

NEWS



AD-24



AV-7

USS CURRITUCK AV-7 • USS EVERGLADES AD-24 • TORPEDOMAN'S ASSN.
 Founded in 1986 by CWO Ron Curtis, Ret.
MAY 2011- No. 2

SECRETARY/DIRECTOR

RON CURTIS

15400 NE 22nd Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98686
 (360) 433-9759

e-mail: va52gunner@aol.com

TREASURER

DELL BANCROFT

18085 SW 77 Avenue
 Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
 (305) 232-4181

e-mail: signondell@aol.com

SHIP STORE COORDINATOR

RON CURTIS

15400 NE 22nd Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98686
 (360) 433-9759

ASSN. SHIPMATE LOCATORS

USS Currituck Assn. - TM's Assn.

RON CURTIS

15400 NE 22nd Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98686
 (360) 433-9759

USS Everglades Assn. -

MATT SZKOPIEC

1046 Colonial Court
 Holland, MI 49423
 (616) 395-1531

ASSN. CHAPLAIN:

ROGER FRANCIS

1200 37th Avenue NE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33704-1628
 (727) 822-5451

HISTORIANS:

USS Currituck Assn. -

STEPHEN EAKIN

4545 Hugo Road
 Grants Pass, OR 97526-9711
 (541) 474-7404

e-mail: steve.sseakin@oigp.net

USS Everglades Assn. -

GARY ADAMS

132 San Benito Road
 Brisbane, CA 94005
 (415) 467-6284

e-mail: ad24history@att.net

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

DONALD DILLON II (1 Yr.)

6575 Drake Settlement Road
 Appleton, NY 14008-9640
 (716) 778-0555

e-mail: chiefs lady@usa.net

JOHN JOHNSTONE (1 Yr.)

6152 S. Illinois Avenue
 Cudahy, WI 53110-2925
 (414) 762-7587

e-mail: johnstone752@wi.rr.com

ALVIN LACEFIELD (2 Yrs.)

2558 Tuckahoe Road
 Franklinville, NJ 08322-2211
 (609) 697-0968

e-mail: all7438@aol.com

HILLARD MEANS (2 Yrs.)

10704 State Hwy 97S
 Letohatchee, AL 36047
 (334) 227-7710

e-mail: hmeans1969@hotmail.com

HENRY BAUER (2 Yrs.)

7 Dineege Road
 S. Salem, NY 10590-1501
 (914) 763-5071

JERRY PETERS (3 Yrs.)

316 Falcon Ridge Way
 Bolingbrook, IL 60440
 630-739-7595

e-mail: gap316@aol.com



Carol & Rich McClellan

Rich & Carol McClellan & Russ & Barbara Baker will be our Host & Hostess Team on site



Russ & Barbara Baker

★ ★ ★ From Our Association's Secretary



I'd like to thank all those who responded to my request for someone to replace Ron Jared in mailing out the newsletters. It was a pleasant surprise compared to past requests for volunteers.



Since we had so many, we put the job up for bids and the winner is John Bonnel. Many of the volunteers were some of the same people that have always stepped forward, but I would like

to acknowledge that the first person to contact me was Rochelle Eicher, one of our Honorary Widows. I was also able to convince one to serve on the Advisory Board. As you will note, we still are in need of two more people to fill the vacancies on the board.

Over the years I have had numerous requests from our membership to verify that the USS CURRITUCK served in waters in Viet Nam for the purposes of those men seeking to file claims with the VA for possible exposure to Agent Orange. This has always been difficult to assist in that the only documents that could be of use would be the ship's deck logs, of which I did not have a copy.

I have recently learned of a site that lists those ships that have been verified to have had exposure to Agent Orange while serving in the Viet Nam area. Should any of you need to verify your duty aboard the Currituck or any other ship for the purposes of a claim use the following site for verification:

<http://www.bluewaternavy.org/shiplist3.pdf>

Also, it seems the Chief of Naval Personnel has had a change of heart. Over the last couple of years, you are all aware that the Torpedoman Mate rating abolished... or as described by the above compressed into other ratings. Well, seems the change to MM on submarines has not worked out very well and the powers to be are going to reinstate the TM rating on subs. However, those poor surface sailors whose job it is to maintain the torpedoes and launching equipment will still be wearing the GM insignia... oh well.

As you will note elsewhere in this edition, I am submitting my resignation as Director/Secretary. What began as a simple search for former ship mates some 25 years ago, turned into what we now know as the Combined Association. While there was initially a lot of work in locating former crew members of both ships and the TM's, I have been fortunate to have met many of you in person and enabled you to reconnect with your former shipmates in most cases. I in turn have met some really incredible people along the way. I would like to thank all those that have assisted me through the years, either by filling the offices of the association or just lending a hand at the reunions. While our active membership has declined from a high of over 1200 to just about 500 currently, I look forward to maintaining contact as seeing you at future reunions as long as they can be sustained. Take a look at the duties of the Secretary/Director and Treasurer and visualize yourself keeping this organization running. Smooth sailing to all of you.

- Ron



THE NEWS

IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR —
 FEB., MAY, AUG., and NOV.

JERRY JOTKOFF, Editor

3053 Galindo Circle
 Viera, FL 32940
 (321) 632-6610

e-mail: printmn1@bellsouth.net

JACK WITTENBORN, Asst. Editor

10087 42nd Drive South, #103
 Boynton Beach, FL 33436
 (561) 735-7539

e-mail: jjwittenborn@comcast.net

USE THE FOLLOWING AS A GUIDE WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS

USS Everglades, USS Currituck, Torpedoman's Assn. and any and all Crew members of USS Pine Island

Registration Form

Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota Reunion Sept. 28th -Oct. 2nd Bloomington (MSP)


First Name:	Last name:	Spouse:
Street:	City:	State & Zip:
Phone:	E-Mail:	Additional members in Party & Names:
Arrival Date	Departure Date	Note & Check your Dinner Selections

	<u>Price</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee: Includes: Saturday Dinner, Daily Breakfast Buffet and the Hospitality Room Beverages and Snacks	\$25 each	_____	_____
OPTIONAL TOURS			
Thursday 29th Sept. – 9:00 to Noon. City Tour by Charter Bus	\$30 each	_____	_____
Friday 30th Sept. – 10:00 am. Lunch Cruise & Transportation	\$55 each	_____	_____
Total Amount		_____	_____
\$25 Registration Fee Includes: Saturday Dinner • Daily Breakfast Buffet • Hospitality Room Beverages and Snacks <i>Hotel will provide coupons at check in for breakfast buffet in the Harvest Cafe</i>			
Saturday, 1st of Oct. (Choose ✓) The New Hotel Crowne Plaza will be offering plated dinners. All meals include tossed salad, choice dressing, potato and vegetable, rolls & butter, beverage and dessert.			
(1) Champagne Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Pork Loin <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Sliced Sirloin <input type="checkbox"/>			

For Registration Fees & Tours
Make Check payable to
COMBINED ASSOCIATION
and mail to
132 San Benito Rd., Brisbane, CA 94005
Questions?? – Contact -
 Gary Adams at 415-467-6284
 or AD24history@att.net
 ★ ★ ★
Hotel Information
Crowne Plaza
Formerly the Holiday Inn Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Hotel
3 Appletree Square, Bloomington, MN 55425
1-800-227-6963
Hotel's local number is 952-854-9000
Ask for Combined Association rate of \$89 Dollars or Registration Code: COA
 Hotel Provides Free Airport Shuttle & Shuttle to the Great Mall
 Light Rail system to downtown is across the street
 Including the Hotel there are 4 Restaurants in the Area and many in the Great Mall

If you have any problems booking your room via 800# or have special needs or are going to extend your stay in MSP before or beyond the reunion dates (28th-2nd). Please contact Nancy Solinger at the Crowne Plaza 952-876-8650



 <p style="text-align: center;">We need to have a Host for the 2012 Reunion. We can't let the MSP Reunion be our last one. Show off your area of our wonderful country!! <i>Lower East Coast is due</i></p>	<p>Reminders Hotel's phone number is 1-800-227-6963 Hotel's local number is 952-854-9000 Ask for Combined Association Rate Hotel Provides Free Airport Shuttle Bring your old Name Tags. We will save the expense of printing and buying the plastic holder. Remember Chinese Auction Item. Questions?? - Contact - Gary Adams at 415-467-6284</p>
---	---

Moving

Keeping us informed of your address is very important . . . to both of us!

- We want to ensure that our mail reaches you.
- We want to make sure you receive your copy of the "News."

Send all address changes to:

RON CURTIS

15400 NE 22nd Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98686

SHIP'S STORE INFO

Please note that we usually have the items available for purchase from the Ship's Store listed on the last page of the Newsletter. This practice has been discontinued.



Since the last sale the availability of merchandise has been drastically reduced. Please contact Ron prior to ordering to ensure the item(s) you desire are still in stock.



Next Issue:
AUGUST
2011



Don't Forget

All dues payments and orders for merchandise are to be sent to DELL BANCROFT, Treas.

18085 SW 77 Avenue
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
e-mail: signondell@aol.com



REUNION INFO ???

Check With Our
Reunion Coordinator
Gary Adams
(415) 467-6284
e-mail: ad24history@att.net

MINNESOTA'S Mall of America FUN FACTS

- Minnesota's Mall of America is the largest, fully enclosed retail and family entertainment complex in the U.S.
- Seven Yankee Stadiums would fit inside Mall of America.
- Mall of America's 13,300 tons of steel is nearly twice the amount than in the Eiffel Tower.
- Walking distance around one level of Mall of America is .57 of a mile.
- Spending 10 minutes in every store would take a shopper more than 86 hours to complete their visit to Mall of America.
- More than 5,000 couples have been married at Mall of America since opening in August of 1992.
- The Mall of America is located on the former Metropolitan Sports Stadium which was home to the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. Home plate can be found in Nickelodeon Universe®.
- There are 30,000 live plants and 400 live trees planted in Nickelodeon Universe®.

Mail Call



Dear Ron . . .

I'm a retired TM1(SS) and am looking for a job description from back in the 60's or 70's for a submarine TM. I need it for the VA so I can Try for some disability comp. They say what I tell them we did back in the day is not enough. As you may already be aware, the Navy merged TM's into GM's and on the boats MM's do our old work. Have tried a bunch of Navy sites but they have nothing of the old days. If you have anything or can think of anything it would be much appreciated.

Bob Wakefield TM1(SS) ret.

3607 Winding Way
Round Rock, TX 78664
bwake44@gmail.com

Rest in Peace

Currituck
DANIEL DENNISON
HERMAN SCHMALZ



Tentative Plan of the Week

Wednesday Sept. 28th

12:00 Noon: Early Arrivals can check in at Apple Terrace Room. This is also the Combined Association Hospitality room. The Hospitality room will remain open to 2200 hrs.

Bring your Chinese Auction Stuff; it will be set up in the same Room (Long Tables) along the Walls. No Tours for Wednesday 28th, but there is a free Hotel Shuttle to Great Mall.

Thursday Sept. 29th

Hotel will provide Coupons at check in for a Full Hot Breakfast at your leisure in the Harvest Cafe. Insure you receive your coupons at check in. **City Tour starting at 9:00** and will run until Noon. Tour is by charter bus with guide. Hospitality open 0800 - 2200 hrs.

Board Members and all Association officers meeting 1600 hrs Ex-Suit #310.

Optional Tour: Today or any Day. Self Guided tour of Fort Snelling via Light Rail. Cash \$1.75 for Light rail and \$8 for Fort Admission (This is an easy walk of 1 to 2 miles) Guide & Maps available in Hospitality room,

Friday Sept. 30th

Breakfast in the Harvest Cafe at your leisure. See you there. **Lunch Cruise Bus departs 10:00** and returns around 2:30. Cruise is out of Stillwater one of the oldest towns in Minnesota and located on the St. Croix River aboard a replica of an 1890 paddlewheel riverboat. Lunch will be Buffet Style so you can sit and enjoy the sights along the scenic River. For those not attending there is Great Mall. Hospitality room opens 0800-2200 hrs.

Saturday Oct. 1st

0800 hrs Breakfast and General Meeting in Pippins Room. The Pippins room is outside restaurant area See signs. (Pick up your breakfast and Take it to the meeting room or eat early and take your Coffee). Chinese Auction and the Hospitality room will open after the General Meeting and close for the Auction Drawing at 1600 hrs. The Hospitality room will reopen after the Banquet for drawing review and Winnings.

1730 hrs a No Host Bar will Open in Pippins Room prior to the Dinner.

1800 hrs Dinner Banquet will be in Pippins Room (Bring your Dinner Coupons).

Sunday Oct. 2nd

Breakfast in the Harvest Cafe at your leisure and goodbye until next year.

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY -- BUT IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU

By Ken Burger, *The Charleston Post and Courier*, Thurs, March 4, 2010

Occasionally, I venture back to NAS, Moffett, where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, Senior Chief".

Every time I go back to any Navy Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, many years ago.

The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy, but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with.

That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score.

Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform,

read their ribbons and know where they've served.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war.

But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we criss-crossed with a "by your leave sir".

I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. The same while on carrier duty.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly, I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

- Submitted by Gary Adams

USS CURRITUCK AV-7
USS EVERGLADES AD-24
TORPEDOMAN'S ASSN.
c/o **RON CURTIS**
15400 NE 22nd Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98686

Address Service Requested



Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota
Sept. 28th - Oct. 2nd
Bloomington (MSP)

CHECK THE MAILING LABEL FOR DATE DUES ARE DUE



IT'S TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP

Ron Curtis and Dell Bancroft are Retiring

The Association needs a new Secretary/Director and a new Treasurer. A description of the duties of each office follows. If you are willing to fill either position please contact Ron. The advisory board will hopefully fill the positions during the annual reunion in September/October (Minneapolis/St. Paul).

Duties of the Secretary/Director:

- Maintain and update the Association Data Base (ie. Record dues payments, change of addresses, etc.)
- Print Address Labels for newsletter. (Quarterly)
- Print Dues Notices to be included with newsletters. (Quarterly)
- Write a column for the Quarterly Newsletter.
- Advise the newsletter editor of any deceased members.
- Answer all correspondence directed to the association.
- Provide an email contact for the association.
- Reply to requests for membership.



Duties of the Treasurer:

- Receive and process dues checks and cash. (approximately 10 per month in 2010)
- Receive and process ship's store checks and cash. (not even one per month)
- Deposit funds into Association's checking account. (approximately one deposit per month)
- Disburse funds (write checks) as directed by the Secretary and Board (less than one per month).
- Report the finances to the Secretary and Board and provide a financial report to the Association members.
- Intuit Quick Books Pro 2005 is the software the Association is presently utilizing to maintain the financial records of our organization(s).