

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 02, No. 01 - January, 2014

The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star



From the Editors: We begin the new year for our Society and our newsletter. Along with the newsletter, we are attaching another pastiche written by Jack Brazos III and provided to us by his literary agent, Marland Henderson, titled THE CASE OF THE ARTISTIC MURDER. We also have a wonderful observation from Ron Lies, Denver CO fellow Sherlockian.

Don, Steve, & Joe

February 2, 2014 Meeting

The next meeting (and future meetings) will be held on Sunday, February 2nd, at **LA MADELINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison. The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

Following Baring-Gould's **Chronology of the Canon, "The Reigate Puzzle,"** will be discussed (see page 4). A quiz on the reading will be conducted at the beginning of the meeting.

We will also have a presentation on the peerage system in Great Britain.

Each monthly meeting will also include appropriate toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

January, 2014 Meeting

The last meeting was held on January 5, with 18 members in attendance. The opening toast was presented by Don Hobbs, BSI, who toasted the Master himself, as January is his celebrated birthday (see page 2).

The monthly quiz covered the story of the month, "The Adventure of the Second Stain." Ron Brackin and Louis Mitchell won the contest.

Steve Mason led a discussion on which Prime Minister was portrayed by Lord Bellingier in the story (was it Disraeli, Lord Salisbury, or Gladstone?)

Ron provided insights into the life and trial of Dr. Sam Sheppard, who his family knew in Ohio. Dr. Sheppard's case was highlighted in the PBS special, "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World."

We all watched the prequel issued by the BBC as a teaser to the 1st episode of the 3rd year of Sherlock, which premiered on the BBC on January 1.

Joe Fay provided information on Eduardo Lucas and who he was potentially named for – E.V. (Edward Lucas), a cricket teammate of Doyle.

We discussed the latest on the judge's decision concerning the Doyle estate copyrights. Additionally, Mr. Peter Blau provided us information on upcoming stage plays in the Dallas area. Several of us were entertained last month at the play "The Game's Afoot," at the Addison WaterTower Theatre.

Brandi Boddie gave the final toast to Hilda Hope, the brave and faithful wife in the "Second Stain," (see page 2).

A final reading from the Baker Street Journal on "Remember it Well" closed out the meeting (see page 3).



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://barquelonestar.com/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar



You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>



THE OPENING TOAST

Don Hobbs, BSI

We are gathered here today, from various socio-economic backgrounds, and vast differences in age, but we are all friends woven from the same thread. That thread completes a tapestry more complex than any found in museums around the globe.



The thread I speak of is course, Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlock the meddler, Sherlock the crime solver, user of ratiocination, Sherlock the friend, the brother, and in some circles, red or otherwise, the husband, will celebrate his one hundred and sixtieth birthday tomorrow, January 6.

Although retired, raising bees in the Sussex Downs, he is experiencing a new golden age of popularity.

There are TV specials about him, TV shows on both sides of the Atlantic; plays, touring exhibits and movies.

The season premiere of "Sherlock" on January 1st was the most watched show in BBC history.



Some of us here are new to the game, and others are seasoned campaigners, but regardless of our tenure, we are here to celebrate the Master.

So without further ado, let's raise our glasses and toast the world's first consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes.

THE CLOSING TOAST

Brandi Boddie

I would like to pay homage to a notable lady from the Holmes canon. Although her appearance is reserved to one case, Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope deserves recognition as one of the few female characters who earned the mutual respect—dare I say, admiration—of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.



When we first meet Lady Hilda, the noble wife of European Secretary Trelawney Hope, we immediately see through Watson's eyes that she is no ordinary woman. Beautiful, graceful in movement, of queenly bearing, her presence is striking. Yet it is her reason for coming to 221b Baker Street that makes us take deeper notice. She is passionate and driven in her quest to know what sent her husband to Holmes, asking for help.



It then becomes obvious, as we learn later in the matter, that Lady Hilda is not so much concerned for her own indiscretion as she is for its potential repercussions on her husband's feelings and political career.

Regarding Lady Hilda's visit, Holmes remarks that "the motives of women are so inscrutable". Some people may interpret that as being misogynistic, especially when he goes on to mention things like hairpins and curling tongs, but I see it as Holmes' Victorian way of acknowledging her complexity. If we take away the stereotypical accoutrements associated with Lady Hilda's station, we find that she is an intelligent and faithful partner to her husband, one who would readily help him uphold his political station or remain by his side even if all should fail.

For this I ask you to please join me in toasting Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope.

Lots of Theater Upcoming in Texas

- Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at will be performed at the Dallas Theater Center, Apr. 25 to May 25 www.dallastheatercenter.org
- Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, May 16-24 www.fumcdal.org
- Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Sept. 11-27. Plano www.roverdramawerks.com

“Remember It Well” – Winter, 2013, Baker Street Journal

The Sherlockian year was a busy one in 2013.

Elementary, with Lucy Liu as its gender-swapped Watson played out its first season and offered those who know their Canon many small presents.

Sherlock filmed its eagerly awaited third series.

Robert Downey Jr. appears to be making a third appearance as Holmes.

Sherlockian gatherings – both conferences and cons – were held everywhere, and all were well attended.

It was also a year of extreme partisan excitement and unpleasantness.

Attacks were made on “new Sherlockians.”

As the Sherlockian world exists solely as a monument to one of the great friendships of literature, this was particularly unsettling.

To become a Sherlockian is not to subscribe to a creed or to swear allegiance to a nation.

It matters little how one reaches Baker Street so long as well play the same game.

As the year draws to a close, let us hope that feelings of friendship and mutual respect draw our – let’s face it – very small world together once more.

Meet a North Texas Man With A Huge Sherlock Holmes Collection

Good Morning Texas, a local news program on the ABC affiliate in Dallas, has ran a segment discussing the foreign edition collection of Sherlock Holmes, featuring none other than our own Don Hobbs, BSI (“Inspector Lestrade”).



For those who would like to watch the segment, you can check it out at:

<http://www.wfaa.com/good-morning-texas/Meet-a-North-Texas-Man-With-A-Huge-Sherlock-Holmes-Collection-239080481.html>

We hear there is Oscar buzz surrounding the appearance.

FUNKY WINKERBEAN



Seventeen Steps to the Reigate Squires

WHO CARES ABOUT THE REIGATE SQUIRES?

Reading this week's tale is a bit like going to a matinee of "Plan 9 From Outer Space" and getting a preview for "Return of the Jedi" first. Who wants to sit through Grade "B" material when your tastes have just been tempted by the epic adventure?

Watson gives us an excuse, of course: "The whole question of the Netherland-Sumatra Company and of the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis are too recent in the minds of the public, and are too intimately concerned with politics and finance to be fitting subjects for this series of sketches."

But is that the real reason, or is Watson just skipping it because he wasn't involved in the Maupertuis matter, leaving us to settle with the Reigate mischief, in which he was present? Is there any reason we should believe his excuses?

THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

In the opening, Watson refers to Holmes's "lifelong battle against crime." Should readers of the Strand in 1893 have taken this as an omen Holmes's life was going to end while fighting crime? Watson plainly knew such was the case when he wrote this tale, but what of Watson's Literary Agent? (Of course, later we all learn Holmes didn't really die and eventually retired to Sussex . . . so much for the "lifelong" battle.)

ALMOST A THOUSAND MAN-HOURS OF WHAT?

Holmes spent a good deal of time on the Maupertuis matter: "Even his iron constitution, however, had broken down under the strain of an investigation which had extended over two months, during which period he had never worked less than fifteen hours a day and had more than once, as he assured me, kept to his task for five days at a stretch."

We know how Holmes handles his cases. We have a pretty good idea as to his methods. If you do the math on the statement above, roughly fifty days times fifteen hours, added to ten days at twenty-four hours, you get a minimum of 990 hours spent on the case. What was Holmes doing for all that time? Broken into forty hour work weeks, that would be about six months of on-the-job time -- a lot of hours in any profession. (Hopefully he was well paid!) Was it all investigation, setting traps, or what?

DR. WATSON TO THE RESCUE

"I found him a prey to the blackest depression," Watson diagnoses Holmes's condition. "Even the knowledge he had succeeded where the police of three countries had failed, and he had outmaneuvered at every point the most accomplished swindler in Europe, was insufficient to rouse him from his nervous prostration."

For Sherlock Holmes not to take some happiness in beating Europe's greatest swindling mind means things were pretty bad. Yet under Watson's care we find, "Three days later we were back in Baker Street together."

What did Watson do for Holmes to get him in shape to travel? Were drugs involved, or was cocaine usage (to keep Holmes working all those hours) a part of the reason for Holmes's breakdown to begin with?

DR. WATSON'S OTHER PATIENT

Watson writes of "my old friend, Colonel Hayter, who had come under my professional care in Afghanistan." We have discussed Watson's time in Afghanistan, and how most of it was spent sick and wounded. When did Watson have time to take on Hayter as a patient? Was Hayter also a survivor of the battle of Maiwand?

COLONEL HAYTER'S WEAPONS COLLECTION

"Hayter and I looked over his little armory of Eastern weapons."

What sort of weapons would we expect to be in such an armory? A Jezail musket? And at least one pistol, as the Colonel takes it to bed with him. Why the fascination for Eastern weapons by a man who was wounded with one at some time, requiring the care of Watson? Where were "Eastern weapons" being made, and how many varieties were there?

METHINKS ACTON JUST MISPLACED THE TWINE

"The whole place was turned upside down, drawers burst open, and presses ransacked, with the result an odd volume of Pope's Homer, two plated candlesticks, an ivory letter-weight, a small oak barometer, and a ball of twine are all that have vanished."

It has always amazed me such an exact list could be made up from the ruins of old Acton's library. With the whole place turned upside down, drawers and presses emptied, how long might it take to discover a single book was missing? Plated candlesticks, an ivory letter-weight... those were probably fairly unique in a library and easily missed (as well as the sort of objects to attract thieves). But a single book among hundreds? And a ball of twine? Who would look through the ruins of their library and cry "They took my twine!?" Was Acton really a book-lover, or was this just a library for show?

THE BURGLARY NOBODY CARED ABOUT

Even lying on the sofa at Hayter's, Sherlock Holmes can spot a phoney burglary: "The county police ought to make something of that. Why, it is surely obvious that-- --"

At that point Watson cuts him off. Watson and Hayter start talking about something else, and Holmes's ideas

are completely ignored. If Colonel Hayter was concerned enough about the burglary to be taking a gun to bed with him, wouldn't he have been interested to hear Holmes's thoughts on the matter? And why does Watson show so little care for a crime going unsolved? Simply letting Holmes voice his thoughts wouldn't tax the detective too much, would it?

Or was Holmes in such bad shape at this point no one was taking him seriously? Was Watson enjoying having Holmes under his control?

TAKING THAT GUN TO BED

Colonel Hayter decides, at the last minute, to take a gun to bed with him because of a burglary a full week before. (How do we know it's a full week? Wait for Chronology Corner.) Wouldn't he have the pistol already in his bedroom at that point, so long after the crime? Or is Holmes really acting crazy, as is remarked upon later, and Hayter thinks he might be better off with a gun to protect him from his house guests?

THAT FAMOUS STREET

The smart young Inspector Forrester enters with the words: "I hope I don't intrude, but we hear that Mr. Holmes of Baker Street is here."

Not "Mr. Sherlock Holmes" or "Mr. Holmes of London." Was one's street a common way to identify someone in those days, or did Holmes's fame as "the detective at 221B Baker Street" make the address a part of his identity? At what point does an address become part of a person's name, and how important is Baker Street to Holmes's identity? While there is (or was, until people started naming babies after him) only one Sherlock Holmes, we see things like Baring-Gould's book "Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street" all the time. Would he be the same without it?

RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY

Was Mother Kirwan really as bad off as Forrester thinks she is? "She is

very old and deaf, and we can get no information from her. The shock has made her half-witted, but I understand she was never very bright." Holmes later says she's old and feeble, and unable to give them much information, but one still has to wonder: Was Mama Kirwan just uncooperative with the smart young Scotland Yard man, resulting in his insulting opinion of her? Did Holmes actually have better luck with her, even though no case-breaking news was gotten from her?

HOPEFULLY HE WASN'T MAILING PIPS

Old Cunningham keeps a bowl of oranges and a carafe of water at the foot of his bed. Was this most likely for breakfast, a late-night snack, or what? And where did these oranges most likely come from? In modern America, we're used to California and Florida oranges, but where did Britain get its citrus in those days?

ACTON VERSUS CUNNINGHAM

"I have the clearest claim upon half of their present estate," old Acton says of the Cunningham's land, yet gives no details as to why. It all seems, to hinge upon a single paper. What might this paper have been, giving Acton "the clearest claim" to so much land, when the usual deeds undoubtedly read otherwise?

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Covering up a late-night murder with no outside witnesses is one thing, but throttling a man to death in a house full of policemen is something else entirely. Did the Cunninghams have any hope whatsoever of getting away with the murder of Sherlock Holmes, had they actually managed to silence and strangle him? It seems to have been an entirely spontaneous attack, with no thought given to it at all, but did the father and son stand any chance of getting away with both murders if they had killed Holmes?

HIS EMPLOYERS'S HANDWRITING
Wouldn't William Kirwan have recognized the handwriting of his employers, even if they were alternating words? Did he go to that appointment knowing full well it was they who wrote it, like an obedient servant? (Although obedient servants hardly blackmail their employers.)

THE KIRWAN-MORRISON RELATIONSHIP

What might we deduce from what little clues we have about the William Kirwan - Annie Morrison relationship? The writer of the note promises information which will both surprise Kirwan and be of the greatest service to both he and Morrison. Is the implication Kirwan is going to be told Annie Morrison has some affection for him, and this surprising truth will do them the great service of bringing them together? Or are the two already a couple, and the surprise might be something that will aid them in their future together?

ANOTHER WATSON PROMISE UNFULFILLED . . . OR IS IT?

When all is said and done in this tale, one looks back at the opening and finds the description of the Reigate case as, "a singular and complex problem which gave my friend an opportunity of demonstrating the value of a fresh weapon among the many with which he waged his lifelong battle against crime."

In the past, I've taken this to mean the feigning of illness, or falling faint as a ruse. This case also features the trick where Holmes writes a flawed note for approval by the suspect, then lets the suspect correct it to gain a handwriting sample. Was one of these two the "fresh weapon"? Or was it something else in this tale? Or an outright lie on Watson's part?

An Observation

Ron Lies

Recently, there were two letters exchanged on line about who is a a Sherlockian. We have always had a healthy exchange of different ideas.

This discussion question has brought out responses that have caused hard feelings among some Sherlockians. This concerns me and I would like to share some thoughts I have about the Grand Game we play.

I was fortunate to meet and know John Bennett Shaw, who had the largest individual Sherlockian collection in the United States and was one of the kindest, most decent human beings I had the pleasure to know.

In my too few visits by letter and in person, we discussed all things Sherlockian. The following points are concepts I took away from my conversations with John Bennett.

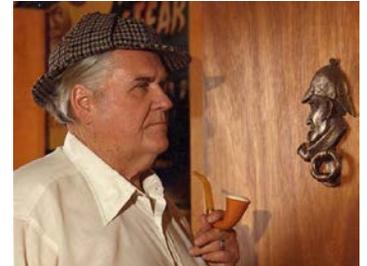
I try to base my Sherlockian actions on these points.

1. If you have one of a Sherlockian collectible, you gloat. If you have two, you share.
2. A Sherlockian is anyone who has read a Sherlock Holmes story (preferably a story from the Canon) and tries to find more.
3. A Sherlockian is some one who has watched a Sherlock Holmes movie, television program or play and who tries to find more.
4. A Sherlockian is one who listened to a Sherlockian radio show, tape or cassette and tries to find more.

5. We should treat a Sherlockian's opinion with respect even if that opinion is wrong since it disagrees with yours (ha).

6. The most important rule is, if you are having fun, do it. If you are not having fun, do not do it.

I wish you all could have met John Bennett Shaw. He was a Sherlockian and human being of the finest kind. These then are my thoughts.



I am afraid we are losing some of the fun in and respect for each other's point of view that John mentioned we should have. We each have our own favourite Sherlock Holmes and his world.

I am a traditionalist. My Sherlock Holmes is that of the Canon and of the world of 1887. The actor who portrayed my quintessential Holmes is Peter Cushing in his portrayal of Holmes in the 1968 BBC television series.

I am sure there are others who will disagree with me. I look forward to discussing my beliefs with you whether you are Brett supporters or the new wave of Cumberbatch supporters from the BBC Series "Sherlock" which updates Holmes to modern times.

All I ask is you treat my beliefs with the same respect and courtesy I will treat yours.

Greetings of the Season to all my Sherlockian friends and those friends I have not yet met.

Ron in Denver

So True:

Every time someone watches a reality show on T.V., somewhere a book commits suicide !!!

A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

Josiah Baker

(Second of Several Parts)

As we consider Thanksgiving and look forward to Christmas, we reflect upon the Sherlockian debt we owe to Christopher Morley.

He has done much more than most to promote light-hearted humour and fun among Sherlockians.

Christopher Morley and his pals had their own special way of "keeping the memory green," and they reveled with gusto in doing it.

Mr. Morley set the attitude and the pace in poking fun at the never-to-be-taken-too-seriously Canon and its priesthood.

And, of course, Morley was, himself, one of the front-line, fun-poked-at high priests.

He mastered that first principle of affability: take nothing

too seriously, neither yourself nor others.

The Standard Doyle Company by Steven Rothman (Fordham Univ. Press 1990 – ISBN 0-8231-1292-0), available from abebooks.com and amazon.com, is a delightful anthology which has captured the spirit of the movement and the essence of the man.

It abounds with examples of Morley's zestful humour and his joie de vivre.

The title of the book, The Standard Doyle Company, was taken from Morley's playful, personal pun by which he referred to that outgrowth of the Three-Hours-For-Lunch Club which we now know as "The Baker Street Irregulars." (If it was Mr. Morley's

first-choice name for the organization, he was either voted down or persuaded down).

From his desk as editor of The Saturday Review of Literature and, also, wielding his pen along the avenues of The Bowling Green, Christopher Morley was able to stimulate some of the superior intellects of the time to join him in his rollicking frolics and his mischievous good sport as he and the others involved themselves in matters concerning the Great Detector.

Respectfully, Inspector Baynes, of the Surrey Constabulary.

(To be continued and concluded at Part 3)

The Best Sherlock Holmes Joke of All Time

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip.

After a good meal and a bottle of wine they lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend.

"Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

Holmes queried, "What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute.

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

"Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Holmes, what does it tell you?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent!"



(Answers to) Match all the John's, James', Joseph's, and Jephro's in the Canon

Not to mention John H. Watson himself... and sadly, there are more James and John's not mentioned here...

A	1. John Mason	Wisteria Lodge	P
B	2. Joseph Harrison	The Valley of Fear	OO
C	3. John Bull	Silver Blaze	BB
D	4. James Phillimore	Wisteria Lodge	N
E	5. James Ryder	The Hound of the Baskervilles	K
F	6. John Clayton	Shoscombe Old Place	A
G	7. James Dodd	The Blanched Soldier	PP
H	8. Joseph Strangerson	The Second Stain	Q
I	9. Sir James Damery	The Boscombe Valley Mystery	SS
J	10. Jephro Rucastle	The Blue Carbuncle	EE
K	11. John Barrymore	The Priory School	V
L	12. John Swain	The Red-Headed League	KK
M	13. Sir James Walter	A Study in Scarlet	H
N	14. John Warner	The Five Orange Pips	R
O	15. James Windibank	The Valley of Fear	MM
P	16. John Scott Eccles	The Three Garridebs	GG
Q	17. John Mitton	The Hound of the Baskervilles	QQ
R	18. John Openshaw	The Solitary Cyclist	X
S	19. James Desmond	Boscombe Valley Mystery	II
T	20. John Hopley Neligan	Yellow Face	Z
U	21. John Ferrier	The Sign of Four	HH
V	22. James Wilder	The Five Orange Pips	L
W	23. John Hector McFarlane	The Final Problem	FF
X	24. John Vincent Harden	A Case of Identity	O
Y	25. James Winter	The Crooked Man	NN
Z	26. John Hebron	The Norwood Builder	W
AA	27. James Smith	The Five Orange Pips	JJ
BB	28. John Straker	Hound of the Baskervilles	F
CC	29. James Armitage	The Illustrious Client	I
DD	30. John Horner	The Blue Carbuncle	E
EE	31. John Robinson	The Blanched Soldier	G
FF	32. James Moriarty	The Bruce-Partington Plans	M
GG	33. John Garrideb	The Five Orange Pips	LL
HH	34. John Sholto	The Naval Treaty	B
II	35. John Turner	A Study in Scarlet	U
JJ	36. James Calhoun	The Gloria Scott	CC
KK	37. John Clay	The Solitary Cyclist	AA
LL	38. Joseph Oppenshaw	The Problem of Thor Bridge	D
MM	39. John McMurdo	The Hound of the Baskervilles	S
NN	40. James Barclay	The Three Garridebs	Y
OO	41. John Douglas	The Copper Beeches	J
PP	42. Sir James Saunders	Black Peter	T
QQ	43. James Mortimer	His Last Bow	C
RR	44. John Rance	A Study in Scarlet	RR
SS	45. James McCarthy	The Blue Carbuncle	DD

Answers in Next Month's Newsletter

SHERLOCKWIZZ by Fannie Gross (from the July 1957 BSJ)

Can you identify ten characters of the Canon by the brief descriptions below? These are direct quotations.

1. A sturdy, middle-sized fellow, some thirty years of age, clean shaven, and sallow-skinned, with a bland, insinuating manner, and a pair of wonderfully sharp and penetrating gray eyes.	
2. He was a very tall, thin man, with a long nose like a beak, which jugged out between two keen, gray eyes, set closely together and sparkling brightly from behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.	
3. A big, swarthy fellow, with a formidable moustache, shading a cruel, thin-lipped mouth, and surmounted by a long, curved nose, like the beak of an eagle.	
4. He was a large man with rounded shoulders, a massive head, and a broad, intelligent face, sloping down to a pointed beard of grizzled brown.	
5. He was very fat, but had apparently at some time been much fatter, so that the skin hung about his face in loose pouches, like the cheeks of a bloodhound.	
6. She was a striking-looking woman, a little short and thick for symmetry, but with a beautiful olive complexion, large, dark Italian eyes, and a wealth of deep black hair.	
7. A slim, flame-like young woman with a pale, intense face, youthful, and yet so worn with sin and sorrow that one can read the terrible years which had left their leprous mark upon her.	
8. Her face had neither regularity of feature nor beauty of complexion, but her expression was sweet and amiable, and her large blue eyes were singularly spiritual and sympathetic.	
9. His face was lean and haggard, and the brown, parchment-like skin was drawn tightly over the projecting bones; his long, brown hair and beard were all flecked and dashed with white; his eyes were sunken in his head and burned with an unnatural luster.	
10. Her features and figure were those of a woman of thirty, but her hair was shot with premature gray, and her expression was weary and haggard.	

Answers here next month

Who dunnit:



Third Mate

Steve Mason

mason.steve@epa.gov

Helmsman

Joe Fay

joef@HA.com

Spiritual Advisors

Don Hobbs, BSI

221b@verizon.net

Jim Webb

jimrwebb@ix.netcom.com

Secretaries

Cindy Brown

Pam Mason