

USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 16

May 1997

Greetings, former Haddo shipmates! Here we are again (already!!) with another Haddo newsletter. Edition #16 means I've been at this now for 8 years - seems like only yesterday that Hal Clark called me out of the blue and our resulting conversation and reminiscing led us to start up the newsletter. We've come a long way since that first edition that went out to eight people. We now have computer assisted publishing and address list maintenance as well as e-mail communication - all thanks to my partner in this endeavor - Bill Cook.

As always, if you have addresses for former Haddo shipmates, please send them on to me at:

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We've got about 150 "members" now, but the list has been fairly static for the last few years. We've even "lost" a few members for whom we once had addresses. So, please take a moment to review the list and sent any corrections you might have, or addresses for anyone you know who is not listed.

Notes from the Crew...

Last edition prompted a few more letter and e-mail responses than the pervious one, but not a great deal more. C'mon guys, send me a note, give me a call, e-mail me.

December 7, 1996 brought a letter and donation from Jim Hay, who was Haddo's first Engineer Officer and who rode the boat down the ways at New York Shipbuilding in August 1962. Jim sends his support and appreciation for the newsletter. Thanks, Jim.

A letter from Michael Lintner was also received December 7. Mike passed along the sad news of the death of Donald "Doc" Moriarty in May 1996. Mike thought our membership should be informed. Thanks, Mike.

On December 16 a letter from the recently retired John Almon was received. John's new "homeport" is Morris, IL, where he is employed at the Commonwealth Edison Dresden Nuclear Generating Station. Thanks for you letter, John - your new address has been noted.

December brought a Christmas card, note and donation from Thomas O. Warner, Sr. Tom reports that he spent his two weeks of Navy reserve duty in Hawaii, working on restoration of the USS Bowfin (SS-287), which is destined to become a memorial. Tom's donation to the newsletter comes from some of the funds collected upon the occasion of ADM Carter's retirement as C-I-C Atlantic Fleet in 1992. Thanks very much, Tom!

On December 20 a letter and donation arrived from Dick Scales. Dick passed along an address for Bob Medhurst. He further notes that his stepson (enlisted SSBN FT for 8-9 years) has made LDO and is stationed at Kings Bay, where Mike Zielinski (Haddo crewmember during CAPT Scales tour as CO Haddo) is also stationed.

A second letter and donation from Michael Lintner arrived December 17. Mike's letter relates the story of the voyages of the Yacht Desert Star, in which the Lintners completed a circumnavigation of the globe - the final leg of which (after 8-1/2 years of sailing) lasted 61 days from the Galapagos Islands to Port Angeles, Washington. The Desert Star was put up for sale in October and the Lintners settled back in Boulder, Nevada in a new home. Mike, your new address has been noted. And thanks for your great letters and years of support for the newsletter.

December 21 brought a card and note from Jim "Jocko" Adams who reports having spoken with "Brownie," "J.W." and Bob Medhurst over the Christmas season. Thanks for you note, Jim.

On December 31, the mailbox prize-winner for this edition arrived from Dick Scales. He found a letter he had written to Gerald Meunch (preceding Haddo CO) in August 1971 recounting his first few months experiences as new CO. I was aboard at this time and remember vividly all of what follows. Here's what the new Captain Scales reported to former Captain Meunch:

"The first month has been enjoyable and gratifying, but I do hope it is never matched for medical problems encountered. How's this for unpredictable setbacks?

- 7/27 SK1 Lopez is admitted to St. Albans with a collapsed lung and possible lung cancer.
- 8/3 SN Garcia passes out on board and is medivac'ed to Orlando FL with a probable slipped disk in his back.
- 8/8 FTG3 Barber's taxi is struck by a vehicle enroute back to the ship in Port Everglades putting him in the hospital with possible internal complications.
- 8/14 ICFN Arthus is thrown from a rented motorcycle in St. Croix, suffering multiple contusions and abrasions - enroute to the hospital in the island's only ambulance (that took over an hour to arrive) he stopped breathing three times requiring resuscitation by HMC Hardy (nominated for commendation).
- 8/14 CS1 Hatachett's face split open by MM1 Kelley, requiring five stitches, after Hatchett drunkenly started hassling everyone in the mess hall - after which I had to disarm him of a meat cleaver he threatened to use on any and all (he's not a CS2).

- 8/15 SN Funkhouser is bit in the tail by a dog while riding a rented motorcycle in St. Croix.]
- 8/15 MM2 Byrd passes out topside after diving near the ship in St. Croix.
- 8/15 MM2 Elkins nearly drowned due to lack of his "rubber ducky" when thrown in by MM1 Kelley.
- 8/15 HMC Hardy passes out in town due to bites from jellyfish while swimming - he stopped breathing five times while enroute to the hospital (same ambulance, a little more timely) and was consecutively resuscitated by MM1 True (another commendation).
- 8/16 QM3 Jean passes out on board at sea and admits he was also stung by jellyfish the night before Hardy. Transferred to doctor's care on USS Butte."

Great Stuff! Thanks very much for sharing it, Dick.

February 27, 1997 brought a note from Bob Noonan expressing his appreciation for the newsletter. Thanks for the note and encouragement, Bob.

Bill Cook reports a call from Al Precht, who has been living in Minnesota since leaving the Navy. Al provided some details of his quiet life in an old farmhouse that he rents for \$30 (did he say \$30?) a month plus upkeep.

E-Mail Department...

12/2/96 brought e-mail from Denny Weaver with a new address - Thanks, Denny!

12/17/96 e-mail arrived from David Kittelson with a new address. Dave attended University of Texas after discharge and now works for Texas Instruments as a manufacturing engineer. He sends his appreciation for the newsletter. Thanks, Dave, new address noted.

1/27/97 brought e-mail from Jack Bently noting his new address. Thanks, Jack.

Bill also received a few e-mail notes from former Haddo crewmembers, and found a few others by searching through internet e-mail directories. Here are the details...

E-mail from Lou Storm provided a new address that has been added to the mailing list. Somehow we had an old one (four addresses old) but the newsletter caught up with Lou anyway. Will miracles never cease?

Also received e-mail from J.J. Sluski (haddo@get.net) who served on Haddo as MM1(SS)DV from October 1968 thru August 1969 and would like to touch base with other crewmembers of that era. J.J. mentioned that he has some sketches done on board by crewmember Cummings, and would be pleased to scan them for inclusion in a future newsletter. We'd be glad to try if you can provide them in a MacIntosh compatible format, or maybe I can attempt a conversion if in a DOC format.

Darrell Brown and I traded a few messages in December. Darrell mentioned a few names - Bill Frantz, Lad Tomlin, John Briquette, Joco Adams, J.W. Simpson, Chris Pratt, Larry Rudisill, Mike Tofalo and Pat McGahan, many of these in connection with Pat's wedding in 1980. The word "drinking" appears in the text of Darrell's letter. I wonder why. Darrell notes that after

Navy days he attended Texas Tech University, got a BBA and became a bank examiner. In his words, "Not a traditional A-ganger career path." Thanks for the update, Darrell.

Dave Kittelson also sent a note in which he wrote: "I received a copy of the Haddo newsletter from Alan Precht. It was great to read about my former shipmates. I recognized several of the names on the mailing list. I am sure if the nicknames were included, I would have recognized more..." So send those nicknames to Mike. Nice to hear from you, Dave.

While searching through internet e-mail directories, I also found several e-mail addresses for former Haddo crewmembers not on our mailing list. I have sent each a note explaining the existence of the newsletter and await their reply. With their permission, they'll appear on the next mailing list.

And that wraps up the communications we've had since last Fall's edition.

Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous ...

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by generous donations of Jim Hay, Thomas O. Warner, Sr., Dick Scales, Michael Lintner and an anonymous donor. Thank you, all!

Down Scope! Next edition - November 1997.

And best wishes to one and all!

Mike Gann
Author/Editor

Administrative note from the mailing list department... The following newsletters were returned by the post office: Don Koeppen*, Jack Johnston*, Phil Lau*, Don Miller, James Traa, Vic Lowrimore, Ed Jones. For those with "*"s, the postmaster provided forwarding addresses and we've sent the Nov 96 edition along with this mailing. Sorry for the delay.

If anyone has current addresses for these shipmates, please send into to Mike.