

THE FIRST RIDERS – In touch with

WWII Veteran Bob Beachkofski, SKD-2 – Bob is 102 years young and our oldest living member. Bob writes an occasional letter to all of us, receives birthday greetings from many on his mid-April birthday and receives a weekly call from fellow shipmate Irv Eisenberg, RM-2, another WWII veteran. Bob is closely monitored by his daughter and family. He lives in Menasha, WI not far from Appleton.

Irv Eisenberg, RM-2, who phones Bob regularly is in his 90's, living with his wife, in Great Neck NY. In addition to phoning friends he is part of a group called the "ROMEOS", which stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out. Irv is a source of many stories and is known to welfare check on this Editor who is likely around 20 years younger.

Russ Judah, LCDR is another WWII veteran living in Houston TX. He attends our reunions regularly, last in 2019. He plans to be at the 2021 reunion in Albuquerque. Russ was a Merchant Seaman Cadet riding gasoline tankers during WWI; when torpedoed you don't go down, you go UP was the expression used for these ships. Russ served aboard USS FRANK KNOX during the Korean War. Russ returned to his petroleum engineering job following the end of his recall to duty.

Paul Stout, QM-2 – WWII sailor still lives in Senath, MO. His last reunion attended was 2008.

William Foley, BM, COX – lives in West Roxbury, MA. We can reach William through his son, Kevin.

Hank Huber, LTjg – Hank donated his 1952 diary to the Reunion Association; it joins several other diaries we publish. Hank's diary is the only Korean War record of daily life we have so far. Thanks Hank!! In one entry Hank writes about hitting a 30' whale (not the first or last time this happened to the KNOX. Another moment was a loose depth charge rolling around on the main deck aft. Hank's solution was to wrap a 1' line about his waist and tether the other end to three seamen. Hank then corralled the depth charge, and rode it, until the three sailors could help him stop the rolling charge and get it back into the depth charge rack. There are many more 1952 adventures he relates – these for another KNOX KNEWS. Hank is a retired Professor of Forestry at Michigan State University now living in a retirement community in East Lansing MI. He reunited with fellow shipmate Russ Judah, LCDR , at our 2019 Reunion in San Diego.



Bob Beachkofski, SKD-2



Judah & Huber at Mt. Soledad