



# Ready Eddie Reader!!!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SUMMER, FALL 2003



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Greetings Shipmates. I hope you all had a great Summer. It certainly went by fast, as they always do. If we could just get the Winter over as quick."*

REUNION, 2004

*"The time since Reunion, 2002 has flown by also. We are less than 10 months from Reunion, 2004 in Washington, DC. Many people have already sent in registration forms and made hotel reservations. This will definitely be the largest gathering of Ready Eddie Alumni thus far. Make your plans now!!! Reunion Chairpersons, Jack and Pat Turley have prepared an update of "need to know" info on the reunion (See page 2). This info, and much more is also available at the web site ([www.DD950.com](http://www.DD950.com). Click on Reunion button at homepage). If you're planning on attending, contact Jack and he'll add you to the growing list of attendees. It's not a commitment, but a way to let your friends know you are planning to be there. The more, the merrier. A mailing later this Fall will have the agenda, registration form, and new reunion updates."*

### MEMBERSHIP

*"This issue of the Ready Eddie Reader contains a membership form. The Association requires members to complete a current membership form every two years (on the "off" reunion years). This helps us keep your vital stats updated, and let's us know you are still interested in being a member. Only those who return the membership form will continue to stay on the mailing list for future newsletters and reunion info. Members can also contact the webmaster@DD950.com for a DD950.com email address (ie. TUT@DD950.com). We also plan to offer to members, a place at the web site for their "Profile". This could be your Naval career, what you've done since you left service, special memories, whatever.*

*This is also our time for fundraising. We don't have required dues or fees, but obviously need to pur-*

*chase postage and related office supplies, and pay for the web site and PO Box. We decided early on that we've already paid our dues, and also didn't want money to be a factor of membership. Times are tough for a lot of people these days. We all do what we can to help others. The RSE Association is a non-profit veterans group so all donations are tax deductible, and 100% goes to the group. The purchase of Ready Eddie Gear also helps. Check out the Ship's Store".*

### WEB SITE INFO

*"Lots has been going on behind the scenes at the web site over the last few months. Our photo site, which was with an independent web host and pretty much out of our control, has now been linked to our DD950.com site with the ability to make updates and changes. I'm sure those of you who visit the site will see the HUGE difference. In addition to the new and improved "Reunion" section, the webmasters have added a page for Reunion, 2002 with lots of great photos from the event sent in by attendees, and last but not least is the addition of the '62-'63 cruisebook page. Check it out. The future holds much for the web site. In addition to the "Profiles" section mentioned above, we plan to set the site up so that people can add themselves to the Crew list and/or update their own information. Denoting and paying tribute to deceased shipmates is also in the plans. A standing "O" for the Webteam of Rob Dege and Don Stine".*

THANK!!!

*"In addition to our superb webmasters, I want to give special thanx to all who have gone the extra mile over the last few months to keep us running and growing. Jack and Pat Turley have certainly worked hard to to make Reunion, 2004 a winner, and Ed "Army" Armstrong stepped up to plate to help with a huge project and hit a home run. Thanx for all your hard work.*

Bob Tuttle (TUT)

# REUNION, 2004

"Reunion, 2004 will be held in the greater Washington, DC area starting on Thursday, July 22 and ending (officially) on Sunday, July 25th. The Association has blocked off 125 rooms for those dates and a limited number of rooms for Wednesday and Sunday for those arriving early and/or staying late. The reunion hotel is:

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge  
1900 North Fort Myer Drive  
Arlington, VA 22209 1-800-368-3408  
Use code "RER" when making reservations.

Many crewmembers have already made their reservations. Daily room rates are \$89.00 plus 9.75% tax or \$97.68 for Wednesday, July 21st arrival through Monday, July 26th departure. The cutoff date for making reservations is July 7, 2004. The Holiday Inn Rosslyn was chosen not only because of the facilities, but also for it's location. It's less than a quarter mile from the Potomac River, and overlooks Georgetown and Washington, DC.

Reunion registration costs will be \$70.00 for crewmembers and \$60.00 per guest. This will include a cash bar and hors d'oeuvre reception/registration from 5-7 PM on Thursday. It also includes a registration package for each family, the dinner buffet on Saturday night and a breakfast buffet on Sunday morning. Taxes and gratuities for all of the above are included. The group picture will cost \$15.00 and includes shipping to your residence.

Other items on the Agenda include:

**FRIDAY:** Group tour of White House, Washington Naval Shipyard including Naval Museum and USS Barry (DD933), Washington Monument and other sites on the list of "Places to Visit While in Washington, DC".

**SATURDAY:** Group tour of US Capitol, US Navy Memorial, and other sites from the list. The Edwards group picture will be taken on the US Capitol steps. Dinner will be from 6:30-8 PM followed by a guest speaker and a short meeting until 10PM.

**SUNDAY:** Breakfast buffet and Farewell to those departing on Sunday. More fun for those lucky enough to stay.

The Rosslyn Metro Station is one block away and provides easy access to all of the sites on the "Places to Visit" list. You can travel for about \$5/day. There is no reason to rent a car. Complimentary parking is available

at the hotel (no RV's. Sorry, they have a height limitation).

Visit the Edwards web site at [WWW.DD950.com](http://WWW.DD950.com) for instructions to make reservations, list of attendees, places to visit, transportation instructions from Reagan National, Dulles International and Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airports and the hotel, cruises, restaurants, theaters, shopping, RV campsites, hospitals, taxi cabs and more.

It is requested that each crewmember desiring to attend the reunion, fill out the "Reunion Registration" form and forward with payment to Jack Turley, PO Box 287, Basye, VA 22810. Many crewmembers have already sent in their registration and group photo fees. In order to have a correct mailing address, the registration form is required of all crew members attending, even those who have forwarded their registration fees. A copy of the registration form can be emailed to you (Microsoft Word doc), or we will mail you one this Fall.

For additional information or assistance please contact Jack and Pat Turley at (540) 856-2575 and/or email at [trlyanch@shentel.net](mailto:trlyanch@shentel.net)

Jack

The Ready Eddie Reader is the official publication of the USS R.S. Edwards Association, Inc. Published as often as time permits. The views expressed are those of the individual contributor.

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

BOB TUTTLE...PRESIDENT  
TOM BERNARD...VICE-PRESIDENT  
JIM KRESS...TREASURER  
ED HOVATTER...SECRETARY  
ED ARMSTRONG...ASST.SECRETARY

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

REX KNODLE  
DON KRUGER  
TOM PETERSEN  
JACK SANDERS  
BOB SHEARD

Newsletter correspondence should be sent to:

Bob Tuttle, 12 Concord Ave., Derry, NH  
03038-1900, E-mail to [TUT@DD950.com](mailto:TUT@DD950.com)

# REFLECTIONS

Time aboard the Ready Eddie was different things to different people. To some it was the start of a career, life, family. To some it was the worst period of their lives. People's attitude and feelings towards the association tend to mirror that. Below are some thoughts and comments by some people who have just found the group, and some who have been involved for awhile. Thanx to all for sharing with us.

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*(This is for those I served with onboard USS R.S. Edwards DD 950 and those I had the misfortune of not serving with.)*

As I stood on the pier with duffel bags at side,  
I watched our ship pull away with teary eye,  
Tho my desire was back home I wondered how long,  
Till I see the greatest men I served with again?

Thru the years I looked around,  
Where has everybody gone,  
Just a phone number will do or an address from you,  
Where can they be found?

I'll search the net now that I have a computer,  
https and htmls I'll find you somehow.  
Nothing I have seen no matter how hard I try'  
Fate will help me find you. You can't hide!

So fate did as fate does something simple,  
I started a search not looking for you,  
Thru a friend's website with my mouse I clicked,  
Tho he passed away he showed me where.

My heart jumped with joy a smile about my face,  
To have found you here made me realize,  
I took the wrong path and couldn't get back,  
Long has my search been to find you again.

I see names I long recall and addy's on the wall,  
I just have to write a few I pray and hope it's you,  
I heard the sound of guns and the beconing of bells,  
DING DING boarding USS Richard S. Edwards DD950.

Written by Dale D. Padgett August 9, 2003  
(TM2 1979-82)

## **Navy Memorial Log Enrollment**

Anyone who has served in the Navy can have posted, their picture, address, a list of the five most significant duty stations and up to five of the highest or most significant awards and decorations. The enrollment donation of \$50.00 is tax deductible. Entrees are displayed on video screens in the Log Room of the Naval Heritage Center and on the web site [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org). This can be done at the Naval Memorial (part of the tour on Saturday during Reunion, 2004), or at the web site. We encourage you to sign up beforehand so your family can check it out during the tour.

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*"....it was our job, what we were trained to do. We never thought any different. I'm sure it's the same with the soldier, airman or seaman of today with the exception that they are greater tasked than we were.*

*I love my Navy and those who served around me. I have developed lifelong friendships and now gather more who have some of the same outlook as I. I am indeed blessed by this great DD-950 organization. It is you folks who have turned my mundane life around to what I was yesteryear. That of a Chief Petty Officer serving aboard an American man of war vessel. Where I knew my service was vital to the ship, my shipmates and the Navy. It was such a great feeling that made me stand inches taller than my normal stature. My chest showed six rows of ribbons and stars derived from years of service wearing the great uniform of the United States Navy. It was those sailors with the Edwards, mainly those who served with me at the time of my tenure who have meant so much. They, today are great success stories who have amassed small fortunes in their endeavors. They still have time to correspond with their Chief and make me feel more welcome than I have ever felt before. We are closer now than when we served together. Thank you DD-950 Association.*

Ed "Army" Armstrong  
(STC 1959-63)

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*"I was stationed aboard the RS Edwards from 1977 to 1979. I reported aboard as a Fireman Recruit. I wanted to be a Machinist Mate, but fate, as it will, made me a Boiler Technician. During the two year period on board Edwards, I worked with some of the BEST BTs on the face of this earth. Those guys became my family, and I later found that the bond that I had with the guys I served with, not just BTs but all Engineers aboard the Edwards, would never be duplicated. That was my first command, and would be the changing point in my life and career. I learned the true meaning of teamwork, brotherhood and friendship, because I truly believed that the guys I served with during that two year period would literally give their own lives for their shipmates. My tour aboard Edwards was the BEST two years of my life. I started as an E-1 and ended my tour onboard Edwards as an E-4. I found that anything was possible, and everything was achievable. Thanks for taking the time to keep me in the loop.*

Tom Johnson  
(BT3 1977-79)

# SHIPS STORE!!!

## WORLD FAMOUS READY EDDIE BALLCAPS

These are the originals with "USS Richard S. Edwards DD-950" embroidered in gold and "The Ready Eddie" embroidered in (haze) gray. Great high-quality caps. The only way to be "in uniform". Prices (including shipping) are, \$15/each and \$25 for 2.

## ...T-SHIRTS...SWEATS...T-SHIRTS...SWEATS...

The Ready Eddie T-shirts are Hanes Beefy "T"s of 100% pre-shrunk cotton. They are white and show, in black, gray and red, the silhouette of the Ready Eddie stating she is "Just another proud old war veteran", "Serving America from 1959 'til 1982. Not all items are available for immediate shipment.

Please specify pre-1971 or post-1971 silhouette. Sizes range from XL through XXXL.

Prices (including shipping) are listed on the DD-950 website.

## Special Sale on Reunion, 2002 T-Shirts!!!

***We still have available, in all sizes, Reunion 2002 T-shirts. These are those great, comfortable gray 100% cotton "T"s made by Fruit of the Loom. On the left chest is a simple black silhouette of EDWARDS with name and hull number above, and Reunion, 2002 below. Regardless of whether you attended the reunion, or not, these are awesome shirts. They are on sale for \$10/ea, which is our cost and includes shipping. A GREAT deal!!!***

*The sales of the official T-s, sweats and ball caps are handled by Jim Kress. Checks should be made payable to RS Edwards Assoc. and sent to Jim at: 3090 Keokuk St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Any questions or comments on these items can be answered by Jim if you send a message to this address or by contacting Jim via E-mail at [MJKRS@aol.com](mailto:MJKRS@aol.com). The sale of all T-s, sweats and ball caps are handled by volunteers and include a small mark-up of which 100% goes to the association for expenses. Your support is greatly appreciated.*

**USS RICHARD S EDWARDS**  
**DD-950**  
**US NAVY VET**  
**1959-1982**



Custom Bumper Stickers by Photovision 856-786-0397

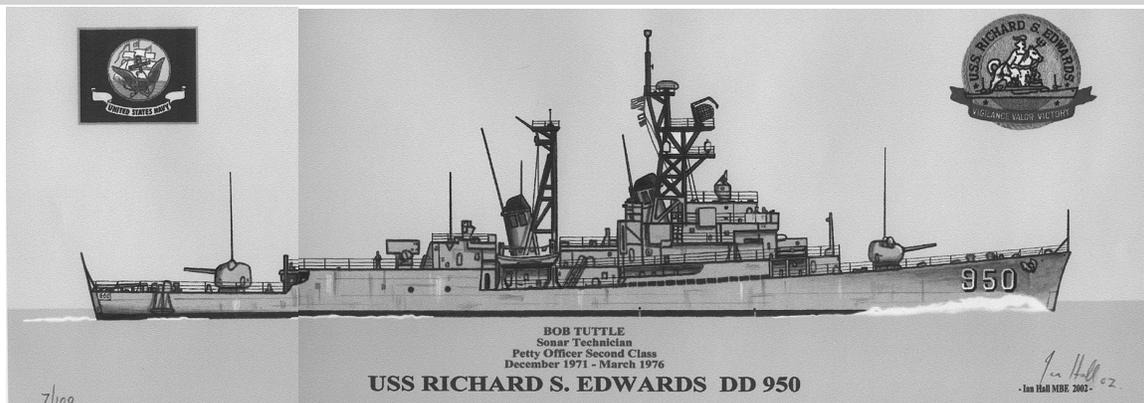
**USS RICHARD S EDWARDS**  
**DD-950**  
**1959-1982**



Custom Bumper Stickers by Photovision 856-786-0397

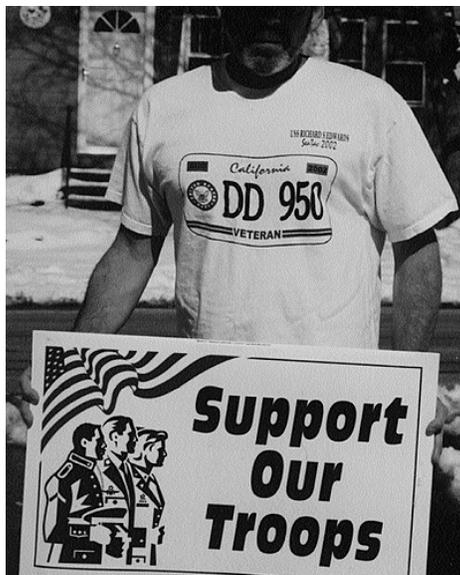
These bumper stickers were available for ordering at the reunion. The upper is the pre-conversion and the bottom, post. They can be customized to reflect your years aboard if you'd like. I think they can be customized just about any way you'd like. The owner of this company is a Navy Vet who kicks back a buck or so per sticker to the group. You can get either a laminated bumper sticker for \$4.99 (full color on the logos and blue type for the name/hull number, and red for the years) or a magnetic sign for \$7.99. Both have a \$1.00 shipping charge. They can be ordered from [Photovision@Juno.com](mailto:Photovision@Juno.com), or PO Box 313, Riverton, NJ 08077, 856.786.0397. Display them with pride!

# MORE STORE!!!

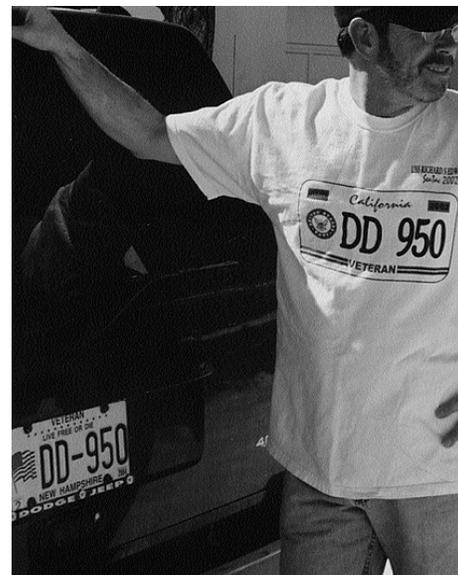


Artist Ian Hall offered for sale at the reunion, these prints of the EDWARDS. They are available in the pre and post conversion versions. Kinda like conjunction junction. The US Navy flag on the left, and the replica of the ship's patch on the right are in full color, as are the flags on the ship and a few "accents" to the superstructure. The rest is shades of grey, like the ship. These are signed, numbered prints that will be personalized to include your name, rank/rate and month/years aboard. Definately suitable for framing. The image area is 5 1/2 X 13 on a print measuring 11 X 16. The quality and detail are excellent. These can be purchased directly from the artist for \$35-\$58 depending on options, a portion of which is donated to the association. Ian can be reached at **1255 Tunitas Creek Rd., Woodside, CA 94062. Tel. 650.851.3202 or email at [Transportraits@aol.com](mailto:Transportraits@aol.com).**

## MORE SPECIALS DU JOUR!!!



*Cal DeKnikker's liscence plate became a great T-shirt this past reunion. His California Veteran's DD 950 "T" is available for \$24.95. \$3 of the cost goes to the Ready Eddie Association. With approx. 100 former crewmembers still residing in California, this should be a popular item. I know it's a hit on the East Coast. (East meets West in photo at right). T-shirt does not come with sign, or snow in background pictured at left, unless picked up in NH. Cal can be reached at [Cal@christianjames.com](mailto:Cal@christianjames.com) or PO Box 1701, Woodland, CA 95776-1701*



## SHIP'S PLAQUES!!!

*Former SFP2 Jim Klug has done research and has come up with a plan to produce some ships plaques if there is enough interest amongst shipmates that might want to purchase them. The up-front cost to the Association would be a few hundred dollars or so. If enough people are interested, it would be worth the money. Jim has not only researched the manufacture of the mold, but has a plan ready to produce a high quality ceramic plaque in either a post or pre-conversion edition. At this point we would only be able to do one or the other (pre or post-conversion) due to the initial cost of the mold and materials. Please contact Jim at [scarecrow@nconnect.net](mailto:scarecrow@nconnect.net) or 2228 Sylvan Way, Apt #4, West Bend, WI 53095-5240 and let him know if you would be interested in purchasing a ships plaque and whether you had a preference of pre or post-convesion, or whether it made that big a difference one way or the other.*

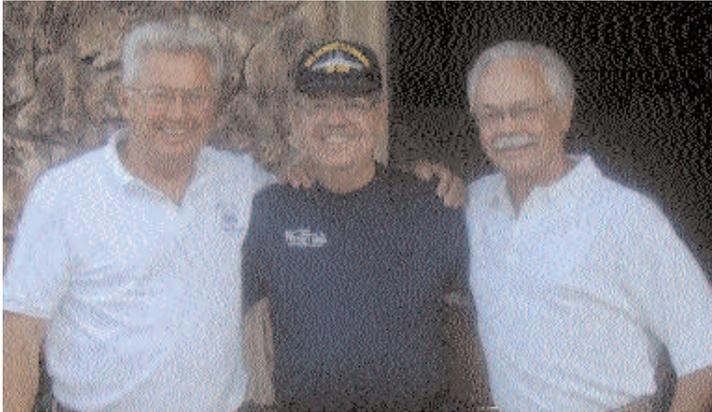
## MINI REUNION

### ANNUAL "PING" PARTY

Once again this group of Sonarmen had their own mini reunion this summer. They are from various crews of the '60s but all great friends. All Sonarmen (or honorary).

They didn't have as large a crowd as last year's or at the reunion, but it was a great time nonetheless.

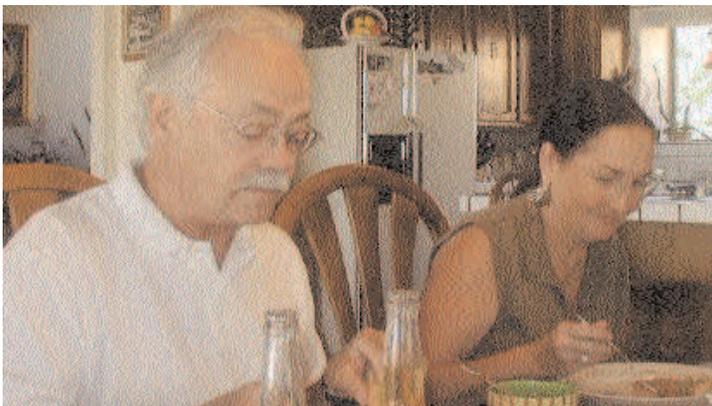
Hosted by Doug and Lidia Teeter in Santa Barbara, CA, they went to San Jose to visit Original Joe's and the San Jose Flea Market, listened to a Mariachi Band, visited Santana Row, and had dinner at a Japanese restaurant. As always, there was plenty of time for re-telling those stories we love so well.



**Doug Teeter, Ed Armstrong, Willy Shiels**



**"Army" and Roberta Armstrong**



**Willy and Patti Shiels**

## COMMAND HISTORY, 1979

*(In previous issues of the "Reader" I've tried to include the official command history, year by year as the Navy saw it. I continue that today, taking us through 1980. These are a basic summary and don't tell much of the "rest of the story. For that I need you!!! Those of you who served during these years can help with your observations, memories and photos for a follow-up in the next issue of the "Reader". Thanx, TUT!!!)*

On 4 January 1979, USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD-950) departed Hong Kong, BBC, after a week long liberty period. Arriving in Yokoyuka, Japan on 9 January, EDWARDS began a month long upkeep period. EDWARDS returned to sea on 6 February to participate in Multiplex exercises with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and other units of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. During the 8th and 9th of February EDWARDS escorted USS MIDWAY back to Yokosuka.

A message was received on 11 February directing EDWARDS to conduct surveillance of Soviet ships headed south through the East China Sea. During this time China had invaded North Vietnam which made the movement of a Soviet naval force in the area a matter of high national interest. On 14 February, USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD-950) made contact with three Soviet combatants and an Oiler lead by the Cruiser Admiral Senyavin. This Soviet force remained in the East China Sea under EDWARDS observation. On 1 March, EDWARDS was relieved by USS LOCKWOOD (FF-1064) of surveillance duties and arrived in Subic Bay on 4 March for a short upkeep period.

EDWARDS began her transit back to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 7 March and chopped to the Third Fleet on 14 March. The ship arrived in Pearl Harbor on 19 March and began a two week post deployment period. This was followed by preparations for a scheduled regular overhaul. On 20 April, ASW weapons and gun ammunition were off-loaded. From 21 till 23 April the ship made a dependents cruise to Kauai.

On 15 May EDWARDS was placed in Dry Dock Two, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and a 12 month overhaul commenced. On 13 September, the ship was moved out of drydock to Bravo 13, PHNSY. EDWARDS remained at Bravo 13 through the end of 1979.

## COMMAND HISTORY, 1980

The USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS started the year three quarters of the way through her regular overhaul. On the 14th of January, Edwards began a command inspection, covering all administrative functions of the ship, completing on the 18th of January with Commander Destroyer Squadron 35 inspection of the crew. *(continued next page)*

## COMMAND HISTORY, 1980

(continued)

On 21 May 1980, USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS completed overhaul which began on 15 May 1979. She continued training her crew in preparation for LOE and her first underway period. On the 28th of February, EDWARDS successfully passed her LOE for the forward plant followed by another successful LOE on 12 March for the after plant. Edwards conducted a fast cruise on the 22nd of April covering all areas of ship's operations including watch station manning, general quarters, man overboard and abandon ship drills - all while moored to the pier. On the 8th of May, Edwards departed the shipyard for sea trials returning to port on the 17th of May. During her sea trials, Edwards completed her first full power run of the new year.

Edwards participated in routine operations 3 through 7 June in the Midpac Operational areas preparing for MTT Phase One. NMTT PHase One began on the 9th of June and completed on the 11th of June.

On the 14th of June, Edwards departed Pearl Harbor on a "Dependents Cruise" to Lehaina, Maui with 340 dependents and guests of Edwards sailors embarked. The guests and many sailors stayed ashore during the visit with hotel accommodations arranged prior to departure from Pearl Harbor. On the 10th of July, Edwards began MTT Phase II and completed on the 12th of July.

Edwards departed 24 July for Hilo, Hawaii to represent the United States Navy in the Japanese sponsored "Festival of the Pacific". Edwards returned to Pearl Harbor on the 28th of July.

Commander James E. BARBOUR was relieved during a change of command ceremony by Commander James E. TRAVER on the 11th of August.

October 6 had the Edwards starting refresher training. On the 7th of October while attempting to make an approach on USCG JARVIS for a towing exercise, Edwards collided with her. A formal inquiry was conducted finding that negligence was not involved and that the incident was the result of a professional hazard. Damage was minimal to both vessels and no injuries were reported.. Edwards continued with refresher training completing on the 3rd of November.

Edwards was underway at various times between 6 November and the 9th of December conducting routine operations in the Midpac operational area. On the 10th of December Edwards returned to port and commenced her holiday routine.



## Editor's notes...and stuff

*Many thanx to all who contributed to this and past issues of the Ready Eddie Reader. DON'T STOP!!! Your stories, photos, poetry, memories are what turn a good issue into a great one. Not the association and reunion news, the need to know stuff, or my ramblings.*

*In addition to stories and photos from you guys aboard during '79 and '80, I'd like to gather some additional material from the crews of the final 2 years. The command histories that I have stop with 1981. They are dated in the Fall of the following year. In the Fall of '83 the RS Edwards had been decommissioned. I assume a command history would have been done by the final CO. So jot some stuff down. Scan or send in some photos. Your best, worst, funniest, scariest moments.*

*The direction I'm heading, after I get through the Command Histories (which will be the Winter issue), is to devote an entire issue to each cruise, with as much detail and as many photos as time and space permit. Some cruises were a little more eventful than others and will be a lot of work, but that info, those thoughts and memories should be shared and preserved. We're all charged with making that happen.*

*I'd still like to include a "Ready" Profile in each issue like the one of Cal D. in the last Reader. So many of the Crew of the Edwards have gone on to great and interesting careers in the Navy, other branches of the service, and as civilians. Your "thing" might be a great hobby. Nestled between the old photos on the front page is one of a model of the Edwards, built to scale by Jack Pickerd (XX?, 196?-196?). It's XXXXX long. Jack has done both pre and post-conversion models and is working on another ship.*

### CONFIDENTIALITY

*I want to remind folks that send in info or photos that this info will, for the most part, be a matter of public record. Especially if it's at the web site. A simple search will reveal your photo, email address, posts to the guestbook and Forum, etc. At the present time, the web site is our best source for finding fellow shipmates. There isn't a heck of a lot of searching going on, so they need to be able to find us. If you would rather have something posted in just the newsletter, please let me know. As much as I want to preserve every bit of Ready Eddie history, I'll admit there may be a photo or two that might be better left as a private memory.*

TUT

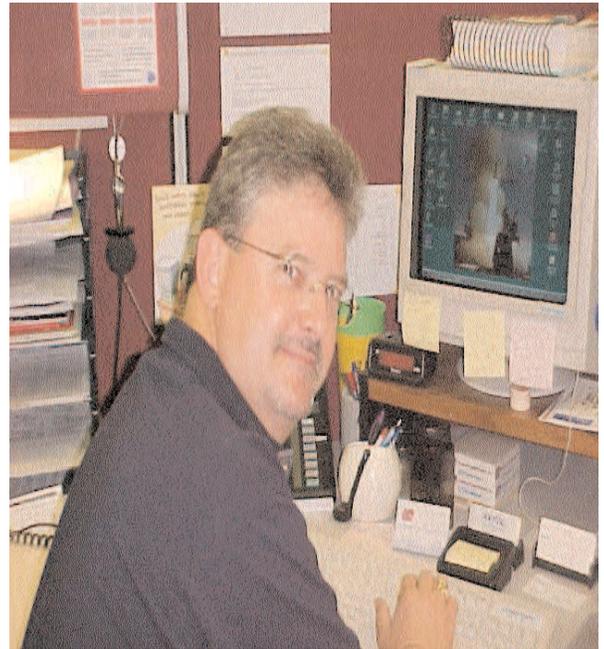
## CORRECTION!!!

In the last issue of the newsletter, I mistakenly referred to Jerry Heinen and his family as the Jim Vanderwysts. My apologies. (photo at left)

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!**

**THIS ISSUE OF THE READY EDDIE READER  
CONTAINS A MEMBERSHIP FORM THAT  
MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SENT IN TO  
REMAIN (OR GET) ON THE LIST FOR FUTURE  
NEWSLETTERS AND MAILINGS OF REUNION  
INFO.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP YOUR  
VITAL STATS UPDATED. THIS IS ALSO A  
GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE US SUGGES-  
TIONS OR FEEDBACK ON ANY ASPECT OF  
THE ASSOCIATION**



Pictured above is Phil Collier (now). Phil was a YN3 aboard Edwards during 1975-1977

# **THE BACK PAGE**

**Ready Eddie Newsletter  
c/o Bob Tuttle  
PO Box 590926  
San Francisco, CA 94159-0926**