

(SS 255)

USS HADDO

(SSN 604)



Newsletter

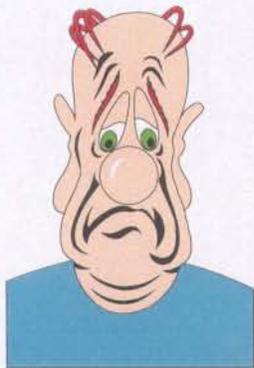
1942 to 1946

Volume 2, Issue 39 November 2009

1964 to 1990

Editors - Ray & Susie Butters

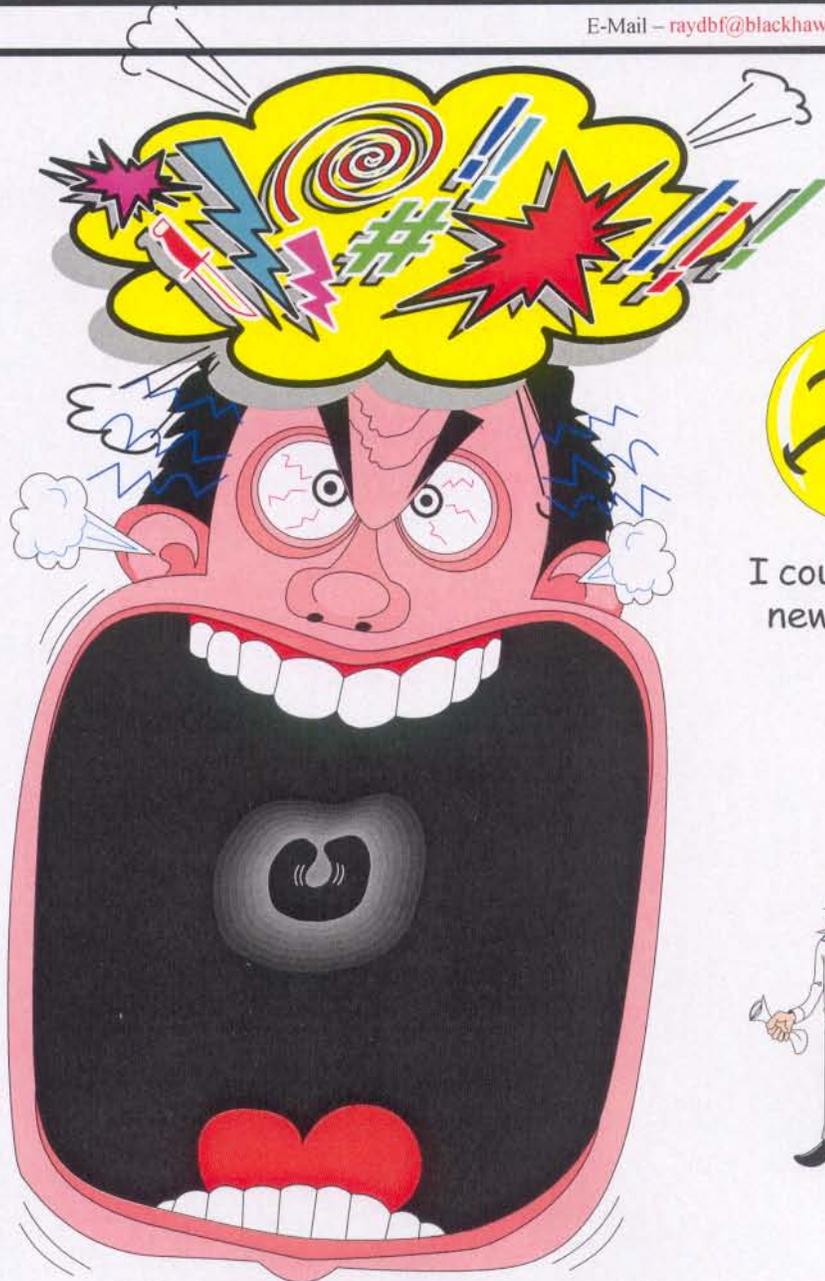
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I missed seeing my old shipmates



I missed the free beer



I could have met new shipmates



Never Do That Again!!!

Translation: I MISSED THE REUNION!!!

REFLECTIONS:

from the Editor

It was September 2001, and I had sent my wife to visit her best friend in Albuquerque while I attempted to give our contractor an attitude adjustment, and to make our newly purchased motor home livable for the apparent long haul. I hadn't finished converting the bed over the cab of the motor home from spanning side to side to running front to back, so I was sleeping on the fold-out couch. Upon awakening early Tuesday morning, the 11th, I uncharacteristically reached over and turned on the tiny TV. When the picture came into focus, I first thought it was one of those disaster movies in which this tall building was on fire. Then, when the second plane hit the second tower, I got this sinking feeling of doom. The sincerity of the horror in the voices of the narrators said that this was real. Along with most of the nation I was glued to the TV most of the day. Every time they would replay the video of those two airplanes crashing into the Twin Towers, my stomach would do an emotional back flip. That unsettling of my stomach became a common experience for the next couple weeks. Every time the news conjured up the videos, or every time the subject came up in conversation, or each time I simply thought about it my stomach would flip. I don't remember when those physical spasms subsided, but eventually I was just left with the emotional sadness. And that too eventually slipped to the back of my consciousness.

Now, please, don't get me wrong. On a scale of Tragic, 9/11 was a 10, and comparatively speaking, missing the Haddo reunion for Susie and me had to be a minus 10,000. But my stomach still tried out for the gymnastics team, and a mental gloom penetrated my soul every time I thought about missing the reunion. Clear up until Sunday the 20th, I kept that wishful thought in the back of my head that we could still make it. Monday came and went, and it was final; we were not making the reunion. That week was a dark week.

After the reunion was over, friends started calling me to tell me how great it was. Once again, don't get me wrong. After the change in itinerary, I wanted this reunion to be the best ever! But with each enthusiastic call I got, my misery level seemed to crank up another notch.

By about mid October, I thought I had pretty much recovered from this major disappointment, so I tried starting this newsletter. Each time I would sit down at my computer, I would drift into a daydreaming fog and I wouldn't get a word typed. I made a list of things I

needed to do for the newsletter, but couldn't get any of them done. I'm not saying that I'm now my normal weird self, but the newsletter must go on.

If every one of you that missed the reunion felt as badly as I felt, our next reunion will be a humdinger. I, for one (make that two because where I goeth, Susie goeth) will not miss it.

2009 HADDO REUNION

So, just how good was the reunion? I'm going to try to tell you, but if you really want to know, call one of your buddies that attended. I don't have the words that can convey the emotion that I heard in the voices of the guys who called me. They were so jazzed that I couldn't get a word in edgewise. Even when I would ask a question, it's as if I hadn't said anything; they just shifted to their next thought and kept right on enthusiastically vocalizing, their weekend experience.

There were a lot of first time attendees. There were even wives there that have not attended before (I didn't even know some of these guys were married). There were some of my old shipmates that I haven't seen since I left the boat in '67. There was a lot of the younger crew there (I am now at that age where everyone is 'younger', but I am referring to the guys of the 1980's).

As I was going through the list of attendees, I had to smile at some of the names. Hayes has his first name listed as William. I knew him from the USS Bugara as Punchy. Ray Turner is more familiar to me as Tiny Tim, and Fred Santillanes was the Saint. I don't think that had anything to do with his demeanor, however. And then there was Paul Callahan. I had always thought his first name was Mister. I had other names for him then, but in recent years he has since proven worthy of a personable and friendly 'Paul'.

The Crowne Plaza bent over backwards to ensure that they provided the best environment possible for the reunion. They put our Haddo banner up in the lobby,



provided frequent shuttles to and from the airport, and were ready to resolve any problems that would come up. The hotel itself was beautiful. When you entered the lobby, you walked into a huge atrium. The glass



elevators glided up and down the inside walls of the atrium so while riding the elevator from your floor to the main floor you had a striking view of this gigantic open space. Riding up and down on those glass elevators must have felt like you were a crewmember of the USS Sea View in *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. Even the swimming pool was in the atrium.

The hospitality suite, the Cardinal Room, was large and comfortably accommodated our crew. The rooms were also comfortably appointed.

Ralph Stroede hosted the reunion and did an excellent job of it. Ken Brenner, Dick Hillman, and Dick Noble each helped with different aspects of the reunion. The four of them made an outstanding team.

Ralph had sweet-talked the Budweiser brewery and the Frito-Lay Co. into donating mega cases of beer and all the chips required to chase all that beer down (maybe that's visa versa). Either way, enough was donated to ensure proper support for the long-established ritual of Speaking in Sea Story Tongue. Dick Noble said that after a day of listening to Dave Montgomery, his and Fred Santillanes' ribs hurt from laughing so much.

Eighty three Haddo shipmates attended the reunion. They brought wives, girlfriends and kids (that's collectively – they didn't each bring wives, girlfriends and kids).

St. Louis has more events and sights to see than any of the attendees could take in during the Reunion. Some went early and others stayed later in order to take advantage of the area. During the reunion, however, most attendees stayed close to the hotel basking in the warmth of the Haddo friendships.

I almost forgot! That Haddo banner that hung in the lobby should look familiar to you if you have seen a picture of Haddo going down the ways. It was the center piece of the nose cover. And if you could enlarge this picture, you would see that the only Haddo sailors aboard were Captain Jack and Commander Hay. The rest of the sailors were barrowed from the Pollack.



Thursday was filled with registering and checking in. Oh yeah, and Sea Stories.

Friday was more of the same, plus the golf outing. Dick Noble made arrangements for the traditional Haddo Reunion Golf Tournament. Seventeen guys and gals turned out for the event. Joe O'Hara was the only caddie, and as it turned out he was the caddie for the wining team (or maybe the winning team was the winning team because Joe O'Hara was their caddie). The weatherman called for rain, but these optimistic golfers were out there bright and early for their 0830 tee time. And by tee time, the skies began to clear and they began to play. The course was wet, so they had to keep the golf carts on the cart path which slowed down the play. The course is a reclaimed stone quarry that provides a beautiful setting. Even when the weather is dry the course is a challenge. But because of the slow play, our group only got to challenge 14 of the 18 holes. There was another tournament of 72 catching up with the Haddo group, so our group decided they had been challenged enough and they all packed up and met at the Limestone Grill for lunch and a raffle. Pat McGovern won the raffle. The prize was a Walter

Hagan Golf Bag, a contribution from Dick's Clothing and Sporting Goods. (No, I don't think Noble dug this bag out of his old golf equipment in the basement. It was new from some sporting goods store coincidentally named Dick's.)



And then came Saturday. The Crowne Plaza put on a Wine and Cheese Social for the Haddo in the early afternoon. During the Social, Haddo's

last skipper Captain Gregg Larson, USN Ret., narrated the video of the Inactivation Ceremony. Haddo's first skipper Admiral John Williams, USN Ret., was the guest speaker for the ceremony. Susie and I were fortunate enough to have attended that ceremony and later, with several others, joined Captain Jack for drinks and dinner. I am glad that I was able to make that small get together, but I am especially glad that Susie was able to have met my favorite skipper.

I think one of the things that Captain Jack said on that video, exemplified his true attitude. He said that the platform may be retired, but the people go on. So, he didn't want to talk much about the platform; he talked about the people. I'm not sure how this video affected the guys that came after Captain Jack's time, but when I first saw the video, it was quite an emotional experience for me; dredging up many a fine memory.

Did you know that we have an entertainer in our group? Not only does he play golf pretty well, but Lou Storm plays the guitar and sings. He added a touch of ambiance to the wine and cheese social.

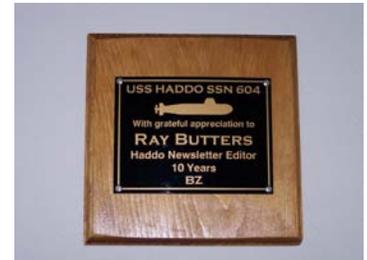
After the social, everyone went back to their rooms and shifted into the Dress uniform of the day. Before the banquet, a photographer was available to take individual and group

pictures.

Even though the food was delicious, the banquet room was filled with conversation. Of course, that's the way the mess hall used to be. Why would I think the banquet room would be any different? Because we're all older and more mature? Figure the odds.

Ken Brenner started the Banquet ceremonies with a moment of silence while he read off each of the names of the Haddo sailors that are on Eternal Patrol.

Dick Hillman took over, passing out two awards: The first one went to someone named Ray Butters, for 10 years as editor of the Haddo Newsletter. I could tell that the plaque was made by a Machinists Mate because the engraved portion was held to the wooden back with pop rivets. The second one went to Ken Brenner for his outstanding efforts on the 2006 Haddo Reunion in Branson, MO. I was at that one, so I can tell you unequivocally, he deserves that plaque and more.



Dick Noble continued the pandemonium by awarding



2009 USS Haddo Reunion Golf Outing at Crystal Springs Quarry
L-R: Lance Andretta, Tim Turner, Marie Noble, Dave Montgomery, Rick Kepner, Ralph Stroede, Richard Noble, Trudy Stroede, Red O'Hara (caddie), Ed Geiger, Frank Wise, Dave Kimble, **Kneeling:** Bill Murphy, Lou Storm.
Not Available for the Photo: John Viney, John Farro & Patrick McGovern

the golf trophies. He had to present 1 trophy to Ray Turner and Dave Montgomery who tied for Best Individual Score. Dick gave the trophy to Turner and said that since he is the *Father*, he should keep it until he is tired of it and then give it to Montgomery, the *Child*. (They were both Torpedomen and Turner was senior to Montgomery). Then Dave wanted to address the microphone, but Dick squelched that. I think he was still sore from all the laughing in the hospitality suite and needed more time to heal.

- Closest to the pin** Lou Storm
- Longest drive** David Kimbell
- Best team score** Tim Turner, Dave Montgomery, Lance Andretta & Patrick McGovern
- Best individual score** Tim Turner tied with Dave Montgomery

Ralph Stroede then awarded a Haddo plaque to Gregg Larson for narrating his video of the Inactivation Ceremonies.

The awards were followed by raffle drawings. There were a lot of donated items that were raffled; some by the crew and some by local merchants. Dick Noble had a sign made to recognize those companies that supported our reunion. He placed it outside of the hospitality suite entrance.



There was one raffle that was a little embarrassing for me, because the proceeds went to me. Lou Storm put together a collection of Thresher memorabilia and raffled that off. Lou told me about it before the reunion (in fact I had a little item to add to the collection) but he didn't tell me that the proceeds were going to be donated to the Haddo newsletter. Thanks Lou. That will pay for the supplies and mailing for this issue and some of the next issue. But don't do it again. 😊

The guest speaker was introduced by Paul Callahan. Paul told a story about Admiral Rickover who was about to transfer one of his officers somewhere and Richover said "if there was anybody else, I wouldn't be sending you. You'll probably fail, so believe me if there was **anybody** else I wouldn't be sending you". Then Paul said when Dick Noble asked him, at the last minute, to introduce Jim Hay, he asked why him. Dick told him "there wasn't anybody else; believe me, if there was **anybody** else I wouldn't be asking you". Well, maybe that story is like a hair cut; you had to be there to appreciate it. Everybody in the audience thought it was funny though.

Jim Hay spoke on two topics: The early days aboard Haddo, and What the American Submarine Sailor is and does, and the value to the Nation.

As Jim talked about the early days of Haddo, it reminded me of Captains Jack's statement that it is the people, not the platform. Mr. Hay said that our submarine sailors were well **trained**, very **disciplined**, absolutely understood **qualifications**, and extremely **tenacious**. The result of those characteristics was a high level of **readiness**. And that readiness was the major reason that the Cold War did not escalate into a Hot War. When the Russian equivalent to our Secretary of State said they quit, he said that they knew our submarines were off their coast; they were always there, but they couldn't find us.

Mr. Hay told us that our FBM Submarines were a Second Strike weapon. If an enemy made the first strike, our FBMs would be able to launch a second strike with assured success of winning. He went on to explain that you should not make the first strike if you cannot win the second strike. They could not find our FBMs, but our Fast Attack Submarines knew where their FBMs were, which meant that we could eliminate their second strike. That warmed my heart. It seemed to me that the Boomers, hiding in the depths of the oceans around the world, got all the recognition for winning the Cold War. But it was our Fast Attacks that were in the trenches; gathering intelligence, finding that second strike, and just plain out performing the enemy.

Jim said that at the time he was to be transferred to Haddo, New York Ship Building was one of six Naval Shipyards building submarines. And it ranked number six. That aside, I think Haddo was one of the finest platforms that we had. More importantly, however, I think that the Haddo crew was the finest that I ever served with. When I left the Bugara to go to Haddo, everyone on the 'Bug' was badmouthing the nukes. They said that there were forward and aft crews and they never got along. I never saw that aboard Haddo. We had a job to do and, as a team, we did it well. Listening to both Captain Jack and Jim Hay, rekindled that tremendous feeling of pride that I had being a Submarine Sailor.

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Hay received a rousing standing ovation. Flowers and coins were tossed to the podium as Jim took bows. I just made up that last part, but you could tell Jim had touched well concealed emotions in everyone present.

Ralph made his way to the podium, gingerly stepping over the flowers and nimbly picking up the coins, to thank Mr. Hay. (Sometimes I just can't help myself – there were no flowers and no coins, okay?)

Ralph presented Mr. Hay with a hand carved walnut plaque in appreciation for his outstanding presentation.



The inscriptions reads: *As her first Engineer Officer, you breathed life into Haddo. As tonight's Guest Speaker, You've renewed that life in each of us through her memories.*

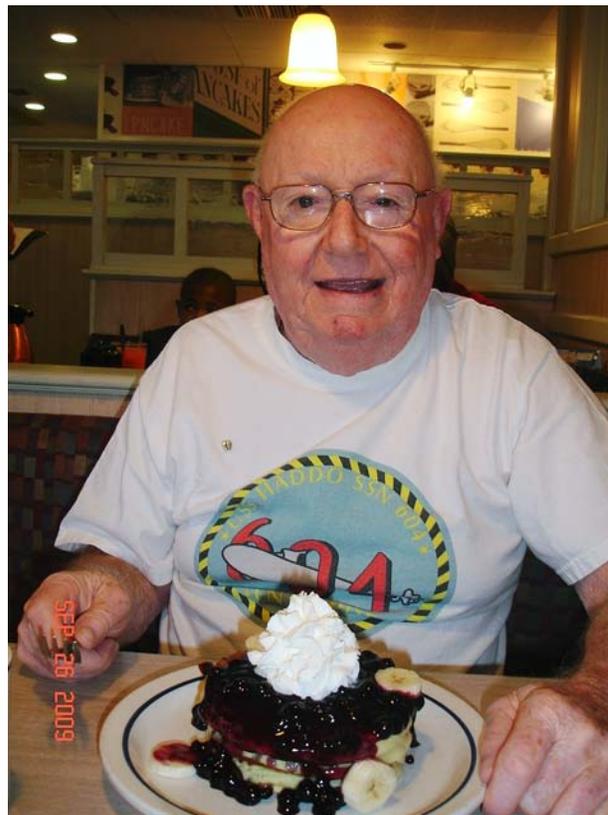
Ken Brenner wrapped up the evening festivities with some poignant comments and saying that he thinks there are three things that hold the Haddo family together: the newsletter, the website, and our reunions. I couldn't agree with him more. If you haven't made a Haddo reunion, treat yourself to some 'feel goods' and

plan on making the next one. I should have all the basic details in the next newsletter.

The banquet ended, but the evening continued in the Hospitality Suite. For some, it continued 'till the wee hours in the morning. I don't think they walked from the hospitality suite to the Sunday morning group breakfast, but they didn't miss it by far. The breakfast was not a structured event, but it provided an opportunity for those nonverbal goodbyes that submariners are so used to.



Ask Joe O'Hara if you can have your cake and eat it too? Make that pancakes.



And, what would a Haddo reunion be like without Fred Pester's model of the USS Haddo (SSN 604)?







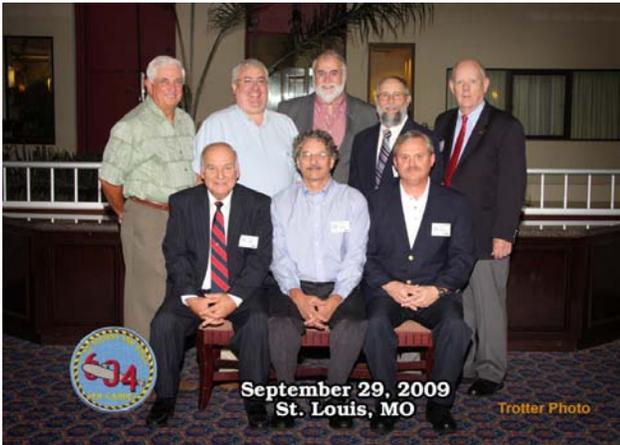
**September 29, 2009
St. Louis, MO**

Trotter Photo



**September 29, 2009
St. Louis, MO**

Trotter Photo





Sonar Gang



Torpedo Gang



The Enemy



Enemy Sub Base

SOMETHING NEW FOR 2011

There have been some changes to the Reunion process. These changes were partially implemented for the 2009 reunion, but if you weren't there you wouldn't know about them.

Before I go into details, let me give you a little background. In 1999, I polled my roster to find out if there was any interest in having a reunion – I sent out a self addressed postcard. I didn't get very many responses, but they were all positive. So, I sent out another post card with choices for where and when. We still didn't get a lot of responses, but we got enough that prompted Susie and me to host Haddo's first reunion in, in Charleston, SC, in Oct of 2000. We chose Charleston because that was Haddo's first homeport. We chose the date to coincide with the dedication of Patriots point. The dedication was delayed, but it was a great reunion and we had a very good turnout. On Sunday morning, before everyone left, I had a business meeting with all the guys to make plans for the next reunion. We decide on three years, New London, CT (Haddo's second homeport), and Dick Hillman volunteered to take charge.

We had our second reunion in Nov. of 2003. It was another great reunion and another great turnout. Sunday morning Dick had a business meeting, and this time the wives attended. We voted on Pascagoula, MS for the 2006 reunion (Haddo's homeport while in the shipyard) and Ken Brenner stood up to take the duty. After I announced the decision in the newsletter, I began getting calls and e-mails saying that only a small group of people get to choose where the next reunion would be. There were some of the attendees that had to leave Groton early that morning that were among those that complained. I also got complaints that it wasn't fair to allow the wives to vote. That potentially gave the married guys two votes and the single guys only one. I talked this over with Ken and we came up with a plan to give everyone a chance to vote for the time and location of the 2009 Reunion. I would send out the questionnaires with the newsletter and Ken would collect and tabulate them so that we could announce the results at the 2006 reunion. Well, we only got about a 1% response. So Ken said that he would put a questionnaire in each of the registration packs. We had another great reunion with a real good turnout, but we still hadn't decided on the 2009 reunion.

I sent out one more volley of questionnaires and Ken tabulated them with San Diego winning. I had made the statement in the October 2007 newsletter when I made the San Diego announcement that 'the greatest mistake

that I think have I have made since taking over this newsletter from Mike Gann, was to suggest that we poll the roster for the next reunion'. It was like pulling teeth and the decision was still by a small percentage of the crew; about 15%.

Now, not only had we lost a year of planning, we still didn't have a volunteer. We didn't get a volunteer until early the next year. We finally had two guys in the San Diego area take on the task, but I think the effort and time constraints were more than they expected or that their work and personal schedules would allow for. It was looking like the only thing that was going to happen was that our Haddo group would be one of many groups at the USSVI International Convention. We would have nothing specific to "Haddo", including no Haddo banquet. Several people had tried to contact these guys to get details so that they could start making plans, including me so that I could get information into the newsletter, but their work kept them unavailable. So, in desperation, Ralph got information together for St. Louis and told me he could put it together very quickly. I was finally able to get a response from our San Diego guys. I had provided suggestions as to what was need and asked if they could still pull it off. If not, we had another option. They said to take the other option. I hated to take that position, but I feared for a failed reunion. Thankfully, Ralph came through like a champ.

To keep from having to go through this again, we formed a Reunion Committee. The committee consists of Ken Brenner and Dick Hillman, who have each put a Haddo reunion together; Ralph Stroede, who basically put this last one together; and Dick Noble, who has been in on the planning stages for each of the four reunions. They asked me to be on the committee, but I said that I had too many other commitments. They settled for me being an advisor. Ralph and Dick Noble represent the 1960's, and Ken and Dick Hillman represent the 1970's. They wanted another member that would represent the 1980's. They asked for a volunteer at the banquet and Malo Berry volunteered.

These guys are volunteering to do all the work, as a team, to put the Haddo reunions together. They will figure out the best place to have the next reunion (they will take suggestions from the crew but they won't be doing a pole – if you want to suggest someplace it will be up to you to contact one of them), they will find the best deals and make all the arrangements, they will find a guest speaker, they will set up fun things to do, and all you'll have to do is sign up and attend. This way it doesn't fall on the shoulders of just one guy (and his

significant other, of course) that may or may not have ever put a reunion together.

The first decision that they made was that our next reunion will be in 2011. They are still working on the time and place. They should have all the basics for you by the time I issue the next newsletter. If you need to contact anyone on the committee, their contact information is in the Roster.

THANKS

I would like start of with a great big thanks to Ralph and Trudy Stroede, Ken and Sandra Brenner, Dick and Liz Hillman, and Dick and Marie Noble for all the work they put into the 2009 Haddo Reunion at St. Louis, MO.

Another round of thanks to Ralph Stroede, Dick Noble, Lance Andretta, and Joe O'Hara, for the big load of pictures. A special thanks to Lance for that great collage on page 7. I received several singles from other guys too, but when I downloaded them, I forgot to attach names. Thanks to all that sent me pictures. I will include more pictures in the next issue.

I would also like to thank Lou Storm for his thoughtfulness in raising funds to support the expenses of putting this newsletter together. That should pay for this one and part of the next one. And, thanks to all those at the reunion who purchased tickets for that raffle, knowing it was for the newsletter.

ROSTER UPDATE

Roster Changes:

There have been a lot of changes to our roster. Sending a complete roster in every issue seems like overkill. From now on, I will only send out a complete roster in November. So, **Keep this roster!!!** In the April issue, I intend to only provide changes. You can mark up your November roster with the changes that interest you. I will repeat this cycle every year. As usual, the changes and additions are in **red** and losses are in **blue**.

Taps:

Barry Friedel – passed away on 25 January 2009
(see Mail Sack – Roger Rackley)

Dave Hinkle – passed away on 27 July 2009
(see Mail Sack – Dick Hillman)

Mike Zielinski – passed away on 24 July 2009

Kenneth Fondren – Reunion Supplement returned marked Deceased.

MISCELLANEOUS

World War II Patrol Reports:

There now is a site that has the war patrol reports of all WWII submarines available for your use. All submarines submitted a detailed report of each patrol they made. At the end of the war these reports totaled approximately 1,550 and over 63,000 paper pages. During the 1970's these were photographed and reproduced on microfilm to make them more easily accessible and easily reproduced (approx. 250 rolls). During 2008 a copy of this microfilm was scanned into digital format (110 GB), and in 2009 it was made available, 14 GB, at <http://hnsa.org/doc/subreports.htm>

If the print is small when you open a report, do a right click on your mouse then click on zoom. Play around with the tools to get your best view.

Submarine Magazine:

Ken Brenner found this URL on the Navy's web site:

<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/mag.html>

It's a link to the online version of a submarine magazine.

A closing thought:

I am not one to live in the past. I am happier with where I am in life right now than I have ever been. I am madly in love with my wife, I enjoy where we live, and I will be thrilled to spend my last fifty years in this house. But there is something rejuvenating about renewing old friendships. And I think Submariners may experience this more deeply than most others. No other branches of the service, fraternal organizations, or any other grouping of men develop the kind of bond that Submariners do. I have been to several family reunions, school reunions and boat reunions. Those boat reunions warm a spot in my heart like no others. And that feeling stays with me a lot longer than any of the others.

MAIL SACK

Steven E. Albert

I was attached to the Haddo while she was in Dry Dock getting her Sub Safe Overhaul in late 69 or early 70, and left her in Pascagoula, MS when she came in for a core replacement. Last was IC-2 nuclear power group. Why isn't my name on the crew list?

Reply from Ralph Stroede

Hi Steven, You have to request to be added to the crew list so that I can get your e-mail address. I have added your name to the crew list, please check it to make sure I did it correctly. I have forwarded your e-mail to Ray Butters, who is our Newsletter Editor and he

will add you to the Newsletter mailing list. Please send him some material about your time on board. I also sent your e-mail to Richard Noble, who is in charge of membership at the USS Haddo base of the USSVI, you may like to join. I hope you can come to the reunion. Welcome aboard and welcome home! Ralph Stroede MM1(SS)N 1964-1968 Plank Owner

Tom Bichsel

Hey Ray: Thanks for another great newsletter. You are doing a great job. By the way thanks for telling me about the Submarine Store. I got a great ball cap. / Were the sailors in the photos going through the canal. Identified? I think I am the one with the phones on by the sail. I'm wearing a poopie suit with no headgear. At least I think that's me. / I showed the newsletter to my wife. She asked if any other decommissioned boats have a newsletter. (Anybody got an answer on this for Tom?)

Daniel Cartwright

Hello Mr. Ralph Stroede, I'm curious about planned attendance of the St. Louis reunion. Anyway to post a list of "planned" and "committed" attendees? I've been in contact, several months ago, with some shipmates I'd like to see again, but haven't heard of their latest plans. As much as I'd enjoy meeting new ex-Haddo crew members, it would be great to know some of the crew from the 71-72 era would be there. That would help my decision making and its crunch time. Any assistance you can provide would be appreciated.

Response by Ralph Stroede

Hi Daniel, We have 75 people registered so far and know that some stragglers are coming in. Due to privacy concerns I cannot give you the entire list of attendees but if you write back and tell me who you are looking for specifically I will tell you if they are currently signed up. I do know that Dick Hillman is coming; he is on the reunion committee with me as is Ken Brenner. We all would like to meet some of you guys, I got off in 1968 and don't know much about the "gray lady" after that. I hope that you will come. Ralph

Response by Daniel Cartwright

Hey Gents: I was on Haddo between 71 & late 72 after Med cruises. Lowly SN at the time. Later transferred to WestPac.

Short story: We made the first FA extended med cruise deployment, over six months; recouped December in La Spazia, Italy after a marine shot a black marketeer over cigarettes in Naples. 7th fleet was pulled out, we stayed on to evacuate diplomats, 'cause the crazy Italians were wrecking the town and blocking access to airbase. The circus didn't get to the evacuation point. / After La Spazia, we snooped around and followed a Rusky boomer into upper Turkey naval port. Dropped off a "spook" early one morning - never to be heard of again. Left out and made a weapons run on Lybia. Yep we proved the firing solutions later used to zap Gadaffi family. Damn near ran aground except for the great ears of a 1st class Sonarman that reported hearing "...a train!... sir". We were that close! I was on the helm. Later the Ruskie caught us after going thru Gilbralter and had it not been for the "knuckleball" that Cmdr Scales ordered we were being "pinged" and tracked by one of Russia's newest and best ASWs. I don't believe they figured it all out. On the helm then too. / Lots of experiences on that boat. Most good, some not so good. As many had on theirs. / Anyway, there were many good shipmates onboard at that time. My days ended on the Haddo due to complications with the XO. Not to mention his name but he had been passed over several times and wasn't the friendliest man in the Navy. / So I can't recall most of the guys names, only a few. I'd like to find more. Some are lost to civilian life not to be found I guess. Even with today's technology. Thanks for the reply, gentlemen. And keep an even bubble; and maintain your hp emer blow systems. "Fair winds, and following seas". D. Cartwright

Bob Alcorn

I was on the Haddo from 68 to 70. Took it to the yards for the core change and mustered out. Rate was FTG2. Please add me to the contact list. Thanks, Bob

Mike Dunbar

Ray, I am sorry, I do not recognize your name, nor know when you served aboard the Haddo. I am a retired MMCM(SS) and served aboard the USS Haddo from Sept '76 to Oct '79 as a MM1(SS) (nuke). I would like to be added to the Newsletter distribution list if possible. In my Naval Career, I look back and the time I spent as a crewmember on the Haddo was probably the most formidable and memorable of times. The friends I had, and the times we shared are often rehashed in Sea Stories, tossed around campfires and bar stools. In my career, I only had the fortune of meeting up with one shipmate from those days, but have kept in contact with a few through the years. I am hoping to attend the reunion in St Louis and catch up with many more. Thanks, M. C. Dunbar MMCM(SS).

Don Feldman

I served on the USS Haddo from 2/77 to 10/80. I first served as Sonar Officer and 1st Lt and then as E-Div officer. My e mail addresses are dfledm6@aol.com for personal and dsfeldman@tva.gov for work. Don

Pat Healey

Ray, Would you please use Email to both paddydahat@verizon.net and paddydahat@bellsouth.net as I don't know which will survive my future move to East Tenn. Thanks for the classy news letter, save the bucks and Email it. While it was a joy to read up on everything it was a great sadness to read of the passing of Matey, perhaps the kindest person I've ever met, and Heff who was my watch partner that night when he declined my offer to check the coffee pot/scuttlebutt drain valve under the center line floorboards. Thank goodness the COB and some coffee hounds in the chow hall were there to save my butt. The COB chased me out of there after presenting Heff with a box of cotton swabs. I wish I had not been shipped to the Nat Green and had gotten to know him. Looks like he became a 4.0 shipmate. All the best, Pat Healey

Dick Hillman

Hi Guys, thought this would be interesting to the commissioning crew shipmates. Dick

David Randall Hinkle, CDR USN (Ret.), of Stonington, died at home on Monday, July 27, 2009. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in early 2008 but was able to continue his active lifestyle relatively unconstrained until his last several weeks. He remained in home health care and was surrounded by his loving wife of 55 years and his three daughters at his death. / Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at the Shepherd of the Sea Navy Chapel, Groton. Burial with full military honors followed at Elm Grove Cemetery, Route 27, Mystic. The Hinkle family invites you to visit www.mysticfuneralhome.com to share an online message of condolence.

Wayne Johnston

Ray, Just got the latest newsletter and had to read it thru, thanks for your keeping us updated on Haddo news. I need to ask you to change my email address on the roster, I now have high speed internet, no more dial up. Also put me down for email for the newsletter and you won't need to send me the paper one anymore. Looking forward to seeing you and Suzie in St. Louis in Sept. It is hard believe that 42years ago I walked aboard Haddo a 19 yr old seaman apprentice and at the next reunion I'll be a 62yr old retired person. I noticed that there are 4 Johnson's and 3 Johnston's on the newsletter roster, and I would bet that the 4 Johnson's were not all on the Haddo at the some time as we 3 Johnston's were. Thanks again Wayne "Little John" Johnston

Bernei Kolbmann

I was aboard Haddo from 1965 to 1966 as a YN3. The CO was Bob Chewning, the XO was Bill Sullivan, and the COB was "Red O'Hara" then "Doc Moriarity". Jerry Jolly left when Bill Weaver and I reported aboard. I was onboard for the Bermuda trip - I remember being helmsman arriving at/into the pier, and taking a good chunk of it. I was also on board for a very nice trip to St Croix, Christianstead, St. Thomas, and PR. I remember going ashore with "Harry Mathis - the Public Affairs Officer - who used quite a line to meet the ladies ashore, and on the cruise ships." I remember Lt Callahan returning aboard plus after getting his Dolphins. Man overboard drill. Remember COB? I also hope Dick Noble will forgive and forget me. And for COB O'Hara, remember your last reenlistment contract - I typed it exactly as you asked. / I also remember our QM2 Pat going through the straights in PR, and we lost the gyro; he immediately went topside, turned over his watch, and guided us with his compass on his wrist through those very narrow straights by inching around the rocky shoals by inches. What a navigator! Lastly, I was the helmsman when Captain Chewning was trying to clear a bag from the outer door of the GDU by all sorts of maneuvers that had never been tried before. Diving Officer Doc (In Training) was in total shock, but kept his cool as usual. / Enough of sea stories from long ago. I hope you guys have a great Reunion in St. Louis. Wish I could be there. I know if Louis Slaughter could cater it from Philly he'd make a fortune.

Reply from Ralph Stroede

Hi Bernie, I have added your name to the crew list on the web site. I'm sorry I don't remember you. Please check it and make sure it is OK. I served on the Haddo from 1964 to 1968. I believe the XO was Walt not Bill, I was #4 capstan on maneuvering watch and was on the Bermuda trip but don't remember hitting the pier, I remember us sinking a tug boat. At any rate, welcome aboard and welcome home! Ralph Stroede MM1(SS)N Plank owner

Cheryl Lowrimore

Ray, I just returned from a two week stay with Dave and Josie Hottenstein. Actually, I was in the hospital with Josie for 6 of those days. Just 3 weeks ago Josie went for her annual female check-up and her GYN found a mass in her abdomen. To make a long story short, she ended up seeing a surgeon and on Feb 18th and had it removed. It was malignant - Peritoneal Cancer. It originated in the Peritoneum or lining of the abdomen. As soon as she recovers (about 2 more weeks) they will begin aggressive chemo on her. It will consist of 6 treatments 3-4 weeks apart and each one will last 5 hours. / As you know, Dave is not well, he is either in bed or in his wheelchair at all times and has to have help in and out of both. Josie has been providing most of his care except for what the home health care nurses do and now she will be unable to do a lot for the next 6-7 months. / I am Scott Lowrimore's wife - we became

close friends with the Hottensteins when Scott and Dave served on the Haddo together back in the mid-late 60's. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers as they are facing a long haul. I'm on standby to go back to help when they need me as both of the girls have jobs and have already missed a lot of work helping with Dave. I thought you would like to know this but I don't know that I would put all of this information in the newsletter. Josie didn't even let Dave see the newsletter where someone was praising her for her care of him. He's pretty "proud" and has a hard time with his inability to do for himself. Thank you for all you do to keep us up to date on the Haddo's goings on and the friends we made while serving on the Haddo. You are doing a great job. God Bless you and your family. Cheryl Lowrimore

(Note: I did not include this e-mail in Dave's newsletter, so use discretion if you contact Dave or Josie. Thanks, Ray)

Guy Mendenhall III

Ray - Please take my name off of the snail mail list & add it to the e-mail list. Many thanks for all you have done & continue to do to preserve the legacy of the USS Haddo (SSN 604). Guy

Hal & Liz - Thank you very much for reminding me to accelerate my efforts to get off of the snail mail list & use e-mail to keep up with Haddo activities. When I received the most recent snail mail version of the newsletter, I told myself to do just that but had not yet done so. As in the past, I found the newsletter very informative - reminding me of events I'd almost lost in the depths of my memory & introducing me to "shipmates" I never knew served on the 604 / Haddofish. I only regret I have not been able to attend one of the Haddo reunions & this year is unfortunately not an exception to that track record. / You are probably aware of the following information but I'll include it just in case it is helpful to you and other Haddo crew-members. Another source of related information I've recently discovered is www.decklog.com, a navy-wide source which includes information on many, if not all navy ships, active & retired. That source has many crew-member listings for the Haddo as well as other ships on which I have served over the years. Thanks again for the reminder & best wishes for a prosperous & happy 2009, Guy

Dennis G. Osborn

Thanks for your time on putting out the newsletter. I'll never forget the Haddo for she was my first boat and still have many fond memories. Dennis G Osborn - TMC(SS) USN Retired

Cary (Rick) Polen

Hello Ray, I just read, and enjoyed immensely, the Feb '09 newsletter that is conveniently posted on Ralph's Haddo website. I noticed on the Haddo website that my email address was quite ancient. I've already sent an email to Ralph to update the website. The newsletter is awesome. Please add me to the email distro list, if there is one. Thanks for keeping the newsletter going. Cary (Rick) Polen, IC1/EM1(SS)(ret), Haddo Crew 1979-1983

Roger Rackley

It is with great regret that we are to inform everyone that our dear friend and shipmate Barry "Bear" Friedel has passed away. He went peacefully on January 25th, while staying in the VA Hospital with his wonderful wife Sharon and a Nurse at his side. No funeral service will be held as Barry's wish was to be buried at sea. Sharon is attending to those details of the cremation and ceremony. / In lieu of flowers or other sentiments, Sharon has requested that anyone wishing to remember our dear friend contribute to the American Lung Association in Barry's name. Since COPD was the major contributor to his passing, this would be the best way to honor him. / Sharon is coping well, and finds solace that Barry no longer has to deal with the pains of his illnesses that have troubled him for so long. / Our prayers our with Barry's family as they adjust to him no longer being with them. Roger and Veronica Rackley - USS Haddo 1986-1990

David W. Rhoades

Ray, I served on the Haddo from early March thru early June 1968. I was a CTM3 and, as such had to be on call for my team 24 hours a day. Therefore, I wasn't required to stand any watches while we were underway. I started working on qualification on April 16th and finished on May 29th, with CDR Muench awarding my Dolphins on the mess decks. The recommending officer was LT Gill. Thanks, David W. Rhoades, Kennewick, WA

Roy Shipp

Dear Ray, You can remove me from the snail mail listing, receiving the newsletter from email works great for me and I do not need a hard-copy. I always look forward to the newsletter. I am trying to contact as many from the early 80's as I can to come to the re-union in St. Louis, some are going to San Diego, it will be fun.

John Taylor

Hi Ray, I recently moved from Florida to New Mexico and wanted to give you my new address for the next Haddo Newsletter. I also wanted to tell you how much I enjoy the newsletter and appreciate all the time and effort that you've put into it all these years. Thank you.

Joel Tuchfeld

Dear Ray & Susie, Thank you for sending me your USS Haddo Newsletter in Feb 2009. I had placed it under a pile of paperwork when I moved to North Carolina just a few months ago. You really have a great newsletter but I have to say that I cannot claim that I am worthy of receiving it. You see I was only on board the boat during a two week stay in Groton. I helped out fixing your hovering system while the rest of crew was on R&R. I had a bunch of shipmates from the GW who I knew on the lower base repair shop who helped me out getting some ckt boards for it. Keep up the good work and may God Bless your family and shipmates. Joel Tuchfeld

Tom Williams

Ray, Thank you for sending me a copy of the USS Haddo (SSN604) Newsletter. I was the Assistant Navigator aboard her from 1984 to 1987. I can receive the Newsletter via e-mail and save you postage on the snail mail. I look forward to meeting all of my former shipmates at the USSVI Convention in September. Keep up the good work. Tom Williams, Base Commander, Central Texas Base

USS Haddo Newsletter Roster

(Blue indicates Lost Contact and will be deleted from next roster)

(Red indicates new or changed since the last newsletter)

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Happy Veterans Day - Thanks for Serving



