



THE FOG HORN



I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU

LIGHTSHIP NOT IN
CORRECT POSITION

Volume 2 Issue 25 Newsletter of The U.S. Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association
Reunion 2009

Writings of The President

Larry Ryan

PRESIDENT

- Larry Ryan

1st VICE PRESIDENT

- George (Skip) Coleman

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

- Bob Gubitosi

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- Rick Gryder

- Peter Marx

VETERAN AFFAIRS:

- Bernie Byrnes

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- Bob Gubitosi

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- Dennis Cosmo, Past Pres.

Web Master

- Rick Gryder

Chaplain

- Rev. Adrian Van Houten

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My Brother Lightship Sailors, Members and Friends:

Welcome to our 2009 Reunion Edition of The Fog Horn. Since our last edition we have added a new department chairman, Ron Janard as our new Chief Historian. This slot has been vacant since the fall of 2004, the vacancy became more than apparent last fall when we opened our museum. Ron brings to us a strong interest in Coast Guard History, with an emphasis on Lightships and Lightship Sailors. Ron will be working with Pete Marx, LSA Photographer, in Concord as we start recording our Oral Histories.

For those of you with Internet Access, please check out Your Website (owned by The LSA) being administered by Rick Gryder, Webmaster. For those of you without access to the internet, ask one of your grandkids or neighbors to help. One of the newest additions has pictures of us when we were young and as Rick says, “.. *really were Lightship Sailors*”. Click on www.uscglightsailsors.org then click on ‘*all things lightship*’, then scroll down to ‘*USCG Lightship Sailors*’. More pictures are being added on a regular basis, as are other subjects, so check back often. We can use more pictures from your active duty time, but we can not use pictures that have been copied on a machine. If you have pictures to share and don’t have a way to scan to them to us, mail them and they will be returned (mailing address on front cover of this newsletter).

Plans are coming together for our 11th annual reunion, this year will be our first in California. Please see a special announcement on page 6, for more details and information for your consideration. In addition to the information on page 6 for Friday, Saturday we will be touring Base Alameda and the newest and largest CGC under Home Land Security, if it’s in port! Should it be out, we will have access to other cutters. After the morning activities, we will be able to spend some time at Jack London Square before the annual memorial service is conducted, this year aboard the Relief WLV 605. Opposite the 605 sits the FDR Presidential yacht, at one time a Coast Guard Cutter. For those interested in history, the tour is certainly well worth the expense.

For those among us that would rather bypass the Saturday activities, The Willows Shopping Center is close by the hotel (I hope everyone joins us on the bus tour).

Please plan on attending the annual business meeting on Thursday, where we will vote on the location for our meeting in 2010. We have several locations that have invited us to consider their location and have provided details on their facilities. Your elected officers will also present their reports on their areas of responsibilities.

As in the past, we will have a fund raiser in the form of an auction of items donated. Our Auctioneer, ‘Colonel’ Adrian Van Houten will close out the banquet with his very entertaining show, then he changes hats and will conduct a mini-chapel service on Sunday morning as we depart back to our homes.

Your elected officers and directors all join me in encouraging everyone to attend the 11th annual reunion and general membership meeting. If you have any doubt that a good time is had by all at our gatherings, a CD produced by Mary Lou Coleman is still available. The CD is also an excellent way to preserve these memories. Either check the back issues of this newsletter for the form, or contact me for the ordering information.

Keep a good Light. *Larry Ryan*

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

*2009 ANNUAL REUNION ... To be Held in
CONCORD, CA ... October 22, 23 & 24.*

Quick Overview of Basic Reunion Information to Help in your Planning!

Hotel: Concord Holiday Inn
1050 Burnett Ave
Concord, CA 94520

Reservations call: 1-925-687-5500

Our LSA Special Rates are: \$89.00 per night plus tax.

Rooms must be reserved under "USCG Lightship Sailors Association" block for special rate.

Make certain to say you are with the USCG Lightship Sailors Assn. to get the \$89.00 special rate. **Room Rates effective until October 1st, then they increase to \$129. Make hotel reservations direct with hotel.

NOTE: Directions to Hotel; I-680 North Exit 51 (Burnett Ave). Second driveway on right. NOTE: From San Francisco Airport The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) runs direct to Concord, \$7.00 per person, Call when passing Walnut Creek Station and Hotel Shuttle will meet you at the Concord Station. Car Rental available in Lobby

LSA Reunion Tentative Schedule:

Thursday October 22, 2009

07:00 am... Hospitality Room opens

08:00 am – 2:00 pm: LSA Registration in main lobby, receive ID Badge.

2:00 pm – 4:45 pm: Annual Membership Meeting. Room TBA

5:00 pm... LSA Social Gathering. Room TBA

Friday October 23, 2009

On your own-Free Day or suggested local tours. There will be several different groups, plan on joining with others.

Saturday October 24, 2009

9:00 AM... Buses **Depart** for CG Base Alameda

12:00 PM...Buses Depart for Jack London Square, WAL 605 Lightship

2:00 PM... Wreath laying ceremony, dockside WAL 605

3:00 pm... Buses Depart for Hotel.

5:00 pm... Annual Banquet Dinner with cash bar, in the Ball Room.

Note: As a courtesy to our guest speaker, the bar will be closed during his presentation.

The Hospitality room will remain open both days for those unable to attend our day trips, coffee & soda will be available.

FEE: All of the above are included in the low \$ 100.00 per head fee.

Reunion Functions:

Please fill in the attached reunion form. Enclose this form, with your check or money order, made out to the:

Please mail to our LSA Treasurer:

"USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc."

Fred A Pelger

1107 East Saguaro Drive

Globe, AZ 85501-2047

Note: Unless otherwise noted, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are on your own. Saturday of course, is the Banquet Dinner.

Sunday October 25, 2009

09:00 am ... After the official program closes, Southern Gospel Country Style Music by LSA Members, Adrian and Sharon Van Houten. Please join us for this wonderful Mini Chapel Service

“The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed-and hence clamorous to be led to safety- by menacing it with endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.”

Henry Louis Mencken

REGISTRATION FORM

USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS Association, Inc. [501(c) (3) Corp]
2009 REUNION to be held in Concord, CA. October 22, 23 & 24.

MEMBERS

NAME: _____

USCG LIGHTSHIP VETERAN:
SHIP NAME / HULL # _____ & Years _____

Aboard
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

LSA MEMBER:
GROUP MEMBER:
LIFE MEMBER:
NEW MEMBER:

Other Info. you may wish to add:

REUNION FEES:

DUES for 2010
(optional at this time)

Three Membership Levels:
Full @ \$25.00 ea.

NAMES: Member & Guest(s) @ \$100.00 ea.

NAMES: Group @ \$50.00
Life Time @ \$300.00 ea.

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

REUNION FEES TOTAL: \$ _____

DUES TOTAL: \$ _____

Note; Dues Period: Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31

Please fill in the above reunion registration form. Enclose this form, with your check or money order, made out to the:

"USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOCIATION, Inc."

Please mail to our LSA Treasurer:

Fred A Pelger
1107 East Saguaro Drive
Globe, AZ 85501-2047

The USCG Lightship Sailors Association, Inc. is a "not for profit" 501-(c)(3) Corporation. ALL Dues & Donations are Tax Deductible.

NOTE: Please make ALL HOTEL Reservations Directly with the HOTEL...

Holiday Inn 1-925-687-5500. The LSA Has a special rate of \$89.00 per night. You must state "Lightship Sailors."

Secretary's Report

*A Message from the Secretary and Membership Director
by Dave Orszak*

The President nominated Ron Janard as Historical Committee Chairman and the Board of Directors approved the nomination. Ron will assume the duties as the Association Historian. As our quota for voting board members is filled, Ron will sit on the Board as an appointed Committee Chairman, without a vote. Ron has accepted this position for the current term which expires October, 2010, at which time he has reserved the right to review the position.

Membership

2009 membership renewals again are progressing although we still have quite a few who have not renewed to date. Remember that 20% of the dues you pay go to support our historical endeavors. We currently have 169 paid members for 2009 including life memberships. For this year, there are seven new life members to date for a total of 27 life memberships. We have 14 new members this year. Seven members have been reported to have crossed the bar.

Just a reminder that the membership status of all members is on our website.

Go to ALL THINGS LIGHTSHIP,
then to LIGHTSHIP CREW LISTS,
then to LISTING by NAME.

The list is updated monthly.

Thanks to those of you who have already sent in your 2010 membership renewal dues. The 2010 Membership Cards will be sent out after the Reunion.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Dave Orszak

E-mail: pdorszak@comcast.net

Dave Orszak
7 Ridge Road
Palmer MA 01069-2258
413 283 2841

LSA HISTORIAN APPOINTED

The USCG Lightship Sailors Association Board of Directors, individually, are pleased to announce the appointment of Ron Janard as the official historian of The LSA.

Ron's father was a Coastie, serving out on The Cape.

Ron Janard attended the 10 annual reunion and general meeting in 2009, donating artifacts from LV 1 that he was instrumental in salvaging. He has documented and photographed Coast Guard functions and facilities, he also attended the decommissioning ceremonies of the last 36' rescue boat at Chatham Station. As indicated by his past involvement, he loves everything Coast Guard, Lightships and Lightship Sailors. He looks forward to assisting all of us in preserving our history.

LSA Board of Directors

Please make Ron welcomed in this very vital board position, and consider Ron as the official designee to receive all artifacts and photographs for our museum.

Larry Ryan, President and Chairman of the Board

A Short Sea Story

How do you get stationed on a lightship

In 1969 one of the best places to be stationed in the 12 District (Now the top of the Eleventh) was LBSTA Rio Vista Calif. several hundred miles of inland waterways to be patrolled. A/N to be maintained. Right in the middle of the state California. Over three thousand rental house boats, summer play land of southern California. If, you are single, 24 yrs of age, in the Coast Guard just over 4 yrs and finely making money. If you had any transit orders with words Vietnam in them, you were probably stationed at Rio Vista for at least two years. It was paradise. It was also a married billet station.

What does this have to do with Lightships? Lightship duty was usually a year, two if you wanted. The other thing that made lightship duty attractive was "Compensatory Leave" ! Anytime you spend duty isolated for more than two weeks you got time off. Our lightship, although it was stationed at the most westerly point of the San Francisco Ship channel, had these privies. Also after your time you usually got your 1 st. off your dream sheet.

One thing about the CG in '69 most districts like to hold on to the personnel that they had. It was also good for the people as you could have life outside the service. Being transferred in your district was common. The good thing about the CG was it was a small service and you ran into people you knew from time to time. Such was the case of my being transferred to the lightship. I was at YBI in San

Francisco picking up A/N supplies when I ran into a EN, from school. We swapped stories of what we were up to and where we were stationed. He was waiting for his ride to the Lightship. He informed me that he was up for rotation and how was Rio Vista? Then those derided word " I got married" a few months ago so I'm looking forward to a Lifeboat station. I had done my year or so at Rio Vista and on the way back to the station those words of " Compensatory leave" danced in my head. I only had less than a year left before signing up for 6 more. EN Bonuses were very good. They wouldn't dare move me before I reenlisted. Sure enough about three days later, after coffee break the EN1 wanted to talk. I had been on St George Reef Light station as a FN. It was 30 on 14 off. Comp leave! And he new it. The first words out of his mouth "you know this is a married billet".

Off to the lightship I went. I had never been attached to a ship, but had rode several ships to St George, the most dangerous light station on the west coast.

The Avoyol, the Gresham and the Comanche and some TAD. I could handle sea duty. Did I mention that you get a few extra dollars for sea pay, even if the ship you were on never went anywhere.

Ray Tims, EN 3 WLV 100/523 San Francisco

LIGHTSHIP OF THE QUARTER



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