

USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 11

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Greetings, former shipmates. I apologize for this edition being a little later than originally planned, but with the crush of work and a three-week vacation in October (about which I'll write a little later on) this was the earliest I could get the newsletter out. A completely updated address list is enclosed. As always, if you have addresses for non-listed former crewmembers, please send them on to me:

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Notes from the Crew...

The 10th edition produced quite a bit of mail and other contacts as follows:

On March 18, a letter was received (too late for mention in the 10th edition) from Anthony DiNicola. Tony is at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Training Systems Division, Orlando, FL. His letter passed along an address for Fred Holmes and made mention of Carl Haines and Dan Cooper. Tony also expressed continuing interest in a reunion.

On March 26, 1994 (again too late for mention in the 10th edition) a letter was received from Richard Gill. Dick was Engineer Officer on Haddo from 1967-1969, and served in the nuclear submarine force through 1985. Dick is currently working as a quality assurance manager at B&W Nuclear Technologies in Virginia.

A long and informal letter was received from Fred Holmes on May 10, 1994. Fred served on Haddo from 1963-1967, and put 30 years in the Navy, all on submarine duty, retiring in 1989. Fred listed 15 former crewmembers he was associated with; five for whom we already have addresses, eight without addresses - names checked against our master list, and two deceased (E.W. Crite and M. Rice). [Fred, if you have anymore information, please write. Ed.]

A letter was received from Lou Storm on May 18. Lou put in 21 years with the military (Army and Navy), retiring in 1992. [Lou, somehow I do not have the addresses for Steve Able, Dale Ward or Bob Polk, whom you mentioned in your letter. If you have this information, please send to me for inclusion in the list. Ed.] Lou also mentioned a desire for a reunion at some point.

A most interesting letter was received from Michael Lintner (Haddo plank owner and former TMCSS(SS)) on June 7. Mike is sailing the seven seas aboard his 'yacht' DESERT STAR and reported having just sailed from Capetown, South Africa to Hamilton, Bermuda - 63 days at sea - to be followed by departure for Portland, Maine. Mike passed along an address for Joe O'Hara - Thanks, Mike.

Another long and informative letter was received from Charles Pittman on May 24, 1994. Charles served on Haddo from 1962-1964, departing just before commissioning. Charles also served on USS Piper (SS-409) and at Fleet Submarine Training Facility, Pearl Harbor. A substantial amount of information was provided about people on our "address unknown" list - thanks, Charles - all has been updated.

Cards were received from John Briquelet on June 20 and July 8, 1994. Addresses for two additional crewmembers were provided - Larry "Rudy" Rudisill and Jim ""Jocko" Adams. Thanks, John.

Darrell Brown sent a short letter on July 12 noting his new address and providing an address for Larry Rudisill, as well as lots of news about contacts he's had with former Haddo people as a result of the Newsletter.

On August 1, a short note was received from CDR Will Jordan (currently CO, USS Boston (SSN-703)), noting an address correction. Will had just returned from a Med. Deployment with the Saratoga Joint Task Group. Prior to the USS Boston, Will had command of the USS Ray (SSN-653). Will expressed his support for the Newsletter and hopes for a Haddo reunion someday.

On October 16, a postcard was received from Mike Lintner, mailed from Ireland - presumably DESERT STAR's latest port of call (see earlier note)?

Finally, on October 18, a telephone call was received from Dick Noble, expressing continuing support for the newsletter, and providing a wealth of information about early crew members and events - all promised in a followup letter that hasn't arrived yet. Maybe some good material for the 12th edition.

HADDO Mini-Reunion Held in Idaho Falls...

As I mentioned, I am a little late with this newsletter due to being on vacation for three weeks in October. Two of those weeks were spent with a friend in Idaho Falls, and while there I was able to contact all six former Haddo crewmembers living in the area. With the gracious hosting of Rod and Terri, I was able to get four of the six together for a reunion of sorts on Saturday afternoon, October 1 - Rod Taft, Don Koeppen, Gerry Gibeault, and Gene Perry. (Ken Ditto and Alan Rodgers were unable to attend.) All five of us overlapped our time on Haddo and so had many common experiences on board. Much beer, and my personal favorite, coffee laced with Jim Beam, was consumed. A wonderful dinner, thanks to Terri Taft, was had. Best of all, many sea stories were told and interesting people remembered. Far too much to write about here - a few one-liners will have to suffice:

- Gene Perry (not the tallest officer we ever had), standing watch on the bridge in towering waves that repeatedly broke over his head and flooded the bridge up to his armpits as Haddo rode up and down on the seas.
- Stories from St. Croix, Puerto Rico, Naples on the Molo, Taranto, Athens (anchored out), Rota, LaSpezia.

- Stories of long lost but well remembered crewmembers: Urbanowicz - remember how we all used to massacre his name?; Elkins; "Fuzzy" Gerald Chambers; Dale (Sleepy" DeCoursey; Joe Machingo; "Rat" Finnegan; McNutt; A-Gangers in general - what a bunch!; Londo, Southerland, Studebaker and a dozen more.
- A Halloween costume party in Pascagoula, MS with Hal Clark dressed as the Pepto-Bismol stomach bug (pink with polka dots), and Dick Stever as Father Time, among others. (No kidding, guys - I saw the pictures!)
- An ELT-sponsored bathtub gin plant under the deck plates in AMSLL during the Med Run.
- "Day Tank" Coffee, complete with my favorite flavoring as mentioned earlier.
- Clear plastic barf bags tucked in everyone's belts during a rough surface run off Hatteras.

Well, needless to say, the above should give you all some idea of the great time we had together. Where there are clusters of former Haddo crewmembers around the country, you really ought to get together sometime for a mini-reunion. If you do, and write me about it, I'll cover it in the newsletter.

After our mini-reunion in Idaho Falls, Rod took me fishing on the Snake River (he got the big fish for the first time in all the times we fished together while on Haddo - an 18 inch brown trout). And Don and Madeline Koeppen invited me out for dinner at "Jakes" in Idaho Falls (where their son is a chef, so we got the best of the best).

Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous ...

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by donations from Mike Lintner, Darrell Brown and Charles Pittman. Typing and address list maintenance by Bill Cook.

Rig for silent running (to crank up the mains again sometime in May for the 12th edition).

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season..

Mike Gann
Author/Editor