

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter Of The Kearsarge Association

ISSUE 27

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

FEB, 2004

New Orleans Reunion Events

April 7, 2004 – Tour on your own

April 7, 2004 – Wednesday Evening Reception, \$20.00 per person (check for time when you register)

Gumbo Station, Passed mini Muffettas and Turkey Po-boys, Louisiana Crawfish pies, Zapp's potato chips, Mardi Gras cole slaw, Dessert station with King Cake and Bread Pudding

April 8, 2004 – Thursday (10:30AM - 4:30PM) City Tour & River Cruise with lunch. Tour costs \$30.00 per person

Enjoy a two-hour cruise along the Mississippi River aboard the riverboat Natchez. Learn the history and experience the sights and sounds of America's second largest port. Listen to live Jazz music while enjoying a delicious buffet lunch.

April 9, 2004 – Friday (9:00AM - 5:00PM) River Road Plantation and lunch Tour costs \$38.00 per person

This narrated tour takes you past antebellum plantation homes surrounded by massive oaks, sugar cane fields, pecan groves and Louisiana countryside. Walk through two of these beautiful homes while resident guides tell the history of the homes and elegant lifestyle of wealthy plantation families. Enjoy a Cajun Country lunch complete with Southern hospitality.

April 10, 2004 – Saturday (9:30AM - 1:00PM) Cypress Swamp Tour and lunch. Tour costs \$37.00 per person

Experience the timeless beauty of Louisiana marshes, swamps, and the bayous from the comfort of a swamp boat. Learn the history of the Cajun people, and observe native Louisiana wildlife such as alligators, egrets, raccoons, ducks and water snakes in their natural habitat. A Cajun Buffet is included with Red Beans and Rice, Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya, Bayou Country Gumbo, Fried Catfish Fillets
Tossed green salad, French Bread and Butter and Bread Pudding. Iced Tea, Soft drinks and Coffee are also included.

April 10, Saturday evening, Dinner Dance, \$40.00 (Cash bar will probably start at six with dinner at seven)

Soup

Salad

Choice of the following entrées:

Fresh grilled filet of fish with gulf shrimp, dill and chive sauce or

Slow Roasted 8oz Prime Rib of Beef au jus, horseradish cream

Chef's choice of potato, pasta or rice and vegetables

Desert

Rolls, coffee, tea

Live entertainment will be provided for you to enjoy and dance the calories away

ALL TIME ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE SO CHECK YOUR HOSPITALITY ROOM AT HOTEL FOR LATEST INFORMATION

Registration form is on page 7

SICK BAY

TW Smith, our Membership Chairman(VF-112 - 1952 to 1955)has been afflicted with Alzheimer's, and is in a rest home. He would enjoy getting a card from you. Most everyone that has been to a reunion knows TW. He was the Vice President of the Association for a long time. He was one of the first to join the Association and he carries card #2. Lets give him some cards to look at. His daughter, Lisa Rhodes, has asked to continue his membership as Associate Lisa Rhodes. TW's address is: TW Smith, C/O Tara Plantation, Room 305, 440 Tribble Road, Cumming, GA 30040.

Rod Amelotte (B Div 54-55)

Rod's wife, Pat wrote the following letter on February 12, 2004

Dear Shipmates,

I'm writing this letter for my husband, Rod Amelotte. I'd like you all to know what happened with him. In July this year he fell from a shed roof in our back yard. He fell flat on his back. He is paralyzed from under the chest down. He will never walk again.

Right now, he is in Veterans Hospital, 1201 Broad Rock BLVD, Richmond, VA 23249. Room #142 -1-W, Bed 21. Phone 1-804-675-6129.

He also has an eye disease, which makes it hard for him to read. I have to call the hospital and see if there isn't someone there that can help him with his mail.

I have been ill myself so I don't get to see him much, but I do call him often. He can be reached by phone after 4:30 in the afternoon. They keep him busy the early part of the day.

He may be moved to a nursing home in the Virginia Beach area in the near future. If so, I will send the new address and phone. I know he would love to hear from his buddies. Got Bless and regards to all.

Pat Amelotte

Richard Wicks (SN S3 Div 54-55) wrote on 1/23/04

Dear Mr. Work,

Just a line to update my membership (check enclosed) and change of new address due to my stroke I had in Oct. 2002. My new address is 15204 SE Sun Park Drive, Vancouver, WA 98683.

My recovery from a massive stroke has left me where I can hardly walk. I would like to see the next reunion (after New Orleans) to be held here in the great Nort West, like is Portland, OR. I am sure this area has quite a few KEARSARGE members who would love to attend, including me!

I would love to hear from some one who was aboard in 54-55 who knew me personally 9Seaman Supply Clothing and Small Stores)

Richard F. Wicks

TAPS

John G. Normyle (LTJG H Div 46-48)

On 23 January Jan Williams, daughter of Dr. John G. Normyle informed me of the death of her father.

Dear Paul,

I wish to inform your association that my father passed away in the early morning hours of December 18th, 2003. He suffered no pain or anxiety. I was fortunate enough to have visited with him for 2 weeks prior to his passing but unfortunately that doesn't seem to bring me as much comfort as I would like it too. I shall miss him every day for the remainder of my life. Memorial services are being arranged with Georgetown University but have not been finalized.

May your remaining members remain healthy in 2004 and beyond.

Regards,

Jan Williams, Manager - Business Intelligence, Host Marriott Corporation, 6903 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1500, Bethesda, MD 20817, (240) 744-5270, (240) 744-5769 (fax)

Note: Jan has requested information from anyone who has served with her father regarding his experiences aboard the KEARSARGE.

LETTERS

Randolf Green (LT, H Div 45-46) wrote to John Work on 1/17/04

Dear John,

Enclosed is a check to cover dues and roster. I appreciate your doing this for our Association and hope to see you in New Orleans.

I am a Plankowner of CV33 having been assigned to the commissioning detail, Newport, RI in Nov. 1945 as a junior Dental Officer. Have missed the last two or three reunions.

I hope to see some of the following who would also be Plankowners: Ensign Manley, Cadzow, Fenner, Heisselrath, Don Kimmel and Ensign Bowen, Ostrow, Day, Black and Nozarek.

I well remember our training cruise off New England coast on board RANDOLF CV15. It was my roughest night at sea - hurricane conditions.

Also, our trip to Brooklyn Navy Yard began with sleet in Newport, by truck to the train, then truck again to the Brooklyn Navy Yard after arriving at Grand Central Station.

Regards,

Randolf (Randy) Green, DDS, 26 Crestwood Dr., Rome GA 30165

Bob Tankle (ENS M Div 45-46) wrote to Dick Stambaugh regarding obtaining a piece of the flight deck on 1/20/04.

Dear Dick:

I am also a Plankowner of the USS KEARSARGE CV33. I saw your letter in the recent issue of Kear Saga. This is how I got a sample of the flight deck. I wrote to: Department of the Naval, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC 20374-0571.

I sent my request along with a copy of my Plankowner's certificate and received my sample piece of the flight deck.

I joined the KEARSARGE crew at pre-commissioning training at Newport, RI and then went aboard at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. I was a Junior Officer, M Division and an Ensign in the engine room.

I hope this helps you.

Very Truly Yours,

Bob Tankle

Jackie Olinger wrote to John Work on 1/26/04

Dear John,

I am Jackie Olinger. I served on the KEARSARGE from 1947 to 1950, N Division, QM3. In The winter months I volunteer on the LEXINGTON, a museum located in Corpus Christi, TX. I was on the flight deck on Wednesday, 21 January when the USS ORISKANY CV34 was towed into a dock area. The plans are to decontaminate her-remove all hazardous materials! A six month process program. The plan is to sink her off Florida or Corpus Christi (as an artificial fish reef) - the location is yet to be decided by the powers that be.

Here is my annual fee. Thank you, I enjoy the news letter

Jackie Olinger

Sid Lundeen wrote to John on 1/21/04

Dear John, (That line use to be a bad start!)

Anyway, I apologize for my tardiness on keeping up with my membership dues. Until I read this last newsletter I totally missed my expiration date. I am sending two payments so this doesn't happen again.

I wish I could attend this year's reunion but my very favorite niece is getting married in Oregon on April 10. Hope to catch the next reunion.

Also on this trip out west I'm going to spend a few days with my buddy Jim Walker who was on the KEARSARGE when I wen aboard in 1959. We've kept in touch all these years visiting one another every few years. In fact we were in the Radio Gang (OR Div) with your Historian, Steve Udell during this time period.

I'm enclosing an additional \$5.00 for the roster. Once again, sorry for the payment delay.

Thanks Sid Lundeen (59-64)

David R. Besso wrote on 1/24/04

John,

I am enclosing a check for last year's past dues. Excuse the delay in payment, probably due to back and spine surgery I incurred, which was foremost in priority of thought.

My recent newsletter I received reminded me of current status. I enjoy the news and Hope that I get to a reunion soon.

Sincerely,

Dave (AE3, V-2 Div 49-50)

Harry Saltsman (AN VIF 47-50) wrote on 1/21/04

Dear Editor,

Did you know that the KEARSARGE CV-33 has a monument to honor those that lost their lives in Norfolk, May 1948. For those that would like to see the monument, it is at Wisconsin Square, by the Lone Sailor at Norfolk.

The KEARSARGE is one of the ten memorials, including the FORRESTAL, SCORPION, NEWPORT NEWS, NIMITZ, LIBERTY, COLE, BELKNAP, and another to those killed at the Pentagon on 9/11/01. The unveiling of the monument was on May 23, 2003.

I had my article in the Spring 1994 Kear Saga how my life might have been saved by two glass horses that night.

Harry Saltsman, AN

Note: The following is a description of the memorial from a picture furnished by Harry:

A bronze plaque is mounted on a granite slab. The plaque has a view of the KEARSARGE looking down toward the port bow. Below are the words USS KEARSARGE (CV-33) centered, followed by:

USS KEARSARGE scheduled to depart for the Mediterranean Sea on June 1, 1948, was anchored off Naval Station, Norfolk in anticipation of an early morning departure.

Sailors and Marines returning to the ship the night of May 31 encountered heavy seas caused by high winds. A boat carrying over 90 men to the ship was swamped and sunk.

Thirty dedicated USS KEARSARGE Sailors and Marines drowned in the waters within sight of their ship and the Naval Station, never to sail again.

This plaque is dedicated to their memory by C. Lloyd Johnson

Lloyd Jantz (ME2 R Div 53-560 wrote on 1/21/04
John.

Enclosed is my check for the Kear Saga dues. I enjoy reading about the "Mighty Kay" It makes me sad to see so many old friends have passed away. We are all getting older. I Wanted so much to make the San Francisco reunion, but just couldn't work it out.

Sincerely,
Lloyd L. Jantz

William Heitz wrote on 1/22/04
John,

Please send me a roster of the former shipmates of the "Mighty Kay" I was aboard from Sept 1954 to June 9, 1958. I was in M Div in the forward Engine Room. Stood many watches with LTJG Paul Czesak. He was Engineering Officer of the Watch. I enjoy the Kear Saga paper. There are many interesting articles.

I am not sure if I will be going to the reunion. I still own and operate a service station and repair shop. I also am a dealer for the U Haul Company renting trucks and trailers.

I served four years aboard the USS KEARSARGE, and after my discharge I did go back into the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1990.

Enclosed is a check for my dues and roster.

Thanks you
Bill Heitz

MRS. Patricia Exum wrote for her husband **Lowell** on 1/27/04
To John Work

Several Years ago under a strange chain of events, we were given info on how and where to get in touch with your Association. I had given my husband a USS KEARSARGE hat (he had served during the early sixties). We were at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, TN and a lady asked if he had served on that ship, and of course the answer was yes. She replied that her brother who was older had also. She put us in contact with him, and he forwarded info to the Association. I quickly forwarded dues but did not receive anything for a year and a half. (All is in order now.)

My first letter concerned trying to locate some of my husbands buddies. I even called a guy in California who had the same strange last name, as well as the first. No luck. I am enclosing dues and \$5.00 for a roster.

Just like in one of your recent letters from Emery Murray my husband remembers the Wally Schirra splash down (we have some pictures) and the collision with the ocean liner.

We are trying to locate Richard Pytlik(not sure of spelling), also laundry personnel as well as others.

Thanks
Patricia Exum for Lowell C. Exum , P.O. Box 1034, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Don Belleville

Dear John,

I would like an updated copy of the Association roster. And is there any place a person can get a copy of their Basic Training Company phot from 1951 and cruise books from 1952 to 1955 on the KEARSARGE. Mine were lost in a fire.

Thank You,

Don Belleville (BT3 B Div 52-55) 560 Erwin St., Louisville, IL 62858

E-MAIL ITEM

Walter W. Wagner (AN V1 Div 52-53) has sent us his correct E-mail address. It is walwwag@aol.com. Note that there are two ws before ag.

REMEMBERING THE "CAINE MUTINY"

Recently I received a phone call from an Iowa "farm boy" who had a once in a lifetime thrill thanks to being one of Uncle Sam's Sailors. Earl Brandt (MM3 A Div 52-54) was one of the "extras" in the flight deck scene. Everyone on the port side rushed to the starboard side, those on the starboard side headed for the port side, all those forward headed aft, and those aft charged forward. However, this experience paled in comparison to another event that day. Just imagine being a country lad who's previous opportunities to judge feminine beauty was limited to Holstein cows at the county fair, and now having the experience to following Lauren Bacall up a ladder. Can anyone top this?

Evening Colors

When sleepy harbor airs may stir at touch of evening breeze,
and sinking sun gilds western skies with fires of burning seas,
proud sailors stand tall to see our colors flutter down.

The bugles call across the bay and echo in men's hearts,
and lights flick on at mast and boom as though by magic arts,
and sailors stand tall to see our colors flutter down

And in that peaceful evening scene I sense a presence near
as ghosts of ancient sailing men rise up and struggle clear
to stand tall with me and see or colors flutter down

Floyd Beaver

Submitted by **Bob (Guns) Briand**, C.P.O. RET (G Div 54-56)

Don't delay in sending in your reunion registration(next page), with check

THE USS KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION
2004 REGISTRATION FORM, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Member Name	
Guest Name	
Guest Name	
Guest Name	

Total attendees X \$10.00 Registration Fee

Wednesday Buffet	Number of tickets	X \$20.00	
City / River Tour	Number of tickets	X \$30.00	
Plantation Tour	Number of tickets	X \$38.00	
Swamp Tour	Number of tickets	X \$37.00	
Dinner Dance	Number of tickets	X \$40.00	

Total including registration fees

Dinner Dance	Entrée Choice	Prime Rib	Seafood
	Member		
	Guest		
	Guest		
	Guest		

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A CRAFT OR GIFT FOR THE LADY KAY RAFFLE

**Mail to: John Bennett
815 Savannah Drive
Columbus, OH 43228-2944**

**Make Checks Payable to The Kearsarge Association
Return Forms by March 15th**

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter Of The Kearsarge Association

USS Kearsarge Association
24611 Sandy Springs Rd
Minerva, OH 44657-9442

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES EXPIRATION DATE

Dues & Membership

The yearly dues for the Kearsarge Association is \$10.

Check your label to see when your dues expire.

To pay your dues, send a check payable to *The Kearsarge Association* to John Work.

To sign up a new member, send information to John Work.

President George Beam, 1902 Edmund St., St. Joseph, MO, 64501-3049, 816-364-0206
Vice-President Theodore S Edington, 97 Main St, Riverside, RI, 02915-3421, 215-968-8861 (Summer)
1801 E. Robin Ave., Sebring, FL 33820, 863-385-1266 (Winter)
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Ship's Store
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Honorary President Kenneth McDaniel (Deceased)
Past President – John Bennett