



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

[www.flamincaiman.org](http://www.flamincaiman.org)

JAN 2012

## COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!! I hope you had a Very Merry Christmas and that Santa was generous to all. Just think only 5 months before our reunion in San Antonio, Texas at the Holiday Inn River Walk starting Monday, 7 May and ending Thursday, 10 May 2012. On 9 May we will be departing by bus for a 1 hour and 15 minute ride to Fredericksburg, Texas for a tour of the National Museum of the Pacific War. Price for admission is \$8 per person; which is included in the fee on the registration form. WWII Veterans are free. There are plenty of restaurants close by that serve great lunches. This excursion will be a fantastic, interesting experience for all. Parking at the hotel is \$8 per day for CAIMAN. Original price is \$18 per day, but we have negotiated for the \$8 amount for our reunion. Also, the hotel offered us a \$10 breakfast each day of our reunion. So now come join the USS CAIMAN (SS323) Association's 5<sup>th</sup> reunion in San Antonio and visit the Alamo and all the interesting historical sights on the River Walk. As they say in professional sports – "C'mon Man, see ya in May.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

## FACEBOOK

Greg "Hawkeye" Baer, our webmaster, has put CAIMAN on Facebook. It is listed under FlaminCaimanDbf. For all of you that use Facebook, stop in and visit. Last check CAIMAN had 30 friends. For those that don't have computers, this is one of those social network things or a good way to waste a lot of time.

## DECKLOG

Decklog [www.decklog.com](http://www.decklog.com) is a site on the web that lists sailors and the ships they have served on. It works in conjunction with Sub Vets, but is not run by Sub Vets. There are a few skimmers, but all most all of the sailors listed are bubbleheads. CAIMAN's sailing list is in Decklog. They have included all persons (Qualified or not) that were on CAIMAN so their count is 1,419. To make our sailing list, our requirements are - aboard CAIMAN for duty and qualified in submarines. We show 1,253 located shipmates. Decklog will also help other boats find shipmates. I check their list often to continue to try and find some of our missing shipmates. I suggest each of you check your listing for correct information. You can only sign in and change your information and check on shipmates. One item we would like to have is a next of kin/Emergency number. We are all getting older and there have been times when we get a newsletter returned and we have trouble locating a shipmate. Each person can only change his records in Decklog. I was given access to change any of CAIMAN's records in Decklog, so I can update or change any CAIMAN's records. If you have any problem changing or updating your records, I can do it for you, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

## NEWSLETTERS

We send our newsletters out in January, May, and September, so if you do not receive one let me know. Also we use email and snail mail. Everyone has a choice on how they would prefer to receive the newsletter. Email does save us money, but the CAIMAN Association is for us so each shipmate can make his own decision. If you would like to receive the newsletter in a different format, please contact me.

## GOOD NEWS

I was lucky recently as I was able to deliver some good news to Glenn (Norm) King RMC(SS) (62/63). I had the privilege of returning him to the land of the living. Using information that we had received from the VA we had him on our Sailing List as on Eternal Patrol. I understand his wife and kids were glad to hear he was not on Eternal Patrol. I discovered Norm's new status when I asked USSVI (SubVets) for a list of all CAIMAN shipmates that have joined during the year. I do this every December. Norm makes four shipmates we have resurrected. This has to be because of the good Submarine chow, our healthy living conditions, and the sedate liberties that we observed. The other three had their status changed thanks to Ken "Pig" Henry. Pig has the membership data base for US Sub Vets of WWII. The information from the VA was not always accurate, as four of our shipmates have learned, but we really can't complain because it was free.

## DD214

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes or Social Security. Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Your kids can help you if you don't have a computer. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

## REUNION REGISTRATION

The reunion registration form is attached to this newsletter. As I stated in the last newsletter we added a \$10.00 registration fee. This is per CAIMANITE, guests are included. I try to keep the forms simple. Please remember to put the number of person attending each event so I will have an accurate count.

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## RIVER WALK

Everyone will enjoy the River Walk in San Antonio. I mentioned the restaurants in an earlier newsletter, but that is just part of what is available. There are many shops and the atmosphere is a large part of the River Walk. The River Walk is well paved and it is almost impossible to get lost. The river is only four to five feet deep so if you walk off the edge, you can walk back to shore. I recommend you use the many bridges to cross over the river as I understand wading in the river is frowned on. Since most of us are senior citizens, the boat rides, which are reasonably priced, will give you a chance to see the majority of the River Walk without walking a great distance. If you want to do some exploring, an all day boat pass is available and also priced to fit our pocketbooks. We arranged with the tourist bureau in San Antonio to have area information available in the hospitality suite. If you haven't been to San Antonio, you definitely will enjoy your visit. If you have been there before – I bet it is different so you will still enjoy your visit. Besides you will have all those wonderful CAIMAN sailors that will do their best to entertain each and every one of you.

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## MUSEUM TOUR

Yeo and I didn't get the chance to preview the museum that we will visit on Wednesday but we heard many recommendations. It is in Fredericksburg, TX, about 80 miles north of San Antonio. This is the home of Admiral Nimitz and originally a German settlement. There are many restaurants and shops in the town, many with a German flair. This is good because lunch is a YOYO (your on your own) affair. WWII vets deduct \$8.00 from the cost of the Fredericksburg Tour. WWII vets have free admission to the museum.

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## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

The most famous attraction is the Alamo. It is within walking distance of the hotel. I know because Yeo and I walked it. If Yeo can make it, anyone can. The Alamo self guided tour is our favorite price – FREE. Another unique place to visit is The Buckhorn Saloon and Museum which is on the way to the Alamo. It is definitely cowboy oriented. It is also a good place to rest on the five block walk to the Alamo

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## DRESS OR UNIFORM OF THE DAY

I am asked a lot about the dress for the reunion. It is your reunion so casual is the way to go. You will see a lot of tees, jeans, and polo shirts. A few brave ones will be in shorts. We plan to have some clothing for sale so bring your check book also. The only requirement is street clothing. No nude sun bathing will be allowed this time. There is an outdoor swimming pool and Health & Fitness Center to assist us to maintain our Greek God Bodies and work off any beer or other exotic items that might add a pound or two to our sculpted bodies.

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## DRAWING

A picture of the grand prize was in the last newsletter. A reminder, the hotel is giving us some free nights and free parking that will go into the drawing also. And the big one from the hotel is a free room, the length of the reunion (four days), will also be added. We have had some donations also. You have to be at the reunion to win.

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## REUNION COMMITTEE

The five members of the reunion committee, plus Yeo and me, have been gathering information on other sites for the reunion in 2014. We have some interesting places in mind so we will try and determine if they will meet our requirements. Even with the economy as bad as it is we do have trouble getting rooms below a \$100.00 a night in the hotels that meet our other requirements. Since Bob "Arky" Bowlin is on the reunion Committee, we know Little Rock will be one of the choices. It is sad to see a grown man cry.

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## SAILING LIST

As I mentioned earlier the numbers have changed a bit. I am still looking and would greatly appreciate any information anyone can come up with. Please remember the smallest tidbit can help. Our own "Couth Goat" remembered a shipmate qualified on a different boat. I was talking to the new addition within 10 minutes.

Sailing List:	1253
Expected at the next reunion:	565
Eternal Patrol:	688
Lost List:	175

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## ETERNAL PATROL

I did get to remove one shipmate's from this list, but we had others that received orders.

LOWE, Charles S. FN(SS) (47/49) 1 May 2008  
TESENIAR, Clarence RMCS(SS) (48/49) 1 July 2011  
LARSEN, David H. EM2(SS) (47/47) 19 July 2011  
MARTIN, Alexander MMCS(SS) (56/58) 28 August 2011  
RUSSELL, Theodore ENCM(SS) (57/59) 28 Dec 2011  
Sailor, rest your oars

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"There is something about the submarine service. It tends to create a bond between those who have served that is born of trust. Every submariner who ever put to sea and submerged has placed in the hands of another, their very lives. The bond is not one of close friendship, even though those do grow out of the time spent aboard a boat. It is one of mutual respect - blind to color, ethnicity, religion, nationality and gender. The bond is one of personal responsibility. Not everyone has it. Some don't even know what personal responsibility is. Submariners know what it is. It is their way of life. The trust and respect and sense of personal responsibility are.... "The Submarine Tradition...""

Jim Christley

**Since we will be visiting Texas, this might make some conversations easier to understand.**

### *Texas Phrases*

*The engine's runnin ' but ain't nobody driving*

*Translation: Not overly-intelligent.*

*Tighter than bark on a tree*

*Translation: Not very generous.*

*Big hat, no cattle*

*Translation: All talk and no action.*

*We've howdied but we ain't shook yet*

*Translation: We've made a brief acquaintance, but not been formally introduced.*

*He thinks the sun come up just to hear him crow*

*Translation: He has a pretty high opinion of himself.*

*As welcome as a skunk at a lawn party*

*Translation: (self-explanatory).*

*S/He's got tongue enough for 10 rows of teeth*

*Translation: Talks a lot.*

*It's so dry the trees are bribin ' the dogs*

*Translation: We really could use a little rain around here*

*Just because a chicken has wings don't mean it can fly*

*Translation: Appearances can be deceptive.*

*This ain't my first rodeo*

*Translation: I've been around awhile.*

*He looks like the dog's been keepin ' him under the porch*

*Translation: Not the most handsome of men.*

*They ate supper before they said grace*

*Translation: Living in sin.*

*As full of wind as a corn-eating horse*

*Translation: Rather prone to boasting.*

*You can put your boots in the oven, but that don't make 'em biscuits*

*Translation: You can say whatever you want about something, but that doesn't change what it is.*

## **PLAN OF THE DAY**

- **Monday, May 7th**
  - **1000 Hospitality Room Open. Registration**
  - **All day - Soft drinks and beer**
  - **2400 Close Hospitality Room**
- **Tuesday, May 8th**
  - **0800 Hospitality Room open. Continue Registration**
  - **1200-1330 Welcome Luncheon**
  - **1330-1500 Roast And Other Important Business**
  - **1500 Reunion Committee Meet**
  - **2400 Close Hospitality Room**
- **Wednesday, May 9th**
  - **0800 Hospitality Room open.**
  - **0930 Board Buses for Fredericksburg Museum**
  - **1500 Return from Fredericksburg Museum**
  - **2400 Close Hospitality Room**
- **Thursday, May 10th**
  - **0800 Hospitality Room Open**
  - **0900 Golf Tournament**
  - **1600 Photography session**
  - **1700-2300 Cash Bar**
  - **1800-2300 Banquet**
  - **2400 Close Hospitality Room**
- **Friday, May 11st**
  - **See you in two years!**
  - **Have a safe trip home**



**U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS323)**  
**2012 REUNION REGISTRATION**



May 7 – 10, 2012 – HOLIDAY INN, RIVER WALK  
 SAN ANTONIO, TX  
 Reservations 210-224-2500 Ext 525 or 580  
 Or 888-615-0726

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME DESIRED ON NAME TAG: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ADDITIONAL GUESTS NAMES AND NAME TAGS ON THE BACK

CHECK ACCOMMODATIONS TO BE USED: HOLIDAY INN \_\_\_\_\_ RV PARK \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK IF STAYING ELSE WHERE BUT USING HOTEL PARKING \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE \$10.00 (includes GUESTS) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

WELCOME BUFFET LUNCHEON (TUESDAY) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FREDERICKSBURG TOUR (WEDNESDAY) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET DINNER (THURSDAY)  
 NEW YORK SIRLOIN # \_\_\_\_\_  
 SAUTEED BREAST OF CHICKEN # \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

DOOR PRIZE TICKETS # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 EA, 4 FOR \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO & SEND THIS PAGE TO:

USS CAIMAN SS 323 ASSOCIATION  
 3835 B MAPLE AVE  
 BREMERTON, WA 98310

CHECK FOR A COPY OF THE SAILING LIST (DELIVERED AT THE REUNION) \_\_\_\_\_

IF PLAYING IN GOLF TOURAMENT (THURSDAY) LIST NUMBER OF PLAYERS \_\_\_\_\_