



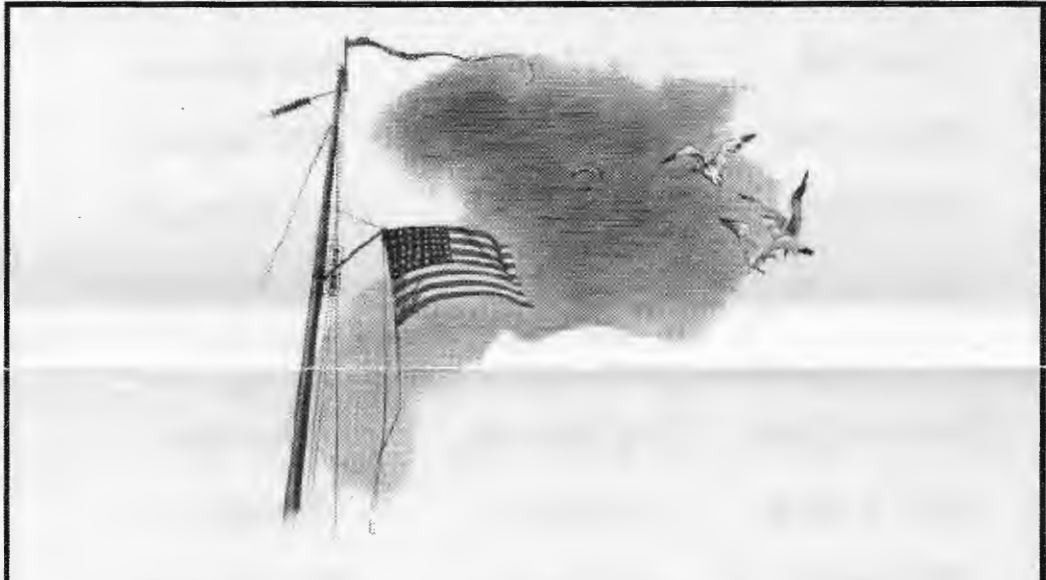
January 2005
Volume 11 - Issue 1

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



<http://perch-base.org>

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Scorpion	SS278	Jan. 5, 1944	76 men
USS Swordfish	SS193	Jan. 12, 1945	85 men
USS Argonaut	SS166	Jan. 10, 1943	105 men
USS S-36	SS141	Jan. 20, 1942	none lost
USS S-26	SS131	Jan. 24, 1942	46 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - January 15, 2005
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no serious efforts since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

2005 Booster Club

Ben Acosta	Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Kirby Anderson
Ted Asbell	Gary Bartlett	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Ed Brooks	Jim Edwards
Harry Ellis	Chuck Emmett	Ray Graybeal	Chuck Greene
Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Bob Hanson	Dave Harnish
Ed Hawkins	Glenn Herold	Dave Herrington	Les Hillman
Davy Jones	Ron Kloch	Bob Lacendorfer	Doug LaRoch
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Denny McComb	Ray McKinzie	Paul Miller	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Tim Moore	Tom Moore	Joe Mullins
Bon Nance	Jim Nelson	Jim F. Newman	Jim W. Newman
Joe Otreba	Ray Perron	George Petrovitz	Royce Pettit
Clair Prokupek	Scott Prothero	Robbie Robinson	Stan Rud
Frank Rumbaugh	Ray Schaeffer	Rick Simmons	Wyne Smith
Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke	Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley
Jim Wall	Dick Weber	Jerry Yowell	John Zaichkin



**BASE OFFICERS
COMMANDER:**

Glenn Herold
839 North Rogers
Mesa, AZ 85201-3849
(480) 962-6115
duke7@cox.net

VICE COMMANDER:

Tim Moore
5751 W. Bloomfield Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85304-1832
(602) 574-3286
seawolfssn575@qwest.net

SECRETARY:

Edgar Brooks
1517 Eagle Crest Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301-5424
(928) 778-4069
etbrooks62@aol.com

TREASURER:

Bob May
10015 W. Royal Oak Rd. #341
Sun City, AZ 85351-6100
(623) 875-1212

COB:

Bob Gilmore
14300 N. 83rd Ave. #1033
Peoria, AZ 85381-4625
(623) 202-6256
rbgilmore@tecoenergy.com

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:

Wamer H. Doyle
13600 W. Roanoke Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-2236
(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net

MIDWATCH EDITOR:

Chuck Emmett
7011 West Risner Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85308-8072
(602) 843-9042
chuckster41@earthlink.net

HISTORIAN:

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ben Acosta
12914 W. Alvarado Rd.
Avondale, AZ 85323-7142
(602) 935-7752
Benvirg@juno.com

Sailing Orders



**NEXT REGULAR MEETING
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From the Wardroom

Shipmates:

Our December meeting was great, and we had a far better turnout than we had hoped for. The old year is gone, and we have a brand new year for Perch Base.

Now is the time to start our planning for the New Year. First thing is to get our new Base officers nominated and elected.

We have a lot of new members that have signed up over the past months. This shows that we are continuing to grow as a Base. This is a good time to remind everyone about the upcoming National Convention in Kansas City. Make your reservation early and avoid the rush.

The past convention was a lot of fun and a great success. This convention will be something to look forward too. Just as Perch Base is increasing the membership, USSVI is growing at a faster rate and will be expecting a very good turn out.

At or last meeting we talked about several ways to help support the base other than the Booster Club and ship stores. I hope you all come to the next meeting with some more ideas to add to the list. I hope we can start setting up several of the better ideas or projects to raise moneys not only for the base but to help support the many charitable projects we wish to donate too.

We need to think about the goals that Perch Base needs to achieve in the coming months.

Like the Gary Patterson Scholarship Fund. The VA hospital, and State Veterans Home and the support we can give them. We have discussed a number of things we can do, lets get started.

I would like to wish all my shipmates and their mates, a very happy, healthy, prosperous New Year.

Fraternally yours,
Glenn Herold, commander, Perch Base

December Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 18 December 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

The “Call to Order” was followed by a prayer of Invocation, the “Pledge of Allegiance”, a reading of the “Purpose of the Organization”, the Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the “Tolling of the Boats” ceremony.

According to the sailing list, there were thirty-five (35) members and guests at the meeting. Those present welcomed new members and guests – William Alton, Herold (Harry) Heller, Jim Parker, Nick Lira, Ray Atos, and Ray Marshall. Each of the new members and guests stood, introduced themselves and summarized their service in or involvement with the Submarine Service. They were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the November meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, “The MidWatch.” The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base’s financial status as of the first day of December, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore reported that he was drafting a letter to be sent to the Phoenix VA Hospital to designate Perch Base as a volunteer organization to that facility.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore reported that the American Legion Post was in negotiations with various building contractors in an effort to adjust the cost for construction of their new building using labor donated by Post members. All the permits and authorizations are received and the project will proceed when a prime contractor is selected.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle indicated that he has received no new reports of illness of Perch members.

Howard also reported that efforts associated with the Phoenix Veteran’s Day Parade went well. Whereupon, Glenn Herold read a letter from the parade committee commending Perch Base for having won First Place in the “Military Float Division” of the annual event. Perch Base also received a “Commemorative Program” from the parade.

Membership Chairman and WebMaster – Ramon Samson reported that membership renewals (dues payments) were still coming in. Ray also announced that Vice Commander

(continued on next page)

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Tim Moore has been a notable recruiter for new members. Tim has been personally responsible for recruiting the last 5 or 6 new members. Ray reminded the members that the dues for National Life Membership will go up significantly on January 1. Those that plan to become Life Members eventually might want to take advantage of the lower price that soon expires.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett was not at the meeting.

WebMaster – Ramon Samson reported that he is establishing a link on the Perch Base Web Site for members to add their suggestions for Base fund raising ideas.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson reminded members that the Ship's Store still has a supply of 2005 Calendars. Jim also suggested that Perch Base establish liaison with the Arizona Veteran's Home for volunteer services.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold asked the members to provide their suggestions for methods to raise funds for the Base Treasury. Currently, a large portion of the cost for running Perch Base is provided through the "Booster Club" donations. "Yard Sale" like events, and other fund raising functions have been suggested and the Revenue Committee has come up with numerous ideas that are being considered. Everyone's input will be welcome.

Glenn also asked members to consider other locations and methods for storing the Perch Parade Float. An indoor storage location would be ideal for keeping the float in good condition.

Dave Hamish reported that the Christmas Party was a notable success. He then asked if members considered the per person price for the party acceptable. Most members considered the price acceptable, however, some felt it was too much for the service received. Dave informed the members that reservations have been made for the same arrangements next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that the Board of Directors had approved awarding an Honorary Associate Membership to Clyde Cussler. Clyde is a renowned author and member of the National Underwater Marine Association (NUMA). He would be a valued associate and member because of his professional involvement and published works.

Glenn also informed the members of the relationship Shipmate Jim Newman has with Arizona Historian Marshall Tremble. Glenn asked Jim if he could invite Marshall to talk to our members at one of our events. Jim agreed to pursue the possibility.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Glenn Herold recognized Shipmate Stan Reinhold for having provided the excellent food service for lunch. Stan had a

collected a menial sum from each member for the lunch. He then donated those monies to the Perch Treasury.

Glenn reported to the members that Sandra Headrick was presented a plaque and letter of commendation at the Perch Christmas Party. Sandi was most appreciative of the award and gave a touching presentation attributing her motivation to an appreciation for the service and sacrifice of all U.S. Veterans.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Rick Simmons was the lucky winner.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1353 hours.

Edgar T. (Ed) Brooks
Perch Base Secretary

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

Well, It's a brand new year, and I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

It's time to start thinking about elections, so we'll be forming a nominating committee. I would like all of you to consider running for an office. At this point we know we will need a secretary. Debbie Newell, our current secretary, has decided not to run for office this year, due to increasing family responsibilities. So make a New Years resolution to help you SubVettes of Perch Base and run for an office.

If you haven't paid your 2005 dues yet, please send them to our Treasurer: Karen Emmett, 7011 W Risner Road, Glendale, AZ 85308

For your convenience, we now have Local Life memberships available. Bring any questions to the meeting, or contact me or Kay Harnish at any time, regarding dues or running for office.

OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BABIES ARE:

Dorothy Crider – 2/12
Lil Asbell – 2/17
Susan Day – 2/17
Hiromi Povio – 2/26

See you all at the meeting on January 15 at Der Kaffe Kuchen, 9814 W Peoria at noon. Come hungry, the food is great!

All my best to you & yours,

Nancy Nelson, president, SubVettes of Perch Base

Eternal Patrol December 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 of our departed shipmates still on patrol

Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

U.S.S. Argonaut (SS-166) 105 men lost



While operating in the area southeast of New Britain between 5 degrees and 50 east during her third patrol, ARGONAUT (Lt. Cmdr. J.R. Pierce) intercepted a Japanese convoy returning to Rabaul from Lae, on 10 January 1943. An U.S. Army plane, which was out of bombs, saw one destroyer hit by a torpedo, saw the explosion of two other destroyers, and reported other vessels in the group.

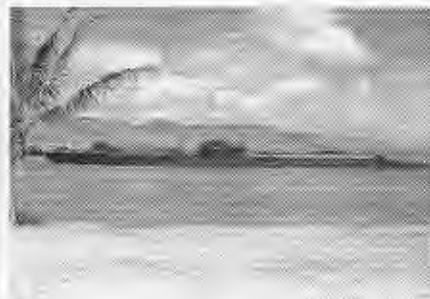
After a severe depth charge attack ARGONAUT was forced to surface and the destroyers, according to the plane's report, circled and pumped shells into her bow, which was sticking up at a considerable angle. This action took place in 5 degrees to 40 'S, 152 degrees to 02 'E, and further efforts to contact ARGONAUT by radio were fruitless. It



is quite certain, then, that ARGONAUT met her end in this action. Japanese reports made available since the end of the war record a depth charge attack followed by artillery fire, at which time the "destroyed top of the sub floated."

ARGONAUT's first patrol near Midway had resulted in no

damage to enemy ships, but her second was a most successful one. It was conducted following a complete modernization at Mare Island. Her mission had been to



cooperate with NAUTILUS in transporting 252 Marine officers and men to Makin Island for a diversionary raid against enemy shore installations. In the early morning of 17 August 1942, the raiders were debarked in boats. After nearly two days ashore, the Marines returned, and the submarines transported them back to Pearl Harbor, ARGONAUT arriving on 26 August.

On the basis of the report given by the Army flier who witnessed the attack in which ARGONAUT perished, the ship was credited with having damaged one Japanese destroyer on her last patrol.

U.S.S. Argonaut Followup

WWII Submariner's Dolphins Still on Active Duty

by JOCS(SW/AW) Darrell D. Ames

Pearl Harbor, HI — While operating in the area southeast of New Britain during her third patrol, USS Argonaut (SS 166), led by Lt. Cmdr. Jack R. Pierce, intercepted a Japanese convoy returning to Rabaul from Lae, on January 10, 1943. Submarine Squadron Two Commander, Commodore James Fife, believed the submarine was capable of combat missions, despite General MacArthur's desire to use her for special missions only. By happenstance, a U.S. Army plane, out of bombs, was flying overhead and witnessed the battle.

After a severe depth charge attack, Argonaut was forced to surface. The crew of the aircraft saw Argonaut's huge bow suddenly break water at a steep angle, hanging. One of the depth charges had obviously inflicted severe damage. The Japanese destroyers circled like sharks, pumping shells into Argonaut's hull. She slipped below the waves, never to be heard from again. One hundred and five officers and men went down with her.

Perishing onboard Argonaut, with his 104 shipmates, was Chief Quartermaster George S. Jenkins. Although Chief

(see "ETERNAL PATROL," page 8)

**White
Mountain**



Base

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
sdavfletcher@cs.com

Storekeeper:

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

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.

Commanders Corner

On looking back at the last 5 months – I think we have come a long way. Now we have 16 members, of which 14 are life members. Doug Eddy has supplies for sale to help build our treasury, some nice items. After talking to members, they all seemed to enjoy themselves at the Christmas party and the food was great. I am hoping that we will increase our membership again next year – KEEP LOOKING!!!

Dee Lefevre has stated when the weather gets better, if we would like, we could have a barbecue at his place in Young, AZ.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, 15 January 2005 at 11 AM and will be held at Buck Biddle's house in Lakeside. Buck's phone number is (928) 242-3822. It is by Walmart, if your wife wants to shop, you can drop her off. Buck's wife would like for them to come there and visit.

Last, but not least, I want to wish all of you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
Jim Clewett, commander, White Mountain Base

December 2004 Meeting

Members present at the December 2004 meeting: Jim and Lorraine Clewett, Dee LeFevre, Dennis Hill, Jordan Call, Buck Biddle, Jill McLaughlin, Kelly McLaughlin, Adam Dykman, Eugene Quinlan, La Neta Quinlan, Casi Tenny, Armand and Simmone Deprins, Frank and Priscilla Nagle, Dick Jarenski and Sue, Doug Eddy

December meeting minutes

At 6:10 PM with Grace and Sub Prayer by Vice Commander Dick Jarenski with a prayer for Father Bill of the Catholic Church in Heber, who was in a head – on collision on Friday 12/10/04.

Dinner was served at 6:20 PM.

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM with 10 members and 9 guests

Jim Clewett read our Creed and the Tolling of the Bell for the Sea Lion (SS195) and (SS109).

Introduced new members Adam Dijkman and Kelly McLaughlin who both became Life Members – Dee LeFevre also became a Life Member.

The members introduced their guests.

The Golf Tournament is trying to get a car for a hole-in-one prize.

Anyone who wants a life membership must have the application in by 12/31/04.

Possible Christmas Party 2005 at The Barn in Snowflake. Presented Certificate of Appreciation to Lee Fann of the American Legion Post 86, Heber, Az.

The next meeting will be 15 January 2005 at 11:00 AM at Buck Biddle's house – 5290 Buffalo Trail, Lakeside, the map will be in the newsletter or call Buck at (928) 242-3822.

The 50/50 was won by Dee LeFevre and donated to the Base Treasury.

Closing prayer by Dick Jarenski.

Meeting closed at 7:55 PM.

("ETERNAL PATROL," continued from page 6)

Jenkins went down with the submarine, a set of his 'dolphins' (submarine warfare insignia) survived the war. In fact they are still in service 57 years later. Chief Jenkins' grandson, Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Roland Jenkins, is the Command Master Chief for Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and wears his grandfather's dolphins with pride.



"I'm very proud of my grandfather's accomplishments and the fact that

he died for his country and died for what he believed in," said Jenkins. "I think about him every day I put on my uniform with his dolphins attached and I try to live up to the high standards he established," Jenkins added.

Many years later a former Argonaut crewmember, Lt. Cmdr. James "Red" Gill, USN (Ret), talked about Chief Jenkins. "I knew him well," said Gill. "It was Chief Jenkins who ushered us into the war," he added. Gill was referring to an event that occurred on a Sunday in December, 1941. While Pearl Harbor and the rest of Americans were experiencing their 'day of infamy,' the submarine, unaware of the hostilities, was on routine patrol south of Midway Island.

"We were dead in the water that morning, just sitting on the surface charging our batteries, when two Japanese destroyers started firing at us. It was still dark out, but because Chief Jenkins had turned the navigational lights on, they were able to spot us. We always teased him about bringing us into the war," Gil added.

Argonaut utilized their endless training and lived to fight in the war by diving and escaping the enemy battle group that morning. It wasn't until later that evening they re-

ceived a message informing them of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Argonaut's first patrol near Midway had resulted in no damage to enemy ships, but her second was a most successful one. It was conducted following a complete modernization at Mare Island. Her mission had been to cooperate with USS Nautilus in transporting 252 Marine officers and men to Makin Island for a diversionary raid against enemy shore installations. In the early morning of August 17, 1942, the raiders were debarked in boats. After nearly two days ashore, the Marines returned, and the submarines transported them back to Pearl Harbor, Argonaut arriving on August 26.

On the basis of the report given by the Army flier who witnessed the attack in which Argonaut perished, the ship was credited with having damaged one Japanese destroyer on her last patrol.

Lt. Cmdr. Pierce had a younger brother serving in the Navy, George E. Pierce. During peacetime, George had also been a submariner, but he transferred to lighter-than-air craft (dirigibles). When his brother Jack was lost on Argonaut, George was serving in Georgia. Upon receiving word of his brother's death, George immediately volunteered for submarines. Later he said he thought the decision to order Argonaut to attack was justified. "I do not blame Commodore Fife for my brother's death," said Pierce years later.

Argonaut's loss, a sad event in its own right, caused some controversy for Squadron Two in Australia. The submarine had been sent there to carry out special missions – for General MacArthur and his intelligence operations. Her loss meant that regular fleet boats would continue to be diverted from normal patrol for many of these time-consuming (and hazardous) chores, meaning fewer torpedo tubes on the firing line.

Argonaut's loss was a hard blow to the entire submarine force, and indicative of the desperate fighting to come. In

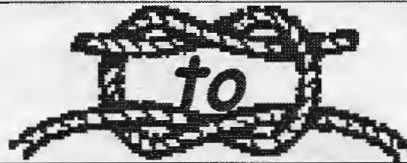
(see "ARGONAUT," page 10)

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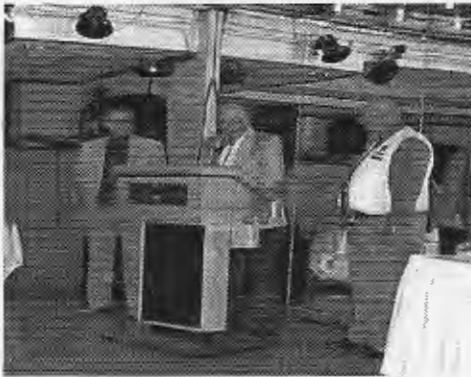
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Shipmate



Shipmate

Christmas/Hannaka 2004



Jim Newman, our first Base Commander, is awarded the first "Sailor of the Decade" Award



Bob May, Perch Base's first and only Treasurer, is one of the two co-recipients of the "Sailor of the Year" Award.



Dave Harnish, ex-Base Commander and current Regional Director, is also awarded a "Sailor of the Year" Award for his outstanding service to the Base.

Reminder: March is Perch Base elections. Be thinking about nominations for Base officers.



**Chaplain's
Column**



Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle, reports that Shipmate Jim Newman is recovering from heart bypass surgery. Jim, our Base's first Commander and our first recipient of the "Sailor of the Decade" award, has been a vibrant part of Perch Base.

Jim should be home by the time this newsletter is published.

Goodspeed, Jim and a quick recovery. You are in our prayers.

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



Do you have any information to share with shipmates? Contact the Midwatch Editor, Chuck Emmett at:

(602) 843-9042

chuckster41@earthlink.net

Are your 2005 dues Paid?

Gudgeon



Base

December Meeting - News

The Gudgeon Base starts out 2005 with 22 Plank Holders. Many of the members are dual participants with memberships in other bases. The Plank Holders are: Base Commander - Jack Messersmith Vice Commander - Al Landeck, COB - Dave Herrington, Secretary - Ed Brooks, Treasurer - Ray Cremin, Chaplin - Brad Veek, Storekeeper - Paul West, Bob Bailey, Peter Collins, Jim Denzien, Ray Dextraze, Jeff Duncan, Leslie Gleason, Nick Lira, Bob Lyons, Dudley McMains, Joe Otreba, Tyler Smith, Keith Sullivan, Kenny Wayne, Richard Waid, and Al Weiss.

In December we had a Christmas pot luck, and had a great turn out of members and wives. There was a lot of interest expressed among the wives at the pot luck in starting a Gudgeon Subvettes Base. Nancy Nelson and Kay Harnish have been contacted and have offered to help us get organized. After the pot luck in Prescott many of us traveled down to Luke Field to join the members of the Perch Base at the Party there. It was a busy day and a good time was had by all.

Our meeting place has changed. Starting with our January 8 meeting we will be at the Moose Club in Prescott Valley. We will continue to meet at 1100. The Moose Club is located on 6 Street, just south of Valley View Drive and Highway 69. Lunch will be provided for a nominal sum at the meeting.

Thanks again to the Perch Base for their assistance in helping us get started, and for the \$500 seed money.

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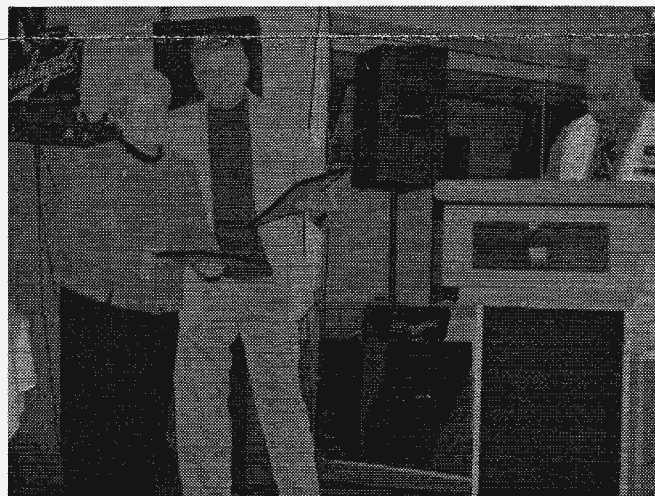
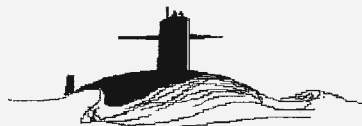
"Serving the Valley Since 1978"

(continued from "ARGONAUT," page 8)

the ensuing year the U.S. Navy's submarine force was to suffer the severest casualties it had yet endured during the war.

Argonaut's loss also meant the loss of a father to 12 children in Pearl City, Hawaii. "My grandfather had 10 daughters and two sons," said Jenkins. "And in those days if a service member was missing in action, the spouse didn't get a paycheck," he added.

All was not lost for the Jenkins clan however as Chaplain Miller, stationed at the submarine base, came to the rescue. "This man would bring groceries to my grandmother every Friday afternoon," said Jenkins. "My father and his siblings never went hungry because of him. It was that Navy teamwork and spirit working. The Jenkins household was a part of the Navy family back then...and still is," he added while gazing at his grandfather's dolphins.



Sandy Headrick, communications representative, APS-Palo Verde, receives a special award for her help at the past two Veterans Day parades. Sandy arranged for coffee and donuts before the parade, pizza after and great t-shirts -- all gratis from APS-Palo Verde. Thanks for the continued support! Are there other commercial firms we could ask for help?

**Are your 2005 dues
Paid?**



Submarines of Today

Two Boats Repeat Nautilus' 1958 Feat

Alexandria Returns to SUBASE Following Circumnavigation of Globe

Release Date: 12/17/2004 1:52:00 PM

By Journalist 1st Class (SW/AW) Mark A. Savage, Commander, Navy Region Northeast Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Alexandria (SSN 757) returned to Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London Dec. 10 following

a deployment that circumnavigated the globe.



Alexandria departed SUBASE June 11 and transited under the Arctic ice to the Pacific

Ocean. While this is the first transit of this type for an improved Los Angeles-class submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571) was the first submarine to make such a transit, going from the Pacific to Atlantic Ocean in 1958. On the golden anniversary of that ship's commissioning, that feat held the fascination of Alexandria's captain during his own transit.

"I kind of kept tabs of their track," said Cmdr. Thomas Kearney, Alexandria's commanding officer. "I don't know the exact speed that they went, but I think we beat their speed record and we'll have one of the fastest under-ice transits ever."

After entering the Pacific Ocean, the crew enjoyed port visits in Japan, Singapore and Guam, intermixed with their training and operations. It was in Guam where some crew members had the opportunity to reunite with their spouses. The spouses who flew out to meet their husbands followed virtually the same path as the submarine.

"That was exciting that the submarine went under the North Pole and we went over it," said Lorene Hendricks, wife of Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Steven Hendricks.

"It was nice to have that break in the deployment so we could see each other," said Emily Thompson, wife of Chief Machinist's Mate (SS) Gary Thompson. "The weather and island were beautiful. We went snorkeling out in the coral reefs. I've never done that before."

After the reunions and port visit in the Pacific were complete, Alexandria continued on with her circumnavigation of the globe. They joined the Yokosuka, Japan-based USS Cowpens (CG 63) and USS Gary (FFG 51) in a port visit in Goa, India, before participating in Exercise Malabar with the Indian navy.

Exercise Malabar is a bilateral exercise designed to increase interoperability between the two navies while enhancing the cooperative security relationship between India and the United States. The at-sea training included maritime interdiction, surface events, sub-surface and air events, as well as personnel exchanges.

"Exercise Malabar was great," Kearney said. "We sailed around with three Indian ships and one Indian submarine and did a bunch of different exercises with them. They were a very professional navy and very interested in how we do business."

Alexandria's crew also hosted an Indian commander for some of the exercises during Exercise Malabar.

"At the end, I asked him what it was like to be on a submarine," Kearney said. "He said the only words he could come up with were, 'It's as if I have gone to the moon.'"

Alexandria also made history by becoming the first U.S. nuclear-powered submarine to make a port call in Goa, India.

"I got a lot of 'Hunt for Red October' comments while we were there," Kearney said. "That was their (Indians') perspective of submarines. We gave them a tour of the

(see "POLAR," next page)

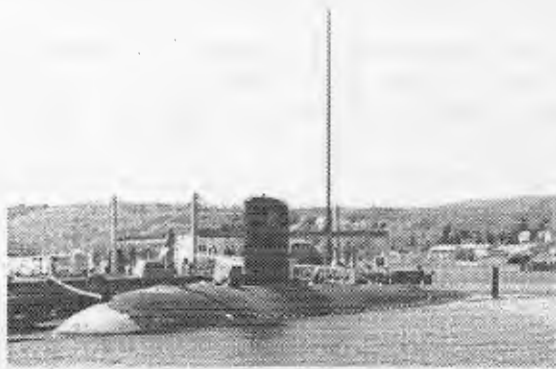


(continued from "POLAR," page 11)

submarine while we were in India, and they were just blown away."

After completing Exercise Malabar and their port visit in India, Alexandria transited through the Red Sea, Suez Canal and Mediterranean Sea, with stops in Crete and Rota, Spain, then home to SUBASE.

"The trip was long, but it was cool because I got to see a lot of different places," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Scott Carrington. "But this is definitely the best port to come into, and it's good to be home."



After the deployment was over, Alexandria had steamed 37,175 miles in 180 days.

"It highlights the technological marvels that these submarines are," Kearney said. "The fact that I can take a submarine from Groton, Conn., and be in Japan in less than 30 days and ready to work says a lot. In the six months we were gone, we had 24 dedicated maintenance days and that's it. So the ship is running fabulous and we're ready to go again . . . shipwise. Peoplewise, we're ready to stay home for a while."

Atlantic Submarine Makes Rare Hawaii Stop

Release Date: 12/23/2004 10:58:00 AM

By Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) made a rare port visit to Pearl Harbor Dec. 20.

Although its Pacific deployment had been planned for some time, officials say the visit from the U.S. Atlantic fleet submarine underscores the flexibility of submarines to support operational commitments around the world.

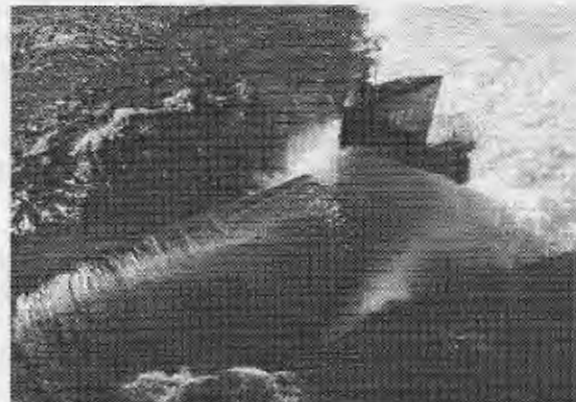


"There was a need for more submarines to deploy into the Western Pacific," said Cmdr. Chris Williams, the ship's commanding officer. "This transit demonstrates the mission of the submarine force to send submarines anywhere regardless of where they are stationed."

The submarine, which is based in Norfolk, Va., has operated in the Pacific since its transit under the Arctic ice in August.

"We have been conducting regular missions in the Pacific as any Pacific-based submarine would," said Williams.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Eric Antwoine, chief of the boat, said the crew found out in late 2003 they were going to transit from under the Arctic ice over to the Pacific. He said despite the short notice, the crew has pulled together to successfully face the challenges inherent to operating in the Western Pacific.



"The Pacific is harder to navigate because it is shallow in certain areas; so, you have to pay very close attention," said Antwoine.

Oklahoma City is only the third submarine to make the under-ice transit. The first submarine to transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific under the Arctic was USS Nautilus (SSN 571) in 1958.

(continued next page)

USS Alexandria (SSN 757) was the second submarine to transit coast-to-coast through the Arctic in June and was the first such transit of a Los Angeles-class submarine.

Machinist Mates 2nd Class Anthony Amato is excited to be in Pearl Harbor for his second deployment. He said it was a very different from his first deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I have enjoyed some great liberty ports. This is definitely something different than the normal routine," he said.

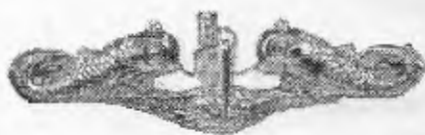
Williams said he was pleased with his crew's performance during the deployment.

"We had to prepare ourselves for the challenges that are here in the Pacific," he said. Nevertheless, we still had the skills required to complete our task,"

"Good submarine skills work wherever you go," he said.



Christmas Party entertainment from SubVettes Heather Newell and Brandi Hershey doing a gret song-and-dance routine. No calls yet from Hollywood.



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Nautical Nuances or, Did You Know?

Records of attempts to utilize submarine warfare go back to the earliest writings in history. Herodotus (460 B.C.), Aristotle (332 B.C.) and Pliny, the elder, (77 A.D.) mention determined attempts to build submersibles.



Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.



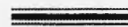
Leonardo da Vinci, the Florentine Renaissance inventor and artist, developed plans for an underwater warship but kept them secret. He was afraid that it would make war even more frightful than it already was.



There are many instances of submarines being 'caught' by fishing vessels are on record. The NAUTILUS, world's first nuclear powered vessel, was caught in a fish net and towed the fishing vessel several miles before the situation was cleared up. There is one instance of a submarine being captured by an abandoned balloon, and on another occasion a submarine rescued a blimp and towed it to safety.



A church in Kyoto, Japan calls its congregation to worship with a bell from a submarine. The bell, from the submarine USS RAY was purchased for the church, and was transported to Yokosuka, Japan by another submarine, the USS RONQUIL.



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 - January 15, 2005
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours