

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter September-December, 2014

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

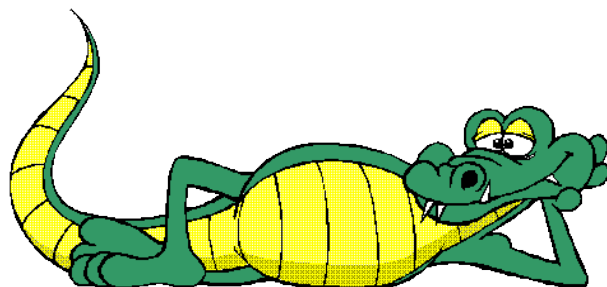
Thirty-ninth Edition: The USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter is a publication issued every four months by the USS Plymouth Rock Ships Association. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provencal, Association Secretary/Newsletter Editor at:
billinp@metrocast.net

or regular mail at:
Bill Provencal
37 South Main Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263

NOTE: IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY MAIL, THE REASON IS THAT YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2013-14 DUES TO THE ASSOCIATION. ANOTHER REASON IS THAT POSSIBLY WE HAVE MADE A MISTAKE (ie. Mailing Address) AND YOU NEED TO NOTIFY EITHER MYSELF OR DAVE DORTCH, ASSOCIATION TREASURER FOR US TO CORRECT .

If you change **address or **e-mail address** be sure to let me (Bill Provencal) know so we can update our Crews List. My e-mail is <mailto:billinp@metrocast.net>, my home address is listed above. We have been getting a lot of returns on our newsletter mailing to you guys who are paid dues members. Our ships website is found at <http://www.ussplymouthrock.com/>**



Recent Address Changes to the Ships Muster List

Bill Sims, DC3, on board: 11/55-9/59. New Address: 664 S. Main Street, West Milton, OH 45383. New e-mail: wsims1936@hotmail.net

Greg Casillas, BMSN, on board: 6/73-8/75. New Address: PO Box 15296, Surfside Beach, SC 29586-5296

Vito P. Ramondetta, BT2, on board 55-59. New Address: 9617 SW Gum Tree Ct., Port Lucie, FL 34987

Peter Stark, LT, on board 10/54-7/56. New Address: 761 Exton Circle, Charlottesville, VA , 22901. New e-mail: pasusn52@gmail.com



John Stull, RD3, on board 57-60. New Address: 1479 N 520W, Warsaw, IN 46580

Alan Moser, Captain, on board 8/81-10/83. New Address: 1265 Laskin Rd., Unit 400, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

John Reed, SH3, on board 5/59-2/63. New E-mail address: kayjohn2244@gmail.com

Chuck Larkin, BT3, on board 7/70-8/74. New E-Mail address: c.lark1953@yahoo.com



<p>Ships Officers</p> <p>President Tom Wagner tfwagner@wagner-insurance.net 812-537-9548</p> <p>Vice President Bill Haynie 864-934-2900 mailto:whhaynue@charter.net</p> <p>Treasurer David Dortch 870-236-3725 tazrhondave@yahoo.com</p> <p>Secretary/Webmaster Bill Provencal billinp@metrocast.net</p>	 <p>★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★</p> 
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603-435-8603	Ed Benner, SN, on board 8/68-69. 1115 Dixon Circle, Gaineville, GA 30501, phone 770-532-9060. E-mail: amos30501@charter.net
Ships Historian Norm Jepson 586-755-3814 rnejpson@aol.com	James C. Baracliff, DC3, on board 1967-April 1970. 1632 Weatherend Frive, Rural Hall, NC 27045-9817. E-mail: poppopnc@windstreat.net
Ships Storekeeper Dennis (Shorty) Cyr shortybm3@yahoo.com 203-753-6220	Jack Martincic, BM3, on board 1969-70, 2438 Orchard Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 19241
Reunion Coordinators: Bill and Lynn Haynie 864-934-2900 mailto:whhaynue@charter.net	NOTE: Additional information is available on the Website "Crews Muster List"



Known Deceased Shipmates

For a complete listing of deceased shipmates, visit our Memorial Page in the ships website

Walt F. Hansman Jr., MM3, Orange, CA, On board 3/52-3/56, Deceased March 2, 2006	



Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the Ships Association and newsletter.

Paul Paraino, SN	Jack Martincic, BM3	John Lauder, SK3
Paul Terranova, E1, USMC	Gabriel Hernandez, BT2	



Paid Association Members for 2013-14

As of December 22, 2014, we now have 138 paid members

Become a Member of the Ships Association fill out an Application

As you can imagine any group or association such as ours requires funds. The funds are used primarily for paying the costs of the Website (server fees, registration of our .com address), mailing out the newsletter to all paying dues members (printing, postage), general mailings up-front cost of upcoming reunion and postage. Our primary source of revenue are the bi-annual dues of **\$25.00**. To become a member of the USS Plymouth Rock Association complete the Application for Membership which can be found in the Ships Website on the Links Page or call/write/e-mail either my self or David Dortch and we will send you an application.

The 2015-2016 dues are now due, please send dues to David Dortch, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$25.00 and are due on the year of the reunion (are due on an even year 2004, 2006, 2008, etc). *Should a member or prospective member pay at any other time, dues will be credited from the preceding even year.* All dues paying members receive the Newsletter three times a year by US Mail. **David Dortch's address is 4009 Hickory Cove, Paragould, AR 72450**

If your name does not appear on this list and you have paid your dues, please let David Dortch know as soon as possible. His e-mail address is tazrhondave@yahoo.com

Adam, Ian	Andersen, Harry	Anstett, William	Bali, Charles	Bell, Joe
Bena, Joe	Bentheimer, Glenn	Bergeron, Richard	Betts, Roger	Bierce, George
Bild, Bob	Brown, Alvin G.	Brusky, David	Brunton, Thomas	Buchanan, Richard
Buiak, Peter Jr.	Burch, Willard Jack	Caldwell, Tim	Cartwright, Richard	Casillas. Greg
Clark, Nick	Clark, Robert	Comstock, Ed	Conboy, Bill	Conroy, Michael
Cooke, Charles	Crowl II, Martin C.	Cuffy, Arvell	Cummings, Steve	Cyr, Dennis
Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon	Dailey, Ronald J.	Dalfonzo, Sam	DiFranco, Joseph.

Dortch, David	Dushane, David	Dussault, Andrew	Farneski, Robert	
Eldridge, Marguerite	Fisher, Jack	Fisher, Jay	Fisher, Scott	Formaro, Frank
Forton, Mary	Freeman, James	Furman, Herbert III	Gee, James	Guertin, Jerry
Hall, Daniel	Hart, Ed.	Hartson, George	Haynie, Bill	Hernandez, Gabriel
Hernandez, Leo	Hickson, Thomas W., Sr	Hopper, Richard	Howland, Carole	Hyatt, Walter
Ishmael, Harry	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm	Joyce, Ed.	Kane, Thomas
Kaderka, Leonard	Kuhns, Jimmy	Kulczynsky, Andrew	Lamay, Roger	Larkin, Chuck
Larson, Jerry	Lavallee, Leo	Lillig, Bernie F	Luttrell, James	Macomber, Brandon
Malcolm, Kenneth	Miller, Ronald	Mohawk, Paul	Morton, Jack	Musella, Rocco
Neipert, Greg	Nichols, Bob	Nichols, Peter	Pawlak, Ervin	Peraino, Paul
Pihl, Walter C.	Pratt, Richard	Provencal, Bill	Pyle, Ted	Ralston, Robert
Ramondetta, Vic	Reed, John F.	Rhine, Don	Ringer, Joseph E.	Robertson, Allen
Robinson, Jim	Rook, Jack	Rose, Christopher	Safford, Richard	Schneider, Michael
Shanahan, Robert	Shewchuk, Richard	Shober, Robert	Short, Forrest	Sims, Bill
Smith, James	Smith, Larry E.	Stackhouse, Norman	Stark, Jr., Peter A.	Stull, John III
Swathwood, David	Swearingen, Ron	Terranova, Paul	Tesh, Sam	Thibodeau, Doug
Tunstall, Van	Viaene, Lois	Wagner, Thomas F.	Walker, Gerald M.	Walsh, Bill
Warwick, Robert	Watkins, Richard P.	Watson, Ernest	Watts, Richard A.	Wells, Andrew
Whitlock, Jerry S.	Whittle, David	Ziamba, James	Baldwin, Brad	Shader, David
Flanagan, Mike	Peterson, Gary	Williams, Craig	Brown, Robert	Courchesne, Mark A.
Rogers, David	Fredette, Robert	Moser, Alan	Gilpatrick, Thomas	



2014 Reunion

Our 10th reunion was held in Norfolk, VA, on September 25-28. We had 41 people in attendance.

Bill & Linda Provencal	David & Rhonda Dortch	Jim & Cindy Freeman	Andrew & Gertrude Dussault
Dennis & Joyce Cyr	Tom Gilpatrick	Jerry Whitlock	Alan & Suedean Moser
Roger Lamay & Ellen Thomas	Bill Haynie	George & Lisa Bierce	John & Kay Reed
Gary Peterson & Marilyn Ralf	Mike Flanagan	Chuck Larkin	Erwin & Rose Paulak
Paul & Patricia Peraino	Don and Barbara Rhine	Tom & Jackie Wagner	Forest & Jeanine Short
Richard & Crystal Psratt	Seeley & Bernadette Jennings		

Day 1 was spent registering and getting reacquainted.

Day 2 was spent visiting the Nauticus Naval Museum, located on the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, VA and touring the USS Wisconsin BB64, an Iowa Class battleship berthed at Nauticus. It is the largest and last battleship built by the US. The Wisconsin served in WWII, Korea and Operation Desert Storm. In the afternoon we boarded a river cruise boat and viewed all of the highlights of the harbor and the Norfolk Naval Station.

Day 3, we were fortunate to be able to tour the USNS Comfort a naval hospital ship. USNS COMFORT is one of the two Hospital Ships of the Navy. Both ships are maintained by the Military Sealift Command and are part of the Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force (NFAF).

USNS COMFORT was a participant of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, COMFORT deployed to New York City and served as a floating base for rescue workers. In late 2002, the ship left the US East Coast and deployed to the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In September 2005, COMFORT deployed to the Gulf Coast after only two days of preparation to assist in the recovery effort following Hurricane Katrina. After a good-will cruise to 12 central and south American countries in 2007, COMFORT's next humanitarian mission came in January 2010, following the earthquake in Haiti. This operation was a milestone for COMFORT because it was the first time in her career that she reached her full operational capacity, using all of her 12 operating rooms. The COMFORT has 1,000 beds.

This tour was arranged by Mike Flannagan, QM2 a shipmate affiliated with the ship as a civilian Merchant Marine. We conducted our business

meeting and in the evening attended our reunion banquet. Our guest speaker at the banquet was Captain Alan Moser, on board 1981-83 prior to the P Rock being decommissioned.

Day 4, we wrapped up the reunion and "cast" off for home or places elsewhere.

Pictures taken at the reunion:



David Dortch collecting dues during registration



Shipmates getting re-acquainted in the reception room



Hotel employees giving us a send-off on our trip to Norfolk Naval Station



Forward on main deck of the USS Wisconsin



Inside 16 inch gun turret



Looking back aft on the Wisconsin



USS Mahan FFG72, an Arleigh Burke guided missile destroyer



USNS Comfort, a seagoing Medical Treatment Facility, length 894 ft., beam 106 ft.



Visiting the bridge on board the USNS Comfort



Burn center on board the USNS Comfort



Emergency Room on board the USNS Comfort



Guest speaker at the banquet, Captain Alan Moser



✎ E-mail from James C. Baracliff, Rural Hall, NC on board 1967-4/70 "I remember all the good times and great guys with whom I served with during those years!! Our Chief of Division, Master Chief GENZ, Great Guy!! The Carib Cruises , Our cruise to England and Germany, San Juan and all the islands in between!! Our Sealab pick up at Philadelphia Naval Yard (top secret at that time) My first duty on board was to repair the Captains' launch which was damaged, did that repair on way down to Carib!! Thanks to all my ship mates past and present!!" His e-mail address is poppopnc@windstream.net

✎ E-mail from Walter F. Hansmann III on the passing of his father Walt Hansmann, Jr., MM3 Orange, CA on board March 1952-March 1956. He writes: "I was searching for information about my father, Walter F. Hansmann, Jr. MM3 He served aboard the Plymouth Rock from 1952-56. I updated dad's information on the Navy Log at the U.S. Navy Memorial, and when I saw your site, I thought I would let you know that dad passed away March 2, 2006. Thank you for keeping these memories alive!" My Dad spoke fondly of his time in Pasagoula, MS training and learning while The Rock was being built, and then serving aboard after her launch. One thing I recall was that Dad spoke about flooding the well and diving and swimming in it. Sounds like an adventure! Aside from the hard

work, it was a special time for my Dad" Walters e-mail address is walthansmann@yahoo.com

E-Mail from David Dortch, BT2 "I received several POD'S from the Rock from the early 70's. I'm going to laminate them and put them in a binder. If you have time you might want to say thanks in the newsletter to Gabriel Hernandez, BT2 for sending them. I will give them to Norm at the next reunion." Thank you Gabriel for thinking of us/



The above pictures were taken by Paul Paraino from Feb. to Sept. 1956 while in the Med. The carrier is the HMS Eagle with the P Rock tied us next to her in Naples. For more pictures visit the website, "Photos from crewmembers on life aboard the Plymouth Rock", "Pictures taken from 1950-59





Picture of the Queen of Denmark comming aboard the Plymouth Rock during an open house in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1969. Image contributed by Jack Martincic, BM3



From the desk of Tom Wagner, Association President



PREZ SEZ:

Christmas is upon us and being with family is the absolute best. Of course, my grand kids are special, their mine! Some will be completing high school, some college and some are in the middle. But they all will be home for the Christmas Holiday.

Let us not forget about the ones that cannot make it home because of their commitment to duty and country. It is because of them, we can enjoy these wonderful holidays.

As you attend your services this year, say a little prayer for them.

As we near the end of 2014, I hope all of you had a good year. I know as I grow older, I have learned to be more grateful for what I have and disregard what I have no control over. I know that I enjoy giving much more than receiving.

This is the time to be thankful for what we have and we what we have achieved. Our 2014 reunion in Norfolk was a great venue for the reunion, but it is hard for me to remember what it was 50 years ago. Our attendance was good and once again shipmates were able to reminisce about life on the Plymouth Rock.

Much work goes into putting this event together every 2 years and I personally want to thank Bill Haynie, our reunion coordinator. Reunion Coordinator is not an easy assignment and requires many personal hours.

Personally, I am thankful for my fellow Association officers and committee chairman. Bill Haynie, Reunion Coordinator/Vice President, Bill Provencal, Secretary/Webmaster, Dave Dortsch, Treasurer, Shorty Cyr, Storekeeper, Norm Jepson, Historian. They take their duties serious and have made my job easier. The next time you are at your computer, drop these guys an email saying "Thank You." They deserve our thanks!

Our course has been set for 2016 and coming newsletters will keep you informed on a location.

Merry Christmas to all of you and May you enjoy a healthy New Year.

Tom Wagner
President



Ships Store Items

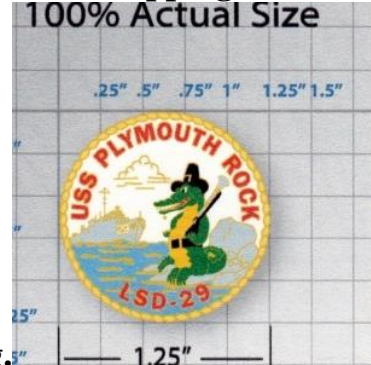
The following items are offered for sale through the Ships Store. All orders are handled through Shorty Cyr, BM3, 119 Pinecrest Drive, Waterbury, CT 06708, Phone #203-753-6220, e-mail at: shortybm3@yahoo.com All orders must be accompanied by a check. Checks must be made out to the USS Plymouth Rock Association. To view all of the items in the Ship Store go to the ships website at ussplymouthrock.com, select Ships Store Link

You can click on any image to obtain a larger view of the item.

The Ships Association is introducing a new sweatshirt for a low price for sizes S to XL, \$30; XXL, \$35; XXXL \$37



Plymouth Rock pin. Price is \$4.00 includes shipping and 100% Actual Size



handling.

All these prices postage shipping. The following sizes are available: Med./Lge./XL/XXL and XXXL

Ships Patch. Price is \$8.75 includes shipping and handling.

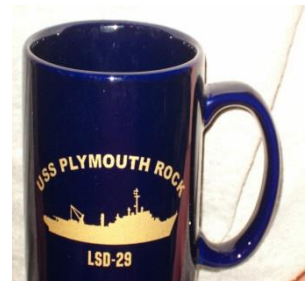


Plymouth Rock Cap. Price is \$15.00 this price includes shipping and handling.



Short sleeve tee shirt. Price is \$22.00 which includes shipping and handling. The following sizes are available: Med./Lge./XL/XXL and XXXL.

Plymouth Rock Mug. Price is \$15.00 includes shipping and handling.





WRITE AN ARTICLE!

We need your articles and letters to the newsletter editor for publication in our newsletter.

Photographs accompanying articles are much appreciated.

Send your articles to the editor at: billinp@metrocast.net



Navy Trivia

Sonar

Sound Navigation Ranging. An acronym for underwater echo-ranging equipment, originally for detecting submarines by small warships.

Side Boys

Tending the side with side boys, as we know it in modern practice, originated long time ago. It was customary in the days of sail to hold conferences on the flagships both when at sea and in open roadstead; also, officers were invited to dinner on other ships while at sea, weather permitting. Sometimes the sea was such that visitors were hoisted aboard in boatswain's chairs. Members of the crew did the hoisting, and it is from the aid they rendered in tending the side that the custom originated of having a certain number of men always in attendance. Some have reported the higher the rank, the heavier the individual; therefore, more side boys.

Piping

Boatswains have been in charge of the deck force since the days of sail. Setting sails, heaving lines, and hoisting anchors required coordinated team effort and boatswains used whistle signals to order the coordinated actions. When visitors were hoisted aboard or over the side, the pipe was used to order "Hoist Away" or "Avast heaving." In time, piping became a naval honor on shore as well as at sea.

Duffle

A name given to a Sailor's personal effects. Also spelled duffel, it referred to his principal clothing as well as to the sea bag in which he carried and stowed it. The term comes from the Flemish town of Duffel near Antwerp, and denotes a rough woolen cloth made there.

Coxswain

A coxswain or cockswain was at first the swain (boy servant) in charge of the small cock or cockboat that was kept aboard for the ship's captain and which was used to row him to and from the ship. The term has been in use in England dating back to at least 1463. With the passing of time the coxswain became the helmsman of any boat, regardless of size.

