



December 2006
Volume 12 - Issue 12

**What's "Below Decks"
in the Midwatch**



<http://perch-base.org>

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Sealion	SS195	Dec. 10, 1941	5 men
USS F-1	SS20	Dec. 17, 1917	19 men
USS S-4	SS109	Dec. 17, 1927	34 men

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



2006 Booster Club

Don't Forget Your 2007 Contribution



A. H. "Bob" Nance	Adrian Stuke	Alan Miller	Billy Grieves
Bradley L. Butler	Bruce "Robie" Robinson	Butch DeShong	Charles Greene
Dave Harnish	David Carpenter	Doug LaRock	Edgar Brooks
Chuck Emmett	Joseph Hawkins	Edward J. Hawkins	Emil Schoonejans
F.J. "Ted" Asbell	Frank Rumbaugh	Gary Bartlett	George L. Crider
George Long	George Petrovitz	Glenn Herold	Harold C. Lister
Harry Heller	Jack R. McCarthy	James Denzien	James L. Wall
James W. Newman	Jerry N. Allston	Jim Nelson	John Cash
John Messersmith	John T. Hellem	John Zaichkin	Joseph Bernard
Kenneth Becker	Kenneth R. Anderson	L. A. "Mike" Keating	Lester Hillman
Mel Rycus	Paul V. Miller	Ray Samson	Raymond Marshall
Raymond Schaeffer	Reynaldo Atos	Richard Bernier	Richard Simmons
Robert A. Lancendorfer	Joe Oreteba	Robert Lents	Robert May
Roger Cousin	Roger M. Miller	Roger R. Miller	Ron Kloch
Ronald Beyer	Royce Pettitt	Stanley Rud	George Debo
Stephen Hough	Terry Martin	W. Scott Prothero	William L. McNay
Wayne K. Smith	Wayne Braastad	Walter Blomgren	Tim Moore
Thomas Moore	Stan Reinhold	Ronald Zomok	Robert Hanson
Ray Lee Graybeal	Milton Magart	Mike Simpson	Larry M. Rankin
Kenny Wayne	Ken Schonauer	Joseph R. Mullins	Jim Thomson
Jerry Yowell	James Edwards	Jack S. Kimball	Harry Ellis
Edward Wolf	Davy Jones	Darrell Lambert	Clair E. Prokupek
Buck Crouch	Joe Errante	Bob Gilmore	George Marions
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Sailing Orders



NO DECEMBER MEETING

(ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET)

Next Regular Meeting

Jan. 20, 2006,

American Legion Post #105

3534 W Calavar Rd.

Phoenix, AZ

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH



Merry Christmas

For this joyous season, the Perch Base Officers wish all members a most Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Joyous New Year.

And lest we forget, say a prayer for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who shall go into harm's way.

God Speed and following winds.



2006 Veterans Day Parade



Not there this year? Plan on 2007!

From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Happy Holidays!

Dear Shipmates,

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by and we are already in the midst of the Holiday Season. Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving have quickly passed by and we are all preparing for Christmas. For most of us, this will be another holiday of good fortune, good health and good cheer. However some of our friends and shipmates are facing the challenge of going through this season with concerns about loved ones who are in ill health and others are facing their first Holiday Season having lost loved ones this past year. Our thoughts and prayers should be with them and their families throughout the holidays and always.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we may have already had our Holiday Awards Banquet. Those of you who are 2006 recipients of these awards are most deserving and I know the rest of the membership will join me in passing along our congratulations on your selections for these awards.

My thanks and appreciation goes out to all the Perch Base officers and board members as well as those members who have stepped up to the plate to help out this past year when the call has gone out for volunteers. It's comforting to know that there are individuals upon whom we can always depend to come forward when the need arises. I salute you and please accept my sincere thanks.

In closing, I want us all to continue to remember and pray for those who continue to serve in harms way and also their families who will have empty chairs at their holiday tables again this year. Hopefully we will see many of them return home next year . . . what a wonderful new year that would be.

I sincerely hope you and your families all have **A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!**

Fraternally,

Tim Moore

Commander, Perch Base USSVI

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Thanks Shipmates



For those of you who were in attendance, you know what a good time we had at this years Veterans Day Parade. Please join me in passing along a big time "Bravo Zulu" and "Thank You" to our shipmates **Ben Acosta** and **Howard Doyle** for orchestrating this event. Thank you shipmates, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Tim Moore

Commander, Perch Base, USSVI

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(continued)

*** MIDWATCH NEWSLETTER ***

Article Submission Deadlines

The deadlines for the next three Midwatch newsletters are as follows:

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January 2007	Friday, Jan. 5th
February 2007	Friday, Feb. 2nd
March 2007	Friday, Mar. 2nd

Please submit your articles by the deadlines indicated to make sure your articles are included and to assure the timely publication and distribution of the Midwatch. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI



Shipmates,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the replacement of WD-1 Commander Glenn Herold. Glenn has relocated to Cadiz, Kentucky and has resigned his position as Western District One Commander. His shipmates in Western District One will miss Glenn.

Jim Dunn is appointed effective immediately to fill the remaining term of WD-1 Commander. Jim and his wife Jean have relocated to Arizona and brings with him experience as Past WD-3 Commander and Base Commander of Farragut Base. Jim is also active with the International Submariners Association/United States of America. Jim can be contacted at:

Jim Dunn
2367 E. Santiago Trail
Casa Grande, AZ 85222
Home phone: 520-423-1986
Cell phone: 520-280-1800
E-mail: jimandjean@jkdunn.com

Please join me in welcoming Jim as WD-1 Commander.

Fraternally,
Dave Harnish WRD



The following was received from Shipmate Dick Bernier's wife, Robbie. Please note the message and the request from his wife.

Richard is still in Select Hospital (an acute care facility) on the 3rd floor of St. Joseph's Hospital. He's been there almost five weeks now after the four weeks he spent at Good Sam in ICU. His condition is still critical, but he's over the pneumonia, no longer has the respirator, but has a lot of tubes left in and still has a lot of bleeding. The doctors continue to work with him. As for the stroke portion, he can now talk although not always as well as we'd like. He can communicate some, but has trouble with memory. We're grateful for the good days and try to muddle through the others. If some of the fellows might like to visit, please let them know where he is. We do request no smokers or no heavy colognes due to the weakness of his lungs.

Thanks for your help -

Robbie Bernier

*Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or
the wife or family member of a shipmate?
Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:*

*(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net*

From the "What the . . . ?" department



USSVI National Scholarships

The USSVI National Scholarship Committee is now issuing the call for all high school seniors and current college students to apply to the USSVI Scholarship Program. We are proud to announce there will be a minimum of 18 scholarships of which two will be worth \$1500 each in memory of Past National Commanders John Fredericks and Steve Russo, six \$1,250 scholarships and 11 \$950 scholarships divided between the two groups. There will be additional scholarships, which will depend on the donations we receive through the next year.

To all our new Bases Commanders in the last year or so, our organization has a scholarship program that is design to give some help in paying the college fees, books, lab fees and board and room. We offer, as much scholarship money as there is money available from the shipmates and bases that do the donating. Last year we handed out ONE \$1,500 scholarship in memory of a Past National Commander and SIX \$1,250 scholarships in honor of three bases. The Bases donated the money (two bases are in memory of a base shipmate) and one from the Officer Wives' Club of Pearl Harbor, HI. In addition we also gave out twenty-two \$950 scholarships between the two groups. Scholarship recipients are selected on financial need, academic and extra-curricular achievement, recommendations and expression of a 400-word essay. All areas are scored by each of the USSVI Scholarship Board members. In case of ties the financial needs will be the tiebreaker.

Eligibility is as follows: the student's sponsor "Must be a member in Good Standing" at a base or a member-at-large (MAL). The sponsor must be "qualified in submarines" or been a "relief crew member" in USSV WWII group. The student can be the son or daughter, stepchildren, grand children, or a court appointed to a guardian of the sponsor.

The Sponsor must be a member of a base or "member at large" (MAL) in "good standing". Each sponsor's standing will be verified by the National office on or about 20 April 2007. Last year we had several sponsors who did not join and there child application was pulled while the board was in session. Also two sponsors were members but their base did not get the monthly report into the National office on time and were almost pulled.

The parent of the sponsor will supply a copy of the previous year (2006) 1040 tax form signed. If it is not signed, it will be returned for signature. The Scholarship Chairman is the only person who will see the tax form and a test your financial records. If the parent wants them returned please state that and it will be return gladly other wise the will be destroyed upon announcing the winners for the scholarship in August 2007.

Application request will be taken up till March 15, 2007 and must be returned to the scholarship chairman, postmarked by April 15, 2007.

The scholarship can be requested in two ways:

1. You can send me your address by email at hogan343@aol.com or by snail mail and tell me if you are a high school senior or a college student. This is important as I sent you a hint sheet, which directs you what we are looking for and filling out the application correctly the first time.
2. Down load from the web page at www.ussvi.org, then highlight scholarship and follow the instructions. You will need Adobe acrobat to download.

My address is:

Paul Orstad
30 Surrey Lane
Norwich, CT 06360-6541.

Any questions please feel free to call me at (860) 889-4750 or (860) 334-6457 and I will be happy to answer.

Individuals, bases or organizations can make donations (or sponsor fundraisers) to the scholarship fund in the memory of departed shipmates or family members or in honor of a shipmate or family member.

If an employer has a matching funds program like Pfizer does, matching funds are welcome.

Anyone making a donation of \$25 or more is given a tax deduction statement and we also include a Patch and letter of appreciation.

If you have any Questions contact any Regional Director, District Commander, E-Board member or myself.

Thank you.

Commander

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**White
Mountain**



Base

OUR CREED:

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government.



**October
2006**

Meeting Minutes - Oct. 2006

Members present for the October 2006 meeting were: Jim Clewett, Phil Caster, Armand DePrins, Frank Nagle, Charles Jones, Steve Day, Ken Shade, Buck Biddle, Doug Eddy, Adam Dykman and Eugene Quinlan.

The meeting was called to order at 1110 hours with a prayer, invocation, Tolling of the Bell, Pledge of Allegiance, and reading of Our Creed. There was one guest present: Chris Duncan from the White Mountain Medical Center Public Health Service. The September minutes were read and a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept. It was reported that there is \$3223.92 in the base treasury as of Sep. 5.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to have Turkey for the Christmas dinner at the El Rancho in Snowflake on 9 December (Saturday) and the price was capped at a maximum of \$15 per person.

The snack bar at the Snowflake Golf Course will be closing for the winter. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to see if we can have a meeting there.

Adam has requested that someone take over the duties of Base Historian.

Please pay your Base (\$10) and National (\$20) Dues

Buck has received a letter from the S.A.F.E. House thanking us for the donation from the Golf Tournament. He also brought copies of The Maverick, which has an article on the S.A.F.E. House. Buck and Ken will apply for a one-day special use liquor license for the Golf Tournament. A motion was made, seconded and passed to join the Show Low Chamber of Commerce for \$75 per year which will get us free access to radio advertisement and other benefits.

We need to support the Ship's Store – buy stuff! Calendars are \$9, there are T-shirts with Base Patches and golf shirts are available. A motion was made, seconded and passed to buy \$25 of merchandise from the Ship's Store for a Show Low sailor who is about to go on WestPac.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give Submarine calendars to: the American Legion, the VFW, and the White Mountain Medical Center.

We will be in the Veteran's Day Parade in Eager on Saturday, November 11th. Form up for the parade at 9:00 AM in front of the Mormon Church across from Bashas.

The February meeting will be held at the Snowflake Golf Course and Armand won the 50/50 drawing and donated the winnings to the Treasury.

The meeting was adjourned at 1225 hours with a closing prayer.



Eternal Patrol Dec. 17, 1927

Editors Note: **Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.**

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest
Is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll
Oof our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.



U.S.S. S-4 (SS-109) 34 men lost



Launched: 8/27/19, Comm: 11/19/19
Fate: sunk on 12/17/27 Stricken: 1/15/36
General Characteristics
Disp: 876 tons surf., 1,092 tons sub.
Length: 231', Beam: 21' 10" in
Speed: 15 knts. surf., 11 knts. sub.
Complement: 42 officers and men
Armament: 1x4" gun, 4x21" torpedo tubes



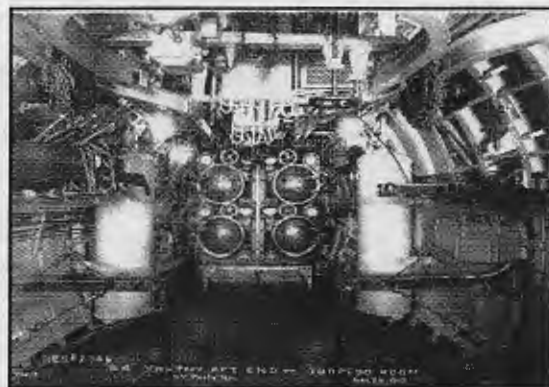
Following acceptance trials and a visit to Havana, Cuba, from 14 to 19 January 1920, and subsequent operations along the Gulf and New England coasts, USS S-4 (SS-109) departed New London on 18 November 1920 to rendezvous with her assigned division, SubDiv12, and SubDiv18 off New Hampshire. The two divisions were about to embark on a historic voyage which, at that time, was to be the longest cruise undertaken by American submarines. Assigned to SubFlot3 of the Asiatic Fleet at Cavite in the Philippine Islands, they sailed via the Panama Canal and Pearl Harbor and arrived at Cavite on 1 December 1921.

S-4 operated out of the Cavite Naval Station, with occasional visits to Chinese ports, until late in 1924, when the two divisions were reassigned to the west coast. Departing Cavite on 29 October, they arrived at Mare Island, California, on 30 December.

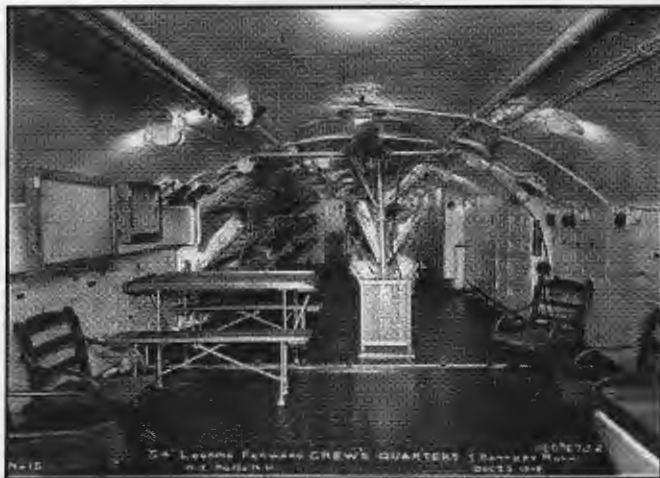
Remaining at Mare Island in 1925, she operated along the west coast through 1926, mainly at San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. She departed Mare Island on 10 February 1927 and sailed to the Panama Canal Zone, where she operated through March and April, then proceeded to New London, arriving on 3 May. For the remainder of the year, she operated off the New England coast.

On 17 December 1927, S-4, having recently received extensive refitting at PNSY, was one of the Navy's most serviceable submarines, albeit an old one of WWI vintage. She had just completed her run of the measured mile prior to returning to the fleet and, having checked the surface for other vessels in her vicinity, her periscopes were housed as she planed up to be rammed by USCGC PAULDING, sending her back down to the oceans depths for the last time.

Paulding was making nearly eighteen knots when a lookout spotted the periscopes and shears of S-4 coming up close



S-4's torpedo room showing the four 21" tubes.
There were no aft tubes.



Battery room and crew's berthing. Located just aft the torpedo room.

sition. She then stopped and waited for the sub to surface. It didn't. The men inside the boat were thrown about by the impact. Some in the Battery Compartment started to jam whatever was handy into the stream of water to stem the flow. The inrush was, however, too great and it was readily obvious that the Battery Compartment would have to be abandoned. Six men were in the Torpedo Room and slammed the door shut, dogging it tight. The remainder of the crew that were in the Battery Compartment made their way up the steepening deck to the Control Room door and when all had made it through, the door was shut and dogged. The water continued to fill the Battery Compartment, compressing the air inside. The battery well held tight and did not leak too much. The pressure in the bubble of air in the upper aft end of the space rose to about 50 pounds per square inch flooding Control.

The initial stream of water spray and air had shorted sections of the switchboard throwing the entire boat into the dark. The commanding officer ordered the space evacuated and when all the personnel in Control had made their way back to the Engine Room, he slammed and dogged the door. Now the crew was in serious trouble. There were fourteen men in the Engine Room with an additional fourteen in the Motor Room. The air was foul with chlorine; it was dark and getting cold fast. When at last, the noise of rushing water had stopped and the boat got quiet, it was obvious that access to Control Room was out of the question. There was



S-4's control room.

no way to lift the stern of the boat as USS S-5 (SS-110) had done. The only thing left was to wait for help.

The rest of the story is a tragedy of divers struggling to save those left of the crew and failing. The boat was a pivot point in the story of submarine design. The first production model of a standard government design, she had a tragic accident which led to better cooperation in navigation by setting aside areas for submarine operations and requiring other ships not transit these places. The death of her crew and the painful inability of the Navy to be able to rescue them became the basis for an effort to make submarine escape and salvage a viable option. The men died but the legacy they left saved the life of at least forty-six others because they used the devices invented and may have



S-4 in dry dock after the salvage operation

saved an untold number more because of the improved safety and navigation required after the accident.

S-4 was finally raised on 17 March 1928 and towed to the Boston Navy Yard for dry docking. She was decommissioned on the 19th.

S-4 was recommissioned on 16 October, after repairs. She served at Key West, Florida, early in 1929 and 1930, and in the northeast during the remainder of those years. In 1931, she operated again at New London until departing there on 3 January 1932 for Pearl Harbor. Sailing via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Pearl on 29 August. On 7 April 1933, S-4 was decommissioned and laid up. She was struck from the Navy List on 15 January 1936 and destroyed on 15 March by sinking.

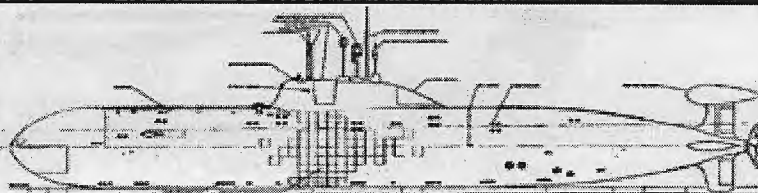
Submarines . . . of Today

Fire Onboard a Russian "Akula"

Akula On Fire

On November 2nd, a Russian Akula (Bars, in Russian) nuclear attack submarine caught fire while undergoing refurbishment in a north (Arctic) coast shipyard. The sub did not have any nuclear fuel aboard. The fire started when a welder's torch ignited some rags, which quickly spread to temporary wood planking, laid down to protect the compartment floor during reconstruction. The fire spread quickly, and the workers fled. The compartment was no longer airtight, because of the construction work, so sealing it off did not work. Eventually water and foam had to be used. Several firemen were injured from toxic fumes, created when the fire reached plastic material in open cable conduits.

The Akulas are large boats, displacing about 10,000 tons on the surface, and carry twelve Granat (SS-N-21) cruise missiles, which have a 3,000 kilometer range and usually contain a nuclear warhead. It is a recent design and one of the quietists in the Russian fleet. The damaged boat, the K-317 "Panther", previously had a captain who received an award for staying on the tail of a U.S. SSBN for 150 hours straight in the late 1990s. The K-317 has been in service for fifteen years.



Class type: NATO: Nuclear powered attack submarine (SSN)
Displacement: 5,700 - 7,500 tons surfaced
7,900 - 9,100 tons submerged
7,900 - 9,500 tons submerged (Akula-II)

Length: 354' - 366'6" (sources vary); Beam: 42'4"; Draft: 31'6"

Propulsion and power: 1x190 MW PWR
1 steam turbine 43,000 hp (32 MW)
2 turbogenerators producing 2,000 kW
1 seven-bladed propeller
2 retractable electric propulsors

Speed: 20 knots surf., 35 knots sub.
Test depth: 1,476'; never-exceed-depth 1,804', 1,969'-2,165' calculated
crush depth

Complement: 25 Officers, 26 Enlisted

Armament: - 4x533mm torpedo tubes (plus six ext. 533 mm tubes on
- Improved Akulas and Akula II's)
- 4x650 mm torpedo tubes
- Storage space for up to forty torpedoes/mines/missiles
etc.
- 1xSA-18 surface-to-air launcher fired from sail.
(To be used if the sub is forced to remain surfaced)

WWII - Boats

Short Facts

* During 1944, 117 navy and air force personnel were rescued by U.S. Subs; The Tang (O'Kane) picked up 22 for the leader in this category.

* During 1944 Japan lost 56 submarines, 7 to U.S. Submarines.

* On Nov. 21, 1944, Sealion II (Reich) fired a salvo of fish at each of two BB's, the Kongo and Haruna. The Kongo was hit and sunk, but the DD Urakazi intercepted the fish meant for Haruna and was instantly sunk.

Return To:

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13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252**

<http://perch-base.org>



85008+1128 0014



**NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Jan. 20, 2006
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3534 W Calavar Rd.
Phoenix, AZ**