

# The Western Centurion

May 2012

Golden West Chapter MOAA

P.O. Box 2522, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2522

Email the editor: [jtcassidycurtis@att.net](mailto:jtcassidycurtis@att.net)



And now, a message from our Chapter President



LtCol Al LoSchiavo, USAF (ret) Chapter President

Last month we deservedly paid homage to the greatest generation.

This month I'd like to take the opportunity to pay homage to the next greatest generation. Today's military member. Things have changed radically since the end of the Vietnam war. Kevlar vests that protect our troops much better than fatigues. Drones that allow us to strike our enemy with pinpoint precision and impunity from thousands of miles away. Sea going carriers and aircraft that can bring the war home to our enemies from anywhere in the world. Battlefield medicine that, while not being able to prevent deaths, has greatly improved the ability of wounded troops to survive. Satellite reconnaissance that gives us the upper hand on the battlefield.

There have been so many changes in warfare and the American military since the end of Vietnam that if we were to enter the service today we might not recognize it. Sure the kids look just as fresh faced as they did in our day, the uniforms look pretty much the same but the similarities end there. Today's troops are better educated and more technologically savvy than their predecessors. They have become hardened by continuous rotations to combat zones. They are tough, smart and extremely well trained. May 18th is armed forces day and the end of May brings us Memorial day when we remember our war dead. On those days in particular let us, the past veterans, pay homage to today's troops. They deserve it.

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Albert LoSchiavo, USAF (ret)

**Coming chapter events.....**

**May 4th—CAPT Rich Abele, USN—Naval  
Archaeologist!**

**June 8th— Nancy Caruso** will tell us about her adventure retracing the route of Lewis & Clark from Pittsburgh to Astoria, OR—by boat!

**July 8th?** Luncheon with OC chapter

**August—optional OC Luncheon**

**September 14—Celtic Gold Irish Dancers**

**2012 GW Meeting Calendar**

<b>30 Apr Board</b>	<b>04 May Dinner</b>
<b>04 Jun Board</b>	<b>08 June Dinner</b>
<b>03 Jul Board</b>	<b>08 July OC Luncheon</b>
<b>13 Aug Board</b>	<b>07 Sept Dinner</b>
<b>08 Oct Board</b>	<b>14 Oct OC Luncheon</b>
<b>05 Nov Board</b>	<b>09 Nov Dinner</b>
<b>03 Dec Board</b>	<b>09 Dec Luncheon</b>

The **30 Apr (Monday) Board meeting** will be held at 7PM at LtCol LoSchiavo's home—

**6551 Segovia Circle, Huntington Beach.**

Home phone is **714-842-9433**

If you need directions, just call!

All are invited!.

May's topic will be "The Search for the USS Grunion (SS-216)" - a Gato class submarine lost in the Aleutians in mid-1942, presented by Rich Abel. The Grunion was commanded by LCDR Mannert L. Abele USN, a cousin of Rich's. Rich Abel was on the expedition in 2007 that searched for, and found the sunken submarine.

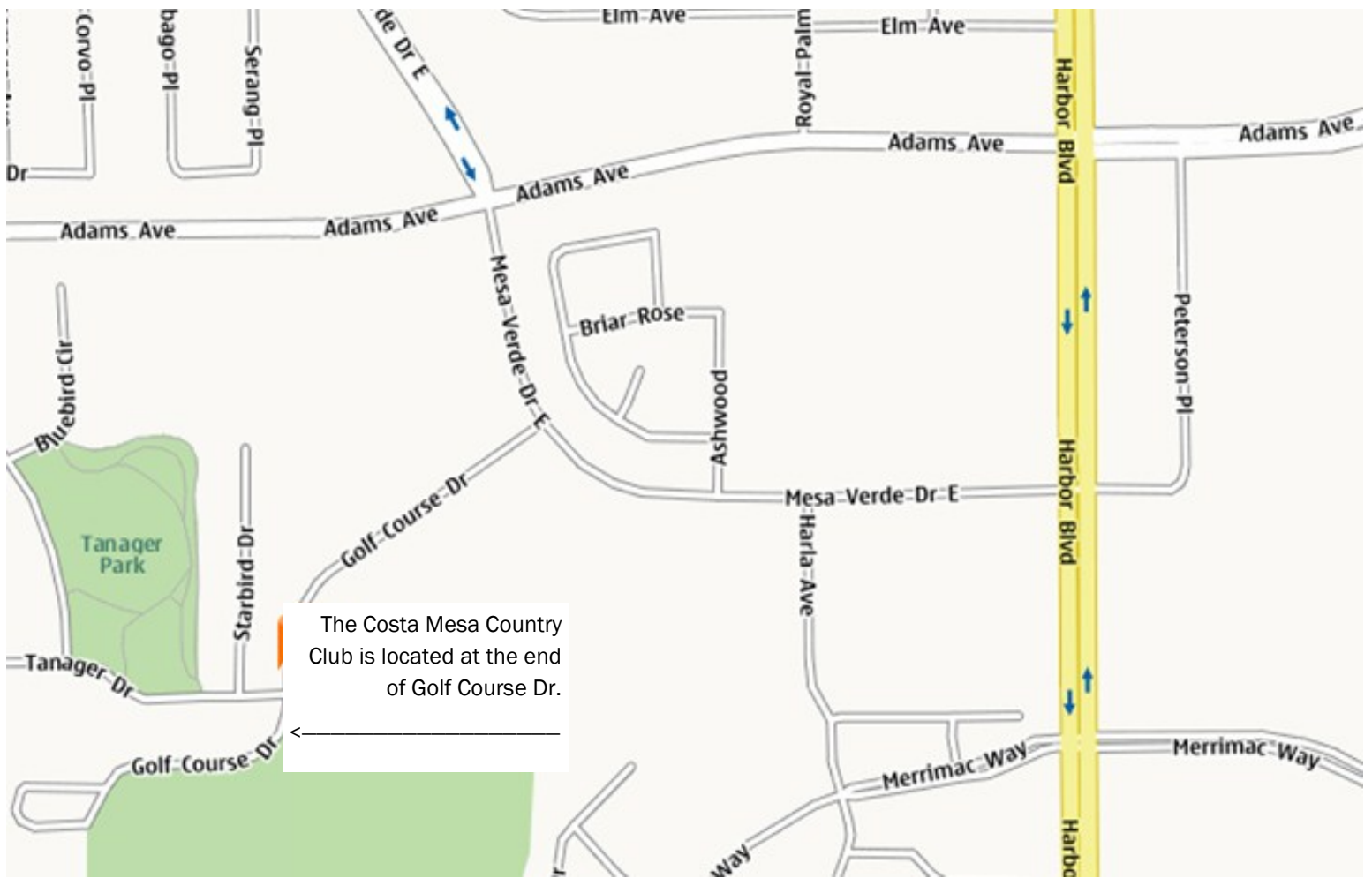
Please see a brief description of the Gato Class submarine, on page 9 and a picture on page 10, both courtesy of Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

**Rich Abele** is a former Contracts and Export Compliance professional who supported various military aircraft production programs including the B-1B Lancer bomber and the C-17 airlifter at Rockwell International Corporation and most recently The Boeing Company in Long Beach, CA. He retired in 2005 after 32 years of service.

Rich also served in the US Navy which included two tours of duty in the Vietnam. He retired in 1995 following 32 years of service in the Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain.

An avid outdoor adventurer and former marathoner, Rich has traveled to and run on all seven continents and continues to trek, explore and mountain climb on many remote and distant lands. His recent trips include trekking in Greenland, reaching the North Pole on a Russian icebreaker, touring Easter and the Galapagos Islands, and visiting the South Pole.

When not traveling, Rich is active in the BLM's Adopt-a-Cabin Program in the Panamint and Argus Ranges near Death Valley.



GWC meeting location at the Costa Mesa Country club using the map above:

Exit Harbor Blvd South from the 405.

One point one miles south on Harbor.

Turn right on Adams.

Turn left on Mesa Verde Dr. Golf Course Drive is about two blocks (.14 miles) and tees on the right.

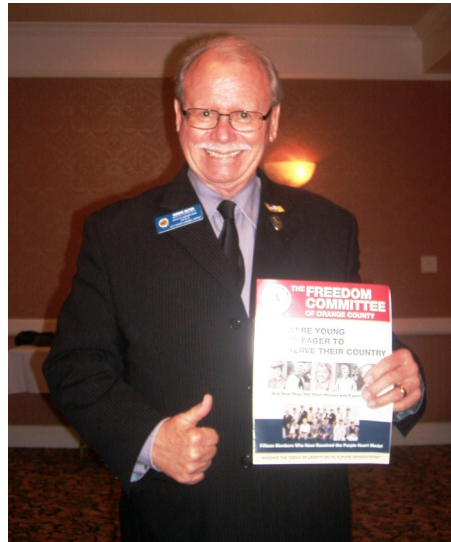
The Golf Course is about one quarter mile on. Go right in & find a parking spot. The Club is the largest building near the parking lot.

**From the South:** Mesa Verde Dr. is about a quarter mile past Merrimac Way, one (1) mile north of West Wilson St., a bit less than one and a quarter (1 1/4) mile north of West Wilson St., and two (2) miles north of where it tees at Newport Blvd.

Photographic Evidence From Previous Meetings: In Case Somebody Accuses Us Of Having Fun ... (We did!)



Assemblyman Jim Silva and his wife, Connie



Mr. Ronnie Guyer



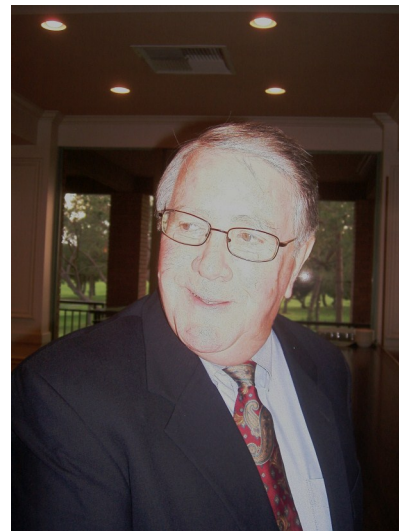
LoSchiavo, Perry, Rasch



Catherine Rasch



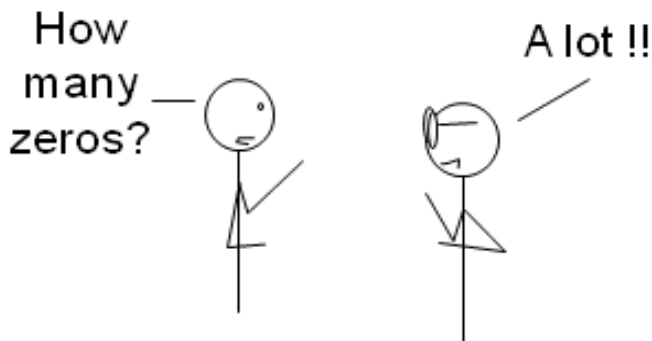
Angelica Sage and Jack Hammett



Hannis Hudson

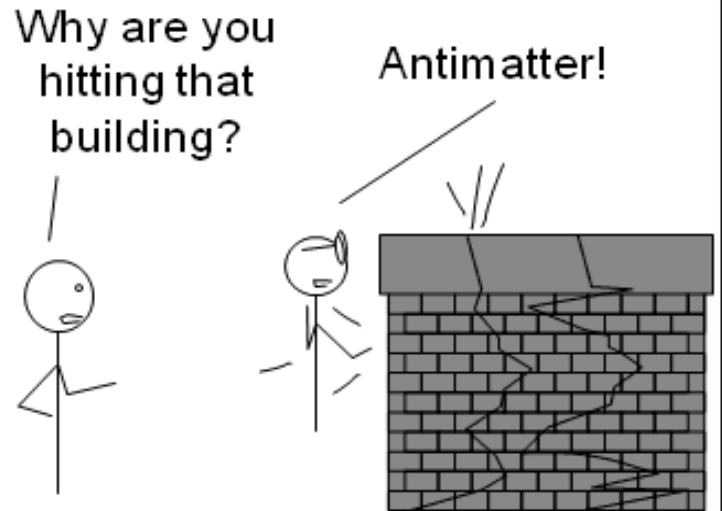
# HOW TO USE ANTIMATTER TO DESTROY A CITY

**STEP ONE:** CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT MUST BE SPENT TO CREATE THE MASS OF ANTIMATTER NEEDED TO DESTROY A SELECTED CITY.



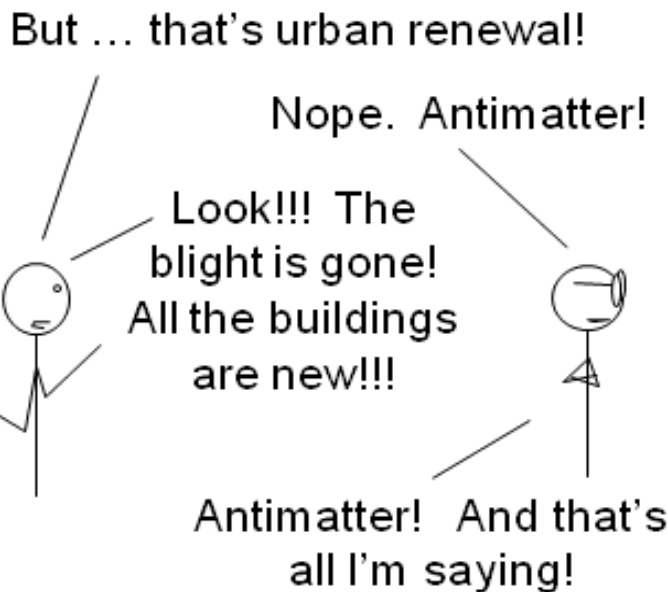
**STEP TWO:** GIVE THIS MONEY TO THAT CITY & ASK THEM TO DESTROY IT.

TELL THEM THAT, IF ANYBODY ASKES, THE ANSWER MUST BE "ANTIMATTER."



**STEP THREE:** OBSERVE DESTRUCTION OF CITY, "BECAUSE OF ANTIMATTER." SUBSEQUENT OBSERVATIONS OF REBUILDING ARE NOT RELEVANT.

*THIS PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY PEOPLE WHO WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT DESTROYING CITIES WITH ANTIMATTER ... AND LAUGH BECAUSE IT'S STUPID!*



## Editor's Commentary

By Tim Cassidy-Curtis, Lt Col, USAFR (ret)

By now, many of you will see some changes in the Chapter Newsletter. I included a map along with directions. Also, I have written a short story; it was supposed to be just one page, but I also wanted it in type large enough to be read. Finally, you have the first Sticky Wicket comic ever published! This comic is my own creation and is hand-drawn (OK, I use Power Point).

All of this is because I want this newsletter to be something interesting; something you actually want to read. Admittedly, it's a bit strange. After all, a science fiction story? Well, fine, it's got a military setting. And, a comic strip? Since when do we put comic strips into our newsletters?! Well, I wanted to try it out. After all, if you open your newsletter and maybe get a chuckle out of it, then maybe you won't chuck your newsletter.

I would like to make one more change. Would you like to write into the newsletter? Maybe something that our Chapter President said in his commentary has something to which you would like to respond. Maybe you hate my story. Maybe you just want to blow off some steam. I will welcome any and all letters to the Editor, and I will print as many as I think will fit (and are fit to print). Letters will appear in the June Newsletter. Deadline is one week prior to the Board Meeting.

I will gladly accept your comments and opinions on all the changes I have made in the newsletter, positive and negative. Hopefully, I will be publishing a newsletter that is more fun to read, and one you will, in the future, look forward to receiving. After all, you pay good money for your membership. You should get good value in return.

Or, at least a good laugh.



Major Jamie Cassidy-Curtis,  
and Lt Col Tim Cassidy-Curtis

### Welcome Aboard, Admiral!

A 55-Word Flash Fiction Story, By Tim Cassidy-Curtis

1800 personnel; 200 officers, 1600 enlisted, onboard two starships in the 30<sup>th</sup> Century, patrolling the boondocks of space; I'm now their Adjudicator (no command authority), a five-star. They looked like they were getting a medal.

I sighed.

The problem? It's a one-star assignment.

Some career advice; don't let your office door hit the Emperor's nose.

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### The 55-Word Flash Fiction Format:

This format is defined by a body that is 55 words long; no more and no less. It must be a story, so there has to be a person, a situation and a resolution. The title can be 7 words or less.

2012 Membership Form Golden West Chapter, Military Officer's Association of America

Circle all that apply: Regular Member    Auxiliary Member    Honorary Member    Contributor

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_.

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_.

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ . Anniversary Month \_\_\_\_\_.

City and State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_.

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_.

E Mail:

Special Skills: computer, secretarial, speaking . journalism etc.

Average Hours /Week available to support MOAA activities \_\_\_\_\_ .

Able to phone potential members during recruiting drives ? Yes ' No

Can provide rides to other members? Yes / No

Current, retired and former officers and warrant officers of the seven uniformed services, including Guard and Reserve, are eligible for chapter membership. Widows, widowers, and former spouses holding DOD dependent ID cards are eligible for auxiliary membership. Chapter dues are separate from National dues, and support Golden West chapter activities.

Dues Amount—Regular Member/Dual Military Couple—\$25    Auxiliary Member—\$12.50

Honorary Member / Contributor—no dues, contributions optional.

Make check payable to GWC MOAA, and mail with this page to

LtCol Albert LoSchiavo 6551 Segovia Circle Huntington Beach, CA 92647-6643

Please notify us of any change in postal or email address

**Golden West Dinner Reservation—Friday May 4th, 2012**

**Doors open at 6PM, dinner at 7, program follows**

**Costa Mesa Country Club, 1701 Golf Course Drive, Costa Mesa**

**Dinner :**

**Garden Salad (Honey Mustard and Italian Dressing)**

**Sliced New York Strip with Bordelaise Sauce**

**Au Gratin potatoes**

**Fresh Seasonal Vegetables**

**Rolls and Butter**

**Chocolate Cake, Coffee and Ice Tea**

**Dinner - \$25 per person**

**Reservations, please! To: Terry Schnitzer—call her with your reservation and entrée preference so we have enough seats and meals ready! 714 964-1408**

**Cash or Check at the door of course—sorry, no credit cards.**

# The Gato Class Submarine

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The United States Navy Gato class submarine formed the core of the submarine service that was largely responsible for the destruction of the Japanese merchant marine and a large portion of the Imperial Japanese Navy in World War II. Named after the first vessel of this design, USS Gato, the Gato class and its successors, the Balao and Tench classes, formed the majority of the United States Navy's WWII submarine fleet.[4] Gato's name comes from a species of small catshark. Like most other U.S. Navy submarines of the period, the Gato class were given the names of ma-

## **Birthdays:**

### **Members**

**LtCol Timothy Cassidy-Curtis, USAF**

**LtCol Harry Fornwalt, USAF**

**Maj James Townsend, USAF**

**LtCol Leonard Venen, USAF**

**LtCol Melvin Wessell, USAF**

### **Auxiliaries**

**Martha Pine**

## **Spouses**

***Anna Davis***

***Lynn Perry***

***Angela Ramirez***

***Barbara Siegel***

## **Anniversaries:**

**Karen and Allan Thompson**

**Michelle and Fred Wagner**

Taps-

A Gato Class Submarine. Picture courtesy of Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.



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Military Officers Association of America

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Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2522

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