

CREW from MARS

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

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from the editor's desk

My Fellow Shipmates



This month of December 2003 is the 40th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS MARS. Today, the youngest plank owner is 57 years old. Many of the Mars first crew will soon be reaching their retirement years. This newsletter is devoted to the memories & comments from those who commissioned Mars on December 21, 1963.

I always enjoy making new contacts with former crew members. With this newsletter, we welcome back aboard 66 more shipmates. Ten more plank owners have been located, including the first XO. Two more commanding officers have been added to the active mailing list. This newsletter will be mailed to 334 of our shipmates who are on the active mailing list. To date, we have made contact with over 725 of the crew from 1963 to 1993. I have many more leads or information on hundreds more. If you are looking for someone who is not on the mailing list, make contact with me as I may be of some help.

The Newport 2003 Reunion was a success & for those who attended, we made more new friends. This was another joint reunion with the crews from the Sylvania, & once again the crews blended well together. Our Welcome Reception on Friday was a special event, made so by Susan & Dale Ashcraft (1969-71). We had an enjoyable dinner cruise on the Ohio River & many said they were looking forward to the Seattle 2004 Reunion. Plans are being made by Ron Henning

(1967-70) for this event. See reunion information on page 10.

Two more Mars cruise books have been located & copied. A special thanks to Chuck Scanlon (1986-87) & Mark O'Fall (1984-86) for the use of their books. I am still looking for a copy of the 1984 cruise book. I also received more pictures from the early years on Mars & these have been copied & added to the ships history books which now total 15 books in 3-ring binders. All of these books, including the pictures from past reunions will be in Seattle. I thank those who have sent me pictures to be included in our history books.

I had to print more copies of the back issues of the Mars newsletters, which are mailed to those who choose to join our active mailing list. This is a large once a year expense that is recovered as new crew members come back aboard with a donation of support for the newsletters cost. Your continued support insures that David Reed & I will be publishing the newsletter in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2007. Thank You.

The Seattle reunion is set for September 9-12, 2004. We have had opposition to a reunion in Branson, MO, because of the transportation problems if you do not have a car. I am now looking at the offer to hold a joint reunion with the USS Sylvania & USS White Plains crews for 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Your in-put is needed.

I appreciate all those who have inquired about the recent fires in San Diego. A lot of damage & destruction to many homes. We are fine in Chula Vista. Wishing all the crews & your families a safe & joyful holiday season.



PLANKOWNERS COMMENTS & MEMORIES:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a few comments from a plankowner's perspective. Being a plankowner on Mars was a great honor and responsibility, especially for a first in class ship. I truly believe that our officers and crew were "special". I know that working for Chuck Gardner and Ed Morris was a unique and wonderful opportunity for me. What particularly impressed me was the quality of the men I had working with me. In my 20years active service, I never had a better division overall than the S-1 on Mars. The SKs and MAs were highly professional but also knew how to unwind and enjoy themselves.

Every evolution and operation we did was a first time experience for an AFS. I'll bet no other S-1 ever had a storekeeper that could receive flashing light orders from ships alongside and initiate action to fill the orders before getting the hard copy from Communications.

Anyone heard from Chief Arthur Sloan or MA1 Winford D. Biddle?

LT Steve Grossman, S-1 Division 1963-65

Hi Fellow Men from Mars,

I was twenty years old when I became a plank-owner & crew member of the USS Mars AFS-1. I went to store-keeper school in San Diego and met a lot of nice guys there and some of those classmates became my fellow shipmates. I can remember when I bought my first camera from the ships store. It was a Petri single lens reflex camera. I learned to use it by going around the ship taking several pictures. I have good memories of my time aboard the Mars and I did my job to the best of my ability. I put a lot of hard work into the operation of the S-1 Division. There were times when each work day blended into the next, with no time for me and no place to exercise. While looking through an old trunk, I found some slide pictures from my days aboard the Mars along with some pictures from Hong Kong. Gee, I guess these pictures are almost forty years old.

I wish all of you well and that you have a healthy and prosperous life.

SK3 Arthur W. Sweetland, S-1 Division 1963-65

Greetings to all Men from "MARS".

As a Pre-Commissioning Plank Owner, I remember all the checking of the equipment, what a job!!! Before Sea Trials we got word of President Kennedy being killed in Texas. Most of us were working on job orders in the ship yard and it was a very sad day for all.

All hands put in lots of hours to make sure Mars would be the best replenishment ship in the Pacific Fleet. She was the first ship to be built with the "FAST" replenishment rigs which I helped develop on the USS VEGA.

After shake down, we loaded up for overseas, home port was Yokosuka, Japan where Mars was known as Ichi-Ban Maru. We worked hard and when we got the chance, played hard, it was always load, load, load, to keep the Fleet replenished. Speaking of play, some of us climbed Mount Fuji to take a Mars plaque to the very top station where I hope it still resides.

One of the most memorable jobs was the salvage of the USS FRANK KNOX off the coast of China. Lots of supplies were furnished by Mars to all the ships involved. We escorted the tow of Knox to Formosa where she was repaired with a new bottom.

One thing the crew loved was when the Russian Spy ships tried tailing us, the Captain would play Midnight in Moscow over the top side speakers and we would give the Russians the FINGER.

It was great to have served on board such a



glad to be a "Man From MARS". Fair Winds

fine ship with such a great dedicated crew. I am and Following Seas, shipmates.

BMCM George E. Johnson USN Ret. (1963-66)

I'm a Mars Plankowner and damn proud of it!

That was the beginning of the letter I sent to Everett Jones after I had seen the MARS reunion notice in Naval Affairs.

Since then I have attended the reunions in Covington and Norfolk, and am looking forward to the Newport next month. I also have kept in touch with many Martians, including fellow Plankowners, and have submitted many entries to the Mars website.

Since Everett issued the call for Plankowners to send their memories for the newsletter to celebrate our 40th birthday, I have gone over the many memories I have of the 3 years, 10 months and 28 days I was on board.

There are quite a few: KNOX on the Rocks, Hong Kong, Singapore, and other places we spent that rare down time in, the long hours, the incident regarding a missing officer's hat from outside the wardroom (that brought to mind the missing strawberries incident in "The Caine Mutiny"), becoming a Shellback, and my personal favorite, the placing of a MARS plaque on top of Mt. Fuli.

But the most dramatic memory was the assassination of President Kennedy during PreCom. [Perhaps it is ironic that when I retired in 1977, it was off the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67).]

I have written about most of these events, so going over them would be redundant. Besides that, I have no doubt that my fellow Plankowners probably recall them, and many more, vividly.

I do know one thing. At the reunions I have attended, Martians from '63 through '93 have expressed the same sentiment: MARS was the best duty station they served on. I agree completely.

Someday MARS may be a rusting hulk, or a beer can or razor blade, but I will be part of her. By the same token, someday I may be in a rest home not knowing my butt from a hole in the ground, but MARS will always be part of me.

"Squirrley" Frank R. Hart SK1 USN (ret) (1963-67)

I want to thank you for the opportunity to share some 40 year old memories. My assignment to the Mars was an unusual second consecutive tour afloat for a supply officer. My first tour was aboard the USS Los Angeles (CA-135). I had reported aboard the LA in June of '62 and was aboard for it's last WestPac cruise and then served on the decommissioning crew from July '63 until October '63 when I received orders to the Mars pre-commissioning crew.

I got married in August '63 still not knowing what my next assignment would be and we settled in Long Beach. The apartment was beautifully decorated: dark red walls, dark green curtains, purple couch and chair with a wide expanded metal gold band around each.

Upon reporting to the Mars pre-com team in October '63 we moved to San Diego. The Mars was at the National Steel Shipbuilding yards and we worked in some offices there.

As the Mars primary mission was replenishment (supply) it had a total of 8 supply officers assigned. I was assigned to be in charge of the crews messing facilities and the ship's store operations (store, laundry, barber shop, gee-dunk machines, etc.). So my responsibilities were more directed toward the welfare and morale of our crew rather than the replenishment mission.

I believe that one of my first tasks was to write those beloved notices and instructions for the operation of these two important crew morale areas aboard ship.

In November, I was sent TAD to crypto school (most junior supply officers get this duty). It was during that school that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, TX. I guess that everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing on that historic and sad day. Crypto school was suspended and I never did complete the course. That was OK with me.



PLANKOWNERS COMMENTS & MEMORIES (continued)

As everyone knows, the Mars was commissioned on 21 December, 1963, and the "watch" was set. The Mars promptly steamed to San Pedro/Long Beach where it remained most of the time. Nothing happened until after the first of the year ('64) but my section had the "good fortune" of having duty on Christmas Day and New Years Day. My bride drove up from San Diego (the first of many such trips) to be with me on Christmas.

I cannot remember the date that we served our first meals from the galley or opened the store, but I expect that it was before we left San Diego after the commissioning. I was fortunate to have an outstanding chief for each of the divisions. They took good care of me and the galley and store. We received compliments from crew on the good food being served. All the OOD's wanted to come and sample the meals. The ship's store was a popular place, especially at sea when we could break out the "sea stores" (tax free) cigarettes.

We had a "shake-down" cruise to Acapulco, Mexico, and I was assigned to shore patrol for the entire stay. Tough duty, but someone has to do it. :-) On that cruise, we were close to the equator. I remember talk of possibly crossing that magical line so the shellbacks could initiate us pollywogs. However, the skipper was a pollywog and made the decision not to cross. So alas, I will always be a pollywog.

When the "sea trials" team came aboard, staterooms were needed. So I was granted a few days leave. My wife and I (now expecting our first child) enjoyed a brief visit to Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

Earlier we were anchored near Pt. Loma, in San Diego harbor, as the Mars was being "degaussed." What fun it is to wrap huge cables completely around such a big ship and run electricity through them to demagnetize it. I again had duty on this occasion and received word that my wife was very ill. Fellow supply officer, Tex Western, took my place so I could go ashore. When I arrived at our apartment, the doctor was there (they made house calls in those days) and informed me that I would become a "daddy" in about 8 months.

Because of the high number (8) of supply officers on board, we junior officers were immediately qualified as OOD in port. :-) I remember that I had the evening watch one night when a lot of brass came aboard for some function. The bos'n was very busy "dinging" all of them aboard.

Sometime in June, '64, we steamed up to Oakland to take on our load of provisions, spare parts, ships store stock, etc. I remained on board until early July when I received orders to report to NAAS Chase Field, Beeville, TX. As I recall, I was the first officer to receive orders to another duty station. Commissioning a ship right after decommissioning another ship is a very unique experience that I was fortunate to have. Though my time on board was short (7 months or so) I thoroughly enjoyed my time on board and am very proud to be a plankowner.

After a year in Texas, I left active duty. I remained in the Reserves for another 22 years and retired as a Commander and I am enjoying the benefits of being retired military.

An interesting sidelight that many may not know—The Navy Supply Corps School is here in Athens, Georgia, where I now reside. The University of Georgia is also located here. In days gone by, many parties were hosted by the coeds and the bachelor ensigns were invited. I met my wife at such a party on 15 March, '62. There were two other marriages from that same party that I know of. My wife and I celebrated our 40th anniversary on 10 August, '03.

There were many other similar marriages due to this unique arrangement. Of the 8 plankowner supply officers aboard the Mars, 6 of them were married and 3 of those 6 were married to girls from Athens. The three were LT Andy Burton, ENS Ernie Breeding, and me. The current commanding officer of NSCS, Athens, is also married to a girl from Athens. Thus, Athens is known as "the mother-in-law" of the Supply Corps.



M.R. (Mike) Bachler EDD CDR, SC, USNR (Ret)

As for my memories of the Mars, there are many and just picking a few is a real job, but here goes.

Like many others I am sure, my saddest memory is of the day Kennedy was shot. I remember being in ABC warfare training class when the word was received, it got oh so quite in that room and a seaman behind me started sobbing. I remember going out on the base and later into San Diego and every where it was as if time had stopped, no traffic, no noise and people looking like the end of the world had come. How could something like this happen in our time and age?

On to happier memories, I remember how proud I felt standing at attention during the commissioning ceremony. Being a part of the first crew of the first class of new ships. I remember how shocked I was when I saw my girlfriend and her friend sitting in the audience, after she had said she couldn't make it.

Who can forget our shakedown cruise. No steering, going in circles. But we did make it to sunny Acapulco. Boy, was that an experience (Acapulco, not going in circles). Being in A gang we had our work cutout for us in after steering getting the Mars home.

Leaving San Diego for WestPac and a new home port, arriving in Pearl Harbor ("The Martians" have landed, arriving in Yokosuka. Our first replenishment in the Far East. Making waves to get Knox's off of that reef.

I could go on and on but have to stop now to leave room for my other shipmates to leave their memories. I'm sure squrrily will have many.

Keep the newsletter going, I look forward to it.

Charles (Chuck) Jones MM2 (1963-65) A-Gang

Duty aboard the Mars was very interesting and rewarding, we never had a dull moment. It was an adventure. I can recall many events worth writing about but I will comment on what stands out the most in my mind. I remember "Condition Green", the "Boxkickers", Storekeepers and sailors from all departments of the ship, moving the cargo, making it all happen during underway replenishment. All performing a never-ending job and always it was "a job well-done".

Once in a while, I visit the Fallon Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nevada. I usually wear my USS Mars baseball cap. Sometimes an old "Airdale" sailor will come up to me and tell me what aircraft-carrier he served on and how he remembers the Mars coming alongside. They always ask just how was the duty on the Mars and I always say, it was the best and for a few moments I walk a little taller.

Receiving the Mars Newsletter in the mail always makes my day. You do such a great job.

Happy Holidays to All.

SKC John W. Laird (1963-67) Supply

I graduated from EM"A" school at USNTC San Diego in early September 1963. Some of us did not receive any orders (?). We were in a sort of limbo. Sent to one mundane and seemingly meaningless school after another. Then finally news of our orders. We were going to Pre-Com school. OH! NO! Not another school!

During firefighting school the instructors shut the fires down and pulled us all out and sat us in the bleachers. We were cold, wet and oily from the smoke. Then the instructor told us of President Kennedy's death in Dallas, Texas. I will always remember where I was and what I was doing when the President was killed.

I was very impressed with the USS Mars. All of it, especially the berthing and messing areas. After a tour on a WWII era Sea Plane tender, the Mars was like a five star hotel in comparison. I went from four high canvas bottom bunks to almost private bunks and lockers of the Mars. No more pea coat lockers.

The last plankowner to depart Mars.



EM2 Dennis D. Oliver (1963-68)

I reported to the MARS Pre-commissioning Detail in San Diego in October 1963. I had been selected for promotion to lieutenant commander. Captain Medley did the honors and remarked, "Now you are in the real money." As I would be the ship's chaplain, he asked me, "What is your church?" I replied, "Assemblies of God." He said, "That's very interesting. I've known some people in that church." That's all he said. He left it to me to discover that his dad had been an Assemblies of God preacher all the captain's life, and his brother-in-law was an official of the Southern California District of the denomination. At the ship's commissioning, I felt right at home with his parents and other relatives and friends.

Since I had five children, when it was decided that MARS would have its home port in Japan, the Chief of Chaplain's office informed me that I would be transferred early, as my family was too large to send to Japan. However, they changed their minds, and my family was in Japan before I got there. Tex Western found us a big rat infested house in Hayama, but we soon found a better house on the campus of Kanto Gakuin University until we could move on base. Our brand new Dodge station wagon made the trip aboard MARS.

Of course, before sailing to Japan, I enjoyed those days of preparation, including the shakedown cruise to Acapulco. In Acapulco, we entertained orphans on board and distributed Operation Handclasp dolls and other goodies to both Protestant and Catholic orphanages.. I was the guinea pig for the first transfer by high line, between MARS and SYLVANIA off the coast of California near Marineland. My wife and I had been at the launching of sister ship SYLVANIA.

I was on MARS until June of 1966, making many trips between Yokosuka, Japan, and Alangapo, Philippines, replenishing ships all along the coast of Vietnam, also the destroyers between Taiwan and China. Ports of call remembered, in addition to Yokosuka and Alangapo, are Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Hong Kong; and Sasebo, Japan. When I left MARS, I was given orders for a year of study at Harvard University. Would you believe that a year later, my big family, our household goods, and our Dodge station wagon were on the PRESIDENT CLEVELAND on our way back to Japan for shore duty in Yokosuka?

In 1980, fourteen years after leaving MARS, I was detached from the USS EISENHOWER in the Indian Ocean and sent by helicopter to MARS, which was also in the Indian Ocean. MARS was to transfer me by helicopter to Masirah, Oman, for a flight to the Philippines by way of Diego Garcia and from the Philippines to the states. The flight was delayed for several days, and I was stranded on MARS. The captain graciously let me use his sea cabin and eat my meals with him. The ship was no longer assigned a chaplain, so I gave evening prayers as I had done fourteen years earlier. My name was still on a wall plaque listing plank owners. It was a little weird to be back, a lot of ghosts around.

LCDR Marvin Snyder (1963-66) Chaplain

After serving 1 year at Adak, Alaska, the assignment to the pre-com detail of the USS Mars AFS-1, was a welcome change of duty.

Although the task of commissioning a ship was a lot of hard work, researching and a lot of overtime, it was a pleasure to have served on board.

My status now – RETIREMENT.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the plankowners and all that served on the USS MARS.

Clarence Eugene Cline YN2 (1963-65)

I was very proud to be a plankowner of the Mars. Reported aboard in October '63, for school at National Steel in San Diego, CA. Had the pleasure to meet a bunch of good buddies while on board. Just a few of them, Joe Dale, Tony Dale, Keith Ellis, LT Hall, LTjg Singer, Chief Johnson, Chief Wesatzke, Floyd Watkins, Roy Wright, and Marvin Maria.

I left the Mars in 1966 and went to the USS Castor. After the Castor, I went to Vietnam as a patrol officer on the PBR's for 18 months. Had orders to the USS Hector, but it was headed for Vietnam, so I had my orders changed to a tanker, the biggest mistake of my career. Prior to retiring, I went to Denver, CO for recruiting duty and was put on a one man station. After 22 years in the Navy, I retired and moved back to Texas. After 20 more years, I retired a company called Moore Business Forms.

I became a diabetic in 1997, and had open

heart surgery in 2003. I'm doing fine now.



Sam J. San Angelo BM2 (1963-66)

PLANKOWNERS COMMENTS & MEMORIES (continued)

Memories are hard to define, or in my case, to remember. The two memories that stick out in my mind are J.F.K.'s assassination and our athletic crew members. We were very fortunate to have many talented sailors involved in sports. In the early days, our basketball team brought home three trophies.

Some of the highlights of our team, which I volunteered to coach, are: Richard Collins scoring the USS Mars' first points in our first game, which was played in 1963 at the YMCA in San Diego; seeing the game between the U.S. Olympic Team and the Sub-base in Hawaii in 1964; Alan Lester and Ernest Bigelow's leadership and hustle; Allen Myles' rebounds and Gary Tolson's scoring punch in several games.

We had several officers contributing to the team: Ensigns Paul Erickson, R. J. Buss, R.C. Sewell and J.M. Mason who became the scoring leader. Ensign George Munger was the tallest teammate at 6'6". Our team had our "Twin Towers" before pro-basketball coined the term. Therman Lane and Demetrious Stubbs were scrappers. J. C. Briscoe was a late arrival and all-around player becoming our big man in the center.

Our players came from almost every division on board and included: Joseph Moreau, Eugene Davis, John Casabianca, Millard George, Dwight Kauffman, Reuben Fleming, Gilbert Mayon, Carnell Butler, John Raykowski, Steven Clarke, S. Farquahar, R. Cox, A. Hood, C. Parker and E. Needham.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our two Captains: Russ Medley and George Watkins, who gave us their support. A special thanks to William Kirkland, our Athletic Officer, who helped put the tournaments together.

Thanks shipmates. It was great serving with you. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Seattle in 2004.

SK2 Gary Travis (1963-66)

As a plank owner on my first and last ship during 15 years in the Navy, I have many wonderful memories.

One of my jobs was port lookout up above the bridge. A birds-eye view of many strange but interesting ports of call. Sailing under the golden gate was a gas, it seems like a close fit, but we had plenty of room to spare. Dragging a canoe along-side while leaving Acapulco, was something to remember. I think I called it in? In the South China Sea, I was at the rail and saw a sea snake, no one was on deck, so I ran to our machine room to tell the guys, Sirman, Duckett, Biddle, Hatfield or Ardnt, perhaps McFarren. A few came with me to see the snake, of course it was gone.

After that it was "Al" if you see a zebra backstroking on an elephant dog paddling, give us a shout! I spent a long time at the rail after that looking for snakes to make sure I wasn't nuts! Finally I and other shipmates saw other snakes and the razzing stopped. Hitting golf balls off the flight deck and watching the sun come up or go down at sea is something everyone should experience.

My grandkids in Fargo can count to 10 in Japanese and I sometimes answer the telephone with a "Mushy-Mushy", always good for a laugh!

Life has been good to me with two healthy kids one was made in Japan, and two super grandkids. I'm retired and playing golf as often as possible in Fargo, N.D.

Any shipmate passing though, stop and give me a call, our coffee pot is always on.
Joanne and I hope to see you again in Seattle 2004 Reunion.

Your shipmate, Alan Lester (1963-65) DP1 Retired



Thank you for the opportunity to add my two cents worth. Here are some of my remembrances.

Here is saluting and recognizing the people I've worked with and remember the most: the Electronics Technicians, the Radiomen, the CIC people, and the people on bridge watch. Thank you.

Times change and so do we, but memories live on. We forget the unpleasant, but remember and embellish the good. Here are some sea stories of the good times:

Painting.

The ship's Boatswain, Al Singer, was annoyed at the spotty painting on the ship by National Steel. He said the thinly painted areas were not "holidays", they were "30 day leaves."

CIC Joke.

The ETs had made a box, about the size of a video tape, put blinking lights in it, labeled with a military designation "AN/BLQ-9", and placed it on top of a radar console in CIC. When a visitor/victim was in CIC, he was shown the AN/BLQ-9 and asked to count the "Russian radar emissions" displayed. Now, my granddaughter has blinking lights on her sneakers.

The Shave.

Richard Johnson, ET3 bought a very fine sharpening stone. He sharpened a small knife to a fine edge. He would be in the chow line and strike up an conversation with a friend as to whose knife was the sharpest. He would ask the friend to shave his arm. Since the average working knife is not sharpened to a fine edge, nothing happened. Richard would then take one swipe and shave the victim's arm removing all hair in the blade's way.

The Coffee Cup.

Chief Kitt had set up a peg board for stowing coffee cups. Visitors would be offered somebody's coffee cup. Hayes decided his coffee cup would not be used by visitors and painted "TRENCHMOUTH" on his cup. We knew he didn't have trenchmouth, but try to tell that to a visitor.

The Coke Carrier.

The radar power tube required a powerful magnet. When the ETs wanted cokes, the junior man would be sent to the ship's store with the magnet to carry the coke cans. That would not work today, as coke cans are made out of aluminum.

Ltjg Keith Barnes (1963-65) Ops Dept.

A short note to wish all the old plankowners a very happy 40th. Hard to realize how long ago that was. We did have a real good crew on Mars. Captain Medley was one of the best commanding officers I have had the pleasure of serving under. He gave me a personal letter of appreciation on my departure from Mars.

I spend my time playing golf with a trip to the doctor now and then to cure the old age pains.

Hope this finds all the plankowners well.

Joe Dale PC1 (1963-64)

I'm not sure how you found me, but since you did, this is some of what I remember. The fun we had living on the barges tied up across the pier while Mars was out fitting, I think they were old LSD's, as the plumbing system left a lot to be desired.

Then the early sea trials and the hydraulics failing, one unit and then the other one, as we never knew what was going to fail next. They never did seem to find the problem. They disassembled and rebuilt the units, and the problems seemed to go away.

She was a good ship. After I left her, I saw one of her helo's and LT Hall at sea when transferring to the AOE-1 on the way state side.



James Wagoner SN (1963-64)

PLANKOWNERS COMMENTS & MEMORIES: (continued)

I arrived on the USS Mars after aviation school in Jacksonville, FL. I remember going to this old ship in San Diego before the Mars was able to take the crew, what a mess that was. I think it was for a week or so. When I got on the Mars I was assigned to 2nd Div., but since I was an airdale, I was assigned to the helo deck. My duties were to keep the helo deck clean at all times. When the helo's would arrive I would be assigned to them. I would keep all the records for the helo's in order. My office was on top of the helo deck. Later on when we arrived in Japan, I would fly to Atsugi with the squadron, until the ship would leave again.

I have a lot of good memories of the Mars. We would all gather in the hanger deck & cook onion rings & sing with the Prejudice Four, (Mars crew members) they were good singers. I have their tape which was recorded on the helo deck.

I was on the Mars from 1963 until 1966. Then I went to the USS Kitty Hawk. It was sure different going from a small ship where you knew everyone to a large ship where you knew very few.

I am looking forward to the Seattle 2004 Reunion, I can't wait. Hoping all my shipmates have a wonderful holiday.

Frank R. Kladnick ANAZ (1963-66)

Ships Store

Mars Lithograph reprints:

These make very nice framed pictures. One framed 18 x 24 picture will be in the raffle at each reunion. Unfortunately, the cost for the 18 x 24 inch copy has increased. Unframed prints are available:

8 1/2 x 11	\$3.00
11 x 17	\$6.00
18 x 24	\$45.00

Mars Ball Caps:

The cap is black with yellow lettering & cinder gray ship silhouette. Made in the U.S.A. \$12.00

**Make your check payable to:
MARS REUNION**

Mail to:

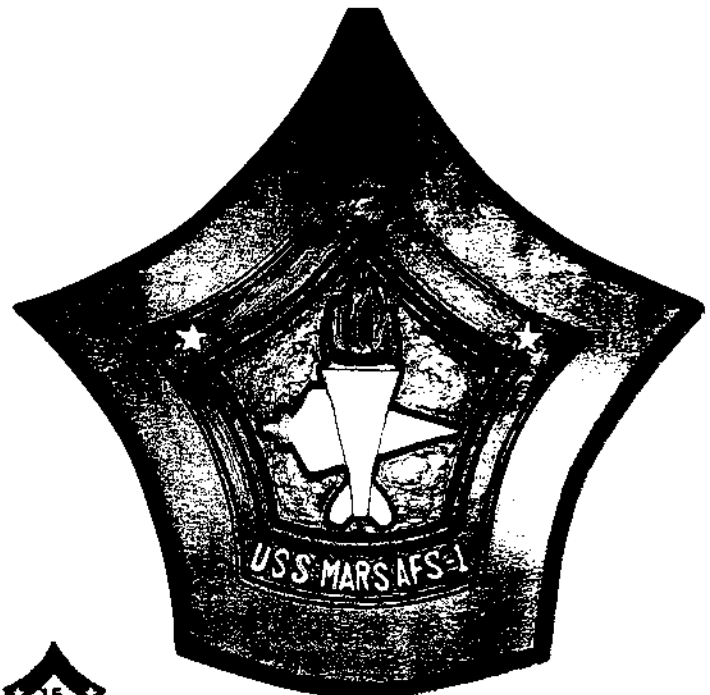
Everett R. Jones
1947 Gotham St.
Chula Vista, CA 91913

• Due to the limits on space in this newsletter, we are unable to put pictures or graphics of most of the ships store items in this issue. Note: The cost on the reprints between the standard size papers & the oversized 18 x 24 has to do with volume or lack of & larger printing equipment, more ink, etc.

Mars plaque:

These reproduction plaques are hand made by Ray Gillman (1968-70). The wood backing (frame) has been reduced in size from the original that was made in the Phillipines, due to the cost factor. Two of these plaques will be ordered for the raffle at each reunion.

Cost & postage per plaque \$50.00



MARS REUNIONS

Reunion 2003 Newport, KY

Susan Ashcraft was our hostess for this event & made the Friday's Welcome Reception very special by preparing & providing the food. Much more than was expected, as we were able to have dinner in our hospitality room at the hotel for over 100 people. Everyone enjoyed. THANK YOU.

The Saturday buffet dinner cruise on the Ohio River was well attended. Everyone made it on board, with the last couple just making it as the last line was cast off.

We had so many donated items for the raffle that we decided to hold a raffle each evening. Great support from the Mars & Sylvania crews for recovering our reunion costs.

Thank you for your donations:

Dale & Susan Ashcraft
 Ray Gillman (two Mars plaques)
 Frank Hart (took all the pictures)
 Everett Jones
 Bill & Eleanor Lada
 Dutch Mueller (over 30 ball caps)
 Tom Nutt
 Lew & Nan Mabie
 MARS REUNION fund & anyone that I missed.
 Your support was outstanding

Eleven plank owners attended this reunion. Seven crew members attended their first MARS REUNION. Four have attended all reunions since 1997.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the nineteen spouses & guests who attended our reunion & made this one to remember.

*We thank you all
 for your support!*

REUNION 2004 Seattle, WA September 9-12

REUNION 2005 Jacksonville, FL October

REUNION 2006 San Antonio, TX

Attended Reunion 2003

#01	Richard Arndt	+1963-65
#02	Dale Ashcraft	@1969-71
#03	David Bonar	1963-66
#04	Harold Chase	1968-73
#05	Don Donovan	1968-70
#06	Thomas Dorr	+1969-70
#07	George Dountz	+1963-67
#08	Richard Duckett	+1963-65
#09	Russ Gribble	+1970-72
#10	Steve Grossman	1963-65
#11	Frank Hart	1963-67
#12	Everett Jones	@1965-68
#13	Joe Kay	1968-70
#14	Bill Lada	@1965-67
#15	Larry Martin	1968-70
#16	Jim Miller	1972-74
#17	John Milliken	1968-69
#18	Mike Morgan	+1969-72
#19	Dutch Mueller	1968-69
#20	Tom Nutt	1969-71
#21	Dennis Oliver	1963-68
#22	Frank Rawl	@1965-67
#23	Joe Rydzewski	1963-67
#24	William Solomon	1963-66
#25	Gary Travis	1963-66
#26	William Walters	1976-77
#27	Don Welch	1966-68
#28	Benton Wilkison	+1963-65
#29	Ray Zuccarelli	1969-71

+ Attended first MARS REUNION.
 @ Attended all reunion since 1997.

REUNION 2004 SEATTLE, WA

September 9-12, 2004 Holiday Inn Hotel

The reunion hotel is next to the Seattle (SeaTac) Airport. Room rates are \$89.00 + tax.

Thursday: (if enough interest will schedule a tour.)

Friday: Harbor cruise & lunch. An ALL HANDS Welcome Reception at the Reunion Hotel. (4PM - 11PM)

Saturday: Free time.
 Banquet dinner at the Reunion Hotel.

Sunday: Hospitality Room will close at noon.



Cincinnati / Newport

October 17 - 19

REUNION 2003

the crew from Mars



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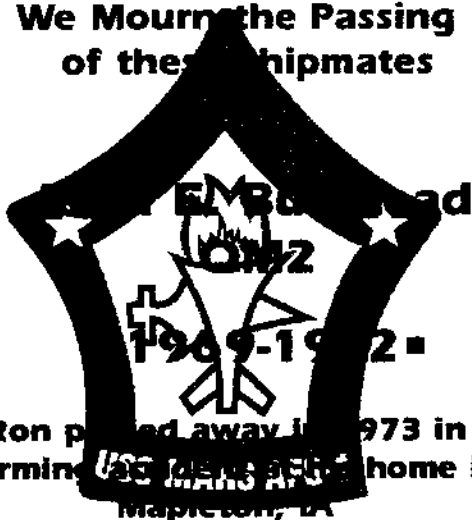
14

1963
PLANKOWNERS





We Mourn the Passing
of these shipmates



Ron passed away in 1973 in a
farming home in
Mapleton, IA

Fred Caudell
SKSN

■ 1963-1966 ■

Was diagnosed with leukemia & passed
away in 1967 at the age of 20.

Richard Donnelly
HMC

■ 1980-1985 ■

Richard passed away in his sleep on
September 30, 2003 from a heart attack.

Carl L. Free
MMCM

■ 1974-1976 ■

Recently learned that Carl passed away
from a heart attack in 1977 or 1978.

Planning to attend the Seattle
Reunion? Contact Everett R. Jones
for the registration form at phone 619 •
421 • 3721 or E-mail: oneerj@pacbell.net

Henry A. Hammonds
AMH2

■ 1972 ■

Henry passed away from cancer on
June 11, 2003

Edward M. Morris
CDR (SC)

Plank owner

■ 1963-1965 ■

Donald A. Silliven
SHSN

1967-1969

Donald passed away in 2002

Neil H. Woodward
LT

1968-1971

Neil passed away very peacefully on
November 9, 2003, after a long battle
with ALS (Lou Gehrig Disease)

From the
Graphic Desk



Only have space to note the page
numbering format change - In this issue
you will see the page number preceded
by the issue number. Next issue will
be 16 to be issued in May 2004.



Statement of Reunion Account

Expenses:

Printing/pictures	\$ 121.49
Postage/stamps	\$ 45.45
Reunion 2003 raffle	\$144.01
Reunion 2004 raffle	\$ 135.15

Total Expenses \$446.10

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Income:

Donations	\$112.00
Sale-Ball Caps/Pictures	\$336.00
Reunion 2003	\$261.00

Total Income \$709.00

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June 2003 Balance	\$2930.15
November 2003 Balance	\$3193.05

Statement of Newsletter Account

Expenses:

Postage/stamps	\$339.74
Printing newsletters #14	\$227.49
Envelopes	\$ 43.08
Printing N/L back issues	\$367.00

Total Expenses \$977.31

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Income:

Newsletter donations	\$788.00
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Total Income \$788.00

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June 2003 balance	\$2939.20
November 2003 balance	\$2749.89

Thank You

Your Support for the Newsletter is Greatly Appreciated

Carl G. Trotter	\$ 8.00
Gary Forthofer	\$40.00
Henry M. Fletcher	\$20.00
Ronald L. Rosser	\$20.00
Steve Grossman	\$25.00
Thomas E. Hargus	\$30.00
David W. Thomas	\$25.00
Arley V. Bright	\$25.00
Ward E. Winne	\$20.00
Edward F. Trautner	\$25.00
Willard D. Baker	\$30.00
John H. Coburn	\$25.00
R. Dean Felton	\$20.00
Andrew T. Waechter	\$20.00
Alan L. Lester	\$15.00
Gary R. Swensson	\$50.00
Arturo B. Javier	\$25.00
Nolan H. Brooks	\$10.00
Fred Bryner	\$15.00
Bill Hollister	\$25.00
Kenneth J. Seaman	\$10.00

Frank Kladnick	\$20.00
Frank N. Zupan	\$20.00
Neil Woodward	\$25.00
Isaac R. Lopez	\$20.00
Russell J. Teague	\$25.00
Ernst D. Mueller	\$50.00
Frank L. Wollard	\$30.00
David J. Pollack	\$25.00
Gregory L. Zelinka	\$10.00
Michelle E. Lucero	\$20.00
Leo M. Pivonka	\$25.00
Earl F. Johnson	\$25.00
Sam J. San Angelo	\$10.00

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

the Ships Crew



A Special Welcome!

1963-9/66	Girard, Gerald T.	FA	A Div.	Mossyrock, WA
1963-1966	Gire, Leroy D.	AKAN	S-2 Div.	Cheyenne, WY
1963-10/66	Imholt, Stephen J.	BM3	2 nd Div.	Chirnacum, WA
9/63-9/65	Ramsey, Russell A.	RM3	OC Div.	Nederland, TX
1963-10/66	Romero, Sidney D.	RM2	OC Div.	Newalla, OK
1963-1964	Wagoner, James V.	SN	---	Burlington, IA
1963-1965	Weisenburger, Philip J.	LTjg	Gun/Off	Greenback, WA
1963-9/65	Wellsman, Howard C.	CDR	XO	Plano, TX
10/63-6/66	Teague, Russell J.	MM2	A Div.	Murfreesboro, TN
11/63-9/66	Bridgeford, Richard M.	CS3	S-3 Div.	Kansas City, KS
11/65-3/67	Coates, Donald B.	SK2	Supply	Washington, DC
9/66-5/67	Stobie, Thomas J.	QM3	N Div.	Browns Lake, MI
10/66-10/69	McGuire, Patrick S.	SK2	S-2 Div.	Las Vegas, NV
1966-1968	Dray, Dennis B.	AE2	Helo	Tucson, AZ
1966-1967	Drew, Stephen J.	SN	---	Chicago, IL
1966-1968	Emery, Lyman N.	PCSN	X Div.	Alburnett, IA
1/67-2/69	Folsom, Gary K.	AN	---	Rockledge, FL
8/67-1970	Higby, David L.	RM3	OC Div.	Erie, PA
9/67-8/69	Bryner, Frederick, W.	QM2	N Div.	Smyrna, DE
12/67-1969	Sandvig, John C.	LTjg	Deck	Plymouth, MN
11/68-1971	Rawls, George A.	SH3	S-3 Div.	Clearlake, CA
1968-1970	Cook, Anthony P.	LTjg	---	Sausalito, CA
1968-1970	Hokanson, William E.	SK3	Supply	Papillion, NE
1968-1971	Trautner, Edward F.	BM3	2 nd Div.	San Leandro, CA
5/69-7/71	Felton, R. Dean	SN	2 nd Div.	Portland, OR
5/69-12/71	Hollister, William S.	ETR2	OE Div.	Newcastle, CA
6/69-10/71	Baker, Willard D.	LCDR	Eng. Off.	Bremerton, WA
10/69-7/72	Johnson, Earl F.	QM3	Nav.	Harrison, AR
1969-1972	Morgan, Michael E.	ETR2	OE Div.	Cincinnati, OH
1969-1971	Sloan, Dennis D.	CS3	S-3 Div.	Climax Springs, MO
1969-1970	Zelinka, Gregory L.	SFP3	R Div.	Portland, OR
6/70-1/74	Forthofer, Gary	BT2	B Div.	Valley Stream, NY
1970-1973	Adams, Garland W.	CSSN	S-3 Div.	Burlington, NC
1970-1972	Langford, Travis A.	AK2	Supply	Lynn Haven, FL
9/71-3/74	Kelly, Edward	LTjg	Deck	San Diego, CA
1971-1973	Dakan, Glen	FTG3	3 rd Div.	Rio Linda, CA
1972-1973	Boden, Todd	---	---	Richmond, KY
1972-1973	Haupt, Alexander J.	BTFN	B Div.	Satsuma, AL
1973-1975	Keeler, Jonathan A.	ETR2	OE Div.	Washougal, WA
1973-1975	Tretzen, Herbert M.	FTG2	3 rd Div.	Aloha, OR
1974-1976	McCoy, Irvin E.	MSSN	S-3 Div.	Lexington, KY
1975-1979	Bryant, Curlean	YN3	X Div.	Everett, WA
1976-1977	Rodgers, Randall K.	DP3	S-1 Div.	Fort Wayne, IN
1976-1977	Wyant, Robert D.	HT2	R Div.	Florence, KY
1977-1979	Langenfeld, Mark F.	MSSN	S-3 Div.	Lake Villa, IL
1978-1979	Parisi, Anthony	QMSN	Nav.	East Greenwich, RI
1978-1981	Raton, Lauro C.	PN3	X Div.	FPO 09728
8/80-4/82	Pivonka, L. Mike	CDR	XO	Alameda, CA
1980-1984	Harrison, William	SM2	OC Div.	Eufoula, AL
1981-1983	Bartlett, Michael	SN	---	Jacksonville, NC
1981-1982	Budd, Jeffrey T.	SM2	OC Div.	FPO AP 96662-1710



the Ships Crew



A Special Welcome!

1981-1984	Rodriguez, Pete	OS3	OI Div.	El Paso, TX
1983-1987	Ganze, Ronald S.	EMFN	E Div.	Montreal, Quebec
1984-1988	Meyer, Ronald K.	SM3	OC Div.	Paradise, CA
1984-1987	Wells, Michael A.	OS2	OI Div.	West Valley, UT
1985-1987	Albrecht, Charles	MAC	CMAA	Lakeside, OR
6/86-2/88	Coonan, John J.	Captain	CO	Pensacola, FL
1986-1988	Bamberger, Nick J.	SN	—	Lawrence, KS
2/88-8/89	Nordeen, Michael B.	Captain	CO	Dumfries, VA
1988-1990	Ableson, Bradford E.	LT	Chaplain	FPO 09550-2873
1989-1992	Kaeding, David C.	MS3	S-3 Div.	Red Bluff, CA
1990-2/93	Barrett, Darren E.	SN	—	Martinsburg, WV
1990-2/93	Ponder, Wallace J. III	QM3	Nav.	Stone Mountain, GA
1990-2/93	Walker, Victor J.	OS3	OI Div.	Annapolis, MD
12/91-11/94	Tinaz, Marc	SM2	OC Div.	Virginia Beach, VA
1992-1993	Archuleta, Alex	MM2	—	Cortez, CO

