

# USS RICH (DD/DDE 820)

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## Online The ^ 820 Newsletter

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Volume 5, Number 1

February, 1998

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### SHIP'S OFFICE

**1998 Reunion** We're going back! Back to South Carolina. By popular demand and the willingness of the host Hoot Gibson, our Association's President, the RICH crew will gather in Monck's Corner, South Carolina April 22nd to the 25th, for the 1998 reunion. Hoot is hard at work setting up all the activities involved in carrying off another outstanding occasion. Our event center will once again be the Berkeley Motel in Monck's Corner the fine hostelry in which the 1996 reunion was held. You will be responsible for making your own room arrangements - don't put it off as the rooms fill fast for our group. The Motel's phone number is 803-761-8400. A single room will be \$36.00 per night and a double will be \$40.00. Where can you beat that? The banquet, that is traditionally held the last night of the reunion, Saturday the 25th, will cost \$15.50 per person. Our registration fee is \$10.00 per person to cover the cost of the hospitality room.

Each reunion we have a general raffle with the proceeds going to support the organization. Items for the raffle are donated by members of the ship's company; many relating to the ship itself (old photos, paintings etc.) or to a product for which a member's home state or locale is famous. Tickets are available at the door. If you can't attend and would like to donate an item for the raffle send it on to E. R. Hoot Gibson, P.O. Box 506, Pinopolis, SC 29469. Should you wish to contact Hoot by phone his number is 803-899-7194. As you may know the ship is also conducting a 50-50 raffle to be held at the reunion. Information and tickets for the raffle were included in a previous newsletter mailing. The distribution of the funds will be to four winners receiving 40%, 30%, 20% and 10% of one half of the proceeds donated.

Activities planned for the reunion include two days at the Short Stay Recreational Area with lake and river cruises, a fish fry, Bar-B-Que and party wagon. USS RICH items will be for sale in the hospitality suite and shopping for the ladies will be scheduled for Saturday morning in Old Charleston. There is a great deal to do and see in the Charleston area including Patriot's Point where you can go aboard the restored destroyer USS LAFFEY DD-724, carrier USS YORKTOWN CV-10, (THE FIGHTING LADY of World War II motion picture fame) submarine USS CLAMAGORE SS-343 and the cutter USCGC INGHAM. At the point you will also be able to visit a re-creation of a Viet Nam riverine support base. Also across the river in Charleston you can visit Charles Town Landing-1670 the site of the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina and home of the ketch Adventure. Located in downtown Charleston is The Charlestown Museum with a replica of the Civil War submarine CSS Hunley and many other maritime artifacts. The Charleston area has many other interesting colonial American sites to visit and enjoy. Incidentally you have free entry to Patriot's point and the ships if you are a member in good standing of Tin Can Sailors (P.O. Box 100, Somerset, MA 02726-0100, Regular Membership \$15 per year) Other sightseeing information will be available when you reach Monck's Corner.

If you are planning to attend please fill in the enclosed USS RICH Attendance Survey and return it to the Secretary of our Organization. This form will also let you suggest a site for the 1999 ship's reunion and possibly volunteer to host that event. For all you Yankees... The ship was an east coast ship, i.e., most of those on the crew were from the eastern half of the U.S. Now all the reunions we have had have been hosted by our

compatriot's whose homes are below the Mason-Dixon Line. Lets hear from the northeast.

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### Annual Dues

As you know this association is run solely by volunteers. Many of your former shipmates contribute lots of time to organize and conduct the group's yearly activities including the reunion and publishing, and mailing The 820 Newsletter. The newsletter alone has a budget of approximately \$700 per year to cover the costs of its reproduction and mailing. To continue these activities WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. The best way to do that is to return your annual dues of \$15 in a check made out to USS RICH DD/DDE-820 REUNION ASSOCIATION to:

Hoot Gibson, President  
USS Rich Association  
PO Box 506  
Pinopolis SC 29469

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### SHIP'S LOG

Don Oberlander's log continues. Don, an RM2 at the time, kept a log from 1946-48 and his log first began in the August '97 issue of the 820 Newsletter continues. Thanks to Don for sharing this record of the ship's movements with us. The log contains a notation about a fire in the forward fireroom. ***Can any of you who were onboard then shed some light on this incident?***

#### May 1948

13 Arrived in New Orleans  
17 Departed New Orleans to continue Phase 2 Operations  
25 Operations completed, Depart Key West for Newport  
28 Arrived Newport, Rhode Is. Don departed the ship on leave and did not return till July 4, 1948.

#### July 1948

4 RICH is Bristol Rhode Island  
26-30 At sea around Newport are for operations. In port for weekend

#### August 1948

2-6 Out again for operations with USS Mindoro (CVE-120) off the coast of Virginia. Returned to Newport for the weekend  
9 Departed Newport for operations with the Mindoro.  
13 Arrived Norfolk.  
16 Departed Norfolk for operations with Mindoro  
20 Arrived Newport  
30 Departed Newport for operations continue Phase 2 Operations

#### September 1948

7 Fire in the forward fireroom  
9 Arrived in Bermuda to determine fire damage  
12 Departed Bermuda  
23 Arrived New York and anchored on the Hudson River off West 72nd St.  
27 Departed New York  
28 Arrived alongside USS Yellowstone (AD-19)

Don was transferred from the RICH on October 8, 1948 having come on board on May 31, 1946.

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## Quarterdeck