



"In Tow"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Coast Guard Tug Association

www.cg-tugs.org

C. G. Tug Association

"SEMPER PARATUS"

Winter 2017

2016 Coast Guard Tug Association Reunion at Savannah, GA



By: Sandy Schwaab
Photos: Jim Flynn & Shirley Schwaab

Savannah, Georgia - September 15 – 18th 2016.

The Coast Guard Tug Association gathered at the Hampton Inn & Suites (above) for its 8th member reunion. An odd place for "tuggers" to muster, you might think; no homeported CG tugs and not much ice to break in the Savannah River. But, as usual, our "Band of Pirates" made the best of any "port call" and indulged in the amenities of the local surroundings! Savannah is a beautiful, historic city. Our members got to spend time, as their interests led them, taking in local museums, city tours, art galleries, and the numerous and wide variety of restaurants (Paula Deen's got high marks from some); all the while enjoying typical southern hospitality. This turned out to be our smallest reunion with only 29 members, spouses, and guests. Let's hope for a better turn out in 2018!

Continued on P7

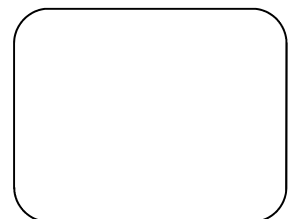
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**You might be a
Coastie if:**

**you come home
with groceries
and shout, "all
hands lay to the
garage/
driveway/curb
to load stores."**





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Tug Association Officers
2016-18**

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LCDR Garry Domnisse, (USCGR, Ret)

Treasurer

CWO4 Bob Gesking, (USCG, Ret)

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DC1 Cameron Croteau, USCG

IN TOW Editor

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Website: <http://www.cg-tugs.org>

In Tow Newsletter

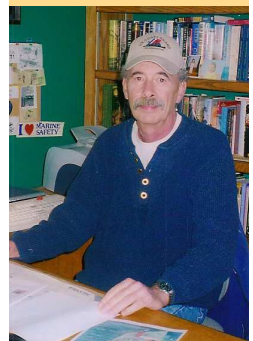
Publication of the CG Tug Association. Published as an E-Newsletter and distributed online as an Adobe PDF. If you would like to write for In Tow, please contact the Editor through the CGTA website.

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“From the Prez/Editor”

Ahoy Shipmates,

In September 2016, our 8th CGTA Reunion in Savannah, GA, passed under our keel—they seem to go so much faster these days! Our visit to Savannah turned out to be another success, albeit a smaller than usual crowd. As always, we welcomed several new members and participants, including some long-lost former shipmates. The 2016 reunion article will be foremost in this issue.



In Tow Editor/Prez,
Sandy Schwaab

As usual, the location of our next reunion, September 2018, was decided by vote of the membership present at the Savannah meeting. Plans are already in the works to attend and participate in the annual “Tugboat Roundup” in Waterford, NY (just north of Albany at the entrance to the Erie Canal). Preliminary information is included in this issue with the usual sign up information to follow when the venue & excursions are set.

As you can see from the Officer’s list to the left, by vote of the members present, the leadership of the Association remained *status quo* from our last election. Does anyone want a noble job; great future, no pay, plenty of overtime, and a big “warm and fuzzy” for supporting our Association’s history? Sign up now! We should, however, extend a hearty “welcome aboard” and BZ to our new Advisory Board member, active duty DC1 Cam Croteau as our new Social Media Chairperson. See his CGTA page on Facebook and “friend” us.

As always, all Association members are welcome and invited to contribute articles to In Tow. Write about your experiences in the USCG, any tug historical articles & photos, or just what’s currently going on in your life, and any other areas that may be of interest to our members.

We look forward to seeing you all in September 2018 to continue our connections and to strengthen the bonds we have built in the Association and our “Band of Pirates.”

Semper Paratus,
Sandy

Welcome Aboard

From: The Prez

As many of our members who follow and participate in today's internet world probably already know, the Coast Guard Tug Association has finally moved into the 21st century area of "social media." Many of our members are "Ancient Mariners" and are averse to those "dastardly" computers and reluctant to engage in such areas, for various reasons. However, this new methodology is another step forward to the progress and continuation of our ranks, designed to reach out to our "legacy" sailors.



DC1 Cam Croteau

With that said, we are proud to welcome active duty, DC1 Cameron Croteau, USCG, as our selection for Social Media Chairperson and latest member of the CGTA's Advisory Board. Cam's focus will be to set up and maintain all social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc) relevant to the Association's communications. Cam first joined our "tugger" ranks, then came to us (with "high marks" from those who have served with him) and requested to start the Facebook page on our behalf. Following discussion in the Board and a firm confirmation vote from the members at the last reunion, we offered Cam the job – the rest "will be" history.

Cam comes to us with 11 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to enlisting in 2005, Cam grew up in Rochester, NH and attended Oregon State University studying Natural Resources. Since entering the Coast Guard, he has served in the cutters *Penobscot Bay* and *Oak*, at Sector Field Offices (SFO) Valdez, AK and Grand Haven, MI, and is currently stationed at Station Jonesport "America" (for us old D1 sailors), ME. In January, Cam will be PCS to the cutter *Tahoma* in Portsmouth, NH.

We wish Cam a great tour in *Tahoma*, good luck on the Chief's exam, and look forward to continued working with him in the future – visit us at our web site www.cg-tugs.org and join with us on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report for 2016 – by Treasurer, Bob Gesking

Coast Guard Tug Association
2016 Year End Financial Report

Starting Balance 1/1/16	\$6,159.83	Website maintenance	-\$443.00
Dues	\$1,186.50	GoDaddy Domain Hosting	-\$88.42
Donations	\$1,243.29	2016 Reunion Cruise	-\$3,553.26
Ships Store Sales	\$46.98	2016 Reunion Bus	-\$1,116.00
Savings Account Interest	\$0.47	P.O. Box rent	-\$102.00
2016 Reunion	\$1,388.16	<u>Total Expenses</u>	-\$5,302.68
<u>Total Income</u>	\$3,865.40	<u>Ending Balance 12/31/16</u>	-\$5,489.41
Ending Balance 9/9/16:	\$4,722.55	Ending Balance 12/31/14	\$5,489.41

Robert Gesking CWO4, USCG (Ret.) Treasurer

Coast Guard Tug Association
Bi-Annual Meeting 16 September 2016
 (Aboard River Boat Savannah Cruise Vessel)
 Savannah, Ga

The meeting was brought to order by President, Sandy Schwaab at 1945 hours. Other Board members present were: Garry Domnisie, Secretary; Bob Gesking, Treasurer; and Jim Flynn, Historian. Vice President, Justin Vandenheuvel, was absent. General membership, including Board members present, was 26.

1. Sandy spoke of the strength of the organization and continued ways we might use to increase our numbers. He also brought up our continued search for a permanent Coast Guard Tug resource to have in Toledo, Ohio. This resource would be used in conjunction with the "Station Liberty," U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Program. The ship would be used as a cadet training platform vessel, operated by our organization, and the CGTA would be provided by "Station Liberty" with space for a Coast Guard Tug Association museum venue. Sandy went through the list of possible WYTM's (*Apalachee* & *Yankton*) and all are not available due to a current owners saying "no" to a purchase, or that the vessel is being considered for scrap. Sandy & VP Justin are working with Coast Guard Headquarters to obtain a working retired 65-foot tug. Most will be retired in the next few years.
2. Sandy recognized the *Apalachee* crewmembers present for a job well-done in moving the ship from Oswego to Cleveland. Present were: Dave Cunningham, Garry Domnisie, Bob Gesking, George Staples, Ed Anderson, and Jim Flynn. He also recognized contributors to the renovation of the ship in Cleveland. Present were: Shirley Schwaab, Helen Gesking, Tim O'Dell, and Chris O'Dell. Thanks to all.
3. The tradition of memorializing our CGTA members "Crossing the Bar" was made and the following members have done so:
 CWO3 Don Sims, Ret. *Modoc*, *Yocona*, *Acushnet*
 LCDR Brent Michaels, Ret. *Kaw*, *Ojibwa*
 LT Pete Kolasa, Ret. *Ojibwa*
 EN1 Nicholas Rorro, Ret. *Tuckahoe*, *Manitou*, *Sauk*, *Mahoning*
 CWO4 Earl Leyda, Ret. *Ojibwa*, *Arundel*
 EN2 Ken Frische *Arundel*
 Sandra O'Dell, wife of CGTA founder, Doug O'Dell
 We wish them all "fair winds and following sea." They will be missed.
4. Garry Domnisie, Secretary read the Secretary's Report and minutes from the 2014 meeting. A motion was made and accepted to approve the report.
5. Bob Gesking presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance in the account, as of 9/9/2016, is \$4722.55. Motion to approve was made and accepted by all.
6. Historian, Jim Flynn discussed the 2014 plans for a short member newsletter, progress of the Association, and a recurring effort to get out our quarterly In Tow newsletter – "none of which happened." But, we will be fixing that after this meeting!
7. Sandy brought up the topic of where to hold the 2018 reunion and meeting. Sites proposed were: St. Petersburg- 5, New London-1, Baltimore-1, North Carolina-2, and Waterford, NY-7. The next reunion will be in Waterford, NY in September 2018. Bob Gesking will be "point man" for that reunion.
8. Nominations for the Association Board of Directors was opened to the floor. All nominations were to continue the "status quo" of the current Board. The officers for 2016-2018 are: Sandy Schwaab, President; Justin Vandenheuvel, VP; Garry Domnisie, Secretary; Bob Gesking, Treasurer; and Jim Flynn, Historian.
9. Sandy discussed the idea of having a Facebook page, closed to all but members. DC1 Cameron Croteau, currently at CG Station Jonesport, ME, volunteered to build and maintain a Facebook page for the organization. Everyone agreed to have a Facebook page to bring us into the social media mode and to attract new members and share what is going on in our organization with younger members and nonmembers. This will hopefully provide a new medium to attract new members into the organization.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 2053. Submitted: Garry Domnisie

CGC TAMAROA WMEC-166 circa 1990 – USCG Photo

CAPE MAY POINT, N.J. (UPI) — After playing a key role in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War 2 and overcoming “The Perfect Storm” to rescue seven people off the New England coast in 1991, a near-legendary ship will be sunk off the coast of New Jersey to be immortalized as part of an artificial reef.

The ship known as the USS Zumi during World War 2 and the Tamaroa decades later is set to finally be sunk off the coast of New Jersey after four years of fundraising and preparation to preserve the ship on some level, rather than destroy it.

The Tamaroa sprung a leak in 2012 while moored near Norfolk, Va., during preparations to dry dock and repair it and turn it into a museum. As it became clear repairing the ship would be entirely too costly, plans shifted to using it as part of an artificial reef in Cape May Point.

“It’s always sad when you sink a ship, but some good will come of it,” said retired Coast Guard Capt. Larry Brudnicki. “It’s being repurposed. It’s being used. If it’s cut up, who’s going to know that their razor blade came from the Tamaroa?”

The USS Zuni was launched July 31, 1943, and sent to the Pacific Theatre during World War 2 where it was used to tow other damaged ships to safety and participated in missions critical to the Battle of Iwo Jima.

After the war, the Zuni was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet in 1946 and decommissioned, where it was transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard and renamed the Tamaroa. For the next 50 years, the ship was used on numerous missions to save other ships in trouble and to enforce fishing laws.

The Tamaroa gained prominence after being sent to find a sailboat called the Satori that got caught in a massive storm off the coast of Nantucket — actually three storms that converged to form a much larger one — and then to save an Air National Guard Helicopter that had run out of fuel on a rescue mission during the storm.

The daring rescues were later documented in the book “The Perfect Storm,” which was later turned into a blockbuster movie starring George Clooney.

While surviving crew of the ship, and those it saved, are not thrilled that it will be sunk, they say the fact that it won’t be destroyed and people will be able to see it — albeit by putting on scuba gear and diving down to the artificial reef — is better than the alternative.

The ship, of course, is also expected to draw tourists and divers to the site simply to see and explore the ship, giving it a third life of sorts.

“It’s like anything else,” said Brian Nunes-Vais, a trustee at the Ann E. Clark Foundation, which funds the artificial reef program in New Jersey. “It’s name recognition. Would you want to dive Bob’s boat or the Tamaroa?”

2017 Dues

NOTE: We have added PayPal for your convenience in our membership section.

If you haven't yet mailed your annual dues we ask that your checks be mailed to the below address

Coast Guard Tug Assoc.
PO Box 771535
Lakewood, OH 44107

Fellow Tuggers

We are trying to complete an update of our membership email list. Over the last year, we have sent out bulk emails to all our members; each time, many dozens of addresses currently on file have bounced back as undeliverable (the list IS getting shorter).

To ensure that we can get information to you through emails, we need to have accurate addresses. I would ask that all members who have not received an email from the Tug Association in the last year to please go to www.cg-tugs.org, in the About section, click on Contacts, click on Membership, and send me your current email address. Thank you.

CGTA 2018 Reunion

Sept 6-9, 2018

Waterford Tugboat Roundup – <http://www.tugboatroundup.com/>

Tugboat Roundup is Sept 7 – 9, 2018. It is an annual festival featuring tugboats and has music, vendors, artists, food, boat rides, and fireworks. The event is free, although boat rides do have a nominal charge. Parking is available at two lots, with shuttle bus service provided to the event. Waterford is located in the southeast corner of Saratoga County, at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, and the junction of the Erie and Champlain Canals. Waterford is the eastern gateway to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor - <http://www.eriecanalway.org/>.

We will be using Troy or Albany as a base for the 2018 Reunion. Troy is about 5 miles from Waterford. Albany, the capital city of New York, is 12 miles from Waterford. Waterford is 165 miles north of New York City.

Nearby attractions are:

Museum Ship USS SLATER DE-766 in Albany (12 mi) - <http://www.ussslater.org/index.html>

Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park (16.5 mi) - <https://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm>

Saratoga Casino and Raceway (24 mi) - <http://saratogacasino.com/>

National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown (79.5 mi)- <http://baseballhall.org/>

FDR Museum & Presidential Library in Hyde Park (87mi) - <https://fdrlibrary.org/>

U.S. Military Academy at West Point (115 mi) - <http://www.usma.edu/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The former Matton Shipyard on Van Schaick Island (340 Delaware Ave) built tug and canal boats. During WWII Matton built five subchasers for USN, four were later transferred to USCG, and one to Russia. The shipyard is closed, and the property is fenced off. The property is part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. <http://shipbuildinghistory.com/history/shipyards/5small/inactive/matton.htm>

(from front page)

Our hospitality suite for this trip was a bit smaller than our 2014 Annapolis “digs” (not to mention that it was located at the Embassy Suites, adjacent to the Hampton – due to city “beverage ordinances”) but, with all our other hotel perks and local amenities, it worked out well.



L-R: Felix Chambers (*Snohomish*), Betty Dabbs, Frances Chambers, L-Back: Ed Toney (*Chilula*)

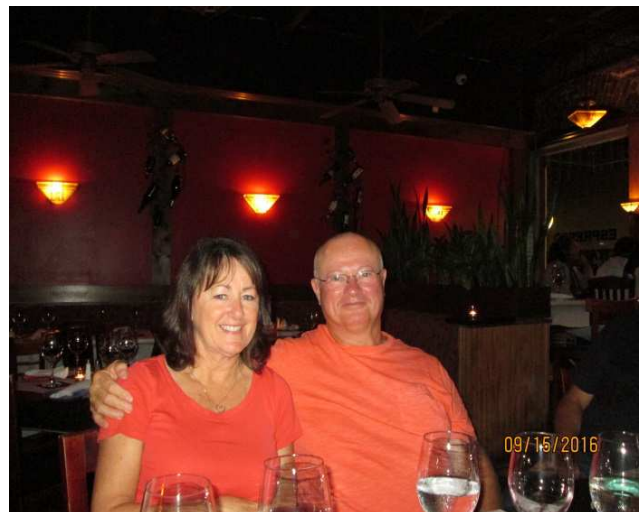


L-R: Bob Gesking, Jim Flynn, Dave Cunningham (*Apalachee*) in the hospitality suite.

Thursday evening, the early arrivals gathered for an impromptu dinner of fine Italian cuisine. We ended up having to put four tables together with benches and chairs to accommodate all. The Coast Guard Tug Assoc. has landed in Savannah!



Gary McGinniss (*Sledge*), Shirley Schwaab, Sandy Schwaab (*Ojibwa, Apalachee*).



Lynn & Dave Cunningham



Helen & Bob Gesking



Diane & Jim Flynn

During the day Friday, all hands were free to wander the beautiful city of Savannah in their own pursuits or mix & mingle in the hospitality suite. One of the highlights of the day was a private showing of the dramatic 1952 S/S *Pendleton* rescue film The Finest Hours at 1000 in the Suite; a few had never seen the film, others were back for their second or third viewing.

At 1800 Friday evening, we began boarding the M/V *Savannah River Queen* for our bi-annual dinner/meeting – (we have to get underway for some part of our reunions). Our 2-hour cruise on our own private deck was remarkable, beginning with our welcome/greeting from the Captain – and the USCG flag flying from the jack staff. The dinner buffet was a delicious display of traditional “low country” Georgia cuisine! The bi-annual membership meeting was conducted with Treasurer’s & Secretary’s minutes attached to this issue. A wonderful evening afloat!

Carol & Garry Domnise (*Snohomish*, *Apalachee*)

Time to board: Chris O'Dell covering our back



Standing by to stand by



Complements of our Captain!



Felix & Frances Chambers; our '20s "Flapper"



L: Linda Staples, Sandie Anderson, Ed Anderson (*Apalachee*), Dave Cunningham, Lynn Cunningham; R: George Staples, (*Snohomish, Apalachee*) Garry Domnisie & Carol Domnisie (behind Garry).



Milling about sharply: Gary McGinniss, Craig Reynolds (*Mahoning*), Jim Flynn (back), Sandy Schwaab & ENC (ret) Bill Appling (*Avoyel, Chinook, Apalachee*).



L: Patty Siegfried, Craig Reynolds; R: Jim Flynn, Diane Flynn, Tom Cicala (*Mahoning*).



Craig "grazing" at our marvelous buffet.



The "Prez" conducting the meeting.



Seven of eleven *Apalachee* Crew members from our 2009 transit to Cleveland; F: BMC George Staples, HMC Jim Flynn, BOSN4 Dave Cunningham; B: ENG3 Sandy Schwaab, MAT4 Bob Gesking, BM1 Ed Anderson, LCDR Garry Domnisie.



Tybee Island Light



The "brave" at the top...

At 0845 on a beautiful Saturday morning, the membership boarded our hired bus for a day-trip to Tybee Island, GA, south of Savannah on the coast; the home of local USCG units. To complete one of the resolves of our reunions which is to visit various USCG units in our travels, we began with a tour of Tybee Island Lighthouse; a marvelous contribution to our Lighthouse Service predecessors.



The “not so brave” at the bottom...L-R: Tim O'Dell, Ed Anderson, Sandie Anderson, George Staples, Linda Staples, Bob Gesking



L-R: Garry Domnisie, Ed Toney, Dave Cunningham, Frances Chambers, Carol Domnisie, Felix Chambers.



Station docks & CGC *Chinook*.

Our next stop was to visit CG Station Tybee Island and CGC *Chinook* (WPB 87308) (named after a salmon for this class, and our tribal predecessor, *Chinook*, WYTM 96). *Chinook* was previously stationed in New London, CT. The weekend duty crews at the Station and *Chinook* went out of their way to welcome us and guide our “ancient mariners” through the new era of CG RHI boats – a long way from most of our experiences on 36, 40, 41 & 44-fters and the 87 which is a remarkable replacement for our vintage 82-fters.



45-ft RB-M



29-ft RB-S II



CGC *Chinook*, 87-ft WPB



CGTA crew astern on CGC *Chinook*



CGC *Chinook*

After our visits to Sta Tybee & CGC *Chinook*, we took some time for lunch in the quaint, seaside town of Tybee Island. Lunch was set at the great local seafood spot and all had a wonderful meal and some “adult beverages.”



Lunch stop

Our next stop was CG Air Station Savannah. Responsible for air operations from Charleston, SC in the north to Cape Canaveral, FL to the south, the station has quite a large AOR. We were treated to a grand tour of the unit hanger. The duty air crew showed us their helos, basic operations, and explained the “art” of helo ops. Some of our old “surface warriors” who had served on early CG “Aircraft Carriers” (210s & 378s) got to reflect on what it was like to go to “flight quarters” on a Cutter.



Air Station Savannah unit patch



The main hanger.



This visit actually turned out to be the highlight of the day. In the early moments of our intro to the tour, our hosts and duty pilots, LCDRs Lehr & Hall were suddenly called away to the comms “shack” and were presented with an actual SAR case – at the southern end of their AOR, Cape Canaveral, FL (small aside, your prez’s first duty station was Station Port Canaveral in 1967). We “old timers” were quite surprised at how long it took for the helo to get airborne – nearly 30 minutes. As we learned, that is now the standard window to launch a SAR case; we all asked, “what happened to the days when the “bell rang” and we got U/W!?” Times have changed... Needless to say, it was an exciting experience!



LCDRs Lehr & Hall



Roll out



Fueling up



Start up



Taxi through Army Chinooks



Off to Florida

And so, on Sunday morning, our 2016 reunion came to a grand finale! All hands enjoyed a final breakfast together at the hotel(s) and, from there, it was a “clean sweep, fore & aft” in the hospitality suite. As always, our members gathered to exchange “hail and farewells,” contact info, and amongst many, the expectation of seeing each other at the next gathering! As with each other reunion, we have all made or renewed old friendships from our days in the Coast Guard – the main reason we continue this legacy.

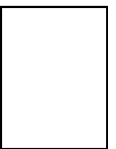
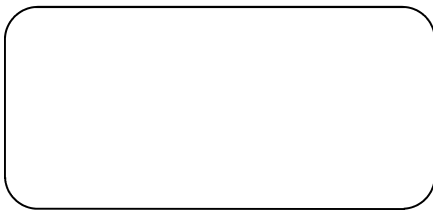
For the future record, make your basic plans now! Our 2018 reunion will be held the weekend after Labor Day in Waterford, NY (on the Hudson River just north of Albany) at the annual Waterford Tugboat Roundup. Preliminary information is currently posted on our CGTA Facebook Page, accessible through regular Facebook channels or via our web site at www.cg-tugs.org . Please consider joining us at our next gathering!

TUGGER MEMORIES

Fellow Tuggers, with this issue we are beginning a new feature for our In Tow Newsletter. This new segment will consist of a photo or short story of your/our lives in USCG Tugs. The photos and/or stories will be included in our periodic newsletter and will be saved in our web site archives; photos under a specific unit's site or stories in our "Sea Stories" section. Please feel free to submit your archives to us by going to the web site in the "About" section and send to the Membership Chairman. We look forward to your contributions.



1963 Crew of CGC *Apalachee*



TO:

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for the recipient's name and address.

RETURN IF UNDELIVERABLE