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Association

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USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

Applications now open for 2012 Pyro scholarships

Under the leadership of John Wichtrich, the scholarship committee has proposed and the association's standing committee has approved fine-tuned rules for 2012 USS Pyro Scholarships.

At least one \$1,000 USS Pyro Scholarship for 2012 will be formally awarded at the Baton Rouge Reunion, May 16-20, 2012. If more than one application is submitted and funds are available, a second scholarship may be awarded. Should applicants exceed available scholarships, recipients will be selected by a secret ballot on association members at the annual reunion.

Among the rule tweaks that expand scholarship eligibility: Adding aunts and uncles to the list of relatives providing a Pyro connection; adding trade or technical schools to eligible institutions; and lifting the requirement for association membership if the Pyro relative is deceased Pyro.

The complete rules and an application form are online at www.ae-24.org/Scholarship_2012.pdf.

**We don't need
no education...**



...but they do!

**See ya in
Louisiana, Cher!**

**Reunion 2012
Ragin' with the
Cajuns**

**May 16-20, 2012
Baton Rouge, LA
Holiday Inn South**



The straight skinny on Baton Rouge

After a few fits and starts due to a combination of presidential nonfeasance and the leisurely Louisiana lifestyle, arrangements are in place for the USS Pyro's 2012 reunion, *Ragin' with the Cajuns*, May 16-20, 2012 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The schedule of events is on page six, the sign-up form on page seven.

Sign-up: As is normally the case, you need to reserve your room directly with the hotel, the Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge, 9940 Airline Highway,

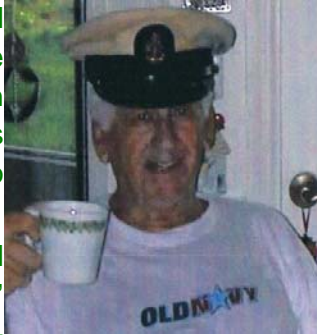
(Continued on page 5)

Pyro People

Old Navy: AE-1 Notes

Certainly a gentleman and increasingly a scholar these days, unofficial AE-1 historian Bob Hauge regularly comes up with an new tales of Pyro people .

Did you know that Pearl Harbor hero Doris 'Dorrie' Miller, the first African-American to win the Navy cross, was an AE-1 sailor? After serving aboard the Pyro, he was transferred to the USS West Virginia (BB-36.) Aboard the West Virginia on December 7, 1941, Mess Attendant Miller — who had never been trained as a gunner — manned a anti-aircraft gun, firing and apparently



shooting down at least one Japanese fighter before the gun ran out of ammunition. He then helped carry wounded shipmates to safety as the West Virginia sunk.



Then-CINCPAC Adm. Chester W. Nimitz presented

Dorrie Miller with the Navy Cross for extraordinary courage in battle.

Unfortunately, the Dorrie Miller story does not have a happy ending: He was killed when his new ship, the USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56), was sunk by a single torpedo in 1943.

In 1973, the USS Miller (FF-1091) was named in honor of Dorrie Miller.

View from the crow's nest

When the AE-1 headed to sea, first watch in the crow's nest went to Paul Hisel. Paul Hisel, Jr. has come across photos of the AE-1 and notes about his dad's reaction to that duty.

He has kindly offered to contribute those items to the association in his father's memory. They'll appear in an upcoming edition of *The Scuttlebutt*

McDaniels navigates Congress

Tom McDaniels (shown with Susan Scanlan), AE-24's penultimate navigator, is the new chief of staff for Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL).

After four years in the Navy, Tom went on to serve as a Policy Analyst at the White House Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, Government, External Affairs director at Miami International Airport and Chief of Staff/Legislative Director to two members of congress. He was a subcommittee director on the House Homeland Security Committee before setting course for his new post.



Ray Gillman's New Year's Poem

From the A-24 log 1 Jan. 1966
Discovered by Jeanne Desilets

'Tis January first of a brand new year.
Nineteen sixty-six is finally here.
Vallejo California is across the strait
We're berthed at Mare Island this happy date.
It's berth 18 we're moored port side to.
The lines are all doubled and the wires are out, too.
The material condition is modified yoke
Believe me lads that ain't no joke.
The plant is cold iron but don't you fret
The services from the pier haven't failed us yet.
Salt water and fresh and some steam for heat
Electricity and a phone, now that you can't beat.
SOPA San Fran is Com Western sea frontier
He's in charge of all he ships here.
Ships present include: SSBN 642,
Various units of Pac Fleet, yard and district craft too.
The captain's aboard, the exec's ashore.
The duty section numbers about 54.
Liberty party's ashore up to various tricks,
Our condition of readiness is number six.
I guess that's all there is to say.
I've been relieved so I'll be on my way.
Happy New Year!

...would you have passed up all the adventures and stayed home to make reunion arrangements and write *The Scuttlebutt*? Well, Bob Ed Stone, John Wichtrich, Rick Tully or Larry Shepline probably would have...Me? I'm cut from a different cloth.

From the president's desk

By Jared Cameron

In what many would describe as a reversion to my ways as a humble — well not so humble — seaman aboard AE-24, your president has procrastinated on both *The Scuttlebutt* and finalizing arrangements for the 2012 reunion.

A good part — but by no means all — of the procrastination is attributable to two new clients (thank goodness!) and a trip to China to meet with them. In addition to visiting bulldozer factories, electrical generator manufacturers, and diesel engine makers, the COPD Poster Child climbed the Great Wall of China and worked in a visit to the Forbidden City, where I became a protected relic. (See photo.) So, would you have passed up all the adventures and stayed home to make reunion arrangements and write *The Scuttlebutt*? Well, Bob Ed Stone, John Wichtrich, Rick Tully or Larry Shepline probably would have...Me? I'm cut from a different cloth. *Mea culpa*. Honest, chief, I'll do better in the future!



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MEA CULPA II. Yes, I finally received nearly all our volunteer photographers' photos from the 2011 Capital Bash reunion. Yes, I should have started on the Memory Book weeks ago. But I haven't. What can I say? Volunteer help is pretty much worth what you pay for it. The road to Hell is paved with good intentions and the immediate plan is to post an album of all the reunion photos to <http://www.ae-24.org/> in the next day or two.

SPEAKING OF PHOTOS... Have you downloaded the large panoramic photo of 2011 reunion participants yet? A large, high resolution version is available free at <http://www.ae-24.org/Reunion2011.jpg>. Folks who need a printed copy can take the download to a photo shop or order prints from an online service like Snapfish.

MAIL CALL. I received a characteristically charming note from Charlene Iversen. Howard, who has taken up falling off tractors as a hobby in his golden years, has not been up for recent reunion travel, but the Iversens send their regards to the group.

AE-24 VIDEO. The late Tom Palmer's son, Nick, has uploaded several of Tom's formerly 8mm movies on life aboard the Pyro during the Vietnam era to YouTube. They even feature a 'young Tom Sanborn,' according to Nick. Links to these videos have been posted to <http://www.ae-24.org/Video.htm>. (Electronic Scuttlebutt readers can go directly to the site by clicking on the link).

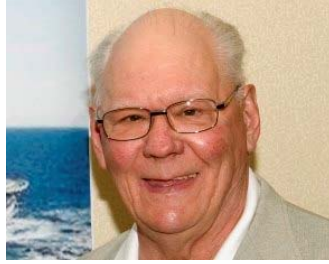
That's all folks! With a little bit of luck plus some information from and about you, we'll have another edition before December. That way, I don't have to send out holiday cards...

Bill Peregrin's Journal Part IV

Editor's note: Ever said: "I wish I could remember more details about my time on the Pyro?" Shipmate Bill Peregrin foresaw that and kept a journal of his Pyro days. In the previous Scuttlebutt, we sailed with Peregrin through the Pyro's commissioning to early 1960. Here is the next installment — just as Bill wrote it — from mid-April to the Pyro's July 24 'birthday.'

17 APR – Easter Sunday underway as before.

18 APR – Speed 30 RPM 6.5 knots, Injection temperature at 47 degrees #2 evaporator is making 720 GPH.



21 APR – Seven months since I left my girl friend.

23 APR – Rendezvous with USS Cimarron AO-22 for replenishment of fuel.

25 APR – Rendezvous with USS Brinkley Bas DD-887 and USS Duncan DDR-874 alongside for rearming.

26 APR - #1 fresh water pump burned out.

27 APR - 30 RPM 6.5 Knots.

28 APR – 77 RPM 16.0 knots. In route for Subic Bay P.I.

30 APR – Saturday USS PYRO TIME SIGNAL

01 MAY - Salt water injection temp. at 78 degrees Evaps making 625 GPH fresh water.

02 MAY – Underway as before.

03 MAY – Inj. temp. at 88 degrees. At 0200 Arrive Philippine Islands. At sea 21 days.

04 MAY – Olangapo, Zambales, Subic Bay P.I.

05 to 14 MAY – Routine in port watch standing and Liberty.

15 MAY – Shore Patrol at E.M. club.

16 MAY – Buggeln, Dickson, Blanchard and Kynaston advanced in rating to 2nd Class.

17 MAY – Underway for Hong Kong, departed Subic Bay at 1100 hours. Injection temperature 90 degrees. Sea is very calm.

19 MAY – Arrive Hong Kong. What a place — just bring money.

21 MAY – Liberty, went to tailor shop for clothes and other souvenirs. Eight months since I left my girl.

22 MAY – This is from memory. Seems that some

PYRO sailors went to a bar in Hong Kong that also was visited by sailors from Great Brittan HMS AJAX. A PYRO sailor called one of them a limey and all hell broke loose. The shore patrol showed up and took

the PYRO sailors to the brig. A little while later the British sailors show up and explained that they had started the fight. The U.S. shore patrol has no jurisdiction over the British, and had to let the PYRO sailors go. And the PYRO and AJAX sailors walk out of the brig, arms over shoulders and went back to the bar as friends.

23 MAY – Went on Liberty to tailor shop (LOA HAI SHING CO.) for final fitting of my clothes. One of the sports coats is made of Italian silk. I was with Bob Parrott and Jim Thurman and the shop was very hot. Bob took the air conditioning unit apart and found the filter all clogged up, so he cleaned it with soap and water — it worked better. That night we went to a high class restaurant for dinner. I had a vodka gimlet, shrimp Cocktail, fillet mignon and crepe Suzettes for about \$4.50.

25 MAY – Used all but 4,000 gal. of fresh water out of the 80,000 we started with.

26 MAY – At 1100 underway for Sasebo. Making boiler feed and some fresh water. Injection temperature - 92 degrees: hard for the evaporators to keep with the demand.

27 May – Rearmed USS Henderson DD-785 and USS Chandler DD-717. Inj. Temp 90.

30 MAY – Arrive Sasebo Japan.

31 MAY – Ship's party for starboard duty section. Pay day: \$24.00.

01 JUN – Ship's party for port duty section. Replaced all zincs on #1 evaporator. Total Gallons for month of May was 154,310. Total hrs. 284. Average 544 gals.

02 JUN – Replaced all zincs on #2 evaporator. Total gal. 120,360. total hrs. 325 average 535 gallons.

03 JUN - At 1600 Hrs. departed from Sasebo.

05 JUN – Injection temperature 88 degrees.

06 JUN – At 0812 arrive Iwakuni, Japan.

08 JUN – Went on tour of Hiroshima Japan. 15 years after the A-bomb.

09 JUN – Underway from Iwakuni; continued through the Inland Sea.

11 JUN – Arrived at Yokosuka, Japan at 0822. 12th to

(Continued on page 5)

Bill Peregrins Journal Part IV

(Continued from page 4)

15th conditions normal. Liberty port.

16 JUN – Haven't received any mail from girl friend for over six weeks.

17 JUN – Went on Liberty and bought a set of Nortaki China for my sister, Martha.

20 JUN Underway from Yokosuka, 21st to 24th steaming back and forth, temp 82 deg.

25 JUN – Arrived back at Sasebo. Injection temperature 75 degrees. Alarm on generator went off indicating low cooling water pressure. Called the Chief and started to bring second generator on line. Chief Shanander showed up and we went down to the lower level to take off the strainer lid, the basket was full of jelly fish. We started to scoop out the jelly fish when the other generator alarm sounded. Chief said to pull the strainer basket and put the lid back on. We'll just let the pump chop up the little F__ers and pass them through the cooling system. It worked. It had something to do with the incoming tide, because the same thing happened the next night.

26-28 JUN - Non-normal routine because of jelly fish.

28 JUN – Replaced # 1 salt water heater pump.

29 JUN – Had Shore Patrol duty at Dickman Alley, Sasebo from 1600-2400 hrs

30 JUN – At 0600 departed from Sasebo, 1100 Inland Sea. Arrived at Iwakuni at 2136.

01 JUL – At 1300 departed from Iwakuni. Short stay?

02 JUL – At 0815 arrived Kobe Japan. Went on Liberty with Bob Parrott. Got stinko. Received the letter from Mom that I was waiting for.

05 JUL – Took Bullet train from Kobe to Tokyo, it was a local and made a lot of stops.

06 JUL – Removed faulty salinity cell on #1 evaporator, replaced it with #3 cell.

07 JUL – Replaced #1 salinity cell with new cell. All salinity cells on #1 evaporator working normal. At 1600 departed from Kobe.

08 JUL – Underway, went to General Quarters.

09 JUL – 0812 Arrived at Yokosuka, took on 54,000 gal. of fresh water from YW86.

20 JUL – At 0800 departed from Yokosuka in route

for Buckner Bay Okinawa to conduct replenishment exercise.

21 JUL — Its been ten long months since I parted from my girl friend. Underway for Okinawa.

22 JUL – Supposed to arrive at Okinawa. Re-armed the USS Oriskany CV-34, Parks DD-884, Crag DD-885 and Perkins DD-877. Typhoon Polly is in the area and is continuing to be contrary and has not cleared the Okinawa area. Until Polly is clear we will not be able to enter Buckner Bay.

24 JUL – Happy Birthday PYRO. 210 plank owners aboard. Polly is 150 miles S.S.W. of Okinawa.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE SEA STORIES: In the next Scuttlebutt, we'll return to Bill Peregrin's journal.

Baton Rouge skinny

Baton Rouge, LA 70816. (Baton Rouge brags more than one Holiday Inn.) The best way to make sure you get the association rate is to call the hotel directly at 225-924-7021. In our lust to keep room rates under \$100 (\$94.92), we have blocked Courtyard Exterior rooms including a few smoking rooms for the wretched of the earth. The Courtyard rooms are also good for folks who have mobility problems. If you're interested in upgrading to newly refurbished, non-smoking tower rooms for \$106.22, write or call Jared Cameron and he'll set that up.

Airport: Baton Rouge has a really nice, convenient airport. Holiday Inn will send a bus to pick you up at Baton Rouge Airport if we let them know your flights 24 hours before arrival. But as good as Baton Rouge Airport is, flights from some parts of the U.S. require somewhat long layovers in Dallas or Houston. If this is a problem for you and/or you plan to rent a car anyhow, check out flights to New Orleans. The airport is about 1.5 hours from Baton Rouge, fares may be lower and a car could come in handy in spread-out Baton Rouge, especially if you're planning side trips or treks to discount malls.

Tours. The New Orleans WWII museum is truly impressive; the USS Kidd Memorial Service will be memorable and Baton Rouge plantations are among the best anywhere.

Ragin' with the Cajuns in Baton Rouge



Wednesday 16 May 2012

18:00 Registration and Welcome Aboard Reception. Arrive in Baton Rouge at your leisure. Log in and get reacquainted with old (and young) shipmates in the hospitality room. Welcome reception and Hospitality Room membership with adult refreshments included throughout the reunion. Remainder of the evening free.

Thursday 17 May 2012

Big East Road trip! Depart the Holiday Inn South by motor coach for New Orleans. Arrive about 1030 at the World War II Museum. View the dramatic multimedia cinematic presentation of the events from Manchuria to VJ Day. Tour the museum (and the great gift shops). At about 1230, we'll take the short drive the French Quarter area. Lunch on you own at one of the great New Orleans eateries, sip a hurricane in the Quarter or shop till you drop in New Orleans high and not-so high-end shops. Depart for Baton Rouge at 1500 and return to Holiday Inn South at 16:30. Evening free.

Friday 18 May 2012

0930 **Remembering the departed on the USS Kidd.** Depart the Holiday Inn South by motor coach for a drive through tour of downtown Baton Rouge. After visiting the USS Kidd Museum, the group will be piped aboard the WWII destroyer for the annual memorial service. The ship's guns will fire a five gun salute to all the Pyro fallen. After the service, tour the Kidd and have lunch on your own at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel and Casino or another nearby restaurant. Return to the Holiday Inn at 1300.

1315 **Plantation life.** Depart the Holiday Inn for Nottoway, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion, a stunning historic plantation near Baton Rouge on the banks of the Mississippi. Admission included.

Saturday 19 May 2012

1000 Membership meeting

1200 Free time to explore Baton Rouge or kick back in the hospitality room

Awards Banquet and dance

1830 Cocktails (Cash bar); group and individual photos

1930 Awards Banquet – with buffet dinner

2015 Dance with Cajun music group

2315-ish Good night!

Sunday 20 May 2012

Time to go home, Cher. Or stay on for a few extra days at the great reunion rate.

USS PYRO Association
Ragin' with the Cajuns 2012

May 16-21, 2012 Holiday Inn South Baton Rouge, LA
REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Name _____
Spouse/Guest _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ ZIP _____
TEL: _____ E-mail _____

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 16 May 2012

18:00 **Welcome Aboard Reception and Reunion Registration.** *All reunion participants must register.*

\$25.00 per Person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Thursday 17 May 2012

0900 **Big Easy Road trip!** New Orleans, World War II Museum, French Quarter stroll and the World War II and shopping

\$50.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Friday 18 May 2012

0930 **Remembering the departed on the USS Kidd.**

\$35.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

1315 **Plantation life.** Depart the Holiday Inn for Nottoway, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion, a stunning historic plantation near Baton Rouge on the banks of the Mississippi.

\$35.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Saturday 20 May 2012

1930 **Awards Banquet** – with buffet dinner; dance with Cajun music group.

\$50.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

TOTAL

Total Amount of enclosed check payable to USS Pyro Association \$ _____

To complete your registration, please mail this form and check to:
Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

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USS PYRO ASSOCIATION
Douglas Wisher, secretary
1022 Winding Way
Covington, KY 41011

Email:
wisherdj@fuse.net



*** THE PRIDE AND TRADITION FOREVER ***

We're on the Web:
www.usspyro.com



USS PYRO AE-1 & AE-24 ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Rate/rank(s) aboard Pyro: _____ Highest USN rate/rank: _____

Dates aboard USS PYRO (AE1 or AE 24) _____ to _____ Retired USN? Separated under honorable conditions? Yes No

To join: Send this completed application and a check payable to the USS PYRO Association for either annual dues or the lifetime membership amount appropriate for your age to:

Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901

Association dues

Annual:	\$ 20
Lifetime membership	
Age 50 or under	\$250
51 ~ 55	\$200
56 ~ 60	\$175
61 ~ 65	\$150
66 ~ 70	\$125
71 ~ 75	\$100
76 ~81	\$ 50
82 PLUS	\$ 25