

# THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

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## Welcome Aboard!

**Gaylon Addikson**  
RM3, OR Div.  
1961-62

**Phillip M. (Mike) Bovinette**  
AT2, VAH-2  
1963-63

**John D. Bard**  
HM2, H Div.  
1968-70

**William A. Buckendorf**  
Capt., Med Dept.  
1980-82

**William P. Charneski**  
SN, VAH2  
1963-63

## It's Reunion Time in Exciting San Antonio!

You still have time to secure your spot at the Coral Sea Association's 34th annual national reunion in San Antonio, TX. It is being held October 3-7, and you'll find all the event details in this issue of the *Sea Breeze*.

Among the many highlights you can enjoy is the Nimitz Museum in the National Museum of the Pacific War during the planned Fredericksburg Tour. For many of us, that may be even more popular than visit-

ing the Alamo. While the hotel reservation deadline was set for

Sept. 4, with a discounted room rate of just \$100.40

ities. That rate was set up to apply from Oct. 1 through Oct. 10 to allow our group to take advantage of the special pricing for an extended stay in San Antonio.

You'll also find a reservation form on page 2 of this issue for our hospitality room and banquets! Don't miss this opportunity to explore San Antonio with your shipmates!



per night, check with the hotel anyway for any continuing availabil-

ities. That rate was set up to apply from Oct. 1 through Oct. 10 to allow our group to take advantage of the special pricing for an extended stay in San Antonio.

## President's Corner

Good day Shipmates, Here's hoping that you summer has been fun filled and safe.

In less than a month, we'll all be gathering in San Antonio, Texas for the 2012 reunion. I hope that many of you can attend. All indications

point to a great time with a few first time attendees. We welcome all of you to the Coral Sea family. The Plan of the Day for the reunion is published in this issue. Please check it out and plan accordingly. Additionally there will be two tours that all Shipmates and guests can enjoy. Needless to say,

the River Walk will provide a lot of entertainment for all, especially the ladies. There's a lot of shopping on the River Walk. Make sure that you ride the barges at twilight. The view of the city at that time is spectacular.

Shipmates, please plan

*(Continued on page 10)*

# San Antonio 2012 Reunion Reservation Form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_

***In order to print your name badge correctly, please complete the following:***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate/Rank/Rating: \_\_\_\_\_ Div.: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboard Coral Sea from: \_\_\_\_\_ (mo.) \_\_\_\_\_ (yr.) TO \_\_\_\_\_ (mo.) \_\_\_\_\_ (yr.)

Registration Fee (\$25/person): No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Registration includes hospitality room.)

Friday Buffet (\$45/person): No. Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Banquet Options & Cost:**

A. Rib Eye Steak (\$45/person): No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Chicken Wellington (\$40/person): No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Encl.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Encl.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Note: A breakfast buffet is available daily for \$10 (includes tax and tip). No registration required.*

*Make your Holiday Inn-Riverwalk reservations today by calling (210) 224-2500*

Please make out check or money order to **USS Coral Sea Assoc. Reunion** and mail to:

**Clarence Neander, 47 Redwood Manor, Pontiac, IL 61764**



## Welcome Aboard

**Ray E. Carroll**  
HM, H Div.  
1964-67

**Frank R. Dixon Jr.**  
EMCS, E Div.  
1978-81

**Jerome V. Dupre**  
SN, OI Div.  
1959-62

**Gresh Lattimore**  
LTJG, Legal Dept.  
1966-68

**Joe D. Melton**  
FN, R Div.  
1955-57

**Donald M. Mitts**  
SM3, 1st, CS Div.  
1964-66

**John L. Markel**  
(no info provided)

## Vice President's Corner

Shipmates,

We are in the last months before our annual reunion. I hope you have your reservations in so we can have a large number attending. John and his helper are getting everything planned and in place so we can enjoy this reunion. Please make your reservations as soon as possible and remember to ask for the USS Coral Sea rate.

I had a very interesting letter the other day from a group of veterans who are working to help our

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Secretary's Corner

Hope you and yours are well.

Just a short note: Hoping to see you in San Antonio for our national reunion. It promises to be one of our best. The deadline to register for our hotel is September 4.

I want to thank Gary and Diane Maddox, the hosts for the 2012 Mid-West Spring Fling in Grand Rapids, MI in April. Sandra and I had a great time. Thanks, again, Maddog and Diane!

On a personal note, I would like to congratulate my grandson Brandon Colwell! He has started

kindergarten at Frank Homan Elementary School. He is the first of our five grandkids to start public school. Sandra and I could not be more proud!

Remember, my new address is:

**2740 N Farris Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93704**

The phone number is (559) 304-3679.

In service, your secretary,

*Don*

Don Colwell  
Secretary

# San Antonio Reunion Tours: Something Special For All.

## Spotlight on San Antonio

Oct. 4, 2012—9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Your group will board their motor coach as our guide begins the story of San Antonio's 250 years of fascinating history as we make our way to the heart of the River City! Our first stop will be **The Alamo**, "The Shrine of Texas Liberty" and San Antonio's first Mission. Today, it is one of the most photographed facades in the United States. We will tour the chapel and walk the grounds as we learn about the "Battle for Texas Independence".

From the Alamo, we drive by the **San Fernando Cathedral**, the original church of the Canary Island settlers built in 1731, and one of the oldest churches in continuous use in the country. Our group continues on by the **Spanish Governor's**



**Palace**, and on to the Mexican Market known as **El Mercado**. Here we will visit the shops and restaurants that offer arts, crafts and freshly baked Mexican pastries.

Then it is on to the **Guenther House**, the elegant restored home built in 1860. The house is located on a bend of the San Antonio River at the foot of the King William District, one of the oldest, historical districts in Texas. There will also be time for a visit to their wonderful cooking gift shop.

Lunch on their own.

From the **Guenther House**, it's back on your motor coach for a short trip to the beautiful **Southwest School of Art and Craft**, located on the banks of the San Antonio River.

Our tour ends here as you board your motor coach and return to your hotel after an afternoon with a "Spotlight on San Antonio".

**\$60.00 per person (20 min. required)**

**Includes all admission fees, transfers and Capers certified tour guide.**

## Fredericksburg Tour

Oct. 5, 2012—9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our Capers tour guide will meet the group in the lobby of the hotel and give a brief overview of the outing. Our motor coach waits with our uniformed Capers' staff person to escort everyone to the Texas Hill Country.

Just twenty (20) minutes up the road, we will stop in **Boerne Texas** for shopping and exploring the numerous antique shops up and down Main Street. After an hour in Boerne we will proceed to Fredericksburg in time for lunch. We arrive in **Fredericksburg, Texas**. This town settled by German immigrants in the early 1800's is rich with heritage. There are numerous historical buildings, restaurants and museums along the main streets. The many shops located along



the Main Street are in a four-block area and a delightful place to get unusual things from the Hill Country and from Texas. The **Nimitz Museum**, full of

WWII history, is part of this unique town.

**Lunch** can be at any of the numerous restaurants along the main street, on your own.

After lunch we continue our exploration of Fredericksburg and then board our coach to stop at the **Wild Seed Farm**. This is one of the nation's largest wildflower farms. You can cut your own bouquet during your self-guided, self-paced tour. There is also a Butterfly Haus, featuring Texas native butterflies, when in season.

**\$60.00 per person (20 min. required)**

**Includes motor coach, certified tour guide and all taxes and gratuities.**

Fill in your tour registration today on page 4!



## Welcome Aboard

**Willard W. Pangborn**  
HM2, Med Dept.  
1961-62

**Joaquin Pina**  
AN, OC Div.  
1962-66

**Frederick N. Shaffer**  
1st LT, VMA-324  
1960-61

**Timothy J. Schultz**  
SK3, S-2 Div.  
1967-69

**Francis J. Schwarz**  
AG3, OA Div.  
1968-69

**John S. Trolinger**  
CWO2, OI Div.  
1977-79

**Dennis A. Zager**  
AE3, VF-151  
1962-63

# Capers Tours San Antonio Reservation Form.

**Tour Dates are Oct. 4 & 5, 2012, departing the Holiday Inn River Walk  
Registration Deadline: September 15, 2012**

Capers is coordinating the Associations' tours during the annual reunion in San Antonio. **Please contact the Capers representative at 210-226-6652 with any questions regarding the planned events.**

If you would like to participate in a tour, please complete this form by Sept. 15, 2012 and mail with your check or fax with your credit card payment to:

**Capers, 825 E. Locust St., San Antonio, TX 78212  
Ph. 210-226-66542, Fx. 210-223-9933, Email: Jean @capersdmc.com**



Taps

**Karol Bielawski**  
AE3, X Div.  
1953-54

**Thomas J. Purcell Jr.**  
ME2, R Div.  
1950-53

**Robin L. Zevotek**  
SA, Rep-8 Div.  
1951-52

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **St./Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fx:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spotlight San Antonio:** 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012 at \$60 per person.

**Fredericksburg, Texas:** 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5, 2012 at \$60 per person.

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60 each for a total cost of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please Note: No Refunds. A minimum of 20 total must be met on each tour.**

**Method of Payment:** ( ) Check ( ) AMEX ( ) Visa ( ) MasterCard

**Cardholder Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card No. :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Three Digit Code (on back):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## USS Coral Sea Anchor "Lives On" Down Under.

In 1992 a C-5A made a very special delivery to the city of Townsville, North Queensland, Australia: One of the 60,000 pound anchors from the USS Coral Sea. This 'gift of friendship' commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, following "The Ageless Warrior's" decommissioning.

The 12-day journey of CVA-43's anchor began in McGuire AFB, NJ, the pick-up point. After completing several other mission stops in Texas, Hawaii and Singapore,

the 17-member crew began their six-and-a-half hour flight to Australia.

More than 5,000 people were on hand to greet the C-5A's landing.

At the time of the 1942 battle, few people had heard of the Coral Sea. But the battle was such a significant world event that the U.S. Navy named an aircraft carrier in its honor.

This huge anchor symbolized the significant relationship between Australia and the U.S., and the stability, peace and safety they share.

**PLAN OF THE DAY  
USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION REUNION  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
OCTOBER 3-7, 2012**

**Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012**

1500 – 1700 Registration  
1700 – 2200 Hospitality Room

0900 - Board busses for spotlight on  
Fredericksburg Tour (return approx.  
1500).  
1500 – 2200 Hospitality Room  
1900 — Buffet and misc. raffles.

**Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012**

0600 – 0900 Breakfast Buffet  
0900 - Board buses for Spotlight on San  
Antonio tour (return approx. 1500).  
1500 – 2200 Hospitality Room  
1630 – 1730 Southwest reception in  
hospitality room (no charge!).  
1900 — Board of Directors Meeting (all  
shipmates are welcome to attend).

**Saturday Oct. 6, 2012**

0600 – 0900 Breakfast Buffet  
0900 – 1200 (approx.) Business  
Meeting  
1800 – 1900 Cocktail Hour  
1900 – 2200 Banquet & Entertainment

**Friday, Oct. 5, 2012**

0600 – 0900 Breakfast Buffet

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012**

0600 – 0900 Breakfast Buffet  
Departure  
See you all in 2013!

**It's Been So Hot...**

The birds are  
using potholders  
to pull the  
worms out of  
the ground.

**Chaplain's Corner**

Dear Shipmates,  
Just today a World War II  
Army vet told me about  
his experience with a fam-  
ily cruise onboard USS  
DWIGHT D. EISEN-  
HOWER (CVN-69). He  
was thoroughly impressed,  
especially with the special  
flight ops display. The  
highlight was when the  
Navy jet broke the sound  
barrier just above the sur-  
face of the sea.

Not only was I a bit jeal-  
ous, but it really brought  
back great memories of  
my time and similar ex-  
periences onboard our

Ageless Warrior!

As we grow older, we all  
come to realize the power  
of our memory. Many of  
us probably could not go  
back and serve a sea tour  
onboard our great ship,  
but we have great and  
meaningful memories to  
sustain us.

I think that memory is  
especially important when  
it comes to our children  
and grandchildren. The  
stories they hear from us  
help them to understand  
the sacrifice we made so  
that they can live in free-  
dom. So, let's keep telling  
our story!

(By the way, I, too, was

privileged to see an F/A-  
18 break the sound bar-  
rier when I was onboard  
our ship. What a magnifi-  
cent sight that was!)

May God bless you and  
your family, and to our  
Jewish friends we send  
best wishes for the com-  
ing High Holy Days.

Your shipmate and chap-  
lain,

*Michael*

Michael D. Halley  
CDR, CHC, USN,  
Retired  
Association Chaplain



# USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA (CVA-43) ASSOCIATION 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 membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Renewal:**  Renew my membership for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s). Enclosed is a check/money order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTH DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please PRINT First name, middle initial, last name)  
**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ZIP+4** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NEXT OF KIN** \_\_\_\_\_

**ON BOARD SHIP AS CREW MEMBER:**

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate on Board \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Month/Year) (Month/Year) (Lt/RD/FN/SN/Sgt)  
 Military Retirement: No  Yes  Retired as: \_\_\_\_\_ USN  USMC  SCG   
 (Rank/Rate) USNR  USAF  USA

I do  do not  want my complete mailing address printed on the Published roster.

Please make check payable to: **USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION**  
 Mail application to:

**Secretary, USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATION**  
**2740 N Farris Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93704**

**Office Use Only**

Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires: \_\_\_\_\_



**It's Been So Hot...**

The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

*(Continued from page 2)*  
**Vice President's Corner...**  
 kids know more about the history of this great country. This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Doolittle raid on Japan in 1942. I am going to go to the local middle school and give a presentation about this great raid; while it was not a great victory in battle it was a morale boost for our nation. These sixteen planes and crews were heroes then and now. So if asked about your service, volunteer to go give a talk and help us to remember how much these men and women gave to our country. Ours is the greatest

country in the world. This will give us a chance to do something for our country.  
 We hope to see you in San Antonio and remember the Alamo! Have a good Labor Day!  
 Until I see you again, smooth sailing.

*Bill*

Bill Johnson  
 Vice President

*(Continued from page 12)*  
**Polliwog to shellback...**  
 we noticed the tunnel of canvas, King Neptune's throne, a table for 'surgery', several high pressure hoses and a drum full of spoiled food, plus a bowl of "sausage balls" on the throne. We polliwogs discussed what we'd seen with each other, and questioned the meaning of it all. None of us knew for sure, but we speculated.  
 —Submitted by  
**George Williams**  
*Ed. Note: Part 2 of Polliwog to Shellback will appear in the next issue of Sea Breeze. The author is the father of The Coral Sea Breeze editor.*

## Polliwog to Shellback in King Neptune's Domain.

*Ed. Note—Part 1 of 2*

In the U.S. Navy, every sailor is a polliwog until his ship has crossed the equator and been duly initiated into King Neptune's royal domain. As a sailor, if he never gets initiated into the realm of King Neptune, he, his soul, and his ship will be forever in Davy Jones' Locker at the bottom of the ocean. Throughout eternity, his job will be to keep the equator at 0 degrees, regardless of the earth's natural rotation and deviation in compass readings. (Note: If a ship is in a war zone when it crosses the equator, the initiation may be postponed until the ship is away from combat areas.)

Upon becoming a shellback it is your responsibility to prepare and administer the initiation process. (A shellback is one who has already been through the initiation successfully and been accepted by previous shellbacks.)

It is common knowledge that "rank has its privilege." While this is true in a general sense, rank is disregarded--to a degree--for this initiation. A Captain in the Navy (same as a bird colonel in the Army) goes through the same harassment as a seaman second class. (Some discretion, obviously, is observed to avoid later retaliation from immature officers.)

Each ship has its own agenda

for turning a sailor into a full-fledged shellback, with card verification and certification papers. And several weeks before crossing the equator there is much activity by the shellbacks.

For example, almost every ship at sea will have continuous painting because the salt water raises havoc on decks and bulkheads. Hundreds of "paint rags" are needed to wipe up paint messes all



over the ship. These "rags" are usually made of canvas or other durable cloth. When dried, they become very hard and stiff and stored by the shellbacks in a safe place. Why keep paint rags so hard they will never bend again? Simple, they were going to be used in a couple of weeks!

Shellbacks would soak them in salt water for a day or two, then jam them into a long sleeve of canvas about two inches in diameter and two-and-a-half feet long.

After filling the sleeve with the salt-water soaked rags, they would allow the sleeve of rags to dry completely before we crossed the equator. Once dried, the sleeve became as hard as a baseball bat.

Shellbacks wanted us to see this preparation. We polliwogs--none of us--could ever believe any human being would hit us with this dangerously hard device.

**WE WERE WRONG!**

They used them and enjoyed it. (More about the sleeves later.)

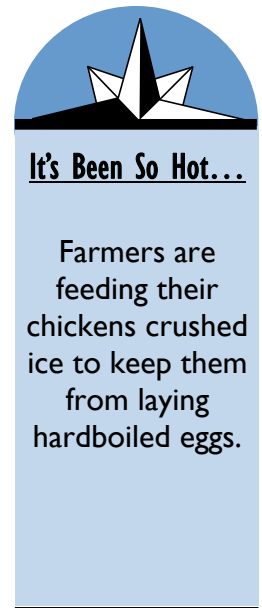
Also, most food that was not eaten aboard ship was dumped into a large garbage container. From the bridge I noticed that very little food waste was thrown overboard. When I was down by the galley, I asked the "cook" why not throw the food overboard for the fish? He said, "If the fish did not consume it, then the enemy could follow the

trail of several ships' garbage and find our convoy." Made sense to a young polliwog, but I would later learn they had other reasons for freezing the "leftovers."

A long 10-foot canvas tube was being prepared and secured on the deck between the hangar and bridge. It was 3-foot in diameter, big enough for any person to crawl through! Yes, a polliwog tunnel!

A platform was built with

*(Continued on page 10)*



### It's Been So Hot...

Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hardboiled eggs.

# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Product & Price List



Association Logo



Ship's Logo—CVB, CVA, CV

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>
1001	Reg. Style Cap (Blue or White), CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1002	Mesh Back Cap (Scrambled Eggs) CVB/CVA/CV	\$14.00
1003	Marine Cap (Red) Marine Det., CV	\$14.00
1004	Windbreaker Jacket (Blue), all sizes**	\$42.00
1005	Micro Poly Casual Jacket (Blk, Dk Grn, Maroon, Navy, Red, Royal or Stone) all sizes**	\$46.00
1006	Sweatshirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$25.00
1007	T-Shirt (Blue or White), all sizes**	\$17.00
1008	Denim Shirt (SS or LS), all sizes**	\$32.00
1009	Titan Twill Shirt (SS or LS), (Navy, Dutch Blue, French Blue, Khaki, Black, Butter, Crimson, new Olive, Smoke or White), all sizes**	\$32.00
1010	Polo Shirt (Blue or White); all sizes	\$28.00
1011	Pin, CV-43 (Hat/Lapel)	\$ 5.00
1012	3-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43, Decomm)	\$ 4.00
1013	4.5-inch Patch (Older Bolder, CVA-43)	\$ 6.00
1014	License Plate Frame (Chrome-Plastic), CVA-43	\$12.00
1015	Photo, Coral Sea Straight Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1016	Photo, Coral Sea Angle Deck (8" x 10")	\$ 4.00
1017	Coral Sea Mouse Pad	\$ 6.00
1018	Coral Sea Coffee Mug	\$ 8.00
1019	Watch Cap, CVB/CVA/CV	\$12.00
1020	Coral Sea Decals	\$ 2.00
1021-1	Optional Embroidery (Name, Div, Year, etc.)	\$ .50/ltr.
1021-2	Full Back Logo for Jackets	\$30.00
1022	Coral Sea Challenge Coin	\$12.00
1023	Coral Sea Pin (CV-43 or CVA-43)	\$ 3.00

\*\* These are embroidered items; please choose either the Association Logo or Ship's Logo

**Please Note:** Additional embroidery of your choosing is available on any item. Add \$.50 per additional letter.

6/09

**Mail:** USS Coral Sea Association  
Small Stores Account  
PO Box 1697  
Powder Springs, GA 30127

**Fax:** 770-222-4833  
**E-mail:** georgerogers@bellsouth.net  
**For more information:** 770-943-3818



# Coral Sea Association Small Stores Order Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Item #	Qty.	Description (Color, Logo, Sleeve Length)	Size	Price Ea.	Total Price

Merchandise Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Charge\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**

- Check (make payable to USS Coral Sea Assoc.)
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express



Association Logo



Ship's Logo  
CVB, CVA, CV

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it Appears on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: 770-222-4833  
 E-mail: [georgerogers@bellsouth.net](mailto:georgerogers@bellsouth.net)  
 Mail: USS Coral Sea Association  
 Small Stores Account  
 PO Box 1697  
 Powder Springs, GA 30127

**\*\*Priority Mail S/H Cost**

Up to \$24.99.....\$ 7.00  
 \$25—\$50.....\$ 9.00  
 \$51—\$75.....\$12.00  
 \$76—Up.....\$15.00

Credit card orders will appear on your statement as "ICU Stitching."

(Continued from page 7)

**Polliwog to shellback...**

three steps and a large chair. There also were two smaller chairs with steps on each side of the platform. During the preparations, Shellbacks would not reveal any information about this to the polliwogs.

Shellbacks were always watching for anyone who tried to destroy any part of the physical material. They wanted to make a "special case" out of anyone caught. They also cut polliwog's hair in all directions -- crosswise, lengthwise, mohawk, x-shape, oval shape, half-head, leave some very short and neck real long. Were these crazy haircuts from future barbers? Hardly!

Polliwogs from bridge areas were automatically "gophers." Go for coffee; go for anything the shellbacks told you to do. If you questioned anything, you automatically became a "special case." That meant going through the initiation process **twice!** So, obviously, it was easier to do what was expected.

Some polliwogs had to push a potato across the hangar deck with their **nose** because they were giving shellbacks a hard time. Their noses were raw, badly bruised and very sore. But they learned the lesson: Keep your mouth shut, do what you are told and accept it as a lesson in maturation. As part of the initiation, each polliwog was

asked to do something he did not want to do. This information was revealed to shellbacks over time by asking questions and listening to polliwog 'chatter.' To us, it was only conversation. But to them it was intelligence gathering that determined what activity they would instruct us to do. And they would make a mental note of our response.

Several times—due to a fear of heights—I had made it very clear that I would never go up on that yardarm to fix the #5 flag. (This flag is always hoisted to the yardarm and rolled up real tight and unfurled only when a shipmate falls overboard). Signalman 2nd Class Dudley Keith, a shellback and real super shipmate (until now) told me to go up on the yardarm and fix the #5 flag. He had noticed it was coming unfurled.

The ship was cruising between 20 and 25 knots, swaying gently. But this is a big concern to a young seaman trying to hold onto the yardarm with both legs while one hand is trying to hold the #5 flag and the other is holding the lanyard that secures the flag to the yardarm. From the deck looking upward, it seems like 20 to 25 feet. From the yardarm looking downward, however, it looks more like 60 to 70 feet! Because the ship was listing from side to side, and it seemed as if the yardarm would dip into

(Continued on page 12)



**It's Been So Hot...**

You discover that asphalt has a liquid state.

(Continued from page 1)

**President's Corner...**

to attend the business meeting on Saturday morning. Not only will we be electing officers for the next two years, but also various items of business will be discussed, not the least of which is the site for the 2013 reunion. As stated in the last issue of *Sea Breeze*, the only choices so far are several hotels in Omaha, Nebraska. If any of you wish

to enter a bid, please do so. Contact me regarding requirements for a reunion. Any good input regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

As stated earlier, this year we will have our election of officers for the Association. All terms are for two years except board members, which are one year each. Traditionally, the three year member drops to the two year member, etc. Please give good con-

sideration to this important matter. I want to thank all the Officers of the Association for the great job that they do. Let's all collectively work for the good of the Association.

Godspeed!

*John*

John Ranson  
President

# USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) Association

## Officers

### President:

**John Ranson** (859-781-2536)  
52 Woodland Place  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605  
jr3843@fuse.net

### Vice President:

**Bill Johnson** (941-485-4360)  
322 N Portia Street  
Nokomis, FL 34275-2342  
cva43bill@hotmail.com

### Secretary:

**Don Colwell** (559-304-3679)  
2740 N Farris Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93704  
dcolwell@att.net

### Treasurer:

**Clarence A. Neander**  
47 Redwood Manor  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
accrane@msn.com  
815-341-5928

### Immediate Past President:

**Mil Phillips** 858-452-0161  
4995 Maynard Street  
San Diego, CA 92122  
milphillip@aol.com

### Board of Directors:

**Jon Lickey—2013**  
jjlickey47@yahoo.com  
**George Haase—2014**  
ghaase@msn.com  
**Andy Wright—2015**  
andrewwright08@comcast.net

### Chaplain:

**Rev. Michael D. Halley**  
U.S. Navy Chaplain Ret.  
mhalley43@gmail.com

### Storekeeper:

**George Rogers**  
5075 Hopeland Drive  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
GeorgeRogers@bellsouth.net

### Master-at-Arms:

**Mike Pfeffer**  
mpfeff53@aol.com

### Historian:

**Mike Pfeffer**  
mpfeff53@aol.com

### Retention Committee:

**Frank White, Chairman**  
thewhitehouse@cox.net

### Locator:

**Hubbard Glassett**  
hglassett@cs.com

## Committees

### Reunion Committee

**John Ranson, Chairman—2012** Reunion in San Antonio, TX

### By-Laws Committee

Chairman:  
Members:

**John Ranson,**  
**Bob Nerbetski**  
**Bill Eanetta**

jr3843@fuse.net  
cvb4312@verizon.net  
cvb43@rochester.rr.com

### Scholarship Committee

Chairman:  
Members:

**Mike Perry**  
**Bill Williams**

coralmaru7475@gmail.com  
welsh877@comcast.net

### Audit Committee

Chairman:

**Chuck Whitcomb**

cwhitcomb1877@charter.net

### Nominating Chair:

**Bill Johnson**

cva43bill@hotmail.com

### Parliamentarian:

**Bob Mackey**

708-891-6771

### The Sea Breeze—Official Coral Sea Newsletter

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Webmaster: **Bob Dorais**, cv43@usscoralsea.net



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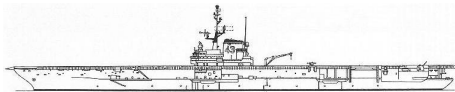
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John Ranson, Publisher  
52 Woodland Place  
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605

Email: [jrsr3843@fuse.net](mailto:jrsr3843@fuse.net)  
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of the *Sea Breeze* in full color!

(Continued from page 10)

### **Polliwog to shellback...**

the sea at any moment, this was a very scary task! The flag finally was folded and tied to the lanyard, ready for any future "overboard" message. Now, to get down safely! I scooted backward toward the mast, knowing that any dumb mistake would cause me to plummet down onto the deck. Or if the ship was listing badly at that instant, I would end up in the salty brine of King Neptune...**perhaps even end up in Davy Jones locker.**

I'm finally at the mast, and climbing onto the 6-foot round radar platform, when someone in the radar shack -- turns on the radar! I screamed and screamed because I had to keep running in front of the radar dish as it rotated, so it wouldn't hit me and knock me off the platform. Someone finally no-

ticed my predicament and shut it off. But I was a nervous wreck for hours.

A day or so before we crossed the equator a strong odor began to permeate the ship. This odor was the catalyst for the shellbacks' first blanket orders to all polliwogs. Told to go fore and aft below decks, no polliwogs were permit-

### **Make Your Reunion Room Reservations.**

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ted to be seen anywhere near the hangar deck. (Even signalmen and quartermasters who served on the bridge were required to leave and enter their duty stations without crossing the hangar deck.) This gave the shellbacks time to set up all the necessary "props" needed for polliwog initiation into the realm of King Neptune.

On the night prior to initiation day, all polliwogs were herded into the mess hall fully clothed. There were no threats, just one order: "Move rapidly across the hangar deck and anyone stopping will be classified as a special case." We were pushed out the hatch onto the hangar deck and "encouraged" to hurry. The odor was very intense in the hangar deck; coming from the rotting foods. As we ran across the deck

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