



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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

MAY 2009

## COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

It is time for our quarterly newsletter. Smitty and I have been in Reno this past week arranging for our May 17-20, 2010 reunion. We visited with tour agencies, hotels and beverage distributors and made our decisions for next year's event. We picked Circus Circus for the hotel. It is clean; the room rate is very reasonable; easy access from the freeway; the food is great; and the availability of parking is plentiful for all vehicles. The hotel has a parking area for motor homes; however, overnight sleeping is prohibited for all the hotels we visited. Circus Circus is connected to two other hotels by enclosed walkways; the Silver Legacy and El Dorado. Each has numerous restaurants and gift shops. We have picked a tour company for our Wednesday excursion to Carson City and Virginia City. Also included is a train ride around Virginia City with lunch provided. The price is very reasonable. Shipmates, start making plans for May 2010. I expect everyone that receives this newsletter to be in attendance at our 4<sup>th</sup> CAIMAN reunion. John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

## HOLLAND CLUB

Holland Club Members are USSVI members (Sub Vets) that have been qualified for at least 50 years and a member of Sub Vets for 5 years or life members. CAIMAN has added 15 members this year. They are:  
Block, Edward ENC(SS) (55/60)  
Dutcher, Ronald EMC(SS) (59/61)  
Gnepper, Arthur IC1(SS) (55/59)  
Helle, Avid SN(SS) (45/46)  
Larson, David EM2(SS) (47/47)  
McCabe, Thomas ETC(SS) (60/60)  
McDonald, Bryon ENC(SS) (62/63)  
McGaughey, Phillip LCDR (57/59) (Mustang – EM)  
Mehrling, Robert, EMCM(SS) (64/67)  
Nielsen, Donald, EN2(SS) (59/60)  
Payne, Harold SC3(SS) (45/46) rate changed to CS  
Pitts, Jack RM3(SS) (53/54)  
Scott, Carl MM1(SS) (58/59)  
Starr, Harry ENC(SS) (67/?)  
Willette, Lloyd EMC(SS) (58/61)  
The complete list of the 77 CAIMAN sailors that are Holland Club members is on the web site.

## EMAILS

When I am informed of a shipmate's medical problem or upon receiving orders for eternal patrol, I send emails to their shipmates on CAIMAN. I have some bad news for those using sbcgobal.net. (Sbcgobal's spam filter is too aggressive – this is a widely know problem) I can't correct the problem, the shipmates that have sbcgobal.net email addresses are the ones that have to complain. Call them!! To make it more confusing, sbcgobal does deliver some emails from my provider - Comcast. Aren't computer fun!!

## VA HEALTH CARE

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service, or some other financial setback. Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost. Each VA medical center has an enrollment coordinator to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility). We earned these benefits so check it out.

## BINNACLE REPORT

John Jurcheck CAPT (68/70) had surgery in December 2008. When I talked to him, he was home and doing great. Since he is doing great we expect him at the reunion in Reno.

## ETERNAL PATROL

A few of our shipmates departed on Eternal Patrol and we did not get a copy of their orders until recently. Kleinman, Ford EMC (SS) (45/46) May 2005  
Henry, Carlos CWO2 (50/56) November 2008  
Since the last newsletter we have had other shipmates that have received orders.  
Dowdy, Charles RMSN(SS) (58/60) January 2009  
Melvin, Alan END3(SS) (57/59) January 2009  
Packard, Albert TM1(SS) (55/55) January 2009  
Brown, David FTC(SS) (46/50) April 2009  
Bruck, Thomas J CDR (CAPT 60/62) April 2009  
Eiland, A. Z ATC(SS) (47/48) April 2009  
Evans, Leslie F. LT (67/70) April 2009  
Rogers, Douglas A. STC(SS) (52/54 & 58/62) April 2009  
Sailors, rest your oars.

## SHIRTS

Good News!! We are offering polo shirts this reunion instead of tee shirts. We will have several colors. For the CAIMAN Sweethearts, we will have pink tees and polo shirts. Of course, we will sell the cute pink ones to the ET's too. We will also have a nice dolphin belt buckle and a DBF pin. We will continue to carry the usual items, so don't forget your check book. If you buy the wife/girl friend a pink polo she will probably let you buy what you want.

## SAILING LIST

We have had some good luck since the last newsletter in locating missing shipmates. The current counts are:

Sailing List:	1191
Expected at the next reunion:	584
Eternal Patrol:	607
Lost List:	229

You Might Be A Diesel Boat sailor, if.....

You smell like diesel oil.  
You know the location of Hogan's Alley.  
You know what hot bunking means.  
You know when your bunk feels like a sandy beach, it is time to change the sheets.  
You know what poppet valves are.  
You know what ho ho ho means.  
You know what blow and go means.  
You know how to follow the bubble.  
You know how much maneuvering is done in the Maneuvering Room.  
You know what prepare to snorkel means.  
You know what Blow Safety means.  
You know what Safety Tank is for.  
After a deployment, your wife makes you leave your laundry outside.  
After a deployment, your wife makes you strip before you enter the house.  
You know that no one ever really owned a plank.  
You know what a my wife chit is.  
You know that bulkhead flappers are not dancers.  
You know that ping jockeys do not ride pings, or horses.  
You know what rig for dive means.  
You know what a green board is.  
You know what a straight board is.  
You know what a klaxon is.  
Your house takes a down angle when someone blows a car horn twice.  
You know what blow negative to the mark means.  
You still remember the shapes of those handles, even after the lights go out.  
You know what rig for red means.  
You know what rig for silent running means.  
You know what rig for deep means.  
You have bored holes in the oceans, for months at a time.  
You found your belt getting shorter during a deployment.  
You know what no periscope means in a birth announcement.  
You know what angles and dangles mean.  
You know what get me up means.  
You know that there are two kinds of ships, submarines and TARGETS.  
You know what periscope liberty is.  
You know that a snapshot is not a photograph.  
You know what a hot run in the tube means.  
You know what hot, straight and normal means.  
You are among those who care enough to send the very best.  
You have spoken with Gertrude on occasion.  
You know what going home turns means.  
You know what clear the baffles means.  
You know what blow the forward group means.  
You know what blow the after group means.  
You know what give it a normal blow means.  
You know what prepare to surface without air means.  
You know what commence a low pressure blow means.  
You know what it means to be all caught up in 5 minutes.  
You know that a fart sack has 4 sides.  
You know a shower is a bi-monthly event, sometimes.  
You know what Gilly is.

You know what a four engine run is.  
You know what a doubler hatch is.  
You believe snorkeling is an ear wax removal technique.  
You believe coffee tastes better with an oil slick.  
You know what make turns for 3 knots and put the rest in the can means.  
You understand, black & bitter, black & sweet, and blonde & sweet.  
You know what channel fever is.  
You know what a long haired mess cook is.  
You know that if you are crankin', you are not in the Engine Room.  
You know that COB has nothing to do with corn.  
You know that not all crabs go with salad.  
You know that one towel will last the whole run.  
You know where the barrel is.  
You know what a stew burner is.  
You know that venting Sanitary Tanks inboard is aromatic.  
You know where the Forward Battery is.  
You know where the After Battery is.  
You know planes men do not fly.  
You understand blowing the mast.  
You understand shut down on high vacuum.  
You can equalize in your sleep.  
You do not sleep with your ear against the flash cover.  
You know what a bell tapper is.  
You know what soup down is.  
You understand eating your way through the boat.  
You know an escape trunk is not a magician's trick.  
You know having the conn is not a swindle.  
You understand a 16 party phone line. (X1J)  
You understand mark your head.  
You understand what GDU stands for.  
You know what DBF means.