



THE HELM

Fall 2003

Published for members of the USCGC Duane Association

Baltimore 2003 Reunion, the Best Yet

by Paul (Harry) Turner, past President

PERFECT!!!! OUTSTANDING!!! E!! 4-0! Those were some of the comments from the 56 attendees at the 12th Annual USCGC Duane Association reunion in Baltimore. And except for the last (a 3.9 perhaps), they were all on the money. Hurricane Isabel's damage had been minimal, rapidly dealt with, and the weather was sunny with highs in the 70s.

Thursday was arrival day and we gathered in the Hotel's lounge to greet old and new friends. Friday began with a bus trip to the Inner Harbor and free tickets to the attractions at the Baltimore Maritime Museum. Curator Paul Cora graciously opened each compartment aboard the *Taney* so that everyone could reminisce everywhere. The museum's guides (one, a *Castle Rock* sailor) shadowed us and gathered many new sea stories to enthrall future visitors.

At 1700, we again boarded the *Taney* to celebrate Hump Day on the fantail spirits and dinner (catered by former *Bibb* BM3 Martin Taffe). While Gordon Weir piped "Colors," Bill Harbaugh and George Washburn hoisted an original set of ensigns and flags that had flown aboard the *Duane* in the early 1960's. As the evening rolled on, it became apparent that several concurrent reunions were happening. Ketchikan, AK, the Academy, other cutters, LORAN stations and everywhere else that these Coasties had served with each other. It was truly delightful.

On Saturday, we boarded the bus to the *Taney* and breakfast on the mess deck. Yes, S.O.S was one of the many entrees, though Martin's version was more similar to Chipped Beef Alfredo. A "heart attack on a mess tray" was how someone lovingly described it while getting seconds (thirds?).



The Duane's radio call signal flags NRDD fly proudly from the Taney in honor of the Duane sailors..

We laid to the fantail and ceremoniously dedicated the 8" by 8" brick which will be placed in the CG Walk of Fame in the Spring of 2004. I presented *Taney* Curator Paul Cora with a framed 18" by 24" picture of the *Duane* which will be prominently mounted below decks on the Secretary Class wall. I also had the pleasure of presenting him with a check for \$750 to "purchase" two rivets. All funds will be used for paint, Brass-o, swabs, and other supplies to help restore the ship's appearance.

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Baltimore 2003 Photos

Photos by Jay Schmidt



Incoming President Stan Barnes (left) greets outgoing President Harry Turner on the quarterdeck.



The USCGC Taney, now a museum in Baltimore Harbor. She is in plain view from the street and rides high without fuel or supplies onboard.

More reunion photos on pages 4 and 5



The old guard. From left Don MacEachern, Treasurer Harry Turner, President and Tom Grabowski, Secretary.



A Bibb sailor stopped by to visit the Taney. We invited him to share in our festivities. (He apparently pulled too many January Bravos.)



Sea stories on the fantail. From left Bill Johnson and his wife Joyce, Bill Ferguson and Harry Oldford.



Our Friday night cake.



President Turner presents Paul Cora, the Taney Museum curator, a check for our brick in the walk.



The certificate for the Duane brick.

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The museum also displays the 5-inch gun from the Spencer.



Captain Henry Keene (Ret) was the guest speaker at the banquet. He served on the Duane as a LT during WWII.



An ensign once flown on the Duane again flies from a 327 Secretary Class cutter thanks to Bill Harbaugh.



A familiar sight to 327 sailors. The starboard passageway leading to the mess deck.



How come nobody got seconds of SOS?



Senior and junior Duane sailors. Retired Captain Henry Keene (l) served in WW II and Keith Godbey (pictured with his wife Mary) served in 1980-81.



The new dry dock at Curtis Bay lifts the cutters out of the water so that they can move around on dollies.



The computer-controlled 175 foot buoy tender James Rankin (WLM 555) has no wheel. It is controlled by computers and a lever. It has a bow thruster and 360 degree Z-drive propulsion so that it can move sideways.



Everyone behaved. So the bus driver did not have to use this.

Jack's Joint

We try to post PDF files of this newsletter on Jack's Joint Web site. You can view and download copies anytime. Jack also has lots of other CG stories.

Go to www.jacksjoint.com and check it out.

Crossed the bar

By Bill Gardiner

I am writing you with the sad news that my father, William "Earl" Gardiner, passed away on April 23, 2003. My father served on the USCGC *Duane* for 2 years and 10 days during World War II. While I was growing up my father never really talked much about his experiences during World War II. There was one item he did impress upon me though and that was how honored he was to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard and more specifically how he revered his ship, the USCGC *Duane*.

He started to discuss the war more and more when he reached his 70's. I finally convinced him to attend the *Duane's* reunion and in 1998 he and my mother attend the reunion in Baltimore. Words can't express how much he and my mother enjoyed themselves at the reunion. What really touched my father was the respect and friendliness of the younger attendees at the reunion. He was so glad he finally attended the *Duane* reunion.

As I stated he loved the Coast Guard. After his death my mother and I wanted to do something in honor of his service in the U.S. Coast Guard. We purchased a 8 x 8 memorial brick in the Coast Guard Plaza walkway in Baltimore in the cutter section.

My father's military vitals are as follows:

William Earl Gardiner
Hometown: Rewey, Wisconsin
Enlisted: 12/10/1942
Date of entry into service (Active): 02/23/43
Date of separation of service: 09/27/45
Length of Foreign and/or Sea Service:
World War II 2 years 0 months 10 days
Honorably Discharged: 09/27/1945
Rank at time of Separation: Specialist (Chemical Warfare), First Class

Also:

Joseph Bianchi
Louis Blair
James Brooks
Bobby Jo Cane
Jack Connelly
Roger Erdmann
David Dorey
Fred Hall
Kenneth Grace
Wally Hanson
Wallace Miller
Rick "Mother" Moison
R. Morley
Maurice O'Connell
Helmer Pearson
Donald Rogers
Gary Snyder
Robert Stanton

Dan Walsh
James Walsh
James Witt

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From the President...

By Stan Barnes

Dear Shipmates,

First, I would like to thank all of you for the trust you have placed in me by allowing me to be the next president of the organization that honors this late, great lady of the seas. Next, I would like to thank my skipper, Barbara, for allowing me the time and inspiration to carry on a tradition that will certainly take a lot of time and energy to even come close to the job that Harry and his crew have done these past few years. Thank you, Harry, Tom and Don. A special "thank you" goes out to all you ladies who hold us together as we endeavor to swap sea stories each year.

I can only hope my tour as president will allow the association to grow larger and stronger, and to move into the future with the highest standard that we share today as one of the best associations available to past and present Coast Guard members.

Here is my first challenge to the membership. I think that each of us can contact three ex-shipmates that we served with on the *Duane* and tell them about the benefits of being part of our association. We have reunions, we have fellowship, enthusiasm and the ability to share great memories of a time gone by, but not forgotten.

I hope that no one will forget the date 9-11 and will always remember all of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in the "Land of the Free." Thanks to our veterans and those still serving for our freedom that we enjoy everyday.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have comments or ideas that you think may help the association.

In closing, I would like to give a big "thank you" to Al Viau, for if it were not for him and the others that met way back over a cup of coffee (Yeah, right) we most likely would not be here today. Thank you Al, Jim, Ron, Stew and anyone else who was part of that first reunion.

2004 Reunion Cape May, NJ

By Stan Barnes

Mark your calendars (as they say) for next year. The reunion will be Sep. 30–Oct. 3, 2004 at the Atlas Inn at Cape May.

As of this date with the mailing of this newsletter, I have 35 rooms booked for our 2004 reunion in Cape May. If you intend to attend, please e-mail me (sbarnes@worldpath.net) or call me at (603) 286-7720 so that I will have an idea as to how many rooms I will need to reserve. There are 96 rooms at the Atlas Inn.

Two other groups are planning to stay at the Atlas that weekend; so we need to reserve as many rooms as necessary in order to all stay at the same location. Please let me know ASAP and no later than 12/1/03.

More details in the next newsletter mailed in the spring.

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Duane Sailors and Officers Who Attended the Reunion

Jim Andrews QMCS 69-71
Jim Aronhalt EM3 60-62
Stan Barnes QM3 64-66
Bob Berry SK1 63-65
Roger Bing LCDR (XO) 72-73
Rick Bogdan MM2 70-71
Tom Braithwaite LTjg 61-65
Dave Bunch RD3 70-72
Randy Derrossett FN 67-69
Bill Ferguson SK1 67-68
Keith Godbey BM3 80-81
Tom Grabowski ET2 69-72
Bob Haviland GM2 52-54
Bill Harbaugh SN 63-65
Bill Johnson BM1 65-68
Henry Keene LT 43-45
Jim Lake SK3 62-66
Don MacEachern RD3 68-72
Kip McCue SN 62-63
Harry Oldford CDR 66-68
Jim Orrock MST1 70-73
Albert Phaneuf MM2 39-43
Gordon Piche LTjg 64-66
Joe Sanford LTjg 63-65
Toby Schlick SN 74-76
Jay Schmidt RM3 65-66
Ray Smith GM3 59-62
Russell Sullivan SN 52-54
Joe Taylor MK3 75-78
Steve Tuller HM1 64-65
Paul "Harry" Turner RD3 70-71
George Washburn SN 63-65
Gordon Weir SN 71-72
Ben Yuscavitch DC3 69-72
Ron Zinzer LTjg 62-65

Note:

The ship's store is presently restocking its seabag. Any orders placed in the next month may be delayed until reordered items are received. Please be patient, and I will fill your order as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Stan

Calling all Golfers

By Tom Braithwaite 61-65

During the 2004 reunion at Cape May we will hold our first Duane Invitation Golf Tournament. If you are interested in playing please let me know at tombraith@earthlink.net or by regular mail at:

Tom Braithwaite
48 Wildwood Dr
Palmyra, VA 22963

I plan to reserve tee times for a Capt Choice format. For those that have never played this game, it is easy. We will have 2 person teams and both players hit the ball and they choose the best position and hit their next ball from that place. It goes like that for every shot so if you make a mistake you get to pickup and place your ball at where your partner hit. The score is one number for the team.

Husband and wife teams will be encouraged. For those that don't know how to get a partner don't worry we will pair you up with someone. This tournament is for fun and bragging rights only.

We will play on Thursday morning Sept 30, 2004.

Send your expression of interest to me and don't worry about being held to that. I just need a rough head count.



USCGC DUANE WPG/WHEC 33
Ship's Store Order Form

Tee Shirts (Embroidered Tiger insignia)

Size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

\$16.00 each

White or Navy Blue

Pocket T With round Duane Insignia \$22 Quantity _____ Color _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Crew Jersey (Round Duane Insignia)

Size: S M L XL XXL

\$32 each

Off white

Quantity _____ Color _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Sweatshirts (Embroidered Tiger insignia)

Size: S M L XL XXL

\$24.00 each

Navy Blue or Smoke Gray

Quantity _____ Color _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Patches

Tiger or Search and Rescue \$8 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Hats (Embroidered)

Tiger Insignia (Washed gray)

\$16 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Duane (Blue working ballcap)

\$16 each

Quantity _____ \$ _____

Nylon windbreaker (Round gold insignia)

Size: L XL XXL

Navy blue/cotton lining

\$37

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Fleece Zip Pullovers (Tiger Insignia)

Size: X XL XXL

(Royal Blue/Black collar)

\$25.00

Quantity _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Subtotal _____

Shipping \$6.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Stan Barnes/Storekeeper

Name:

Street:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Rate/Rank while on board:

Years on board 19__ to 19__

Send to: USCGC Duane Ship's Store, c/o Stan Barnes, 381 Stage Rd., Sanbornton, NH 03269

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Continued from page 1

We again boarded the bus and were transported to the CG Yard at Curtis Bay. After an hour of cocktails, and a buffet, we waddled to the Base Exchange to purchase memorabilia. Following a welcoming and orientation presentation, we bussed down to the docks and inspected the new heavy ship lift (3,550 tons), the 576' dry dock (7,500 ton capacity) and the cutters being worked on. Later, we toured the USCGC *James Rankin* (WLM 555), a new 175' buoy tender. Its state-of-the-art attributes would fill this newsletter but, please, believe that all hands were thoroughly wowed.

We bussed back to the hotel and the Annual Business Meeting. Here, we discussed the upcoming reunion at Cape May next year (see inside for all the details), selected the site for the 2005 reunion, and held elections. Stan Barnes was unanimously elected to serve as President of the Association. He chose *Helm* Publisher Jay Schmidt to serve as the Secretary and Bob Haviland to serve as Treasurer. As all have been closely involved with the Association's day-to-day activities over the past few years, the smoothest of transitions will take place.

We finished off the day with a gala banquet on the top floor of the hotel. Its huge windows provided a 300 degree view of Baltimore, a great sunset, and an approaching thunder (and lightning!) storm. To recognize their contributions to the Association, I

bestowed Honorary Membership to Curator Paul Cora and Caterer Martin Taffe and renewed the designation to Diver Chris Williams for his work on the *Duane* web site (www.thebinnacle.net). As to the after-dinner speaker, our own Henry Keane, then a Ltjg, recounted some highlights of his days aboard the *Duane* and *Bibb* during WWII. From the *Bibb's* famous *Mallory* rescue, to the *Duane's* conversion as the Admiral's flagship, to the landing at Anzio, to being arrested as a spy in Marseille, he certainly maintained our rapt attention. After raffling off 54 rare and unique Coast Guard related items, the evening drew to an end with a showing of the sad sinking of the *Duane* and *Bibb* off the Florida Keys. The next day, after bidding farewells to the departing sailors, I presented the *Taney* with a check for \$250, thus bringing the total donation to \$1,000.

As I pass the torch to Stan Barnes, I wish to thank departing Association Officers Don MacEachern and Tom Grabowski for their daily behind-the-scenes efforts, Storekeeper Stan Barnes for his excellent marketing, Jim Orrock, Dave Bunch, and Bob Haviland for their constant assistance wherever and however it was needed, and Publisher Jay Schmidt for putting out the best looking Cutter Association newsletter, bar none. I also wish to thank you, the members, for allowing me to be your president for the past three years. It has been a highlight that I won't soon forget. I wish you all fair winds and following seas and sincerely hope to see you in Cape May.



The Duane in the 1950s. Deer Island, Boston, is in the background.