

Sirago Newsletter

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“Further Stories” from the Duty Sections

Sifting Through the Email Traffic

Mike Bickel

Duty Section 6972

There is nothing really better than being able to share in some of those great “stories” from the crew. Here are a few I have collected:

Big Kahunas - Fred McGuire (TM1):

For whatever reason (I do not know) Ray Anderson (Cigar Smoking CO of Sirago 60-63) took a liking to me and my wife Doreen. I was the torpedoman in charge of the after room but Bob Cramer was also a TM1 in tubes aft and the captain wanted someone with a strong deep voice to operate the firing key in the CONN during GQ. He told me that when I said **"FIRE 1"** over the sound powered phones, he wanted it to sound like a person at the peak of their sexual activity (those were not his exact words but you probably get the idea). A person with B***s.

Some of you snipes may remember me running through maneuvering and the engine rooms in my

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Reunion 2001-Unbelievable!

Largest Reunion for Sirago – Rivals Other Boats.

Mike Bickel

Duty Section 6972

Saying that this last reunion was fantastic would certainly be an understatement. We had 125 Crew members show up (as compared to about 40 at the last reunion). The total crowd was about 220 as compared to about 65 last time. In other words, we TRIPLED the participation! Since everyone was aware of what we were planning to do, and since a picture is worth 1000 words, I'll just let some of the photos do the talking.

Here is a photo taken at the Baquet and also one of COs Berthrong and Kaufman on the Spirit of Norfolk.



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skivvies with clothes in hand when GQ was sounded. By the time I got to the conning tower the QM already knew the drill and had the phones ready for me. At the correct moment right after the skipper took the final bearing before firing I'd be queued (like in a movie) to do my best virile torpedoman voice. The gun boss said I did the best "imitation of a guy with "B***s" he'd ever heard. Occasionally I earned a Dutch Master Panatella from the CO.

Now for the rest of the story. Captain Anderson got tickets to the Submarine Birthday Ball and gave them to Doreen and me. He knew how difficult finances were for Petty Officers with children. He also had us seated next to him and his wife at the ball. Three years after I left the Sirago, Captain Anderson was a DivCom with Squadron 8 and he helped me get a ground floor opportunity with the MK 48 program still in prototype. If I saw him today I would certainly thank him profusely and maybe even hug his neck for his kindness to me. *(Ed. Note: Sorry Fred, but Capt. Ray Anderson is on Eternal Patrol and, given what you've told us here, I doubt he'd want to be hugged.... but I'm sure he's smiling down at you with that big cigar).*

Death in Icy Waters (from 4548 Crew):

S1c Kotros – There was a torpedoman named Horbock (TM1c) and also CTM Michael Matonick who were sent topside while the boat was underway in some fairly rough seas to secure the gangplank more securely to the after deck because the Captain (Harlfinger) was concerned it would come loose and foul the screws. While up on the deck, Horbock was hit by a wave and swept over the side and after they finally got the boat turned around Matonick went over the side to try to get him aboard. They brought Horbock below and tried to revive him, but it was too late - he was dead.

Bill Albright (QM1) - Story is true. It happened just after I came aboard. The body was stowed in the chillbox. A stewardmate went to get fruit. The fan came on when the door opened and the sheet covering the dead man fluffed up. He made a fast exit and refused to go down there until the body was removed.

Our Chief Bonner – (Joe Hoffmann (LT)):

(Ed. Note: Just before this last reunion, we had a

newsletter highlighting people who were especially well liked. One of them was COB Bonner. We recently found out that he is deceased and I asked people for information about him).

Mike - This is just a short one on COB Bonner, but I'll never forget it. The COB just couldn't help but let a tenderfoot Ensign dig himself into a laughing pit for the entire watch in the control room. Going out on one of the my first at-sea experiences, I was given the task of calculating trim for the first dive; "No problem for a recent engineering grad" says I to myself, "I can make a contribution right off the blocks". So I get the last dive stats from COB. Fwd trim - 8000. Aft trim - 6000. Aux trim - MT. "MT?"

"COB, what's MT?"

"MT."

"Yes." (Background snickers).

"MT."

"No, what's MT?" (Laughter).

"MT."

"No, I mean what's MT?"

"MT." (Growing laughter).

"No. I mean what's MT in the log?"

"MT." (Rolling laughter).

No doubt it continued for several more times but it was one of my first lessons on acronyms - and stick it did. And it showed me the mercy a young officer could expect from the Chief of the Boat. "Thx COB. I needed that." And may God bless. ♦♦♦

Chief Bonner w/ Princess Grace in Monaco



CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

REUNION 2003 – NORFOLK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

APR 30TH – MAY 4TH 2003 (TENTATIVE)

SIRAGO REUNION – LAKE WRIGHT RESORT (TENTATIVE)

We have taken a survey of the on-line crew and asked what location might seem best for the next reunion. The FIRST CHOICE was Norfolk with the 2nd and 3rd choices being Groton and Pensacola in that order. Norfolk had more votes than Groton and Pensacola combined so it was a clear choice. We may want to consider Groton as a logical choice for the 2005 reunion when we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of Sirago’s commissioning. From 1945 until 1948, Sirago was attached to SubRon 8 out of New London.

We need your help in making the next reunion even bigger.

SEE NEXT ARTICLE.

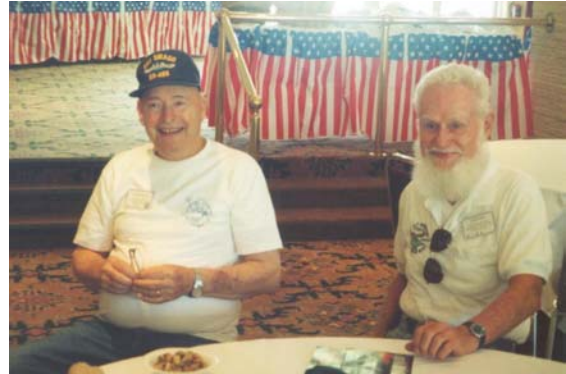
REUNION 2003 – TARGETING!

HOW TO BUILD ANOTHER STELLAR REUNION

Well, we certainly learned a few things from Reunion 2001. One was that “enthusiasm” and “organization” are keys to success. There was a VERY active role that Duty Section Chiefs took in encouraging their crew members to come and “take a chance” on this last reunion. I’d like to mention two Duty Section Chiefs who went above and beyond. One is **David Glaser (6568)** who wins the prize for the MOST crew members attending. He actually had over 30 attending. That’s a fantastic number when you think about just a 4-year period. **George Goodwin (5760)** (pictured below with his lovely Carolyn Shubert) has built his duty section from about 30 people “found” to over twice that number in less than 6 months. All of us need to **target** another crewmate or two that we’d like to see at the next reunion. I’ll be happy to “find” them if you do your part to get them to the reunion!



Below are 1) “Wally” Walraven and Plank owner Leslie Jones, 2) Visiting the Montpelier (SSN765), 3) The “Mob” of Crew, wives, Significant Others & Guests and 4) Inboden (MMCM) and Yankay (ENC) with Fred Baker (CS3). These photos are interesting because the first one shows one of the first Sirago-ites to get out of the Navy (Jones-4548) and the last shows one still going strong (Inboden-6972).



SIRAGO - TRIVIA

Did you know that Sirago's name came from a fish (not a seahorse) whose name is really Sirajo? Sirajo is a carnivorous fresh water fish inhabiting the West Indies which is a member of the Gobiidae (Gobie) family. It is olive or violet brown with 6-7 vertical stripes. Take a look at the difference between our "first" patch and the later one:



DUTY SECTION NEWS

Here's the latest tally on Duty Sections. By the way, Bill "Abby" Abbruzzese has taken charge of DS 6164 (wabbruzzese@ec.rr.com). Thanks to our previous Chief Joe Roche for a job well done!

DS 4548: 42 Found Alive, 25 Last Dive

DS 4952: 47 Found Alive, 28 Last Dive

DS 5356: 54 Found Alive, 20 Last Dive

DS 5760: 61 Found Alive, 16 Last Dive

DS 6164: 51 Found Alive, 5 Last Dive

DS 6568: 85 Found Alive, 10 Last Dive

DS 6972: 111 Found Alive, 9 Last Dive

DS ?????: 6 Found Alive, 2 Last Dive

Photopoint News:

About 1000 photos now on our web site. When you go to the link below choose the photos. Album list password ss485.

<http://service.freesitenow.com/Sirago/>

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