

Sirago Newsletter



Volume 13, Issue 1

February 2012

Short & Sweet

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Shipmates:

In an attempt to get this silly newsletter back on its regular schedule, I'm cutting a bit of the content so that it won't quite take the time it usually does to construct (and this makes it cheaper to print as well).

I'm going to stick to the basics and give you the information you need to know what's going on with the Cruise (2013) and to update you with information about the crew as usual. And... of course... the newsletter would not be complete without the After Battery Rat insert, so please enjoy that as well.

Speaking of Dex Armstrong, I know that with our country's new politically correct sensitivities as well as the culture having near apoplexy at the mention of crudities, I would suggest that if you have a problem with Dex's choice of words you probably should just pitch the insert and forgive us all for wanting to remember the way it really was... back then... in the day. I understand the way you feel, but I still read Huckleberry Finn and many other classic works regardless of language... and in fact I read the

Bible daily and understand that the culture was different 2000 years ago, so the mention of slavery, women being subjected to their husbands, and the erotic language used in the Song of Songs do not faze me because I let my mind ride on the phrases and the poetry and the great stories of the Bible. Same with Huckleberry Finn. Think about the way your father spoke and the way that the crew spoke to each other on the Sirago. There's a gentleness to that language too, even though, by today's standards, it is not considered proper. But I enjoy just letting Dex's stories play with my memory and resurrect those old feelings and pleasurable memories. Or... if it offends... forgive and forget. As for me... I don't want to forget.

CRUISE 2013 UPDATE

As of this moment, we have 33 crew members who have expressed an interest in the cruise and so far 4 Inside Cabins, 8 Ocean View Cabins, and 9 Veranda Cabins have already been spoken for. Seriously folks, for those of you who are holding back on reserving space, I would strongly suggest you get your act together and not miss movement because you WILL regret not having come with us.

Our cruise will depart Port Canaveral on Monday April 22, 2013 and return to Port Canaveral on Saturday April 27th. Anyone desiring to participate in this will need to email or phone me: (Mike Bickel (bickel485@aol.com – (314) 223-8999)) to make sure you get included as part of the group. Minimal down payments will need to be made pretty quickly because already I have decided to put a small reserve down on each cabin that hasn't been spoken for as of this moment. We can hold on to them for a bit of time

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– not exactly sure how long we can do this with less than the official “booking downpayment” which will be under your name. If absolutely necessary I will fill these cabins with either other SubRon Six diesel boat crewmembers, or dancing girls... whichever is easier. We have pre-reserved 10 inside cabins and 15 ocean view cabins in close proximity to each other at a very favorable rate. We’ll be visiting Freeport, Nassau, and Half Moon Cay (Key) as well as having an “at sea” fun day. We can get more cabins and have flexibility on other things as well. This \$600 (approx) price per person includes the cabin, all meals, all taxes, all gratuities, port charges and cancellation insurance. We have NOT included in this price any side trips, alcohol, or airport transfers (Orlando to Port Canaveral). The reason for this is that some of you would prefer to drive and park at Port Canaveral or already live in Florida and won’t need that. We’re trying to get the most crew aboard for this wonderful celebration as possible. Once you contact me (Mike Bickel) I will arrange for you to talk directly to the person who is handling all these arrangements. You will be paying your own way directly and the only thing the USS Sirago Association will be doing is making and guaranteeing these arrangements. Bottom line – if you don’t sign up, you’ll miss the boat, so please email me or call per above (email preferred if you have that.) ***

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

ETERNAL PATROL

Shannon D. Cramer (VADM)	CDR(CO)	54-56	Died 15 February 2012
Charles G. Freund	F1c	46-46	Died 6 February 2008
James Walter Garrett	RM2	68-69	Died 12 February 2012
Richard Reed Murray (ICCM)	IC1	62-64	Died 11 September 2011
Rollin “Ed” Shaffer	EMP2	55-58	Died 6 March 2012

Sailor, rest your oar....

FOUND!!

Joseph A. Hopkins	SN	71-72(D)	Was lost temporarily, now found
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FROM: Harold Webster (ET2(SS), 55-60)

RE: Loss of Skipper Shannon D. Cramer

As my battle station was often in the conning tower, I was privileged to observe Captain Cramer's periscope attack skills up close. He had an uncanny ability to penetrate a screen, even when every destroyer protecting the carrier was pinging on us. He would raise the scope for only a few seconds, mark the carrier's position, then go deep, change course and speed multiple times, go quiet briefly, then rise to periscope depth and raise the scope so that it was always immediately dead on the carrier, take another quick mark, dive a bit deeper, then fire off two fish in quick succession. The man seemed to have the equivalent of a gyro recorder in his brain always to be able to find the carrier. He was awesome, like no other skipper I ever saw. What a great and talented skipper!

FROM: Mike Bickel (LTJG(SS), 71-72)

RE: Celebration of Life - David Glaser (RM2(SS), 66-68)

In the last newsletter it was sadly reported that our Association Vice President (XO) David G. Glaser died on 3 December 2011, short of his 66th birthday. His widow, daughters, son-in-law, and many many friends held a memorial service on what would have been his 66th birthday - in Biloxi, MS on 6 March 2012. Many of his crewmates who served with him were in attendance as well as many dozens of close friends and veterans who knew him well, including myself. The man was amazing, he was spiritual, he was dedicated and his soul rests in the Lord.

FROM: Mike Bickel (LTJG(SS), 71-72)

RE: Teakwood Decking from USS Sirago (SS485)

In the last newsletter, there was an insert on "Plank Owners" and I mentioned that I was very interested to find ANY actual Teak Wood decking that might have survived when such decking was removed during the 1948-1949 Guppy 2 Conversion. The following information was given to me by LCDR Heidi Lenzini:

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Mr. Bickel,

Unfortunately, according to our curator Frank Thompson, who remembers your assistance in recovering the bell quite well, we do not have any of the teak, nor is there any way to trace where, if any, there might be. Many thanks to the veterans for their honorable service!

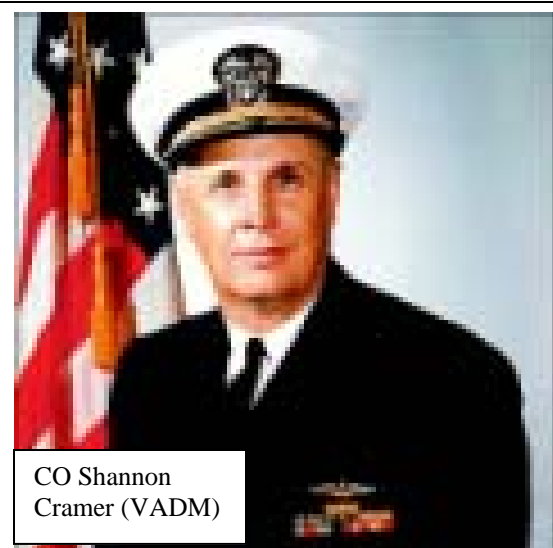
V/R,

LCDR Heidi Lenzini
Public Affairs Officer
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington DC 20374

- - -



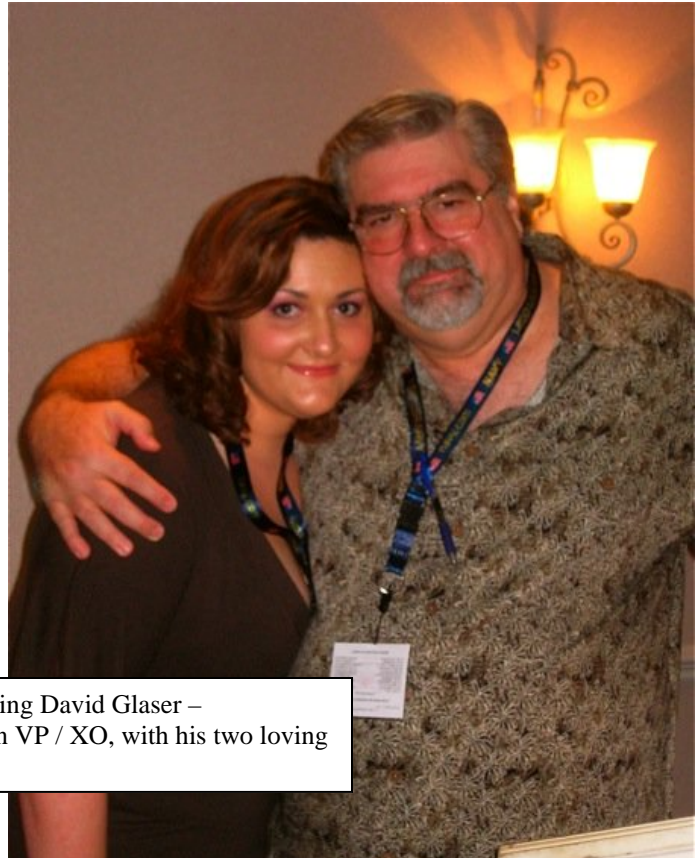
CO Goulet giving
award to Rollin
Shaffer (EMP2)



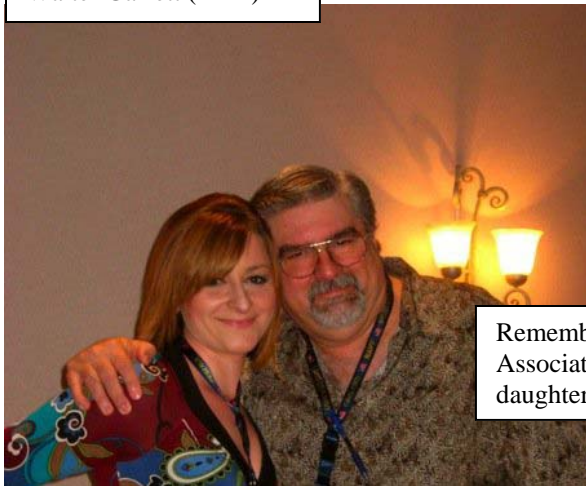
CO Shannon
Cramer (VADM)



Walter Garrett (RM2)



Remembering David Glaser –
Association VP / XO, with his two loving
daughters



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