

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

ISSUE 35

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

DECEMBER 2007

Season's Greetings

The Dates Have Been Set for the Seattle Reunion 2008!

Sunday, September 28th through Thursday, October 2nd.

President Ed McKee writes!

I have included in this newsletter web site addresses for you to view the hotel, restaurants, and tours in advance. I would encourage you to check them out and see what an outstanding reunion we have planned for you. As stated in the previous KearSaga, John Bennett and I searched the Seattle area for hotels last June. After considering many factors, we decided the best hotel, for the most reasonable price was in the Bremerton area. The Silverdale Beach Hotel www.silverdalebeachhotel.com offered us many fine amenities: beautiful clean rooms, a friendly staff, exquisite dining, large meeting rooms, free parking, swimming pool, and more. It also has a large shopping mall, with well-known restaurants, only three walking blocks from the hotel. However, the quiet peaceful surroundings, with a serene beachfront, attracted us the most. The sacrifice, however, will be the additional travel time when we tour the Seattle areas. The rates are only \$85.00 plus 10.6% tax. For a total of **\$94.00 per night**. Members can make reservation by calling **1-360-698-1000**. The reservations desk is open 24/7. **When you call, be sure to tell them you are with the Kearsarge reunion to receive this price, but do not make the reservations on line. You will not get the reduced rate if you do!** This price is good three days prior and three days after the reunion. Because there is so much to see and do around Seattle, you may want to consider some time on your own. It was difficult deciding what to include and what to leave out. That is why we added an extra day. John Bennett, John Starnes and I reviewed and revised the agenda many times to offer you what we feel will be a fantastic reunion.

Sunday, Sept 28th Registration will begin in the afternoon with time to settle in and relax on your own or in the lavish hospitality room. No events are planned for Sunday.

Monday, Sept 29th 9:00 am-3:30 pm Guided tours around Kitsap. You will view the recently opened, Puget Sound Naval Museum, which displays the naval history of the area. Then on to the destroyer USS Turner Joy, and take an in-depth tour from the Boiler room to the Bridge. After that, you will feast on a delicious lunch at the Kiana Lodge www.kianalodge.com featuring Native American alder-roasted salmon. (An alternative choice will be available.) You will be surrounded by an exceptional garden setting.

Then on to the Naval Undersea Museum, specializing in undersea exploration and warfare. The cost of this exciting day in Naval history will be \$40.00 per person for tours and lunch.

After returning to the hotel, there will be a late registration. The welcoming buffet will begin at 6:00pm. The buffet will include: succulent BBQ chicken and Broiled Tri-Tip, sliced to order; Western style beans and cornbread; potato salad; cole slaw; ranchers rice; fresh garden salad, and rainbow sherbet. The cost for this Western buffet will be \$32.00 per person.

Tuesday, Sept, 30th 8:30 am- 5:30 pm Seattle tours. You will take the ferry to Seattle for a guided city tour. Then you will enjoy lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory www.osf.com (with a choice of spaghetti and meatballs or lasagna). After lunch you will tour Seattle Center, home of the Space Needle. www.spaceneedle.com. We will be returning by bus via Tacoma, crossing the bridge back to Silverdale. The cost of this fun filled day will also be \$40.00 per person.

Wednesday, Oct. 1st 8:30 am-4:00 pm You will ride the bus to the informative and enjoyable Museum of Flight www.museumofflight.org You'll never learn more about aviation in one place than you will visiting the Museum of Flight. Then on to Gordon's on the Green www.gordonsonthegreen.com, for a relaxing lunch of barbeque beef and pork sandwiches, with all the fixings, in a beautiful golf course setting. The tour and lunch will be \$35.00 per person for another fantastic day in Seattle.

After your arrival to the hotel, there will be a business meeting, followed by dinner on your own.

Thursday, Oct. 2nd 8:00 am-4:30 pm You will be taking the bus to Pike Place Market www.pikeplacemarket.org for a short shopping tour and an opportunity to find something to eat. From there you will take a fascinating two and one-half hour Argosy tour of the locks beginning at 12:00. We took this tour when we visited Seattle and thought this was a must tour. The cost of the tour will be \$35.00 per person.

Then, we will return to the hotel, relax a bit, and get ready for an exciting dinner dance at 6:30. The dinner dance menu will include a choice of: Choice Prime Rib for \$40.00 per person, or Mariner Chicken Breast with grilled Portabella mushrooms, topped with a light feta Dijon sauce, for \$35.00 per person, or a jumbo stuffed Portabella mushroom baked with spinach, wild rice, duxelle, (Finely chopped mushrooms that are cooked in butter with shallots in wine sauce) artichoke, and tomato, topped with Asiago cheese for \$35.00 per person. All meals will include: baked potatoes or wild rice pilaf, garden salad, steamed vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee or tea. Topped off with either German chocolate or carrot cake for dessert.

THE MIGHTY "KAY" TO THE RESCUE

We have included the following email exchanges regarding the rescue of the Russian Sailors in 1960 and invite you to forward your recollections to Marina Sagomonyan at Russian TV. Her email address is: MSagomonyan@ntv.ru.

From: "Dave Lacey" <dlacey@unitedstandard.com>
To: <MSagomonyan@ntv.ru>
Subject: More RE: Dave Lacey Kearsarge crewmember 1958-60 RE: from Russian Television -

Then you can dance to a highly recommended, local musical group.

Registration for this memorable reunion will be available in the spring. As it is early, these tour and prices may be subject to a *slight* change.

A wheel chair lift is available on one of the buses, with provisions for two wheel chairs. Some of the tours can accommodate special needs. If you would like further information on which ones, please contact me.

Upon your arrival at Sea-Tac, there will be an airport shuttle service that runs from the airport to the Silverdale Beach Hotel. Reservations are not taken, but will be required for hotel pick up back to the airport. The cost for a round trip ticket will be \$37.00 per person. (Subject to change due to fluctuating gas prices.)

Many hours have been spent on planning your reunion and many factors have been taken into consideration. I, along with the wonderful support and help from John Bennett and John Starnes, will continue to work on what we feel will be an extraordinary reunion at a reasonable price. So be sure to get your reservation in early, as there are only a limited number of rooms.

Edward McKee, President

Editor's Note: A Bravo Zulu (Well Done!) to President Ed McKee, Past President John Bennett and Vice President John Starnes for all the time and effort they have expended on planning this reunion. Please encourage the shipmates that correspond with to join us for what promises to be the best reunion since the 50th Anniversary in San Diego.

Russians rescued in 1960

Dear Ms. Sagomonyan,

I have a pictorial "cruise book" chronicling our 1959-1960 WestPac Cruise. It has photos of the USS Kearsarge at sea, and photos of Helicopter take-off exercises, identical to the activity on the day we rescued the Russian soldiers, but not the actual event.

I have not yet located personal photos I took of the landing craft as we approached it, but continue searching our many family photo albums. After the

rescue I believe we sank the craft with gunfire as a derelict.

Part of the "cruise book" is a pictorial roster of the admirals' staff, entire ships' company and all air-group personnel. I found the picture of Dale I. Davis listed among the "H" (hospital) division personnel and found the picture of James R. Crisp among the Admin division personnel. I searched the entire roster twice and found no listing of anyone named Philip Kaznetzoff. I regret I know nothing of "Daniel" nor Ray Hardcastle (whose name does not appear anywhere in the pictorial roster). I will scan the photos mentioned above and transmit them by e-mail tomorrow.

I was a young petty officer serving in the Admin Division in a clerical function (Yeoman) and was privileged to some "inside" information about the Russian Soldiers while on board, but had no direct contact with them nor the Kearsarge personnel charged with caring for them. They were, as I recall, given premier comforts and were lodged in "officer's country," the staterooms assigned to commissioned officers and off-limits to enlisted personnel such as myself. As you may surmise, it was an event that captured the interest and imagination of the entire crew. I reside in Glen Ellyn, a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois and would be happy to share memories in an interview at my home. Please advise when you would propose to visit me.

Kindest regards,
Dave Lacey

From: MSagomonyan@ntv.ru Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2007 4:58 AM

To: dlacey@unitedstandard.com

Subject: RE: Dave Lacey Kearsarge crewmember 1958-60 RE: from Russian Television - Russians rescued in 1960

Dear Mr. Lacey,

Thank you so much for your kind reply and for your willingness to help us. That would be nice if you could help us to find some other witnesses of the rescue, especially the 3 men that I mentioned in my previous letter (Philip Kaznetzoff, James R. Crisp and Dale I. Davis) and a man who's name is Daniel and who, as one of the crew members, Ray Hardcastle, told me, spoke Russian and talked to the Russian soldiers and showed them around the vessel.

According to Mr. Hardcastle, he is from Canada, do you happen to know anything about him?

Moreover I wonder if you have any photos made after the rescue or at least any photos made onboard the Kearsarge with other crew-members, photos of the helicopter, any other pictures which could be relevant to illustrate the story?

We would be happy to make an interview with you and to record your recollections of the rescue. Where do you currently reside and where do you prefer to conduct the interview?

Thank you once again for your kind help.

Best regards,
Marina

Vice President John Starnes sent the following: I will attempt to convey my memory of this event! This is a scary thought considering that it occurred 47 years ago. I was a petty officer assigned to V-2 Division, catapults, and was below decks in the machinery room of the port catapult at the time. Please remember that this was long before the day of GPS, sophisticated radar and other such devices. Accordingly, the actions taken may not be applicable today. We were returning to the states (Long Beach, Ca.) following a cruise to the western pacific. We were somewhere between Midway island and Pearl Harbor. A look out spotted something in the water and reported this to the bridge. A helo, probably an H-34, was launched and found a Russian landing craft with three crewman onboard drifting at sea, without power. They were rescued and flown aboard. Following much discussion via message traffic and with concurrence from Russian officials we were cleared to sink the vessel in that it was a hazard to navigation. I believe this was accomplished using our ship's guns although it could have been with an aircraft. They had been drifting at sea for more than 40 days. Be it fact, fiction or rumor I do not know but allegedly they had resorted to drinking Vodka (they had no fresh water) and chewing on shoe leather. They were kept in sick bay and well cared for by our folks in H-Division. They especially enjoyed the food and American cigarettes. When we arrived in San Francisco they were warmly greeted and given the key to the city by the mayor. They departed and after a few days we got underway for Long Beach.

John Starnes, LCDR, USN Ret

TAPS

1781 Inland Way
Springfield, Oregon 97477
August 28, 2007

Sir:

I would like to inform you that my husband- **DON ABRAHAM**, (LCDR, USN Ret.) passed away last June 9, 2007. When he went back to the Philippines for a 3 week vacation he got sick and died in Legazpi City, Philippines. He wrote to you from the last issue (issue 34) of the KEAR SAGA dated Jan 16, 2007. He was really proud to be in the service and loved his work as supply officer that's why he stayed there for almost 22 years. He loved to be in your organization and will be missed by many friends and shipmates.

Thank you.

Sincerely
JOSEPHINE V. ABRAHAM

Wayman Don Tatum (FN, R-Div 1953-54)
From: Donnell Fassler To: DWLevin

Dear Mr. Levin,

I am the daughter of Wayman Don Taum, and with regret I am informing you of his passing on 10/28/07. I know that there was not a week nor a month that would go by that my father did not speak of the good times he had during his naval years. He shared stories of his travels on board the Kersage to many of my family members and to my friends and always showed off his navy book to those he shared his stories with. I know how happy he was to attend a few of the reunions with the last one I believe in Texas. He leaves behind his mother Natoma Mitohelt (97 years), brother Gary Tatum, myself &

my husband Daniel Fassler and my brother Danny Tatum. He also had 5 grandchildren: Jaime, Jeanette, Alexandra, Tyier and Austin. He also had 4 great-grandchildren; Marisa, Alex, Selena and Destiny. Thanks for the newsletters, he always looked forward to reading them.

Sincerely,

Donnell Fassler

Kirby Palash (PR1, V-4 Div 1956-59)

John Saunders wrote:

I am a member of the Kearsarge Association, and I received word from a former Kearsarge shipmate's wife that he passed away July 7th, 2006. His name is Kirby Palash and he was a PR1, US Navy Retired. He was on the Kearsarge from 1956-1959 in V4 Division. I have not seen anything in the KEAR SAGA so would you be so kind as to add it to the next edition.

Also, in the summer 2007 issue 34, there was a letter to John Work from Captain Frank L. DeLorenzo who was the X.O. of Kearsarge 1956 thru 1958. I remember going to X.O. Mast, and that he was a fair man and let me off, and I am glad to hear that he is still with us at 92. Please pass that on to him along with my name and division number. Thank you for your help. John Saunders V-4 Division October 1956- May 1960 USS Kearsarge CVA-CVS 33.

Harry Berry

John Work has received word that Harry Berry of New Town, PA passed away on January 22, 2006. We have no information concerning his years aboard or his division assignment on the KEARSARGE.

News from Treasurer John Work

John has provided the names of the following shipmates who are Plank Owners of either the 1946 or the 1952 commissioning.

Don Abraham Sup Div
Eugene W. Alien V2 Div.

Tom E. Andersen E Div.
Richard Bamett E Div.

Gerard J. Bowen H Div
William J. Cardamon R Div.

Gordon M. Coleman A Div.
Edward Cranley
Harvey Danielson MD
Anthony DeRosa
Charles Dockendorf
Henry Early 3rd Div.
Rudolph Erdmann OA Div
Bernard Ernst G Div.

Richard Grayson 4th Div
Glen Green MD
Randolph Green H Div.
Fred Helmcamp V4 Div.
Charles Jacobus S2 Div.
Richard Kemner Fox Div.
Wally Kline M Div.
Emery Kohus E Div.

William Kozar OE Div.
Paul J. LaPlant VT153
Craig W. Leslie VI Div.
Edward Lilly VI Div.
Ken Linzey 4th Div.
Wamer Lundahl N Div.
Novel L. Rogers V7 Div.
Donald C. Schaefer V4 Div.

John reports that membership has been running about 700, with some members one and two years behind on their dues. Paid up members include 454 Ship's Company and 63 Air Group. E Division leads the Ship's Company with 42 members, and VF-112 leads the Air Group with 24 members.

The following new members reported aboard since the last newsletter:

John Saunders V-4 Div
Robert Johnson CIC
Don Jones V-2

Dwight Langhoff VF113
Michael Doolin W
Dennis Perch E

Rod W. Stubblefield W
Sherman Hensley S-3

Membership rosters may be purchased by sending a check for \$5.00, made out to *The Kearsarge Association* to John Work, Treasurer, 2641 Sandy Springs Road, Minerva, OH 44657-9442. Annual dues are \$10.00, and when sending in your dues please update your address and phone number. E-mail address changes should be sent to Allen Rollins, bigallen@cox.net.

Letters

I am forwarding the following account of how a Canadian kid (me) ended up in the U.S. Navy, as discussed during our phone conversation a few weeks ago. Keep up the good work!

T.T. Hill

A CANADIAN JOINS THE U.S. NAVY

I was 18 years old, disinterested in any further academic pursuits and had spent the past year working at a mindless, low paying job. I had applied to attend an art school but was placed on a waiting list, somewhere near the bottom. The year was 1962. In passing, I heard how a distant cousin had joined the U.S. Navy and was trained as a dental technician.

The idea of 'seeing the world' and learning a trade, compliments of the Navy was extremely appealing so that I wasn't long in boarding a bus to Niagara Falls, N.Y. to speak with a recruiting officer. It took several months to obtain the required security clearance and numerous visits to the U.S. consulate in Toronto before I received my 'Green Card' and became a legal alien.

On 7 Feb. 1963 my parents drove me from Toronto to Buffalo, N.Y. on a frigid winter day and

deposited me down town at a Navy administrative building where I joined several other new recruits heading for N.T.C. Great Lakes.

Following an entire day of writing a battery of tests to determine our potential it was decided that I was to be trained as an aviation electronics technician however shortly after arriving at N.A.T.C., Memphis the personnel office discovered that they had an 'alien' in their midst who didn't possess a high enough security clearance to attend electronics school. As a result, I was downgraded to an aviation machinist (jet) and later went on to take helicopter maintenance training.

My first and only posting was to N.A.S. Ream Field where I joined HS-6 with their new fleet of SH3A helicopters and was fortunate enough during the following three years to be deployed on two West Pac's aboard the Kearsarge, in 1964 and 1966.

Upon being discharged I left balmy southern California and returned to Canada in the dead of winter. I guess one thing the Navy wasn't able to teach me was common sense!!

Submitted by T.T. Hill (ADJ3) ,Orillia, Ontario, Canada

Paul,

My Father John M. Woznick served on the Kearsarge CV-33 as a Flight Deck Electrician from 50-52. I can't tell you how much he enjoys receiving the Kear Saga Newsletter It .so nice to see the memory of such a grand ship being kept alive along with her dedicated crew members that served on her throughout history.

My father shares many proud moments of his time served on the Kearsarge with his children and grandchildren. I can truly say that I have learned a great deal about the history of the Kearsarge and enjoy

listening to my father when he shares his memories of serving aboard her.

My father travels by train from the Catskills in New York to Wyoming and California every other year to see friends and family. Hopefully with the Seattle Reunion taking place next year he will be able to incorporate that event into his next trip.

I recently sent a letter to the ships store and ordered Kearsarge sweatshirts and golf shirts for the entire family. We will wear them proudly,

Regards, Maryann Woznick-Owens, Bloomville, NY

Dear John:

I am enclosing my check for \$10.00 for the annual membership in the USS Kearsarge Association. My good friend Charlie Crookshanks served on the CVA-33 Kearsarge from '53 '56; I served on the ship from '54-55 as the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD/Special Weapons Disposal (SWD) Officer.

I have been a Blue & Gold Officer to USNA for 37 years. Lt. JG Charlie Crookshanks has also served as a Blue & Gold Officer for USNA.

Thanks for all your good and on going service to the Mighty K CVA-33.

Respectfully,

Rod W. Stubblefield, Captain, USN (Ret.)

Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery Ground Broken

On Monday, 12 November Charlie Crookshanks (LTJG V7 Div, 1953-56) was joined by Montana Congressman Rehberg and Senator Tester for the ceremonial ground breaking of the new veterans cemetery in Missoula. Charlie has been working with the Western Montana Military Officers Association,

the State Legislature, the Montana Veterans Affairs Division and Federal agencies and since 2001 to obtain the necessary support and funding for the project. There are 36,000 veterans living in western Montana.

Naval Training Center San Diego

Paul Young (FP3, R Div 1953-55) brought to our attention that the former NTC is being transformed into a new cultural center called Liberty Station. The area will be a gathering place where people can come together for an active, productive, and stimulating environment. When completed it will consist of new homes, parks, businesses, as well as cultural and educational facilities. During its 70 year history as a military base it provided primary, advanced, and

specialized training for members of the Navy and Naval Reserve. It included 300 buildings and three million square feet of floor space. Recently, the San Diego Union Tribune reported that 1,500 came to try out for the TV reality show "The Amazing Race" which is a CBS Sunday evening show. How about some stories of your experiences at the Naval Training Center.....


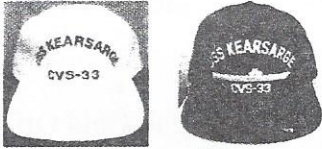



November 20, 2007

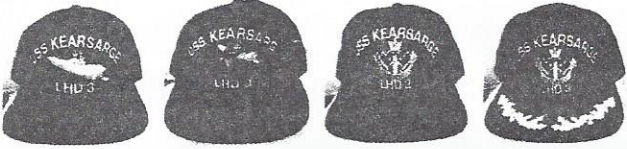
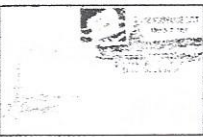

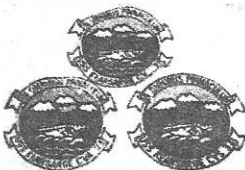
The USS KEARSARGE LHD-3 has been ordered to the Bay of Bengal to help victims of the cyclone that killed more than 3,000 people in Bangladesh.

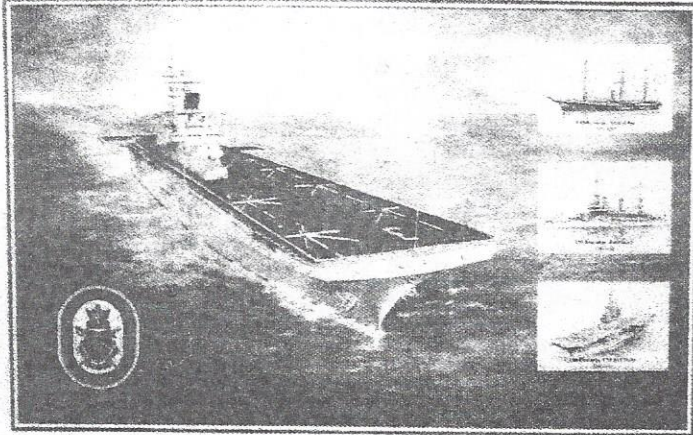
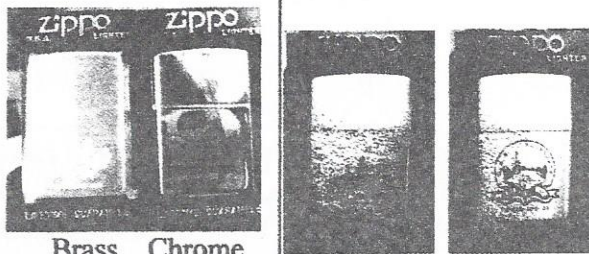
Submitted by Charles W. Dockendorf (ETM, 1945-46)

Ship's Store

 White Navy CV-CVA-CVS-33 Sweatshirt Med, Large, XLarge, 2Xlarge \$35.00	 White Navy CV-CVA-CVS-33 Golf Shirt Med, Large, Xlarge, 2Xlarge \$29.00	 Ties & Tie Bars CV 33 & CVS33 only \$10.00 Reduced to \$5.00
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 White CV 33 Hats \$14.00 Reduced to \$7.00	 White Navy CVS 33 Hats \$14.00 Reduced to \$7.00	 Navy CV-CVA-CVS-33 Hats \$14.00	 Red Marines Hat \$14.00	 Watch Caps CV-CVA-CVS-33 \$11.00
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 Navy Navy Navy Navy LHD 3 Hats \$14.00 Reduced to \$7.00	 USS Kearsarge 50th Anniversary 1st Day Covers \$1.50	 Magnetic Ship's Crest \$2.50	 CV, CVA, CVS 33 Cloth Ship's Crest Patch \$2.50
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 Dawn of Glory USS KEARSARGE LHD-3	 Brass Chrome Zippo Lighters LHD 3 with Ship \$21.00 Reduced to \$15.00
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17 1/2" X 24"
\$20.00

Print is of the LHD 3, inserts are the 3 previous Kearsarges

Reduced items are in limited quantity and will not be reordered. **PLEASE** call or e-mail before sending an order for a reduced item to verify that we still have it.

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.

KEAR SAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

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CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES EXPIRATION DATE

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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Historian Steve Udell, 211 Northwest First St., Young America, MN 55397, Ph 612-467-3943, Email: Stephen.Udell@Nomdale.edu

HORNET Memorial Room Liaison Dan Levin, 309 Surry St., San Francisco, CA 94133, Ph Email: DWLevin@aol.com

Honorary President Kenneth McDaniel (Deceased)

President Emeritus - John Bennett

Past President George Beam