



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

October 2011

Vol. 3 Issue 1, Fall 2011

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Thomas C. Hart Veterans Assoc. Officers 2011-13

President	Ron Koshko	EW1 (75-79)
VP	Dan Schubert	ETN3
Treasurer	Randy Groen	STG2 (73-76)
Secretary	Garry Collin	LT (86-89)
Historian	Andy Roberts	OS2 (81-85)
Storekeeper	John Ebata	BTFN (86-90)
Newsletter	Dave Neimeyer	LTJG (75-77)
Chaplain	Lee Edwardsen	STG2 (81-86)
Chairman	E. Scott Ruerup	OS2 (73-76)

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Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association Membership

Secretary Garry Collins reports 92 active members. 25 of the members' dues will expire at end of 2011. Visit the link to renew now! <http://www.thomaschart.org/id33.html>

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Reunion 2011

The 2011 Thomas C. Hart reunion was held Wednesday July 27th to Saturday July 30th, in Norfolk VA. Attendees could stay at either the Virginia Beach Hampton Inn or the adjacent LaQuinta Inn. Activities on Thursday included tours of NA Oceana, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and the Military Aviation Museum. On Thursday evening we drove out to the Chesapeake Grill on the Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel for a special dinner while watching the sun set on the bay. On Friday things continued at a fast pace with a tour of Norfolk Naval Station, with stops at several locations downtown, including Doumar's, the home of the original machine for making ice cream cones. For dinner on Friday, shipmates could chose between a dinner cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk or dinner at a Mystery Dinner Playhouse (where a Hart spouse solved the murder mystery!) On Saturday tours included a trip to Nauticus and the battleship Wisconsin. The reunion wrapped up with a dinner at the Breezy Point Officers Club.

One of the best moments at the final dinner was hearing Chad Wellborn tell the story of the decommissioning ensign from the Hart. As a young sailor he was assigned to take down the ensign at the decommissioning ceremony. When that task was completed, he found there was no one to give the ensign to, so he kept it. Later, as a fighter pilot he carried that ensign with him while flying combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.



More photos of the 2011 reunion, as well as other photos of the USS Thomas C. Hart and her crew can be found on the USS Thomas C. Hart FF-1092 Facebook group page, and on the USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association site <http://www.thomaschart.org>

Past Reunions

- Norfolk VA 28-31 July 2005
- Nashville TN 26-29 July 2007
- Charleston SC 12-13 June 2009
- Norfolk VA 28-31 July 2011

Site options for the 2013 reunion:

- Louisville, Kentucky
- Newport, Rhode Island
- Nashville, Tennessee

Let us know your site preference for the 2013 reunion

Notes on Louisville KY – from Garry Collins

In keeping with our plan to seek info on possible 2013 reunion cities, here is some info on Louisville, Kentucky for your consideration. I hosted a reunion for my submarine in 2004 and the guys loved the town. The town is very clean and there is lots to do. Hotels downtown are very nice. Rooms will probably be \$120 -\$140 a night (maybe a bit less if reunion planner negotiates). In 2004, I got rooms at the finest hotel on the river for \$99. If we back away from the river, other rooms would be somewhat less expensive. There are hotels near the airport but their price would be similar to downtown hotels. There are also a couple of hotels just across the river from downtown Louisville in Jeffersonville Indiana which may be a bit cheaper (you can see downtown Louisville from the hotels and it is a 5 minute ride to cross the bridge).

Downtown Hotels are convenient to most of the venues and are within walking distance (don't have to drive all over to have a great time). There's a bourbon walk beginning at the river and walking south to Broadway (bet you don't make it). Louisville is home to many great bourbons and there is one bar with 150 Kentucky bourbons. Louisville Slugger Field (home of Louisville AAA Bats) is also a few blocks east. Louisville slugger bat factory is downtown and has a fine museum. The steamboat Belle of Louisville docks downtown and is available for cruises. Fourth Street Live is an indoor downtown venue that has a ton of bars/restaurants. Interstates I64, I71, and I65 all have downtown exits, blocks from all the hotels and activity. There is a "free" downtown shuttle that will hit most of the big tourist attractions. If you are flying in, the airport is 12-15 min from downtown. Most hotels have shuttles. Another attraction is Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. Depending on when we have reunion, there could be horse racing and a day trip there is fun! Additionally, Louisville has been home to many famous celebrities; Muhammad Ali (I can take you by his childhood home if you like), Thomas Edison, Ned Beatty, Tom Cruise, Paul Hornung, Mitch McConnell, George Rogers Clark. Just across the bridge in southern Indiana, the Horseshoe Casino is available (20 minutes from downtown). If you wish to venture out of the city on day trips, I would recommend Mammoth Cave - two hours away or take the Kentucky Bourbon trail and visit the many bourbon distilleries in Kentucky. Just an hour east of Louisville is Lexington - nice drive and beautiful horse pastures and of course, Kentucky is famous for its thoroughbred horses. Check out the links at the bottom and Google Louisville to see much more! Let me know if you have any questions.

SOME LINKS TO LOUISVILLE WORTH LOOKING AT:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?gl=us&q=downtown+hotels+loc:near:Louisville>

This link shows some of the downtown hotels.

<http://www.churchilldowns.com/> Churchill Downs

<http://www.alicenter.org/Pages/default.aspx> Muhammad Ali Center

<http://www.derbymuseum.org/> Kentucky Derby Museum

<http://www.belleoflouisville.org/> Belle of Louisville

<http://www.sluggermuseum.org/> Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory

<http://www.fraziermuseum.org/> Frazier History Museum

Notes on Newport RI

Newport is home to the US Naval War College. Other attractions in Newport include mansions such as the Breakers and Rosecliff, historic buildings, beaches, and the scenic cliff walk. Newport is about 45 minutes from Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA, which holds the largest collection of World War II naval vessels. Summer rates for hotel rooms in downtown Newport can be extremely high, ranging from upwards of \$150 to more than \$200 a night. However, prices drop rapidly as distance increases. For example, hotels in Fall River average \$90 a night. One big advantage of holding our reunion in Newport is that it may allow us to attract more shipmates from the northeastern US.

Notes on Nashville TN

Nashville is home to the Grand Ole Opry, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and other bastions of country music. There's also the General Jackson show boat, which offers dinner cruises with entertainment. Hotel prices are reasonable, ranging from about \$100 a night. Nashville was host to the 2007 Thomas C. Hart reunion.

From Chairman E. Scott Ruerup

Ahoy Shipmates,

I had the distinct pleasure of being the President of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association for the past 2 years. There was a lot of hard work put in by a lot of our members. Special thanks to Steve and Dee Garcia for making virtually all of the Reunion arrangements, Garry Collins as always working endless hours on our Website and Ships Store and Randy Groen Treasurer for keeping us whole. They asked for nothing more than I quote the cable guy "Just get'er done". Well we did and it was by far in my opinion the best Reunion so far. Now we have to make sure each of the subsequent Reunions are even better.

My fellow Officers my thanks go out you for all you have done in the past and will continue to do in the future. I know that Ron Koshko has already taken the lead in preparing for the next Reunion in 2013. I will continue to work with Ron and the entire newly elected Officers to help our organization to continue to grow. But it is not just the job of the officers it is the job of each and every one of us to find and bring into the organization shipmates from our time on board this extraordinary Ship.

I want to congratulate the entire newly elected Officers: President Ron Koshko, VP Dan Schubert, Secretary/Webmaster Garry Collins, Treasurer Randy Groen, Historian Andrew Roberts, Chaplain Lee Edwardsen, Ship Store John Ebata, Newsletter David Neimeyer, and Chairmen E. Scott Ruerup

OS3 McFadden just dropped by to say Hello to me; I don't know if he realized how shocked I was he took the time. I just wish he would have been able to come to the dinner or hang out with us more. I look forward to seeing him at the next Reunion. OSC Bill and Ginny Elliot came to the dinner and it was great seeing them again. There is nothing like seeing Old Shipmates, we lived, worked, raised hell together and it is like we never left. So go out and find our shipmates and get them to the next Reunion.

Thanks again to all the Officers who made my time as President a truly great experience. Sincerely, E. Scott Ruerup; Chairman Thomas C. Hart FF/DE 1092 Veterans Assoc.

September 30th 2011, Financial Report Thomas C Hart Veterans Association

The last financial report was dated August 17th2009 and was presented to the membership in attendance at the reunion in Norfolk VA. At that time the ships treasury had a balance of \$832.28 that included \$5.00 that is in the Navy Credit Union. These numbers did not include money that was in the ships store account or the reunion account. The current balance is \$3032.28. Most of the increase is from the closing of the reunion account and transferring the money to ships treasury account.

Since the last report we have had the following income and expenses

	Income	Expenses
Dues	\$200.00	
Reunion		\$66.49
Website		\$39.90
Paypal Fees		\$ 2.05
Reunion account	\$2116.35	
Total	\$2316.35	\$108.44
Net gain		\$2207.91
Total in account as of July 17 th 2011		\$3032.28

Respectfully submitted July 30, 2011.

Receipts and account statements are available for review

Randy Groen, Treasurer

Thomas C Hart Veterans Association

Randygg@frontiernet.net

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John Ebata: ship's store account \$452.14

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Thomas C. Hart 2011 Reunion accounting – from Steve Garcia

NOTE: The format and details of this report were modified to fit the newsletter. The entire report should be available on the web site.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Year's total</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Year's total</u>
Opening Cash	\$1,556.00	Pre-registration	\$1,775.00
Total Income	\$7,463.45	Late registration	\$990.00
Total expenditures	\$6,903.06	Thurs War Birds	\$90.00
Net Cash Flow	\$560.39	Thurs VA Aquarium	\$50
Ending Balance:	\$2,116.39	Dinner on the Bay	\$102.00
		Fri Naval Base tour	\$1,372.00
		Spirit Cruise	\$1,625.00
		Mystery Dinner	\$360.00
		Sat Nauticus	\$80.00
		Sat Nauticus VIP	\$280.00
		Auction @ banquet	\$224.00
		Help Shipmate Fund	\$224.00

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Year's total</u>	<u>Misc Expenses</u>	<u>Year's total</u>
Vista Point Deposit	\$500.00	Check order	\$17.10
Vista Point Final Payment	\$1,360.00	Name badges	\$194.12
Spirit Deposit	\$478.00	Planning expenses	\$750.00
Spirit Final Payment	\$1,115.34	Trans/prkg exp "Spirit"	\$20.00
Naval Base Deposit	\$100.00	Spirit Picture	\$25.00
Naval Base Final Payment	\$1,434.00	Hospitality Room exp.	\$199.50
Mystery Dinner	\$358.00		
Nauticus Payment	\$150.00	<u>Refunds</u>	<u>Year total</u>
		4 individuals	\$702.00

WHERE ARE THE THOMAS C. HART DECK LOGS?

Deck logs of commissioned U.S. Navy ships from the earliest times through 1940 are in the Old Military and Civil Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20408 [Telephone (202) 501-5385,web-site <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington/>]. Logs from 1941 through those that are 30 years old or older are in the Modern Military Branch, National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740-6001 [Telephone (301) 837-3510]. These logs are open for research. Requests for research appointments, and inquiries concerning log information, should go to the National Archives office holding logs from the time period of interest.

Held By The Naval History and Heritage Command

Deck logs that are less than 30 years of age are in the custody of the Ships Deck Logs Section, Naval History and Heritage Command, Building 57, 805 Kidder Breese Street SE, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060. All inquiries concerning deck logs that are less than 30 years old should be sent to the Ships Deck Logs Section.

Logs that are less than 30 years old are held in either paper or microfiche form, stored in the Washington National Records Center, 4205 Suitland Road, Suitland MD 20746. Logs from 1979 through February 1993 are on microfiche in the Ships Deck Logs Section. Logs from 1990 through 1993 are partly on microfiche in the Deck Logs Section, partly on paper at the Records Center. All logs from March 1993 are on paper and stored at the Records Center. All deck logs, whether they are classified or FOUO (For Official Use Only) must be sent to the proper authorities at SubPac, SubLant, SurfPac or SurfLant for declassification review or review and release determination before they can be researched or copied. All Deck Logs that are less than three years of age must be sent to PacFlt for review and release determination.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

We hope to put out a newsletter at least three times a year. Your input is needed. Please send any articles (or suggestions for articles), photos, sea stories, etc to: Dave Neimeyer, 9026 Haaf Road, Fogelsville PA 18051-1717; neimeyer@us.net 610-285-4515

President's Personal Message:

Ahoy Shipmates,

I am honored to be your TCHVA President for the current term and will work to continue the terrific legacy started by Gary Collins. I am following in the footsteps of great past Presidents, Gary Collins (05-07), Jerry Leatherwood (07-09) and E. Scott Ruerup (09-11). My commitment is to build on this great foundation.

Having recently experienced in July 2011 our best reunion yet, many of us left excited in many ways yet there was a little disappointment that more of our members and shipmates weren't there.

Speaking for myself, my six years in the Navy (1974-1980) were life changing. Coming from very humble and a very challenging youth, the Navy gave me the opportunity to have experiences that I never would have had, to see parts of the world that I would never have seen and most importantly to build friendships and experience camaraderie that only a small percentage of the population has ever known.

For most of my time aboard the Hart, I was probably one of the quiet ones, who focused on being a squared away sailor, sometimes to a fault. But having grown up with so much uncertainty, so much turmoil and so much unpredictability, the Navy for me was a predictable and safe environment. I always had 3 meals, always had a place to sleep, always had health care and always had a steady paycheck. But what I didn't expect or plan on was that I would gain so much more. I gained an appreciation for different personalities, people with different skills, backgrounds, ideas and beliefs. I learned to more clearly reflect on all the opportunities provided throughout my life and realize the abundance of opportunities that exist.

More importantly, I came to realize that the term "shipmate" meant that despite our differences, these guys had my back. That we truly "shared" the Hart. That even with its thin mattresses, smelly sleeping compartments, chow lines and sometimes unreliable equipment, this was OUR ship and only WE were allowed to criticize it. Anyone else dare say bad things about the T.C. Hart and lookout, we were going to battle stations.

In my experience there was never a more proud moment than when we came to the rescue of the USS Belknap after it's collision. To see everyone pulling together and doing everything they could to help the victims said a lot about who we are as a people and who we are as shipmates. I am sure that many of us remember times of great pride and have fond memories of times on the Hart. Even from the reunions themselves, new friendships have been formed based on that common Hart experience.

I promise to do my best to serve you and ask that you help us build the TCHVA and to help us build a proud organization of shipmates.

Wishing you "Fair Winds and Following Seas",

Ron Koshko President TC Hart Veteran's Assoc. OE Div - EW1; May '75-Dec '79