



# Station Ship News



DING DING . . . DING DING . . . ALL CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS  
. . . IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING



Official 2012 Reunion Logo



2012 Reunion T-Shirt Logo

(Logos by Oscar Granger)

## President's Report

"Shipmates, we're coming into the summer season and we'll soon start the countdown to the 2012 reunion scheduled for September 20-22, 2012, in Washington, D.C. We've been working diligently to identify pieces of the reunion venue, including hotels, tours, and a variety of other reunion activities. If you have fellow shipmates that aren't part of the team at this juncture, let

them know it's never too late to sign up to participate in a first-class reunion in the nation's capital.

"Guys, we had a bit of a snafu with the Midway Museum in its recent *Currents Magazine*, wherein they recognized the generosity and sincerity of our reunion group for its donation to the Museum for the Bench memorializing our founder, Ron McPhail. In the materials we provided them, we recognized Ron's work as a Radarman while serving aboard the Midway in the mid-60s. Of course, he was a part of the OI Division at that time – and that's where the references to the OI Division Reunion Group came from. In transcribing what we provided to the Museum, the *Currents* editor inadvertently confused the references to Ron's beginnings with the OI Division Reunion Group in 1995 with the USS Midway Reunion Group that exists today, and that so generously responded to the request for funds for the memorial bench.

"Several of our members have pointed this out to us and have asked us to publish this explanation of what actually happened. We sincerely regret the confusion and we are hopeful that the implications of this will not impact the energy of the members in helping us grow the USS Midway Reunion Group into the finest reunion organization of its kind.

"We have contacted the *Currents* editor regarding the inadvertent error and will continue to work with them to protect the integrity of the USS Midway Reunion Group as it exists today.

"That's all for now, men! Full Speed Ahead – Washington, D.C., is just over the horizon, and we are closing fast."

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Reunion Group

## Reunion Group to Make Donor Wall Donation

The USS Midway Reunion Group's Board of Directors voted to make a \$500 donation to the USS Midway Museum's Annual Fund and earn a place on the Museum's Donor Wall effective in 2012.

The money for this donation, which will be made later this year, will come from our treasury, so no additional donations are being sought from members. "This is a good investment for us," said Secretary-Treasurer Dave Payson. "It puts our organization's name on the Donor Wall and contributes to key programs within the

Museum as well as demonstrates our strong support of its vision and mission. Plus it's a good advertising/recruiting opportunity for us. Plenty of Midway veterans will see our name on the Wall 'and inquire within'."

In addition to this contribution we're looking for other ways to support the Museum, with a focus on its education program.

### Coming Soon to a DVD Player Near You – 2010 San Diego Reunion!

A DVD featuring the 2010 San Diego reunion will soon be available for members. Those of you who were there in San Diego will want a copy to refresh your memory of the great time we had, and those of you who couldn't be there will want a copy to see the great time you missed.

It was, shipmates, a picture-perfect reunion in a great city, aboard a great ship. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Rick Wyman and shipmate Mike Walker for a professional videography job well done!

Watching and listening to this DVD is like being there again!

The DVD is expected to be available for an early summer release. More information to follow!

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**(Editor's Note:** Bos'n of the Watch **Willie McGee** makes an interesting statement with this story. Midway wasn't always "The Tip of the Sword." Sometimes her role enjoined the murky waters of international diplomacy and politics. Which was still one more way she served her country.

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#### Midway Memories

##### **Piping Aboard**

'Twas while standing a bridge watch, 1959, steaming in the Western Pacific. I was keeping an eye on the helmsman, phone talker and the rest of my space serving as the Bos'n Mate of the Watch. "The Captain ordered... 'Bos'n, pass the word...China Arriving.' I did.

"It was a gray morning, and as I peered down on the flight deck, I observed Admiral Harry Hopwood and several other dignitaries greeting Chaing Kai Chek for important discussions.

"Midway served.

"That was one of my most vivid memories of the time I served in this crew. Over fifty years have passed and our Navy has had to learn a great deal about how to cope and deal with the results of insurgencies world wide.

"Have we?"

**William Michael McGee**, BM3/1st Division, 1958-59

### ***"We love the thought that he will always be part of the USS Midway" . . . Mary McPhail***

Mary McPhail, Ron McPhail's widow, couldn't have expressed it any better. Mary sent a thank-you card in appreciation of our reunion group's fundraising effort culminating in a memorial bench and plaque on Midway in memory of Ron McPhail, our founder, who passed away November 2010. Again, very good job, men!

Mary's message reads:

*"To USS Midway Reunion Group:*

*"Thank you so much for honoring Ron with this memorial bench. The reunion group was such a special part of his life and like all other ventures he undertook, he was devoted and driven. The response and friendships acquired were so special to Ron and his family. We love the thought that he will always be part of the USS Midway.*

*"The gesture would have greatly touched him as it does us.*

*Thank you all."*

*Mary McPhail*

### **The "Stuff" of Midway Memories**

Memories of our Navy days stay with us for a lifetime, help shape us, and, as some of our shipmates are finding out, can be very cathartic to write down and share with shipmates. In this issue of *Station Ship News* shipmates **William McGee** and **John Newlin** have done just that. A boatswain's mate and a flight officer . . . two different worlds? Perhaps, but they have in common their Midway service, over a decade apart. And they have their memories to share with us.

**Jim Daugherty**, **Michael Lee Hayes**, and **Al Tschaeche** have also shared their memories with us, and these are posted on our website for your reading pleasure. Thank you for sharing your stories with us, and, by all means, men, keep them coming. Send stories to e-mail address: [minandave@charter.net](mailto:minandave@charter.net).

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**(Editor's Note:** As a VF-21 Line Officer, **John Newlin** witnessed plenty of flight ops on Midway up close and personal. His account on the following page describes the first "flyover" of Midway of two Soviet TU-16 Badger bombers, and how Midway pilots were quick to react to the challenge of the intercept, which should surprise no one.

**Midway Memories****Soviet TU-16 Flyover**

“Midway departed Yokosuka the end of the 1962 WestPac deployment but instead of heading east for Hawaii, the ship turned north toward the Soviet occupied Kuril Islands. While in Yokosuka two of the VAH-8 A3s were taken off and replaced by two VAQ A3 Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) aircraft. When the ship turned north, complete emission control (EMCON) was imposed, which meant that all ship's radios and radars were shut down. We were headed for a point 100 miles east of the Kurils.

During the transit we were briefed on the operation to be conducted when we arrived at our Point of Intended Movement (PIM), about 450 miles north of Yokosuka. Two packages of 3 aircraft each were to be in alert 5 status on the two forward catapults - An EA3, F3H, and A4 tanker. Upon arrival at our PIM, the ship turned everything on and waited. The mission was to lure Soviet TU-16 Badger bomber/surveillance aircraft out to the ship and intercept them with the F3H and EA3. The tanker was along to refuel the F3 if necessary.

“The rules of engagement were that we were to make an in-trail intercept and not to close on the TU-16 closer than 1.5 miles. The presence of the EA3 was to be kept secret and in that regard, the EA3 used the VF-21 call sign and side numbers for all radio transmissions. Intercepts were to be made 50 miles from the ship and concluded when the Badgers passed 50 miles on the way out.

“During the intercepts the EA3s gathered electronic intelligence on the TU-16 communications and radar systems. When the TU-16s flew out to surveil Midway they did not fly directly over the ship but instead flew a 50-mile circle around the ship. After the operation the EA3 crews were elated over the amount of information they gathered on the Badgers. That information contributed to the development of a system, code named Brigand, in the 70s that allowed the EA3 to electronically “steal” the TU-16 radar scope presentation. On one mission an EA3 displayed a TU-16 radar picture during a test firing of an air-to- surface guided missile.”

**Ltjg John Newlin**, VF-21 Squadron, 1960-62

**Greetings from the Membership Committee**

“To all USS Midway Reunion Group members, I bring you greetings from your Membership Committee: **Al Tschaeche, Mike Levin, Tim Miller, and Turner Mann**—proud Midway veterans all! We are an ad hoc committee formed by the Board with the express purpose of increasing membership within the reunion group. We are excited about this recruitment opportunity and committed to the challenge of seeing our numbers grow.

“The Membership Committee enlists your assistance with adding new names of shipmates whom you may have served with. This can be ship’s company, the Air Wing, or members of the Marine Corps. In addition, a surviving spouse or partner of a deceased Midway veteran is also welcome to join as a member under an honorary status where they will not have to pay dues and will receive full benefits. If you know of any prospective members, men, send their names and contact information to me at [Turner.Mann@okdhs.org](mailto:Turner.Mann@okdhs.org), and I or one of my fellow committee-members will follow up and contact the person. This committee welcomes your ideas and suggestions for ways to make the 2012 reunion the largest and best attended reunion yet. Let’s all muster in Washington, D.C., in September of 2012 and have a fantastic celebration!”

**Turner Mann, Chair, USS Midway Reunion Committee**

**In Memoriam**

Shipmate Harold Saltz, 80, Forest Hills, New York, passed away March 28, 2011. He left behind no family. Harold was a photographer's mate on Midway from 1948-50. Photos taken by Harold on the Midway's 49-50 Med cruise are featured in the June 2008 newsletter (see Legacy Newsletters link on our website). A tribute to Harold was posted on Tributes.com in the name of the USS Midway Reunion Group.



**TAPS** *"We, who remain to carry on, should not think of our Shipmates as departed from us, but rather as having been transferred to a celestial ship or station, where we hope all of us may be Shipmates again."*

**New Members:**

**Warren Olson** (59-60; 68-70) - Kingman, AZ

**David Oglesby** (79-83) - Altha, FL

**Jim Viado** (79-82) - Oceanside, CA

**Don Pichinson** (60-62) - Corpus Christi, TX

**Lacy Forrest** (77-79) - Milton, FL

**Philip Hinshaw** (54-55) - El Cajon, CA

**Bill Hoover** (80-83; 84-88) - Oxnard, CA

*These men have joined our ranks since the last newsletter. Like us, they sailed the high seas on Midway. Or in the case of the pilots, flew over the high seas from Midway. Welcome aboard, Men!*



The men of the USS Midway Reunion Group stand proud at the 2010 San Diego Reunion

(photo by Rick Wyman)

***Beam me up a newsletter, Scottie***

*Men, this is your chance to add your name to the newsletter "launch list." Join the growing number of shipmates who have opted for an electronic newsletter, instead of relying on snail mail. Every newsletter we send electronically saves about \$3.50 in printing and mailing costs. Let the editor know via email or phone if you want the "electronic" edition (see his contact information in the Masthead at the right).*

**Ship's Store**

**Midway Museum online store:**

<http://enssc.com/?store=502>

**Notice:** We post our members' roster on our website so that contact information can be shared between members as well as other USN veterans who are looking for shipmates on the Internet. With the concurrence of our members, this information includes e-mail addresses **but not mailing addresses or phone numbers**, along with years on board, rank/rating, etc. If for reasons of personal privacy you do not want your information published, then let us know and we will remove it from the website. Return your request to any of the Board members in the Masthead in the next column and it shall be done.



**The Masthead  
USS Midway  
Reunion Group**

A newsletter serving USN veterans who served aboard USS Midway, and who are friends eternal.

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**USS Midway Reunion Group Web Site**

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