

# *Thomas C. Hart Line*

## *You Gotta Have Hart!*



*The newsletter of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association  
Dedicated to the sailors who brought a great ship to life!*

### **When's the Reunion?**

**We know the location, we've set the date!**

**Pencil in your calendars for 26-29 July, 2007 in Nashville**

**Tennessee for the next Thomas C. Hart Veteran's Association reunion! Steve Garcia has volunteered to be the reunion coordinator and we'll get the detailed information out as soon as it is available. Right now we are finishing up details like hotels, locations, and tour information with the reunion coordination team.**

#### **Special points of interest:**

- Remember when
- Reunion info
- From the President
- Treasurer's report
- Dirt Sailors

### **Remember when...**

#### **The Maiden Cruise by Randy Groen**

It was on June 8, 1975 when the USS THOMAS C HART set sail for her first major cruise. She had been on cruises before. Two trips to GTMO, some shake down cruises, training exercises etc., but until that date, she had not been on a trip that was longer than a month or so. She started this voyage by sailing across the Atlantic to the Azores for refueling. She then sailed to Norfolk England, Stavanger Norway. In Norway, the ship was visited by former US Vice President Hubert H Humphrey. She then sailed onto the Mediterranean Sea. Since this cruise took place during a world fuel crisis, the ship spent a lot of time in port in Naples, but she still managed to visit Palma De Majorca, Bizerte Tunisia, and Athens Greece. She also spent time in Taranto Italy and also Catania and Messina in Sicily. Upon completing her time on the Med the ship sopped in Gibraltar, and sailed across the Atlantic to Gibraltar with fuel stops in the Azores and Bermuda. She arrived to her home port of Norfolk on December 22, 1975.

The Hart established herself as a first class warship on this cruise. She was one of the few ships that survived both of the two war games that she participated in during this cruise. This was a remarkable feat, especially when you consider that close to 90% of the ships

participating were deemed out of commission within the first two hours of the start of these exercises. She gained a reputation as being very capable in anti-submarine warfare. She was credited with sinking a sub during one of the war games and actually detected a real Russian nuclear sub while cruising in the Med. This sub had gotten away from its U.S. surveillance and was traveling freely around the Med until the crew of the Hart detected it.

After the aircraft carrier USS JOHN F. KENNEDY had ran into the USS BELKNAP, the Hart was one of the first ships to give assistance to her. The Crew from the Hart helped the Belknap crew to fight the fires on board. A large medical emergency room was improvised aboard the Hart to treat the 26 injured sailors that our boats evacuated from the Belknap. Ten of the most critically injured Belknap sailors were then evacuated from the Hart to the Kennedy by the ships helicopter.

All in all, this was a pretty eventful and impressive maiden voyage for the Hart. Her crew performed admirably and provided a great start for the Hart. In future editions of this newsletter, I will offer some of my recollections of this ships first extended cruise.

#### **Inside this issue:**

President's Corner	2
Dirt Sailors	4
Chaplain Needed!	5

## President's Corner

Shipmates,

It has been awhile since I've communicated with you regarding our Association. Reunion 2007 in Nashville is shaping up nicely. Steve Garcia has taken the lead and responsibility to coordinate all reunion events with our planners, John & Sherry. The dates are set: 26-29 July 2007 (Check in Thurs-Check out Sun). We also have the group rate for Wednesday for the early arrivals. Much more to follow regarding tours, etc. **For now, just plan your summer around a great reunion!** The room rate is \$89 plus tax. The hotel is the Guest Hotel, located downtown Nashville. We'll get the reservation info and Registration form to you as soon as the tour details are finalized.

The primary purpose of this email is to ask for you **help in building the Association**. We've only had a handful of new members join us since last reunion. There are 1000's of TCH vets out there that need to be contacted. I know many of you are in contact, or know the whereabouts, of some of your shipmates. **I'm asking everyone to contact every TCH vet you know and ask them to join us.** Included in the newsletter is a copy of the membership form. Please save it, and attach it to your emails when you invite folks to join us. Print it out and mail it to those who have no email address. Make it as easy as you can for folks. Remember, we're still offering the TCHVA pin as a membership gift!

The Board has approved the following incentives:

1. We will track the number of new members who list the name of the shipmate who told them about TCHVA. I've added a line on the membership form that asks for the name of the person who told the shipmate about TCHVA. **If we get a minimum of 25 new members** we intend on offering a nice prize.

Every time your name appears on the membership form your name will be added to the drawing. The drawing will be held at the reunion banquet to announce the winner. You must be present to win this one!! The more times your name is in the hat, the greater the chance to win. This winner will receive free hotel accommodations for the family during the reunion! **Also the following rewards will be in place for everyone beginning today (Elected Association Officers are not Eligible – Appointees are eligible) If you refer:**

1 paid member = you receive free TCHVA membership for a year

2 paid members = you receive free TCHVA membership for two years.

3 paid members, you receive free TCHVA membership for two years plus free reunion registration for you if you attend reunion.

4 paid members = you receive free TCHVA membership for two years plus free reunion registration for you and spouse (if attending reunion).

5 paid members = you receive free TCHVA membership for two years plus free reunion registration for the entire family( if attending reunion).

Also, I need to let you know that Ray Polen is working on fixing the website. Not sure what happened but he hopes to have it up soon. The next TCHVA newsletter is forthcoming as well. Let's get rolling on this membership drive!!! Looking forward to Nashville!!  
Fraternally,  
Garry

## Notice a lot of white space? Please, send in an article!

This newsletter is dedicated to get the word out about the crew of the finest warship in the Fleet. From the snipes to the twigs, SWOs, Chops, deck-apes, and, of course, the families, this letter is for you to get reconnected with shipmates. We are shooting to publish three times a year in March, July and November. The deadline for the next newsletter is 15 October 2006. Send any sugges-

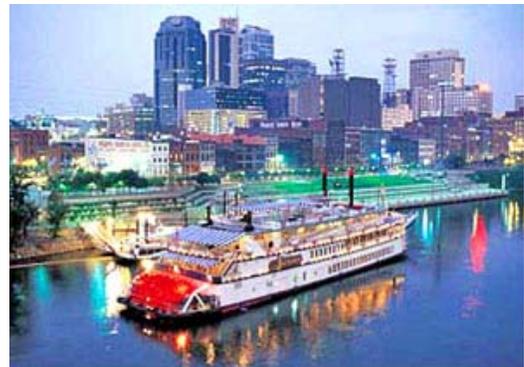
tions for articles, written material (sea-stores encouraged!), photos and announcements to Thomas.C.Hart@cox.net.

Todd Black

## Items of Interest

### **Navy Ship Prints Available**

HT1 Mark "Ozzie" Osborne (Retired), a Knox Frigate shipmate who served in USS BLAKELY (FF-1072) makes prints of ships that are available for purchase. You can see his handy work online at <http://groups.msn.com/navyships>. If you are interested in purchasing a 11 x 17 print, you can contact Ozzie at 447 Mechanicsville Rd., Apt 14, Hinesburg, VT 05461, or at his email address, [soybeanpigfarmer@yahoo.com](mailto:soybeanpigfarmer@yahoo.com).



**Get the word out!**  
**See you in Nashville, July 26-29 2007!**

## Treasurer's Report

### Randy Groen

Here is the August 06 financial report. It is a very simple report. The association took in \$ 140.00 in dues and had no expenses in the last 4 months. The 527.06 total includes \$522.06 that is in the checking account and \$5.00 that is still in the Navy Credit Union account.

I would like to remind everyone that if you paid dues for 2005 and 2006 that our fiscal year ends the end of December. That means that in order to maintain your membership it is time to pay dues again. Dues are still only \$10.00 a year and

we are asking that you pay for 2 years at a time. Please print out a copy of the membership form from the web site and write renewing member on the top. Fill out all the information on the form so we can verify the accuracy of our records. Send your dues and the membership form to me at the address on the form. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Nashville next year.

August 2006 Financial Report	
<b>Starting Balance March 06</b>	\$387.06
Dues 2006-2007	\$ 100.00
Dues 2007-2008	\$ 20.00
Dues 2008-2009	\$ 20.00
Dues 2009-2010	
<b>Total Dues</b>	\$ 140.00
Store Keeper	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 140.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	
<b>Ending Balance August 06</b>	\$ 527.06

## Dirt Sailors

### By Todd Black

You might not be aware of it but today nearly 10,000 United States Navy sailors are either serving in, or in training to fill positions in Iraq and Afghanistan in the Global War on Terrorism. These are significantly different missions for our sailors, providing administrative and logistics support for primarily Army units overseas.

Some of the missions our shipmates are serving in are familiar; river patrols, explosive ordnance disposal, maritime port security. Others are more diverse such as an Information Technology ("Radioman" for those of you who missed the rating name change a few years ago!) Chief Petty Officer who served under me. He volunteered for one of these "Individual Augmentations" (IA) missions and found himself running the communications system for the Afghan President.

Of course we all go where the orders tell us to go, but perhaps some of us aren't always aware of the sacrifices sailors are making today in this unusual war. For those of you who might live outside a military community, it is important to remember those on "Dirt Sailor" patrol and remind our friends and fam-

ily who might not be familiar with what we all do, and of the sacrifices that our entire military makes every day.

Today I have five sailors serving in or training for an IA. Their orders take them away from their assigned command for anywhere from 8-15 months. Even afloat units are giving up sailors to serve on IA when required.

So I ask you as the holiday season approaches, please remember that our shipmates continue to serve around the world, and even in some places that we never thought we'd sail. If you want to help, check out the USO's website at [www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org) for information on organizations that are helping to ensure our troops know they are appreciated!



*Afghanistan (June 15, 2006) – U.S. Navy Culinary Specialist Matthew P. Julian from Greece, Rochester, New York, is promoted to Second Class Petty Officer in a ceremony held at Afghanistan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Sharana, Paktika Province. Petty Officer Julian is assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS San Francisco (SSN 711), but is currently one of thousands of Navy Individual Augmentees (IA), providing a vital support role on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq. Julian is also the first Sailor serving in boots-on-the-ground billets to be meritoriously promoted through the Navy's Command Advancement Program (CAP). Under CAP, commanding officers at sea are allowed to promote just one of their Sailors to the next paygrade each year. Reconstruction teams build relationships, mentor and assist towns and villages with the national government. U.S. Navy Photo (RELEASED)*

*The newsletter of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association  
Dedicated to the sailors who brought a great ship to life!*

Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association  
C/O Toby Layman  
112 Arabian Trail  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553  
Email: [secretary@thomaschart.org](mailto:secretary@thomaschart.org)

*Not a member yet? It's easy and  
cheap! Just mail \$20 for two years  
dues to:*

**USS THOMAS C. HART  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o Randy Groen  
2219 Friendship Lane  
Burnsville, MN 55337



The Association is a fraternal organization for current or previous United States Navy Members who served aboard the destroyer escort/ fast frigate USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF-1092). The primary purpose of the Association is for former shipmates who share a common background of service aboard the T C Hart to enjoy camaraderie and to provide the opportunity for members to actively participate in reunions and other activities of the Association.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
[WWW.THOMASCHART.ORG](http://WWW.THOMASCHART.ORG)**

## Association Staff

### Elected Officers

President, Garry Collins  
Vice President, Steve Garcia  
Secretary, Toby Layman  
Treasurer, Randy Groen

### Volunteer Staff

Historian, Andy Roberts  
Storekeeper, E. Scott Ruerup  
Newsletter, Todd Black  
Webmaster, Ray Polen



## Chaplain Wanted! (we REALLY need one!!!)

During the business meeting at the 2005 reunion all of the officer and assistant positions were filled with the exception of a Chaplain. What does the Chaplain do? The Chaplain will be the primary point of contact for notification of illness/death of any Association Member or T C Hart Shipmate. In addition, he will initiate contact with relatives of the infirmed or deceased and keep the Association informed via direct e-mails and the official Association Website, of specifics, regarding the illness or death. He will send appropriate get well, condolences or sympathy cards on behalf of the Association and tender his signature to the card using the "Chaplain, USS Tho-

mas C. Hart FF-1092 Veterans Association" tag line. When notified, he will report any illness or death to the Association. The Chaplain will offer the invocation at the reunion banquet. If you are interested, please contact any of the Association officers.

**USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092) VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Form**



*(Please Print Clearly)*

If a shipmate told you about the TCHVA, please tell us his name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rate/ Rank on TCH \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Year Reported Aboard \_\_\_\_\_ Year Detached \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Dues are only \$10 per year. We have chosen to collect for two years(\$20) at a time to reduce the administrative burden on our all volunteer staff. Thanks for your understanding and support. You may join for any additional years if you desire.***

***Please circle years:***

2007/2008      2008/2009      2009/2010      2010/2011

**Please mail check/M.O. to: USS THOMAS C. HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**c/o Randy Groen**  
**2219 Friendship Ln.**  
**Burnsville, MN 55337**

**“YA GOTTA HAVE HART”**