

THE MESSENGER

Volume 13 Issue 1

October 2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MARIAS, USS CADMUS, USS AMPHION, USS ARCADIA, USS NANTAHALA



Special Points of Interest

- **Learn more about the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in our cover article. Hope you will be able to attend the 2006 reunion and see it again.**
- **Eight newly located shipmates are found on page three under Welcome Mat. They would love to hear from some of their old buddies!**
- **Robert Moore shares an unforgettable incident in his Navy career! See his story in Mail Call on page three.**
- **Check out ML&RS, Inc.'s new web pages. Find out about them on pages three and four.**
- **Larry Eckard, President of ML&RS, Inc. has some thoughts on the rising cost of reunions. See page four.**

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER GREAT LAKES

In anticipation of the 2006 reunion in Chicago and the planned visit to Great Lakes Training Center, here is a brief description of the Navy's premier training facility.

Great Lakes Training Center was commissioned in 1911 by authorization of President Theodore Roosevelt. To this day it has remained the Navy's largest training center and home to the Navy's only Recruit Training Command, more commonly known as "boot camp." Roosevelt set out to make Great Lakes the "biggest and the best naval training station in the world." The result was the 1,628-acre complex with 1,153 buildings and 50 miles of roadway to provide access to the Cen-

ter's facilities. Approximately 50,000 recruits pass through annually. An estimated 15,000+ recruits are onboard the installation at any time. It is the third largest base in the Navy. Since World War II, more than 2 million new sailors have passed through the Recruit Training Command and an equal number through its technical schools. Today, there are several major units assigned to Great Lakes Training Center, including Naval Training Center, Recruit Training Command (RTC), Service School Command (SSC), Naval Hospital and Personnel Support Activity.

When the young men and women arrive for RTC, they are formed into divisions and assigned a

Recruit Division Commander (RDC). For the next eight weeks, the RDC will be the person most directly responsible for molding the recruits into Navy men and women. The first three weeks of recruit training are the toughest. The work load is heavy and the recruits must adjust to a completely new way of life. Classroom instruction, military drill, physical fitness training, and instruction by the Recruit Division Commander leave the recruit little free time. During the third week, divisions enter into the competitive aspect of training. Excellence in academic achievement, military drill, cleanliness and athletics all count

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

toward earning honor flags.

In addition to normal classroom instruction periods, the recruits may spend hours in the "field" learning fundamentals of ordnance and gunnery, seamanship, swimming, water survival, and fire-fighting. Three drill halls provide space for practice in competitive military drill and physical fitness training. Near the end of basic training, recruits undergo a final evaluation called, "Battle Stations."

Recruits live in 1000 bed barracks and eat at the recruit galleys. Staff members live in staff barracks, base housing and in surrounding communities.

SSC is the central training location for Naval enlisted students. Students at SSC either arrive directly from RTC or are returning from the fleet for further training. While new recruits are onboard RTC approximately nine weeks for basic training, SSC students will be onboard SSC from two weeks to 14 months, depending on the curriculum.

Each week, the Commanding Officer, Recruit Training Command hosts an impressive recruit graduation review ceremony that attracts more than 100,000 visitor annually. Weather permitting, the ceremony is held outdoors on the parade hall field in Camp Porter. During the winter or in the event of inclement weather, the ceremony is conducted in Galley Hall, Drill Hall 1200.

Published By:

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

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

E-mail contacts:

dinamlrs@charterinternet.com
karenmlrs@charterinternet.com

www.mlrsinc.com

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

MCAAN GROUP COORDINATORS

Lloyd Stagg (USS AMPHION)
7407 Lillie Ln
Pensacola, FL 32526
850-944-3302
lstagg@msn.com

Andrew Malone (USS ARCADIA)
38 Croyden Ln
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-681-0725
arcd23@yahoo.com

Robert Baschmann (USS CADMUS)
11231 Bullis Rd
Marilla, NY 14102
716-655-5415

(USS MARIAS)
Position open

James Tallon (USS NANTAHALA)
6001 First Ave N
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727-343-1060
jimz34@aol.com

USS ARCADIA COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

We have quite a few months before next May, but somehow as we get older the months seem to fly by much quicker. Start thinking about coming to the Great Lakes Area, mark your calendar. Would like to see far more buddies than we have had from the Arcadia the last few reunions. Let's make it a good one.

Andy Malone

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Messenger is the official publication of the MCAAN Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, October, *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 Messenger*. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

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 a monumental task 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 you stories and suggestions.

MCAAN REUNION
MAY 4-7, 2006
CHICAGO, IL
HILTON LISLE HOTEL



WELCOME MAT

The MCAAN Group proudly welcomes these recently located shipmates. Welcome aboard! We hope you will become an active member in the association by contributing both financially and with stories for the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a reunion.

USS AMPHION

Richard Hogan (1966-68) YN2 X Div
46 Cascade Rd
W. Henrietta, NY 14467
585-334-4295
dhogan@frontiernet.net

George Manning
3025 Batter Sea Ln
Alexandria, VA 22309

Mel Borich (1961-64) E-4 OM/IM
2703 Goose Creek Rd
Louisville, KY 40242
502-425-1979
mmborich@aol.com

USS CADMUS

Peter Browning
130 Lazy Corner Rd
Moyock, NC 27958
252-435-6904

Mel Borich
(See address above)

USS MARIAS

Larry Hummel (1962-64)
709 South Fourth St
Clearfield, PA 16830
814-765-5854

USS ARCADIA

John Ruffolo (1952-56) Signalman
2129 Ramblewood Dr
Highland, IN 46322
219-934-0866

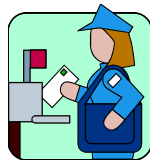
Dale Paulus
536 S Main St
Naperville, IL 60540
dale@paulus-tribe.com

Joseph Wesley (1966-68) SF3
710 US Hwy 206 Apt 6B
Bordentown, NJ 08505
609-298-3123

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 07/05
\$1739.42
Funds received since 07/05 issue
\$28.00
Funds available for 10/05 issue
\$1767.42
Funds expended for 10/05 issue
\$98.40
Balance remaining for 01/06
\$1669.02

The Messenger is being mailed by USPS only to contributors and reunion attendees who do not have e-mail. All other contributors and reunion attendees will receive it by e-mail, so be sure we have your current e-mail address. You are considered a contributor if you have donated money within the last calendar year from the time of the current newsletter. Please continue to support the newsletter. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at the address on page 2.



MAIL CALL

People,

Just a note to say I like the info I get from the Messenger. Keep up the good work.

I was the Duty Driver for the 3rd Section. I was given a big brown sealed envelope to take to Portsmouth. The ship had its own Jeep. I took off from Pier 5, sailing down Hampton Boulevard and came to a red light. I tried to stop, but I had no brakes. A city bus was making a left turn onto Hampton and was crossways in the intersection. I hit it about the left rear wheel. The people inside got excited. I glanced off

the bus and around the corner to the right and hit a mail truck. There was a tavern on the corner. I went in to call the ship, but had no money. They wanted 15 cents for a phone call. One of the bar maids tossed a 25 cent piece on the counter and I made the call.

The officer who gave me the envelope was soon there and took the envelope. I rode back to the ship in the wrecker. They junked the Jeep. I got 20 hours of extra duty and wanted to turn my license in, but they wouldn't take them.

I would like to hear from anyone who was on the 13 from 1951-54 for sure, or any time for that matter. I went to Mississippi to visit Herb Gentry this past spring and had a good visit with him and his wife. We hadn't seen each other since I left the ship in October of 1954.

Sincerely,
Robert Moore
HCR 64 Box 270
West Plains, MO 65775
417-469-3249

NEW WEB PAGES ADDED TO ML&RS SITE

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc is pleased to announce a few enhancements to our web site. We invite you to take a look at a couple of new pages we have recently added. The page titled Sentimental Journal gives a detailed explanation of the great reunion book we publish after each reunion. (An order form is mailed to everyone on the mailing list a few weeks after the reunion for the SJ and other memorabilia items). There are links to sample pages to give you a better understanding of what is contained in the SJ. Also new is an on-line version of the questionnaire we send out when a new person is added to the mailing

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

list. Many of you have never filled out this form and submitted your photos for the ***Sentimental Journal!*** Here is a great way to remedy this!!! You can access this form from the page titled Reunions (link is on the left side of our home page). Please take a few minutes and check out our updated web page, and please, if you haven't already, fill out and submit the questionnaire! Your buddies would love to know what happened to you since you left your ship.

CHECK US OUT AT
WWW.M L R S I N C.COM (please note, spaces and caps for clarity!!!)

Dina Coffey
Office Manager, ML&RS, Inc.

Rising Reunion Costs

Larry H Eckard, President, ML & RS, Inc

Anyone paying attention to the reunion costs have seen a sharp rise in past two years, and you're probably concerned about them. We are just as concerned as you are because it does no good to plan a wonderful reunion and price it so high that people can't afford to attend.

First let me make it very clear that we (ML&RS, Inc) have not increased our fees. The rising costs are 100% due to the increased cost of hotels, food & beverage, tours, entertainment, etc. We cannot control those costs, but we still get the best possible rates –better than you can get for your self – and pass them on to you.

Although prices have increased all across the country, some areas are still more expensive than others. Our on site representative has a ton of information about potential reunion sites so take advantage of it; let our representative answer questions about locations in your meeting when it's time to discuss reunion sites.

Also, in every hospitality room you will find a blue three-ring binder notebook full of information about

potential reunion sites. The book gives you suggestions for tours and/or activities, information about at least one hotel, an itinerary and cost sheet from a recent reunion if one has been held in that city. Look over that book.

Here is some other information that you may find helpful. Option A (arriving on Thursday and departing on Sunday) for a couple is used as the standard for the prices that are cited below. There are of course some exceptions to the prices, depending upon the time of year and the other activities going on in the city at the same time.

In any of the following cities (and this is not a complete list) you can expect to pay a minimum of \$740.00 and as much as \$800.00: Baltimore/Washington, DC; Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; Boston, MA; Newport, RI; Charleston, SC; San Antonio, TX; San Francisco or San Diego, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Dallas, TX; Nashville, TN; Minneapolis/St Paul, MN.

If you choose a city like one of these, you're going to pay top dollar, expect it and don't be surprised when it happens. Room rates are going to be near \$100.00 plus tax.

In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$665.00 upward to \$725.00: Myrtle Beach, SC; Norfolk, VA; St Louis, Mo; Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque, NM; Colorado Springs, CO; Milwaukee, WI; Harrisburg/Lancaster, PA; New Orleans, LA; Pensacola, FL; Reno, NV; Branson, MO; Columbus OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Omaha, NE; Cincinnati, OH/Northern KY; Buffalo, NY; Corpus Christi, TX.

Room rates will range between \$75.00-90.00 plus tax.

In the following cities you can expect to pay a minimum of \$625.00 upward to \$675.00: Biloxi, MS; Asheville, NC; Fargo, ND.

Room rates will probably be below \$75.00 plus tax.

For the past several years, Jacksonville, FL is the least expensive reunion city in the country with room rates in the \$60's and total package around \$600.00. If you haven't been there and cost is a concern, you should give Jacksonville strong consideration.

In any city no downtown hotels ever have complimentary airport shuttle service, and many have daily parking fees of \$12.00 and more. Hotels nearer the airport usually do not have parking fees and generally have complimentary airport shuttle service.

Here are some other points you may wish to consider. There are hundreds of military reunions held every year. The vast majority are held in April and May or September or October. *They don't have to be!* Passover, Palm Sunday, and Easter usually (but not always) fall in April; Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends are in May. So with these holidays, the reunions are crammed into the remaining available weeks – and do you think for an instant that hotels don't know this and price accordingly? Labor Day weekend, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are in September or October and it's the same thing. You can move your reunion forward to mid-late March (depending upon the location) and you'll get a better deal; the same with early November. Also, some groups ask for specific dates, without ever knowing what else is going on at the same time in your city of choice. We can help you best when there is a two or three week window to work in.

If you take this information into account when you make the decision on where to hold your next reunion, you won't be nearly as surprised when you see the prices.