

THE MESSENGER

Volume 12 Issue 4

July 2005

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



Special Points of Interest

- **The 2005 MCAAN reunion is recapped in our cover story. See what a great time everyone had at Myrtle Beach.**
- **A list of reunion attendees is found on page two. Make plans to join them next year in Chicago.**
- **Mail Call, beginning on page four, has three letters from the sons of former MCAAN shipmates. Two of them would like to hear from you.**
- **Smokey (Francis Schmolke) submitted his report of the reunion on page five. He closed the bar most nights, as you will read.**
- **The next MCAAN reunion dates are already set. See page six for details. Please return the survey on page seven.**

2005 MCANN REUNION IN REVIEW

The 2005 reunion of the USS MARIAS, USS CADMUS, USS AMPHION, USS ARCADIA and the USS NANTAHALA was held on April 21-24 at the Crown Reef IV in Myrtle Beach, SC. Sixty-six members and fifty-four guests attended the reunion. Registration for attendees began around noon on Thursday, with the hospitality room also opening with refreshments for the weary travelers. The hospitality room quickly became a hot spot of activities as everyone popped in to see who had arrived recently. Most stayed to talk and become acquainted with old friends or to make new ones from an era other than their own. At 5:00 PM that evening, the first official event

of the reunion was held. The welcome reception brought everyone together for the first time. Newcomers were welcomed and everyone enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks from the bar. The evening was free to enjoy having dinner at the hotel or to explore one of the multitude of restaurants in Myrtle Beach area. Most people returned from dinner to the hospitality room for some serious reminiscing long into the night.

On Friday morning everyone enjoyed a private breakfast buffet between 7:30 and 8:30 AM, and then were free to explore Myrtle Beach's many attractions or to just socialize at the hotel with shipmates. The hospitality room was open all day with coffee, soft drinks,

and later on with snacks. At 5:00 PM there was a "Mandatory Roll Call" for the social hour before sitting down to an indoor hot dog/hamburger cook-out. Following dinner, some attendees had plans to attend one of the shows in the Myrtle Beach area, while others opted to stay and participate in some "self" entertainment. A "Name that Tune" contest was held where a song was played, then the participants were to name the artist, the title and the next line in the song. Afterwards an auction was held, with gifts that had been brought by the attendees, representative of their state or hometown. The auction raised \$596.00 for the newsletter. It was a fun

time for all.

After breakfast on Saturday, the business meeting was held. Andy Malone, along with Jim Tallon and Francis Schmolke, led the discussions. A discussion of the 2006 reunion slated for the Chicago area was held. Fall River, MA, was chosen as the 2007 reunion site and Jim Tallon was selected as Coordinator for the next year. After the meeting, the rest of the day was free to enjoy all that Myrtle Beach has to offer its visitors. Some did some serious shopping at Barefoot Landing, Broadway on the Beach or Tanger Outlets, while some visited Brookgreen Gardens or took a driving tour of the surrounding area. Some, of course, just wanted to hang out in the hospitality room and share stories. (They probably had the best time of all!) Everyone came together again at 6:30 PM for the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session. While enjoying their favorite beverage, photos were taken of each attendee or couple, as well as some group shots. Afterwards everyone moved on to the banquet room for the most anticipated event of the reunion—the MCAAN banquet. Following the delicious meal, the memorial service was held to remember those shipmates who have passed away, especially those since the last reunion. A bell tolled as each name was read from the Honor Roll. Following the ceremony, a plaque was presented to Louis Demino's son, Guy, for his support through the years. It was a very touching presentation. After the program, there was music for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure.

Sunday morning's breakfast brought an end to a wonderful reunion. Good byes, handshakes and hugs were heard and seen everywhere, as each attendee had to begin his journey back home. Most all of the shipmates and guests are now planning to attend the 2006 reunion in Chicago, so you won't want to miss it either. Hope to see you there.

2005 REUNION ATTENDEES

USS AMPHION

Michael & Catherine Bacha
David Bartz
Joseph Crew
Robert Crew
Frank & Mary DeStefano
Ronald & Donna Fralick
Burlin Hallenbeck & Jackie Beck
Gary & Myrna Hallenbeck
Ronald Hendrix
Eugene Holler
Robert Morgan
James Norwood (Also on Cadmus)
Larry & Carolyn Norwood-Small
Leroy & Hulda Scheidt
Eugene & Sue Sereno
John & Patricia Sleasman
Lloyd & Beverly Stagg
James & Nancy Walsh
Lewis & Arlene (Peg) Willsea
George & Edna Mae Witry
Richard & LaDonna Zettel

ARCADIA

Larry Ahladis & Marlene Renn
Maurice Balderson
William & Elizabeth Berry
Hermann & Elise Bulach
Earl & Evelyn Clay
Dewey Fallen
Sylvia, Paul-Ann & Robert Hein, Jr.
Roderick & Linda Langevin
Arthur & Judith Leach
Andrew & Constance Malone
Alan & Paula O'Shea
John Reid & Hazel Loooper
Arnold & Florence Salzberg
Joseph & Darlene Seck
Edward & Maxine Sweeney
Ernest & Georgia Wisyanski

CADMUS

James Abbott
Lawrence & Elouise Burke
Louis & Guy Demino
Ralph & Mary Ann Fetner
Urban & Kathy Fritz
Allen, Sylvia & Todd Gillette
High & Marie Hammer
John Mesawitz
Jerry & Gail Moore
Lewis & Jean Reynolds
Francis Schmolke
Jim & Lynne Tallon
Bobby & Freada Whitson

MARIAS

Wilmer & Peggy Anderson
Barry Angell
LeRoy & Oneita "Jean" Bollig
George & Betty Cale
Gerald & Marie Campbell
Roy & Nancy Lindsay
William & Dorothy Pence
Stefani & Greg Porter
Robert Bisek
Lynn Deathridge
Duane & Glenda Reagan
William & Joanne Rice
Winfield Riley
Herb Smith
Walter & Louise Scarlette
Carl & Betty Siegel
Jimmy & Mary Ann Stout
George & Joan Verspoor
William & Bessie White

Total Members : 66
Guests: 54
Grand Total: 120

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
jimsz34@aol.com

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.

USS ARCADIA COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

I am really disappointed in the turnout for the last 2 reunions. I understand San Diego being a little far to travel and perhaps expensive for some. Myrtle Beach was much closer and in the range both in area and finance for many of the men we have found. To have only 13 people show up was a shame. The next 2 years we will be up in the North area at Great Lakes for '06 and Fall River for '07. We aren't getting any younger and if we hope to see old friends, we ought to do it now before we can't travel at all. Sure hope to see a good turnout in '06.

Andy Malone

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 04/05

\$1030.67

Funds received since 04/05 issue

\$838.75

Funds available for 07/05 issue

\$1869.42

Funds expended for 07/05 issue

\$130.00

Balance remaining for 10/05

\$1739.42

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 6.

FOR SALE
MARIAS PATCHES 1950s ERA
\$7.50

CONTACT:
JOHN A. NAVE
314 N. CLINTON
OLATHE, KS 66061



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.

Due to the large number of names, we will not have space to print all the addresses, however, if you recognize a name and would like to have the address, just let ML&RS, Inc know and we will be glad to provide you with the address.

USS AMPHION

Gary Ganguillet (1971) DP2 S1 Div

Lt. Michael Bacha (1970-71)

Harold Johansson ('54-56) MM3 E Div

John Roders

Raymond Tondreau (1952-56) SH3

Bill Koenig (1961-62) EM2

USS ARCADIA

Robert Thompson (1965-67) IC3

Robert Holmes (1966-68) EN3

Ed Orsulak

Alan O'Shea (1961-62) MR3

Richard Brusadin

Roderick Langevin (1962-65) SFP2

Lewis Sherrill

CADMUS

Fred Walter

John Collins (1966) EN3

Charles Saxon (1952-53)

Harold Fingand

James Norwood (1953-55) 1/c Sec 2

L. Parker (1966-68)

Jack Malloy (1965-66)

John Mesawitz ('54-56) SN HM Striker

Claude White, Jr. (1958)

Jimmy Duncan (1964-66)

MARIAS

Richard Brophy

Herbert Wallace

Rodney Ratliff

NANTAHALA

Archie Hanna, Jr. ('59-61) SN 2nd Div

Warren Klotz

George Worsley ('59-61) LTJG Supply

Paul Folmer, Sr



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.

James McKissick
USS Nantahala 1946-47
Died April 27, 2005

CWO3 Lawrence Van Brookhover
USS Amphion 1954-57
Died August 20, 2004

James Wagnor
USS Cadmus 1953-57
Died February 15, 1999

James Wyman
USS Cadmus 1958-60
Died September 20, 2004

Ellis Augustine ('48-52) Plankowner
USS Cadmus Fireman 7th Div
Died April 26, 2005

Arthur Hiltke USS Cadmus
Died January 2005

Alexander Neil USS Arcadia
Died September 20, 2003

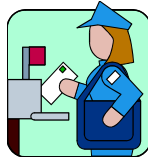
John Rasco
USS Amphion 1948-53 6th Div
Date of death not reported

Frank Moore
USS Arcadia 1967-68 BM1
Date of death not reported

Ray Burnette
USS Amphion FC1 10th /Repair
Died October 1, 2004

Norman Rose
USS Amphion SF3/SF2
Died May 12, 2004

Robert Bisek
USS Marias 1965-67 MM3 M Div
Date of death not reported



MAIL CALL

Dear Mr. Baschman,

I thought I'd drop you a line and let you know before your reunion that my father, Arthur Hiltke, a one-time member of the USS Cadmus crew, passed away in January 2005. As an avid reader of *Sea Classic* magazine, I know he always scanned the Reunions Section first, and in kind, I immediately noticed the announcement of the April 21-24 reunion in the March edition. I don't think he would have went if he was alive and well; he was definitely a "home body" if you know what I mean, but he certainly would have taken pleasure in seeing one of his old ships listed.

I unfortunately cannot give you specifics on when he was on the ship. I know that he was in boot camp for the last few weeks of the Korean War and was in the Navy for 3 years, so I can narrow it to 1953-1956 or so. I believe he dropped out of high school to join the Navy at 17, which I'm told was not uncommon for young men at that age who were boys during World War II and wanted to sign up then. He served on the USS Cadmus and the USS Recovery during that time and I think he was on the Cadmus first. He was a boat-swain mate, I believe.

After the Navy he went on to a driving career, first in busses, and then 18-wheelers, and lived his whole life in northern New Jersey. Nothing, though, could get the sailor out of him, and most of his time was occupied by reading maritime history and similar books and magazines. He remained an avid saltwater angler (he worked as a mate for Jersey Shore party boats before and after the Navy), and got on the water as often as he could. He often spoke of his Navy days with such fondness that one would think he put in his 20 years!

Arthur had 7 children with his

wife, Jane (also deceased), 2 of which joined the service; one the Coast Guard and one in the Navy. We were fortunate to arrange a Naval graveside ceremony where two upstanding young Sailors presented the Colors to my oldest brother.

The Hiltke family hopes you have a wonderful and meaningful reunion.

Thomas J. Hiltke, PhD.

Hello,

I'm an historian and the son of a WWII Pacific LST officer. I'm currently researching the typhoon that Third Fleet encountered off the Philippines on 18 December 1944 (which subsequently became known as typhoon COBRA.) I noticed that you're listed by the naval Institute press website as organizer for a proposed reunion, so I thought I would contact you. According to my research, Marias (AO-57) and Nantahala (AO-60) were involved in the December 1944 typhoon (please excuse me if I've gotten this wrong). I'd be interested in corresponding with or interviewing anyone who would care to share memories of steaming through that particular storm. I'm set up to do phone interviews, but I might also be interested in attending the reunion, if my attendance and interviews would be allowed. While my main focus is on COBRA, I'd also be interested in hearing experiences of typhoon VI-PER (June 1945) or any details of operations around the Philippines in late '44 or early '45 (from Leyte Gulf onward). If anyone reading this happens to know of someone who remembers these events who might be interested in talking to me about these things, please do let him know. You may reach me via e-mail at:

melton_bf@mercer.edu
or at a special account I've set up for this project,

ruefulscribe@bellsouth.net.

My thanks to all veterans of whatever era for your service to our

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)
country.

Regards,
Buckner F. Melton, Jr. PH.D.
Distinguished Writer-in-Residence
Mercer University
400 Poplar St
Macon, GA 31201

MCAAN Newsletter,

I have found my personnel items from my time on the USS Amphion AR-13 and there are two "Liberty Belt Buckles." It was worn when you went on liberty. This buckle would only be wanted by another who was on the Amphion. Maybe someone would like to trade for something. I do collect Zippo Lighters.

My second question is I am trying to find a Bill Oliver who was in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Bravo Company. He was in Vietnam in 1968-1969. I have come in to possession of a piece of his property and would like to return it to him. I am sure that he would like to have it back. His name is not on the "Wall" so I have to believe that he made it back to the world. Please contact me if there is anything you can do for me on either request.

Norman L Bumm
420 W Brooke Ave
Magnolia, NJ 08049
856-783-8421
threebs@eticomm.net

Greetings,

My father was on the USS Amphion AR-13 sometime between 1968 and 1969. He was in the Navy, 1st Division, as a Seaman, and worked paint for the most part. His name was Merle E. Fisher. He passed away 05/10/2002.

I'm trying to find others that may have known him. In a few of his letters to my mother (at the time, his fiancé), he's mentioned a Karl Kitchen and a Steve or Robbie/Robby Holloway (I'm not sure if this is one person or two different peo-

ple).

If anyone knew my father while on the ship or during their service in the Navy, please have them contact me at:

nailsc33@yahoo.com.

Thanks.

Sincerely,
Christina M. Fisher

MCAAN REUNION MYRTLE BEACH, SC

21 APR THRU 24 APR 2005

I flew down on Tues the 19th and was met at the airport by Lou Demino with his son Guy, who came down a couple of hours earlier from Copiague, NY. They had checked in earlier at the Crown IV so we went back so I could check in and then get something to eat. Well, I checked in and was ready to get my things into my room when we were met by some people that Lou and Guy met when they checked in. They were down for a Division reunion from the carrier USS Midway. We met the rest of the S Div that were there. After lunch we walked down about a block and waited for the local bus and headed up to North Myrtle Beach. The wait was over half an hour. We wound up at the Hard Rock Café and a few other shops. By that time it was time to head back and meet our friends from the Midway to help close up the bar that night. We got up around 9:00 AM, had breakfast and saw the ladies that came from ML&RS to take care of the reunion. After that we headed back to N. Myrtle Beach for the rest of the day. Had dinner at the Crab Shack and checked out Broadway at the Beach. We got back to the Crown Reef and some people started checking in. They saw Lou and the first thing they asked was, "Where's Guy?" Well, that night we helped the Midway boys close the bar again.

Thursday we got up late and checked in and met more shipmates coming in for the reunion. Around 5:00 P{M we had a short welcome gathering for newcomers and then

we were on our own. Yes, we closed the bar again.

Friday we got up a few hours earlier and had breakfast with the rest of the MCAAN group. The rest of the time we were on our own till we got together for dinner and did a game of musical name that tune. Then we started up all the auction where all the money went to the newsletter. Things from baseball caps to coffee mugs to wild rice to crafts, shot glasses, mementoes from hometowns and home states were brought in. It was a big success. We got \$600.00 toward the newsletter. After that we helped close the bar again.

Saturday morning was a group breakfast and then we had our business meeting to see where we wanted to go for the year 2007. Fall River, MA won out. The rest of the day we were on our own till we had our happy hour and started taking photos for the group and single shots of who all came down. After that we had our Memorial Service. Then I got up and with the help of Paul Ann Hein we presented a plaque to Guy Demino for his faithfulness in coming down with his father Lou almost since the Cadmus had been with the group. This has been my 11th reunion. Guy has been coming down taking time from his job to be with his dad and the rest of the crew. He has done this on his own free will and has been well received at all the reunions. Guy, JOB WELL DONE. After that we had a DJ for the dancing and after that we went downstairs and met our friends off the Midway and the couple that got married on the beach that afternoon. There were two weddings that afternoon.

Sunday we had our breakfast and had said farewell till we meet again next year up in Great Lakes and go back to boot camp. In all it was good and was good to see the group again and the first timers that attended. Good Lord willing, will see you next year.

Smokey (Francis Schmolke)
Cadmus 59-61

2006 MCAAN REUNION—MAY 4-7, CHICAGO AREA

Chicago is the city chosen by the MCAAN group for its 2006 reunion site. Your choice is certainly a good one, as there are many, many sites and activities in the Chicago area—far more than can be seen during a short reunion stay. We have chosen a few of the most popular attractions to describe for you here and ask that you choose those you would most like to visit. As usual, we request that you read the descriptions and then fill out and return the survey to ML&RS by October 3, 2005.

ABOUT THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Nicknamed the “Windy City,” Chicago is located on Lake Michigan and is the third largest city in the United States with over 8 million people. Also called the “City with the Big Shoulders,” it has made itself known as a working-man’s city. It is the commercial, financial, industrial and cultural center for a vast region and a mid-continental shipping point. Chicago covers over 200 sq. mi. and extends more than 20 miles along the lakefront. Its downtown section is called the Loop because of the huge rectangle of elevated railways, expressways and boulevards that extend into and around the heart of the city. Come explore Chicago in May of 2006.

ATTRACTIONS

Great Lakes Naval Training Center—Commissioned in 1911, Great Lakes Training Center has remained the Navy’s largest training center and home to the Navy’s only Recruit Training Command, more commonly known as “boot camp.” Since WWI, more than 2 million new sailors have passed through the Recruit Training Command and an equal number through its technical schools. There are currently more than 16,700 active duty and 2,400 civilians assigned to the base.

We have already booked seating for the Friday, May 5th graduation ceremony. This will be

an early wake-up call, because we will have to be seated by 8:00 AM at Great Lakes for the ceremony. Keep in mind also, that this will be an all-day trip, leaving only one other day for other tours. This is truly an awe-inspiring ceremony and one that is always a favorite with any group that is lucky enough to be able to attend.

Narrated City Tour of Chicago—A fully narrated riding tour of the city would include an overview of the city’s sites such as the **Sears Tower**, the **Navy Pier**, and other famous buildings and monuments. See buildings designed by famous architects such as **Frank Lloyd Wright** and **I.M. Pei**. A ride along **South Lake Shore Drive** between **Hyde Park** and downtown is especially worthwhile for its spectacular views of the downtown skyline and the lake. A stop will probably be made at the **Navy Pier** for some shopping and at the **Museum of Science and Industry**. (Actual stops will be determined by the chosen tour company contracted for the tour.) This is your chance to see the city in an easy, relaxed, unhassled way.

Drury Lane Dinner Theater—This facility is a 971-seat proscenium style live theater featuring musicals, comedy, Hollywood personalities and dinner theater. This would have to be for a Thursday or Friday night activity.

Billy Graham Museum—Take pleasure in a unique visual overview of the history of Christian evangelism and its influence on American society. Beginning with the early history of America and climaxing with a powerful 3-D presentation of the Gospel message. The Billy Graham Museum is a division of Wheaton College.

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum—View the many artifacts, paintings, sculptures, memoirs donated by fellow veterans.

Brookfield Zoo—One of the coun-

try’s largest zoos, it houses more than 2,800 animals representing 425 different species—many living in award winning indoor immersion exhibits. Its permanent exhibits include: Habitat Africa!, a five-acre savannah exhibit that highlights Africa’s diverse wildlife; The Swamp, featuring the wonders of wetlands, and The Living Coast, featuring Humboldt penguins, green sea turtles, small sharks, vampire bats and free flying birds.

Shedd Aquarium—See the world’s largest indoor aquarium, home to approximately 8,000 aquatic animals from around the globe. There are recreations of aquatic environments from around the world, including major exhibits focusing on the Pacific Northwest coastline, the Amazon River and Caribbean coral reef. You have underwater views of everything from beluga whales to piranhas to sea-turtles.

Now that you have read about some of the attractions in the Chicago area, please take a moment to fill out and return the survey on the next page. We will use your responses to develop an agenda for your reunion. Please let your voice be heard.

Published By:

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E-mail contacts:

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karenmlrs@charterinternet.com

www.mlrsinc.com

“Our Reunions Work So You Don’t Have To”

**2006 MCAAN REUNION
CHICAGO/GREAT LAKES AREA HILTON LISLE HOTEL
MAY 4—7, 2006**

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 chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

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

Fax: 828-256-6559

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening?

yes no

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group?

or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday?

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet ?

yes no

Activities: *Please indicate which activities, other than the Great Lakes Training Center, you would like to see on your reunion agenda.*

Narrated City Tour of Chicago

Drury Lane Dinner Theater

Billy Graham Museum

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

Brookfield Zoo

Shedd Aquarium

Your suggestions and comments are welcome:

If you have questions, call **828-256-6008** or e-mail
dinamlrs@charterinternet.com

RETURN SURVEYS BY OCTOBER 3, 2005

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