



Thomas C. Hart Line

You Gotta Have Hart!

Volume 2 Issue 3

*The newsletter of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association
Dedicated to the sailors who brought a great ship to life!*

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REUNION 2009 CHARLESTON, South Carolina!

Thanks to all of you that provided their input to the third reunion planning survey. We got a mixed bag on some of the questions, particularly on the location of the next reunion, but Charleston, South Carolina was one of the most requested "new" locations for the reunion, so Charleston it is!

Those of you who aren't familiar with the area might remember that the Charleston Naval Station was closed down in the mid-

Please see Survey Results on Page 4

Looking for input

We are always looking for your input! If you have any suggestions, ideas or just want to get involved in the organization and reunion planning, please contact us through the website or email the newsletter at Thomas.c.hart@cox.net and we'll get you engaged!



Officers

President	Jerry Leatherwood
Vice President	Scott Ruerup
Treasurer	Randy Groen
Secretary/Newsletter	Todd Black
Historian	Andy Roberts
Chaplain	Tom Clark

President's Corner

By Jerry Leatherwood

Hello Shipmates,

Summer is finally here. I am so tired of the cold weather and I live in a mild climate. I don't know how you guys living up north can take the cold. I guess that is why I was a Boiler Technician, so I could stay warm. I hope all of you are well and had a good winter.

We are really getting ramped up for the 2009 reunion. If you haven't checked out the website recently please do so. Garry Collins has been doing a great job on the Website. We will be putting out more information as the planning move's ahead. Your officers are working to make this the best reunion ever. The survey that was taken had input from all over the place and Charleston seemed to be the most centrally located area with a Navy theme and they are prepared for military reunions like ours.

Now come on guys! When we were on the Hart we were a bunch of individuals from all over the country who pulled together to keep our ship running and doing her job for the country. She was a small ship with a big Hart and I know a lot of you feel the way I do. This ship was one of the best times I had in the Navy, sure it was not fun everyday and sometimes I would say to myself "what am I doing here?" but I really don't remember those times. I remember the good times of going on shore leave overseas with guys that I most likely would never have met or associated with if I had not been on the Hart. So with that said come on guys and make plans to meet with old friends and shipmates in Charleston. You have a whole year to plan for it. Come join us in Charleston.

I would like to thank all of the officers and volunteers of the TC Hart veterans association for the work they have done over this past year. I also would like to say Bravo Zulu to Scott Cruikshank for re-enlisting in the Naval Reserves after being out of the Navy for 13 years. They are making him a SeaBee and giving him a gun!!! Good on ya Scott.

Well that's enough for this time. See you in Charleston Shipmates.

Lwood, USN (retired)

Treasurer's Report

By Randy Groen

22 March 2008

tchassociation@frontiernet.net

Because there has been so little activity, I've decided that I will deviate from the format used in prior reports. My last report includes income and expenses through July 31, 2007. This report includes all income and expenses from September 1, 2007 through March 22, 2008. On August 1, 2007, the treasury had a total of \$885.15. The total in the treasury on March 22, 2008 is \$958.71 for a net gain of \$73.56.

We have had income of \$200.00 all from dues. Thank you to all of you who renewed or became a member. There are several of you whose membership has expired as of this past January 1st. Your grace period expires at the end of March, please renew your membership.

Expenses total \$126.44. The majority of this is for the web hosting fee of the T.C. Hart web-site. This annual expense came to \$119.40. The \$7.04 of remaining expenses are pay pal fee. Pay pal takes out a fee every time someone renews their membership on line. A small price to pay for the convenience of paying dues on line.

This financial report is respectfully submitted on March 22, 2008. The financial books are open to all members. If you any questions on this report, I will be happy to answer them for you. I can provide copies of bank statements and receipts if requested.

Reunion 2009

(continued from front page)

1990's as part of a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendation. While the Naval Station is now closed, the area around the Naval Weapons Station up on Goose Creek has grown, first with the addition of NAVELEX (now SPAWAR) and later with various schools and technical commands.

Picturesque downtown Charleston is host to many fine restaurants, shopping and historical areas including "Rainbow Row" and the Battery overlooking Fort Sumter where the Civil War's first shots were fired. The area boasts first rate golf courses, wonderful beaches at the Isle of Palms, restored plantations, the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum (including the aircraft carrier YORKTOWN and destroyer LAFLEY), ...and did I mention the restaurants? Honestly, there is something for everyone.

If you want to get an early look at what to do in the area, check out the Charleston Visitors Bureau website at <http://www.charlestoncvb.com/> and you'll see there is plenty to see and do for our next reunion.

We are still working dates with our reunion planners and should have more information coming soon you can start planning. After the date is set registration will be opened. So get ready for some great fun with your old shipmates in a fantastic location.

See y'all in Charleston!



Small World

By E. Scott Ruerup, Vice President T. C. Hart Veterans Association.

Here's a short story to remind you how small the world has gotten.

I was driving in a car in Atlanta with a friend from work on our way to dinner. My phone rang and I looked at the number. I said to my friend Bob, where is area code 314? I answered the call, a voice I had not heard in 30+ years starts talking to me like it was yesterday he last saw me. Doc Wilson found my number on classmates.com. He has now joined the Assoc. We got together at the last Reunion, and again at his home in St. Louis while I was there for business. We now call or email each other on a regular basis. Gary Hiltner another friend of mine from those glorious days sent me a picture showing how he has aged.

I know you all have a great love of friends and family. We are now gearing up for our next Reunion. Bring your kids or grandkids and let them see what your life was like back then. Your family on the Hart would love to see you again. Some of you are saying I hated being in the Navy, and that is ok. The thing of it is you did not hate the people you served with. You all made a lot of friends, some of them you have kept in touch with over the years. Some you have never seen nor heard from since. There are friends that molded you and had an effect on the rest of your life, and that you had an effect on also. It is time to renew those friendships and make some new ones as well.

We are looking at Charleston SC for 2009. Our first Reunion was in Norfolk and the last one in Nashville. We are trying to move it around so everyone can get to one. Please help us grow by getting in touch with other shipmates and we can all tell great Stories (lies) and have some fun together once again. Bring pictures so we can swap them also. If anyone wants to get in touch with me you can email me at eruerup@yahoo.com or call me on my cell like Doc at 908-591-5947.



She still looks good!

Turkish ship ZAFER F-253 (former USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092)) in an undated photo from the Commander Salamander blog at http://cdrsalamander.blogspot.com/2007_12_01_archive.html



Reunion 2007
Music City USA
Beer, Ball Caps, and Beans!
See what you missed?

Check out the website
www.thomaschart.org for
more info
See you in Charleston SC in
2009!