

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 13, Issue 3

Summer/Fall 2012

Newsletter Changes

Mike Bickel (Admin Officer)
BICKEL485@AOL.COM

Shipmates:

For those of you who are getting emailed a notice about this newsletter having been published on our website (www.sirago.com/newsletter.htm), we THANK YOU very much because it really doesn't cost us any money to get this delivered to you (except, of course, for the fees paid to keep our website up to date).

As you know, of the 867 live crew members with whom we communicate (mainly crew, but also a number of widows and some associates), there are approximately 406 of these members who receive a hard-copy newsletter, many of whom also get an email notification about it. You are one of them if you are receiving this by regular mail.

I want to tell you something. Our newsletter costs us out of our pocket \$5.00 for printing, mailing, label and taping costs per year per recipient and the price just keeps climbing. You may very well have chipped in a check for \$5.00 or more in the past, or even be one of our

most faithful contributors, but our treasurer tells us that no matter how hard we try to break even on this endeavor, it will never happen because there are a pretty huge number of our crew members who have never paid a dime for getting the newsletter. It's very true that some people really can't spare a dime for a newsletter so we have always dedicated ourselves to ensuring that IF there were crew members who neither had an email nor had a "dime" to spare, we would support them through the generosity of the rest of the crew members. And we WILL continue to do that until we're out of money. But the minority of chipper-inners is outnumbered by most of the crew who either do nothing, or who have occasionally chipped in – maybe an average of \$3.50 over the 13 years we've been doing this newsletter. We always overrun our printing budget and our coffers keep going down as a result. We just need those "coffers" to go down more slowly and then try to make it up at reunions. But that brings up another problem. This next reunion (see next article) is a Cruise and we have promised ourselves that the Sirago will neither make nor spend any money for the funding of this cruise. It will be paid for by the individuals attending. That's another reason why we need to plug this cash-hole in the bottom of our boat.

This brings us to the main point of this article. Here is how we had decided to proceed in order to be more responsible with the Association's funds.

STARTING WITH THE NEXT NEWSLETTER:

Those crew members who have a good email address in our files will NOT receive a paper newsletter but rather will be advised when the next newsletter comes out via a newsletter notice. Many crew members are already doing this and are saving us money.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Those crew members who do NOT have any good email address will continue to receive their newsletter by mail and we will pay for it and will hope that enough money will come in during our booster appeal in the Winter/Spring edition (see next paragraph) to offset those costs. If you are receiving this newsletter in paper format AND our records show that you have NO EMAIL ADDRESS (or a BAD ONE), you will see that there is a small blow-in within this newsletter asking you to let us know your email address if you have one. Please be honest and follow the instructions IF you have a real email address.

We will also start CUTTING OUR EDITIONS down to only 2 editions per year starting in 2013. As you may or may not know, we had 3 editions in 2000 and then, starting in 2001 through 2011 we had a quarterly newsletter (4 editions). This year (2012) you have heard me talk about how hard it is for old guys to get 400-500 newsletters to mail out every 3 months and I have, like everyone else, been getting older and schlepping large boxes of newsletters from Office Depot where they are printed to my home and then spending about 10 -12 hours per newsletter edition in solid "fast as you can go" folding, taping, stamping, labeling, etc. mode, it honestly plays pretty hard on my hands and since I'm still working full time with lots of travel, and by the way have had my kids and grandkids living with me for the past 2 years, I really can't find all the time it takes to do this manual mailing effort. Of course, in addition to the work I do on newsletters, I must "compose them" which takes usually another 2-3 hours or more of time per edition. I know I'm whining here, but you get the idea. So STARTING WITH THIS EDITION we are going to have a SUMMER/FALL (this edition) and a WINTER/SPRING (next edition) every year. So this edition covers what would have been our AUGUST and NOVEMBER issues and next edition will cover what was called our FEBRUARY and MAY editions.

So... for those of you who are receiving this newsletter by US Mail and have a good email address, you will have to bear with us as we convert you (starting next newsletter) to electronic newsletter delivery. Remember also that even if you have given us a crappy (but still working) email which is NOT the email you prefer to use, you can STILL REGULARLY "on your own" ALWAYS go to the Sirago site and see our newsletters there. My goal is that these newsletters will come out in the NOV/DEC timeframe (for Summer/Fall) and in the MAY/JUN timeframe (for Winter/Spring).

CRUISE 2013 UPDATE

The following CREW MEMBERS and Honoraries(H) are going to be attending the April 2013 Cruise to the Bahamas. There are spouses and guests as well. These 24 crew members plus their family / guests will enjoy a 5-day cruise to the Bahamas including seeing Nassau, Freeport, and Half Moon Key in addition to a full day "At Sea" to also enjoy the cruising atmosphere. If you're not on our list, I'm pretty sure it's too late to jump aboard into our group, but please EMAIL me if you are dying to jump aboard – BICKEL485@AOL.COM:

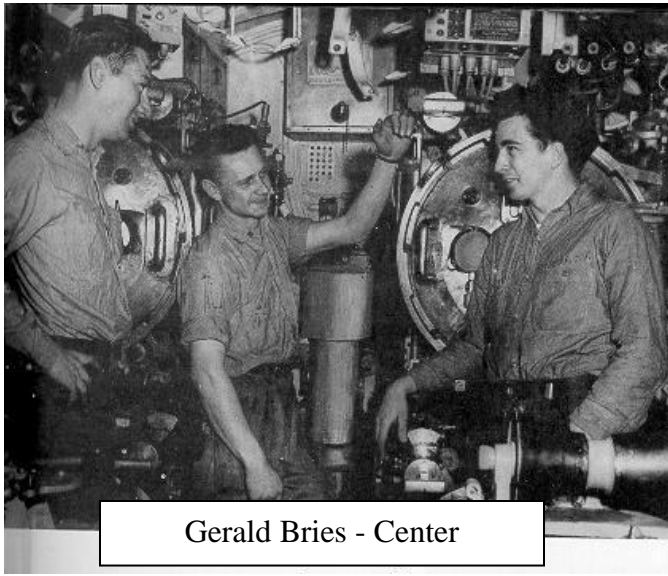
Mark Adler	Art Allum	Bill Bailey	Fred Baker
Mike Bickel	Bill Browning	Virgil Clemmer	Tim Cole
Pat Conroy	Dale Craig	Roger Dean	Doug Fox
Art Fried	Frank George	Tony Gilbert	Joe Hopkins
Bob Kaufman	Bob Liland	JD Mayo	Rich McCamant
Doreen McGuire(H)	Jerry Stellick	John Tumilty	Harold Webster

LOST & FOUND NOTICES (D=Decom Crew, P=Plank Owner)

ETERNAL PATROL

Gerald G. Bries	TM2	52-55	Died 15 September 2012
Kenneth W. Haley	SN	48-50	Died 29 October 2006
John R. Louis (Ray)	FN	52-53	Died 3 August 2012
Robert E. (Rawhide) Rainey	QM1	52-54	Died 3 September 2012
Sammie Lee Veal	TN	56-56	Died 28 September 2011

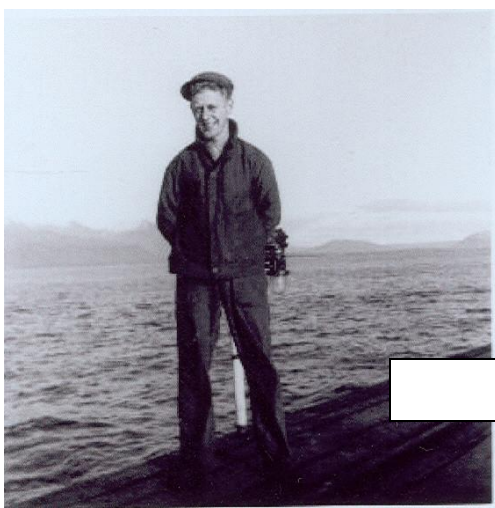
Sailor, rest your oar....



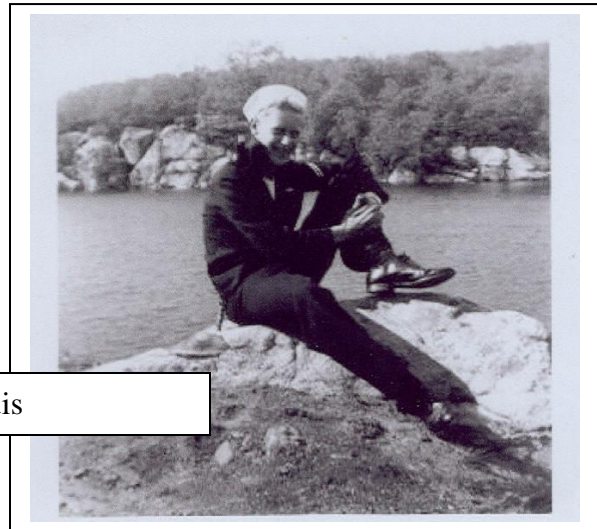
Gerald Bries - Center



"Rawhide" Rainey



J. Ray Louis



Emma Lay Expresses Thanks to the Sirago Vets

By Mike Bickel

Emma Lay, widow of Vernon "Doc" Lay (HMCS / COB / 60-64) wrote the following letter which

accompanied her donation to the Sirago Association. Frank George (treasurer) forwarded it on to me:

Dear Frank:

Vernon Lay, my husband of 62 years, passed away 11/9/2010 from COPD. He was Chief of the Boat "Sirago" and was "DOC".

I just finished reading the May issue of the Sirago newsletter! Yes, The After Battery Rat is told just like it was and if it had NOT been for all the sense of humor these men built up together they would have never survived, huh-Frank?

I stayed home and raised our 4 children to when their dad came home - he would be proud of me and how I worked with the 2 boys and 2 girls - I'm now 82 years old and in pretty good shape. Still work in my garden, ride my 4-wheeler and I too, at different community meetings support our Veterans - I wear a Sirago cap and Silver Dolphin pin - this gets people to asking questions - and I inform them of how our men protected our country. Sometimes I go into details to get a point across. I'm proud to say that Vernon and I had "NO REGRETS". He was at Peace with himself.

THANKS TO ALL YOU CARING MEN!

Emma Lay

Rich McCamant
10225 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

US POSTAGE
STAMP
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED