



USS FISKE



Volume 37 - Number 1 - January 2020

Philadelphia Area Chosen for 2021 Saratoga Springs Election of Officers Makes History

Story on Page 2



President Gil Beyer

President's Letter

Greeting Shipmates,

We had a good reunion in Saratoga Springs, New York. The small number of attendees had what I believe was a very good time. We were delighted to have not one but two Plank Owners, George Hodulik and Bill Gates. The crowd would have been much smaller had not George brought about a dozen relatives with him.

We toured the Saratoga battlefields with a very knowledgeable and entertaining tour guide. He gave us numerous insights on why and how the battle developed as it did. We also toured the USS Slater (DE 766) moored in Albany New York. If anything, the Slater is smaller than the Fiske and she's powered by a diesel/electric power plant that looked to be able to get underway.

Our General Meeting was held and it was decided that the 2021 Reunion would be in the Philadelphia area with 2nd Vice President Pete Brotschul as our host. The officers and appointments were held over once again from the previous election. I'm not sure if we're doing a good job or it simply is that no one else wants the positions. My thanks to all the officers and appointments for making my job so easy. The formal banquet closed out the reunion on

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a high note with an excellent meal and presentations of gifts and honoraria to our guests. With high hopes for the 2021 Reunion, I want to see you all in 2021. Until next time, may you have fair winds and following seas,

- Gil



Hello to all my shipmates far and wide! As you may have heard, we had a very nice reunion in Saratoga Springs last September.

The ship's store has some brand new items: Embroidered polo shirts and lightweight jackets (DD or DDR) are personalized with your specific name, rate/rank and dates of service!

All are reasonably priced, and were very well received at the reunion. Also available, while supplies last, are the regular tee shirts, and ball caps. In addition, we have *Fiske Tales*, the third edition, as written by our President, Gil Beyer, who graciously donates all proceeds back to our Association. To defray expenses, we are requesting your fair share shipping donations on all orders.

The new order form is on page 7. *I will be available to assist you if you call, text or e-mail me with any questions at all about how to order. This is very important to avoid errors in your personalized embroidery.* Wishing you fair winds until next time. - Pete

NEWS FLASH

At the General Meeting in Saratoga Springs, the membership voted to reduce publication of *Fiske News* to twice a year as a means of attrition caused by the the income decline of Association Dues.





From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Longest Serving Officers & Appointments Make Election History in Saratoga Springs: *The entire slate of Officers was reelected!* Appointments are made at the request of the President, and **Frank Stancil, Steve Gilbert, and John Degnan** agreed to continue in their roles. While James keeps busy as Treasurer and point-of-contact for other items, Gil, myself, Pete, and Jeff all hold Officer *and* Appointment positions. We've been together a long time! As a team, we get along well, and like what we do as we strive to honor the memories of our beloved Fiske!

Your Officers In Order of Joining

- **Secretary Jeff Kovite - Joined 1984**, two term President (2006-2011) longest serving Secretary (2012-2021); Jeff also contributes special series articles, currently the amendments of the United States Constitution.
- **1st Vice President, Sandie Siciliano - Joined 1986**, Volunteered as longest serving Ship Storekeeper (2006-2016), voted 2nd Vice President (2009-2016), assumed Newsletter Editor (2011-2021) (simultaneously holding three positions), elected 1st Vice President (2016-2021).
- **Treasurer James Rapson - Joined 2001**, elected 1st Vice President (2004-2005), elected President (2006-2007) longest serving Treasurer (2008-2021).
- **President Gil Beyer - Joined 2001**, was appointed Association Historian (2005-2020), elected President (2013-2020), longest serving as Officer and Appointment
- **2nd Vice President, Pete Brotschul - Joined 2014**, (Christmas gift from wife Sue!), elected to (vacant) 2nd VP (2016-2021) assumed Ship Store Appointment (2016-2021).

We Made History!

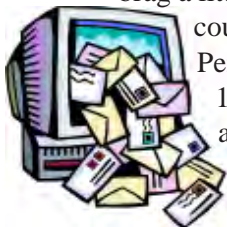
On a different topic - this is not your "old" Fiske News! Nothing is constant except change, and your Editor decided to do a "make over" for this publication. I hope you see that it has a fresh new look, with all the regular articles, some new pieces, and "The Back Page" just for fun!

Finally, it seemed fitting to have a quote to the right from Ben Franklin. Seeing as the next reunion will be in the Philadelphia area, it's not often that I have a chance to brag a little, but I'm pleased to tell you that he was my

cousin, and that my ancestors settled Pennsylvania and South 'Jersey in the early 1700s. Believe it or not, my family still resides all over that area. But enough of that.

Shipmates - be well - be happy - and sail the following seas with fair winds.

- Sandie



USS FISKE DD/DDR-842 18th BI-ANNUAL REUNION - PHILADELPHIA

2021 SEPTEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

(Thursday thru Saturday)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A Notable Quote



"I hope therefore that for our own sakes as a part of the people, and for the sake of posterity we shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this Constitution (if approved by Congress and confirmed by the Conventions) wherever our influence may extend, and turn our future thoughts and endeavors to the means of having it well administered."

Benjamin Franklin

At age 81, from his speech at the Constitutional Convention, also known as the Philadelphia Convention - September 17, 1787

HOUSEKEEPING



CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL

Contact Treasurer Rapson

WEBSITE PROFILES:

Submit or update your profile to

Webmaster Steve Gilbert

WEBMASTER@USSFISKE.ORG

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 twice a year and distributed to all members of the Association.

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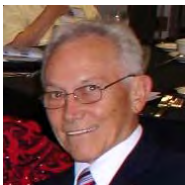
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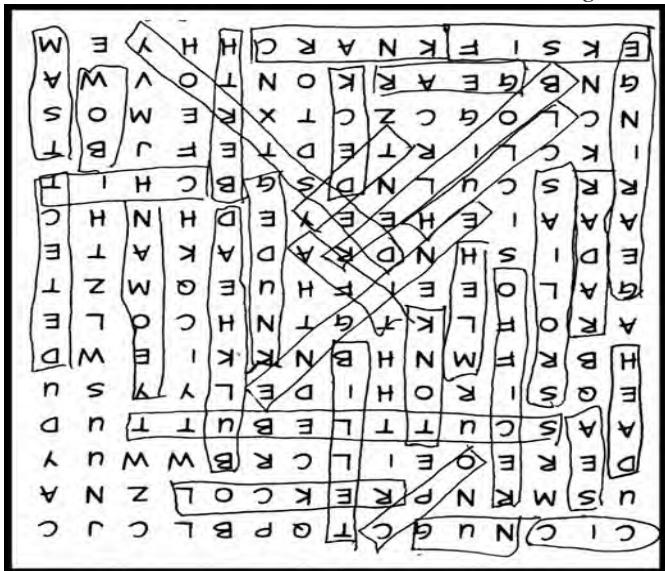


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Solution to Word Search on the Back Page



Notes from the Secretary



Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

Shipmates,

I'm looking at the steaming mug by my laptop and reading the names of the signers of the Constitution sprinkled in the background across the red, white and blue design - a handsome mug - that was in my "reunion kit" at the Saratoga Springs reunion.

For those of you who missed it, you will get another chance to reunite with old (*some really old!*) shipmates in two years in the New Jersey/Philadelphia area. Pete Brotschul, 2nd Vice President, will be the host for our 18th reunion. *Thanks, and a hearty BZ to Pete, who happens to be the youngest member of our Association!*

It always pains me to report members who have passed, but three tried and true shipmates recently set sail on the eternal seas - never to be forgotten - they are:

Pangaro, Roger L., GM3, 1960-62, passed 5/2019
Baker, Buford, MM2, 1962-67, passed 7/17/19
Acker, Lloyd T, RD2, 1954-1958, passed 8/5/19

Here is a brief synopsis of the General Meeting at the reunion: As you know, we gather to elect new Officers, pick the next reunion site, connect with our shipmates, old and new, and tell sea stories of our past adventures.

When the meeting was held, the same slate of Officers were elected again to another term - making history.

Although the Association has 566 members, attendance at each reunion has been dwindling, as have payable dues. That said (in the future) it is under consideration to combine our reunion with another destroyer's organization, or, to tag along with the annual National Association of Destroyer Veterans (formally the *Tin Can Sailors*) annual convention which is held every two years. We also gave our usual \$250 donation to the National Association of Destroyer Veterans organization. I wish you fair winds and following seas.

- Jeff

**Support the Association
Keep the Fiske Afloat!**



**Dues - Sales
Contributions**



Income from dues, Ship's Store sales, contributions, and Gil's book "Tin Can" are our only means of income!
Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Please support the FISKE and send yours to James Rapson, or make a contribution for those unable to pay. We need you!

Constitutionally



Speaking

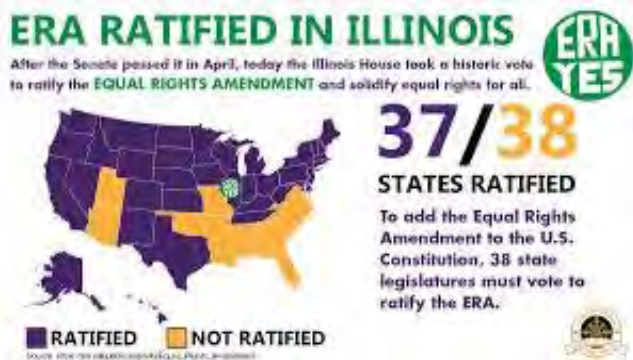
With Secretary Kovite

Article V authorizes two steps to amend the Constitution, a difficult and complicated process the Founding Fathers felt was necessary to ensure that only important and necessary changes be made.

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, passed in 1920, gave women the right to vote. In 1923 the National Women's Party proposed to Congress what is known as the Equal Rights Amendment which states:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Article V of the Constitution requires that an amendment must be passed by two thirds of both houses and then approved by three quarters of the states, totalling thirty-eight. The ERA was passed out of Congress in 1972, and as of today thirty-seven states have ratified it. One more is required to make it an amendment. Currently, efforts to ratify the ERA are active in North Carolina, Tennessee and Florida - Jeff



Reunion 2021

Preliminary Information

With Reunion Host & 2nd Vice President Pete Brotschul

"We really would like to have more of our crew attend in 2021, and it is my wish to reignite our membership!"

Shipmates,

It's my pleasure to be the host of our next reunion to be held in late September in the Philadelphia region, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there! In order to defray costs, I am researching areas in Philadelphia and New Jersey that are safe, easily traveled, affordable, and comfortable. I have a nice tour in mind and will have additional information about that, and the reunion in the next newsletter.

I believe that the subject of attendance will certainly be covered more in issues to come, but I would also like to say a little something now about our reunion in Saratoga Springs: *Shipmate attendance was very low.* In fact, during the General Meeting we spoke about this extensively and came up with a few new ideas to reach out to our membership; one idea is that we may be contacting members directly, asking if they would be interested in getting involved again to ensure the Association's future. We also have other ideas to expand the membership, and they will be presented in issues to come.

The Philadelphia area is fairly close to the majority of our members. Please keep this in mind and make a promise to yourself to attend. I'm hard at work making plans to ensure that you all have a wonderful time! - Pete

Chaplain's Corner With W. Frank Stancil GMG3, 1959-1963



Dear Shipmates,

It was great seeing all of our shipmates and guests in Saratoga Springs, catching up on what has been happening the past two years and reminiscing about old times.

For all of you shipmates that were unable to attend, you were missed and you were in our thoughts and prayers. It is God's will for us to live well and to experience an abundant life, giving Him all the Glory. Commit to finding your contentment in the things God provides and choose to live for Him. May the peace of God be with you and your family until we meet again.



- Frank

What's Up With the Web?



WWW
Webmaster
Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960

Shipmates,

We've all heard that old saying "You can't teach an old dog new tricks". As we get older and more set in our ways, learning new things might seem like a waste of time because we've always "done it that way and it's good enough for me".

You might have a computer in your house, and don't bother with it because it's too much trouble; but, keeping an open mind about new methods and technology can actually be a good thing.

For example, if you get this newsletter by "snail mail" but never visit our website, you're missing a lot. As your Webmaster, I place letters from members, pictures of activities and reunions, and much more out there. There's even a chat room where you can connect with other shipmates.

How about giving it a try? If you're really at a loss, ask a friend, or better yet, if you have grandkids, get their help! You'll have quality time with them, and they'll be excited to show you what they know, how to get to the internet and how to get to the website by typing this on your computer:

WWW.USSFISKE.ORG

Give it a try! One click and you'll be instantly connected. Until next time, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

- Steve



Report From the Treasurer...



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
1964-1967

After a very successful "Port-of-Call" in Saratoga Springs, New York this past September, the USS Fiske has again set sail on the open seas until its next reunion in September 2021 in the Philadelphia area. Details to be determined by your next Reunion Host - 2nd Vice-President, Peter Brotschul.

The 2019 Reunion, hosted by Past President Robert Mitchell was lightly attended by our shipmates. *The one exception was shipmate George Hodulik, a plank owner from 1945 who was accompanied by eleven family members covering three generations!*

The USS Fiske Association is not only about the members of the crew who served aboard over the years but the families that they became and their contributions to the remembrance of the "Tin Can Sailors" that they share. If you have not yet written down some of your experiences or discussed them with family members, now is the time to do it. Do not let *your* history go by unnoticed or untold.

Several points need to be discussed now; the Philadelphia area was selected for 2021 as it is near the center of nearly 60% of our shipmates. As we are all getting older, have medical and travel issues, we must endeavor to be more responsive to our shipmates and provide the opportunity to reach as many shipmates as we can. If you are the widow of a shipmate who has passed, do not feel that you are unwelcome. You will always be part of the "Fiske Family" and welcome at every reunion. Keep in mind that the last active crew member would have completed service to the Fiske in 1980, and that will be forty-one years that have passed by the 2021 Reunion.

It makes no difference whether you were enlisted or officer - we are all on the level when it comes to seeing old friends and making new ones. Plan on attending the next reunion to see just how great it can be. As always, your suggestions and ideas for the reunion are most welcome. What you would like may be something for all to enjoy.

I would be remiss in my article if I did not mention that your Association relies upon your dues to remain in good financial standing. While our expenses are not that high, our sources of income are dues, ship store sales and profit from the reunion (raffle and 50/50 sales)

At present we have only 12-14% of our shipmates who actually send in their \$10.00 annual dues. While some of those will also include an extra amount as a contribution, it is not enough to maintain the Association between the reunion years. A dues notice could be sent again, but the returns would have to be offset by the costs of printing and mailing. For every up side there is a down side. Now is the chance for you to do your part in keeping the Association afloat.

On the Administrative side, the Officers of the Association were "rolled over" for the 2020-21 period. I'm not sure whether it was because we were doing such a great job or that we just enjoy doing it - I know that I do!

May you always have fair winds and following seas until we meet again

- James



**The U.S. Navy Has Unveiled
A New Hydrofoil
Its First In Decades**

*Until now, we thought the Navy
abandoned its interest in
hydrofoils in the early 1990s.*

The U.S. Navy has at last tested a small hydrofoil boat based on the VT Halter Marine Mk Mod 2 High Speed Assault Craft, a predecessor to the service's stealthy Combatant Craft Assault special operations watercraft, or CCA. The revelation comes more than 25 years after the service retired its six Pegasus-class missile boats, the last of its operational hydrofoils. The existence of the hydrofoil design first emerged in a video that the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, or NSWC Carderock, posted on YouTube on March 12, 2019. A clip showing the small boat moving at high speed is part of a larger montage of clips of the center's work attached to the Navy's "Forged by the Sea" recruitment commercial.

The craft is clearly based on the VT Halter Marine design, if not a direct hydrofoil conversion of one of these high-speed special operations craft. The standard Mk Mod 2 High Speed Assault Craft is just under 40 feet long with a hull primarily made of kevlar and a pair of high-performance engines.

Carderock, located in Maryland along the Potomac River, specializes in a variety of ship design fields, including hullforms and radar and other signature reduction. The center's work has included experimental ships such as the Advanced Electric Ship Demonstrator (AESD), also known as the Sea Jet, which is a functional quarter-scale model of a DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class stealth destroyer.

This article, by Joseph Trevithick, was partially reprinted from www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone, dated April 9, 2019.

- Editor

Ship's Log Entries

Historian's Report

Gilbert E. Beyer,
ETSN/ETR3
1960-1963



The highlight of this year for me is the publication of the 3rd edition of our book. There are more stories, pictures and info than in any of the previous editions.

Hopefully if you didn't attend the reunion you'll check out the Ship's Store and buy it from there. I know that Pete wants to get them out of his basement. Barring that you can always check out Amazon books for 'Tin Can - A History and Stories of a 20th Century Destroyer' and pay the higher price. The Association gets the proceeds to help keep us solvent.

After leaving Saratoga Springs, Sherry and I went on trip to see a friend in Nova Scotia. Along the way I found the 'Musée maritime du Québec' (Maritime Museum of Quebec) where we saw a hydrofoil named built for the Canadian Navy She had the 'Bras d'Or' (FHE 400) that was built for the Canadian Navy in

the late '60's. She had a speed of over 65 mph! *The truly incredible thing was that she was based on a much older hydrofoil designed by Alexander Graham Bell in the early 1900's!* That original boat, the HD4, was recorded as nearing 71 mph in a timed run.

With the reductions in spending after WWI neither the British nor American navies bought the design so it was neglected until the 1960's.

After visiting Nova Scotia we went to the Naval Order of the US Congress in Boston. We toured the USS Constitution, where I had the opportunity to shamelessly promote our book among people whose mission it is to preserve and maintain maritime history. It was well received.

That's it for now. Take care and keep sending me those stories. You never know when I'll have enough for an update. Fair thee well! - Gil

Vets Geriatric Benefits

**VA Health Care
for Elderly Veterans**



Geriatrics is health care for elderly Veterans with complex needs. Elderly Veterans can receive geriatric and long term care programs at home, at VA medical centers, or in the community. The include: Geriatrics Program, Long Term Care, Geriatrics Research, Eligibility for Long Term Care, Home Based and Community Services, Nursing Home and Residential Care.

How to Apply

The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. But generally, Service Members, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using any of the methods below.

- Apply online using eBenefits,
- Work with an accredited representative or agent.
- Go to a VA regional office and ask for assistance.
- 1-877-222-8387 - Call the toll-free hotline Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m. (eastern time).
- <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-elderly.asp>

- Editor

S  H  I  P  S  T  O  R  E 



A
\$60.00
Sizes S - 2XL
 Choose One
DD (or) DDR

Jacket
 nylon outer shell with
 polyester fleece lining.

B
\$40.00 - Sizes S - 2XL
Men & Ladies - Colors: Navy or Gold
 Choose DD (or) DDR
Choose NAVY (or) GOLD

Polo Shirts
 5 oz. Silk Touch
 65/35 Poly Cotton Pique

Please circle your choices from these new items,
 Then add your personalization below.



D
\$15.00
DD/DDR Tee
Sizes S -2XL
 Choose Color
NAVY (or) GREY

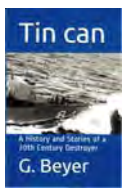


E
\$15.00
BASEBALL CAP
 Choose One
DD (or) DDR
 6-Pane cotton twill
 Adjustable to size.



F
\$20.00
GOLF TOWEL
(while supplies last)
 Choose One
DD (or) DDR
 Grommeted 100%
 cotton terry velour

G
BOOK



THIRD EDITION
 A History and Stories of a
 20th Century Destroyer
 (274 Pages) by Gil Beyer
\$15.00

DD (CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE) DDR

PERSONALIZATION:
PRINT VERY CLEARLY - EXACTLY AS YOU
WANT IT TO BE EMBROIDERED

Your Name

Your Rate/Rank

Your Dates of Service

Note: Financial Records for Dues, Donations and Books are recorded separately by the Treasurer.

Check Out

Store Total: \$ _____

(All Orders)

Requested Fair Share Shipping: \$ 10.00



Add a Book: \$ _____

Please Add \$10.00 Dues: \$ _____

Add Any Extra Contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

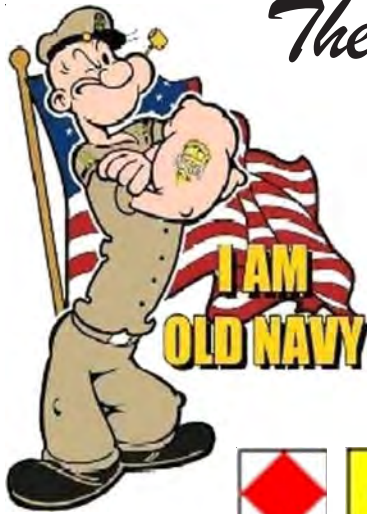
Make Check Payable To:
USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.
 Mail To: Peter P. Brotschul
 4008 Plumstead Avenue
 Drexel Hill, PA - 19026
 (610) 675-5058 - petebrotschul@gmail.com

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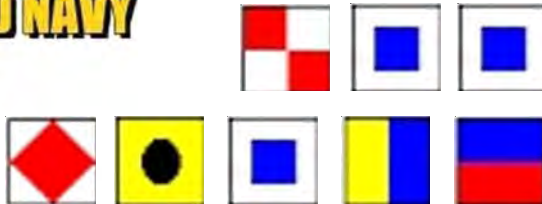
Name	Street Address		
City	State	Zip	
Phone	Email Address:		

CONTACT PETE FOR ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL ABOUT THIS ORDER FORM!

The Back Page



Have you heard about the karate champion who joined the navy? No? Well I have. The first time he saluted, he nearly killed himself!



Making History: Newly reelected Officers smile broadly as they pose for their official photo: (L-R) Pete, Jeff, Gil, Sandie, and James.



(L) Three generations of the Hodulik family, shown with Plank Holder George Hodulik. Not shown, niece Marilyn Force.

- photos courtesy of Marilyn Force



(R) Plank Holders reunited once again - George Hodulik and Bill Gates, who attended with his daughter and son-in-law.

USS FISKE WORD SEARCH

- Editor

C I C N U G C T Q P B L C J C
 U S M R N P R E K C O L Z N A
 D E R E O E I L C R B W W U Y
 A A S C U T T L E B U T T U D
 E Q S I R O H I D E L Y Y S U
 H B R F M N H B N K K I E W D
 A R O F L K T G T N H C O L E
 G A L O E E I F H U E Q M Z T
 E D I S H N D R A D A K A T E
 A A A I E H E E Y E D H N H C
 R R S C U L N D S G B C H I T
 I K C L I R T E D T E F J B T
 N C L O G C Z C T X R E M O S
 G N B G E A R K O N T O V W A
 E K S I F K N A R C H H Y E M

CPO	HELM
MAST	RADAR
SEA	LOCKER
FISKE	HEAD
BULKHEAD	OFFICER
GEARING	DETECT
BERTH	SAILORS
BOW	BILLET
DECK	AFT
HULL	TDY
DESTROY	GUN
YEOMAN	GEDUNK
KNOT	CHIT
CIC	CRANK
BOILER	GEAR
ENGINE	SCUTTLEBUTT