



USS HADDO NEWSLETTER



Editors - Ray & Susie Butters

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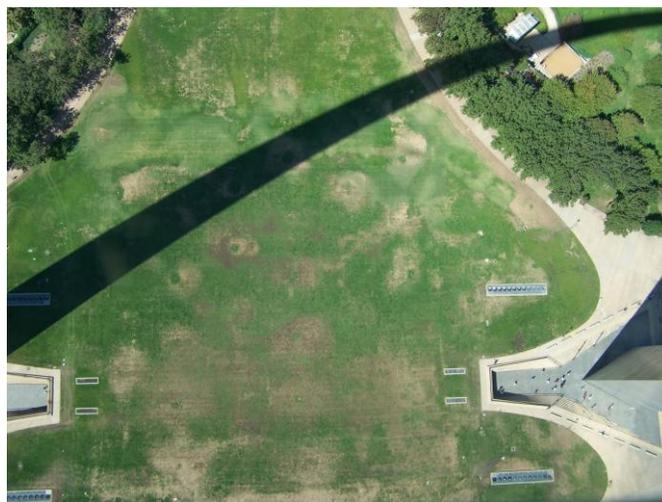
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Susie and I wish all our Haddo Shipmates and their Families a Wonderful Christmas, a Glorious New Year, and a Loving Valentines Day.



2011 HADDO REUNION

Susie and I pulled into St. Louis late Tuesday afternoon on 20 September. We got checked in, located our hospitality suite and banquet room, had dinner at TGI Friday's, and then crashed for the night. Wednesday, we toured the Arch; "The Gateway to the West". The engineering and construction that went into the project was simply amazing. We have passed through St. Louis on many trips across the country and had always planned to visit the Arch, but never did. I'm glad we didn't miss it this time.

The picture above and on the right is looking straight down from the top through small rectangular viewing windows. You can see the shadow arc across the top part of the picture starting at the base of the Arch on the left-hand side and curving off the picture and back to the other base on the right-hand side. This is about 630 feet high. Those little dots in the blue-grey area are people going underground to where the museums, theaters, gift shop, ticket sales, and entrance to the Arch are located. The designers put the entire infrastructure underground so as not to distract from the beauty and simplicity of the Arch.

Meet and Greet – Registration for the reunion started Thursday afternoon and familiar faces started gathering in the lobby. I asked Bob and Sandy Fehre to stop for a quick picture and since Bob felt unbalanced he grabbed one of the hotel employees (another tip-toed a peak from behind).



The two guys in the background are from the USS New Mexico BB 40. Their reunion was just across the hall from

ours and the guy with the hat kept coming into our room saying that we were having more fun than they were.



More early arrivals; Lance Andretta, the COB – Joe O’Hara, and yours truly.



can’t see me because I’m taking the picture) & Susie Butters, Rita Farro, Lance Andretta, Dave Montgomery, Bob Feher, Joe O’Hara, Sandy Fehre (hidden between the COB and Ed), Ed Bowe, Pat Mautner & Gerald Roch, Bob & Ginny Chewing, and Dick (maybe visiting the head) & Marie Noble. After dinner, most everyone went back to the hospitality suite and I think we all emptied out around two in the morning.

Friday got its start, by some, out on the golf course. Most only played 9 holes so that they could make the Arboretum Tour, but a few played all 18. Trophies were given out at the Banquet Saturday night, but I won’t make you wait until I get to that discussion to find out who won.



The hospitality suite started filling up fast. You may not be able to see them well, but I’ll tell you who they are anyway. The six seated in profile or with their backs to us, from left to right, are Bob Fehre, Dave Montgomery, Micheal Sofie, John Farro, Fred Santillanes, and Dick Noble. Facing us from that same table are John Viney, Gerald Roch & Pat Mautner, and Frances Frisch. Standing, just behind Dick Noble is Lance Andretta. Then, way in the back there are three faces you can’t really see; then there’s the COB with the hat, behind him is Ralph Stroede talking to Wayne & Patty Johnston (she’s in red). Over by the door are Dwayne and Eileen Capps.

Around dinner time, a few of us broke out for supper at TGI Friday’s (it’s attached to the hotel). First, we had a couple tables pulled together. Then, as more showed up, we started stacking tables end to end. We wound up with about two dozen people and six tables. Role call around the table is: Shirley Bowe, Betty & John Viney, Ray (you



Left to right: Adrienne Baughman, Greg Larson, Eileen Capps and John Viney. Adrienne was also winner of longest drive and Gregg Larson was winner of closest to the pin.

The Botanical Gardens were beautiful, but way too much to see for the time allowed. That’s what I was told anyway. I had signed up to go, but felt sorry for Sara Wagner when she and Fernley registered and was told that it was too late for her to sign up. So, I sacrificed my ticket. I tried to give

it to her, but she insisted on paying for it. If the truth be told, I really only signed up because Susie wanted to go. So, when Sara thought she was going to miss the tour, I saw it as a win-win situation.



I did accompany Susie, and a whole host of other Haddo people, on the Skyline Dinner Cruise. Something the gals may have missed, but for me, the dinning brought back memories of the Boats: we sat elbow to elbow, and there was a little motion under foot. Of course, the Boats didn't have live music. And these guys were definitely alive.

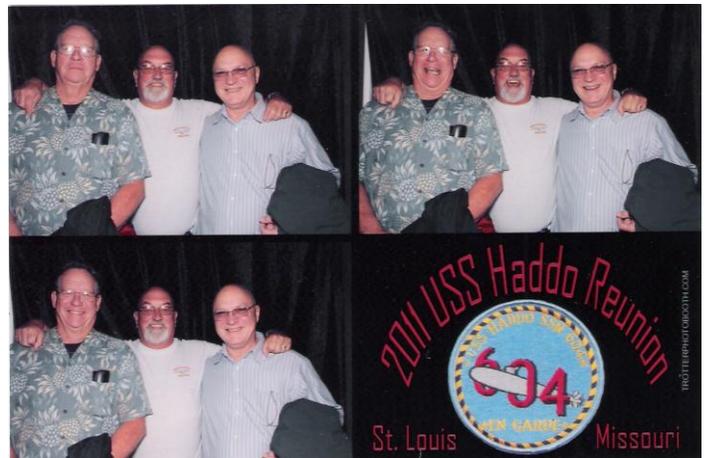


Nothing was scheduled for Saturday morning so Susie and I started our day off by sleeping in. The night before, Dick Noble told us about getting gas at Sam's Club for \$3.02 (I think). So, Saturday, we went looking for Sam's. We didn't find the one he told us about, but the one we found had gas for \$2.96. I can't remember the last time I bought gas for less than three dollars. Of course, I'm talking about recent times, because I do remember when I had my first car that gas was a smidgeon under 20 cents a gallon.

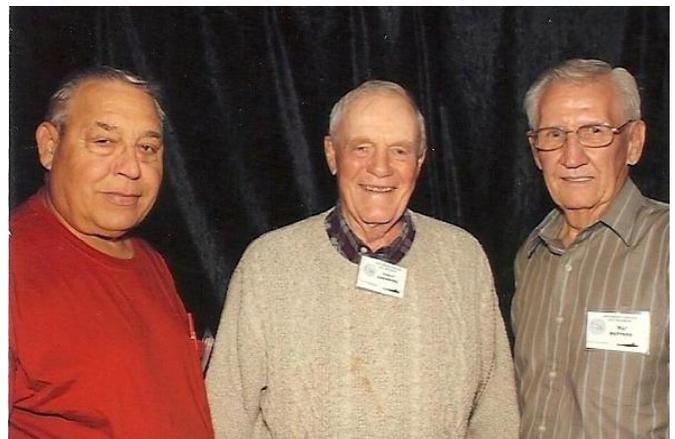
Saturday, the hotel helped us get into the festive mood for the banquet with a Wine & Cheese Social. That created a festive atmosphere and the evening just got better.



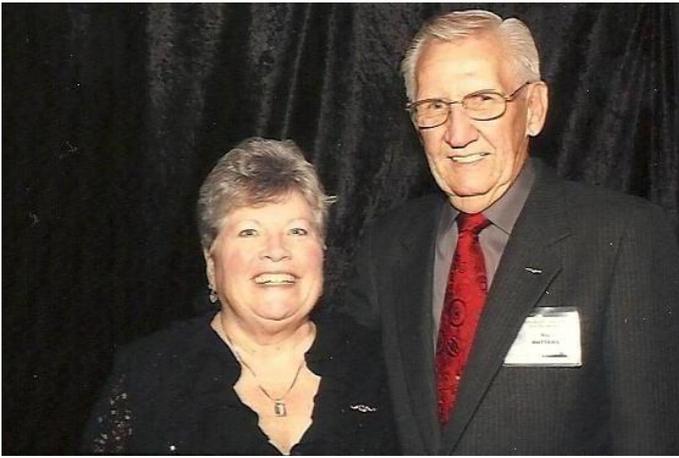
I ate some cheese and crackers, but substituted Maker's Mark for the wine. I may have been substituting my Maker's Mark for a lot of things, because starting Saturday morning I forgot that I owned a camera. Fortunately, the photo booth was operating during the W&C Social and I got a couple pictures. All you had to do was step into the booth, pressed a button, and posed for three shots. By the time you walked out of the booth, all three poses were printed on a 4 x 6 picture with the Haddo Logo in the bottom right corner. Here are some excerpts.



Dave Montgomery, Bob Fehre, Lance Andretta – Dressed for fun



Dick Noble, Bob Chewning, Ray Butters (the Sonar Gang?) – Dressed for wine and cheese.



Susie & Ray – Dressed for Dinner

The official group picture taking was conducted just prior to the beginning of the banquet. Those pictures can be found at the end of the newsletter.

At the back of the banquet room, the hotel placed an Ice Carving of the Haddo plaque. Cool, huh?



The Banquet began with some announcements and handing out the Raffle Prizes. And we had some good ones, like dinners at fine restaurants and nice tools from Home Depot. Of course you had to be there to win.

Richard Hillman was the Committee Member in charge of handing out the Raffle Prizes. That is typically a task where the person in charge can easily lose control of the audience. Well, Richard got very creative in that regard. He enlisted the help of Terry Elkins to entertain everyone during those humdrum moments between numbers being called. Terry reminded me a little of Dean Martin. He's not quite as handsome as Dean, or even as tall. But he did his whole routine with a drink in his hand (and several already swished down his gullet). I asked Richard later

about the insight of getting Terry's help, and he confessed that Terry simply volunteered, unsolicited.

I had the honor of being the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet and introducing our guest speaker, Gregg Larson, CAPT USN (Ret). He was Haddo's Commanding Officer from 1988 through Decommissioning. I attended the Deactivation Ceremonies for Haddo, but I don't remember Captain Larson. I was also the USS Gurnard Sonar LPO in the summer of 1970 when Gregg made his Midshipman Cruise aboard Gurnard. I don't remember him from then either. So, it was a real pleasure to meet Mr. Larson and present him at our banquet. And now I will never forget him. I mean that in a good sense.

He started by asking everyone to stand and join him in a series of toasts. His first toast was to the USS Haddo (SS 255) and her skipper Chester Nimits, citing Haddo's accomplishments in World War II. Then, Mr. Larson toasted the first skipper to command the USS Haddo (SSN 604); Captain Jack Williams. He went on to toast the 1200 plus men and their families who have served in Haddo. His last toast was to the United States Submarine Force; changing the course of the world.

Captain Larson described his approach to progressing through life; "Left Foot, Right Foot, and then the Left Foot again. He gave several personal examples where this has gotten him through disasters, hardships, life's little detours, and the unexpected. My mental picture of this was that life marches on; either you get in step and march with the parade, or you sit on the sidelines and watch the parade, or you go home and watch it on the Boob Tube. But life marches on.

Mr. Larson called one of his buddies that's still in the loop and told him about being the Haddo reunion's guest speaker. Gregg told his friend that he wanted to talk about Haddo's role in the Cold War and asked him just how much could he really say. His friend told him he couldn't say anything, and then advised Gregg to just tell a bunch of old sea stories. And that's just what Captain Larson did.

I'd relay some of them here, but I can't. They were classified. Not like in terms of National Security; more like in terms of personal privacy. And besides that, they were abbreviated. He substituted generic information for specific details, left out names, and told only enough of the story so that those who were part of the story got the full impact of the comic memory. There were enough stories that the targets, or subjects, of the stories were spread around the room so that everyone got a laugh. Even if you weren't part of that memory, inserting mental pictures of your own made you laugh.

Captain Larson closed with something quite familiar to a lot of us in the room, but I think it took some others by

surprise. Gregg said something to one of the guys sitting at his table. It was Frank Stewart, Gregg's XO on Haddo. Quietly, Frank stood up and said (in a cappella) "Submarines Once". Then he said "Submarines Twice", this time with a few voices in accompaniment. The next several stanzas of the chant were said in unison by most of the attendees. There were mixed feelings in those who've not heard the chant before, that ran the gambit from amused to offended. But, like the old saying goes; 'You can take the man out of the submarine, but you can't take the submarine out of the man'. Or, something like that.

I think the first time I ever heard that submarine chant was after I left Haddo and went back to the west coast. And it was at a Submarine Birthday Ball. It has probably been around longer than that, but that was my first exposure and it has been reinforced at every Sub Ball we have gone to since (multiple times at each Ball, in fact). In the earlier days, there was another common one about bat guano, but I can't remember it all.

At the conclusion of Mr. Larson's presentation, I had the pleasure of presenting him with a model of Haddo in appreciation for warming our hearts with memories of Haddo and dedicated it to the memory of all those who served in Haddo.



Who says there aren't Submarines in Colorado?

After handing him the model, I apprised him of the implication of the model's construction:

This model of Haddo was made in two layers of wood

The top layer of wood is Blackwood:

*The color of all the important ops Haddo performed
Most were dangerous and all of National importance*

The bottom layer of wood is Red Heart:

*Symbolic of the bond between the men who served in Haddo
Men who gave heart and soul to Haddo's successes*

*The base is made of Iron Wood:
Indicative of the synergy between
Man and Machine,
Mission and Duty,
Performance and Resolve*

*And the Brass Balls that support the model, speak boldly of the
Skippers who drove the Boat and led the Men*

In closing, I thanked everyone for making Susie' and my birthdays special. I explained that our birthdays are 10 days apart so we pick the weekend in between to celebrate. And this is that weekend. On our trip to St. Louis I turned 73 and the following week Susie turns 39. Then I got philosophical and I said: "I have found that the older I get the more time I spend thinking about the Here After. (pause) I walk into a room and I say 'What am I **here after**'?" At that point, we adjourned to the Hospitality Suit and finally got in bed around 0200.

Sunday morning was a mixed bag of feelings (not counting the headache). It was a long week and we were ready to head home, but we weren't quite ready to say goodbye. It's so emotional to see all those old friends and to know you haven't spent enough time with them. So, after a lot of handshakes, hugs, pats on the back, and (in Joe's case) kisses, we quietly said our goodbyes, loaded up the car and headed west.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

So far, there has only been one decision made about our next reunion. It will be in 2014. I know that we had just recently shifted from every three years to every two, but 2014 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Haddo (SSN 604). The Reunion Committee is going to be working real hard on how to make this a special reunion. If you've got any ideas that you think would help make this a special reunion, please contact one of the Reunion Committee members. They have gotten some suggestions for the location, but the more input they get from the crews, the easier their job will be. They could use ideas about the time of year, guest speakers, activities, food, dancing girls; okay, okay, I get carried away. Get wild in your thinking and let the committee know what you'd like to see for the 50th Anniversary Reunion.

We'll keep you updated with the newsletter and the website as we progress towards that special event, but start your planning now. If you've never attended a Haddo reunion, this will be the one to make. There will be shipmates there that have never missed a Haddo reunion, and there will be shipmates there that will be at a reunion for the first time. Don't take a chance on missing any of those shipmates. I will remember, for a long time, the weekend that I got to spend some time with Jim Jamison at

the one reunion he made. It gave me a chance to tell him how much he had affected my life.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

First off, I would like to apologize for being so late. The last quarter of 2011 has presented our home with more distractions than I care to talk about and that you couldn't care less about hearing. I was all jazzed about the reunion and that's the way I began the newsletter. Then, something came up. My next attempt, I started with a Halloween greeting, and then something came up. My next effort began with a Thanksgiving theme and this last attempt started with Christmas and moved right into New Years. I'm not sure when this will go out, so I even included a heart in the opening graphics. Being late is not the only thing to talk about, however.

The Haddo newsletter is on its death bed. The newsletter should be carrying Haddo news to you, the readers. With the exception of reunion activities, however, I have not been getting any Haddo news to adorn these pages. This didn't just happen last month; it has been happening for the

TAPS

Glen Morgan, passed away on October 28th 2011. From an e-mail from Glen's wife

Fred Waldman, RMC (SS), passed on Friday, 10/21/11. Chief Waldman served in Haddo during the period of 1976 -1977, and retired from Haddo with 23 years of active duty. Reported by John Briquelet.

Paul L Wiltberger, passed away on November 7th, 2011. Reported by Paul's son.

last couple years and has just gotten to the point of not being worth the effort. I really wanted to put my '20' in before I retired, but have decided that after 13 years I'll just transfer to the Reserves.

So, what's the impact? For Susie and me, it will mean an expenditure of a lot less time, energy, and money. For you, I doubt you'll even notice. You will still get an annual reunion notice and any Haddo news that presents itself will be included. For the reunion committee? Well, since the newsletter will amount to not much more than a reunion update, the committee will be sending it out, just as they sent out the last newsletter. Most of you will get it via e-mail, some will get paper copies, and still a few others will get it off the website. It will no longer contain a roster, however. If you want someone's address, contact Ralph, the Web Master, and he will send your contact information to the person you want to contact. Then it will be up to that person to contact you. Also, if you want to keep your address updated, send your changes to Ralph. If you want to help defray the cost of the newsletter, maintaining the website, and the expenses involved in the groundwork of organizing a reunion, please send your contributions to Ken Brenner, our treasurer.

Reunion Committee

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your reunion committee:

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Mail Sack

John Briquelet

Gents, Haddo shipmate RMC (SS) Fred Waldman passed on Friday, 10/21/11. Chief Waldman served in Haddo during the period of 1976 -1977, and retired from the boat with 23 years of active duty. Please add his name to the 'Eternal Patrol' list. He will be sorely missed. Thank you. VR, John Briquelet

Hal Clark

Hi Ray and Susie, We just received the great thank you plaque from the two of you. What a nice surprise it was to get such a nice memento and we already have a spot picked out to hang it. We were kind of down in the dumps for not being able to attend the reunion and that plaque sure helped cheer us up. Between a lack of money and Liz finding out she has breast cancer, it just wasn't possible to make it. Liz had surgery on September 20th and begins chemo treatments later this month. Hal heard all about the reunion from Terry Elkins and it sounded like it was great fun. Hal and Terry call about once a month and keep caught up with each other. You can bet come hell or high water we'll be at the next reunion for sure and want to thank you both again for such a nice gift. Hal and Liz

Brian Dawson

From a Facebook account for the 604

Wanted to share a story...Mare Island, 1983, just before we left the shipyard. Probably around November...I was a FNG, newbie, non-qual...and my first experience at the Horse and Cow. Playing pool against some biker with leather pants on. I was 19 (underage drinking was ignored back then!). This thug was pissed that I kept beating him with junk shots (I truly suck at pool!). So, he decided to start bumping into me while I was shooting...so I took a pitcher of beer and poured it down his pants! A melee ensues and our COB...Linguist was his name got the entire crew to back me and fight whomever was game! What a blast! After things settled down, our wonderful COB took me outside...threw my little ass (6'2", 210) against the wall and threatened my life!!! He told me that every decision I make affects the crew. And I better start making better decisions or I would end up on an aircraft carrier!! He scared the shit of me but to this day, I remember that lesson!

Bob Fehre

To Ralph Stoede

Morning Ralph, Sandy & I would like to thank you & Trudy for all your hard work on the Haddo reunion; a great time for all, although you probably had a harder time teaching me golf, (their aint iron or wood golf clubs), (stainless & aluminum), get the material matter correct. Again thanks, Love you guys, Bob/Sandy

Capt Bill Merz

Ray, Tim France sent me your address. Please add me to the distro for the HADDO newsletter (william.merz@navy.mil and bill_merz@yahoo.com) - I was a JO under CAPT Gregg Larson (my best CO) and would love to get back into the 594 game. All the best, VR, Bill

CAPT Bill Merz

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"While other warships may go into harm's way, submarines live there - Play Hard!"

Ken Patterson

Mr. Clark, Thank you for the newsletter! I have greatly enjoyed it. I was station on the Haddo (My first boat and qualified on her) sometime between 1989 through decommission. I have many fond memories of my time onboard. I also would have to say that it was the most rewarding out of the three I was station on. The other two are the Jefferson City and Hyman G. Rickover. Thanks again.

Frank Stewart

To Ralph Stoede

Dear Trudy and Ralph - I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation for all the work you put into the Haddo reunion this past week. No excuses, but it was my first boat reunion and you set a very high bar for the next one. I don't begin to know all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into to pulling one of these off but you certainly have it dialed in. Thank you for your tireless efforts that enabled us shipmates to share some wonderful sea-stories in a great venue. What a great time - I have 2014 programmed and I will do my best to make more than the Saturday events. Again, thank you and I hope you are able to unwind a bit before pressing on with the next one. Submarines once...Frank

Mark Tomb

Hi Ralph—Thanks for managing the website. The internet makes it so much easier to keep track of shipmates now, but still requires dedicated management. My highest rank aboard HADDO was LCDR when I was the Nav/Ops. I served aboard from 1988 thru decom, which I believe was in 1991. If you are a plank owner then you likely know Paul Callahan whom I served with at a later duty station. I trust the reunion was a rousing success. Thank you for your efforts. Mark

Paul M Wiltberger

Ralph and Ray, I am the son of Paul L Wiltberger and I wanted to let you know my dad passed away on November 7th, 2011. I found some newsletters he saved on his computer and that is how I tracked you two down. His request is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery and we will fulfill his wishes at a later date. Regards, Paul M Wiltberger



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

Commissioning Crew



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

1980's

Front Row, L to R: Steve Van Osdol, Malo Berry, Gregg Larson, Frank Stewart
 Standing: ???, Michael Sofie, David Waddell, ???, Kenneth Kolonkowski.



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

1960's

Front Row, L to R: . Pat McGovern, Fernly Wagner, Jack Taylor, Joe O'Hara, Roger Bannister, Ken Pittman, Bill Weaver, Ralph Stroede
 Standing: .?????, John Farro, Dave Montgomery, Terry Elkins, Dick Noble, Bob Feher, Tom Warner, Wayne Johnston, Gerry Roch, Fred Santilanes, Roger Ferguson, Lance Andretta, Ed Bowe, John Viney, Ray Butters.



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

Decommissioning Crew



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

1970's

Front Row, L to R: .???, Donald Payne, Richard Hillman, Willie Galvin
 Standing: Larry Krause, Terry Elkins, Joco Adams, John Vaassen, ???, Ken Brenner, David Waddell.



USS Haddo Reunion - St. Louis

Haddo Ladies