

USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter September - December, 2008

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

Twenty-first 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 at:
billinp@metrocast.net

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

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 billinp@metrocast.net Our ships website is found at www.ussplymouthrock.com



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.

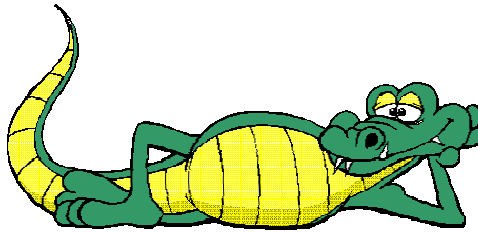
| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| David J. Dushane, HM3 | Ron Miller, EN3 | Dave Spriggs, Captain, USNR Ret. |
| Rodney Campbell, GMG3 and Gary Dragon | Leo Hernandez, HM3 | EN3 Jim and Cindy Freeman |
| Paul Mohawk, MM3 | USS Alamo (LSD33) | Don Bullock |
| Dennis "Shorty" Cyr, BM3 | Harry Andersen, BTC | Ben Britt, SM2 |



Known Deceased Shipmates

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Sal B. Greco Jr., EM3, Deceased April 23, 2007 | James A. Tyyska, Deceased October 1995 |
| Harrison J. Young, MMCM, Deceased March 11, 1999 | Ralph Bello, BM3, November 3, 2008 |



Recent Address Changes to the Ships Muster List

Martin F. Dupslaff, EM2. New e-mail address: mdupslaff@iceskate.net
Jorge G. Trevino, SH3: New Mailing Address: 90 Waverley Dr., LL-103, Frederick, MD 21702
R. A. Edwards, SCHS: New Mailing Address: 510 Evergreen Place, Ct., Louisville, KY 40223-2277
Leonard T. Kaderka, GMG3: New e-mail address: leonard.kaderka@ggp.com
Lester Snider, BT3: New Mailing Address: 8220 Genevieve Church Rd., St Genevieve, MO 63670. New e-mail Address: sonnysnider@yahoo.com
Ken Dawson, SN. New Mailing Address: 920 Warren St., Henry, IL 61537
Francis Miskelly, BMSN. New e-mail address: miskellyf@bellsouth.com
Hal Cypher, ETN2. New e-mail address: h.cypher@comcast.net
George Hartson, BMSN. Change phone number: 586-445-8847. New e-mail address: ghart4010@msn.com
Dave Brusky, EM3. Corrected Zip Code 54476. New e-mail address: anoka114@yahoo.com
Richard Hicks, MS3. New e-mail address: ret7595@hotmail.com
Kenneth Dawson, SN. New Mailing Address: 920 Warren St., Henry, IL 61537. Change phone number: 309-361-0105
Frank Formaro, BT2. New e-mail address: formarolabradors@msn.com



Dues Notices

Dues notices were recently sent out to all 2006-08 active association members. If you did not send in your dues, we would appreciate hearing from you. If you are not a member but are interested in helping the association we would like to hear from you. The 2009-2010 dues are \$25.00 every two years and they go for cost of planning for the reunion, printing and mailing the newsletter every 4 months, general postage costs and for costs in maintaining the ships website. All paid dues members receive a printed copy of the newsletter every four months by US Mail. All new contacts who join receive a free bumper sticker for their vehicle. An application is available on the website at www.ussplymouthrock.com The application can be printed and instructions and are found on the application.



Lost sailor at Sea

In response to the article in the last newsletter, Ron Miller, EN3, writes "I remember well the incident about the cook that was lost at sea. Best I recall is that we were well into the Straits of Dardanelles when we went to muster that morning. Shortly we were all called back again. May have been the third time. Then we searched the ship. The snipes in A and R divisions did fire watches on the ship and knew every space from the anchor windless to aft steering. We did this several times. By then we entering the sea of Marmara and were turned around to search. I remember the sea was rough when we started in. We had a UDT team aboard and one of them said "nobody could live very long in seas like that" We heard that the body was found a week later. Most likely in Turkey or Greece. Seems like I heard that his wife was leaving him. I heard he was last seen around 0200 hours. My thoughts was that he jumped."



Ships Officers

President

Tom Wagner

tfwagner@wagnerinsuranceagency.com

812-539-9548

Vice President

David Dortch

870-236-3725

tazrhondave@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Paul Mohawk

pshawks@charter.net

817-656-7739

Secretary/Webmaster

Bill Provencal

billinp@metrocast.net

603-435-8603

Ships Historian

Harry T. Andersen

harrytjeanne@comcast.net

847-336-2151

Ships Historian

George Bierce

203-223-6965

gbierce@netzero.com

Ships Storekeeper

Dennis (Shorty) Cyr

shortybm3@yahoo.com

203-753-6220

Reunion Coordinators:

David Dortch

870-236-3725

tazrhondave@yahoo.com

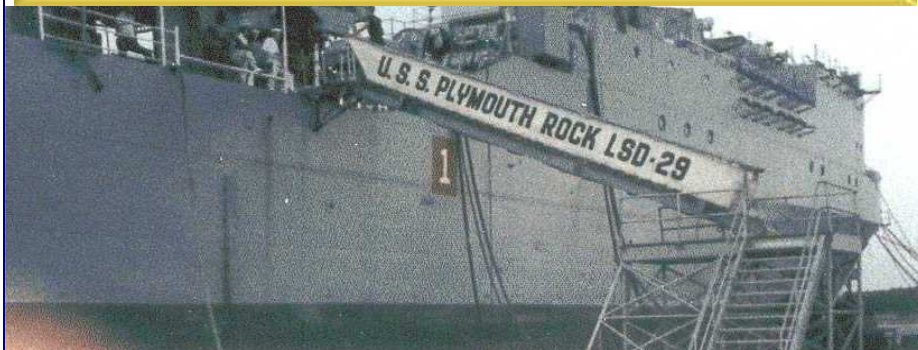
George Bierce

203-223-6965

gbierce@netzero.com



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★



Recently Located Shipmates

Dave Austin, MS1, 377 Church Hill Rd., Augusta, ME 04330

E-Mail: d_austin@us.aflac.com

Rodney Campbell, GMG3, 440 Cranes Gap Rd., Carlisle, PA

17013 E-Mail: bossdragon1@comcast.net

Kenneth Wagner, E5, E-Mail: kenwag412@sbcglobal.net

Richard Musa, MM3, 2941 Carters Mill Road, Huddleston,

VA 24104. E-Mail: chrstnscndlesnmr@aol.com

Shane Wilson, GMG3, Rte. 8, Box 336A, S. Charleston, WV

25309. E-Mail: grnnys4lqdbkrkry@aol.com

David Whittle, MM2, 132 Turtle Creek Trail, Loose Creek,
MO 65054

Carlton Means, BMSN, 329 Garden Hts. Drive, S. Charleson,
WV

James Muth, EM3, 423 Samar Avenue, Naples, FL 34113 E-

Mail: muyh423@yahoo.com

John Lauder, SK3, 11 Briarwood Rd., Loudonville, NY

12211 E-Mail: johnla1@verizon.net

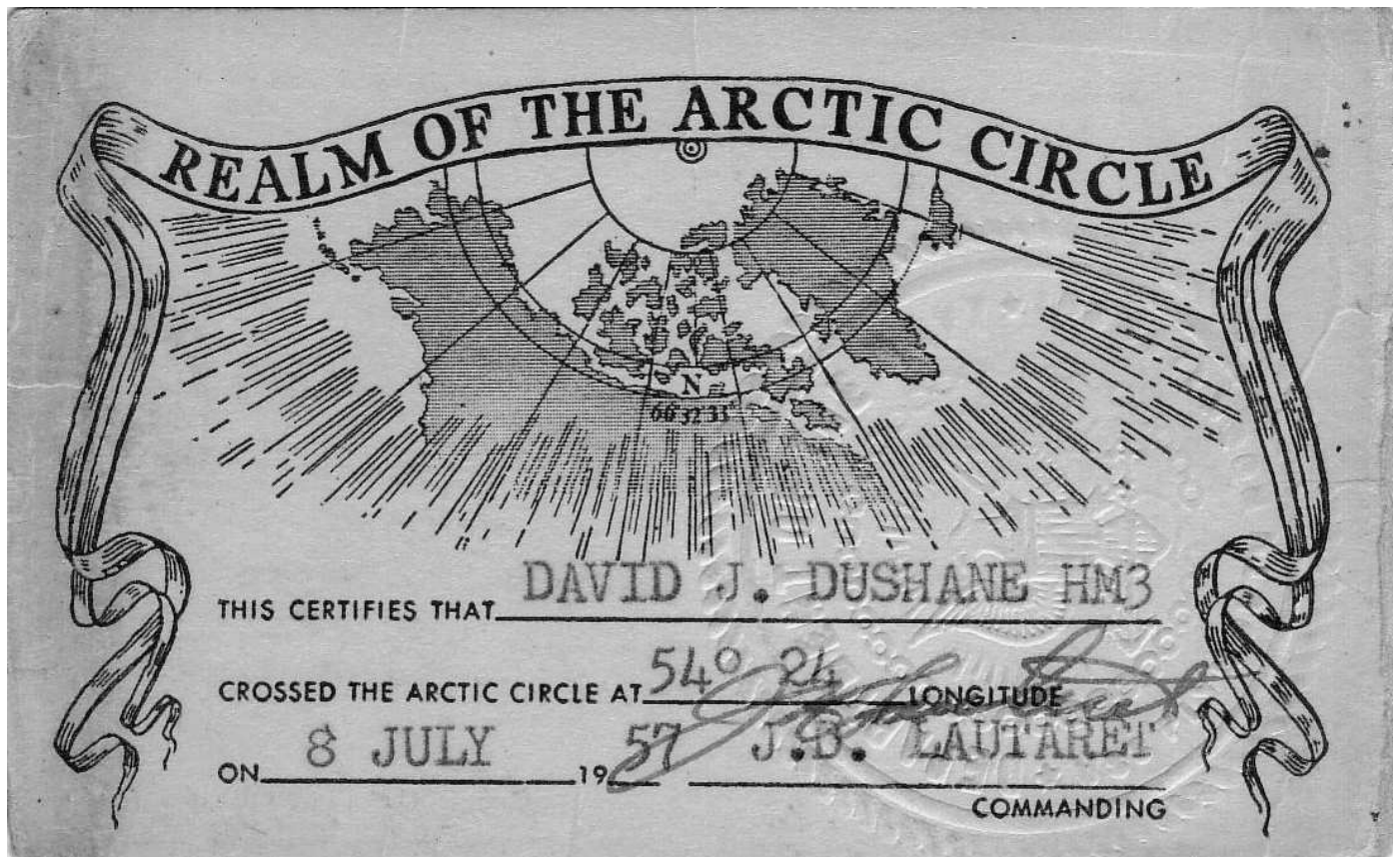
Dave Rogers, BT3, 10134 Hemingway Street, New Port

Richey, FL 34655. E-Mail: davrog2279@aol.com

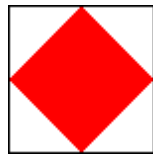
Jack Huett, BT3, 3804 Shoreview Drive, Sutherland, VA

23885 E-Mail: jackhuett@globalriskconsultants.com

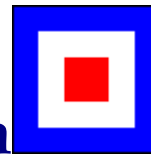




Certificate contributed by David J. Dushane, HM3. I was also there, but somehow lost my certificate in the past 50 years.



Navy Trivia



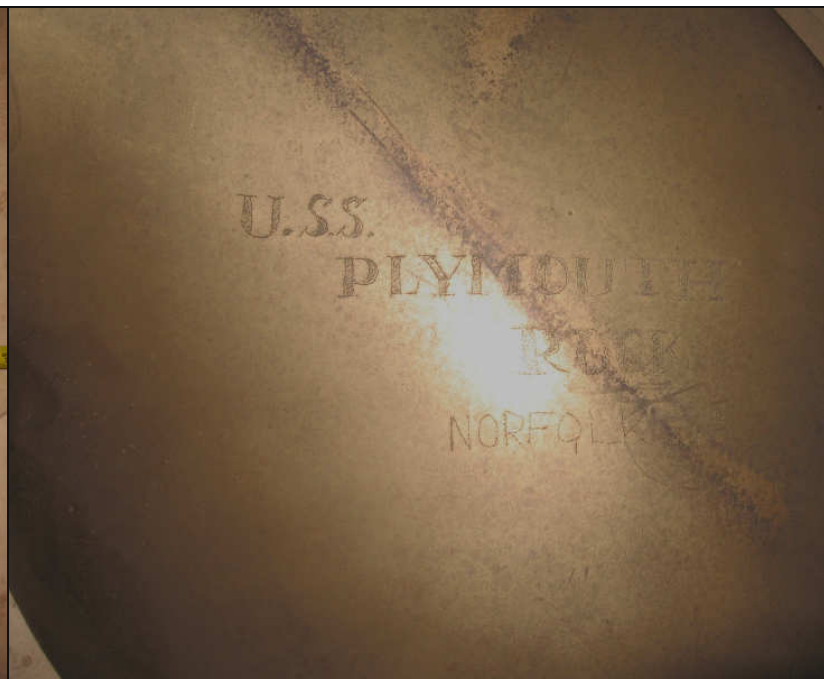
WHITE HAT - In 1852 a white cover was added to the soft visorless blue hat. In 1866 a white sennet straw hat was authorized as an additional item. During the 1880's the white "sailors hat" appeared as a low rolled brim high-domed item made of wedge shaped pieces of canvas to replace the straw hat. The canvas was eventually replaced by cotton as a cheaper more comfortable material. Many complaints on the quality and construction led to modifications ending in the currently used white hat.

JUMPER FLAPS - The collar originated as a protective cover for the jacket to protect it from the grease or powder normally worn by seamen to hold hair in place.

CLOTHES STOPS - A small diameter cord, approximately 12 inches, used to tie laundry to a clothes line -- the early Navy clothes pin. Issued in recruit training until 1973.

CROSSING THE LINE - Crossing the Equator, at which time there is usually a ceremony during which the pollywog (landlubber) becomes a "shellback."





Photos send to me by Don Bullock of Florida. Dave Dortch believes that the props are from the Captain's Gig. Can any BM's out there enlighten us about this? The tape indicates 24 inches across.





Dave Spriggs, Captain USNR Ret., Deck Dept. Head (1976-1978) writes: "The photo of NAVPHIBASE LCRK, which you included in the September newsletter, will cause some distress to older ROCKers, as they try to orient themselves and locate familiar landmarks. When this postcard image first appeared on EBAY some years ago, I spent quite some time trying to figure out just what was where. I still live in Norfolk and have flown over NAB many times, and it just did not look right. I soon realized that the image had been inverted horizontally, as if you were looking at it while holding it to a mirror.

In this corrected image (the upper one), the viewer is looking East. Shore Drive runs along the right margin. In the foreground are the "Teen Piers", where we most often berthed. On the right are the "Finger Piers", where small boats berthed; near them was COMPHIBLANT HQ. At the top is the "Quay Wall and Dogleg". The channel leads to the left and into Hampton Roads.

The bottom image is the similar Google Earth image today."



Plymouth Rock entering Havana, Cuba



Picture provided by Rodney Campbell shows the P Rock entering Havana. According to Rodney, the ship was either the last or next to last ship that was allowed to enter Havana before Castro took over. The ship entered the channel and docked where the dump was at that time.



Paid Association Members for 2008-2010

As of December 22, 2008 we now have 157 paid members

The 2009-2010 dues are now due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$20.00 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.** The dues help to support the association with planning and having the reunion, newsletter printing and mailing, general postage and the cost of maintaining our website on line. Paul Mohawk's address is: 5558 Canyon Lands Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76137

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Adam, Ian | Alardyce, John | Andersen, Harry | Baldwin, Brad | Balf, Priscilla |
| Bell, Joe | Bena, Joe | Bentheimer, Glenn | Bergeron, Richard | Berry, John |
| Bierce, George | Bild, Bob | Britt, Ben | Brown, Alvin G. | Brusky, David |
| Brunton, Thomas | Buchanan, Richard | Buiak, Peter Jr. | Caldwell, Tim | Cartwright, Richard |
| Chappell, John | Clark, Robert | Comstock, Ed | Conboy, Bill | Conklin, Robert T |
| Conroy, Mike | Crowl II, Martin C. | Cummings, Bob | Cummings, Steve | Cypher, Hal |
| Cyr, Dennis | Czarnetski, Bruce | Czarnetski, Jon | Dailey, Ronald J. | Dalfonzo, Sam |
| Dawson, Kenneth E. | Derry, Thomas K. | Dortch, David | Durham, Wayne | Dussault, Andrew |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Edwards, Maurice | Edwards, R. A. | Eldridge, Marguerite | Farneski, Robert | Fisher, Jack |
| Fisher, Jay | Forton, Mary | Freeman, James | Gee, James | Gibson, David |
| Goodman, William | Gorse, Peter | Greco, Sal B. Jr. | Guertin, Jerry | Hart, Ed. |
| Hartson, George | Haws, Joe | Haynie, Bill | Helledy, David | Hicks, Richard |
| Hill, Edward Jr. | Hofman, Timothy | Hopper, Richard | Howland, John | Hyatt, Walter |
| Ishmael, Harry | Jacques, Doug | Jennings, Seeley | Johnson, John | Joyce. Ed. |
| Kane, Thomas | Kaderka, Leonard | Krolak, Ray | Kuhns, Jimmy | Lamay, Roger |
| Larson, Jerry | Lillig, Bernie F | Lincoln, Walt. | Luttrell, James | Macomber, Brandon |
| Madill, Donna | Mathis, Richard | McAvoy, Kay | McCully, Wade Sr. | Miskelly, Francis |
| Mohawk, Paul | Murtha, Jerry | Musella, Rocco | Nichols, Bob | Nota, Ralph |
| Oldham, Rob | O'Neill, Marty | O'Neill, Thomas | Pihl, Walter C. | Power, Rand |
| Provencal, Bill | Purvis Anthony | Pyle, Ted | Ramondetta, Vic | Reed, John F. |
| Rhine, Don | Ringer, Joseph E. | Robertson, Allen | Robinson, Jim | Robinson, Warren E. |
| Safford, Richard | Schneider, James | Scott, Bill | Shanahan, Robert | Shewchuk, Richard |
| Sims, Bill | Smith, James | Smith, Larry E. | Stackhouse, Norman | Stark, Jr., Peter A. |
| Stoval, Jack | Stull, John III | Swart, Mike | Swathwood, David | Swearingen, Ron |
| Tesh, Sam | Thibodeau, Doug | Toungette, Mike | Trevino, Jorge G | Tunstall, Van |
| Viaene, Robert L. | Wagner, Paul | Wagner, Thomas F. | Walker, Gerald M. | Ward, James E. |
| Warwick, Robert | Watkins, Richard P. | Watts, Richard A. | Ziembra, James | Shober, Robert |
| Rose, Christopher | Jepson, Norm | Miller, Dale | Nichols, Victor | Hickson, Thomas W., Sr |
| Casillas. Greg | Ervin, John T | Holden, Gerald | Dushane, David | Miller, Ronald |
| Anstett, William | Watson, Ernest | Savage, David | Lee, Thomas P. | Bellingham II, Paul |
| Clark, Nick | Formaro, Frank | Tacinelli, Jerry | Snider, Lester | Whittle, David |
| Means, Carlon | Lavallee, Leo | | | |



Reunion Review

ST LOUIS REUNION ATTENDEES

Bill Provencal, Ships Secretary

The St Louis Reunion is now past and all the planning over. David and Rhonda Dortch and Roger Lamay did a first rate job making sure we all had a memorable reunion. The trips, the memorial service, the hotel and the organization was superb. We are very grateful for their efforts in providing a venue for us to meet once again and renew and make new friendships. There were 47 shipmates and guests present and I would like to print their names as well as guests giving them a special thank you! I hope that those attending will meet with us in Charleston, SC in 2010.

| | |
|---|--|
| BTC Harry and Jeanne Andersen, 1968-70, Waukeegan, IL | Priscila Balf and James Doeblor, Beachwood, NJ |
| EM3 Glenn and Jane Benthimer, 1963-66, Jefferson, WI | BMSN George Bierce and Lisa Peterson, 1970-73 |
| EMFN Thomas and Elaine Brunton, 1960-62, Jarales, NM | EN3 Stephen and Wanda Cummings, 1966-68, Mt. Vernon, IN |
| MS1 Martin Crowl, 1978-82, Corinth, NY | BM3 Dennis (Short) and Joyce Cyr, 1968-72, Waterbury, CT |
| BT2 David and Rhonda Dortch, 1971-74, Paragould, AR | Marguerite Eldridge, Springfield, VA |
| BT2 Frank and Crystal Formaro, 1959-62, Indianola, IA | Mary Forton, Suttons Bay, MI |

| | |
|---|--|
| EN3 James and Cindy Freeman, 1965-69, Michigan City, IN | Cdr. Gerald and Betty Jo Guertin, 1975-77, Pensacola, FL |
| BTC Richard and Hazel Hopper, 1954-60, Greenville, OH | BM3 Seeley and Bernadette Jennings, 1964-67, Stratford, CT |
| RM3 Roger and Ellen Lamay, 1968-69, Brushton, NY | EN3 Ron and Donna Miller, 1957-59, Havre, MT |
| MM3 Paul and Sharyl Mohawk, 1960-62, Ft. Worth, TX | PN2 Bill and Linda Provencal, 1957-59, Pittsfield, NH |
| MS1 Wade McCully, 1976-81, Cheswick, PA | SH3 John and Kay Reed, 1959-63, Boothwyn, PA |
| EM2 Bill and Mary Ann Scott, 1960-62, Fairhope, AL | RD3 John Stull, 1957-60, Riverview, FL |
| MM2 Jerry Tacinelli, 1971-75, Rockfall, CT | YN3 Tom and Jackie Wagner, 1958-60, Lawrenceburg, IN |
| MM2 David Whittle, 1973-76, St. Genevieve, MO | |

The USS Plymouth Rock 2008 Reunion

Held in St. Louis, MO— September 18-20

Day 1-Thursday, September 25

We began registering shipmates in the Hospitality Room. Beer was acquired and we began to visit with old and new shipmates. As usual sea stories enhanced as they were, were swapped. We met at 5pm for a wine and cheese get together and free drinks courtesy of the hotel. We then enjoyed a great meal and visited with shipmates. President Tom Wagner informed us as to what we would be doing on Friday and Saturday. After the meal, it was back to the Reception Room for a few more beers and talk.

Day 2-Friday, September 26



We assembled in the hotel lobby and set off in the bus for a tour of St. Louis and a visit to the Anheuser Busch brewery. We were met at the gate by Ben Britt, a former P Rocker and A.B. Corporate Safety and Risk Manager. We immediately went to the stables of the famous Clydesdale Horses and a visit with "Jake". My wife was amazed about how meticulously clean the stables were. As we toured the other buildings (mash house, holding tanks, bottling works) many of us were amazed by all of the flowers that graced the walkways. We eventually reached the Hospitality Room, where we were afforded the opportunity to sample the many delightful brews. After lunch, we regrouped to visit Gateway National Park, home of the famous Gateway Arch. Some visited the many exhibits and others took the "little" elevator to the top of the arch and the fantastic view of St. Louis and the Mississippi River below. We then re-boarded the bus for an additional city tour of beautiful St. Louis, we then and visited The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis. In the Cathedral there are over 83,000 square feet of mosaic art. The mosaics were created with over 11,500,000 pieces of glass tessare in more that 8,000 shades of color. This is truly a magnificent piece of art.



Day 3-Saturday, September 27



Day 3 found us on our way to Jefferson Barracks which in 1843 was the largest US Military Post home to many former generals, including Jefferson Davis, Ulysses Grant, Robert E. Lee, William Sherman, Phillip Sheridan, Dwight Eisenhower and others. We had a short drive through the grounds and then visited the Powder Museum Magazine which was built in 1857 for the storage of rifles, cannons and gun powder. It is now a Museum housing artifacts of all major wars. We then journeyed to the Base Chapel where a ceremony was conducted for all of our fallen shipmates. We then returned to St. Louis and visited the Soldiers'

Memorial Military Museum where we were able to view their collection of military items depicting St. Louis patriotic and active military involvement from 1800 to the present. Later in the evening we all sat down for our farewell banquet. Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Armando De La Garza of the VA, where as a Readjustment Counseling Therapist he specializes in treating combat related stress reactions such as PTSD and other mental health issues that stem from combat trauma.

Selected Views from the 2008 St. Louis Reunion



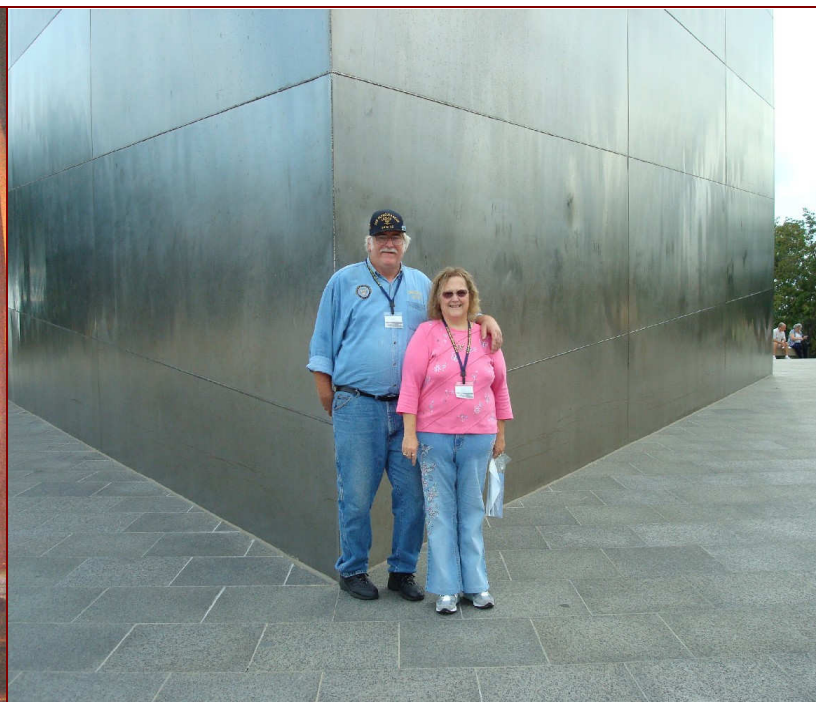
Paul Mohawk, Jim Freeman and Harry Andersen in the Hospitality Room



Bill Provencal and Jim Freeman in the Visitors Room of A&B



The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis-view of main altar



Jim and Cindy Freeman at the base of the Arch



Gateway Arch, St. Louis, MO



Outside the Museum, Jefferson Baracks



Old Sailors

**OLD SAILORS SIT AND CHEW THE FAT
ABOUT THINGS THAT USED TO BE,
OF THE THINGS THEY'VE SEEN,
THE PLACES THEY'VE BEEN,**

**THEY TALKED OF THE CHOW OL' COOKIE WOULD
MAKE
AND THE SHRILL OF THE BOSUN'S PIPE.
HOW SALT SPRAY WOULD FALL**

WHEN THEY VENTURED OUT TO SEA.

THEY REMEMBERED FRIENDS FROM LONG AGO,
THE TIMES THEY HAD BACK THEN.
THE MONEY THEY SPENT,
THE BEER THEY DRANK,
IN THEIR DAYS AS SAILING MEN.

THEIR LIVES ARE LIVED IN DAYS GONE BY,
WITH THOUGHTS THAT FOREVER LAST.
OF BELL BOTTOM BLUES,
WINGED WHITE HATS,
AND GOOD TIMES IN THEIR PAST.

THEY RECALL LONG NIGHTS WITH A MOON SO
BRIGHT
FAR OUT ON A LONELY SEA.
THE THOUGHTS THEY HAD
AS YOUTHFUL LADS,
WHEN THEIR LIVES WERE WILD AND FREE.

THEY KNEW SO WELL HOW THEIR HEARTS WOULD
SWELL
WHEN OLD GLORY FLUTTERED PROUD AND FREE.
THE UNDERWAY PENNANT
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
AS THEY PLOWED THROUGH AN ANGRY SEA.

LIKE SPARKS FROM HELL
WHEN A STORM STRUCK IN THE NIGHT.

THEY REMEMBER OLD SHIPMATES ALREADY GONE
WHO FOREVER HOLD A SPOT IN THEIR HEART,
WHEN SAILORS WERE BOLD,
AND FRIENDSHIPS WOULD HOLD,
UNTIL DEATH RIPPED THEM APART

THEIR SAILING DAYS ARE GONE AWAY,
NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY CROSS THE BROW.
THEY HAVE NO REGRETS,
THEY KNOW THEY ARE BLESSED,
FOR HONORING A SACRED VOW.

THEIR NUMBERS GROW LESS WITH EACH PASSING
DAY
AS THE FINAL MUSTER BEGINS,
THERE'S NOTHING TO LOSE,
ALL HAVE PAID DUES,
AND THEY'LL SAIL WITH SHIPMATES AGAIN.

I'VE HEARD THEM SAY BEFORE GETTING UNDERWAY
THAT THERE'S STILL SOME SAILING TO DO,
THEY'LL SAY WITH A GRIN
THAT THEIR SHIP HAS COME IN
AND THE LORD IS COMMANDING THE CREW.

Thanks to the [USS Alamo \(LSD-33\) website](#) for this poem.



USS San Antonio (LPD 17)



USS SAN ANTONIO is the lead ship in the Navy's new 12-ship LPD 17 Class which serves as the functional replacement of four amphibious ship classes - LPD 4, LSD 36, LST 1179 and LKA 113 - that have reached or are nearing the end of their service lives.

NORFOLK, Va. — Hydraulic problems have delayed the maiden deployment the amphibious transport dock San Antonio, which was supposed to leave Tuesday August 27, 2008 with the Iwo-Jima Expeditionary Strike Group.



The ship, which has endured lengthy delays and cost overruns, had to stay back in Norfolk due to a broken stern gate that will take days to repair



Ships Store Items

We have a number of items such as bumper stickers, ships mugs and baseball caps available through the Ships Store that are suitable for birthdays, parties or

any other gift giving occasions. The items can be viewed in the Ships Website at www.ussplymouthrock.com under Ships Store. All orders are handled through Shorty Cyr, 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.

USS Recruit

Leo Hernandez, HM3 reports that he was in San Diego in April of 2008 and the San Diego naval base is now a development of high end condos. They left the Recruit for now but no one seems to know what will eventually happen to it. They have a plaque explaining what it was.



The other photo is a reproduction of the famous picture taken in NYC when WWII ended in Europe. The statue is about 30-40 high, right at the waters edge.





**1958, Landing at Beirut Lebanon -
Off loading vehicles**



**1958 Landing at Beirut -
Lebanon LCU's Entering well deck**

Photos contributed by Ron Miller, EN3



Charleston, SC Reunion Information

Dave Dortch who is one of the Charleston, SC reunion coordinators would appreciate getting some feedback on the following questions from those of you who attended the reunion in St. Louis. You can e-mail Dave at tazrhondave@yahoo.com or call him at 870-236-3725.

Was the length of the reunion too long/short?

Were the tours too many/ too few?

Was the time to socialize too short/ adequate time?

Was there enough free time?

If rates are better, would we want to change to a mid-week versus a week-end schedule?

Charleston, SC Named No. 2 Top American Destination



For the sixteenth consecutive year, readers of Condé Nast Traveler magazine honored Charleston as a Top 10 travel destination in the U.S. Charleston was honored with a No. 2 slot - topped only by San Francisco. Last year, Charleston ranked No. 3 in the poll behind San Francisco and New York City. This year, New York takes the No. 3 slot, right behind the Holy City.

Mary Thornley, Chairman of the Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, noted that the people of Charleston enjoy welcoming guests, and their hospitality shows, "Charleston is friendly indeed. There is a sense of pride in this place that isn't found everywhere. Locals love the Charleston area with a passion, and visitors can sense this right from the start."

Museums and historical attractions

As an old colonial city, Charleston has a wide variety of museums and historical attractions. The Old Exchange and Customs House in downtown Charleston, finished in 1771, is arguably the third most important Colonial building in the nation. The building features a dungeon which held various signers of the Declaration of Independence. It has also served as a U.S. post office, the first Confederate post office, and was used by the United States Coast Guard.



Not far from Charleston is the location of Fort Moultrie, which was instrumental in delivering a critical defeat to the British in the American Revolutionary War, and Fort Sumter, the reputed site of the "first shot" of the American Civil War. Patriot's Point, located across the river, is also home to the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown as well as several other naval vessels. There are also several former plantations in the area, including [Boone Hall Plantation](#), Drayton Hall, Magnolia Plantation, and Middleton Place. The Charleston Tea Plantation is located just south of the city on Wadmalaw Island, and is a true working tea farm. Other attractions include the South Carolina Aquarium, the Audubon Swamp Garden, and Charles Towne Landing which is also the original settlement area of Charles Towne and the birthplace of what is now considered modern Charleston.



Liberty Party 1880

Following the naval review at Hampton Roads, Virginia, Marines gather delinquent sailors from the streets of Norfolk, Virginia.

Was Shorty Cyr, BM3 in this group?

