



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Shipmates, families, friends, and guests; another successful reunion has passed (which was our 8th) in Little Rock, Arkansas home to the U. S. Submarine Razorback. We all spent a day on board bringing back memories. A great luncheon was provided to all on the barge. I went aboard thinking about touring below decks. As I looked down the forward torpedo room hatch I knew if I went down the ladder to the forward room I would not be able to get back up to the superstructure and fresh air. I refrained from that venture. Several of us took a very interesting trolley tour of Little Rock and North Little Rock. We really enjoyed the sights of the historic capitol. Our 9th reunion in 2020 will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Smitty and Dings Dengel will set this up this next year. Remember plan for 2020 as we are not getting younger. Hope everyone had a great summer.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

2018 REUNION

Once again, we had a larger attendance than other diesel boat reunions. We had a turnout of 67 sailors and 66 guests. We had two Caiman offspring and six grandchildren in attendance. I heard reports that several of these descendants want to attend the next reunion. They enjoyed the sea stories and the other events Caiman provided. Due to medical and other problems we had six sailors plus their guests cancel within the last week prior to the reunion. All stated they would make the next reunion. All the prizes at the dinner were donated which helped save Caiman funds for the free beer at the next reunion. We had several prizes that were made by attendees or relatives for the reunion. As always, Caiman sailors and our adult supervisors are what make our reunions great.

NEXT REUNION

After two votes the last night of the reunion, Albuquerque won as the site for our next reunion. Instead of learning how to spell that name, I will be using the abbreviation that appears on their web site - ALB. As it gets very warm in the summer months in ALB, we are planning on April 20 – 23, 2020 as the dates for the reunion. Keep those dates in mind – circle them on your calendar. I contacted their tourism office and we have received proposal from several hotels already. The size of our reunions and our courteous manners make us a desired group. The amount of money that we spend at the host hotel probably is also a factor. Dings and I, plus our adult supervisors, will do an inspection visit and pick the hotel in April 2019.

BINNACLE LIST

Some shipmates that we know of are battling cancer: Ivan "Whit" Whitwell, Mason "Hog" Hardin, David "Lucky" Ehrnschwender. William Green is fighting off Mesothelioma. Recently off the Binnacle List is Chris "Hoofs" Field. They have asked not to be contacted. Wish them well.

HOLLAND CLUB

At the reunion, Caiman had the privilege of honoring three more inductees into the Holland Club. This is a unit of US SUBMARINES VETERAN INC. (USSVI or Sub Vets). Holland Club inductees are submariners that belong to Sub Vets and have been qualified for 50 years. Caiman has 187 members of Holland Club. The sad part is not all are still with us. Caiman is the only boat that presents each new Caimanite with a letter stating we are proud of them for achieving this milestone. If their year of induction falls on an even year we present the letter at a reunion providing they attend. If it falls on an odd year, or they don't attend the reunion, we send the letter to their base commander to be presented at a Sub Vets meeting. We have received several comments from base commanders stating that they enjoyed doing this and believe it is a great idea.

MR. C

Randy "Mr. C." Christison, a Caimanite and a lawyer in San Diego donated his investigator's time and talent to help us find more of the sailors on the Lost List. The investigator has access to information that is not available to us laymen. His efforts have located five shipmates that were on eternal patrol. He also found six possible addresses and I sent letters to all. In the letter we explain the Caiman association, include all my contact information, and request an answer if the letter is received by the wrong person. I wait a month and if the letter is not returned or answered I assume the correct person received the letter but is not interested. Five did not respond so I enter them into the sailing list as Not Interested. The sixth was the wrong person. I am still working on the lost list and my goal is to find all our shipmates.

USS RAZORBACK

We received a letter from the Curator of the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum thanking us for the USS Caiman plaque and for visiting the USS Razorback. The letter stated that we were welcome to return. We donated the food that was left from our luncheon to the Razorback staff. I was told that the volunteers were mostly college students and they would greatly appreciate the food. Several of our adult supervisors were amazed at the plush living and working conditions we had on submarines. I heard many comments stating that they were quite impressed with the vast amount of room and privacy we enjoyed. They all understood the privilege we had to go to sea on such a vessel. While touring the Razorback I was reminded that as submarine sailors we accomplished much. When we, as submarine sailors, went to sea we were there to perform a vital mission. We were not sitting in an office but were on the forefront performing our mission in a world that was complex and dangerous. I am very proud to have been a submariner as I am sure all Caimanites are.

SHIPS STORE IDEAS

We are always looking for items to add to the ships store that our shipmates would enjoy and of course buy. Remember, anything you buy helps pay for the free beer for the next reunion. If anyone has any ideas, please let us know. My contact information is: phone 360-731-5233, email #dbfrider@comcast.net (delete the first character)

DUES

A reunion has come and gone. So, for all shipmates on the bi-annual dues payment plan, dues are due. Dues are \$10.00 bi-annually and due each reunion. Lifetime dues are a onetime payment of \$75.00, and I will not bug you again. If everyone would pay lifetime dues I could leave this item out of our newsletter. I would find a much more interesting article to include in our newsletters. That is a hint!!

USS RATON MODEL

The USS Raton Association asks the Caiman to help them get a model of the USS Raton from Arkansas to Washington state for their next reunion. As always, the Caiman crew came through. Mike "Slick" Elliott, on the way to our reunion, picked it up in Northern Arkansas and transported it to Little Rock. We kept it in the hospitality room until Lloyd "Willie" Willette loaded it up in his vehicle and carried it to Washington state. This model is 4 ½ feet long and 11 inches high so we saved the Raton a bit in shipping charges. They were very thankful. Once again, submariners helping submariners.

BLUE WATER SAILORS

A bill to extend Agent Orange bill to include Blue Water Sailors, sailors that were in the Viet Nam waters but not in country, has passed the house without any "NO" votes (382-0) and is in the senate. This could affect as many as 90,000 sailors. Several Caiman sailors have had the diseases and/or symptoms that Agent Orange is known to cause. The VA is opposing the bill. Once again, we must sit and wait while our representatives take their time passing a bill that effects many of us. The sad part is since so few of our lawmakers are veterans they will not be in a hurry to help us.

USS TRITON

In 1960, 58 years ago, the USS Triton completed the first submerged circumnavigation of the world. Three Caiman sailors were aboard: David Hartman, Phillip Kinney, and Jessie Vail. The voyage was from 16 February 1960 to 10 May 1960. Triton generally followed the route of Magellan's historic voyage. In addition to proving the ability of both crew and a nuclear submarine to accomplish a mission which required almost three months of submergence, Triton collected much data of scientific importance.

NDAА GOES TO PRESIDENT

The Senate passed (87-10) the final version of the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.5515). The bill now goes to President Trump to sign into law. This is the first time since 1996 that the NDAA will be sent to the President on time (before October 1). Of course, the best news is it contains a pay raise for the troops, and hopefully a pay raise for us retired sailors. Maybe a Social Security raise soon.

CALIFORNIA ON FIRE

With all the news broadcasts, I am sure everyone is aware of the many wild fires in California. If any shipmates need assistance, please let me know. As always, submarine sailors always help each other. Anything Caiman can do to ease another boat sailor's troubles, we will do.

PRESENTATION PRODUCTS SHOW

We are approaching a January in an off-reunion year. What that means is Hawkeye and I will again attend the Presentation Products show in Las Vegas. We do this to look for good buys and/or ideas for drawing gifts, reunion gifts, and ladies' gifts. It is also a good time to discover new products for the ships store. Since neither one of us gamble the trip to "Lost Wages" is strictly for Caiman.

ETERNAL PATROL

I wish I did not have to include this section in our newsletter. As you will notice, we do not always received word on our shipmates promptly. Families and fellow submariners are our best source on our shipmate's status, though late sometimes.

Smith, Addison R. TM2(SS) (45/47) 7 June 2018
Brown, Thomas J. ET3(SS) (47/48) 8 December 2012
Parker, Don King STC(SS) (49/51) 26 November 2014
Dorfman, Sidney EN1(SS) (52/52) 11 April 2018
Askew, James B. CS1(SS) (55/56) 2 January 2018
Seid, William P. IC1(SS) (60/61) 19 January 2018
Morse, Gerald B. ICC(SS) (61/63) 14 January 2018
Bronson, George J. TM3(SS) (63/65) 27 August 2017
Bell, Don S. EM2(SS) (64/66) 8 June 2018
Malsbury, Gary A. IC2(SS) (65/66) 13 December 2015
Peterson, Kenneth R. RM3(SS) (66/68) 23 June 2009
Morgan, Howard MSCS(SS) (67/68) 1 April 2018
Barnhardt, Roger EN2(SS) (68/71) 18 August 2018
Evans, George C. TM3(SS) (69/72) over 20 years ago??
Snider, Robert L. STS2(SS) (69/70) 1 November 2016
Hankins, Robert L. SN(SS) (70/72) 1 February 2016

SAILING LIST

I have contacted Naval Personnel Command to try to locate the retired sailors on our lost list. (They will inform the names that I send them that we are trying to locate them and give them my contact info.) Our sailing list is up to 74 pages but as you can see with the numbers below the ones still kicking are dwindling. The numbers below give all of us a very good reason to attend Caiman reunions. Remember, the youngest Caiman sailor will be 64 this year and by the next reunion he will be two years older. Our numbers are dwindling and the best chance to visit with your shipmates is at our reunions. Hope to see all of you in ALB.

Sailing List:	1353
Hopefully at the next reunion:	479
Eternal Patrol:	874
Lost List:	66

"There are no stand-ins on submarines. Every man is not only a specialist in his own field but a capable pinch hitter at the other fellow's job." Charles A. Lockwood Vice Admiral, USN Ret.