



Station Ship News



DING DING . . . DING DING . . . SHIP'S CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS
IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING



(Courtesy RDBean Collection)

Announcing MVA's SD17 Reunion — Grand Banquet on Flight Deck!

Dear Midway Veterans, family members and friends, it's all hands on deck, quite literally, because the USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA) is proud to announce that it will hold its next reunion September 11-13, 2017 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), in San Diego, *and our Grand Banquet will be held on the flight deck of the USS Midway Museum!* We recommend that you arrive a day early (Sunday, September 10) to register for the reunion and be ready to go on Monday. On banquet night, the MVA will team with the USS Midway Museum to hold a special ceremony honoring this nation's POWs/MIAs. We haven't picked a keynote speaker yet, but we have some excellent candidates in mind, and we'll be ready to announce our choice soon.

Our reunion hotel is the **Wyndham San Diego Bayside (WSDB)**, which is within easy walking distance of the **USS Midway Museum** (<http://www.midway.org/>), downtown shopping, fine restaurants and entertainment. Our negotiated room rate of **\$153/night** is only \$14 higher than it was for our 2015 reunion (also at WSDB), and these rates are good for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion,

assuming rooms are available. This rate is very competitive with other hotels in the downtown area, and its close proximity to the ship and waterfront, plus its many other amenities, including a great hospitality room, made it an easy choice.

Follow the link below to reserve your hotel room (Select "Make Your Selection," then "Attendee" in the pull-down menu to make your reservation):
<https://aws.passkey.com/go/USSMidwayVeteransAnnualReunion>.

Reserve your room by phone at **619-232-3861** (between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM PT). Ask for in-house reservations. Tell them you're with the USS Midway group and make your reservation. We'll keep you posted when we have further information on MVA's 2017 reunion.

Contact: Jim Hayter @ e-mail mva41vpr@comcast.net; phone (703) 264-0542

(**Note:** The USS Midway Museum plans to hold its POW/MIA recognition day ceremony onboard Friday, September 15, 2017, so you may want to take advantage of the hotel's reduced room rate 3 days after MVA's reunion and stay in town for this event.)

Links to MVA's website and Facebook page can be found on p. 8 of this newsletter.

The Monument Man



From USS Midway Cook to Historical Memorial Preservationist

By MSCS(AW) Marion (Mick) Hersey, USN Ret.

When I was on the USS Midway as a 2nd class, and then after I made 1st class, I worked in the Forward Bakeshop as the Cake Decorator and then Bakeshop Supervisor. Little did I realize that my attention to detail that I was perfecting decorating cakes would eventually turn into a hobby more than 30 years later. I practiced over and over designs for cakes, coming up with a different design each day to place on the mess decks for the crew to enjoy. I was honoring my fellow sailors' departments and did so by a different design each day. I did old ships, new ships, squadron emblems and jets.

You may ask what this has to do with a hobby I started 30 years later. Well, I'm now preserving memorials and markers that honor our veterans and historical events. Emblems that were designed for cakes I have now cleaned on memorial markers around Bremerton, Washington, and up and down western Washington. To date I have restored over 300 granite markers and almost 100 brass memorials. I even restored the USS Midway plaque on Bremerton's boardwalk.



After preserving and refurbishing most of the memorials around the Bremerton area and our county, I was asked to expand my horizon. In response, I looked at a listing of veterans and historical artifacts in our area. There were anchors, guns off of WWII ships and even a jet fighter from the Vietnam era here in our local area.

I asked local veterans' organizations how many memorials were in our area and was told 27. Well, after restoring all the plaques on Bremerton's boardwalk (over

300), I knew the number was much higher, and so I went throughout our county driving from the northernmost city to the farthest south and have discovered almost 100 memorials. Since restoring them, I have now documented over 100. I get the local stores to donate materials and sailors volunteer off of the ships in port to assist in refurbishing the memorials.



Last year I finished refurbishing all the memorials in Kitsap County and was then asked assist the Ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution in restoring and refurbishing historical plaques. I agreed and have gone as far as Deception Pass (by Whidbey Island Naval Air Station) in the northern area of western Washington to the southern part of the state, Vancouver, following the Oregon Trail in Washington. It is a set of 11 markers from Vancouver to Olympia that were placed in 1916 by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. My tie to this group is that I have proven that through Genealogical evidence that my 4th Great Grandfather served in the Revolutionary War.

Another aspect of restoring and refurbishing memorials is working in and around some of the older cemeteries in our area. Through the course of this work, I have discovered that we have a Medal of Honor recipient buried in three of our local cemeteries and a least four Bronze Star recipients. Their memorial tombstones are cleaned and restored with honor and dignity, something that has been lost over the years as family members move away from the areas that their loved ones grew up in.

You never know when the experience and knowledge you gained on the USS Midway will assist in a project 30 years later.

Having Some "Extra" Fun

By Ronald E. Pope, SK1, USNR (Ret.)

From 1958 to 1960, I served as an Electricians Mate (EM) aboard the mighty USS Midway, traveling the world over and visiting many exotic ports. When I left active duty, I went from an EM to a Storekeeper in the Naval Reserve and was assigned to the Seabees. All the while I worked at various grocery store businesses. You

might say I led two, maybe three, lives as a civilian during this period.



Then, in 2005, after I retired from my career as a Grocery Sales Manager, I looked for a part-time job doing something interesting. My son was a stage actor doing “Background / Extra” work on various TV shows being filmed in the area the Dallas area. I was asked to join him on the set during filming

of the TV show “Dallas.” I became a “Preferred Background / Extra” as a result and was in several episodes. I became hooked and started to work on several shows being filmed in the area. While most of the work has been for TV, some has also been on documentaries, such as “Hillary’s America - The Movie,” which recently ran in theaters across the country. I was a 2015 Senator in a Senate scene where the Slavery issue was being fought over passionately, which was a lot of fun, and took over a full day of shooting to create a 15-minute scene.



During the past few years as I became older, “Background Actor” work has become more of a hobby than anything, and I enjoy the work, and mostly enjoy the various costumes, and roles I get to play. Most recently I have worked in the Austin, Texas, area with a casting agency for various TV shows being filmed there. Being a “Background Actor – Extra” is fun, and we get to meet many of the big-time TV actors we work with. While there is not supposed to be any contact, and some are not approachable, there are many who are just regular

people. The best part of the “job” is learning how these shows are made, and that sometimes a simple “take” may take a few hours to film a 30 second shot, and sometimes a set will take several days to get the correct scene shot due to weather, and many, many factors as everything has to be perfect for the director to accept the scene, and wrap the shot. A couple of photos were shot of different roles I have worked on, on sets where cell-phone photos were allowed. On most sets, however, there are strict rules that no photos are allowed.

The best part about this hobby is that I get paid for doing it, and most of the time we are just sitting around waiting for the scene to be shot and/or for the professional actors to get their lines correct. Also, it’s fun watching a show on TV where we are working in the background, while the (front) actors are doing their thing professionally.



Could This Be the Birth of “Midway Magic”?

Martin FitzGerald/AN, V-4 Division, 1957-60

As I see it, the term “Midway Magic” was born during the period leading up to the Battle of Midway, when in a meeting at Naval headquarters in Pearl Harbor, Admiral Chester Nimitz asked for a name for the rendezvous point for our fleet to intercept the Japanese fleet, and “Point Luck” was chosen. Or so at least it was depicted in the movie “Battle of Midway,” and I believe it is true. Could it be, then, that this was when Midway Magic was born? I believe so. Thinking back to when we broke the Japanese code and learned that Midway Island was the target that Admiral Yamamoto picked for his next attack on U.S. forces, it makes sense.

As the battle began, a certain bit of luck came into play with the splitting of Torpedo Squadron Eight, with some of the planes in that squadron coming from the USS Hornet and some coming from Midway Island. It is a small thing, but there were many small things that added up to a huge success in our favor. With the inferior number of ships we had in the battle, we should have lost but, of course, we did not, and the tides of war in the Pacific turned in our favor with the victory in the ocean off of Midway. That in itself is enough to make me think the details I describe above led to the birth of Midway Magic. And that Magic carries on to this day on board the USS MIDWAY CV-41 and with any individual or group still connected to the Midway.



The Tale of the Missing Tape

By Tim Miller, ABE2 USN (Ret.)

Many years ago a young man reported aboard the USS Midway, CV-41, with an old-school cassette tape of C.W. McCall's greatest hits. Over the years the owner and the tape went their separate ways. Deep down in the owner's heart, he wondered, though, about that tape. Especially during those long, long 100-plus days at sea on Gonzo Station. Well, fast forward to 2016 to an awesome event that this not-so-young man was part of. I'm talking about the V-2 Cats and Arresting Gear reunion held in Sept 2016 on the Midway. Of course, all of those who attended were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the cat spaces, arresting gear spaces and our sleeping quarters. As you would expect, when you get about 30 ABE's together, the stories flowed like the never-ending



Snake River at the reunion.

As it happened, while our group toured through our old berthing quarters, a daughter of one of the guys found a cassette tape. Of course, we all played Sherlock Holmes and tried to deduce who the tape's owner might be. Once we got into the light, I

shouted, "Holy Cow! I can't believe it"! That stopped

them in their tracks. That's my tape, I said, the one I've been searching over 30 years for. That's my handwriting on the tape! I exclaimed. It just blew my mind to think that my C.W. McCall cassette tape would still be in the area where I slept while haze gray and underway. So that's my story, and I'm sticking to it. After all these years, going back to 1984, it had been right there, stuck under some cranny in our berthing compartment, for over 30 years. Just waiting for me to come back and stumble upon it. "May the forces of 'Midway Magic' be there for me!" I uttered. And they were! Life is an amazing journey, and each day there are surprises waiting for us. That's the magic of it all.

President's Report



Dear friends: Your USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA) has been working closely with the Events staff at the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, developing the plan for the Grand Banquet to be held on the flight deck of the ship, weather permitting, on Wednesday,

September 13th. Having a special celebration on the flight deck of the ship caps off three days of camaraderie and a lot of fun for all who are able to attend.

In 2017, we're adding an extended celebration that we believe will add additional meaning for every veteran – recognition of National POW / MIA day and the remembrance of those who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. The MVA celebration of POW/ MIA day will be a collaborative effort with the Midway Museum – details to be announced soon.

Nationally, POW/MIA day is commemorated on the third Friday of September, two days following our Grand Banquet on the ship. In prior years, the ship has invited former POWs and their families, along with the families of those still listed as Missing in Action, to meet and talk with visitors at the Midway Museum. I'd like to think that following three days of celebrating our service aboard Midway, there will be enough energy left in each of us to join with the veterans and active servicemen and women from all branches of the armed services to honor those former POW and the families of those still MIA.

I'm encouraged by the attendance at the last two reunions and believe that the 2017 reunion will be the best and most meaningful reunion we've seen to date. I don't know of any other reunion groups that have such a phenomenal

membership and that are as supportive of the veterans services and activities that we help support – both on and off the USS Midway Museum. Talk to your family and friends and reach out to any veterans organization that you belong to and let them know what we're doing next September. You know you don't have to be a member of the MVA to join us in San Diego. We welcome all Midway Veterans.

Smooth Sailing, my friends!

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

VP-Reunions' Report

Things are coming together nicely for our next reunion in San Diego, henceforth and forever more known in shorthand as SD17. This is a fun time in reunion planning as contracts are negotiated and signed and the vague outline of our three days in San Diego is starting to come into focus. The best part for me is at this stage everything is written in pencil and can be changed or modified to make things fit together nicely—later this luxury goes away. Earlier this month, we e-blasted the formal announcement of SD17 to our computer proficient members; the same information is contained in this newsletter for those who prefer a more traditional form of communication.



First things first--contact the Wyndham San Diego Bay-side (WSDB) hotel and reserve your room for SD17; you can use the computer link or the 619-232-3861 number (both are given at the beginning of this newsletter) to reach the hotel. **Q.** Why should I make my reservation ten months early? **A.** To be sure you get a room at the attractive reunion rate we have negotiated. We have plenty of rooms reserved for our group at this time, but remember I have no idea how many people will be attending SD17, so the number in our dedicated block is nothing more than an estimate. Don't delay and get caught without a room, or find yourself paying more than your buddies because the room block sold out. There is no upfront charge to reserve a room, and you can cancel your room up to 10 days before the reunion, should you need to change your plans.

I have every reason to believe we will set another attendance record for this reunion (the promise of dinner on the flight deck of the USS Midway seems to be a lure that causes former Midway sailors in large numbers to be drawn back to their former home). One big change here

from days gone-by, I promise we will not conduct air ops during dinner. Here is a pitch to sign up now for our third visit to the WSDB. It's a first-rate hotel, located within walking distance of the ship. You also get a prime, downtown location with shopping, attractions, and restaurants near by.

This year's planning process is a mix of old and new. We will again be using Armed Forces Reunions (AFR) as our professional reunion planner for the nuts and bolts part of SD17. The new twist is that for the first time there will be an MVA Reunion Planning Committee picking our tours and activities, and then managing all aspects of making sure events go on without a hitch (or at least go very smoothly). Past experience has shown me that glitches always occur, but good planning and creative problem solving will reduce or eliminate bumps in the road. Once our activities have been selected and priced we will launch our Registration Form so you can begin selecting (and paying for) what you want to do during SD17.

If you have questions or suggestions, contact me at 703-264-0542 in Reston, Virginia, or e-mail to mva41vpr@comcast.net. Volunteers are always needed to help make our reunions successful. Raise your hand, electronically, and let me know you want to help. See you in San Diego in September of 2017!

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions USS Midway Veterans Association

Sec.-Treas./Newsletter Editor's Report

The pieces are falling into place for our 2017 reunion in San Diego, and we're looking forward to hosting what we hope will be the largest turnout ever of "Midway Nation" enthusiasts — that is, Midway veterans and their families and friends.



First off, I'd like to thank the team of Marion (Mick) Hersey, Ken Radak, and Marty FitzGerald for conducting a professional review of our financial records on October, 28, in Renton, WA.; also, Bob Srabian (MVA's CPA) provided valuable guidance on the questions to ask. My wife and I were very impressed and relieved with how smoothly things went at MVA's first-ever financial review. Mina Jo Payson is the Treasurer's Treasurer and my "comptroller." Of that we can be certain.

Midway veterans are a unique group, to be sure. We crewed the ship and piloted her planes for over half the

20th century, at a time when the Midway was arguably the most powerful warship on the planet. Now, in this century, we are key players in the phenomenon that is the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, rescued as she was from the Mothball Fleet over a dozen years, she has become a world-class museum ship, with a 1 million-plus visitors touring her every year. Just this past month, in an online contest sponsored by USA Today, she was voted America's top museum ship, in a competition with nineteen other museum ships around the country.

This contest was not without its drama. In the final days of the voting, the Battleship Iowa Museum inexplicably jumped ahead of the Midway Museum, which prompted the Midway forces to swing into action. "Man your GQ stations!" rang out across the country. We at the MVA received an old-school telephone call from a volunteer at the museum asking if we could help get out the vote. In response, I, who run MVA's "Combat Information Center" in my back room, fired up our E-blast system and launched a series of messages to several hundred Midway veterans around the country. They responded accordingly and overwhelmingly with votes for the Midway Museum. The gauntlet had been thrown; no way were we going to be outdone by a battleship, of all things. When the smoke had cleared two days later, USA Today announced Midway the winner in a come-from-behind victory! This shouldn't have surprised anyone, of course, and it didn't.

The moral of the story: Never underestimate the forces of "Midway Magic" to do good.

Finally, I would like to thank those men who contributed articles for this newsletter: Tim Miller, Marty FitzGerald, Mick Hersey and Jim Yoder. I encourage all readers of this newsletter to send in their own stories for publication here. We all have these great stories to tell.

Dave Payson, Sec.-Treas., USS Midway Veterans Association



VP-Administration's Report

Another reunion is behind us and a new one is upon us and all our shipmates will be gathering for the events at hand. This year has been a momentous one for the staff to get everything

ready for you to come to San Diego, CA, and enjoy uniting with you USS Midway shipmates. I am now in the process of rewriting in a more formal format the Bylaws of our order. It is a momentous task as it has to be ready before the reunion so the membership can review it first

and vote on it at the 2017 business meeting to accept it. This all I have to report at this time. Hope all of you are well and enjoying yourself and getting ready for the reunion.

Haze Gray & Underway!

Richard Wooster II, VP-Admin., USS Midway Veterans Association

New Men

The following USS Midway Veterans have joined the proud ranks of the Midway Veterans Association since our last newsletter. *Welcome aboard, Men, for our own special brand of Midway Magic!*

James Agnew (75-77) - Compton, CA

William E. Johnson (71-73) - Bettendorf, IA

Thomas Pettit (59-61) - Penn Laird, VA

Edward McElhenney (70-73) - McDonough, GA

Howard Geiger (63-66) - Port Saint Lucie, FL

Kenneth Kunz (75-78) - Wahiawa, HI

Bill Olsen (79-82) - Centreville, VA

William Schilling (78-80) - Westport, MA

MVA's Inaugural Financial Review in the Books

A team of MVA members conducted an internal financial review October 28th at the Fairwood Library in Renton, WA. The review team members were Marion (Mick) Hersey, Ken Radak, and Marty FitzGerald, all Washingtonians. MVA's CPA, Bob Srabian, provided a list of items to look for in the conduct of the review.

MVA President Oscar, who also attended the internal review, had this to say at the conclusion of the review:

"Thank you, Mick, Marty, and Ken for helping accomplish another first for the MVA. We've talked about this for some time and you've now accomplished an internal review of our financial records. We all realize the importance of maintaining a good-faith relationship with our members. Having documents to show that the resources they've entrusted the Association with are being used to further the goals and mission of the USS Midway Veterans Association is important and fosters the trust we must have to keep the MVA strong and moving forward.

"Thanks also to Mina Jo and Dave for the great work done to maintain the Association's finances in such good form."

(See the committee's findings & suggestions on next page.)

Order Your MVA Memorabilia Here!

Check out MVA's custom line of memorabilia – Nick Danger episodes, vests, challenge coins, decals, patches, lapel pins, CVB & CVA-41 caps – on MVA's website. Follow the link below to browse the only Midway/MVA memorabilia available on the planet. See ordering and purchasing instructions on the site.

<http://ussmidway.net/mvashipstore.html>

Midway's "Flying M" Patch Rides Again

By Jim Yoder, ETC, USN (Ret.)

Over the years of my Navy career, I had accumulated many patches from the various ships and stations I served. I was looking through a pile of these a while back and remembered a patch from my first ship, the USS Midway, that I called "The Flying M" patch that was missing. I wanted one for my collection (actually, for a display I was making), so I searched the Internet and found nothing like it for sale. But I did find a small picture of it (shown here).



Determined to find one of these patches, I found email addresses for several "old salts" who served on the Midway in the 40s and 50s, looking for someone who might have a patch, and/or if they would want one. I received several replies like they had heard of it, or seen one. Most never heard of it, but one did say he had one and gave me the wing span. A couple people said they were given to pilots. (Ah-ha, no wonder most never heard of it!) But, best of all, most of them said they would like to have one.

So I submitted an RFQ to several vendors to fabricate some from that little picture [of the patch from the Internet shown above]. The one I selected took 3 or 4 months to finally get a pattern made to my satisfaction. I ordered enough for all who said they wanted one, plus a few more, since the more I bought the cheaper they were. Figured I can easily reorder more if necessary, since I now know an embroiderer that has the pattern.

So here's the deal: A new old patch (5½ in. wide) is now available for only \$6.25. This was a patch (back in the pre-shield days) for pilots. If you would like one or more, send your name, address and quantity desired to **Jim Yoder** jdwyoder@q.com. Use "Flying M Patch" for Subject.

MVA Financial Review

Below is the summary of findings and suggestions of t MVA's financial review conducted by Mick Hersey, Ken Radek, and Marty FitzGerald that took place in Renton, Wash., on Oct 18, 2017:

Comments and Suggestions:

- ◆ Copies of checks to be deposited should be on file.
- ◆ Receipt for recurring monthly bill for Internet needs to be filed, or at least the contract for yearly cost.
- ◆ Investment fund needs to be included in the monthly report, to include pluses and minuses of funds.
- ◆ Inventory of Memorabilia needs to be added to the monthly report as an asset, since money has already been expended for items. This is to include vests, shirts, hats, coins and anything else with an inventory at the end of the month.
- ◆ It was also noted that the association has an insurance policy that is paid yearly. It was not included in the audit.
- ◆ Place check number on all bills paid out. This will coincide with duplicate check register

In Memoriam

Shipmate James Wheeler, 79, passed away September 21, 2016, in Florida. Jim served on the USS Midway from 1959 to 1963, as an MM1 in M Division. Before his Midway service, he was a crew member of the light cruiser USS Worcester (CL-144). He is survived by his wife Carol Kutchev as well as several children and grandchildren. Jim loved to write and penned a couple of very memorable "Midway Memories" for this newsletter as well as for the *Midway Currents*. Jim was laid to rest Sept. 24th, 2016, in his hometown of Romeo, Michigan, with full military honors. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Ronald Colman, 86, passed away May 24, 2016. He was on board Midway 1948-1952 and served as an ET2 in ET Division. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Charley Willcoxon, 88, passed away July 23, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona. He proudly served on the USS Midway and was a WWII and Korean War veteran. He was laid to rest on August 12, 2016, with full military honors. May he rest in peace.

TAPS



"We, who remain to carry on, should not think of our Shipmates as departed from us, but rather as having been transferred to a celestial ship or station, where we hope all of us may be Shipmates again."

MVA's 2016 Charitable Donations

- ◆ \$500.00 to John Finn Memorial (USS Midway Museum)
- ◆ \$305.00 to Education Program (USS Midway Museum)
- ◆ \$305.00 to Endowment Program (USS Midway Museum)

* Fundraising money from 2016 Pensacola Reunion.



USS Midway Veterans Website
<http://ussmidway.net/home.html>

USS Midway Veterans Association Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/USSMidwayVeteransAssociation>

Notice: We post our organization's roster on our website only with the permission of our members. If you don't want your contact information published, let us know at email denib@comcast.net and we'll remove it.

As awarded by the IRS, the MVA is a 501 (c)(19) nonprofit organization whose members are entitled to full tax deductibility for their donations and contributions.

**The Masthead
USS Midway
Veterans Association**

A quarterly newsletter for USN and USMC Veterans who served aboard the USS Midway, and who are friends eternal.

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USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Application for Membership

I wish to join the USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION, which is open to all Navy and Marine Corps veterans, regardless of department or air wing affiliation, who served on Midway at any time she was in commission. I hereby submit the following information:

Full Name: _____ Date _____

Spouse/Partner Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number Home: _____

Email: _____

Actual years served aboard: _____ to _____

Rank/Rate/Division while aboard (e.g., RM3/CR Div.): _____

Rank/Rate when Discharged/Retired (e.g., RMC): _____

Years served in military _____ to _____

How Did You Hear About Our Reunion Association? _____

Fill out this form, print, and mail along with amount for membership for one of the three categories below:

◆ [\\$30.00/yr for veteran + spouse/partner](#)

◆ [\\$50.00/yr for veteran and family](#)

◆ [\\$150.00 for Lifetime Membership including family \(one-time payment\)](#)

Make check payable to: USS Midway Veterans Association. You will receive your membership package within 14 days, which will consist of the latest newsletter and other information from the group's leadership team. Mail to:

USS Midway Veterans Association

**410 Cottonwood Dr.
Richland, WA 99352**

Attention: The USS Midway Museum supports the USS Midway Veterans Association in preserving the legacy of every Midway sailor, regardless of department or air wing affiliation.

(The USS Midway Veterans Association is a 501(c)(19) not-for-profit organization; contributions (aka, dues) are tax-deductible as provided by law. MVA donates 20 percent of its annual contributions to the USS Midway Museum's Education Scholarship Fund and Midway Preservation Endowment.)

Contact: David Payson, MVA Secretary-Treasurer, at minandave@charter.net;
phone 509-946-0810

We Lived the Adventure!