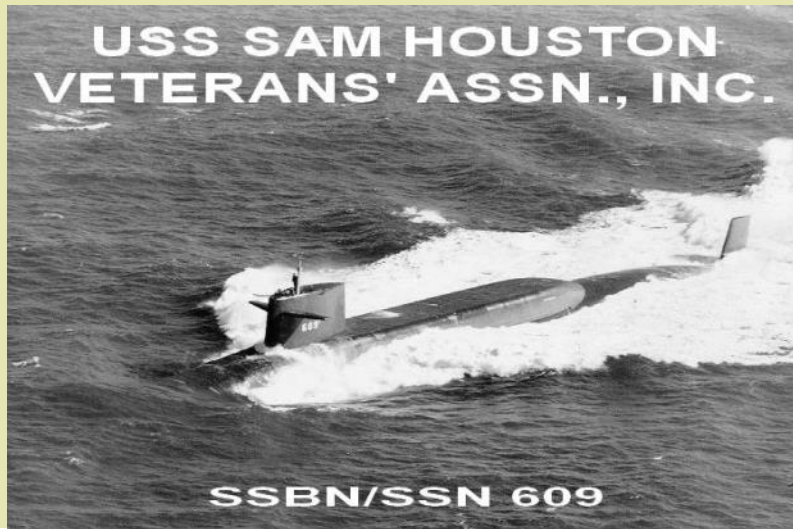


USS SAM HOUSTON VETERANS' ASSN., INC.



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1st Edition 2015



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 you and yours are enjoying life as best as you are able and will continue to do so. Many of our shipmates have informed me how much they enjoy "The Raven" because it brings back many pleasurable memories. This is the driving force for me to assign some sort of preference to producing our newsletters. It's tough trying to allot time to the project, but I do my best. My effort is only part of producing the newsletters. The information within our newsletters is an equally significant part, and most of that information comes from YOU. Even if your recollections might have inaccuracies or lack important details, these are much better than providing nothing at all. Please continue to send me your memories, pictures, graphics, etc. What's great about your information is that others chime in with their related memories, corrections, additions, and the like about the articles. This was most prevalent with the "Bailout" where, for more than a year, others flooded the newsletters with their recollections of the incident. By the way, I recall someone sending me his rendition of the event since issuance of the last newsletter in 2014, but I've misplaced this information. I apologize and ask that you re-send it. The same goes for others who have sent me information on any topic that has not appeared in a previous edition of "The Raven."

Our list of those on Eternal Patrol has grown significantly since issuance of the previous newsletter. This surge is not due to recent deaths, but a result of a significant effort by **Ray Higgins** [MM1(SS), Gold & Blue, 1965-1970] to identify shipmates, some of whom are on Eternal Patrol. But we did lose **Hal Glover** [CDR & CO, Blue, 1968-1971] on 10 Jan 2015. A picture that I took on 04 July 2014 of him and Mary Elizabeth is on page 10 of the previous newsletter (2d Edition 2014). We also lost **Dennis Upchurch** [ETN2(SS), Gold, 1961-1963; Plank Owner] on 08 Dec 2014.

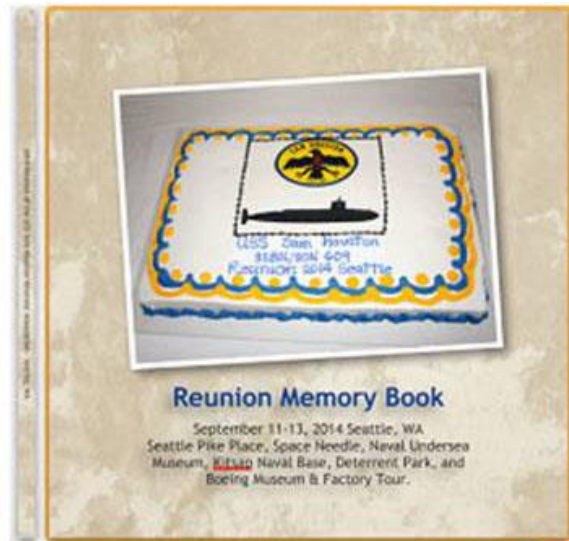
Our Vet-Sought category of shipmates has also increased significantly because of Ray's research. More on his efforts inside.

Howard Dobson [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1969-1972]
28 Colony Blvd
Wilmington DE 19802-1402
Phone/Fax: 302-764-1197
E-Mail: howardvaldobson@verizon.net

2014 REUNION MEMORY BOOK IS AVAILABLE

Brad Lawrence [IC2(SS), Gold, 1972-1973] has completed the Reunion Memory Book for our 2014 Reunion held in Seattle. Some details and attributes follow:

- 12" X 12" hardbound
- Maps of the tour routes.
- 200 photos.
- 29 pages.
- 7 contributors of photos
- Several formal group photos of crews
- Portraits of all who attended the banquet on Sat. evening.



To order a 2014 Reunion Memory Book, mail a check/money order for \$80 payable to Brad Lawrence along with your postal address to him at the address below. If you would prefer to transfer money (\$83) to his Pay-Pal account, his e-mail address is bradale@gmail.com. If you pay via Pay-Pal, send Brad an e-mail with your postal address.

Brad Lawrence
PO Box 5693
Carefree AZ 85377

Please allow about 2 weeks to receive your book after receipt of your order.

The Reunion Memory Book for the **2012** Reunion in Charleston, S.C. is also available at the same price. Brad will send the 2014 book if you omit the year of the book that you wish to order.

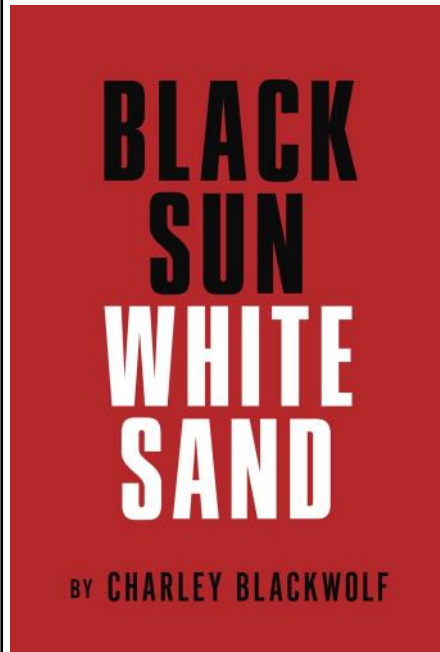
ANOTHER SHIPMATE PENS A BOOK

Bruce Fulbright [MM1(SS), Gold, 1965-1970] has thrown his hat into the ring and written the book *Black Sun, White Sand*. It is available in electronic format only but might be available in written format by the time this newsletter is issued. It's available from Amazon.com and other book sellers. Although his book is fictional, it concerns many realities in today's world with a hint of history repeating itself. It is undoubtedly thought-provoking as indicated in comments posted on the Internet by readers who highly recommend his book. Those with Internet access can read those comments at the following websites:

- <https://www.scribd.com/book/245735863/Black-Sun-White-Sand>
- <http://www.amazon.com/Black-Sun-White-Charley-Blackwolf-ebook/dp/B00PKK8BFG>

Please support Bruce and buy his book. Contact him if you wish further information about his book. The roster sent to members contains his contact information.

By the way, Bruce's journalistic name is "Charley Blackwolf"; that's the author's name mentioned on the book.



BLACK SUN – WHITE SAND

By Charley Blackwolf

Ruben Silverstein is a heroin addict. Ruben is a dying man who discovers a faith he has never known and strength he never possessed. Love is lost but gained for the runner who saves his life, only to lose her own integrity. Not realizing he has become a prophet Ruben carries a message of impending disaster. He tries, but fails for no one will hear and in the end many die, their deaths the result of valueless society, manipulative corporations, and self-serving political systems. The Cold War has ended but now the enemy is unknown and terror strikes without warning. A silent and deadly time where technology places unimaginable weapons within reach of those who dedicate themselves to perverted cause.

Unstable economics, loss of moral fiber and a government that exists more to support itself than serve its people are age old signs of societal decay that, when coupled with plague, famine, war or other disastrous events send nations into collapse. So it was with the Egyptians, Israelites, Romans, Aztecs and so it is in *Black Sun – White Sand*.



AUTHORS NOTE:

Black Sun – White Sand is a work of fiction and was written to provide a source of thought provoking entertainment with regard to repeating events in human history. Any similarities between historical events, persons or places, living or past is unintentional. Time lines take advantage of certain historical events but are not intended to be precise. *Black Sun – White Sand* does not promote one religion over another, the only intent is to show that through faith, in whatever form that faith may take, individual adversity can be overcome.

BRUCE & HIS 1946 HARLEY DAVIDSON CHOPPER

Bruce Fulbright has completed the rebuild of his classic bike; looks fantastic. Is he ready to build the world's first nuclear-powered bike?

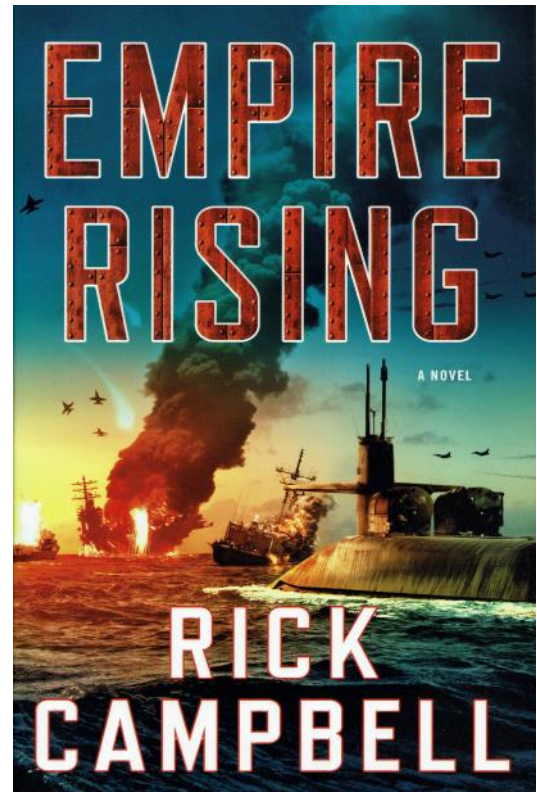


AUTHOR OF *TRIDENT DECEPTION* LAUNCHES HIS SECOND BOOK

Retired Navy Commander and author Rick Campbell, who donated a signed copy of his first book *The Trident Deception* for our last reunion, has authored his second book, *Empire Rising*. Both books have received fantastic reviews with *The Trident Deception* being proclaimed by Booklist as "the best submarine novel written in the last 30 years—since Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*. Rick's *Empire Rising* has been selected by Barnes & Noble as one of their Top-12 February Thrillers. If you enjoy reading thrillers, you can't go wrong with either book, and I encourage you to give them a try; you won't be disappointed.

***Empire Rising*, by Rick Campbell**

Very much in the spirit of Jack Ryan, Campbell has crafted a tightly plotted and horrifyingly believable story in which China, desperate for access to oil in the near-future where supplies are running low, declares war and reveals itself to be much better prepared than anyone expected. After a military disaster that sends the United States reeling and leaves the Chinese free to act, a trio of well-written characters work to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Combining thrilling espionage-style adventures, detailed naval battles, and incredible SEAL Team missions, Campbell has created what might be the perfect military thriller.



Rick states:

"It's tough to break in as a new author, but my publisher is trying to make it happen. St. Martin's Press has arranged fantastic promotions again this year: the paperback version of *The Trident Deception* will be featured at the front of every Barnes & Noble across the country for one month starting February 3rd, Walmart has placed an order for 10,000 copies, and it will be carried by most military exchanges. My second book, *Empire Rising*, will also be featured at the front of every Barnes & Noble for 3 weeks when it releases on February 24th and will be offered at a 20% discount. *Empire Rising* will also be advertised on FoxNews.com with 2.2 million impressions. However, even with my publisher's efforts, it's a tough world out there for a new author, and I would really appreciate it if you could help spread the word again."

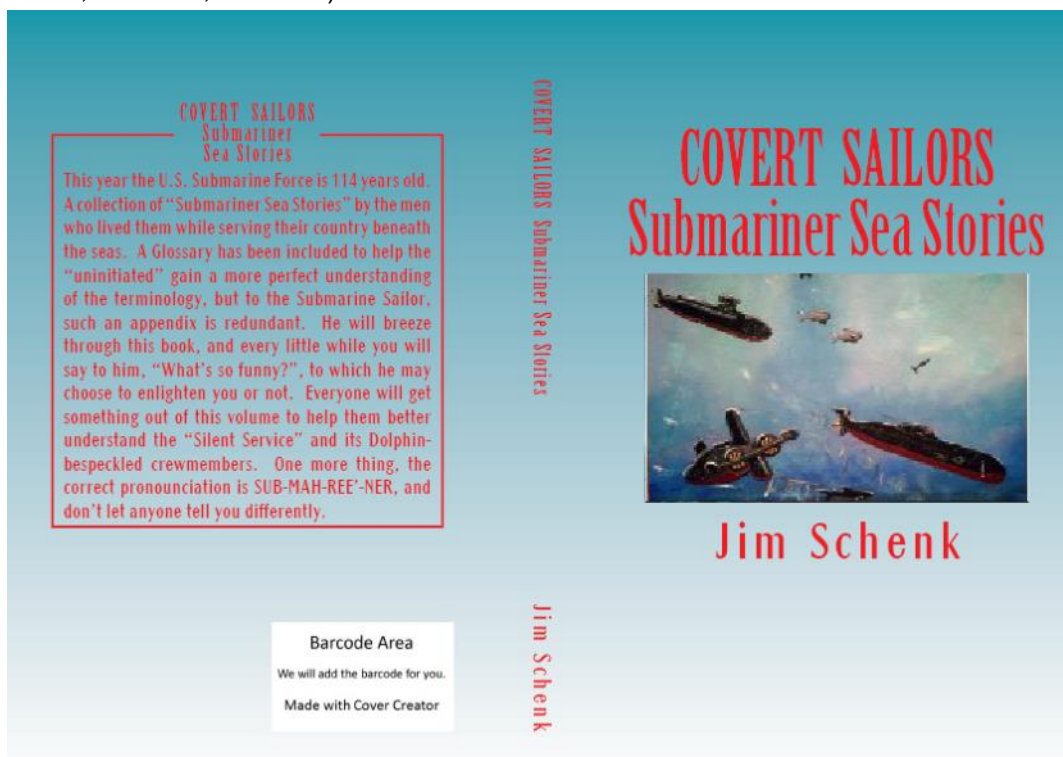
ANOTHER NEW, SUB-RELATED BOOK—(NONFICTION)

I received the following message from a submariner:

"I have published the book COVERT SAILORS SUBMARINE SEA STORIES and am contacting you to promote sales to your Reunion Association. It is available in Kindle version (e-Book) or as a 5"x8"x672-page paperback edition at Amazon.com. If someone would rather have a signed copy, they should e-mail me at xboatsailor@yahoo.com and place 'SUB BOOK' in the Subject Line to insure that their information doesn't go to the Spam Locker.

"Any submariner who would like to have his original story in print, I am collecting submissions for an eventual volume two. A portion of the royalties is being donated to United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI). I am trying to pay down medical costs from two different cancers and would appreciate all assistance in this endeavor. Thank you for your kind consideration in helping me 'get the word out.'"

Jim Schenk (SS-214, SSN-586, SSN-664)



VETERANS' BENEFITS WEB SITES

I recently received the following flash message from the USSVI:

"PLEASE pass this information along to any veterans you know as it is valuable to all servicemen and service women of all wars. Someone has gone through a lot of trouble to compile the information. If it helps one person, it was worthwhile. Please pass this on to all veterans on your mail list.

*"Below are web sites that provide information about veterans' benefits and how to file/ask for them. Many of the sites explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, and information about claims and how to appeal denials by the VA. Nearly 100% of the information is free and available to all veterans. **The only catch is that you must request information of your interest—the VA will not voluntarily provide information about a specific benefit unless you ask for it.** You need to know what questions to ask so that the right doors open for you. Then you must have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests."*

Because that list is extensive, I've decided that it should be its own document. This will facilitate revisions that I might receive. The list is included with the mailing of this newsletter.

RAY HIGGINS' ENHANCED EFFORT TO LOCATE SHIPMATES

For the past year or so, **Ray Higgins** has undertaken massive efforts associated with removing errors and duplications from our roster and locating shipmates and identifying some on Eternal Patrol. Needless to say that he spends lots of time in this effort. Periodically, he sends me updates for the roster. Those periodic updates often include more than 100 entries for addition or correction.

His latest effort has led him to purchase from the National Archives three rolls of microfilm that contain the boat's "muster rolls." Each roll of film contains rosters for a specific year. He purchased the film with his own money and dedicates some of his time at a library converting each roll of film into computer files that he can review at his home later. The conversions alone are tedious and time-consuming. This process is followed by intense reviews of information in each picture to extract information that is useful for the roster and locating shipmates. We are adding middle names/initials to the roster. Ray says "middle names/initials are useful when attempting to find an individual today." He adds, "you can't find someone if you're not sure of whom you are looking for! Middle names are also helpful when trying to determine if a shipmate is on Eternal Patrol."

At first, Ray said that he was only going to purchase two rolls of microfilm and quit. He says that he has become "hooked" and has ordered the third roll of film. I attest that Ray has performed some superb "detective" work in this project. I commend him for his volunteer service to the SHVA and his willingness to spend his own money and time toward the betterment of the SHVA.

Thanks a million, Ray.

Howard Dobson

PAT "PJ" PECORRELLI PLAYS IN BANDS NOW-A-DAYS!

Pat Pecorrelli [IC2(SS), Gold, 1969-1972] has been passing time playing organ with a couple of bands. Below he appears with the *Bridget Kelly Blues Band* at the Hard Rock Café in Atlanta, Ga. Pat, who lives near Jacksonville, Fla. plays in many locations and in other nearby states nearly every weekend. Many of the groups' venues include military-fraternal organizations such as AMVETS, VFW, American Legion, and others.



BOB WORTHEAN ENJOYING LIFE

Bob Worthean [EN2(SS), Blue, 1969-1971] submitted the picture below. His comment on the back of the picture:

“This is the only reason why I left the Navy:
NO PLACE TO HUNT!”



Strapped onto his ATV is a 236-lb. Mule Deer that he shot while hunting at Cascade Lake, Idaho in Oct 2014.

ANYONE KNOW CHIEF SULLIVAN'S FIRST NAME?

I've been hoping to track down **Chief Sullivan** for about 8 years, but without knowing his first name, the task is impossible. And even with only his first and last names, the task will improve to nearly impossible!

I've asked a few shipmates, and no one seems to remember him. He was an HMC. This picture with him and me was developed in May 1970. I remember that he was good at completing federal tax forms because he did mine.

Howard Dobson



MORE SHIPMATES WITH DOBSON

I stumbled across a picture of myself with an MT3 and an MTSN. For help identifying them, I consulted **Art Sullivan** [MT1(SS), Gold, 1970-1975]. He didn't know either of the two shipmates and sought help. Turns out the MTSN is most likely **Ken Ellis**. The MT3 remained a mystery for a while, and turned out to be Art himself! His sister identified him. Art didn't realize that he looked that good as a youth!

Howard Dobson



DVD OF USS SAM HOUSTON UNDERWAY IN THE JAMES RIVER

Bill Gabrio [ETR2(SS), Gold, 1961-1963; Plank Owner] sent me a DVD of Big Sam cruising down the James River (that connects Newport News to the Chesapeake Bay). It contained about seven minutes of footage converted from an 8-mm home movie that he recently received from Donna Upchurch, the daughter and caregiver of **Dennis Upchurch**. A note that accompanied the film indicated that the doctor on board the boat (name not provided) took most of the footage.

The video quality is very poor. For the brief moments that people are shown, none are recognizable. Most of the remainder of the video is footage of water over the bow. I believe that the only interesting part of the video is a 1 1/2-min. portion with dolphins frolicking in the bow wake.

If anyone wants copy of the DVD, I can probably send it without charge. The free DVD is based on little interest in it. But if demand would be high, I'll have to charge the cost of blank DVDs, envelopes, and postage. I'll establish a list of orders for about two months after issuance of this newsletter. If demand becomes high, I'll compute a cost and notify all who requested a copy.

Donna drove Dennis, who was over 90 years old, to our 2012 reunion in Charleston from St. Mary's, Ga. She wanted to ensure that he would attend that reunion because it was relatively close and he would likely not be able to attend any subsequent reunion. Dennis received his Final Orders on 08 Dec 2014. Unfortunately, I do not have a picture of him. Dennis and Bill served together in Nav. Division.

Howard Dobson

GOLDEN ANCHOR AWARD

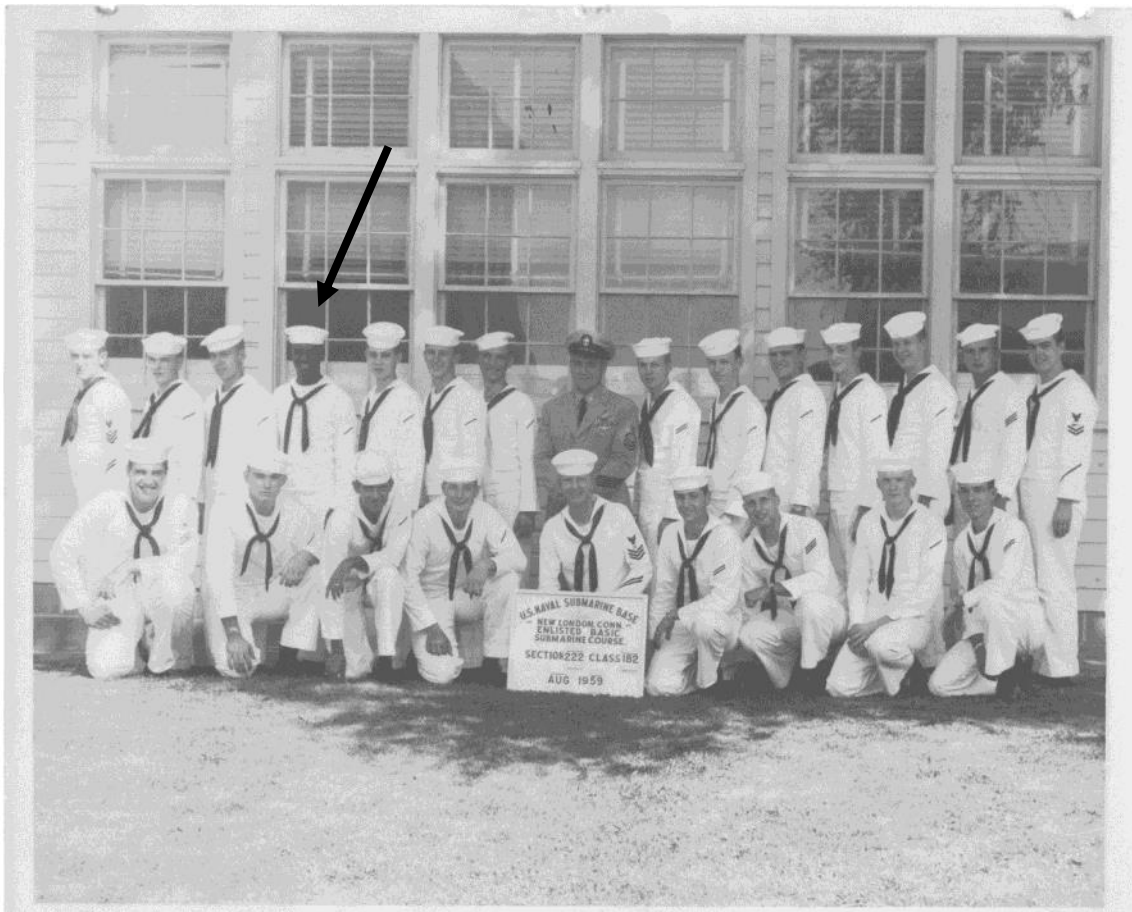
Ross Thomas [dual service: STSC(SS), Gold, 1967-1970; STSCS(SS), Blue, 1976-1979] sent this picture related to the "Golden Anchor Award" given to the boat in the fall of 1978. That award is related to personnel retention. Ross is unsure if the award was related to the Squadron or the boat singularly.

Left: Charles Weaver
(LCDR & XO, Blue, 1974-1978)
2d from left: David Klinger
(CDR & CO, Blue, 1977-1979)
Middle: a Chief from the Squadron
2d from right: Ross Thomas
Right: Capt. of the Squadron



ROSS THOMAS' SUB SCHOOL PICTURE

Ross Thomas graduated from Sub School as a Seaman Recruit in Aug 1959.



PHOTOS OF JOHN WALSH

I received the following pictures from **Martin Walsh**, an Associate Member and son of **John Walsh** [ETCS(SS), Gold, 1966-1969]. Martin stated: "I've enclosed a couple of photos I had scanned in a few years ago of life aboard the Sam Houston. He served 22 years in the Navy and retired in 1972 as a Senior Chief (ETCS)."

Thanks for sharing the memories, Martin.



John Walsh at home.



John with the Nav. Group.

John in an intense card game.



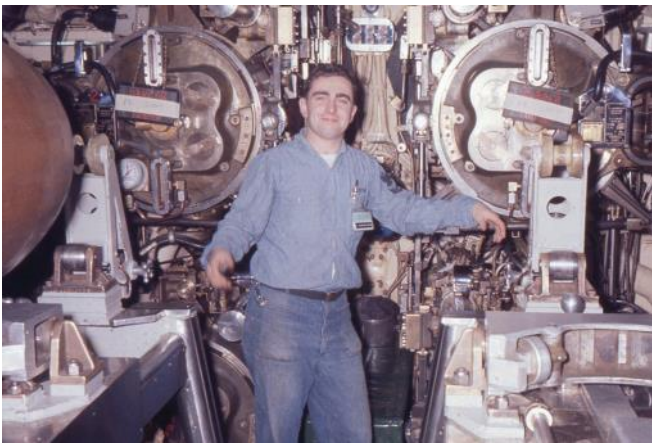
John retires.



A SHIP'S PHOTOGRAPHER LOCATED

Ray Higgins located **Ed Valentine** [TM1(SS), Blue, 1963-1966], one of our Ship's Photographers. Ed provided a CD with many pictures that are related to the boat; thanks for those pictures. You might have seen some of them on web sites. If you know the names of other Ship Photographers, please provide Howard Dobson or Ray Higgins any information that you have. My contact information appears on page 1; Rays' information is on the Distribution Roster sent to members. Any information that you have might be helpful toward locating them.

Below are a handful of the pictures that Ed took. Copies of the CD can be purchased from me for \$5.00; simply contact me. The CD has 152 high-quality pictures, and many contain recognizable individuals.



Ed Valentine

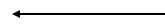


FBM Barracks at New London

Ship's Party (somewhere?)



Who Is He?



Orphan's Christmas Party—1964



Bus Ride to Prestwick

USS SAM HOUSTON UNIT AWARDS

Tim Bohdan (LT, SSN, 1987-1990) provided the following information:

“One can view the unit awards for **USS Sam Houston** on the official US Navy web site that publicizes all awards conferred upon Navy units. **USS Sam Houston** earned three Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) awards throughout its distinguished naval service: one in the SSBN configuration, and two in the SSN configuration.

“I only recently found out about the three MUCs awarded to the boat. I found out that I was indeed eligible for one of the two SSN MUC awards. However, my DD-214 did not report the MUC since I departed the ship (and the Navy) a few weeks before the MUC award was announced in May 1990. However, I can still claim the MUC award in my service record by filing some extra paperwork.

“I am in the process of having my service records amended to show the earning of the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) conferred in May 1990. Although awards are supposed to be listed on one’s DD-214 (‘CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY’), a DD-214 will not be altered as a historical record. However, the Navy does allow one to correct one’s military record by submitting a DD-149 (‘APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORD UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 10, U.S. CODE, SECTION 1552) which accomplishes the same thing as getting one’s DD-214 amended. I’ll let you know how the DD-149-amendment process goes. If it works, I’ll write a letter for the SHVA Newsletter and let everyone know that anyone who earned an MUC can have his service record amended to claim the MUC award.

“Although the first Meritorious Unit Commendation for the **USS Sam Houston** (SSBN-609) was awarded in 1969, I cannot discern from the Navy web site whether or not you [*Howard Dobson*] were eligible as one who reported for duty on September 2, 1969. There is no end date for the SSBN MUC, which makes me think it was awarded only to those aboard on 1-January-1969. Maybe you can do some investigating on your own. The two SSN MUCs have a range of start/end dates; so, it is easy to discern if one was aboard the ship at any time during the eligibility period for the SSN MUC awards. One of my buddies, **Jay Roberts** [LT, SSN, 1986-1989], was aboard for both SSN MUCs. When I told him, he was pleasantly surprised.”

To view MUCs on the Navy’s web site, use the following procedure:

- 1) Go to <https://awards.navy.mil>.
A page will probably be displayed that mentions “[There is a problem with this web site’s Security Certificate.](#)” Additional information on this page will recommend that you do not continue to the intended web site.

THE INTENDED WEB SITE IS ACTUALLY A SAFE ONE. Therefore, you can click on the option “[Continue to this website \(not recommended\).](#)” without worry.

- 2) Click on “Unit Awards” at the top of the web page.
- 3) Click on “Unit Awards Query” hot link at the top of the list on the right edge of the page.
- 4) Enter the hull number “609” (or the hull number of another ship if desired) in the box entitled “Enter Part of Unit Name.”
- 5) Click on “Search” to the right.
- 6) Up will come a list of items related to your search.
- 7) Click on the appropriate item in the list to display information related to an award.

Note that SSN and SSBN show up as separate entries. Click the SSN entry to see the two MUCs earned and the relevant periods. The SSBN earned only one MUC in 1969.

I plan to write a nice article for the SHVA newsletter about how to figure out if one earned an MUC while aboard **USS Sam Houston**. I will also describe how to claim one’s MUC award if it did not show up on one’s DD-214. More later.

Thanks, Tim.

KARL SCHAB'S RETIREMENT PICTURES

You might remember that **CDR Karl Schab** [FTB2(SS), Blue, 1976-1979] retired from the Navy with a ceremony at the hotel during our 2014 reunion in Seattle. Below are pictures taken by a Navy's Photographer.



Karl and his wife, Carla.



KARL SCHAB'S RETIREMENT PICTURES (cont.)



NOTE: The officer at the far right in the above picture is CDR (select) Leslie Obudho, Karl's successor.

KARL SCHAB'S RETIREMENT PICTURES (cont.)



STUCK IN SNOW!

Joe Saleem [MM3(SS), O72 & Gold, 1971-1974] sent the picture below taken in Feb 1973 of an unidentified shipmate in an unfortunate situation in Landson, S.C.—near the Charleston Navy Yard. Anyone know who he might be? We don't have to guess what he was saying!@#\$\$%&*! So much for 4-wheel drive!



Joe added the following, unrelated comment:

“ . . . As for the CPO Quarters plaque that I sent you, knowing how much you care about our ship and fellow submariners serves as a substantial award for me—no one is more deserving of accolades than you. If I had a torpedo or Polaris “bird” from our boat, I would gladly have it delivered (I mean to say via UPS or Fed Ex!) to you with my compliments.”

My comment:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness, Joe. But just in case the Navy is trying to figure out what happened to a missing torpedo or missile, let me go on record as saying that I never received one!?!@#\$\$%.

DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE SHVA

Contributions to support operation of the SHVA have been scarce so far this year. Only 6 individuals have submitted contributions to date. This is 1.2% of the membership; the Association is in contact with about 428 shipmates. I'm hoping that this article will serve as a mere reminder to trigger the memories of other 98.8% of the members.

Those that have been members for a while are aware that the SHVA differs from many other veterans' associations in that membership is dues-free. But, the SHVA does require money to operate. I have chosen to receive voluntary contributions from our members to provide that money. On the other side of the coin, I try to prevent creating financial burdens on those who wish to contribute by seeking contributions biennially with a suggested amount of \$20. If half of our membership would contribute \$20 this year, that would provide almost \$4,300 for the operation of the SHVA for two years.

I am not trying to accumulate lots of money that would have no real purpose. The operating cost of the SHVA is significantly less than that of other groups because most of the SHVA's official communications involve e-mail. We have 25 members without computers who must receive communications by postal mail. This situation is presented only as a statistic and not to suggest that all members must have computers.

So, if you are able to contribute any amount of money to the SHVA, please do so. No amount is too little or too large. If you desire a receipt for your contribution, please include a note. Keep in mind that contributions to the SHVA are NOT tax-deductible to donors for federal income tax purposes. We do not meet the IRS's membership requirement for the percentage of “war veterans” in our organization based on the IRS's definition of war veteran.

Please mail a check or money order payable to “USS Sam Houston” to our Treasurer at the address below:

Mark Manzer
c/o USS Sam Houston Veterans Assn
10118 NE 41st Ave
Vancouver WA 98686-5811

Thanks,
Howard Dobson

2016 REUNION UPDATE

Nothing new has occurred about our 2016 Reunion since I signed the Group Sales Contract with the Sheraton Hotel in Reston, Va. on 30 Jul 2014. This contract is associated primarily with the daily guest room pickup for the reunion and reserves all of our meeting rooms needed throughout the reunion.

I've yet to establish our group meals and our tour itinerary. In the next month or so, I'll meet with the hotel's Executive Chef and other catering personnel to establish the menus for our two group meals and review our meeting room requirements.

I have some ideas of what would be suitable for our group, but I will consult with the Convention & Visitors Bureau to learn of what's new, what no longer exists, and what's changed since I last visited the area.

Please plan to attend this reunion that will be occurring from 15-17 Sep 2016. I hope to distribute the Reunion-Registration Packet no later than mid-March 2016.

Howard Dobson

2018 REUNION UPDATE

At our Business Meeting during the 2014 Reunion in Seattle, the consensus for our 2018 reunion was to have it on board a cruise ship that would depart from an unspecified port in California. A destination of Hawaii was mentioned as a possibility. No other details were provided pending further investigation with the results to be presented at the Business Meeting during our 2016 Reunion. California is being considered because our members who have been on cruises have likely departed from the east coast or the Gulf of Mexico. Cruising from the west coast might attract a better attendance.

I've conducted a preliminary investigation about cruises—especially from California—and have gathered the following aspects:

- A cruise to Hawaii will be both too expensive and too long.
- A cruise through the Panama Canal to Florida is one-way, too expensive, and too long.
- A cruise of suitable duration to Mexico might be worthwhile.

A cruise to Hawaii is simply too lengthy—14 or 15 days with an inherent high cost. Most of our members will not have that much time to dedicate to a reunion anywhere not to mention money. A cruise through the canal has the same issues. Cruises to Mexico might work if a 5-night cruise to the Mexican Riviera is selected. These cruises have multiple ports-of-call that are interesting. A 3-day cruise to Mexico will have a single port-of-call at Ensenada. This city has nothing to offer.

Brad Lawrence has located another cruise from California that could be suitable. It is a northbound, 5-day, Pacific-coast cruise from San Diego headed to Vancouver (Canada) and British Columbia.

As potential alternates, I've investigated the relatively new "cruises on the Mississippi." Because everything about these cruises is "American," the prices are exorbitant. I then considered what I call a "compromise": a reunion on board The Queen Mary in Long Beach, California. The thought was to have the cruise ship environment without cruising. The cost of a reunion on board the Queen Mary could work, but the "effective" daily guest room fee would be more than usual—about \$148 for those who would drive (paid parking) and \$138 for those who would use public transportation. This option is worth presenting to the group. (These prices are inclusive of all taxes and fees.)

At the Business Meeting during our 2016 Reunion, I'll also have information about cruises from the east and Gulf coasts for consideration. Also, I'll be able to suggest some cities/areas for a land-based reunion, if necessary.

Keep in mind that decisions about reunions should be based on situations that are likely to attract good attendance. Personal preferences should not sway your decisions.

Howard Dobson

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN DEBBIE NORBRATEN AND TWO SHIPMATES

Debbie Norbraten attended the 2104 Reunion as a guest of **Jim & Jeannie Hoey** [ETR2, Gold, 1971-1973]. Debbie is the daughter of **George Clanton** [SM1, Gold, 1961-1964; Plank Owner; *Eternal Patrol*].

Prior to attending Nuclear Power School, Jim was stationed at ComSubGroup II at Mare Island in 1968. He worked for George who was at his last duty station before retirement. Jim, George, their wives, and George's children became friends. The Hoeyes have maintained contact with Debbie ever since. They invited Debbie to the 2014 Reunion where she met some Plank Owners and other shipmates who served with and remembered her father. Debbie hopes to attend our future reunions.



George Clanton takes his re-enlistment oath given by **Frank Graham** (CDR & XO, Gold, 1960-1962; Plank Owner) aboard **USS Sam Houston** on 03 May 1962. Note the raven on the table of the newly commissioned boat.



Enjoy the Summer