



USS KASKASKIA BLAST

Dedicated to the men who served aboard USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)

Volume 6 No. 1

May 2023

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lrkish1@gmail.com

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President's Message

Michael "Mike" Valsamy

Ahoy Shipmates and all our Family members:

Our 32nd Reunion is approaching this fall and we all hope, we will have a big crowd to attend the Excursions planned for this year. I want to thank (my Best Man twice) and best friend **Ed Scheid** for his hard work and planning of last year's Gettysburg / Hershey reunion.

This year **Don Seymour** is putting together our reunion in his hometown of Buffalo, New York. I'm sure everyone will have a camera to capture our beautiful Niagara Falls. I wish to remind everyone that this part of New York is where GOD gave his wisdom to someone, to invent Buffalo Wings.

Please set aside a few days in September (13th to the 17th) to enjoy, possibly our last Reunion. Be sure to ask Don about the weather in Buffalo in September.

I'm looking forward to seeing a big turnout this year, so keep Healthy and Safe and I hope we will all attend this year's Reunion to Remember.

Thank you everyone.

Mike Valsamy



Join us in Buffalo, NY for a visit to the Buffalo Naval Park as one of the scheduled tours. The park is home to four U.S. Naval vessels: USS THE SULLIVANS (DD 537), USS LITTLE ROCK (CLG 4), USS CROAKER (SS 246), and PTF-17

USS KASKASKIA's 33rd REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR
Buffalo, New York
13-16 September 2023
See Page 2

USS KASKASKIA Reunion Webpage
<http://www.kaskaskia27reunion.com/>

USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)

2022 Reunion Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2022
York PA

President Don Seymour called the meeting to order. Board members present: Don Seymour, Mike Valsamy, Ed Scheid

Ten members present.

Pledge and prayer were led by Don Seymour. Names of deceased since last reunion were read by Don Seymour.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Motion to approve Ed Scheid, seconded by Bob Crosbie. Motion carried.

Health issues prevented Recording Secretary Roy Manewal from attending the reunion. Larry Kish volunteered to take minutes. Motion by Bob Crosbie to elect Larry Recording Secretary, Seconded by Ed Scheid. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Treasurer's report given by Ed Scheid. Ed completed the paper work for transferring account from Bob Crosbie to Ed. Ed did not have details about current account. Ed's wife Diane had the details but she suffered a broken leg on the day prior to the start of the reunion and was recovering in the hospital. Ed thought the account stood at \$3037 or \$3110. Ed will email all attendees details of the account when his wife Diane is released from the hospital and can provide those details. Motion to approve Mike Valsamy, Second Terry Gacioch. Motion carried.

New Business:

There was some discussion about the future of the organization. The membership is dwindling and the age of members may be impacting their ability to travel to the reunions. Jimmy Tabb suggested that this year's limited attendance was in part due to the *Blast* not being sent out in the spring to announce details of the reunion. Jimmy volunteered to contact Richard to see if he wanted to continue as editor of the *Blast*. Larry Kish motioned that Jimmy contact Richard about continuing as *Blast* editor and if Richard did not want to continue in that role Jimmy then would become editor of the *Blast*. Motion seconded by Bob Crosbie. Motion carried.

Don Seymour reminded everyone that Mike Valsamy will assume the presidency at the conclusion of the 2022 reunion and we will need a new vice president. Don agreed to act as vice president under the condition that he not be elevated to president after the 2023 reunion. Mike Valsamy motioned that Don be vice president. Seconded by Lowell Hottman. Motion carried.

Don Seymour volunteered to be coordinator for the 2023 reunion to be held in Buffalo NY. Jimmy Tab motioned that the 2023 reunion be held in Buffalo with Don Seymour as the coordinator. Bob Crosbie seconded. Motion carried.

Traveled the farthest - Lowell Hottman 1106 miles.

Traveled the least - Ed Scheid 40 miles.

Oldest - Lowell Hottman 90

Youngest - Ed Scheid 74

Motion to adjourn by Larry Kish. Second by Mike Valsamy. Motion carried.

USS KASKASKIA 2023 Reunion

Buffalo, New York September 13 to 16
Hosted by Don Seymour



We will be staying at the **Buffalo Marriott**, 1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221. Room rate is \$129 per night which includes breakfast for two per room. For hotel reservations call the hotel at (716)689-6900 and mention the USS KASKASKIA reunion.

On Thursday Don has arranged a tour of Niagara Falls and the Lockport Locks. If you never been to Niagara Falls or if it's just been a while since you were last there this is a great opportunity to take in this spectacular sight. There will be a cruise through Lockport Locks, part of the Erie Canal. Lunch is provided as part of the Thursday tour.

On Friday Don is planning a tour of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park It is the largest inland Naval Park in the country. Located on Buffalo's Waterfront, this unique family destination features four decommissioned naval vessels that served in a variety of military conflicts in our nation's history. That will be followed by a visit to the Buffalo Fire Museum. The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit and provide access to information and artifacts relating to the firefighting profession in general, fire safety and fire prevention; and to teach the public about these subjects. Lunch is provided as part of the Friday tour.

Saturday will be our annual meeting and banquet.

You can find a reunion reservation form on Page 3. Don needs these reservation forms returned to him by **August 23**.

This is a great chance for New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio KASKASKIA shipmates to attend a great reunion site.



USS Kaskaskia AO27 33rd Reunion
Buffalo, NY – Sept 13– Sept 17, 2023
Reservation Form Due by August 23, 2023

Attendee Name _____ Guest/Spouse _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____
 Email _____

Hotel Reservation Information

Reservations for the Buffalo Marriott, 1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221, can be made by calling (716)689-6900 and mention USS Kaskaskia Reunion. Hotel cost is \$129.00 per night and includes breakfast for two per room.

Excursion and Banquet Reservations

Wednesday – 9/13 – Meet and Greet in the Hospitality Room. Registration begins at 4:00. Enjoy drinks, snacks, conversation and of course traditional Buffalo Wings. Cost of hospitality room this year is \$50.00 per person.

Hospitality Room Guests _____ x \$50 per person = \$ _____

Thursday 9/14 – Niagara Falls and Lockport Locks including a boat ride thru the Lockport Locks on the Erie Canal. (Lunch included)

Number of Guests _____ x \$97 per person = \$ _____

Friday 9/15 – Buffalo Naval Park and Firemans Museum. (Lunch included)

Number of Guests _____ x \$92 per person = \$ _____

Saturday 9/16 – Annual business meeting and Banquet at the hotel (Cash Bar).

Number of Guests _____ x \$35 per person = \$ _____

Your total cost = \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to Don Seymour – Registration due by August 23

Mail to: Don Seymour Phone (716)548-9922
 1527 Master St.
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120 email: Bikerdon@roadrunner.com

Treasurer's Notes

Ed Scheid

Shiftless65@gmail.com

Dues are now being collected. They are needed to keep the *Blast* and reunions going. Dues are \$10.00 per year, and we have not raised the price for the past 31 years.

Of course, we welcome donations other than dues to help with mailings and other expenses such as the website.

Please send dues checks to the treasurer:

Ed Scheid
149 Netherlands Drive
Middleton DE 19709



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|------------------|-------|------|
| Bert Donovan | 52-55 | MM2 |
| Richard Dunkerly | 68-69 | BMCS |
| George Fitts | 51-56 | BM3 |
| Paul Fulkerson | | |
| Vern Gale | 52-53 | SN |
| Bill Gurkey | 50-55 | SK3 |
| C.E. Jensen | 42-45 | SK2 |
| Ron Lloyd | | |
| Charlie Stull | 53-55 | IC3 |
| Billie Thomas | | |
| Herman Wells | 51-54 | SK3 |
| Ronald Whigham | 52-53 | RM3 |

Our Reunion Host, Don Seymour, has come up with some very interesting tours and social activities for the group.

If you live in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio areas, this is a great opportunity to attend our reunion without a great deal of driving.

Considering to attend? Why not go through some of your old KASKASKIA materials? Bring pictures, cruise books or other items to share at our social times.

As the President's message hints, this may be one of our last reunions. Don't let your memories just fade away; join shipmates in Buffalo in September.

Out of the Past Life Aboard KASKASKIA



While going through old photos, I found this gem. Pictured are some of my Second Division buddies helping celebrate my advancement to Boatswains Mate 3rd Class. I want to say, we were in the Blue Bird Club during our 1963 Med Cruise.

As best I can remember this crew shows Left -right SN James Loveland, BM3 Richard Jones, SN Robert Marshall, SN E Decker, SN H. McNeal.



Some COs just loved personnel inspections

From the Editor's Desk

As the crews of KASKASKIA (AO 27) age out, it becomes more important to look back at the events of the past. Certainly, no one can deny that our time aboard KAS was full of challenges and hard work. Nevertheless, there were great times in various liberty ports with shipmates. These annual reunions give us a chance to relive those events of the past with department friends and fellow shipmates. If you plan to attend this year's reunion in Buffalo, you will have a chance to visit and see some of the ships we might have refueled in the past.

2022 Hershey PA Candids



Gettysburg Battlefield



Hershey PA Reunion

KASKASKIA Ship's Store

Treasurer Ed Scheid has several USS Kaskaskia (AO 27) related items for sale. Ed has hats and a limited number of charms and pins from past reunions. The hats are \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage and the charms and pins are \$5.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Contact Ed if interested in any of these.

Treasurer Ed Scheid and friend



USS KASKASKIA AO27 Ballcap



USS KASKASKIA AO27 pin



Richard D. Jones
137 Putnam Ave
Ormond Beach FL 32174

To:

Reunion Registration Information Enclosed – This Year--Join in--Be There!

MAX OP TEMPO



USS Kaskaskia (AO 27) refueling USS Washington (BB 56) off Okinawa