



THE HELM

Winter 2001

Published for members of the USCCGC Duane Association

2001 USCGC Duane Reunion Details

By Paul (Harry) Turner

Ahoy, Duane sailors! On January 3rd, my wife and I took an exploratory trip to Charleston, South Carolina, with the goals of visiting the best sights in the area, finding the best restaurants, and finding great values. In my best armchair travelogue style, I'll tell you just how we accomplished most of the above.

I checked with www.travelocity.com and it lists a round trip from Boston on Midway Air for \$262. Using either a travel agent or the internet, book your flights early for the best deals.

I had reserved a rental car (also through Travelocity.com) from Budget (National, Avis, Hertz, and Alamo are also on site) for \$24 a day or \$115 for 6 days with unlimited mileage. Small Ford Escort with plenty of room for our (mostly my wife's) luggage. But if you are traveling with 3 or more in your group, I strongly advise an upgrade. A cab to the hotel takes about 25 minutes and costs about \$18.00 for one person, \$25 for two.

The Quality Inn and Suites was built 4 years ago and is the closest hotel to the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, the world's largest such facility.

I could easily see the superstructure of the carrier Yorktown (CV 10) as I pulled into the hotel's large (and free) parking lot.



Our first meal was at Locklear's, about two miles from the hotel near Shem Creek. I started with a cup of South Carolina's famous She-Crab Soup ("she" is short for sherry, as in Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry) that looked like a New England chowder but with crab and roe rather than clams, potatoes, onions, etc. My wife had the fried green tomatoes with a sour cream dill sauce. Our entrées were thirteen nice-sized fried shrimp and a large piece of fried flounder, both with coleslaw, fries, and bottomless sweet tea (iced tea). Delicious! The check came to \$18 for both of us.

Crewmember Search

by Stan Barnes

Who would like to form a committee to do people search on a daily basis? Many of us have a shipmate pop into our head and wonder where they may be now. The association would like to add more names to the database. If you have the time, computer capability and the know-how, please contact Tom Grabowski at coastie@stargate.net or me at sbarnes@worldpath.net. We will pass along any names provided and print the contact persons' names in the next newsletter.

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Web Site @ military.com

We have an area (at no charge) that we can use to post information, share ideas, etc. Go to military.com and scroll down to the bottom to the "People and Community" section. In the "Find your unit" box, type in USCGC Duane. You can get to the Duane home page from there. We may use this as our official online meeting place.

You can also get a free e-mail account with them.

Final Score: Barge 1, Duane 0

By Gary Coy, USCG 72-78

I served on the Duane from November 1974 until May of 1975. I was aboard the Duane when we smacked that garbage barge. It was in January or February 1975. It was just the latest of several incidences that plagued Duane on that trip to Gitmo.

The first happened on the way down, the night after we left Port Everglades Florida after fueling up. Seems something happened to the reduction gears, and we were left with only one shaft to operate with.

After arriving at Gitmo, we were



informed that because of our mechanical situation, we would be doing the entire REFTRA at the pier. The planned weekend liberty calls in Kingston and Ocho Rios, Jamaica were canceled due to the anti-American stuff going on there at the time.

On the way back we spent 5 or 6 days in the yards at Curtis Bay, MD to have the reduction gears replaced.

On the way back from the yards

to Portland, ME, at around 0230 we broadsided that garbage barge somewhere outside New York. The Captain was heard to say after he reached the bridge, "Check the area for any more targets."

I left the ship shortly after arriving in Portland but I seem to remember that the investigation went after the OOD, the QM of the watch, the RD of the watch, the lookout of the watch, and the "Old Man."

Never really heard about the ultimate disposition. I have an 8 X 10 glossy of the ship tied up to Maine State Pier with the bow damage.

The Duane Newsletter is published by the USCGC Duane Association.

Jay Schmidt, Publisher
6 Goodwin Drive
Norton, MA 02766
jay@schmidt-publishing.com

Stan Barnes, Editor
381 Stage Rd.
Sanbornton, NH03269
sbarnes@worldpath.net

Dave Bunch, Editor
432 Wyn Drive
Newport News, VA 23608
dcbunch@visi.net

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We drove 4 miles to Sullivan's Island and Fort Moultrie. First built in 1776 from palmetto logs, it's the site of two centuries of seacoast defense fortifications. A modern interpretive center is across the street and features a 20-minute movie and a gift shop with lots of historical books and pamphlets. A self-guided tour takes you through the early bunkers, batteries, and powder magazines. Fort Sumter, the site of the first shot to be fired during the Civil War, is easily seen just a mile into the harbor. A tour boat leaves Patriots Point twice a day for a two hour cruise—one hour at the fort and a one hour narrated trip around the harbor. After the discount, the price is \$10 per person. I can't do these two historic forts justice in this newsletter and you'll just have to visit them yourself at the next reunion.

Dinner was at Sticky Fingers, a local restaurant (a mile from the hotel). Thirteen bucks bought chicken, one half rack of meaty pork ribs, baked beans, dirty rice, and corn bread. I had a choice of 4 sauces, Memphis Wet or Dry, Carolina Sweet, and Tennessee Whiskey, so I asked for a small side of each. Outstanding! I liked the Sweet so much that I brought a bottle home. We have since duplicated it, so write or e-mail me for the recipe.

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The Woman's Perspective (the Heck with Harry's!!)

By Christine Dickerson

I've never attended a Duane Reunion, and I've never been to Charleston until this month. But I accompanied husband Paul "Harry" Turner on his trip to scout out the city and make arrangements for the Reunion in September, and Ladies, what I saw excited me about going back! You won't want to miss this trip!

First of all, the accommodations at Quality Inn & Suites at Patriots Point are superb. The Inn is only a stone's throw from the Point and the ships that are the cornerstone of the Reunion. That makes it wonderfully convenient for the events. But we're right over the Bridge from downtown Charleston, with van and taxis service available (which I would suggest as the driving is a bit harried (no pun intended) and you'll want to look around), so the location is perfect.

And what a bargain! We stayed in one of the Suites, and I can't say enough good things about it: wonderful plantation-style, cherry furniture, a double Jacuzzi (!), fridge, microwave and coffee maker, ironing board and iron, double closets, great mattresses and unbelievably nice pillows, sitting area with a sleeping sofa and two televisions. We toured the standard rooms, and they are also beautifully appointed. This is a NEW

place which also offers a small gym, laundry facilities, low-country breakfast with incredible variety free of charge, and a staff with Southern Hospitality just waiting to be put to good use.

The guys will no doubt spend a lot of time at Patriots Point. This is where there is a sister cutter to the Duane as well as the aircraft carrier Yorktown where we'll be having our final banquet, a Navy destroyer, and a submarine. I'm sure you'll want to spend time on sister cutter The Ingham. To walk through it with Paul and "see" his bunk was really an experience, to look at the radar room, and have him share his time on the Duane in this way was really quite moving. The other ships as well are fascinating - the closeness of the sub, the vastness of the Yorktown, the eeriness of the destroyer. Be prepared, however, to be transported back to World War II, and to Vietnam. In some ways, these are not easy tours to take.

We drove into Charleston, took in a movie at the IMAX, a super-huge screen theatre which was a hoot, missed the Aquarium which is supposed to be fabulous, didn't do any shopping which probably is a bit pricey, judging by the storefronts. Lots of antiques and boutiques from what I could see. We also didn't

have time for a carriage ride, but I can tell you that tour busses can pick you up right at the Inn. There are carriage rides pulled by horses and also by mules. We observed both, and they went awfully slow for us Northeasterners in a hurry! But we did go into the downtown area, and stopped for photo taking. The homes are truly spectacular, and the area is naturally heavily steeped in Civil War history. Perhaps boning up on the Civil War a bit would also help make the most of this short trip.

For those of you interested in plantations, there are three in the area, and they're all past the Point. One has spectacular gardens, and another was actually used for shots in *Gone With The Wind*. I have brochures on all three if you're interested, and they also are included in the massive display of brochures back at the Inn.

I'll end up with the food. Words fail me to describe how delicious everything was! Don't miss the fried green tomatoes, which were on every menu. One thing I did notice was that each restaurant seemed to serve them with their own topping, from dill and sour cream to salsa and cheese grits, but everywhere they were delicious! And the she-crab soup, a specialty of the low country, is also not to be over-

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looked, according to husband Paul who's a wonderful chef in his own right. Trust him!

If any of the "womenfolk" have questions and want to email me, please do so at cadickerson@yahoo.com. I grabbed every brochure I could get my hands on, and will also do research (I'm a library director, it's my job!) if I can't answer you right away. I'm very, very excited to get back down to Charleston with all of you. It certainly rolled out the carpet for just Paul and myself, I can't imagine what it will do for all the Coasties and their families!

Last Bell

If anyone knows of a departed member, or that of a significant other, please let us know so that we may express our sympathy and post the name in the next newsletter. A copy of the obituary would be helpful if one could be provided. If you can help us out in this regard, please reply to Harry so that all shipmates can be recognized

Chaplain Wanted

The Duane Association is looking for a member to act in the position of chaplain. If interested, please notify Capt. Harry Turner. The duties will be to respond to any situation of grief placed on a member or their family with a sympathy card from the USCGC Duane Association and to give the invocation at the reunion.

Crossed the Bar

The following shipmates have taken their last steps from the Quarterdeck.

Wally Hanson, Augusta, ME

John Baker, Buzzards Bay, MA

John Dugan

USCGC Duane 2001 Reunion Dates

Mark your calendars for Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 13-15, 2001 in Charleston, SC.

Discount reservations at the Quality Inn and Suites at Patriots Point.

The gala banquet and open bar aboard the USS Yorktown will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The hotel's hospitality room will have beer, wine, soda and snacks available until 11 p.m. each night.

The Quality Inn and Suites is truly luxurious and at \$69-\$109 a night, a bargain. We have 20 rooms and 15 suites set aside so call now for reservations (1-800-704-4480) and ask for the CGC Duane rates.

USCGC Eastwind Reunion

The USCGC Eastwind (WAGB-279) Reunion will be held in Boston in May 2001. If anyone is interested in attending or would like to find out more details, please contact LeRoy Grant, Treasurer, Eastwind Association, 15 Raymond Ave., Walpole, MA 02081. Telephone (508) 668-2417.

USCGC Duane Association Chain of Command

President

Paul (Harry) Turner
HCR2 Box 15A
Summit, NY 12175
(518) 287-1900
paultrnr@midtel.net

Secretary

Tom Grabowski
354 Meadowbrook Rd
Trafford, PA 15085-9712
(412) 856-1151
coastie@stargate.net

Treasurer

Don MacEachern
349 Little River Road
Cotuit, MA 02365-2805
dmaceach@capecod.net

Creed of the United States Coast Guardsman

I am proud to be a United States Coast Guardsman.

I revere that long line of expert seamen who by their devotion to duty and sacrifice of self have made it possible for me to be a member of a service honored and respected, in peace and in war, throughout the world.

I never, by work or deed, will bring reproach upon the fair name of my service, nor permit others to do so unchallenged.

I will cheerfully and willingly obey all lawful orders.

I will always be on time to relieve, and shall endeavor to do more, rather than less, than my share.

I will always be at my station, alert and attending to my duties.

I shall, so far as I am able, bring to my seniors solutions, not problems.

I shall live joyously, but always with due regard for the rights and privileges of others.

I shall endeavor to be a model citizen in the community in which I live.

I shall sell life dearly to an enemy of my country, but give it freely to rescue those in peril.

With God's help, I shall endeavor to be one of His noblest Works...

A UNITED STATES COAST GUARDSMAN.



Sample shirt from ship's store

Raffle

If anyone has items or has access to a Coast Guard exchange and would be willing to pick up items for a raffle, please do so. Be on the lookout while browsing in antique shops and old stores in seaport towns.

Send us your e-mail address

We hope to someday produce only a few paper copies of this newsletter and send it out via e-mail or post it on a Web site. This will save us tons of printing and mailing costs.

Please make sure that Harry Turner has your latest e-mail address: paultrnr@midtel.net

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The next morning, we tried the hotel's free Lowland Breakfast and it was quite good. Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage gravy, biscuits, grits, toast, bagels, pastry, fruit, coffee, teas, juices, etc. Great way to start the day. For those who want stronger coffee, there's a Starbucks just down the road. A tour bus leaves the hotel each morning at 10:30 for a 90-minute tour of the area for \$15.00. They also offer a \$45 plantation and historic tour that leaves at 8:45 a.m. No reservations needed for either.

Cameras in hand, we drove the 1/3 mile to the Patriot's Point Museum. The discounted admission is \$10 and I'm working on getting a two day pass. The centerpiece is the 888 foot carrier Yorktown, whose full complement was 380 officers, 3,088 men, and 90 planes. In 1944, she was the subject of the Academy Award winning documentary "The Fighting Lady," which detailed her exploits during WWII. The 60-minute film is shown every two hours in the ship's theater. There are 8 different self-guided tours to take, most of which require 30 minutes each. Among its many exhibits, the Yorktown has 24 different planes and helicopters aboard and a full-sized replica of John Glenn's Friendship 7 capsule

I met with the caterer and saw the space we have reserved for our annual banquet. We'll begin on the hangar deck at 6:00 p.m.

with a full open bar for an hour. Then we'll sit down to She-Crab Soup, a 7 ounce Filet Mignon wrapped in bacon, seared Rosemary New Potatoes, Roasted seasonal Vegetables, and Caraway Breadsticks with Honey Butter. Dessert will be Chocolate Pecan Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream. The cost will be \$60 per person, all inclusive. I saw pictures of other groups with their banquet tables set up among the WWII planes and it looks like this dinner will be memorable.

We boarded the Ingham (WHEC 35) and took its self-guided tour. Several spaces have mannequins dressed in the early CG uniforms and taped commentaries come from hidden speakers as you proceed along the route. Officers country, the laundry, damage control, upper handling room, forward head, engine and boiler rooms, CIC and the bridge were all wired to give the visitor details of what went on when the ship was underway. Most of the ship is open to visitors and the berthing area forward of the mess deck has been converted into a Treasury Class museum with many pictures of the Duane and her sisters on display. Nicely done.

The destroyer Laffey (DD 724) and submarine Clamagore (SS 343) were also fascinating and should not be missed. On shore, a Vietnam Naval Support Base is replicated. From the River Patrol Boat (PBR), to the helicopters, to

the hooches, to the jeeps, to the observation tower, this exhibit looks just like the real thing.

The recently raised Civil War sub Hunley can be inspected at the Navy Base, as can the two active 378s, Dallas and Gallatin. Downtown Charleston has a new aquarium and an adjacent IMAX theater that was incredible. The seats are from BMW and the screen is 7 stories high. We saw the Michael Jordan documentary which was awesome. Five different one-hour movies are shown each day which feature Dolphins, Mount Everest, Dinosaurs, and a Roller Coaster!!!

Historic Charleston was very nice but it was too cold to sit for one of the many horse drawn tours so we drove slowly around the Battery, the narrow streets, the peninsula and its palatial antebellum houses.

Charleston is a superb site for the September 13, 14, and 15, 2001 reunion because it has so much to see and do. We did so much more but I'm out of room. Yes, the cost of getting there may be steep for the northerners but its high time we tried to accommodate the southern sailors.

Every effort is being made to keep the on-site costs down. Your new Duane Association ID card will get you discounts at 7 popular restaurants. See you in Charleston.

Semper Paratus.

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

Tee Shirts

Size: S M LG XL XXL XXXL

\$16.00 each

White Quantity _____

Navy Blue Quantity _____

\$ _____

Crew Jersey

Size: S M LG XL XXL

\$30.00 each

Off White Quantity _____

\$ _____

Sweatshirts

Size: S M LG XL XXL

\$24.00 each

Smoke Gray Quantity _____

Navy Blue Quantity _____

\$ _____

Patches

\$8 each

Search and Rescue Quantity _____

\$ _____

Jackets

\$39.95 each

Quantity _____

\$ _____

Christmas Ornament

\$10 each

Quantity _____

\$ _____

Subtotal \$ _____

Shipping \$5.00

(\$7.00 extra Embroidery)

Total \$ _____

Name

Street

City

State ZIP

Send to: USCGC Duane Ship's Store, c/o Stan Barnes, 381 Stage Rd., Sanbornton, NH 03629

Book Author Needs Stories from ex-Duane Crewmembers

By Patrick Hreachmack

Many of you may have read that Roy Lassiter and I are writing a new book dedicated to the 327' Treasury Class cutters. The book is to be an operational history combined with crew remembrances. Although Roy passed over the bar this past November, the work continues on. Roy and I have already been working on the book since 1998.

To date the first three chapters are already written, several additional chapters are in a rough outline form, and over 15 tables of supporting information have been developed. Dr. Browning and Scott Price of the USCG Historical Office have supplied over 40 USCG photos of all

seven cutters in virtually every configuration they had from 1937 to the end of their lives. I have already interviewed crewmembers of the Bibb, Campbell, and Spencer crews plus a few of the Taney crew.

You can help write this book. I desperately need remembrances or stories from the Duane crew to add to the book. If you can think of an event and your personal part in it, I'd love to hear from you. I'm looking for any stories you may share from Duane's commissioning to her decommissioning. Serious or humorous, action or on board daily living, all are fair game. I'd like to hear in particular about Duane's days as an AGC, res-

cues, sub chases, and even boring daily peacetime routine. Be sure to include your name, rate or rank, and duty station at the time of the event. For example, one crew told me about the first time they were served pizza, and how their mascot reacted! Several crews told me about combat against subs and aircraft. What can you share?

Send your stories to me: C. Patrick Hreachmack, 4114 Ponderosa Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46250-2247. All will be acknowledged and many will be selected for inclusion. The remembrances you and the other crews contribute will make this book stand out from other operational histories.

USCGC Duane Association
c/o Stan Barnes
381 Stage Rd.
Sanbornton, NH 03269

