

USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume I Issue 23

February 2010

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Massey Website: www.ussmassey.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With all of the New Year hoopla behind us, it is not too early to start thinking about the reunion in Charleston. Mary Lou and I are certainly looking forward to that great occasion. I can't explain how good it is to see all you Massey shipmates from the plankowners to those that served up to the end in the '70s." I must admit that I am partial to those who served 1963-66.

Each reunion brings me back to happier times when we were aboard the Massey. Going on liberty and visiting ports of call that, a year prior, were only dreams from pictures in magazines. The reunion is a chance to relive those happy times.

If you've never attended a reunion, why not give it a try; the first timers at San Antonio certainly enjoyed themselves. If you think you might get homesick, bring family or friends to Charleston. They will be welcomed by all.

Tom and Carole Norman are working hard to ensure we will have a great time and everything runs smoothly. The timing should spare us any hurricane concerns. I hope to see all the regular attendees, along with some first-timers.

Your shipmate,

Tom Postoskie
President

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

First, I apologize for the confusion we created in February concerning dues payments. In an effort to remind everyone that dues should be sent to Sue Radziwon instead of me, we sent a blanket e-mail. I guess we didn't make its purpose clear, and a number of people thought that we were asking for

back dues. We were not. We regret any inconvenience we may have caused you.

The February edition of the newsletter will be posted each year on the Massey website, www.ussmassey.org, in accordance with the procedures approved by the association.

The May and October/November editions will be mailed only to those members who are current with their dues.

We understand that times are tough right now, and we don't wish to place a financial burden on anyone. **If the \$10 annual dues create a hardship, please let me know; and arrangements will be made to waive them.** We want to stay in contact with all our former shipmates.

Sue Radziwon, wife of Bob, maintains the association databases and records the dues. Sue is doing a great job!! Many, many thanks, Sue. **Just a reminder, all dues should be mailed to her.** Her address appears on the registration form in the newsletter. She will mail out membership cards and roster lists.

Aggie and I are looking forward to the reunion in Charleston. We always have a great time getting together with all the attendees; and how could we not? The company and conversations are great, the sea stories still the same (some even believable), the food delicious and the activities wonderful.

I hate groundhogs, but they are preferable to the robot that PETA has proposed. Looking on the bright side, winter will soon be over. We wish all pleasant thoughts of spring.

Jerry Goodson
Secretary/Editor

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VETERANS' CORNER

I am asking for articles of interest for veterans, from either retirees or those who served. Please send them to me by USPS or email, and I will publish them in future newsletters. I have a copy of **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, 2006 Ed.**, and have published some excerpts from it. It is very boring reading and filled with "governmentese" making it, for most of us, unintelligible.

NRPC Online Records Request Update

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) makes it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents such as their DD-214s from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may use NPRC online military personnel records system to request documents.

The web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked online to supply all information essential to NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The application may be accessed at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Users will be required to complete the application online and then download a signature verification document that must be signed and mailed to NPRC WEB, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100 or faxed to (314) 801-9049 within 30 days. If NPRC does not receive your signature within 30 days, your request will be automatically deactivated and removed from their system.

A service request number will be provided for follow up to (314) 801-0800, if necessary. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which may be downloaded from the web at <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.htm> or <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Some useful VA telephone numbers and website addresses:

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000; www.va.gov (VA home page)

CHAMPVA 1-800-7338387

Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947;
www.cem.va.gov/

Health Care 1-877-222-8387;
www.va.gov/health_benefits/

MASSEY HISTORY

Gordon Risk, Historian

I hope to have something for next time. If you have any articles, stories or memories you would like to share with others, please send them to me. I will publish them in future newsletters.

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the following deaths:

Chris Jackson, RD2, 61-65, Schaumburg, IL, passed away several years ago. Information received from Steve and Connie Jordan on February 1, 2010.

Let us continue to keep our shipmates, their spouses, families and their significant others who have entered into eternal rest, in our thoughts and prayers.

THE BINNACLE LIST

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the following shipmates, wives and significant others who are ill:

Mary Schnetzer, wife of **Charles H. "Skip," SOG2, 59-62** had the first of two coronary stents put in on February 2, 2010. She is doing well at this time. To wish her well or to cheer her up send cards to: 2578 Enterprise Rd, #314, Orange City, FL 32763-7904, (386) 986-5344.

Charles H. "Skip" Schnetzer, SOG2, 59-62, is suffering from serious back problems and is currently on pain medication 24/7. He is scheduled to see a neurologist February 11, 2010 for possible surgery. To wish him well or to cheer him up send cards to: 2578 Enterprise Rd, #314, Orange City, FL 32763-7904, (386) 986-5344.

If you know of a shipmate or a spouse who is ill, please notify me so that the association may send a card. It is important to keep in touch.

ANNUAL DUES

Make your check payable for \$10 to: **USS Massey Association** and mail it to:

Sue Radziwon
538 70th St.
Darien, IL 60561-4052

Your association card and current roster will be mailed to you shortly after receipt.

Your dues cover the cost of newsletters and roster lists. As you know, postage keeps increasing; and our dues have not. If you are not presently a dues-paying member, please consider becoming one.

A special "thank you" goes out to those shipmates who included an additional contribution to help defray newsletter publishing costs with their dues.

MAIL CALL

From: **Hollis J. "Hoppie" Campbell, 49-52**

I just got my Massey News and as always I enjoyed it very much. I really enjoyed the letter from Mrs. Edward Kenney. I remember that time in my life very well. I remember that the captain (Big Ed King) came on the PA system Christmas PM and announced that the price of real estate had dropped in value a great bit in case any of us were interested.

I noticed that in the last USS Massey Roster my phone number is not correct. It should be (309) 837-6994. Everything else is correct. It's always good to hear news of the crew, even though the ones I served with are getting fewer and fewer.

From: **Jack V. Zagaros, SN 1/c, Plankowner, 44-46**

I just want to report the wonderful reunion I had with Bernie Barilla, Tom Parker and the president of the Massey Association, Tom Potoskie. While I was visiting my daughter Mary Ellen and my son-in-law Dr. Stephen Burke in PA, Bernie picked up the two Toms, Bernie's wife Mary Jane and Tom's wife Mary Lou. We visited for about two hours while my



Seated L-R, Tom Parker, Bernie Barilla
Standing L-R Tom Petoskie, Jack Zagaros

talented and sweet grand daughter Elizabeth Burke served us a great lunch. I recommend that anyone who travels take along their Massey roster list and look up and contact anyone living in the area. You will have a great time.

From: **Ralph A. Kistler, LT, 61-64**

Please note that my wife and I have moved. Our new address is 7929 Winchester Circle, Goleta, CA 93117.

I'm hoping to make it to the reunion in 2010. It was great to see the picture of my old Bosun Joe Broussard (aka the greatest sailor in the history of the Navy), plus Phil Rush and several of the others from the early sixties. Keep up the good work.

NEW MEMBERS

James W. Leber and his wife **Loretta**

Give us a hand in finding more shipmates. The more we find, the more old friendships may be renewed and the more memories relived. You may send their names to me, Jerry Goodson; and I will mail them a copy of the latest newsletter, which includes information on how to become a member of the organization.

Ship's Store

Procurement and Supply Officer Butch Walters has some MASSEY items on-hand and can order others in your size and colors of choice (in most cases).

To order or for more information contact: **Wilson (Butch) Walters, 906 Vine St., New Eagle, PA, 15067, 724-258-9223, wcwalters2000@yahoo.com.**

2010 Reunion

Sunday, October 31 to Thursday, November 4, 2010

The 2010 reunion will be held at the Airport Radisson Hotel in North Charleston, South Carolina and hosted by Tom and Carole Norman.

The room rate is \$79 per night, and will be honored 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion dates. Tom has reserved a block of 40 rooms for our reunion. Each room has a microwave, refrigerator, high-speed Internet access, coffee maker, iron & ironing board. There is an indoor pool, sauna & whirlpool, and on-site fitness center.

The Radisson is located at 5591 Rivers Ave. North Charleston, SC 29406, <tel:843-744-2501>. To ensure the \$79 rate, you must identify yourself as being with the USS Massey group. **Reservations at the group rate must be made by October 1, 2010.** Reservations made after October 1 will be on a space-available basis and at normal rates. Parking at the Radisson is free.

The Radisson Restaurant provides a Breakfast Buffet (depends on house count) \$6.95, Lunch Buffet \$7.95 and Dinner Buffet (depends on house count) \$8.95.

For those flying in: the Radisson is approximately 3 miles from Charleston International Airport. The Radisson provides complimentary shuttle buses.

For those driving in: from I-95, take I-26 East for approximately 42 miles, exiting at 211A, then turn left on Aviation Ave. Go less than ½ mile to stop light, turn right on Rivers Ave., then turn right into Radisson parking lot.

Area Campgrounds: KOA Kampground, 9494 US-78, Ladson, SC 29456, Phone 843-797-1045, approximately 7 miles from Radisson.

Oak Plantation Campground, 3540 Savannah Hwy, John's Island, SC 29455, Phone 843-766-5836, is approximately 15 miles from Radisson.

There are others but a little farther out.

Tentative schedule of activities

Sunday, October 31—arrive, registration, hospitality room open, Radisson reception dinner at a special price.

Monday, November 1—Breakfast Buffet in Radisson Dining Room on your own. May/may not be buffet. Board bus for tour of Old Town Charleston & Fort Sumter National Park. Dinner on your own. Hospitality room open.

Tuesday, November 2-- Breakfast in the Radisson Dining Room. May/may not be buffet. Board bus to (?) plantation. Return to hotel. Association business meeting. Dinner on your own. Hospitality room open.

Wednesday, November 3—Breakfast in the Radisson Dining Room on your own. May/may not be buffet. Board bus to Patriots Point Park with tours of USS Yorktown and lunch in CPO's mess, Memorial Service, view USS Massey memorabilia, Congressional Medal of Honor Museum, aircraft, tour USS Laffey DD724 (Sumner Class DD), tour submarine USS Clamagore. Return to hotel. Hospitality room open. Social Hour and Banquet.

Thursday, November 4—Breakfast in the Radisson Dining Room. Say goodbyes and see you in Washington, DC for 2011 reunion.

This is a tentative schedule and subject to change. These tours are optional, and you only pay for those you attend.

If you live in the Charleston area, or not, and would like to volunteer to help Tom and Carole with this reunion, you may contact Tom at PO Box 749, Yorktown, VA 23692. For further information, contact Tom Norman at (757) 877-9035. I'm sure they will appreciate your assistance.

2011 Reunion

The 2011 reunion will be hosted by Phil Smith in Washington, DC. Phil has already inquired as to room rates at several hotels in the area. As we all know, there is much to be seen in our nation's capitol, with many having free admission, since we own much of the town. The surrounding area offers

many possibilities, as well. More information will be published as it becomes available.

If you live in the Washington, DC area and would like to volunteer to help with this reunion, you may contact Phil at 221 Oak Rd., Drums, PA 18222, (570) 788-3305, www.smitty778@epix.net. I'm sure he will appreciate your assistance.

2012 Reunion

The 2012 reunion will be hosted by John and Judy Curtis in Indianapolis, IN. It will probably be held, in conjunction with, a War of 1812 re-enactment festival held in October each year. There are a number of interesting activities in the Indianapolis area. More information will be published as it becomes available.

If you live in the Indianapolis area and would like to volunteer to help with this reunion, you may contact John and Judy at 408 W. Kem Rd., Marion, IN 46952-2056, (765) 662-1185. I'm sure they will appreciate your assistance.

APPLICATION FOR ☐ MEMBERSHIP or ☐ RENEWAL USS MASSEY ASSOCIATION

(PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION EACH YEAR SO WE CAN VERIFY AND UPDATE OUR RECORDS)

Name _____ Spouse _____ Date _____
(FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) (FIRST, M.I.)

Mailing Address _____
STREET OR PO BOX CITY STATE ZIP+4

Phone ____ - ____ - ____ Bus. ____ - ____ - ____ e-mail _____

Years On Board ____ - ____ Rank/Rate _____ Mail check and application to:
(SUCH AS 58-62) (SUCH AS LT/FTG2)

Make checks payable to: USS Massey Association

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538 70th St.
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