

WAKE

Following a post on FB, a very good longtime friend of mine asked a question that brings my Dad into play here as well. The question and this response, a SeeStory about WAKE, is shown here to the right. But let me explain the “Dad” part into this as well. The title of this “SeeStory” above is a single English word, that comes from my “old country”, the one that my Dad departed for Canada and then eventually the USA.

Most of my Dad’s education and his vectoring into the Episcopal Church was based on his love of the English Language, which in his early years was reading the Dictionary, and an Encyclopedia. So, here is a link to the title word as found in the [Merriam Webster Dictionary](#). If you followed the link you will have found that the meaning used by my friend is based on just one, when used in its noun meaning (3 of 3). The other usage (2 of 3) is connected to the church, and the use as a verb is certainly what was going on in my life in the context that was asked by my friend. Riding Submarines caused me to Wake (up). And this collection of SeeStories certainly has yet another meaning – a time frame where I respect a part of my life that has long since passed.

So, this SeeStory in the context of my eBook [SeeStories](#), has already filled in the definition of that last sentence of the last paragraph. I have a great deal of respect for that part of my life that is being remembered nostalgically. Let’s move on to the context in what I believe was the meaning used in my friends’ question. Yes, a submarine always leaves a wake when it is underway. Actually, it creates two wakes in that usage of the word. The first is a bow wake, the second is the stern wake.

The bow wake is behind the story within SeeStories called “[A Green Line Hero](#)”. BTW, I am not sorry that it will cost you a buck to read that story that was made possible by the bow wake of the boat I was on. The bow wake was the turbulence of the water created by the boat being pushed through the ocean by the two screws, being turned by two of the Fairbanks Morse engines operating in Diesel Direct mode. I will first describe the Bow Wake of the [Tang Class](#) of submarine. It can be seen in the picture at the top of the linked Wikipedia page. You can see that the bow is V shaped, dividing the water that it is travelling down either side of the boat. That V shaped bow changes gradually into the O shaped pressure hull; such that the Bow wake leaves a pressure void of turbulent water at night creating the glow of phosphorous in the water. During the day it was just white water as shown in the picture. Also, BTW the “green line” in the above linked story was on the opposite side of the boat from that pictured in the Wiki linked page/picture. And as a close to the bow wake description, note that at the bow there is a crest right at the bow the then drops down (lack of pressure – due to pressure void) and then back to a second crest, and another void. The distance between the crests and the voids is dependent upon the speed of the boat through the water, it has nothing to do with wave action, which while at sea is far more gradual. From my time standing bridge watches, I would say that in the picture the boat is travelling at about 10 knots based on the spacing of the crests and voids.

On the next page I will answer my friends question more completely about the “Stern” wake.

