

The 820 Newsletter

World Wide Web Edition



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Who said Snipes can't be fun?

Francis H. Hutchins, BTC (Ret.) will be our venerable host at the RICH annual reunion.

June 13 through 16, 2001 are the dates and the location is in gorgeous Barre, Vermont.

[Full details are already posted](#) and will be in the February, 2001 issue of the 820 Newsletter.

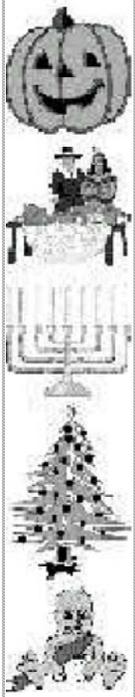


NOW is the time to begin salting away those coins and shopping for great bargain airfares. What a wonderful Christmas gift for the wife. ::wink, wink::

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It's That Time Of Year Already!

It's hard to imagine that by the time you receive the *next* issue of the 820 Newsletter, four holidays will have passed into a new year and a new President in office. It's a good time to reflect on holidays spent aboard ship, particularly while deployed.

This writer spent two holiday seasons in the Mediterranean/Red Sea "showing the flag". The crew of the USS COLE was on a similar mission when it was attacked in Aden, a port visited many times by the RICH.

It's appropriate then, to ask that the crew of the COLE as well as the rest of the tin can sailors who succeeded us be remembered in our thoughts and prayers throughout the season.

God's blessings on each of you, your family and our shipmates the world over.



USS Cole (DDG 67)

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Scuttlebutt From The Fleet

USS RICH (DE-695) Launches Website

George M. Fryberger's father was a survivor of the sinking of the DE-695 and was awarded a Purple Heart as a result of injuries received during that action. As a computer professional, George graciously offered to serve as Webmaster for the DE-695 Survivors Association.

The site is located at: <http://www.informmediate.com/ussrichde695/>

What happened to the ships of DesRon XX?



The **USS New (DD-818)** has an active association complete with a quarterly newsletter "What's New". The ship is reported to be on active duty with the South Korean Navy.

The **USS Holder (DD-819)** maintains a website at <http://home.nycap.rr.com/damesplace/holder.html> The ship was scrapped in 1991.

The **USS Basilone (DD-824)** maintains a website at <http://www.destroyers.org/dd824-site/dd824.htm> The ship was sunk as a target in 1982.

The **USS Robert L. Wilson (DD-847)** maintains a website at <http://www.users.intur.net/~bjmagic/contents.htm> . The ship was sunk as a target in 1980.

The **USS Damato (DD-894)** maintains a website at <http://www.destroyers.org/dd871-site/dd871.htm> The ship was scrapped in 1994.

And others...

The **USS Sierra (AD-18)** has regular reunions but apparently no website. The ship was decommissioned in 1993 after serving over 50 years. She was sold as scrap in 1995.

The USS Tidewater (AD-31) has an excellent website at <http://www.enteract.com/~wdcook/tidewater/> . The ship was sold to Indonesia in 1971.

And finally, RICH's nemesis... the USS Caloosahatchee (AO-98)

Decommissioned in 1990. Stricken in 1994 and transferred to the Maritime Administration in 1998.

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Bob Marcello remembers...

It's hard to think back fifty years without a stimulant. I found one in a box tucked away labeled "Navy Daze". After looking at photos of people and events memories began to return. Some were not good and prompted me to write this poem:

To visit the past brings
Joy and pain,
Could I separate the two
I'd live them again.

As I waited for the elevator in the Federal building in New York City a band of ruffians engulfed me. When the elevator door opened I was pushed inside and jammed in a corner by the mob. As the door opened on the fourth floor they piled out. One of them turned and saw me still cowed in the corner. "Come on, what are you waiting for?" "I'm going to the fifth floor," I replied, "to join the Marines." "Like hell you are," he commanded, "you're coming with us in the Navy." Almost instantly two others were yanking me out of the elevator. Later that day I was sworn into the U.S. Navy along with the Bayside Football Team.

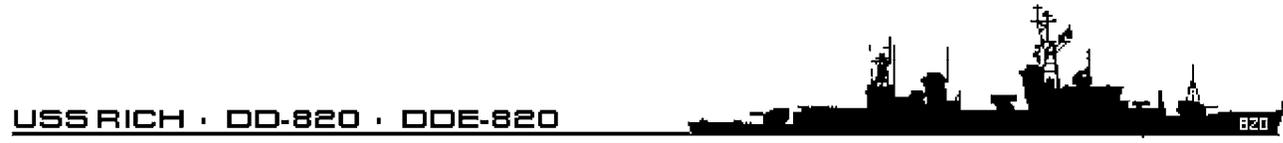
We all went to Camp Peary, Virginia for Boot Training. Ours was the last group to use that facility. From there we went to Rhode Island for advanced training and assignment. From there many of us were loaded onto a railroad train and told we were going to Texas. Of all of the painful memories of the past that ride is one of the hardest to lose. I swear the cars we rode in were used to transport troops during the Civil War. Only then they may have been new.

Our arrival in Orange, Texas, was without fanfare. Then we were introduced to our new home. The blue pearl with the little numbers, 820, painted in black on her bow was the most beautiful sight I had ever behold. Our first assignment was to get out the paint and touch up the scratches while skid pads were laid on deck. I believe it was the next day that the RICH was commissioned. From then on, we considered ours the roughest of the Navy, "Destroyer Sailors."

Editors Note:
Bob Marcello wrote this in 1996. A proud USS RICH Plank Owner, Bob served a two year tour as S2C. His memories are no doubt echoed in the minds and hearts of his shipmates. We'd like you share your memories with us. Send them to me.



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Membership

If you're not a paid up member of the USS RICH DD/DDE 820 ASSOCIATION you should have received a Renewal Notice included with the mailed newsletter. If you did not, you can send you membership dues of \$15.00 to:

USS RICH DD/DDE-820 ASSOCIATION
Walter Becker, Treasurer
1102 Wedgewood Lake Road
Stroudsburg PA 18360-8733

Be sure to include your Name, Mailing Address, Rate, and Tour Dates aboard **RICH**. Please note we do not make our master database available to anyone for any reason. We do, however, provide addresses to other shipmates who may be looking for you.

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Shipmate To Shipmate

Looking for anyone who was in OI division. Looking over the web site I remember quite a few names. I was on the RICH from **67 through 70** as an ETn2. Please drop me a line. I am sorry I missed this last reunion, since I live in Orlando. I had no idea there was a web site or reunion, oh well VT next year! [Frank "SHEP" Shepherd](#)

I'd to hear from any of my old shipmates that served during the time just before she was hit. Especially my ole' buddy Smith. You went to New London, CT and I never heard from you again! [Dave Paulik](#), EM3 (76-77)

Would like to contact anyone who served aboard the RICH in B division between **1971 to 1974**. [Alan Baumann](#) BT3

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[Quarterdeck](#)