



USS Seattle AOE-3

Veteran's Association Newsletter



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Issue # 20

Special - 2017

Issued: June, 2017

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UPCOMING REUNION IN SAN FRANCISCO

This special edition is all about the upcoming reunion. Information about the tours, and where things are as well as costs.

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SIGN UP ONLINE --- www.ussseattleaoe-3.org GET READY FOR ALL THE FUN

This issue is all about the reunion, what will be going on. What the tours are and the costs. Information about what everyone is going to be doing and what is available to do while you are at the reunion.

HURRY – if you haven't signed up, do so as quickly as possible.

WE look forward to seeing each and every one of you join us in San Francisco for this years reunion.

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CURRENT REUNION SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Day	Event	Time	Price	Comments
Wednesday	Arrival - Check-in			
	Member registration fee		\$75.00	
Day Total				
Thursday	Kickoff & General meeting	8:30 am – 10:15 am		
	Show and tell	10:30 am – 11:30am		Hope to get Doc
	Bus Leaves for Pier 39	12:00	\$60.00	Lunch on your own on Pier
	Alcatraz tour	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	per person	
	Bus returns to Hotel	4:15 PM		
	Hornblower Bay tour & Dinner Bus leaves	5:45 pm – 10:00 pm	\$143.00 per person	Everyone wear White please.
	Return to Hotel	10:45 PM		
Day Total				
Friday	Leave for SF City tour	9:00 AM	\$120.00	Everyone wear Navy Blue please.
	Return from City Tour	4:00 PM	per person	
	Mixer	6:00 PM		Cash bar
	Hotel Dinner Guest Speaker	7:00 PM	\$68.00 per person	Speaker: B.C. Thomas
	Cost of Bus			
Day Total				
Saturday				
	Free time for families	8:00 am – 2:00 pm		
	Show and Tell Time	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm		Light refreshments provided
	Mixer	6:00 PM	\$68.00	Cash bar
	Banquet	7:00 PM	per person	Speaker: Captain David C. Dykhoff
Day Total				
Sunday	Farewell Breakfast			

REUNION KICKOFF**Message from the Reunion Committee Vic Hellberg and Bill Norris**

Our reunion is scheduled for August 9th – 13th. We will be staying at the San Francisco Airport Hyatt Regency hotel. Information and registration details are available on our website at www.ussseattleaoe-3.org. The rate for a room, which includes breakfast daily is \$207.60, which is a great rate for San Francisco.

Here is the link for the hotel registration: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/USSSVA>

This year, we are going to have more free time during the reunion as has been requested. Thursday and Friday will not be as hectic as past reunions and Saturday will be a free day until the Banquet that evening.

We will start on Wednesday with registration and an evening of snacks and meet new members and storytelling. Thursday, a trip to pier 39, Alcatraz tour, free time for shopping and then an evening dinner cruise around the bay. Friday, a daytime city tour, return to the hotel in the afternoon for our annual “Show and Tell”, then a dinner in the Hyatt with a guest speaker, B.C. Thomas former SR-71 Blackbird pilot with more logged flight hours than any other pilot. Saturday night our customary banquet and this year’s speaker will be Captain David C. Dykhoff. Captain Dykhoff served aboard 2/14/03 – 4/8/04.

The reunion will end with our Farewell breakfast in the hotel commons area. Reunion Event Registration is now open at this link: http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/ep_event.cfm?EventID=6443

This schedule will hopefully give everyone a chance to take a tour or trip in the area they would like or to just relax at the hotel and visit. We will try and provide information about points of interest in the area. This year it looks like we could have up to 3 former Captains at the reunion, how cool would that be!!!

Hope see you in San Francisco...

Bill and Vic

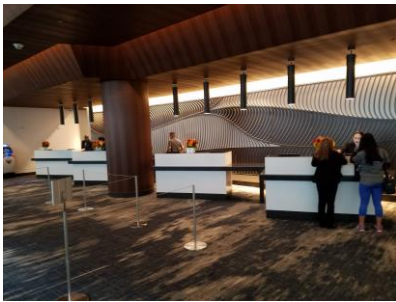
CHECK IN – HOTEL

WEDNESDAY



Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

Look for your shipmates in the commons areas or at the hospitality room located Cypress A.



Hotel check in area.



A view from one of the rooms.



The commons area of the Hotel – a place to find your shipmates.

THURSDAY

Kickoff / General Meeting (Cypress A)

8:30 AM – 10:15 AM

All Members – many topics to discuss including any updates on tours.

Please plan to attend and join in for this important meeting.

Ship's Store (Boardroom II)

Open 10:15 – 11:15

Vic has stocked up and brought a lot of goodies for everyone to check out.

Miss an item during the reunion – order online at the Seattle website.

Pier 39

Bus will take the group to the world-famous PIER 39 – departing from the hotel at 12:00. Explore a variety of attractions exclusive to **The PIER**. Sail the Bay aboard one of PIER 39's many water attractions, then discover 20,000 local sea creatures at Aquarium of the Bay. You can also enjoy free daily shows by local street performers at the Carousel Stage, as well as musicians in the PIER 39 Entrance Plaza. Lunch will be on your own with a variety of eating venue choices.

Alcatraz Island Tour



We will meet at 2:30 to start the tour. This tour offers a close-up look at the site of the first lighthouse and US built fort on the West Coast. The infamous federal penitentiary long off-limits to the public, and the history making 18 month occupation by Indians of All Tribes. Rich in history, there is also a natural side to “The Rock” — gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and bay views beyond compare.

The Hornblower Dinner cruise



You're not truly a San Franciscan until you cruise the Bay! Departing the hotel at _____. We will embark on an exquisite dinner cruise to celebrate our 9th USS Seattle reunion. Feast on shimmering Bay views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Bay Bridge, and take in that gorgeous city skyline. Great food, special cocktails, champagne, live music, and the most stunning views in town. It will almost be like live on the USS Seattle again, but without the work details...

FRIDAY

San Francisco City Bus Tour



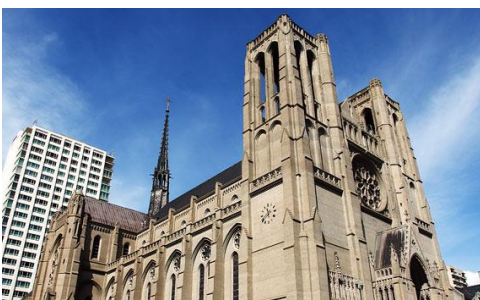
Departing from the hotel at 9:00 AM and returning at 4:00 PM the 5 hour tour includes:



Chinatown - a 5-block guided-walk through, walking down authentic streets, exploring many grocery shops and historic sites. Your Tour Guide will stop at various places to point out interesting facts along the way. Have you ever seen black meat chicken? You will....



Palace of Fine Arts (Go Inside) the only building remaining from San Francisco's 1915 World's Fair, it is the most popular place in the city for wedding photos!



Grace Cathedral (Go Inside) Some say this is simply the best part of the tour. Grace is modeled after the great Gothic cathedrals in Europe and is a site rarely seen in America. We will go inside to view the inside of the church

FRIDAY (CON'T)



Alamo Square Park (*Famous Victorian Homes*)

This San Francisco park is an incredibly popular place because it is home of those famous Victorian Homes known as Postcard Row. Your Tour Guide will tell you about the history of Alamo Square Park and the many movies and TV shows made there (think Full House!). Make your own postcard row picture on this wonderful tour stop.



Lombard Street (*Guided Downhill Walk*) Special Lombard Street Walking Tour! You will be able to take pictures from the bottom of the street while the cars come driving down. Lombard Street has been nicknamed "the most crooked street in the world". The street has a series of eight hairpin turns on a block between Hyde and Leavenworth. It's actually one of the most attractive streets in San Francisco. For those who don't care to walk down – you can stay on the bus and ride down.



Cable Car Barn Museum the Cable Car Barn Museum is an actual working/functional facility that currently controls all of the functionality of today's cable cars. This museum is not just for show – it's amazing in that you will get to see the inner-workings of the San Francisco Cable Car System.



Sausalito –Sausalito is a beautiful, Mediterranean-style town with houses on the hillsides overlooking the water. Many restaurants, cafes, clothing shops and art galleries line streets, we will have enough time for you to enjoy lunch.

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FRIDAY (CON'T)



Golden Gate Bridge (*Drive-over and Stop!*)

We will drive over the Golden Gate Bridge on this San Francisco tour, stopping for pictures and allowing you to walk around the vista points of the city's most treasured landmark.

During the tour we will also provide you amazing detailed historical narrative about the construction process of the bridge. Seeing the bridge in person is one thing, but on this tour, we drive over it – which is better!

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – Everyone wear your Navy Blue Seattle shirts for this picture if you have them. If you don't have one and need one – Contact Vic Hellberg if you'd like to purchase and he'll bring to the reunion.

Dinner at Hotel (Sequoia A)

Mixer --- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Cash bar – conversation and fellowship before dinner.

Dinner at 7:00 PM

Buffet

Minestrone Soup

Spring Mix Salad with Tomatoes, Carrots, Cucumbers, Lemon Dijon dressing

Caesar Salad with Parmesan, Croutons, Traditional Dressing

Herb Rubbed Breast of Chicken with Asparagus and Pan Sauce

Pan Seared Salmon with a Citrus Shallot Sauce

Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables with Basil Olive Oil

Fruit Tartlets

Water pitchers on the table

Freshly Brewed Coffee/ Decaf/ Tea

Guest Speaker: B.C. Thomas



B.C. Thomas was named an "Outstanding Graduate" of Denison High School in Denison, TX and delivered the commencement address to 2014 graduates of DHS.

He graduated from SMU with a B.S. in mathematics in 1964 and an M.S. in statistics in 1966, then entered the United States Air Force and served a 22-year career as a military pilot, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His service career includes a combat tour in Vietnam, graduation from the Air Force Test Pilot School and 11 years as an operational reconnaissance and test pilot in the SR-71, the world's fastest and highest flying aircraft. He logged more flight hours in the SR-71 than any other pilot and is the only person to have flown all three U.S. Air Force high-altitude (above 60,000 feet) reconnaissance aircraft: the RB-57F, U-2 and SR-71 Blackbird.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, he was a flight test engineer for the Northrop B-2 Stealth Bomber. He also served as a flight test captain for United Airlines, flying the airline's entire fleet of commercial aircraft. Among his many flying accomplishments was to land a 727 at Meigs Field to be placed in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, on a runway one third the length allocated for a 727.

After retiring from United Airlines, he taught High School mathematics for 3 years.

SATURDAY

FREE TIME FOR FAMILIES

08:00 AM – 2:00 PM Enjoy checking out sites and things to do around town.

Shipmates “Get-Together” (Cypress A)

02:00 PM – 5:00 PM Time for getting together to share stories, reminisce about Navy days and what we’ve been doing since. Should be a great time for all to share. Refreshments will be served.

MIXER (Sequoia A)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Cash bar – conversation and fellowship before the main event.

BANQUET (Sequoia A)

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Dinner

Course 1

Chopped Iceberg with Cherry Tomatoes, Chives, Blue Cheese Crumbles & Dressing

Course 2

Slow Cooked Beef Short Rib with Mashed Potatoes and Asparagus

Or

Crispy Chicken Breast with Mashed Potatoes and Asparagus

Course 3

Carrot Cake with Whipped Cream

Water Pitchers on each table

Freshly Brewed Coffee/ Decaf/ Tea

BANQUET GUEST SPEAKER

Captain David C. Dykhoff (U.S. Navy Retired)

Captain Dykhoff grew up in West Virginia and attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He was commissioned through the Aviation Officer Candidate program in Pensacola, Florida.



His background includes tours with two F-14 Tomcat squadrons (VF-154 and VF-24) and assignment as Operations Officer for Carrier Air Wing Nine, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 97 flying the FA-18 Hornet, Executive Officer of USS NIMITZ, Commanding Officer of the USS SEATTLE (AOE 3), and Commanding Officer of USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73). During his command tour with VFA-97, the squadron won awards for excellence in aircraft maintenance, ordnance handling, carrier landing excellence (Top Hook), and battle efficiency. The Captain participated in closing phases of Operation Desert Storm, and during subsequent deployments to the Arabian Gulf participated in different phases of Operation Southern Watch. During his tour on NIMITZ, the ship emerged from the first-ever refueling of a NIMITZ-class carrier, transited around South America as she changed homeports from Norfolk to San Diego, and returned to full operational capability. During his command tour aboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, the ship prepared for transfer to the forward deployed naval forces in Japan, and transited the Strait of Magellan in route to Yokosuka.

In the late 1980s, he managed F-14 flight testing at the Navy's aircraft test center in Patuxent River, Maryland. Projects in which he was involved included tests to determine the high speed flying qualities and carrier suitability of the F-14B Super Tomcat before it was delivered to fleet units. Captain Dykhoff was instrumental in resurrecting the ground attack mission for the Tomcat when he served as project officer for that evolution, dropping bombs from the F-14 for the first time at Patuxent River since the early days of the Tomcat program.

Captain Dykhoff served as Flag Lieutenant to Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet when that position was held by then Vice Admiral Joseph Prueher. During this tour Captain Dykhoff was selected to serve as the NATO liaison officer to the United Nations Bosnia-Herzegovina Command in Sarajevo, where he co-authored the air operations order used to lift the siege of Sarajevo in February 1994.

Between his squadron and ship command tours, Captain Dykhoff was ordered to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. Working in the operations directorate in the Central Command area of responsibility, he was closely involved in the briefings and staff work necessary for the successful execution of Operation Desert Fox, in addition to having primary responsibility for other classified projects. Other staff positions in which he has served include Readiness Officer for Naval Air Forces, and Chief of Staff, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Dykhoff is a graduate of U.S. Air Force Air War College, U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), Joint Forces Staff College, Air Command and Staff College, and Naval Nuclear Power and Prototype Schools. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics, and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering. He is authorized to wear the Legion of Merit, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and other awards.

Subsequent to retiring from the US Navy, Captain Dykhoff owned and operated a small business, worked as a consultant to a program designing the first drone to operate from aircraft carriers, and served as Director, Modeling and Simulation for the US Missile Defense Agency.

SUNDAY**Farewell Breakfast**

Join us in the "ATRIUM" for our farewell breakfast.

Serving from 06:30 to 11:00 to allow time for all to stop in before departing for home.

SAFE TRAVELS for all and we look forward to seeing you at our next reunion.

Show Your USS Seattle Spirit!

(Show your Spirit with shirt, hat, jacket, decal, license plate cover and more from Ship's Store)

Would be great to see everyone in Seattle garb during the reunion and all year long. Vic keeps a good stock of shirts, jackets, hats and other items in the Ship's Store. Be sure to stop by and get yours while you're here or order online at the website --- www.ussseattleaoe-3.org.

Fair Winds & Following Seas