



AD-24



AV-7

USS CURRITUCK AV-7 • USS EVERGLADES AD-24 • TORPEDOMAN'S ASSN.

Founded in 1986 by CWO Ron Curtis, Ret.
NOVEMBER 2011 – No. 4

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WE ARE GOING TO TAMPA IN YEAR 2012



Wyndham Tampa Westshore Hotel in Tampa, Florida

- OUR ASSN. HAS A CHANGE IN COMMAND -

For those of you who were unable to attend the Bloomington reunion, it was an occasion for me to pass the reins of the organization. While I started this association in the hopes of locating former shipmates (of which I have found a few) this endeavor has far exceeded my expectations. At one point we had over 1200 active members on our mailing list and the Charleston reunion drew over 400 attendees. I would have to say my greatest satisfaction was being able to reunite crew members from all eras of the USS CURRITUCK and USS EVERGLADES service in the US NAVY, but in particular, seeing veterans of WWII meeting again after more than 40 years. (Unfortunately, this reunion is the first without an attendee from the WWII crew of the Currituck).

Over the years I have had much help from many individuals that I would like to thank. Jerry Jotkoff for his immense contribution of editing and publishing our quarterly newsletter. Steve Eakin, who took the multitude of information I had collected over the years and compiled it into a superb history of the USS CURRI-

TUCK and provided our membership with this information in a multitude of formats. Dean Chocholousek, who assumed the duties of Treasurer following the San Antonio reunion. And then Dell Bancroft, who answered the call when Dean passed away. Jerry Guetschow who took over from Dell at the reunion. Gary Adams, who began as the USS EVERGLADES Historian and now has assumed the duties as Secretary/Director. A special thanks to all those people, who over the years have assisted me in arranging the reunions to those who have always stepped forward to lend a hand at our gatherings. John Bonnell who now does the newsletter mailing and Don Dillon who has the Ship's Store. And last but not least, to all of you who have participated and attended our reunions. Were it not for you . . . we would have never come this far. I look forward to seeing you all at future reunions and feel comfortable that the association is in excellent hands.



Ron Curtis

See Page 2 for info on the USS Pine island joining us for our Reunion in Tampa



THE



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LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH — (e-mail received by Gary)

The Crew of the USS Pine Island is looking forward to joining you in Tampa next year. Comparing notes on all the same places we visited and swapping old sea stories will be great fun. Some of us have spent time on both the Pine Island and the Currituck. It will be fun to see how both ships had the same problems and quirks. Looking forward to next September.

Tom Cetnarowski EM2, Sec./Treas. USS Pine Island



Hopefully all have recovered from our wonderful time in MPS.
The weather was very cooperative and fun was had by all.
This years Host's The McClelland's and Bakers really did an outstanding Job (Thanks).

Here are some of our highlights & Observations of the MSP Reunion:

- 1) Hospitality Room: The unopened Bottles were returned for Refund
The opened almost full bottles were sent to Florida via the Daniel & Susan Thurow Express.
 - 2) Every one really enjoyed all the snacks especially Carol's McClellans Home Made Cookies.
 - 3) We had good participation on the City Tour 55%. and 98% for Lunch Cruise with more than 100 for dinner.
 - 4) We had around 9 local visitors that came in for an hour or two to Chat and check out the Cruise books. We did not charge these people for the Experience, but gave them an Application to join, along with copy of the Ships History and a CD for the Currituck Crew members.
 - 5) With the help of Bernard Korth we were able to appropriate a B26 WWII Bomber Pilot as our guest speaker. Major W. Horn was shot down and was imprisoned in the same camp that the movie the Great Escape portrayed.
 - 6) Ron Curtis resigned after 25 years of being the Associations Director. (This was very hard on Ron) I have assumed Ron's duties, and hopefully I can do at least half as good a job as he did.
 - 7) My focus will be on increasing membership, this includes having other Ships join us.
- *The Pine Island and Salisbury Sound are just two of the likely candidates.

Thanks to all hands, *Gary Adams*

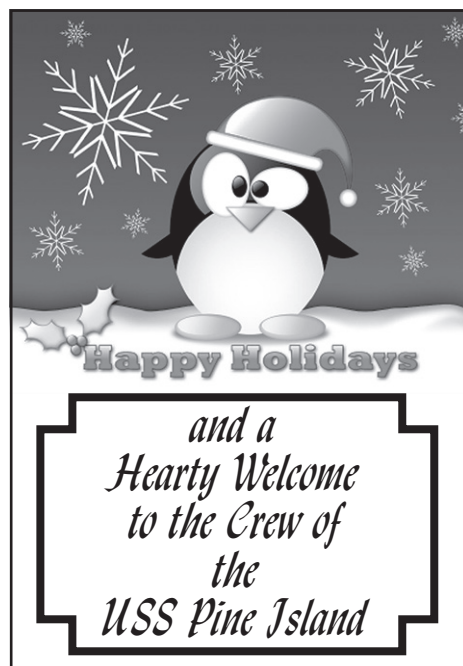
Reunion Pictures

Due to lack of space in this issue we are not attempting to print any pictures sent to us by our members. However, we have an alternative for those who wish to view 465 pictures on their computers, thanks to David Phillips.

Many thanks to Dave for the time and effort he put in this project.

Just put the following URL into your browser

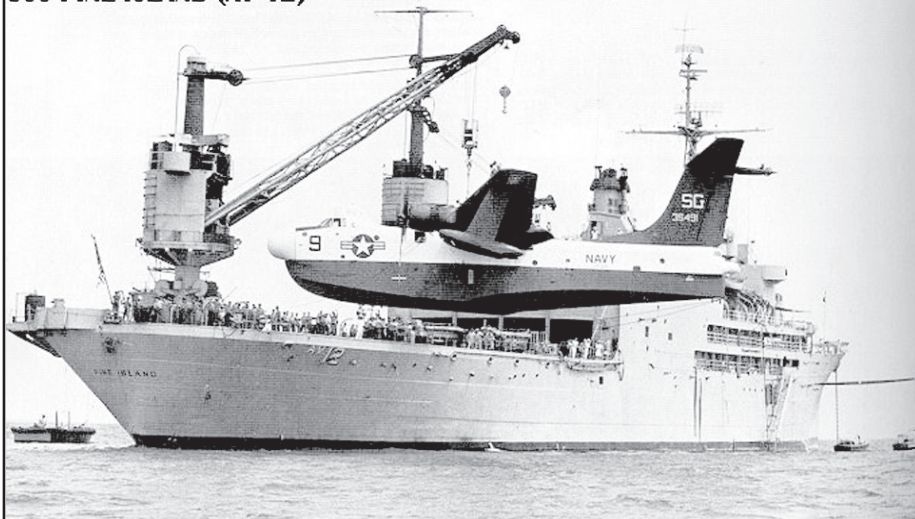
http://davidmphilips.smug-mug.com/Other/StPaulMinn-2011-Reunion/19545901_wF-gT8H#1530740578_Dv4fN4Q



USS Pine Island **May** Will Join us in Tampa

In addition to having a great reunion in Minnesota, we had a guest from the USS Pine Island (AV12). Tom Centnarowski and his wife Carolyn, from Wisconsin. Tom and Carolyn joined us on Saturday for all our activities, meetings and fun. They were a truly delightful couple—and they seemed to like us as much as we liked them. We also had the opportunity to compare our two groups and found we had similar ideas and also the same problems . . . dwindling membership. Tom was here with the idea of possibly having a joint reunion. A big plus to this would be more buying power with the hotels and group functions. Numbers is the name of the game. We look forward to having the USS Pine Island join with us in Tampa next year, and to seeing Tom and Carolyn again.

USS PINE ISLAND (AV 12)



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:

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



NEED REUNION INFO ???

Check With Our
Reunion Coordinator
Gary Adams
(415) 467-6284



**Next Issue:
FEBRUARY
2012**



Don't Forget
All dues payments and
orders for merchandise
are to be sent to
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(608) 365-2461
j.guetschow@charter.net**

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 Don Dillon prior to ordering to ensure the item(s) you desire are still in stock.



Some Early Information About the 2012 Tampa Reunion

Wyndham Tampa Westshore Hotel

700 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609

Phone 1-813-2898200 Fax 1-813-2274466

Check-in time: 3:00 pm Check-out time: 12:00 noon

Be sure to request the **COMBINED ASSN. RATE**

Hotel Amenities:

Airport Shuttle
Free Business Center
Free Breakfast
Free High Speed Internet
Fitness Center

Meeting Space
Pets Allowed
Pool
Restaurant
Truck/Bus Parking

The Special room rate is \$89. The Room rate is good for +/- 3 days for people who wish to come early and stay late.

We plan 2 or 3 outings tours & one Lunch cruise All the Pine Island crew members are invited to attend all functions they wish. We are not sure of the cost just yet but we should have that info by late November, so every one can plan early.

Registration will be \$25 each. This includes Saturday Evening Dinner and Hospitality Room.

??Questions?? Gary Adams Reunion Coordinator, 415-467-6284



Rest in Peace

Currituck
Clayton Nemmers
Everglades
Bud Bader PHM3
William Dietrich RD3
Torpedoman
Frances E Holmes TM-2



**ARE YOU
MAKING
YOUR PLANS
FOR
TAMPA?**

Welcome Aboard . . .

The following named have joined the association since the last newsletter was printed.

Currituck

Manning Jerry

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modeling2@frontier.com

(765) 584-6518 GMG3 1960-63

A Brief Look at Tampa's History



Tampa was a sleepy port until the 1880s, when four events turned things around completely: the discovery of enormous phosphate deposits nearby; the arrival of Henry B. Plant's railroad, linking the city to the rest of the eastern seaboard; the inauguration of a new steamship service between Tampa and Havana, Cuba; and the establishment of an enormous cigar manufacturing operation here by Spanish-born Cuban-American industrialist Vicente Martinez Ybor, using Cuban tobacco and labor. By the end of the decade, Ybor's new company town, Ybor City, was rolling millions of cigars a year and shipping them around the world. During the Spanish-American War, Teddy Roosevelt trained his Rough Riders in Tampa and walked the Ybor City streets with Cuban revolutionary José Martí.

The city's port has figured prominently in its history, with Florida oranges, cattle, and other produce shipping out in the mid-19th century, and blockade-runners operating from its docks during the Civil War. The port became a major hub for phosphates (a big component in fertilizers) after the big 1883 discovery, and its proximity to Havana – just over 330 miles as the crow flies – ensured a brisk trade until Fidel Castro's revolution and the subsequent U.S. embargo.

Today the Port of Tampa is Florida's largest, with cruises sailing from here to the western Caribbean and major cargo operations handling some 38 million tons annually – with phosphates (naturally) being the top export, along with scrap metal, vehicles, and container cargos, and imports including petroleum products, steel, and various minerals and chemicals.

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