

# PAWCATUCK PILOT

Volume 17 Issue 3

June 2010

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PAWCATUCK AO-108



### Points of Special Interest

- *A recap of the 2010 reunion is our cover story.*
- *Coordinator David Willis has association news in his article on page two.*
- *Assist. Coordinator Mark McPherson's message is on page three.*
- *A list of reunion attendees is on page four. See who you missed seeing at the reunion if you weren't there.*
- *Several "thank you" notes are printed in Deck Force on page four.*
- *Thomas Blood's Memoirs continue on page five.*
- *See photos from the San Antonio Reunion on page six.*
- *A preview of the attractions in Chattanooga, TN are on pages 7 & 8. Please return the survey.*

## 2010 SAN ANTONIO REUNION RECAP

Twenty-four former crewmembers of the USS Pawcatuck (AO-108) and eighteen of their guests attended their 2010 reunion that was held in San Antonio, Texas at the El Tropicano River Walk Hotel on May 3-6. Registration began on Monday, May 3rd with a big group descending on the registration table all at once, all eager to get the reunion going. Then it was on to the hospitality room for some serious catching up and some refreshments. Everyone was happy to see one another again and share what had happened in their lives since the last reunion or since their time on the Pawcatuck. The welcome reception and business meeting at 4:30 pm was the first official meeting of

the group, although most had already been together in the hospitality room all afternoon. Dave Willis was again selected to lead the group as president, along with Mark McPherson as Vice President. Chattanooga, TN was chosen as the reunion location for 2011. Since the group was planning on dining together this evening, no food was served at the reception/business meeting. After all the business was taken care of, the group was taken by taxis to Casa Rio Restaurant for dinner overlooking the river. A delicious Mexican meal was served, which everyone really enjoyed. Following dinner, they all boarded a river boat for a leisurely cruise along the River Walk. A wonderful guide

narrated the great history of the San Antonio River Walk as the boat sailed past shops, hotels, historic sites and restaurants. It was a wonderful evening and a great way to see San Antonio.

Tuesday morning at 9:00 am, the group set off through the Texas Hill Country to Fredericksburg to visit the Admiral Nimitz Museum and the National Museum of the War in the Pacific. At the museum the group saw the Nimitz family Steamship Hotel, owned by the Admiral's grandfather and where Admiral Nimitz grew up. There was an aircraft carrier hangar deck and a PT Boat museum, as well as the Japanese Peace Garden on the property. A group of the

*(Continued on page 2)*

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attendees met for lunch at Wheeler's German Restaurant and enjoyed the delicious German cuisine for which Fredericksburg is famous. On the way home, many jokes were told during the bus ride, making it a really enjoyable drive back to the hotel. Dinner this evening was on one's own, and many of the group decided to try another nearby restaurant on the River Walk for dinner. At 8:00 the Memorial Service was held. This service is in memory of all those USS Pawcatuck shipmates who have passed away, especially those since the last reunion. Mark McPherson served as Chaplain, using a service that he wrote for the occasion. Dave Willis was the bell ringer, and Mike Culbertson read the names from the Honor Roll. Those remembered are as follows: Garry Clark, Nick Tallericco, David Phagan, James Chesterson, Russell Furst, David Maylone, Paul Law, Dave Parker, Jedar Waddell, Bill Hollett, Walter (Skip) Greene, Earl Johannes, Ronald Shaffer and Charles Stark. The Navy Color Guard from Smithsonian Valley High School from Springs Branch, TX presented and retired colors for the service.

At 9:00 am on Wednesday morning the shipmates and guests took off for a tour of the City of San Antonio. The tour took them to the San Antonio Shoe factory, where they could buy a new pair of shoes at factory prices, visit the 1910 general store full of antiques, a car collection and an old time soda fountain. It was like stepping back in time to a much slower paced society. Also on the trip was a stop at the Mission Concepcion where they saw the wonderful art and heard the story of Colonial Spain's influence on early San Antonio. Then it was on to the Alamo! Here they could see and hear about the famous stand that the much outnumbered Texans took against the powerful Mexican army, ending in the Texans' defeat, but sparking a war that the Texans eventually won for their independence from Mexico. The last stop of the day was at the Mexican Market before returning to the hotel.

Wednesday evening began at 5:30 pm with the social hour and photo session. Then at 6:30 pm the USS Pawcatuck banquet began. Dave Willis and Mark McPherson made welcoming remarks and introduced all the first time attendees. The dinner buffet consisted of baked chicken, smoked sausage, baked beans, potato salad, corn on the cob, garden salad, cole slaw, pecan pie and peach cobbler. Following the meal, Mark McPherson had all the men to move to another table and spend 5 minutes finding out all he could about the woman he was seated next to. Afterwards he had to tell the group all he remembered about her. Some men did very well, and others...well let's just say they wouldn't win a memory contest! It was a very entertaining way to get to know one another and it brought many laughs from the crowd. Next on the agenda was the raffle. Each gift brought by the members were set out on a table with a bag in front of the gift. Everyone who wanted a particular gift put their ticket in the bag in front of the gift they wanted. Tickets were drawn out of the bag during the raffle. Mike Culbertson won the grand prize—a beautiful quilted wall hanging made by Carol Mitchell, wife of shipmate John Mitchell. Elizabeth Jordan handed out the first annual scholarships from money earned from the 50/50 raffle. Two scholarships were given out, one to the granddaughter of Ted and Ruby Van Dyke, Chelsea Campbell, and one to the grandson of James and Margaret Roskoph, Zane Roskoph. Congratulations to these fine young students! Everyone left the banquet in a good mood because it had been a fun evening, with good food, good fellowship and good entertainment.

Thursday morning brought an end to a wonderful reunion. The private breakfast buffet gave everyone a chance to say their good byes before heading for home. Dave Willis thanked everyone for coming and then another successful Pawcatuck reunion was over. Chattanooga, TN—here we come!

## COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Shipmates and family members,

Hello once again from sunny Arizona. Yes, it is a beautiful day here in Surprise, AZ. Like many of you back east and the midwest we had a cold winter and up north they had a lot of snow. With the snow and the rain in the lower elevations our lakes have filled up. Now we go into the fire season and have already had some fires but not big one's but it will happen as it does every year.

Many of you who did not come to this years reunion you all missed a good time. Yes, as we always do we have a good time. We had a very productive annual meeting and as usual our Memorial Service was conducted by Mark McPherson and again he did a great job. Mark is not only the asst. coordinator but also holds the title of Chaplin. We had a JR NROTC color guard and to this date they have been the best.

Now the good news. Those in attendance voted on Chattanooga, TN for our reunion for 2011. Dates will be announced in this news letter. I hope many of you will attend as there is a lot of history in the area. The reunion in 2012 will be our 20th one.

In the December 2009 issue of the newsletter we told of a park in Pawcatuck, CT where there was a monument placed with two plaques. This memorial has not been dedicated and upon checking with the present Commander of the VFW Post they had not picked a date for the memorial. I called him on the 10th of April and asked if they would wait until 2012 and we at the reunion in San Antonio would vote to come to the area and hold our reunion and dedicate the memorial. On the 11th of May I received an email and he informed me that they would wait and do it then. Now as many of you know the ship was commissioned on the 10th of May 1946. The dates for the reunion will be either the 8th to the 11 or the 9th to the 12th of May

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2012. This info will be coming out later. The cost of the memorial was made possible by the people and a contractor and Stoneington, CT area. I feel that we as the Pawcatuck family should show are gratitude and I challenge all of you to make this reunion the biggest. We had 100 in Norfolk, VA back in 2005. You have two years to plan on coming and I hope you will be there. Many people back in Pawcatuck, CT never knew that a ship had been named after the river that is between RI and CT.

Now until our Dec issue of our newsletter comes out have a great summer and if any of you have any questions about this article please contact me.

Now one more thing. At the reunion this year I informed those in attendance that after the 2012 reunion this would be my last year of being your reunion coordinator. I have held this position since we met in Lancaster, PA back in 2000. I have mentioned to some other people and one said, "No, no." So this is to inform you that I will keep going as long as the good Lord keeps me around. Therefore I will not stop. I want these reunions to keep going as long as we can and so that is what I will do.

I have to say thanks to all the ladies again that made this reunion so great.

Yours,  
David Willis  
Reunion coordinator for the USS  
PAWCAUCK AO-108

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*"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"*

## MCPHERSON'S MESSAGE

### CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOOING SET FOR 2011 REUNION

Shipmates and Family Members:

Another great reunion has passed and we who were there have returned back at our homes, from San Antonio, Texas and El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel (Holiday Inn) that we called our bunk house while we were wandering around. The hotel provided excellent service and the management and staff are to be commended.

I would like to extend my Thank You to all of those who attended this year's reunion. We may not have had many shipmates and family members, (53 in all), but we all enjoyed our time together and the sites and sounds of San Antonio.

We all enjoyed seeing each other and while on the tours, we learned about Fredericksburg, TX and the National Museum of the Pacific War. The San Antonio City tour highlighted the (SAS) San Antonio Shoe Market, the Alamo and a Mexican market as well as other important facts about the city.

Our annual PAWCATUCK Banquet was held on Wednesday evening and after a great meal, we all enjoyed the program which was the drawing of the silent auction that our PAWCATUCK LADIES held. This program was began last year and the funds that are raised go toward scholarships for our children and grandchildren. I am pleased to announce that we raised \$1100.00 for this worthwhile project and I wish to extend a major WELL DONE to all the PAWCATUCK LADIES and also to all those shipmates that purchased the tickets, for it was through them that we were able to obtain this amount.

During our Annual Business Meeting, not only did we select the cities for the next two years, but through the efforts of our PAWCATUCK FUND AUCTION, we awarded

(2) two scholarships to the families of Roskoph's and Vandyke's. Congratulations and may your students excel in their chosen course of study.

Now I would like to strongly invite all shipmates and family members as well, to begin making plans to attend our 2011 USS PAWCATUCK AO - 108 REUNION, which will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I encourage all shipmates to spread the word to those shipmates that have never attended one of our reunions, as well as those who could not make some of the previous reunions. We had some new shipmates attend this years' reunion, and I am sure that they had a great time and have promised to attend more of our reunions. Let's try and make this 2011 reunion to be held, Chattanooga, Tennessee, one of the biggest that we have had thus far. Make your plans and mark you schedules.

If you have any suggestion or ideas, feel free to contact one of the committee members. We are always open to your suggestions.

Finally, I would like to say THANK YOU for allowing me to serve as your Assistant Coordinator and I look forward to seeing all shipmates during the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion to be held in the Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mark E. McPherson  
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**USS PAWCATUCK  
2011 REUNION**

**MAY 9-12**

**CHATTANOOGA,  
TN**

**CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO  
HOTEL**

## 2010 REUNION ATTENDEES

Al & Joyce Alexander  
 Edmond & Chris Bernier  
 Charles & Martha Carter  
 George Casey  
 Mike Culbertson  
 James & Linda Duross  
 Randy & Kate Campaign  
 Ralph & Elizabeth Jordan  
 Robert Klinefelter  
 Nathan & Sandra Koller  
 John & Jean Kritschgau  
 Mark, Shirley & Jay McPherson  
 William & Sandy Mellon  
 Neil & Trudy O'Brien  
 Herman Payne  
 Dan & Tanya Phelps  
 Travis Robertson  
 Jimmy & Shelia Roden  
 James & Margaret Roskoph  
 Henry Schneider  
 Robert Tomlin & Karen Marlowe  
 Ted & Ruby Van Dyke  
 John, Suzanne, Max & Laverne Welborn  
 David Willis & Jan Cox

**Total Members: 24**  
**Guests: 18**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 42**

## Financial Statement

Balance after 03/10 **\$903.01**  
 Received since 03/10 **\$168.00**  
 Available for 06/10 **\$1071.01**  
 Funds used for 06/10 issue  
**-\$207.98**  
 Balance remaining for 12/10 issue  
**\$863.03**

The Pilot is mailed **only to those who have returned the coupon to receive it by postal mail**. Those with e-mail may access the newsletter on the internet at [www.mlrsinc.com/pawcatuck](http://www.mlrsinc.com/pawcatuck). Please continue to contribute \$5.00 for the publication of the newsletter. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc at address on page 3.



## DECK FORCE

Pawcatuck Shipmates,

This was my first reunion with my husband, who had only been to the 2009 reunion. Being a newcomer to a group of people can be a nervous situation. I felt none of that at the San Antonio reunion. When first entering the hospitality room, someone immediately came up to me and said, "Hi, this is your first time. Let me introduce you to a few people." From that moment on, I was relaxed with a group of people I did not know but was becoming familiar with. The saying, "There are no strangers here, only friends I have not met," was certainly true with this group of fun-loving and considerate people.

I am looking forward to the 2011 reunion of the USS Pawcatuck AO-108 because I really enjoyed everyone and want that experience again.

Thanks to all who made my first and not last reunion so enjoyable!

Sandy Mellon (Joe's wife)

Reunion Attendees,

Thank you very much for the card that you all signed and sent to my son from the reunion in Texas.

Howard "Wayne" Reed  
 n0ftj@sbcglobal.net

Pawcatuck Crewmembers,

I would like to thank all of those involved for selecting me to receive the Pawcatuck scholarship. I am honored and promise to live up to your expectations.

Sincerely,  
 Zane Roskoph

Pawcatuck Crewmembers,

I really appreciate the scholarship that the crewmembers of the USS Pawcatuck awarded to me. Thank

you, Pawpaw, for your service and for encouraging me to apply for the scholarship. I will make you proud.

Chelsea Campbell,  
 Granddaughter of Ted VanDyke and recipient of the USS Pawcatuck Scholarship (See photo below)



**CHELSEA CAMPBELL**



## TAPS

The Pawcatuck Pilot has learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families and friends of the deceased. Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the next reunion.

**David Parker**  
 (1970-72) EM# Eng  
 Died May 19, 2009

**James Chester**  
 Died February 9, 2008

## MEMOIRS OF A SNIPE ABOARD USS PAWCATUCK AO-108 1945-1950

BY THOMAS M. BLOOD, USN, PLANKOWNER  
USS PAWCATUCK

*Continued from March 2010:*

### Near Death Experience

One time when I was aboard and on the mid, I decided to make a whistle. I found a piece of hardened 1/4 inch brass tubing and got out my trusty files. When I finished, I put an adjustable slider in the end and played with it for a while. I put it in my pocket and started taking my readings when up popped the duty chief from below, like a gopher with a snake after him. He ran over to the turbine engine generators, looked around, never said a word and disappeared below. This same scene was repeated a second time, then a third time, with the exception that as he was returning the third time, I was still adjusting the slider on the whistle. He stopped in mid stride, turned about 3 shades of red (rage), and if he could have gotten someone to stand my watch on short notice would have done me great bodily harm. What I didn't realize, was that high frequency end (beyond our hearing) was forming harmonics with the turbines, and it was impossible to detect its source. The chief didn't know whether he had a steam leak or a turbine about to disassociate, neither case being good (in fact, downright disastrous). If I had known this, I sure would not have let myself get caught, even if for some reason I had it in for the chief, which I did not. He was a super guy, although I did not work for him (perhaps that is why he didn't kill me on the spot). If he's still around, I offer my sincere apologies to him and or his descendents.

### BITS OF THIS AND THAT

#### AH, DEMON RUM

We had a BT who liked his rum a tad too much. He would put his rum in a bay rum bottle and his bay rum in a rum bottle. One time they pulled

a locker inspection and found an empty rum bottle in his locker. During Captain's mast, his Sea Lawyer pointed out there was no regulation against keeping an empty bottle in your locker, and the Captain dismissed the case. I understand that later on, the Navy discharged him, as he became too much of a problem and liability. He was a good BT but ornery when drunk. W. T. Hatch had a problem with him late one night as he was going down the ladder. Hatch planted a foot in his (the BT's) chest and when he hit the deck plates about 3 flights down, he became quite docile. Next morning he just figured he slipped and fell. We used to clean the hand rails with diesel oil on field day, and everyone figured that was the primary cause of his fall, and the sore chest just part of the bumping down the steps. I was always amused to see him in the morning wash his face, trim his moustache, take a good healthy slug of "Bay Rum," then blow his breath in the mirror.

#### IT'S A WONDER SOME PEOPLE SURVIVE

Note: Some of these stories are related to me by Ol' Hatch, and at the time they sounded funny, and I suppose, filled a hidden need to relieve frustration. You can have your own fantasies like "The Secret Life of Walter Mithey" or as so many of us do, listen to others and believe their telling of a tale, accepting it at face value, not wishing to know the truth or falseness. I put these down solely for your amusement and not as a record of any sort. (Comes under the heading of "This is no B.S", I suppose.)

Speaking of dumb things and W.T. Hatch, seems one of the crew found a rifle grenade or maybe it was an unexploded Bazooka shell, and asked old W.T if he could disarm it. At the time we were an-

chored in Malta. Well, they took this thing to one of the deck lockers on the main deck, dogged the hatch down, proceeded to clamp it in a vice and started to saw on it with a hack saw. A little curl of smoke issued from the saw cut and with a cry of "Open that #!?!/###\*\* hatch!" the finder of the projectile was all over those dogs. Looked like he had materialized an extra set of limbs, kind of looked like a spider. The moment the hatch was open, with a mighty heave, Old W.T. tossed this smoking missile with such force that it would have done any football player proud. As luck would have it, about 50 feet from where it entered the water there was a Maltese citizen in a small boat, fishing with his back to the ship. He never turned around, and must have thought it was a fish jumping. A few seconds later, there was a big THUMP, followed by a gas bubble. At this the fisherman kind of looked over his shoulder and went on fishing. I guess with all the bombs dropped on Malta during WW2, our fisherman was quite accustomed to such happenings.

Not so were our intrepid disposal team of 2. When they realized that they were confined in a very small steel box, sitting over a ship of avgas, diesel and bunker fuel, on a vessel which required you use bronze tools to work on deck machinery, and you weren't allowed to carry lighters or matches, the possible dire consequences finally hit home. It took many liberties and weeks, before they could settle their jangled nerves. No hand holding counselors in those days, keep mum or spend time in the brig.

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To be continued in future issues

**PHOTOS FROM 2010 REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO  
FROM RALPH JORDAN**



Rodens, Alexanders,  
Mellon, Mike Culberson,  
Casey, Payne &  
Klinefelter

Roskophs, Ruby & Ted  
Van Dyke, Robert Tumblin,  
Karen, Mr. & Mrs. Phelps,  
Dave, Randy & Kate



Carters, Travis Robertson,  
Kollers, O'Briens, James &  
Linda Duross

Ralph & Elizabeth Jordan,  
Berniers, McPhersons,  
Dave & Jan, Kritschgaus



**STATEMENT OF  
PUBLICATION**

The PAWCAUCK PILOT is the official publication of the USS PAWCATUCK AO-108 Association. It will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the PAWCATUCK. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions.

**POLO SHIRTS & BALL CAPS  
AVAILABLE**

David Willis has USS Pawcatuck polo shirts and ball caps available for purchase. No more will be ordered until these are sold. If you would like one, contact Dave at [dwshs53@aol.com](mailto:dwshs53@aol.com) or 623-214-9835.

## CHATTANOOGA, TN FOR 2011

**Chattanooga, TN**, fourth largest city in Tennessee, is a diversified city, once highly industrialized, but now caters mostly to tourists. Its history is also diverse. It was the site of three major battles of the Civil War, one of which was the Battle of Chickamauga. The battle was fought in the fall of 1863 and was the turning point of the Civil War. Chattanooga was also one of the starting points of the "Trail of Tears" that drove Native Americans from their homes to distant Oklahoma. It is the birthplace of miniature golf and the site of the first Coca-Cola bottling plant. The city is nestled in a valley through which the Tennessee River runs. Located on the southern edge of Tennessee and sandwiched right between Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain, Chattanooga is full of natural vegetation and other exciting sites. Below is a brief summary of some of the most popular attractions in Chattanooga, which you may want to visit during your reunion there.

### ATTRACTIONS

#### **Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park:**

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga. The Battle of Chickamauga resulted in a Confederate victory, however, the Union troops gained the final control with a victory at Chattanooga. The Military Park, created in 1890, was the nation's first to preserve and commemorate battlefields. The park consists of 5,200 acres of the Chickamauga Battlefield which contain numerous monuments, historical tablets, wayside exhibits, and trails. The Lookout Mountain Battlefield is on 3,000 acres and consists of monuments, historical markers, trails, and scenic vistas. Point Park, located on the top of the mountain, is the most prominent feature. Point Park offers a gorgeous view of the surrounding area. A seven-mile driving tour of

the park is available.

#### **Lookout Mountain:**

Located on Lookout Mountain are two very famous tourist spots, Ruby Falls and Rock City. Both claim more than 1 million visitors a year.

**Ruby Falls** is an underground waterfall located deep inside the mountain in a limestone layer. Lookout Mountain Caverns were formed as the water from subterranean streams dissolved the limestone. The Caverns consist of two caves, the lower one about 50 feet above the level of the Tennessee River and the upper cave, containing Ruby Falls, lies directly above the original cave. There are many different types of formations found in the Ruby Falls cave. The most common are stalactites, stalagmites, columns, drapes, and flowstone. The truly amazing feature of the Lookout Mountain caves is the large vertical shaft at the end of the main passage. A flowing underground stream falls from the very top of this shaft 145 feet into a pool on the floor of the cave.

Please be aware you will be 260 ft below ground walking along a narrow trail through caverns a distance of 1/2 mile to the falls and then return. Tour time is 1½ to 2 hours. It is not handicap accessible.

**Rock City**, is located on top of Lookout Mountain, is a true marvel of nature featuring massive ancient rock formations, gardens with over 400 native plant species, and breathtaking "See 7 States" panoramic views. A 100-foot waterfall cascades from Rock City down Lookout Mountain and a Swing-A-Long bridge spans nearly 200 feet offering thrilling views to those brave enough to cross it. In the gardens, a 4,100 foot walking trail showcases the lush gardens, caves and soaring rock formations. This is a 45 minute tour.

**The Inclined Railroad** which climbs Lookout Mountain has been one of Chattanooga's most unique attractions since 1895. It has been designated as both a National Historic Site and National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The trolley style railcars carry you high and the breathtaking 72.7% grade of

the track near the top gives the Incline Railway the unique distinction of being the steepest passenger railway in the world. Sit back, relax and enjoy the scenic view from the observation windows of the Incline Train as it ascends the mountain to the observation tower at the top station. On a clear day you can see the Great Smoky Mountains which are over 100 miles away.

#### **Tennessee Aquarium:**

The aquarium is built with six magnificent glass peaks, under which visitors can explore three living forests and meet amazing creatures that swim, fly and crawl in natural habitats. Touch stingrays and sharks in the saltwater pool, visit penguins or wander over to the butterfly garden and see the collection of these beautiful creatures, see otters play in another area, while yet another part houses the giant Pacific octopus, a giant Japanese spider crab and an electrifying jellyfish. This is a must-see adventure for all. An IMAX Theater is located at the aquarium as well, taking you places you could only imagine. Crystal clear, larger than life 3D images make you feel as if you're a part of the action.

#### **Hunter Museum of American Art:**

Built on a ninety-foot limestone bluff overlooking the Tennessee River and comprised of a 1904 classical revival mansion and a contemporary structure, the Hunter Museum of American Art houses the finest collection of American art in the Southeast. The collection spans the history of American art from the colonial period to the present-day, and covers a wide variety of media. Works can be seen from the Hudson River and Ashcan schools, contemporary studio glass, American Impressionism, early modern art, regionalism and abstract expressionism, as well as others.

#### **International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum:**

Chattanooga is home to the first wrecker, fabricated at the Ernest Holmes Company nearby. Automo-

*(Continued on page 8)*

tive and history buffs will enjoy a tour of the museum which houses an ever changing collection of tow trucks dating from the earliest days of the automobile. The museum has a wide variety of antique toys and memorabilia to entertain all visitors.

**Chattanooga Riverboat Company "Southern Belle" Riverboat:**

Cruise down the Tennessee River in a 500-passenger, climate controlled, riverboat. Several cruise options are available, including a dinner or lunch cruise featuring several meal options.

**Tennessee Valley Railroad & Museum:**

This is the largest operating historic railroad in the South. The six-mile trip lasts about 55 minutes and travels through the 979-foot long Missionary Ridge Tunnel. The ride begins at Grand Junction and travels to the East Chattanooga Depot where visitors can witness how a locomotive is turned around using a turntable and take a tour of the maintenance and restoration shop.

**Chattanooga Choo Choo:**

Chattanooga Choo Choo is the name of an actual train which ran

from Cincinnati to Chattanooga beginning in 1880. Glenn Miller's song made it famous in 1941, becoming the music industry's first ever gold record. The last passenger train pulled out of the magnificent old Chattanooga Terminal Station on August 11, 1970. Today the Chattanooga Choo Choo is a 24-acre vacation complex owned by the hotel where you will be staying—The Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. The Chattanooga Choo Choo occupies the former Southern Railroad terminal on the hotel grounds. Visitors can walk in the beautifully landscaped gardens, browse the shops and railroad track area and explore the model railroad museum, one of the world's largest working "HO" gauge model railroads. The Chattanooga Choo Choo has become one of the South's most renowned landmarks.

**Downtown Chattanooga:**

Take time to explore downtown Chattanooga, which is situated on the Tennessee River. Its riverside location means the city has taken full advantage of its scenic surroundings. You'll discover outstanding restaurants, eclectic shops, an arts district and parks.

The Tennessee Riverpark is a complex of riverfront green spaces, including a walking path that extends from downtown Chattanooga across 11 miles to the Chickamauga Dam. The Fat Cat Ferry is docked on the riverfront and will take you on a fun-filled river journey with spectacular views all over the city. Coolidge Park boasts a magnificent hand-carved carousel, as well as lush landscaping and an interactive fountain. Trendy local restaurants and shops are on Frazier Avenue. Maclellan Island features great blue herons, osprey and migrating warblers. A magnificent view of the bluffs along the river can be seen from here also. Walk across the one-half mile Walnut Street pedestrian bridge that is part of the 12-mile long Tennessee Riverwalk. The bridge is the oldest surviving bridge of its kind in the Southeastern United States. An area known as the Bluff View Arts District includes restaurants, galleries, a sculpture garden and shops. Two shopping malls in the area are Northgate Mall and Hamilton Place Mall, as well as Warehouse Row, a large outlet mall in downtown.

**USS PAWCATUCK 2011 REUNION SURVEY**

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.**  
**P O Drawer 11399**  
**Hickory, NC 28603-6402**

**Or Fax to: 828-256-6559**

**Or on line at: [www.mlrsinc.com/purdy](http://www.mlrsinc.com/purdy)**

**Return by August 9, 2010**

**Reunion format:**

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group? \_\_\_\_  
 or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday? \_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the Saturday night banquet?  
 \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

**Activities:** *Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda.*

- \_\_\_\_ Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
- \_\_\_\_ Lookout Mountain (including Ruby Falls, Rock City, Inclined Railroad
- \_\_\_\_ Tennessee Aquarium
- \_\_\_\_ Hunter Museum of American Art
- \_\_\_\_ International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum
- \_\_\_\_ Chattanooga Riverboat Company "Southern Belle" Riverboat
- \_\_\_\_ Tennessee Valley Railroad & Museum
- \_\_\_\_ Tour of downtown Chattanooga