

USS HADDO (SSN 604)



Volume 1, Issue 15

November 1996

After last issue's "crunch" to get the newsletter out on time, I'm determined to get started early on this one. It's October 1 and the November mailing date is just around the corner. Once again, Greetings Former Haddo Shipmates! First off, since the last edition, I have moved to a new address, which is:

Mike Gann
907 Saint David's Lane
Schenectady, NY 12309
Tel. (518) 377-2560

As always, if you have changes of address or new addresses for former Haddo crewmembers, please take a moment to send them along to me. Our "membership" roster has been hovering at about 150 for the past several editions. There must be a few more crewmembers out there somewhere.

Notes from the Crew...

Last edition prompted only a very few letters, so the news will be brief this time.

On May 3, I received a note from Rick DiSalvo with photocopies of some bizarre clandestine logsheets produced by former watchstanders (?). It seems that he, "Rat" Finnegan and Don Koeppen created their own watch-turnover log to break the monotony of the return trip of the 1972(?) Med run. A sample of the entries follows:

"Assumed the guard, prepared to keep the world free from godless communism for another six."

"Commenced watch. Stopped primary gas-passing. Added 200# of pure explosive to the primary."

"Assumed the bag with two big ones and two little ones going that-a-way."

"Took elevator ride to surface. Commenced raining in AMSLL! I've seen fire and I've seen rain..."

"Formally accepted duties as supreme allied commander of AMSLL."

"Air in the banks, H₂O in the tanks; I had it - you got it."

"Hit the road, toad; I got the load."

Numerous equally colorful entries are recorded, but are too much to relate here. The "logsheet" would make for some great laughs at a reunion someday - a reunion which we will surely have.

May 13 brought a letter and donation from Steve Sass, who served on Haddo May '78 through July '79. Steve made the WestPac trip during which Haddo made a port call in New Zealand and was met by anti-nuclear protesters who bombarded the boat with balloons filled with yellow paint. Steve's career included service on Flasher (SSN-613), Drum (SSN-677), Michigan (SSBN-727), and instructor duty at West Milton and duty at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Steve retired from the Navy in July 1988 and currently works at the Bonneville Lock and Dam Power plant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

May 14 brought a change of address from Robert Nash. Address list updated - Thanks, Bob!

On June 2, I received an invitation to the Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony for John S. Almon, CAPT, USN at the Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, WA. I remember CAPT Almon as Engineer on Haddo during my tour. Later, if I recall correctly, he was CO of Submarine School, New London. I would have loved to attend, but timing, distance and cost prevented it.

The first of July brought a letter and donation from Bill Neff who notes he is "...currently working in Sarajevo, Bosnia...". Bill says he expects to be in Bosnia until December. He has moved from Virginia to South Carolina, and his address has been updated.

After a long lull, a letter from Lou Storm arrived September 17. Lou also sent a letter to Bill Cook along with a donation. Lou was Supply Officer on Haddo, then went to instructor duty at Naval Supply Corp School, Athens, GA, then to L.Y. Spear (AS-36), and finally to the reserves. Lou retired June 30, 1992, with 29 years of service. Lou provided addresses for Dale Ward and Bob Poulk - so noted Thanks, Lou!

Bill Cook received several e-mail responses since the last edition and notes them here...

Bill chanced across Dale DeCoursey's membership profile in one of the on-line computer services and sent a brief note. Dale replied, sending his address and an address for Dean Nyffeler, also an RO about the same time. Both addresses have been added to the mailing list. Dale is presently working for Westinghouse Hanford Company at the FFTF (Fast Flux Test Facility). Dale served on Haddo as Reactor Operator as Haddo began the refueling overhaul at Pascagoula, then went to "B" School and on to the Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN-600). Dale remembers Mike Gann and wants to know if Mike still has a Thunderbird?

Mike Zielinski sent an e-mail on October 1. Mike was recently promoted to LCDR, has been in the Navy for 27 years, and is currently assigned at the Trident Training Facility as Director of Training. Mike's e-mail address is included in the address list. Good to hear from you, Mike!

On May 4, an e-mail arrived from Ken Dundon MMCM(SS) RET, who served on Haddo from '78 to '80. Ken's e-mail address is on the list. Thanks, Ken!

Also received May 4, an e-mail from John A. Bailey who was a member of the commissioning crew. John sends thanks for efforts on the newsletter noting that he enjoys the news

immensely. John left Haddo in the Fall of 1966 to continue his education. He says it seems like yesterday. Thanks for writing, John!

One more e-mail arrived May 6 from Doug Covert, who served on Haddo from '72 to '76.

Bill also notes that one possible former crewmember stopped by his home while he and his family were away on vacation in late July or early August. The individual in question stopped and talked with Bill's neighbor for a few minutes, giving the name Paul Langston and explaining that he served in the Navy with Bill at some point. If you're out there, Paul, drop a note and help clear up the mystery, please.

And that's all the news since the last edition. The mail and phone calls definitely have dropped off over the past year. C'mon guys - sent a note, give a call! Let me and your former shipmates know what you're up to.

If anyone has an e-mail address and would like it listed on the roster, please drop me a note or send it directly to Bill Cook (wjc001@aol.com). Bill has included a few known e-mail addresses in the list with this edition.

Credits, Thanks and Miscellaneous ...

Envelopes and postage paid for in part by generous donations of Steve Sass, Bill Neff and Lou Storm.

Dive! Dive! Next edition - April 1997.

And... Best wishes for happiness through the holiday season!

Mike Gann
Author/Editor