



# USS FISKE



DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 30 - Number 1 - February 2014

## Positive Feedback for Reunion Site!

### Members-at-Large Overwhelmingly Approve Gettysburg!



President Gil Beyer

## President's Letter

Shipmates,  
Charleston, SC is well behind us. Gettysburg, PA is still below the horizon, but it is not too soon to

start making plans. I am very impressed by the speed with which our 15<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Reunion Host, Jeff 'JD' Davis, has moved, and the things he has already put in place. If he keeps this up he'll have everything in set-up well ahead of schedule.

A hotel has been selected and a contract has been negotiated. It won't be long before details and rates are available to our entire membership.

From the comments that I've heard, Gettysburg has the potential to surpass the attendance numbers of the past three reunions. I also heard from several shipmates that they intend being in Gettysburg in 2015 after having such a good time in Charleston.

Shipmates who didn't attend our gathering in Charleston have told me that they regretted missing it and are taking steps to ensure that they will be in Gettysburg. So take a long look at your calendars and plan on being in

*On the Road to Gettysburg...  
with Jeff Davis,  
1st Vice President & Reunion Host*

Hello Shipmates!

Here is an update on the 2015 Reunion planning: We have signed a contract with a great hotel – *The Eisenhower Hotel* - located two miles south of the Gettysburg Battlefield on the Emmitsburg Road. It is also two miles north of US 15, the main north-south highway in the area.

The Eisenhower has rooms that we think are a similar to what we had in Charleston, a little bit larger, and with more furniture. They look very comfortable.

We are attempting to set up tours of the Battlefield, and also a second tour that would take in the Visitors Center, Museum, Cyclorama Painting, and the Eisenhower Farm. Between the two tours, we are planning a lunch buffet at a Restaurant right on the edge of the Battlefield, called General Pickett's Buffet.

We have already engaged an entertainment for the Ladies that will take place at the hotel, indoor or outdoor, weather permitting, during the same time as the Business Meeting.

It is a Tea with Mamie Eisenhower. The lady who portrays Mamie is very good at it and well versed in Ike and Mamie's daily routines. Mamie frequently had teas which also doubled as fashion shows. Light refreshments will be served with the tea. Just remember, there are tons

.....continued on page 3



<i>Featured In This Issue</i>	<i>page</i>
<i>From the Editor</i> .....	2
<i>Officers Contact List</i> .....	2
<i>Report from the Secretary</i> .....	3
<i>Treasurer's Report</i> .....	7
<i>The Road to Gettysburg</i> .....	4
<i>Chaplain's Corner</i> .....	3
<i>Ship's Log - from the Historian</i> ..	6
<i>Government Matters</i> .....	6
<i>Fiske Mates</i> .....	5
<i>What's Up With The Web?</i> .....	7
<i>Ship's Store</i> .....	5
<i>Order Form &amp; Dues Mailer</i> .....	8

.....continued on page 3

Pennsylvania on the last full weekend of September 2015. On another topic, the Executive Board made a decision on an important matter to the Association: For well over a decade one of the mainstays of our

# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Well - here we are - well into 2014, and peeking around the corner to Spring. After a long winter in some parts of the country, the vision of budding trees and flowers would be a welcome sight for anyone.

Spring - a time of renewal and hope. I remember writing something similar about this last year. In recalling the lyrics of *"The Warm September of My Years"* by Sammy Cahn (and sung so beautifully by Frank Sinatra), it makes me think of turning the corner once more:

*"One day you turn around and it's summer  
Next day you turn around and it's fall  
And the springs and the winters of a lifetime  
Whatever happened to them all?"*

Indeed shipmates, where has the time gone? Here we are, a viable Association, albeit an aging one. At age 72, I may be one of the youngest sailors aboard - having served during the last years of our glorious Fiske in the late 70's. Wow, that was 39 years ago - almost half a lifetime!

The clarion call last year from our President, Gil Beyer, was to find more shipmates who served in the late 60's and 70's. That said, we also need members who are willing and able to help guide us in the upcoming years. We have a wonderful history to share, thus we are asking you to encourage fellow shipmates that you know to join us.

On that note, since our Charleston reunion, a new wave of energy has swept through the Association's Officers and Appointments. I personally give a lot of credit to our new 1st Vice President, Jeff "JD" Davis. First, for joining, then, for proposing the next reunion site and volunteering to host it, for accepting 1st VP, and finally for his energy and enthusiasm, which seem endless. That brings up elections:

At each reunion during the Business Meeting, not many participate in the nomination process. Don't get me wrong - we get nominees - but most are quiet because they think it's a "big job". Well - here's the deal: It doesn't have to be a "big job". Witness the current Officers and Appointments who work together in harmony, keep the Association viable,

and who are genuine friends. We have a community of cooperation where each of us makes a contribution, thus breaking the "big job" down into smaller tasks. Think about this, and how much fun you could have to be part of it! Fair winds to all!

- Sandie



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**Return to Sender** After each "snail mail" to members, we receive returns with address unknown, or no forwarding address. This is why we ask shipmates to update us if circumstances change. A quick phone call to James (above) will keep your status current. Plus, the money wasted in postage really adds up!



*The USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. is a Not for Profit Corporation under the IRS Code 501 © 19 rules and incorporated in the State of New Jersey. This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to all members of the Association.*

**All About Dues:** Please read the Treasurer's Report on page 7. We are doing everything possible to keep dues at \$10.00, but ever-rising postal costs make the margin tighter and tighter. Please help us by making an effort to pay your dues, and if you can, add a small contribution for those unable to do so. We need you!



President's Message.... con't from page 1

reunions has been the magnificent Quarterdeck Board. Built by shipmate William "Leo" Pittman, it was renovated by shipmate Charlie Thompson and updated by myself in 2012. This board weighed nearly 100 pounds and when being shipped from reunion site to reunion site was a substantial drag on the Association's treasury.

It was felt that the monies spent on shipping could be better used for the betterment of the entire Association. With the goal firmly in mind that the board must go to some place that it would be appreciated and respected we contacted the people at the 'Tin Can Sailors' association.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 our Quarterdeck board was accepted by them into their Library at their home offices in Somerset, MA. Personally, I feel very good about this donation and it is my sincere wish that our membership feels the same.

In case anyone thinks that our reunions won't be the same without the board rest assured that its spirit will remain with us at all future gatherings. A full-scale photograph of the board has been printed on vinyl and will be with us in Gettysburg and beyond. Gone but never forgotten - like the Fiske. - Gil

### Notable Quote

"When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me 85 dollars.  
That is why in the Navy the Captain goes down with the ship."  
Dick Gregory, Comedian

**GO NAVY!**

### Special Genuine Buck Gent Knife



**\$30.00**

**Only Five in Inventory**

1 7/8" drop point blade, 420HC stainless steel,  
2 3/4" closed, lockback.

Handle has the Fiske hull numbers and image.



# Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961



Greetings, Shipmates!

While we lose some shipmates each year, many others learn about the Association and join, thus keeping our membership at a relatively steady level of just under 600. This is a list of new members from the past year:

Dave Smoot LTjg, 1960	Paul Crone EMC, 1962-64
Robert Falls E2, 1977-80	Ed Tighe RD/SO3, 1971-74
Bill Chance EM3 1973-76	James Hicok MM3, 1956-59
Greg Sutchko RD 1958-59	Adrian Harper ENC, 1967-69
Len Harney SK2, 1969-71	Harold Huey E3 1962-65
Richard Huber SOG3 1964-67	Thomas Grove, BT3 1965-67
Carl McDaniel, TM3, 1965-66	Robert Peebles RM2, 1973-1974
Donald Syverson RM3 1965-67	Earl Leach ET2, 1950-1953
Bob Sundin RM3/C, 1945-46	John A. Hart, Sr. RD2, 1960-1962
Chuck Carter MM1, 1954-57	Stanley Peterson MM3, 1952-1953
Steven Mako. DC1, 1978-79	Carl Bailey GMG3, 1966-1968
Dick Kinsley LT, 1964-66	Woodrow Bond MM1, 1972-1975
Britt Fontenot GM2, 1968-70	Robert Ferguson DK1, 1976-80
James Stewart "Stew Baby" GMG3 1964-1967	



If you wish to contact anyone above to renew an old friendship, let me know- [jkovite@juno.com](mailto:jkovite@juno.com) or call me at 703-201-2892 and hopefully I can help you connect. I wish you fair winds and calm seas, shipmates. - Jeff K.

## Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3  
1959-1963

"When peace, like a river,  
attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul".

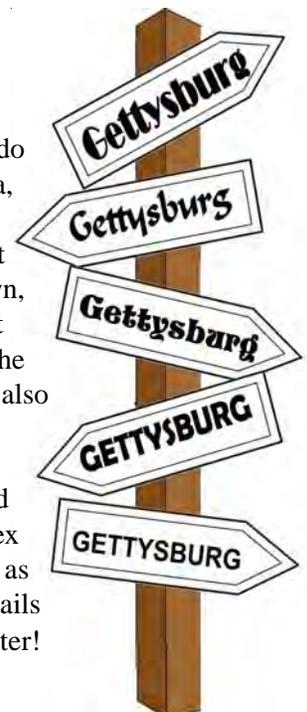
Instead of living in the **shadows** of yesterday, walk in the **light** of today and in the **hope** for tomorrow. Grace be with you, always!



- Frank

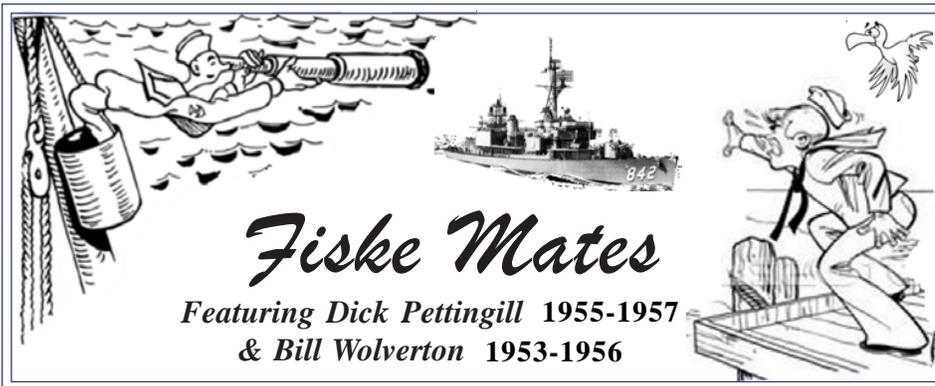
Reunion report....  
con't from page 1

other things to do around the area, including golf, nighttime Ghost Tours downtown, and some great restaurants in the area. There is also a large outlet center just two miles away, and several multiplex movie theaters as well. More details in next newsletter!



- Jeff D.





Note: This story recollects the excellent adventures of shipmate buddies Dick Pettingill and Bill "Wolf" Wolverton, as told by Dick.

"I'm the other one who successfully swam back to the Fiske in San Remo. I climbed aboard the ship from the fantail, went forward opposite the



Dick Pettingill

Officer's deck and had just finished showering down in full dress (needed to get the salt out of the uniform), when Bill came down the ladder to our "bunk area". I heard him coming and so greeted him at the bottom of the ladder.

Bill was astonished that I not only beat him back to the ship but that I had not drowned. He had turned me in to the Officer of the Day and they had Fiske whale boats out looking for me someplace between

the shore and the boat. It was a very long distance and Bill was sure that in my "drunken state" I must have drowned and would never make it back to the boat. Bill said to me in a mixed reaction "Pettingill, I've turned you in to the officer of the day and they are out looking for you in the whale boats... I thought you'd drowned". His reaction was mixed because he was happy I was alive but concerned because he had turned in his buddy.

Fortunately/luckily I had to stand Captain's Mast and was sentenced to X number of days on board. The expiration of the term was the day of arrival at our next port so there was really no penalty and no record because the Captain liked us both (Bill was a DK3 at the time and I was a recent graduate of the DK school in Newport and so Bill was my "boss".)

I served on the Fiske from 3/55 to 7/57 and then got shore duty in New England where I served out my four-year term.

Bill was reasonably tall, good looking and always with a friendly smile on his face. As you can imagine, being from West Virginia, he had to take a good ribbing from us boys from the north and when we were kind to him we called him "Wolf"."



# Ship's Store

with 2nd Vice President,  
& Ship's Storekeeper, Sandie Siciliano



Shipmates, Space is tight, so here, briefly, are some items we have in stock. You will find the order form on page 8.

ETN2 1975-1980

All shirts and caps are \$12.00 each.



Shirts are blue or gray. Some sizes may be sold out but will be replenished.



Ball caps come in a beautiful stone beige, or navy. Or choose our new bucket cap in navy.



Remember, ALL caps are embroidered with your choice of DD or DDR-842.



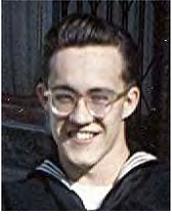
Patches - \$5.00 for small, \$7.00 for large. Our remaining supply is very limited, and the small DDR is sold out.

Can Koozies, Magnetic Clips, Letter Openers (not shown), and Stress Balls are all \$4.00 ea, 2 for \$7.00, or 3 for \$10.00



Until next time - call or email me if you have any questions!

- Sandie



Gilbert E. Beyer,  
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

# Ship's Log Entries...

## Historian's Report

*A majestic ship was she, that sailed the seven seas, we were her crew, we saw it through, and logged our history.*



**A**s your historian I feel that it is my duty to seek out every piece of the Fiske story that I can. Back in November I got a phone call from shipmate *Lee Tyler* who asked if I knew anything about the Fiske's involvement in the Lebanon Crisis in 1958. I had to tell him 'no' but that I'd look into it.

My search led me from Wikipedia to OpNav 1650 by a very circuitous route. When the trip was all over, I learned a great deal about Fiske's 1958 Mediterranean cruise that I didn't know before.

Most of the story has already been entered into our '*Incomplete History of the USS Fiske*'.

Long story short - the Fiske was one of many ships that may have been sent to the area near Lebanon for 'Operation Blue Bat' in early June at the order of President Eisenhower. During the 120 days of the crisis about 70 ships - with about 40,000 sailors onboard - and approximately 14,000 US Army and US Marines participated, while the ships that patrolled off shore ground forces were put ashore near Beirut.

These forces formed a perimeter around the port and the city's airport. There is no record of any combat deaths during this operation. One officer apparently died when his .45 caliber sidearm discharged as he was scaling a wall.

American forces were withdrawn

in October. When the smoke had cleared the Christian President, Camille Chamoun, would serve out his term and moderate Christian General Fuad Chehab would become President.

That's the gist of that tale. Just like much of what goes on in the Middle East - a great deal of noise and fury without much being accomplished.

What were the results for the Fiske? Well, the short answer is 'Nothing!'. While one reference says that she was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, I cannot verify that through official records. I'll just have to keep digging.

- Gil



## Four Easy Steps:

**1** File the claim ASAP. Your benefits, if approved, will start on the date you filed. You'll get a retroactive check back to your filing date, no matter how long it takes.

When you file, you will need a copy of your DD 214, and a good accounting of your medical history from the time you left the service until the date you file. That includes diagnoses, hospitalizations (where, when, what hospital), names and addresses of all the physicians you saw, and so on.

# Government Matters...

With First Vice President, Jeff Davis



William G. Jeff Davis  
PNSN 1964-1966

**Question:** "How do I start a VA Claim?"

**Answer:** It's easier than you think, shipmates!

*You do not need documentation at this point The VA will tell you what you need.* File online yourself, or get a Veterans Service Officer from the Legion, VFW, VVA, etc.

**2** Gather your data. Meanwhile, write away for your military records, which will include most of your personnel file. Ask your family physician to copy your medical records for you. They should include hospital reports, lab reports, and routine exam reports.

**3** Get two self-inking rubber stamps: One with your name, address and phone number. The other with the

claim number you will get from the VA and your social security number.

**4** Make copies of everything! *Never send the VA an original document.* Send copies only! Make sure the rubber stamps are applied to the back of every piece of paper you send.

- Jeff D.

*Do you have a question about Veteran's Benefits?*  
Email Jeff at: [ngfs66@vetsnet.us](mailto:ngfs66@vetsnet.us)  
or write to him: Jeff Davis  
1350 Fairfield Road - Gettysburg, PA 17325



The word has passed once over the 1MC for all contributors to "Lay up to the Quarterdeck with their articles" for the Spring 2014 issue.

Of the many things that we learn while in the military, we find that promptness to orders, accurate completion of our assigned tasks and the completeness of our instructions to others means that the work of all will go very smoothly and not create any confusion as to what we are or should be doing. Now, that was a long sentence describing what I hope we all took from our military service and applied to our lives afterwards. Lessons well learned are lessons well kept.

As the Reunion in Charleston is now behind us, we have directed our attention to the next in Gettysburg in 2015. An excellent set of preliminary arrangements have been made by your host and 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Jeff Davis. Now the orders are to fine tune a package that will provide a schedule of activities suitable to the Reunion, but not to overtax your time, energy or funds.



James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg  
1964-1967

## The Treasurer's Report

Please watch your Newsletter closely over the following issues and start your personal plans to attend in September 2015.

My duties as Treasurer not only involve the payment of bills, preparation of reports etc., but also the collection of the Annual Dues. While we have been able to maintain the dues at the \$10.00 per year rate, the costs of collections have been steadily increasing. This is especially true with postage rates projected to rise to \$.49 in 2014. To this purpose I am asking that all members who are able to contribute dues to please do so without the need to receive a dues notice.

The Editor has included a clip out dues mailer in this newsletter. Please use it to send your dues payment directly to the Association.

If you wish to know your current dues status, please email me (my

address is on page 2), and I will reply quickly. Additionally, please include your current address, telephone number and email address to keep our records up to date.

At present, we use email to send out over 60% of the newsletters to help the Association save even more of its funds. This has proven to be the accepted method of the future and we would like to expand that to even more members.

For those who are concerned about security of your email address, we have taken steps to prevent misuse and to also assure you that we NEVER sell or distribute lists to any outsider.

As I have again reached my allotted space, please enjoy "Fair Winds and Following Seas" throughout your travels.

- James

## What's Up with the Web?



with Web Master, Steve Gilbert



Steve Gilbert  
YN3 1958-1960

At the reunion general meeting on Saturday, September 28th in Charleston we discussed the removal of all personal information from the web site. At that meeting there seemed to be general consensus that we should leave the web site pages as they are. Some others have proposed password protecting the roster pages. This would limit former shipmates or

navy researchers from hunting for information about us and our ship. It also adds another level of complication to our membership who probably have enough passwords to remember. This proposal also met with little enthusiasm. If you wish to have your personal information removed from the web site Profile Pages, please email me at [webmaster@ussfiske.org](mailto:webmaster@ussfiske.org).



- Steve

# SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

Make your selection from items shown throughout the newsletter

## PERSONALIZED MUG




 MissChopin@TampaBay.RR.com  
 (813) 920-6833  
**Sandra Ehlers Siciliano**  
 ETN2 (USNR)


 K E E P E R



Black, White, Cobalt Blue or Green  
**SUPPLIER DROP-SHIPS \$25**

**Personalized Mug: Name or Nickname**    Color:    Rate:    Years:    DD (or) DDR \*    \$25.00  
 Item 7: Please print clearly to avoid errors

Item #	Quantity	Description	Color	Size	Price	Total

*Shipping: Please help us keep it free! Contribute any amount here if you can, with our thanks:*    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIP TO:** Make checks payable to the USS Fiske Assoc., Inc.  
 Please print clearly to avoid errors!

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Street Address	
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email Address:	

**MAIL TO: Sandra Siciliano, USS FISKE - Ship's Store Keeper - 6528 Steeplechase Dr. - Tampa, FL 33625**

**THE ONLY OFFICIAL FISKE SHIP STORE IS ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.USSFISKE.ORG**

*Your assistance will help us reduce the cost to print and mail notices with postage at .49 cents per ounce each!*

**2014**

*Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.*

**Dues**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.



**Send To:**  
**USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.**  
 c/o 244 Park View Avenue  
 Warwick, RI 02888



*A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.*