

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 4

November 2008

Reunion '09

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Shipmates,

I want to draw everyone's attention to the Reunion Signup Sheet included in this newsletter. I know the economy's not the best but we've got the "best ever" hotel on the beach and have tried to keep prices down – so if you ever want to see those old buddies, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!!

Other stories and crew news follows. The theme of this newsletter is remembering our shipmates and remembering the times we had on Sirago. Face-to-face sharing is even better!

Regards – **Joe Roche**

Discovering Dad

Allison Kovacs – Don Hulick's Daughter

Dear Sirago Crew,
I'm Don's Hulick's daughter Allison. I randomly google my Dad's name every so often and was SO

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excited this past week when I saw pictures of him you had posted! Talk about smiling ear to ear, made me cry too! As you can imagine losing him at 22 was the worst thing I've ever gone through, we were best friends. I went to your "view entire album" and found one more picture of him that looks like he may be sitting on top of a sub? I'm writing to ask if you happen to have any other photos of him? Unfortunately my grandfather died shortly after him, very shortly, and I'm not really sure what happened to all his family photos. Sandy helped me find your email address... hope I'm not a bother.

Thanks again for posting them in his memory...
Sincerely, *Allison Kovacs*

PS Here's a pic of me... don't we look alike?



Editor's Note: Don Hulick was a storekeeper aboard from 62-66 who died in a tragic car accident right after the 2001 reunion. Sandy is his widow.

BBQ & Beer

Larry McClintock – TM2 60-63

It was Mayport which is near Jacksonville where my story takes place, and it probably was 1961. It was at that time when Captain Anderson received his promotion from LCDR to full commander. I had the below decks midwatch. I got a call from the

topside watch that we had “cargo” to take below. An official Navy gray pickup truck had pulled onto the pier with several cases of beer. As I recall, there were 6 cases. We loaded the beer into #6 torpedo tube. That summer, we were attached to task force alpha, which was to develop anti submarine warfare techniques. Typically, we played war games Monday through Saturday, and Sunday was a day off. For Sirago, that meant steaks over charcoal grills topside aft of the sail. On this particular occasion, we each had a couple of beers with our cookout, compliments of Captain Anderson. It was his way of celebrating his promotion with the crew. I don’t know how he got an official Navy truck to make the delivery. That might be an interesting story in itself. *Larry*



Marketing Movies

Mel Rycus – EMI 52-54

I served with both Rosania & Kurtz, 52-54, both good people. Rosania was genteel and respectful... Kurtz a little wild. Reading your latest newsletter reminded me of one of my episodes. I was in charge of running the 16mm projector, as I graduated from Motion Picture Projection School, San Diego while on duty in Kodiak, AK. I always printed a little heads-up to what the movie was about, for the crew and officers. I received a message from the chief, Sam Perkins, that the Captain was a little offended by my description of the latest movie. As I recall, I wrote, "this movie is one helluva shit-kicker".

Mel

DEPARTED SHIPMATES

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that we have noted the loss of 10 shipmates since our last newsletter was published. Many of them were active in our reunion organization. We will dedicate the rest of our newsletter space to their remembrance. I am hoping that we all realize how important it is to renew old acquaintances before it is too late.

Harry Caldwell – LT/ENGR – 1948 to 1950 – (Died 8 July 2008)

Bob Flora – ET1 – 1968 to 1970 – (Died 3 August 2008)

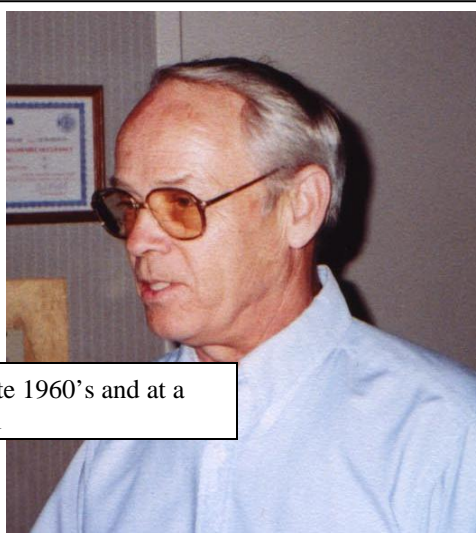
Ken Frazier – CS1 – 1969 to 1972 – (Died 6 August 2008)
Norman Aucoin – S1/C – 1946 to 1947 – (Died 4 January 2008)
Jack Agnew – EM1 – 1967 to 1968 – (Died 25 June 2008)
Cleo Lumpkins – ET3 – 1949 to 1951 – (Died September 2006)
“Sam” Charles Watkins – RM1 – 1962 to 1964 – (Died 31 August 2008)
Dominic Yacovone – ETR3 – 1967 to 1970 – (Died 1 September 2008)
Leroy Mutziger – IC2 – 1963 to 1964 – (Died 6 November 2008)
Robert E. Smith – HM1 – 1953 to 1954 – (Died 28 October 2008)



Harry Caldwell



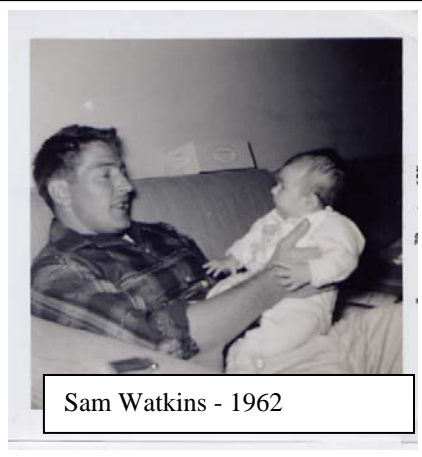
Bob Flora in late 1960's and at a reunion in 2001



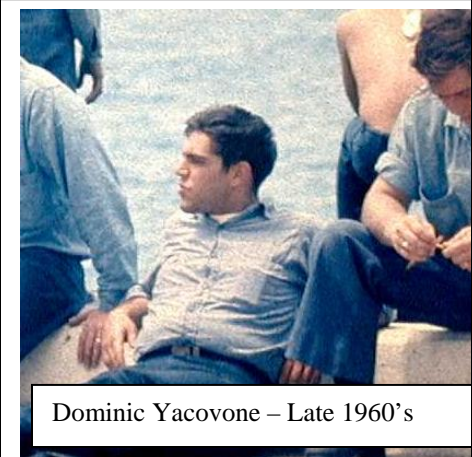
Ken Frazier 1971 and w/ Wife Elaine at Reunion 2003



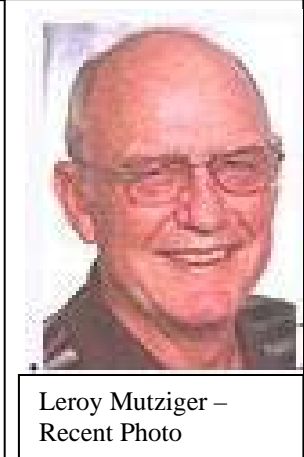
Norm Aucoin – Reunion 2001



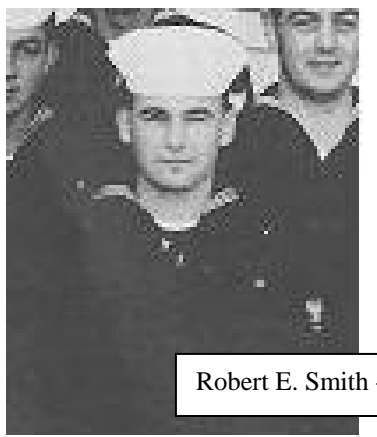
Sam Watkins - 1962



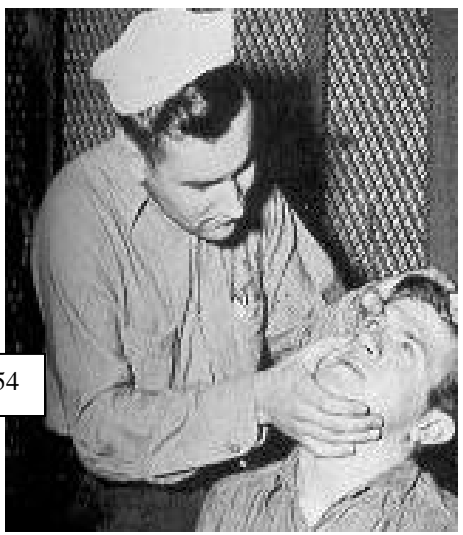
Dominic Yacovone – Late 1960's



Leroy Mutziger – Recent Photo



Robert E. Smith - 1954



We have no photos of Jack Agnew or of Cleo Lumpkins.

Bob Flora was a very active member of our Reunion organization and worked at virtually every reunion with Chuck Veir to help with storekeeper item sales.

Ken Frazier attended a few reunions and, as a ship's cook was well remembered by those with whom he served.

Norm Aucoin and Dominic Yacovone also attended at least one reunion before departing on Eternal Patrol.

At our next reunion we will remember all those who have died since our last reunion by the solemn tolling of the ship's bell. We duly record in our records all crew data including dates aboard, when they died, and at which reunion they were remembered.

Please consider seriously coming to our next reunion (2009) and participate in this solemn remembrance.

Rich McCamant
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