

**Dick Juge, BSPAV
Chairman 2008**
818 Gravier St. #3A
New Orleans, LA 70112



The Alaska Coastguardian Newsletter
Of the
Bering Sea Patrol – Alaska Veterans Reunion
Association of the
United States Coast Guard
Organized 1975

(May Newsletter) May 7, 2008

Officers

Chairman 2008 – Dick Juge
Vice Chairman – Randy Fitschen
Chairman 2009 – Randy Fitschen
Treasurer – Clair Upton
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Past Chairman – Ed McLees
Web Masters – Fred McLees & Dick Juge

FOR THOSE GOING TO GRAND HAVEN

Please let me know, ASAP, the names of all people in your party, including guests for whom you are not paying a registration fee. There is the free Coast Guard breakfast and ship tour to which we might be able to invite them to join with us. Additionally, I wish to have nametags created for them. Of course, unless you wish to pay a registration fee for them, regrettably, we will not be able to invite them to attend those events which cost us money. Email me their names and info. Send to: DickJuge@aviosk.com or call me at 504 566-6008.

I am in touch with both the **Best Western** and the **Days Inn** in Grand Haven. It appears our book is filled at the Best Western and we do have a few rooms left until the end of May blocked for the Days Inn. Some who have registered with us don't appear to have a room booked at either hotel, so I can only assume you have other accommodations.

It appears we are going to have a great turnout for this event. I had ordered slightly more than a hundred beautiful logo coffee mugs and I worry I might not have enough. We'll have to work on a first come - first serve basis. So, if you've not yet paid your registration fee, I urge you to do so ASAP. Our treasurer keeps a log as to who has paid and the date paid.

Vice Chairman, CWO Retired **Randy Fitschen**, and our Chairman for 2009 are handling the coordination with Retired CDR **Mike Smith**, who manages the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, our speakers and Color Guard at our banquet. Unfortunately they have only one available night and the Coast Guard's Festival Committee is also planning their Banquet the same night. I'm hopeful that we can get the Color Guard to do double duty that night.

For sure there is lots of excitement regarding our Grand Haven Reunion. Please don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to honor the Coast Guard by being at their important Anniversary Festival. We were fortunate in being able to muster rooms for our members registered so far.

With respect as to which is the best way to fly in to Grand Haven, my friend and State Farm agent, Mike Leak, a resident of Grand Haven, did talk with one of our members advising her to arrange to fly Northwest Airlines to Detroit, MI and then on to Muskegon, MI. He says the Muskegon airport is serviced by Northwest and Midwest Airlines and is only 15 minutes from Grand Haven. There are two (2) taxi services in Grand Haven. Mike recommends Blue Dog Taxi at (616) 844-9292. Mike says he also noticed that they just purchased a small bus/van (like at the airport parking lots and rental agencies) that would certainly accommodate 12-15 people at a time.

Go to www.BSPAV.org to review the Grand Haven Reunion information.

CROSSED OVER THE BAR
Dan Whitaker COTB 10/2007
Fern Tilden (wife of Lyle) COTB 12/2/2007
Thomas H. Bliss – COTB 3/4/2008
Bill Steel – COTB 3/30/2008

NEW MEMBERS

- **William Feddema** - Port Clarence 73/74
CWO4 Ret '89 S 67-68 BM2
- **Thomas Tucker**- CGC STORIS 59/60
YN1MA
- **Craig Woodward** - CGC STORIS 62-64
- **Donald Fuehr** - CGC NORTHWIND 57-58,
KLAMATH 65-68, Supply Depot Ketchikan
63-65 SK1

MEMBERS NOTES

I recently received word that **Charlotte Collier**, wife of **Bill**, has been undergoing Chemo for the last several months. As a result they are concerned they won't be able to be with us in Grand Haven. You might want to drop them a note at: 208 Sapphire Dr.; Ladson, SC 29456 or their email cecmd@prodigy.net.

I just received a call from **Ralph Hackerson**, long time member and former cochairman of BSPAV, that due to eye surgery he too will be unable to be with us in Grand Haven. You might want to drop him a note at: 1425 NW 61st St., Apt. 401, Seattle, WA 98107. He doesn't do email.

Harold Peck wanted all to know that **CDR Daniel S. Bishop** recently passed away in Honolulu, Hi. He was CO of the CGC Balsam when Harold was the EO. He also was a very nice man and shipmate said Harold.

Al Borne wanted all to know that there is a new site out there with CGC STORIS pictures. <http://cgcstoris.smugmug.com/gallery/2263465#118175784>

CDR **Cornelius Farley** and his daughter, Marie, are joining us in Grand Haven via a most interesting route. When last I spoke to him he was speaking of driving up to Duluth, Minnesota (where he once was stationed) with his daughter and visiting some old friends and then hooking up with an ore boat to get him over towards Grand Haven.

Member **Gary Hodge** sent this link: http://www.military.com/Registration/Pay_Chart?backURL=2009-Proposed-Military-Pay

Susan of Coast Guard Channel sent this link, which is a short cut to learn about new boat.

http://www.coastguardchannel.com/24_7_vid/features.shtml?RefID=F024

Go to the following to learn about the new 45' CG boat.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2008/04/coast-guard-debut-new-small-boat-little-creek>

ALL CG SHIPS BUILT PRIOR TO 1975

Member **Doak Walker** is inviting all who served aboard all Coast Guard ships built prior to 1975 to participate in a unique reunion. It will be held at Harrah's Hotel/Casino in Reno NV. There will be multiple side trips offered for any one interested as well.

If interested contact Doak Walker at PO Box 33523, Juneau AK 99803-3523 or email: cgcutters@gci.net

BUSINESS MEETING PROPOSALS

In Grand Haven this year our business meeting will have lots of new business to address. In the past several newsletters I have laid out for you what proposals will be presented and as an overview I will discuss them below again.

PROPOSAL #1

Name of organization - change: There is a desire to update our name so as to avoid confusion. It will be proposed to the regular members at the meeting that our name be changed to: "United States Coast Guard Alaska Veterans Reunion Association"

PROPOSAL #2

Making honorary members of all former chairmen who are still active members and in good standing - plus **Clair Upton**, our long time treasurer.

PROPOSAL #3

Making Life Time Memberships available to the general membership for those wishing to pay a one-time fee. The amount will be determined in Grand Haven.

NEW PROPOSAL #4

Making any senior member automatically a lifetime member. (Looking at ages 85 or 90)

PROPOSAL #5

To encourage active duty Coasties to become members we might consider discounting their dues from \$20 annually to \$10 until they retire or leave the service. Wouldn't it be great if we could get more of these wonderful young folks, who, if they meet the Alaska service requirements, are now eligible for regular membership, to join our association?

Jim Loback has submitted the following:

“STORIS MUSEUM”

“On 24 April 2008 the House of Representatives passed the Coast Guard Authorization bill (HR 2830) for 2008. Included in this bill is section 407 which authorizes the Coast Guard to turn the CGC STORIS over to the USCG CUTTER STORIS MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER, LLC in Juneau, Alaska for the establishment of the STORIS MUSEUM. This museum and education center will be used for the purpose of collecting, displaying, and maintaining the history of the U. S. Coast Guard, the Revenue Cutter Service, as well as Alaskan Maritime activities in the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean.

“This is an ideal fit with the Bering Sea Patrol-Alaska Veterans Reunion Association whose purpose, as stated in its Preamble, is to further the history of the Coast Guard and gather artifacts from the Bering Sea and Alaska. The BSP-AV should be a major supporter of the STORIS MUSEUM in Juneau. You are all encouraged to visit the STORIS MUSEUM's web site and register to show your support for the efforts being put forth by those in Alaska who are trying to maintain a large part of the Coast Guard's history there. The museum can use the help of BSP-AV members who represent a major portion of the Coast Guard personnel who made maritime history in Alaska. After you register you can assist by submitting your comments and suggestions all of which will be greatly appreciated and given serious consideration.

“Just imagine visiting the museum in Juneau and being able to see pictures,

documents, and memorabilia of Coast Guard cutters, stations and personnel with whom you may have served in the 17th CG District.

“You can follow the actions of both the Senate and the House of Representatives with respect to Senate Bill S1892 and House Bill HR 2830 on the Museum web site.

“STORIS is currently in Wet Storage with the Dead Fleet at Suisun Bay, California. It is anticipated that she will remain there until mooring facilities become available when the major overhaul of the port and passenger docks in Juneau is completed within the next two years. Visit the web site often and keep up on the progress of moving STORIS back to where she made so much history and where she will be housing the history you helped create when you were in Alaska. Imagine your photos and documents on display aboard STORIS in Juneau.

“Visit <http://www.storismuseum.org/>

“No computer! No problem.

“Call **Jim Loback** at 714 968 8964”

Special Note from Your Chairman of BSPAV

I totally agree with Jim in that we are most fortunate to have a future Coast Guard and Maritime Museum in Juneau Alaska.

No individual I know has the drive and capability to lead this charge, as well as Jim.

I look forward to the future and being able to visit Juneau Alaska and the CG Cutter STORIS and this wonderful museum. I, too, will continue to donate items to this great Museum.

My hat is off to Jim Loback for his good work. Please help him as best you can.

DICK JUGE

BOOKS AND READINGS

For you nautically inclined folks I've recently purchased a book written by **Dr. William Thiesen**, now a Coast Guard Historian. He wrote this prior to joining up with the Coast Guard and he named the book ***Industrializing American Shipbuilding***. It is a history book of the various construction styles of ships from the 1820s of wood to the industrial age of metal ships up to 1920s. Apparently lots of research has gone into the book's development.

Rear Admiral Joel R. Whitehead

In New Orleans I was recently privileged to attend a dinner where **Admiral Whitehead** gave the Naval Order of the United States organization an update on the Coast Guard today. He also spoke about the new 418 foot Cutter, BERTHOLF. It would be wonderful if we could get him to join us in Grand Haven Michigan for our Bering Sea Patrol – Alaska Veterans Banquet and give this same talk. Now, the United States Coast Guard, being a part of Homeland Security, is in the right place. I'm reluctant to paraphrase his talk, as I didn't take notes, however his information is quite interesting.

Coast Guard Academy Open to All

A few weeks ago my pal **Jonesy (Curt) Jones** - former Radioman on the STORIS during the historic Northwest Passage of 1957) came to visit and brought two super, young, fairly recent Academy Graduates.

They are neighbors of his and he's been a surrogate father/grandfather to them for a few years. When he learned they were both being transferred to New Orleans he immediately called to ask if Nancy and I would tour them the city.

During their visit I learned that they and many others became Academy students simply by applying on-line and meeting the criteria for acceptance. They came from different parts of the US, met there, and have since married, and are now the parents of a beautiful little girl. Nothing could be more fair and open, right?

Most other Academies, as I understand, require a political appointment.

This week Jonesy sent the following that I'd like to share with you for your thoughts.

An article on Military.com stated: "Academy has traditionally admitted students on the basis of academic merit, like civilian colleges and universities.

"A provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act, a bill that authorizes appropriations for the service for fiscal year 2008 as well as policy changes, requires applicants to the academy to obtain a nomination from an

official source, such as a member of Congress or an authority from a U.S. territory.

"U.S. Rep. **Elijah E. Cummings**, D-Md., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, proposed bringing the application process in line with the other academies as a way to diversify the cadet corps."

I found the following on the above subject via Google and there's much more out there:

[USCG: Coast Guard Journal](#)

Coast Guard Academy Admissions: Among the new provisions of this bill is one that dramatically alters admission procedures for the U.S. **Coast Guard Academy**. ...

www.uscg.mil/cgjournal/

FUTURE REUNIONS



Ret. Coast Guard CWO **Randy Fitschen**, our chairman for 2009 is diligently working on our September 2009 reunion. He plans to host it in San Diego. He has three hotels that

The Reunion Brat is working on for him, and things are looking good. Randy says: "San Diego has much to offer in the way of activities and he plans to set up some great things to do."

Join us in Grand Haven MI in late July so we can talk about this.

If you have anything you would like to see in the upcoming newsletters please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Dick Juge, BSPAV Chairman 2007 - 2008

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