

Orlando Reunion Early Agenda & News

USS Midway Reunion Group



Ron McPhail

Hail to the Chief!

With the reunion fast approaching, there are many good reasons for our reunion group to gather in Orlando this spring. Chief among them, of course, is to honor Ron McPhail, our founder, who lives in the area. But we are also shining the light on ourselves, for being a successful reunion group over the years. And thanks in large part to Ron, we've enjoyed excellent leadership. Adding to our success is the fact that we're dedicated men with a common bond: the USS Midway,

which, fortuitously, is safely parked in San Diego, where we can get to her almost anytime we want. And, too, Orlando is also looking good in the spring because with the economy struggling along there are plenty of good deals to be had in this vacation paradise (for instance, cut-rate airfare, good deals at local attractions). There is also the comradeship of meeting up again with your buddies. And remember, when one of your shipmates tells you a whopper, it's not polite to laugh in his face.

McPhail's Navy

That's our reunion theme, cleverly fashioned after the popular TV show of the early 60s starring Ernest Borgnine, Tim Conway, and Joe Flynn. (Credit Oscar Granger for the idea.) At the reunion, however, Ron will play himself. Somewhat ironically, most of us never knew him as Chief McPhail in his heyday; we knew him as our hard-nosed LPO in the western Pacific and then in Vietnam. He's still trying to live those days down. We do believe he made chief some time around 1966, based on this picture and the yarns he's told us. So we may have a skit

based on the TV show, and we may have something resembling a roast or an open mic session at the reunion dinner. We thought about flying in some Olangopo bargirls for the event, but we realized they'd be way too old by now. Besides, we couldn't afford them (couldn't then either). So bring your best stuff. Remember, this is the land of make believe, and when you wish upon a star . . . If any of you happen to have a World War II-vintage PT boat, bring it along. It'll to add to the authenticity.

The Dinner

We haven't used up all of our superlatives about the reunion dinner yet. Friday night the dinner will be held at Maison & Jardine, an upscale dinner/party venue a few miles from the hotel (transportation will be provided by the hotel shuttle or by one of your shipmates with a car). Reunion co-host Jim Hayter has worked with M&J to land us a great deal, featuring fine cuisine and an excellent facility in which to hold our program. This is *not* your standard rubber chicken banquet. It will be a night we'll long remember as long as we still *can* remember.

USS MIDWAY REUNION GROUP

ORLANDO, FLORIDA



The Gator Tour

As described in the last *Scope Dope News*, the gator tour, on the third and last official day of the reunion, is going to have something for everyone, boat and bus tours into the heart of Orlando with a stopover for lunch and shopping. The tour will be approximately four hours long and the Gray Line people will pick us up and deliver us back to our hotel.

2009 Reunion—Key Events

Day One - Thursday, April 23rd

- **1400-1600 hours** - Conduct business meeting; revising the group's Articles of Confederation and By-laws; voting in officers, location of next reunion, and other general business. Only those present at reunion can vote, which is important, because significant changes are being proposed.

Day Two - Friday, April 24th

- **1700-2200 hours** - Reunion Dinner at Maison & Jardin; conduct of program in honor of Ron.

Day Three - Saturday, April 25th

- **1000-1400 hours** - 10 a.m. pickup, Gator Tour underway from hotel; tour includes river tour in small boats as well as bus tour of Orlando proper, with an hour stopover for lunch and shopping.
- **1900 hours** - Gather at Hughley's, a local brew pub and eatery within walking distance of the hotel, for dinner, spirits, sea stories and goodbyes,

Midway memorabilia - Bill Kruper (uncabil@msn.com)

Residence Inn Marriott, Altamonte Springs, Orlando (407-788-7991) tell them "USS Midway Reunion" Make Reservation by April 13, 2009, to get special reunion room rates

Register-By-Phone Plan

You can register for the reunion by calling Oscar Granger (425-831-6891) or Dave Payson (509-946-0810), and they will take down your information and register you over the phone. Or use the registration form provided with this *Scope Dope News* flier and mail it to Oscar with your check (Oz's mailing address on registration form).

Every past and present Midway reunion group member who has ever sailed the high seas on the USS Midway is welcome to attend this reunion to honor Ron McPhail. Remember, it's a 3-day tour of duty!

USS Midway Reunion Group Planning Committee

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

See you in Orlando!