



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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MAY 2020

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Sorry about the cancellation of our 2020 reunion. I think more shipmates will sign up for the 2021 get together. Here are my observations on aging – The lighter side. Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! I have traveled a long way and many of the roads were not paved. First you forget names and then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable. When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, just remember Algebra. One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is better than being young. You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks. Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, with chocolate in one hand, beer in the other, body thoroughly used up and totally worn out and screaming WOO HOO what a ride.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

OBSERVANT SHIPMATES

CAIMAN has very observant shipmates. I was informed that on the reunion registration I miss-spelled Albuquerque and the end date for the reunion was incorrect. I blamed my computer, but I was informed the problem was PIBKAC (problem is between the keyboard and the chair). I have double checked the reunion registration for 2021. I will have to do better because I have several editors lurking in the audience.

REUNION 2020

As everyone knows now, we were forced to cancel the 2020 reunion. This was a hard decision for your board to make but we believe it was the correct one due to the circumstances. The 2020 reunion will now be on April 26 – 29, 2021. I have the dates correct this time. We will be in the same hotel, the Crowne Plaza, the same city, and the same tour. The prices at the hotel and the tour will remain the same. Most of the shipmates that registered for the reunion left their registration and deposit with CAIMAN. CAIMAN will make \$.30 more a month in interest now on our checking account thanks to the reunion deposits. If you requested a refund your registration was deleted. Once we have a new contract, you will be able to make hotels reservations. The new registration form will be in the January 2021 newsletter. Any shipmates that had not registered and shipmates that requested a refund will need to submit the new registration.

REUNION 2022

The board elected to return to having reunions on the even years in 2022. The reason is that many of us attend other boat reunions and I have been told that several shipmates plan other activities on the odd years. I have not received any complaints, so we have assumed that everyone agrees. As all of us know well, sailors have been known to complain.

DISABLED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LIFETIME ACCESS PASS

Veterans with a service connected disability rating are entering Federal recreation lands and national parks for free with an America the Beautiful - the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Lifetime Access Pass through an interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. The Access Pass admits the pass owner and any passengers in a single private vehicle (non-commercial) at a per-vehicle entrance and day use fee areas; or, the pass owner plus three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. In addition to free entry at participating sites, the Access Pass includes discounts on some expanded amenity fees such as camping. Sites recommend that pass owners check with each site before visiting for details about Access Pass entry and discounts. Veterans who have been medically determined to have a disability are eligible for the Lifetime Access Pass — with three options for obtaining the pass:

First, Veterans with disability documentation can order the Access Pass online for a \$10 processing fee which includes standard shipping. Documentation required includes:

- Proof of residency
- VA disability award letter
- VA summary of benefits, or SSDI income

Second, the Interagency Access Pass may be obtained through the mail. Download a paper application from <https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass>. Follow the instructions on the website and pay the document processing fee of \$10. Once the application package is received by USGS, the documentation will be verified, and a pass imprinted with the pass owner's name will be mailed to the applicant.

Passes ordered online or through the mail will be delivered 3 to 4 weeks after receipt of documentation and processing payment.

Third, disabled Veterans that visit a participating federal recreation site where interagency passes are issued, present photo identification (e.g., Driver's license, State ID, birth certificate, Passport, or permanent resident card), provide documentation of permanent disability, or read and sign a Statement of Permanent Disability affidavit. That is It. The Pass is free and issued at the time of entry.

HONEY DO LISTS

I bet one item that the wives are happy about is they are getting their honey-do lists resolved. The problem the men will have is the ladies will find more items to add to the list. The growing list is a constant problem for the man of the house.

CLOSE QUARTERS

Civilians are complaining about having to stay home and having their travel restricted. We can tell them about close quarters. I wonder how they could handle 60 days in a tube 311 feet long and 27 feet wide, packed with equipment, only one passageway plus sharing the space with 80 other guys. The big advantage of our submarine adventures was we were fed well every four hours and traveled to exotic ports. Comparatively, while we shelter in place, we shower more frequently and enjoy libations. TV gives us a much bigger choice of entertainment and we have a bigger selection of books to read. Also, since the post office is still working, we have mail regularly. BUT we do not get to enjoy the wonders of snorkeling, especially the head valve slamming shut. CAIMANITES can explain that to the ladies. That is an experience that is difficult to accurately explain.

POLARIS MAGAZINE

"Polaris Magazine" is a publication printed by The US SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII. Subscription is a one-time payment of \$15.00 sent to:

US SUBMARINE VETERANS OF WWII

P.O. Box 824

Mt. Washington, KY 40047-0824

Several CAIMAN sailors have subscribed and are enjoying the publication. If true submarine stories and articles interest you, you should consider subscribing.

NATIONAL SUBMARINE DAY

April 11 is commemorated by the United States submarine community as Submarine Day. It celebrates the anniversary of the procurement by the US Navy of the first commissioned submarine, the USS Holland in 1900. It is an especially important day. Just think, if it never happened, there would be no reunions and you would not be receiving any of these great newsletters.

REPORT RECOMMENDS SOME MTFs TO BE CLOSED TO RETIREES

A delayed report to Congress, mandated by the FY2017 Defense Authorization Act, recommends that 36 Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) stop seeing retirees and their dependents. The report will go to Congress soon, and at that time the specific MTFs will be released. In the FY2017 NDAA, Congress mandated a rightsizing, realignment and restructuring of the direct care system. The DoD claims these changes are needed to ensure the DHA has focus on combat readiness of the military.

STIMULUS CHECKS

Many of the stimulus checks were sent electronically in April and the rest will be mailed in May. So, if you have not received your check – it is in the mail. Of course, we have all heard that before. The best news I have is – I got mine.

COVID-19

I have been informed that one CAIMAN sailor and his wife have been diagnosed with COVID-19. They were both hospitalized but are back home now. We all wish them the best. The youngest CAIMANITE will be 66 this year, so that puts every one of us into the at-risk-group. If you have no symptoms, keep doing what is recommended. If you have symptoms, call your doctor now! Stay healthy and come to the next reunion.

SAVING MONEY

The stay home requirement is like going to sea with respect to saving money. If you stay off Amazon there is a chance you will spend less money. My bill at the coffee shop has decreased a bunch. Another advantage is we won't blow two months pay during a two week upkeep. Also, most of us now have a finance chairman (or woman) that will curtail our spending.

LAUNDRY

We can do our laundry more often during our social isolation period than we did at sea. I doubt anyone will wear the same clothes for 30 days or pick through their dirty clothes looking for the cleanest shirt. Another nice item is the person with you is taking showers regularly and changing clothes. Oh, the good old days.

ETERNAL PATROL

We have lost a Plank Owner. My records show we have two Plank Owners still with us. Our Eternal Patrol list continues to get larger. Attending our reunions is becoming more important so we can spend time with our shipmates and friends.

Overby, William G. FN(SS) (44/45) 26 January 2020

Sullivan, David YNSN(SS) (48/49) 21 December 2019

Carrol, Kent VADM (50/53) 11 August 2019

McKisson, James L. ETCS(SS) (51/55) 28 May 2019

Hayes, Charles M. RM3(SS) (53/55) 31 December 2019

Del Plato, Lawrence CAPT (58/61) 14 March 2020

Whitmarsh, Michael IC1(SS) (60/60) 25 January 2020

Reeves, Walter S. TMCS(SS) (DV) (64/68) 11 April 2020

Sailor rest your oars.

SAILING LIST

Current status.

Located shipmates 1356

Hopefully at the next reunion: 449

Eternal Patrol: 907

Lost List: 63

I have not been able to reduce our lost list. We have pretty much exhausted our resources on locating any more shipmates. During this stay-at-home period, I am working on ideas and hoping to reduce the list. The sad thing is that when we do locate more of our missing crewmembers, they will probably add to the Eternal Patrol list

For enemies of the United States, the U.S. Navy is a frightening adversary. The most frightening thing about it is the fact that at any given moment, the Navy's submarine force is patrolling the deep, carrying deadly weapons and skilled crews anywhere they are needed. The submarine force can operate in any environment, from the icy seas of the Arctic to the deep oceans of the world. It can accomplish a variety of missions as well, including long-range missile attacks, special forces delivery, anti-ship and submarine warfare, and many top-secret missions. (U.S. Navy video edited by Austin Rooney)