

Sirago Newsletter



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Summer / Fall 2017

Reunion 2017 – Recap

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Shipmates:

We had an absolutely fantastic reunion in Cleveland this year. Everyone had a suite rather than a room – the prices were good especially since breakfast was free and “all you can eat” and if you cared to use the bar area, it was free also. This meant that we didn’t have to bring in tons of beer at our own expense or pay the hotel a lot of money to have them serve it. This was a VERY classy hotel and we had crewmembers show up for this reunion whom we had never seen at any reunion before. We took train rides and visited the USS COD and had lots of time to visit with our buddies!

All that being said, it was a shame that so many that had signed up had to cancel at the last minute due to medical issues or changes of plans or more personal matters. This meant that we had to pay for many meals that were guaranteed and we ended up with a significant amount of left over inventory that didn’t sell. Bottom line, we lost a fair amount of money. But I have to give a super “shout out” to our

Treasurer, Frank George, for his design of the shirts and coffee mugs and his continued efforts to sell material long after the reunion was over. We were a good team, and we all owe Pat Conroy (as XO and reunion coordinator) a round of applause (or a round of drinks?) for picking such a wonderful place to get together and his assistance to the USS Greenfish coordinator who needed our help in getting their reunions started. They greatly appreciated Sirago’s help.

During the reunion, Pat was unanimously voted to take over the CO spot as Rich McCamant had expressed a desire to let that duty go to someone else. Rich still is the person who is and will continue to be most passionate about the crew and finding lost people and accounting for Eternal Patrols. His address is still the “return address” of this newsletter. Most recently he (Rich) was working on finding out what happened to so many crew members that have seemingly vanished and unfortunately, but predictably, he found they had slipped under the surface and are on Eternal Patrol – which gives us great pause when we think of them being lost forever, like the crew of that Argentinian boat (San Juan) that lost their crew under the blue. Rich was also distracted with moving to Florida (see return address on this newsletter) and then had to deal with Hurricane Irma so was pretty much out of touch for some time. When Rich resigned his duties as CO, we needed to have a nominating committee who selected Pat Conroy as CO and a new XO to take Pat’s place. That new XO is Tim Cole, another torpedoman, who we are quite confident will do a stellar job. Other officers preferred to stay in place which include myself as ADMIN, Frank George as DISPURsing OFFICER (aka Treasurer) and Mark Adler as SUPPLY OFFICER in charge of storekeeping. When any officers

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decide to resign, they are invited to act in an “advisory board” capacity to help give input to the new board. Rich has agreed to do this for us and for all his many years of work as Association CO, we are thankful!

In 2019 we will be joining other SUBRON SIX diesel boats in North Little Rock, Arkansas at the site of the USS Razorback which briefly was part of SUBRON 6 (see www.sssbs.org). This reunion will take place Thursday 1 August 2019 – Sunday 4 August 2019 for the main event. We will also allow people to have a favorable rate on the preceding night (31 July 2019) and also Sunday night (5 August 2019). We have VERY favorable government per diem rates for rooms and will have primary access to the USS Razorback while we are all there. As you may know, the USS SIRAGO donated \$1000 to bring the Razorback back to the United States. We should be very proud to have helped accomplish this. The boat is in great shape at this time and it is a good “meeting place” for all diesel boat submariners to bring back the “good ol’ days”.

*** LIFE DUES MEMBERSHIPS ***

For those of you who are on our email list in the google groups, you will have heard of our offer of “Life Dues” to the entire crew. The 4548 Duty Section gets theirs automatically for free. The 4952 group pays \$10, the 5356 group pays \$20, the 5760 group pays \$30, the 6164 group pays \$40, the 6568 group pays \$50 and the 6972 group pays \$60. This type of idea on “Life Dues” has been mentioned many times by Bill Shamphan of the 5760 group. He was going to “design” such a card and at this last reunion, we decided it was time to initiate this program. We didn’t really “offer” such a thing at the reunion itself since the card was not designed – a couple of people DID pay at the reunion. Later on, we learned that Bill Shamphan had died (see information in Lost Crew Members below), and so our own Frank George got on this project just about the time he was selling some shirts out of his home that were done incorrectly by the screening company and had a defect, but Frank bought them at cost and decided that they’d make a good thing to raise money with. He also made some comments about the Life Dues membership knowing that Bill Shamphan had died so quickly after the reunion. So... if you are so inclined you can contact Frank George (ss485@tampabay.rr.com) and let him know you’d like one too. Here are some photos of what it looks like (front and back of my own):



*** LOST CREW MEMBERS ***

For those of you getting a “printed” version of this newsletter, you will have already seen the great number of deceased crewmembers that Rich found which were mentioned in our Winter/Spring version in early 2017. For those of you who receive their newsletter primarily over the web, I have to apologize for not posting our last newsletter on the web until a few days ago when I realized my mistake. So... if you are reading THIS newsletter on the web, I highly recommend you read the PREVIOUS newsletter which shows the great work that Rich

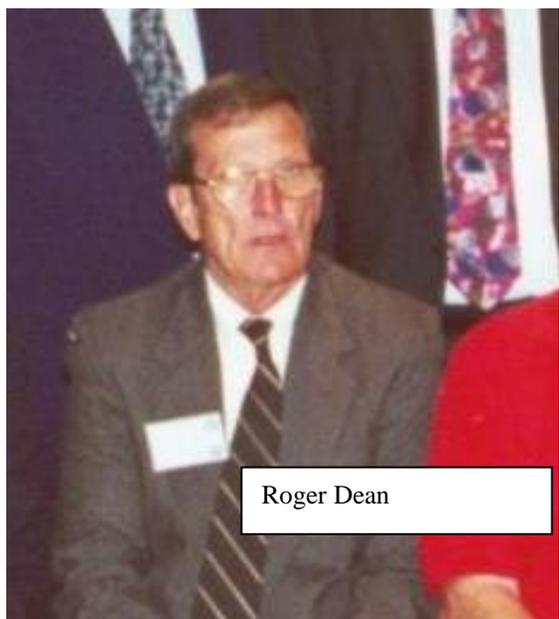
McCamant has done in accounting for our lost shipmates who have died and somehow we lost track of.

Here are ones that have been found on Eternal Patrol since the last newsletter:

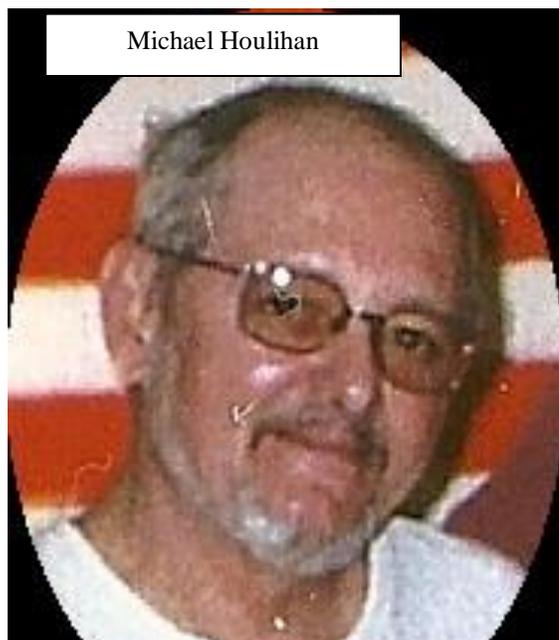
LOST & FOUND NOTICES (D = Decomm Crew)

Roger Dean	EN3	58 – 61	Died November 2016
Michael E. Houlihan	CSSN	71 – 72 (D)	Died 16 May 2016
William T. Jessop	TM1	71 – 72 (D)	Died 26 July 2016
Donald E. Lewis	EMFN	70 – 71	Died 2 August 2011
Lawrence C. McMurtray	FT3	52 – 53	Died 25 July 2017
William J. Shamphan	ETR2	58 – 61	Died 21 August 2017

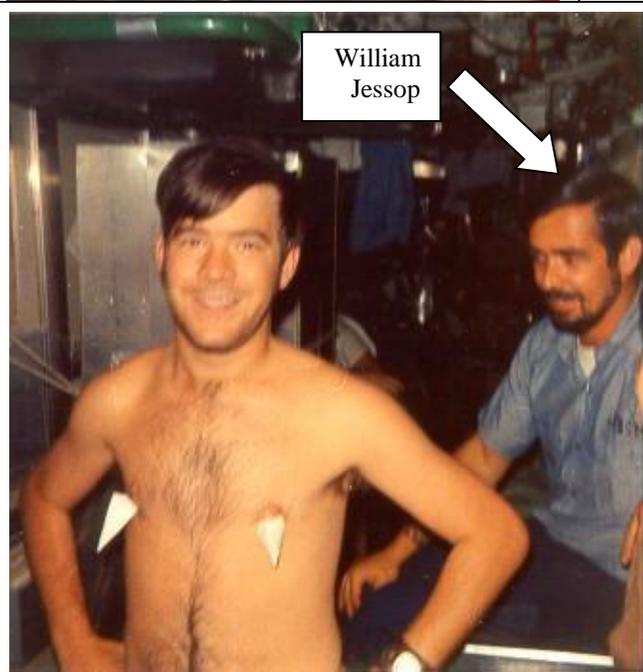
Sailor, rest your oar....



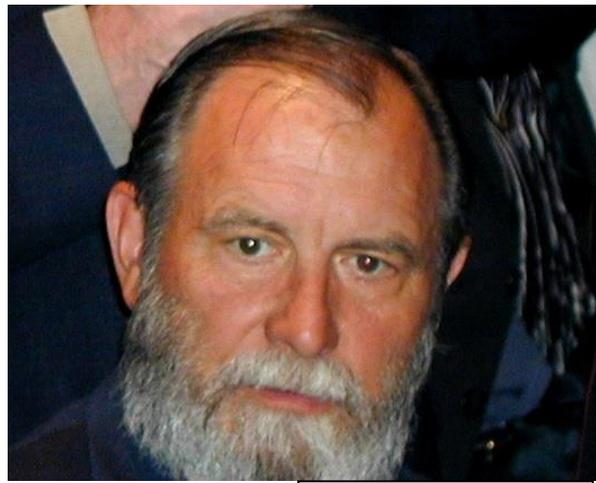
Roger Dean



Michael Houlihan

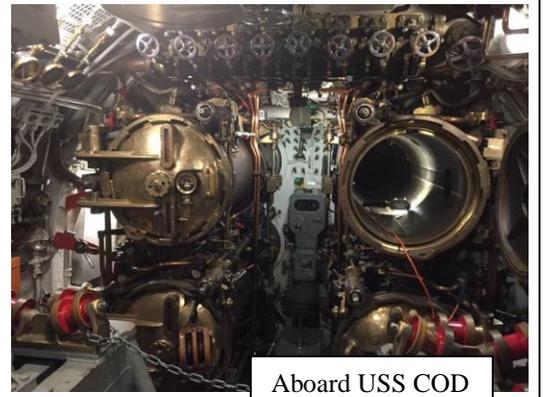


William Jessop



Bill Shamphan

First sighting of Jon Russell and Charlie Graninger at a Sirago Reunion



Aboard USS COD

**YOU NEED TO COME TO THE
NEXT REUNION BEING HELD IN N.
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS AT THE
USS RAZORBACK SITE IN 2019!!**



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