



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

JAN 2018

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

This is our first newsletter of 2018. It contains registration info for our May reunion. I wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year and that all had a Merry and Joyous Christmas. I received this article from the USSVI headquarters and want to share it with you.

ANALYSIS OF ACOUSTIC DETECTION OF THE LOSS OF THE ARGENTINE SUBMARINE SAN JUAN

by Bruce Rule. The acoustic signal originated on 15 Nov 2017. It was produced by the collapse (implosion) of the ARA SAN JUAN pressure hull at a depth of 1275 ft. Sea pressure at the collapse depth was 570 psi. The energy released by the collapse was equal to the explosion of 12,500 lbs. of TNT at the depth of 1275 ft. That energy was produced by the nearly instantaneous conversion of potential energy (sea pressure) to kinetic energy, the motion of the intruding water-ram which entered the SAN JUAN pressure hull at a speed of about 1800 mph. The entire pressure hull was completely destroyed in about 1/25th of a second. The crew may have known collapse was imminent, they never knew it was occurring. Death was instantaneous. The SAN JUAN wreckage sank vertically at a speed between 10 and 13 knots. Bottom impact would not have produced an acoustic event detectable at long range. The question is why no corrective action such as blowing ballast taken by the SAN JUAN before the submarine sank to collapse depth? The CO of the sub reported a failure in the boat's battery system. Subsequently, the problem was reported to have been fixed. The SAN JUAN intended to submerge and continue its transit north. The boat's pressure hull collapsed at 1358 GMT on 15 Nov 2017. There is the possibility that a similar sequence of events occurred aboard the SAN JUAN as it happened on SCORPION in 1968. If the wreck is located and efforts are made to recover components, emphasis should be placed on the battery system. The author of this assessment was the lead acoustic analyst at the Office of Naval Intelligence for 42 years.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

REUNION REGISTRATION

The reunion registration form is included with this newsletter. If you are attending the reunion, you need to fill in the form and submit the form and a check to the address on the bottom. We need to know you are coming so we can plan the activities. We are asking a registration fee from each member, but guests are free.

REUNION MEALS

As normal at CAIMAN's reunions, we have two meals that all members and their guests are asked to attend. The lunch Tuesday is a buffet, so no choice is required. Thursday night dinner is plated so you need to make a choice on the registration form. If you have trouble remembering what you and your adult supervisor have chosen, select one of each and decide when you are sitting at the table or both select the same choice.

VETERAN AFFAIRS ID CARD UPDATE

All honorably discharged veterans of every era will be able to get a photo identification card from the Department of Veterans Affairs starting in November due to a law passed in 2015. The law, known as the Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, orders the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card must contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number, the law states. A VA official on 4 OCT confirmed the cards are on track to be available nationwide starting in November 2017. Veterans may apply for the card online, but a timeline for how long it will take to receive a card after application has not been finalized, the official said.

Although the law states that the VA may charge a fee for the card, the official said no fee is planned. The change comes as the military exchange stores prepare to open online shopping to all honorably discharged veterans starting 11 NOV. Veterans who wish to use that new benefit must be verified through VetVerify.org. Congress passed the ID law to help veterans prove their service without showing a copy of their DD-214. "Goods, services and promotional activities are often offered by public and private institutions to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the military, but it is impractical for a veteran to always carry Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers to demonstrate such proof," the law states.

Those who receive health care from the VA or have a disability rating can get a photo ID VA health card, also known as a Veteran Identification Card. Military retirees also hold an ID card issued by the Defense Department. Veterans are also able to get a proof of service letter through the VA's ebenefits website.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE

I am sure you have all read about the Northern California fires. Santa Rosa area was seriously damaged. Our Commander, John "Yeo" Fagereng, moved to North Carolina a few months earlier so he escaped the fire, but his old house was in the evacuated area and we don't know if it survived. We have two CAMINITES that also live in Santa Rosa. I talked to Lindsey "Hot Rod" Marcom, and his house was not damaged. I have been unable to reach Virgil Kicenski, but the latest reports are his area was not affected.

SUBMARINE MEMORABILIA

This is a reminder that submariners are the only group which makes the effort to save our history and memorabilia. As our group ages more and more of us will be receiving eternal patrol orders. If there are any submarine items that your family does not want, please contact me and I will ensure that it will become a CAIMAN drawing prize at the reunion or go to St. Marys Submarine Museum. We have CAIMANITES in all but six states, so I should be able to arrange a pickup of items if you are unable to attend the reunion.

REUNION TEE SHIRTS

We received a very gracious offer from the granddaughter of W. W. Fender to furnish the reunion tees for our reunion in Little Rock. This will be the first reunion she has attended, but her parents have attended our reunions before. Her parents are Jim and Carolyn Whelan. Carolyn is W. W. Fender's daughter and Jim is a retired Air Force pilot. Don't hold that against him, he is a good guy and he is a fellow veteran. CAIMAN has had an interesting effect on his life, he refers to Carolyn as "Queen of the Boat". We are looking forward to meeting their daughter and thanking her in person for the tees.

USSVI 2018 CONVENTION

The U. S. Submarine Veterans Inc. (Sub Vets) 2018 convention is a seven-day Caribbean cruise on October 21 – 28, 2018. It is a round trip from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The ship will be visiting Half Moon Cay, Bahamas, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, Mexico. CAIMAN shipmates signed up are:

Bob "Dings" Dengel
John "Yeo" Fagereng
John "Big John" Luce
Walter "Ned" Reeves
Doug "Smitty" Smith
George Taney
Gurney "Butch" Warnberg

You don't have to be a member of Sub Vets to attend. Go to www.ussvicruise.com and all information is there. After you fill out the form you will receive a call from AAA. Tell AAA you are with CAIMAN and we will be seated together for the meals. All meals on board, social functions, and port fees are included in your booking price. A welcome cocktail party is planned, and each stateroom will receive a \$50.00 beverage card and two tickets for the fine dining restaurants aboard. The fine dining restaurants are an extra expense if used. AAA has arranged with hotels in the area for rooms at \$149.00 plus tax. If you have any questions or if you sign up for the cruise, contact me. For two formal nights, the formal attire will be a tie and a Sub Vets vest. Jacket not required. A Sub Vets convention is like a huge reunion and your adult supervisor will enjoy the cruise.

ADDRESSES

We are still having problems with shipmate's addresses, both street and email. If you move or change email addresses and you don't inform CAIMAN, you may not receive the newsletter. I recently received an email stating they had not received the newsletter. The email address different than what we had. (Not all providers bounce emails back if the address is incorrect or cancelled.) The free ones are bad about informing the sender. If you use a free email service (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) expect problems. When you don't inform us, I spend a lot of time trying to locate shipmates and solving the problem. To solve the problems for CAIMAN, please inform us if or when you change any address. My contact information is: Home 360-692-8232, Cell 360-731-5233, and email #dbfrider@comcast.net (delete the first character). I always enjoy CAIMAN phone calls.

ETERNAL PATROL

I have located more shipmates, but as you can see, many have received Eternal Patrol orders. We have only three Plank Owners still with us. I was informed of the passing of one of our shipmates, Thomas Boothe, when I called his widow and her present husband answered the phone. He did not know the date only that his passing was at the VA hospital in Oklahoma City. I was unable to find a date of his passing and the VA hospital refused to tell me. We recently received an email from a CAIMAN widow informing us that a member of our lost list had passed, and his name was misspelled. I corrected CAIMAN's records and Decklog.

Malikowski, Stanley CWO2 (44/45) 8 November 2017
Ritscher, Bernhart N. TM2(SS) (44/45) 8 October 2017
Royal, David C. STM1(SS) (45/46) 20 May 1993
Smith, Edward J. SC2(SS) (45/45) 21 December 1997
Hughes, Leo T. ETC(SS) (46/47) 30 January 2009
Williams, Homer W. HM1(SS) (46/47) 15 July 1992
Long, John M. TMC(SS) (47/46) 7 October 2011
Gilbert, John R. CDR (47/49) 1990
Paulino, Vicente D. SD2(SS) (48/48) 10 December 1974
Crandall, Fred M. RMSN(SS) (49/49) 24 Sept 2017
Powell, Bernarr R. SN(SS) (50/53) 16 February 2009
Gomes, Joseph S. EN2(SS) (51/53) 9 August 2017
Kan, Darryl B. SN(SS) (54/55) 8 April 2017
Walker, Earl L. EN1(SS) (56/59) 27 January 2015
Boothe, Thomas C. STSN(SS) (59/60) ?
Guinn, Marvin O. EN1(SS) (60/61) 11 August 2003
Abbott, James A. ENFN(SS) (61/62) 7 November 1967
Whaley, Bert L. EM3(SS) (64/66) 11 March 2014
Rau, Ronald LT (65/67) 15 July 2017
Bush, Ronnie D. FN(SS) (69/72) 29 November 2004

SAILING LIST

As you thumb through the sailing list, there are a couple of item I should explain. In the address column, **ADDRESS UNKNOWN** is a shipmate that has moved, and we have not re-located him. **NOT INT** is short for not interested. This is a shipmate that either told us he was not interested or did not reply to a letter or phone call. In the address column, **NO RESPONSE TO LTR** is a shipmate (**NOT INT**) that an active phone number could not be found so we sent a letter to his last known address and it was not returned. After a month, if the letter was not returned, we assume the person to whom it was addressed received it. In the letter, we include the reason for the letter and CAIMAN'S contact information. We also ask to be informed if the letter was received in error. Here are the latest counts:

Sailing List:	1340
Hopefully at the next reunion:	487
Eternal Patrol:	853
Lost List:	79

Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.



U.S.S. CAIMAN (SS323)



2018 REUNION REGISTRATION

MAY 7 – 10, 2018 – HOLIDAY INN PRESIDENTAL HOTEL
600 INTERSTATE 30, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
RESERVATIONS 866-900-7625 or 501-375-2100

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 _____

REGISTRATION FEE **\$ 10.00**

WELCOME LUNCHEON (TUESDAY)
BUFFET # _____ @ \$36.00 PER PERSON \$ _____

USS RAZORBACK TOUR (WEDNESDAY) # _____ @ \$30.00 PER PERSON \$ _____

BANQUET DINNER (THURSDAY)
BAR B QUE CHICKEN # _____
BEEF BRISKET WITH AU JUS # _____
TOTAL # _____ @ \$40.00 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
4987 ILLAHEE RD NE
BREMERTON, WA 98311

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

IF PLAYING IN GOLF TOURNAMENT (THURSDAY) LIST NUMBER OF PLAYERS _____