

# USS Caliente (AO-53) Association



# PIPELINE

Dec 2014-Mar 2015

---

## Acting President's message

By Pat Hurton

I apologize for the lateness of this Pipeline. Charleen and I had a lot of things going on over the holidays and this past couple of months that delayed me getting my inputs to Karl.

I hope you all had a great holiday season and got to spend time with friends and family. The holidays are a great time for Charleen and me as we live close to both our sons, their children and our great grandchildren. Family is an important part of our lives and it's good to be able to get together easily.

For a significant amount of you it has been a rather harsh winter season. Record high snow falls and record low temperatures have been the norm rather than the exception. Although in California we didn't get the snow or record low temperatures, we suffer from lack of rain. San Francisco did not get any measurable rainfall in January. The first time in recorded history this has happened. The weather doesn't seem to have discriminated against any part of the country.

As most of you are aware we are holding our 2015 reunion in New Orleans. I have attached the agenda, hotel information and sign-up sheet for the reunion. We have been able to obtain a fantastic room rate for the Hyatt Place that is located about a 15-minute walk from the French Quarter. The other hotels we considered were considerably more expensive and were no closer to the French Quarter. The Hyatt Place is also closer to the Mississippi River and has a pleasant River Walk area. I think it is an excellent choice. Thanks to Norm Street and Tom Rawlinson for their efforts.

There are many interesting things to do and see in New Orleans. Prior to the next Pipeline the outgoing and incoming USS Caliente leadership will investigate and present ideas for tours, sightseeing etc. If any of you have any suggestions please send them to me.

On a more somber note we have had two of our World War II USS Caliente veterans pass away since our last Pipeline. Joe Benziger PHM2 1945-1946 and Jack Beatrice SK2 1943-1946. Joe passed away in December 2014 and Jack passed away in November 2014. Jack's wife June also passed away in July 2014. Joe was able to attend the reunion in Chicago and as noted on the USS Caliente website Joe was instrumental in the establishment of the USS Caliente Association. Our condolences go out to Joe's wife Jo and Jack's grandson Robert Alexander who informed us of Jack and June's passing. Both of these veterans deserve the highest praise for serving our country during what is hopefully the last World War.

Charleen and I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans and hope you all have a pleasant spring season.

New Orleans



## Taps

John J. Beatrice Sr., 89, died 6 Nov 2014 at his home in Eagleville, PA. Born 1 May 1925 in Bridgeport, PA, Jack was one of the first crew members of the Cal, serving from 1943 to 1946 as an SK2. He later attended Drexel University. For many years he managed his own business, Suburban Engineers. He enjoyed playing the piano and was an avid golfer. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Susan (Dinolfi) Beatrice, wife June (see following obituary), his sister Virginia and brother Michael. He is survived by his children, John J. (Marylou) Beatrice Jr., David M. (Barbara) Beatrice, Susan M (Robert) Wanner, and Daniel C. (Lori) Beatrice, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, his sister Marie Romano and many nieces and nephews.



Jack and June Beatrice

June M. Benziger, 86, wife of Jack, died 20 Jul 2014 at her home in Eagleville, PA. Born June Casselberry 22 Nov 1927 in Bridgeport, PA, she was an excellent cook and avid reader. She enjoyed antiques, crafts and listening to her husband play piano. June and Jack were married for 67 years. June was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Mary (Richards) Casselberry, her brother and her three sisters. Her survivors are listed in Jack's obituary.

Joseph W. Benziger, 89, died 9 Dec 2014 at CentraState Medical Center, Freehold Township, NJ. Born in Woodhaven, NY, Joe served on the Cal from 1945 to 1946 as a PHM2. Joe played a key role in the founding of the USS Caliente Association by being one of the first crew members to respond to Bob Legacy's idea to have a reunion. A resident of Freehold, NJ, Joe was a communicant of St. Rose of Lima Church and a member of the church's Holy Name Society. He also belonged American Legion Post 54 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4374. He was a retired embargo compliance executive for GE. Joe is survived by his wife, Josephine Mikula Benziger, children Douglas Benziger, Nancy (Andrew) Zanetti and Richard (Joanne Dietrich) Benziger, six grandchildren and one great grandson.



Joe and Jo Benziger

We have belatedly learned of the death Charles Laten Howel who died at age 86 on 14 Dec 2013 at his home in Oakland, MS. Charles served on the Cal from 1945 to 1946 as an SN. Born 27 Aug 1927 in Columbia TN, he worked in the metal industry as a tool and die maker. Charles was a very active member of the Mississippi Good Sam organization. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Elmer and Lurienne Bell Howell, son Charles Laten Howell II and his first wife, Alberta Cook Howell. Charles is survived by his wife, Virginia Smith Howell, daughter Sharen Howell (William) McKee, sister Lois Howell Ramsey, brothers Jerry Howell, Edward Larry Howell and John Carlton "Pete" Howell, four grandchildren, five great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

We have also belatedly learned of the death of Erich (Pete) Stafford who died 13 Nov 2013 at age 88 in Winchester, KY. "Doc" served on the Cal from 1955 to 1956 as a HM2. Pete joined the Navy in 1952, travelling the world and earning a PhD in parasitology. After retiring from the Navy he moved back to Kentucky and farmed in Winchester. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Barbara June Timbrook Stafford. He is survived by children Marion Williams, Erich Jeffrey Stafford and Virginia Ruth Robertson and six grandchildren.

Jack Dean Venable, 83, died 8 Dec 2014 in Sunnyvale, TX. He served on the Cal from 1951 to 1953 as an SN. Born 28 Nov 1931 in Eudora, AR, he was a resident of Mesquite, TX at the time of his death. Jack was preceded in death by his parents, sister Dorothy Jones and brother Dennis Venable. He is survived by his wife JoAnn Venable, children Vicki (Rick) Boone and



USS Caliente Association  
President: Vacant  
Vice President: vacant  
Treasurer: Pat Hurton  
Pipeline Editor: Karl Seitz



The Pipeline is the official quarterly newsletter of the USS Caliente Association. It is a place to share your memories and pictures. Please send them via e-mail to [seitzao53@gmail.com](mailto:seitzao53@gmail.com) or by regular mail to Karl Seitz, 1212 30th St. South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

Association dues are \$10 per year due Jan. 1, payable by Jan. 15. Checks should be made out to The USS Caliente Association and mailed to treasurer Pat Hurton, 156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185.

Masthead picture of USS Caliente (AO-53) used with permission of Dan Davis.

---

Ricky Dean (Teresa) Venable, two grandchildren, brother Jim Venable, sisters Sonja Truelove, Linda Burgess and Cathy Robbins and several nieces and nephews..

## Editor's message

By Karl Seitz

Pat Hurton has explained elsewhere why there has been such a long period between issues of the Pipeline. That delay accounts, in large part, for the double-date assigned to this issue.

However, the double-date is also indicative of an on-going problem: The lack of contributions from readers. I would have been hardpressed to produce a Pipeline for December and another for March. As it is, this issue is largely composed of association business and obituaries. While important, these matters are only part of what most readers want from the Pipeline and what I want to give you.

The USS Caliente was in commission for 30 years, a period that included three major wars plus countless other important and, even if not important, interesting events. We still have members from that entire era. Some have pictures and other mementoes. All of us have memories of those shipboard days.

The Pipeline is the perfect place to share those connections to the history of the Caliente and the men who served on it.

If you have pictures your shipmates would enjoy seeing; scan them into electronic files and send them with additional details such as names, at least approximate dates and places to me at [seitzao53@gmail.com](mailto:seitzao53@gmail.com). If you don't know how to scan pictures or don't have the equipment to do it, there is probably a younger relative or friend who can do it for you. If you don't have access to scanning equipment or e-mail, pictures (copies preferred) can be sent to me at Karl Seitz, 1212 30th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35205-1910.

Depending on what the mementoes are, scans or photocopies of paper items or pictures of three-dimensional objects can be handled in the same way.

The least technical contributions are your memories. You write them (typed or handwritten) and then send them to me via e-mail or the U.S. Postal Service at the above addresses. Don't worry about absolutely correct grammar and spelling. As editor, I'm supposed to take care of those matters. Just write as though you were writing a letter or telling a story.

I don't want to give the impression that I am completely out of pictures and other items related to the history of the Caliente. Thanks to a few past contributors who have sent far more material than could possibly be used in one or two issues, I do have a few items on hand. However, these are items that were passed over in favor of the pictures, mementoes and stories that were published. They are not as good as or are too much like previously published items.

To be the best possible Pipeline, new perspectives and new topics are needed in its pages. Please help us reach that goal by contributing to future issues.



A reminder if you are on Facebook, Jack Hughes has created a Facebook group for former crew members of the USS Caliente (AO-53) and their families.

William F. Bayley (MM3, 1961-63) sends this two page-report on the Caliente's rescue of two British pilots.



ASN Wikibase Occurrence # 161513

Last updated: 30 October 2014

This information is added by users of ASN. Neither ASN nor the Flight Safety Foundation are responsible for the completeness or correctness of this information. If you feel this information is incomplete or incorrect, you can submit corrected information.

Vind ik leuk

Tweet 0

1

Date: 01-MAY-1962  
 Time:  
 Type: de Havilland DH.110 Sea Vixen FAW.1  
 Owner/operator: 890 Sqn FAA RN  
 Registration: XJ528  
 C/n / msn: 10037  
 Fatalities: Fatalities: 0 / Occupants: 2  
 Other fatalities: 0  
 Airplane damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)  
 Location: Manilla Bay, South China Sea, off the coast of the Philippines - [Philippines](#)  
 Phase: En route  
 Nature: Military  
 Departure airport: HMS Ark Royal, off the Philippines  
 Destination airport: HMS Ark Royal, off the Philippines

Narrative:

DH Sea Vixen XJ528 ("R-243" of 890 Sqn FAA RN) was written off 1/5/1962, when, during a night interception exercise off HMS Ark Royal the pilot felt an explosion while at 2,000 feet. Both crew - Lt. D. H. Ross (pilot) and Lt. R. H. Burns (observer) - ejected when the aircraft went

out of control, and it crashed into the South China Sea at Manilla Bay, off the Philippines and was not recovered. The crew were rescued by the USS Caliente

Sources:

1. <http://www.ukserials.com/losses-1962.htm>
2. [http://www.ejection-history.org.uk/Aircraft\\_by\\_Type/SeaVixen.htm](http://www.ejection-history.org.uk/Aircraft_by_Type/SeaVixen.htm)
3. <http://www.millionmonkeytheater.com/seavixenpics/xj528.jpg>
4. <http://www.seavixen.org/squadrons/correlation-squadrons-ships/890-sqn-to-hms-ark-royal-1961-1963>
5. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manila\\_Bay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manila_Bay)

Revision history:

Date/time	Contributor	Updates
18-Oct-2013 17:11	Dr. John Smith	Added

Number of views: 109

Corrections or additions? ... [Edit this accident description](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Submit correction](#)
- 

- Unless otherwise stated: copyright © 1996-2014 Aviation Safety Network (ASN)

## 2015 Reunion in New Orleans

On following pages are the agenda and a signup sheet for the USS Caliente Association Reunion at the Hyatt Place New Orleans/Convention Center 10 Sept. — 13 Sept. 2015.

The agenda contains information about the reunion hotel, including rates and how to make your reservations.

Additional activities may be added to the agenda in the June Pipeline.

Recipients of the print edition of the Pipeline may wish to make a photocopy of the signup sheet to send to Pat Hurton, thereby retaining the agenda for future reference.

***See you in New Orleans!***



## USS CALIENTE (AO-53) NEW ORLEANS REUNION



### Hyatt Place, New Orleans, Louisiana 10 September – 13 September 2015

Reservations can be made at the Hyatt Place, 881 Convention Center Boulevard, New Orleans, LA by calling 1-888-233-1234 and identifying yourself as part of the USS Caliente Reunion. The room rates are good for three days prior to and three days post the reunion dates. The group rate is \$109.00 per person plus 14.75 percent state and local taxes plus a \$1.00 occupancy fee per room. The cutoff date for reservations is 11 August 2015. Valet Parking is available at \$29.00 per car per day.

### AGENDA FOR THE REUNION

#### Thursday 10 September

- a) Hotel Check-in
- b) 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM – Reception (hors d'oeuvres will be provided)

#### Friday 11 September

- a) 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM -Continental Breakfast
- b) Free Time

#### Saturday 12 September

- a) 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Continental Breakfast
- b) 9:00 AM – Annual Business Meeting
- c) Free time until banquet
- d) 6:30 PM – Social gathering in banquet room
- e) 7:00 PM – Dinner

#### Sunday 13 September

- a) 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Continental Breakfast
- b) 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Farewells and Goodbyes

**2015 New Orleans Reunion  
Sign-Up Sheet**

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

**Spouse or Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yrs on Cal: 19\_\_ to 19 \_\_ Rate/Rank while on Cal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**  
\$175.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee includes the reception, continental breakfast (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) and the Banquet**

**Additional Guests:**

**Please return to: USS Caliente Association, c/o Pat Hurton,  
156 Greenfield Drive, Chico, CA 95973-0185**