



USS HADDO Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR

REUNION

I know I sent out the "Reunion News", but I just can't stop thinking about that reunion. In the Reunion News, I tried to describe the events of the reunion and share as many pictures with you as I could. Because of the paper I had to use to get good quality picture reproduction, I had to keep it to three pages and that didn't leave any room for the more personal aspects of the reunion. So, I thought I would throw in some of that touchy feely stuff in this newsletter. For those of you who didn't make the reunion, I know I can't possibly recreate the emotional charge for you that everybody there felt. But maybe I can give you a small little taste; enough that maybe you'll give some strong consideration to making the next one.

It was an emotional, exciting, joyful, mournful, cathartic, exhilarating, exhausting, and stimulating weekend. It was a weekend of memories. Some of the memories were instant flashbacks that could be triggered by a story, or a face, or just the sound of a voice. Some of the memories had to be pulled to the surface like reeling in a trophy-size flounder. But, no matter how the memory made its appearance, when it reached consciousness you could be sure there would be an explosion of synaptic activity causing abdominal muscle spasms, facial contortions, flailing arms, stomping feet, and maybe even cause tear ducts to become incontinent.

It was a weekend of sea stories. I know you all know the difference between a fairy tale and a sea story, but did you know that all sea stories are humorous? They're usually humorous at someone's expense, but that someone always joins in on the laughter. A sea story could be about a serious event, maybe even a life-threatening event, but in keeping with sea story criteria the humor of the event is the point of

the story. Sea stories flowed like the ebb tide on the Cooper River that weekend and laughter ran a marathon.

It was also a weekend of catch up. For the three years or so that we each served aboard the Haddo, we were part of a family. We knew a lot about each other and we knew a lot about each other's lives. Not only did we see shipmates struggle through qualifications, advance in the proficiency of their careers, and overcome professional challenges that would have stopped ordinary men in their tracks, but we'd seen their kids grow by leaps and bounds, their wives go to school and start careers, and their romances begin and end. We've seen shipmates with serious hobbies and wondered if they would ever become careers. We've seen serious careers and wondered if they would ever become hobbies. We weren't just shipmates; we were a family.

When we left that boat, that family just sort of faded away and we begin a new family on another boat or in another life. It was just a way of life. We were wrapped up in survival. It's not that we didn't care about that family we just left; it's just that at that time we didn't know how important they were to us. Sometimes you don't know that until years later, when you have this yearning deep inside that you can't explain. Then you go to a reunion and you remember. You don't remember all that in an academic sense, but you sure remember it emotionally. Anyway, it was a weekend of catching up on those lives that we got to know a long time ago. It was a weekend that our eyes got misty for no apparent reason at all. It was a weekend that took us back to an important time in our lives as if it were yesterday.

I had one particular exhilarating moment. Actually, I had lots of them, but this one is the easiest (and less personal) to express. A new attendee walked into the hospitality suite with the look of a stranger on his face. I walked over to introduce myself and find out who he was so I could get him registered. After our mutual introductions and a few laughs, I remembered that someone else from his gang was in the

room. So after I got him registered and gave him a nametag, I took him to the other guy and made introductions. They shook hands, made a few wise comments, and then the guy I just brought in must have triggered on something because he leaned closer and looked at the other's nametag. In obvious recognition he jerked his upper body straight up, extended his arm towards the other guy with his finger pointing at his nametag, and said, "I know you!" This triggered that same something in the other guy and with the same enthusiasm, and almost the same words, and he said "I know you too!" The pointer on the recognition meter just went from handshakes to bear hugs in less than a nanosecond. These two guys grabbed each other with enough emotional energy to convert every 'steely-eyed killer of the deep' in that room into warm cuddly teddy bears. Well – it gave me warm fuzzies.

It truly amazed me how I could see a new face and not recognize a single feature. Then, from the sound of his laugh, or some body movement, or a facial expression, and I'm suddenly shot back 35 years to the mess hall, or somewhere aboard the boat, talking to him. After that flash of recognition, a superimposed remembered face fades in and out over today's face and at first I don't see a change, then I do, then I don't. What strange things memories are made of.

MORE REUNION STUFF

Next Reunion: The next reunion is planned for 2003 in New London, CT. Dick Hillman has the helm and will be looking for volunteers to help with the preparation. About the only thing that needs to be done in the near future is decide on a date. Dick has suggested Memorial Day weekend, 4th of July, Labor Day, or Veterans Day, or any weekend in the summer months of June, July or August. If you have ideas or want to help, contact the COB (see the roster for Dick's contact info).

Memorabilia: I have some memorabilia left over from the reunion; hats, cups, mugs, patches, plaques, and decals. I put the pictures and prices on the last page at the bottom of the roster. If you're interested in purchasing any of them, contact me with your order (e-mail, snail mail, or phone at [619] 543-1387). Since postage will vary with each order, I'll bill you when I ship so I can add the shipping costs. These items will also be pictured in the Ship's Store on our Home page.

OUR MOVE

We left San Diego in mid October on a 6-week trip across country with the Haddo Reunion being the *Grand Finale*. We fully expected that our house would be sold by the time we got back to San Diego and that we would be spending Christmas in Colorado. Well, we're still in San Diego. But, not for long. As I write, our house is in escrow and should close by the first week in April. (We will have to take a short break in the middle of our move to attend the Submarine Birthday Ball, of course.) What this all means to you is that starting in April we will be out of touch for awhile. There are no phone lines in the area we're moving to, but there are a couple options that may suit our needs. We'll probably know by the time we leave here but that's too late for this

newsletter. [After March](#), if you want to contact me, use snail mail (see the roster). By the time the **next** newsletter appears in your mailbox, we should be settled, communications wise that is.

THANKS!

To all you guys and gals that attended the reunion, I would like to say Thanks. Thanks for making it such a special event. And thanks for all your calls, card, letters, and e-mails. Your support has meant a lot to both Susie and me.

And as Jim Parker so aptly reminded me, all of us who picked up a copy of the "Water Log" at the reunion owe a big "thank you" to Geoff Warnock for reproducing them and bringing them to the reunion. I have read through them and they were very interesting reading. We need some of those guys helping with this rag. Send me some stories, guys.

I would also like to sincerely thank all of you who had chipped in to help with some of the unexpected financial costs of the reunion. You were so many that I can't begin to name you individually. All I can do is say THANKS!!

FROM THE CREW

USS Haddo (SS 255): We have a couple new additions on our roster who were part of the SS255 crew. Donald J. Ramirez, and William Mack (see roster). They'd like to hear from some old shipmates. I know we have at least two other SS 255 guys. Give them a call. Also, if any of you 255 guys have a patch, decal, plaque or something with the 255 logo on it, I would like to get a copy to be able to incorporate it into the newsletter letterhead. Let me know.

Storm Misses Reunion: Louis Storm sent a note from home saying it was okay for him to have missed the reunion. On the very day of our reunion, Mr. Storm stood at the altar and said "I DO". A lot of us will remember this reunion, but Louis will be remembering it for a long time. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Storm.

Cruise Log: Dick Noble began collecting information at the reunion for a Cruise Log. He made up a form that was in each registration folder. If you have filled it out and don't know what to do with it, mail it to Dick and he'll add it to the ones he's already collected. The information he wants to collect is: Dates you reported aboard and departed Haddo, your rate/rank, your chain of command, and about three memorable events that took place during your tour. The events must be unclassified, of course, but could be operational or personal. To develop a chronology, please include names (preface nicknames with real last names) places and dates. This is a big effort that he is undertaking, so please help him out.

Pictures: If you're interested in some Haddo pictures, check out a forwarded message from Harold Clark in the Mail Sack.

ROSTER UPDATE

The Roster: Hang onto this roster! We are getting too big to be able to attach a roster to every newsletter.

New Contacts: The word had gotten out about the reunion and we've heard from a couple dozen new people. Would you believe we are up to 230 Haddo shipmates? Additions (and updates) in the roster are red so that you can easily spot them. To all those new to our roster, I would like to extend a hearty:

Welcome aboard the Haddo Newsletter.

Lost Contacts: We have also lost contact with a couple shipmates. Don't forget; if you're moving, drop me a line to let me know. The lost contacts are blue in the roster.

Taps: I have received notice that two of our shipmates are now on eternal patrol.

Don Hale reported the passing of Walter Siefert in August of last year. Walt was an MM2 (SS) and part of the commissioning crew. After the Navy, Walt worked for Electric Boat.

Jim Adams reports the death of James Simpson. James, a.k.a. Dubbers, lost his battle with lung cancer on 4 January 2001 at 8:45 central time. James was a respected member of the A-gang from Oct. '71 to early '75. See Jim Adams' e-mail in the Mail Sack for more details.

MISCELLANEOUS

Brass Monkey: Here's a little Naval lore, forwarded from Mike Gary, for your cold weather enjoyment!

Every sailing ship had to have cannon for protection. Cannons of the time required round iron cannonballs. The master wanted to store the cannonballs such that they could be of instant use when needed, yet not roll around the gun deck. The solution was to stack them up in a square-based pyramid next to the cannon. The top level of the stack had one ball, the next level down had four, the next had nine, and

the bottom had sixteen. Four levels would provide a stack of 30 cannonballs. The only real problem was how to keep the bottom level from sliding out from under the weight of the higher levels. To do this, they devised a small brass plate ("brass monkey") with one rounded indentation for each cannonball in the bottom layer.

Brass was used because the cannonballs wouldn't rust to the "brass monkey," but would rust to an iron one. When temperature falls, brass contracts in size faster than iron. As it got cold on the gun decks, the indentations in the brass monkey would get smaller than the iron cannonballs they were holding. If the temperature got cold enough, the bottom layer would pop out of the indentations spilling the entire pyramid over the deck. Thus it was, quite literally, "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

Book Reviews: See what Darrell Brown has to say in the Mail Sack about a book titled "The Silent War: The Cold War Beneath the Sea" Then read Bill Reed's Mail Sack for news about "Crazy Ivan". If you're interested in the development of our under ice technology, read "Under Ice" by William Leary.

Naval Submarine League: Are you interested in submarine history, what the submarine community is doing now, and where the submarine force is headed? You ought to consider joining the Naval Submarine League. Their quarterly review is chockablock full of 'then', 'now' and 'when' articles and stories. The NSL is vigorously involved in activities that support the preservation of submarine history, promote submarine progress, and benefit submarine personnel. Check out their web site. It might be interesting to note that we currently have about 15 NSL members on our roster.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Since I am still hung up on the reunion, the feature article for this issue is the identification of the faces in the Reunion News photos. If I would have been smart, I would only have printed the picture of people I remembered the names for. But, no, I chose them at random and now I can't identify everyone. I don't feel too badly though, because I even asked for some help, and I got lots, but collectively we still couldn't identify everyone. So, if you are one of the nameless and would like not to remain that way, fill in the blank and send it back to me. With that said, here is my numbering convention. For each picture, I simply went from left to right. No front row back row stuff; just left to right. The only time top and bottom are considered is when people are vertically aligned, then I go top to bottom on that alignment. That's my convention, now here's my disclaimer. If your name is Jones, and I called you Smith, you can do one of three things. 1) you can ignore my error, 2) you contact me and I'll print the correction in the next newsletter, or 3) you could change your name to Smith. I like number 3.

Warning

Some of the people in the pictures look older than they really are. So when you tie the name to the picture and the recognition kicks in, don't say "Wow, he looks old". It's just the picture.

P #	POSITIONS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Lyle Moore			Walt Grant	Levie Salazar	Paul Shockley	Fernly Wagner	Ralph Stroede
2	Marie Noble	Ralph Stroede	Trudy Stroede	Shirley Bowe				

3	Ken Pitman	Pat McGovern	Paul Shockley					
4	Wayne Johnston	James England						
5.	Floyd Day	Merv Canham	Fred Pester					
6.	Robert Fehre	Sandy Fehre						
7	Dick Hillman	Bill Neff	Willie Galvin					
8	Robert Fehre	James England	Dick Noble					
9	Hillman Jr.	Dick Hillman	Bill Neff					
10	Paul Shockley	Don Hale	Lynda Gary	John Viney	Martha Hale	Martha Bently	Eileen Capps	Dwayne Capps
11	Wayne Johnston	Mike Gary						
12	Ed Neasham		Mrs R. Smith	Reid Smith	Fernley Wagner	Ralph Stoede	Ed Bowe	Wayne Johnston
13	Fernley Wagner	Sara Wagner	Paul Shockley					
14	John Tittman	Bill Heffelmire						
15	Marie Noble							
16	Ken Pitman	Pat McGovern	Brian Levgard		Paul Callahan			
17								
18	Fred Pester	John Viney	Jack Bentley	Levi Salazar				
19	Mrs. R. Smith							
20	Jack Bentley							
21	Mrs. B Hayes	Bill Hayes						
22	BobChewning	Ray Butters	Wayne Johnston			Jane Upshaw		
23	Bill D'Amato	Dave Gronbeck						
24		the Garys	the Atwaters	the Fehres	Merv Canham	Floyd Day	Andy Massimino	Ed Neasham w/camera
25	Diane Byrum	Bill Byrum						
26	MichellWarnock	Geoff Warnock						
27	Denny Weaver	Laura Weaver						
28	Dick Noble	Harold Clark	Jim Parker	Bonnie Parker	Diane Byrum			
29	Scott Atwater	GinnyChewning	Sandy Fehre					
30	AndyMassimino	Fred Pester						
31	Bob Chewning	Wayne Johnston						
32	Josie Hottenstein	Brian Levgard and group	Dave Hottenstein					
33	Merv Canham	AndyMassimino						
34	Bill Heffelmire							
35	Ralph Stroede							
36	Dave Gronbeck	Jocko Adams	Bill D'Amato					
37	John Tittman							
38	Jane Upshaw	James England	Denis Panek	Tom Upshaw	Wayne Johnston			
39	Wayne Johnston							
40	Mrs. Massimino							
41		Tom Warner	Jack Bentley	Tony DeNicola	Ralph Stroede	Judy DeNicola	Trudy Stroede	
42	Jane Kiser (tour guide)							
43		Ken Pitman	Bill Neff	Bill Byrum	Jocko Adams	Dana Johnson	Bill D'Amato	Dave Gronbeck
44	Bob Chewning	Harold Clark	Dick Noble	Wayne Johnston			Jane Upshaw	
45	Bill Neff	Dick Hillman	Mike Zielinski	Willie Galvin	Pat McGahn	Don Smith		
46	Bob Chewning	Ray Butters	Paul Callahan	Mary England				
47	Fred Pester	Carol Pester						
48	Susie Butters	Marie Noble		Sandra Salazar				
49	Dick Noble		John Viney				Ray Coons	Reid Smith
	Bob Chewning	Don Hale	Martha Hale		John Bailey	Lyle Moore	Hillman, Jr.	
50	Geoff Warnock	Martha Hale	Dick Hillman	Jocko Adams	Bill Byrum	Lois Coons		
		Ray Coons	Jack Bentley	Reid Smith				
51	John Bailey							
52	Mrs L. Moore	Lyle Moore	Susie Butters					
53	Bill D'Amato	Bill Byrum						
54	Linda Atwater	Sandy Fehre	Scott Atwater	Floyd Day	Bob Fehre	Merv Canham	Janice Bailey	Fred Pester

A quote from my chiropractor. I had worn my Submarine Birthday Ball polo shirt on this particular visit. Looking at my shirt told me that he knew why women couldn't serve aboard Submarines. He said, "if women served aboard submarines, it could no longer be called the Silent Service". I didn't think this guy had that much of a sense of humor.

54								
55	Susie Butters							
56	DaveHottenstein	Josie Hottenstein						
57			Harold Clark	Liz Clark				
58	Fran Massimino	Mike Gary	Lynda Gary	AndyMassimino				
59			Dwayne Capps					
60	Floyd Day	Tony DeNicola						
61	Dat Be Us							
62	Sandra Salazar	Fernley Wagner	Tony DeNicola	Wayne Johnston	Susie Butters	Ed Neasham		John Viney
63	Levi Salazar	Sandra Salazar						
64	Judy DeNicola	Tony DeNicola	John Tittman	Ray Coons	Paul Shockley	Jack Bentley	John Viney	
65	Reid Smith	Paul Shockley	Bill Heffelmire					
66	Jack Bentley							
67	Bonnie Parker	Jim Parker	MichellWarnock	Geoff Warnock	Denny Weaver	Laura Weaver		Bill Byrum
68	Ed Bowe			John Viney	Ray Coons	Tom Warner	Ed Neasham	DaveHottenstien
	Don Hale	John Bailey						

(See Photo Album For 2000 Reunion Pictures)

Web Sites:

Here are some interesting web sites:

<http://www.submarinemuseum.com>

<http://www.navalsubleague.com>

<http://www.csp.navy.mil>

MAIL SACK

I have taken the liberty to edit or reformat some of the e-mails and letters to conserve space. I have also cut some of the material that was meant just for Susie or me. Not that it was too personal, who could keep a secret aboard a submarine, but

it would just be boring to anyone else. The Mail Sack was meant to be for personal updates and stories that would be of interest to most of the readers. The one bit of text I didn't cut was the appreciation and thanks for the effort Susie and I put into the reunion. Even though it may not be of interest to everyone else, I just like to see it in print. And besides that, if you didn't make the reunion, it just gives you a better feel for how everyone else enjoyed it and maybe you'll give more thought to making the next one.

As before, where there was more than one e-mail from the same person, I have separated them by a short line (usually).

E-MAIL

Jim Adams

I regret that I have the duty to inform you that we have lost yet another shipmate. James W. Simpson a.k.a. Dubbers, lost his battle with lung cancer on 4 January 2001 at 8:45 central time. Jim was a respected member of A-gang from Oct. '71 to early '75. After separation he did a brief time with the naval reserves. Jim spent his time working in the quality control field in his home state of Tennessee, where he enjoyed passions with fishing and hunting as well as other outdoor activities. Haddo was represented at Jim's service's by Dave Gronbeck, Darrell Brown, Bill D'Amato and myself. I had the honor and privilege of having Dubs as my friend and brother for 30 years. In my heart he will always be missed and never be forgotten. - Sail safe my friend

Adam Black

I was on the Haddo from Jul 81 - Oct 84. I reported aboard as an SKSA and left as an SK2. I am still in the Navy and am planning on retiring April of next year. I live in Hawaii and am looking for a new home since I will be staying here to work for NAVSEA. I will provide you a new address after we get settled into our new home. Looking forward to hearing from you and reading the News Letter, - Adam Black

Darrell Brown

For those of you who enjoyed "Blind Man's Bluff" by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drews, a new book will be published this March, "The Silent War: The Cold War Beneath the Sea" written By John P.

Craven. Craven is a prominent figure in Naval Undersea system developments, and was Project Scientist on the Polaris Missile Program. Craven developed the systems used by the USS Halibut when she was converted to a "Special Projects" submarine. Halibut covertly inspected the wreckage of the Soviet Golf II submarine, lost in 1968, by deploying robotic cameras from Halibut (submerged at 300 feet) down to the Golf at 17,000 ft. Craven also used advanced techniques in searching for "lost" items underwater, including H-bombs and the USS Scorpion.

Considering Craven's experience and reputation, I expect that this book will probably be better than "Blind Man's Bluff", in that it has been written with an insider's knowledge. BMB was a pretty good read, but barely scratched the surface and lacked an insider's familiarity with and understanding of submarines and submarine operations. I expect the Craven book to be considerably more revealing. I preordered a copy for myself, and will review it online when it becomes available.

Bill Candy

I missed you guys by a week??? When I sent off \$\$\$ to you, I had checked the newsletters, found the discussions about "coming early to attend the Cold War Memorial" AND assumed the reunion to be the following weekend. It didn't mention dates(?). After we returned home from Charleston on Sunday, I checked ALL my other newsletters, sure enough, you had left it out, but referred to 9-11th in a latter edition, which I probably didn't get to read. Well I am really saddened by the fact I missed everyone - How many attended? I am also about \$200 "lighter" now; Is there any chance we can work out a refund on my banquet fee of \$81? Or maybe credit a cap or cup left over & the rest? I'd like to see any pictures you took. I ultimately found about 3 dozen or so other slides from various deployments, although those that I sent were the best. Drop me an e:mail ASAP, when you can.

Thanks for the reply. I don't consider it a WASTED trip. My daughter & wife had a good visit to Charleston with me. MUCH appreciate returned check! I'll send \$\$ for cup & hat?? I had meant for you to deduct that & send only the rest. I really am sorry to have missed everyone however. Was any mention made concerning the award of a citation (if any?) for the 1968-69 Arctic run? I had meant to get that straight from the Captain if Captain Scales attended? I'll catch up with my regulars over Christmas - It just won't be the same... IT seems as if we got our SECOND Battle E for Northern run, an ex-ELT (you know how good their stories are?) told me after he stayed in after 1971, he received a commendation & Navy Expeditionary Medal for same run???? Any way to verify through archives etc? I received my SIGNED copy of BMB from SubStore. (We're NOT mentioned in it!) Not much is said of the North Atlantic/Barrents runs though. Maybe they are not ready to tell them we were sitting INSIDE their harbor! - Later Dude!

Harold Clark

Just a note to let you know of the loss of JW Simpson on Jan. 4th, 2001. Have no other details but will try to get some and send to you. He had been sick a while and was too sick to come to the reunion but would like to have come. Best regards. Sorry to be bearer of bad news, Harold Clark

Ray Coons

Christmas I ordered a shirt and sweat shirt with the Scorpion logo for my son. They came and they are the best shirts I have seen yet I sent Dene an E-mail and ask him for the address of his supplier and he sent me back the address. Sherri Holloway, 1711 Bayview Drive, Bremerton, WA 98312. I thought you might be interested in getting a list of the products they have available. - Ray Coons

Ronald Darnell

Ray, I just got your letter on the reunion, I must say, you did a first rate job, I just wish I could of been there. I will be waiting on the names that goes with the pictures. Some of the faces, well I don't know, I will just have to wait till the next letter comes out. I want to post a change of address, I am planning on spending some time with my #3 son in Ohio and would like any further mail sent there.

Tony DeNicola

Just wanted to again say thanks for the effort you both put in to the planning and setting up of the HADDO reunion. I really enjoyed seeing you again and also meeting Susie. I was really excited about renewing old acquaintances and look forward to seeing more of them in our travels. Already plan on visiting Ken Pittman when I take Judy up to New England next summer and I can visit Pat Mc and "Matey" when I go to Chicago area to visit family. We will be heading south on Wednesday but let's stay in touch.

As you can see, I am catching up on my e-mails. That Army/Navy game was one for the ages, considering their records this year. It brings to memory the A/N game of 1967. I was in Vietnam and our Colonel put a big wooden sign up at one of our outposts on Hill 131 which looked down over "Market Time" the Navy Swift Boat base. The sign read:

"Go Army - Beat Navy"
"Sunder's Wonders"

Our Battalion was referred to as Sunder's Wonders due to some "feats of war" we had performed. To make a long story short, Army really blew it, with some big blunders, in the late stages of the game. The next morning we awoke to a sign at Market Time; facing up toward Hill 131 that read:

"Sunder Wonders as Army Blunders"

We had to host a big bash at the Army Battalion compound for Army losing the game. At least a good time was had by all. - Enough for now, Tony

Rick DiSalvo *(This was sent after Susie and I left San Diego and received after we returned)*

Ray, I've been waiting to send this until last minute in hopes I wouldn't have to. Our son was admitted to the hospital last Friday. His condition has not improved, so I have to cancel our plans to attend the reunion. I am sorry we won't be there. Hope everyone has a good time. Say hello for me. Thanks.

Thanks, looks like everyone had a good time. Please don't send refund... Just use for newsletter stuff, etc. Son is out of hospital, but things are not back to normal. Diagnoses not complete, but most likely suffering from bipolar disorder. Will take some time to steady out medications, etc.

Jim England

I still can't believe what a great time we had in Charleston, thanks mostly to you guys. I can't thank you enough for all of the hard work you put in. My daughter thinks all the guys are pretty cool. Guess I'll need to watch her from now on.

For the last 2 nights I have been watching a program called "Life on a Boomer" on C-SPAN. It's an 8-hour program and a great PR program for the submarine navy. Hope you can see it. I'm going to try to get a tape if I can find a source.

I wanted to order a big New Zealand Haddo picture. I didn't quite hear what Ralph was saying and my wife thought I got the info and I thought she got the info and neither of us got the info. Can you help or do I need to call Ralph?

What are your plans for all of the film we all shot? I thought I had a boatload of pics in my camera but they got mixed up with other stuff. Maybe Ralph can get them put on the Haddo web site. If you turn them into ones and zeros you can do almost anything with them.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. - Warm Regards, Jim England

Robert Fehre

RAY !!! What a great job you did putting this reunion together. Sandy and I had a great time. Because of you we renewed old friendships. We thank you for that. We are already looking forward to the next reunion

William Galvin

It was a great reunion. I enjoyed it very much and I want to thank you again for all your time, effort and dedication to make it all happen. I really appreciate it. When you have time, please send me the mailing list(e-mail if possible). - Willie Galvin

Jack Garrison

I wanted to take a moment and again thank you for your time and effort in putting together the reunion. I must admit, it was more enjoyable than my expectations. I was pleased that the turnout was as high as it was and several of my shipmates from my "era" on the boat were there. We had an opportunity to gather at one of the fellow's in-laws home in Mt. Pleasant and enjoy sharing old times. It was especially heart touching for me to see and visit with Dave Hottenstein again. Again THANKS!! - Jack Garrison

Lynda Gary

Just wanted to let you know you did a fine job with the reunion. Sorry we didn't stay for the meeting, but it was a long drive home. It was nice to be in my own bed though. Did they decide to have a reunion next year? If so where and what time of year. I really enjoyed meeting y'all and

hope to see you again. Also hope all goes well with your move. I will let you know when we finally change our address, even though I don't look to any time in the next few months. Too much to do there and not enough time right now. I even worked yesterday cause they had four people out!! If there is going to be another reunion we will be happy to help in anyway we can--just let us know.
Later: Lynda Gary

Ron Graff (Sent the weekend of the Reunion)

Hope all went well last night, and this weekend. You sure put a lot of time and effort into this and I wish I could have been there. More later. - Ron

Don Hale

Ray, I will be glad to help in any way I can for the next reunion in New London/Groton. Great job with the one in Charleston. We want to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year. Don and Martha Hale

William Heffelmire

Hi Ray, Hope you made it back safe and sound, have a great TURKEY DAY, and thank you and Susie for a great blast from the past. I would like to wish all of my ex shipmates a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Fair winds and following seas. - William F Heffelmire

Clifford Herbst

I would like to be added to the crew roster and newsletter list. I was on the 604 from 1978 to 1980 as LELET and M-Div LPO. Retired in 1989 as MMCM(SS). - CLIFFORD HERBST

Dick Hillman

Just to let you know we got back to NH safe and sound and I'm ready to take the watch. I thought this memo would establish the dialog. If you have any electronic copies of the 2000 reunion POD/Schedule (or anything else that would be handy on the computer) I would appreciate a copy. I'm looking forward to working with you and will be committed to making sure the 2003 Reunion will be as great as your 2000 (and that won't be easy). I want to personally thank you (and your wife) for all your effort. I'm sure that It can become exasperating at times. You did a fine job. I thought It was a great opportunity for my son to get a better understanding of what I did with my life in the Navy. - Dick

Larry Kelly

Hello Ray: Just a note to say, once again, thank you for all your efforts in a great Haddo reunion. It was really good to see everyone that attended the festivities in Charleston and to renew old friendships. Looking forward to the next one in New London, CT in 3 years. Larry/Karen Kelley

William Mack

Dear Mr. Butters, My name is John Mack, my father William Mack was the one who served on the Happy Haddo, during W.W.II. I'm sorry it took so long for me to respond. I told my father about the reunion, but unfortunately he couldn't make it. As for a mailing address you can send anything to Mr. William (or Bill) Mack Sr. I'm sure my father would love to read the publication that you put out. You can also get in touch with him through me at my e-mail address: Johnnymack1983@aol.com. - John Mack, Son of a Sub Vet

Juice Madia

Hi, thanks for getting back to me. My name is Juice Madai, my rate was EM2SS. I served on Haddo from September '84 to September '88 as a nuclear trained electrician. Yes I would like to receive the newsletter. - Juice Madai

Ed Neasham

Sex, Lies and Video tape. Or was it Beer, Sea Stories and CD's? Anyway I am getting CDs off to you guys of the pictures I got at the reunion. Didn't get as many as I would have liked, but I seemed to spend most of my time saying "You remember when". The pictures are Jpeg format and are fairly high resolution, so if you try to look at them in Paint, they will more than fill the screen. You need a photo program to really see them.

Hey Ralph, you ass hole. I got up and went down stairs Sunday morning at 0755 (you said you were going to breakfast at 0800). Found out later that you left early and had breakfast at Shoney's. I

wanted to give you a good smooch on the lips for old time's sake. - Ed Neasham

Dick Noble

We certainly enjoyed Susie and your visit and I'm happy I was able to attend the reunion. Marie also enjoyed herself as well. She thought it might be a boring time for her but she said she was pleasantly surprised. I talked to JR Jamison two days ago, Jim had a small problem with his truck and he could not get someone in his family to go with him to Charleston which his Doctor recommended so he cancelled on Friday. I told him we missed him and filled him in on the future reunion plans in New London, 2003. - Dick Noble sends

Jim Parker

Thanks for all the both of did for the reunion. I believe that it was a roaring success. I enjoyed myself immensely. I would like to request that something be said to acknowledge Geoff Warnock's effort in copying and bringing those Haddo Water log's. They brought back a lot of memories for me. - Best Regards, Jim Parker

Bill Reed

Ray, sorry I was unable to make the reunion, last minute travel changes due to work schedules. For those that are interested in the status of the book CRAZY IVAN, it will be in print by the end of the year (delayed due to inclusion of Kursk info). More information on the book can be found at www.reedwriting.com. Also, I was the editor and creator of the Haddo Underwater Log in the late 70's, I have several issues and will send some copies. Funny stuff. Thanks again. --Bill Reed

Jon Spencer

Good Morning Ray, I don't know you, but I served on USS HADDO 76-77 after being transferred from USS WAHOO SS-565. She was my first NUC. I enjoyed my tour on Haddo. After that I got out of the Navy then re-enlisted and was sent to USS Pintado SSN-672, did ICEX78...I live in Charlotte, NC and have been a Flight Paramedic for MedCenter-Air operating out of Carolina's Medical Center for the last ten years... It took awhile to locate this site... Let me know if your going to have another reunion, I'd enjoy seeing some old friends...Where can I get some t-shirts or things like that with Haddo on them? Look forward to hear back from you Ray... Take care Jon Spencer YN2(SS)

Letters

Robert Chewing

Dear Ray, - It is hard for me to believe it has been a full month since we were together at one great reunion. Ginny and I had a memorable and very special time seeing so many shipmates and reliving for a brief time those sea stories that seem to grow with each telling. We thank you and Susie again for all you did to make this possible.

With all your moves between San Diego and Colorado and then on the road to visit Dick and the reunion in Charleston, I'm not at all sure how soon this letter will reach you. I am sending it to San Diego as it's the only address I have. If you are not there, I hope they have an efficient forwarding procedure. Ginny and I do not want you and Susie to forget that you have a standing invitation here at the ranch. We would like to show you this part of the country. As you plan your travels, schedule some time for Idaho. The fall or early summer are two of the better times, unless you want to ski with us in the winter. There are so many guests in July and August that we have little time to ourselves.

The gift of the model for USS Haddo that you make for me was so very thoughtful. It's in front of me on the counter as I write this letter. It's handsome, the words are humbling, and I am duly impressed by the skill necessary to create something so fine. It is perfect. Thank you.

Ginny and I are making preparations to return to Virginia to celebrate the holidays with our family there. Please keep in touch. We wish you and Susie the very best and wonderful holiday season. - Warm regards, Bob C

Dan Cooper

Hope the Reunion was a resounding success. I am sorry I could not attend & hope I properly covered all the bases. Hope the move finally comes about. Do not know when I may be in S.D. next - but will try you when I am. (I will never get to Colorado). - Sincerely, Dan Cooper

Tony DeNicola

Dear Ray and Susie, Still have that warm glow from the Haddo reunion. I can't tell you how much I appreciated the effort you and

Susie put into making it such a huge success. I know Dick gave you some help, but we know most of it was through the effort of you two. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I look forward to the next one, though I know it will pale to the one we had in Charleston. I also want to thank you for allowing me the honor to participate by doing the Benediction. Hope you guys have the greatest Christmas ever and a more fantastic new Year. - Warm Regards, Tony & Judy

Mike Gann

Dear Ray, - Thanks very much for your recent letter about the Reunion. I'm coming down to Charleston from my meeting in Wilmington, N.C. on Sunday the 12th and staying all day Monday the 13th. I'll certainly look you up. Hopefully there will be a few "stragglers" around to chat with as well.

Sorry I haven't written sooner, but have been extremely busy since our "vacation". I always have weeks of follow-up work after the Annual Conference I attend. Anyway, I want you to know how very much I appreciate what you did in organizing the First Haddo reunion. From all accounts it was a smashing success! I'm really disappointed I couldn't make it for the entire affair, but very happy I did make it for the "tail end". It was really terrific to see even a few old buddies. I'm particularly touched by the fact that Dwayne Capps stayed around just to see me. I have a hard time thinking of him as "Dwayne" - he'll always just be "Chief" to me. He was my primary teacher when I came aboard Haddo. I never met a nicer guy, in the Navy, or anywhere else. Larry Kelly was my #2 teacher and the guy whose Section I was assigned to. He taught me a great deal, about submarines and about how to survive life aboard. I hadn't seen either one of them since they left Haddo - about 25 years. Jack Garrison and Hal Clark were very good personal friends - our families got together once in a while during our Haddo years. I had visited both since, but only once. Was really great to see them. Even though I was exhausted when we got back to the Hotel after dinner and a visit with Frank Wise, I had a message on my phone from Jim Parker, and I ended up visiting with him in the Lobby until well past midnight. I was on of his "teachers", just like the Chief and Larry Kelly were for me. He remembered things about me that I didn't even remember myself - like my old nickname (Skull), given for the super-short haircuts I used to get, so short you could see the joint-lines of my skull bones.

Lastly, I just wanted to say how very surprised and deeply grateful I am for the plaque that was prepared for me. When I started the Newsletter I had one mission and one mission only -generate a list of names and addresses of former Haddo shipmates, so that small groups of close friends might be able to reconnect. Out of the 100+ guys on a sub-crew, you really only get close to small circle of friends. You know everybody of course, but you tend to socialize and get really friendly with only a few. That's why I had my doubts that a reunion would ever work. The fact that over 100 people came to the reunion shoots that theory all to hell. I am very proud to have played a small role in making a reunion happen and I'm certainly looking forward to the next one (New London, 2003, right?).

Well Ray, this has gotten long enough. Again thanks to you for organizing the reunion. Although we never met on Haddo, we have that as a common bond. I'm very proud to have served and I could tell you are too. - Sincerely, Mike

Walt Grant

I cannot attend the meeting on Sunday morning. I've got to leave early. I love the chance to get together. You guys were great. For another reunion, I'd like to recommend Groton. We have: The Nautilus and Submarine Museum, The Sub School offers tours to veteran's groups, Mystic has the Seaport and Aquarium, 2 Indian casinos for the gamblers, All of the above have gift stores. While New London is not as historic or as beautiful as Charleston, the school is some place that we all remember. I'll work on coordination if I can get some help from other CT residents.

Dale Liggett

Dear Ray, Dale Liggett QMC (SS) here. It has been a lot of years since we have been in contact but my mind has always been on my shipmates on the Haddo. It was ironic that I had been talking about the Haddo the same day I saw the reunion notice in "Shift Colors". I received my Masters License in April 1982 from the USCG and was master of a vessel in Louisiana. My 3rd mate gave me a copy of the book Gold Crew and I saw your name in the credits. Great book.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend due to medical problems in the family. As for myself I am fine and healthy as a horse. I don't go to sea anymore as I have started a guide service here and fish bass tournaments. I have been very active in the Masons and the Shriners. I am Post Master of the Lodge in Dexter and have been a Shriner clown for six years. I love doing the two circuses here in Maine in the spring plus going to parades, hospitals and nursing homes. All in all I am enjoying life to the fullest. I have a wonderful wife of 29 years, a mother-in-law that likes me, a faithful hound dog, and a high performance boss boat. So I feel pretty content.

I would like to send a special hello to the QM Gang, Chief Zernhelt (Zip), Ken Pittman, Pat McGovern, and Matey. Also Red O'Hara, Doc, plus all the other plank owners. My apartment was broken into when I was on shore duty and my Haddo plaque was among the items stolen. I have often wondered why someone would want to take it. I hope the reunion is a great success and more will follow. If at all possible can you send me the address of the plank owners as I would love to get in touch with each of them. So until we meet again, good luck and take care. - Fraternally yours, Dale Liggett

Levi Salazar

Card inscription "With deep appreciation for the time you have given, and for the excellent work that you've done." Can't remember when I had a greater weekend. Thanks to you and your wife. - Levi & Sandra Salazar

Dorothy Williams

Dear Ray, I recently put a small package in the mail for you. It contained some Haddo decals and a couple of key rings. I thought that maybe you could use them at the reunion in some small way. Jack would applaud what you are doing and I will be with you all in spirit.

My best wishes to all, - Dorothy Williams
