

June 2010

2009 Reunion Report
To All Hands;

Sorry for the long delay in reporting to you about the 2009 reunion. We have received many favorable comments about the visit. We were pleased with the turnout especially given the status of the economy. We worked hard to keep the prices down and still give you a taste of New England. As a result we did not have a large working budget for the next organizers. At long last we have an offer from Sam Hobbs and our supplies have been mailed to him. [Please send your dues to him, address info on web page.]

It was a pleasure planning and hosting the reunion. The tour company we chose Over the Bridge Tours of Cape Ann was fun to work with and guided us to many things we would have missed. We were happy that we chose the north of Boston area and SpringHill Suites as the site.

We were worried about attendance after the meltdown on Wall Street. We did lose some due to finances. That was when we decided to include as much as we could in the package.

Over the Bridge Tours of Cape Ann provided day tours for the reunion on September 17 and 18. Each attendee received a "sea bag" with a chart of the "Gloucester Area printed on it.

On the 17th, we had roundtrip motor coach transportation to and from Boston and SpringHill Suites. This included a pre-public tour of the USS *Constitution*. Shopping and lunch on their own at Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market area. We had an afternoon visit to Hospital Point Light in Beverly, Mass. This is the home of the Commander First District Coast Guard. We had arranged a private tour with the Hospital Point Lighthouse Team of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, of which we are members. We ended the day at Carrabbas Restaurant for a group Dutch Treat dinner. Some did choose to return to the hotel.

September 18, 2009 day tour included a visit to the Essex Shipbuilding Museum. We then went shopping and had "lunch on your own" in Rockport. Then we had a waterfront and scenic tour of Rockport and Gloucester. This was followed by our Memorial Service held at The Fisherman's Memorial Gloucester harbor side. John Collins, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary played the Navy Hymn and sounded taps for us. We placed a wreath at the memorial in honor of those crew members who have "crossed over the bar". A dock side group dinner/Lobster Bake at The Gloucester House Restaurant on Seven Seas Wharf followed the ceremony. Many tried lobster for the first time. For them, it was quite an experience, and some found the chicken was more to their choice.

The last day was free until our meeting, entertainment and a buffet dinner catered at the hotel. Barbara and I had presented two National Ensigns which had been flown over the *Constitution* to the group. One was to remain with the group and the other was raffled off at the dinner. Due to some restriction on aircraft we decided to make a change in the raffle, tickets were deposited in containers in front of each raffle prize. The winner of that prize didn't get something that they were not able to use or take home.

As you all know, the offer to hold a reunion in 2010 fell through. It's too bad, but we will have one in 2011. Sam Hobbs has stepped forward to work with a group on the 2011 reunion in the North West. Please support it and think about volunteering for 2012. Without takers to host these reunions they will fade away. The first one we attended was San Francisco and it was not only fun but nostalgic.

Dick and Barbara Keating
Your 2009 Hosts