



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

www.flamincaiman.org

Jan 2008

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

It's the New Year and closer to our May reunion in Branson, Missouri. I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and is looking forward to a prosperous New Year!!!! Discovering Branson in the spring will be a real treat. It boasts more than 58,000 seats in 52 theaters. Those shows include an array of musical styles, including rock, pop, Broadway, R&B, gospel and especially country western. Branson also has shows that feature magicians, comedians and a variety of impersonators. So you can see that your stay in Branson will be full of entertainment and camaraderie. I expect to see all CAIMAN shipmates, their wives and significant others on the 19th of May. For reservations at the Lodge of the Ozarks, call toll free 1-877-327-9894. For guests arriving in Springfield, Mo., call Best Price Airport Shuttle at 417-251-0153. The price for 1 or 2 people round trip is \$145. Calling ahead with flight number and arrival time will ensure the shuttle is there for you when you arrive. Or, you can rent a car from the various rental agencies inside the Springfield airport. The Association expresses its grateful appreciation of \$200 from an anonymous donor. We sincerely thank you very much!!!! So shipmates come sail with us on a beautiful 2-hour cruise at noon on Wednesday, May 21st onboard the 1800s-style paddle-wheeler showboat, the "Branson Belle," for lunch and live entertainment starring talented singers and dancers!!!! SEE YOU THERE!!!

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

REUNION CLOSURE DATE

The price the Lodge is charging CAIMAN Sailors for the rooms will expire on April 15, 2008. Also after that date rooms may not be available and not at that price. The Branson Belle reservations will also close that date also. Luncheon and dinner reservations have to be in 72 hours before the meal. So, we can add guests at the reunion. Please try to plan accordingly.

REUNION REGISTRATION

If you will attend the reunion, send in the registration form. If you will not attend any of the functions, send in the registration form. The form will give us an accurate count and we will have a name tag for you. This way if you forget your name, just look at your tag.

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return both pages of the registration. The second page will be attached to your bag of goodies. The CAIMAN Association will have reunion gifts and Branson is supplying some goodies also. Yes, you have to be present to receive your bag. If you request a copy of the sailing list, it will also be in your bag of goodies. USS CAIMAN Association members who are paid through 2008 do NOT have to pay the registration fee. Any questions, contact Smitty 360-377-4763 or DBFrider@comcast.net.

TEE SHIRTS

The new tee shirts are micro-fiber and the designs are imprinted so they will last longer. The second tee has a picture of CAIMAN, not just any sub. This is a new process so the only color available now is white. They will be in the Ship Store after the reunion.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The golf tournament will be at the Point Royale Golf Village, May 22, 2008. The prices are \$42.00 for 18 holes with cart, \$15.00 club rental. The format of the mini tournament will be: Best ball - each participant will use 3 drives. Bring your handicap.

DRAWINGS

The grand prize this reunion is a 2 ft X 3 ft oil painting of CAIMAN. It is unframed, so the boss can decide what matches her décor. We will have other items and any free rooms will also be added to the list. Tickets for the drawing will be available on the registration form and at the reunion. The CAIMAN Sweethearts will have a drawing for a wall hanging of the CAIMAN patch that was donated by Ron Erb. An Erb family member made this for us. It is beautiful and one of a kind. Those tickets will only be available at the reunion.

BINNACLE LIST

Juliea, wife of Craig Kurth (68/70) has been fighting cancer. I talked to her last week and she is doing great. Tom "Big Stone" Scoblic (67/70) on April 11th either was practicing clearing the bridge or tried to defile the law of gravity. Whatever the reason, Big Stone and a ladder parted company about 12 feet in the air. According to his wife, he is up and around now and doing better. She added that he was much easier to get along with when he was laid up and had to depend on his wife and daughter to get him what he wanted. I bet they put him on a diet. His wife says we will get his version at the reunion.

ETERNAL PATROL

We have had some shipmates go on Eternal Patrol since our last newsletter.

BRANIN, Edward EM2(SS) 45/45 September 2007
HYDE, Barbara, Wife of CAPT Hyde November 2007
JONES, Billy C. HMC(SS) 60/62 December 2007
LEITGEB, William CSCM(SS) 48/53 August 2007
MALHADO, John END1(SS) 50/ April 2007
SAMMUT, Andrew SC2(SS) 44/44 December 2007
SHILLING, John D. CAPT 56/58 October 2007
Sailors, rest your oars.

SAILING LIST

Sailing List:	1068
Expected at the next reunion:	535
Eternal Patrol:	526
Lost List:	345

**SHOWERS ARE OPEN,
BUT, NOT MANDATORY.**