



Leaky Weeks Almanac

USS John W Weeks
Association

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Dear Weeks Shipmates and Friends

Since our last newsletter in March, a lot has happen, some good and bad, but things are starting to lookup. March 30th our shipmate and Treasurer Jim Harkins passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. During the five years that he was involved as Treasurer, he did many things to help rejuvenate the Association. He will missed by all of us. Then in May Ed Rimmele suffered a fatal heart attack. Ed and Marie had been coming to our reunions for as long as I can remember. Ed served during the Korean Conflict.

I talked to Tom and Karen Wilson not to long ago, as you recall Tom was diagnosed with stage one multiple myeloma. The good news is that his cancer is in remission. Tom continues giving his time working on Association business when he can.

As for myself, things are looking good, I had a robotic prostatectomy for my prostate cancer in June and so far, everything appears normal. I am currently playing catch up with the Association's business and things should be on track in a month or so.

As you recall we cancelled the 2009 reunion due to illness of key officers and the economy. There will be a reunion in September 2010!!!! I will start to work on the selection process next month. At the 2008 reunion in Charleston our members voted for Pigeon Forge or Rhode Inland. I will get quotes on both places and we will go from there. Important factors are cost, things to do, and ease of getting there by car or air. Watch for farther information on our website and the next newsletter. Incidentally, Bea and I met Tony and Kate Johnson, and Tom and Karen Wilson in Pigeon Forge in September. It gave us an opportunity to look at this site first hand. For sure, there are many fun things to do!

Another project for later this year with be to redo our website in order to get it up to the new web standards, make it more user friendly, add spam protection to our contact forms and add several new features. We have a constant problem with spam, especially from foreign spammers. Stay tuned!

Jim Fariello our Vice-President, put together a video on YouTube that is a Tribute to our WWII crew members. I embedded the video into our website on the "What's New" page. Take a look at it, Jim did a good job. If any of our members want to do something like this, let us know and we will get it on our website. Also, if anyone would like to write a story about his experience on the Weeks for our newsletter and website, please contact me. There must be thousands of stories out there.

In this issue is our latest Financial Report, so far we are financially sound; however, our contributions are down 40% from last year. Our biggest expense is our newsletter; we are looking at ways to reduce this cost. The cost is approximately \$1.35 per copy. One way is to make more use of email. Several people responded to our request in the March newsletter to receive their newsletter by email. I would like to thank those shipmates. If there are questions about the report give Bruce Neidemire, our Treasurer, a call. Telephone numbers and email addresses can be found for all officers on the last page of the newsletter and on our website.

In the meantime, if there are concerns or if you just have questions, feel free to contact me or other members of our committee. I will keep you informed of the business of the association by means of the newsletters and our website.

Smooth Sailing,
Len Budzynski



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Attention!

Please be sure that I have your correct home address! If you have moved please let me know. If your newsletter is returned, your name will be removed from our mailing list.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, contact me.

Also, if you have an email address, or you changed your email address, please update me with this information.



Leaky Weeks Almanac

Meet Your Treasurer, Bruce Neidemire

Jan and I were born and raised in Wapakoneta, Ohio. After high school, I joined the Navy and was stationed on the USS John W. Weeks from 1953 to 1956 (SO3). After leaving the navy, I graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1960 and went to work for General Motors. I have also worked for Robbins and Myers (Springfield, Ohio) and Texas Instruments (Dallas, Texas) in Quality Assurance. While at Texas Instruments, Jan (Nurse), our daughters (3) and two son-in-laws also worked there. We retired to Spring Hill, Florida in 1994. In my free time I play golf, party, go on cruises and travel to Texas to see our eight grandchildren. In 2010, we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary.



Message from Bruce Neidemire

As you know, this year we lost Jim Harkins and his dedication and enthusiasm for the USS John W Weeks Association. His years of being Treasurer has helped make the Association what it is today. We will continue those efforts. I assumed the position in February and found the records and statements in order. Listed below is the Financial Statement as of May 13, 2009. If you have any questions pertaining to the financial report, please contact me.

Contributions will remain \$25 or any amount that you can afford. Please make your check payable to **USS John W. Weeks Association**.

Financial Report

Financial Period August 14, 2008 – May 13, 2009

Ending Balance August 14, 2008	\$3506.80
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Income Fiscal Year 2009

Membership Donations	\$1875.00
Military Planner Refund	\$1053.00
Apparel Sales	\$480.00
Raffle 50/50	\$620.00
Other	\$115.30

Ending Checkbook Balance & 2009 Income	\$7650.10
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Expense Fiscal Year 2009

Reunion Expenses	\$486.32
Apparel Purchase	\$459.92
Newsletter Expense	\$936.04
Misc(Printer, Flowers, Website)	\$412.24

Net Income/Expenses 8/13/2009	\$5355.58
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Fiscal 2009

Shipmates 457	(New 47)	(Removed 20)
Number of Donations	66	Average Donation \$28.40



The Warriors by Mark A. Kelly - www.baronbooksLtd.com

Mark treats us to yet another comedy-drama about his life and that of his relatives and friends who go fight in World War II and Korea. Learn what your loved ones did when they went to war. He introduces each character with humor and insight - weaving them into stories of work, romance and adventure. Join the crew of the **John W Weeks**, a destroyer, on its cruise around the world.

Editor's note: Mark served aboard the *Weeks* during the early fifties, his book is based on his experience aboard the *Weeks* during that time period. I asked him to let us publish a section from his book in this newsletter. If you are interested in purchasing his book go to his website www.baronbooksLtd.com. The photo was taken in the fifties and is from the association's website. From left to right - Kiddy, Neidemire, McCauley and McNeel.

FIRE CONTROL SCHOOL

The Fire Control School in Washington DC proved incredibly interesting and the City was the great liberty town as reported. Girls called the barracks looking for dates. The first time I answered the barrack's telephone a female voice said. "Hello there. How would you like to join me for a drink?"

"I don't have any money," I told her, not knowing what trouble might be waiting. "Don't worry about that. I do. We just got paid. Bring a couple of friends with you." That sounded intriguing so I did. We could not believe our good fortune. We enjoyed ourselves and promised to meet again.

After a month of great liberties, I was called out of class and told to report to the Executive Officer of the Training School. There were five other sailors waiting outside the Exec's office when I arrived.

"What's up?" I asked. Nobody knew. The Exec called us into his office all together.

"You're being dropped from school and will be returned to your ships," he announced without a preamble. Then he added, "It seems you're all colorblind and therefore not qualified for this school."

"What's that got to do with anything?" I blurted out in frustration. "Sir," I quickly added.

"You will not be able to read the color codes on the vast array of electronics used in the Navy. You might destroy some very valuable equipment," he added.

One Second Class Petty Officer actually started crying. "I'm a career sailor with ten years in the Navy. Without this school I can't be promoted any further than I am right now," he explained to us as well as the officer. "That'll seriously limit my future pay raises. What am I to do?"

"You have three options," the seemingly heartless Exec explained. "Change rates, stay where you are, or leave the Navy." Most of the other sailors took it in stride. They were in their first tour of duty and probably not planning a career in the Navy anyway. What else could they do? I, on the other hand, was devastated!

What about my Grand Plan - my career path: graduate with honors from Fire Control School; learn everything I could about electronics; a government contractor waiting to hire me at the discharge station with a big salary. There would be no need for college. Now these plans were dashed on the rocks of rejection.

"You have an extended liberty pass waiting for you," the Exec said. "See my clerk on the way out and take the rest of the week off. Your orders will be ready for you when you return."

Well the guy has a heart after all!

Kelly, remain behind," the Exec said, as the group was leaving. "I want to talk to you." Now what! Am I in some kind of trouble?



Kiddy, Neidemire, McCauley and McNeel



FIRE CONTROL SCHOOL (continued)

"I'm interested in something I've seen in your record," the Exec said to me after the others left. "This is the second time you have extended your tour of duty for a naval school. I'm impressed! The Navy should have explained to you that being colorblind was a problem. That's why you did not get into the Electronic School right out of boot camp. You have been such a good sport I'm going to do you a favor."

Did he realize how disappointed I really was? Oh yeah, doubtful! I thought.

"I'll try to make up for the disappointment," he offered. "You can pick any new duty station you want. If I can get it for you I will." I pondered these words as I thought of the vast naval network wrapping around the world.

"Sir, anywhere in the world?" I asked in disbelief.

"Try me. If it's possible, I'll do it."

"What about London, Sir?" I said thinking big.

"Yup, we have naval personnel in London."

"What about Paris, Sir?" I stretched my imagination.

"Why yes, we have naval personnel in Paris."

Now I was perplexed. If I can go anywhere in the world, where should I go? With only one year to serve in the Navy would I have time to learn a foreign language? Maybe Spain, I already have two years of Spanish. Maybe Tokyo to be with my brother John. He loves it there.

"This is a tremendous opportunity you are giving me, Sir. Can I have time to think it over?"

I agonized about the decision all day, even skipping the base movie that night. Where, oh where, did I want to go? I fell asleep still thinking about it. In the morning while shaving the answer popped into my head.

What will the Exec think of my solution? I wondered as I headed for his office. Was he just testing me to see how the common sailor thinks? Entering his office I saluted. "Permission to speak, Sir."

Looking up, he smiled. Instead of saying, "At ease, sailor," he said, "Please, sit down," and pointed to the chair next to his desk. As I did, he leaned forward. "Well, where did you decide to go?" he asked eagerly.

"Sir, my ship, the John W Weeks is scheduled to leave for a cruise around the world. That sounds mighty exciting to me. By the time the ship returns I'll be eligible for a discharge." I watched the expression on his face for any clue as to what he was thinking. "So, I want to return to my ship."

"If I were in your situation that is exactly what I would do," he said with a broad smile. "Good luck, sailor, and enjoy your cruise." He actually stood up and shook my hand. The far away look in his eyes seemed to be saying, "I wish I were going with you!"

Mini-reunion in Little Canada Minnesota - September 11, 2009

We hosted a get together for some of the local Weeks people when Ray and Harriett were here last month.

Left to right, Terry and Lola Lindquist (who have not attended a reunion), the Goodmuths, Jim and Sue Tracy, and us. George and Mary Dumas couldn't make it.

We had a great ten day trip out to the Black Hills with Ray and Harriett.

There were two ship's reunions going on in Rapid City, we visited with some of those folks. We attended the half hour lighting ceremony at the Mount Rushmore amphitheater one night. At the conclusion all the vets are invited on stage for lowering the flag and then to introduce themselves, about a hundred of us did.

Jerry Wester 1963 - 1965



Weeks Baseball Team 1950





Operation Strike Back - September 3 through October 22, 1957

The following article is a reprint from Time (Sept 30, 1957 issue). I was going through some old emails and I came across one that Jim Harkins sent to me and Tom Wilson. The article did not mention the Weeks. Jim and Tom had a better recollection of the operation; so I included their comments.

Tom, I googled "NATO Operation Strikeback" and found this:

From somewhere southeast of Greenland came the crackle of an urgent radio message: "Being fired on by Orange surface raider. Inchcliffe Castle." With that alert from a famed but fictitious merchant vessel,* simulated hell broke loose in the North Atlantic. Out to punish the "aggressors," a six-nation Blue fleet totaling nearly 160 fighting ships began steaming toward Norway. In the Iceland-Faeroes gap, 36 Orange submarines, including the atom-powered 'Nautilus, lay in wait. The U.S. destroyer Charles R. Ware was "sunk"; a "torpedo" slowed down the carrier U.S.S. Intrepid, and H.M.S.

Ark Royal had a hot time beating off the assaults of Britain-based Valiant jet bombers. But by early afternoon, Blue carrier planes got through to make dummy atom attacks on Norway's ports, bridges and airfields. Into the midst of this earnest make-believe strayed a Russian trawler-a real one. The Russian, being overtaken, had the right of way and held it, passing diagonally through the entire NATO fleet as the big ships refueled and moved beyond her.

Operation Strike Back is the first of half a dozen ambitious NATO maneuvers to be held in the next few weeks along a 5,000-mile arc stretching from northern Norway to southern Turkey. Operation Deep Water will see some 10,000 U.S. marines make a landing on the famed Gallipoli Peninsula, guarding the Dardanelles at Russia's back doorstep. Operation Counter Punch, in Central Europe, will call into action all NATO's air strength together with the national air-defense systems of Britain, France, Belgium and The Netherlands. All in all, more than 250,000 men, 300 ships and 1,500 aircraft are participating in the biggest maneuvers since World War II. Formidable as these forces sound, they do not satisfy NATO's Supreme Commander, blond, boyish-looking U.S. Air Force General Lauris Norstad. Last week, giving the top military brass of the 15 NATO nations a secret preview of the formal five-year plan that he will submit to NATO's permanent Council next month, Norstad stubbornly reiterated that if it is to be an effective shield against Soviet aggression in Europe NATO must have "about 30 divisions" in the line that runs from the Baltic to the Alps. A vast comedown from the 1952 vision of 97 divisions, Norstad's minimum goal is, even so, out of reach, and threatens to become more so, at a time when most Western nations (including the U.S.) are reducing the number of men under arms. NATO has at its immediate disposal in the central defense line only a bit over 18 divisions, five of them U.S.

I always remember the Russian "fishing vessel" steaming thru the middle of the formation (off Norway). Had a whole array of radio/radar masts.

Jim Harkins

Jim & Len:

Remember the NATO exercise that the Weeks participated in during 1957, during which time we visited Scotland and France? In stumbling about the internet I found brief reference to that exercise - called Operation Strike Back - billed as "the largest peacetime naval exercises up to that time". Operation Strike Back took place September 3 through October 22, 1957. My recollection is that DesDiv 222 - including the Weeks - was in it from beginning to end. It was during Operation Strike Back that the Weeks had a very close call (almost struck, bow on, by a carrier - Capt. Lovejoy told me that it was the Wasp). I couldn't find any detailed information about Operation Strike Back. I had hoped to find a listing of the ships that participated in the exercise (among other reasons, to confirm whether the Wasp was one of the participating ships). Why am I telling you this? No particular reason, other than I thought you might be interested in this bit of trivia.

Tom

p.s. Do either of you recall what our NATO call sign was during that exercise? I recall we had to drop our usual call sign - Stud Poker, or maybe we had changed to Sunbeam by that time - while participating in Operation Strike Back.



Officers Early Fifties

Can any of our shipmates that served aboard the Weeks in the early fifties identify the officers in the picture. CDR Morgan is third from the left in the bottom row. Please contact me if you know the name of the other officers.



Navy Terms and Trivia - *For more trivia see www.goatlocker.org*

Anchors Aweigh - Music written by Bandmaster Lieut. Zimmerman. In 1906, Lieut. Zimmerman was approached by Midshipman First Class Alfred Hart Miles with a request for a new march. As a member of the Class of 1907, Miles and his classmates "were eager to have a piece of music that would be inspiring, one with a swing to it so it could be used as a football marching song, and one that would live forever."

Bib - The portion of a Navy enlisted uniform that hangs from the back of the neck. In the wooden navy it was fashion for sailors to have long hair but it would get blown about by the winds and get stuck in the rigging or machinery. To counteract this sailors at sea would braid their hair and dip it in tar (used to seal the boards on the ship). When ashore on liberty (as opposed to a longer leave where they would wash the tar out of the hair) they would cut a bib out of sack cloth and tie it around their neck to keep from getting tar on their one good shirt. The bib eventually became an official part of the enlisted uniform.

Smoking Lamp - Sea dogs who sailed the wooden ships endured hardships that sailors today never suffer. Cramped quarters, poor unpalatable food, bad lighting and boredom were hard facts of sea life. But perhaps a more frustrating problem was getting fire to kindle a cigar or pipe tobacco after a hard day's work. Matches were scarce and unreliable, yet smoking contributed positively to the morale of the crew, so oil lamps were hung in the fo'c'sle and used as matches. Smoking was restricted to certain times of the day by the bos'un's. When it was allowed, the "smoking lamps" were "lighted" and the men relaxed with their tobacco. Fire was and still is the great enemy of ships at sea. The smoking lamp was centrally located for the convenience of all and was the only authorized light aboard. It was a practical way of keeping open flames away from the magazines and other storage areas. In today's Navy the smoking lamps have disappeared but the words "smoking lamp is lighted in all authorized spaces" remains, a carryover from our past.



New Members

Earl D Casey Jr		47	Jess Cox	BT2	66 – 69
Mike Dellacava	BT2	57 - 58	Glenn Crabbe	MMFN	67 – 68
Frank Jurezak	TM3	61 - 63	Charles Taylor	SK2	67 – 69
Michael Vignari	YN3	62 – 64	Wayne Colbeck	RM3	68 - 69
David Ledman	SN	63 - 65	Wayne Clotfelter	STG2	
Bill Shea	SN	63 – 65	James Colville		
Maxwell Moore	BM3	64 - 66	Greg Hammerstrom	STC	

If you know of any of our shipmates or family members that are sick, in the hospital, or deceased; please contact Bob Miller or Len Budzynski.



Sick Call

George Dumas – Earlier this year George slipped on the ice and broke his hip. He is on the mend! His biggest gripe is that he still is not supposed to mow the lawn, and August rains turned things green/growing again. If you would like to send George a note his address is: 816 95th LANE NE; BLAINE, MN 55434 and you can reach him at (763) 786-5729.

Marie Rimmele – Marie has been diagnosed with Lymphoma and is currently going through treatment. Marie has been a member of our association for many years and attended many reunions with her husband Ed. If you want to send a card to Marie, her address is 7 CARRIE DRIVE, NEW CITY, NY 10956

Taps

Wesley Gill – We received an email from Wesley’s son-in-law that he passed away in June of 2009. He served aboard the Weeks from 1945 to 1949. If you know anything about his tour aboard the Weeks please contact William Duckett: william.duckett@hds.com.

Charles Grives – I received an email from Charles son, Jason; he informed me that Charles passed away in March 2001. He served on the Weeks from 1962 – 1965 as MMFN. Jason request if you knew his Dad or have a picture, please contact him at grivesj@ptd.net.

James Harkins - With deepest regret, I want to let you know that our shipmate Jim Harkins passed away March 30, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. Jim was a great friend, did much to promote our association, and served as Treasure for the last five years. We will miss Jim’s service. He served aboard the Weeks from May 1957 until August 1959 as a Radarman 3rd class. Jim spent 30 years with IBM and additional 10 years at Verizon as a Senior Consultant/Manager in Dallas, Atlanta and finally in 1999 Tampa (his retirement move). If you want to send a card to Rita, her address is 18921 FAIRWOOD COURT; TAMPA, FL 33647.

Wesley Johnson – Brian, Wesley’s son informed me that his Father passed away. He served on LCF 9 during the invasion and served on the Weeks from 1946 – 1947. No other information is available.

Leonard J. Koon – I received an email from Leonard’s widow June, informing us that her husband passed away in 2003. He was a member of our association until his death. Leonard served on the Weeks as a BM2 from 1956 to 1958. He retired from the Navy in 1971 at the rank of Chief and was a Recruiter in Sacramento CA. Cards can be sent to June Koon at: 445 Gem Smith Place; Folsom, CA 95630-3163.

Edward Krawczyk – We received an email from Edward’s daughter-in-law that he passed away on March 6, 2007. He served on the Weeks in 1944 – 1946. No other information is available.

Edward Leppert – I am sorry to inform you that Edward Leppert passed away July 9th after a long illness. His wife Elizabeth said that he was buried with full military honors. Ed served on the Weeks from 1944 - 1946 as a RM. Ed and Elizabeth attended several of our reunions. Cards can be sent to Elizabeth Leppert at: 200 KIMARY CT. UNIT 3B; FOREST HILL, MD 21050-3411.

Edward Rimmele – With deepest regret, I was informed by Bill Fleming that our shipmate Edward (Ed) Rimmele passed away May 25, 2009, after a heart attack. Ed was a loyal member of our Association and attended our reunions for years. Ed was a resident of New City for 43 years, formerly of the Bronx, NY. He served in the US Navy for 12 1/2 years. He served aboard the Weeks from 1950 - 1954 as a BM3. He enjoyed fishing and playing video games with his grandsons. His family and all who had the honor of knowing him will truly miss him. He is survived by his beloved wife Marie of 55 years. If you want to send a card to Marie, her address is: 7 CARRIE DRIVE, NEW CITY, NY 10956.



USS John W Weeks
Association



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We're on the Web!
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