

USS Midway OI Division

2009 Orlando Reunion Edition

Scope Dope News - Special Edition

DING DING . . . DING DING . . . SCHOOLBOY'S OI DIVISION, CIC OFFICERS,
RADARMEN, OPERATIONS SPECIALISTS AND OTHERS ARRIVING



Registration Deadline Extended

Now hear this! The deadline for registering for the Orlando reunion has been extended to **March 23, 2009**, so that members and others interested in attending the reunion have ample time to sign up. But *please* register ASAP because we need your information and checks to secure the dinner contract and the Gator tour of Orlando, as well as to make other reunion plans and arrangements. If you are a current member (dues payer) of our group, or if you have received this newsletter, you are invited to the reunion, by all means! We want everyone there to honor our founder **Ron McPhail**. Mail your completed registration form and check to Oscar Granger at **44434 S.E. 142nd Place, North Bend, WA 98045**.

Getting the Word Out

This abbreviated edition of Scope Dope News is aimed at getting the word out to our reunion group members to register for the '09 Orlando reunion.

The men of the OI Division reunion group, USS Midway, have never held a reunion in the state of Florida, though several members call Florida their home. Previously the group has gathered in Branson (1999), New Orleans (2001), St. Louis (2003), San Diego (2005), and again in San Diego (2007).

The group's bylaws, drawn up and approved at the first reunion in Branson by the original reunion group, called for the reunion site to be rotated between the left and right coasts and the middle of the country, and for the reunion to be held biennially (every two years). But when the Midway arrived in San Diego in 2004, that changed. Understandably, the men feel a strong attraction to their ship and want to visit her as often as possible. Thus future reunions are apt to be held in San Diego more often than not. However, this has not been officially voted on by the membership and made part of the bylaws. This should be one of the more interesting business items to discuss in Orlando.

Taking the Mountain to McPhail

Orlando is the site of this year's reunion, primarily because our founder, Ron McPhail, cannot make the trip from Florida to California for health reasons. In the last newsletter, we described Ron's role in finding, recruiting, and sustaining our group over the years. (A picture of Ron smartly decked out in his chief's uniform is included with this newsletter.) The first day of the reunion (Thursday, April 23) is reserved for the business meeting to revise our bylaws and other operating orders, vote on the site for the 2010/11 reunion, and take other steps to keep our reunion group afloat. The balance of the first day is reserved for getting reacquainted, yarn swapping, and fun and high jinks. You are on your own, men and mates!

"Gator" Tour and a Classy Dinner

On Friday, April 24, the Gator tour will include a Scenic Boat Tour of Winter Park, a pleasant way to get a gator's eye view of Central Florida. The boat tour sails along connecting lakes and canals for 12 miles. As we wind our way upriver like so many Humphrey Bogarts and Katharine Hepburns in several miniature African Queens, we will find ourselves in a world of waterfront mansions, sculptured gardens, fern grottos, and maybe an occasional gator. On the bus leg of the tour, we will see historic Orlando and enjoy shopping and lunch before being dropped off back at the hotel. Be sure to sign up for this one-of-a-kind tour! In the evening, to honor Ron we have a lively program lined up for the reunion dinner, which will take place at the high-scale Orlando venue **Maison & Jardin**. Ron, ever the life of the party, has promised to be on his best behavior at the reunion, whose theme is "Re-up for McPhail's Navy - It's a Three-Day Tour." But just in case he tries to renege on the deal, we have assigned master-at-arms Clayton Sponseller to keep a close eye on him, which, admittedly, is like the fox guarding the hen house.

On the reunion's final day, Saturday, April 25, there will be time to put ourselves back together and to do our own thing (smoke 'em if you got 'em!). Then, in the evening, we will gather at a local eatery called Hughley's, within walking distance of the hotel, where we will enjoy the ten best menu items at a good price. Here, there will be plenty of wine, women, song, and tall tales to tell. We will say good-bye to Ron, toasting and roasting him heartily, and the next day most of us will be homeward bound. But some will stay on for a day or two to enjoy the attractions and the discounted room rates offered us by the Residence Inn as part of our reunion package.

OI Div. Website Posts Reunion News

Webmaster Craig Harper has revamped the OI Division website to include the latest news on the reunion, found out front on the main page. This presentation includes a digital version of the registration form that was mailed to members in the registration packet. If you missed the mailer, you can use this one to register with. The site carries all the news that's fit to print, plus links to USS Midway/OI Division-specific features, such as reunion photos from the flight deck of the Midway, electronic versions of recent newsletters, and sea stories by the crew. Bookmark this site and come back to it often for the latest reunion news. It's our best way to communicate instantaneously! URL: <http://ussmidway.net/home.html>.



In Memoriam – Sad News

Shipmate **Jim Kelly**, of Clearwater, FL, passed away Nov. 30, 2008. A boatswain's mate on the USS Midway from '48-'50, he was a champion yarn-spinner at the last two San Diego reunions. Jim will be sorely missed. He was a friend and a contributor to this newsletter.

OI Division '09 Reunion Planning Committee

Jim Hayter Clay Sponseller Joe Reiter
Bill Kruper Oscar Granger Dave Payson
Craig Harper Special thanks to:
Gary Burk and Sandy Burk

Reunion Hotel: Residence Inn Marriott in Altamonte Springs, Orlando

<http://www.residenceinnaltamontesprings.com/>

**Special reunion rates: studio kings, \$94/per day
 penthouse suites, \$149/day; rates good for 3 days
 before, 3 days after the reunion**

Toll free reservation no.: 800-331-3131

Book your flight to Orlando now. Airline prices haven't been this low in a long time!