

# Sirago Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 1

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## Reunion '11

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Shipmates,

We just seem to have finished up conducting our Sirago Reunion 2009 and here we are telling you about Reunion 2011. Many of you already know that we will be going to the SAME HOTEL as the one we were just in for 2009, so for those of you who missed being at this wonderful place at Virginia Beach - on the beach - you'll get another chance in about 15 months. And that's the other reason why we're talking about it so early. The 2009 reunion was in the fall, but the 2011 reunion is conducted from 28 April – 1 May 2011 as we are NOT interested in holding any reunion right on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. We wanted to stay as far away from September of that year as possible so that we could avoid all the news hype of such a depressing subject.

There are two (2) signup sheets included in this newsletter – one for you to fill out and send us, and the other for you to fill out and keep as your record of what you signed up for and paid for.

In 2011, the organization running the reunion will be the SubRon Six Smoke Boat Sisters (SSSBS) which now is an official organization which will do all money collecting and hotel / reunion coordination. At the moment, I am heading up the organization as we are not yet incorporated, nor have we filed for the 501(c)(19) designation, but that is the plan. In 2003 and 2007 we also had joint boat reunions and enjoyed the collaboration with other Pier 22 boats joining us to have their reunions. During those two reunions the USS Sirago coordinated all the activities, but now we are wanting to share the load with the other boats in such coordination with the SSSBS being the organization which will take the risks and which hopes to have some money left over after the reunion to help make down payments for the next one (2015). So... this will be our mode – every other year there will be a reunion, but every other reunion will be run by the SSSBS. Check our website at [www.sssbs.org](http://www.sssbs.org) for more information about the organization.

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we expect a record turnout for this upcoming SSSBS reunion and we have not been disappointed. At this writing (and it's increasing daily) we have 295 different crew members already "intending to attend" from the various diesel submarines that were ever in SubRon Six. We have the following "count" from the various submarines:

Sirago: 77	Cobbler: 9	Sea Leopard: 78	
Grampus: 54	Cutlass: 22	Cubera: 34	
Requin: 34	Redfin: 15	Ray: 3	
Sailfish: 2	Runner: 19	Torsk: 11	
Argonaut: 18	Sealion: 18	Medregal: 4	
Carp: 10	Burrfish: 4	Tigrone: 3	Conger: 4

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Razorback: 1

X1: 1

We also have some visitors to see what we're up to from the USS Blenny: 2

If you were to add up all these numbers you would, of course, get a bigger number than the 295 I have just mentioned, but that's because we are showing certain crew members who have been on multiple boats and counting them on each of these boats. The 295 is a "net" number of different people. If they all brought wives, you can imagine how big the beach party could be.

Here is a list of JUST the Sirago folks planning to come. If you are not on this list and think you would be interested in attending email me (see my email address on page 1) or mail me at:

Mike Bickel / 1125 Villaview Dr. / Manchester, MO 63021.

Here's the Sirago folks – the (\*) means multiple boats. The (H) means Honorary:

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**USS SIRAGO (SS-485) (77):**

Mark Adler, George Albert, Art Allum, Paul Anderson, Fred Baker(\*), Clyde Beatty(\*), Mike Bickel, Bruce Boughton, Audrey Boyer (H), Bill Browning, Charlie Bryant, Ray Bussard(\*), Frank Campbell, Bill Clegg(\*), Tim Cole(\*), Pat Conroy, Dale Craig(\*), Roger Dean, PG Dix(\*), Larry Eakes, Bob Ewing, Tom Foglesong(\*), Art Fried, Frank George, Anthony Gilbert, David Glaser(\*), Garry Goetschius, George Goodwin, Duane Gow(\*), Ray Haley(\*), David Hauer(\*), Jerry Hauser, Joe Hoffmann, John Holmes, Frank Indoe(\*), Bob Karge(\*), Ken Koller(\*), Mel Laubach, Norm LeBlanc, John Ledbetter(\*), John Lee, JD Mayo(\*), Bob Mazurek, David McCallum, Rich McCamant, Larry McClintock, Jim McCullough, Art Michaelsen, Ira Nerzig(\*), Tom O'Brien, Keith Owens, Ron Price, Willy Ramos(\*), Dan Reilly(\*), Joe Roche, Bob Rosen(\*), Roy Scott(\*), Dean Sedgwick(\*), Rollin Shaffer, Gene Shore(\*), Buddy Shumake, Butch Sites, Ed Sowinski(\*), Al Standish, Buck Steere, James Thompson, John Tumilty(\*), Chuck Veir, Jim Ware, Harold Webster, Frank Weltner(\*), Carl Whisman, Steve Whitaker, Ralph Wiggins, Marshall Woods(\*), Marv Yokum, Bob Zorn.

As in the past, we are interested in getting at least "some" money deposited on this reunion so that we know you are serious and also for us to be able to make those payments to vendors and the hotel as we are obligated to do by contract. As is our usual procedure, we understand that something may come up so we will return 100% of your payments if you decide to cancel within the last 2 months or so before the reunion. The only exception to this rule is for hats and shirts which I'm sure you would want anyway – so we would just retain some of the money as shipping monies to get you your goods but the remainder would be returned.

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**NOTICE: To friends and crewmates of Bob Ramsay (LT 62-64)**

For those of you who knew Bob Ramsay, we have recently received a letter from his widow Susan indicating that she would like to communicate with those who knew him. He retired as a CAPT and died in 2002. Here is her contact information.

Sue Ramsay (email: [sueramsay@verizon.net](mailto:sueramsay@verizon.net))  
PO Box 1418  
Franklin, NC 28744  
H: 828.349.9350

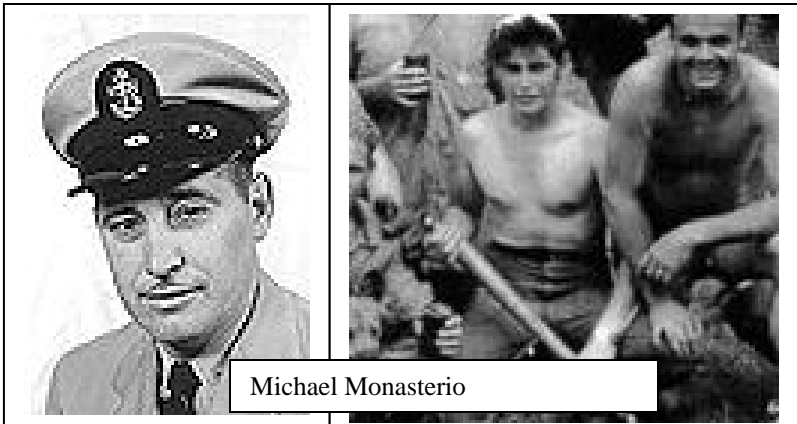
## LOST & FOUND CREW

Amazing as this might sound we actually FOUND a crew member of the Sirago but we have no photograph of him. Here is his information:

**JOHN BELL                      GSSN                      61-62**

As is usual (unfortunately) we have discovered deceased 6 more of our crew members that had previously been found. As you will notice, there are a few that died more than a few months ago as either the family did not inform us, or they had no surviving family. Oather McClung was a Photographer's Mate aboard Sirago who was responsible for the photos in many of the newspaper articles shown on the 4548 Crew Photo Album on our website.

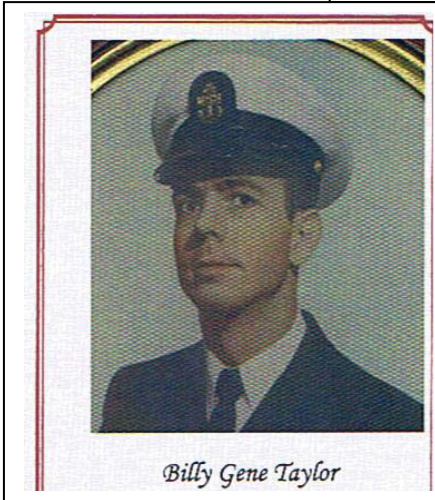
<b>GEORGE CHOQUETTE</b>	<b>S2/c</b>	<b>45-47</b>	<b>Died May 2006</b>
<b>OATHER (Mac) McCLUNG</b>	<b>PHOM3</b>	<b>47-47</b>	<b>Died 17 Dec 2008</b>
<b>BILLY GENE TAYLOR</b>	<b>EN1</b>	<b>58-61</b>	<b>Died 10 Aug 2009</b>
<b>JAMES BURBAGE</b>	<b>GS1</b>	<b>57-58</b>	<b>Died 18 Aug 2008</b>
<b>JOHN GEOGHEGAN</b>	<b>SOS3</b>	<b>62-64</b>	<b>Died 25 Nov 2009</b>
<b>MICHAEL MONASTERIO</b>	<b>EN2</b>	<b>45-48(Plank)</b>	<b>Died Jan 2010</b>



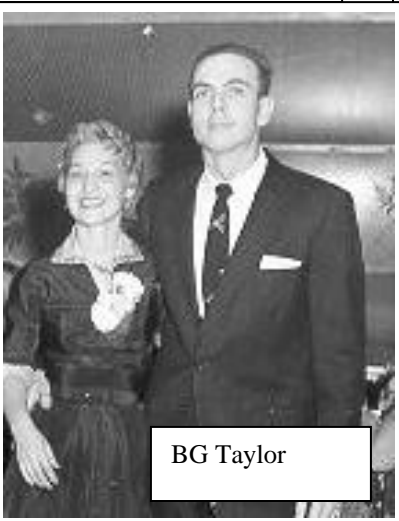
Michael Monasterio



George Choquette



*Billy Gene Taylor*

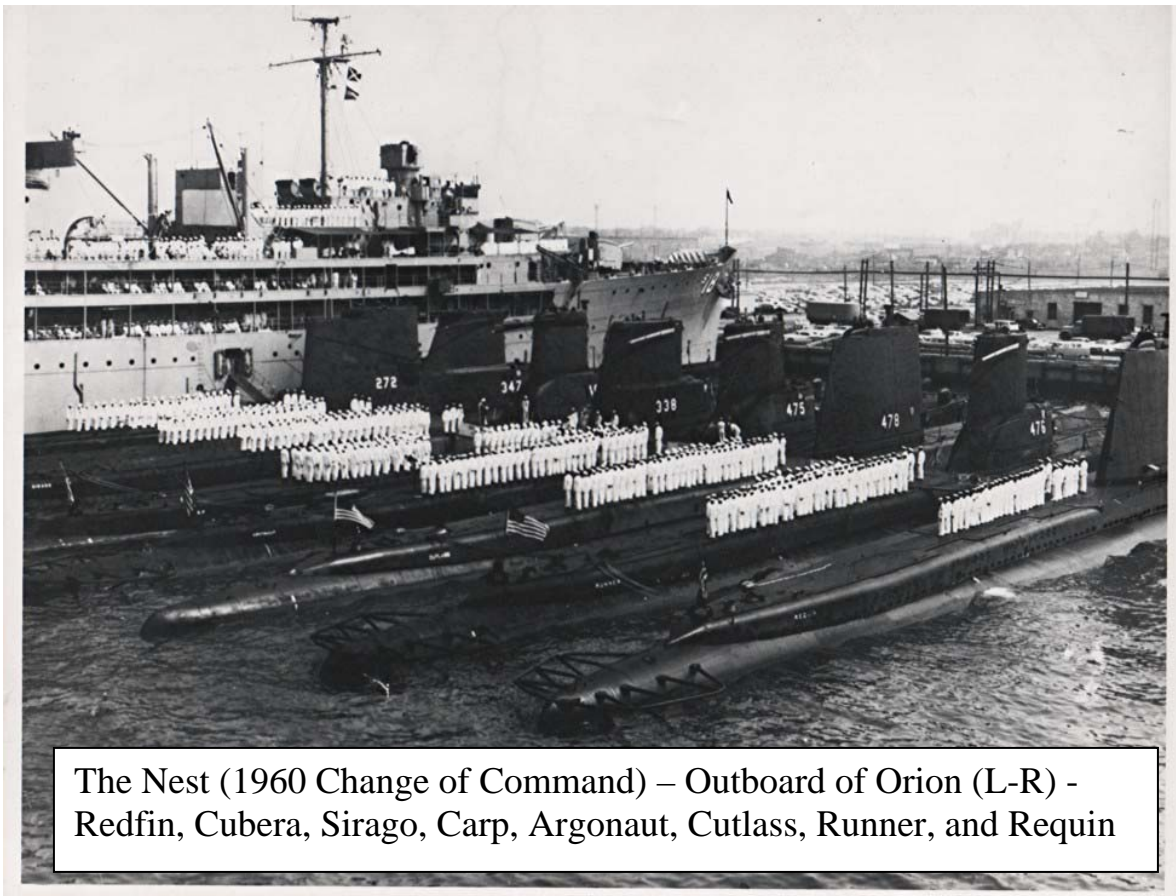


BG Taylor



Geoghegan (right) w/ Princess Grace

*Sailor rest your oar.....*



The Nest (1960 Change of Command) – Outboard of Orion (L-R) - Redfin, Cubera, Sirago, Carp, Argonaut, Cutlass, Runner, and Requin

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