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Association

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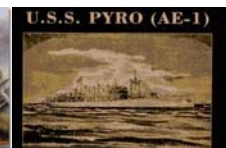
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www.usspyro.com



USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

Remembering Pearl Harbor



AE-1's Ed Stone, Don Green participate in 70th anniversary ceremonies

See ya in Louisiana, Cher!

**Reunion 2012
Ragin' with the Cajuns**

**May 16-20, 2012
Baton Rouge, LA
Holiday Inn South**



Over the years, some of the most memorable moments at Pyro reunions came as Ed Stone, Don Greene and other AE-1 sailors recounted recollections of December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor. Torpedoes passing under the freshly unloaded AE-1's bow...an officer calling for 'a few brave men' to fire at Japanese dive bombers...and a deck gun designed for surface warfare that would not elevate enough to target aircraft...



When the nation remembered the 70th anniversary of A Day That Will Live In Infamy, Ed Stone and Don Green were on hand in Honolulu for ceremonies honoring both the fallen and the survivors.

Here is Ed Stone's narrative of his trip:

The Greatest Generation Foundation located in Denver, CO, took 24 of us Pearl Harbor Survivors on a eight-day stay, with all expenses paid for the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

I left Syracuse early Saturday, Dec. 3, to Chicago and a nonstop flight to

(Continued on page 4)

Pyro News

AE-24 to be scrapped?



Bob Smith writes on the status of AE-24:

“Shipmates, our local paper today had an article concerning some work to be done on four ships here at Mare Island.

One of those listed is our ole work horse: The Pyro is scheduled to be towed to Mare Island for bottom cleaning in early January 2012, then towed to New Orleans — Southern Recycling LLC — for dismantling. Sold for a lousy \$1.6 mil! She'll probably be razor blades by the time of our tour of New Orleans in May!”

New Hauge e-mail

Now Hear This!!! My new email address is:
gringobob1923@hotmail.com

Gillman character in new book

A note from Betty Gillman:

“I was surprised to see that poem Ray had written years ago in the new Scuttlebutt. I never found a copy in the file cabinet when I went through it. I shall make a copy to keep. Ray went to school in Miami with Paul Duey and years later worked with him at the Flight Service Station in Gainesville, FL. Paul started writing a book back then and let Ray read a few of the chapters. They both retired from the Flight Service Station in 1997 and Ray and I moved to Sebastian. Last week I received a copy of the finished book titled *Joe Dokes and The Old People Of The Ridge*. Paul wrote: "Dear Betty, I think Ray would enjoy this-especially the character of Gil Rayman." Paul acknowledges Ray posthumously for his friendship and encouragement in the early stages of writing the novel.

Go to www.paulduey.blogspot.com to read about Paul and the book. I think it will interest you.”

Listen-up, sailors

Annual Dues Due January 1. If you pay association dues on an annual basis, please drop a \$20.00 dues check in the mail ASAP to Treasurer Bill Hogan. Like a baker, we (k)need the dough for reunions, scholarships and Scuttlebutt production. Step lively, me hardies!

Remembering Fallen Shipmates



Former Pyro CO Commander Thomas M. Smith, 63, of Paxton, MA, died peacefully at his home November 6, 2011. He commanded AE-24 from December 1988 to November 1990.

Shawn Parrish Walker, age 39, of McKinney, Texas, passed away October 23, 2010 after a valiant battle against cancer. He served on AE-24 as a MSSN from 1989-92.

*Signals in the air from
the officers in
tactical command*



*We three 'kings'
of Pyrodom are...
wishing you and yours
the happiest of holidays,
including, but not
limited to, Christmas,
Hanukkah, and Kwanza
as well as a Happy New
Year.*

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From the president's desk

By Jared Cameron

What better Christmas present could any old tar (or tar-ette) hope to receive than a new, back-on-schedule edition of The Scuttlebutt? Here's wishing you and yours the merriest of Christmases and a very happy New Year. See you in Baton Rouge!

Memorabilia: A 1975 story on AE-24's return to Concord with thanks to David Shrewsbury (MM3, 74-78)

USS PYRO — Home in Time for the Fourth

At approximately 1425 hours, 2 July 1976, USS PYRO (AE-24) signaled her approach to her homeport of Concord marking the end of a five-month deployment to the Western Pacific and her thirteenth in support of Seventh Fleet operations in that area. An approximate 100 individuals were waiting at Pier 4, Berth 6 to welcome the PYRO and her crew. From those waiting random expressions were indicative of amazement, excitement, anxiety and sheer joy in watching the huge Navy vessel approach, bringing home loved ones or friends. To those on board, PYRO's return prior to the holiday meant sharing in the celebrations to wish America a Happy Birthday and being able to share this joy with friends or loved ones.

PYRO, a fleet ammunition ship, operated as a unit of the Mobile Logistics Support Force, US Seventh Fleet as she performed her mission of transferring ammunition, fleet freight, passengers, fuel and mail to ships throughout WESTPAC. The deployment, which began on 2 February 1976, included visits to GUAM; Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan; Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines; Kaoshiong, Taiwan; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Working under rigorous conditions that were occasionally hampered by weather, the crew handled some 8300 tons of ordnance and transferred an average of almost 100 tons of ordnance during each underway replenishment evolution with various combatant ships while operating in the South China Sea.

After a brief stop in Pearl Harbor to pick up materials destined for delivery to the Continental United States, PYRO also welcomed aboard 10 male relatives of crew members to provide them with a real taste of the Navy. They lived and worked with the crew during the 6-day journey from Hawaii to Concord.

The Commanding Officer, Commander E.T. Walker, Jr., of Kerkville, Texas, saw his crew operate with a perfect personnel safety record during the deployment. Following an upkeep period in Concord and Mare Island, the 17-year old ship and her crew will commence serving the fleet in the Eastern Pacific before entering the shipyard in October for an 8-month overhaul.

WELCOME HOME PYRO!!

USS Pyro 2012 Reunion Checklist

- Tell your children, grandchildren and doctors 'NO!' to weddings/graduations/surgeries during the reunion period.
- Make your reservations at the Holiday Inn South Baton Rouge. Be sure to ask for the USS PYRO reunion rate. (If you're a smoker, request a smoking room early while our paltry allotment lasts.) When: Now would be a good time! Reunion rates: \$94.92. Direct Tel: 225-924-7021.
- Use the form on page seven to sign up for the great reunion activities. When? The deadline is early Spring, but the sooner, the better.
- Make arrangements to get to Baton Rouge. If you're travelling by air, flying to New Orleans can save money, but you'll need to rent a car and leave time after the reunion for the 1.5 hour mile drive to the airport. If you're driving from home, the hotel offers free parking. If you're flying into Baton Rouge, Holiday Inn will send a bus to pick you up at Baton Rouge Airport. Just let them know your flights 24 hours before arrival.

Stone, Green return to Pearl Harbor

(Continued from page 1)

Honolulu, where at about 4:30 pm. the staff of TGGF met us and helped with our baggage onto a bus for transportation to the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. My room mate was a friend, Pat Duncan, who I never had met in person, but had talked to via amateur radio on the Pearl Harbor ham radio net. We had a great time together.

After unpacking, we were escorted to one of the hotel restaurants for dinner and another welcoming. Many of our group were in wheelchairs. After a good night's sleep we started our tours on Sunday. We had a private boat trip around Pearl for one hour that was narrated by a National Park Service ranger. We went around Ford Island to see some notable sites that most visitors do not see. There was the wreckage of the USS Utah that turned over and sank killing quite a number of the crew. It is opposite the island from USS Arizona Memorial and, finally, there is a memorial to this old battleship.

After a wonderful breakfast on Monday, we had a special tour just for us to the USS Arizona Memorial. I took several photos of oil slicks still coming up from the ships tanks after 70 years. There were 1,102 sailors and marines killed aboard this old battle wagon.

“On December 7th, I stood on my three-gun mount and watched the bomber open the bomb bay and drop the bomb. It drifted and hit the dock 10 feet from the ship. From that day on, I remembered nothing until GQ was sounded at midnight on the 14th and my memory returned. This is part of my history.”

Don Green

Then we went 100 yards over to the USS Bowfin and the Pacific Submarine Museum. I know the curator of the museum where I had put some material from my old sub, USS Bumper, many years ago. Since I was the only submariner who was qualified in submarines, I was honored to take the curator and those of my group who could make it through the eight compartments and conning tower



Pearl Harbor AE-1 survivors Don Green and Ed Stone at the 2009 Pyro reunion in Reno, NV.

for a tour, showing and telling them about firing torpedoes and reloading the tubes...told them about the lead acid batteries in the forward and after battery rooms and about the bunks and mess equipment. They were aghast to see where I spent most of my time onboard in the small radio room within the Control Room with the hydraulic manifold, 3000 psi air pressure system and blow and vent system and general announcement equipment all located in the Control room. I also showed them how to start and stop the 16 cylinder 3600 horsepower engines and the equipment in the maneuvering room with all the switch gear. Next was the after torpedo room and up on deck to see our 5 inch 25 cal. wet type gun, 40 mm, 20 mm guns and other stuff. I had to shorten my tour due to the time element. Was congratulated by many for a wonderful explanation of the working of a fleet type submarine. Phew!

Then I was escorted thru a line of cadets with raised swords before going aboard USS Missouri Memorial to see where the Peace Treaty was signed with Japan that ended WWII. It was getting late but they took us to see the USS Oklahoma Memorial. She and the USS Nevada were the first battleships to use oil fuel instead of coal.

On Tuesday we visited Hickam Field and saw a number of buildings with bullet holes in them from the attack. We then went over to Ford Island to tour the Pacific Aviation Museum where we saw actual planes used by both U.S. and Japan during WWII. While there, I met up with Don Green another AE-1 shipmate who paid his own way to Hawaii and was

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Pearl Harbor Revisited

(Continued from page 4)

staying with an admiral he knows. Then we had dinner and over to the Sunset Ceremony for USS Utah. This was another long day.

Up early Wednesday morning for the International Commemoration Ceremony. There we witnessed the 70th Anniversary of the attack from 7:40 to 9:30 a.m. on the back lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. (See TV news photo on page 1) Highlights of this ceremony included Navy Band music, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, rifle salute, wreath presentations, echo taps, recognition of the 120 Pearl Harbor Survivors attending, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. US Air Force planes flew over in the missing man formation. We skipped the dedication of the Ford Island Control Tower Monument, but had a private lunch and reception at the Pacific Aviation Museum. Then we had to rest a little bit before forming up for the parade from Ft. DeRussy down Kalakaua Avenue. I rode in a 1970 White Corvette as Honorary Grand Marshal of the parade. There was a high school band from every state and military bands and bag-pipe and drum outfits and many vehicles. There were more than 100,000 people along the parade route. Then dinner with the Governor of Hawaii near the band shell in Kapiolani Park.

On Thursday, Dec. 8th, we went to Schofield barracks and visited with the 25th Infantry. Many wanted pictures taken with me, including a colonel in command of the "Tropical Lightening" unit. Had lunch with the men and gals. Then we went to Kaneohe to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii that was originally Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay. The 2000 Census total population of the base was 11,827, home to marines, sailors, their family members and civilian employees.

On Friday, several things had been scrapped except a trip to the Punch Bowl Cemetery. We missed going to Tripler Medical Center and the Army Hawaii Museum. Saturday was time to pack and go home.

It certainly was an excellent trip and we were treated like royalty: You couldn't buy a drink — some one was always picking up the tab, having photos taken with us and asking for autographs. I'm still not over the jet lag. Aloha now to all my Pyro friends and shipmates. My Hawaiian Christmas greeting to all, *MELE KALIKIMAKA AND HAUOLI MAKAHIKI HOU.*

Ed Stone

Afghan vet seeks info on Pyro grandfather

Did you serve with Arch Griggs aboard the AE-1 in 1941?

If so his grandson, Michael Griggs, — he's a veteran who served three tours in Afghanistan — would like to hear from you.

"I never knew my grandfather was at Pearl Harbor until he told my father as he was dying.," the younger Griiggs wrote.

Ed Stone is checking his files, but if you have any information, please write:

michael.griggs2@yahoo.com

or The Scuttlebutt..

***We don't need
no education...***



but they do!

**Applications now open
for 2012 Pyro scholarships**

At least one \$1,000 USS Pyro Scholarship for 2012 will be formally awarded at the Baton Rouge Reunion, May 16-20, 2012.

Complete rules and your application forms are online at

www.ae-24.org/Scholarship_2012.pdf.

Ragin' with the Cajuns in Baton Rouge



Wednesday 16 May 2012

18:00 Registration and Welcome Aboard Reception. Arrive in Baton Rouge at your leisure. Log in and get reacquainted with old (and young) shipmates in the hospitality room. Welcome reception and Hospitality Room membership with adult refreshments included throughout the reunion. Remainder of the evening free.

Thursday 17 May 2012

Big East Road trip! Depart the Holiday Inn South by motor coach for New Orleans. Arrive about 1030 at the World War II Museum. View the dramatic multimedia cinematic presentation of the events from Manchuria to VJ Day. Tour the museum (and the great gift shops). At about 1230, we'll take the short drive the French Quarter area. Lunch on you own at one of the great New Orleans eateries, sip a hurricane in the Quarter or shop till you drop in New Orleans high and not so high-end shops. Depart for Baton Rouge at 1500 and return to Holiday Inn South at 16:30. Evening free.

Friday 18 May 2012

0930 **Remembering the departed on the USS Kidd.** Depart the Holiday Inn South by motor coach for a drive through tour of downtown Baton Rouge. After visiting the USS Kidd Museum, the group will be piped aboard the WWII destroyer for the annual memorial service. The ship's guns will fire a five gun salute to all the Pyro fallen. After the service, tour the Kidd and have lunch on your own at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel and Casino or another nearby restaurant. Return to the Holiday Inn at 1300.

1315 **Plantation life.** Depart the Holiday Inn for Nottoway, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion, a stunning historic plantation near Baton Rouge on the banks of the Mississippi. Admission included.

Saturday 19 May 2012

1000 Membership meeting

1200 Free time to explore Baton Rouge or kick back in the hospitality room

Awards Banquet and dance

1830 Cocktails (Cash bar); group and individual photos

1930 Awards Banquet – with buffet dinner

2015 Dance with Cajun music group

2315-ish Good night!

Sunday 20 May 2012

Time to go home, Cher. Or stay on for a few extra days at the great reunion rate.

USS PYRO Association
Ragin' with the Cajuns 2012

May 16-21, 2012 Holiday Inn South Baton Rouge, LA
REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Name _____
Spouse/Guest _____
Address _____
City _____, State _____ ZIP _____
TEL: _____ E-mail _____

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 16 May 2012

18:00 **Welcome Aboard Reception and Reunion Registration.** *All reunion participants must register.*

\$25.00 per Person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Thursday 17 May 2012

0900 **Big Easy Road trip!** New Orleans, World War II Museum, French Quarter stroll and the World War II and shopping

\$50.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Friday 18 May 2012

0930 **Remembering the departed on the USS Kidd.**

\$35.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

1315 **Plantation life.** Depart the Holiday Inn for Nottoway, the South's largest remaining antebellum mansion, a stunning historic plantation near Baton Rouge on the banks of the Mississippi.

\$35.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Saturday 20 May 2012

1930 **Awards Banquet** – with buffet dinner; dance with Cajun music group.

\$50.00 per person
Number of Persons _____ Per person \$ _____ Total \$ _____

TOTAL

Total Amount of enclosed check payable to USS Pyro Association \$ _____

To complete your registration, please mail this form and check to:
Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901

USS PYRO Scuttlebutt

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Douglas Wisher, secretary
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www.usspyro.com



Request permission to
come onboard!

USS PYRO AE-1 & AE-24 ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ E-mail address: _____

Rate/rank(s) aboard Pyro: _____ Highest USN rate/rank: _____

Dates aboard USS PYRO (AE1 or AE 24) _____ to _____ Retired USN? Separated under honorable conditions? Yes No

To join: Send this completed application and a check payable to the USS PYRO Association for either annual dues or the lifetime membership amount appropriate for your age to:

Bill Hogan, Treasurer
PO Box 40
Farmville, VA 23901

Association dues

Annual:	\$ 20
Lifetime membership	
Age 50 or under	\$250
51 ~ 55	\$200
56 ~ 60	\$175
61 ~ 65	\$150
66 ~ 70	\$125
71 ~ 75	\$100
76 ~81	\$ 50
82 PLUS	\$ 25