



PIPELINE

June 2016

U.S. Navy is returning to Subic Bay

By Jeff Sturgis

Herb Dorsey recently sent out an email that detailed the US Navy's return to Subic Bay. Most of us who served on the Cal remember Subic Bay as our "home away from home" during our Westpac cruises.

Subic has been an important deepwater port in the Philippines since 1885 when the Spanish built the first navy base there. It came into American hands after the Spanish-American War and has been a U.S. Navy base since then, with the exception of the Japanese occupation between 1941 and 1945. Many of us became acquainted with Subic and Olongapo in the post World War II era through our cruises on the Cal during the Cold War and the Vietnam War.

After the devastating eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in 1991, Clark Air Force Base was destroyed. Subic and Cubi Point Naval Air Station were repaired and reopened, but shortly thereafter, the United States turned both over to the Philippine government and withdrew all its ships and materiel from the base.

I became aware of a renaissance of the base as a U.S. port of call due to my friendship with a colleague with whom I worked in my career as a high school administrator here in Maine. He is presently the headmaster of Lee Academy, a private high school in northern Maine which is affiliated with Daegu International School, a Korean high school which has a campus on Cubi Point called the American International School of Subic. The school is situated on the hill that overlooks the old air

One of the attractions to see during our Boston reunion



USS Salem can be toured less than 4 miles from reunion hotel. More on reunion pages 2, 7, 8.

station and the bay. The purpose of these schools is to funnel tuition-paying Asian students to northern Maine to offset our declining school-age population.

It was through my former colleague that I learned of the return of the U.S. Navy to Subic. He has made many trips to the school at Cubi Point, and knowing of my Navy background, he has given me pictures and kept me abreast of the changes in the area.

As a counter to the growing belligerence of the Chinese in the seas between China and the Philippines, the Philippine government has asked the U.S. Navy to again use Subic as a base of operations in the western Pacific. After the Navy left in 1992, the Philippine government had developed Subic into a free-trade port using the facilities the United States left behind, so much of the infrastructure for the docking and maintenance of the ships remained in place. The difference this time is that the infrastructure is now the property and under the control of the Philippine government and the U.S. Navy is there as a guest.

We all have various memories of our times in Subic. I would encourage shipmates who are curious to Google Subic Bay on your computers and read about its history. In addition, you can use Google Maps to get a bird's eye view of the bay, the old bases on both sides and Olongapo City. One can even see that the old fuel piers where we spent many an hour loading fuel are still in use for that purpose.

Reunion Update

Plans are moving along for the next reunion to be held in Boston at the Boston Marriott Quincy.

The dates are Thursday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 11. If you fly into Logan Airport, the Logan Express Shuttle will take you from the airport to the station in Quincy for \$12 where the hotel shuttle will pick you up. The room rates are very reasonable for the Boston area at \$139.00 a night. These rates are also good for three days before and three days after the reunion.

Reservations can be made by calling 617-472-1000 or 1-800-228-9290. The reservation cutoff is August 18, 2016, but please reserve your room as soon as possible to help us in our planning. If anyone has questions or problems with his reservations, please don't hesitate to call me, Jeff Sturgis, at 207-782-8323 or email me at jandssturgis@roadrunner.com.

The format will be similar to past reunions (see the agenda on page 7 of this issue). We are working on a tour for Friday that will start at the Charleston Navy Yard and the USS Constitution with lunch in the Faneuil Hall-Old State House area with later stops at the Paul Revere House and the Old North Church if there is time.

There are also attractions in Quincy that attendees can get to easily in their spare time. The USS Salem (CA-139) is docked at the National Shipbuilding Museum on the waterfront, and the Adams Historical Park contains the homes of two of our first six presidents.

As usual, the reunion will culminate with a banquet on Saturday night with entertainment from a live jazz trio, Jazz in the Air. The "JGs" may also have a ballad or two to share!

Please send your registration form (which you can find on page 8 of this issue) and payment as soon as you can to Pat Hurton and address any questions or suggestions to me.

We look forward to seeing you in Boston!

(Editor's note: recipients of the print version of the Pipeline may want to photocopy the registration form to fill out and send in, thereby retaining the agenda for reference.)

Taps

David Joseph Babulski of Sneville, GA, died 11 April 2016. Born 23 Sept. 1944 in San Bernardino, CA, David served on the Caliente from 1965 to 1967 as RD3. After his Navy service, David married his high school sweetheart and returned to college. Although his passion was art, he majored in Earth Science with the hope of becoming a high school teacher. Instead he ended up in private industry as a professional educator, obtaining both a masters and a doctorate in Earth Science. After his children were raised, he returned to an earlier interest in mineral collecting and developed his own technique for painting microminerals. His paintings have been exhibited at several museums in the Southeast and he was a member of the World Wide Nature Artists Group. In addition to being an artist, David was a musician, inventor and the author of two children's books. He was active in the Georgia Pagan community where he was known as Papa Bear. He was also active in the Society of Creative Anachronism where he played a 14th century Polish nobleman (see his picture). David's



USS Caliente Association
 Chairman: Jeff Sturgis
 Executive Committee: Mike Copeland, Dave Ludemann, Greg Perett, Tom Rawlinson and Steve Selzer
 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 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.

Chairman Jeff Sturgis can be reached via email at jandssturgis@roadrunner.com or by mail at 84 Old Woodman Hill Rd, Minot, ME 04258

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

wife, Karen, predeceased him on 24 Dec. 2014. He is survived by children Tamara Babulski, Katrina Morrell (Ryan), Timothy Babulski (Samantha) and two grandchildren.

Steve Hammer died 14 Oct 2015 in Tacoma, WA, after a battle with cancer. Steve served on the Caliente from 1967 to 1969 as RM3. He is survived by his wife Kitty, siblings Paulette and Mike, Aunt Ethel, step children Scott



Kennard, Janet Garza, Douglas Thompson, Robert Stormer and Brian Stormer, 15 grandchildren, one great grandchild and five cousins.

James Ray Longster, formerly of Lafayette, IN, died 15 Jan 2015 at the Monticello, (IN) Healthcare Center. Jim served on the Cal from 1951 to 1954 as YN1. Born 19 Dec 1930 in Muncie, IN, he married Iris Joan Robinaugh 23 Feb 1952. Iris survives him as do their children, James Ray Longster III (Rebecca), Paula Kathleen Longster (life partner Kenneth Schultz) and Cynthia Gay White (Kenneth), all of Lafayette, nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. After his Navy service, Jim owned and operated a shoe repair business for several years in West Lafayette, which he later converted into a print and copy shop. Later he worked for Printing Services at Purdue University, where he retired in 1997.

We have belatedly learned of the death of Kenneth Herbert Mead, who served as a FN on the Caliente from 1952 to 1954. Ken died 1 June 2011 in Tucson, AZ, 28 years after he suffered a paralyzing stroke and six years after he became a dialysis patient. Born 3 Dec. 1933 in Union, NE, he spent his school years in Canby, CA, and joined the Navy at age 17. Following his four-year enlistment, Ken attended Oregon Technical Institute and upon graduation entered a 30-year career as an engineer at IBM. Ken's current survivors include his daughters, Kerry Elson,



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.

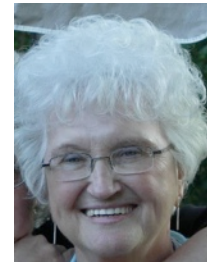
Rhonda Mead, Reneé and Debra Higginson (John), stepdaughter Patricia Lewis (Duane), grandchildren and great grandchildren. Wife Carol Mead's obituary follows..

Ken's widow, Carol J. Mead, died 3 Oct. 2015 in Tucson, AZ. Born 17 Dec 1930 in Carson, Iowa, Carol was a talented musician who was passionate about music, education, reading, politics and bridge playing. Retiring early from IBM, she traveled widely. She is survived by her daughter Patricia Lewis, son Charles Core (Barbara), the daughters of her second husband Kenneth Mead, brothers Darrell and Bruce Brubaker (Tracy), grandchildren and great grandchildren.



We have also belatedly learned of the passing of Gerald R. Robert at age 85 on 17 Nov. 2011 in Northfield, NH. Gerald served on the Cal from 1961 to 1963 as a SKCS. Born 15 Jan 1926 in Tilton, NH. He spent his youth in Northfield before enlisting in the Navy from which he retired as a senior chief store keeper following service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He later retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 22 years as a carrier and supervisor in Orange County, CA. He and his late wife moved back to New Hampshire about 10 years before their deaths.

Patricia Hurd Weatherbee, died 18 Feb 2016 in Saginaw, MI. She was the widow of James R Weatherbee who served on the Cal from 1951 to 1953 as FT2. Patricia is survived by five children from her first marriage, Michael Hurd (Pat), Michelle Riddick (David), Tony Hurd (Betsy), Joseph Hurd (Cindy) and Matthew Hurd (Allison), nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a sister, Loretta Lucas.



Editor's message

By Karl Seitz

The picture to the left is of the late Steve Hammer and part of his family. It is one of several pictures I received from his wife, Kitty, while discussing via e-mail some of the details of his life in preparation of the obituary that appears elsewhere in this Pipeline.

I picked this picture because it illustrates something she said about Steve, "His five step children were dear to him, but he had the most fun with his grandchildren." Like the two helping with his cake.

I could have chosen one of the other pictures, particularly those taken

when Steve was on the Caliente, and I will be using some of them in future Pipelines. But the point is that most of us have at least a few pictures from our time in the Navy. Those pictures can help tell the memories that your shipmates would like you to share in these pages.

.Of course, your survivors can send the pictures later, and we welcome those pictures. But it would be even better to share the pictures and related stories while you can enjoy your shipmates' reactions. Please consider sending pictures to me at one of my addresses on page 3.

Pat Hurton has corrected problems with the USS Caliente Association Website that affected some browsers. As a result, you will have to delete any old bookmarks and set a new one for <http://www.usscalienteao-53.com/home.html>

Memories

From the files of the late Capt. Donald A. McGuiness:

<small>NAVSO 5216/2 (REV. 6-65) 0104-904-1670</small>				<small>DO NOT CLEAR THROUGH COMMUNICATION OFFICE</small>
<small>USE FOR URGENT LETTERS ONLY</small>				
<small>(One box must be checked)</small>		<small>CLASSIFICATION</small>		<small>IN REPLY REFER TO</small> DLG18:05:mp 3180 Ser: 164 DATE 9 MAR 1972
<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL DELIVERY			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED MAIL			
TO: Commander Service Group Three FPO San Francisco, Calif 96601				<small>NAVAL SPEEDLETTER— Permits dispatch or informal language. May be sent (1) with enclosures, (2) in a window envelope (size 8 1/2" x 3 1/4"), if contents are not classified as confidential or higher, (3) to both naval and nonnaval activities.</small>
<small>(Field)</small>				
Subj: Underway Replenishment Report Ref: (a) COMSERVPACINST C3180.6B				
1. In accordance with ref (a) it is reported that this ship was refueled by USS CALIENTE (AO-53) on 29 February 1972.				
2. <u>Outstanding Aspects.</u> CALIENTE is one of the best oilers WORDEN has refueled from this line period. The 29 February UNREP was conducted smoothly and efficiently due to advanced planning and professional execution on the part of CALIENTE. All lines received by WORDEN were properly tagged, the span-wires were correctly tended and the signalmen were observant and precise in their signals. CALIENTE manned two refueling stations in addition to an AMIDSHIPS highline station. Advanced planning enabled CALIENTE to operate all three stations safely and expeditiously resulting in a minimum alongside time. The communications between stations were prompt and accurate, and combined with the earlier mentioned CALIENTE attributes molded the UNREP into a superior evolution.				
3. <u>Discrepancies Noted.</u> None				
4. <u>Comments.</u> None				
5. <u>Recommendations.</u> None				
G. B. SHICK, Jr.				
<small>COPY TO</small>				
Commanding Officer, USS CALIENTE, (AO-53)				
<small>ADDRESS:</small>		<small>SENDER'S MAILING ADDRESS</small>		
Commanding Officer USS WORDEN (DLG-18) Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California. 96601		Address reply as shown at left; or reply hereon and return in window envelope (size 8 1/2" x 3 1/4"), if not classified as confidential or higher.		
		<small>CLASSIFICATION</small>		

USS CALIENTE (AO-53) BOSTON REUNION



Boston Marriott Quincy



Old State House

BOSTON MARRIOTT QUINCY 1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA 02169 8 Sept. - 11 Sept. 2016

Reservations can be made at the Boston Marriott Quincy by calling 1-800-228-9290 or 617-472-1000 and identifying yourself as a part of the USS Caliente Reunion. The room rates are good for three days prior and three days after the reunion dates. The group rate is \$139.00 per room plus a 11.7% charge for state and local taxes. The cutoff date for reservations is Thursday, August 18, 2016. Parking is available at no charge.

Reunion Agenda

Thursday, 8 September

- a) Hotel check-in
- b) 3:00 PM-6:00 PM-reception with snacks provided

Friday, 9 September

- a) 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast
- b) Free time/Boston Tour

Saturday, 10 September

- a) 7:00 AM - 9:00AM - Continental Breakfast
- b) 9:00 AM - Annual Business Meeting
- c) Free Time
- d) 6:30 PM - Pre-banquet Social Gathering
- e) 7:00 PM - Banquet

Sunday, 11 September

- a) 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM - Continental Breakfast
- b) 9:00 AM - Noon - Farewells

2016 Boston Reunion
Registration Form

Shipmate's Name _____

Spouse or Guest Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Years on Cal 19__ to 19__ Rate/Rank while aboard _____

Registration Fee:

\$180.00 per person x _____ persons = \$ _____

Registration fee includes reception, three continental
breakfasts, and the banquet

Additional Guests:

Banquet Meal Choices:

- Herb Crusted All Natural Chicken Breast _____
- Braised Boneless Short Ribs _____
- Seared Atlantic Salmon _____

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