

THE DECKPLATE

Volume 4, Issue 4

June 2006

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



Points of Special Interest

- *A report on the 2006 reunion in Reno serves as the cover story. See who attended on page two.*
- *Jack Knoblock's Coordinator's Corner is on page two, and Sandie has written an article for a new feature called Ladies Corner. See it on page three.*
- *Mail Call has a letter from Ron Spagna relating his experience at the reunion. See page three.*
- *Minutes from the Business Meeting are on page four.*
- *Pictures from the reunion are on pages 5 & 6.*

GREAT REUNION IN RENO FOR 2006

On Thursday, May 4, 2006, seventeen former members of the USS Schofield and twelve of their guests began arriving in Reno, NV, for the annual reunion. Eight first-timers were welcomed with open arms, along with five plankowners. The first formal business after registering was the 5:00 PM Welcome Reception. Jack Knoblock, reunion coordinator, and Lois Nangle, ML&RS, Inc on-site manager, welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks were available and everyone enjoyed meeting and greeting one another. The hospitality room was

open all evening for reminiscing and getting acquainted. Many weary travelers headed to bed early, but some who had not traveled quite so far chose to hit the casinos for more food and laughter.

Friday morning's breakfast was on your own and then it was off in several directions for the day. Some went to Virginia City and rode a flat bed wagon pulled by a tractor and enjoyed the tour of the city that way. The jovial guide added many local tales and flavor to the excursion. Also in the city that day were 300 Shriners dressed as jesters who paraded down main street. Carson City, the capital of Nevada,

was a destination for others, and some just hung out at the hotel and enjoyed the company of old friends. The highlight of Friday was the evening trip to Lake Tahoe for a dinner cruise. The group boarded the brand new bus from the tour company and discovered that they were the first ones to ride in it. Some of the group tried to figure out a way to become plankowners, but couldn't figure out a way to christen the bus. The only glitch was the air-conditioner, and our own Carol Fletcher made a trip to the instrument panel, and presto—cool air! The 50 mile trip to Lake Tahoe was a chance to view the beautiful scenery along the

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way and pretty soon the group had arrived at the M. S. Dixie II. After a nice dinner on board, most everyone went topside to view the sites on Lake Tahoe. Some danced to the band and others just strolled the decks and enjoyed the scenery. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Saturday morning the annual business meeting was held. Jack Knoblock was again chosen to head up the group, and San Antonio, TX, was selected as the 2007 reunion site. There was a discussion about how to involve more people and several suggestions were made including making phone calls to shipmates on the mailing list, having wives call wives, and writing articles for the newsletter. It was noted that 2008 will be the ship's 40th anniversary and that something special should denote the occasion. Other business was discussed and then the day was free to explore the area. Today some of the crew visited the old car museum and found a car show going on. Others checked out the casinos or had a leisurely day in the hospitality room. At 7:00 PM that evening the group came together for the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session, and then at 8:00 PM for the most anticipated part of the reunion—the USS Schofield banquet. The banquet began with "Anchors Aweigh," salute to the flag, the National Anthem and the invocation by Chaplain Winschel. Jack Knoblock welcomed one and all and dinner was served. The eight first time attendees were recognized. They were Elliot Clayton, Dan Gnade, Irwin Martin, Wesley Oxenrider, Allen Personette, Don Scarberry, Eugene Trask and June Cruse. Carol Fletcher was acknowledged as the Ship Secretary now and forever with a gift from the crew. She was so surprised and grateful. Lois Nangle was given a Schofield hat for her work in making the reunion a success. Ken Wilson and Jack Knoblock tested memories with some questions and winners were

announced. It was a great banquet! After the banquet Chaplain John Winschel lead the Memorial Service that honored those shipmates who had died, especially those since the last reunion. Bob Cichowski read the names from the Honor Roll and Mark Fletcher served as the bell ringer. The service ended with Taps.

Sunday morning brought a close to the 2006 reunion with a private breakfast buffet. It gave everyone a chance for their last good-byes before heading for home. Everyone is looking forward to next year in San Antonio and another great reunion.

2006 REUNION ATTENDEES

Robert Cichowski & Patricia James
Elliot & Mary Jane Clayton
June Cruse
Wanda Farris & Robert Farris
Mark & Carol Fletcher
Daniel & Judy Gnade
Michael Harper
John (Jack) & Sandie Knoblock
Edward & Dawn Malchow
Irwin & Valarie Martin
Wesley Oxenrider
Allen & Mary Personette
Donald & Joy Lee Scarberry
Ron & Frani Spagna
Eugene Trask
Kenneth Wilson & ShaMarie Dixon
John Winschel

Total Members:	17
Guests:	12
GRAND TOTAL:	29

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

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Schofield Family,

Well, another very successful fun filled reunion is behind us. I think what was so special about this one, was the number of first timers. The enthusiasm by our new attendees energized us who have attended previous reunions. Already I have heard from Elliot Clayton, who has been calling some of his old shipmates, encouraging them to attend our next reunion. In return Ron Spagna has hooked up with two of his former shipmates, who to his surprise live within a relatively short driving distance.

All of us who attended the reunion owe a special thanks to Lois Nangle, Military Locator's Representative who did a superb job coordinating things. During our business meeting, besides discussing our next reunion and other items, one of the things that we all thought was a great idea is to have a "Ladies Column" as part of the Deckplate. This can consist of whatever the Schofield ladies want to submit—memories, recipe's, whatever. So ladies start writing. Submissions should be either e-mailed or sent to Military Locator and Reunion Service, P. O. Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603-6402 – attention Karen, Schofield Deckplate.

It is early as far as setting a date, but it was decided either late September or early October since it should be a little cooler in San Antonio then. One of the events everyone voted on was a night at a Working Ranch, which will include a cookout, entertainment and hayride.

In closing, my wife and I hope all of you have great and safe summer.

Jack Knoblock (Doc)

P.S. I have extra copies of the latest listing of shipmates, if you want one either email, or call me at (208) 382-3771 and I will send you a copy.

LADIES CORNER

Hi Schofield Family,

It was so good to see all of you again plus all the new people that came. Our Schofield family is growing and I love it. Let's all try to find at least one couple that have not been to a reunion before and get them to come to the next one, because we are going to have a ball in Texas, Cowgirls and Cowboys. Hey girls, here is a thought. Let's learn how to lasso so if our men get out of line we will know just what to do. I can just picture it now. What fun for us cowgirls!

God Bless all of you and may today bring only joy your way...

Sandie K

P.S.

Mark, thank you for the sugar, crèam, ketchup and everything else you did for me.

Carol, if any one on the bus could fix the A/C I knew it would be you.

Frannie, next time try drinking your glass of water. Tastes better that way.

If ever you want to know who sings what song, ask Dawn. I do believe she knows all of them.

Allen, please take your meds. WE CARE....

Get well Pam and Pat. Our prayers and thoughts are always with you.

To my husband, GREAT JOB!!!!

SCHOFIELD HATS

Schofield hats are available. Cost **\$15.00** includes shipping. Send your check to:

Jack Knoblock
P.O. Box 464
Cascade, ID 83611

Make sure you include your address.

SCHOFIELD REPRESENTATIVES

Jack Knoblock (Doc), Coordinator
P.O. Box 464
Cascade, ID 83611
208-382-3771

E-mail: knoblockjack@hotmail.com

Carol Fletcher, Secretary
469 Country Club Rd
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413-773-3211

E-mail: cfletcher@crocker.com

Robert Cichowski, Treasurer
386 Holly Ridge Rd
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-293-5023

E-mail:
robertathome53@hotmail.com

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

E-mail: jmwwon1@msn.com



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:

John Scholma
(1968-70) SN
2301 Bauer Rd
Jenison, MI 49428
616-457-4675

Ronald Scholma
(1968-70) DC3
8555 10th Ave
Jenison, MI 49428
616-457-2563



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.

Bruce Blankley
(1968-69) TM3
Died July 7, 2005

Forrest Pelletier
(1977-79) RM1
Died March 16, 2004

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.



MAIL CALL

Deckplate,

Once again it is time for our Deckplate issue to come out. This newsletter was and is a pleasant piece of reading. Helps bring back old memories and make some new ones as well. I have been getting them for a few years now and thank Chief Cohagan for getting me started via e-mail correspondence.

My wife and I attended the Reno 2006 Schofield reunion and it was wonderful. My first in 2005 was great and this surpassed it. We met some past attendees as well as some new ones. This is a time that has special meaning for many. I think as I get older I just get a bit more nostalgic and enjoy reminiscing. I also enjoy meeting new "friends" as well. These of course include shipmates who came

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DUES NOTICE: Please make checks out to Robert Cichowski and mail to him — see his address under representatives (above). Those who sent dues in during 2006 are paid up.

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aboard after we left in 1971. They and their significant others are all part of the Schofield family to me.

One of our attendees, Elliot Clayton, who was with wife Mary Jane is taking the time to do some "cold-calling" to old shipmates. We are working on drumming up interest in the 2007 reunion. He contacted a fellow plankowner of mine, Paul Roeper, who I haven't seen in 36 years. Turns out Paul lives right up the road from us in SW Pennsylvania. We made a connection, had lunch, and are heading to a ball game in late June. This is a good old fashioned networking by telephone!!! We are also planning on connecting with another shipmate, Ed Palmer, who is some three hours down the road.

I truly am grateful for the opportunity at this point in my life to be involved in something that was such a big part of my younger years. It is just good stuff!!!! Again, would like to thank all the attendees at Reno, and look forward to seeing and meeting new ones next year. There is information forthcoming regarding 2007 plans. Of course we have Jack and Sandie Knoblock doing a great job, and hopefully we all can pitch in and help the USS Schofield stay alive by getting to these reunions.

Respectfully,
Ron Spagna FTM2
Plankowner 1968 thru 1971

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 03/06 issue **\$109.53**

Received since 03/06—**\$20.00**

Expended 06/06—**\$382.78**

Balance for 09/06 at ML&RS—\$0

(From now on, your association will be billed for the newsletter instead of having the newsletter fund at ML&RS.)

Those who have not already paid their \$10.00 association dues should send a check made out to Robert Cichowski and mail to:

Robert Cichowski, Treasurer
386 Holly Ridge Rd
Winter Haven, FL 33880-1113

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Business Meeting USS Schofield May 6, 2006

Chairman: Jack Knoblock

Treasurer's Report:

Current balance \$1436.00. We have 414 on our mailing list of which only 51 are dues paying members. Reminder: Dues are \$10 each year due at the Annual Business Meeting. It pays for the publication of the Deck Plate, advertisements in 18 Military Publications and several newspapers.

Due to the cost of Non profit tax Ids, we do not have a business account.

Checks can be made out and mailed to:

Robert Cichowski
386 Holly Ridge Road
Winter Haven, FL 33880

Secretary's Report from 2005 was read.

John Winschel has agreed to be our Chaplin....Amen.

It was decided that we would plan a reunion every year.

Jack has agreed to coordinate the reunion for 2007.

We are heading for the Alamo. That's right, San Antonio, TX. Exact date was not decided on as there are only a few weeks in the spring when it would be feasible. (cost wise) So we will possibly go in the fall. More to come.

We discussed adding a woman's column in the Deck Plate. If you would like to share something, please submit it to the ML&RS for our next publication.

We would also like to plan a wives only event during future reunions. If you have any suggestions please let Jack or myself know.

For 2008 we were looking to go back to San Diego. There is something special about that year. Irwin Martin is doing some research on this.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Fletcher

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. **Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. PO Drawer 11399, Hickory, NC 28603.**

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.

OLD SAILORS

BY LARRY DUNN, RMCMS(S)
(NAC), USN (Ret.)

Old sailors sit and chew the fat
'bout how things used to be
Of things they've seen
And places they've been
When they ventured out to sea.

They remember friends from long ago
And the times they had back then
Of the money they've spilled
And the beer they've swilled
In their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived in days gone by
With thoughts that forever last
Of cracker-jack hats
And bell-bottom blues
And the good time in their past.

They recall long nights with a moon
so bright
Far out on a lonely sea
And the thoughts they had
As youthful lads
When their lives were unbridled and
free.

They know so well how their hearts
would swell
When the flag fluttered proud and
free
And the stars and the stripes
Made such beautiful sights
As they plowed through an angry
sea.

They talk of the bread ole' cookie
would bake
And the shrill of the boatsun's pipe
And how the salt spray fell
Like sparks out of hell
When a storm struck in the night.

They remember mates already
gone
Who forever hold a spot
In the stories of old
When sailors were bold
And lubbers were a pitiful lot.

They rode their ships through
many a storm
When the sea was showing its
might
And the mighty waves might be
digging their graves
As they sailed on through the
night.

They speak of nights in a bawdy
house
Somewhere on a foreign shore
And the beer they'd down
As they gathered around
Cracking jokes with a busty whore.

Their sailing days are gone away
Never more will they cross the brow
But they have no regrets
For they know they've been blessed
'cause they honored their scared
vow.

Their numbers grow less with each
passing day
As their chits in this life are called in
But they've nothing to lose
For they've all paid their dues
And they'll sail with their shipmates
again.

I've heard them say before getting
underway
That there's still some sailin' to do
And they'll exclaim with a grin
That their ship has come in
And the Lord is commanding the
crew.

Larry Dunn
June 4, 2001

PICTURES FROM THE 2006 REUNION IN RENO



PLANKOWNERS

L-R: Jack Knoblock, Gene Trask, Ron Spagna, Elliot Clayton, John Winschel

USS SCHOFIELD MEN



L-R (Top row): John Winschel, Dan Gnade, Rick Martin, Ken Wilson, Ed Malchow, Mike Harper, Wesley Oxenrider
 (Second row): Gene Trask, Mark Fletcher, Ron Spagna, Allen Personette, Don Scarberry, Elliot Clayton
 (Kneeling), Jack Knoblock and Robert Cichowski



L to R: Jack Knoblock receiving Pictorial Cancellation from Duane Wilson, and presenting Schofield Hat as appreciation. Also pictured is Ken Wilson. Every one at the reunion received at least two

USS SCHOFIELD LADIES



L-R (Top row): Sandie Knoblock, Mary Clayton, Judy Gnade, Valerie Martin, Pat Cichowski, Dawn Malchow
 (Second row): Mary Personette, Joy Scarberry, June Cruse, Carol Fletcher
 (Kneeling), Frani Spagna and Sha Marie Dixson



L-R: John Winschel, BTCS; Robert Cichowski, STG2/STGC; Rick Martin, IC3/CAPT. CEC

MORE REUNION PHOTOS IN THE NEXT DECKPLATE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information contained in this letter is very important! Please read it very carefully and respond as necessary! **You must respond as indicated in this message to continue receiving information about your reunion through the US Postal mail!**

Big changes are going on here at ML&RS, Inc! They're not going to happen overnight, but the process has begun. As you are certainly aware, rising costs for hotel rooms, meal prices and fuel for autos and tour buses makes for a more expensive reunion! We are doing everything we can to keep our costs to a minimum. However, prices continue to rise, including postage (which has gone up again the first of this year). In an effort to offer you and your fellow attendees the lowest possible cost, we are going to make some changes to the way things have been done in the past. We hope you will work with us to implement these changes as smoothly as possible!

Due to the multitude of requests we have received over the last few years, we are going to now upgrade our web site to include a variety of information pertaining to your reunion. There will be a small web site within our company's web site for each of the reunion groups we work with. The main page for each group will contain basic information about the upcoming reunion, as well as links to several other pages, including but not limited to lists of those who have signed up, the actual registration packet as a web page, a link to the profiles that were previously printed in the Sentimental Journal, newsletters, and after the reunion a link that can be used to order copies of the memory books that will now be included as part of the reunion package. Also, we will not duplicate anything your group already has on their web page. We will do our best to keep personal information secure. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will only be published with permission.

Beginning with the 2006 reunions, we will be discontinuing our memorabilia sales, including the Sentimental Journal. There are so many web sites out there now where hats, t-shirts, etc can be ordered, and the turn-around time is just a matter of days. When we first started this business, this was not the case. We began offering these

items as a service to the reunion groups who didn't know where else to order items. Due to the increased availability of memorabilia, our sales have declined over the last few years, and it is no longer cost effective for us to continue offering these items. Also, there are a lot of groups who prefer to sell the items themselves as a fund raiser for the association. We certainly do not wish to compete with your association sales!

In place of the Sentimental Journal, we will begin including a 2006 Memory Book as the memorabilia item given away at the reunion. This will replace the note cards, clocks, pens, etc that have been given in the past. However, they will not be given at the reunion, they will be sent to each attendee (who signs up for one of the Option Packages or orders one as part of their Individual Option) following the reunion. The 2006 Memory Book will contain photos from the reunion and "then and now" photos that have been submitted prior to the reunion each year. The very popular profiles will now be accessible from the web site.

Now that the group's web site is up and running we will discontinue the majority of the paper mailings we sent out. Newsletters, Surveys, Introductory Letters and Questionnaires, and the Registration Material will all be available on the web site. Your group's web site is www.mlrsinc.com/schofield. Be sure to visit the site frequently and take advantage of the information that will be/is available there. If your profile is not listed in the Crew Profiles, then be sure to submit yours via

www.mlrsinc.com/questionnaire.htm.

We do realize that there are still some people who do not have or do not want internet access. Because of this, we will continue paper mailings to those who let us know they want their info via the postal mail. **You must return the "coupon" at the end of this letter if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the various materials we send out—newsletters, registration packets, surveys, etc.** If you do not mail in this coupon, we are assuming you have internet access and can obtain all the necessary reunion information off your group's web site.

At some point in the near future, we plan to add on-line registration capabilities to each group's web site. That probably won't happen this year, but I do foresee it happening soon. That is another feature we got a lot of requests for.

As we strive to provide you and your reunion group with the best possible value for your reunion dollar, it is sometimes necessary to change the way some things are done. Our ultimate goal is to offer each and every reunion attendee a great reunion at a reasonable price. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Respectfully,
Dina Coffey
Office Manager
M L&RS, Inc

Return this coupon if you want to receive all future mailings from us on paper via US Postal Mail:

Reunion Group: _____
(ship or unit name)

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Return this coupon to:
ML&RS, INC
PO DRAWER 11399
HICKORY, NC 28603