



The Fantail Scuttlebutt

Official Publication of the

USS Salamonie Association

“Any Time, Any Where, Any Weather”

Issue # 27
November, 2003

Hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Prayers for the ill and wishes for a speedy recovery. Our sympathy to everyone who has lost a loved one.

Several new and important items in this issue.

Reunion – Niagara Falls-Buffalo 2004:
JUNE 17 – 20, 2004
PARK PLAZA AIRPORT BUFFALO
4243 GENESEE STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
(716) 634-2300
1-800-814-7000

Wed, June 16, we (Grahams) will be arriving. Anyone who would like to come before June 17th or stay after June 20th will get the same room rate of \$75.00 per night for single/double/twin/triple/quad in the main building. For the club level, single/double is \$89.00. All sleeping room rates are net, non-commissionable and are subject to all applicable taxes. Each individual will be responsible for they're own room, tax and incidental charges. Cut off date is June 6, 2004.

RESERVATION METHOD:

Individual reservation may be made by calling the hotel directly at: **(716) 634-2300 or 1-800-814-7000**

When making your reservations you must identify yourself as members of the Salamonie group. All reservations must be made by 4 weeks prior to June 16, 2004 and a deposit of at least one night in the form of a check, money order or credit card.

Banquet Menu – Saturday night- 06-19-2004

Choice of Broiled fish,
Roast Prime Rib of Beef,
And a combination sliced Filet Mignon & Stuffed
Chicken Breast.

If anyone wishes a vegetarian plate they need to specify when they send in the money for the banquet tickets. Tickets are \$35.00 per person.

A hospitality room will be made available for us. Continental breakfast Buffet and Full breakfast buffet will be set up in the café. Each guest should wear their name badge to receive 20% off the standard rates at that time. We have to have the banquet money in to the hotel by 10 days prior to our arrival.

Send Banquet and tours check to:

Tom Graham
11 Wood Drive
Enfield, CT. 06082
(860) 698-9911

Check in time begins at 3:00 PM.

If anyone arrives before that time and your room is ready, you will be allowed to get into your room. If not ready, they will have a place for you to store your luggage. Check out time is 12:00 noon on the day of your departure.

TOURS: SATURDAY: JUNE 19, 2004

Naval & Military Park and Buffalo City Tour.
The Buffalo Naval Park is the largest inland park of its type in the nation. Tour the USS Little Rock, The USS

Sullivans, and the WWII USS Croaker submarine. There will also be a short wreath ceremony for us. Lunch will be served on the fantail of the USS Little Rock. Take time to visit the museum that includes uniforms and memorabilia along with two rooms depicting the Korean War Veterans and individuals that served on destroyer escorts.

A driving tour of the City of Buffalo features famous architectural and historical sites. If time allows, we will visit the world famous "Our Lady of Victory Basilica National Shrine". Tour includes: Deluxe Motor Coach, naval park Entrance Fee, Lunch, City Tour and licensed Tour Guide. Tour time: 6 hours – cost \$47.00 p.p.

**NIAGARA FALLS TOUR:
FRIDAY: JUNE 18, 2004**

Note: Passengers are responsible for having with them proper documentation when crossing and Internal Border. All U.S. citizens must have either Birth Certificate along with picture I.D, "OR" a passport. (Outdated accepted) DMS cannot be responsible for any passenger denied entry at the Border. Return will be the passenger's responsibility and "NO" refunds will be issued. After crossing into Canada via one of our international Bridges, we drive along the flower-lined streets of Queen Victoria Park, bordering the Niagara Gorge. A stop at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls with time on your own to take pictures, stroll the area, visit the Gift Shop or have lunch. (Cost on your own)

Continue sightseeing: Niagara Greenhouse, Sir Henry Oakes Garden Theater, Spanish Aero Car, Queens land Heights Park, Clifton Hill, Casino Niagara, School of Horticulture and the world famous Floral Clock. Take time for a cruise on the Maid of the Mist. (Cost on your own) Your tour guide will assist you. Enjoy dinner overlooking the fall in the Penthouse of the Sheraton Hotel. Tour includes: Deluxe motor Coach, Sightseeing, Dinner, Tolls, parking and Professional Tour Guide. Options Available: Maid of the Mist Cruise, Journey Behind the Falls, Niagara parks Botanical Gardens. TOUR TIME: 6 Hours Cost \$59.00 p.p.

Event Photography:

They will do the reunion album for us. They are the same one's who did our Dayton Album. The hotel said that a shuttle van is, for all guest, to be used within a 5-mile radius. They will have shuttle service to and from the airport. Notify them of your

schedule. There are several churches in the area for those who want to go to church on Sunday. Be sure to inform the hotel if you are in need of a handicap room.

NEW – "LIFE MEMBERSHIP"

It is with the recommendation of the officers and trustees to go with the following:

Age	70-74	\$80.00	Life Membership
Age	75-79	\$60.00	Life Membership
Age	80-84	\$40.00	Life Membership
Age	85 –UP	FREE	Life Membership

Please make checks payable for Life Membership to Tom Keske, Treasurer.

Dues: Dues beginning January 1, 2004, \$20.00 for the year. We have a new dues card this year. Please remit your dues to Tom Keske.

Treasurers Report: No outstanding bills. All funds combined. Balance 10/20/03 \$3752.32

Tom Keske
771 127th Av. NE.
Blaine, MN 55434-3185

Red Hat Ladies – Warren, Indiana

They are still sending 4 care packages a month to the troops in harms way (Iraq). The Salamonie association made a donation for postage before and we would like to carry on with this program. Donations (\$) will be accepted to help with postage for care packages to the troops. +Mark donations+ "TROOPS" and send to me and I will get the money to Ms: Lilly Nutter. She is the lady in charge of this operation.

Donation

There is a small child that was severely burned in a house fire in Warren, Indiana. The family is faced with severe hardship and the Salamonie donated \$200.00 to the family for immediate help in their time of severe need.

Web Site:

www.salamomie.homestead.com

The USS SALAMONIE web site has been a huge success, thanks to Tom Applegate. Tom is also our veteran's service officer and if you need any help or information, feel free to call upon him.

tom.applegate@huntington.in.us

Office Number: (260) 358-4863

The many links that Tom has for us are very invaluable for all.

Medals:

There are some new service medals that have come out and many crewmembers are eligible for them. Please check them out at our web page. There is not enough room in the newsletter for all this information.

MUSEUM:

Our Museum is progressing along nicely from the reports that have come my way. Personnel who have to perform civic duty by the courts are painting the room. We are still in need of any and all items that you may wish to donate to the museum in your name.

TREASURE FIND:

Mr. Ken Burks and Mr. Jim Hail of Tennessee contacted me about an oil painting of the ESSO COLUMBIA before she became the USS Salamonie. It is an oil painting of the ESSO Columbia/USS Salamonie that was painted by "Spencer Wight" who was a noted painter, who painted it prior to her USN commission. The portrait was given to Mr. Hail from his father-in-law, Thomas H. Reid, who was the brother of Edith Reid Holman, who was married to Eugene Holman. Mrs. Holman was the person who christened the ESSO Columbia.

It was to be a gift to ESSO/EXXON President and Chairman of the Board, Eugene Holman by his wife. Ms. Holman's brother told me that the Columbia was the first ESSO ship to be named after a country. The Columbia is shown at sea being escorted by a fighter plane.

On November 1st, Ms. Morrison is going to go to Louisville to meet with Mr. Burks and pick up the painting for the museum on behalf of the USS Salamonie. At a later date there will be a formal public unveiling and presentation to the museum in the name of the Holman estates.

SHIP'S STORES:

Book (Memories Of Ole Sal)	\$20.00 ppd
Hat	\$12.00 ppd
Patch	\$12.00 ppd
Lapel Pin	\$12.00 ppd

Bumper Sticker \$ 5.00 ppd
Memorial tape (order from Tom Applegate)
(Check web site for further information)

Book:

If you have a library or museum or school and would like to donate a copy of "Memories of Ole Sal", then contact me and we will donate a book in your name."

AGAIN: PLEASE:

If your Telephone number, area code, mailing address, zip code, or e-mail has changed. PLEASE let me know. If someone is ill or who has passed away and you hear or know about it. Please let me know.

The following people have moved and forgot to give me a forwarding address: Does anyone know them or know where they are now?

Alvin E. Bastifell	CA.
Clyde J. Colwell	VA.
Robert Moore	OR.
Romeo Peralta	CA.
G. R. Pronovost	MA.

New Find: Welcome Aboard

Donald L. Meath	FTGSN61-62
Leonard Rusin	SHC 67-68
Steven Rank	SN 63-65
Robert A. Stockwell	SN 57-59
Bill (WM) Fuller	MM3 44-45

Deceased – Honor Roll:

The following Crewmen have been entered in our Honor Roll of Departed Crewmembers.

Robert Frank Caldwell	41-43
Ray C. Sturdeon	MM3 55-57
John T. Karas	SN/IC 42-45
John J. Flynn	LCDR 67-68
Jack Everett	? ?
Richard Redmayne	CAPT 62-63

"OPERATION ARGUS"

In late August and early September of 1958, U.S. Navy Task Force 88, consisting of nine ships and approximately 4,500 men, secretly conducted three high-altitude nuclear tests in the South Atlantic.

The code name was ARGUS. In each of these tests, the task force launched from the missile trials ship, USS Norton Sound (AVM-1), a specially modified X-17, a

three stage ballistic missile carrying a low-yield nuclear warhead, which was detonated high in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Upon completion of these launchings on September 6, the task force departed the operating area for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and thence to homeports in the United States.

This report details Department of Defense personnel participation in these tests, with an emphasis on radiological safety.

These tests were conducted in complete secrecy and were not announced until the following year.

The organization conducting these tests was Task Force 88, a naval organization consisting of nine ships and approximately 4,500 men.

A few specialists from the other services and Atomic Energy Commission and their contractors were with the fleet.

Coordinated measurement programs using, the services and other government agencies and contractors throughout the world carried out satellite, rocket, aircraft, and surface stations results.

The ships of Task force 88 were the antisubmarine carrier **USS Tarawa (CVS-40)**, the destroyers **USS Bearss (DD-654)** and **USS Warrington (DD-843)**, the destroyer escorts **USS Courtney (DE-1021)** and **USS Hammerberg (DE-1015)**, the fleet oilers **USS Neosho (AO-143)** and **USS Salamonie (AO-26)**, the missile trials ship, **USS Norton Sound (AVM-1)**, and the seaplane tender **USS Albemarle (AV-5)**.

The low-yield (1-to-2 KT) devices were lifted to about a 300-mile altitude by rockets fired from the Norton Sound.

The denotations occurred at such a distance above the Earth that there was no possibility of exposure of the task force personnel to ionizing radiation.

(For the rest of this article go to the Salamonie web site and click on Operation Argus.)

Thank you to LTjg Douglas J. Hinds 58-59 for making us aware of Operation Argus

MESOTHELIOMA (FYI ONLY)

Asbestos has been used in a number of occupations. (Welders, Plumbers, Pipefitters, Boilermakers, Electricians, Sailors-Navy & Merchant Marine)

Furthermore, a number of former military personnel, **PARTICULARLY NAVAL**, came into contact with asbestos during their service.

Massive amount of asbestos were used in shipbuilding and commercial construction prior to the mid 1970's.

Anyone involved with those industries is at a high risk for developing an asbestos-related disease, including mesothelioma.

Exposure may have been direct or indirect, lengthy or brief.

A unique feature of asbestos-related injuries is the long latency period between exposure to asbestos and the onset of the injury or disease. For mesotheliomas, the latency period is between **15 and 50** years or more.

This means that a person could have been exposed to asbestos **50** years ago, and develops mesothelioma today. The average mesothelioma latency period is approximately **35 – 40 years**.

The occurrence of mesothelioma is ten times higher in men between the ages of **60-70** as compared to men between the ages of **30-40**.

NOTE: This article is for your information only and not meant to scare you.

We were all exposed to the microns of dust from the ventilation systems of the ship and especially for all hands that worked below deck.

Sorry for the small print of this issue, but we had a lot to say.

Happy Holidays:

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