

# THE MESSENGER

Volume 15 Issue 4

October 2008

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



USS MARIAS



USS CADMUS



USS AMPHION



USS ARCADIA

### Special Points of Interest

- Do you remember leaving the Navy? We have those recollections from many of you in the first five pages of the newsletter. Please add yours for the next issue.
- We have seven new names for Welcome Mat on page five. We hope we will see you at the 2009 reunion in Charleston, SC.
- Mail Call contains a request from a son who would like to hear from anyone who knew his father. See his letter on page six.
- Do you know about the Sea Bat story? Brad Barfield mentions it in his letter in Mail Call. If you remember it, let us hear from you.
- Smokey sends in a photo of the USS Marias on page 6.

### TALES OF LEAVING THE NAVY

*“What was the process of leaving the Navy like? Was there any kind of ceremony, or did you just pack your sea bag and walk off the ship? Did you have any kind of celebration, either with your Navy buddies or back at home? How was your trip home?”*

*These questions were posed by e-mail to MCAAN Shipmates and we are happy to publish the following responses:*

**Charlie Zuis, USS Cadmus, 1952-53:**

Leaving the Navy was sad—I wanted to stay, but they wouldn't give me shore duty which I wanted because I had a family. There was no party. But my recollections of my

experiences in the Navy were good. I tried to get back in years later, but I had a heart problem. Like many others, I would gladly re-live those days.

I had a total of 8 years in the regular Navy and the reserves. I later took advantage of the GI Bill and completed a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Social work and Community Organization and spent 50 years as a professional Fund Raiser, raising money for non-profit agencies and institutions. I also continued my part-time profession as a magician.

**Frank Bock:**

When I left the Navy, I just left. I'm not sure anyone knew I was gone. However, when I retired

from the Army, they had a big going-away party—gifts, plaques, Meritorious Service Medal, speeches, and all.

**Bill Spahr:**

My mustering out was very uneventful. Pack your seabag and walk off the ship. Just like enlisting and going to boot-camp. There was no celebration and I was living in Norfolk at the time, so it was just a drive across town. My wife was glad to see me.

**John Pasquale:**

I packed my bags and drove home. No ceremony. Had a nice greeting when I got home from

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*(Continued from page 1)*

family. Pretty low key.

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**John Rodgers, DKCM, US Navy Retired:**

When I retired from the Navy on 1 March 1979, I requested that there would be no type ceremony and that I would just pick up my retirement papers and fade into the night. That's the way I exited the Navy, however, through the years I have regretted leaving that way and not receiving all my accolades as a retiring Master Chief Petty Officer. Oh, well, you can't cry over spilled milk.

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**Gene Brown:**

I was piped over the side (CPO Departing). The ship CPO Mess had a retirement party at the VFW in National City, CA.

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**Robert Capriotti:**

I got off the USS Cadmus 9/21/66. I remember going to the clerk's office and picking up my separation papers and pay, packing my sea bag and leaving the ship. No fanfare whatsoever.

I was driven to the Newport, RI bus station by my leading PO, who had had me to his home for dinner the previous evening, met a shipmate who had just been separated as well. We hoisted a few beers while waiting for our buses and five hours later I was back on Long Island. Exciting stuff, huh?

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**Bill Heard, ET 1955-62:**

This goes back to the mid-1950s. The Cadmus AR-14 (and its sister Amphion AR-13) was only ten years in commission, latest electronics, well-commanded, and a good ship for technicians to work in small components to heavy apparatus repair of ships alongside. Good duty on a tender. The ship is still afloat, decommissioned from the US Navy and transferred to service in Taiwan in 1978.

During my tour, when anyone was

transferred or mustered out of the service, occasionally the guys in his shop with available liberty, would go downtown Norfolk and have a brief beerfest. The Repair Division officer always spoke with anyone who was transferring out of regular to reserves. Lt Cmdr LeBer ran four repair divisions for a few years and maintained up-to-date tooling and standards. Division R4 was managed by George Tyler WO and Elmer Berger WO. They gave me encouragement and opportunities to obtain several commercial FCC licenses.

Several "events" stalled me from re-enlisting: The surety of being transferred to "lesser" duty, a job offer from outside, and an opportunity to return to Temple University.

I did casually walk off the ship, but shop guys carried the seabag(s) to the car where family was waiting on the dock. Homecoming was casual—not partying, just looking up family and old friends, remaining in the reserves for the required term, working for GE for forty years—conducting railroad-locomotive upgrade and service seminars in the USA and in sixteen other countries.

Hope that Cal Alden, ET; Bob McKnight, ET; Bob Melendy, ET; Lawrence FT; Warner, ET; Russ Wamsley, ETC; Grass, ETC; Pete Falcone, FT; and others are still around and can recall some history. Paige Furbee, ET, passed away several years ago. Have had brief e-mail contact with a few, most recently Pete last year. Good health and memories to all.

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**Dave Leonard:**

We just came back from Cuba the day before and the ship was leaving on a North Atlantic cruise in three days and would be gone for 3 months plus. Several guys from my division were being transferred to other ships. I was mustering out. A small party was held at a friend's house. I got sick early (not much of a drinker) and went to the car to sleep it off. Woke up at 4:00 am outside a bar someplace when my

buddies decided that they had had enough to drink. Hit the rack at 4:20 and up at 6 am. Felt like a million bucks. Said good bye to all my buddies and one of the guys carried my seabag down to the phone bank on the pier. Had a real "moment" at the phone before calling a cab. "Can I hack being a civilian again?" (All of about 1 second worth.) Really felt depressed after saying good bye. I got over that before I got on the plane. Something I'll never forget.

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**Paul Putnam:**

I was discharged from NOB Norfolk in March of 1955. The Amphion's duty station was Pier 5 at NOB, and they sent me from the ship over to the base for the last few days of mustering out procedure. I don't remember any farewell ceremony from the ship or the base. I just packed my seabag and left.

I was married and my family lived in Benmorell, the enlisted men's housing there. I don't remember the actual timetable, but within a few days the Navy sent a truck around to pick us up and delivered everything to Camden, Maine, all paid by the Navy. I suppose they got paid by the pound for that, because they even delivered our waste basket full of trash. Overall it was a pretty uneventful affair. I wasn't paying much attention, just glad to have that part of my life behind me and looking forward to the future. I had already been accepted as a student at the University of Maine, and in the fall we moved into married housing there to use up four years of the GI Bill I had earned with four years in the Navy. It was a good swap. Only in retrospect do I realize that four years in the Navy may have been as important a part of my education as five years of college. I don't regret any of those years.

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**Barney Wolfson:**

If I remember way back to 1956, I think that 4 of us were getting out

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at the same time. So about two weeks before that great day, we went to into town (Newport, RI) and had a great time getting intoxicated (not drunk). When we got back to the ship, we were sober enough to kid around with several of the officers about getting out and they were not.

When I got home, I walked into my home and about 25 of my friends and family sang "Anchors Away."

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**Dave Olson:**

There was no ceremony when I was discharged. I left the ship which was anchored in the bay at Newport, Rhode Island and was kept on the Naval Base at Newport for five days until the day my enlistment of four years was up, almost to the very hour. They asked if I wanted to re-up. The answer was, No. They typed up my discharge papers and I was on my way home. I spent two and a half days driving home. Home!!! I very soon found out that after four years, you don't go home. I felt like Rip Van Winkle. It was a very different feeling from the one I had when I was leaving home for boot camp.

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**Donald Judd LI 1 Retired:**

The day I retired from the Navy I had coffee and a donut with the Captain, and then was piped out of the command with side boys and saluted by all. I retired from Nuclear Weapons Training Center Pacific at North Island, California in 1968. My wife, two children and I drove from California back to Muskegon, Michigan where we still reside.

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**Dick Lemon, BTCS USN (Ret):**

My retirement from the Navy was a grand show, mainly because the Captain of the USS R.E. Peary insisted I have a 1st Class retirement ceremony.

I had to inspect the crew includ-

ing officers, and then with all hands present, speeches and gifts from the Officers, Chiefs, then the Crew were given to me as well as my wife. She received an award for being the ombudsman between the ship and the crews' wives. After this is was "piped over the side" with all on board Chiefs as my sideboys.

A day of fun and mixed emotions for me, looking forward to starting a new life after 21 years in the Navy and leaving a service I loved and felt honored to have served in. A party followed at the Chiefs club in Pearl Harbor. Later, returning to Massachusetts, my family gave me a huge retirement party, inviting friends I hadn't seen in 20 years. A grand affair indeed.

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**Bruce Davis, DC3:**

No parties, no fanfare, no piping over the side.

On Wednesday, July 13, 1966, I shook the hands of a couple of shipmates and carried my cruise box and my seabag to the pier (two trips). I drove across the river from Norfolk to Chesapeake and moved into a room I had rented on Wilbur Ave. The next morning I went to work at a fire extinguisher service company. I had located the job a week earlier through the employment office downtown Norfolk. My fiancé lived in Ocean View with her family, so I never moved back home to Maine. That was 42 years ago. It was the right decision. That gal and I were wed two years later and are still together.

I have neither seen nor heard from anyone I knew on the Amphion since that day.

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**Roderick Langevin:**

There was no ceremony when I packed my bags. There was the normal drinking buddies who partied before I left. They were Garza, Evans and Benzel. I hitchhiked from San Diego, CA to upstate NY in three days and had a great time doing it.

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**Tom Craig:**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** After the assassination, Trujillo's son took power for several months, just enough time to murder all the suspected plotters and loot the public treasury one last time. He fled the country in November 1961, as his father's former vice-president, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, briefly took over. In 1962, Juan Bosch of the leftist Dominican Revolutionary Party was elected president in the country's first free elections in 38 years, only to be overthrown by a military coup in 1963. (Again, the CIA was implicated.) In 1965, Bosch supporters launched a counter-coup. Four days later, US Marines landed again, intervening against pro-Bosch forces under the pretext that they were Communists. I was on the Nan at the time I was supposed to get out—December 6, 1961.

Because of the above, we were sent to the DR on Nov 19, 1961 to replenish the blockading ships. I was a panic figuring I would miss my separation date. But on Dec. 1, 1961, we arrived at Craney Island, Norfolk to pick up more oil and go back.

Before they left they transferred me to the receiving station at Norfolk on Dec 4, 1961, so I hung out for 3 days there before I went home. I had the use of a shipmate's car for that period and being an E5, I chilled and drank.

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**Andrew Malone, USS Arcadia:**

At the time I couldn't wait to get out of the Navy. I was due to be discharged on Sept 27, 1955 after 4 years. However, the year before, I had been transferred off the ship to shore duty at Bainbridge, MD. Around the middle of April 1955, I was admitted to the Naval Hospital at Bainbridge and was operated on for a hole at the base of my spine. A month later the hole opened up again and so I was still in the hospital, past my discharge date, because the doctor would not release me. Luckily a new doctor was assigned and he finally dismissed me

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around Oct. 14, 1955 with instructions to go home to the nearest VA Hospital and have them re-operate again. I packed my things, signed whatever papers needed to be signed and I was on my way home by the end of that day. At the time I had been married for 2 years with a one-year old daughter. When I reached home and settled in, life was very strange, not knowing what I would do for a job. Yet today I look back and realize how I really enjoyed those 4 years.

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**Wilbur Meadows:**

I got an "early out" in 1969. En route back to Norfolk from a North Atlantic cruise the personnel department contacted those selected for an early out. In my case I got out over two months early on my four year hitch. A couple of days before we arrived at NORVA we got mustering out physicals and checked out from the required departments.

Upon arrival at Norfolk, we walked off the ship and that was it. No fanfare, no parties, nothing.

My wife was notified that I would be separated upon arrival, so she had all our household belongings packed up and gone. There was nothing to do but get in our car and head back to our home state, Michigan.

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**Steve (Corky) Corcoran:**

I left the ship USS Hunley (AS 31) in Charleston, SC in Oct 1969 without a party or fanfare. I was just glad to get out and return to civilian life. The duty was OK and we made a few cruises, but since I was not shipping over I was an outcast by most of the crew. At that point in my life I had a 1-year old son and wanted to spend as much time with him and my wife as possible. I could have gone back to the FBI (who I worked for before getting drafted), but instead returned to our hometown in Pennsylvania and got a job working in the coal mines for USS Steel. Twenty-three years later I was injured and

have not been able to work since then, but I keep in touch with a fellow Hunley mate in Ohio and we get together often. I have not been to any reunions, but would like to one of these days. To all my fellow vets, thank you for your service to our country, and remember, all gave some, but some gave all. God bless America.

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**John English:**

When I retired on my last day aboard USS Waddell (DDG 24), I received Quarter Deck Honors with Side Boys and being piped over the side. This was a big day for me and my family. It is not everyday that officers are sideboys along with CPOs.

It was a six day trip across country wondering what will civilian life be like as I only knew military. Anyway, everything turned out with only two weeks out of work. After a number of years the ships I was on have reunions, so I keep up with the latest shipmate stories.

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**Gary Hines:**

I served 30 years, so I had the full retirement ceremony with my Commanding Officer speaking and a nice reception afterwards. The next night, I had an open house party at my house catered by several different places and attended by approximately 70 people. The next day was my 48th birthday, which ended up being a continuation of the previous two days of activities. No trip home was needed since I was on a ship undergoing overhaul in Newport News, VA.

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**Mel Redmond, RM2:**

I was transferred from my ship, USS Fichteler DDR 870 ( I believe) to the Newport RI Receiving Station about five days prior to my separation date (5/25/55). The group of us being processed out at the time I believe consisted of about 30. We were mustered every morning and had very few duties during the day.

About the third day, several of us were sent to the Commissary on the base to bag groceries. That made the time go a little faster. On the fifth day, the paper work was complete and we were released. I was married at the time and had an apartment in Newport. We had spent most of the week packing our things in our car and cleaning out the apartment. As soon as I was released, my wife and I left in our car, a 1942 Dodge, for my home in NJ. Our plan was to live with my parents until we could find work and our own place to live. I believe we left Newport on a Friday and my family planned a backyard picnic celebration for us the following Sunday. My shipping out pay amounted to approximately \$700. We stopped at the Ford dealer near my home town and traded the old Dodge for a brand new 1955 Ford Customline. Cost was \$2333 and we put most of the \$700 with the trade-in allowance, I believe was about \$250, on the new car.

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**Tom Williams RM3:**

*Q: What was the process of leaving the Navy like?*

A: It was the end of summer and was looking forward to going home for good to my family (I was 21—kiddy cruiser)

*Q: Was there any kind of ceremony, or did you just pack your sea bag and walk off the ship?*

A: Had a knock down party at Newport, RI the night before. No ceremony, just good friends saying good bye.

*Q: Did you have any kind of celebration, either with your Navy buddies or back at home?*

A: See above and had a small party at home with family and girlfriend.

*Q. How was your trip home?*

Different, knowing that I would not be wearing the uniform again (or so I thought) and looking forward to being a civilian. Later on in life I cherished all the places I saw and wish I could do it all over again.

**Gerald Campbell:**

*(Continued on page 5)*

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There was no any celebration, just a short speech about staying in the Navy by the Division Officer. I then left for the Norfolk Navy Base where I spent four or five days till I was discharged and left for home.

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**Jim Hendley:**

To tell you the truth, once I was checked out and had my sea bag packed, I was just like the Lone Ranger. Left the ship and went home to Chicago. Five days later I went to work. No party, nothing but a small meal cooked by my wife. Nothing special at all.

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**James Dougherty, SFM2  
USS Arcadia (AD-23) 1962-66:**

From what I remember we went through some basics such as paperwork, signing medical releases, etc. There was no ceremony. I was extended four months due to the Vietnam War but got out two days early on my 4 month extension because the ship was leaving the yards in Boston and headed for Gitmo for a shakedown cruise. I walked off the ship as they announced, "Make all preparations for getting underway." I left Newport, RI the same day and returned to my home in Missouri. Strangely enough, I now live in Newport and have been here many years.

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**Robert "Brad" Barfield:**

I just packed my sea bag and walked off the ship.

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Position open. Please contact  
ML&RS, Inc if you would like to volunteer for this position.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 07/08 **\$1706.28**  
Funds received since 07/08 **\$70.00**  
Funds available for 10/08 **\$1776.28**  
Funds expended for 10/08 **\$150.40**  
Balance remaining for 10/08  
**\$1625.88**

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.**



## 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.

**Albert Perez (USS Amphion)**  
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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't  
Have To"



## MAIL CALL

Hey, Karen:

My name is Justin James and I am the son of William M. James. My dad served on the USS Marias from 1943-1946. If you have any ideas of how to contact any of his shipmates, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Justin James  
Justin.James@BossierSchools.Org

*Editor's Note: If any of you knew William James, please contact his son at his e-mail address above.*

*This is in regards to the question from the last issue about anything that irritated you when you were aboard your ship.*

I rather tell you of the good times

like visiting the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, etc.. Although my biggest irritation was not staying in the Navy. I loved it, but I made a mistake and got married and wanted to see more of my wife.

Charles T. Zuis  
USS Cadmus (1952-53)

Karen,

When the Amphion pulled out to sea, a bat was found aboard by one of the deck crew. It was caught, but died shortly afterwards, so a solemn ceremony was held, followed by a burial at sea. The story of that sea bat was written in the ship's paper and was titled, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Sea Bat". I don't have a copy of that paper, and have no idea if one even still exists.

Robert "Brad" Barfield

*If any of you remember this incident, let us hear your memory of it.*

## 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.



This is a photo that I took of the Cadmus sister ship the Amphion taken from the fantail of the Cadmus in February of 1960. I thought this might bring up some interesting stories about being tied up at Pier 5 in the winter in Norfolk!

Francis "Smokey" Schmolke

## 2009 MCAAN REUNION

**SUN. APRIL 19—  
WED. APRIL 22**

**CHARLESTON, SC**

**SHERATON NORTH  
CHARLESTON**