

# NAVY DIVERS and DIVER SUPPORT PERSONNEL NEWSLETTER

*JANUARY 19, 2018*



## **2018 13<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Reunion**

**ANACORTES, WASHINGTON  
Swinomish Casino & Lodge**

**12885 Casino Drive  
Anacortes, WA 98221**

**MAY 06 - 10, 2018**

[www.swinomishcasinoandlodge.com](http://www.swinomishcasinoandlodge.com)

To date members of the following groups have indicated they will be in attendance.

Navy Divers Association – **NDA**

Canadian Navy Divers Association -- **CNDA**

Harbor Clearance Unit ONE (**HCU-1**) Vietnam Association  
(Divers and Diver Support Personnel)

**SEA LAB** – Man-In-The Sea Program

**ASR-ARS** Association

**MDV** Reunion

**MDSU**, San Diego

## **FROM the EDITOR**

This newsletter is intended to get information out to you to assist you in making your plans to attend our 13<sup>th</sup> bi-annual reunion. It's never too early to start planning by making your lodging, air travel, & rental car reservations.

I've completed the Reunion Pre-Registration form and will post to the website under NDA 2018 Reunion as well as send out as an attachment to an email.

You can help me out considerably by completing this form in advance. Cuts down on the paperwork frenzy at the Reunion. You may send checks for the Buffet Dinner, if you would like, but not necessary until two weeks before the Dinner so I can plan on Dinner attendance.

I've taken into consideration whether to continue with our Buffet Dinner or switch to a Plated Dinner. Well, the logistics for the Plated Dinner is too involved so we will continue to stick with the Buffet Dinner.

**THERE IS NO REGISTRATION CHARGE TO ATTEND  
THE REUNION.**

There are some items from the previous newsletter that I purposely did not include to try and keep this short and with only new and important items. The NDA website is always available for back issues of the newsletters or information

<http://navydivers.net/2018NdaReunion.html>

## RESERVATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Making your reservation is easy. Call **855-794-6563** to make your reservation for **May 06 – 10, 2018**. You must use the group code **NAVY DIVERS REUNION 18**.

Swinomish is offering us the following room rates for all Reunion days. The rate is for a room and one may have up to four people in the room. The rates are:

King Standard -- \$89.00  
Double Queen Standard -- \$89.00  
King Bay View -- \$109.00  
Double Queen Bay View -- \$109.00  
There are NO Suites available

All room costs are subject to all applicable taxes -- currently 10.5%

There are only 28 Bay View rooms available (14 King and 14 Queen). We have 23 Standard King and 9 Standard Queen rooms available. So, we have a total block of 60 rooms available. **That block is opened to the public after March 30, 2018**. So, my recommendation to you all is, if you are at the least thinking of attending, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP so you will have a room.

Pre/Post weekday rates will be honored. However, Friday and Saturday night rates are \$20 more per room per night

The property is offering complimentary valet and free parking for guests as well as wireless internet in the guest's rooms and meeting spaces.

## GREAT NORTHWEST CONTACT

Pete Pehl, our go-to person and event planner for the Great Northwest and the 2018 NDA Reunion, has been beating the bushes looking for events for us. He can be reached by cell at: 360-872-2058 or by email at [p2dive@gmail.com](mailto:p2dive@gmail.com)

Pete does not, as many of us don't, answer his mobile phone when he does not see a name. So, if Pete doesn't answer, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE and he will get back to you.

## THINGS OF INTEREST & TO DO

### SUNDAY PICNIC at BOWMAN BAY

Pete has already planned a Sunday, 05/06/2018, get-together at the Bowman Bay Picnic Facility at Deception Pass State Park in Oak Harbor, WA, (about 8 miles from Swinomish Casino & Lodge).

The picnic will run from 1500 to 2000 on Sunday, 05/06/2017. You will not have to bring anything, except yourselves, as beer, wine, soft drinks & water will be

provided. The menu will more than likely be hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

I've attached some pictures of the site that Pete provided, and as you can see, it is covered so we will have the cook-out rain or shine.

More information will follow.



## BOWMAN BAY DECEPTION BAY PARK

<http://www.deceptionpassfoundation.org/around-the-park/bowman-bay/>

[Click here to view park map.](#)

### GOLF

Guests will be able to add on the Golfing package to their room. Our host's representative, Sarah, has worked hard to get this event at this greatly reduced price. Just tell the reservation person you are interested in this package and he/she will make your reservation.

Golf is \$30.00 per person and does NOT include a cart. A cart is \$13.00 in 2017 and Sarah does have the rates for 2018 yet. They may increase and they may not. I will keep you all posted.

### DECEPTION PASS BOAT RIDE

Deception Pass Boat Ride is \$15.00 per person. Sarah will purchase these tickets in March so if you plan on taking the boat ride, **please contact Sarah by email at [snelson@swinomishcasino.com](mailto:snelson@swinomishcasino.com) to have her reserve your seat** Go to <http://www.deceptionpasstours.com/> for additional information about Deception Pass.

### ADDITIONAL RV PARKING

For those Military retirees or active duty who have RVs and are unable to reserve a spot at Swinomish Casino & Lodge, there is always lodging available at NAS Whidbey Island. The link below will get you to the website and all the info you need. I believe there are only five (5) more spaces available with full hook-ups.

<http://cliffside.navylifepnw.com/programs/607cfed4-a4c8-4b2e-ae08-c746327cb01a>

### CANADIAN NAVY DIVERS -- CNDA

We are very fortunate this year to have our Brother and Sister Canadian Navy Divers joining us in Anacortes. I do not know how many so far are planning on attending, but I expect we will have several join us.

They have a website up and running and it is <http://navydiver.ca/> Take a look at it sometime..

### SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Hospitality Suite:** We will run this reunion exactly as we have in the past and the hospitality suite will be open from 1500 on the 6th for the entire four days. We always close the room from 2200 to 0800.

We will have our usual hospitality suite where the property allows us to bring in our own beer, wine, liquor, soft drinks, etc. We may also bring in our own snacks, (i.e., pretzels,

chips, nuts, etc.). The hospitality suite, as we have done in the past, will **run on the honor system** where we put out a can and participants donate based on what they consume.

**Sunday:** Picnic at Bowman Bay Deception Bay Park. We will begin check-in and completion of the registration sign-in sheet, if you haven't already done so, in the Hospitality suite around 2000, after the picnic.

**Monday:** Hospitality Suite will be open 0800 to 2300. Continue check-in for those who didn't yesterday.

We're still putting together the Monday hors d'oeuvre menu, but it looks like we can put on a good reception for \$10 per person. If we go over that, your NDA will kick in the difference. So, there will be a block on the Registration form for the Monday Reception.

**Tuesday:** Hospitality Suite will be open all day. Today is a free day for all.

Golfing is available and/or the Deception Pass Boat Trip. It's early and we are still planning.

**Wednesday:** Hospitality Suite will be open all day.

Our bi-annual business meeting will be held at 0900 today, open to all and the location is TBD.

We still have a good inventory of ball caps and challenge coins and will be selling them at the 2018 reunion. I cut back on purchasing the T-shirts and are selling until gone.

**We will hold our dinner in the evening.** We are planning on the usual Buffet Dinner followed by our fund raising Live Auction..

Prior to our auction, we will conduct our bi-annual "**Tolling of the Bells**" ceremony for those divers and diver support personnel who have passed away during the past two years.

### AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

The auction will follow the dinner. This auction is our main fund raiser for the NDA.

**We always need items for this auction.** So, it's time to do your bi-annual clean out of your attics, garages, etc. and dig up anything you think will sell...no matter for how much or how little. Every little bit helps.

I have yet to contact Rick Armstrong, CWO-5, Ret, and ask if he will again commission a piece of artwork specifically for the reunion and donate it for our auction. You can see some of Rick's beautiful work on his Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=190150891025711&id=190146734359460](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=190150891025711&id=190146734359460). You may also email Rick at [deepseadiveart@yahoo.com](mailto:deepseadiveart@yahoo.com)

At this writing, Bruce Banks, CDR, Ret, is checking on the availability of his luxury condo close to Jaco, Costa Rica (the west coast). Once I do, I will let everyone know in a future newsletter..

**Thursday:** Hospitality Suite will be opened until 11:00 A.M. This is check-out day.

## Buffet Dinner Menu

I will finalize this and get out to you all within the next two weeks.

## History of the NDA Reunion

The original reunion was held in Las Vegas at Palace Station in 1994 as the HARBOR CLEARANCE UNIT ONE – VIETNAM reunion. After several reunions, the group decided to open the reunions to ALL Navy Divers and Support Personnel.

Attendance is open to ALL NAVY DIVERS, ALL HCU ONE VETERANS, ALL SEALAB DIVERS, ALL ARS / ASR VETERANS and, most importantly, ALL DIVER SUPPORT PERSONNEL (who made, and continue to make, it possible for the divers to complete their missions), their SPOUSES, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS and FRIENDS.

## NDA WEBSITE

Please visit OUR website [www.navydivers.net](http://www.navydivers.net) for updates and additional information as I get it as I will not always send out n emails.

## CHECKLIST

If you need anything or want to inquire about anything, please contact one of us.

David Ball

3804 Wildwood Road, San Diego, CA 92107-3750  
Home: (619) 225-0304 Cell: (619) 733-3804  
Home email: [davidball@cox.net](mailto:davidball@cox.net)

Dave Peterson

635 Harmony Way, Centreville, MD 21617  
Home: (443) 262-8335 Cell: (410) 610-8771  
Home email: [speterson@chesapeake.net](mailto:speterson@chesapeake.net)

Pete Pehl

Cell: 360-872-2058  
Home email: [p2dive@gmail.com](mailto:p2dive@gmail.com)