



USS FISKE



Volume 35 - Number 1 - March 2018

Saratoga Springs Featured on C-Span

President & Historian Beyer Inducted into Prestigious Naval Order

Story on Page 6



President Gil Beyer

President's Letter

I hope everyone that came to Annapolis had a good time. I know Sherry and I did. The weather, while a little humid for my taste, was pleasant and the town itself was quite interesting. I can't say enough about staff at the hotel. They bent over backwards to do their best to make our stay a success.

As I said in the last newsletter the usual suspects were nominated and elected for the 2018-19 term by the shipmates attending. Either we are doing a really good job or nobody else wants the jobs. I suspect the latter. In any event, I am delighted to have the support of all our Officers and Appointments. They make my job so easy as to be almost boring.

Now we're getting geared up for Saratoga Springs, NY in 2019 for our next reunion. Bob Mitchell, past President, and reunion host in Saratoga Springs in 1995 is already busy lining things up with almost two years until the event. Also, interesting information can be found in every issue relating to Saratoga Springs by our Editor, Sandie Siciliano; case in point, this past December, the city

was the focus of a documentary on CSPAN.

So, start making your plans for joining us in upstate New York in 2019.

Until the next newsletter, take care, stay safe, and I wish you following seas and fair winds.

- Gil



Officers & Appointments Join Together to Assist Reunion Host, Bob Mitchell

This past October, in true Fiske fashion, with a "Can Do" attitude, Officers and Appointments turned to with an eye on assisting our host, Bob Mitchell for the 2019 reunion in beautiful Saratoga Springs.

Planning a successful reunion takes a lot of hard work. It is even more challenging when no one lives near each other, when everyone is a volunteer, and when everyone must communicate by email or phone. Just envision the Keystone Kops at large!

In this issue, page 4 features some of the remarkable history of Saratoga Springs. And, for those of you who joined in the past 25 years, or did not attend the 1995 reunion in Saratoga Springs, we've reinstated "Fiske Mates", a column that features tales and sea stories of our shipmates, this time, all about our host, Bob Mitchell.

In coming months, we will be reporting on progress related to the venue, and planned activities that will be sure to please all.

This will be Bob's second time hosting and promises to be a truly memorable event. And, remember - we are back to the our traditional last weekend in September!

- Editor

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From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Writer's Block. Sigh. When all is said and done, when all the articles within these pages are laid out, the graphics have been designed, and the news is ready to proof, that's when your Editor writes her piece here.

Sometimes the words flow as if a muse is sitting on my shoulder drawing out thoughts, ideas, and opinions that you might find interesting enough to read. Other times, when "life" gets in the way with its insatiable intrusions and obligations, I stare at a blank screen, as is the case now.

What's germane to the pulse of our members? What shall I write about? Stream of consciousness? Would it be "appropriate"? What about being culturally sensitive?

Here we are, in March - on the cusp of Spring - with its eternal renewal and rebirth. But, it's more than that. Something wonderful has been happening - the renewal of patriotism in these great United States.



Years ago, I used to fish and camp in the North Woods of Maine, right after Fish Lake purged and black fly season was over. It was glorious! Now, just like then, the air seems fresher, the colors brighter, and the sound of laughter even more merry.

The world we live in today is much different than the one we all grew up in, but no one ever need challenge our sense of patriotism.

We are all patriots - we all served - we did what needed to be done - and we did it with pride. We are proud of our country and our freedom, while mindful that it has been paid for in blood, sweat and tears for over two hundred years. We take pride in our flag, and our national anthem, and, we are proud as the dickens to have been part of the unbroken chain of the United States Navy, with its history, traditions and camaraderie.

Wherever you live when you get this newsletter, look around as the earth renews itself. Enjoy each day as it comes, no matter what, and never forget that your service on the Fiske helped our country preserve the greatest democracy the world has ever known; that the unbroken chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and we helped keep it Navy strong. I wish you all fair winds and following seas until next time.

- Sandie



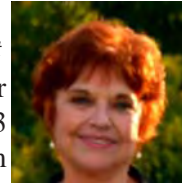
U S S F I S K E

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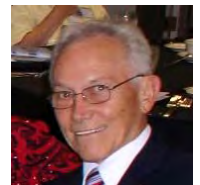
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Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Please support the FISKE and pay yours to James Rapson, or make a contribution for those unable to pay. We need you!

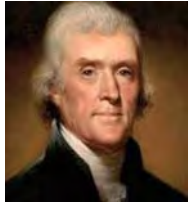
Update Your Profile by Contacting Steve Gilbert at
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Do you have a New Home Address or Email?
Contact James Rapson above

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A Notable Quote

"If the present Congress errs in too much talking, how can it be otherwise in a body to which the people send one hundred and fifty lawyers, whose trade it is to question everything, yield nothing, and talk by the hour."

Thomas Jefferson

Biography - Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Leiper, 1815.

"FISKE MATES" RETURNS It's All About You!

Many of the stories in both editions of Gil's book were first published in this newsletter. Gil has often said, quoting Tom Clancy, if it's not written down, it didn't happen.

We want to continue to document the history and goings-on of our beloved ship, as only you can tell it. Destroyers today are nothing like the tin cans we served on, and what really counts is being able to pass our stories on.

Call or email me or Gil to have your memories and stories published.

Pictures, if you have them, would be great too! They will be scanned and returned to you unharmed.

It's important to remember that you will have complete control of what is published, because we will only print what you agree to. Time marches on, the contact list is on page 2, so please get in touch with either one of us.

Fiske Mates wants to hear from you!

We are seeking a Fiske Mate for the next edition of this newsletter. Will it be you? And, if you haven't yet read, or purchased the Second Edition of the book "Tin Can", you can find the order form on page 8. 100% of all profits are donated to The Fiske Association by Gil.

- Editor



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

As I write this, I am giving thanks that I signed on to such a great ship as the *Fiske*. Other ex-swabs tell me their ship has either no organization to represent it or a relatively inactive one and seemed amazed that we still have almost 600 members and we can put together a substantial reunion every two years.

I know sailors who have served on many other ships as well as the *Fiske* but only go to our reunion. DD/DDR 842 must have had some magic! And we keep growing! Since the Annapolis reunion last August three more shipmates have joined:



We are thrilled to welcome another plank-holder:

James M. Ross, Jr., MAMA 3,

James was the ship's mailman from 1946 to 1948.

Also joining the Association:

James Pratt, SM3, who sailed on the *Fiske* from 1974-75

James Booth, FTG3, our fire control technician from 1962-64.

A hearty "welcome aboard" Gentlemen!

Undoubtedly, the saddest part of my "job" as Secretary is to also report on shipmates who have passed. We received two notifications recently: Michael E. Palumbo, EM3, went to Davy Jones' Locker last May 12th. Michael served on DD 842 from 1947 to 1951; also, Ralph E. Cook, YN1 passed in March, 2015, having served aboard from 1967-1969. They will not be forgotten.

With winter on the wane, I'm now looking forward to spring with its renewal and hope. Until next time, fair winds and following seas to all. - Jeff



Fiske Mates

***Featuring Bob Mitchell, SM1
on board June 1967 - October 1970***

*And our Host for the 2019
Saratoga Springs Reunion*

I enlisted in the Navy in May, 1953 at age 17. The picture, while not the greatest, shows me during Boot Camp in Bainbridge, Maryland. Following that, I served on just about everything that floated, with only two duties on land during my twenty-year career.

My time aboard the *Fiske* was memorable, and it was also the last time I sailed at sea. A few years later, I joined the *Fiske* Association, became active, served as President, and hosted the 1995 reunion.

Now, at age 82, I am looking forward to the 2019 reunion in Saratoga Springs and being able to reunite with shipmates from the past, meet newer members and just having a great time. See you in Saratoga!

USS Baltimore CA68,
(NAS Moffett Field),
USS Bon Homme Richard CVA-31,
USS Gainard DD-706,
USS Willis A Lee DL-4,
USS Norfolk DL-1,
USS FISKE DD-842,
(Recruiter, Ithica, NY);
Retired 1973



Saratoga Springs Featured on C-Span

The finished segments were aired on C-Span 2 and C-Span 3 on December 16th and 17th.

Saratoga Springs was the focus of a new television series produced by C-Span featuring a city known for health, history and horses.

The network features people, local historical sites, and architecture on Book TV and American History TV.

C-Span producer Ashley Hill said there are a few criteria that C-Span looks for when selecting a city: Logistics, and for cities that have interesting literary and histories.

C-Span featured the history of the Canfield casino, the city's famed spring waters, Saratoga Spa State Park, horse racing, and Yaddo. Also featured was Solomon Northup, author of Twelve Years A Slave, the

Saratoga Battledied in Stillwater, the Ulysses Grant Cottage in Wilton, and interviews with local authors and historians.

In September last year, in the ornate parlor of the Canfield Casino in Saratoga Springs' Congress Park, Hill announced that the cable network would spend five days filming in the Spa City.

"I mean, we're at the Canfield Casino, it's one of the most gorgeous buildings that I've had the pleasure of speaking in. And so to take in all of the local architecture, all with the backdrop of the changing leaves in autumn, is just...we couldn't ask for a better time to be here."

Mayor Joanne Yepsen said it was a great honor for the city to be selected by C-Span. "But I think it's reflective of why people are so interested in Saratoga Springs," said Yepsen.

"Not only do we have a rich history but we offer so much in culture and arts and education, and a beautiful downtown, with its parks, and lake.

So there's so much here and the quality of life all added up together, in the past, the present, and our future vision is why I believe C-Span chose Saratoga Springs."

For more information on C-Span's Cities Tour visit: <http://www.c-span.org/> or on Twitter @CSPANCities

Health...

"Health, History, Horses" is the well-known slogan for Saratoga Springs. Visiting Saratoga Springs offers health in the form of healing mineral waters; history that can be seen in many Saratoga Springs Hot Spots, and horses at the Saratoga Race Track and sprinkled throughout Saratoga culture. These are three of the things that make this area so popular, unique and timeless.

"And They're Off!" The Saratoga Race Track epitomizes the birth of the Saratoga culture. It's not just about the big blue Saratoga Spring Water bottles lining grocery store shelves but all the horse inspired art and events that define this region most. Every summer since 1863, the Saratoga Race Track has been the focal point for exciting thoroughbred racing. The popular Travers Stakes is the oldest major thoroughbred race in the US!

There are 17 public mineral springs which offer naturally carbonated, mineral-rich waters famed for their health benefits. By the mid-1800s, tourism in the area led to the growth of Saratoga Springs, spearheaded by the healing powers of the springs.

History...

Today, you can find two locations for mineral baths, The Roosevelt Baths at the Gideon Putnam Resort and the Crystal Spa on South Broadway in Downtown Saratoga Springs. You can soak in the effervescent waters in privacy. You can also check out the countless spas in Saratoga Springs, offering relaxation and a healthy way to spend an afternoon.

The rich history of Saratoga Springs can be seen in the over 1400

Horses...

stereoscopic images at the Saratoga Public Library. The images document Victorian America along with the development of tourism in Saratoga Springs. Just looking at the buildings lining Broadway will showcase the longevity of the Saratoga culture. Congress Park, Saratoga Spa State Park, Franklin Square and The Saratoga Race Track are among the most popular historic sites.



- Editor

Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil
GMG3
1959-1963

Shipmates,

I pray that this newsletter finds all of you in good health and enjoying life. Please enjoy each day, one at a time. Surround yourselves with positive things and positive friends, this would help you to have a positive attitude in your daily life. Remember:

*"God never promised rainbows
without a bit of rain,
He never promised comfort
without a bit of pain,
His eye is on the sparrow
and every living thing,
We must endure the winter
to know the joy of spring!"*



May God bless
each of you
every day,
in every way!

- Frank



Dues & Contributions

As a not-for-profit organization, our only means of income is from dues, contributions, and sales from Ship Store. Your support is crucial to keeping us afloat!

Support the Fiske!



Report From the Treasurer...



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
1964-1967

A thankful "Well Done" to all of the shipmates who have responded with their dues payments to help support the Association. Through your efforts, we are in very good financial shape, able to pay our bills on time and have sufficient funds to start replenishing the Ship's Store inventory. If you are unsure of your dues status, a quick email to me will get you a prompt reply.



Many of you utilized the order form from the Ship's Store page to make your payments and I urge all to do the same. The form was a collaborative effort to offer a common record that would ensure that your funds would be put in the proper accounts when received. Whether you send them through the Ship's Store with an order or direct to me if they are dues only, the use of the form helps my portion of providing an accurate accounting for the Association.

This is also the time for all shipmates to start making their plans for the next Reunion in Saratoga Springs, NY in September 2019. While detail plans are still in progress, please reserve the dates in your calendars. For those who have been to reunions, you know the camaraderie to be found while there. For those who have never been to a reunion, try us and see. Reunions are a great opportunity to meet "old" shipmates and find "new" shipmates to share friendship and experiences.

Along with those thoughts, I am attempting to compile a list of the other ships that served in the various squadrons that the Fiske was assigned to. I believe at some time she was part of DESRON 8, DESRON 10 and DESRON 12 at the various home ports of Norfolk, Newport and May Port. If you remember the names of other ships or have any other information, please send me an email at: jrrapson@cox.net. Please specify the home port and the Squadron number with your information. I will try to compile a complete listing for future use by the Association.

Again, thank you for all of your support of the Association. May you always have fair winds and following seas in your travels.

- James



With Pete Brotschul, BT2 1974-1977
2nd Vice President &
Ship's Store Keeper

Pete "Speaks"

About Ship's Store

"Hello Shipmates. I'll take a moment to say thank you to all our shipmates who ordered prior to the recent holidays; your continued support is appreciated. The items and inventory listed on our previous order form AND the prices will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Our second edition of Gil's book has been selling nicely and all proceeds are donated back to our Association.

This old Boiler Tech wants to wish all our members and their loved ones a wonderful and healthy 2018. Good things are on the horizon!" - Pete



Gilbert E. Beyer,
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

Ship's Log Entries

Historian's Report

It was a busy time between the reunion in Annapolis and now. Sherry and I spent four days in October attending the NOUS Congress in Jacksonville, Florida, but how we came to be there is a long story. It starts during our reunion in Gettysburg in 2015:

Our guest speaker in Gettysburg was Captain John Rodgaard USN retired. In a shameless bit of self-promotion I gave him a copy of our book just hot off the presses. He looked through it and offered me his card and asked me to consider joining the Naval Order of the United States.

After doing a little research on NOUS - it is an organization founded in 1890 - "*Its primary mission is to encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects and preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures, deeds and memories of American naval and maritime history.*"

- I decided to accept his invitation.

When we completed the second edition I made it known that it was available on Amazon, and Sherry and I sent our registration for the Congress in Jacksonville.

On Thursday, the National Commander gave us our official NOUS-NW (*Northwest*) charter in front of the entire assembly.

Friday, we were given a series of presentations on various aspects of Florida-Georgia maritime history. Saturday was much the same until the Reception and Banquet.

The event was full-dress formal! Of the approximately 80 people in the room I was the junior person. I have never seen so many people in formal military attire with medals and other awards. The next junior person in the room was the Command Master Chief of the Coast Guard. No one else was of lesser rank than CDR. Captains were the norm and a few Admirals mixed in.

Like most gatherings, the time outside the official business was when we got to know people. The Hospitality Room was well stocked and freely flowing. We talked about



- Jacksonville, Florida, October, 2017
Sherry and I with Rich Whitkop, another NOUS-Northwest member at the 2017 NOUS Congress.

the recent collisions and some old tours of duty around the world. To me it was a humbling experience because I – an old E-7 – was accepted as an equal among these senior officers and serious maritime scholars.

It seems that our little book fills a niche that is sadly overlooked. Most histories are what they call '*Top Down*' where the big picture story is told. I spoke with many that appreciated someone doing work on '*Bottom Up*' history.

So to all you that still haven't sent your stories to me, realize that they are important and need to be preserved. Until next time, take care and fair winds and following seas. - Gil

Tin Can - A History and Stories of a 20th Century Destroyer
100 % of All Profits are Donated to the Fiske Association
Amazon List Price, \$16.95, On Sale Now in Ship's Store for \$15.00



Our Association has voted for several years to support the Fisher House Foundation, which is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.

These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve.

Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths.

The Fisher House Foundation

Receives 14th Consecutive 4 Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. The Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$360 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

The Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family

members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the *Hotels for Heroes* program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge.

The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other military charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

- Editor

Constitutionally Speaking Article One

A Special Report by Secretary Kovite

The United States Congress is the bicameral legislature of the federal government of the United States consisting of two chambers: The Senate and the House of Representatives. The Congress meets in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Congress has 535 voting members: 435 Representatives and 100 Senators.



Shipmates,



The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States. The Constitution, originally comprising seven articles, delineates the national frame of government.

Continuing this series, the Constitution is divided into seven articles, or parts. The first article deals with the Legislature; i.e., the **Congress**, which is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Article One describes the requirements of the office, and all the duties of the legislature.

1 Members of the House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old and a citizen of the United States for at least seven years. They serve a term of two years. All bills for raising revenue (taxes) originate in the House, and it has the sole power to impeach (which is like an indictment).

2 A Senator must be at least thirty years old and a citizen for at least nine years. A Senator's term of office is six years. The Senate has the power to try impeachments.

3 The Vice President of the United States serves as the President of the Senate and votes on legislation only when there is a tie.

4 The Congress has the power to:

Lay and collect taxes;
Borrow money;
Regulate commerce between states and other nations;
Coin money;
Establish Post Offices;
Declare war;
Maintain an army and navy;
And, make all laws that enable it to do all that.

There are lots more too - and, as promised, I will continue to highlight other Articles in the future that make this document a beacon to the world, and one that lives and breathes democracy.

- Jeff

What's Up With the Web?

Unless you've been on the moon for the last year or so you've heard about computers being "hacked".

While there are several reasons computers can be hacked, the only one you and I can really do anything about is using good passwords on our equipment.

A good password is not a name, pet, location or anything that can be easily guessed. The bad guys have sophisticated programs that run through those names in a flash. You need a strong password that even their programs will give up trying to breach.



First, you should decide what to protect; your e-mail account is vital; your banking account is too. Any place you visit on the internet where you have left behind your name and a password is also important. For example, where I buy plane tickets.

What then constitutes a good password? A good password should use upper case letters, lower case letters, numbers, special symbols like the dollar sign, and these should be jumbled up. Here is an example of a good password: p2?[6jg95mA" This password is twelve characters long. Perhaps eight characters would be enough, but the longer it is, the harder it becomes for a program to "guess" your password.

Webmaster
Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960



You should also have a different password for each account, because cracking one account gives the hacker access to all your accounts. Yes, it's a pain in the butt. But, recall a recent news report that a Vermont electric utility was nearly hacked by a foreign government. They're out there all the time, looking for unsuspecting people.

- Steve



1 **Combination Special:** All Shirts & Caps are \$14.00 ea., or two for \$25.00 if you buy both.

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SHIRTS & CAPS



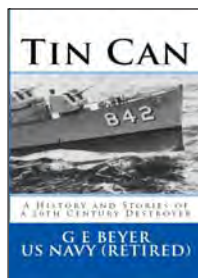
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A 20th Century Destroyer
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