

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 16, Issue 1

All Year 2015

Reunion 2015 Review

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Shipmates:

Before giving an update on the 2015 reunion (SSSBS held in VA Beach this past April May), I want to apologize for not having prepared a newsletter since the end of last year. There is little excuse except to say that I desperately needed some stand down time – consider it a major overhaul – and also that my computer had shot craps right before the reunion and it's taken me a bit of time to recover what I had before. This particular newsletter issue is therefore called "All Year 2015" rather than Summer/Fall and it will include a recap of all who are on Eternal Patrol since our last newsletter, but many of them were already remembered by the tolling of the bell at the SSSBS reunion. I am hoping to do two newsletters in 2016 since it will be the year leading up to the 2017 Sirago reunion – read on for all Reunion Information.

As you know, **Reunion 2015** was a combined reunion inviting ALL diesel boats that were EVER assigned to Submarine Squadron Six.

While many of these boats have their own reunions – many having spent much more time out of a different port or even different coast that we were, I felt it was necessary to invite all boats that were ever at Pier 22 in Norfolk assigned to our Squadron. If you care to read more about the SSSBS (SubRon Six Smoke Boat Sisters) you can go to www.sssbs.org and you will see what this group is all about.

There are TWO things that distinguish this group from our own Sirago group and they are firstly that we need to work MUCH harder at attracting folks that have their own boat reunions – many reunion coordinators are quite put-off by any other organization inviting their folks. This means a much "bigger to-do" with live band, open bar, competitive games, and boat tours if possible. This first factor means that we can lose money or gain money depending on the mood of the invitee at the last minute. We (the SSSBS group) lost \$2,107.75 at that reunion. The SSSBS bank account is now at \$3,311.06. This money is not part of the USS Sirago funds, but rather it is money we have collected only at joint reunions and accounts for profits made or losses during such reunions. So... firstly, joint reunions are hard to do and David Glaser (now deceased) and I did most of the heavy lifting in years past along with many assigned "boat coordinators", but this last reunion, our own Sirago treasurer Frank George and his lovely wife Frances did a Yeoman's job during the reunion as well as many other Sirago crew members and some very dedicated members of other boats who did everything from setup to photography to providing flowers for widows and coffee and donuts for those visiting the nuclear boat. This SSSBS

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group has decided unanimously that we need to do what the Sirago did long ago – and that is to incorporate the group as a 501(c)(19) not-for-profit Veterans' Fraternal Association. This will be done between now and the 2019 SSSBS reunion.

The second differentiating quality between the Sirago group and the SSSBS is that the SSSBS always has competitive games involving any/all of the boats that desire to compete. In the past, we have limited this to boats that had at least 6 crew members present and willing to play at the reunion. However... in the spirit of brotherhood, we have allowed some boats to have TAD members assigned from other boats, but only if those "other boats" were not otherwise desirous of competing on their own. We didn't want anyone working against another boat by purposely being a poor player. This actually allowed for many more boat crew members to have fun and fun we DID have. I am proud to say that the USS Sirago (SS485) won the coveted "E" award this time around, and the last time we did this was in 2003 at the very first softball game against the USS Sea Leopard. Congratulations to the USS Sirago (SS485) which now holds the "E" until the 2019 SSSBS reunion. Please see some of the photos of this last reunion included in this newsletter to see what you missed if you didn't come.

Because we are representing the old SQUADRON SIX, we also got a ton of help from the active SUBRON 6 and also SUBLANT group and thus we were able to visit and tour a nuclear fast attack while we were there. This would not have been possible except for support from SUBRON 6 and SUBLANT who ensured that the duty officer and duty section gave us the cook's tour of all compartments which are allowed to be seen. Everyone who toured the boat saw what the modern nuclear fast attacks are like and I can tell you... you can hardly move around in those boats what with all the special equipage they have. Also... going 36 feet down 3 levels on a straight up-and-down ladder was not the easiest thing for me to do, and I'm only 68 years old. Not sure that I'd be able to do it 4 years from now, but it certainly was a treat!

Concerning plans for **Sirago Reunion 2017**, we have decided to have our reunion in Cleveland, Ohio in the **mid-July 2017 timeframe (July 13-16)**. In an earlier email I had incorrectly stated this would be in late August, but that's not correct. I'm fairly sure that most of you don't plan that far out, so we will have plenty of emails and hopefully two newsletters during 2016 and another in early 2017 to remind you of this upcoming reunion. There are a number of factors that SHOULD interest you in this next Sirago reunion: 1) We will be able to tour the USS COD (SS-224) and it's in great shape. 2) It will be during the summer months so any folks teaching or having work activities can come more easily. 3) No worries about Hurricanes. 4) Your granddaughter's wedding in June or graduation will not be disrupted and 5) We have a team of folks selecting many interesting things to do as a group while there.

I will be sending out a notice later officially requesting you to tell me if you are interested in the 2017 Reunion.

LOST & FOUND NOTICES (D=Decom Crew, P=Plank Owner)

FOUND

Although it's hard to believe, we are STILL FINDING the occasional "lost" crew member although we thought this fellow was deceased, but he told us otherwise! ☺:

Robert Eugene King

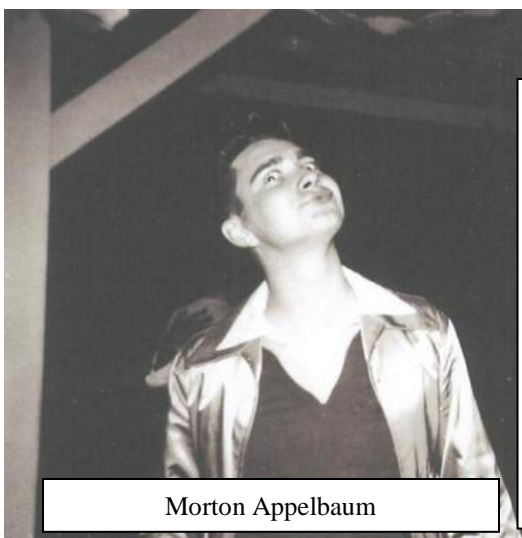
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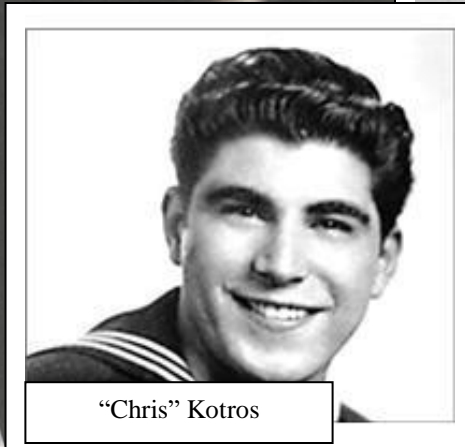
ETERNAL PATROL (P=Plank Owner, D=Decommissioning Crew)

Morton M. Appelbaum	SN	52-54	Died 20 June 2014
Edward R. Crawfoot	LTJG	57-59	Died 18 March 2015
John Dallas "Red" Donaldson	EN1	52-53	Died 17 March 2012
Wade H. Harris	LTJG	52-54	Died June 2014
Gerald W. "Jerry" Heck	EM3	57-59	Died 31 May 2015
Christo G. "Chris" Kotros	S1c	46-46	Died 18 February 2015
Eldred M. Lembke	RM1	46-48	Died 1 April 2010
Hugh E. McCracken	CSC	64-65	Died 9 October 2015
Michael D. Peterson	TM3	70-72 (D)	Died 15 November 2015
William A. "Tex" Ritter	QM2	70-72 (D)	Died 10 November 2015
Robert O. Steinbauer	MMFN	64-64	Died 11 November 2014

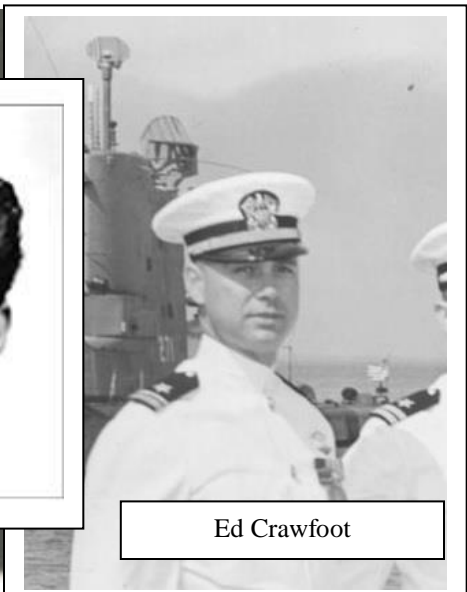
Sailor, rest your oar....



Morton Appelbaum



"Chris" Kotros



Ed Crawfoot



"Red" Donaldson



Hugh McCracken



“Tex” Ritter



“Pete” Peterson

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