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**Reunion 2010**

Plan **now** to attend the  
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
HIGH**

May 12-16, 2010

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DOUBLETREE

**WORLD ARENA HOTEL**

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- Great Pyro people; great Pyro party!

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**New for 2010**

Pay for reunion fees  
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Go to:

[www.ae-24.org](http://www.ae-24.org)  
for details



# USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

**The time is now!**

## Join 2010 Rocky Mountain High reunion fun

It's that time of year again and, true to form, association officers are getting nervous about reunion turnout.

Fortunately — after Treasurer Tom Sanborn's boiler overheated and frantic calls/e-mails went out to 'the normal suspects,' sign-ups are on the upswing. Knowing that many of you like to torture your (not-so) fearless leaders with late registrations, *The Scuttlebutt* won't join in the arm waving.

That said, the association had to make guarantees to get you the great hotel and tour rates on page 7. And 'put up or pay-up' time is bearing down on us. Plus airfares could rise as the reunion date comes closer.

So **now** would be a good time sign up, reserve your room at the hotel at the super reunion rate and start

planning your travel.

Speaking of air fares, some folks who haven't actually checked fares think flying to the Rocky Mountain High reunion will be unusually costly. Pyro people live all around the country, but unless you're Mike Dodge coming from Guam, some really good fares to Colorado Springs are available -- if you don't wait until the last minute.

And it's going to be a great reunion. A venue that a plurality of members chose at the last meeting. A really nice hotel at a really good rate. A memorable memorial service at the Air Force Academy Chapel. Fun tours. Another auction. Maybe even a roast.

But best of all is the Pyro people. Old friends and new faces will make this reunion a great vacation and an outstanding party. Why not sign up now?

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### WHAT'S A DITTY BAG\*\* ANYHOW?

#### WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Tom Sanborn says: "Since at our Reno reunion last year, we had so much fun roasting the Treasurer's feet on the fire that we raised a total of \$1,800 for the association, greatly adding to the water under our keel and keeping us afloat, we have decided to make the silent auction a regular event during our festivities. Thanks to the efforts and generosity of The Hansens, Jaegers, Michaels and others, I think we surprised even ourselves.

So, go back to the upstairs man cave and bring

**Continued next page**



# Pyro news

## Reports of Pyro sinking exaggerated

Last we heard, the Pyro was about to be towed out to sea and sunk. Fortunately, plank owner Bill Peregrin, whose partial Pyro Journal appears on pages 4 and 5, has discovered that the sinking didn't take place.

After some investigating and information from Gunner Bob Smith, 'Little Willie' discovered that AE-24 is afloat in Suisun Bay, CA, in the first nest of ships up from the Benicia-Martinez bridge (third ship in from the right). Picture is a Google Earth image as of AUG 29, 2009.



## Bob Hauge turns 86 looking half his age

AE-1 vet, Pyro Association mainstay and self-proclaimed 'Twilight Sailor' Bob Hauge turned 86 last summer.

Bob, a Minnesota native now lives in San Marcos, TX, from where he calls snowbound shipmates to describe 70 degree weather between golf rounds. Tho his cap states he is merely a 'dysfunctional veteran,' the former CPO is actually a dysfunctional WWII, Bikini and Korea and vet.



## Sanborn Sez: Contribute Pyro memorabilia for Colorado Springs prizes

**Continued from page 1...** any Pyro and other treasures you can pack along to raffle off. (I'm driving this time, AI, so throw in an extra case of the home brew!)



**If our treasurer still looked like this, we could raffle off dates with him!**

Go up in your attic and find your salty old sea bag from days of yore and inside you should find your ditty bag containing all sorts of long ago buried treasures. Carefully go through its contents — and the whole sea bag, for that matter — but be forewarned to discard pictures of your Olongapo hostesses, old San Miguel bottles, etc. While you are digging around up there in the boson's locker, don't hesitate to throw down the ladder any items you really don't need (which is most of the attic) and bring same to Colorado Springs for our "Rocky Mountain High" Reunion .

*Tommy The Treasurer*

\*\* Ditty Bag---also called the "sailor's housewife" (I'm sure there is a risqué pun in there somewhere)—a small bag in the days of sail made by the seaman to teach the basics of sail making and used to carry small everyday tools and other necessities—thread, needles, tape, and other personal articles---leading to expressions of exasperation such as "Blow it out your ditty bag!"



## From the president's desk

### By Jared Cameron

**Capt. Beecher Snipes: "The next time I see a line hanging off the back of my boat, I want you to be on the end of it."**

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#### USS PYRO ASSOCIATION

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This ain't the old Navy! Back when men were made of iron and ships were made of wood, no one ran crying to the big bosses over a little verbal abuse including use of the 'f-bomb.'

The tale of a Navy skipper recently relieved for excessive ca-ca mouth led me to recall fey captains I had known, especially the Pyro's Beecher Snipes in my blog, *At Large in America*. (<http://cameronatlarge.wordpress.com/>)

Capt. Snipes might well be described as a 'crusty sea dog.' He got command of the 'deep draft' Pyro as a stepping stone to commanding an a carrier. But that was not to be.

Shortly before I graced the Pyro's decks, the ship was returning to Port Chicago, CA. As required by law, a civilian pilot was steering the ship. To make a long, sad story short, the pilot, slightly tipsy, it turned out, ran the ship aground. As captain, Snipes was blamed, based on the venerable Naval principal that the commanding officer is responsible for everything good and bad that occurs on or to his/her ship. Carrier command: Scuttled. Hopes for an admiral's star: Sunk. Naval career: Pretty much left on that sandbar.

Not a sweetheart to begin with, Capt. Snipes got even crustier. Here are some of my favorite first- and second-hand Snipes stories.

He verbally berated everyone, but especially officers, when they screwed up, often taking the Lord's name in vain, cause for being relieved in the New Navy, it seems.

- Once, Capt. Snipes spied a line hanging off the ship's fantail. He summoned the second division officer, a gangly and given to stuttering under pressure lieutenant named George Frye to a crowded bridge for 12 minutes of verbal abuse culminating in the benediction – with some two score iterations of the 'f-word' removed – "The next time I see a line hanging off the back of my boat, I want you to be on the end of it." Lt. Frye survived: Scuttlebutt reports, he later won a Purple Heart for running into a low hanging bulkhead door during Vietnamese patrol boat attack scare,.

- Two petty officers sneaked off an authorized beach to an unauthorized brothel in Okinawa, missing the boat when the Pyro suddenly sailed away to elude a typhoon. Eventually, they were returned to the Pyro from an aircraft carrier at sea by way of an accommodation chair, a skimpy seat attached two lines connecting the rolling ships – seemed punishment enough to me!) While the UAs were still literally swinging softly in the wind between boats, Capt. Snipes convened a Captain's Mast with a megaphone, finding them guilty and restricting them to the ship until 'you die, I die or Christ calls forth the f\*\*\*ing dead.' (sic).

- Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose, so Capt. Snipes became a bit eccentric at play as well as at work. When delayed in reaching libation(s) at the Subic Bay Officer's Club because more senior skippers' gigs were lined up to land at the pier, he improvised. The skipper ordered the launch to pull up next to two destroyers tied up side-by-side, chinned himself aboard the outlying ship, shouted, "Pyro crossing!" went ashore and headed for the nearest bar.

\*\*\*

**PYRO PEOPLE.** Former Pyro Navigator Deb Ruttenberg is celebrating her unscathed return from Iraq and promotion to commander by — the place for sailors is on ships and the place for ships is at sea —sailing,, swimming and snorkeling her way around two oceans. • Vanessa Miera, an EMFN on AE-24 until its decommissioning, is planning to attend weekend events at the Colorado Springs get-together with her husband Mark, a Lt. Colonel In the National Guard. • Karen Sheipline — recovering from health problems — will join husband Larry at the reunion for the first time.. Cheers

# Pyro memories

*Editor's note: How many time have you said, "I wish I could remember more details about my time on the Pyro?" Shipmate Bill Peregrin foresaw that and keep a journal of his Pyro days. In the previous Scuttlebutt, we sailed with Plankholder Peregrin through the Pyro's commissioning to October 5, 1959. Here is the next installment — just as Bill wrote — through February 1960.*

## WILLIAM PEREGRIN'S JOURNAL

**Memories of PYRO from letters sent home, talking with other shipmates and mostly entries from my log book, May 1959 to January 1961.**



09 OCT – MAN OVER BOARD DRILL. Ron Moser and I were assigned to go up to the engineering compartment to sort and distribute the clean laundry for "M" division. The ship's P.A. system announced 'Man Over-

board.' Ron and I came up the ladder to the Mess hall and down the passage way to the rear hatch. I held open the hatch for Moser to pass through, but no Moser. I looked back to see Moser being pulled into the Engineering Log room. I took my place at muster and told the Chief what had happened. When "M" Division was the first division to report all present and accounted for except MOSER, Executive Officer McTieran was really impressed. We got a well done.

15 OCT – Trip to Cinadad Trejillo Dominican Republic for a much needed liberty.

18 OCT – Shakedown exercise through 30 OCT.

30 OCT Friday underway for Liberty at San Juan Puerto Rico. In San Juan Nov 1 to 4<sup>th</sup>.

4 NOV – Underway to Kingston, Jamaica.

6 NOV – Arrive at Kingston ,Jamaica, and stay till the 9<sup>th</sup>. We traded our shell casings for lobster for the whole crew.

9 NOV – Leave for Panama Canal Zone.

11 NOV - Arrive Atlantic side (Caribbean Sea) of P.C.Z. Bahia Limon (Bay). Continue through Canal, Gutan Locks then Gatun Lake to the small canal.

12 NOV – After the small canal, we came to the Pedro Maguel and Miraflores locks to Rodman canal zone at 0115 hours past Balboa.

13 NOV – Steamed past Taboga and Tabogulla islands into the Golf of Panama and then headed out to the Pacific.

17 NOV – Cross over the Equator at 80 degrees 55 minutes west. Was a Pollywag and became a Shellback.

18 NOV – Arrived at Lima Peru. PYRO was on a TV program.

22 NOV – Sunday leave Callao- Lima Peru.

23 NOV – Monday: USS PYRO AE-24

TIME	SIGNAL	R.P.M	COUNTER	SPEED
0337:	STAND	72.0	1,000,000	15.0K

26 NOV – Thanksgiving at sea.

28 NOV – Acapulco, Mexico

4 DEC – At San Diego, CA, For inspection. Capt. Beebe, LT. Wales and MPA. Markus are PISSED OFF... The whole ship passed the inspection except the engine room. Seems that our deck plates were painted GRAY but were supposed to be TERRACOTTA RED. At 1400 Hrs. underway for San Francisco, CA

5 DEC – Sunday: USS PYRO

TIME	SIGNAL	R.P.M	COUNTER	SPEED
0337:	STAND	85.0	2,000,000	16.5K

5 DEC – Arrive San Francisco area. Anchored at Hunters Point Naval Ship Yard.

10 DEC – Thursday underway for F.A.T. (Final Acceptance Trials)

11 DEC – Finished acceptance trials, going back to San Francisco. Moored at Berth 3 Pier 3 N.A.D. Concord CA.

14 DEC – Started unloading Ammo at Concord- Port Chicago. The Fire/flushing pump started making noise, turns out the impeller nut came off the end of the shaft and beat the threads so badly that shaft had to be replaced.

22 DEC – Over the Christmas holidays PYRO was moved from Port Chicago to Mare Island Naval Shipyard Vallejo, CA. Some of the ship's company were on leave. The ship was tied up to the pier and we were on shore power. Everything was so quiet down in the engine room, no fires in the boilers, no generators running, and no distilling units running. I think that it's called a *COLD IRON WATCH*.

# Pyro memories

*Then and now -- answers to last edition's quiz*



**TOO EASY OR TWO HARD?** We has no entries in the First Pyro Then and Now Contest, so the prize, a free-all-expense paid trip to Olongapo, will be taken by your editor. (Didn't notice the prize? All the more reason to read your *Scuttlebutt* carefully next time!) **THE ANSWERS:** From the top and left to right: John Wichtrich, Bill Delaney, Art Derry, Charlie Batten, Larry Sheipline, Larry Buggeln, Bill Peregrin, Bob Smiley, Kirk Keeler (duh!), Tom Sanborn and Lon Frye. (We'll have another *Then and Now Contest* as soon as YOU send your photos.)

25 DEC – Christmas, all is quiet.

31 DEC 1959 End of year.

1 JAN 1960 I brought in the New Year with the mid-watch and had the bright idea of blowing the ship's horn at midnight. There wasn't enough steam pressure to make the ships horn work, what a bust.....

4 JAN Yard work begins.

7 JAN – Started mess cooking in the spud locker. One morning we were breaking open

eggs that were created in 1944. They were in cold storage for 16 years.

16 JAN – Ship in dry dock #2 from 16 Jan to 27 JAN. at Mare Island N.S.Y.

1 FEB - Shipmate J.M. Cummings relieves me from mess cooking and tells me that Chief Shanander

wants me down in the engine room. When I report to the Chief he informs me that I passed the examinations for advancement in rate to MR3. Also Holkenbrink to MR3 and Manning to MM3. Rate is effective as of 16 DEC 1959, for pay purposes.

4 FEB - Arrived back at Port Chicago. We are making preparations for first WESPAC deployment.

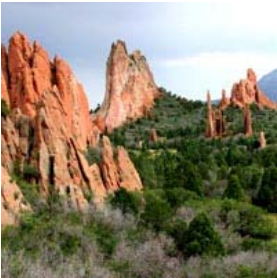
12 FEB Stood first Shore Patrol with Jim Dickson in Vallejo CA. Had an incident with some Fly boys from Travis A.F.B. and girl friend with a knife.

21 FEB - Stood first top watch in engine room of PYRO. Tripped out #2 generator because of high lube oil temp and hot bearing. Five months since I left my girl friend back home.

***In the next edition: The Pyro heads for WESPAC.***

## Colorado Springs — Area Briefing

Colorado Springs, Colorado, is home to more than 50 exciting and unique attractions such as Pikes Peak, U.S. Olympic Training Center, Garden of the Gods Park, The Cog Railway, Royal Gorge Bridge, Cave of the Winds, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Seven Falls, Flying W Ranch and the U.S. Air Force Academy.



With over 300 days of sunshine each year, outdoor recreation opportunities are everywhere you look. We have extensive parks and open spaces with trails that wind through magnificent rock formations and shady mountain forests – perfect for

hiking, biking and horseback riding. Or tackle the rapids of the Arkansas on a river rafting tour that winds through the Royal Gorge. Try something different such as a guided bike ride down Pikes Peak or a hot air balloon ride up into the Colorado sky. Fishing, camping, golfing and rock climbing are also favorites in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs is also known for its rich and diverse cultural activities. Learn about how the city was founded and how the Pikes Peak or Bust gold rush shaped our region at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and Pikes Peak Heritage Center. Descend 1,000 feet into a gold mine or take an historic train ride in Cripple Creek or the Royal Gorge. Visit historic homes such as Glen Eyrie Castle, Miramont Castle and Briarhurst Manor. View classic and modern art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and Smokebrush Gallery or explore your passion and interests at the Money Museum, Outlaws & Lawmen Museum, Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Rock Ledge Historic Ranch, Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum or the Rocky Mountain



Dinosaur Resource Center.

These attractions, activities and historic locations plus the reunion constants — memories of our Naval service and good Pyro people — all await you in Colorado Springs, Colorado!

### Our reunion hotel



The Doubletree Hotel Colorado Springs by the World Arena, just off I-25, offers scenic Colorado Rocky Mountain views of Pikes Peak and Cheyenne Mountain, ten minutes from *Colorado Springs Airport*. Enjoy our hotel amenities for your business or leisure travel.

A friendly and courteous staff, warm ambiance, high-speed Internet access and convenient location are only a few reasons to plan your next stay with us. Enjoy a convenient, casual breakfast, lunch or dinner in our hotel restaurant, Atrium Café. Nearby, the World Arena is just three blocks away, and we're located within walking distance of restaurants, shops and a 20-screen theater.



Our spacious lobby, business center, two lounges, heated indoor pool, inviting exterior courtyard, fitness center and well-appointed (interior corridor) guest rooms complete the perfect setting for your Rocky Mountain getaway. Free shuttle from Airport.

### USS Pyro 2010 Reunion Checklist

- Tell those children, grandchildren and doctors 'NO! to weddings/graduations/surgeries during the reunion period.
- Make your reservations at the Doubletree World Arena Hotel. Be sure to ask for the USS PYRO reunion rate. (If you're a smoker, request a room with a balcony, a request the hotel promises to honor. When: Now would be a good time! Reunion rates: \$90 + tax Direct Tel: **719-576-8900**)
- Use the form on the next page to sign up for the great reunion activities. When? The deadline is early Spring, but the sooner, the better.
- Make arrangements to get to Colorado Springs. If you're travelling by air, flying to Denver can save money, but you'll need to rent a car and leave time after the reunion for the 100 mile drive to the airport. If you're driving from home, the hotel offers free parking.

To learn more:

<http://www.visitcos.com>

Or Google

[Doubletree Hotel Colorado Springs](#)



USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

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

### 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:**

**Tom Sanborn, Treasurer  
USS PYRO Association  
114 Long Point Drive  
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522**