



# USS Aeolus Newsletter

NOW HEAR THIS ...

## Captain Robert W. Fielden USNR (Retired), USS Aeolus 1959-1961



**Captain Robert William Fielden, born February 18, 1917 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, died December 11, 2006 in Virginia.**

On March 9, 2007, Captain Robert William Fielden USNR (Ret) was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial service was conducted at the Old Post Chapel at Ft. Myer. CDR Don Leach USN (Ret) delivered the eulogy with family and about 150 old friends paying their final respects and honoring the life and service of Captain Fielden.

Following the chapel service, Bob's ashes were placed on the caisson which then followed the Navy honor guard to the Columbarium where an Inurnment Service was conducted followed by military honors, the rifle salute, taps and the placing of the ashes alongside those of his wife who died in 2000.

**Here are some excerpts from the Eulogy that was delivered by CDR Don Leach USN (Ret).** Bob was born in Lawrence, MA., a mill town with an economy devoted to the manufacture of cloth. Life was not easy and left ambitious young men longing to find a way out. Following high school graduation in 1934, Bob took exams and earned an appointment to Massachusetts Nautical School. The training, conducted aboard the school ship USS Nantucket in Boston. It was a demanding life but graduated true professional mariners. After two years on the school ship, in 1937 at the age of 20, Bob graduated as a Third Mate and went to New York in search of a ship and a job. WWII was right around the corner and he was called to active duty by the US Navy in 1942 and was assigned to duty on destroyers and attack cargo and troop ships in the Pacific. Thus began his Naval Service which lasted for 25 years. In 1942 Bob married Bernice Simpson, a union that lasted for 58 years. Three children were born into the family.

Following WWII Bob remained on active duty and was assigned Executive Officer on the USS Compass Island (AG-153), a missile firing test range ship, followed by a tour of duty as Assistant Director of the Tanker Div, Commander Military Sea Transportation Service. The high point of his sea career was command of the cable laying and repair ship USS Aeolus (ARC-3). Following this two year assignment, he became the Commanding Officer of the Fleet Training Group, Charleston, SC, and then, his final tour of duty, Director, Tanker Division, Commander Military Sea Transportation Service, from which he retired in 1967 with the rank of Captain.

After his retirement, Bob became VP of a Steamship Agency and of a Federal Savings and Loan Association. With his boundless energy and wonderful, clear, articulate baritone voice, he devoted 25 years as a volunteer, taping recordings for Volunteers for the Visually Handicapped, Recording for the Blind Inc., and the National Federation for the Blind. In 2001 Capt Fielding spoke at the USS Aeolus Reunion in Portsmouth, NH.

### 6th Reunion of the USS Aeolus (ARC-3)

San Diego, CA—October 24–26th, 2007

Please mail in the attached Reservation Form and check as soon as possible.

# Our thanks & appreciation to Chuck & Reba Trapp

We're sure that most of you have talked or corresponded with Crewmember Charles (Chuck) Trapp and his wife Reba. If it were not for their tenacious work, we would not have the Crewmember Listing, which has information on everyone's time on the Aeolus, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. The crewmember listing can be found on our website: [www.ussaeolus.com](http://www.ussaeolus.com). The site can help you locate crewmembers that you may have been looking for throughout the years. Since being elected in the year 2000 as the **AEOLUS LOCATORS**, Chuck and Reba have spent many hours of phone calls, along with searches on various websites. Many deceased shipmates (those who were not association members) are not listed on the crewmember listing, but a separate listing that can be obtained from the Trapps or Mike Jarvis). As you review the Crewmember Listing, if you know of a shipmate that is not on the list, or if the information is not correct, please contact Chuck & Reba at their e-mail address: [islandgirl34@hargray.com](mailto:islandgirl34@hargray.com) or phone **843-681-9728**.

The years of information that is being compiled on the Crewmember Listing is from its Commissioning in 1955 through 1973, when the Aeolus was decommissioned. Chuck and Reba have personally paid to enroll every Aeolus Crewmember that they found on the US Navy Memorial/The NavyLog/The Lone Sailor. The web site is [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org)



## From the Secretary of the USS Aeolus:

We are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces at the upcoming reunion in October 2007. We are hoping that those of you in the Midwest and on the West coast, will make the effort to attend and meet up with former shipmates. There are many who attend all reunions and look forward to each one.

Activities and dinners are planned and we hope you will join us. Please bring any pictures that you may have, along with memorabilia for display in the Hospitality Room.

Election of officers will be held, along with the decision as to where to have the next reunion. We are also looking for someone that would like to take the task of

publishing the twice a year Newsletter and a webmaster who knows the technical side of maintaining our web site..

Bob Luttrell, Secretary

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- Word has just been received of the passing of Jack R. Craver of Oxford, GA, on Feb. 24, 2007. Jack was a Aeolus Plankowner and served from 1955—1958. Jack was 80 years of age. He will be missed by family and crewmembers.



## AEOLUS OFFICERS ATTEND JAY LENO SHOW WHILE IN SAN DIEGO

In November, Mike Jarvis made a trip to San Diego to finalize The October 2007 Reunion. While there he met up with Joe and Carol Jesso in Los Angeles. Carol was able to obtain tickets to the Jay Leno show plus a neat surprise of having their picture taken with Leno. Mike Jarvis is Secretary of the Aeolus Assn., and Joe Jesso is Vice President.

Other officers are: Ron Dignazio, President and Bob Luttrell, Secretary.

# SOSUS—The Secret Weapon of Undersea Warfare, written by Dr. Edward C. Whitman for the magazine Undersea Warfare. Part Three—Cold War Effectiveness—and Decline

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As the Cold War deepened, and both the size and capability of the Soviet submarine fleet continued to grow, SOSUS became the “secret weapon” that enabled U.S. ASW forces to keep close track of virtually all potentially hostile submarines operating in the deep water regions of both coasts. This capability was facilitated by geographical constraints that forced Soviet submarines into predictable deployment patterns and the rudimentary state of Russian acoustic quieting, which left their submarines some 30 db noisier than U.S. counterparts—and hence easily detectable from thousands of miles away. In the mid 1980s, the network of fixed SOSUS arrays was augmented by a small fleet of civilian-manned, ocean-going acoustic surveillance ships deploying the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS), a towed line array over 8,000 feet long. By means of satellite communication links, contact information developed by the SURTASS ships at sea was passed to the SOSUS Evaluation Centers ashore and melded with data from the fixed arrays to establish position estimates for likely targets. In time, the totality of fixed arrays, shore processing facilities, and SURTASS ships became known as the integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS).

Eventually, with the help of key information supplied by the Walker-Whitworth espionage ring, Soviet intelligence learned of the existence of SOSUS and its remarkable success in tracking Soviet submarines at long range. Thus, beginning shortly after John Walker’s treasonous revelations in 1968, the Russian Navy embarked belatedly on a rapid submarine quieting program, and within five years, the radiated noise levels of their first line boats had begun to drop precipitously. By the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, Russian submarines were much closer to their U.S. equivalents, and the ability of IUSS to detect and track them at long range had deteriorated significantly. In an attempt to regain some of the acoustic advantage lost to Soviet quieting, IUSS system developers turned from long line arrays and their fans of pre-formed beams to large fields of simpler “upward-looking” hydrophones densely distributed on the ocean floor, each capable of detecting submarines only in its immediate vicinity. Thus, detection and localization were subsumed into a single process, and the first “Fixed Distributed System” built in accordance with this strategy was deployed in 1985.

Moreover, with steady improvements in acoustic signal processing through the 1970s and 1980s, the first generation of shore processing hardware, which turned out hundreds of single beam LOFAR grams—24 hours a day, every day—was gradually replaced by computer-based work stations that could analyze the

incoming acoustic data digitally and display it on multiple computer screens. Additionally, to reduce the manpower requirements and achieve other efficiencies, most of the original arrays were re-terminated at alternative shore sites or “remoted” to central processing facilities, which led to a steady reduction in the number of operational NAVFACs. These transitions were completed in 1997 and 1998, but by that time—ironically—quieter submarines, major changes in Soviet operating patterns, and finally, the end of the Cold War had already eliminated much of the justification for maintaining IUSS at its full capacity.

Today, while the Navy maintains a number of SOSUS arrays in either operational or standby status, only three shore facilities at Dam Neck, Virginia; Whidbey Island, Washington and St. Mawgan, United Kingdom—remain to process the dwindling output. With few possibly-hostile, nuclear powered submarines operating at sea and modern quiet diesel boats essentially undetectable at long range by passive means, there’s not a lot to listen for anymore, and targets of potential interest are rare. However, several existing arrays have achieved well-publicized successes in peacetime pursuits such as tracking migrating whales and detecting illegal driftnet fishing on the high seas. Moreover, as the Navy explores the use of low-frequency active acoustics (LFA) for detecting and tracking quiet submarines in the future, both the fixed arrays and the remaining SURTASS ships may well play an important role as adjunct or bi-static receiving sites.

When it was first suggested over 50 years ago as a means of exploiting contemporary oceanographic findings and state-of-the-art technology for wide-area undersea surveillance, SOSUS was an audacious concept, and its successful implementation was one of the most impressive engineering feats of the early Cold War. Later, during the most dangerous phases of that simmering conflict, IUSS gave the United States and unprecedented capacity for long-range submarine detection and strategic early warning that we can only envy today in the new era of asymmetric threats.

THIS article is the 3rd and final in a series compiled by Don Leach, CDR. Thank you Don for your time and effort in compiling these articles and we hope that each of you have enjoyed reading about SOSUS.

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**The USS Aeolus Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the USS Aeolus (ARC-3) and its crew.**

**Email address: [mjarvis@ussaeolus.com](mailto:mjarvis@ussaeolus.com)  
phone: 586-501-3130**

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**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR YEARLY DUES?**

**\$10.00 per year.**

**Mail to:**

**USS Aeolus Association  
28800 Mound Road  
Warren, MI 48092**

**USS AEOLUS ARC-3**  
**SIXTH REUNION**  
**HOLIDAY INN BAYSIDE**  
**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**OCTOBER 23-26, 2007**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

<b>MONDAY,</b>	<b>OCTOBER 22, 2007</b>	<b>HOLIDAY INN</b>
	<b>1200-1700</b>	<b>EARLY REGISTRATION</b>
<b>TUESDAY,</b>	<b>OCTOBER 23, 2007</b>	<b>HOLIDAY INN</b>
	<b>0900-1700</b>	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
	<b>1800-2100</b>	<b>LUAU, POLYNESIAN SHOW</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 24, 2007</b>	<b>USS MIDWAY</b>
	<b>1130</b>	<b>BUSINESS MEETING</b>
	<b>1230</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
	<b>1300-1600</b>	<b>USS MIDWAY TOUR</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>OCTOBER 25, 2007</b>	<b>SAN DIEGO</b>
	<b>0700-0900</b>	<b>BREAKFAST FOR ALL</b> <b>(PLANK OWNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED)</b>
	<b>0900-1700</b>	<b>OPTIONAL HARBOR TOURS,</b> <b>ZOO, SEA WORLD, ETC.</b>
	<b>1800-2100</b>	<b>BANQUET - BAY VIEW RESTAURANT</b> <b>(MCRD)</b>

**THERE WILL BE A HOSPITALITY SUITE (IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF SAN DIEGO BAY) WITH REFRESHMENTS OPEN FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING.**

HOLIDAY INN SANDIEGO BAYSIDE  
4875 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106

## RESERVATIONS

IN ORDER TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM AT THE  
REUNION RATE (\$105.00 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX),  
YOU MUST RESERVE BY SEPT. 15, 2007.

**DON'T WAIT DO IT TODAY!!!**

1. Call the HOLIDAY INN at (800) 650-6660
2. Ask for reservations
3. Give the reservations clerk our group name (USS Aeolus)
4. They will require a deposit of one nights stay (they accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express)

Holiday Inn web site: [http://  
www.holinnbayside.com/](http://www.holinnbayside.com/)

# REGISTRATION FORM

## USS AEOLUS REUNION 2007

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/COMPANION \_\_\_\_\_

RATE/RANK (WHEN ABOARD) \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS ABOARD \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT SIZES (s,m,l,xl,xxl,3x,4x) MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANION \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is 150.00 per person (Includes most meals, USS Midway admission, refreshments, etc.) Mail checks and form to:

**Michael Jarvis**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**USS Aeolus Association**  
**28800 Mound Road**  
**Warren, MI 48092**

**Call Mike with any questions at 586-501-3130**

**SPECIAL NOTE: EVERYONE WHO PAYS IN FULL BY AUGUST 15 (CHECK RECEIVED DATE) WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR THREE NIGHTS (10/23,10/24,10/25) PAID IN THE HOLIDAY INN-BAYSIDE (\$330.00 VALUE).**