

**USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION**

**12686 W. Highway 55  
York, SC  
29745-8748**

**January 2015**



**USS MADDOX DESTROYER  
ASSOCIATION  
S71W14562 Hidden Creek Ct.  
Muskego, WI 53150**

**TO:**

## USS Maddox Association Officers and Board

### Officers

President:	Jim Slattery	2016
Vice President:	Al Raines	2016
Secretary:	Bob Wannamaker	Appointed
Treasurer:	John Bayley	Appointed
Chaplin:	Rev. Justin McMenamy	Appointed
Parliamentarian:	Cliff Gillespie	Appointed
Historian:	Roy Hyer	Appointed

### Board of Directors

Richard Lagro	2015
Joe Stout	2015
Dennis Stokhaug	2015
Hoot Gibson	2016
Dan Holland	2016
Bill Metcalf	2016
Ed Pirie, Jr.	2016

### Appointed Positions

Nominating Committee Chairman:	Hoot Gibson
Membership Committee Chairman:	Dennis Stokhaug
Webmaster:	Dennis Stokhaug
Newsletter Editor:	Kathy Stokhaug



### **A Message from the President**

**Jim Slattery**

Hello Shipmates & Ladies,

Sure glad we are not in Wichita at this time while it is only 2 degrees here with a wind chill of -7, it is just as bad there. Talked to Bob Wannamaker the other day and we recalled in 1961 the Maddox coming back from West Pac, via the northern route, the cold would have made this feel like the middle of summer.

We also discussed that some think that the 2016 tour has been set. Let me assure you it is not. It takes the Board of Directors at their meeting to do that. I know it is between Boise, Idaho and Albuquerque, New Mexico, so you board members get your thinking caps on as we will decide that at the first board meeting in Wichita.

I know you all got a dues notice from John, let's get this paid so it does not get lost on our desk somewhere.

I'm sure you are all getting tired of my scuttlebutt so we will see you in Wichita, KS in a few months. Remember it's midway USA, it's as close from NYC as it is from LA.

A Shipmate,  
Jim (Slats)

## WWII Aircraft on the Great Lakes

Submitted by Dick Lagro

The Great Lakes provided vital support for the war effort in WWII, from building 28 fleet subs in Manitowoc to providing the bulk of US Industrial output, we could not have won the war if not the benefits of the Great Lakes and their related industry. However there was another benefit of the lakes that is often overlooked. Japan quickly lost the war because, among many other things, its navy could not replace its carrier pilot losses. We could. But how did we train so many pilots in both comfort (calm seas) and safety (no enemy subs)?

We took two old side-wheel Great Lakes passenger steamers and turned them into training carriers on Lake Michigan! The USS Wolverine a side-wheel excursion steamer built in 1913 originally named the C & B, and the USS Sable originally named the Greater Buffalo, both were converted by were converted by demolishing the cabins and super structure. Then, along with additional supporting, a steel flight deck was constructed atop each hull and fitted with eight sets of aircraft arresting gear... Both vessels' flight decks had to be extended far beyond their bows and sterns to provide suitable simulations of the combat carriers' flight decks. Combination pilothouse/controltower/multiple smokestack structures were erected on the vessels' starboard sides, mimicking the design of combat carriers' island structures.

Virtually every carrier pilot, including President George H.W. Bush, trained in the war got his landing training on these amazing ships! Sadly nothing but some great photos and the wrecks of the aircraft that ditched alongside them remain to tell their fascinating story!

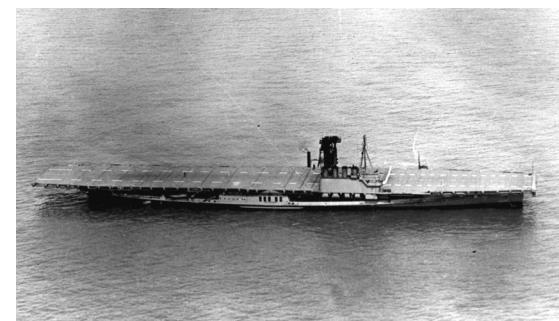
By the way, there is also a "Military Landing Strip" on Grosse Ile.

(Cont'd)

## WWII Aircraft on the Great Lakes (cont'd)

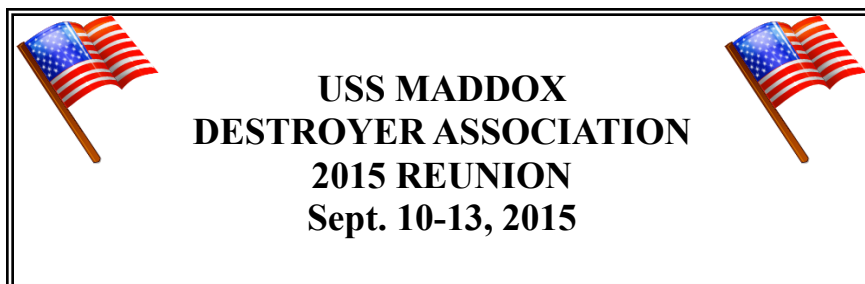


The USS Sable (IX-81)  
Commissioned 5/8/1943  
Decommissioned  
11/7/1945  
One of the aviators  
trained on this ship was  
George H.W. Bush



The USS Wolverine  
(IX-64)  
Commissioned  
8/12/1942  
Decommissioned  
11/7/1945

For more information on these Great Lake training ships, put WWII Aircraft Carriers on the Great Lakes into your search engine and enjoy more pictures and detailed stories. For a short video of the USS Wolverine go to [www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com).



## COMMISSIONING PENNANTS & SHIPS BELL FOR USS MADDOX DD731

Dennis Stokhaug

Before our last reunion I received the following email: “The widow of Homer O. Mains, the CO of the Maddox from Sept. ‘70 to July ‘72, asked me to find a home for two Commissioning pennants from the Maddox that Capt. Mains had from the period. Homer & I were long time Navy friends. I had command of the USS Uhlmann DD687 in Tacoma, WA from 1970 to 1972 while the 2 ships were performing Reserve Duty Training Duty. I will be pleased to send these items to the Maddox Assn. if you provide a mailing address. Sincerely, Capt. William Muncy US Navy Retired”

After responding with my mailing address I received two Pennants & a plaque, along with a follow-up e-mail from Capt. Muncy. “Dennis, Hope your reunion is a success. I will be attending a reunion of the Uhlmann Crew Sept. 17-21 in Tucson, AZ. Thanks again for your help. Capt. William Muncy”

Those of you who attended the last reunion may remember seeing the framed pennants & plaque & I will have it on display at the Wichita reunion.

After getting home from the 2014 reunion I had an email from the son of Capt. Mains, Frederick. He was familiar with our web-site and wanted us to know that the family had donated some of their memorabilia including the ship’s bell to a Museum in Naples, FL. I contacted the museum’s President, Robert McDonald who informed me of a ceremony the Museum had planned on Veteran’s Day. The ceremony was also to dedicate the bell to the museum from the Main’s family. As luck would have it, Kathy and I planned on being in Fl. visiting our daughter at that time and made plans to attend the ceremony. Mr. McDonald told the Main’s family of our plans and shortly thereafter I received an e-mail from Mrs. Ragnhild Sunde Mains, the widow of the last sea-

## Ships Bell (cont’d)

going captain of the Maddox explaining how the bell came to be donated to the museum. “One year ago on Veterans Day we observed that the Museum of Military Memorabilia had only a small bell to ring for all the Veterans. So my family decided to donate the Maddox Bell for that use. We know that my late husband, Homer O. Mains, Jr., would have liked for us to do so. The ceremony for handing over the bell took place last Memorial Day. It was greatly appreciated by everyone at the Museum. Now a special stand has been made for the bell, which we will see for the first time on Nov. 11, 2014.” Sunde, as she has invited us to call her, said she looked forward to meeting us at the ceremony and invited us to her home after the dedication.

On Veterans Day Kathy and I were at the Museum for the ceremony and the dedication of the ships bell to the Museum. During the ceremony I had the privilege and honor to participate in the ringing of the bell and I did so for our Association.



USS Maddox ships bell and Dennis  
Taken at the Museum of Military Memorabilia  
In Naples, FL (cont’d)

**Ships Bell (cont'd)**



Mrs. Ragnhild Sunde  
Elizabeth Mains  
Dennis Stokhaug  
Robert McDonald

After the ceremony, we were invited to visit with Sunde and Elizabeth in their home to see more Maddox Memorabilia. We were delighted to enjoy their hospitality and spend time with them talking about their time and memories with the Maddox. See the pictures below for some of the items we saw there.



Portrait of Maddox



Dennis (wearing Capt. Mains jacket) and Sunde



The Maddox slips under the Astoria Bridge into the Port of Astoria for the last time to refuel on way to San Diego to be decommissioned.



The crew of the Maddox strikes Colors after being decommissioned in San Diego, July, 1972.



## Sugar & Spice & All Things Nice



We, in Wisconsin are having a normal winter with some severe cold and snow but nothing like other parts of the country and I hope everyone is keeping warm, dry and safe in this crazy weather that seems to be enveloping everyone. I just have a few things to bring up with this issue. About 2 or 3 years ago our ladies group decided to have a list of the Ladies with their email address's so we could stay in touch I would like to update that list so I am asking each of you, if you want to participate in this, please drop me a quick note and let me know that you would like your name and/or email or snail mail address included. You can send it to me at [kstokhaug@aol.com](mailto:kstokhaug@aol.com). I will compile everyone's info and email the list out to everyone.

As always I would like you to encourage your "sailor" to submit some of his memories of his time on the Maddox to be printed in the *HOWGOESIT*. These memories are all that is left of the Maddox now and it is great to hear those stories.



Thanks to all who contributed to this edition of the newsletter.: our President, Jim Slattery, Chaplin, Justin McMenemy, Dick Lagro, Dennis Stokhaug, and David Krassner.

You can also enjoy information on The Maddox at the web site at [www.usmaddox.org](http://www.usmaddox.org) or join the facebook page at USS Maddox-Org.

Dennis and I have given up our land line phone so we can be reached at 414-702-4878 for Dennis and 414-339-6168 for Kathy.

I have also been asked to supply an updated list of all of the locations of the reunions we have had since the beginning. So here it is:

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1989 - Baton Rouge, LA | 2002 - Savannah, GA      |
| 1990 - Charleston, SC  | 2003 - Buena Park, CA    |
| 1991 - Dayton, OH      | 2004 - Kansas City, MO   |
| 1992 - San Diego, CA   | 2005 - Cancelled         |
| 1993 - St. Louis, MO   | 2006 - Portland, OR      |
| 1994 - Portland, ME    | 2007 - Herndon, VA       |
| 1995 - Houston, TX     | 2008 - Oklahoma City, OK |
| 1996 - Seattle, WA     | 2009 - Phoenix, AZ       |
| 1997 - Orlando, FL     | 2010 - Philadelphia, PA  |
| 1998 - Minneapolis, MN | 2011 - Branson, MO       |
| 1999 - Norfolk, VA     | 2012 - Reno, NV          |
| 2000 - Las Vegas, NV   | 2013 - Mobile, AL        |
| 2001 - San Antonio, TX | 2014 - Baton Rouge, LA   |

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Wichita in September!

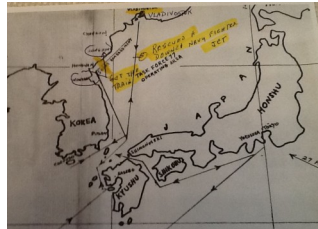


## MADDOX TRIVIA



In the last issue of the *HOWGOESIT* there was a note in this column about the Maddox “bagging” a train” in North Korea. After the newsletter was sent out I was very pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call from Dave Krassner who was on the ship when that happened. Dave sent the following information to share about the Far East tour in 1953:

“We got the train just North of Wonsan, just south of Songjin. It was late afternoon, just about dusk when a spotter on the bridge saw smoke from what appeared to be a moving train along the coastline. When Fire Control & Radar personnel were alerted to this info, we were told to act quickly as the train was nearing a mountain that had a tunnel



entrance. The first salvos were to hit the forward tracks to stop the train. That was done & the train became a sitting duck. We once again locked on the train, we systematically fired on various locations of the train, suddenly a huge explosion occurred & we believe we hit a train carrying ammunition! After the mission ended we continued on a patrol path, we could see for many miles a fire that burned a long time. The Maddox and all its crew received a certificate from the Commander of the Task Force known as “Train Busters Club”.

On that same patrol of shore line support bombardment, we were dispatched in July to head for Vladivostok, Russia to search for a downed US Navy Jet pilot, we headed at flank speed & within 24 hours after the report, we were fortunate to find and rescue the pilot, who was eventually transported back to his carrier, safe and sound. As a side note, I’ll never forget how cold it was in early July, we had to wear foul weather gear when you were outside the ship.

DaveKrassner  
“O” Division



## A LITTLE MADDOX HUMOR

### Pranks aboard the USS Maddox

Bob Wannamaker

Tin Can Sailor was asking about pranks pulled on us while at sea, i.e., go fetch a bucket of steam, bilge jack and the famous watch of the mail buoy. Since I was sent to BT A school before going to sea duty, I came aboard as a salty fireman I was told to be wary of these pranks so I resisted several that BTPO2 Doug Cannon asked me to do. As fate would have it I was asked to swab (mop) the compartment one morning after quarters. I was told when finished to dump the dirty water over the fan tail, clean the mop and mop bucket before storing them. I was told to clean the mop by securing a hand line to the handle and tossing it over the side. When I did, I found the mop brilliantly clean and I was also told I could clean the mop bucket just like the mop by securing a hand line to the handle of the bucket and toss it over the side. Since so far everything I was told came out fine I tossed the mop bucket over the side; it was a bad mistake. Other than burning both hands trying to hold the rope on the sea anchor and having stupid written all over my face, I was ok. I don’t remember who suggested his on me on the Maddox but it was an excellent prank to pull on a farm boy from South Carolina.

**Editors Note:** Do you have some memories to share as David did with his information on the shooting of the train or did someone on board the Maddox pull a prank on you? How about submitting your story to the newsletter. We are always looking for stories to share that keeps the memory of the USS Maddox alive for all. Just send your story via email to [kstokhaug@aol.com](mailto:kstokhaug@aol.com) or send it via snail mail to Kathy Stokhaug, S71W14562 Hidden Creek Ct., Muskego, WI 53150. If you would rather call and talk to me about them, please do so at 414-339-6168. It is always a pleasure to speak with anyone from the Maddox.



## Chaplain's Corner



### GOD WANTS ME

God wants me for Himself and for those He loves. That message becomes a lifelong challenge for us - - a challenge as to what meaning it has for each of us, on a personal relationship with God who created me. We know the audience to whom this is being addressed is not only getting older, but getting closer to home. For some (maybe all) - means we need to assess it more intently. We therefore spend time thinking about it and praying about it.

First, in "faith", we know God created us unto His image and likeness - - and we are to love Him and serve Him in this World in such a way that we merit spending eternity with Him. In His divine wisdom, and in His time, God revealed His "unconditional" love" for us - - this translates into His desire to be with Him in eternity.

The above gives us the purpose and meaning for our very existence. Otherwise, we have to answer as to why we are walking the face of this Earth.

How to accomplish what God wants? There is a saying, "We become what we pray for". The great prayers become expressed in "**Thanks and Petition**". **Let us pray.**

God, Our Father, thank You for each and every day you have blessed us with here on earth. Thank You for Your tender mercies. Thank You for giving me my family and my friends to share joys and sorrows - - to share the very life You gave me. I ask you to bless my parents, my spouse, brothers and sisters, relatives, friends and all those I care deeply for. Where there is joy, let it continue. Where there is sorrow or pain, grant them relief,

## Chaplain's Corner (cont'd)

peace and comfort - - please send a good Samaritan willing to reach out to them. Where I have self-doubt, release renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill them. Teach us and give us hearts filled with charity willing to serve others, especially the destitute, who have no one to love them. And now dear Lord, bless our families, homes, finances, our going and comings. Amen.

God bless you. HAVE A GREAT DAY!

A Servant of the Lord,

*Justin McMenemy,*

Rev. Mr. Justin McMenemy, Chaplain  
 USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION  
 3623 Harvard  
 Independence, MO 64052  
 Phone: 816-254-1528  
 E-Mail: JMcMe1528@aol.com

### **PRAY FOR THOSE DECEASED SINCE OUR LAST** **"HOWGOESIT"**

Members: Carmel Olive  
 Herb Hazelwood

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.  
 May their souls rest in peace.  
 Amen.