

The DASHPOT

Issue 8

Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

WINTER 1994



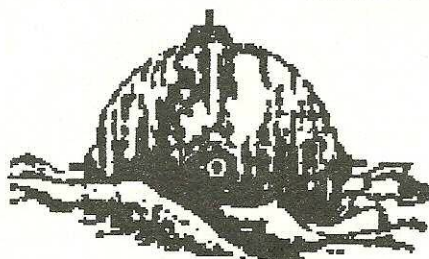
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are at the end of one year and the beginning of another. Tempus Fugit, or whatever else they say. I do hope that all our members (and readers, if this is a "borrowed" copy) will have a happy and prosperous new year.

This year, 1995, will be another big one for our organization, since you will vote for a new President, Vice President and two new members for the Board of Directors. I am ready to step down - indeed, I feel a need to step down, for benefit of the organization. Like it or not, there have been reported rumblings that a few of us have been holding the AOM very close - and we cannot afford for even one person of our electorate to have the opinion that the AOM officer makeup is incestuous and that carte' blanche' decisions are being made by only one or two individuals. I will make a parting shot, however, and say that I'll be watching for those same individuals voicing such opinions to be the first in line to offer their names as candidates for the positions to be voted on when we are in Reno. I'll have more on this in the next newsletter, with specific recommendations for our constituency to consider.

In the meantime, I'm asking our Board of Directors to select, vote on and appoint a Nominating Committee (our C&BLs do not allow the President to be involved in the process) to start canvassing

Please see President/ page 2



1994 CHARLESTON REUNION by Toby Horn

The reunion here in Charleston this past August started off with a bang. Our host hotel was the Northwoods Atrium Inn in North Charleston, which was sort of equidistant from all the planned activities - except our picnic, which was out in boondocks plus ten. Our entire block of rooms had been sold out, and those who chose to wait and register after the deadline had to be scattered into other areas of the hotel (although we were able to make sure they got our special rate). Long before the scheduled time for Early Bird on Friday night, people started mustering in the hotel lobby - shipmates from all over - renewing those long term, but long distance friendships - hashing out the same ol' sea stories that never fade from memory and always seem to expand in intensity with the telling - and catching up on all the news of who's doing what, and where

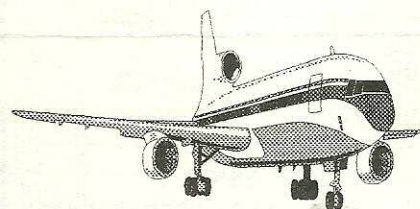
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Reno '95 AUG 11-13

West Coast reunion chairman Don Decrona reports the 1995 Association of Minemen Reunion scheduling at Reno, Nevada is still coming along smartly. Its never too early to make plans. 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 1100 - 1700 at Rancho San Rafael (same place as '93) Tickets \$7.50 for 13 years and up. 8 to 12 years \$4.50, 7 or under are free.



**ASSOCIATION OF
MINEMEN
DEDICATED 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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President.

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for candidates for the positions. I most heartily encourage some "new blood" to take an interest and "sign up". I also want to take this opportunity to dispel some myths about the officer positions. It doesn't hurt. It doesn't take a lot of your time. Most all business can be conducted in a few minutes on the phone. There is no need for contiguous location. It is good for there to be a mixture of young, old, active, retired, male and female. You can be reimbursed for incidental expenses such as phone bills, stamps, paper and copies made, and other expenses that would be incurred as a matter of a Board decision or request. It will strengthen your sense of purpose, and your time and effort will be appreciated. So, there - sign up now!!!

Along these lines, I want to extend my personal appreciation to **Bill Roberts** who headed up a task team of other Board of Director members to get in touch with people we have not heard from in a long time. Fantastic results! BRAVO ZULU for all involved. Please see more on this in the Membership Committee report.

One last piece of business remaining on my agenda. By the time you are reading this, we will have already set the wheels in motion towards petitioning for our new non-profit exempt status. Wish us luck. **Don DeCrona**, our Parliamentarian, worked long and hard on polishing our C&BLs for submittal and scrutiny, and I think we will achieve our goal. Everyone cross everything, though - yeah, even *those*, Jose - 'cause every little bit helps. See ya!

Toby Horn

Panama City

Florida '96

AUG 9-11

Secretary's Corner



Want to thank new Board of Director **Bill Roberts** for his idea to have the other members of the board call delinquent members they know and urge them to get current. Renewals have increased, thanks to them and there are some people that want to drop out, like a couple that joined the wrong organization. We are taking their inputs and updating our records accordingly. Also thanks to **Marty Akers** of PhotoMates Photography who sent us the returned envelope covers from the first class letters she sent out concerning the reunion pictures and book. MINEMAN OF THE YEAR UPDATE: The previous issue of THE DASHPOT reported the winners which were announced at the annual dinner meeting here in Charleston. The two plaques were presented at the COMOMAG Annual Mine Conference dinner on November 19th. Accepting the plaque for the Active Duty Mineman of the Year MN1 **Thomas J. Kaiser**, USN was his Commanding Officer Lt. **John Iwaniec**, USN, MOMAG Unit Eleven. Subsequent to the dinner Captain **Danny Powers**, USN, COMOMAG presented MN1 **Kaiser** with his plaque. MN1 **Kaiser** noted that he was accepting the plaque on behalf of all the team members at Unit Eleven. Accepting the plaque for the Reserve Mineman of the Year MN1 **Gilbert G. Bourgoin**, USNR was his Commanding Officer Lt. **Donald R. Colvin**, USNR and Executive Officer CWO3 **Nate Miranda**, USNR. It should be noted that only ONE plaque is presented each year and is considered to be a prestigious award. The mines on the plaques are made here in Charleston by

Please see **Secretary** Page 5

Committee Reports

Membership

by Toby Horn

This is the last chance - final warning - for those of you out there who are far, far in arrears on your dues. All those whose address label shows year 1991 or before will be dropped from our roles after this newsletter. CHOOOOMP (that was the sound of the axe falling)! Sorrowfully, we will provide a list of those dropped in our next newsletter - just in case you know someone listed and can get in touch with them to encourage renewed membership.

There may also be the factor where a member has moved and we have not received any forwarding address. So keep your Christmas mailing list handy in case a shipmate is listed and let us know how we can make contact.

A reminder, your dues for year 1994 was a one-time \$15.00 fee because of the extended August time frame you voted for to have your annual dues become due. Many sent only \$10.00 (you know who you are), so you can catch up when you renew *this August*. Attention! Look me in the eye! Your dues are due in August - not in January - August. Aaaaauggguusttttt!!! O.K.??? Dismissed!

Just after our reunion here in Charleston, Director **Bill Roberts** came up with a brilliant idea of several people canvassing dues-delinquent members by phone. He enlisted the aid of other Board of Directors members, John Loonam, Don DeCrona, Roger

Adams, and Bob Forbes and - lists in hand - they began their own "reach out and touch someone" campaign. Here are the results of a total of 83 calls made (unfortunately they could only call numbers we had on file): 36 responded favorably and renewed; 6 no longer desired membership; 2 requested formal notification (?); 6 numbers no longer in service; 3 stated they had joined the wrong organization and were dropping membership; 7 continuous no answer when called; 2 numbers in service but member not at that number; 6 wrong number listed for member; 11 messages left on answering machines; 1

undecided; and 3 deceased (we had no notification, and we will add to our Taps list). As Bill stated in a letter forwarding the results, "the BOD members participating in this function responded in a very positive manner, my hats off to them, they deserve a BZ for sure". I agree. I'm sure you do too. Thanks a million guys.

I'd also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our AOM members, to welcome aboard new members. My apologies, some of these names go back awhile, from where my last acknowledgment list finished:

Andrew J. Hume, Athur Rutz David M. Epton, Charles R. Allen Thomas P. Mazza Alan N. Ringdal Jerry L. Williams Ralph C. Keppel Matthew M. Cokor, Ralph P. Utt Douglas L. Guy, Darrell L. Doane Phillip L. Mocalis, Donald R Jones Paul M. Becker Michael E. Szostkiewicz Arthur J. Gustafson, Jr. David A. Stelline, Mayer L. Levy Robert L. Greene, Kenneth Usher Charles F. McMath, John Kelly William K. Nesmith Scotty R. Helms, Rosario Fiore

Donald D. Seahorn, John G. Fry Marcus P. Despres Mark M. Geisler, Darrin M. Henry Jason A. Reinhart, Fred M. Cox Joshua L. Brown, James D. Burton Stephanie M. Cowart Victor D. Dawson Thomas J. Kaiser Dennis N. Tsukalas Vincent D. Farrell Guilio P. Santa Maria Thomas V. Sannino Vincent G. Rauscher

On behalf of our Association, Welcome Aboard! We hope that your affiliation with us is a long and rewarding one. For the rest of you out there in membership land, get in touch with an old shipmate and sign 'em up so we can keep in touch. Thanks.

History

by Lyal Stryker

Elsewhere in this issue of the Dashpot is information about the commissioning of the USS Chief, MCM 14. At the Commissioning Ceremony and reception the following members and friends were spotted, **Lyal Stryker, Ed "Bones" Oyer and wife Marion, Bill "Swede" Carlsen and wife Irma, Mike Carr and wife, CNO Admiral Boorda, Guest Speaker, Radm Pearson, Commander Mine Warfare Command and his wife, Radm Williams, Program Executive Officer for Mine Warfare and his wife, YNC Hubbell, Radm Pearsons writer.**

Lavern Padgett sent us an article from the Hawthorne newspaper, the Mineral County Independent-News that noted the Hawthorne Ammunition Depot started its 65th year Friday September 15, 1994. It contains a lot of historical information which we will share with you in future Dashpot issues. Many of you may recall the depot was originally the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD). The Army took over the plant in 1977 under the "Single Service

Please see History Page 5

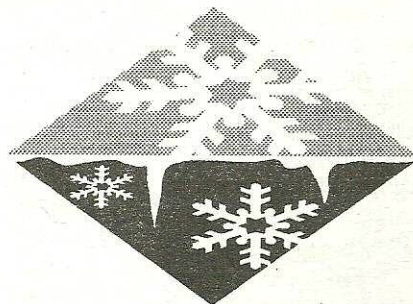


We had some time delay experiences with other golfers that were allowed to jump in front of our playing groups - and it's the first time I've seen a flat on a golf cart. Needless to say, your President was a might bit (how about a "tad") late getting to the business meeting, for which I have been soundly chastised by the BOD (that stands for Board of Directors, Jose - not our photo gal **Marty Aikers**).

The annual AOM Business Meeting went smoothly - a good group representing our membership. Our Secretary/Treasurer, **Lyal Stryker**, will provide the nitty-gritty details in his column. As a highlight, though (as well as the beer, Jose), we did vote to have the 1996 reunion down in Panama City, Florida - and, as reported in the last Dashpot edition, **Frank Martin** and **Don Costa** will be the PPCs for the POA in that regard. We also elected members for the two Board of Director positions that were open - as is the case every year in accordance with our C&BLs. One Director, **John Loonam**, who was there and volunteered to accept nomination for return was unanimously re-elected. Our newly married **Warren Savage** was not able to be there (we understand, Warren) and we were not able to confirm his desire for re-election (also in accordance with our C&BLs) - so **Bill Roberts** put his name on the line and was also unanimously elected as our Freshman Director. We'll save Warren for bigger and better things this coming August.

The business meeting (and beer drinking after) took us right up to getting ready for the dinner meeting at Squeekies in downtown Charleston. 'Guess we should have known that with the big turnout for the Early Bird that we would get a surge of last minute dinner requests. We were finally able to accommodate everyone, but there

want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding - we didn't want to turn anyone away. Also, many thanks for our "legend maker" **Tom Roberts** delivering his remembrances on Minemen and mine warfare of old - his stories are legion and the things he and his crew were able to accomplish remain a benchmark even today. **Ron Swart** was not able to attend, but he sent his prepared remarks for excellent delivery by LT. **Ed Simmons**, who did a great job in updating



everyone on the new requirements being placed on our active duty Minemen - shipmates. Captain **Danny Powers** then honored us by announcing the awards for Mineman of the Year for both active duty and reserve personnel (see last issue for coverage). The dinner meeting was closed and dancing followed.

On Sunday, we traveled way out yonder past Moncks Corner to the Navy's Short Stay recreation area located on Lake Moultrie. The day had a tough time making up it's mind weather-wise, on-again off-again sunny, but the rain held until the very last person was gone except the packer-uppers. We had a good crowd, the usual picnic victuals, water balloons that burst at just the right time, and happy, laughing people - the way it should be. I was a bit disappointed with the auction participation - low bids for quality items. Please, everyone in the future, re-think the reason we have the auction in the first place. It is not for you to pick up a bargain (although that is usually the case) - it is a fun way for you to contribute

to our scholarship fund. If you weren't there to bid on one of those marvelous "Genuine Nebraska Turd Bird" creatures that **Duke** and **Shirley Dawson** brought for auction, then you missed it all. And, of course, **Millie Reed's** afghans always remain as the "grandee prize" that someone can take home and snuggle into on a cold winter's night. Yuummm!!! Our AOM thanks to all those wonderful people who contributed items for auction. **Lyal Stryker** will cover this more thoroughly in his column.

As Bob Hope says, "thanks for the memories, folks" - to all you wonderful people who take the time in your busy lives to come to our reunions and visit with old friends and shipmates. Each one I attend enriches my life even more. I hope it's the same for you. See ya in Reno!!!

German U-Boat's Mine Chesapeake Bay

The last week in November 1994 WVEC TV Channel 13 in Norfolk Virginia ran a series on World War II German Submarines operating off Norfolk. Newscaster Terry Zahnn did the nightly feature story which included interviews with one of the sub skippers. Zahnn reported the U.S. and British had cracked the German code and were aware the submarines had been ordered to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. He also reported the American Admiral in charge of defenses in Norfolk took no special action when advised of the threat. The U-Boat Captain said, during the filmed interview, he made several trips to lay influence mines in the area around Norfolk. Zahnn also interviewed a lady who said she was a resident of Virginia Beach one evening in 1942 when three explosions happened out in the Atlantic right off the beach. A merchant ship just leaving Norfolk was sunk. No submarines were detected at the time. Mines had done their job. At least one sunken U-Boat is on the bottom off Norfolk. Records of that sinking are documented.

Editors column and Editorials

john loonam

As promised here's the next edition on schedule. My mailbag is pretty empty. A bit of encouragement though as I have had a few How can I help from here? notes from retirees. I hope you MOMAGGER'S can spare a little time to send us your brag sheet and share your information with the Force and the retired community. Except for the annual reunion and occasional correspondence, we lose track who's where and what's happening. Who made their way to the top of the heap etc. The "official" mailing list will get a deadline reminder/request for articles around the first of April.

Election of our next Association President will take place in Reno this August. The office is available to any dues paying member. The job can be fun but has lots of little "things to get done" hidden under the title. President, **Toby Horn** has done a magnificent job these past three years. Most people would like to be boss, top man, giver of orders, Monday morning quarterback etc. Now for the real world. The president in a volunteer organization must be dedicated, an arm twister, flexible, dedicated, available, willing, dedicated, capable of getting others to share the work, dedicated, an organizer, master of ceremonies, dedicated, have time to spare, meet with our military hierarchy, dedicated, an understanding dedicated spouse, able to take criticism from how it could have been done better instead of how can I help?, dedicated, i could go on and fill the column but it really boils down to one thing and that is the **dedication** to help make the Association of Minemen work. If that's your goal run don't walk to

the nearest Association officer and get your name on that nomination list. We need you to speak up now, before the election so you can be identified. There can't be a draft as the prospective candidates must be willing to serve, Candidates do not have to be present as all can't make the trip to Reno. Buff up that Mineman rating badge and pitch in to help your organization.



Secretary from Page 3

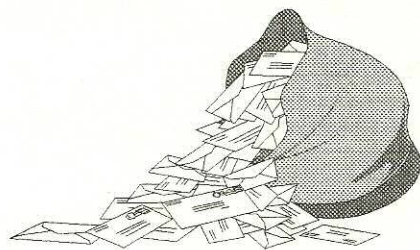
member **Bill Mehard**, Lcdr, USN (RET) who also made the patterns. You cannot buy one of these plaques, you have to earn them!!

REMEMBER - If your newsletter label does not show a 95 on the top line it means our records show you in arrears. If our records are incorrect please let me know so that I can correct them. Our dues year is now from September to August so if your label shows a 95 you are paid through the end of August 1995. In August 1995 dues in the amount of \$10.00 will be due to cover you through August 1996. You can pay dues ahead up to a maximum of five years.

Thought for the Month: "Things Accomplish Nothing - People Accomplish Everything", how true!!

History Continued from page 3

Management Concept" and three years later hired a contractor to operate the plant.



Mailbag

Following are notes received from members when sending in their dues, orders, etc. and this issue early Christmas card notes.

Steve and Bonnie

Howard from Burleson Texas sent a card saying they are all fine and hope to make a trip to South Carolina in 1995. (Steve: how about Reno reunion in 95 also!)

Cliff and Pate Credle

from Belhaven North Carolina sent a card with an informative newsletter enclosed. They are contemplating moving to a retirement home near Chapel Hill, said the time has come to consider the move. Cliff is still doing hospital visitations and Pate is still doing missionary work. They will have been married fifty years this coming February. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Horace "Buddy" Stewart

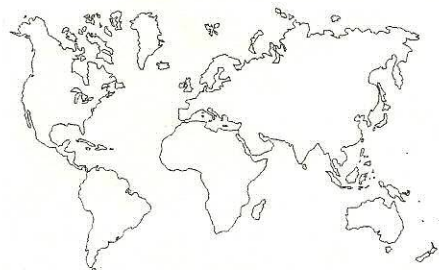
has been recognized as the Volunteer of the Quarter by the Retiree News Winter 1994/95 issue here in Charleston. Buddy is a marshal and starter at Wrenwoods Golf Course and is highly thought of by all that come in contact with him.

Arnold Wolensky wrote to

our Quartermaster **Dick Rhoderick** to advise that he would accept a tie tac in lieu of other item ordered. Noted he was taking this action to prevent injury to either the Quartermaster and Secretary

Please see **Mailbag**/ page 7

■ FULL FORCE NEWS



MINE FORCE UPDATE

by LCDR Ron Swart

Howdy from the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence, deep in the heart of south Texas! Our new editor has suggested I provide a prospective of how we care for and build our mines as compared to time's past. Great idea! Because it will involve some research on my part, you can expect Part 1 in the Spring issue of The Dashpot. For this issue, I'd like to bring you up to speed on who manages our mine and mine countermeasures programs.

Much has changed as you can see by the radical shift in our chain of command (reported in our Fall issue). Still confused? (Capt. **Bill Spearman**, the present golf maven and former Skipper of the Mine Warfare Inspection Group, is...). Here's another look at *who does what to whom*:

● **CNO (OPNAV) Code N85** - The Office of Expeditionary Warfare, our warfare sponsor (N852 is the Mine Warfare desk).

● **Program Executive Office (PEO MIW)** - Formerly a NAVSEASYS COM function, responsible for the management of all Mine Warfare programs. The Program Management Office, PMS-407, (formerly PMS-407 and SEA-63Z3) manages mine and MCM R&D, fleet introduction of new material and equipment, in-service mine stock, the Mine Warfare budget, projects sent to the laboratories and depots and the logistics associated with all the above.

● **Program Management Office NAVSEA (PMS-303)** - The NAVSEA Program Office that supports the MCM and MHC ships.

● **COMINEWARCOM** - Commander, Mine Warfare Command reports operationally to CINCLANTFLT. Maintains operational control of all Mine Warfare MCM and AMCM forces when deployed. Maintains operational control of COMOMAG staff and COMINWARINSGRU staff. Develops mining and MCM plans for all Fleet CINCs. He wears the N85M hat as special advisor to CNO for all matters concerning Mine Warfare, and the Admiral also serves as COMNAVSURFGRU Ingelside.

● **COMNAVSURFGRU Ingelside** - Commander, Naval Surface Group; maintains operational control of all surface MCM and MHC ships for training, readiness and maintenance.

● **COMINEWARINSGRU** - Commander Mine Warfare Inspection Group; the Mine Warfare Inspector General. Inspects the Mine Warfare Mission Areas on behalf of the Fleet CINCs for mine maintenance and assembly, surface / air mine countermeasures, EOD and air mine delivery. The submarine forces now inspect their own mine delivery readiness.

● **COMOMAG** - Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly group; responsible to COMINEWARCOM for managing the mine stockpile through the MOMAG Units and Detachments, all mine readiness issues, including the in-service mine program, new mine development programs and initiatives and the health of the Mineman rating.

● **Costal Systems Station Panama City** - The Mine Warfare Engineering Activity, Yorktown and Naval Surface Weapons Center, White Oak are consolidating with Coastal Systems Station, traditionally only a mine countermeasures laboratories to become the lead lab and in-service Engineering Agency

for Mine Warfare programs.

● **EODGRU ONE (Units / Dets)** - The EOD Group and Units / Dets on the West Coast and Pacific area.

● **EODGRU TWO (Units / Dets)** - The EOD Group and Units / Dets on the East Coast, Atlantic and Mediterranean area.

● **HM-14** - Combined active and reserve Air Mine Countermeasures Squadron (AMCM) currently in Norfolk, Va.

● **HM-15** - Combined active and reserve Air Mine Countermeasures Squadron (AMCM) currently in Alameda, Ca.

● **MCMRON ONE** - Operational Surface Mine Countermeasures Squadron that deploys West to Pacific region.

● **MCMRON TWO** - Operational Surface Mine Countermeasures Squadron that deploys East to the Atlantic / Mediterranean region.

● **MCMRON THREE** - Operational Surface Mine Countermeasures Squadron that maintains the training and readiness of the surface MCM / MHC ships when they are Stateside.

● **NSWC MWEA** - The In-service Engineering Agency for Mines and Mine Countermeasures Combat Systems (i.e. the mine sweep gear and the mine neutralization system, etc.) MWEA is being disestablished and will merge with CSS Panama City over the next year.

● **NSWC WHITE OAK** - White Oak has been the lead development lab for mines over the years. It is being disestablished in its present form and will merge with CSS Panama City over the next year.

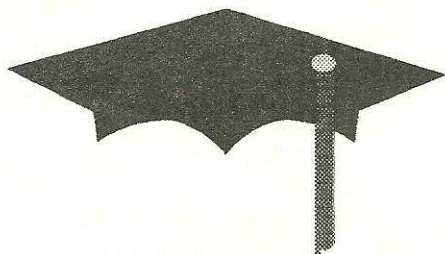
● **USS INCHON, MCS-12** - Currently an LPH, USS Inchon will undergo conversion to a mine countermeasures support ship this year, and will host deploying AMCM helos, an MCMRON staff and serve as a "mother ship" for deploying MCM ships.

Remember the Annual Mine Conference? This was last held on October 28-29 1987 at Yorktown, but the legacy lives on in the form of a

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Scholarship Applications Due May 1 1995

The time is near for all you parents and grandparents to be thinking about tuition bills next fall. Are you aware your association grants two \$500. scholarships annually? Basic eligibility is child



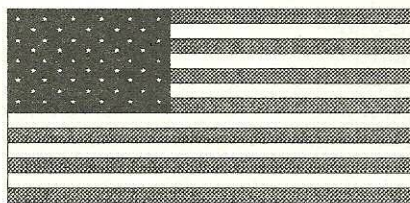
or grandchild of a current dues paying member of the association in an accredited learning institution. Last August the Association awarded scholarships to two of our members children **MNCM Rodger Adams, USN Ret.** and **MNCS Paul Doyale, USN Ret.** Applications are available through the Association Secretary, **Lyal Stryker**. He takes letters, phone calls and Fax's. All pertinent information in the list of officers on page 2 of this newsletter. The deadline is for the application to be received for consideration not getting the application.

Mine Familiarizer Cont.

During World War I, the naval mine emerged as the Allies' primary weapon against the German submarine. To contain these U-Boats, the laying of a gigantic mine barrage in the North Sea, extending 250 miles from Scotland to Norway, was undertaken in June of 1918. Within five months American and British minelayers planted over 72,000 mines. However, the war ended as the barrage was on the verge of completion; so how successful it would have been had it been completed earlier remains an unanswered question. Nevertheless, the barrage sank at least six submarines and damaged many

more. Moreover, the subs that risked the barrage and managed to reach the Atlantic wasted most of their valuable time and fuel in having to employ the necessary evasive tactics.

In the final analysis, the mine had at last become accepted as having played an important and significant role in naval war strategy. Yet in the years of peace that followed, the mine-although it had performed admirably in the war-was all but forgotten. It might be concluded that, since the mine was an unspectacular weapon, it was not worthy of any great development effort. However, with the start of World War II, mine development was revived. At that time, the submarine and airplane were introduced as mine layers and a series of influence mines was designed. As opposed to contact mines, which were essentially mechanical devices, these influence mines employed electronic target detectors that responded to or were influenced by magnetic, acoustic, and pressure changes resulting from a ship entering the mine's ambient field. In addition, these mines had the capability of being laid in waters that we did not control, and they also contained the technology to defend



themselves against countermine attacks by the enemy. It wasn't until the latter part of World War II, that these magnetic, acoustic and pressure mines were used operationally. But following their introduction, they were used in large numbers and with a marked degree of effectiveness.

NAVSEA'S Mine Familiarizer by NMWEA

Continued next issue

Mailbag Continued from page 5

the Quartermaster and Secretary who Dick told Arnold would have to arm wrestle over whether to send a refund. We both thank you Arnold.

Chester Broton from Meggett South Carolina sent in five years dues and enclosed a note saying that he hoped he outlived the dues payment. So do we, Chester!!

Joe Bianculli from Millbury Massachusetts sent a check for \$5.00 noting he read the article in the last Dashpot about the one time \$15.00 dues. Thanks Joe and we hope others will follow suite.

Doug Guy sent in his dues and a nice letter saying that he noted in the last issue of The Dashpot part of our AOM problems was caused in some cases by a lack of volunteers. He also offered to be of assistance to the AOM from his position on the map, which is Redding California. Hopes to see us in Reno in 95.

Scotty Hynd from Hawthorne, Nevada sent in his dues and a nice note which also included a picture of Scotty alongside a Mark 18 Mine at Fort DeRussy in Hawaii. He also noted that they have a Mark 6, Mark 7 drifter and a Mark 16. Scotty and his wife have been going to Oahu for the past nine years and were there for the 50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. When he got home he had a letter from an old West Loch shipmate, **George Kondas**, who said that he, **Jack Terrell**, **Everett Cook**, **John Guyton** and **George Christofferson** were all there at the ceremony this year. Scotty says his heart condition has been holding its own and he hopes to see us in Reno next year.

Mayer Levy from Long

Please see Mailbag Page 9

Update from Page 6

couple of smaller, more focused gatherings. Quarterly In-service Mine Program Reviews are hosted by PMO-407 and serve as the forum to keep tabs on fleet requirements, logistics issues, budget allocations, mine program status and hundreds of other issues that crop up from time to time. The MOMAG Unit Commanding Officers gather annually at COMOMAG headquarters each November to form up a Quality Management Board (QMB). This week long series of meetings brings the COs up to speed on what's happening in the Mine Force and is chartered to continually improve the various processes and policies that MOMAG Units must adhere to.

Like most things in the Navy (and especially in the Mine force), we cycle through periods of feast and famine, innovation and neglect. Today's organization continues to struggle with many of the same issues that were around when the Mine Force began. Our task is to keep Mine Warfare a viable option

What's Happening at MOMAG Unit 14?

By MNCS Clint Chacanaca

Things are busy at MOMAG Unit Fourteen.

MNCM **Cliff Bombard** transferred to MOMAG Unit Five, Sigonella. MN1 **Terry Honshul** retired after 16 years of service. MN3 **Jennifer Doerr** left the navy to pursue her education. MN2 (1) **David Ballard** detached for MOMAG Unit Eight, Guam. MN3 **Rambo** will transfer in January to MOMAG Unit Five, Sigonella. We have welcomed aboard some new personnel: MNSR **Tollison** and MNSR **Dussault** from MN "A" School and MN2 **Andrea Edwards** from MOMAG Unit 12, Misawa.

The last rating exam cycle saw two of our personnel advanced. MN1 **Kent** and MN1 **Ballard**. Congratulations to both. Petty Officer **Kent** was also awarded his third Good Conduct Medal. GOOD JOB!

MN1 **Jody Hill** recently reenlisted for three years and is under orders for MOMAG Unit 10, Kadena, Japan.

We will soon be welcoming aboard some of the first personnel who were part of the Mineman rating conversion process.

What's Happening at MOMAG Unit 3?

By Lt. Joe Harris, C.O.

Unit Three is one of the few mine warfare activities in CONUS that isn't moving to Texas. We are however, undergoing some changes in an effort to upgrade administrative and mine production capabilities, and improve habitability.

Those of you familiar with Naval Weapons Station earle know that Bldg. MA-3 (up on the hill) has been our headquarters building, virtually forever. We finally outgrew the administrative support capacity of good ol MA-3. No space for expansion is available in building MA-1, which currently houses SLMM operations as well as the Logistics and QA/Safety Departments, so we have acquired Bldg. 557, also on the hill and most recently used as a MK 46 torpedo shop.

Our game plan calls for vacating MA-1 and relocating all administrative functions from MA-3 as well as everything in MA-1 to Bldg. 557. We will have sufficient space to support optimum maintenance and upgrade of SLMM plus a training classroom, duty section bunk rooms and various other amenities. MA-3 will once again become what it was originally was - a production building.

Recent personal recognition:

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

MNC **Hill**, MN2 **Suchodolski**, MN1 **Osborne**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

MNCS **Empie**, MN1 **Carman**, MN3 **Levasseur**, YN1 **Wilson**, SK1 **Dineros**, MN2 **Mckinney**

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

MN3 **Bolt** - SEP., MN3 **Zink** - SEP., MN1 **Osborne** - SOQ 2Q94, MN1 **Coben** - SOQ 3Q94, MN3 **Hubble** - JSOQ 2Q94, MN3 **Jenkins** - JSOQ 3Q94, YN1 **Wilson**, All hands received Letters of

Commendation for performance during our highly successful MRCI.

USS Chief MCM 14

Daily Press Newport News, VA Letters to the Editor Nov. 17, 1994

Forgotten no more

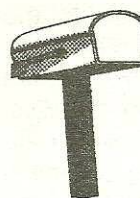
On Nov. 5 at Little Creek, a unique U.S. Navy ship was commissioned. Unique in two ways - it is the finest mine countermeasures ship to date and its name honors all sailors who have ever, are now, or will ever wear the insignia of a chief petty officer.

The USS Chief MCM 14 came alive, and we who were there some 4000 were and are honored to share the name. The band was comprised of all chiefs - something that may never be seen again - and many paid their way just to take part. To witness that many chiefs from all over the world under one roof was a heartwarming, reassuring and proud moment (acknowledged by the chief of naval operations). Those retired (we never really do) for many years wore that uniform (albeit some fading and shrinkage had taken place) with the same pride as those of today.

I have waited 42 years for a minecraft to be in the spotlight, and we finally made it - hopefully the mine force is no longer the forgotten force.

Ed Oyer

Williamsburg



We apologize for misspelling Don DeCrona wife's name in the last issue Her name is Lavon.

April
Article Deadline
March 10

clarification of his dues status and we are answering him by separate letter. He noted that he knew **John Siegle** when he was a MNC and instructor at NSMW Yorktown in 1949-51. Also noted I had engraved a Ronson lighter with his initials when we were at West Loch. Also asked when women entered the Mineman rating. **WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER??** We will print it in the next Dashpot.

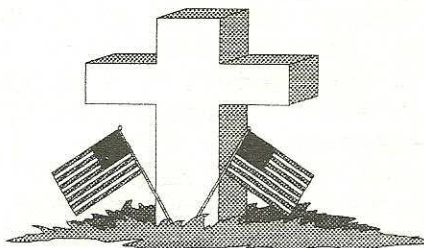
In the letter that **LaVerne Padgett** sent us containing the Hawthorne NAD article she said that she has finally moved into her new house. Doesn't have enough room for everything and it has been 13 years since she last moved and almost forgot what a miserable chore it was. (We remember!!)

Virginia Tax Facts

Military and government retirees had their federal pensions subject to Virginia state income tax during 1985 through 1988. If there is anyone out there reading this that paid those taxes, you should have been contacted by the state or they were unable to locate you. There is a plan underway to make refunds (about 77%, no interest and over 5 years). They said all retiree's had to submit forms by 1 November 1994 to be eligible. By 1 February 1995 they must accept the offered settlement or file a personal law-suit and go through the legal system or tell the state to keep the money. They can be reached at 1-800-730-8730.

May the joys of the season
filled with old fashion
pleasures and
heartwarming moments be
with all our association
members and may you
enjoy prosperity in 1995.

TAPS



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.

John R. Brown MNCM - location/date unknown. Listed in Naval Affairs (FRA) November 1994 issue as a MAL.

We have received a thank you from the Siegle family for the flowers we sent. The obituary notice noted that memorials could be sent to Yorktown Baptist Church, P.O. Box 31, Yorktown, VA 23690.

Your secretary and editor need the help of all members in reporting the passing of members and any Mineman so we can note their passing in our newsletter. If we receive timely notice we will send flowers and/or a remembrance from the Association. Please note the phone and fax numbers on the inside front page of each newsletter. Thanks for your help.

"JOSE" HERNANDEZ



TROUBADOUR
Canciones de Ayer
Guitar and Voice



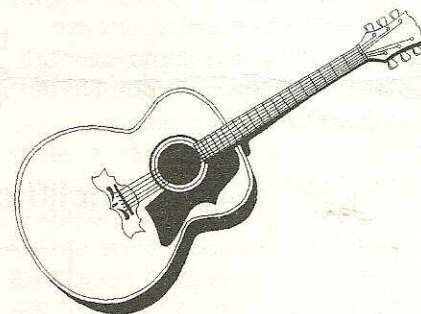
HERNANDEZ ENTERPRISES
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
(505) 293-3951

Virginia Blue Cross - Blue Shield Rebate

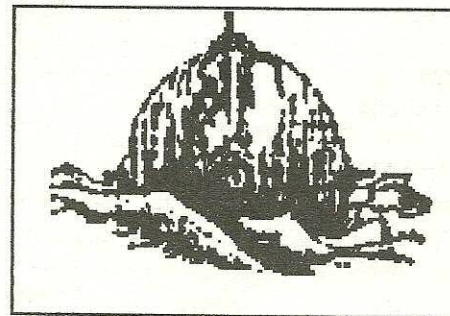
Recent investigations disclosed improper billing by Virginia's Blue Cross/ Blue Shield concerning medical charges. If you or your family were using that system (not Champus) prior to January 1994 the company is trying to locate you for refunds. They have changed their name to Trigon. I don't have the phone number.

Association member hits the entertainment big time

The Albuquerque New Mexico chapter of the retired Officers Association sent us a copy of their December newsletter. Could be someone is trying to tell me something. They were national winners with their newsletter two



years in a row. Anyway, their Christmas celebration dinner meeting features Troubadour, **Joe Hernandez**. We enjoyed Joe's guitar and singing when he was on active duty.



**Paid your dues this
year?**

☐ Master Card

T-SHIRTS

50/50 Cotton Polyester

Children's 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	

JACKETS

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

MINE MEDALLIONS

Gold	\$15.00 x ____ = ____
Silver	15.00 x ____ = ____
Bronze	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	
Children's 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			

Print Your Name Here



Annual Dues for Year _____

Member Number _____

To: Secretary Treasurer

Name _____

Association of Minemen

Address _____

PO Box 71835

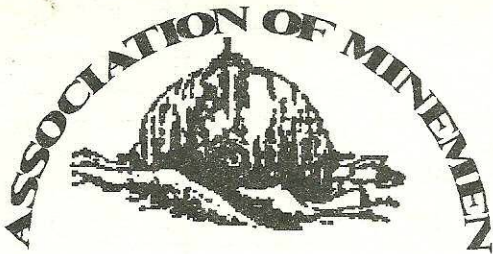
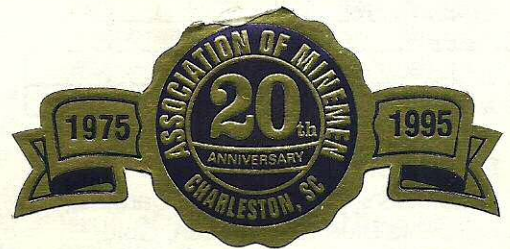
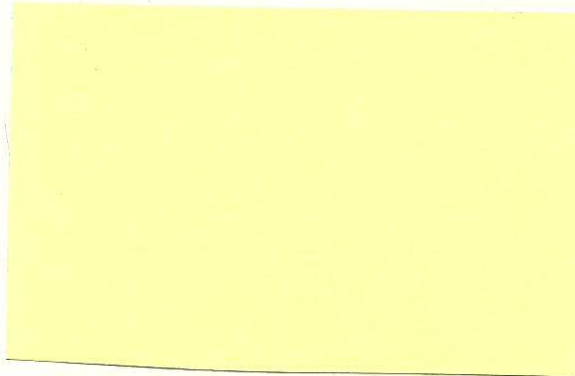
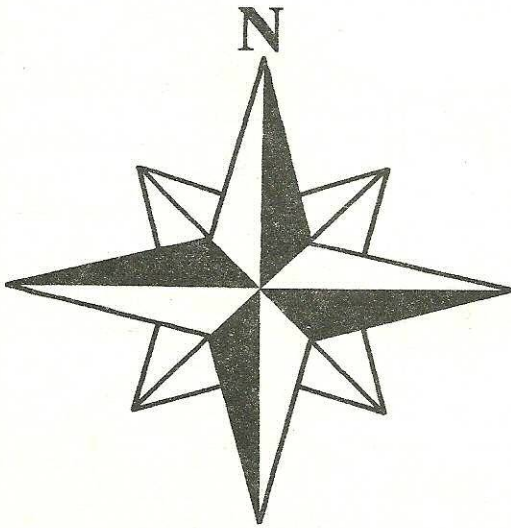
Charleston SC 29415

Phone _____

9 Digit Zip _____

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U.S. Postage
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ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN
P.O. BOX 71835, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29415



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

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/CIV. TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ELIGIBILITY _____ APPROVED _____

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