

# SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



**Dedicated to the men who served on this great fighting ship!**

**VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2**

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## **REUNION LAST CALL**

### **SAN ANTONIO 16-20 APRIL 2012**

Here is the list of 63 shipmates attending as of February 17 and still counting:

Bob and Carolyn Acor QM59-60, Ted and Fay Anthony S055-57 and Sister Maggie Colwell,  
Deirde Bridewell (James ET63-67), Bill and Lin Brinkman EM60-62,  
Richard and Bonnie Carney EN64-66, Cal and Joyce Cochrane MM55-56 with daughter Shirley McKay and  
friend Nivea Knox, Vince Sottile Honorary Submariner, Merlyn and Shirley Dorrheim TM64-66,  
Richard and Karel Earl EN63-65, Jack and Lori Ensminger TM61, Richard and Shirley Fox CO63-64,  
Ron Godwin ST58-61 and ENS66, James and RoseAnn Halbert MM62-64, Hubert and Linda Jackson EM66-69,  
Arnold and Eileen Johnson EM62-63, Ivan and Marjorie Joslin LT59-63, Mike and Marjorie Kassinger EN64-66,  
Chuck and Bobbie Killgore EM63-65, Terry Kopansky Honorary Submariner, John and Sharon Love ET58-61,  
Ken and Jean Manion EM63-66, Robert and Ann Matheny SO52-56, Joe and Stella Murdoch ET62-63,  
Tom and Polly Polen EM62-65, Roy Purtell TM66-69 President Sea Owl Assn, Dewey and Dottie Reed SO62-63,  
John and Agnes Romeo IC68-69, Rick Socha and Sharon Lyon STS64-66, Marty and Enola Stokes EN54-57,  
Albert and Jean Turbeville MM63-65, Arne and Evonne Weinfurter MM63-66,  
Larry and Arlene Weinfurter MM62-65, and Lanny Yeske LTJG61-63.



Still not too late, but we need your reservations now. See the January 2012 Newsletter for the Registration Form. If you are anywhere near Texas, come on and join us for another incredible reunion. We anticipate more will sign up.

# A GRANDFATHER TO BE

Sea Poacher crew most likely in the 1946 time frame with photo by George Boyajian. QM1 Scott Horton is front right out-board. Provided by LCDR Matthew Horton, Scott's Grandson, and currently Engineering Officer Newport News (SSN-750).



## OUR SECOND FIVE INCH GUN?

Pretty much solved as to when it was installed. Ralph Cobb, LTJG 44-45, knows for certain it was not aboard during WWII. In the above photo it is certainly not there. However, there is something on the after deck. Other photos suggest this is a 20 mm gun although it could be just a piece of temporary special equipment. Any ideas?

Then Peter Amunrud, FC 49-52, found the following clip from the 1997 U.S. Submarine Force Information Book.

*The 5"/25 S.P., Single, Open, Wet, Pedestal Type Mk 40 Mod 0 is a weapon with a bore diameter of 5 inches, (128 millimeters) and a bore length of 25 calibers. The gun can fire a common projectile of 53.65 pounds, or an anti-aircraft projectile of 53.8 pounds to a range of 14500 yards or an altitude of 12000 feet. Remarks: Became standard deck gun during WWII. First mounted on USS Spadefish (SS-411) in August 1944. Seven 'gunboats' mounting two 5"/25s and a fire control system were to be available by September 1945. The USS Sea Cat (SS-399) was ready in July 1945. The remainder were to be SS-299, 340, 401, 406, 407 and 408.*

Peter then said that we can deduce that Sea Poacher got the two 5 inch gun configuration after WWII and before 1948. The other boats mentioned are Manta, Entemedor, Sea Dog, Sea Robin and Sennet. Your Editor questioned Peter on why he said before 1948. He responded: "I went aboard the boat in early 1949 at Key West and they (the 406 boat) had just arrived from Panama where that Squadron was disbanded. Several of the Panama boats went to Key West to join Squadron Four. At that time Sea Poacher was a 2-gun gunboat. Shortly thereafter we went to Portsmouth shipyard for overhaul, so I don't think the Navy would have done installation of the second gun in 1948 and then back to the shipyard for overhaul in 1949. I was a Fire Controlman, so the fire control equipment in the After Battery was part of my responsibility, meaning I know it was there. I think the gun installation was done shortly after WWII, probably in 1946, and then the boat joined the Panama Squadron. I remember seeing Sea Robin and Sennet also with two 5 inch guns. See my comments on page 102 of the We Remember Sea Poacher Book."



# ENLISTED JUMPER HISTORY

It goes back well over 200 years. Some of this is fact, myths, or old wives' tales. You can sort it out. The jumper was originally designed with a separate collar made of leather or heavy sail canvas. Back in the days of wooden ships and iron men, sailors pulled their hair back into a ponytail and applied tar to it. This protected the neck and shoulders from sword slashes. The neckerchief was like a "battle dressing" and doubled as a sling, or when unfolded, as a handbag for personal belongings. It was black so as not to show the dirt. The piping and stars on the collar have too many interpretations to discuss here.

Bell bottoms have been traditional since the beginning. The 'flare' was designed for ease in rolling up pants legs while wading ashore or when scrubbing decks, for ease in kicking the trousers off in the water, and for use as a life preserver. The headgear in the 'old Navy' was a canvas hat similar in appearance to what we have today. It was used as a pail to carry water, to bail out a boat, or as an emergency float for a man overboard. Rolled down, the hat protected sailors from the sun.

From U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II, Volume 3, 1988, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX.

## WOMEN ON SUBMARINES

Peter Amunrud also commented: Way back when - when we qualified, most of us were thrown over the side after receiving our first set of Dolphins. This was usually done after morning quarters, which was just a few hours after the below decks 04-08 watch had blown sanitary tanks dry and some 'debris' was floating nearby. Do they still allow this with all the pollution control we have? AND - is this practice going to continue when these women start to earn their Dolphins?

Your Editor searched the Internet for information on current submarine and other Navy ships marine pollution policies. The National Academies Press website has the complete document on Shipboard Pollution Control and Navy Compliance. While Navy ships are exempt, they try to comply. However, with long deployments, submarines still dispose of both black and gray water by blowing sanitary tanks to sea. And yes, the first three women officers reported aboard the Wyoming (SSBN-742) in January 2012.

## A REUNION AFTER 60 YEARS



On 21 October 2011 Troy and Earline Law traveled to Boone, NC, from Cascade, VA, to meet James and Deloris Clark from Chicago, who were visiting friends at a mountain retreat. Troy (FN 1952-Left) and James (FA 1952-53-Right) were shipmates on Sea Poacher and had not seen each other since 1954. Two years ago James got in touch with Troy, and they now talk by phone often. Troy said they had a delightful day visiting and telling sea stories.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT-BILL BRINKMAN

Hello Shipmates,

**1. Dues:** Currently, we have 216 Life Members and 34 Regular members. If you're a Life Member or have paid your 2012 dues, thank you. If not, then just a reminder to pay \$10 for your 2012 dues or become a Life Member for \$100. There are several good reasons for becoming a Life Member:

- a. You'll never again get these annoying letters from me or our Treasurer Hubert Jackson.
- b. You'll receive a free patch.
- c. The Association continues Life Membership status for your widow.

Send your check (made out to Sea Poacher Association) to me at 4500 Tiffany Nicole Street, Round Rock, TX 78665 -9466 or email me at [seapoacher@austin.rr.com](mailto:seapoacher@austin.rr.com) if you have questions.

**2. Address and e-mail changes:** Please be sure to send us your latest mailing and e-mail addresses. Remember, it is our Association policy to not show your mailing address and telephone number on our newsletters or on our website. When shipmates request them, we do put them in touch with you.

**3. Newsletter Via E-mail:** Please **let me know** at [seapoacher@austin.rr.com](mailto:seapoacher@austin.rr.com) that you want to get your newsletter off the computer and to be taken off the mailing list to save the Association over \$10 a year. We'll use the savings for other activities instead! Then four times a year, I'll e-mail you to inform you that the latest newsletter is on the Sea Poacher website for you to view and/or print.

**4. Sea Poacher Memorial Fund:** When a shipmate passes on, our Association presents to the next of kin a Memorial Plaque. The framed and matted picture of Sea Poacher underway at sunset includes a Final Prayer and indicates the service years. We decided that funding for this should stand alone, so we are accepting contributions made out to Sea Poacher Association and mailed to me. Please indicate "Memorial Fund" on your check.

**5. Newsletter Contributions:** Our Editor welcomes anything new be it a write-up or photos. Send to Lanny Yeske, 1063 MacArthur Place, Forest, VA 24551-1931 or email [doctoryeske@yahoo.com](mailto:doctoryeske@yahoo.com). Most everything will be printed.

**6. Plaque to Peru:** It was sent to Captain Paco Garfias to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Peruvian Submarine Force, and presented to their Submarine Force Commander by Vice Admiral Jose Garcia, Chairman of their Submariner's Association, at a special ceremony and party on 9 December 2011. Here is their response.

Dear Mr. Brinkman

Gladly, I address to you in order to express my greetings and gratitude, in the name of all those that work in the Peruvian Submarine Force and my own, for the donation of the USS Sea Poacher commemorative plaque, due to our 100th anniversary of the creation of our Force. This gift will place a special spot in our wardroom.

Not other particular matter wishing the best for you.

Truly yours,








Rear Admiral  
César PRADA Ugás  
Commander of the Peruvian  
Submarine Force



# SEA POACHER SHIP'S STORE

Marine Artist Richard DeRosset has made us two paintings showing Sea Poacher with the Step Sail and during the Cuban Missile Crises with the North Atlantic Sail. We have prints and high quality canvas reproductions. He has also done a third painting of the WWII Version showing a gun battle with the Japanese in 1945. Our own Ray Krivascy TM 1952-1953 has painted Sea Poacher at the pier in 1952 which he gave to Captain William Gibson at his change of command in 1953. We also have prints and canvas copies of it. All come unframed and prices include shipping/postage. Fill in the below form, make a copy, do your check payable to Bill Brinkman, and mail to me at 4500 Tiffany Nicole Street, Round Rock, TX 78665-9466. Check out the other items also available from our Ship's Store.

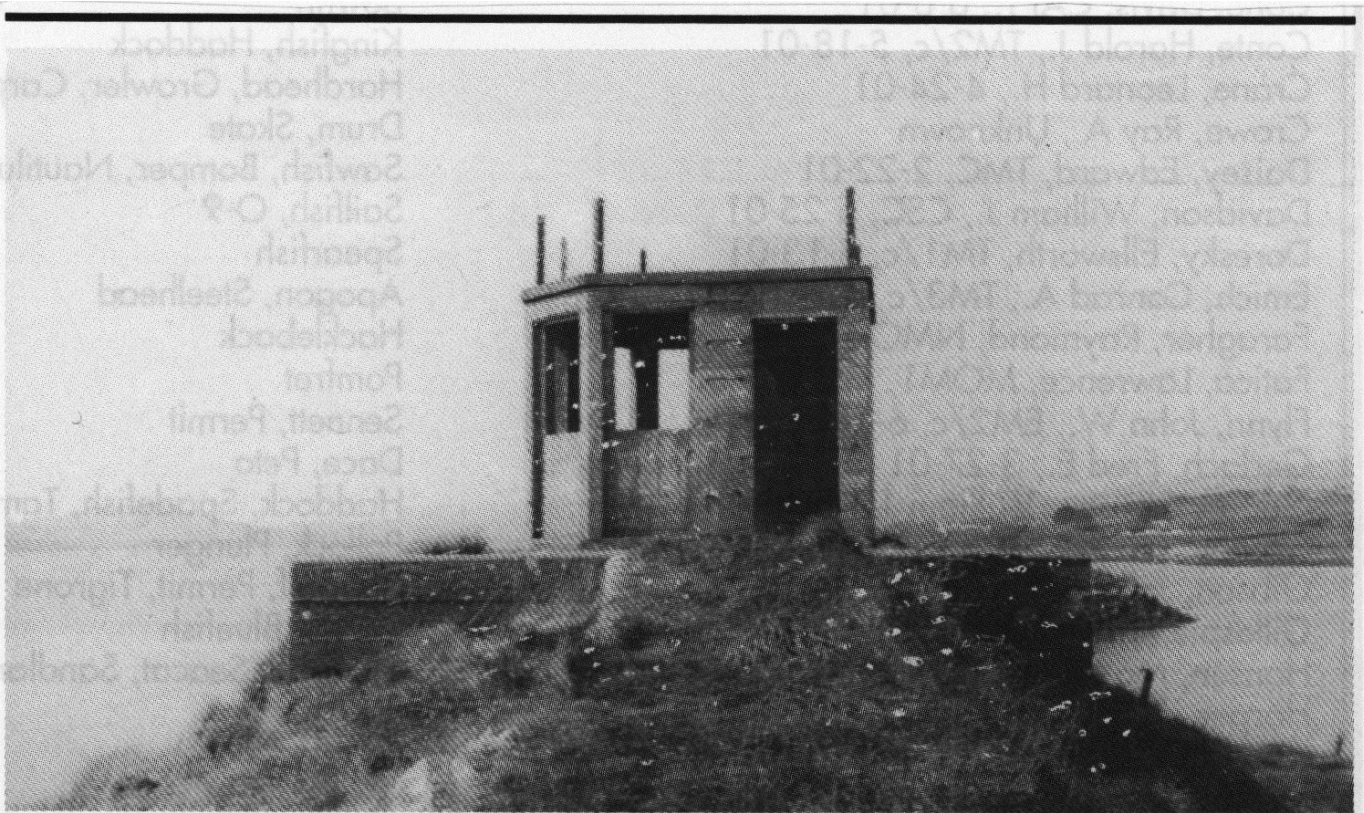
 <p>This beautifully crafted stainglass piece of Sea Poacher created by Annette Snook, wife of John B. Snook QM 59-62. This piece will be a crafted by Annette as we receive orders, so there will be some delay in delivery. Piece measures 17"x10 1/2".</p>	<p><b>New Items : 7 Paintings by Richard DeRossett and our own Ray Krivascy.</b></p> <p>DeRossett , WW II 1945 Surface Action 17" X 39"</p>  <p>DeRossett , Step Sail 10" X 23 " Print DeRossett , Step Sail 15 " X 28 " Canvas</p>  <p>DeRossett , North Atlantic Sail 10" X 23 " Print DeRossett , North Atlantic Sail 15" X 28 " Canvas</p>  <p>Krivascy , Step Sail 18.5 " X 15 " Print Krivascy , Step Sail 21.5 " X 18 " Canvas</p> 
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Items	Quantity	Price	Total
Key Chain	<input type="text"/>	\$3.00	<input type="text"/>
Ship Patch	<input type="text"/>	5.50	<input type="text"/>
Ball Cap	<input type="text"/>	14.00	<input type="text"/>
Plastic Mugs	<input type="text"/>	12.00	<input type="text"/>
Golf Shirt Sizes M, L, XL & 2XL (w/o pockets)	<input type="text"/>	22.00	<input type="text"/>
Golf Shirt Sizes M, L, XL & 2XL (with pockets)	<input type="text"/>	25.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting DeRossett 10x23 print Step Sail	<input type="text"/>	20.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting DeRossett 15x28 canvas Step Sail	<input type="text"/>	30.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting DeRossett 10x23 print Cuba	<input type="text"/>	20.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting DeRossett 15x28 canvas Cuba	<input type="text"/>	30.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting DeRossett 17x39 canvas WWII	<input type="text"/>	40.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting Krivascy 15x18 print Step Sail	<input type="text"/>	20.00	<input type="text"/>
Painting Krivascy 18x21.5 canvas Step Sail	<input type="text"/>	35.00	<input type="text"/>
Stained Glass Sea Poacher	<input type="text"/>	110.00	<input type="text"/>
Dolphin Vest chains, gold or silver	<input type="text"/>	25.00	<input type="text"/>
We Remember Sea Poacher Book (on CD)	<input type="text"/>	10.00	<input type="text"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>=====</b>



# WORLD WAR I SUBMARINE BASE

Photo and article courtesy of Ralph Cobb, LTJG 1944-45



*The US Sub Base watch tower, Berehaven, County Cork, Ireland*

## OUR WW-I IRELAND SUBBASE

By Marty Schaffer (Redfish)

It was Gertie O'Sullivan (see pix) in her bookstore "The Shell" who on April 20, 1989 filled me in on where in WWI we not only anchored our balloons in what today is a golf course, but our "L" boats as well. It was in the little southern Ireland town of Castletownbere on Bantry Bay.

The Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships (DANFS), Vol. IV, pp. 1-4 (1969) calls the town Berehaven and confirms the location of that subbase.

Gertie stated "The golf course up the street was the base. It was a balloon station too. Six balloon sheds were there,

each 100' 6" by 36' 0" with quarters for 20 officers and 150 men, also workshops, garages, oil and petrol storage facilities (the big tank bases are still embedded in the golf course,) guard and watch hut still standing (see pix), power house, lecture room, silicon plant, oblution hut, jetty and other subsidiary buildings, all on a 67 acre site." Directly behind the guard hut in the distance, Berehaven can be seen.

The same publication (DANFS) lists our boats at Bantry Bay, Porto Delgado and Horta Fayal, Azores.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.



# MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Billy Gorsuch (RM 67-68) presents the Memorial Plaque to Barbara Harrell, wife of Max A. Harrell (FC 49-50) in Sebring, FL. Max served for 29 years in the Navy including Commanding Officer of the Submarine Rescue Vessel PETREL where he was instrumental in engineering the 1966 recovery of the H-Bomb lost in the Mediterranean.

## PENDING PRESENTATIONS

Phillip Kinnie	EN53-56	Eternal Patrol 26 July 2011
Don Wilkinson	TM56-57	Eternal Patrol August 2011
Donald Cipra	COB64-65	Eternal Patrol 3 Dec 2011
Mark Richwine	YN62-63	Eternal Patrol 24 Dec 2011
Ernest Fontes	EN51-52	Eternal Patrol 3 Jan 2012
Jim (Jack) Gentry	TMC62-63	Eternal Patrol 18 Jan 2012

Chief Gentry will be interred at Arlington National Ceremony on 1 May 2012 with the ceremony beginning at 1500 in the Chapel. The Merrill's and Joslin's will be attending, and perhaps others from Sea Poacher. If you can make it, please let one of us know.

## OTHER THOUGHTS

"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders of the deep." Psalm 107: 23-24

"I have spread the mantle of my nation over the ocean, and will guard her forever. I am her heritage, and yours. I am the American Sailor." Anonymous

"I saw the submariners, the way they stood aloof and silent, watching their pigboat with loving eyes. They are alone in the Navy. I admired the PT boys. And I often wondered how the aviators had the courage to go out day after day, and I forgave their boasting. But the submariners. In the entire fleet they stand apart." James Michener

## **SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION**

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Panama? 1948-51? Any ideas shipmates? Photo courtesy of Diane MacPherson.

