

NAVY DIVERS and DIVER SUPPORT PERSONNEL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 30, 2018



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

If you are planning on attending the 13th bi-annual NDA Reunion, please read this email thoroughly. There is a lot of NEW information and dates.

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.

You have just one week more to book your room at Swinomish Lodge and just five (5) weeks to the start of our 13th bi-annual reunion.

I've completed the Reunion Pre-Registration form. I have sent out via email and received some in return. I am unable to publish on the web. I also cannot publish this newsletter on the web. Computer problems.

I would ask you to PLEASE take the time and complete this form in advance. It cuts down on the paperwork frenzy at the reunion and **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I GET A**

HEADCOUNT FOR THOSE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE DINNER BUFFET. I HAVE TO GIVE THE PROPERTY A HEADCOUNT (WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE EVENT). So please help me out

You may send checks for the Buffet Dinner, if you would like, but **not necessary**. You can pay at the door by check or cash. I will try to have my Square Reader available to take credit cards.....but no guarantee.

I know many of you question the price of the Buffet Dinner. Before I book a property for our reunion, I **ALWAYS** check the price they will be charging for the buffet. SWINOMISH has one of the lower priced meals. Remember, we have to add in a 20% gratuity and the 8.5% WA state sales tax to the actual cost of the meal. You do the math. \$53 is an **EXCELLENT** price for the buffet. Oh, lest I forget, there is the room and set-up, etc., etc. Remember.....

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION CHARGE TO ATTEND THE REUNION.

RESERVATIONS ARE NOW OPEN - BUT WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO FILLING OUR QUOTA -- SO DON'T DELAY!!

OUR CUTOFF DATE FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS AT OUR LOW RATE IS APRIL 06, 2018

Making your reservation is easy. Call either **855-794-6563** or **888-288-8883** to make your reservation for **May 06 – 10, 2018**. Both numbers are toll free, but the “888” number can also be used for International. 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 were only 28 Bay View rooms available (14 King and 14 Queen). We had 23 Standard King and 9 Standard Queen rooms available. So, we had a total block of 60 rooms available. **That block is opened to the public after April 06, 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.

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

The property is offering complimentary valet and free parking for guests as well as wireless internet in the guest's rooms and meeting spaces.

As of March 27th, we had only 14 rooms available in our block to be reserved and we only had two (2) more RV sites available.

Many have already sent in their completed registration forms and I have listed them by indicating the number of attendees attending the dinner next to their name in the list below.

**CURRENTLY ATTENDING
As of 30 March 2018**

The names are in alphabetical order. PLEASE, READ THE ENTIRE LIST CAREFULLY.

Abraham, John - 2	Acord, Bill
Backa, John	Ball, David & Ceil - 2
Banks, Bruce	Blackburn, Joseph & Mary
Boyce, Bill & Tracey	Brown, Ed
Buckingham, Ian & Sha.	Campoli, Bernie – 1
Cherry, Steve & Darla – 2	Clarke, Benjamin
Cowden, Jim – 1	Douglas, Joan
Dunlap, Billy	Eckert, Alan – 2
Edgely, Brett	Elsasser, Dennis
Emery, Robert	Finkley Valerie
Fitzpatrick, Paul	Foster, Terry, Sr. - 1
Gee, Jimmy & Liz	Hecht, Larry
Heiny, Mike	Hitchcock, Gad & Margie
Hodgins, Tom	Hunt, Gary
Johnson, John & Erin	King, Tim
Koester, Herbie & Hy - 2	Loudermilk, Bill
McDougall – 1	Meadows, Roy - 1
Medina, Joe & Mary	Moore, Robert & Becky - 2
Moore, Robin	Moser, Charley
Nelson, Jon & Ched – 2	Orzech, James
Pappas, Troy	Pasteris, Fred
Pehl, Pete	Phalin, James – 2
Poplawski, A. & Linda	Reese, Teri
Rodocker, Donald – 2	Rolow, Patrick
Ross, Ed	Ross, Larry
Sangrey, Sam – 2	Santo, James
Sargent, Diane – 1	Schonekess, Gary – 1
Sherman, William	Singleton, John – 1
Smyth, Mike & Pat	Sparks, Joe & Linda – 2
Stasel, David - 1	Sykas, Pete
Thompson, Jeff	Vester, Don “Dino”
Vickerman, Dave - 0	Weltzien, Mert
Wiley, Robert – 1	Wolvin, Rick
Wright, Paul – 2	

If your name is not on this list, **and if it should be**, please contact me ASAP at hcu1diver@gmail.com or davidball@cox.net

GREAT NORTHWEST CONTACT

Pete Pehl is our go-to person and event planner for the Great Northwest and the 2018 Bi-annual NDA Reunion. He has been beating the bushes looking for events for us. He can be reached by cell at: 360-672-2058 or by email at p2dive@gmail.com

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

THINGS OF INTEREST & TO DO

SUNDAY PICNIC at BOWMAN BAY

Pete has planned a Sunday, 05/06/2018, get-together at the Bowman Bay Picnic Facility at Deception Pass State Park in Oak Harbor, WA, (about 8 miles from Swinomish Casino & Lodge).

There is a \$10 **per car** daily use charge to go into Bowman Bay Park. You may also buy an annual pass for \$30 which allows you into all the WA state parks for the year. Since we will have several vehicles up there and many of you are WA residents, I don't see as this should pose a problem. The website for passes is: <http://parks.state.wa.us/205/Passes>

The picnic will run from 1500 to 2000 on Sunday, 05/06/2017. You will not have to bring anything, except yourselves, as beer, wine, soft drinks & water will be provided. The menu is hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

BOWMAN BAY DECEPTION BAY PARK

<http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/around-the-park/bowman-bay/>

[Click here to view park map.](#)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER



The NDA is extremely proud and excited to inform all of you that Captain Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper USN (Retired) will be the guest speaker at the Navy Divers Association 2018 Reunion banquet May 9, 2018 at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge.

Captain Stefanyshyn-Piper will talk about her unique career as a US Navy Diving and Salvage Officer and as a NASA Astronaut. In addition to Captain Stefanyshyn-Piper's salvage experience, she logged over 27 days in space as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttles Atlantis and Endeavor. These missions included 5 space walks for a total of 33 hours and 42 minutes of extra vehicular activity (EVA).

GOLF

Guests will be able to add on the Golfing package to their room. Our host's representative, Sarah, has worked hard to get this event at this greatly reduced price. Just tell the reservation person you are interested in this package and he/she will make your reservation.

To date, we only have one person signed up, so let your reservation specialist know if you are interested.

Golf is \$30.00 per person and does NOT include a cart. A cart is \$13.00 in 2017 and Sarah does have the rates for 2018 yet. They may increase and they may not. I will keep you all posted.

DECEPTION PASS BOAT RIDE

Deception Pass Boat Ride is \$15.00 per person. Sarah will purchase these tickets in March so if you plan on taking the boat ride, **please contact Sarah by email at snelson@swinomishcasino.com to have her reserve your seat** Go to <http://www.deceptionpasstours.com/> for additional information about Deception Pass.

ADDITIONAL RV PARKING

For those Military retirees or active duty who have RVs and are unable to reserve a spot at Swinomish Casino & Lodge, there is always lodging available at NAS Whidbey Island. The link below will get you to the website and all the info you need. I believe there are only two (2) more spaces available with full hook-ups at Swinomish.

<http://cliffside.navylifepnw.com/programs/607cfed4-a4c8-4b2e-ae08-c746327cb01a>

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 will be joining us, but so far there are about six (6) who have informed me they are attending.

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

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 **be on the honor system** where we put out a can and participants donate based on what they consume.

Sunday: Picnic at Bowman Bay Deception Bay Park. We will begin check-in and completion of the registration sign-in sheet, if you haven't already done so, in the Hospitality suite around 2000, after the picnic.

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

There will NOT be a formal Monday reception because of the Sunday cookout. We will however, **have Peter Hunt, author of "The Lost Intruder"**, talk to us. You can get more information on Peter's book by going to <http://peterhuntbooks.com/the-lost-intruder/>

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

Golfing is available and/or the Deception Pass Boat Trip.

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 will be in our Hospitality Suite.

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 dinner in the evening. We are planning on the usual Buffet Dinner followed by our fund raising Live Auction.

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.

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

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

We still need items for this auction. THIS IS OUR ONLY FUND RAISER FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. SO, PLEASE LOOK AROUND AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN SHIP OR BRING. WE NEED GOOD STUFF.

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 have contacted Rick Armstrong, CWO-5, Ret, and asked if he will again commission a piece of artwork specifically for the reunion and donate it for our auction. As soon as I hear, I will let you all know.

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

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

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 emails. A direct link to the reunion page is: <http://www.navydivers.net/2018NdaReunion.html>

Buffet Dinner Menu

Swinomish Grand Buffet

Salads

Garden Greens - Ranch & Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
Chilled Basil Pesto Tortellini Salad
Waldorf Salad

Entrees

Oven Roasted Sockeye Salmon with Roasted Tomato Burre Blanc
Pan Seared Garlic Rosemary Chicken
Herb Crusted Prime Rib of Beef served with Creamy Horseradish and Au Jus

Sides

Wild Rice Pilaf
Mashed Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Cheesecake with Berry Compote

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 DIVERS graduated from an official Navy Dive School and Support Personnel.

Attendance is open to ALL DIVERS GRADUATED FROM AN OFFICIAL NAVY DIVING SCHOOL, 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.

CHECKLIST

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

David Ball

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Home: (619) 225-0304 Cell: (619) 733-3804
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Email: speterson@chesapeake.net

Pete Pehl

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