

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter Of The Kearsarge Association

ISSUE 25

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

AUG, 2003

SCUTTLEBUTT

SHIP'S STORE

We are in dire need of someone to volunteer to take over the Ship's Store. Presently, the stock is in Past President John Bennett's garage, where it has been since our San Francisco reunion. It is a severe imposition on John's limited spare storage capacity, and it must be testing his patience as well. Surely, we must have a former Supply Officer, Storekeeper, or an eager Storekeeper Striker in our membership who is willing to take it over. If you are willing to take over the Store, please notify President George Beam, 1902 Edmund St., St. Joseph, MO 64501, Phone 816-364-0206.

REMEMBERING THE "FORGOTTEN" WAR

Sunday, 27 July was the 50th anniversary of the Korean Armistice. The mighty KAY and CAG 11 had just completed a highly successful ORI, with the KAY receiving an excellent and CAG 11 an outstanding and were on their way to relieve the PHILIPPINE SEA. The word was passed over the 1MC several days out of Pearl, resulting in a lot of conjectures about the future of this second West Pac cruise. As it turned out, the original deployment schedule was followed, minus the "hot" war, but with the added adventure of meeting Typhoon Lola, which delayed arrival in Yokosuka by three days.

E-MAIL ROSTER

A Bravo Zulu (Well Done) to Allen Rollins for compiling an E-mail roster of Association members. Allen will maintain this roster, and is publishing it in two formats, for those who have MS Excel in spreadsheet form, and for those that do not as a text file. The spread sheet is reproduced inside this newsletter. If you are not included, but wish to be, you may contact Allen at bigallen@nctimes.net. Send him your E-mail address, the years you were aboard, and your division. Also, keep him informed of any changes. Please note that this information is for the use of the Association members only and is not to be furnished to anyone outside of our group.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Presently, only those members that attend the reunions receive updated rosters. We are exploring the possibility of making the Membership Roster available to those other members wishing to purchase it. The cost would be nominal to cover the printing and mailing expenses. Again, this roster is for the use of Association members only and not to be furnished to anyone outside our group.

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

George Beam has informed me that efforts are continuing on making arrangements for our 2004 reunion in New Orleans. We will have more information for you in our next newsletter.

George also provided information on the VFW Internet Service. It should be of interest to those of you who are looking for your first Internet Service Provider, or who are looking for an alternative to their present service. The cost for dial-up service is very attractive. It is just \$13.95 per month, and if pre-paid for 12 months the price is only \$11.95 per month. You get unlimited service at speeds up to 56K(56,000Baud), two VFW-Online e-mail addresses, 10 MB (megabytes) personal web space, and 24 hour, seven day a week customer service and technical support.

For information and to order, go to <http://vfw-online.peoplepc.com> or call 1-866-444-4vfw. For those who are not into computers yet, don't believe the "media" hype that only the grandkids have the computer smarts. There are plenty of old timers that use computers, as you can see by the two pages of e-mail addresses included in this issue.

TAPS

Recently, I received a phone call from Mrs. John Bachmann. She told me that John had passed away in 1998. She said that John (SN1, 5th Div. 11/48-07/49) had been a member of the Association for eight years. Anyone wishing to contact Mrs. Bachmann can write to her at 2507 Crestview Drive, Fallston, MD 21047-0516.

Our Past President, John Bennett forwarded a note that Larry Grounds, AMS 3, 58-59 passed away this past spring.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Richard Kraus, ENS, 2ND Div. 6/62-6/64 sent a copy of a June 1963 'FAMILY GRAM' written by CAPT Rankin. Because the newsletter is four pages long, the contents will be summarized and the entire copy will be added to our historical memorabilia.

CAPT Rankin mentioned the October 3, 1962 recovery of the Mercury Astronaut Walter Schirra, the brief homeport period in Long Beach, followed by at sea exercises prior to the Christmas holidays. After the holiday leave period, the ship conducted three ASW exercises from mid-January until early March. She then went to Bremerton Navy Yard repairs to the aircraft elevators, returning to Long Beach and more exercises from mid-March to mid-April.

Prior to deploying to the Western Pacific, the ship was notified that it would be the recovery ship for next Mercury recovery, that of Major Gordon Cooper, USAF. The recovery took place on 16 May 1963, about 65 miles east of Midway Island. After disembarking Major Cooper in Honolulu, the ship returned to its primary mission, ASW Warfare. A full scale, seven day, 24 hours per day operation commenced on 21 May and ended 28 May, preparing her for deployment to the Far East. Two of the aircraft, including one of the crews, were lost during the training. The Far East deployment anticipated visits to Sasebo, Kobe, Yokosuka, Okinawa, Hong Kong and Manila.

CAPT Rankin ends the newsletter with "From the beautiful isles of Hawaii, I bid you ALOHA!"
E.P. RANKIN, Captain, U.S. Navy - Commanding

LOOKING FOR A HOME

We are accumulating memorabilia from many members of our association, and need a permanent place to display them. One possibility is the USS HORNET CV-12. The HORNET was originally slated to be named the KEARSARGE. The hull was renamed when the first carrier HORNET was sunk. The HORNET is now a museum ship, located at Alameda, CA.

There is another possibility for a place to store our stuff. Paul Young, FP3 R Div 52-55 sent me a note and an article from the San Diego Union Tribune. In his note Paul says "After many years and much red tape it looks like the MIDWAY will become a museum in San Diego". The news article states that the transfer was approved by the Acting Secretary of the Navy and it is expected that the ship will arrive in San Diego in October or November, and will be open to visitors in the Spring.

LETTERS

3/14/03

Dear Sir,

I just finished writing a letter to my middle grandson who is on deployment with the 101st Airborne in Kuwait. It reminded me of the letters my wife and I used to write to our son in Viet Nam and our son-in-law in Desert Storm. I remember how my letters from home used to chase me in the Pacific in the fall of 1945.

I just received my copy of the "Kear Saga", while I do not recognize any of the names of those who have been mentioned, I read every line with great interest. I boarded the USS KEARSARGE CV 33 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard just before it sailed out for its shakedown cruise to Gitmo Bay, the Caribbean area and Cristobal, CZ.

It was a great cruise, about 3000 take offs and landings, and best of all we broke carrier shakedown tradition by not losing one of our crew. I left CV33 in Gravesend Bay at the end of the shakedown. I was the #3 Barrier Operator, saw several of our planes go over the side when the landing went bad. But, every pilot got out and was picked up by the SICKLE or the WOOD, our escort destroyers.

They told us the CV33 cost 100 million dollars to build. The Navy got its money's worth. It was a magnificent ship. We easily outran our escort destroyers, and we would go into radical maneuvering at top speed. We would recover aircraft with the ease of a dolphin. Thank you for your good efforts in keeping us informed. Best wishes for your continued good health and success.

George F. Mann, Jr., SIC, V-6 Div 4/46-7/46
129 2nd Ave. Hadley, NY 12835.

March 17, 2003

Chad Ledford sent in the following request:

I would like to publish the following question in the Newsletter. Does anyone know anything of or about the Naval Emergency Ground Defense Force. I was drafted into the Naval Emergency Ground Defense Force while I was stationed at NAS Kingsville, Texas in 1956. When I was transferred to sea duty I was out of the NEGDF> I would appreciate any and all help or information.

B. Chadwick Ledford, AE2 VA35 1958
444 West Pearl Avenue, Stockton, CA 95207, bcledford@attbi.com

From Bernie Hargadon

Reading your issue 24 (Jan, 2003) I came across the entry submitted by Herbert "Roy" Wielke, entitled "A Close Encounter with Disaster."

This is the first time in over fifty years I've come across anyone who was on the KEARSARGE that fearsome night. I was, and I shall never forget it. Can you tell me how I can get in touch with Mr. Wielke? His notice talks of his e-mail address, but I don't see where he makes mention of what it is.

Many thanks and best regards

Bernie Hargadon

815 Ironbark Place, Orinda, CA 94563, bhargadon@aol.com

(Editor's Note: His e-mail address is royandsarahw@mcsi.com)

From: "Joe & Annette" <jeadeh@twmi.rr.com>

Subject: Say Hello

Hi, My name is Joe Eadeh. I served aboard the Kearsarge '54 to '56. I was in the Marine detachment. Were you there at that time? I am interested in hearing from other Marines who served at that time.

Joe Eadeh

From: "ralph v. kelch" <rvk@usachoice.net>

Subject: Re: Thanks

I was aboard the Mighty K during 1952-53 period in V-4 Div. After that one tour, I finished my time at NAS. My e-mail address, is: rvk@usachoice.net.

I forwarded information to my old shipmate in New Orleans area to join the association, as he's interested. He may be a good contact for helping to plan the New Orleans reunion, if he's available. We were both in V-4 together in the metal shop, and shared that "brother" relationship which has and will last a lifetime. The only "interesting" story I remember was when we used to have a tube or two of spam diverted to the metal shop, where we would all have late night snacks. We had a hot plate hooked up in there, and after months at sea, that spam was as good as any filet.

Best regards,

Ralph V. Kelch

From: "Bernardo Rubalcava" <bnardor@myexcel.com>

Subject: Life on The Mighty Kay

Who says life onboard a US NAVY vessel is drudgery with no perks? While on our far west cruise, 1957-58 and stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, a shipmate of mine just happen to rate liberty, so we naturally did what most sailors did in port, we went to one of the local pubs and had our fair share of suds. We decided it was time we headed back to the ship. Just as we approached the accommodation ladder, a sailor about twenty feet in front of us opened his P-coat and gently sat down a full fifth of whiskey. Apparently the lad had lost his nerve of getting it onboard. We looked at each other & said in unison " Did you see that! "? Well, we didn't think twice. We just picked up the free fifth and my buddy stuck it in his P-coat, and we proceeded up the gangway, asked the OOD permission to come onboard, & as they say, the rest is history. We went out to sea for about a week before returning to our home port. We were a couple of happy sailors during the evenings after working hours. Just before turning in for the night, we would meet with Dr. Jack Daniels for our bedtime medicine. Like I said, life on The Mighty Kay had its perks!

Bernie Rubalcava, AMS2 1957-58

From: slipahoy@famvid.com

Ahoy, Paul! Wanted to add my email address to those you publish in the Kear Saga. I have attended reunions in Corpus Christi, Newport and San Francisco and have yet to meet any of my old V1 Division shipmates -very disappointing! Perhaps there are some out there with email that might renew acquaintances with me via this venue. My address is: slipahoy@famvid.com

Respectfully,

R.D. "Slip" Stombaugh

V1 Div. Pre-Commissioning Detail to '53

From: H. Roy Wielke "royandsarah" <royandsarahw@mchsi.com>

Subject: Kear Saga

Hi Paul,

Just received my copy of Kear Saga and it was great as usual. Thank you for including my letter, A close encounter with disaster. I failed to mention that we lost a large number of good men that night, Marines and Sailors, who were in that boat.

I have changed my E-Mail address since the letter was printed. It is now: royandsarahw@mchsi.com. I would appreciate it if you could include it in the E-mail directory when and if it is published.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate George Beam and his staff on their new job. Good luck guys. Also I would like to say thanks to outgoing President John Bennett and his staff for a great job over these past 4 years.

Paul if you don't mind my bending your ear for a few minutes I would like to tell you how I found out about the Kearsarge Association. My Wife and I were visiting Williamsburg, Va. at Christmas time a few years ago and we were in a restaurant when a man approached us at the register. He said he noticed my baseball hat, which had USS Kearsarge CV33 on it, and asked if I had served on it. (Continued)

When I told him I had he said that he saw it at the Navy yard in Norfolk. I politely told him that I thought he was mistaken that she had been scrapped a long time ago. He kept insisting so I told him thanks and that I would check it out. Well to make a long story short we did take the trip to Norfolk on Christmas day and sure enough found the beautiful new Kearsarge LHD 3. (Continued)

We went aboard and the OD showed us the 33's bell and other items that had been rescued. We were invited to stay aboard for Christmas dinner and had a complete tour of the ship. The first class Bos'n who gave us the tour also told us of the association. I had no idea that one even existed. What a great addition to our vacation.

Well I think I have taken enough of your time so take care and have a great new tour.

H. Roy Wielkie(RD3,OR Div.,47-50

From: "Sonny Richardson" <hsrjr@insightbb.com>

Subject: KEARSARGE CVS 33

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2003 8:30 PM

Hi Paul

Sonny Richardson here. I was checking my list on the people that bought the 1967-1968 CD from me with the two movies on it of the flight ops and refueling and great footage of the Kearsarge from the air. I seen that I had correspondence from you about the CD but did not mark it down as if you bought one or not. The CD also has many history pictures of the Kearsarge as well as the ones that I took. Plus many of the Chaplin tours. All in all there are around 1500 pictures on the Disk. I also have acquired 462 pictures of the 1969 cruse. I was not on that cruse but a sailor that was wanted me to scan his slides for him. We made an agreement that I could also sell the CD. There are many nice pictures on it. If you did not get them and want one or both let me know and send a check or money order. The 67-68 cruise is \$25.00 and the 69 cruise is \$15.00. I will put them in a jewel case with pictures of the Kearsarge for \$10.00 more each one. I pay the postage. If you got one please let me know so that I can up date my records.

Thanks again

Sonny Richardson

817 N. West St.

Lebanon, Indiana, 46052

Home Phone 765-482-2572

Cell Phone 317-513-6810

E Mail Address hsrjr@insightbb.com

HAVE A GREAT DAY, SONNY

Chief Gunners Mate Robert H. Briand (G, '54-'56) sent the following item of nautical interest:

KNOTS: To ascertain the speed of his vessel, a British commander had knots tied at regular intervals in a coil of rope. The rope was bent onto a log, and the log hove overboard. With an hour-glass he timed each knot as it disappeared over the taffrail ... thus originating the custom of telling off a ship's speed by knots rather than miles per hour. (Editor's note: One knot is 1.15 miles per hour)

MUSEUM SHIPS

The U.S. Navy has donated 47 ships to non-profit organizations in the United States for the purpose of acquainting the public with Naval History and Tradition. Most of these ships are veterans of World War II. They range in size from battleships and aircraft carriers down to PT boats, and include cruisers, destroyers, destroyer escorts, submarines and missile boats. Most have either guided tours or are set up for self guided tours. In addition to Naval artifacts, many also feature items from the other armed forces as well as foreign countries. If interested, you can visit the Historic Naval Ships Association web site (www.hnsa.org), which has two listings of museum ships located in the United States. If your interest is a particular ship you can find its location in the alphabetical listing. If you are planning a cross country trip and would like to know what museum ships are along your route, there is also a listing by state and city. If you do not have a computer, you may be able to use one at your local library to access the web site.

KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

The Department of Defense is in the process of producing the Korean Defense Service Medal for those that served in or adjacent to Korea after 27 July 1953. This is not to be confused with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal for those serving between 25 June 1950 and 27 July 1953. It may take up to a year before the new medals are issued.

Kearsarge E-mail List

Compiled And Maintained By Allen Rollins

First Name	Last Name	Initial/Name	Div.	Yrs Aboard	E-Mail Address
Greg	Alabado		E	'68 - '70	gregalabado@cox.net
Ed	Armstrong		VA 705/145	'52 - '53	earmstrong@interconnect.net
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KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter Of The Kearsarge Association

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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.

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Past President – John Bennett