

CONSTRUIMUS BATUIMUS -- "WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"



8TH NCB — NMCB-8 — 8TH NCB



NEWSLETTER



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT

Volume 15 Issue 1

—AND THE BEAT GOES ON—

February 2014

—FROM THE PRESIDENT—



Arnie Cicerone 1965

WELL, WE'RE ONCE MORE GETTING READY for our Association's next reunion. I've been in contact with committee members, and they seem to have everything on track. This year, Ron Sabbatis, Troy Branch and Billy

Boggs have taken charge and are working tirelessly making preparations. As decided at the last reunion in Port Hueneme, this year we are going to Charleston, SC. (See page 7) The reason for this east coast location is because of the concerns expressed by association members living in the eastern U.S. that they would be much more likely to attend a reunion if it was east of the Mississippi. Well you can't get much more east than Charleston so make sure "y'all come back ya hear." Accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn Charleston—Mt. Pleasant. The committee told me they are planning a great agenda for experiencing the historical area of greater Charleston. Don't wait until the last minute to get your airline tickets and hotel reservations.

We will continue to alternate reunion locations from the East Coast, Central and West Coast to make it easier for members in those areas to attend. We still need members to help locate and bring NMCB-8 shipmates and get them to the reunion. Check our web site for updated and corrected e-mail addresses, phone numbers and mailing addresses. I have been on the phone with Ron Dougal and he is working hard updating and correcting the roster of names and also working hard to locate new members. This is a never-ending project. Ron and Carol have been doing a great job over the years in this effort.

Thinking back to the September 2013 in Port Hueneme, we had a great showing from our officers, thanks

Continued next page.

—Ladies Of The Last Reunion—



Janet Quinn Dennis (left) leads the way for the women's luncheon.

I DO SO APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED IN THE SEABEE REUNIONS. I have to say that I find it to be one of the best therapies my husband has participated in since his Vietnam Days.

As a wife, especially, one that was not married to this Seabee at the time, I have learned some amazing details of our "Fighting Seabees". I have also been able to appreciate more fully the incident in which my husband earned his purple heart.

However, after a number of reunions and multiple stories from our fabulous Bees, I thought it essential that the Wives have an opportunity to take leave of our Bees and create a fellowship in order to build our own stories.

We created two opportunities to begin our journey. The first was our shopping excursion at the outlets in Ventura. The second was a luncheon which took place at the Embassy Suites in Mandalay Bay.

I enjoyed both adventures. The first satisfying my retail therapy needs. I do love to shop! Just ask Jack!!! We all felt that we needed much more time to explore the shops and will definitely plan (in advance) a longer excursion.

The Ladies Luncheon satisfied my emotional need. I loved learning more about my fellow wives, sharing, laughing and appreciating the role each one of us has played in our partners lives. The weather was great, the food was good, the location (by the ocean) was like being in a spa

Continued next page.



JAMES O MILLER UTP2
NMCB 8 2/6/67
DIED TAM KY VIETNAM

RAY L WILLIAMS BUR2
NMCB 8 3/13/67
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM

MICHAEL D ESTOK BUR3
NMCB 8 5/13/67
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM

LOREN F STUDER SWF2
NMCB 8 5/31/68
DIED TAN MY VIETNAM

RUDY P KRISMAN
NMCB 8 7/10/68
DIED PHU BAI VIETNAM

WILLIAM C LEGAT BU1
NMCB 8 10/30/69
DIED DANANG VIETNAM

HARRY H MIDAUGH UT
NMCB 8 4/25/68
DIED BUNG KAN THAILAND

Presidents column—Continued from front page.

to Rick Clark, who did a lot of phone calling and e-mailing over the last year or so. We all appreciate your committed effort Rick, thank you. Remember, Seabees "Can Do!" So let's all get out and help by inviting some friends and old shipmates to a reunion even if they are not EIGHT alumni. There are a lot of veterans that do not have an association like ours, but would enjoy visiting with us.

We still need help with our web site. The cost of a commercial company to manage it and operate it is too high for us to pay. If possible, we would like any member that could help with this, or may have a company with the knowledge, to provide the service of management of the web-site. Please contact me.

Another idea is to have a group of donors within the association assume the expense, possibly paying \$200.00 a year (tax deductible). The initial cost to set up a web site is approximately \$1200.00, then a monthly maintenance cost of \$200.00. Remember, this is an estimate, and I'm in Los Angeles, California, where the costs are high.

We would like to expand the photo section with a breakdown by company year. We can do a lot but we need help both financially and with technical support. We will go over this at the next reunion. If members who cannot attend the reunion have any ideas that can help in this matter, please contact me via e-mail or phone. I will start a list of people and ideas but I need help! Our goal is to have the web site updated by the next reunion.

— *Ladies Of The Last Reunion Continued from front page.*

in Hawaii and the company was unsurpassed.

I, for one, enjoyed every second and would be proud to make this an annual event. —*Janet Quinn Dennis*

If the book "Black Hell" is being put out by your outfit, sign me up to buy it, otherwise I'll check in the bookstore. I worked in construction all my life as a union Boilermaker welder so, not as a "brother" Seabee but a "cousin" Seabee I enclosing a check for 20 bucks in my brothers name FRANCIS FLITZ as a donation to your newsletter.

*Thanks for whatever you can do
John R. "Jack" Fultz*



P.S. The cartoons in the newsletter were "top of the line".

From John North (1-23-14)—Ken, Larry Nicks had a heart attack about a week or so ago and quickly went to the doctor and was sent to the hospital immediately and had a stent put in one of his heart artery and is ok. Nicks told me he feels great, apparently had no tissue damage. He was damn lucky. Nicks: Phone 753-758-0168 711 Main St. Richland, Missouri 65556

To "All" MCB-8 Members: We Need Your Help In Updating Our Roster.

Some members have done away with their land lines and went to cell- phones. Please send us your new number. Also, when you move, please inform us of your new address, phone number, and e-mail address. We need to know these changes to keep the MCB-8 Roster current.

This will ensure that you get all of the current newsletters and information on the association—not to mention if any of your old MCB-8 buddies trying to get in contact with you. Go to the ROSTER and check your information for correctness at:

<http://www.nmcb8.com/>

Please send your current mailing address, phone number, and email address to:

Ronald Dougal

Email: dougalr@aol.com

Phone #: 480-807-3016



Vietnam Seabees and John Wayne—just getting off a CH 34 Helicopter.

**Welcome new member
—LEONARD C. EIFEL—**

**"I don't know what logistics is.
But I need lots of it!"**

—Admiral Ernest J. King 1942

—From Rick Berry, MCB-8 Plank Owner—



WAS IT BECAUSE WE WERE SWEATY? Fresh out of “Boot” we went to Port Hueneme. Port? We couldn’t see the ocean, but it was a large Naval Supply Depot, and a good two mile walk through mountains of shipping crates, anchors, and what not, to get to the dock.

We were far away from the Port, or any other group, but close to Ventura Boulevard. Then up to Davisville R.I., to put MCB8 together. We were stationed, adjunct to the Newport Naval Air Base, but far away from that facility. It was a forty

minute bus ride, only an hour to get to Newport Bay, and the Air Station. We were far away from any other group, but next to the highway leading to Warwick, and Providence.

Next down to Gitmo, and, the Apple which was moored in a small inlet far down the Bay from the Naval Air Base, in a seldom used Valley of the Main drag. It was a quarter mile walk up hill to get to the Base bus stop.

In Port Layette, Morocco we were quartered high on a hill, about a mile above the Naval Air Base, over looking the muddy, Wadi Sabu River.

There were no main roads, our closest amenity was a perimeter mine field, that the Germans put in some 10 years before we got there.

Our second and third cruise to Gitmo, we were quartered at the old WW11 AATC (Anti Aircraft Training Center) some five dusty road miles, from the main base. It was a dusty “Cattle Car” stake body truck ride. Once an hour to get to “the EM Club.” Were we really that sweaty?

In Argientia Newfoundland, where all the facilities were on the north side of the long runway, we of course were on the south side, alone, with no other group.

There was an incident in Argientia, that may also explain our isolation.

There were about 10 MCB 8'er sitting in the back of the base bus (where else?)

A navy nurse got on at the base hospital, and walked down the aisle with an open box of chocolates saying “I just made First Lieutenant, have a chocolate.”

When she worked way to the back of the bus, big Jim Dodson, the electrician, from Texas was in the forward seat of our group.

When the nurse said, “I just made 1st. LT.” Jim Dodson, smiled, looked up at her, while reaching for a chocolate and said, “oh, which one.” With that the box snapped shut, and we didn’t get a chocolate, and the nurse quickly retreated, to the sound of our giggles. Could it be we were also a little obnoxious?

—Rick Berry Plank Owner



Chevy Belair being raffled off at Navy Exchange.



The Builders at work on their future homestead—Feb. 1952.



Setting the trusses. I helped slap the trusses together.



Military Payment Certificate (MPC)



Modern scraper used for the new jet landing strip on Leeward Point Gitmo. We did preliminary work for the 3000 ft. runway. Later the completion contract was awarded to a civillian engineering contractor.

I had lunch with a Navy pilot who landed on that strip—now 7000 ft. long. He thanked me for my contribution. I remember digging a 4ft. deep trench in hard coral with pick and shovel for a sewer line. Yea I remember the blisters on my hands.—Rich Berry.

FILL PROVES EPIC

By "Skip" Hodgetts 30 June 1968—Vietnam

—Submitted by Troy Branch Jan. 2014—

WHEN DRIVING—ON SECTIONS OF ROUTE #1 and our Col Co Road—one can't help but notice the widening and increased height of the road. Overlooking the real estate problems, this widening and height increase is accomplished by the addition of "Beau Coup" fill.

This fill is obtained from a borrow pit located south of Hue, off of Route #1. Picture yourself driving an End Dump. Upon "bouncing" into the pit, you will pass an ARVN Compound on one side, and the beginning of the "Valley of the Dead" on the other. You will be amazed by the 955 P&H Shovel, and the mountain it has reduced. Bouncing closer, you will sense a note of wariness. You ask yourself, "What is it? Why am I to enter so cautiously?" And then suddenly it hits you—there are two skulls suspended from a counter weight, staring at you and bidding you to beware.

The borrow pit has a short but interesting history. First set up atop a mass common grave for NVA's, the pit produced a rich, foul smelling laterite [a type of soil], remnants of a battle three weeks prior.

A few complaints were filed from the road crew about the natural organic material found in the laterite fill. From the early "uncovering" the pit rapidly removed the loose laterite top soil with the help of two 255 P&H shovels and occasionally, a Front End Loader. After a disastrous attempt to use a "Grizzly," the huge 955 P&H with a 2.5-yard bucket, was moved and began eating away the mountain on three levels. Today the pit is capable of putting out up to an estimated 1000 cubic yards of fill per day.

The crew running the pit is a highly trained industrious group of desperadoes who are "all business." Led by one F.M. Howard, par excellence in operating the shovel, the chain of command is broken down as follows: Bobby Neidig, in charge of keeping the shovel in operation, also handles the complaint department—even though he hasn't paid rent on his "apartment" his services will probably be retained; Ron Glaude handles the blasting chores; the Cajun also supervises the rock-drilling operations—the rock drill is run by a couple of super skates: "Red F." Orrell and Pinky Weller. Once awakened, R.F. and Pinky are capable of knocking out 30 holes in a few hours and will assist the Cajun loading holes in preparation for the big "KA KABOOM!"

If you have worked at the pit for a while, and then suddenly transferred, you will miss the daily fire fights, rock fights, the hustling for the B-1A or B-3A units [C-Rations], and the never-ending brawl for shade to sleep in. —from the MCB-8 Newsletter page 2— 30 June 1968



—HOCH MUSIC— POINTS HOMEWARD

Someday an old familiar rain
Will come along and know my name
And then my shelter will be gone
And I'll have to move along

But till I do
I'll stay awhile
And track the hidden country of your smile

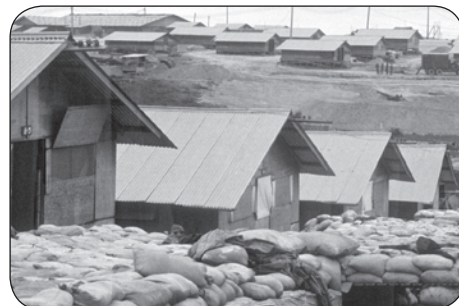
Someday the man I used to be
Will come along and call on me
And then because I'm just a man
You'll find my feet are made of sand

But till that time
I'll tell you lies
And chart the hidden bound'ries of your eyes

Someday the world I used to know
Will come along and bid me go
Then I'll be leavin' you behind
For love is just a state of mind

But till that day
I'll be your man
And love away your troubles if I can

—Lyrics By Poet Rod McKuen.
Sung by many.



"This should shut everyone up: energy-efficient, environmentally safe ballistic missiles!"



—SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP—
ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. BOX 667
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39502

NOTE: Scholarships serve deserving children of “Fallen Seabees” and other Seabees’ children. Please donate.

—MCB8 Staff

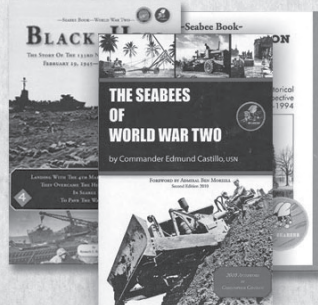
New Years Eve 1967 at “Rosemary Point” Chu Lai, RVN—Just below MCB-8’s Camp.



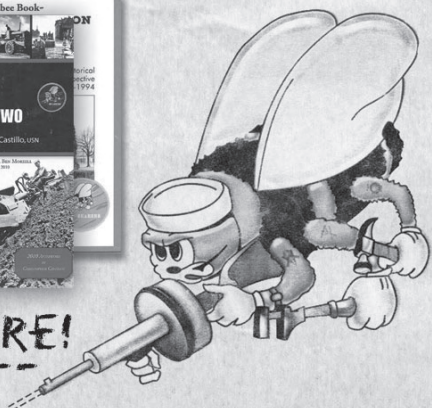
“On The Rocks Please” had a very different connotation for the crew of this ship on New Years Eve 1967.

Pass The Word.

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HTTP://WWW.SEABEEMUSEUMSTORE.ORG

THE NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO BE A CHEER-LEADER AND SUPPORTER OF THE CEC/SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION.



CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation
P.O. Box 657
Gulfport, MS 39502-0657
1-228-865-0480 — info@seabeehf.org

Dear Foundation Members and Supporters,

On March 5, 2014, the Seabees will celebrate their 72nd Birthday—the anniversary of the day that ADM Ben Moreell approved the new insignia and name developed by Frank lafrate for the newly created Seabees. This year the Civil Engineer Corps will celebrate its 147th birthday, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command will celebrate the 172nd anniversary of the creation of, it predecessor, the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

The accomplishments of this triad are almost impossible to describe fully, global in scope, and far beyond counting. From their creation at the onset of WWII and through the war when they numbered over 300,000, then through Korea, Vietnam, and their current involvement in the Mideast, the Seabees have toiled in every war zone, often giving their lives, to provide all the facilities necessary for our forces to defend our nation and defeat the enemy. In peacetime, they have continued their efforts around the globe to provide for others and respond to disasters. The Civil Engineer Corps has been there to lead them, and also continue the work begun 75 years earlier to oversee and execute the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities required by the Navy to meet its mission.

Please help us celebrate the anniversaries of these amazing organizations with a gift to the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation. Your tax-exempt gift will enable the Foundation to continue its efforts to preserve and publicize their history and accomplishments. Also, take time to see where celebrations are being held in your area, and take part in these joyous events. We will acknowledge all those who respond to this request in our August newsletter.

All that we have accomplished is due to your support.

—Thanks,

Ben Montoya
Benjamin F. Montoya
RADM CEC, USN (Ret)
Chairman
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation

Jerry Landcastle
Jerry Landcastle
CUCM, USN (Ret)
Trustee
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation

—CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—

by Billy Boggs

Does God seem distant to you?

Maybe it's because you are waiting for God to come to you. God has given us His Word, His Son, and His Spirit. But the next step belongs to each of us.

God is a perfect gentleman. He never forces Himself on anyone. He desires a deep and meaningful relationship with you, but He won't force the issue. If you want to get to know God better, you must approach Him. Revelation 3:20 says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in and we will share a meal as friends."

Here are some thoughts:

- You are responsible for the depth of your spiritual understanding. God is responsible for the breadth of your ministry.
- Seek to know God and faith will follow.
- Discover what pleases God and then make them habits.
- Have a passion for God and a compassion for others.

You begin to seek God for who He is when you stop seeking Him for what He can do for you.

All it takes is your time and your attention ---- He's waiting for you.

—In The Love of Christ,
Billy

— NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION STORE —

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10-20 coins = \$7.95

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1964-1967



1967

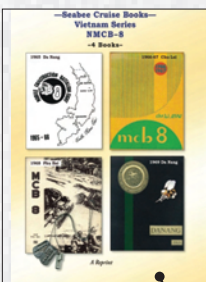
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4 Books in one.

NMCB-8 Cruise Books:

1965 Da Nang, 1966-67 Chu Lai,

1968 Phu Bai, 1969 Da Nang.

\$28.95



Southeast Asia: Building The Bases.

The History Of Seabee Construction in Vietnam. \$24.95

A Wonderful 15 minute Historical Overview of MCB-8's four Vietnam deployments. Created by Rick Clark (LTJG). Includes 100's of images and great accompanying music of that era. **\$12.00**

New!



Send check plus \$5.00 (S&H) to:

NMCB-8 / Ken Bingham

1773 Tamarin Ave.

Ventura Ca 93003

When

October 13 thru October 16, 2014

Where

Holiday Inn Charleston-Mt. Pleasant

AKA patriots Point

250 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.

Mt. Pleasant, SC 92464

Phone: (843) 884-6000 Fax: 9843) 881-1786

REUNION

REUNION

Making reservations by phone refer to group code **NMCB8**. Using the hotel Phone # 843-884-6000

Room Type: Double Queens.....Single Kings

Room Rates: Single or Double \$104.00 + tax at 12.5%

The cut of date for hotel reservation is Thursday August 28, 2014. Our group rates will be available three (3) days before group arrival and three (3) days after group departure based on availability. If you wish to spend a longer time in the Charleston area make your reservations early.

Hotel Amenities: Hotel is 100% non-smoking with ample free parking. There is a Restaurant and full bar in the hotel. A heated swimming pool and work out room are available for those with enough energy.

RV's and Trailers: A KOA campground is located near by

Things to do: A more detailed list of activities available in the Charleston area will be in the next news letter. Also there are many web sites available for information.

Hope to see everyone we didn't in Hueneme

NMCB-8 Reunion

Schedule of Event

October 13 thru October 16

Monday October 13

12:00 am. Hospitality Room opens
12:00 pm. – 5:00 pm. **Early Bird Registration**
11:59 pm. Hospitality Room Closed

Tuesday October 14

08:00 am. Hospitality Room opens
08:00 am. - 5:00 pm. **Reunion Registration open**
TBD Fishing Tournament
TBD Golf non-Tournament
11:59 pm. Hospitality Room closed

Wednesday October 15

08:00 am. Hospitality Room opens
08:00 am. - 12:00 pm. **Late Registration open**
11:30 pm. - 1:00 pm. Ladies Luncheon
6:30 pm. - 11:00 pm. Bar-B-Q (James Island County Park is available to us from 9:00 am to
11:00 pm for anyone wishing to spend the day
11:59 p.m. Hospitality Room closed

Thursday October 16

08:00 a.m. Hospitality Room Opens
1:00 p.m. - ? Association meeting in Hospitality Room - Business, old/new
3:00 p.m. Hospitality Room closed
6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. No Host Bar in Banquet Room
7:00 p.m. Banquet

Friday October 17

08:00 a.m. Hospitality Room open
Clean-up and Farewells

NMCB 8 REUNION 2014 REGISTRATION FORM (1)

October 13 – October 16

(Please print all information)

Member Name _____

Guest Name _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact _____

Planned Arrival _____ Planned Departure _____

Please read and sign the following

I understand that the 2014 reunion is a non-alcohol sponsored event. Any alcoholic drinks that I purchase during the four-day event from the hotel, caterers or other sources will be at my own discretion. I agree to hold harmless the NMCB-8 2014 Reunion: its directors, officers, reunion planners, and membership for any and all acts, or consequences from my conduct or the conduct of my quests. I also authorize the release of all photos of the event for future publications by the association. I further understand that all meals are at my expense.

Signature _____ Date _____

Activities planned for this year's Reunion: the ladies luncheon as well as the Bar-B-Q. A fishing tournament prizes for biggest fish, smallest fish or any fish. A just for fun golf event. Prizes for highest score, lowest score and (most congenial voted on by the participants)

Using Registration Form #2 and Make checks payable to (NMBC-8 2014 Reunion)

Mail completed forms and payment to

Ronald Sabbatis

606 Capitola ave

Capitola, California 95010 Ph 831-359-0073 email sabagus@charter.net

NMCB-8 REUNION 2014 REGISTRATION FORM #2

OCTOBER 13 - OCTOBER 16

All Fees are Per/Person

NAME:			
	<i>Cost per Person</i>	# of Persons	Total
Registration Fee	\$25.00 X		
	<i>Cost per person</i>		
NMCB-8 Banquet	\$57.00 X		
	<i>Cost per person</i>		
Ladies luncheon	\$25.00 X		
	<i>Cost per person</i>		
Bar-B-Q	\$17.00 X		
		Total due	

Interest in golfing	yes	no
Interest in fishing	yes	no

Deadline for Registration is September 2, 2014

Make checks payable to (NMCB-8 2014 Reunion)

Mail completed forms and payment to

Ronald Sabbatis
606 Capitola ave
Capitola, California 95010-----Ph 831-359-0073-----email sabagus@charter.net

REUNION

REUNION

**Banquet Holiday Inn
Charleston-Mt Pleasant**

October 16 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m.

Cash Bar in Banquet Room 6:00p.m. – 8:p.m.

7:00p.m. Banquet served

Dinner Buffet Menu

Salads

Garden Green Salad

Mixed Garden Greens with Tomato, Red Onion, Cucumber and Choice of Dressing

Pasta Salad with Vegetables

Tri-Colored Pasta Mixed with Vegetables and Italian Dressing

Accompaniments and Vegetables

Chef's Selection of Seasonal Vegetables

Rice or Potatoes

Warm Rolls and Butter

Entrees

Baked Chicken stuffed with Spinach, Mushrooms

and Parmesan in a White Wine Sauce

London Broil, Roasted Garlic Demi Glaze

Lowcountry Shrimp and Grits

Desserts

Chef's Selection Choice

Of Desserts

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf and Hot tea

Please make a note if you have any dietary restrictions



REUNION 2014
 SAVE THE DATE! OCT. 13-17
 MT. PLEASANT AT
 PATRIOTS POINT
 CHARLESTON, SO. CAROLINA



MCB-8 Seabees' Association
 1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003
 —Address Service Requested—

— MCB - 8 NEWSLETTER —

TO:

↑

Note: The above numbers denotes your membership dues status (Month-Year). (Due date)

