

Scuttlebutt

**A quarterly publication of the USS Samuel
B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association**

Volume 20, Number 4

December, 2021



Numbers may have been somewhat diminished and the atmosphere a little subdued due to Covid, but fun and camaraderie were at peak highs during our recently concluded Boston area reunion. The gala kicked off on Monday afternoon with registration and plenty of time to reacquaint with shipmates in our well stocked hospitality room, which had goodies aplenty due to the efforts of several dedicated volunteers. Monday evening, our welcoming buffet was a fun event, with good conversation and not bad food. Tuesday was an early day with our initial stop in Salem. There we enjoyed a trolley tour of that historic city. Then, it was off to Gloucester, the country's oldest continuous fishing port. After a miscommunication on bus drop-off location, we enjoyed a great (and expensive) lunch at a dockside restaurant. The highlight of the day, a two-hour harbor cruise on the schooner Thomas E. Lannon followed. Fantastic, but cold. We spent Wednesday AM at the Charlestown Navy Yard (more to follow). In the afternoon we held our first Assoc. sponsored picnic. A success! Our auction (fun as always) and our business meeting were in the evening. Thursday saw the group taking a trolley tour of Boston, then resting up for our premier event, our closing banquet. It was a excellent one. Good drinks, good food, good friends, and a good speaker made for an enjoyable reunion climax. More reunion details and a host of other goodies will be found in this issue. Enjoy!!

Honor Roll

Add

Darwin (Jake) Jacobson (1963)

Robert E. Knippenberg (48-52)

Marty Meerholz (56-59)

From the President's Desk

Ahoy shipmates! Despite the numerous adverse circumstances surrounding the current situation regarding CV-19, our recently concluded Boston area reunion proved to be, yet another, resounding success. It was filled with a full schedule of interesting places to visit, things to do, and, as usual, great friendships. We enjoyed our first ever picnic and sailed the seas yet again aboard the schooner Thomas E. Lannon. Our auction was unbelievably successful, full of laughter and profit for our Association. The banquet was great



and a fitting end to a wonderful week. Our guest speaker,

CMDR John Benda (shown in photo to left) is Captain of the USS Constitution.

His talk was interesting and was the

highlight of the evening. When he finished, he encouraged us to ask questions. It was a real honor to have him. To express our thanks, we presented CMDR Benda with a certificate of appreciation (photo right) from the Association.



Additionally, the Association proudly presented a trophy of appreciation (photo left) to Jim Norton in recognition of his continued contributions to our Association. Jim's tireless work on the "Butt" and his time and effort in putting our reunions together is truly worthy of this special award. Thanks Jim.

The required business meeting was conducted and with it an election of officers for the coming two-year term. Amazingly, the entire slate had the honor of being reelected and we welcome Jim Wilson who has volunteered to serve as Second Vice President. Then it was time for selection of our 2023 reunion site. I am happy to announce we are going to Charleston, South Carolina.

On another note. I was recently directed to a website, actually by CMDR Benda, honoring Vietnam veterans. It is chock full of interesting articles and valuable information. I recommend it to all, not just Vietnam veterans. Site address is www.vietnamwar50th.com. One article was about Vietnam veterans being eligible to receive a **Vietnam Veterans lapel pin** simply by requesting one. Check it out! I did and in a couple of weeks received a beautiful lapel pin which I now proudly sport on my "Sammy B" hat.

The year is almost behind us and winter is fast approaching. It and the holidays will be here and gone before we know it. Wow, how time flies! Therefore, let me grab a bit of it to thank all of you for your support of our truly great and unique association. I promise to continue to represent the Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association in a manner our namesake deserves. Anyone having reunion pictures, please forward them to Tom Zwemke for inclusion on our website. Finally, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Ken



Onion Peelings Mike Cipolla

Fellow Shipmates;

Just returned from another excellent Jim Norton organized reunion in Quincy/Boston. Our Association president, Ken Giardina, recapped the previous two years of his term. Ken deserves a super well done for all his services to the Association. It was great to see all the shipmates and reminisce about our glory days. We did some touring and the highlight for me was the Charleston Navy Shipyard and the USS Constitution. When the Sammy was in dry dock, I believe in 59 or 60, I was on a working party for a day to help the Constitution do some prep work. I got a commemorative nail from the ship for helping out. Our guest speaker for the banquet was the Captain of the Constitution and he was a real treat. You could tell he really enjoyed himself and the job. As a matter of fact, he was on the national news in the traditional Navy uniform celebrating the Navy's 246th birthday.



The auction was a great hit considering the turnout and netted \$825 for the Association, Thank you everyone for your contributions. We were missing some familiar faces. Hopefully they will be back next reunion. Speaking of the next reunion, it was voted on to be held in Charleston, SC for 2023. Mark your calendars and save your pennies.

I want to thank all the Sammy B Shipmates Association members and the ladies who contributed to the fun and enjoyment of the reunion. Jim Dunn along with the ladies and the Sardinelli offspring made our meeting room a real "hospitality" room. I also wish to thank Tom Zwemke for his devotion and expertise in maintaining the Sammy B website. It is the best website there could be. This issue of the 'Butt will arrive during the holiday season. Linda and I want to wish

everyone a happy and festive holiday season.
Stay safe and healthy.

Mike



Jim Wilson modeling peacoat at reunion auction



Of Shoes and Ships

Jim Antenucci



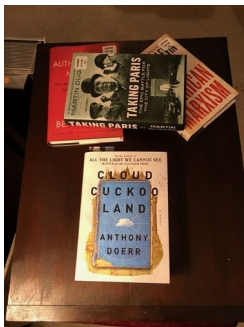
Let's see – where did I leave off last time? I wondered if our Nation was on the right track. I wonder now if anyone does. Sure they do. Just ask them.

Talking points, please. - well, since last time....

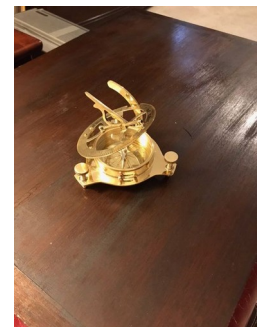
- * We had our 14th Roberts reunion in Quincy, MA and it was great.
- * The departure from Afghanistan was mismanaged.
- *The Commanding Officer, USS Constitution, CMDR John Benda, gave a great speech at our final night banquet ending with a recitation of “Old Ironsides”.
- *Gas prices and inflation rates have risen sharply.



- *Many taking the sea trip on the schooner Thomas Lannon from Gloucester froze – brrrr.
- *Despite a weather phenomenon and air traffic control problems in north Florida affecting only Southwest Airlines, Pat and I got home safely to Atlanta.
- *I learned our own Brian Murphy was somehow related to Audie Murphy.
- *The national crime surge with mostly murders didn't seem to hit Boston/Quincy.
- *Our banquet attendees got to hear me sing the Erie (Ear Rye Eee) Canal Song.
- *Our southern border welcomed more visitors than ever.
- *The auction was a spirited event run smartly by the Murph bringing in \$825 even though he couldn't coax a single bid on his plush bedding.
- *“And ah, ...and ah, Umm... What am I doing here?” “Long Beach....thank you”.
- *I have four new books staring at me – one history, two politics, one novel – but I decided on the novel Cloud Cuckoo Land. I hope to learn how the written Iliad codex escaped from Constantinople and Mehmet II and his Ottomans in 1453.



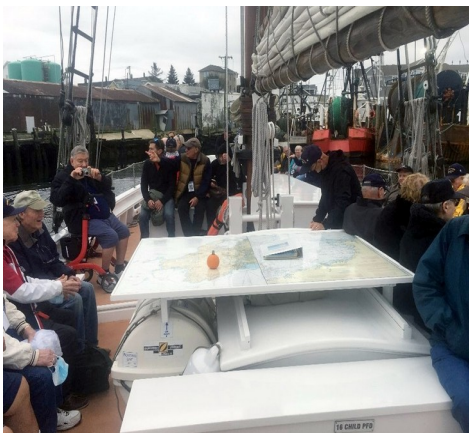
- *Now I know where Loudoun County, Virginia is.
- *Now I have seen the appeal to the Great Spirit in front of the MFA Boston.
- *Now I have seen our national COVID, fentanyl, opiod death numbers climb steadily.
- *Now I have a new instrument my wife Pat won at the auction to tell me the time using magnetic north and my latitude. An elaborate sundial, courtesy of Ken Giardina.



What time is it, shipmates?

Jim A.

Reunion Images



Reunion Images



Echoes

Jim Norton



This column, like most of the other offerings in this Scuttlebutt edition, is primarily a recap of our recently concluded Boston/Quincy shipmates' reunion. Let me start by saying that despite a few glitches and minor inconveniences, my wife, my son and I enjoyed ourselves

Sammy B. Images



Jim Norton

immensely. Our base hotel was the Best Western Adams Inn, Quincy, MA. It is an older hotel and due to Covid understaffed, but the personnel, for the most part, took pretty good care of us. I would especially like to thank the Group Sales Manager, Denise Murphy, who went above and beyond. Let me tell you, I was disappointed in **not** receiving the daily hot breakfast we were promised. Each shipmate received a small goody bag with a few mementos to remember the event by. The bags may not have been on a par with those handed out at the Academy Awards (no Gucci or Prada), but each Navy blue bag contained a short volume of Roberts photos (see left), a challenge coin (see right), commemorative pens, bookmarks and various other items.



Then it was into the hospitality room which was well supplied with snacks thanks to the efforts of **Jim Dunn**, **Vicky Semenchuk**, **Linda Haskins**, and **Kevin Norton**. The group may have been somewhat smaller than in the past but that afforded more time to get to know fellow attendees. On Monday night we had our Welcome Buffet. Food was pretty good with **Ken Giardina** and **Jim Antenucci** each saying a few words to start the festivities.

Things really began to roll on Tuesday morning at 8:00 am when we left for a one-hour trolley tour of Salem, MA, home of the infamous witch trials of 1692/93. While on the tour, the group passed the place where the trials were held, the witch museum, the great early architecture, and the Old Burying Point cemetery dating to 1637 with the remains of those born in the 1500s.



Then it was back on the bus for the short ride to Gloucester, MA., the oldest continuously operated fishing port in the country. We were supposed to be dropped off at the Gloucester House restaurant but were actually let off at the Seaport Grille restaurant about a half mile away. This might not have mattered except we were to catch our schooner ride at the pier abutting the Gloucester House. We contacted the driver and corrected our pick up. Most everyone was in the restaurant having lunch, so all were notified of the changes.

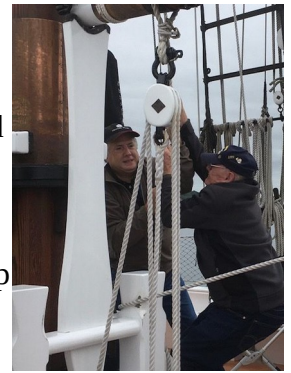
As long as we were there, the vast majority of the group had lunch at the Seaport Grille restaurant. I will tell you the food was very, very good and the prices were very, very dear. I am simply not used to spending \$160 for lunch for three with but a couple of beers. My son had a lobster & pasta dish that he loved. I had cioppino. It was world class with copious amounts of varied seafood. Quantity was enough for several. My wife had the lobster roll. It was quite good but not near as good as the one she got in Newport. None will ever be!



It was now time to become sailors once again and to go forth on a three masted schooner to do battle with the mighty Atlantic. There was no rain but it was dark, overcast and it was cold. But what's a little chill in the air to a group of ex-Newport destroyermen. Lines were cast



off and the mighty sailing vessel got underway. Intrepid seamen like Anthony Sardanelli Jr. and Larry Edwards hoisted the sails (picture right) and the ship was making its way through Gloucester Bay. Let me reiterate. It was cold! A few hardy souls toughed it out. Others wrapped themselves in provided blankets while Jim Dunn (picture left) just took a nap and dreamt of warmer seas. His sister Diane Andris and her husband Tom seem more alert. All-in-all, it was a fun and memorable two hours and day. All of us were a little weary as we boarded our bus and returned to the hotel to rest up for another big day.



We got to sleep in until 9:30 am on Wednesday. Then we headed for Charlestown (Boston) Navy yard where, after a minor glitch, we were greeted by park ranger David Hannigan (pictured right), the longest tenured ranger at the yard. He gave a very nice



talk on the history of the yard and on the history of USS Constitution and USS Cassin Young (DD-793) (both shown left). We then toured the base, ships and museum. For many of us who spent considerable time there it was nostalgic. For all it was educational.



Upon completion of our tour we returned to the hotel, where at 3:00 pm everyone met at the gazebo area (picture below), on the river in back of the hotel. There we enjoyed a good old-fashioned picnic. Hotel staff grilled hamburgers, cheeseburgers and chicken breasts. There were macaroni, potato, pasta, and tossed salads as well as corn on the cob and copious amounts of watermelon. I think it was a wonderful addition to our activities and hope the "Picnic" will become a reunion staple.



7:00 pm saw everyone gather in the hospitality room for what is always one of the high points of our reunions, our **Auction**.

This year proved no exception. Our crack (not crack headed) auction team of Brian Murphy and Mike Cipolla (pictured right) not only managed to entertain us for a few hours but also got us to open our wallets and checkbooks. By the end of the evening, from a limited group of bidders, they managed to bang down the gavel on a remarkable **\$825** in sales. This is over \$200 more than the last reunion, that had more attendees. The big ticket item of the evening was a period authentic pea coat with corduroy pockets, an original name stenciled inside and a third class Weather something or other on the sleeve. At the conclusion of the auction the Association's business meeting was held. Details of that meeting are provided in the minutes prepared by our secretary Terry Haskins. They are in a different section of this Scuttlebutt.



Our last full day got underway at 9:00 am when we boarded our bus for a short ride to Downtown Boston.

Once there we boarded a couple of trolleys for a tour of historic downtown Boston. Paul Revere's house, Bunker Hill, Beacon Hill, the Old State House and Faneuil Hall were among the many interesting sites on the tour. The tour guides on both trolleys were both funny and highly informative. On my trolley, the vibes passing between the female guide and our Brian Murphy was a wondrous thing to behold. Love was in the air.



Following the tour we returned to the hotel, had lunch and prepared for our formal banquet. It kicked off with an open bar cocktail hour, the cost of which was underwritten by one of our members. We thank him. Our president Ken Giardina made a few remarks and then we dug into an excellent meal, although the lack of a desert was noticed by more than a few. Following the repast Ken read a poem, Jim Antenucci regaled us and our featured speaker CMDR. John Benda, Captain USS Constitution, was introduced. His presentation was both very informative, personal and entertaining, He was well received by all. In thanks, the Association presented the Commander with a plaque describing our appreciation. An award was also made to Jim Norton for his contributions to the success of the Association. He is grateful to all for the recognition. Then it was time to adjourn for the night.

Friday morning found us all saying our goodbyes, checking out and heading for home. With us we carried new treasured memories and a feeling of camaraderie. I, at least, was also anticipating Charleston in 2023.

Norton



Three cheers for the Sardinelli family. Hip hip hooray, hip hip hooray, hip hip hooray!

*A big thank-you to shipmate **Tony** (pictured left with Frank Abate) & wife **Betty** (shown right) who again this year, with help from son Anthony Jr. and daughter Lisa, brought the accurate models of the three USS Samuel B Roberts ships.*



For every reunion, Tony carefully loads his van with the three glass cases protecting his models and heads for the base hotel. It is truly a labor of love. This year Tony enlisted his family to get the models to Quincy. For those unable to attend reunions, the models are great to see, accurate in every detail, and the meticulous work of a dedicated craftsman.

*The Association thanks the Sardinelli's for bringing the models and for the additional time and money expended in restocking the hospitality room. **Three Cheers!***



Business Meeting
USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association
October 6, 2021
Terry Haskins - Secretary

- * President Ken Giardina called the meeting to order at 9:20 pm.
- * 20 members present with spouses and guests. Officers in attendance; President – Ken Giardina, VP – Mike Cipolla, Secretary – Terry Haskins, Historian – Jim Norton
- * We have a quorum.
- * Voted to accept 2019 minutes. Passed.
- * Three Orders of Business
Emails – Ken Giardina said our web page contained members' email addresses and that a member had received a request from Ken's email account asking for money. It was a phishing scam. Tom Zwemke deleted email addresses from the web page and Ken said all emails will come through the president.

Election of Officers – Jim Norton made a motion to reelect the present slate of officers. Seconded by Brian Murphy. No officers declined their office. Voted to remain the same. Passed.

2023 Reunion Site Selection - Nominated Cities and Vote Totals (3 Rounds)

Charleston, SC	10	10	11
Key West, FL	1	0	0
Lake George, NY	6	8	9
Savannah, GA	1	2	0
Virginia Beach, VA	0	0	0

2023 Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC during the first week of October.

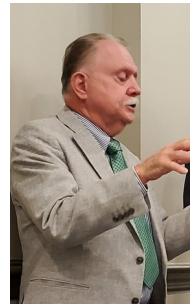
The reunion auction raised \$825 for the Association treasury.

Thanks were given to Johanna Edwards and Linda Cipolla for tabulating and taking care of the monies from the auction. Thank you's were also proffered to the wives and guests who helped keep our Hospitality Room orderly and full of snacks and drinks. Included were Vicky Semenchuk, Linda Haskins, Martha Gaulden, Jim Dunn's sister Diane, and Kathy Mitton.

Ken Giardina expressed his appreciation to CMDR John Bender who gave a great informative talk on the history of USS Constitution, took questions following his speech and stayed afterward to mingle.

Brian Murphy made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Jim Antenucci. Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm.

Terry Haskins Sec'y



Terry Haskins





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