



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

MAY 2013

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Shipmates and Ladies – Here it is spring time in good ole USA and just about one year before our 2014 CAIMAN reunion in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. RESERVE THESE DATES: MAY 12th thru MAY 15th 2014!! We are not getting any younger so I hope to see everyone who is still breathing at our 6th CAIMAN reunion. Coeur d'Alene is beautiful in the spring and the golf and spa resort has many incredible adventures to offer the CAIMAN Association. Thanks to Doug Smith and Bob Dingel for setting up our 2014 reunion. So save your shekels and make your reservations TODAY and enjoy America's Northwest playground in the great State of Idaho. SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

AUTHOR

We have a shipmate that has written three novels. Tom Jacobs, CAIMAN (60/63), retired as a Captain. He had command of the USS Seadragon SSN584, but we don't hold that against him. Two of his books are submarine/CIA yarns:

- *Sons of God*, and
- *Ship Captain and Crew*

The first few chapters can be read free on his web site www.mymysterynovel.com. The books can be purchased on site also. *Ship Captain and Crew* is only available as an ebook. Tom donated four signed books, "Sons of God", for the drawing at our Reno reunion (2010).

DD-214.

DD-214s are NOW Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. 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.

COEUR D'ALENE

Bob "Dings" Dengel and I visited Coeur d'Alene (CDA) to plan our next reunion. Cheryl, my girlfriend, and Renay, Mrs. Dings, accompanied us. If you are driving, CDA is on I-90 and east of US-95. I will give better directions and driving hints in the January 2014 newsletter. This is a very clean city with many parks and walking paths/trails. The resort where the reunion is being hosted is within a short walk of many restaurants and shops. The hotel has a sky bridge so you do not have to fight traffic to visit the restaurants and shops.

THE COEUR D'ALENE RESORT

The CDA resort (www.cdaresort.com) is the nicest hotel that has hosted one of our reunion. It has all the features and amenities that are expected at a resort hotel. The lobby has aquarium with large Koi, a free standing very large fireplace, many shops, a Starbucks, a bar, and several very comfortable seating areas. Dings could sit for hours and watch the fish if we would let him. I think he was trying to catch them doing something – I wonder what. There is also a spa, swimming pool and hot tubs in an area off the lobby. The hotel does not allow banners in the lobby area, so the CAIMAN banner will not be displayed. The standup banner will be outside the hospitality room so you will not get lost.

We received a nice discount on room rates.

ROOM	OUR RATE	WITH TAX	NORMAL
NORTH WING	\$79.00	\$89.59	\$169.00
PARK TOWER	\$89.00	\$100.93	\$229.00
LAKE TOWER	\$129.00	\$146.29	\$339.00

The North Wing rooms are standard sized hotel rooms with nice amenities and a limited view of the marina or mountains. But only 33 North Wing rooms are available. If you want a North Wing room – call soon. The Park Tower are larger rooms with nice amenities, more windows and better views of the marina or mountains. The Lake Tower rooms are on higher floors and are mini suites with more amenities, balconies, and beautiful views of the marina or mountains. Smoking is permitted on the balconies, but only Lake Tower rooms have balconies. All rooms have a refrigerator and free Wi-Fi. We also have free covered self-parking. You will have to pay for valet parking. The room rates are good for three day pre-reunion and three days post-reunion. The reservation numbers are 800-688-5253 or 208-765-4000. Reservations are open and waiting for your call. Don't forget to mention that you are part of the FLAMIN' CAIMAN (They like our nickname). You will need a credit card to pay for the first night when you call in your reservation. If necessary, cancellations can be made up to 72 hours prior to your scheduled arrival. Reservations will close on April 15th. After that date rooms and the CAIMAN rate may not be available. There are two restaurants inside the hotel. Beverly's, on the seventh floor is a five star restaurant that serves outstanding meals. As you can guess, the prices are equal to the stars (\$50-\$60 each). It is a great place to eat one night during the reunion. The Dockside is the restaurant that is close to our hospitality room. It is more reasonably priced and good food too. The hotel is offering us a reduced rate on their shuttle between the airport in Spokane and the CDA Resort. Our price is \$59.00 round trip per person. If you will need this shuttle, mention it to the reservation clerk. The taxi rate is \$120.00 to the resort and \$80.00 back to the airport. Two couples would save money taking the taxi – if you can get all the luggage in the cab.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

Our hospitality room is next to the Dockside restaurant. It is located with a short walk to a smoking area and short walk the other direction to the bar. We will have maps of CDA and a Guide to North Idaho for each attendee in the hospitality room. Sticky buns will be available in the hospitality room every morning. Coffee (regular and decaf) and tea will be available all day. As usual, beer, soft drinks, and water will be available all day. We have a water distributor furnishing us with a dispenser and five gallon bottles of water. We will not run out of water as we did in San Antonio. You can bring your own container for water if you desire. Our dolphin flags and DBF flag will be displayed in the hospitality room.

TOUR

The Wednesday event this time will be a tour of Lake Coeur d'Alene on two double decked boats. This is a huge lake and that may be an understatement. The boats will be together, but no daredevil jumping between boats. If you fall in we will pick you up on the return trip. During the tour, we will have a no-host bar and a hot lunch. The tour company is also furnishing a historian to give us information about the lake and surrounding territory. This will be more than just a boat trip.

MEALS

Both the luncheon on Tuesday and the dinner on Thursday will be plated meals – no buffet this time. You will have two choices for both meals on the registration form that will be in the January 2014 newsletter. The hotel designed menus to fit our budget. You can thank the ladies for this. Their input helped the catering department determine our menu. Dings and I needed their assistance. This is the first time we have had that done for us. We usually have to choose from prepared menus. The catering department did an outstanding job of keeping our cost down.

ELECTIONS

Vice Commander Elections will be held this reunion. Chris "Hoofs" Field will be after re-election. He is buying the beer on Monday as an enticement, not a bribe, to vote for him. If you would like to be a candidate contact me. By now everyone should have my phone number, street address, and email address. You will be expected to buy the beer for Tuesday morning. We make Hoofs buy all day Monday because of the huge salary he is receiving as Vice Commander.

RV PARKING

The hotel has free RV parking, if you stay at the hotel. In other words, you can park your RV but can't stay in it. There is an RV park close to the hotel – but too far to walk. It is Blackwell Island. It is off US 95. It appears to have everything an RVer needs. Contact me before the reunion and I will give you all the information we have.

HOLLAND CLUB

The Holland Club is a group within U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. (Sub Vets). Holland Club members have been qualified in submarines for 50 years. This year CAIMAN added 13 new members. This makes a total of 146 CAIMAN sailors are members of the Holland Club. The list is on our web site www.flamincaiman.org.

SUBMARINE MEMORABILIA

Our request for submarine memorabilia was received well. We want to thank Larry Carstensen (64-67) for donating a diving alarm and two torpedo screws. He met with John "Yeo" Fagereng and gave us the donations. The torpedo screws will be donated to a submarine museum and the diving alarm will be the prize for a special drawing at the reunion in CDA. We decided to have a special drawing as not everyone wants a diving alarm. For those interested, tickets will be the same price as regular drawing tickets - \$3.00 each or four for \$10.00. By the way, diving alarms go for around \$500.00 on the internet. While I am on the subject, I have contacted CAIMAN widows about submarine memorabilia that they don't want. I was surprised to learn that many were not aware that submariners attempt to save our memorabilia either as an association or in a museum. Please be sure your family knows not to throw any submarine memorabilia away, contact me and I will get it picked up.

FUTURE REUNIONS

The CAIMAN Association board and the reunion committee are continually looking for new ideas and locations for future reunions. I contacted several state's Tourist Bureaus listing our requirements which are:

- 1) A place to stay.
- 2) A place to drink beer.
- 3) A place to visit.

As we know Idaho answered and won the election. Utah did not answer at all. We believe it was because of requirement two. We have looked at other locations in Nevada, and they can't meet all three requirements. California is expensive, and requirement three poses a problem. Any ideas are very welcome. Don't forget we need to meet all three requirements.

ETERNAL PATROL

As I have said before, this is the one item I wish I did not have to include in the newsletter. We were not notified of the first shipmate until recently. I wish you guys would inform us before you accept these orders. These shipmates will be missed by many.

CABBAGE, Robert SN(SS) (52/53) 12 April 2010
KNIGHT, Donald W. ENC(SS) (47/47) 8 January 2013
SKOOG, Joseph CAPT (52/52) 27 February 2013
VENZKE, Rudolph TMC(SS) (44/46) 16 March 2013
Sailors, rest your oars.

SAILING LIST

Here is our current stats on the shipmates we have located and still looking for. We have had shipmates mail returned and we can't locate them. The only explanation we can come up with is they have been moved to a nursing home. I have not found any way to locate shipmates that are now living in a nursing home unless someone informs us. This explains many of the ADDRESS UNKNOWN in the sailing list.

Sailing List:	1258
Expected at the next reunion:	546
Eternal Patrol:	712
Lost List:	168

"When you shoot at a destroyer and miss, it's like hittin' a wildcat in the ass with a banjo"

RISK IS AN INSPIRATION IN SUBMARINE SERVICE

By Dr. Joyce Brothers "1963"

The tragic loss of the submarine Thresher and 129 men had a special kind of impact on the nation.....a special kind of sadness, mixed with universal admiration for the men who chose this kind of work.

One could not mention the Thresher without observing, in the same breath how utterly final and alone the end is when a ship dies at the bottom of the sea.....and what a remarkable specimen of man it must be who accepts such a risk.

Most of us might be moved to conclude, too, that a tragedy of this kind would have a damaging effect on the moral of the other men in the submarine service and tend to discourage future enlistments. Actually, there is no evidence that this is so.

What is it, then, that lures men to careers in which they spend so much of their time in cramped quarters, under great psychological stress, with danger lurking all about them?

Bond Among Them

Together-ness is an overworked term, but in no other branch of our military service is it given such full meaning as in the so-called "silent service."

In an under sea craft, each man is totally dependant upon the skill of every other man in the crew, not only for top performance but for actual survival. Each knows that his very life depends on the others and because this is so, there is a bond among them that both challenges and comforts them.

All of this gives the submariner a special feeling of pride, because he is indeed a member of an elite corps. The risks, then, are an inspiration, rather than a deterrent.

The challenge of masculinity is another factor, which attracts men to serve on submarines. It certainly is a test of man's prowess and power to know he can qualify for this highly selective service. However, it should be emphasized that this desire to prove masculinity is not pathological, as it might be in certain daredevil pursuits, such as driving a motorcycle through a flaming hoop.

Emotionally Healthy

There is nothing daredevilish about the motivations of the man who decides to dedicate his life to the submarine service. He does, indeed, take pride in demonstrating that he is quite a man, but he does not do so to practice a form of foolhardy brinkmanship, to see how close he can get to failure and still snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. On the contrary, the aim in the submarine service is to battle the danger, to minimize the risk, to take every measure to make certain that safety rather than danger, is maintained at all times.

Are the men in submarines braver than those in other pursuits where the possibility of sudden tragedy is not constant? The glib answer would be that they are. It is much more accurate, from a psychological point of view, to say they are not necessarily braver, but that they are who have a little more insight into themselves and their capabilities.

They know themselves a little better than the next man. This has to be so with men who have a healthy reason to volunteer for a risk. They are generally a cut healthier emotionally than others of similar age and background because of their willingness to push themselves a little bit farther and not settle for an easier kind of existence. We all have tremendous capabilities but are rarely straining at the upper level of what we can do; these men are.

The country can be proud and grateful that so many of its sound, young, eager men care enough about their own status in life--and the welfare of their country--to pool their skills and match them collectively against the power of the sea.

CORRECTION AND ADDENDUM

- 1) There will NOT be RV parking at the hotel. The city is expanding a park.**
- 2) The hotel has held 100 rooms for us from May 12 – 15, 2014. But the three days before and after the reunion are on a space available basis. There are four events at the hotel during our reunion. If you want a room before or after the reunion –MAKE YOUR RESERVATION EARLY.**

Any questions call Smitty (h) 360-377-4763 (c) 360-731-5233