



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

JAN 2009

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and that Santa Claus brought you good health and everything you asked for. I want to wish every shipmate and their significant other a Joyous and Happy New Year. Smitty and I will head to Reno this May to finalize our 2010 reunion. We have narrowed the search for the right hotel down to two that meets our needs and prices. I am still working on a fun sightseeing tour of the area that we would all enjoy. I will have that selected when I reach Reno this May. One thing I want to mention. If anyone is a member of USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.) annual dues are required immediately. If they are not paid by the end of January, you will be dropped from the organization. Dropped SubVets can rejoin without penalty, but will lose member seniority for Holland Club qualification and longevity pin awards. Requirements for Holland Club membership are: 1) A member in good standing of USSVI; 2) Qualified in submarines 50 years or more; 3) A regular member of USSVI for 5 consecutive years; or a life member." A reminder to all, if you change your mailing address, telephone number and email address, please let the Association know so newsletters and information about CAIMAN events are received and our sailing list can be kept up-to-date. SEE YOU IN MAY 2010.
John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

ALERT

This was emailed to me recently and was in the ASR/ARS Deep Sea Divers newsletter. If you were aboard the USS Carbonero (SS-337) during any of the following dates: May & June, 1965 August & September 1966, or April & May 1968, you should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and request an evaluation from their Environmental Agents Group. This was the boat that was used for the SHAD testing to determine vulnerabilities to chemical and/or biological warfare. For more information contact Ted McAnly - his email address is thmjmac@netzero.net.

ANOTHER DBF STORY

CAIMAN'S own, Ray de Yarmin (62/65), as curator of the USS Bowfin museum in Pearl Harbor, was the one that placed the DBF pin on display at the Pacific Submarine Museum at the Submarine Base. Ray's theory, it belonged as an essential element of our unique submarine history. He was never told to remove it.

BINNACLE REPORT

In September, Forrest "Tim" Milas, Plank owner, had triple bypass surgery. Lynn, his wife, said he is doing fine and hopes to make the reunion in Reno. Not to be outdone, in October, Jerry "Giff" Gifford, (63/67) spent some time in the hospital. He had three arteries "roto-rooted". According to his wife, Sharon, he is back to normal – normal for Giff that is.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

When I have information concerning our shipmates, I send emails to the men that served on CAIMAN with them. I have received several bounce backs - (email addresses that are incorrect). This also happens when people have spam filters that do not include my email address. When this happens I delete that email address from my records. If you would like to be kept informed of your shipmates, keep us, USS CAIMAN Assoc, informed of your email address and list my email address as valid in your spam filter. Something to think about, if you use a spam filter that will not allow messages from email addresses you have not listed, you will not receive any emails from other shipmates attempting to contact you.

INFORMATION

The phone calls and emails informing Yeo and I about shipmates' conditions are greatly appreciated. There is no way that we would know about our shipmates without your assistance. Please continue informing us and we will continue sending out emails to the shipmates they serve with on CAIMAN.

AN IMPOSTER

Many of you have received an email from THE USS CAIMAN STORE. **This is not us.** We did not copyright our name; don't even know if we can, so any turkey can do business under that name. I have looked at their wares and their prices – we have better goods and better prices. Also the money spent in the CAIMAN ship store supports the USS CAIMAN Assoc. including the reunions. So the more you spend - the more free beer you will get.

WEB SITE

Greg "Hawkeye" Baer (69/71), our esteemed Webmaster, decided to practice his reading skills and discovered that our website host (Dream Host) offers free web services to Tax Exempt organizations. We applied and they accepted us. Our web site is now free – our favorite price. This will allow us to buy more beer at the reunions. Make sure you thank Hawkeye for the beer at the next reunion. Also a big thank you to Mrs. Hawkeye for allowing him all the time he gives to the CAIMAN website.

ETERNAL PATROL

Six of our shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter. They will be missed

Richard W. Saleh CDR 51/54 Sept 08
John T. Bennett CAPT 50/52 Oct 08
James W Ratliff FTSN(SS) 52/54 Oct 08
Lawrence Shumaker CDR 62/? Oct 08
George N. Helm CAPT 67/69 Dec 08
John Y. Kuapahi SN(SS) 52/53 Dec 08

Sailors, rest your oars.

VA OPENING NEW CLINICS

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James B. Peake, announced the VA will establish new clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont. The community-based outpatient clinics, or CBOCs, will become operational by late 2010, with some opening in 2009. Local VA officials will keep communities and their veterans informed of milestones in the creation of the new CBOCs.

VA's Proposed Sites for New Outpatient Clinics:

Alabama - Monroe County (2010)
Arkansas - Faulkner County (2010), Pope County (2010)
California - Lake County (2010), Oakhurst (2010), Susanville (2010), Yuba County (2010)
Florida - Brandon (2010), Clermont (2010)
Georgia -- Blairsville (2010)
Hawaii - Leeward (Honolulu, 2010)
Illinois - Carbondale (2009), Harrisburg (2010), Sterling (2010)
Iowa -- Decorah (2010)
Maryland - Fort Meade (2010), Montgomery County (2010)
Michigan - Bad Axe (2010), Cadillac (2010), Cheboygan (2010), Grayling (2010)
Minnesota - Southern central border (2010), southwest metro area
(exact locations to be determined, 2010)
Mississippi - Pike County (2010)
Missouri - Excelsior Springs (2009), Sikeston (2009), Sedalia (2010)
North Carolina - Edenton-Elizabeth City (2010), Goldsboro (2010)
Pennsylvania - Cranberry Township (2009)
Vermont - Brattleboro (2010)

REUNIONS

As every CAIMAN sailor knows, our reunion in 2010 will be in Reno. The word seems to be spreading among the tourist/visitors bureaus and we are being contacted by several cities that want us to hold a reunion in their area. CAIMAN reunions are large, actually very large, for a submarine reunion and many "target" reunions. Also contrary to our reputation from earlier years, we are well behaved. The two reasons are age and most of us have adult supervisors now. Anyway, back to the subject. Since Yeo uses my phone number in all the listing for our reunions – I get the phone calls. I have answered several questions on how we pick the sites for our reunions and how to get selected. When I answer their questions, I also tell them our wants and needs so I can eliminate the ones that will not meet our requirements. The requirements are a hospitality suite and dining room large enough for all us at the host hotel and for us to be able to bring our own beverages into the hospitality suite. The exception on the beverages was Flagstaff because of local law. We do not tell the hotel about our diving alarm until we sign the papers. Due to the number of people we bring, over 200, we do get some perks and they tolerate our diving alarm.

FLAMIN' CAIMAN WEB SITE

Hawkeye has been busy adding new photos and stories to our web site. Many of the photos that were sent to or given him at the reunion are on the web site. Hawkeye said more are coming. Check out the new additions and remember more are coming.

REUNION ADDITION

Between the beers, all reunion attendees (sailors) will be asked to identify photos of items on CAIMAN or places CAIMAN visited. There will be prizes for the person or persons that come up with the most correct answers. It is requested that all answers be your own, not a group effort. This means you will not be allowed to discuss your answers with anyone else. We will have the contest at the luncheon on Tuesday just before the roast. The winner(s) will be announced and the prize or prizes presented at the Thursday banquet. Be prepared to test your skill and memory.

SHIP STORE

What would you like to see added to the CAIMAN ship store? We are trying to add new items but it would be easier if we knew what the members would like to see added. It has been suggested that we add some more CAIMAN Sweetheart items. The suggestion was, besides the pink ball caps, pink polo shirts and/or pink sweatshirts. Of course if you wanted to buy them for yourself, I am sure no one would say anything. Remember, now would be a good time to submit your suggestions to Hawkeye and myself.

PROMOTIONAL TRIP

Yeo and I will be attending a Promotional Products Expo in Las Vegas in January '09. The purpose of this trip is to see what is available for prizes and other items for our reunions. We are registered as associates of Aero Embroidery, the company that supplies most of our ship store items and reunion gifts or prizes. We are flying into Vegas so I will not have any more scare stories about Yeo's driving. I rented the car while we are in Vegas believing it would be my turn to get even. Yeo is bringing his adult supervisor, Judy, so that plan went out the window.

SAILING LIST

We are still looking for shipmates. The internet has been the best source, but we have used others. My daughter found one for us which was a bit embarrassing for me as he lives within 20 miles of my house. Several have found us or their relatives have found us. Recently a son, while using the internet, found our web page. The good news is he informed his father and we added another to our sailing list. We will quit when the lost list is zero. The current counts are:

Sailing List:	1145
Expected at the next reunion:	556
Eternal Patrol:	589
Lost List:	277

"To the Soviets, American submariners were more than an enemy; they were ever present pests. To other Americans, they were simply the anonymous men of the Silent Service"