

USS Noxubee Newsletter

October 2011 President, Gary Hall; Treasurer, Bob Ahlersmeyer;
Secretary, Dick Barber. dicbarber@aol.com
Board Of Directors; Dick Bland, Pat Francione, Jim Gabrisch, Paul Gryniewicz,
“Moose” Haviland, Bill Holton, Howard Justice, Bob Mitchell, Tom Mize

It is with sad heart that I start the newsletter with this note from Don Spence

Everyone,

I was going through our email contact list and trying to be sure that everyone knows that my beloved Janey lost her fight with cancer and passed away peacefully about 7:45 last evening. We were married 43 years, 11 months, and 15 days. We have two grown children, four Grandchildren, one great granddaughter, and an endless list of wonderful relatives and friends.

She was my soul mate and I will forever miss her. Thank you for your prayers.

Don

Janey passed away 1 November 2011

For those that did not know Janey, in addition to being a Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. Janey was a supporter of the USS Noxubee Shipmates Association. Those that attended the Noxubee Reunion In Amarillo, Tx in 2004 surely know how much she put into the reunion with Don. She will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Noxubee Shipmates Association I extend our condolences to the Spence Family.

The Chicago Reunion is now history. Several of us arrived early on Saturday, the rest on Sunday for registration. There were goody bags prepared by our Host's. Thank you Pat and Mikki Francione for hosting the reunion, all attending really had a great time. Thank you to Gary Hall for getting us such a great rate for rooms and parking. This was hard to beat for the downtown Chicago area.

The reunion started on a high note with the opening dinner at the famous “Harry Carey's” restaurant. After dinner our Host's presented each of the attending shipmates a clock with the USS Noxubee logo and ships seal in the center.

Monday found us on a bus heading out to Great Lakes Naval Training Center. “Moose” naturally took swipes at the Bus Driver, “a former Marine”, on the drive out. Our first stop was at the NTC Museum, small but with enough recorded history to keep all occupied for an hour or more

After re-boarding the bus for a windshield tour we stopped at the main gate to the Training Center where things went awry. Mikki with all the paper work in hand for the tour, showed the Gate Guards the information. After a few minutes we were moved to a side road at the gate while a snafu was being worked out to get on the base. Mikki on the telephone talking to the person or persons that had set up the tour, a couple retired navy shipmates working on the Gate Sentry's to get admission onto the facility, all to no avail.

We had the proper documentation with confirmation for the visit, the person or persons responsible had failed to forward this on to the gate for our entry.

Although disappointed we headed back to Chicago where we had lunch, Chicago Style Deep Dish Pizza; there were Pepperoni, Sausage, Vegetable or Cheese to choose from. With everyone's appetite satiated the group went off to the four or more corners of Chicago.

Tuesday was an open day for attendees to again visit some of the finest Chicago had to offer. There were just so many places to go and things to see. Tours were available by bus, boat or walking. There were museums to visit. Take a boat ride to see the architectural sky line of Chicago. The Navy Pier with amusement rides plus many restaurants was a very popular place to visit and at the same time eat some really fine food.

Wednesday morning opened with the Board meeting followed by the General Meeting. The afternoon was open for touring, attending the White Sox Baseball game, shopping or just spending a lazy afternoon in the hotel

Wednesday evening the reunion ended with a flair, again at "Harry Carey's". The evening started with the presentation of the table for our departed Shipmates by Bill Holton. The American flag was passed among the Shipmates present. A prayer was offered by Richard Whorley. Some words from Gary Hall then dinner. For all you shipmates who chose not to attend this year missed some of the greatest Cheese Cake I have tasted in many years. The difficult part of any reunion finally arrived, it was time for all to say their goodbyes for another year.

2012 will find us out West, Laughlin, Nevada, 29 July through 1 August. Okay shipmates we are challenging those out West to join us in Nevada. We have missed you all and really want to have another opportunity to join with you in the camaraderie. A reminder, bring your wife, girlfriend or significant other. You may not have been married when aboard Noxubee, but bring them and let them share the stories and History of the ship we all lived on board during a good share of our younger lives. Shipmates from 1945 thru 1975, come out and visit your old shipmates and their families, lets also remember those that have received their Final Orders and Crossed the Quarterdeck for the last time. They may not be with us but we can keep their memories alive. Our hosts will be Dan and Irene Hardel in Laughlin.

Shipmates News

Crossed the Quarter Deck

Clyde Pope S1c 1945-1946 ?

John Congrove SN 1947-1949 ?

Carl R Storms EM2c 1946 09-08-09

Donald Harris Ltjg 1946 09-11-2009

New Shipmate located

Roger Pederson QM2 1967-1970

Lost Shipmates, mail has been returned as not forward able

Thomas Dunak

Chicago skyline reflections, as seen from the Holiday Inn on a building across the river



Part of the Chicago Skyline, Willis (Sears) Tower



Noxubee Clock. I have 18 more available. Cost is \$28.00 including S&H



Raye Barber, Bill & Judy Holton, Barbara & Bob Ahlersmeyer, Mikki & Pat Francione



The 26 foot sculpture of Marilyn Monroe was a popular attraction



Some information for Laughlin, NV: We will be staying at Harrah's hotel Casino. Room rates will be WOW \$22.00 per night, plus 12% tax Sunday thru Thursday, arrive early or stay later Friday or Saturday the cost will be \$60.00 per night, plus 12% per night. You may call now for reservations we have 35 rooms blocked, ten w/King Size beds and twenty-five with two double beds. The cut off for the special room rates will be 30 June 2012., So call now, 1-800-221-1306 7AM-7PM Pacific Standard Time. Ref code #SONOXU,(the second digit is a Zero) group USS Noxubee.

Laughlin has a lot to offer, Show's at the Casino's and more. How about a Jet Boat tour to Lake Havasu, See London Bridge, brought there brick by brick from London, England. Maybe a tour to Hoover Dam? A trip to Oatman Arizona and the mines, witness a wild west shootout.

Details will be forthcoming as arrangements are made