



THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

San Diego Reunion Reflections

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Welcome New Members

Lester R. Fries, Tacoma, WA, V2 Div., 60-63

Larry R. Goodson, Salinas, CA, G Div., 68-71

Donald R. Grimes, Selden, N Y, B Div., 55-57

Bill Laux, San Leandro, CA VAH 2 Div., 64-65

Robert A. Miller, New York, NY, 4th Div., 50-53

Alanson E. Mitchell, Cathedral City, CA, VI V6 Div., 59-63

Albert G. Paterson, Tonawanda, NY, 4th Div., 51-55

Our 2006 gathering at San Diego is behind us now. And a very fine gathering place it was. A place where sailors of yesteryear gathered to recount their adventures and to tell tall tales.

We probably left little piles of "salt and barnacles" out there at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego. It was truly one great nostalgic experience...for this old sailor at least. It literally warmed the cockles of my heart to meet you guys again, some 44 years absent from one another. It was great to meet again with men I once knew as reckless and restless spirited young men, now hoary headed and peaceful in spirit.

When we departed, it was all I could do to keep from



CV-43...the journey begins: Underway 10 Dec. 1947.

emoting, as I felt a little depressed, a little sad, a little blue; knowing some of us may never see each other again and perhaps never have an opportunity to reminisce with a mate who also remembers.

Oh, we had so much fun and so many memorable experiences in those days gone by, both on the beach and down in the bowels of Coral Sea. Looking back now, it was a great experience for us "snipes" to know that we literally had control of a propeller

in our hands when we were on throttles. We supplied the electrical power, the lighting, generated the ships heat and powered the movement of that massive ship. It was really a very rewarding job, but we often didn't appreciate our assignment, and at times even resented it.

I overheard a guide down in #3 engine room on USS Midway say to some tourists last week, "The men who worked down here volunteered for this job and wanted to do it... they were professionals." We "snipes" know that statement was only partly true. Only now, in retrospect, can we appreciate our contribution. But we also had some miserable times together as well.

We often worked hard, (cont. on page 2)

President's Corner

Shipmates,

Here we are, six months into the association year. There have been many changes: The newsletter has a new format and the new "production team" of shipmates Ed Williams and Robert Cummings. All submissions for the newsletter should be e-mailed to ed.williams@ibpromos.co

m. If that's not possible, please mail copy to him at 4811 Lebanon Pike, Suite 102, Hermitage, TN 37076. His telephone is 615-883-6973. Shipmate Bob Cummings of Huntington Beach, CA will be printing and mailing the newsletter.

We certainly appreciate Ed and Bob taking over production. I'd also like to thank John and Eva for working on the newsletter for the last three years. Thanks go to all the other shipmates who offered their time and services as well...you know who you are. (Note: Please continue to send your membership dues (\$15) to John Plude, our secretary.)

I'd also like to recognize Jon Lickey for his service as treasurer to the association and as an executive



TAPS

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of these departed shipmates:

Dominic Battista Plank Owner, 5th Div. 12/28/06

Tom LaRochelle 1973-75, OC Div. 2/9/07

Frank Nicolicchia 1948-49, OPS 1/1/07

> Robert Seeds 1952-53, A Div. 2/5/07

San Diego...(cont. from p. 1)

long, and hot. We worked hard and we played hard too. We often did foolish things that make us ashamed today.

Our grand ship is now gone and only a memory in the minds of an aging crew. But the ship never really was alive anyway, only the men that sailed her gave her spirit. Without those young restless spirits, Coral Sea was just a large hunk of cold iron. Her crew gave her warmth, spirit, and life. Like all men today, when she died, only her body died and her spirit lives on in the minds of all of us until the last seafarer who sailed her has passed. Then and only then will she truly be gone.

I still have a vivid memory of the first time I saw her in October 1959, a naive 17year old kid from a small town in Texas. I can still see her in my mind's eye from the ferry that ran between Seattle to Bremerton. She had no super structure. Her flight deck was bare, except for construction shacks. It



Flight Ops from the early years.

was a gray, foggy day when I first saw her at the Bremerton Naval Shipyard.

I had no idea what experiences I was destined for over the next four years. Is it possible for a man to love a ship? I think so. I think there is, indeed, a sense in which a man can love a ship. And like some other loves in our past, we don't realize how much we loved her until she is gone.

I heard a man say once at a school reunion, "I don't want to live in the past but I do like to occasionally take a stroll down memory lane". Well, hear, hear!...so do I. We indeed strolled down memory lane for four days out there in October and how wonderful it was to experience it. A heart felt thanks to all of you who made it such a memorable experience for me.

Geo. Wallace Irvin 2221 Co. Rd. 660-B Danbury, Texas 77534 979-922-1568 979 285 7172 (cell)

<u>Chaplain's Corner</u> The Quite Sermon

A church member had attended church regularly then stopped going. The Pastor paid him a visit. The man was at home alone sitting by the fireplace. He welcomed the pastor and offered him a chair by the fire. The pastor sat in silence for a-while saying nothing while watching the glowing embers and the flames. The host began to wonder about the reason of the visit.

After awhile the pastor took the fire tongs and picked up a glowing ember and placed it by itself on the hearth. Both watched as the ember lost its glow and warmth until its fire had gone out. The ember

was ashen, cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken. The pastor glanced at his watch and felt it was time to leave. He stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the fire. Immediately it began to glow again with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for your fiery sermon. I shall be in church Sunday."

Friends, let us not grow cold spiritually. Let us continue in the fellowship of our churches. Keep the fires of the Spirit burning as St. Paul said to Timothy: "Fan the flame of that special gift God has given you." (2 Timothy 1:6).

We need each other. No one of us can make it alone.

-Stanford E. Linzey

Vice President's Corner

Would like to say sorry; this will be short this time, but I have recently had heart surgery.

The doctors replaced a heart valve and this was followed by complications.

I seem to be on the mend, but my wife has been ill as well. We both are on the road to recovery at present.

Would like to thank everyone for all the cards and thoughts sent our way.



John Pritchard, Vice Pres. Coral Sea Association

USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) ASSOCIATON is open to all Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force personnel who served aboard the ship (CVB/CVA/CV-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the commissioning crew (plank owners), even if fewer than 90 days were spent aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES**: Association membership dues are \$15 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year. The Association is a Non-Profit Organization formed by former crew members.

New Member: [] I apply for meml Renewal: [] Renew my mem	pership foryear(s	s). Enclosed is a check/money o	rder \$ rder \$
<u>Renewal.</u> [] Renew my mem	bership foryear (s	j. Linclosed is a check money o	ι deι ψ
NAME			
,	name, middle initial, last name)		
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE
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ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBE	R:		
From to	Division	Rank/Rate on Boa	rd
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(Month/Year) (Month/ Military Retirement: No [] Yes [] Retired as:	USN [] USM	1C[] SCG[]
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- (Ra	ank/Rate) USNR [] USA	AF [] USA []
I do [] do not [] want my complete	mailing address printed on th	ne Published roster.	
Please make check payable to: USS	CORAL SEA CVA-43 A	SSOCIATION Off	ice Use Only
Mail application to:		Red	ceived:
Secretary, USS CORAI	L SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIA		eck:
PO BOX 179			nount:
Street, MD 21154-1412	2		oires:

President's Corner (cont. from p. 1)

board member. Jon has not yet retired from the work force, so he did not run for re-election. The new treasurer is Herb Brank and his address is 3902 Cascade Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410.

The plans for the Las Vegas reunion are coming along well. Chairman Jack Calderone apologizes for any confusion about the price of the tickets. The printer inadvertently left them off and they were in the newsletter before it was realized. The prices are as follows: One for \$1, six for \$5, or 12 for \$10. Read further in the newsletter for more information about the reunion.

This is the year for by-laws changes. If there are any

changes that you would like to submit, please send them as soon as possible to John Ranson. His email is jrsr3843@fuse.net and his mailing address is: 52 Woodland Place, Fort Thomas, KY 41075-1605.

We also need to begin receiving proposals for the 2009 reunion. If you wish to submit a proposal, a checklist of requirements can be obtained from any board member. Collect the information and submit it to any executive board member by June so that it can be reviewed at the October 2007 reunion.

Also, if you move, PLEASE notify John Plude at PO Box 179, Street, MD 21154 or at his email Jpludesr@qis.net so that we can make sure you receive your newsletter in a timely manner. It is not uncommon for 10-20 newslet-

ters to be returned because of incorrect addresses, expired forward notices, etc.

Since the last newsletter, we have had several association members in ill health. Please keep them in your prayers. If you know of someone in need of prayer or comfort, please contact Chaplin Linzey.

Memorial Day is around the corner. Let's remember our fallen comrades and wear the colors.

Until the next time, smooth sailing,



Bill Johnson, President Coral Sea Association



Shipboard Humor

To simulate being a sailor at home:
Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out, and live in it for six months at a time.

Reunion Site Proposal Criteria

HOTEL ROOM REQUIREMENTS: 150-250 (Singles, doubles, triples, extra person in room, handicapped accessible, smoking/non-

noking).

COST: (Include taxes)

BANQUET FACILITIES/MEALS:

Quote cost to include all taxes and gratuities.
BREAKFAST - Saturday & Sunday (buffet)
DINNER - Friday evening (buffet)
DINNER - Saturday evening banquet
(served)

MEETING ROOMS REQUIRED:

Executive Board meeting -Thursday evening (Ten people)

Business Meeting - Saturday morning (0900-1200 hours) Large enough for 200-250 attendees. Note: This facility must have provision for seating of officers on a raised area. An audio system will be required with at least one microphone at Officers' table(s) and one microphone near middle of attendees seating area. After Banquet Program - Saturday evening (1800 to 2400 hours) Large enough for banquet dinner, dancing after meal. Approximate number of persons 450 to 500. Note: This facility must have provision for seating officers and guests on a raised area. An audio system with at least one microphone in this area is required.

<u>Hospitality Suite</u> - Hours at direction of President (closed during meals and meetings). Open Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday. <u>Note</u>:

I) The hotel is to provide facilities for storage, refrigeration, heating, and dispensing of beverages and foodstuffs. 2) The Coral Sea Association will provide all beverages and other consumables.

<u>Small Stores Sales</u> - A room with lock large enough to contain stock (about 24 feet of table space), and for members to be able to make purchases. The Storekeeper will lock this room when not open for sales.

Registration Area - Thursday (1600-1730 hours), Friday (1300-1600 hours).

Important Note:

- I) The person submitting proposal has no authority to sign any contracts or other documents obligating the USS Coral Sea Association. All contracts are to be sent to the Association President for his approval and his validating signature. (See Article XI, Sec 5 of Bylaws [Revision of October 1998]).
- 2) The Association members will vote on the package at the coming reunion held in October of this year.

DATE:

(First 3 weekends of Columbus Das as pos	October, but as close to sible)
City	,
Hotel	
Local Places/Things of	f Interest:

Shipboard Humor

To simulate being a sailor at home:
Repaint your entire house every month!

CVA-43 Association Officer's Biographies

So members can know a little more about the Associations' leadership, *The Coral Sea Breeze* will feature four officer's biographies in this edition, and four more in the June issue.

Bill Johnson

Born Willie A. Johnson on May 29, 1940 in Cordele, GA, Bill joined the USN on July 27, 1959. He completed boot camp at San Diego and reported to USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) in Bremerton, WA.

Bill was named to the crew of the Captain's Gig, following the re-commissioning. After making the Coral Sea's WestPac cruise, he was assigned to USS Sangri-La in August 1961, making that ship's MED cruise. He was sent to Jacksonville Naval Hospital for surgery and released June 30, 1963. Memorable experiences: On the Coral Sea when it was the largest ship to dock in Vancouver BC Canada and

on CVA-43 ship during Laos Crisis in 1961.

Married Lynn Votipka Aug. 9, 1963. They have one daughter (Shari) married to Steve Dembinski and two grand-daughters, Mary Lynn and Melanie. Their son, Will, and his wife, Christi, have two sons, Garrett and Kyle. Bill and Lynn have recently retired from their garden center and are looking forward to enjoying new ports of interest.

Robert Nerbetski

Robert was born in Plains, (cont. on page 6)

CVA-43 Assoc. Annual New Jersey Area Spring Fling

WHEN:

Saturday, 28 April 2007, 11:30 AM— 4:00 PM

WHERE:

SIR JOHN'S RESTAURANT 230 Washington Place North Brunswick, NJ 08902 Phone: (732) 297-3803

To All Shipmates and Guests:

SIR JOHN'S will again be the site of our 15th Annual Spring Meeting. A hot and cold buffet will be served at 12:30 PM at a cost of \$27.00 (incl. tax and gratuities). A cash bar is available. After a short program, there will be time to swap sea stories with old and new shipmates.

A good time was had at our Coral Sea Association yearly reunion in San Diego, California on October 5-8, 2006, and we are looking forward to Las Vegas, NV in October, 2007.

However, for those of us unable to go to the yearly Association reunion, this SPRING MEETING is a way to stay in touch with some of our Coral Sea shipmates.

Please fill out the form below and return with a check by April 17th. *Please note that no letters will be sent to New Jersey people.

Mail to:

John Weber 299A Yardley Drive Monroe, NJ 08831 Phone: 609-860-0244

Directions:

From 287 South: Route #I South (Stay right for exit ramp) *Towards Trenton for 4 miles to Route #I30 South. Overpass. Stay right for left turn. Continue to Route #I30 South I.6 miles to WASHINGTON PLACE (3rd light-left turn) GETTY

gas station on corner. Continue on WASHINGTON PLACE for .2 of a mile to SIR JOHN'S on the right at the bottom of the hill before the lake.

From North Jersey: Turnpike Exit #9. After toll stay right, follow Route #18 West I/2 mile to Route #1 South. Follow directions from * above.

From South Jersey: Turnpike Exit #8-A. After toll, keep right. On to Route 32 West. Pass thru 1st light for 1 mile to Route #130 North. Continue North for 7 miles to light at WASHINGTON PLACE, Getty gas station on right. Right turn on Washington Place for .2 of a mile to SIR JOHN'S on the right at the bottom of the hill before the lake.



"Sir John's
Restaurant will
again be the site
of our 15th
Annual Spring
Meeting in
Brunswick, NJ."

ANNUAL NEW JERSEY AREA SPRING FLING—April 28, 2007

Name	Spouse/Guest	
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Telephone ()	E-Mail	
Number of reservations at \$27.00	Amount Enclosed(Make Check payable to John Weber)	
I served on Coral Sea CVB-43, CV-43, CVA-43 from		_ Rate
Comments		
(Food choices will be published in the	e next newsletter and on the Coral Sea v	vebsite.)

Coral Sea Book Almost Sold Out...Buy Yours Today!

A novel about life aboard the Coral Sea is almost sold out, according to author and association member Bill Williams. Only 19 copies remain and the book will not be reprinted. Three dollars of each sale goes to the Coral Sea Scholarship Fund. "Heroes Among Us"—a 199-page soft cover—sells for \$19.95. Delivery costs bring the total price to \$22. Mail this order form to: W.G. Williams, 100 Fairway Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011-2066. Make check payable to William G. Williams.

Send me \$	copies of "Heroes Among Us". My check for is enclosed. Autograph the book to:
Mail to:	
Address: _	
City:	
State/Zip:	

Telephone:

Officer's Biographies (cont. from page 4)

PA, where he graduated high school in 1948 before joining the Naval Reserve. Called to active duty in 1951, he completed boot camp in Bainbridge, MD, and boarded the Coral Sea on January 1, 1952. He served as a hanger deck plane director until July 1953, being honorably discharged in December '53.

Robert worked in the outerwear garment industry in New Jersey for 45 years, retiring as a cutting room foreman in 1966. He has been a member of the Association since 2000 and on the Executive Board since 2005.

Guy O. Dunbar

Guy was born November 23, 1946 in Moreland, OK. After graduating from Mooreland

Secretary's Notes

It's that time of year again when I have to remind the membership to check the address label on this newsletter. If the four digits after your name are 2006, you are in arrears and this will be the last newsletter until you pay your dues. Remember that the dues are \$15.00 per year now. I still get quite a few \$10.00 checks.

I am not sure just how the new system for putting out the newsletter is supposed to work. Near as I can figure, if you have something that needs to go in the newsletter, you can send it to Ed Williams (e-mail preferred: ed.williams@ibpromos.com); who will then send it to Bill Johnson, the managing editor and his production team, who will then send it to Robert Cummings who will

High in 1965, he attended Northwestern Oklahoma State Univ. in Alva. His Navy service began in October 1966 with boot camp and basic electricity and electronics in San Diego.

Guy caught up to the Coral Sea on Yankee Station in October 1967, beginning the first of three WesPac Cruises he would complete while serving as a radar man in CIC. He was discharged in July 1970,

when Coral Sea returned to the states.

Guy began working on the Associations' web site in January 2000, a natural fit given his 30 plus years working with computers and his current position as system manager for the Okalahoma Div. of US Foodservice.

Guy and his wife of 39 years, Sharon, have a daughter named Heather and 3-year old granddaughter, Madison Grace.

John H. Ranson

John graduated from New-



He reported aboard USS Coral Sea on July 17, 1967, after completing Quartermaster "A" School in Newport, RI. After two Viet Nam cruises, he departed

the ship April 1969 as QM2 and was discharged from the USNR in 1972.

John married wife Sandra in 1970 and have two children, John, Jr. and Theresa. They look forward to grandchildren in the not-too distant future.



USS Coral Sea at Gitmo in 1947.

get it printed and mailed. Sounds a little complicated to me, but then what do I know? Eva and I did it for three years all by ourselves.

Been getting quite a few inquiries from members about when we are going to have another reunion in the north-eastern part of the country. I know that hosting a reunion is a lot of work, but if any of you "Yankees" want to get involved with

putting on a reunion up north, Eva and I will assist you in any way we can.

Just a reminder that the dues expire on the 31st of December, so check your membership card for the date.

Respectfully,

John

John Plude, Sr.



Shipboard Humor

To simulate being a sailor at home: Invite at least 500 people you don't really know to come live with you for about six month!

USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association

Officers

President: **Bill Johnson**

322 N. Portia Street Nokomis, FL 34275-2342

cva43bill@hotmail.

Treasurer:

I. Herb Brank 233009 Stratford Dr. Greensboro, NC 27408

JHBRANKCPA@aol.com

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Slinzey@juno.com

Historian:

Mike Pfeffer MPfeff53@aol.com Vice President:

John Pritchard (775-727-6910)

2191 N. Bannavitch Pahrump, NV 89060

john_pritchard82@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President:

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Calumet City, IL 60409-4716

708-891-6771

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hglassett@cs.com

Secretary:

John F. Plude, Sr. PO Box 179 Street, MD 21154 Jpludesr@qis.net

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Robert Nerbetski—2007 CVB43@comcast.net Master-at-Arms: **Jimmie Johnson**

Muskfis@sbcglobal.net

Locator:

Hubbard Glassett



Copy Submission Deadline:

Material for the June issue of The Coral Sea Breeze is due in to the publisher or copy editor by May 20, 2007.

Committees

2007 Las Vegas, NV—Jack Calderone Reunion Committee

2008 Ft. Mitchell, KY-John Ranson

By-Laws Committee

Chairman: John Ranson, jrsr3843@fuse.net

Members: Ben Bernardy, 1307 State St., Tama, IA 52339

641-484-2760

Bob Nerbetski, CVB43@comcast.net CVB43@Rochester.rr.com Bill Eannetta. Jon Lickey, jjlickey47W@yahoo.com

Scholarship Committee

Chairman: William G. Williams, welsh877@aol.com Members: David G. Yokley-2008, davidyokely@knology.net William E. Eannetta-2006, CVB43@Rochester.rr.com Dr. William Wilson-2007, barktree@Bellsouth.net

Audit Committee

Chuck Whitcomb-2007, Members: chaswhit@bellsouth.net William Eannetta-2006, CVB43@Rochester.rr.com

Nominating Chair: Bob Mackey, 708-891-6771

The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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The Coral Sea Breeze

Bill Johnson, Publisher 322 N. Portia Street Nokomis, FL 34275-2342

Email: cva43bill@hotmail.com



CVA-43 17th Annual Midwest Spring Fling

Join us April 27—28, 2007...

Why the Spring Flings? A majority of our shipmates cannot make the Fall Annual Reunions so these Flings are an opportunity for crew members to get to know each other and shake the Winter blues.



WHERE: Don Hall's Guest House 1313 West Washington Center Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46825

PHONE: 800-348-1999 (I.D. #8328 must be used to ensure rate)

RATES: Friday & Saturday Package is \$159.00, plus 12% tax. Each extra day is \$69.00 + \$8.28 = \$77.28 total.

SPECIAL AMENITIES:

- Elegant lodging
- Free Continental Breakfast each morning
- \$20 gift certificate
- Bottle of Champagne or 2 liter of Coke.
- Whirlpool, exercise room
- Indoor & outdoor pools
- Complimentary airport van
- Hospitality Room is #140

Cut-off Date: 27 Mach 2007

Location: 1-69, exit 111B, just north on SR3, then 0.3 miles east.

For Area Information:

Fort Wayne County Convention Visitor Bureau, 1021 S. Calhoun, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Ph. 800-767-7752

Information—Questions?

Bob Mackey (President Emeritus) 300 Webb Street, Calumet City, IL 60409-4716

Ph. 708-891-6771

Herman Doernbach (Secretary Emeritus), 3144 S. 998th Street Milwaukee, WI 53227-4210 Ph. 414-321-0098,

E-mail: hermanwd@aol.com

NOTE:

Call in your reservation early. Hotel fills up early this time of year. You can always cancel later if needed.