

**OLD Reunion Hall Table for:
LORSTA Sitkinak Island**

On 02/01/08 Glenn Cobb said:

I was there 1975-76 MK-3 Remember driving the back hoe off the road and in to the marsh on the way to the beach getting fire wood , and tubbing down the mountain, and working part time for the new people repairing the old ranch repairing fences and rounding up the cattle.

On 01/13/08 Peter Lawson said:

I managed to meet both the eighth and ninth crews (Feb 68 -Nov 68) by reporting aboard as CO early. Found the unit photo with everyone in dress blues with names and ratings taken in Nov 1968 for our Christmas card. If anyone is interested in a copy let me know. Then LTJG Peter Lawson

On 12/31/07 Nik Nahikian said:

Happy New Year: I have written up my recollections of my tour here and posted it at: loran-history.info. Look under the loran tales section. Nik Nahikian

On 11/04/07 Beardy said:

Did my year from Apr 71 to Mar 72 ! Was the FIRST Storekeeper stationed on Sitkinak Isl. SNSK Beardsworth. Finished last in my class at Governors island 69.9 avg. When I got there a BM1 from Texas named me Little Buck he was yep Big Buck! Made me a knife shef with name on it still got it. Was there with LTJG THOMAS LYNCH!! The best CO I ever met! We ripped his Acadamy Jersey off his back in touch football game he was pissed! Doc Chapman was corpman. Took care of Cue Ball my last 7 months. Skinned a seal on the beach that an Eagle picked out of ocean. Shot two holes in barracks with a 45 on runway . The Crazy Cook was Frank Esselman!

On 08/04/07 Bob Brann EN1 said:

Hi guys I was glad to find this room. I was on Sitkinak 1/66 to 1/67. It was an interesting yearIf you remember me give me a shout.

On 07/27/07 Bruce Blanchard said:

Hi all I had the pleasure of being in the island from June 67-68. Maid EN 3 there Had a lot of good times hope to hear from others from that crew.

On 05/19/07 Kelley Newell said:

Hello Sitkinak Brothers: Loran,c station 76-77 I remember Dave Monroe, is anybody else out their? Psycho Newell.

On 05/13/07 Jim Cliver said:

Hello all of you who had the same pleasure of an all expense paid vacation at a great little island called Sitkinak. I was stationed there 8/73 - 7/74 as an SNET/ET3. I remember Tim Shutes, Tom Kwasny, Chuck Hickey, Al Bambace, Scott Merrill, George Grove, Bob Gammel, Dave Pierce, Orion Winter, CPO Baker, CPO Aschenbrenner, Robert Ekler, Jerry Hinds and Dennis Regnerus. Believe or not I stayed in and retired in 92 from LorSta Tok. I still live here. Hope you are all doing well!!

On 02/10/07 Nik Nahikian said:

Hey Sitkinakers: check out this website: www.sitkinakcattlecompany.com/

On 02/09/07 Nik Nahikian said:

Strange coincidence...In 1959, while I was in the Air Force, I received a set of orders for duty at a AC&W (Radar) site on Sitkinak Island. These were cancelled when the command decision was to not complete the station. Instead I was sent to a radar station in Spain. 15 years later I was on Sitkinak!!!!!!! And from Sitkinak I went back to Spain (LorSta Estartit)

On 02/09/07 Nik Nahikian said:

Served there from Jan 72 – Jan 73. Was a ET1 and also was the salaried "ranch manager" for my last 6 months, One of my accomplishments was getting the horses moved from East Sitkinak Island to Sitkinak Island after we built the corral and log horse barn for them. I also arranged for saddles and bridles/reins to be "liberated" from the Navy morale stables on Base Kodiak so we could ride the horses. Reported aboard with and departed with ETC Bobby Harper, CS1 "Cookie" Ortega, and HM1 Dave Kavlic. The skipper was Lt jg Tom Lynch, who was relieved by Lt jg Dickerson, while the XO was CWO 2 Gene Mellot. His relief was CWO2 Duren. When I rotated from Sitkinak I went to LorSta Estartit, Spain. My year in Alaska was interesting, but I really would not want to do it again. I would be glad to hear from any and all who was there with me...

On 02/02/07 Russ Prior said:

I was there from 1969 to 1970 any body out there know me I was a SS2 then Drop me a line

On 10/20/06 Dave Munroe said:

I did 11 monthes and 16 days without leave. Closed the station down. Would have taken leave at 6 monthes, but they kept postponing the closure. Many memories of .25 cent rusty flavored Olympia beers at the Blue Ptarmigan. Movie nights. Wild camp outs at ' the Ranch' . Lots of muskeg. And of course the much anticipated mail plane. I did save alot of \$\$. Anyone out there remember?

On 10/10/06 Ray Midura said:

Mr. Vetzal, are you there?

On 08/30/06 Carl Vetzal said:

Just ran across this site. Brings back lots of memories. My year there was mid '65 to mid '66. I retired November 1972. Living in Melbourne, Fl. now.

On 08/27/06 dennis regnerus said:

was on sitkinak sept 73 - sept 74 . if you remember me drop a line at my new address

On 08/23/06 nelson g johnson said:

I SERVED AT SITKINAK IN MAY 72 TO APRIL 73CPO FARROW WAS MY CHIEF.I WAS EN3 JOHNSON.HOPE SOMEONE REMEMBERS

On 06/09/06 Ray Midura said:

Don and Lance: How are you guys doing after all these years? I was an ET2 on Sitkinak LORSTA in 1966. Some of the guys, as you probably remember, were Chief Hart, Pete Elkins, Richard Collier, Pat Sloan, Mr. Carl Vetzal, Brian Pickover, Yearall EN3, Dave Burt, Ross Fetner, Chief Hearn, Lt. Gil Goodman. I can't remember all the names. Getting old I guess. Do you guys recall any of these names? Drop me a line and let me know how you are doing. I'm retired now and living in the state of Maine.

On 03/24/06 Lance Stone said:

Don Ferguson I am having trouble with your email address. I will try again. email me at my address. We were on the island at the same time. Those pictures made me laugh out loud.

On 02/18/06 Don Ferguson said:

Well I was going to upload some pictures, but for some reason, it keeps giving me an error message. So I will have to try and figure out another way to display them I guess. If I have missed anyone, or anyone else would like to view these pictures, you can click on this link and it should take you there.

share.shutterfly.com/action/welcome?sid=0QbtmrNqzYsXPA

On 02/18/06 Don Ferguson said:

I have uploaded some pictures from my tour of duty. I don't remember a lot of the names, but if you were around from 3-18-66 to 3-18-67, you will probably recognize a few faces. Including Lt. Goodman, the CO for part of my tour.

On 05/10/05 Kevin Lee said:

Was stationed here Nov 72 to Nov 73 and stood Loran Watch. The timer room was cool. I remember old blue the German shepherd and cue ball black lab mixed? Lt Dickman was CO and I reported to ETC Baker. The XO was a CWO Dyer? Duer? Can't remember. I have new email address for anyone that wants to write about the Sitkinak days. I have been to the web site where there are pictures of the station is virtually falling apart. Sad. I have many pictures of the station and island I need to load to the picture gallery here.

On 01/28/05 Ed Houde said:

Was stationed on Sitkinak from Aug 71 to Aug 72 [ET2] Look back at it now and can't believe how time flies. Mr. Mellott was the Electronics Boss and I can remember the day he bet me a bottle of Jack Daniels we couldn't get a perfect week. Well I had a long talk with Pete and Joe the timers and told them we needed a morale booster. Well we all enjoyed the Jack that we won [the guys not the timers] and if it wasn't for St. Paul going off air for 12 min in the last hour we would have had a perfect month. My best watch stander was a guy named Bobby Denson and he saved the day many a time with his quick action. The snipes though I have to admit it were great on power changes. Well any other guys from that time contact me to share stories. Thanks Ed

On 01/20/05 Mark Wood said:

There is an interesting Web site - Kodiak Military History - Sitkinak Island (<http://209.165.152.119/sitkinak/sitkinak.html>) which provides some good documentation plus some sad pictures that were taken in 2002 showing the state of decay that the Loran station has undergone since being decommissioned in 1977. For Fred Field - LTJG Lynch got into hot water for a brief visit by his wife and that of ETC Balka. During their visit, we had a logistics flight, a C-130 from Kodiak. Unfortunately, the CO of the air station, Capt Hogue, was onboard that flight and reported Mr. Lynch to Admiral Palmer, the District Commander. A day or two later, another C-130 was dispatched from Kodiak to deliver Mr. Lynch to Juneau for a 'man to man talk'. The District Commander was convinced that the presents of the two wives was detrimental to the morale of the crew. The Admiral couldn't have been farther from the truth. In fact, they were morale boosters, especially during those meals at which they took over for the cook. I have not heard anything about Mr. Lynch after the change of command (he was allowed to remain for his full tour) but I suspect that the Admiral gave the skipper a bad taste for the service after that.

On 11/23/04 Fred Field said:

I was stationed on Sitkinak Spring 71 to Fall 71 after being on St Paul for the preceding 8 months. Sitkinak was much more interesting with 'the Dome' to explore. I arrived like many via a bush piloted 'goose' landing the short distance

across the lake. Lt Lynch was a great CO...I remember his getting in hot water with the district commandant while there.

On 03/27/04 Chuck Schue said:

Just checking in with new e-mail. I was there in 1975 (Apollo-Soyuz Docking). I now work with Kevin Peterson and Jay Westerhold, and am still a member of the Cape May CWOA where Paul Chadwick is a member, all 'Blue Ptarmigan' alumni.

On 02/16/04 Gene Mellott said:

My original contact was back in 97, I was the Electronics Officer. Am finally converting my 35mm slides to digital. These were taken on Sitkinak from July 1971 to July 1972. I am shooting blanks on names so if anyone interested in copies in return for trying to ID names for me.

On 02/11/04 Wayne Wood said:

I was a DC3 I think it was 69-70 I put out the fire on the C 130 that crashed. Killed and ate a lot of geese and ptarmigan. skinned a few seals. Seal liver and rice was the only edible part. snuck in some hard booze and made Sitkinak Killer grape. Fell off the side of the air base mountain in a storm and was lost in a white out. rescued by a chopper on the last pass before a blizzard. Crazy cook looking backwards out of chopper saw me or I'd been done. Chief built the arch on my tour. Drank and played cards with fisherman that feed the cattle every winter. Never got paid for unloading the barge of feed so I shot a cow and we ate steak that nite. Still have some glass balls collected. Boy could I shoot pool by the time I left. Mostly good crew a few shit heads like anywhere. CO was a dink, brought his wife to the Island so we all could drool. Navy supply sent us freezer burned meat packaged in late 40's Oh yeah ate a bunch of salmon. Our electrician let the waterline freeze so we had to pump water from the lake -what a bitch that was. We swam in lake on CG day at noon. By 5 pm that day we had 2' of snow on the ground. Once in a really bad wind storm we had the cable up between the radio room and barracks and a little guy got picked up and was blowing on the cable like a sheet. We had to go and rescue him. Our cook was on his third isolated duty station in 17 years and he went a bit wacky and served that no GOOD beef to the Navy and Coastie brass that came once a year as beef stroganoff BUT HE PUT IN GREEN FOOD COLORING it was great! Guys were watching those officers trying to eat that no good beef and it was green. We had guys getting sick from laughing. Oh I climbed the tower once when the top light went out and the civilian guy couldn't make it. That looked like a lot more fun then it turned out to be. Rumor was that it got shot out cause that civilian always snuck in bottles of booze and sold it to the guys. Imagine that! I'm sure there are a lot of stories from there. I lived through it fine but if they said I had to go back tomorrow I'd be headed for Canada. A year with out a women was DUMB and unusual duty. I was in 66 to 70 so that was my last real duty station. I'm in Binghamton, NY area now. Take care to all you Vet.s

On 01/12/04 Vinny Frittitta said:

I was on Ninth crew from 5/68 to 5/69. We had a great crew, lots of fun.

On 10/02/03 Jeff Lemire said:

4/74-4/75 Good station, great guys. Howdy Leroy and Tim from one of the few FNEW's

On 07/17/03 Kevin Lee said:

I remember George Emeny but can't put a face on your name What department were you in? I was a Loran Watch Stander worked for CPO Baker. Seems like I lived in the timer room. I remember Dale West very well. He was like a puppy the whole time on the island. Nice guy but not too smart. Anyway after he left the island he was killed riding his motorcycle in Louisiana. I believe right after he left the island. Do you remember Hadley Stuart? I saw him once when he was stationed in Sabine Pass. Anyway I ended at Port Safety Station Houston, my hometown until I was discharged in 4/76.

On 07/10/03 Dwaine Swett said:

I was assigned temp duty from Kodiak Base to Sitkinak during the summer of '73. I was a medic/hm by training but ended up doing mostly yeoman type work. I remember the softball games on the tarmac and the 'Blue Ptarmigan' (a small club created out of a spare room). Lots of reading and sleeping. It wasn't prison but trying to keep yourself occupied was a challenge at times, even for the short time I was there.

On 05/25/03 George Emeny said:

I was on 'The Island' 3/72-3/73 as a EN2. Co LTjg Donald Dickman and BMC V.D. Kroopa (SP?) certainly made life interesting for the year. Kevin Lee, I remember when you and Dale West showed up. One of the first things Dale did was buy a new Buck knife and slice open the fingers on his left hand, he didn't know new knives came already sharpened. Did he ever survive the year on the Island? Did anyone get stationed at their dream duty station from their wish list of duty station they filled out toward the end of their island tour? I ended my time with the CG at a 44' lifeboat station on the Oregon coast, that wasn't even close to being on my list. Lots of other stories but we all have lots of sea stories and other lies.

On 05/15/03 Tim Shutes, ET-2 said:

I have a new email address, in case any buddies from Sitkinak (8/73-9/74) have been trying to contact me.

On 04/29/03 Fred Hansen said:

I was on Sitkinak 6/70-5/71 as a SA/SN standing loran watch. Mail plane crash, avalanche on the backside of the dome etc.

On 03/27/03 Mark Wood said:

I was on Lorsta Sitkinak Island 1971-72 as a 19 year old SNRM trying to hold down a RM2 billit. CO was LTJG Tom Lynch, EMO was CWO Gene Mallott. Was probably too young and immature for the position but now, 32 years later, it was a good place to grow up. Sitkinak Loran has been decommissioned for quite a while now, the tower having been bolown to smithereens. I beleve that a sheep header now uses the buildings for shelter.

On 02/22/03 LEROY HILEMAN said:

I WAS STATIONED ON SITKINAK 73-74,, WHAT A GREAT PLACE

On 02/14/03 Kevin Lee said:

New email address for Kevin Lee. I was an SN Loran Watchstander 11/72 to 9/73. I remember Dale West, Ltjg Dickman, CO, Hadley Stuart. Use to talk on the radio to Attu, Adak, St. Paul loran.

On 01/29/02 Rob Loeken said:

Stationed on Sitkinak from May 1970 to April 1971. Was an SN YN striker

On 01/09/02 Don Ferguson said:

I spent my tour from 3/66to3/67. Went to Port Angeles Air from Sitkinak. Spent many an hour listening to 'Huey Duey and Luey' in the generator room. Was there when Kolumbach construction paved the air strip. ' Remember Goodman quite well'

On 10/01/01 Mike Dooley said:

Gotta say 'You Guys Rock!' I was at the station that replaced you. Lorsta Narrow Cape. Often heard stories about the winds at Sitkinak Dome, 200 mph +. We at Narrow Cape kept your 9990Z & 7960X sig's looking good, at least until I left in 85'. Good to see LORSTA Sitkinak here. Awesome!

On 04/08/01 Louie Jones said:

Was station there 71/72. Was the station's DC

On 01/30/01 Bob Smith said:

Spruce Cape Loran on Kodiak (06/67) then to Sitkinak Loran (2/68), then to Gov's Island Tracen (2/69). Rember 'KL7DND'? Grocki was the 'Master Ham'.

On 01/21/01 Jerry Hinds said:

looking for Charles (Charlie) Hickey Was there 73-74 contact me

On 01/19/01 HM1 Jerry said:

Stationed on Sitkinak 73-74. Corpsman and parttime bar-tender.

On 12/13/00 Ed Swindelles said:

I was an ET1 at Sitkinak from 1963 - 1964 during the Earthquake. After 10 months of that duty I decided to become a civilian. Sometimes I regret that decision (but not often). The best part of the year was the beer and shrimp on Friday night.

On 06/14/00 Frank Valliant said:

I've posted here before, but wanted all Sitkinak alumni to know that they can go to www.kadiak.org (not a typo, it's spelled 'kadiak') and see pictures of the station after it was abandoned. Not a pretty sight! But it will bring back memories...

On 06/05/00 Tim Shutes said:

Stationed on Sitkinak from August 73 to Sept 74. Found my friend Dennis here, looking for 'Doc' (Jerry Hines,) or Keith Vandenberg.

On 05/09/00 Chuck Schue said:

LCDR Charles Schue (then ET3). Served from about 1975-1976. Retiring July 21st, 2000. Looking for lost souls I served with during that time.

On 04/05/00 Ned Stevens said:

I was ETC from 3/70 to 3/71. CO was Mark Libby. I do remember the mail plane crash, as my service record was in the mail bag. I remember parties on the beach. Kodiak Airways landing in the lake and once on the spit. I recall some faces at present, but can't put names with them.

On 03/14/00 Frank Valliant said:

I was an ET1 on Sitkinak 1964-65. I got there right after the big earthquake. The barracks were uninhabitable. We lived for several months in little plywood shacks hastily thrown up between the admin and signal-power building. They were always rockin' & rollin' in the high winds. Got lots of pictures of wild parties, we all looked pretty bad with no shaving for a year. We used to hike up to the dome a lot, then ride home-made toboggans back down during the winter months. Great crew, had lots of fun (for isolated duty). I went to Radio Washington after Sitkinak, was there for 30 years as a civilian, retired in 96.

On 11/23/99 DENNIS REGNERUS said:

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On 06/29/99 Kevin Lee said:

Sitkinak was my first duty station out of bootcamp, Delta 85 Alameda. The tour was from 10/72 through 11/73. I was a loran watchstander, by far the better duty for an SA. Lt. D.R. Dickman was the CO and ETC Baker was my boss. That trip to the tower during those blizzard nights were something for some from Texas. There were two dogs. One named Blue and the other named?

On 06/25/99 Chuck Mattson said:

Otherwise known as GOO, the perfect LORAN watchstander, I served 9/70 to 6/71 before heading off to ET school. Anyone else remember the mail plane crash?

On 05/02/99 Lance Stone said:

Was on the island from 6/66 to 6/67. Just must have missed a couple of you. Stood watches in the good ole timer room. Spent as much time away from the station as possible. Longest trip was a hike from the station over the dome to the beach. then followed the beach to South beach and back across the muskeg to the station. Also went to E. Sitkinak a couple of times. Of course am looking for old friends in paticular George Newbury, who went on to Oceanographers school after island. GR Goodman was CO for most of my tour.

On 04/16/99 Clay Gravelle said:

I was stationed at Loran Station Sitkinak in 1977 straight out of boot camp and helped close the station down. I have to say that the assignment was by far the worst of my 4 years in the Coast Guard (well, except for boot camp). But, I did enjoy my time away from the station immensely. A friend and I even managed to take a boat to the nearby island of East Sitkinak for a couple of days.

On 10/05/98 DEAN DYESS said:

I WAS STATIONED ON SITKINAK FROM FEB.1968 UNTILL FEB.1969 HI TO STOCKMAN AND GRAHAM. STOCKMAN SKINNED ANY SEALS LATELY. DEAN DYESS FNEN

On 07/20/98 Gordon Anderson said:

Stationed at Sitkinak from Sep 75 to Sep 76 as an ET.

On 07/02/98 Dave Meabon said:

Dave Meabon says hello to all you who served aboard in early '67.

On 06/03/97 STEWART R. GRAHAM JR said:

I WAS STATIONED THERE AS AN SAEW AUG 68 TO JUN 69, DID ALOT OF BEACH SEARCHING FOR FLOATS, NETS, GLASS BALLS, HAD A GOOD CREW. I BELIEVE WE WERE THE NINTH CREW AT SITKINAK.

On 05/20/97 CWO Terry Stockman said:

I was stationed there as an ET3 from June, 1968 to June, 1969. The fishing was ok. Sure was glad to leave. While CO at Spruce Cape from 1984 to 1987 I was asked to identify some electronics gear that was stored at Supt. Center Kodiak. It turned out to be all the old Loran gear from Sitkinak. Brought back memories.

On 04/26/97 Gene Gray said:

this was my first unit out of bootcamp back in 76-77. was there when we closed it down, sure missed the quiet.

On 01/03/97 Gene Mellott said:

Had a great year as years go when you are on Isolated duty. Electronics Officer from July 1971 to July 1972.

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