

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

## USS Ponchatoula Shipmates Assoc.

Welcome to the "Ship's Log". This site belongs to the Shipmates of the USS Ponchatoula Shipmates Association. We are glad to have you visit us and leave a comment.

Thank you,  
Phil Rehlander  
President

**COMMENT ENTRY BOX IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE**

[Back to the website](#)

Date:	Fri, Jan 18 2019, 9:50, CST
Name:	Robert Stewart
Email:	<a href="mailto:rstewart24@triad.rr.com">rstewart24@triad.rr.com</a>
Location:	Clemmons NC
Date Served:	1967-1970
Number:	283

Dennis Wright, I saw your earlier message on the ships log. You didn't leave your email address or any other contact info. We served together in the 2nd div. Contact me at my email address, would love to talk to you. It's been decades!

Date:	Tue, Jan 1 2019, 13:53, CST
Name:	Dick Weber
Email:	<a href="mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com">rjdubs@hotmail.com</a>
Location:	roeland park, ks.
Date Served:	sept.66 - oct.67
Number:	282

wishing all shipmates a happy and healthy new year. Dick PC 3

Date:	Thu, Oct 11 2018, 9:29, CST
Name:	Jon Battle
Email:	<a href="mailto:jonbattle@icloud.com">jonbattle@icloud.com</a>
Location:	Test
Date Served:	Test

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 281

Test

Date: Fri, Oct 5 2018, 18:09, CST  
Name: Hector Lopez  
Email: [hflopez24@comcast.net](mailto:hflopez24@comcast.net)  
Location: katy, TX  
Date Served: 66-68  
Number: 280

HI all, just wanted to thank Jonesy and Pete and everyone that helped make our 2018 reunion a great one. We had folks come from far and near and each one of us had a great time due to the hard work of these two guys and everyone that pitched in that knows the area. Great time with all of you and hope to have one again. My family always asks about the reunion and they are amazed at how close we all are and how friendly everyone is. Congrats to our new officers in charge and many blessings to all of you. C U soon.

Date: Fri, Aug 31 2018, 13:24, CST  
Name: Dick Weber PC3  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: Kansas City,Ks.  
Date Served: 7-66 to 9-67  
Number: 279

Looking fwd. to seeing all you shipmates next week at our reunion. Should be a fun time!  
Best BBQ in the country...

Date: Fri, Aug 31 2018, 8:45, CST  
Name: gerald smith  
Email: [drjeckel104@aol.com](mailto:drjeckel104@aol.com)  
Location: florida  
Date Served: 74-77  
Number: 278

worked as electrician looking for Jim Torre, Dennis Blevins and Trimble from the IC shop

Date: Tue, Aug 7 2018, 15:37, CST  
Name: dennis wright Bm3

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: st johns mich  
Date Served: 1968 to 1971  
Number: 277

am working on claim for neurophaty on  
arms and legs

Date: Tue, Aug 7 2018, 15:32, CST  
Name: dennis wright  
Location: st johns mich  
Date Served: 1968 to 1971  
Number: 276

agent orange claim from ship log from  
1968 to 1971

Date: Sat, Jun 16 2018, 17:19, CST  
Name: Emily wertz (lee wertz)  
Email: [mly5290@gmail.com](mailto:mly5290@gmail.com)  
Date Served: 1973  
Number: 275

If anyone knows my late father please  
email me! Lee wertz, the paper says  
domain of neptunus rex, served on the uss  
ponchatoula. He got the battle effeciency  
award in august of '73. He said he did  
nuclear stuff and interior  
communications.

Date: Sat, May 26 2018, 9:48, CST  
Name: Steve Ford  
Email: [redhook54@gmail.com](mailto:redhook54@gmail.com)  
Location: Mt Airy MD  
Date Served: Sept 72- May 75  
Number: 274

Memorial weekend and all the great times  
flood back.(Mostly good)I would really  
enjoy hearing from any shipmates.I was  
2nd div.Take care to all.

Date: Sun, Jan 28 2018, 19:20, CST  
Name: Kenneth Carter  
Email: [kencarter38@gmail.com](mailto:kencarter38@gmail.com)  
Location: Locust Grove, V irginia  
Date Served: 1956-1961  
Number: 273

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I served onboard under Captains Wilson, Headland, Higgenbotham, Denny and Spruence. First assigned to M then R Division. Worked for SF 1 C.E White SFC Reynolds. I became a Damage controlman Striker.I remember Norman Rogers SFP 3, MM1 John Casette, MM3 Delawter. While assigned to R Division I worked with the Ships Fuel System, it was hard work. We went several WES PAC deployments.I DEVELOPED very good work ethics on the PONCH that fashioned my philosophy and high standards that stood by me for thirty years of active service, being advanced to E-9 HULL TECNICIAN and CWO-4

Date: Sat, Dec 30 2017, 10:45, CST  
Name: ron willard  
Email: [rjwillard@infowest.com](mailto:rjwillard@infowest.com)  
Location: souther utah  
Date Served: 1961-1964  
Number: 272

wishing all a healthy, happy n. y.. any time a where my pounch hat vets will say you guys unrepd us.even had a couple say they served on her.best thing I did at 17.

Date: Sat, Sep 30 2017, 11:15, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@gmail.com](mailto:sailor4419@gmail.com)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 271

To all my shipmates. I am changing my email to sailor4419@gmail.com

Date: Sun, Jul 2 2017, 9:43, CST  
Name: F.A.Elliott III  
Email: [faelliott3@yahoo.com](mailto:faelliott3@yahoo.com)  
Location: JAX FL  
Date Served: 08AUG1991 08AUG1995  
Number: 270

anyone know my Dad Fred Elliott he retired as RDC Elliott in 69 I know he served on the Ponchatoula but I don't

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

know when, he died in 1983 he was 50 thanks....

Date: Fri, Jun 23 2017, 16:28, CST  
Name: Lyle Bonebrake  
Email: [cbonebrake56@gmail.com](mailto:cbonebrake56@gmail.com)  
Location: Blaine, Minnesota  
Date Served: 1972-74  
Number: 269

I am Lyle's son signing him up. He was an FM/BT

Date: Mon, May 29 2017, 17:51, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda, MD  
Date Served: Aboard the Ponch 5/65 - 5/68  
Number: 268

Looking forward to meeting Harry Young in Kansas City.

Date: Mon, May 29 2017, 15:59, CST  
Name: Harry Young  
Email: [Ericyoung9275@aol.com](mailto:Ericyoung9275@aol.com)  
Location: Buffalo ny  
Date Served: 1965-1969  
Number: 267

Hello I'm Harry Young's son he was a radar man on the uss ponchatoula .i wanna bring him to next reunion I will be signing him up to become a member. Thank you.

Date: Sun, May 14 2017, 9:57, CST  
Name: dick weber  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: Roeland Park, Ks.  
Date Served: 66-67  
Number: 266

what a great time in Ponchatoula the last couple days. Glad to see my fellow shipmates. Hope everyone made it back safely. Thanks Phil for mailing my clothes to me that I left behind !@&^\*, well at least I didn't leave Steve

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Sat, Apr 29 2017, 10:29, CST  
Name: Tim Groleau  
Email: [angierickel@yahoo.com](mailto:angierickel@yahoo.com)  
Location: Gladstone, MI  
Date Served: 72-75  
Number: 265

Looking to get in contact with some of the guys i served with.

Date: Tue, Jan 3 2017, 8:51, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 264

Happy New Year Shipmates. I am remembering New Years Day in Subic Bay 1965

Date: Sat, Dec 24 2016, 19:39, CST  
Name: RON WILLARD  
Email: [RJWILLARD@INFOWEST.COM](mailto:RJWILLARD@INFOWEST.COM)  
Location: SHIPFTTER 3  
Date Served: SEPT.61/MAR 64  
Number: 263

WISHING ALL MERRY CHRISTMAS.FOR ME BEST THING I COULD DO AT 17.ANYONE KNOW HOW MUCH RADIATION WE GOT AT CHRISTMAS IL.1962? ALLWAYS A POUNCH SAILOR,LEARNED MY WELDING TRADE IN NAVY.

Date: Thu, Nov 24 2016, 10:49, CST  
Name: Mike Degel  
Email: [mikdegs@yahoo.com](mailto:mikdegs@yahoo.com)  
Location: Coon Rapids MN  
Date Served: 63-65  
Number: 262

Hi Shipmates,

still trying to find Tom wagner YN3 back when.

I have checked all places online that I can think of.

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Please let me know if you have any info.

Enjoy reading some of the posts on this site, keep them coming.

Thanks,

Mike Degel YN3

Date:	Thu, Oct 27 2016, 11:42, CST
Name:	poltera bill
Email:	<a href="mailto:redriderboss@gmail.com">redriderboss@gmail.com</a>
Location:	oregon
Date Served:	72 74
Number:	261

hy jonee saw message today didnt know webpage was even around wight let me know how the hell your doing was there in r divison

Date:	Wed, Oct 5 2016, 15:30, CST
Name:	poltera
Email:	<a href="mailto:redriderboss@gmail.com">redriderboss@gmail.com</a>
Location:	oregon
Date Served:	1972 1974
Number:	260

I work in wilding shop for 1st class Eads would to hear from any body that rembers me

Date:	Thu, Sep 22 2016, 19:57, CST
Name:	Rodger Smith
Email:	<a href="mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com">tworms43@hotmail.com</a>
Location:	Bethesda, Maryland
Date Served:	Aboard the Ponch 5/65 - 5/68
Number:	259

Thanks, Hector! We enjoyed our run as Reunion Coordinators! I needed all the help she gave me, even though 1LT Rosie was Army! Phillip should be very capable as Reunion Coordinator!

Date:	Thu, Sep 22 2016, 13:02, CST
Name:	Hector Lopez
Email:	<a href="mailto:hflopez24@comcast.net">hflopez24@comcast.net</a>
Location:	Katy, TX
Date Served:	Thanks

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 258

Hey, I did not preview and I meant to say, "you did a great job" and not "have did", go figure with this bad eye sight. Have a good one all.

Date: Thu, Sep 22 2016, 12:59, CST  
Name: Hector Lopez 1966-68  
Email: [hflopez24@comcast.net](mailto:hflopez24@comcast.net)  
Location: Katy, TX  
Date Served: Thanks Rodger and Rosie  
Number: 257

Rodger and Rosie, I believe I speak for all of us who have attended the reunions. You two have did a super job and want to thank you both so much. Lots of sights to see and activities to do all because of your planning, thanks from all of us for sure. See you next time.

Date: Sun, Sep 18 2016, 11:04, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda, Maryland  
Date Served: Aboard the Ponch 5/65 - 5/68  
Number: 256

I just want to thank everyone that attended our 2016 Reunion in Rhode Island for making it a successful event. I'm looking forward to helping our new VP and Reunion Coordinator, Phillip Jones, in planning our 2018 reunion in Kansas City, KS.

Date: Thu, Sep 1 2016, 9:39, CST  
Name: Ted Mallick  
Email: [tmallick@yahoo.com](mailto:tmallick@yahoo.com)  
Location: New Port Richey FL  
Date Served: Sept 1966 - Jan 1968  
Number: 255

Correction on dates served aboard the Ponch!

Date: Wed, Aug 10 2016, 12:19, CST  
Name: Ted Mallick  
Email: [tmallick@yahoo.com](mailto:tmallick@yahoo.com)



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: New Port Richey, FL  
Date Served: 9/1969 - 1/1968  
Number: 254

Peter Ablanczy,

Was an IC man on board and what I need is the agent orange info to battle the VA.

lung cancer survivor...now diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Thanks

Date: Sun, Jul 17 2016, 12:53, CST  
Name: Dennis Trainor  
Email: [dennisadleighann@gmail.com](mailto:dennisadleighann@gmail.com)  
Location: Roseville ca  
Date Served: 1967 to 1968  
Number: 253

Pete, hopefully It was a painless procedure

Date: Tue, Jun 21 2016, 11:24, CST  
Name: Pete Ablanczy  
Email: [pablanczy@msn.com](mailto:pablanczy@msn.com)  
Location: Centennial Colorado  
Date Served: 1966-67  
Number: 252

Hey Doc, Nice to see your post on June 17th. I remember you well - On liberty in Pearl, I liked to run around the waikiki Beach area in cut-offs and barefoot. On more than one morning, I'd have to stop in sick bay so you could extract small shards of glass from my feet. Thanks for the good care!

Date: Fri, Jun 17 2016, 0:08, CST  
Name: Dennis Trainor  
Email: [dennisandleighann@gmail.com](mailto:dennisandleighann@gmail.com)  
Location: Roseville California  
Date Served: June 1967 to November 1968  
Number: 251

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I was the Corpsman on board. My brother Dan served on the Ponch too. Had a great time and met good friends.

Date: Sat, Apr 30 2016, 7:15, CST  
Name: Bill Lang  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963  
Number: 250

Pam: At that time the China Nationals and the Chinese Communists were at "war" and the ship was off the coast of China. We did see some planes engaged in operations off the coast. Hope this helps you.

Date: Tue, Apr 26 2016, 16:58, CST  
Name: Pamela R. Davis  
Email: [prd711@aol.com](mailto:prd711@aol.com)  
Location: West Columbia, S.C.  
Date Served: 5/17/60 - 11/12/61  
Number: 249

Trying to locate any shipmate that served with my late husband Freddie Darell Davis (Dave). He told me that the Captain of the ship announced that they were in a war zone and that one day they would be thankful for that but I don't know how to prove that. Anybody??

Date: Wed, Apr 13 2016, 13:58, CST  
Name: Don Powell Jr  
Email: [coachdon.east@gmail.com](mailto:coachdon.east@gmail.com)  
Location: Anchorage, AK  
Date Served: 1960-1963  
Number: 248

Hello I am typing this out for my late father, Don Powell, he was from Custer South Dakota. He passed recently and prior to that we have been trying to find his record of service. If anyone has copy of the ships crew log or any other way I can get proof he was on the ship during that time frame it would be greatly appreciated. His discharge paperwork was destroyed in a flood so I am starting

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

from ground zero. Thank you for the time and thank everyone for their service to our country.

Date: Thu, Feb 25 2016, 21:31, CST  
Name: Stan Mewhorter MM3  
Email: [britm20@aol.com](mailto:britm20@aol.com)  
Location: Minneapolis, MN  
Date Served: 1962-1965  
Number: 247

My wife Carol and I went down to New Orleans on vacation Feb 18 and we drove to the city of Ponchatoula to see our Ponchatoula memorial, I felt like Palmer BN2 said in his letter, "standing on the fantail with one foot on the rail watching the water get churned by the screws".  
Thank you shipmates responsible for the memorial

Date: Mon, Feb 8 2016, 19:50, CST  
Name: Jim Temple  
Email: [bflat879@bellsouth.net](mailto:bflat879@bellsouth.net)  
Location: Florida  
Date Served: 65-70  
Number: 246

John David Hall, where have you been all these years?

Date: Sun, Jan 31 2016, 15:37, CST  
Name: John Hall  
Email: [jdhall9@live.com](mailto:jdhall9@live.com)  
Location: Wichita Kansas  
Date Served: 65thru68  
Number: 245

Thanks to all who built this site. i was a RM and just now found this site. will join and spend more time here

Date: Sat, Jan 16 2016, 0:37, CST  
Name: RICHARD YURKOVIC  
Email: [ryurkovic@hotmail.com](mailto:ryurkovic@hotmail.com)  
Location: CALIFORNIA  
Date Served: 1974-1977  
Number: 244

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE, EVEN THROUGH TOUGH TIMES AS A MM;THE PONCH CREW DURNING MY TIME ON BOARD MADE HER THE BEST OILER IN THE 7TH FLEET,THANKS FOR ALL HARD WORK AND SERVING OUR COUNTRY. MM1 (RET)YURKOVIC

Date: Thu, Dec 3 2015, 19:34, CST  
Name: Gerald Edwards  
Email: [gdedwards1@juno.com](mailto:gdedwards1@juno.com)  
Location: Rocklin Cal  
Date Served: 62-66  
Number: 243

Had a great time,aboard the PONCH. Many many memories.

Date: Mon, Nov 2 2015, 11:14, CST  
Name: dick weber  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: roeland park,ks.  
Date Served: 66-67  
Number: 242

Let's hear it for our Kansas City Royals.. world Series Champions. To bad the Chiefs have to go across the pond to win a game!

Date: Mon, Sep 28 2015, 18:09, CST  
Name: Palmer BM2  
Email: [rp7294@yahoo.com](mailto:rp7294@yahoo.com)  
Location: wrstfield,In  
Date Served: 66-67  
Number: 241

Hand salute to those that worked on the Ponch memorial. Great job guys. To those who have not yet seen it, definitely try.

Standing on the fantail foot on the rail I felt 45 years younger. Staring past the flag bilowing in the warm pineapple scented breeze off the Hawaiian Islands I'd swear that cement pad began to rise and fall. I could feel the throb of the engines like a heart beat, as if the 'ol gal was coming to life.

Now that her masts, bulkheads, and decks

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

have been melted and formed into rebar,  
I-beams and nails, she's started a whole  
new life.  
I'm proud to have served on her decks and  
with you.  
Till we meet again,  
Hand Salute  
'Boats'

Date: Sun, Aug 9 2015, 18:48, CST  
Name: PN3 Rob ROBINSIN  
Email: [ddrobinson26@aol.com](mailto:ddrobinson26@aol.com)  
Location: Springfield Mo  
Date Served: 72-75  
Number: 240

Was in Ships Office....worked under Chief  
Nipper. Just found website today. Was  
Captains Phone Talker on bridge. Remember  
theme song of "Hawaii 50". When braking  
away after UNREP. Been in car business  
for 40 years.....would love to hear from  
shipmates who might remember way back  
then-:)

Date: Tue, Jul 28 2015, 1:28, CST  
Name: Pete Dahmen  
Email: [peterdahmensr@gmail.com](mailto:peterdahmensr@gmail.com)  
Location: AZ  
Date Served: 1976- 1978  
Number: 239

Been a long time fellas. Had a great time  
on-board, a lot of familiar names. Lots  
of great memories! Your only MR for 2  
years!

Date: Mon, Jul 13 2015, 21:49, CST  
Name: Richard (Rick) Simonson  
Email: [mos19z5h@aol.com](mailto:mos19z5h@aol.com)  
Location: Pottsboro, TX  
Date Served: Jan 1959 - Aug 1961  
Number: 238

Had a very emotional trip to Ponchatoula  
LA for the Memorial. Hand Salute to all  
who made that possible. I am wondering if  
anyone knows or did know Jim Christensen  
RM3 on the Ponch. I think he left around

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

early 1960. He was from Kansas City.  
Played a mean blues Guitar.

Date: Sun, Jul 12 2015, 13:37, CST  
Name: Ken Houghton  
Email: [kenjhoughton@gmail.com](mailto:kenjhoughton@gmail.com)  
Location: Port Orchard, WA  
Date Served: '91-92  
Number: 237

I sailed on the Ponch as a Junior Engineer with MSC. Was on board during the collision with the Chancellorsville and the Pinatubo eruption in the PI.

We were the last crew to sail her, took her back to Oakland for lay-up and decommissioning.

For as old as she was, she still ran pretty solid as I recall.

Date: Fri, Jun 5 2015, 17:34, CST  
Name: Pete Ablanczy  
Email: [Pablanczy@msn.com](mailto:Pablanczy@msn.com)  
Location: Centennial, Colorado  
Date Served: 1966-70  
Number: 236

For those who were unable to attend the USS Ponchatoula Memorial Dedication Ceremony in Ponchatoula LA on May 16, 2015, be sure to check out the "BIG EVENT" link on the home page. What a wonderful reunion, and lots of great pictures. Many thanks to all who helped make this happen, including the City of Ponchatoula! This is a fitting resting place for our memories.

Date: Thu, May 7 2015, 21:09, CST  
Name: Steve Van Meter  
Email: [stevevanmeter@att.net](mailto:stevevanmeter@att.net)  
Location: High Ridge, Mo  
Date Served: sept 1963 to sept 1966  
Number: 235

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Hot dirty work in engine, fire, and pump rooms but somebody had to do it and I was young and dumb.

Date: Tue, Apr 7 2015, 22:55, CST  
Name: Larry wilks  
Number: 234

75 76

Date: Sat, Mar 21 2015, 20:29, CST  
Name: Krieg SK3  
Email: [ckrieg@cox.net](mailto:ckrieg@cox.net)  
Location: CT  
Date Served: 9/65-9/68  
Number: 233

Gary, I remember you & vince. Sad to hear of his passing. Hope all is well with you and your family.

Date: Wed, Mar 11 2015, 11:11, CST  
Name: richard weber  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: roeland park,ks.  
Date Served: 7-66 to 9-67  
Number: 232

PRAYERS for 4 National Guard members from Hammond,La.(close to Ponchatoula) who died in chopper crash in Florida last night. They were the flight crew on Blackhawk along with 7 Marines.

Date: Sun, Feb 15 2015, 17:30, CST  
Name: DAVID SEYMOUR  
Email: [USN4Ever6487@yahoo.com](mailto:USN4Ever6487@yahoo.com)  
Location: HERCULES, CA  
Date Served: 31 DEC 75 TO 22 JAN 1979  
Number: 231

I WAS LEADING YN FOR CAPT FURLONG, CAPT EDNEY, CAPT CARMICHAEL & CAPT DUNLEAVY. WOULD TO HEAR FROM ALL & IF ANYONE KNOWS OF WHEREABOUTS OF JIM MAISANO & KENNY KINBACK, PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO THEM. THANKS. PROMISE TO ANSWER ALL E-MAILS.

Date: Sat, Feb 14 2015, 17:39, CST  
Name: Gary Mitchell

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Email: [mitch\\_5010@yahoo.com](mailto:mitch_5010@yahoo.com)  
Location: San Francisco bay area  
Date Served: 1965-1967  
Number: 230

My best friend and one of your shipmates Vince Gurtler passed away on 2/6/2015 he was in supply div the same as me and worked in the laundry and I'm sure 90% of you borrow money from him at one time or another he always loved sea and lived must of his life in his van parked steps from the ocean,his cremated remains will be scattered at sea.

Date: Wed, Feb 4 2015, 20:51, CST  
Name: russell smith  
Email: [rbulber@yahoo.com](mailto:rbulber@yahoo.com)  
Location: AR  
Date Served: 1971- 1975  
Number: 229

hello all AO 148 guys was a BM

Date: Wed, Feb 4 2015, 10:12, CST  
Name: Doug Derome  
Email: [surfnh01@gmail.com](mailto:surfnh01@gmail.com)  
Location: Bonita Springs,FL  
Date Served: 1969-1971  
Number: 228

Arrived on board August 69, not yet 18yrs old,first time outside of New Hampshire. Stepped onto the quarterdeck with only the dress whites I had on. Air line lost my sea bag. Not even a pair of skives. The first weeks we're tough but thanks to the kindness of strangers and Capt Kohgem I got through it. Made 2 west-PAC cruises, survived the Point Defiance incedent,roared when Hankins went over the side coming out of Pearl retrieving a u-boat. Many good memories,many good people,John Moore,Jim Mills,who could forget his wife,Charlie Renfro,the whole fox division gang. Sad to see the Ponch in such bad



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

shape.Goodbye to a the classiest lady in Servron5

Date: Tue, Jan 27 2015, 9:24, CST  
Name: James(Tony) AUD  
Email: [audjames@yahoo.com](mailto:audjames@yahoo.com)  
Location: Owensboro,Ky.  
Date Served: 1969-1973  
Number: 227

4 years aboard the Ponch.So many memories.Great crew great friends.4 years(minus 6 months I spent on the Hassayampa)Temp transfer with SM1 Jon Tehan).Goodbye to a great ship.

Date: Sun, Jan 11 2015, 13:36, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda,MD and Ft Lauderdale,FL  
Date Served: May 1965 - May 1968  
Number: 226

The USS Ponchatoula Shipmates Association is having a dedication of artifacts from the recently scraped USS Ponchatoula in Ponchatoula,LA. Associaton members are encouraged to attend. If you are not a member, please become member to receive all the details. We are also in the planning stage of our 2016 reunion in Rhode Island.

Date: Sat, Jan 10 2015, 20:12, CST  
Name: Larry wilks  
Date Served: 75 76  
Number: 225

want to hear from any one from any any75 76

Date: wed, Dec 10 2014, 20:06, CST  
Name: Steve Kruzick  
Email: [tkruzick@charter.net](mailto:tkruzick@charter.net)  
Location: Wisconsin  
Date Served: 1971-197  
Number: 224

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

My brother Steve was a Signalman aboard this ship 71-73. wanted to let his shipmates know Steve passed away 5-30-14. If anyone has digital pictures of the ship or some photos of Steve you could share, please send them along. He always said the "Ponch" was the love of his life. Bless all that served on her.

Date: Wed, Nov 26 2014, 8:04, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 223

Happy Thanksgiving Shipmates..I am remembering a Thanksgiving long ago, twas 1964 the Ponch was at "Yankee Station"

Date: Thu, Nov 6 2014, 15:13, CST  
Name: Jay Dee Houston BM2  
Email: [jdhouston66@hotmail.com](mailto:jdhouston66@hotmail.com)  
Location: Leavenworth, Wa.  
Date Served: Sept66 thru Feb.70  
Number: 222

Sandy and me say say hi to all my shipmates. hope all is going well

Date: Thu, Sep 18 2014, 15:59, CST  
Name: Steve Wolter  
Email: [Steve.wolters@comcast.net](mailto:Steve.wolters@comcast.net)  
Location: Michigan  
Date Served: 1975-1979  
Number: 221

New number Billy email me

Date: Fri, Aug 22 2014, 9:47, CST  
Name: Bill Lang  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963  
Number: 220

The picture of her at the jetty with no identification headed for her final destination brought a tear to my eye. I have great memories of good and bad times

## Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

aboard. I was a "snipe" and remember the sound of engines and machinery that was her heart. Good by my friend!!!

Date: Thu, Aug 21 2014, 21:32, CST  
Name: john zlotnik GMG3  
Email: [jtzlotnik@outlook.com](mailto:jtzlotnik@outlook.com)  
Location: westcreek nj  
Date Served: jan63-feb64 fox div  
Number: 219

Looking For fox div people  
From that time.

Date: Tue, Aug 19 2014, 11:53, CST  
Name: John C Hearn  
Email: [hearnj1@consolidated.net](mailto:hearnj1@consolidated.net)  
Location: United States  
Date Served: 21 Aug 1964-23 Sept 1967  
Number: 218

In two days, it will be 50 years ago that I set my seabag on the quarterdeck. I was a relatively old man,(21) when I arrived from a cushy shore duty billet with COMSERVPAC headquarters in Pearl. I was an EM2, with just a little sea duty onboard the USS Midway CVA-41.I had no idea what the future had in store. Even though the Ponch has been out of my life for 47 years, just the thought of her being around was comforting. As we stood in Brownsville watching her enter port for the last time, I felt a great sense of loss, as I believe most of us felt. She was like a lamb being led to her slaughter, and it was unsettling. Part of these feelings are because we are entering into our later years, and an important part of our past will, in a few months be reduced to a pile of scrap metal. We were able to share our stories about her with a young family that was on the jetty that day, wondering what all the commotion and picture taking was all about. We were all pretty good at what we did,each person doing their part to keep her going and break all the replenishment

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

records. Thanks to everyone who was there.

Date: Sun, Aug 17 2014, 15:11, CST  
Name: ron willard  
Email: [rjwillard@infowest.com](mailto:rjwillard@infowest.com)  
Location: washington,ut.  
Date Served: sep.61-mar64,shipfiter 3  
Number: 217

only a sailor can love a ship . we  
lived,work,play on her, with her crew she  
becomes alive,almost a living  
thing.forever alive in my memory.  
Christmas il.japan,subic,pearl.  
memorys,service to our country,greatest  
in world

Date: Fri, Aug 15 2014, 10:23, CST  
Name: Charles A. Sadberry Sr.  
Email: [csadberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csadberry@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: Newark, Texas  
Date Served: 1963-1965  
Number: 216

My first and last bout of sea sickness  
occured in the Boatswain hole on board  
the "Ponch"as we hit the  
"breakwater"leaving Pearl Harbor  
sometimes in 1963. The trip to Texas from  
California marked the observance and  
recognized the outstanding contributions  
of all sailors that served on board the  
Ponchatouala. Lets celebrate the bonds of  
friendship and love that link the  
families of the USS Ponchatoula-AO 148.

Date: Fri, Aug 1 2014, 22:21, CST  
Name: harrell cantrell  
Email: [wolfer58@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfer58@yahoo.com)  
Location: beaverton ala  
Date Served: july 68 to july 69  
Number: 215

love the old girl but as you know all  
good things must come to the end! they  
may have sunk her but the didn't sink my  
memory of the time I spent on her!

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Fri, Aug 1 2014, 12:39, CST  
Name: Robert Collins  
Email: [e91vcoll@hotmail.com](mailto:e91vcoll@hotmail.com)  
Location: Las Vegas Nevada  
Date Served: 1955 - 1957  
Number: 214

Seeing the Ponch passing through the Panama Canal on the way to her demise brought back memories of her first trip through the canal in late January of 1956 on her way from Philly to Long Beach. Also, seeing her passage under the Golden Gate made me remember her first time into San Francisco Bay to celebrate Fleet week in the fall of 1956. I will always remember her and the great bunch of guys I served with.

Date: Tue, Jul 29 2014, 6:37, CST  
Name: Palmer BM2  
Email: [rp7293@yahoo.com](mailto:rp7293@yahoo.com)  
Date Served: 66/67 ?  
Number: 213

To all those shipmates that were able to say a final farewell to the old 'Gal', thanks.  
Long gone are the memories of the bitter cold mid-watches, the sleepless nights refueling while on station, and the gallons of paint we slapped on her. All that remain are the good times of which there are many, and the life long friendships that started on her decks. I like many of you grew from a still wet behind the ears kid, into manhood proudly calling 'The Ponch' my home. Her hull will soon feel the burn of torches, and the name cut off her stern but A0148 is written into history books for generations of our children to see where she took us.  
Sail on Ponchatoula sail on!  
Palmer BM2

Date: Thu, Jul 10 2014, 19:46, CST  
Name: Frank Beverley (Bev) SK3

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Email: [fbev@twlakes.net](mailto:fbev@twlakes.net)  
Location: Liveington, TN.  
Date Served: 1964-1968  
Number: 212

Looking for old shipmates for the same time feel free to send mail.

Date: Wed, Jul 2 2014, 20:28, CST  
Name: HT2 Ron Jones  
Email: [rontools@yahoo.com](mailto:rontools@yahoo.com)  
Location: wilkes-Barre pa.  
Date Served: 4/69-9/73  
Number: 211

Servrd in R div. Ret.HTC/sw anyone know Denis Brewer? From E Div.or chief Graim

Date: Sat, Jun 14 2014, 17:14, CST  
Name: Mark Mathews  
Email: [mathewsbb61@comcast.net](mailto:mathewsbb61@comcast.net)  
Location: American Canyon, California  
Date Served: (Not a crewmember but was USN)  
Number: 210

Guys, your ship is no longer in Mare Island, but a sister ship, USS Kawishiw, is now in dry dock having its hull cleaned. It too, will be traveling to Brownsville soon.

Here is an article from the local paper on YOUR ship: "timesheraldonline(dot)com has the article ; search for "Historic navy oiler stops vallejo final voyage."

Here is a website made by a former Kawishiw sailor of his ships' impending last voyage:  
[navy\(dot\)memorieshop\(dot\)com](http://navy(dot)memorieshop(dot)com).  
Look for "Kawishiw Last Voyage."

This posting board wouldn't let me post the actual link for spam reasons; sorry. If you email me, I will send you the actual links...

Date: Thu, May 22 2014, 16:28, CST

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Name: Mark Mathews  
Email: [mathewsb61@comcast.net](mailto:mathewsb61@comcast.net)  
Location: American Canyon CA  
Number: 209

For all you AO sailors; your ship just passed through Vallejo to have the hull cleaned - the ship is on its way to a Brownsville Texas scrapyard. My condolences - my own USS Proteus ended up there not long ago. Regards, ETC(SW) 1977-98 (AS-19; BB-61; CVN-65; AD-37).

Date: Mon, Mar 31 2014, 13:56, CST  
Name: Reynaldo Garcia Jr.  
Email: [agb678@yahoo.com](mailto:agb678@yahoo.com)  
Location: McAllen Texas  
Date Served: 1/69 to 11/70  
Number: 208

was on ponch.need to know about the cruise. where we anchor or visited land in nam.

Date: Sat, Mar 22 2014, 20:55, CST  
Name: harrell cantrell  
Email: [wolfer58@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfer58@yahoo.com)  
Location: beaverton ala  
Date Served: aug 68 to nov 69  
Number: 207

see lots of names I know from the passed if any one remember john staurt from ic div. he passed away last year 2013 remember all guys in m div e div all guys who were in at this time I was on the ponch at this time

Date: Mon, Feb 24 2014, 15:39, CST  
Name: Jerry Whittamore DC2  
Email: [grandaddy2007@yahoo.com](mailto:grandaddy2007@yahoo.com)  
Location: Kingsport, TN  
Date Served: '68 - '69  
Number: 206

Enjoy reading the posts.R division w/JP Davidson, Vancho, Ragsdale and lots of others.Best memory was helping build

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

J.P.s easy rider Harley on board. Anyone have info on him?

Date: Sat, Feb 8 2014, 16:17, CST  
Name: RM2 WAYNE (one-way) crossway  
Email: [WAYNECROSSWAY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WAYNECROSSWAY@YAHOO.COM)  
Location: SIOUX FALLS S.D.  
Date Served: 1970-73  
Number: 205

MANY MEMORYS SEEMS LIKE ANOTHER MAN OR BOY.

Date: Mon, Dec 30 2013, 9:15, CST  
Name: Bruce Lamont "Mooseman" Campbell  
Email: [ppo1551@mchsi.com](mailto:ppo1551@mchsi.com)  
Location: Burlington, Iowa  
Date Served: 1970's  
Number: 204

I am seeking former shipmates of "Mooseman." He is not doing well and I believe any contact with former shipmates will be good news for him. Email me at the above address if you can. Thanks.

Date: Tue, Dec 24 2013, 19:35, CST  
Name: John ward  
Email: [gracebattle@optimum.net](mailto:gracebattle@optimum.net)  
Location: Montana  
Date Served: 1964-1968  
Number: 203

I was a radioman RM-3 on the USS Ponchatoula AO-148 for 3 years. Does anyone know the whereabouts of John Gray SM3 or John Hall RM-2

Date: Mon, Dec 16 2013, 22:28, CST  
Name: Larry  
Email: [lrt361@yahoo.com](mailto:lrt361@yahoo.com)  
Location: woodsboro Texas  
Date Served: 8 19 65  
Number: 202

Left pearl crossed the equator going to Sydney, had some great times and made some good friends.



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Mon, Dec 2 2013, 13:25, CST  
Name: james (tony) aud  
Email: [audjames@yahoo.com](mailto:audjames@yahoo.com)  
Location: owensboro ky  
Date Served: jan 69 to june 74  
Number: 201

ref my last comment. it was kojms stateroom that had the periscope in it. bob(FAT apple)Fulkerson and I are still friends.I wonder if I will ever hear from ET springer(BROKEN ARROW).there is a story about that, so many memories from those four years. see you all in san diego next year.sm1 aud departing.aloha and GOD bless.

Date: Sun, Dec 1 2013, 9:28, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Date Served: Jun62-Aug65  
Number: 200

Thanksgiving 1964..At "Yankee Station"..2 RDS, 1 ET and a SM had turkey dinner together. The ET said the blessing.. "GOD is good, GOD is Great, Yea GOD".We smiled and ate...

Date: Wed, Nov 6 2013, 18:48, CST  
Name: tony aud  
Email: [audjames@yahoo.com](mailto:audjames@yahoo.com)  
Location: owensboro ky  
Date Served: 1969 thru 1973  
Number: 199

best duty I had in 22 yrs.capt kojms and capt dedman were the best(periscope n dedmans stateroom). I remember the point defiance incident very clearly. hope to see u n sd next year a poncho forever. hey pf my treat

Date: Sat, Sep 7 2013, 5:49, CST  
Name: Andrew McCarthy  
Email: [andrew.mccarthy@jetstar.com](mailto:andrew.mccarthy@jetstar.com)  
Location: Coffs Harbour Australia  
Date Served: 1967-1976  
Number: 198

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Took on fuel several times from Ponchatoula when serving on HMAS Melbourne at RIMPAC exercises off Hawaii. We always referred to the old girl as 'The Punch Ya Ticket'. Great memories.

Date: Mon, Jun 24 2013, 15:57, CST  
Name: Tom Heintzelman 2nd Div  
Email: [nheintzelman@ymail.com](mailto:nheintzelman@ymail.com)  
Location: Kansas City, KS  
Date Served: 63 thru 66  
Number: 197

Looking to talk any shipmates from the Ponch. Please contact if you served with me

Date: Wed, Jun 12 2013, 10:44, CST  
Name: Bob Leach  
Email: [rob43528@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rob43528@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: Toledo, Ohio  
Date Served: 1960 to 1964  
Number: 196

Was on the Ponch for the west pac cruises and also crossed the date line and equator while in the Christmas Island area. Got some radiation exposure but not as bad as some.

Date: Mon, May 27 2013, 13:42, CST  
Name: Keith Conley  
Email: [speck53@gmail.com](mailto:speck53@gmail.com)  
Location: Richmond, Virginia  
Date Served: June 1, 1971 - Dec 7, 1972  
Number: 195

came aboard the Ponch in June 1971 in Pearl, was assigned to 1st Div. under Chief DeZutter and Riley, then transferred to Supply and worked in the laundry with the rest of the SH guy's. I use to be with Tanksley, weather's, Callahan, Smitty, Jack Stevens (MM3), Beecroft, Ed Abuhl and others.

Paul weather's, huge brother, drowned off the coast of CEBU, after a ferry was sinking, he would swim in and carry

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

someone to land and then swim back, he did this countless times, until he drowned himself. Jack Stevens, was driving from Florida, back to Lynchburg, Va., got about a mile from home, fell asleep behind the wheel and totally crushed his Porsche...I heard from John Mullahy, he sent me some awesome pictures, he still lives in Thailand and works for the Saudis..in armaments training, also, I saw Campbell online and some years ago, I found Ensign Sulski. Anyway, email me if you were on for the 1972 Cruise....Happy Memorial Day to all who served...PONCH IN MY HEART FOREVER!!!

Date:	Wed, May 15 2013, 5:11, CST
Name:	Mike Faracca
Email:	<a href="mailto:mfaracca@gmail.com">mfaracca@gmail.com</a>
Location:	Buffalo, NY
Date Served:	1976-1980
Number:	194

Chris Morris saw your post from June '12. I still tell my kids the story of the guy that got blue eyeballs tattoo'd on each cheek of his butt. They laugh every time, not sure they even believe me. Scooter also saw your post, you were a wild man, couldn't believe you turned into a lifer after being such a renegade.

Date:	Fri, May 10 2013, 19:55, CST
Name:	Stan Wolfe
Email:	<a href="mailto:mr66mustang@gmail.com">mr66mustang@gmail.com</a>
Location:	San Marcos, CA
Date Served:	1960-1964
Number:	193

while serving aboard the Ponch, I was exposed to the radiation from the nuclear tests off Christmas Island. I was just diagnosed with leukemia. Are there any other shipmates who have leukemia?

If any of my former shipmates would like to correspond, please e-mail me.

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Tue, Apr 9 2013, 0:41, CST  
Name: Kerry "Doc" Cregar  
Email: [kerrycregar@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrycregar@hotmail.com)  
Location: Butte, MT  
Date Served: 1976-1978  
Number: 192

Looking for any HM's: HM1 Sullivan or HMC Wedemeyer or Doc Hadfield

Date: Sat, Mar 23 2013, 6:48, CST  
Name: Bill Lang  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963  
Number: 191

I remember Ward, Hill and Frame. I was a MM2 who worked with Fish with the A/C and Refers. Spent a lot of time in the engine room. Was at Christmas Island for nuclear tests and crossed the equator. Great ship and great crew and good times in WestPac.

Date: Mon, Mar 18 2013, 12:00, CST  
Name: Vern Ward  
Email: [v.ward@roadrunner.com](mailto:v.ward@roadrunner.com)  
Location: Post Falls, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan 61-Aug 62  
Number: 190

I was a FN and worked with the Enginemen, Frame, Hill and Sua. The Ponch was my first ship and I continued to serve for 30 years retiring as Warrant Officer. I was there for two Wespac cruises and the last surface Nuclear test at Christmas Island in 62. Great Ship and great crew.

Date: Thu, Mar 14 2013, 14:59, CST  
Name: Mike Schoonmaker  
Email: [mschoonmaker@verizon.net](mailto:mschoonmaker@verizon.net)  
Location: Lutz Florida  
Date Served: 17Nov78-81  
Number: 189

Looking for PN3 Clay Powers, want to show him that I can play the guitar now. Thanks Clay. Dan Betanzo and Bob

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Shellenburger (Cooks). wow did we party hard.

Date: Mon, Mar 4 2013, 8:19, CST  
Name: John Bury  
Email: [johnb1936@verizon.net](mailto:johnb1936@verizon.net)  
Location: Media, Pa.  
Date Served: Nov. 1955 to Nov. 1957  
Number: 188

Plank owner. Came aboard as an FN. Made MR-3, incharge of the Machine Shop. The reunions are great. Same old sea story's, they just get bigger.

Date: Tue, Nov 13 2012, 22:23, CST  
Name: Eugene Ostinowsky  
Email: [genedavealoha@gmail.com](mailto:genedavealoha@gmail.com)  
Location: Nanty-Glo, Pa  
Date Served: Oct. 1970-Jul. 1972  
Number: 187

was in deck div. & also galley for 6 months. was on the west Pac cruise Jul. 1971-Feb. 1972 and Apollo 14 mission in South Pacific in 1971. Have been in touch with John Pappas, Steve Kruzik, Flub and Bill Kneeland. There are some good pictures on the Ponch's facebook page. would like to hear from other shipmates to share stories.

Date: Mon, Nov 5 2012, 11:36, CST  
Name: Joe JOSE  
Email: [supersshade\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:supersshade_2000@yahoo.com)  
Location: Fairfield, CA  
Date Served: Sept'68 - July'70  
Number: 186

Serve on board Ponchatoula '68-'70 as SD2 working in the Officer's mess then to Captain's mess. It would be nice to hear from former shipmate...I am a Prostate Cancer survivor on the '90's, VA denied my comp request cause I was not onboard the Ponch in July'71 as listed in their ships operating on Vietnam inland waterways. Does anybody out there knows otherwise if I am eligible for

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

compensation? You could email me at above address or call (707)864-2145. Thanks a million.

Date: Thu, Oct 11 2012, 21:37, CST  
Name: Ron Terry  
Email: [usseal1976@gmail.com](mailto:usseal1976@gmail.com)  
Location: usa  
Date Served: 76-79  
Number: 185

Hi steve gmg2, time does fly. I hope your doing fine and I will never forget the days aboard the uss Ponch. I still have the flag I took from the top of the mast. I also have a 3" shell made into a ashtry.

Date: Sat, Sep 29 2012, 12:04, CST  
Name: JamesRiffe  
Email: [jamesriffe54@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesriffe54@yahoo.com)  
Date Served: 1-73 to 9-74  
Number: 184

hello : )

my good son, aaron, found your web site in march 2004. when i turned age 50. aaron wanted to place my name... if case any one wanted to contact me.

i did not have an email address in 2004. but i sure do now in 2012 : )

looking thru your long list of names , today, i did notice several names of crew members , from my time on board, off the coast of vietnam 1973,

here is my email,,,  
[jamesriffe54@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesriffe54@yahoo.com)

i would welcome any correspondence from my ship mates. especially from any of my very rugged flag football team mates who played along side me at pearl harbor, under the lights, against the other ships' teams : )

## Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

this event meant everything to this  
Boatswain Mate deck hand.

thank you son for loving me. and thank  
you wife rosie for 29 years of marriage  
to this old vietnam era sailor...amen

Date:	wed, Sep 5 2012, 2:48, CST
Name:	Clarence Corke
Email:	<a href="mailto:crcorke@comcast.net">crcorke@comcast.net</a>
Location:	Clovis, Ca
Date Served:	72-75, CS 2
Number:	183

stumbled on this site tonite- thanks to  
Google, and have enjoyed reading the  
posts-especially the ones who served  
before my time. wow, if those steel  
plates could talk. I just moved from the  
Bay Area and did not know that the Ponch  
was in Suisan but I am all for it  
becoming a reef instead of scrap being  
sold to China. Keep it here. Was ships  
cook and baker, you had to love our chow!  
Chief McBrayer ran a tight ship-will  
never forget him. Only did my 4 years,  
went on to work the waikiki hotels for a  
few years and then worked for the  
shipyard at Pearl as a shipfitter. Quite  
the career change, but it was great--  
spent a lot of time repairing subs.  
I have remained in contact with a couple  
of shipmates.

Remember one night in Subic, ship is  
anchored out, getting underway at midnite  
so last liberty boat was at 11:15 or  
something like that. My uncle was in  
port, sailed from Cali to Subic on a  
Minesweeper! My partner and I met him at  
a bar in town and he kept saying one more  
drink and we were trying to watch the  
time but when we got back to the dock we  
were too late- the last boat had just  
left. But the SP was cool, he got us on  
another boat--there were several ships in  
that night, and baotswain hauled ass out  
to the ship and we could see the ships

## Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

anchor come out of the water and the ships whistle was blowing. Creating a lot of noise and flashing a light, the decks hands on the pump deck saw us and dropped the rope ladder over the side so we could scramble up. The first person we see is Chief and we thought we were dead. He grabbed us both by the back of the neck and said I am sure glad you guys made it because I sure did not want to cook breakfast! That was it. Wow. My uncle just passed away earlier this year-28 years service. RIP  
I know this is long but it was fun remembering.

Date: Wed, Aug 22 2012, 17:34, CST  
Name: William H. Ooten  
Email: [williamooten@yahoo.com](mailto:williamooten@yahoo.com)  
Location: Glencoe, OK  
Date Served: Sept 59 to March 62  
Number: 182

I was a GMG3 when I left the ship. Enjoyed the ship very much. Became a shellback. would like to hear from any old shipmates who were aboard with me.

Date: Wed, Aug 15 2012, 20:44, CST  
Name: Mike Kitsko  
Email: [rfamps4u@gmail.com](mailto:rfamps4u@gmail.com)  
Location: Grove, Ok  
Date Served: June 60 to June 62  
Number: 181

I remember Bill Hickey, posted just before this posting. A nice guy. Our son, Marc, is a reserve Lt. Navy chaplain at Shadow Mountain, S. Diego attached to the Marines at Pendleton. Chaplains get the same humiliating training as the line officers, and he trained with the Marines for months before the Rhode Island officer training.... which saved his 42 year old life! I joined them on their last morning run, which validated my new heart valve.



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Tue, Aug 14 2012, 21:02, CST  
Name: Kevin Lee Kallvet  
Email: [kkallvet@aol.com](mailto:kkallvet@aol.com)  
Location: Sacramento CA  
Date Served: 1977-1979  
Number: 180

Great Ship, Shellback day was tough, to few polywogs and too many Shellbacks. I boxed twice, first with the toughest guy on the Ship QM2 LA Stewart, I slipped at least once, he was ready to hit me with a huge punch, then I boxed Reed Chapman, I took the first two rounds, and then Reed used my head for a speed bag round 3. Thanks going to Radio Div. and Boats Div. both great to work for, we had great Skippers, Captain Carmichael then Captain Dunleavy. CW03 Golden thank you for the opportunity to get a Honorable Discharge and Sailor of the Month, Dec. 1978.

Date: Tue, Aug 14 2012, 12:50, CST  
Name: Bill Hickey  
Email: [billhickey@att.net](mailto:billhickey@att.net)  
Location: Hernando Mississippi  
Date Served: 1960-1962  
Number: 179

Served as a Corpsman HN and HN Metzger Christmas Island and also was present Apollo 15. Left The Ponchatoula and went to San Diego from there I went to Millington Tn. I left Millington 1965 and served U.S. Marines Vietnam Rec'd 3 Purple Hearts, Navy Cross

Date: Sat, Jul 21 2012, 16:12, CST  
Name: SH3 REY BERSAMIN  
Email: [rabers47@yahoo.com](mailto:rabers47@yahoo.com)  
Location: LAS VEGAS  
Date Served: 69THRU 71  
Number: 178

served Ponch 69 as a steward, then strike for personnel man didn't work out due to

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

citizenship. and strike for shipservice man work in the laundry with Bill Kneeland been in Japan, Hongkong, Vietnam. Koashung. Pago Pago, Subic, Manila Bay, and many others hoping to hear some of the remaining stewards, and shipservice nice to hear from old mates.

Date: Sat, Jul 21 2012, 15:56, CST  
Name: SH3 REY BERSAMIN  
Email: [rabers47@yahoo.com](mailto:rabers47@yahoo.com)  
Location: LAS VEGAS  
Date Served: 69THRU 71  
Number: 177

first came on board as a steward ,then strike for personnel men,was not approved due to citizenship then strike for shipservice man work as a laundry together with Bill Kneeland and been around Japan

Date: Fri, Jun 22 2012, 8:27, CST  
Name: Raymond Speegle  
Email: [rgspeegle@yahoo.com](mailto:rgspeegle@yahoo.com)  
Location: Fort Worth, TX  
Date Served: Dec 1982 - Nov 1984  
Number: 176

Electronics Technician in the Military Department during her Military Sealift Command days.

Date: Mon, Jun 18 2012, 11:25, CST  
Name: Chris Morris  
Email: [cmorris83@cox.net](mailto:cmorris83@cox.net)  
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada  
Date Served: 1977 - 1980  
Number: 175

Just glancing thru this site and found some names i remember, Mike faracca, had some of the best times of my life with the men from the Ponch still keeps me going today thinking of the good times.

Date: Wed, May 30 2012, 15:59, CST  
Name: Dave Knight  
Email: [Adirondack2222@aol.com](mailto:Adirondack2222@aol.com)

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: E Division  
Date Served: May-August 1968  
Number: 174

I was aboard as an EMFA in E Division. I recall Virgil Baughman, Bill Sage. Keith Carver, Dennis George, Arch Metcalf and Mike Stanton in E Division. Several other shipmates remembered also. It's been a long time.

Date: Tue, Apr 17 2012, 6:12, CST  
Name: Steve Wolters GMG2  
Email: [swolters@vdm-inc.com](mailto:swolters@vdm-inc.com)  
Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Date Served: 76-79  
Number: 173

Just an update...Looking for ant shipmates who served on the "Ponch" during this period.

Date: Thu, Mar 29 2012, 12:34, CST  
Name: Mike Kitsko  
Email: [rfamps4u@gmail.com](mailto:rfamps4u@gmail.com)  
Location: Grove, OK  
Date Served: June 60 to June 62 SN  
Number: 172

Our 2 sons had no military inclination, what so ever, but our youngest, 42, will graduate from OTC, Officer Training Command, Rhode Island, April 13th. Hearing him use navy lingo has been a real hoot! we'll be there.

Date: Wed, Mar 7 2012, 5:42, CST  
Name: Wayne Thompson  
Email: [bellaj120878@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaj120878@yahoo.com)  
Location: New Hope, MN  
Date Served: 1969-1973  
Number: 171

served on the USS Ponchatoula from 1969 - 1973. Looking to connect with any former shipmates.

Date: Sat, Feb 4 2012, 10:42, CST  
Name: JIM SHERIDAN  
Email: [lansdale426@msn.com](mailto:lansdale426@msn.com)

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: FLORENCE AZ  
Date Served: WENT ABOARD AT CHRISTMAS IS  
Number: 170

I WENT ABOARD AT CHRISTMAS ISLAND.I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE ENGINEROOM. WAS MM1.DID NOT STAY ABOARD LONG LEFT TO RETIRE DONE MY 20 YEARS.I AM SURE I REMEMBER LEACH.

Date: Tue, Jan 3 2012, 13:18, CST  
Name: Ron Hill  
Email: [ronhill120@hotmail.com](mailto:ronhill120@hotmail.com)  
Location: Austin, TX  
Date Served: 1975-1977  
Number: 169

There is a USS Ponchatoula Facebook group site for those interested in sharing anecdotes, pictures, etc. FB is a great place to stay in touch with old shipmates or those that want to share their Ponch experience!

Date: Sun, Dec 25 2011, 17:37, CST  
Name: Norman Rogers  
Email: [n\\_rogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n_rogers@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: Henryetta Oklahoma  
Date Served: Nov 1956 M ay 1960  
Number: 168

Merry Christmas and Happy new year to allshipmates.

Date: Sat, Dec 24 2011, 8:01, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 167

Merry Christmas Shipmates

Date: Sat, Dec 24 2011, 5:44, CST  
Name: tony martin  
Email: [snipe3@suudenlink.net](mailto:snipe3@suudenlink.net)  
Location: nixa,mo.  
Date Served: 1971-1973-as a btfn  
Number: 166

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

i'm looking for all snipes that bt on ao  
148 ponch.looking fot mike blazer,  
looking for ski.

Date: Mon, Dec 5 2011, 15:52, CST  
Name: Mike Kitsko  
Email: [rfamps4u@gmail.com](mailto:rfamps4u@gmail.com)  
Location: Grove, OK  
Date Served: June 60 to June 62  
Number: 165

All who remember the Ponch. tied up near  
the Arizona will appreciate this: Some  
friends of 45 years joined us for  
annivarsary dinner in Michigan. Their  
kids, in their 40s said they were going  
to visit Pearl Harbor. I said to be sure  
to visit the Arizona memorial, and our  
friend, knowing I was in the Navy at P.H.  
casually said: "My uncle was the captain  
of the Arizona." In 45 years she never  
mentioned this! Ha!

Date: Fri, Dec 2 2011, 8:33, CST  
Name: Schneider  
Email: [dave@ussponchatoula.com](mailto:dave@ussponchatoula.com)  
Location: Chicago  
Date Served: 61-64  
Number: 164

This is a test.

Date: Tue, Nov 8 2011, 19:47, CST  
Name: Hubert "Bud" Smith  
Email: [charbertsmith2@yahoo.com](mailto:charbertsmith2@yahoo.com)  
Location: Austin, Texas  
Date Served: 1962 - 1964  
Number: 163

was cs3 - cook, baker & Jack of the Dust  
- The names LANG & LEACH both sound  
familiar. Do you remember the different  
flags that were painted on the mess deck  
bulkhead?

Date: Sat, Oct 15 2011, 9:44, CST  
Name: Bill Lang  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 162

I remember Bob Leach.  
I was an MM2. I remember the atomic tests  
at Christmas Island in 1962 and crossing  
the equator. Many good memories aboard  
the Ponch.

Date: Sat, Oct 15 2011, 0:21, CST  
Name: Bob Leach  
Email: [rob43528@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rob43528@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: Toledo, Ohio  
Date Served: 1960 - 1964  
Number: 161

Looking for any ship mates still around.  
I was MM engine room.

Date: Sat, Oct 8 2011, 23:23, CST  
Name: Kerry Cregar  
Email: [kerrycregar@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrycregar@hotmail.com)  
Location: Butte, Montana  
Date Served: 1976-1978  
Number: 160

Any shipmates out there in cyber-space  
who served on the Ponch with me. Corpsman  
onboard, 1 WestPac. LOVED IT!!!

Date: Tue, Sep 6 2011, 22:13, CST  
Name: Billy Williams  
Email: [billywilliams1946@hotmail.com](mailto:billywilliams1946@hotmail.com)  
Location: Romeoville Illinois  
Date Served: 4-65 thru 11-67  
Number: 159

I knew Joe Ripka we went thru Great Lakes  
together Mike McInerney Clayton Edgar  
Clemments Mike Flemming good times I just  
found this great memories good job Barry  
and others

Date: Mon, Sep 5 2011, 19:28, CST  
Name: Ronnie Moore  
Email: [stevmo@aol.com](mailto:stevmo@aol.com)  
Location: Louisville Kentucky  
Date Served: 11/72 8/74  
Number: 158

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Just found this site while looking for some photos of the Ponch. I was a Boatswain Mate 3rd class. Hope to hear from shipmates.

Date: Wed, Aug 24 2011, 4:37, CST  
Name: Mark Malanka  
Email: [malankahq@aol.com](mailto:malankahq@aol.com)  
Location: MOnterey California  
Date Served: 1976-1980  
Number: 157

Just checking in, great web site, alot of good memories.

Date: Thu, Aug 18 2011, 8:06, CST  
Name: Albert J Drenthe EM3  
Email: [ajad111@yahoo.com](mailto:ajad111@yahoo.com)  
Location: East Longmeadow, MA  
Date Served: 1969-1971 USS Shangri-La CVS 38  
Number: 156

Looking for Robert A Roya, he served on the Ponch 1987 in "E" Div. We served on the Shang. and lost touch. Any info will be greatly appreciated.

Date: Tue, Aug 16 2011, 20:41, CST  
Name: Marty Gavin  
Email: [gavmar0879@aol.com](mailto:gavmar0879@aol.com)  
Location: Moncks Corner, S.C.  
Date Served: Jan.'74-April'75  
Number: 155

Barton, Hand, McGowan were just a few of my close shipmates.  
I'm sure I Cartooned for many onboard.  
Still do it today.  
I LOVE GUAM, my last visit there was 1998 as a Merchant Marine. WOW has it changed.

Date: Sun, Jul 3 2011, 11:19, CST  
Name: Ron Bay  
Email: [qmcmsw@comcast.net](mailto:qmcmsw@comcast.net)  
Location: Bremerton, WA  
Date Served: May 1975~Oct 1977  
Number: 154

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Picked up the Ponch in Subic (Cruise of '75)...Remember..58 straight days tied to the pier and Furlong setting sea-detail EVERY DAY!!! HaHa. Got off toward the end of the Cruise of '77, after I got out of the hospital (emergency appendectomy) and got transfered to SUBIC (yeah, it was definately good)..I ended up staying over 30 years, was in CMC program, and retired as QMCM (believe it or not!!) I will always remember "Bud" Edney..I sometimes see (in fact, used to commute with) CAPT "Mad Dog" Danaher.

Date:	Sat, Jun 25 2011, 12:54, CST
Name:	David L. Ankeney
Email:	<a href="mailto:homefarm64658@yahoo.com">homefarm64658@yahoo.com</a>
Location:	Marceline, Mo.
Date Served:	1960-1962
Number:	153

Just ran across this web page. Saw lots of names I remember of guys I served with. Lots of memories..Christmas Is. and Johnston Is bomb tests. I remember going from the chow hall to get back up to the radio shack when one of shock waves hit the ship as I opened the hatch door.Knocked me on my you know what.. I was an RMSN and then made RM3 and later took test and past for RM2, but didn't make it as I was discharged in May of 62. I see some names that I remember in some of the messages. I haven't seen or know the whereabouts of David Anderson, Glen Elgin and others that I can't come up with names at this moment. Enjoyed all the cruises except for the milk in the 5 gallon cans...yuck. Lots of great times in Sasebo, Yokuska, Toyoko, Okinawa, Phillipines, Hong Kong etc. Oh and the fun at becoming a Shellback. Hope to hear from some of the shipmates.

Date:	Tue, Jun 21 2011, 16:04, CST
Name:	Ron Hill
Email:	<a href="mailto:ronhill20@hotmail.com">ronhill20@hotmail.com</a>
Location:	Austin, Texas



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date Served: 1969  
Number: 152

There is now a Facebook page for Ponchatoula shipmates...hopefully more folks will be encouraged to join the Association through the "FB" social media venue. This is a great website, but Facebook allows a bit more interaction

Date: Sun, May 22 2011, 13:07, CST  
Name: SN Walters James R.  
Email: [jamesrwalters@comcast.net](mailto:jamesrwalters@comcast.net)  
Location: Ladson S.C.  
Date Served: March 1973-March 1975  
Number: 151

I was in 2nd div. on the Ponch I remmber BM3 Fisher BM3 Ford In my 24 years in the navy the Ponch is and always will be the best.If anyone knows where i can get the cruise book wespac 74/75. I left the ship before the ship got them.

Date: Wed, May 11 2011, 18:44, CST  
Name: Bart Barton  
Email: [harpslinger@tlink.com](mailto:harpslinger@tlink.com)  
Location: M-Div / K-Div  
Date Served: 73-78  
Number: 150

Hey guys! Yea still alive, for now.  
Lookin for Marty Gavin, Dale Hand, Ripper Collins, Don Curry, Al Sider, George Sitten any of you that remember me. Good Site!!

Date: Thu, May 5 2011, 6:01, CST  
Name: Dave Marshall PN3  
Email: [datbcottage@comcast.net](mailto:datbcottage@comcast.net)  
Location: Naples, FL  
Date Served: South China Sea 63  
Number: 149

Ran shipsoffice...did one WestPac then rotated to Bremerton Naval Shipyard.

Date: Fri, Apr 1 2011, 8:15, CST  
Name: larry casey  
Email: [larryc1956@yahoo.com](mailto:larryc1956@yahoo.com)

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: georgia  
Date Served: 74-75 BM  
Number: 148

It was sure was an experience being on it....so good and some really bad. to many reps,

Date: Fri, Feb 18 2011, 23:18, CST  
Name: Rollie Corey  
Email: [rollin12@charter.net](mailto:rollin12@charter.net)  
Location: Minnesota  
Date Served: 69-71  
Number: 147

Went from deck force, to YN worked in ships office, I have pictures but can not remember names. Worlds Fair in Osaka, Olongapo city, Point Defiance hitting us sending us back to drydock, lots of great memories.

Date: Fri, Feb 11 2011, 16:30, CST  
Name: Bob "Doc" Hadfield  
Email: [rhadfield@suddenlink.net](mailto:rhadfield@suddenlink.net)  
Location: Belpre, OH  
Date Served: 1976 - 1979  
Number: 146

Still looking for info on Jim Brandau or Danny O'Connor. Anyone ever heard from them?

Date: Fri, Feb 11 2011, 16:25, CST  
Name: Bob "Doc" Hadfield  
Email: [rhadfield@suddenlink.net](mailto:rhadfield@suddenlink.net)  
Location: Belpre, OH  
Date Served: 1976 - 1979  
Number: 145

Served as a Corpsman - 1 and a half WestPacs, including the trip through the IO. Started as HA and made HM2 before being transferred. Got out of the Navy in 83.

Date: Tue, Feb 1 2011, 11:53, CST  
Name: Doc Kerry Cregar  
Email: [kerrycregar@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrycregar@hotmail.com)  
Location: Butte, Montana

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date Served: 1976-1978  
Number: 144

Anyone know how I can contact Doc Bob Hadfield or GMGSN Russ Paden?

Date: Thu, Jan 13 2011, 12:30, CST  
Name: DAVE PERRY DP1  
Email: [M369PS@COX.NET](mailto:M369PS@COX.NET)  
Location: CHESAPEAKE VA  
Date Served: JUL 69-AUG 70  
Number: 143

WAS A PN2 IN CHARGE OF SHIPS OFFICE,WORKED WITH PN3 JIM ATKINSON, PNSN TOM ELLIOTT, PN3 TOM WAXTER, YN3 GLENN NEAL-WHAT A GREAT BUNCH OF GUYS. WENT THROUGH THE YARDS IN PEARL IN A TRAILER ON THE PIER THAT LEAKED WATER. WAS MAA FOR FTCS EDWARDS, ALWAYS HATED THE PROBLEMS ON PAYDAY AND LINING UP ON THE MESS DECKS. CAPTAIN KOJM AND CAPTAIN DEDMAN WERE THE COMMANDING OFFICERS AND THE XO WAS COMMANDER WEHLING. CDR WEHLING COULD CRANK THAT PHONE. WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ANY PONCHATOULA CREW MEMBER.

Date: Fri, Jan 7 2011, 20:07, CST  
Name: Jerry Graling YN1  
Email: [arcticgrayling@pressenter.com](mailto:arcticgrayling@pressenter.com)  
Location: Minnesota  
Date Served: 66 - 67  
Number: 142

I ran the Ships Office on the Ponch. Some of the guys I worked with: Odom, Alberto (VO-5), Gibbons, LT Radnick, Heath. Couple of unrep trips to the North Coast of Vietnam,crossed the equator, endured Subic Bay festivities. Like to hear from anyone who remembers me or shipmates from 1967 like Lito Saldana and some of my other shore buddies.

Date: Fri, Dec 31 2010, 9:45, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 141

HAPPY NEW YEAR...Shipmates

Date: Thu, Dec 23 2010, 8:43, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 140

MERRY CHRISTMAS Shipmates

Date: Thu, Dec 9 2010, 15:14, CST  
Name: Charles Carnes  
Email: [ccarnes@hughes.net](mailto:ccarnes@hughes.net)  
Location: Belleville Wisconsin  
Date Served: 74-July76  
Number: 139

They were still active when I left in  
july 76

Date: Fri, Dec 3 2010, 14:59, CST  
Name: Bob Poole  
Email: [poolefam@earthlink.net](mailto:poolefam@earthlink.net)  
Date Served: 1975-78  
Number: 138

For those of you who did not purchase  
cruise books for the 1977-78 WestPac it  
is available, at no cost to you, on the  
following wecsite: US Navy Cruise Books.  
(the largest collection).

Date: Wed, Dec 1 2010, 18:11, CST  
Name: GMG2 Terry  
Email: [usseal1976@gmail.com](mailto:usseal1976@gmail.com)  
Location: Texas  
Date Served: 1976-1979  
Number: 137

I served on the USS Ponchatoula AO-148  
and met someone who served ti'l 1975.  
"when was the two rear 3"50 gun mounts  
removed and why?"  
This must of happened between 1975 and  
1975. Can any Ponchatoula sailors help  
me?

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Sun, Nov 21 2010, 13:07, CST  
Name: Ron Terry Gmg2  
Email: [usseal1976@gmail.com](mailto:usseal1976@gmail.com)  
Number: 136

\*\*\* Email correction \*\*\*  
Hi Doc thanks for all the shots,I was young then.  
Hay Paden, Remember all the good old days.

Date: Sun, Nov 21 2010, 11:42, CST  
Name: Ron Terry GMG2  
Email: [seal1976@gmail.com](mailto:seal1976@gmail.com)  
Location: Austin,Texas  
Date Served: 1976-1980  
Number: 135

As we use to say the ponch, After three west pac's and alot of good times. I really can say I'll remember the good old  
" USS PONCHATOULA AO-148 "  
My great memories were throwing a bowlo thru the port hole landing on the other ship captins table..  
Remember grease burger fridays, boy couldn't wait to go into pearl. If any one served during this time I'd like to talk about great times.

Date: Thu, Nov 11 2010, 12:56, CST  
Name: Doug Derome GMG/2  
Email: [surfnh01@comcast.net](mailto:surfnh01@comcast.net)  
Location: MANCHESTER N.H.  
Date Served: 69-71  
Number: 134

HAPPY VETERANS DAY  
TO ALL THE MUCH MALINGED  
VIET-NAM ERA SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Date: wed, Oct 20 2010, 10:22, CST  
Name: Bob Steele  
Email: [bobsteelesp@yahoo.com](mailto:bobsteelesp@yahoo.com)  
Location: Florida  
Date Served: dec63-dec66  
Number: 133

## Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Is Duggan wife looking for someone to sue?

Date: Sun, Oct 17 2010, 13:26, CST  
Name: Pat Duggan  
Email: [scifimom@aol.com](mailto:scifimom@aol.com)  
Location: florida  
Date Served: ?68 or 69 to 71  
Number: 132

My husband, Dan Duggan, served on the Ponch and I need to know if anyone can verify that the ship docked in a port in Viet Nam or what kinds of chemicals were stored on the ship.

Date: Wed, Oct 13 2010, 9:27, CST  
Name: C Bedard  
Email: [chelter2@verizon.net](mailto:chelter2@verizon.net)  
Location: RI  
Number: 131

Looking for Bob White, AKA Quail, served 1967-1971(approximately)  
Anyone know how to get in touch?

Date: Thu, Sep 30 2010, 17:52, CST  
Name: Hubert "Bud" Smith -- cs3  
Email: [charbertsmith2@yahoo.com](mailto:charbertsmith2@yahoo.com)  
Location: Austin, Texas  
Date Served: 1962 - Dec 1964  
Number: 130

I couldn't wait to get off that old ship, but after about 20 years started missing her. I went from a year at Barber's Point NAS and then to Ponch. worked as a cook, baker and jack of dust, so I probably served chow to many of you. When I was aboard there was an admiral's son who painted flags in the mess deck. wonder how long it stayed up. After Christmas Island, it is a wonder that any of us are still here. I remember the ashes that were in the air when they finally let us go out and look. I would also like to thank any of you who sold me your beer chits when we got to go leave the ship after what seemed like such a long time.

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Have done alot of things since getting out of the navy in 1964 and have retired to Austin the live music capital. I never did keep up with any of my shipmates, but if you remember me, send me an email.

Date: Tue, Sep 7 2010, 15:47, CST  
Name: Richard (Rick ) Simonson  
Email: [mos19z5h@aol.com](mailto:mos19z5h@aol.com)  
Location: Plainfield, Illinois  
Date Served: Jan 1959 thru Aug. 1961  
Number: 129

Hi all. A sharp salute to you. I was a Radioman striker and made RM2 while on the Ponchatoula under Captain Higginbotham and Spruance. Looking for any RMs, RDs, SMs or? who serverd with me.

Date: Tue, Aug 31 2010, 16:40, CST  
Name: Bob Poole  
Email: [poolefam@earthlink.net](mailto:poolefam@earthlink.net)  
Location: Fairview Heights IL  
Date Served: 75-78  
Number: 128

Does anyone have any idea on where HMC Phil Sullivan, or HTC Calvin Aitch may have gone to after the Ponch?

Date: Mon, Aug 30 2010, 13:23, CST  
Name: Tom Kaczrowski  
Email: [mbrunelle1940@comcast.net](mailto:mbrunelle1940@comcast.net)  
Location: Minnesota  
Date Served: June 64 - aug 66  
Number: 127

The address was correct.  
Tom was in the 2nd Division on the Ponchatoula.

Date: Mon, Aug 30 2010, 12:10, CST  
Name: Bill Lang  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963  
Number: 126

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Tried to E-Mail Tom Kaczrowske's (Ski) sister who posted an entry on August 28, 2010. Mail was rejected by her provider. Did you post the correct E-Mail address? Try again.

Date: Sat, Aug 28 2010, 10:35, CST  
Name: Tom Kaczrowski "Ski"  
Email: [mbrunelle1940@comcast.net](mailto:mbrunelle1940@comcast.net)  
Location: Minnesota  
Date Served: June 1964 - Aug 1966  
Number: 125

Tom or "Ski" is looking for his fellow shipmates. He doesn't have a computer so contact me, his sister, and I will have him contact you. He is looking for E. L. Gay and Jake Stopakotti (not sure of spelling) and anyone else who remembers all the good times they had. Thank you.

Date: Fri, Aug 27 2010, 23:01, CST  
Name: richard weber PC3  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: Roeland park,ks.  
Date Served: july 1966-Sept 1967  
Number: 124

Dear shipmates,just a note to say my father passed away on the 24th. He served aboard the uss cascade AD-16in the Pacific during ww 2. He was a carpenters mate 1st. After I left the Ponch and went to Norfolk aboard the cv ricketts ddg-5.on one trip to puerto rico the ricketts tied up right along side the cascade. what a great thrill to be aboard his ship. please keep my mother in your prays. they were married 64 years and she is taking it quite hard.. Many thanks..  
Dick

Date: Mon, Aug 16 2010, 23:25, CST  
Name: Scott Place MMC USN (Ret)  
Email: [navychief829@optonline.net](mailto:navychief829@optonline.net)  
Location: Long Island NY  
Date Served: Jun 78 - Decom 5 Sept 1980  
Number: 123



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Some of the best times I had in my 21 years were served here with a great (well okay, good) bunch of guys.

Date: Wed, Jul 28 2010, 14:06, CST  
Name: alfred berry rm3  
Email: [alfredberry@att.net](mailto:alfredberry@att.net)  
Location: austin,tx  
Date Served: 1963-1966  
Number: 122

I had no idea that this web page existed. I can truthfully say serving aboard the ponch was a great experience. she took me places that i would never have gone. met some great people on the ship and of course on the west-pac cruises. you guys know what i mean. if john johnson or leonard clinton is out there shoot me an e-mail.  
smooth sailing to all.

Date: Mon, Jul 26 2010, 1:23, CST  
Name: John J. Bury  
Email: [johnb1936@verizon.net](mailto:johnb1936@verizon.net)  
Location: Media, Pa.  
Date Served: Plank owner, Nov.55 to Nov. 57  
Number: 121

In regards to having the Ponch become a reef. I have gained favorable support from the Mayor of Philadelphia and Congressman Joe Sestak, also possibly that of Pa. state congressman and Pa. state senators. Since the ponch was commissioned at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, I let it be known tp the Mayor and the Pa. State congress and Pa. State Senate they have a vested interest in what happns to our ship. Also, if not for US Congressman Sestak, Pennsylvania, 7th District, we would not have aquired the ships bell.

Date: Sun, Jul 25 2010, 8:16, CST  
Name: Kerry Cregar  
Email: [kerrycregar@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrycregar@hotmail.com)

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: Butte, Mt  
Date Served: Feb 76 - Aug 79  
Number: 120

Corpsman aboard the Ponch, I remember Bob Hadfield from Belpre, Ohio and Russ Paden from Parkerburg, WVa. Russ and Bob would play the guitar during those long hours of UNREP. Hope to hear from you guys soon. P.S. Remember Doc Sullivan?

Date: Mon, Jul 19 2010, 15:09, CST  
Name: jim riley  
Email: [jrwebhead@yahoo.com](mailto:jrwebhead@yahoo.com)  
Location: carson calif.  
Date Served: 1961-----1962  
Number: 119

just found this site:i do recall christmas island,the day of the big bomb.small white cloud, getting bigger then turning cherry red, all this time it was quiet, then the shock wave hit the starboard side, and we all tried to get under the deck paint well i did

Date: Mon, Jun 28 2010, 17:28, CST  
Name: patrick carson  
Email: [pckck@hotmail.com](mailto:pckck@hotmail.com)  
Location: kansas city ks  
Date Served: 77-78  
Number: 118

I recognize a few names here. like Poole, Barber. I was a snipe in the engine room. Spent alotof time standing the generator watches. Sure was hot under the boiler. Anyone remember Chief Pelkinton or Chief Fewigger. Maybe a guy named Murray. I remember standing watch one night. I just stepped out from under a hot air blower vent when the lights went out buzzers went off. I knew what happened. I left one of the water levels in the gen sump rise to high. Anyone that knows the results of that knows what happened. 6 hours later we were underway again in the Indian ocean. more later.

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Mon, Jun 14 2010, 17:36, CST  
Name: W. M. Leonard (Leo)  
Email: [morparts@sisp.net](mailto:morparts@sisp.net)  
Number: 117

I am Bill Leonard, a new member, and I am looking for some way or some one to confirm my duties as Boat Coxswain for First Div. and loader on No. 2 gun mount at GQ. I need these confirmations for the V. A.. I was in Ponchatoula from 1961 to 1964, any info concerning the cruises, unusual happenings like the typhoon in Hong Kong or anything that can be of use will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your time  
Bill (AKA) Leo

Date: Tue, Jun 8 2010, 8:45, CST  
Name: Doug Derome gmg2  
Email: [surfnh01@comcast.net](mailto:surfnh01@comcast.net)  
Location: 2nd/Fox  
Date Served: Aug 69 to May 71  
Number: 116

Trying to get ahold of guy's from my era. Point Defiance bump, Appollo 14, close call with Viet fishermen. Brownie, Joe Butch, Hankins (man overboard), John Moore, Jim Mills (or his then stunning wife), or anyone else

Date: Sun, Jun 6 2010, 19:45, CST  
Name: Jim Croft  
Email: [riverturtle@gmail.com](mailto:riverturtle@gmail.com)  
Location: Colonial Heights, VA  
Number: 115

Hi,  
I just found your website. I remember that my father served on the Ponchatoula probably around 1960. I was a small kid then and remember him taking me aboard a couple of times. His name was Alfred J. Croft.

I was wondering if any of his shipmates

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

here remember him. If so I would like to hear from them.

My email is Riverturtle@gmail.com

My dad passed away about ten years ago and was buried at sea of the outer banks of North Carolina. He was an old salt and loved the navy. He was a Commander when he retired.

Good luck on turning her into an underwater reef. I am a diver and would like to dive this ship someday. Take care-Jim Croft

Date:	Fri, Jun 4 2010, 23:09, CST
Name:	Jim Temple
Email:	<a href="mailto:bflat879@bellsouth.net">bflat879@bellsouth.net</a>
Location:	Royal Palm Beach, FL.
Date Served:	1965-1970
Number:	114

Here is a link to the pictures from the latest Ponchatoula Reunion. E-mail me for a link.

Date:	Tue, May 25 2010, 9:13, CST
Name:	PF Hammond
Email:	<a href="mailto:PF@USSPonchatoula.com">PF@USSPonchatoula.com</a>
Location:	Vallejo, CA
Date Served:	Jan. 58 to June 59
Number:	113

It is true, as mentioned in an earlier comment on this page, the Navy is scraping ships berthed in storage at Suisun Bay near San Francisco and that is where the Ponchatoula is. She is in a nest with other oilers and the Battle Ship USS Iowa. But, there is a movement afoot that may save our wonderful ship. Go to the home page of this website and click on "Now Hear This" to learn what's going on.  
PF Hammond, President

Date:	Thu, May 13 2010, 14:29, CST
-------	------------------------------

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Name: RM3 Hector F Lopez  
Email: [hflopez24@att.net](mailto:hflopez24@att.net)  
Location: Katy, TX  
Number: 112

Hi all you shipmates. Just came back from the 2010 reunion in Ponchatoula, LA, what a blast and what a blessing to see so many of you. Send me an email and I will give you the website to go to, there you can see the pics and get what you want for yourselves, as no links allowed here. Thanks.

Date: Sun, May 2 2010, 23:55, CST  
Name: Paul DiPaola GMG3  
Email: [pauld1946@embarqmail.com](mailto:pauld1946@embarqmail.com)  
Location: U.S.A  
Date Served: 1963/1966  
Number: 111

I did not know there was a web page like this. every time i would go on line (USN) all i could find was the good old Ponch was decomishen.  
I like to hear from the guys from FOX Div.

Date: Mon, Apr 26 2010, 20:42, CST  
Name: Lance Johnson (JOC RET)  
Email: [lancekjohnson@comcast.net](mailto:lancekjohnson@comcast.net)  
Location: Spokane, Wash  
Date Served: 1979-81  
Number: 110

Seeking fellow members of the decommissioning crew ... what became of you? Esp. X Division and that crazy Chief Master at Arms Sammy Riggs?

Date: Mon, Apr 19 2010, 15:07, CST  
Name: Jerry "Mouse" Mouton  
Email: [jerry.mouton@williamjacob.com](mailto:jerry.mouton@williamjacob.com)  
Location: Crowley, Louisiana  
Date Served: Feb '70 to Aug. '71  
Number: 109

I am trying to resurrect the Fox division group. In touch with about 12 guys now. I

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

will be at the reunion. I am meeting up with "Mijo". When I came in late from Liberty he would feed me. What a pal. Was aboard for Pago Pago - Apollo 14 recovery. Great days of fastpitch softball. Couldn't pitch very well but got out of duty to go play. Spoke with Ltjg Zindt, Jose Bracamonte, Dale Copeland, Bob Huhn, Charles Renfro, George Ichele, Brad Herrin, Gaylon "Lizard" King, Tommy Trexler just past on June 9 last year, Joe Butch, Pat Loudon and Abel "Mijo" Valadez. I am looking for others in the Fox or guys that played on the softball team in '70 & '71. "Go Ponchos"

Date: Sun, Apr 4 2010, 13:50, CST  
Name: John Pappas  
Email: [roofdr1234@aol.com](mailto:roofdr1234@aol.com)  
Location: Salt Lake City, Ut  
Date Served: 70-73  
Number: 108

Yeoman X Division  
There is a Facebook account that Suggs started.  
Still looking for Steve Parkhurst. Found Bert Hale, Bob Beck, Charles Spatholt, Delbert Brann, Alan Booth and Jim Van Natta. Please feel free to contact me at 801 566-3856 or email to above.

Date: Thu, Apr 1 2010, 9:45, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 107

An article in my local paper this morning tells of the lawsuit involving MARAD vs CA water quality regulators, and several environmental groups. The result being the removal of the ships mothballed at Suisun Bay. We will say a heartfelt goodbye to our "old girl" as she is destined for the scraper's torch. Life

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

and times aboard the Ponch will be remembered as long as any sailor who served this great lady still draws a breath.

Date: Sat, Mar 27 2010, 18:07, CST  
Name: Bill Lang MM2  
Email: [billlangusn@gmail.com](mailto:billlangusn@gmail.com)  
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota  
Date Served: June, 1961 to June, 1963  
Number: 106

Best duty in the Navy. Remember Operation Dominic at Christmas Island in 1962. Also good times in Sasebo and Hong Kong. Enjoyed being in "M" Division.

Date: Thu, Mar 25 2010, 15:49, CST  
Name: Pat O'Neill  
Email: [patrick.k.oneil@nasa.gov](mailto:patrick.k.oneil@nasa.gov)  
Location: Huntsville, Alabama  
Date Served: 1975-1977  
Number: 105

Greetings shipmates! Came aboard in 1975 without a clue, went the Striker route (OS) and lived, worked and played with some of the greatest people I've ever known. If you're out there; Bill Cowan, Mark Robinette, L.A Stewart, Bob Park, Sam Spoon, Harry, Fred, Bob, Applejack, Paul Alvarez, Willy (Wooz) Tallan, please shoot me a note to say hello. I long for the Spades tournaments in CIC. I communicate with Larry Butterfield now and again; still insane. Hope that this finds you all well (that includes everyone that served aboard), and God rest Chuck Costello. Once in the midst of partying, Chuck Costello asked a group of us if we'd "ever seen Neil Young live?" Spoon responds, "No, have you ever seen him dead?" It floored us, but you had to be there. Peace...

Date: Sun, Mar 14 2010, 12:41, CST  
Name: Ron Allen IC3  
Email: [ronallenx36-05@hotmail.com](mailto:ronallenx36-05@hotmail.com)  
Location: Wadsworth, OH.

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date Served: 1962-1963  
Number: 104

Was on the Ponchatoula briefly and unfortunately most the the names escape me, I can't remember that other thing you lose with age. I shipped over while on the Ponch. Germain Ic2 was my leading p.o. and I think there was an IC3 named Busby.

Date: Fri, Mar 12 2010, 17:01, CST  
Name: Cliff Bryant  
Email: [cliff204@hotmail.com](mailto:cliff204@hotmail.com)  
Location: Nevada City, Ca  
Date Served: 1965-1967  
Number: 103

Hello to all my old ship mates. Remember crossing the equator and becoming "Golden Shellbacks"? We crossed again the next year and I got to use the "shillale's" on all those tadpoles !! Anyone remember Dan Trainor and his brother Dennis? How about Joe Ripka?

Date: Thu, Mar 11 2010, 22:54, CST  
Name: Bob Poole  
Email: [poolefam@earthlink.net](mailto:poolefam@earthlink.net)  
Location: Illinois  
Date Served: 1975-78  
Number: 102

I just came across an old posted message from 2005 from Bert Young. Hey Bert, I can't beleive the names from so long ago that I'm seeing here. I remember all you guys. Do any of you remember what Dan Rust use to keep buried in the bean or rice containers? Hope life has been good to you Bert. That goes for all of you. You guys were the best group I ever served with during my entire career. Man that seems like along time ago. But good memories die hard. I'm going to make every effort to get to the next reunion. I sure hope I'm able to see some of you there. Take care.



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Wed, Mar 10 2010, 9:16, CST  
Name: Bob Poole  
Email: [poolefam@earthlink.net](mailto:poolefam@earthlink.net)  
Location: Illinois  
Date Served: 1975-1978  
Number: 101

Just came across this site by accident. Was GMG1 when I came aboard and changed over to MA1 prior to transfer. MM1 (MA1) Paul Norris and I worked in the 3-M office. What a pleasure to see this site. Great memories of the Ponch and crew. Best ship and crew I served with. I retired in 1984 as an MACS in Norfolk. Paul Norris passed away a few years ago from cancer. He was an LDO LT. and is buried at the National Cemetery in Wash. D.C. I recognize a few names on here. And it is great hearing from you all.

Date: Sun, Mar 7 2010, 11:57, CST  
Name: Mike Riippa  
Email: [jmriippa@hotmail.com](mailto:jmriippa@hotmail.com)  
Location: Maple Grove, Mn 55311  
Date Served: 1970- 71  
Number: 100

was Radioman on the Ponch. boarded in Sasebo, Japan 70. was transferred late summer 71. Just before the WestPac deployment. Just found this site.

Date: Wed, Mar 3 2010, 1:11, CST  
Name: Abel F Valadez  
Email: [juanita.valadez@yahoo.com](mailto:juanita.valadez@yahoo.com)  
Location: Odesa Tx  
Date Served: July 1967-1970  
Number: 99

I WAS IN 1ST DIVISION MY NICKNAME WAS MIJO OUR 1STCLASS PETTY OFFICER PARSONS DIED IN NAM I REMEMBER THE COLLISION AT SEA WITH THE POINT DEFIANCE AND THE SPACE RECOVERY IN LATE 70 OR 71 WE WENT TO PAGO

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

PAGO LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU I WENT AS  
BAKER AND COOKIE MAKER

Date: Mon, Mar 1 2010, 8:26, CST  
Name: John J. Bury, USN/Ret.  
Email: [johnb1936@verizon.net](mailto:johnb1936@verizon.net)  
Location: Media, Pa.  
Date Served: Nov.55 to Nov.57 Plank owner  
Number: 98

Looking forward to the May 2010 reunion.  
should be a Gala event. I am going to  
have a kidney removed Mar. 12th. If the  
doctor says ok to attend, I'll be there.  
I should have plenty of time to recover.  
See ya all in Ponchatoula.

Date: Fri, Jan 29 2010, 13:20, CST  
Name: Tom Welsh  
Email: [twelsh@greatopenings.com](mailto:twelsh@greatopenings.com)  
Location: Manistee, MI  
Date Served: 1970-72  
Number: 97

I look forward to seeing former shipmates  
at the May reunion. My one regret will be  
that my late shipmate and life long  
friend, ole' Dutch Battle will miss.  
God bless him... Can't wait til May.

Date: Wed, Jan 20 2010, 12:14, CST  
Name: Dave Rodgers  
Email: [jdryncusn@yahoo.com](mailto:jdryncusn@yahoo.com)  
Location: Vivian, LA  
Date Served: 1964 - 1966  
Number: 96

CWO Brown is alive and as well as you can  
be at 89. He lives in Florida with his  
wife. I talked to him this morning (1-20-  
10) Tom Botwinski and Walt Satalino have  
also made phone calls to him. He enjoys  
hearing from shipmates. His daughter  
receives and passes e-mail messages to  
him and he like phone calls. If you would  
like to contact him - let me know. Dave  
Rodgers

Date: Thu, Dec 31 2009, 19:44, CST

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Name: Donald Lofgren RM3 "LOF"  
Email: [don.lofgren1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lofgren1@gmail.com)  
Location: Oshkosh wisc.  
Date Served: 1963-1965  
Number: 95

To all Ponch sailors where ever you are,  
however you are: may this new year find  
you well.

Date: Fri, Dec 25 2009, 17:09, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, Idaho  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 94

## MERRY CHRISTMAS SHIPMATES

Date: Mon, Dec 7 2009, 15:16, CST  
Name: Megan Schmidt  
Email: [lovessharks1@yahoo.com](mailto:lovessharks1@yahoo.com)  
Location: Colorado  
Number: 93

My father served onthe USS Ponchatoula in  
the 1960's. I'm not sure of the exact  
dates. He's interested in locating former  
sailors that he served with. If anyone  
knows how I can locate a crew roster from  
the USS Ponchatoula I would greatly  
appreciate it! Thank you so much! God  
bless and thank you for your service to  
our wonderful country.

Date: Wed, Nov 11 2009, 12:10, CST  
Name: Steve Wolters  
Email: [swolters@vdminc.com](mailto:swolters@vdminc.com)  
Date Served: 1975 - 1979  
Number: 92

To all of you who have served - Thank You  
and Happy Veterans Day !!!

Date: Mon, Nov 9 2009, 17:37, CST  
Name: ISMAEL GIL  
Email: [Ismael.Gil@Mitchell11.com](mailto:Ismael.Gil@Mitchell11.com)  
Location: SAN DIEGO, CA  
Date Served: OCT63 THRU OCT 65  
Number: 91

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT THERE WAS A LOG SUCH AS THIS. I JUST HAPPENED TO STUMBLE INTO IT BY ACCIDENT! WOW I REALLY ENJOYED READING ALL THE COMMENTS. I HOPE TO HEAR FROM SOME OF MY 63-65 ERA SHIPMATES! GOOD JOB ON THOSE SETTING THIS UP..

Date: Sat, Oct 17 2009, 15:43, CST  
Name: Bill Hanzel  
Email: [bhanzel@comcast.net](mailto:bhanzel@comcast.net)  
Location: Aurora, Colorado  
Date Served: Oct 1981 - Nov 1982  
Number: 90

Any members from T-AO 148, USNS Ponchatoula? Looking for MilDet members from Oct 81 to Nov 82.

Date: Tue, Sep 29 2009, 19:34, CST  
Name: jack dowda btfn  
Email: [jackdowda@att.net](mailto:jackdowda@att.net)  
Location: san antonio,texas  
Date Served: nov 1963 thrumar1965  
Number: 89

looking for "STUD"brown cw3 b div officer ron bashford bt1 johnny meyers bt1 ray nowatney bt3, cauldwe1 bt3, or any other guys from that era thatserved on the ponch, looking forward to the reunion in la.

Date: Sun, Sep 13 2009, 18:41, CST  
Name: Don titel  
Email: [dtitel@ecpi.com](mailto:dtitel@ecpi.com)  
Location: Austin, Texas  
Date Served: NOV. 68 to NOV 70  
Number: 88

Up dating my E-mail My original posting from 3 years back...

Permission to come aboard? My name is Don Titel, E-mail: [dtitel@ecpi.com](mailto:dtitel@ecpi.com), and was on board from November 68 to same month in 70. Then was transfered to the USS Bolster ARS 38. I was an MR but served engine room and throttle watches. Here

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

are a few names (rough sp?) I remember from my time. Cooks:Sole, Barron. MR's: Holley,Lehman,Payne.BT's: Smikrud (sp?) Was a great singer used to appear at one of the local clubs in Hawaii,Walberg,Bray. EM: Tom (20 knots no smoke) Shark, Len Kanetz (sp). MM:Chief Weir,Zubi or Zubalaga,James Bray. Later, dtitel Others I cannot remember division or gang Guy named blinky played a banjo. Reading back through the post I see names I did know Ragsdale and Bevins. I also worked with Eddie Clements.Loos like the next reunion is doable for me.

Date: Wed, Sep 2 2009, 8:43, CST  
Name: Richard (Rick) Simonson  
Email: [mos19z5h@aol.com](mailto:mos19z5h@aol.com)  
Location: Plainfield, Illinois 60585  
Date Served: 1959 - 1961  
Number: 87

I love that ship! Was in the radio shack. RM Stricker to RM2. My boss was RM1 Rainey From Bebe ARkansaw. My second Captain was Capt. Spruance, son of the famous Admiral. Beside the West Pac memories the 20th anniversary reenactment on 7 Dec. 1961 of the 1941 attack while anchored in view of the ARizona was an experience I will never forget.

Date: Sun, Aug 30 2009, 8:52, CST  
Name: Bill Kneeland  
Email: [barbabernts@cs.com](mailto:barbabernts@cs.com)  
Location: minnesota  
Date Served: 70 & 71  
Number: 86

Hi to all!!! remember when we threw the xos christmas tree over the side. I've been in touch with John Moore, Pat Loudon, Greg Cook. Anyone know how to get ahold of kevin Arnold ? Remember the cookout on the fantail with the "go-go" girls. I was in supply and worked in the

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Laundry. I look back now and have fond memories of a great bunch of guys!!  
How about pogo pogo ? drop me a email .

Date: Wed, Aug 26 2009, 18:52, CST  
Name: Harry Campbell  
Email: [harrycamp@aol.com](mailto:harrycamp@aol.com)  
Location: Arlington, VA  
Date Served: 1968-71  
Number: 85

Did anyone besides me disembark to set foot on land in Vietnam while the ship was anchored in the vicinity of An Thoi, the Mekong Delta or Vung Tau during the period September 1970 to September 1971? If so, please let me know.

Date: Tue, Aug 11 2009, 12:26, CST  
Name: Stan Godlewski (for Brother Joseph T. Godlewski Crew member)  
Email: [stanleygodlewski@ymail.com](mailto:stanleygodlewski@ymail.com)  
Location: Joe was on the original Commissioning Crew  
Date Served: Early 1950's  
Number: 84

My brother Joe Godlewski, was a Shipfitter on the ship. He does not own a computer and now resides: 9 2nd Ave, West Haven, CT 06516 PH: (203) 932-4384

Will some one get in touch with him.

Stanley Godlewski, LCDR, MSC, USN (Ret.)

Date: Mon, Aug 3 2009, 9:17, CST  
Name: Alvin Overacker "Gary"  
Email: [goveracker2000@aol.com](mailto:goveracker2000@aol.com)  
Location: Olympia, WA  
Date Served: 1978 to decommissioning  
Number: 83

Worked in the engine room with Charlie Brown, Malanka, Scott Place, and all the rest of the snipes of mention. Made 1979 cruise into the frigid North and all the

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

way south to Australia, GREAT times and good men.

Date: Wed, Jul 22 2009, 7:49, CST  
Name: Ronald Jones  
Email: [rontools@netzero.net](mailto:rontools@netzero.net)  
Location: Wilkes-Barre PA 18702  
Date Served: April 1970 to Sept 1973  
Number: 82

I worked in R div. Looking for fellow shipmates. I retired with 22 years servis as HTC/SW.I am looking for all of my shipmates. apleas E-mail me

Date: Sun, Jul 19 2009, 23:32, CST  
Name: Trooper Grant Cooper  
Email: [grant.cooper@alaska.gov](mailto:grant.cooper@alaska.gov)  
Location: Kodiak, Alaska  
Date Served: N/A  
Number: 81

I am looking for a WJ "Crutch" vasek. USS Ponchatula A-0-148, May 4th 1964-1965. (Possibly from Temple Texas). It seems that the State Troopers are using his old wall locker in our garage here at post!It has been a long time, but thought he might like to know where it turned up. Thanks!

Date: Fri, Jul 10 2009, 11:46, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 80

Dave, great job on the Navy Links..keep up the great work.

Date: Sun, May 31 2009, 16:15, CST  
Name: Mike Davis  
Email: [mikeintexas07@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeintexas07@yahoo.com)  
Location: North Richland Hills, TX  
Date Served: Dec 1970 - Oct 1973  
Number: 79

I just found this site and it is great to hear news of old shipmates. I served in

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

CIC and OPS, one WestPac cruise and two Apollo recovery missions. Made shellback and saw Pago Pago that trip as a raw Ensign. Anyone out there from the Apollo 16 recovery mission?

Date: Wed, May 20 2009, 6:56, CST  
Name: Chuck Krieg  
Email: [ckrieg@cox.net](mailto:ckrieg@cox.net)  
Location: CT  
Date Served: 1965-1968  
Number: 78

Check out [navy.togetherweserved](http://navy.togetherweserved)  
Great military web site

Date: Fri, May 15 2009, 17:44, CST  
Name: Robert Maldonado  
Email: [rovalo@embargmail.com](mailto:rovalo@embargmail.com)  
Location: Bonifay, Florida  
Date Served: 1972-73  
Number: 77

Made contact with Cambell but lost his email. Spat, Brann, D Robinson, Shiet, BJ

Date: Sun, May 3 2009, 13:30, CST  
Name: Jack McCurry  
Email: [jmac271@charter.net](mailto:jmac271@charter.net)  
Location: Asheville, NC  
Date Served: 12/63 - 9/66  
Number: 76

Still looking for Jeff Crothers PN3 (Crowthers, Caruthers) came on board shortly before I left.

Date: Wed, Apr 29 2009, 19:52, CST  
Name: Robert Suggs  
Email: [bobsuggs@comcast.net](mailto:bobsuggs@comcast.net)  
Location: United States  
Date Served: 9/71 - 11/74  
Number: 75

If you served on AO-148 and are on Facebook I have built a group. Please come check it out.

Date: Sun, Apr 26 2009, 13:28, CST  
Name: Gerald "Jerry" Zambrano



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Email: [jzcycle99-shop@yahoo.com](mailto:jzcycle99-shop@yahoo.com)  
Location: Garland, Tx  
Date Served: 1967-1969  
Number: 74

Just found this site. Came onboard mid 67, left Aug. 69.

I served in supply dept as a sh3 working the laundry and the ships store. I became a Shellback on one of the cruises. Due to an angry 1st wife, I no longer have any of keepsakes. I any one remembers the date we cross the equator in '68 or '69 I'de like to know.

Japan, Philippines, Tiwan, Hong Kong and Viet Nam. I was with a small group who went ashore I Chu Li.

Great to see this site. Hope to hear from any one who remembers me.

Date: Thu, Apr 16 2009, 18:26, CST  
Name: RM3 Hector F Lopez  
Email: [hflopez24@att.net](mailto:hflopez24@att.net)  
Location: Katy, TX  
Date Served: 65-68  
Number: 73

Hi all, served on the Ponch right out of radio school 65. Was with Chief Brown, RM1 Hash and RM1 Bowman and some of the guys, Larry Jennings, Ernest "Buns" Mashburn, John Vasik, John Temple, Leo and some other guys I really have to look up. Rodger Smith, if you are still out there, I must be getting really absent minded, I will have to look through the yearbook for that time we were together. I saw Mashburn at NAS Corpus Christi back in the early 70s, he was with the admirals staff and I was a civilian working for NAS. Hope to hear from some of you RMs from that group or others of course, take care all.

Date: Sat, Apr 11 2009, 22:49, CST  
Name: Teresa Pappas

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Email: [TeresaLynnPappas@gmail.com](mailto:TeresaLynnPappas@gmail.com)  
Location: Salt Lake City, Utah  
Date Served: 71-74  
Number: 72

Reading over notes....I wrote contact for John Pappas  
He was on the Ponch 71-74. Sorry for the misinformation.  
Still looking to find other shipmates. We found Bert Hale, Brann, Beck, Brad Johnson. Still looking for Parkherst and spatholt. If I spelled your name wrong I'm sorry. Thank you for your time.  
John's wife and secretary

Date: Wed, Mar 18 2009, 14:32, CST  
Name: Donald Lofgren  
Email: [don.lofgren1@gmail.com](mailto:don.lofgren1@gmail.com)  
Location: Oshkosh Wi  
Date Served: 1963 thru 1965  
Number: 71

Has anyone heard from Larry McCullagh RM, or Nick Calvert ET? Taylor Hubbard, Don Snowden and I have been looking for them. We had some great times in the P.I.

Date: Mon, Mar 16 2009, 21:04, CST  
Name: Tom Wright  
Email: [tjwri@cableone.net](mailto:tjwri@cableone.net)  
Location: Pocatello, Idaho  
Date Served: 1960 - 1962  
Number: 70

I am wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts/email address of PC3 William GATELY (Jr.) who served on the PONCHATOULA. As I recall, his father was a Marine Corps Major at the time we served together.

THANKS

Date: Thu, Jan 8 2009, 19:07, CST  
Name: John Bury  
Email: [johnb1936@verizon.net](mailto:johnb1936@verizon.net)  
Location: Media, Pa.  
Date Served: Nov. 55 to Nov. 57

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 69

Plank owner here. A div. as an FN. Operated the black oil pumps during replenishment. Was assigned to the machine shop. Made MR3. Remember when Capt. Wilson had the deck apes over the side at sea painting to make an impression on Adm. White's flag ship. I was on watch in the engine room when we collided with the Richfield tanker when we were passing through the break water in Long beach. saw the bulkhead cave in. would have run for the hills, no hills to run to. Heck that tanker was carrying gasoline (I think). Some of the crew on the tanker ran up on deck in their skivvies ready to jump over the side. Liked those liberties in Sasebo. Great ship, was proud to serve aboard her. I have the first Commissioning Pennant that was hoisted up the mast on her day of commissioning. Any one who wants a picture of it let me know, be glad to sent you one. I retired US Navy in 1975, with 22 years of Naval service. I'd love to go back in and teach these young squids what the old Navy was like. But then, they would probably chew me up and spit me out. Look forward to the 2010 reunion.

Date: Mon, Dec 29 2008, 23:02, CST  
Name: James David Rodgers  
Email: [jdryncusn@yahoo.com](mailto:jdryncusn@yahoo.com)  
Location: Ashland, Va  
Date Served: 1963-1965  
Number: 68

I was a FN working in logroom took YN3 exam and got promoted then transferred to Guam as YN3 when ship was in yards for overhaul under LCDR Hamelrath remember CWO4 Brown - pass the salt stud - looking for long lost friend Walter Antonio Satalino, FN when I got transferred - he was a two year reservist - contact me - I

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

retired as a YNC in 1984 - anyone  
remember Satalino - contact me @  
jdryncusn@yahoo.com

Date: Mon, Dec 15 2008, 11:45, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 67

Sandi and I wish all shipmates a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Date: Wed, Dec 3 2008, 23:26, CST  
Name: vernon 'jack' Dowda BTFN  
Email: [jackdowda@att.net](mailto:jackdowda@att.net)  
Location: san antonio, texas  
Date Served: 1964 thru 1965  
Number: 66

Hi i SERVED IN B div and worked with  
BASHFORD BT1, CAULDWAULBT3 VAN BT2 MEYERS  
BT1 AALSO WO4'STUD BROWN WAS THE B DIV  
OFFICER, IF YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF  
ANY OF THES GUYS PLEASE LET ME KNOW THANK  
YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL WHO SERVED

Date: Sun, Nov 30 2008, 21:28, CST  
Name: Bill Hill - FTG-3  
Email: [novovida@hotmail.com](mailto:novovida@hotmail.com)  
Location: Honolulu, HI  
Date Served: 11/1968-3/1970  
Number: 65

Aloha to everyone who experienced life on  
the Ponch. I was in Fox Division, and  
worked on the Port high-line, where we  
routinely baptized any new officer in the  
chair if we could.

I remember the time Skuge("Hammiton")  
wound up in crutches after he and wright  
(his wife) fought over the same hottie in  
Olongapo; wright allegedly broke a toilet  
tank cover over his head and pushed him  
down the stairs. I remember Hamilton's  
Honolulu lulu, his wife Patty, her sister  
Karen, and I took a wonderful photo of

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

his son.

we hit Subic, Hong Kong, Taipei, Guam, got gouged by an unrep ship's anchor near Midway on the way back, so showed up with a list and a huge hole on the starboard side, crunched the after 3"/55 starboard mount. That was the year (1969?) Jean Dixon prophesied we wouldn't make it back. While out there, doing an daytime UNREP, a JP-5 hose broke near it's pulley, and sprayed everything aft, Ross was walking around with a lit cigarette in his mouth, as usual.

Betham and Gant always took my money at poker, both times. (smile)

My helmet had a slogan on front: "Nothing is real".

Thanks to Dave and everyone else for this website.

Looking forward to hearing from all you hardheads who remember those days too.

I remember a WestPac cruise that started at Pearl 11/68, and returned there for boiler replacement in 1969, in dry dock. We were removing all kinds of pipes and stuff. We took out the GFCS-63 fire-control systems and kept the two 56s.

I used to hang out in the aft amplidyne room, playing Tommy and The White Album as loud as I could.

When they filled the dry dock in, I had OOD duty, and the water rose higher than the float line, so technically it SANK!!

We laughed and laughed.

A shout out to JG Reoch, Bell (who punched the CO on the way back aboard

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

while in Subic), willie, and Hamilton, Wright, Gant, John Moore, Moon Mullins, Jerry Calderon, everyone from Captain's Mast, and all the other wild animals on board. It was a riot.

Drink your beer, it's food, and take your meds on time.

Bravo & Thanks. Aloha

Date:	Mon, Nov 17 2008, 12:23, CST
Name:	Robert Jackson
Email:	<a href="mailto:kb5vnc@hotmail.com">kb5vnc@hotmail.com</a>
Location:	Pinedale, Wy
Date Served:	June 1964-Oct.1965
Number:	64

Anyone aboard these dates would be nice hearing from you. Had some wonderful times aboard the ship.

Date:	Tue, Nov 11 2008, 20:12, CST
Name:	Rodger Smith
Email:	<a href="mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com">tworms43@hotmail.com</a>
Location:	Bethesda,MD
Date Served:	1965-1968 aboard the Ponch
Number:	63

To see the 2008 Veterans Day observance at the Vietnam wall, go to USVets dot tv or vvmf dot org, after 11/16/08.

Date:	Thu, Oct 9 2008, 21:33, CST
Name:	Bob Wright
Email:	<a href="mailto:bob575@comcast.net">bob575@comcast.net</a>
Location:	Kelso wa
Date Served:	1974-1977
Number:	62

I am IC-1 wright for those that were their in E div. If BM-1 White or Pickett are arround I would like to know their whereabouts.

Date:	wed, Oct 8 2008, 9:42, CST
Name:	Roger Parks - STG3
Email:	<a href="mailto:rparks10@carolina.rr.com">rparks10@carolina.rr.com</a>
Location:	North Carolina
Date Served:	TAD 1969
Number:	61

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Rode the "Ponch" from Subic Bay to meet Josephus Daniels DGL-27 in Tonkin Gulf. Took a Captains Chair from the Ponch to the Daniels for ny first duty ship. I have CLL (Leukemia) from Agent Orange exposure. Any one else having problems?

Date: Sun, Oct 5 2008, 20:11, CST  
Name: Ken Baunoch  
Email: [k.baunoch@comcast.net](mailto:k.baunoch@comcast.net)  
Location: white Lake Mi  
Date Served: 12/76 -12/78  
Number: 60

I just found this site.I was the ships baber for my last year and a half. I'm trying to get in touch with Mark Malanka. anyone with any info please contact me.

Date: Fri, Oct 3 2008, 12:02, CST  
Name: Chuck (Blitz) Krieg SK3  
Email: [ckrieg@cox.net](mailto:ckrieg@cox.net)  
Location: CT  
Date Served: 9/65 to 9/68  
Number: 59

Hi Harry, I Also remember most things of Austraila, Japan & cruising off Vietnam. I remember fondly becoming a Golden Shellback.

Hello to all former shipmates.

Date: Tue, Sep 30 2008, 16:40, CST  
Name: Harry Turner HM3  
Email: [harry.turner@comcast.net](mailto:harry.turner@comcast.net)  
Location: mass.  
Date Served: 1965-1967  
Number: 58

Had a great time on the Ponch. Remember westpac,austraila,japan,and crusing off of vietnam.Remember the golden shellback. Never forget it

Date: Mon, Sep 22 2008, 20:39, CST  
Name: Mrs. Linnea Geiling Middleton  
Email: [bobandlen@mhonline.net](mailto:bobandlen@mhonline.net)  
Location: New York State

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 57

My brother (Bernard G. Geiling GM1st.) served aboard the AOG-38 in world war Two. Any information would help. My brother did the art work for your story.

Date: Sun, Aug 24 2008, 15:11, CST  
Name: Jack McCurry  
Email: [jmac271@charter.net](mailto:jmac271@charter.net)  
Location: north carolina  
Date Served: 1964-1968 approx.  
Number: 56

Looking for Jeff Carruthers (maybe Crowthers) from Knoxville, Tn. Came on board shortly before I left.

Date: Sun, Aug 24 2008, 0:03, CST  
Name: James (Bud) Simmons  
Email: [buflorapit@yahoo.com](mailto:buflorapit@yahoo.com)  
Location: Spokane wa.  
Date Served: 1975 thru 1976  
Number: 55

Just found sight and would like to hear from some of the crew. west pac 75 was great! I was in 1st div. BMSN Simmons

Date: Fri, Aug 15 2008, 11:00, CST  
Name: Charlie Hoage  
Email: [hoagecharles@yahoo.com](mailto:hoagecharles@yahoo.com)  
Location: Roseville Ca.  
Date Served: May 64 - Jan 68  
Number: 54

Nice to see the log again. I served in R div as a Shipfitter. Like to hear from anyone from the crew that remembers the great times we had.

Date: Thu, Aug 14 2008, 12:40, CST  
Name: Steve Wolters  
Email: [swolters@vdminc.com](mailto:swolters@vdminc.com)  
Location: walker, Mich.  
Date Served: 1976-1979  
Number: 53

I have an extra West-Pac cruise book (1979) if anyone is interested.



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Thu, Aug 7 2008, 15:48, CST  
Name: Ken Childress  
Email: [scpo82@yahoo.com](mailto:scpo82@yahoo.com)  
Location: San Bernardino, Ca  
Date Served: Nov 63 - May 65  
Number: 52

Ponch was my first ship. Started out in Deck and ended up in ships office with Mike Degel and Tom Wagner. Chief Webb ran the show and what a nut cracker! Had tickets to 64' olympics but never made it for Turner Joy and Maddox. That was a long hard cruise!

Date: Mon, Aug 4 2008, 20:31, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda, MD  
Date Served: 65-68  
Number: 51

Does anyone have info on Jesse from A-Div? He was aboard about 64-68, and had that large tat on his back, plus many others on his arms. If you do, have him get in touch or let us know.

Date: Sat, Aug 2 2008, 9:39, CST  
Name: STEVE Ford  
Email: [mcsone@verizon.net](mailto:mcsone@verizon.net)  
Location: Mount Airy, MD  
Date Served: 72-75  
Number: 50

Just found this site, I was a BM3 2nd div. If anyone remembers, I would like to hear from you.

Date: Fri, Jul 18 2008, 9:34, CST  
Name: Terry Capehart  
Email: [tcapehart@cityofterrell.org](mailto:tcapehart@cityofterrell.org)  
Location: Terrell, texas  
Date Served: 72-74  
Number: 49

Just changed jobs about six months ago so my email has changed as well. Hope to dig out my old pictures and post them. Barry,

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I've been meaning to give you a holler since we are nearby each other. The recent TV series about space flight reminds me of the Appollo missions we went on. I have pics of initiating the NASA guys when we crossed the equator. Does anyone remember when we entered port by Ford Island after a WESTPAC cruise and the ships whistle would sputter then blow then give a big raspberry and then blow and sputter again. I spent a week in the stack shutting the the steam off and on to fill the pipe with water for that event. HA!

Date: Thu, Jul 3 2008, 11:34, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 48

Kudos to Dave and Barry..Good show

Date: Mon, Jun 30 2008, 21:07, CST  
Name: dick weber  
Email: [rjdubs@hotmail.com](mailto:rjdubs@hotmail.com)  
Location: roeland park, ks.  
Date Served: July 66 -Oct. 67  
Number: 47

Just received the DC video and cd of photos today(6-30). Just want to thank Barry and Dave for a great job taking the photos and making a great video!!  
Marianne and I had such a great time with all who attended and look forward to Ponchatoula ,La. in 2010. I hope and pray everyone has a save July 4th!!

Date: Thu, Jun 19 2008, 20:05, CST  
Name: Tom Wright  
Email: [tjwri@cableone.net](mailto:tjwri@cableone.net)  
Location: Pocatello, Idaho  
Date Served: 1960 - June 1962  
Number: 46

Anyone having information concerning "CS3 Stanley SANTEE" who was lost at sea off

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

the PONCHATOULA in FEBRUARY 1963:

I have been the point of contact by his daughter. She is interested in getting as much information about her father as possible.

I wasn't aboard the PONCHATOULA at the time of his disappearance, but I am sure that those who served with him will be able to add something to his story.

Please email me whatever information you might have remembered. In turn, I will forward that information onto his daughter who eager to learn of some details of his life.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Date: Wed, Jun 18 2008, 18:51, CST  
Name: Dan & Sandi Axtell  
Email: [axtell108@cableone.net](mailto:axtell108@cableone.net)  
Number: 45

I wish to thank all of the Shipmates and spouses who attended the 08 Reunion in DC for their prayers, concerns, and generosity in my behalf. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. We finally arrived home yesterday (6/17) I am doing better each day, but will take a while yet. I was truly touched by kindness and unselfish love shown by all. Thank you for everything, after watching Dan's video I am sorry I missed so much. A special thank you to the O'Shea's for opening their home to us for my recovery. I look forward to seeing you all in Ponchatoula in 2010. Sandi

Date: Mon, Jun 9 2008, 18:32, CST  
Name: Rick Root, EMFM  
Email: [ssrgullharbor@yahoo.com](mailto:ssrgullharbor@yahoo.com)  
Location: Olympia, WA  
Date Served: 9/71-2/73  
Number: 44

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

I was on Ponch 71-73. I am looking for anyone having medical problems, ie prostate cx, Agent Orange, or can remember deck cargo w/black tarps.

Date: Thu, Jun 5 2008, 11:19, CST  
Name: Barry Litchfield  
Email: [barry@litchfieldphoto.com](mailto:barry@litchfieldphoto.com)  
Location: Garland, Texas  
Date Served: 1966 - 1967  
Number: 43

Please visit this website again in a few weeks. We will have photos and movies posted from the June 5th through 9th, 2008 Washington, D.C. reunion.

For those of you that could not attend, please try to make it to our next reunion. We will be voting on the location for the 2010 reunion during our banquet meeting June 9 in D.C. Please stay tuned.....We will provide details about the 2010 reunion as soon as they are available.

Date: Wed, Jun 4 2008, 10:27, CST  
Name: John Pappas  
Email: [RoofDr1234@aol.com](mailto:RoofDr1234@aol.com)  
Location: Salt Lake City, Ut  
Date Served: 69-72  
Number: 42

Took Photos for yearbooks if anyone needs pictures email. Still looking for shipmates like sparky and spatholtz. Found Bob Beck, Bert Candy and Delbert Brann. Would like to hear from shipmates 69-72.

Date: Tue, Jun 3 2008, 17:44, CST  
Name: Laura Dawn Santee  
Email: [santee196@hotmail.com](mailto:santee196@hotmail.com)  
Location: Orange County, California  
Date Served: 1962  
Number: 41

Looking for any information regarding my father, Stan Santee who was reported

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

missing off the Ponch in 1962 and has never been found. If anyone has any information regarding my dad I'd like to talk with you. Thanking you in advance,  
Laura Santee

Date: Sun, Jun 1 2008, 23:23, CST  
Name: Barry Litchfield  
Email: [barrylitchfield@tx.rr.com](mailto:barrylitchfield@tx.rr.com)  
Location: Garland, TX  
Date Served: 1966 - 1967  
Number: 40

Looking for Dwight Banks who served on the Ponch approx. 1967 and 1968. I think he was in electronics as an ET or possibly a radarman??

In the late 1980's he lived next door to me on Strawn Ct. in Flower Mound, TX. I think he worked for Texas Instruments in Lewisville, TX.

The last I remember was that Dwight was going to move to Arizona for a new job, and haven't heard from him since. Hope to hear from you Dwight!!

Date: Fri, May 30 2008, 11:58, CST  
Name: Mike Faracca  
Email: [mfaracca@roadrunner.com](mailto:mfaracca@roadrunner.com)  
Location: Buffalo, NY  
Date Served: 1976 - 1980  
Number: 39

Mike Faracca OS2 76-'80. A blast from the past while reviewing all of these entries, yes I've seen several guys that were on board during this timeframe. I was an OS in Operations, mostly hung with the signal gang, radio gang, QM's etc. however had many friends in Deck, and other depts. I was onboard for 2 Westpacs, was one of the few who climbed Mt. Fuji in '79, along with Steve Wolters, Bill Trippi, Alex Anderson, Willy Tallan, etc. Unbelievable times. I brought out the old Westpac yearbooks a

## Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

few months ago and showed the kids since they didn't believe me about the equator crossing ceremony. Anyway great to see the website, feel free to contact me if you read this.

Date: Sat, Apr 26 2008, 10:20, CST  
Name: RM Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda,MD  
Date Served: 64-68  
Number: 38

Does anyone have a photo of DELL ROSS CLAIBORNE? Or, the address of his widow? He was a Gunners Mate on the Ponch, from TX, in the Middle 60's. Volunteered for Swift Boat duty and died shortly after. He is honored on the WALL in DC.

Date: Sat, Apr 26 2008, 7:45, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda,MD  
Date Served: 64-68  
Number: 37

Even though the 25th has passed, you can still join the reunion group in DC. We will have more shipmates attending than any prior event. And, there will be a surprise speaker at the Navy Memorial Ceremony You don't want to miss it!

Date: Thu, Apr 24 2008, 11:13, CST  
Name: Charles Carnes  
Email: [ccarnes@hughes.net](mailto:ccarnes@hughes.net)  
Location: Belleville, Wisconsin  
Date Served: Nov. 1974-Jul. 1976  
Number: 36

Any EM's out there? Snipes Rule!! Lotsa memories on the Ponch. Ensign DeLinn still around?

Date: Fri, Apr 11 2008, 14:21, CST  
Name: cole poppleton  
Email: [coleton56@yahoo.com](mailto:coleton56@yahoo.com)  
Location: canastota ny  
Date Served: 67-69

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 35

i was gmgsn  
left ship in 69 for river patrol boats  
lost contact just finding some now.

Date: Tue, Apr 8 2008, 23:32, CST  
Name: Mike Degel  
Email: [mikdegs@yahoo.com](mailto:mikdegs@yahoo.com)  
Location: Coon Rapids, Minnesota  
Date Served: 6/63 3/65  
Number: 34

Hey Shipmates,

Still looking for Tom Wagner YN. Last  
served with Tom when we left the Ponch  
and both went to recruiting duty in  
Minneapolis Minnesota.

I still keep in touch with that Snipe Tom  
Botwinski.

would like to here from anybody that  
served on board the Ponch the same time I  
did.

I am retired now (was a plumber for 38  
years) don't know how I went from a  
yeoman to a plumber but go figure.

Hope to here from any one.

Mike Degel YN

Date: Fri, Mar 28 2008, 20:09, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda, Maryland  
Date Served: 64-68  
Number: 33

Hey, looks who's coming to the Shipmates  
Reunion. Everyone should join the  
Association and come to the Reunion.  
we'll be making more fond memories and  
friends, along with a great time in DC,  
See you all in June!

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Date: Thu, Mar 27 2008, 20:20, CST  
Name: Willard Schmitt  
Email: [willschmitt@att.net](mailto:willschmitt@att.net)  
Location: Saint Charles MO  
Date Served: 1978-1980 & Alameda Turnover  
Number: 32

I am so pleased with the website. The Ponchatoula was my first ship and I got to experience a who lot of new things and become a Shellback. Anyone from that time remember BM1 Barber or BM2 Campomizi Anyway I will post more later bad weather here.  
SH1 (SW) will Schmitt (Retired)

Date: Wed, Mar 26 2008, 23:11, CST  
Name: Larry Rogers  
Email: [lrogers717@hotmail.com](mailto:lrogers717@hotmail.com)  
Location: Olympia, Washington  
Date Served: Oct-65 -- Dec 65  
Number: 31

The "Ponch" was the first Navy Ship I ever served on. I flew to Yokosuka Japan to meet the USS Theodore E. Chandler DD717---- The Chandler was already underway for the P.I., They put me on the Ponch too catch up with the Chandler. I was fresh out of MMA School

Date: Sat, Mar 22 2008, 20:56, CST  
Name: Darry Barrell  
Email: [drb619@yahoo.com](mailto:drb619@yahoo.com)  
Location: California  
Date Served: 70-72  
Number: 30

Looking for MMs and BT from the years 70-72. Westpac of 71. Hey Hawks! You out there?! Write me back. Also looking for a Westpac 71 yearbook if anyone has one. Or pictures from Apollo 14. Thanks y'all!

Date: Thu, Mar 13 2008, 1:59, CST  
Name: David Long  
Email: [dlong64916@aol.com](mailto:dlong64916@aol.com)  
Location: Honolulu Hawaii  
Date Served: 71-73



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 29

I was on the cruze 72-72. I was a DC 3. I was the guy that had the Albitras for a while on the cruze. We named it Ponch. It only was with me for two days. That was my last cruze in the Navy. Now I havelived on a 60 ft sailboat for the past 17 years on Kaneohe Bay so close to the Marine Base I hear taps and relalee daily. Those were great times for me on my last cruze on the Ponch. I wonder if Goose and any of the guys I ran around with are still around.

Aloha,  
Dave Long AKA Peewee Long

Date: Thu, Feb 28 2008, 21:51, CST  
Name: Robert Pagels  
Email: [rpagels@ci.natchitoches.la.us](mailto:rpagels@ci.natchitoches.la.us)  
Location: Natchitoches La.  
Date Served: 1975-1977  
Number: 28

I served on the Ponch in the engine room, made a west-pac in 75 all good times, remember all of my bud's for and aft top to bottom, emails welcome.

Date: Sun, Feb 24 2008, 20:04, CST  
Name: Doug Derome  
Email: [surfhn01@comcast.net](mailto:surfhn01@comcast.net)  
Location: somewhere in N.H.  
Date Served: Aug,69 to Dec,71  
Number: 27

Just found this site.  
served in 2nd div.first West-pac,Fox div.  
on second cruise.  
would love to know about or here from Joe Butch,Jim Mills,John Moore,Stewart,Brownie or anyone else from that era.

Date: Sat, Feb 23 2008, 23:10, CST  
Name: HARRELL CANTRELL  
Email: [WOLFER58@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WOLFER58@YAHOO.COM)  
Location: BEAVERTON ALA  
Date Served: JULY 68 TO NOV 69

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 26

CAME ON BOARD OUT OF BOOT CAMP IN PERAL HARBOR. WAS YOEMAM FOR LT. JOHNS FOR 3 MOS. WENT INTO E DIVS. FOR REST OF MY TIME ON THE POUNT. WENT ON 1 WESTPAC CRUISE. REMBER CARVER E2 JOE ELLIS JOHN STUARTE ED CLEMEST ALL THE GUYS IN ALL THE DIVISION BELOW DECK. WAS A GREAT TIME FOR A YOUNG GUY FROM ALA TO GROW UP IN. IN JOYED IT VERY MUCH! GREW UP VERY MUCH.

Date: Fri, Feb 22 2008, 18:59, CST  
Name: Ron Larson  
Email: [rnertime@sio.midco.net](mailto:rnertime@sio.midco.net)  
Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
Date Served: March 1960 thru May 24 1963  
Number: 25

Looking for Wayne ( Hank) Snow SM2 And Henry Nava and Dick Munn both yoeman. Any one who can help I really would appreciate it ! Either e-mail me or call me at (605)7432326 TKS RON

Date: Sun, Feb 3 2008, 12:07, CST  
Name: Everett Swift  
Email: [everett@speednetllc.com](mailto:everett@speednetllc.com)  
Location: Hillman, MI  
Date Served: Mar 1975- Dec 1976  
Number: 24

I worked M division in the engine room with Duda, Albright, Barton, Martin, Hendrickson, Demar, Bianchi, Currey, Klindt, Yurkovic, Paningbatan, Pasvogel, Kili, and Steamin Stu Sturtevant. Just to name a few. We had a great time on WESPAC 75.  
I have Been in contact with Klamer.

would be happy to hear from anyone who was on at the same time.

Date: Fri, Feb 1 2008, 6:00, CST  
Name: Tad Barrett  
Email: [tadbarrett@mac.com](mailto:tadbarrett@mac.com)  
Location: North Carolina  
Date Served: Ny Father late 50's

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Number: 23

Hi,  
If anyone has been looking for FTG  
Richard Edward "Eddie" Barrett who served  
on the Ponch in the late 50's, please  
contact me. My name is Tad and I am his  
son.

Thanks..

Date: Fri, Jan 25 2008, 22:47, CST  
Name: John C. Hearn  
Email: [hearnj1@consolidated.net](mailto:hearnj1@consolidated.net)  
Location: Conroe Tx  
Date Served: 23 Aug 64-21 Sept 67  
Number: 22

I was EM1 on the Ponch. Made 2 cruises  
including a trip across the equator where  
we were made Golden Shellbacks, after a  
visit to Singapore. We also worked on the  
Apollo missions as backup recovery  
vessel.

Date: Sun, Jan 13 2008, 20:40, CST  
Name: Ron Willard  
Email: [rjwillard@yahoo.com](mailto:rjwillard@yahoo.com)  
Location: Washington,Ut.  
Date Served: Sept.61-Mar.63  
Number: 21

Hi Shipmates,Came on the Pouch in west  
pack out of boot,made two more cruses.  
What a great time for a young kid. Seen  
the Atomic test at Christmas il. The Navy  
did alot for me  
We hope to be in D.C.

Date: Sun, Jan 6 2008, 21:29, CST  
Name: harrell cantrell  
Email: [wolfer58@YAHOO.COM](mailto:wolfer58@YAHOO.COM)  
Location: BEAVERTON ALA  
Date Served: 68 TO 69  
Number: 20

HI SHIP MATES I REMBER ALL THE GUYS IN E  
DIVS ALL THE GUYS IN M DIV ALL GUYS B

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

DIVS HAD SOME GREAT TIMES ON THE  
POUNTCHATOULA WENT ON ONE WEAT PAC CRUISE

Date: Mon, Dec 31 2007, 5:56, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 19

Happy New Year shipmates..hope to see all  
in DC in June

Date: Tue, Dec 25 2007, 10:25, CST  
Name: Harrell Cantrell  
Email: [wolfer58@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfer58@yahoo.com)  
Location: Beaverton, Alabama  
Date Served: Sept. 68- Nov.69  
Number: 18

Just found this website. Enjoyed hearing  
from old shipmates. will be in contact at  
later date. would like to be contacted by  
those who served during this time.

Date: Mon, Dec 24 2007, 6:06, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 17

Merry Christmas shipmates..Hope all enjoy  
the holiday.

Date: Fri, Dec 21 2007, 19:00, CST  
Name: saul zambrano  
Email: [zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: laredo, texas  
Date Served: 1967---1970  
Number: 16

my old e-mail address was  
[saul@leyendecker.com](mailto:saul@leyendecker.com) i have a new one a  
home [zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net) uss  
ponchatoula ao148 67/69

Date: Sun, Dec 16 2007, 2:20, CST  
Name: Bob Mills  
Email: [rmgtrading@yahoo.com](mailto:rmgtrading@yahoo.com)

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Location: Washington  
Date Served: June 1968 to July 1969  
Number: 15

Just found the sight and would like to  
here from other ship mates.

Date: Wed, Dec 12 2007, 22:58, CST  
Name: Tom Wright  
Email: [tjwri@cableone.net](mailto:tjwri@cableone.net)  
Location: Pocatello, Idaho  
Date Served: Early 1960 - Mid 1962  
Number: 14

I Came aboard the PONCHATOULA as a PN3 from NAAS, KINGSVILLE, TEXAS. I relieved PN3 Dave Evans on the Diary/Reenlistment Desk in the Ships' Office. I passed the test for PN2 at NAAS KINGSVILLE and was advanced to that rate on the PONCHATOULA. The Captain was Ed Spruance who was relieved by A. J. Toulon. The Executive Officer was Commander Elwood Vaughn. I worked with Wilburn, Van Loh, R. Munn, and Kennedy.

I served on many local Third Fleet Unrep Ops and one Seventh Fleet Westpac Cruise as the XO STBD BRIDGE TALKER. We participated in ATOMIC TESTING in the Johnston and Christmas Island areas during OPERATION DOMINIC.

I left the ship to attend Class "A" CTR School in Pensacola Florida. I successfully converted to CTR. As a CTR, I served overseas, several years on the East Coast of the United States and Vietnam tours on board the USS OXFORD (AGTR-1) and USS JAMESTOWN (AGTR-3). I was on the decommissioning crew of the USS JAMESTOWN (AGTR-3) at Yokosuka, Japan. The USS OXFORD (AGTR-1) was tied up alongside and was decommissioned at the same time.

I retired from the U. S. Navy as a CTRC

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

in october 1977 from  
NAVCAMSEASTPAC(NAVCOMMSTA), Honolulu, HI.

Date: Mon, Dec 10 2007, 9:00, CST  
Name: Tom Oppelt (sfm-2 uss worden  
Dlg-18)  
Email: [toppelt@i2s.com](mailto:toppelt@i2s.com)  
Location: wallingford, ct.  
Date  
Served: '66-'70  
Number: 13

Hi guys! Two things. Thanks for the best service during un-rep. Many times you met up with us on the line off Nam. Always no problems. Okay, question. You had a chief named Tom Van Brock or Vanbrook. I ran into him a few times while in Hawaii. He was my recruiter. Real nice guy! Any one have any information on his location. Thanks. Tom

Date: Sun, Dec 9 2007, 23:37, CST  
Name: Bill Hanzel  
Email: [bhanzel@comcast.net](mailto:bhanzel@comcast.net)  
Location: Denver, Colorado  
Date Served: Oct 81 to Nov 82  
Number: 12

I was in the first MilDet after commission in 81. Looking for other MilDet members. ET1 Bob Campbell and others.

Date: Fri, Dec 7 2007, 11:23, CST  
Name: QMSA John white  
Email: [jwwwwhitehouse@aol.com](mailto:jwwwwhitehouse@aol.com)  
Date Served: 78-79  
Number: 11

I'm looking for an old shipmate, does anyone know how I can locate Geronimo (Jerry) Diaz, from Puerto Rico during the 78-79 time frame. Or can anyone give me info. on how to look up old ship records for their Home of Record,,,etc.. Respond at the mail listing above,, thank you.

Date: Fri, Dec 7 2007, 11:15, CST

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Name: George Kerr  
Email: [gkerr@clearwire.net](mailto:gkerr@clearwire.net)  
Date Served: 1967 - 1969  
Number: 10

I am looking for people on board from 67-69. Bob White, Patterson, Castle, Fulkerson, Zapata, John Miller and others.

Date: Tue, Dec 4 2007, 7:24, CST  
Name: Randy Voss BM3  
Email: [r1slvoss@yahoo.com](mailto:r1slvoss@yahoo.com)  
Location: Michigan  
Date Served: Dec.72-July74  
Number: 9

would like to know if any of the guys I hung around with are going to the reunion in 08, like Ralph, Marty, or Walter.

Date: Mon, Nov 19 2007, 12:03, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cablone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cablone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 8

Happy Thanksgiving Shipmates

Date: Wed, Oct 31 2007, 12:06, CST  
Name: Steve Wolters GMG2  
Email: [swolters@vdm-inc.com](mailto:swolters@vdm-inc.com)  
Location: Michigan  
Date Served: Jan 1976-Nov 1979  
Number: 7

Glad to see you are back online!!!!

Date: Tue, Oct 30 2007, 18:50, CST  
Name: saul zambrano  
Email: [zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zambranosaul@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: laredo, texas  
Date Served: 1967/1969  
Number: 6

I have located several of my shipmates but there is still more that I would like to chat with.

Date: Tue, Oct 30 2007, 11:35, CST

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Name: Jerry "Tex" Clay  
Email: [jclay@flash.net](mailto:jclay@flash.net)  
Location: Fort Worth, TX  
Date Served: June 1960 to September 1961  
Number: 5

Reported as SA in dry dock, working for McDaniell BM1, 1st Div. Made WesPac cruise in 1960/61 with Capt. Spruance. Transferred to Signal Gang and left as SMSN IN LATE 61. would like to communicate with any old shipmates.

Date: Mon, Oct 29 2007, 19:48, CST  
Name: Norman Rogers  
Email: [n\\_rogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n_rogers@sbcglobal.net)  
Location: Henryetta, Okla  
Date Served: Nov. 1956 til May, 1960  
Number: 4

I have a lot of fond memories of the shipmates and the time I spent on the Ponch. I would like to hear from anyone that was aboard from 1956 to 1960

Date: Thu, Oct 25 2007, 21:45, CST  
Name: Rodger Smith  
Email: [tworms43@hotmail.com](mailto:tworms43@hotmail.com)  
Location: Bethesda, Maryland  
Date Served: May 64- May 68  
Number: 3

Thanks for getting the log going again, Dave. Welcome back to all our shipmates. It's been too long without the log. See you all at the next reunion in the DC area on June 5th next year!

Date: Thu, Oct 25 2007, 19:27, CST  
Name: Dan Axtell  
Email: [sailor4419@cableone.net](mailto:sailor4419@cableone.net)  
Location: Lewiston, ID  
Date Served: Jan63-Aug65  
Number: 2

Good to have the LOG back..great work Dave

Date: Wed, Oct 24 2007, 21:00, CST  
Name: Dave Schneider



# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

Email: [Dave@DaveOnTheWeb.com](mailto:Dave@DaveOnTheWeb.com)  
Location: Illinois  
Date Served: Oct 1961- Oct 1964  
Number: 1

After a long absents we have the "ships log" back on line. Thank you for your patience. We look forward reading your comments.  
Dave Schneider  
Webmaster

*Last edited by David Schneider at Fri,  
May 30 2008, 12:13, CDT*

## Post new message

Name \*

Email

Location

Date Served

Message \*

Post message

Reset

# Ponchatoula Ship's Log/Guest Book 2007 - 2019

[Back to the website](#) - [Login and change settings](#)