



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Here's the latest scuttlebutt. For the first time in nearly 100 years, Idaho will have a naval vessel named after it. The USS IDAHO SSN 799, a Virginia-class, nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine is scheduled to be commissioned this year at GD Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. Idaho has a rich relationship with the Navy. In the early 1950s, the first full-scale prototype nuclear plant for shipboard use, called S1W Prototype, was constructed at the Idaho National Lab near Arco, Idaho. It was the predecessor to the S2W design that was installed in the USS NAUTILUS SSN 571. In 1942, the Navy built Farragut Naval Training Station at Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho where nearly 300,000 recruits were trained during World War II. Bernie Ritscher, a Caiman Shipmate, was one of the first to go through basic training there. After the war the Training Center closed, and the Navy created the Acoustic Research Detachment there which has developed and tested every quieting improvement for our submarines. The lake is over 1,000 feet deep, which makes it a perfect location for this type of work. Our Vice Commander, Bob "Dings" Dengel and Renay live not far away from there. That's the latest scuttlebutt. Don't forget that we will be setting up a tour on a boat at Ballast Point during our reunion next year. So, if you feel that you can make it down and up the ladder, let us know if you will want to be included in the event. I spoke with the Public Affairs Officer on the base. He said it won't be a problem. They need us to give them notice two months in advance, so you have plenty of time to think about it.

Greg "Hawkeye" Baer, Commander

REUNION TOUR

Thanks again to Butch Warnburg, we have a tour next reunion. It is a tour of Cabrillo Monument National Park. All veterans and the guests can waive the entrance fee by picking up the free Interagency Military Pass. I listed how to obtain the free pass in the last newsletter and am including the requirements in this newsletter. If you do not have this pass you will be charged an entrance fee for you and your guests. You can apply for the pass online, but there is a \$10.00 fee if you use this method. Do not wait to the last minute – get the free pass soon. Any Caiman Widows attending the reunion – we will get you in free as a guest of one of the other parties. During the bus ride from the hotel, the tour will include beautiful views on the drive to the Point Loma Lighthouse, scenic views of the Pacific Ocean, Point Loma, and North Island. Also, there will be a tour of the museum which is part of the National Park. And as always, a gift shop. On the return trip to the hotel, we will stop at the old NTC base that has been turned over to civilians and is now a shopping center with shops and several restaurants. We will stop there for lunch and shopping for the adult supervisors. I understand there are several restaurants and stores.

ROASTS ASSISTS

I sent emails to several shipmates a few months ago asking for stories for the roasts that I entertain everyone with each reunion. Several of you promised me stories but I am still waiting for them. I prefer to have at least two roasts ready each reunion as who will attend is quite often in limbo. Please send me your stories so I can prepare the roasts. I prefer true stories that I can tell them "My way". I do not want to tell any un-truths about our shipmates.

OOPS

I owe all the shipmates that receive the newsletter in email an apology. I sent the last newsletter in the wrong format. Any shipmates that would like the May 2023 Flamin' Caiman Tales re-sent to them in the correct format, please contact me. While I regret this error on my part, I now know that the newsletter is being read. I refer to this mistake as a "Senior Moment". Many of my dear shipmates called it a "brain fart". I can feel the love.

SUBMARINES TO THE RESCUE

Submarine performed many rescues during World War II, but I have recently read about one I have not heard of before. There were many code breakers on Corregidor before the Japanese over ran the Philippines in 1942. The US could not let these men fall into Japanese hands. They knew too much. American code breakers had broken the Japanese diplomatic code. They were reading the dispatches between Japan and its embassies. They were making headway on the military code. Ernest King, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, ordered the code breakers to be moved in shifts to Australia. In February 1942, the USS Seadragon (SS-194) took out the first shift of four officers and thirteen enlisted. The first shift made it to Australia and set up shop. While waiting to be rescued the second shift lost weight due to reduced rations. On March 16, 1942, the USS Permit (SS-128), originally sent to evacuate General MacArthur, (he left by PT boat earlier) took out four officers and thirty-two enlisted. Eventually all the officers and men made it to Australia and resumed their code breaking duties. They were successful in breaking the Japanese code which helped us win the war.

GRAND PRIZE

The board has decided to change the drawing prizes for this reunion. Everyone has submarine memorabilia around the house that our adult supervisors are probably tired of dusting and our heirs are wondering what they will do with them. We picked prizes we are sure everyone will enjoy, including the adult supervisors. So, come to the reunion to find out what the drawing prizes will be this time. Tickets will be available at the reunion and only at the reunion.

FREE ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND VETERANS

The Interagency Military Pass covers entrance fees and standard amenity fees (day use fees) at lands managed by the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers for current US military members and dependents of current military members, US military veterans, and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes. The new interagency Military Lifetime Passes will be available starting November 11, 2022.

The free Military Pass waives entrance fees and does not cover expanded amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits, reservation fees or special tours.

Cost: Free Available for: Current US military members and their dependents in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force, as well as Reserve and National Guard members. US military veterans Gold Star Family members.

How to obtain: In person: Find a location to obtain this pass at a federal recreation site - [Places to Get Interagency Passes \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

(nps.gov). **Online:** Order this free pass from <https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass>. There is an additional cost of \$10 for passes obtained online. (Check requirements at <https://store.usgs.gov/faq#USMilitary> before arriving, such as showing a Common Access Card (CAC) or Military ID (Form 1173) or exchanging a Gold Star Voucher.) Passes may not be issued as gifts since eligible recipients must present proof of eligibility.

HALF PRICE SALE

To reduce the ships store's inventory, we are having a huge sale. All items in the ships store are for sale at big discounts. When you attend the reunion, do your part by buying items from the ships store. The profits from the ships store help pay for the free beer, and the other drinks and snacks at the next reunion. So, help us reduce the ships store inventory

TICKETS FOR VETS

Vettix.org is a website that is available to veterans to obtain free tickets to sporting events, concerts, and other entertainment events. Check it out at [Vet Tix - Tickets For Troops - Veteran Tickets Foundation](#).

Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets. When you register on the website, you must provide proof that you are a veteran. Once that's done, you can set it up so that you get notifications via email of tickets that are available based on where you are located and what you are interested in. It's a great benefit.

TANG RETURNS

General Dynamics has laid the keel for the next Virginia-class submarine *Tang* (SSN 805). It's named after a lineage of naval vessels, with this being the third boat in the US Navy to bear the name. The first USS *Tang*, a WWII-era submarine, earned its place in history by sinking 33 enemy ships during five war patrols. Having a robust capability for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), *Virginia*-class vessels are also equipped with specialized weapons, sensors, and other equipment that enable them to perform land attacks, gather intelligence, conduct mine reconnaissance, and support special forces. With a focus on advanced capabilities, *Tang* (SSN 805) features the Virginia Payload Module (VPM), which provides the host submarine with the ability to embark the latest kinetic munitions. The VPM integrates four large-diameter, vertical payload tubes into the submarine's design, enabling it to deploy various resources, including weaponry, unmanned undersea vehicles, and other essential payloads.

VICE COMMANDER ELECTION

Vice Commander election will be held this reunion. Bob "Dings" Dengel is running again. He has agreed to buy the beer Monday and Tuesday morning prior to the luncheon. This, of course, is just to ensure you remember to vote. He does not want to influence anyone's vote. He is the only candidate to notify us that he is running. If you want to be considered as a candidate, email me.

ETERNAL PATROL

We have lost more shipmates. Our reunions are becoming the last chance to visit your shipmates before any of us receive eternal patrol orders. The Grim Reaper is biding his time till each of us fit into his busy schedule. Attend a reunion before he visits you or more of your friends and shipmates.

Marxer, Hugo, CAPT (59/61) 2 April 2023

Scofield, John STCS(SS) (59/63) 12 July 2023

Wall, James SKCM(SS) (61/64) 14 July 2023

SAILING LIST

I have not located any more of our lost shipmates. The reason is I have been busy lately and have not had the time. To be honest, I doubt if I will ever locate the final 38.

Located shipmates	1376
Hopefully at the next reunion:	387
Eternal Patrol:	989
Lost List:	38

SUBMARINER

SOMEONE WHO OPERATES
STUFF YOU CAN'T

THE JOYS OF A PATROL ON A DIESEL SUBMARINE

Doug Smith

FOOD SERVED EVERY FOUR HOURS.

ENJOYING THE COMPANY OF THE SAME MEN FOR 60 DAYS OR MORE.

THE FASCINATING CONVERSATIONS ON THE MESS DECKS BETWEEN WATCHES.

CATCHING UP ON YOUR READING.

NO LAUNDRY PROBLEMS – NO WASHERS OR DRYERS.

SAVE ON SOAP – SHOWER ONCE A WEEK – IF THE STILLS BEHAVE.

A RAISED WALKING DECK OR LOWER OVERHEAD FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE PATROL.

COFFEE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.

BELIEVE COFFEE TASTES BETTER WITH AN OIL SHEEN.

A MOVIE EVERYDAY.

LOTS OF SLEEP – IF THE EQUIPMENT BEHAVES.

NO SLEEP IF THE EQUIPMENT DOES NOT BEHAVE.

LEARNING TO SLEEP TO THE THROB OF DIESEL ENGINES.

THE JOY OF A HEAD VALVE SLAMMING SHUT.

LEARNING TO EQUALIZE IN YOUR SLEEP.

LEARNING NOT TO SLEEP WITH AN EAR TO A FLASH COVER.

LEARNING TO CLEAN “SNORKEL DUST”.

GROWING A BEARD WITHOUT COMPLAINTS.

SURVIVING DAYS WITHOUT SUNSHINE.

AT THE END OF THE PATROL

LEARNING ABOUT “GOING HOME TURNS”.

WATCHING CREWMEMBERS SUFFER WITH “CHANNEL FEVER”.

RETURNING TO PORT WITH A FLUORESCENT LIGHT TAN.

HAVING TO SPEND TWO MONTHS PAY DURING A TWO-WEEK UPKEEP.