

USS SALISBURY SOUND AV13



*Fortes Fortuna Juvat
Fortune Favors the Brave*



USS SALISBURY SOUND NEWS

www.salisburysound.org OCTOBER 2017 email: brubru@comcast.net

President's Corner

My thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Albuquerque, NM Reunion such a resounding success.

First, a big thank you to our hardworking and talented officers and board members who played an active role: our vice-president, David Day; our secretary, CAPT Marian Bruce; our treasurer, Barry Henry; our historian, Bill Lewis; our chaplain, RP1 Peter Keck (who also did an outstanding job with our 50/50 raffle), and board members Everette Lange, Victor Fischer, Art Keesing and Dale Cox.

With a special thanks to the friendly folks at Gatherings Plus, and the accommodating staff at the MCM Elegante Hotel.

Also, a big thank you to Barry and Fran Henry, and Vic and Marilyn Fischer for stocking our Hospitality Room.

And a special thanks to Sally Little for hosting the Ladies Tea and Gift Exchange.

Highlights of the reunion were the Friday trip to Santa Fe, NM where we enjoyed the La Fiestas de Santa Fe celebration, including lunch in the city, entertainment, and strolls

through the arts and crafts and food booths that line the historic Santa Fe Plaza.

On Saturday, we enjoyed a driving tour through the beautiful neighborhoods of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, on the way to a 5,000' vertical ride up the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway, followed by dinner.

On Sunday, we held our Memorial Service in the hotel, honoring 13 of our shipmates who have passed away since the last reunion. The Honors Team from the Naval Operational Support Center in Albuquerque (arranged by CAPT Marian Bruce) did an impressive job of presenting the Colors for our service.

Finally, we all enjoyed the final evening Dinner/Dance, preceded by the Cocktail Hour and followed by our 50/50 raffle.

The Board recommended and the membership approved Nashville, TN for 2018. The February Newsletter will contain all the details for Nashville. Stay tuned!

Maurice Medland
President



Photo courtesy of Sharon Lange

TAPS

During a solemn and inspiring Memorial Service, we marked the passing of 13 shipmates. Our sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of the shipmates.

Bill Abel (51-4) (1st) C43* 3/27/17

Charles Carter (65-7) 10/6/91

Eugene Deike JR (64-6) (S)

Pat Duffy (52-6) (A) 7/30/16

Bob Fowler, DDS (51-3) (D)

Fred Harris

Charles Howell (55-8) (OI)

Bob Loepker (49-52) (M) C20 8/15/14

William J. Pearce (52-4) (M)

Gerald Hadley (54-6) (F) R 11/18/16

YNC Bob Harris (53-4) (FAW-1) C140

Bob Miller (60-1) (X)

George Murl (46)

Added to the TAPS list since the reunion.

CDR W. Westland (65-7) (Chaplain) 9/11/17

Albuquerque, NM Reunion

We had a total of 52 people in attendance, including shipmates, wives and guests. Attending for the first time: C.J. and Margaret Ochs, and Tom and Kathy Ellingboe. Welcome! See you next year in Nashville, TN.

Membership

We currently have 606 on our roster consisting of 87 Charter Members, 160 Regular Members, 6 from other tenders, 15 Widows and 338 Non-Members. Our numbers are declining as can be expected because of our age. We need to get out the word to our shipmates to join up. They're not making any more Sally sailors. If you have contact information on a shipmate that is not on the roster, please give the information to CAPT Marian Bruce. He in turn will send an invitation to join our association.



Dues

As a reminder, our dues are \$20 per year for regular members and \$15 for charter members. If you fall behind for five years you will be moved to a non-member status. You are encouraged to keep your dues up to date to fund our newsletter and other expenses that are incurred. As a reminder please send your dues to Secretary Marian Bruce and not Treasurer Barry Henry. We do this so we have a check and balance when handling money. Please make the check out to Salisbury Sound Association, not Marian Bruce. The last date that you paid dues is listed on the fourth line of the address on the envelope of this newsletter. For those who receive this by email you will receive an email dues reminder.

Sally Baseball Caps



The Sally Polo Shirts have been discontinued but sales continue to be brisk for Sally Baseball Caps. Caps are \$22 plus \$6 for shipping and handling. These beautiful caps feature a state-of-

the-art embroidered image of the ship that is incredibly detailed. Don't miss out. Order yours before the current supply is exhausted. Make check out to USS Salisbury Sound Association and mail to:

Barry Henry, Treasurer
3298 Province Circle
Mundelein, IL 60060

New Board Member!

A new Board Member, CWO4 Robert Blivin, was elected to fill an existing vacancy. Welcome aboard, Bob!

Update on CAPT Bruce

As many of you know, our Secretary, CAPT Marian Bruce was recently diagnosed with melanoma, a type of skin cancer, that forced him to cancel his and Dusty's reservations for the Washington, DC reunion. CAPT Bruce had attended all reunions up to that point and that is the first and only one he has missed. I am happy to report that after a second surgical procedure, his surgeon has given him the "all clear" and we are happy to report that he and Dusty were very much in attendance at the Albuquerque Reunion.

We're Number One!

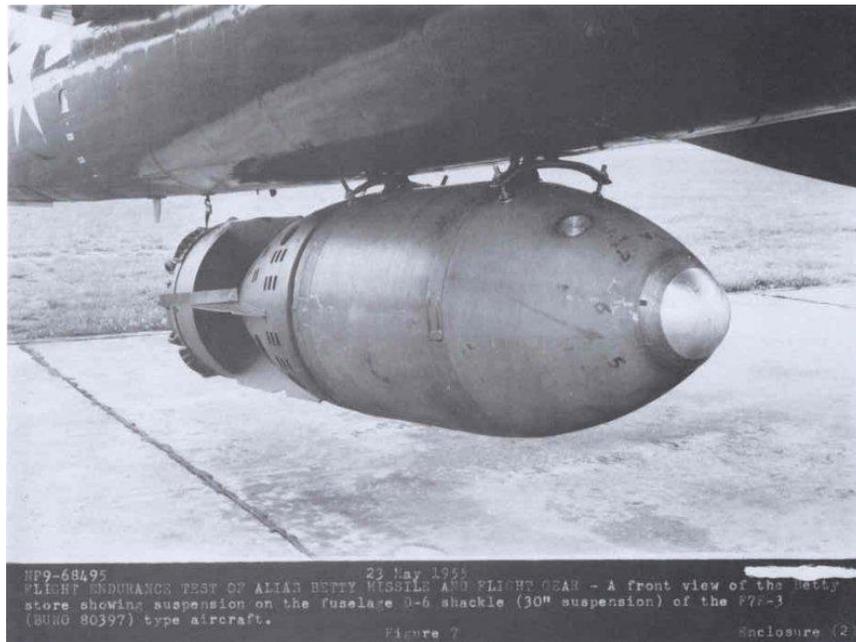
Our web site at www.salisburysound.org has been hugely successful with over 100,000 "hits" since we went live. That level of activity, along with other factors, has been recognized by Google's very sophisticated algorithm for determining web site rankings. As a result, we are now ranked the number one web site when a search for "USS Salisbury Sound" is done on Google. Check it out, if you haven't already. As the official web site of the USS Salisbury Sound Association, it is the single largest collection of Salisbury Sound information and memorabilia available anywhere. Enjoy!

Did the Sally Carry Nuclear Weapons?

By Maurice Medland

Yes, indeed. One of the little-known facts about the USS Salisbury Sound is that she carried a complement of nuclear depth charges. The Mark 90 Betty nuclear depth charge employed a Mark 7 nuclear warhead. The selectable five to 10-kiloton weapon (about a third to two thirds the size of the Hiroshima bomb) was only test fired once off San Diego in 1955 as Operation Wigwam.

The Mark 90 was developed in 1952 and was used as an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) depth charge for the P5 Marlin seaplane and the P2V Neptune land-based patrol plane. It had a length of 10 ft. 2 in, a diameter of 2 ft. 7.5 in, and a weight of 1,243 lbs. A quantity of 300 Mark 90s was produced. All units were withdrawn from service by 1960 and replaced by the Mark 101 Lulu, which the Sally also carried. Our own CAPT Marian Bruce and CAPT Bill Bloh were loading officers and delivery pilots using the Betty and had the same roles using the follow-on Mark 101 Lulu. Both the Betty and the Lulu are at the new National Nuclear Museum in Albuquerque, NM. Only the Lulu is on display and we were privileged to see it on our trip to Albuquerque for our 2017 reunion. Below is a picture of the Mark 90 Betty:



On September 25, 1959, a United States Navy Martin P5M-2 Marlin (BuNo 135540, SG tail code, '6', of VP-50) was patrolling out of NAS Whidbey Island when it was forced to ditch in the Pacific Ocean, about 100 miles west of the Washington-Oregon border.

A Mark 90 depth charge casing was lost and never recovered, but it was reportedly not fitted with an active warhead. The ten crew members were rescued by the US Coast Guard, after ten hours in a raft. The press was not notified at the time.

During my tour aboard in the mid 1950's, I remember being on deck when a US Army truck pulled up on the dock next to the Sally and a contingent of heavily armed GIs scrambled to surround the truck with weapons drawn. A mysterious cargo was unloaded and placed aboard in a newly built, equally mysterious compartment deep within the ship. The compartment was guarded around the clock by an armed Marine. We were never told what the top secret cargo was, but it almost certainly was the Mark 90 nuclear depth charge.

Sally Sailors—where are they?

An interesting question was raised at a recent Business Meeting. The question was to the effect that since three-fourths of the US population lives east of the Mississippi River, did it make sense to have an equal number of reunions on the West Coast? We had never really thought much about membership distribution, so we did a sort by state to see where the majority of our members live. Here's the surprising answer:

At the time of the study, our membership in the 24 states west of the Mississippi River was approximately 65 % of the total. Membership in the 26 states east of the Mississippi River was approximately 35 %

of the total. In fact, the six western states of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas contained more Sally members than all 26 states east of the Mississippi River combined!

With numbers like that, it could be argued that we ought to have more reunions in the western states, where the majority of our members live, but we have never done that. Instead, we try to be fair about locating our reunions around the country so that, over time, we all travel about the same distance and have the same opportunities to visit new places.