



FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

MAY 2005

COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT

Greetings Shipmates. It is my pleasure to write to you as the Association Commander. The Board of Directors has been busily working on selecting a city where hotel accommodations and places of interest would be appropriate for our second reunion. We chose Flagstaff, Arizona and the Radisson Woodland Hotel because of the exciting tour of the Grand Canyon. Flagstaff is an old mining town with plenty of good eating establishments and sites to visit. Kit Carson, a full hook-up RV Park is located 1/4 mile away on Route 66 or you can dry camp in the hotel parking lot. Here are some tasks we have undertaken since August of last year: We have ordered 19 microfilm reels from the National Archives & Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. The film has photocopies of ship's diary entries showing name, rate, and dates reporting or departing Caiman. We are selecting shipmates who reported for duty and qualified in submarines for our sailing list, which is on the web. We have these entries from commissioning to decommissioning. So far we have looked at the film from the forties and sixties. So this summer we plan to finish the fifties and the seventies. We have established a policy that when we find plank owners we send them a Flamin' Caiman hat with "Plank Owner" embroidered beneath the dolphins. We have commissioned a Ship's Store, which is on the Caiman Web Site. This store offers a wide selection of Caiman mementoes as well as hats, shirts and jackets. If you don't see it in the store, let us know and we will get it for you. We also have filed for tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization. Thanks to our attorney, Mr. Randall Christison, we filed for this status this past month. Our Web Site is among the "Best in the West." Our talented Webmaster Greg "Hawkeye" Baer was awarded the "Submarine Report" Editor's Choice Award for best content and design attributes dedicated to the submarine community. It is truly an outstanding Site. If you haven't seen it, just log on to www.flamincaiman.org, page through the different buttons and you will agree it is one of the finest there is. CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN "HAWKEYE" for a job well done. A final touch, I expect to see everyone that was at the last reunion plus another 100 shipmates and their families at our next one in Flagstaff. If you change your mailing address or email address, please let us know, so we can keep the Caiman community abreast of old and new developments. One last thing, on our trip to Flagstaff, Smitty kept playing some good ole fashioned "Western" CD's. That will put most submarine sailors to sleep even when driving.

SEE YOU IN FLAGSTAFF NEXT MAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

John Fagereng (Yeo)
Caiman Association Commander

REUNION

The top two choices at the last reunion were Portland, OR and Flagstaff, AZ. After many hours with phone calls and emails, we decided Flagstaff offered us the best accommodations and facilities. John "Yeo" Fagereng and Doug "Smitty" Smith went to Flagstaff to check on all the available hotels and other attractions. A trip with Yeo is interesting to say the least. Yeo is at the stage of life where an afternoon nap is necessary. He does not let anything interfere with his nap, not even driving. Even when the Yeo is awake his driving is interesting – this was the first time I had been passed by an eighteen-wheeler on the freeway. After a strenuous checkout of the hotels, we decided - The next reunion will be on **May 15 – 19, 2006** at the Radisson Hotel in Flagstaff, AZ. Circle the date and keep it clear in your social calendar.

TRANSPORATION

America West is the only airline that flies into Flagstaff. You can reduce your expenses by using America West to fly into Arizona. They also offer a discount for travelers over 62. I realize that **not** many of us will qualify for this discount, but I had to mention it. America West also offers discounts on their web site www.americawest.com. If you do not want to fly, AMTRACK also goes into Flagstaff. The hotel offers a free shuttle from the airport and the train station. We did not check on bus lines, but I assume that there is bus service to Flagstaff.

ROOMS

The Radisson is offering us rooms at \$85.00 a night. They also have a few suites for \$105.00 a night. Our goal is to take over the full hotel. It has been a few years since any of us were in on a submarine taking over a hotel. They only have 183 rooms so phone your reservation in ASAP. 928-773-8888. No toll free number.

HOSPITALITY SUITE

The hospitality suite will be open from 0800 – 2359 daily. A free continental breakfast will be available on Tuesday and Thursday morning (0800 – 1000). Free draft beer, soda pop, coffee, and sea stories will be available when ever the hospitality suite is open.

REGISTRATION

You will be receiving a registration packet in the mail after the first of the year. Reunion registration will be \$20.00 per Caiman sailor except for Caiman Association members – registration is free. Guests are also free. Big Stone, you are limited to 5 guests.

MONDAY

This will be a welcome aboard day. Get everybody familiar with the hotel and area. We will have nametags again. After many comments at the last reunion, you will be able to put the name of your choice on your nametags. Hoofs, before you ask – it must be socially acceptable. We will include the years on Caiman also. We also will have nametags for guests this year. Oh yes, the keg will be available.

TUESDAY

On Tuesday we will have a welcome buffet luncheon. This will also be your chance to volunteer for the next reunion location committee. We have a few changes to the bylaws to be voted on. And last, the Vice Commander office is up for re-election. Oh yeah, Chris "Hoofs" Field has been nominated for re-election. Hoofs campaign for votes will be to buy beer in the hospitality suite. This is your chance to nominate someone. Please ensure the shipmate wants the office before nominating him. NO surprises.

WEDNESDAY

A tour is scheduled for the Grand Canyon. This includes air-conditioned buses with water and a potty. A handicap van will also be available. At the park, there will be an IMAX presentation of the trip through the Grand Canyon at the river level. Next we will be given a guided tour from the rim of the Grand Canyon. Lunch is included. On the way back, the buses will tour the Navajo Reservation and stop at the trading post. For those not taking the tour, the hospitality suite will be open.

THURSDAY

A final sit down (with knife and fork) diner. A vote will be taken for the next reunion location on the choices the committee has approved. Also there will be a vote for Vice Commander. After diner, a drawing will be held for 4 different pieces of submarine art. No hats or coffee cups this time. After the drawing, an open mike will be available – as in the last reunion. This time Hoofs is not allowed to use the mike.

FRIDAY

Rest up for the next reunion
Have a safe journey home.

PICTURES

We will have a photographer at the reunion for group pictures. Our plans are to have four group pictures. The first will be the group that checked aboard during the forties and fifties. Another shot of the people from the sixties and the seventies. Then, a picture of all the Caimanites at the reunion. The fourth picture will be of everyone, swabs and guests, at the reunion. This time we would like to have everyone at the photo shoot. This means you too, Goat. We missed your smiling face in the last reunion photos. All the pictures may be ordered at the reunion. They will be \$20.00 each. This includes mailing to your home.

SHIPS STORE ITEMS

We have added a Caiman Ship Store to the Web site. Once again, we are aware that some Caimanites do not have web access or have trouble seeing the catalog. Check the Ship Store option on the postcard. Mail the postcard to the secretary, whose address is printed on the postcard, with your name and address on the back and he will send you a copy of the ship store catalog. We do take checks and the green stuff. We haven't been able to teach our treasurer how to use the credit card machines so we do not take plastic. If it does not have a piston he doesn't understand it.

SAILING LIST

As you probably remember, the sailing list was the last item to leave the boat before we sailed. It contained the name and contact information of all the shipmates on board. Our sailing list is all the swabs, that we have located, that were permanently assigned to Caiman. The short list (names, nickname, rate, and years on board) is available to all on the web. Only Caiman Association members can have access to the complete sailing list that also includes addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Currently the complete sailing list is only available on the web. Since we have many members that either do not have web access or are unable to download the complete sailing list, we have the second option of the post card to be mailed to the secretary. You can mail the card with your name and address on the back and the sailing list will be mailed to you. Many Caiman sailors have asked for the access information for the complete sailing list and we sent it to them. Several of these Caimanites that have asked for the access information had not joined the Caiman Assoc. We furnished the access information and asked them to join the assoc. A few did not join, so the board has decided that **ONLY** Caiman Assoc. members will be given the complete sailing list from now on.

LOST LIST

As the Yeo mentioned, Whit, Yeo, and I have been playing with a microfilm reader. This all started when Capt Hyde and Capt Minnigerode each bought the Assoc. three years of the Ships Diary. The Assoc bought the Ships Diary for the remaining years that Caiman was in commission. Our lost list has grown. Now we have correct spelling of names vise a sailor's beer fogged memory. And we have complete names. I am working my way through it trying to contact other Caiman sailors. After I finish with the phone calls, the remaining names will be posted on the Caiman web site. Also I will be including the lost list with every sailing list I send out. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. We have found others with just someone remembering their hometown.

ASSOC. OFFICERS

COMMANDER	John "Yeo" Fagereng
VICE COMMANDER	Chris "Hoofs" Field
SECRETARY	Doug "Smitty" Smith
TREASURER	Ivan "Whit" Whitwell
WEB MASTER	Greg "Hawkeye" Baer
HISTORIAN	Jack "No Name" Warden

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