

# Swift Current

The official publication of the  
Swift Boat Sailors Association.

III Quarter 2006

Comments & suggestions to-  
[editor@swiftboats.org](mailto:editor@swiftboats.org)

## How About A Nice, Gentle Boat Ride Around Glorietta Bay? .....**NOT!**

If you're not planning on being in San Diego for the SBSA Reunion next May, you won't know what this is all about. See inside for details or go to the SBSA website:

[www.swiftboats.org](http://www.swiftboats.org)

- to get the details. *You don't want to miss this!*



### President's Corner

Forty years ago I received unexpected orders to N.A.B., Coronado for PCF Crew Training...like any life-changing event, I can still recall the exact moment when the lead chief declared, "You're going to Vietnam, son. You got yourself combat boat duty!"

After my one year tour of duty, I felt fortunate to return from Vietnam but most of all, proud to have served my country. As may be the case for many fellow Swifties, my pride was shattered by the disgraceful reception awaiting us at airports across the nation.

Proudly, I report that Virgil Erwin and Team San Diego has made it their priority to help right that wrong of long ago. The theme for the SBSA 2007 Reunion is "WELCOME HOME!" As noted by Virgil, "there is no better place to carry out this theme than where it all began."

One week after the Hanalei Hotel opened the reservation window for our reunion, twenty-some reservations had already been made. The excitement is building fast and this promises to be a truly terrific gathering of the old warriors. Make the call, shipmates, and reserve your rooms now before our room block limit is exceeded.

One of the many reunion highlights will be the Memorial Service at the VUMM. By tradition the service is being held in honor of our fifty brother's still on patrol, this service will be dedicated to Thomas G. Forrest at the one year anniversary of his passing.

There will also be an opportunity to ride boats like the Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Five's "Sea Ark" pictured above. In the last Swift Current and on the MyFamily website, you can see pictures of SBSA members attending the inauguration of NCWS4 at Little Creek earlier this year. Our association proudly supports the latest boat crews!

In other news -- New Ship's Store merchandise: War In The Rivers, a DVD containing pictures taken by Navy photographer Jerry Cook circa 1968-69 and scanned by member Joe Ponder ...soon to be released. Skip Publicover is gathering information on new flags for the SBSA. Replacement membership cards are only \$5, contact Gene Hart. Paul Murphy has taken over as PCF-104 Maintenance Officer, replacing Carl Hanker who is "retiring" to spend more time with his family now that he's turned 70. Great job, Carl, and you've earned the heartfelt thanks of all your shipmates!

**Raul Herrera**

***Make your reservations now!***



The Boys

### Galveston

September 16, 2006

Photos courtesy of Burke Salsi on MyFamily.com, where Swifties post pictures of almost everything. Dan Aguilar also has some great pics on the site.

Contact Jim Deal at  
[JamesD8860@AOL.COM](mailto:JamesD8860@AOL.COM)

- to get signed-up



The Girls

# Start Now! Sign Up and Don't Miss Having a Blast With Your Shipmates

## Wednesday 2 May

1500 SBSA Registration desk and Hospitality Room open  
1900 Registration desk open until 2100  
1900 Hospitality Room open until 2300

## Thursday 3 May

0700 SBSA Registration desk opens until 0900  
0700 Hospitality Room open until 2300  
0915 Board bus for **USS Midway and Harbor Cruise**  
0930 Buses depart and return to the Hanalei at 1500  
1000 Registration desk opens until 1700  
1000 Ship's Store open until 1800  
1800 Registration desk opens until 2000

## Friday 4 May

0700 SBSA Registration desk opens until 0800  
0830 **SBSA Annual Business Meeting**  
0915 Board buses for **Ladies Shop/Luncheon**  
0930 Buses depart and return to the Hanalei at 1500  
1000 Ship's Store open until 1800  
1300 Registration desk open until 1700  
1300 Hospitality Room open until 2300  
1800 **Pizza Party** in Hospitality Room.

## Saturday 5 May

Registration Schedule posted in Hospitality Room  
0730 Hospitality Room open until 0900  
0915 Board buses for **NAB, Coronado**  
0930 Buses depart and return to the Hanalei at 1530  
1530 Hospitality Room open until 1700  
1600 Ship's Store open until 1800  
1800 Attitude Adjustment, Cash Bar  
1900 **SBSA 2007 Banquet Dinner**  
2200 Hospitality Room opens until 2400

## Sunday 6 May

0800 Hospitality Room open until 1200  
Fair Winds, Following Seas, Shipmates

## Why Is It Important To Attend The SBSA Business Meeting?

*For starters, that's when it's easiest to meet the directors and officers and present any business you wish. This is where members can directly affect the business of our association and new initiatives may be considered.*

*Secondly, the SBSA By-Laws (excerpts below) call for directors' elections bi-annually (every two years). If you or a shipmate want to be elected, you have to be nominated and seconded by current members. The present Board of Directors usually presents a slate of nominees, but there will be an opportunity to nominate from the floor. If you wish to put in a name for the directors slate, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Gene Hart -see page 4 (bottom-left) for contact info.*

--- EXCERPTED FROM THE SBSA BY-LAWS ---

### 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2.1 Management by Board of Directors. The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its board of directors.

2.2 Number, Tenure, Qualifications and Election of Directors.

The number of directors of the corporation shall be nine (9), which number may be increased or decreased (but not to less than three (3)), by amendment to this bylaw, but no decrease shall have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent director. Each director shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and/or until a successor has been elected and qualified, unless the director sooner resigns or is removed as provided in these Bylaws. Initial terms of new director positions may be set for less than four (4) years by the existing board of directors. Directors need not be residents of the State of Montana, but must be currently dues-paid members of Swift Boat Sailors Association. Directors shall be elected by and from the Active Members in good standing of the association as defined in Section 6.6 of these bylaws. Additionally, a director is required to have a personal computer with 24-hour internet access.

--- AND ---

### 3. OFFICERS

3.1 Required and Permissible Officers. The officers of this corporation must be currently dues-paid members, and shall include a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. In the discretion of the board of directors, it shall be permissible to elect a chairman of the board, one or more vice presidents, assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers. The same person may hold any two or more offices. Such other officers and assistant officers and agents as may be deemed necessary may be elected or appointed by the board of directors.

3.2 Elections and Term of Office. The officers of the corporation to be elected by the board of directors shall be elected biannually by the board of directors at the regular meeting of the board of directors. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient. Each officer shall hold office until a successor is duly elected or until the officer's death, resignation or removal. The officers shall have such duties, in addition to those expressed herein, as the board of directors shall specify from time to time.

***It's YOUR association and NOTHING will  
happen until SOMEONE does something!***

## Staying in touch-

Mail reflectors

[www.swiftboats.org](http://www.swiftboats.org)

[www.swiftboats.net](http://www.swiftboats.net)

[www.pcf45.com](http://www.pcf45.com)

"Swift-L" - owned by Gene Hart - [gheart@unf.edu](mailto:gheart@unf.edu) (PRIVATE)

SBSA Chat - contact Jim Deal for details - [JamesD8860@AOL.COM](mailto:JamesD8860@AOL.COM) (SBSA-owned)

...or, just for fun, type "Swift Boat" into Google and see what pops up. There are tons of non-political websites out there!

**2007 SWIFT BOAT SAILORS ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**RED LION HANALEI HOTEL, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

Listed below you will find all of the Dinner and event costs for our **2007 Reunion**. Please enter the number of people that will be participating in each event, and total that amount. All **Reservations and Payments must be received on or before March 23, 2007**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. At the bottom, add up the **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** for all events and send this form and a **check made payable to Military Reunions to Remember to:**

**Military Reunions to Remember**  
**Swift Boat Sailors Assoc. Reunion**  
**1673 Kilt Street**  
**Virginia Beach, VA 23464**

OFFICE USE ONLY			
Check #	_____	Date Received	_____
Inputted	_____	Name Tag Complete	_____

**SBSA PIZZA PARTY**

	Price Per Person		Number of People	Total Amount
Friday Night Pizza Party in the Hospitality Room (Under 6, Free) -----	\$ 6.00	X	_____	= \$ _____

**SATURDAY BANQUET DINNER**

# 1 London Broil -----	\$34.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
# 2 Lemon Pepper Chicken -----	\$34.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
# 3 Baked Mahi Mahi -----	\$34.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
# 4 Vegetarian Platter -----	\$34.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
Children's Menu, Chicken Fingers (Ages 2 - 10) -----	\$15.00	X	_____	= \$ _____

**TOUR SELECTIONS**

(Please see newsletter for description of tours)

TOUR #1 - THURSDAY - USS Midway, Harbor Tour (Lunch included) -----	\$44.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
TOUR #2 - FRIDAY - Ladies Shopping Spree and Luncheon -----	\$39.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
TOUR #3A - SATURDAY - Vietnam Memorial and PCF-104 (Transportation and Lunch) --	N/C	X	_____	= N/C
TOUR #3B - SATURDAY - Vietnam Memorial and PCF-104 (Lunch Only) -----	N/C	X	_____	= N/C

*Tour #3 sponsored by SBSA at no cost to registered members and guests. Select Option B if you are providing your own transportation to NAB. Government Issued Photo ID and SBSA Reunion Badge required for both tour options.*

REGISTRATION FEE, PER PERSON -----	\$25.00	X	_____	= \$ _____
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Registration fee covers administrative costs and hospitality room expenses. Registration Fee is not required for children under 6 years of age.

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO MILITARY REUNIONS TO REMEMBER ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU COMPLETE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.**  
**IT WILL BE USED FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES AND NAME TAGS.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as you want it shown on your Name Tag)  
(First) (MI) (Last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personal Nametag Information: \_\_\_\_\_

(Call Sign, Nickname, PCF Number, etc)

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you staying at the Hanalei Hotel? Yes ☐ No ☐  
 Are you Flying? ☐ Driving? ☐ RV? ☐ Is this your first SBSA Reunion? Yes ☐ No ☐  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (For last minute announcements or changes only)  
 Special Limitations or Requirements?

Please list First and Last Names of Spouse and all Guests (excluding yourself) so that we can make Name Tags.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

FULL REFUNDS WILL BE SENT FOR THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES IF CANCELLATION IS RECEIVED BY MARCH 23, 2007. AFTER THAT DATE, REFUND AMOUNT WILL DEPEND ON VENDOR POLICIES. PLEASE CALL US AT (757) 479-0849 (Monday - Thursday). YOUR CANCELLED CHECK WILL SERVE AS YOUR CONFIRMATION. CANCELLATIONS AFTER THE PUBLISHED CUT OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO A \$3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.



## Reunion Tours & Things To Do

**USS Midway Tour.** A three hour tour of the Midway will fill you with Navy pride. Commissioned in 1946 and retired in 1992, the Midway served in three wars, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. There are scores of interesting sites on board, including dozens of vintage aircraft and a scenic view of San Diego from the flight deck and the bridge. Later you will enjoy a one hour narrated harbor tour, complete with deluxe box lunch, dessert and beverage. Finally as a grand finale to this great tour, the harbor cruise will sail pass the bow of the Midway before mooring again at the pier. This is one tour you do not want to miss.

*Tour price is \$44.00 per person including transportation, guide, box lunch, reservations and taxes.*

**Ladies Tour to Seaport Village and Luncheon.** A fun time for all the ladies to enjoy this quaint harbor-side village, filled with dozens of one of a kind shops, plus scenic views of the harbor and Coronado. Enjoy a cup of coffee and chat with close friends, or bring home some unique souvenirs, from wind chimes, to designer t-shirts and more. Later you will travel the scenic route to Shelter Island for a private luncheon at a harbor-side restaurant with postcard perfect view. A delicious buffet with enough to please every palate will be enjoyed by all, dessert and beverage included. The Swift Boat Sailors' ladies are a close fraternity, so please be part of this special tour just for you!

*Tour price is \$39.00 per person including transportation, buffet, reservations and taxes.*

**Vietnam Memorial Monument.** PCF-104 stands guard, twin fifty caliber barrels pointing west over the Pacific. Her companions, a PBR and a CCB stand with her. These proud sisters face their Men honored on the Wall. This is where we trained, where we started to trust each other, to depend on each other and where our camaraderie has brought us back. Emotion is inescapable, so don't even try.

Naval Coastal Warfare Group One will have their evolution of Swift Boats on site and others standing-by to take you for a tour of Glorietta Bay.

*This tour, including transportation, box lunch, reservations and taxes is being paid for by the Swift Boat Sailors Association for all Reunion Registered Members and Guests. Reunion Badge will be required for transportation and/or lunch. For all others, the tour price is \$22 per person. A government issued photo ID will be required for everyone.*



### Moving? New Email? Stay in touch!

Be sure to contact Gene Hart when you make a move-  
**3941 Laurelwood Drive**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32257-8926**  
[ghart@unf.edu](mailto:ghart@unf.edu) - (904) 880-6412

Front Row- Anne Lannom  
 Middle Row- Janet Rogers, Judith Morrison, Agnes Rhodes, Martha La Voie, Rhoda Scrivner, Carol Durham, Tamara Pelletier  
 Back Row- Nancy Miller, Shirley Jones, Pat Jernigan, Rebecca Mantonya, Elaine Kreyer, Sue Sheedy, Mary Brown, Janice Wyatt, Tina Wyatt-Cecil, Marilyn Hunt, Kathy Stevenson, Gitta Taylor

Front Row- Stephen Morrison, Rob Rhodes, Tom Brown, Ed Barth, John Pank, Gary Brown, Floyd Gartner  
 Middle Row- Andy Miller, William Arnold, Mike Scrivner, Bill Lannom, Monty Mantonya, Joe La Voie, Ron Durham, Claud Jernigan, Jim Miller, Jose Maez  
 Back Row- Bill Rogers, Tom Morris, Mike Brown, Pat Sheedy, Bob Kreyer, Jim Franklin, George Rekow, Dempsey Jones, Curt Hatler, Danny Tingen, Tony Taylor, O.P. Lent, Dan Bohnet, John Wyatt, Wey Symmes, Dave Stevenson  
 Not Shown- Dale Duffield, Dave Prodehl

## First Southwestern Mini-Reunion

Front Row L to R:  
 Charles Barham, Ben Montoya, David Hansen, Bob McCredie, Jim Steffes.

Back Row: John Paul Jones, Jim Deal, Terry Boone, Tom Klemash, Peter Munk. Not shown- Don Boden

Front Row L to R:  
 Sandy Steffes, Barb Hansen, Liz Hill. Back:  
 Pauline Munk, Janet Montoya, Michele Boone.

Date: July 29, 2006

Place: Belen, NM

Organized by Jim Deal



## Gig Harbor, WA

Notes from Bill and Jan Rogers- "We had 61 people total including wives and a couple of kids. It was a good mix of old-timers who we greatly enjoy and some first timers who had never attended a reunion before, including Dempsey Jones from Canton, Ohio, a former crewman of mine from PCF 37, and Jose Maez from SW Washington. So it was a very enjoyable affair. We finally kicked out the last guest at 10:30 p.m. (not including the three who slept over by pre-arrangement).

*Ed. Note-* I had the chance to attend the Gig Harbor Mini-Reunion a couple years ago when Bill & Jan hosted 80+ guys and wives. This is the granddaddy of the "Mini's" - the one that started it all! And it's been going FIVE years now.



## VA Adds Maps to Online Gravesite Locator

WASHINGTON (June 20, 2006) - The grave locations of more than three million veterans and dependents buried in national cemeteries can be found more easily now because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has added maps of burial sections online that can be printed from home computers and at national cemetery kiosks.

The latest improvement builds upon a service begun two years ago, in which a VA online feature permits family members to find the cemetery in which their loved one is buried.

"This new map feature makes it easier for families, friends and researchers to find the exact location of a veteran's grave in all national cemeteries and some state veterans cemeteries," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "It enhances VA's service at national cemeteries, already highly regarded, and our commitment to them as national shrines and historical treasures."

The gravesite locator (<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> <<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>> ), online since April 2004, helps veterans' families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the cemeteries where veterans are buried. With the new online feature, people enter a veteran's name to search, click on the "Buried At" (burial location) link and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where the grave is located.

In a related development, VA recently added to its database the cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly private cemeteries. This addition brings the number of graves recorded in the locator to approximately five million. Those with maps are in VA national cemeteries and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery if burials were since 1999.

Beyond the five million records now available, VA continues to add approximately

1,000 new records to the database each day. VA also plans to add to its online database the exact locations of veterans' gravesites in the remaining state veterans cemeteries.

In the midst of the largest cemetery expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 123 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than three million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict - from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror - are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 16,000 acres of land.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses, and eligible dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and a government headstone or marker - even if they are not buried in a national cemetery. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov> or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1 800-827-1000.

Richard W. Dawson was a Swift boat Oinc based at Cat Lo; awards include Purple Heart. Graduated USNA 1964 and retired 1984 as LCDR. On Monday, August 7, 2006. The beloved husband of Elaine and father of Amanda and Andrew; a resident of Gainesville VA, He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

*Keith Evans passed this along - thanks*



### A VERY SPECIAL REUNION BANQUET SPEAKER



**Harold W. Gehman, Jr. (USN Ret.)**

**EDUCATION:** Pennsylvania State University, bachelor's in industrial engineering

**OCCUPATION:** U.S. Navy, retired as admiral

**CAREER:** Gehman's Naval career included two tours in Vietnam, first as officer-in-charge of PCF-27, then as senior officer-in-charge of seven swift boats at Chu Lai. At sea, he commanded the guided missile destroyer USS Dahlgren; the 6th Fleet flagship USS Belknap, a guided missile cruiser; the rescue and salvage ship USS Conserver; and Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8 with the carrier USS Eisenhower. He held several posts in the U.S. Atlantic Command headquarters, including as deputy commander in chief, and from 1996-1997 was vice chief of Naval Operations. He was commander in chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command from 1997 until his retirement Sept. 5, 2000. He later headed the investigation into the USS Cole bombing on Oct. 12, 2000, which killed 17 sailors. He was Chairman of the space shuttle "Columbia" investigation board in 2003. Most recently Admiral Gehman was a member of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closing Commission (known as BRAC).

**OTHER:** As first commander of the Joint Forces Command, was given added responsibility of coordinating U.S. military support to civilian agencies in event of attack on U.S. territory by nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

*- Above info from several sources - more to follow on this remarkable "alumni" -*

August 17, 2006 Attendees at Andy Miller's Funeral. L-to-R, Jim Franklin, Monty Montonya, Joe La Voie, O.P. Lent at Willamette National Cemetery, OR



Warren Jenny in Largo Vista, TX. "When you get it old to drive---this is an alternative. All you have to do, is pour \$\$\$\$ into it. It's sort of like owning a boat"



Call 800-882-0858 to make your reservations for the May 3rd - 6th, 2007. Be sure to tell them that you are an Swift Boat Sailor to get the special room rate. Remember that you have to sign up for a room and sign up for all the SBSA activities separately - see inside for SBSA sign up sheet.

## RED LION HANALEI HOTEL - Official SBSA Reunion 2007 Hotel



Best of all, it's FREE!

get signed-up.

Email Gene Hart - ghart@unf.edu - to

great other pictures in full color.

get to see your shipmates and all the

money (printing and postage) and you

connection! It saves the association

dues are paid and you have an internet

Swift Current on the internet if your

You can get a full color copy of the

It's better in FULL COLOR!



Swift Boat Sailors Association  
3941 Laurelwood Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8926

TO-

