

The DASHPOT

Issue 7

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

FALL 1994

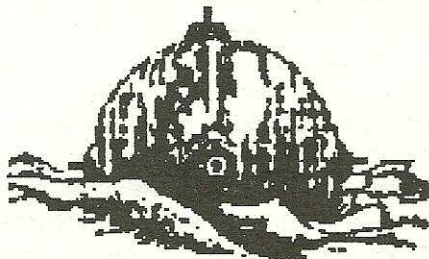


FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the past few years, we have been trying to publish a newsletter for the Association on a regular basis. Our goal was to make it a quarterly event, but the voluntary time available to the few of us involved in the process has become less and less. This became even more evident as these same few plunged into the task of trying to get our AOM History Book back on track. The book had to take precedence, so the Dashpot production suffered. I felt very frustrated about this, because all the mechanics were - and are - in place for maintaining a quarterly schedule. The time just wasn't there to accomplish what we wanted to do.

I am happy to report, however, that we are entering a new Dashpot production era, starting with this issue. Our shipmate, **John Loonam** of Gloucester, Virginia, has volunteered to take over as Editor of the Dashpot and will now guide it's schedule and production. Please note his address and phone number located on the masthead on page 2, and read his Editor column to get acquainted with some of his publication aspirations. I have known John for many years. He is an individual who promotes excellence in all his undertakings and a rigid disciplinarian when it comes to maintaining a schedule to get to where he wants to go. I think

Please see **President**/ page 2



1994 Minemen of the Year

Active Duty:

Mineman First Class

Thomas J. Kaiser

USN

Reserve:

Mineman First Class

Gilbert G. Bourgouin

USNR

Charleston Reunion '94

by **Lyal Stryker**

No Honorary Mineman awarded this year. There were two Minemen of the Year, one active duty and one reserve. They are Mineman First Class **Thomas J. Kaiser**, USN, Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit Eleven, Charleston and Mineman First Class **Gilbert G. Bourgouin**, USNR, Naval Reserve Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit Twelve, Misawa

(Please see **Charleston '94** page 3)

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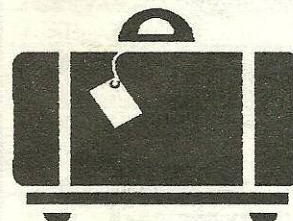
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Reno '95 AUG 11-13

West Coast reunion chairman **Don Decrona** reports the 1995 Association of Minemen Reunion planning at Reno, Nevada is well underway. Its never too early to make plans for vacation time off, airline specials or gifts. How about a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or other special occasion gift to attend the 1995 reunion?

The Sands Regency Hotel/Casino 345 N. Arlington Ave, Reno, NV will be the place. Reservations: 1-(800)-648-3553 using group control No. MIN-811 gets you the

\$56.00 +
9% room
tax for
AOM
(single
and
double,
each
additional



\$7.00 + tax). Reservation cut-off is July 11. If you plan to stay longer than the reunion dates, tell reservations and lock in the Association group rates for your full stay.

Saturday night dinner \$23.50 includes tax and gratuity.

Schedule:

Fri. Aug. 11 Early Bird 1830-2100

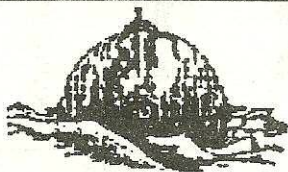
Board Mtg. TBA

Sat. Aug. 12 Business Mtg. 1300-1500

Cocktails 1800-1900 Banquet 1900-2100

Sun. Aug. 13 Picnic (details not firm)

Don will keep us informed.



**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED TO SERVING
THE
U.S. MINE FORCE**

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina... to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense.

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Please provide 9 digit ZIP code

President

Continued from page 1

that with John at our editorial helm, our Dashpot is at a new threshold. Let's all give him a helping hand however we can. This is your newsletter. **Contribute!!!**

As those of you who were here for the Charleston reunion know, our reunion in 1996 was voted to be held in a new location - Panama City, Florida. Our favorite X-rated member, **Francis X. Martin**, and old running mate **Don Costa** have "volunteered" to head up that reunion planning effort and charge ahead with getting accommodations and events scheduled well ahead of time. Any of you shipmates in the Panama City area who can help Frank and Don with planning, please lend them a hand. It may be only a few simple phone calls, a suggestion on a golf outing or tours for the ladies, letting them know of a great hotel/motel package, doing a flyer on your computer for the newsletter - whatever. **It really doesn't hurt folks!!! Volunteer!!!** You can contact Frank at (904) 769-1398 and Don at (904) 234-5221. Uuummmm, I already have visions of white sand beaches, salty oysters and cold beer. Start your planning **now!!!** **Toby Horn**

Russian Mines for Export

Among the latest equipment offered for export by the former Soviet Union, are four sea-bottom mines. MDM-1, 3, 4 and 5 are sophisticated bottom influence mines equipped with timing and ship-counting devices to be highly resistant to mine counter-measures. MDM-1 is surface or submarine laid while the others are air or surface laid. The MDM-5 boasts the capability of high speed surface effects ship planting up to 100 knots. Features include three channel influences of acoustic, electromagnetic and hydrodynamics. Self-destruct features are also noted.

Secretary's Corner



Thanks to all of you that sent in your dues for the coming year. Some of you forgot that we have started a new

schedule for dues. The dues year is now from 31 July through 1 August. This was the first year we started the new dues year and requested members send in \$15.00 as of January first 1994 to cover dues until August 1995. Commencing August 1995 dues will then be \$10.00 annually. Some of you did send in your dues for \$10.00 and we would appreciate if you would remit the additional \$5.00 so we can bring you up to date in the computer in the sky. If we have made an error in your dues status please let us know so that we can correct it. Also want to thank all of you that have dropped us a note with your dues and we will publish as many as possible in the mailbag column subject to space limitations and the whims of our new editor John Loonam. Seriously, we want to thank John for taking on the responsibility of being editor of our newsletter THE DASHPOT which is the main avenue of communication between those of us that are retired and the active duty/reserve communities. John has told us that he is a "deadline" person and that if we do not get our inputs to him on schedule we will not be late but early for the next edition. Therefore this section is brief and will hopefully be expanded in future editions. P.S. we are solvent and a financial report will be in the next edition. We did award two \$500.00 scholarship assistance grants to sons of members.

We sure could use your 9 digit zip code to help reduce mailing costs.

Committee Reports

Membership

by Toby Horn

My latest membership listing shows us to currently have 727 "memberships". Of these, 18 are "corporate" or command/activity memberships, which leaves us 709 living-breathing type members that comprise the membership body of our Association. I'd like to say that all of these are "active" members, but I am sad to say that we will have to "cull" this membership listing in the January time frame to purge the "dues in arrears" (more than 2 years) members. We have provided an even longer "grace" period than originally advertised, due to the six months gap in shifting over to our new annual dues date of August for renewal. Please, everyone, review your dues status and make sure you are current. If you are not sure, drop a post card (19 cents) to money-bags



Stryker and he'll let you know how many thousands of dollars you owe to become current again.

As some of you know, from this years business meeting, our membership procedures have changed slightly in order to conform to the standards required for us to pursue the "Non-profit Exempt" status with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of South Carolina where we are incorporated. Applicants must now be "screened" by a committee to

our C&BLs. It is a minor process, but it requires a couple of us to get together as time permits and this sometimes delays getting our "new member" information package back to the applicant. More volunteers would help - much can be done by a phone call.

I would like to reiterate my annual petition to the membership. Please get in touch with your ol' buddies and/or buddess' (the word "biddies" is out) and sign 'em up as new members. It works??? We are hearing from some shipmates that we thought were lost forever. With a new newsletter Editor taking over, we are going to be able to stay in touch regularly throughout the year. Think of an old friend and shipmate and call them today. As the saying goes - "reach out and touch someone" - sign 'em up!!!

Charleston '94

Continued from page 1

Detachment 119. MN1 Kaiser was presented his certificate at the dinner meeting. His plaque will be presented later in a more formal setting. MN1 Bourgouin will receive his certificate and plaque when convenient to him. **John Loonam** was re-elected to the BOD and Bill Roberts was elected to the BOD to replace **Warren Savage** whose term was up. **John Loonam** also graciously agreed to assume the duties and responsibility of Editor of The Dashpot. John has told all of the contributors to The Dashpot that he is a "deadline guy" and if you miss the deadline you will be early for the next issue.

MK 6 Still the Workhorse

Capt. Danny Powers told the Charleston dinner meeting crowd that the MK 6 and its anchor are the mainstay of minesweeping training. Seems that anchor just won't go away.

USS Heron (MHC 52)

Years ago the Mineman 3 and 2 correspondence course had a chapter on minesweeping. The information provided Minemen with basic nomenclature and techniques to familiarize them with the "other" side of mines. On August 6, 1994 the USS Heron (MHC 52) (Osprey Class) coastal mine hunter, was commissioned. The leading chief on the ship is **MNC(SW) Todd C. Knopp** who changed his rate from STG (sonar tech.). As reported by Ron Swart, the expansion is happening. The Minemen on Heron will be responsible for the most advanced Mine Hunting System in the U.S. Navy - the AN/SQQ-32 (V) 1 and the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System. Assisting the Chief are **MN1(SW) James W. Tandy** and **MN3 (SW) Jesus Gutierrez**.

Built of glass reinforced plastic by the skilled craftsmen of Intermarine USA, Savannah, Georgia, Heron boasts the most sophisticated minehunting suite ever put to sea, along with the systems above, and AN/SYQ-13 Navigation Command and Control System represent a substantial advance in mine countermeasures. Heron's ship's seal says "First in the Hunt".

Heron's primary mission is to clear U.S. harbor and coastal waters of bottom and moored acoustic, magnetic, pressure and contact mines. The MHC class is designed to carry out combined operations with other surface and airborne mine countermeasures units in coastal waters. Secondary missions include:

- Route survey and channel
- Conditioning of harbors and ports
- Limited underwater search operations
- Limited search and rescue
- Collect limited hydrographic, oceanographic and navigational data.

(USS HERON Commissioning Book)

Reno Reunion 1993

by Lyal Stryker

As always it was a great success. **Don DeCrona** and **Ann Cobis** outdid themselves again, if that is possible. We did not have a quorum at the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday August 20 at the Sands Regency and did not conduct any official business. At the General Business Meeting Saturday afternoon committee reports were given that noted; 711 addresses in the computer, finance reported \$7071.00 net worth with reunion bills still to be paid, still receiving material for the Mine Museum and History Book and thanks to all for providing old photographs, etc., History Book work ongoing with considerable material to screen and it is planned in early 94 to hire someone to do the historical write ups from early days to present, recommended **Roger Adams** be re-elected to the BOD and also to elect **Ralph Shaw** to the BOD. HONORARY MINEMAN: Radm **John D. Pearson**, USN, Commander Mine Warfare Command was elected Honorary Mineman H016, Scholarship Committee reported the award of two \$500.00 grants, one to **Chris Adams** and one to **Doyle Paul, Jr.** At the dinner meeting Saturday evening **Toby Horn** announced the active duty Mineman of the Year was Mineman First Class **David R. Ostrom**, USN from Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit Twelve, Misawa, Japan. (Capt. **Danny Powers**, COMOMAG presented MN1 Ostrom the AOM plaque and certificate during a trip to Westpac.) There was no reserve Mineman of the Year. **Toby Horn** was the dinner speaker and brought everyone up to date on the changes in Washington concerning Mine Warfare. The picnic was at

Rancho San Rafael and the weather was perfect. The horseshoe tournament crown was captured by the son of **John Epps** (a youngster) who showed the old timers how to throw a shoe (no pun intended.)

by Toby Horn

Yup!, it says 1993, and I guess it's better late than never to recall a great time and a great event created by some great people. I don't need to amble through my notes to sort out the particulars of all the detailed planning that was behind a "magic" weekend for many of us in the "Biggest Little City in the World" - Reno - and this is the same crew that is setting up for Reno 1995. From the start, **Don DeCrona** and **Ann Cobis** - with the able assistance of their wonderful (understanding and helpful, too) spouses, **LaVern DeCrona** and **Ray Cobis** - put together all the planning and preparations for accommodations, hospitality suite, dinner banquet and picnic. They enlisted the aid and expertise of another wonderful gal - Ms. **Kathy**



Haro,
Conve
ntion
Servic
es
Coordi
nator
of the

Sands Regency Hotel & Casino - who threw all of her vibrant personality and enthusiasm into our plans, too. I still owe her a carved owl pin for her care and assistance with a "not to be missed" reunion that I'm sorry a lot of you missed.

Air travel in and out of Reno was a breeze. True to their word, the Sands made our accommodations the perfect getaway to a world of fun and

pleasure, with comfortable, clean rooms, and excellent service. The hospitality room they set up for us was ample and we were able to meet up with a lot of old friends - **Scotty Helms** (an old MOMAT 0321 plankowner), Keith Hallam of Virginia Beach fame, **Paul Horton** who works right there in the Sands, **Joe Arrigo** who is an ol' WWII Mineman, **Lewis J. Jones** a retired MNC from Idaho, **Fred Onofrio** a retired Captain who was the CO of both the DMS-7 and DMS-37, and an ex-Mineman **Ed Gregory** who I do not have any particulars on, and he is not listed as one of our members (anyone know him - sign him up).

The dinner on Saturday night was excellent. A whole gang of us got together after the meal and did one of the big theatrical shows, which are in most of the bigger casinos. Oooo! Laaa! Laaa! Those show girls are really something. **Grace Dougherty** kept hitting us guys with her pocket book until the MC got wind of it and called her down.

The Picnic that they put on for us at Rancho San Rafael Park was picture perfect. There was not a cloud in the sky and you could see forever. It was like you could reach out and touch the surrounding foothills in the distance. They served up catering service cooked barbecue that tasted like more and more and more, and we had the usual hot dogs, burgers and cold, cold beer. Our horse shoe tournament was won by **Michael Epps**, a young man that put all us oldy-but-goody pitchers in our place. He had a hard time, though, beating out that upstart from New Hampshire, **Charlie Dean**. I am also most happy to report that all of those who attended contributed to the most successful auction we have ever had at any reunion - anywhere. It was a fitting end to a perfect time. They'll have to hog-tie me and put me in jail to keep me away from Reno 1995. See you there!!!

Go for it!!

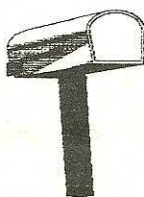
Editors column and Editorials

by john loonam

The lifeline of communications for any great organization is the **Newsletter**. Spread throughout the world we see little enough of each other. Annual Reunions give some a chance to meet and socialize. By and large the communications network of the Minemen has been word of mouth and occasional "Where's Charley ? lists of the old Mine Engineering Facility publications. I see the associations **Quarterly** newsletter filling a need of communication among Minemen and the Association. Units and Det's articles as received and edited for format/style. OIC, Kacki and 1st class in October 2nds & 3rds Jan. & Apr.

We will not attempt to enter the chain of command. The Newsletter is a **social** and **professional information** source. We do not desire to to print controversial articles from disgruntled individuals. We do not wish to become involved with deciding security classifications of information submitted. The local preparer must clear questionable classification restrictions at the local level prior to submission. We welcome articles under your by-line but reserve the right to edit as necessary to fit or layout articles. I am a volunteer and hope I can fill the position to your expectations. I will prepare a **Quarterly** newsletter to be mailed in the first week of October, January, April and July. You need to know the next deadline for me to enter your articles so I'll put it in each edition. You meet the deadline or you will be early for the next edition. Deadlines are just that and that's the way I'll run it. I have to enter the articles, reformat and style the

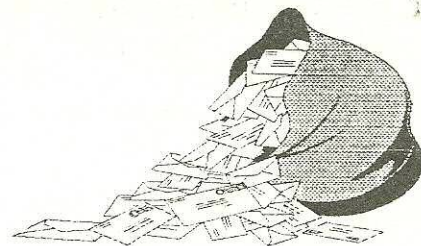
whole thing and have it printed (takes about a week) Then it gets mailed to Charleston where the Association prints and affixes labels and mail (the post office gets another week) Due to my learning curve and logistics I see my first edition being late. I plan to get it out and on time after this issue. As a dues paying member, you deserve to get your **Newsletter** quarterly as advertised.. It may be skinny due to lack of articles but I will get one out and include articles **RECEIVED** by the deadline. You can submit articles to the Association or directly to me (Address & Phone in Officers Column) Remember mail delays add time.



Letters to the Editor

I'll be happy to print your signed letters to the editor. You can send them direct to me or to the Secretary/Treasurer. We reserve the right to edit as space permits and **PLEASE** keep them social and professional.

January
Article Deadline
December 5



Mailbag

By Lyal Stryker

Following are abbreviated notes received from members when sending in their dues, orders, etc.

HELP - we received a Charleston reunion registration with no name or address on it. It was accompanied by a \$20.00 check #1810 dated 7-29-94. If this is **YOU** please let us know so we can credit **YOU** for paying your dues.

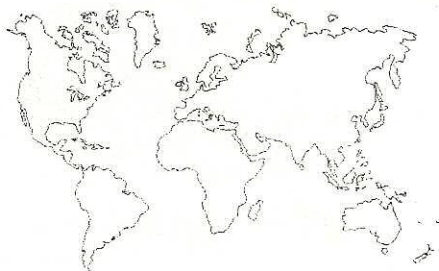
Phil Beckwith sent us a clipping from **USA TODAY** some time ago and it just floated to the surface of our incoming mail pile. August 31, 1992 **MINE FOUND**: The Navy exploded a World War II era Mark 13 mine that was snared in a fishing net in Half Moon Bay, California in an area marked on charts as "Explosive Dumping Area Disused." No one was hurt.

Bob Stegge made a note on his dues/registration form that he was unable to attend the Charleston reunion and said it would be real nice if the AOM could set up something for the attendees to the Mine Conference this November in Charleston. Were working on it Bob!

Matt Cokor joined us last year and noted he had been part of **MAD 9** during WWII. Said he would see us in Reno in 95.

Please see Mailbag/ page 9

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



What's Happening at COMINEWARCOM?

By Ron Swart

Howdy from the new "Mine Warfare Center of Excellence" here in the Corpus Christi - Ingelside Navy Complex. South Texas is a remarkable change from the lush, tree filled landscape of Charleston and Yorktown. Down here, the trees are so few that their numbered, (I've got #26 and #27 in my yard!!!).

The big news around COMINEWARCOM as of late, is scheduled 1 November 1994 reorganization (again). COMNAVSURFLANT will be regaining control of the MCM / MHC fleet and **RADM Pearson** gets another hat as COMNAVSURFGRU INGELSIDE. **Admiral Pearson** will retain his COMINEWARCOM responsibilities retaining operational control of Mobile Mine Assembly Group, the Mine Warfare Inspection Group and all Mine Warfare squadrons, ships, helicopters and EOD Detachments when deployed. See the wiring diagram on next page.

Some other Texas Tidbits:

● USS *Inchon* will undergo conversion from an amphibious helicopter carrier to a MINE Countermeasures Support Ship (MCS) over the next year. USS *Inchon* will be homeported at Ingelside after coming out of the yards.

● Refurbishment of a new home for MOMAG Unit 15, Kingsville, TX is scheduled to begin soon. A "historical" aircraft hanger on the flight-line at NAS Kingsville will be

converted to a fully functioning mine shop by next spring, just in time for the summer mine exercise season.

● Contracts have been let for the new fire fighting facility and the Mine Warfare Training Center at Ingelside and we expect the schoolhouse to open about January 1996.

● The Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group staff is slated to move to Corpus Christi next summer, into a building right next door to COMINEWARCOM. Building 36 isn't much to look at right now, but the refurb plans look terrific. The trick will be keeping it on schedule and within budget.

● The next milestone in the Mineman rating expansion program will be the conversion of all GMG billets on MCM-1 Class and MHC-51 Osprey Class ships to MN. This move is already in motion and Mineman will start replacing Gunners Mates as their tour of duty is completed. The overall Mineman expansion plan calls for the conversion of all the remaining targeted billets on 1 October 1995. Altogether there will be between 1000 and 1200 Mineman Navy-wide. Presently, the Mineman occupational standards have been rewritten and are undergoing final review. The Class "A" and "C" school curriculum and rating examinations are next on the agenda. Some STG, OS, WT and BM folks have taken the plunge early and have already converted to Mineman. To our MNC shipmates, we welcome you to join the Association of Minemen.

There is a lot happening throughout the Navy and Mine Warfare right now and I could talk on for hours, but I must get this off to the editor or face missing another deadline. Mine Warfare has survived the transplant, so y'all stop in and visit Naval Station Ingelside and NAS Corpus Christi the next time your in Texas. Bye for now. **Lcdr Ron Swart**

Attention Short Stay Fans!



MN1 "Bud" Day (Ret.) has informed us of a

change in the reservation policy at Short Stay recreational area. Previous policy was active duty first and what was left over went to the retirees.

Well no longer, the new policy is "FIRST COME FIRST SERVED". Make reservations early. Phone (803) 743-5608. Since "Bud" works at Short Stay as the late check-in host, tell them "this Bud is for you".

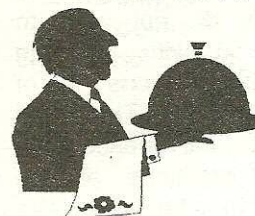
Thanks to J. P. Hutson for submitting this info!

Retired Older Folks Meet

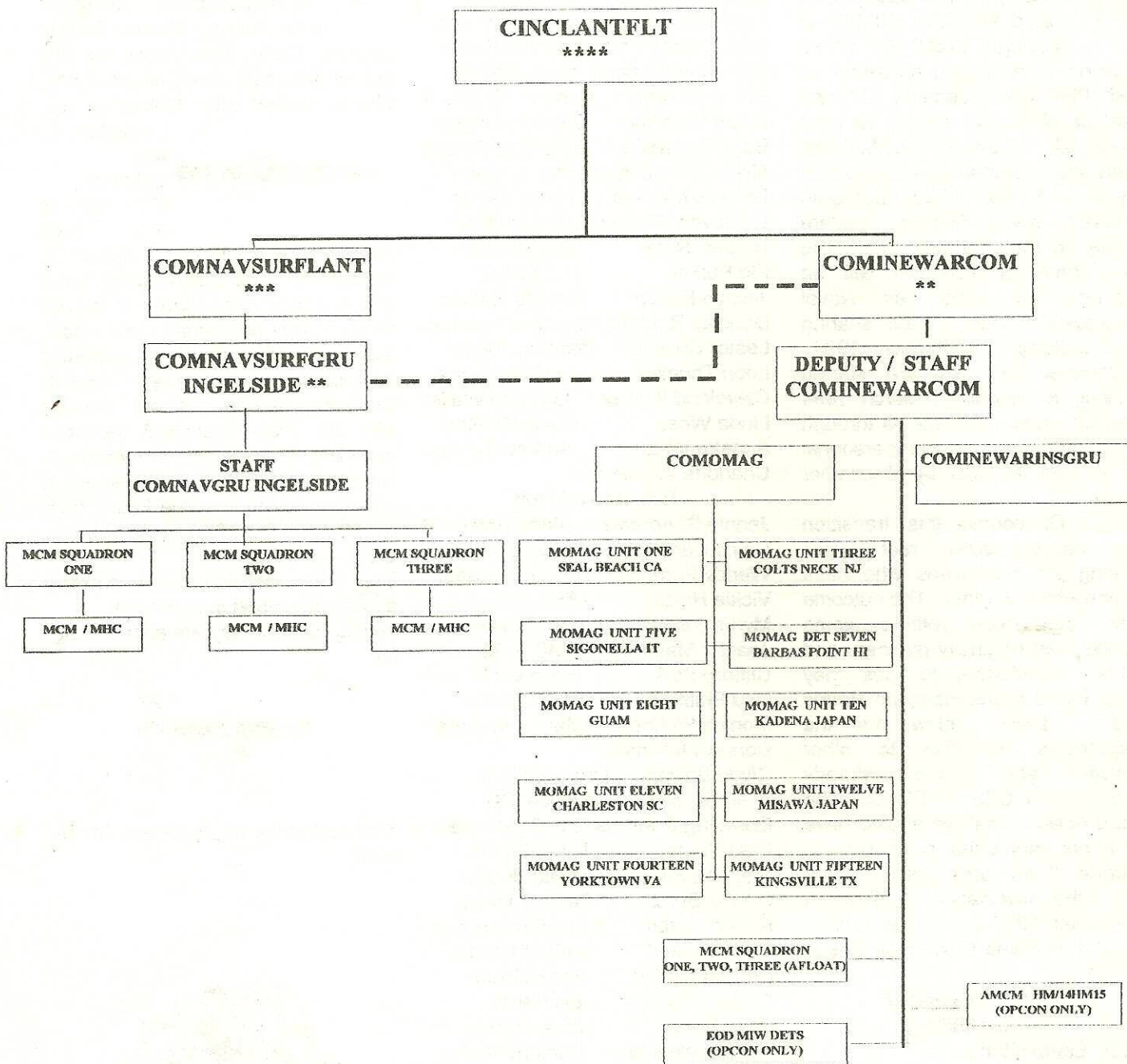
"The best thing about it is there are no speakers or agenda to follow" says **Earl Roberts**. He was talking about the first Thursday monthly lunch meeting at the Bulls Head Restaurant 15400 Warwick Blvd. in Newport News, Virginia. About 20 retirees, mostly mine people join for a meal and fellowship.

There isn't a head table and no one is in charge. Just a social gathering where mine program people talk about back when or who's doing what.

When asked who some of the "regulars" are, names like **Len Ringler**, **Ray Ethridge**, **Reggie Beane**, **Capt. Boyd Gustafson**, **Trist McConnell** (Mayor of Williamsburg), **Joe Brown**, **Bob Piper**, **Kermit Edwards**, **John Siegle** (now dec.) and **Earl** were mentioned. If your in the area or passing through, all are invited to participate. **Earl** is in the Newport News phone book.



**MINE WARFARE CHAIN OF COMMAND
AFTER 1 NOVEMBER 1994**



Engineering Activity on the Move

By MNCM Leo Smith Yorktown VA

Well as you all probably have heard NMWEA (NMEF) is moving!! BRAC 91 (Base Closing Commission) realigned us with PHD Port Hueneme, CA and had us physically moving to Dam Neck, VA. BRAC 93 modified this plan and realigned us with Coastal Systems Station (CSS) Dahlgren Division, Naval Surface Warfare center in Panama City, FL. The door here at Yorktown will be locked, not really as Naval Ordnance Center started sharing the building 1 October 1994.. Personnel from NMWEA started moving to Florida in March 1994 and will continue in waves through July 1995. Fleet Liaison personnel should be at CSS by December 1994.

Of course this transition has caused some real stress among the employees who have their roots in Virginia. The outcome has been many retiring, some earlier than originally planned, and others transferring to jobs they have found in the Hampton Roads area. Listed below are the retirements, transfers to other activities and transfers already executed to CSS in Florida. The good news is that we should have all of our people that are moving to Florida there and going strong when the Association of Minemen hold their 1996 reunion in August 1996 at Panama City. Hope to see ya' there.

Where's Charley?

Our Military

CDR Sandra Yates
Lt. John Lawton
CWO3 John Sandoval
MNCM Leo Smith
EMCS Lee Torrence
STGC Chuck Dills
BMC Curtis Tatum

Who Retired?

Jerome Acty	Glen Adams
Robert Addison	Bill Burgess
Polly Denny	Julia Dickerson
Cheryl Clark Farmer	James Foster
Raymond England	Marie Hodges
Richard Farmer	Harry H. Griffin, Jr
David Hamilton	Stephen Hogge
Boyd D. Jenkins	OSC W. Johnson
MNC Curtis Jones	Joanne Lane
Dolores Macrino	Bobby Martin
L. Wayne Millirons	Ronald Muse
Herbert Noel	Ray Parcell
Flo Parker	Lud Pickett
Jimmie Pierce	Donald Rainey
Douglas Robbins	Raymond Sparrer
Lester Sterling	Imogene Taylor
Leon Thomas	Louisa Valencourt
Cleveland Walker	Lorraine Walls
Linda West	Clyde Whitted
Annette Wilburn	Andrew Young
Charlotte Wilkerson	

Transferred/Quit

Jeanie S. Abrams	Alan Brown
Ginny Carrington	Mary Chapman
Wendy Forrest	Eugene Foster
Vickie Hines	Mike Johnson
Myrtis Josey	Nancy Lawless
Joanne Mathews	BMC R. Moore
Clifford Parker	Margaret Parker
Lisa Phillips	Linda Shaffer
Monica Stokes	Mary Ann Vogel

Donna Watkins
Clyde Bowers (Dahlgren VA)
Allen Brace (Ingleside TX)

Enjoying Panama City Sunshine

Fred Bergey	Linda Brown
Stephen Brownley	David Bucher
G Wes Burch	Larry Connelly
Robert Corbin	Wayne Dickerson
Donald Gadd	Robert Gernert
Herbert Griffith	Pat Hallinan
Teresa Harris	Bill Kerns
Brian Koehn	Jaye Laroux
Heidi Lecklitner	Waverly Mason
Robert McCaughey	Karl Morris
Nathan Rollins	Cheryl Sheehan
Dennis Townsend	Michael Trombly
Charlotte Tyre	Taziel Wallace
Betty Waters	Steve Werner
Cassie Woolard	

USS COLUMBIA COMMISSIONED

S SN COLUMBIA is the last Los Angeles Class Submarine to be built by Electric Boat at Groton, Conn. (three more are due out of Newport News shipbuilding) She is named after Columbia, SC,



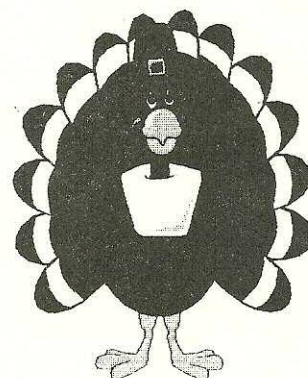
Columbia, IL and Columbia, MO. She is 360 Feet

long, weighs 6,900 tons, has a top speed of 35 knots and diving depth of 1,475 feet. Her purpose is to hunt down enemy submarines and ships, launch cruise missiles, conducts surveillance, and **lays mines**. Columbia carries out her mission with 28 tube-launched weapons including anti-submarine torpedoes, Harpoon missiles, Tomahawk cruise missiles; 127 mines. She has a crew of 127. (The Port and Courier, Charleston, SC)

Ed. note: Recent information shows a marked interest in submarine mining. Seems they are also looking for work.



Remember the Air Force and the B-52D?





Civic Information

Association Gets Involved

This past April we participated in the annual USS Hobson (DMS 26) memorial service along with the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 50 and local VFW and American Legion Posts. We also sent a contribution to the USS Chief (MCM 14) commissioning committee to help defray expenses for the ceremony. This ship is named in honor of the United States Chief Petty Officers who celebrated their One Hundred anniversary last year. In August we attended the commissioning of the USS Heron (MHC 52) in Savannah and presented the Commanding Officer and Leading Chief with one of our Mark IX tie tacs. The leading chief is a Chief Mineman who converted from Sonar Technician and is one of the first of the new MINEMAN community. We plan to be in Norfolk early November to attend the commissioning of the USS Chief and present our Mark VI tie tacs to the Commanding Officer and leading Chief. Admiral Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations, is scheduled to be the principal speaker and we will give him a tie tac also.

Fort Lauderdale Detachment out of the Mine Test Business

On July 8, 1994, the Fort Lauderdale Detachment facility was turned over to Carderock Division with a new mission. The facility moves from its

mine influence testing to support littoral (along the shore) warfare mission. Capt. Norman S. Scott NSWCDahlgren Division Commander turned the facility over to Capt. Dennis K. Kruse, NSWCDarterock Division Commander. Capt. Scott said "The bottom line is that the Fort Lauderdale team has been here to serve the fleet, bringing the assurances that NSWCD products are effective, safe, reliable and operate as designed". "Fort Lauderdale has performed a critical role in yielding data the navy can count on," he added.

Mailbag

Continued from page 5

Howard Copper, an ex AO from here in Leesville SC said he has his own horse shoe pit at home and would be ready to hammer it at game time when we meet at the 94 Charleston reunion. He also noted that AO's were always better at horse shoes than Minemen? Could it be that Minemen were busy working while AO's were playing?

Roy Schardin wrote to say that he was sorry to miss the Charleston reunion but due to selling their home in Alexandria, purchasing a condo at Watergate in Alexandria then going to Sarasoto Florida to see Helen's brother, falling in love with a free standing villa (condo) there, selling the Alexandria condo and moving to Florida. Now maybe Roy can make the 96 reunion in Panama City Florida?

Grace Daughtrey wrote to say that she had called **Joyce Bright** to find out why she was not at the Charleston reunion. Apparently Joyce did not receive the reunion information and a check of our computer showed a slightly different street number and zip code for Joyce. It has been corrected.

Bob Piper sent in his dues and a note that said he thinks about us fellows and gals often and sorry he could not make the reunion. Looks forward to the newsletter. Sees Earl Roberts and Ray Etheridge about once a month. Is that at the ROF monthly meetings Bob??

Polly and Lee Engberg wrote from Hayward California to say they would not be at the Charleston reunion due to her father and mother needing them. Will also be celebrating her mother's 92nd birthday! Their youngest grandson that had cancer is doing good and they want to thank all of you who said prayers for him while taking chemotherapy. (keep praying members!)

Received a nice letter and photograph from **Bob and Francis Stickney** in Long Beach California. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party given by their children. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Full Force News

Mobile Mine Assembly Group Awards

Navy Commendation Medal
Lt. **Gretchen Z. Lowe**

Navy Achievement Medal
MN1 **David Lauffenburger**

Letter of Commendation
MNC **James R. Kirsch**
SK2 **Andreau E. Vance**
YN3 **Michael A. Brown**

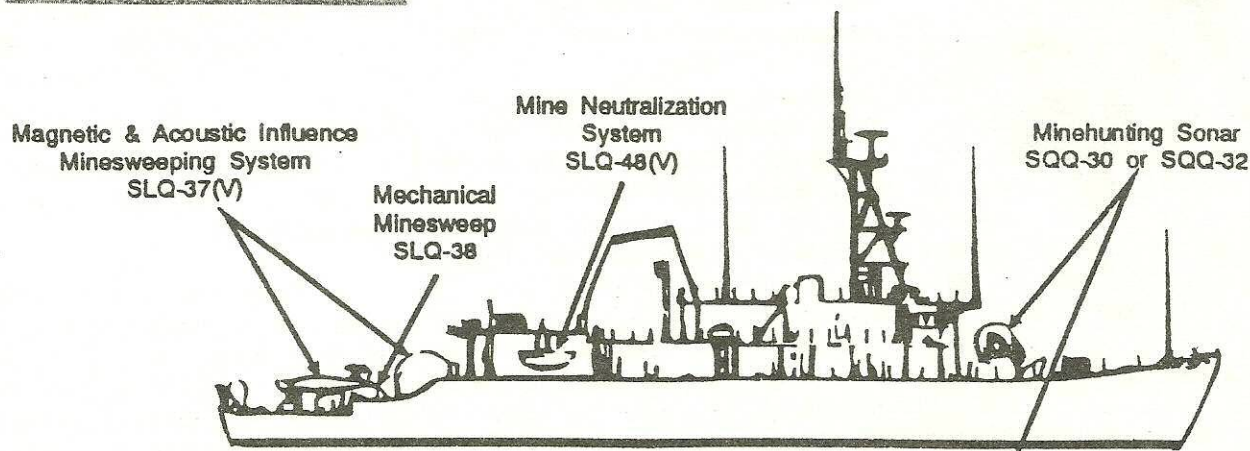
Letter of Appreciation
YN1(SW) **Monte W. Washington, Jr.**

Senior Sailor of the Quarter
SK2 **Terry G. Daniels**

Junior Sailor of the Quarter
MN3 **Billy D. Ramey**
(The Bow Hook Aug 26 1994)

FULL FORCE NEWS

MCM-1 Class



Mine Hunting in the Twenty-First Century

By EMCS (SW) L. M. Torrence

All the old MSO's have been laid to rest. A new, sleeker and more capable class ship has taken their place. The new ship on the block is called Mine Countermeasures or MCM. This ship can locate, classify, detonate and record mines in deeper waters than its predecessor. The first of this class, USS Avenger MCM-1, was commissioned on September 12, 1987. Manning level is approximately 81 personnel: six officers, seventy-five enlisted. an MCM class ship is 206 feet in length, beam is 39 feet and displacement is 1,140 tons. There were 14 MCM's built to lead the U.S. Navy into the twenty-first century minehunting.

The MCM's still use the standard mechanical and magnetic/acoustic influence minesweeping systems that MSO's used but MCM's can hunt mines in deeper water because of their combat systems. The combat systems on MCM's are as follows: Advanced Minehunting Sonar (AN/SQQ-32) in MCM's 1, 10-14; Mine Classifying/Detection Sonar (AN/SQQ-30) on MCM's 2-9, Mine Neutralization System (AN/SLQ-48) known as MNS, and Precise Integrated Navigation System (AN/SSN-2V) known as PINS. AN/SQQ-30 was developed from the AN/SQQ-14 (it was the sonar on MSO class ships). An increased vertical coverage capability is

added to the sonar transducer and the sonar dome was strengthened to withstand greater depth are just a few of the improvements of the AN/SQQ-30 sonar over the AN/SQQ-14. AN/SQQ-32 is the state of the art variable-depth sonar. It has increased depth capability and detection range over the AN/SQQ-30, and new classification features. AN/SQQ-32 will be backfitted into MCM's 2-9. Once a mine has been sighted on the AN/SQQ-30 or 32 sonar scope by its operator, the MNS's vehicle is launched. The MNS system is the main battery of the ship: it's composed of a 2,700,-tethered,-TV,-and sonar equipped MNS vehicle; operator and pilot consoles, and smaller subsystems. The vehicle is "flown" to the mine where it can place a destructive charge on bottom mines or cut the cable of moored mines. To help keep the MNS vehicle on track along with its internal radar, the ship uses the PINS system. Precise Integrated Navigation System is comprised of SATNAV/GPS, Loran C, Hyper-Fix, and Doppler Sonar Navigator. This system provides means to locate the ship and targets precisely in the mine field.

MCM's will serve the navy well into the twenty-first century. Don't rush out to the old piers that were always home for MSO's to see your nation's newest, sleek MCM's because you will not find them there: the kings of the mine fields are Homeported in Ingelside, Texas.

USS Chief MCM 14

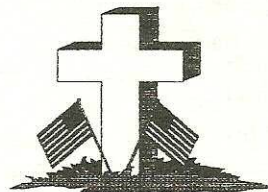
On November 5, The USS CHIEF (MCM 14) will be commissioned at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia. The CHIEF is the second ship to serve the U.S. Navy honoring the chief community. The first was the USS CHIEF (AM 315) , which served during WW II and Korea. The USS CHIEF (AM 315) was transferred to the Mexican Navy in 1972 and is still in service. The ship honors the entire chief community; Active duty, Reserves and Retired. (Shift Colors, Bureau of Naval Personnel Fall 1994; Naval Affairs)

**Pay Scales
1942**

Recruit	\$50.00
Private First Class	52.00
Sergeant	81.50
Major	287.50
Lt. Colonel	335.42
Colonel	383.33
Brig. general	500.00
Maj. General	666.87

1993

E-1	\$ 814.80
E-3	1082.10
E-4	1261.20
Major	3063.90
Lt. Colonel	3403.20
Colonel	3851.70
Brig. General	5240.40
Maj. General	6602.40



What's Happening at MOMAG Unit Fourteen?

By MNCS Clint Chacanaca

On 7 October 1994 CDR **William R. White** was relieved by LT. **Ronald F. Davis** as Commanding Officer, MOMAG Unit Fourteen after over six years in command. CDR White transferred to Naval Ordnance Command Atlantic (NOCLANT) and will be sorely missed at this command. LT. Davis reported to MOMAG Unit Fourteen in February 1994 to serve temporarily as Executive Officer. LT. Davis was formerly on the staff of Commander, Mine Warfare Command, Charleston, South Carolina as the Assistant Mine Readiness Officer.

Other happenings include:

Navy Achievement Medals:

MN2 **Robert H. Loveland**

MN2 **David M. Ballard**

MN3 **Pamela S. Smith**

Good Conduct Medals:

MN1 **Jody R. Hill** (Fourth Award)

MN1 **Frederick M. Butts** (Third Award)

SK2 **Bert Thomas** (Third Award)

Letters of Commendation:

All personnel from CO MOMAG Unit Fourteen for the highly successful Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI).

MNC **Henry C. Lindley III** from Naval Weapons Station Federal Credit Union for his participation as a member of the management board.

MN2 **David M. Ballard** Unit Senior Sailor of the Quarter for second quarter 1994.

MN3 **Gregory S. Niedermeier** Unit Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the second quarter.

MN3 **Trina Hernandez** from CO MOMAG Unit Three for MRCI.

Since our last newsletter we have learned of the following members and friends that have passed away. The membership of the Association of Minemen wish to express their sympathy to the families of those departed loved ones who now reside with our Most Supreme Commander.

Bernie Smoot - Yorktown VA 1993, brother of past President and BOD Jackie Smoot.

MNC Raymond J. Smith - location/date unknown.

Othilda Novak - location/date unknown.

LCDR Roger Janke - Lady Lake, FL December 1992

LCDR Frank Draper - Halifax, NC August 27, 1993, undergoing treatment for cancer and suffered a heart attack.

Scott Howard - Fort Worth Texas January 13, 1994, 29 years old from viral pneumonia, son of Howard and Bonnie Howard.

Elin Lorenzen - Copenhagen Denmark March 30, 1994, wife of Cdr. **Jorgen Lorenzen**, Royal Danish Navy (RET), Honoray Mineman.

MN2 Amy A. Butts advanced to MN2 on 16 July 1994.

Many new faces and old friends alike arrived at MOMAG Unit Fourteen, MN3 **Trina M. Hernandez** 26 July from MOMAG Unit Three. MN2 **Julie J Porter** 16 August and MNSA **Jason C. Tollison** 27 September from FMWTC. Other friends left us To join the Fleet: MN1 **Thomas J. Riordan** to USS Dextrous MCM 13 on 6 September and MN2 **Wallace W. Turner** to MCM Rotational Crew (Hotel) on 13 October. Discharged from Active Duty: MN2 **Douglas S. Harriman** 30 July, MN 2 **Timothy A. Goodnight** and MN3 **Gregory S. Niedermeier** 30 September.

Edna Lemieux - Moncks Corner, South Carolina, June 12, 1994, wife of **John "Frenchie" Lemieux** after a long battle with emphysema.

Lynn Lattanzi - wife of CWO **Bob Lattanzi**, Long Beach California.

MNC Harris Brown, Jr. Naval Affairs July 1994 FRA Branch 274

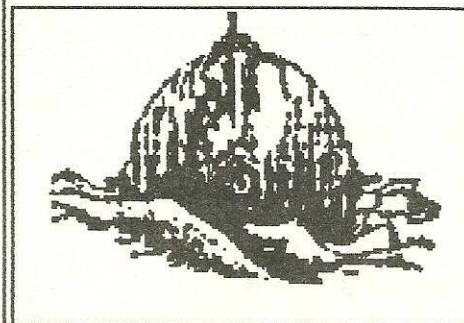
Aiko Moody - wife of LT **Don Moody** (RET) whose cremains were returned to her home in Japan.

Marie Pearson - Wilson NC January 1994, mother of Radm Pearson, Commander Mine Warfare Command.

MNC John M. Dickison - Poulsbo, WA July 19, 1994 from cancer.

MN1 Will A. Beard - Naval Affairs March 1994 MAL

LTJG John Siegle, 81 - Yorktown VA 5 October 1994 at home after a long battle with cancer. John was a WWII Mineman who participated in mining operations in the Mediterranean with British MTB's and retired at NMEF Yorktown (51 years military and civil service) and later worked for J.L. Associates performing technical writing and analytical services for NMEF.



Paid your dues this year?

fire. And history, as it pertains to the Battle of Mobile Bay- a battle in which the victorious Admiral Farragut is famous for having said "Dam the torpedoes (mines) Captain Drayton, Go ahead"-might have read somewhat differently but for the fact that, after the battle, the Federal forces found that the Confederate mines had been rendered inert due to immersion and wave action. Continued in next issue.... (NAVSEA Mine Familiarizer by NMWEA)

NO CASH PLEASE! If paying by check, please make payable to Minemen History Book.

To help avoid mistakes, please fill out and return this order sheet (1-94) with your order. All previous order sheets are void.

T-SHIRTS

50/50 Cotton Polyester

Childrens Sizes: 6-8S; 10-12M; 14-16L

Youth/Adult: 34-36S; 38-40M; 42-44L;

46-48XL; 50XXL

Ringer T-Shirts: White w/collar & cuff colors shown (Insert quantity in size)

Children	S	M	L	
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				
Adult/Youth	S	M	L	XL
w / Kelly				
w / Navy				
w / Royal				
w / Scarlet				

Basic T-Shirts

Solid colors: Burnt Orange, Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Dark Green, Gold, Kelly, Maroon, Oxford, Navy, Purple, Royal, Scarlet, White

Youth/Adult	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(select color; insert quantity in size)

COACHES SHIRTS

Two button w/pocket

Colors: Cardinal, Columbia Blue, Gold, Eagle Gray, Navy, Royal, Scarlet & White, Kelly

	S	M	L	XL	XXL

(select color; insert quantity in size)

TIE - TACS

Style Qty

Gold Tone	
Silver Tone	

JACKETS

Lined	S	M	L	XL
Navy Blue				
Red				
Royal Blue				
Gold				
Unlined	S	M	L	XL
Navy Blue				
Red				

MINE MEDALIONS

Gold	\$15.00 x ____ = ____
Silver	15.00 x ____ = ____
Bronz	15.00 x ____ = ____
Sub Total \$ (enter sub total below)	

HATS

Adjustable band hats with AOM logo on front are available in Red, Green, Gray, White, Black, Columbia Blue, Orange and Navy Blue. Enter color and your quantity in the form below.

Note: All T-Shirts include large logo on front. All hats include logo on front. All coaches shirts and jackets include small logo on right breast. Large logo on back of jacket and personalization on the jacket (up to 25 characters) per price list below. Print personalization desired on separate paper.

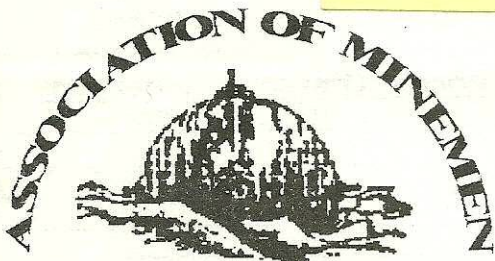
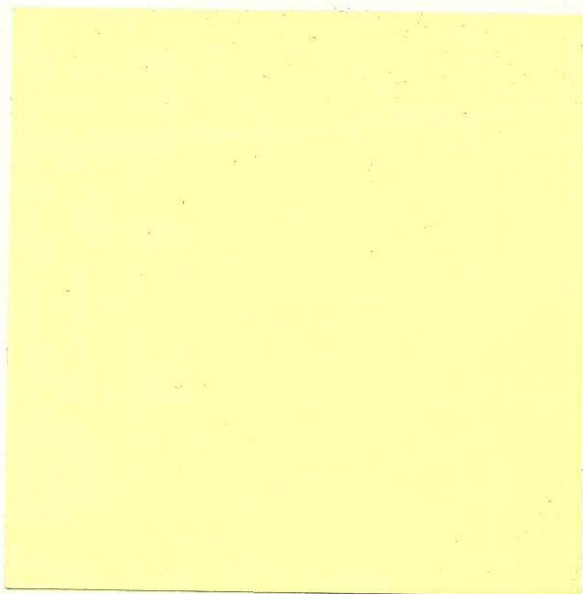
Item	Price	Qty	Extended
Adult T-Shirts	7.50	X	
Childrens T-Shirts	7.00	X	
Coaches Shirt	16.50	X	
Unlined Jacket	19.00	X	
Lined Jacket	24.00	X	
Hats (Color)	5.00	X	
Tie Tacs	5.50	X	
Large Logo on Back of Jacket	5.50	X	
Personalization	5.00	X	
Mailing List	3.00	X	
Sub Total			
S & H Cost of Items: 10%			
Mine Medallions Total From Above			
Scholarship Contribution			
Mine Museum Contribution			
Annual Dues (\$10.00 Per Year For Maximum 5 Years)			
Total			

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I wish to join the Association of Minemen and include payment of \$10.00 membership fee (plus \$5.00 initiation fee).

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ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ELIGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

NOTICE !!! To maintain membership, dues of \$10.00 must be paid annually by the month of August.