



The "MidWatch"



January 2009
Volume 15 - Issue 1

The monthly newsletter of Perch Base - USSVI Phoenix, Arizona

<http://perch-base.org>

What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS SCORPION (SS-278)	05 Jan 1944	76 Lost
Possible Japanese Mine in Yellow Sea off China		
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	10 Jan 1943	105 Lost
Japanese Surface Attack in Java Sea		
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	12 Jan 1945	89 Lost
Possible Japanese Surface Attack or Mine off Okinawa		
USS S26 (SS-131)	24 Jan 1942	46 Lost
Collision in Gulf of Panama		

NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2008
American Legion Post #105
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053
(see map on page 6)

2009 Booster Club

Perch Base, USSVI, cannot support its operation on dues alone. Nor does the Base have any other successful source of income. The Booster Club is a list of those individuals who contribute extra money to keep the Base solvent.



*These are the 2008
Boosters. Have you
contributed for
2009?*

Jerry Allston, David Anderson, Ted Asbell, Reynaldo Altos, Gary Bartlett, Kenneth Becker, Richard Bernier, Ron Beyer, Walt Blomgren, Ed Brooks, David Carpenter, Roger Cousin, George Crider, George Debo, Jim Denzien, Butch Deshong, Jim Edwards, Harry Ellis, Joe Errante, David Fledderjohn, Tom Fooshee, Charles Greene, Billy Grieves, William Grissom, Michael Haler, Robert Hanson, Dave Harnish, Ed Hawkins, Harry Heller, Glenn Herold, Les Hillman, Stephen Hough, Davy Jones, Mike Keating, Denny Kerton, Jack Kimball, Darrell Lambert, Al Landeck, Doug LaRock, Burtis Loftin, George Long, George Marions, Raymond Marshall, Sandy Martin, Terry Martin, Bob May, Alan Miller, Paul Miller, Roger M. Miller, Tim Moore, Bob Nance, Jim Nelson, James F. Newman, James W. Newman, Joe Orteba, George Petrovitz, Royce Pettit, Wayne Pettes, Stan Reinhold, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Mel Rycus, Ken Schonauer, Emil Schoonejans, Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, Wayne Kirk Smith, Adrian Stuke, Jim Thomson, Turk Turner, William Tippet, Jim Wall, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin.



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Sailing Orders



JANUARY MEETING

*The January Perch Base meeting (and future meetings at this time) will be on the second Saturday of each month and at the American Legion Post #105, located at 3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ. This is 1/2 block northwest of the intersection of 35th Ave. and Thunderbird.
(See map on page 6)*



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday January 24th from 1730 (5:30 pm) until 2200 (10:00pm).

\$15.00 per person.

5:30 pm until 6:30 pm appetizer and drinks;

6:30 pm dinner and dessert;

7:30 pm Awards and recognition.



Annual Awards Banquet
January 24, 2008

MENU

Salad:

Frisee & Baby Greens
Champagne Vinaigrette Dressing

Entrée:

Surf & Turf
Baked Stuffed Shrimp
Tri-Tip of Beef Carved to Order

Twin Baked Potato
French Green Beans
Baby Carrots

Rolls & Butter

Dessert:

English Trifle
Sponge Cake, Fresh Whipped Cream,
Fresh Berries & Custard

Sailing Orders



(continued)

September 8 - 12, 2009

Don't wait! The next USSVI convention is right around the corner and this time, it practically next door. San Diego Base is hosting -- an easy few hours drive AND gas prices are low!

But the big news about this convention is that it's a joint venture with the ISA-USA (International) Convention. This is the first time (in recent memory) that the International is meeting in the US and the very first time, a joint convention is held.

Just think! Smooze with not just US boat sailors, but German, French, Russian and English.

Check the internet link just below to go to the special convention web site.

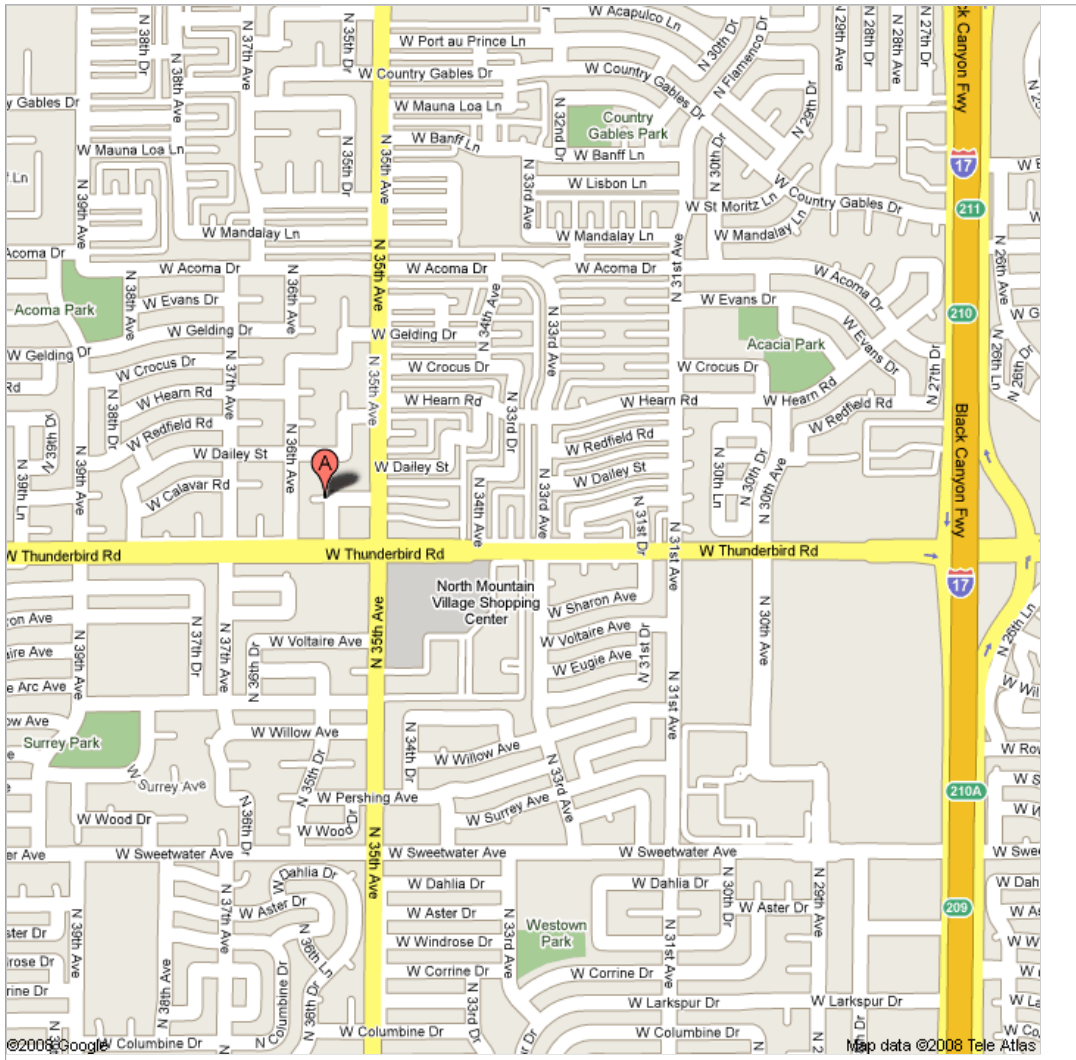


<http://www.ussvisandiego.org/Convention2009/index.htm>





Address **3534 W Calavar Rd**
Phoenix, AZ 85053



Check out this map to get to the American Legion Post #105

Foundation Shipmates



These organizations and individuals have contributed to the Perch Base Foundation and deserve special recognition as "Foundations Shipmates." Perch Base members are encouraged to use these organizations as a way of saying, "thanks."

Avondale Toyota
Larry Harker Auto Repair Inc.
Fairings - Etc
White Shears Flowers
Frank Bono Metal Design
Southwest Steel Sales LLC
United Parcel Service (UPS)



Still Recovering - Jim Nelson

The latest info on shipmate Jim Nelson is that he has been moved again, this time to HealthSouth Valley of the Sun Rehabilitation Hospital, 13460 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304, 623-878-8800.

Jim is allowed visits, but call Nancy first to make sure he's not in a treatment session.

His diet is becoming more normal; Swedish meatballs, chicken salad, etc. Although much improved, he still has a long way to go.

Please send all cards to the home address:

9503 W. Spanish Moss Ln.
Sun City, AZ 85373-1741

Please continue to keep both Jim and Nancy in your prayers.

NEWS-02: Allen Carl Bryson, Last Surviving Crewmember of USS Squalus (SS 192), Departing...

Submitted by: Office on 12/4/2008

New London – Allen Carl Bryson, 91, formerly of Pequot Ave., New London, the last survivor of the USS Squalus, died Monday at Fairview in Groton.

He was born Oct. 30, 1917, near Greenville, S.C. He was the son of Stella Johnson and Marion Bryson. He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Johns Bryson who died in 1997.

Carl joined the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and then enlisted in the Navy on Jan. 5, 1936. After completing basic training and trade school in Norfolk, Va., he served on the ships; USS Henderson, USS Medusa and the USS Mississippi. He was transferred from the Mississippi to Submarine and Diesel School in New London.

He served on the USS R-4 (SS-81) and in 1939, was assigned to the USS Squalus (SS 192) to put her into commission at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Carl was aboard the USS Squalus when it sank on May 23, 1939. He was rescued from the sunken sub, and then worked in the salvage crew until the boat was towed into the shipyard. He was then transferred to the USS R-14 (SS 91) in November of 1939, and in 1941, was assigned to the Escape Training Tank, where he trained Tyrone Power for the film "Crash Dive".

Other vessels he served on were USS O-4 (SS 65), USS Sea Robin (SS-407), USS Tench (SS 417) USS Valcour (AVP 55), USS Macon (CA 132), USS Fulton (AS 11) USS Leyte (CVS 32) and USS Sunbird (ASR 15). He retired with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four after 30 years of service.

Self taught, he furthered his education while in the Navy by attending the University of Illinois and the College of William and Mary. From 1966 to 1979, Carl worked at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics as a planner and project head. He also taught English to Russian emigrants from 1979 to 1996.

Carl was a member of the Navy Lodge in Kittery, Maine, the Brainard Lodge of Masons, the Sojourners, was a life member of the SubVets of World War II, The US Submarine Veterans, Inc and the Holland Club.

Need a Ride to a Meeting?

If you ever need a ride to a meeting, don't kiss off the meeting. Contact the Base's Chaplain, Howard Doyle to arrange a ride. Howard can be reached at:

(623) 935-3830 - home
(602) 228-2445 - mobile
d-hdolye@msn.com

ETERNAL PATROL PREPARATIONS

Shipmates, while we hope your day and those of your shipmates is far off in the future, we must nevertheless prepare. Please copy this notice and place it with your will or important papers.

IMPORTANT

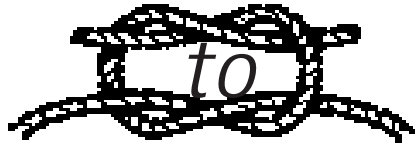
In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).

This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at office@ussvi.org.



Shipmate



Shipmate

NEWS-03: ROUND TUITS NEEDED!

Submitted by: OFFICE on 12/16/2008

As of December 19, there are 2,338 'annual' regular and 253 associate members who have yet to renew their membership for 2009.

All unrenewed members will go 'dink' on January 1, 2009, and unrenewed members as of midnight, Jan 31st, will be dropped from the organization entirely. (EDITOR: Our Base has picked up late dues for our "dinks," BUT YOU NEED TO RE-PAY THE TREASURER.)

Dropped subvets can rejoin without penalty, but will lose member seniority for Holland Club qualification and longevity pin awards.

Please help your unrenewed shipmates find their "Round Tuits" so this doesn't happen to them.

Incoming Veterans Administration Secretary

[Source: ArmyTimes Hope Yen AP article 8 Dec 08]

VA SECRETARY UPDATE 08: President-elect Barack Obama has chosen retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki to be the next Veterans Affairs secretary, turning to a former Army chief of staff once vilified by the Bush administration for questioning its Iraq war strategy. He will be the first Asian-American to hold the post of Veterans Affairs secretary, adding to the growing diversity of Obama's Cabinet. "I think that General Shinseki is exactly the right person who is going to be able to make sure that we honor our troops when they come home," Obama said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press". Shinseki's tenure as Army chief of staff from 1999 to 2003 was marked by constant tensions with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, which boiled over in 2003 when Shinseki testified to Congress that it might take several hundred thousand U.S. troops to control Iraq after the invasion. Rumsfeld and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, belittled the estimate as "wildly off the mark" and the general was marginalized and later retired from the Army. But Shinseki's words proved prophetic after President George W. Bush in early 2007 announced a "surge" of additional troops to Iraq after miscalculating the numbers needed to stem sectarian violence. Obama said he chose Shinseki for the VA post because he "was right" in predicting that the U.S. will need more troops in Iraq than Rumsfeld believed at the time.

Shinseki, 66, is slated to take the helm of the government's second largest agency, which was roundly criticized during the Bush administration for underestimating the amount of funding needed to treat thousands of injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of veterans currently endure six-month waits for disability benefits, despite promises by current VA Secretary James Peake and his predecessor, Jim Nicholson, to reduce delays. The department also is scrambling to upgrade government technology systems before new legislation providing for millions of dollars in new GI benefits takes effect next August. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, and chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, praised Shinseki as a "great choice" who will make an excellent VA secretary. "I have great respect for General Shinseki's judgment and abilities," Akaka said in a statement. "I am confident that he will use his wisdom and experience to ensure that our veterans receive the respect and care they have earned in defense of our nation. President-



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elect Obama is selecting a team that reflects our nation's greatest strength, its diversity, and I applaud him."Veterans groups also cheered the decision. "General Shinseki has a record of courage and honesty, and is a bold choice to lead the VA into the future," said Paul Rieckhoff, executive director of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "He is a man that has always put patriotism ahead of politics, and is held in high regard by veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan."

Obama's choice of Shinseki, who grew up in Hawaii, is the latest indication that the president-elect is making good on his pledge to have a diverse Cabinet. In Obama's eight Cabinet announcements so far, white men are the minority with two nominations — Timothy Geithner at Treasury and Robert Gates at Defense. Three are women — Janet Napolitano at Homeland Security, Susan Rice as United Nations ambassador and Hillary Rodham Clinton at State. Eric Holder at the Justice Department is African American, while Bill Richardson at Commerce is Latino. Shinseki is a recipient of two Purple Hearts for life-threatening injuries in Vietnam. Upon leaving his post in June 2003, Shinseki in his farewell speech sternly warned against arrogance in leadership. "You must love those you lead before you can be an effective leader," he said. "You can certainly command without that sense of commitment, but you cannot lead without it. And without leadership, command is a hollow experience, a vacuum often filled with mistrust and arrogance."Shinseki also left with the warning: "Beware a 12-division strategy for a 10-division army."

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NEWS-10: Sub Memorial Locations on Goggle Maps Submitted by: Bill Lee on 12/20/2008

Many of our submarine memorial locations can be accessed via our USSVI website. On the main USSVI page (www.ussvi.org) select the Sub Memorial (red button). Select a State by clicking on it; This will bring up a list of sub memorials in that State. Select a specific memorial. This will bring up the specific memorial page which has a Google Map (US Weather Radar) in the lower right corner of the page.



Bob Snedaker
623-536-0951 (business)
623-203-9795 (cell) bob@fairings-etc.com
<http://www.fairings-etc.com>

The memorial location on the map is marked with a green pin. When you want to find exactly where a memorial is located in a cemetery or in a park, click on the Goggle Map, then use the Satellite View. This will show you it's exact location as long as it has latitude and Longitude numbers on the map. If not, I am still in the process of locating it.

Using the Weather Map, will take you to the postal address, which often is no where close to where the memorial stands.

If I don't have it's latitude and longitude marked yet and you know exactly where a memorial is located, please email me at sub_ssn589@yahoo.com and let me know.

Thanks, Bill Lee

Base Float Coordinator

Now that Perch Base has a world-class float, the USS Phoenix (SSN-702), the demands for usage have skyrocketed. So the base has a new position, the FLOAT COORDINATOR. If you know of a chance to show off the float, contact:

Barry Bowers
(623) 237-1121
barry85305@gmail.com

From the Wardroom
Base Commander's Message

Dear Friends and Shipmates,

Our December 20th meeting was held at American Legion Post 105, 3534 W. Calavar Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053. A special "thank you" to Jim Denzien for running the meeting in my absence. My wife, Jane, had shoulder surgery on Friday, 12/19, and was released the next day mid-morning. She is doing well.

We will be returning to American Legion Post 105 for all of our meetings commencing on January 10, 2009; and the meetings will be on the second Saturday of the month from then on. Our Annual Awards Banquet is set for Saturday January 24th 2009 at the American Legion Post. Plan on being there!

Annual Awards Banquet

January 24, 2009

Menu:

Salad:

Frisee & Baby Greens
Champagne Vinaigrette Dressing

Entrée:

Surf & Turf:
Baked Stuffed Shrimp
Tri-Tip of Beef Carved to Order

Twice Baked Potato
French Green Beans
Baby Carrots

Rolls & Butter

Dessert:

English Trifle
Sponge Cake, Fresh Whipped Cream,
Fresh Berries & Custard

\$ 15.00 per person

RSVP: Jim Denzien (602)-332-3925

Please join us for a night of recognition: our Sailor of the Year, our ladies SubVette of the Year and special honors to several well-deserving individuals and social interaction with your fellow submariners. Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Stan Reinhold, Commander – Perch Base USSVI



December 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 Dec 2008. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Vice-Commander.

The "Call to Order" was led in a prayer of invocation by Howard Doyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in December and a moment of silence was observed for shipmates on eternal patrol.

According to the sailing list, twenty-one (21) members and two (2) guests were present. One guest and potential new base member, Charlie Runyan was introduced. Accompanying Charlie was his wife Bev who sat in with the SubVettes. Also in attendance were Sandy Bernard and one long time member Curtis "Tex" Lofton.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the November 2008 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Dave Harnish was not present and Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of 01 Dec 2008. 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 Commander – Stan Reinhold was not present. Jim Denzien reported that Stan's wife Jane is having rotator cuff surgery and that is the reason Stan is not with us today.

Base Vice-Commander – Jim Denzien reported that at the last meeting (November 2008) the board voted to make a payment for all unpaid annual Perch Base USSVI membership dues to meet the end of December USSVI deadline to ensure that those members do not go delinquent and fall of the membership rolls. Perch Base members who have not sent in their annual dues by the end of December will be invoiced by Treasurer, Dave Harnish, in January.

It was reiterated that we formed the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation as a means whereby people, base members and non-members alike, can make tax deductible donations to the Perch Base to support the base and our activities. If anyone wants to make donations for the Booster Club or in support of Perch Base activities and wishes to have a tax deduction, the checks must be written to the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation. It was also again brought up that we do not have any means to raise money to support the Perch Base general fund except for membership dues and a few MidWatch newsletter ads. If anyone has any ideas for fundraisers to support the Perch Base general fund treasury, please bring those ideas forward to the board.

Base Secretary (Interim) – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

Base Treasurer – Dave Harnish was not present.

Base Chief of the Boat – Jim Edwards had nothing to report.

MidWatch Editor – Chuck Emmett reported that effective January 2009, Perch Base monthly meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. As a result of this change, all articles for the MidWatch monthly newsletter will need to be submitted to Chuck by the Friday of the last weekend of the month preceding the publication of the newsletter.

Base Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

Membership Chairman – Dave Fledderjohn was not present. On behalf of Dave Fledderjohn, Dave Harnish has been filling in assisting with the Membership Chairman responsibilities until Dave Fledderjohn returns, hopefully in January.

Webmaster – Ramon Samson introduced Robbie Robinson who reported on Les Hillman's current condition. He reported that Les has a nervous disorder and is currently undergoing a new procedure to treat and hopefully remedy the problem.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported on Jim Nelson's current condition. Jim has been hospitalized for eleven (11) weeks now, has had abdominal surgery and is currently going through rehabilitation. The MRSA infection he contracted has finally cleared up and he is improving. He may be relocating again soon, but currently he is at Kindred Hospital located at 13216 N. Plaza del Rio Blvd., Peoria, AZ. Jim would love to have visitors but it would be advisable to contact Nancy Nelson at 623-824-2519 prior to visiting to ensure that Jim will be available for your visits.

Historian – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

Public Relations – Ben Acosta was not present.

Old Business

Our new float, the 1/15th scale model replica of the USS Phoenix SSN-702 won the First Place Award for Veterans Service Organizations Historical category at this year's Veteran's Day Parade. Options for permanent float storage were discussed but no final decisions were made.

The 2009 USSVI National Convention will be held at the Town & Country Resort Hotel & Convention Center in San Diego from September 8-12, 2009. This year's convention will be held jointly with the ISA-USA (International) Convention. Information for this convention can be found by logging on to the Perch Base website and clicking on the USSVI link and the conventions link.

We will be having a spring 2009 picnic. Reservations have been made at the picnic area in the White Tanks (west of Phoenix) for late March. The final date and time will be announced at a later date.

Plans for forming an East Valley Base are still pending. There are a number of East Valley shipmates interested but no decisions have been made.

New Business

Effective January 2009, Perch Base meetings will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the American Legion Post #105.

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on 24 Jan 2009 at the American Legion Post #105 from 1730 until approximately 2200.

At last month's meeting (November 2008) Barry Bowers was elected as Float Coordinator. All inquiries for potential use of the float for parades or static displays need to be directed to Barry. We currently have some tentative obligations for the float including helping the City of Goodyear with one of the displays they will be having and possibly participating in Navy Week in March. We are also tentatively planning on taking the float to San Diego as a static display provided that adequate security can be provided.

At the last Phoenix Commission meeting in November, Jim Denzien made a request for the Commission to fund the costs involved with the formation of the Save Our Sail Foundation. It will be set up the same way as our Perch Base foundation which is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. This will be a completely separate entity for the Save Our Sail project. There are currently funds in a 702 Society account that hopefully will go into the foundation fund to support the project.

A number of issues for the Save the Sail project were discussed. A site has been approved to erect the memorial at the Indian Steele Park in downtown Phoenix in the area of Central and Indian School Rd. Perch Base will be the administrative arm for this project and will be forming a 501 (c) (3) non-profit foundation to solicit funding. A planning meeting to launch the Save Our Sail Foundation project will be held in January 2009. We will be looking for outside help to assist us with this effort including having some of the current Phoenix Commission members joining Perch Base as Associate Members. We are anticipating that the Navy will scrap the USS Phoenix in 2012 to 2013 at which time the sail and rudder will be made available for transporting to Phoenix. This is subject to change depending on the priorities and needs of the US Navy. At one point in time, the Phoenix Commission had a commitment from Swift Transportation to provide the trucking to transport the sail & rudder down to Phoenix after the boat was scrapped by the Navy. We need to try and re-establish that commitment. We met with Chris Winters who is a Landscape Architect in downtown Phoenix and also two principals in a graphic arts business called The Kitchen Sink. These people were instrumental in working on the graphic presentations when the conceptual designs were done for the last monument. They are donating their time and are working on a conceptual drawing of what has already been approved by the City of Phoenix. We will be soliciting Perch Base and Phoenix Commission members to assist in further developing strategic plans to make this project a success.

Good of the Order

Tim Moore reported that UPS (United Parcel Service) made a \$500.00 contribution to the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base Foundation. We have a recognition page for Foundation Shipmates in the MidWatch where we will recognize all contributors to our foundation. We will also provide ad space for business card ads for all business who contribute \$100.00 or more to our foundation.



All hands were reminded that our Perch Base elections will be coming up in March 2008. We will be looking for people who might be interested in running for Perch Base positions. Jim Nelson was originally slated to fulfill the Secretarial position but when he became incapacitated with health issues, Tim Moore volunteered to fill the position on an interim basis. If anyone is interested in running for any of the base officer positions, please make your desires known to one of the current base officers.

It was announced from National that we have a shipmate, Doug Jensen, who is in Dire Straights. Doug qualified on the USS Sea Owl SS-405 in 1964 as a MM3(SS). He lives in Friendship, WI. He lost his home and everything in it to fire, including two vehicles in his garage. National has established an emergency Doug Jensen fund within the Brotherhood Fund of the USSVCF to aid Doug in his time of need. For more information on how you can help, log on to the Perch Base website and go to the USSVI link. Once on the USSVI link click on the SubVets News link and the Flash News link to get the most current information on how you can assist this shipmate.

Ray Samson announced that he and Dave Harnish have been working on the membership e-mail list which still has a number of errors. If you want to be kept updated on news and current event via e-mail, please make sure that either Ray Samson or Dave Harnish have your current correct e-mail address.

50/50 Drawing

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Walt Blomgren.

Adjournment

All the outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The benediction was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1401 hours.

Tim Moore, Interim Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



From the Desk Of the Sea Hag

Perch Base SubVettes

Christmas is but a fond memory and I, personally, am looking forward to New Year's Eve. A time for great appetizers, staying up until midnight (groan) and those pesky resolutions – I am going to keep some of them in 2009!

I was so happy to see Sandy Bernard at the meeting. Jackie and Ed Hawkins are absolute dears for bringing her. She always adds so much to our meetings. Oh yes! We had a guest too! Beverly Runyan. We hope to see her at future meetings.

My taste buds are anticipating the Awards Banquet on January 24th, catered by Subvet Commander, Stan Reinhold. I just know it's going to be outstanding. Let's support the guys and demand our husbands take us "out to dinner".

Jim Nelson has been moved to HealthSouth and can receive visitors. Please have the courtesy to contact Nancy so she can let you know if Nelson is going to be available to visitors. He will be receiving a lot of therapy and we certainly don't want to slow that down!

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, Saturday, January 10th at 12:00 pm.

Mary



HAVE YOU HEARD: 'WELL,' snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman, 'I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave?' 'Not me, Chief!' the Seaman replied. 'Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!

SUBVETTES MEETING MI NUTES

December Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Denzien at 12:45 p.m. Present were: Mary Denzien, Jacque Hawkins, Muriel Grieves, Sandy Bernard, Carolyn Newman, and guest, Beverly Runyan

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a prayer by Sandy. Minutes were accepted from the last meeting as published in the Midwatch. There were no treasures report because Jane was absent due to surgery.

Old Business

The lack of cooperation from the National was discussed. To date nothing has changed; the checks have not been cashed; the membership cards have not been received, etc. Mary will check with Jane to see if anything news from the National since the last meeting. There was discussion regarding dropping from the National and just have a local group, maintaining our own membership roll, printing our own membership cards and all of the things that the National is not doing for us. Mary will check with Dave Harnish for advice as to how we can best handle the situation. Carolyn will check with another SubVette groups to see if they are having the same problems as we are.

Jane has the gift cards for the military families. Sheila Galloway will deliver them before Christmas.

New Business

Mary mentioned that she had two sons in Iraq and that cookies from the SubVettes would be welcome. A donation was taken. Stan Reinhold will bake the cookies, and then the cookies will be mailed. The SubVets pay for the shipping.

New officers are needed for 2009. The elections will be in March. Mary asked that we consider volunteering. Jacques asked for and was given the responsibilities of the treasurer. Dues for associate members are \$10.00 each. Jackie paid for Carol Hawkins and Nancy Taylor.

Mary reported:

- 1) Effective January 2009, the Perch Base meeting will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the American Legion Post #105.
- 2) The annual awards banquet will be held on January 24, at the American legion post from 5:30 pm until approximately 10:00 pm
- 3) There will be a spring picnic at White Tanks. The date and time is pending.
- 4) Jim Denzien has recommended that we meet with the men through the tolling of the bells. We will then move to another room for our meeting.

Ways to increasing attendance was discussed. E-mails and telephone calls were the choice to remind the members of the meeting date and time.

Good of the Order

December Birthdays; Patricia Lira – 6th, Kathryn Ortreba -11th, Mary Lou Nance 15th.

It was reported that Mary Lou Nance has pneumonia and Jim Nelson can now have visitors.

Mary won the 50/50 and donated her winnings back to the working fund. Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Carolyn Newman, Secretary





Eternal Patrol January 10, 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
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.



USS Argonaut (SS-166)*
Jan. 10, 1943
105 men



V-4 (Argonaut)-class composite direct-drive diesel and diesel-electric submarine
Displacement: surfaced 2,710 tons (standard), 3,046 tons (normal) 4,164 tons submerged
Length: 381' 0"; Beam: 33' 9½"; Draft: 16' ¼", Test depth: 300 ft
Installed Power: 2x120-cell Exide ULS37 batteries, 2 × Ridgway electric motors, 1,100 hp each (two shafts)
Propulsion: 2 × BuEng direct-drive 6-cylinder 4-cycle diesel engines, 1,400 hp each; 1 × BuEng 6-cylinder 4-cycle diesel engine, 450 hp driving a Ridgway 300 kW electrical generator
Speed: 13.6 knots surfaced, trials; 7.43 knots submerged, trials
Range: 8,000 nautical miles 10 knots (18,000 nautical miles at 10 knots with fuel in main ballast tanks)
Complement: (as built) 8 officers, 78 men
Armament: (as built) 4 × 21-inch torpedo tubes (bow, 16 torpedoes); 2 × 40-inch minelaying tubes aft (60 mines); 2 × 6-inch / 53 caliber Mark XII Mod. 2 wet type deck guns
(as modified 1942) 8 × 21-inch torpedo tubes (4 bow, 4 external, 20 torpedoes) minelaying tubes removed; 2 × 6-inch 152mm / 53 caliber Mark XII Mod. 2 wet type deck guns

* USS Argonaut was never officially named SS-166, although this hull number was reserved for her. See story, below.

The first USS Argonaut (SF-7/SM-1/APS-1), a United States Navy submarine, was laid down as V-4 on 1 May 1925 at Portsmouth Navy Yard. She was launched on 10 November 1927, sponsored by Mrs. Philip Mason Sears, the daughter of Rear Admiral William D. MacDougall, and commissioned on 2 April 1928, Lieutenant Commander W.M. Quigley in command.

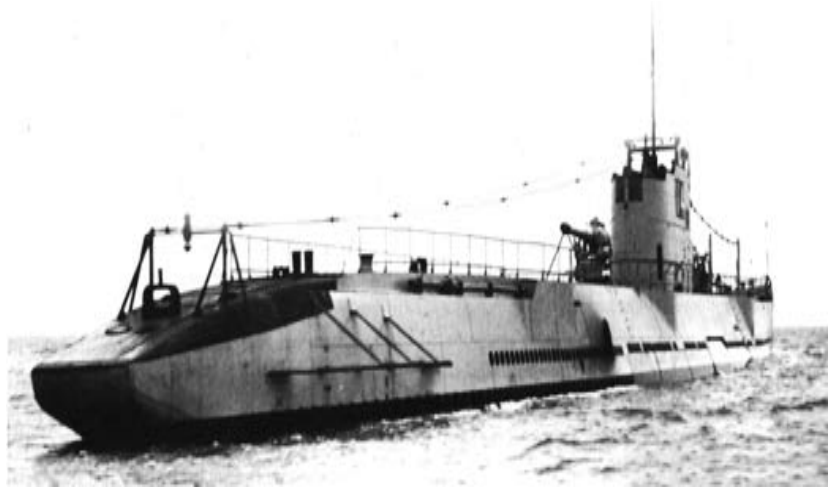
V-4 was the first of the second generation of V-boats commissioned in the late 1920s, which remain the largest non-nuclear submarines ever built by the U.S. These submarines were exempt by special agreement from the armament and tonnage limitations of the Washington Treaty. V-4 and her sisters V-5 (Narwhal, hull number SS-167) and V-6 (Nautilus, hull number SS-168) were designed with larger and more powerful diesel engines than those which had propelled the earlier series of V-boats, which had proven to be failures. Unfortunately, the specially-built engines failed to produce their design power and some developed dangerous crankshaft explosions. V-4 and her sister ships were slow in diving and, when submerged, were unwieldy and slower than designed. They also presented an excellent target to surface ship sonar and had a large turning radius.

Designed primarily as a minelayer, and built at a cost of US \$6,150,000, V-4 was the first and only such specialized type ever built by the United States. She had four torpedo tubes forward and two minelaying tubes aft. At the time of the construction, V-4 was the largest submarine ever built in the United States, and was the largest in U.S. Navy service for thirty years.

Her minelaying arrangements were "highly ingenious, but extremely complicated", filling two aft compartments. A compensating tube ran down the center of the two spaces, to make up for the lost weight as mines were laid, as well as to store eight additional mines.

The other mines were racked in three groups around this tube, two in the fore compartment, one aft, with a hydraulically driven rotating cage between them. Mines were moved by hydraulic worm shafts, the aft racks connecting directly to the launch tubes, which had vertically-sliding hydraulic doors (rather than the usual hinged ones of torpedo tubes). Each launch tube was normally loaded with four mines, and a water 'round mines (WRM) tube flooded to compensate as they were laid, then pumped into the compensating tube. Eight mines could be laid in 10 minutes.

Following commissioning, V-4 served with Submarine Division 12 based at Newport, Rhode Island.



She proved perennially underpowered, but re-engining was postponed by war, and her MAN diesels were a constant source of trouble.

Trials and a new name in the 1930s

In January and February 1929, V-4 underwent a series of trials off Provincetown, Massachusetts. On a trial dive during this period, she submerged to a depth of 318 feet (97 m). This mark was the greatest depth which an American submarine had reached up to that time. On 26 February 1929, V-4 was assigned to Division 20, Submarine Divisions, Battle Fleet, and arrived at San Diego, California, her new home port, on 23 March. From there, she participated in battle exercises and made cruises along the west coast.

V-4 was renamed Argonaut on 19 February 1931 and re-designated SM-1 (submarine, minelayer) on 1 July of that year. On 30 June 1932, she arrived at Pearl Harbor, where she was assigned to Submarine Division 7. She carried out minelaying operations, patrol duty, and other routine work. In October 1934 and again in May 1939, Argonaut took part in joint Army-Navy exercises in the Hawaiian operating area. Argonaut became the flagship of Submarine Squadron 4 in mid-1939. The submarine returned to the west coast in April 1941 to participate in fleet tactical exercises.

Pacific patrols

On 28 November 1941, Argonaut left Pearl Harbor and was on patrol near Midway Island when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After sunset on 7 December, Argonaut surfaced and heard naval gunfire around Midway. It was assumed the Japanese were landing a large invasion force. Argonaut then submerged to make a sonar approach to the "invasion force." While designed to be a minelayer and not an attack submarine, Argonaut made the first war-time approach on enemy naval forces.

The "invasion force" turned out to be two Japanese destroyers whose mission was shore bombardment on Midway. The ships may have detected Argonaut, and one passed close by the submarine. They completed the bombardment then retired before Argonaut could make a second approach.

One week later, Argonaut made contact with three or four Japanese destroyers. Barchet wisely decided not to attack. On 22 January 1942, she returned to Pearl Harbor and, after a brief stop, proceeded to the Mare Island for

major overhaul. While there, her diesels were replaced with Winton 12-258Ss[34] and her minelaying gear was removed.[35] She was also fitted with a Torpedo Data Computer[36] (lack of which likely inhibited her ability to score with torpedoes), new electronics,[37] and two external torpedo tubes for storage.[38] On return to Pearl Harbor, she was "hastily converted" to a troop transport submarine.[39]

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Argonaut returned to action in the South Pacific in August. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz assigned Argonaut and Nautilus (SS-168) to transport and land Marine Raiders on Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands for the Makin Raid. This move was designed to relieve pressure on American forces that had just landed on Guadalcanal. On 8 August, the two submarines embarked 120 troops of Companies A and B, 2nd Raider Battalion, and got underway for Makin. Conditions during the transit were unpleasant, and most of the marines became seasick. The convoy arrived off Makin on 16 August; and, at 0330 the next day, the marines began landing. Their rubber rafts were swamped by the sea and most of the outboard motors drowned. The Japanese — either forewarned or extraordinarily alert because of the activity on Guadalcanal — gave the Americans a warm reception. Snipers were hidden in the trees, and the landing beaches were in front of the Japanese forces instead of behind them as planned. However,

by midnight of 18 August, the Japanese garrison of about 85 men was wiped out; radio stations, fuel, and other supplies and installations were destroyed, and all but 30 of the troops had been recovered. (21 KIA + 9 captured/executed)

Final battle

Argonaut arrived back in Pearl Harbor on 26 August. Her hull classification symbol was changed from SM-1 to APS-1 (transport submarine) on 22 September. She was never formally designated SS-166, but that hull number was reserved for her. Her base of operations was transferred to Brisbane, Australia, later in the year. In December, she departed Brisbane to patrol the hazardous area between New Britain and Bougainville, south of St. George's Channel. On 2 January 1943 "Argonaut" sank a Japanese gunboat "Ebon Maru" in the Bismark sea. On 10



USS V-4 (later APS-1, later Argonaut SS-166) in June 1928 showing the crew manning the forward deck gun. Argonaut and her two sister-ships were the only three submarines equipped with two of the massive 6"/53 guns. Note the ammunition scuttle at left and the bipod barrel support in the foreground.

January 1943, Argonaut spotted a convoy of five freighters and their escorts, Japanese destroyers Maikaze, Isokaze, and Hamakaze, returning to Rabaul from Lae. An army aircraft, which was out of bombs, was by chance flying overhead and witnessed Argonaut's attack. A crewman on board the plane saw one destroyer hit by a torpedo, and the destroyers promptly counterattacked. Argonaut's bow suddenly broke the water at an unusual angle. It was apparent that a depth charge had severely damaged the submarine. The destroyers continued circling Argonaut and pumping shells into her. She slipped below the waves and was never heard from again. One hundred and five officers and men went down with her, the worst loss of life for a wartime sub-

marine. Her name was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 26 February 1943.

Japanese reports made available at the end of the war recorded a depth charge attack followed by gunfire, at which time they "destroyed the top of the sub".

On the basis of the report given by the Army flier who witnessed the attack in which Argonaut perished, she

was credited with damaging a Japanese destroyer on her last patrol. (Postwar, the JANAC accounting gave her none.) Since histories of none of the three escorting destroyers report damage on 10 January; the destroyer "hit" may have been a premature explosion.

Argonaut won two battle stars for her World War II service.



Submarines . . . of Today



More "Virginia-class" Boats in the Pipeline Navy Close to Awarding Next Multibillion-dollar Contract for Submarines

Donna Borak, AP Business Writer
Friday December 19, 2008, 5:58 pm EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy is close to awarding another multibillion-dollar contract to General Dynamics Corp. and Northrop Grumman Corp. for more Virginia class submarines, a senior Pentagon official said Friday.

The service will make the award for eight more of those submarines "soon," Allison Stiller, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for ship programs told The Associated Press. A formal announcement is expected as early as next week as the Navy looks to add to its nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet. The Virginia class is the first U.S. Navy warship designed in the post-Cold War era.

The new contract builds on an existing partnership between General Dynamics' subsidiary Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. and Northrop Grumman's Newport News shipyard in Virginia, which currently builds one submarine a year for the Navy. Production under the new deal will double to two ships annually in 2011.

The nation's two submarine makers had warned of potential job cuts earlier this month amid the economic downturn unless the Navy placed additional ship orders.



Electric Boat President John Casey told lawmakers last week that the company's outlook in 2009 is "very, very stable." But he warned Electric Boat would need to cut 1,000 employees at the end of next year or in 2010 if ship work didn't materialize.

The Navy is facing pricier ships, as contractors pass through higher material costs caused by the recent commodities boom. One program, the Zumwalt destroyer, has nearly doubled to \$5 billion. General Dynamics' Bath Iron Works and Northrop Grumman's Ingalls shipyard in Mississippi are each building one Zumwalt destroyer.

The Navy has acknowledged that such ballooning price tags have forced the service to buy fewer vessels at a

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much slower pace. That's put more shipyard jobs at risk. It has also sparked a battle among lawmakers from states like Maine and Mississippi, who have fought to sway the Navy to build more ships at their respective facilities.

In the case of submarines, the Navy has spent about \$12.6 billion for the first 10 submarines and is seeking to lower the cost of each submarine by \$200 million by building two per year instead of one.

That effort also serves to strengthen the Navy's industrial base by allowing shipbuilders and their vendors to plan years ahead and maintain jobs.

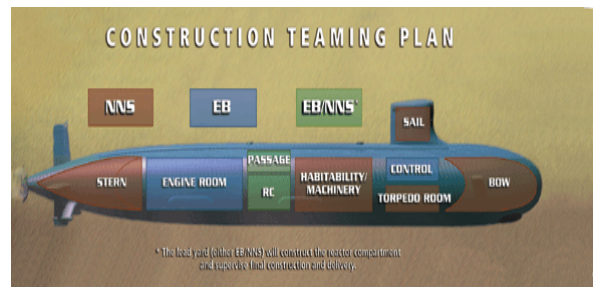



"That's stability in the industry," Stiller said in an interview, for both shipbuilders and their suppliers. "So they know what to plan."

Electric Boat employs more than 10,000 workers at its Groton shipyard and its factory in Quonset Point, R.I. Northrop Grumman employs close to 3,000 workers on the submarine program at the Newport News shipyard. Company spokeswoman Jerri Dickeski declined to specify how many employees would be added at the shipyard as work on the program shifted into high gear.

While the broader market ended relatively flat, shares of Northrop Grumman Corp. rose \$1.69, or 4.2 percent, to close at \$42.44 on Friday. Shares of General Dynamics Corp were essentially unchanged.

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Nautical Nuances or, Did You Know?

- The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.
- Alexander the Great (356 to 323 B.C.) ruler of Macedonian and conqueror of the known world in his time, is the first person known to have descended into the sea in a vessel of any kind.
- Over three hundred years ago, Mother Shipton, famous English prophetess, predicted the coming of the submarine when writing, "under water men shall walk, shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk."
- 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.

Return To:

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

<http://perch-base.org>



NEXT MEETING

12 noon, Saturday, Jan. 10, 2008

American Legion Post #105

3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053

(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)