



# USS FISKE



DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 - Number 1 - February 2015

## PAY FORWARD FOR REUNION!

### Pricing Details and Registration Form on Page 7



### President's Letter

Shipmates,

Well, with winter almost over, *President Gil Beyer* and spring around the corner, I hope everyone is now busy making plans to join us in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. That said, September is now only seven months away – we can no longer procrastinate about finalizing our travel plans.

Also, I'd like to remind everyone that we have instituted a 'Pay Forward' program that lets those planning to attend to be able to deposit money with our esteemed Treasurer for expenses that are reunion related – except for room reservations. All room reservations must be booked directly through the hotel. Check our website for hotel contact information.

I've looked over the Reservation Form with the tours and the banquet menu and find the pricing to be reasonable. The banquet entrée selections should give everybody a good choice. Bon Appetit!

I'm looking forward to meeting some of the new shipmates that have joined our association since the 2013

gathering in Charleston, South Carolina, and renewing friendships made over the years. I'd also like to see Shipmates that have been members of the Fiske Association for years, but have never been able to attend a

.....continued on page 8



### On the Road to Gettysburg... with James Rapson, Treasurer & Reunion Host

As you read this, we are seven short months out from the 15<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on September 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The many details of planning have been mostly completed and the organized activities are listed on your reservation form on page 7.

Please remember that the Eisenhower Hotel has requested that ALL room reservations be made directly with them and to please use our Group Code of 300670 when making your reservations.

We have been given a rate of \$95.00 per night for a Double plus appropriate taxes and fees. These rates will also apply for three days prior to and after the Reunion for those who wish to make an extended stay in the Gettysburg area.

One of the reasons that Gettysburg was selected was that it was within four (4) hours driving time for nearly 65% of our Shipmates. Following this rationale, it was felt that many Shipmates would prefer to break into smaller groups for exploring, sight-seeing, etc. Our aim is not to over

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# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Recently I started thinking about our membership - from plank holders in 1945 - to the last ship's crew in 1980 when the Fiske was sold to the Turkish Navy.

2015 brings with it an odd twist - we had thirty five years of honorable service, and the ship has been gone for the same amount of time - thirty-five years. The phrase "*Time Marches On*" serves as a reminder that many of us are well into our nineties, and a few of us "young 'uns" (myself included), are in our seventies.

With Gettysburg a stone's throw away for the majority of our membership, attending this reunion is possibly the best opportunity ever to reconnect with fellow shipmates from all eras and to share memories of our service aboard.

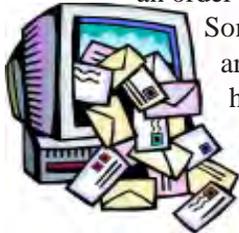
For the benefit of new members who have joined the past two years, all elected Officers and Appointments are volunteers - a statement that belies the first rule of sailorship - "*never volunteer for anything*". Well, we did, and, we do it all for you! Besides the socializing at every reunion, two items of business must be conducted at the mandatory General Meeting: First, the election of Officers, and second, the selection of the next reunion location. If you are not present, you do not have a vote.

With Gettysburg coming into view, every effort was made to keep it affordable. Minus the hotel, the entire package to attend for hospitality, the tour (which includes lunch) and the banquet, per person, for four days, is \$101.00. The only extra would be \$15.00 for the *Tea with Mamie* - something special that your spouses will not want to miss!

In Gettysburg, our Secretary Jeff Kovite will have a table for you to donate (and take) non-fiction books related to military subjects. I would also like to offer this: Please bring photos of you on board or with your buddies and let me scan them right then and there to add to our history so that Gil can include them in the oft-mentioned book "*Fiske Tales*" that we hope to publish. This book will record, in our own words, accounts of our service aboard the Fiske.

Finally, I want to apologize to those shipmates who had an order misplaced or late in delivery this past year.

Sometimes life gets in the way, and since we are all volunteers, "free time" is not always at hand. I promise to do my best to correct this, and with that, thank you for your kind understanding. Until next time, may your sailing be smooth with fair winds. - Sandie



## U S S F I S K E

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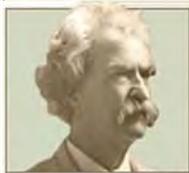
Update Your Profile by Contacting Steve Gilbert at  
**WEBMASTER@USSFISKE.ORG**

No email? Write to  
Steve at the address on  
the top of this page.



**Do you have a New Home Address or Email?**  
Contact James Rapson above

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## Notable Quote

"Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did.

So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. - Mark Twain



## Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961

Shipmates: Since our last newsletter in November, we added three new crew members:

Peter Brotschul	BT2	1974-77
David W. Smith	BM3	1966-70
John Sandry	YN2	1965-68

On behalf of the Association, we extend a warm welcome to all three shipmates above, and hope to meet them in Gettysburg this September.

If you use a computer and are interested in learning more about Gettysburg, try visiting the following websites, both of which are very instructive:

[www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org),

or

[www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm).

Until next time, I wish you fair winds and calm seas.

- Jeff

SEPTEMBER - 24-27 2015

SAVE THE DATES!



GETTYSBURG, PA

15th BI-ANNUAL REUNION

Road to Gettysburg...con't from page 1 structure you, but to allow you the time and ability to mix with "old" friends, make some new friends, just "do your own thing" or just "hang out" in the Hospitality Room.

There will be ample brochures in the Hospitality Room showing various activities, places to go and things to see in the Gettysburg area. For those who are so inclined there are also many excellent golf courses nearby.

There is only one scheduled tour on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> to the Gettysburg Battlefields, but it is a great offer for the price.

You will start off at 9:45 AM from the hotel with a two hour, guide accompanied tour of the Battlefields, then on to lunch at the General Pickett's Buffet. This will be followed by a tour of the Gettysburg Diorama (an excellent presentation) with a return to the hotel at approximately 2:45 PM. I have already done portions of this and it is well worthwhile and again, a great value.

On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM, while the Shipmates are at the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Ladies will be hosting a "Tea with Mamie", a one-woman costumed performance of "Mamie Remembers Gettysburg"

Hopefully, we kept the prices within reason, made the offerings interesting, and the opportunity exciting for you. Please use the Reservation Form on page 7 to complete your reservation.

If you wish to split your costs over several payments, that is acceptable. Send 50% with your reservation by July 15, and the remainder no later than August 15.

A master list will be kept of all reservations and yours will be duly recorded for all that you wish to do.

As always, please email me with any questions, concerns, etc. (email address on page 2); also please keep a watch on the Fiske website, and by all means use the internet to contact the local Chambers of Commerce for the Gettysburg area. There is a lot of information out there, so research it to make your Reunion the best.

Jim and Geri Rapson  
Reunion Hosts



## Chaplain's

## Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3  
1959-1963

"God, we thank You for the year just past, for the good times and the bad, we thank You for Your mercy and Your grace, that temper memories of the sad.

Now grant us wisdom for the coming year, obedient minds that listen, still, trusting hearts that conquer fear, and steadfast love to do Thy will."



Wishing you and your families smooth sails and calm seas.

- Frank



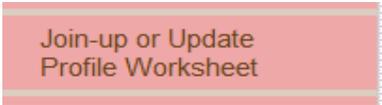
Steve Gilbert  
YN3 1958-1960



with Web Master, Steve Gilbert

In the November issue of the newsletter we promised to illustrate how easy it is to create or update profile information for the Fiske Association.

Let's start with arriving at the main or home page of the US Fiske web site. Following is a representation of the button you find off the port side of the main page.



This reddish button will take you to the web page where you provide personal information to us.

It is important to know that we will protect your personal information and give it out to no one. The November issue listed those items that we need to record you in our listings. Anything else you provide is purely optional.

Once you have listed these few items just click on the button at the bottom that says "Submit". That's it!

I will pass along your information to the Association and you will begin receiving the newsletter and other information from time to time.

What's important right now is the upcoming reunion in

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania next September.

Since I live in New Jersey and have been to Gettysburg, I can report that



What's  
Up  
With  
the  
Web?



James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg - 1964-1967

## The Treasurer's Report

For some reason or another the time frame for new articles for the newsletter seems to come more quickly than I often realize. With that, 2014 was good for the Association with a regular stream of dues monies flowing in and a reasonable amount of sales through the Ship's Store.

We were in a good financial position at year end with all of our obligations paid, no outstanding receipts due and a healthy balance in our checking account. The Association continues to operate on a cash basis without the need of a credit card to make our work either easier or more difficult.

The reporting of our financial position continues each month with the Officers, Board Members and those Shipmates who have requested a copy of the financial report - receiving them within several days of the close of the month. The financial data was delivered to our outside accountant in January for his financial report and the filing of the appropriate tax return.

As I have said previously, if the financial information is not gathered properly, and if it is not reported in a timely manner, then that is the start of the downfall of the Association. My pledge to the Association and to my Shipmates is that it will never happen on my watch and that a full accounting of all of our activities will always be available.

Now that I have covered that portion of the financial picture, please continue to send in your dues monies and, if you are able, a contribution to help those who may be unable. While the \$10.00 amount may seem small, they do mount up quickly when all of the Shipmates pull together. Until next time, I wish smooth sailing to all.

- James

there are lots of interesting things to see and do. I also stayed at the Eisenhower hotel - which is a good choice for getting from place to place.

One more comment about the security of your information: We keep all your records private. No one gets their hands on any of your personal information. But, in a broader sense, you probably have passwords for various web sites you visit.

My experience is that many people use the simplest of passwords that can be easily "hacked" (broken). The most common passwords used today are still: "password" and "123456".

Your passwords should not be your

name or any family/pet name. The best passwords contain letters in both UPPER and lower case, at least 8 characters long, include numbers, and special characters such as the pound sign #, or ampersand &. In addition, you should change your passwords every month or two. Make a listing if you need to and keep it at home in a safe place - *not on a sticky note on your PC or your refrigerator!*

Finally, although it's a lot of work, you should have a separate password for each site that requires one. *Why? If a hacker gets his hands on one of your passwords, he will have access to all your password protected sites!*

- Steve

# Fiske Mates



*On the Rocks on  
the Riviera*

*Featuring SOG2 Jeff Kovite ('59-'61) & SOG2 Doug Gunderson ('59-'62)*



*Cruise Book  
photos of Jeff  
(top) & Doug*

On Christmas Eve in 1959, the Fiske was anchored at Cannes, France, a few hundred yards off the beach; we could see the lights from the hotels and cars driving along the boulevard that hugged the shore.

We were port and starboard liberty; I had the watch, such as it was in port for a sonarman.

Doug Gunderson, another sonarman, had the quarterdeck watch.

About 20:00 hours he came down to the compartment and told me that it seemed to him the lights on land were getting closer. I went topside to look. It was a windy night and it did seem that we were a bit nearer to the beach than we had been a few hours ago. Perhaps we were swinging our anchor? The captain and most of the officers were ashore and the OOD, it seemed, was not concerned.

An hour later, Doug came down again and said we were really close to

the shore now. A scraping noise came from the hull; I felt the ship bump and list a few degrees. I ran back topside, and sure enough, we had dragged our



anchor and drifted onto the beach. I could almost throw a stone to the road - it was that close!

There we stayed for a day or more as the damage was assessed. Luckily, only one of the screws had been damaged. We limped to Malta and went into dry dock for several days while the damaged screw was replaced.

*Valletta was a nice liberty port, and the crew enjoyed the unexpected respite, along with the embarrassing knowledge that we were probably the only ship in the US Navy to run aground on the French Riviera!*

*Narrated by Jeff Kovite*



## *The Rest of the Story of the 1967 Med Cruise*

*As narrated by*

*RM2 Terry Oldham '66 - '68*

As a followup to ST1 Ron White's Fiske Tale about our 1967 "Med Cruise" last November, I was on watch as we



were waiting to transit when things got "exciting". A representative from the US Embassy came aboard and needed to get a message sent to the POTUS and everyone else in command at the Pentagon that something was about to HAPPEN SOON!

I was unable to get up a phone link so tried finding "CW" link. Afterwards, I wished I had called for help from Mallory (he was much better with the key), but I finally got up with a Navy Com Center in Turkey.

I remember that the ComSta operator challenged me as to the DTG (date time group) as it took some minutes to do this, and I'd already "stamped the DTG" when creating the initial message (but didn't change it when I finally found someone to take it). Lucky for me I had the correct secure info in front of me to respond to his challenge, and finally got the message sent. *In other words.....the 6-7 day war was starting!*

We then started transit of the Suez and a "lovely" 2-3 months in the Red Sea. We had beard growing contests, fishing contests and any other contest we could think of. *And oh, by the way - we also had water rations - phew!*

All this time we were under radar from both sides. It was kind of tense!

## Ship's Store

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



*ETN2 1975-1980*

Shipmates,

Ship's Store is in the process of restocking for the upcoming reunion.

Currently, more caps are being reordered and embroidered.



Patches are \$5.00 for small DD. Large DD and DDR are \$7.00 each. Small DDR is sold out. All caps and shirts are \$14.00 ea.



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.*



**T**hanks to a letter I received from Shipmate Eugene Peloquin recently, I learned that the USS Decatur (DD 936) was the flagship of DesRon 8 in the late 1950's and into the mid-'60's. Then Ensign Peloquin reported on board the Fiske in 1957 and transferred to the staff of DesRon 8 aboard Decatur in 1959.

After I learned of Decatur's role in DesRon 8 I did a little 'google' search (the historian's best friend, if one is careful), and learned that she was not a 'Lucky Ship' like the Fiske.

She was commissioned on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1956, not to my mind a great choice of dates. In August 1959, while in Naples, Italy, on her first Med Cruise with DesRon 8, Decatur had an Engine Room fire that took 2 hours to get under control.



Damage to the USS Decatur shown above after collision with USS Lake Champlain May 6, 1964

Fortunately, her magazines had been flooded as a precaution during that event. Things went a little better when in 1961 when she acted as a spacecraft recovery vessel for some of the early Mercury astronauts; however, on May 6th 1964, she collided with the USS Lake Champlain (CVS 39) after losing steering control. That resulted in the destruction of her entire bridge and

foremast. Amazingly, there was no loss of life or personnel injury.

This ended her place in DesRon 8, upon which Decatur was placed 'in commission in reserve' and extensively converted over the next 2 years. Following that, she was re-commissioned DDG 31 in April 1967. The remainder of her service was in the Pacific Fleet. - Gil

**Shipmates,** Gil has nearly completed his compilation of Fiske History, but lacks photos of all who contributed. His goal is to have this project completed by the end of June. He would like to have pictures of all contributors, and, he would prefer that they be "period appropriate", meaning that if you were aboard from 1947-1950, he'd like your photo from that period of time. It can be a simple head shot, or pictures of you doing your job aboard the Fiske. If your name is below, please search

for a photo to send to him. Gil prefers email as he will not be able to get "snail mail" until the end of March, so if you don't use the internet, you can mail it to me (Sandie) at the address on the order form. I'll scan it and then email it for you.

If you need your photo back, just let me know. It will be returned to you unharmed.

Email your photo to Gil at:  
[vintage40@frontier.net](mailto:vintage40@frontier.net).

Name & Rate (if known) *		Name & Rate (if known) *	
Barncord, Edward		LaVille, Warren D.	HM3
<i>Beyer, Gil</i>	ETRSN/ETR3	Loerning, William	BMSN
Bracken, Douglas		Moseley, Jerry	YN3
Chandler, William	RDM1	Nicastro, Frank	SOGSN
Degnan, Jr. John	SOG3	Palermo, Lou	FT2
East, Leyland	EN3	<i>Peloquin, Eugene</i>	Ens/Lt(jg)
Fenick, Joseph	Lt(jg)/Lt	Petro, Mike	SK3
Foy, Herb	FCT3	Post, George W.	Ens/Lt(jg)
Frazer, John	EM3/ EM2	Shipe, Paul	TM3
Gilroy, Daniel	SM3	Siciliano, Sandie	ETN2
Hanner, James	RD3/RD2	Stead, Dennis	EM3
<i>Hanson, Jerry</i>	IC3	<i>Stone, David F.</i>	SN1/C
Hilt, George	ETR3	Taylor, David	LT USNR
Johnson, Robert		Thompson, Charlie	QM2
Kovite, Jeff	SOG2	Wagnon, Millard	FTSN
Kramer, Milt			

- Editor



# USS FISKE

DD/DDR Association, Inc.

15th Bi-Annual Reunion at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2015



## REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse or Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years served on board \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

All hotel reservations are to be made directly with the Eisenhower Hotel  
2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Front Desk: 1-800-776-8349 Online: [www.eisenhower.com](http://www.eisenhower.com) - Mention Group Code 300670

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO AVOID ERRORS! DEPOSITS ON GRAND TOTAL ACCEPTED!**

### MANDATORY FEES FOR ALL ATTENDEES

Hospitality Room Fee:	Number _____ @ \$15.00 PP	Total \$
Contingency Fee to support Reunion:	Number _____ @ \$ 10.00 PP	Total \$

### BANQUET MENU MEAL OPTIONS:

Make your choice and indicate how many below

Sliced London Broil	Number _____ @ \$30.00 PP	Total \$
Roast Tom Turkey	Number _____ @ \$30.00 PP	Total \$
Baked Sugar Cured Ham	Number _____ @ \$30.00 PP	Total \$
Vegetarian or Special Needs;	Number _____ @ \$30.00 PP	Total \$

Please specify

### BANQUET ONLY

Choose from menu and list total number of meals here: Number \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 PP Total \$

### TOURS

*(Battlefield Tour Includes Lunch at General Pickett's Buffet)*

<b>FRIDAY 9/25:</b>	<b>Battlefield Tour All Day</b>	Number _____ @ \$46.00 PP	Total \$
<b>SATURDAY 9/26</b>	<b>Tea with Mamie (Ladies Only)</b>	Number _____ @ \$15.00 PP	Total \$

**If you have not paid your dues, or wish to make a contribution, please add here:** \$

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

USS FISKE (DD/DDR-842)  
Association, Inc

### **GRAND TOTAL:**

Amount (or 50% Deposit By July 15) Enclosed: \$

Balance Due Not Later Than August 15, 2015: \$

### Mail To:

USS FISKE (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.  
c/o James R. Rapson, Treasurer  
244 Park View Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888-2541

### **VOLUNTEERS!**

If you might be able  
to help in Hospitality,  
please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

# SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

Make your selection from items shown throughout the newsletter



**Sandra Ehlers Siciliano**  
ETN2 (USNR)

MissChopin@TampaBay.RR.com  
**(813) 920-6833**



**Charleston Souvenir**  
**2 GB Flash Drive - \$8.00**  
*(sale - was \$10.00)*



## Visit Ship's Store on Our Website

### Reunion Special

**Pre-Order - Prepay & Pickup**  
**Personalized Fiske Beer Mugs!**  
**Many Selections & Options!**



### **Fiske Challenge Coins**



**\$18.00 ea or 2 for \$30.00**  
*Free History & Rules*

### **Personalized Coffee Mugs** Black, Almond, and Cobalt Blue



**SUPPLIER DROP-SHIPS \$28.00**  
*Price includes S&H from supplier.*

*President's Message.... con't from page 1*  
reunion for whatever reason – be it distance, health or employment.

I've been told that Gettysburg is within an easy day's drive for the vast majority of our membership, so the excuses for not attending are getting thinner. Personally, Sherry and I will be combining a trip to south Florida with our trip to Pennsylvania; thus, September will be hectic; but, it will be hectic in a very good way. We'll renew some old acquaintances at a high school reunion in Florida; visit family in Pennsylvania and Shipmates at the reunion too. It doesn't get much better than that! So, we hope to see you there.

- Gil



**A Surprise Selection of Keepsake Reunion Items**  
**\$10.00**

**WORTH MORE THAN THE SALE PRICE!**

<b>Personalized Mug:</b>	<b>Name or Nickname</b>	<b>Color:</b>	<b>Rate:</b>	<b>Years:</b>	<b>DD (or) DDR</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>
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!*

**2015** Time to pay your dues! Please return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. **Dues**

**NOTE:** For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year. A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.