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| **USS CONCORD SUMMER NEWSLETTER**  |



Ahoy

By Vice President \ Web Dude

Shipmates’ \ Families, \*\*Get your free Concord T-shirt\*\*

No talk about weather this time folks, it’s all about the reunion that’s just around the corner. I’m not sure how to explain it but something magical, almost surreal happens during a military reunion. Gone are the ill feelings toward (you name the guy) for pulling your liberty card, volunteering you for mess cooking, or box kicking duties etc. Instead it usually goes like this: Hey (again you fill in the name) it’s been ?? years, how’s life been treating you? Boy we’ve both changed a bit huh? Hey do remember the time old, I can’t believe he, It’s a wonder the Old Man didn’t throw the book at him! This normally goes on throughout the evening and ends with hardy handshakes (maybe even a man hug, if no one’s looking) and promises to meet again at the next reunion.

Oh and about the free T-shirt, just sign up to attend and tell us what size you wear. Our ship’s store operator, Bob, will hand deliver one to you and your guest at the reunion. Due to shirt order lead time, the cutoff date for the free T-shirt deal is August 17th. Signups will continue, however, until reunion date but shirts may not be available. Also, our hotel block is filling up fast so be sure to make those reservations ASAP!

Topics for this newsletter are as follows:

Article One: Membership status.

Article Two: Reunion 2016.

Article Three: Business Meeting.

Article Four: BMCS Blank retires.

Article Five: TAPs.

*Article One*

Association membership remains strong with many of our original members continuing their involvement, as well as many new members signing up this year. As of this letter we currently have 128 active members on our muster. We welcome new members to our organization and remind all that we are non-profit and all our proceeds go toward club functions such as our reunions. Membership is required for those who wish to attend our reunion events, receive membership cards, etc. (by the way it’s still only 10 bucks per year to join).

Welcome aboard to the following shipmates who either renewed or signed up for the first time in our club since our Spring newsletter release: Jim Hundley (HT1 82-84), Don Bissett (QM2 69-72), Richard Russell (LT 81-84), Dan Flahiff (LT 72-73), Demar Palencia (EMCM 80-83), Robert Jackson (E-3 82-85).

Hopefully if you're still not a member, you’ll take the plunge and add your name to our coveted list this year!

 *Article Two*

Reunion 2016 has been set for September 8-11th 2016 in Norfolk Virginia, and systems are a go for a great time. We are pleased to have the good folks at, "A Complete Reunion", host our 2016 event. This is the team that organized our first reunion back in 2010 and it was a blast! Reunion events will begin with tours and shopping, members’ business meeting Saturday morning, and ultimately lead up to the main event, the banquet, on Saturday night.

Our banquet and lodging will be at the Sheraton Waterside Norfolk. I highly recommend that you plan your visit now, and via our website link www.ussconcord.org/id150.html download the brochure, sign up and reserve your room soon, and don’t forget to tell us what size shirt’(s) you’d like. If you are not yet a member head on over to our website and join so you can attend this event. **Be sure to sign-up before the T-shirt cutoff date!**

Contact Sherry or Jessica at 719-380-1412 for questions concerning this event.

*Article Three*

 Our Business Meeting is one of the highlights conducted during our biennial reunion. Most of us, who have attended reunions in the past, are aware of the productivity accomplished during these gatherings not to mention the comraderie. If you’ve been checking our reunion page at ussconcord.org you will see on our brochure that 9:00 – 10:30 Saturday morning has been set aside for the purpose of this event. All Concord members, (excluding auxiliary members), in good standing are encouraged to attend. The meeting is conducted by our association president and any old and new business that has come up during the past two years is addressed. Members will hear our treasurers report, membership activity, ship’s store news etc. Perhaps the most interesting topic is where to conduct future (the next) reunion location. Anyone can have input as to where they would like to see the event held. All participant input is heard and discussed with the group. Reunion choices are narrowed down to three locations and often the member who nominates a preferred location also agrees to assist with hosting the event in their area. Regardless of the discussion, the BM is just a good way to re-connect, discuss the future of our organization and segue into the evenings main event, our banquet. I highly recommend you add this to your reunion schedule of events.

*Article Four*

 After 41 years in the Navy, one of USS Concord’s own hangs up his anchors. BMCS Blank (who you may remember gave us some great shots of Boston Mass at our website) has been detailed permanent shore duty. Mike will be retiring in August and requests the presence of any Concord sailors at his ceremony. The event will be held at Andrews AFB, Aug 6, 2016 at 11:00. If you would like to attend contact John Trujillo at john.trujillo2@verizon.net or 619-302-1018 for more information. For more information about this event, please visit our website.

*Article Five*

 TAPS. No shipmates reported as departed since our Spring newsletter.

 If you have news of a member who has passed and has not been recognized as eternally departed, please contact the webmaster at ussconcord.org.

In closing let me again encourage you to at least consider attending the 2016 reunion. For those of you who have decided to be there, great and might I suggest that you reach out to other members, (and prospective members), and encourage them to attend. Remember that we have the “Hatch” page at our website and if you’re a current member you can look up others with whom you’ve served. Send them a note or better yet……call them and invite them to join you \ us at the banquet.

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Web Dude