

NAVY DIVERS and DIVER SUPPORT PERSONNEL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 15, 2017



2018 13th Bi-Annual Reunion

ANACORTES, WASHINGTON
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
12885 Casino Drive
Anacortes, WA 98221

MAY 06 - 10, 2018

www.swinomishcasinoandlodge.com

To date members of the following groups have indicated they will be in attendance.

Navy Divers Association – **NDA**
Canadian Navy Divers Association -- **CNDA**
Harbor Clearance Unit ONE (**HCU-1**) Vietnam Association
(Divers and Diver Support Personnel)
SEA LAB – Man-In-The Sea Program
ASR-ARS Association
MDV Reunion
MDSU, San Diego

GREAT NORTHWEST CONTACT

Pete Pehl is our go-to person and event planner for the Great Northwest and the 2018 NDA Reunion. He can be reached by cell at: 360-872-2058 or by email at p2dive@gmail.com

Pete does not, as many of us don't, answer his mobile phone when he does not see a name. So, if Pete doesn't answer, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE and he will get back to you.

Pete can help us/you out a lot. He has lived in the Oak Harbor / Anacortes area for several years and volunteers in and around the community.

If you are at all interested in camping, hiking, diving, fishing, etc., you would be very wise to contact Pete. He's told me that Lingcod fishing is good during May and has contacts with a couple of fishing boat skippers.

Don't forget Whidby Island Naval Air Station is only 17 miles away. You may want to look at getting a hop into Whidby. They have rental cars available.

If you are flying into Seattle / Tacoma (SEATAC) airport, contact Pete for the best transportation to Anacortes. SEATAC is about three (3) hours from Anacortes.

If you decide to fly into Bellingham (about 45 minutes from Anacortes), he can help you out there also.

If you plan of golfing other courses, contact Pete for advice.

FROM the EDITOR

This newsletter is intended to get information out to you to assist you in making your plans to attend our 13th bi-annual reunion. It's never too early to start planning by making your lodging, air travel, & rental car reservations.

Soon I will be posting Reunion Pre-Registration forms to the website under NDA 2018 Reunion as well as sending out as an attachment to an email. You can help me out considerably by completing these forms in advance. Cuts down on the paperwork frenzy at the Reunion.

You may send checks for the Dinner Buffet, if you would like, but not necessary until two weeks before the Dinner Buffet so I can plan on Buffet attendance.

There is **NO REGISTRATION CHARGE TO ATTEND THE REUNION.**

MONDAY NIGHT RECEPTION (Tentative)

\$30.00 for the Monday night reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres (if we decide to have a reception). We may scale it down a bit as the \$30 p/p is a bit steep. The \$30 per person (p/p) is based on 60 attendees. This may also change. So, the Monday Reception is still being planned,. It will definitely not exceed \$30, may be lower, or not at all. We'll see how it works out based on feedback I receive.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BUFFET & AUCTION

\$52.00 for the Wednesday night Dinner Buffett.

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Making your reservation is easy. Call **855-794-6563** to make your reservation for **May 06 – 10, 2018**. You must use the group code **NAVY DIVERS REUNION 18.**

Swinomish is offering us the following room rates for all Reunion days. The rate is for a room and one may have up to four people in the room. The rates are:

King Standard -- \$89.00
Double Queen Standard -- \$89.00
King Bay View -- \$109.00
Double Queen Bay View -- \$109.00
There are NO Suites available

All room costs are subject to all applicable taxes -- currently 10.5%

There are only 28 Bay View rooms available (14 King and 14 Queen). We have 23 Standard King and 9 Standard Queen rooms available. So, we have a total block of 60

rooms available. That block is opened to the public after March 30, 2018. So, my recommendation to you all is, if you are at the least thinking of attending, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP so you will have a room.

Just off the press -- There are only twenty (20) Bay View rooms remaining. And, there are only eight (8) RV spaces remaining. So, I recommend those of you who are planning on attending -- make your reservations.

Pre/Post weekday rates will be honored. However, Friday and Saturday night rates are \$20 more per room per night.

Guests will be able to add on the following packages which our host has been able to get for us:

Golf -- \$30.00 per person -- does NOT include a cart.

Deception Pass Boat Ride -- \$15.00 per person -- Our host will purchase these tickets in March so if you plan on taking the boat ride, please include in your room package. Go to <http://www.deceptionpasstours.com/> for additional information.

OUT-OF-TOWNER EARLY ARRIVALS

We are working on getting something together for this tradition which was started by Shirley and Larry Stokes at the Bremerton Reunion in 2012. We will keep you posted.

CANADIAN NAVY DIVERS -- CNDA

We are very fortunate this year to have our Brother and Sister Canadian Navy Divers joining us in Anacortes. I do not know how many so far are planning on attending, but I expect we will have several join us.

They have a website up and running and it is <http://navydiver.ca/> Take a look at it sometime.

I know that Dr. Ian Buckingham, who was at NEDU as an exchange doctor in the late 70s when I was there, will be attending and I look forward to seeing him once again.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Hospitality Suite: We will run this reunion exactly as we have in the past and the hospitality suite will be open from 1500 on the 6th for the entire four days. We always close the room from 2200 to 0800.

We will have our usual hospitality suite where the property allows us to bring in our own beer, wine, liquor, soft drinks, etc. We may also bring in our own snacks, (i.e., pretzels, chips, nuts, etc.). The hospitality suite, as we have done in the past, will **run on the honor system** where we put out a can and participants donate based on what they consume.

Sunday: Check-in and complete the registration sign-in sheet, if you haven't already done so. Hospitality suite will be open at 1500.

Pre-registration forms have been sent out via email as well as being attached to the 2018 NDA Reunion page on your

website. The Pre-registration form is for attendee information for my records and for you to sign up for events. If you wish, you may send your payment for the Dinner Buffet to me via snail mail. The Pre-registration sheets should be completed and either emailed or snail-mailed to me at 3804 Wildwood Road, San Diego, CA 92107-3750.

Once these sheets are complete, you only have to check in at our table at Swinomish after you arrive to let us know you are here.

During your on-site Registration (if you have not already pre-registered), you may also sign up for the Monday Welcome Reception (tentative), the Wednesday Business Meeting (no charge) and the Wednesday Night Buffet (\$52 per person). This is when you pay for the Buffet, if you have not already done so.

Monday: Hospitality Suite will be open 0800 to 2300. Continue check-in for those who didn't yesterday.

We normally have a Monday Reception to get everyone together to meet, greet, have a little fun, find out who is attending, and make plans with each other for the rest of the week.

We're still looking into the reception for the 7th, but have not yet been able to settle on a good price. Will continue to work on it and let you know closer to Reunion date.

Tuesday: Hospitality Suite will be open all day. Today is a free day for all.

There is golfing available at the Swinomish Golf Links or the Deception Pass Boat Trip. It's early and we are still planning.

Wednesday: Hospitality Suite will be open all day.

Our bi-annual business meeting will be held at 0900 today, open to all and the location is TBD. The purpose of this business meeting is to discuss:

- the location of the next reunion
- the bi-annual recurring question of whether or not we want to go to annual reunions or stick with the current two-year plan
- possible changes in leadership
- the website
- newsletters
- funds
- NDA ship store.
- the current financial report of assets including our Scholarship Fund.

We still have a good inventory of ball caps and challenge coins and will be selling them at the 2018 reunion. I cut back on purchasing the T-shirts and are selling until gone.

We will hold our banquet in the evening. We are planning on the usual buffet style sit down meal followed by our fund raising Live Auction. The menu is presented below.

Prior to our auction, we will conduct our bi-annual "**Tolling of the Bells**" ceremony for those divers and diver support personnel who have passed away during the past two years.

WEDNESDAY BANQUET TIMES (Tentative)

1700 -- 1730 -- No host cocktails
1730 -- 1745 -- Banquet line positioning
1745 -- 1900 -- Buffet Dinner
1900 -- ?? -- Auction

WEDNESDAY DINNER BUFFET (Tentative)

COST: \$52.00 PER PERSON

SALAD

Swinomish Salad w/ Candied Pecans, Dried Cranberries, Feta Cheese and Balsamic Vinaigrette

ENTRÉES

Carved Herb Crusted Prime Rib w/ Au Jus and Creamy Horseradish
Baked Salmon w/ Citrus Beurre Blanc
Garlic Rosemary Chicken
Penne Pesto Primavera

POTATO

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

VEGETABLES

Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERTS

½ Chocolate Cake
½ Cheesecake

BUFFET ALSO INCLUDES

Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter
Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

The auction will follow the dinner. This auction is our main fund raiser for the NDA.

We always need items for this auction. So it's time to do your bi-annual clean out of your attics, garages, etc. and dig up anything you think will sell...no matter for how much or how little. Every little bit helps.

I will contact Rick Armstrong, CWO-5, Ret, and hopefully he will again commission a piece of artwork specifically for the reunion and donate it for our auction. You can see some of Rick's beautiful work on his Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=190150891025711&id=190146734359460. You may also email Rick at deepseadiveart@yahoo.com

At this writing, I still have to contact Bruce Banks, CDR, Ret, to see if he will again donate a week or two at his luxury condo close to Jaco, Costa Rica (the west coast). Once I do, I will let everyone know in our next newsletter..

Thursday: Hospitality Suite will be opened until 11:00 A.M.
This is check-out day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ANACORTES AREA?

There is a ton of stuff to do and Pete has been working on this for almost a year now. So, between Pete and I, there will be plenty to do. Pete and I will be putting more out in future emails.

History of the NDA Reunion

The original reunion was held in Las Vegas at Palace Station in 1994 as the HARBOR CLEARANCE UNIT ONE – VIETNAM reunion. After several reunions the group decided to open the reunions to ALL Navy Divers and Support Personnel.

Attendance is open to ALL NAVY DIVERS, ALL HCU ONE VETERANS, ALL SEALAB DIVERS, ALL ARS / ASR VETERANS and, most importantly, ALL DIVER SUPPORT PERSONNEL (who made, and continue to make, it possible for the divers to complete their missions), their SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS and FRIENDS.

NDA WEBSITE

Please visit OUR website www.navydivers.net for updates and additional information as I get it as I will not always send out n emails.

CHECKLIST

If you need anything or want to inquire about anything, please contact one of us.

David Ball

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