

Wayne and Sheila Hagler



Wayne was born in Houston County Alabama and joined the Navy in 1956. In his first assignment, he ran torpedo retrieval boats at a torpedo testing station in Seattle Washington. After that, Wayne went into destroyers. He got out of the Navy for a short period of time but went back in and was assigned to a submarine tender in Charleston SC. He was trying to transfer from the tender into submarines and after several tries, he found out the best way to get assigned to them was to go to submarine school so that's what he did.

After submarine school, Wayne was assigned to a WW2 diesel submarine that had been converted to run with a snorkel. He was given 6 months to qualify, but he managed to do so in 3 months because he was assigned to a submarine just like the one he trained on, so it helped. During this time, they were on a WestPAC tour, and they spent some time in the Gulf of Tonkin (Vietnam) to photograph shipping into and out of North Vietnam to see who was supplying them. When he got back to San Diego, he was transferred to Virginia where he went to launcher school for the Polaris missile. He was subsequently assigned to a missile submarine. His rating was a torpedo man and he was responsible for taking care of the torpedo tubes and all the associated equipment for launching the missiles.

Wayne met his wife, Sheila, in San Francisco in 1970 while he was being transferred from Orlando Florida to Hawaii to catch his third submarine, and second diesel boat, the USS Tang. He stopped by to see a friend of his. Next door to his friend was a girl that Sheila moved out to California with. Wayne was fixed up with a blind date with Sheila who was teaching school in Pacifica at the time. They dated for about 3 years and were married in 1973.

Wayne retired from the Navy April 30, 1980 after 24 years.

After retirement he and Sheila returned to Ozark, Alabama where Wayne was raised. He went to work for a family acquaintance doing heating & air conditioning for about 6 years then started his own business doing the same kind of work, working out of the back of his truck and garage for 8 or 9 years and then retired for good.

They bought their first RV, a Fleetwood Pace Arrow, in 1989. Although they were both still working at that time, they went camping whenever they could, weekends and long holidays, etc. They kept it about 6 years.

In 1996 they went to Perry GA for to see a Family Motor Coach Representative. Winnebago had just released the Vectra Grand Tour 36-footer and Wayne and Sheila traded their Pace Arrow for it. That was their first Winnebago. Sheila retired in 1999 and they travelled even more. In 2003 they bought their current Journey. They have travelled in a motor home in all 49 states (only excluding Hawaii).

They joined the MILWITs in October 2009 and are still active in the club.