This Newsletter is dedicated to all of the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

USS McKinley Association - Our Purpose: To Promote patriotism and Camaraderie among those who served on board the USS Mt. McKinley during that ship's 25 years and 10 months active service to the U.S. Navy from May 1st 1944 (Commissioned) to March 26th 1970 (de-Commissioned)

More pictures from September 2009 reunion

Enjoying the sea breeze

We commandeered this entire vessel

We must have been talkin' Business!

Boogie-woogie woman!

Another year has come to a close. It was an event filled, successful, fun year, with some sadness, as some of our shipmates are no longer with us.

We look forward to the new year with positive anticipation. Planning is well underway for our 2010 reunion in September, in the Tampa/St. Petersburg Florida area. When details become available we will present those details in upcoming issues of the Masthead.

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season, and you are all looking forward to another great year! (Wow! They seem to go by so fast!)
Navy Accepts Delivery of Future USS Independence

From Team Ships Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy officially accepted delivery of the future USS Independence (LCS 2) Dec. 18 during a short ceremony in Mobile, Ala. Independence is the second littoral combat ship delivered to the Navy, and the first LCS of the General Dynamics variant. LCS is a new breed of U.S. Navy warship with versatile warfighting capabilities, capable of open-ocean operation, but optimized for littoral, or coastal, missions.

"Today marks a critical milestone in the life of the LCS 2," said Rear Adm. James Murdoch, the LCS program manager in the Navy's Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. "The Navy and our industry partners have worked diligently to deliver a much-needed capability."

Prior to delivery, the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) conducted Acceptance Trials aboard LCS 2 on Nov. 13-19, and found the ship's propulsion plant, sea-keeping and self-defense performance to be "commendable," and recommended that the chief of naval operations authorize delivery of the ship following the correction or waiver of cited material deficiencies.

Between now and sail away in February 2010, the contractor will correct most of the trial cards received during trials. Any remaining cards will be corrected during scheduled post-delivery maintenance availabilities including the post-shakedown availability scheduled for completion in 2011.

Delivery is the last shipbuilding milestone before commissioning, scheduled for Jan. 16 in Mobile, Ala.

The LCS class is designed from the keel up to deliver efficient capability, capacity, and flexibility to the warfighter. Independence, a high-speed aluminum trimaran, is designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The 417-foot Independence will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly. These mission packages focus on three mission areas: mine counter measures, surface warfare and anti-submarine warfare.

PEO Ships is responsible for the development and acquisition of U.S. Navy surface ships and has delivered eight major surface ships to the fleet since the beginning of 2009. PEO Ships is working in conjunction with its industry partners to achieve steady production for all programs to increase production efficiencies and leverage cost savings. Delivering high-quality war fighting assets while balancing affordability and capability is key to supporting the Navy's Maritime Strategy and building the Navy's 313-ship force structure. PEO Ships is committed to delivering quality ships at an affordable price.

For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/navsea

Latest info from Military news:
As trials wrapped up this month (December 2009) the independence reached speeds of 45 knots! (about 52 MPH) and was very maneuverable.
Here we are, already into a new year! I really hope 2010 brings a little more financial stability to our citizens. I don’t see much to get excited about! As I sit here writing this article, I’m looking out the window at a snowstorm, and some pretty cold weather. I still haven’t figured out why I haven’t moved to a warmer location. I guess the anticipation of vacationing in sunny places keeps me going.

Talking about sunny places, I am told by Dave Long that the arrangements for the Tampa reunion have all been pretty much put to bed. Dave will be giving us all the information in the next two issues of the Masthead. I hope to see many of you there; I for one am looking forward to it. Mark your calendars for a trip down south!

At this point in time, everything is pretty quiet with the Association and there do not seem to be any issues that need attending to. I love a good organization, and great officers! One area I would like to comment on is membership. Our organization like so many others is dependent on finding new members. If you have any service friends from you Mac days who are not currently members, you might want to suggest they think about joining us. There are still hundreds of McKinley guys out there who are eligible, if you know of any, let us know. Those of us from the Vietnam era are now moving strongly into retirement age, many of these guys may now be willing to join and come to our reunions.

I want to express my sympathy to those who have lost a loved one this past year, and wish good health to those who might be ill. Please remember to support your veterans whenever, or wherever you can! A simple “Welcome Home” goes a long way!

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**Information for David & Pat Nelsen.**

I am writing to all of you to update you on my parents David & Pat Nelsen.

Please change your email address for them in your contacts. Their new address is d.f.nelsen@comcast.net. Their AT&T address has been cancelled.

Some of you know this information and others do not. My father, David Nelsen suffered a stroke on December 17. He has had a massive bleed in his right brain. Due to his condition with the shunt and brain tumor they were unable to operate. He is at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL in the Intensive Care Surgical Unit. He is in critical condition. There is not a prognosis for him. He is breathing on his own but has been put on a ventilator to assist in his breathing. As of this email, he is only receiving oxygen from the ventilator. He is alert at times and will respond to verbal commands by squeezing your hand, raising fingers and moving his foot – all on his right side. He can open his left eye slightly. At other times he is unresponsive. If he is to recover, this will be a very long road to follow.

My husband, Matt, and I have been here for a week and half but have to return to Atlanta. We will try to come again in a couple of weeks.

If you would like to help my mother some how please contact me through email listed below or call me. Matt and I have a few ideas that would help her if you are in the Chicago area. When people go through things like this it is hard for them to think of what help they might need for themsleves.

We can be reached at: Julia & Matt Sellers “mdsellers@comcast.net” 404-633-1583 (home) 678-429-1189 (Julie's cell)

Sincerely,

Julia Nelsen Sellers

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**Dues Notice** Mount McKinley Association dues per ARTICLE 1V, Section C. Dues for each 12 month period are due and payable on January 1st. Failure to pay dues by May 1st will result in forfeiture of membership.

If your dues for 2010 ($12.00 per year) have not yet been paid please remit them ASAP! It is preferred that two years be paid ($24.00) which will pay 2010 & 2011, however, 1 year can be paid to satisfy this years (2010) dues. You may contact Gerald Critz Membership Secretary if you are unsure what year you are paid through. (Phone # on page two)

If your address sticker (on this newsletter) has three stars ***our records indicate 2010 dues not yet paid.
I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Here is **information on the next reunion**. We will be meeting on September 15th through the 19th at the Marriott Hotel at the Tampa, Florida airport. Room rates will be $89 per night, but for those who will be driving, (like me) there is a $6 per day fee for parking. That is self parking, not valet. We could get the parking fee waived, but the room rate would increase. Something having to do with the hotel having to pay the airport for vehicles, etc. However, we were able to maintain the $89 room rate. Indoor, secured self parking will be at the drive up main entrance. The Marriott is located at the airport at 4200 George Bean, Pkwy, and is in the top 10 for customer service. The shopping at the airport has in excess of 15 different stores to shop at and six restaurants where you can have breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Plus, the hotel has Café Elisse for breakfast and lunch, with prices starting for breakfast at around $11 and a revolving restaurant at the top of the hotel for dinner. CK’s Restaurant at the top of the hotel has one menu option which is a three course dinner starting with a glass of wine and an appetizer. Followed by your choice of four different main courses, then dessert. This special runs $25 per person, but they also have a regular menu. While it can be a bit pricey, the food is excellent. We also have Carrabbas Italian Restaurant, TGI Fridays, Burger King, Baja Fresh, Brioche Doree for coffee and pastries.

Getting to the hotel from the airport is very simple. If you fly to Tampa on Continental, Air Tran, or Southwest, you will have to take the tram to the main terminal. Once inside the terminal, there is no need to go to the lower level to baggage claim. Inside the main terminal, just go past security and turn right. The Marriott will be right in front of you. Take your baggage claim check to the front desk and while you are checking in, someone from the bell desk will pick up your luggage from baggage claim and deliver it to your room.

Once again, we will have a choice of three different items for our banquet on Saturday evening. We will be having tilapia with lemon herb sauce, or breast of chicken picatta, sautéed and finished with lemon butter, or sliced roast round of beef au jus. For anyone wanting a vegetarian dinner, we will have vegetarian moussaka. However, the chef did recommend the vegetarian lasagna or vegetarian moussaka. There is also a choice of vegetarian lasagna or vegetarian moussaka. However, the chef did recommend the vegetarian lasagna.

For reservations, just call 800-564-3440 and let them know that you are with the Mt. McKinley association and you will get the special room rate. Our reception room will be the Duval room which is one level below the lobby level. We have use of the Duval room until the banquet on Saturday evening and there is ample storage in a locked room next to the Duval room.

The reception deli will begin at 6:30 and we will have assorted deli meats with condiments, cheddar and swiss cheese, potato salad, cole slaw, pickles, white or wheat bread.

Overall, from what I saw, I believe that Tampa and the Marriott will be a great location for our reunion. I am still working on tours and will get that information to Mike for the next newsletter. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September. Hope everyone has a safe and happy 2010.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call me at 440-292-7839.
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

Mount McKinley Ship's Store - Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size / Color / Style</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt</td>
<td>Navy Blue, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL</td>
<td>29.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill, One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches</td>
<td>3 ¾&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5' Association Mermaid/Turtle, Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over)</td>
<td>Navy Blue, ½ zipper Embroidered Logo, M, L, XXL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tag</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;Master Roster&quot; by Dick Armstrong</td>
<td>Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Call Steve Schermerhorn 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Cruising in the Mac&quot; by Ken Boenitz</td>
<td>A Chronology – USS Mount McKinley, AGC – 7, 1944-1970</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matled Color Print</td>
<td>16'X20' Matled Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A,B,C</td>
<td>Ship's Photos</td>
<td>8x10, Black &amp; White Photos - Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More photos and items are listed on the website ussmckinley.com. New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

Item # | Description | Size | Color / Style | Quantity | Price |
|-------|-------------|------|---------------|----------|-------|

Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association
Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhorn
69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

Subtotal
Shipping 5.00
Total

Ship to Information: Please Print Clearly or Attach a Address Label
Name ____________________________ Street Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State ____________________________ Zip ______________
Phone # ____________________________ Email ____________________________


**New Members since October 30, 2009**

**David Young RD2 OL Div '68-'70**

**Farewell to members and non-members gone to their reward**

**John R. Lewis Jr. Ltjg Phibgru-7 44-45**
Passed 7/14/09

**Edward Yo Buck BM1 2nd Div. 50-58**
Passed 10/19/09

**John Dunkleberger DKC “S’ Div. 59-62**

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### USS MOUNT MCKINLEY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR END 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Cash/Asset</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst Ckg</td>
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<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst MM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$7678.03</td>
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<td>American First CD</td>
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<td>Ships Store Inventory</td>
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<td>Ship Store Sales</td>
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<td>Annual Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Life Membership dues</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>’09 Re-Union Registration</td>
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<td>Interest American First Bank</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Inventory sold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Supplies &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td>Masthead Print &amp; postage 2009</td>
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<td>Reunion Expenses</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Roster Printing</td>
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<td>Refunds: Bank charge.</td>
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<td>And reunion refunds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation Discrepancy</td>
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<td>Webb hosting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Total Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income + or - thru Year end 2009</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$37,302.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes postage to mail rosters $748.80

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**Can of Worms**

Sunday Sermon and life lesson here’s what the minister did:

4 worms were put in 4 separate cans, the 1st can he added alcohol, the 2nd can he added cigarette smoke, the third can he added chocolate syrup, the fourth can, good clean soil.

The Minister gave the results:

# 1 worm in alcohol - dead.
# 2 worm in smoke - dead.
# 3 worm in chocolate - dead.
# 4 worm in clean soil alive & healthy!!

Minister: "what can we learn fro this"-

Maxine in the back of the Church said: “As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate you won’t have worms”!
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on several extraordinary ships in service to their country whether at times of war or peace.

We received a journal written by Clarence M. Burdick, LTJG, the Assistant Navigator on the Mt McKinley from 1944 until September 20, 1946. He was a plank owner. The journal was donated to our Association by his wife, Elizabeth Burdick.

The journal begins September 20, 1944. Three days of action. Now continues October 1st, 1944 LTJG Burdick writes:

1, October, Sunday D + 16 days.

Admiral Halsey and party went into the beach at Auguar, on my watch this morning. They presented Various medals to the Marines and Soldiers. They (Admiral Halsey & party) returned to the USS Hunt, and left the area. As usual his (Admiral Halsey) parting comment was “keep killing the bastards”.

Everything has really quieted down. Only one pocket of Japs left on “Bloody Nose” on Peleliu, Auguar and Vegesebus have been completely secured, and the Marine Pilots daily bomb and straff Bauthelthaup, the island to the north.

Mail has not come thru because of very bad flying weather, so we wait for it, not too patiently. Rumors have it we will soon be back in Pearl Harbor to prep for another operation. That’s alright with me, we are out here for one purpose-so let’s get to it. We should be leaving here in three or four days and it will feel very good to be on the move again.

The total Jap dead on these islands has now reached 9,752. Our casualties were high but have not been made official yet. Have the 2000 to 2400 watch tonight, and all is very quiet now only a few ships left about. Unloading in a limited space proved to be a long process.

2, October Monday D+ 17 days.

We really had an air raid last night, or I should say three, all from Dareao They Straffed a destroyer killing eight and wounding 15 men, completely knocking out their main battery, lights and all communications. They made three runs on her before night fighters drove them off, knocking down one plane. There was plenty of AA fire and the raids lasted for a total of three hours. Looks as tho’ they are after the ships left in the area

All I was very quiet today, but the sea was exceptionally rough To avoid taking chances all the ships including auxileries, left the area at 1800 and will return in the morning at dawn. Meanwhile, we will travel roughly 100 miles with our escort of two destroyers. It is really very rough out here. A typhoon is building up around Guam and we expect it will hit us soon. We lost a boat today. No one was hurt, but she pounded to pieces on the beach in the surf. Several others are pretty banged up.Rumors still say Pearl Harbor. Hope so. Mail will reach us fast out there-0400 to 0800 in the morning 1200 to 1600 this afternoon.

3, October Tuesday D+ 18 days

The sea still pounds the shores of the islands and will probably keep up for two more days. Three big LST’S are beached and unable to get off, even with the aid of three big tugs. We put no boats in the water today it was much too rough.

Lt Col Donahue, a Marine Staff Officer killed himself today in his room. No one knows why. He will be buried at sea tomorrow, He shot himself thru the heart with a 45.

Our little mascot is beginning to grow. We all think it’s a partridge of some sort. Cute little rascal too. One of the officers offered a case of beer for its’ mate, but the marines ashore want to keep her. Guess the flying weather is pretty bad, or we would have seen the Jap air force again before now. (to be continued in the next newsletter)
Another year has come to a close. It was an event filled, successful, fun year, with some sadness, as some of our shipmates are no longer with us.

We look forward to the new year with positive anticipation. Planning is well underway for our 2010 reunion in September, in the Tampa/St. Petersburg Florida area. When details become available we will present those details in upcoming issues of the Masthead.

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