



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamingcaiman.org

SEPT 2007

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

May 19, 2008 is rapidly approaching for our third CAIMAN reunion at the Lodge of the Ozarks in beautiful Branson, Missouri. There was some rumor that the Lodge was in bankruptcy, but that is not the case. This hotel was sold last year to a new group of owners and the lodge has been completely remodeled. The rooms, banquet hall, hospitality suite, and the entire establishment have been refurbished. Smitty and I went there in April when they were just starting. I think we all will be satisfied with our stay there. You can make your reservations by calling 800-213-2584. The rooms are \$77.05 a night, tax included. We are a few years early, but Branson has broken ground to build an airport which will eliminate the drive from Springfield, Missouri. Construction should begin early next year with a completion date of 2010 or later. We are trying to get a good deal on refreshments (beer and soda) for our hospitality room. In this state, and not like Arizona, we can bring our alcohol to the hotel and not have to purchase it from the Lodge of the Ozarks. There are over a hundred shows in Branson. The price ranges from \$17 to \$40. Group discounts are available – we, as veterans, qualify for discounts to many of the shows in Branson. Here are just a few of the shows that go on in Branson: Acrobats of China featuring the New Shanghai Circus; Baldknobbers Jamboree Show; Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show; The Duttons; The Hughes Brothers in Concert; Jim Stafford Show; The Oak Ridge Boys; Presley's Country Jubilee; and Yakov Smirnoff, The famous Russian Comedian, and we can't forget "The Liverpool Legends". Hope to see all in Branson next May for a "Grand Ole Time."

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

ELECTIONS

I have not received any nominations for the offices up for re-election. As reminder, the officers up for re-election are Commander, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you do not come up with some nominations you will have to put up with us for another term. Something to think about, Gents.

SAILING LIST

Our current Sailing List is up to 907 shipmates. The Sailing List is the shipmates we have located, both still with us and on Eternal Patrol. The lost list is the shipmates we know about and are attempting to locate. Current totals are:

Sailing List:	907
Expected at the next reunion:	546
Eternal Patrol:	361
Lost List:	544

ETERNAL PATROL

We have had some shipmates go on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter. They will all be missed.

William Cory EM2(SS) 46/47
 Pierce E. Cumpton MoMM3(SS) 46/47
 Fred Kidder CSCM(SS) 54/55
 John Slattery FN(SS) 53/55
 Clair Prokupek CSC(SS) 56/61

Sailors, rest your oars.

WE ARE FAMOUS

Our web site is now listed as a link on Wikipedia for USS Caiman. Wikipedia is the biggest multilingual free-content encyclopedia on the Internet, if you have internet access. There are over 7 million articles in over 200 languages, and still growing. We always knew we were special, now the world knows.

DD214

If you have misplaced your DD214, you can order a copy at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html>. You need your DD214 to apply for anything that requires proof of your military service.

LOST LIST

I am still looking for shipmates that are on the lost list. I am learning about other web sites and resources. I have not given up and do not plan to quit until the lost list does not exist. There will be an option on the reunion registration for a hard copy of the sailing list. We will include a copy of the lost list also. If you remember anything about someone on the lost list – email or phone me

FOR THE CAIMAN SWEETHEARTS

Hi Ladies,
 Sounds like the guys have pretty well planned things out for us. They have some exciting things that I'm sure everyone is going to like. Of course I'm sure they would like us out of their hair, unless they are like Chris (lack of hair). I'm sure we could come up with a few things. Found a few ladies that would like to do scrapbooking, another suggested "Texas Hold um." or card games, I'm sure a few of the guys would jump into that. So since it is getting closer, bring your ideas with you. I have had almost half of the e-mails I have sent out returned. I realize e-mail changes have a lot to do with it, I have gotten a few sent to me with email changes. I will be bringing the list with me, so we can all update. Can't wait to see everyone again, take care
 Carol Field

The purpose of Submarine damage control is to keep the number of surfaces equal to the number of dives.

IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God and all else was darkness and void and without form. So God created the heavens and the earth. He created the sun and the moon and the stars, so that their light might pierce the darkness. And the earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and these He filled with many assorted creatures. And from the slime, in a land called Lympstone, God made dark, salty creatures that inhabited the seashore. He called them Marines, He dressed them accordingly, in bright colors so that their betters may more easily find them in the holes and burrows that they'd scoured out of the ground. And God said, "Whilst at their appointed labors they will devour worms, maggots, C and K rations and all creatures that creep or crawl".

The flighty creatures of the air, He called Airdales, and these He clothed in uniforms which were ruffled, perfumed, and pretty. He gave them great floating cities with flat roofs in which to live, where they gathered and formed huge multitudes. They carried out heathen rites and ceremonies by day and by night upon the roof amidst thunderous noise. They were given God's blue sky and their existence was on the backs of others.

And the surface creatures of the sea, God called Skimmers, who supported the Airdales and with a twinkle in His eye and a sense of humor only He could have, He gave them all gedunks, polluted with much stickywater, to drink. God gave them big grey "targets" to go to sea in. He gave them many splendid uniforms to wear. And He gave them all the world's exotic and wonderful places to visit. He gave them pen and paper so that they could write home every week, and He gave them ropeyarn Sunday at sea and a laundry so they could clean and polish their splendid uniforms. (When you are God it is very easy to get carried away with your own great and wondrous benevolence).

And on the seventh day, as you know, God rested from his labors.

And on the eighth day at 0755, just before colors, God looked down upon the earth and He was not a happy man. God knew He had not quite achieved perfection, so He thought about his labors, and in His infinite wisdom, He created a divine creature, His masterpiece, and this He called a **SUBMARINER**. A child of heaven. And these Submariners, whom God created in His own image, and to whom He gave his most cherished gift, great intelligence, were to be of the deep, and to them He gave more of his greatest gifts. He gave them black steel messengers of death called the "Smoke Boat" class in which to roam the depths of his oceans, and He gave them His arrows and slingshots, the Mark 14 torpedo of burnished brass and black, and the Mark 37 of green, to wage war against the forces of Satan and all evil. He heaped great knowledge and understanding upon them, in order that they may more easily win their greatest challenge, to pass their Qualification Test and be skilled in the great works God had charged them with. The finest of these men, God called "Diesel Boat Submariners" for they made all happen beyond the understanding of other men.

He gave His Submariners hotels in which to live when they were exhausted and weary from doing God's will. He gave them fortitude to consume vast quantities of beer and booze, to sustain them in their arduous tasks, performed in His name. He gave them great food, submarine pay and occasionally, subsistence so that they might entertain the Ladies of the "Starlight", "White Hat", and the "Horse and Cow" on Saturday nights and impress the hell out of the creatures He called Skimmers and Jar Heads. And at the end of the eighth day, God again looked down upon the earth and saw all was good in His realm.

But God was not happy because, in the course of His mighty labors He had forgotten one thing. He had not kept a pair of "Dolphins" for Himself. But He thought about it and considered it and finally He consoled himself, in the certain knowledge that - -

NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN BE A SUBMARINER!