



# USS HADDO NEWSLETTER



Volume 2 Issue 32 February 2006

---

Editors - Ray & Susie Butters

E-Mail - Ray DBF@aol.com

---

## FROM THE EDITOR

In November of last year, Susie and I attended the first held reunion for the Guitarro SSN 665 (my last Boat). It was at the same place Haddo's '03 reunion was held. The Guitarro reunion was followed by a family reunion, so from Connecticut we headed south to Georgia. This gave us an opportunity to cruise by Camden, New Jersey, Haddo's birthplace.

I looked for some of the old haunts, but absolutely nothing looked familiar – I mean absolutely nothing. (Maybe it had something to do with remembering going into Kelley's but never remembering leaving.) We had to stop and ask for directions to the shipyard. The gal that I asked didn't really know of a shipyard but told me how to get over to the channel where there were some boats and things. It was almost just a fluke that we came across the old New York Ship Building shipyard.

As we approached the shipyard from the south, memories started tiptoeing into my head. By the time we got to the main entrance, recollection pounded me like the shock of recognizing an old friend from 35 years ago who had not aged well.

I know that during the construction of the Guardfish (SSN 612), the shipyard lost their reactor keys and Guardfish was towed to Pascagoula, MS for completion. From the looks of the shipyard last November, it appeared to have been abandoned right after Guardfish left. It was a real sad sight; indigents sitting on the steps of doorways passing their brown paper bag between them; all the windows and doorways of every structure in the area were boarded up; shrubbery and vines taking over the aging brickwork; decay setting in all around with no chance of rescue.

As soon as I recognized the main entrance, I wanted to pull over and take some pictures. Just passed the next

street there was a vacant lot, so I headed there to park. As we approached the intersection I noticed a gal standing on the corner, probably waiting for a bus. Right after the intersection I pulled the car off the road into that vacant lot. Susie got the camera out of the glove box and I got out of the car. As I started walking back towards the intersection, the girl that had been standing waiting for the bus was about halfway to the car. It was about that time that I realized what she was doing standing on the corner and she realized I wasn't a trick. She did an about face and headed back to her place of employment.

I stood across the street from the main entrance with my recently purchased digital camera; setting up to take a picture and hoping that the guys and their brown bag didn't think I was gathering lunch-time evidence for their boss (figure the odds). After I maneuvered to a spot that was a compromise between the angle I wanted and the least amount of glare from the sun, I discovered that my battery was dead. Actually, it was my camera's battery that was dead.

So, I walked back to the car, passed the working girl who wouldn't even look at me, to get the 'point-and-click' 35mm camera that stays in the car for that emergency picture. I looked in the little fish-eye lens that told me I had one shot left, so I had to decide what was going to be my best shot. After quite a bit of mental debate, I chose the front of the old Post Office. That was the drop-off point for wives driving hubbies to work. The streets were narrow, so they would drive up onto the low curb, dispatch hubby, and drive away. I could hide some of the decay with the low hanging branches from a nearby tree and maybe get a picture that would bring back fond memories to some of you commissioning crew guys. Well, the camera lied. I tried to advance to the next picture and it wouldn't move. Like an aging actress that doesn't want to be

photographed any more, the shipyard wanted to remain an elegant memory to all those young men who passed through those brick and steel gates.

## 2006 HADDO REUNION

Enough about the past. Lets talk about the future so that we can all get together and talk about the past. Here's the latest from Ken Brenner about our long anticipated 2006 reunion.

In our last newsletter (August, 2005), I provided a status of the planning for our next reunion, to have been held on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi (near our old home port of Pascagoula). Well..... those plans were (unfortunately) "blown away" by a little matter known as Hurricane Katrina! The Biloxi-Pascagoula area was devastated by the wind and storm surge, and it's just not practical to have it there this time.

All of you should have recently received a nice update bulletin about the location change from Ray Butters (Thanks Ray!). The plans now are to have the reunion on October 5, 6, and 7 at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, Missouri. The contract has been signed and the deposit made. We have a block of 75 rooms, a 1200 sq ft hospitality room, and a large banquet room reserved. The discounted price per room is \$76. To reserve a room at the Radisson from the block we've been allocated, call the hotel at 1-888-566-5290 and ask for the USS Haddo rooms. **PLEASE DO SO BY JUNE 30.** We will have to relinquish any unused rooms at that time. If you make your reservations after June 30, you may still be able to get a room, but you will not get the discounted rate. This rate is available 3 days before, and 3 days after the reunion dates, subject to availability.

Date Change: I had to change the date from the traditional early-November to this time because Branson is already pretty booked for military gatherings in the first 2 weeks of November. Even with the move to late-September, early-October, I still had somewhat of a difficult time finding a hotel that had enough available rooms and banquet facilities.

I received a lot of great help from a military reunion specialist, Mary Slivka, at the Branson Visitor's Bureau (herself a Navy veteran). Here's how the selection process went;

1. Mary solicited bids for us from 11 hotels based on our projected attendance and budget.
2. I thoroughly reviewed all bids and narrowed the list to 3 hotels.
4. I called those 3 hotels to obtain detailed information

5. After careful consideration and review, I chose the Radisson Hotel as our reunion facility.

Registration will begin on Thursday afternoon, October 5th, in the hospitality room. The hospitality room will be open throughout the reunion. A Golf Outing will be held on Friday, October 6. The banquet and official end of the reunion will occur in the hotel banquet room on Saturday night, October 7. The guest speaker will be VADM Dan Cooper. The meal will be a buffet with 3 entrees, 3 side dishes, rolls, dessert selection, coffee, and tea. A cash bar will also be available.

A free Branson Vacation and Show Guide is available by calling Mary Slivka at 1-800-935-1199, ext 317 (identify yourself as a participant in the USS Haddo reunion). Or, you could e-mail Mary at [mshivka@bransoncvb.com](mailto:mshivka@bransoncvb.com) (please put "USS Haddo in the email subject line). There's ALOT to do in the Branson area and these guides will be a great way for you to plan and make reservations for the area attractions.

The biggest part (and probably the most important) of the reunion planning is complete, but there are still some action items left that I am working on. Things like, choosing the food for the banquet, developing an agenda for the banquet choosing the types of food and beverages for the hospitality room, and possibly making arrangements for a photographer. I know this list may grow, but I will address them as they come up and get things finalized as soon as possible. Ray will escalate the next newsletter so that you will have all the final planning info in July.

Many people are working on this reunion to make it successful for the crew. I so much appreciate the work and help of: Ray Butters, Dick Hillman, Dick Noble, Jim and Marla VanWyk, Ralph Stroede, and Lou Storm.

One last thing, if changing the date from November to early October has cause a scheduling problem or inconvenience for any of the crew, I'm really sorry. The hurricane forced a change outside of the normal "12 month" reservation window and this appears the best time to meet, based on a variety of factors. It is my hope that all can come and enjoy fellowship and good times with former shipmates.

I plan to contact some Haddo shipmates that I served with who are NOT on the newsletter distribution list. If you know of other Haddo shipmates that are not on the roster, please contact and encourage them to come. The more that come, the better the reunion!

Feel free to contact me with questions at 770-205-6083 or via email at [kwsg0913@bellsouth.net](mailto:kwsg0913@bellsouth.net).

## THANKS!

I have said this before, but I think it's worth saying again. When I took over the newsletter, I fully expected I would be doing it out of my own pocket. As it turns out, however, I haven't had to carry the load by myself. In every issue you have read this section called **THANKS**, because after each issue I receive contributions from shipmates that help me pay for the next issue. Sometimes I am fully covered for the next issue, sometimes not, but the most important part of this is I get that nice warm feeling that you guys enjoy the newsletter. And now, I would like to give you that nice warm feeling that I enjoy your support. Thanks!!

*Jim Adams, Powell Carter, Paul Callahan, Dale DeCoursey, Bob Fehre, Ron Larsen, Ed Mox, and Louis Slaughter.*

Of course, the newsletter would not be worth sending out if it wasn't for your e-mails and letters. The short stories and the mail sack certainly are what the newsletter is for. Please keep them coming. And you guys that promised me a story – I'm counting on you.

**Thanks to everyone for  
all your support!!!!**

## More Reunion Stuff

**New Faces** We're hoping to attract more Haddo Shipmates outside of our newsletter roster. Dick Noble has put ads in the following periodicals with that in mind: Fleet Reserve Association, Shift Colors, "All Hands", United States Submarine Veterans Inc., American Legion National magazine, "Sea Waves" magazine, and the Military Officers of America Association magazine. There is a good chance that this reunion isn't the one you want to miss.

**More About Golf**, *excerpts from e-mails by Dick Noble and Lou Storm* The Golf Outing will be held at the Holiday Hills Golf Course on Friday the 6th of October with the first tee time at 1:00PM. The course is an outstandingly fun course just a couple blocks from the Radisson Hotel -- VERY convenient. It is short, tight, and very pretty, and the temperature for this period is expected to be in the 60's and generally dry. This course is considered a forgiving course of play which makes it perfectly suited for x-sub sailors since we did not have a driving range and practice putting area on the boat. All levels of playing ability will be accommodated, so don't feel shy. It doesn't matter how

poorly, or by chance how great, you play; we're just going to have fun.

The cost for Green fees/Cart and ditty bag is \$35/person. Rental clubs are available at a cost of \$20. Both left and right hand clubs are available. We'll probably have prizes for the closest to the pin, the longest drive, and Champion team and runner-up. I'll have more information on that in the next newsletter. And, by-the-way, if you own your own company and would like to donate advertising trinkets for the ditty bag, like pens, knives, or other items, please contact Dick at [rmnoble@noblesouth.com](mailto:rmnoble@noblesouth.com), or Ken.

Lou says that for the serious golfer, you should build in an extra day into your trip to play Branson Creek, <http://www.bransoncreekgolf.com/>. This course, a Tom Fazio design, is incredibly beautiful. I (says Lou) have played over 500 golf courses during my lifetime, and when I first played Branson Creek last Spring, it moved into my "Top Ten Ever" golf courses!

Lou Storm and his wife Schelly own a Timeshare at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson (<http://www.big-cedar.com/>). For those who have the time and the inclination to spend some extra time in the Branson area, Big Cedar is a Five Star Resort with many recreational opportunities. It was developed by and owned by Johnny Morris, the founder and owner of Bass Pro Shops. Mr. Morris also created Dogwood Canyon ([http://www.big-cedar.com/dogwood\\_canyon/](http://www.big-cedar.com/dogwood_canyon/)), a Nature Preserve about 20 minutes Southwest of Branson. Dogwood Canyon is the combination of several ranches he bought. The tour is absolutely fascinating and even takes you into Northern Arkansas. The varied wildlife you will see will be MANY trout pools with trout over 20 lbs. Guided fly fishing tours are also available.

**Guest Speaker** Not only am I looking forward to hearing our guest speaker talk, I'm looking forward to seeing him again. He was my boss, back in the days when Sonar was in the Ops Dept., as opposed to the Weps Dept. when I left Guitarro.

If you don't know Dan Cooper, here's a little of his background. Mr. Cooper was the first person to report aboard Haddo after commissioning and served as the Operations Officer.

From Haddo he went to the USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN 642) as the Executive Officer of the blue crew (the crew that did not collide with USS Betelgeuse off Charleston in 1967) followed by a tour as the Aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Then back to sea in January of 1972 as the second skipper of the USS Puffer (SSN 652). After Puffer, "Captain" Cooper spent a couple years as the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Financial Management before becoming ComSubRon 10 in New London.

In late 1979 Dan became the Director for Strategic Submarine Program in OPNAV and in 1985 was promoted to Vice Admiral.

Admiral Cooper retired in 1991 after holding some pretty impressive jobs; like ComSubLant and Assistant CNO for Undersea Warfare. For the next ten years after retirement, Dan Cooper was involved with a variety of adventures. Then, in 2001, after chairing a study on Veterans Claims, he was nominated and confirmed by the Senate Veterans Affairs committee and sworn in as the Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs.

I don't know about you, but I sure am anxious to hear this man speak.

**Next Reunion** – I want you to start thinking about the NEXT reunion. Don't just say Okay, I'll think about it. I really want you to do some serious thinking and I'm going to test you. In the next newsletter I will ask for the results of those serious thoughts.

For the last couple reunions, the 'when and where' of the next reunion has been determined on the last day of the reunion by a small group of Haddo shipmates that attended an early Sunday morning business meeting. There's a big inequity in this process; you had to attend the reunion in order to have any say about the next reunion. When this was first mentioned to me, my immediate thoughts were - so what? If someone hasn't got enough interest to attend the reunion, why would they care about the next reunion? But then I got thinking about it. Two years ago, I found out that there was a reunion for my qualification Boat, the USS Bugara (SS 331) – yes, I'm old enough that all the Boats I served on were still named after fish. Anyway, this was the first time I had heard of a reunion for the 'Bug', and I REALLY wanted to attend that reunion. But, just before I was to send in my registration, I did a stupid thing; I severely (being a derivative of sever) cut my hand on my table saw. Consequently, I didn't make that reunion. But, I would certainly like to have some input about another reunion.

So, in talking with a few other Haddo shipmates, we've come up with a scenario (of course, in the next newsletter, one of the questions I'm going to ask you is if you have a better scenario). About a year after a

reunion, we will start polling the Haddo roster for the when and where of the following reunion. Then, we would select a volunteer at that upcoming reunion to coordinate the following reunion.

**Discussion for the 'when'.** My high school graduating class has a summer picnic every year and a reunion on the ten-year anniversaries. One of the other boats I was on has a reunion every two years. And, of course, the Haddo has one every three years. The one year picnics seem way too close, but the ten year intervals seem like forever. I try to make the Gurnard's bi-annual reunions, but even they seem too close. When I miss one, four years is obviously too long. Even the three years between Haddo's reunions seem too long. Maybe a 30-month interval would work. I'm not suggesting that we pick a specific interval, however. That poll will just ask for the date that you would choose for the next reunion. If we had a majority requests for the following year, or three years distant, we would simply put that majority choice into play.

**Discussion for the 'where'.** We initially started following Haddo's home ports as the location for our reunions, but Katrina sort of reshuffled the deck. If we stay with that process, however, San Diego would be next and then we would need a new process. So, this would be another factor that would just be determined by majority vote.

The most important thing about a reunion is maintaining that connection to a very special family. Location adds color, but almost any color will do. Since location based on Haddo's history is almost at its end, economics may be a strong decision point. The first two reunions were on the east coast and this next one will still be to the east of mid country. The cost of traveling from one coast to the other may eliminate some potential attendees. Not only due to the expense of traveling, but maybe even just the travel itself. So the where should be moved around the country to give everyone a chance to attend. Location represents another type of expense too. The last Submarine Birthday Ball that Susie and I attended in San Diego was very expensive (at least for our budget). The rooms were close to \$200 at the Sheraton and not much less at surrounding hotels.

These are things that the Reunion Coordinator stresses over from the time he volunteers until the next reunion. Having a popular vote will put those decisions on the people who would be interested in attending and free up the coordinator to make it all happen.

**Discussion for the Reunion Coordinator.** This is my personal input. Rather than lumping the selection of a Reunion Coordinator into the polling process, I feel the coordinator for the next reunion should come from the current reunion attendees. There's nothing like attending a reunion to see what works and what doesn't. It would be a great time to do a mind-meld with the current coordinator and build on his success.

I can't believe I have ranted for almost a whole page. Maybe my wife will edit some of this out (but you'll never know, will you?).

## FROM THE CREW

### Haddo SS 255 in Japan

*by Chris Seebald*

This is a no shi-er! Who knew a sea story could take 60 years to be realized.

August 18, 2005. I am flipping through the August issue of the Naval Institute's Proceedings. I spot a picture of the "Old Pro" and her nesting subs. A picture taken September 1945 at the Surrender in Tokyo Bay. I'm thinking the old Haddo SS 255 is embedded in the nest. The picture on the Proteus O-5 deck had each sub named, this picture didn't. So I read the caption. Holy Toledo, I'm startled to read that the 'The' Haddo is the subject.

What on earth is this article about? What role did the Haddo have besides being present for the surrender? The impression was that a portion of this month's articles would be on the 60th anniversary of the Japanese Surrender. But here's an account of a letter written home by Robert Taylor Rhea, at the time an ensign; a letter for posterity. Seems Robert and 6 other SS 255 Haddo officers were the First in Tokyo. The first allies to enter the fallen city. And to boot, they went unauthorized (breaking only a few orders and directives).

Here's the oddity of my story. The Haddo SSN 604 pulled into Yokosuka for a three week relax and refit on February 23. A directive or order as put out, placing Tokyo off-limits for the day or days of the state funeral for Hirohito starting February 24. Did this stop us Haddo sailors? No, of course not. I remember Doc, Cotton, Mathis (who had just been detached for 7th fleet shore duty) and a few (who I will remember) others took the directive and canned it. We took the train and arrived in the morning of the 24th. A gorgeous day, clear, brisk, the cherry trees were budding. As a group, we toured the entire city. All the impressions I had of Tokyo were the crowds, the bustle. But this day was a holiday and a day of mourning.

Very few people were on the streets and everyone we met was gracious and courteous. There were no anti-American sentiments, not even a dirty look.

So what is it, fate? Reading the account was fascinating. However I had the queer feeling of a connection, a 44 year divided parallel. In both stories, past and present, the atrocious Tojo and Hirohito are gone, a significant closure of WWII, and in both, the crew of the Haddo is there to enter the imperial city, against command orders. And after 60 years and the publication of Mr. Rhea's letter, two Haddo's, two groups of ambitious Haddo sailors and two distinct stories are netted.

## ROSTER UPDATE

**Roster Changes:** We've added a few new names, lost a few old names, and made a bunch of changes. Check the 'Running Roster' for a complete list of Haddo sailors who are now or who have been on the Haddo newsletter roster. As always, new names and changes are in **red** and losses are in **blue**. To all our new guys, I offer a sincere

*Welcome aboard the Haddo  
Newsletter.*

*(And don't forget to send me some stories)*

If you would like to get a hold of a shipmate, please contact me at raydbf@aol.com.

### Taps:

**Jack Finley**, SK2 (SS), passed away last Memorial Day weekend.

**Harry Frank Heflin**, 81, died Nov. 26, 2005. He served three years as Radioman 1st Class on the USS Haddo (SS 255) under LCDR Chester W. Nimitz, Jr and was also present at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

**Robert Rhea** (Reported by Chris Seebald). Robert was aboard Haddo (SS255) for her 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> patrols. He was one of seven officers who were First in Tokyo on Sept. 2 1945. He resigned his commission in 1947.

**Richard Scales** passed away on 12-31-2005. A lot of you knew him as 'Captain'. Richard Scales was one of the fine skippers of the Haddo (SSN 604).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### A School Report,

*by Katherine Butters*



This is a little tidbit that I decided I wanted to share with you. It's a very impressive letter that I received from my youngest Granddaughter. She called me one day and said she was doing a report and wanted to know if she could ask me some questions about my time in the Navy. Of course, I agreed. She fired questions like a seasoned investigative reporter and never once asked me to slow down with my answers. I thought maybe she was looking for some specific information and most of what I rambled about wasn't of much interest. So, when I got her letter, I've got to tell you, I was impressed. I know this is about me, but as you read it try to think of the eleven-year old girl taking notes rapid fire and putting it together in a readable format.

*My Grandpa Ray is a veteran of the Vietnam War and the Cold War. The submarine he first served on was the USS BUGARA (SS 331). He joined the Navy in 1958 but being in the submarines was not his goal. He wanted to be a pilot. To be a pilot, though, he had to take a lot of tests. The surprising thing is that he past them all! Then he was told he needed a two-year college degree. So he went to get that but he failed the English part, so now he couldn't be a pilot.*

*Then one day an officer said he was taking in volunteers to work aboard Submarines. At first he didn't like the idea, but after he volunteered he said it was like his passion. He was working aboard submarines from 1959 to 1974. He went on his first one for four years! Imagine that! There wasn't anything really special about it. It was fairly old, but it was a good ship because the Captain always made it sea-worthy. Balao was its class.*

*There were three classes and four different subs that Grandpa Ray served on over a period of 15 years. His favorite submarine to serve on was the second one, the USS HADDO (SSN 604). It was his favorite one to work on because of the skipper. The Skipper made a difference in his life, also there was a good crew. They went on some really neat trips together. The end.*

Go ahead; smile. I did.

**Memorabilia** - The only Haddo items that I have left over from the 2000 reunion are several plaques. They are laser engraved walnut with brass relief of the Haddo logo. They are absolutely stunning. If you're interested, please contact me.

But, if you want other Haddo stuff, like ball caps, T-shirts, coffee cups, etc., or even kids and infant (read that as toddler, not the way some sailors act) items, here's web site for the Haddo Store:

<http://www.cafepress.com/usshaddo>.

**A Call For Help** - This was probably a mass mailing, but I received an e-mail that I thought I would pass along.

*My husband is dying from mesothelioma, a cancer caused from asbestos. He was an engineer employed by New York Shipbuilders to build the Pollack. Do you have any information on any contaminated parts on the Haddo ?*

*My sincere thanks,*

*Linda Reinstein, Executive Director and Cofounder  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)*

*Linda@AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org*

*www.AsbestosDiseaseAwareness.org*

**Web Site Down-Load** – I would like some feedback on this. I have gotten e-mails from about a half dozen Haddo guys saying that they could download the newsletter and I wouldn't have to send them a paper copy. I like the idea for two reasons. First, each copy that I send out costs about \$1.25. So, obviously this would save money. Secondly, it takes Susie and me about a week to print out 250 copies of 7 or 8 two-sided pages, collate, fold, and stuff into envelopes that we labeled and stamped. Those aren't eight-hour days of course, but the point is that it's a big job that is tacked onto the big job of writing the darn thing. Additionally, for every issue, I have at least 3 or 4 and as many as 12 returned newsletters. Most of the time there is a forwarding address but beyond the forwarding time, but many times it is just undeliverable and I have lost contact (and you know how a Sonarman hates to lose contact). So, having you download the newsletter is appealing to me. I have about 150 e-mail addresses in my roster. That represents a large savings in time and money (assuming that they are all good addresses and that everyone of them would want to get their copy off the Haddo Web Page).

I do see some drawback to this idea, however. This first one is purely my vanity, but if you enjoy the newsletter I can see how you could enjoy that little surprise twice a year as you go through your mail and find this thick envelope stuffed with Haddo news. Well, I warned you that it was vanity. I see two other drawbacks that are a little more real. I have solutions to both of them, but still, it's a change, and you know how people dislike change. The easiest one to fix is the fact that I am not as regular as your quarterly stock statements and you would not know just when to go looking for the newsletter. Even though I try to get them out in February and August, I have been known to slip. Last year, Harold and Liz Clark volunteered to e-mail

everyone who would subscribe to this idea so that you would know when to check the Web Site.

The other drawback involves your personal privacy. I list the names on my roster in the web issue but I do not add the addresses like I do in the paper copies. So what I could do is provide a complete roster, upon request, to

those who wanted that information. The roster in the web version of the newsletter is still color coded so you could easily see whose address has changed and you could just send me an e-mail and ask for the specific information you want, or some similar method.

---

## MAIL SACK

---

### **Jim Adams**

Dear Ray & Susie. I just finished the latest newsletter and as always I thoroughly enjoyed that little walk down memory lane, as I always do. It was a great job, as always. Every time I read a newsletter I tell myself I need to drop a line to let Ray & Susie know how much I appreciate their hard work (also Mike Gann before you). Mike never got his letter so hopefully he will see that this is for all of you. Every time I see that envelope in the mail I have to stop everything else and read it right away. So what I want to say is thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this project. I'll show my age a little now, if I could manage to put together a complete story I will send it, but so far I've not been able to do so (well not that could be published anyway).

I hope the enclosed will help; another thing I've meant to do for years. Hope all is well with you and Susie and the entire family. I'm looking forward to your next publication and our next reunion, where ever that may be. Thanks again, Jim

PS I almost forgot (see I told you - another CRS attack) to give you my new address.

---

### **Darrell Brown**

Hi Ray. I am writing to let you know of my address change. Since I have been working for the State Department, my address has changed frequently. Now I am living in Bangkok, Thailand. I just completed a one year tour in Baghdad. When I was there, one of the things I looked forward to is your newsletter. Seeing what old shipmates are up to is always nice.

I sure made some serious course changes after being an auxiliaryman. Now I am a Foreign Service Officer. Go figure! Knuckle dragger to cufflinks. Some days though, I long to be hanging out with my boys in Air Regen or aft TR by the Gyro, giving the TM's the hard time they deserved. Of course, Torpedo Men (read A-ganger wannabes, that's why they are MM's now) were always kinda slow, so we kept our word length to four letters or less, so they would understand. And some chief would always break up the love fest before hammers starting smackin aft bulkheads. Dee and Dave, that's about right ain't it? LOLOL

Oh yeah, I digress. Ray, please add my address change to your roster. Darrell Brown

---

### **Powell Carter**

Dear Ray, I received the August 2005 HADDO Newsletter and, as always, enjoyed reading it. Enclosed is a check to help defray the Expense of producing it. We are fortunate to have you and Susie willing to edit the Newsletter and keep it going. As I sit in my study and look at the plaques and memorabilia from the ships I have served on, I am not aware of any that have a comparable vehicle for keeping memories alive and shipmates in contact. The anecdotes you include often send me to my notes from my back-to-back tours on HADDO (Nov. 62 to Apr. 67) to revisit that important period of my 41 years in a Navy uniform. The picture in the August issue with Elmer Mann standing behind the fashion model is an example. I had the good fortune to serve with Elmer again years later when he was in charge of the floating drydock in Rota, Spain. Of all the commanding officers I had in SUBRON SIXTEEN at the time, I felt Elmer and the CO of the tender had, by far, the toughest jobs. Elmer was perfect for his assignment. Calm, professional, experienced, and fair, he was key to the success of an essential unit of the deployed squadron.

I keep intending to sit down one of these days and try to put down on paper a couple of my own HADDO anecdotes. First I need to discipline myself to buckle down and do it rather than giving in to the competing tasks – something I seem to have more difficulty doing as the years go roaring by. We shall see.

Thank you again for your fine work and also to the others who have contributed to making the HADDO Newsletter so enjoyable. Powel Carter



**Ray Coons**

Ray, I received the newsletter the other day and did not know that it is posted on the Haddo website. To save postage I can get it from the website if you will only e-mail me that it is posted in the future. Ray Coons

---

**Don Cronin**

Ralph & Ray, Please add my name and this e-mail address to the website list and change it on the mailing list. I have just started checking out the site and it looks great. Received the newsletter a couple of days ago and just sat down to read it. It is always a good read and brings back memories of a brief part (1970-1971) of my 28 year career in Uncle Sam's Underwater Canoe Club. I was QM1(SS) on Haddo and was selected for QMC before transferring to Pickerel. I went on to make LDO and retired from CSG-6 in 1991 as Communications Officer (LCDR). I retired last year as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety at the College of Charleston. I had to miss the Charleston reunion due to an out of town conference I was very involved in. In light of recent happenings in the Gulf Coast area I guess the 2006 reunion might have to be moved. I will do my best to make it. Thanks for the very informative and well done Haddo website and newsletter. Warm regards to fellow Boat Sailors, Don Cronin

---

**Al Dow**

Hi Ray, I just received my first news letter, and I'd like to thank you for a job well done, also please be advised that I can print my own copies from the internet so please save the cost of mailing to me.

I am glad that you mailed me this copy because I have some very strong questions for you about the last page of pictures!! When and where did this take place, as I was on the first Med Cruise and I don't remember this taking place? I know that we had some great liberties, and I took some great day trips while we were in port, but I don't remember this as a happening and rest assured I would have remembered this!! The minute I saw the picture of you and Claude I remembered you as putting a name and face together. I also remember that coke machine very well; it took a long time for me to be invited into the sonar shack to have a coke.

If your memories serve you well or if you have any pictures of the dependents cruise we had in Charleston, Claude's dad and my dad shared much of the trip together and the Capt allowed my dad and I to have a picture taken together, my dad was on the stern planes position and I was on the inboard position at the helm.

Ray no rush but please let me know about the date and place of those pictured. Thanks again, Al Dow

*(I informed Al that the very first Med trip, for some unknown reason, really wasn't called a 'Med Trip'. We just went there to shoot up the Mediterranean Fleet that had never been exposed to a Nuc before. We only pulled into two ports in Italy and two ports in France. When all the other scheduled ports found out what the 'N' was for in SSN, they said thanks, but we don't want your kind in our port.)*

---

**Ron Eaton**

Ray, I hope this will be my last address change. I had the reunion update forwarded to me and I realized I had not informed you of the change. Hard to say how many others I missed. We are in the process of having our retirement home built so I believe we are there to stay. I am still doing consulting work at Los Alamos National Laboratory which I enjoy. Maybe I will never really retire. Anyway I enjoy your news letters and I hope to make the reunion, I have always wanted to go to Branson, MO. Best regards shipmate, Ronald Eaton

---

**Mrs. Ola F. Heflin**

A friend of ours sent in an obituary and notice of my dear husband's death, Harry F. Heflin R 1/C. I appreciate what she did, but she was not aware of the fact that his service was on The Diesel USS HADDO SS 255. My husband was always honored that there was a Nuclear Sub 604 that was named after the Diesel Haddo. If his name is to be listed I will be very pleased for you to list it under the correct boat.

In checking your list of crew members on 'eternal patrol' I noticed the name of Al Viebranz. He was an officer on the Diesel Haddo. Do you have a separate list for that boat? If you do, I can supply you with other names of

deceased crew members because I have acted as secretary for the crew for several years. (Especially the officers, like Richard Downing, Chester W. Nimitz, Frank Lynch, etc.). They were a tight group for many years, and still meet annually at Reunion Time.

Thank you for your fine work. We have never received your newsletter. My contact information is: Mrs. Ola F. Heflin 113 Denver Trail Apt. 305, Azle, TX 76020 Ph. 817-270-3614 olie.heflin@charter.net. May I subscribe?

*Alice Whisman is the friend Mrs. Heflin spoke of. Alice found the Haddo web site while searching for a picture of the 255 for Mrs. Heflin. If any of you have a picture of the USS Haddo (SS 255) that you could spare or scan, I am sure Mrs. Heflin would appreciate it.*

**Gregg Larson**

Ray: As the last CO of the SSN 604, I'm interested in participating in the 2006 reunion. Please include me on your mailing list.

As far as distinctive memorabilia that might have general interest, I do have a "video" of the decommissioning ceremony -- which certainly means a lot to me, and has significant footage of the ship/crew topside in San Diego during those last days in 1990, including a speech by ADM Williams, the commissioning CO.

Just FYI, after decommissioning HADDO, I spent the next six years at the war college in Newport as a student/"professor" - then retired, and have been working as an engineer for Exelon (nee ComEd) in Northern Illinois ever since. Gregg Larson

---

**Joe Martin**

Ray, My name is Joseph C. Martin Jr. and I recently met Marc Swinger who had a Sub plate on the front of his truck, we started talking about the different boats we were on and discovered we both spent time on the USS Haddo. He gave me your information and said that you do a newsletter. I would appreciate getting on your mailing list. I was on the Haddo from 1982 to 1984. Thanks

Joe Martin MS2 (SS)

Joseph.martin@totalsalesolutions.???

---

**Ed Mox**

Ray, A little something to help out. I missed the last two gatherings, maybe the next one. How do I order a hat?

---

**Nolan Romero**

Ray my name is Nolan Romero. I served on Haddo from Oct 1964 to May 1967. I was an engineman. I would like to be on your mailing list. I am trying to track down Robert Bobby Webb, Don Gorence and Larry Knapp.

---

**Chris Seebald**

Ray, Biloxi and Gulfport got the worst of the Katrina. News coverage of the area reports everything along the waterfront devastated. Unfortunately, I would surmise 13 months is not sufficient to rebuild the area. You'll probably have a number of e-mails proposing a re-evaluation of location.

I have Greg Dunkle's address and tn#. Greg was an FTG1 on board Haddo last 3 years and through decomm. In early spring 2005 had Greg had pos. neurofibromyalgia and surgery to remove tumor in spine. He is married and has been an avid diver. Chris

---

**Louis Slaughter**

Hi Ray, My first time writing you, and I just wanted to let you and the Haddo crew know a few things about myself. I am a Haddo Plank Owner and left the boat in '65. I retired in '76 as a 1<sup>st</sup> class steward. I was due to make E-7 two months after my retirement, for which I would have had to extend my service two years to accept, but decided to retire anyway. I had taken the XO to a Captain's Mass, and won the case, and thought my career in the Navy would have been black balled.

I am 74 years old now. Five years ago I had a heart transplant and have been doing quite well since. I have two children, five grand children and 1 great grand child. Four of my children are named, Louis B Jr., Louis B III and Louis B IV.

Another reason I am writing is to give you my new address. I have moved, since I had a fire in my home. Thank God all are safe! I'm not much of a letter writer, as you can see, but I did want to let you know that I look forward to and enjoy reading the Haddo Newsletter. I'm also looking toward the 06 reunion and seeing old shipmates and meeting new friends. As Always, Shipmate Slaughter Sr.

---

**David Waddell**

Mr. Butters; I travel a great deal between my job and field archaeology/paleo asfonowral research and have been remiss in correcting my address. I still have the rubber mold for the ship's plaque and the franking stamp. If you'd like these, let me know. I was the last "COB" and the fwd crew chief who put the Haddo to sleep. Take care, shipmate. D. Waddell.

---

# Reunion Registration Form

## USS Haddo SSN604 and SS255 2006 Reunion

**Your registration form must be returned no later than 1 July 2006**

I plan to attend the 2006 USS Haddo reunion to be held on October 5, 6, & 7 in Branson, Missouri.  
*Name badges will be provided with the first name and last name. Use the name you prefer to be called (i.e. Kenneth Brenner will be Ken Brenner).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

The cost for the reunion is \$40.00 per person (*Refundable only if you cancel before 21 September 2006*). This price includes the Saturday night banquet, hospitality room, snacks, draft beer, set-up for hard drinks, and the set-up for the 'cash bar' at the banquet. Hard liquor in the hospitality room will be on a BYOB basis.

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the *Haddo Account*.

Mail the check and this registration form to:

Ken Brenner  
6865 Buckingham Circle  
Cumming, Georgia 30040

Please check if you are interested in participating in the Golf Outing, to be held Friday, October 6, 2006. The cost per person will be \$35 and will be paid at the time of the outing (*please do NOT send this money with your registration*).

Please check if you would like to attend a No Host group breakfast Sunday morning, October 8, 2006. This is not part of the reunion, but would be an ideal time to say goodbye to old and new friends. There are many places for small groups to eat breakfast in Branson, but if there is enough interest for a large group, we will have to make arrangements.

Feel free to contact Ken via email ([kwsg0913@bellsouth.net](mailto:kwsg0913@bellsouth.net)) or phone (770-205-6083).

### REMINDERS:

Phone Number for making Hotel Reservations: 1-888-566-5290 and ask for the USS Haddo rooms.

For a free Branson Vacation and Show Guide, call Mary Slivka at 1-800-935-1199, ext 317 and tell her you're with the Haddo Reunion.