

The 820 Newsletter

World Wide Web Edition



Volume 8, Number 1

February, 2001

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Now is the time to make your plans...

to attend the 8th Annual Ship's Reunion in beautiful VERMONT!

[Hutch has got the beer iced, mixers ready and the coffee hot!](#)

The Dates: **JUNE 13-14-15-16, 2001**

The Place: **LA GUE INNS — 3472 AIRPORT ROAD — BARRE VERMONT 05602**

The Cost: **\$50.00 per person (plus motel)**

The Events:

WEDNESDAY... Check in and greet friends old and new. Enjoy the HOSPITALITY in our exclusive party room at the main entrance. Sit and entertain each other with stories of past exploits and reunions. (i.e. sea stories).

THURSDAY... **ALL DAY BASH** at Hutch's place in Washington, Vt. Drive yourself or transportation will be available from the motel. Bring your appetite, eat large, stay late.

FRIDAY... Sightsee to your heart's content. Plenty to see and do. Tours of local places of interest are being set up. Just get back in time for the big **BARN DANCE AND BUFFET**. Music that everyone will like. Dress informal because you will be in an old Vermont barn. Transportation to this event will be provided!

SATURDAY... We start out with our **Annual Business Meeting** in the party room. After that it's just another day to enjoy the sights of Vermont. Gather lots of souvenirs to take home with you. Tonight we have our **BANQUET** at the motel followed by a **MEMORIAL SERVICE** and an **AUCTION**.

SUNDAY... Hate to say it but we're done here in Vermont. This morning we say goodbye for now to all our good friends. You will be

greatly missed until 2002 when we get together for another great reunion. Have a good trip home. Until we meet again.

Motel Rates for the USS Rich Reunion

- SINGLE.....One person \$50 + tax/per room
 - DOUBLE.....Two persons \$60 + tax/per room
- RESERVE NOW! Cut Off Date: May 1, 2001

Motel reservations should be made directly with the motel. They will be happy to accommodate any special services you will need. Please ask at the time of reservation.

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SHIPMATES REMEMBER...

Paul Keagle, MM2 (55-57)

"In the 56-57 era the RICH rammed the pier in New York City due to the lack of experience of the Captain. I was on the Throttle in the Engine Room and the Captain did not request an Emergency Backdown until it was too late. Consequently there was some damage to the bow.

One thing I will always remember, our captain in early 1956 liked to swim so he would call for Swim Call wherever he was... the Bronson Deep or Chesapeake Bay. He would be the first one in off the bridge."

Dan Turygan, SM2 (76-77)

"I came aboard RICH in the winter of '76 in Philly and stayed with her until the end. I was shocked to hear the Captain Stefancavage passed away. He was a sailor's captain. Straightforward, energetic and clearly loved the Navy but not the seagulls. He was a perfect destroyer captain as far as I was concerned. The Engineering Department always got RICH online and underway. I believe she had the red "E" and 3 hash marks on her stack. Being a signalman, I felt the steel shack was the Hilton. It was huge and actually nice... not the tiny ramshackle sig shack like on most other FRAM's."

Frank J Monaldi, SM3 (73-75)

"After spending 30 days with the wife and kids it was back to Pearl Harbor. Upon arriving (with a great hangover) I went to Sick Bay. After testing, I had my appendix removed. During my 10 day stay in the hospital, my ship left without me resulting in my reassignment to Norfolk, Virginia and the USS RICH. WOW! A real ship... a destroyer.

As I came aboard I helped the Duty Mail Driver bring the crew's mail on board. Some important stuff for the Captain. As I was being checked in, here comes the skipper. I hand him his mail as I was saluting with my right hand. He opened the letter from Destroyer Squadron #30. The RICH would be moved to Philadelphia as a Reserve Trainer. Okay I said. Closer to Baltimore. 97 miles and 3 blocks away. My last 2½ years on board I was coming home 3 out of 4 weekends. The RICH even came to my hometown, Fort McHenry. 4 miles from my home and home of the Star Spangled Banner.

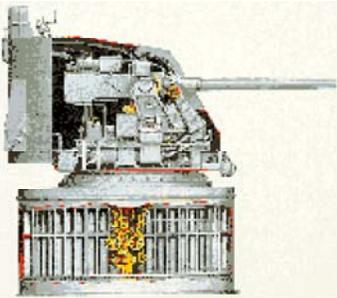
While in Baltimore, the RICH had a small accident. While being tugged to the pier, the ship's propellers hit some junk at the bottom of the harbor. All engines were shut down and divers went over the side. Our shafts were bent. They towed the RICH all the way to Chester, Pennsylvania through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. RICH was in drydock nearly seven months. She was re-fitted with new radar, ASROC, etc.

Now it was time for the re-launching, out to sea and a full ship shakedown to good old GITMO, Cuba. But I was a short-timer! 5 days from discharge. They took me anyway and flew me home 2 days later to NAS Norfolk where I was met by my wife and two kids.

After wet kisses all around, we drove home to my civilianhood."

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Historic Marker

Twenty-eight years ago, on January 27, 1972 at 0747 local time, the USS RICH (DD 820) fired the last salvo of naval gunfire in the VietNam conflict.

A cease fire commenced at 0800. (Contributed by Bob Smith, GMG3)

Departed Shipmates

We are saddened to report the passing of the following shipmates:

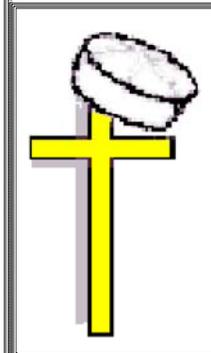
Belanger, Harvey, MM1 (54-55)

Docke, George, SK1 (56-58)

Doyle, Oattie , RMC (46-46)

Hadden, Richard, ETR3 (63-65)

Stefencage, George, CDR (75-77)



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Bring Your Slides

Larry Dixon, RM3 wants everyone who has 35mm slides to bring them to the reunion in Vermont where he'll have a slide projector available. All of us will enjoy seeing photos from your tour aboard RICH.

It's worthy of the subject to discuss the preservation of not only your naval experience but of your personal collection of images of family and friends.

If you have a personal computer (or access to one) the cost of adding a scanner is affordable to even the most modest budget. Most computer scanners have attachments to allow scanning your slides. Be sure this is an option before you buy. Scanning snapshots is easy albeit time consuming but insures your favorites will be preserved for posterity.

With regard to your personal collection: If you haven't looked at them recently you should be aware that slides, 8mm film and snapshots deteriorate with time. The rate of deterioration depends on a number of factors such as your geographical location, temperature and humidity. If you want to preserve your memories you need to investigate methods to do this. If the computer method doesn't appeal to you, film processors including Eckerd, Walgreen or Wolf Camera will take your slides or snapshots, digitize them and return them to you on a CD. While there are also services to convert 8mm to VHS tape, the process remains a bit pricey.

Sounds like a great summer project for the grandkids.

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Membership

If you're not a paid up member of the USS RICH DD/DDE 820 ASSOCIATION shame on you! C'mon... be a part of this great organization. Send your 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.

Know what? You'll sleep better knowing you're a member.

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Shipmate To Shipmate

I served aboard 1964-1966. Anyone who might know the whereabouts of **DONALD KORN** who lived in Dayton Ohio please contact me at 740-452-4366. Don served in the deck force. [David Ray](#)

I'm searching for shipmates from the Damage Control/Shipfitters on board from 1968 to 1970. We steamed together during a "Goodwill" cruise in the Red Sea. I used to travel from Norfolk to Philadelphia for the weekends with 4 buddies in my 1968 (Maroon) Pontiac Grand Prix. [Ken Gary](#)

Would like to hear from any BT'S from Forward and Aft Fireroom in the 74-76 timeframe. Contacted **Joe Lemay** and looking for **Bobby Hoffer**, **Bill Claero**, **Stash** and others. [Robert Mac Isaac](#)

Estel Shumate GM3, died on July 19, 1985. His tour (46-47) on the Rich was a proud time in his life. He told us many sea stories of his time in the "real Navy". He had a special friend **C.R Durham** of Missouri. My mother would like to know of his whereabouts. [Michael Shumate](#) (son)

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[Quarterdeck](#)