

# THE MESSENGER

Volume 14 Issue 3

July 2007

## 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

- **Read about the 2007 MCAAN reunion in the cover story. We hope this will encourage you to join us next year in Mobile, AL!**
- **See a list of reunion attendees on page two. Join them next year for a great time!**
- **Seven new members are listed under Welcome Mat on page three. Help us find more members by sending in names of friends you remember from your days on board.**
- **Help with the planning of the 2008 reunion in Mobile, AL by reading the preview of attractions found on pages three and four. Then fill out the survey and we will plan your reunion according to your wishes.**

### 2007 SEEKONK, MA REUNION RECAP

The MCAAN Group, consisting of former sailors of the USS Marias, USS Cadmus, USS Amphion, USS Arcadia and USS Nantahala, held their annual reunion on April 26—29, 2007 at the Johnson & Wales Inn in Seekonk, MA. Forty-four members attended, along with twenty-nine of their guests. The good times began on Thursday around noon as soon as the first arrivals got registered and headed for the hospitality room. Handshakes and slaps on the back were seen all afternoon as more and more arrivals made their way into the room. Finally at 5:00 P.M. the first official event of the reunion was scheduled. The Welcome Reception gave everyone a chance to see the entire

group at once, while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Phyllis Adams, ML&RS, Inc site manager, welcomed the group, then Francis "Smoky" Schmolke spoke briefly to the attendees. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing evening with old friends and enjoyed making new friends with the first time attendees.

Friday's weather did not cooperate very well, as rain and fog blanketed the area all day. However, the show must go on, so everyone bundled up and trekked to the motor coach for the trip to Newport, RI and a drive along Ocean Drive and Bellevue Avenue. A stop was made at the famous "summer cottage" of Cornelius Vanderbilt, The Breakers. This 70 room

estate was modeled after a northern Italian Renaissance palace and was built in 1895 for the Vanderbilt family. It was unbelievable to see how "the other half" lived! After lunch the tour proceeded to Newport Navy Base and the Naval War College Museum. The Navy War College is the oldest school of its kind in the world and is the highest professional education institution in the U.S. Navy. The museum focuses on the art and science of naval warfare, chiefly as studied at the Naval War College through the years. After returning to the hotel and getting dried off, everyone came back together for the evening meal, pre-

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pared and served by the staff of Johnson & Wales. The sit-down dinner was truly spectacular—to be expected from the soon-to-be world famous chefs. After dinner the entertainment consisted of a Yankee swap gift exchange. Gifts brought from each attendee's hometown were given a number, then a drawing was held to see who got each gift—and who got to keep it without having it taken away by the next person! Everyone seemed pleased with the gift they ended up with and it proved to be a good way to end the dinner. The rest of the evening was mostly spent in the hospitality room, getting caught up on sea tales.

Saturday morning brought a new day and the sun! It was a welcome sight because today was the day everyone had been anticipating—the trip to Battleship Cove in Fall River. Here is the home of the battleship USS Massachusetts; the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.; the submarine USS Lionfish; a landing craft and two PT boats. A narrated tour was available or a self-guided tour, whichever suited one best. As the group toured the ships, many remarks were heard about something that sparked a memory from long ago. Lunch was served to the group in the Ward Room of the USS Massachusetts and it was a far cry from that Navy food that so many remembered! The tour concluded after lunch and returned to the hotel so the group could conduct their annual business meeting. No one was named to be the new Reunion Coordinator, but Mobile, AL was chosen as the 2008 reunion site and Charleston, SC for the 2009 reunion. The rest of the afternoon was free to relax and prepare for the banquet that evening. The pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session began at 6:30 P.M., with time for meeting anyone who may have come in just for the banquet. At 7:30 P.M. the MCAAN Group banquet began with welcoming remarks made by Francis “Smokey” Schmolke and he introduced all the new shipmates in attendance. Duane Regan gave the Invo-

cation. The attendees again enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Johnson & Wales and also the company of old friends. Following the meal, the Memorial Service which was in memory of all the MCAAN sailors who had passed away, especially those since the last reunion, was conducted. Joseph Caputo was in charge of the service, with James Denio reading the list of deceased and Francis Schmolke assisting. The service was concluded with the playing of “Taps.”

Sunday morning concluded the 2007 reunion of the MCAAN Group with a private breakfast buffet and a short closing ceremony thanking everyone for attending and wishing everyone a safe journey home. Handshakes and hugs were again seen all around, as the words, “See you in Mobile next year,” were spoken time and time again.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Balance from 04/07  
**\$1910.67**  
 Funds received since 04/07 issue  
**\$175.00 (from reunion)**  
 Funds available for 07/07 issue  
**\$2085.67**  
 Funds expended for 07/07 issue  
**\$91.16**  
 Balance remaining for 10/07  
**\$1994.51**

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.

**2007 REUNION ATTENDEES**

**USS AMPHION**

Duane & Glenda Reagan (also on Marias)  
 Wayne Boiteau  
 Lonnie Braxton  
 Raymond & Renee Brown  
 Randy & Beverly Brown  
 Frank & Mary DeStefano  
 Robert Morgan  
 Leroy & Hulda Scheidt  
 John & Patricai Sleasman  
 James & Nancy Walsh

**USS ARCADIA**

Maurice & Karen Balderson  
 William & Elizabeth Berry  
 Hermann & Elise Bulach  
 Earl Clay  
 Ted & Barbara Crawford  
 Christopher & Meranda Crawford  
 Dewey Fallen  
 William & Linda Horan  
 Keith Johnson  
 Arthur & Judith Leach  
 Andrew & Constance Malone  
 Joseph Massini  
 James McManus  
 Terry & Majorie Montgomery  
 Fred Norrick  
 Edward & Maxine Sweeney

James Wilson

**USS CADMUS**

John Akstin (also on Marias)  
 Robert Brown, Sr  
 Urban & Kathleen Fritz  
 Allen & Sylvia Gillette  
 Todd & Deanna Gillette  
 David & Alice Gipe  
 Mrs. Harold Puckett  
 Robert Puckett  
 Francis Schmolke  
 John & Joan Soper

**USS MARIAS**

Joseph & Marie Ann Caputo  
 Donald & Barbara Fodor  
 James & Judith Denio  
 Winfield Riley  
 Pete Stephens

**USS NANTAHALA**

Earl Hayes  
 Gary & Pamela Pouliot  
 Marshall Rosen

**Total Members: 44**  
**Guests: 29**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 73**



## 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 ARCADIA

**Brad Hall** (1946-47)  
38 Preston Pl  
North Easton, MA 02356  
508-238-9044

### USS AMPHION

**Bruce Davis**  
(1964-66) DC3 Repair  
2222 Lake Pickett Rd  
Orlando, FL 32826  
407-380-1700  
bandeddavis@bellsouth.net

**Jeffrey Kurtzman**  
(1962-66) OM2 R-4 Div  
22245 Hedgepath  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660-665-0428  
Kurtzmanmarktwin.net

**Clarence Browne**  
(1955-59) FN E Div  
26 Center Ave  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845-452-2889

### USS CADMUS

**Dr. Norman Shmagin**  
(1946)Corpsman  
8975 Golf Rd Unit 805  
Niles, IL 60714

**Leonard Webster**  
(1965-67) MR3 R-2 Div  
127 Circle St  
Bristol, CT 06010  
860-261-4682  
webster127@comcast.net

### USS MARIAS

**Douglas Lankford** (BTFN)  
120 Harbor Run Dr  
Coldspring, TX 77331  
281-777-7066



## 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.

**Richard Dumont**  
Date of death not reported

**Bernard Bay** (SF3)  
Died 2004

## Your Stories Needed!

Please send in your stories & memorabilia that you have saved such as pictures, old newsletters, letters from the captain, etc. for the newsletter. We need your help with material! Send to the address below, ATTN: Karen

### Published By:

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

## MOBILE, AL FOR 2008

The 2008 reunion of the MCAAN Group will be held in Mobile, AL. Read and see what Mobile has to offer its visitors.

### ABOUT THE CITY

Mobile is probably best known for its white sandy beaches on the Gulf Coast, but it also has a rich history that goes beyond its seafood-and-sand reputation. Mobile was first settled by the French who were looking for a place to stake their claims in the New World. They built Fort Conde as their military headquarters as they explored the area. The area passed hands among the French, English and Spanish several times in those early days, until the United States acquired Mobile in 1813. "King Cotton" and the industries that accompanied it saw the economy boom in the 1850s. Later, railroads, shipbuilding and paper and chemical manufacturing and petroleum refining took over. Jobs in modern Mobile center around chemical production, cargo handling, and construction.

Maybe you weren't aware that Mobile has an elaborate Mardi Gras celebration! Complete with floats, beads and moon pies, their celebration comes in the two weeks before Lent. Parades, balls and other receptions are a big part of the event. A little tamer than the New Orleans Mardi Gras, Mobile's celebration is more family oriented.

Today Mobile is a city of beautiful oak lined streets, shading lovely old mansions. Museums display the diverse history of this part of our country. Mobile commemorates the past, but lives fully in the present.

### ATTRACTIONS

**Cathedral of Immaculate Conception**—Located in downtown Mobile,

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this cathedral was built between 1835-1849, and is listed as one of Mobile's oldest churches. It occupies the site used by Mobile's first settlers as a burial ground. Beautiful stained-glass windows and polished marble designs decorate the basilica.

**Fort Conde**—Mobile's welcome center was built in the early 1700s as a French fort. Reconstructed and furnished as it appeared in 1702, the fort features facsimiles of 18th century artillery demonstrated by costumed tour guides. Museum rooms detail past Mardi Gras celebrations and the origins of the city.

**The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab**—This beautiful aquarium, with exciting visual displays and engaging interactive activities, will give you a first-hand view of the ecosystems of the Mobile Bay area. From the swamps of the Delta to the waters of Mobile Bay, from the sands of the Barrier Islands to the reefs of the Gulf of Mexico, the Estuarium offers a lively educational experience for everybody. Other exhibits include the Living Marsh Boardwalk, the Miss May May, the Weather Station and much, much more.

**Bragg-Mitchell Mansion**— This beautifully restored pre-Civil War mansion demonstrates both Greek Revival and Italianate influence. Fifteen-foot ceilings and a dramatic curved staircase contribute to the sense of splendor.

**Mobile Greyhound Park**—Alabama's oldest Greyhound park features both dog and horse racing. You can watch the races from the tracks or the grandstand.

**Bellingrath Gardens and Home**—Coca-Cola bottling founder Walter Bellingrath and his wife, Bessie opened their private garden estate in 1932 and the result has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the South. The Gardens cover 65 acres and feature a year-round blooming schedule of tulips, azaleas,

roses, mums, poinsettias and so much more. It has been chosen as one of the top three gardens by readers of *Southern Living* magazine. The Bellingrath Home is the first Alabama home to be featured on A&E's "American Castles".

In addition to the floral displays and the home, Bellingrath also features a Classic Car Show in April.

**River Cruise Aboard the Southern Belle**—The 150-passenger Southern Belle offers fun, scenic 45-minute cruises on Fowl River from Bellingrath Gardens landing.

**Battleship Memorial Park**—Voyage through time and revisit an era of adventure and bravery as you tour the many exhibits. Visit **USS ALABAMA**, the recipient of nine World War II Battle Stars. 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, the Gilbert Islands, and Okinawa, and then led the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay in September 1945.

Also at the park is the submarine **USS DRUM**, "Calamity Jane", a B-52 Stratofortress that served with SAC and the A-12 "Blackbird" spy-plane. In the Aircraft Pavilion you'll see a gull-winged Corsair and the P51-D Mustang Redtail, the plane flown by the valiant Tuskegee Airmen. Then inspect other aircraft from Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. The park also includes a rose garden, gift shop, flight simulator and much more.

**Grand Casino**—Just an hour away on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is Mississippi's "Grand Casino" area in Biloxi. You will have an opportunity to have fun, test your luck and maybe come back a few bucks richer!

Now take a few minutes to fill out the survey on the right and return it to ML&RS, Inc so that we can plan your reunion with your wishes in mind.

## MCAAN 2008 SURVEY

*Please complete this survey so we can put your ideas to work in planning your reunion in Mobile, AL.*

### Reunion format:

Do you want a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?  
 yes  no

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings   
 or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday ?

Do you want entertainment after the Saturday night banquet  
 yes  no?

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

Cathedral of Immaculate Conception

Fort Conde

The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Bragg-Mitchell Mansion

Mobile Greyhound Park

Bellingrath Gardens and House

River Cruise

Battleship Memorial Park

Grand Casino

### Return survey by Aug. 6, 2007 to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**

**PO Drawer 11399**

**Hickory, NC 28603**

**OR**

**Fax: 828-256-6559**

**DINAMLRs@charterinternet.com**

**Web site: www.mlrsinc.com**