

Thomas C. Hart Line

You Gotta Have Hart!



*The newsletter of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association
Dedicated to the sailors who brought a great ship to life!*

Special points of interest:

- First meeting held
- Association Officers elected
- Inaugural reunion held
- Next Reunion site suggestions needed

UNDERWAY! Shift Colors....

Norfolk VA - The first reunion of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association was held at the Norfolk Sheraton Hotel on 28-31 JUL 2005. Twenty Eight shipmates attended to festivities (a much bigger turnout for a kick off meeting than typically seen) that included a tour of Norfolk Naval Station and USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75), time at the beach, shopping, tours of Nauticus (The National Maritime Center in Norfolk) and Battleship Wisconsin, a business meeting to approve the Association bylaws, and a fantastic banquet at the Norfolk Sheraton attended by 58 HART sailors, family and friends.

HART sailors from Plankowners to the sailors who helped prepare the ship for transfer to the Turkish Navy were there. To top the event off, four former HART Commanding Officers attended the banquet (John Pearson, Skip MacMichael, Lou Nick and Dave Rollins). Keep reading inside for some photos from the reunion, and news about the next gathering. See you in 2007!



The Association is a fraternal organization for current or previous United States Navy Members who served aboard the destroyer escort/ fast frigate USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF-1092). The primary purpose of the Association is for former shipmates who share a common background of service aboard the T C Hart to enjoy camaraderie and to provide the opportunity for members to actively participate in reunions and other activities of the Association.

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- Todd Black

Got something to say?

This newsletter is dedicated to get the word out about the crew of the finest warship in the Fleet. From the snipes to the twigs, SWOs, Chops, deck-apes, and, of course, the families, this letter is for you to get reconnected with shipmates. We are shooting to publish three times a year in March, July and November. The deadline for the next newsletter is 30 October 2005. Send any suggestions for articles, written material (sea-

stores encouraged!), photos and announcements to Thomas.C.Hart@cox.net or mail it to,;

Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association
C/O Toby Layman
112 Arabian Trail
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

- Todd Black

President's Call

Shipmates,

It was great to meet some of you for the very first time and it certainly was a thrill to see the guys I served with in TCH!! I wish you all could have attended. We officially established the USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF-1092) Veterans Association by signing a formal organizing document, adopting by-laws, and electing officers of the Association. Twenty-Eight shipmates attended the reunion, accompanied by their guests. Believe the total at the banquet was 58!!! A super start in establishing a viable Association!!!

We decided at the Saturday morning business meeting to solicit input for selecting the next city in which to hold the 2007 reunion. So, for the next several months, we will be asking for your input to offer up a city that you think would be a great place to hold the 2007 reunion.. We decided to use our reunion planners again as they did a superb job in setting up this event!! Please let someone on the leadership team know of any ideas that you have. Please keep in mind that the city you nominate should be a great town, with lots to do close to the hotel. It should be a city that is served by a major airport that would not require renting a car to get from the airport to the hotel.. The city should have nice hotels in the vicinity of the attractions. The idea is to limit the amount of "extra traveling" and "added expenses of rental cars, huge limo/cab fares, etc." Our reunion planners are experienced professionals who can make all the arrangements but you should have a general knowledge of the town/attractions, etc. as you

will be the "Reunion Coordinator" and point of contact for the planners. As the Reunion Coordinator, you would also be responsible for communicating our desires to the planners wrt to the hospitality suite, stocking the hospitality suite with snacks/beverages (Association will buy the snacks/drink). Other than a few details like that, and OK'ing the reunion planners decisions, the planners will handle the big stuff. They do all the arranging/negotiations with the hotels, tour folks, etc. You'll be hearing much more about this in the very near future as our decision on the city for the 2007 reunion will be made by early next year.. So get those ideas flowing and make your reunion city nominations known!!!

Now we need to encourage all of our shipmates to come aboard!!!! We are offering the TCHVA metal lapel pin that you see pictured in this newsletter as a membership gift. Please contact all of your shipmates and pass along the membership form or direct them to the website.

All the best,

Garry



Wonder where the Norfolk Naval Station got all those HART postcards at the visitor's center?

Not a member yet? It's easy and cheap! Just mail \$20 for two years dues to:

**USS THOMAS C.
HART VETERANS
ASSOCIATION
c/o Randy Groen
2219 Friendship Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337**



Association President Gary Collins with reunion planners John Peterson and Sherry Mills

From The VP

Shipmates,
It's time to shift our colors, because we are definitely UNDERWAY! The reunion was a great success. There were shipmates from plank owners to decommissioning crew, and everywhere in between. Lots of folks brought photo albums with all kinds of pictures, some to remember, some to forget, and probably some we should have hidden! People had hats and buttons, and T-shirts from days gone by, and what wonderful memories they brought back. And as for those of you who might have been worried about it being all officers, or all enlisted, forget it! It was well balanced, with 98% being civilians with first names. The other 2% were people still serving in the military at various levels and locations, but they had first names too. What a great time we all had at the reunion!

I want to thank Gary and all those who helped him for one FANTASTIC time. For those of you who couldn't make it, don't

worry we're going to do it again soon, and I hope you can make it to the next one.

To help us make the next one even better we, the board, need your help. If you have ANY idea of where some of our shipmates might be, or where they were last you knew, please try and get a hold them. If you're not sure or need help, get their name and any information you may have to me or one of the other board members so we can contact them. The more members we have the better the organization, and the greater the next reunion.

Remember, life goes by quickly, and you don't want to end up saying: "Boy I wish I had seen... ..one more time."

Still serving your future,

- Steve (NC1) Garcia



16 May 2001: TCG Zafer (F-253), ex-USS Thomas C. Hart (FF-1092), at Toulon, France (Photo by Guy Schaeffer, from the collection of Paolo Marsan)

A Thought to live by

As we grow up, we learn that even the one person that wasn't supposed to ever let you down probably will. You will have your heart broken probably more than once and it's harder every time. You'll break hearts too, so remember how it felt when yours was broken. You'll fight with your best friend. You'll blame a new love for things an old one did. You'll cry because time is passing too fast, and you'll

eventually lose someone you love. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, and love like you've never been hurt because every sixty seconds you spend upset is a minute of happiness you'll never get back.

- Courtesy Scott Ruerup



Another Wardroom Meeting! 1980's era officers (l-r) Todd Black, Bill Hamlet, Charlie Ellis, and Fred Longenecker remember some good times with former HART Commanding Officer CAPT Lou Nick (ret).

Officers Elected

Elected Officers

President, Gary Collins

Vice President, Steve Garcia

Secretary, Toby Layman

Treasurer, Randy Groen

Volunteer Staff

Historian, Andy Roberts

Storekeeper, E. Scott Ruerup

Newsletter, Todd Black

Webmaster, Ray Polen



Note: Dave Coleman is incorrectly listed as Dave Cameron. Sorry Dave!

Chaplin Wanted!

....and boy do we need one!

During the business meeting at the reunion all of the officer and assistant positions were filled with the exception of a Chaplain. What does the Chaplain do? The Chaplain will be the primary point of contact for notification of illness/death of any Association Member or T C Hart Shipmate. In addition, he will initiate contact with relatives of the infirmed or deceased and keep the Association informed via direct e-mails and the offi-

cial Association Website, of specifics, regarding the illness or death. He will send appropriate get well, condolences or sympathy cards on behalf of the Association and tender his signature to the card using the "Chaplain, USS Thomas C. Hart FF-1092 Veterans Association" tag line. When notified, he will report any illness or death to the Association. The Chaplain will offer the invocation at the reunion banquet. If you are interested, please contact any of the Association officers.

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.THOMASCHART.ORG**

Where to next???

*Start giving some thought to where
the next reunion should be in 2007!
We discussed several locations
across the country at the business
meeting but wanted to give everyone
an opportunity to make a sugges-
tion. If you have a great place for
the next reunion, please email or
snail-mail your suggestion to the ad-
dresses at right*



Taken aboard the USS Donald Cook (DDG-75) during a tour arranged by Dave Peterson. Pictured are (rear l-r) Scott Cruikshank, Randy Groen, Scott Ruerup, Thomas Sexton, Dave Peterson, and (front l-r) Garry Collins and Dan Schubert.

