



USS Seattle AOE-3

Veteran's Association
Newsletter



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TIME? It's almost here. Reunion # 6 – Pensacola, FL. – Tropical Breeze.

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USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association

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REUNION # 6

Pensacola, Florida is the location.

September 4th through the 7th are the dates.

The theme this year is: Tropical Breeze

Below is a list of events and prices....

Hilton Garden Inn
1144 Airport Blvd
Pensacola, FL

	Event Schedule	Member Fee	Spouse (Guest) Fee
Tuesday			
Early Arrival	all day		
Wednesday			
USSSVA Golf tournament Tee off AM back by noon	0730 - 1300		
Welcome	all day	\$ 45	
Gathering, show and tell Pizza, snaks and drink provided	1600 - 2200	\$ -	\$ -
Thursday			
Breakfast in Hotel	0600 - 0800	\$ -	\$ -
USS Alabama Tour	0800 - 1600	\$ 47	\$ 47
Hula in hotel	1830 - 2200	\$ 30	\$ 30
Friday			
Breakfast in Hotel	0600 - 0800	\$ -	\$ -
Naval Aviation Museum includes lunch	0830 - 1730	\$ 47	\$ 47
Evening meal in hotel or McGuire's Estimate	1900 - 2200	\$ 30	\$ 30
Saturday			
Breakfast in Hotel	0600 - 0800	\$ -	\$ -
Association meeting	0800 - 1000		
City Tour lunch provided (Oar House)	1030 - 1630	\$ 40	\$ 40
Banquet	1900 - 2200	\$ 49	\$ 49
Sunday			
Farewell Breakfast	0700 - 1000	\$ -	\$ -
Depart for Home			

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shipmates,

As of May 14th we have over 50 signed up for Pensacola, FL, and I would encourage you to call and register as early as possible to make sure everyone gets a room. If you have any special needs or have any problems please contact me directly. *When booking your reservation, please refer to the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association or the group code "SEA" This will allow you to get the discounted rate of \$119 per night and includes breakfast in our restaurant each morning. Hotel Phone number: 850-479-8900*

We're going to try something a little different this year. In an effort to encourage new reunion goers, I would like to offer 5 drawings at the reunion. There is nothing to purchase just attend the reunion in Pensacola. On Wednesday evening at our gathering time, we will provide food and drink and will have the following giveaways:

- 1) Captain Craig Honour has agreed to do three (3) simulator rides for reunion goers. We will have three separate drawings worth a free \$20 ride. Only restriction is you must be present to win.
- 2) We will give a \$100 cash award for the first female Seattle sailor to attend a reunion. If we have more than one, we'll draw for the winner.
- 3) We will give a \$100 cash award for the first **new** USSSVA (members only) Seattle sailor to attend this reunion. If we have more than one, we'll draw for the winner.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the reunion. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call myself or Ray Pierce and we'll try to answer them. Also, the next publication and/or emails to everyone will have the finalized details for all events planned at the reunion.

NOTE: Check out page 6 for a note about the USS Seattle AOE-3 Captains Gig!!!

Bill Norris
USSSVA President

Reference websites:

Motion-Based Simulator at the National Naval Aviation Museum
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPfu11PPIs>

USS Alabama (BB-60)
<http://www.ussalabama.com/>

The National Naval Aviation Museum
<http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org/>

USS Seattle Gig placed on USS Wisconsin (1 of 6)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUR6g3urhYM> #1

A SAILOR'S STORY by Vic Hellberg

I just spent three days with two of my former shipmates. We served together in 1968 as part of Seattle's first crew. That was 46 years ago. Being together was just like it was those many years ago in Bremerton where she was built. We had a terrific time together telling Seattle tales and experiences. For the three of us, Seattle was our only ship. We have shared a lifelong bond, having served together.

I am on the plane home and am saddened at how fast the time went. How quickly it was over. How much more I wanted to share. The good side is we will soon be together again in Pensacola.

My father was a ball turret gunner during the Second World War. He flew 24 missions over Germany and served with two different crews. He found the 379th Bomb Group some years ago and began attending their reunions. He would come home from those events all full of excitement and stories. I half-heartedly listened then went back to what was important to me. I was clueless as to what I was missing until we got this Seattle association group going. Those of us that have become involved have found we have filled a hole in our lives we didn't know we had. We are so rewarded when others have called, written and texted what getting back together with their shipmates has meant to them.

When we plan the reunions we try to come up with fun tours and experiences for you guys, in the community we are visiting. But what we hear from those in attendance was how much it meant to be together as a group. The reason I am writing these thoughts is I don't want you to make your decision about coming solely on the events we have planned. What you will find out is when you go home the memories will all be about the friends you saw, the people you met, the conversations you had and the time you spent together. It has happened to me five times.

Another surprise is the bond you will make with other shipmates who did not serve with you during your time aboard or who did serve with you and you never met aboard. We served in the early seventies and we called a fellow shipmate who served in the mid-eighties and he took time away from work and joined us for breakfast. When you come, you will make new friends, lifelong friends.

We are in a select group, a very special club. I found that out again when I wore my USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association shirt. I had several people come up and shake my hand and thank me for my service. And the biggest surprise was when twice on this trip it was active duty soldiers in uniform. Wow, it is nice to be recognized.

Have you ever been to a band concert where during the program they play songs from different branches of the service and when they play "Anchors Away" you get to stand along with other sailors in the crowd? You know that feeling in your whole body as you stand there as the crowd recognizes you for being in this "Special Club". Well, you will have those feelings when you come to a reunion of our association, I can promise you.

So, those are my thoughts. See you in Pensacola!

Vic

REUNION MEAL EVENTS

With info by Jim Pease

Monday (for the early arrivers)

Place: RODIZIO GRILL – A Brazilian Steakhouse

Location: 604 E. Gregory

Pricing: \$28.99 per person (includes unlimited appetizers, salads, and meats (grilled to choice))

Tuesday (also for early arrivers)

Place: PEG LEG PETE's – Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant

Eats: Oysters on the half shell, raw or steamed to perfection, served with garlic butter

Pricing: RAW or Steamed – ½ dozen on the half shell = 5.99 1 dozen on the half shell = 8.99

All the seafood is great but save room for desert: Key Lime Pie or Bread Pudding

Wednesday (opening day with a meal for all)

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Starts at 6 pm

Eats: Pizza with coffee and tea service and a dessert bar (with a huge assortment of mini-desserts)

Other: This is a great time to meet and greet all who are attending this year's reunion.

Thursday TROPICAL BREEZE LUAU

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Starts at 7 pm

Get your comfort clothes on – bright Hawaiian colors, grass skirts & Leis are certainly welcomed.

Eats: Enjoy some wonderful tropical foods – Teriyaki chicken or baked tilapia in citrus sauce, Island veggies, rice pilaf and fresh green salad. Assorted breads, iced tea or lemonade.

AND – for dessert (you might want to loosen a button) there's Coconut Cake.

Friday - Bus Ride from the hotel at 6:30 for a 7 pm seating.

Place: McGuire's Irish Pub & Restaurant (be sure to check out the ceiling as you come in)

Eats: Wide selection of seafood, steaks, chicken, and some burgers with amazing flavor.

Things you might try include; Senate Soup (served at the same price since 1977), a cold brew (every day here is like St. Patty's day), Irish Lamb Stew and for dessert you could try the Bread Pudding although you may want to opt for the Irish Bash Crème Pie instead.

Saturday ---- TROPICAL BREEZE BANQUET Seating at 7 pm but Happy Hour outside the conference room Starting at 6 pm

Place: Hilton Garden Inn – 1st Floor Conference Room Service starts at 7:30 pm

Eats: Char-Broiled Kansas City 10 oz. pork chops, Mediterranean Salad, garlic mashed potatoes, Key Largo mixed veggies, dinner rolls w/butter – served with iced tea and coffee.

DRESS: Arrrr – it's Pirate time – while dress is casual, you're welcome to dress up as a pirate and show off your garb and pirate demeanor.

CAPTAINS GIG

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle lives on, earlier this year BMC Daniel Dunham a volunteer on the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk Virginia contacted us and told us the USS Seattle Captains Gig had been found at the Navy Yard in Washington DC and acquired for the USS Wisconsin in 2013.

The museum was looking for a Gig that would have been like the one assigned to Wisconsin when she was commissioned and the Seattle Captains Gig was available. The Wisconsin purchased it from the Navy in early 2013, had it refurbished and placed on the ship in May 2013. Below my letter on page 3 (above) are links to the Wisconsin site and to You Tube videos of the Gig being moved and placed aboard Wisconsin.

The association has been given permission to design a plaque and place on the Wisconsin identifying the gig as having come from the USS Seattle. We hope to mount the plaque in July, right now Earl Boutell and I are planning on driving out from Houston for the weekend, anyone wanting to go please contact Earl or myself.

Update:

I have been working with BMC Daniel Dunham and the curator for the Wisconsin museum to finalize details for the plaque we are permitted to mount on the Captains Gig. A group of our association members are in the process of designing a teak plaque to mount on the Gig and hope to have it ready this July to dedicate it.

Once this project is complete I hope everyone from the USS Seattle will go by and take a picture and post on our website. If you were a Boatswain Mate on the USS Seattle and involved with the gig please contact Bill Norris with any story you might want to post. Even if you were not a BM but have a good (clean) story about the USS Seattle gig, send it to me.

Thanks, Bill Norris
USSSVA President



MEMBERSHIP

2014 Paid Members – 05/14/2014

Danny Abner	Albert (AL) Kaspar
C. E. "Andy" Anderson	Edward Kuni
Rev. Robert E. Bogart	Josef Loeb
Joel Boldenow	Hank Luniewski
Clarence L. Campbell III	Darrel Maddox
John Cardillo, Sr.	John Marino
Ronald Chappell	Jerry Mason
Timothy Connelly	Robert B. O'Connor
Cunningham, Phil	Robert R. Rivette, Jr.
Robert (Bob) Filichia	George Robinson
Garry Gerlach	Smith, C. Alex
Patrick D. Hall	Kyle Stafford
Joe Harp	Richard D. Tekulve
George Hastings, Jr.	Michael W. Therry
William Heise	Donald Walls
Michael Hoke	Dave Ward
Tom Huber	

**If you do not see your name and it should be here please contact Bill Norris.

Life Members – 05/14/14

Earl Boutell	Peter F. Leon
Lance Briggs	Pete (Eric A.) Lowry
Myron Carter	Michael Miller
Chester Clark	Robert Miller
Dale Eicker	Bill Norris
Thomas J. Filo	Jim Pease
David (Frosty) Frost	Raymond Pierce
Mark C. Giraldi	Charles Rudd
Vic Hellberg	Bill Tirrell
Craig Honour	Marland Townsend
Keith Jones	Stu Tyson

SHIP'S BELL

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

Keep watching for updates on this important item. Peter Leon and David Holton are working to retrieve the ships bell for 2014. If you would like to help in anyway please contact them or Bill Norris.



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.

Reunion Number 2 – 2010 Bremerton, WA – 51 at Banquet

The birthplace of the USS Seattle AOE-3. Pictures online include a scan of the well wishes letter from the Mayor to Seattle crewmembers.

Reunion Number 3 – 2011 Virginia Beach, VA – 50 at Banquet

Reunion Number 4 – 2012 New Orleans, LA – 56 at Banquet

Reunion Number 5 – 2013 Sand Diego. CA – 62 at Banquet

Fair Winds & Following Seas