

Reunion 2011 Recap

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May 2011

Those Who Came from USS Sirago (SS485)

USS SIRAGO (SS-485) (57):

Mark Adler, Art Allum, Ted Anthony, Bill Bailey, Fred Baker, Richard Barnette, Mike Bickel, George Booth, Bruce Boughton, Audrey Boyer (Honorary), Bill Browning, Charlie Bryant, Russell Burrows, Ray Bussard, Chuck Cain, Virgil Clemmer, Tim Cole, Bill Coleman, Dale Craig, Gary Farmer, Tom Foglesong, Doug Fox, David Glaser, George Goodwin, Duane Gow, Ray Harrison, David Hauer, Joe Hoffmann, Gary Hoover, Jim Hughes, Billy Huskey, Ken Koller, Dan Kozlowski, Dennis Larson, Mel Laubach, Bob Liland, “Tex” Loftin, JD Mayo, David McCallum, Rich McCamant, Larry McClintock, Jim McCullough, Art Michaelsen, Ira Nerzig, “Tex” Ritter, Doug Roberts, Joe Roche, Mike Rolow, Bob Rosen, William Shamphan, Gordon Trolley, John Tumilty, Lewis Vaughner, Chuck Veir, Carl Whisman, Ralph Wiggins, Michael Young.

We had roughly 170 crew members show up for this reunion and had 312 banquet seats filled not counting the band. The largest three crews to attend were the Sirago (57), the Sea Leopard (45), and the Grampus (29). The most encouraging statistic is that of the 25 submarines and 1 midget submarine that were part of SUBRON SIX, only 3 were not represented (the Barbel, the Pompon, and the Tench).

Results of the Multi-Boat Games (refer also to www.sssbs.org)

Boat	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Total
1. USS Grampus	84	40	54	56	234 (2ND PLACE)
2. USS Sirago	50	0	66	33.5	149.5
3. USS Cobbler	84	0	30	62	176
4. USS Sea Leopard	84	40	24	40	188 (3RD PLACE)
5. USS Runner	60	0	51	47	158
6. USS Torsk	84	40	81	47	252 (WINNER)
7. USS Argonaut	60	0	66	35.5	161.5
8. USS Carp	105	0	30	40	175

As those of you who showed up know, these games were Game 1 (the “heavie toss”), Game 2 (“hot straight and normal” drill (done w/ Frisbees and tin cans on sticks)), Game 3 (the “coffee to the bridge” contest (there was one person from the Torsk who actually made it around with a single stack of 9 cups filled with fluid and made it $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around with the 10th cup on top before the crash)), and finally Game 4 which was the QUAL CARD test. Because the USS Torsk (SS-423) won the competition, they were awarded the coveted “E” award until our next Multi-Boat reunion which won’t be held until the spring of 2015. As you know, the Sirago and now more and more boats have elected to have every other reunion be conducted with the SubRon Six Smoke Boat Sisters (SSSBS) organization which will always be held in the Norfolk area. See the main newsletter for notes about the 2013 Sirago Reunion coming up.

BROTHERS FOREVER - by Mike Bickel

**When we were young and feeling our oats
we joined the navy and went on those boats
that sank on purpose sliding into the sea.
Nobody knew where we were going to be**

**except for a few who charted the way
to a far off coastline or a secret bay.
The rest of us did what we were trained to do
and trusted each other - but prayed a lot too.**

**In a sewer pipe coffin we just did our jobs
pulling sticks, cycling vents or adjusting some knobs.
When all hell broke loose we knew what was best
because we had dolphins affixed to our chest.**

**But although we knew every valve on the boat
that made it submerge or caused it to float
it wasn't dolphins or qualcards or years worth of studies
that would save us.... but rather our crewmates... our buddies.**

**Many stood by us then, but they stand here no more.
On Eternal Patrol they have left their last shore.
Husbands and fathers and grandfathers too
who sailed with us, challenged us under the blue.**

**Forever a mate, forever our friend
we're bonded as shipmates beyond our lives end.
We pray for them now as we prayed with them then.
May you rest in peace always, my brothers – AMEN.**