



## 2004 Charleston Reunion a Great Success

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On Wednesday, October 27th, Aeolus Crewmembers began checking in at the Holiday Inn at Patriots Pointe, Mt. Pleasant, SC.

A total of 46 Aeolus Crewmembers were in attendance and with spouses and guests we had a total attendance of 84.

There were several in attendance for the first time and enjoyed meeting once again those that they had not seen or talked with since leaving the ship. There were wives and guests that were meeting for the first time as well as those enjoying visiting once again with those they had met at prior reunions. Each day the Hospitality Suite was abuzz with old memories and pictures from their crewmember days and from prior reunions. And of course Aeolus merchandise was available for viewing and purchasing.

The dinners and good times at The Trawler and Bubba Gumps were fun.. The Saturday night Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn.

Our guest speaker was retired Commader Theodore Manduca who served from Dec. 1970 thru July 1972. Some of those in attendance had served under Cmdr. Man-

duca and we heard some wonderful stories.

On Friday the 29th, a Memorial Service was held on the USS Yorktown in honor of all sailors who served the United States of America in any capacity, in any way. Special honor to all Aeolus sailors who have passed over life's gangplank were honored. The laying of the wreath was by performed by Chief Petty Officer John Campbell.

The crewmembers held their business meeting prior to the banquet. Nomination of officers were presented and voted on for the year 2005-2006.

Due to the cost involved, cards for birthdays will be discontinued, but will be sent for illnesses and sympathy. If you know of someone that a card would brighten their day, please email or call Mike Jarvis and he will send out an email to everyone.

It was discussed that since May 14, 2005 is the 50th anniversary of the Commissioning of the Aeolus that maybe we should get together in Baltimore for a dinner and service.

It was decided that the regular Reunions will be held every 18 months and the next one will be planned for the Spring of 2006.

Bob Luttrell, Secretary

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50th Anniversary of the Commissioning of the USS Aeolus will be celebrated May 14th in Baltimore. We need your feedback by March 20th in order to finalize the number of hotel rooms and final count for dinner reservations.

20 rooms have been reserved at the Days Inn Inner Harbor at a cost of \$129.00 plus taxes for those wishing to stay in town, for the 13, 14 & 15th..

10 rooms have been reserved at the Marriott Courtyard, BWI Airport at a cost of \$99.00 plus taxes. This is approx. 8 miles from town.

Dinner reservations have been made at Chiapparelli's in Little Italy for Saturday night, May 14th at 7:00 PM at a cost of \$35.00 per person. Alcoholic drinks are extra. There will be a speaker and program for this celebration.

If you plan on attending, please notify Bob Luttrell no later than March 20th as to which hotel, nights you will be staying and if you will be attending dinner. By phone 352-259-8758, by email: LuttrellB@aol.com, or by mail: 1814 Enrique Dr., The Villages, FL 32159. For those attending, more info will follow.

## From the Desk of the President

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Well it's been a few months now since we were all together. Those of you in the northern climes are freezing your bippys off, while those of us in the Glorious State Of Florida are still trying to find all the parts that blew away. However, it is sunny and warm. Those of you in the middle, please try to keep the traffic moving.

We hope to have a good response for the 50th Anniversary of Commissioning of the Aeolus. A dinner and get-together is planned the weekend of May 14th in Baltimore.

I would like to remind all members that if you have not sent in your dues, now is the time to do it. Mike would never ask you, but I will. It is very costly for the printing and mailing of the

newsletters and we cannot expect Mike to continue to foot the bill for us.

I am planning to make the dinner in conjunction with a trip I am to make to Washington D.C. to take my 85 year old Father to see the World War II Memorial. He went ashore in Salerno, where he was wounded. Then I will pay another visit to the Wall to talk to some Operators, who never came home. You may want to think about combining a visit to the Nations Capitol with the dinner.

Well, that's all I have for now. I wish everyone the very best in this the New Year.....Ron Dignazio

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## Aeolus Stories Remembered— "Every Sailors Wedding"

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Thought you might enjoy a little story about our 1967 Wedding in Portsmouth, NH.

Trudy and I were high school sweethearts in Dearborn, MI. I joined the Navy and was sent to Portsmouth, NH aboard the USS Aeolus. We wrote and called each other often, but that wasn't good enough. We wanted to be together! Quickly, we planned for Trudy to come to Portsmouth so we could get married. So I paid one of my shipmates to take duty for me, and I put in for Liberty to go get her. I can't remember what happened that day, but Lt. Landis, the Engineering Officer, would not let anyone go on Liberty. What? I immediately decided to sneak off the ship somehow. Then I asked Ensign Wombacker if I could go to the EM Club to make a phone call. He approved the request and reminded me that Dress Blues were the uniform of the day, and asked if I had my Liberty Card. (I figured he was going to take it so I couldn't get

off the base). He didn't, and off I went. To this day, I think he knew what was going on but I never heard anymore about it.

Trudy and I got our blood tests and license; we bought rings at Newberry's 5 & 10 Store; and then we were married by the Portsmouth City Clerk on 9-16-67. The total cost of our wedding was \$35.00. Now, that was one good bargain! I remember we had lunch at Howard Johnson's. I had to get back to the Aeolus before 1400 as she was going to put in to drydock in Boston the next day.

Anyway, Trudy and I lived happily at the CO-Z Motel in Kittery, ME on Route 1. We have been married for almost 37 years now and we return to that area often for vacations.

Karl & Trudy Smalley

Now living in Dearborn, MI

We need you help in publishing the Newsletters

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**Please help us make your newsletters interesting and informative one that you will look forward to receiving.**

- \* We would like for all you crewmembers to share stories of your Aeolus days.
- \* Do you have old pictures that you would like to share? (we will return them to you)
- \* Is there an old shipmate that you cannot locate? Who is he? What year would he have been on the Aeolus?
- \* Are there any new ideas that you would like to suggest to the Aeolus board members ; upcoming events, offshoot clubs, etc.
- \* Please keep us informed of shipmate illnesses so we can get the word out, as well as acaths of any crewmembers.
- \* Do you have a special wedding story to tell of your days during the Aeolus years?

If so, Email Bob Luttrell at: [LuttrellB@aol.com](mailto:LuttrellB@aol.com), or call 352-259-8758, or mail to us at 1814 Enrique Dr., The Villages, FL 32159

## Henry Maurice Remembers

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ABOARD THE AEOLUS IN 1955—RM3. Early July of 1955 found me aboard the newly commissioned ship USS Aeolus at sea just off Newport Rhode Island. I was eighteen years old, fresh out of radio school at Norfolk, and happy to finally be on a ship. We were at Newport to undergo two weeks of what was called “underway training”. Most newly commissioned ships at that time went to Guantanamo Bay for a six week shakedown cruise. The navy wanted us to begin laying cable as soon as possible, thus underway training.

I was near the bottom of the pecking order in the radio gang. This illustrious group consisted of Bob Reaves RM1 (leading radioman), Troy Johnson RM2, Gene Boughous RM3, Dick Bahr RM3, Don Stillwill RM3, Henry Maurice RMSN, and a striker Wayne Burger.

During this underway training we went to general quarters every day. My position in the hierarchy of the radio gang gave me the job of lugging a heavy emergency radio transmitter from the radio shack on the 03 level down the ladders to a motor launch on the main deck. I was a little guy and probably weighed ninety pounds at that time. We also had fire and rescue drills.

By the tenth of July our underway training was done and we returned to our home port of Norfolk. About two weeks later we were at sea heading for the Caribbean. The ship arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 28. I was struck with how vividly green the color of trees and other plants were. In more northern climates colors are muted. August 6, 1955 the Aeolus was at sea south of the island of Antigua. We had laid some miles of cable in operations with the survey ship USS Maury. We then had to pick this cable up off the sea bottom.

Picking up cable was nasty work. Ten guys would climb down into a cable hold. A winch pulled the cable into the hold. The cable holds were like big upright cylinders. One guy walked

around the hold while the other nine flemished it into a neat layer from the outer edge of the hold to the center. After a layer was completed wooden blocks were laid on it and the next layer of cable was put down. This process went on for days. The cable had been on the sea floor so it was slimy and dirty.

Following this cable work the ship traveled to Port of Spain, Trinidad for her supplies. We arrived there on August 21. Port of Spain was a dingy place but the crew had good liberty. The Aeolus left Trinidad and headed for Barbados. As we left we traveled through a strait named Dragon’s Mouth and could see the mountains on Venezuela’s Paria Peninsula.

We arrived in Barbados on August 26 and anchored off the town of Bridgetown. This town was much cleaner than Port of Spain. The most notable industry there was the Mount Gay Rum Distiller. There was a constant line of people with tin cups outside a window at the side of the building. Each person would get a free cup of raw rum then go to the back of the line, drink the rum, and work their way to the front again. I think most of them spent the whole day at this activity.

One Barbados liberty, about ten guys from the operations division ended up at a place on the ocean called the Aquatic Club. After some imbibing, a vigorous touch football game in the shallow water at the beach took place. I had aches and pains for days after. I have a picture of Troy Johnson RM2, Jim Thornton QM1, and Bob Reaves RM1 standing on the dock of the Aquatic Club.

The Aeolus departed Barbados and arrived back at Norfolk on Sept. 5th. We returned to the Caribbean one more time during 1955. I have many fond memories of that fifty years ago. If you look in my liquor cabinet today you will always find a bottle of Mount Gay Run....

Henry served on the USS Aeolus 1955-57

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### Crewmembers who are ill

Please remember our Crewmembers who are ill with your Prayers and cards.

Bob & Dot LePak—Bob still having heart problems and Dot has just completed her chemo.

Myron Eister—has had problems adjusting his insulin and also suffered a stroke but is improving.

Nils Rasmussen—has had knee surgery. Doing good at this time.

Captain Bob Fielden has just had triple by-pass and is in rehab at the time of this printing.

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### COMMISSIONING CERTIFICATES

Chuck & Reba Trapp still have several of the framable Plank Owners Certificates. This certificate lists all the names of the crew at the time of commissioning on May 14, 1955.

If you would like to receive one, please contact them at their Email: [islandgirl34@hargray.com](mailto:islandgirl34@hargray.com) or call them at 843-681-9728.

### FROM ONE CREWMEMBER:

‘Just wanted to thank you for making me a happier man. I’d wondered about the Aeolus over the years; it’s funny how it never leaves you. I look back with that being the best years of my life.....’

Joe Rutledge 1959-1963

**NOW HEAR THIS.....**

**USS Aeolus Association  
28800 Mound Road  
Warren, MI 48092  
(586)751-4670, ext. 110  
E-mail: mjarvis@nandc.com**

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*The USS Aeolus Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the USS Aeolus (ARC-3) and its crew.*

*President: Ron Dignazio  
Vice President: Joe Jesso  
Secretary: Bob Luttrell  
Treasurer: Michael Jarvis*

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## Crewmembers attending the 2004 Reunion

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