

THE MESSENGER

Volume 13 Issue 3

April 2006

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



Special Points of Interest

- **Ed Sweeney remembers the baseball teams in the Sunset League. If you participated, let's hear your recollections.**
- **Dave Olson tells of some surprise visitors to the ship. What 'really' happened in that Cannes nightclub?**
- **Harry Widmer remembers the trip to New Orleans every time he sees the sad state of the city today on TV.**
- **Seven newly located shipmates are in Welcome Mat on page three. Hope they will join us at the reunion in Chicago.**
- **See a list of "Unofficial Navy Certificates" on pages three and four. How many of them do you have?**

BEST AND WORST OF MEMORIES

The following are the responses we got from an e-mail request for your best and worst memories of your time on one of the MCAAN ships. Thank you to all who participated!

Ed Sweeney (USS Arcadia, 1952-56)

Some of the best memories I can recall were the USS Arcadia baseball teams in the Sunset League in Newport, RI.

We were a great bunch of shipmates that loved the game and were very competitive on the field. When possible, we still enjoy the fellowship some 50 years later.

The Lobster Club was a special watering hole after practice.

Dave Olson (USS Arcadia, 1951-55)

This may not be a worst or best memory, but is one I've never forgotten. Even recently while talking to one of my buddies for the first time in 52 years, he reminded me of it. While in the Med on our '53-54 cruise, we frequented a bar during the week of New Years in Cannes, France. The following Sunday I had duty and stayed aboard. Just before noon, the word was passed for Olson, D. E. to lay up to the quarter deck to receive visitors. I really don't remember what I thought right then, but on arriving at the quarter deck I could not believe what I saw. There were two "girls" that worked in the bar in Cannes. If it had not been

for another buddy, M.L. Hippert, who was walking by, I'm not sure what I would have done. I told him he had just volunteered to help me escort the girls to chow. I remember them asking where the wine was and replying all we have is coffee. They politely refused. After a tour of the ship, someone took our picture on the quarter deck, which I still have. I never did know how they got my name. Needless to say, I never went on liberty in Cannes again!

Harry "Hank" Widmer (USS Amphion, 1954-55)

A favorite memory of mine while serving on the USS Amphion (1954-55)

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is the voyage we made to New Orleans flying the Jolly Roger above the U. S. Ensign.

For the record, this side tour enroute to the Caribbean, was for R&R. It was just a coincidence that the Skipper's daughter was attending college in New Orleans. How the Jolly Roger got there is still a mystery. This comes to mind every time I view the sad scenes of New Orleans on TV.

Francis Schmolke (USS Cadmus, 1957-61)

Anybody remember the time when they held the advancement exams on the mess deck when someone topside working in the CO2 room opened the wrong valves and sea water came in and ran down the lower deck next to the mess hall?

Or the time when we were in Gitmo with the reserve officers and enlisted personnel? The captain left the bridge and gave the helm over to the reserve officers to have anchor exercises in Gitmo harbor. You know what happened next. The whole chain locker came out. The skipper ran up to the bridge! "What the H___ is going on?" All night long the E Div replaced the cleat chain locker.

The time we were tied up in New York at Times Square and when we pulled out heading for Newport, RI, we left the dock watch at the pier.

The deck hand painting the side of the ship with a roller? The ship was bobbing up and down and he fell in the drink.

I know there are a lot more stories that can be told and I know when we get together at reunions, they come out.

If you didn't share your best or worst memory, please send them to ML&RS, Inc. at our address to the right.

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

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

HYATT 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.

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TAPS

The Messenger learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The death may not have been recent, but we just learned of it. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

Jerry "Zuz" Zuzolo USS Marias
 1951-54 2nd C 5th Div
 Died March 9, 2006

Jerry Baker USS Marias
 1952-55 PN3 Personnel
 Date of death not reported

E. L. Balanky USS Marias
 Date of death not reported

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 01/06
\$1558.85
 Funds received since 01/06 issue
\$60.00
 Funds available for 04/06 issue
\$1618.85
 Funds expended for 04/06 issue
\$102.73
 Balance remaining for 07/06
\$1579.12

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 two.

LIST OF UNOFFICIAL US NAVY CERTIFICATES

Through the years, the wish to mark other seagoing milestones has given birth to certificates for all kinds of distinctions. Most of them are variations on the shellback theme; they document, typically in salty language, passing certain places for the first time. Some of these time-honored traditions that have come to light include:

Antarctic Circle

Crossing of the Antarctic Circle (66-32 South latitude). Also known as the "Royal Domain of the Penguin" or "Blue Nose."

Arctic Circle

Crossing of the Arctic Circle (66-32 North latitude). Also known as the "Northern Domain of the Polar Bear" or "Blue Nose."

Blue Nose

Crossing of the Arctic Circle (66-32 North latitude). See also "Arctic Circle," "Frozen Stiff," and "Northern Domain of the Polar Bear."

Caterpillar Club

Anyone who had made an unscheduled parachute jump from a disabled plane. *Caterpillar* denotes use of a silkworm's product in parachute construction. Club members wear a gold caterpillar on civies only, the color of the caterpillar's jeweled eyes is determined by the circumstances, i.e. ruby eyes show that the wearer has survived a midair collision.

Century Club

Pilots who have completed their 100th carrier landing. Also applicable to hurricane hunters who have flown through winds of 100 miles per hour or more.

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Deep Dive Diploma

Presented to crew members for first dives, last dives, etc.

Decommissioning

Decommissioning of a ship, land unit, or squadron.

Deep Dive Diploma

Issued to crew of USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) during the boat's first dive.

Double Centurions

Pilots who have completed their 200th carrier landing.

Emerald Shellback

Crossing of the Equator at the Greenwich Meridian.

Frozen Stiff

Members who have crossed the Arctic Circle and are entitled to all privileges of this frozen realm of blizzards, including freezing, shivering, starving and any other privileged miseries that can possibly be bestowed.

Golden Dragon

Crossing of the 180th Meridian (International Date Line).

Golden Shellback

Crossing of the Equator at the 180th Meridian.

Goldfish Club

Pilots who ditch and have to take to a life raft. If they spend more than 24 hours on the raft, they become "Sea Squatters."

Great Lakes

Cruising the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes.

Icelandic Domain

Commemorating service in Iceland.

Mossback

Traversing around Cape Horn.

Neutron Owners Certificate

Plank owner certificate issued to

crew of USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) on 17 Jan. 1955 at latitude 40 20' 46.

Northern Domain of the Polar Bear

Crossing the Arctic Circle (66- 32 North latitude). See also "Arctic Circle" and "Frozen Stiff."

Order of Magellan

Going around the World.

Order of the Ditch

Transiting the Panama Canal. See also "Panama Canal."

Order of the Nuclear Navy

Designates the bearer of this wallet-sized card as an honorary member of the USS *Nautilus*' ships company. It was issued to personnel outside of the crew who had "performed feats underwater" while aboard the vessel for a visit.

Order of the Rock

Transit through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Order of the Square Rigger

Service on any square rigger ship.

Panama Canal

Transit through the Panama Canal. Also "Order of the Ditch."

Persian Excursion

Persian Gulf service

Plank Owner

Commissioning a Ship or Shore Command Special Honorary title for those certificates requiring it.

Pollywog

Member who has not previously "crossed the Line" (Equator).

Realm of the Czars

Cruising the Black Sea.

Red Nose

Member who has crossed the Antarctic Circle (66-32 South latitude).

Royal Domain of the Emperor Penguin

Crossing the Antarctic Circle (66- 32 South latitude). Also "Antarctic Circle" and "Red Nose."

Royal Experiment of Guinea Pigs at Bikini Atoll

Operation Crossroads, 1946

Royal Order of Whale Bangers

Crew members who accidentally fired at a whale, unfortunately mistaking it for a submarine.

Safari to Suez

Transiting the Suez Canal.

Sea Squatters

Member who takes to the water and spend more than 24 hours on a life raft.

Shellback

Crossing the Equator. Special Gold Shellback title for crossing at the International Date Line, special Emerald Shellback title for crossing at the Greenwich Meridian.

Spanish Main

Cruising the Caribbean.

Suez Canal

Transit through the Suez Canal. Also "Safari to Suez."

Note: If you are a Navy veteran who has received a certificate not listed above, and would like the certificate considered for inclusion in this list, send a photocopy of the certificate with a brief explanation concerning its issuance to:

Web Site Committee
Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese Street
Washington Navy Yard
Washington DC 20374-5060