



USS Noxubee AOG 56

Shipmates Association Newsletter

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Association Officers:

President; Gary Hall

Treasurer; Bob Ahlersmeyer

Secretary; Dick Barber

Board of Directors:

Dick Bland, Pat Francione, Jim

Gabrisch, Paul Gryniwicz, "Moose"

Haviland, Bill Holton, Howard

Justice, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mize and

Jan Scott

Reunion News 2011

I'm sure most have heard Frank Sinatra sing "My kind of Town, Chicago is", in 2011 we can all sing Chicago is our kind of town after the Noxubee Reunion there. Yes that is where we will be heading

28-31 August 2011. Holiday Inn, Chicago Mart Plaza. Gary Hall has managed an excellent rate for that area, \$120.00 including tax per room. There will also be a ten dollar charge daily for parking. It is my understanding these are really great rates for the Chicago area. Our hosts will be Pat and Mikki Francione. **Rooms have been blocked, you may contact the hotel any time before the 14th of July 2011. To make reservations call 312-836-5000 between 0700 and 1700 Central Time. You must also reference the USS Noxubee Shipmates Assoc at the time you make your reservations.**

We have been trying to get back towards the West Coast, here's a start.

From our Noxubee Cowboy Poet "Andy" Andress

Dear Folks of our loved ship Noxubee, Dick Barber requested a copy of the poems I had so much fun with at "Moose" and Mrs."Moose's" reunion in Buffalo, NY. I didn't write these; **The Tight Cowboy (Whip)** came from an unknown Lady in Elco, Nevada on a CD.

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Reunion News 2010

Buffalo, NY proved to be another exciting location for a Noxubee reunion. Our hosts for the reunion were, "Moose" and Karen Haviland. After registration on Sunday afternoon we proceeded to the Pearl Street Grill for a welcome dinner at 1800.

Monday was set for us to visit the Buffalo Naval Park with tours of the USS The Sullivans DD537. Named for the Five Sullivan brothers lost on the USS Juneau during the Battle of Guadalcanal November 1942. We also visited the USS CroakerSS246.

Lunch was served on the Fantail of the USS Little Rock CL 92.

Tuesday found us heading for Niagara Falls. A boat ride on the Maid of the Mist going down into the misty area formed by the water coming from the falls, It was more than misty, rain ponchos provided were not only a necessity but a welcome item. Views from the base of the falls provided awesome pictures for most. We were able to view the rapids from the American side of the falls. Back on the bus we toured around Grand Island where we were able to see the Whirlpool, then on to the Robert Moses Power Plant for a short tour. From there we proceeded to the Anchor Bar, home of the "Original" Buffalo Wings for lunch, the rest of the day we were free to wander.

Wednesday morning was taken up with the Board Meeting, group pictures and the Shipmates Association Annual Meeting.

The Board meeting was called to order by President Gary Hall at 0830. Present at the meeting included Bob Ahlersmeyer, Association Treasurer; Dick Barber Association Secretary and Board Members, Pat Francione, Moose Haviland, Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mize. Minutes of the 2009 meeting were passed out. A motion was made and seconded to approve as submitted.

Copies of the Treasurers report were passed out. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Our Noxubee account will have about \$8000.00 after bills are paid. Donations were made to the Noxubee Association by Bill Fraas \$100.00, and Howard Sprenkle \$500.00. Thank you Shipmates for your generosity.

This year we had 21 Shipmates from 16 States for the Buffalo Reunion in attendance, one first timer

Richard Whorley 1968-69 accompanied by his wife Roxanne.

Howard Justice made a recommendation that each shipmate call five or more from our Shipmates Directory to try to increase

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Reunion News Continued2010

attendance at the 2011 reunion. We are not getting any younger, Shipmates are crossing the Quarterdeck. We would also like to have the pleasure of seeing many more of our Noxubee Shipmates in attendance at future reunions.

A motion was made and seconded to retain the current slate of Officers and Board members and present them at the Annual Meeting for approval. This was approved at the annual meeting.

The suggested cruise has been set on the table as an optional event rather than a reunion one. Those interested in participating may contact me or Howard Justice to see what can be set up.

The closing banquet was held at the Hotel. Gary Hall thanked "Moose" and Karen Haviland for hosting the 2010 reunion and all that was entailed in preparing. A table was set for our Shipmates who have crossed the Quarter Deck. After dinner the names of those shipmates that received their final orders were read and the bell rang for each. A Flag Ceremony was then conducted in their memory. Shipmates then bid farewell until our next reunion and made preparations to once again get underway for various destinations.

Shipmates crossed the Quarterdeck

Granville Shepard GMSN
1952-1956 10 December 2009
Samuel Trembath QMC
1948-1951 19 January 2010
Gene Bedwell SN
1951-1954 18 June 2010
Thomas E Barnacle DCFN
1948-1951 27 June 2010
Marshall McSpadden GM1
1949-1951 2010

Shipmate to Shipmate

If you think contact with an old shipmate doesn't mean much read the note. don't wait. Thanks Joe, you are a real Shipmate.

A note from Pam Shields

Just looking at your shipmates that have crossed the quarter deck.. and I would like to say that Van D. Shields passed November 3rd 2008.(you have the date wrong) At the Portland Oregon V.A. I would love to say a special tribute to his shipmate Joe Pogan who came into his life after 40 yrs. and brightened his last days with stories and pictures of the good ole Noxubee days!! How wonderful of him after all these years!!!!!! Thank you Joe!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Sincerely

Pam Shields

Thanks Joe, you are a real Shipmate.

Special discounts

Lowe's and Home Depot offer 10% discounts to Active Duty, Reserve and Retired military who show a valid Military ID card. Veterans are also eligible for the discounts but some restrictions apply. Home Depot offers year round discounts to veterans who can show proof of military service. The Lowe's discount is available to disabled veterans. All veterans are eligible for Lowe's discount on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends. Check the next time you visit one of these stores.



Marshall McSpadden GM1

Tom Barnacle, FN



New Contact

At the opening dinner on Sunday night, I received a telephone call from a former shipmate. He read about the reunion in the VFW magazine.

William D Gath Jr EM2 11-18-65 thru 03-01-68

He is now listed in the Shipmates Directory

From our Noxubee Cowboy Poet "Andy" Andress

Now he was careful with his money

Unusual for his breed

He wouldn't spend a penny

Unless there was a desperate need.

Now Whip he chewed tobacco

Although he griped about the price

Just to get his money's worth

He'd chew his tobacco twice.

We was all in town one pay day

When Whip he shocked us all

Bought two state lotto tickets

down at the ol'pool hall.

We kidded him about being wasteful

Throw'n his money away

Spent two whole dollars gambling

On a puncher's meager pay.

Some weeks later in the paper

Whip's number did appear

The grand prize winner

He was grinin' from ear to ear.

The jack pot was 15 million bucks

Then it struck him dead to rights

He plum wasted that other dollar

VA Adds USCG, USN Vessels to Agent Orange Exposure List

USS Noxubee makes the list of Ships identified as sailing in brown waters during Vietnam service.

Addition of the Noxubee to the list of ships operating in Vietnamese waters, tributaries and rivers eliminates the need for crew members to prove **Boots on the Ground.** This should make it easier for shipmates to apply for service connected disabilities due to exposure to Agent Orange

