

USS WILHOITE

DE-DER 397

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER DECEMBER, 2023

NEWSLETTER

Wilhoite Shipmates:

Goodness, here it is about the end of another year. I hope that all of you had a good 2023 year and a hopefully a good year in 2024!

We had our reunion in San Diego, California in October and all seemed to enjoy it. We did have a business meeting and decided to try reunions another two years. In 2024 we will be in Omaha, Nebraska with Tom Morrissey hosting. I think he has set a date sometime in late August. Have not heard for sure exactly what date. In boxes that I got back there was a cardinal lamp in one of them. Someone had won that and I don't remember who. If you will let me know, I will mail it to you.

Then 2025 we will be in Texas with Steve Gergens hosing along with his friend Doralnn (I hope that I got that spelled right). If we decide at that time to continue with reunions, then we will be looking at someone to host one maybe in middle of the United States or Eastern part. Let me know if you are interested in doing this.

I am going to try to keep the newsletter going since no one wants to do it, but I'm not sure if it will be on time. I am going to have to send it off for someone to check to make I have made sense and have spelled all right since my eyesight is not good anymore.

I've tried to put in some pictures of our reunion but had a hard time getting them so you could tell who they were.

God Bless each and everyone of you all and your families in the next 2024.

"Smooth Sailing"

Liz



This is what I am showing for membership in our Association. Our 2024 donations are due starting in September the year before. This one newsletter is going to the following. If you have given your donation to Dana and is not showing by your name, please let me know. If you have not made a donation for 2024, you will not receive the next quarter newsletter. The ink, paper and postage is getting way out of sight, so we are cutting back.

Alcorn Michael and Dana (2024)	Mauldin Connie (2022)
Berry David (2024)	Morlock Fred (2022)
Caldwel John and Brenda (2023)	Morrissey Tom (2025)
Candor Raymond (2022)	Mullin James (2024)
Compton Ed (2023)	Murphy Obie (2024)
Cusato Paul (2023)	Owens William & Marilyn (2024)
Dougher Thomas (2022)	Parker David (2024)
Dutchuk John (2024)	Payson David (2023)
Dyson Al (2022)	Payton Johnny (2023)
Frederiksen Geri (2023)	Pohl Art (2023)
Gennetti Fred (2024)	Robinson Lee (2024)
Gergens Steve (2025)	Rott Ray (2024)
Hackenberg Richard (2023)	Shanahan, Jr. John (2023)
Hagee Charles (2023)	Shuck Donald L. (2023)
Hawes Eugene (2022)	Silhan Peter (2024)
Heller Richard (2022)	Smith Raymond (2023)
Horch Linda (2023)	Syverson Norris (2023)
Huff Roland (2023)	Thompson Ross (2024)
Huml Vincent (2023)	Throm Larry (2023)
Hydro John (2024)	Torriglia Paul (2027)
Johnson Robert (2024)	Valiant Martha (2024)
Knight James (2023)	Walker John
Layton Geoffrey (2022)	West Helen
Long Leroy (2023)	Wickizer Larry (2024)
Marcotte Donald G.(2024)	Yonkofski Ben (2024)
Markley Ray (2023)	



Another passing shipmate. It is my sorrow that we lost a shipmate that has kept me updated about a lot of things that you all have shared. He also hosted a reunion in Silverdale, Washington. Richard (Dick) Scheeder, we found out in our opening of the reunion, 910 Micawber St. that Dick had passed away.

It has been a while, but I'm putting his address in for anyone that knew Dick and would like to write a note to Joyce. He has been a loyal Association for many years.

**The Family of Richard (Dick) Scheeder
P.O. Box 94
Seabeck, WA 98380**

Don't forget that Gene Strickland and Bill Endter is in a rest home. You might think about dropping them a note. I don't hear anything from either one of these gentlemen. If someone does, please let me know. If you know of someone that is in rest home, let me know, I'll send them a newsletter. I hope that John is doing okay after his open heart surgery.

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SHIPMATES NEWS



GO NAVY

MINUTES
OF
USS WILHOITE
October 19, 2023
In San Diego, California

Tom Morrissey, President opened the meeting at 9:05. Those present were the following: John and Brenda Caldwell; Bill and Marilyn Owens; Art and Judi Pohl; Steve Gergens; Pete Silhan; Mike and Dana Alcorn; Jim Knight; Helen West.

Since there were no minutes from last reunion, they were dismissed.

Dana Alcorn, our Treasurer, read the treasurer report.

Old Business: No minutes to check out!

New Business: Tom brought up about Liz Rider needing to resign. He asked for volunteers, but no one seemed to want the job. She will continue until we can get someone. Mike Alcorn suggested someone to help and Brenda Caldwell said she would go over the newsletter before it goes out to make sure all is covered.

It was brought up on what to do about reunions and John Caldwell suggest we have for another 2 years to see how it goes and discuss in 2025 what to do with our reunions. Tom Morrissey is hostin in Omaha, Nebraska in 2024 and Steve Gergens has volunteered to host in Texas in 2025. Mike Alcorn suggested San Antonio for 2025 and Art Pohl seconded. Since Steve has volunteered for Texas, he will let us know where and when the time gets closer.

Another item brought up about where our donations goes. It normally goes to the USS Slater because it has been checked out and it is a good place to donate to. One place was suggested and i was USS Stewart in Galveston, TX. It will be Checked out and will let us know if it is a good place to donate to.

We adjourned at 9:45

Liz Rider
Secretary

P.S. If I have left something off or did not get something right, please make a note so you can let me know in Omaha, NE. My memory and eyesight is not good anymore so you all are going to have to help me as long as I keep doing this. Newsletters will sometimes be late because of what happer in my life.



ROBERT JOHNSON

Robert went with his friends to sign up, but they backed out. He went alone. Was to get out on my 21st birthday, June 19, but got extended 2 months in Vietnam for duty. I served on the USS Wilhoite 1964-1967. This was during the Vietnam conflict!

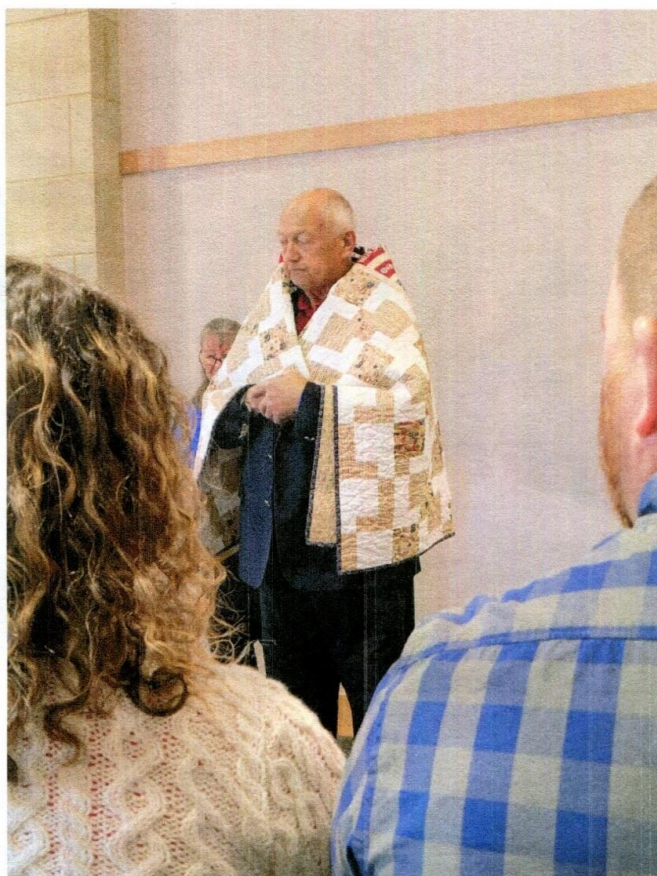
He and his wife live in Grafton, ND and have been married 46 years.

They are parents of 4 sons and 1 daughter. They have 16 grandchildren and soon to be a great Grandpa.



John Walker

Mr. John Walker was born in England, moved to Montana in 1947 with his mother at age 10. He became a citizen in 1955 so he could join the Navy. John joined the Montana National Guard the day after turning 17 and two days after graduating from high school joined the Navy. From 1955 to 1959 he served on the USS Wilhoite DER 397 as a radarman. While on the Wilhoite just before Christmas 1957 and at sea some 200 miles off the coast of Washington to relieve another DER on picket station, John had got a bloody nose that the doctor was unable to stop so they packed it and put tape across his nose and he was "high-lined" transferred to the ship they were relieving. A Marine Corp veteran, at his quilt presentation, said this is not for the faint of heart! John said both ships were rocking hard in the waves, so he was bouncing all over the place but he didn't get wet. By the time John arrived at the Navel Hospital in Bremerton, Washington, his nose bleed had stopped so he spent a very dull and lonely Christmas that year. John then joined the US Air Force and was a radar controller from 1959 to 1963.



BEN YONKOFSKI

Ben joined the navy in May of 1966. Following boot camp, I was assigned to the USS Wilhoite out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, assigned to the deck force. I made my first tour to Viet Nam. After a year I was transferred to OC Division to become a radioman 3rd class. In another year I was promoted to radioman 2nd class and went on my second tour to Vietnam. Upon returning from Nam, I was transferred to the USS Ingersoll. Six months later I was transferred to the USS Hornet where I took the third and final tour to Vietnam. During my time in the navy our crew received two navy unit citation awards.

Live in peace and peace will live in you.

Work as if it was your first day.

Forgive as soon as possible.

Love without boundaries.

Laugh without control
and never stop smiling.

SAN DIEGO

REUNION



Front Row: Brenda Caldwell, Dana Alcorn, Judi Pohl, Marilyn Owens, Liz Rider, Dorann Lokas, Valerie Bolger
 Middle Row: John Caldwell, Raul Herrea, Bill Owens and Bob Bolger

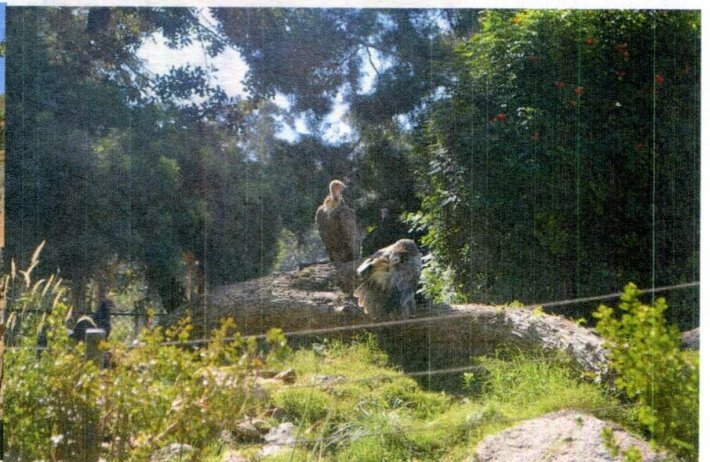
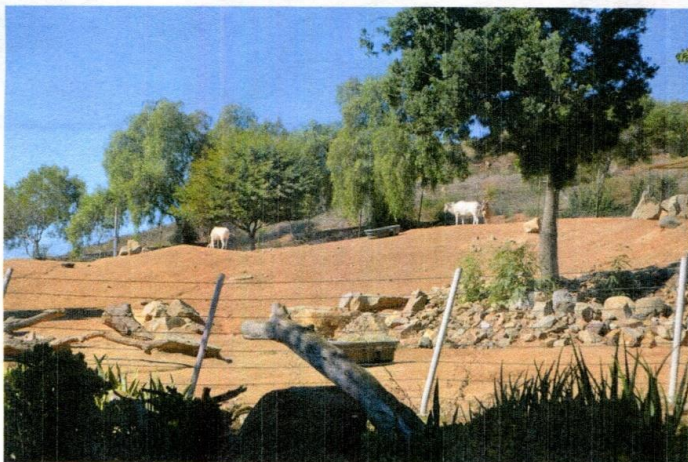
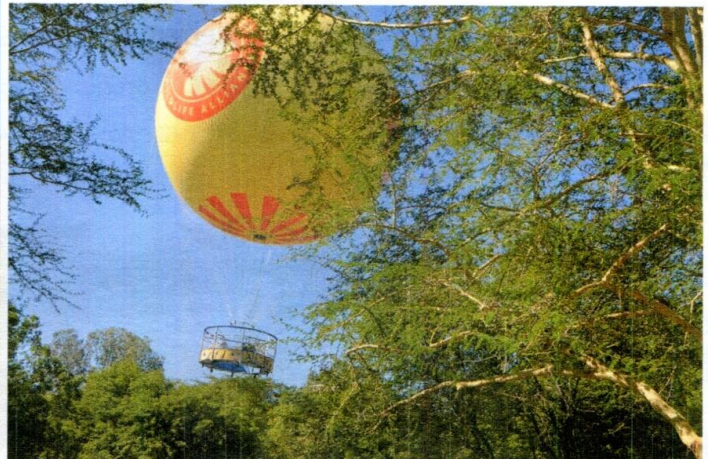
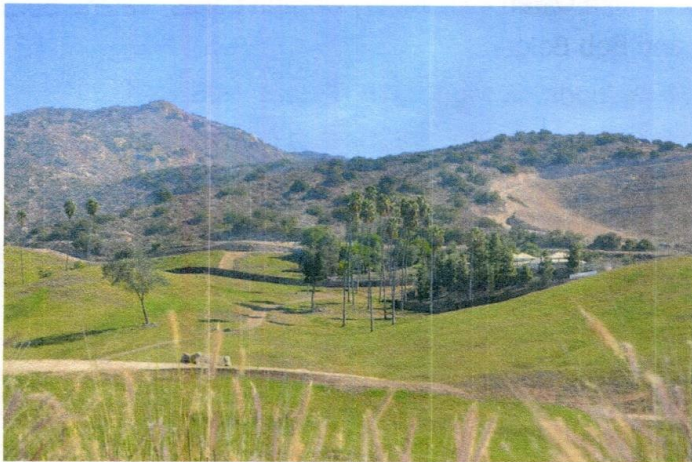
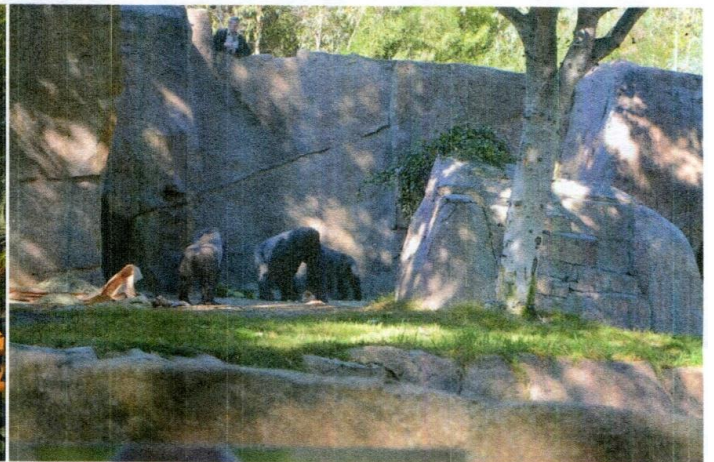
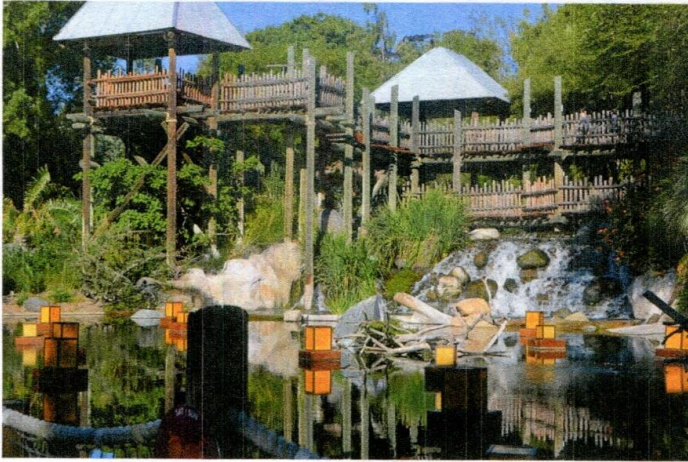


Your left: Bill Owens, Marilyn Owens, Liz and far end is James Knight. Brenda Dove, Judi Pohl and Ar Pohl and can't tell who is in far left.

Dorann Lokas and Brenda Caldwell

Few pictures of the Safari Park in San Diego, California

This was a great place to visit and you really needed a full day to see it all.



TELLING SEA STORIES



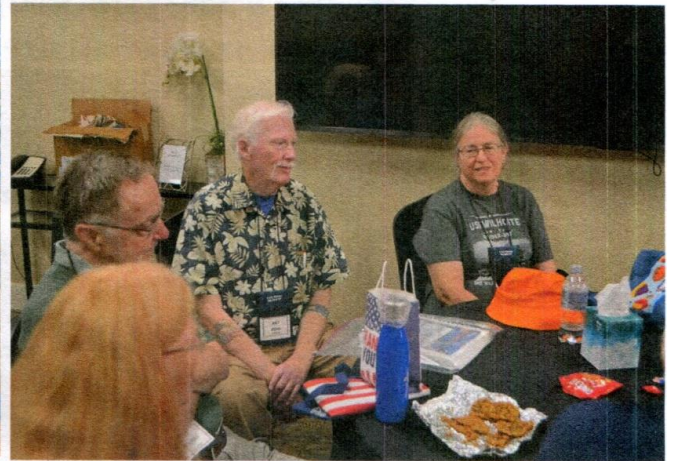
John (back) Tom(Front) Helen Art Peter Marilyn Bill



Jim(his back) Mike & Dana, Dorann, Brenda & Judi



Jim Knight, Mike and Dana Alcorn and Brenda Caldwell



Marilyn (Head, Peter Silan, Art Pohl and Helen West

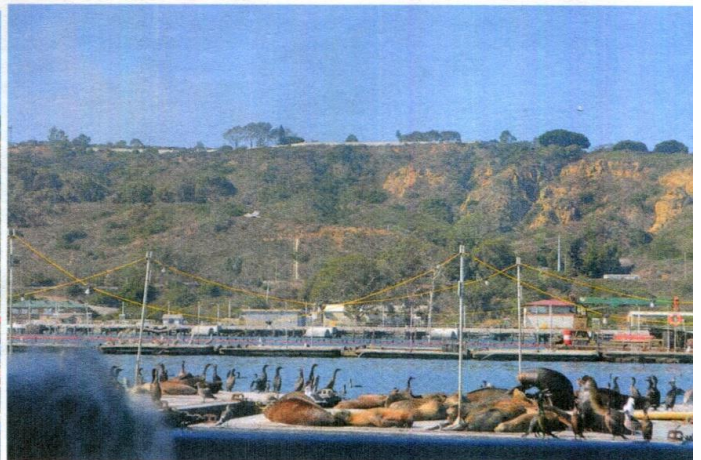
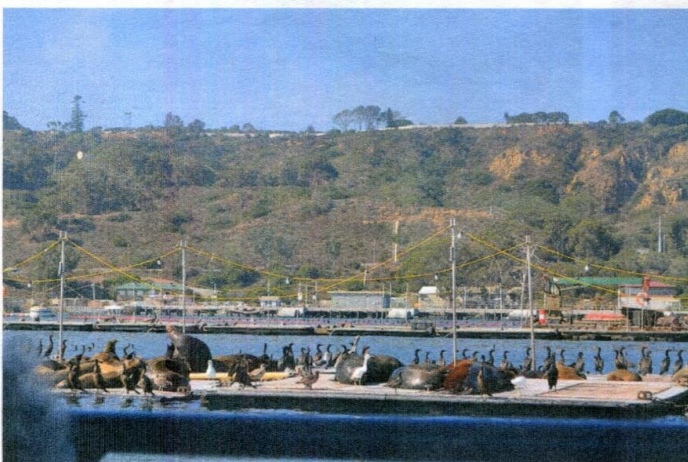
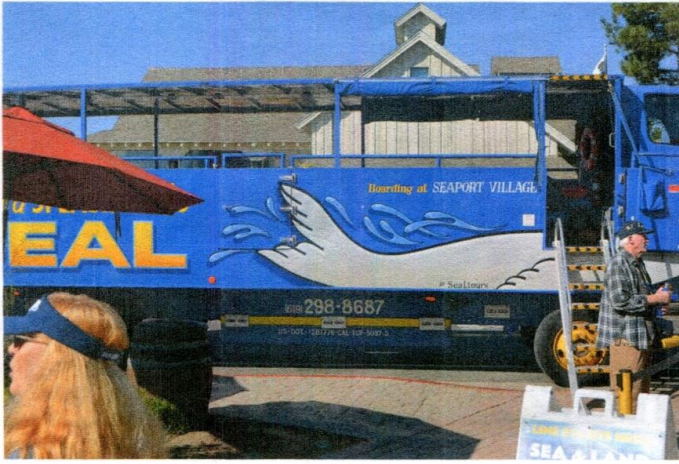


Art Pohl and Brenda Dove



Helen West and Brenda Dove

WAITING FOR OUR RIDE FOR SEAL TOUR



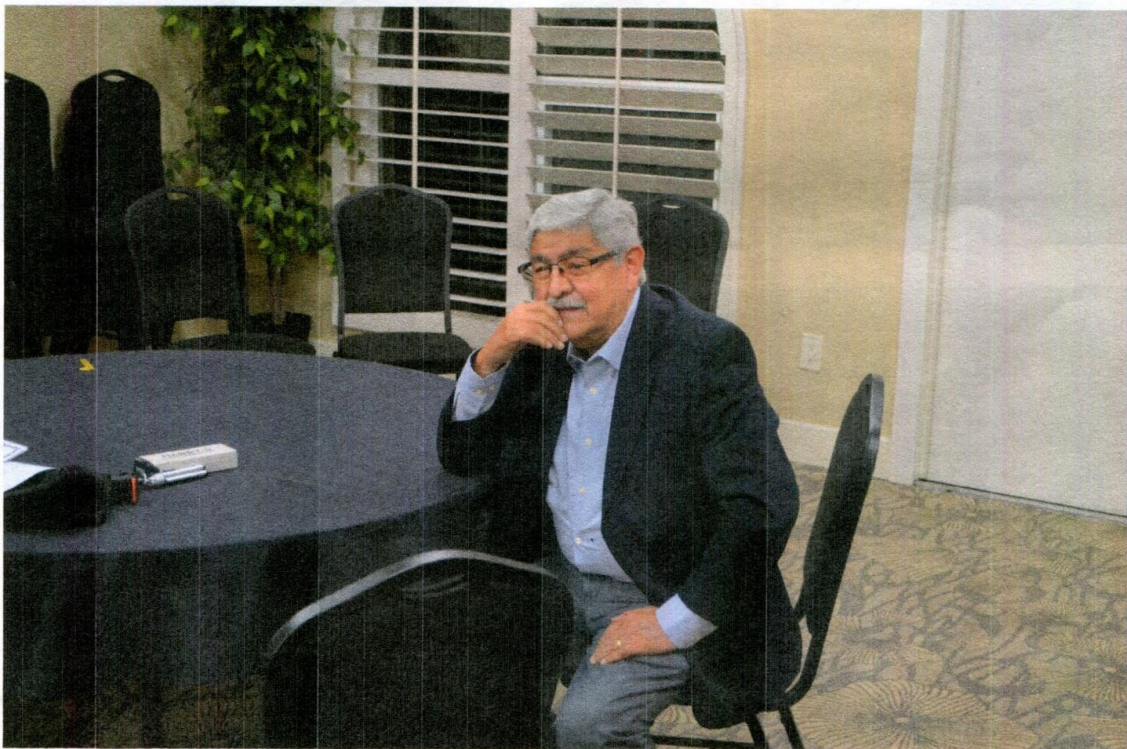
OUR VISIT TO THE USS MIDWAY - CV-41



THE USS MIDWAY



**OUR GUEST SPEAKER MR. RAUL HERREA ON THE TOPIC OF VIETNAM!
HE IS THE AUTHOR OF BOOKS ON PRESENCE OF VIETNAM
HE DID A GREAT JOB ON THIS TOPIC.**



**IF ANYONE OF OUR SHIPMATES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF HIS BOOKS, WE
CAN GET HIM TO AUTOGRAPH IT FOR YOU. JUST LET ME KNOW AND I'LL TAKE
CARE OF IT.**