

# The MidWatch

June 2013  
Volume 19 - Issue 6

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, Perch Base, USSVI Phoenix, Arizona



Visit our web site at:  
[www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org)

### USSVI CREED

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"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 of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."



## 2013 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

**Remember, if you contribute by check, it must be made out to the "Perch Base Foundation."**

## These are the 2013 Foundation Donors



Jerry N. Allston  
Kenneth R. Anderson  
Reynaldo F. Atos  
Steven Balthazor  
Gary Bartlett  
Kenneth E. Becker  
Richard Bernier  
Ronald B. Beyer  
Walter Blomgren  
Herbert J. Jr. Coulter  
Roger J. Cousin  
Eugene V. Crabb  
George L. Crider  
James R. Denzien  
Warner H. Doyle Jr.  
James N. Edwards  
Harry Ellis  
Charles Emmett  
Howard M. Enloe  
James Evans  
Thomas J. Farley III  
David G. Fledderjohn  
Thomas E. Fooshee  
James Foote  
Billy A. Grieves  
Michael J. Haler  
Eldon L. Hartman

Robert M. Hayball  
Harry Heller  
Herbert Herman  
Glenn A. Herold  
Steve Hough  
Theodore Hunt  
David L. Jones  
L. A. (Mike) Keating  
Karl G. Krull  
Richard F. Kunze  
Douglas M. La Rock  
Robert A. Lancendorfer  
Albert Landeck  
Robert W. Lents  
Steve Leon  
DeWayne Lober  
Burtis W. Loftin  
George Long  
Raymond Marshall  
Dennis McComb  
Angus Howard McPherson  
Alan H. Miller  
Tim Moore  
Danny R. Moss  
James F. Newman  
James W. Newman  
Bryan M. Pellegrini

Royce E. Pettit  
Ernie Plantz  
James Ratte  
Stanley N. Reinhold  
Bruce "Robie" Robinson  
Stanley I. Rud  
Larry D. Ruggles  
Ramon Samson  
Pete Sattig  
John C. Schlag  
Carl Scott  
Garry L. Shumann  
Richard H. "Rick" Simmons  
Wayne Kirk Smith  
William M. Tippet  
Joseph J. Varese  
Eugene Veek  
Patricia A. Warner  
Robert Warner  
James L Wall  
Forrest J. Watson  
Rich Womack  
George C. Woods  
William Woolcott  
John G. Zaichkin

# PERCH BASE OFFICERS



**BASE COMMANDER**  
Howard Doyle  
(623) 935-3830  
[commander@perch-base.org](mailto:commander@perch-base.org)



**VICE-COMMANDER/  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  
Chuck Emmett  
(623) 466-9569  
[communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)  
[vice-commander@perch-base.org](mailto:vice-commander@perch-base.org)



**SECRETARY (Interim)**  
Tim Moore  
(602) 574-3286  
[secretary@perch-base.org](mailto:secretary@perch-base.org)



**TREASURER**  
Bob Warner  
(623) 825-7042  
[treasurer@perch-base.org](mailto:treasurer@perch-base.org)



**CHIEF OF THE BOAT**  
Rich Kunze  
(623) 932-3068  
[cob@perch-base.org](mailto:cob@perch-base.org)



**MEMBERSHIP**  
Rick Simmons  
(623) 583-4235  
[membership@perch-base.org](mailto:membership@perch-base.org)



**CHAPLAIN**  
Steve Leon  
(602) 540-2945  
[chaplain@perch-base.org](mailto:chaplain@perch-base.org)



**EVENT COORDINATOR**  
Walt Blomgren  
(602) 309-4407  
[events@perch-base.org](mailto:events@perch-base.org)



**HISTORIAN**  
Jim Newman  
(602) 840-7788  
[historian@perch-base.org](mailto:historian@perch-base.org)



**STOREKEEPER**  
De Wayne Lober  
(602) 944-4200  
[storekeeper@perch-base.org](mailto:storekeeper@perch-base.org)



**PAST-COMMANDER**  
Jim Denzien  
[past-commander@perch-base.org](mailto:past-commander@perch-base.org)

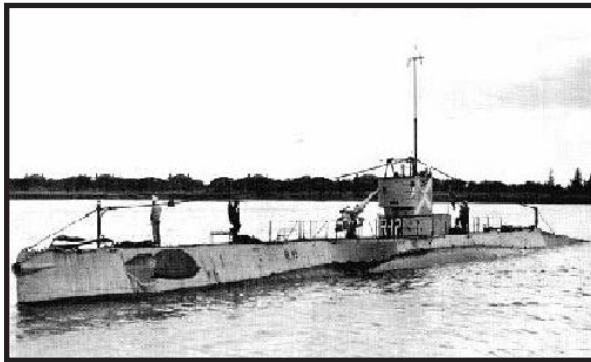
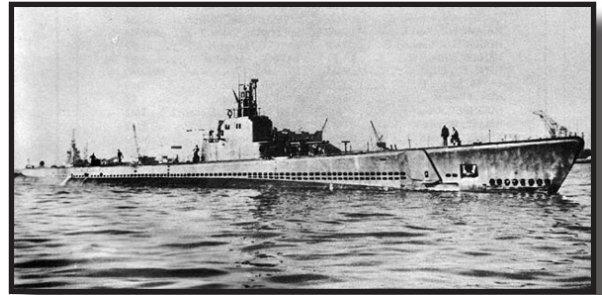


# LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

## JUNE ETERNAL PATROLS

### June 1, 1944 USS Herring (SS-233) 83 men lost

On her eighth war patrol, Herring headed for the Kurile Islands patrol area. She later rendezvoused with Barb (SS-220) and then was never heard from or seen again. Japanese records prove that she sank two merchant ships at anchor in Matsuwa Island on the morning of 1 June 1944. In a counter-attack, enemy shore batteries scored two direct hits on the submarine's conning tower and "bubbles covered an area about 5 meters wide and heavy oil covered an area of approximately 15 miles."

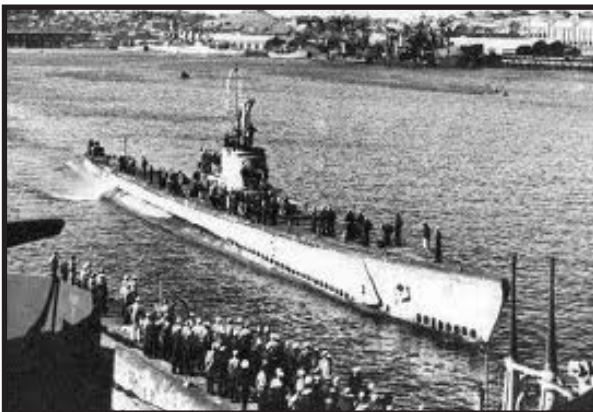


### June 12, 1943 USS R-12 (SS-89) 42 men lost

She was lost near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

### June 14, 1944 USS Golet (SS-361) 82 men lost

Japanese antisubmarine records available after the war revealed that Golet was the probable victim of a Japanese antisubmarine attack made 14 June 1944. These records mention that the attack brought up corks, rafts, and other debris and a heavy pool of oil, all evidence of the sinking of a submarine.



### June 18, 1945 USS Bonfish (SS-223) 85 men lost

While operating in a wolf pack, Bonfish requested and received permission to conduct a daylight submerged patrol of Toyama Wan, a bay farther up the Honshū coast. The boats were equipped with new mine detecting equipment. The attack group was to depart the Sea of Japan via La Perouse Strait on the night of 24 June. Bonfish did not make the scheduled pre-transit rendezvous. Japanese records reveal that a 5,488 ton cargo ship was torpedoed and sunk in Toyama Wan on 19 June and that an ensuing severe counterattack by Japanese escorts brought debris and a major oil slick to the water's surface. There can be little doubt that Bonfish was sunk in this action.

### **June 19, 1942 USS S-27 (SS-132) no loss of life**

She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was subsequently rescued.



### **June 20, 1941 USS O-9 (SS-70) 34 men lost**

While conducting test dives off Portsmouth, NH with sister ships O-6 and O-10, O-9 failed to surface. Flooding, which led to exceeding test depth caused the hull to crush. The actual hull location was located - but remains a secret - in 1997.

### **June 26 – July 4, 1944 USS Runner (SS-275) 78 men lost**

Runner disappeared between June 26 and July 4th with the loss of 78 men. Runner was on her 3rd war patrol probably due to a mine. Prior to her loss, she reported sinking a freighter and a passenger-cargo man off the Kuriles. This boat's last known ship sunk happened on June 26th, so she probably hit that mine on or after that date but before July 4th, when she was scheduled back at Midway.



## **Lost Harbor**

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

**There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**



**SHIPMATES  
WITH  
JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

<b>JOHN SCHLAG</b>	<b>JUNE 2</b>
<b>JAMES NEWMAN</b>	<b>JUNE 3</b>
<b>STEVE LEON</b>	<b>JUNE 5</b>
<b>ROBERT "MATT" HAYBALL</b>	<b>JUNE 7</b>
<b>GARRY L. SHUMANN</b>	<b>JUNE 8</b>
<b>JAMES RATTE</b>	<b>JUNE 20</b>
<b>DON DEMARTE</b>	<b>JUNE 23</b>
<b>JIM EVANS</b>	<b>JUNE 27</b>

---

---

**Sailing  
Orders**

---

---

**May 27**

**Memorial Day Services**

**Phoenix National Cemetery**

*One of our two major events of the year, this is when we truly honor those who gave their lives in the service of their country. Details, of course, in a*

***Flask Traffic***

---

---

**June 8**

**Regular Perch Base Meeting**

*Our monthly meeting, held at our usual location, "Dillions Arrowhead", 59th Ave. and the Loop 101. Happy/Friendship Hour = 11 a.m. Regular Meeting = noon*



Five base officers had a chance to meet with the USSVI National Commander, T. Michael Bircumshaw the night of May 4. Past-Commander Jim Denzien, Commander Howard Doyle, Vice Commander Chuck Emmett, Membership Chairman Rick Simmons, and COB Richard Kunze met for dinner with the commander and his wife Susanna at Raul and Theresa's Mexican restaurant in Goodyear. The Bircumshaws were on their way from California to Payson to visit a friend.

"The meeting was friendly, casual and impromptu," said Jim Denzien. "We were really just a bunch of sub vets shooting the bull and most of the conversation was sea stories and not specific base business. But it did give us a chance to get some views from the head of our national organization and express our Base's cost concerns about taking the float to Washington, D.C. next year."

This topic — Howard suggested looking in to motel and gas station discounts — was passed on to Michael. He in turn briefly discussed the tax problems facing Groton Base and possible implications for all of USSVI's charity status.

"Michael's wife, Susana, brought a camera and took a picture of dinner," Chuck Emmett said, "but we didn't 'get in close' and Rick was included in the picture."





**OUR PERCH BASE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS REQUIRES THAT ANY CHANGES TO THAT DOCUMENT MUST BE POSTED IN THE MIDWATCH FOR TWO ( 2) MONTHS PRIOR TO A VOTE TAKEN BY THE BASE. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS PROPOSED THE FOLLOW CHANGES AS INDICATED BY THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING. IN ALL CASES, THE CHANGES ARE EITHER REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OR ARE EDITORIAL CHANGES.**

## **Proposed Amendment to the Perch Base Constitution and Bylaws.**

The following changes are proposed to bring our Constitution and Bylaws into better compliance with the USSVI Constitution and Bylaws.

### **Various Locations**

The term "Submariners" is used in the title of the organization in place of the misleading "Submarine Veterans, Inc."

### **Article VII –Membership, Section 3 Associate Membership**

*Change paragraph 1 to read "Associate Membership is reserved for persons not otherwise eligible for regular membership. Details on Associate Membership shall be as defined in, and controlled by, the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)"*

Delete the rest of Section 3

*Justification: The details on Associate membership belong in the document that details the other activities of Perch Base. The Constitution and Bylaws provide an overview of activities not the details.*

### **Article VII – Membership, Section 6 Honorary Members**

*Add to paragraph 1 "The Board of Directors must vote in the majority to approve this action.*

*Justification: Prudent action for the position.*

### **Article VIII – Membership Dues, Section 4 New Member Dues**

*Add to the end of the paragraph "as defined in the USSVI Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual, (Latest edition.)"*

*Justification: Consistency with similar statements throughout the document.*

### **Article IX – Officers, Section 2 Appointed Officers**

Add Membership Chairman to the list.

*Justification: Consistency, the Membership Chairman position is an appointed officer in the Policies and Procedures Manual*

### **Article XVI – Amendments, Section 2 Approval**

*Add to the first sentence of paragraph 1. "...for the good of the Base and to ensure the amendment does not conflict with the National Constitution or Bylaws."*

*Justification: Required by the National Constitution.*

### **Article XVI – Amendments, Section 3 Effective Date**

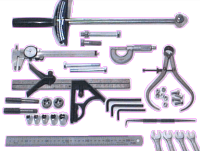
*Change to read*

Amendments which are passed shall be sent to the District Commander for approval and will then become effective upon publication of the final document in the MidWatch.

*Justification: Required by the National Constitution.*


# Reports from the Base Officers



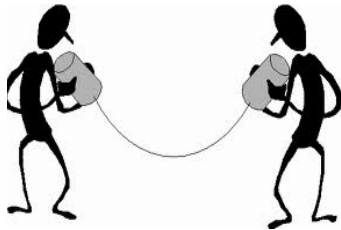


## The “Snipes Castle”

Comments of the Base Commander  
*Howard Doyle*



(The Base Commander has not provided any information for this month’s MidWatch.)



## “Soundings”

Vice Commander/Communications Officer  
*Chuck Emmett*

*(My thoughts while wearing two hats!)*

Of course, our biggest event that’s happened in the past month has been the Perch Base picnic. Not only did we have a good turnout from our own Base, but we also had 11 people from the Gudgeon Base and nine people from Tautog Base as our guests. We even had the “Traveling Dolphins” captured by Tautog Base to continue the tradition. Special thanks and a hearty Bravo Zulu to Stan Reinhold for being “master chief” and who, along with the Base Commander Howard Doyle, planned and purchased all the food for our event.

To share the picnic experience with those who could not attend, I’ve placed all the photographs that I took, plus some that I received from Dan Moss, on the web page in a special section. You can access this section from our main page, [www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org). Look for the special icon on the left side of the page.

Just the other day, I had a lady notice my sub vets hat. She mentioned that her brother was a veteran of submarine service. I gave her one of my business cards, her brother called me, and I hope to see him at our next meeting. The point of this? We are always “advertising” ourselves and our brotherhood’s organization. Take advantage of this to keep Perch Base strong with new membership candidates. If you have a sub vet hat, wear it. If you find another veteran, talk to him. He might just be a sub sailor.







**"Member Mogul"**  
Membership Chairman's Message

**Rick Simmons - Membership**

No new members to report this month but we do have a few applications in the hands of some prospective members. Well, summer is here, the snowbirds have pretty much flown north and triple digits are becoming the norm. This is a good time to hit the pools, malls, Starbucks, home improvement stores, etc. to get out of the sun and heat. All of those are perfect places to "troll" for new members. Many of our new members come from chance meetings at these kinds of places.

The meetings happen when you are sporting Submarine or Perch Base related gear like t-shirts and hats. Once the meeting has happened and the "what boats were you on" conversation has taken place you need to get the prospective member to go to our website to download an application and join us. If you have personal business cards, include the web address on the card or just write it on the back [www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org).

Let them know when and where we meet and make sure they understand that they can visit a meeting or event any time. For active duty folks make sure they understand they don't have to be retired to join, just be qualified. This is especially important when the meet is with a member of the submariner's family.

If you don't have personal business cards we have some generic Perch Base cards with all the contact information on them. Let me know if you want some and I'll make them up. I can also supply you with hard copy applications and self-addressed envelopes if you would like.



I hope everybody that attended our annual picnic had a good time. I did. The weather cooperated with us this year, no one had to stand close to the bar-b-que or fire pit to stay warm like the last couple of years.

We went to Flagstaff and participated in their annual Armed Forces Day Parade. The cool weather there sure was nice and the reception by the spectators was great.

Due to the day of the week this month ends, this is being written before the Memorial Day Program at the National Cemetery. I hope many members were able to attend the program out on there and then attended the Tolling of the Boats performed by Perch Base.

As far as I know June does not have any events scheduled that will require our float. We are planning to participate in the Frontier Days Parade in Prescott in early July. Our float trailer electrical system (lighting) wiring is starting to give us problems, like brittleness and worn away insulation. We want to overhaul the trailer wiring. If any member has the time and experience with trailer wires and would like to help please contact me, or any other base officer, and arrangements can be made to make the repairs.

Richard Kunze  
cob@perch-base.org



**Arizona Silent Service Memorial**  
**Perch Base's Efforts to Recognize Those Gallant Sailors Who Won the Cold War by Their Eternal Vigilant Beneath the World's Oceans.**  
*Committee Co-Chair Dan Moss*

Arizona Silent Service Memorial Update: ASSM Corporate documents have been filed with the Arizona Secretary of State and final approval should be in three or four weeks. There will be a final committee vote at the June 8th meeting for acceptance or rejection of the artist's concept for the ASSM Memorial.



**Event Coordinator's Message**  
*Event Coordinator - Walt Blomgren*

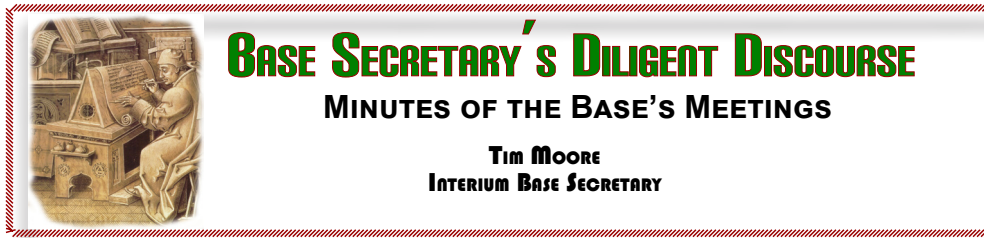
The Memorial Day Service and Tolling for the Boats at Founders Circle (at the torpedo) on May 27 is the last event we have for the summer. Most likely this event will have already occurred when you read this newsletter. Of course, if another event request comes up, the Board of Directors will evaluate it and, if accepted, the Base will be notified by a **FlashTraffic** message.



**CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN**  
*Base Chaplain - Steve Leon*



**(The Base Chaplain has not provided any information for this month's MidWatch.)**



**EDITOR: WE HAD NO REGULAR MEETING IN MAY -- THAT WAS REPLACED BY THE PICNIC -- BUT TIM TOOK NOTES AND PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING. WHAT A SHIPMATE!!**

### Perch Base 2013 Annual Picnic Highlights

The 2013 Perch Base annual picnic was held at the White Tanks Recreational area on Saturday, 11 May 2013. The picnic commenced at about 1100 with prayer of invocation by Base Chaplain Steve Leon.

Chuck Emmett conducted a tolling ceremony for all boats on eternal patrol that were lost in the month of May.

It was reported that there were some 70 to 80 attendees at this year's picnic. In addition to Perch Base, we had representatives from Gudgeon Base in Prescott Valley, Tautog Base in Casa Grande and Tucson Base in Tucson. An enjoyable time was had by all. A special thanks to Stan Reinhold and his faithful crew for preparing the food which was excellent as usual.

We conducted a Holland Club ceremony for inductees from both the Gudgeon Base and Tautog Base. Tom Warner, Base Commander for Gudgeon Base inducted Norm Scott and William Pearce, and Denny Honodel, Base Commander for Tautog Base inducted Norm Scott. Congratulations to these shipmates who have been Qualified in Submarines for 50 years.

The "Traveling Dolphins" were up for a "Capturing the Dolphins" ceremony and were captured by Tautog Base. Base Commander Denny Honodel fulfilled the requirement of telling a "Sea Story" so Tautog Base could officially take possession of the "Traveling Dolphins". Denny announced that Tautog Base would not be conducting meetings in the months of June, July or August so it will be difficult to attempt a capture in that timeframe.

We conducted a 50/50 raffle and \$182 was collected with the winner's share being \$91.00. Rick Simmons held the winning ticket.

We also had a raffle for 1 "Of Course You Feel Inferior...." T-Shirt and Steve Leon had the winning ticket. He said he had never won anything in his life. His wife Beth mentioned that he probably would still be on his winless streak had she not purchased tickets for him. Steve said he would let Beth wear the T-Shirt to the store.

In addition the T-Shirt raffle, which netted \$26.00, we sold 13 shirts which brought in \$260.00 for a total of \$286.00 to the base treasury from our T-Shirt acquisition. We still have 23 shirts available for sale in Med, Lg, XL & XXL sizes. Tim Moore will bring them to the next meeting for distribution. These will be sold on a first come, first serve basis so if you wish to reserve yours in advance, contact Tim Moore after the 25<sup>th</sup> of May and one will be reserved for you. The shirts can be purchased for \$20.00 each.

The benediction was offered by Base Chaplain Steve Leon and the picnic ended at about 1400.

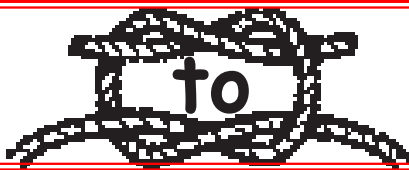
Tim Moore

Interim Secretary

Perch Base USSVI



# Shipmate



# Shipmate

## Now, This Ain't No Sh\*t . . .

We're still looking for stories! All of us have heard the one about the difference between a fairy tale and a sea story. The fairy tale starts, "Once upon a time," and a sea story starts, "Now this ain't no sh\*t!"

Well, that's what we are looking for; sea stories. And they only need to be as true as a sea story ALWAYS is!

So send something in. Here are the rules (or not, whatever):

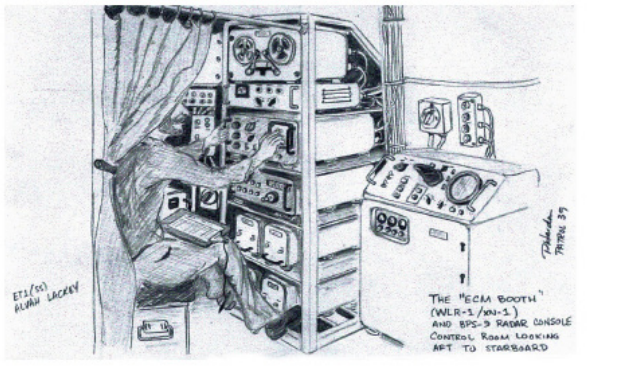
1. We can use your name or not: your choice just let me know.
2. Grammar and spelling DO NOT COUNT. I will edit and change just enough to make it somewhat readable!
3. Remember, this is from "boat" sailors to "boat" sailors. BUT, since this publication may fall into skimmer hands (or worse, decent civilians!), I may have to substitute punctuation marks in place of letters in certain words, as in the title.
4. There is absolutely no limit on how many you can send in. I will publish AT LEAST one each month as we get them.

So send them to:

Chuck Emmett  
[communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)  
or  
7011 West Risner Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308.



SHIPMATE TO SHIPMATE  
STORIES THAT ARE  
"ABSOLUTLY, POSITIVELY, THE TRUTH!"



I do remember one patrol out of Guam; we were fairly close to Japan. We came to periscope depth, and for some reason, seemed to remain there for a long time. Bored with searching for radars, I turned around and found an FM station from Japan that was playing the "top 40" hits of the day. Suddenly I realized the music was filling the entire control room, as the OOD switched the ECM output to the periscope speaker. I remember SN Franklin, the helmsman, and a couple of others rocking with the beat. Suddenly, the CO, Captain Demmin, appeared and asked to see the ECM log. "I don't see this ECM contact logged. If you don't consider it a threat to the boat, I suggest you resume your scans," the Captain politely said. Never tried

that again and pretty much stuck to business thereafter!

Next to the ECM booth is the ships radar. I remember once we were heading to sea, steaming through the choppy Straits of Juan de Fuca shortly after the shipyard at Bremerton. This was like a six hour maneuvering watch. It was slow. Then an exchange something like this occurred: "Radar - Bridge - any significant radar contacts?" said Lt. Denzien, the OOD on the Bridge.

"Bridge - Radar - only contact on the radar screen is a big green rain cloud, range 2 miles, zero angle on the bow" I replied.

"Radar - Bridge - pick up the sound powered phone." On the sound powered phones, I got quite a butt chewing from the OOD for not taking my job serious, screwing around, and he doesn't appreciate my flavor of humor when he's bouncing around in choppy seas, in the pitch dark, and can't see a thing.



About 10 minutes later over the 1MC I hear the OOD scream: "Control - Bridge - FOUR RAINCOATS TO THE BRIDGE -NOW!" Then "Radar - bridge - pick up the sound powered phones." When I answered, I heard Lt. Denzien say "you're vindicated."

*Submitted by Jim Denzien*



## What's the Base Been Up To . . .

Six perch base members made the trek up the hill to Flagstaff on Saturday, May 18 for the annual Armed Forces day parade. This event, always with the float involved, has been one of the highlights of our annual events. The parade itself is not long but the crowds are very enthusiastic.

This year, while we were staging and waiting for the parade to begin, a very nice couple from Italy stopped by to chat. Their English was certainly better than any of our Italian – which was nonexistent – and they indicated that they had come to the parade just to see what was happening. They were very interested in our float and, as you can see, they took pictures of our entire gang. Apparently, interest in Perch base is not just limited to Americans.



Flagstaff Perch Base attendees with the female member of the Italian couple, Daniela.



This is the gentleman, Luciano



# *Eternal Patrol*

## *June 1, 1944*

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 Herring (SS-233) June 1, 1944 83 men lost



### GATO-CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE

Displacement: 1,549 tons (surf) 2,463 tons (sub)  
Length: 311 ft 9 in; Beam: 27 ft 3 in; Draft: 17 ft 0 in]  
4 × Fairbanks-Morse Model 38D8-½ 9-cylinder diesel engines  
driving electrical generators; 2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries]  
4 × high-speed GE electric motors with reduction gears two propellers]  
5,400 shp (surf); 2,740 shp (sub)  
Speed: 21 kn (surf); 9 kn (sub)  
Range: 11,000 nmi surfaced at 10 kn  
Endurance: 48 hours at 2 kn sub, 75 days on patrol  
Test depth: 300 ft  
Complement: 6 officers, 54 enlisted  
Armament: 10 × 21-inch torpedo tubes  
(six forward, four aft), 24 torpedoes  
1 × 4-inch/ 50 caliber deck gun  
Bofors 40 mm and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

USS Herring (SS-233), a Gato-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the herring, a type of small oily fish found in the temperate, shallow waters of the North Atlantic.

Her keel was laid down 14 July 1941 by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 15 January 1942 (sponsored by Mrs. Ray Spear, wife of Rear Admiral Ray Spear, Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts), and commissioned on 4 May 1942 with Lieutenant Commander Raymond W. Johnson (Class of 1930) in command.

After shakedown, the new submarine was one of five sent to the Mediterranean Sea to take station off the North African coast prior to Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa. Reaching her position off Casablanca on 5 November 1942, Herring remained there, spotting but not attacking several targets. On the morning of 8 November as the invasion was launched, the patient sub had her chance, sinking the 5,700 ton cargo ship Ville du Havre. Herring returned to Rosneath Scotland, on 25 November and departed for her second war patrol 16 December, but targets were scarce. The fourth war patrol, an antisubmarine sweep in Icelandic waters, and fifth patrol, which took her back to the United States on 26 July 1943, netted Herring no more kills.

Herring departed New London, Connecticut, for the rich hunting grounds of the Pacific on 9 August 1943. After intensive training at Pearl Harbor, she sailed 15 November 1943 on her sixth war patrol to join the ranks of the American submarines systematically decimating Japanese shipping and destroying the Japanese economy. She scored two kills, the 3,948 ton Hakozaki Maru on 14 December, and the 6,072 ton Nagoya Maru to celebrate New Year's Day 1944. Herring's next patrol was a frustrating one as on 24 March 1944 she stalked a large aircraft carrier but was detected and driven deep before she could attack.



Lieutenant Commander Johnson commanded Herring for five of her first six patrols, with the sole exception being March 1943 when John Corbus was in command. On her seventh and eight patrols she was captained by Lieutenant Commander David Zabriskie, Jr.

Herring's eighth war patrol was to be both her most successful and her last. Topping off at Midway Island on 21 May 1944, Herring headed for the Kurile Islands patrol area. Ten days later she rendezvoused with Barb (SS-220). Herring was never heard from or seen again. However, Japanese records prove that she sank two ships, Ishigaki and Hokuyo Maru, on the night of 30 – 31 May. Ishigaki had been responsible for the sinking of USS S-44 (SS-155) on 7 October 1943. Herring's exact manner of loss can also be determined from these records. Two more merchant ships, Hiburi Maru and Iwaki Maru, were sunk while at anchor in Matsuwa Island on the morning of 1 June 1944. In a counter-attack, enemy shore batteries scored two direct hits on the submarine's conning tower and "bubbles covered an area about 5 meters wide, and heavy oil covered an area of approximately 15 miles." On her last patrol, Herring had sunk four Japanese ships for a total of 13,202 tons. In all, she had sunk six marus totaling 19,959 tons, and a Vichy cargo ship.

Herring received five battle stars for her service in World War II.



## TRADITIONS!

*(This story below was written in 2007. Since that time, when USS Los Angeles (SSN-688) was decommissioned on 23 January 2010, USS Bremerton (SSN-698) became the oldest commissioned submarine in the US fleet. On that day, Richard O'Kane's cribbage board was transferred from Los Angeles to Bremerton.)*



The United States Navy is steeped in customs, courtesies and rituals. One of the U.S. submarine traditions that few, other than submariners, know about is the guardian of the cribbage board.

The nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor on May 7 for deployment. This time the submarine deployed with a cribbage board that belonged to Medal of Honor recipient and World War II prisoner of war Rear Adm. Richard H. 'Dick' O'Kane.

O'Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his daring attacks on two Japanese convoys while in command of the World War II submarine USS Tang (SS-306) during its fifth and final patrol in 1944.

*"With ships bearing down from all sides, he charged the enemy at high speed, exploding the tanker in a burst of flame, smashing the transport dead in the water, and blasting the destroyer with a mighty roar which rocked the Tang from stem to stem. Expending his last two torpedoes into the remnants of a once powerful convoy before his own ship went down,"* states O'Kane's citation.



After his submarine was sunk, the Japanese captured then-Commander O'Kane who spent the rest of the war in secret captivity.

After it was cleaned and restored, the more than 60-year old cribbage board came into the possession of the Pacific Submarine Force and the tradition of passing the cribbage board from the oldest submarine to the next was started.

O'Kane's wife Ernestine was the sponsor of the second submarine named USS Tang (SS 563), the original keeper of the board. Tang was stricken from the Navy Vessel Register in 1987.

USS Kamehameha (SSN-642) was then the longest commissioned of the oldest submarines to safeguard the board. Kamehameha was decommissioned in 2002 after nearly 37 years of service, and the game board then went to USS Parche (SSN-683). Parche was the namesake of one of the most highly decorated subs to serve in the Pacific Fleet during World War II. Although Parche decommissioned in July 2005, the cribbage board was finally sent to Los Angeles this year.

"It's an honor to deploy with O'Kane's cribbage board," said Los Angeles Commanding Officer, Commander Erik Burian. "Embarking with a piece of submarine history is a constant reminder of the legacy that we will continue. My crew and I enjoy passing time playing cribbage while not on duty and we are proud that we can carry on the tradition."

Card games were a favorite form of entertainment for submariners while on deployment during World War II and cribbage was a popular game on USS Wahoo (SS-238) with executive officer O'Kane and his commanding officer, World War II legend Dudley "Mush" Morton.

Cribbage lore among submariners is that while patrolling in the shallow waters of the Yellow Sea during its fourth war patrol, Morton dealt O'Kane a perfect 29, the highest possible score for combinations in a single cribbage deal. The crew felt that it was a lucky omen and Wahoo sank two Japanese freighters that night.

Three days later, while patrolling off the Korean coast south of Chinnampo, Morton dealt a 28-point hand to O'Kane. They sank two freighters that day and another one the following day.

During its deployment, Los Angeles will honor the traditions of American submarine fleet in the Western Pacific while carrying out its mission.

'We have the newest technology on the oldest U.S. submarine,' said Burian. "And, I have complete confidence in my crew to get the job done."

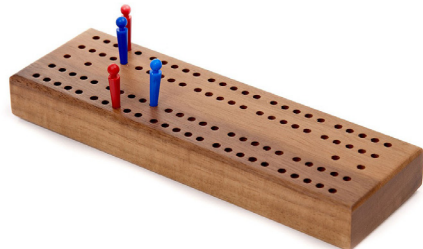
Every time a Sailor earns a special qualification, Burian reads a different passage from Theodore Roscoe's United States Submarine Operations in World War II.

'It helps to keep the crew grounded and to stay focused on the big picture,' said Burian.

Los Angeles, the fourth naval ship to be named after the City of Los Angeles, is the lead ship of her class. Designed as a follow-on to the Sturgeon class submarines built during the 1960s, the Los Angeles class incorporated improved sound quieting and a larger propulsion plant than previous classes.

Its many capabilities include wartime functions of undersea warfare, surface warfare, strike warfare, mining operations, special forces delivery, reconnaissance, carrier battle group support and escort, and intelligence collection. Her missiles can reach targets on 75 percent of the Earth's land surface.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit [www.news.navy.mil/local/subpac/](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/subpac/)





**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base

7011 West Risner Road

Glendale, AZ 85308

E-Mail: [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

<http://www.perch-base.org>



**NEXT BASE MEETING**  
**June 8**