

COMMENTS FROM SHIPMATES (copied from Social Media)

Drew Solberg -"This was a good old ship. I was the DM2 '79-'81 when it changed homeports to LaMad. It was actually my very first Navy duty station."

Darin Snider—"I was onboard from Dec. 1985-Dec. 1987—BM3 Crane Division. I remember the long hot days and nights trying to get her back in service!"

Mike Bible—"I was part of R-2 Div 31A from Dec. '82—Mar.'84. Some of the best days of my life!"

Christopher Nichols—ET-2 (SW) '81-'84. I loved this old ship. She took me places I'd never have seen otherwise. Orion you made your place in history."

Matt Harpst -'82-'84 Supply, Disbursing and ADP. Remember superior food during my time."

USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization

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TAPS

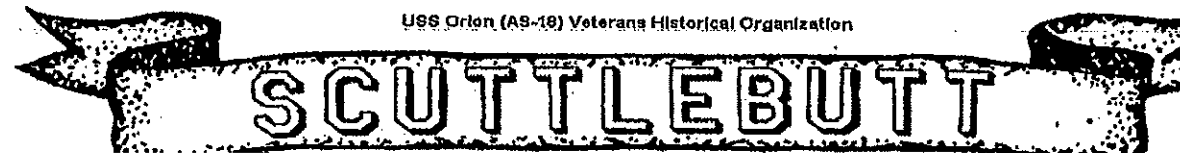
- ◆ **Harry N. Alzman**, EN-3, Forward Engine Room—'48-'52— died August 15,2014
- ◆ **Arthur Ronald Crager**, died June 21, 2014
- ◆ **Richard J. Eier**, '52-'53—died January 8, 2015
- ◆ **Donald Carroll Mort**, DC-1, DC, Repair, Diving Locker - '53-'59—died December 1, 2014
- ◆ **Clifford N. Nutter**, MRI, Machine Shop—'55-'58—died June 24, 2014
- ◆ **Loal Smith**, MR2, Machine Shop-'57 -'59—died March 14, 2014

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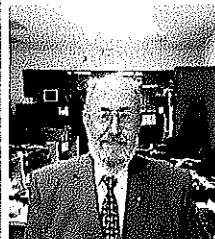
USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization



April 2015

Volume 27 No. 2

2015 REUNION - NASHVILLE, TN SEPTEMBER 24-28



Roy Smith

Roy Smith, our host for the 2015 Reunion has planned three full days of activities and sightseeing. The Holiday Inn Opryland-ARPT (Briley Parkway), 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN is the reunion hotel. The rate is \$129 per night (double occupancy) plus tax including complimentary breakfast (for two per room), pool, free self-parking and complimentary airport transportation from Nashville International Airport.

Hotel reservations need to be made by August 15 to get the Orion special rate. Call 1-800-315-2621 or 1-615-883-9770 and ask for in-house reservations. The rate will be extended three days before and after the reunion. The deadline for all reunion reservations for activities will also be August 15.

REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 24—\$20.00—Registration will began at 4:00 p.m. in the hospitality room. Registration includes snacks and beverages in the hospitality room, name tags and printing costs.

Friday, September 25—11 AM—3 PM—\$82.00 –General Jackson Lunch Cruise. The General Jackson is a 300-foot-long paddle wheel riverboat, known as the largest showboat in the world. You will see natural and historical sights along the banks of Nashville's beautiful Cumberland River. Four massive decks offer excellent opportunities to see the sights of Nashville and the countryside of central Tennessee.

Friday Evening, September 25—\$60.00—Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theater. If you love country music and country cookin', you will want to experience this dining experience and variety show. Voted Nashville's #1 Dinner Show, you will experience a celebration of Country Music from both past and present.

Saturday, September 26—8:30 AM-3:30 PM—\$68.00—Explore Music City Tour—includes a guided tour of Historic RCA Studio B (the recording home of Elvis Presley among others) and a self-guided tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum called the "Smithsonian of country music". You will be immersed in the history and sounds of country music, its origins and traditions, and the stories and voices of many of its honored architects. (Lunch will be on your own at your leisure.)

Saturday Evening, September 26 -6:00 PM—\$66.00—Grand Old Opry Tour –Reserved seat ticket to the Grand Ole Opry (Tier 2 seating) - the "home of American music" and "country's" most famous stage. The Opry, an American icon and Nashville's number one attraction.

Reunion Schedule (Continued)

Sunday, September 27 –8:30 AM -\$48.00 (veterans) \$64.00 (spouses and guests)- The Hermitage Lunch Tour with Memorial Service. The Hermitage—home of our 7th President—Andrew Jackson where you will walk through Andrew Jackson's life and home, explore a beautiful, vintage Tennessee farm and experience an important piece of Nashville and our nation. The Memorial Service will be held in the Hermitage Church or another location at The Hermitage followed by a buffet lunch at Hermitage House Smorgasbord.

Sunday Evening—6:00 PM—Business Meeting and Farewell Reception—\$15.00 –featuring light hors d'oeuvres.

Note: Only two meals are NOT included in the three days of activities. Please notify Roy Smith if you need handicap assistance for any of the activities.

EARLY BIRD DRAWING

Reunion Registrations

received by

July 15 will be entered into a drawing.

The winner will receive one night's free lodging.



MARCH MADNESS

..The Orion Basketball team in February 1961 clinched at least a tie for first place in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard League by defeating AFES 64-19. The team had a 16-1 record and an excellent chance to win the league championship which was determined in March 1961. (Information taken from *The Star and Bull*—Feb. 1961)

GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

1968

USS ORION AS 18
Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

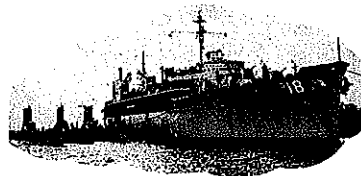


Welcome aboard:
This pamphlet will acquaint you with the history of ORION and the many ways in which we serve the Submarine Force. Please keep it as a souvenir. We of ORION hope that you enjoy your time on board and that your understanding of our contribution to the Submarine Force and the U. S. Navy is increased.

J. C. BELLAH
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
USS ORION (AS18)



U.S.S. ORION ENSIGNIA



SUBMARINE TENDER

SUBMARINE SQUADRON SIX
U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR
SOUVENIR PAMPHLET?

ABOUT THE ORION

....The Orion provided medical services — 2 doctors, 23 bed sick bay, complete operating room for major surgery, pharmacy, dental services (3 dentists plus complete dental laboratory), barber shop (30,000 haircuts a year), cobbler shop, tailor shop, laundry-dry cleaning plant and a ship's store.

.... The repair capabilities of the Orion were contained within her hull. The shops of the Orion included:

Torpedo Overhaul	Lithography	Canvas & Upholstery
Fire Control Repair	Electronics Repair	Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Periscope & Optical Repair	Divers & Underwater Hull Repair	Electrical
Gyro Repair	Blue Printing & Drafting	Interior Communications
Instrument Repair	Rubber & Plastics	Outside & Inside Machine Shops
Watch Repair	Foundry	Nuclear Repair & Health Physics
Typewriter Repair	Pattern	Sheet Metal
Photography	Carpentry	Chemical Analysis RAD
Welding	Plumbing & Pipe	Battery Overhaul...

Write and tell us about your experiences where you served.

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

(copied from the *THE STAR AND BULL*—February 1961—US NAVY)

"Welcome Home, Daddy". These are words that will be ringing in our ears by the time this issue comes off the press. We become more deeply impressed with the importance of our families and our homes. Shipyard periods, underway training periods, and other military evolutions cause us to be absent—only to make the heart grow fonder.

Our enemies jeer at Americans and state that if they want us to emote and become angry while we're in captivity they only need to deride 'mother', 'home', or 'God'. But without a doubt the most important heritage that a child can receive is the heritage of a well-disciplined home. The church can function effectively only if its membership is made of people who try to have stable homes. The school, by the same token, is only able to motivate learning and foster personality growth as it can work in conjunction that other important character building institution—the home.

The strength of a nation is determined by the home. Real purpose of life is first fostered in the home. Real purpose of life place where a religious faith is initially developed is in the home. Especially in this Lenten season do we find our purpose, and our faith. We are told in the Holy Scriptures that believers are members of the 'household of God'. Let us exercise due concern that our homes can exemplify the type of cooperative venture in courageous lives that we need. May God bless our homes!.....Chaplain O. R. Fitzgerald



President
Tom Pieper

Let me take this opportunity to recap the results of the 'reunion survey' that was mailed to all in our December 2014 Scuttlebutt. We had approximately 63 surveys returned. Of those 37 were from members who **HAD** attended a reunion and 26 were from those who **NEVER** attended a reunion. So the responses are obviously very different.

First are those who never attended a reunion. Site location, costs, tours all seemed to be favorable. However health and age were serious concerns since they have not been to reunions due to the shipmate's health or the spouses.

For those who have attended a reunions! Many were happy with the reunions, costs and locations. They had attended many reunions and will continue to do so. However to some the costs of the hotels, tours, and travel were concerns. Some believe that the hotel should be no more than \$90 per night with a free breakfast, shuttle bus, etc.

In conclusion it appears that we will attempt to continue the reunions on the same schedule as before with the locations being determined mostly by a willing sponsor and being rotated though out the country. A strong effort will be made to keep cost down! However when you search for a hotel, that has a banquet facility, free shuttle bus, free hospitality room, free breakfasts, etc. it will be and it is hard to keep the cost down at the \$90.00 level.

If we cannot correct the declining attendance issue, then we will have to adjust our thinking. The bylaws say that the reunions are to be self sufficient. So please if you have not attended a reunion please do so: meet your shipmates, make new friends, call it a mini-vacation, whatever, but get there.

Old man winter is slowly leaving us and Jack Prendergast may be the happiest of all of us. Imagine 4 feet of snow on your roof, and if you fall off trying to remove it no problem: you fall into 4 feet of snow. Boston is close to an all time record—100 inches of snow in one year.

We are looking forward to an exciting time in Nashville! Music City! Roy has one heck of a bash planned for us! So sign up and enjoy!

We hope you and yours had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a pleasant winter. Looking forward to seeing all of you in the Nashville, Tennessee, the Music City, in 2015 for our 27th reunion.

Lorraine and Tom Pieper

USS ORION REUNION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE SEPTEMBER 24-28, 2015

(Please print your names as you would like them to appear on your name tag)

NAME _____ SPOUSE NAME _____ OTHER GUEST (s) _____ STREET OR PO BOX _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____ Served aboard ORION from _____ to _____ Rank/Rate _____ Check all that apply: _____ First Reunion _____ Plank Owner _____ Pearl Harbor Survivor	Make check payable to: Orion Reunion 2015 Mail to: Roy Smith IC-2 1960-1962 2740 Tabernacle Church Rd. Pleasant Garden, NC 27313 Phone: (336) 312-0647 E-Mail: ussorion2015@gmail.com RESERVATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 15, 2015
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ORION 27th ANNUAL REUNION EVENTS	Price per Person	# of People	Total Cost
Thursday, September 24 — Registration Fee Check In—Hospitality Suite Open (includes snacks and beverages)	\$20.00		
Friday, September 25—11:00 AM—3:00 PM —General Jackson Lunch Cruise Tour—Includes transportation, tour guide, Lunch Cruise Admission, Taxes and Gratuity	\$82.00		
Friday Evening—September 25—5:00 PM—9:00 PM —Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre Tour -Includes transportation, tour guide, Buffet Dinner and Show , Taxes and Gratuity	\$60.00		
Saturday, September 26—8:30 AM –3:30 PM —Explore Music City Tour- Includes transportation, tour guide, Guided tour of Historic RCA Studio B, and self-guided tour of Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. (Lunch on your own)	\$68.00		
Saturday Evening—September 26—6:00 PM—9:45 PM —Grand Ole Opry (Includes transportation, tour guide and reserved seating.)	\$66.00		
Sunday, September 27—8:30 AM—1:30 PM - The Hermitage (home of 7th President Andrew Jackson) with Memorial Service. Buffet Lunch (includes taxes and gratuity). \$64.00 per person (spouse and guest); Veterans \$48.00	\$64.00		
	\$48.00		
Sunday Evening—6:00 PM —Business Meeting with light hors D’oeuvres .	\$15.00		
TOTAL			

