

Sirago Newsletter



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REUNION 2007 – TRI-DIESEL TOURNAMENT

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Shipmates,

This newsletter is not only being sent to all SIRAGO shipmates, but is being sent to the entire known crews of both the USS Sea Leopard (SS483) and the USS Cutlass (SS478) in order to officially notify everyone of the Smoke Boat Sortie that will take place in Mobile, Alabama during the Memorial Day

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Weekend timeframe in 2007. Please refer to the insert concerning who has already said that they will try to attend this important event.

In this article I will let you know a bit about what will be happening in the May 23 – May 28, 2007 operation... but please refer to the insert as well.

We have a contract with possibly the absolutely BEST Hotel in Mobile Alabama called the Riverview Plaza Hotel basically right on the water and in the center of all that is good about Mobile. You can get more information from the following website: www.riverviewmobile.com. I would also like to direct your attention to another website: www.mobile.org for a listing of all the activities, restaurants, places of interest, etc., many of which are within walking distance of the Riverview. This hotel is huge and will be able to accommodate our every need. Since the reunion officially “kicks off” on Wednesday the 23rd, you can come down and check out the scene then (early) and get into the relaxed atmosphere. Of course we will be having activities that we would like everyone to participate in, but such activities will mainly be focused on the Friday through Monday timeframe when we are sure that everyone is aboard and ready to have some “group” fun, activities, and a bit of competition (boat versus boat). We’re getting a bit old for strenuous activities, but I’d suggest you sharpen up your “Qual Card” knowledge for a bit of fun during our reunion.

The Riverview is a very classy hotel. You and your lady or guest will be treated to the best service Mobile has to offer. Hospitality is the key as well as supreme service. I, myself prefer accommodations where I don’t have to take a cab or bus to get

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everywhere. So, if the wife is into shopping or you'd both just like to get a look around the beautiful area, take a leisurely walk to restaurants, shops, museums, and other places of interest with friends you haven't seen for 50 years... then this is the reunion you want to attend!

For all you Cutlass and Sea Leopard guys... there is a special "blow-in" in this newsletter for you to return to Rich McCamant to indicate your desire to come and also to let us know a bit about what shipmates from YOUR boat you'd like to see there to make it perfect. Our own Sirago guys have gotten used to having this top notch "Search and Rescue" officer help find our missing buddies. You can review his own "Lost & Found Crew" insert in this issue to see the way he does his job. AND... we (Sirago Association Officers) have asked him to assist the CUTLASS and SEA LEOPARD crew members desiring to join us in this 2007 reunion in finding THEIR crewmates as well. We are in possession of a full library of microfilm records, many of which contain detailed information about the Cutlass and Sea Leopard crews. This information, plus his own super abilities to get government records make Rich "da Man" to find folks so please take advantage of this service.

But... we should remind all the CUTLASS and SEA LEOPARD folks that have not as yet expressed interest (see insert for names of those that HAVE expressed interest) that this newsletter will be the ONLY newsletter you will get from the USS Sirago unless you have expressed some interest in coming to the reunion. This is not to say that you are absolutely sure you will come... but rather that you ARE interested in the group and WOULD LIKE to come. If that's the case, then for goodness sake fill out the blow-in and get McCamant cracking on finding those fellows you'd love to see again. And... if your boat already knows the whereabouts of said shipmate, then Rich can bug them to death to see if they'll come to the reunion. Whatever works! Our reunion coordinators will be working closely with Johnny Stanford (Sea Leopard) and Delores Fredricks (Cutlass) to help plan this event. I

should say also that we understand that USS Cutlass is having a reunion in a few months and will probably decide at that time what crew members will take the Cutlass Crew forward for future reunions and activities. We (USS Sirago) stand by to assist Cutlass in helping in the filing of 501(c)(19) (or other) not-for-profit paperwork if you would like the help.

Now... for you SIRAGO guys... you'd better get cracking too and let RICH know if you are interested in coming – you can email him or snail mail him (see return address on this newsletter) – but somehow, you should let him know. We want to insure that we get our room blockage sufficient to get everyone in the Riverview rather than having some folks having to scramble to find accommodations later. In order to do this, we need the information, and your "intentions" as early as possible.

Our SIGNUP SHEETS won't come out until a later newsletter. We'll be having many group activities, all boats will be selling hats and shirts and other items, and all the time there will be plenty of free time for you and your spouse to just relax and visit with your old boat buddies. We have also always had free soft drinks and beer in the hospitality area along with snacks. We cover this cost in other ways... but MAINLY by you guys showing up and having a good time. The USS Drum (Fleet Boat) complete with guns topside is in Battleship Park. Also, if you're into touring "targets" of major proportions you will want to visit the Battleship USS Alabama. The reunion will have opportunity for each INDIVIDUAL boat to also have special meetings and events for their crews so this is not just a USS Sirago show in case you Sea Leopard and Cutlass guys are afraid of getting overwhelmed.

We've got just 15 months until this major event and will do ALL in our power to make it the best reunion ever.

Mike ♦♦♦

The Sirago Legacy

Joe Roche

Shipmates:

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and New Year and now that the holidays are behind us for another year, it's time for me to start to focus on the stories & photos that have already been sent to me by some of you onto a CD for publishing at some future date. I have begun to do that. Those of you who attended this past reunion may remember my son Tim, who was video taping Legacy interviews with you. He has begun to transfer the interviews from tape to CD.

While I have some wonderful stories, "Then and Now" photos that some of you sent, I still need additional stories/bios/photos from you. The Sirago Legacy is about us, you and I and our time on Sirago, without them there is no legacy.

So please, take some time out of your busy day and sit down and drop me an email or a letter with the following information:

1. If you have good THEN and NOW photos of yourself, please mail them along with your stories and they will be returned to you at a later date.
2. When you reported aboard Sirago... when it was (month or season plus year). We may have the year right but want you to confirm this. Also... what was your rate / rating / rank when reporting aboard (ie; SA, FA, TM3, ENS).

3. Was Sirago your QUAL Boat? If not what boat was it.

4. How many boats did you serve on (and names of them)? By the way... for SUBRON 6 BOATS see next page of this newsletter "SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT CENSUS".

5. Which shipmates did you hang out with most (on Sirago)? Elaborate on this in story fashion please.

6. Describe an event that took place (on Sirago) that can still be remembered today, with as much clarity as passing time will allow. Sea stories are (of course) acceptable.

7. ONLY if you have trouble with 5. and 6. above, or because you served such a short time on Sirago and have another boat that you remember much more clearly... then change the "(on Sirago)" requirement to the boat of your choice and tell the story. We would just need to know what boat you are talking about.

Mail your stories to me:

Joe Roche

16889 Jays Way

Milton, DE 19968

Or email them to me at:

ss485@comcast.net

After collecting your stories, we would like to put them into some sort of form, whether manuscript, book or pamphlet and offer it to you as your own Legacy of Sirago in which you participated in as a crewman of Sirago.



SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT CENSUS

For all you Sirago guys who were aboard more SMOKEBOATS in SUBRON SIX than just the USS Sirago, please let RICH McCAMANT know. Please refer to the LOST & FOUND CREW Insert for Rich's email, phone number, and address. We are trying to extend our database on this important issue. So... even if you have responded to Joe Roche's request for information about your other boat service, we are particularly interested in other SMOKE BOATS (not Nukes) you were on as part of SUBRON SIX and Rich may not have this information so take the extra effort of keeping Rich informed as well.

Why is your SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT experience important, you might ask? Because we have started an organization called the SSSBS (SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT SISTERS) with the idea of developing an organization in which crew members of these boats can get access to good product prices, better negotiated reunion prices, and

also to have an occasional "Sortie" of all the boats in the nest. Back in the old days one boat would rely on others for assistance when needed and now is the time to start gathering these SUBRON SIX SMOKE BOAT crews together.

Right now we are working on closer relationships with USS Sea Leopard (SS483) and USS Cutlass (SS478). That's why we are having a Sortie in Mobile in 2007 with three boats. Other boats on the list to start working with include USS Requin (SS481) and USS Grampus (SS523). For a listing of all of the Smoke Boats in SUBRON SIX, please refer to the SSSBS insert (very end of that insert).



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