



The Deckplate



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(Dave Milligan)

Coordinator's Corner!

The year leading up to our 2017 reunion in Jacksonville, Florida certainly had its challenges. Towards the end of 2016 Premier Reunion Services went bankrupt and closed their doors.

Some [shipmates] lost the money they had in trust with Premier. Fortunately, we did not so the Schofield escaped that bullet. However, without Premier to provide their tremendous support in organizing our annual reunion, maintaining the contacts database, and publishing the Schofield Deckplate, we were looking at rough seas ahead. Fortunately, we were not without help for very long. Ozarks' Kirkwood Tour & Travel stepped up to the plate with Sarah Hord being our primary contact. Though it still was rather bumpy leading up to the Jacksonville Reunion, Sarah and Ozarks' did a nice job especially considering they had several ships with the cruise and reunions dumped on their lap all at once. We really do owe them a debt of gratitude for picking up midstream and running with it.

Then we received the terrible news that longtime cruise support, Phyllis Adams, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and decided not to seek treatment. Personally, I have only been to a few recent reunions, but I have been to enough to know the love that Phyllis had for our crew and the tremendous behind the scenes work she did for all of us. Shortly thereafter Phyllis passed. Along with crew that recently passed, we honored her as well in our taps ceremony at Jacksonville.

As if the foregoing was not enough going in to our recent reunion, Hurricane Irma decided to hit Florida two weeks before our scheduled reunion. Shortly before our reunion, I checked with the hotel to see if they were able to go forward with our reunion

Cont'd on page 2

They advised the hotel was on the FEMA list for evacuation, but they planned to go forward as scheduled.

Though I flew myself to the Bremerton reunion, I was not about to fly my little plane clear across the United States in hurricane season. It was a real treat this year to share our venue at the USS Brooke. We made sure to have our own hospitality room and banquet, but it was nice to be able to walk across the hallway into the Brooke's Hospitality Room and meet their crew. Unfortunately, our turnout this year was not enough to permit doing tours. Therefore, the crew were free to do whatever tours they felt like doing during the day. I and a few others took the short trip down to St. Augustine which is billed as the oldest settlement in the United States. Apparently, their settlement even predates Plymouth Rock. That was certainly an enjoyable excursion.

Our annual meeting also contained some firsts. We had some spirited discussion about the prospect of coordinating our ship's reunions with other ships. Some were quite vocal in opposing this idea. However, it was settled that because both ships have greater buying power, and can leverage economies of scale, all would benefit by coordinating reunions. It seemed that the rationale of leveraging greater buying power with the hotels and tours, we could still retain our own Schofield identity, hospitality room, and banquets while taking advantage of the lower cost venues. That seemed to give everybody what they wanted out of that issue. It was put to a vote and passed unanimously. When I spoke with the coordinator for the Brooke they expressed interest in coordinating with us in the future. I also understand that the Ramsey is likewise interested. In fact, next year at New Orleans we will be coordinating with Ramsey's crew for that venue. Rest assured, we will have our own hospitality room, banquet room, and tours if you want them. Because New Orleans can be quite expensive, we also approved a resolution that we can go within 50 miles of New Orleans to keep the cost low. As of this writing, the costs in New Orleans will likely be a problem for most of our crew. Therefore, we will be looking to locate our reunion close to New Orleans but not necessarily in the city itself. We all understand that the crew are on fixed incomes and that is just a reality we need to work with. Though it is a challenge selecting a venue near New Orleans at our crew's reasonable price point, we have met more difficult challenges before and I have no doubt this will be met successfully as well.

Next year's reunion in New Orleans will be very significant to our ship. This New Orleans reunion will mark the mighty Schofield's 50th anniversary since commissioning in 1968. It is also the ship's 30th anniversary since it was decommissioned in 1988. This 50th anniversary reunion will be one for the record books. It would be wonderful if we could have record turnout for this historic reunion.

Another first for this year is that we now have a Hospitality Committee. Current secretary Mary Minnis has taken the laboring oar to establish and run, with help, the USS Schofield's first Hospitality Committee. Kudos to Mary for that. And the ladies' timing could not be better going in to the Schofield's 50th anniversary reunion.

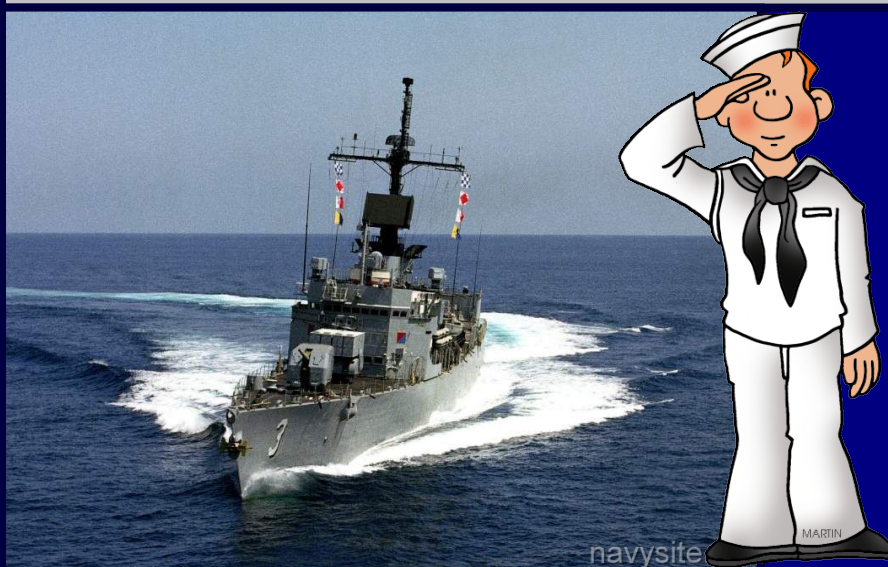
Coordinator 's Corner *cont'd from page 2*

At our Jacksonville banquet we welcomed several new members and we also lamented the passing of some of our shipmates, including Phyllis Adams.

Another first, that I am aware of anyway, was we had our first magic show at the banquet. Bill Gillespie entertained the entire crew with a wonderful magic show that left us all scratching our heads. (Though most of us do not have much hair anymore). This was all captured by another first, Facebook Live. Don/Bob Feldman brought his computer to the banquet and connected via the Internet to Facebook Live so that the non-present crew could watch our banquet festivities over the Internet on Facebook. What a great idea that was. I am told that over 200 people were watching our banquet in Jacksonville, Florida though they were not physically present. Now that is leveraging technology!

Looking forward to 2019, Andrew Golden is said to be doing his level best to one up the Feldmans' most recent Bremerton feast by doing his Texas style in San Antonio! I must say though, the Feldmans' most fabulous dinner will not be easy to beat. I am personally looking forward to enjoying this friendly culinary competition and thank you Andrew for heading this up.

During the last couple of years, the crew has seen its share of challenges. But I have personally seen that this crew does care for each other. That love for each other, that glue, has carried us through some rough seas so far. I have no doubt our current challenge will be likewise met. Though I went into this position a bit reluctant, as I write this I am glad I did it. My memories of my time on the ship are mixed. But it truly is an honor to serve the crew, a crew that cares so much for each other, in this way. It really is a privilege to serve. So, with that, I look forward to seeing each of you at our 50th Anniversary Reunion in New Orleans!



**SAVE THE
DATE**

OCT 2018

New Orleans

Financial Report

USS SCHOFIELD TREASURER'S REPORT - SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSE

Date Prepared:
January 5, 2018

		Revenue	Expense	
Balance - September 20, 2017	1,777.91			
Dues paid at Reunion		325.00		
Hats Purchased		145.00		
Coin Purchased		10.00		
Carol Fletcher - Reimburse Reunion Exp.			38.84	
Interest		0.30		
TOTALS TO DATE		480.30	38.84	

CURRENT BALANCE

(9/20/17) 2,219.37

Prepared and Submitted by Rick Wischmeyer, Treasurer



Look.....

**The uniform
still fits...**

Well...sort of



**Bob Feldman
2016**

SCHOFIELD REUNION 2017

Gary Strohmeler & Lynda Rosenthal



Rick & Sharon Wischmeyer



Mark Seidler



Dave Brown



Robert & Cindy Albers



Mark & Carol Fletcher



Robert & Patricia Cichowski



Steve Mickle



David & Linda Morrow



SCHOFIELD REUNION 2017

John & Harriet Walters



Dave Milligan



Bob & Britt Feldman



James & Glennis McClain



Arlene & Dave Dutcavich



Bill & Cindy Gillespie



Doug & Mary Minnis



Charles Dickens



**Ken Hudson &
Charlotte Harthorn**



From The Fletchers

Dear Schofield Family,

Wow a LOT has happened since we last had a news letter, October 2016. Let's catch up.

In January of last year, as many of you already know, Military Locator & Reunion Services went bankrupt. They basically sent us a copy of our roster and closed their doors. So we were scrambling for someone to take their place. Not many (if any) do all the things they did for us. So after a couple of referrals to Ozarks' Kirkwood Tour and Travel they seem to fit the bill in the scramble for a planner. You may have received a post card from them about last years reunion, unless you were notified by email. Yes, this how we expect it will go in the future. If we have your email address, you will be notified by email, if not you will receive a post card notification of future reunions. They will then send the full package if you are interested. If you have email you will be able to get it from our web site.

They do not do newsletters and a few other niceties we've come to enjoy. Britt Feldman has graciously stepped up to put out our newsletter. Many, many thanks Britt ! I think the newsletter is vital in keeping us in touch with mates without computers.

We have email addresses for less than half of our shipmates, thus it is really important to send us your email contact information if you have one. This will be the primary notification for reunions and newsletters. Yes we will still send these things via U S Mail but need to keep the cost down.

Another blow to our group this year was when long time liaison Phyllis Adams passed away in June. She had become such an asset to our reunions and was truly missed at this last one.

Adding to the mix we also have a new coordinator David Milligan. With that being his first reunion to plan he carried on, undaunted. We were still able to all gather in Jacksonville, FL. Sept 28 - Oct 1. And as always we had a wonderful time. We met some new faces as well as some old friends. We had a total of 31 attendees, 18 were crew. Thanks to Bob Feldman we had our first live stream of the banquet on face book. It is now on our web site. <http://www.usschofield.com/index.html>

Next years reunion will be the 50th anniversary of the USS Schofield commissioning. To be held in the New Orleans area. Should be great fun! We do not have an exact date yet. This is a city with a LOT of festivals often making it cost prohibitive to stay in city.

Wishing all of you Happiness and Good Health in the New Year.

Carol & Mark Fletcher



Remember When-By Barry Pate

I will relate an event that happened during our 1969 WESTPAC cruise. I was a FTG-2 and became a qualified helmsman after several watches on the bridge. I actually got fairly good at it. As a helmsman they put me on watches in after-steering. It was hot and noisy back there, and it was a 4 hour shift so the midwatch back there was not fun. During the midwatch the steering cable was always changed from port to starboard and vice versa the following night. The bridge would run a drill by turning off the steering control on the bridge, the helmsman would sound an alarm in after steering. The watch in after steering would then turn off control from the bridge and take control using a small brass steering wheel mounted on the steering motors. To test control in after steering, the wheel was turned 10 degrees right and then 10 degrees left while watching the response of the rudder on a dial mounted by the wheel. The watch would then report that after-steering had control and was steering. If done correctly the ship came back exactly on the original course.

We refueled or replenished virtually every night while in the combat area off the coast of Viet Nam. I was assigned after-steering during these sea details. We had been having some intermittent problems with steering, and it was not too uncommon for the helm to lose steering from the bridge. The alarm would sound and after-steering would take over using the procedure previously described.

During one of these refueling events, I was in after-steering. I could hear some of the chatter on the sound powered phones as we came along side the tanker. We were in position when suddenly the alarm went off in after-steering that the helm had lost control. I instinctively turned off the steering cable from the bridge, grabbed the brass wheel and TESTED the rudder. First right 10 degrees and then left 10 degrees. The rudder responded. What I did not know was that we had attached the refueling cable between ships. When I turned to starboard, we made a quick move toward the tanker. An opposite turn to port, then centered, and the Schofield came back exactly where we were.

I don't know what happened on the bridge but they said Captain Conlon about crapped in his pants when the ship moved toward the tanker. It came right back into position. It didn't take long for me to get some "help" in after steering. It took about 30 seconds. Looking back now, sometimes we were just over trained.



SCHOFIELD MEETING MINUTES



USS Schofield 2017 Reunion Jacksonville, Florida

Annual meeting for USS Schofield reunion was called to order by Dave Milliken at 3:07.

The treasurer report was given, followed by the minutes. There are four hats left; patches are being sold for \$5. Ron Spaz has the memory book.

The reunion is to take place in New Orleans next year; Dave covered a list of events that will be taking place in the area in October 2018.

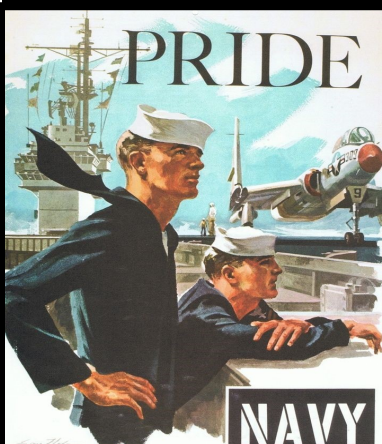
A motion to coordinate reunion locations with USS Brooke and USS Ramsey was made by Doug Minnis and seconded by Bob Feldman . Motion carried unanimous.

A motion to vacate New Orleans venue for 2018 was made by Ken Hudson and seconded by Bob Feldman. Motion was amended to authorize coordinator to discuss with the other ships for 2018 indicating USS Schofield's preference within a 50 mile radius. Motion passed 13 to 2.

The following locations were considered for 2020: Duluth, MN, Detroit, MI, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento, CA, Colorado Springs, CO, and Ventura, CA. A motion to table making a decision for 2020 location was made by Doug Minnis and seconded by Gary.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06.

Submitted by Mary Minnis



TAPS

**At the last reunion we honored
the following shipmates:**

SH3 Mark Burdick 74-75

BT3 Dennis M. Decker 74-78

ET Tim Dobbs

GMTC Carroll Housdan 73-75

EM3 A E West 68-70

Jay Mills 73-76

Darryl Hamilton

SKCS David Maass 79-82

EMCS Richard Cohagan 68-70

(who started these reunions back in 2002)



Phylliss Adams

Beloved by the USS Schofield families



**Please submit any articles, photos and information
to:**

Britt Feldman @brittfeldman@comcast.net OR

2669 Rocky Point Road NW

Bremerton WA 98312

for Future Deckplate editions!

Puzzle

The US Navy

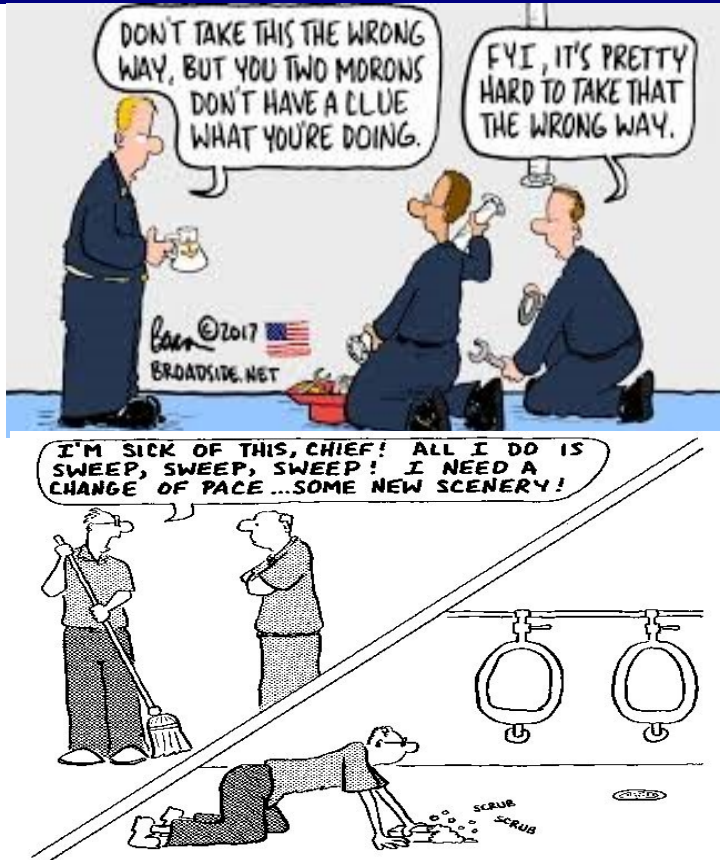
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AIRCRAFT
 ANCHORS AWEIGH
 BATTLE FLEET
 CONTINENTAL NAVY
 LARGEST
 NAVY
 REVOLUTIONARY WAR
 UNITED
 VESSELS
 WORLD WAR II

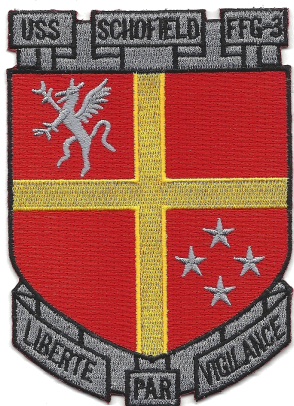
AIRCRAFT CARRIER
 ARMED FORCES
 BLUE WATER
 FLEET
 NAVAL
 ONE SEVEN SEVEN FIVE
 STATES
 USN
 WARFARE



USS SCHOFIELD



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BREMERTON, WA 98312



JANUARY 2018

USS SCHOFIELD