

USS FISKE



DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 - Number 3 - August 2015

Ship's Company Prepares to Set Sail

Last Chance to Register for Gettysburg Reunion on Page 7



President's Letter

Shipmates,

By the time this letter becomes part of our newsletter I'm hoping that everyone has made their travel plans and reservations for our reunion in Gettysburg. This reunion, our eighth since I first joined the Association back in 2001 and the 15th since we first met in Newport, RI, is shaping up very well. Much of the credit goes to our Reunion Host, James Rapson - his second time in the barrel - with the help of the 2013 Reunion Host, Jeffrey Kovite and many others that filled that role before.

When I made my presentation in Newport to host the 2009 Reunion in Post Falls, Idaho I had never been involved in the planning of anything like it before. It is not a job to be taken lightly. The sheer number of details requiring attention is mind-boggling. And, once our Shipmates begin to gather at the appointed place the stress doesn't slack off. There is always something that slipped through the cracks and jumps up and bites you.

But when it is over and done, the satisfaction of having handled and overseen the myriad of details fills you with the satisfaction of a job 'well done'.

My hat goes off to everyone that has taken on the

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role of Reunion Host and to all those that volunteer for this role at future reunions. Until I see you in Gettysburg I wish all our Shipmates 'Fair winds and following seas'.

- Gil



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

**September 24th to 27th, 2015.
15th Bi-Annual Reunion
Gettysburg, PA**

I am repeating my last article as it contains the basic information that you will need. The reunion is open to ALL former shipmates AND the families of passed shipmates who may wish to come and meet shipmates who served with their fathers, brothers or other family relationship. Our goal is to extend to all, the history of the USS Fiske, the United States Navy and the stories about the friends that we made while serving our country.

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. They have given us 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.

.....continued on page 6



From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Once again, as we approach our bi-annual reunion, I am reflecting on the friendships made with other shipmates. I had been an inactive member of the Association for many years until volunteering for Ship's Store Keeper in 2007.

During the ensuing months, I was guided by the (then) current Officers in preparation for the Newport reunion, my first. I confess to being a little nervous and apprehensive - not knowing what to expect - coupled with the fact that I didn't know anyone at all, except the Officers with whom I had worked (via email and over the phone), and were meeting in person for the first time.

How things have changed! Looking at the current list of attendees, I recognize and can mentally place everyone, with the exception of a few who have never attended before. As our other Officers have stated in their articles, I am excited and genuinely looking forward to seeing shipmates and their wives and sweethearts again.

Since we will be holding elections at the General Meeting, I'd like to put in a plug for the Officers currently serving. Since that 2007 reunion, our Association has come a very long way. Credit absolutely must be given to James Rapson, for his efforts in getting the finances squared away a few years back, and to Jeff Kovite, and Gil Beyer.

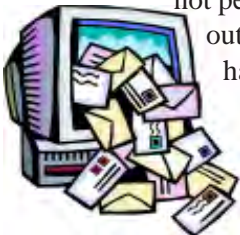
Each has hosted a reunion (James for the second time) and each has held various positions in the Association. It is important to note that each is dedicated to assuring that the Association runs smoothly.

I find myself surrounded by a great team and am so very proud to be part of it. My part has been to assist, to create, and to sustain in the areas of Ship's Store and as your Newsletter Editor. It is a privilege and an honor to do so, and I hope to continue for many years to come.

It would be wrong not to acknowledge our webmaster, Steve Gilbert, for the fine work he does in maintaining the website and keeping us informed about the internet. And, to our Chaplain, Frank Stancil, for his never-ending guidance and faithful encouragement to the shipmates in his flock. As for our Master-at-Arms, John Degnan, I would

not personally want to tangle with him if I were out of order. This is a great team - we all have multiple responsibilities - and we will continue to work hard for you if reelected. With that, I wish you fair winds and following seas. See you in Gettysburg!

- Sandie



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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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THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS



*Delivered by Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863 at the
dedication services on the Battle Field*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate...we can not consecrate ...we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961



Shipmates,
Since the last newsletter and just in time for the reunion, **Jim Winkler**, a RM3 who watched the skies for us from 1956-58, has joined the Association. Hope to see you in Gettysburg, Jim.

We also lost two shipmates: **Michael Roach**, YN1, sailed on DD842 from 1971 to 1973; Michael passed on March 22, 2014.

Richard M. Park, MM3, who served on the *Fiske* in 1970; Richard died on March 12, 2015.



One last reminder:
As you are packing for Gettysburg, don't forget to grab those books to add to the book table that will be in the Hospitality Room.



I have a several to donate, such as *THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC* and a couple of submarine books like Richard O'Kane's classic *CLEAR THE BRIDGE!*. I'm looking forward to bringing a few new ones home. And, I am looking forward even more to seeing my shipmates again. Wishing you fair winds and calm seas,

- Jeff

Correction: The Date of Death for two of our shipmates was incorrectly listed in the last newsletter- Keith Seaman died on March 2, 2015 and Ray Fisher passed on August 26, 2006. The Editor and I apologize for that.

Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil
GMG3
1959-1963

"O Lord, ruler of all nations, protect this great nation upon which You have showered Your blessings without number. Bless with Your continued presence the men and women of our Armed Forces, give them the spirit of fortitude that they may be faithful to their country and true to You. Please keep our shipmates and their families safe and healthy.



In Your name we pray!"

- Frank

What's Up with
Web Master
Steve Gilbert
will resume
soon!



Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960

SEPTEMBER - 24-27 2015

SAVE THE DATES!



GETTYSBURG, PA

15th BI-ANNUAL REUNION



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.



History has long provided fodder for works of fiction. Recently I was going through some piles of copies of letters I had received. They had been set aside for 'further research'. What really happened was they had 'fallen through a crack'. All of these letters had things in them that would be wonderful for our 'Fiske Tales' but there was one major problem - the most amazing missive had no name or date for attribution

This letter contained references to *Fiske's* Korean War deployment. They spoke of gunfire support

missions against trains running along the coast and the time when a team of ROK Marines was onboard *Fiske* and inserted on the shore via sampan. Their mission was to capture some prisoners for intelligence gathering and interrogation. All of this was in the 'War Diaries' that had been declassified a few years ago. What wasn't mentioned in the 'War Diaries' was the story I had in my hands.

It was reported that one of the ROK people lost his rifle into the sea, either during the re-boarding of the sampan or in re-boarding the *Fiske* from the sampan. In our Navy that individual would have been severally reprimanded,

finned the value of the weapon and, possibly, denied privileges like liberty or advancement for a period of time. Not so for ROK personnel.

According to this letter the ROK officer in charge drew his sidearm and shot the offender in the head!

As stated in the letter, "Captain Pond was furious." I found no mention of this incident in any of the official documents that I've obtained.

I really want to add this story to 'Fiske Tales' but won't without attribution or substantiation. I'll burrow through my totes and hopefully find the original letter. Wish me luck.

- Gil

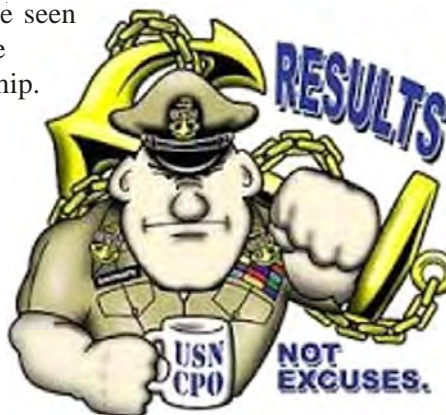
A Tribute to Naval Chief Petty Officers



The Top 10 Characteristics Of A Naval Chief Petty Officer



- 10 They feel that Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and never, ever, be allowed to read books on leadership.
- 9 Their greatest fear is signing for property book items.
- 8 They've served on ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.
- 7 They get tears in their eyes when the "Chief" dies in the movie "Operation Pacific".
- 6 Their favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, "We keep you alive to serve this ship."



- 5 They think excessive modesty is their only fault.
- 4 Their last ship was always better.
- 3 They know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.
- 2 Their idea of Heaven - Three good POI's and a Division Officer who does what he is told.

And the Number One Characteristic of a Naval Chief Petty Officer is:

1 He thinks John Wayne would've made a good Chief, if he hadn't gone soft and made Marine movies.

- Editor

Fiske Mates



*Two Kings on One Cruise
Featuring Commander Roger Grady - 1973-74*



In early 1973, the Fiske departed its home port of Newport RI. The plan was to head south for a port call in Recife, Brazil. From Brazil the plan was to continue south and turn under South Africa; thence, head north - stopping at various ports along the East African Coast. The long range plan was to conduct an Around The World Cruise and return to Newport.

In late January Fiske entertained King Neptune's domain as she crossed the Equator, upon which he awarded Shellback status to all deserving Pollywogs. His Highness, King Neptune, was pleased with Fiske and her Crew. Continuing north, Fiske was to call upon each and every Shellback to perform in true Shellback fashion.



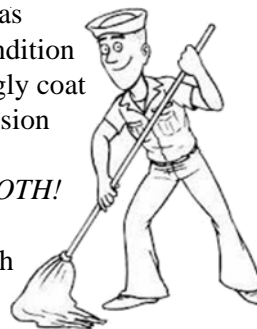
The remnants of a Cyclone blew in from the northeast, and while the Fiske navigation team had a solid track on the impending storm, Fiske continued north at best speed to make its next scheduled port visit. Fiske weathered the storm and was set to strike a heading to meet its next Diplomacy commitment when the Radio Gang delivered a message to the Wardroom that read:

**"FISKE IS TO DIVERT FROM HER CURRENT PORT VISIT PLAN
FISKE IS TO SET COURSE FOR MASSAWA ETHIOPIA TO ARRIVE AT
0800 ON THE 23RD OF MARCH. FISKE WILL MAKE ALL PREPARATION
TO HOST H.I.M. FOR A STATE VISIT UPON ARRIVAL."**



In the wardroom much head scratching took place. The question of the moment was: **"WHAT'S A H.I.M.?"** The answer became obvious. H.I.M. is Diplomatic speak for **"HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY"**, that being Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

The equivalent of General Quarters was sounded. The immediate issue was the condition of the ship. The storm had coated the entire ship with an ugly coat of brownish salt. The Boson Gang aided by the Second Division estimated that they could make either the Port side or the Starboard side presentable for a H.I.M. visit - **BUT NOT BOTH!**



Navigator team front and center! Get in touch with the Port Authority and determine our berth location and to which side will we moor. The answer came in less than 3 hours: **Berth Number 4, and Starboard Side To.** We had less than 9 hours to clean the ship! Go First and Second Divisions! *In reality the job was an ALL HANDS requirement!*

The next order of business was a message to the US Embassy, Ethiopia - **"FISKE needs to know (ASAP) what were the hot issues the US and Ethiopia were discussing that Fiske should be aware of"**.

.....continued on page 6

The Treasurer's Report



*James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
1964-1967*

For those of you who have been following my quarterly input, you are aware that it takes the Editor to send the MAA searching all of the lower decks, ladders and passageways for me as I'm nearly always the last to submit my article. So it is the case again for this issue as I seem to think we just printed the last newsletter and it can't possibly be time for another submission.

If it seems that I have only one main issue in my articles, it is because the issue of Dues is always paramount to a Treasurer. Without your payments of \$10.00 per year, we are unable to provide the necessary information for you. It takes the Dues of 150 members to produce the Quarterly Newsletters. Another 33 to provide the funds to pay for the costs of the Annual accounting report and the State of New Jersey Charter fees. Add to that the general costs of providing funds to stock the Ship's Store and other day-to-day operations, you can see that the Association requirements are pretty substantial. Regrettably, only 75 shipmates have paid their Dues for 2015 and this places us in a very dangerous situation.

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Secondly, what are the current economic and cultural issues confronting H.I.M that Fiske should know about (talking points, that is)? The US Embassy did a great job in a timely fashion. **Fiske will be ready. Well almost.**

The pilot was aboard Fiske from his small boat at 0800. He was escorted to the bridge to brief the navigation team. The briefing went well. **Well almost.**

The navigation team was informed that because of the tide and weather conditions forecast on Fiske's departure date, it will be necessary to moor PORT SIDE TO.



A resounding "OH SHUCKS" was heard from the bridge to the fan tail.

A compromise was reached: Fiske would go Starboard to, additionally, Fiske would deploy her anchor 100 feet (about) into the channel apposite her berth. Three days later, at underway time, the anchor would be taken under a strain to keep the bow from being subjected to an adverse tide and wind

It worked. Thirty minutes after securing the Sea Detail, H.I.M and his entourage parked at the bow. Let the Visit Begin.



1. H.I.M. and Commander GRADY inspect FIS



2. H.I.M. and Commander GRADY discuss Mideast Force mission.



4. H.I.M. and Commander GRADY inspect FESKE Honor Guard. Left to right: SN Rocco SCALZI, MM3 Thomas DURAN, LTJG John FERNEY, ETR3 Richard GILL, H.I.M. and Commander GRADY.

Gettysburg was selected because it is 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 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, golf courses, and places to go and things to see in the Gettysburg area.

There is only one scheduled tour on Friday the 25th 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 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 26th, 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".

This is your last chance! The Reservation Form is on the previous page. Please make sure that all of the contact information is complete so that you may be identified properly to someone you may not have met before. **Time is short, so please send it in as quickly as possible.** A master list of all reservations is being kept and you will be duly recorded for all that you wish to do.

As always, please email me with any questions, concerns, etc. (see address on newsletter). Please keep a watch on the Fiske website, and by all means utilize 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

2015 Dues Only \$10.00! Please send your check or donation in the amount of \$10.00 or more made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. today. We need your support! - 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 - 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)

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

LAST CHANCE ! Time is Running Out LAST CHANCE!
Send Your Check Today!

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: _____



Treasurer's Report -
continued from page 5

The second concern that I have is the maintaining of the membership roster. In addition to the main roster, we have separate lists for mailing the quarterly newsletter.

In order to keep costs down we send approximately 330 newsletters out via your email address and the remainder of the 580 members via snail mail. With each mailing we average 8 to 10% returns for incorrect addresses.

Please do your part in keeping me informed of any changes to your mailing address or your email address. We are not always able to find you if you have moved or made a change.

Again, thanks to all shipmates who have sent their dues and a reminder that it is YOUR dues that keep the Association afloat and able to provide the level of service to YOU. - James

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

All shirts and caps are \$14.00 each.



Ball Caps
Summer or Winter



Shirts are blue or gray - S to 2X.



Summer "trucker" style cool mesh back

Patches
\$5.00 for small, \$7.00 for large. Supply is very limited, small DDR is sold out.



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

"Proudly We Served" - heavy duty



magnetic clip or squeeze stress ball \$2.50 ea



These are just some of the items we have in stock. You can view the complete ship's store on our website. WWW.USSFISKE.ORG

Please circle your choices below and fill in the personalized areas. Print clearly to avoid errors!

Fiske Personalized Coffee Mugs

Gettysburg Reunion **Rate:** _____

Cobalt Blue

Off-White (Almond)

Black

\$28.00 ea
2 for \$54.00

Years: _____

Name or Nickname

DD (or) DDR

Fiske Personalized Beer Mugs \$35.00 ea - or 2 for \$60.00 -

Rate: _____

Other Services or Navy Logo

Years: _____

Gettysburg Reunion

ETN2 Sandra Siciliano
1977-1979

Name or Nickname

DD (or) DDR

All prices include shipping. Mugs are sent direct to you. Multiple mugs do not have to be the same. Mugs for 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 are available. Orders over \$50.00 - free shipping.

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