



Newsletter of the USS BAINBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

March 2004

2003 REUNION IN WASHINGTON D.C. (OR FUN AND GAMES IN HURRICANEVILLE)

Mid September 2003 found many of your shipmates working their way to Washington, D.C. to attend the U.S.S. Bainbridge annual reunion, despite dire weather warnings that made it seem we were heading for trouble. Not to be daunted, the hearty veterans of the Bainbridge loaded their cars, headed for airports and forged on to attend, what turned out to be, a very exciting, adventurous reunion. Not the reunion we advertised, but one which showed the flexibility and versatility of Navy people.

George Phillips and Bill Neel worked tirelessly all year to put together a very interesting program of activities and events to maximize our time in Washington, D.C. Mother Nature, however, had different ideas and no sooner had most of us arrived, when so did the hurricane. Washington, D.C., as usual, completely shut down, including the metro, museums, government buildings and roads. It took all the initiative we could muster to keep ourselves mobile and amused while we rode out one of the worst hurricanes the country has seen in a long time.

Our hotel, the Arlington Hilton, was one of very few buildings in the area which managed to keep their water and electricity going, or we would have been in for a lot of stair climbing and cold food. Most of the attendees arrived on Wednesday and Thursday, dealing with delayed flights and closed airports. Those brave folks who came in on Friday literally came through the hurricane areas to reach us in D.C. Since so many

things on the agenda had to be scrapped we spent a lot of time reminiscing with each other, really getting in some quality time together, riding out the storm with good friends, good cheer and plenty of food and drink (sort of like being on a ship in a storm, don't you think?)

With the planned agenda a thing of the past, many still made their way to the city and managed to see the Spy Museum, the Navy Museum (which let us in even though they weren't officially open) and the newly opened Archives, just to name a few. Navy people are certainly resilient and despite the many changes to the planned agenda, there wasn't a grumbler among them. Everyone took the changes in good spirits and rolled well with the punches. Kudos to all of you who were there and shared this experience.



Bob and Liz Davies and Leta Holloway wait with bronze people at FDR Memorial

The final dinner banquet/raffle, however, went off without a hitch and our speaker, the Honorable James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force and a former Bainbridge shipmate, gave an entertaining, warm, funny, interesting, and just generally terrific presentation. It was such an honor that he came, even though he had to juggle other commitments. Despite the mess

Cont. on page 3.



Stalwarts waiting for subway

NEXT STOP LAS VEGAS

The 2004 reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada, is planned for Sunday, September 12. It will go through four evenings ending with a breakfast on Thursday, September 16. Don't schedule a return flight too early so you can stay for breakfast.

We are staying at the Boardwalk Hotel right on the famous Las Vegas Strip. It's a terrific location between the fabulous Bellagio and the beautiful Monte Carlo and right across the street from the enormous MGM Grand, putting you within walking distance of some of the most famous parts of Las Vegas. The Boardwalk is a small, intimate hotel that offers a prime location but not the big ticket prices on rooms. We have been offered a very attractive room rate and are scheduling some extracurricular activities that will expand your knowledge and enjoyment of the area.

You will be amazed at how many things there are to do in Las Vegas besides gambling, and many of them are free. One night we may walk "The Strip" and take in the sights and freebies. There's the dancing waters at the Bellagio, the moving statues on the fountain at Ceasars', and the exploding volcano at the Mirage, to mention some of the more notable ones. We are planning some daytime activities—we'll probably go on a tour of Boulder Dam. Not surprisingly there are some interesting museums in Vegas—would you believe, the Elvis-a-rama, the Neon Museum, and the Liberace Museum?—but we don't plan to have so many activities that you won't have plenty of free time to explore the city and it's amusements. (You can get your own preview at www.lasvegas.com.)

We're thinking of one or two evening things—here are so many to choose from—and then just providing you with a list (in the packet) of other options, so you can make your own plans, or not. You can have a great time just touring the hotels: the Egyptian-themed Luxor; New York, New York with Central Park in the center and the roller coaster zooming around the outside; or the



Bellagio's dancing waters



Sphinx and Pyramid of the Luxor

shopping courts of the Venetian, complete with canals and gondola rides, to name only a few.

We have scheduled the reunion Sunday through Thursday is to take advantage of

the better pricing. Should you wish to stay longer or come on Saturday to avoid airline "Saturday night stay" regulations, Boardwalk has extended pricing for us, at a slightly higher rate, that will allow you to adjust the timing to suit your purposes.

Start your planning now, September is still warm and sunny in Las Vegas. More detailed information will be mailed to dues-paying members within the next few months.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Shipmates,

I have always taken great pride in being a Bainbridge sailor; thus, it is a sincere privilege to be your new president.

The spirit of Bainbridge is alive and well as can be attested to by all who have attended past reunions. Past reunion locations have included such cities as Norfolk, St. Louis, Charleston, San Diego, Branson, Tallahassee, Tucson, Rapid City, and Washington D.C. Looking to the future, we will be in Las Vegas in 2004, San Antonio in 2005, and have pending plans to be in Bath, Maine, for the commissioning of USS Bainbridge DDG 996 expected to join the fleet in 2006. Each reunion is a new place and new faces. Please plan to be with us in Las Vegas September 12-16 and encourage a shipmate to attend as well.

I look forward to this year's activities and encourage each of you to remain involved.

Sincerely,
John Browning '64/'65

Please check your preference and return by April 30th.

Return form to Bob Davies, 4237 N. Osage Dr., Tucson, AZ 85718

Yes, send me the full reunion package. I hope to attend the Las Vegas reunion.

No thanks, I cannot, or don't care to attend.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Comments or name and address of another shipmate: _____

-----tear here and return-----

Reunion, continued from page 1.

Washington was in he still managed to be sure to join us. The raffle was a great success, everyone was very generous, not only donating items but purchasing raffle tickets in record numbers.

Despite this strange weather many new faces joined our gathering. Adding to the reunion rolls is always great as these people bring new memories and new stories to share with us, bringing back those very special times on the Bainbridge.

HURRICANE SURVIVORS

Those who braved the storm to attend the 2003 reunion in D.C. were: Harold (our new Veep) and Deanne Beers; Bill and Jaki Boyd; Tom and Carlene Boyd; Dan and Sheila Branch; John (our new Prez) and Nancy Browning; Ed and Carmela Courtemarche; Ron and Jackie Cruz; Bob and Liz Davies; Robert Dillon; Denny and Marilou Earle; Herb and Mary Filer; Charles and Kim Gilbert; Ed and Lydia Haggerty;



In the Hospitality Room



On the subway



Enjoying a reception

Norm and Sarah Harbaugh; Bob and Gail Hemingway; Jim and Celia Hillman; Ken and Elaine Hilton; Dick and Leta Holloway; Jim Iozzo; Bill and Patti Johnson; Bill and Julie Lowery; Mike Mattson; Len and Donna McGee; Charlie and Minnie McLellan; Tom Miller; Bill and Colleen Neel; George Phillips; Barry and Lynette Phipps; Tom and Dot Pogue; Jerry Rapkin; Dan and Teryl Robertson; Jim and Diane Roche; Ron and Eleen Schuttler; Clayton and Cindy Selby; Raese and Ann Simpson; Don and Mary Lou Steele; Charlie and Carolyn Ulrich; Ben and Sally Walker; Jim and Carol Wharton; Doc and Ann Witt.

USS BAINBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
4237 N. Osage Drive
Tucson AZ 85718



REDESIGNED REUNION NAME TAGS

Each year the Association provides a blue 2" by 3" engraved name tag for those attending the reunion for the first time, and a blue 1/2" by 3" reunion location tag identifying the city, state and year of the reunion. The reunion location tag is attached to the name tag. For those attending multiple reunions the location tag is added to the name tag to show the total number of reunions the member has attended. We have had seven reunions so far, so it is possible that a members could have a total of eight location tags on his name tag. It is apparent that the size of the name tag for some of the members is getting out of hand.

In an effort to reduce the size of the name tag, we will provide an alternate name tag which replaces the multiple location tags with a single 1/2" by 3" blue tag. The single tag will have provisions for the attachment of up to eight silver stars, each star signifying attendance at a past reunion. These tags will be made available to all members by mail or at future reunions. The cost of the alternate name tag is \$3.00 for the blue tag and \$1.00 for each silver star desired. For those ordering by mail please identify the number of stars desired and add \$3.00 for shipping cost. Requests may be sent by e-mail to rehardwood@earthlink.net, or by mail to:

Richard E Holloway
Treasurer, USS Bainbridge Association
9307 Teakwood Lane
Garden Ridge, Texas 78266

NOTICE TO NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Thank you for being a dues-paying member of the USS Bainbridge Association. It is because you have paid your dues that you are getting this newsletter. After many notices in prior newsletters we finally had to make the cut of those who support the association and those who do not. Your dues should go to supplying you with information you have paid to receive and we cannot continue to extend our services to those who do not. If you hear from a shipmate who is not receiving our mailings, chances are his dues are not up to date. Richard Holloway will be glad to accept dues from any Bainbridge shipmate and we will send a newsletter our and resume his association with the group.

Published by the USS Bainbridge Association
Editors: Bob and Liz Davies
Layout and Design: Bonnie Wehle

Association Officers
President: John Browning
(jnbrowning@gallatinriver.net)
Vice President: Harold Beers
Secretary: Bob Davies (edavies@gci-net.com)
Treasurer: Dick Holloway (rehardwood@earthlink.net)

Webmaster: Robert Hemingway
(rhemingway@tampabay.rr.com)
website:www.ussbainbridgeassociation.com