
USS Compton Organization

Bob DiMonte – President
1048 Meadson Circle
Pensacola FL 32506
850 492-3483
bobdimo@cox.net

Ed Capozziello—Vice President
1161 Laidlaw Ave,
Franklin Square NY 11010
516 458-0497
ecap6407@optonline.net

Joe Napoli – GM/Treasurer
129 Mallard Dr.
Monroe Twp, NJ 08831
609 409-7678
jsnap29@comcast.net

Ed Brimo—Secretary
9413 Hinson Drive
Matthews NC 28105
704 517-1427
ebrimo@aol.com

Chaplain
William “Doc” Eames
149 Farmhouse Ct
Manorville NY 11949
631 878-7570
kbpops@aol.com

Compton Board of Directors:

Phil Prekel—Northeast Region
39 Perrin Drive
Wayne NJ 07470
973 598-5897
philpprekel@optimum.net

Jerry Sample– Western Region
8305 Angels Drive
Apt # 2211
Plano Tx 75024
214 354-0862
xsamplej@gmail.com

Andy Kelly—Southern Region
308 Springwater Court
Winston-Salem NC 27106
336 768-3188
akelly1@triad.rr.com

Jack Heidecker –Newsletter
54 Mt Top Court,
Hazle Township PA 18202
570 450-5545
jack555@ptd.net

All Newsletter, pictures and
articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker
“Compton Newsletter”



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972



Compton returns home to Newport

Compton Corner:

Pensacola Florida was another successful reunion.

Add up the great food, beautiful beaches, friendly people and a special visit to the Naval Air Station Pensacola with their vast collection of historic air planes, from their WW1 beginning to the most recent active duty planes.

Include a practice session of the Blue Angels when we were on base with their stunning precision maneuvers.

This reunion was tempered slightly by members committed to attend but through illness of themselves or family were forced to cancel their reservations. They will be back!

Mark down May 6, 2024. This is the date for our reunion in Memphis, Tennessee. More information will be in the August Newsletter.

Fraternally Yours.
Bob DiMonte



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 56 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

WEB SITE: www.usscompton705.com



Pictures by Patrick and Jess Prekel



Blue Angel Commander's Actual Plane



You had to be fast on camera



The Prekel's
Jess, Eileen, Patrick
and dad Phil



Faster



If there were a prize for longest trip to go for the Compton Reunion—California couple Steve and Edwina Bednarz are winners



James Johnson
from New Hampshire
the other end of the country

Compton Donations—January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023
 Joe Brielmann, Ed Brimo, Richard Dreghorn, John MacDougall, Charles Elliott
 Bill Eames, Ralph Breitenbach and Donald Vought in memory of Boyd Crannell



Dave Scott—earliest current reunion sign up



Bob Dimonte complaining to Andy Kelly that he was promised His own personal helicopter



Jess Prekel—Photographer
Is Joe Nowakowski lost???



Capozziello
And
DiMonte
discussing
The
reunion



A special note from Sigward Pohl—Honorary Compton Association member.

My dear USS Compton Community

Hello and all my best greetings to everybody joining the USS Compton Reunion in Pensacola these days. I wish you all happy days together talking about the good old past and the good future.

I am sending a picture I took during the 1962 Med Cruise of USS Compton steaming ahead of the USS Independence CV 62 while conducting RAS with another Tin Can.

I am so sorry not to be able to join your happy crowd, but I am with you in my mind with everybody of you.

You gave me a great assistance when reading the fine words about Birgit in the USS Compton Newsletter. She also loved to meet you at several reunions.

All the very best and as ever:
Fair Winds and Following Seas

Yours,
Sigward



Internet Goodies

I've done some terrible things for money
...like
getting up early
to go to work.

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GROWN UP WHEN YOU ACTUALLY PICK UP THE ICE CUBE INSTEAD OF KICKING IT UNDER THE FRIDGE.

The men who wrote the 2nd Amendment hadn't just finished a hunting trip.
They had just liberated a nation.



I don't understand why people have to "get ready" for bed. I'm always ready for bed.

Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter - the dues are due now or will be due within a short period of time...look for the hand written date on your address label. This is the date when your membership has expired or will soon expire...



Hello, Remember Me? Some people call me Old Glory; others call me The Star Spangled Banner. Whatever name you call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you; because it's about you and me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street to watch the parades. Naturally I was leading everyone, proudly waving in the breeze.

When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart. Remember?

And you, I remember, were standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat on but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same Old Flag. Oh, I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

Never Volunteer

February 1962 and we were going on a 6-month Mediterranean Cruise.

During the past year, the Interior Communications group was down to 3 personal all of whom were E3's with myself having the most time in this R Division group.

We were getting the job done – with no real issues.

We were in the Forward Fire Room running a cable for the sound powered phone system when Lieutenant Royse, our Engineering Officer came down the ladder looking for me.

Heidecker, we are going to the Med, and do you feel that the IC Group would be able to handle any potential serious problems.

He was a Mustang officer and a good leader. I knew that we could handle all normal issues. However, I was worried that we did lack some training and told him that getting someone with more experience would probably be most beneficial to the ship and our knowledge.

He then had an IC E4 brought in to lead that department for the Med cruise and I was sent **mess cooking** in the chief's mess.

Never Volunteer – Jack Heidecker



Can you ID this rate
Fire Control Techs
(not eligible to guess)

Fellow Compton sailors: please send me your pictures from your days on our ship. I promise to send them back the very next day, after I receive those special memories.

Jack Heidecker
54 Mt Top Ct
Hazle Twp PA 18202
570 450-5545



Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Boyd “Mack” Crannell , SMSN (1958-1960) was born in Olivet, Michigan on June 8, 1939, he passed on March 2, 2023 in Battle Creek, MI at 83 years of age. He was loved and cherished by many people, especially his wife Eva and friends Donald and Patricia Vought who made a special contribution to the Compton Association in Boyd’s honor. He was an active member who last attended our Tampa Reunion. Our special contribution to Tin Can Sailors was made in his name.



Robert “Bob” Chappell, (1951-1955) Korean Conflict Era, Bob was born in Livermore Falls, Maine on October 24, 1932 and passed at the Central Maine Medical Center on January 28, 2023. He was honorably discharged from the USS Compton in July 1955 and joined his father at Chappell’s Garage as a mechanic “who can fix anything”. He also worked for 26 years as a millwright for International Paper Mill until his retirement.



Arthur J Reilly, FT3 (1952-1955), born in Brooklyn NY on May 9, 1932, passed in Commack NY on December 13, 2022 at the age of 90. He was very active in his community and was president of the LI Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation. Arthur was also a founder of the Cystic Fibrosis Children’s Fund. An active Compton Association member who last attended the Warwick reunion. A donation in Arthur's honor was made to Tin Can Sailors.



John K Koos, Plank Owner, (WT3 1944), born January 26, 1927 in Queens NY and passed on March 20, 2023 in Coconut Creek, Fl. Barbara Koos, his wife, told us thar he joined the navy when he was seventeen years old and very proud of his service and being a Plank Owner on the USS Compton. John last attended the Charleston2 reunion and our association will send a memorial donation to TCS in his name.



Our Plank Owners Article by Joe Napoli

As you know a “Plank Owner” is a shipmate who is a member of the original crew of a ship and was aboard upon the commissioning. Over the past years we have had the honor of having several Compton Plank Owners as members of our Association.

During the presidency of Jack Heidecker our organization voted to honor our “Planks”. The Board of Directors voted to continue to list planks as active members and waived the paying of dues. Further, they extended the courtesy of allowing planks to attend reunions free of charge. Planks and a person accompanying them could attend the tour and banquet as guests of the membership. Many of you met plank Bill Rader when he attended several reunions, some with his daughter Amy and others with his friend James Gay.

I am sad to announce that we recently lost one of our planks. Barbara Koos notified us that her husband John recently passed away. Barbara went on to say that John loved the Navy, the Compton, and the USS Compton Association. His obituary appears in this issue.

We now have only one plank owner in our Association: Bill Rader. God bless our departed planks and God bless Bill Rader.