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LORSTA Kure Island

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Welcome to the new Reunion Hall format.

If you have any difficulties or problems with this new format, please [e-mail me](#).

Alert: Do you see an Era Table that should be removed? Please [e-mail me](#).

Table - 1940s

On 09/28/11 **Ray Rebmann** said:

Hi guys I have started a new LORSTA KURE ATOLL VETERANS GROUP

<http://community.coastguardchannel.com/group/uscg-lorsta-kure-atoll-veterans>

Table - 1950s

Table - 1960s

On 09/14/11 **Barbara Renstrom** said:

I am the widow of Eric 'Rick' Renstrom who served on Kure Island 1966-1967. He died suddenly at age 39 in 1984. His balls hang in my window to remember and honor him.

On 06/14/11 **Wilbur Figueira** said:

Arrived Kure Island as HM3P1 in Oct. 61. LTJG Bates was CO at the time and replace with LTJG McCann. While I was there DC2 Young and DC Striker Red Eye (don't remember his real name) built the original Biltmore in the Scaviola below the radar reflector. While I was there DC Young and LTJG Bates capsized the aluminum runabout on the way back from Sand Bar Island. Bates and Young were in the water several hours and had to be rescued. As a result Bates only left the ward room for food, became a recluse.

On 01/22/11 **Jay Silberman** said:

My name is Jay Silberman; I'm an environmental protection specialist in D14 (CEU Honolulu). I received the following e-mail from the Kure Refuge Mgr a couple of days ago after a storm, and I'd to get any feedback on it you could provide: 'I found a grave today or it might just be a hoax, I have never heard of any Coasties dieing here. The northwest side of Green island was eroded yesterday to the point that there are 8' cliffs in the sand dunes.

The grave fell out of the dune that is about 1/8 mile north of the pier. It was next to (or a part of) a 10'x10' cement block that was used to secure the guy wires for the LORAN antenna. The grave said 'RIP, Here Lies Don Owen, Born March 31, 1935, Died March 31 1961'. If this is not a hoax Don would have died on his 26th birthday. The writing was in cement that was pored into the top of a 55 gallon drum. There is a 55 gallon drum 10 feet away that is about to fall out of the dune. It is connected to the cement 'headstone' by a thick wire cable. I guess there could be a body inside the drum? Sorry if I am being dramatic, but it is a little creepy.' Please e-mail me at: Jay.S.Silberman@uscg.mil. Thanks. Jay

On 01/03/11 **Danny Kearns** said:

I was on Kure 65-66. I remember the monkey and the beach hut. I was there when they installed new guywires on the tower. I have pictures and some movies someplace. I'll see if I can find and post them.

On 11/03/08 **Bob Buwalda** said: I served aboard during **1967** and ...

Our crew enjoyed the Biltmore, thanks !! Do you remember the Chevy 4x4 pickup (the grey one) when decommissioned, it became a beach buggy. No body, just frame and engine. Still have my Reef Tramp Zippo also !

On 04/04/08 **Chatt Chapman** said: I served aboard during **1965** and ...

Our crew established the beach hut, which we called the Biltmore. The more wood we obtained from Midway deliveries, the more we built. A shipmate, Dave Carlton, created the Kure Island Reef Tramp logo, which became a patch and was ordered on Zippo lighters. The monkey, which came aboard during construction was named Jackson.

Table - 1970s

On 07/22/12 **Bill Thorpe** said:

I was on Kure Dec 1979 to Dec 1980 as an SN. Jan Freeman! I remember you! One of the best years of my life. The scuba was some of the best I have ever seen, and I dove all over the world. I still have my glass floats as well. I think I'll be buried with them. Best to all.

On 04/19/12 **Tommy Michael** said:

I was the bm1 on the island for 18 months, also Coast Guard rep on midway for 45 days 1975,1976, 1977. I read Duane book that he posted and told the hold story, fishing, drinking, boating, diving , and more drinking, do you have any pictures of the new years party 1976.

On 09/25/11 **Duane Keyes** said:

I was stationed on Kure Nov 1976 - Nov 1977. most interesting year of my life . . . stationed with LTjg JJ Kichner, LTjg Will Bailey, CWO Ken Henson, CWO Dombeck, SKC Tapio, MKC Parker, MKC Atwood, ETC Chappelle. ET1 Cooper, ET2 'Ski', ET3 Darden, ET3 Sweet, ET3 Jolley, ET3 Clark, ET3 Lamaack. BM1 Michael, SS3 Gilchrist, SS2 Valda, SS2

Delgado, MK3 Nichols, MK3 Mongluzzo, DC1 Woods, ET1 Bailey. non-rates: Dalke, Sheppard, Lindley, Seward, Barrone, Bragg, Young, Sutherland, and Roy (?). after 1 year at the Academy, I wanted to be in the 'real' CG, got orders for a 210 in FL, but the HM there went AWOL instead of going to Kure. detailer canceled my orders to the 210 and asked if I would go to Kure instead . . . took a USAF flight from Hono to Midway. there were manned fighter jets at the end of the runway on Midway (the Cold War was still going on). met MKC Parker. I wasn't much of a drinker then, so I'm sure I was a huge disappointment to him. took my 1st helo flight the next day to Kure. replaced HM3 Martin, don't remember where he went. best food of my life. had my first lobster there. landed in the middle of mating season for the gooney birds. water skied for the first (and only) time in my life. sailed on the little sunfishes and then on the hobie cat. raced the dolphins in the boston whaler. went fishing and caught a shark and a manta ray. volleyball every day and movies every night. Andy Mongeluzzo, a little italian from philadelphia, came aboard the same day we got the movie 'Rocky', so that's what we called him. spent \$1200 on stereo, trying to keep up with the ETs. about \$1000 more than I needed to. we got this strange 'box' from the Univ Hawaii. people asked me what it was . . . I said 'it's a v..c..r..'. what's that?, they asked. 'no idea', I replied. Elvis died that year. long hair, no hats, never saluted anyone for a year. I read 'lord of the flies' and 'on the beach' while I was there. scary. went scuba diving with JJ Jolley on the Hori Maru. scary. DC1 Woods and LTJg Bailey got drunk and got into a fistfight. BM1 and I broke it up. Woods was gone the next week. sitting on the beach you could look to the west and see tomorrow (we were almost on the intl dateline). this would play with your mind after 6 beers. the girls from Midway came over and spent a weekend with us once. before I got there, the crew found a torpedo from ww2. they drug it onto the island and were checking it out by the radio/engine room. the XO came out of the bldg and about had a heart attack. a navy demo team blew it up on the other side of the island. we found a 2nd one, out by the sand spit. this time we left it there, called the navy demo team, and they blew it up where we found it.. the next day the navy helo, with the demo team (and their leftover expolsives) caught fire (!) when they started their engine. they all 'abandoned ship' while we ran around in our tshirts & cutoffs & little fire extinguishers. finally the pilot ran back in and tripped the PKP system. one day our C-130 was coming in from barbers point. on board was a CAPT, who asked the pilot if he could land the plane, 'just like in the old days'. he came in a little short on the west end of the runway and bottomed her out. boy, were there a bunch of red faces that got off that plane. I was standing close enough to the officers when the 'real' pilot said to the CAPT, 'if you don't mind sir, I'll take her off when we depart ... ' one night during movie time, the navy helo came over, which was unusual. it was end of month and they needed some more flight time to get their flight pay that month. so they took about a dozen of us for a joy ride, doing loops and dips. pretty fun. both pilots were kicked out of the service the next month for smoking pot. one of our guys was kicked out of the CG for admitting he was gay. apparently I was the last to find out. skipper didn't tell me until he left on a special helo flight. I thought he was CGI, sent to spy on us. we had become good friends, I never said goodbye to him. he never 'hit' on anyone, always did his job as well as anyone else. I always thought of him when I argued against the military's anti-gay laws. after Kure: I was pretty gung-ho coast guard. so I thought I'd better ask for ship duty then, instead of when I reenlisted. went aboard a 210 out of San Pedro CA. made 2nd and discovered seasickness, thought I was gonna die. visited with CWO Henson in Klammath Falls OR on my way to my 210 in southern CA. we gave each other a big hug, as if to say, 'it wasn't a dream, after all'. life after the CG: went back to my old job, went to college, got married, had 2 kids, bought a house, got divorced, got married a 2nd time, got divorced a 2nd time. was a fireman for a short time. I work for Costco now, doing accounting. both my son and my niece are firefighters. my daughter married my son's best friend, he's an AF pilot. I had 3 strokes in one night 3 years ago. I'm one of the lucky ones. no muscle paralysis, no speech paralysis, just off work x 1 month. many are 'one & done'. I'm grateful every day when I wake up.

wish now I had stayed in for oh, 32 years. loved the travel, being part of an organization that helped people, meeting new people. I tend to forget the seasickness and remember the good times instead. I still have my glass floats and a saki bottle filled with Kure sand. good luck to all of you. drop me a line if you remember me. 'Doc'

On 07/21/11 **Bob David** said:

Hey Perry, You were gone before I came aboard Kure in December 1971. I remember going over to Midway for a weekend R&R, watching a softball game, bowling, and partying with one of the married couples at their place drinking Mai Tais all evening. Yahoo! It was such a thrill to come to an island that had 6,000 people and some 'civilization' on it after being on the little island with 22 for about six months... But I do cherish the time on our little atoll.

On 06/08/11 **Perry Bozarth** said:

I was the Coast Guard Rep, SK1 Bozarth attached to Kure from Jan. 71-July 72. I was stationed on Midway and delivered those Speakers, Amps and etc to the Island on Log flights from Midway twice weekly. This brings back alot of memories. Really enjoyed providing R&R to the Reef Tramps on those weekend jaunts to Midway. Ltjg. Joel Greenberg was CO who Succeeded Ltj Playforth I beleive. I was on Midway for 18 Months.

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On 03/08/11 **Curtis Lamaack** said:

I was on kure fron late june 76 to 77. curt watson left shortly after i got there. pete do you rember me?? i remember doc and the bomb squad. how about rocky?? tim?? lot of good times.

On 02/23/11 **Bob David** said:

What was the story with the dogs having to go? Bridget ... and Honey?

On 12/02/10 **Jerzy J. Kichner** said:

Good to see a lot of people I remember from Kure still kicking around. It was an experience I won't forget and I was hoping to get out there once again for a visit but they decommissioned it! As I understand Sig made it back to the US and spent his years in an around Baltimore with my friend Dale Hower who was CO at FFS. As you may remember, we had to get rid of the dogs and we sent them to FFS.

On 04/07/10 **Roy Williams** said:

This is for Frenchy: Man,am I a slacker or what??!! I've tried to call you after the New England flooding,and your home phone is no longer the 1 I have. Rory & I have been

preying that your old home has survived any flooding in the area!! Please call me-I'm still trucking,looking foe that retirement guru.Cell # 940 206 8571. Roy Williams(WILLY)

On 04/04/10 Roger Bobadilla said:

Hello, I served at Kure Island during 1973. I just read postings from John Larned and Gene Lewis. Gene, do you still have the led watch ? John, I remember some of the most awesome water ballon and shaving cream fights we all participated in during some of the hot afternoons. John you were a pretty good shot with the shaving cream. I remember Paul Weaver, Chief Charlie, Zoomie (my mentor on the 42 transmitter) and Gary....one of our diving buddies that got washed out to sea as Gene mentioned. Gary also got chased in to the Boston Whaler by a shark....that was a close one !! We all did participate in island rat control, brutal but necessary. Funny how we remember certain things. I will always remember Kure Island fondly. We all had kick butt stereo systems, but spent much time on the beaches and diving. One confession though....it was me and Dale that caught the 20 Goonie birds and put them in the Chief's beach house. This task wasn't easy. None of the birds were harmed though ! Sorry about that Chief Charlie !! We had a few too many beers. Steve Hudson, you were a man ahead of your time. We all enjoyed converging in your room. Inow work for a utility company as a Telecommunications technician. I am thankful to Uncle Sam for my electronics training. Best Regards, Roger Bobadilla

On 02/03/10 Pete Oneal said:

Curt!!! Wow, we could tell a few stories here couldn't we? The Hui Maru! Nuff said! Rebuilding the transmitters! And here's Thad! I'm doing great -- just moved to St Pete Florida supporting a VA contract down here. I hope you guys are OK! Anybody ever hear from Doc Martin?

On 02/03/10 Curt Watson said:

I got the plane at Kure Island fall of 1975, after ETC Pete O'Neal (retired) interrupted my cherry duty at LORSTA Nantucket by volunteering the both of us for Kure! I ran the transmitter building from Nov 75 until I left the fall of 76. I was on the radio watch when the milk flight reported a ship sunk on the reef. I was there when they brought in the WWII photo flash bomb out of the lagoon, but nothing surprised me as much as walking up on a member of Jacques Cousteau crew coming up from the beach. I still harbor resentment to the Cousteau crew for disturbing the seals! Sorry I don't recall many names, guys if you were there from 75 to 76 drop me a note. It would be good to hear from you. Lets see who can remember stories best not told! LOL

On 10/22/09 Thad Eack said:

I served on Kure from Oct.1975-Oct.1976 as XO/EMO and acting CO for six weeks. Lt. Bratton and Lt. Kichner were the CO's. I remember the bomb that was found in the lagoon and brought ashore and placed next to a top loading anchor by the signal building and we also had a medvac and a district inspection and probably a few more. I placed some pictures of Kure in the photo album. There is one picture of the crew at Christmas 1975. People that I remember are Chief Holland, Chief Hill, ET's Watson, O'Neal and Mcquire. I retired in 1980. I hope that your journey has been a good one and you are in good health. If you have a spare moment would like to hear from you, and God Bless

On 03/28/09 **Bob David** said: I served aboard during **1972** and ...
email in the last post is supposed to be bobdavidaz@yahoo.com

On 03/04/09 **Bob David** said: I served aboard during **1972** and ...
Remember all the stereos stacked to the ceilings in each of our quarters? We were four to a room when I was there, and it seemed like everyone had ordered a new stereo from the PX in Japan. I'm talking full-blown systems, BIG speakers (nice pieces of furniture, practically!), tape decks, phono players, amps... Then one guy would order an album from the record club. After he got his recording done he'd loan the LP to whoever else wanted to record it. First Napster?! :-). Hey Frank Diliberto - forgot you in my earlier post. Where are you? Have pictures in my album of you, Smitty (Denny Smith?), Garry Armstrong, Frank Rizzo. And the engineman (first class, I think) - but can't remember his name... Ralph, maybe? Bob David bobdaviiaz@yahoo.com

On 02/20/09 **Terry PuFahl** said: I served aboard during **1970/1971** and ...
I was station on Kure Jan70 to Jan 71 as a seaman. It was a good time for me. I met Bill Ferrary, Dick Steinback, John Griffin and others. Left there and went to gov. Island NY for SK school. There Ferrary took me around NY. From there I ended up in Ketchikan AK. Met my wife Sandy there. Wood like to here from Bill or eny of you. Its been about 10yrs since i loged on

On 12/01/08 **Bob David** said: I served aboard during **1972** and ...
I was on Kure from Dec 71 to Dec 72. Saw names on the 'archive' postings that I remember - Dennis Poteete, Frank Rizzo, Garry Armstrong, Doc Gary, Smitty. Saw others who were there at the same time but (sorry) I don't remember all your names...

On 10/24/08 **Jon Kempfer** said: I served aboard during **1978** and ...
What a year. Hate to say it, but won the New Year's Eve dance contest wtih DC2 Aguilar. Have some great pictures. I'll try and post them in the near future.

On 09/30/08 **Ron Smith** said: I served aboard during **75-76** and ...
I remeber some of names, foe, Jay Scanlon, Oneal, Cooper, Bailey, Chief Hill, Chief Walter, Ronnie the cook, Tonnison, Bratton?, Mac?,. Lots of good times. I remember the Hoimaru#5 ship that crashed on the reef. Love to chat.

On 06/17/08 **John Larned** said: I served aboard during **1975** and ...
Looking for old buddies from the glory days of Kure Island: Steve Hudson, John Vanhouten, Rick Sandate, Wayne Lunt, Paul Weaver, Ron Bass, Steve Galleta, Gary Robinson any of the chiefs --- are you out there?

On 03/22/08 **Roy Williams** said: I served aboard during **78** and ...
yo! reef rats.for isolated duty,at least it was'nt the frozen tundra! but was before females were part of crew.still have lots of fishballs,coral an stuff.loved scuba diving and comm.officer change as natives

Table - 1980s

On 06/06/12 **Jim Mahaffey** said:
Hey Eddy, SS1 was Steve Phifer (posted below).

On 01/09/12 **Eddy Arnold** said:
Jim, I remeber that, however i do not remeber the SS1's name

On 11/14/11 **Jim Mahaffey** said:
What do DJ, fishnets, and the tennis court have in common?

On 11/14/11 **Jim Mahaffey** said:
Anyone remember digging the hole for the satellite antenna and finding the mortar shell?
Then the crazy SS1 threw it into the bush?

On 11/14/11 **Jim Mahaffey** said:
Jim Mahaffey - ET3 at the time. Aug 85 - Aug 86. See a lot of names from days gone WAY
by.

On 01/14/11 **Eddy Arnold** said:
I was stationed on Kure in the mid-80's , Week,Jan,Ms Lee,Grier,Don Larrabee, and a
couple of the young ladies from NMFS. Had a good time on the lorsta. until it when to two
beers aday.

On 09/23/10 **Michelle Reddy** said:
Hi Jan! I was in the best shape of my life when I was on Kure--had to walk all the way
around the island at least every other day as quickly as possible to get the best census of
the seals. Would love to see any of the pics you have!

On 08/24/10 **Jan Freeman** said:
Hi. I was there twice mid '80-'81 and mid '85-'86. Michelle I have a lot of great pictures of
you and the other NMFS gang. We need to set up a reunion somewhere in the country for
all Kureites. Anyone want to help arrange it?

On 08/18/10 **Steve Phifer** said:
Greetings!! I was stationed at Kure from, 2/85 to 2/86 as the SS1. I retired in 2004. I still
have some memories and nightmares from my time on the rock. I'd love to hear from
others who survived our time together.

On 03/03/10 Michael Locati said:

Greetings!! I was stationed at Kure from, I believe it was 3/81 to 3/82. What an interesting place. Everyone used to call me 'Lurch' because I was so big. I, too, still have my fish balls that I collected over the months. I remember Chief Gore, who has posted on this board. I also remember Gail from Idaho. Bob Walters was the SK1. Bobby was the cook. Don't remember the Skippers name, but if any one from that time remembers, please post his name. Let's see, other names from my stay there. Ocean (showed him some bass GTR lines), Eddie Miller, Chris Reynolds, XO Tom Bergeron, Claude. If I missed anyone, sorry, that was so long ago. Well, hope to hear from some of those people sometime. My email is--michaellocati@yahoo.com

On 03/03/10 Michelle Reddy said:

I was the NMFS person there for 9 months in '85 and 7 months in '87 working on the Hawaiian monk seal program. Made some wonderful friends. It is the best job I ever had and the most beautiful place I ever lived. CG always came to help out when I asked. Any one out there when I was there?

On 09/16/09 Al O'Connell said:

hi all, i was there in 86; what an excellent place to have been. i do remeber a lot of the names i see, D.J., nick, jan,dave(mega), mark p, matt c and biggs. ive updated my info so feel free to email me anytime

On 06/16/09 Don Larrabee said:

Hi: I was there 85-86, Ya... I really like it while I was there, you must agree that after 4-5 months it's just heaven.....ya know I just can't be serious sometimes! But you really miss it later on. Still living in Orange County Calif, Send me an email. DJ

On 01/17/09 Keith Colbert said: I served aboard during **87-88** and ...

served 87/88 ,great times got to hit Lt in football,work out swim,volley-balletc. all my old friends e-mail me colbert

On 12/04/08 Scott Bigg said: I served aboard during **1987** and ...

I was HS2 on Kure in 1987. I left the Island in a hurry, and I apologize to those that may have effected. Kure was my favorite duty station of my 8 yr enlistment. I would love to go back for an extended period of time, I loved it there. Bob (ragman) Grier and Neida Bott are the people I'd like to hear from. If I were to go back, there would have to be some new directives--(1) Alcohol consumption has no limits, and (2) fraternization would be encouraged.

On 06/05/08 Gail Collins Marsh said: I served aboard during **1982** and ...

Was there 12/81 to 12/82 as a SN. For a girl from Idaho it was an experience of a lifetime! Still have all those glass balls and lots of memories! Was a great time and would love to go back (vacation only this time!) If you were there at the same time, I would love to hear from you!

Table - 1990s

Table - 2000s

Table - Chat