



NOXUBEE TIMES

January, 2004

"And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy'" -- President John F. Kennedy, 1 Aug 1963

Where we're at - end of 2003. 2003 was an excellent year for our Association! Reunion in Port Clinton, Ohio.. While our first reunion enjoyed 38 shipmates, our second reunion, hosted by Dick Bland, saw 51 shipmates along with their families. More about the reunion will follow in this newsletter. Our sincere thanks to Dick for hosting this great reunion!

2003 Noxubee Business Meeting Officers/Board and Appointees selected at the Reunion.

President - Jim Gabrisch

Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Ahlersmeyer

Board Members - Jan Scott, Jim Van Sant, Roger Pederson, Joe Pogan, Paul Gryniwicz, Dick Bland, Dick Barber and Dudley Cass

Newsletter Editors - Gary Hall and Dick Barber

Reunion Coordinator for 2004 - Don and Janey Spence

Site for 2004 Reunion Don Spence proposed and then presented information on Amarillo, Texas. No other sites were proposed. Amarillo was selected by voice vote. Don and Janey will be the reunion coordinator and host. More details follow in this newsletter.

Finances Due to the current operating fund being strong, membership fees were reduced to \$10 annually. Please mail your dues c/o Bob Ahlersmeyer 8033 Seiler Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46806. Thanks.

Secretary/Treasurer Report Operating Fund \$2,323.08; Reunion Fund \$1,052.97; Memorial Fund \$56.85; Membership: 299 members living; 58 deceased; total members located 357

Membership From a total of 200 last year in San Diego, we now have a membership list of 319! Congratulations to Paul Gryniwicz (builder and maintainer of our website), Jan Scott whose tireless efforts continue to discover new shipmates and Dick Barber for tracking down shipmates from the 50's era. (Note - a printed member directory will be mailed to shipmates on receipt of their 2004 dues).

From the President...

"The 2003 Reunion is a fond memory now. Many thanks to Dick Bland for all of his efforts and for a fine Memorial service. And thanks to all who attended. We hope to see you at the 2004 Reunion. Before I get to that reunion, I'd like to introduce two of our members who have taken on new jobs in the association. Bob Ahlersmeyer is our new Secretary/Treasurer. Gary Hall is the Newsletter Editor. (And thank you, Dudley Cass, for doing BOTH of those jobs for the past two years). Bob and Gary have worked together before. PN2 Ahlersmeyer & YN2 Hall were THE ship's office 1969-70. They've worked hard to get this newsletter out quickly. As the holiday season approaches, many thoughts turn to gift giving. The Association Board has an early gift for all hands. We give you the city, site & dates for the 2004 reunion. Amarillo, Texas. July 7-10. Reunion Hosts Don & Janey Spence, in some kind of record time, have got our hotel contracted, activities planned (some even contracted), entertainment activities. The Spence's, with webmeister Paul Gryniwicz, have put together a most excellent web site just for the reunion! I encourage all to visit the website at www.ussnoxubee.com. ALL the info is there. The Ashmore Inn is taking reservations now. I'm hoping that by having the hardest part behind us so quickly, it'll give all hands plenty of time to assist with the "Round Up"-making plans to attend, and finding new shipmates. Let's make this one the biggest and best! Best wishes to all for the holidays!

Sincerely,

Jim Gabrisch, President,
USS Noxubee Shipmates Association

p.s. Regarding our reunion book, if any shipmates want to send their pictures of the reunion, please do so within 3 weeks of receipt of this newsletter. Please remember to mail the proof sheet with the headshots back to the folks at Classic Reunions if you have not already done so. Please mail your extra pictures to: Elle Lightner
18016 Edith Ave. Maugamsville, MD 21767 (301) 665 1315

Port Clinton, Ohio.....a summary

First of all, again we would like to thank Dick Bland for putting together a great reunion! The weather was good, new friendships were created and everyone was kept busy with the activities. Great job, Dick!

Upon arriving in Port Clinton, west of Cleveland and east of Toledo and nestled along the shoreline of Lake Erie, we had dinner at the historic Mon Ami restaurant and winery. The entire group received a personalized tour of the wine cellars and later enjoyed a great dinner. Wednesday greeted us with sunshine and a jet powered catamaran ride to South Bass Island and Put-in-Bay. We marveled at the island's collection of attractions. Most important was the memorial to Oliver Hazard Perry. On Sept. 10, 1813, Commodore Perry defeated and captured a British fleet just a few miles northwest of the memorial. The Battle of Lake Erie proved to be a turning point of the War of 1812. Perry's victory is commemorated at this Peace Memorial, the third tallest national monument in the U.S.A.

This proved a fitting location to salute our deceased Noxubee Shipmates. A ceremony was held that named each of the 40 shipmates who have passed away. This was followed by a 21-gun salute and a memorial service with a wreath In Memoriam, put in the waters of Lake Erie. A list of deceased shipmates can be found on our website.

The remainder of the day was spent touring the island on bicycles, walking or renting golf carts.

Thursday, the group split up. A chartered bus took some through Amish country, some went charter fishing while others remained back at the headquarters hotel and visited with fellow shipmates.

Amish trip:

On Thursday morning around 8:30, 30 members of the group boarded the bus for Amish country. The first stop was to pick up Dick Bland's daughter, Darlene, who was the unofficial tour guide. The bus went first to Mt. Hope, Ohio to the large Lehman's hardware store. Many items there were reminiscent of stores from the '30's and '40's. And what anyone couldn't find there, just across the street was the Amish auction and flea market. Lots of old and new stuff - much of it hand crafted in the Amish style.

The next stop was for lunch at the Amish Door restaurant for a lovely and wonderful lunch. Freshly baked bread and biscuits were absolutely delicious! Real country cooking! They also had a nice gift shop where I picked up some souvenirs for friends and family.

Moving on to Berlin, Ohio for guess what? More shopping including antiques (didn't see "made in China" stickers on any of it!)

For our cheese lovers, our last stop was at the Heini's Cheese Chalet where you could sample over 50 different kinds of cheese, meats, candy and of course there were neat gifts there too.

Coming back to Port Clinton, we passed Amish children coming home from school. Walking along the road with their lunch pails, barefoot, and in their Amish "school day" clothes. They were friendly towards us, waving to us as we went by. To some of us (giving away our age!), takes us back to memories of days when we walked to our small country schools with our lunch pails. Our bus driver lives in Amish country and had been to a lot of weddings and told us a lot about the Amish lifestyle. Very interesting tour - had a fun and full day, arriving back to the hotel about 6:30 PM. Our thanks to Dick Bland who set up the tour for us.

-- Ruth Cass

Fishing trip:

"Fish were ON the menu Thursday! Lookin' to catch some BIG ONES, the nine of us went out at 0800, braved some of the roughest water that wasn't salty, fought with flocks of ever-braver albatross for our bait (and our FISH), AND CAUGHT - small ones. The brave souls that went fishing were Bob Ahlersmeyer, Clair Brooks, Moose Haviland, Chuck Meyer, Paul Orr, Jan Scott, Dale & Mary Sapp and me.

But we caught a lot of them! PERCH. I never saw a perch before then. Dump yer minnow - up comes a perch! Too busy reeling 'em in to drink much beer (a sober fishing party - really!!)

Between the 9 of us, we caught 35 pounds of perch. (We almost won the boat "pool" for longest perch, we lost by 1/8" - but I think the local who won sat on his to improve his lie).

We had 20 pounds cleaned at dockside, presented some to the chef at the Island House. He fried it all up and sent it out to the lobby for us - just as the Amish tour returned. Fresh Perch for all hands !!!!

...was a great day fishing.

-- Jim Gabrisch

...a note from Dick Bland: ..."Having served 20 years in the US Navy and in 7 ships one ship stands above the rest, not the ship itself as they are just a package of metal and machinery, but the crew. Noxubee is that special ship in my life. It stands to reason then that I jumped at the chance to host a reunion for the crew's of the Noxubee. Hosting a reunion is a matter of having an interesting itinerary, coordination, good help and a fair amount of luck. I want to take the time here to thank some of those who put in extra effort to make our reunion a success. First Dave, the owner of THE ISLAND HOUSE, and his manager, Linda who went out of their way to make our stay a memorable one. Our own Paul Orr lined up the golf course for us. Gerard Altoff, Department of the Interior, Superintendent of the International Peace Memorial was a great help, and what a wonderful, inspiring history on the War of 1812. Two members of my home post VFW 1067 Major Jack Coleman USArmy RET. And Bob Dove got up early, put on their uniform, loaded 7 rifles and ammunition in their van, drove 70 miles, caught a ferry and led our rifle squad for the 21-gun salute. They gave up their day so that we could have a fitting memorial service. THANKS GUYS. Linda's taxi service as well as Don Way of ALL WAYS TRANSPORTATION had the busses on time and did a great job. Last but certainly not the least the good Lord gave us some wonderful weather. I know Don and Janey will keep our ship's spirit alive in Amarillo."

Dick

Editor's Note: As you may know, both Dudley and Ruth as well as Jim Gabrisch live in southern California. Happy to report both are ok after the recent fires. Gabby reports the fires came close to his home, however. Also, at our last reunion, Emet Gosnell was taken to the hospital. He is now back home and doing fine.

Where are we going in 2004?

We're going to Amarillo, Texas!

July 7 - 10, 2004

Our hosts will be Don ('66-'68) and Janey Spence

Airlines that service Amarillo include American, Continental Express, Delta, Southwest and United Express (Great Lakes Airlines) out of Denver

Click here For all the latest [2004 Amarillo, Texas Reunion Information](#).

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