



# USS Seattle AOE-3

## Veteran's Association Newsletter



### In This Issue

- Reunion # 6
- Letter from the VP
- Reunion Notes
- Benefits info
- Membership
- The Bell - &.....

Issue # 7

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter - 2014

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### TIME?

It's right around the corner. Reunion # 6 – Pensacola, FL. – the theme this year is: “Seattle Sails in Tropical Breeze”.

### Your Officers:

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# USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association

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1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013 issued: Feb., 2014

Page: 2

## REUNION # 6

Here is the proposed agenda for the 2014 Pensacola, September 3rd - 7th. This year we have added an optional golf outing for any golfers (note the date is the 2<sup>nd</sup>). We will see how it goes and it may become an annual event. As always, we have negotiated 3 days before the reunion and 3 days after to get the same rate with breakfast included.

Hilton Garden Inn 1144 Airport Blvd Pensacola, FL		Event Schedule
<b>Monday - Sept-1st</b>		
Pre team arrives		
Dinner @ Peg Leg Pete's		
<b>Tuesday - Sept-2nd</b>		
<i>Early Arrivals</i>		all day
USSSVA Golf tourney Tee off AM back by noon		0730 - 1300
Setup Ships Store and hospitality suite		0800 - 1245
<b>Wednesday - Sept-3rd</b>		
<i>Welcome</i>		all day
Gathering, meal and show and tell		1800 - 2000
<b>Thursday - Sept-4th</b>		
<i>Breakfast in Hotel</i>		0600 - 0800
USS Alabama Tour		0800 - 1600
<i>Hula in hotel</i>		1830 - 2200
<b>Friday - Sept-5th</b>		
<i>Breakfast in Hotel</i>		0600 - 0800
Naval Aviation Museum includes lunch		0830 - 1730
Evening meal in hotel or McGuire's		1900 - 2200 1800 - 2100
<b>Saturday - Sept-6th</b>		
<i>Breakfast in Hotel</i>		0600 - 0800
Association meeting		0800 - 1000
City Tour lunch provided (Oar House)		1030 - 1630
Banquet		1900 - 2200
<b>Sunday - Sept-7th</b>		
<i>Farewell Breakfast</i>		0700 - 1000
Depart for Home		

See the next page for a letter from our VP – Ray Pierce..

## LETTER FROM THE VP

Shipmates,

The reunion committee traveled (at their own expense) to Pensacola and had a very successful site visit to plan your 2014 reunion. Details will be released as we sign contracts and have events lined up. I am excited about Pensacola as there are many wonderful things to see and do.

Many thanks go to Tom of Beach Bum Trolley and Larry of Pensacola Visitors Bureau for their assistance and suggestions.

Attending the site visit were:

Craig Honour   Bill Norris   Vic Hellberg   Jim Pease   Earl Boutell   Myron Carter  
Ray Pierce

Finding wonderful things to do was easy because there were so many to choose from. Looking at \$1.8 Million in dollar bills stapled to the ceiling of McGuire's while eating a great meal was pretty neat but watching Vic do a loop in the blue angel jet simulator was really exciting!

Finding a hotel that fit our needs was not so easy. All hotels were accommodating but nothing seemed to be a fit until we stopped at the Hilton Garden Inn. The staff was extremely helpful and the facility had everything we needed. Priced at \$119.00 per night with a full breakfast for two included is an exceptional value in Pensacola. They also have a free airport shuttle. The shuttle is also available for short trips to the nearby shopping malls. The only downside is the hotel is not pet friendly but they recommended the Town Home Suites just across the highway for our members that travel with pets. We will contact the Town Home Suites for rates and availability this coming week.

I am pumped and excited as I believe we are well on our way to another great reunion. Watch the home page and the 2014 Reunion page as we roll out the details.

Ray Pierce, VP - USSSVA

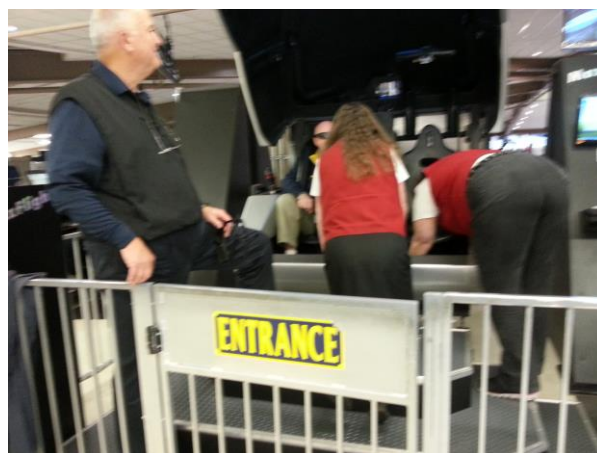
## PICTURES FROM THE SCOUTING TRIP



There's most of the reunion scouting group checking out Peg Leg Pete's – how's the drinks guys? I'm not sure what the Captain is trying to do to Pete – hopefully just pointing him out. Looks like Earl is checking him for military related disabilities – if anyone can help with that, it's Earl.



Captain Honour and Vic try out the Blue Angels flight simulator. Captain's got a grip on the controls – VIC – be afraid, be very afraid.



They are looking for Vic's phone. He says they pulled so many G's that it went weightless and floated off somewhere. Sounds like a likely story – what do you think?...



If you ever wondered why Ray doesn't show up in the pictures – here you go. He's always behind the camera trying to document everything for everyone. Last year we had to take the camera out of his hands a few times just to get him in some pics...

## NOTES ABOUT BENEFITS

### Shipmates-

When each one of us enlisted, we signed a blank check to our government for up to and including our lives. And some paid that amount. Part of the 'interest' of writing that check includes healthcare, education and training, home loan guaranty, small business loans, life insurance and burial benefits. Most of these benefits are provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA. Depending on your income and healthcare plan, you can enroll in VA medical. If you were injured or aggravated an existing condition during your enlistment, you may be eligible for VA monetary and healthcare benefits. Did you know that the VA can help you purchase a home? Up to \$417,000 loan guaranty and 0 down payment. Check with your Veterans Service Officer at your local VFW, VVA, AM Vets, DAV or American Legion office for FREE assistance.

If you are enrolled for VA healthcare and in Priority Group 3, you may not be required to sign up for the Affordable Healthcare (Obama care) Insurance if you are otherwise uninsured.

Business loans are handled through the Small Business Administration, or SBA. You can start or expand a business with a VA Small Business loan. Any bank which participates with the SBA can give you more details.

Eligibility for VA benefits include an other than dishonorable discharge from active duty (18 months minimum). You will be required to provide a copy of your DD 214 (or DD 215) discharge document. Your Veterans Service Officer will assist you in obtaining this document if you don't have one. Contact me at the reunion, I'll be happy to help answer your questions.

As a veteran you may have two benefits that can change your future. Request more information about your top benefits, the VA Loan and GI Bill. You can refinance or buy a house with your VA Loan with \$0 down payment, and rates are low with financing of up to \$417,000. Check with your lending institution or a Veterans advocate.

You can eliminate time in the classroom with ACE and CLEP, and many schools offer credit for your military experience and training. The GI Bill can be worth up to \$52,500. Check with your School with VA approved Programs.

Did you know that you are eligible for eye and ear care (glasses & hearing aids) now if you have at least a 10% disability or more? VA law was changed recently, and everyone who has any type of disability is covered for those 2 new things. So if your arms are getting too short, the VA will provide new glasses. Might be a copay, you'll have to check on that.

Homeless Vets now have additional benefits. The VA will help you get housing, and job training.

Earl Boutell

Our thanks to Earl for working on VA benefits reminders for all of us.

Earl will take any questions you may have about benefits and try to get them answered for you. You can email me and I'll forward to him – he will respond to you individually and share the tips with all of us as appropriate.

## Membership

2014 Paid Members – 02/21/2014

Darrel Daddox	Michael Hoke
Richard Tekulve	C. Alex Smith
Gary Garlach	Tom Huber
William Heise	John Marino
Robert Rivet	Henry Luniewski
Robert Bogart	Clarence Campell III
Timothy Connelly (new Member)	John Cardillo
Dave Ward	Donald Walls
Pat Hall	Phillip Cunningham
Michael Therry	Joel Boldenow
Jerry Mason	Floid King
Ronald Chappell	Edward Kuni
Josef Loeb	Alfredo Campos
Charles Anderson	

### *USSSVA Life Members*

Earl Boutell	David (Frosty) Frost	Eric (Pete) Lowry	Charles Rudd
Lance Briggs	Mark Giraldi (new)	Michael Miller	William Terrell
Myron Carter	Vic Hellberg	Robert Miller	Marland (Doc) Townsend
Chester Clark	Craig Honour	Bill Norris	Stu Tyson
Dale Eicker	Keith Jones	Jim Pease	
Thomas Filo	Peter Leon	Ray Pierce	



## SHIP's BELL

We have several folks still working on trying to get possession of the Ship's bell.

Peter Leon and David Holton are working to retrieve the ships bell for 2014. If you would like to help in any way please contact them or Bill Norris.



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### REUNIONS:

#### *PAST*

Here is some condensed info about past reunions:

#### **Reunion Number 1 – 2009**

20 members met and got the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association started. They met in Kansas City, Missouri for the first time on Saturday August 29, 2009 to establish the USS Seattle Veterans Association.

<b>Reunion Number 2 – 2010</b>	<b>Bremerton, WA</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>51 attended the Banquet</b>
<b>Reunion Number 3 – 2011</b>	<b>Virginia Beach, VA</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>50 attended the Banquet</b>
<b>Reunion Number 4 – 2012</b>	<b>New Orleans, LA</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>56 attended the Banquet</b>
<b>Reunion Number 5 – 2013</b>	<b>San Diego, CA</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>62 attended the Banquet</b>
<b>Reunion Number 6 – 2014</b>	<b>Pensacola, FL</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Let's make it the biggest ever</b>

# Fair Winds & Following Seas