

We wish all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas,  
a Healthy, Prosperous Happy New Year

# USS Noxubee Shipmates Newsletter

**Officers:** President, Gary Hall; Treasurer, Bob Ahlersmeyer; Secretary, Dick Barber   **November 2013**

**Board of Directors:** Dick Bland, Pat Francione, Jim Gabrisch, Paul Gryniewicz, "Moose" Haviland,  
Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Tom Mize, Jan Scott

Shipmates, we have just returned from Jacksonville, Florida and the twelfth annual Noxubee Reunion. There were thirty eight in attendance, including the 2 Son's a daughter, and a Grandson. Two shipmates were attending their first reunion, Plankowner Clint Harrington from 1945/46 crew, and Frank Gosselin from 1974/75. As you can see we covered the spectrum, first to last.

We were allowed use of the hospitality room Saturday, giving those that arrived early a place to mingle and talk and partake of refreshments. The Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront had the friendliest staff and employees. They went out of their way to see that we had everything we asked for with a smile. If you ever plan to visit Jacksonville, Florida I would highly recommend this hotel. If you do go tell them you are a Noxubee shipmate.

Our welcoming dinner was Sunday, Clint Harrington arrived with his son Mike, they were unable to enjoy the rest of the week with us. Our President, Gary Hall and his wife Betty arrived just as the Welcoming Buffet was ready and in time to welcome all to Jacksonville for the 2013 reunion. Monday we boarded the bus for St Augustine, the oldest and longest settled city in the lower 48. The bus tour took us through many parts of the old city with several stops along the way. The old fort was closed to tourists due to the federal shutdown. We were able to see it from the outside and take pictures. We had about three hours to walk through various areas to sight see, shop, have lunch before heading back to Jacksonville. The timing was just about right as the rain started just as everyone was returning to the bus for the return trip to the Hotel

Tuesday was an open day for wandering the city or take in the Jacksonville Landing experience. Rain dampened the afternoon making walking around outside or taking the water taxi across the river a wet experience.

On Wednesday morning, the annual board meeting was held followed by the General meeting. Doug and Esther Prettyman submitted ST. George Utah for consideration for the location of the 2014 Noxubee reunion. Things to do and places to visit include Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park and the Grand Canyon for just a few. There were no other locations presented for consideration, the officers and board voted to accept the proposal for St George Utah for 2014.

After the meetings group pictures were taken, a cool breeze and light rain limited the location, all assembled under cover of the hotel entrance. Prior to the dinner photos were taken of attendees out by the pool, with the St Johns River in the background. During this time a pod of Dolphins were swimming out in the river.

The closing Banquet Wednesday evening gave us an opportunity to remember our shipmates not in attendance and reflect on those who received their final orders Crossing the Quarterdeck one last time. After dinner goodbyes were said to those with early departures on Thursday, others migrated to the hospitality room for another session of sea stories?? prior to leaving our Shipmates for another year.

### **ST George Utah here we come**

Best Western Abby Inn will be the Host Hotel. Location 1129 South Bluff Street, St George, Utah 84770. Arrangements have been made for check in 7 September, check out on 11 September 2014. Room rate is \$81.00 plus tax per night. The room rate for three days prior and or three after will be \$89.00 plus tax per night. Rates include; free hot breakfast, parking, wifi, exercise room access and swimming pool. Rates as stated are good through 7 August 2014 so get your reservations in prior to that date.

Reservations may be made directly to the hotel by calling 435-652-1234, indicate USS Noxubee Reunion. There were problems in the past when a local phone number was provided and people called an 800 reservation number. The 800 numbers do not normally have local information about rooms being blocked for a particular hotel and function. Presently there are 30 Queen and 5 King rooms blocked for Noxubee.

There will be more information coming in and will be forwarded via E-mail or by posting to the Noxubee web site also in the newsletter for those lacking computer capability.

### **Shipmates Crossed the Quarterdeck**

John "Jack" Conover RD3 1949-1952 24 July 2012  
Plank Owner Arthur Sterner S1c 1945-1946 16 October 2012  
Richard J Dermody (CO) LT 1955-1958 13 March 1998  
Kenneth Ken Bottorf SN no other information available

### **Shipmates Located**

Edward "Ed" Willems ETR1 1969-71 name changed to John Everest  
William Bill Wiedman Bill contacted me and now waiting for information, he has been in touch with several shipmates.

**Contact information:** Annual dues helps to pay web site and domain fees as well as mailing of newsletters. We have been sending out 320 newsletters per quarter, now mail rates are again going to increase three cents for first class mail in January 2014.

It is our desire to maintain contact with all current Noxubee shipmates and families as well as continuing to search for others we have not yet located. If addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail information is not kept current some fall by the wayside. We currently have thirty-eight shipmates on the unknown list where the Post Office has returned mail with no forwarding address. Other contact information had not been updated by the shipmate, telephone and or e-mail. We do not want to lose anyone else.

Many of our shipmate files require updating. I am requesting those shipmates with computers to send me your current e-mail address. [dicbarber@aol.com](mailto:dicbarber@aol.com) We have at least 96 shipmates with out computers or no listed e-mail address. There are also a few that do not have a telephone number listed.

Some telephone numbers (land lines) have been changed; many people have dropped land line phones in favor of cell phones. I would appreciate updates with current telephone numbers. Once we get our address listing updated we will try to send the newsletter via e-mail to those with a computer.

Cost of snail mail is going up \$.03 in January 2014. Currently mailing fees are almost half the cost of the newsletter. We depend on shipmates sending in their annual dues (\$20.00) to help offset cost of the Noxubee web site and Domain Name as well as publishing and mailing the Newsletter. We want to reduce costs by sending newsletters on e-mail to all that have e-mail. By doing so we may be able to reduce mailing costs upward of \$500.00 + per year.

Due to efforts of someone trying to hack into the Shipmate Directory addresses, telephone numbers and E-mail addresses are no longer on the website. If anyone wants contact information of a Noxubee Shipmate in the future they will have to contact them through me. I will forward the phone number to the Shipmate and they will then be able to contact the person requesting that information.

This picture appeared in Stars and Stripes summer of 1952 of the MSTs Wacissa( formerly USS Wacissa AOG 59) in Upper Frobisher Bay off Baffin Island, summer of 1952. Noxubee was in the Mediterranean when the photo appeared full centerfold. We had a copy on the BB by the ships office

