



SCUTTLEBUTT

The Official Newsletter for Former Shipmates of the U.S.S. Richmond K. Turner DLG/CG-20

Reunion Re-Cap Issue

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Successful 2003 Reunion Brings Hundreds to Charleston

For the first time in nearly a decade, the City of Charleston was once again host to the officers and men of the U.S.S.

Richmond K. Turner during the ship's first reunion on October 2-5, 2003.



Crew members whose tours onboard DLG/CG-20 spanned from her commissioning to decommissioning assembled at the Mount Pleasant Holiday Inn near Patriot's Point to

reconnect and reminisce about America's Battle Cruiser. The sunny and balmy weather in Charleston could not have been better as 190 crewmates and guests gathered from all over the country.

The reunion got underway on Thursday October 2 with early birds checking in and finding their way to the hospitality suite where an extensive collection of RKT memorabilia, photos and cruise books were on display.

Friday welcomed a bright, crisp Low Country morning as some shipmates took an organized tour of Old Charleston while others set out at their own pace in a quest of discovery for the San Diego, Norfolk and Newport sailors and rediscovery for the former Charleston crew. By all accounts, the excursions were thoroughly enjoyed.

Getting around Charleston in the fall is comfortable enough to leisurely stroll the avenues and casually chat with locals, merchants and restaurateurs. The city is immensely rich in history and culture and "Charlestonians" are more than happy to share their part, given the opportunity. They

Reunion Facts-at-a-Glance

Date:	October 2-5, 2003
Place:	Mount Pleasant, SC
Former Crew members in Attendance:	120
Guests in Attendance:	70
Former COs in Attendance:	4 (Six intended to show but two were unable to make it at the last minute)
Hospitality Suite Used:	20 Cases of Beer, 12 Cases of Soda, 2 Cases of Bottled Water
50/50 Raffle Payouts:	Ed Kowalski \$450*
Best Golf Score:	82 , Randy Reed
Worst Golf Score:	113 (Name withheld to protect hackers constitutional rights**)

*Four gift certificates for restaurants were awarded, however, Phil lost the names. He apologizes and hopes those that won will let us know.

**Gene Young couldn't play because of a leg injury, but he assisted with some timely advise ??? on how (not) to hit the ball.

certainly like to live up to the perception of Southern Hospitality.

From peddlers in the Old Market to the exemplary staff at the hotel, it seemed as if the entire city opened its doors and welcomed back the Turner.

On Saturday morning, the crew gathered in the hotel conference room for a ship's meeting while many of the wives and guests headed off to tour historic Drayton Hall Plantation. Drayton Hall is the only plantation house on the Ashley River to survive the Revolutionary and Civil Wars intact. After seven generations, two great wars, and numerous hurricanes and earthquakes, the main house of

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Admiral Lyons Stresses Importance of Action

Former Richmond K. Turner Commanding Officer, Adm. James A. Lyons was honored guest and keynote speaker for RKT's first reunion. Adm. Lyons served as Commanding Officer from May 1974 until June 1975. He went on to command the U.S. 2nd. Fleet, serve as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and command U.S. Naval Forces, Pacific Fleet.

During his speech, the Admiral stated that after decades of presidential administrations doing little to counter and deter the capabilities of terrorists, President Bush is taking definitive action against terrorism and the states and organizations that support it.

Admiral Lyons concluded by thanking the crew for its service to the country and encouraged all in attendance to continue to support the nation's actions in the War on Terrorism.



...Reunion Continued

this National Historic Landmark remains in nearly original condition.

During the ship's meeting, several key topics were discussed. Because of the larger than expected turnout, it was noted that there was an excess of \$3,500 in funds to put towards forming an association or planning the next reunion. A town meeting style discussion was held to determine the interest and feasibility of forming a non-profit association as well as discuss possible locations for the next reunion. Committees were formed to look into each.

After the meeting some folks hit the links at the Mount Pleasant Country Club while others took the day to themselves to head downtown, visit the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, or drive around the base which has been privatized but much of which is still open to the public and is home to the ongoing research operation on the recently raised C.S.S. Hunley.

The banquet ceremony on Saturday night saw the arrival of more shipmates who only made it into town for a quick overnigher. Service during dinner was outstanding and the fare included prime rib, salmon, chicken breast with apple cornbread stuffing, and strawberry cheesecake for dessert!

Keynote speaker and former Turner CO, Admiral James A. Lyons (ret.) greeted the room and credited RKT's crew for earning his star. He reiterated appropriateness of the current military situation after decades of political complacency in the face of terrorism as well as the importance of a ready fleet with highly qualified sailors such as those that steamed Turner.

At the conclusion of dinner a 50/50 raffle was held followed by the crew and guests cutting the rug to the well selected tunes of the DJ.

The farewell breakfast on Sunday morning brought the reunion to a close and we all departed Charleston once more - as many of us had done in the past - only this time without the majestic hull of the U.S.S. Richmond K. Turner in our rearview mirror.

Bravo Zulu to Reunion Organizers

RKT's first ever ship's reunion was successfully planned and implemented by Phil Habib with the help of his lovely wife Barbara, a small group of volunteers and the hotel staff at the Mount Pleasant Holiday Inn. Phil's contributions were nothing short of outstanding. From coordinating logistics to organizing events and bringing the crew together, his tireless efforts resulted in a stellar event that will set the standard and propel RKT's legacy forward to future reunions.

The hotel staff's service was exemplary. They accommodated the crew's every need and put forth the extra effort to make our stay enjoyable.

Great job all!

Association Committee To Carry Roaring 20's Torch Forward

(By Bill Kyle, Executive Officer 83-85 Committee Chairman)

As a result of the ship's meeting during RKT's first reunion, the following Turnermen volunteered to be members of the Richmond K. Turner Association Committee:

Bill Kyle; Jim Jansen; Ray Schwartz; Vince Strong; Randy Knags and Jim Reed.

It has been agreed that the goal for this committee is to have articles of association filed and tax number assigned by next spring. This doesn't look at all that formidable a task as might have first been thought. In creating an association we need to protect those that will be working hard in the future to provide leadership, arrange reunions and other activities in the name of the USS Richmond K. Turner and those who served on her. We will have the association ready to go so a slate of officers can be elected at the next reunion.

The committee will be putting together ideas and soliciting inputs from fellow Turnermen about what they would like to see the association accomplish besides the reunion every two years. Our current vision is to continue the memories and camaraderie of all those that served on the R.K. Turner including our wives and loved ones. Some type of dues will be required to fund various projects such as the newsletter. Right now, we don't have a figure in mind but will keep all informed as we go forth. If you have ideas from other associations both good and those to avoid please send them to me at billandhelen.kyle@verizon.net so I can get them to the committee members. We need your input.

Planning Underway for West Coast Reunion

The attending Turnermen of the Charleston reunion formed a committee to plan for the next reunion to be held somewhere on the west coast. Committee Members are Eric Miller (Chairman,) Rob Drake, Tom Gryzmala, Terry Payne, Fred Lundsford, and Gene Young.

Among the options being considered are San Diego and Las Vegas during summer 2005. The committee will be posting some questions on the Turner Web page and will also be sending out a questionnaire to the 400 plus crew members that are on file, asking questions pertaining to interest, location, (note: west coast this time) time and reasonable per-person budget.

Any questions or comments regarding RKT's next reunion should be directed to Eric Miller, Committee Chair, at eric.miller@purina.com

From the Editor

As this newsletter evolves, we'd love to receive any pictures, stories or memorable events that you would like to share with the rest of the crew. I'm working on getting a more robust mail server but for the time being please send questions, comments, suggestions and photos to rkctg20@militarynow.com