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FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

MAY 2008

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

HURRY!!! HURRY!!! HURRY!!! – It's getting close to our THIRD CAIMAN Reunion at the Lodge of the Ozarks in beautiful Branson, Missouri. For hotel reservations at the Lodge call 1-877-327-9894. Deadline for reunion and hotel registrations is April 15, 2008 so if you are planning to attend, send in your form immediately and call for your hotel room before it is too late. The CAIMAN Association Board has a few surprises for everyone who attends this year's gala. To all CAIMAN attendees: Get those registration forms in to Smitty by the 15th of April and join us for a great time in Branson. We can guarantee you a good time.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

ATTENDANCE

As we all know, none of us are getting any younger. With age, come wisdom, and also other things creep up on us. Our Eternal Patrol list is growing and the rest of our members that are able to make our reunions are shrinking. The reason I suggested at our last reunion to pick a location in the central US is the equal distance from either coast. The vote agreed with the recommendation. The point I am making is the attendance at our reunions will probably start decreasing after this reunion, so I am suggesting if you are undecided about attending this reunion – do attend. I know you would want to ensure all the sea stories are told correctly, especially the ones that mention your name. And the most important reason: to visit with the shipmates you have not seen in many years. We have some special events planned to ensure that this reunion is remembered by all.

ADDRESS LABELS

A suggestion from a shipmate was to add the CAIMAN Association dues expiration date to the address labels. As I am always open to suggestions, I did it. The year, following your name, shows the year your dues will or did expire. LIFE means life membership. If there is not a number following your name, my records do not show you have paid any dues. There is a very slim chance my records are incorrect. If you disagree with the date, please call me. All Plank Owners and CAIMAN widows have life membership from the Association.

REGISTRATION FEE

There have been some questions about the registration fee on the registration form. If your dues are current for the CAIMAN Association, there is no fee for you and/or your guests. For those that paid a registration fee for their guests, you will have three options at the reunion.

- 1) You can donate the funds to the Assoc Secretary;
- 2) You can donate the funds to the CAIMAN Association;
- or 3) you can get a refund. There is no doubt that the first option will be the most selected.

NEWSLETTERS

The newsletters are mailed in January, May, and September. The exception is the year of our reunions, the May issue will be mailed in April. I am sure you can understand I am a bit busy during that time. The day they are mailed I put a copy of the web site. If you do not receive your copy either contact me and I will mail you another one, or download one from the web.

CHANGE OF ROOMS

The Lodge has changed our hospitality suite to the Crystal Room which is also where the breakfast and the Tuesday luncheon will be served. The good news is the kegs will be closer. Corn Flakes and beer – brings back memories, doesn't it. Our final banquet will be in the Club that is part of the Lodge. Since we do not have a separate hospitality suite now, during the Association meeting, the ladies will have their presentation in the Club.

Eternal Patrol

We lost more shipmates since the last newsletter. They will be missed.

HALEY, John EM3(SS) 44/46 Plankowner - Dec 2007

BOYD, Thomas LT 49/53 - Nov 2007

CLARK, Richard, CDR XO 50/52 - Jan 2008

Sailors, rest your oars.

DOOR PRIZE TICKETS

After viewing our prizes for the drawings or door prizes, which ever term you prefer, you may wish to purchase more tickets. I have good news. For an appropriate submission of American currency, we will gladly present you with more tickets. Also do not forget, the CAIMAN Sweethearts are selling tickets for the wall covering that Ron Erb's relative made for us. Like the quilt at the last reunion, that Laura Luce, Big John's better half made, it is one of a kind and made special for CAIMAN. We do take checks. Also we will have a free night for every 30 rooms rented that will go into the drawing.

BEVERAGES

We will have beer, lite beer, non-alcoholic beer, coffee, water, and lemonade available in the hospitality suite. The beverages and the breakfast are furnished by the CAIMAN Association.

SHOWS

Discount tickets to the many shows available in Branson will be available at the Lodge.

SAILING LIST

Sailing List:	1118
Expected at the next reunion:	543
Eternal Patrol:	575
Lost List:	293

**From one Veteran to another,
it is an *HONOR* to be in your Company**

SPELL CHECK

We have 558 people on our mailing list. I would like to thank 557 for NOT sending me an email and pointing out a spelling error on the last newsletter. Yes, I corrected it in the archives and on the FLAMIN' CAIMAN web site. I know he got a perverse pleasure from telling me about it. Then he informed me he will not make the reunion so I can't get even. Some people

MY TRIP

I am leaving for Branson on 10 May and will arrive on the 17th. When I travel I forward my home phone to my cell phone so you can still contact me. Just leave me a message and I will call you back when I stop for a rest or for the night. As you can tell by the number of days, I am taking my time. I enjoy the back or 2 lane roads so I am trying to visit as many as I can. Retirement is rough – but someone has to do it.

PETS

I have had one person inform me that he couldn't take his pet (dog) on the Branson Belle. Ladies, that does not pertain to husbands/male friends. Most of us are house broke so the management trusts us. Someone once said – a fool is born every minute.

DIVING ALARM

The diving alarm will be back. As at the last reunion, we have a diving alarm and will use it often. In Flagstaff, with very little effort we managed to ensure that every person at the hotel knew we were there. There was a meeting across the hall from the hospitality suite on the second day of the reunion. They shut the doors to their room early. I doubt it did any good. The hotel staff did not complain – may have had something to do with the amount of money we dropped at their establishment.

ATTENDANCE

We told the hotel there would be 200 of us there. We have not quite made it yet, so get your registrations in to me. I know you don't want to make the Yeo look bad. Maybe that is not the best incentive to use. Just come to the reunion – the only guarantee is you will have fun. And as always, the sea stories are free.

BINNACLE LIST

John Scofield's (STCS(SS) 59/63) wife is fighting a mersa infection. This is the nasty infection that has made the news. My Daughter, a nurse, told me it is easy to get but hard to get rid of. Keep John's wife in your thoughts and prayers.

COMPUTERS

If you have a computer question, bring it to the reunion. Greg "Hawkeye" Baer and I will be there and will answer almost any question. JK Bain had so many questions I told him to bring his laptop with him. It will be easier to show him then try and explain a computer to an Engineman.

ATTORNEY

CAIMAN'S legal counsel will be attending also. He is licensed for California so specific questions may not receive a definite answer. Please remember this. He has done a lot for CAIMAN so be nice - no lawyer jokes. Remember, he can get even.

BYLAWS

One of our more detail oriented members reviewed our bylaws and came up with some suggestions. The board has looked them over and we will present them to the membership at the Association meeting after the luncheon on Tuesday. It is NOT a rewrite. If we gag Lefty Hnatovic, I do not believe it will take very long to go over them.

ELECTIONS

I have not received any nominations for Commander or Secretary/Treasurer. If you do not come up with any nominations you will be stuck with us again. That means complaints will not be allowed. You could give someone else the chance to enjoy Yeo's driving "skills". That is not what his wife calls them, but I have to be careful what I write.

SAILING LIST

If you forgot to indicate that you want a sailing list at the reunion, I will have extra copies. I am not bringing a lot of extras. Once again, if you can remember anything about where a member of the lost list was or is from, let me know. I have learned that most people go back to the area where they lived when they joined Uncle Sam's Canoe Club.

CHECKING ON MEMBERS

As in the Southern California fires and now the Midwest flooding, we called and attempted to talk to all of our ship mates and widows that live in the area. There were a few in Southern California I could not talk to but I heard from ours that they still had a home. All the shipmates in the Midwest are high and dry. No one is treading water. Now they do not have an excuse for not attending the reunion.

SHIP STORE

The ship store will be in operation at the reunion so bring your checkbook. We will have a couple of new items. Hawkeye and I will be updating the ship store on the FLAMIN' CAIMAN web site also. The new tee shirts will be available from the web site after the reunion. A couple of people have reminded me that I need to update the web site. Two years is not long if you are retired – and I am. I have heard, in my case it is pronounced retarded. Don't believe everything you hear.

MAILING ADDRESS

We have changed the mailing address to the Yeo's home address. The checking account will be moved up here to Bremerton in April. We are keeping an address in California because most of our ship store items are made in Washington. Out of state addresses do not have to pay sales tax. This includes our printing costs. We are saving a bundle this way.

Congressman James Weaver, on a recent Sunday talk show, berated fellow lawmakers for "spending money like a drunken sailor"

As a former drunken sailor, I take offense at being compared to a congressman!