

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 3

August 2006

SSSBS

Sirago, Sea Leopard, Cutlass

Joe Roche (CO / Editor)
SS485@COMCAST.NET

Only nine months to go before our 1st and may I add historic SSSBS reunion. BTW! It took me six months to remember what the hell SSSBS meant. Another acronym, with more of a meaning than something that has been fed to us, from say, AT&T.

SubRon 6. That name is pregnant with meaning for any sailor that ever walked down Pier 22 to board his boat. Remember the time you first walked onto pier 22? I got out of a cab one morning at the head of the pier and couldn't find Sirago in the nest of sleek black killers, riding their lines. They looked different than the tin cans sitting across the way. More sinister, more deadly. I remember feeling proud that I was going to be part of that brotherhood. But Sirago wasn't among them. I was

continued this page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 SSSBS – Sirago, Sea Leopard, Cutlass
- 2-3 WHO'S COMING?
- 3 REUNION BULLETIN
- 4 OTHER NOTES & CORRECTIONS
- 4 SIRAGO ETERNAL PATROL

supposed to report to the squadron office, so up the Orion gangway I go, sea bag over my shoulder and orders in my hand. I was directed to the squadron office, signed in and was given a liberty card. I was told Sirago was at sea and not due back until the next Monday, this being Wednesday, I was given a bunk in some filthy hole on Orion and told to report for work at 0800 the next morning, in dungarees. Being an E-3 I knew exactly what that meant.

The next morning after chow I looked out at the boats from the deck of Orion. They were lying silently alongside each other and I wondered just what is it they do, how do they do it and when do they do it. The problem was I didn't know what "it" was. I remember wondering if I was ever going to learn all the stuff I needed to know to get qualified, keeping in mind that if I didn't, it was back to the surface navy. That thought always made me cringe. Do you remember walking down that pier for the first time? Do you remember the thoughts you had when the boats on pier 22 first came into view? It sure was something wasn't it?

Remember the pier. Close your eyes, envision yourself walking onto Pier 22 one morning, heading for your boat. The shadow of "Mother" Orion's quarterdeck holding sway over any out-of-uniform sailor who had the audacity to be topside without a white hat, or with shirt tails hanging out.

Sailors crossing the brows of boats, saluting each ensign and topside watch as he continued on to his own boat.

Remember the morning rush of "brown baggers" hurrying on board their respective boats to get some chow before it was secured. Remember the chaos of

Continued on Page 2

that pier? Fuel lines draped across boats filling up the belly of one of the boats that just got in. Electricians bringing shore power aboard. Some of the boats were finishing up battery charges, while the topside gangs were just beginning to go to work on the decks, sails and tank tops. Mess cooks rising up through the after battery hatch with the mornings trash and garbage, heading for the dumpsters at the head of the pier. Deck hatches opened to get at whatever had to be worked on below them, hoses being married up to spray nozzles, black paint being poured into huge black pots. Chipping hammers beating on the steel hulls, wire brushes trying to erase the rust that was taking over the boats of the squadron and the sailors fighting a losing battle against time...but trying none the less. Periscopes and other masts being raised and lowered. Sailors going in and out of her hatches like worker ants. Remember those days? The topside watches kibitzing with the deck gang. Men laughing, grumbling, joking, cursing and sweating to do whatever had to be done to make the boat ready for sea.

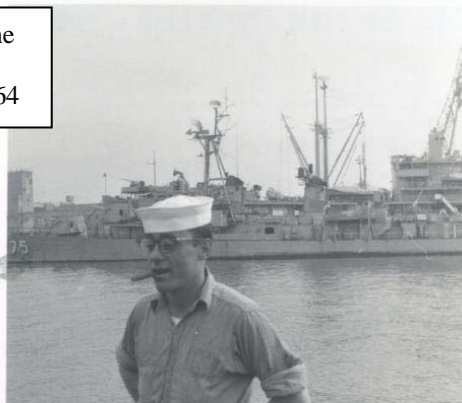
Remember the boats? In 1961 they were Sirago, Grampus, Runner, Sea Leopard, Requin, Cutlass, Cubera, Torsk, Argonaut, Redfin and the fat bellied Sea Lion. That's about all I can remember. They were - Squadron Six.

Welcome to the first sortie of ...SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT SISTERS. The first since the last diesel boat was decommissioned. Sirago, Sea Leopard and Cutlass! SSSBS Forever!

This is gonna be one hell of a party! ♦♦♦

Joe

Joe Roche
- EN3,
1961-1964



Who's Coming???

TOTAL – ALL BOATS: (333) – not counting duplicates:
USS SIRAGO (SS485) CREW: by Duty Section: (146):

DS4548 (2): Jim McCullough, Bob Mulhall

DS4952 (7): Don De Genaro, Duane Gow, Bob Kaufman, Norm LeBlanc, Lawrence McMurtray, Dan Reilly*, John Thompson

DS5356 (13): George Albert, Jeff Badgett, Chuck Balkcom, Bob Barringer*, Boyd Bywater*, Don Hall, Ray Hartenstein, Bob Mazurek, Ron Nichols, Buddy Shumake, Ed Sowinski*, James Thompson, William Williams

DS5760 (14): Art Allum, Paull Anderson, **Audrey Boyer**, Roger Dean, George Goodwin, Don Gotta*, David Hauer, Mel Laubach, James Morgan, George Reisner, Francis Rickel, Gene Russell, Ed Shaffer, Bill Shamphan

DS6164 (33): Ted Anthony, David Barron, George Booth, Bruce Boughton, Dale Craig, Bob Dishman, Pat Donovan, Kevin Dunne, Larry Eakes, David Feagles, Hal Galloway, Ray Haley*, Joe Hoffmann, Jim Hughes*, Joe Humphrey, Larry Jinks, Dennis Larson, Dave McCallum, Larry McClintock, Hugh McCracken*, Fred McGuire, George Miller, Fred Robinson, Joe Roche, Lowell Russell, Ralph Schmidt, Bill Schmitt*, Roy Scott, Gene Shore*, Butch Sites, Ralph Wiggins, Marvin Yokum, Bob Zorn

DS6568 (38): Doug Andersen, Ray Anderson, Ken Anderton, Richard Barnette*, Gary Beasley, Clyde Beatty, Bill Clegg*, Tim Cole, Pat Conroy, Dennis Dion, Dennis Duren, Bob Ewing, David Glaser*, Garry Goetschius, Ron Hart, Jerry Hauser, Dan Hawkins, David King, Ken Koller*, "Tex" Loftin, Ty Lynch, Rex Major, J D Mayo, Rich McCamant, Don Miller, Frank Phipps, Willy Ramos, Ray Rausch*, Doug Roberts, Bob Rosen*, Rob Schutte, Dean Sedgwick, RC Shipley, Nelson Shiver, Ray Spooner, Gary Thonn, Chuck Veir, Lewis Zipperer

DS6972 (39): David Ackerman, Mark Adler, Fred Baker, Bob Bell*, Frank Berlingeri, Mike Bickel, **Deb Brown**, David Burtsfield*, Ray Bussard, Frank Campbell, Rusty Curtis, Mick Finn, Jim Fitzpatrick*, Bob Flora, Tom Foglesong, Doug Fox, Gary Gamauf, Frank George, Gale George, John Holmes, Bill Huskey, Frank Indoe, David Keene, Bud Keidel, Ron Kennedy, Les Lammers, Bruce Larsen, John Lee, Randy Morgan, Dick Morris, Tom Neville, Tom O'Brien, "Tex" Ritter, George Self, Bill Van Volkenburg, Larry Vicente, Thurman Webb, Tom Yankay, Paul York

SEA LEOPARD CREW: by Duty Section: (135):

DS4548 (4): Jack Atkinson*, Chic Knight, Ed Schuele, Roger Spooner, LaMar Taylor

DS4952 (4): Joe Dooley, Walter Hansen, Jack Lammers, Chuck Schaub

DS5356 (18): Bill Atwell, Dick Blank, "Babe" Brogan, Boyd Bywater*, Hank Franz, Joseph Gomes, Bill Hill, Walter Hubbell, Kwock Kam, Robert LaLonde, "Robby" Roberts, Ed Sowinski*, Johnny Stanford, Dick Teas, Frank Thompson, Louis Vozar, John Walker, Bill Zilar

DS5760 (16): Joe Bonds, **Valerie Caston-Coseo**, Ed Covey, Roy Forsythe, "Dewey" Fuller, Milo Fuller, Ray Haley*, Al Higginbotham, Jerry Hooper, Dan Laemont, Tom Lemke, Sidney Logan, Henry Patzer, Fred Pester, Norman Snell, Dick Weiner

DS6164 (24): Bill Clegg*, Jim Cosby, Dave Donovan, Dan Durham, Don Espeseth, Jim Ferro, Robert Galindo, Don Gotta*, Jack Hart, Glenn Herold, Glenn Hilbert, Sam Hilker, Larry Huffstutler, Ellis Jordan, **Chuck Kindlesparger**, Ralph Leonard, Charles Powers, Ray Rausch*, Bill Schmitt*, John Shuron, David Stamps, Lew Sykes*, John Truman, John Winters

DS6568 (49): Hal Anderson, Marty Arntzen, Charles Baize, Lionel Banda, Jack Beardmore, Bob Bell*, Chuck Berry, Gary Brown, Richard Burggraf, Dan Burke, David Burtsfield*, Jay Butler*, Jose Cabrera, John Carlsen, Jim Cunningham, Richard Curtis, "Woody" Dawson, Jim DeLong, Jim Fitzpatrick*, Dick Forsythe, Lonnie Friar, Tom Gibbs, Bill Heffernan, Inving Henrichsen, Les Jinkens, Ken Koller*, Andrew Kotulak, Jim Kreyer, Tom Kromer, Jim Latterell, John LaVeck, Hermy Maula, Jack Messersmith, Tom Morrell, George Morris, Bob Musitano, Paul Nasso, Bob Renninger, Wayne Rison, Steve Rogers, Chuck Shoenfelt, Phil Somerset, Mike Spasiuk, Paul Turner, Ben Vessels, Bob Walsh, John Wass, David Wilhoit, Dennis Wood

DS6973 (20): Stan Bartholomew, Art Bjorkner, Floyd Blaylock*, Darrell Colbert, Daniel Crovo, Tom Cushman, Alan Fisk, Rod Friedmann, David Glaser*, Rick Goebbel*, Bill Hayes, Martin Henderson, Lee Hubbell, Jim Hughes*, Elton Landrum, Gerald Linton, Robert Moore, Bill Powell, John Radens, Alan Shapiro

CUTLASS CREW: by Duty Section: (78):

DS4548 (1): Frank Fatale

DS4952 (7): Zeb Alford, Jack Atkinson*, Billy Garnett, Kenneth Guilfoil, Adrian Hardman, Leroy Peterson, Calvin Shirley

DS5356 (10): Bob Barringer*, William Chapman, Thomas Glenn, Carl Gronemann, Harry Henry, Dave Napier, Don Remick, Bob Spinnler, Bill Trefethern, Cyril Tuckfield

DS5760 (9): Robert Baldwin, Donald Curbow, Bob Fennell, Bill Flynn, Hugh McCracken*, Keith Mellish, George Puffenberger, Pascal VanHorn, Richard Wyhliidko

DS6164 (18): Robert Bandy, Jay Butler*, Don Gotta*, Jim Hughes*, Bob Keller, Michael Layton, Walter Malone, Paul Monson, Joe Mullen, Tom Murray, **Gloria Pickett**, Wayne Reedy, Dan Reilly*, Bill Revesz, Bob Rosen*, Gene Shore*, McCail Smith, Dan Wrzesniewski

DS6568 (19): George Ashbaugh, John Bailey, Richard Barnette*, John Henry Collins, Burl Fluharty, **Delores Fredricks**, Robert Frye, David Glaser*, Charles Greenlee, Edgel Hash, Howard Roberts, Al "Poopsie" Pelz, "Manny" Rocha, Tom Sherrod, Lew Sykes*, Terry Tietz, Doug Tucker, Frank Voznak, Charles Weaver

DS6973 (14): Floyd Blaylock*, Steve Durfee, Rick Goebbel*, Jim Horwath, Dick Huebner, Roman Marciniak, Kahl McDevitt, Donald Meyer, "Tex" Osborne, Dennis Rooy, Bill Shepherd, John Tregoning, Ed Urban, Michael Wiegman

Included in the above numbers are 2 "honorary" members for each boat. All except one are widows. ♦♦♦

Reunion Bulletin!!

You will notice that included in this newsletter is a SIGNUP SHEET for Reunion 2007. We have over 300 crew members saying they are planning to come and a bit more than 100 of them have already booked their room. We are carefully increasing the "block" as we see you guys booking in so that we don't "over commit" revenues to the hotel. IF you run into a situation where they say that the block is full, please call DAVID GLASER to make sure the blockage is increased. His phone number is: (601) 729-4039. If you cannot make the reunion and are receiving this newsletter you may order hats and shirts by submitting the form for just inventory. In this case, you won't receive them until after the reunion. All people coming to the reunion can make a partial payment at this early date with the idea of paying in full by next spring... however, payment in full is suggested as we will guarantee 100% reimbursement in the event you have to cancel (assuming you cancel at least one month prior to the reunion.). Since there is only ONE copy of the signup sheet included, you should either "Copy" it (for your own records) OR you can post the information you fill in to your retained copy of the reunion schedule so that you will know what you have paid for. Regardless.... Please get that room booked! ♦♦♦

Other Notes & Corrections

1. Rich McCamant had promised a listing of the Sirago lost crew (approx. 100) but we will delay that until a future newsletter.
2. Rich McCamant has found (for Sirago) one of the long lost (10 most wanted) guys from the 6164 duty section: David Barron (EN3, 63-65).
3. RADM Don Hall noted a correction to Mike Bickel's article on the SUBRON 6 Patch History (see MAY 2006 newsletter). The patch that most all of us were familiar with the VOLENS ET POTENS inscription was NOT started in 1960 with the arrival of the Scorpion, but rather, it was adopted in the 1950's when SUBDIV 63 became the Atlantic Fleet Regulus delivery unit with a nuclear payload capability.



Sirago Eternal Patrol

We found out only recently that Charles Andrus (QM1, 50-52) died back on 27 February 2005. Apparently his home must have been lived in by a son of the same name after his death and we weren't aware of his passing until the son moved.

With David Barron having been found and one found guy having been lost, Rich McCamant still maintains the Sirago "live" headcount at a continuous record high of 840. Here is a "live count" by duty section:

4548: Alive: 77	Deceased: 180
4952: Alive: 63	Deceased: 118
5356: Alive: 80	Deceased: 90
5760: Alive: 118	Deceased: 86
6164: Alive: 175	Deceased: 76
6568: Alive: 175	Deceased: 57
6972: Alive: 152	Deceased: 26

Rich McCamant
10225 Ocean Gateway
Easton, MD 21601

US POSTAGE
STAMP
HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED