

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the KEARSARGE Association

ISSUE 43

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

Summer 2010



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Branson Reunion Review

If you missed the 2010 Kearsarge reunion, you missed a wonderful time. If you attended all four days, and went to all the events, you had to wear your running shoes to keep up, as it was a busy, "jam-packed" reunion. However, everyone was only as busy as they wanted to be.

The Lodge of the Ozarks proved to be a good choice to host the reunion. The hotel was beautiful. The rooms were reasonably priced. The food was delicious, and the staff was friendly and accommodating. Because of the large attendance, the hotel allowed us to have the hospitality room in the large dining hall, which provided lots of room to move around, mingle, and discuss our time aboard the "Mighty K". There was also plenty of room for displays of Kearsarge memorabilia.

Members who arrived by Sunday evening had an unexpected treat of hot hors d'oeuvres and cold drinks in the hospitality room. It was an opportunity to visit and relax after a day of traveling.

Many Kearsarge Association members and guests gathered Monday evening for this group picture. What a sight to see! Afterwards, we had a delicious Welcoming Buffet in the beautiful Club Vegas. Then after dinner, everyone was entertained with the delightful singing and dancing of *The American Kids*. What a joy they were!

Another treat was the tour of the working college, *The College of the Ozarks*. If you didn't attend the reunion because you've seen Branson before, and haven't checked out the college, plan to see it on your next visit. It will be worth your while. The college and the students were very impressive.

If you have never been to a ProBass Shop, the one in Springfield was one to see. I, for one, have never seen a more beautiful display of stuffed animals. Of course, we all had fun stuffing ourselves later at Lambert's, home of the thrown rolls. Then there was more food on Wednesday at the Grand Country Buffet. It had to be the best buffet in town.

The biggest complaint heard was that there was too much food. However, as Penny Davies stated, "She didn't see anyone get out of line." The two dinner shows, *Showboat Branson Belle* and the *Dixie Stampede*, were the most attended shows, with over 120 attending each one.

The theatrical production of Noah's Ark at the Sight & Sound Theater was spectacular. We watched live animals walk down through the aisles, and were awed when the set opened up to the inside of the ark.

Both museum tours were not to be missed. The 2000 displays at the Veterans' Memorial Museum honored those who served our country from WWI to the Persian Gulf. It was a grim reminder of all the tragedies our country has endured. The Titanic Museum offered visitors an opportunity to come and know real passengers through their stories and displays with a self guided audio tour, while moving through the half scale museum.

We had full buses for the other events as well. Yakov made us laugh so hard our sides ached. Then he made us cry with his patriotic tribute to our country. Shoji gave us a chance to relax before the dinner dance and acknowledged the Kearsarge Association, as well as giving the audience a bit of the USS Kearsarge history.

Not too many people danced, however, to the live music at the dinner dance. Perhaps they were too worn out or were having to rest up for the journey home the next day.

Anyway, everyone must have had a great time because they elected the same officers for the next two years. These reunions, and the continuing efforts to keep the Kearsarge Association active, couldn't be done without a team effort. Regretfully, Paul Czesak, our tireless editor, was unable to attend, as was Dan Levine, our historian. John Bennett continues to be the anchor of the association. John Work works diligently throughout the year, in an attempt to keep up with the ever evolving memberships and treasury. He also helped Sunday afternoon with the registrations. Charles Patton works hard to keep the ship's store available. John Starnes was my right-hand man in helping to keep the reunion running smoothly. He also did a fine job with the memorial at the Branson Belle and taking the minutes at the business meeting. Also, a special thanks to the wives of the officers: Paula, Louise, Charlotte, and Lois who were always there to assist.

Finally, a big thank you to all that attended. It was wonderful to see so many new faces and new members, also to see and greet the familiar ones. Your attendance helps to keep the association going and the memories of those who served aboard of USS Kearsarge alive.

See you in Pensacola 2012 and San Diego 2014.

Respectfully,
Ed McKee, president

Minutes of Kearsarge Association Business Meeting Held May 19, 2010 In Branson, MO

Ed called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Ed asked that this meeting, due to time constraints, be as short as possible.

Ed asked John Bennett to present our financial report. John said we have 704 members, we are debt free and financially sound. He will not know exactly where we are until all expenses incurred with the reunion are paid. At the moment, we have \$16,749.93.

Ed said, in the interest of time and the fact that there is no unfinished business, he would forego reading the minutes of our previous business meeting.

John Bennett made a motion that our incumbent officers, less our historian who is stepping down, continue to serve. The motion carried. We did not however, elect a historian.

Charles Patton reported on our ship's store. He drove to Branson so we did not incur any shipping expenses. Charles explained the reasoning for all ball caps now reading CV CVA CVS. It's all about the money. Stocking three different types and sizes is far more expensive and invariably some did not sell well, or at all.

There was some discussion concerning our having a Kearsarge memorial room aboard the Hornet. We would be required to purchase and maintain the display cases, maintain the display area and the annual fee could be as much as \$1,500.00 or as low as \$500.00. There was no discussion! We voted NO.

Efforts to attract LHD3 (Kearsarge) members have not been successful. John Starnes said that while he believes we should keep an open door, it is his understanding that they have formed their own association.

John Starnes asked that we remember Paul Czesak and his wife, who is ill. That is why he could not join us. We wish for her a speedy recovery.

John said some of our members paid \$100.00 to get from the Springfield airport to Branson. He asked that those going in that direction take a shipmate. He also said he asked the front desk to take the names of those needing transportation and arrange it. They could at least share the cost.

There was some discussion at our previous reunion and again at this one concerning members on e-mail and subscribing to a web site. All agreed that we should do this. There was not, however, any specific guidance or direction.

A call for west coast location nominations for our 2014 reunion was made. San Diego, CA, Long Beach, CA, and Portland, OR were named and voted on with San Diego being the winner. The meeting adjourned. Looking forward to seeing you in Pensacola.
John Starnes

May 14-16, 1992 - 1st. USS Kearsarge Association Reunion

From May 14-16, 1992 the first USS Kearsarge Association reunion was held at the Mobile Hilton in Mobile, Alabama. The highlight of this reunion was the christening of the new ship KEARSARGE LHD3. The christening was held at Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi on Saturday, May 16, 1992. The sponsor of the christening was Mrs. Colin I. Powell. Her presence and remarks at this ceremony were inspiring to say the least. Addresses were given by Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, Vice Admiral Joseph P. Reason, USN; Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, USN; with principal address given by General Colin I. Powell, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. The organization of the Kearsarge Association began two years earlier in an attempt to re-unite old shipmates from the previous naval vessels bearing the historic name of Kearsarge. The end result of this effort was very successful in re-uniting former shipmates, some of whom had not seen one another since 1946. The officers of USS KEARSARGE Association feel that the emotions aroused at this reunion and christening will be remembered by those who attended forever... We hope that this reunion is only the first of many, many reunions to come in the future. We urge all former USS KEARSARGE veterans to remain active in our association, locate other shipmates you may be able to find and continue the work in expanding our association. It will require everyone's ideas, cooperation and enthusiasm to ensure that the association does continue to grow.

1991-1992 officers:

President - John R. Bishop, Lovington, Texas; Vice President - Noel J. Binder, Mereaux, LA; Membership Chairman - T. V. Smith, Clarkston, GA; Secretary/Treasurer - K.S. McDaniel, Oak Ridge, TN; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer - John T. Bennett, Columbus, OH

My thanks to Melba Edington for providing the above information. Her late husband, Ted Edington, was one of the organizers of the Association and had served faithfully and effectively as Vice President.

TAPS

April 24, 2010

Dear sir:

The enclosed copy of the obituary for William A. Corkran may be of interest to Kearsarge shipmates who knew him and you might want to consider publishing the sense of the article in a future issue of KearSaga.

While William was a resident in my community, I have never had the opportunity of meeting him. In an earlier article by Mr. Corkran, and published in the KearSaga, he wrote an entertaining article about the filming of a movie on board the Kearsarge while she was in the Hawaiian area. I thought his story was very interesting and invited him to have lunch with me and two shipmates from the USS Idaho (BB42). Unfortunately, Corkran never showed up. A more recent letter was published in Issue 41 of the newsletter in which he wrote that he was sending a check for two year's membership renewal; that would mean that his membership would have expired in 2011. Regretfully, he didn't live to enjoy it.

With very best wishes,

E. L. Leech, CAPT USN (Ret) 711 Terra California Drive #1, Walnut Creek, California 94595-3065

William L. Corkran (AD3 VF-112 '52-'53)

Oct 19, 1929-Oct. 21 2009 Resident of Walnut Creek William passed away without suffering in the comfort of his loved ones. He was born in Nashville. He graduated from High School in 1947 and soon thereafter joined the U.S. Navy. He served on the U.S.S. Kearsarge during the Korean War as a plane captain. His service in the Navy lasted more than seven years and catapulted him to his career as a flight engineer. His professional career included stints with Flying Tigers, Capitol Airlines, Seaboard and Western, Eastern Airlines, Starlite and Japan Airlines. He retired in 1973, and spent his golden years doting on his five children, seven grandchildren and wife of 51 years, Wilham and Janet met in January of 1958, when both worked for Eastern. They celebrated their 51st anniversary on Oct 1.

Lloyd Leroy Lewis (SN VF-112)

Dear John,

This is to inform you that Lloyd died on Nov. 2, 2009 at our home after 52 years of marriage with his family at his side.

Sorry we will miss the reunion this year. We always had a good time. Our family enjoyed three of them with us.

Sincerely, Mae Lewis, 36758 Weld Co. Rd 15, Windsor, CO 80550 (970-686-6195)

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2010 12:59 AM

From: Dr. Bruce Hargrave

Subject: Death Announcement of Leonard Paul Hargrave, Jr. (AMM1 -7/45-11/46)

Dear Paul,

I regret to inform you and the USS Kearsarge Association that my father Leonard Paul Hargrave, Jr passed away on January 24, 2010. He loved the US Navy and especially the memories aboard and around the USS

Kearsarge. My father returned to the home of his youth in Texarkana, Texas where he successfully built up and developed the family plumbing and swimming pool business. My father was 84 years old and loved CV-33 the USS Kearsarge.

Blessings, Bruce (Dr. Bruce Hargrave, Vice President of Development, Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary of Moscow, Russia, 9200 Inwood Road; Dallas, Texas Phone: 214-213-7138, Email: bhargrave1@aol.com)

Noel J. Binder (SN S2 Div '52-'56)

We are saddened to learn that Association co-founder Noel J. Binder, age 76, passed away on Monday, July 19, 2010. He proudly served our country on the USS KEARSARGE during the Korean War. Noel was a third generation co-owner of Binder Bakery. He leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Joyce Binder, three brothers, three sisters and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

LETTERS

7 Jan 2010

Hi John,

It appears that my dues are well overdue so I am forwarding this money order to compensate for my tardiness. Exactly one month from now I will have been out of the Navy for 43 years. We had just returned from WestPac '66 in time for Christmas. I find it truly remarkable that you and the others who administer the "Association" have managed to keep our memories alive for what was for many of us, an amazing adventure.

Thanks again

Terry Hill, ADJ3, HS-6

1/22/2010

Sorry about the delay. Thought I better send my dues in before I forget...again. Anyway, thank and all the other folks who are keeping the Kearsarge Association alive and well. I was on the KEARSARGE from 1965 through February 1967. I was a Signalman and a liberty hound. I remember all my fellow Signalmen, especially SMC Shuping. He was a great person and he taught me a lot. I also wanted to thank another shipmate, who years ago sent me a cruise book. I lost mine in a flood, a long time ago, and a fellow shipmate was kind enough to send me an extra one he had. Thank you. Keep up the good work you are all doing

Rick Morrill, 5830 E. McKellips Rd #113, Mesa, AZ 85215 E-mail: RICK.L.MORRILL@gmail.com and Richard L. Morrill@usps.gov

Feb 9, '10

Dear Paul,

I am enclosing check for dues as I will be unable to attend the reunion in Branson. I am sorry to miss and not get to stand up with other plank owners. Yes, I remember well leaving Brooklyn. As one of two Dental Officers I was proud to be a member of CV33's crew going on shakedown to Gitmo Bay. In answer to Tom Henry's question on the subsequent designations they were made after renovations such as the angle flight deck, etc. One of my favorite pictures is one of our ship going under the Brooklyn Bridge one early morning on the way to Bayonne, NJ. Have a great time in Branson.

Rudolf Green, LT DC USNR

P.S. C.O. was CAPT McKenna and X.O. CDR Byng. CDR Byng flew the first plane aboard off Norfolk, VA.

2-17-10

Dear John,

After reading articles in the newsletter I think I could be the oldest that served on the USS KEARSARGE. I went aboard around August 1946 and was discharged February 2, 1948. Sorry I am unable to make the reunion. Thank you for a super job in putting the newsletter together.

Sincerely,

Ray Wade SIC ADM 46/48

John,

I can't find any evidence that I paid you in 2009. Sorry about that. I'm pretty sure I remember correspondence with someone reminding me about the dues but I must have put it aside and forgot all about it. I'll send you a \$20 check to cover two years and if the dues go up I'll send you the difference when notified of the increase.

I was in the USN for 20 years and 4 days and retired as an AZCS. Can't remember which division I spent the most time in on Kearsarge - it was a pretty close tie, but if I did spend more time in one than the other it was probably V-4.1 preferred being in V-6 where we had more interesting job assignments than pumping aviation gas. When I was assigned to V-6, during at-sea flight ops, I drove the APU tractors on the flight deck to provide electrical power to the aircraft for starting engines. That was a real fun job for a 17/18 year old, but could get a bit dangerous at times. And we (V-6 sailors) had the tough in-port assignment of being duty drivers for the ship, which was a lot more fun than painting fuel pumping stations like we did in V-4.

I remember the mess deck pretty well, especially the mess-cooking part of it. I started out mess-cooking assigned to the break-out crew, bringing very heavy boxes of groceries on my back from many decks below the main-deck to the galley for the cooks to prepare for the hungry crew. I lasted on the break-out crew for about 30 days and during one of those high speed turns to starboard I dropped two boxes of canned goods down a ladder and hit the S-2 division CPO with several

flying cans - the boxes had burst open. That very day management decided I wasn't big and strong enough to be a pack mule (I was 17 years old and weighed about 130) and they sent me to the spud locker for the remainder of my 90 day sentence. There must not have been any openings in the scullery.
Jefferson Devine ADJ3 V-6 Div 59-61

12 February 2010
Good Morning John;

I just realized that I'm overdue. I'm enclosing my check for \$30.00. Maybe that will make things easier for both of us. I apologize for my tardiness. Also "Good Luck & Good Times" to All Hands at Branson this spring. I've promised myself that if the reunion were ever located close enough I would make the trip. But luck is not with me this time also. Lift a cool one for me and have a good time.

I've often wondered why our reunions are never posted in the F.R.A. monthly magazine. It has occurred to me that there may be former shipmates still unaware of our Kearsarge association. It also struck me that they may be unaware of the plethora of information and representation that the FRA has available and which it updates every month. I would encourage everyone who is not already a member to at least check in at the webpage <www.fra.org>. I think they will be surprised at the amount of current information provided. They have kept me up to date for years and have helped me avoid a loss of benefits also. The monthly telephone conference gives everyone an opportunity to express his or her opinions directly to the staff. I sincerely hope someone benefits from my suggestion.

As ever -

ACC Charles L. Harmon OC Div. 1968-69

Feb 20,2010

Dear John,

Enclosed is a story for the KearSaga Newsletter. It is completely true, to the best of my memory. Feel free to use it at any time. I hope to see you all at the reunion.

Dear Kearsarge Shipmates

I remember well the any drills aboard the Kearsarge on its shakedown cruise. One sticks in my mind, and made me an ardent believer of Murphy's Law. It goes as follows:

A chow line formed on starboard side of hangar deck, and was slowly moving forward. I was there opposite the port side elevator, which was in place but not operating. I noticed a sailor on a tall step ladder checking lights overhead, with a helper moving the ladder on wheels from place to place. They were right beside me when the 1MC sounded, a Bosn's pipe whistled, then words spoken "Now hear this - stand by for a number nine turn to port." A pause, then the single word "Execute" got my full attention.

Soon the ship started to turn to port, causing the deck to slope to the port. The ladder and the man began to move down the slope and could not be held back. I watched it roll away with ever increasing speed, its rider hanging on for dear life. It was headed straight for the elevator. With a jolt it hit a guard chain across the opening, flipped over and tossed its occupant into the "briny deep". I could hardly believe what I had just seen.

As our ship continued its circular pattern, I was able to occasionally view the water and see our man struggling to stay afloat. "He's a goner", I thought. I then noticed an escorting destroyer had left station and was moving in to retrieve or half drowned shipmate. Before long, we closed the loop, the ship steadied on our original course, and the drill was over.

I've often wondered what notation was made in the ship's log. No report could match my excitement of the event.
Kenneth H. Wright SN V1 Div 1946

All Hands Please Note:

Occasionally I receive information from a member that he is not getting his copies of the Kear Saga Newsletter. To assure that you continue to receive the newsletter make sure that you keep Treasurer John Work, 24611 Sandy Springs Rd., Minerva, OH 44657-9442. Phone: 330-894-2660. Email: strogerwiper@verizon.net. Also, notify John if your phone number changes.

SHIP'S STORE LIST

Golf Shirts			
CV,CVA,CVS 33	Navy or White	Med, Large, X large, 2X large	29.00
Sweat Shirts			
CV,CVA,CVS 33	Navy or White	Med, Large, X large, 2X large	\$36.00
Hats			
CV,CVA,CVS 33	Navy		\$14.00
Marine	Red		\$14.00
LHD 3	Navy		\$ 7.00
Watch Caps	Navy	CV,CVA,CVA 33	\$11.00
Ship's Crest	Cloth		\$ 5.00
	Magnetic		\$ 2.50
Zappo Lighters			
CV,CVS,CVS 33	Chrome	Ship's Crest or Ship	\$ 15.00
LHD 3	Chrome	Ship	\$ 15.00
	Brass	Ship and Crest	\$ 15.00
50th Anniversary 1st Day Cover envelope			\$ 1.50
"Dawn of Glory" print	LHD 3 with inserts of previous ships		\$ 20.00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Make checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and order from

Charles Patton

9125 Live Oak Ave

Ocean Springs, MS 39564 Phone # 228-875-7572 e-mail charlotteap@bellsouth.net



Now available

The Port Authority Challenger jacket has a Teklon nylon durable, water-repellent outside with a poly-filled body with heavyweight fleece lining. It has rib knit cuffs and waistband, zippered pockets outside and a zippered inside pocket. We are offering it in Navy with a Navy lining and the USS KEARSARGE name and insignia on the back. Sizes available are medium, large and 1X large for \$55.00 and 2X large for \$59.00. It is a special order item only and all sales are final. When I have 7 orders I will place the order with the supplier. We need a minimum of 7 to be eligible for the above mentioned prices. Those who were at the Branson Reunion and saw the one Gerald Urban had were greatly impressed with the quality of the jacket and stitching on the back.

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Dues and Membership

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

Check your label to see when your dues expire.

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

To sign up a new member, send information to John work, including
name, rate/rank, Division, years aboard, address and phone number

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Membership-Vacant

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