



# USS Noxubee AOG 56

## Shipmates Association Newsletter

March 2008

[www.ussnoxubee.org](http://www.ussnoxubee.org) "Always on the Go"

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*Don and Marilyn have been working tirelessly to set up tours and events for the 2008 reunion, 5 through 8 October in the Quad Cities. I might add that during the period they were setting the wheels in motion, Marilyn also went through a Knee replacement. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.*

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## Reunion News

*By Don and Marilyn Andress*

Marilyn and I have been busy planning the 2008 Noxubee Reunion to be held in the Quad Cities, USA (Moline, Illinois), October 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. The site for the reunion will be the Stoney Creek Inn, Moline Illinois. This is a small cozy inn right on the shores of the Mississippi whose staff is excited about having the Shipmates call this their reunion home.

You can now make your reservations by calling Stoney Creek at 1-800-659-2220 and press #4 for the QC Location. You can also call direct at 1-309-743-0101. Mention that you are with the USS Noxubee to get the Reunion room rate of \$89. This rate includes an "expanded" continental breakfast that includes hot items such as French toast and biscuits and gravy.

Please see *Reunion News* on page 2

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## Vietnam Vets Exposed to Agent Orange

*By Dick Barber*

I have been contacted by two shipmates trying to get approval through the VA for medical treatment for exposure to Agent Orange during service on board Noxubee. Brian Rainville PNSN 1969-1970 and Ron Lynch PNSN 1968-1970. If you remember either of the two men on board while in Vietnam please contact them and see if you can provide necessary information that may help them in their quest. If you are receiving treatment or have tried to obtain treatment unsuccessfully please contact me or one of the above men.

## Sick Call

There are shipmates, and/or family members that are enduring medical problems. Some we are aware of:

- Emet and Sandy Gosnel are both recovering after having stents placed in the veins near the heart.
- Greg Loney had a brain tumor removed 29 February, the surgery went well but he still has other complications that are being addressed.

*Reunion News from page 1*

*"We hope these tours will give you a taste of what's available in the Quad Cities. We are looking forward to having many Noxubee shipmates join us for these four days of fellowship, reminiscing, seeing old friends, and making new Noxubee friends."*

Festivities start on Sunday, at 3:00 in the Stoney Creek "John Deere Room" which will be our "Old Salt Gathering Place" for the 2008 Reunion. Hors D' Oeuvres and beverages will be available as we greet shipmates that come from near and far, renew old friendships or make new friendship with other shipmates who have had the honor of serving on the USS Noxubee. We will then gather for an opening banquet to celebrate us coming together once again.

There is so much to see and do around the Quad City area it was difficult to decide what to show you as a group. Since Moline is home to John Deere Corporation, on Monday we will be "Experiencing John Deere."

## Rock Island Arsenal and Mississippi River Visitors Center



*Dave Mallette & Rick Hunt*



Photo sent by Dave Mallette

*I have had contact with Dave, as well as Rick Hunt's son. However, Rick has not yet contacted us. We hope he will soon.*

On Tuesday morning we will be visiting the Rock Island Arsenal. This historic military installation was established by an act of congress in 1862. The arsenal has been an active manufacturer of military equipment and ordnance since the 1880s. Diverse products have been produced here included leather horse equipment, meat cans and canteens, paper targets, artillery recoil mechanisms and carriages, and the Model 1903 rifle.

A tour guide from the RI Arsenal Historic Society will board our coach for a driving tour of the Island where we will view the manufacturing areas, historic sites such as the clock tower building, national and confederate cemeteries, and see Quarters One, which is the second largest government owned home in the US (Only the White House is larger).

- **The Rock Island Arsenal Museum** - which is the Second oldest Army Museum in the US where there are over 1100 weapons and military memorabilia on display. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum was established on July 4, 1905. It is the second oldest US Army Museum in the United States.
- **Mississippi River Visitors Center and Lock and Dam 15** - At the visitor's center, which overlooks the Lock and Dam, a program will be given covering Upper Mississippi River history, navigation on the river, the locking through procedure, and river cargo. For those more daring a Corp of Engineer ranger will take you on an optional walking tour out onto the lock to view the dam. October is a busy month on the river and chances are you will have to opportunity to observe a barge on lock through.

## The John Deere Experience

**The John Deere Commons** - This area includes the Pavilion - that showcases an array of John Deere equipment. The Collector Center - which is a restored 1950's Deere Dealership complete with a working repair shop (with ongoing restorations) and a display floor of vintage tractors and of course the John Deere Store with everything John Deere Green.

**Deere Home** - We will be visiting one of the two preserved Deere homes in Moline. See where the Deere family lived and entertained in grand style.

**TPC at Deere Run** - This 170 acre wooded site had been home to the PGA Tour "John Deere Classic" since 2000. We will be enjoying lunch in the Club House, which overlooks the course and have a chance to purchase items in the TPC Pro Shop.

**Harvester Works or World Center Tour** - This is still in the planning stage but we are trying to get a tour of the J D Harvester Works where the Maximizer combine is being built. The tours are limited and reservations cannot be made more than 6 months in advance but we will try for a spot on the calendar. If this cannot be reserved we will go to the J D World Center.

## An Invitation to Visit Washington D.C.

A note from Robert Wagner, son of Robert "Bob" Wagner GMSN 1951-'52

I work for the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service in Washington, D.C. You may have seen the TV series "NCIS" on Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM. I work with the MTAC (Multiple Threat Alert Center) located at the Washington Navy Yard in DC, also featured on the TV show. MTAC is a "Star Trek" style Intelligence center that is responsible for providing advance warning to the US Navy and Marines of imminent threats or attacks from hostile foreign countries, terrorists, and criminal elements. I know you had a reunion not too long ago in DC. However, if you decide to come this way again, I can likely arrange a VIP tour of the MTAC, a sensitive facility that one usually needs a security clearance to enter. Additionally, the US Navy Museum is 50 yards away, and is crammed with all kinds of navy weapon systems and historical displays dating back to the revolutionary war. I never tire of walking through it. The USS Barry, DD933, a Forrest Sherman class destroyer (work for the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service in Washington, D.C. museum), is anchored in easy walking distance (100 yards) Anyway, I would be happy to facilitate the visit to the navy yard for a potential NOXUBEE reunion in the future. The Navy yard could fill a whole day.

All right shipmates; here is a second chance to visit Washington DC for a whole new experience if we can get a shipmate or two or three to host. Thank You Robert for the offer, you may be hearing from us soon. There is also an option for a tour at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD that could be added to the above offer.

*Tours from page 2*

On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, no formal activities have been scheduled to allow free time to choose optional sites around the QC. Some possibilities are a visit to Andress' Prairie Rose Farm for a hayrack ride and prairie tour. Other activity possibilities are trips to places such as the Putnam Museum, and the Field of Dreams movie site (93 miles from the motel). Or you can just sit around the "Old Salt Gathering Place" and visit.

In addition, the Quad Cities have an Ice Hockey team that will be getting ready to start their season while we are there. Marilyn is trying to set up an opportunity for those interested to see a game. I know some may wish to travel to the site of the Field Of Dreams (about 93 miles). A shopping trip may be organized for the ladies and others who may not desire to attend the game if set up or take the side trip to the Field of Dreams.

## Shipmate News

### Newly Located

- Jim Harness RD2  
05-11-1967 thru 04-08-1970
- Frank S McKinnon Momm1c  
10-19-1945 thru 12-31-46 Plank owner

### Email Changes

- Jimj Winski jwinski@juno.com
- Emet Gosnel gozzie\_d@yahoo.com
- Gary Harger ggharger@bellsouth.net  
850-439-0776

### Other Events

The *All AOG Association* is holding a reunion in Vicksburg, MS May 1-4. For additional information you can contact:

Jim Waller  
3100 Shore Drive PH52  
Virginia Beach, VA. 23451  
757-217-2356  
wallerwn@wcbeach.com

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*Closing banquet and ceremony will be held in the evening on Wednesday.*

*Looking forward to seeing you in October,  
-Don & Marilyn Andress*

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### Attention

You're Association Secretary and Editor will be on the road for a period of time. You may contact me via E-mail dicbarber@aol.com or cell phone # 706-540-3494 (Georgia) or 707-460-3085 (California)

### Note

In the interest of reducing expenses, (mail costs going up again in May) we also post the Newsletter on the Noxubee Web site.

If you have a computer, and are satisfied with getting the Newsletter thru that media rather than by snail mail, please contact me, and I will put a hold on mailing one to you.

