

USS MAHAN ASSOCIATION

DD-102

DD-364

DLG-11

DDG-42

DDG-72

July 5, 2009

Greeting Shipmates,

I hope this writing finds you all in good health and spirits.

Another year half gone and seems that nothing has been accomplished. Here's hoping that the next six months will be rosy.

Let me start with a note from our President:

Greetings.

I hope this finds you all well. Plans have been finalized for the reunion in Tucson, AZ this year. Our banquet is Saturday the 31 of October so if you feel the inspiration, a Halloween Costume at dinner would be appropriate. The day allows for a little something different. I look forward to seeing everyone this year. Get your reservations in early. This promises to be a great time in a place we have never been for a reunion. Also, be thinking of interesting places for follow-on reunions.

All the best,

Jeff

Over the past six months we have had the following new members.

Chris Pollett DS2 DDG-42

Thomas Allbro OS2 DDG 42

Bryan Derushia OS2 DDG-72

David Bordeaux OS2 DDG-42

David Litrico GMM2 DLG-11

Andrew Scram LCDR DLG-1 1

Dennis Seffa MM2 DDG-42

William Mayberry GMG2 DDG-42

John Franzetti RD3 DLG-11

Michael Staggs RM2 DLG-11

A very hearty welcome aboard to one and all.

The following is a biography of one of our 364 men. Just to let you know just who manned her in her last days:

Harold Ojala- USN 1943-1946

I was only 17 years old, and still a student in my senior year of high school, when I joined the Navy on Dec. 7, 1943. I wanted to beat the military draft, so I would know what branch of the military I would serve in. I went to boot camp at Farragut, Idaho. Then to sonar school in San Diego, to become a "Ping Jockey", that is what we were known as, in those days.

I went aboard USS Mahan DD-364 at Mare Island Navy Yard, shortly before departing to the South Pacific and the Phillipine Islands. Leyte Gulf became a primary location of the Mahan, before engaging in the Ormoc Bay invasion support operation.

I was on duty at the sonar station, when the Kamikaze attack took place against our ship. The sonar station was on the aft side of the bridge. I heard someone shout that Japanese aircraft were flying directly toward the bridge of our ship. Then the devastating effects started. Loud impact concussions and explosions taking place. Afterward I decided to try to open the escape hatch. All I could see and feel was fire everywhere, so I had to close the hatch again, very rapidly, to keep from burning myself. Then I heard the word to "Abandon Ship". When I opened the hatch there was nothing left to walk on.

In order to escape the sonar room, I had to reach out and grab some overhead structure, to maneuver by hand past the destroyed walkway, eventually finding my way to the forward bridge. That is where I received the necessary information, to walk to the lower aft end of the ship, where we would abandon ship. With my life vest attached, I jumped into the Phillipine Sea, wondering what is next? The closest island was less than five miles away and certainly occupied by the Japanese. Also these are shark waters, which concerned me. Water temperature was moderate, so that part was no problem. The best part is the arrival of the destroyer Walke, that picked us out of the water within the hour.

While we were on the Walke, we had to experience the sad and final destruction of the DD-364, with a torpedo fired from the Walke. Of course this was very necessary to prevent the possibility of the Japanese collecting vital military cargo.

Much later in my navy days, as I was at Key West, Florida, undergoing more sonar training the big news arrived, World War II has ended. We had quite a celebration at the time.

After leaving the Navy in January 1946 I went to visit my high school in Kirkland, WA One of my friends begged me to enter the second semester of the class of "46", so I worked up my graduation of high school. I ended up graduating with the class of "46" instead of my original class of "44".

Thanks Harold, for sharing that story. If any other DD-364 sailors would like to share your experiences, please let me or Dick Hallowell know.

I have been involved with the Mahan Association since the '94 reunion in San Diego. I was the first DLG-11 sailor there. I must say that in a good many years of my life, the old 364 sailors have made quite an impression on me. Two of which kind of took me under their wing was Charlie Ernst and Capt Scottie Campbell. A great bunch of men.

One story that I was told was about Charlie Ernst. To many of you who don't know, Charlie served on the 364 with his identical twin brother. Both Chief MM's.

The ship was in Australia and Charlie and his brother went ashore. Charlie went into a barbershop to get a haircut and when the barber was through he told Charlie, next time you are in port come back and I will give you a free hair cut. Charlie promptly went out around the corner to where his brother was and sent him into the barbershop. According to the story, the barber nearly had a heart attack.

Just another one of a great bunch of stories. I hope in the future I can get some more to share.

From Russ Owens, our Ship Store operator:

Mahan Association Members:

For those of you who do not get email, I wanted you to be aware of the polo shirts we will have at the Tucson reunion.

Those who do not have a polo, or who want to replace theirs, now is the time to let me know, as to size, quantities, etc. This style is a little different from our original, but the original is no longer available.

If you would like to pre-order one, please let me know via email or phone. Price will be \$36. 2X, 3X \$1 more.

Contact me at email: mahanshipstore@aol.com or 414-861-9213 cell.

There is one other version with smaller stripes and no pocket I could get, but many people want a pocket for their cigs, sunglasses, etc.

I will be placing the shirt order near the end of June, so please let me know, so I can order sufficient quantities, without over or under ordering.

Thanks,

Russ



I would like to remind everyone that if you have access to a computer to please let me know, so that I do not have to mail a hard copy of the newsletter. With the price of postage going up it is becoming more expensive with each mailing.

Also Dick has just updated the association roster. Anyone who would like a copy can get it from Dick by e-mail or from me as a hard copy. Please let us know.

The reunion is officially from Oct 28 to Nov 1.

You will be staying at the Hilton Tucson East which is located at 7600 East Broadway.

Rooms are \$89 plus tax per day and include a complimentary breakfast served in the Hospitality Room.

You may arrive 3 days early or stay 3 days late for the same rate. Call 520-721-5600 to make reservations. The hotel is holding rooms until they are sold out or until Sept 18, 2009.

For those flying into the reunion, Tucson Airport (TUS) is the closest. For those driving there is plenty of free parking at the hotel.

USS MAHAN 2009 REUNION EVENTS

EVENT A: TUCSON CITY TOUR

Thursday, October 29th (9:00am-3:00pm)

Board your coach with your experienced guide and become familiar with Tucson's past, present and future during this very informative city tour. Some of the highlights include the University of Arizona and the El Encanto Estates; a historic block of restored 1800's buildings, and the Town Artisans, located in downtown Tucson's El Presidio Historic District. Don't forget your camera as your tour takes you to the Barrio Historic district, the Casa Cordova; one of the oldest buildings in Tucson, and the El Traditio Shrine. You will stop at the Mission San Xavier del Bac, built in 1783, known as the "White Dove of the Desert". The mission is acclaimed as one of the finest examples of Spanish mission architecture in the United States, and is often called the "Sistine Chapel of the Southwest". You will stop for Lunch (included in the tour price) at the El Charro Café. Established in 1922, the El Charro Café is the Nation's Oldest Mexican Restaurant in continuous operation by the same family. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet, featuring traditional

Sonoran cultural style and innovative Tucson style Mexican Food.

EVENT B: PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Friday, October 30th (9:30am-3:30pm)

Spend the day at the renowned Pima Air & Space Museum, which covers everything from the Wright brothers to Mars Attacks. The museum houses more than 250 military, commercial, and private aircraft representing more than 100 years of America's aviation history. Some of the aircraft on display include President Kennedy's Air Force One, a recently arrived B-36 and a newly constructed hanger to house the SR-71 and other unique aircraft. Your museum tour includes AMARG (Aerospace Maintenance & Regeneration Group), a Davis-Monthan Air Force Base open-air storage compound, which is the only facility of its kind in the United States. The narrated tour of this living airplane 'boneyard' features more than 4,200 aircraft ranging in size from the colossal, eight-engine Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bomber to the diminutive Cessna A-37 light attack fighter. The museum offers a restaurant for lunch on your own.

EVENT C: ARIZONA DESERT MUSEUM

Saturday, October 31st (9:00am-2:00pm)

The Arizona Desert Museum is a beautiful world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place. Exhibits re-create the natural landscape of the

Sonoran Desert Region so realistically, find yourself eye to- eye with mountain lions, prairie dogs, Gila monsters and more. Within the museum grounds, you will see more than 300 animal species and 1,200 kinds of plants indigenous to the Sonoran Desert. There are almost 2 miles of paths traversing 21 acres of beautiful desert, The museum offers several options for lunch on your own.

Please note: This is a large museum, and will require extensive walking.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, October 31st (7:00pm at Hotel)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 6:00pm; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel — please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion. Important Reunion Notes:

Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this case, full refunds will be given.

Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions in some instances to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.

Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) on all events.

All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary is available at registration.

Looks like the end of another brain freeze. Hoping for smooth sailing to all.

Hope to see you all in Tucson.

Jerry

