



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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

Sept 2021

Our Commander, John "Yeo" Fagereng received Eternal Patrol orders on 6/14/2021. He was a great shipmate and a dear friend. He will be missed by all.

As per the CAIMAN Assn. bylaws, Greg "Hawkeye" Baer was appointed Commander by the board.

## COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

It is with great sadness that I am having to fill John's shoes who as a founder and Commander has kept an eye on our bubble for the last 16 years. Rest in peace John, you will be missed. I've got the watch. So, I thought about what John would say about the pandemic situation and thought that he would ask "why are there so many people not getting the Covid vaccination?" He would say something like 99% of the people getting infected are unvaccinated and 97% of people hospitalized with Covid are unvaccinated. What more do you need to know? Vaccinated people are now getting infected by the large unvaccinated population.

Thankfully, these few vaccinated individuals exhibit little or no symptoms but have become carriers of the virus making things worse. I've read that a large portion of the unvaccinated can't make up their mind to get vaccinated. There's another crowd that thinks it's a conspiracy. Really? We are all over 65 and smarter than that. Should we demand that everyone attending our reunion show proof that they have been vaccinated or should we all wear a mask? Let us know what you think. John would have wanted to know...

Greg "Hawkeye" Baer, Commander

## REUNION LOCATIONS

As the Covid restrictions are lifted, we are once again receiving emails advertising cities that would like us to visit for our next reunion. I have received several emails from various city's tourist bureau asking that we consider their city. I check the internet to see what each city has to offer us of the older generation. I was surprised at how many cities have zip lines, but I doubt that very many of us would enjoy that form of recreation. After reviewing what is available in the areas and if it fits our requirements, I pass the information on to our reunion committee chairperson – Bob "Dings" Dengel.

## REUNION

The best news I have is that the reunion is a go – barring another national disaster. I am sure everyone is happy to read that tidbit of information. We have waited too long now. After waiting for four years, vice the normal two years, it is going to be difficult to control our enthusiasm. More good news – drinks in the hospitality room are still free. Drinks as before are beer, water, soft drinks and coffee. We have our own coffee brewer so coffee will be available continuously. As our Eternal Patrol report continues to increase, the reunions are your chance to renew friendships and relive fond memories.

## ELECTIONS

We are behind in the CAIMAN board elections. The election schedule was originally set up as every four years with the vice commander first term for two years so that we would have continuity for new electors. So, the election for the commander and secretary should have been in 2020 with vice commander in 2022. The board has cussed and discussed this and decided to have all three elections during the 2022 reunion with the vice commander next election in 2024 and commander and secretary in 2026. This will put the elections back on the original schedule. All CAIMANITES at the next reunion will vote on the board candidates. Hawkeye will be a candidate. He has his adult supervisor's permission to serve. If you want to be a candidate for any board positions, contact the secretary before the next reunion to submit your name.

## WWII SUBMARINES IN THE PACIFIC

In World War II, the United States Navy used submarines heavily. Overall, 263 US submarines undertook war patrols, claiming 1,392 ships and 5,583,400 tons during the war. Submarines in the United States Navy were responsible for sinking 540,192 tons or 30% of the Japanese navy and 4,779,902 tons of shipping, or 54.6% of all Japanese shipping in the Pacific Theater. Submarines were responsible for laying 18,553 mines. At the beginning of the war, Japanese merchant ships had a carrying capacity of around six million tons. By the end of the war, in August 1945, the capacity was two million, with only 320,000 in condition to carry cargo.

Submarine warfare began on 7 December 1941, when the Chief of Naval Operations ordered the navy to "execute unrestricted air and submarine warfare against Japan." It appears the policy was executed without the knowledge or prior consent of the government. The London Naval Treaty, to which the U.S. was signatory, required submarines to abide by prize rules (commonly known as "cruiser rules" - that an unarmed vessel should not be attacked without warning). It did not prohibit arming merchantmen, but arming them, or having them report contact with submarines (or raiders), made them *de facto* naval auxiliaries and removed the protection of the cruiser rules. This made restrictions on submarines effectively moot. U.S. Navy submarines also conducted reconnaissance patrols, landed special forces and guerrilla troops and performed search and rescue tasks. The submarines were so successful that by early 1944, they struggled to find targets. The war against shipping was the single most decisive factor in the collapse of the Japanese economy, and the Cabinet of Japan reported to the National Diet after the war that "the greatest cause of defeat was the loss of shipping."

## DONATIONS

The camaraderie of the CAIMAN crew carries over to the family. We received a donation from the family of a shipmate that recently went on eternal patrol. The note included with the check stated he mentioned many times that he enjoyed the reunions, the newsletters, and the good times with the CAIMAN crew, so the family passed the praise on in the form of a donation. Also, the widow of our past commander donated toward the reunion. She will not be able to attend but wants to help. CAIMAN has a fabulous crew and extended family.

## HUNKER DOWN IS OVER

Now that the Covid disaster is winding down, everyone needs to decide if they came out as a hunk, a chunk, or a drunk. Or you could combine effects and be a chunky drunk. No matter what, make the reunion cuz we still like you and want to see you. Remember, if you do not come, we will talk about you.

## SHOT CARD

When you travel and if you have had the Covid vaccinations, it is a good idea to carry the card that proves you have been vaccinated. I have been asked if I have had the vaccinations as I was not wearing a mask. Showing the card removes all doubt. I do not know if the rules for asking about your status is a state or federal requirement/suggestion. In Washington State, businesses can ask.

## SUBMARINE PLANS

Submarines are quiet, deadly, and expensive. Boats like those in the Virginia class, which is a U.S. attack submarine, can cost \$3.4 billion and take seven years to build. The Navy has ambitious goals for the future of the underwater fleet, but some problems could stand in the way. "The Navy is undergoing a 20-year plan that will cost \$21 billion to upgrade its infrastructure," said Aidan Quigley, a reporter at Inside Defense who covers the U.S. Navy and Marines. "Right now, the state of Navy shipyard infrastructure is not great. They've been underfunded for the past couple of decades." The Navy currently has 68 submarines in service. And it wants to start shipbuilding on two to possibly three Virginia-class attack subs per year, and roughly one Columbia-class submarine per year until around 2035. But according to the Congressional Budget Office, a lack of shipyard infrastructure could delay those plans. "The Navy is focusing on improving productive capacity via initiatives to increase on-time delivery and operational availability while reducing maintenance costs," said Navy Lt. Rob Reinheimer, in a statement to CNBC. And in response to the Government Accountability Office report on Columbia-class procurement released in January, Reinheimer said, "Over the past three years the Navy, with strong Congressional support, has invested over \$573 million in shoring up existing sources and development of new suppliers." The recently released defense budget request for fiscal 2022 could be less than what the Navy needs to keep pace with China and Russia, according to some observers.

## ETERNAL PATROL

Once again, I have the sad duty of including this article in our newsletter. As all can see, the list is becoming larger each newsletter. It is never easy to say goodbye to a shipmate and friend. This may be a fact of life but that does not make it any easier. All will be missed.

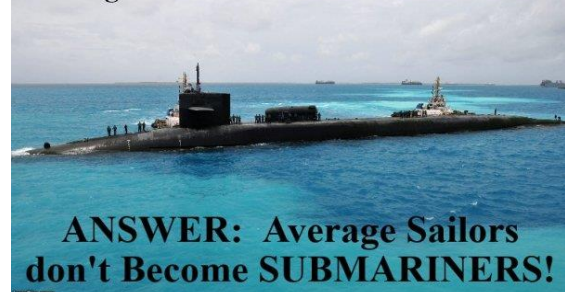
Alonzo, Frederick SKC(SS) (70/71) 9 April 2020  
Bennett, Ralph CSC(SS) (71/72) 31 January 2009  
Coogan, James RM2(SS) (53/54) 4 November 2006  
Fagereng, John YNC(SS) (67/68) 14 June 2021  
Gaidos, Jack SO1(SS) (52/55) 27 March 2021  
Gursky, Earl YNC(SS) (69/69) 23 October 2018  
Haley, James LCDR (56/56) 5 August 2019  
Hennessey, Linus QMCS(SS) (47/50) 7 June 2021  
Korzilius, John YN1(SS) (48/49) 25 April 1999  
O'Campo, Theodore SD3(SS) (58/60) 31 July 2019  
Robinson, John T. EM3(SS) (54/54) 27 August 2017  
Stahl, Norman ICC(SS) (58/61) 27 June 2021  
Tolle, William TM2(SS) (50/52) 10 July 2012  
Vogele, William LCDR (53/55) 18 February 2017

## SAILING LIST

We recently had the CAIMAN personnel diaries, which we purchased from the Navy, copied from microfilm to PDF files so we could store and read them on a computer. This allowed me to double check our previous sailing list and lost list. (Our standards for adding shipmates to the sailing list are assigned to CAIMAN for duty for at least six months and qualified in submarines.) I discovered eight members of our lost list that were either aboard for only a few months or are not qualified. I have deleted the eight from the lost list. I found three shipmates to add to our sailing list but sadly all three are on Eternal Patrol. We have located all that served on CAIMAN during WWII, but we have three shipmates that served during WWII on other submarines that I have been unable to locate. They probably have received final patrol orders, but I have been unable to locate any proof of this. We have 28 crew members that are listed as not interested. They either told me they were not interested or the letters I sent were not answered or returned. The letter listed my phone, email address, my street address, and the CAIMAN webpage. Since the letters were not returned, I assumed the correct person received the letter and decided not to respond. Here are our latest figures.

Located shipmates	1374
Hopefully at the next reunion:	408
Eternal Patrol:	966
Lost List:	39

**QUESTION: How long does it take an Average Sailor to Become a Submariner?**



**ANSWER: Average Sailors don't Become SUBMARINERS!**

## **We Are Submarine Sailors**

We are not the first of them and we will not be the last. Our heritage runs back to the first submarine. This heritage line continues forward into an unseen future. Each generation is trained by the one before. This will remain so until there is no more use for submarines, which will be never.

If one of us goes aboard a new or old submarine, we are comfortable with the men there. For they are us and we are them. Stand us in a line in all our dress uniforms or naked in our coffins, we are the same. We are and forever will be submarine sailors. We are one.

We can have everything taken from us, uniforms, medals, our sanity, and our lives, but we will always be recognized by others and ourselves as a submariner. This status cannot be removed from us. Our Dolphins worn on our chests then, hung on our walls now, or later pinned on moldering uniforms in our graves mark us forever. We are first, last, and always men that stepped forward and worked long and hard to become what we are. We are unique among sailors for we sail down deep into dark and always dangerous waters. We do this not with foolhardy go-to-hell bravery, but with cool calculation and care. We challenge the dangers with training and practice. We know that the time for bravery will come when two shipmates close themselves in a flooding compartment, knowing that the whole boat and crew depends on them to control the flooding.

We believe in each other because we must. Alone at sea, the crew and a pressure hull are all we have to reach the surface again. Men with confidence in each other dive and surface submarines countless times. Each man trained by others holds the lives of those shipmates in his hands. Dolphins are the symbol of this tradition.

Submarine hulls have numbers and men have hearts and souls. We carry those numbers in our hearts in life, and they mark our souls in death. Silver or Gold, Dolphins are the symbol of this.

To us Dolphins are it, no other symbol matters or means anything as important as they do.