



VOLUME XXIV Issue 4  
Oct-Nov-Dec 2009

## From the Quarterdeck

### Ahoy Shipmates;

I have avoided using this greeting because it is the one that Kit used and I thought some might feel that I was being disrespectful to him. Well, this is a time honored salutation and I see no reason not to use it, besides, Kit said that it was ok.

Now, you will be happy to know that everything is set for the reunion, the hotel and tours are good to go. Although I still need to get together with the local CVB for more information on what else might be of interest in the area for side trips, including the distance, transportation, and cost of things of said interest.

I am sure that those of you who attend this reunion will be pleasantly surprised with the number of people attending. As of this writing, 45 shipmates, plus, as I mentioned in a previous newsletter, a couple of sailors from the Beale, have sent checks for their reservations. This will give us over 85 people, including spouses and friends! Not only will we be seeing a lot of old faces, there will be quite a few new ones. Let me also add that I am still expecting to hear from several of our recent attendees, so there could very well be a few more in Baltimore.

This great response is mainly due to the efforts of some of your fellow crew members who made the extra effort to reach out and contact old shipmates. To be sure, they were not always successful: see "Ouch, That Hurt" pg 5. Because of their reaching out, coupled with the Bache information being published in various military periodicals, we not only have more coming to this reunion, but we have also increased our dues paying membership with men who are unable to attend but wish to keep up with what is happening.



Reunion Information

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### Toms' Thoughts

#### What a Year This is Turning Out to Be

It seems that I am spending more time in waiting rooms and with my doctors and less time with my wife, but now that I think about it, that may not be all that bad; some of these nurses are really sympathetic to an old guy, plus they don't have a "honey-do" list for me. Hey I'm not complaining, I'm still upright, and can dress myself, usually, when I want to. Remember the DuPont slogan several years back, "Better living through chemistry?" Let me just say- God Bless DuPont and Vicodin!

This is all tongue in cheek and as I stated earlier, I am doing quite well and I am fully aware that there are a whole lot of people, including many of our shipmates, that have things much worse. I thank the Lord every day for my blessings and pray for those less fortunate than I. This summer, although very busy, and in spite of my complaining, was very exciting for us. Jo-Ann, my beautiful and adorable wife of 51 years, (I had to phrase it that way because she reads these newsletters) and I, did take time off for a much needed vacation. A 2 week, land and sea excursion of Alaska. It all started because my wife wanted to see a moose and the local zoo didn't have one! Personally, I believe that it may have been cheaper for me to buy one and donate it to the zoo! To say the least, the whole experience was fantastic and we did get to see a moose, at least they said that it was a moose! For all I know it could have been a cow with big horns, but Jo-Ann was happy, and at the end of the day that is what counts.

PS – I am really thankful that the Washington DC zoo does have Giant Panda Bears!

REUNION OCTOBER '09**BWI Comfort Inn**

6921 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21225 (**NOTICE** - Enter **BROOKLYN, MD 21225** in your GPS)Phone 888-826-1055 Ask for the BACHE REUNION/COMFORT INN

Room Rates --- \$69.00 + Tax

**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm ---- Arrive ..... Hospitality Room

7:00 pm ---- Crew Meeting ..... Hospitality Room

**ANNAPOLIS****THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> ITINERARY ---- 7 HOURS ----- \$54.00 per Person**

8:30 am ---- Board Buses

9:00 am ---- Stop at WWII memorial on RT 2

9:30 am ---- Arrive at USNA for tour

12:00 pm – Midshipmen noon meal formation

12:30 pm – Lunch at Dry Dock

1:15 pm ---- Following lunch, driving/walking tour of Annapolis including  
The State House, City Dock, St. John's College + free time for shopping.

3:00 pm ---- Buses depart for hotel

3:30 pm ---- Arrive at hotel

**BALTIMORE****FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> ITINERARY ---- 5-1/2 HOURS ---- \$44.00 per Person**

1:00 pm ---- Board Buses

1:20 pm ---- Narrated tour of Baltimore including: Inner Harbor, Fells  
Federal Hill, Mt. Vernon and the Washington Monument.2:00 pm ---- Ft. McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine; movie at  
Visitors Center & tour of Fort McHenry3:30 pm ---- 2-1/2 hours for shopping & sightseeing the Inner Harbor, maybe tour  
the ships, a lighthouse, a submarine or the museum

6:00 pm ---- Buses depart for hotel

6:30 pm ---- Arrive at hotel with plenty of time for a relaxing supper

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> ITINERARY \$35.00 per Person**

2:00 pm ---- 5:00 pm ..... Crew Meeting (Wives welcome)

6:00 pm ---- 7:00 pm ..... **Cash Bar**

7:00 pm ---- 10:00 pm ..... Dinner/Dance (Music Provided by Dick Tuck)

**SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> Private Bache Breakfast 7:00 am - 10:00 am - \$10.00 per Person**

(I will get the head count for this breakfast at the 7pm meeting Wed.)

## USS BACHE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

I would like to personally welcome aboard Tom Morton, a shipmate from the 40s'.

Tom, a practicing attorney, at the fantastic age of 86, has graciously agreed to be our Legal Council, and he will not charge us for his time and services! Why, you ask, do we need to have legal counsel? Simply put, we are all liable, especially the group leader, which, at the moment, just happens to be me. As you are all aware, this is a very litigious society that we live in and, God forbid, anyone should be involved in any kind of incident. Remember that we do supply alcohol, we do not sell it, we do not serve it, but we do purchase it and make it available.

***After the Kamikaze hit  
he climbed on top of a  
burning torpedo mount  
to jettison the torpedo***

Tom Morton was on the Bache from 42-46, but, according to him, he is not a "plank owner." As Don Adams said many times in the TV sit-com *Get Smart*, (while showing his thumb and index finger a minute distance apart,) "He missed it by that much."

Apparently, right after the Mighty Bache was commissioned, during the sea trials, a depth charge went off prematurely and ruptured a few seams in the hull. Because of that slight mishap the ship had to go into the dry dock in New York and that is when Tom



reported aboard as a TM. He later distinguished himself by his actions on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1945, when the Bache was hit by a Suicide plane, off of Okinawa. With total disregard for his own safety, Tom climbed on top of a burning torpedo mount to jettison a torpedo. For this he received a Citation Ribbon from Admiral R. K. Turner, the Commander of Amphibious Forces, United States Pacific Fleet.

Among his many accomplishments, Tom was the sole U.S. Attorney designated to negotiate and draft the agreements with the French and Arab Governments to establish Air Force bases in North Africa.

Because of Tom's efforts we are now officially the "USS Bache Association Inc." He is currently searching for affordable Liability Insurance and is working on a set of by-laws for us.

If I receive the *proposed* by-laws in time, they will be sent to all crew members, otherwise copies will be available in Baltimore. To go along with all of this I have put together a Board of Directors consisting of 7 members.

All members will have the opportunity to discuss these issues, but only those in attendance, and who are in good standing, i.e., dues paid up, will be able to vote on them.

SHOULD WE CONSIDER AN AUXILIARY?  
**SONS & DAUGHTERS  
OF  
BACHE VETERANS**  
TO CARRY ON WHEN WE ARE GONE

**JOINT REUNION-TASK GROUP ALFA**

Is it possible?

Could it be done?

Anyone interested?

Something to think about

### **Warning Biohazard**

**Now that I have your attention, this will be the last Issue of the newsletter for those that have not paid their dues.**

**It is unfair to those that do pay.**

**We will try to accommodate anyone who is unable to pay the \$20 annual dues  
Alright, using Biohazard was a cheap trick but it did get you to read my message!**

## The Alliance of Military Reunions

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended an organizational meeting, in Fairfax County, Virginia, to participate in the forming of the Alliance of Military Reunions. We heard from hotel spokespersons, about the advantages and venues of their hotels, from the local CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau,) and how to best utilize them, for putting reunions together; and from various group leaders. In other words, we were sharing ideas, thoughts and concerns of our different organizations. It is my belief that participating in this organization will be beneficial to us; therefore I paid the \$40.00 dues for the 1<sup>st</sup> year. If after a year we decide that there is no advantage to being a member than we simply do not renew.

### Benefits of Membership

Louis "Skip" Sander

Our Alliance is a nonprofit organization, of, by, and for military reunion groups and those who support them. The benefits of membership arise from an ability to access the knowledge, experience, and goodwill of people with similar goals and interests. Collectively, our members have direct experience in conducting over 1,000 military reunions. By joining the Alliance, they commit to sharing their knowledge with other members.

We are still in our "startup phase," and we're working hard on developing the specific services we intend to offer. We intend to develop our web site into a major resource for members, with "members only" sections devoted to that purpose. And while we don't intend to duplicate the services offered by CVBs, DMOs, the Reunion Friendly Network and others, we do expect to facilitate the working relationships between our members and those important groups.

Here are some of the benefits we offer right now:

- Your group will be listed on our web site, with links to its own web site, and your unit's article will appear in Wikipedia. If this leads to somebody asking us about your group, we'll let you know so you can contact them. Your listing on our site will make it easier for prospective members to make contact with you. You can see our member directory at <http://www.amr1.org/members.html>.
- You'll be on our email list (and you can unsubscribe if you want).
- You'll get our quarterly newsletter.

- You'll be invited to our "members only" Seminars and Town Hall Meetings. (Others may be invited to a few of them, but you'll have priority for registration, and they'll have to join before they can come.)

These are held at sites around the country, and feature guided discussion of topics of interest to military reunion groups. They typically include free or low-cost meals and lodging, with an opportunity to explore an attractive and friendly reunion venue. A list of seminar topics appears under that heading at <http://www.amr1.org/benefits.html>

- You'll be eligible for assistance from our "panel of experts."
- You'll be eligible to be *on* our "panel of experts."
- You'll tap into the buying power of a large and powerful organization.
- You'll be plugged in to our community of Special Members—the hotels, CVBs and vendors who also belong to the Alliance. They are eager to work with you on having better reunions.

Here are some of the benefits we plan to offer very soon:

- Your reunions will be listed on our web site. We intend for our listings to be searchable by location, date, unit name, etc.
- You'll have access to the detailed profiles of other member groups, so you can work with them on planning, organizing, and managing your own operation.
- You'll have access to our sample RFPs and Contracts.
- You'll be able to access the "members only" sections of our web site and its online discussion forum.

*Louis "Skip" Sander sailed on the USS Conway 507 with Task Group Alpha as a midshipman in 1960, and recalls seeing the Bache during the "midshipman cruise", and then again in 1964 as an LT(jg) on the USS Waller 466, while on a Med cruise.*

*Besides being the founder of the AMR Skip is also the Executive Director (and webmaster) of the USS Rankin Association*

## WEST COAST !

We have a number of shipmates living West of the Mississippi, some of whom have written to me expressing an interest in holding a reunion in their direction. It does seem unfair to exclude these shipmates by reason of distance. I know that a Bache reunion was held as far West as Las Vegas, which seems to be a popular site with many. While this would be a convenient location for those on the "Left" coast it would be difficult if not impossible for many who live East of the Mississippi, cost and health being a big factor. Should we alternate meetings, one year East of the Mississippi and the following year West? There is another possibility; Holding two reunions, that's right, two. At the moment this is not out of the question for me and would give everyone the opportunity to attend a meeting, or two. Just a thought!

## USS BACHE.COM

On August 12th, Skip Sander, (USS RANKIN AKA 103,) set us up with our own web site. As of this writing, it is the bare minimum, a picture of our ship, group pictures from the '07 reunion in Virginia Beach and my contact information; but anyone looking for us only needs to type in ussbache.com (or .org or .net.) Skip is allowing us to "piggy-back" on the USS Rankin site until our new webmaster, Chuck Calkins, gets things under control.

Some of you may remember Chuck, a QM from 58-60, he went on to make a career out of the Navy, retiring in 1978 as an E8 Senior Chief. He found us in the FRA magazine, called me and we talked for quite awhile. (Can you imagine that? Me?-- Talking for quite awhile?! Hah! Couldn't have happened!) Anyway ,he was interested in what we are up to and, against his wife's' better judgment, he has joined us and offered to be the webmaster. Like a fresh-out- of-boot seaman on Granby Ave. I said Yes, Yes, O, Yes, thank you, thank you! I am looking forward to working with Chuck, he strongly believes that we will have a website to be proud of.

Welcome aboard, Chuck!

Remember to pray for our less fortunate shipmates and their loved ones

## OUCH , THAT HURT

Another of our shipmates, Larry Bain, called me recently, having also seen the reunion information in the FRA. Larry, another "lifer," who retired in '76 as an E8-Senior Chief, was on in 67 and 68 as an MM. Larry is interested in our organization and will be joining us in Maryland. After we talked for awhile, (imagine that, me, talking for awhile,) he has volunteered to assist and along with Bob Kimmerle, he is actively seeking out some of our more, shall we say, shy, shipmates, attempting to get them to join us.

Larry quickly found out that one of the joys of calling these fellow sailors is being told by an irate wife to stop calling and then having the phone slammed in your ear. She must have thought that Larry was an old poker buddy trying to collect a debt, or take him out for a night of debauchery, drinking and carousing and, and, and, looking at women! and all that kind of dirty, nasty stuff!

I tell you some of these women just wont let us have any fun.

Welcome aboard, Larry!

## Now Hear This!

### The Uniform of the Day for Saturday Nite

Men .... Dress Blues or  
Suit & Tie or  
Sport Coat & Slacks or  
What ever makes you comfortable.

Ladies .. Seeing as you just dressed the men,  
It would be presumptuous of me &  
very dumb, to tell you anything!

## Oops ! Corrections !

In the last newsletter on page 3, "the Flag Was Still There," The Bache was hit by a Kamikaze in '45 not '46.

On page 5 under Letters to the Editor, I have the USS Baltimore designated as CV31, an aircraft carrier when in actually she was CA68, a Heavy Cruiser.



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Tom,

I am sorry to report that my husband Bill passed away on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> after several months of poor health. He sure loved the Navy, the U.S.S. Bache & all of you.

I will miss him very much as we were married for 54 years: He is in a good place now & for that we are at peace.

God Bless All of you!

Ceil Potter & Son Bob

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CAPT Richard D Faubion, USN (Ret.)

Thanks for taking the helm, Tom. I know it is a substantial commitment and I appreciate it.

Best Regards

Dick 62-63

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Dear Kit,

I just wanted to write and say thank you for your wonderful service over the past years to the USS Bache Association and its' members. You have done a super job and I know I speak for all members.

We all wish you calm seas and God speed.

I am retired now and look forward to the next reunion so I can meet you, shake your hand and thank you in person.

Sincerely

George Brady RD3 "64-66"



## In Memoriam

*Sincerest sympathies go to the bereaved families as we share with them the loss of these good friends and shipmates.*

Charles M Conoly Jul 7, 2009  
EM3 "42-45"

Paul Henry  
SN1 "42-45"

James R Pearson Jun, 2009  
GMG3 "59-66"

Orville F Poland  
LTJG "42-45"

William "Bill" Potter Aug 17, 2009  
SO2 "42-45"

## **Comfort Inn Driving Instructions**

Google "Comfort Inn Baltimore map" Click on [Comfort Inn Driving Directions and Map of Baltimore, Maryland](#)

This will take you to there site which includes a map that can be printed out. If you have any problems with this feel free to contact me.

I am attempting to arrange for a TV and DVD player for the Hospitality room; so bring your CD's, DVD's, pictures and productions just in case I am successful. The last time I talked to the hotel, they wanted \$180 a day!

## ***Fair Winds and following seas.***

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