



Hooter Hilites

A Publication of the USS Sea Owl Association

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

We still give a hoot!

December 2011 Issue



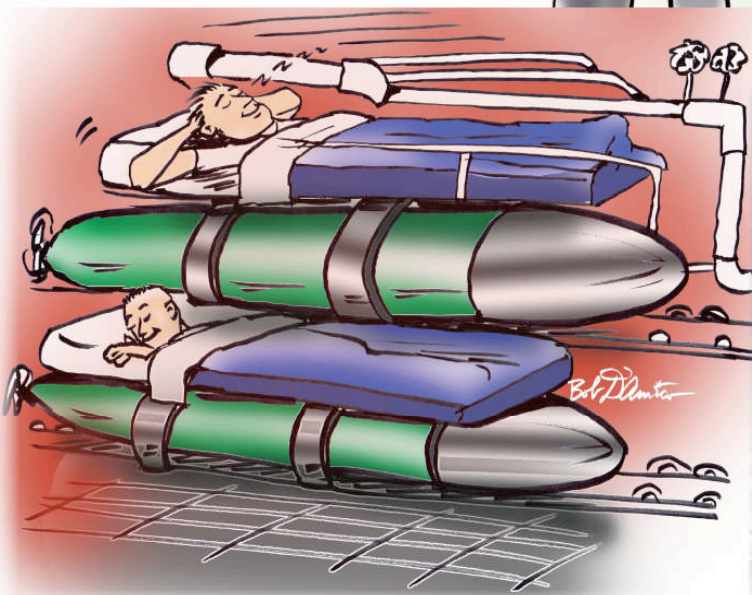
Thank you Sea Owl...

Thank you Sea Owl... for the wealth of experience with barfing. Ever since some of those wonderful 'rough seas' experiences, I've coached many a barfing person about proper breathing and relaxing techniques while barfing, and how do an even better job.

Thank you Sea Owl... for teaching me how to turn and walk sideways in a crowd.

Thank you Sea Owl... for teaching me how to trace a 'system'... electrical, plumbing, or whatever. I've impressed many a plumber since then.

Thank you Sea Owl... for teaching me to sleep like a baby right on top of a torpedo warhead in rough seas.



From the Editor

As in the past for the December issue Howland Owl has exchanged his wizard cap for a Santa hat. Also on page 1 is Bob D'Amico's latest cartoon, a continuation on the "Thank You Sea Owl" theme begun in the September issue. This theme evolved out of a discussion I had with Bob at last June's Groton picnic. I had recently read TV comedian Jimmy Fallon's book "Thank You Notes" and suggested we might come up with a few "thank you" notes from our experiences on Sea Owl. As an extra treat for this issue I asked Bob to do a video showing how he develops an idea for a cartoon and what goes into drawing the final version. As you can see from his video it is a combination of old and new drawing techniques. I found it fascinating to watch and hope you do as well. I may point out that this video was not recorded at his Brooklyn, NY studio, but rather at the home of his 89 year old aunt in Saylorsburg, PA. Bob and Carol are serving as caregivers for his aunt and have been able to make their business "mobile" and work out of an upstairs den at her house.

I hope you enjoy the DVD version of this newsletter. There were some other items I had thought about adding to it, but just didn't have the time to include them.

I had the occasion yesterday while in Rhode Island to stop by and see Shipmate Stan Ainley, MM 44-49 and his wife, Lois. (I was in Providence to see what is left of the Russian submarine and to talk about how best to remove the remaining periscope without damaging it.) Stan mentioned that he and Lois recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. Lois and I attended the same high school, Classical High School in Providence, but she was in the class of 1941 and I was only 2 years old then. I am class of 1957.

I hope that you all will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Sea Owl Shipmates on Parade

This photograph was sent to me by Greg Lee, RM 68-69 and is of Greg and Ralph Sterley, ET 45-46 after marching in the Auburn, Washington Veterans Day parade. This photograph represents something of a Sea Owl "alpha and omega" since Ralph Sterley served aboard in 1945 and made war patrols 2 and 3 whereas Greg served aboard in 1968-69 and was part of the decommissioning crew.

Apparently Ralph was on the radar when Sea Owl detected the Japanese submarine at Wake Island and sank it.

As you can see in the photograph both wear Sea Owl Association patches on their vests. Thanks Greg for sharing this photograph!



Future DVD Issues?

I am always looking for new ideas for stories that might be of interest. If you like the idea of having a DVD version of the newsletter, perhaps I will do it again next year. It provides a means to include things that just cannot be done in just a print version. I already have a few oral history videos of shipmates some of whom have since departed on "eternal patrol" and could include some of the more interesting parts of them in a future issue. I could also add additional oral history material in addition to what I have already recorded.

One of the ideas I had for this DVD issue was to include a Sea Owl slide show accompanied by Tommy Cox singing his song, "Diesel Boats Forever". I just did not have time to put it all together as I would like in time to include it this time. Such a slide show could include various photographs of Sea Owl and her crew over the years. I would welcome any photographs you may want to add to such a slide show.



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:

Leroy Patrick Durham, RM2 – 52-56 – December 9

Thomas P. Dougherty, SN – 58-59 – December 11

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 quarterly publication of the USS Sea Owl Association. Issues are published in March, June, September and December.

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