



USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER



Volume 31 - Number 4 - November 2015

Chesapeake Area Chosen for 2017

Members Retain Past Officers, Elect New 2nd Vice President



President's Letter

President Gil Beyer

Shipmates, well, Sherry and I managed to survive two reunions in the space of ten days. After we met with classmates in Orlando, Florida, we headed north to Gettysburg to meet with shipmates old and new.

I feel that our gathering was a great success in spite of the fact that our numbers were smaller than past years. On the upside we had some new faces among the regulars and some shipmates that had missed the last couple of reunions rejoined our merry band. All in all I'm very happy with the outcome of our gathering.

The biggest news coming out of our regular business meeting was that our 16th Bi-Annual will be held in the Annapolis MD/Chesapeake Bay area. We don't have a specific locale at this moment but expect to have this information ready for the next newsletter. In addition, with some new (and I quickly add), younger shipmates who joined recently, the Association will live a while longer.

I am happy to announce that the members attending the business meeting voted to retain the entire slate of Officers and Appointments, with Sandie Siciliano elected to 1st Vice President and the addition of Shipmate Peter Brotschul as



GETTYSBURG REUNION RECAP

James Rapson, Reunion Host

The 15th Bi-Annual Reunion in Gettysburg, PA is now in the history books. From all reports from the attendees, a great time was had by all with old friends being met again, new friends made and the stories maybe just a bit more embellished than at the previous Reunions.

Geri and I would like to send a special thank you to all that lent a helping hand at the Reunion and especially Shirley and Frank Carbaugh, Jan and Jim Hanner and Ed Baniak. When they say that many hands make light work, the response from these folks was overwhelming. There was never a time as your Reunion Host that Geri or I had to do more than suggest that something needed to be done and it was taken care of immediately. A "Bravo Zulu" to you for all of your assistance.

I would also like to welcome aboard Pete Brotschul as our Association's new 2nd Vice-President. Pete has jumped in the waters full force with the life ring of his fellow Officerscontinued on page 5



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our new 2nd Vice President. I'm honored that I was re-elected as your President for the 2016-2017 term, and I feel privileged to have such a great team supporting me, and the Association. - Gil

From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

This issue has the recap of our recent reunion in Gettysburg. Quite wonderful, actually, with the fellowship and camaraderie of our shipmates and their wives and sweethearts, as they sat around reminiscing about time spent aboard, and catching up on old friendships. Attending were several shipmates who recently joined the Association along with others we had not seen for many years. It was great to meet everyone and to see those familiar faces again!

It has always been said that there is no "I" in team, and teamwork was never more visible than that which was shown in the Hospitality Room - along with setting up, stocking, restocking, tearing down, the final preparation for the banquet on Saturday night, and the final cleanup on Sunday morning. So many pitched in to ensure that all ran smoothly, and for that, on behalf of myself, and the other Officers and Appointments, we offer a hearty "BZ" to all.

The elections were historic, to say the least. For the first time in the Association's history, Officers were re-elected for third terms. Actually, everyone remained, with the addition of Pete Brotschul, who swapped places with me as 2nd Vice President, while I was elected to 1st Vice. My thanks to the membership for your confidence.

Anyone present at the general meeting can nominate or volunteer for office. We understand that a two-year commitment is out of reach for many who attended; but, if not for those willing to accept a position, or take an interest in running it, there would be no Association at all.

Finally, when an organization runs as smoothly as this has for the past eleven years (that I have been active), what comes to mind is that we who serve really love what we do. There is no salary - we are all volunteers - there is no glory - we all work very hard - but the thread of continuity is held in place by our desire and interest in sustaining the Association. That is why we are constantly looking for shipmates who served in the late 60's through the 70's to help us continue to keep the Association alive and viable.

With the installation of Pete Brotschul as our new 2nd Vice President, we are off to a good start. If you are a shipmate reading this who fits the description above, I urge you to please contact Pete and get involved.

With that, I wish you fair winds and following seas until next time.

- Sandie



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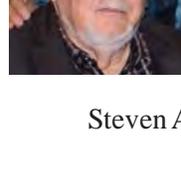
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Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Please support the FISKE and pay yours to James Rapson, or make a contribution for those unable to pay. We need you!

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

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A Notable Quote

"They say the seeds of what we will do are in all of us, but it always seemed to me that in those who make jokes in life the seeds are covered with better soil and with a higher grade of manure."

Ernest Hemingway

A Moveable Feast

Published posthumously in 1964

Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain's Corner

W. Frank Stancil

GMG3

1959-1963

The Lord at times allows difficulty in our lives as a way of testing us - He might be truing our faith, endurance, or devotion to Him. He uses such experiences to reveal something about our spiritual development and to strengthen our faith.

God uses suffering to demonstrate His power to sustain us. When He brings us through difficult times, He glories Himself. In turn, this encourages others when they experience trials, because they have witnessed God's sustaining power in our lives.

Ultimately hardships strengthen our testimony. In the midst of our struggles, we might feel overwhelmed. But once the storm has passed, we can often look back and see the Lord's

Providential Hand carrying us through.
Amen.

- Frank



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite

SOG2 1959-1961

Shipmates,

What a great time we had at Gettysburg!

I never thought I'd be standing on the Little Round Top, or the field where General Pickett made his charge. Now, I can't wait to visit the Annapolis/Chesapeake Bay area in 2017, as our new reunion host,

Dick Pettingill and his wife Chris have graciously offered to research and assist with the planning of this bi-annual event.

Prior to deciding on the next reunion location, the election of Officers took place at the business meeting on Saturday, September 26, 2015:

Officers Elected for Third Terms

President: Gilbert E. Beyer
Treasurer: James R. Rapson
Secretary: Jeffrey F. Kovite

Officers Also Elected:

Sandra E. Siciliano - 1st Vice President
Peter P. Brotschul - 2nd Vice President

All Appointments agreed to continue their service to the Association:

John B. Degnan, Master-at-Arms
W. Frank Stancil, Chaplain
Steve Gilbert, Webmaster
Sandra E. Siciliano, Newsletter Editor and Ship Storekeeper.

The Association voted to send \$250 to the Tin Can Sailors organization.

In a poignant ceremony, I read the list of those who had passed since the last reunion in Charleston, 2013.



(L-R), Plank Holder Bill Gates, Secretary Jeff Kovite, President Gil Beyer, 1st Vice President Sandie Siciliano, Treasurer James Rapson, 2nd Vice President Pete Brotschul, Plank Holder George Hodulik

photo by Rebecca K. Sieg

Master-At-Arms, John Degnan, struck the ship's bell after each name, and the Membership received a printed folder entitled "Sailing the Eternal Seas" that listed the names of all those we have on record who passed before us.

We also recognized two of our plank holders, Bill Gates and George Hodulik, who were presented with Certificates of Appreciation from the Membership. Both Bill and George were accompanied by very proud family members.

At the business meeting, I was pleased to report that earlier this year I sent a letter to the *Stamp Advisory Committee of the US Post Office* asking it to issue a stamp with the image of the USS Fiske on it.

The request has apparently passed the first review and we are now waiting for a second review, and then approval by the Postmaster General. This may take some time, but I will let you all know when it is official and you can go to your local post office and buy your Fiske forever stamp.

For now, I wish you fair winds and calm seas

- Jeff

Fiske Mates Having Fun in Gettysburg!

Charles & Louanne Lorzing - Frank & Shirley Carbaugh - Al Whitaker & Judy DiBisceglie - Carl Miller
John & Janet Frazer - John & Providence Degnan - Eldon & Frances Caulk - Gregory & Janice Sutchko



Photo by John Frazer ©

Above: Reunion attendees view the beautiful diorama exhibit of the Gettysburg battlefield.



James & Geri Rapson - James Gage - Sandie Siciliano - Gil & Sherry Beyer - Paul Crone - Carl & Dolores Montgomery
Lawrence & Lynn Altero - Ed Baniak - Bary Bothun - Leland & Michelle East - Steve Kraynak & Melody Stampien

Jeffrey Kovite & Diane Heckathorne - Lee & Jo Dowling - Merle & Jennifer Wagner - Terry Oldam & Nancy Day Storch
Steve Gilbert - Skip O'Donnell - Scott Logan - David & Abby Taylor - Dennis Cucinella - Jim & Jan Hanner - Pete Brotschul

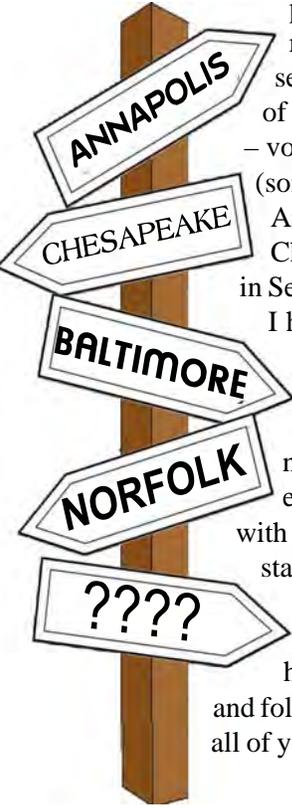
Bill & Mary Jane Gates - Dave & Jeanne Smoot - Frank & Judy Stancil - Richard & Barbara Huber
Frank Annunziata & Jill Goodman - Ken & Mary Warren - Dick & Christine Pettingill - Mike Petro

Photos by John Frazer, David & Jeanne Smoot, Carol Shirker, Larry Altero, Pam Dozier, Gil Beyer, Sherry Casamento

who will assist him on the learning curve of what it means to lead such a fine organization as the Shipmates of the USS Fiske. I know that every Officer who has served the Association can say that he or she is proud to serve again. We do this not for ourselves, but rather for ALL of our Shipmates who served aboard from 1945 to 1980.

We were honored to have two Plank Owners, *Bill Gates* and *George Hodulik*, with us as we honored them with a certificate of appreciation, and I know that they enjoyed themselves along with their families.

Everyone had a great time exploring Gettysburg and partaking of the guided tour on Friday of the Battlefields. The history of the events that took place here has a greater meaning when you see them personally. Now we rest for a short period while shipmate Dick Pettingill does the necessary



research for the selected location of the next Reunion – voted to be held (somewhere near Annapolis) in the Chesapeake area in September 2017. I have never been there so I am looking forward to exploring a new city, especially one with such a long standing Navy history. For now, may you have fair winds and following seas in all of your travels.

- James



Baltimore-Style Crab Cakes

reprinted from *Food and Wine* - by Andrew Zimmern

Instructions

In a small bowl, whisk the mayonnaise with the egg, mustard, Worcestershire sauce and hot sauce until smooth.

In a medium bowl, lightly toss the crabmeat with the cracker crumbs. Gently fold in the mayonnaise mixture. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Scoop the crab mixture into eight 1/3-cup mounds; lightly pack into 8 patties, about 1 1/2 inches thick. In a large skillet, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the crab cakes and cook over moderately high heat until deeply golden and heated through, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer the crab cakes to plates and serve with lemon wedges.

MAKE AHEAD

The crab cakes can be prepared through Step 2 and refrigerated overnight.



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 pound jumbo lump crab meat, picked over
- 20 saltine crackers, finely crushed
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- Lemon wedges, for serving

The Treasurer's Report



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
1964-1967



Following the Gettysburg reunion, I am happy to report that Ship's Store Sales were at an all time high, which helped tremendously in our quest to remain a viable organization. The one subject that a Treasurer never forgets – **DUES**. It is the primary thing that keeps the Association running and provides the funds necessary to bring you the information of our activities and those subjects so necessary for all veterans. These funds support our newsletter and our web-site which we hope you read faithfully and visit often. On that note, the quarterly newsletter was a topic of discussion brought forth by our ship's store clerk at the General Meeting.

As our only source of income derives from ship store sales and dues payments, it may not be possible to continue publishing as often in the future if dues payments do not increase. I recognize that many of you do not have internet access, but alternatives were discussed where we might reduce the number of print issues, and/or publish on-line only.

To reiterate my comment from the last newsletter, at that time, "only 75 shipmates out of nearly 600 paid dues for 2015".

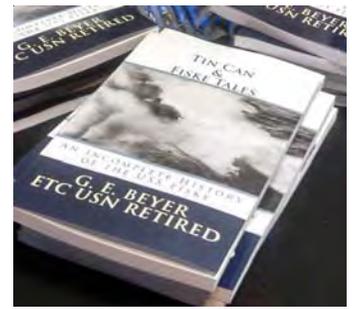
We've never raised our dues, we offer free shipping on store goods, and we never strike a member for inability to pay. If you are unsure of your dues status, write to me at 244 Park View Ave, Warwick, RI 02888, or, send me an email at jrapson@cox.net and I will reply straight away. - James



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



Right off the top I want to thank all my shipmates for the warm reception that our little book was given.

During the reunion 25 copies of 'Tin Can – An Incomplete History of the USS Fiske' were purchased. Along with that number, several have been purchased on Amazon.com in either print or Kindle versions.

Thanks to everyone that bought a copy as every dime of profit goes directly to the Fiske Association and will help to keep the Fiske alive.

If you plan to purchase it, please get it from Ship's Store, because the

profit to the Association is greater than what we would receive if you order it from Amazon.

Following up on my request to have each reunion attendee submit a new story I'll ask that every shipmate that receives this newsletter send me a story too. I learned several new vignettes while talking with *Barbara Nichols* (the daughter of *Ray Fisher TM2 1946-47*) and *April Seeley* (daughter of *Lou Schmeiske ET3 1959-62*).

It is through these conversations, letters and emails that I was able to write 'Tin Can'. If I'm able to make

substantial additions in our story it will be because my shipmates, and their families, have decided to 'write it down' so we can continue to prove that it happened. I'm always looking for photos and documentation to support what I write and to add to our archives. I do not keep originals unless the shipmate or the family donates them to us.

Keep those cards, letters, emails and photos coming in!

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

Your humble chronicler, - Gil



Peter P. Brotschul,
BT2 1974-1977

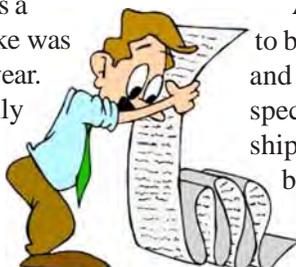
Introducing 2nd VP Pete Brotschul

Hi Shipmates,
I served on the Fiske from 01/74 until 09/77

as a Boiler Technician assigned to Bravo 3, and moved on to serve as the oil king until my departure. I fondly remember the time spent at the pier in Bayonne, New Jersey, mostly going to sea on the weekends, and training reservists.

The regular ship's company was always busy doing maintenance on the boilers and auxiliary equipment, and being the oil king was a challenge, as the Fiske was getting older by the year.

We cruised mainly on the east coast from Maine to Mayport, Florida, and spent time one

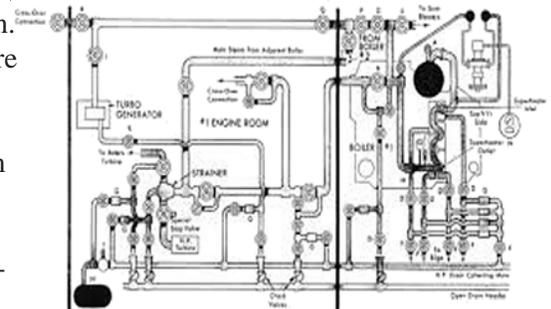


winter in the shipyard in East Boston.

I was surprised to be made aware of our Association by my beautiful bride of 35 years, Sue, as she presented me with memorabilia from the Fiske Ship Store, along with a membership in our group.

As I looked at the Fiske Quarter-deck website, it brought back fond memories of times gone by. There were some times I had forgotten, and seeing all of our group in Gettysburg at our recent reunion was a wonderful experience that I'll always cherish.

As your 2nd Vice President, I plan to become involved in our Association and to assist in any way I can - more specifically - to try to involve more shipmates from the 70's whom I've been out of touch with, and any others I can contact to get to join our wonderful group.



The Gettysburg reunion was an eye-opening weekend for me, as I had not previously know of our ship's involvement in various cruises over the Fiske's storied history.

I would like to thank you all for welcoming me with open arms to become a part of our Association.

I look forward to serving you in any way I can to ensure our viability in the future, lest we forget the time we had on our ship - the USS FISKE DD/DDR-842.

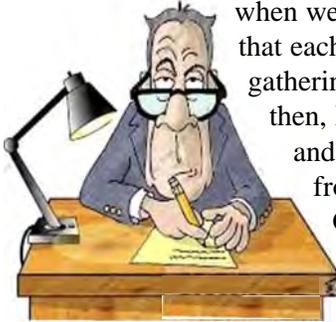
- Pete

P.S.

Historian's Report, continued from page 6

Ship's Log Entries

For those of you who get the news via "snailmail", when we were in Gettysburg, I asked that each shipmate that attended our gathering to send me a story. Since then, I've received two (thanks Lee!), and to be fair, I did get a great story from another attendee while in Gettysburg (thanks Barbara!). Since the dust has settled and we've all gotten home and back to our normal routines,



I'm asking again: Now is the time to put pen to paper – or fingers to keyboard – and write down our stories so they aren't forgotten.

I am convinced that in our memories there are some great stories that should be shared with our families, friends and future generations.

I hope everyone that purchased my little book has had a chance to read it. I further hope that you enjoyed the read. And, most importantly, I hope that you have started thinking about events long forgotten that need to be shared.

Please take a few minutes to drop me a line. I promise I'll do my best to ensure that we are remembered. The late Tom Clancy had one of his characters say in an early techno-thriller, "If I don't write something down it never happened". Thanks, your humble chronicler,

- Gil

Veep Speak

With 1st Vice President,
Sandra Siciliano

Shipmates,

First, let me say that I am honored to have been elected as your 1st Vice President. Normally, I would not write a column, since my activities are centered in Ship's Store, and on the Editor's page. But, I feel a genuine need to thank all the shipmates, their wives and sweethearts for their fellowship and comfort to me while attending the Gettysburg reunion.

On our way to Gettysburg, my husband was taken ill suddenly and hospitalized in New Jersey, while I had to continue on to Gettysburg. Thankfully, he is okay now, after emergency gall bladder surgery. He was touched by the get well card every shipmate signed, and I, in turn wish to thank our President's wife, *Sherry Casamento*, Master-At-Arms wife, *Providence Degnan*, and our Secretary's companion, *Diane Heckathorne* for completely packing up Ship's store after the banquet so that I could get back on the road early Sunday morning.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart! - Sandie



Fiske Ladies Enjoy "Tea With Mamie"

On Saturday, September 26, while shipmates were



holding the mandatory bi-annual business meeting to elect officers and select the next reunion location, President Beyer's wife, Sherry Casamento, hosted a "Tea with Mamie" for the ladies of the Fiske. This came about because the reunion

committee wanted to do something "special" just for the ladies. Wives and sweethearts were entertained at tea with a costumed performance by Ruthmary McIlhenny. Her performance of "Mamie Remembers Gettysburg" is one of the most popular programs at *The Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*.

Ruthmary has been a volunteer there since 1991, and has performed for many groups and historical societies. While in character, she answered many questions posed by our ladies, and gladly posed for photographs.



Jeanne Smoot, wife of shipmate David Smoot shown above with Ruthmary McIlhenny.

- photo by ?

- Editor



Steve Gilbert
YN3 1958-1960



What's Up with Web Master Steve Gilbert will return in the next edition of USS FISKE news!

Winter is Coming...

To all our shipmates and friends, we wish you the best and brightest throughout the coming holiday season. May you be blessed with the love of family and enjoy good health and much happiness in 2016.

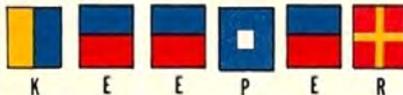


- Editor



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Sandra Ehlers Siciliano
ETN2 (USNR)



Brand new and very popular at the Gettysburg reunion. This beautiful 3" long pewter destroyer hat pin secures with two clutch backs and can be worn anywhere.

Picture below does not do it justice. \$10.00

1



2

Genuine Buck Gentleman's Knife Etched with Fiske Logo. 5 in Stock - \$30.00



3



Tin Can - An Incomplete History of the USS Fiske by Gil Beyer - \$12.00
** 100% of profit goes to the Fiske Association



4 Ball Caps Summer or Winter Stone or Navy



NEW CAPS COMNG!

Summer "Trucker" style. Cool mesh back. Navy only



6

Shirts are blue or gray Sizes S to 2X

All shirts and caps are \$14.00 each. All caps are embroidered with your choice of DD or DDR-842.

COFFEE MUGS WITH FISKE LOGO



BEER MUGS

WITH ANY SERVICE LOGO OR FISKE LOGO



DD-842 or DDR-842



COFFEE MUGS - Circle Your Color Choice: Cobalt Blue Black Off White

Name or Nickname _____

Rate: _____ Years: _____ DD (or) DDR \$25.00 ea *

BEER MUGS - SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING LOGOS: (circle your choice)

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Name or Nickname _____

Rate: _____ Years: _____ DD (or) DDR \$30.00 ea *

* plus \$8.95 shipping from supplier. Orders over \$50.00 ship free to one address.

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GREAT GIFT IDEA

BUDDY UP AND BUNDLE YOUR MUGS!

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Coffee Mugs - 2 for \$50.00

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Please print clearly to avoid errors!

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