

Upcoming Events

November 5, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
November 19, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
December 3, 7:00 PM Business Meeting
December 16, 5:30 PM Social Evening/Dinner
(Christmas Party)

Quartermaster's Update



Each year at holiday time, I am thankful for the good things in life. The older I get the more thankful I am. When I was younger, I, along with many younger people, gave very little thought to the end of life. As I've gotten older, I realize that, despite my best intentions, I won't live forever.

This year has been particularly memorable. In January, my wife and I celebrated our fiftieth anniversary. On October 24, we were in Japan with her family for the fiftieth anniversary of her parents' deaths. It seems only yesterday that her parents were alive and she accepted my proposal for marriage. Where have the years gone?

Here even our homeless people have a lot for which to be thankful. In many parts of the world, including Japan, homelessness is looked upon as a character flaw instead of a temporary and correctable situation and they aren't given the same support as is routine here.

In Fukuoka City (about the same size as Seattle), the city government leaves it to volunteers to pass out food, clothes and perhaps some blankets. My nephew, a retired city official, was amazed that Seattle would budget over \$40 million per year to care for the homeless.

To be fair, the Japanese admit the mentally ill to hospitals and homeless women and children are given shelter with these costs included in other budgets, but the bottom line over there is less handouts and safety nets compared to our system. The lazy and shiftless are told to work or go hungry.

Here, those who choose to live on the streets, as outlined in a recent Seattle Times article (10/29/15), are given support for their lifestyle instead of being forced to conform to societal standards. I don't feel thankful for that but those who choose that lifestyle should.

Commander's Letter



By the time you read this, you are no doubt aware that logic and reason have not prevailed and your city leadership has seen fit to demonstrate its dismissive attitude toward the Veteran's community by presenting our post with the urban blight of "Nickelsville."

I would rather spend several days in the "Cool Hand Luke" sweat box in August than ever again suffer through one of the so-called "informational" meetings like the one they were mandated to host and which I attended on October 19th. I expressed my concerns privately with Mike O'Brien and Camp Commandant Scott Morrow after the public portion of the staged love fest had concluded. Time will tell if either of them is serious about wanting to be a good neighbor. The propaganda packet passed out at their meeting was more contemptuous of neighborhood critics than conciliatory, so early indications are not favorable, but I hope to be proven wrong.

Until then, let us not forget that, by virtue of the fact that we all have met the V.F.W. eligibility criteria, we all have seen and survived worse than this. We have a charter that pre-dates the Great Depression and our current post has been at this location since at least the Eisenhower era. We are not going anywhere, and we will outlast those who would prefer that we go away and make way for another condo development or "Murraysville." The Mayor, City Council and Department of Planning and Development have given our established neighbors and us their middle finger. However, by staying active in post activities and showing up at meetings and socials and demonstrating that we are open for business, you can give it right back. Aaron Stoltz

Editor: See page 5 for more on this meeting.

A Few of the Nickelsville Zero Tolerance Rules

- No alcohol or controlled substances on site without a prescription.
- No violent, aggressive behavior, inappropriate language—racist, sexist, homophobic, abusive—on site or surrounding neighborhood.
- No weapons, including knives over 3.5 inches.
- No smoking, flames, candles, heaters, sterno, etc. inside structures or tents.
- No sex offenders on site.

[Source: Nickelsville New Intake form distributed at Oct. 20th "informational" meeting.]



Veterans Day

By Charles Anderson

The United States is not the only country that honors veterans on November 11. Other countries in the world celebrate the same day as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day. November 11 was the day when hostilities in World War I ended— at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

What should we remember on this day? How about the numbers of U.S. Armed Services members killed or wounded in defense of this country and others? Through operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield there have been 651,031 U.S. battle deaths, 308,800 other deaths in theater, 230,254 other deaths in service (non-theater), and 1,430,290 non-mortal woundings. [Source: [Department of Veterans Affairs, "America's War's."](#)]

What about the Medal of Honor and its recipients? The U.S. Navy version was established December 21, 1861, the Army Medal on July 12, 1862, and the U.S. Air Force version April 14, 1965. Corporal John Mackie, Marine, earned the first Medal on May 12, 1862, which was awarded later. Mackie's citation read, "On board the U.S.S. Galena in the attack on Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff, James River, on 15 May 1862. As enemy shellfire raked the deck of his ship, Corporal Mackie fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits along the shore and, when ordered to fill vacancies at guns caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned the weapon with skill and courage." [<http://www.cmohs.org/>]

Given the problems in the U.S. today, we should remember these words: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." **Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863**

2015-2016 Post Officers

Commander—Aaron Schultz

Senior Vice-Commander—Nestor Tamayao

Junior Vice Commander—Robert Richardson

Quartermaster—Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant—Pete Krawitz

Chaplain—Bill Griffith

Judge Advocate—John Hogleund

Surgeon—Justin Mamallo

Service Officer—John Hogleund

1-year Trustee—Gail Engler

2-year Trustee—Russ Seelig

3-year Trustee—James Williams

In Memoriam

Guy Amburgy, US Navy

Birthday Greetings

Borchelt, Oscar

Brechtel, Hugh W

Corning, Donald J

Crawford, Bob J

Creim, James M

Engler, Gail A

Guncay, Jonathan J

Hamilton, John M

Heia, Hans A

Kessler, James A

Maines, Daniel W

Maines, Douglas E

Metcalf, William A

Michaels, Joshua A

Miller, Paul V

Moen, Jennifer M

Mutter-Servey, Elizabeth

Pioli, Paul L

Porter, Georgia K

Rapinan, Leo M

Schwenke, Richard E

Schwerer, Allen R

Souther, Jimmie B

Stull, Leo S

Tiffany, Raymond J

Tuft, Charles W



Old Soldiers

By Harold Rodenberger

On June 22, this year, Russ Seelig, a member of our VFW Post, led a group of four on a trip through northern Vietnam and Laos. Our group consisted of Russ, Justin (another member of our VFW Post), my son Glenn, and myself. Russ and I were the only ones who had served in Vietnam during the war. Russ has been back to Vietnam several times since the war but this was my first time to return.

The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. If you are interested in reading the brief comments and look at the photos I posted while on the trip, you are welcome to read about it in the archives for June and July in my blog: hrodenbergersblog.blogspot.com

In the two months that have gone by since we returned, I have often thought about the welcome we received from the regular people of Vietnam and Lao. Those folks, who lived through or heard from older folks who had lived through the bombs and warfare, were unfailingly welcoming to the four visitors from another world whose leaders had been instrumental in causing those bombings and warfare.

Before we arrived, I didn't know quite what to expect even though Russ had told us we would be treated cordially. I was especially concerned about those Vietnamese of my generation who might harbor ill feelings. I am not so sure that if the situation were reversed Americans who lived through such a war on their own territory would forgive and forget so quickly.

I also didn't know what to expect of myself when I returned to a country where the enemy was hidden among the people and the terrain and we never knew for sure where and when a sudden attack might come from what appeared to be ordinary people. That war may not have been the origin of guerrilla warfare but the concept was well used during that time.

As it turned out, I was at ease from the moment of our arrival. Wing and our guide/drivers were professional and competent while being friendly and solicitous about our comfort and welfare. As I've said, the people were friendly with smiles everywhere.

After two weeks on the road, we arrived in Dien Bien Phu during a week of special remembrance for the battles in that area culminating with the defeat of the French in 1954. As we visited the various memorials and battle sites, we saw many veterans dressed in uniforms from the old days accompanied by family and friends. Once I learned about the occasion, I expected it to be rather serious but the people were in a festive mood and enjoying their visits to the old war memorials. Many of the younger people were posing with the old uniformed veterans as they celebrated victories of bygone days.



As we wandered around the memorial to the victory over the French forces in 1954 (pictured below), some old soldiers wearing dress uniforms from their days in the Vietnamese Army wanted to pose with us. It was a poignant moment when old soldiers who were adversaries many years ago shook hands and posed in the present isolated from decisions made by politicians those many years ago.

One of the many benefits of travel is exposure to new people, new customs and old, universal feelings. This meeting reinforced my long-held belief that old soldiers and ordinary people are not so different anywhere in the world.



USNS *New Bedford*

By Bill Hoeller

During my career in the U.S. Navy, one of the more interesting jobs I had was as the Craftmaster of the *New Bedford* (IX-308) sailing out of the Naval Underwater Weapons Engineering Station at Keyport, WA. She had a length of 177', a single rudder and twin screws powered by two GM6-278A diesels.

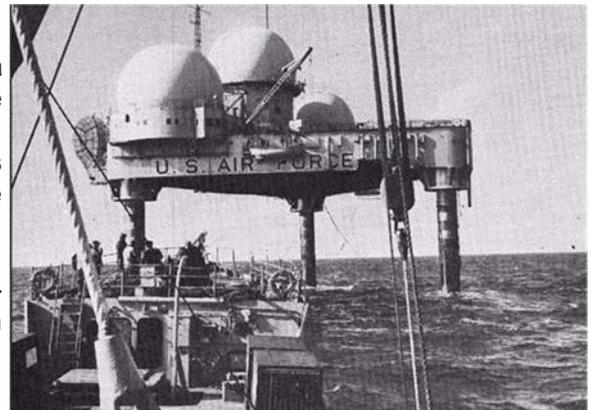
The U.S. Army commissioned the *New Bedford* late in WWII, and she began life as FS-289, a freight and supply ship. For the remainder of the war she served with a Coast Guard crew carrying cargo between navy bases on islands in the South Pacific. The Navy acquired the ship in 1950 and re-designated her AKL-17, a light cargo ship. *New Bedford* was the sister ship to the USS *Pueblo*, an intelligence gathering ship captured by the North Koreans in 1968. *Pueblo* still remains a commissioned vessel in the U.S. Navy.



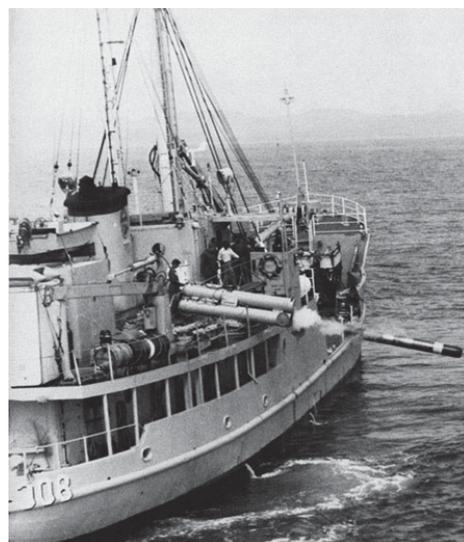
From the Pacific *New Bedford* went to the Atlantic and began servicing the Texas Towers, the Air Force's offshore early warning radar platforms. In stormy weather she was standing by Texas Tower 4 to rescue the crew when the tower collapsed, killing all 28 people on the tower.

In 1963 *New Bedford* was reclassified from AKL-17 to IX-308, a miscellaneous unclassified vessel, and began working out of the Naval Underwater Weapons Engineering Station at Keyport, WA. Along with the associated fire control equipment, she was equipped with a single 21" submarine underwater torpedo tube and a single triple-mount surface torpedo launcher.

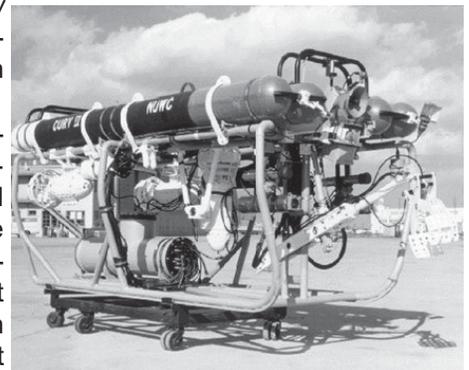
Her role was to support and perform research work and proof testing of submarine and surface launched torpedoes on test ranges in the U.S. and Canada.



In addition to torpedo tubes, *New Bedford* had CURV II aboard. CURV II was a cable-controlled underwater recover vehicle with an operating depth of 5,000'. At the end of a test run, CURV recovered torpedoes configured to sink slowly to the bottom. The *New Bedford* deployed CURV while holding position over the torpedo with engines and rudder.



Using sonar, TV cameras and thrusters, CURV swam down to the torpedo and affixed a grabber-claw around it. Both CURV and the torpedo were raised to the surface where the torpedo could be hoisted aboard. We test fired torpedoes in Dabob Bay, and in the Strait of Georgia and Jervis Inlet in Canada.



CURV I recovered a hydrogen bomb in the Mediterranean and CURV III rescued two men from the submersible *Pisces III* from a depth of 1,575'. CURV II inspected portions of the Hood Canal floating bridge after it sunk. When I was aboard, we used it to raise an EA6B aircraft that crashed off Whidbey Island.

New Bedford's final chapter began when she was struck from the Naval Register in 1995 and sold. She was renamed *Sea Bird* after conversion to a tuna longliner. The fishing venture failed so after one more failed attempt to repurpose her she sits deteriorating in San Diego today.

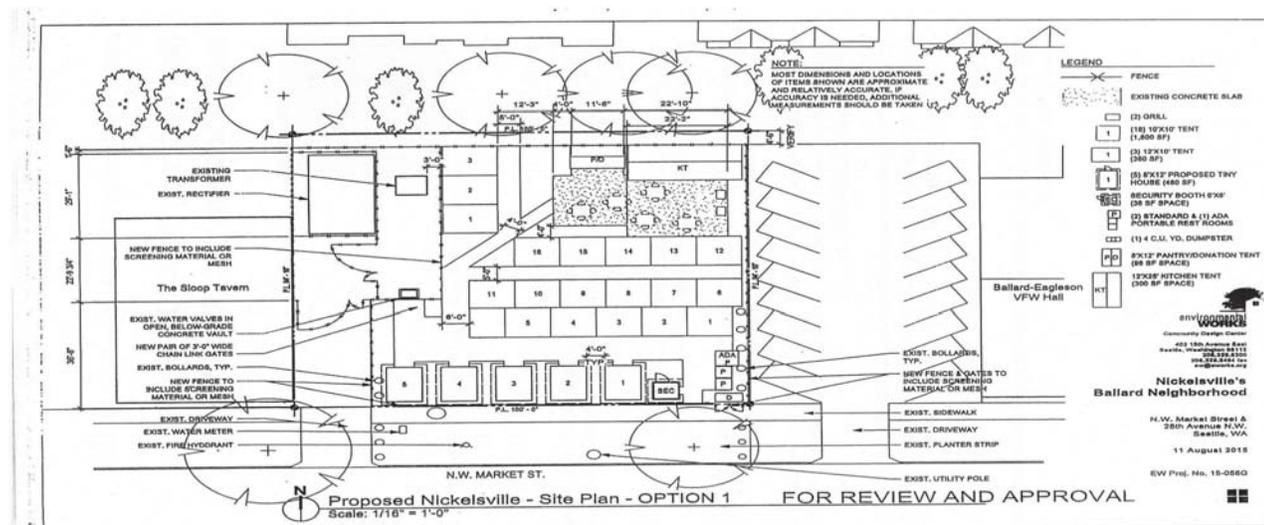


Nickelsville Love Fest

By Charles Anderson

Shedding a light on the Nickelsville "Love Fest" on October 19th Commander Stoltz described on page one, here are some of the questions asked and sometimes answered. After a point, when the substance of the question became boringly laudatory, this reporter began recording them as more "Whoopee Doo!" The meeting lasted 1.5 hours. The first 30 minutes presentation repeated the information at the Leif Erikson City-sponsored event. The Q&A period was mostly comments from the audience of how glad they were to see the camp coming to Ballard. Each speaker was limited to two questions/comments. Members of the current Nickelsville camp answered audience comments. Questions and answers here are paraphrased from notes taken at the time.

- Q. You had a funding problem before in paying the garbage pickup bill. How will that be handled?
- A. The City is paying now.
- Q. To protect the residents, what kind of criminal background check will be done?
- A. If someone paid their debt to society, we won't bar them. We do sex offender checks. If there is an outstanding warrant, we will bar them but no comprehensive checks. There was no answer to the obvious follow up—if you don't check, how will you know?
- Q. Considering the old maxim "Good fences make good neighbors," what kind of fencing will there be?
- A. Eight-foot chain link fence.
- Q. What can Ballard do to help?
- A. The camp responder read off a long list of things.
- Q. Have there been any studies of the effect on home values with a camp nearby?
- A. Someone will check.
- Q. How about data on how much the police save in incident calls because of the internal policing at Nickelsville?
- A. I'm not sure, but possibly \$100,000.
- Q. In the past neighboring jungles have followed Nickelsville encampments. What can you do about this?
- A. The jungle won't come.
- Q. How do you feel about the location next to a bar and near a marijuana shop and liquor store?
- A. Temptation is everywhere.
- Q. What kind of recreational activities do the residents have?
- A. Building bicycles, working with computers, that kind of thing.
- Q. How many Ballard homeless will be accommodated?
- A. Besides about 15 coming from the present camp, there will be room for 20-30 new residents but we won't give priority to Ballard—first come, first served.
- Q. From this point on there were only whoopee doos, They weren't really questions, just protestations of love for the camp and some who were ashamed of the Ballard residents who were against the camp (totally missing the point, deliberately, that the issue was not homeless but the location and the process).



Ballard Nickelsville Site Plan



Nickelsville at 2010 S. Dearborn



Nickelsville is the tent city that will be moving to Ballard locations in early November. Approximately 40 individuals will be living next to our parking lot. These photos were taken October 29, 2015.

See the site plan for 2812 Market St. on [page five](#).