



SAMP.S.O'NITE'S NEWS

February 2002 - Newsletter of the USS Sampson Association

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The Chief says (by Don Shirey)

The reunion in Chicago was an intimate affair. With only ten shipmates and 5 spouses present we had some real quality time together. Marty Hanson lived up to his word, and presented a busy but interesting schedule.

Thursday evening we gathered in our hospitality room for get-together chats. We were up early on Friday for a 7AM ride in a 15-passenger van driven by Marty to NTC Great Lakes. We had a long walk to the Recruit MCPON Building where we were assigned seats. I looked a bit tuckered, so the Recruit on Watch summoned another recruit with a wheel chair for me. He took me to the reviewing stand and got waved off, but when the chief saw the E-9 pin on my Sampson Cap I was very courteously seated in the top row.

After the graduation ceremony for 986 out of 1000 recruits, their largest class this year, I talked with some of the new sailors and some of the recruits while waiting for Marty to pick me up. The intelligence and motivation level of those whom I talked to impressed me. Two DI's said they would rather have five of that class than 10 of their era graduates report to them on a ship.

I am already looking forward to attending my step-grandson's graduation at about the same time next year, and my grandson, and my scout buddy's graduation from Parris Island in the Spring. My first grandson is already in the 10th Mountain Div in Washington. Time flies!

On Saturday we were chauffeured to the Museum Campus and/or Museum of Science on the lakefront. After a day of walking everybody was

ready for the open bar and the delicious banquet. We ate, made a videotape to send to Bill Kokilla, and then proceeded to hold our biennial business meeting with eleven members present (Jim Krech arrived in time to eat). The meeting was called to order.

There was quite a bit of discussion about the '03 reunion. Keeping the reunion on the east coast was the primary argument, but we recalled that the majority at the '99 reunion selected a western locale (either Nashville, Branson or Las Vegas). We felt obligated to stick to that concept. Bob Jones lives in CA and has previously held reunions in Las Vegas for other ships. He offered to be our on-site man, making all arrangements.

(What does the picture look like so far Gunner?)

A vote was taken to accept GMC Jones offer and to authorize him to seek out typical room, meal and entertainment rates and report back to the officers of the association. Preliminary estimates should be available 7/30/02 and firm price and agenda by 1/1/03. We will need to plan on a non-refundable reservation fee to build a cushion into the package and to avoid being burned at checkout time.

I then informed the members of my deteriorating health, but that I wanted to remain in office at their pleasure in order to take any hits regarding the decisions made for 2003. It happened on my watch and I don't want my successor blamed for my decisions. I then asked for someone in relatively good health and mobility to run for the office of Vice President. FCCM Fred Wright agreed to run. Master Chief is retired and still sails the seven seas with his wife in their sailboat Skookum.

The following slate of officers were elected by acclamation:

President	Don Shirey
Vice President	Fred Wright
Secretary/Treasurer	Dave Barndt
Membership	Joe Tenzer
Newsletter	Ted Unser
2003 Reunion	Bob Jones

The meeting was adjourned and shipmates retired to small discussion groups to finish consuming the libations provided by Dave Brandt.

Don Shirey, President

2005 Reunion

NOW is the time to tell us what you want for '05 Reunion and where and when you want it. Do you want to stick with the East Coast or go inland? Do you want one of the port cities or a laid back inland, small town? Do you want packaged entertainment, or can we just gather and do what comes naturally. Would you rather a guided tour or sit back and tell sea stories over a few cool ones. By 2005 many of us will be well into our seventies, and no matter how pretty our spouses may be, their endurance is fading, maybe not as fast as ourselves, but never the less, fading. Our pocket books are fading as fast as our hair too.

DUES DUES DUES

Your dues are either:

Paid for 2002 _____

or

You owe \$_____.00

Note: The Sampson Association dues are the least expensive of any service organization that we are familiar with. We depend on prompt payment of your dues. (2 years advance accepted)

Make check payable to:

USS Sampson DDG10 Association

Send to:

Dave Brandt
One Ridge Lake Dr
Manning, SC 29102-9512

Membership

Help us increase the size of our membership. Contact any old shipmates and see if they are interested in joining the association. If you have access to the internet, use that to search for old shipmates.

Looking for Memorabilia

Jerry Sawick is looking for a ships patch and a shoulder patch from the Sampson.

If you can help him out, contact Jerry at:

Jerry Sawick
1925 Gold Stripe
San Andreas, CA 95249

Association Officers

President	Don Shirey (64-68) 4865 Glen Ivy Lane #209 Roanoke, VA 24018-7711 ☎ (580) 776-0808 djshirey@cox.net
Vice president	Fred Wright 3221 Deer Park Dr Virginia Beach, VA 23452 ☎ (775) 340-2310
Secretary/Treasurer	Dave Brandt (65-70) 1 Ridge Lake Drive Manning, SC 29102 ☎ (803) 478-2617 drbrandt@ftc-i.net
Membership	Joe Tenzer (61-62) PO Box 1089 Darby, MT 59829 ☎ (406) 821-1040 JTJHT@aol.com
Reunion	Bob Jones 36200-101 Paradise Ranch Rd RR1 Castaic, CA 91384 ☎ (661) 295-0350
Newsletter	Ted Unser (64-67) 1941 Woodmont Court Marietta, GA 30062 ☎ (770) 977-3707 ted.unser@worldnet.att.net

From the Editor

If there is information you would like included or excluded from the newsletter please let me know. I will try to accommodate and balance everyone's requests.

Send or email any comments, articles, stories, or pictures to the address below:

Ted Unser
1941 Woodmont Court
Marietta, GA 30062
☎ (770) 977-3707
ted.unser@worldnet.att.net

Sampson (DDG10) Ship's Store

Sampson ballcaps, black (one size fits all)	\$8.50
Tee Shirts, dark blue (large and extra large)	\$11.00
Color photo of Sampson, 3 1/2 X 5 (no shipping charge)	\$1.00
Video of:	\$8.00
Operations at Sea	
Homecoming	
Desert Storm	
Decommissioning	
Ceremonies	
Shipping for all items other than pictures	\$3.00

Make check payable to:

USS Sampson DDG10 Association

Contact:

Dave Brandt
One Ridge Lake Dr
Manning, SC 29102-9512
☎ (803) 478-2617
drbrandt@ftc-i.net

Shipmates in Distress

George Queen (by Don Shirey)

This is a brief note on BTCS George Queen. Does anyone know his whereabouts? He suffered a massive stroke about 3 or 4 years ago and went to a nursing home in NC? My wife kept in touch with Ima Jean, until last year. This year her card was returned "No Forwarding Address".

If anyone has a lead on him or any other shipmate who is sick or in distress, please contact me for follow-up. We want to maintain the fellowship of our years in Sampson as long as we possibly can. It would be a shame for a shipmate to answer that last muster with the Supreme Commander without the support and prayers of his old shipmates.

Bill Kokilla (by Don Shirey)

I just got off the phone with Jan Kokilla. Bill is at home and his condition has stabilized. She has him under the care of a Doctor of Holistic Medicine and he is able to tolerate and receive nourishment from the natural medicines and food that is prescribed. She gets him out of the house once in a while, and he is alert.

She reports that he was captivated and enchanted by the tape we sent him from the reunion. He apparently recognized each of us, John Tyran, Dave Brandt, Fred Wright and myself. His eyes follow our every gesture, tears well up and at times he tries to talk back to the tape.

They do not own a VCR and cannot afford one. They played our tape on a borrowed machine until the owner taped over our segment. The shipmates who made the tape may have immeasurably contributed to the partial restoration of Bill's cognitive capabilities.

NOW HEAR THIS

All hands from the 1966-68 era on Sampson are requested to send FTG1 Bill Kokilla, 2nd Div. Gun Plot, a short tape of greetings and reminiscences. Try talking in that era first and then offer a greeting in today's parlance. ALL HANDS are requested to keep Bill and Jan in their prayers. Thank you.

Here is how you can help Bill Kokilla.

If anyone has an old VCR that they have replaced with a DVD, please consider sending it to Bill. His medications and special diet consumes the majority of their income, so the gift of a used VCR would be most appreciated.

Call Jan Kokilla at 1-978-663-3377 to make the arrangements.

Their address is:

Bill Kokilla
20 Christina Ave.
Billerica, MA 01821-5522.

Don Shirey (by Don Shirey)

I have been to the VA almost weekly for various ailments:

- heart catheterization to clear scar tissue from May 2000 stent
- colonoscopy for polyps and diverticulosis
- visit with neurosurgeon for spinal stenosis (pinching nerves in back, causing neuropathy in legs and feet)
- left knee falls out of sync causing stumbles.

I need a cane almost all the time now. I have filled claims for increased VA Comp, but don't know if I'll get any more. I am 80% + Unemployability allowance for nominal 100%. I need and want full 100% to ensure care for all of my non-service disabilities and eventual financial benefit for my wife.

**Here is how you can help Don Shirey.
SPECIAL REQUEST MAST**

If you have not already done so please write your Congressman and two Senators, as well as the President of US, Speaker of the House, and Senate Whip, now before congress reconvenes in the 108th session. Remind them that this is an election year and urge them to express their concern to the Speaker, Whip and Budget Committee who are personally responsible for not funding this in the 2002 budget despite overwhelming House and Senate support and endorsement, and to immediately provide funds in the 2003 budget the recently passed, but unfunded, legislation to allow military retiree's to concurrently receive full Military Retired pay and VA Disability Comp.

I have forfeited over \$240,000 since August '71. Then 10% was \$37 a month, but now 100% is \$2037 a month. I would like to receive a full paycheck from the Navy before I die. I don't want my son, a disabled USN retiree to say " *He was just like his dad a private in the USA Medical Corps of WW I AEF in France who died in 1975 of lung cancer from gassing, and like his uncle a private in the USMC who died in 1962 of disabilities from injuries in Philippines during Spanish-American War, both of whom spent a life time of pain waiting for an expression of gratitude from their "ever grateful government"*".

Thanks for your help.

Chicago 2001 Reunion Pictures



Don and Teresa Stevenson



Susan and James Turner



Kirk and Grace Anderson



Fred and Betty Wright



Connie and Frank Valenza, Tom Sawick



Carol Jones, Bob Jones, and Don Shirey



(Top row, left to right) Marty Hanson, Joe Tenzer, Fred Wright, Jim Krech, Frank Valenza, Bob Jones, John Tyran

(Bottom row, left to right) Don Stevenson, James Turner, Kirk Anderson, Dave Brandt, Don Shirey

Life Membership Application

LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION USS SAMPSON ASSOCIATION

Personal Information
Date: _____

(Last Name)		(First Name, MI)		(Spouse Name)	
(Address)					
(City)			(ST)	(ZIP +4)	
(E-Mail Address)		(Web Site)		(Birth Date)	
Division	Rank/Rate	Yrs on Bd	Plank Owner		
Service	Retired	Age	Highest Rank		

LIFE Membership is based on your age and is:

AGE GROUP	FEE	40 to 44	\$210	60 to 64	\$120
29 and Younger	\$295	45 to 49	\$180	65 to 69	\$105
30 to 34	\$265	50 to 54	\$160	70 to 74	\$80
35 to 39	\$235	55 to 59	\$140	75 and older	\$50

NOTE: 1. You may pay the full life membership fee in one payment or in ten equal monthly installments. If you prefer to pay monthly, you should send an initial installment of one tenth of the total fee for your age group with this application. We will enter your life membership and send you your membership card. You will be expected to forward balance of monthly payments in a timely manner. Your certificate will be forwarded upon receipt of final payment. In the event a member paying on the installment plan finds that he can not continue to make monthly payments, all monies previously paid will be credited to paid up annual dues, currently \$10.00.

NOTE 2. Any dues currently paid in advance may be applied to reduce the fee for your age group

NOTE 3. Please return to Dave Brandt, Secretary, USS SAMPSON ASSOCIATION, 1 Ridge Lake Drive, Manning SC 29102-9512

USS SAMPSON ASSOCIATION

March 2001

USS Sampson
1 Ridge Lake Drive
Manning, SC 29102

