



NAVY SPECIAL WEAPONS UNIT ASSOCIATION

WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY 1994

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Shipmates:

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous new year. I also would like to thank the Florida Reunion committee for such a wonderful time in sunny Boca Raton, Florida last October. Bob King, Joyce Perry and Paulette Clark did a super job in ensuring everything was shipshape. If you attended the reunion, you had to have fun even if you did nothing. If you didn't attend, shame on you, but plan on attending the next one in Idaho Falls, October 1994. Suzie and I sure would like some of that weather here in Idaho Falls about now. We are planning on venturing out on our first camping trip the last week in March or the first week in April, Of course it will depend on whether or not we are snowed in! We are moving right along with the plans for Reunion 10. We have signed a contract on the hotel for the period 6 thru 10 October, 1994. Please plan ahead so you can meet and greet most of your old shipmates. The reunion will be held in Idaho Falls, Idaho at the West Bank Hotel with the falls in the background. The room rates will be \$60.00 for the Tower rooms and \$50.00 for the pool side rooms. They will provide us with excellent accommodations and our Hospitality Room will be set up from our own association stocks.

Some of the activities that we are planning for you are: A bus tour of Yellowstone Park (South Loop) for Thursday 6 October. A bus and shopping tour to Jackson, Wyoming during the day on Friday 7 October. A wagon ride and barbecue with a dinner show in the cotton woods along the Snake River on Friday night 7 October. We are also planning on the traditional dinner/dance at the hotel on Saturday night 8 October. If enough interest is shown, we may also have a tour of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and or a bus trip to Jackpot, Nevada for those who enjoy the Nevada style of fun. Those could be planned for Sunday 9 October.

I've included two brochures with this newsletter. One of Idaho Falls in general, and one of the surrounding areas for your information and planning efforts. If there is any special attractions or areas that you would like to visit during your trip, please let Suzie and I know and we will assist you in the planning. We have the Chamber of Commerce as a resource to obtain information from this entire area. We did have some interest expressed in Florida on local Ghost Towns, and while there may not be enough people to arrange a tour, we can provide information so that you can visit by POV or rental car. We are also looking into a possible white water rafting trip or some fishing trips while your here in Idaho Falls. The weather here during that time of year is **USUALLY** shirt sleeves during the day and light jackets in the evening. The leaves will just be starting to change color so it should really be beautiful; plus there is normally no rain or snow, but you never know around here. We'll provide additional information as the plans firm up.

We also plan on distributing a survey sometime within the next two months so that we can determine your likes/dislikes for the upcoming reunion, and also try and determine an accurate headcount to plan the reunion tours and hospitality rooms.

I want to thank Bob King and his board of officers for the past three years of outstanding effort they have accomplished. Overall membership has increased during Bob's tenure and upon relieving him as president, he has turned over an outstanding organization. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication shipmate !!!

Elton

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Attached you will find a copy of the minutes of our last meeting held at the Boca Raton reunion. Please review them for your information. If you have any new or unfinished association business, please commit it to paper and forward it to me. I will ensure that the information is reviewed by the association board prior to the next scheduled meeting in Idaho Falls.

In reviewing the association membership list with Lou and Pat Catron (Treasurer), we find that a majority of our membership is seriously overdue with the membership renewals. On your mailing label located on the envelop you will find the years that you have last paid your association membership (Example 88-90). If you dispute those years, please contact Lou and provided him with the necessary validation to update your memberships. The other option is to send Lou a check for the updated amount so that your membership is current. The current cost of membership is \$20.00 for two years and a \$10.00 fee for reinstatement of lapse membership. Please take care of this matter at your earliest as we will be removing those members from our mailing list this spring. We hate to be put in a position to remove membership, especially in this era where the nuclear capability for the United States has all but been removed and new membership will be hard to develop. Remember the JURASSIC PARK story from a couple newsletters back? We are the **KEEPERS OF THE DRAGON**, so your association with your fellow shipmates is much desired.

Lou and Pat Catron have spent quite a bit of time revising the overall membership listing. We wish to thank them for that effort and hopefully in a couple of months we will be able to furnish all members with the latest address and telephone listing of all your old (and new) shipmates. I for one really appreciate PAT's undying effort to ensure that this association maintains and even keel (of course under Lou's expert guidance and supervision). If you have changed your mailing address or telephone, please drop Pat a short note so that she can update her computer listing.

Lou & Pat Catron, 9707 Lamar Street, Lakewood, CA. 90713 - (213) 866-5737.

I've received a copy of the guidance from LCOL Berry US Army; that DOD/DOE has published concerning the requirement to document and determine radiation level exposures of federal/military radiation workers. It also provides some information and contacts if you have any questions. If you desire a copy of this, please contact me at 1718 Atlantic Ave. Fernandina Beach, Fla 32034 or (904) 277-2476 and I'll send you a copy.

It's again sad to note the passing of another shipmate and friend. Walt Giblin (CWO Retired) sailed on his last cruise in December 1993 out of his home port of Chula Vista, CA. Our hearts and sincere condolences from the entire NSWUA go out to his bride Lillian. Another outstanding mark made on the freedom of the nation that the population enjoys, but never realizes the effort put forth to accomplish. Thanks shipmate, for all your professional efforts over the many years while a member of this elite group of weaponeers.

I'll dedicate this next item to all that have served and to those who are no longer with us. It was published in "THE LONE SAILOR" magazine from the Navy Memorial staff and was composed by Edward W. Manning, a Navy Memorial Plankowner during one of his visits to the memorial.

*He was a lonely sailor staring out to sea,
Waiting for another ship wondering where he'd be.
The vastness of the ocean's span was preying on his mind,
He stood in thoughtful silence knowing what he'd find.
He'd find contentment far at sea with the dawning of each new day,
And the rolling motion of his ship while it is underway.
He'd find each worldly Port of Call a different place to see,
But knowing well his peace of mind was found far out to sea.
For a man whose mistress is the sea can have no shore bound love,
His love is dancing on the waves caressed by the sky above,
One day he'll have to leave his love for age does take its toll,
But his heart will always be at the sea when the Bo'sun calls the roll.*

For those of you who did not attend the reunion in Boca Raton, you missed something very special. Don Micco has spent many hours developing models of all the nuclear weapons that have ever been in the Navy inventory. He was nice enough to pack them all up and put them on display at the Boca Raton reunion. He should be applauded for his effort and realism.

Another beautiful item that was on display at the reunion was the NSWUA Memorial plaque that Charlie Berger made. It lists all of our departed shipmates on individual brass plates and Charlie has agreed to keep it updated as us old weaponeers sail out to sea on our last cruise. Hopefully both Charlie and Don will again make those displays available at the Idaho Falls reunion so that you will have another chance to view them.

R.O. (Bob) King is putting the finishing touches on the 9th reunion booklet and we expect it to be distributed by the photographer sometime in the April time period. If you haven't yet ordered yours, please contact the photographer directly and place your order. If you have misplaced his address, let me know and I will send it to you. R.O. tells me that it will be well worth your investment. Remember, you did not have to attend the reunion to purchase a book.

If any of our members have any articles or information that they would like to see published in our newsletter, please feel free to submit them to me and we will consider publishing them. Remember to keep them short as we do not have much room, and they should be related to either our line of business or information that would be interesting to the general membership.

That's about it from sunny Florida. Life here in the sun and beaches continues to be pleasant. No snow, no ice covered roads, no below zero weather and no great shaking ground. Just sun and fun with plenty of level golf courses to play. But I guess everyone can't live in Florida.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

Make each day useful, cheerful and prove that you know the worth of time by employing it well. Then youth we be happy, elders will be without regret, and life will be a beautiful success.

POINTS TO PONDER:

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

See you all again in Idaho Falls,

Tom