

USS MAHAN ASSOCIATION

DD 102 DD 364 DLG 11 DDG 42 DDG 72

5 Jan 2012

Greetings once again shipmates,

First of all let me apologize for being so late getting this newsletter out. Seems every time I turned around in the month of December, something was going wrong.

Here we are once again with another year under our belts. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and that your hangover was curable after New Years.

Over the last half of 2011 we acquired 5 new members.

Dennis Smock RM2 DDG-42 81-85 Billy Winn EN1 DDG-42 77-79 John Stewart RD3 DLG-11 69-70
James Chandler FTM2 DLG-11 65-69 Jay Williams GMMSN DDG-42 89-90

Let me give you all a hearty welcome aboard.

I am happy to report, although sadly, that we had only one member who did not answer muster.

Albin James Water Tender DD-364 September 1, 2011. I know that he will be missed by everyone as he was one of my favorites. A little story about Al. We were in Tucson for the 2010 reunion and I had my little Boston Terrier dog with us, staying at the PetsSmart Hotel. We had to have him out by 9 PM so we would go and get him and bring him to the hotel before retiring. While sitting around a table I had Charlie sitting on a chair between Al and I. I noticed Al was sipping a Baileys and Cream. Then I also noticed that he would take a sip and then reach over and give the dog a little taste. Needless to say Charlie liked Al also.

A message from our President:

What a great reunion we had in Nashville, TN. Once again we are offering the membership who intend on attending the reunion an opportunity to vote on the location. There's more on this in the newsletter. Make your pick and we will see you on the West Coast next year. Also, there was considerable interest at the annual meeting in package reunion to Hawaii if a reasonable price could be worked out. More on that as it develops. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

All the best

Jeff

I would like to call to every ones' attention again about the importance of having your correct snail mail address and if you have an e-mail to make sure that the Webmaster has it. It costs us a lot of postage if the hard copy is returned and we have to re-mail it.

As Jeff stated in his message, we had a great reunion in Nashville. Not just spending time around the hotel telling sea stories but we had some great tours. The cruise on the river boat and the meal were great. They really put on a good feed and show.

Also the tour of the Jack Daniels distillery was very interesting. It is hard to believe that of all the Jack Daniels that is consumed in the country comes from this small town in Tennessee where you can't even buy it. The distillery is

in a dry county. They did let us get a few whiffs at the vats. It was also interesting to find that everything they used was put together right there at the distillery. They made their own kegs, made their own charcoal to strain the whiskey through, and then after all was done they sacked up the charcoal and sold it as briquettes for the bar-b-que. We also had a great tour of Studio B on Music City Row and the Country Music Hall of Fame. We also had a great show at the Grand Ole Opry.

I'm sorry to say that the only attendee from the 364 was Harold and Grace Ojala. Joe Permatteo was signed up but illness caused him to have to cancel. Dave and Marion Krumlauf of DLG11 were just outside of Nashville when Dave took sick so they diverted to Florida to the doctors. He had a lot of tests and was turned loose I am glad to hear.

We had several first time attendees and were glad to have them aboard.

Geary and Jamie Coogler DDG-42	Arthur Eggers DLG-11	Bill Engle DDG-42
Matthew and Pat Clark DLG-11	Jerry and Betty Colbert DLG-11	Don and Debra Rack DDG-42
Cliff Sloan DDG-42	Donnie and Del Jeter DLG-11	Tom Holcomb DLG-11

If I have missed anyone please let me know.

A note from Russ Owens:

On Dec 8, 2011 fellow DLG 11 shipmate, Mal Wiseman, and myself traveled to Chesapeake VA to join Command Master Chief Mike Conran for his retirement ceremony.

Traffic from DC to the Norfolk area was terrible, with a 2 hour dead stop on the interstate, but we got there by 9 PM, and pre-partied at Mike's home. Friday

Dec. 9, It was off to Mike's again, before proceeding to NAS Oceana, Dam Neck, VA. for the ceremony. Mike had Mal, myself and 5 others do an MIA table setting as part of the ceremony. It was an honor to be there and participate.

Afterwards, it was off to the Chief's Club for a few rounds, then off to the clubhouse where Mike lives for an evening party. It was all over too quickly. Congratulations CMC Mike on a stellar 30 year naval career.



Mal Wiseman, Mike Conran and Russ Owens

Also from Mike's retirement is a comment from his Brother Dan:

Dan was already an ET3 when Mike went to enlist. Because of a history of asthma as a child, he was rejected as being medically unfit permanently. Mike came to Dan with this and Dan decided to try to change this. So young ET3 Dan went to some Navy office, and asks to "see the admiral". Well the Admiral was very busy but Dan will wait. Eleven hours later he is still there and the Admiral sees him. He explains the situation, and the fact that Mike really wants to follow in the family Navy tradition, and also, he ran track in high school and was fine. Seems the Admiral picks up the phone and tells whoever, this man needs to be admitted. But for Dan's visit a stellar Navy career would not have happened.

Russ Owens informed me that a friend of his was reading a book entitled AT WAR WITH THE WINDS by David Sears. In the book he wrote of talking with George Pendergast of the 364 crew. I contacted George and he gave me the following information:

"David Sears telephoned me about the 364 back in 2007, and asked if I was aboard on December 7, 1944?" "When I said yes he asked if he could interview me." "Sure I said." Quickly wondering, how in the hell was I going to remember an event that had happened so quickly and so many years ago. But I answered his impromptu questions, adding bits and pieces as we went along. He was not impressed as I remember, but acknowledged having interviewed me. Because of his statement, I was surprised to learn that I was the only Mahan sailor interviewed and quoted, even though I suggested that he contact Bill Sumner and others for their recollections.

If you are wondering why I'm giving you all this sidebar stuff, here's the reason: frankly I'm embarrassed he chose such a small sample to interview. And I wouldn't want my old shipmates to think that I was speaking for them or the event itself. Obviously, each of us has our own memories, real or imagined about what actually happened that day.

"So, if you elect to use some of what Sears said, I said, please consider including some of my more pertinent remarks."

Thank you and Best wishes.

George Pendergast, DD-364

I want to thank George for this information and I also wish that the author could have enclosed more information from interviews from the crew. I am enclosing 4 pages of the book that was pertinent to that day in the history of DD 364. If anyone of the 364 crew would like to inform me of any other memories I would like to hear them and be able to include them in the next newsletter.

I am including here some pages from the book written by Mr. Sears:

Link to the pages George has referred to in ["At War With the Wind"](#).

Let me close with my best wishes to all and ask everyone to take time to vote on the location of the 2012 reunion and let's make it the best one yet. Remember to vote with the webmaster at 619-606-3173 and we will see you at the next reunion. Also let me remind you that we remember all our comrades in arms in our prayers.

All my best and smooth sailing to all.

Jerry

