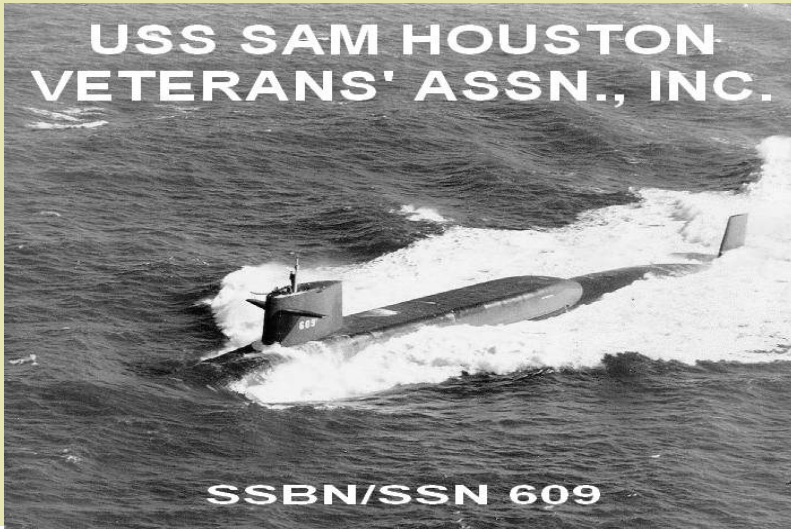


USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



IN THIS ISSUE

Sam Houston Medallions	p. 2
Reunion Info	p. 2
More About the "Bail Out"	p. 3
A Member's Vanity License Plate	p. 3
Eternal Patrol	p. 3
Howard & Mark Mazur in D.C.	p. 4
Sam Houston Jacket	p. 4
Blue Nose Summons	p. 5
Holy Loch Reunion	p. 6 & 7
Shipbuilder's Plaque Replica	p. 7
Pictures From Don Rairdan	p. 8 & 9
Pictures From Jim Marker	p. 10 & 11
Russian Trawler	p. 12
Airlift of "Speedy" Gonzalvez	p. 13
Save the Clamagore	p. 14
More About the Christmas Story	p. 15

3^d Edition 2012

A Society of Distinguished Naval Veterans

Web Site: www.USSSamHouston.org



The Raven



An official publication of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn., Inc.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shipmates & Associate Members:

As usual, I hope that all of you have reasonably good health. I have a reminder of the deadline to register for the reunion if you plan to attend—more info inside. This will be a great reunion, and I hope that you can attend. Do not be concerned that you might not know any of the shipmates who attend. One of the purposes of our reunions is to make new friends while rekindling friendships with the old ones.

The previous issue did not include all of the material that I had received from members because I had to limit the size of the newsletter. I included all of the Plank Owner comments related to Big Sam's birthday, but much of the other information was omitted. Those omissions are included in this issue.

I've been receiving lots of good comments on the quality and content of editions of "The Raven," but the credit goes to those who submit their pictures and memories. Please continue to do so.

Hoping to see you at the reunion,

Howard Dobson [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1969-1972]
8 Colony Blvd Apt. 338C
Wilmington DE 19802-1426
Phone/Fax: 302-764-1197

USS SAM HOUSTON MEDALLIONS (CHALLENGE COINS)

Sales of medallions for the SSBN and SSN configurations of the boat are ongoing. The major difference between the coins is the dolphin side of the coins that addresses the two different missions of the boat. The SSBN version costs \$12, while the SSN version costs \$15. (The cost difference is the result of the need to create a new mold for the SSN medallion. The SSBN design was in existence before our first order of those medallions.)

SSBN Version



SSN Version



To order the coins, send me a check or money order: Howard Dobson
8 Colony Blvd Apt 338C
Wilmington DE 19802-1426

These coins will also be available for purchase at the 2012 reunion in Charleston.

Howard Dobson

REUNION INFO

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THIS YEAR'S REUNION. The deadline for my receiving your registration form is 09 Sep. Allow 5 days for transit through the mail. Hotel guest room reservations have a deadline of 24 Sep.

Everyone should have received a Reunion-Registration Packet for the reunion. If not or if you've misplaced the one you had, you can retrieve another from the web site <www.USSSamHouston.org>. If you do not have Internet access, call me at 302-764-1197, and I'll mail you another.

I think that you will enjoy the tours. At the Cold War Submarine Memorial, we will be dedicating a granite memorial bench that the SHVA purchased. Lunch will be in the CPO Mess aboard the carrier Yorktown afterward. These are just two of the many things planned for our tours on Thursday and Friday.

I will be sending a Business Meeting Agenda to those who register. This will save time at the Business Meeting. The main time-consuming business at the meeting will be general geographic locations for our next two reunions and whether either will involve a reunion aboard a cruise ship. I will also propose that the SHVA have a small plaque placed in the US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. That will cost \$3,000; thus, it will require donations specific to the cause.

Howard Dobson

MORE INFO ABOUT THE “BAILOUT”

[Ed. Note: The following article relates to one that was in the previous edition of “The Raven” which involved a “bail out,” later to become known as an “Emergency Blow.” The boat had a down angle of about 45 degrees.]

“The Bailout event was my first patrol. I was sitting in the galley eating and facing aft so that I could see the Chiefs’ table. I did not know what to think until I looked at Chief White’s face, and he looked like a dead man . . . that was when I realized we were in deep shit. Just sat there holding onto the table so that I would not fall over backward wondering what it was going to be like when the bulkheads collapsed. When they passed the word “loss of all hydraulics,” it sounded like a dead man telling the living why they perished!

“I can remember what the Throttleman looked like but can’t recall his name. The RO played a key roll as well. The reactor was held at under 100% power by driving rods; thus, pulling stored heat off the coolant. Those reactors followed the steam demand; so, if he would not have driven rods hard, the reactor would have tried to match the 110% steam flow that was being pulled by the Trottleman, and the reactor would have scrambled . . .The End.

“The event started from a hydraulic leak in the aft end of the Engine Room. In trying to isolate it, the Auxiliaryman ended up isolating Main and Vital Hydraulics. He did not report the leak prior to trying to isolate it.”

Doug Antonelli
[ET2(SS), Blue, 1967-1968]

A VANITY LICENSE PLATE

This license plate belongs to one of our own:

Brad Lawrence
[IC2(SS), Gold, 1972]



ETERNAL PATROL

After issuing the previous newsletter, I learned that the following three shipmates had received orders for Eternal Patrol:

George H Sanderson [TM2(SS), Blue & Gold, 1967-1970]; departed: 25 Nov 2011

Ronald B Anderson [MM1(SS), Blue]; departed: 23 Jul 2011

John Parchman [IC1(SS), Gold]; departed: 2001?

HOWARD & MARK MANZUR MEET . . . AGAIN

In early May 2012, **Mark Manzur** [STS3(SS), Gold, 1979-1982], our Treasurer, was in Washington, DC for a conference related to his job. I took a train to DC to meet him for dinner at the hotel where he was staying.

If any of you happen to be with Mark and a trivia contest occurs, you want to team up with him—he is a wizard! Of the many questions asked, I only knew the answer to one question that he did not know.

Howard Dobson



DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS

In past newsletters, I requested that anyone who has knowledge of vendors that offer special discounts to military veterans let me know so that I can pass it on. I didn't receive any info about discounts for veterans, but **Larry Check** [ETN2(SS), Gold, 1967-1970] sent me a list of discounts available to seniors. That will be somewhat helpful as many—if not most—of our members are seniors. The list is extensive but poorly organized. I have been cleaning it up as time permits for issuance to our members. Thanks, Larry.

Howard Dobson

USS SAM HOUSTON WINDBREAKER

Charles "Chip" Porter [ETN2(SS), Gold, 1971-1976] appeared in an article in the previous newsletter with his personalized jacket purchased in Guam. I purchased a top-quality windbreaker recently. The jacket with embroidery (not silk screen printing) on both sides as shown cost me about \$173. The jacket costs about \$65 with only the Dolphins and boat name and hull number.

I purchased it from Naval Shopping.com that is owned by a Navy widow, Bonnie Upton. This vendor is a member of The Alliance of Military Reunions of which the SHVA is also a member. Bonnie offers countless items that have nearly limitless personalization capabilities.

Visit the web site at <www.navalshopping.com>. If you do not have Internet access, call me.

My wife loves red; so, I will be ordering her a similar jacket in red (a special order for color, but no additional cost.) Great jacket!



Howard Dobson

BLUE NOSE SUMMONS

Below is a copy of the Royal Summons issued to **Jim Royal** [EN2(SS), Gold, 1964-1966]:

ROYAL SUMMONS

USS SAM HOUSTON ON ENTERING
THE DOMAIN OF BOREALIS REX

NOTICE & LISTEN YE LANDLUBBER

Marked III I ORDER AND COMMAND YOU *James Aguirre*
TO APPEAR BEFORE ME AND MY COURT
AT SUCH TIME THAT MAY BEST SUIT OUR PLEASURE,
TO BE INITIATED INTO THE REALM OF THE BLUE NOSE.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR YOU SHALL BE
GIVEN AS FOOD FOR THE POLAR BEARS, WALRUS, SEAL,
SEA LIONS & ALL LIVING THINGS OF THE SEA, WHO WILL
DEVOUR YOU HEAD, BODY, AND SOUL AS A WARNING TO
LANDLUBBERS ENTERING MY DOMAIN WITHOUT WARRANT.

YOU ARE HEREBY CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING

OFFE
orders
movies
, 254



1. Disrespect towards
my movies to ensure all good
name & hanging out in a

PENA

OBEDY OR SUFFER THE

Davy Jones
DAVY JONES
SECRETARY OF HIS MAJESTY

REG

WANT TO VISIT THE HOLY LOCH AREA?

Have you ever wanted to visit the Holy Loch area again? An opportunity exists that might make it feasible. The Site One Holy Loch Assn. is having its 2013 reunion in Scotland as indicated in the following announcement:

The 2013 Site One Holy Loch Association Reunion will be held in Dunoon, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, Scotland including the Cowal Highland Gathering. It is scheduled to be August 27–September 4, 2013. The Association officers in association with our "on the ground" members have worked out an itinerary.

Proposed USN Site One Reunion 2013 Scotland – Cowal Highland Gathering August 27 – September 4, 2013



We have contacted a tour organization to put together an almost all inclusive reunion tour that will take us from Glasgow to Loch Lomond, to Dunoon and to Edinburgh with points in between and it all includes admission to two full days at the Cowal Highland Games in Dunoon, possibly three days in Dunoon.

This tour is a complete package, not including airfare, and can not be broken up into a menu type tour. We must get at least 20 people minimum to take advantage of the price. It is similar to the previous packages we had at Charleston, Branson and Norfolk.

Aug 27: Arrive at Glasgow Airport

Private Airport Transfer to Glasgow Hotel
Dinner & Overnight: Hilton Glasgow

Aug 28: Glasgow

Today we will enjoy a panoramic tour of Glasgow City.
Dinner: On your Own
Overnight: Hilton Glasgow

Aug 29: Stirling Castle, Loch Lomond, & Dunoon

Today we will depart Glasgow and head to Dunoon for the Cowal Games.
Dinner: On your Own with friends and family
Overnight: Glenmorag Hotel

Aug 30: Cowal Highland Games - Dunoon

Today we will head to the stadium and enjoy the games. After the day's festivities we will head back to the hotel for dinner before joining the Ceilli dance in the town center.
Dinner & Overnight: Glenmorag Hotel

Aug 31: Cowal Highland Games, Day Two - Dunoon

Today will be the final day of events with awards being presented at the conclusion. We will have dinner at the hotel before enjoying a parade and fireworks display in the town.
Dinner & Overnight: Glenmorag Hotel

WANT TO VISIT THE HOLY LOCH AREA? (cont.)

Sept 1: Dunoon to Edinburgh via The Famous Grouse Whisky Experience

Today we will depart Dunoon and head to Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. You will have time to relax before dinner tonight in the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight: Ramada Hotel, Edinburgh

Sept 2: Edinburgh

Today we will take a panoramic tour of Edinburgh and visit Edinburgh Castle. We will have dinner tonight as a group in the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight: Ramada Hotel, Edinburgh

Sept 3: Tour to St. Andrews (possibly eliminating the St. Andrews Tour for more time in Dunoon.)

Tour of St Andrews. We will return to Edinburgh for a night of Traditional Scottish fare and entertainment at a Scottish Banquet.

Dinner: Scottish Banquet

Overnight: Ramada Hotel, Edinburgh

Sept 4: Return to The States via Edinburgh

This morning we will head to Edinburgh Airport for our return trip home.

Pricing:

\$1499.00 per person with 20 – 29 paying passengers sharing a double/twin/triple

\$1449.00 per person with 30-48 paying passengers sharing a double/twin/triple

Price includes:

All transportation to and from airports

All breakfasts, 6 dinners

All hotels

Not included:

Airfare

[Ed. Note: You would be on your own to schedule flights to and from Scotland. You would fly into Glasgow, but the return flight would leave from Edinburg. If you need more information about this reunion or the Holy Loch Assn., please visit its web site at <<http://www.holyloch.org>>. If you are interested and do not have Internet access, call me at 302-764-1197. 2013 is an off year for an SHVA reunion.]

Howard Dobson

REPLICA OF THE SHIPBUILDER'S PLAQUE

I located a vendor that can make a reduced-size replica of the Shipbuilder's Plaque. I don't know the exact dimensions of the original, but I think that 15 in. wide X 12" in. high would be good size for the replica. The material of the original is most likely bronze, but I think aluminum will be good for a replica. Aluminum will be much lighter but the color will not match. Bronze is available but at a much higher cost. Bronze will be a much heavier material but a better match in overall appearance. Aluminum will cost \$394 and weigh about 10 lb.; bronze, \$711 and 28 lb. I could reduce the size of the replica to reduce prices.

Nevertheless, a vote of the members will be required to spend the money. This replica will be displayed at our reunions. Transporting 10 lb. will be easier than 28 lb. I'll pursue this at the reunion.



FROM DON RAIDAN [MM2(SS), BLUE, 1975-1977]

"After reading the latest newsletter, I realized I should have chimed in earlier in response to when the 609 crossed the Date Line in transit to Guam. We were three days out of Pearl, heading for Guam, when I was informed my brother had died. This was 10 Nov 75, so it was probably a few days before we crossed the Date Line. I think it took about 2 weeks to get to Guam, but not sure. The first patrol out of Guam (#37) would have been in late '75.

"I got to Pearl in Aug 75 and hooked up with the Blue Crew waiting for the Big Sam to arrive. The attached pic [below] is of the Big Sam coming by Ford Is. for the first time. I sat on the Boat Launch/Seaplane Launch on Ford Is. for a couple hours waiting for her to come by so I could get the picture. We knew the approximate time when she was to arrive. I do remember her being a week or so late.

"There was a change of command shortly after the 609 got to Pearl. Commander Rich was the new captain. He was the one to inform me of my brother's death. Although he was the only captain I served under, others have said he was the best. I was really sad when I heard he was on Eternal Patrol. May he rest in peace.

"I was attached to the 609 (mid-'75 'til May 77) from graduation of Nuc School. Found out I could get discharged under the Sole Surviving Son clause—a year and a half after my brother's death. I was up for E-6 when they changed the rules and added another year of service to be eligible. This kind of upset me, and I decided to get out.

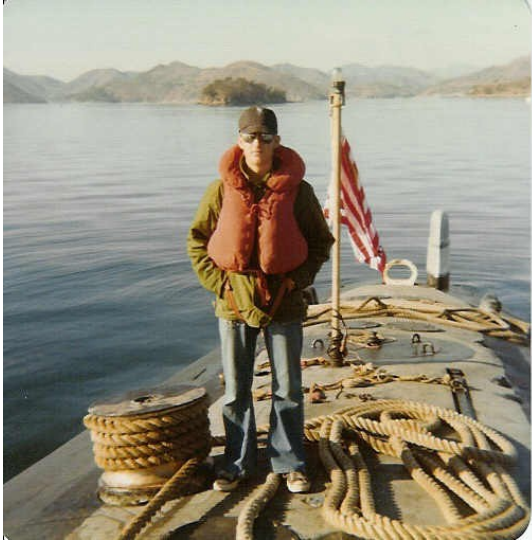
"I did three patrols--37,39, and 41. Very memorable time of my life. I will attach a couple more pics of the time on the Big Sam."

Hoping to make the 2012 reunion,

Don 'Gabby' Raidan



MORE PICTURES SUBMITTED BY DON RAIDAN



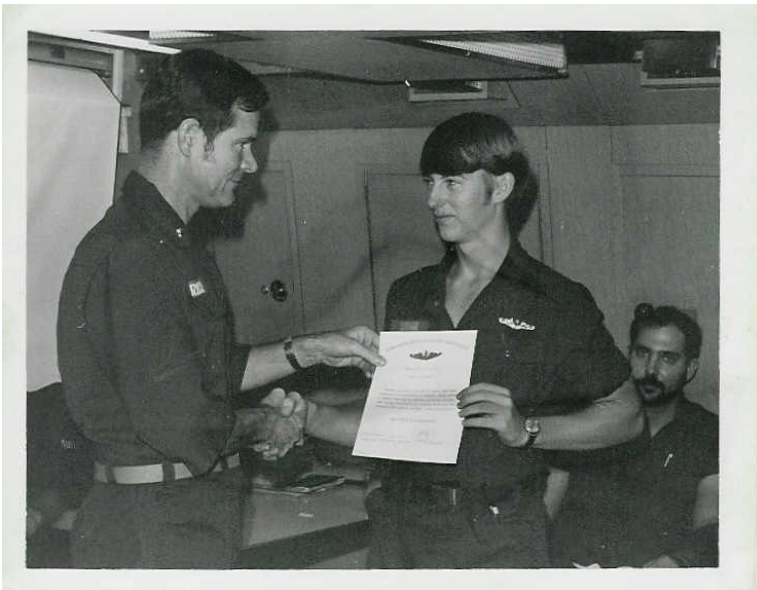
Don in Korea.



Don in Korea.



Don in 1977.



Don receives his Dolphins from Capt. Rich—1976.



Gary Hinkle, Ralph McGarry, Ray Gilles,
Jack Wilson, Russell Richardson, & Frank Woechan
in Korea.

PICTURES SUBMITTED BY JIM MARKER [IC2(SS), Gold, 1967-1969]

Jim said, "Unfortunately, I didn't put dates on the backs [of the pictures]. The missile firing was probably from the Gold Crew Shakedown Cruise after leaving Portsmouth yards—maybe around May 1967. I forgot my Qual Date as I don't have my DD-214 with me, but I think it was late 1967 or the first Gold Crew Patrol of 1968—the same as the Halfway pictures. The one with the bunch of people in it might be good to put out for those who recognize people.

"As a sideline, the Dolphins that Capt. Bivens pinned on me were later pinned on my son when he qualified on board USS Columbia, SSN 771 in 1998!"

Jim receives his dolphins.



HALFWAY PARTY PICTURES (probably 1968) FROM JIM MARKER



Lots of guys. Can you identify any?



Left-to-right:
QM3 Speidel, IC3 Marker, & STS3 Stewart

REMEMBER SEEING A TRAWLER LIKE THIS ONE SOMEWHERE?

David "Doc" Jenkins [HMCS(SS), Blue, 1964-1967] submitted the following picture:



In the picture below, the close-up of the bow reveals a sonar dome AND a torpedo tube!



David comments:

"We used to wave to them when leaving Charleston--Russian Trawlers. Do you remember these pesty little bastards? They also used to be waiting for us when we came back from patrol. Night or day, e.g., 0400.

"These are photos of a Russian fishing trawler in drydock. This is one of the peaceful group of fishermen we passed every time we entered or left Holy Loch, Scotland; Charleston, etc. on FBM patrols."

“SPEEDY” GONZALVEZ AIRLIFTED FROM THE BOAT

In this year’s first edition of “The Raven,” pictures of **Speedy Gonzalvez** [MT on the Blue Crew] appeared. The article mentioned that he had to leave the boat while on patrol for medical care related to a brain aneurism. **Bill Rawson** [STS1(SS), Blue, 1962-1965] submitted the following picture of Speedy being airlifted from the boat by a Royal Navy helicopter:



ANY LEAD ON THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE?

Mike Snare [ETR2(SS), Blue, 1968-1972] wishes to contact **Russ Mann** [ET(nuke), Blue, 1968-1972 or 1973]. If you have any idea on where Russ might be, please let me and Mike know.

In last quarter’s edition of “The Raven,” information in this section of the newsletter resulted in locating a sought-after shipmate—**Richard Slocum** [MM1, Gold, approx. 1962-1966]. **Bob Bishop** [MMCS(SS), Blue & Gold, 1960-1970] was trying to find him. **Don Asmund** [MM1(SS), Gold, 1965-1969] responded with a suspected location for Richard; it was a valid one. Incidentally, Richard went on to become the Master Chief of SubPac! Bravo Zulu.

Howard Dobson

“SAVE THE CLAMAGORE”

The United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI) sent me the information below just as I was about to begin mailing this newsletter. The information is significant not only for keeping the museum out of the scrap yard, but because she is at Patriots Point where we will visit during our reunion in Charleston. You may board her then if the ship remains open to the public. Please read on and consider making the donation requested—you will be surprised!



The Clamagore (SS 343), the last Guppy III submarine, is destined for the scrap heap.

Clamagore, still serving as part of the Patriots Point museum in Mount Pleasant, S.C., needs a multi-million dollar overhaul. Unfortunately, neither the museum nor the state of South Carolina has the money to fund the refurbishment. And if we, the past and present submariners of the world don't save Clamagore, she will be sold to the highest bidder for scrap. None of us wants to see that.

The **USS Clamagore Veterans Association** has established a website to help raise enough money to keep Clamagore out of the smelter's pot. Here's how you can help. Click the yellow button above and donate \$2.00. **That's right, just 2 dollars!** We're counting on the tens of millions of current and former submariners all over the world to save the Clamagore—2 dollars at a time!

You may also send your donation by check or money order to:

**Save The Clamagore
c/o George Bass
110 River Birch Drive
Salisbury NC 28146**

Donations to the *Save The Clamagore* fund, under the umbrella of the Clamagore Veterans Association (a 501(c) tax exempt non profit), are fully tax deductible. Your thank you note will include all of the pertinent tax information.

And please, pass this site on to all of your shipmates, friends, relatives, and anyone else who might be interested in helping.

\$10508.97 raised as of 17 July 2012

ONE OF THE PLANNERS OF "CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS" IDENTIFIED

You might remember an article in this year's first edition of "The Raven" about a Christmas party that the Blue Crew held for children in an orphanage. **Ed Rabbit** [RM1(SS), Blue, 1964-1965] provides the following comment:

"The article on the 'Christmas for the Kids' in the orphanage in Holy Loch is pretty much correct. I and a Storekeeper, a 1st class at the time as I was (I don't remember his name), were the two guys on the plane who started this get-together and approached the captain to get permission to do to it. However, the money was collected after quarters topside the first day we took over the boat as "Stores" stood at one hatch, and I at the other, took up the collection. Stores and I went to town to buy the gifts, and it is true that the merchants, when they found out what we were doing, cut the prices in half. We had a hard time spending all the money—it was somewhere around \$350. We were supposed to get 40 children, but one got sick and could not come aboard; so, we had 39. I was one of the daddies and had a 6-year-old little girl that I still remember very much this day with tears in my eyes. I will say it was the best Christmas present I ever had in my life with those kids that day. I tell my grandkids about it as often as I can so that they realize how well they have it in this country. I, for one, will never forget that Christmas. It also was the first Christmas away from my kids, but it was worth every minute of it."

The next edition (October) of "The Raven" will NOT serve as a reminder to register for the reunion because it will be issued AFTER the registration deadline.

Thus if you plan to attend the reunion, please do not let the deadline pass. Your presence at our reunions is essential to the enjoyment and subsequent success of our reunions. Not only can you help relive the memories, but you can rekindle old friendships and make new friends.

Hoping that you can attend the reunion,

Howard Dobson,
Chairman & Reunion Planner