

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 3

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Reunion '11

Mike Bickel (Admin Officer)
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Shipmates,

I am happy to report that as of this moment we have a total of 335 different crew members coming from the 25 diesel boats ever associated with SubRon Six. Sirago has 82 crew members intending to attend. This is going to be one heck of a beach party.

But I still need to get those signup sheets in and in this newsletter there is included (again) two signup sheets for you to use (fill out both and retain one) if you are one of those who hasn't filled one out and mailed it to me yet.

The folks shown UNDERLINED below have sent in their signup sheets. All the others listed for Sirago have not (as of this writing). If you are NOT able to come, I'd like to know that as early as possible. If you ARE able to come but your name isn't listed, please communicate this to me by email (if you have email) or by sending in your registration form per the instructions.

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USS SIRAGO (SS-485) (82): (POC: Mike Bickel)

Mark Adler, George Albert, Art Allum, Paul Anderson, Bill Bailey, Fred Baker(*), Clyde Beatty(*), Frank Berlingeri(*), Mike Bickel, Wayne Booton, Bruce Boughton, Audrey Boyer (H), Bill Browning, Charlie Bryant, Ray Bussard(*), Frank Campbell, Bill Clegg(*), Tim Cole(*), Bill Collins (aka Bill Harvey)(*), Pat Conroy, Dale Craig(*), Roger Dean, Armando Dela Rosa(*), Tom Foglesong(*), Doug Fox(*), Art Fried, Frank George, Anthony Gilbert, David Glaser(*), George Goodwin, Duane Gow(*), Ray Haley(*), Ray Harrison, David Hauer(*), Jerry Hauser, Joe Hoffmann, John Holmes, Jim Hughes(*), Frank Indoe(*), Bob Karge(*), Ken Koller(*), Dan Kozlowski, Tom Krug(*), Dennis Larson, Mel Laubach, John Ledbetter(*), John Lee, JD Mayo(*), Bob Mazurek, David McCallum, Rich McCamant, Larry McClintock, Jim McCullough, Art Michaelson, Ira Nerzig(*), Tom O'Brien, Keith Owens, Ron Price, Willy Ramos(*), Dan Reilly(*), Joe Roche, Mike Rolow(*), Bob Rosen(*), Roy Scott(*), Dean Sedgwick(*), Rollin Shaffer, Butch Sites, Ed Sowinski(*), Al Standish, Buck Steere, James Thompson, John Tumilty(*), Chuck Veir(*), Jim Ware, Roosevelt Watson, Frank Weltner(*), Carl Whisman, Steve Whitaker, Ralph Wiggins, Marshall Woods(*), Marv Yokum, Bob Zorn.

Just to add to any guilt trip I may be giving you about not getting your signup sheet in, the USS Sea Leopard has 89 planning to come and the Grampus already is up to 60 with our own Fred Baker helping them get organized (they haven't had a reunion since 1999 and are very happy to see this SSSBS (SubRon Six Smoke Boat Sisters) organization taking charge). We helped get the Sea Leopard moving on larger reunions as well as helping to keep the Cutlass from giving up on reunions after their reunion coordinator died a few years ago. Now we (under the organization called SSSBS with myself and our own David Glaser in charge) are trying to get the squadron going and we're doing it!

This "Signup Sheet" which is included in this newsletter will be the last one that will include the option of ordering shirts and hats since I will need to be placing these orders in the late fall and cannot wait for someone sending in a signup in December or something. I know that many of you already have your Sirago hat and don't need another one. But I know you don't have one of these shirts, so keep that in mind.

In addition to making great progress on getting diesel boat Pier 22 guys pumped about this reunion, we have now gotten volunteers assigned for all but a few boats – to act as Boat Representatives / Points of Contact (POCs). Many of you were on multiple boats from Squadron Six and we're going to make sure that everyone gets plenty of time to visit and catch up on each other's lives.

We also have started to organize the "games" which will allow for some competition between the boats to see which one gets the coveted "E" award (a button to pin on your shirt). In 2003 the Sirago won the softball game so we were the "E" recipient. In 2007 in Mobile, we had a heave throwing contest, a "hot straight and normal" contest, a maneuvering board drill, and qual questions. The Sea Leopard won the competition and is currently the possessor of the "E" and received their buttons. I'd personally like to see the Sirago win it back.



ETERNAL PATROL NOTICES

Nick Lira	EMFN	63-66	Died 14 July 2010
Aaron Thomas	SA	49-50	Died 6 July 2008
Walter J. (Spider) Zawislak	CT3	57-57	Died 16 April 2010



Nick Lira in the 60's



"Spider" recently.



"Spider" 1957

CREW NOTICES

Letter dated 01-07-2010

From Art Steiner (MoMM3c - 45-47):

Seeing the picture in the newsletter with Rick Saunders and Willie Baird brought back memories (Nov 2009 newsletter).

Not many are aware of the fact that in 1946 the Sub Base had a Fleet Football Team. It was coached by CDR "Soupy" Campbell - supposedly of the "57 Variety Clan" - so it was said. [ed note: refer to WWII history of the Battle of Coral Sea]. He was a buddy of "Fritz" Harlfinger and Fritz Harlfinger was a Football "Lover".

To shorten the story, three of us "made" the team - we played local and area semi-pro teams.

The highlight was a game played against North Carolina in the Polo Grounds in NYC. It was a charity game sponsored by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Needless to say, we got our Butts Kicked 42-21.

It was a lot of fun and a lot of memories. Myself, Rick Saunders, and "Tiki" Moore were on that team.

For what it's worth -

Art Steiner

Email from Bill Browning (RM3 - 66-68)

Mike, thanks for sending this msg. Wearing the dophins is a great idea...because that is the easy part.

Answering the questions asked may prove to be a little harder.

How do you put into words what it took to earn those dophins, the life aboard a diesel submarine, the sharing of this life-style with your brothers that made up the crew...both officers and enlisted men. The feeling you had when you wore those dophins for the first time.

As Ken Koller had those dophins tattooed on his chest, I don't believe he felt the pain of the needle. My own experiences and memories of being on the Sirago, (SS-485) have been woven into the very fabric of my life. It's in my heart, my mind, in my blood and even in my very soul. That experience also taught me to never give up, that the impossible only takes a little longer to achieve. To use logic, to be able to rely on others that I trust, to believe on a power greater than ourselves. And this bond that has been forged among us is shared by all men world-wide that has ever served and earned their dophins on diesel submarines.

DBF!!

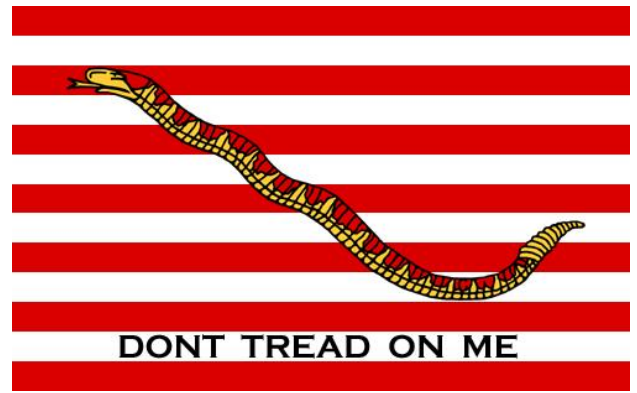
Bill Browning RM-3(SS)

I have recently been made aware that Garry Goetschius who served as our treasurer for a number of years has a son in Afghanistan. In fact, because his son will be returning around the time of our reunion, he has told me he really cannot attend although he wanted to, because of this great occasion of his son coming home.

As many of you may know, since 9/11 the Navy has substituted the “Don’t Tread on Me” symbol for the normal “Navy Jack” that ships fly in while in port. This symbol is known as the “First Navy Jack” and therefore is a Navy thing.

Garry’s son, knowing his father was in the Navy sent back the patch that NAVY personnel are wearing on their uniforms while in Afghanistan. It is also shown at the right but might be hard to see due to how dark the Camo (green and black) stitching is. But you can see the similarity of the actual patch being worn to the First Navy Jack being flown on ships (top right).

We are all proud of our children to serve and put themselves in harm’s way for our safety.



Rich McCamant
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