



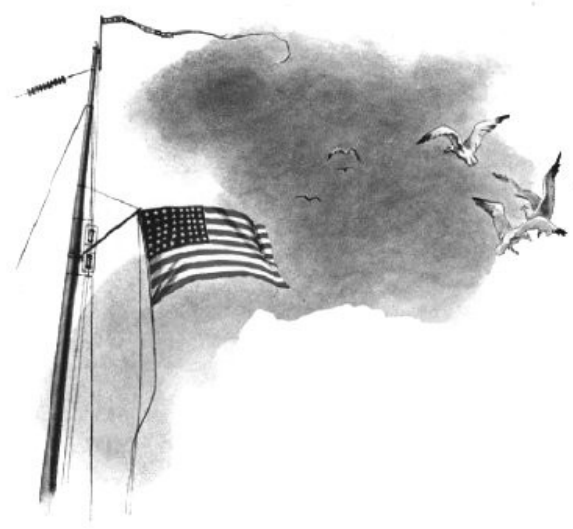
February 2007
Volume 13 - Issue 2



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

<http://perch-base.org>

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Barbel	SS316	Feb. 4, 1945	81 men
USS Shark	SS174	Feb. 11, 1942	58 men
USS Amberjack	SS219	Feb. 16, 1943	74 men
USS Grayback	SS208	Feb. 26, 1944	80 men
USS Trout	SS202	Feb. 29, 1944	81 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. These supplemental donors are called the "Booster Club."



2007 Booster Club

David Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, Ted Asbell, Reynaldo Atos, Gary Bartlett, Kenneth Becker, Ronald Beyer, Bradley Butler, John Cash, Charles Chapman, Roger Cousin, George Crider, Jim Denzien, Harry Ellis, Joe Errante, Ray Lee Graybeal, Charles Greene, Billy Grieves, William Grissom, Robert Hanson, Ed Hawkins, Harry Heller, Glenn Herold, Lester Hillman, Gerald Holloway, Stephen Hough, Davy Jones, Mike Keating, Jack Kimball, Ron Kloch, Darrell Lambert, Robert Lancendorfer, Doug LaRock, Burtis Loftin, George Marions, Terry Martin, Bob May, Jack McCarthy, William McNay, Alan Miller, Paul Miller, Roger M. Miller, Roger R. Miller, Joseph Mullins, Jim Nelson, James F. Newman, Joseph Otreba, Nicholas Pappas, Wayne Pettes, Scott Prothero, Larry Rankin, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Frank Rumbaugh, Mel Rycus, Raymond Schaeffer, Emil Schoonejans, Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, Wayne Kirk Smith, Adrian Stuke, Jim Thomson, William Tippett, Phillip Wagner, Jim Wall, Forrest Watson, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin, Ronald Zomok, Al Landeck, David C. Jones, Walter Blomgren, Royce Pettit, James W. Newman, Ed Wolf, Tim Moore, George Long, Joe Bernard, Ray Samson, Tom Fooshee, Jim Edwards, Bob Nance, Milton Magart, John Welsh, George Woods, Donald Whitehead, Jerry Allston, Jack Messersmith, Dave Harnish, Chuck Emmett, Raymond Marshall, Robert Sungy, Ben Acosta, Ken Schonauer, David Carpenter



**BASE OFFICERS
COMMANDER:**

Tim Moore
5751 W. Bloomfield Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85304-1832
(602) 574-3286

seawolfssn575@qwest.net

VICE COMMANDER:

Stan Reinhold
8318 North 97th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345-3709
(623) 536-6547

sreinhold@cox.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Jim Denzien
2027 South 85th Ln.
Tolleson, AZ 85353-8752
(623) 547-7945

jdenzien@cox.net

COB:

Bob Gilmore
11451 N 114th Dr.
Youngtown, AZ 85363
623-202-6256

perchbasecob@yahoo.com

MIDWATCH EDITOR:

Chuck Emmett
7011 West Risner Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85308-8072
(623) 466-9569

chuckster41@earthlink.net

STOREKEEPER:

Jim Nelson
9503 W. Spanish Moss Ln.
Sun City, AZ 85373-1741
(623) 972-1044

sub489@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP & WEBMASTER:

Ramon Samson
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252
(623) 815-9247

rsamsonss328@cox.net

CHAPLAIN:

Warner H. Doyle
13600 W. Roanoke Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-2236
(623) 935-3830

d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net

HISTORIAN:

James W. Newman
3422 North 51st Place
Phoenix, AZ 85018-6120
(602) 840-7788

jimnewmanss483@aol.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ben Acosta
12574 W. Monterey Way
Avondale, AZ 85323
(623) 261-6744

retiredjefe@cox.net

Sailing Orders



**Next Regular Meeting
Feb. 17, 2006,
American Legion Post #105
3534 W Calavar Rd.
Phoenix, AZ**

**Special Guest Speaker
International Submarine
Veteran's Conference held in
St. Petersburg and Moscow
last year**

**March Base Meeting
Special Guest Speaker!**



**Learn about the Bathyscaphe
Trieste II (DSV-1).**

From the Wardroom *Base Commander's Message*

Dear Shipmates,

Our January meeting was a huge success, we had some 45 attendees which is the most I have ever seen at one of our local meetings. I was extremely pleased with the turnout and I am confident that a contributing factor was that we had a guest speaker, Bill Lee. For those of you who were not in attendance or don't know Bill, he wears a lot of hats. He is Vice Commander of Lockwood Base, Secretary of the Cyberspace Base and Base Commanders Group and Webmaster for the Tucson Base. He also manages the USSVI Boat Sponsorship Program for which he made the presentation at our meeting. I want to encourage as many members as possible to participate in this program as it is well worthwhile, can be a good recruiting tool and is appreciated by those who receive the benefits. I also want to thank Bill again for his fine presentation.

One of our goals for this year is to do some things to create more interest and participation in the monthly meetings and our first step is to line up guest speakers, like Bill, for each of these meetings. So far we have the February and March slots filled. This month we have Ken Earls from Gudgeon Base who will make a PowerPoint presentation about the International Submarine Veteran's Conference held in St. Petersburg and Moscow last year. I believe Jim Dunn will be participating in this presentation. Next month our guest is Les Parson who was one of the skippers of the Trieste. These will be very interesting presentations that you all will enjoy so plan on attending. I know some of you have some contacts that are willing to make presentations. To make arrangements for these guest speakers, feel free to contact either Stan Reinhold or me and we will put them on the schedule.

We have projects in the works for which we need to keep the momentum moving forward. These include the WWII Submarine Veterans Caucus and Western Region Conference in early April (**EDITOR: Registration forms on the next two pages of this newsletter.**) and we also have a wonderful opportunity to participate in a major parade sponsored by Riverside County. It will be a "Salute to Veterans II" and will be held on April 21st. We are making arrangements to take our Perch Base float to this parade so anyone interested in participating and/or helping with this project should contact Dave Harnish, Jim Denzien or me. We would be most grateful and need you to support this effort. This is a golden opportunity for us to gain a great deal of exposure as we are expecting major media coverage. Your shipmates, Perch Base and the USSVI look forward to your participation in our upcoming events.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

*** **MIDWATCH NEWSLETTER** ***

Article Submission Deadlines

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

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
March 2007	Friday, Mar. 2nd
April 2007	Friday, Apr. 6th
May 2007	Friday, May 4th

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

1st Annual Joint SOUTHWEST/WESTERN REGION CAUCUS

U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII/Submarine Veterans, Inc.

April 8 – 13, 2007

Ramada Express Casino/Hotel

Laughlin, Nevada

Schedule of Events

- April 8 Arrival Day
- April 9 0800 Flag Raising – California – Hawaii – Arizona (Ben Benites)
Monday 1000 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Coronado Room
 1300 “On the Wings of Eagles” – Pavilion Room – Welcome SubVets WWII
 Ed Armstrong, CA State CDR (Host), Anne Stilkey, CA State CDR Wives (Co-Host)
 Jim Burnett, LA Chapter Pres., Kay Staggs, LA Chapter Pres. Wives (Host Chapter)
 Clarence Scott, 2nd VP, Bill Gattis, Dir SWR, Men, Deanne Ryan, Dir SWR Wives.
 Welcome U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc. Western Region Director Dave Harnish,
 Western District 5 Rocky Rockers, Western District Six, Michael Bircumshaw, C.J.
 Glassford, Chaplain, Lou Constance, COB
- April 10 0800 Flag Raising – Colorado – New Mexico – Idaho (Ben Benites)
Tuesday 0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room
 0900 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD1 & WD2 – Coronado Room
 0900 Arizona Ladies State Meeting – Santa Fe Room
 1000 California Ladies State Meeting – Santa Fe Room
 1000 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD3 & WD4 – Coronado Room
 1200 Spring Fling – Ladies Luncheon – Fashion Show
 1400 Arizona Men’s State Meeting – Santa Fe Room
 1500 California Men’s State Meeting – Santa Fe Room
 1900 FUN NIGHT – Pavilion Room – Show/Music/Gazoo
- April 11 0800 Flag Raising – Utah – Montana – Wyoming (Ben Benites)
Wed. 0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room
 0900 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD5 & WD6 – Coronado Room
 1300 Submarine Day – “SPIRIT OF AMERICA” – “SUBMARINES” – Pavilion Room
 1800 SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY DINNER - Pavilion Room –Guest Speaker ComSubRon 11
- April 12 0800 Flag Raising – Nevada – Washington – Oregon (Ben Benites)
Thurs. 0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room
 1000 Men’s Southwest Regional Meeting – Coronado Room
 1000 Ladies Southwest Regional Meeting – Santa Fe Room
 1100 Submarine Veterans, Inc. Western Region Meeting – Coronado Room
 1400 Submarine Memorial - Tolling of the Boats – “Submarines” – Pavilion Room
 1800 Social Hour – Pavilion Room
 1900 Banquet – Pavilion Room – Guest Speaker – “Big Al”/ RADM Mark Kinney ???????
- April 13 Departure Day – See you next year – **Stay IN TOUCH – PRIDE RUNS DEEP – GOD BLESS**

RESERVATIONS: RAMADA EXPRESS 1-800-243-6846 RATE: \$20.00 + 9% TAX CODE 11896

**1st Annual Joint Southwest/Western Regional Caucus
 U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII
 Submarine Veterans, Inc.
 California/Arizona State Meetings
 April 9 - 12, 2007
 Ramada Express Hotel, Laughlin, NV; 800-243-6846**

SubVetWWII ___ SubVet, Inc. ___ Chapter/Base _____ Rm# ___ Twr ___

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Emergency
 Contact Phone _____ Name _____ Relationship _____

Boats/ Relief Crews _____

		Number	Amount
Registration Fee Per Person	\$8.00	_____	_____
Raffle 50/50 Book of six (6) Tickets	\$5.00	_____	_____
Submarine Day Dinner April 11			
Hot Hors d'Oeuvres E/Carving Station	\$20.00	_____	_____
Spaghetti & Meatballs/Lasagna			
Ladies Luncheon April 12	\$20.00	_____	_____
Shrimp Louis Salad		_____	_____
Chicken Cordon Bleu		_____	_____
Banquet & Dance April 12	\$32.00	_____	_____
Grilled New York Steak		_____	_____
Grilled Swordfish		_____	_____
		TOTAL	_____

**Note: Registration fee is a prerequisite for attending any activity and is not refundable.
 Mail this registration form and checks payable to U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII to
 Hal Silverman, 15142 Vermont St., Westminster, CA 92683. Phone: 714-897-5002**

**Please make room reservations direct with the Ramada Express @ 1-800-243-6846 prior to 3-15-07.
 Deluxe rooms are \$20.00 plus tax per night per person. Group Code: 11896.**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(continued)

Shipmate: This message to the bases is sent out as a "blind cc to all the bases." Please give message this wide distribution to all your base members.

Our National Webmaster, Greg Stitz, had a computer meltdown and is still in the process of rebuilding his POC list. Thanks for your understanding.

Pat Householder, NJVC

ITEM 1: The 2007 Awards Program is now posted at www.ussvi.org. Click on the AWARDS button, then PROGRAM for a description of each National Award, the nominating process, timelines and other important information.

The following eight Awards are open for nomination of candidates as of Feb 1, 2007

1. Joe Negri Award (USSVI Submarine Veteran of the Year)
2. Robert Link National Commander's Award
3. District Commanders' Award
4. Golden Anchor Award
5. Silver Anchor Award
6. Meritorious Award
7. Ben Bastura Award
8. The Base Commanders' "Achievement" Award (See separate attachment, same website)

Paul Orstad (hogan343@aol.com) has again been appointed to the position of National Awards Review Chairman, for the purpose of ensuring that the process has been accurately followed, completed, and appropriately documented so that no nomination will fail to be considered for the award nominated by you.

Submitted by

Arthur
USSVI Awards Program Chair

Randall

ITEM 2: Drydock Overhaul Photos of USS Pampanito (SS 383)

USS Pampanito (SS 383), the museum submarine at Pier 45 on the San Francisco waterfront, recently went into drydock for overhaul. By visiting the link below you can see the progress photos of the old gal. It's enough to warm the cockles (whatever the 'ell they are) of any diesel boat sailor's heart, or those Nuc Boat sailors that love the old boats too.

<http://www.w5blt.com/Pampanito/Pampanito2007.htm>

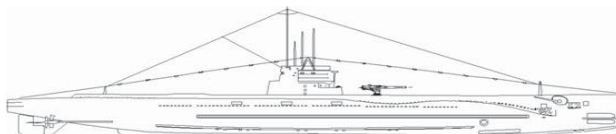
These museum boats represent our priceless heritage as SubVets and I for one am very thankful whenever I see the boats being overhauled like this.

Keep this link because more photos will be added until she comes out of drydock. A special thanks to Harry Nystrom of Dolphin & Mare Island Base for supplying the photos and to Bob Prater of Mare Island Base for creating the website.

Enjoy

Pat
NJVC

Householder



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(continued)

Shipmates,

A large opportunity has just presented itself and I am hoping to take positive advantage of the situation.

The county of Riverside is sponsoring a major parade, "Salute to Veterans II" on the 21st of April. I have contacted the officials in charge and am receiving all of the necessary applications and information within the next day or so.

There are several opportunities available including significant press coverage for the Inland Empire and I would like to invite and then see a large contingent of Sub Vets Inc and WWII Sub Vets involved in this event. I will send out the pertinent information shortly.

For any and all Bases in WD6 I am looking for any kind of a float. Maybe we can solicit our neighbors to the East. I know that the Tucson Base has a spectacular parade float, and I am hoping there are others. I have a truck that can pull a float . . . count on me!

I am looking at any and all Western Region for assistance here. This can be a biggie. This may have TV coverage as well. We talk about this sort of thing all the time. Now we can make it happen.

Please get back to me with your interest and possibility of attendance. The Parade needs observers as well.

Best,

T Michael Bircumshaw
USSVI WD6 Commander
WD6@SubVets.com
951-587-8469

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

Well ladies, another election is almost upon us and you really need to decide who you want to be your next President. We will be taking nominations at our next meeting on Feb. 17 at Taylor' Chowders House. Please be prepared to bring your opinions and ideas.

Happy Birthday to all our February Babies.

Mary Denzien – 2/3

Dorothy Crider – 2/12

Delores Newman – 2/15

Hiromi Povio – 2/26

I hope to see all you at our next exciting meeting.

All my Best

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

Perch Base Inducts New Holland Club Member



"The requirement's for membership in the Holland Club is determined by Section 5 of the USSVI Constitution. Basically a member must be qualified 50 or more years, and is either, a life member and a member in good standing for one year, or an annual member in good standing for 5 consecutive years."

Shipmates,

Arizona Sub Vets, USSVI Perch Base is proud to present their members, who are "Qualified 50 Years" as of 2007 and are therefore honorable members of the:
Holland Club

All four are members in good standing for 2007.

James F. Clewett (Qual) 1957

James J. Cooper (Qual) 1957

Gerald Holloway (Qual) 1956

Robert A. Sungy (Qual) 1957



FRANK WILLIAM RUMBAUGH, TMC(SS) RET. - passed away on January 16, 2007, after a valiant battle with cancer. He was born on July 8, 1934 in Grand Rapids, MI.

Frank was a Past Base Commander of Arizona Subvets, Perch Base, of which he was one of its founders. He was also a member of the Navy League, Honolulu Council, The American Legion, VFW, DAV, Fleet Reserve, US Submarine Veterans – San Diego Base and NRA.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 followed by Internment at the National Veterans Cemetery on Cave Creek Road.

In his memory, contributions may be made to Perch Base, c/o Jim Denzien, Treasurer, 2027 S. 85th Lane, Tolleson, AZ 85252-8752

SAILOR REST YOUR OAR

*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*

January Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 20 January 2007. Tim Moore, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

The membership was led in a prayer of invocation by Joe Bernard followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony for boats lost in January was followed by a moment of silence and a tolling of the bell for Shipmate Frank Rumbaugh, who left on eternal patrol on Jan. 16.

Guests at the meeting included Jack Messersmith, Gudgeon Base Commander who introduced George Syler, a WWII submarine veteran; Brad Veek, Gudgeon Base Treasurer; Bob Bailey from Gudgeon Base; Shipmate George Debo introduced some submarine friends from Pebble Creek: Karl Bergstrom and Bernie Fromm; Shipmate Jim Nelson introduced Terry Cash who is being reinstated as a member; National Senior Vice Commander Jim Foote, who is becoming a Perch Base member.

According to the sailing list, there were forty-five members and guests present.

Minutes from the November 2006 regular meeting as published in the Midwatch were approved.

Treasurer Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of January 2007. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

Base Vice Commander – Stan Reinhold reported that Les Parsons, former OIC of the bathyscaph Trieste, would be giving a presentation at the March meeting.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore was not present.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not present.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that the “delinquency” rate was 9 %. Notices were sent to “dinks”.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett reported that he appreciates the input for the newsletter. Keep the input coming.

Ship’s Storekeeper – Jim Nelson stated that if any additional items were desired to be carried in the Ship’s Store to let him know.

Old Business

Base Commander Tim Moore stated that one of the highest priorities in the near future is the March election of new officers. Interested individuals are encouraged to make their wishes known.

Western Regional Director Dave Harnish gave an update on the plans for the conference to be conducted on April 9-14 in Laughlin NV. Registration forms and agendas were made available to the membership.

The base is looking into the possibility of replacing our float with one that is a replica of the USS Phoenix SSN-702. Fact-finding is currently going on. We are getting information from the members of Tucson base who have recently finished a similar project. The results will be furnished to the membership when available.

Tim Moore mentioned that the sale of advertising (business cards) in the Midwatch needs to be considered again as a source of revenue. There were no ads in the January issue. Sale of the advertising may assist in paying for the new float project.

Tim Moore reported that he had contacted Groton Base concerning their satellite base program. It may be a possible solution for an “east valley” base. Their program appears to be working well.

New Business

Base Commander Tim Moore also mentioned that all hands should be thinking of our goals and objectives for the year 2007. Some items to be included are participation in Luke Days at Luke AFB and again having an informational booth at the Thunderbird Balloon and Air Classic in Goodyear.

We should be thinking of the annual base picnic. We have not discussed this recently and we need to be planning it soon. Dave Harnish will find out about the availability of the Live Steamers area.

Good of the Order

Shipmate Jim Nelson received a round of applause for his selection as “Sailor of the Year” for 2006.

A prayer was offered for the safety of Brent Nelson who will soon be stationed with the Army in Iraq.

Comments were made by the attendees at Admiral Vernon Clark’s presentation at the Pebble Creek Theater. The presentation was outstanding and those that did not attend missed a fine gathering. The Admiral met with the attendees after the presentation. Thanks to George Debo for his efforts in bring the presentation to our attention.

Tim Moore reported on upcoming guest speakers: Ken Earls in February and Les Parsons in March.

Bill Lee, member of Tucson Base and the National Boat Sponsorship Program Chairman, made a presentation on the Boat Sponsorship Program. He spoke of the benefits of sponsoring people, submarines and organizations. He also indicated that the program has greatly expanded in the recent past and the support is appreciated.

It was announced that shipmate Al Landeck, Vice Commander of Gudgeon Base, has suffered a stroke.

The Subvettes will be conducting a raffle to raise money for scholarships and that pictures of the items would be placed on the website.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Jim Edwards.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

Joe Bernard offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1412.

Jim Denzien, Base Secretary/Treasurer, Perch Base



SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES *January*

The Presiding Officer called the meeting to order at 12:25pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nancy Nelson and the opening prayer conducted by Sandy Bernard.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all!!!

Instead of our usual trinket raffle, we are going to start a running raffle on two beautiful handmade items — poncho and blanket — created by our own Secretary, Jacqui. All proceeds will go to the Kay Harnish Memorial Scholarship Fund. Tickets will be \$5 each or six for \$25. We would like to raise at least \$1,000 to match the donation from our Treasury, to make it worthwhile. This raffle will continue until we hit our goal.

Since we haven't had a meeting since November, we have no minutes to approve.

Hiromi gave our Treasurers Report and Sandy gave the Chaplains Report.

OLD BUSINESS

The only thing — and I have mentioned this before — our elections are in March, so we have only two months to recruit a new President. I think we have figured out the rest of our slate of officers, but someone needs to step up and take charge for the next two years. Any thoughts???

NEW BUSINESS

I'm sure you've all heard that our beloved Layne lost her "SWEETHEART" Frank on Jan. 16. The services will be held (sic) Jan 24 at Shadow Mountain Mortuary, 2350 E. Greenway, at 11 am followed by interment at the National Veterans Cemetery on Cave Creek Road. Layne mentioned that she is putting together a luncheon after, but I'm not sure she has finalized those arrangements yet.

I brought a card for all of us to sign for Layne, but is there anything else, you can think of, that we can do for her, as a group? (DISCUSSION): Donation to USSVI from SubVettes in Frank's name.

I received some exciting news a couple of weeks ago. Bobbi Landeck sent me an email inviting me to their "SubVette" organization meeting in Prescott Valley on Feb 10. This will be the second SubVette base formed in Arizona, which is a great coup for Arizona.

I'm sure if any of you would like to attend, you would be welcome, just let me know and I'll give them the count.

Also I would like for us to compose something for our National News Letter regarding our raffle for Kay. The dead line for the next one is Feb 15. I'd like to submit written copy and some pictures of the items. Maybe we can generate some National attention to our raffle and meet our goal really soon. Who can help with this project? (DISCUSSION): Hiromi will help with the written copy for the web site and the MidWatch.

Officer nominations will be held next month at the February meeting.

We need to put in our orders for our new shirts with dolphins in a circle. You need to contact Nancy with the type of shirt, size, color and style. Also, indicate where you want the dolphins to be placed. Is there anything else you want on the shirt.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Birthday to our Jan & Feb Babies:

JoAnne Norwood – 1/24
Mary Denzien – 2/3
Dorothy Crider – 2/12
Delores Newman – 2/15
Hiromi Povio – 2/26

Any other business we need to discuss?

We need to make an effort to have the wives of our Sub Veterans join us. We discussed several different ways. Sending a Card and inviting them to join us at our next meeting, have a couple of get-togethers so we can know each other. Maybe go to a winery where they taste wine. Do something for the ladies so that they will remember us.

Our next meeting will be held here on Feb 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Commander

Jim Clewett
PO Box 959
Snowflake, AZ 85937
(928) 536-7390
loji53@skyboot.com

Vice Commander:

Dick Jarenski
PO Box 9
Overgaard, AZ 85933
(928) 535-5405
rjarenski@aol.com

Treasurer:

Armand DePrins
PO Box 955
Snowflake, AZ 85937
(928) 536-6776
Simonne@frontiernet.net

Secretary:

Steve Day
5621 N. 19th St
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 277-3877
stephen.day@cox.net

Storekeeper:

Doug Eddy
PO Box 688
Heber, AZ 85928
(928) 535 3388

**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.



Meeting Minutes

Members present for the December 2006 meeting (Christmas Party – number in party in parentheses) were: Jim Clewett (2), Phil Caster (2), Armand DePrins (2), Frank Nagle (2), Charles Jones (2), Steve Day (2), Ken Shade (3), Buck Biddle (6), Doug Eddy (2), Eugene Quinlan (2), Delbert Forpahl (3) and John Allbritton (2).

The meeting was called to order at 1915 hours with a prayer, invocation, Tolling of the Bell, Pledge of Allegiance, and reading of Our Creed. There were many guests present and no minutes to read. \$3,260.92 was reported in the base treasury.

Congratulations to George Ryan who was married last weekend. Adam has requested that someone take over the duties of Base Historian. Please pay your Base (\$10) and National (\$20) Dues

We need to support the Ship's Store – buy stuff! There are T-shirts with Base Patches and golf shirts are available. Jim will be out of the area from 12/20 through 1/20.

A motion was made seconded and passed to cancel the January meeting. The February 17th meeting will be held at the Snowflake Golf Course.

Mrs. Forpahl won the small Christmas tree in a raffle and Mrs. Eddy won the small carved bear in a raffle.

There is a 2-page article in the Maverik about John McDonald.

The meeting was adjourned at 1935 hours with a closing prayer.

GOLF

Doug Eddy wants to play a round of golf after the meeting on the 17th of Feb. which will be held at the snowflake golf course. Please let all members know so that they can bring their golf clubs if the weather permits.

Thanks,

Jim





Eternal Patrol Feb. 16, 1943

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. Amberjack (SS-219) 74 men lost

USS Amberjack (SS-219) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship named for the amberjack, a vigorous sport fish found in the western Atlantic from New England to Brazil.

Her keel was laid by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut, on 15 May 1941. She was launched on 6 March 1942 sponsored by Mrs. Randall Jacobs, and commissioned on 19 June 1942, with Lieutenant Commander John A. Bole, Jr., in command.

First patrol, September – October 1942

After shakedown training in waters off New London, Connecticut, and Newport, Rhode Island, Amberjack got underway on 20 July, bound for the Pacific. She transited the Panama Canal in mid-August and reached Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 20 August. Following training exercises, Amberjack got underway for her first war patrol on 3 September. Two days later, she touched at Johnston Island to refuel and, later that day, resumed her voyage to her patrol area between the northeast coast of New Ireland and Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

On 15 September, Amberjack was patrolling off Kavieng, New Ireland. Three days later, she made contact with a large Japanese transport escorted by a destroyer and fired a spread of four torpedoes at the vessels, but none hit. While patrolling in Bougainville Strait on 19 September, the submarine fired two torpedoes at an enemy



The Gato-class submarine was the state of the art in American design at the start of World War II. Using the previous Tambor-class submarine as a basis, Gatos incorporated improvements to increase their overall patrol and combat abilities. Modifications to the diesel engines and batteries increased patrol duration over Tambors, and internal alterations provided more amenities for the crew. The class is named after its lead ship, USS Gato (SS-212).

Displacement: 1,526 tons surf., 2,424 tons sub.
Length: 311ft 9 in, Beam: 27 ft 3in, Draft: 15 ft 3in
Test depth: 300ft., Speed: 20 knots surf., 9 knots sub.
Armament: 10 x 21 in torpedo tubes (6 forward, 4 aft, 24 torpedoes)
1 x 3/50 cal AA gun, 2 x .50 cal, and 2 x .30 cal machineguns
Crew: 80 – 85 officers and men
Powerplant: •4 x 1350 hp 16cyl GM 278A diesels
(except SS228-239 and SS275-284 10cyl Fairbanks-Morse 38D-1/8),
•2 x 1370 hp GE electric motors
(except SS228-235 Elliott Motor or SS257-264 Allis-Chalmers)
(two 126-cell Exide main storage batteries
{except SS.261, 275-278, & 280 Gould})
Range: •11,800 nm at 10 knots surf, 100nm at 3 knots sub.
Submerged Endurance: 48 hours

freighter. The first hit under the target's bridge, and the second broke her keel in two. Amberjack was credited with having sunk the passenger-cargo vessel Shirogane Maru.

The submarine made her next contact with Japanese shipping on 25 September, spotting a large cruiser escorted by a destroyer. However, before the submarine could get into position for an attack, the destroyer headed toward her and forced her to go deep. Several depth charges were dropped on



the submarine, but they inflicted no damage. During the next few days, Amberjack reconnoitered Tau, Kilinailau, Greenwich Island, and Ocean Island.

Amberjack spotted a Japanese cruiser on the morning of 30 September and launched four torpedoes from her bow tubes. None hit, so she fired another two forward tubes shortly thereafter. These also went wide of the mark, and the cruiser escaped damage. One week later, the submarine was patrolling off Kavieng when she spotted smoke on the horizon. After a Japanese cargo ship sailed into view, Amberjack fired two torpedoes. One missed forward and the other hit the target's hull forward. The enemy ship was still able to continue under her own power and Amberjack took up pursuit. About one hour later, both sides opened fire with their deck guns but neither was within range of the other and they broke off fire. After two more hours of the chase, the submarine fired a slow speed torpedo which hit its target five minutes later. The cargo vessel, later identified as Senkai Maru, swung left and seemed to stop. Its bow swung up in the air, the ship took a vertical position, and sank from sight shortly thereafter. Lifeboats carrying the cargo ship's survivors were later spotted as the submarine headed for Kavieng.

While patrolling off Kavieng Harbor on 10 October, Amberjack spotted Japanese ships in the harbor and launched four torpedoes into the anchorage. One damaged a freighter and another damaged a large 13,500-ton whale factory, Tonan Maru II, which was being used to ferry airplanes. The vessel sank in shallow water, but was later salvaged, towed to Japan for repairs, and was returned to service. On 16 October, the submarine headed for Espiritu Santo for repairs to her ballast tanks and arrived there on 19 October. While undergoing repairs, she was assigned the task of hauling aviation gas, bombs, and personnel to Guadalcanal. While en route to the Solomons, her destination was changed to Tulagi. She arrived there on 25 October and unloaded her embarked troops and cargo under the cover of darkness. The next day, she set course for Brisbane, Australia, and reached that port on 30 October.

Second patrol, November 1942 – January 1943

After a refit alongside Griffin (AS-13) and a series of training exercises, Amberjack began her second war patrol on 21 November. On the morning of 27 November, the submarine encountered two enemy destroyers which were probably carrying supplies for Japanese forces on Guadalcanal. While launching four torpedoes from her stern tubes, the submarine heard the screws of a third ship crossing ahead of her bow. None of the torpedoes hit their target, and the submarine began to take action to avoid depth charges. Approximately two hours later, all sounds had faded away; and the submarine rose to the surface to look for signs of damage. She spotted nothing so she assumed a new station at the southern end of the eastern entrance to Shortland Harbor.



On 29 November, while on patrol ten miles east of the Treasury Islands, Amberjack spotted a surfaced Japanese submarine. Before she could set up an attack, however, the enemy vessel rapidly drew away. She again saw a Japanese submarine on 3 December proceeding toward the entrance to Shortland harbor and sent four torpedoes toward the fleeing enemy, but all failed to hit. During the next one and one-half weeks, she made numerous ship contacts, but carried out no attacks. On 15 December, the submarine sighted a convoy consisting of four or five ships on a course for Rabaul and fired two torpedoes at a large freighter, one at a small tanker, and one more at a small freighter. However, she apparently inflicted no damage on any of the targets.

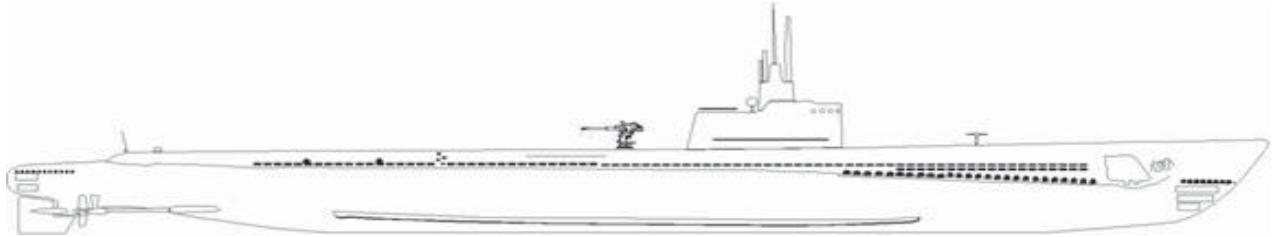
Her next contact occurred on 20 December. While patrolling submerged, Amberjack began hearing a series of explosions which drew closer and closer. She surfaced and saw two Japanese destroyer escorts, which soon thereafter began raining depth charges on the submarine. Within the space of one minute, six exploded close aboard, shook the vessel considerably, and caused numerous broken light bulbs forward. Some fittings mounted on the overhead were broken off, and several valves were sprung open. However, the submarine suffered no crippling damage and moved on to continue her patrol off the northeast coast of New Ireland.

She spotted another Japanese ship on 3 January 1943, a destroyer which apparently was waiting to rendezvous with a convoy from the Palau Islands. The submarine was unable to attack the ship and, two days later, set a course for Brisbane. She reached that port on 11 January and safely concluded her patrol.

Third patrol, January – February 1943

Following this patrol the submarine's period of refit was cut to 12 days due to the urgent need for submarines to patrol enemy infested waters. She got underway on 24 January but was forced to return to Brisbane for repair of minor leaks which developed during a deep dive. Again departing Brisbane on 26 January 1943, Amberjack started her third war patrol in the Solomons area. On 29 January she was directed to pass close to Tetipari Island and then proceed to the northwest and patrol the approaches to Shortland Basin. Orders were radioed on 1 February for her to move north and patrol the western approaches to Buka Passage. Having complied with these orders, Amberjack made her first miles southeast of Treasury Island on 1 February, and of sinking a two-masted schooner by gunfire twenty miles from Buka the afternoon of 3 February 1943. At this time she was ordered to move south along the Buka-Shortland traffic lane and patrol east of Vella Lavella Island.

In a second radio transmission on 4 February, Amberjack reported having sunk a 5000-ton freighter laden with explosives in a two-hour night surface attack that date in which five torpedoes were fired. During this engagement Chief Pharmacist's



Mate Arthur C. Beeman was killed by machine gun fire, and an officer was slightly wounded in the hand. On 8 February, Amberjack was ordered to move to the west side of Ganongga Island and on 10 February, she was directed to keep south of latitude 7°30'S and to cover the traffic routes from Rabaul and Buka to Shortland Basin. On 13 February Amberjack was assigned the entire Rabaul-Buka-Shortland Sea area and told to hunt for traffic.

The last radio transmission received from Amberjack was made on 14 February 1943. She related having been forced down the night before by two destroyers, and that she had recovered from the water and taken prisoner an enemy aviator on 13 February. She was ordered north of latitude 6°30'S, and told to keep hunting for Rabaul traffic.

All further messages to Amberjack remained unanswered, and when, by 10 March, she had failed to make her routine report estimating the time of her arrival at base, she was ordered to do so. No reply was received, and she was reported as presumed lost on 22 March 1943.

Reports received from the enemy after the war record an attack which probably sank Amberjack. On 16 February 1943, the torpedo boat Hiyodori and sub chaser Number 18 attacked a U.S. submarine with nine depth charges at about 5°052S 152°372E. An escorting patrol plane had previously attacked the submarine. A large amount of heavy oil and "parts of the hull" came to the surface. This attack is believed to have sunk Amberjack. However, no final conclusions can be drawn, since USS Grampus (SS-207) was lost in the same area at about the same time. From the evidence available, it is considered most likely that the attack of 16 February sank Amberjack, but if she did survive this attack, any one of the attacks and sightings thought to have been made on Grampus might have been made on Amberjack.

Awards

Amberjack won three battle stars for her World War II service, and was credited with sinking three ships, for a total of 28,600 tons while damaging two more ships for 14,000 tons damaged. The enlisted men's recreation center at Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, is named for Chief Pharmacist's Mate Arthur C. Beeman, who was killed in the gun battle of 4 February.



The Submarine Submarines in History

U-Boat STILL capable of being deadly

German Sub Torpedoed In WWII Still Makes Itself Felt In Norway

Mercury Canisters Are threatening Environment

By Alan Cowell and Walter Gibbs, *New London Day*, January 11, 2007

Fedje, Norway — World War II was edging to a close as Kristoffer Karlsen peered from this rocky outcrop off Norway's coast and saw what he took to be a huge explosion some way out to sea.

Twelve years old at the time, he could hardly have realized that he had witnessed a remarkable moment revealing something of Hitler's intentions toward America in the closing stages of the war and presaging a potential ecological disaster 61 years later.

"I knew it was a submarine," said Karlsen, 73, a retired ship's pilot, gesturing across the choppy gray expanse of the North Sea toward the site of the blast on Feb. 9, 1945. On that day, he said in an interview, he was out gathering peat with his grandmother on Fedje (pronounced FEY-yeh), an island that was then, like the rest of Norway, under Nazi occupation.

"It was a big explosion," he said, "but soon after it was calm and there was nothing to see. But in the German garrison there was a lot of activity."

That is hardly surprising.

The plume of water and debris, rising 200 feet into the air, was the result of a torpedo fired from a prowling British submarine, the *Venturer*, that struck the 287-foot German U-boat U-864 amidships at the very start of a clandestine voyage to Japan.



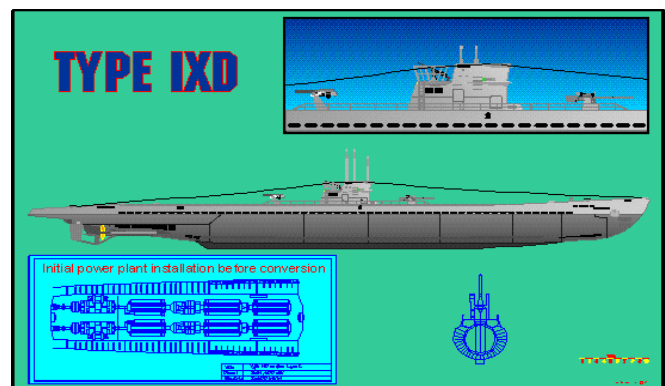
As the German vessel sank in two parts in water more than 400 feet deep, it took with it not only 73 crew members and other personnel but also an estimated 65 tons of mercury for the Japanese munitions industry and, according to some historical accounts, a newly developed German jet fighter engine, technology supposed to give the Axis powers an edge in the closing stages of the war.

Much later there were even rumors — and they remained just that — that the vessel was carrying fabled Nazi gold, or even Hitler's last will and testament.

In 2005 a study published in Britain by the naval historian Mark Felton said there had been a longstanding submarine trade between Japan and Germany in aircraft, missile parts and even information related to the development of an atomic bomb.

"The idea was to keep the Americans tied down in the east" to draw forces away from the campaign in Europe, said Eric Grove, a British naval historian at the University of Salford in northwest England, who has studied the submarine wreck. "Hitler was getting increasingly desperate."

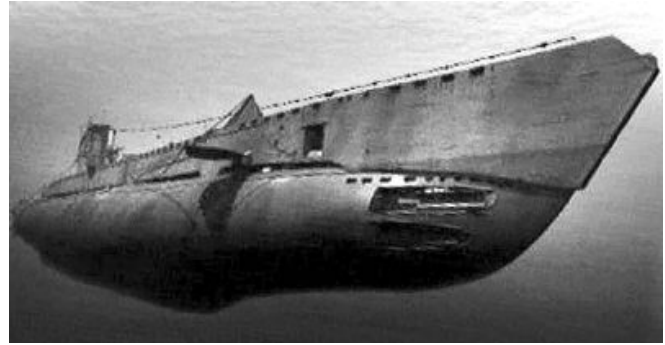
The long saga of U-864 is far from over. Many of the canisters containing the liquid mercury are now corroding. Small amounts have seeped out, and Norwegian government tests around the wreck have detected slightly raised amounts of the metal in crabs and fish — the country's second biggest export, after oil and gas.



Indeed, Kristian Hall, an environmental consultant with a Norwegian engineering firm, said the corroding canisters could produce a threat comparable to the disaster at Minamata, Japan, where some 27 tons of industrial mercury compounds were released into a local bay between 1932 and 1968, causing nerve and brain damage to hundreds of townspeople whose diet consisted in large part of local seafood.

"If it is not taken care of properly it could develop into a catastrophe, with corroding canisters beginning to fail one after the other," Hall said in an interview.

Last month the Norwegian authorities proposed entombing the submarine in a watery sarcophagus, as has been done elsewhere with other underwater hazards.



But Lisbeth Stuberg, an environmental protection officer who is one of the 630 people who live here year-round, said many of the islanders want the wreck removed altogether and are planning a torchlight procession today to protest the government plan.

"There are so many questions and no answers," Stuberg said in an interview on this damp outpost north of Bergen, where the local newspaper has taken to printing a front-page tally of consecutive days of rain (73 by Monday). "If you cover it you do not know the consequences. You are only postponing the problem."

While islanders like Karlsen knew all along where the wreck lay, the Norwegian authorities seem to have paid it little immediate heed. Only in 2003 did the Norwegian navy pin down its precise coordinates.

Officials say they believe that up to a third of the 1,857 flasks of mercury carefully stowed along the keel of the submarine now lie strewn over the seabed, many of them buried in mud, their condition unknown. But cleaning up the mess is a tricky matter.



"You can't just go down and pick up the wreck with all the mercury and deposit it safely ashore," said Gunnar Gjellan, a senior official in Norway's Coastal Administration. "At least 20 to 30 percent of the mercury would remain on the bottom regardless."

In an interview at the Coastal Administration's headquarters in Horten, in southern Norway, Gjellan said other options, like raising the wreck or removing the mercury using a remote-controlled mini-sub, would be too risky and could simply spread the contamination.

The plan, thus, is to pour up to 300,000 tons of sand down a long vertical chute to create an irregular-shaped burial mound. The mound would rise 36 feet above the surround-

ing sea floor, enough to cover the highest points of the wrecked vessel. The sand would then be covered by a two-foot-thick layer of rocks to prevent erosion.

"There is nothing temporary about such a solution," Gjellan said. "We have been told it would last forever, with zero leakage."

Ane Eide Kjaeraas, another official of the Coastal Administration, said the authorities had some sympathy with the islanders' desire to remove the wreck completely. "But encapsulation is actually the best way to secure those things, even if lifting the vessel might seem better from a psychological or emotional point of view."



Return To:

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Feb. 17, 2007
American Legion Post #105
3534 W Calavar Rd.
Phoenix, AZ