USS Macdonough Reunion Association Newsletter - Winter 2012

President's Column

GRAND RAPIDS WAS GRAND

by Lee Blankenship

What do pizza, Presidential Museums, dune buggy rides, elk ranch tours, fish boils, sculpture parks and gardens, live auctions, good food, and better friendships have in common? You guessed it – the 2012 Macdonough Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan – hosted by Al and Linda Buchanan, with the able assistance of John and Kathy Curtin and Fred and Nadine Steinke.

Susie and I checked into the Country Inn Suites on Sunday morning, June 24 to find that there was already a large contingent of shipmates, spouses, and guests who had arrived. The hotel was very convenient to everything that we were planning to do in Grand Rapids and western Michigan, the rooms were very comfortable, and the hotel staff seemed really interested in our welfare. Auction gifts started piling up in the hospitality suite, along with puzzle pieces, ship's yearbooks, and many photo albums. By the time that pizza was served in the evening, almost everyone had arrived (including Ken and Joan Brown's maple-leaf-mobile).



Monday morning, June 25 provided sleep-ins and free time for most of the crew, while the Executive Committee met to discuss business, finances, membership, and reunion plans. Thanks to Gary Beanland, John Curtin, Larry Wessinger, Bob Kahle, Al Buchanan, Fred Steinke, and Ted Parker for helping to lead the Committee's discussion. Bottom line: The Association is financially healthy; we continue to enroll new members; we continue to make plans for future reunions; we have a solid core of Association officers; and we are exploring the incorporation of our Association.

The afternoon found us at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum for self-guided tours that were both interesting and educational. The Museum was filled with Ford memorabilia from his earliest days in Grand Rapids, to his rise in local and Congressional political offices, to his service as President in the post-Nixon years. The Museum visit was followed by our traditional memorial service for our departed shipmates and a wreath-laying ceremony at President Ford's gravesite.

To top off our first day, we all adjourned to a local seafood restaurant for a birthday dinner for Clare Heavey and approximately 50 of her closest friends! Needless to say, we took over the restaurant, which is now financially solvent for the next two years, had a great time, and left in great spirits.

Tuesday, June 26 was an all-day adventure trip. Ever want to ride dune buggies along the shores of Lake Michigan? We did it! Ever want to shop in Ludington? We did it! Ever want to take a safari trip through an elk ranch? We did it! Ever want to walk a labyrinth in the late afternoon? We did it! Ever

Continued on page 2

Grand Rapids Was Grand (continued from page 1)

want to participate in a fish boil al fresco? We did it (and it was even better than advertised)! Ever want to return to the hotel at the end of the day and just collapse from over-enjoying and over-eating? We did that too!

On Wednesday, June 27, we toured the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, and what a delight they were. A tour bus took us through the 30+ acre park to view more than 80 sculptures by renowned sculptors such as Auguste Rodin, Edgar Degas, Roy Lichtenstein, and others.

Following lunch in the café, we returned to the hotel for our annual business meeting. Among the actions taken, our 2013 Reunion will be in Myrtle Beach, SC and hosted by Larry and Peggy Wessinger (this will be sequel III to our previous two reunions in Myrtle Beach in 2005 and 2007); Ken Brown was elected to succeed Gary Beanland as Association Secretary for the term commencing in 2013; the Association voted to include with the annual dues a voluntary contribution to support the Thomas J. Mertin Museum Grant Program run by the Tin Can Sailors organization to help fund the upkeep and restoration of the many tin can museum ships around the US; and the Association approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to again explore incorporation of the Association. President Lee Blankenship honored John Curtin for his many years of service as our Association Treasurer and Al and Linda Buchanan for their leadership in hosting our 2012 Reunion. The annual auction was another annual success (despite Boom-Boom's absence this year) as we traded auction items for the financial benefit of the Association.

We adjourned the business meeting, raced to our rooms to don our finest clothes, returned to the hotel lobby for photos on the sweeping entry staircase, and then met for the Association banquet. There were a number of comments about how well "the guys" cleaned up! Following the banquet, we were entertained by a local group of musicians that Al Buchanan unearthed – they had everyone singing and clapping along and laughing so hard that it was hard to listen to the music. Fortunately, the lights were turned down low so as not to embarrass the audience in the rear of the room . . . .

After all the excitement and energy of the previous three and one half days, Thursday morning found us eating breakfast at the hotel, sharing more sea stories, and trying to delay our departures by continuing to enjoy our final fellowship. But, alas, everything must come to a close as we exchanged hugs, telephone numbers, and wished each other "fair winds and following seas" until next year in Myrtle Beach! Thanks to everyone who made the Reunion memorable, who contributed time and effort to such a wonderful event in Grand Rapids, who shared stories (again) and humor throughout the Reunion, and who make the Macdonough Reunion Association such a special organization. Yep, Grand Rapids was, indeed, GRAND.

I look forward to seeing each of you again at 2013 MB III – and bring a friend or two to enjoy all of the Reunion fun that Larry and Peggy have planned for us!



For more reunion pics, go to: http://www.camerabean.com/US-Navy/Grand-Rapids-Reunion-June-24

USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association Executive Committee

Here are the shipmates to contact for memberships, address changes, obituaries, complaints, questions or kudos

President: Lee Blankenship
P.O. Box 1833, Salinas, CA 93902
Lee_Blankenship@comcast.net

Vice-President: Fred Steinke
8346 E. Eureka Rd, Eau Claire, MI 49111-9633
Freddeansteinke@hotmail.com

Treasurer: John Curtin
6938 Maynard Rd, Portland, MI 48875
Jcurtin@broadstripe.net

Secretary: Gary Beanland
PO Box 653, Port Orchard, WA 98366
Sdaniel537@aol.com

Membership: Bob Kahle
17 Kossman Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Rek1@comcast.net
732-238-1103

Chaplain: Al Buchanan
12148 Wisner Ave, Grant, MI 49327
albuchanan@ncats.net

Membership Corner

Current Membership information

Active:.....793

Deceased:.....121

Missing:.....38
(these were members and moved and we don't have new address or they died.)

Not Interested:.....62
(these were contacted and indicated they were not interested in the Association)

Potentials:.....2198
(this is the number of people on my list to be found.)

Regards,

Bob Kahle – ST1 – Plank Owner 1961-1964

Membership Chairman USS Macdonough Reunion Association (DLG-8 / DDG-39 / DD-351)

For more reunion pics, go to: Camera Bean

Tin Can Sailors Donations

"The USS Macdonough Reunion Association voted at our 2012 Reunion to request donations (in addition to the dues) so we may contribute to the Thomas J. Mertin Museum Grant Program. This program, run by the Tin Can Sailors organization, helps fund the upkeep and restoration of the many tin can museum ships around the United States. If you wish to donate to this worthwhile cause, please add whatever you wish to your dues payment and make a note that the additional funds are to be used for that purpose. Thank you."

2013 Reunion

Join us for the 2012 Macdonough Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!

See pages 4 - 6 for more information

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

The Association dues are payable on or before January 1st every year.
I want to thank all of you who have remembered and remind all of you who have not. The dues have been set at $20 per year. All dues collected are used to defray the cost of the Annual Reunion and office expenses such as this newsletter. We have no paid staff.

Checks should be made payable to:
USS Macdonough Reunion Association

and mailed to:

USS Macdonough Reunion Association
c/o Larry Wessinger
1161 Newberry Shores Dr.
Prosperity, S.C. 29127

U. S. S. Macdonough 2013 Reunion

April 28 - May 2, 2013

Springmaid Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

It's time to make your reservations! The fun starts on Sunday, April 28, 2013. Pack your bag early so that you will not miss the Sunday afternoon festivities at the Springmaid Beach Resort in sunny Myrtle Beach, S.C. The festivities will begin about 5 PM. The dinner will be followed by the Third (and probably last) U.S.S. Macdonough Just About Annual ProAm Invitational Miniature Golf Tournament. If you missed the first two Tournaments, your life is not complete!

Check-in at the Resort is normally 4 PM. but we have been promised that they will handle as many early check-ins as possible. We hope to have the hospitality room open around 12 noon for you to hang out and visit while awaiting your room to become available. It appears that the Resort will be sold out, so make your reservations as soon as possible. This is the prime season for Myrtle Beach with warm days (not hot) and cool (not cold) nights. **Please note that the cut off date is March 13, 2013**. Reservations will be taken after this date, space available, but at the prevailing rates. The prevailing rate is significantly higher (over $100 per night) than our reunion rate. The package rate will apply upon early arrivals and late departures if rooms are available.

The Springmaid Beach Resort is located at 3200 South Ocean Blvd. This is at the extreme south end of Myrtle Beach. Ocean Blvd. is the street that runs north and south along the beach. The Resort is located on a secluded 34 acre tract, located directly on the ocean. It is a perfect location for our reunion, only minutes from the heart of Myrtle Beach, the airport and many of the area's many attractions. All 486 rooms are oceanfront with great views of the Atlantic Ocean and beautiful Myrtle Beach.

Room amenities include electronic in room safes, refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, irons, ironing boards, hair dryers, electronic door locks, cable television, voice mail, and data ports. Other amenities include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, Jacuzzi, 150 foot Lazy River, fishing pier, fitness center, free parking, miniature golf and dining facilities.

The Reunion Resort rate for two adults is $300 plus resort fees and taxes (single rate is $270 plus resort fees and taxes) for four (4) night's accommodations, breakfast every morning in the cafeteria Triple and quad rates are also available. The current resort fee is 6% and the current state and local taxes is 12%. These fees are subject to change without notice

We are also planning optional outings for Monday and Tuesday nights, while leaving time for individual activities including golf, fishing, shopping, or just walking on the beach on both days. Of course, the hospitality room will be available for visiting whenever you are ready.

Our outings this year will be a return trip to the Giant Crab for dinner and to Legends in Concert on Monday night. The Giant Crab will probably offer you more food than you have ever seen in one place. It is about a guarantee that you will hurt yourself before leaving this restaurant. Legends In Concert is the most high energy show I have ever experienced. We are returning for the third time by popular demand. On Tuesday we will go back to Alabama Theatre for "One, The Show". This is also our third time to this theater. This will be an entirely new show from the one we saw the last two times. It is consistently rated the best show in Myrtle Beach. Before Alabama, we will dine at California Dreaming. California Dreaming is consistently rated one of the top places to eat in Myrtle Beach.

We look forward to seeing you all at Myrtle Beach.

Myrtle Beach Reunion Auction

As has become the tradition, we will again hold an auction at this year's reunion. It's hard to put a price tag on the entertainment derived from the auction, but to borrow a phrase from Master Card; "priceless". We really appreciate those who donate and those who purchase. The Auction is one of the events that help to make this Association possible. If you have something to donate, bring it to the reunion with you or you may mail it directly to: Larry Wessinger at 1161 Newberry Shores, Prosperity, S.C. 29127. It should be noted that we will try to auction anything, as long as it's not illegal or immoral. All contributions are appreciated and all proceeds go to the Association's Treasury.

2013 Reunion
Springmaid Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Tentative Agenda

Sunday	12 noon (or before) - Hospitality Room opens 5:30 PM – Welcome Dinner 6:45 PM - Third (and probably last) Just About Annual U. S. S. Macdonough PRO/AM Miniature Golf Championship. Everyone is expected to participate. To save marriages, no one can be in the same foursome with their spouse.
Monday	Free time until approximately 4 PM* 4 PM - We will board our bus for dinner. (Giant Crab) 6:15 PM - We will leave the Giant Crab for The Legends In Concert Show.
Tuesday	Free time until approximately 4PM* 4 PM - We will board our bus for dinner. (California Dreaming) 6:15 - Leave California Dreaming for the Alabama Theater to experience ONE, The Show.
Wednesday	Free time until approximately 2 PM 2 PM - Annual Business Meeting 6 PM - Reception (cash bar) 7 PM - Annual Banquet and Memorial Service 8:15 – Annual Auction
Thursday	8 AM - Farewell Breakfast

USS Macdonough Reunion 2012
June 28, 2012 Business Meeting Minutes
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Call to Order, 3 PM, by President Lee Blankenship

--Pledge of Allegiance
--Thank you to hosts Al and Linda Buchanan for the fun reunion
--Introduction of Lee's bride: Suzy Paoli
--Introduction of Officers
Fred Steinke, 2012/13 Vice President; John Curtin, outgoing treasurer; Larry Wessinger incoming treasurer; Gary Beanland, secretary; Bob Kahle, Membership; Mike O'Shea, Webmaster; Al Buchanan, Chaplain
--Gift of T-Shirts were given
--Eight plank owners attending were recognized.
--Newcomer introductions:
Tony Tubman, was presented with a DLG-8 hat
Leonard Dalenberg
Michael Gwaltney
--Thank you to Russ Naden and John Curtin for the memorial and to Ted Parker for help with laying the flowers at the memorial.
--A thank you gift was presented to Al and Linda Buchanan on behalf of the association for their work in planning and hosting the reunion.

Treasurer's report by John Curtin, outgoing treasurer after serving six years: We are in a positive zone financially with about $10,000-$10,500 balance. We need $6,000-$8,000 minimum to keep prepayments and

June 28, 2012 Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

newsletters, shipping costs and host and hostess gifts, floral arrangements, etc. Glenn Wilson made t-shirts and donated the profits of at least $170. The bookkeeping has been a logistics situation. John did a super job of coordination with the account Larry Wessinger kept of misc dues, sale of hats, white shirts, etc. There is $4,133 in the account in South Carolina. The bulk of the funds are in Michigan with John, which will be transferred to Larry. Everyone is urged to pay their dues. Motion: Ken Brown moved and Ted Parker seconded that the dues remain at $20/member/year. The motion passed.

Secretary's report: The Fall 2011 newsletter was emailed with printed copies going to those without email addresses. The spring 2012 newsletter was printed and mailed to all members, with an email-able copy to Bob Kahle for distribution to new members.

Membership: Bob Kahle reported we have over 700 members, including DD351 honorary member Howard Nelson of Seattle. Thirty-nine Association members are missing. If you move, please notify Bob of your new contact information. Bob has contacted 59 shipmates who are not interested. He usually tries to find people on the weekends. We have 2215 potential members.

Secretary: Ken Brown was nominated as Secretary for 2013/2014. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion to closed nominations passed and Ken Brown was unanimously elected as Secretary for 2013/2014.

Website report: Mike O'Shea reported that the website won't work with Internet Explorer 8 or 9. The code being used is obsolete and not working. Mike was reappointed as webmaster.

Chaplain: Frank Jones was appointed as chaplain.

2013 reunion: Larry Wessinger reported on the plans for the 2013 reunion at Myrtle Beach, SC.
Sunday – Thursday, April 28 – May 2 at the Springmaid Beach Hotel -- the same week and same place we've met twice before. Larry has reserved 50 rooms in the newly remodeled hotel. Competitors be warned, Ted Parker usually wins the highly competitive miniature golf tournament.

2014 Reunion: It was moved by Merrill Lewis and seconded by Bob Kahle to have the 2014 reunion in Seattle. The motion passed unanimously. Mike O'Shea noted that the USS Ponchatoula reunion was held in Bremerton (near Seattle).

Old Business:

- Bob Kahle suggested that the association donate $500 to the Tin Can Sailor's organization from the treasury. Further discussion suggested that future dues allow voluntary contributions to the Tin Can Sailor's organization.
- Larry Wessinger has a box of white t-shirts to sell.
- Tillie Kahle volunteered to write welcome notes to new members.
- It was suggested that the Association explore the possibility of having a Challenge Coin. Glenn Wilson will look into it.
- Incorporation: Larry Wessinger and Lee Blankenship will explore the possibility of incorporating in South Carolina. The USS Sellers is incorporated. Incorporating as a nonprofit would allow us to bulk mail the newsletters at about half price.

Bob Kahle moved and Ken Brown seconded a motion to ratify the executive committee decisions. This passed unanimously. Ted Parker commented that the executive committee had done well.

Auction items were distributed to the winning bidders. The meeting was adjourned.

2012 Mac Reunion

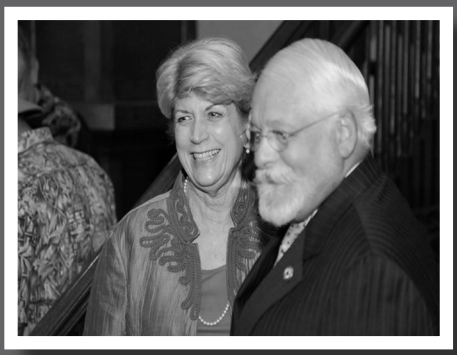




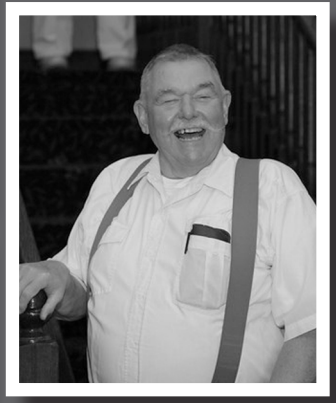














USS Macdonough Reunion Association

c/o Bob Kahle

17 Kossman Street

East Brunswick, NJ 08816



Published by the U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association for its members. Correspondence should be sent to U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association, c/o Lee Blankenship, P.O. Box 1833, Salinas, CA 93902, or by email to: Lee_Blankenship@comcast.net