

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 2

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Reunion 2007

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I hope this note finds everyone has returned to their homes safely, and I'm sure you were all very tired after the reunion. I know I was. Just a few remarks as to how the reunion went overall.

No one could have predicted the far reaching effects of Katrina, by putting construction at the hotel back by 6-7 months. Certainly inconvenient. The all night train whistles, definitely a pain. The hotel was crowded, but it is a hotel. The broken elevators were also a detriment to the hotel.

Mobile was a good town for us. It had historic sights a short walk from the hotel. Great restaurants also within a short walk from the hotel. Battleship park with the USS Alabama BB60 and the USS Drum SS228.

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Overall I think the SSSBS reunion went very well considering it was the first time we were the host for two other boats. We are going to try this type of reunion 4 years from now in 2011. But the invited boats are going to have to pitch in and help organize it. This has to be noted, that this reunion was accomplished by a few Sirago people, way too much work for one or two people.

On the positive side, I would like to thank all the people that helped out in all the venues:

The Registration table; Elsie Roche, Catherine Glaser, Larry McClintock, Pat Conroy, Marv Yokum, David Glaser & the real boss, Tori Glaser.

The Ship's Store table; Mike Bickel for his organizational skills with the small stores. Also to Fred Baker, Frank George, Bob Flora and Chuck Veir for their help in making the stores fly off the table....Thanks to the people who donated hats and shirts for raffles and especially for my little rubber submarine, it floats too!

And finally to all those people who took the time and effort to show up to the reunion to make this thing work as well as it did. A big Thank You.

I am attaching an email that was sent to us from Dan Laemont - a Sea Leopard crewman (next page).

V/R

Joe Roche

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Gentlemen:

I feel the need to drop a line of sincere gratitude for the most successful, well planned and well executed Reunions of my lifetime. That lifetime now spans 70 years and includes various reunions for 10, 15, 25, 35 and 50 years, including some school and one other sub vet affairs (so to speak). You guys done good!!!

From the meticulous, regular and well prepared newsletters drumming up the event from **Mike** (now officially designated as a "PP2" per his own pronouncement as Pom Pom Girl 2nd Class), to **Rich** for having the temerity in finding all these grumpy old seniors and then having each of us network out, to **Dave**, who clearly was like the mother at a Jewish wedding, worrying about every little detail (all of which went off without hardly a hitch) and then finally to **Dave's daughter Tori** who was unflappable in handling any and all obstacles thrown at her may I offer a heart felt **WELL DONE!!!**

Thanks for a wonderful event.

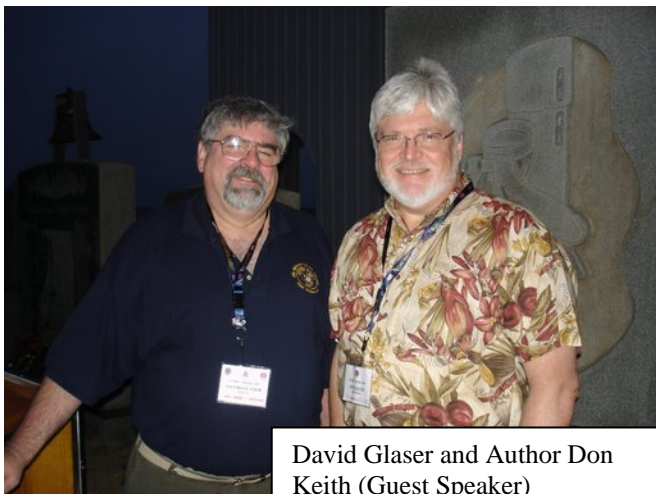
With kind regards,

Dan Laemont, ET2(SS)

USS Sea Leopard 56-59

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Highlights / Photos



David Glaser and Author Don Keith (Guest Speaker)



SSSBS "E" Competition – The HEAVIE TOSS.



SSSBS "E" Competition – HOT STRAIGHT & NORMAL.



Maneuvering Board Drills (SSSBS Competition) – Compute Course, Speed & Closest Approach.

Well – I know that everyone is interested in finding out the results of the competition between the USS Sirago (SS485), the USS Sea Leopard (SS483), and the USS Cutlass (SS478). First a bit of review and history. In 2003 we (the USS Sirago) invited the Sea Leopard to join us at our reunion for the purpose of promoting the idea of a multi-boat SUBRON SIX reunion. At the 2003 reunion, we (Sirago) BEAT the USS Sea Leopard at a game of baseball and therefore, figured we were the lead squadron boat. Between 2003 and 2007 we developed the idea of the SSSBS (SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT SISTERS) and decided to help facilitate the joining of such smokeboats together in joint reunions. 2007 marked the first reunion under the name of the SSSBS with 3 boats (Sirago, Sea Leopard, and Cutlass) coming together for competition.

In addition to the Heavie Toss competition, the “Hot Straight & Normal” competition, and the Maneuvering Board Competition, crew members from all boats were encouraged to answer certain “qual questions” to gain points. Here is what happened:

The HEAVIE TOSS was won (hands down) buy the USS Sirago (SS485).

The HOT STRAIGHT & NORMAL was won (hands down) by USS Sea Leopard (SS483).

The Maneuvering Board Drills resulted in a tie between Sea Leopard and Sirago.

In the above competitions, the USS Cutlass withdrew from competition so they had no points and the Sirago and Sea Leopard were tied.

However... when the QUAL QUESTIONS were evaluated, the SEA LEOPARD won by a wide margin, so we leave Reunion 2007 with the SEA LEOPARD (SS483) in possession of the SQUADRON “E” award. I think the competition was fair and unbiased and I am hoping that this inspires us all to be willing to get the “E” back for the Sirago whenever the “SUBRON Six Smoke Boat Sisters” come together again (2011).



Winning Sea Leopard Team (for Hot Straight & Normal Drills)



Sirago News & Notes

In the February newsletter, it was reported that we had reached a zenith of found alive people and were on our way down due to more recent deaths than new folks found alive. Specifically, we reported that we had reached a zenith of 857 found alive crew members and by the February newsletter were down to 856.

Looks like we were a bit premature. During the last period (between February and now) we lost two crew members, but gained three more so we are officially at our zenith again of 857 and holding right now. It should be stated that there is no other smokeboat out there that can claim anything close to this number of "found alive" crew members. Here are the newly found crew members:

Jose Omana **TN** **62-64**

Phillip Reeves **YN2** **69-69**

Gary Hart **EM1** **67-70**

We should all congratulate Rich McCamant for

his incredible work on finding lost crew members. During this last reunion, Rich also worked to find many of the Sea Leopard and Cutlass crew members and their buddies.

During this same period we lost two crew members:

David Frank **QM3c 45-45 (Plank)**
(died 28 November 2006)

Elmer Linenbroker CMoMM 48-48
(died 21 January 2007)

The above two crew members were remembered (among others) at our Memorial Service during the reunion.

Sirago, Sea Leopard, and Cutlass wreaths thrown in the Bay in Commemoration of those departed.



Rich McCamant
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