

Sirago Newsletter



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May 2012

Short & Sweet (again)

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Shipmates:

As in our last newsletter put out pretty late, 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.

CRUISE 2013 UPDATE

As of this moment, we are trying to fill up our "block" of cabins which comprise 15 Ocean View Cabins and 10 Inside Cabins. Of these 25 "blocked" cabins (guaranteed prices) we have 11 of them being official "booked" with another 3 being reserved for a total of 14. That leaves 11 cabins that are available to any of you folks and they are offered at an extremely good price - that price which includes meals, taxes, port fees, cancellation insurance and all gratuities is: \$569.28 per person on an INSIDE cabin, and \$635.28 per person for an OCEAN VIEW cabin. The "CLASS" of these cabins is 4C which is a

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class close to the main deck which has more value than one way down inside the ship. This price per person (2 person occupancy) covers your entire cruise (although you may want to add some side-trips when we get to the Bahamas if you like to go on a special guided tour of something).

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. We are looking for everyone to now officially "Book" their cabin (rather than just making a minimal reservation fee). Booking means that you are given an actual "cabin number" and we want all these places relatively close together in favorable positions. Booking requires that a \$200 down payment be made by each person (less whatever reservation fee you may have already deposited on account).

We actually have MORE cabins booked for our group than what I just told you as we can also book Veranda (Balcony) cabins for a bit more money, but such prices are not guaranteed. We have 9 such cabins already booked so what I'm telling you is that our group is basically already filling 23 cabins at this time.

If you are interested in this please call or email me and I will give you the necessary information for getting hold of our booking agent who will inform you of exactly what you need to do. **YOU WILL NEED A PASSPORT** that expires (latest) December 2013. Our Sirago organization does not want you to be stranded and not able to get back into the country in case you end up with an illness and have to leave the ship. ***

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

ETERNAL PATROL

Donald F. Crites

TM2

66-68

Died 15 May 2012

Richard A. "Patch" Pacht

CS3

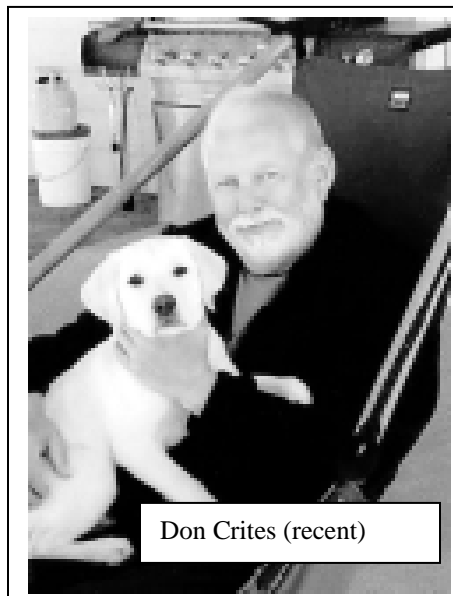
68-68

Died 23 November 2004

Sailor, rest your oar....



Don Crites (right) with Rex Major and Frank Phipps



Don Crites (recent)

Jerry Boss Starts Qualification Process for High Schoolers

By Mike Bickel

We're all getting a bit older but I never cease to be amazed at our continued efforts – I am saying this on behalf of each and every one of you out there – to educate the public on what it's like to be a veteran, and ESPECIALLY: what it's like to be a submariner.

You should think about this. First you should realize that that only 12% of our eligible population are veterans. About 22% of all veterans were in the Navy so that means that about 2.5 percent of our population are Navy Veterans. About 7% of Navy veterans are submariners, so that means that WE are about .175% of the eligible population (less than 2 out of 1000 people). I think that because of this, we are a rare breed of people who are relatively unknown to the average United States citizen. Have you ever noticed how strangely people look at you when they find out that you were a submariner? Maybe this is the reason that we feel so compelled to tell our stories to others, because there is absolutely nothing to compare with serving aboard a submarine, although modern submarines are so different than what we served aboard, we usually have to preface our statements with "but I was on one of those small diesel electric submarines that were

used during World War 2.” That usually gets them.

Well – Jerold “Jerry” Boss was a Sirago submariner – a QM2 serving aboard the Sirago from 1951-1952. He recently (over the past few years) moved into my neck of the woods (St. Louis, MO) and is currently at an assisted living center close by. He can’t get around like he used to, but has become quite an active part of his community center. He called me up one day to tell me that a bunch of the various veterans from the center were asked to come out to Lindbergh High School and talk to the students about what it’s like to be a veteran and tell them a bit about their service. Jerry was very excited to be able to do this, but when he told me this, I found out that he didn’t have a Submarine shirt or a Sirago cap or anything. He’d never been to a reunion. So I happened to have an extra Sirago cap and a SubRon Six Smoke Boat Sisters shirt in my basement and delivered it to him so that he would be “properly attired”.

Jerry spent the morning talking to groups of high school kids answering all the questions that they might ask about how a submarine operates, etc. He told me that he had to sort of re-qualify himself on various boat operations and systems as he didn’t want to have any incorrect answers and he knew they’d probably ask him something he might have forgotten about.

What follows are some of the photos taken at that event. I certainly hope that we all... to our dying day... keep telling those stories... because they say much about us – we were a team... we were put in harm’s way many many times... we relied on each and every other crew member to do his job or we’d all be at the ocean’s bottom... and, we were all the type of people who enjoyed a good “sea story” over a cup of coffee or some thick pea soup.





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