



U.S.S.
U.S.C.G.C.

FINCH



DE 328 – WDE 428 – DER 328

*Distinguished Service Through Three Decades and Three Wars
World War II, Korea, and Vietnam*

Twenty-eighth year

Number 4

July 1, 2015

Finch Celebrates it's 28th Consecutive Reunion

October 11th marks the beginning of this year's reunion, to be held at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk, Virginia. The action continues for three full day's and nights, culminating with our annual banquet on Wednesday evening. Live music will be provided by our own one-man orchestra, William (Bill) Kieffer, DER'56. Lodging cost at the Sheraton is \$104 a night which includes free parking. You can make your reservations directly through the hotel at 800-325-3535. Be sure to mention you are with the USS Finch reunion.

The hotel is located adjacent to the river in downtown Norfolk, within easy walking distance to many restaurants, attractions and shopping! The hotel will honor our \$104 rate before and after the reunion, so be sure and add a couple of additional days to your reunion plans to take advantage of these rates and to enjoy the many other attractions in the Norfolk area that are not included in our reunion activities.



Our hosts, Bob Bumbulucz & Dave Stidham, DER'60 have an exciting agenda planned for this year's reunion ranging from a trip to historic Williamsburg and Jamestowne to tours of the Norfolk Naval Base, by land and river cruise. We will also visit the Nauticus Naval Museum which includes a tour of America's largest battleship, the USS Wisconsin BB-64.

A bus tour of Norfolk which includes a stop at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens for a train ride through the gardens gives us a change of pace & we will later stop for an ice cream cone at Doumars.

We have a large hospitality room, so be sure to bring your memorabilia! Sharing pictures and other Finch items leads to good stories, after all, a picture is worth a thousand words! And don't forget to bring the cookies and other sweets. They go great with coffee and sea stories.

We always end our reunions with a high quality banquet and this year is no exception. What we have changed is that the traditional Monday night Spaghetti dinner is **FREE** to all registrants this year, courtesy of the Finch Reunion Association (a \$27.50 value per person!)

2015 is the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. A very large percentage of our shipmates served in these wars. Norfolk is a great navy area and our reunion is a great time to celebrate our veteran's service. Plan on attending to honor these men for the service they gave to the Finch and to our country.

The reunion will include three days of quality activities that will keep you busy and give you a good insight into some of Virginia's rich heritage, but more importantly it will give you three full days to share experiences with your shipmates and build bonds that will only grow stronger over time. Don't miss this opportunity.

Finch 2015 Reunion Reunion Schedule of Events October 11-14, 2015

	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	Registration
Sunday 10/10		
Monday 10/11	8:45 am	Norfolk Riding Tour - Naval Base - Botanical Gardens
	6:00 pm	Pay-as-you-go Bar
	6:30 pm	FREE Spaghetti Dinner
Tuesday 10/12	8:15 am	Bus Tour, Williamsburg & Jamestowne
	4:30 pm	Return to hotel Dinner on your own
Wednesday 10/13	8:30 am	Business Meeting
	10:15 am	Victory River Cruise
	1:00 pm	Tour Nauticus and USS Wisconsin
	6:00 pm	Pay-as-you-go Bar
	6:30 pm	Farewell Banquet
Thursday 10/14	8:00 am	Checkout

**Call the Sheraton Waterside today to make your reservations: 800-325-3535
(be sure to mention you are part of the USS Finch reunion & request the special \$104 rate)**

COASTAL VIRGINIA

This is one of the most beautiful and historically rich areas in America. From the time the early 17th century settlers established a colony along the James River, and through-out the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, to the history that continues to be made today, there is something for everyone. If history is not your thing, then enjoy the beautiful coastline and the many beautiful beaches and small towns. To the south lies Kill Devil Hill, where the Wright Brothers made their first flight, and the beauty of the Outer Banks.

To the north and across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge are the beaches and rich land of Eastern Maryland that James A. Michener wrote about in his novel Chesapeake. To the west lies Richmond and Petersburg. Richmond was the Capital of the Confederacy and has several nice museums and Civil War battlefields that are enjoyable and informative, even if you are not a history fan. It is also worth a trip to Richmond just to enjoy the magnificent Jefferson Hotel and their outstanding cuisine.

LEMONS TO LEMONADE – NAVY STYLE

It has been said that life is what occurs while a person is busy making other plans. Proof of this truism occurred on the USS Finch in 1963 when Prestel, SO2, reported to the crew mess deck to tackle his First Class FMT test. Imagine his shock when he opened the envelope and discovered it contained not an FMT test, but a First Class Missileman test! As Prestel reported to his division officer afterward, “the opportunity only comes around every six months, and this was the only test I had, so I took it!” Later both Prestel and his division officer were stunned when his First Class Missileman designation and stripes arrived, approved without comment. Prestel asked his division officer what he should do and was told, “You earned them, so put them on and I will do all I can to get you transferred to a missile frigate before anybody catches on. This is a great unexpected opportunity.

Getting the transfer for Prestel was a typical navy boondoggle. Three attempts were denied for no good reason, except politics. It was obvious the Finch had no need for a Missileman. Finally, the best opportunity to succeed came up, but it required that the division officer really stick his neck out for Prestel. A ship’s inspection by the Admiral was scheduled. The Captain called the J.O.’s together and warned them that under no circumstances were any of them to speak to the Admiral. Prestel’s division officer thought to himself “Bullshit”. He was going to find a way to deliver a message to the Admiral in an attempt to do an end run on Prestel’s transfer.

The inspection day arrived. Fox Division was line up with the rest of the crew awaiting the Admiral. The division officer placed Prestel up front and center, advising him he was going to use his new rating when it was time to introduce the crewman. He felt that the Admiral would be as aware as he was that Prestel was a round peg in a square hole. When he called out Prestel’s “Missileman 1st Class” rating”, the Admiral turned to the division officer (not to the Captain) and said, “What the hell are you doing with a Missileman on a DER?” It had worked; the division officer had not spoken to the Admiral - the Admiral had spoken to him! He told the Admiral that he had no use for a Missileman and had sent through 3 requests for Prestel’s transfer to the Admiral’s office and all three had been denied for unknown reasons” (although the DO actually knew who had scuttled the transfers!) The Admiral frowned and snapped, “Mister, you get another transfer request written up and sent to me tomorrow, understand!” The DO said “Yes Sir”. Then the Admiral turned to his Executive Office and said, “and you see that transfer is approved and executed ASAP”

Three days later Prestel was packed and on his way to a missile frigate. The division officer took a little heat from the Captain, but he felt it was worth it to make up to Prestel for his administrative SNAFU on the test. For 50 years he never knew what had become of Prestel - until the 2013 Finch reunion in Memphis. Prestel showed up and had dinner with his old D.O. just to say “Thank you”. It turned out that Prestel was involved in a hot new phase of navy gunnery and therefore spent most of his time working out issues on the missile system with the engineers from the manufacturer. They were amazed how intelligent he was and guided him back to college and then into their field in the aerospace industry. Prestel made a career there for several decades before he burned out and retired to commercial retail sales.

This experience clearly points out the value of our Finch reunions. Those of you choosing not to attend are missing a rare opportunity to tell a fellow crewman, “Thanks for having my back, Bud”.

(Who was this un-named division officer. You can inquire about that at the reunion, Mate!)

GETTING TO THE HOTEL :

If you plan to fly to the reunion, make your flights in and out of Norfolk International Airport. It is located about 10 miles from the hotel. The hotel does not offer airport transportation. The Visitor’s Bureau recommends using Orange Peel Transportation, orangepeeltransportation.com 757-463-7500. Let them

know you are with the Finch and they will match you with other arriving shipmates to get a better rate.

If you are driving, the hotel is off I-264 in downtown Norfolk. Use exit 9 for easy access to the hotel located at 777 Waterside Drive. Google Maps has a great map.



Editor's Mast Verdict: "Let it be so!" :

The last two newsletters I have solicited assistance from my ship mates in the form of submitting a Finch Sea Tale to share with the guys. So far I have received one story and one picture. I contributed the last tale. So, if you aren't interested in participating then "So be it!" I will continue to provide Sea Tales from my service days until I run out and the newsletter will end up being an E.Z. Earl Diary. That's sad!!

Every man who has served in the Navy (or any branch of services) has lived through enough interesting, humorous, or frightening experiences to write a book. Any, or all, of you could provide one or two stories from which I can select for my Sea-Tales. So, "turn-to" - send your favorites to me at earl@greiner.com ! Make the e-mail "Subject" title: "Finch Sea-Tale by (your name)". I can rewrite them to fit if you so request.

E.Z. Earl, Editor



Editor's Corner:



WE WANT YOU

LOGISTICS FOR REUNION ARRANGEMENTS

Sheraton Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside, Norfolk, VA
[757-622-6664](tel:757-622-6664) or [800-325-3535](tel:800-325-3535)

- > HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL OPEN AT 12:00 NOON SUNDAY
- > NO FORMAL DINNER PLANNED FOR SUNDAY EVENING
- > SPAGHETTI DINNER IS PLANNED FOR MONDAY EVENING
- > NO FORMAL DINNER PLANNED FOR TUESDAY EVENING
- > DINNER BANQUET IS PLANNED FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING
- > CHECK-OUT ON THURSDAY

RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY - ASK FOR FINCH \$104 RATE

Finch Reunion Association

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 Bob Bumbulucz (DER 60)
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FINCH REUNION "2015"

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Return Service Requested

TO:

We're on the web!
ussfinch.com

TAPS



"...oh hear us when we pray to thee for those in peril on the sea"
Navy Hymn

I am pleased to report I have received no notice of shipmates who have recently set sail for a distant port.



Dues Are Due.....

If your dues are paid up for 2015 there will be a \$ sign next to your name on the mailing label. If you are in arrears on your dues please make out your properly completed check to USS Finch Reunion Association and mail to Robert Cragg (DER'57). See page 3 for Robert's mailing address.

Dues are paid annually based on the calendar year and are due January 1st, but can be paid anytime. The dues we collect at the reunion are for the upcoming year. Annual dues are \$10 per year, but you can make a life-time payment of \$100 if you prefer. Dues paid at, or after, the reunion are applied to the following year.

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(be sure to mention you are part of the USS Finch reunion & request the special \$104 rate)**

Finch Sea Tale: As experienced by Earl Greiner, LTjg (DER-'61)

Do you remember your early introduction to your first ship? My first and last was the Finch. And, remember your first cruise to sea? It was my first picket in Spring of 1961 when I discovered first-hand that a "boot-camp" had better proceed cautiously to avoid stepping on toes.

I had a commanding officer (who it is best left un-named herein) that was a bombastic old sea-dog who had come up through the ranks as a "Mustang". He held a high disdain for we "worthless 90-day wonders" and loved to give us a chance to flaunt our failings at every opportunity, while he provided a running commentary about the weak performance. One afternoon the J.O.s were summoned to the bridge for maneuvering drills. A weather balloon was placed in the water as a target. He established the parameters, which was to circle the balloon and eventually come to a stop with the balloon stationary directly under the whaleboat. After a half hour the Captain said, "Well, let's see how our new 90-day wonder can handle a ship! (With a big smirk on his face.) Mr. Greiner—take the helm"

Of course I had never given a bridge command yet so I was more than a bit shaken. All the J.O.s were snickering at me as I moved the ship out. I circled out and around the balloon (the easy part) then turned back toward the target. I swung the bow too far to starboard, much to the Captain's amusement, then I frantically attempted to bring it back port. Again I appeared to swing too far past until I realized I had placed the ship perfectly with its huge sail area against a 6-knot wind. So I went to all stop - let it just inch ahead while the wind blew the ship directly down on the balloon. I caught it with the starboard bow then juked the power one time and watched it roll down the starboard side. I hit all ahead 1/3 then all-stop with the balloon directly under the whale boat. I was the only J.O. who was able to manage the maneuver. The Captain had a fierce scowl on his face, but I might have been OK if I had just kept my big mouth shut, but you who know me know that rarely happens. So I gave him a big smirk and said: "Like that, Captain?!"

The Captain blew his cork, started swearing like a sailor, and stormed off the bridge. After he left my OOD, Lynn Armel, laughed and said, "Boot-camp you may have won the battle but you aren't going to win the war. Man, did he call it right. Captain was all over my butt until the next boot-camp came aboard and became the new target-of-the-day.

I might add that I was getting mighty pissed about his treatment, so one day during gunnery practice I was on the 03 level handlebar gun director and he was still giving me nothing but grief. So I turned the no.1 gun mount directly aft and pointed the cannon right at the bridge. I figured he would get my message. He did and once again blew a cork. Of course I said I was sorry. It was just an accident. Riiight!!!!

A Seafarer's Philosophy of Life: "It is what it is!"

PUZZLE QUESTION:

Where did the term, "More balls than a brass monkey" come from?

(nobody got the nickname of "Wiskey" right for the last puzzle question)

FINCH 2015 REUNION RESERVATIONS

October 11-14, 2015 Sheraton Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

Name: _____	Guest: _____
Spouse: _____	Guest: _____
Arrival Date: _____	Departure Date: _____
Email address: _____	
Home Phone _____	Cell Phone _____

Monday, October 12th

Time: 8:45 am - 4:00 pm

Bus Tour - Norfolk Riding Tour , includes Naval Station Norfolk, with lunch included on base, Botanical Gardens, and ice cream at Doumar's

Number Attending _____ x \$65.00 per person \$ _____

Information is needed to get on Norfolk Naval Station

First Name	Last Name	City of Residence	State
First Name	Last Name	City of Residence	State
First Name	Last Name	City of Residence	State

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner at Sheraton Hotel

Number Attending _____ \$ ***FREE***

Tuesday, October 13th

Time: 8:15 - 4:30 pm

Bus Tour - Historic Williamsburg and Jamestowne (Enjoy the local and historic cuisine at your leisure)

Number Attending _____ x \$59.00 per person \$ _____

Wednesday, October 14th

Time: 10:15 - 3:00 pm

Victory River Cruise (includes lunch), Nauticus, and USS Wisconsin

Number Attending _____ x \$39.00 per person \$ _____

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Annual Finch Banquet at Sheraton Hotel (See the back of this page for complete meal information)

Choice of:

- Chicken Boursin _____
- Roast Sliced Sirloin of Beef _____
- Seared Filet of Salmon _____

Number of Meals _____ x \$41.00 per person \$ _____

Registration, Administration, Hospitality Room and Miscellaneous Expenses

Number Attending Reunion _____ x \$10.00 per person \$ _____

**Please Submit This Registration Form
And Check To Robert Cragg
So They Are Received by Sept 15, 2015**



Make checks payable to:
USS Finch Reunion Association.
Mail to: Robert Cragg
PO Box 353, Emigrant, MT 59027