

# GETTING IN THE MOOD

Volume 7, Issue 2 – Special Reunion Insert – Mike Bickel (RMBICKEL@STUPP.COM) May 2006

It's now just about one year until three smoke boats (Sirago, Sea Leopard, and Cutlass) are going to be meeting together in Mobile Alabama (May 23 – 28, 2007) for joint operations. In order to insure that everyone is in full readiness for this important reunion, we are suggesting that the following pre-exercise and reading material be done as "homework" before the sortie:

## **PRE-SORTIE EXERCISE**

1. Sleep on the shelf in your hall closet.
2. Replace the closet door with a curtain.
3. Six hours after you go to sleep, have your wife whip open the curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes and mumble, "whoops, wrong rack".
4. Build a wall down the middle of your bathroom, and lower the shower head to chest level.
5. While showering, have wife turn off water after you are soapy.
6. Put lube oil in your humidifier and turn it on high.
7. On TV watch only old movies in the middle of the night, have your family vote on the movie to watch, then tune in a different one.
8. (Mandatory for snipes) Leave the lawnmower running in the living room for 24 hours.
9. Have the paperboy give you a haircut.
10. Once a week, blow compressed air up your chimney, watch the soot land on your neighbor's car, laugh when he curses you.
11. Buy a trash compactor, use it only once a week and store the trash in the other half of the bathtub.
12. Wake up at midnight, have a peanut butter on stale bread.
13. Make up the family menu a month in advance without regard for the inventory on hand.
14. Set alarms to go off at random times, when they go off, run into your yard, grab the garden hose and wet down your house. Or put on stereo headphones, stand in front of the kitchen range, say to no one in particular, "Stove manned and ready, sir". 3 hours later say "stove secured, sir", hang the phones on the oven door and go back to bed.
15. Once a month take every major appliance apart, let it sit for six hours and put it back together.
16. Use 17 scoops of coffee for 8 cups water, let it sit for 6 hours with the grounds still in the pot, then drink it.
17. Install a fluorescent light under your coffee table, then lie under it and read a book.
18. Invite 85 people you don't like to stay for 2 months.
19. Lockwire the lug nuts on your car.
20. When baking a cake, prop up 1 end of the pan, then level it out with icing.
21. Every month, throw the cat in the pool, shout "man overboard" run into the kitchen and sweep all the dishes off the table and yell at your wife for not having the place stowed for sea.

**PRE-SORTIE READING / VIEWING ASSIGNMENT:**

- Silent Running – James F. Calvert – “My Years on a WW II Attack Submarine”  
Clear the Bridge – Richard O’Kane – “The War Patrols of the USS Tang”  
Under Pressure – A. J. Hill – “The Final Voyage of the Submarine S-Five”  
The Terrible Hours – Peter Maas – “The Man Behind the Greatest Submarine Rescue in History”  
Blind Man’s Bluff – Sherry Sontag – “The Untold Story of American Espionage”  
Silent Steel – Stephen Johnson – “The Mysterious Death of the Nuclear Attack Sub USS Scorpion”

For Fun:

- Final Bearing (fiction) – George Wallace – (Drug Runners and a diesel submarine)  
Booty – Sara Lorimer – “Girl Pirates on the High Seas”  
Video (fun) – DOWN PERISCOPE – Kelsey Grammer (you’ll enjoy it – I think I know these guys).

	<p><b>So.... especially for those of you (and your wives) planning to come to the 2007 reunion, please consider this a pre-assignment. For those of you who can't make it... do the physical exercise and reading anyway.... It will get those 'qualification brain cells' working again and maybe you'll change your mind about splicing the mainbrace with some old pirates.</b></p> <p><i>Mike Bickel</i></p>		