

SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION



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

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

October 2012

EDITOR: LANNY YESKE

PUBLISHER: BILL DUKACZ

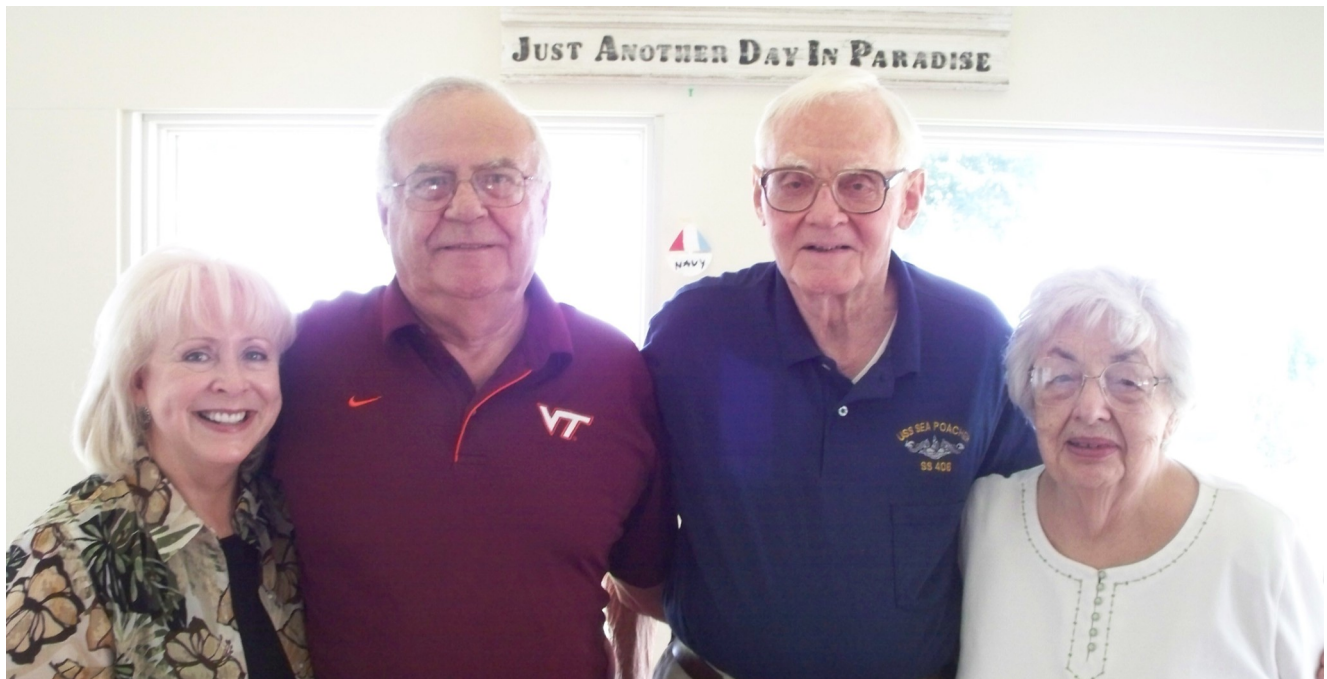
ANSWERING THE CALL-AGAIN

Sixty-eight years ago LTJG Ralph and Joyce Cobb answered the call. Ralph is the last remaining officer of the Sea Poacher to have made all four World War II patrols. This included being distantly depth-charged after a torpedo attack on one of the first two patrols. That is another Sea Poacher story we have not heard. You can ask him!

In 2009, when a family need arose, the Cobb's again answered the call by taking custody of their two GREAT grandchildren Brandon and Bethany Kirkpatrick, then ages 5 and 9. Ralph and Joyce maintained total custody (including schooling) until a year ago, but again have them back this summer temporarily. Lanny and Fran Yeske, along with their 15 year old grandson Grady Lee, also under their total custody for the past 10 years, had the opportunity to visit and breakfast with the Cobb's on June 30.

They have a beautiful home in Virginia on the James River less than a mile from Jamestown, site of the first English settlement in America in 1607. They are both 89 years young and commented on both the joys and difficulties with this challenge which, of course, is not uncommon for many of us. Joyce was a bit teary-eyed at first and said she wished they still had them permanently. Ralph tended to agree, but did note that at this age it was not all that fun and sometimes difficult to rise to the occasion. Still, the young ones needed teaching and example-setting, and if great grandparents were the ones that needed to do it, both were happy to be there.

The Cobb's did rather well. Bethany is now in every advanced class in her school including 12th grade mathematics. Brandon is also doing just fine. There is not a word he cannot read, and he is only in second grade. Ralph and Joyce obviously miss them a lot.



While they do not expect to get their great grandchildren back on a permanent basis, they would do so in a heartbeat. This summer's reunion was especially poignant after a year of an empty nest. There were hugs that never stopped when Brandon and Bethany returned. No one mentioned tears, but they were certainly there. Both Ralph and Joyce have great attitudes and keep things in perspective. They sometimes use a quote from her mother: "It's no laughing matter, but it's no matter if you laugh!"

They have wonderful memories of our reunions in Virginia Beach and Jacksonville, and would have liked to have made Branson and San Antonio. I didn't ask about Charleston in 2014, but I would not count them out.

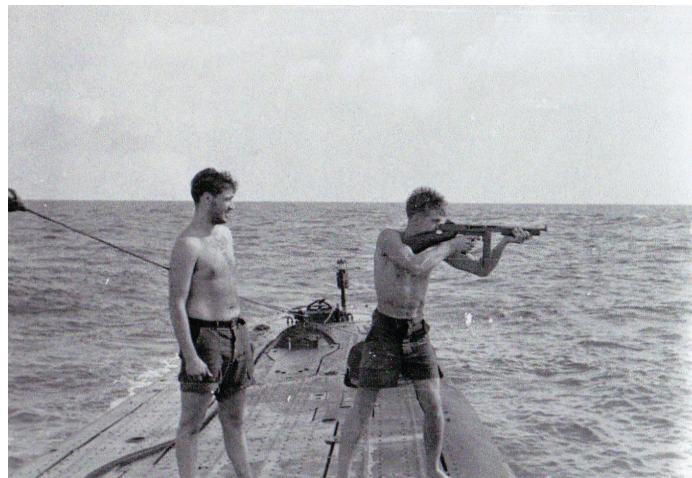
DOCTOR BOB MATHENY RESURFACES

At the San Antonio Reunion this year, I had the opportunity to converse with Bob (SO 52-56) at length. He had some medical problems both before and after the reunion, but is now doing just fine. This is another very interesting shipmate. In fact, we have a ton of interesting shipmates. Here are some things I learned from Bob. While Sea Poacher was in Havana in 1952, Bob and four shipmates were at a rum distillery when he suggested they visit Ernest Hemingway. With little money, they found where his home, named SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, was located 9 miles from Havana Center. Pooling their money, they took a taxi and upon arrival found a guy doing yard work and told him they would like to see Mr. Hemingway. He spoke with his wife Mary, and she said to come in. They started talking and soon a large punchbowl arrived filled with gin and tonic water. It was hastily consumed and soon another punchbowl arrived. Our shipmates asked him a lot of questions. Hemingway responded that many people came to visit him trying to be writers and many were from Key West. Bob asked for an autograph and A WORD TO THE WISE. Hemingway responded on a lined piece of school paper, with an indelible blue ink pencil that one licked, A WORD TO THE WISE and signed his name. They were in a room with thousands of books. Mary showed up after 90 minutes, and said he had to take his medicine and we left.

Several years ago Bob was offered over four figures for this autograph from the Hemingway Museum, but it is not for sale. Hemingway donated his home to the Cuban people after Castro came into power or else it would likely have been taken away by the Government. It is now a museum, and sometimes open for visitors but mostly closed. You can look through the windows at his furnishings. While there he wrote FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS and THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA. Bob commented on other experiences in Key West. He served on the honor guard of President Harry Truman, who was always alone. There was no Secret Service. He used to swim at Fort Madison, but no photos were allowed. Bess was particularly stern about no photos especially with him in shorts.

Bob also enlightened me on torpedo gilly which was 99 percent alcohol and used for propulsion. He said they drank it with grapefruit juice and something that made it purple (likely grape juice). Bob noted three movies were made in Key West while he was there. He tried out for an extra part in THE ROSE TATTOO with Burt Lancaster but did not get it. He remembers Terry Moore from BENEATH THE TWELVE MILE REEF dancing at the White Hat Club. He could not come up with the name of the third movie. No other movies fit into his time frame except for OPERATION PETTICOAT. Bob well remembers Hagood Hatfield from Pike County, KY who served aboard Sea Poacher from 52-54. His Uncle Devil Anse Hatfield was ring-leader of that clan in the famous war with the McCoy's, and Hagood told many interesting stories.

On Sea Poacher's 1953 Med Cruise, Bob, Bill Paramenko (RM 51-53) and Richard Trench (EN 52-53), went on a boar hunt in the mountains near Izmir, Turkey with several marines from the U.S. Embassy. Bob nailed the only hog on the trip as shown in the below photo. Another photo shows Bill Buckley (TM 50-56) and Bob Connelly (TM 53-55) on our 1954 Yucatan Patrol to Keep Guatemala Free. After Sea Poacher, Bob graduated from medical school at Tulane University in 1962, became a Captain in the Air Force, which was followed by more medical school at Vanderbilt University, before entering private practice in both California and Kentucky. Somewhere along the line he owned two coal mines as tax write-offs, and has nothing positive to say about the EPA. Bob and Ann live in Middlesboro, KY and expect to be in Charleston in 2014.



A WORLD RECORD CATCH



LT Leonard M. Hendrix (Right), Sea Poacher 1951-54, holding the International Game Fish Association World's Record White Marlin (130 pounds 4 ounces-8 foot 3 inches length-33 inches girth) caught on 18 April 1959, a record which held for 19 years. It was caught on 20 pound test line off Cat Cay, Bimini, Bahamas, on his boat the Darling D. Leonard is not listed in any of the Sea Poacher records we maintain as it was common practice to list only senior officers in the early 1950s. Contributed by his son David who is a realtor in Savannah, GA. Leonard was also involved in the 1952 blimp rescue and entered eternal patrol in 1997.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-BILL BRINKMAN

1. Dues: We have 216 Life and 34 Regular members. If you're a Life Member or have paid your 2012 dues, thank you. If not, please pay \$10 for your 2012 dues or become a Life Member for \$100. There are several good reasons for becoming a Life Member like a. You'll never again get these annoying letters from me or our Treasurer Hubert Jackson, b. You'll receive a free patch, and 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 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: Let me know at seapoacher@austin.rr.com that you want to get your newsletter off the computer and be taken off the mailing list to save us over \$10 a year. We'll use the savings for other activities. Then four times a year, I'll e-mail you that the latest newsletter is on the 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 drlannyyeske@gmail.com. Most everything will be printed.

6. Diane MacPherson. Lanny received the following from her on July 15: I'm writing to say thanks (yet again!). Because of the article I'd written for the Sea Poacher newsletter and the mention I'd made in it that my father (Donald S.) had also served on board the USS Nautilus, the Alumni Foundation for the Nautilus found me online and contacted me, requesting information on my father, who had been listed among the "missing" in their roster. This gives me yet another opportunity to help my father find his place in military history -- and yet another glimpse in to the life he loved and gave himself to. I really can't thank you enough for that. The only thing that's missing for me is the ability to say, "Hey, Dad! How cool is *this*?!"

7. Thresher Memorial Flag Project. From Bill Buckley. A group of residents and civic leaders in the town of Kittery, Maine, site of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, have started this Project for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the loss of THRESHER. This website explains the project and donation details. See <http://threshermemorialkittery.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx>

8. Thirteen Submarines. From Peter Amunrud. Carroll "Whitey" Davidson served on Sea Poacher as a CS2/CS1 in 1950-51. He was a superb story teller and well liked by his shipmates. Whitey retired as a CPO after serving aboard 13 submarines: Cod, Bluegill, Tinosa, Baya, Boarfish, Clamagore, Corporal, Cubera, Sea Fox, Sea Poacher, Cutlass, Tench, and George Washington. He was a boyhood friend of Harlon Block, one of the Iwo Jima flag raisers, who was killed in action six days later. Whitey's wife Fran passed away May 19. Shortly thereafter, he went to a Corpus Christi nursing home and entered Eternal Patrol July 7.






9. Ernest Borgnine. From Hubert Jackson and Rex Roark. He was a Navy Gunners Mate who enlisted in 1935 and got out in early 1941. After Pearl Harbor he reenlisted and served through 1945. As a First Class PO, he was made an honorary CPO in 2004 and entered eternal patrol on 8 July 2012 at the age of 95. The very next day someone with the U.S. Navy Band posted a video made on 14 Oct 2006 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hWPqSP311Y&feature=youtu.be> called 'I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR' narrated by him on the Navy's 231st birthday concert in Washington. Well worth viewing. It makes one proud to be a sailor. Fair winds and following seas, Chief Ernest Borgnine.

10. USS Clamagore (SS-343) Restoration. Located at Patriot's Point in Charleston, SC, this boat is in dire need of at least a \$3M overhaul or else will likely be sunk at an offshore reef in the near future. There are no State or local funds for this. Sea Poacher is considering a donation to support restoration, but is waiting on questions proposed to the Clamagore Committee and USSVI as to what happens to our donation if the amount needed is not achieved. Check the internet for details on this.

11. Submarine Museum Guide. From Bill Buckley. Did you know there are currently 25 different submarine museums in the U.S.? There are even a couple of Russian submarines and a WWII German U-Boat. Go to <http://www.submarinemuseums.org> for detailed information on each museum including maps and driving directions.

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>New Items : 7 Paintings by Richard DeRossett and our own Ray Krivascy.</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> 
---	---

Items	Quantity	Price	Total
Key Chain	_____	\$3.00	_____
Ship Patch	_____	5.50	_____
Ball Cap	_____	14.00	_____
Plastic Mugs	_____	12.00	_____
Golf Shirt Sizes M, L, XL & 2XL (w/o pockets)	_____	22.00	_____
Golf Shirt Sizes M, L, XL & 2XL (with pockets)	_____	25.00	_____
Painting DeRossett 10x23 print Step Sail	_____	20.00	_____
Painting DeRossett 15x28 canvas Step Sail	_____	30.00	_____
Painting DeRossett 10x23 print Cuba	_____	20.00	_____
Painting DeRossett 15x28 canvas Cuba	_____	30.00	_____
Painting DeRossett 17x39 canvas WWII	_____	40.00	_____
Painting Krivascy 15x18 print Step Sail	_____	20.00	_____
Painting Krivascy 18x21.5 canvas Step Sail	_____	35.00	_____
Stained Glass Sea Poacher	_____	110.00	_____
Dolphin Vest chains, gold or silver	_____	25.00	_____
We Remember Sea Poacher Book (on CD)	_____	10.00	_____
TOTAL			_____

MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Richard Whitmire EN 63-66 present the Sea Poacher Memorial Plaque to Rosalie and the family of John R. Engels IC 58-59 in Appleton, WI. John went on eternal patrol on 15 May 2012. He was highly respected in the community.



Bobby Broderick of Sea Turtle Base presents the Sea Poacher Memorial Plaque to Lynn Tandy, daughter of Carroll 'Whitey' Davidson, CS 50-51 in Corpus Christi. Also shown an unknown family member and then Wayne Standerfer-Dallas Base, Frank Lister-San Antonio Base, and his grandson John T. Moore and a Topeka-Jefferson Base submariner.



Ivan Joslin, LT 61-63; James Powers, CS 55-59; and Jack Merrill, TM 61-63 present the Sea Poacher Memorial Plaque to the family of Ernest Fontes, EN 51-52 at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Ernest entered eternal patrol on 3 January 2012. He also served on submarines during WWII and was involved in the rescue of many airmen.



Jack Merrill TM 61-63, wife Sandra, and Ed Thompson EN 53-55 present the Sea Poacher Memorial Plaque to Aggie Romeo, widow of John Romeo IC 68-69 at St. Petersburg, FL. John went on eternal patrol 30 May 2012.

SEA POACHER ASSOCIATION

William Dukacz, Publisher
128 Cedar Lane
New Hartford, CT 06057-2925
seapoacher@sbcglobal.net

Russian Akula/Typhoon Class close to beach. Courtesy of Captain Charles Roberts, USN (Retired). One of six built. Three are still in service until 2019. Length 574 feet, beam 75 feet, draft 39 feet, displaces 48,000 tons submerged, 27 knot speed, 500 meter depth, 20 missile tubes, and 120 day endurance. The Red October in the submarine movie was supposedly of this Class. A real photo? Not sure if this was rigged or not!

