

# Sirago Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 4

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## **SPECIAL REUNION ISSUE!!**

**Reunion LOCATION Has been CHANGED!!**

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Duty Section 6164

*Joe Roche is on Vacation so even though he is Editor and Darryl Brunsvold is Copy Editor, I (Mike Bickel) am doing this newsletter by myself this time so please excuse any errors, font sizes, etc. as I need to get the following information into everyone's hands as quickly as possible.*

*Mike Bickel - Editor for the Day*

## **REUNION LOCATION HAS CHANGED!!!**

For all the folks on email, this is not news, but for all you "snail mailers" you may not realize (until reading this) that the reunion location has been changed from Portsmouth, NH to Virginia Beach, VA. For some of you this will be a disappointment, but for many more, this may mean the difference between being able to attend and having to forego the reunion. I wanted to spend a little time

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explaining what's going on so you will know why it is being changed. I do want to say that the reunion will still be held from August 11 – August 14, 2005 and the purpose for this date is to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sirago's commissioning.

As you may know, if you want to hold a reunion in August it costs more... especially for places like Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Hotel costs are usually in excess of \$150 per night and can easily be \$200 per night, but we had made a great deal with a place up there called Yokens Comfort Inn which also owns a conference center which was going to allow us to easily do our banquets, etc. HOWEVER... a few months ago Yokens decided to sell their entire conference center and basically backed out of our contract with them. We tried our level best to secure other arrangements but the costs were unbelievably prohibitive. Either that or we would have had to book in a hotel 60-70 miles away from the area, so that didn't make any sense to us. Bottom line, we are returning to familiar territory (Virginia Beach) and have arranged with the same hotel (Holiday Inn Executive Center) that we used for our 2003 reunion. Since most everyone felt that was a great hotel we negotiated the best deal we could do for that time of year.

You will notice that I have included a REUNION SIGNUP sheet with this newsletter and this highlights some of the things we will be doing. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you determine whether or not you will be coming and get your signup sheet in with at least "some" deposit money because our organization has to also "deposit" monies for our events, hotel, etc. and has many advanced costs.

You will also notice on the signup sheet that I have stated that we will guarantee 100% of your money back if you have to cancel (except for any shirts or hats you buy which will be shipped to you). In order for us to be able

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## Reunion Information (Cont.)

to do this, you would need to inform us of such cancellation by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 so that we can adjust our numbers with our venue providers. We are offering this so that you can feel comfortable sending us the money in full if you can. I can personally tell you that there have been some folks who have cancelled AFTER that date and still got a significant amount of money returned to them, but this depends on whether or not we actually got charged for their "seat" or if we ended up reselling same to someone else.

I have only provided ONE COPY (2-sides) for the reunion signup sheet and have asked that you send it and your check to Garry Goetschius who is our treasurer. I would suggest that you either copy what you are sending to us, or (if you are on the internet) that you download a copy of this signup sheet from this same newsletter which is also posted on the website and make your notes about what you signed up for, what you have paid, etc.

I want to highlight basically how this reunion will proceed so that you know basically what is going on. We will "arrive" on Thursday and there will be a reception at the hotel at that time. Friday we will have a luncheon at the hotel and that evening we have booked an entire deck on the Spirit of Norfolk for a wonderful dinner / dancing cruise. This is a great event and seats are limited on this boat, so I would really encourage you to sign up EARLY just to insure you can get onto this trip.

On Saturday we are leaving all morning and afternoon up to your own activities with your buddies, spouse, etc. because a great number of crew members and their wives want to be able to "do their own thing" in the VA Beach area on Saturday. Saturday evening will be the BANQUET and we have booked a live band (12 piece) with a vocalist so that we can enjoy some "big band" sounds in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our commissioning. Sunday morning we will do a farewell breakfast.

So... I would suggest that you look at the list below to see who has already told us they are coming, then call your buddies and encourage more to come and you can enjoy what WE have planned as well as

making up your OWN plans with your friends to revisit familiar places, see a museum, do lunch, have a brew, etc. etc. If you don't see your name below and are planning to come, just SIGN UP and we'll add your name. If you cannot come but your name is listed below, please let me know by email or phone: [RMBICKEL@STUPP.COM](mailto:RMBICKEL@STUPP.COM) / (636) 225-7528.

Mike Bickel

### **PEOPLE PLANNING TO COME:**

**Sirago Crew PLANNING TO COME by Duty Section: (145):**

**DS4548 (8): Bill Campbell, Jerry Casey, Jim Gavigan, Charlie Johnson, Riley Keysor, Jim McCullough, Fred Tassell, Ron Thibideau**

**DS4952 (10): Harry Caldwell, "CUSH" Cushing, Duane Gow, Ray Gundy, Bob Kaufman, Norm LeBlanc, Gerry Magee, Dan Reilly, Joe Rock, "Buck" Steere**

**DS5356 (11): George Albert, Jeff Badgett, Dick Clifford, Don Hall, Bob Liland, Robert Mazurek, Ed McDevitt, Buddy Shumake, James Thompson, Carl Trost, John Tumilty**

**DS5760 (21): Art Allum, Paull Anderson, Dick Andrews, Wayne Booton, Ed Crawfoot, Paul Curry, Roger Dean, Bill Dort, George Goodwin, Don Gotta, David Hauer, George Hinda, Neal Jones, Mel Laubach, Vic Lombardo, Glenn Neal, Ed Shaffer, Bill Shamphan, Bud Tolbert, Harold Webster, Frank Wixted**

**DS6164 (26): Bill Abbruzzese, Don Amorosi, Ted Anthony, Bob Boddiford, Bruce Boughton, Dale Craig, John Geoghegan, Lonnie "Ray" Haley, Tony Hastoglis, Joe Hoffmann, Jim Hughes, Mike Leeds, Nick Lira, Larry McClintock, Fred McGuire, Joe Roche, Ralph Schmidt, Roy Scott, Gene Shore, "Butch" Sites, Al Standish, Jerry Stellick, Ray Tholen, Gordon Trolley, Ralph Wiggins, Marv Yokum**

**DS6568 (32): Ken Anderton, Gary Beasley, Bill Clegg, Virgil Clemmer, Tim Cole, Bill Collins, Pat Conroy, Dennis Duren, Bob Ewing, Ron Flint, Dave Glaser, Garry Goetschius, Costas Haris, Nate Isenhour, Bob Karge, "Tex" Loftin, "TY" Lynch, Marvin Mayes, JD Mayo, Rich McCamant, Bob Michaud, Ira Nerzig, Joe Palermo, Doug (Big Robbie) Roberts, Stanley Robinson, Bob Rosen, Tom**

## Reunion Information (cont.)

Sawyer, Rob Schutte, Dean Sedgwick, Chuck Veir,  
Marshall Woods, Lewis Zipperer.

**DS6972 (37):** David Ackerman, Fred Baker, Herb Bauer,  
Robert Bell, Frank Berlinger, Mike Bickel, Dennis  
Boland, Russell Burrows, Ray Bussard, Frank Campbell,  
Matt Cola, "Rusty" Curtis, Doug Davis, Jack Enos, Bob  
Flora, Tom Foglesong, Doug Fox, Ken "Stewburner"  
Frazier, Bob Garvey, Frank George, John Holmes,  
Robert Holt, Bill Huskey, Ron Kennedy, Andy Knauer,  
"Johnny D" Lee, Tom Lowe, Randy Morgan, Tom  
O'Brien, Keith Owens, Michael Peterson, Lanny  
Renken, "Tex" Ritter, Fred Thompson, Marty Valdez,  
Jim Ware, Paul York



## DUES INFORMATION

I think that most of you know that the USS Sirago (SS485) Veterans' Association, Inc. is chartered as a 501(c) (19) tax exempt Veterans' Fraternal Organization. All crew members are members just by virtue of being a crew member, but only crew members who pay dues (\$5.00 / year) are voting members of this organization and thus can help steer the boat and give direction in our organization. In addition to having our "dues reminder" blow-in for those whose "dues are due" in the November issue of our newsletter, we also raise extra money through our "booster appeal" (May newsletter) and through reunion activities. This is how money comes into the organization and because we don't require dues to be paid by crew members, anything that IS paid on dues or booster is 100% tax deductible and considered a contribution to write off your taxes. Those of you who contributed in 2003 know that in the February newsletter (sent out in January) your tax receipt was included.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, then you can look at your address label and you will notice that there is a /F2004/ (or something similar) code showing. The "F" notation is for crew members. Honoraries and Associates are "H" and "A" respectively. The last 4 digits (ie. 2004 or 2003 or 2008, etc.) show the year through which your dues is shown as paid. Honoraries and Associates MUST pay dues (unlike crew members for which this is an option) and thus, for Honoraries and Associates such contribution is NOT tax deductible.

So, if you look at your newsletter label and see /F2008/ it means you are a crew member who has full voting rights, etc. paid up through December 31, 2008. There is nobody who has a year older than 2003 because when we "formed" this organization, all moneys were given to the organization and the 5 officers forming it ADOPTED all crew and honoraries into the organization with dues paid up through 2003.

IF you have a dues marker that is 2003 or 2004, then you likely will see a blow-in included in this newsletter encouraging you to pay \$5.00 for every year. For 2003 folks to be paid for next year, you should pay \$10.00 and for 2004 folks you only need to pay \$5.00 to pay through 2005.

I want to say again that while we depend on our crew to help support the costs of this organization, we don't want to HAVE any crew members left out, so if you aren't in a position to pay, then we don't want you spending money you don't have. We want you as part of our brotherhood of sewer pipe sailors regardless of whether you can pony up.

Just to let you know where we stand from a monetary standpoint, we have about \$7,000 in the bank at this time. Keep in mind that I have seen this amount above \$10,000, so it doesn't take much time to drain the account. Here are some of our expenses (not counting reunion expenses):

1. Newsletter printing (.70 per newsletter)
2. Mailing costs (.37 per newsletter)
3. Buying labels, tape, etc. (.03 per newsletter)

Since we mail out about 700 newsletters 4 times per year this is  $2800 * \$1.10 = \$3,080.00/\text{year}$ .

Of course there are other costs like correspondence, our website, inventory that doesn't sell, etc.

These costs would be much higher if it weren't for many of you who are receiving this newsletter by email or over the website. We are extremely grateful to you for helping us reduce this cost.

Also... by our bylaws, no officer of our organization can be reimbursed for phone calls

made to crew members even for legitimate purposes, etc. We have expenses also for mailing out items for sale, but in general this is more than made up for by the profit we make on the items.

So... back to the Dues discussion. There are about 375 of our crew members who have never paid any monies. If you are one of these folks and the spirit moves you to "catch up" so that the costs of your mailing can be offset, then I'd encourage you to mail \$10.00 in with the slip you find within this newsletter (to pay for 2004 and 2005). For you 2004 folks, we thank you VERY much for supporting us so far and would encourage you to continue doing this for next year also. Keep in mind that our dues are only \$5.00 per year and you can pay ahead multiple years so if you pay \$20.00 and mark it dues, this moves your "dues marker" (see your label) ahead by 4 years.

There is another advantage to paying ahead like this. Since "honoraries" (generally widows and children) MUST pay dues, if you were to die suddenly (this happens sometimes) any "dues marker" that YOU have earned will be transferred automatically to your spouse so if you are /F2008/ then this will be converted to /H2008/ for your spouse (or a surviving child). Thanks. ♦

Joe Roche  
74 Lincoln Ave.  
Pearl River, NY 10965-1707

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## **DUTY SECTION NEWS**

### **Recently Deceased Sirago Crewmembers:**

*(Please – also refer to the Family Gram Insert)*

***Milton Blair Smith*** (EM1, 54-57 died 7/25/2004)

***Ray Sutherland*** (FTG1, 64-68 died 8/16/2004)

*-----Sailor, rest your oar*

### **NOTICE ABOUT YOUR INFORMATION:**

IF you have had your area code changed within the last year or two or IF you haven't kept us aware of any email addresses you may have... if your spouse has died, or if YOU have died and your spouse is reading this... PLEASE LET US KNOW. You can write to Joe Roche (see return address) or you can email him (see his email at the very beginning of this newsletter). It is very important that such information be kept up to date or we will LOSE you.

US POSTAGE  
STAMP  
HERE