

# THE MESSENGER

Volume 15 Issue 2

April 2008

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



USS MARIAS



USS CADMUS



USS AMPHION



USS ARCADIA



USS NANTAHALA

### Special Points of Interest

- **The 2008 reunion is now history, and it was a good one! Go back and see what took place by reading the cover story.**
- **The possibility for new faces at a future reunion was discussed at the business meeting. Read about that on page two.**
- **New names for all the five ships are under Welcome Mat on page three.**
- **Patrick Judge remembers a special Chaplain, and John Burgess remembers being sea sick all the way across the Atlantic. Read their stories in Mail Call beginning on page four.**
- **A preview of Charleston's attractions are on page 5 & 6. Fill out the survey to let ML&RS, Inc know what you want to do at the reunion.**

### 2008 MCAAN REUNION REPORT

Shipmates from the five ships of the MCAAN group, USS Marias, USS Cadmus, USS Arcadia, USS Amphion and USS Nantahala, held their annual reunion in Mobile, Alabama on April 24—27, 2008 at the Ashbury Hotel & Suites. Attending the reunion were twenty-one shipmates and twenty-two of their guests. There was at least one representative from each of the five ships in attendance.

The reunion started off on Thursday with registration and the opening of the hospitality room. Handshakes, slaps on backs and hearty hellos were the order of the day as each person made their way from the registration desk into the hospitality room to see who had arrived. The years

melted away as the "sailor talk" began and each man again felt the enthusiasm of his youth return just for a few days. Bill Lambert was especially happy to see his old friend Harold Glasser once again. Randy Brown and Bennie Russell, who were part of the last crew aboard the Amphion, were also happy to see one another. Thursday evening began the official proceedings of the reunion as the attendees assembled for the Welcome Reception. They were greeted by the hotel staff, MLRS representative Lynne Bumgarner and their own Francis "Smokey" Schmolke. Everyone then enjoyed the company of old friends while sampling the hors d'oeuvres and drinks

served by the hotel. The rest of the evening was free to spend catching up on the details of life after the Navy for many old buddies.

The big draw for having the reunion in Mobile was anticipating a visit to the Battleship USS Alabama, so everyone was ready for the Friday morning tour to the much decorated ship. Departing around 9:00 am, the group made their way to Battleship Memorial Park for the tour of the USS Alabama, which earned nine battle stars during WWII. Her crew of 2,500 saw action in the Atlantic for a year before joining the Pacific Fleet in mid-1943. She fought at such key locations as Leyte,

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the Gilbert Islands, and Okinawa, and then led the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay in September 1945. Also at the park was the submarine USS Drum, "Calamity Jane," a B-52 Stratofortress that served with SAC and the A-12 "Blackbird" spyplane. In the Aircraft Pavilion the group saw a gull-winged Corsair and the P51-D Mustang Redtail, the plane flown by the valiant Tuskegee Airmen. Other aircraft from Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm were also on display. Lunch was served for the group in the Ward Room of the USS Alabama. Immediately after lunch, the memorial service and wreath laying ceremony was held. Assisting in the ceremony were Duane Reagan, Francis Schmolke, Lou Demino and Jim Tallon. This was a very meaningful and moving experience for all in attendance, and one that will not be forgotten. After returning to the hotel there was some time for relaxation before the 6:00 pm Southern Dinner Buffet. Following dinner, everyone again enjoyed the "Yankee Swap" gift exchange where a gift brought by each attendee/couple as representative of their home state was given away by drawing. Then one had to decide, "Do I take an unopened gift, or do I take that one over there that I admired when 'John' opened it?" Everyone seemed pleased with the gift they got to take home and it was a good way to end the evening's activity. Of course, just because dinner was over didn't mean that the evening had to end. Some just couldn't say good night yet and moved on to the hospitality room for some more "discussions."

Saturday's tour was also a great reason to choose Mobile as a reunion destination! Bellingrath Gardens, located on the riverfront, has a fantastic display of ever-changing flowers and blooming shrubs. Although the azaleas had already bloomed off, the roses were spectacular! Also located on the grounds is the home of Coca Cola magnate, Walter Bellingrath. The home is furnished with antique furniture in period settings plus an outstanding collection of

china and porcelain. Then another treat awaited the group as they boarded the *Southern Belle* for a river cruise on the Fowl River and lunch on board. It was a great tour that was really enjoyed by all. Following the return to the hotel the business meeting was held to decide on the next reunion location. As chosen last year, Charleston, SC will be the site of the 2009 reunion and Philadelphia, PA was chosen at the meeting as the 2010 site. Following the meeting everyone had time to get all dressed up for the last evening's festivities. At 6:30 pm the shipmates and their guests enjoyed a pre-dinner cocktail hour and had their photos made for the post-reunion Memory Book. At 7:00 pm the group made their way to the banquet room for the MCAAN reunion banquet. Francis Schmolke welcomed all the attendees and then everyone enjoyed a great meal. Conversation flowed and spirits were high as everyone discussed all the things they had seen and done during the last two days in Mobile, AL.

The realization that the reunion was nearly over came on Sunday morning when breakfast brought the attendees together for the last time this year. Good byes, handshakes and hugs came as everyone then had to start thinking about their trip home. The 2009 Charleston reunion will be greatly anticipated as the 2008 MCAAN Reunion becomes a cherished memory.

## MORE SHIPS FOR REUNION GROUP?

One of the items discussed at the 2008 Reunion business meeting was to invite more ships to become part of the reunion group. This would aid in negotiations with hotels to obtain better rates for the reunions, because the number of rooms booked by any one group determines the price and the "perks" such as banquet facilities, hospital-

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## 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 your stories and suggestions.



## 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 MARIAS

**Eugene Kaercher** (1946)  
kaercher5@msn.com

**Eric Maiefski** (1948-51)  
9815 N Sagebrush Pl  
Tucson, AZ 85742

**Claude Huguley, Jr.**  
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Columbia, SC 29204

**Harold Wellen** (1957-58) EM2  
hwellen@yahoo.com

**Otis Frank Bock** (1959-62) YN2  
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### USS CADMUS

**Ron Schneider**  
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johnnybluehair@aol.com

**Jim Frame** (1948-52)  
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330-274-2482  
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**Ed Orr** (1963) GMG3  
Ed\_phyllis\_orr@yahoo.com

**Cecil Clemmons** (1958)  
7321 SW 143rd Rd  
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386-496-3816

**Jack Cousins** (1965-68)  
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### USS AMPHION

**Bennie Russell** (1969-71) FN3 R3  
2009 Belle Rose Dr  
Mobile, AL 36617  
251-452-0752

**John Biehn** (1955-58) BT3  
436 Poplar St  
Delanco, NJ 08075  
856-461-6346

**Richard Intile** (1962-64) IC-3  
8 Buck Dr  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-866-0459  
rintile@optonline.net

**Joseph Bevilacqua**  
(1962-63) Seaman S-1  
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**William Hayes**  
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Forest Ranch, CA 95942  
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roonee@aol.com

### USS ARCADIA

**Dan Buchan** (1955-59)  
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**James Shipley** (1953-54)  
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Springfield, VA 22151  
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fayg6@msn.com

**Kenneth Ball** (1962-63)  
twokays57@yahoo.com

**Charles Spriggs**  
2500 7th St  
Withrop Harbor, IL 60096  
847-414-6345

**Roger Young**  
15 Holly Hill Dr  
Arden, NC 28704

**Ernest Grimes** (1951-53)  
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Okeechobee, FL 34974  
863-357-0408  
(summer) 6195 Gothberg Rd  
Casper, WY 82604

**William Wilkes** (1961-63) MR3  
8665 Woodpecker Ln  
Tallahassee, FL 32305  
850-421-2781

**Howard Christopher**  
(1959-60) ENFN Engn  
34631 Orchid Pky  
Ridge Manor, FL 33523  
352-583-2249  
jvdunn@charter.net

**Ralph Powell** (1962-64)  
1225 Razors Ridge Rd  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828-584-0364

**Robert Brewer**  
375 Bridle Path Way  
Mobile, AL 36608

**Robert Chick**  
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### USS NANTAHALA

**John Dunn** (SM3)  
32 Nicole Dr  
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### **MORE SHIPS...**

ity rooms, etc. that the hotel will be willing to offer. Many of you served on other ships who may be experiencing their own problem with dwindling attendance at their reunions. If you know of another reunion that might be interested in joining with the MCAAN group, please let ML&RS, Inc know about them. We will get in touch with them and see if we can come up with a good deal for both groups.



## 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.

**Walter Yontz**

(Nantahala) 1950-52 CS3 Cook  
Died June 6, 2007

**Wallace Smith**

(Nantahala) 1963-65  
Died January 26, 2008

**Walter Scarlett**

(Marias) 1951-55 GM2 Gun  
Died March 1, 2008

**Glen Bowers**

(Marias) 1967-71 PC3 Post Office  
Died April 22, 2007

**Alva Morgan (Amphion)**

Date of death not reported

**Donald Neale (Cadmus)**

Date of death not reported

**Leonard Pitts (Marias)**

Date of death not reported

**Edsel Jones**

(Nantahala) 1962-64  
Date of death not reported

**William Morrill**

(Arcadia) 1967-68 E6  
Date of death not reported

**Al Spagnola**

(Amphion) 1946 FN  
Date of death not reported

**Don Edmondson**

(Amphion) 1968-70 HM2 H Div  
Died August 3, 2006

**Ronald Trovillo**

(Cadmus) 1955-58 MR3 R-1 Div  
Died December 19, 2007

**William Moss, Sr.**  
(Amphion) YN  
Died September 5, 2007

**James Long**  
(Arcadia) 1953-56 SH3 S Div  
Died December 27, 2007

## MCAAN GROUP COORDINATORS

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

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 01/08 **\$1827.72**

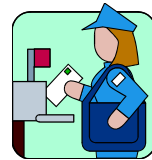
Funds received since 01/08  
**\$110.00**

Funds available for 04/08 **\$1937.72**

Funds expended for 04/08 **\$144.40**

Balance remaining for 07/08  
**\$1793.32**

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 below.



## MAIL CALL

Dear Sir or Madam,

I served on the USS Amphion as a DK3 1954-1955. I'd like to relate the story of an unforgettable Chaplain O'Dell on board at that time period.

Chaplain O'Dell was instrumental in securing two Trailway buses going to NYC Port Authority every Friday and returning on Sunday evening to the USS Amphion.

If you didn't have the \$10.00 round trip bus fare at that time, he would loan the \$10.00 to you out of his pocket to enable you to make it home for the weekend.

And also as a Protestant Chaplain, he would lead in saying the Rosary every evening, which was very impressive to me being a Catholic.

If anyone knows how I could

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make contact with Chaplain O'Dell, please call me at 732-974-0921.

Sincerely,  
Patrick J. Judge  
2075 Benjamin Cir  
Wall Township, NJ 07719

#### MCAAN Reunion,

I saw your name under Comrades in Legion Magazine. I was aboard the Cadmus in January of '58. I was being transferred to a squadron which was aboard the FDR (CVA 42). I will never forget my 10 day trip to Italy as we hit a storm two days out that had everybody seasick. I spent most of the trip eating oranges and saltines. It was my first time on a Navy ship having spent my first two years stationed in Bermuda attached to a seaplane squadron, VP 49. If you can email me a picture of the ship, it would be much appreciated. I can show my kids and grandkids where I spent many a day leaning over the rail heaving my guts up.

John S. Burgess

**Editor's Note:** Do any of you remember this storm? How did you fair? Mr. Burgess mentioned that this was his first time on a Navy ship. Do you remember your first time on a Navy ship? Tell us about either of these things for our next issue of the MCAAN Messenger.

### OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride wearing white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

## 2009 REUNION TO BE IN CHARLESTON

The 2009 Reunion of the MCAAN Group will be in the beautiful city of **Charleston, SC**. If you have never been to Charleston, you are in for a real treat. Charleston has everything you could possibly want for a reunion site—beautiful natural and architectural scenery, great naval displays at Patriot's Point, rich history, fabulous shopping and great Low country food. Add to this the friendliness of the people and you will see why Charleston is one of the most popular cities for military reunions in the country. This is one reunion you can't miss!

### SNEAK PREVIEW OF ATTRACTIONS

#### Boone Hall Plantation:

Historic Boone Hall Plantation was used in the filming of the television mini-series "North and South" and "Queen." It was also the background setting for parts of "Gone With the Wind." It is perhaps most famous for its Avenue of Oaks, a half mile of massive Spanish moss-draped live oaks that line the drive. Boone Hall reflects Southern heritage spanning 300 years on one magnificent "still working" plantation. You can watch the ladies make their sweetgrass baskets in addition to touring the lovely Georgian-style plantation and the beautiful gardens. Also on the grounds are original slave cabins built from brick made on the plantation in the 1800s and were home to the house servants and skilled craftsmen. These cabins are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with the authentic smokehouse, the Avenue of Oaks and the Plantation House.

#### City Hall Council Chambers:

The City Hall Gallery is located in the Council Chamber at City Hall and was built in 1801. It includes portraits of many important leaders, including one by John Trumbull of George Washington

#### The Market:

In the open air market are stalls leased daily by local artisans and international importers. Here you can watch the lowcountry sweetgrass baskets being woven—an art handed down from African ancestors, and limited to this one area of the United States. Other areas of the market include a complex of small shops capturing the essence of Old Charleston in two interconnected buildings one-and-a-half centuries old.

#### Drayton Hall:

Built circa 1738, the Hall survived the Civil War intact and is preserved almost in its original condition after more than 250 years. It is the oldest preserved plantation house in America open to the public. It is considered one of the oldest and finest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture in the nation. After seven generations, two great wars and numerous hurricanes and earthquakes, the house is a National Historic Landmark.

#### Fort Sumter:

A boat will take you from Patriot's Point to Ft Sumter. Some of you may recall this is the fort that the Yankees secretly, and by night, reinforced (no doubt to launch a sneak attack on Charleston). This overt action *forced* the Confederates to make a pre-emptive strike which marked the beginning of what some historians have called the "Civil War." In Charleston it is known as the "War of Northern Aggression." Once at the Fort, a ranger from the National Park Service will give you an informative introduction before you tour this famous bastion and its marvelous museum.

#### Fort Moultrie:

Fort Moultrie has defended Charleston Harbor twice. During the Revolutionary War it was attacked

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by a British fleet and after a nine-hour battle the ships were forced to retire. Nearly a century later, during the Civil War, Federal forces bombarded Charleston's forts from land and sea for nearly two years. Though the masonry wall of Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie crumbled under the shelling, both forts were able to hold back the Union attacks. Now the National Park Service interprets 171 years of American seacoast defenses from 1776 to 1947 in exhibits and an introductory film.

**Charleston Carriage Tour:**

Leisurely ride through narrow streets and alleyways past carefully restored 18th and 19th century homes and buildings. Your guide will relate three hundred years of history to the accompaniment of horse's hooves clopping along the pavement. A "must-do" while you're in Charleston!

**Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon:**

No other Charleston attraction presents so much of our American heritage as does the Old Exchange. Early settlers built a Court of Guard here in which imprisoned pirates and Indians were kept in the lower level, while town meetings were held in the hall. The Old Exchange was completed in 1771 by the British as the Exchange and Customs House. American Patriots were held prisoner in the Provost during the Revolutionary War. With its striking Palladian architecture, the Exchange dominated the harbor. It became the social, political, and economic hub of the bustling 18th century port. In 1965 part of the original seawall of Charles Towne was discovered during the excavation of the dungeon.

**Patriot's Point:**

This is the world's largest Naval Maritime Museum. Tour the famous WW II aircraft carrier USS YORKTOWN and visit the Medal of Honor Museum on board. Also tour the destroyer USS LAFFEY, a partici-

part in the Normandy landings, the submarine USS CLAMAGORE; and the Coast Guard Cutter INGHAM. A model of a Navy Base like those used by Naval personnel in Vietnam is part of the complex, as well as 25 aircraft and the Cold War submarine memorial.

**Middleton Place:**

This carefully preserved 18th century plantation and National Historic Landmark is on 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens. The Middleton Place House Museum is a repository of great Middleton family treasures, including three Benjamin West paintings and two by Thomas Sully, Charleston-made rice beds, a Thomas Elfe table, much of the family's original china, fine English silver, and hundreds of books, letters and documents.

**Charleston Harbor Cruise:**

Get an even greater appreciation of Charleston's beauty by looking back at the city from out in the harbor during a harbor cruise. Lunch or dinner cruises are available as you enjoy the scenery from the deck or inside the air conditioned cabin of the cruise ship. The captain will tell you all about the history of Charleston as you pass by the different locations.

Now that you have read about all the things that Charleston has to offer, please take a few moments to let us know which of these attractions you would most like to see and do while in Charleston at the reunion. Please fill out the survey to the right and return it to us so we can custom design your activities to your wishes. We will use your responses and the input from your coordinators to plan your agenda.

\_\_\_\_\_

**2009 MCAAN REUNION SURVEY**

*Please take a few minutes to complete the survey of the attractions in the Charleston area and return it to Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. We will use the surveys to custom design your reunion to what you want to do.*

*Please check the attractions you would like to visit during the reunion.*

**Boone Hall Plantation** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Market** \_\_\_\_\_

**City Hall Council Chambers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Drayton Hall** \_\_\_\_\_

**Charleston Carriage Tour** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fort Sumter** \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patriot's Point** \_\_\_\_\_

**Middleton Place** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fort Moultrie** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harbor Cruise** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings \_\_\_\_\_  
or only on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Return survey to:  
**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**  
**P O Drawer 11399**  
**Hickory, NC 28603**  
or Fax:  
**828-256-6559**

**Return surveys by June 9, 2008**