

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter Of The Kearsarge Association

ISSUE 29

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

JULY 2004

SCUTTLEBUTT

The New Orleans Reunion was a great success for those that attended. Treasurer John Work was kind enough to send in the following report on the business meeting to keep All Hands informed:

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

April, 10, 2004

The business meeting was called to order by President George Beam. The Association by-laws were read by President Beam. With no questions from the membership, the bylaws were approved by the members

Treasurer John Work reported that as of February 27, 2004's bank statement, all bills have been paid and the Association's balance is \$18,606.

2008 Reunion: Cities suggested by members included San Diego, CA and Seattle, WA. Members voted to hold the 2008 reunion in Seattle. John Bennett asked for a coordinator for the 2008 reunion, and Vice President Ted Edington volunteered to coordinate the reunion in Seattle.

VP Edington then reported the dates for the 2006 reunion in Charleston, SC will be May 1 through May5, 2006.

Membership structure discussions were held. President Beam will look into this for future ideas.

Art Killian has turned over all of the Ship's Store to President Beam. At this time our President will handle the Ship's Store

The Kearsarge History Room was discussed with John Bennett reporting that the USS HORNET was just about the only place left. After further discussion, Kear Saga Editor Paul Czesak said he would look into acquiring a space on the HORNET.

(Editor's Note: See pages 6 and 7 for an update regarding a space on the HORNET.)

There was no further business. Following motions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned.

Ship's Store

Our President, George Beam, sends his thanks to all who attended the New Orleans reunion.. He reports that he is diligently getting the Ship's Store organized and hopes to be open for mail order business soon. George is working two jobs currently and is working on the store in his "spare time". Our next issue of the newsletter will include information on the items available, including price lists.

TAPS

Fred A. Weisse (PH3 OI Div, 3/48-2/50) - 5 December 2002

Mrs Weisse wrote the following:

Dear John,

My husband Fred Weisse passed away on Dec. 5 2002 of leukemia. Fred served in the Navy from 1947 to 1950. He was a Photographer on the KEARSARGE during that time.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1951 and retired as a MSGT in 1971. He was a still photographer and a photo mapper.

Fred was also a letter carrier for 20 years, retiring in 1992. He was proud of his careers and enjoyed his retirement.

Our son found out about the Kearsarge Association and Fred became a member in 1996. I remember that he talked to John Bennett a couple of times on the phone.

When we went on vacation Fred wore his USS KEARSARGE CV-33 hat or the U. S. Air Force Retired hat. He met some very interesting people that way.

Sincerely,

Rowene Weisse

5202 Kuszmaul NW

Warren, OH 44483

Victor Cughan (WT1 B Div 00/46-0047) - 24 January 2004

Mrs Cughan wrote the following:

Mr Czesak,

I AM SORRY TO INFORM YOU OF THE PASSING OF Victor Cughan on January 24, 2004. He served in B Division from 1939 to 1949.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Cughan

77 South 11th St.

Fulton, NY 13069

Clarence Holman (AM1 V2 Div 01/46-03/47) - 27 February 2004

Mrs. Holman wrote:

Dear Sir,

It is with much sadness that I need to tell you my husband, Clarence C. Holman, Jr. passed away on Feb. 27th. He was a Plank Owner and was proud of his service aboard the KEARSARGE.

We had planned to attend the New Orleans reunion to enjoy the fellowship with his old friends. Please put this notice into the Kear Saga

We trust you will have a wonderful time in New Orleans. God Bless you all and hoping we will meet again.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ursula Holman

2072 River Road

Egg Harbor Cy, NJ 08215

LCDR Tony Fedanzo (V-1 Div 1951-1953) - 11 March 2004

Tony's Daughter wrote

Dear Kearsarge Association,

I am sorry to report that my stepfather, Tony Fedanzo, passed away in his sleep of a heart attack on March 11. He was a remarkable man and is sorely missed.

Best regards

Karla Jensen

1845 Green St. #107

San Francisco, CA 94123

LETTERS

Donald B. Busch (S-2 Div) wrote to John Work in March

I retired in 1965 and I really look forward to the Kear Saga. I spent most of my time on carriers - KEARSARGE, YORKTOWN, and my last two years in Bangkok, Thailand (KUSMAG).

I always wonder if any of the stewburners of the KEARSARGE are still with us.

Donald B. Busch

7694 Rapids Dr.

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Doug Larson (RD2 OI Div '61-'64) wrote in March

Dear John,

I am playing catchup with my dues. Will try to remain current. I was on board the KEARSARGE from its arrival in Bremerton, WA in '61 until Oct '64. I was in OI Div. I was also TDY to Vants & Voids and to the Mess Decks as MAA twice. On board also for Schirra and Cooper's splashdown and the collision with the ORIANO ocean liner. Robert Smeck was there at the same time.

I was the JS talker on the bridge for all special events - Sea Detail, GQ, etc. I finished as RD2.

Resp.

Doug Larson

3138 La Junta Rd SW

Albuquerque, NM 87105

Roger Hardin (AKAN S Dept '52-'53) wrote on 12 March

Dear John,

What a way to start a note. Had a stroke last year and I was unable to send my dues in. Sorry to be late but I am still going, thanks to the good Lord. Am enclosing my last year's dues and my dues for '05. Here's hoping you and your family are in fine health. Keep up the good work for the "Mighty Kay".

Roger Hardin

1014 Cedarbrook Road

Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

Charles Harmon (ACC '68-'69) wrote on 18 March

Good Morning John;

I just wanted to drop you a note and express my "Thank You" for all the work that you and the rest of the association do and have done to keep the old boat fresh in mind. The reunions are an almost impossible task and those responsible for the function are also worthy of commendation.

Regretfully, it has not been convenient for me to attend these events. Maybe someday. Enclosed is a check for the continuation of my membership dues. Keep up the good work and "Thank You" again.

Fraternally,

ACC Charles L. Harmon, 1968-1969
8524 Hwy 493
Bailey, MS 39320

Don Erdmann (CPL - Mar Det) wrote on 5 April

Dear John,

Evidently my membership has expired. Enclosed is a check to re-up for two years. **Also, the Marine Detachment for the KEARSARGE cruise of 1954/55 is having a reunion on September 9, 2004 in Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Don Hamilton, 1950 South 31st Street, Kansas City KS 66106. Telephone (913) 677-5935.**

Don Erdman
7742 East Charter Oak Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260

Mrs. Pallen (BMCM-RET Wayne Pallen (BM3 3rd Div '65-'69)) wrote

Hi John,

I would like to let you know we enjoy reading the Kear Saga newsletter. The stories our sailors have to tell are truly wonderful to read. It helps us to know what our men endured then.

My husband is from a later time serving on the Mighty Kay, 3rd Div - then Side Cleaners during 1965-1969. We are wondering if anyone during that time goes to reunions. We would like to attend one, maybe the next one after this year, but are not sure if we would know anyone. But if we purchased a roster we might know someone on there. OK well I answered my own question. Anyway just wanted to say thank you to our "old salts". Now the young ones call my husband an "old salt"

Our e-mail address is SEALEGGS@aol.com. If we could be put in the roster, not sure to who to give the information to put Wayne on there. (Editor's note: John Work has entered the information and the e-mail address has been forwarded to Allen Rollins for the e-mail list)

Mrs Wayne Pallen
1382 Cove Landing Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32233

On 5 January Debby Philippi renewed her father's membership (Nicholas Kloap (AD2 VF112 '53-'54)

Dear John,

Please renew Nicholas Kloap in the Association of the Kearsarge. I am giving this to him as a Fathers' Day gift. His new address is: Nicholas Kloap, 4198 Oakridge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101-3021
Thank You, Debby Phillippi, RN

Jimmie Neighbor (AB3 V3 Div 01/54-05/54) wrote:

Hi John,

Please find enclosed a check for dues and also an extra five for the Association roster. I was wondering about an old shipmate - J. C. Conley from West Virginia. Would like to get in touch with him if anyone knows of his whereabouts.

Is there a history available on the KEARSARGE? (Editor's Note: some information on the KEARSARGE is available on line from the "Dictionary of Naval Fighting Ships", which can be accessed by logging onto www.hazegray.org. Also, see the included letter from LT Loren Sorenson to Dave Turner, President of Turner Publishing Company reprinted in this newsletter.)

Can't make this reunion but would like to make the next one if I know in advance where it will be.

Smooth sailing to you and yours,

Jimmie Neighbor

R.R. 4 Box 2148

Washington, IN 47501

E-mail JSMM3551@RTCCOM.NET

Thomas Hill (ADJ3 HS6 '64-66) wrote on 07/06/04

John,

Please accept this money order as payment for my membership. Thanks for the good work that you do in keeping our Association going.

I was discharged in February 1967 after serving with HS6 as an ADJ. It is great to know that I still have some contact with that significant part of my life.

I look forward to receiving your newsletter. I still have copies of Kear Sagas from 1964.

Thanks again,

T. T. Hill

32 Patricia Dr.

Orilla, Ontario, L3V6N1

Frank L. Rodi (ABMC, V-2Div '46-'48) wrote on 7/22/04

Dear Shipmate Work;

Sorry I am late with my membership renewal dues, but as always, there is something to distract me. I've been a member for years and certainly don't want to lose out now.

Enclosed is a little article about the USS KEARSARGE that you may want to print. I certainly would enjoy reading it and maybe some of my old shipmates too.

I went aboard the KEARSARGE as a ABM1, assist in charge of catapults and arresting gear, and about 9 months later I made Chief aboard and enjoyed my tour of duty. I was kept busy with flight operations. I started out in 1932 as a fireman in the fireroom on 4 old "4 Piper" Destroyers, a mine sweeper, and the Battleship WYOMING.

In 1946 I changed my rate to ABM and went aboard my first carrier, the KEARSARGE, and then went on to several other carriers until I retired in 1962 aboard the USS HORNET.

Several months later I went to work at NAS North Island on jet engines in assembly for 20 years. Retired for the second time, and now I am 89 years old, very healthy and enjoying the Golden years with my lovely wife.

Thank you from Old Chief Rodi, Frank L. Rodi, 43601 Florida Ave., Sp. 12, Hemet, CA 92544

Chief Rodi's Article - "LIFE ON THE FLIGHT DECK"

My name is Frank Rodi and I am a member of the KEARSARGE Association. I was ships Company aboard the USS KEARSARGE CV-33 from July 1946 to May 1948 as an Aviation Boatswains Mate first Class in charge of the catapults and arresting gear. I was formerly an Aviation Machinist Mate for years and decided to change my rate to go aboard aircraft carriers. I did the KEARSARGE, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, BADOING STRAIT, PHILIPPINE SEA, and finally the USS HORNET, on which I retired after 30 years of service.

The USS KEARSARGE was the hardest to work on being a full service carrier with a straight deck. We on the flight deck were known as a well trained crew because of possible crack ups, fires, over the side aircraft, aircraft missing the cable and winding up in the standing barrier. Sixteen hour days many times in rain, cold and night flying. The rest of the carrier crew hardly knew what hard work and risk of life was like. A carrier is built for landing and taking off, either by catapult or deck take offs of aircraft. Many times there are stories of sailors aboard ships in the Kearsarge Saga but little about flying and never a real story about the catapult and arresting gear crews, and what the flight deck crew goes through daily.

The catapults, arresting gear, hydraulic barriers, and the cables had to be maintained in first class condition at all times. I made Chief aboard the KEARSARGE, and by that time I had learned the hard way in 1947.

John Wayne was aboard for a short time and later bought the arresting gear and catapult crew a beautiful silver coffee pot, as he used to stop in the arresting gear shop for coffee and stories.

Many times I had to run some of the crew members off of the catwalks during flight operations to save their heads and lives, because they did not know the safety precautions of being around the flight deck. This was no job for the cook, yeoman, radio operator, Barber, etc. But it took all of us to operate our carrier.

I remember one real bad crack up, that is still shown on TV sometimes, where the aircraft crashed into the island after landing on the flight deck. The crew and the firecrew just made it into the hatch before it crashed and caught fire. The Captain and I walked through foam two feet deep after the fire to inspect the plane. The pilot received only minor injuries, thank goodness.

I was at the meeting in San Diego and they brought the replica (model) of the KEARSARGE out and floated it in the pool. Not a word was said about its history, or to ask a crew member as to what their job may have been. I wanted to speak and maybe tell a blood curdling story of flight deck life, but I didn't.

Thanks for listening

Old Chief Rodi

A HOME FOR KEARSARGE MEMORABILIA

Progress is being made on obtaining a compartment aboard the USS HORNET for a Memorial Room. One of our shipmates, Dan Levin (Admin/S-3 Div's '57-59) has offered to work with Rich Thom, Director of the HORNET. Dan's email to me follows:

Paul,

Several weeks ago I was advised by Rick Thom of Hornet that he had some communication with The Kearsarge Association, and that there was interest on both parts to have a Kearsarge CV33 memorial room on Hornet. Rick told me about it because he knew I had served on Kearsarge. I told Rick that I would be more than happy to do anything I could toward the Kearsarge Room effort. I then told Paul Ackerman about it in an email.

I have no idea at what stage the plans are. I saw Rick a couple of weeks ago and he said that he would like to have a local person such as myself be the liaison between The Kearsarge Association and The Hornet Museum and I told him I would be willing to do that.

I would think the first thing necessary would be to finalize whatever is necessary between The Hornet Museum and The Kearsarge Association. Following that, in my mind a key element would be gathering artifacts and memorabilia for the room. I think the Kearsarge Association Newsletter would be a natural place to begin that effort. I have been able to pick up a few things on eBay and I have some things from my time aboard The K that I would be happy to donate.

Again, I really don't know where things currently stand between Hornet and Kearsarge, but I'm willing to get started with whatever I can do to make it happen.

Best, Dan

Editor's Note: Dan has made a great start. He will need a lot of cooperation from the membership, both in donating items for the Memorial Room and with actually helping aboard the HORNET to properly prepare the compartment that he chooses. If you are able to help with either donations, time to work on the HORNET, or provide information concerning what, if anything, the three other carriers, YORKTOWN, LEXINGTON AND INTREPID may have concerning the KEARSARGE, please notify Dan. (Daniel W. Levin, 309 Surrey Street, San Francisco, CA 94131, Phone: 415-699-8553, Email:DWLevin@aol.com.)

On July 29, 04 Allen Rollins sent the following regarding problem addresses on his E-Mail Roster:

Greetings Shipmates:

I am again sending out updates to the e-mail list. The reason for this is I keep getting returned e-mail on several people. They are listed below with their e-mail address and the reason for the return.

Name	E-mail Address	Error Message
John Evenich	sgejle@nethere.com	No mail box by this name
Clarence Holman	chickcv33@msn.com	Delivery failed
Ralph V. Kelch	rvk@usachoice.net	Unknown user
Joseph E Long	jlong27803@aol.com	Mailbox not found
Philip T. Molinaro	momanddad438@rcn.com	unknown local part momanddad438
Walter Schuhle	walmar@starpower.net	unknown local part walmar
Cal Waterbury	purvis13@aol.com	Mailbox not found

If any of you are in contact with any of these people, ask them to e-mail their new address if they have one. My e-mail address is bigallen@cox.net

Change of e-mail address for Richard Stombaugh

Old address is slipahoy@famvid.com New address is slipahoy@sbcglobal.net

Allen Rollins

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Allen for maintaining the E-mail Roster. Please keep him informed whenever you change Internet Service Providers and/or addresses. Also, remember to read your e-mail and delete old items regularly so that your mailboxes do not become overloaded.

KEAR SAGA^{II}

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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.

President George Beam, 1902 Edmund St. St. Joseph, MO 64501, Ph 816-364-0206

Vice President Theodore S. Edington, 97 Main St., Riverside, RI 02915-3421, Ph401-433-1277 (RI) 863-385-1266 (FL)

Treasurer John Work, 24611 Sandy Springs Rd., Minerva, OH 44657-9442 Ph330-894-2660

Kear Saga Editor Paul Czesak, 1206 Oakleaf Hill, Schenectady, NY 12303-5206 Ph518-355-8646

Historian Steve Udell, 211 Northwest First St., Young America, MN 55397, Ph612-467-3943

Ship's Store – President George Beam is getting it organized

Honorary President Kenneth McDaniel (Deceased)

Past President John Bennett