



# Leaky Weeks Almanac

USS John W Weeks  
Association

Volume 3, Issue 1  
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**Hal Gross, President Emeritus**

Dear Weeks Shipmates and Friends

By the time, you receive a newsletter this years reunion will be less than six months away. I have some good news, there was a cancellation at the Hilton and I had the opportunity to reschedule the reunion. We were able to get the last week in September like we normally do. So the official date for this year's reunion is September 27 thru Sunday morning October 1.

As you go over the forms, I want to point out several improvements this year. First you may notice that we added a couple extra tours. There are so many things to do in the area that it is hard to fit everything in. There is an early bird tour on Wednesday morning for those who arrive early and want to do something. On Friday there are two tours scheduled at the same time; one for those who want to tour Amish Country and the other is for those that want to go to Atlantic City to play the slots. I hope that these additions provide something for everyone. Also, I want to point out that you are under no obligation to take any of the tours. You can take one, all or if you feel more comfortable visiting the hospitality room with some of your shipmates, it's up to you.

There is another thing that we are doing different this year. We are having a "Welcome Dinner with Entertainment" to kick off the reunion. At pass reunions we usually had an activity scheduled for Wednesday night. A show or tour was normally scheduled. Also, many people came in late in the afternoon and had to rush to get dinner, in order to make the scheduled activity. This should help to slow the pace. We will see how this works out for everyone.

Like last year in San Antonio, we plan to give some lucky shipmates an upgrade from their standard room, to either a suite or an executive level room. The only catch is that you must be registered at the hotel no later than 18<sup>th</sup> of August to be eligible for the drawing. The winners will be notified before the reunion.

Finally, Military Reunion Planners have set up their website to accept online registration including pay by credit card.

I talked to Hal and Ellie Gross some time ago, as of now; they are planning to come to this year's reunion. As some of you know, last year they where planning to attend our reunion in San Antonio; however, they had to cancel due to Ellie being ill. Incidentally, in April they will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Given them a call or send a card!

A couple months ago, I received a call from Norm Hatfill. Norm's son contacted Admiral Vern Clark last year to see if he could get a photograph of the picture of the Weeks that hung in the wardroom and later in Admiral Vern Clark's office at the Pentagon. Admiral Clark sent Norm's son had a digital file, which he processed and made into an oil painting for his Dad. Norm said that the Association could have the high resolution digital file of the picture. He told me that the picture was painted by a German Lady, (Incidentally, I couldn't make the name out on the picture.) and that it was not protected by copyrights; therefore, the association can reproduce it. I am currently looking into how we can do this.

Sorting through some documents in order to shed some light on a man overboard incident that occurred during WWII, I came across a story written by Carmen Ness who is now deceased, covering the death of Bruce Biggar. I started to read his account of the incident and found it so interesting I decided to share it with you. I am still looking for stories about your experience aboard the Weeks, especially during the fifties and sixties.



If you did not send in your donations for 2006, you can send them to Jim Harkins. However, please make the check out to the USS John W Weeks Association, not Jim Harkins. This will save Jim a lot of time. Also, our policy is the same as always, if you cannot afford to donate, please let Jim know so that we can continue to send you the newsletter. Thanks again for your support.

Finally, if there are concerns or if you just have questions; feel free to contact me or other members of our committee. I will keep you informed by means of the newsletters our website, and email.

Smooth Sailing  
Len Budzynski

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## Reunion 2006

**Valley Forge,  
Pennsylvania**

**September 27  
through October 1**

**We will be staying  
at the Hilton  
Valley Forge.**

**Get your  
registration forms  
in early.**



## Message from Jim Harkins

To all USS John W. Weeks shipmates, family and friends; I want to thank you for kind words within the letters received that were included with your donations. I wish I could answer all that were sent to me. Some were very poignant, taking me back to when all of you served on the John W. Weeks, whether it was during WW2, Korea, Cold War or Vietnam, all were greatly appreciated. I discussed these letters with our president, Len Budzynski. He asked me to express his appreciation with my words. Some were first time donors; while others have been donors for some, or all the years that our Association has been in existence. Wish I became aware of the Association when you first started in Downingtown, PA, to those many years ago. It would have been a great joy to meet those initial veterans. Many shipmates have since departed, so let's keep all those in our hearts and in our prayers.



Jim Harkins  
 John W. Weeks, 1957, 1958 and 1959.

## Financial Report - Jim Harkins, Treasurer

FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

REPORTING PERIOD – SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 – MARCH 15, 2006

<b><u>BALANCE 9/13/2005</u></b>	\$1610.55
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	
50/50 (2005 Reunion)	254.00
Military Planners	470.00
Donations & Apparel	<u>3050.50</u>
Total Income for the reported time period	\$3774.50
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>	
2005 Reunion Expense	753.60
L. Budzynski email & Newsletter Expense	<u>852.01</u>
Total expense for the reported time period	\$1605.61
<b><u>BALANCE FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD</u></b>	<b><u>\$3779.44</u></b>
<b><u>CURRENT BANK BALANCE MARCH 15, 2006</u></b>	<b><u>\$3779.44</u></b>

Note: A full financial report for fiscal year September 27, 2005 – the 2006 REUNION will be available to all USS John W. Weeks Association members at the 2006 reunion. For those members that cannot attend, this report will be included in the first Association Newsletter to be published following the 2006 reunion.

## Russell Crosby of the USS Davidson DE-1045 Reunion Association Needs your Help!

**Task Force 71** – Formed in April 1969 in response to US Navy EC-121 shot down by North Korea on April 15, 1969, it was the largest and most powerful armada formed by the US since the end of the Korean War. The USS John W. Weeks was part of that armada.

I received a request from Russell Crosby of the USS Davidson DE-1045 Reunion Association for photographs, super 8 video film, and recollections of the event. Russell's address is 8105 Webb Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74131; his phone number is 918-224-1515. He will compensate for time and material.



## USS John W. Weeks DD 701



This picture hung in the Weeks Wardroom and later in the Admiral Vern Clark's office at the Pentagon. A high resolution digital file was sent to the Association by Norm Hatfill. Norm served on the Weeks from 1947 thru 1948. I am going to look into reproducing high quality prints since there are no copyrights on the picture. More on this at this year's reunion.

### **BOW WAKE™** Ship's Caps, Shirts & Accessories

The hats and jackets that were on sale at this year's reunion were purchased from BOW WAKE. You can purchase Weeks gear directly by going to their website ([www.bowwake.com](http://www.bowwake.com)) or by phone (1-877-432-4826). To get the discount give them the promotional code DD701. In January you will be able to access their website from ours.



**USS John W Weeks patches for sale, \$2.00 per patch**  
Contact Jim Harkins





## A Close Shave by Carmen Ness (Deceased)

Well, the war is over and censorship has lifted. I've been wanting to tell you of our actions in the Pacific, but was forced to keep our whereabouts a secret, so now I'm going to make up for lost time and let you all in on some true dope that happened August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945. Hope you like it.

On the morning of August 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of ships consisting of: USS Weeks (DD701), USS Hank (DD702), USS Borie (DD704) and USS Benner (DD807) had radar picket duty just 50 miles from Task Group 38.3 and was 30 miles from the Japanese homeland.

Our job was to intercept any aircraft by radar and direct the CAP (Combat Air Patrol) to the vicinity of the contact, thus it was up to the CAP to tally-ho the planes and send us their identification by radio.

Everything was working according to plan and our strikes were successful until the afternoon at 1400, when General Quarters was sounded. There was a lurking Jap airship or 'Bogey' just 20 miles from our formation. Everyone manned their stations and was prepared for the battle. Many of our friendly planes were returning from their strikes and Bogeys were reported in the vicinity, so-o-o-o with the efficient radar we had our group of ships spotted on our radar scope bogeys closing our formation. Thus we directed the CAP by radio the range and bearing of the contact. Our CAP made tally-hos to a few bogeys and opened fire. Reports came in constantly by radio, "Splashed one bogey, splashed one bogey," and then everything was silent for a few seconds, when out of a large cloud dropped a suicide dive bomber headed in a vertical pounce on our formation with terrific speed. Closer and closer he came, our- "Five Inch" guns blazing away at him, suddenly we stopped firing with our big guns and opened fired with our 40mm's and 20mm's. Suddenly he (meaning the bogey) was right on top of us, heading straight for our bow. At that moment I closed eyes and said "Oh my God." A second later I opened my eyes and saw the Yellow devil make a quick swerve, and fly low in between our formation. Every ship was firing like mad, but he continued to ease out of the formation with the least bit of interest in our blasting guns. A report came to the bridge that Mount 44 was strafed and splashed by shrapnel from a 5" shell, and a fire broke out near the ammunition rack. Immediate action was taken and everything was under control, however we suffered 3 severe casualties: Bruce O. Bigger, shrapnel wounds in the abdominal area, Sheridan - shrapnel wounds throughout his body and Stewart - a small piece of shrapnel in his left eye.



**Bruce Biggar and Jim Amdal  
San Francisco 1944**

The fight wasn't over by a long shot, the plane had returned and was ready to finish his mission. He flew low and proceeded to head into our formation again, and swooped into the air 100 feet and dove into the USS Borie hitting the forward stack. Explosions were tragic and fires broke out in the forward part of the 'Can'. Fire fighters and repair parties took immediate action and had the fire under control and were ready for action again. The ship zigzagged and the steering control went wild, but within a few seconds the ship regained its steering and closed the formation for protection.

Hour after hour passed and we were attacked by enemy planes, but they never got what they were going after, they made the supreme sacrifice. It was a long and bitter- day of fighting end we won the battle. After the lull was over and safety was observed, we counted the number of Bogeys we destroyed. A total of 5 flying devils made the drink, plus 'a lucky meatball that found its mark on the USS Borie.

By nightfall everyone was tired and waited patiently for the word, "Secure from General Quarters." It finally was passed over the IMC. All of us just had to refresh up with some soap and water and it certainly was refreshing. Everyone was rather excited and told the weirdest stories, however there had to be someone to break up the monotony. We still had to repair the damages and give medical attention to the wounded.

Our wounded were confronted and given immediate medical attention but unfortunately no operation could be performed on the most severely wounded, the late Bruce O. Bigger, and blood plasma was administered for his safety. The following day Bruce was removed from his present quarters and placed in the Captain's cabin. Constant care was given to him by all member of the crew, and three pharmacists mates stood by him until the end. Before Bruce's ending days he became hysterical and complained about a severe pain in his abdomen. Rogers, PhM3c, who stood by him, said that he requested some music. "You know Rogers, it isn't so bad resting in bed when you have music to go with it," and then with short gasping breaths, smiled in agony and closed his eyes like a proud sailor... Yes, we won the battle, but there was a heavy cost. I know that wherever our shipmate is today we'll never forget what a fine fellow he was.

Bruce was buried at sea August 11<sup>th</sup>, with the stars and stripes draped around his caressed body. He died August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1235....

Well, that is all for now, but don't forget now that the war is over there's work to be done, so chin up and pray that no other war will erupt again. So-long and good luck to you all.



## Members

Please be sure that we have your correct e-mail address. Please send updates to Len Budzynski at [lenski@buckeye-express.com](mailto:lenski@buckeye-express.com)

## New Members

H. David Ellington			Allen Joy	SN	58 - 60
Earl Hayward	BTFN	52 - 54	David V. Myers	EM2	59 - 61
Dirk A. Braak	SN	58 - 59	Brian Brennan	QM3	66 - 67

If you know of any of our shipmates or family members that are sick, in the hospital, or deceased; please contact Jerry Brown or Len Budzynski.



## Sick Call

**Bill Fleming** – Bill had bypass surgery on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and is doing fine. Let's keep Bill in our prayers. Bill's address and phone are: PO BX 306 S HORICON DR; BRANT LAKE, NY 12815; (518) 494-3338

**Letty Mark** - I received the following from Gus Mark. We just had a recent scare with Letty as she had a minor stroke in early December. She has gained the use of her right leg, hand and fingers back since then, but everything is not completely back to normal yet. Right now we are taking it one day at a time and hoping for the best. Letty Mark address is: 25 MANATEE AVE ; SIDNEY, NY 13838

**Kate Johnson** - Had arthroscopic surgery on her knee in January. I am happy to report that the procedure was successful. Kate's address is: 603 CHIMNEY ROCK RD; RUTHERFORDTON, NC 28131

## Taps

**Arthur Patrick** - We received the following from Hal Gross. I have sad news Arthur Patrick, a Gunners' Mate, one of the original WWII crew members on the ship. We worked together. He passed away February 18th. There is a wonderful video the web of Arthur's life... [www.mem.com/display/biography.asp?ID=1236530](http://www.mem.com/display/biography.asp?ID=1236530) . His widow's address is: Celestine Patrick. 6712 SPANISH LAKES BLVD; FT. PEARCE FLA 34951

**Stanley Mirowski** - We were notified by Bill Margetich that his best friend Stanley Mirowski passed away around February 6th. Stanley served on the Weeks during WWII. Surviving is his wife Helen. Cards can be sent to: 202 JANEEN PLACE P.O BOX1; PARK HALL, MD 20667

**Peggy Theobald** - I was informed that Peggy Theobald has died she was the wife of the late Captain Robert A. Theobald Jr., USN, the first Commanding Officer of the USS John W. Weeks. No other information is available.

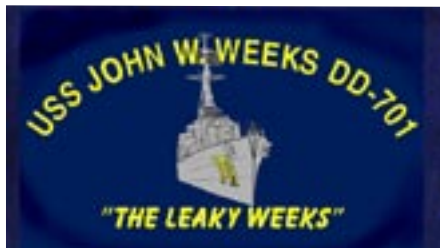
**Kenny Karp** - I received the following from Jack Joyce, I looked up an old shipmate from the Weeks, a Kenny Karp, RMSN served from 1950-52, and unfortunately he passed away about 2 years ago. He is survived by his wife Pat and 5 children: Pat Karp-1551 N.E. 2nd Street-Ocala, FL 34470. She said that he was always sorry that he did not keep up with any of the fellows from the Weeks.

**Dan Curran** - We received the following from Rich Robillard. This is to inform you that Dan Curran died January 16, 2006 after a battle with cancer. Dan was onboard from 1959 to 1961. Dan was a very well known figure in Western Mass. Dan is survived by his wife Marlene, and 4 daughters and a step son. Cards can be sent to: 51 MEADOW VIEW ROAD; HOLYOKE, MA 01040



## USS John W Weeks Association

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We're on the Web!  
[www.ussjwwEEKS701.org](http://www.ussjwwEEKS701.org)

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