

# REUNION 2005

Volume 6, Issue 3 – Insert. By Joe Roche – jfr485@optonline.net

August 2005

## The Alpha & the Omega

The Alpha: Leslie Addotto reported on board Sirago in January of 1945 as the keel was laid, and commissioned her on 13 August. He became the first man to qualify on her and spent six years on board.

The Omega: Mark Adler reported on board Sirago sometime in 1971, twenty six years after Leslie. He became the last man to qualify on her in 1972, with just 9 days prior to her de-commissioning, twenty seven years after Les Addotto qualified. There is a story here...

Stuck in between the Alpha & Omega are 1622 men who served. Some were TAD, but many reported and stayed for awhile. From our photo albums, the young men looking out at us, look different from those that attended this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion. The hair is grey or missing altogether, the bodies a bit thicker... well maybe a lot thicker, we're somewhat slower, our legs don't work as well as we remember them working. We wake up with a few more aches and pains these days. We have lived a full life. We have experienced life that few men ever had. We have sustained periods of utter boredom with minutes of excruciating excitement, that left us vibrating with energy, fear, and gratitude that whatever happened is over, and it seemed to take days to leave our memories, (but never truly to forget) and we could return to the grateful boredom of our watches.

Multiply the minutes of danger, by those that experienced it, convert it to energy and you could power up the lights of a small city;

Flooding in the forward torpedo room while diving in 1945. Diving the boat in Long Island Sound while a quartermaster was topside aft removing a flag from the jack staff in 1947.

A runaway engine in 1963.... The "deep dive" in 1967.

The 50 foot seas that almost turned Sirago over, (71 degree starboard roll) during a storm in 1971. That roll flooded out the conning tower and pump room and both engine rooms to the deck plates. Also in 1971, of trying to make for an anchorage and nearly being run over by a cargo container vessel that passed Sirago about 10 feet aft of the screws as she was running all ahead emergency

## Reunion Highlights

From Joe Roche – Commanding Officer:  
For those of you who missed this reunion, here were some of the highlights.

**Joe**



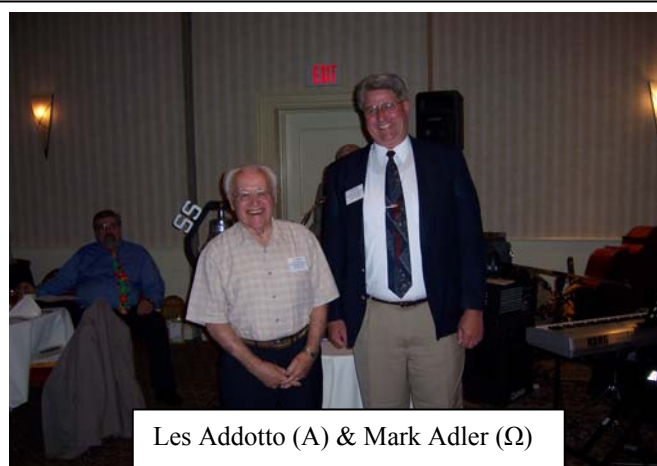
Elsie & Joe Roche at the Reunion

with black smoke coming out of the exhausts.

There had to be many more instances like those mentioned, that are unknown to many of us, mostly because these things were not talked about openly by the men that experienced them.

I guess that's just the way it was.

The Alpha & the Omega.



Les Addotto (A) & Mark Adler (Ω)



The Greeters



The Band



“DEEP DIVE” group who were aboard July 7, 1967 w/ “Barney” who received “Grace Under Pressure” award on behalf of all watchstanders aboard that day.



Ready to Cruise!



The REAL Sirago Bell – Construction of the special stand organized by “Big Robbie” Doug Roberts.



Duty Section 6164 Meets at Mike Leeds' home for a BBQ.

You missed it? Don't screw up next time and 'miss movement'. Mark your calendars for Memorial Day Weekend 2007 – More information to follow.