



Thomas C. Hart Line

You Gotta Have Hart!

Volume 3 Issue 1
Summer 2009

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

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3rd Reunion News!

by Randy Groen

Charleston may be hot and humid, but no one seemed to notice as old shipmates and their families had a great time at the third Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association reunion.

Well, another Hart reunion has come and gone. I have gone to all 3 and have had a great time at them all. Why do I go? Well, the tours
Please see Reunion News on pg 4

2011 Reunion in Norfolk!

During the 12 June TCHVA business meeting, new officers were elected and the decision to hold the next reunion in Norfolk VA was made. Congratulations to our new President Scott Ruerup and all the officers (noted below). The full meeting minutes are
Please see Business Meeting Minutes on pg 5

Looking for input

We are always looking for your input! If you have any suggestions, ideas or just want to get involved in the organization and reunion planning, please contact us through the website or email the newsletter at Thomas.c.hart@cox.net and we'll get you engaged!



Officers

President	Scott Ruerup
Vice President	Ron Koshko
Treasurer	Randy Groen
Secretary/Newsletter	Garry Collins
Historian	Andy Roberts
Chaplain	Tom Clark

President's Corner

By Scott Ruerup

Ahoy Shipmates,

I want to thank all you for your support and promoting me to President of this fine Association. I have some very big shoes to fill following Garry & Jerry. But I have a great group of Officers to help me. Congratulations to my fellow elected Officers. **Ron Kosko Vice President** our new blood I look forward to working with you welcome.

Garry Collins Secretary Our Founder who continues to do whatever is needed.

Randy Groen Treasurer I believe this is going to be his 3rd term and that is Outstanding!

Andrew Roberts Historian Keeping our history alive and also his 3rd term, thanks Andy!

Thomas Clark Chaplain 2nd term keeping us all in his prayers and ready to help in times of need.

Steve Garcia Reunion Chairman a new position and greatly needed welcome.

Jerry Leatherman Association Director continuing to give his time to help us grow.

Todd Black Newsletter Editor a very difficult job well done each and every time Thanks.

The Association is now 4 years old we have held 3 Reunions in Norfolk, Nashville and Charleston. Those that attended this year's reunion voted to have our next reunion back in Norfolk. Our homeport will help us in both growth and attendance as many of old shipmates continue to live in the area. Our growth as an organization is good but not great in order for us to continue to grow we need everyone to do their share. This means each member needs to bring in at least one new member each year. If we can accomplish this as our goal we will be able to move the reunion sites to other venues. We look to you our Shipmates to give us **Fresh ideas** and feedback. Please feel free to visit our website at <http://www.thomaschart.org> log into the lounge area and post a discussion or simply email me at erureup@yahoo.com. Our Newsletter will be coming out shortly. If anyone has a story to tell or an article that would be of interest please submit it in the Newsletter section for Todd. Our Website has grown to include a lounge area for members only, the Ships Store, areas for pictures and a lot more. We have Paypal to make it more convenient to purchase items. Any suggestions for the Store/website/future reunions/will be greatly appreciated and taken into consideration. I look forward to seeing you all at the next Reunion in Norfolk ,Va. in 2011. The dates have not been finalized yet, but start saving and be ready to book your reservations as soon as we post them. Let's make the **2011 Reunion of the T C Hart FFIDE 1092 Veterans Association the best yet!**

Humbly Yours,

E. Scott Ruerup

President T C Hart Veteran's Association

Treasurer's Report

By Randy Groen

The following is the financial report that was presented to the members in attendance on June 13th at the reunion in Charleston. The second set of numbers is the updated numbers as of August 1st. 2009.

June 6, 2009 Financial Report

On my last financial report dated March 1st, 2009, the treasury had a balance of \$1571.50. From March 2nd, 2009 through June 9, 2009, we have had an income of \$410.00. All from dues. Expenses for this period total \$288.78, and include \$8.78 for paypal fees and \$280.00 for incentive checks for reunion attendees. That gives us a net gain of \$121.22 and a balance as of June 9th, 2009 of \$ 1732.72. This includes \$5.00 that is in our old account at the Navy Credit Union. It does not include any amounts that are in the Ships Store account.

August 1st, 2009 Financial Report

The current balance in the treasury is \$1683.91. This includes \$5.00 that is in our old account with the Navy Credit Union and does not include any money that is in the Ships Store Account. Since the start of the reunion we have had an income of \$250.00. Dues accounted for \$150.00 of this and 2 members gave back their incentive checks for an additional \$100.00. Expenses totaled \$303.81. Paypal fees were \$3.81 and we wrote out a check for \$300.00 for the reunion planners. The result of the above numbers was a net loss of \$48.81.

Respectfully submitted August, 6th, 2009

Randy Groen

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Reunion News

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are great. I've enjoyed visiting the museums and learning about the history of the different cities. The dinner cruises and the entertainment venues have all been great fun. But I would still go to the reunions even if there weren't any tours

Staying at a hotel with room service, a restaurant, a pool and a gym for a few days is a nice get away. No house work, yard work or cooking is a big draw. But I would still go the reunion even if it was held in my home town and I went home every night.

Why do I go? It certainly isn't because I loved being in the Navy, I didn't. The only reason I enlisted was to get out of being drafted. I felt trapped and was counting the days till I could get out from the first day of boot camp

Although I didn't know it then, the time I spent in the Navy and aboard the Hart were formative years for me. I learned that there was a great big world outside of the little piece of suburbia that I grew up in. I learned a lot about myself. That I could do well and learn, even when I was somewhere I didn't want to be, doing things I didn't want to do. I learned to live my life for the moment while still planning for the future. But most of all, I learned the value of people, There is a great diversity of people in this world. They come with different backgrounds, skills, talents and views of the world. But if you put them together working together, they can accomplish wonderful things.

While on the Hart I met some wonderful people. They came from many different places, had very diverse backgrounds, and viewed the world with a perspective that was often quite different from mine. We all came together for a short period of time and lived worked and played together and most of all, we became friends. Most of these friends I haven't seen or heard from since. This is the main reason I go to reunions... Friends. I really enjoy seeing my old friends again. At each reunion, a few of my old friends have shown up. A few more show up at each one. Another thing that has happened now that I have attended several reunions. I have gotten to know some of the other Hart Veterans. The ones that I didn't serve with. I've gotten to know several of them and now consider them to be friends too. I am now looking forward to seeing these new friends at the next reunion.

In the summer of 2011, we are having the Harts' next reunion in her home port of Norfolk VA. You all have spent a chunk of your life in Norfolk. If you haven't been there lately, you won't believe how much it has changed. There are plenty of reasons to go to the reunion. You could enjoy a tour or 2. Take in a museum and some entertainment. Stay in a hotel with room service and a pool. But most of all come to see some old friends and to make some new ones. I'll look forward to seeing you there

TCHVA Reunion 2009 Minutes of Business Meeting June 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 0900 in the Seabrook room of the Holiday Inn, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina by TCHVA President, Jerry Leatherwood.

The following shipmates were in attendance: Jim Maddox, Nelson Mertz, David Neimeyer, Gary Smith, Garry Collins, Jim Fender, Ron Koshko, John Ebata, Steve Garcia, Dan Schubert, Randy Groen, and Tommy Sexton.

President Leatherwood called for all hands to introduce themselves and provide rate/rank, and years onboard TCH.

Old Business: There was no old business addressed.

Treasurer Randy Groen gave the financial report and stated as of 6/9 the TCHVA treasury contained \$1782.72. This amount did not include membership additions/renewals taken at this reunion. The books were audited and accepted by Board members. The treasurers report was accepted by all hands present.

The storekeeper fund was reported by Garry Collins as \$\$505.47 which did not include sales at the reunion or did not consider an incoming invoice for TCHVA mousepads. The storekeeper account was audited by Board member.

New Business:

Jerry Leatherwood read personal email from incoming President E. Scott Ruerup explaining why he was not present.

Steve Garcia brought up the issue of cost of hotel/tours and suggested that future reunions perhaps should be planned/organized by a committee made up of TCHVA members. A motion was made for us to plan the next reunion. The motion carried. Steve volunteered to chair future reunion committee and members agreed the current "board", as defined in the by-laws, should be the reunion planning committee. The membership approved this motion.

Members present voted to make Norfolk, Virginia the location of the 2011 reunion.

Members present agreed that reunion should be scheduled between June 15th and August 15th to maximize attendance and minimize conflicts for members who have children in schools.

Members present voted to approve an expenditure of \$300 to subsidize our reunion planners.

New Officers were elected as follows: E. Scott Ruerup moved from Vice President to President per TCHVA by-laws. Ron Koshko was elected Vice President. Randy Groen was re-elected as Treasurer. Garry Collins was elected as Secretary. Tom Clark was approved to retain the Chaplaincy and Andy Roberts was approved to retain TCHVA Historian duties. Garry Collins remains as webmaster and ship's store operator.

Outgoing President Leatherwood read by laws to all members present and reviewed each article. The current by laws were accepted "as is" with the exception of some clarification language regarding relief for cause/incapacitation and the authority to seek reimbursement from Treasury funds for expenses incurred by members in support of the Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 1045.

Garry Collins
Secretary, TCHVA





Welcome Aboard! **New Members (Since July 2009)**

Richard Vaughn, BT2 73-77

Dennis Baer, STG2 88-92

Are your dues up to date?

With reunion just about here, it is time for many of us to renew our dues.

If you aren't sure if you owe or not, contact TCHVA at garrysea@insightbb.com and we'll let you know.

Also, did you know you pay your dues online with PAYPAL? It's fast, easy, and secure. Take a look at

Passing of a TCHVA Shipmate

It is with great sadness that we pass on that John Peterson, the TCHVA long-time reunion coordinator with Creative Training & Conferences passed away shortly after the reunion in July.. For those of you in our last 3 reunions – it was obvious that John was not himself, and about 3 weeks ago he went downhill very quickly. He did talk with me as I was with him most of the time through Wednesday. He kept asking me to tell his brother and other visitors stories from our reunion experiences.

Sherry R. Mills, CMP, RMP
Creative Training & Conference Management, LLP