spring is on its way, and most important, our 2009 reunion in Nashville is getting closer!! The dates are Sept. 10-13, 2009 and more information will follow. Contracts have been signed with the folks in Nashville per information I received from Brenda at ML&RS. The itinerary will be published shortly as soon as we have it firmed up. From what I've seen it will be another great time. Just a few items that I'd like to pass along. We have been working on a project to help guys find old mates. It is a work in progress and there have been a few success stories. It is very rewarding when we hear of

someone finding an old buddy. Thanks to the internet it is a bit easier to take on this task. We also have our Deckplate where we can submit names, info, etc. in hopes of finding an old buddy. Lots of tools to do this, but takes some time and hopefully we are all patient. Mark Fletcher, Carol Fletcher (Association secretary), and Mark Crozier have been doing lots of the grunt work with this project. Personally, I do email queries. Carol, and the 2 Marks have been using the old fashioned telephone and have had some successes. There is a dual purpose to this project. First and foremost we would like to help guys get reacquainted. Secondly, but also very important, we are trying to

encourage attendance at our reunions as well as maintaining communications with our old shipmates. If you hear of someone who is interested in being found, or is looking for someone, please let us know and we will get the word out. Occasionally I will send out something regarding a health issue with one of our Schofield family. I like to keep it as general as possible for privacy issues, unless someone gives an OK to do otherwise. My aim is to just recognize our shipmate or any one of our Schofield family, and offer our well wishes, thoughts, and prayers. Please let us know how you all are doing regardless of the

*(Continued on page 2)*

circumstances.

We still have a bit of an issue with costs for our Deckplate. Postage is a big part of the expense. We are trying to isolate those of you who are willing and able to access the Deckplate via the internet. ML&RS, Inc can send you an e-mail notification when the newsletter is available to download on line at their website. Not everyone has access on line, but those who do may wish to get it via email. This would help with the postage expense as well. All in favor, please let us know and we can take you off the USPS snail mail list and get going with a mass emailing. It doesn't cost us any more to mass email than if it just went email to one or two. If you want to continue to receive it via USPS that is fine too! My main wish is that as many people as possible get it and are aware of our business. I would appreciate it if you can let us know what your wishes are. At one point a couple of years ago we decided we were going to just drop names of non-contributors off of our mailing list. I am still reluctant to do this as I think we can improve our financial situation. Our dues are \$20/year and they mainly cover 4 issues of our Deckplate. I look forward to receiving it quarterly and am sure many of you do as well. Thanks in advance for any support you can offer. Dues may be sent to Robert Cichowski. His address is listed in this issue.

Bob Feldman is looking for help with the website. We need more "stuff" to get it rolling. He is willing to put in the time and just requests any input, i.e., pictures, stories, items of interest, etc. We can only get out what we put in so please help us get going. His email address is [Donfeldman@comcast.net](mailto:Donfeldman@comcast.net).

Last, but not least, I will put in another plug for our Nashville reunion. I can't say enough about our group. These reunions have been going on for 9 years now and this will be my fifth. From the first one I attended in Charleston in

2005, I have been enthusiastic and proud to be a part of the experience. The group changes from year to year for various reasons. This changes the experience in some ways, and we miss those unable to get back. However the experience just continues to get better!!! It seems that we may run into problems with attendance due to location (east/west) and that is understandable. Money is tight at times and that is understandable as well. But, if you can find a way to get there I can guarantee you will feel welcome and truly enjoy the experience. It has been like that for my wife Frani and me since the start. We have old timers, plankowners, new timers, new wives, etc. It doesn't matter!!! We are truly the Schofield family and we welcome you all and hope to see you in Nashville!!!!

Respectfully,  
Ron Spagna

## USS SCHOFIELD 2009 REUNION

**SEPT. 10-13**

**NASHVILLE, TN  
HOLIDAY INN**

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**Hickory, NC 28603  
828-256-6008 (voice)  
828-256-6559 (fax)**

[Dina@mlrsinc.com](mailto:Dina@mlrsinc.com)

[Karen@mlrsinc.com](mailto:Karen@mlrsinc.com)

[www.mlrsinc.com/schofield](http://www.mlrsinc.com/schofield) (web site)

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**SUBMITTED BY ROBERT  
CICHOWSKI, TREASURER**

**March 2009**

Estimated money in account  
\$925.66

*Dues collected 01/30/09*

Lloyd Baker	\$20.00
Kenneth Robinson	\$20.00
David Ocker	\$20.00
Paul Roeper	\$100.00

Estimated Total Funds in the  
Association \$1,105.66

*Dues collected 03/22/2009*

Michael Jones	\$20.00
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**Estimated Total Funds in the As-  
sociation**

**\$1,125.66**

**Financial Statement:** The cost of this issue is \$508.80, and was mailed to 365 members.

## SCHOFIELD REPRESENTATIVES

**Ron Spagna, Coordinator**

151 Shearer Rd  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
724-681-2168

E-mail: [ron6978@comcast.net](mailto:ron6978@comcast.net)

**Carol Fletcher, Secretary**

469 Country Club Rd  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
413-773-3211

E-mail: [mcfletcher@verizon.net](mailto:mcfletcher@verizon.net)

**Robert Cichowski, Treasurer**

1980 McGee Rd  
Scott's Hill, TN 38374  
731-549-2400

E-mail:

[robertathome53@hotmail.com](mailto:robertathome53@hotmail.com)

**John Winschel, Chaplain**

250 Grandview Ave  
Grants Pass, OR 97527  
541-479-2483

E-mail: [jmwwon1@msn.com](mailto:jmwwon1@msn.com)

## LADIES' CORNER



Hi Schofield Family,

Since our daughter went into the Army, Mark and I have been actively reaching out to various websites to locate fellow shipmates. We have been pretty successful. Somewhere in this edition they should be listed. (See *Welcome Mat*.) More than twenty names registered, that were not listed with us before we started this venture. We have been having a lot of fun trying to find people, even more fun when we do and it is someone Mark actually served with. A shout out to Steve Nelson. Sorry about flooding your bathroom floor 30 years ago. You'll have to come to the reunion to hear the rest of that story... If you are looking for someone and have a name and probable state, we may be able to help. I've still got about 20 possible names and numbers to try for guys that served mostly in the 80s. Their e-mail addresses are no longer working, but they did leave a phone number. So this has been a work in progress. A special Howdy to all the

women folk. Hope to see you all in Nashville.

Carol Fletcher  
Secretary, USS Schofield Association

Schofield Shipmates and Wives,

I want to thank the Schofield shipmates for allowing the wives to speak out. Being a wife of a shipmate I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people at the reunions (Reno, San Antonio & San Diego). Everyone I have met has made me feel like a member of their family. I have found sisters and brothers I never knew I had. We get so excited to plan our trips as though we were going home for Christmas. I manage to be in trouble even with my new found family. Who else would drag women to the casinos to have a little fun? Hey, some of us won (Sandy, Mary and me). The laughs we have are so great; we also have to endure the sadness of loss. We love you, Mary, and hope to make it to Nashville so we can see all of you and continue the bonding.

Dawn Malchow (wife of BT1 Edward Malchow)



## WELCOME MAT

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

**Maxwell Ferguson**  
(1975-78) PO1 2nd Div  
1824 Mallard Circle  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
843-761-1278

**Larry Southworth**  
(1972-75) RM2 Ops  
101 Leisure Dr  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
360-612-3338  
cto1rm1@hotmail.com

**Charles Ogle**  
(1983-87) STG1 Weapons  
1361 Chinaberry Dr  
Lewisville, TX 75077  
972-317-6713  
chuckoh03@hotmail.com

**Leslie Shepherd**  
(1978-82) MM2 M:A/E  
3917 Danbury  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
806-679-9004  
amarillokim@hotmail.com

**James Wilkie**  
(1976-79) TM2 3rd Div  
1028 Crest Rd  
Pine Hill, NJ 08021  
856-571-5036  
jwilkie1605@comcast.net

**Joseph Seraki**  
(1979-82) STG-1 (SW) 3rd Div  
P O Box 40534  
San Diego, CA 92164  
619-262-3643  
joesharron@hotmail.com

**William Trimble**  
(1966-70) YN1  
2627 S Lamb Blvd Spc 203  
Las Vegas, NV 89121  
702-431-5229  
willyt47@yahoo.com

**Bruno Garcia, Jr.**  
(1976-80) BM3 Deck  
719 Culberson  
San Antonio, TX 78225  
210-927-9988  
bjchulo692@yahoo.com

**Michael Cutler**  
(1971-72) MMFN R Div  
2518 Orange Ave Unit E  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
949-510-4852  
countrydancerva@earthlink.net

**Wesley Oxenrider**  
(1970-74) EN3 R Div  
13544 35th Ave S  
Tukwila, WA 98168  
206-241-9294  
woxenrider@yahoo.com

**Steve Conrad**  
(1969-71) GMG2/ASROC Wep  
18 Courtland Circle  
Bear, DE 19701  
302-521-6109  
smconrad@comcast.net

**Thad Seligman**  
2944 N 44th St Ste 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85018  
602-684-8900

**Vern Otterstrom**  
(1973-74) EN3  
W 10906 Midway Rd  
Kennan, WI 54537  
715-474-6669

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(Continued from page 3)

**Daniel Powell**  
(1984-88) FC2  
86142 Cartesian Pointe Dr  
Yulee, FL 32097  
904-225-0916  
warrant02@bellsouth.net

**Dwain Varnell**  
(1975-79) Chief 2nd Div  
2170 Alta View Dr  
San Diego, CA 92139  
619-267-1157

**David Milligan**  
(1985-88) SN  
1265 W Shaw Ave Suite 100  
Fresno, CA 93711  
559-907-6710  
lawyer@callegal.com



## TAPS

The Schofield Deckplate has learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the deceased.

**Ray Edwards**  
(1973-75) BTC  
Died October 14, 2008

**Elmer "Pappy" Barnes**  
Plankowner FTMC  
Died early 2008

Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the next reunion.

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PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)  
828-256-6559 (fax)

[Dina@mlrsinc.com](mailto:Dina@mlrsinc.com)  
[Karen@mlrsinc.com](mailto:Karen@mlrsinc.com)  
[www.mlrsinc.com/schofield](http://www.mlrsinc.com/schofield) (web site)

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

## MY FIRST DAY IN BOOT CAMP

By Barry Pate, FTG2:

It was May, 1967, at the height of the Viet Nam War. I was not in college at the time, but was heading to Knoxville, TN, to continue my education at the University of Tennessee. I knew I was a possible draft candidate, as I was approaching 21 years old, and the draft was really ramping up at the time. I talked to the Navy recruiter in Nashville, TN, to see what I might be able to do if I got drafted before I could get my student deferment status reinstated. After a very fun trip to the Indianapolis 500 over Memorial Day weekend, my draft notice was in the mail when I got home. I got in touch with the Navy recruiter that day, and three days later I was inducted into the Navy. Most of the guys that were in my enlistment group were from Tennessee and north Georgia. There were about 20 of us. Since I was the oldest, I was put in charge of getting us to Chicago where we would be

picked up that afternoon at O'Hare airport. We had arrived at the recruiter office that morning about 6:30 am, and by the time we got to Great Lakes Naval Training Center, it was about 11:00 pm. They managed to get us to an empty barracks that night and finally it was lights out around midnight. We were merged with a bunch of guys from various parts of the country, but it was almost a split between the Tennessee group and a bunch of guys from New York City. That later turned out to be an interesting mixture. The next thing I knew, the lights came on and some guy was running around the end of our bunks banging on a big metal trash can with a broom handle and yelling to hit the deck. I remember thinking that I didn't know if I could handle waking up like that for the next four years. Then it was off to get some chow and a Navy haircut. What a start!!!

## HOW THE SCHOFIELD MADE TWO BEST FRIENDS OUT OF TWO ARCH ENEMIES

By Michael Clark

I grew up in Hoboken, New Jersey in the 1960s. In the very early 60s I attended Wallace School, a grammar school. There was another boy attending the same school named Gerald Sigmund. Gerry and I hated each other with a passion and we were always fighting. The cause of this hatred and fighting was because he was always chasing my sister home from school because he wanted to go out with her. After we left grammar school and into junior high school, Gerry and I lost touch. I'm not sure where he went but I do know that it was to different schools. I was never so happy.

One morning in 1969 while the ship was in Long Beach, we went through the typical navy procedure of Reveille at 0600 hours. I was an

RM3 at the time. So I get up and go up to shower and shave. As I got to the top of the ladder going to the berthing compartment, I noticed a new guy at the bottom of the ladder waiting to come up. As I looked down the ladder and motioned for him to come up, I saw him standing there with this smart aleck grin on his face while he's giving me the middle finger. My first thought was "Who the hell is this guy coming onboard the ship and giving someone the finger?" As I sternly looked at him, I motioned for him to come up. He came up and stood right in front of me with this smart aleck smile on his face and said "It's me, Gerry". As soon as he opened his mouth I realized who he was. I wasn't too pleased to see him and asked him what he was doing here. He said that he was an RM3

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and was just transferred from Navcommsta Phil. I said "Good. Now can I get down to the compartment?" He moved away and let me down.

I thought that was going to be the end of conversation with him but Gerry, who is quite persistent, came back down and came over to talk to me. Needless to say, I was getting more and more irritated and didn't want him near me. I thought, "This is going to be great. Two RMs who hate each other and have to work together."

So he followed me around that day and trying not to be too rude or ignorant toward him, I showed him where the radio was and left him there. As the day wore on, he kept trying to talk to me and I wouldn't have any of it. When lunch time came, he asked me what I was doing for lunch and I told him there's a small cafeteria at the end of the pier. Much to my dismay, he asked me if he could come along with me so I told him alright.

I was quite cold toward him and made him feel quite uncomfortable. While we were eating he said, "Look, we're on the same ship. We're both radiomen. We have to work together. Can't we forget about the past and be friends?" I told him he was a jerk and I didn't appreciate him chasing my sister home. He said, "All I wanted to do was go out with her". I told him, "You didn't succeed, did you?" to which he replied, "If you didn't want to fight all the time I could have". I told him it served him right and we broke up laughing our behinds off.

From that day on, Gerry and I became the best of friends. We went everywhere together, i.e. on the beach, to the bars, everywhere. We became inseparable. We were even in the same duty section at sea and in port. Where you saw one, you saw the other. If one was in trouble, the other one was there.

I remember in Long Beach after a cruise, he met a girl that he ended

up marrying. One day when I had duty, he asked if he could borrow my car. He didn't say for what or where he was going. When he didn't show up for quarters the next morning, I began to worry. After quarters, I got a phone call in the radio room. When I answered it, he said he was in Las Vegas and he got married. I said, "You did what?" and he repeated that he got married. He said he'd be late and asked me to tell the chief. Needless to say, I covered his dumb behind.

Even after he got married, he and I remained good friends. I left the ship in March, 1971 to go to Navcommsta Londonderry Northern Ireland. We wrote a couple of times but eventually lost touch with him. I sure would love to find him and have a great get together after all these years. The last I knew he was living in Redondo Beach, California. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate him. And that's the story of how Schofield brought two arch enemies to being two best friends.

## HOW ARE THEY DOING?

*This is a new column meant to keep you abreast of how some of your shipmates who have been having medical problems are doing now. Addresses will be included if you would like to send a card, an e-mail or give them a call. If you would like to share how you are doing, or if you know about one of your shipmates, contact Ron Spagna at his address on page 2.*

### Paul Halberstadt

Doing well after surgery and looking forward to a full recovery. He can be reached at:  
Paul Halberstadt & Company, Inc.  
200 East Woodlawn Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28217-2205  
Tel: 800-642-4975 or 704-527-7940  
Fax: 704-527-4740  
Email: halberstadt@att.net

### Paul Roeper

Paul is undergoing a treatment

program and is doing OK. Looking to get on the real golf course as soon as possible. Wii Golf keeps him busy, but still not the real thing! Paul can be reached at:  
814-473-9884  
E-mail: roeperpr@usachoice.net

### Wes Feeler

Per e-mail from Wes he has completed a treatment program and plans on being with us for a while!!! Wes can be reached at:  
wess1936@verizon.net

### John Deets

Per John Deets, he had a series of medical problems but "Is still with us." and we are certainly glad to hear that!!! John can be reached at:  
JAMN249@aol.com.

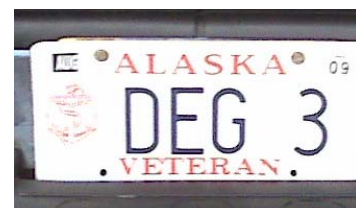
### John Winschel

Doing OK and undergoing a treatment program. John has a great

faith and is as upbeat as ever! He can be reached at 541-956-2248. John has problems with hands and may have to cut calls short, but would be glad to hear from any of our Schofield family.

### Michael Clark

After a very rough few months Michael Clark is doing better, and hoping to get to Nashville this year. A bit of a trek as he is coming in from Northern Ireland. Michael can be reached at  
mikeaclark1820@yahoo.com.



**Sam Cotton** shows off his pride in the USS Schofield with his vanity plate from the state of Alaska. (The Schofield was DEG-3 before changing to FFG-3 in later years.)

## HOW TO SIMULATE BEING A SAILOR

1. Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out, and live in it for six months.
2. Run all the pipes and wires in your house exposed on the walls.
3. Repaint your entire house every month.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of the bathtub and move the shower head to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you turn off the water while you soap down.
5. Put lube oil in your humidifier and set it on high.
6. Once a week, blow compressed air up your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot onto your neighbor's house. Ignore his complaints.
7. Raise the thresholds and lower the headers of your front and back doors so that you either trip or bang your head every time you pass through them.
8. Once a month, take all major appliances apart and then reassemble them.
9. Disassemble and inspect your lawn mower every week.
10. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, turn your water heater temperature up to 200 degrees. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, turn the water heater off. On Saturdays and Sundays tell your family they used too much water during the week, so no bathing will be allowed.
11. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling, so you can't turn over without getting out and then getting back in.
12. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Have your spouse whip open the curtain about 3 hours after you go to sleep, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and say, "Sorry, wrong rack."
13. Make your family qualify to operate each appliance in your household: dishwasher operator, blender technician, etc.
14. Have your neighbor come over each day at 5 am, blow a whistle so loud Helen Keller could hear it, and shout, "Reveille!"
15. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in your backyard at 6 am while she reads it to you.
16. Submit a request chit to your father-in-law requesting permission to leave your house before 3 pm.
17. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day, whether it needs it or not.
18. Have your neighbor collect all your mail for a month, read your magazines, and randomly lose every 5th item before delivering it to you.
19. Watch no TV except for movies played in the middle of the night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.
20. When your children are in bed, run into their room with a megaphone shouting that your home is under attack and ordering them to their battle stations.
21. Make your family menu ahead of time without consulting the pantry or refrigerator.
22. Post a menu on the kitchen door informing your family that they are having steak for dinner. Then make them wait in line for an hour. When they finally get to the kitchen, tell them you are out of steak, but they can have dried ham or hot dogs. Repeat daily until they ignore the menu and just ask for hot dogs.
23. Bake a cake. Prop up one side of the pan so the cake bakes unevenly. Spread icing real thick to level it off.
24. Get up every night around midnight and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on stale bread.
25. Set your alarm clock to go off at random during the night. At the alarm, jump up and dress as fast as you can, making sure to button your top shirt button and tuck your pants into your socks. Run out into the backyard and uncoil the garden hose.
26. Every week or so, throw your cat or dog in the pool and shout, "Man overboard port side!" Rate your family members on how fast they respond.
27. Put the headphones from your stereo on your head, but don't plug them in. Hang a paper cup around your neck on a string. Stand in front of the stove, and speak into the paper cup, "Stove manned and ready." After an hour or so, speak into the cup again, "Stove secured." Roll up the headphones and paper cup and stow them in a shoebox.
28. Place a podium at the end of your driveway. Have your family stand watches at the podium, rotating at 4 hour intervals. This is best done when the weather is worst. January is a good time.
29. When there is a thunderstorm in your area, get a wobbly rocking chair, sit in it and rock as hard as you can until you become nauseous. Make sure to have a supply of stale crackers in your shirt pocket.
30. For former engineers: bring your lawn mower into the living room, and run it all day long.
31. Make coffee using eighteen scoops of budget priced coffee grounds per pot, and allow the pot to simmer for 5 hours before drinking.
32. Have someone under the age of ten give you a haircut with sheep shears.
33. Sew the back pockets of your jeans on the front.
34. Every couple of weeks, dress up in your best clothes and go to the scummiest part of town. Find the most run down, trashiest bar, and drink beer until you are hammered. Then walk all the way home.
35. Lock yourself and your family in the house for six weeks. Tell them that at the end of the 6th week you are going to take them to Disney World for "liberty." At the end of the 6th week, inform them the trip to Disney World has been canceled because they need to get ready for inspection, and it will be another week before they can leave the house.