

# THE DECKPLATE

Volume 8 Issue 1

April 2010

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



### Special Points of Interest

- *Your Coordinator, Ron Spagna, gives you a report on the activities of your group in his cover article.*
- *Look over the Welcome Mat on page two and see if you recognize some old friends.*
- *Sam Cotton and Carol Fletcher have letters in Mail Call on page three.*
- *We have three good stories about meeting an old acquaintance at an unexpected place. See pages 3 & 4.*

### COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Hello Schofield family,

It has been a long winter for us here in Pittsburgh!! After years of mild ones we took a hit this year. Lots of snow, cold, and just a plain old fashioned winter. Our holidays were great and hope yours were as well. Spring finally got here and the snow is gone and I've already put away my shovels, boots, etc. Time to get some yard work done which would please my dear wife!

As many of you know we have decided on Portland, Oregon. The dates are Sept. 16 thru Sept. 19, 2010. Details will be coming out soon from our reunion coordinator, ML&RS. They will be making all hotel, tour, etc., arrangements for us. They do a fine job and are a

great help. This allows us to just concentrate on having a good time. We of course are responsible for travel and personal issues, but the bulk of the work is done by ML&RS. We will get reunion packets well before the actual reunion. We decided on Portland as the result of a poll we took after our last reunion in Nashville. It is very hard of course to satisfy everyone as far as location. Travel restrictions, cost, etc., come into play and we take that into consideration. We do try and get each coast and the mid west covered from year to year. We hope that our method of choice is satisfactory to all. To date since 2005 I have been to both coasts, down south,

and in Texas!! What an experience at all these places. Truly it is the Schofield family that makes them special and the location is secondary as far as I am concerned. We just like to get as many involved as possible.

Our dues are doing OK. Many thanks to all who are able and have contributed. We ask for \$20/year. Some give more and some may not be able to give at all. Our aim is to get info to as many as possible. We do this through the Deckplate, published by ML&RS. Dues can be sent to Rick Martin, Treasurer. His address is listed in this issue. Our primary expense is the Deckplate publishing and postage.

*(Continued on page 2)*

We do try and encourage guys to get the Deckplate electronically. To date, we have some who do it and we are working on expanding the list.

Recently I sent out an all hands request for some input from mates, and our ladies. There has been some response and would like to see more of it. Just a short piece, story, request, or other item of interest related to our Schofield days, or our reunion family is greatly appreciated. These can be sent to myself, Carol Fletcher (group secretary), or directly to ML&RS. We get a look at the final draft before it goes out and make sure we don't miss anyone who may have contributed.

One very important mission that we do as an association is helping reconnect Schofield shipmates. Carol and Mark Fletcher have been instrumental in working on this project and locating mates from years past. We have a few generations that are now represented and would like to see more. It seems that we have some of the older guys and would like to hear from and see

guys from the mid to late eighties when she was decommissioned. If you have anyone you are trying to find, please let us know. I had jumped on this project after the 2008 reunion and Carol and Mark have continued and are doing a fine job. It is very rewarding to help find a long lost buddy as I can personally attest to. Included in this issue is a list of new guys who have been contacted or found. We may not have all the pertinent contact info, but we can get that to you.

Some of our mates have had some physical problems. Let us know of any that we would like to send well wishes to. Our Schofield family chaplain, John Winschel, is one tough old BT and is looking forward to seeing us in Portland. John has been through lots of medical issues these past few years. Our thoughts and prayers are with him always. Dan Gnade had some back surgery in Feb. 2010 and is doing OK. Steve Nelson has been through some very trying times and has a great spirit

and drive to get better. Mark Fletcher is our contact with Steve. Paul Roeper is on track after multiple problems and is once again playing golf. Again, please let us know of any mates who may be having problems as we would like to get the word out. We don't mean to impose and would not divulge specifics. Just thoughts and prayers for our guys and families.

If we missed anything this issue please let us know. It is a pleasure working with you all and I thank you for being part of our extended family. My wife Frani and I have been honored to be a part of it. Frani was not with me while I was on board Schofield, but she has been made to feel part of it by a very welcoming group. We thank you, and may God bless you all and may God continue to bless our great country and fellow servicemen!!!

Respectfully  
Ron Spagna



## 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:

**Hugh Webb**  
(1977-79) LCDR Exec  
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Navarre, FL 32566  
850-515-0519  
theduke2@mchsi.com

**Gregory Strong**  
(1977-79) EN3 A Div  
Los Angeles, CA  
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**Darryl Hamilton**  
(1981-85) OS2 Operations Mgr  
PO Box 60092 AMF  
Houston, TX 77205  
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**Steve McLeod**  
(1974-77) FTG2  
4493 49th St S  
Fargo, ND 58104  
701-730-1658

**Blake Houtman**  
(1975-80)

**Sid Watson**  
(1974-80) FTMC

**Lenny Klimko**  
(1975-80) FTG

**Jim (Doc) Milton**  
(1974-78) HM1

**John Harris**

## JOKE CORNER

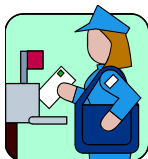
### Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote, "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."



## MAIL CALL

Schofield Family,

I have a request. My ship's "yearbook" for the first WestPac in 1969 has gone missing these many years. I would love to buy another one, or maybe someone could copy theirs and make copies available—or some other great idea. I suspect that I am not the only one. I would be happy to cover any expenses. I can be reached by e-mail at address samc.er@gci.net. Thanks.

Sam Cotton  
PO Box 770296  
Eagle River, AK 99577-0296  
Phone: 907-696-2581

Hello Schofield Family,

I just wanted to put out a quick note about locating fellow shipmates. Mark and I have had pretty good luck in locating people with

little information. So if you are looking to reconnect with a shipmate from the Schofield, drop us a line. Send us what you do know. We would need the correct spelling of the last name and their first name. If you know it, their middle initial, the state or town they were last in, sometimes the wife's name has helped when they have a really common last name.

The other thing we have found is sometimes you are in touch or have been in touch with shipmates that have NOT registered with ML&RS. Let me know and I will be more than happy to help them get their info listed with us. Not everyone has computer access.

Really looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at the reunion in September. Oh, and for the first time reunion-goers, PLEASE bring your wife/significant other. We have a great group of gals and a lot of fun.

See you soon,  
Carol Fletcher  
Secretary, USS Schofield Assoc  
mcfletcher@verizon.net

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BT475RS  
mikeaclark1820@yahoo.com

### Nathan Sturre:

When we were in Yokosuka, Japan, I was walking down the street and this guy coming towards me just walking down the street was a friend of mine from grade school in a town in Northern Minnesota that had a population of 190 people. #1, I was surprised I recognized him and #2, I was surprised he recognized me. We talked for a little while and went our separate ways, but I still talk about that to this day. I have traveled a bit in my years, and having been in the Navy and living all over the U.S. I have met a lot of people from everywhere. When I meet someone from an area I know or an area I have friends in, I ask if they know them. Have you ever done that? They give you this blank stare for a minute and when they see you are serious, they say the odds of them knowing a friend of mine are slim to none. Especially in a bigger city. That's when I tell them the story.

This leads me to another story of the same subject. I was waiting for a bus outside 32nd St in San Diego at the base to go downtown. This guy walks up and asks if my name is Nathan, to which I reply, "Yes." And then I recognize him. He was 2 years behind me in school in this other town I went to Jr. High and high school in from central Minnesota. I knew him by sight and name but he was younger than I and I didn't hang out with kids (ha-ha) in high school. Anyway, I acknowledged that I knew who he was and asked where he was going. He said he had married my last girlfriend before I went into the Navy and they lived somewhere by downtown SD. Of course he didn't ask me over, as I am sure he didn't want me seeing my ex-girlfriend.

And last, but not least of my Navy seeing people I knew from the past stories is: I was duty driver in San Diego one day and was driving back to the ship from dropping

(Continued on page 4)

## AN UNEXPECTED MEETING

*Editor's Note: In an e-mail we asked for stories about meeting someone you knew at a place you would never have thought you would see him/her. For example, a high school classmate or someone from your hometown at a far off place, or an old Navy buddy at an unexpected place. Here are your responses:*

### Michael Clark:

As far as meeting someone in an unexpected place, I had two experiences. When the ship was tied up at Long Beach I was walking down the pier and someone tapped me on the shoulder. I turned around and the guy said, "Hi, Michael." (Not my name at the time.) I looked at him and he said, "It's me, Lenny, Lenny James." Talk about a shock! This guy was from my hometown and he was the biggest goof in the city

(Hoboken is only a square mile big). Everyone picked on him. I asked him what he was doing there, and he said he was in the Navy now. So we hung around a bit and he said that another friend, Dennis something (he had a Greek last name) from our hometown was on another ship. So he told this guy and he came over to my ship and the three of us, along with Gerry Sigmund also from Hoboken, NJ, hung around together. It was like a Hoboken, NJ, reunion on the pier.

Talk about a shock to see someone like Lenny James in the Navy. I could guarantee without a shadow of a doubt that no one would pick on him now.

Michael Clark  
6 Rossmore Waterside

some guys off at the hospital and I was turning right after coming onto base I saw this guy walking on the side walk. He was my best friend from Boot Camp. I went to Boot Camp in Orlando, Florida, so this was a ways away. And years later. So I picked him up and we drove around for a while catching up.

Our world is small when you get to thinking about these kinds of stories. I have others from civilian life, but they run along these lines. So, if you meet someone from a town/city that you have an old friend in, ask if they know them. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Nathan Sturre  
8121 10th Ave North  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
Nathan.sturre@mckesson.com

**David Milligan:**

About 5 years or so after discharge, I went to Moro Bay with my girlfriend and a waiter was a shipmate. We were stationed in San Diego. Too bad we didn't chat more, but it's a small world for sure.

About 5 years after graduating law school in California, my wife and I took a trip to Washington, DC, and I ran into an Instructor. That was very nice as we hooked up later that night for dinner.

The world gets smaller and smaller.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Prepared 2010 MAR 14  
by Rick Martin, Treas.**

Prior Treasury Balance **\$1,358.66**  
ML&RS Dec. 09 Deckplate **-\$381**  
Total dues collected.....**\$50**  
Monies collected.....**\$0**

Total Treasury Balance **\$1,027.82**

**STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION**

This is the official publication of the USS Schofield Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the Schofield. A financial statement will appear in each of the following issues.

The newsletter 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.

ML&RS, Inc is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be impossible 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.**

**Financial Statement:**

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