



# USS HADDO NEWSLETTER



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## From the Editor:

To all:

Sorry I am late getting out a newsletter, I only have the following message from Ray Butters concerning reunion.

### ???? Reunion Ray Butters

I reported aboard Haddo in the fall of 1963. I was 29 years old; nowhere near the oldest (the COB was about 36) and certainly not the youngest. I left Haddo in January 1967, after having been extended in the Northern Atlantic. My Haddo experience is over 50 years old, which means that the bulk of the guys that I served with then are now 70 to 90 years old. Even the guys that were in the Decom Crew are in the 50 to 70 year old bracket now. And just because it's the way life is, we've lost a lot of good friends in those ensuing years.

But we also share some great memories. A lot of those memories have been kept alive from personal letters, phone calls, and visits and a great deal more through the various reunions we've had. It looks like, however, that those reunions are coming to an end. Partly because a lot of us are getting old. And maybe because the reunions just don't have the meaning that they used to. Our reunions would probably have stopped several years ago had it not been for our reunion committee headed by Ralph and Trudy Stroede. I did the newsletter for about a dozen years and finally got burned out, so I can understand Ralph wanting to hang it up. He has asked for someone to take over the helm, but as of yet no one has volunteered. So, I have an idea.

Susie and I hosted the first reunion in Charleston, SC in 2000. My call to arms was "200 in 2000"; 200 shipmates at the reunion in the year 2000. We didn't quite make 200, but it was a great reunion. Well, Susie and I have decided to try it again. "200 in 2020". We hosted the first, why not host the last. (That's not a prediction that this will be the last, but the indicators are...) But if it is, let's go out with a bang.

It's always been hard for me to ask for help, but for this to be a success, we need some help. Let me know where you would like the reunion to be held. I think it should be somewhat central so that shipmates on both coasts can get there. When would you like to have the reunion? In the past, September has been popular. If you want to have it earlier, keep in mind that Susie and I need time to make all the arrangements. It should probably be in an area that has historical sites or sites of beauty, or fun or entertaining activities, or just plain things of interest. We would like to have it at our house, but the most that we have housed at one time was over Thanksgiving two years ago and that was 15 people, not counting Susie and me. And about half of them were stackable. So, please, give us an idea of what your thoughts are on location and time frame.

Not only would we like some input on the 'where' and 'when', we would like physical help too. Once we know the 'where' and 'when' Susie and I will get more organized and then I will be looking for some helpers for specific tasks. Susie and I got this thing rolling, but a lot of people since then have set some pretty high standards; we have a pretty high mark to shoot for.

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