



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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

MAY 2014

## COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

We are giving Yeo a break this newsletter. The reason is in February Yeo had a double bypass and a heart valve replaced. He won't tell us where the valve came from but he quit eating beef. The docs took veins from his leg for the bypasses so he had stitches all over. He went home and then a few days later he decides to get pneumonia. Back to the hospital. The docs knocked that out and send him home for the second time. Then to complete the cycle, Yeo decided to pick up an infection and as you might guess, Yeo doesn't do anything half way – it was a nasty infection. Back to the hospital he went. The nurses were getting tired of seeing him. The good news is he kicked it and is doing great. He did make the reunion and enjoyed himself. Judy says he is back to his old self and if he doesn't change he will need surgery on his head next time. Yeo did ask why Gerry "GT" Shafer did not wear his new tee shirt to the reunion. GT has some funky excuse that no one believe. Maybe next time.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

## NEXT REUNION

Our reunion in May 2016 will be in Tucson. We will not have to worry about snow in Tucson. CAIMAN's reunions are becoming well known. We have already received a quote from several hotels. Several of our shipmates stated they like going to different locations for the reunions. I believe we did it as the next reunion is the width of the United States from the last one. GT lives in Tucson and I have promised him we will attempt to fill his garage with reunion and ships store gear.

## LAST REUNION

CAIMAN had another outstanding reunion. The resort treated us great. We could not have asked for more. I was also told by several members of the staff that they enjoyed us and hope we would come back. The lake tour was fun and entertaining. The hotel furnished a historian and tour guide that had very interesting information about the lake. Many of our shipmates also enjoyed the no-host bar. Bill Bales, as CFO for Sierra Nevada Brewery, once again donated several cases of beer that was consumed in the hospitality room. We had soft drinks for the shipmates and guests that preferred the lighter fare.

## TEE SHIRTS

We had many donations for this reunion. The biggest donation was from John Troutman. He designed a tee shirt to commemorate this reunion. He bought enough for all the sailors attending the reunion plus some extras. John gave us a choice of two colors plus sizes to fit all. The only sad part is John couldn't make the reunion due to a medical problem. His doctors are working to solve his problem. Everyone at the reunion wished him a speedy recovery and are looking forward to the next reunion so they can thank him in person.

## DONATIONS

As usual we had many donations for the raffle drawing. I can't list all the donations but Don Fairbairn recently moved to a smaller house and his wife strongly suggested he do something with his submarine items. He brought several books on submarines and a set of monkey pod dolphins to the reunion. Many of us remember the monkey pod dolphins from the Philippines. When the dolphins came up in the raffle drawing – Don won. The full room heard his wife objecting. Don, being the good husband and shipmate, presented the dolphins to Carl Farris. Everybody was happy, most importantly, Don's wife. The dolphins would not fit in any of Carl's or his son's suitcases. So Carl, being ever resourceful, mailed the dolphins home. The stained glass dolphins grand prize was won by Bernie Ritscher our only 1944 Shipmate present.

## SUBMARINE BOOKS

Since I am the editor, I can add little personal notes. To all who won the submarine books at the reunion, I collect true submarine books. After you have read the books and if you no longer desire to keep them, contact me and I will buy any I don't have from you.

## CANCELLATIONS

We have several shipmates that have had to cancel because of medical problems, theirs and/or their wife's. They all expressed that they wished they could have made the reunion and will do their best to make the next one. I informed them that since they weren't there, we will talk about them. So don't miss a reunion or you could become the subject of a discussion by your shipmates but only true stories.

## AUCTIONS

I am sure many of you who did not attend the reunion heard about our auctions after the dinner. We discovered that Jim "Tooley" O'Toole has had some experience as an auctioneer and he is very good at it. The first item that was auctioned off was GT's tie. The best part of that auction was GT did not know it was going to happen. CAIMAN made \$120.00 and Bob "Dings Dengel" got a new tie. This could be a warning about wearing a tie to the dinner. The next item was the diving alarm. The person who won it has one so he donated it back to be auctioned off. Carolyn Whelan (W. W. Fender's daughter) won that bidding war. It did get very spirited and CAIMAN made a nice bundle. The next item was an American Flag. The flag came from the passing of a CAIMAN sailor who did not have any close relatives. The person, another submarine sailor, who handled his affairs after he received eternal patrol orders donated the flag to CAIMAN. The board decided it would be appropriate to add to our drawing. The person who won the flag suggested we auction it. We put Tooley to work again and he did another fabulous job. Tooley did help the CAIMAN's funds and his efforts were greatly appreciated. Tooley will return.

## SUBMARINE STUFF

Any items from your time on a submarine that you no longer want and do not want to put into a drawing, bring to the reunion. As an example, this reunion we had two torpedo props and the wardroom table cover (not the long green one that many of us have seen). These are not good items for the drawing but a submarine museum will enjoy having them. Jim "Buckets" Hunnicutt attended the reunion and drove from Florida. Since he traveled alone I attempted to fill his back seat with items to deliver to the Kings Bay Museum in Georgia. Thanks, Buckets! This is the second time he has done this for us. Buckets didn't know I volunteered him but he is a typical sailor - he can be bought with beer. It took a bit more than I planned but I succeeded. I succeeded so well he offered to do it for the next reunion also. Amazing what beer will buy.

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## SUBMARINE MEMORABILIA

While I am on the subject of stuff from your days of punching holes in the ocean, any submarine memorabilia that you or your family does not want - we will gladly add to our drawings or we will donate it to a submarine museum as I mentioned earlier. The Kings Bay Museum is one of the nicer museums. When I visited there they gave me copies of all articles they had on CAIMAN. To my knowledge, submariners are the only force that attempt to keep our history and artifacts for future generations.

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## SHIPS STORE

We had a new tee shirt this reunion. It is from a patch that was designed by Bill Foster in the late 60's. It is labeled "GMC PIT CREW" with a CAIMAN driving a hot rod submarine. I believe all the Enginemen should want at least one. We still have belt buckets and magnets to name a few items. If you want some items for your Sub Vets base, see me about a bulk price. Remember, the more you buy or sell, the more free beer and donuts we will have at the next reunion. The reunion gifts this time were coasters with the CAIMAN patch and a dolphin key ring. We have more in the ships store. So, if you did not attend the reunion or would like more we will have them at the next reunion.

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## CAIMAN COINS

As usual everyone got a commemorative coin. If you are missing a coin and would like a full set, we will have extras at each reunion, but only for shipmates. Tom "Big Stone" Scobic had a sample of a wooden coin holder at the reunion that holds twelve coins and has a CAIMAN in the center. His brother makes them. You can purchase one made from oak, maple, pine, or walnut for \$100.00 per holder plus \$20.00 shipping. The money goes to support the class that his brother teaches. His email address is [#jscoblic@lp.k12.mn.us](mailto:#jscoblic@lp.k12.mn.us) (delete the first character). Look for a photo of the board in the next newsletter and on the web site. Since school is out for the summer it will be September before they build anymore. Order early and you will be at the top of the list.

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## ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Since in some areas, mostly the northern areas, it is nicer weather in September than May, the board asked the members at the reunion for the flexibly to plan reunions in September or May. May is before tourist season and September is after tourist season so we will get good room rates in either month, the roads will be open, and the kids will be in school. Also some Northern areas don't open until June. The members present approved this suggestion. The reunion in 2016 will be in May. The weather in Tucson is nasty in September.

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## DUES

For those paying every two years - dues is due at the reunions. You could just give me \$75.00 and you will be paid for life and I will quit bugging you. Also this will get Yeo off my back. Something else to think about. Since most of us are retired I am giving you a lot to think about. I believe submariners can handle it. If not ask your wife or girlfriend to assist you. They have been multi-tasking for years and are good at it.

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## ETERNAL PATROL

Once again I have to include this section in the newsletter. I enjoy doing the secretary job for CAIMAN, but this part of the newsletter is not enjoyable. I am still hoping I will be able to publish a newsletter without including this section. As you will notice, sometimes we do not receive the information on a shipmate receiving eternal patrol orders for a while.

Atteberry, Donald R. QM3(SS) (46/48) 13 January 2010  
Pollgreen, Thomas STCS(SS) (48/51) 10 October 2012  
Zarate, Frank QM3(SS) (67/69) 27 December 2013  
Dorado, Gregorio M. SKC(SS) (57/60) 12 January 2014  
Washburn, James TM1(SS) (46/47) 16 March 2014  
Campbell, John D. MMCS(SS) (47/48) 19 April 2014  
Baber, Goldie F. MoMM3(SS) (46/48) 16 May 2014  
Sailor, rest your oars.

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## SAILING LIST

Here is our latest stats. As I am sure you noticed we have had more shipmates receive eternal patrol orders. I do not know how to slow this down but wish I did. Our lost list is not changing because I have run out of ideas. Between reunions I will work on it some more and hope the internet has updated to include the people we want to locate. If you remember where a lost shipmate lived, let me know. Most people return to the general area where they were raised or their wife is from. Also if you know another boat a lost shipmate served on, that can help me locate him as well. Any information will help me.

Sailing List:	1262
Expected at the next reunion:	528
Eternal Patrol:	734
Lost List:	168

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***"I can assure you that they went down fighting and that their brothers who survived them took a grim toll of our savage enemy to avenge their deaths."***

*Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN.*

## **SUBMARINE LIFE**

An Explanation of Submarine Life to a Skimmer

Yes, on the sub I was on we did do some of the stuff we did, and we didn't do some of the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was secret, so we didn't really do it. Even though we did. But not really.

Those medals my shipmates and I got that we didn't get for doing what we didn't do that we did, I really got those. Except not. But yeah. That's because we never went where we were, so we weren't there where we were. And even though we weren't where we were, we did do the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there, doing it.

As for what boat we were on when we didn't go there on it, and didn't do the stuff we did while not doing that either, apparently I'm not supposed to even mention that because I guess I'm not allowed to refer to the boat for security reasons, so I won't do that. Mention the boat I mean.

The other stuff, its okay for me to not mention that too. So the bottom line is that while we weren't on the boat, which I'm not going to mention, not doing what we were doing where we weren't, we didn't do that either, I hope that clarifies things for you.

After having re-read the above, the only thing I can think of that's left to say is that now you have me scared, because I sound like a Congressman. But I'm not. I really was a submariner, though. Can you tell?

