



USS FISKE



DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 32 - Number 1 - August 2016

Ship's Store Transfers to 2nd VP

Story on Page 7

Annapolis Reunion Plans Making Headway



President's Letter

Shipmates,

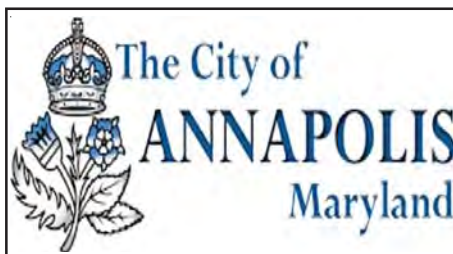
President Gil Beyer

Well, here we are, almost a year after Gettysburg, and just a year shy of our reunion in Annapolis. Thanks to the hard work of Reunion Host Dick Pettingill we can say that we're definitely going to be in Annapolis in 2017. The contracts with the hotel have been massaged into shape. The dates that I have on hand are Tuesday, August 22nd through Thursday, August 24th. There are provisions for a day's stay before the event for early arrivals, and a day after, for those wanting to spend some extra time in the area. Although this is earlier than has been our habit, mid-week rates, location, and the time of year were factors that made our decision to move the traditional weekend forward in order to give us the best the "best bang for our bucks".

Sherry and I are looking forward to going to a place that neither of us has been before. We may even have the opportunity to see our future Navy officers at work and play. I've often wondered what their whole day looked like. More details will be available over the next

several months. It's not too early to start looking at your calendars and thinking about your travel plans. Until next time I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

- Gil



USS FISKE REUNION
AUGUST 22-24, 2017

Reunion Report, with Host Dick Pettingill:

The O'Callaghan Hotel, a 120 room Boutique Irish Style Hotel (as already announced by President Gil Beyer) has been secured as our headquarters for the 2017 reunion.

The O'Callaghan is in the heart of the city - less than a mile walking distance or a 10 minute ride on the Circulating Trolley to the infamous City Dock which is a focal point for Center City and immediately adjacent to the Naval Academy.

On your way downtown you'll pass the Governor's House, the Maryland Capital, and the Naval Academy, along with the city's Main Street, lined with many historic buildings for shopping and eating experiences.

I am pleased to say that the 2015 O'Callaghan Hotel rates will be held for the week of the 2017 reunion so many of our shipmates will be able to extend their reunion trip and at the same time experience relatively inexpensive hotel room rates while visiting the region.

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From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome back to the FISKE NEWS DD/DDR-842! Since our last issue in November, 2015, things have been relatively quiet. We've all gotten a little older, maybe more mellow, but nonetheless, still enthusiastic about the fellowship we share about our beloved tin can.

For the benefit of our new members, all of us pictured to the right are volunteers. Many of us are still working full or part time. I put myself in that category as well.

What this means is that we may not always be on top of everything all the time, but we try to make it right without fail every time. Things happen technically, supplies dry up, personal things happen in life, and, it can be difficult to balance everything with the running around it takes to perform certain tasks required to get the job(s) done right.

It was for some of these reasons that I asked to be relieved of my Appointment as your Ship Store Keeper. I am happy to report that our 2nd Vice President, Pete Brotschul immediately accepted this Appointment. His original assignment (as the new kid on the block) was to actively work, to locate, and to bring new younger members into the Association, to keep it going for years to come.

When he reopens the store, you can expect it to be more basic. For more complete information, please read our shared articles on page 7. I want to thank Pete for graciously accepting the new assignment, and the other Officers for their kind assistance as we get everything transferred.

On another topic, the subject of saving expenses by occasionally reducing the number of newsletters was discussed at the General Meeting in Gettysburg. I speak to this in an Editorial (only my 2nd) on page 5 to complement Treasurer James Rapson's report. We go over this every time, all the time. For only ten dollars a year, you get to keep in touch with shipmates and renew old friendships at the bi-annual reunion destination. *Folks, that's only 2.739 cents a day!*

Writing this newsletter is a source of pure joy for me. Frankly, it IS a lot of work, but it's one that I do gladly. Your donations, purchases, and dues payments allow us to make charitable donations in the name of the Association, publish this newsletter, and fund the reunions. Let's keep it going and pay it forward!

- Sandie



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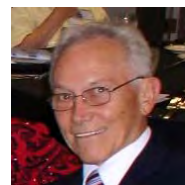
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Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Please support the FISKE and pay yours to James Rapson, or make a contribution for those unable to pay. We need you!

Update Your Profile by Contacting Steve Gilbert at
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

Will Rogers - a stage performer, actor, humorist and social commentator - was especially prominent in taking a swipe against our leaders in the 1920s and 30s. These are just a few of his words:

- 1) There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you.
- 2) The more you observe politics, the more you've got to admit that each party is worse than the other.
- 3) The taxpayers are sending congressmen on expensive trips abroad. It might be worth it except they keep coming back.
- 4) Politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated.
- 5) I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Chaplain's

Corner



W. Frank Stancil
GMG3
1959-1963

"O Lord, Ruler of all nations, protect this Great Nation upon which thou hast showered Thy blessings without number. Do Lord, set right that which is wrong and bring together what is divided that we may live under one Glorious Flag with charity towards all and with



malice towards none in a spirit of unity and a bond of peace! Amen"

- Frank



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

Greeting, shipmates,

I hope your year is going well. You will be glad to know that another shipmate has joined the association. Richard Ross, FTG2, sailed on the *Fiske* 1961-64. I got out in 1961, so just missed knowing Richard, and I do hope to meet him in Annapolis next year.

Unfortunately, we also lost a few who are sailing the eternal seas:

Donald J. Henriques, MM2, who kept the engines running on the *Fiske* from 1954-57, passed on February 13, 2015
 Gary G. Clemson, Sr., SN, 1960-63, whom I did know, and whose picture is in the 1961 Med Cruise book.
 Gary died on the 24th of June this year.

I have occasionally been asked what an association Secretary does. Obviously, keeping tabs on new members and documenting those who pass on for one thing. I also keep the records of the association and take the minutes of the Executive Board meeting and the member's business meeting at every reunion. I am a signatory for the Association when we contract for bus tours, hotels and such at the reunions. And, like the other officers of the association, whatever other task the president asks of me.

All in all, the office of secretary is a fairly light burden. Still, Father Time might one day tell me to move on and let someone else have a chance. Maybe you! Until next time, I wish you fair winds and calm seas,

- Jeff

Uncle Sam (initials U.S.) is a common national personification of the American government or the United States in general that, according to legend, came into use during the War of 1812 and was supposedly named for Samuel Wilson but whose actual origin may be obscure. Uncle Sam represents a manifestation of patriotic emotion.

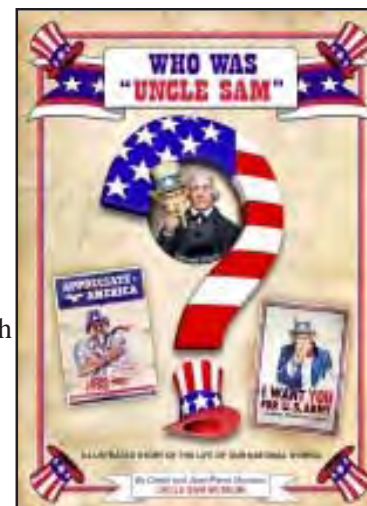
The first use of Uncle Sam in formal literature, as distinct from newspapers, was in the 1816 allegorical book *"The Adventures of Uncle Sam in Search After His Lost Honor"* by Frederick Augustus Fidfaddy, Esq.

An Uncle Sam is mentioned as early as 1775, in the original "Yankee Doodle" lyrics of the American Revolutionary War.

It is not clear whether this reference is to Uncle Sam as a metaphor for the United States, or to an actual person named Sam.

The lyrics as a whole celebrate the military efforts of the young nation, besieging the British at Boston. The 13th stanza is:

*Old Uncle Sam come there to change
Some pancakes and some onions,
For 'lasses cakes, to carry home
To give his wife and young ones.*





Gilbert E. Beyer,
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

Ship's Log Entries...

Historian's Report

Tin Can – An Incomplete History of the USS Fiske History, Fiske Mates & Fiske Tales - Starring You!
On sale now in Ship's Store



Looking in the rear view mirror after our successful reunion in Gettysburg, I am reminded how fast time flies, as we are already looking forward to gathering in Annapolis in less than a year.

I've got some good news and bad news that came out of Gettysburg. I prefer to have the good news first. It seems that our little book was well received by all those that attended. I've always billed it as 'a work in progress' but I've had nothing but positive feedback on our efforts.

"Tin Can & Fiske Tales: An Incomplete History of the USS Fiske" contains about forty stories

that were given or sent to me by shipmates over the past 6 to 7 years. These stories have been woven into a framework of the Fiske's deployments and cruises over her 35 years of service to our Navy. I'm very pleased with the reception our initial effort has been given.

Many shipmates, after reading the book, have added to my knowledge base with information I could find nowhere else. That is a plus. More info is always better; but, it does create a dilemma for me. The dilemma is this: How long before I create a second edition incorporating all this new material? I will mull this over as I deal

with the information I'm receiving. I sent out a call at the banquet to every attendee for new 'Fiske Tales'. As of this writing I received a total of five submissions – two stories from one shipmate. Granted, several people have promised to get their stories to me as soon as possible, so, I encourage everyone to do so as quickly as possible.

As I've said many, many times before, 'if you don't write it down it never happened'. We are an aging population, and we have personal stories that should be preserved. Let's save as much of our history as we can.

- Gil

Best Fun Things to Do in Annapolis - All Free!



The United States Naval Academy is the No. 1 attraction in Annapolis.



Although the Banneker-Douglass Museum is small, it's loaded with history. It's named for the black scientist Benjamin Banneker and black social crusader Frederick Douglass.



What visitors usually refer to as "Historic Annapolis" is the abundance of restaurants, galleries and shops that fill the converted row houses on Main Street.



If you're looking to stretch your legs in a picturesque place, Quiet Waters Park is the place to do it. Its 340 acres contains a 6-mile paved path, formal gardens and more..



Ego Alley is not an alley in the traditional sense of the word; rather than a walkway, it's a narrow waterway that spills out into Spa Creek.



The Hammond-Harwood House, is the self-proclaimed "jewel of Annapolis," is in all seriousness, a gem



Dating back to the 18th century, St. Anne's Church in Annapolis has a storied history. Its first iteration was the area's first and only chapel.



Even though the Maryland State House doesn't tend to wow visitors with its architecture or exhibits, it is the site of illustrious history.



The pristine William Paca House & Garden is an immaculately restored 18th century Georgian mansion

These are just teasers - for complete descriptions of the attractions above, and much more, visit:

http://travel.usnews.com/Annapolis_MD/Things_To_Do/

Editorial

In keeping with Treasurer James Rapson's article about the ratio of income and expense, versus the membership numbers and dues paid, our goal has always been to use funds wisely. James has been a superb steward of the Treasury for many years, and because of his acumen, we continue to operate in good stead.

It takes a lot of \$10.00 dues payments to meet expenses; for example: Mailing separate dues notices. Frankly, I believe that this is a waste of money because we have a dues notice in every newsletter.

As a mental refresher, our only other source of income is derived from donations from generous shipmates, fair share shipping donations, proceeds from ship's store, and President Gil Beyer's book - of which he contributes 100% of all sales.

This year, we made a conscious decision to cut two editions of the newsletter for these reasons:

- 1) In the "off year" between reunions, there isn't much going on other than the planning and the behind-the-scenes activity to put on the next reunion, and,
- 2) It was a very effective way to preserve the Treasury since Ship Store sales also wane in the off year.

It is easy to read the newsletter, then lay it aside and "forget" to send in the dues. Life happens, and there are many distractions to interfere with good intentions. We are also aware that we have several shipmates who are truly unable to pay, and we never drop them.

Please promise yourself that you will make a point to write that check immediately before your forget, and send it off to James. We want to be able to keep the USS FISKE DD/DDR Association, Inc., viable for many years to come.

- Sandie



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg - 1964-1967

The Treasurer's Report

Now is the time again to heed the call of the Editor for the Newsletter, for it is Sandie that keeps all of us in line and on time. We hope that you enjoy reading these messages from your Officers and Appointees as I happen to believe that our newsletter is one of the finest out there. As this is an all volunteer organization, we take great pride in providing the best service to you, the shipmates, to keep you informed and interested in the USS Fiske Association.

Plans for the 2017 Reunion in Annapolis, MD are moving forward under the direction of Dick Pettingill. He has done some excellent investigative work and planning already, as the lead time for a great reunion starts immediately after the end of the last. Please keep an eye out in the newsletter for more information from Dick as we proceed forward to 2017.

My duties as Treasurer now go to the normal maintenance of the records of the Association and the monthly reporting of our activities. The monthly reports go to all Officers, Appointments, Past Presidents and any shipmate who wishes to learn more about how the Association functions and where YOUR monies are spent. It is one thing to ask for your support, but entirely another to ensure that those funds are spent wisely and properly reported on your behalf.

All of this brings me to the part of my message whereby I ask that you please send in your \$10.00 per year dues. If you wish to know where you stand with your dues, please email me at jrapson@cox.net for a quick reply. The Association would rather collect your Dues via a response to the newsletter than have to mail out a dues notice. With 580

members times \$.49 per item to mail, that would take \$284.20 out of available funds. This does not include the costs of paper, envelopes and time needed to print, fold, stuff, stamp and mail you a Dues Notice. Let's make it known that we strive to be as efficient as possible in keeping your Association active and up-to-date.

One final item of business that I feel is extremely important – if you have not yet made an application for your Veteran's benefits with the Veterans Administration - I very strongly urge you to contact them with your DD-214. You will never know what benefits that you may be eligible for if you don't make that initial contact. Please visit our web-site for further information.

With all of that said, it is now time to jump down from the Treasurer's "soap box", snuggle up with the checkbook and await the next items requiring action. May you always have fair winds and following seas in all of your travels and activities.

- James

“ It is one thing to ask for your support, but entirely another to ensure that those funds are spent wisely, and properly reported on your behalf. ... "With 580 members times \$.49 per item, the cost to the Association would take \$284.20 out of available funds." And, since not everyone pays his dues, those funds are very limited. That does not include the cost of paper, and the labor to print, fold, stuff, stamp, and mail. ”

Annapolis . . . the "Athens of America"



Location - 30 miles to the west is Washington, D.C., our nation's Capital. The Baltimore International Airport (BWI) is located about 20 miles to the north of Annapolis, and a short distance beyond is Baltimore, Maryland, with its famous waterfront and Little Italy Community. The five-mile Chesapeake Bay Bridge interconnects immediately to the more rural/seaport communities on the Eastern Shore. All are connected to the Interstate Highway System and easily traveled during non-rush hour traffic.

History - From its earliest days as a colonial capital city, Annapolis was known as the "Athens of America". Here, one could find a wealth of cultural activities, a glittering social season, gracious hospitality and intellectual stimulation. The small seaport brought visitors from around the world who shared the news of the

day while enjoying the ambiance and exquisite tidewater cuisine of the local pubs. Founded in 1645, Annapolis became a capital city in 1694 and incorporated as a city in 1708; it is home to the famous Liberal Arts *St. John's College*, founded in 1696. Now the capital of the State of Maryland, two other government entities also lie within the city - the county government of Anne Arundel - and the local city government.

Of further historical significance - in 1783 - General George Washington, the nation's father, voluntarily resigned his military commission to the Continental Congress, which was located in Annapolis at that time. A dedicated space in the State Capital now houses the newly refurbished room named for the General. That same year, the ending of the Revolutionary War with Great Britain was agreed to in Paris in September of 1783. The treaty, known as the *Treaty of*

Paris, was finally ratified in January of 1794 at the temporary home of the Continental Congress in Annapolis. A well-known local restaurant named after the treaty resides in the Maryland Inn (a B&B type hotel) adjacent to the Governor's House and the State Capital.

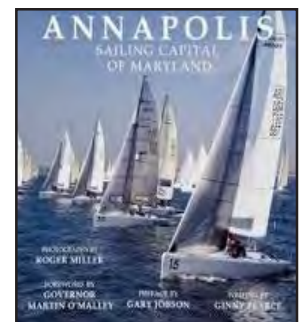
Annapolis is also the home of the U. S. Naval Academy, which was founded in 1845, and has trained many of our nation's leading Naval Officers since its founding. In December, 2015, the Naval Academy chant of "I Believe That We Will Win" resonated when midshipmen beat Army for the 14th straight year (21 to 17). The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy was returned once more to the Naval Academy at a White House ceremony with the President of the United States. The annual award is in recognition for football dominance over both Army and the Air Force (33-11). This is the 10th time since 2003 that Navy has won this trophy.

America's Sailing Capital - In addition to its proud public history just noted, Annapolis is also recognized as America's "Sailing Capital" and is home to the world famous Annapolis Yacht Club. Tragically, a major fire recently destroyed most of the clubhouse, but the club's Commodore announced that the 135-year-old club will be rebuilt with a bigger and better facility for its two thousand members.

The city has 10,000 boats within its limits of 38,000 residents, ranging from sail boats, motor yachts, kayaks, dinghys, fishing boats, paddle boats, charter boats, and water taxis. All are daily reminders of the many activities and fun opportunities available to residents, tourists, and visitors to the city.

Throughout the year, weekend regattas attract local, national and international sailors who compete for trophies recognized around the world. A national Hall of Fame for sailors is to be built adjacent to both the Naval Academy and Ego Alley, which has always been the city's focal point for fisherman and cruisers alike. The largest in-water sailboat show is held annually in October, immediately followed by the motorboat show in Ego Alley at City Dock. Ego Alley was also a point of entry for the slave trade during the early days of our country's colonization. A bronze statue of Kunta Kinte today rests at the head of Ego Alley as a reminder of the city's history, and was immortalized in Alex Haley's book *Roots*.

Last, but not least, Annapolis is home to over 30 tax exempt churches. The historic Annapolis Foundation oversees the preservation of many historic homes and buildings built in earlier times. Tour guides and docents will lead *Fiskemates* around this historic city to get a better appreciation of the earliest days of our country's beginnings.



Ship's Store - Teamwork in Transition

With Vice Presidents Sandie Siciliano and Pete Brotschul



Shipmates, in 2007, I saw a notice in the newsletter that a Store Keeper was needed for the Association. I had been a member since George Post enrolled me in 1990, but had never been active; thus after inquiring, the rest is "history".

As time passed, I have happily had the honor and pleasure of serving you, getting to know you, and making wonderful and lasting friendships.

But, with triple roles as your storekeeper (nine years), newsletter editor (six years), and most recently, as 1st Vice President, life's challenges made me realize that I had reached a point where I need some breathing room. It was not an easy decision to give up Ship's Store, but 2nd Vice President Pete Brotschul never hesitated a moment when asked if he would accept the Appointment.

As we wind down, our main focus will be on caps and shirts. Besides those items, there might be an occasional special, and we will continue to offer

personalized coffee and beer mugs, and a few other items.

Because there is no "I" in team, Pete and I will be working closely together, along with Gil and James, as a team, to complete the transition. I will continue to create the graphics for the website and newsletter, and any specials that may be offered. Meanwhile, the details of ordering, payment, inventory, and shipments need to be worked out.

During this time, we appreciate your patience and understanding. Thank you all so much for the support you have given me the past nine years. - Sandie

The Fiske Association's Officers and Appointments work diligently to keep all its members up to date with useful information about veterans services, and sharing memories of their time served proudly on board the Fiske.

As the newest elected Officer of the Association, I am proud to be associated with the crew who served faithfully, who carry many fond memories of their service aboard, and who continue to keep the memories alive for all of us.

Despite our denials, as time marches on, it is inevitable that it will catch up to all of us. Our Officers and Appointments are no exception.

Sandie Siciliano expressed a desire to be relieved of some of her responsibilities. It was she who suggested that I act as the new Store Keeper. That being said, I gladly accepted and will proudly do so.

Sandie has been a team player for many years. Make no mistake - this amazing woman has taken care of many things well beyond hats and shirts. I hope I can follow in her footsteps, and it is my goal to get the store back up and running again very soon.

I look forward to serving my fellow shipmates in reliving some of our best memories together.

I also look forward to meeting new and old shipmates, and hope to see you all at our next reunion in 2017. - Pete



Reunion Report, con't from page 1

Maryland is often touted as "America in the Miniature" because of its proximity to major metropolitan areas, horse farms, seaport/waterfront communities, mountains to the west, the Chesapeake Bay immediately offshore of Annapolis and the Atlantic Ocean to the East.

We will be publishing the reunion registration form, along with a list of activities in the next newsletter. This will allow you to plan ahead for

expenses and your personal itinerary.

With the special rates at the O'Callaghan, try to give yourself extra time in the area so that you and your family may be entertained to a week of historical and fun exploration.

As a resident of Annapolis, I am happy to be your host and look forward to sharing more information about Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay area with you in the next newsletter.

There are many great restaurants that lie within the city, but most importantly don't forget to make sure you try Maryland's famous blue crabs - it will be an experience you'll never forget!

- Dick



ORDER FORM



petebrotschul@gmail.com
(610) 675-5058

Peter P. Brotschul
BT2



4008 Plumstead Avenue - Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania - 19026



Caps, Shirts, Mugs, & Occasional "Specials"



Look For The New

SHIP'S STORE Coming Soon!



2016

Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.

Dues

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Email: _____

NOTE: For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.

Send To:

USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.
c/o 244 Park View Avenue - Warwick, RI 02888

Email: jrrapson@cox.net - Phone: (401) 781-5879



A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.