



# USS FISKE



Volume 35 - Number 2 - July 2018

## 2019 Reunion Arrangements Set

### Reservation Accounts To Be Opened by Treasurer Rapson



President Gil Beyer

## President's Letter

I find it hard to believe that our 2019 reunion is just over a year away. Things seem to be shaping up nicely for a great time to be had by all.

When we publish the reservation form, our Treasurer will set up an account for you to make payments so you don't have a big bite all at once just before you arrive in Saratoga Springs. Think of it like a payroll deduction to cover future costs. I know that if I don't take care of expected payments beforehand they always bite me later.

I recently had an email from April Seely (daughter of Lou Schmeiske ETN2) who told me one of her Dad's sayings, 'Poor planning on your part does not necessitate an emergency on mine.' That is so true. We can all benefit from good planning.

I think that our Host Bob Mitchell is busily working on the planning of a great union. With backup by James Rapson and the rest of the officers we intend to have a memorable time in Saratoga Springs, NY.

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So, make your travel plans and book your transportation now so you can relax and enjoy the camaraderie with your shipmates in 2019.

Until the next time I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

- Gil



Have you ever been to Upstate New York (or New England), in the fall? If not, are you wondering what to expect during the 2019 reunion in beautiful Saratoga Springs?

Well, wonder no more. In this, and subsequent editions of the *Fiske News*, we will showcase some of the many activities available - from "free to fancy" - so that you can be "fancy free" during your visit.

It's maybe hard to believe, but there *are* many people (especially Southerners), who have never seen the legendary fall foliage that attracts tourists from all over the nation. The smell of autumn in the air, along with the breathless beauty and gorgeous colors, will leave you speechless.

However, if you are *from* the Northeast, we don't have to convince you, other than to say that it will bring back memories if you've moved away, and you will be equally delighted.

During this time of year, as locals begin preparations for the oncoming winter months, there are dozens of activities, festivals and attractions to delight you. So many, that you might even consider extending your visit and tour the region more thoroughly.

*Fiske News* will continue to showcase some activity highlights, along with the the wide range of entertainment, shopping, and dining in upcoming editions.

- Editor



# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Shipmates,

As we approach the dog days of summer, I'm left with a question about "us", as shipmates. It's been thirty-eight years since our beloved tin can became a tin can, or, as most often is said - razor blades. For those of us who are members of this Association, we carry many memories of those days, so long ago. Some great, some not so great.

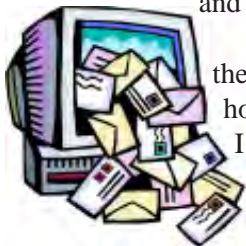
Fortunately, our President and Historian, Gil Beyer, has taken it upon himself to document our history, and our stories. The days of the old destroyers are long gone, but his book, with our history and our stories, will live on to inspire a new generation in the unbroken chain of the United States Navy.

As you know, everyone to the right of this article volunteers his time and effort to keep the Association viable and active. It's not always easy. Behind the scenes of setting up a reunion, for example, the reconnoitering of a proper venue, negotiations for pricing, contracts, etc., are at times, exasperating and exhausting. But, when you attend, it all appears seamless, as it should be.

My "job" as Editor doesn't make me very popular at times, as I nag fellow Officers and Appointments to turn to and get their articles in. Fortunately, we all work well together and I seldom have to crack the whip that makes me the "Wicked Witch of the West". And, as Editor, my tasks are sometimes tedious.

It takes over two months to complete the newsletter cycle, so deadlines are important. Besides the submitted articles, much time is spent doing a balancing act during the layout (which I cannot do until all articles have been received). What does one page look like next to another? Are the columns balanced? What kind of filler would look good there? Is there enough white space?

Oh - and the graphics - a shipmate once commented about them, noticing the "customization", and how germane they were to the article being illustrated. I explained that creating them is the most fun of all and can take hours or days to complete. For example, the signpost on page 4 of last November's issue was painstakingly created in layers, one at a time, with a sign and reunion locations, an anchor, and other little graphic "goodies".



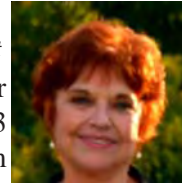
The entire process starts immediately after the current issue is released - always with the hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy producing it. As you can see, I am always on deck. Until next time, I wish you fair winds and calm seas. - Sandie

## U S S F I S K E

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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  
**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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# A Notable

## Quote



"After eight years as President, I have only two regrets: That I have not shot Henry Clay or hanged John C. Calhoun. There are only two things I can't give up; one is coffee and the other is tobacco."

**Andrew Jackson**

Soldier, Statesman, and  
7th President of the United States  
1829 - 1837



### 17TH BI-ANNUAL REUNION



# Holiday Inn

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**September 24 - 26, 2019  
(Tuesday thru Thursday)**



# Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961

Like many Fiske veterans, I am looking forward to the next reunion, and want it to be the best yet. Personally, I am going to call members I served with, but who have not been to prior reunions, and urge them to set their sights on Saratoga Springs. Why don't we all do that?

If you know a shipmate who hasn't attended a reunion, give him a call and tell him what a great time is being planned for Saratoga Springs. Some of these greybeards are getting along in years (who hasn't?) and this might be the last time to see them and talk about the "old days."

I am pleased to announce that we have a new member of the Association: Lamont Carson, QM2, 1971-1974. Welcome aboard Lamont!

Sadly, we lost two shipmates, and just recently



received information that Ralph E. Cook, who kept the records straight as a Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> class from 1967-1969, died March 10, 2015; also, Christopher Billingsley, Signalman 3<sup>rd</sup> class who was on the Fiske from 1959 to 1962, died on August 3, 2017. After separation from the Navy, Chris joined the Army, earned a Green Beret, and made a career of it.



Other than that, things are quiet here at the Secretary's desk between reunions. That's all for now, shipmates, I wish you fair winds and a following sea.

- Jeff

## Reunion Report. . . *With your Host, Bob Mitchell, and Coordinator, James Rapson*

Shipmates, briefly, everything has been set up for our reunion in Saratoga Springs. Mark your calendars and make your reservations! The dates are September 24 - 26, 2019 (Tuesday thru Thursday) at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. For planning purposes, use the contact information below.

Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs  
232 Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
(518) 584-4550  
Use Group Code UFR  
Rate: \$129.00 plus applicable NY taxes  
Valid for one day either side of Reunion

At this time there are no organized bus trips planned. Most activities are within a short distance of the hotel. It is planned that shipmates would prefer to break into smaller groups "to do their own thing".

We are looking at one activity (for the ladies only) to be held on Wednesday; also, the reservation form and more information will be in the next newsletter.

- James

# Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3  
1959-1963

Dear Shipmates:

May you always have your life in God's Hands. May Liberty surround you. May your Pursuit of Happiness always come true.

May you have Health and Coins in your pocket. May the sun shine in your life. May the Rainbow always follow the rain. May you always know a Friend is near.

May God fill your heart, our country and the world with peace

May God Bless America and place His Love in your heart.

Source: By Beverly J. Wolff



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

- Frank

# Report From the Treasurer...



James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg  
1964-1967

How quickly the months go by when you're having fun doing your job. They also go by much too quickly when the Editor is looking for another article with words of wisdom regarding the financial health of the Association.



We are indeed healthy with our finances, all of our bills are paid, we have funds available to start purchasing for the 2019 Reunion, the Officers and Directors receive their monthly reports and we move on to the next reporting period.

The one thing that I would like to remind all Shipmates of is that a copy of the monthly financial report may be requested via email and it will be promptly sent out. It is one thing to trust that all is well and another to be able to see the reports first hand. A request to me at: [jrrapson@cox.net](mailto:jrrapson@cox.net) will bring you the latest report on your Association. The report is cumulative for each twelve month period (January to December) so you may time your request for any period within that range.

Our next reunion in Saratoga Springs, NY is basically set by your Reunion Host, Robert Mitchell, PP 1995. The hotel choice is right in downtown Saratoga Springs with ample space for all of our activities. I will be forwarding the particulars to the Editor to get the Reservation Form set up for publication. Please look for that in future issues on the newsletter.

Now comes a challenge to all shipmates – do you have a collection of memorabilia from the time you served aboard the Fiske? I recently found a box of many items that I had forgotten about. The items included a Zippo lighter, medals and ribbons and my Shellback card among others. Here's the thought – if you have them or can find them – bring them to the next reunion to share with other shipmates. Maybe some are "one of a kind", maybe some are unique – but they are all worth sharing with conversation. Let's see what you can bring to the reunion. May you always have fair winds and following seas in your travels.

- James



# Ship's Store News

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

Hello to all of my shipmates!

As we are in the midst of the summer months, I wish everyone safe travels and continued good health.

The Ship's Store has been quiet the past few months, but I am always open for business, and, I am looking for some new items to add when we sell off some of our existing inventory.

The prices will not change at this time, but, there may be a big sale on shirts and caps announced in our next newsletter. Also, there are plenty of

copies of our Second Edition of *Tin Can*, of which all proceeds are given to our Association's treasury, with many thanks to our President Gil Beyers, for his hard work and generosity.

Thanks again to all my shipmates who continue to support our Association's future by purchasing items from our store. Please enjoy the rest of this wonderful summer, and, it is my honor to serve you all however I may.

- Pete

# Fall in Saratoga Springs

What will you choose on your "free" day of fun in beautiful Saratoga Springs? There are so many options - and - plenty of time to explore them. Whether casual, formal, or in-between, you will be sure to find something that is "just right" for your interests. Here are just a few of the many fun things to do in this beautiful city. - Editor



## LIVE HARNESS RACING



**Saratoga Casino Hotel's Live Harness Racing Season runs February through mid-December.**

For live harness racing with a rich history, Saratoga Casino Hotel is the place to go! Saratoga's Harness track has been an integral part of Saratoga's rich racing history since first opening in 1941. Seventy-seven years later, the beautiful half-mile track proudly hosts the top pacing and trotting racing talent in the Northeast.

Still known to many as the Saratoga Harness track, today, people can view live races outside at the rail, in the lower clubhouse, in the Grandstand or while dining at Fortunes Restaurant or Lucky Joe's.

Guests can watch and wager on live racing from tracks around the country, year-round, on any of the many TV's located in the Mezzanine.



Pull up a chair at an Adirondack style tasting bar and learn from knowledgeable staff as you sip away at their variety of diverse wines.

## ARTS & CULTURE

Culture thrives in Saratoga Springs! Unique museums and art galleries abound in this area.



## SHOPPING

Head to downtown Saratoga Springs and beyond where there is a wealth of boutiques, stores and vendors.

## CORN MAZES AND PUMPKIN PATCHES

See which farms and orchards offer u-pick pumpkin patches, corn mazes, hayrides, and other fall activities and events, perfect for kids at heart!



## VISIT THE FARMERS MARKET

Now is the best time to head over to the Saratoga Farmers Market for an array of local produce, spreads, dressings, meat, cheese, jams, jellies, flowers, and much, much more!

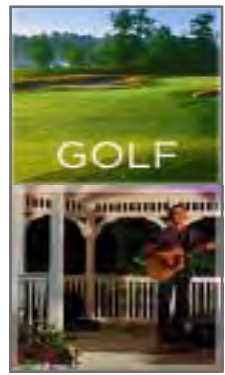
**Saratoga Statistics**  
 Weather: 75°F (24°C), Wind S at 4 mph (6 km/h), 55% Humidity  
 Zip code: 12866  
 Population: 27,763 (2016)  
 Area code: 518

## ENJOY GOLF AND FINE DINING



Saratoga National Golf Club and Prime at Saratoga National are open to the public seven days a week for award-winning golf and fine dining.

Lunch is served daily during golf season, and their legendary *Sunday Jazz Brunch* is not to be missed.



Enjoy first-class service - and first-class fun in an atmosphere of casual elegance. Prime not only serves up the best steaks and seafood in Saratoga Springs, it's also a hotspot for after-track (or after anything!) gatherings.

Come for a day of golf, or a great meal, or just enjoy drink specials and live entertainment on an outdoor patio terrace and covered veranda, all surrounded by one of the most scenic golf courses in the Northeast.

# Constitutionally Speaking. . . .

## . . . . Article Two - The Executive Branch

A Special Report by Secretary Kovite



**1** Shipmates, a President must be a natural born citizen at least 35 years of age and a resident of the United States for at least fourteen years. The person elected to be President takes the following oath:

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will do to the best of my ability, to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States".

The Vice President and every officer of the federal government, takes a similar oath.

The President is the chief executive of the United States. He and the Vice President serve a term of four years. The President can only serve two terms. (Amendment XXII, ratified in 1951). The President is elected by a majority of Electors, chosen by each state, equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from that state. In case of a tie, the House of Representatives shall vote by ballot to choose a President.

**2** The President is Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and of the States's National Guard when it is called into the service of the federal government (but he cannot declare war - that is the responsibility of the Congress). The President can make treaties as long as two thirds of the Senate concurs.

**3** The President appoints Ambassadors, judges of the Supreme Court and all other officers of the United States. The President shall, from time to time, give to Congress information on the State of the Union (it does not specify how this is done) and shall recommend such measures as he deems necessary.

**4** The President shall see that the laws are faithfully executed.

**5** The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors. There is no definition of "high crimes and misdemeanors". The House of Representatives has the power of impeachment and the Senate conducts the trial.

*Our Constitution is a model that brings hopes of democracy to other nations of the world. In future newsletters, I will continue to share insights of this amazing document with you.*  
- Jeff \*

## What's Up With the Web?

### More About Good Passwords.....

#### Your Key to Security on the Web

Here is an example of a good password: p2?[6jg95mA" A password like this was created by a free program you can use to generate a password like this one. Use this resource to generate passwords and write them down. Then, every 2 or 3 months change them all, using the list you created.

Go to [www.strongpasswordgenerator.org](http://www.strongpasswordgenerator.org) and write down the first password that appears. Then click the Generate button to create another. Write down several. Perhaps 8 or more. You can then rotate them every several months.



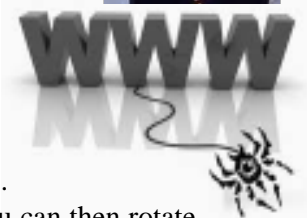
Recent developments in the tech world have caused leaders to focus on a new way of creating and using passwords. Instead of creating complex passwords, as described above, you use a string of simple words that would only make sense to you. For example, *My toy train is a Lion-el from Brooklyn.* This string of words has meaning to me but, hopefully, no one else. Under these new guidelines, this would be considered a "strong" password. Unfortunately, not all service providers are ready to accept such a password. They have "rules" about length, use of special characters and phrases. It will take time for the new guidelines to become more firm.

- Steve

Webmaster

Steve Gilbert

YN3 1958-1960





Gilbert E. Beyer,  
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

## Ship's Log Entries

Recently I saw the animated movie, "Coco". This delightful movie is about the annual Mexican celebration of "el dia de los Muertos". If you haven't seen it I highly recommend it. It is the story of the importance of remembering our forbearers.

Yes, "Coco" is a movie of a Mexican cultural tradition. But, it should open a door to your memories.

## The Battle of Saratoga

SEPTEMBER 19, 1777, AND OCTOBER 7, 1777

The word Saratoga is shorthand for two battles that gave the coup de grace to the 1777 British invasion from Canada during the American Revolutionary War.

The Battles of Saratoga marked the climax of the Saratoga campaign, giving a decisive victory to the Americans over the British in the American Revolutionary War.

British General John Burgoyne led a large invasion army southward from Canada in the Champlain Valley, hoping to meet a similar British force marching northward from New York City and another British force marching eastward from Lake Ontario.

The southern and western forces never arrived, and Burgoyne was surrounded by American forces in upstate New York.

Burgoyne's strategy to divide New England from the southern colonies had started well but slowed due to logistical problems.

He won a small tactical victory over General Horatio Gates and the Continental Army in the September 19 Battle of Freeman's Farm at the cost of significant casualties. His gains were erased when he again attacked the Americans on October 7

Summer is upon us and I'm still looking for more stories to add to our book. Shipmate Merle Wagner has sent me four new tales to add to this revised second edition.

We need to record our stories so that future generation can learn from the past. The vast majority of today's American population has zero concept of what the military does on a daily basis.

I feel that it is imperative to pass our stories on. You have a little over a year to add your stories to our book.

in the *Battle of Bemis Heights*, and the Americans captured a portion of the British defenses.

Burgoyne found himself trapped by superior American forces with no relief in sight, so he retreated to Saratoga (now Schuylerville) and surrendered his entire army there on October 17.

The Battle of Saratoga was a great turning point of the war. Burgoyne's surrender was instrumental in formally bringing France into the war as an ally, and by bringing money, supplies, and soldiers to aid the Americans.

To celebrate the American victory at Saratoga, the Continental Congress issued a proclamation for a national day "for solemn Thanksgiving and praise," the first official holiday observance with that name.

Visitors may tour the battle sites of Saratoga, which are preserved by the Saratoga National Historical Park. In 1966 the park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Editor

## Historian's Report



Your stories are just as important as anyone else's. They need to be added to our book.

So, get hot and send your stories to me - or to Sandie if you would like to be featured as a "Fiske Mate", and we will pass them on to the rest of the world.

- Gil



"Sir, I look forward to receiving my holiday pay. Seventeen years."



If you know the whereabouts of any Fiske shipmates, please let us know.



### Contributions

As a not-for-profit organization, our only means of income is from dues, contributions, Gil's book, and sales from Ship Store.

**Support the Fiske!**



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

ITEM #	QTY	SHIRT COLOR	SIZE	CAP - DD or DDR	PRICE

**2** Shirts are Blue or Gray  
Sizes S to 2X

## SHIRTS & CAPS



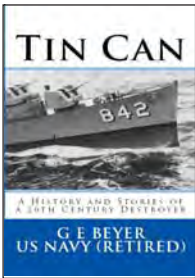
**3**



DD or DDR  
Embroidered  
Caps  
Blue Only

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

## Check Out



**SECOND EDITION**  
A History and Stories of  
A 20th Century Destroyer  
by Gil Beyer

Buy on Amazon @ \$16.95  
Support the Fiske @ \$15.00

100% of all profit is donated to the  
Fiske Association by Gil. Each book  
sold in Ship Store means \$11.35  
to the Association - less shipping.

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Store Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## DUES &

Contributions in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated; donations to Fair Share Shipping help us keep it free

## DONATIONS

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Drexel Hill, PA - 19026

(610) 675-5058 - petebrotschul@gmail.com



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