

# THE MESSENGER

Volume 11 Issue 1

July 2003



## Special Points of Interest

- **Read all about the 2003 reunion in Jacksonville, FL in our cover story. Those not attending missed a good time.**
- **If you couldn't attend the reunion, see who you missed getting reacquainted with. Page two has a list of attendees.**
- **WELCOME MAT on page three should have some names you will recognize. Get in touch with an old pal.**
- **If anyone remembers Captain B. D. Claggett, MAIL CALL on page three and four has a letter from him.**
- **See what San Diego has to offer for your 2004 reunion. The highlights of the city are on pages four and five. Please return the survey also.**

## 2003 MCAAN REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

The 2003 MCAAN Group, comprising shipmates from the USS MARIAS AO-57, USS CADMUS AR-14, USS ARCADIA AD-23, USS AMPHION AR-13, and USS NANTAHALA AO-60 held their annual reunion May 01-04 at the Holiday Inn North, Jacksonville, FL. Ninety-two crewmembers and 71 spouses or guests attended the event. From all reports this ranks among the best reunions.

Reunion registration began Thursday morning and continued throughout the day. Shortly before noon the hospitality room opened, stocked with a supply of fresh coffee, soft drinks, and variety of snacks. The first "official"

function, the Welcome Reception, began at 1700 hrs. A cash bar and hors d'oeuvres served as the "ice-breaker" (as if one were needed for this group of friends.) Following the reception, thirty-eight members of the group went to the Alhambra Dinner Theater to see "Guys and Dolls."

After a private breakfast buffet over 100 members of the group boarded three busses for a visit to the Naval Station at Mayport. Visiting the base brought back many memories, and the inevitable comparison of today's navy and the "old" navy. All in all it was a great trip.

Dinner was attended by nearly 150 persons

who enjoyed a great spread of "southern-type" foods. Following the meal a tremendous amount of raw talent was displayed by the MCAAN Karaoke singers. The jury is still out on whether a new Elvis or Madonna was discovered, but it was fun.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, a perfect day to visit St Augustine, the oldest "continuously occupied" city in the United States. Well over 100 persons made this trip. One of the highlights included Magnolia Street, listed in the National Geographic as one of the most beautiful streets in America. We heard about Henry Flagler and his three wives and the many

*(Continued on page 2)*

buildings he built. Of course there was the Fountain of Youth and many other points of interest. There was enough free time for some "on-our-own" exploring. Some even took a buggy ride, visited Ripley's Believe it or Not or other attractions on St George's Street.

At the annual business meeting it was decided to hold the 2005 reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. San Diego, CA was chosen last year as the 2004 reunion site. In addition to his duties as Coordinator of USS MARIAS, Ray Bower was also retained as "over-all" MCAAN coordinator. Other ship's coordinators either elected or retained are: USS CADMUS—Bob Baschmann; USS AMPHION—Lloyd Stagg; USS ARCADIA—Andy Malone; USS NANTAHALA—Jack Gibbs.

Saturday night's banquet was of course the highlight of the reunion. Everyone dressed up, had their picture taken and enjoyed a wonderful evening of comradeship.

Sunday's farewell breakfast marked the beginning of the end. Following the breakfast buffet, a short memorial service was held to pay tribute to deceased shipmates. No one really wanted to be the first to leave, but the sad realization it was time to go set in. It was a somber and sad time. Handshakes and hugs abounded, and everyone's final words were, "See you next year!"

## 2003 REUNION ATTENDEES

### USS AMPHION (AR-13)

Jack & Jan Anders  
 Frank & Mary DeStefano  
 Eric Ericson  
 George & Dolores Feeley  
 Alvin & Barbara Grams  
 George Johnson  
 Albert & Dolores Kuiper  
 Eugene Michels  
 Henry & Marge Miller  
 Joe Monce  
 Robert Morgan  
 Perry & Violet Parks

Aldo Pistacchio  
 Melvin Price  
 Norman & Patricia Rose  
 Leroy & Hulda Scheidt  
 Harry Spruce, Sr. & Harry Spruce, Jr.  
 Lloyd & Beverly Stagg  
 James & Nancy Walsh  
 Lewis & Peg Willsea  
 Clarence Woodyard  
 Richard & LaDonna Zettel

### USS ARCADIA (AD-23)

Larry Ahladis  
 Maurice Balderson  
 Hermann & Elsie Bulach  
 Earl & Evelyn Clay  
 Dewey Fallen  
 Sylvia; Robert, Jr. & Paul-Ann Hein  
 Keith Johnson  
 Andrew & Connie Malone  
 Benjamin Puleo  
 Eugene & Maria Romanik  
 Arnold & Florence Salzberg  
 Joseph & Darlene Seck  
 Edward & Maxine Sweeney  
 James Wilson  
 Ernest & Georgia Wisyanski  
 Jerry & Ann Zuzolo

### USS CADMUS (AR-14)

Robert & Patricia Baschmann  
 David & Frances Delie  
 Louis & Guy Demino  
 Allen & Sylvia Gillette  
 Harold & Alma Glasser  
 Harry Gray, Jr. & Laurann Litchfield  
 James & Pat Hart  
 Harley Herndon  
 Ronald & Josephine Kurfirst  
 Gary & Deidre Metzger  
 Jerry & Gail Moore  
 Gerald & Patricia Petoskey  
 Charles & Peggy Riden  
 Francis Schmolke  
 Ronald & Mary Claudette Spiker  
 Stephen & Patricia Stevulak  
 John & Mary Tancer  
 Bobby & Freada Whitson

### USS MARIAS (AO-57)

Wilmer & Peggy Anderson  
 LeRoy & Jean Bollig  
 Ray & Alice Bower  
 Gerald & Marie Campbell  
 James & Judith Denio  
 Ron & Harlene Eggleston  
 Donald & Linda Griesback  
 Vernon & Georgia Hodde

Edward Hrobak  
 Roger Kolbrek & Trudy Steinberg  
 William & Dorothy Pence  
 Duane & Glenda Reagan  
 Winfield & Carmela Riley  
 Walter & Louise Scarlette  
 Pete & Barbara Stephens  
 Jimmy & Mary Ann Stout  
 Stephen & Connie Tagliarino  
 Mercer & Irene Trefethen  
 William & Bessie White  
 John Nave

### USS NANTAHALA (AO-60)

Walter & Joana Bergener  
 Richard & Linda Cooper  
 Thomas & Eileen Craig  
 William Dailey  
 Helen & Kayse Franklin  
 Robert & Shelly Froehlich  
 Jack & Rita Gibbs  
 Jerry & Elinda Harrison  
 Kenneth Hart  
 Terry & Shirley Landsberg  
 William & Allean McClintock  
 Elmer & Ida Merrell  
 Bruce & Dale Sanders  
 Karl & Naomi Schmitt  
 John & Sandra Stephan  
 James Tallon

**Total Members: 92**  
**Guests: 71**

**GRAND TOTAL: 163**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 04/03 **\$332.05**

Funds received since 04/03 issue  
**\$596.00**

Funds available for 07/03 issue  
**\$928.05**

Funds expended for 07/03 issue  
**\$1282.38**

Balance remaining for 10/03 issue  
**MINUS \$354.33**



## WELCOME MAT

The MCAAN Group proudly welcomes these recently located shipmates. If you see the name of an old buddy and you would like to have his address, just let ML&RS know by phone, mail or e-mail and we will be glad to give you the address. (Address is bottom right.)

### USS AMPHION

Charles Boatner (1959-62) SFP3  
James Buckner (1971) ET3  
Clarence Carter (1948-49) RDSN  
Michael DeMayo (1959-62) MM2  
Robert Montgomery FN  
George Sweeney (1955) CWO4

### USS ARCADIA

William Morse (1949-50) FT1  
Frederick Carver  
Sidney Raybin (1960-62)  
Tom Lutz  
Harold Mulvihill (1945-46) MM  
John McDonald (65-67) YN3  
Albert Walmer SK1  
Robert Berry (1963-66) MM1  
William George (1961-62) FN  
John Moore (1964-65) EM3  
Don Miller (1958-62) MM3  
Jim LaGrutta (Early '50s)  
William Nott (1963-67)  
August Zegelbrier (1951-52) DPT3  
Thomas Finn (1952-53)

### USS CADMUS

Phillip Porter (1964-67)  
Bernard Stardick  
Warren Ross (1952-53) DC1/DCC  
Charles Andrews (1954-56) EN1  
Roberto Lopez (1968-69)  
Jim Webber (1960-64)  
Steve Olieeri (1964-66)  
Louis Van Buren  
Jim Spell  
Ed Myers  
Thomas Carifio (1959-61)  
John Gough (1959-61)

### USS MARIAS

Emory Fetters PN1  
Jim Coyle (1961-64) RD3

Domenico Digiola (1955-58)  
William Love BT1  
Arthur Madrago HTFN  
Glen Bowers (1967-71) PC3  
Howard Peterson

### USS NANTAHALA

Robert Fritts (1956-57) PN3  
Buell Hulse (1956-57) SN  
Ed Douglas (1966-68)  
George Rickner (1952-56) QM3  
Paul Linscott (1961-64) IMC

**New E-mail address for Dewey Fallen**

[dpfallen@yahoo.com](mailto:dpfallen@yahoo.com)

## MCAAN GROUP COORDINATORS

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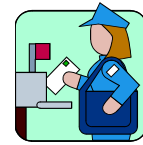
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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"



## MAIL CALL

Amphion Shipmates,

My father was Charles S. Eldred, OMC on the Amphion AR-13. I was always told that he was Chief Petty Officer. He was the Optical Instrument Foreman and the commanding officer was C.L. Clark. He probably walked around with a camera in his hands most of the time. When he left the Navy he worked at Kennedy Space Center as an optical technician, building cameras and telescopes for NASA, including the Apollo missions. He died the October following the lunar landing in 1969.

If you knew him, if you remember anything about him, please write to me.

Barbara Eldred Hawkins  
[fritz@millersonline.net](mailto:fritz@millersonline.net)

Shipmates,

I have attended the last nine MCAAN reunions and one of the questions always asked me is do you know or have you heard where so & so is.

Well, with the "Cadmus Can Do," I located the Captain of the Cadmus when I came aboard in January of 1959. With the little help of the computer and help from the Navy Memorial, I received the following letter.

Dear Francis,

It was certainly a treat to receive your recent letter inquiring about my health and well being. It's always a delight to receive a message from an old shipmate. You may tell the lads at the reunion that I am still kicking around. We are now living at Mapewood, a retire-

ment community which is very nice as far as retirement communities go.

I'm legally blind, but capable of manning around and reading with a machine which is invaluable to me. As you see, my correspondence is done by my faithful secretary. I wish I could join you at the connection and renew old friendships.

Poppy joins me in sending you and all the others our best regards.

Sincerely,  
B. D. Claggett

I also talked to George Lackey YNCA who resides in Jacksonville, FL. He sends regards. In a sad note, the passing of two of the officers who were onboard the Cadmus: Lt. Hayder, Eng. Dept. and CWO Boastswain Farthing.

It was good seeing old friends and meeting new ones. See you in San Diego in 2004.

Smokey (Francis Schmolke)  
USS Cadmus '59-61

### FACTS ABOUT SAN DIEGO

- San Diego is California's second largest city and the United State's seventh largest city.
- It's citywide population is nearly 1.3 million residents and more than 2.8 million countywide.
- Balboa Park is the largest urban cultural park in the U.S.
- San Diego is 120 miles south of Los Angeles and 20 miles north of Tijuana, Mexico.
- San Diego is known for its near-idyllic climate.
- San Diego is the birthplace of California. The area was claimed for Spain in 1542 by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo when he landed in what is now San Diego Bay.

## 2004 REUNION TO BE IN SAN DIEGO APRIL 29—MAY 2 AT HANDLERY HOTEL

San Diego is a great location to host a reunion. The dates for the reunion have been confirmed for **April 29— May 2, 2004** at the **Handlery Hotel**. Read the brief description of some of San Diego's famous sites, then let us know in the survey which ones you want on your agenda.

The history of modern San Diego begins with Alonzo Horton, the former New Englander. In 1867, he purchased nearly 1,000 jackrabbit-infested acres (for about 27 cents each) along the harbor, initially giving away lots to anyone who would agree to build on them. By the turn of the century, "New Town" contained more than 300 buildings and had replaced Old Town as the center of San Diego commerce.

As we explore the downtown you will see Horton's legacy lives on in the unique citadel of shopping and dining that bears his name, **Horton Plaza**, located in Gaslamp Quarter where Horton's development first began.

The 16-block **Gaslamp Quarter** has become the hottest place since the development of Horton Plaza in 1985 and the creation of San Diego Convention Center. Also, there are round-the-clock activities in the area with shops, galleries, coffee houses, theatre spaces and dozens of restaurants.

On the waterfront is the **San Diego Maritime Museum** showcasing San Diego's rich maritime past. It consists of the century-old windjammer *Star of India*, the steam ferry *Berkeley* and the luxury yacht *Medea*.

We have established a very good relationship with the Public Affairs Office on the Naval Base, and barring alerts, or some other special occasion, we can normally arrange a guided tour on an active duty ship. We of course have no control over the type of ship. One reunion we hosted in San Diego got a 3 1/2 hour tour of USS VAL-

LEY FORGE and were treated like VIPs. It was the highlight of the reunion for many of the men.

Along the Embarcadero toward the Convention Center you'll find not only the city's working tuna fleet but also part of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet. The city's maritime history is actively commemorated in Seaport Village, a 14-acre waterfront shopping and dining complex that recalls the days when cargo ships would make the dangerous journey from New England around Cape Horn.

Downtown San Diego encompasses much more than the harbor area. The most famous attraction is **Balboa Park**, another reminder of Alonzo Horton's civic vision. Just north of the central business district, the park covers 1,200 lush acres and contains some of the most fantastic architecture ever assembled in one place:

**13 Museums**  
**Art Galleries,**  
**Reuben H Fleet Space Theater**  
**and Science Center**  
**Simon Edison Centre for**  
**the Performing Arts**  
**San Diego Junior Theatre**  
**Starlight Bowl**  
**California Tower**  
(with its working 100-bell carillon)

Balboa Park is also the home of the world-famous **San Diego Zoo**, which houses 800 different species in the enclosures carefully designed to resemble the animals' natural habitat. The entire Zoo is designed as a 100-acre tropical garden and can be visited on foot and on a special three-mile guided bus tour.

Just across the harbor from downtown San Diego lies the quaint village of **Coronado** which is accessible by the four-lane, two mile long San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. It is also connected to the mainland on the south by a long, narrow sandbar known as the **Silver Strand**. The jewel in the Crown City

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is the historic and fascinating **Hotel del Coronado**, which has attracted the rich and famous since its opening in 1888.

The north end of Coronado is occupied by **North Island Naval Air Station**, and the east is the headquarters for the Naval Amphibious Base.

The scenic drive down the Silver Strand will take us just across the border into Mexico to **Tijuana**. Tijuana is a shoppers mecca, and even if you don't spend a peso, the trip is worthwhile.

Now decide which of these attractions you would like to see on the agenda for your reunion. Mark them on the survey form on the right and return it to us so we can customize the activities according to your wishes. We want to make your reunion truly yours by giving you what you want. Please let your voice be heard. Registration packets will be mailed approximately 90 days before the reunion is scheduled.

\_\_\_\_\_

### LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THE GROUP?

This issue is being mailed to all MCAAN members on the mailing list. For the past several issues, we have only been able to send the newsletter by e-mail because of the low funding. This will most likely be the last issue of the MCAAN Messenger, because all funds have been exhausted for this issue. You will still receive mailings concerning the reunions, but it will be necessary to cease publication of the newsletter unless sufficient funds are received by October. Publication and mailing of the newsletter requires almost \$1300 per issue. As of now, your newsletter fund has a \$354.33 deficit. Any contributions we receive above the deficit amount, will be returned if not enough money is collected for the mailing of a newsletter in October. We appreciate all the persons who have contributed in the past, and we regret that we may not be able to continue publication.

ML&RS, Inc.

## 2004 MCAAN REUNION SURVEY-SAN DIEGO, CA APRIL 29—MAY 2

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the Chairmen's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**  
P O Box 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

**Or Fax: 828-256-6559**

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening?  yes  no;  
If yes, would you prefer only an hors d'oeuvre platter \_\_\_\_\_  
or a hamburger/hot dog or soup & sandwich type dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group \_\_\_\_\_  
or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you prefer the hotel Luau on Friday night \_\_\_\_\_  
or have the evening free \_\_\_\_\_?

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet ?  
 yes  no

Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda :

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaslamp Quarter                     | <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Zoo   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego Maritime Museum           | <input type="checkbox"/> Coronado        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naval Air Station & Amphibious Base | <input type="checkbox"/> Point Loma      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embarcadero                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tijuana, Mexico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seaport Village                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Horton Plaza    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balboa Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Town        |

Your comments and suggestions are welcome:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED OUT APPROXIMATELY  
90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE REUNION.**