

# “San Hachi San” Scuttlebutt



## PLAQUE HONORING SURFBIRD ON DISPLAY AT ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM

Surfbird Association Chaplain Ed Fournier reports that the plaque he has been pursuing since December of last year has now been fabricated and mounted in its permanent location at the Admiral Nimitz Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. Visit the [“Special Recognition”](#) section of the Surfbird “History” menu to see pic-

## FORMER SKIPPERS WIFE DONATES PAINTING TO ASSOCIATION

Those who served on the Surfbird during 1962-1964 will remember our commanding officer CDR Stan Sowinski who passed away recently. But what most of you may not know is that that Stan was also a very talented artist. After Stan passed away, his wife Jackie decided to donate a painting of the Surfbird to our Association. He painted it while serving on the Surfbird. We thank Mrs. Sowinski for her generous donation and assure her that it will be kept in a place of honor. You can view pictures of the painting on the website under [Gal-](#)



[lery/Paintings](#). I am working with CDR Sowinski’s son-in-law to get the painting shipped to my home so that I can transport it to our next reunion.

## SUMMARY FOR 2009 MEETING ADDED TO WEBSITE

Our numbers were few, but we still had a great time in Laughlin, Nevada last September. Although the minutes of the meeting have been in place on the website since October, somehow completing a summary report got lost in the shuffle. But it’s there now and you can find it under the “Reunions” menu.

## FORMER SURFBIRD SHIPMATES HOOK UP AGAIN IN CALIFORNIA

Shipmates Bill Dekking (left) and Mike Heiny (right) who served on the Surfbird as divers in 1960-61 got together for a mini-reunion recently in Salinas, CA. They had lunch at a local restaurant and spent several hours sharing memories of serving together on the Surfbird and what they have been up to since then. Bill’s final words in the email he sent with the pictures just about sums it up....“bless memories! while you still have them.” You can see more pictures of the reunion in the [Gallery/Crews Photos](#) section of the website under Bill’s name.



## RECENT CHANGES TO WEBSITE

- Pictures and other documentation concerning the plaque honoring the Surfbird has been added to the *“Special Recognition”* section of the *History* Menu.
- A new section has been added to the *“Gallery”* menu titled *“Paintings”*. The first item added to this new section are photo’s of the Sowinski painting of the Surfbird donated to the association.
- Additional pictures of the Decking/Heiny reunion described in the article to the left have been added to the *“Gallery/Crew Photo’s/Memorabilia”* menu under Bill Dekking’s name.
- A new section was added to the *“Reunion’s/Meetings”* menu which covers the Association Meeting held at Laughlin, NV last September. The minutes for that meeting were also added to the *“Association/Meeting Minutes”* menu.

(Cont. on next page)

## RECENT CHANGES TO WEBSITE (CONT.)

- Waymond Sanders sent in a picture of him and some other Surf-bird sailors in a bar in Sasebo. Waymond couldn't remember names for all of his friends so see if you can help him. The pictures is located in the "Gallery/Crew Photo's/Memorabilia" section under Waymond's name.
- Bruce Stevens (1967-69) sent in some pictures he had from the time he served on the Surf-bird including a few taken while operating in Vietnam waters. See: *Gallery/Crew Photo's/Memorabilia*"
- Ellenmary Kelly-DeTore sent in a picture of her father Andrew C. Kelly who served on the Surf-bird from 1944 to 1946. He passed away in 1998. See: *Gallery/Crew Photo's/Memorabilia*"
- Back in Feb 2005, I received an email from Paul Daraska that contained a pamphlet he received upon reporting aboard the Surf-bird in 1960. Unfortunately I misfiled the email and just came upon it again. It has a very good explanation about the Surf-bird and it's mission at that time and I know you will find it interesting. Sorry about the delay Paul. It is located in "History/Misc. Documents".

## DID YOU SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE 1957-1967 PERIOD?

You may qualify for a higher social security payment if you served on active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with on 1 January 2002).

Up to \$1200.00 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application—which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

The Social Security website with covers this program is located at <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>.

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

## SURFBIRD QUARTERMASTER LOG 10/25/1969-11/30/1969 RECOVERED

Last month we received an email from a gentleman who works for the National Archives and Records Administration. Here is a portion of that email:

*Good morning,*

*Through an irregular channel I came into possession of a quartermaster log for the Surf-bird ADG 383 dating 10/25/1969-11/30/1969.*

*My nephew obtained it from an estate sale in Kansas City. He gave it to me knowing that I work for the National Archives in Kansas City, and that I would know what to do with this document.*

*Laws governing possession of U.S. government records are pretty codified and specific. In most circumstances records are either transferred into the National Archives as permanent record holdings for public access, or they are destroyed.*

*However, odd circumstances occasionally surface and his is one of them.*

*Quartermaster Logs are not appraised for permanent retention by the National Archives and may be destroyed two years after closing.*

*I am familiar with your website, and see that historical ephemera relating to U.S.S. Surf-bird is something that your association collects. I would like to send this quartermaster log to you and will do so at your instruction.*

*Mark Corrison*

*Director, Records Management Operations*

*National Archives and Records Administration— Central Plains Region*

I sent my address to Mr. Corrison and he has since responded by mailing the log to me. It is too large to scan and some of the pages are faded pretty bad. But, I would be happy to look up anything that you think might be in the log for you if you want to email me.

I will be bringing the log with me to our next reunion so all who attend can browse through it.

We want to thank Mr. Corrison for his decision to contact us and to send the log to us. Your kindness is appreciated by each and every member of our association.

## 2011 REUNION PLANNING TO START SOON. ANY IDEAS?

Most of you should have received an email from our president Gary Geist recently soliciting your help in picking a site for our next reunion. Many of you have said in the past that you want to be more involved and this may be your chance. Drop an email to Gary at [ghosts42@msn.com](mailto:ghosts42@msn.com) and give him your ideas.



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A young man with a wild and multi-coloured hairstyle sits next to an old man on a park bench. The old man stares at the young man.

"What's the matter, old man?" says the young man. "Never done anything crazy in your life?"

The old man replies: "Yeah. When I was in the Navy, I got really drunk one night and had sex with a parrot. I thought you might be my son."

### The Five Most Dangerous Things in the US Navy

A Seaman saying, "I learned this in Boot Camp..."

A Petty Officer saying, "Trust me, sir..."

A Lieutenant JG saying, "Based on my experience..."

A Lieutenant saying, "I was just thinking..."

A Chief chuckling and saying, "Watch this..."

### Quote of the day.....

Any ship can be a minesweeper....Once.

