



The Fantail Scuttlebutt

Official Publication of the

USS Salamonie Association

Issue # 32

“Any Time, Any Where, Any Weather”

April 2005

www.salamonie.homestead.com

This issue of The Fantail Scuttlebutt is dedicated in memory of:

LCDR Keith Edward Taylor, USNR.

LCDR Taylor made the supreme sacrifice for his country in Iraq, January 29, 2005.

Keith was killed in a rocket attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.

LCDR Taylor leaves behind his wife Diane, three daughters, 13, 10, and 18 months, a brother and sister.

Keith is the son of George and Edith Taylor. (George is a former shipmate of the USS Salamonie, 52-56.)

On behalf of the officers and crew of the USS Salamonie and a grateful nation we offer our most sincere condolences to the entire family.

USS Salamonie AO-26

“CONGRATULATIONS”

Congratulations to Tom Applegate on his new job and appointment as “The Director of the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs” for the state of Indiana.

Newsletter:

Everyone that has an e-mail address will get the newsletter that way.

If you do not wish to receive an e-mail, but receive a hard copy, then let me know and I will put you on the mailing list.

Welcome aboard:

Galen (Louie) Lewis END3 56-58

Welcome back:

Henry Selmer

Moved, No forwarding address:

Harry Hall

David McWay

Life Members:

Jacob Ritzen

RMSN 55-56

Gene Robson TE2 55-56
Robert Wheeler MM3 55-56
(If you are a life member and have not received your certificate and card, please let me know ASAP.)

Sick or recuperating:

Mike Siedel - (The experimental medication is working very well)
James VanAirdale
Junior Isaac
Nicki Zoda – (Warren Weekly, Our PR rep in Warren)
Edward Cincotta – Hip replacement
Lawrence Owen – Radiation & Chemo
Please keep them in your prayers.

“HONOR ROLL”

Melvin Shine TEM3 50-58
(Buried at sea)

John Whitemore 62
Steven H. Flink
Harold N. Crane RM1 48-52
Harold A. Geer MMC 41-44 *
William Foster Babcock LT 41-43*
(Captain USN/Ret)

Herbert Wheeler
John Samuel Downs 58-60
(* Denotes Original Crew)

“NOTE – NOTE – NOTE”

If you are donating money for a cause.

“PLEASE SPECIFY”, whether it is for postage, Salamonie Museum, or postage for Care packages for our troops in Harms way. (Iraq) (Afghanistan)

Donations to Knight-Bergman Civic Center:

A donation was made in memory of Melvin E. Shine, from his brother, Richard F. Shine.

Richard Lieurance
Francis Stanley

Red Hats – Warren, Indiana

Grande Mum, Lilly Nutter and her crew have sent 94 packages so far to the troops in Iraq.

A very special “Thank You” goes out to these wonderful ladies for their fine work and dedication to this great cause.

The following members have come forth with donations to help defray the cost of postage for the care packages.

On behalf of the “Thank You Letters” that we have received back from the troops, The Red Hat Ladies, and the officers of the USS Salamonie, we wish to acknowledge each and everyone who has contributed to the cause.

You can all stand “PROUD” and a little taller for your wonderful generosity.

Leon Wright
Linwood Giddeons
Frank S. Kieinski
Michael McAllister
Paul Cacippo
Charles J. Wazenegger
Paul H. Schwendener Jr. (In memory of Captain L. J. Johns)
James J. Josey
Vernon Poquette
Lawrence Owen
Captain Harlow Lazott

**KT Creations (Mary K. Woodruff)
Walter McGovern
Michael Mini
Sam Wannamaker
Jerry Frye
Kenneth Leinbaugh
David Keillor
Al Jirik
John Cerasoli**

Dues 2005:

Your 2005 dues are now due and you can remit them to:

**Tom Keske
771 127th Av. NE
Blaine, MN. 55434-3185
(763) 757-9076
Tkeske@MSN.Com (New)**

Knight–Bergman Civic Center:

The USS Salamonie Museum room is going to be moved from the second floor of the center to the first floor.

It will be right across the hall from the Warren Museum.

It is a much bigger room and will have more access for public viewing for everyone to see.

The Mural that is painted upstairs is to be redone in the new room and everything is to be moved downstairs.

This is the room that we were originally going to get, but due to a lease agreement at the time it was not feasible.

Thanks to the hard work of Marilyn Morrison, the USS Salamonie is going to be where it belongs.

It is hoped this move will be completed in time for the Fourth of July.

Salamonie Days 2005, Warren Indiana:

Once again we will be meeting in Warren for the Fourth of July festivities.

The parade will be Friday, July 1, 2005 at 5:00 PM.

Saturday July 2, 2005 will be the rodeo.

Sunday July 2005 will be the fireworks.

We are working on a tour of some kind for Saturday for the Salamonie entourage.

Saturday evening we will be having a Dinner banquet for our group.

The dinner will be a choice of: Chicken or Prime Rib.

The cost will be minimal.

If you are planning to attend, please let me know ASAP so that we can get a good head count.

Since a lot of members could not make the Reunion Cruise, we are hoping that they can come to Warren for the Fourth of July.

I have 30 rooms blocked at the LaQuinta Inn in the name of the USS Salamonie.

Please call and make your reservation ASAP.

Just tell them that you are calling for the USS Salamonie.

Jodie has been wonderful to us, and her hospitality is second to none.

We have a fixed rate for our group.

**Jodie McDaniel (Manager)
LaQuinta Inn
7275 South 75 East
Warren, Indiana 46792
(260) 375-4800**

Looking forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Reunion Cruise:

USS Salamonie Reunion Cruise will be departing April 10 from Port Canaveral, Florida.

It will be on the Carnival cruise ship, Fantasy.

To date we have thirty-eight people signed up and ready to go.

Reunion 2006:

The reunion for the USS Salamonie AO-26 for 2006 will be held in Reno, Nevada.

At this time no arraignments or dates have been set.

The next newsletter will have the dates and details.

A supplemental page has been added to the newsletter envelope from K.T. Creations.

Mary has been a contributor to our association in the past.

Here is hoping that we can have a good turnout and our West Coast brethren will be able to grace our presence.

It is with our most sincerest desire and wish that everyone will have a happy and wonderful summer and looking forward to renewing old acquaintances.

Take care.

The Lichoff's (John & Dorothy)

**John D. Lichoff
14 Morley Drive
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1909
(419) 668-8666
JLICHOFF@neo.rr.com**



A Tale of Two Tankers

(Contributed by John Cooper ET2 52-54)

In the April Issue of Sea Classics is the article “A Tale of Two Tankers” by Paul Gryniwicz. It is the tale of the two WWII fleet tankers U.S.S. Chiwawa (AO 68) and U.S.S. Neshanic (AO 71) that are still sailing on the Great Lakes as the bulk carriers SS Lee A. Tregurtha and SS Middletown. The lives of Old Sal and the Neshanic/Tregurtha crossed in Newport on 7 August 1958.

Sailing at that time as the Gulf Oil Company tanker Gulfoil, the ex-Neshanic had a collision with the gasoline tanker MV S. S. Graham. Gulfoil grounded off Ft. Adams with the Graham aground on Rose Island. Both ships burst into flames, quoting Gryniwicz.

While Newport Naval Station mobilized and took charge of firefighting, Coast Guard ships and boats searched for and rescued survivors. Naval Fire Fighting School instructors and crew from ships in port reinforced the crews of eleven harbor tugs and ten small boats to fight the fires. U.S.S. Noxubee (AOG 56) and U.S.S. Salamonie (AO 26) each contributed 25 men. Seven military helicopters and planes helped transport fire fighting supplies and deliver the injured to hospitals in Boston.

All that day and into the next, Navy harbor tugs poured millions of gallons of foam and water onto the burning ships. Sweat-soaked and smoke-blackened crewmen manning fire hoses on the tugs diverted their streams from the burning ships to the men at the water guns as hot air singed their skin and hair.

The extreme heat caused the tug's hemp bumpers to smolder and forced the tugs to back away and cool down after only ten minutes alongside the burning vessels. Boats from the Naval Station delivered replacement men and supplies as the tugs fought a losing battle to save the ships.

Graham's entire crew of eleven was rescued after jumping over the side immediately following the collision. None suffered serious injury. Gulfoil's crew was not so lucky. Of the 38 souls aboard, 17 were killed. Many of the 21 survivors were badly burned or injured.

Graham was a total loss and was scrapped. However, Neshanic/Gulfoil rose from the ashes. She was rebuilt as the Great Lakes bulk carrier SS Pioneer Challenger and later Middletown.

I would think there is a story in here for the Fantail Scuttlebutt and as a topic of discussion at our next Salamonie Reunion. There is no mention of this incident in “Memories of Old Sal”. We have heroes amongst us. (John Cooper)

I remember that day very well as the fog was so thick that the visibility was almost nothing. We heard the sound of the explosion and felt the force of the explosion aboard the Salamonie. The heat and explosion lifted the fog in the bay. The search and rescue from the Salamonie was led by Bos'n Leonard Curl. (John D. Lichoff RM3 57-59)

USS SALAMONIE AO 26



Jackets, Sweatshirts, shirts with your ships name, ship design and hull number.

** 12% of the total sale donated to the ships treasury (minus S&H)**

Sizes: M L XL 2XL 3XL

Delivery 4-6 weeks

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 0 Polo shirt with pocket | \$33.00 | _____ |
| 0 Polo shirt with your name on right side | \$38.00 | _____ |
| 0 Jacket - Navy blue, 100% nylon, flannel lined, snap front | \$42.00 | _____ |
| 0 Jacket with name on right side | \$47.00 | _____ |
| 0 Jacket, embroidered front, name, & ship design
And large ship design on back | \$71.00 | _____ |
| 0 Sweatshirt - Navy blue long sleeve pullover | \$33.00 | _____ |
| 0 Sweatshirt - with name on right side | \$38.00 | _____ |
| 0 Ball cap - Navy with gold lettering and ship design | \$15.00 | _____ |

TOTAL: _____ Price includes S&H

Check payable to:

Mary K. Woodruff Personalized: print name _____

Mail to: K.T. Creations, 749 Head of the Bay Rd. Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

Email: ktcreations1@aol.com

web site: www.kt-creations.com

 Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____