



# Leaky Weeks Almanac

**USS John W Weeks  
Association**

Volume 8, Issue 1  
February 2011

**Len Budzynski, President: 7249 Clipper Ct, Maumee OH 43537, (419) 878-3747, [lenski@buckeye-express.com](mailto:lenski@buckeye-express.com)**

Dear Weeks Shipmates and Friends

First I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. 2010 was a good year for our Association, we enrolled 18 new members, most served during the mid and late sixties. Our fiscal health was very good and we closed the year with a surplus; thanks to our members. We also held a successful reunion in Warwick, Rhode Island in 2010 after a two year delay; our last reunion in the New England Area was in 2002.



At last year's reunion we didn't have the turnout that we had in years pass, we had a total of 58 people including spouses and quests; however, everyone seemed to have a great time. This is one of the first reunions that came off without any glitches. As a hotel, the Crowne Plaza, Warwick and it staff was great, the best yet. The food at the banquet was wonderful. A huge difference over the experience we had at the Sheraton in Charleston in 2008. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped out at the reunion, their time and effort is appreciated.

As we do at every reunion, we hold an annual business meeting. Several changes were proposed to change our Bylaws. The changes recommended, voted on and passed by members were to change our Fiscal Year to the calendar year rather than August 31 to August 31. Eliminate the position of "Locator" since virtually all new members find us via the website. Beginning with 2011 all new members will receive the newsletter via e-mail unless they opt for a paper copy.

The site for this year's reunion was discussed, several suggestions came from the floor. Those receiving the most votes were Gatlinburg TN, Nashville, Savannah, and a cruise. After looking at these locations it appears that we may go to Nashville. After looking at Gatlinburg there were concerns with additional costs for hospitality rooms, etc and getting in to Gatlinburg if you are flying. I would like to thank Nick Guerrero for his effort on checking on several of the hotels in the Gatlinburg area. As soon as I firm up some of the details, I will let you know for sure if it will be Nashville and where we will be staying. Check the website, you will see it there before it goes out in the next newsletter.

I am recommending to our Directors that we donate \$300 out of our general fund in 2011 to the Tin Can Sailors and Thomas J. Peltin Destroyer Museum Grant. The program was established in 1992. This program assists with the restoration and operation of several ships as museums. Typical projects our grants are used for include developing exhibits on destroyer history and life aboard destroyers, buying paint, welding equipment, etc, and modifying and refurbishing compartments to make them ready for public access. The USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. (DD-850), USS LAFFEY (DD-724) and USS KIDD (DD-661) are examples of some of the museum ships that we visited on our reunions over the years. This donation along your Tin Can Sailor membership will help to ensure that these ships will be there to inspire, to honor, and to educate for years to come. Incidentally, there is a video on our website with Ernest Borgnine aboard the USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. (DD-850) at Battleship Cove talking about the Destroyer Museum Grant program.

Finally, I received the following email from Ellie, Hal Gross's widow. She wanted our members to know why Hal started the Weeks Association. Ellie wrote "I can tell you how Hal started the Association. While visiting friends at Myrtle Beach, they told us about the ships at Patriots Point in Charleston SC. We decided to go over to Charleston, it was hot, I think it was 90 degrees the day we visited the destroyer the USS Laffey. While touring the destroyer Hal went inside the gun turret, when he came out he was white as a sheet I asked him what was wrong he said I sat in the seat and all of a sudden, I was back on the Weeks, we were under attack, I heard my shipmates yelling, "hurry up with the ammunition." I was back in the war! When we returned home he said Ellie, I am going to try to start a reunion, which he did and our first reunion was in Downingtown PA. Fifty-five shipmates were there. When they saw each other they hugged; it was over 40 years since they saw each other. The WWII shipmates know this story."

In the meantime, if there are concerns or if you just have questions; feel free to contact me or other members of our committee.

Thanks again for your support, Len Budzynski

## Inside this issue:

Financial Report	2
Caricature of Ship's Officers in 1949	3
Navy Terms and Trivia	3
Gemini 5 Space Capsule Recovery	4
2010 Reunion Photos	4-5
WWII Memorabilia	6
A Note from Franl Lea	6
New Members	7
Sick Call & Taps	7
More Feedback on Operation Strickback	7
Watch Navy TV	7

**Watch for reunion information on our website. Forms will be in the next newsletter and posted on our website.**

### Attention!

**Please make sure that we have your correct home address! 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 us with this information.**



# Leaky Weeks Almanac

## THE 2010 JOHN W. WEEKS DD 701 ASSOCIATION

### FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL 2010

9/1/2009 – 12/31/2010

#### ENDING CHECKBOOK BALANCE September 1 2009

Checkbook Balance \$ 5505.58

#### INCOME

Fiscal year 2010

Membership Donations Fiscal Year 2010 \$ 3425.00

Military Planners Deposit Refund \$ 1000.00

Raffle 50-50 Sales \$ 630.00

Apparel Sales \$ 335.00

Tour Tickets \$ 771.00

Hotel Deposit Return \$ 364.00

#### 2010 INCOME & BALANCE

\$ 12030.58

#### EXPENSE

Fiscal year 2010

Reunion Expense (Insurance, DJ, Deposits, Food) \$ 2791.98

Apparel (Shirts and Hats) \$ 440.09

Newsletter Expense and Website \$ 2268.00

Supplies \$ 222.89

Other \$ 30.00

#### NET INCOME Less EXPENSE December 31, 2010

\$ 6127.92

#### CHECK BOOK BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2011 - \$6127.92

---

SHIPMATES	452
NUMBER OF DONATIONS	106
AVERAGE DONATION	\$ 32.31

Respectively submitted:

**Bruce Neidemire**

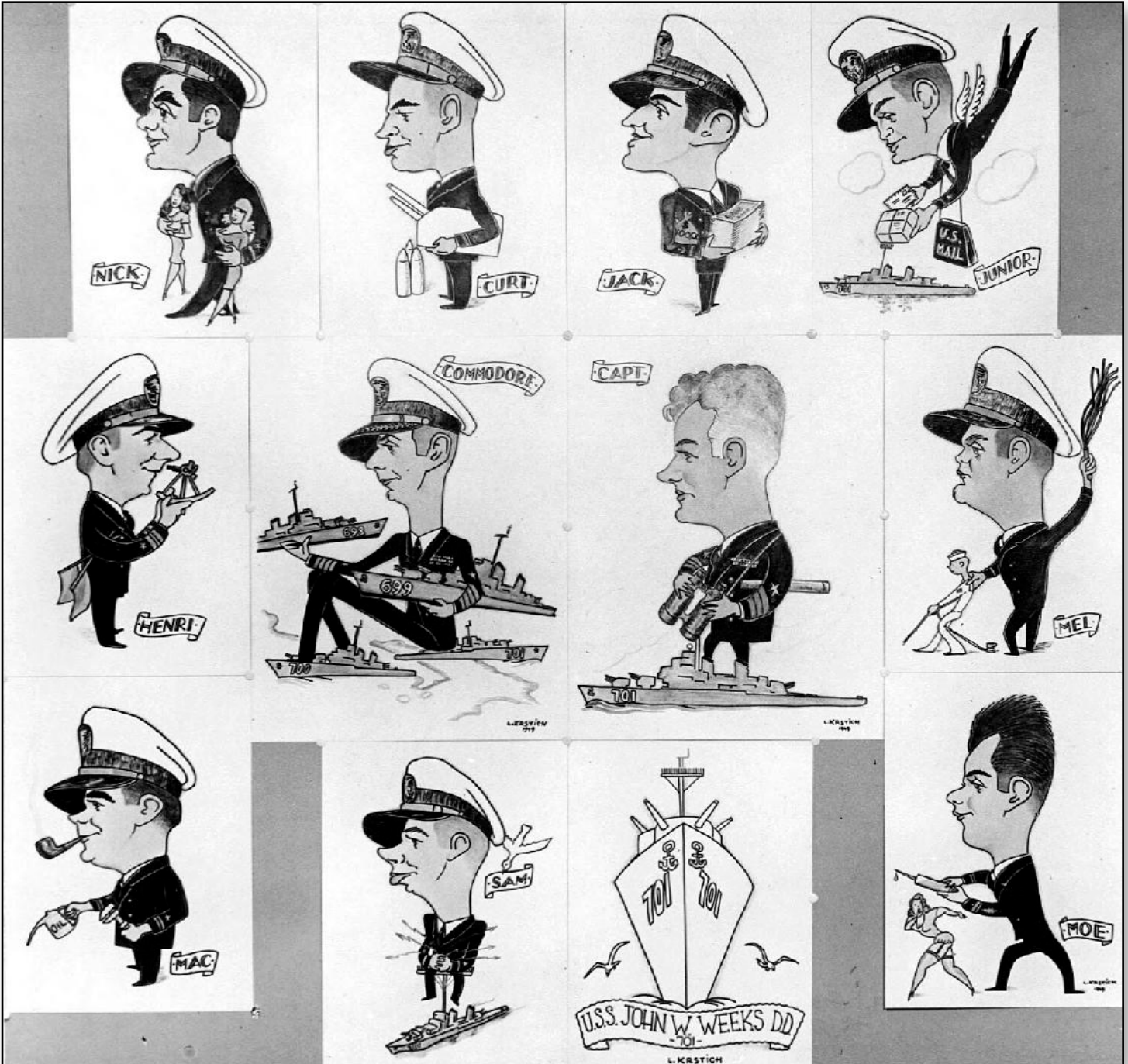
**Treasurer, USS John W. Weeks Association**

**12/30/2010**



## Caricature of Ship's Officers in 1949

I Received the following caricature of Captain George Towne Baker and ship's officers from Augie Gatto. Augie served aboard the Weeks 1949 and 1950 as a Yeoman. I was unaware that the Weeks had another Commanding Officer that succeed CDR Michael Callahan in 1949 and up until the ship was decommissioned in 1950. I would like to thank both Augie Gatto and Billy Pinyan for pointing this out to me.



## Navy Terms and Trivia - From the Goat Locker

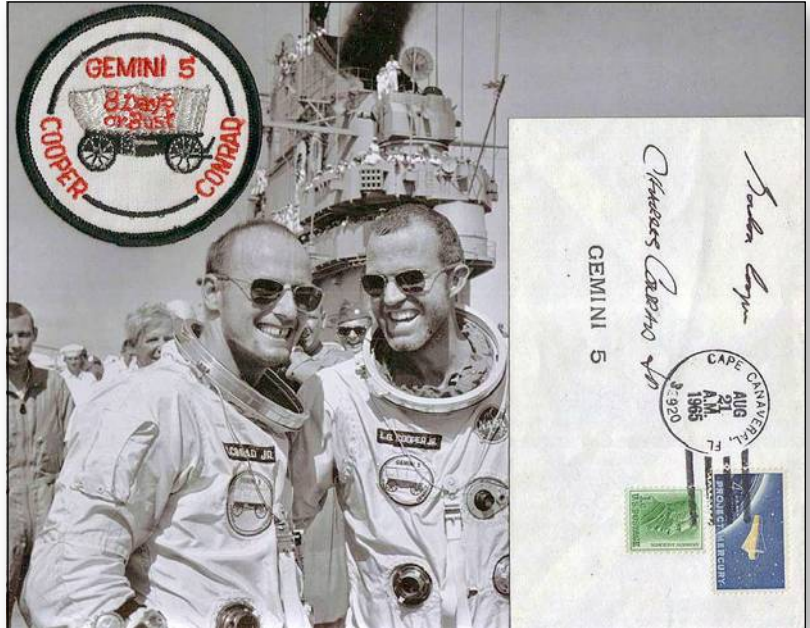
**Eight Bells** This measure of time originated in the days when a half-hour glass was used to tell off the four-hour watches. Each time the sand ran out, the ship's boy, whose job it was to reverse the glass, struck a bell to show he was attending to his business. Thus, eight times he turned the glass, and eight times struck the bell.



## Gemini 5 space capsule Recovery - *By James Fariello*

*Jim is currently serving as the Association's Vice President. He served on the Weeks from 1962 through 1966 as a Radarman.*

My name is James Fariello and I was stationed on board the USS John W. Weeks from the fall of 1962 to the fall of 1966. In the late fall of 1965 the USS John W. Weeks became part of the US Space program as it was assigned the mission to be part of the recovery fleet positioned east of Florida to recover the Gemini 5 space capsule. This was an exciting time for me as a Radarman tasked with the job of tracking the space capsule as it came into radar contact of our AN-SPS 29 air search radar. I was on that system when I picked up the astronauts Gordon Cooper Jr. and Charles Conrad Jr. as they entered the recovery area at some 50,000 plus feet. I made radio contact with them and they had just started the deployment of their recovery chutes. The day was just a beautiful Sunday morning after 8:30 AM. The seas and area of the recovery couldn't have been more ideal. After the last 120<sup>th</sup> orbit and over 190 hours in space with over 3.3 million miles of travel the two astronauts were ready to see our smiling faces in person. After the recovery communications was established by the USS Weeks the communications control was transferred to the aircraft carrier, USS Lake Champlain.



The Gemini 5 was now at 50,000 feet and the high altitude drogue chute had just been deployed. The capsule was now descending and slowing down in this phase and getting ready for the deployment of the pilot chute at 10,000 feet. I continued to track the capsule and when it was at that 9,000 feet the radar screen contact went really large as the main chute deployed. The position of the capsule was close and the USS Weeks and the USS DuPont DD-941. Both ships started for the touchdown area for recovery. The Weeks and the DuPont had recovery gear mounted on the fantail of the ship. The USS DuPont made the recovery of the capsule and the USS Weeks was on standby. The air craft carrier had sent helicopters to the capsule and recovery divers were in the water and putting a flotation collar on the capsule. The astronauts went by helo to the carrier. The recovery was made of the capsule and the Weeks with the recovery ships when to Mayport, Florida. This is a special day in my life and over the years I got to tell people that I was part of the space program.

Some facts about the Gemini 5 mission are:

REP (Radar Evaluation Pod) sub-satellite:

On August 21, 1965 at 16:07:15 UTC, the REP was released into orbit from the Gemini 5 spacecraft

## 2010 Reunion in Warwick RI Photos - *Photos taken by Capt. Hiram Carr*



Reunion Welcoming Committee  
Bea Budzynski and Jan Neidemire



Welcoming Dinner  
Shirley Wester, Jerry Wester and Ray Goodmuth



**2010 Reunion in Warwick RI Photos - Photos taken by Capt. Hiram Carr**



Battleship Cove - Battleship Massachusetts  
Bob Godley and Dianne Hewett



USS Joseph Kennedy Jr - Bill Fleming, Dick Russell, Sandy  
Russell, George McKee and Faye McKee



Scalio Bakery Tour  
Tom Wilson, Owner, Rick and Marylou Giannattasio



Providence City Tour  
Hiram and Charlyn Carr



Banquet - 50/50 Drawing  
Winner - Joan Bruno, Bill Fleming handing out the prize



Banquet  
Jack & Elaine Coughlin, Joanne & Earl Thomas, Paul Hetrick,  
Joan & Fran Bruno, Linda & Dave Connelly, Hiram Carr and  
Bea Budzynski



## WWII Memorabilia - John Fleming, Military Historian

I received this email from John Fleming along with several photos of the memorabilia he found at a local antiques shop. Because of space limitations I cannot show pictures of all the memorabilia in this newsletter; however, I will post the pictures on our new website in March.

My name is John Fleming and I am a Military Historian, collector and Army Veteran. I live in Metairie, LA. Today, I acquired three W.W.II letters and a Pacific Campaign medal from a local antiques shop. I think you and your shipmates will be interested in seeing pictures of the letters / medal which I have attached to this note.

The letters were mailed during late W.W.II from Coxswain Anthony "Tony" J. Barbato aboard the USS John W. Weeks, DD 701, to his sister Marie Barbato, 27 Main St., Ossining, N.Y. In one letter Barbato writes:

"Well the war is over, on Aug. 11 while everyone was writing to celebrate the end of the war, I had a job of sewing one of my shipmates in a canvas sack with two 5 inch shells. We buried him the next day. He died of a shrapnel hole in his bellie (sic) received the day before, when four Jap planes attacked us. The four planes were shot down. We got one and a possible two. All the guys are going to chip in for the families of the dead guys. I can well afford a fin for that. We will be in Japan when you get this letter."

The ships history documents this action, which took place only seven days before the war ended. "Four die-hard Kamikaze pilots attacked the Destroyers Weeks, Borie, Hank and Benner." The ships history goes on to record that "During the engagements, two 5 inch 38 shells from one of the ships in the group hit the Weeks. She suffered some damage on the port flank by fire that exploded a small tank of diesel fuel oil, she also received a large amount of shrapnel, some of which pierced the outer bulkhead of a 40mm magazine in which one of the personnel was killed. 11 other men were also wounded.

Barbato's letter, found forgotten in a dusty antiques shop, documents the tragic casualties sustained aboard the Weeks just a few days before hostilities ended. It is all the more tragic that these casualties were the result of "friendly fire". I cannot imagine the pain that families suffered by the loss of their loved ones at the very moment of victory.

Another of Barbato's letters is written in pencil on the back of a page from the "Daily Dep-Charge" of 21 July, 1945. This is presumably an on-board newsletter. The hand drawn map records the ships actions in the Pacific and celebrates the 1st Anniversary of the USS John W. Weeks. It also includes an "Honorable Scoreboard" and humorous cartoons of Tojo and Tokyo Rose. This document could quite possibly be the only page of the ships W.W.II newsletter to survive.

The W.W.II Pacific Campaign medal came with the lot and I have no reason to doubt that it was Coxswain Barbato's

You may use my photographs and narrative of the letters any way that you wish. I hope you and your shipmates find them interesting. Rest assured, I will carefully preserve this small but moving bit of your ships history. Thank you for your service to our country.

## A note from Frank Lea

From 1967 to 1969 I was Weapon's officer aboard Weeks. The 1967 deployment to the Middle East was a very long and hot trip to the Persian Gulf. The first chance I got to take a dip in the cool waters of the British Officer's Club pool in Bahrain, I found the pool closed. The water cooler was broken and the water was too hot. So I went to the Tiki Bar and made friends with two British officers. Ordered a Gin and Tonic for 5 cents. Paid the bar tender and was served one with only a sliver of ice that melted quickly. I asked for more ice and was charged 2 cents, which I had to pay first. Paid and received two more slivers of ice that melted as I took my first long drink. Asked for more ice and again was charged 2 cents, which the two British officers thought was a riot. Damn Yank was paying 9 cents for a bloody 5 cent drink, but it tasted much better cool than bloody hot.

After living aboard a blue water sailboat for two years and sailing up and down the Atlantic coast, I have retired ashore at Smith Mountain Lake, VA where I have my sailboat docked. I still minister to my online congregation of sailors sailing the southern waters and a few who have moved ashore. Otherwise I am completely retired, but miss sailing the open waters of the Atlantic. Must go back and crew for a friend sailing towards Aruba this fall.

My best wishes for calm waters and following winds to all the Weeks out there. Would love to hear from my crew mates from the late 60's. Frank Lea, 1218 Bold Branch Rd, Bedford, VA 24523. 540-297-4341.





## New Members

John H. Bevan	SK3	53 - 55	William Lanning		
Earl Dressel Jr.	SM2	66 - 68	Sam McKinney Jr	FN	64 - 66

## Sick Call

**Hiram Carr** - I received a note that Hiram had a total knee surgery after he returned home from this year's reunion. He is home and is doing well. His phone number is (806) 337-5411 and home address 1300 South Jackson St. Apt 411 Amarillo, TX 79101-4142.

**Robert Schneeman** - I received a note from Tom Seyler, that Robert is recovering from a stroke and recommend that we send him a note of encouragement. Roberts address is 14537 Linda Dr. Apt #7 Monroe, MI 48161.

*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.*



## Taps

**Theresa Shirley Hebert** - The wife of Whitney Hebert passed away, January 19, 2011. She was buried in the Riverside National Cemetery on January 27, 2011. Whitney Weeks from 1950 to 1953. His email address is [whitabear2@verizon.net](mailto:whitabear2@verizon.net) and home address is 20824 Florcraft AVE Lakewood, CA 90715-1528.

**Ila Pinyan** - I received a note from Billy that his wife Ila Pinyan passed away on July 24 2010. She went in her sleep no pain or suffering. Ila and Billy coming to our reunions for many years, she will be missed. Billie's email and home address is as follows: [pinyanb@bellsouth.net](mailto:pinyanb@bellsouth.net) and 200 Allen Mountain Drive; Black Mountain, NC 28711

**John T Shook** - I received a note from John's wife Sandra that her husband passed away April 28, 2010. John served on the Weeks 1961 - 1964 as a SOG3. No other information is available.

**Elmo Martin** - Elmo 's daughter called to inform the Association that her Father passed away March 31, 2010. Elmo served on the Weeks 1968-1969 as a RDC. No other information is available.

**Ronald Beasley** - I received a note from Alan Cutcher, who talked to Ronald's wife and found out that he passed away in 2007 from colon cancer. He served on the Weeks 1965-1966 as a PN3.

**Charles E Williams** - My husband was on the John W. Weeks in the late 60's his name was Charles E Williams they called him Willy. He's past now and I wanted him to be remembered; he loved that ship, he was a very young man when he was aboard the ship. Mrs. Barbara Williams. No other information is available.

## More Feedback on Operation Strikeback - By Ron Natalie

I received the following note from Ens Ron Natalie. Ron served on the 1957-1958. The original article on Operation Strikeback appeared in Volume 6, Issue 2 and Feedback from members in Volume 7, Issue 1.

I remember Operation Strikeback very well. It was my first overseas cruise. (Prior to that, only refresher training at Gitmo).

I remember the anchor incident well because I was the junior officer in the Gunnery Department at that time (2d Div Officer), and after we lost the anchor Captain Lovejoy upgraded me to First Lieutenant.

The difference in the lengths of the anchor chain between the two lockers was only a part of the problem. The real problem was that the Firth of Clyde was an extremely deep anchorage. The navigator should have alerted Bob O'Connor, the First Lieutenant at the time, to this issue, because the only safe procedure would have been to step the anchor down. It was most unfair to gig Bob for the loss of the anchor; he was senior because the Princeton graduation was a week before the Tufts graduation. We both had minimal sea duty and this was our first anchorage outside of Norfolk or Gitmo. I would have done exactly the same as he did.

Captain Lovejoy told me that the Admiral gave him grief not so much over the loss of the anchor as the manner in which he reported it. He had signaled something like "Let go the port anchor and it kept going" and the Admiral signaled back; "This is entirely too cavalier an attitude toward the loss of \$35,000 of Government property."

## Watch Navy TV at [www.navytv.org/](http://www.navytv.org/)

Navy TV is an internet television network dedicated to the men and women of the Navy—past, present and future—and to their families, friends, and all affiliated communities of the Navy. Navy TV lets viewers throughout the world know what the words "honor," "courage," and "commitment" mean to Navy men and women—past and present, who have served our nation.

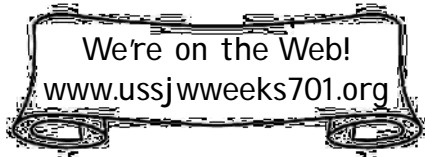
Created by the United States Navy Memorial, but available for all to access, Navy TV brings the entire Navy community – Sailors, families, veterans organizations, Navy educational and support groups and industry – together on global platform that tells the full story of Navy men and women.



USS John W Weeks  
Association

7249 Clipper Ct  
Maumee, OH 43537  
Phone: 419-878-3747

Email:  
[lenski@buckeye-express.com](mailto:lenski@buckeye-express.com)



## Your Officers and Committee Members

### Directors:

Earl Thomas - (330) 856-3433 [ewtpearl@aol.com](mailto:ewtpearl@aol.com)  
Bill Fleming - (518) 494-3338 [abf55@frontiernet.net](mailto:abf55@frontiernet.net)  
Ray Goodmuth - (410) 758-6596 [raygoo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:raygoo@atlanticbb.net)

### President:

Len Budzynski - (419) 878-3747 [lenski@buckeye-express.com](mailto:lenski@buckeye-express.com)

### Vice President:

Jim Fariello - (303) 659-3319 [jamesFariello@netscape.net](mailto:jamesFariello@netscape.net)

### Secretary:

Jerry Wester - (651) 483-4252 [shirjer99@juno.com](mailto:shirjer99@juno.com)

### Treasurer:

Bruce Neidemire - (352) 666-8374 [bneidemire@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bneidemire@tampabay.rr.com)  
7166 Big Bend Drive  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

### Chaplain:

Bob Miller - (304) 897-5892 [uncleskip@hardynet.com](mailto:uncleskip@hardynet.com)

### Historian:

Tom Wilson - (603) 352-8531 [thomasfwilsonjr@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasfwilsonjr@yahoo.com)

