



1943 - 1978

Abnaki Courier

July, 2013

Phone--- 515-210-9780

Annual dues \$15.00

E-mail--- Marcemgr@Yahoo.com

If the last line on your address label is not (2012) or greater you may owe some dues. Send dues to:

Ruiz, Marce ---- 2555 142nd ST ---- Urbandale, IA 50323



Last Call!!!

For the 25th annual Abnaki Reunion

Charlotte, North Carolina

Wednesday September 25, - Sunday 29, 2013

Your Host

Hyatt Place Charlotte City Park
4119 South Stream Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28217

Telephone 704.998.0173

*(If you are planning to arrive early
or stay late call: 1- 704-998-0173)*

Room Rate: \$91.05 **including tax**
**REMEMBER! It is your responsibility
to make your room reservations!!!**



1967

Joan
Mike

Myers
Doug

Asa
Diana

Widows

Once again all the activities listed in the registration form are free for you. So... right now would be a great time to fill out the registration form and get it in the mail. The sooner the better☺!

**For more information write Asa at: 10126 Loch Lomond Dr. Charlotte, N C 28278
or e-mail: asamyers@carolina.rr.com or phone: 704-583-0733**

This is our hotel

Complimentary Wi-Fi available throughout the hotel

42" flat panel HDTV

e-room with complimentary computers and a printer

Complimentary onsite parking

Complimentary shuttle

Outdoor swimming pool



Conveniently located just five miles from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and eight miles from uptown Charlotte.

New Gallery Menu, Fresh 24/7 with mouthwatering options including our signature flatbreads & more

New complimentary a.m. Kitchen Skillet, featuring freshly prepared breakfast sandwiches, waffles, French toast, pancakes and steel cut oatmeal, is available daily in our Guest Kitchen

Plan of the Day Preview

Remember, there is a lot of good stuff to see in the Charlotte area so why not come early and/or stay late. The negotiated room rates will be good for 3 days before and three days after the reunion. If you are arriving by air just call the hotel @ 704.998.0173 and tell them you need a ride. Can't be much easier than that☺ After a few minutes you will arrive at the hotel and then a quick check in and then on to your beautiful suite. All with a kitchenette and fridge, plus a living area with a pullout couch for grandchildren or other guest. Bring them all, the more the merrier☺ And then, starting: Wednesday, we suggest that you check out the hospitality room ASAP, which will be open from 10:00 until ???, for self-registration, enjoy some refreshments, and perhaps listen to a Sea Story or two. (Dinner is on your own) You probably should hit the sack fairly early to get refreshed in preparation for some great days ahead.

Thursday. Start the day with a free and leisurely breakfast (Included with the room) and then at 10:00 we're off to the Carolinas Aviation Museum. Mr. David Sanderson, will meet us there and give us an up close and personal account of flight 1549 that Captain Sullenberger chose to ditch in the Hudson River. David was on the flight and has a wonderful talk that you don't want to miss. We will use the Hotel shuttle for those who can't or do not wish to drive. After David's talk you are free to tour the rest of the Museum and return to the hotel whenever you wish. Lunch is on your own.



All 155 people aboard Flight 1549 survived the crash landing in the Hudson River

17:00 we will meet in the hospitality room for the official welcome aboard (Meet & Greet) and enjoy ????

Friday: This is a history Day. So... you think you know a little about the Revolutionary War. Well... if you are like me you missed out on a lot of things back when you went to school.

1. I don't remember any major revolution battles other than the ones fought in the Northeast by General Washington. WRONG!!!
2. I thought all the British soldiers were from England. WRONG!!! #.
3. I was always taught to seek the high ground when facing the enemy. WRONG!!! (At least when you are facing the Carolinas and Tennessee Mountain Men.)



Gathering of Overmountain Men at Sycamore Shoals

Vital Statistics:

British: Strength, 1,100 (200 nearby) 290 killed, 163 wounded, 668 captured.

Americans: Strength, 900 (500 nearby) 29 killed 58 wounded.

We have reserved one of the pavilions in the State Park for our Cookout. After we have toured the Battle Field we will meet at the Pavilion and CHOW DOWN on some of the best BBQ (*Beef, Pork and/or Chicken with all the trimmings*) in the state. Our cookout will be catered by Courtney's BBQ in Clover, SC (*Asa's home town for 14 years*). Asa says, this is my all-time favorite BBQ restaurant. The Pavilion is handicap accessible with sidewalk from the parking lot to the shelter. The mountain has a 1.5 mile hike around the battle area and takes about 1 hour, with many markers. (*Your choice to take the trail*) After lunch we plan to return to the hotel.

Saturday: At 08:30 we will have a brief crew meeting and then the day is yours to do about anything that is on your mind. *Joan wants to take a group to The Billy Graham Library. It can be any afternoon with 2 hours free, or on Saturday. It is free, but she needs to know how many want to go so please check the box in the registration form.*

USS Abnaki (ATF96) Reunion Registration Form

Please complete the following form and return it ASAP to....

Asa Myers 10126 Loch Lomond Dr. Charlotte, N C 28278

For more information e-mail: asamyers@carolina.rr.com or phone: 704-583-0733

Please make check payable to: USS Abnaki Reunion Association

**To insure your reservation for these activities this form must be returned no later than 8-1-2010
All prices include Tax & Tip**

Day	Time	Event	Cost	Time	#	Total
Wednesday	10:00	Registration	\$10.00	X		
Thursday	10:00	Carolina Air Museum tour	\$10.00	X		
	17:00	Welcome Aboard Party	\$15.00	X		
Friday	09.30	Kings Mountain Tour	\$30.00	X		
Saturday	To Be Announced	Billy Graham Library	Free			
	18:00	Banquet	\$30;00	X		
Sunday		Breakfast, Checkout, Farewell				

There is no registration fee for anyone under eighteen.

Total \$ _____

THE BANQUET WILL BE SERVED BUFFET STYLE

Banquet Menu

**Hickory Smoked, Baby Back BBQ Pork Ribs, Buffalo Style Chicken Wings, Pot Roast
Corn on the Cob, Homemade Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Dinner Rolls, Texas Toast,
Chocolate Chip Cookies, Homemade Brownies**

Please feel free to bring as many guests as you like including but not limited to Parents, Grandparents, Children, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Cousins, Uncles/Aunts, Friend's Friends or relatives. . Reunions are for kicking back and relaxing, so bring them on!!! The more the better!

Please!!!

See page #2 for a brief description of these events

Please show you and your guest's name the way you want them to show on the "Name Badges"
Also show your **name, rate and year/years** served aboard Abnaki. (Show "P" for Plank Owner)

Please type or print

Use a separate sheet for additional names



Don't forget!

As usual, we will be having our Saturday evening raffle. You really don't want to miss out on this because no telling what kind of TREASURE you might come up with. So ... if you would like to contribute something to be raffled for this worthwhile cause, bring it on!

IMPORTANT

Remember, everything listed on this page is free for widows. Just fill out the form for everything you want to do and then place a "W" in the "Total Column", we will take care of it from there! Our widows are considered the better part of the crew. So... we'll see you *there*. ☺

I didn't know that! ☹️

Pete Pilgrim 1946-49

Me and nine other guys, including D.E. Pennington, reported for duty aboard Abanki in February, 1946. All of us that came aboard that day were just out of Boot Camp and had crossed the Pacific aboard the USS Wharton (AP-7). The Wharton was an old cruise ship that was converted into a troop ship for WWII. I will never forget when I went aboard that day in San Francisco. As most February mornings are in San Francisco it was a cold and gloomy early morning. The temperature just cool enough to make it very uncomfortable when we mustered with bag and baggage in a gigantic open shed at Treasure Island Receiving Center where we stood in a numbered square for what seemed like hours. *Treasure Island was the arm pit of the Navy in 1946 and had not changed one iota when I received my retirement papers there in 1967.* Finally, after a long wait buses started arriving and we were loaded on them like a herd of cattle. We were soon underway to one of the piers in San Francisco where USS Wharton AP-7 was moored. Once again, we were left standing around for a long time before being herded up the gangplank with our sea bags on our shoulders. I must admit that the Wharton crew was very efficient. Once we started loading it was no time before we were deep down in what I assumed would be our quarters for several days. This old ship may have been a "Luxury Liner" in its day but it was just the opposite when we went aboard. As it turned out our quarters were about as deep down in the bowels of that ship as possible. The air was stale and foul smelling and I'm guessing that we had at least 100 men in my compartment. I would guess the square footage of that compartment was no bigger than 500 sq. feet. It was not big with total square footage but, it was very deep. The overhead must have been a least 20' from the deck. The bunks were stacked at least 6 high and mine was the top one. Which meant that I had to climb up each of the other bunks to reach mine. When I lay flat on my back I almost touched the overhead with my belly button. ☺️



Pete Pilgrim
Yokosuka, Japan
1946
6' 1" 150 lbs☺️

By the time they finished loading all of us we had about 2,000 people aboard, most of who had never been to sea before. Soon after coming aboard it was time for the noon meal. I still marvel at the efficiency of the crew that was able to get all the passengers and crew fed three times a day without a hitch. I don't remember exactly what it was we had to eat, but that meal was soon to be about ankle deep all over the deck. As I recall the ship got underway while some of the people were still eating. As soon as we cleared the Golden Gate Bridge the seas began to build and within a few minutes that old ship was really rocking and rolling. I truly believe that seasickness is contagious! How else can it be explained that when one person starts puking everybody around follows suit. It wasn't long before most of the passengers were either puking or sacked out.

I was really proud of myself, although I was feeling a little woozy, I had not yet succumbed to seasickness. But... I almost did! I remember it well, they had me swabbing a passageway just outside the mess deck when some guy came by and puked in my swab water. Although I was a little pissed off I was still managing my growing urge to puke. I almost give in when I went to the nearest head to empty and refill my swab bucket. I should have known what condition the head would be in since all the passageways were pretty well filled with puke. But nothing could have prepared me for the condition of that head. All the wash basins were full of puke, it was so deep on the floor that it literally washed back and forth as the ship pitched and rolled. The stench would have over powered a maggot☹️ That is when I **almost** lost it! *The only thing I have to compare it with was in 1959 when I had duty aboard the USS Wiseman DE-667, a reserve training ship, when we went from San Diego to Ensenada, Mexico for a week end. On Sunday morning when we headed back to San Diego the sea got really bad as soon as we cleared the harbor. The sea was so rough it took us all day to make the couple hour trip back home. I think that*

every reserve, and several of the 20-30 regulars we had aboard got sea sick. It was a real mess, our cook had to close the galley because the cooks were puking all over the place including some of the cooking vessels ☹)

The rest of the trip to Japan was fairly uneventful. I was one of a few lucky guys that were temporarily assigned to Ships Company. That meant I got to move out of that deep HOLD into a compartment with the crew where the bunks were only three high. As you can imagine we got to do all the less desirable jobs such as compartment and head cleaning. It was not really bad compared to all the other guys since we were treated just like one of the crew. My time on the Wharton was the only time when I helped holystone a deck. Yes, the old Wharton had a wooden deck! (*Holystone is a soft and brittle sandstone that was used for scouring and whitening the wooden decks of ships*).

The sea did not improve much, if anything it got worse, but after a couple of weeks we finally reached Japan. It was fascinating, as we entered Tokyo bay, to see the wreckage of the war that had ended just a few months before. Just after we entered the bay we passed right by the Japanese Battle Ship Nagato, What a sight to see! At the time she was manned by a few America Sailors but... with her eight 16 inch guns, dozens of smaller mounts, plus her immense size made her a truly awesome site to see. She was later sank during the 1946 Atom Bomb test at Bikini Atoll.



Soon after passing by Nagato Wharton tied up to buoy in the outer harbor of Yokosuka. It wasn't long before I heard my name called on the PA system to report to the fo'c'sle (Forecastle) with bag and baggage. That was pretty easy for me since my living compartment was just below. It wasn't long before ten of us showed up, most of which were among the "Temporary Ship's Company". We were told to toss our seabags onto a cargo net. As soon as they were all on the net they picked them all up and lowered then into a waiting LCM. And then we were told to go over the side and climb down a cargo net into the LCM. Believe me that was no easy task. *I remember watching the troops doing that in the movies and it looked so easy. Mmmmm...*

Soon after we were all aboard we headed for the Abnaki which was swing on a buoy in Yokohama. I don't remember how long it took us to get there but it was only a few miles and before long I remember hearing someone say "There she is"

As we approached Abnaki I remember thinking, "What the hell is that?" I had never heard of a "Sea Going Tug" but... soon we were aboard what would be, for most of us, our home for the next 3-4 years.

I could write a book of all the stuff that happened before we left Japan, some good, some bad, and a lot just plain goofy but that will have to wait for another time. However, I will say that the site of war damage that we saw as we were entering Tokyo Bay was just a small example of what we would see when we went ashore. It was not pretty! A couple of things I vividly remember are. 1. The smokestacks between Yokohama and Tokyo, nothing was left standing, just the smokestacks sticking up out of the rubble. 2. All the little kids standing by the curbs as we passed by singing "YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE", 3. And a big one is when we were tied up to a pier in Yokohama. Just off the gangway, a woman and her two very young children were living in cardboard



R. H. Evehart
Bremerton, Washington
1947

boxes. No doubt she was a war widow. Keep in mind it was still winter and pretty cold. As a matter of reference the weather in Tokyo is about like San Francisco, always damp and cold! Anyway, I remember standing on the Quarter Deck, late one Sunday afternoon, chatting with a guy named Evehart who was the quarter deck watch at the time. In a little while Lt. Orr approached us with a large covered pot and handed it to Everhart and without a word headed back up the deck. Evehart looked around to make sure no one was watching and then slipped the food to the woman, he then looked at me and said “you never saw that”. Since the Japanese had already surrendered you would think this would be no big deal but a peace treaty was yet to be signed and fraternizing with the “natives”, in any way, was still a NO NO, at least technically.

This was when I saw a side of Everhart that few people ever got to see. To care for another person the way he did and try to alleviate a little misery just didn't fit the picture most of the crew had of him. Generally the crew just ignored him and kept their distance, but... some were actually afraid of him. As a matter of fact I remember Orville Marks telling me of the time when Evehart, for no apparent reason, got after him with a “Dogging Iron”. Most of the crew stayed away from him because he had a reputation of being very unpredictable. To say that Everhart was a little different was definitely an understatement (He had a knack for getting in trouble and pissing off about everybody he come in contact with. Personally, I always got along fine with Evehart and was his boat engineer from time to time. He had a reputation of being an excellent seaman, but could have used a few lessons in human relation. To say he was a little different would be an understatement to say the least. He definitely marched to his own drummer and that drummer had nothing to with NAVY regulations.

Of the ten men who came aboard Abnaki with me were two guys named Pennington. One of them was named Faron Wick. If I remember right he was from West Virginia and a former army guy who had seen action in Sicily, Italy, France etc. His nerves were pretty well shot and he acted a bit squirrely at times. He did like to drink and party a little but that was not uncommon among the Abnaki crew (Since he was an electrician and I was an engineman we stood many watches together. As for as I know he never caused anybody any trouble and overall was a good shipmate.



Faron W. Pennington
1946



D. E. Pennington
Bremerton, Washington
1947

The other Pennington that come aboard with me was named Delmas Elmore. If I remember correctly Delmas was assigned to the Deck Force. I am not sure if he worked directly with Everhart but they must have been in close contact. But... no two people could be so opposite personality wise. They were polar opposites. Delmas was a young Kentucky boy, always quiet and reserved, almost to the point of shyness, he did his work and stood his watches with never a complaint. In other words a guy everyone likes to have in their division. An excellent shipmate!

We did a variety of work during our stay in Japan including towing war damaged American ships as target practice for the fleet. It was rumored that we would be towing Nagato to Bikini, Atoll for the A-bomb test but instead of that we received orders to go to China.

On 6 July, 1946 we departed Japanese waters and proceeded to China, We made a brief stop at Okinawa to pick up an LCI and delivered it at Shanghai on 16 July.

I was the boat engineer for Evehart while we were in Shanghai. We actually had a good time while we were there, at least I did. With Evehart you never knew what to expect, but... that is a story for another

time. One thing that I do remember is one day, when we were called away for a boat run, I noticed he had a swollen mouth. When I ask him about it he mumbled something unintelligible which I took to mean, don't worry about it, so I didn't! I did notice that he was missing two of his front teeth. I assumed that he had mouthed off to the wrong guy, (*Like the line in the old Jimmy Dean song "Big John", that reads, A crashing blow from a big right hand sent a Louisiana man to the promised land*) No, it was not that bad but it looked pretty bad. I don't remember the subject coming up again and never did know who it was that separated him from his two front teeth until... about 64 years later, and to this day I don't know why. As it turned out that "Big Right Hand" was attached to a guy you would never suspect. Yep! It was that quite, reserved, mild mannered Kentucky lad named Delmas Pennington. Now that I have had a little time to think about it I have come to the conclusion that there could not have been a more deserving recipients of the free dental work than Evehart. 😊

I know that many of you guys noticed that the Abnaki website has been down for some time now. To make sure the record is straight here is what happened. If you read the last Courier you are aware that Tom Thomas passed over the Bar. What you may not have known is that he was our webmaster and he took most of the essential website information with him. So... we lost a lot of stuff.

Art Holstein volunteered to take over and get it up and running again and try to salvage as much from the old site a possible. As it is with most of our crew, Art knew very little about building a website. So like most of us older folks he turned he turned to the younger generation 😊 His nephew, David Jordan, pitched in and soon it was up and running.



Art Holstein



David Jordan

Because of Art and David we now have our website up and running again but... we did lose a lot of stuff. However, we do have a good start and with your help it will gradually get back to its former greatness.

We owe both Art and David a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for stepping up to the plate and for all their hard work.

One more thing you need to know, as of now our DOMAIN is .org instead of .com. That is because *ussabnaki.com* has been paid for the rest of the year and nobody knows how to access it. 😊 So... to reach our website just type in *ussabnake.org* hit the go button and you should be there in a flash. If your computer is as slow as mine it may be a little longer than a flash. 😊

As we said before, we lost a lot of stuff but with your help we should be able to get most of it back.

More Very Important Stuff!!!

I am not sure why it has to be this way but this is how the hotel people want it. I think!!! Anyway, if you are planning to stay before and after the reunion you will need to call 1-704-998-0173 to receive the room rate listed on page #1. Sometimes things just don't make since. But... 😊