

USS COLLETT REUNION ASSOCIATION Newsletter

Also, see our Website: www.usocollett.com

January 2017

Association Officers

President

Pat Manion;
p.o.manion@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Charles (Chuck) Spencer;
chuck@spencer40.com

Treasurer & Secretary

Sue Senn;
suesenn41@hotmail.com

Asst. Treasurer & Secretary

Kay Phillips;
Aphillips7@san.rr.com

Historian & Archivist

Frank Olderr;
olderr730@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Lin Morgan;
uss_collett@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Staff

Lloyd Balch;
lloyd.balch@sbcglobal.net

Karen Bottari Cole;
karen@relaxkauai.com

Chuck & Linda Spencer;
linda@spencer40.com

Photographer

Karla Balch-Reno;
karlabalchreno@comcast.net

Reunion Committee

Sue Senn;
(e-mail as above)
Marie Konecny;
972-317-2510;
mrkonecny5@gmail.com

Kay Phillips;
(e-mail as above)

2017 Reunion Local Coordinator

Pam Heusner;
pmheusner@hotmail.com



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Shipmates:

“Happy New Year”, and with the New Year it is time to focus on the USS Collett Association’s 2017 Reunion (An ocean cruise out of Jacksonville, Florida). It will start on October 12th and end on the 16th.

Deposit of \$150.00 ‘per person’, required at booking. Balance due on August 14th (this is 60 days prior to “getting underway” on October 12th).

October 12 (Thursday) We leave Jacksonville 4:00 PM,
Board at 12:30 PM or soon thereafter.

October 13 (Friday) Freeport, The Bahamas,
Arrive 12:00 PM, Depart 7:00 PM.

October 14 (Saturday) Nassau, The Bahamas,
Arrive 8:00 AM, Depart 5:00 PM.

October 15 (Sunday) “Fun Day At Sea”.

October 16 (Monday) Return to Jacksonville,
Arrive 8:00 AM.

Tickets can be purchased from our Carnival Cruise Contact “DJ Myrick” at 1-800-819-3902 X 82853.

Regarding Passports: I called DJ Myrick. She told me that Passports are the best identification, but, as we are leaving and returning to the same port, we could use a birth certificate (ORIGINAL or state-issued, NOT A COPY or hospital-issued) plus a government-issued picture ID (i.e. driver’s license).

There are many shore excursions that we can sign up for; Jeeping, Kayaking and Sailing to mention just a few.

Mid-rats (snacks) are available on the “Lido Deck” 24 hours a day.

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Our Reunion Planner this year is Pam Heusner (Her husband is our Shipmate "Dale Heusner" onboard 1959-1961). She can be reached at pmheusner@hotmail.com. Please feel free to contact me, Pat Manion, p.o.manion@sbcglobal.net. We are looking forward to getting together with you all.

Kindest Regards,
Pat Manion

And Thank You for Your Service.

Pat Manion -President USS Collett Reunion Association

2017 Reunion - A Cruise!

2017 Reunion – A Cruise!



Pam Heusner is our 2017 Reunion Planner. pmheusner@hotmail.com. Her husband is our shipmate, Dale (59-61).

Our 2017 reunion location is a 4-day cruise on the Carnival Elation from Jacksonville, Florida, to The Bahamas, ports Freeport and Nassau.

On Thursday, October 12, 2017, board at 12:30 PM; sail at 4 PM to approximately 8 AM Monday, October 16. A \$150 per person deposit is required at booking, with the balance due 60 days prior to sailing.

Call DJ Myrick of Carnival Cruise Line as soon as possible on 800-819-3902, extension 82853 for reservations. First come first served. We can add more cabins after a block of 30. State that you are with the USS Collett Reunion group to get the group rate and to help us reserve facilities. Cruise prices (based on double occupancy and before taxes and port fees) range from \$249 per person for an inside cabin to \$619 per person for a veranda suite. Prices vary on inside or window view from deck to deck. When you have decided what kind of cabin you want, please call DJ Myrick to make your reservation. If her phone line is busy, leave your name and phone number, and she will return your call. Making your reservation with DJ ensures that you will be added to the Collett Reunion group. Tell her you are with the USS Collett Reunion Group. You will be asked for each passenger's legal first and last names, date of birth, and telephone number. She will also ask for your email address so that she can send you a booking confirmation. Have your credit card on hand to make your deposit. Our group is automatically seated in early dining.

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So far, we have 25 people signed up. We could use a few more shipmates to sign up to secure facilities. Make your reservation as soon as you can. There will be more information on the cruise in the next newsletter.

Patrol Eternal

The list below (current to 01 Jan 2017) contains the names of Collett veterans who we have learned died since our October newsletter.

Barnhart, Earl; RM1; 44-45; (died Oct 2016)	Eubanks, David; SA; 47-47; (died Apr 2016)
Blomberg, William; ENS; 57-58; (died Apr 2016)	Horsch, Arthur; LTJG; 60-63; (died Oct 2016)
Cort, Bobby; RD1; 65-66; (died Apr 2016)	Wheeler, Barry; LTJG; 67-69; (died Sep 2016)
Culhane, James; SN; 69-70; (died Oct 2016)	



Scuttlebutt Corner

What personal news do you have to share that might be of interest to your shipmates? It might be a phone call or meeting with a shipmate, your activities in an organization like the American Legion or VFW, or even your health concerns.

Some shipmates don't get out much. Perhaps you call or visit some shipmate on occasion. Why not tell our newsletter staff (see the contact info on the first page) who will let your shipmates know in this Scuttlebutt Corner?

Clair Furlong (62-63) called Frank Olderr in October. Clair said his wife just read in the Patrol Eternal column of the October newsletter that he died. Frank apologized for the error; Clair said he was pleased to be able to make the call.

Pat Manion received a letter from Jack Belleau in October. Jack described some of his experiences after boarding the Collett. Part of Jack's letter follows. "In 1947 on my first firing a 20 mm, I shot the towing cable about 3 ft. from the plane. I was told by the chief gunner to take lead on the target. This was on our Hawaii stop on the way to San Diego. We also stayed on the beach for a couple days so the ship could be decontaminated for a cockroach infestation. I also attempted to overhaul the motor whale boat. I was told that I would have to use old parts again as in the past attempts. The first thing I did was to throw those funny looking spark plugs (fuel injectors for a diesel engine) over the side. Bad thing to do -- the midnight parts supplies had to be found from sister ships, and the hospital ship Chicago. We

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were in Singtow, China as I recall. That reminds me that the Chinese Reds wanted the city and fired big guns towards us. I was about 3 sheets in the wind at a white Russian bar when it started -- another shot and I and some others charged for the ship. I was stone sober by the time I arrived -- whew. After my whale boat experience, I was delegated to MESS COOKING for the remainder of my tour."

In October, Frank Olderr talked with the wife of Lawrence Smith. In her words, Smitty, an MM2 onboard 49-52, "is having a rough time and would be tickled to death to hear from a shipmate." Smitty's contact info is: 1910 Mohawk St; Enid, OK 73703-7651.

Frank Olderr made a phone call to Tom Chesley (57-58) in early November. The following entry is pretty much in Tom's own words. Tom came onboard wanting to be a cook. He was told to report to the mess decks where he took a test. He was then told he was going to be a gunner's mate striker. He wasn't happy about that but went on to become a GM3. Much later an officer told him that the reason for his assignment was that the Navy knew he'd take his assignment seriously and study because he didn't know anything about it.

Frank Olderr talked to Al Jonasch for the first time ever in November (having located him through Frank's work). Al is quite a story teller! Al, onboard for 6 months in 1969 as an SA, recalls when he was let over the port side at sea and told to freshen up the white lettering of "730" so it would be bright when the ship entered San Diego harbor. He was painting with a bucket on his lap when the line supporting the bosun's chair parted and dumped him and the paint into the water. He came up white all over. When hoisted back onboard, he went straight to the showers to try to scrub the paint off.

Frank Olderr e-mailed the October newsletter to Robert Oswald (a LT onboard in 1953) at babanannie54@gmail.com and got this response from Bob via his iPad: "Thanks for sending the Collett newsletter. FYI, I served on Collett for only 4-1/2 months in mid-1953 as DC Assistant to Lt. Gene Dunaway, following 16 months as MP assistant on DeHaven (DD 727), then moving on to USS Balduck (APD 132) as Chief Engineer for 13 months. I am 87 years old, disabled and blind in one eye, so I don't get around much anymore. I doubt that anyone remembers me, but thanks again. [signed] Bob Oswald".

In response to an error in the Timelines & Crew List of our usscollett.com website, Frank Olderr got an e-mail from the son of Gordon Coleman, who served on the USS Collett from 1949 to 1952 during the Korean War. "I just wanted to let you know that my father is very much alive and well, at 88 years old. He has been retired from the US Navy and Civil Service for some time now. He was one of the sailors injured during the assault at Wolmi-do in 1950, which nearly removed his leg. The North Korean shell was recovered, mostly intact. My father keeps it as a souvenir from his encounter, although it mostly gets used as a doorstop."

Did you see in the American Legion magazine where the Navy is doing away with enlisted ratings titles? Rank titles will remain as will the designation of Seaman; thus a Radioman 3rd Class Petty Officer is now known simply as a 3rd Class Petty Officer. (Didn't we use the terms rate and rating?)

The above information was written for this Collett newsletter in early December 2016. What a surprise when we learned (thanks to Linda Spencer, our newsletter proofreader team leader) in early January 2017 that the Navy had listened to months of criticism about this change and had

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reversed their decision. The ratings titles for enlisted sailors have been restored. For further information, see the Web site:

<https://news.usni.org/2016/12/20/navy-restore-enlisted-rating-titles-months-criticism>

“We joined the Navy to see the world and what did we see? We saw the sea!”
Irving Berlin, 1936.

“Waves are not measured in feet or inches, they are measured in increments of fear.”
Buzzy Trent, a formerly renowned tropical articles writer.

Paid your dues for 2017 yet?

If you have not done so yet, please send your dues to our treasurer Sue Senn. Yearly dues are only \$10. Make your check for \$10 out to the USS Collett Reunion Association. Sue’s address is: Sue Senn; PO Box 742; Pearce, AZ 85625. Her e-mail address is suesenn41@hotmail.com. If you’re sure you are paid up, Sue can tell you. If you get your newsletter by mail, look at the address label on the envelope. “S16” means you paid for 2016. “S17” or higher means you are up to date.

Chuck Spencer Autobiography – October 2016

Autobiography for Chuck Spencer, Vice President of the USS Collett Reunion Association.

Chuck was born on the Northern Shoshone Indian Reservation in Northern Nevada. He spent his childhood there and on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, and the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in northern Montana. He attended Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana for three years before enlisting in the United States Navy.

Chuck went through boot camp in San Diego where he was Recruit Chief Petty Officer of his company. He completed ET ‘A’ school (radar) at Treasure Island and was assigned to the USS Collett, DD730, which was on duty in WESPAC. He received a promotion to ETR3 shortly thereafter, and then was selected to attend school for the KW37 crypto receiver in Vallejo, CA. After completion of the school and a later promotion to ETR2, he was transferred to the USS Providence, CLG6, also on duty in WESPAC. At the completion of the WESPAC tour, Chuck returned to the US with the USS Providence which was then placed into a 1-year shipyard maintenance program. During the overhaul at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco, Chuck was very involved in monitoring the shipyard activities of updating the CIC area, and earned a Captain’s Commendation Award for his actions.

The day before the USS Providence completed the shipyard overhaul, Chuck separated from active duty and went looking for a job in what was later labeled “Silicon Valley”. He found a position as a designer for special systems at IBM. After his first promotion to a staff position, he met and married his wife, Linda. He returned to school and earned a BSEE degree from

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San Jose State University. As an engineer, Chuck developed test systems for the IBM Disk Drive products. After the integration of testing into the newer disk product microcode, Chuck became an expert in the failure analysis of disk products and continued this activity until his retirement after 35 years with IBM. A year later, Western Digital sought his expertise and employed him until his second retirement nine years later.

Chuck and Linda have been attending the USS Collett reunion events since 2003 when a postcard from Frank Olderr to Chuck's father showed up at Chuck's parents' house. Chuck reconnected with former shipmates Frank Olderr, Pat Manion, and Mike Kipper and met their significant others at the Tucson reunion in 2004

Email from Pat Manion

Dear Shipmates,

Happy New Year one and all. I hope that this letter finds you all in good health and good spirits. Please know that the (well-lubricated) wheels of this organization have slowly started to move in the direction of the 2017 reunion.

If space permits, I would like to thank and recognize the many shipmates that make this organization the success that it is. (in no particular order).

I would like to thank the Blackmons: "Dorothy" just for being there when we need her, and "Jimmy" the musical soul of this organization.

Tom and Marie: "Tom" as chaplain is the spiritual connection of this organization, and what can I say about Marie? She is such a nice lady, I don't know why I am so afraid of her. All I know is that the fear and gratitude are real.

Kay is our Energizer bunny. She is everywhere at the same time (and sees that the rest of us do the same).

Sue and Joe keep us on track and keep track of all of us. I cannot imagine this organization without them.

If only Christopher Columbus, John Paul Jones, or Admiral Halsey had had a "Frank Olderr", I think that our culture would have been much richer. I think that people will be reading Frank's research on other planets. Someday his work will be all that is left of the Collett.

Somewhere in a dark place, Lin Morgan is slaving over a hot computer. His nimble fingers are weaving their magic and enriching our website.

Chuck and Linda Spencer are the smartest people I know (and the nicest). We are very lucky to have this fine couple among us.

Lloyd Balch is now the editor of the newsletter. I know that this is not an easy job and I want to thank him, with the newsletter staff's [and his wife Brenda's, and his daughter Dacia's] help, for his newsletter work.

Please forgive me for forgetting some of the folks who do so much for the Collett Reunion Association.

Thank you all for being my friends and shipmates.

May the blessings of God and this great nation be upon all of you for 2017.

Your Friend and Shipmate,

Pat Manion -President USS Collett Reunion Association