



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

SEPT 2011

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

SHIPMATES - It is time for another newsletter to keep everyone informed of the latest scuttlebutt. We have finalized the reunion for May 2012 in San Antonio. Remember dues are now due. Dues are only \$10 per reunion cycle or \$75 for life membership. The Holiday Inn River Walk is located in the heart of downtown San Antonio which has numerous restaurants and is a short walking distance to the Alamo. The Alamo has history talks where you can learn about this historic place. On Wednesday, May 9th from 9 am – 5 pm, Daisy Charters is providing several large buses to take us to Fredericksburg for a tour of the Nimitz Museum. Lunch is not included, but there are plenty of good eating places close by. Travel time is approximately an hour and 15 minutes each way. Also bring your own water/soda if you want something to drink during the bus ride. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT MAY IN SAN ANTONIO. One short note: We received a letter from a shipmate, ROBERT EINWECK, who was aboard CAIMAN when she was headed to Australia in 1947. He states she was diverted to Eniwetok to observe damage from the nuclear testing. He would like to talk to anyone that was on board during that visit to Eniwetok, Please contact, him at 14600 Mesa Ct., Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005-0039; PH: 262-814-0039.
John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

REGISTRATION FEE

The CAIMAN bank account is a bit low so for this reunion we are adding a registration fee of \$10.00 per member. Guests are included with the member fee. I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that we may need to do this. We will continue to operate on as low a balance as we can. We will have the Ship Store at the reunion. Bring your checkbooks and help support CAIMAN with your purchases.

REUNION

The reunion dates are May 7 – 10, 2012. All of you know that Yeo and I don't make mistakes so that leaves Chris as the person that forgot the dates in the last newsletter. The hotel is offering us the reduced room rate of \$85.00 plus tax, for three days before and three days after the reunion. This will give everyone a chance to visit many of the places in San Antonio. When Yeo and I were in San Antonio planning the reunion, we were very impressed with all that is available on the River Walk. You should plan to explore it during your stay. Yeo and I will be at the hotel on Saturday May 6th to answer any questions, do some touring and, of course, eating. I will stay a day after the reunion to rest and enjoy some of the good food that is available. Since I am talking about food – a reminder the hotel is offering anyone with a CAIMAN name tag the normally \$15.00 breakfast buffet for \$10.00. So remember to wear your name tag to breakfast.

TRAVEL TO THE REUNION

There have been several stories in the news lately about problems with air travel. A few months ago Yeo and I traveled to San Antonio to set up the reunion. I did not have any problems getting my computer through security. Everyone needs to remember to check everything you can and empty your pockets. Remember you can NOT carry on liquids of more than 3 oz. Believe me 3 oz is small. We have one CAIMAN sailor that only uses a carry on. He does not pack any liquids, but buys his liquids (toothpaste, mouthwash, shaving cream, etc) in travel sizes when he gets to his destination. The only problem is airlines charge for each checked bag – so pack a big one. Southwest is the only airline that I am aware of that does not charge a baggage fee. American Airlines charged the Yeo and me \$25.00 per bag. I should have put my stuff in the Yeo's bag and let him pay. The web sites that I have had good luck using to book flights are www.expedia.com, www.travelocity.com, and www.kayak.com. Each airline has their sites also. To avoid baggage fees go to www.southwest.com. If you do not use a computer I bet one of your kids will be happy to help you. Don't let air travel fears keep you from another great CAIMAN reunion. For those traveling by train, the Am track station is a short distance from the hotel. It is too far to walk but a short cab ride. For those driving, the Holliday Inn, River Walk is on St Marys Street where College Street tees into it. Not far from highways 10, 35, or 37.

RV PARKS

For the USN Retired, Fort Sam Houston has a RV Park. The web site is www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com, click on RECREATION, then RV PARK. Reservations can be made up to a year in advance and the number to call is 210-221-5502. For the non USN Retired, here are a couple of parks that were recommended. These are not the only RV parks in the area.

Travelers World RV Park
2617 Roosevelt Avenue, San Antonio, TX
(210) 532-8310
<http://travelersworldrvresort.com/>

San Antonio KOA Campground
602 Gemblar Road, San Antonio, TX
(800) 562-7783
<http://koa.com/campgrounds/san-antonio/>

HOTEL PARKING

Since the hotel charges for parking, (\$8.00 a day for CAIMANITES) they are giving us parking for the people not staying at the hotel for \$5.00 a day. I will need a list of names for the hotel. I will include a place on the registration form to indicate who needs parking. We have free parking spots that will go into the drawing along with the free nights we earn. The more rooms we rent the more free nights we will have for the drawing.

ETERNAL PATROL

As much as I dislike this portion of our newsletter I know it is required.

KINNIE, Phillip LCDR (69/70) 26 July 2010

HOWELL, Herbert F. RM2(SS) 46/47) 17 July, 2011

Sailors, rest your oars.

ELECTIONS

The offices of USS CAIMAN Assn Commander and Secretary/Treasurer are up for election this reunion.

Yeo and I are both campaigning for re-election.

Remember, Monday, Yeo is buying all the drinks in the hospitality room and I will pick up the tab Tuesday morning. The CAIMAN Assn will buy the drinks the rest of the reunion

ROASTS

In order to further the tradition of roasting a CAIMAN sailor at each reunion I am working on a couple of candidates. So, if you receive a phone call asking for stories about a shipmate, don't hesitate to send me at least one. Remember, truth does not have to prevail – just a good story that can be told in mixed company. I try to work on a couple of swabs so that the no one knows for sure who is going to be in the barrel. Also I will take unsolicited stories, so if you have a good story on a shipmate, don't hesitate to give it to me. I am always looking for someone new to embarrass. One of our previous victims already had some hard questions when he got home. There are times I enjoy being single.

WEB SITE

Our Webmaster, Greg "Hawkeye" Baer, has received more kudos. We have received emails from three teachers that have used our web site as teaching aid for their history classes. Hawkeye also has received awards for the web site from other national organizations. We are very lucky to have someone that will spend that much time on our web site and a wife that will tolerate him giving us that time. Don't forget to say something nice to them at the reunion. Hawkeye also videos our luncheons and dinners.

RESERVATIONS

The hotel is accepting our reservations now. I tested the numbers and they work. To make your reservations, call 1-888-615-0726 or 1-800-465-4329 and don't forget to mention that you are part of the CAIMAN crew. There are a few rooms without balconies and the full hotel is non-smoking. So if you smoke ask for a room with a balcony. If you need a refrigerator in your room, mention this when you make your reservation and tell them it is for medications.

STICKY BUNS

For those that do not like to eat breakfast, we will have coffee and sticky buns in the hospitality suite every morning. Since we are all watching our girlish figures, Yeo has promised to remove all the calories. You know Yeo always tells the truth.

SHIPS STORE

We are not taking pre-orders for any ships store items this reunion. We will have items for sale during the reunion.

SUB VETS BASES

Several Sub Vet bases have purchased some of our ships store items for resale. We do give a bulk discount. If you plan to buy some items for resale at your base please contact me and I will ensure we have the items you desire. Also this helps the CAIMAN bank account.

MUSEUM TRIP

Don't forget that on Wednesday when we make the bus trip to Fredericksburg to visit the Admiral Nimitz War in the Pacific Museum, lunch is a YOYO (you're on your own).

Fredericksburg is a German community and there are many restaurants and cafes in the area. Also there are several gift shops available for the ladies.

REUNION COMMITTEE

At the Reno reunion we had about 25 guys volunteer for the reunion committee. Put 25 sailors in a room with a bunch of beer and try to get them to agree on anything, except more beer, is almost impossible. So the board came up with an idea. We asked five CAIMANITES to be on the committee. Our requirements were – had traveled around the United States; live in various locales in the U. S., and understood that access to a location was very important for everyone to be able to attend. Here are the shipmates selected in alphabetical order:

Bob Bowlin
Bob Dingle
Ray Ferbrache
John Luce
John Troutman

These shipmates, when asked, readily stepped forward to work for the rest of us to help improve our reunions.

SAILING LIST

I have been looking and have found a few more. I find new resources and I put them to use. I am still asking for any piece of information. These include where the sailor or his wife is from, where they have been stationed, or any city they had lived in. Since we have the correct names of the sailors, his wife's or children's names would also help.

Sailing List:	1241
Expected at the next reunion:	563
Eternal Patrol:	678
Lost List:	187

THE SUBMARINE TRADITION

"There is something about the submarine service. It tends to create a bond between those who have served that is born of trust. Every submariner who ever put to sea and submerged has placed in the hands of another, their very lives. The bond is not one of close friendship, even though those do grow out of the time spent aboard a boat. It is one of mutual respect - blind to color, ethnicity, religion, nationality and gender. The bond is one of personal responsibility. Not everyone has it. Some don't even know what personal responsibility is. Submariners know what it is. It is their way of life. The trust and respect and sense of personal responsibility is.... "The Submarine Tradition..."

Jim Christley

This is a picture of our main prize for the drawing after the dinner on Thursday night. The dimensions of this piece of crystal are 12 9/16 x 5 1/2 x 4 3/4. It weighs 32 pounds and has a wooden lighted base. I am sure the winner will be very happy with this prize. The prize has a box so if the winner is flying to the reunion he can carry it on the plane without fear of damage.





Paul Hansen

Former LSRM2 HMCS Grilse SS71 & Rainbow SS75

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The Caiman Mission

They had names of course; these would be perpetrators of late night skulduggery. But for the purposes of recounting the events of that long ago evening the focus is more on the duplicitous plot than on the hapless plotters themselves so we'll just call them, say, Dan, and Duffy, and Mike.

It started with the rum, as most Canadian submarine skulduggery did in those days. A small group of mainly engineers and electricians sitting around the airlock on HMCS Grilse SS71 (formerly USS Burrfish SS/SSR 312), sipping (*if that was the right term*) their tots (*the tradition of a daily ration of rum that, sadly, ended on March 30th, 1972*) and hatching adventures that would at least give bragging rights and, who knows, might even become the stuff of legend.

These adventures usually involved the liberation of another boat's trophies or mascot without incurring retaliation. The very best missions resulted in absconding with a trophy that another boat had already liberated from somewhere else, but no one was aware of any such options on this occasion. One of the group had heard that the USS Caiman, which did have its own history of skulduggery and was tied up fairly close by, had a mascot in a place of honour in their mess. That would have to do.

Now you might have images of a 'Mission Impossible' team putting together the plan and equipment necessary to achieve their nefarious objective, but you'd be wrong. The sophistication level of their plan only extended as far as a late night 'Oh hell, we're here anyway, so let's just drop by and say hello' visit with the Caiman's topside watch keeper, who Dan was then supposed to keep distracted with witty stories of adventures past while Mike and Duffy slipped below 'Just to use the head, you know'. And then to find and 'liberate' the mascot.

Well, it seems that only one of them knew that a caiman was an alligator and even that one assumed that such a mascot would be stuffed (after all, who would keep a live gator onboard a submarine?) Apparently the empty-handed return to the casing was expedited by the 'ugly thing' (as it was later so discourteously described) making enough noise to raise the dead or even awaken sleeping submariners.

It is only on reflection and on learning more detail about the origin of the mascot that one wonders if all of the "wild snapping and snarling" wasn't just excitement over unexpectedly seeing fellow Canadians, possibly come to take him home. But, at the time, the topside watch keeper was hastily thanked for his hospitality and use of facilities and they beat a hurried retreat to check on whether a change of boxers was required.

Unable to accept defeat graciously they immediately launched into planning a second mission; even recruiting another team member who, for the sake of the story, we'll call Tom. However, it too was a failure and we see no reason to risk repetition by recounting the details of its doomed execution. Suffice to say that this ignoble adventure did put an end to their trophy gathering; at least for a brief spell.

As told to W. Paul Hansen by Mike Cox

Both served on Grilse and are members of the Submarine Association of Canada West