

Randy Fitschen, A-BSP
Chairman 2008
30690 Smithson Valley Rd.,
Bulverde TX 78163



The Alaska Coastguardian Newsletter
of the
Alaska/Bering Sea Patrol
United States Coast Guard Association
Organized 1975

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Officers

Chairman 2009 – Randy Fitschen
Vice Chairman – Doak Walker
Chairman 2010 – Doak Walker
Treasurer – Clair Upton
Charitable Chairman – Ray Nicholson
Past Chairman – Dick Juge
Web Masters – Dick Juge

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I have had numerous members tell me recently that they are looking forward to our next reunion in San Diego CA.

To those of you who do not receive the newsletter by e-mail, I will go over the information for our 2009 reunion in San Diego CA. I have made arrangements with the 4-star rated Crown Plaza Hotel in the Hotel Circle area about 10 minutes from downtown San Diego. I visited the hotel while in San Diego in September, and found it to be, probably, the nicest hotel at which we have ever stayed.

A 7 million dollar renovation was completed about a year ago with redecorated rooms, upgraded beds, etc. They have over 400 rooms and really know how to cater military reunions.

The hospitality suite for us will be on the ground floor with sliding glass doors to a large patio area set up with tables, umbrellas and chairs for us to use right outside of the room.

Each room has an outside balcony with chairs and a small table. The décor is tropical in nature with palm trees, etc.

Our banquet and breakfast rooms are very adequate for our needs. There are 2 restaurants and a nice bar area on the ground floor of the hotel. Guest parking is gated.

The locked in rate is \$115.00 per night, which is very reasonable for this type of facility.

There is a golf course and a large shopping mall less than 1 mile away. Transportation is available via Old Town Trolley to Old Town, Balboa Park, Presidio Park and other places of interest.

I am presently working on activities for our reunion stay.

DUES REMINDER

Since our dues are only \$20.00 per year, they are often overlooked.

Some members mail in more than \$20, so they don't have to bother remembering to send it in yearly. We want to keep you a happy member. We are in good shape financially, but it does cost to send out these newsletters, yearly roster books and the information for the reunions.

Remember, the first 2 numbers after your name on the labels indicate the last year your dues were paid.

WEBSITE

Our website reflects our new name.
Alaska/Bering Sea Patrol Association
(now A-BSP.org)

NEW MEMBERS

Leonard J. Defenbaugh - CGC SORREL 61-62 RM2,
CGC KLAMATH 63-64

MEDICAL

Ed McLees is still fighting Lupus disease, but says he is doing better and is planning to come to the reunion. Ed's wife, **Ann** is having aneurysm surgery on 11/13/08 and will have about a 2-day hospital stay.

CROSSED OVER THE BAR

Robert Ruggerio, 6-25-08 SK3
John A. Bettis, 7-29-08 LT (USCG Ret)
Richard Orford, 9-2-2008 BMC (USCG Ret)

Please advise me, or any of our past chairmen, if you know of any members or spouses who have passed away or are seriously ill. We don't always get the word. Thanks, **Randy**.

Crossing the Bar

- Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep;
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew me from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

From th' from out of our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

GONE FROM MY SIGHT

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

Anonymous

MEMBER NEWS

Member **Russel Camp** writes that he has been doing volunteer work for the American Red Cross, and also volunteers to be on call for any national disaster. **Russ** was deployed to Texas on September 9, and worked in several shelters in the San Antonio area to help over 4000 evacuees from the Galveston/Houston area after Hurricane Ike hit there. He stayed until the end of September and then flew back to Rochester NY. He also teaches English to non-speaking immigrants.

This is a gift of one's time and knowledge. Our hats are off to **Russ**.

CROSS SERVICE TRAINING

Twelve Coasties are being considered for U.S. Navy SEAL training. Nineteen people applied, including 12 officers and 7 enlisted. Those making it through the nearly 2 year course of physically and mentally challenging training will be assigned to a SEAL Team for 5 to 7 years, but will officially still be a part of the Coast Guard. **Admiral Allen** states: "It would bring a tremendous amount of expertise and knowledge to the Coast Guard and would really improve our program."

USCG VICE ADMIRAL NOMINATIONS

Vice Admiral David P. Pekoski as Vice Commandant

Rear Admiral Jody A. Breckenridge to VADM and Pacific Area Commander

Rear Admiral John P. Currier to VADM and assignment as Chief of Staff at HQ.

CGC STORIS

Jim Loback, a past chairman, has asked that anyone interested in donating \$20.00 or more for the CGC STORIS MUSEUM FUND for administrative expenses to please mail to: STORIS MUSEUM, Attn: Tom Gemmell, 229 4th St., Juneau AK 99801. For more info, go to website: <http://www.StorisMuseum.org>

Available at A-BSP.org website:

<http://www.a-bsp.org/html/DVD/DVD%20list.htm>

CG-01 CG Cutters Around the Continent

CG-02 CG STORIS Decommissioning Services in KODIAK

CG-05 CG Ice Wind and Sea made for the 50th Northwest Passage Reno Celebration

CG-09 50th CG Channel Video - STORIS, BRAMBLE & SPAR Northwest Passage

DJ-01 50th NWP Reno Celebration Photos by Dick

DJ-02 STORIS Decommissioning 2/8/2007

DJ-03 1995 – 2006 Bering Sea Patrol Reunion Photos

DJ-04 2007 Bering Sea Patrol Reunion Photos

DJ-05 Commemorative Northwest Passage CGC STORIS

DJ-06 2007 Dick's Northwest Passage Book Photos

DJ-07 STORIS Nostalgia from commissioning to decommissioning

DJ-08 1930-1950s CG Photos - Courtesy of Chuck Barrentine

DJ-09 2008 BSPAV Reunion Photos

KF-01 50th Anniversary STORIS, BRAMBLE & SPAR NWP - Photos by Ken Fisher

REMEMBER:

Next A/BSP reunion 13-17 September 2009

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