

Station Ship News



quarterly newsletter of the *USS Midway Reunion Group*

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

Ron McPhail's Memorial Bench Installed on Midway



Reunion Group Founder Ron McPhail - 1937–2010

Thanks to your incredible generosity, members of the USS Midway Reunion Group, Ron McPhail's memorial bench is now a reality and *in place on Midway!* Shipmates and family members, in total, you donated \$1,225 in Ron's name during the fund-raising campaign, and all of your donations went to the USS Midway Museum to purchase Ron's bench and plaque (pictured on right).

Dick Hallowell (76-78, OI Div.) took these photos. Dick, a former Midway docent who now works in the Museum's restoration program, was the shipmate who originally alerted us about the Museum's bench program as a way to honor Ron's memory.

Shipmates, family members and honorary members, thank you for your donations to this very worthy cause. Thank you for stepping up and making this happen!



Ron's bench on flight deck of Midway



Plaque with inscription on Ron's Bench

This spring we plan to conduct an official ceremony around our founder's bench on Midway. Whatever we end up doing it will be well documented and shared with Ron's widow, Mary McPhail, and family who live in Winter Park, Florida.

For those of you who might still want to donate to Ron's bench, it's not too late. Any money we receive from this point on will be sent to Ari Petersen, who is in charge of the bench program for the Museum.

You can be proud! We all can!

← Editor's note: the following story by shipmate Al Tschaeche is the first of what we hope will be many stories sent in by our reunion group crew, sharing some of their memories while serving on Midway. Al's story could just as well be titled, "Just when you thought it was safe to go topside to watch air ops." →

Jet Hit Radome

"I was in CIC fixing a radar repeater. The radio reported one of our jets had lost most of its hydraulics and was trying to land. I wanted to watch so I went up to the platform aft of the stack on the 04 level. A telephone talker was there with about a mile of phone wire on the deck. He said the jet had lost *all* hydraulics. It was headed straight for us about 300 yards astern. There was nothing between us and the jet but the flight deck mobile crane.

"The talker ran forward along the starboard catwalk. I started along the port side - got all tangled up in the cord - couldn't move.

"The jet poured on the coal and roared up over the stack. Then everything was still. I saw parts of something floating down to the water and finally got to the port rail. There was nothing in the water but a big greenish-yellow stain. The jet had stalled and augered in. No sign of the pilot. I looked at the mast and saw the radome at the top of the mast was gone. The jet hit it before stalling. The pieces were what I saw floating down into the ocean."

Al Tschaeche, ET/ OE Division, 1954-55

"Eblasts" Better Than Morse Code or Signal Pennant

On several occasions, our "eblast" e-mail system has proven to be an effective way to keep our reunion crew informed, albeit slightly old technology. ("Only old people use e-mail," is what some kids say nowadays.) When we add Facebook to our suite of communication tools in the not-to-distant future, we will be respectfully up to early 21st century standards. Nonetheless, radiomen in our ranks might favor Morse Code, and signalmen might opt for Signal Pennant. But time marches on. Besides, e-mail travels at the speed of light, and that's pretty darn fast!

Eblasts have gotten the news out to you in a hurry. For example, we used them effectively to notify our membership about our founder Ron McPhail's passing and the subsequent fund-raising effort that led to his bench now being in place on Midway, as detailed

in this newsletter. Also, we helped the Midway Museum advertise its upcoming "Operation Frostbite" Alaskan cruise with our eblast system, and most recently, we used it to alert you about the Museum's Japanese Relief Fund.

So, yes, eblasts are an impressive way to get the word out. But like the vacuum tube, the diesel submarine, and the battleship, e-mail (and quite possibly the Internet itself) could one day go the way of the buffalo. In which case, we'll need to brush up on our Morse Code. 1 if by land, 2 if by sea . . . No wait, that's Signal Lantern!

2011 Dues Notice!

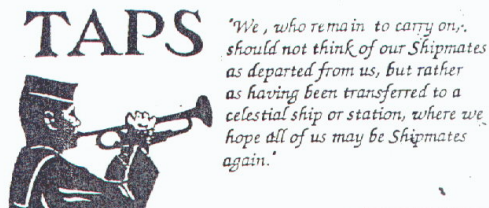
Shipmates,

2011 dues are past due. If your name is not on the enclosed list of 2011 dues payers, then we urge you to pay them. We can no longer afford to print and mail newsletters and other hardcopy communications to non-dues payers. Annual dues keep our Reunion Group alive and active, funding the newsletter, website, Eblasts, and special printings and mailings. So if you want to stay aboard, men, please complete and mail the attached **Late Dues Payment** form, along with your check for \$20, to the address on the form.

WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE EVEN ONE OF YOU FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP RANKS, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO FOLLOW-UP ON THIS REQUEST!

In Memoriam

Shipmate Robert McNulty, age 54, Encinitas, California, passed away November 22, 2010. He served on Midway from 1978-86 (OI Div/Ops, G-4/WEPS), retiring from the United States Navy as a Lt. Commander.



Ship's Store

Shipmates, if you're looking for Midway/USN memorabilia, then you have come to the right place! The link below takes you straight to the Midway

Museum's Online Store where their entire inventory is available to us, purchasable by credit card.

In our own stock, we have a limited supply of CV-41 ball caps and T-shirts for purchase. Likewise, our jackets and patches vendor may have some custom jackets left from the reunion. We'll take inventory and let you know via eblast what's available and who to contact. **Midway Museum online store:**

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

Membership Committee in Action

Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, the Reunion Group has formed a Membership Committee with a mission to grow our group. *Turner Mann* was selected as Chair, with *Al Tscheaeche* and *Mike Levin* serving as Co-Vice Chairs.

Committee actions taken to date include 1) advertising the group and the next reunion in various online outlets such as *Military Times*, 2) writing and placing an article on our last reunion in the Midway Museum's *Midway Currents* newsletter, and 3) working closely with the Museum's Membership Director *Jill Hammons* on the March eblast the Museum sent out about our Reunion Group.

Turner, Al and Mike, along with Southern Cal rep *Tim Miller*, are all engaged in the challenge of increasing our membership, and already their efforts are paying dividends, as evidenced by a surge of new shipmates joining our ranks in the past month.

For more information on the Membership Committee and its role and how you help in our recruiting efforts, see President *Oscar Granger's* Report, below.

President's Report

"Shipmates, as you have read above, our Reunion Group now has a Membership Committee. Increasing membership in our organization is very important, for there is strength in numbers. But to accomplish this we need your help. If you have information on "lost" shipmates who might need a prod from the committee, PLEASE reach out to one of the committee members for assistance (their contact information is on the website, under Members). Or bring a new member into the fold yourself. If each of us were to recruit one Midway veteran, we would double the size of our group by the next reunion!

"On another subject, I want to personally thank you for your generosity in raising money for Ron's memorial bench. It is truly inspirational that you have recognized our founder in this way, with something as meaningful and tangible as his memorial bench on Midway. Someday, when the Museum opens up CIC, we hope to get Ron's bench permanently 'stationed'

there. I don't know how it could get any better!

"That's all for now, shipmates! Keep the Japanese in your prayers as they continue to overcome the effects of the recent disasters. I urge you to participate in the Midway Museum's Japanese Relief Fund, as we described in our March 19 eblast to members. Also, say a prayer for all entities and individuals that are involved in the Libyan crisis – that it will end quickly and that the Libyan people will finally achieve the dignity and respect from the World community that they have not received from their leader.

"All ahead, FULL! 'We've got miles to go before we sleep!'"

Oscar Granger, President, USS Midway Reunion Group

(Editor's note: See the full President's report on our website, link Prez's Report. The version here has been abridged due to space limitations).

VP-Reunions' Report

"While we are still 18 months away from our reunion in Washington, D.C., preliminary work is ongoing. **The first important detail is that the reunion dates have been established; mark your 2012 calendar for the USS Midway Reunion—Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, September 22.** I have received information from five hotels that would like to host our group (a special thanks to *Charles Girolamo* for helping with this). BTW, one of my requirements for the hotel is offering the reunion rate three days before and three days after the event to facilitate those wanting more time here. Activities are still being reviewed, but I am always looking for suggestions (my e-mail is jim.hayter@comcast.net). I will keep giving reunion updates in each edition of the newsletter. As ever, I am looking for shipmates who would like to be a part of the Reunion Committee. At this point, there isn't a lot to do, but as we get closer to September 2012 I will need all the help I can get."

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Reunion Group

Our website (link below) now features a Members list, with name, city/state, email address, and rank/rating and organization served in while onboard, for each man. In addition, we have posted more reunion pictures, including a complete set of Banquet entry photos of all the handsome couples and singles. If you have ideas/content for the website, please send them to our Webmaster, *Craig Harper*. His contact info is on the Masthead, next page.

<http://ussmidway.net/home.html>

**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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Receive this newsletter electronically

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Others receiving a hardcopy of this issue but who would prefer electronic format, let the newsletter editor know, and he will make sure future newsletters come to you in electronic format. Otherwise you will continue to receive your newsletter in the mail.

Save Mailing Expenses!

Precision Data Counts

“Precision data” means accurate information, men. We were precise in our navy days, and we haven’t lost that talent over the years, which is why we want you to find the Members list on our website (PDF) and check your information for accuracy and completeness, particularly the **YRS ABRD** and **RATE/RANK ABRD** columns, but all of it is important, name, city, state, e-mail address, etc. Report deficiencies and discrepancies to the newsletter editor at the e-mail address given in the Masthead.

Midway Memories Stories

We don’t call them “sea stories,” but we don’t deny they’re a variation of that old standard, either. We encourage you, men, to send us your favorite Midway memories. Call them what you will, but we’d love to hear them. Due to limited space, they should be short and sweet. They can be sad or happy, poignant or bittersweet. Or they can be inspirational – that Midway memory you’ll never forget.

In this issue of *Station Ship News*, we have a good example for you. Al Tschaeche’s memory, on page 2, entitled “Jet Hit Radome.” Al’s story gets the point across of life on a carrier at sea. Flight ops can be a bitch, especially if you’re in the wrong place at the wrong time.

So that’s the kind of sea story, er, memory, we’re looking for, men. We can use them in this venue or we can “bump them upstairs” and get them published in *Midway Currents*.

Send them to the newsletter editor, at the e-mail address given on the Masthead, this page, and we’ll take it from there!



San Diego Reunion - 2010

