

THE DESTROYERMAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2013

Dedicated to preserving the heritage of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke and USS Arleigh Burke since 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

USS Arleigh Burke Association Members and Friends,

As we head into the fall of 2013, our Association is growing stronger – both from a membership perspective as we find more former Arleigh Burke Shipmates and they join our Association, and financially as we have begun to see the results of our new Association dues structure adopted at the Annual Meeting in June. That said we still have a long way to go to truly create the Association worthy of our great namesake, Admiral Arleigh Burke.

The Annual Meeting was conducted as scheduled Wednesday 26 June. Highlights of the meeting were the adoption of the new dues structure as articulated in the May 2013 USS Arleigh Burke Association “The Destroyerman” Newsletter and the re-election of the current Association Officers for another one year term. Minutes from the meeting are included in this Newsletter in the Secretary’s Report. In addition the Arleigh Burke Association Website has been updated and I encourage you to take a look at it as well: www.arleighburkeassociation.org.

On the social side of the picture, the Association is holding an informal dinner this fall on Saturday 2 November in

Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Fredericksburg location was selected to provide a venue that will make access for Association members from



North Carolina to Pennsylvania relatively easy to do without having to remain overnight – although there are many reasonable places to stay in Fredericksburg if you would prefer to do that. We already have over twenty shipmates and their guests attending, and we are honored that Vice Admiral John Morgan and his wife Jo Anna will be joining us. Captain Mark Vandroff is leading the event. The plan is to have cocktails from 1800-1930 and dinner from 1930-about 2145. We will forward additional details shortly in a separate e-mail once everything is finalized. If you intend to participate, please notify Mark Vandroff – mark.vandroff@navy.mil, copy me – eastonadvisors@gmail.com as soon as possible. Kaye and I are looking forward to seeing everyone who can attend.

I do appreciate the effort of our Association’s Officers, as well as the others who have selflessly volunteered their time to keep the Association moving forward.

OFFICERS

President

Rick Easton

EastonAdvisors@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Fortune

mark.w.fortune@gmail.com

Treasurer

Rob Jobrack

Jobrack@cox.net



UPCOMING EVENTS

2013 Dues

Ongoing

Informal dinner get together in Fredericksburg

November 2, 2013

Commissioning Silver Anniversary

July 2016 (TBD)

The Association can use the help of every one of our members to further the current number one objective: tracking down former shipmates and expanding our membership. So, if you are not already engaged with Mark Fortune in this key endeavor, I am asking for you to commit what time you can, even if it is only an hour a month, to help with this important task. Please contact Mark to get a list of names to call. Mark's contact information is: mark.w.fortune@gmail.com.

For those of you who are not aware, it is with great sorrow that I have to report that we recently lost Scott Portell, one of Arleigh Burke's Commissioning Deck Division crewmembers, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Scott's family – he will be missed. Additional details are included on page 4.

I am very glad to report that Mark Vandroff, who is currently serving as the DDG 51 Program Manager and was in the Naval Sea Systems Command building on the Washington Navy Yard during the recent mass shoot-

ing, survived the ordeal without injury. Mark also reported to me that his entire team was not injured despite being in relatively close proximity to the shooter. They were able to hunker down and shelter in place.

With the new dues structure adopted, I would like to encourage those who might be interested to become either a sustaining or a life member of the USS Arleigh Burke Association. As we look towards the ship's Silver Anniversary in two and a half years, your additional support will be very helpful in facilitating our initiatives to memorialize Admiral Burke's legacy in his ship post commissioned service as a museum and educational institution.

In closing, and as I have mentioned previously, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the USS Arleigh Burke Association Officers if you have input, new ideas, or are just curious about some aspect of the Association. For those who can make the Association dinner on 2 November in Fredericksburg, I look forward to seeing you there!!

Best regards, Rick

TREASURER'S REPORT BY ROB JOBRACK

Many thanks to Mr. Ray Weber: the first Lifetime Member of the association. His extremely generous donation has enabled us to maintain a solid financial foundation this year. Ray has set the standard for support of the association, but he has always been a tireless champion of the USS ARLEIGH BURKE, of the legacy of Admiral Burke, and of entire ship class. He was part of the ship before she was commissioned and part of the association before it was legally chartered.



Association membership categories and dues for 2013 are:

USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) Ship's Company:
Free

Member: \$20

Sustaining Member : \$125 (10 year sustaining equals Lifetime)

Lifetime Member: \$1000

Checks should be made out to USS Arleigh Burke Association and mailed to:

USS Arleigh Burke Association

32 King Georges Grant

Fredericksburg, VA 22405

FROM THE SECRETARY BY MARK FORTUNE

USS Arleigh Burke Association
Members and Friends,

Your Board of Directors have been hard at work since the last newsletter was released. At our annual meeting held on June 26, 2013, the members in good standing unanimously adopted the association dues structure that was presented in the last newsletter.

This action officially adopted the USS Arleigh Burke Association dues structure. The structure is as follows:

Current crew members – Free

Members - \$20.00

Sustaining Members - \$125.00 (10 years = lifetime member)

Lifetime Members - \$1000.00

We also elected officers for the upcoming year. The officers remain Rick Easton – President, Rob Jobrack – Treasurer, Mark Fortune – Secretary

The other item for discussion at the annual meeting was the Fall 2013 Informal Dinner. We are currently in the process of selecting a venue in the Fredericksburg, VA area and the details of this event will be forthcoming.



We have made updates to the USS Arleigh Burke Association website at <http://www.arleighburkeassociation.org/registration.php>. Please go and see the new information. You will find links to where we are on Facebook and other links of interest under the Links tab. You can also find past newsletters under the Newsletter tab. We have also updated the bio for the current CO and CMC along with a list of past CO's and CMC's.

We are also seeking any information that you may have on the whereabouts of former crewmembers. For the 20th reunion, we were able to track down approximately 180 of the plankowners. We are seeking the whereabouts of the other plankowners and any other crewmembers that sailed in Arleigh Burke through the years. If you have information on former crewmembers, please have them go to the USS Arleigh Burke Association website at <http://www.arleighburkeassociation.org/registration.php> and ask them to please register. If you have not registered, please go to the website and do so today!

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other Association Officers if you have questions or comments.

Best regards,

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? BY RAY WEBER

Ray Weber is a retired Naval Officer with 25 years of service. He transitioned from his Navy career to Bath Iron Works in February 1991. Ray's industry experience includes thirteen (13) years with General Dynamics (GD) Bath Iron Works (BIW) where he served and retired as Director of Fleet Service Engineering, responsible for BIW's Navy Homeport Operational Facilities and DDG 51 Class Post Delivery and Warranty Work. Ray served as the first Fleet Service Engineer and Warranty Engineer for the USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51). After retiring from GD/BIW, Ray joined

United States Marine Repair (USMR) Corporate Staff, now BAE SYSTEMS Ship Repair where for the last nine (9) years he has served as Director of AE-GIS Programs and more recently, as Director of Navy Programs. During his time with BAE Ship Repair he has had the opportunity to directly support the Modernization of **See Where on page 5.**



ARLEIGH BURKE CLASS UPDATE

BY: CAPTAIN MARK VANDROFF, PEO SHIP, PMS400D

Greetings Shipmates!

As usual, it has been an active few months in the world of the DDG 51 class program. The USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG 53) is completing her upgrade to the newest version of the AEGIS Weapon System, AEGIS Baseline 9. She was underway for sea trials with the new baseline in August and will finish her availability in September. She will be the first ship to have Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD), the ability to detect and engage ballistic missile threats while simultaneously providing air defense.

The USS MICHAEL MURPHY (DDG 112) completed her Post Shakedown Availability in August. The ship looks great and is anxious to start her work ups for her initial deployment. Four more ARLEIGH BURKE's are now under construction, two each at Bath Iron Works and Ingalls. The DDG 115, Bath's first restart DDG 51, now has units in the "Ultra Hull" facility. What will become AUX 1 and MER 1 are already joined together and starting to look like spaces in a ship, with bilges and bulkheads painted and pipes insulated and labeled. At Ingalls, the DDG 113 will have its keel laying

ceremony this November.

Finally, Secretary Mabus named the next two ships of the ARLEIGH BURKE class; USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG 117) honors a former Secretary of the Navy and USS DANIEL INOUIYE (DDG 118) honors a Medal of Honor recipient and American statesman.

Until next time, Mark

Links to News Release naming DDG-117 and DDG 118

<http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=16032>

<http://www.hookelenews.com/navy-names-next-two-destroyers-including-uss-daniel-inouye/>

INFORMAL DINNER IN FREDRICKSBURG

We are planning an informal dinner get together on Saturday 2 November. We have chosen Fredericksburg, VA as a good middle ground between the D.C. and Tidewater areas.

The dinner will be held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House, located at 2801 Plank Rd Central Park, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 (just off I-95 Exit 130).

<https://www.google.com/#q=fredericksburg+hospitality+house+hotel>

6:00-7:30 Happy Hour (cash bar),

7:30-9:30 dinner

The price will be \$50 per person, this will include buffet dinner, hors d'oeuvres, and tip. Please RSVP to Mark Vandroff at mark.vandroff@navy.mil and send checks not later than 25 October to:

USS Arleigh Burke Association

32 King Georges Grant

Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Where (continued from page 1)

both AEGIS Cruisers and Destroyers and has witnessed these great Surface Combatants continue to support the National Security of our country with new technology and provide the US Navy Fleet with the firepower designed and built into each hull by the great shipbuilders of Bath Iron Works and Ingalls. Ray currently lives in Chesapeake Virginia with his wife of 47 years, Sherron. Ray is an active member of the USS ARLEIGH BURKE Association. He may be contacted at: ray.weber@baesystems.com

LOSS OF A SHIPMATE

Please take a moment and remember Scott Portell, USN, (Ret) who passed away Sunday morning , September 8, 2013 at Barnes Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri from injuries he received in a motorcycle accident in Jefferson Co., Missouri. Scott was a plankowner of USS Arleigh Burke and was in Deck Division.

<http://www.vinyardfuneralhome.net/obituary.php?id=1027>

http://www.myleaderpaper.com/news/article_4bdebdec-18dd-11e3-ba2d-0019bb30f31a.html

USS ARLEIGH BURKE OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[HTTP://WWW.ARLEIGHBURKE.NAVY.MIL/](http://www.arleighburke.navy.mil/)

USS ARLEIGH BURKE ASSOCIATION

USS Arleigh Burke Association
Attn. Rob Jobrack
32 King Georges Grant
Fredricksburg, VA 22405

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ron Struewing
rstruewing@cox.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.arleighburkeassociation.org

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/USSArleighBurkeAssociation>



The purpose of the USS Arleigh Burke Association is to represent the professional values of all those who have served onboard USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) or have an ongoing interest in promoting the ship and crew, the Arleigh Burke Class of Aegis Guided Missile Destroyers, as well as the United States Navy. Toward that end, this Association serves as the professional association for all ARLEIGH BURKE crewmembers and their supporters, past, present and future.

