



Thomas C. Hart Line

You Gotta Have Hart!

Volume 2 Issue 4

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reunion dates set!
- 2 President's Corner
- 3 Treasurers Report
- 4 Are your dues up to date?
- 5 The final word



REUNION 2009 12-13 JUNE

CHARLESTON, South Carolina!

The date is set and it is time to mark your calendars. We've reserved the Holiday Inn Patriots Point, in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina for the event. Rooms should run about \$110 a night, and we'll have more detailed information as well as sign up instructions from the reunion planners early in 2009, so don't make any arrangements with the hotel yet!

If you are familiar with the Charleston area, the Holiday Inn at Patriots Point is just across the Cooper River from downtown Charleston. Those of you who have had the "pleasure" of the 6 hour sea detail into Charleston will remember that the aircraft

Please see Reunion 2009 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!

***Don't forget you can
access the Member's
Only Forum on the
TCHVA website
using "tchart" for
the email name and
"bestfrigate" for the
password!***

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,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. Summer is over and it is time to start preparing for the Holiday's. Most of the children and grandchildren are back in school and the daylight hours are getting shorter.

If you have not examined the T. C. Hart website recently please take a moment to look at a couple of items that were added @ www.thomaschart.org . The photo gallery has some new photos and we are always looking for more. There is also some information about the Hotel we will be using for the 2009 reunion in Charleston, South Carolina. The reunion planners will have more information and a reunion flyer for us sometime around the first of the New Year. I ask each of you to visit the website @ www.patriotspoint.org and see some of the interesting and exciting points of interest in Charleston.

I want to share with you guys my recent experience. I was invited to go on a one day family cruise aboard the USS Eisenhower CVN-69. My son-in-law is an Aviation Boatswains Mate Chief onboard so I got the invite. We boarded the ship at 0500 hours and got underway headed for the Virginia Capes operating area. The ship did not pull back in until 1700 hours that evening. During this cruise I saw a lot of young sailors performing some of the same jobs we used to perform. They all treated us civilians with respect and you could tell they were proud to show off their ship. They worked as a team to get that gigantic vessel underway. We witnessed a close-up air show with a couple of jets landing on the flight deck with in a few hundred feet from us and then taking off again. They also flew by the ship and dropped some bombs in the ocean. I wish every person in the United States could see these kids at work. They might then really appreciate what these young sailors have to go through. I thought about all of my shipmates from the Hart and how we all worked together to accomplish so much during our time onboard.

I would like to ask each of you to take a few minutes on a night when you don't have anything going on and try to contact an old shipmate or just break out your old cruise books and maybe relive some of the times you had on the USS Thomas C. Hart.

Ya Gotta Have Hart!!

Lwood USN (Retired)

Treasurer's Report By Randy Groen

My last report included all income and expenses from September 1, 2007. through March 22, 2008. This report includes all income and expenses from March 23, 2008 through September 6 2008. On March 22, the treasury had a total of \$958.71. The total in the treasury on September 6 2008 is \$1239.91 for a net gain of \$281.20. These figures include \$5.00 that are in a Navy Federal Credit Union account and \$1234.91 that are in a US Bank account. It does not include any funds that our in our ships store account.

We have had a total income of \$289.50, \$280.00 is from dues and \$9.50 is from a reimbursement to the account. The only expenses are paypal fees of \$8.30. There is a small transaction fee every time someone pays their dues on line through the TC Hart web-site.

I want to thank all of you who have renewed or become a member during this period. Dues are the only source of funding for the Association. The dues that are collected are used only for the administration of the Association. All of the Associations Officers are volunteers and receive no compensation for their work. There are several of you whose memberships have expired as of this past January 1st. Your grace period expired at the end of March. You are no longer members in good standing. Please renew your membership. Many more of you have your membership paid through the end of this year. Please remember to renew by then.

This financial report is respectfully submitted on September 6, 2008. The financial books are open to all members. If you have 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.

I look forward to seeing you all in Charleston,
Randy

Reunion 2009

(continued from front page)

carrier USS YORKTOWN is nearby as well as some championship caliber golf courses, restored southern plantations, and you are just a quick car trip to all the great restaurants, shopping and attractions in downtown Charleston.

But don't breakout your credit card yet! Early next year we will have detailed information on how to make your hotel arrangements, when and what tours will be available, and how to sign up for the reunion. Keep an eye on the TCHVA website, www.thomaschart.org, for more information as it becomes available!

Are your dues up to date?

With 2008 just about over, it is time for many of us to renew our dues. If you aren't sure if you owe or not, contact TCHVA at Thomas.c.hart@cox.net and we'll let you know.

Also, did you know you pay your dues online with PAYPAL? It's fast, easy, and secure. Take a look at www.thomaschart.org!



The final word By Randy Groen

Finally the elections are over. For the last few months, many of us have been watching the political conventions and following the national and local elections. Listening to speeches and debates where the candidates tell how horrible and out of touch the other side is and how great they are. As much as the candidates have disagreed on most issues almost all of them have spoken in support our military. Sure, there are some candidates who are condemning the war, but they all are praising the bravery and service of our men and woman in uniform. In my home state of Minnesota, there was a “homecoming celebration” for a National Guard Unit that had recently returned from Iraq. It was attended by our Republican State Governor and one of our senators who is a Democrat. When I joined the Navy in 1972 at the very tail end of the Vietnam War, members of the military were not treated very well. There were no “home coming celebrations.” You rarely saw military personnel in uniform except on base. War protestors vilified the military for its part in the war.

Things sure have changed. Now, even the groups that are protesting the Iraq war are mostly being very careful to place the blame on the policies and the politicians, not the sailors, airman and soldiers who are doing the fighting. When I voted, I saw several uniformed military people at the polls. Just about everyone is supporting veterans.

Now that the elections are over, we need to hold our elected officials to there commitment to military personnel and veterans. This is one issue that I think that we, as TC Hart Vets, should all have in common. The GI Bill was good to me. It paid for my education. It helped me get my job at the Post Office and it helped me to buy my 1st House. Since then Veterans’ benefits have been eroding.

Things are starting to change. The new GI Bill that was recently passed has increased some benefits and has allocated more funding to pay for them, but more is needed. The next few years are going to be tough. Our politicians have many very serious issues to deal with. The financial meltdown, the budget deficit and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are going to take up much of their time and effort. We need to make sure that they don’t forget about veterans. To make sure that veterans aren’t forgotten, we need to stay informed and let our representatives know that we are paying attention. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a very good source of information there web-site, at <http://www.vfw.org>, has information on what the current issues are, and on how to contact your Senators and Congressmen asking for their support.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Charleston.