



Spring 2013

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Association**



USS PYRO Scuttlebutt



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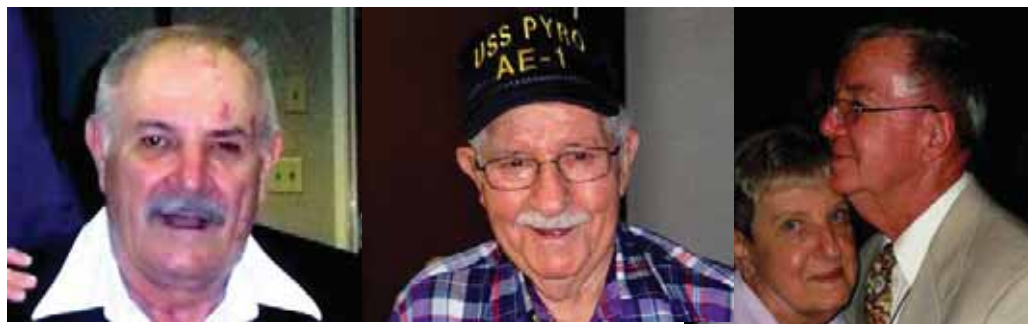
Seattle Reunion: We Still Need a Few Good Men and Women!



Sign up now or he'll fire!

The good news is that more than 50 people have
(Continued on page 6)

Sad Tidings



Is your check in the mail?



Remember annual 2013 Association dues were due in January.

News of the passing of three members of the Pyro family has arrived.

Alan Kuchera (AE-24) died in late 2012; Pearl Harbor Survivor Don Green (AE-1), and Rita Tully, wife of AE-24 quartermaster and former Association President Rick Tully, passed away in March.

All three will be remembered and honored at the 2013 memorial service aboard the USS Turner Joy.

Pyro People

Tom McDaniels named TSA Chief of Staff



Former Pyro (AE-24) Navigator and Communications Officer Thomas C. McDaniels, Jr. was appointed Transportation Security Agency (TSA) Chief of Staff in December 2012.

As Chief of Staff, McDaniels serves as a liaison with Administration and Department of Homeland Security officials and advises the TSA Administrator and senior leadership on matters related to

public and legislative affairs, policy, and strategic planning.

Prior to joining TSA, McDaniels was Chief of Staff for the Rep. Frederica Wilson. From 2008-2011, he was Staff Director for the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security. He was the Federal and State Legislative Coordinator for the Miami-Dade Aviation Department from 2003-2008. Earlier, McDaniels was a staff member of the President's Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses during the Clinton Administration.

Tom declined to comment on reports he has nominated Jared Cameron and Bob Smiley for mandatory strip searches whenever either flies a commercial airline.

Sharon Hamlin — Sewing for Sailors



Fred and Sharon Hamlin have won the Pyro Association 'True Grit' Award two years in a row for defying family medical problems to attend reunions.

Tho a '3-peat' seems unlikely at this writing, Sharon is intent on doing her part to keep the association solvent: She has knitted a set of six doilies/trivets with her usual aristic skill for auction at the 2013 reunion.

We'd rather have the Hamlins in Seattle, but, as we learned in the Navy, AE sailors gotta make do...

Adam Miller Provides Piece of the Pyro for Seattle Auction

Everyone likes a little piece...of the PYRO, that is.

Thanks to shipmate Adam Miller, a chunk of the Pyro's hull will be available at auction during the 2013 Reunion this May in Seattle.

Adam, who lives in New Orleans, joined the cadre of Pyromaniacs who paid last respects AE-24 prior to her disassembly at Southern Recycling in the Crescent City during March 2012.

On a tight deadline that few of us knew about and most missed, Southern Recycling offered souvenir slabs (shown above) — 4.5 inches long, 2 inches tall, weighing approximately three pounds — engraved with AE-24's dates of service — to sentimental sailors.

In an extraordinary act of generosity, Adam, who joined his shipmates in Baton Rouge for the 2012 reunion, has contributed his small, if not light piece of Pyro history to our association.

Thank you, Adam!



Lifetime Membership Card Lag

Of late there has been many a slip between cup and lip when it comes to lifetime membership cards.

This is partially due to a supply chain failure in the Avery forms used in printing the cards and partially due to, well, procrastination by a certain association president who learned to procrastinate aboard the Pyro.

If you are due a lifetime membership card and haven't received it, please write president@ae-24.org. You might attach a photo if you haven't been at a reunion lately or are better looking now than you were then

Whatever you do, please DON'T complain to membership chairperson Kim Box, who will make everyone's life a living Hell until the card is in your hands.

Is it time for a change?



From the President's Desk

As Spring springs — well, at least in the sunny South — preparations for and participation in the 2013 reunion are in good shape, give or take needing the usual suspects to get off the nickel and sign up before the deadline.

It should be a good one and, as first-timers at Baton Rouge and Washington, DC, will attest, whether you served in WWII on AE-1, in Vietnam on AE-24, or during the 1990s in the Pyro's final days, you will be greeted as a brother (or sister!) and have a good time reliving the days when we were young and sure to have our way.

One of the benefits of attending the annual reunion is the opportunity to take part in the annual membership meeting, share your views on the association's direction, discuss future goals and — especially pertinent this year — elect officers (except the treasurer, who was reelected for a two-year term last year).

In my opinion, first vice president Billy Eckstine, second vice president Angel Otero and secretary Doug Wisher have served with skill and dedication above and beyond the call of duty. They certainly deserve retention or promotion — if they're willing to serve another two years.

The president (me!), on the other hand, has, one could argue, fulfilled most, perhaps all of his 'campaign promises,' put together either personally or through delegation, some pretty good reunions and writes a helluva Scuttlebutt. But he/! may well have lost a step, dropping the ball on some things, Memory Books immediately come to mind.

So the question for you to decide is: Is it time for a change?

I think I have a couple more good 'presidential' years in me and am willing to do another term, but it's up to you: The Old Guard or new blood?

Think about it!

Applications close **April 10** for 2013 USS Pyro Scholarships

Are you a USS Pyro vet with a child, grandchild, great grandchild or other kin heading off to college in 2013?

If so, the USS Pyro Association may be able to help with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Applications are now open for 2013 Scholarships. Details and applications are available at: http://www.ae-24.org/Scholarship_2012.pdf. Applications are due by **April 10, 2013**.

Do you want to help worthy Pyro offspring further their education?

Your contributions to the USS Pyro Scholarship Fund are need to continue with this worthy program: Please send your checks to Treasurer Bill Hogan and indicate the contribution is for the Scholarship Fund.

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



...but they do!

USS PYRO ASSOCIATION

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First Vice President

Billy L. Eckstine

Second Vice President

Angel Otero

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Treasurer

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Tom Moulton

Nominating

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Gary Golay

Jasper Strunk

Bill Peregrin's Journal

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. After more than a year's hiatus is the final installment — just as Bill wrote it — from 25 JUL to his discharge in 1961.

25 JUL – Polly continues to remain south of Okinawa. "POLLY" please go away.

27 JUL – At 1614 Finally anchored the ship at berth 17-B at Buckner Bay.

28 JUL – After completing work at Buckner, PYRO is currently scheduled to proceed north to the vicinity of Tokyo Bay. At 1330 departed from Buckner Bay, and are we making it, 90 RPM at 18.6 knots.

30 JUL – On are way to rendezvous with our sister ship USS HALEAKALA AE-25.

Upon completion of underway replenishment PYRO will proceed to Pearl Harbor and then on to Port Chicago. At 1931 hrs arriving back at Yokosuka.

31 JUL – at 0150 Departed Yokosuka, Japan, with two sailors due to be separated and need a ride back to San Francisco.

01 AUG – Underway for Pearl Harbor.

04 AUG – Cross the International date line.

06 AUG – Arrive at Pearl Harbor.

07 AUG – Departed from Pearl Harbor with another sailor to be separated.

12 AUG – Receiving KEWB Radio from San Francisco, Calif.

13 AUG – As noted by Larry Buggeln, "We had the Golden Gate Bridge in sight when the ship made a U-turn and proceeded to a light ship that was on duty. A Lieutenant was high lined to the PYRO, seems his father was gravely ill and he needed to get back to San Francisco to go home.

14 AUG – Sunday arrived at Port Chicago at 1030 hrs. Called home to talk with mom and sister.

15 AUG – Bob Parrott departed from the ship today for separation and so did Tom Gabos.

16 AUG – Larry Buggeln left the ship for the last time.

17 AUG – Standard in-port watches. Lots of shipmates taking leave. Some are leaving for separation. New guys are coming aboard.

02 SEP – Went on liberty to Vallejo with Jim Dickson— first time in fifty days that I was on liberty. Today is Buggeln's birthday 21-years old.

09 SEP – Received a letter from mom today. She bought a new car, a 1960 Nash Rambler.

10 SEP – M J's Birthday.

17 SEP – Departed Port Chicago.

18 SEP – Arrived at San Diego today, more drills.

20 SEP – One year since we left Earle NJ and my girl friend parted.

23 SEP – I turned 96 RPM on the main shift while on the throttle watch.

01 OCT – Departed from San Diego.

03 OCT – Arrived at San Francisco, Calif.

04 OCT – Bob Parrott Birthday.

07 OCT – At Port Chicago.

08 OCT – Three years in the NAVY, I'm eligible for a good conduct medal. We had our first death of a crew member here aboard the ship, he died today. He was a cook striker who came aboard about a month ago. While at San Diego, he got into a fight with a bar tender. The bartender hit him a good one, my guess; he had a concussion of the brain. He was only 19 and had no reason for being in a bar while in the States.

09 OCT – My buddy Jim Dickson leaves the ship next week and I'm to take his place in the log room as log room P.O. Fireman Larry Preston will be the log room Yeoman. Dickson said all he does is set around and drink coffee. Guess I will never go to the machine shop.

13 OCT – WOW! Received word that I would advance to MR2/c on 16 NOV.

21 OCT – Took a Jet flight from San Francisco to Los Angeles to visit with Larry and his family in Torrance CA. Larry Buggeln introduces me to a very pretty girl named Donna Wregley. She is 19 and has her own car that her father fixed up for her. She is a very nice girl, but I still have the other girl in my heart.

15 NOV – Well I've been put in charge of the machine shop with Holkenbrink MR3/C Working under me. Holkenbrink went on leave and came back married; now he is a brown bagger and has an apartment in town.

16 NOV – Now I'm in "A" division but I still stand watch in "M" division and Thurman MM1/C is my LPO (leading petty officer). Duty section two.

17 NOV – Harold Wolf and Mark Grimmer are working on me to take Christmas leave. I lost my girl friend, so why bother to go home at this time? Ed Walters bought a car, it's a 1949 Packard and they



(Continued on page 5)

Bill Peregrin's Journal

(Continued from page 4)

need 4 or 5 guys to make the trip back to Pennsylvania.

18 NOV – Have a 72 hour liberty pass or long weekend. Took a Jet flight from San Francisco to Los Angeles to visit with Larry and Donna.

19 NOV – Change of Command Capt. Donald Cramer relieves Capt. Beebe.

24 NOV – Thanksgiving. Wolf and Grimmer are still working on me to take leave.

29 NOV – Filled out a special request for annual leave from 0001 12 DEC 1960 to 2400 27 DEC 1960. It was approved.

01 DEC – Thought about taking a flight to Los Angeles, but decided to save my money to go on leave.

12 DEC - Well, there are five of us in the "49" Packard and were heading across country.

13 DEC – WE drove through the states of Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, and Iowa heading for Chicago, Illinois.

14 DEC – Through Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania to PA turnpike. On to Harrisburg where Ed Walters lives. I have to take a train to Trenton NJ because of 18 inches of snow on the ground.

25 DEC – 1330 hrs. Christmas day leave Langhorne via PA turn pike in my moms Nash Rambler to meet Ed Walters in Harrisburg at 1530. Took two hours to drive 112 miles.

I said goodbye to my mother and we were on are way. At 1900 picked up Wolf and Grimmer near Pittsburg. Then taking the Ohio turnpike, we got to the western border at 2325. As we pay the Ohio toll Ed hears a noise coming from the rear wheel. Inspection of the wheel shows nothing, but the wheel is very hot to the touch. The toll Collector tells us about a repair station off of the turn pike and gives us the telephone number and directions. The toll collector says he call the guy and tell him that we have an emergency.

26 DEC – 0030 We find the repair shop in Fremont, Indiana. We all fell asleep waiting for the guy to show up. At 0830 the repair guy shows up for work and checks out the wheel, he then pulls out the axel and tells us in order to fix the car it needs a axel and new bearing. He then leaves in his truck and comes back in 40 minutes with a used axel and new bearing. I think it was \$35.00 parts and labor. At 1230 we're back on the road, but lost 12 hours on our travel time. Heading west toward the Chicago area we pick up our fifth passenger and continue south west through Illinois to Springfield and take route 36.

27 DEC – Now we're traveling through Missouri,

Kansas and Colorado. At 1000 hours On Hwy # 36 about 100 miles east of Denver CO. and it's snowing. We stopped off at Harold Wolf's aunt's house. She feed us lunch and we all took a shower and put on a change of clean clothes. At 1330 we left Denver and took Hwy RT.36 to route 40 in Utah. Next stop I called the ship and spoke to Mr. Marcus and told him about our predicament, but he didn't want to hear it. So I put Walters on the phone since he owned the car.

Somewhere in the Wasatch mountains of Utah it got better cold. The car heater wasn't working that good and the three of us in the back set did not get any heat so we stuffed our legs into are duffel bags and put on PEA coats and watch caps to keep warm. While going up a steep mountain the car started loosing power. Ed tried putting the car in reverse and backing up the mountain but that didn't work ether. We came back down the mountain to get more gas, and the engine seemed to be running better and I found a flashlight just in case. Up the mountain again and the same thing happened. This time we popped the hood and took off the air breather. Ah! no wonder, the choke was closed because it was soooo cold and we didn't have any way to adjust it. I opened the choke and stuffed a pencil down the carburetor. We got on are way and the motor got its power back.

28 DEC – we are on route 50 in Nevada and its about 0730 and the road signs say Carson City 10 miles ahead. We decide to stop for some breakfast before we get to Carson City. After we had eaten, I got some silver dollars in change so I started playing the slot machine. On my last dollar, I won and got \$25.00 back.

At about 1300 on the 28th of December we arrived back aboard the ship. Mr. Marcus gave us a tongue lecture and pulled our Liberty cards for four days.

05 JAN - Filled out a Special request application for early separation to attend Thomas Edison vocational college in Trenton, New Jersey.

16 JAN – Underway to San Diego so that the new captain can get the feel of the ship and hold replenishment exercises. Change of plan.

17 JAN – We are going to Seal Beach, Calif.

18 JAN – Seal Beach, Naval Weapons Station. Underway for Port Chicago.

26 JAN 1961 – My special request was approved. Grimmer and I are reporting to Treasure Island Naval Station for separation.

Out of the NAVY and headed for home.....

Sign up now!

(Continued from page 1)

already shipped on for 2013 Reunion hijinks. One Duck Boat is already filled and we're moving toward justifying a second boatload so all reunion participants can sail with Pyro shipmates, not be forced go down to the sea in boats with landlubber civilians. So far, so good!

The not so good news: Both the hotel and suppliers seem pretty firm in their intentions to stick to the deadlines for booking rooms at the heavily discounted Pyro rates and places on our tours.

Yes, you've heard it all before, but **now** is the time to reserve your place! Otherwise, it might be YOU pulling your hair out instead of the association officers you love to torture by waiting until the last minute!



Seattle Points of Interest

Seattle has many unique points of interests people identify with. Here are a few ideas and links to help you plan your visit:

Seattle Icons

[Space Needle](#)

[Seattle Great Wheel](#) Waterfront Ferris wheel

[Famous Graves](#)

[Original Starbucks](#)

[Fremont Troll](#)

[Bill Gates House](#)

[Experience Music Project](#)

[Hammering Man](#)

[Hat N' Boots](#)

Views

Among the best things about Seattle are the wonderful mountain and water views. Here are links to some of the best places to enjoy Seattle's scenery.

- **Columbia Tower Observation Deck** There is an observation deck on the 73rd floor of Columbia Tower, at 701 Fifth Avenue, which offers views of Seattle and environs, along with a Starbucks coffee shop.
- [Smith Tower Observation Deck](#) The Smith Tower was once the tallest building west of the Mississippi. Its location near the downtown waterfront and Pioneer Square provides fantastic views of the City.
- [Space Needle Observation Deck](#) On the grounds of Seattle Center, the Space Needle Observation Deck provides 360 degree views from 520 feet above sea level. You can also view the webcam from the top of the space needle at this site.
- [Viewpoints](#) There are lovely viewpoints all over the City maintained by the Seattle Department of

Parks and Recreation. This site provides a comprehensive list of viewpoints with photos and directions.

Downtown Seattle and Waterfront

[Pioneer Square](#)

[Pike Place Market](#)

[Myrtle Edwards Park](#)

[Seattle Art Museum](#)

[Seattle Aquarium](#)

[Seattle Public Library](#)

[Seattle Waterfall Garden](#) Secluded waterfall garden in Pioneer Square, located at 219 2nd Avenue South

[Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park](#)

International District

[Uwajimaya](#)

[Wing Luke Museum](#)

Capitol Hill

[Seattle University](#)

[Volunteer Park](#)

Seattle Asian Art Museum

[Seattle Center](#)

[Seattle Children's Museum](#)

[Space Needle](#)

[Seattle Monorail](#)

[Pacific Science Center](#)

[Experience Music Project](#)

[Queen Anne Hill](#)

[Seattle Pacific University](#)

[Golden Gardens](#)

[Nordic Heritage Museum](#)

Ballard Locks and Ship Canal

[Green Lake](#)

[Green Lake Park](#)

[Woodland Park Zoo](#)

[Lake Union](#)

Sleepless in Seattle

**Reunion 2013
May 15-19, 2013**



Hotel Information



Reunion headquarters

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport - Southcenter

6500 Southcenter Parkway, Seattle, Washington, 98188-3388, USA TEL: 1-206-575-8220

The rate for a **one-bedroom suite** with free Internet, free breakfast, free airport transfers, free parking, free shuttle bus to nearby shopping/dining venues and free parking is \$109. With tax, that comes to about \$120 a night, a pretty good deal for very pricey Seattle.

Here's how to book: (Lot's of choices, but we recommend calling the hotel directly. And be sure to use the group code!) Why not book now?

Group Name: USS Pyro AE-1 and AE-24 Association

Group Code: PYR

Check-in: 15-MAY-2013

Check-out: 19-MAY-2013

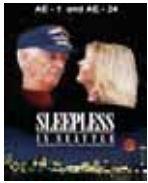
Hotel Name: DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport - Southcenter

Front Desk: 206-575-8220

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS BY PHONE:

Toll-Free Reservations Assistance: 800-222-8733, Please provide your Group Code as indicated above

*Information on this and the following pages is accurate at the time of publication;
times and other details may change as the reunion nears!*



Sleepless in Seattle

Reunion 2013 May 15-19, 2013

Activities



Registration and Welcome Aboard Registration.

(All participants in any reunion event must register!)

This covers the hospitality room — with free adult and non-adult beverages plus snacks — throughout the reunion period and the welcome reception. \$25 per person.



Seattle Duck tour, Space Needle and Seattle City Tour: Since you're in Seattle, you really should see Seattle' area's top attractions. You'll see all the major sights of Seattle including the Space Needle, the Seattle waterfront, historic Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, the downtown shopping district and funky Fremont neighborhood. Then, SPLASH into Lake Union for a look at Gasworks Park, the Sleepless in Seattle houseboat and a breathtaking view of the skyline. Along the way, the captains will play music, share jokes and tell you about the city! Every shipmate who has done the Duck — even 'wet-blanket, anti-tourism President Cameron — thinks this is fun! After the Duck, we'll have time for lunch and/or to tour the Space Needle (on your own nickel; we're trying to keep costs down in not-so-cheap Seattle) before heading downtown to check out the shopping at Pike Street Market and see other area attractions the Duck didn't quack at. 9:30—3:30-ish.

(Here's the rub: Our charter bus from the hotel downtown accommodates 46 or 53 people; the Duck only holds 39. So we can only guarantee a seat on the chartered Duck for the first 39 folks who sign up. If we only get a few more than 39 reservations, we can arrange to book them on a scheduled Duck. If we get 12 or so more participants, we can charter a second Duck. So — tho contrary to the Pyro spirit — early booking can save disappointment. Please sign up for this tour ASAP!)



Remembering the departed on the USS Turner Joy, Bremerton Naval Museum. As always, the Memorial Service is the emotional heart of our reunion. We'll depart our hotel by chartered coach and head for Bremerton, WA, on the other side of the water (by auto-ferry, weather permitting.) We'll board the USS Turner Joy for the traditional remembrance of departed comrades and tour the ship. After departing the Turner Joy, we'll visit the Bremerton Naval Museum, where if Bob Hauge and Bob Smith are yo be believed, the ship's bell from the USS Pyro (AE-1) is on display with other Navy memorabilia. 9:30 — 3:00-ish.

USS Pyro Association Membership Meeting. Election of officers, scholarships and much more. Saturday 10:30 am to noon. Free!

Awards Banquet – Group photos, cocktail, great dinner and dancing. We'll gather for cocktails (free, if we can get Washington State's arcane liquor laws worked our) at about 6:30, then pose for group and individual photos before sitting down to a great dinner, award presentations, roasts (?), raffles and auctions. Then we'll have entertainment, dancing and the general misbehavior that is a Pyro-maniac reunion tradition.

USS PYRO Association

Sleepless in Seattle

May 15-19, 2013 DoubleTree Suites, Seattle Airport/Southcenter

REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Name

Spouse/Guest

Other Guest

Address

City

State

ZIP

TEL:

E-mail:

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 15 May 2013

18:00 **Reunion Registration/ Welcome Aboard Reception.** *(All participants in any reunion event must register.)*

\$25.00 per Person

Number of Persons Per person \$ **25.00** 25.00 Total \$ 0.00

Thursday 16 May 2013

0930 **Seattle Duck tour, Space Needle and Seattle City Tour**

\$45.00 per person

Number of Persons Per person \$ **45.00** 45.00 Total \$ 0.00

Friday 17 May 2013

0930 **Remembering the departed on the USS Turner Joy, Bremerton Naval Museum**

\$30.00 per person

Number of Persons Per person \$ **30.00** 30.00 Total \$ 0.00

Saturday 18 May 2013

1930 **Awards Banquet – Group photos, cocktail, great dinner and dancing**

\$55.00 per person

Number of Persons Per person \$ 55.00 Total \$ 0.00

Total amount of enclosed check payable to **USS Pyro Association** \$ 0.00

To complete your registration, please mail this form and check to:

**Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901**

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

FIRST CLASS MAIL
Address Correction Requested

Forwarding and Return Mail Guaranteed

USS PYRO ASSOCIATION
Douglas Wisher, secretary
1011 Edgehill Rd.
Covington, KY 41011

Email:
wisherdj@fuse.net



*** THE PRIDE AND TRADITION FOREVER ***

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



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

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