

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. II, No. 09

Newsletter

February 2007

From Secondary Con

William "Bill" Couch
1st President
USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)
Association

Bill Couch had known John Thompson professionally for a long time, but neither knew that they were shipmates on the ROCHESTER until the subject came up in casual conversation. "You can imagine our surprise when we found out," Bill chuckled. They were in different divisions but both were on the "Rock" at the same time. Out of that discovery grew our Association.

Bill, John, Lou DiRusso, and a handful of others decided to hold a reunion of shipmates and form an Association. The first reunion was held in 1990 in Randolph, Massachusetts. According to all who attended, it was a great success. Bill was elected the Association's first President.

Those who know Bill recognize him for his determination, soft spoken manner, and organization skills. But he also has a secret weapon which he does not hesitate to mention: His wife, Ellie. "She did everything, including put out the Newsletter," he told me recently. Perhaps Ellie's secret weapon is her sister, Connie, Lou DiRusso's wife!

Bill and Ellie wanted to attend the last reunion in Branson, but they were constrained by Bill's health. He is currently struggling with cancer and chemotherapy treatments. "We want to make the next reunion in DC, if we're able," Bill said. Bill and Ellie enjoy their large family, and try to keep up with 13 great-grandchildren. "We adore them, and we have fun together."

Thanks, Bill, for your dedication and service. Without you and Ellie, the Association would not be where it is today.

Best regards,
Garry Phillips

Reunion in Washington DC

Garry Phillips reported that a small group of shipmates who live near Washington, DC, met at his home and made initial plans for the 2008 reunion. The core group consists of Garry, Pete Russell, Ed Willis, and Chip Chipley – and of course, their wives. The list of possible activities is nearly endless, but the group is trying to arrange events that are most meaningful to our membership while keeping in mind costs and time constraints.

We are in the process of locating a hotel that can accommodate a group of our size. If we can secure a suitable hotel in the downtown area, we can cut down on transportation costs and give ourselves more time to visit places of interest. Some of the sites that the group suggested are: Arlington Cemetery for the changing of the guard; Pentagon; Navy Memorial; Washington Navy Yard and museum; WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials; White House; the Capitol; and the various Smithsonian Museums. All of those are free admission. Numerous Civil War battle fields are also in the area. The Holocaust Museum is next door to another interesting tour at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. There is so much to see that you may want to take another day or two to look around this beautiful and historic city.

During the reunion, the Navy Memorial will host a reception and coordinate a wreath laying and the dedication of our Commemorative Plaque. Weather permitting, it will be held outside next to the Lone Sailor statue. You can see the site by logging onto <http://www.lonesailor.org/foundation.php>

By the time of the next Newsletter in May, we will have more specific details for you. Until then, if you have suggestions or questions about the reunion, the group would love to hear them.

Editors Column

Gordon Cargill

As editor of the News Letter, I sometimes receive mail that is of interest to all the Association members.

I received a letter from shipmate Alfred A. Rolg, Copper City, AK. In it was a newspaper clipping from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. The article was a feature "Cadillac Cabbie, 80, Is A Fixture In Fairbanks." The article mentioned that Bob Schermerhorn, after a 22-year navy career is now working as a cab driver for Alaska Cab. He has been driving for the past 36 years and only drives Cadillac's. His present cab is a 1991 Cadillac Brougham. He owns five and one has over 600,000 miles on it. "I like people and I like to drive, so it's really not a bad gig for me." During his time in the Navy, he served aboard the USS St. Paul and the USS Rochester. Shipmates who remember Bob Schermerhorn can contact him at P O Box 328, Nenna, Alaska, 99760.

Another letter I received is for a request for help:

To whom it may concern:

The VA Hospital in Marion has informed me that your organization or one of your members has a tape that I recorded in 1950 and was alleged to have been sent to my sister, Bernice Meyers in Alton, Illinois.

After 75 years the old mind has drifted a bit. I did serve on the Rochester as a storekeeper, but at this point I can remember nothing about the ship or shipmates. I ended up in an Air Force Hospital on Guam and can recall nothing but the Marine Corp awarding me the Purple Heart. I will appreciate the tape as my sister now lives in North Carolina.

I will look into your membership as I never knew of its existence prior to this incident.

Charles E. Meyers
1400 Mchaney Street
Eldorado, IL 62930-2136

If anyone remembers Charles or the recording please contact him.

CORRECTION

In the last News Letter, the e-mail address for Robin Henry, "Label Up" was incomplete. He is the engraver of the ships planks for those shipmates that wanted some engraving done. The correct e-mail address should be: labelupcwb@sbcglobal.net By the way, he engraved my plank and did an excellent job.

Note from Shipmate Randy Steffen

Thanks to Staff and Association Members' for the Rochester website.

Randy Steffen

New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

Robert E. Black, Sr., FN, B Division
Charlestown, NH, DOB 48-49
Richard L. Derry, RD3, K Division
Reno, NV, DOB 50-53
Harold L. Johnson, MM3, A, B & M Divisions
Lake Havasu City, AZ, DOB 56-60
Ronald J. Rothweiler, EN3, A Division
Cocoa, FL, DOB 51-54

TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Bobby Gene Walker	AR	2007	R	51-55
Vincent J. Amodeo	CT	2006	H	49-51
Robert Cox	ID	2004	?	51-55
Harris C. Douglass	CO	1995	CS	51-54
Edmund J. Fitzpatrick	NV	2003	1 st	57-58
Lee R. Gault	OH	2006	B	53-55
Fred H. Hofmann	TN	2006	M	47-48

Membership & Mailing Information

Cookeville, TN - The association runs on its active membership. Dues for 2007 should be mailed in soon after January 1st. Of course you may mail them in now and also pay 2008 if desired. There are a number of shipmates who have not sent in their 2006 dues. Hopefully, those who are behind will be able to bring them up-to-date. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your newsletter. An example: Bill Jones 05. 05 would be the year your dues have been paid up to. Joe Hill will be glad to further verify your membership status. He will be glad to talk to you. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone: 931-432-4848. E-Mail:

NiteCrawl@twlakes.net

Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request.

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER

Please let Joe know your new mailing addresses, phone numbers and e-Mail addresses. Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

ATTENTION SHIPMATES

Our Secretary/Treasurer Joe Hill is having a bit of a problem. It appears that some of our shipmates, over time, have made changes to their address. It may be a street change, telephone number, e-mail address or something that may seem insignificant. It does however make it difficult to keep our members informed of the Association activities and other shipmates trying to contact one another. If you have a change in your contact information, PLEASE fill out a new MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION form, with your name and changed information. Send it to Joe Hill. This MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION form is always part of each News Letter.

Chaplain's Corner

Frank West

FRIENDSHIP

During the annual State of the Union speech President Bush introduced a soldier who had thrown himself across his gunner in Iraq to protect him in battle. This kind of committed friendship is well known in the military and other groups. My grandson just graduated from a five month firefighter's academy and the emphasis in the graduating ceremony was, "You are now Brothers". There is an element of that kind of friendship present among our shipmates who served on the Rochester.

Over the past few years while attending Reunions I have had the privilege of getting to know shipmates I had not previously met. Other "oldtimers" I still communicate with by E-mail and phone calls. This past week I have been in communication with the family of another "R" division shipmate that has passed away.

Friendship is important. Jesus stressed friendship in John chapter 15. "I have called you Friends". Friendship is something to build on and work at. I would encourage all our shipmates to make the effort to locate and build bridges of friendship that we may be a mutual support to one another. We want to encourage others to get involved in the Rochester Association so we can better help each other. So, reach out, make contacts, so we may help each other.

Frank West, Chaplain

fawest@jps.net

Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 nd VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
James Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill
11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127
(858) 592-9366

scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net

.Ship's Store

We hope your Christmas and New Year's celebrations were just what you wanted them to be; and, we hope you have many fond memories of 2006.

Here in the Midwest we're experiencing "Winter." And, since it is likely to be with us for a while yet it's time to: THINK WARM!!!! Your Ship's Store has Sweatshirts, Windbreakers, and Ball Caps in stock and ready to ship. And, the USS Rochester afghan is nice and warm and comfortable for reading or watching TV. It's pretty, too.

USS Rochester Deck Planks

At the Reunion in Branson we handed out 109 pieces of deck planks from our Grand Ole Lady. As of this writing we have shipped 55 more pieces. There are still pieces of the planking available and they will be distributed on a "first come, first served" basis. Don't wait too long to request your "Piece of The ROC." Complete and mail the Certificate and enclose your check for \$10 for shipping,

USS Rochester Association 2006 Branson, MO, Reunion

This will be your last opportunity to order your Reunion Memory Book. We shall be sending in our final order on February 28th. If you have not yet ordered your Book, now is the time. Please complete the order form and enclose your check for \$25 payable to the USS Rochester Association before February 28th.

We wish you and yours smooth sailing and following winds.

'Til next time,
Larry and Mary

Request for Information **Lawrence O'Dell Mitchell, Sr.**

My father was in Pearl Harbor in 1951. He passed away in 1999 and is on your Taps. I do not know too much about his service but if anyone has anything to share, please feel free to contact me at mitchells614@msn.com

Thank you,
Larry Jr., USN/USAF Veteran

Charlie Allsopp, CDR USN (Ret.)
426 Oakland Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903

November 14, 2006

Dear Joe,

Just a line to bring you up to date on Betty's and my recent comings and goings. We had deep regrets we were unable to attend the Rochester Branson Reunion. It was so unlucky that it's dates conflicted with my Naval Academy Class of '42 Reunion, which had events during the same Oct 1st - 5th time period. The average age of my classmates was 87 and there were 55 of us, plus wives and children. Of course the "children" were by now quite grown up. I brought my son David who was 50. He also graduated from the Naval Academy and was able to include me on the cruise of the USS VON STEUBEN, on which he was Nuclear Reactor Officer, from Charleston, NC to Norfolk, VA. It was an intercontinental missile submarine, but quite a while ago. He transferred from the Navy to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and for quite some time has been responsible for the safe maintenance and operation of all nuclear power plants in the U.S. After Nine Eleven, he declined a request that he be responsible for the protection of all U.S. nuclear power plants against terrorist attack, but said he would give unlimited consultation to the person selected for that important position. He later received the Civilian Merit Award for the consultation he had provided - - So you see how we were torn between attending the two reunions that occurred in the same time frame. We certainly would have enjoyed Branson and being with old friends. There may or may not be another Class of '42 Reunion, but there positively will not be one in 2008.

See you then.

Sincerely,
Charlie Allsopp, CDR USN (Ret.)

P.S. Please circulate this note to our friends, especially "A" and "F" Divisions.

Happy Anniversary

Judy & Joe Hill
46 years on December 24th

Marge & Gordon Cargill
50 years on September 2nd

Fox Division

Roland E. Schneider

Rochester in Branson, 2006 – although our Fox numbers were slim we had our usual enjoyable time together with our shipmates and wives. Weather was wonderful, shows were great, and friendships were plentiful for over 200 Rochester Association members and spouses.

You will be interested in know that Washington DC was voted as the location for the 2008 USS Rochester reunion.

DC is a favorite of Nancy and me and we have been hoping to return one of these days, for sure to see the new WWII Memorial. As usual, the Rochester Association will be announcing details as they become available, via the web site and newsletter.

Fox Division Reunion 2007 – Bob and Chris Page will be hosting our group in Hannibal, Missouri, famous river town and the land of Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. Our reunion dates are September 17-19. However, we have time to consider a couple other dates, either September 24-26 or October 3-5. So, if September 17-19 absolutely will not work for you and one of the other two will, please indicate which is your best availability on the enclosed Invitation/Response form and get it back to Bob Page by February 28. We intend to accommodate the maximum number of attendees by selecting the most “popular” date.

Odds & Ends – Don’t have much to share but can tell you: Ron Richards married in September, plans to join us in Hannibal with his new bride; our age-related miseries continue with surgeries by myself, Chris Page, Carl Ray, and just recently Bob Cadden. I’m sure there is more going on, I just don’t know about it. Hopefully we’ll have a big gang together in Hannibal to share good memories, laugh at and enjoy our senior experiences.

Best Wishes,
“Moose”, *Roland E. Schneider (989-652-2086)*

Hello Fox Division Shipmates,

You are invited to come to Hannibal, Missouri for the next Fox reunion. Bob and Chris Page are hosting us on September 17-19, 2007. The reunion hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express, 4000 Market Street, 573-406-0300. When you call for your room, tell them it is for the Fox Division Reunion. The cost is \$70.50 plus tax, and that includes a full breakfast. The cut-off date for making a reservation is August 16, 2007. After that the rate will change. You can book extra nights, but that will be up to you. A brochure about Hannibal is included and if you are going to come, more brochures about the events planned will be sent to you, much closer to the date. Right now an afternoon cruise on a Mississippi riverboat and Wednesday dinner at a local restaurant with the whole group are the preliminary ideas.

Hope to see everyone again for a great time to visit in a quaint river town full of history.

Bob & Chris Page

Please let us know by Feb. 28th if you will be coming. We appreciate it if you would fill out the form below and send it back as that makes it much easier to plan.

Name _____ Spouse/Companion _____

_____ **YES**, I/We will be coming, Lord willing and the creek don’t rise.

Please circle your preferred dates:

September 17, 18 & 19 (current selection)

September 24, 25 & 26 (is better for us)

October 1, 2 & 3 (is even better)

_____ **NO**, I/We are not coming

Please send to:

Bob Page

#16036, P.O. Box 190

Jefferson, OR 97352-0190

The Crew News

LCDR George E. Allen, NSCC (U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps)

Effective March 1, 2007, I will be retiring as Commander of the Rochester Division CA-124, of the US Sea Cadets Corps. From that date forward, all correspondence and concerns are to be directed to: LT Kevin Cudney, NSCC, 6 Lexington Parkway, Rochester, NY 14624.

The USS Rochester Association wishes to thank LCDR Allen for his service to the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and express our appreciation for the contributions he has made to the Association. We wish him smooth sailing and following seas.

The Memorial Commemorative

The Association voted unanimously to raise funds to sponsor a plaque for the USS ROCHESTER at the Navy memorial in Washington, DC. Shipmate Clyde Van Arsdale made the motion that we sponsor a plaque honoring the ship and gave a brief explanation of how the program works. He also moved that a fund be established to pay for the plaque that will be placed on "The Memorial Commemorative Wall." The cost of sponsoring a memorial plaque is \$2,500.

At the end of the business meeting, a line of shipmates, led by Al Schnoebelen, made on-the-spot contributions amounting to \$890. An "Honor The Rock" list of contributors will be included in each newsletter until all the funds are raised. If you want to make a contribution, please send your check to Treasurer, Joe Hill, and write "Plaque" in the memo space. (See www.lonesailor.org for more information on the Memorial Commemorative Wall.)

Dues Donation in Memory

Joe Hill received a check in the amount of \$25.00 from Rose Ann Brennan. Mrs. Brennan made the donation to the Association in memory of her husband, John D. Brennan, a Rochester Plank Owner who passed away on October 22, 2004.

Honor The Rock

Charles A. Allsopp
Gene L. Bieber
Gordon W. Cargill – 2nd donation
Charles L. Chipley, Jr.
Paul R. Chalupa
David C. Cordell
Fred C. Davis III
Beverly Dumler
Richard G. Farrar
Farrell D. Ferguson – in name of his brother,
Edward T. Fletcher who served on Rochester
Herbert G. Fleming
Jackie W. Flowers
Harold F. Ford
Charles E. Gentry
Robert L. Huntington
James G. Romig
Harold W. Sewell
James A. Sexton
Harold D. Spencer
Larry D. Stone
Lloyd H. Traaen
Eugene L. Valla
Jim Young

