

Swift Current

The official publication of
the Swift Boat Sailors
Association

Third Qtr 2013

Comments &
suggestions to-
dc.current2@gmail.com



**The 2013 SBSA Reunion
San Diego, California
Welcomed by the San Diego Maritime Museum**



Awards at the Reunion Banquet Virg Erwin, Bill & Jan Rogers, Gene Hart, and Raul Herrera



Still on Patrol Ceremony at the Memorial



President's Corner

Those of us who attended the 2013 San Diego reunion were treated to a great event. The reunion committee planned and executed a fantastic program. Special thanks go to the reunion committee, the dirty boat guys, and the MMSD for all their fine work!

It was great to visit the Maritime Museum of San Diego and ride PCF 816; it brought back many memories and a lump in the throat when the engines roared to life. We now have a piece of living history that will be experienced by others and give them a sense of what Swift Boat service was all about.

The memorial ceremony at PCF104 was a highlight of the reunion which brought the sacrifice of many of our brothers back to our memory; always a good thing to be reminded of our brothers still on patrol. The banquet and the hospitality suite afforded a chance to enjoy the fellowship of our crewmates, and meet those we have lost contact with over the years. During the reunion we were treated to a presentation by NILO, (Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer). Also a special guest, Kit Copeland, the truck driver who transported PCF 816 across country attended the banquet. It was a great event. Look for more news on the reunion in this issue of the Swift Current.

At the business meeting Mike Solhaug, Jim Deal, DC Current, Terry Boone, and Virg Erwin were elected to the board for 2013-2017 term. They will serve for the next four years and have already taken on responsibilities to enhance our association. At the BoD meeting; Dave Wallace was elected Chairman of the Board; Van Odell – President; Mike Solhaug – Vice-president; DC Current – Secretary/Newsletter; and Don Hammer – Treasurer. Jim Deal is the website manager, Terry Boone is the ships store manager, Virg Erwin will be our liaison with the Maritime Museum of San Diego and Larry Wasikowski is the SBSA Historian. Since the reunion the board has been busy with issues and planning for the SBSA,

I want to share with you what has been accomplished since the reunion and where we are going the next two years. First, we received great news, the last of June, that we have finally been approved by the IRS as a 501c19 association. Dave Wallace has worked tirelessly for the last several years to get this done. We are now official.

Ken Briggs retired as the Ship's Store manager after a long and successful run as the manager. Thanks Ken, you did a great job. Terry Boone is now the Ship's Store manager and is currently working under the new guidelines of the 501c19 regulations, deciding on inventory and getting the store up and running.

Virg Erwin is heading up the Long Range Plan Committee; with William Kelley and Bob Bolger as members. They are charting a plan for the next 15 years that will give the board a map to allocate time, money and manpower to the most important projects that will serve the needs of our membership.

DC Current, not only is continuing to keep us informed with the quarterly newsletter; but he is in the midst of bringing the SBSA records, kicking and screaming, into the 21 century, by scanning paper copies of documents and archiving all the records into a digital data base.

Jim Deal is the SBSA liaison to a group of sons and daughters of Swift Boat Sailors who are planning to form their own organization, "Legacies of Swift Boat Sailors". You will hear more of this as their plans move forward.

Robert Brant is in charge of the Bereavement Committee. He is compiling a list of all "Swifties" whether they are members of SBSA or not. We want to be able to send a memorial or floral arrangement to the family of every Swift Boat Sailor who passes.

Mike Solhaug is heading up the city search committee for the 2015 reunion. I know he will be asking for your help as this activity goes forward. Mike is also heading the Audit committee, and will be working with Don Hammer our new Treasurer.

These are a few of the activities currently underway; I will keep you updated in each issue of the Swift Current on the progress we are making. Please contact any of the officers with suggestions or concerns; we are interested in doing the right activities, the right way, for our association.

Van Odell

President SBSA

Announcement from the founder of “Legacies of Swift Boat Sailors”

It is with great pleasure to announce we are officially launching the Legacies of Swift Boat Sailors! Please take a look at our new website WWW.LSBS.ORG. Please type this web address directly into your browser. Of particular note are our “Cruise Book”, “Gallery” and “Library” pages. Our Cruise Book is a work in progress and will be updated as more audio oral histories come in. The Gallery is just starting with some wonderful pictures and we are always happy to add more! The Library is filled with everything and anything you can imagine. We have included newspaper articles, links, testimonies and videos. I am really excited that we were able to include links to videos that most of not seen. The videos marked with (Critical Past Website) at the end of their title contain video clips taken by a photo unit on board PCFs. I hope everyone enjoys the website as we have worked extremely hard to promote and preserve the history of our Swift Boat Sailors. Please share this website with your family and friends as it can also help them to better understand your service. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at SueEdwards@live.com

SBSA 2013 Reunion Business Meeting



The SBSA Board of Directors 2013 Business Meeting

Left to Right

Joe Lavoie

Robert Tuck

DC Current

Dave Wallace

Mike Solhaug

Raul Herrera

Van Odell

Jim Deal



PCF816/P24 At the Reunion In SAN DIEGO



All photos in this Swift Current thanks to Tom Edwards



Lunch at Cabrillo National Monument



Cambodian Dancers on the Berkeley during Swift Picnic





Deceased Swifties 2011 forward

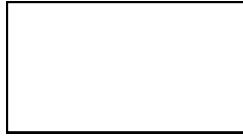
Kenneth F. Tryner	Virginia Beach, VA	2011
Gary Blinn	Norfolk, NE	2011
Franklin Henry Carpenter	Columbus, GA	2012
Clair "Pete" Schrodt	Pocatella, ID	2012
Ronald L. Ashley	Searsport, ME	2012
Jessie Carmicheal	Orange Park, FL	2012
Paul "Pete" Webster	Jacksonville, FL	2013

Change of Address? Need new membership card?

Stay in touch with your shipmates!

Membership card replacement fee \$5.00.

Contact DC Current, Secretary
Email- dc.current2@gmail.com



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