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DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Also available online at www.wardroomclub.org

NOTES FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Season's Greetings everyone! On behalf of the Board of Governors (BOG), we hope that this newsletter finds you and your families and friends doing well and staying healthy as the challenge of the pandemic continues in our country.

The BOG has been having frequent teleconference/Zoom meetings to stay updated on the public health restrictions and to discuss a future strategic plan and future expectations for how the club is going to deal with the pandemic. An important part of our discussions has been to explore opportunities about how we can continue to work towards continued good communication with our members and various ways to engage you in opportunities to enjoy virtual presentations instead of the in-person presentations from the speakers who would have been with us for the regular dinner meetings. We are fortunate that so many of us are members of other organizations that are willing to share their resources with us.

Virtual connections: You will see in this issue in the Secretary's section that we have introduced a new special "Virtual/online" resource of various online/web link opportunities for you to explore at your leisure time. These presentations are being offered by the Naval Institute and the USS Constitution Museum. It is our plan to offer various resources from different organizations that have allowed their presentations to be offered to you free of charge to enable you to enjoy their sources as well as their members. We are all experiencing the same social distancing and isolation without the in-person meetings, so we are going to work together to keep all of our members connected. We believe that the ability to connect with you on a virtual basis will allow more of you to participate in what the WRC can offer to you no matter where you are living during the year. We are also looking into the possibilities of having a social media "Zoom" type meeting offered to the membership in 2021 but there is more to discuss before this will be a reality.

Pandemic restrictions: You are receiving this newsletter at a time when the Governor of Massachusetts has published information and guidelines for a move back to earlier phases of handling the pandemic since the rates of positive tests and admissions of patients into hospitals and intensive care units have been on the rise beyond earlier expectations. The risk that the virus presents to us all is very dangerous and the CDC told us earlier this month that we are entering the worst 3 months ever known to public health in this country.

This certainly causes us all to stop, pause and think about what people did during the Thanksgiving holiday despite the CDC advice, and then what will happen during the coming holidays that will undoubtedly bring another surge of the pandemic during the early months of 2021.

The future: the BOG is in the process of discussing a strategic plan for the future. We concluded at our recent meeting on 12/7/20 that we will not be able to conduct any monthly dinner meetings this season. Reasons: the restrictions being enforced by the federal government on their military bases, the social distancing restrictions required by MA State, and the high risks that meetings pose to our membership are amongst the many considerations that were taken into consideration for us to reach this decision. The release of the vaccine to combat the Covid-19 virus is occurring this month, however, the opportunities for not only all of us in the high risk categories and to the general public to receive the vaccine will not happen until the Spring and then into the summer. Boston has canceled all its spring venues for events and it is expected that this will move into the fall months. It will be a long time before different age groups will receive the double doses of the vaccine and then ensure that it is working effectively with follow up testing so that we could safely interact with others. We are all disappointed that this action has to be taken but it is for the benefit of all of us that we are being responsible and caring about you and your families and others who would be exposed to us in a meeting, such as caterer and wait staff, Base personnel, and any others who we would interact with during each evening meeting.

New focus for the Club: In addition to the resources we present to you in virtual links within the newsletters, the board has decided that we need to utilize the email connection that we have with all our members who have registered their email address with the club. The capability to send you an email with our newsletters and special announcements from the club is further going to enhance your capability to connect to the links that we will be providing you without your having to type all the details into your computer/smart phone to enjoy those presentations. Important to note is that with this decision has come the understanding and recognition that not ALL our members have access to an email address or if they do cannot access the newsletter in an email or virtual format due to limitations with their web connections.

Note to the members who currently receive the hard copy newsletters via USPS: We will continue to send those members who have chosen, or by default, to receive the hard copy of the newsletter via USPS in that format, however you will also receive the newsletters from our webmaster into your email from: info@wardroomclub.org. (So please add that email address to your account.) If after you receive the email version of the newsletter that you decide that you want to continue to receive that version of the monthly newsletter instead of the hard copy then I encourage you to contact our Secretary, Bob Pickett, so that he can make that change for you. The positive part of your doing this is that we can move forward to decreasing the printing costs of our newsletters and that helps the club's finances. You can expect to receive an email from the webmaster this month with a test email to all who have an email address. This will serve as a preliminary email to all who receive an email from us and to help us know which emails are not correct and to then contact you for the correct email address.

Holiday Greetings: I want to move on with something of a much happier note! We are including in this newsletter not only a hard copy of a Christmas/holiday greeting for you all so that everyone who receives the newsletter will also receive our good wishes, but also there is a link to a special electronic greeting from the WRC at the end of the newsletter. You can connect to the link, or have a family member do so for you, to show you the card and enjoy the music and greetings which it carries within it. We want you to know that the BOG cares about you and to know and appreciate the fact that you are remembered and that we are here for you. We do appreciate your loyal and faithful membership.

We all look forward to the time when we can meet and see you again in person. In the meantime, I want you to know that we miss you all and hope that you will contact us either in an email, on the phone, or in a note to us if there is anything that we can do for you or help you during these months - - - or just to say "Hello".

The BOG extends our best holiday wishes to you and your families and hopes that you will enjoy the enclosed greeting card and the electronic greeting card offered to you within the link at the end of the newsletter. Have as nice a holiday season as possible.

Please take care of yourselves and your families and be well!

CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (Ret); Email: CAPTMAJOD@aol.com; Cell Phone: 617-285-2571

NOTES FROM THE CLUB SECRETARY

VIRTUAL/ONLINE TOPICS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

Your Board of Governors continues to work on maintaining and improving our communications during this challenging time. During the pandemic when we cannot physically meet and participate in guest speaker presentations, we are adding this new Section to the Newsletter. Research (from Bud Watson & Bob Pickett) has found Military and Maritime History and Current Events content on various internet web sites that can be shared with others. Therefore each month, for your enjoyment, this section will highlight some interesting podcast and video links.

Below are the selections for this month:

- 1) Doolittle Raid: <https://soundcloud.com/naval-institute/doolittle-enhanced>
- 2) December 3: Washington Forum (can be accessed after the actual date):
<https://www.usni.org/events/defense-forum-washington-2020>
- 3) Initiatives to maintain submarine superiority:
<https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/the-proceedings-podcast/proceedings-podcast-episode-190-sub-boss-speaks>
- 4) Constitution Museum: American Naval Crews in War of 1812 (video presentation by Matthew Brenckle): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Y8vI--tY08&feature=YouTube>

Your feedback and/or suggestions for other sources and resources to place in this section are solicited and welcome as we formulate a "VIRTUAL Section" in future Newsletters. Please email your thoughts to: bobpickett44@gmail.com.

Stay safe! I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting.

CAPT Robert D. Pickett, Jr., USNR (RET); Email: bobpickett44@gmail.com; Cell: 781-801-4163

NOTES FROM THE CLUB TREASURER

The 2021 annual dues collections are almost at 89% as we approach the year's conclusion. A hearty thanks to all of you who have responded. If you have not yet paid your dues, we urge you to do so prior to the end of December! It is impossible to say when we will be able to resume monthly dinner meetings. So until we do, we must be prepared to rely exclusively on the annual dues in meeting our continuing operating expenses and therefore the timely payment of dues is essential. We had a strong financial standing at the time we were forced to shut-down and we were confident of our club's sustainability. The full collection of annual dues will minimize any reliance on our club's capital fund and will maintain our financial strength, and so as to be ready for any future challenge we may confront. The members who are unpaid as of the end of December will be subject to termination. If you have any questions regarding your dues, please contact me.

Assistant Treasurer Position is still open: I am still without an Assistant Treasurer and will welcome a call from any member interested in joining me and our board of governors, as we navigate our club through some very rough waters. We are actively considering how our club has been impacted during the pandemic and preparing for life after it. The Assistant Treasurer will be joining us in this initiative to assure continuation of our club's rich 122-year history. I am available and anxious to discuss details, and to answer any questions you may have without obligation or pressure.

Stay safe!

CDR Earl "Bud" Watson, USNR (RET); Email: eww6280@gmail.com; Cell: 617-694-2688

CLUB NOTES

TAPS – It was with high hopes that we could get to the end of the dreadful year of 2020 without the need for yet another "TAPS" being entered into the year's final newsletter - - - Unfortunately, such is the case for on November 22nd, we lost Arthur Marcotti, USAF (Ret) of Melrose, MA. Arthur passed at age 92. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean and Cold Wars, who was a close friend of many club members since before joining the Wardroom Club as an Associate Member back in November 2004. Arthur also served nobly in the Greater Boston Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars. Arthur Marcotti will be dearly missed.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS - As we approach the holiday season, it is by popular demand that we send you the following, with a slight "sea-going twist" to an old holiday favorite, frequently employed at this time of year. Here it is - - -

– An Old Sea-Going Christmas –

T'was the night before Christmas; throughout the anchored ship, all was still.

The crew was asleep in their bunks, much as sailors frequently will.

Their ditty bags were all hung by their lockers with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas, soon would be there.

The men were all still, peacefully dreaming in bed,

As visions of liberty and shore-leave all danced in their head.

*The Chief, in his skivvies, had jumped into his rack,
having just come from the galley - and a quick midnight snack.*

*When out on the deck there arose such a clatter,
I ran to the porthole to discover what was the matter.
I stuck my head out and started to shout,
“Just what in the h- - is this GD noise all about?”*

*A moon made for slacking, was shining its glow,
It was downright cold out, ‘bout ten below!
What I saw out there looked like a Macy’s parade float,
T’was a Captain’s launch, drawn by six Navy goats.*

*In the gig was a man who seemed quiet and moody,
I knew in an instant that St. Nick was on duty.
As quickly as pay-day, he called and the navy goats came,
He whistled and shouted and called them by name.*

*“Now Perry, now Preble, now Farragut, now Dewey, now Hull and Jones,
What’s the matter, got red-lead in your bones?
A little to Starb’d - - Now hold it up short,
No fluffing off, or you’ll go on report!”*

*He was wearing dress “Reds” that fit like a charm,
The hash-marks on his sleeve did cover his arm.
The gifts to be issued were all in his pack,
And were ready for placement on each well-marked rack.*

*His eyes, they were watering, his nose caked with ice,
He wiped it with canvass, and sneezed once or twice.
He opened his mouth and started to yawn,
It looked like the sun, coming up in the dawn.*

*The stump of a pipe, he held ‘tween in his teeth,
As he took a small nip from a bottle beneath.
He was quite big, he must have been strong,
I figured he’d been a SEAL, early and long.*

*He was chubby and plump, a jolly old Tar,
Who, when on deck, said “Evenin’ Matey. Here, have a cigar.”
He filled every sea-bag with presents galore,
Most prized were our leave papers, hung by the door.*

*With “Anchors Aweigh”, as he climbed back into place,
And with a broad smile that was all over his face.
One look at his watch and he started to frown,
“This mid-watch is getting me down.”*

*Then out to the breakwater and into the night,
The launch began fading, while the landscape remained bright.
“Merry Christmas to all” said he, as the gig got underway,
I’ll finish my rounds and sack-in for the day.*

NOTES FROM THE CLUB EDITOR

This is an on-going reminder that if you have an article you'd care to submit for publication in a coming edition of the Wardroom Club newsletter, please feel free to contact me and we'll make it happen. My newsletter editor's contact information is below.

Happy Holidays – and above all, please do everything to remain HEALTH while we work our way into the New Year of 2021!!!

LCDR David W. Graham, USNR (RET); Email: dwg@shore.net; Cell: 617-335-2198

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS

No one can deny that 2020 has been one challenging world-wide year! However, as we approach the holiday season this year, we quickly come to the realization that as Wardroom Club members, we are blessed with the warmth and the pleasure we have and enjoy in our close association within this very unique organization; one which we all enjoy so very much! It is with this in mind, that your Board of Governors wishes you the very best for the coming holiday season.

Please accept our Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah wishes! May the New Year of 2021 in which we are close to entering, be kind to all members of the Wardroom Club, to their friends and to their families.

Please open the link below to enjoy the holiday greeting we extend to you.

https://www.bluemountain.com/view/s3aca7e490a0449f5b9d3663e460ebad8?source=bma992&utm_medium=internal_email&utm_source=pickup&utm_campaign=confirm

