

COMMENTS FROM SHIPMATES (Received by Roy Smith, Reunion Host)

- * Ed Ludde, LI2—Health problems were a concern and unable to attend reunion.
- * Kerry L. Blance, Forward Engine Room '78-'81—Doing Great; unable to make reunion this time.
- * Mike Blanchard, HTC R-1, '92-'93—just moved back from Japan and living in San Diego, CA, after 20 years supporting the US Navy—now 63 years old and still helping to manage projects for the Navy.
- * Richard Fritz, 2nd Div Boat Deck & Crane Operator, '70-'72—unable to attend - works for school system in Lexington, KY and busy time of year. Would like to hear from anyone on deck force during that time. His CO was Capt. J. J. Nuss.

USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization

President—Tom Pieper

3938 Ficus Court, Hamilton, OH 45013

(513)738-3499 (E-mail ttp@fuse.net)

Vice-President—Jack Prendergast

14 Gerald Ave., Randolph, MA 02368

(781)963-2793 (E-mail jprendergast93@comcast.net)

Secretary/Treasurer—John Bellis

121 East Ellington Street, Peoria, IL 61603

(E-mail orionveterans@gmail.com)

Storekeeper—Larry Snyder

308 Oak Street, Rowley, IA 52329

(319)939-3668 (E-mail rowleyrunner@gmail.com)

Auditing Committee

Glenn Helbert

Ted Swenson

Scuttlebutt Editors -Harold and Fran Wright

1404 Canterbury Rd, Tarboro, NC 27886

(252)823-2525 (E-mail fwright743@gmail.com)

The Scuttlebutt is published in April, August and December by the USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization, Inc., a non-profit (501C-7) organization and has no official affiliation with the U.S. Navy. Pictures and articles are contributed by members and depict activities of the USS Orion, its crew members or persons affiliated with USS Orion (AS-18).



- * Don Brewer SH-2, '65-'67—will be attending a reunion for the USS Carter Hall LSD-3 with shipmates from Vietnam in Myrtle Beach, SC. (Maybe next time, Don.)
- * Mike Zulinski, MSC, formally (CS) USN (Ret). Lives in Wilmington, DE—retired after 20+ years USN. Enjoyed and loved each and every day of his 20+ years. Included a message to Ed Renda—Talk about a squared away uniform, “got pictures of you as Mess Cook running around S-2 in your skivvies and socks. (Maybe you should share that picture with other shipmates).
- * Larry Restainer-'62-'66—after discharge, did tool and die apprenticeship-working in MI; received degree in Industrial Tech and moved to KY in '93; worked for Toyota-retired 1993. Living in Louisville, KY; married for 31 years; 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

SHIPMATES—WE LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

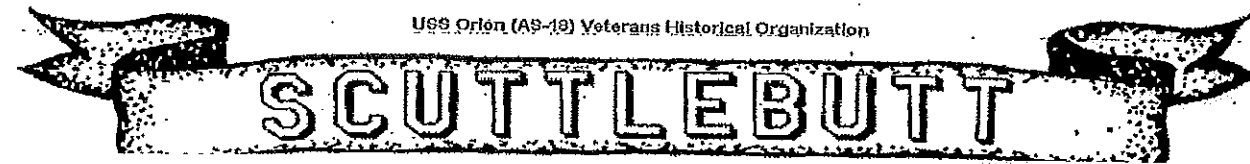
USS Orion Veterans
Historical Organization
1404 Canterbury Road
Tarboro, NC 27886

Return Service Requested

US Postage

Paid Permit # 19
Tarboro, NC 27886

USS Orion (AS-18) Veterans Historical Organization



August 2015

Volume 27 No. 3



Roy Smith

RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2015 REUNION ARE DUE AUGUST 15

The registration deadline of AUGUST 15 for all activities and hotel reservations is almost upon us. We urge you to mail your registration as soon as possible. You won't want to miss all the activities planned in Nashville, Tennessee. Thanks to Roy Smith of Pleasant Garden, NC, 2015 Reunion Host, he has exciting plans for us. The Holiday Inn Opryland-ARPT (Briley Parkway) is the reunion hotel. Call 1-800-315-2621 or 1-615-883-9770 and ask for in-house reservations for the Orion Group to get the special rate of \$129 per night (double occupancy) plus tax including complimentary full breakfast for two. Following is a recap of the activities planned. Detailed information was listed in the April 2015 Scuttlebutt.

Thursday, September 24— Beginning at 4 PM., check-in and registration. Head to the hospitality room for snacks and beverages (including fine wine and beer chosen by non other than out host.)

Friday, September 25— The General Jackson lunch cruise will be the first option for the day. We will be boarding one of the largest showboats to 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 and all the while enjoying lunch.

Friday Evening, September 25— If you love country music (and even if you don't) 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. We will be hearing country music with lyrics where both your ex and your dog will return home!!

Saturday, September 26—We will be given a guided tour of Historic RCA Studio B (the recording home of Elvis Presley among others) and also see 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. (Lunch will be on your own at your leisure.)

Saturday Evening, September 26 -Saving the best until later in the day—Reserved seat ticket to the Grand Ole Opry (Tier 2 seating) - the “home of American music” and “country's” most famous stage. Some one may even get to go on stage so get ready!



Sunday, September 27 -. The Hermitage—home of our 7th President, Andrew Jackson, where we will explore a beautiful home and hold our Memorial Service at the Hermitage Church, followed by a buffet lunch at Hermitage House Smorgasbord. You won't want to miss this special part of the reunion.

Sunday Evening we will have our business meeting and farewell reception.



EARLY BIRD DRAWING

Reunion Registrations received by July 15 will

be entered into a drawing. The winner will receive one night's free lodging.

Those included are :

Art and Carol Mager

Joe and Patricia Stracka

Ted and Martha Swenson

Jack and Bev Prendergast

Bob and Gloria Wolanin

Joe and Sharon Newell

Frank and Rose Maynor

Wayne and Jean Ehmen

Wayne and Charito Turner

Harold and Fran Wright

Denny & Pat Rose

John and Joan Klena

Raymond and Jean Jones

GOOD LUCK TO THE EARLY BIRDS!



SPLIT-THE-POT DRAWING

There are 10 tickets enclosed with the Scuttlebutt. Each ticket is a \$1.00 donation. If you wish to participate, fill out the ticket stubs and return them to John Bellis, 121 East Ellington Street, Peoria, IL 61603. Two winners will be drawn at the Reception on Sunday Evening—50% for OVHO and 25% for each winner. Last year's winners received over \$200. Tickets will also be available at the reunion.

TAPS

- Carmine R. DeFrancesco (Fricso) -died 11 Jan. 2015
- Joe Dugan, EM3, R3 Repair and Engineer Div. - '76-'79 died 19 June 2015
- David G. Flynn, AC & R Shop-'81-'82 -died 10 January 2013
- Eugene Kump, CPMKR, 11 Div. Pattern Shop—Plank Owner and Pearl Harbor Survivor—'43-45 - recently notified—deceased 29 July 2005
- Edward Ransom, CDR, X Div, Executive Officer- '80-'82— notified he was deceased—date unknown
- Lanie Smith, Sr, 193 Radio Operator—'63-'69 died 07 Dec. 2013 in Boynton, Beach
- Roger Swartfiguer, SKI, SN, 1st. Div. '48-'49—died 26 Dec. 2012

From the Star and BullFebruary 1953

Frank Maynor was kind enough to send us a copy of the Star and Bull from his time on board the Orion and it appears that we now know where Frank learned to danceThe Ship's Party at San-Juan. Here are a few excerpts about the evening.

"Another evening of fun and enjoyment was added to those already experienced by the men of the ORION, when Wednesday evening, a ship's party and dance was held at the Naval Base Recreational Hall. Everything worked out fine providing something for everyone. For those who wished to just sit back and have a cool beer or soft drink, these were provided free of charge with no limitations per man. For those wishing to dance, as pretty a flock of girls as we've seen in a long time were on hand. There was a mad scramble on the part of the "Swabs" to secure a partner for the evening. But this was not as simple as it sounds. Unfortunately, there were not enough girls to go around. So if, in the course of the evening, one of your shipmates came over to your table and asked your partner for a dance, she would have to oblige and give them a chance to join in the dancing. The Naval Base Band did a fine job in providing music for the dancing. Their music was on a varied level. Waltzes, foxtrots, polkas, rhumba, mambo, and several other specialties were played. Several of the boys, never having done a rhumba or mambo before, still got out there and did their best to learn. Surprisingly enough, they did an excellent job. Anyway, thus far we have no reports of broken toes or hips, whichever the case may be. There was also a table laden with tasty food, a welcome sight."

Frank, maybe you will have the opportunity to show us some of these dance steps since we will be in 'music' country!



John Bellis

NOW HEAR THIS!! NOW HEAR THIS!!!

Ahoy Shipmates!! It is that time of year again. The annual reunion lies straight ahead and it is time to think about paying the annual dues for 2016. Dues are only \$10 per year and run from January 1st thru December 31st. These monies are used to pay for the printing and mailing of our newsletter, "The Scuttlebutt". Without them, the Scuttlebutt would not be possible. The newsletter is published three times a year and is our biggest expense. Any remaining funds are used as "seed monies" for the annual reunion as deposits are required to secure blocks of rooms at hotels, transportation to and from activities, restaurants for any provided meals, etc. Remember, payment of dues is optional to be a member. But as you can see, without them our organization would not exist.

Instructions for payment of dues are included in this newsletter and a "reminder" will be included in the December Scuttlebutt.

Thank you me hearties!!! ...and look forward to seeing you in Nashville!!

John Bellis, Secretary/Treasurer



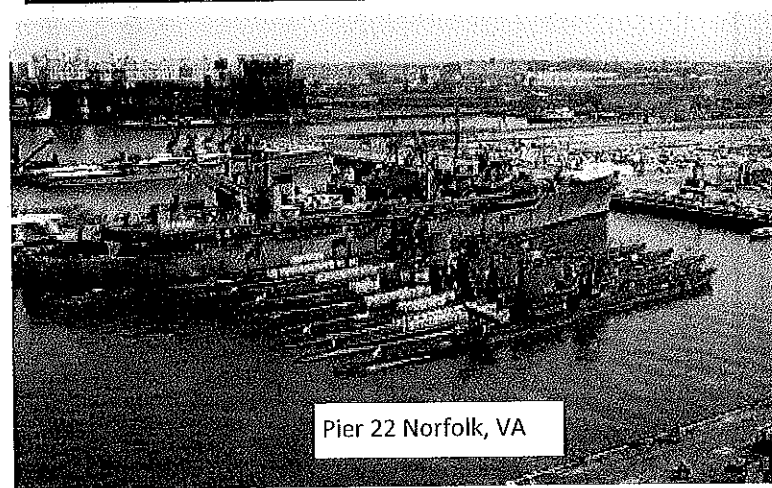
Good times at Virginia Beach, VA in 1960 or 61.

3rd from left is Ron Newsam, IC2, E Div;
Next is Billy Jo Robinson, IC2, E Div.

4th on the right is Roy Smith, IC2.

Can anyone identify any of the other shipmates?

(Photo provided by Roy Smith)



Pier 22 Norfolk, VA



SHIP'S STORE

There are lots of items in the ship's store. They can be viewed by going to the Orion web

page—ussorion.org and click on Ship's Store. Larry Snyder, storekeeper will be delighted to fill your order. You can contact him by calling :

319-939-3668, E-mail:

rowleyruner@gmail.com. It is not too early to be thinking about gifts for Christmas. A detailed list of items available will be in the December Scuttlebutt.