

THE DECKPLATE

Volume 7 Issue 2

August 2009

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



Special Points of Interest

- Ron Spagna keeps you up-to-date on some of your fellow shipmates in his cover article.
- The Treasurer's Report is found on page two.
- Welcome Mat is on page three. You'll find seven new names for the roster.
- What was the funniest thing you remember from the Navy? See what two of your shipmates have to say about this, starting on page three.
- Don't forget to sign up for the September 10-13 reunion in Nashville. You'll miss a great time if you don't!

COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Hello Schofield family

This issue will be short!! We have not had much input for this quarter's news letter, as I am sure people are busy with vacations, life, etc. We love hearing from you and look forward to more participation in our next issue. Their will be another after our Nashville reunion in September.

After our last plea for dues participation the response was very good. I would like to thank all who contributed for their generosity. Our dues are \$20/year and go primarily for the Deckplate publication. We are working on reducing costs and this is a work in progress. Some went over and above with their contribution and again, thanks to all.

Anything helps!!!!

In our last issue the "Welcome Mat" section was jam packed. Lots of new names, many who were not familiar to me. Great to see it as these are the younger guys and can carry this on as we go along. Many thanks to Gunner Mark Fletcher and his wife Carol (group secretary). They have spent countless phone hours contacting and searching for Schofield shipmates. They also have Mark Crozier working on this as well. Sometimes good old fashioned voice works just fine.

Our shipmate John Winschel is home and doing better. As always he appreciates all the thoughts, prayers, phone calls, and well wishes. John is one

tough old BTC! He is also one grateful old sailor and a pleasure to talk with and know. Has lots of support from neighbors as well as Ken Wilson and Sha Marie. Per John he loves us and wishes to express his thanks to all of the Schofield family.

Paul Roeper is also doing OK although the process is a bit rough at times. Paul and I are plank owners who worked together. Separated and lost contact for 30 some odd years. Reunited as a direct result of Elliot Clayton doing some phone work after the Reno reunion. Turns out Paul lives up the road around 45 minutes. Got together and have developed a nice

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friendship again. I wish Paul the best and look forward to him being with us at the 2010 reunion.

Robert Cichowski wishes to give up the Treasurer's position and turn over the account at the Nashville reunion. I'm asking you all to think about assuming the position. We'll turn it over at the reunion. Would ask that whomever takes it is active with our Schofield family. Requires collecting, posting, and writing a few checks a year. We are thankful to Robert for his work with us and a job well done!!!

We will be thinking about 2010 already and will discuss it at our Nashville business meeting. Hopefully we will get feedback from everyone regardless of whether they are in Nashville or not. We understand location is always a problem due to the fact that we have a huge country and our mates are spread out. We do try and spread out so as to get as many as possible included. Please help us with this and get your input to us. It is not a one person decision and your help is appreciated.

I hope we see all of you at the Nashville reunion!!!! Of course that is only a fantasy, but we'd like to see as many as possible. Always a treat to meet some new Schofield family members, and great to see the ones we've seen already. I can't emphasize enough that it does not matter which generation we are from. We've all served on board and that is our common bond. It is expensive of course but my wife Frani and I manage to get what we need to make the trip. We feel it is worth every penny but really is priceless. Hope we **See you in September!** (Nashville!!!!)

Respectfully
Ron Spagna
USS Schofield reunion coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT CICHOWSKI, TREASURER

Treasurer's Report December 2008

Estimated money in account—\$936.66

Dues collected 12/31/08

Gordon Sebring	\$20.00	James Borowicz	\$20.00
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Money owed to Jack from the San Diego Reunion \$51.00

Estimated Total Funds in the Association \$925.66

Dues collected 01/30/2009

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

Estimated Total Funds in the Association \$1,105.66

Dues Collected 03/22/2009

Michael Jones \$20.00

Estimated Total Funds in the Association \$1,125.66

Adjusted Association Funds +\$8.00=\$1,133.66

Deckplate Funding \$508.80

Total Funds in the Association \$624.86

Dues collected 05/06/2009

Thomas Dawdy	\$100.00	Charles Dickens	\$40.00
Anthony Morettini	\$20.00	David Tufnell	\$50.00
Lee Witham	\$50.00	James Virmala	\$40.00
Gregory Yale	\$25.00	William Zbaeren	\$40.00

Total Funds in the Association \$989.86

Dues collected 06/09/2009

Richard Gray	\$50.00	Dale Hale	\$20.00
David Maass	\$40.00	Ron Spagna	\$50.00

Total Funds in the Association \$1,149.86

Dues collected 06/24/2009

Charles Kiser	\$40.00	Dorothy Gruber	\$20.00
Gaylord Larson	\$20.00		

Dues collected 07/30/2009

Elliot Clayton \$30.00

Total Funds in the Association \$1,179.86

Financial Statement: The cost of this issue is \$379.43, and was mailed to 343 members.



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:

Leonard Carter (1977-78) RM2
909 W Clark St
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-391-5046
lenny56007@yahoo.com

John Cooper
(1968-70) BM3 1st Div
12 Pleasentside Dr
Wayland, NY 14572
jecoop@frontiernet.net

Mark Crozier
2718 River Wood Ln
Burnsville, MN 55337
mlcfilexfer@aol.com

Wayne Martin
(1979-82) BT 2 B Div
PO Box 684
Yucca Valley, CA 92286
760-674-6069

Kenneth Cooper
(1983-85) E-4 BT
17406 Bill Booty Rd
Bogalusa, LA 70427
985-730-4605
kcoop745@aol.com

Eric Lengel
(1978-80) EN2 A Gang
New Holland Rd
Reading, PA 19540
484-824-3645
kimscatering@yahoo.com

Stephen Nelson
(1972-78) GMT2 3rd Div
1222 Freeman Ln #59
Pocatello, ID 83201
208-232-0095
gunner72@cableone.net

THE FUNNIEST THING THAT HAPPENED IN THE NAVY

Bob Feldman, BT3:

I was a BT between 1973-1976. One of the funniest moments I can recall was when I a fireman. BTC Grimes told me to tighten a component on our ACC system (automatic combustion controls). I grabbed my handy screwdriver and commenced tightening the screws. All this was done in front of Grimes. As I was crawling off the boiler top, the tool fell out of my hands and down to the lower level.

Grimes told me to go down and retrieve it and put it away. I went down below and tried to find it. I could not see it, and I was not about to crawl in the bilges, under the boiler (which had about 12" of water in it) looking for it. I hung out on the lower level with McDowell for about five minutes, then returned to my evaporator station. We were underway at this time.

A few minutes later, a foul smell emanated in the fireroom. Grimes sent everybody on a search for the smell. The lower levelman McDowell told Grimes he found it. Grimes went down below and shortly YELLED my name, "FELDMAN!" I ran down below and looked to where he was pointing. Melting on a steam drain line was my screwdriver handle, dissolving into a yellow blob, then dropping off into the bilges, leaving the metal driver on the piping.

Well, the jig was up at that point. Grimes asked me why I lied. I then told him the truth—it was hot beneath that boiler, and I wasn't about to crawl under a steaming boiler for a screwdriver.

I was laughing at this and though Grimes tried to act mad, he too was laughing at the situation. Trials of a 19 year old...Caught in the act.

Zach Bon:

I was stationed on Schofield from 1981-1986. I was a BT2. Here is my story...and it's true. I believe it

was around 1985.

I was coming off liberty from the Philippines and was hungry. Of course the galley was closed because we were in port and it was late at night. If my memory is correct, it was just before midnight. Anyway, I was hungry. I went to the food preparation door of the galley and it was locked. It was always locked in port. I knew that but cussed anyway. I went down to the fireroom, got a paint chipper and went back to the galley. I worked and worked at the door jam until I was able to slide the paint chipper in and open it. "Yes!" I said to myself. I then went in the galley and got a whole can of ham, one loaf of bread, mayonnaise, and cheese. I locked the door and shut it. I looked at the lock and it was basically useless. Oops. I stashed the food, went to berthing and put on my dungarees and went back to the galley. I was going to take the food down to the fireroom for the mid-watch. We would feast like kings. But before I left the galley, I wrote a simple note. It said, "Snipes Rule!" I taped it to the food preparation door whose lock I destroyed. I got to the fireroom and when the guys saw what I had, they began to sing my praises. The next morning I was in food serving line ordering eggs. When I placed my order, the Galley Watch Captain said, "Won't be any eggs for you Bon...you had mid-rats." Mid-rats were what was served under for the sailors standing mid-watches. "The galley was closed last night; there weren't any mid-rats," I replied. Again I repeated my egg order. The Watch Captain then produced my note and said, "This look familiar?" "How would I know?" I replied. "You ruined my door, Bon, and took the ham I was going to serve for breakfast," said MS2 Collier. "I want eggs," I said. "If you don't get out of line, I'll report you to the Master-at-Arms (MAA) that you broke into the

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galley. Now get!" I wanted to say something else but I didn't. I got out of line.

Now, one thing I have to say is this. Tom Collier and I were good friends. We always teased each other, but it was always in good fun. Where I may have made a mistake was in the past, I had used the phrase, "Snipes Rule!" in our conversations. So I figured I had made out and it would be forgotten. Well, the ship got underway and the fire-room was really hot. I mean hot-hot. We were headed down to Australia. I was on watch and all of a sudden there was white powder in the entire fireroom! "What the ..." I said to myself. Then all the watch standers came to the console (where I was standing watch) and they were covered in white powder. "What is that stuff! What happened? Are fires still lit!" I yelled to no one in particular. They said that yes, fires were still lit and the stuff had come in from the supply ventilation. I had just a fine coating on me, but the other poor snipes were covered in white powder. I ordered them to check all the equipment to make sure nothing was clogged up or covering the faces of one of our hundreds of gauges. After about one minute, the upper level watch brought me some bags of flour that he found by the main access to the fireroom. "What the hell?" I said out loud. I grabbed the bags and looked at them. One of the bags had writing on it. It said, "Cooks Rule!" "I'm going to kill him!" I yelled. "Who?" they asked. I just ignored them. I called for relief and ran up the ladder as fast as I could to find Tom Collier! As soon as I got out of the fireroom, Collier was waiting for me. There was another one of our buddies standing between him and me. "It didn't take you long to get up here," said Tom. "I'm going to kill you!" I yelled. Everyone in the passageway stepped and turned. The passageway was only a little wider than three feet wide, but it was long. "Stay out of my galley," said Collier.

After a few minutes I calmed down and went back to the fire-room. The guys asked who did it

and I told them about the galley and ham incident. After a few minutes one of the guys said he wasn't cleaning up this mess. I said, "Did you eat the ham?" He said, "Yes." I said he was cleaning. Collier was right...cooks do rule. It took us about a week to get rid of the white powder.

If you have a funny story to share, please send it to ML&RS, Inc at our address at the bottom of this page.

USS SCHOFIELD 2009 REUNION

SEPT. 10-13

NASHVILLE, TN HOLIDAY INN

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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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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.

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