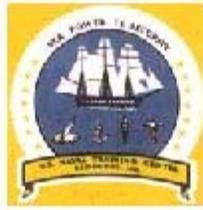


# USNTC Bainbridge



## Newsline

**News For USNTC Bainbridge Association  
Members and Supporters**

VOLUME II

NO. 3

### **CURATOR'S CORNER AND WHAT TO SEE IN THE WILMINGTON AREA** *By Paul L. Fleming*

The column for this issue is a little different. As you plan your trip to this year's reunion I would like to share with you some of the unique possibilities for your stay, should you run out of things to do at the hotel.

If there is any one name that is synonymous with Delaware it is DuPont. Four DuPont estates are available for tours.

One estate is the original DuPont home located in the midst of the DuPont powder mills including the Hagley museum consisting of several buildings, equipment demonstrations and dioramas. The estate house garages have the little known cars built by DuPont.

Another estate is already an optional tour. It is Longwood consisting of 350 acres of gardens, illuminated fountains outdoor theater and, of course, the estate house.

The next is Winterthur which houses the world's premier collection of American hand made furniture and decorative arts, including Paul Revere's silver tankards and a dinner service made for George Washington. The collection is so big that there are several tour options. The gardens consist of 200 acres of natural beauty.

The last estate that is open to the public is Nemours; a Louis XVI-style mansion reminiscent of Versailles is set in 300 acres of manicured gardens. Advance reservations are required to visit Nemours.

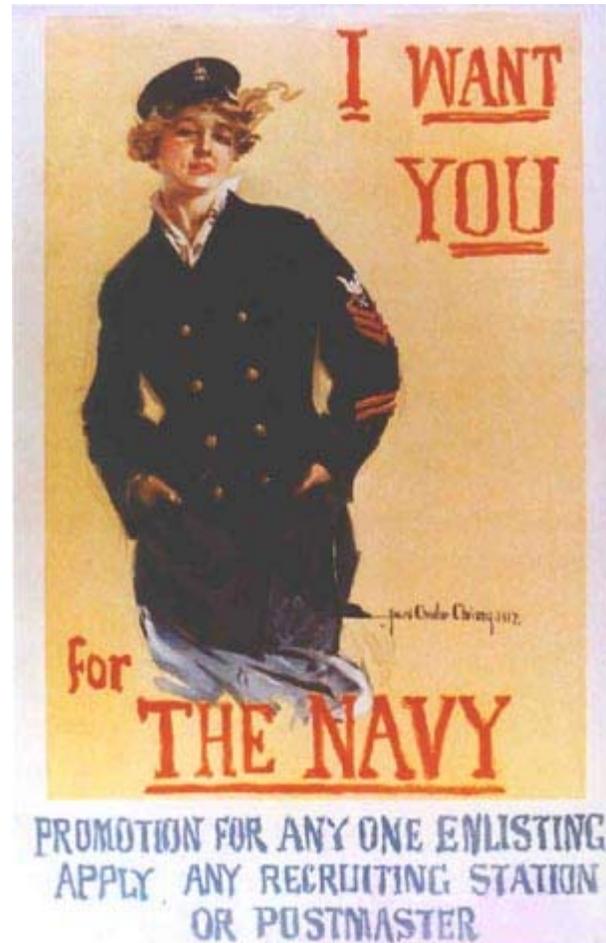
But long before the DuPonts arrived there was Old New spot George Washington stood Castle dating from 1651 when Peter Stuyvesant created the town. It has more original houses than Colonial Williamsburg and is older. In the Dutch House you can stand in the exact to greet the young ladies while attending a wedding. Old New Castle is 15 minutes from the hotel.

There is more. The Faberge exhibit will be in town at the Fine Arts center that happens to be across the street from an array of discount outlet stores and restaurants.

For those of you interested in theater 'South Pacific' will be playing at the Three Little Bakers. The Three Little Bakers is a dinner theater on a grand scale. If you plan to attend make sure to get those reservations well in advance.

Wilmington has several live stage theaters. A listing of what's playing is too long for this column.

If you have a taste for horse racing and slot machines there is Delaware Park. Wilmington's tall ship will



be out on tour but at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia you will be able to see and board Dewey's flagship, the USS Olympia, the submarine Becuna and eat aboard a true square-rigger, the Moshulu. See you in September!

---

### THANK YOU SUBVETS!

We are indebted to John Carcioppolo who sent our Association and reunion information to SUBVETS members at Groton Base, to all Points of Contact for U.S. SUBVETS Inc, and to many of his personnel friends, family, Radiomen etc.: Over 600 people. He also posted our news on several Bulletin Boards for Submariners, CPOs, and RMs. Any Submariners interested in joining U.S. SUBVETS go to <http://ussvi.org>, contact them by mail at: United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated, P.O. Box 3870, Silverdale, WA 98383-3870 or call their toll free number: 877-752-dive.

In the CT, RI area, contact SUBVETS Groton Base (the largest Base in the country) on their web site at <http://hometown.aol.com/gumba700/myhomepage/index.html>, or phone them at: (860) 445-5262.

---

### HATS OFF TO CHUCK THOMPSON

*The following letter from Tom Conroy to Chuck Thompson was published in The Sun, December 20, 1981.*

Dear Bob,

I have tried to write this since 1973. Each time I met with failure. In an attempt to make it brief, I lost something I was trying to say about a man among men, Chuck Thompson. Bear with me while I try to tell it like it was.

I am a retired chief petty officer, having served for 25 years in the U.S. Navy. From 1972 to 1973, I served as manager of the Chief Petty Officers' Mess, Club Rhymes, at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge

A function of the club was a monthly Nooners Luncheon. I wanted to change the luncheon format, set by my predecessor, of having a military guest speaker. I phoned the Oriole office at Memorial Stadium, hoping that I could, get Brooks Robinson, Boog Powell or Paul Blair as a guest speaker. (I was so naive as to think that one of them would donate his time to the military. Maybe they would have, if I could have talked to them personally.) The Oriole office said that I could contact the agent of the player that I wanted, and the price would be in the neighborhood of \$200. When I explained that Club Rhymes was not funded by the government (the taxpayer) and that we couldn't afford the price, I was told to contact the National Brewery. The secretary in the Oriole office said, "You might be able to obtain the services of Chuck Thompson, and National will absorb the cost."

I thanked her, and immediately telephoned the National Brewery.

Two days later, National returned my call. Chuck Thompson would be delighted to speak at our luncheon, I was told. Overjoyed, I proudly announced the guest speaker for our Nooners. I then realized that 95 percent of my chiefs were from out of town. They were not happy with my choice of a guest speaker.

I didn't want to embarrass Chuck with a small audience, so I advertised the following:  
Chief Big John's Steamship Round (all you can eat) \$2; Free Draught Beer; Happy Hour Prices On Mixed Drinks.

When Chuck entered Club Rhymes, he did so wearing his hat. One of the chiefs quickly rang the ship's bell that was mounted on the main bar, and everyone began cheering.

"I didn't expect a reception like this," Chuck said. I explained that anyone entering a chiefs' club wearing a hat must buy everyone in the house a drink. Reaching for his wallet, he said, "Gee, I hope my wife gave me enough money." He added, "If I don't remove my hat, must I buy all afternoon?"

After an introduction by the Club Rhymes chairman of the board of governors, Mr. Thompson, hat on head, took charge.

He was supposed to speak for 45 minutes. His anecdotes ranged from informative to amusing, from warm to "falling down" hilarious. The chiefs applauded him into speaking for an additional half-hour. Mr. Thompson departed to a standing ovation. I intercepted him, saying, "Mr. Thompson, there are 225 drinks awaiting you at the bar if you would honor us with your presence."

A finer gentleman we have never met.

Tom Conroy, Catonsville.

Chuck Thompson, long time radio and TV voice of the Baltimore Orioles, was the 1993 recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award.

---

### **RELEASE OF ADDRESS LISTS** *By Porter E. May*

The Association officers receive requests from members, occasionally, for copies of the Association's membership, reunion attendance or mailing lists.

Out of respect for individual privacy, the Executive Committee has declined to release any address information the Association possesses until it has formal authority from listed persons to do so.

Membership forms received in the last few months have spaces for members to declare the type of address information we may release to other members. Many members renewed their memberships without submitting new forms so we do not know their views.

Most members allow their names and some or all parts of their addresses to be released. Others, however, are adamant in refusing to release any part of their address.

The Executive committee will work on ways to compile and release the names, addresses and Bainbridge service profiles of its members who have given their permission to do so.

Meanwhile, if you have access to the Internet, you can post messages on several web sites, to locate friends and shipmates. Start with the USNTC Bainbridge web site at this address:

"<http://members.xoom.com/Sailor6804/Bainbridge.html>

From the home page of that site, just click on "Contact us" then "Post Message" and fill in the form presented.

---

### **BAINBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT**

Bainbridge could "become a retail hub like The Avenue at White Marsh" according to this extract of an article by Matthew Plum on page C1 of The Aegis, for May 17, 2000.

"In the brainstorming sessions of [the Bainbridge Development Corporation] meetings, the White Marsh retail development has been mentioned. Although the group does not intend to develop Bainbridge in quite the same fashion as The Avenue, the site will be developed on the same scale, keeping the vision of the group in mind.

"Put simply, the objective of the Bainbridge Development Corporation is to develop the former naval training center in a way that improves the tax base for both Cecil County and neighboring Port Deposit. "Presently, Cecil Community College is the only tenant at Bainbridge, operating the Cecil Community Truck Driver Training School."

---

**LOOKING FOR:**

Members of recruit co. #90, spring of 1957. Contact Joe Kirsch,  
528 South Railroad St, Myerstown, PA 17067 E-mail  
gibblesauto@aol.com

Members of recruit co. #4708, graduated Feb - Mar '47. Contact  
Joe Alfred Megliola, PO Box 1368, Little River, SC 29566-1368

---

**RECRUIT CO. 2228,1943** *By Angelo Marsella*

I arrived at Bainbridge, Md. June 7, 1943. Upon my arrival, the weather was on the wet side. I was assigned to Company 2228, where we were given GI issue.

Our second day, we were inoculated and all that could be heard was "You'll be sorry and watch out for square needles". The guy behind me in line fainted while I was waiting for the Corpsman to give me a needle in both my arms.

I can remember that I was assigned the top bunk by a window; with both aching arms hanging over the side of my bunk, the rain against the window gave me a restful night's sleep.

The next morning, I witnessed the long chow line. Most times, it was worth the long wait because the food was good and plentiful. One of the rules was to eat all that you take. On one occasion, I was stopped by the Master-at-Arms and told to go back and finish the food that I had taken and not eaten. While in Boot Camp, we were taught to tie knots the Navy way. It was very difficult for me, but finally mastered it.

We were sent out on the Susquehanna River for Seamanship. It was tough at first to get used to Navy language. The instructor was tough on us when he shouted commands and we did not respond correctly. Back in the classrooms, using silhouette figures, flashed on a screen, we had to identify Allied planes and the Japanese and Germans' aircraft.

Out on the hot drill field, we learned how to march and tried to follow all the commands of the Drill Instructor. It was tough work, especially the oblique. That was our first experience working as a unit. At the swimming pool, we were told to jump not dive into the water. Also, we were taught how to use our bell bottom trousers as an emergency life preserver.

Next came chemical warfare - we were taught to identify different types of gasses, then learned how to wear a gas mask properly and were told by the instructor that if we had no wa-ter to wash any gas out of our eyes, we should use our urine for water. Now, we went into a room with our gas mask on, and then removed it to smell the gas for a few seconds.

As I was finishing the obstacle course (with flying colors), I sprained my ankle and not able to get up right away, a Chief Petty Officer came over to me and with no compassion for me, he said with that authoritative voice, "Take him over to sick bay".

I can remember standing the fire-watch with the clipboard that had the 11 or 13 regulations that had to be memorized. An Officer questioned me about one of the regulations, and to this day I remember that it was OBSERVE EVERYTHING AROUND YOU.

One night I remember that one of us recruits threw a rolled up sock at the Petty Officer in charge as he was leaving the room after talking to us. When he turned around and wanted to know who did that, no one answered. He left the room, but returned around Midnight, and took us out on the Drill Field to march for punishment.

The next day, we were issued the Blue Jackets Manual to read. We were taught how to arrange our clothes for inspection, which was an everyday affair. We had to stencil our clothes and shoe shining kit with our name. I still have my shoe shine brushes.

On wash day, all clothes had to be hung on the line with a square knot - no Irish linen to be shown. I can remember an Officer would check to see that all was hung properly.

All credit goes to the instructors at Bainbridge for the knowledge they gave to me, that was an asset for me while I served in the U.S. Navy.

---

### **VOLUNTEER!**

The Association has no paid staff or officers. It depends on volunteers. If you can arrive at the reunion a day or two before the reunion to learn the ropes, you can serve the reunion in a variety of capacities.

These are a few of task that need help: Set up and take down displays and decorations, clerk in the ship's store, or stand host and security watches in the hospitality room.

---

### **BAINBRIDGE MAPS**

Maps and aerial views of Bainbridge can be downloaded from our web site:

<http://members.xoom.com/Sailor6804/Bainbridge.html>

---

### **NEWSLINE**

is published by the USNTC Bainbridge Association, Inc.

### **ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Until October 1, 2000

#### **President**

Porter E. May

7 Brookmont Drive

Malvern, PA 19355-3115

portermay@msn.com

#### **1st Vice President**

Patricia Allton Keenan

9823 South 92 East Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74133-6118

dwkeenan@ionet.net

**2nd Vice President,**

Membership Arline Caliger  
PO Box 611  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0611  
Kali8824z@aol.com

**3rd Vice President:**

Fund Raising  
Michael Miklas, Jr.  
310 Baltimore St.  
Charlestown, MD 21914

**Recording Secretary**

A. F. Sue Fischer  
3938 Backwoods Road  
Westminster, MD 21158-2432

**Treasurer, Curator-Archivist**

Paul L Fleming  
2927 Duncan Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808-2379  
Sailor6804@aol.com

**Director: North East Region**

Dick Patnaude  
Rhpat54@aol.com

**Director: Mid-Atlantic Region**

- Open -

**Director: South Region**

V. Elizabeth Lawson  
Director: Mid-west Region

David Bader  
redab@columbus.rr.com

**Director: West Region**

Nonna Cheatham

**Director: International Region**

-open-

**Directors, appointed:**

Edward C Ellison  
Hazel E. Jenkins