



ANA GRAMPAW PETTIBONE  
SQUADRON INC.

**1 NOVEMBER 2016**

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Editor Hal McDonnell

## THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

## THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2016

AT THE

## GARDEN GROVE ELKS LODGE

LOCATED AT 11551 TRASK Ave., GARDEN GROVE

Hangar doors open at 1130, Luncheon is at 1200, secure at 1330.

Please make reservations before 9 PM on Monday 7 November 2016

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS Please E-mail

**RayLeCompte34@Gmail/com or by Phone: 562-287-4846**

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The Grampaw Pettibone Squadron is a non-profit organization (IRS Sect. 501(C)(4) which, through meetings, discussions, speaker programs, and periodic field trips, serves to educate squadron members and the general public on the requirements of an adequate national defense, especially maritime aviation, which is essential to a free society, and to support the military professionals (active and reserve) responsible for many aspects of national defense. GPS also seeks to foster the strong pride, esprit, and fraternal bonds which exist among those associated with Naval Aviation.

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**About our speakers top:**



### UNMANNED UNDERSEA SYSTEMS

In the world of technology, the present time might well be labeled the Age of Drones. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, or just drones, have taken over much of the dangerous, difficult, or just plain tedious work that used to be done by human pilots.

This development has given rise to much speculation about the role of humans in the cockpit, some people wondering whether they will still be needed, at all. Now, that same phenomenon is invading the vast, undersea world that once was the exclusive domain of the submarine. Autonomous Undersea Vehicles, or AUVs are growing in capability and sophistication, doing dangerous, difficult, and tedious work that submariners have long performed. Fred Sheldon, a program manager at the Boeing Defense, Space & Security Division, has prepared a fascinating presentation, revealing some of the



amazing developments in this very special area of new technology.

**About our speaker:**

### FRED SHELDON

### PROGRAM MANAGER, BOEING ECHO VOYAGER

Fred Sheldon is program manager for Advanced Technology Programs, a business area within Boeing Defense, Space & Security that develops maritime acoustics and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance solutions as well as autonomous undersea vehicles. In his

current role, Sheldon is responsible for the development and application of Autonomous Undersea Vehicles (AUV) and projecting the future of AUV platforms and advanced applications in offshore oil and gas and environmental spaces. He has successfully led a diverse portfolio of mission developments and deployments for a variety of customers, including the U.S. Navy, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and commercial markets. His efforts include the very first demonstration of an AUV's ability to launch and recover through the torpedo tubes of a submerged submarine. Previous assignments include program manager for Quicksilver/Phoenix, a \$31 million development and operations maintenance contract; systems engineering integration and test manager for the AN/BLQ-1 Long Term Mine Reconnaissance (LMRS) program; systems engineer and lead test director for LMRS and systems engineering lead for the Naval and Electronic Navigation – Fiber-Optic Gyro Navigation program, where he supported the development and analysis of system mechanization. Sheldon holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Humboldt State University.

#### About our October Luncheon:



Our Speaker Jim Jones

## THE FIRST FIVE

By Dick Fields  
G PS PAO

Gramps was enthralled by the story of the first Nuclear Missile armed U.S. submarines referred to as "The First Five". This is a story that was kept quite secret at the time, as "The Silent Service". This was the time when the U.S. and Russia were at saber points and Americans were building fallout shelters for their future protection. Khrushchev was stating publicly that "We will bury you". The Russians had just launched Sputnik 1 "fellow traveler", the world's first artificial satellite, on October 4, 1957. President Eisenhower responded with a need to get serious with "resourcefulness and vigor". The United States needed to become a deterrent, a worldwide deterrent to Russia's aggression.

At that time the U.S.N. had nuclear powered submarines which worked within the 70% of the earth's surface that is covered by water. These did not, however, have the ability to launch nuclear ballistic missiles that could create a real threat that would hold Russia in check.



Launch Day



Under a "Silent Service" operation the construction of the nuclear launch submarines was begun. These boats were meticulously assembled, including the use of existing hull parts that were modified for larger size and special construction techniques including upright positioning so that welds would all be made upright for maximum reliability and strength.

ADMs Raborne and Burke worked on the project. The team included Adm. Hyman Rickover who was the "Father" of the nuclear propelled Navy and he



Commission Day

personally chose the men to crew the new nuclear missile subs who were driven and goal oriented. The "First Five" boats were the George Washington, Robert E Lee, Theodore Roosevelt, Patrick Henry and the Abraham Lincoln. The first missile launch was off the SSBN 598 George



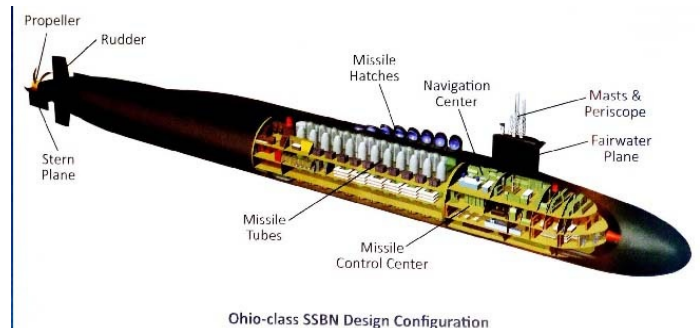
Washington and it fired a UGM-27 Polaris missile, a two stage solid fuel ballistic rocket that had a 1000 nautical mile range. The boats had to rely heavily on position awareness at the time of launch. Ultimately 41 missile subs were

built but then the production ceased due to a treaty. They were each equipped with 16 Polaris Missiles and 12 torpedoes.



As time progressed the missiles were changed to more advanced versions, the Poseidon and the Trident. It was possible to also launch cruise missiles via the torpedo tubes and the Ohio class

had storm trooper facilities. The hulls were pressurized to prevent water entry and they were able to carry 156 missiles. The eight year planned program was actually accomplished in 3 years and under budget! Each boat carried 8 officers, 8 chiefs and 50 crewmen. . The range as the missiles were improved increased to 6000 miles.



This accomplishment was a major factor in keeping the United States safe through the cold war. We thank Jim Jones for his work and for his service to our country and especially for his presentation.





## CO COLUMN

By Tim Brown

A busy few weeks for me. On Saturday, 22 October, a few friends and I joined thousands of people on the beach at Huntington Beach for the inaugural Breitling Huntington Beach Air Show. Weather was perfect for Friday and Saturday.

Not so good for Sunday. I will try to get a photo that shows the opening "ceremony" for the show. There were skydivers falling



out of the sky and the fire boat awesome. There were all kinds of aerobatic aircraft and even a jet-assisted Waco. The highlight of the show for me was the



F/A-18 flight demo. Just such a powerful airplane. The Breitling Jet Demonstration Team was very good and the Thunderbirds stole the show. Excellent display of formation flying.

On Sunday, Ray LeCompte, Vince van den Brink and I braved the elements to attend the Wings Wheels & Rotors Expo at JFTB. Attendance was apparently down, probably because of the weather, or maybe the fact that it was the final day for the HB Air Show. Anyway, we set up our recruiting booth and met many interesting folks and maybe recruited one or two of them. I saw Jim Angeley just as the show was about to close. Jim and I where standing over by the line where the Thunderbirds were signing autographs for the hundreds or folks who remained after the rain. I understand that the HB Air Show has two more years to run. Hopefully they can get the T-birds to come every year, if they can't get the Blue Angels!

Remember to recruit new members whenever you get the chance. I know that Dave Franzen is doing his best to get a couple of his buddies to join. I just found out that my daughter's father-in-law was ship's company of the *USS Kearsarge* (CVS-33) back in the '60s. I am hoping to get him off of his butt to join us one of these

days. And, don't forget that we need volunteers to take over some of the staff positions. We are getting old and tired. We need new blood.

See you on 10 November.

## ANAHEIM SELECTED FOR U. S. NAVY BAND COMMODORES TOUR



America's Navy is coming to Anaheim, California, one of 18 cities in seven states to host a performance by the United States Navy Band during its 2016 tour — one of the signature outreach programs of the U.S. Navy.

The United States Navy Band Commodores performance is scheduled for Nov. 10, 2016, at 1 p.m. at Disneyland Resort.

Jazz is America's music and the Commodores, the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, have been performing the very best of big band jazz for the Navy and the nation for more than 40 years. They have appeared on TV shows, played nearly all major jazz festivals and toured across the United States and abroad. This vibrant, dynamic group is constantly striving for musical excellence and the pursuit of new and exciting ways to communicate with their audiences.

One of the U.S. Navy Band's primary responsibilities involves touring the country. All of the band's primary performing units embark each year on concert tours throughout specified regions of the country, allowing the band to reach out to audiences in areas of the country that do not have opportunities to see the Navy's premier musical ensembles on a regular basis. The concerts are family-friendly events, meant to be entertaining to veterans, families, individuals and those interested in joining the Navy.

All Navy Band performances are free and open to the public. *This article was released by the Navy Office of Community Outreach.*



## MEMBERSHIP

By Sel Ramsay

We don't usually advertise for businesses, but the restaurants that donate free meals to the 'Sailors Of The Quarter' and 'Sailors Of The Year' programs we sponsor deserve recognition for their generous participation.

For this month of November, we want to thank another local business for their thoughtful generosity. As in previous years, Knott's

Berry Farm in Buena Park offers Veterans and a guest free admission to the Park between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November in honor of Veterans Day, and again between November 28 and December 16. Up to six additional guests can be admitted with the Veteran at reduced cost of \$27 to \$32 each. This admission is not limited to a single time, but can be used on multiple days during these periods.

Proof of current, retired, or prior military service (such as copy of DD-214) is required along with current photo ID. Call (714) 220-5200, and when prompted, #9, for information.

Our hot summer days are now cooling down, and it will soon be time to put on our coats, again. And to go with the coats, our members can show their enthusiasm for Gramps with golden lapel pins. We have miniature Naval Aviator wings, Association of Naval Aviation (ANA) wings, and even a leather-helmeted "Gramps" to wear or give to a favorite person. (It used to be "lady", but now they fly, too.) They are \$5 each, available at the luncheon.

## GRAMPS 2016 STAFF

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### FROM THE CHAPLAIN BILL THOMPSON REMEMBER:

November 8--Vote your best opinions.  
November 10--Happy Birthday Marines.  
November 11--Veterans, thank you for your sacrifice.

## EXCERPT FROM A ELKS NEWS LETTER

ANA/GPS MRMBER

## ANDREW "ANDY" BENJOCK

"... When you think of a true American hero, what do you imagine? Someone who is brave and strong, selfless and noble? What about charitable, benevolent, and full of brotherly love? Andrew Elmer Benjock is all of the above. After more than 31 years of military service in the US Marines, 54 years of marriage, and 9 years as a Lodge Member, Andy has proven he is faithful, dedicated, hardworking, honest, and above all, inspirational.

Andy was born in McKeesport, PA on Christmas Eve in 1921. He is 95 years old (looks about 70), and still goes to the gym 3 times a week! He claims "If you don't use it, you lose it!", a phrase we should all live by!

He enlisted the US Marine Corps in 1941, with the help of his brother (he was technically too young to enlist). He became a Radio Operator Tail Runner with no knowledge of planes. In fact, he had never been near a plane in his life! He quickly learned how to fly. He was later sent in the 1st Squadron to fire rockets off of torpedo bombers on the Tokyo Rose with "Robbie's Red Ass Rocketeers". His plane was shot down by the Japanese in the South Pacific near Green Island, where he floated with 4 men on a 3 man life raft for 16 hours in 10-foot seas, surrounded by sharks, in 115-degree weather, before being rescued by a New Zealand Black Cat called "Dumbo". Sunburned, dehydrated, and exhausted, he was allowed a whopping 7 days off of service to recover! He went right back to work, defending our country.

After World War II, he fought in Korea. Right after, he was married to his lovely wife, Rachel. Once, he nearly froze to death in temperatures of 50 below (his nose is still numb!). He was one of the few chosen to pull the wounded from The Chosen Reservoir. He helped saved over 4,800 soldiers.

He later did 3 tours to Vietnam, where he flew for the CIA as a Marine Advisor. In 1968, he had a near-death experience when his lungs collapsed from an injury. A nurse put a pen in his trachea to inflate his lungs. His right lung has never recovered. But, before they were able to resuscitate him, he saw a big, white light, and felt at total peace. After countless battles fought, deployments, unfathomable situations and unforgettable sights, he retired as a Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant on December 1, 1973, where he was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal.

He and his wife Rachel ("Bert") moved back to North Carolina for 20 years, before coming back to settle in Tustin. He has 4 children, Michele, Danny, Bobbie, and Barbara, 7 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren (and counting!). He and his family celebrated his 90th birthday at the Lodge, with a live country band strumming as they enjoyed his favorite meal being served, Pedro's Tips & Noodles...."

*Best of the Best Editor*



**Andy Benjock sold the ticket, and Carol Fields gave the envelope to Gordon "Ole" Olson**