

USS CHOPPER (SS342)



NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 2004

THE OFFICIAL NEWS ORGAN OF THE CHOPPER ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 3

Here we are in the 3rd quarter of 2004 with 2005 and the reunion in New Orleans just around the corner. In this issue, as a follow up, I have dredged up more information on the Chopper Mascots due to shipmates being willing to share their memories with the NewsLetter. Here's what we found. It appears that there was a dog named P-Hole that came aboard in the early 1950's Ralph Hanson submitted the following:

Bob,

I don't remember much more about p-hole. I was hoping that someone else would tell us more about "her". I do remember that when she first came aboard someone asked if she was a girl or a boy and someone (probably a torpedoman) said "it's a girl, don't you see the p-hole?" thus, her name. It looks like the Chopper was in dry dock somewhere at the time of the photo. Maybe someone else will remember the time frame. I left the Chopper for the Gudgeon in Portsmouth, NH in around September of 1952 and don't remember if P-hole was still aboard at that time or not. Good luck.

Ralph

That's how P-Hole got her name!!



I talked to several shipmates on the phone and and none could remember what happen to her. What we do know is she had a litter of pups while on the Med cruise. Capt.Ramsing made

arrangements for her to be taken back to the states via a DD scheduled to return. Due to regulations in that jurisdiction that mascots weren't allowed. There is a story about P-hole when the Chopper was in the yard and an inspection with yard supervisors was underway. In the forward battery next to the Captain's Cabin P-Hole had an "accident" and left a standing puddle. The supervisor seeing the puddle, and thinking it was a leak of some sort, bent down and wetted his finger and tasted the sample to see if it was salt water. His reactions were not remembered but there were a lot of laughs about the incident.

Thanks to shipmates John Doose, Jack Black, Ralph Hanson, Doug Picket, Bill McNeil and Verner Ramsing for the information on P-Hole.

There is an interesting book available titled *Steep Angles & Deep Dives* and published by the Submarine Research Center US Naval Submarine Base, Bangor Washington. This book documents, via personal interview, all submarines that exceeded their test depth and were able to surface safely, Eighteen dives were recorded and detailed in the book. It must be noted that the Chopper is the granddaddy of all Deep Dives and the only one officially documented by the navy. The book covers dives of "O" Boats, Fleet Boats and SSN's. The book can be purchased by calling 360-437-8015, writing the Submarine Research Center P O Box 6088 US Naval Submarine Base Bangor Silverdale, Washington 98315. The ISBN # is 0-9741343-2-5. or e-mailing them at subrect@cablespeed.com for purchasing instructions.

Shipmate News

At the first reunion in Kings Land, GA there was a map posted with a pin placed in a large map of the US representing each shipmate that attended and his starting point to determine who traveled the furthest. During the second reunion that wasn't done so Jose Joos did not get credit for his mileage from Alaska to Charleston. At the next reunion its a sure thing, unless someone shows up from Hawaii, that Jose will claim the record again. If he drives to New Orleans he will have been on the road for 78 hrs and 30 minutes and will travel 4494.7 miles. Jose says he is considering driving. Good Luck Jose!

On a sadder note here is a letter from Cynthia Arnold:

*Dear Chopper Association,
Thank you for sending this letter to George. He would have loved to read it.
But my husband George D Arnold passed away on Oct 3 2003.*

Would you please pass this info on to the Association.

*I thank you again,
Cynthia R Arnold*

All George's shipmates pass on their best wishes to Cynthia and all will miss George. Sailor Rest Your Oars.

Jerry Tibbetts

Contributed by Ed Hizer

Jerry and I have keep in touch since the early 60's and visit each other occasionally. Jerry has had Dementia for quite some time. I recently visited him and his condition has deteriorate rapidly since he fell down some stairs last year.

He was on the Chopper from 61 to 64, and at the first 2 reunions he saw some of his old friends and shipmates. He will not be able to attend the 2005 reunion. If you will put this out through the association so his

friends will know about his condition. I'm afraid he won't be with us much longer. I'll keep you posted on his condition as it changes.

Ed Hizer

Chopper Stories

If any shipmates have stories they would like to have printed in the Chopper NewsLetter, please let us know. Send Bob Stamper an e-Mail, a written story or give him a phone call to tell him about it. He can be reached at 11301 Sandpine Rd Riverview, FL 33569, e-mail at k4cfv@tampabay.rr.com or Phone 813-677-5485.

Stories can include humorous things that happened on board or pranks played on each other or just good sea stories. You know what I mean; all those things we talk about at a reunion. Share them with our shipmates who will really appreciate them.

Reunion Information

Remember to register at the Radison Hotel for the April 13 thru 17, 2005 third Chopper Reunion and her 60th birthday.

1-800-333-3333 or 504-522-4500

Be Sure and mention the Chopper Reunion.

You will also have to register for the reunion with the Chopper Association. This is \$50 per person including guests and wives. Murph is now accepting these fees. Make out your checks to the Chopper Reunion Fund and send to:

**The Chopper Reunion
c/o of James "Murph" Murphree
104 Ellis Rd #3
Miramar Beach, FL 32550-3839**

Associastion Dues

If you aren't current with you Chopper Association dues be sure and send "Muph" a check. Dues are \$10/yr and help defer the cost of operating the association.