



# Hooter Hilites

A Publication of the USS Sea Owl Association

Web Site: <http://www.usseawol.com>

We still give a hoot!

December 2012 Issue



## President's Message

Hello Shipmates & 1st Mates:

Carol and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! It seems like only a short while ago, we were putting the Christmas decorations away, now here we are getting them out again. Where does the time go?! There are a lot of items to cover in this Newsletter, lets get to it. First, Ken Johnson has decided to reduce the number of Hooter Hilites to 2 issues a year. There is a lot of work putting these newsletters together, trying to get interesting material from shipmates and filling the pages with various items is really hard to do when you try to do it every 3 months. I know that some of you really enjoy receiving the Newsletter, but let's think of our Shipmate Ken Johnson's work in getting this out – it's a difficult job!

This past July, my daughter Adrienne and I went to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit the hotel that I was thinking of for our reunion. (More on this in another section.) While there, we toured the USS Cod, and drove down to Columbus, Ohio, to visit with our Shipmate and past Secretary/Treasurer, John Leers YN 53-57. As you can see in the pictures, John is doing well, still the same good looking sailor he always was. His lovely bride Lorraine is at home being taken care of by John and his daughters; she is dealing with Alzheimer's as well as anyone can. Keep John and Lorraine in your thoughts and prayers.



In October, Carol and I went to Florida for a quick get-a-way. While there, we had time to visit Shipmate Bob Tingley TM 67-69 and his wife Martha. Bob's on the mend from having a knee replacement that didn't go as planned, but he's getting through it well. We also visited with Shipmate and Plankowner Bob

Schlichenmaier QM 44-48 and his wife Anita. Bob was in a rehab center, recouping from a slip and fall he took in his bathroom. We will have to check on Bob during our next trip south. Best of luck there shipmate!!

In a few days, we will be heading to Old Town Alexandria, VA, for a short visit. It's a lovely little spot, just a subway ride away from Washington, DC. We are hoping that Washington will have its Christmas decorations up. Should be a nice get-a-way.

In February, we are scheduled to cruise the Caribbean, visiting our old stomping grounds of Puerto Rico and the Islands in that area. Bryan & Adrienne will accompany us, as well as two friends from Church. I'm looking forward to seeing Puerto Rico after all these years.

Enough about us. Our Groton Picnic is moving back to Sutton Park, Groton, CT. Ed Welch CS 66-69 has worked with his son Eddie to reserve the park and have the food prepared by an outside vendor, then we only have to bring it to Sutton Park. There have been picnics where it was just too hot for Ed and his family to cook and prepare the food. I really don't want to put this work on Ed and Paulette - So with his son's help and having the food prepared by someone else, all we need to do is bring a few cans of beer, soda and water. Picnic events will be as follows:

**Friday 7 June:** Gather at Groton Motor Inn @ 1830 for dinner. Order food and drinks from the menu and pay individually.

**Saturday 8 June:** Picnic at Sutton Park. Pavilion from 1130 to whenever. Price - \$ 20.00 per adult, children 6 - 12 - \$ 10.00 under 6 - no charge. Price includes all food and beverage.

**Sunday 9 June:** Breakfast 10:30 AM @ Groton Town House. Order from the menu and pay individually.

If planning to attend, complete and return the enclosed form. Make checks payable to Ed Welch or Sea Owl Assn. and mail to:

Ed Welch  
151 Wakefield St.  
Rochester, NH 03867

We hope many of you can make it there!

## 2013 USS Sea Owl Reunion, Cleveland, Ohio

Our Reunion will take place August 29th thru September 1st. The hotel is the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square. Room rates are \$98.00 (plus taxes) for single/double rooms. For triple/quad rooms, the rate is \$118.00 (plus taxes). These rates are available 2 days before the reunion dates, as well as 2 days after the reunion. I suggest that you come into Cleveland early to get comfortable and enjoy all that Cleveland has to offer. Reservations can be made by calling (216) 615-7500 or (866)

270-6768. You must mention "USS Sea Owl SS-405 Reunion" when making your reservations. Reservations must be made by 08/09/2013. I will have a full reunion registration form both online and in the next Hooter Hilites. Mark your calendar for this reunion. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

### From the Editor

As you know by now shipmate Bob D'Amico has been a regular contributor to "Hooter Hilites" since September 2007 and we have all enjoyed his cartoons. In this issue we have a cartoon originally submitted for a September issue, but saved for this one.

As Roy mentioned I have decided to go to publication of Hooter Hilites two times a year in June and December. It gets hard to come up with new material to write about a submarine that has not been around for 43 years! I am always interested in stories about what shipmates have done with their lives since they left Sea Owl and the Navy. Please keep the stories coming!

Now for a little Sailor humor courtesy of Pat Taylor:

A Baptist Preacher was seated next to a Submarine Sailor on a flight to Norfolk. After the plane took off, the Sailor asked for a whiskey and soda, which was brought and placed before him. The flight attendant then asked the preacher if he would like a drink. Appalled, the preacher replied, "I'd rather be tied up and taken advantage of by women of ill-repute, than let liquor touch my lips." The Sailor then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Me too, I didn't know we had a choice."

Finally, we have always known that being a qualified submariner meant that you could do the job of others, but I think you will agree that the following story that I came across back in September describes performance well above and beyond the normal! Bravo Zulu, sailor!

### COMSUBGRU 2 Sailor Delivers Own Son

By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, Commander, Submarine Group 2 Public Affairs, Sept 21, 2012

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) -- A Sailor from Commander, Submarine Group 2 delivered his fourth child safely within three minutes after his wife's water broke without complications in Groton Sept. 20.

"Never in my life have I ever had to deliver a baby," said Yeoman 1st Class (SS) Joseph Brickhouse, who delivered his son shortly after sunrise in their 2000 Lincoln LS. "When we woke up this morning my wife started to have contractions and we quickly knew it was time to head to the hospital."

Brickhouse added that while en route to their car, his wife's water broke and little did he know that within minutes he would be delivering his fourth child.

"I quickly brought her to the car thinking I had time to get her safely to the hospital, but my son wasn't going to wait," said Brickhouse.

Brickhouse added that within roughly three minutes of getting into the car his fourth child, a boy weighing in at eight pounds, seven ounces and a length of 20 inches arrived safely.

"It wasn't really scary," said Brickhouse. "I instinctively knew what to do."

After his son was born, Brickhouse quickly contacted 9-1-1 and they arrived within four minutes of delivery.

The newest addition to the Brickhouse family and his wife were taken to a nearby hospital.

Brickhouse added that upon arrival he received a lot of congratulations from doctors who deliver babies for a living.

"The doctors were making all sort of jokes, all in good fun and one even told me that I could add something new to my resume," said Brickhouse. "This was an amazing experience to go through."

In addition to successfully delivering his fourth child, and serving in the U.S. Navy, Brickhouse also serves as an ordained minister.

### New Ship Store Items

Our Storekeeper Ed Welch recently purchased several new shirts. These are 5.6 oz 50/50 Jersey Polo shirts.

Roy Purtell has updated the on line storekeeper page and order form to include these shirts and their pricing.

You can find it here: <http://ussseaowl.com/Text/orderform.html>

While you are there, check out some of the other items in our ship store!

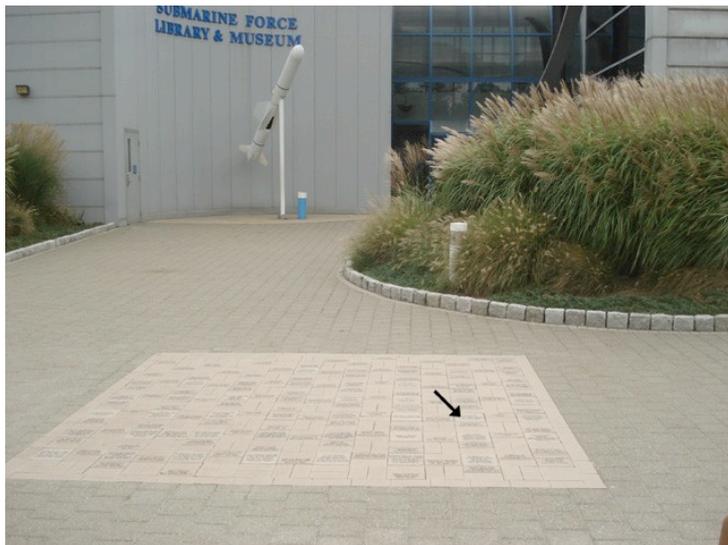


## Submarine Force Museum Paving Brick

The Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton has begun installing the memorial pavers. This photograph shows the Sea Owl paver which your Association purchased.



This photograph shows its location relative to the Museum entrance.



## Raffle Item

We are offering as a raffle item in the new year a Bose Wave® music system III in the Platinum White color which delivers



lifelike sound from CDs and radio. The Bose proprietary waveguide speaker technology enables full-bodied sound,

especially in lower registers, for more natural-sounding bass and percussion instruments. Its slim infrared remote control lets you conveniently operate Wave® music system functions from anywhere in the room.

It has these standard features:

- Dual alarms for two different wake up times
- Touch-top snooze/on/off control
- Advanced tuner with text display

We think that you will welcome the opportunity to win this item! Raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for six. Send checks for tickets, payable to Ed Welch, to:

Ed Welch  
151 Wakefield St.  
Rochester, NH 03867

Depending on the number of tickets sold the drawing will either be at the Groton picnic in June or the reunion at Cleveland in September. As with our other raffles in the past, you will not need to be present to win.



As always, one of the saddest parts of doing the newsletter is the listing of those shipmates who have departed on “eternal patrol” since the last issue. We have learned since the last newsletter of the passing of these shipmates:

Edward Singley – IC 45-47 – July 13

Joseph Zarate – FT 62-66 – October 28

We extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends of our departed shipmates

**There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**

Hooter Hilites is a semi-annual publication of the USS Sea Owl Association. Issues are published in June and December.

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# The 40's

December 2012 Issue



## Henry Richgels

By Ken Johnson

It is rare these days that I receive an application for membership in the USS Sea Owl Association for someone who has appeared only as a name on a sailing list or in a database and about whom we had very little information. Recently I received by mail a completed application and a check for \$35 for Life Membership for Henry Richgels who had served aboard Sea Owl in 1946-48 as a EM-3 and finally as a EM-2. The application and check actually came from Henry's son, Chris, who lives in Roseville, California

In the comments section of the form, Chris included the following: "My dad went to Notre Dame and University of WI-Madison after WW II. He got a degree in geophysics and had a very successful career with Chevron. He was on the oil exploration teams on the north slope of Alaska while with Chevron. He recently lost his wife Mary after 63 years of marriage back in October 2011. I've asked him about attending the reunion in Cleveland this [next] year. He was very interested in doing that. God willing and good health we'll try to make that happen."

We welcome him aboard! For those who may have served with him and may like to get in touch, this is his address:

Henry Richgels  
300 Shasta Court  
Kiowa, CO 80117

His son, Chris, says he goes by the name "Jack". He has no email address and while I have a phone number for him in Colorado, Chris says he doesn't hear very well

## Edward J. Singley

By Ken Johnson

On Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> I attended a memorial service for Ed Singley in Shelburne Falls, MA. Ed served aboard Sea Owl from 1945-47. I had never had the privilege of meeting Ed while he was alive.

As I looked over some of the memorabilia assembled for his service, I noticed this Card.

**Merry Sea Owl Christmas!**



It is the Sea Owl Christmas card I sent out back in 2004. It is nice to see that some of those things that I send out to shipmates are saved and have special meaning like this!

I am always interested in what Sea Owl shipmates have done with their lives after serving aboard. In this instance I learned that after leaving the Navy Ed established the Singley Furniture Store in Shelburne Falls in 1947. He retired in 2000 and his son John took over the business. He was also a founding member of the Shelburne Falls Area Business Association. From the turnout at his memorial service and some of the testimonials it was obvious that he was a well liked and highly respected member of the local community.

In accordance with the wishes of his family, your USS Sea Owl Association donated \$50 in memory of Edward Singley to the Shelburne Falls Fire Department.

Shelburne Falls, in addition to being the home of Bill Cosby, is an interesting little New England town in western Massachusetts just off of the scenic Mohawk Trail. It is the home of the Bridge of Flowers. The bridge was originally built as a trolley bridge in 1908 by the Shelburne Falls and Colrain Street Railway. As automobile usage began to increase and freight began to be transported more by trucks, the street railway company went bankrupt in 1927. With the bridge covered in weeds, a local woman came up with the idea of transforming it into a garden. Since the bridge was not needed as a footbridge and could not easily be demolished because it carried a water main between the two towns, her idea was agreed upon by those in the community. The Shelburne Woman's Club sponsored the project in 1928. In 1929, eighty loads of loam and several loads of fertilizer were brought to the bridge and the Bridge of Flowers was born. It has been maintained since and has been a local tourist attraction for many years.

This is how it looked on the day that I was there for Ed Singley's memorial service. What a peaceful way to end my brief visit to this beautiful little Massachusetts town!



In this issue Bob D'Amico imagines what a conversation might be like between an old diesel boat, like Sea Owl, and a new, fast attack nuclear sub like a Los Angeles or Virginia class boat as they share a beer at a local "watering hole".

## Old Diesel Sub having a beer and telling sea stories as a 'new-kid-on-the-block' nuclear submarine listens...

*Smell? What smell?  
That's my cologne,  
boy. It's called  
'Eau De Diesel Dude'!*

*So tell me, does  
your crew have  
as much fun as  
mine did?*

*Ken Johnson*

*Digital Video  
through your  
periscope?  
Ouch! Does  
it hurt?*

*That's right...  
I'd 'do a booze run'  
to Bermuda, and fill  
one of my tubes with  
the stuff to hide it.*

*So, the next thing  
you know, this P-3  
flies over and...*

*Gary A. Mann*

*If some politicians  
gets their way...  
you'll be extinct too!*

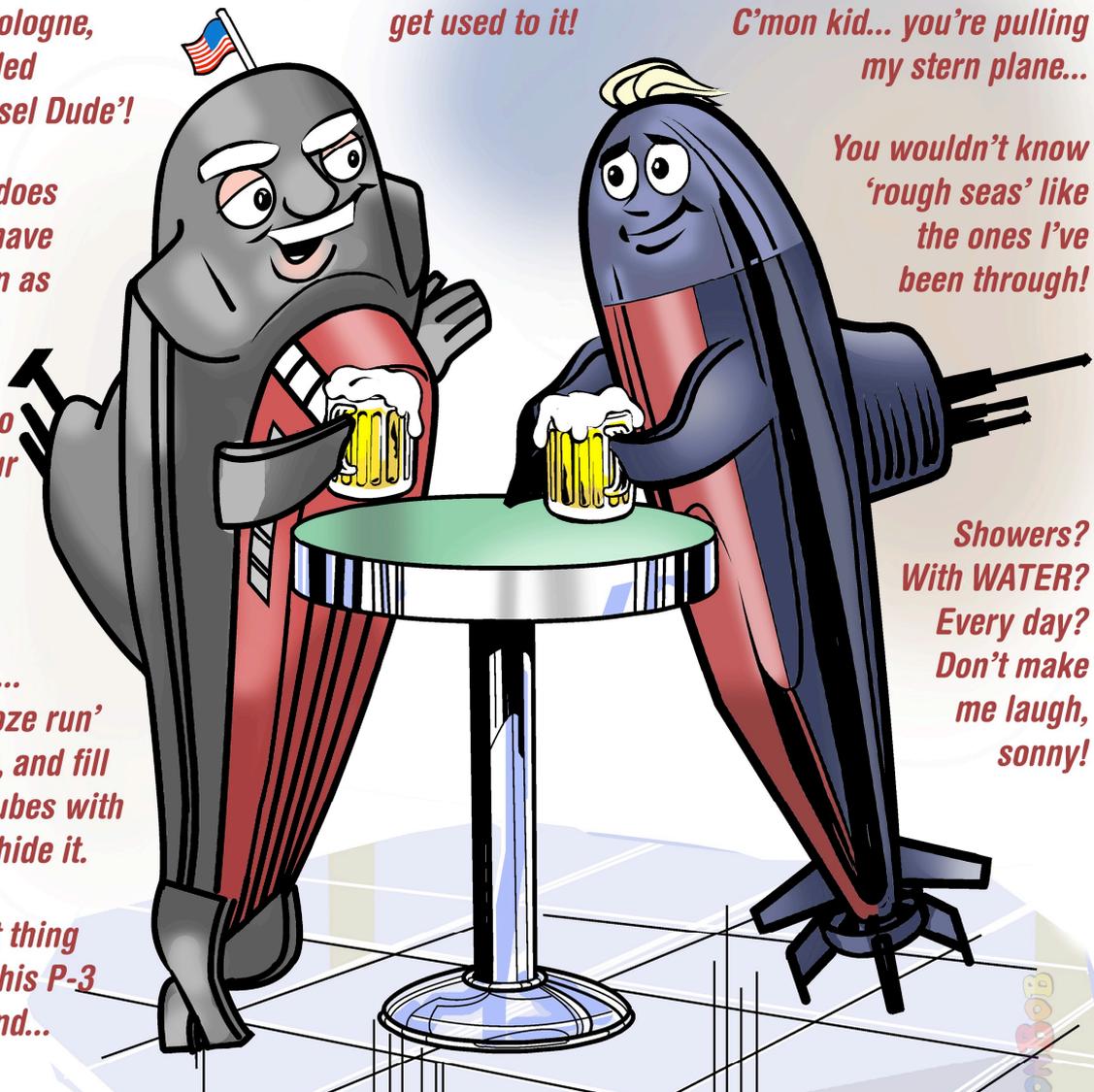
*Bill Noe*

*burp... Yeah kid... I'm a 'pig boat'  
get used to it!*

*How deep? How fast?  
C'mon kid... you're pulling  
my stern plane...*

*You wouldn't know  
'rough seas' like  
the ones I've  
been through!*

*Showers?  
With WATER?  
Every day?  
Don't make  
me laugh,  
sonny!*



*Francisco  
&  
Bob D'Amico*

CARTOONBOB



# The 60's

December 2012 Issue



## Jerry Leppart Receives Robert Link Award

At the USSVI Convention in Norfolk this year Sea Owl Shipmate Jerry Leppart (FN 62-64) was awarded the Robert Link National Commander's Award. The award was based on Jerry's tireless efforts to get a special submarine veterans license plate approved for the state of North Carolina where he resides. This is the USSVI version of a "Letter of Commendation" from the National Commander.

Robert "Bob" Link was the first National Commander of



USSVI. Eligibility for this Award requires Membership in USSVI. The selection and presentation of this Award is at the discretion of the National Commander. The Nominations can be made for a Member, Group, or a USSVI Base.

Nominations with justification are sent to National Awards Chairman, or to the National Commander directly and the selection is made by the National Commander.

## Proposed USS Thresher Memorials

By Ken Johnson



On April 10, 2013 we will again commemorate the loss of USS Thresher (SSN 593) which occurred on that day in

1963. As we approach the 50th anniversary of this tragedy, your help is needed to gain approval to place a commemorative memorial to the men lost aboard USS Thresher in Arlington National Cemetery. The suggested location in Section 46 in Arlington National Cemetery hosts the memorials to the crews lost aboard the Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia. As I pointed out in the letter that I sent, I believe that this would be a fitting and proper location for such a memorial in that there is a certain NASA connection to this tragedy and the SUBSAFE program as described in this article in the Fall 2005 issue of Undersea Warfare magazine:

[http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/usw/issue\\_28/nasa.html](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/cno/n87/usw/issue_28/nasa.html)

Please consider sending a letter of support for this project. Simply download the pre-written template letter from the webpage: <http://threshermemorial.org/templateletters.html> Sign and mail the letter to:

Ms. Kathryn A. Condon, Executive Director  
Army National Military Cemeteries  
Arlington, VA 22211-503

Please send an email with your name to [ThresherMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:ThresherMemorial@gmail.com) indicating you have sent a project supporters letter to Ms. Condon.

Also, on April 10, 2013, the Town of Kittery, Maine will honor the sacrifice and the memory of the 129 Navy personnel and civilians who perished on the USS Thresher 50 years ago.

Plans are well underway to dedicate a memorial to the sailors and civilians lost in the worst submarine disaster in U.S. history with over \$81,000 cash and in-kind commitments raised toward the initial \$99,000 estimated cost.

When finished, there will be a 129-foot flagpole at Kittery Memorial Circle, showcased by top-mounted lights 24 hours a day. It will rise from a rounded black granite base surrounded by landscaping ornamentation for a stately tribute, powerful in its simplicity.

The flagpole height will serve as a permanent reminder of the 129 men who perished that morning, ensuring they will never be forgotten in the town where Thresher was built.

If you wish to support this project, tax-deductible donations may be made to Thresher Memorial Project, PO Box 321, Kittery ME 03904. For more information, visit <http://threshermemorialkittery.sharepoint.com> Please help to honor the men of Thresher who are Forever on Patrol, Never to be Forgotten.

For those of us who were aboard Sea Owl on that day in 1963 when we were sent to search for any trace of Thresher and spent three days there the memory is a particularly vivid one. I plan to attend the dedication of this memorial at Kittery in April.