

USS KNAPP JUNE, 2010 NWFYF

CALL LETTERS



NEWSLETTER #38



FLAG HOIST

Hi Shipmates,

The Summer Solstice is June 21st which officially marks the start of the summer season and is also the longest day of the year. Here in central Illinois we already had our summer weather with a lot of days over 90 degrees and plenty of rain. All plants are bigger and greener than I can remember and the farmers are looking at a bumper crop. It is also the day after Father's Day when I hope to be spoiled rotten by my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It also helps to remind them that at my age, they need to make every one of these special days count for this ole salt. Speaking of "ole salts" reminds me that our ole shipmate "**Red**" **Speulda** had a recent major surgery because of cancer, but his wife Ellie reminded me that "**Red**" is a tough old sailor and is recuperating nicely. I am sure he would like to hear from his old shipmates and you can contact him at 14 Asbury Acres Dr. - Candler, NC 28715

The warm weather also brought our first visitors to Morton, Illinois from Holmdel, NJ, namely **Manny and Mary Dosil**. They were traveling from New Jersey to California with many stops on the way that included our home and the museum in Astoria, OR that has the Knapp bridge as an exhibit. We had a nice visit and had dinner together at a restaurant located next to the Stoney Creek Inn which was the site of our 2007 Knapp reunion, and reminds me that we need to provide more details on our August reunion which starts in only two months.

REUNION UPDATE.....

The old WWII poster below urges you to join the Navy and you don't have to do anything that drastic, but we would like you to join us at the reunion with the following shipmates that have already made their reservations: **Joe & Rosemary Bender, Pete Brady, Billy & Pat Brown, Tony Capriglione, Angela Clark, Frank & Carole DeCicco, Dan Dolan, Manny & Mary Dosil, Brian Dosil, Leney Gawenus, Lowell Hammond, Ken Huffman, Steve Hutton, Susan Irwin, Pete & Marianne Loscheider, Bill & Jean McCarthy, Bill & Kathy McGovern, Albert & Madonna Meeks, Shirley Morrison, Dick & Theresa Munley, Charlie & Pat Nappi, Kirk Newell, Peter & Betty Pultz, Richard & Sherry Ravn, Robert & Muriel Reahl, John & Neva Ridgeway, Bill & Diane Ringel, Gene & Billy Robertson, Pete & Jan Smith, Tom & Nancy Smith, John C. Smith Lloyd "Red" & Ellie Speulda, Rick & Emme Tiedemann, Howard & Cherrith Wiseman, Alex Mihalsky.**

RESERVATIONS.....

Call the Marriott Suites - Deerfield, IL at 1-847-405-9666 and mention the USS Knapp block of rooms for Aug. 19 to Aug. 22. If you have any problems, call me at 309-266-9391 or cell 309-258-1157. The room rate is \$85.00 per night for a two room suite, and they will provide the same rate for two days before and after the reunion dates. Don't miss out on joining your shipmates for a great reunion.

TRANSPORTATION.....

The Marriott suites is located approximately 18 miles north of downtown Chicago. It is 17 miles north of O'Hare airport and 36 miles north of Midway airport. If you fly into either airport, you want to take American Taxi and you want a suburban taxi which charges a flat rate of \$31.00 from O'Hare and \$61.00 from Midway. The rates apply to the cab ride so it is the same price for one person or four.

If you come by train, it will pull into Union station and from there you can take the suburban train or Metra train directly to the Deerfield station which is only a few blocks from the Marriott. You can call for the hotel shuttle or one of your shipmates to pick you up for the short ride to the hotel.



REUNION UPDATE CONTINUED.....

PRIZES..... We will have some type of drawing of names for door prizes or a raffle and will be needing some items. If you could, bring something inexpensive and either homemade or store bought. Jan Smith and Ellie Speulda have been working on this and we already have some items but will need more and your input will be appreciated.

REGISTRATION FEE.....

Just a reminder for those that have made reservations, but have not sent in their check. It is \$140.00 per person and checks should be made out to the USS Knapp and sent to me at 301 Baltimore Ave. - Morton, IL 61550. The fee includes the Hospitality room, welcome gifts, bus transportation for our trip to Great Lakes Navy base, dinner on Thursday, lunch and dinner on Friday, and our banquet on Saturday night, plus the free breakfast buffet each day at the Marriott. Everything has to be paid in advance, so I would appreciate your check as soon as it is convenient.

ATTRACTIONS.....

There are many attractions in and around Chicago including some that are close to the Marriott. 1) The Long Grove Confectionery chocolate factory located just a few blocks away in Buffalo Grove, IL. Their last tour of the week starts at 1PM on Thursday and starts again on Monday. 2) The Chicago Botanical Gardens is also close and covers over 500 acres and it will be beautiful in August. 3) Long Grove Village in Long Grove, IL features many unusual shops, antiques, and restaurants and is a great shopping experience. 4) Northbrook Court is an upscale shopping mall anchored by Macy's, Lord & Taylors, and Neiman Marcus with over 100 other stores. All of the above are within easy driving distance from the Marriott and the hotel will provide shuttle service to these attractions. The Volo Classic Car museum is about 20 miles northwest of the Marriott and has over 300 antique and classic cars on display and they are all for sale. The Russell Military museum is approximately 30 miles northeast of the hotel and features many military vehicles and many of them are also for sale. All of these attractions can be viewed on the internet.

CREWMEMBER MAILING LIST CHANGES.....

John C. "Smitty" Smith - new e-mail address - jcsmil@comcast.net

Ralph Doty - new e-mail address - rdoty5819@comcast.net

Noel Pittman - new e-mail address - pat0718noel@yahoo.com

Bill Ringel - new address - P O Box 724 - Monroe, NC 28111

John Rollins TM3 55-56 - New Member - 709 Los Miradores - El Paso, TX 79912 - Phone 915-584-4255
e-mail - johnroll@elp.rr.com

Kenneth H. Card S2c 43-46 - New Member - P O Box 74 - 35 Mill St. - West Kennebunk, ME 04094
Phone 207-985-2317

Walter L. (Lee) Gordon (our webmaster) new address - 69 Henry - Belleville, MI 48111

Pete Brady - new address - 337 Carriage Lake Drive - Little River, SC 29566 - phone 910-228-1128

TAPS.....

James "Ted" Levy FNSN 52-54

I received the following note from his daughter Merrie Levy....." I'm writing to let you know my dad James Levy passed away on April 20, 2010. He was very proud to have served on the USS Knapp. I know he enjoyed going to the reunions and talked about them all the time. I was hoping you could pass along the news of his passing to the other shipmates. I was wondering if I could continue to receive the news letters and information of upcoming reunions. I was proud of my dad, and I am proud of all service men and women past and present for everything you all have done for this country. So I would like to say THANK YOU!"

I will continue to send the newsletter to Merrie and a donation in Ted's memory was sent to the Columbia River Maritime Museum on behalf of the USS Knapp crew.



The following information appeared in the most recent publication of the Columbia River Maritime Museum which acknowledges memorial donations.



WEBSITE UPDATE.....

Thanks to **Lee Gordon** our webmaster for the changes to our website to prevent “hackers” from messing it up and also improve the overall look. Our current newsletter is usually posted on the website before you get it in the mail, and it is all in color. I can only afford one color page from the printer. I would urge all of you to take advantage of the ship’s log and enter your comments and memories. Below are a couple of the recent entries:

Submitted by

Name: **Orlan L. Campbell**

From: Colorado City, Texas

E-mail: estherbriggs@hotmail.com

Comments:

I served aboard the USS Knapp from Sept. 1955 - October of 1958. I was a seaman. I went aboard the ship from NTC. The Knapp was in the San Diego Bay tied to Buoy 19. My best friend aboard the Knapp was Widner. He was from Alabama. We traveled to the Far East twice. Great memories.

Orlan L. Campbell

Submitted by

Name: **Steve Revier**

From: Hood River, Oregon

E-mail: firemt@yahoo.com

Comments:

Wow is about all I can say. Dad was pretty quiet about the serious side of WWII service. He and I were exploring the Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon when he found the bridge of the Knapp. It was his first ship in the Navy, where he achieved Master Chief after 22 years. Eugene “Tiny” Revier started as a Gunner’s Mate then cross trained to Fire Control after 10 years. He sat in the captain’s chair for a long time not saying much. Dad passed away from lung cancer in 2005 at the age of 80. I miss him and finding this website helps connect a bit to his past. Feel free to drop a line if my dad’s name rings a bell with anyone you know. Steve

MAIL CALL.....

When the mail comes to our house, my wife gets it and then hollers.... **Mail Call!** and if I get any mail she calls out my name and then tosses it to me or leaves it on my bunk if I’m not at home.....just like the Navy days. We made our last trip to Chicago recently to finalize some of the reunion functions including the memorial service at the base chapel. We had problems at the Visitor’s Center getting our passes, but were rescued by CDR Lynn Peterson who in charge of the base Chaplin’s Office. She gave us a tour of the Blue Jacket Memorial Chapel, and assured me she would be available if needed in the future. The Chapel is one of the original 39 red brick buildings that are now on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. Photos of the chapel and other attractions are included on the next page.



This was our FLAG HOIST while the Knapp was in service and our call letters were NWYF Or NAN - WILLIAM - YOKE - FOX and of course "sparks" like me used morse code. The closeup of the Knapp on the right taken in Korean waters shows the flag hoist.



Bldg. #1 Central Admin. Bldg



Lynn E. Peterson, CDR, CHC
Command Chaplin



Bldg. #4 Blue Jacket Memorial Chapel



Chicago Botanical Garden



Russell Military Museum - This 1968 M-715
Kaiser Jeep can be yours for \$6,000



Long Grove Chocolate Factory



The Volo Car Museum where they have classic cars from the 1900,s to modern muscle cars and an inventory of over 300 cars for sale, if you can afford them. Many are frame off restoration while others are original and need restoration.



On the right is the official logo of the Great Lakes Naval Base

MAIL CALL.....CONTINUED

The mail included dues/donation checks from **Bill McCarthy, John C. Smith, John Cannella, Richard Ravn, Pete Loscheider, Dan Dolan, Jack Delaney, Kirk Newell, Noel Pittman, Denver Miller, Ken Huffman, Dick Zimmerman, Ray Miller, Billy Brown, Lowell Hammond, Hobart Harrison, Pete Pultz, Leney Gawenus, Guinn Fetner, Tony Capriglione, Pete Brady, Bill McGovern, and Alex Mihalsky.**

Some shipmates sent donations with a request that they be used for a specific project which is fine and those requests will be honored. **Don Keigher & Manny Dosil** requested their money be used for the memorial donations we send to the Columbia River Maritime Museum to honor shipmates who have died. **Randy Schwartz** donated 100 of the new Navy stamps to use on the next mailing and **Jim Jackson** made a generous donation to be used in the hospitality room at the reunion for his shipmates. Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the USS Knapp Association.

Noel Pittman sent an interesting article that appeared in the May 18th edition of the Wall Street Journal. The author referring to the National Museum of the Pacific War (also know as the Nimitz museum) said it was the best Military Museum he had ever seen. Noel and other shipmates have suggested that Fredericksburg, TX or a town in that area would be a great site for a Knapp reunion. I also received a packet of information from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD suggesting they would like to host our next reunion.....both good suggestions. **Jack & Jeanne Eagan** will be unable to join us at the reunion but commented as follows: "We will certainly miss being with all of you and will be thinking of you all.....especially at the time of the Friday graduation formation when so many of our crew will be swimming in memories of their Boot Camp days. What a long time ago that was!!" **Denver Miller's** daughter Melodi Neeman sent me this photo of Denver on the right.....

That is one salty looking sailor all decked out for liberty. Denver was on board the Knapp from 53-55. Underway duty watch was after engine room and machine shop. In port he was engineman on liberty launches eight hours each day.

Howard & Cherrith Wiseman will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in July. Howard and his grandson Clinton Casey have been helping put together the memorial service program **Dick Ravn** is the nephew of the late **Stan Geak WT1c** better known as "The Oil King." Dick and his wife "Sherry" will be attending our reunion in Chicago and we are delighted to have them join us.



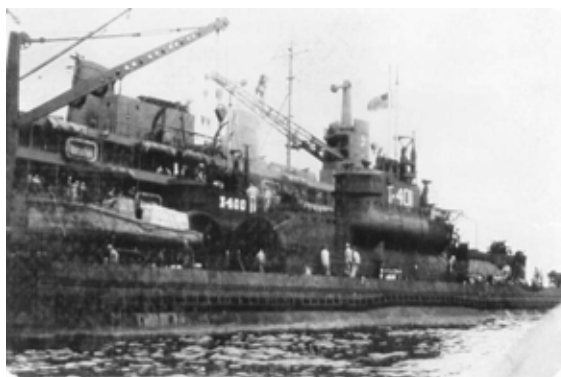
The photo above was taken from a recent issue of Tin Can Sailors News and it shows a Fletcher Class upright, then a 63 degree roll and last a 68 degree roll which the author claims is the point of no return. The author claimed the USS Abbott took a 63 degree roll during a storm. I would swear sometimes it felt like we rolled that far. I thought the second photo was interesting because it shows a Fletcher class steaming with a battleship and a heavy cruiser. The last photo is the Aurora, IL group from Boot Camp Co. #194- back L-R Frank Mason, Jack Swanson, Dan Dolan, & Larry Wrede - front Bob Dremmel & Merrill Thompson

MAIL CALL CONTINUED.....

The photo of the Aurora, IL group in Boot Camp on pagewas sent in by **Dan Dolan** along with the comment that Co. 194 was the top company at Great Lakes. Dan is prone to exaggeration because we all know Co. 196 was the best. In a letter from **Noel Pittman**, he said that he and his wife Pat will be celebrating their 1st anniversary in July and we wish them many more years of wedded bliss. He won't be able to attend our reunion in Chicago, but enjoyed the opportunity to share memories with shipmates in Baton Rouge, and commented as follows: "**Richard Kandarian** and I visited about our time together on the bridge of the Knapp. Richard's memory of events were better than mine and helped me remember events long forgotten. Richard was on the helm during general quarters while I was JOOD. We had some interesting times with **Captain Heine** and the rest of the crew on the bridge. We all relied on the ship handling skills of the Heine/Kandarian team."

The last mailing was newsletter #37, and only one came back as undeliverable and that was for **Less Grossman**. I sent it out a second time to a P O Box and it was closed, so if anyone can help locate Less I would appreciate the help. He was a Radioman 1c with the WWII crew and is responsible for many of the photos we have from that era of the Knapp's history.....more of which are shown below....

The photo on the right was taken while the Knapp was in Japan after the surrender. It shows the Jap subs I-400 & I-401 tied up to the American sub-tender USS Protens AS-19. The I-400 class of submarine was produced late in the war and was 60% larger than any American sub. They each carried 3 airplanes and their first mission was to launch Kamikaze attacks on the American fleet anchorage at Ulithi. The war ended before they could carry out their deadly attack and were surrendered to the U. S. Navy. They had more than twice the range of the U.S. subs and much more firepower. The Russians copied some of the design features 40 years later for their Typhoon-class submarines.



These photos do not carry any identification, but they were taken along with many group photos while the Knapp was in Tokyo Bay for the Japanese surrender. Looking at the photo on the left, and judging by the rate patch, at least some of these men are machinists mates. The photo on the right shows men with the Fire Control rating on their arm patch. The shipmate on the right is first class and the only FC1c on the June 1944 roster was **Bruce Williams**. If anyone can help out with identification, I would appreciate because I would like our information to be as complete as possible before posting them on our website.

One important final note for reunion attendees.....You must have a photo ID such as a driver's license in order to get on the Great Lakes Navy Base on Friday morning.Also, it is not too late to make your reservation for the USS Knapp's 26th reunion....

We wish you all a **Happy 4th of July** and look forward to seeing you at the reunion.

Pete and Jan