



A Blast in the Desert **Reno, Nevada**



What happens in Reno stays in Reno.
Not!

USS PYRO Association
Association

A Blast in the Desert

USS Pyro Association 2009 Reunion Reno, Nevada May 14-18, 2008



Wednesday 13 May 2009

- **6:00 PM Welcome Aboard Reception.** Arrive in Reno at your leisure. Log in and get reacquainted with old (and young) shipmates in the hospitality room. Remainder of the evening free to explore Reno's exciting dining, gaming and entertainment

Thursday 14 May 2009

- Morning free for exploration, shopping, mischief or relaxing with shipmates in the hospitality room.
- 1:00~4:00 PM **Reno City Tour: All That Glitters:** No visit to Northern Nevada is complete without touring the "other side" of this delightful city. See lavish residential areas, historic high-lights and learn some naughty tidbits.

Friday 15 May 2009

- 9:00 AM ~ 3:00 PM **Carson City/Virginia City Tour and memorial service.** See the town that "hit it big" in 1859 with the richest discovery of silver and gold ever found. No reproduction here...this is the real thing. Next, a driving tour of Carson City, Nevada's capital, including the city's historic district and admission to the Nevada State Museum, the Carson City Mint. Honor departed comrades in a memorial service at the Old Boot Hill Cemetery in Virginia City.
- Remainder of the day free to explore Reno's exciting dining, gaming and entertainment.

Saturday 16 May 2009

- 9:00-11:00 AM **Association business meeting**
- 11:00 AM~ 6:00 PM Free to explore Reno's exciting dining, gaming and entertainment
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM Group/individual photos; cocktails
- 7:00 **Awards Banquet**
- 8:00 - 11:00 PM **Dancing**

Sunday 17 May 2007

- Saddle up Old Paint and head home

Reno 2009 Reunion

Participating members and guests

Butch and Jean **Barrett**
Larry and Dorothy **Buggeln**
Jared **Cameron** and Susan Scanlan
Tony **Case**
Jim and Mary Lou **Delaney**
Art and Millie **Derry**
Billy and Myra **Eckstine**
Loyd and Mary **Ellis**
Jerry and Mary Lou **Eddinger**
Ellie **Fricke**
Bailey **George**
Patrick and Geraldine **Glenn**
Gary and Helen **Golay**
Donald **Green**
Al and Shirley **Hansen**
Bob **Hauge**
Rick and Linda **Hiatt**
Bill **Hogan** and Linda Fox
Gary **Holmes**
Bobby and Deborah **Hunter**
Gary and Ruby **Jaeger**
Terry and Patsy **Kimzey**
Herman and Susie **Kinder**
Marge **Knapp**; Don and Bud Shafer
Allan and Donna **Kucera**

Ron and Shirlene **Kynaston**
Gary and Mary **Leffler**
Roger and Nancy **Martin**
Don and Joann **McClurg**
Gary and Patricia **Michael**
Tom **Morris**
Mike **Morris**
Tom and Carol **Moulton**
Joe and Ruth Ann **Nalle**
Bill and Jackie **Peregrin**
Roger and Marian **Pearson**
Frank and Pearl **Ryan**
Tom and Elaine **Sanborn**
Dutch and Patricia **Schwendeman**
Tony and Carlene **Sieverin**
Bob and Peggy **Smiley**; Mary Neuhof and
Dr. Kit Azlein
Bob and Betty **Smith**
Ed **Stone**
Jasper and Lavonne **Strunk**
Don and Lynn **Sullivan**
Del and Nancy **Wells**
Robert **White**
Doug and Linda **Wisher**
Vance and Bev **Worrell**

Remembering the fallen

The annual memorial service honoring departed — but not forgotten — members of the Pyro Family is in many ways the most meaningful moment of our reunions, yet one we all wish were unnecessary. But time continues to take its toll. For 2009, the ceremony of remembrance was held amid the stark beauty of the desert at Boot Hill Cemetery in Virginia City, Nevada.



SALUTING THE MAN WHO MADE IT HAPPEN (AND THE WOMAN WHO LET HIM)



Bob and Betty Smith

Okay, so your association is throwing a Blast in the Desert. Who do you put in charge? Of course, the 'top-level' answer is: *Anyone foolish enough to volunteer.* But we're an ammo ship and whether the blast is in the desert or at sea, you need a steady hand at the helm.

Who better to handle a Blast in the Desert than a man who spent his career handling things that go **boom** in the night (and day, too)? A man who served as cargo officer on the Pyro, that's who.

So the brilliant warlords of the association chose none other than Gunner Bob Smith and his trusty sidekick, Betty, run the show — just as he had done on AE-24.

Good move! Bob ran the entire operation with, well, military precision. He made a list and checked it more than twice, making repeated trips to Reno to make sure that every detail, every arrangement and every nickel slot machine was in good order.

Previous reunion chairmen have come away with the thanks of grateful shipmates, a certificate of appreciation and — more often than not — a severe hangover. Leave it to 2009 Reunion Chairman Bob Smith to rise above the norm and earn a purple heart: Usually reliable sources say Gunner Bob took a nasty spill on some ice in front of the Sands on one inspection trip.

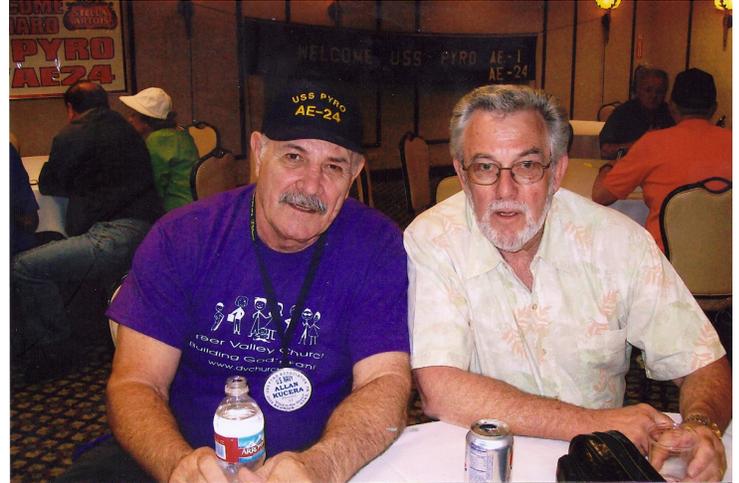
Whether the pain was worth the gain for The Smiths remains to be seen, but for the association, members and guests who made the gathering, Bob and Betty's work — and wounds — made Reno a reunion to remember.



**Thanks and
a big 'Bravo
Zulu' to Bob
and Betty!**



Hospitality room



A beery welcome (L); Erstwhile quartermasters Alan Kuchera and Tony Sieverin reunited (R).



Bob and Betty Smith with AE-24 (L); Doug Wisner, Joe Nalle, Marge Knapp and Linda Hiatt (R).

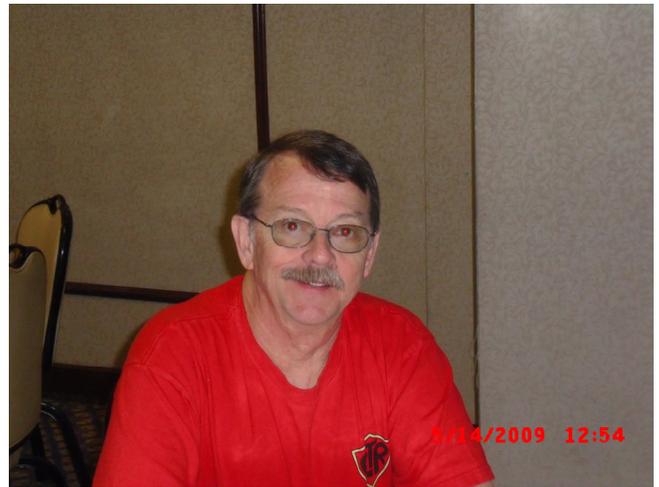


Al Hansen, Vance Worrell, Marge Knapp and Bob White (L); Bill Hogan, Linda Fox and Lavonne Strunk (R).

Hospitality room



Garys Michael and Holmes (L); Mike Morris (R).



Kuch and Donna Kuchera (L); Bill Hogan, Gary Jaeger, Pearl Jaeger and Bailey George (R).



Don Greene, Marge Knapp, Jake Strunk, Gary Jaeger and Doug Wisher (L); Myra and Billy Eckstine (R).



Hospitality room



Ellie Fricke, Tom Moulton and Carol Moulton (L); the famous Mary Ellis smile (R).



Al Hansen (L); and Mary Eddington (we believe) and Ed Stone (R).



Bill Hogan, Linda Fox (L); Tom Sanborn, Bob Hauge, Ellie Fricke and Gary Golay (R).

Hospitality room



Geraldine and Patrick Glenn (L); AE-1 shipmates Jim Delaney, Ed Stone and Don Greene (R).



Patricia and Dutch Schwendeman (L); Sisters Marian Pearson and Suzie Kinder (R).



Bob Hauge's back, Don Green and Little Willie Peregrin (L); Shirlene Kynaston with plankholders Ron Kynaston, Al Hansen, Bill Peregrin and Larry Buggeln (R).

Hospitality room



Bob White calls home (L); Sally and C. Ray Nichol (R).



Linda Wisner and Lavonne Strunk (L); Carol Moulton and Lavonne Strunk (R).



Ed Stone and Don Green (L); Mary Leffler and Nancy Wells (R).



Hospitality room



The smiling Strunks (L); Bob White, Jared Cameron and Gary Michael (R).



Larry Buggeln, Little Willie Peregrin, Vance Worrell, Ron Kynaston, Al Hansen (L); Art Derry and Marty Martin (R).



Bobby Hunter (L); Rick and Linda Hiatt; Art Derry; Tom Morris; Terry and Patsy Kimzey; and Gary Holmes (R).

Hospitality room



Marian Pearson (L). Carol Moulton and Susan Scanlan (R).

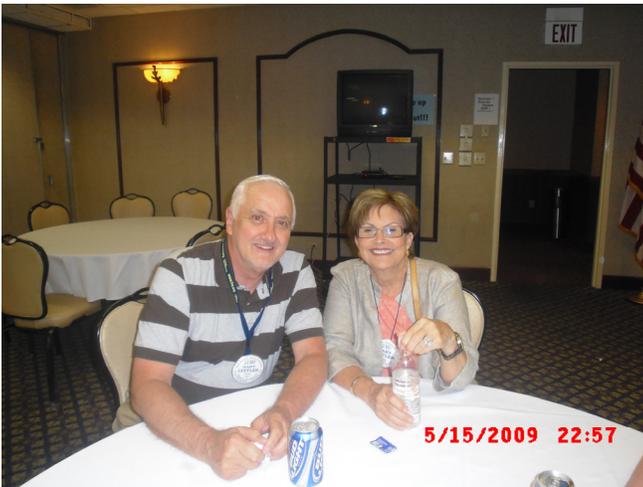


Tom Morris and Butch Barrett (L); Tom Moulton and Bob Hauge (R).

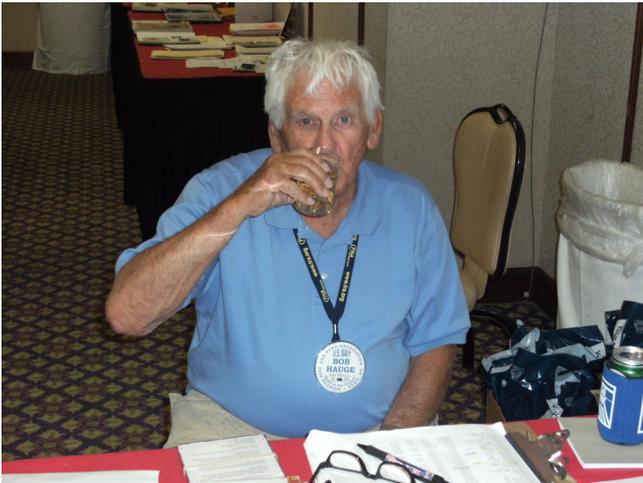


Bob Smiley (L); Don and Joann McClurg (R).

Hospitality room



Gary and Mary Leffler (L). Nancy and Dell Wells (R).



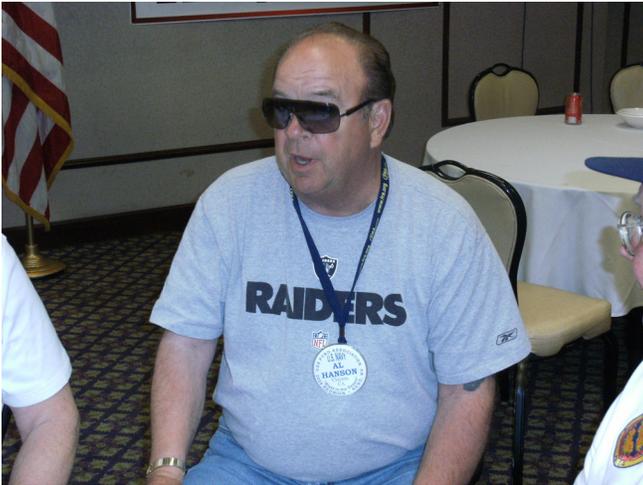
Bob Hauge sips (L). Gary Leffler, Dell Wells, Gary Golay, Helen Golay and Tom Sanborn (R).



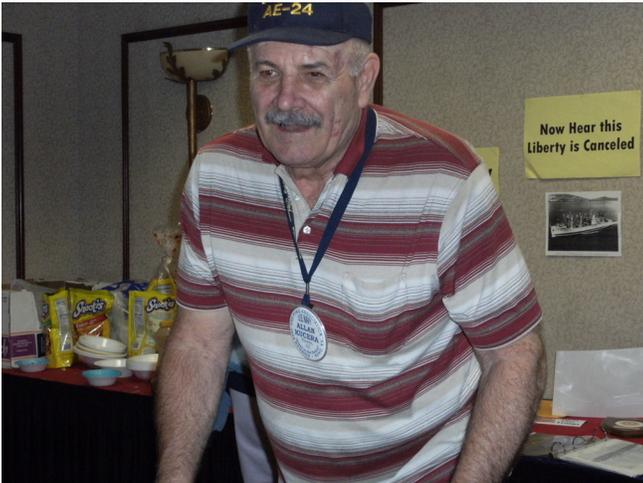
C. Ray and Sally Nichol (L). Bob Smiley and Jared Cameron...you write the caption (R).



Hospitality room



Al Hansen (L). Portions of Gary Michael and Pat Michael (R).



Allan Kucera (L) and better half, Donna (R).



Rick (L) and Linda Hiatt (R).

Reno City Tour



Don Green (L). The Pearsons (R).



Bailey George; Shirley and Al Hansen (L) Gary and Pearl Jaeger (R).



Bob Hauge and Marge Knapp (L); "King Kong" Hauge (R).

Reno City Tour



Ed Stone (L). Portions of Gary Michael and Pat Michael (R).



Moulton hot! Carol and Tom (L) Joann and Don McClurg, Loyd Ellis (R).



Lynn and Don Sullivan (L) Lavonne and Jasper Strunk (R).



Reno City Tour



Patrick and Jeri Glenn (L). Elaine Sanborn (R).



Ron and Shirlene Kynaston (L) Tom Morris (R).



Joe and Ruth Ann Nalle (L) Bob and Betty Smith (R).



Reno City Tour



Tom Sanborn, Ed Stone and Jasper Strunk (L). Betty Smith, Bob Hauge and Bob Smith (R).



Bailey George and another big bear (L) The Sullivans and McClurgs at the museum (R).



Wife Linda contemplates a new redecoration project for husband, Doug Wisner (L); Al Hansen, Bob Smith and Betty Smith take 10.

Reno City Tour



Tom Sanborn and Roger Pearson (L). The Boys on the Bus (R).



Ruby and Gary Jaeger (L); Gary and Pat Michael (you can write your own caption) (R).



Marge Knapp (L); Marian and Roger Pearson (R).

Reno City Tour



Myra Eckstine (L). Suzie and Herman Kinder (R).



Linda and Doug Wisher (L) Butch Barrett and Bill Peregrin (R).



Billie Eckstine (L) and the Moultons (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Elaine and Tom Sanborn (L). Tony and Carlene Sieverin (R).



The Strunks emerge into the sunlight (L); Linda Wisner (R).



Vance Worrell (L); Vance again with the Schewedemans or is is Schewendemen?) (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Scanlan trips the light fantastic (L). Ed Stone alights (R).



The overflow bus (L); Bailey George and Susan Scanlan (R).



Our guide struggles with microphone feedback (L). A view of the badlands. (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



The lay of the land



Chaplain Vance checks the Boot Hill Rules (L). The crew heads for Boot Hill (R).



The scene as the Memorial begins.

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Al Hansen (L). Portions of Gary Michael and Pat Michael (R).



The chaplain offers prayers (L) as Gary Golay prepares to render Taps (R).



The wreath (L). Cameron, Ellie Fricke and Golay (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Vance Worrell and the wreath (L). Members at the service (R).



More views of the service and its aftermath.



Pyro people recall the departed.

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Tom Sanborn and Don Sullivan (L). Bob Smiley and the crew (R).



Billy Eckstine, Art Derry, Bailey George, Bev Worrell, Millie Derry and Ruth Ann Nalle (L); getting ready to head back to the bus.



Back to the bus and the boarding.

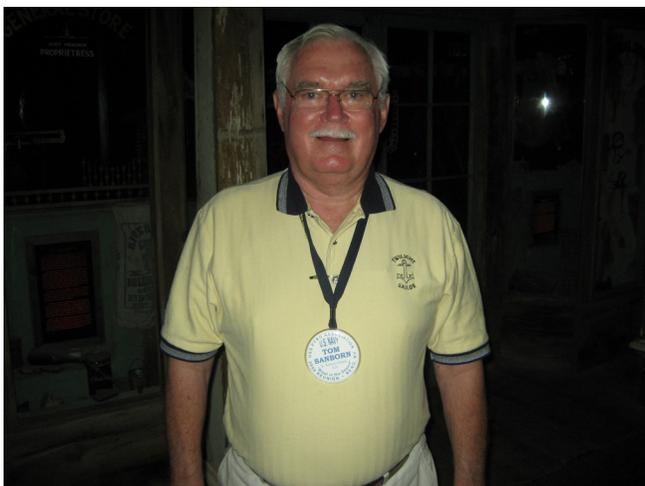
Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Views of Virginia City



A mill (L); Susan Scanlan and Marge Knapp at the covered wagon showroom.



Tom Sanborn caught sort of smiling (L); Bill Hogan and Linda Fox really smile (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Herman Kinder (L). Art Derry (R).



The Sieverins (L) and the Michaels (R).



Bailey George and Ellie Fricke (L); Gary Holmes and the Kimzeys (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Shopping spree



Shopping spree II



The mountains on the horizon (L) and the First Annual USS Pyro Best Legs Contest (R).

Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Ellis, Jaeger and White belly up to the bar (L). The Sanborns, Smiley, Golay, and Hauge dine on 'pub grub' (R).



Lunch for the crew.



Lunch for the crew II

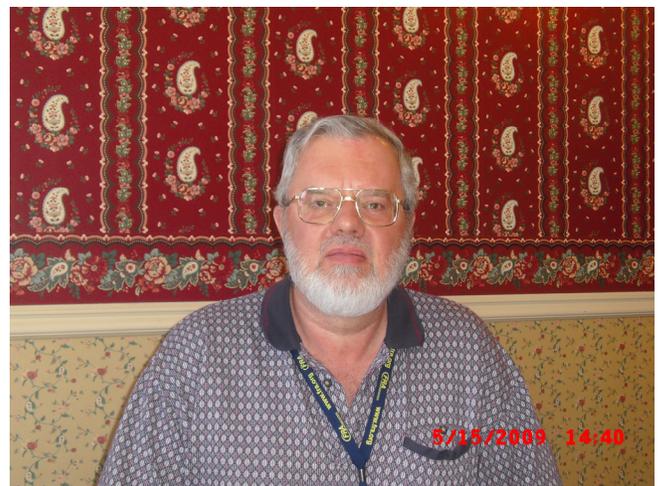
Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Lunch for the crew III

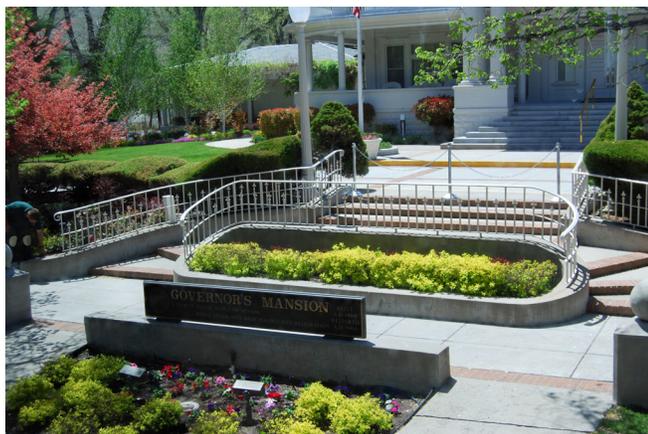


Watch reliefs and photographers to the head of the chow line.



Scanlan, Goley and Kimzey are, well, out to lunch.

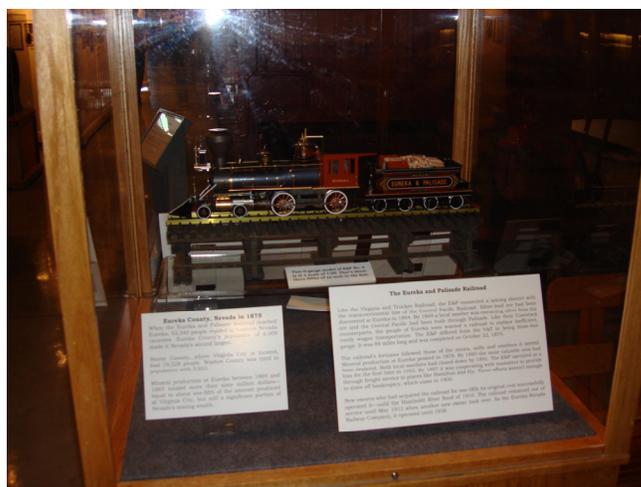
Virginia City/Carson City Tour



Nevada Givernor's Mansion (L). Ruby Jaeger boards (R).



Nevada scenery



It's so good to have a snipe around the house — or bus: Doug Wisner saves the day by jerry-rigging a broken door (L); Boys love their model trains (R).

Membership meeting



The crew views the officers and prays for the association (L). The officers view the crew and pray for the association.



Bob Smith pins on Bob Hauge's 60, yes, 60-year Fleet Reserve Association pin.



Larry Buggeln introduces himself (L); AE-24 plankholders take a bow. (R).

Membership meeting



Bob Smith addresses attentive members



Ed Stone introduces himself (L); Sanborn delivers the treasurer's report (R).



Jerry Eddinger and Bob White (L); Doug Wisner delivers the secretary's report (R).

Awards Banquet



The Sullivans and the McClurgs (R).



The Glenns (L) and the Moultons (R).



Don Green, Larry Buggeln and Ed Stone (L); The Jaegers (R).

Awards Banquet



Sister act: The Kinders and The Pearsons



The Kucheras (L) and the Hunters (R).



The Smileys and Bob Hauge (R).

Awards Banquet



Bob White (L). The Derrys (R).



The Schwendemans (L); Ellie Fricke and Bailey George (R).



The Golays (L); The Eddingers and Hansens (R).

Awards Banquet



The Barretts (L). The Kynastons (R).



The Buggelns (L) and the Peregrins (R).



Buggeln, Peregrin and Kynaston sans spouses (L); The Nalles (R).

Awards Banquet



Mike Morris and Gary Holmes



The Hiatts (L) and the Kimzeys (R).



Brother act: The Morris (L); and the Nichols (R).

Awards Banquet



The Ryans and the Smiths



Don Shafer, Marge Knapp and Bud Shafer (L); Ed Stone (R).



The Michaels (L); Dr. Kit Azlein, Mary Neuhof and Bob Smiley (R).

Awards Banquet



The Eckstines (l); Jared Cameron and Susan Scanlan



Linda Wisner, Jared Cameron and Susan Scanlan (L); Linda Fox and Bill Hogan (R).



The Ellises and the Sieverins

Awards Banquet



The Strunks and Sanborns



AE-24 plankholders Buggeln, Eddinger, Hansen, Peregrin and Gary Leffler (L) ; The greatest generation: Nalle, Green, Hauge, Fricke, Stone and Knapp



AE-1's Nalle, Green, Hauge and Stone (L); Action winner Bill Hogan with Pat Michael-created quilt that helped restore the association's treasury (R).

Roasting Tom



A snipe with a octopus on his head; alleged correspondence from Tom's idol Hillary Clinton extolling Sanborn's softer, feminine side; an entertainer willing to collect contributions the, ah, old fashioned way; and a tremendous pent-up desire to insult the Pyro's only 'snipedale' in exchange for contributions to the association treasury helped make the Tom Sanborn Roast a big hoot and a major financial success.

Combined with the proceeds from auctions of fine Al Hansen Vineyard wines and the exquisite quilts crafted by Pat Michael, Association members may be spared the annual Sanborn *Sky Is Falling In Treasurer's Report*...but probably not...

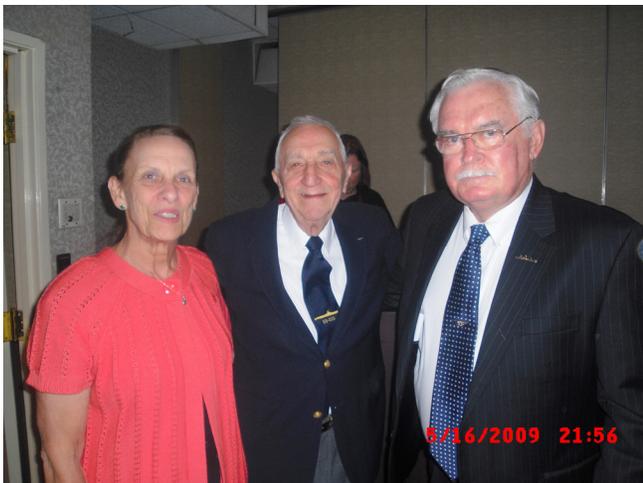
Awards Banquet



The Nalles and the Kimzeys (L); the Kucheras (R)



Don Shafer, Bud Shafer, Marge Knapp and the Ryans.



Stone sandwiched amid Sanborns (L); Bud Shafer and Ed Stone (R).

Awards Banquet



Sanborn and Smith slice the cake (L). Mary Neuhoff, Peg Smiley and Kit Azlein (R).



Cameron grins (L) Marge Knapp, Pearl Ryan, Frank Ryan Bailey George and Ellie Fricke (R).



Tom Sanborn and Bob Smiley (L); Bad Boys' bosses: Susan Scanlan and Elaine Sanborn (R).

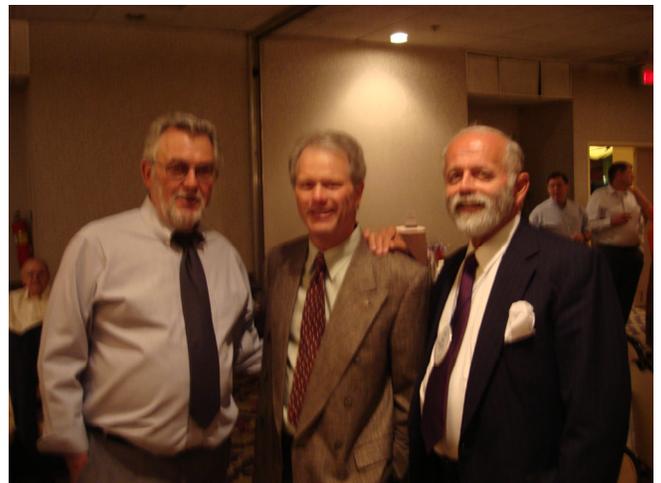
Awards Banquet



Sanborn grids his loins for the roast (L). Bob White (R).

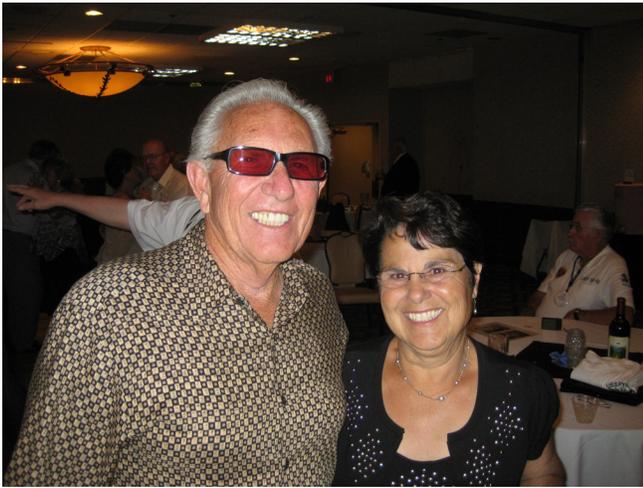


Gary Michael (L) Tom Moulton, Bob Smiley and Carol Moulton (R).



Cameron and Stone guffaw (L); Stern Sieverin with smiling Moulton and Smiley (R).

Awards Banquet



The Edingers (L). Old Glory quilt winner



Bill Hogan and the quilt close-up (L) Hansen's fine wine (R).



Smiling Sieverin, Moulton, Smiley and Nichol (L); Elaine Sanborn and Ed Stone (R).

Shall we dance?



Getting down...



Getting downer...



Getting downiest!



Odds and ends



WHAT IS IS ABOUT PYRO SPOUSES AND MARK TWAIN? Diane Otero is cruised by Mr. Clements in Dubuque; Susan Scanlan takes a breather with the bard in Silver City.



THEN AND NOW: Jim Delaney, AE-1 navigator and the Pyro's only known Olympian (in non-drinking events) shown at the Olympic trials (L). In London at the 1948 Olympics where he won silver in shot put, and (R) at the reunion hospitality room in Reno.

USS PYRO Association 2009 Memory Book



The recipe for a Memory Book should be easy to follow: Gently stir in photos of frolicking Pyro people, add appropriate shots of the memorial service. Cut in dance-floor antics. Season liberally with the obligatory annual goofy photos of Larry Shepline and John Wichtrich.

This year, the recipe wasn't quite that easy to follow. Both the association's superb secretary (right) and his formerly faithful camera (left) went down for the count at the Reno reunion: Doug and Linda's camera headed south sometime after the Virginia City tour. And a hiatal hernia prevented Doug from attending and photographing the awards banquet. To add to the death Former Photography Teacher (hey, it's California!) Tom Palmer skipped the reunion for surgery of his own.

Many indoor photos shot at the hotel came back with a yellowish tinge (probably to designed by the hotel to prevent private eyes from capturing images of errant couples on a dirty weekend) that took all your editor's Photoshop skills to partially ameliorate. And neither member of the Shepline/Wichtrich dynamic duo was able to join the festivities in Reno.

Happily, a lot of folks we haven't seen recently — or ever — showed up in Reno; unhappily, many wore their name tags only intermittently, leaving your editor with the unenviable job of captioning photos on a wing and a prayer.

So, on to the ritual disclaimer:

*This 2009 USS Pyro Association Memory Book was edited by Jared Cameron who is solely, if reluctantly, responsible for all miscaptioned photos, incorrectly spelled names and mismatched spouses. Photos were shot by volunteers including Ellie Fricke, Billy Eckstine, Doug Wisher, Ed Stone, Bailey George, Bob Smiley and Jared Cameron. We 'shot 'em like they saw 'em' — often with a cup of cheer in hand and using viewfinders designed for younger eyes. Married photographers — with some notable exceptions — tend to snap more shots of their wives than your wives out of longstanding affection, a desire to assemble background material for post-reunion department critiques and the hope of surviving to attend future reunions. The editor and photographers are **not** responsible for odd expressions, excessive gyrations of nether parts whether dancing or not, dubious department brought about by reunions with bad role models from our youth, dress inappropriate to traditional gender roles, silly head coverings, the actions of sailors whose spouses allow them to attend reunions without adult supervision or pounds added since your salad days of Naval service. We believe we included at least one photo of every participant, but if we missed you (or your best angle), we apologize abjectly.*

Somewhat sincerely,

The editor

