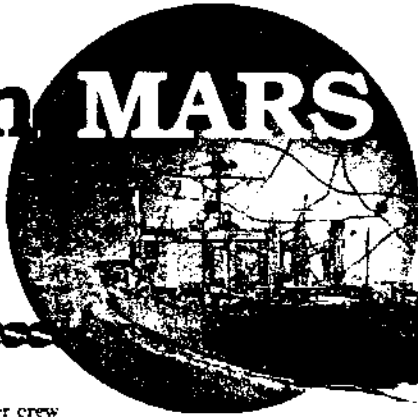


CREW from MARS

Editor:
Everett R. Jones

Graphics:
David C. Reed

www.ussmars.com



July 2003

Association of former crew
members & friends of U.S.S. Mars AFS-1

Newsletter No. 14

• 1947 Gotham St. • Chula Vista, CA 91913 • Ph: (619) 421-3721 • Email: oneerj@pacbell.net

from the editor's desk

My Fellow Shipmates



I am happy to report that our informal MARS REUNION organization is doing well. We are financially sound & I thank everyone for your support. We continue to locate former Mars crewmembers, & have added four more 1963 plankowners & two crewmembers that decommissioned Mars in 1993. Thirty seven more names have been added to the Ships CREW listing, including two former Commanding Officers. After all these years, we welcome you back aboard.

The Newport Reunion is fast approaching & I encourage anyone who is living in the area to attend. You may see an old shipmate, but best of all, you will have the opportunity to make new friends. If you can make it to Newport, let me know, so David can make his special Mars name tag for you. Over 30 more pages of pictures have been added to our reunion book, & they will be available for your viewing. As of now, it looks like about 25 to 30 of us from Mars will attend this reunion along with the crews from the USS Sylvania. We are informal, so if you find at the last minute that you can attend, find your way to the hospitality room, you will be most welcomed.

Sadly, we have lost more of our shipmates, some recently, & others that I have just been informed about. Their names have been added to our MEMORIAL page on the Mars web site.

Our web master, Joe Matejcek, (1986-91) has

recently posted the crew listing for all the years the Mars was in commission. This listing covers about 80% of the crew. Names & up dated information will continue to be added as received. I have been obtaining crew muster rolls over the past three years, & it has been a slow process. Many of the muster rolls are not available at this time. These rolls only contain the names of the enlisted crew, so will need your help & input on the officers. Visit our site often, as Joe up-dates new information when he has the time.
www.ussmars.com

A new item is available. The lithograph picture of the Mars has been copied onto a CD at a cost of \$32.00. I'm now able to take orders for this very nice picture of the ship. See page 11 for the ordering information. A framed 18 x 24 picture will be in the raffle a this up coming reunion.

Your letters & comments are need for the newsletters of the future. A few short lines are most welcome, letting us know what you are doing these days. If you have a story to tell, please send it to me. Your memories/comments are what make for a good newsletter. Some of you, at 80+ are flying gliders for competition. Your comments would make a welcome addition to the newsletter.

Thank you David Reed (1969-70) for your time & effort in making our Mars newsletter an enjoyable event. The next newsletter will be mailed in December 2003.

Everett R. Jones (1965-68)

Make contact with me if you are interested in our Newport Reunion. I will mail you the information. Everett R. Jones
619-421-3721 or E-mail: oneerj@pacbell.net



USS Mars (AFS-1)

•History 1981•

Commanding Officers

Executive Officer

Supply Officer

Captain Charles K. Hutchinson
Captain Edward A. Brewton

Cdr. L. Mike Pivonka

Cdr. Jack T. Kavanaugh

Mars is moored to the pier in Alameda, California as the new year begins. The first few months of 1981 are spent doing upkeep & local operations.

On June 26, at the Naval Air Station Alameda, Captain Edward A. Brewton relived Captain C. K. Hutchinson as Commanding Officer. Captain Brewton became Mars' thirteenth CO.

In preparations for another scheduled deployment, the crew goes into pre-deployment training & the loading of supplies.

After eleven months since her last deployment, Mars is once again loaded with supplies & a well trained crew is ready to get her underway.

On Saturday, September 19, 1981 Mars departs the San Francisco Bay area & steams under the Golden Gate Bridge, setting course for Hawaii.

Mars arrives in Pearl Harbor on September 25, for a few days of R&R for the crew. The ship is underway again on September 30.

After a two week transit, Mars arrives in Manila, Philippines, on October 16. The three day visit ends & the ship heads for Subic Bay. Mars arrived with 10 pallets, weighing close to 20,000 pounds, of Project Handclasp material for distribution in the Subic Bay area. The Handclasp material consisted of medical, school supplies, clothing & dry goods.

A five day visit to Hong Kong, with the ship arriving on November 5, for more R & R, Mars returns to Subic Bay on November 11.



Loaded with fresh supplies, the ship is underway on November 16, headed for Singapore.

On the night of November 17, Mars rescued 14 boat people from the South China Sea, 200 miles southeast of Saigon. The boat people, from Vung Tau, South Vietnam, were members of the same family & the group consisted of seven men, three women & four small children. They had been at sea for four days in a 25 foot fishing boat & were without food or water at the time of the rescue.

Mars transported the refugees to Singapore & later, received the Humanitarian Service Medal for the rescue.

Mars arrived in Singapore on November 19th, for a short three day visit. Underway again on November 22, Mars sets course for the Indian Ocean. During this time period, Mars once again crosses the Equator & has a fresh young supply of Pollywogs on board. The Mars Shellbacks granted all pollywogs a fair & just trial before King Neptune & after a fun & pleasurable time by all, they too became trusty Shellbacks.

With Helicopter Support Squadron Three, Detachment 104 on board, Mars replenished all ships in the area, before arriving in Masirah on December 2. A six day inport period ends on December 8, as the ship sets course for Diego Garcia, while re-supplying all ships of the fleet operating in the area, along the way.

Mars arrives in Diego Garcia on December 17. The ship spends her 18th birthday (December 21), in Diego Garcia. Loaded with fresh provisions & fleet freight, Mars gets underway on December 22. Another busy time period as breakouts & replenishments keeps everyone working long hours.

As 1981 closed, Mars was on-station in the Indian Ocean. On December 29 & 30, the crew was entertained by two separate USO shows as preformed by the Starving Artists & The Dallas Cheerleaders.

As so often in the past, Mars is underway as the year ends.



USS Mars (AFS-1)

•History 1982•

Commanding Officer

Executive Officer

Supply Officer

Captain Edward A. Brewton

Cdr. L. Mike Pivonka
Cdr. _____

Cdr. Jack T. Kavanaugh
Cdr. _____

The New Year, 1982 finds Mars underway in the Indian Ocean steaming towards Masirah. Arriving on January 2, for a one day stop. Mars departs the next day & makes another one day stop at Muscat, Oman. The next week is spent underway replenishing the fleet with supplies & mail.

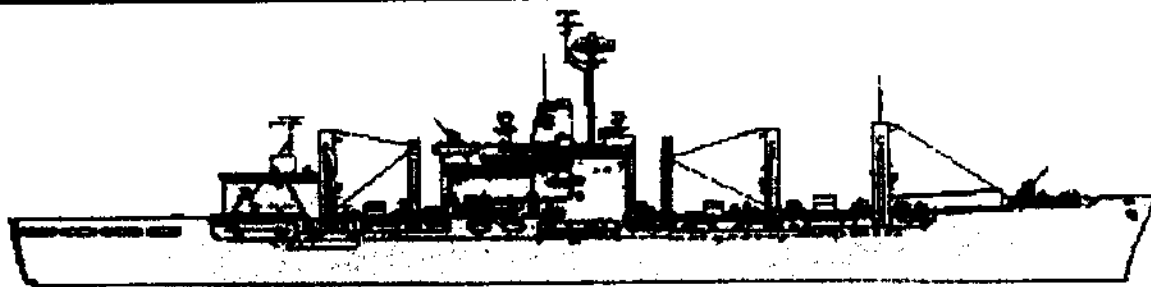
Mars returns to Diego Garcia on January 12 for four days of re-loading of supplies, mail & personnel for transfer, before heading out for another ten days of replenishing the fleet, both alongside & with her two helo's.

Mars returns to Diego Garcia for two days on January 25th. One last swing on the line & Mars heads for Thailand. While enroute, Mars became the site for the First Annual Mars Olympiad. A series of athletic events designed to test the athletic abilities of those who participated.

Arriving in Pearl Harbor on April 13, the ship is greeted by family members who will make a Tiger Cruise on the last leg of this deployment. Mars departs on April 15.

Mars returns to Alameda, after a seven month deployment. During this time period, Mars logged more 13,000 miles, visiting eight countries & operating for 59 days in the Indian Ocean. The crew from Mars conducted 69 underway replenishments with the Seventh Fleet ships, transferred more than 1,800 tons of cargo, 370 transient personnel & 72,000 pounds of mail. Another well done job by the 1981-1982 crew.

In April, Cdr. Pivonka is relieved by Cdr. _____?, as Executive Officer & also in April Cdr Kavanaugh is relieved by Cdr. _____?, as Supply Officer.



The ship arrives in Phattaya Beach, Thailand on February 4, for a six day visit of R & R for the crew.

Mars returns to Subic Bay on February 20 & departs on March 14. Mars then is underway for Pusan, Korea for a six day visit. Underway on March 23, Mars makes a short trip from Pusan, & arrives in Sasebo, Japan on the same day.

After a four day visit, the ship sets course for Yokosuka, Japan, arriving on March 31. A six day visit is soon over & Mars is ready to head home. Mars departs Yokosuka on April 6, headed for the warm waters of Hawaii.

Mars goes into Todd Shipyards, Alameda for a multi-million dollar overhaul. Mars becomes the first Combat Stores Ship on the West Coast to undergo the Reduced Scope Overhaul (RSO).

The ship remained in the local area after the overhaul as the year 1982 ends.



**USS MARS (AFS-1)
Deck Log 0000-0400
01 January 1964**

The midwatch is set
To begin the New Year
As we lie here moored
Starboard side to the pier.

We have nine lines over,
Eight nylons are doubled,
This precaution is for safety
Lest the Bos'n be troubled.

Also with a hawser
Whose circumference is nine,
And two breast wires
Which makes all fine.

The place we are moored
Pier Six, Berth Four,
Long Beach Naval Shipyard,
Who could ask more.

To all who might question
We shall do no deceiving,
For the following services
From the pier we're receiving.

Fresh & salt water,
All steam & our light,
Along with a telephone
To receive calls tonight.

Ships of the fleet present
Are many & varied.
During the holiday season
In Long Beach they've tarried.

The condition that's set
Is classed as Modified YOKE,
Least some wayward ship
Give us a poke.

Conditions of readiness
Is number SIX,
MARS will never be
Caught in a fix.

As I look aloft
I grasped with alarm,
As a flying saucer
Lit on the yardarm.

An odd little critter
With bright green hair,
Slid down to the deck
In a boatswain's chair.

"Take be to your leader",
He said with much glee,
"We have word on Mars
He's COMCRUDESFLOTTHREE"

As I looked from him
To his flying plate,
I pointed to USS TOPEKA
The CLG-8.

He bowed from the waist
In a courtly manner,
Hopped up to his ship
Waving his antennae.

He lit off his jets
With a mighty roar,
Took off on a heading
Towards Pier Four.

The good ship MARS,
The first of her kind,
Strains at her moorings,
Yet everything's fine.

Most officers & crew
Are ashore far & near,
To help usher in
This young New Year.

While the planet Mars
Shines down with a glow,
Casting her light
On the New Year's show.

From the men of MARS
And her Skipper too,
Happy New Year to all
And may God bless you.

L.V. KUFAHL, LTJG, USNR



REUNIONS UP-DATE

REUNION 2003 NEWPORT, KY

Reunion Headquarters:
Comfort Suite Riverfront
420 Riverboat Row
Newport, KY 41071
(606) 291-6700

PLANS ARE SET FOR OCTOBER 17-19

All former **MARS** members & your
guests are welcome.

We will have our hostess room open each day.
Our Mars Club photo & past reunion pictures
will once again be available for your viewing.

Welcome Reception

An All Hands Reception starts at 4:00 PM in
the Hospitality Room on Friday.

Dinner Cruise:

The Saturday dinner cruise will leave the
dock at 11:00 AM & return at
6:30 PM. We will meet
again for a social hour in
the Hospitality room after
the cruise. If you plan to
go, please let me know.

Have you made your
your payment, make contact
with me as soon as

REUNION 2004 SEATTLE, WA

Ken Henning (1967-70) is working on setting
up the dates & a schedule of events that should
be of interest for everyone who can make this
event. It is possible that the reunion will be
held on the second weekend in September 2004.

You will be able to plan an Alaskan Cruise
over the reunion. The last seven day cruise of
the season leaves Seattle on the 2nd Sunday.
This is not a planned reunion event, but there
should be some good discounts available at that
time of year. Make advance plans for this if
interested.

REUNION 2005 JACKSONVILLE, FL

Captain Paul Anderson (1968-69) is making
advance plans for the reunion of October 2005.
We should have great weather, so mark your cal-
endars for this East Coast event.

REUNION 2006 BRANSON, MO

No dates are set, looking for comments or
suggestions on the date of October ???

USS MARS AFS-1

REUNION 2007 WEST COAST ???

If you need help with hotel
information, contact Susan
Ashcraft at (859) 581-2803 or
suea4007@yahoo.com

Time is going by too fast & this date will be
here sooner then we might want.
Suggestions/comments are most welcome.

COMMENTS & MEMORIES



While serving aboard HMS Cumberland in the Persian Gulf in 1994, we had the pleasure of re-supplying from the USNS MARS. One time in particular I remember quite well. Our captain, Captain Scott Lidbetter was quite a charismatic (dare I say

it) James Bond type, sat on the bridge wing in his chair looking more like a smug pilot, smoking a fat cigar, wearing a leather pilots jacket (as he actually was a pilot) & of course aviators shades

The Mars was a little way off waiting to receive us. We gassed it full ahead & came along side stopping suddenly with the ship's broadcast playing 'The Boys are Back in Town' by Thin Lizzy. After re-supply & as seems to be tradition we broke away from you with a hard to Starboard & once again gassed away with the ships broadcast playing 'Ride of the Valyres'.

It was quite one of the most memorable resupplies apart from the one in a storm where I once came close to losing my fingers/hands (not very nice). The name of your ship has stayed with me & in my own opinion is one of the coolest. Since this event am keen to track sown the following items of USS MARS memorabilia. Zippo & baseball cap.

Take care shipmates.

Chris Lazar

Just received the March 2003 edition of the Mars Newsletter & continue to be impressed by the work you & staff (?) perform. Many thanks for the pleasurable moments I have reading it in its entirety. Enclosed is a small contribution to help with the costs.
Many thanks.

Arthur D. Jackson (1970-72)

Thanks for the newsletter. I always look forward to receiving it. I had a great time at the Norfolk Reunion, I'd never been to the east coast. I enjoyed meeting everyone & seeing the sites. I'll always remember it.

Dan Holland (1973-74)

I have enjoyed receiving the newsletter & commend you for a great job. Sorry I haven't been able to make the reunions, but the newsletter is most informative. Keep them coming.

John W. Dalton (1965-66)

Thank you so much for such a great reunion. I had a great time with my shipmates. Also the new friends made from the Mars that came aboard after I left. It was nice to meet other friends from the two USS Sylvania ships. Everett, Fred, Paul & Frank, it was a pleasure seeing you guy's again. Thanks to Fred's wife & daughter for making the harbor cruise extra special, they were so kind to me. Thanks to Paul, Pat, Gary & his wife Shirley for making great conversation at the banquet table.

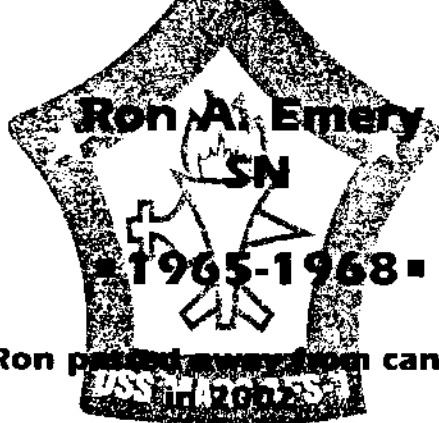
I'm planning on going to the Florida reunion. Once again, great job by Everett, John & the rest of the crew that made the reunion so great.

Joseph Tizol (1963-66)





**We Mourn the Passing
of these Shipmates**



**Ron passed away from cancer
in 2002**

**Richard O. Fevold
EM3**

Plankowner

■ 1963-1966 ■

**Richard passed away from lung cancer
on March 9, 2003.**

**John W. (Jack) Grabe
CSCS**

■ 1966-1968 ■

**Jack passed away from melanoma cancer
on December 20, 2002
Jack was 75 years old**

**Ricky S. Jacobs
BT3**

■ 1970-1973 ■

**Recently learned that Ricky passed away
from a heart attack in 1993.**

**Edward W. (Bill) Moeller, Jr.
LTjg**

■ 1967-1970 ■

**Bill passed away from a massive heart
attack on February 10, 2003. Bill was 58
years old.**

**Mark A. Upton
QM3**

■ 1981-1985 ■

**Mark was killed in an auto accident
shortly after transferring from Mars.**

**From the
Graphic Desk**



**The comments about the great newsletter is
very much appreciated, but as always it is your
letters & e-mail stories that really make the
newsletter so great, so keep your comments &
memories coming.**

**On this page I have the honor to share space
again with crewmembers from Mars who have
gone on ahead of us. I can only reflect that we
have had a large crew that passed via the USS
Mars during her 30 years of service & will see
more to be honored here.**

**Each time that I type set the newsletter &
work on the layout & graphics, I always look for
ways to improve the newsletter. This page of
honor has always been the page I look at the
most, it is hoped that it is simple & dignified,
reflecting honor upon of those who have passed
on ahead of us.**



**Note: A new page this issue is the "Ships
Store" & other items to be proposed & added.**

the Ships Crew



A Special Welcome!

7/63-8/65	Duckett, Richard M.	MA3	S-1 Div	Kill Devil Hills, NC
11/63-7/66	Cheris, Jon C.	MM2	M Div	Wellsville, PA
1963-1967	Hayes, Lee R.	RM2	OC Div	Columbus, OH
1963-1965	Wollard, Frank L.	SK3	Supply	Jefferson, MD
10/65-7/67	Eaves, Donald E.	BT3	B Div	Galesburg, IL
1966-1967	LaDue, Robert A.	SK3	S-1 Div	Madison,, WI
2/67-1968	Cavanaugh, Leo F.	DSS	Supply	Somersworth, NH
4/68-6/69	Hudson, Ronald L.	YN3	Ops YN	Owenton, KY
1968-5/70	Butts, Harold T.	SK2	Supply	Lillington, NC
11/69-3/73	Benson, Dennis L.	SK2	Supply	Vancouver, WA
10/70-11/71	Dvorak, Edward J.	EM2	E Div	Dorchester, NE
1970-1972	Burleson, Dale E.	BT2	B Div	Longview, WA
1970-1972	Kerr, Vance E.	PC3	X Div	Forest Ranch, CA
1971-1974	Coffeen, Jack W.	EM3	E Div	Benicia, CA
1971-1972	Kenny, Peter J.	SN	1st Div	S. Milwaukee, WI
1971-1974	Meek, Ray	BT2	B Div	Midland, TX
1971-1972	Nohra, John M.	SK2	Supply	Orlando, FL
8/74-11/75	McCrimmon, Douglas R.	Captain	CO	Golden, CO
6/76-1/79	Roughton, Terrance M.	EM3	E Div	Makakilo, HI
01/76-7/79	Schmidt, Paul W.	SK3	S-2 Div	St. Paul, MN
1/77-8/80	Zupan, Frank N.	HT3	R Div	Warren, MI
1977-1978	Strusienski, Gregory	MMFN	M Div	Cheektowaga, NY
9/78-6/81	Miller, Derek R.	RM2	OC Div	Midwest City, OK
1978-1979	Price, Sandy W.	SK3	Supply	Loûi, CA
1979-1981	Rossiter, Eric S.	BMSN	1st Div	Independence, MO
1980-	Crump, James H.	SM3	OC Div	Redmond, WA
6/81-4/83	Brewton, Edward A.	Captain	CO	Atlantic Beach, FL
1981-1983	Anderson, John D.	LTjg	Supply	Fair Oaks, CA
1981-1982	Bright, Arley V.	LTjg	Supply	Bremerton, WA
1981-1982	Button, Keith T.	LTjg	Supply	Poulsbo, WA
1/87-687	Allen, Dave L.	LCDR	Helo	Asan, Guam
1987-1991	Brown, Brad	SHSN	S-4 Div	Grandville, MI
1987-1990	Pelton, Nigel P.	SN	2nd Div	Akron, NY
1988-1991	France, Frederick M.	LTjg	---	Groton, CT
1988-1991	Gonzales, Oscar L.	SKC	Supply	American Canyon, CA
1989-2/93	Balderas, Fred G.	BM3	1st Div	San Juan, TX
1990-2/93	Hull, Stevens D.	DP2	S-7 Div	Philadelphia, PA

****HELP***HELP***HELP****

I would like to obtain the 1984, 1985 & 1987 cruise books. If anyone has a cruise book they can loan me, I will make a copy & return it to you. Please contact me if you can help.

The Mars cruise books that have been copied are in 3 ring binders & are taken to each reunion. Extra pictures & information have been added when received & I'm always looking for more.

Information for the years 1973 to 1976 is lacking for the ship's history. These were the years the Mars was homeported in Sasebo, Japan. I need information on events that took place during this time period. Pictures & names of any of the crew will be most helpful. I was able to obtain a crew muster roll for 1973, but the other years (1974-76) are not available from the National Archives at this time.

Everett R. Jones



Statement of Reunion Account

Expenses:

Printing	\$ 28.76
Postage/stamps	\$ 77.24
Mars pictures	\$ 96.11
Mailing tubes	\$ 13.00
Raffle items	\$ 13.90
Account service charge	\$ 6.00

Total Expenses **\$235.01**

.....

Income:

Donations	\$ 70.00
Sale-Ball Caps	\$183.00
Sale of pictures	\$ 53.28
Account interest	\$ 5.58

Total Income **\$311.86**

.....

February 2003 Balance	\$2853.30
June 2003 Balance	\$2930.15



Thank You

**We have received these donations for our
MARS REUNION fund**

James M. Newport	\$20.00
William E. Lada	\$25.00
Thomas J. Dorr	\$25.00

Salutes to America

Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

• Margaret Chase Smith

Of the many things we have done to democracy in the past, the worst has been the indignity of taking it for granted.

• Max Lerner

Statement of Newsletter Account

Expenses:

Postage/stamps	\$352.81
Printing newsletters #13	\$159.20
Envelopes/labels	\$ 48.47
Account service charge	\$ 4.00

Total Expenses **\$564.48**

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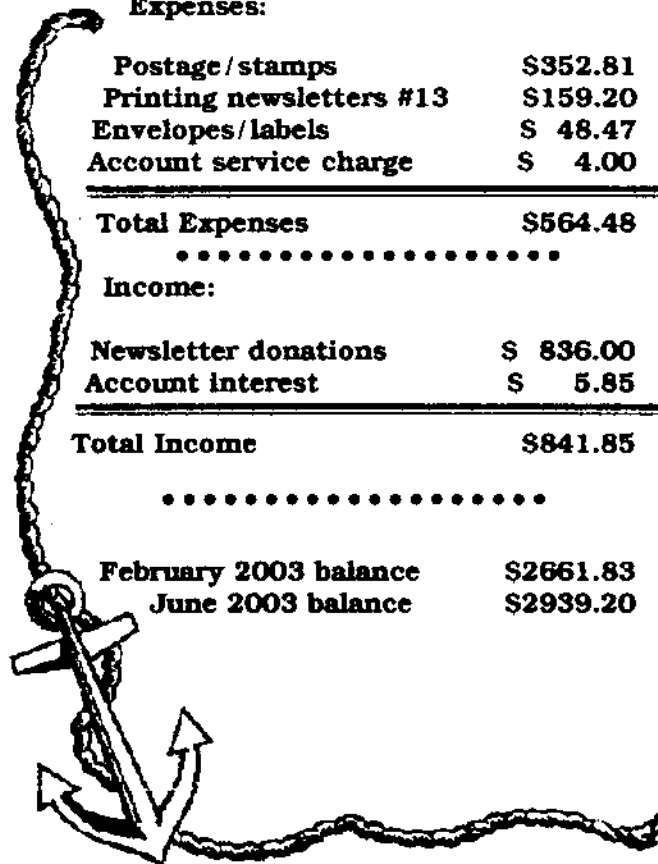
Income:

Newsletter donations	\$ 836.00
Account interest	\$ 5.85

Total Income **\$841.85**

.....

February 2003 balance	\$2661.83
June 2003 balance	\$2939.20



FLEET NEWS

Constellation set for Mothballs

The USS Constellation (CVA-64) will be decommissioned in San Diego on August 7, 2003. She will be taken to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, WA, for preservation.

The Constellation was commissioned at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard in 1961. She launched the first strikes against North Vietnam in August 1964 & made a total of seven combat cruises to WESPAC over the next eight years.

U.S.S. Midway (CVA-41)

The U.S. Navy has now approved turn over of the U.S.S. Midway (CVA-41) as a naval/naval air museum to be towed from Bremerton, WA to Navy Pier in San Diego, sometime in October or November, all depending on the weather along the west coast.

continued on page 10

FLEET NEWS

Recently completing its first deployment, was the Navy's New MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter. The HH-46 Sea Knight helicopter is being phased out of the Navy. Less time will now be spent on maintenance & repairs as eventually all the 46's in the fleet will be replaced.

While the Sea Knight had more room for cargo & passengers, the new capabilities of the MH-60's make up for the loss with more powerful engines & significantly more lift power.

The Knighthawk also has the capabilities to play a more active roll in combat search & rescue operations, which were limited with the minimal armor of the HH-46.

The Knighthawk has built in Global Positioning System navigation & four M-240D



machine gun mounts. The most notable new feature is its glass cockpit. Glass cockpit is a term that refers to any aircraft, whether it be a helicopter or fixed wing, where everything is digitally displayed on what is basically a T.V.

screen. The MH-60's is the only helicopter in the fleet with this fully digital display.

Yemen, Gulf of Aden (Dec. 8, 2002) - Photo above: A U.S. Navy Mh-60S "Knighthawk" helicopter hovers over the deck of the Military Sealift Command auxiliary supply ship USNS San Jose (T-AFS-7) as it prepares to lift palletized cargo to the amphibious warfare ship USS Nassau (LHA-4). The San Jose & the Nassau recently completed a 6 hour, vertical replenishment at sea (VERTREP) during which more than 340 pallets were transferred from ship to ship.

Thank You

Your Support for the Newsletter is Greatly Appreciated

Richard M. Duckett	\$20.00
Frank Rawl	\$25.00
Peter J. Kenny	\$25.00
Steve D. Dengler	\$25.00
Terrance M. Roughton	\$20.00
Frank R. Hart	\$20.00
David L. Allen	\$20.00
Derek Miller	\$25.00
Paul Kienlen	\$40.00
Andrew M. Collaro	\$25.00
Arthur D. Jackson	\$25.00
Edward J. Dvorak	\$38.00
William D. Solomon	\$25.00
Daniel P. Holland	\$25.00
John W. Dalton	\$25.00
Joseph W. Rydzewski	\$13.00
Michael J. Ciaccio	\$25.00
Phillip Bagley	\$10.00
Andrew E. Warner	\$50.00

Lenny Bitetto	\$25.00
Fred J. Geigle	\$25.00
Edward A. Brewton	\$25.00
William Altman	\$50.00
Donald Eaves	\$10.00
Joseph R. Tizol	\$30.00
Raymond P. Gillman	\$25.00
Jim J. Jeffries	\$20.00
Everett R. Jones	\$25.00
Edward J. Foure	\$20.00
Raymond Zuccarelli	\$25.00
Larry J. Martin	\$28.00
Benton Wilkison	\$17.00
Paul W. Schmidt	\$30.00

If you wish to make a donation for the support of our newsletter, please make your check payable to the MARS REUNION.

Ships Store

MAPS BALL CAPS

Lithograph picture of USS Mars

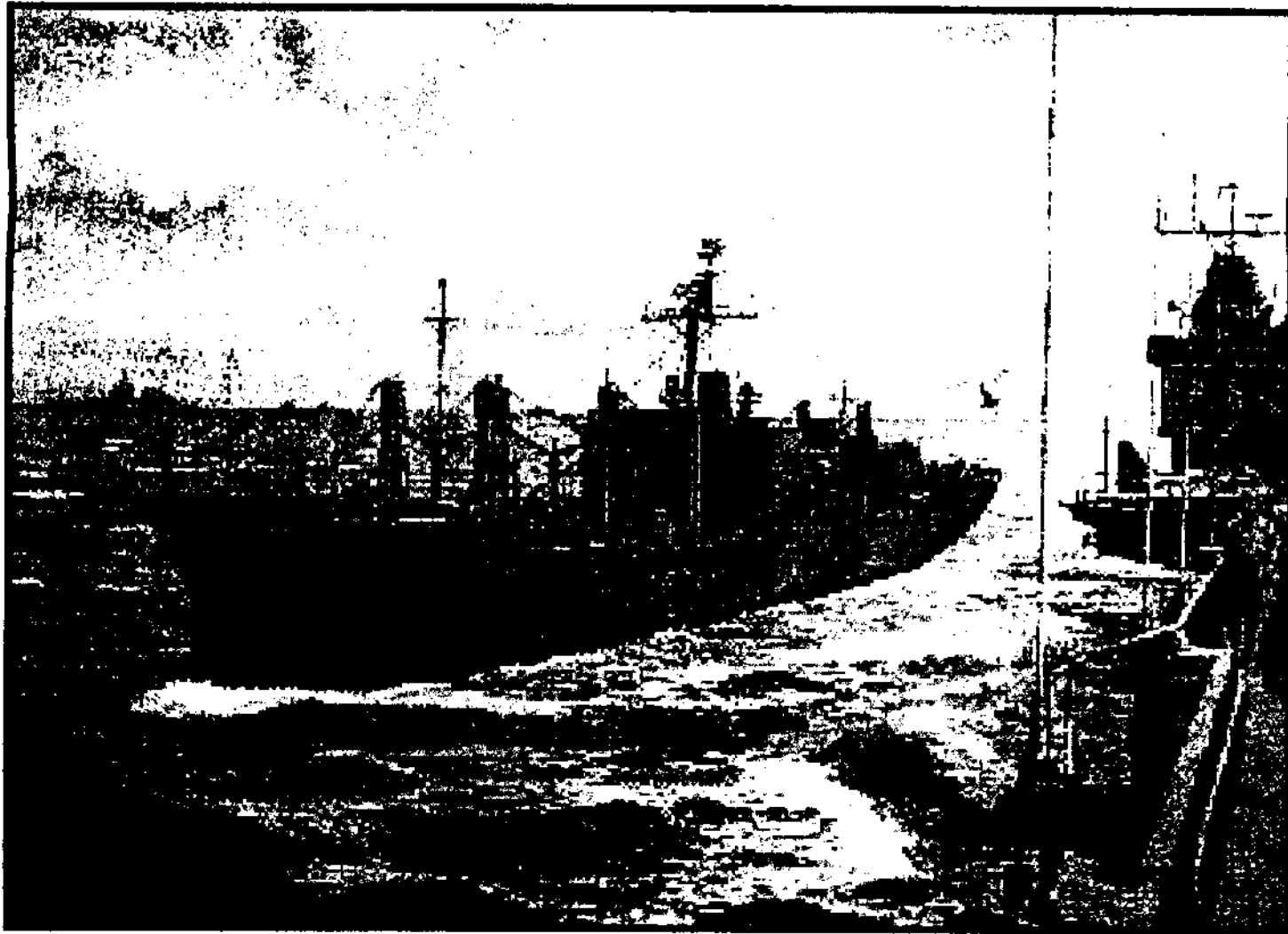
This picture has been reproduced from the picture that Marvin McClure (1963-65) donated. One 18x24 framed picture will be in all future Mars reunion raffles, starting with the October reunion in 2003.

These unframed picture prints are now offered for sale. Prices include U.S. Postage costs.

8 1/2 x 11	\$3.00
11 x 17	\$6.00
18 x 24	\$38.00



Mars ball caps are in stock. The cap is black with goldenrod lettering, and cinder gray ship silhouette. Made in the U.S.A. \$12.00 each. Make checks payable to Mars Reunion.



Make your payment payable to MARS REUNION
& mail to Everett R. Jones, 1947 Gotham St.
Chula Vista, CA 91913



Published Mars Cruise Books
 These are the known Mars cruise books.

1965	PLANKOWNER
1967	A MARTIN DIARY
1969	MARS: ITS MISSION & MEN
1971	WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE
1972	WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE
1979	1978 WESTERN PACIFIC CRUISE
1980	MARSLOG '80
1982	MARSWESTPAC 81-82
1984	
1985	
1987	
1988-89	STILL #1 AFTER 25 YEARS
1990-91	DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM
1992	"THE FINAL VOYAGE"
1993	DECOMMISSIONING

Because of the generosity of a few of our fellow shipmates, I have made copies of all the above books, except the 1984, 1985 & 1987 Cruise books.

Where are they Now?
Mars class AFS

AFS-1	USS MARS
Commissioned	12/21/63
Decommissioned	02/01/93
USNS	02/01/93
Decommissioned	02/19/98
Inactive	Pearl Harbor, HI

AFS-2	USS SYLVANIA
Commissioned	07/11/64
Decommissioned	05/26/94
Sold for scrapping	07/28/01

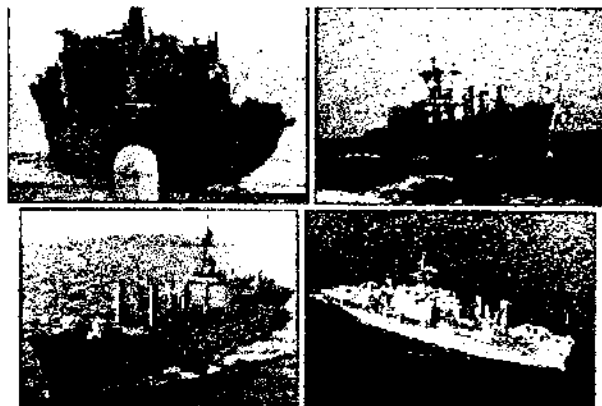
AFS-3	USS NIAGARA FALLS
Commissioned	04/29/67
Decommissioned	09/23/94
USNS	09/23/94
Active	Guam

AFS-4	USS WHITE PLAINS
Commissioned	11/23/68
Decommissioned	08/24/95
Stricken	08/24/95
Disposed of as a naval target.	07/08/02

AFS-5	USS CONCORD
Commissioned	11/27/68
Decommissioned	10/15/92
USNS	10/15/92
Active	Norfolk, VA

AFS-6	USS SAN DIEGO
Commissioned	05/24/69
Decommissioned	08/11/93
USNS	08/11/93
Decommissioned	12/10/97
Inactive	Philadelphia, PA

AFS-7	USS SAN JOSE
Commissioned	10/23/70
Decommissioned	11/02/93
USNS	11/02/93
Active	Guam



The following letter covers the sentiments most of us felt about the negative review of the Commander in Chief's visit, both by Senator Byrd & some of the sorry members of the news media..

Senator Byrd.

As a retired Naval Officer, with two Gulf carrier deployments under my belt, I find your criticism of President Bush's visit to the Lincoln offensive in the extreme!

This is the first time that the Commander-in-Chief took time out of his busy wartime schedule to pay a visit to thank those who served in the line of fire, in a way that was both dramatic & meaningful to those on the carrier. Perhaps if LBJ got off his fat ass to do something similar, our troops' morale in Vietnam might not have been so low.

As a Naval Officer, I am extremely sensitive to styles of leadership. That is, after all, our stock in trade. And it was not lost on me that the President spent about 30 seconds shaking hands with the Admiral, CO & CAG. (If you don't know these abbreviations just look them up in your Funk & Wagners).

He then spent the next 45 minutes putting himself at the disposal of the people who make that ship work, the yellow shirts, the green shirts, the purple shirts, the chiefs, the sailors. If you don't know the significance of those colored shirts, look it up in your Blue Jacket's Manual. Not dressed out in formal uniform (I understand at Bush's request), but in their greasy, smelly, sweaty working uniforms ... working a flight deck is hot, hard work. And yet he, in his flight suit, put himself at their disposal. This was their moment, for 19 or 20 something year-old kids a few years out of high school, to get a picture of themselves with the President of the United States, his arm draped around their shoulder. That is a moment that those kids never dreamed would ever happen to them, maybe not even when they knew he was coming aboard. Surely, he would see the brass, not the troops. But it was the troops to whom he gave his time ... and it was the most natural moment in the world.

You might have thought it was a family reunion, and in a way, it was ... Bush is one of them, the common man, & while he is still the most powerful man on the planet right now, he hasn't lost his touch for them.

Was it a political moment? What moment of a president's life is NOT a political Moment? Was it grand-standing, to come in to an OK pass to a 4 wire, a bit high in close, correcting, left of centerline? Well, hell, he didn't fly the approach anyway, though I understand from the pilots who flew him that he did a pretty good job at formation flying, tucked in close for a lead change. You can always tell a fighter pilot, you just can't tell him very much. And apparently after 30 years, it all comes back, with a little coaching, I am sure. Frankly, I would have liked to see him come aboard in an F/A-18, but the Secret Service vetoed that, and Bush accepted their judgment ... again, a mark of a good leader.

If you had spent some time in the service, instead of the Klan, you might understand the significance of that moment to all the men and women aboard the Lincoln, and indeed to all the men and women in the service who shared that moment vicariously. But you chose the bed-sheet instead of the uniform, and so you don't.

I am half-tempted to move to West Virginia just so I could vote against you in your next election.

Lewis F. McIntyre CDR, USN (Ret)



The Ship's Bell

Recently received information from Fred E. Stith (1963-66), that there is a provision in the FY 2004 defense authorization for the domestic scrapping of all vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that are not assigned to the Ready Reserve Force.

Should our organization make an effort to save the USS MARS bell?

A ship's bell is considered special and should be preserved after the ship is broken up. I'm looking for some ideas and suggestions. We should not wait, if we want to preserve the MARS bell.

E.R.J.