

# Sirago Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2000

## “Sea Stories” from the Duty Sections

*Sifting Through the Email Traffic*

**Mike Bickel**

Duty Section 6972

Being in the unique position of “virtual cruise director” and chief radio room operator, I am “listening in” on many conversations over the “wire”. These transmissions have many “authors” but I have been redacting versions of the same “tale” into single “stories”. In some cases, there were conflicting details but the gist is the same. In this issue of the newsletter, I am highlighting one of my favorites: the “deep dive” of the Sirago.

### Trip to 2X Crush – Duty Section 6568

**LT Larry Bodiford:**

LT Anderson and I were standing the 04-08 and 16-20 watches in the CONN. I was off watch in my bunk (in skivies) under a blanket. I had probably just gotten off watch at 0800 and went to bed after breakfast. Woke up to some severe angles. Large up followed by a

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## You’re Nobody ‘till S.C.U.M Buddy Loves You!

*If you just CAN’T wait ‘till that next Reunion!*

**Tom Foglesong & Mike Bickel**

Duty Section 6972

**Tom Foglesong:**

Last year, after 30 years, two shipmates from the Carp contacted me. One of them was involved in US Sub Vets Inc. & coaxed me into joining. As it turns out, he was going to the convention in Reno, last Sept., so we got to see each other. The convention was hosted by my group (Mare Island Base). Anyway, while “shopping” through the various booths, I thought Larry looked familiar. When I took some stuff down to my car, he asked my Carp shipmate if I had returned to Hawaii to an avocado plantation, after leaving the Sirago. When I got back from the car, we did indeed recognize each other.

After Larry retired, he settled in Fairfield, California, just a little over 20 miles east of Napa. He’s been there since 1979. I’ve been in Napa since 1973. He’s enjoying retirement & I’m looking forward to it (I become eligible again on 7/30/00 with 30 years with Pacific Gas & Electric). We see each other at most of our unit’s monthly meetings. We’ve relived the 69 Med trip a few times.



*This is me and Larry Vincente last Christmas*

**Mike Bickel:**

As the database of Sirago crew members gets bigger and bigger, a new phenomenon occurs. People are actually figuring out that their under water shipmate

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really large down. Later reported as 51 or 52 degrees down. Heard a loud "thunk" from the forward room. This later proved to be a MK 37 Torp breaking loose from the stops in the tube and sliding down to hit the outer door. The angle was not coming off and I thought I had better do something. At the outset of the Down Angle, stuff had started to spill. I even heard some glass breaking somewhere. I rolled out of my bunk and crawled up hill to the control room. Things were in "panic mode".

**Alex McArthur, EN2(SS) - aka "White Rat":**

I was in Tubes Aft after watch when the boat took the angle. Usually when the boat takes an angle you feel it as the ordered angle is reached. In this case I felt her go over. That is one scary feeling. Boy did she go over!!! How come the Aft Planes Tilt motor wasn't running?

Don't mind me I'm just here in my bunk next to the Torpedo Impulse Gauge Board reading off the depth to you guys. I was hanging on for dear life with my elbows over the end of my bunk.

**Doug Roberts (MM1) aka "Big Robbie":**

We lost normal planes mode and the planesman went into hand and instead of going to rise went to full dive. Because of the uncontrolled down angle the order to blow forward MBTs was given. Unfortunately the vents were open and we were just wasting precious H.P. air.

**Bodiford:**

LCDR DeGroff (I think he was also in his skivies) was attempting to shut whichever main vent that was in the forward part of the room. I think he was standing on the DRT or the LORAN so he could reach the vent. He told me to help with the Air Manifold. At least that is what I did. I believe it was Herman Hill and I proceeding to blow main ballast.

**McArthur:**

I looked over my feet or rather under my feet and caught a glimpse of Barney (EM1 Richard Barnette) throwing her into "ALL BACK FRANTIC". They were standing on the damn maneuvering gauge board! Just before the aft end started shaking like a bowl of nervous Jell-O I heard this strange creaking sound. I really am not sure what it was.

**Bodiford:**

We stopped going down and proceeded to broach (not good where we were). The angle came off and we bobbed around for a few minutes. I assumed the DIVE. I believe one of the Chiefs had been on the Dive until then. They had been snorkeling and lost AC which killed the Planes Indication. I don't remember the exact sequence but somehow in the response to the casualty they had gone to Emergency Planes Power early on and were attempting to get the up angle off to keep from broaching. With both bow and stern planes in dive, hydraulic pressure was lost. That's when the big down angle came on and we started down.

The casualty had started in Maneuvering. One of the electricians on watch was taking his usual ground readings, and somewhere in the process he dropped the after switchboard which was powering the ACMG sets. This was the loss of Indication to the Planesmen and Diving Officer. He realized the AC problem and proceeded to restore the after board and get the MG sets on-line. At some point he saw that in restoring the after board he had dropped the forward board (IMO pump) hence the loss of hydraulic pressure to operate the planes in emergency. It was during this time the angles started and we finally got to the big down angle. Barney recognized the depth problem from his sea pressure gauges and put on backing turns without being ordered. This action saved our bacon. ♦♦♦

**Retired Chief Barnette re-enacting on the "sticks":**



## CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

### REUNION 2001

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> – MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2001

Sirago Reunion – Lake Wright Resort

Please keep your calendars open for this event! It's never too early to announce the plans. We are expecting about 125 crew members plus guests so it should be quite a blowout. Could be even more there. **SEE NEXT ARTICLE.**

### REUNION 2001 – LAKE WRIGHT

#### SIRAGO REUNION WILL BE "SHAKEDOWN" CRUISE

Please mark your calendars for May 2 – May 6, 2001 for our next reunion at the Lake Wright Resort and Conference Center in Norfolk, VA. We are currently in the process of putting together a schedule (see Tentative Schedule – separate piece). The resort is undergoing a complete reconstruction of facilities (dry dock?) and will be building two hotels on the same campus with different prices. The two hotel names are: The **Sleep Inn** which will price rooms at **\$65.95** per night and the **Quality Suites** which will price rooms at **\$89.95** per night. Both facilities will be completely modernized and will feature all interior hallways, complimentary breakfast, and free local calling. The **Quality Suites** feature true 2-room suites with refrigerator and microwave. We have reserved 50 rooms in each of these facilities (100 rooms reserved total) and more can be had if we get enough bookings. The next issue of the newsletter will have a complete breakdown of prices and our finalized schedule and sign-up sheet. Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> will be "arrival day" with the hospitality room staffed and ready for you to get settled, find a buddy and have a few brews. Thursday we will be offering discount coupons to everyone to visit many of the wonderful sites around the area and hope to have both a men's and a ladies' luncheon and perhaps a golf tournament in the morning. We will be trying to do a boat tour, BBQ, and Harbor Cruises on Friday. Then Saturday will a Sirago and USSVI Hampton Roads Base meeting and buffet luncheon, and, of course, the traditional fine dining and formal program Saturday evening (with photographs taken then). The hospitality room will be as available as we want it to be at no charge.

All **Lake-Wright-Oriented** costs will be handled directly between them and you (ie. your room, and any charges you make at the hotel). For estimates on many of the other costs you may choose, see attached Tentative Schedule. ♦♦♦

may actually reside in the same city as them. As I began contacting some of these people I was delighted to find out that they were already becoming "reacquainted" by going out and having a beer together. I call these people S.C.U.M. Buddies (Same City Underwater Mates). Here are some more examples. I hope this inspires you to scan that database and find YOUR "SCUM-Buddy".

#### Crew Members Holt and Inboden (DS6972)

Al Inboden saw a familiar face while attending a Super Bowl party last January. "He thought he knew me and kept staring. I had no idea who he was", said Holt. "Once we figured it out, we talked 'Sirago' the rest of the Game!"



Robert J. Holt (EN1) and Alan J. Inboden (EN2)

#### Crew Members Frazier & Huskey (DS6972)

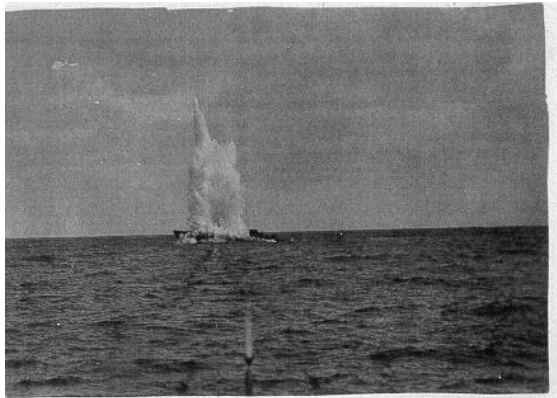
Although these two fellows don't live in the same city any longer, they used to, and their families were quite close. I found Bill Huskey first (ETR3) and he was very interested in finding Ken Frazier (CS1). Once "Stew Burner" was found, you couldn't keep them apart. ♦♦♦



Frazier & Huskey at Mobile mini-Reunion – 4/2000

## **SIRAGO SINKS U-1228**

The U-1228, a German U-Boat, surrendered to the United States at Portsmouth 9 May 1945. Later, as part of WW2 reparations (ie. revenge), it was agreed that the boat be scuttled. On 5 February, 1946 the Sirago shot a torpedo while on the surface and sunk this U-Boat as shown in this "Restricted" Navy photograph. You might want to talk to some of the Plank Owners about this situation at the reunion!



## **DUTY SECTION NEWS**

The listing of Duty Section Chiefs was incorrect in last newsletter. Here is the correct information for Duty Section 4548:

DS 4548: Bruce Boutillette – (973) 627-2691.  
Email: [doubleeagle@erols.com](mailto:doubleeagle@erols.com)

### **Photopoint News:**

We crossed the 10,000 hit level a couple of months ago and with more than 400 photos on the site now, you should review it if you haven't lately. Go to [www.photopoint.com](http://www.photopoint.com) and then put my email address ([rmbickel@stupp.com](mailto:rmbickel@stupp.com)) in the VISIT ALBUM section and hit the "visit" button. Remember that some albums are locked with the ss485 password. USER NAME is anything you want.

### **SIRAGO BOOSTERS: THANKS!!**

Over 130 people have contributed about \$1200 to support mailing, phoning, printing!!

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