

SEA STORIES



by Terry Elmeier,
TM1 (SS)
nickname: "Fudd"

The 'ol saying "Good friends don't let friends do stupid things . . . alone." Should be a line in the official Submarine Hymn. True, submarine sailors know that on a sub, it is an "all hands evolution," but who would have "thunk" it followed them off the boat too.

In the case of Terry Elmeier, then a TM₃(SS), he learned an important lesson about the buddy system. "Trouble comes in twos."

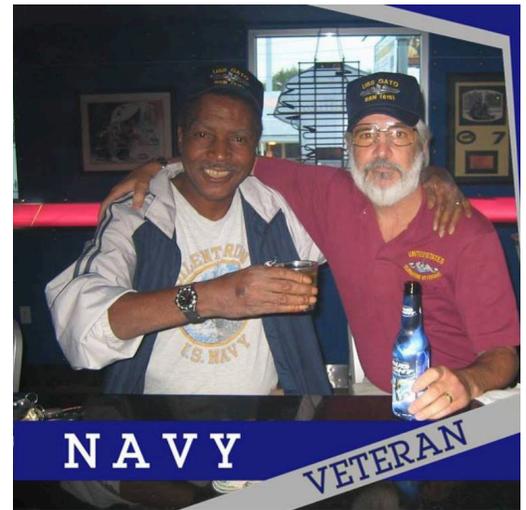


I re-enlisted in the Navy for MK-48 School, and then the 48-Shop in Hawaii. A year later here comes Andy!! The picture of us with the motorcycles was taken at the 48-Shop ballfield.

His partner in crime was TM₂(SS) Charles "Andy" Andrews, who qualified on the USS Haddo (SSN-604). He and Terry met and became best of buddies when they both served aboard the USS Gato (SSN-615).

"Me and my best buddy, Charles "Andy" Andrews," he tells, "were at the Sub Base in Groton, while the USS Gato was attached to the State Pier in New London. We were walking past the theatre on base, when an Ensign (who was not qualified) walked by us.

Andy whispered to me, "Don't salute this guy," so as the Ensign approached, we did not salute.



Andy (lt) and Fudd (rt) have remained "brothers" since they first met in 1973.

The Ensign said, "Hey, sailors! Don't you salute officers?"

Andy just looked him up and down and then calmly replied, "Well, not a non-qualified one." The Ensign's jaw dropped, and he just walked right on by us.

Andy and I had a good laugh about that one for many years!!

Good buddies sometimes don't get caught. On other occasions, however, Terry admits that they did get caught and faced the music— together, the buddy way.

*"If you have crazy friends,
you have everything."*

