

# USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

## Newsletter September - December, 2010

### Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

Twenty-seventh Edition: The USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter is a publication issued every four months by the USS Plymouth Rock Ships Association. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

Bill Provencal, Association Secretary at:  
[billinp@metrocast.net](mailto:billinp@metrocast.net)

or regular mail at:  
Bill Provencal  
37 South Main Street  
Pittsfield, NH 03263



If you change **address** or **e-mail address** be sure to let me (Bill Provencal) know so we can update our Crews List. My e-mail is [billinp@metrocast.net](mailto:billinp@metrocast.net), my home address is listed above. We have been getting a lot of returns on our newsletter mailing to you guys who are paid dues members. Our ships website is found at [www.ussplymouthrock.com](http://www.ussplymouthrock.com)



### Known Deceased Shipmates

For a complete listing of deceased shipmates, visit our **Memorial Page** in the ships website

Anthony Purvis, HT3, September 30, 2010	



The 2011-2012 dues are now due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$25.00 and are due on the year of the reunion (are due on an even year 2008, 2010, 2012 etc). *Should a member or prospective member pay at any other time, dues will be credited from the preceding even year. All dues paying members receive the Newsletter three times a year by US Mail.* Paul Mohawk's address is: 5558 Canyon Lands Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76137.



### Thank You's

We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the Ships Association and newsletter.

USS Whetstone (LSD-27)	Tom Wagner, YN3	Bill Provencal, PN2
Shorty Cyr, BM3	Ron Swearingen, DC3	Ron Miller, EN3



## Ships Officers

### President

Tom Wagner

[tfwagner@wagnerinsuranceagency.com](mailto:tfwagner@wagnerinsuranceagency.com)

812-539-9548

### Vice President

David Dortch

870-236-3725

[tazrhondave@yahoo.com](mailto:tazrhondave@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Paul Mohawk

[pshawks@charter.net](mailto:pshawks@charter.net)

817-656-7739

### Secretary/Webmaster

Bill Provencal

[billinp@metrocast.net](mailto:billinp@metrocast.net)

603-435-8603

### Ships Historians

Harry T. Andersen

[htajma@att.net](mailto:htajma@att.net)

847-336-2151

### Ships Storekeeper

Dennis (Shorty) Cyr

[shortybm3@yahoo.com](mailto:shortybm3@yahoo.com)

203-753-6220

### Reunion Coordinators:

David and Rhonda Dortch

870-236-3725

[tazrhondave@yahoo.com](mailto:tazrhondave@yahoo.com)



★ ★ ★ Welcome Aboard ★ ★ ★



## Recently Located Shipmates

Ervin Pawlak, MM3, 619 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46324, On board 11/67-7/71. E-Mail Address: [somoan14@yahoo.com](mailto:somoan14@yahoo.com)

James Heath, MMFN, (Ret. LCDR, 275 Grandview Dr., Sneads Ferry, NC 28460, On Board 3/76-6/77. E-Mail Address: [james\\_heath@hotmail.com](mailto:james_heath@hotmail.com)

Charles Allen, LT, 5 Capitan Street, Hanahan, SC 29410, 843-553-2090

Jack Rook, BT3, 508 Northway Rd., Williamsport, PA 17701. On board 6/69-1973

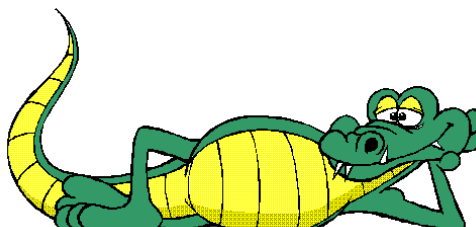
Paul Peraino, 3042 N. Nordica Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634-4741, E-Mail Address: [bsapaul1@yahoo.com](mailto:bsapaul1@yahoo.com)

Charles Schreiner, SFP3, 361 Ridge Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, On Board 1957-60. E-Mail Address: [ceschreine@gmail.com](mailto:ceschreine@gmail.com)

David Shader, HMC, 8705 E. Friendship Way, Hereford, AZ 85615, On board 1/68-1/71. E-Mail Address: [sunnyacres113@yahoo.com](mailto:sunnyacres113@yahoo.com)

Forrest Short, BT2, 7560 Addler, Holland, OH 43528, On board: 7/1/70-12/12/74

Michael Schneider, LTJG, 1866 Lynnfield Dr., Annapolis, MD On Board 10/61 - ??



## Recent Address Changes to the Ships Muster List

Lyle F. Janes, YN3, 5023 Hidden Pines Ct., Midland, MI 48640, 989-486-3677  
James Smith, FT3. New Mailing Address: 99 Old Mill Lane, Heathsville, VA 22437-4053  
Bill Sims, DC3. New Mailing Address: 400 Bent Tree Dr., Apt. #1b, Fairfield, OH 45014  
Chris Rose, HT2, New mailing address: 1210 Park Ln., Brandenburg, KY 40108-1246  
Martin Crowl MS1. New E-Mail Address: [popsandpenuts@gmail.com](mailto:popsandpenuts@gmail.com)  
Charles Race, SOG3. New Mailing Address: 8178 No. Wiley Post Way, Hernando, FL 34442, 352-201-4473. New E-Mail Address: [queenofjacks@embargmail.com](mailto:queenofjacks@embargmail.com)  
Leo Hernandez, HM3. New Mailing Address: 1368 E. Mitchell Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85014  
Dave Brusky, EM3, New Mailing Address: 741 Edison Ave., Janesville, WI 53546  
Bruce Czarnetski, EMFN, New E-Mail Address: [qcsteel@q.com](mailto:qcsteel@q.com)  
Mary Forton New Phone Number: 231-271-6687  
Richard Pratt, SN, New Phone Number: 814-725-3674  
John Reed, SH3, New Mailing Address: Garnet Valley, PA 19060. New E-Mail Address: [johnreed2112@comcast.net](mailto:johnreed2112@comcast.net)  
Don Rhine, FTG2, New E-Mail Address: [donftg2@peoplepc.com](mailto:donftg2@peoplepc.com)  
Bill Scott, EM2, New E-Mail Address: [scottwilliams@bellsouth.net](mailto:scottwilliams@bellsouth.net)  
Robert Shober, BT3. New Address: 6140 27th Street E, Ellenton, PA 34222  
David Brusky, EM3. New Phone Number: 608-449-9201  
James Smith, FT3. New Phone Number: 804-453-7052  
Larry Smith, MM2. New E-Mail Address: [leslas68@hotmail.com](mailto:leslas68@hotmail.com)  
Tom Wagner, YN3. New E-Mail Address: [tfwagner@wisincoh.com](mailto:tfwagner@wisincoh.com)



## Paid Association Members for 2009-2010

As of December 20, 2010 we now have 157 paid members

### Become a Member of the Ships Association

As you can imagine any group or association such as ours requires funds. The funds are used primarily for paying the costs of the Website (server fees, registration of our .com address), mailing out the newsletter to all paying dues members (printing, postage), general mailings up-front cost of upcoming reunion and postage. Our primary source of revenue are the bi-annual dues of \$25.00. To become a member of the USS Plymouth Rock Association complete the Application for Membership which can be found in the Ships Website on the Links Page or call/write/e-mail either my self or Paul Mohawk and we will send you an application.

The 2010-2012 dues are now due, please send dues to Paul Mohawk, Treasurer. Make checks payable to USS Plymouth Rock Association. Dues are payable on a bi-annual basis (every two years) at \$25.00 and are due on the year of the reunion (are due on an even year 2004, 2006, 2008, etc). *Should a member or prospective member pay at any other time, dues will be credited from the preceding even year.* **All dues paying members receive the Newsletter three times a year by US Mail.** Paul Mohawk's address is: 5558 Canyon Lands Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76137

**If your name does not appear on this list and you have paid your dues, please let Paul Mohawk know as soon as possible. His e-mail address is [pshawks@charter.net](mailto:pshawks@charter.net)**

Adam, Ian	Andersen, Harry	Alardyce, John	Anstett, William	Baldwin, Brad
Balf, Priscilla	Bell, Joe	Bellingham, Paul II	Bena, Joe	Bentheimer, Glenn
Bergeron, Richard	Bierce, George	Bild, Bob	Black, Robert C.	Britt, Ben
Brown, Alvin G.	Brusky, David	Brunton, Thomas	Buchanan, Richard	Buiak, Peter Jr.
Caldwell, Tim	Cartwright, Richard	Casillas, Greg	Clark, Nick	Clark, Robert

Comstock, Ed	Conboy, Bill	Conklin, Robert T	Conroy, Michael	Crowl II, Martin C.
Cuffey, Arvell	Cummings, Bob	Cummings, Steve	Cypher, Hal	Cyr, Dennis
Czarnetski, Bruce	Czarnetski, Jon	Dailey, Ronald J.	Dalfonzo, Sam	Dawson, Kenneth E.
Derry, Thomas K.	DiFranco, Joseph	Dortch, David	Dushane, David	Dussault, Andrew
Edwards, Maurice	Eldridge, Marguerite	Farneski, Robert	Fisher, Jack	Fisher, Jay
Formaro, Frank	Forton, Mary	Freeman, James	Furman, Herbert III	Gallagher, Edward
Gee, James	Goodman, William	Greco, Charliene	Guertin, Jerry	Hart, Ed.
Hartson, George	Haws, Joe	Haynie, Bill	Helledy, David	Hickson, Thomas W., Sr
Hicks, Richard	Hill, Edward Jr.	Hopper, Richard	Howland, John	Hyatt, Walter
Ishmael, Harry	Jacques, Doug	Jennings, Seeley	Jepson, Norm	Joyce, Ed.
Kane, Thomas	Kaderka, Leonard	King, Ronald	Kluczinsky, Andy	Krolak, Ray
Kuhns, Jimmy	Lamay, Roger	Larson, Jerry	Lavallee, Leo	Lee, Thomas P.
Lillig, Bernie F	Logan, Ben	Luttrell, James	Macomber, Brandon	Mathis, Richard
McCully, Wade Sr.	Means, Carlon	Miller, Dale	Miller, Ronald	Miskelly, Francis
Mohawk, Paul	Musella, Rocco	Nichols, Bob	O'Neill, Thomas	Pihl, Walter C.
Power, Rand	Provencal, Bill	Purvis, Anthony	Pyle, Ted	Ramondetta, Vic
Reed, John F.	Rhine, Don	Richardson, Dale	Ringer, Joseph E.	Robertson, Allen
Robinson, Jim	Roe, Lawrence "Ed"	Rose, Christopher	Safford, Richard	Savage, David
Scott, Bill	Shanahan, Robert	Shewchuk, Richard	Shober, Robert	Sims, Bill
Smith, James	Smith, Larry E.	Snider, Lester	Stackhouse, Norman	Stark, Jr., Peter A.
Stull, John III	Swart, Mike	Swathwood, David	Swearingen, Ron	Tacinelli, Jerry
Tesh, Sam	Thibodeau, Doug	Toungette, Mike	Tunstall, Van	Viaene, Lois
Wagner, Thomas F.	Walker, Gerald M.	Warwick, Robert	Watkins, Richard P.	Watson, Ernest
Watts, Richard A.	Whittle, David	Ziemba, James	Larkin, Chuck	Pratt, Richard
Flanagan, Mike	Morton, Jack	Perino, Paul	Betts, Roger	Whitlock, Jerry S
Robertson, Allan	Pawlak, Ervin	Hernandez, Leo	Sandlin, Richard	Allen, Charles
Rook, James	Short, Forrest	Schneider, Michael		



## Mail Call



Received e-mail from James Smith, HT3, Heathsville, VA 22437-4053 "Bill, thanks. I have trying to find a Mr. Maxwell who served between 1960 and 1964. He was division officer of the guns and fire control or more



simply 3rd division. He was a really good officer and the last time I saw him was in Baltimore in fall of 67. We were both pharmaceutical salesmen. I simply have lost touch since 1967. Is there a roster list of all enlisted and officers who have served over the years. I sure would like to regain contact. A little bio on me. I was discharged from the Navy in August of 1963 and re-enlisted in 1976 as a E-6 on an APG program and served until 1996. Finished as E-8 MRCS. Loved it. last 4 years really dragged. Was hell when peace broke out. But anyway am enjoying the pension and Tri-care." His e-mail address is: [misterpeppers@hotmail.com](mailto:misterpeppers@hotmail.com)

■ Received an e-mail from Bill Sims, DC3, Fairfield, OH 45014, on board 11/55 - 9/59. "I would like for some one to let me know anything about , Larry Alcorn DC3, R division, also any info on Alan Napier DC1 R division". Bills e-mail address is [willbillsims@fuse.net](mailto:willbillsims@fuse.net)

■ Received an e-mail from Gerry Holden, YN2, Franklinville, NC, on board 9/69-6/70 "When I was aboard the "Rock" in 69-70, was the ship a member of Phibron 8 or Amphibious Squadron 9? I am getting to old to remember. Thanks Bill, Gerry Holden, YN2" His e-mail address is [holden@embarqmail.com](mailto:holden@embarqmail.com)

■ Received an e-mail from Andy Dussault, DC2, St. Johnsbury, VT on board 5/60-1/63 "I'll never forget the Cuban Crisis. On my 24th birthday - Oct. 24, 1962 - many of us were extended for one year. I had two and one half months to go. I was so proud that we finally had a president who told the Russians to get out of the area, or else." His e-mail address is [boundary@kingcon.com](mailto:boundary@kingcon.com)

■ Received an e-mail from Charles Schreiner, SFP3, Pasadena, MD, on board 1957-60. "Looking for Bruce Lehman, really enjoyed the music we played in the shop. Also, going to San Juan and the Med." His E-Mail Address is [ceschreine@gmail.com](mailto:ceschreine@gmail.com)





Photo contributed by Captain Roger Betts. Picture taken sometime in 1973 or 74



## Court Rules Stolen Valor Act Unconstitutional

August 20, 2010  
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. -- A three-year-old federal law that makes it a crime to falsely claim to have received a medal from the U.S. military is unconstitutional, an appeals court panel in California ruled Tuesday.

The decision involves the case of Xavier Alvarez of Pomona, Calif., a water district board member who said at a public meeting in 2007 that he was a retired Marine who received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. Alvarez was indicted in 2007. He pleaded guilty on condition that he be allowed to appeal on First Amendment grounds. He was sentenced under the Stolen Valor Act to more than 400 hours of community service at a veterans hospital and fined \$5,000.

Related story: [Judge Rules Stolen Valor Act Illegal](#)

A panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with him in a 2-1 decision Tuesday, agreeing that the law was a violation of his free-speech rights. The majority said there's no evidence that such lies harm anybody, and there's no compelling reason for the government to ban such lies.

The dissenting justice insisted that the majority refused to follow clear Supreme Court precedent that false statements of fact are not entitled to First Amendment protection.

The act revised and toughened a law that forbids anyone to wear a military medal that wasn't earned. The measure sailed through Congress in late 2006, receiving unanimous approval in the Senate.




## Comments


Aug 25, 2010 12:44:06 AM

 This is so disturbing! Our men and women go in harms way for our protection. To have individuals fabricate

• Aug 25, 2010 1:30:26 AM

 I'm appalled by this judge's ruling! Leave it to a California judge to pull this crap! Those individuals that would lie about military

Aug 25, 2010 1:51:55 AM

 I'm a former Marine who served in Vietnam and I find it a shame that some folks have to say they have received the CMH. The world is full of wannabe's. I got the good conduct medal and I'm darn proud of that. Semper Fi Marines, past and present.

The comments made on the blog were all similar, this is just plain bull shit. Bill Provencal, Secretary



"The Five Most Dangerous Things in the US Navy"

A Seaman saying, "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying, "Trust me, sir..."

A Lieutenant JG saying, "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying, "I was just thinking..."

A Chief chuckling, "Watch this sh\*\*..."



Poster images contributed by Tom Wagner, YN3

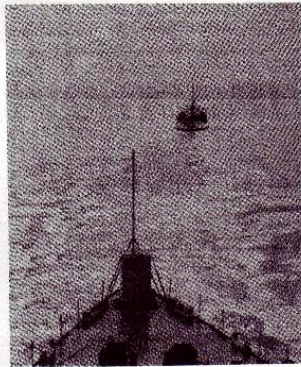


# Plymouth Rock Returns from Arctic Area

## LSD's Rushmore, San Marcos Still Operating in Far North

The Plymouth Rock returned to Norfolk August 20 following her second trip to the Arctic in the last two months.

The Force ship left to take part in the DEWLine and SUNECS supply operations. She returned to Norfolk later that month to pick up more supplies and equipment and left again July 25. During this time she steamed nearly 15,000 miles. At various times during her northern operations, lookouts spotted more than 100 icebergs near the ship at one time.

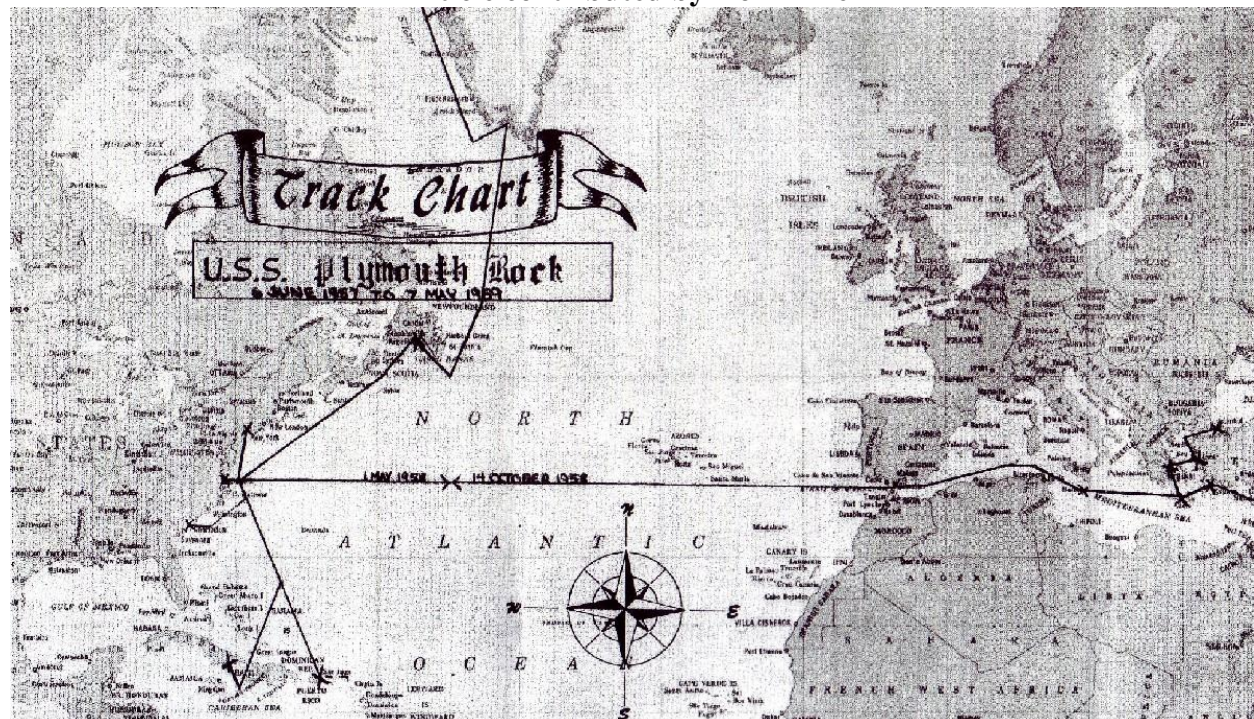


**IN ADDITION** to offloading thousands of pounds of equipment at distant Arctic outposts, the Force LSD was called on to make emergency hull repairs to the cargo ship SS Rutgers Victory at Thule, Greenland.

On the return trip to the NavPhiBase the ship received the following message from RADM Roy Gano, MSTC Commander for the Atlantic area: "Plymouth Rock's performance during the period she was assigned to MSTC Arctic operations was most satisfactory. Your ability to cope with unforeseen operational problems, including emergency repairs to SS Rutgers Victory at Thule, noted and appreciated. Well done."

**IN ANOTHER MESSAGE** to the ship, VADM John M. Will, Commander of the Military Sea Transportation Service, stated: "I have just learned of the exceptionally fine job done by the Plymouth Rock in repairing hull of Rutgers Victory at Thule. My thanks and appreciation. In fact all Amphibious Force ships and commanders are giving their usual top notch performance."

Article contributed by Ron Miller



The Track Chart was maintained and contributed by Ron Miller, EN3 during his tour on the Plymouth Rock. He says the chart is accurate, but the number of cruises to the Caribbean he does not remember,



the ship did two trips to the Artic Circle. See the article above. (I can vouch for these, since I was on the ship at the same time. Bill Provencal)



## Ships Reunion, Charleston, SC, September 2010

### Reunion Re-cap

### Attendees

Dale and Blanche Richardson	John Stull	Jack and Barbara Morton
David and Rhonda Dortch	Bill and Linda Provencal	Tom and Jackie Wagner
Roger and Ellen Lamay	George Bierce and Lisa Petersens	Richard and Hazel Hopper
Ron and Verna Dailey	Charles and Annie Allen	Jon and Kathy Czarnetski
Bruce and Karen Czarnetski	Don and Barbara Rhine	Seeley and Bernadette Jennings
James and Cyndi Freeman	Paul and Sheryl Mohawk	John and Kay Reed
Richard Sandlin and daughter Cindy Stout	Dennis and Joyce Cyr	Bob and Elaine Nichols
Norm and Bev. Jepson	Walt and Betty Hyatt	Chuck Larkin
Jack Rook	Mary Forton	Marguerite Eldridge
Richard Pratt	Robert and Barbara Warwick and Bonnie Johnson	Roger and Sally Betts
Bill and Lynn Haynie	Bill and Mary Ann Scott	Paul and Patricia Peraino
Jerry and Cassie Walker		

**I would like to express my appreciation to David and Rhonda Dortch, Reunion Coordinators for all the work they did in making this a most successful reunion. Without all their effort, this reunion would not have been as well organized and as much fun to attend.**



last reunion.

**Day 1:** After settling into our rooms at the Quality Inn, the reunion began with registration which turned out to be very busy for those of us working the tables in getting information updated for the ships Muster List, collecting dues, collecting money for the programs signed up for and having applications completed for new members. That evening we attended a Welcoming Buffet at the Point Grill to mingle with old shipmates and catch up on what had transpired since the



**Day 2:** Most of us left for Patriots Point to tour the USS Yorktown, CV10. The Yorktown began life as the Bon Home Richard, and later renamed in honor of the first carrier Yorktown CV5, lost in the battle of Midway. The present



**Yorktown was commissioned in April 1943 and served in the Pacific offensive that led to victory in 1945. After a introduction of the ship we were free to roam where ever we wanted. Some went below decks to the living spaces, many of us went to the flight deck and bridge. We then had lunch in the Chief's mess on board the ship..**



**In the afternoon we boarded a bus for a narrated tour of old Charleston. This gave us a idea of where what was located if we returned to Charleston on our own. In the evening we retreated to the Hospitality Room for some beers and sea stories.**

**Day 3: We split up today, with some of us going to Fort Sumter, where the opening shots of the Civil War were fired on April 15, 1861. The rest of us went to Magnolia Plantation and Gardens where we did the garden walk**

**and took a tram tour of former rice fields that have been converted to the exotic Audubon Swamp. We then had a guided tour of the Magnolia Plantation House. In the evening we had more beers and told more exaggerated sea stories of our times on the P Rock.**

**Day 4: We all boarded a bus for the former Charleston Navy Yard to visit the raised confederate submarine**



**Hunley. The sub was raised in 2000 after having been submerged for over a century. The Hunley is housed in its 90,000 gallon conservation tank. Artifacts found during excavation of the submarine are also displayed. After visiting the Hunley, we then went to the Lone Sailor Memorial for a Memorial Service for those shipmates known to us who were no longer with**

**us. That afternoon we had our Business Meeting where reports were given, we then discussed where and where and**



**when our next reunion would be held, officers were elected and the meeting adjourned. In the evening we attended our Ships Banquet where we honored our three Plank Owners, Richard Sandlin, QMC retired, Richard Hopper, BTC retired and Robert Warwick MM2. A special presentation was given to David and Rhonda Dortch for their effort in putting this reunion together. Our guest speaker was Mike Lussier, curator of the American Military Museum in Charleston. He spoke about**



and showed a WWI Navy uniform and also showed a Navy enlisted flat hat. He had some other military coats and memorabilia from their museum. He also described some of the battle at Pearl Harbor and the Omaha Beach landing by Allied Forces on D-Day.

The following election of officers and appointments were made as follows: President-Tom Wagner; Vice President-David Dortch; Secretary-Bill Provencal, Treasurer-Paul Mohawk, Reunion Coordinators-David and Rhonda Dortch; Storekeeper-Denis (Shorty) Cyr and Ships Historian-Harry Andersen.

Reunion for 2012. Two possibilities were brought forward: A Ships Cruise for 5 days to be held in early October or a reunion at Valley Forge which would be held in late September.

More pictures of the reunion are available on the ships website at [www.ussplymouthrock.com](http://www.ussplymouthrock.com)

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#### Shipmates:

Well we dropped anchor on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Charleston, SC for 4 days of liberty. We were not disappointed! The weather, sights, food and liquid refreshment were abundant. It was a great time for all. It was that time when we could get together, share memories, look at pictures of once lean young men and remember shipmates who have passed.

Our next liberty is scheduled for September or October 2012. Location is yet to be determined, but I can assure you, Dave and Rhonda Dortsch, have already begun making inquiries. Dave and Rhonda have planned our last 2 reunions and have done a wonderful job.

The newsletter will keep you informed and if you couldn't make the Charleston liberty, maybe you can make the next one. Bill Provencal, Secretary/Webmaster, will keep you informed. Remember, you can always get the current scuttlebutt on [www.ussplymouthrock.com](http://www.ussplymouthrock.com).

See you in 2012

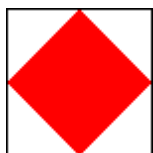
Tom Wagner

President

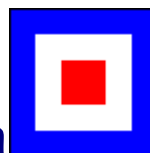
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## 2012 Ships Reunion

The 2012 Ships Reunion will be held at Valley Forge, PA, with a tentative date of the third week in September, 2012. We will have more information on this in the April 2011 newsletter, as well as on the website. David and Rhonda Dortch are chairing the Reunion Committee.



Navy Trivia



#### Smoking lamp

The exact date and origin of the smoking lamp has been lost. However, it probably came into use during the 16th Century when seamen began smoking on board vessels. The smoking lamp was a safety measure. It was devised mainly to keep the fire hazard away from highly combustible woodwork and

gunpowder. Most navies established regulations restricting smoking to certain areas. Usually, the lamp was located in the forecabin or the area directly surrounding the galley indicating that smoking was permitted in this area. Even after the invention of matches in the 1830s, the lamp was an item of convenience to the smoker. When particularly hazardous operations or work required that smoking be curtailed, the unlighted lamp relayed the message. "The smoking lamp is lighted" or "the smoking lamp is out" were the expressions indicating that smoking was permitted or forbidden.

The smoking lamp has survived only as a figure of speech. When the officer of the deck says "the smoking lamp is out" before drills, refueling or taking ammunition, that is the Navy's way of saying "cease smoking."

### **Head**

The use of the term "head" to refer to a ship's toilet dates to at least as early as 1708, when Woodes Rogers (English privateer and Governor of the Bahamas) used the word in his book, *A Cruising Voyage Around the World*. Another early usage is in Tobias Smollett's novel of travel and adventure, *Roderick Random*, published in 1748. "Head" in a nautical sense referring to the bow or fore part of a ship dates to 1485. The ship's toilet was typically placed at the head of the ship near the base of the bowsprit, where splashing water served to naturally clean the toilet area.

### **Eight Bells**

This measure of time originated in the days when a half-hour glass was used to tell off the four-hour watches. Each time the sand ran out, the ship's boy, whose job it was to reverse the glass, struck a bell to show he was attending to his business. Thus, eight times he turned the glass, and eight times struck the bell

### **Binnacle List**

Many novice sailors, confusing the words 'binnacle' and barnacle, have wondered what their illnesses had to do with crusty growths found on the hull of a ship. Their confusion is understandable. Binnacle is defined as the stand or housing for the ship's compass located on the bridge. The term binnacle list, in lieu of sick list, originated years ago when ship corpsmen used to place a list of sick on the binnacle health. After long practice, it came to be called binnacle list

### **Chit**

One tradition carried on in the Navy is the use of the chit. It is a carry over from the days when Hindu traders used slops of paper called chitti for money, so they wouldn't have to carry heavy bags of gold and silver. British sailors shortened the word to chit and applied it to their mess vouchers. Its most outstanding use in the Navy today is for drawing pay and a form used for requesting leave and liberty. But the term is currently applied to almost any piece of paper from a pass to an official letter requesting some privilege.

### **Crow's Nest**

The crow (the bird not the rating badge) was an essential part of the early sailors navigation equipment. These land-lubbing fowl were carried on board to help the navigator determine where the closest land lay when the weather prevented sighting the shore visually. In case of poor visibility, a crow was released and the navigator plotted a course that corresponded with the birds because it invariably headed toward land. The crow's nest was situated high in the main mast where the look-out stood watch. Often he shared this lofty perch with a crow or two since the crows' cages were kept there; hence the crow's nest.



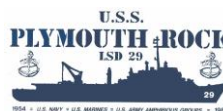
**Ships Store Items**



The following items are offered for sale through the Ships Store. All orders are handled through Shorty Cyr, BM3, 119 Pinecrest Drive, Waterbury, CT 06708, Phone #203-753-6220, e-mail at: [shortybm3@yahoo.com](mailto:shortybm3@yahoo.com) All orders must be accompanied by a check. Checks must be made out to the USS Plymouth Rock Association. You can click on any image to obtain a larger view of the item.



Plymouth Rock Mug. Price is \$15.00 includes shipping and handling.



Bumper Stickers. Price is \$2.80 includes shipping and handling.

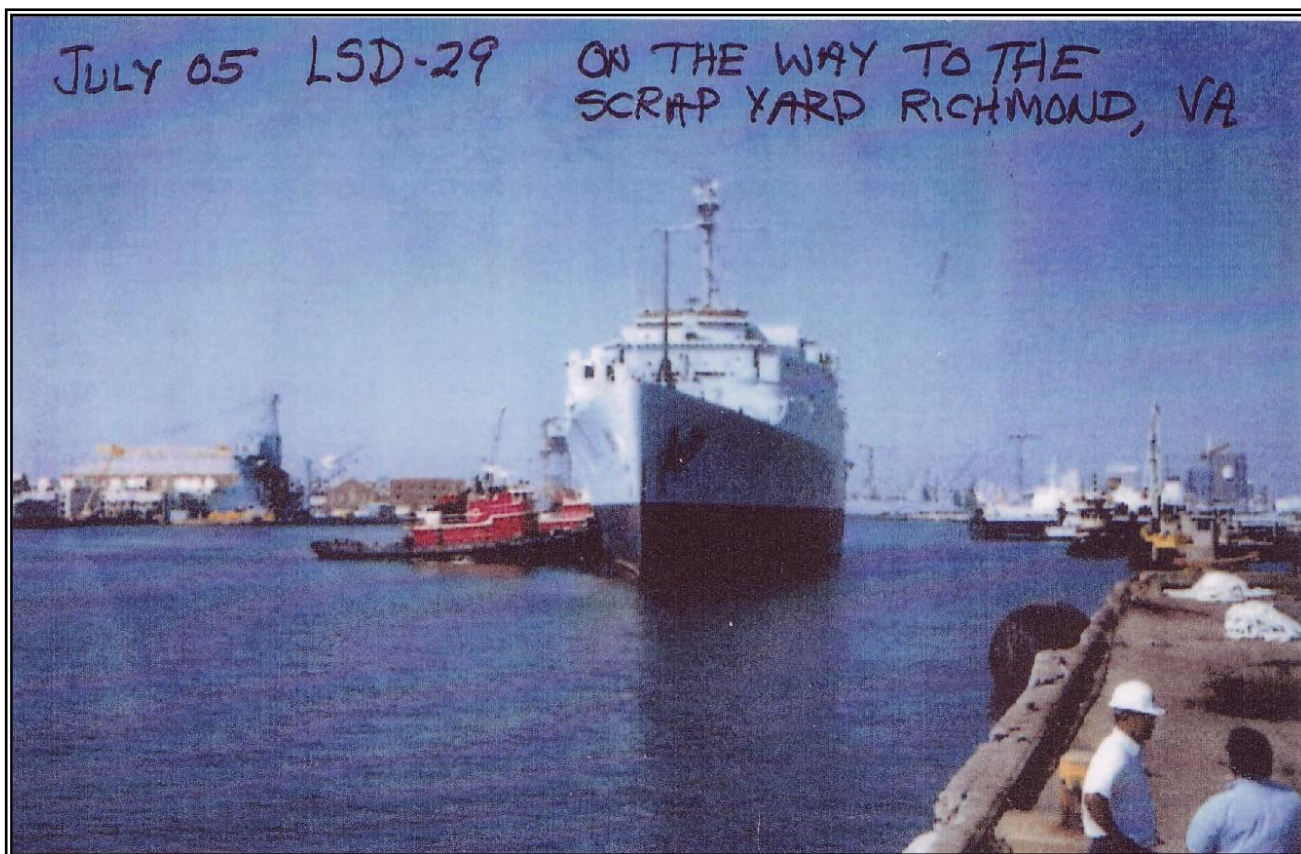
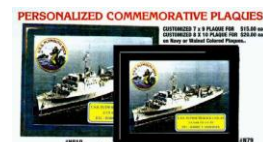


Ships Patch. Price is \$8.75 includes shipping and handling.

Plymouth Rock Cap. Price is \$15.00 this price includes shipping and handling.



Personalized Commemorative Plaques. Price is dependent on size, 7x9 is \$15.00 + \$5.00 shipping, 8 x 10 is \$20.00 + \$5.00 shipping. To order contact Shorty Cyr, BM3, he will send you an order form.



Plymouth Rock underway for the last time. Photo contributed by Harry T. Andersen, BTC



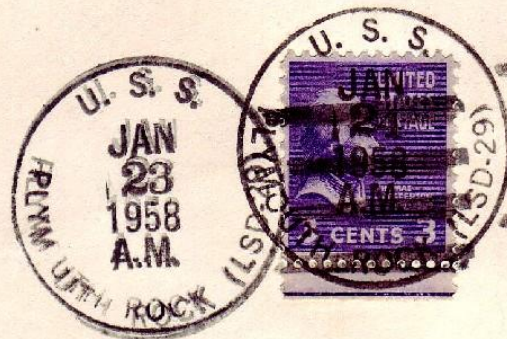
• AUG 67

U. S. S. PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29)  
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**UNITED STATES NAVY**



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for  
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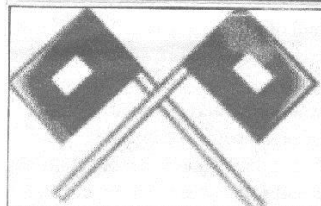
The above images were contributed by Ron Swearingen, DC3. The PRock is tied up at the Army Piers in





## [HERE'S WHY]

RATING	DATE OF CHANGE	DISPOSITION
Boiler Tender (BT)	1 October 1996	Merged with Machinist Mate (MM)
Cryptologic Technician (Operations) (CTO)	1 March 2006	Merged with Info. Systems Tech (IT)
Data Systems Technician (DS)	1 October 1998	Merged into either ET or FT, as applicable
Disbursing Clerk (DK)	1 October 2005	Merged with Personnel Specialist (PS)
Electronic Warfare Technician (EW)	1 October 2003	Merged with Cryptologic Tech. CT
Mess Management Specialist (MS)	15 January 2004	Changed to Culinary Specialist (CS)
Ocean Systems Technician (OT)	1 October 2005	Merged with Sonar Technician (ST)
Postal Clerk (PC)	1 January 2010	Merged with Logistics Specialist (LS)
Personnelman (PN)	1 October 2005	Changed to Personnel Specialist (PS)
Signalman (SM)	4 November 2003	Rating Disestablished
Storekeeper (SK)	1 October 2009	Changed to Logistics Specialist (LS)
Torpedoman's Mate (TM)	1 October 2007	Merged with Gunner's Mate (GM)



Signalman Rating Emblem

Under discussion by the navy is a merger of the Hull Technician (HT), Damage Controlman (DC), and Machinery Repairman (MR) ratings into a new Repair Technician rating, but the navy has not announced any date for this merger. Damage Control had been previously merged into Hull Technician and then reestablished as a separate rating in the past.

Another possible merger is a large one consisting of Fire Controlman, Electronics Technician, Gunner's

A possible new rating of Mechanical Engineering Technician would combine existing Gas Turbine Technician (Mechanical), Machinist's Mate (Surface), and Engineman. Similarly, Gas Turbine Technician (Electrical) and Electrician's Mate may be combined into Electrical Engineering Technician.

The Interior Communications Electrician merger into Electrician's Mate may be cancelled and the IC rate disestablished instead because there are other ratings into which some IC sailors might be a better fit, including ET and other ratings.

Finally, another proposal under consideration would combine Logistics Specialist (Storekeepers and Postal Clerks), Ships Serviceman, and Culinary Specialist into two yet to be determined ratings divided

or even CREO-II ratings for which they are qualified. Among the ratings that are undermanned at the lower levels are: Cryptologic Technician, Electricians Mate, Electronics Technician, Fire Controlman, Fire Control Technician, Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical), Interior Communications Technician, Intelligence Specialist, Information Systems Technician, Master-at-Arms (which became a rating around 1973), Machinist Mate (Nuclear), Mineman, Missile Technician, and Sonar Technician.

Overmanned ratings include: Boatswains Mate, Culinary Specialist, Damage Controlman, Machinist Mate, Postal Clerk (those not merged into Logistics Specialist), Personnel Specialist, Ships Serviceman, and Yeoman.

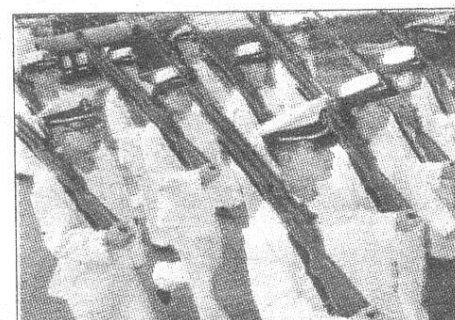
Did you ever wonder why Naval Academy students are called "midshipmen," when students at other military academies are "cadets"?

"Midshipmen" originally referred to the youngsters aboard British navy vessels who were in training to become officers, according to the U.S. Navy publication Origin of Navy Terminology. Their primary duties included carrying orders from the officers, quartered in the stern, to the crew, quartered in the fo'c'sle.

The repeated scampering through the middle part of the ship earned them the name "midshipmen," or "middie."

Naval Academy and Navy ROTC students are still called "midshipmen" because, just like their historical counterparts, they are in training to become officers in the sea services.

Of course, back in the days of sail, mids could begin their naval careers at the age of 8.



Both of these articles were contributed by Harry T. Andersen, BTC

