

Association of Minemen
P. O. Box 71835
Charleston, S.C. 29405

May 1981

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING 14 - 16 AUGUST 1981
CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA

Fellow Minemen --- Everything is planned for this year's Annual Meeting to be held 14, 15 and 16 August 1981 here in Charleston South Carolina. We will kick things off with an "Early Bird" at the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Home at 2815 Spruill Avenue from 1600 Friday 14 August 1981 until it ends. The Business meeting will be held at the Charleston Air Force Base Officers Club Saturday 15 August 1981 from 1300 to 1500 hours. Refreshments will be available from a cash bar for those desiring to partake. The banquet will be held at the Air Force Base Officers Club on 15 August 1981, beginning with cocktails at 1830 from a cash bar. A sit down dinner will be served from 2000 until 2200. The menu will consist of prime rib or chicken. The guest of honor will speak at approximately 2100. Music will be provided by the Naval Base Band from 2000 until 2400, with dancing from 2200 until 2400.

There will be a picnic Sunday 16 August 1981, from 1200 until dusk at the Air Force Base picnic grounds. Food will be catered by the famous "Colonel". Beer and soda is included in the price of the picnic. A play area for the children and recreational equipment (softball, volleyball, horseshoes, etc.) will be available. A map and summary of events are enclosed for your information.

Please make your checks and money orders payable to the Association of Minemen and send along with the registration form below to:

Association of Minemen
P. O. Box 71835
Charleston, S. C. 29405

Cancellation and refunds will be accepted up to 7 August 1981.

NAME _____

RESERVATIONS FOR BANQUET _____ PERSONS X \$10.00 = \$ _____
(\$10.00 PER PERSON)

RESERVATIONS FOR PICNIC _____ PERSONS X \$6.00 = \$ _____
(\$6.00 PER PERSON/CHILDREN UNDER 12 YRS \$1.00)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM NO LATER THAN 1 AUGUST 1981

SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON AUGUST 1981 - - BRING A FRIEND -- BRING A SHIPMATE --

BRING A NEW MEMBER - - PLAN TO VISIT THE MINE MUSEUM - -

BUT MAINLY - - COME JOIN US FOR A GOOD TIME - -

May 1981

NEWSLETTER

The following information is a general update since the February 1981 Newsletter:::::

-- Congratulations to the new active duty E-9's and E-8's

MNCM Schommer - FMWTC	MNCM Temple - COMNAVLOGPAC
MNCS Bombard - FMWTC	MNCS Hutson - MOMAG Unit Nine
MNCS Ivy - FMWTC	MNCS Sandoval - FMWTC
MNCS Schreurs - MOMAG DET FIVE	

And to the new Reserve E-9's and E-8's

MNCM Ruthman	
MNCS Nicholson	MNCS Cleland
MNCS Jurkovich	MNCS Stanfel

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Well done to CWO Bob Pricer, MN2 Jerry Rodgers and MN3 Carily Wallick at MOMAG Unit EIGHT Guam for signing up 25 new members.

Also well done to MNCM Dick Schommer at the Fleet and Mine Warfare Training Center (FMWTC) for signing up at least 22 members that we can confirm.

During the period of 14 - 16 August 1981, members and their families will be admitted free of charge to board the USS Yorktown. The Mine Museum is located aboard the USS Yorktown, which is moored at Patriots Point, just across the bridge in Mt. Pleasant. Also, anyone visiting Charleston at other times or people living in the Charleston area can arrange to go aboard free of charge by calling one of the AOM officers in the area, who will call the USS Yorktown and arrange the details. (See the list of AOM officers included in this flyer).

The first person to use the membership application that was in the February 1981 flyer was William (Bill) H. Hart, retired MNC residing here in Charleston. Thanks Bill.

Correspondence received.....

- - From Ed Oyer, as noted in the Secretary/Treasurers notes.
- - From Bill Hart as noted above.
- - From Haines Miller, Honorary Mineman, thanking the Association for the honor. He sent his regrets for not being able to join us last year and indicated he might not be able to join us this year. (Ah, come on Haines and Rita, TRY).
- - From Capt. McGraw, USNR (RET), noting he had a letter from Cdr Jeffords widow and that he had responded by noting his thanks (and many others of us I am sure) for Cdr Jeffords dedication to the Navy, especially Mine Warfare, and the influence he had on the lives and careers of those that knew the Cdr.

Correspondence received (cont).....

- - From Radm Kossler, expressing his enjoyment of his duty with the Mine Forces and wishing us well. Also -- Radm Kossler is actively engaged with Patriots Point in preparing the WWII submarine USS Clamagore for public viewing. The WWII Submarine Veterans are also assisting with the project. The Clamagore was recently positioned at Patriots Point and tentative plans are to have the boat open to the public by July 1981. Radm Kossler has requested that anyone having any memorabilia they wish to donate to the USS Clamagore to please contact him. His address is: Radm H. Kossler, USN (RET), 18 Water Street, Charleston, S.C. 29401. Telephone 803-722-3915. The Association of Minemen also plans to assist by making available some submarine laid mines for display in the torpedo compartments.
- - From MNC Jim Trick, USN (RET), who retired from Earle N.J. in 1972, was awarded a degree in Management in 1978, is waiting to become a grandparent, and plans to enter the ministry in the near future. Good Luck Jim.

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RESERVE MOMAG NEWS ::

Many of the Reserve Momag Detachments have been here in Charleston for their two weeks ACDUTRA, either at the Fleet and Minewarfare Training Center or the Mobile Mine Assembly Group. We had the opportunity to meet many of them and also sign up most of them in the Association. Some of them were:::

- - MNC Dan Ritz from Hawthorne, who drills with Det 2419 Long Beach, signed up ten of his Detachment while training here in Charleston.
- - CWO Warren Savage, Det 1006 Newport News Virginia.
- - CWO J.V. Kuhlmann, Det 302 Albany New York.

We know there were other Dets that were here that we did not have personal contact with, so when you are in the Charleston area, please let us know. The Mine Museum aboard the USS Yorktown is available for you to visit, at no cost, whenever you can schedule it. Just contact one of the Association officers in the Charleston area, or a member of the FMWTC Mines Department staff, who will arrange for you to go aboard free of charge. It is recommended that the CO's consider scheduling a trip to the USS Yorktown for the entire group. We believe it would be worthwhile.

If any of the Reserve Momag groups would like to have anything printed in future newsletters, please drop us a line at the address at the beginning of this newsletter.

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SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON 14 - 16 AUGUST 1981 - - PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS

EARLY - - THIS WILL BE OUR OFFICIAL SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION - -

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

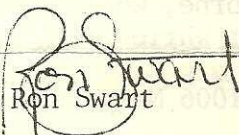
An early response to our new membership form was Ed Oyer; and he has asked some very interesting questions:

1. Who was the first Mineman to go from MNSN through E-9 to Commissioned status?
2. Who was the first to go frm MNSN to E-9?

Any ideas or thoughts on this or any other subject should be sent to our Historian, Lyal Stryker, and we will publish it at the Annual meeting and the flyer following the meeting. I have the feeling we can easily come up with our own "Amazing but True" history of the Mine Force. Let us hear from all of you and thanks Ed for the questions.

There are a few blank spaces through out my card number assignment log and for some reason over the years a name was never assigned. Any one who may have these card numbers, please let me know so I can update my records: 0146, 0147, 0148, 0149, 0150, 0151, 0152, 0206 and 0207. Also, J.W. Powell, #0202 was signed up in August 1980 at Yorktown, but we do not have an address to send him his card. If anyone knows him or his address, please let me know so I can send him his card and also put him on the mailing list.

A REQUEST - - - Please - - when you send in your \$1.00 annual administrative fee, please fill out the membership/dues form, as it will help me keep the records straight and also serve as a check against the mailing list to ensure we have your correct address. Thanks.


Ron Swart

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We have had many requests for the names and addresses of the Association officers, so here they are:

President: Lyal Stryker
8517 Deerwood Dr.,
Charleston, S.C. 29405
Phone 803-553-1450

Vice President: Harry Coker
327 Aylesbury Ct.,
Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952
Phone 813-625-9879

Secretary Treasurer:
Ron Swart
105 Pine St.,
Ladson, S.C. 29456
Phone 803-873-3522

Board of Directors (BOD):
Phil Dechene
978 Mayflower Dr.,
Charleston, S.C. 29412
Phone 803-795-0043

BOD - Bob Forbes
24 Vallejo St.,
Charleston, S.C. 29408
Phone 803-553-6845

BOD - Toby Horn
c/o Mantech International
Suite 1111,
2341 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Va. 22202
Phone 703-979-3600 Ext. 253

BOD - Charlie Hunt
1123 Inverness Lane
Hanahan, S.C. 29406
Phone 803-747-4291

BOD - Jack Smoot
306 Artillery Dr.,
Yorktown, Va. 23690
Phone 804-898-7486

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Response to the February 1981 Newsletter was good and the membership application form has proved to be a good idea. We will print it in all future flyers, so please pass it on to a non-member or fill it out when you send in your \$1.00 annual fee. While the response was good, I believe it could be better. We did sign up 27 new members but only received 15 \$1.00 annual fees, which is considerably less than anticipated. I know that \$1.00 does not seem like much, but when you consider we now have 262 paid members and associates, that equates to \$262.00 a year to pay for preparation of the flyers and mailing costs. We do need your \$1.00 if you have not sent it in yet.

Sonja and Fred Hirstetter have sent us several pieces of lovely ceramics to sell/raffle at the annual meeting. Proceeds will be used to support the Mine Museum on the USS Yorktown and other Association projects. The ceramics were made by Sonja and include a "Reunion 1981" cup, one of a kind. If anyone else would like to support this worthy cause by donating crafts to be sold/raffled, please let us know or send/bring the items to the annual meeting. We plan to set up a table at the dinner Saturday evening and the picnic on Sunday afternoon.

MNCM Milt Baird has sent a message from Commander Mine Warfare Command to all the mine sites and activities reminding them of the Mineman of the Year program, which is jointly sponsored by COMINEWARCOM and the Association of Minemen. It is anticipated that Radm Horne, COMINEWARCOM, will announce the winner at the 7th Annual Association of Minemen meeting dinner Saturday evening 15 August 1981.

MNCM Otto Smith from the Fl-et and Mine Warfare Training Center retired effective 31 May 1981. He was honored at a retirement ceremony Friday 29 May 1981 at the FMWTC auditorium, followed by a "roasting" at the CPO Club.

In a follow up to the suggestion of Noel "Gabby" Goode and others, that we acquire AOM T shirts to sell each year, I am happy to report that Ron Swart and Milt Baird are actively pursuing this project. There is a local company that provides a quality reasonably priced T shirt (we have seen some - they are good) and it is planned to have some available this year. In addition, we hope to have some MK 6 tie tacs available.

Evelyn Dechene has only received three responses to the flyer. Mrs. Ellis of Summerville phoned to offer help and Carol Strunk of Goose Creek and Judith Cottrell of Rockville Indiana both sent in a dollar. The AOM will need the assistance of the ladies in helping with greetings, registration, raffles, games for the children at the picnic, etc. Ladies, please call or write to Evelyn and offer to help, we do need your support. If you are a husband that is reading this, please hand it to your wife to read. Thanks!

The photographs of last years dinner turned out excellent and we have also acquired the negatives. It is planned to have a set of prints available in a book for you to look at and order copies if desired.

As many of you know, Ed Sprecher has been in Walter Reed Army Medical Center undergoing treatment for a form of neck cancer. I talked to Ed the evening of 28 May 1981, he is at home now, the treatment he has been receiving has apparently done the job, as the tumor is gone and only a bit of scar tissue remains, as a result of the treatment he was receiving. Ed asked me to express his sincere appreciation to all the many friends that wrote him, phoned him and prayed for him. He and June expect to be in Charleston this August for the meeting of the AOM. If you would like to drop Ed a line, his address is: H.E. Sprecher, Box 9, Chewsville, MD 21721 and his phone is 301-739-8986.

Dick Schommer still needs local Charleston members to help with the Mine Museum aboard the USS Yorktown. This is a long range continuing program and we do need reliable dedicated help. The Mine Museum is the largest and most complete of its kind outside a military activity and can tell a real powerful story to the public. Please call Dick at home 797-3715 or his office 743-4969/3931 and offer your time and talent, it will be appreciated.



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SOME CHARLESTON MOTELS:

Royal Scotsman Inn, I-26 at Aviation Ave. Ph. 803-744-7415.

Holiday Inn, I-26 at Aviation Ave. Ph. 803-744-1621

Ramada Inn, I-26 at Montague Ave. Ph. 803-744-8281

Days Inn, I-26 at Montague Ave. Ph. 803-747-4101

Best Western Inn of North Charleston (New) I-26 and Ashley Phosphate Rd.
Ph. 803-572-2200

La Quinta Motor Inn (New) I-26 and Ashley Phosphate Rd. Ph. 803-797-8181

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Don't forget the crafts for raising funds for the Association!!!!

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May 81