

# THE DECKPLATE

Volume 6, Issue 1

December 2007

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



### Points of Special Interest

- *News from Jack Knoblock makes up the cover story.*
- *Three new shipmates were located since the last newsletter. See who they are in Welcome Mat on page two.*
- *Several shipmates responded to "How did the Navy benefit your life?" See their answers on pages two and three.*
- *More pictures from the 2007 reunion in San Antonio are on pages three and four.*

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Dear Schofield Family,

Thanksgiving has gone by, and we no sooner recover from all the turkey, etc., and for some of us trying to shed the pounds, now we find ourselves enjoying all the Christmas holiday goodies, parties to attend, shopping, and the good things that go along with family and sharing with others on this very special holiday.

Some of our Christmas holiday has been spent volunteering for our local American Legion of which both Sandie and I are officers. Last night we hosted Santa for the kids for the first time in this little town, and what a joy seeing over 75 kids from our community enjoy visiting with Santa and

getting a free picture taken with him.

Unfortunately this Deckplate might not be received by Christmas because my e-mail was down for several days, so I hope everyone had a **Merry Christmas!!!**

There seems to be some confusion as to when our **2008 Reunion will be. It will be in the month of September in San Diego**, probably the first part of the month, but not yet set. Rick Martin (cbc06@verizon.net) along with others planning the reunion are still looking for in-put, so if there is something you would like to see happen at our next reunion, please e-mail him.

Recently some of us

received the news of the passing of a long time friend and shipmate many of us from the early days knew as GUNNER, Lou Clark passed away. He will be missed.

For those who have not paid their **dues** since May 2006, please send them to:

**Robert Cichowski, Treas.,  
386 Holly Ridge Rd,  
Winter Haven, FL 33880.  
Make checks out to him,  
not Schofield Association,  
since we do not yet have  
our non-profit status.  
Annual Dues are \$20.00.**

Sandie and I wish The Schofield Family a **Happy & Safe New Year**, and are looking forward to seeing our friends in San Diego.

Jack Knoblock (Doc)

## 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  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
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:

**Michael Planck**  
9601 Gunston Hall Rd  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408  
michael.planck@gmail.com

**John Cravens**  
(1979-83) EN2 A Gang  
8245 Sand Lake Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
907-748-3420  
jcravens@ncpowersystem.com

**Dennis Cahoon**  
(1968) GMM2  
319 NE 3rd St  
Battleground, WA 98604  
360-687-4659



## 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.

**Thomas Connor**  
(1979-82) FTM2 WSO3  
Died February 2007

**Lou Clark**  
Plankowner (1968-71) GMM1  
Died December 9, 2007

**Stan Stricherz**  
Plankowner (1967-71) EM2  
Died May 16, 2007

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.

### Financial Statement

The cost of this issue is **\$361.46**. This newsletter is being mailed to 353 members.

### Published By:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc**  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

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

[Dinamlrs@charterinternet.com](mailto:Dinamlrs@charterinternet.com)  
[Karenmlrs@charterinternet.com](mailto:Karenmlrs@charterinternet.com)  
[www.mlrsinc.com/schofield](http://www.mlrsinc.com/schofield) (web site)

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

## LADIES' CORNER

### DUMMY FUDGE

1 cup chocolate chips  
1 cup butterscotch chips  
1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk  
1 tsp pure vanilla  
1 cup nuts

Butter a 9x9 baking dish. Melt both chips and condensed milk in a double boiler on medium heat. Once smooth remove from heat and add vanilla and nuts. Scoop into baking dish and chill in refrigerator until set, approximately 10 minutes.

## HOW DID THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

*Editor's Note: An e-mail was sent out asking Schofield shipmates to answer the question above. I want to thank the men who responded and hope that those of you who don't have e-mail will respond for the next issue. Here are the responses:*

### Jack Knoblock:

Well, first I have to say when I got the assignment as the Corpsman for New Construction of Schofield I was surprised since I had not been to B-School as the others in the Squadron had been, but had very diversified assignments prior to that, including independent assignments. My Schofield assignment was one of the most challenging assignments in my Navy career and the most pleasurable

by the support I received from an outstanding crew. My Schofield experience provided me with the confidence I would later need when assigned to an aircraft recovery operation in a remote area of the Antarctic. There I not only served as the Medical Support to more than 60 Military and Civilians working to repair the aircraft, but was the assistant to the OIC. So Schofield gave me early in my career, the confidence in my medical abilities, but also strengthened my leadership abilities.

### Michael Clark:

To answer your question, it's a hard one for me since my life changed in a lot of ways. When I

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

went into the Navy, I had left a very abusive home where I had no freedom to do anything, that included speaking my mind. Not by choice, I had no friends. Life was pure misery for me before I went into the Navy. When I went to boot camp in 1967, I found boot camp to be even more abusive than at home and wished I was back home. It would have been easier. But I survived boot camp and moved on to my first ship, USS Talladega (APA-208). I met the ship in the Philippines and was really glad to be on the ship. I made a lot of friends on the ship. One particular friend was Ben Rojas from somewhere in Texas, a friend I would really love to find. He was my guardian angel and looked out for me. We became very close friends, but the time came when the Talladega crew were transferred on to other duty stations.

One of the good things about being transferred from the Talladega was that a lot of its crew went to the next ship, a pre-commissioning unit, so some of the friends I made came along with me. And so it was throughout my Navy career. I met friends, made new ones, and left some behind. So in that sense, I was experiencing the gift of friendships and some good ones at that. This is something I didn't have very much of while growing up.

Since I had no sense of direction from family, I was left to my own devices and I must admit that I was one of the biggest immature individuals that probably had ever gone into the Navy. I had to learn to grow up and grow up fast, and the Navy helped me do that. I became quite the mature individual that I should have been when I first joined. I learned to be independent and stand up for myself, but most of all, I learned to speak what was on my mind. Yes, the Navy helped me to mature quite a bit.

The travel was out of this world. I've been to places I never would have dreamed of going. But this was an experience in itself. I was always interested in other countries

and their culture and customs and the Navy sure helped me in that area. I always made it a point to go on tours to learn about the people, their country and their customs. I was a wasteful individual and a very picky eater until the first time I went to Hong Kong. When I saw those people in those junks begging for food, it opened my eyes quite a bit. I thought, "Here I am, wasting food the way I do and these people can't even afford a crumb." I never wasted another thing.

When I first went into the Navy I was on the deck force. But when I did boat runs from the ship to the beach, I learned how to use the radio to communicate with the ship. Since then I wanted to be a radioman. When I was on my second ship, my dream came true. I became a radioman and thoroughly enjoyed it. This was an excellent career opportunity after the Navy. I held some very good jobs working for government contractors in naval communications. So the Navy benefited me in that area as well.

In 1990/91 when the first Gulf War broke out, I was working with 5 other retired Navy guys. When the war broke out, we called the recruiter to see if we could join back up. Needless to say, the recruiter laughed at us and said we were too old. I would give anything to go back to sea again on a naval vessel just for old times sake and not just for off the coast operations. That is one of my dreams that I know will probably never happen again. But I can dream, can't I?

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#### **Ron Spagna:**

I served in the US Navy from

Feb. 4, 1964 until Dec. 1971. At the time I certainly did not appreciate all that the Navy did for me and for my family. Hindsight, of course is wonderful and I reflect back and am thankful for all the Navy had done and still does for me. Here are a few of the benefits that I received from the Navy.

I was able to get a good technical education. This enabled me to pursue a career in electronics. I was fortunate enough to get a job that lasted 30 years. It provided me with a good living and a good retirement for me and my family. This was all due to the education that the Navy provided for me.

I traveled to many parts of the world. I was not as appreciative then as I am now having been to so many different places. It enabled me to see relatives of my dad whom I never would have seen. It let me see and do things that I probably never would have done.

I was able to reconnect with shipmates from the Schofield after many years as a result of ML&RS reunion service. This has opened up a whole new chapter in my life. It is very special to myself and my wife as it has extended our family, so to speak.

Lastly, and most important, as I look back it gave me an appreciation of what we have here in America. It helped me realize a sense of pride being an American and how lucky I am to live here. To this day I still feel and have a deep respect for all who serve in our armed forces. I am proud to have served my country in a meaningful way as a member of the United States Navy.

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**PICTURE OF  
THE ALAMO  
FROM THE  
2007 REUNION  
IN  
SAN ANTONIO**

## PHOTOS FROM THE 2007 REUNION



### TREASURER'S REPORT—San Antonio and Beyond

**Total Association funds.....\$1,114.46**

Dues collected at San Antonio Reunion

Mike Jones.....\$20.00	Mark Fletcher.....\$150.00
John Walters.....\$40.00	Elliot Clayton.....\$30.00
Ron Spagna.....\$20.00	Allen Personette.....\$20.00
Don Scarberry.....\$20.00	Dan Gnade.....\$20.00
Edward Malchow.....\$20.00	Gordon Sebring.....\$20.00
Robert Cichowski.....\$20.00	Ken Wilson.....\$20.00
Paul Taylor.....\$20.00	Dave Dedon.....\$20.00
Phil Kochel.....\$20.00	Paul Roeper.....\$20.00

Cash for mailing list copies.....\$26.00	Paid out
Schofield Favors.....\$171.00	Paid out (\$159.00 owed to Jack Knoblock)
Group Photos.....\$200.00	Paid out
Hat Sales.....\$48.00	Collected
Schofield Favors.....\$18.00	Collected
Total Dues.....\$460.00	Collected

Total Cash to be deposited.....\$300.00

**Total Funds in the Association.....\$1,279.46**

Dues and Funds collected 10/24/07

Hat sales and Misc.....\$42.00	John Winschel.....\$35.00
Deckplate funding.....\$453.54	Money Order.....\$1.00
<b>Total Funds.....\$901.92</b>	

Dues collected 11/20/07

Lloyd Baker.....\$20.00	James Borowicz.....\$20.00
Harold Gordon Akst.....\$20.00	Dennis Ketchum.....\$20.00
James Perry.....\$20.00	James Pate.....\$40.00
James Vermala.....\$40.00	John Winschel.....\$40.00

**Total Funds in the Association.....\$1,121.92**

Submitted by Robert Cichowski, Treasurer