



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

JANUARY 2006

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I am wishing a Happy and Joyous New Year to you and your families. Well shipmates, another year has passed and we are just a few months away from our second CAIMAN reunion. If you haven't registered for the Radisson Woodlands Hotel, please do so. The number is **(928) 773-8888**. May 15th is only five months away. To date, we have 57 rooms spoken for and the rest will go fast. Don't be a "hot bunker" call today!!!! The 2008 reunion is not that far off. Be thinking about next year. Bring your suggestions for where we should hold our next reunion and/or volunteer to be on the committee next May to select the city for the 2008 reunion. During the past year and a half of the USS CAIMAN Association existence, we have accomplished the following: Became a non-profit entity thanks to Randall (Mr. C) Christensen. Ivan Whitwell, Doug Smith, and I, ordered, received, and worked 17 microfilm reels of the ship's diaries showing the receipt, transfer, and advancement of Caiman personnel from commissioning to decommissioning. Greg Baer and Doug Smith set up a ship's store for shipmates to purchase USS CAIMAN (SS-323) clothing, hats, etc. Doug Smith produced and maintains the Sailing List, Lost List, and mailing list for our Association. Thanks to Doug's many, many hours of telephone calls and researching many avenues to find shipmates, we have 753 Caiman Shipmates on the Sailing List; 527 live members, with 226 on "Eternal Patrol"; 692 on the Lost List; and 256 Association Members. This list changes weekly. Special thanks to Greg Baer for setting up and maintaining the best Web Site on the Internet (www.flamincaiman.org). Finally, any ideas you may have to improve our Association, please email any of the Board members or write and snail mail the Association.

USS CAIMAN (SS-323) Association
PO Box 6003
Vallejo, CA 94591-6003

See You in Flagstaff on May 15, 2006.

John (Yeo) Fagereng
Caiman Association Commander

SCOOTERS

For our shipmates and guest that need mobility assistance, we have a source that will deliver and pick up scooters at the hotel. The closest we could find is ALL MED EQUIPMENT in Cottonwood, AZ. The scooters are \$45.00 for the reunion. Please contact Randy at 928-634-3627 and do not forget to mention you are with the USS Caiman Reunion. You will need to charge it to your credit card or someone else's.

REGISTRATION PRICES CLOSE ON APRIL 15TH.

AIRLINES

Remember when making your reservations, AMERICA WEST, the only airline that flies into Flagstaff have been bought by US AIRWAYS. Better rates are available by planning your complete trip on the same airline.

NAMETAGS

On the Reunion Registration we have added some options. One is for the name desired on your nametag. Another is the years you were on board Caiman. Also, the guests will have nametags this year. Guests do not have to list their real name, but after putting up with him this long you might as well. If you have more than two guests, list the names on the back of the form and put a note on the front so I will know there are names on the back. These were suggestions from the last reunion. Your Association officers do listen.

REGISTRATION

Registration is \$20.00 or **FREE TO CAIMAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**. The Registration fee includes guests. Plank Owners and Caiman Widows are association members.

BUFFET

After the buffet, we have some Association business and general announcements so please attend.

TEE SHIRT

We have a new Caiman tee shirt. You will have three options and you can have as many as you want or the boss lets you order. On the order form, indicate the quantity, and size, you desire. They will be delivered at the reunion. The tee shirts will be available after the reunion on the ships store with a delivery charge.

DOOR PRIZES

The door prizes are shown on page two of the registration. We will also have some other items so bring your check books. We do not take credit cards.

FREE PRINT

The Association is giving everyone that attends the reunion an 8 X 18 print of the USS Caiman in the sail configuration you choose. This print will **ONLY** be available at the reunion. If you do **NOT** select a sail configuration we will not have one for you at the reunion. The pictures on the registration are preliminaries; there will be more detail in the prints at the reunion.

SAILING LIST

If you desire a printed copy of the sailing list available at the reunion, check the space on the registration form.