



# FLAMIN' CAIMAN TALES

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

MAY 2010

## **COMMANDER'S SCUTTLEBUTT**

CAIMAN SHIPMATES – The deadline to register for the reunion and the hotel is April 15, 2010. Circus Circus hotel room booking must be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the price of \$44.27/night. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION NOW. We have some outstanding door prizes – a picture of the CAIMAN on a large throw; a large set of wooden dolphins; two wall clocks with the CAIMAN patch for the background; and, two wooden CAIMAN plaques. And, there might be more door prizes coming. You don't want to miss this reunion. We are all getting up in age and our reunions mean a lot to everyone who attends!!! I will see you all on May 17, 2010.

John "Yeo" Fagereng, Commander

## **NEWSLETTER**

This is the May newsletter, because of the reunion we are delivering it a month early. It is not because we believe some of you read slowly. Judy has been keeping Yeo busy getting ready and Chris is still punching a clock, so that leaves the single guy to do the grunt work. Attached is a list of the reunion attendees up to the day this went to the printer. The list on the web is updated as registrations are received. There will probably be a few more that will attend as sailors are known to wait to the last minute. If your name is not on the list and you have sent me your registration, I did not receive it before this went to the printer.

## **REUNION**

If something happens and you cannot register until after April 15<sup>th</sup>, there may be a few problems. The hotel has rooms set aside for us and they may not be available so you may have to pay a bit more. If you think you might attend the reunion, make your hotel reservations. You can cancel later if necessary. If you can't get your reunion registration forms to me before the deadline, call me and I can include you in the meal totals I need to send to the hotel. They are usually nice enough to allow for a few extra people but use this only as an emergency measure. If you do not have my phone number it is 360-377-4763. I will leave my abode here in Bremerton on May 13<sup>th</sup>, but when I travel I forward my home number to my cell so I will get any messages. This late method also includes any guest you add at the last minute. The hotel wants our money so they will work with us.

## **BINACALE LIST**

I recently received word that Capt Meaux's wife is fighting cancer and Bob "Arky" Bowlin's wife is having a medical problem. Neither couple will be able to make this reunion but we expect all of them at the next reunion. Keep them in your thoughts. I know I can speak for all CAIMAN shipmates and we wish them a speedy recovery.

## **EMAILS RECEIVED**

We have had some interesting emails from relatives of shipmates on Eternal Patrol and also from people who have had a favorable interaction with CAIMAN.

*I wanted to let his shipmates know that ENC(SS) Paul J. Gros Jr. was laid to rest last week. Chief Gros was the COB during the 1964-65 WestPac run. He loved the Caiman and his job as COB. I am his son and remember having the run of the boat when she was in port in San Diego. He was a great sailor and father. I only remember a few names LCDR Cash, and Joe Byers. As his son, I would be proud to communicate with any of his shipmates who would like to discuss the COB. [#pgros@conocophillips.com](mailto:#pgros@conocophillips.com). (Remember, if you are reading this on the web site, to delete the first character of any email address)*

This email I believe is self explanatory.

*I'm 54 years old and have been meaning to do this for years. My dad, Douglas Richardson was a Vancouver city police officer (badge #445) from November 1, 1948 - June 1, 1976.*

*When I was a child of about 10 years old in the mid-sixties, my family was invited to tour the U.S.S. Caiman while she was docked in Vancouver harbour. I was presented, by the Captain, with a crest of the boat, which I still have. I was told of a story where my dad protected some of the crew of SS-323 from a barroom brawl while on duty and returned them safely to the boat. In gratitude we were invited for a tour. I will never forget the experience and have always held dear the memory of this event. I wonder if anyone remembers this incident. It is a fond memory for me and will always be a reminder of the brotherly love we Canadians have for the U.S. military.  
Thank you,*

*-Ronald D. Richardson.  
[#floss17@telus.net](mailto:#floss17@telus.net)  
1143 Reader Crescent N.E.  
Calgary, AB T2E5J8  
Phone: 403-276-9695*

We also received an email from Philip Van de Veer. His father, Courtland Joel Van de Veer, served on the Caiman during WWII. His father passed away in Reno in 1974. He would like any crew members from the 1944-45 patrols to contact him.

Philip Van de Veer  
[#Philip.vandever@mail.courts.wa.gov](mailto:#Philip.vandever@mail.courts.wa.gov)  
21 Lakeside Drive  
Newport, WA 99156  
509-447-2659

## **UNLOCATED SHIPMATES**

Once again – please if you remember anything about a shipmate that is on our un-located list - call me, email me, write me - somehow let me know. Recently during a phone call a shipmate's wife asked if we had located someone. She then told me he used to live in Vallejo, CA. Five minutes after the phone call I had an address. We talked to him and he plans to attend the reunion. Another time, someone remembered a shipmates' quail boat and I found him. Other boats have web pages that I can look at. Remember any piece of information will help.

## **ETERNAL PATROL**

One of my duties, that I do not enjoy, is to inform you of our shipmates that have received orders for Eternal Patrol.

BRICKER, William EM2(SS) (44/45) 18 September 2008  
HANCOCK, Lyman N. TMC(SS) (58/?) 26 Sept 2008  
COLLINS, Robert TM2(SS) (44/46) October 2008  
CEPRESS, William D. ENC(SS) (53/54) 27 August 2009  
POWERS, Roland E. FN(SS) (48/51) December 2009  
BLOCK, Edward ENC(SS) (55/60) 26 December 2009  
GROS, Paul ENC(SS) (64/66) 26 January 2010  
HILL, Robert G. EMC(SS) (58/59) 2 February 2010  
COONEY, James CS1(SS) (67/68) February 2010

## **EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL**

As I am sure all know we are giving everyone a choice of receiving the newsletters via email or snail mail (US Postal Service). We have cut our printing and mailing costs by a little over half. This means more free drinks and sticky buns at the reunions. If you would like to change how you receive the newsletter let me know. CAIMAN'S email address is

[#flamincaiman@comcast.net](mailto:#flamincaiman@comcast.net). My phone number was earlier in the newsletter. Remember if you get this off the web, delete the first character.

## **ROASTS**

Those that have attended the last two reunions are aware that we have started roasting a shipmate at the luncheon. I need stories about your shipmates. You can write it out or tell me at the reunion. I will even take the story over the phone. Remember, truth is not a requirement and I will probably add a few tidbits to it to make it better anyway. Also remember it will be told in mixed company so plan the story accordingly. If I get a couple of choice items on a shipmate I can make up the rest. And a final note – the forward battery residents do NOT control our liberty now so they are fair game.

## **RELATIVES**

Some relatives of CAIMAN shipmates have been inconsiderate of our reunions by planning weddings and graduations at the same time. I am sure we all can understand that sons and daughters, no matter their age, still have a strong effect on our lives. Sometimes In-laws do the same. I informed the shipmates that will be absent that they will have no input on the stories and there is a good chance many stories will reference them – by name.

## **SHIP STORE**

The CAIMAN ship store will be in operation at the reunion so bring your check books or that green stuff. We do not take plastic. We will have some new items. The Submarine car magnets that were popular last reunion are unavailable, but we assisted in designing a new one. Obviously this one is better because CAIMAN help design it. CAIMAN was also involved in designing a dolphin belt buckle (gold and silver) for civilian leather belts. I sure you will find several items that you just can't live without.

## **DRAWING DONATIONS**

Some of our shipmates have offered to donate prizes for our drawings. We will always accept donations. These donations usually mean more to the winner as they are CAIMAN specific.

## **PAST NEWSLETTERS**

All the past newsletters are available on our web site [www.flamincaiman.org](http://www.flamincaiman.org). They are in Adobe format (PDF) so any computer can display and/or print them. If you have any questions, contact me.

## **WEB SITE**

Many times in our newsletters we have talked about our web site. CAIMAN is very lucky to have Greg "Hawkeye" Baer as a web master. He has received awards for our web site plus many comments – all good. Hawkeye has posted all the pictures he has received from CAIMAN shipmates. We all owe Alice, his adult supervisor, a beer or whatever she decides to drink, for allowing Hawkeye to spend all that time on our web site. Also Alice is CAIMAN'S proof reader. After the newsletter is written she finds all my errors and I correct them before you have a chance to laugh at me.

## **REUNION PICTURES**

I will have a laptop with the capability to copy memory cards from cameras. This way we can copy the memory cards and I can give Hawkeye a copy of your pictures without you having to copy them to a disk and mailing them to him. We believe we will get more pictures this way, get them to Hawkeye faster, and save you some money.

## **LATEST NUMBERS**

We still want to set a new attendance record of 150 CAIMANITES plus guests. So, send in your registration. Remember, we will talk about you if you are not there. So show up to protect your reputation and make sure the stories are all true. Here are our latest stats:

Sailing List:	1216
Expected at the next reunion:	571
Eternal Patrol:	645
Lost List:	210

***"We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds."***

*Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN.*

# 2010 REUNION

NUM	LAST	FIRST	NICK	GUESTS	FROM	RATE	YRS
1.	ALLEN	George		Marsha Allen	Evansville, IL	TM2(SS) DV	60/64
2.	AMATO	Sam		Libby Amato	Austin, TX	QM3(SS)	68/71
3.	APLING	Freddie	Yeo	Phyllis Apling	Olympia, WA	YN2(SS)	56/57
4.	BAER	Greg	Hawkeye	Alice Baer	Gig Harbor, WA	STSC(SS)	69/71
5.	BARNHARDT	Roger	Barney	Marilyn Barnhardt	Big Stone City, SD	EN2(SS)	68/71
6.	BENEFIEL	George	Benny		La Porte, IN	EM1(SS)	51/53
7.	BILDERBACK	John	CAPT	Dorothy Bilderback Daniel Bilderback	Gulf Shores, AL	CAPT	62/63
8.	BREAULT	George		Julia Beault Tom Whitmer Trinna Whitmer	Chesterville, ME	ETC(SS)	56/60
9.	BRUMMERSTED	David			San Diego, CA	LCDR	65/67
10.	BRYAN	Tom			Hermiston, OR	ETC(SS)	66/69
11.	BURGETT	Mike			Mount Vernon, OR	IC3(SS)	68/70
12.	CHAPMAN	Wayne	Chappy	Thomas Sperkan Russell Sparks Sidney Shepherd	Des Moines, IA	EN2(SS)	51/54
13.	CLARK	Frank		Pat Nichols	Fairfax, VA	LCDR	67/69
14.	COLEBANK	Phil		Harriet Colebank	Morgantown, WV	TM2(SS)	67/70
15.	CUNNINGHAM	Phil		Pat Cunningham	New Port Richey, FL	EM2(SS)	62/64
16.	DENGEL	Robert	Dings	Renay Dengel	Post Falls, ID	EN2(SS)	64/68
17.	ELLIOTT	Michael	Slick	Sherry Elliott	Rolla, MO	QM2(SS)	66/69
18.	ERB	Ron	Big Ron	Helen Erb	Camp Nelson, CA	TM2(SS)	58/62
19.	ESPANA	Francisco	Moose	Marjorie Espana	Hayward, CA	ETC(SS)	62/64
20.	FAGERENG	John	Yeo	Judy Fagereng	Santa Rosa, CA	YNC(SS)	67/68
21.	FERBRACHE	Ray		Patricia Ferbrache	San Diego, CA	CDR	64/66
22.	FIELD	Chris	Hoofs	Carol Field	Newberg, OR	STS2(SS)	67/72
23.	FLANSBERG	Wayne		Sandi Flansberg	Morgan Hill, CA	EM2(SS)	55/58
24.	GAMBLE	Michael	Yeo	Terry Miller	Bremerton, WA	YNC(SS)	63/64
25.	GIFFORD	Jerry	Giff	Sharon Gifford	San Antonio, TX	EN2(SS)	63/67
26.	GOMES	Joseph			Port Richey, FL	EN2(SS)	51/53
27.	GREEN	William	XO		Coronado, CA	CAPT	62/64
28.	HAMMACK	Paul	Ham	Shirley Hammack	Fritch, TX	EN2(SS)	67/68
29.	HANKINS	Daniel	Hammerin Hank		Sandy, OR	MMCS(SS)	68/69
30.	HARDIN	Mason	Hog		Galax, VA	EMCS(SS)	70/72
31.	HARRER	Neil		Ferrol Harrier	Clayton, CA	ET2(SS)	59/62
32.	HARVEY	Charles	Harv	Gayle Harvey	Grand Bay, AL	QM2(SS)	58/60
33.	HATHAWAY	Jack		Vicki Hathaway	McMinnville, OR	EN2(SS)	68/71
34.	HESTER	Robert		Linda Lucille Vickie	Archdale, NC	ENC(SS)	64/67
35.	HNATOVIC	Ronald	Lefty	Laurel Hnatovic	Seabeck, WA	EMCS(SS)	58/58
36.	JOHNSTON	Beatrice			Lacey, WA	Widow	57/59
37.	JURCHECK	John			Westminster, CO	CAPT	68/70
38.	KICENSKI	Virgil	Ski		Newcastle, OK	ENC(SS)	55/58
39.	KREH	Richard		Connie Kreh	Stuart, VA	FTG2(SS)	64/66
40.	LIBRIZZI	Victor			Mililani, HI	RMCM(SS)	52/55
41.	LOWE	William		Sue Lowe	Westminster, CO	CDR	58/60
42.	McCRACKEN	Lester	Mac		Joplin, MO	RMCS(SS)	56/59

<b>NUM</b>	<b>LAST</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>NICK</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>YRS</b>
43.	McDONALD	Bryon	Big Mac	Alice Rodney Jennifer	Kittitas, WA	ENC(SS)	62/63
44.	McKENZIE	William	Mac	Marjorie McKenzie	Silverdale, WA	CAPT	49/51
45.	MEHRLING	Robert	COB		Brewster, WA	EMCM(SS)	64/67
46.	MILLER	Albert		Ruth Miller	Marina, CA	FT3(SS)	49/51
47.	NEWMAN	Jack	Black Jack	Rose Newman Frank Newman	Sonora, CA	CAPT	61/63
48.	O'TOOLE	James	Tooley		Anchorage, AK	EN2(SS)	66/70
49.	OCHOA	Robert		Emma Ochoa	Cottonwood, AZ	EMC(SS)	49/55
50.	PITTS	Jack			Horseshoe Bay, TX	RM3(SS)	53/54
51.	POSPISIL	Warren	Pops		Washington DC	TMC(SS)	70/71
52.	REEVES	Walter	Ned	Karla Reeves	Lucedale, MS	TMCS(SS)	65/68
53.	RIDLEY	William	Bill	Trish Ridley	Keyport, WA	LCDR	65/67
54.	SCOTT	Carl		Karen Scott	Mesa, AZ	MM1(SS)	58/59
55.	SEID	Bill		Delores Seid	Casper, WY	IC1(SS)	60/61
56.	SHAFER	Gerald	GT	Lori Shafer	Tucson, AZ	LT	63/68
57.	SMITH	Douglas	Smitty		Bremerton, WA	ET1(SS)	67/69
58.	SMITH	George			Media, PA	CWO3	46/50
59.	SORRELLS	Robert		Alyne Sorrells	Shoals, IN	EN2(SS)	51/55
60.	STARR	Gerald		Charlotte Starr	Cross, SC	CSCS(SS)	62/63
61.	STEARRETT	Tom	Yeo	Vickie Christensen	McCall, ID	YNCS(SS)	66/67
62.	SWEENEY	Thomas	Tom	Kathy Sweeney	Tempe, AZ	ETR2(SS)	65/66
63.	TRAHAN	Walter	WD	Yvonne Trahan James Kikas Kiku Kikas	Lake Charles, LA	TMCM(SS)	66/70
64.	TROUTMAN	John		Claudia Blaha	Columbia, MD	LCDR	66/68
65.	TURNER	James		Jean Turner	Kingman, AZ	LCDR	57/58
66.	TURNER	Samuel	Sam	Rubye Turner	Florissant, MO	MMCS(SS)	66/68
67.	WALTERS	Robert	HGDU	Virginia Walters	Portland, OR	FTU3(SS)	55/57
68.	WATSON	John	Bosco		Bend, OR	EM2(SS)	52/54
69.	WHITMARSH	Mike	Whit	Connie Whitmarsh	Portland, OR	IC1(SS)	60/60
70.	WILLETTE	Lloyd	Willie	Donna Willette	Bremerton, WA	EMC(SS)	58/61
71.	ZARATE	Frank			Clear Lake, CA	QM3(SS)	67/69