

BAYVIEWS

June 2009

USS BAYFIELD (APA 33) VETERANS GROUP

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Presidents' Message

Greetings Shipmates,

We hope this news letter finds you all healthy, happy and ready for our next reunion.

It has been a long cold winter all across the good old U.S. of A. with record snow fall in a lot of the country. Here in my part of Arizona we have gotten more rain than normal and the desert was as green as it could be for the springtime but now is back to it's normal brown and the sun shines almost every day nice and hot 100 degrees or more.

Now we are looking forward to our reunion in October so get out those cowboy hats and polish up those cowboy boots. We are going to the Rapid City, South Dakota to see Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial and Custer State Park. Also the historical town of Deadwood where Will Bill Hickok was shot. There is so much history there and so much to see and do we are sure you will have a good time. Plus seeing all your shipmates and their wives and families.

We hope all of you make it to the reunion this year it's great to renew friendships with those men you served with and their families.

See you all in Rapid City South Dakota in October.

Bill & Chris

**HOTEL AND TOUR INFORMATION
USS BAYFIELD 2009 REUNION
October 15 – 19, 2009**

Early Hotel Registration Available for October 14, 2009

**BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL
2111 N. LaCrosse Street
Rapid City, South Dakota
Phone: 605-343-8550**

HOTEL RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE – SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

SAY YOU ARE WITH THE USS BAYFIELD VETERANS GROUP

**Call the Hotel direct 605-343-8550 to receive our special rate of
\$66.00 per night plus 8% room tax and \$2.00 occupancy tax**

- Complimentary, round trip shuttle from Rapid City Regional Airport
- Free shuttle service anywhere within the city
- Free hi-speed internet access in all guest rooms
- Huge indoor swimming pool with whirlpool and wading pool
- Award winning Minerva's Restaurant & Bar, on site restaurant and lounge
- Free local calls
- Indoor water park for the grandchildren
- Guest computers/printers (free access) in hotel (1) Washington Foyer (3)

Note: P & T (Bill & Cathy, Chris & Florence) will host a continental breakfast each morning in the hospitality suite compliments of the USS Bayfield Veterans Group Treasury.

TOURS – OPTIONAL

TOUR RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 30, 2009

TOURS BASED ON MIN. OF 25 PEOPLE, IF MIN. NOT MET, TOUR WILL BE CANCELLED

Option I - 8:00 a.m. Depart Ramkota for Hill City with free time to visit Prairie Berry Winery Mistletoe Ranch, Crane and other art galleries, Black Hills Institute. Continue to Deadwood with free time to gamble, lunch on own, or see the history of Deadwood on your own. Return to Rapid City at 3:00 p.m. Includes transportation, narration

Option II - 4:00 p.m. Depart Ramkota for Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Tour the area, take in the night lights. Evening dinner buffet at Mr. Rushmore. Return to Rapid City estimated at 8:30 p.m. Includes transportation, narration, dinner & Mt. Rushmore parking fee

Option III - 8:00 a.m. Depart Ramkota to Bear Country USA for the wildlife drive, gift shop and nursery. Continue to Keystone for free time shopping and lunch break on your own. Reload bus for Crazy Horse Memorial with a drive by Mr. Rushmore along the route, Return to Rapid City 3:00 p.m. Includes transportation, narration, admission for Bear Country USA & Crazy Horse Memorial

USS BAYFIELD 2009 REUNION – RAPID CITY, SD – Oct. 15 – 19, 2009

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Last Name	First Name	Spouse's Name	E-mail address

Best Western Ramkota, Rapid City _____ nights at \$66.00 plus 8% room tax, and \$2.00 Occupancy Tax. You must make your own hotel reservations at 605-343-8550 by **September 4, 2009**. Say you are with the USS Bayfield Veterans Group.

Registration – Thursday, October 15 – Hotel Lobby 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

TOUR RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 30, 2009

Option I - \$30.00 + 5% Sales Tax (\$31.50) per person _____ X \$31.50 = _____

PRAIRIE BERRY WINERY, MISTLETOE RANCH, CRANE AND OTHER ART GALLERIES, BLACK HILLS INSTITUTE, AND DEADWOOD

Friday, October 16 – 8:00 a.m. Depart Ramkota for Hill City with free time to visit Prairie Berry Winery Mistletoe Ranch, Crane and other art galleries, Black Hills Institute. Continue to Deadwood with free time to gamble, lunch on own, or see the history of Deadwood on your own. Return to Rapid City at 3:00 p.m. Includes transportation, narration

Option II - \$51.05 includes dinner & tour (\$51.05 per person _____ X \$51.05 = _____

MT. RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, DINNER AT MT. RUSHMORE

Friday, October 16 – 4:00 p.m. Depart Ramkota for Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Tour the area, take in the night lights. Evening dinner buffet at Mr. Rushmore. Return to Rapid City estimated at 8:30 p.m. Includes transportation, narration, dinner, tax, and gratuities, & Mt. Rushmore parking fee (Tour \$21.00 + 5% Sales Tax (\$22.05), Dinner Buffet \$29.00)

Option III - \$42.00 + 5% Sales Tax (\$44.10) per person _____ X \$44.10 = _____

BEAR COUNTRY, KEYSTONE, CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

Saturday, October 17 – 8:00 a.m. Depart Ramkota to Bear Country USA for the wildlife drive, gift shop and nursery. Continue to Keystone for free time shopping and lunch break on your own. Reload bus for Crazy Horse Memorial with a drive by Mt. Rushmore along the route, Return to Rapid City 3:00 p.m. Includes transportation, narration, admission for Bear Country USA & Crazy Horse Memorial

PLEASE NOTE ALL TOURS ARE BASED ON A MINIMUM OF 25 PEOPLE. IF WE DO NOT HAVE 25 PEOPLE, THE TOUR WILL BE CANCELLED.

BANQUET BUFFET

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Garden Salad

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Garlic Roasted Butter Browned Potatoes

Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables

Yankee Pot Roast with Savory Brown Gravy

Chicken Breast with Mushroom Supreme Sauce

Baked Cod Loins atop Seafood Stuffing with Wild Rice Alfredo Sauce

Bistro Rolls & Butter

Raspberry and White Chocolate Layer Cake

Coffee, Decaf or Tea

Banquet Buffet, tax and gratuities included \$31.00 per person _____ X \$31.00 = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHRIS TARANTINO, USS BAYFIELD VETERANS GROUP

SEND TO: Chris Tarantino, 36 Shell Ring Road, Hilton Head, SC 29928

Notice

Because of cost and labor, I am looking to utilize e-mail addresses of many Bayfield Vets to deliver the Bayviews newsletter. About 70 of you have indicated that this would be acceptable. I believe there are many more of you that have e-mail addresses and would be willing to receive your copy this way also. It would come as a document file which could be opened and printed out if necessary. If you are willing to receive the letter this way, simply e-mail me so I would have your e-mail address.. If you are not willing or do not have an e-mail address available, then your copy will continue to arrive as the hard copy.

Death Notice

On January 29th, 2009, Coast Guardsman, Charles W. Young passed away as was indicated by his wife Margaret. If you wish to send condolences, the address is 6209 N Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Since taking over this publication, I am looking for material to fill in and be of interest to you. Therefore, I would appreciate any anecdotal articles pertaining to the years of the Bayfield. Keep the articles to a compatible size. for the page of the newsletter. ---Ed Trnka

Mount Rushmore National Memorial, near Keystone, South Dakota, is a monumental granite sculpture by Gutzon Borglum (1867–1941), located within the United States Presidential Memorial that represents the first 150 years of the history of the United States of America with 60-foot (18 m) sculptures of the heads of former United States presidents (left to right): George Washington (1732–1799), Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919), and Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865).^[1] The entire memorial covers 1,278.45 acres (5.17 km²)^[2] and is 5,725 feet (1,745 m) above sea level.^[3] It is managed by the National Park Service, a bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. The memorial attracts approximately two million people annually.^[4]

San Francisco Summer 1960

Recently I was watching a documentary on TV about Alcatraz Prison in San Francisco Bay, the prison was closed in 1963, since then more than a million visitors a year go through the prison which is run by the National Park Service. Maybe if I ever go back to San Francisco again I will take the tour. As I watched that documentary on TV, memories came back to me of that summer the ship was in the yard in San Francisco, and the first time I saw Alcatraz from the deck of the USS Bayfield, in June of 1960.

The ship had just gotten back from a Wes Pac Cruise in April and was scheduled for yards for some much needed repairs. We would be gone for three months so the Old Man Had said anybody who had a car and insurance and wanted to take it with them could bring them to the ship, they would be put in number three hold for the trip to San Francisco. How many men had brought their cars with them I don't recall, but all I know was I didn't own a car in those days so I wasn't one of them.

After the cars were aboard, we put out to sea, three days later at 0400 in the morning we pulled into the San Francisco harbor underneath the Golden Gate Bridge, the lights of the city were ablaze, I had never been to San Francisco before and was looking forward to our time there.

That's when I saw Alcatraz for the first time, it sat off the port side of the ship as we sailed by we saw the search light scanning everything, shining its light far across the water, there was a sign out in the bay with a warning to stay back, no boats allowed within 500 yards. We were close enough to see the guards in the gun towers. I remembered thinking I sure am glad I'm not in there, it looked like a bad place to be.

We went across the harbor to unload the ship of all its ammunition before heading to the private pier in Todd shipyard just south of the Oakland Bay Bridge where we would stay for the next three months while in San Francisco.

Our stay in San Francisco was very interesting to say the least, for the most part it was cold every day and you never went topside without a jacket, once Jimmie Robertson and I took his car he had brought up from L.A. to go to a drive-in movie, as we entered the drive-in theater they gave us a small heater that plugged into the speaker that would keep the car warm while you watched the movie, which was fine except the fog rolled in about an hour into the first movie, we couldn't see the screen, so they gave us a fog check as we left, which we never used. Jimmie returned his car back home the following weekend.

The laundry on the ship was out during part of the time we were in the yards so once a week several of us would load up all the dirty laundry from our division in duffle bags and walk to the end of the pier, that was not far from the main city street where we could take a city bus a short distance to a Laundromat to do our laundry.

When we left San Francisco shortly after Labor Day, I was glad to be going back to San Diego where it was warm and the sun shined and there wasn't much fog. I recall what writer Mark Twain once said "The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco". I had to agree with him.— Bill Pancake

A test for "Old Kids"

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "who was that masked man?". Invariably, someone would answer, I don't know but he left this behind? What was it?
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on what show?
3. What finished the slogan, "Get your kicks _____".
4. Complete the sentence. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.
5. Complete the following phrase. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____".
6. After the twist, The Mashed potato and the Watusi, we danced under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the _____.
7. Complete the following. "Nestle's makes the very best _____".
8. Satchmo was America's "Ambassador of Goodwill". Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking?
_____.
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named _____ and always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night" and "_____".
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by?
_____.
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, "the day the music died".
This was a tribute to _____.
14. We can remember the first satellite placed in orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____.
15. One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring we twirled around our waist. It was called the _____.

If necessary, answers will be in the December issue

BAYFIELD MEMOIRS 1948-51 (continued) by Ben Fleming RM2

The Bayfield arrived in San Diego in the early summer of 1949 and that completed its trip to China and South Carolina. It would not drop anchor in China again until 1951 when it would call at the port of Hong Kong. In the meantime, the Bayfield and ship's company did the thing that it did best - steam with a task force and practice amphibious landings on the beach.

At one port, we took a contingent of soldiers aboard for amphibious training. One in that group was the fattest soldier that any of us had seen. That was in the era when obesity of Americans was not common. While at sea, he went down to the sickbay, because he didn't feel well. He died there from a reported heart attack and was kept in storage until the ship returned to port.

The destroyers in the task force sometimes needed refueling from an oiler while at sea. The procedure was for the sailors on the oiler to shoot a projectile which had a small line (rope) attached to it. The small line, called a messenger, had a larger line (rope) tied to it. The largest line had the fueling hose attached to it. The bunker fuel could then be pumped from the oiler to the destroyer.

One afternoon a destroyer came alongside the oiler and the projectile with the messenger was fired. It was intended that the trajectory was to fly over the destroyer. However, the missile fell short and struck a destroyer crewman in the abdomen. As I recall, he was a CPO. The destroyer did not have a doctor on board, but the Bayfield did. The DD came alongside our ship and again the messenger (small rope) and lines were sent across in order to rig up a breeches buoy. That device would enable people to be sent across with a pulley system.

When all was hooked up, the patient was strapped in the typical Navy wire stretcher for transfer to the Bayfield. While halfway across, the line parted and the patient and stretcher fell. However, there was a secondary line attached to the stretcher and the patient was pulled up to the Bayfield's deck and was taken to sickbay and treated for the wound.

In the late summer of 1949 the Bayfield went to Puget Sound and tied up at Olympia, Washington. Nearby was the Olympia brewery which produced, at that time, one of the major beers on the west coast. It was a popular event to tour the brewery and have a couple glasses of fresh, crisp free beer.

Most watches on a ship are four hours except for the dog watch which is two hours. In the radio shack on the Bayfield, the standard watch was eight hours.. The mid-watch for radiomen was from midnight to 8:00 a.m. We often got hungry about 4 o'clock. The officer's pantry was right below the radio shack and one night someone raided what remained from a five-gallon milk can from the outside refrigerator. We all had a mug of milk and the empty container was thrown over the side in the Olympia harbor to dispose of the evidence. At daylight we looked over the side and to our surprise the can was floating next to the ship below us in the water. There was no investigation and we never heard any more about it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND ROSTER UPDATE

Dues are only \$10.00 per year. We thank you for your support and send a special thank you to those of you who have been kind enough to send a little extra. You may use the form below when mailing your dues or to update the roster information if necessary.

**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (DO NOT SEND CASH) PAYABLE TO:
USS BAYFIELD VETERANS GROUP
c/o Nick Kleszczewski
1 Stuyvesant Oval 3B
New York, New York 10009**

Dues Paid \$ _____

First Name	Middle	Last	First Name of Spouse	
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Phone Number			E-mail Address	
Service Yrs.(example 46-49)	Class (example Seaman)		Branch	USCG/USN
Comments				

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