

# The MidWatch

September 2013  
Volume 19 - Issue 9

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



A great time -- and cool weather -- as guests of Gudgeon Base, Prescott, at their annual picnic on August 17. See more pictures on our web page.



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."**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**September 2013  
Volume 19 - Issue 9**

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
USSVI Creed	2
Table of Contents	2
2013 Perch Base Foundation Supporters	3
Other Advertisers and Friends	3
Perch Base Officers	4
Lest We Forget: Boats on Eternal Patrol for August	5
September Base Birthdays	6
Sailing Orders	6
Reports from Base Officers	
"Snipes Castle" Base Commander	7
"Soundings" Base Vice Commander and Communications Officer	7
"Member Mogul" Membership Chairman	8
<b>Flash Traffics</b> – List of recent messages	8
IRS Takes a Look at SubVets (newspaper article)	9
Minutes of the August Base Meeting	11
Operations Sunshine: Nautilus Under the Ice . . .	13
Shipmate-to-Shipmate (This Ain't No S**t)	15
Lost Boat - September: USS S-51 (SS-31)	16
Perch: A Lesson in Metamorphosis	17
Mailing Page	18

## 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  
Don DeMarte  
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

## OTHER ADVERTISERS AND FRIENDS

**ARIZONA VETERANS**  
**MAGAZINE**  
PROUDLY HONORING VETERANS IN ARIZONA

MARK FIELD  
Publisher & Editor  
US Navy Veteran

602-434-3454  
MarkField@AZVetMag.com  
PO Box 83323, Phoenix, AZ 85071



**Renee Palmer-Jones**  
Artistic Designer  
Public Structures & Monuments

623-398-8831  
renee@rpjfineart.com





# 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)



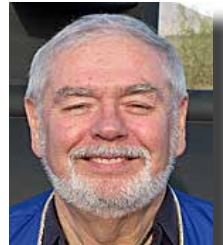
**SECRETARY (Interim)**  
Tim Moore  
(602) 574-3286  
[secretary@perch-base.org](mailto:secretary@perch-base.org)

**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)



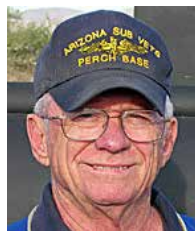
**CHAPLAIN**  
(to be announced)

**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)

# Less We Forget, Those Submarines That Never Returned, and Remain ... on Eternal Patrol

## SEPTEMBER BOATS



### Sept. 1, 1920 USS S-5 (SS-110) no loss of life

Sank by flooding during a full-power test dive. Open main induction flooding was determined to be the cause.



### Sept. 25, 1925 USS S-51 (SS-31) 33 men lost

Rammed by merchant steamer City of Rome near Block Island.



### Sept. 9, 1943 USS Grayling (SS-209) 76 men lost

No recorded Japanese attacks could have sunk Grayling. Her loss may have been operational or by an unrecorded attack. The only certainty, therefore, is that Grayling was lost between 9 September and 12 September 1943 either in Lingayen Gulf or along the approaches to Manila. ComTaskFor71 requested a transmission from Grayling on 12 September, but did not receive one.

### Sept. 28, 1943 USS Cisco (SS-290) 76 men lost

Japanese records tell of sighting a submarine leaking oil on 8 September in an area where Cisco is known to have been the only submarine then operating. Japanese records state this submarine was sunk by bombs and depth charges. Cisco is thus presumed to have been lost in action 28 September 1943. Japanese Records indicate the submarine was attacked by Type 97 "Kate" attack bombers of the 954 Naval Air Squadron and the riverboat Karatsu (originally a U.S. gunboat, USS Luzon [PR-7], captured by Japanese forces and put to work against its former owners).





**SHIPMATES  
WITH  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

<b>KIRBY ANDERSON</b>	<b>9/18</b>
<b>GARY BARTLETT</b>	<b>9/26</b>
<b>MICHAEL G. BENNETT</b>	<b>9/4</b>
<b>RON A. DUTCHER</b>	<b>9/12</b>
<b>HOWARD M. ENLOE</b>	<b>9/24</b>
<b>JOE ERRANTE</b>	<b>9/4</b>
<b>STEPHEN F. HOUGH</b>	<b>9/29</b>
<b>DARRELL LAMBERT</b>	<b>9/29</b>
<b>WILLAIM LUND</b>	<b>9/5</b>
<b>ALAN MILLER</b>	<b>9/4</b>
<b>DANIEL J. REEL</b>	<b>9/7</b>
<b>WAYNE KIRK SMITH</b>	<b>9/6</b>
<b>EUGENE B. VEEK</b>	<b>9/5</b>
<b>EDWARD J. WOLF</b>	<b>9/1</b>

**Sailing  
Orders**

**September 14**

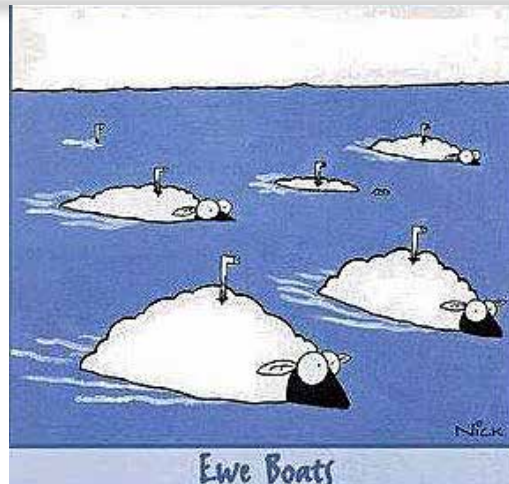
**Regular Perch Base Meeting**

*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*

**To see what our base  
has been up to, check  
our web page for pho-  
tos of our latest event.  
(Gudgeon Base Picnic)**




Scan for the Perch Base Web Site






# Reports from the Base Officers



**The “Snipes Castle”**  
Comments of the Base Commander  
*Howard Doyle*



The dog days of summer are upon us and here in Arizona that means the monsoon has finally arrived. I had forgotten just how much I disliked humidity and am reminded that there is a good reason for living in the desert.

Several members of Perch Base were able to return to Prescott to enjoy that part of Arizona and some good fellowship and some not so good sea stories at the Gudgeon Base picnic. Bravo Zulu to Gudgeon Base.

Perch Base has several members at the national USSVI convention and we are all looking forward to hearing about their experiences and information on the USSVI National level.

On September 11, the Association of the United States Navy, Phoenix Saguaro Chapter is having a meeting and has invited any Perch Base member interested to attend. The meeting will be at Serrano’s Mexican Restaurant 141 S. Arizona Ave, Chandler, \$21 each. Call Carol Culbertson, chapter president at (602) 943-7834, to confirm. Also, the 238th United States NAVY Birthday Ball will be at the Phoenix Marriott at the Buttes on October 19. This is a “Formal;” dress blues with medals (active duty) and formal attire for civilian guests (read tux.) Additional details later.



**“Soundings”**  
Vice Commander/Communications Officer  
**Chuck Emmett**  
*(My thoughts while wearing two hats!)*

With Perch Base members and guests, we had a good showing at the Gudgeon Base picnic. About 11 of us attended the event. Although the weather was Prescott-warm, we were surprised by a sudden rain shower the dropped the temperature to 73°. Made us Phoenicians want to run for jackets! The pictures of the event are available on our website at: [http://www.perch-base.org/Index\\_Files/Events/AUG\\_Gudgeon\\_Picnic\\_2013/Gudgeon\\_Base\\_Picnic.htm](http://www.perch-base.org/Index_Files/Events/AUG_Gudgeon_Picnic_2013/Gudgeon_Base_Picnic.htm).

As I stated in a message that I sent out to all hands, I will be undergoing rotator cuff surgery on my right shoulder. Right now, there’s no way of telling how long I’ll be incapacitated, but certainly through the time period where I would be producing the October newsletter. I asked in the message if anyone would be able to help me with that newsletter. Out of over 150 base members I received one response.

Shipmates, even if you don’t have the rather advanced software that I use for the newsletter maybe you could sit with me and do the keyboard work while I talk you through the process. Again, I’m asking for any volunteers that could come to my assistance and help the base.

Right now, the October base meeting looks to be a very important one that you don’t want to miss. Tentatively, we hope to have the Arizona State Senator (I forget the name) who hopefully will sponsor the proposal for the Arizona Silent Service Monument in Wesley Bolin Park. It’ll be very interesting to hear what he will have to say.





Shipmates, it is that time of year again, dues renewal is coming up. You will be getting your 2014 dues renewal/donation request letter by the end of September. I'm trying to get them out a little early this year to allow as many members as possible to take advantage of the "Early Bird" special.

When I send out the renewal/donation letters I use the USSVI database to generate the addresses. You can help both of us by making sure the address listed is where you want your renewal sent. If you want it sent to a different address or can't get into your USSVI profile, let me know. E-mail is preferred but a phone call will work if you have no e-mail access.

Remember, all Perch Base dues payments received before 10/31/13 will be entered in the Early Bird Drawing to be held at the Awards Dinner in January. The name drawn will be exempt from Perch Base dues in 2015 (Yes, you will still have to pay national dues if you owe them). Also remember, all dues must be paid and processed (sent in to USSVI) no later than 12/31/13. Obviously sending in your dues on New Year's Eve will not cut it so pay your dues as early as possible.

When you get your letter and pay your dues and/or make a donation to Perch Base please be sure to return the payment coupon indicating your payment.

A quick word about checks, this year you can use the same check for both dues payments and donations to Perch Base. That's right, 1 check to cover it all. Any payment in excess of what you owe for dues will be considered a donation to Perch Base. If you are paying for multiple years or life membership make that clear on the return coupon.

---

## **Flash Traffics**

**. . . sent since the last listing (#07-04-2013)**

*Unlike other Bases, which wait and include USSVI notices and other breaking news in their newsletter, we inform our Members almost immediately via electronic e-mails called **Flash Traffic**. Each month we will list those that were issued during the month(s) leading up to the Base Meeting. The documents themselves are not publicly archived but they are available. Please contact me, the Base's Communications Officer if you wish a copy.*

**Flash Traffic #07-05\_2013:** Forward from National: "Silent Service" TV Series

**Flash Traffic #08-02\_2013:** (THIS NUMBER WAS NOT USED.)

**Flash Traffic #08-03\_2013:** USSVI Flash-01: Resignation of our National Treasurer, Richard McPherson

**Flash Traffic #08-04\_2013:** This Saturday's Gudgeon Base Picnic

**Flash Traffic #08-05\_2013:** (USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: 2013 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL

**Flash Traffic #08-06\_2013:** Questions and Answers with RADM Barry Brunner

**Flash Traffic #08-07\_2013:** USSVI NEWS: Death of a "Hero" / USSVI Calendars





# IRS TAKES A LOOK AT SUBVETS



By Jennifer McDermott

## ***Publication: The Day***

### **Groton group's commander resigns amid allegations of clubhouse mismanagement**

Groton - In a controversy that has pitted submarine veterans against each other, the head of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Groton Base has resigned amid allegations he mismanaged clubhouse finances and risked an Internal Revenue Service seizure of Subvets assets nationwide.

The national organization, United States Submarine Veterans Inc., began investigating after John Carcioppolo, commander of the Groton group, sent a letter to members in January asking for tax-deductible donations so back taxes and penalties owed to the IRS could be paid.

A life member of the Groton Base, T. Michael Bircumshaw, who is the national commander, was among those who received the letter.

Bircumshaw, who lives in California, said in an interview that for years the Groton base had said it was operating its clubhouse and bar at 40 School St. as a corporation, separate from the tax-exempt veterans' organization. Donations to for-profit corporations are not tax-deductible.

The IRS issued a statement of intent to "levy" - or seize - U.S. Submarine Veterans property because taxes had not been properly withheld for clubhouse employees since 2009. About \$5,700 was owed, plus penalties and fines, for a total of \$12,000 to \$15,000, Carcioppolo said in his letter to members.

The national organization asked for copies of the clubhouse's incorporation documents, which Carcioppolo could not produce.

When the national group concluded the clubhouse was not a separate corporation but rather a part of Subvets, it was concerned that it could be liable if the IRS decided to seize assets. Not only were the property and bank accounts in Groton in jeopardy, Bircumshaw said, but so too were the \$1 million in the national accounts and about \$1 million held by more than 160 bases across the country.

The national commander was so alarmed he convened a disciplinary committee, which found Carcioppolo at fault for the fiscal mess and kicked off a furor online over the practices in Groton and the national organization's response.

### **More than \$30,000 raised**

The national organization had its beginnings in Groton in 1964, and for about four years that was its only site in the country. Groton is the only group that operates a clubhouse and bar, which offers food and drinks and serves as a gathering place for members and their families.

In 2000, the national headquarters shifted from Groton to Silverdale, Wash. There are more than 13,000 members and the national organization oversees the local groups, including Groton.

The disciplinary committee consisted of three submarine veterans who have led other bases and regions. Their investigation is complete, and no outside organization is investigating. No criminal charges are pending.

Nevertheless, Bircumshaw said he still questions why Carcioppolo sought donations in the first place, since the Groton Base had more than \$209,000 in cash assets in January.

Carcioppolo said in an interview this week that some of the group's assets were tied up in certificates of deposits and other donations were restricted to specific causes, such as scholarships. He said he doesn't think the national organization's assets could have been seized because the Groton base has its own tax identification number.

More than \$30,000 in donations was collected in response to Carcioppolo's letter.

"If I hadn't said they were tax-deductible donations, I would've been fine," Carcioppolo said. "I know we're a war veterans' organization and donations to a war veterans' organization are tax-deductible. I didn't know that to do what we were trying to do was not tax-deductible."

The bills were paid, Carcioppolo said, but the IRS has not yet finished its review. An IRS spokesman said by law he could not comment on an individual taxpayer's situation.

Carcioppolo also said that since the group collected more money than it owed the IRS, the additional funds were set aside to pay some clubhouse bills. Seven people work in the clubhouse, he said.

Carcioppolo said he takes ownership of their problems. "I was the base commander so I was responsible," he said.

### **Dispute moves to Internet**

Carcioppolo, who led the base from 1998 to 2007 and starting again in 2009, stepped down on June 29 after he was given a choice of resigning and not running for office in the future or being removed with the right to appeal. He said this week he feared that if he did not resign, the national organization would stop backing the club's liquor license.

"And I didn't want it to continue going on and on and on," he said.

In his resignation letter to Groton base members, however, Carcioppolo questioned the motives of the national organization. He slammed the report and accused its leaders of trying to harm the base and damage his reputation.

Carcioppolo's letter was published on an Internet bulletin board frequented by submarine veterans. Supporters and opponents commented at length on the board and on Facebook. A Facebook page was created in July to call for Bircumshaw's removal.

In response to the online debate, Bircumshaw issued a public statement on July 9 and a summary of the disciplinary committee's findings.

Ten people were interviewed in Groton, including Carcioppolo. Some of them said Carcioppolo was reimbursed for household items he purchased for his own use while shopping for groceries for the club and did not ring up all of the sales while working as a bartender at the club.

The report raised the issue of whether Carcioppolo should legally have worked as a bartender while serving as an officer of the organization.

"There were reports of cash stashed in paper bags; past receipts delivered in two plastic bags. This seemed unconscionable to the Committee, particularly considering the amount of money that flowed through the bar. It was the Base Commander's responsibility to correct this," the summary read.

Carcioppolo said he would not comment on those findings. Bircumshaw did not release the full report, saying it is an "internal document."

Carcioppolo, who said he appreciates the support he has received from fellow veterans, plans to stay involved with the Groton Base.

Stan Mathis, who was the vice commander in Groton and is now the commander, said some local members are upset with the way things were handled.

"We're just going to forge ahead," Mathis said. "If we hit a bump in the road, we're going to go around it, go over it, but somehow or another we're just going to continue with the way the Groton base has always been and try to support our community."

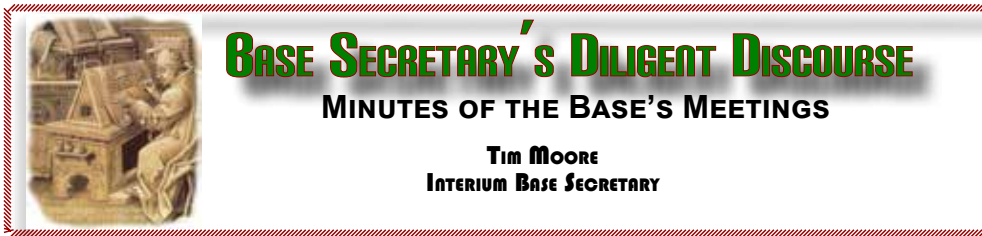
The national organization has appointed a liaison to the Groton base, wants a change in the accounting system in Groton, and is reviewing the liability insurance coverage, Bircumshaw said.

The Groton base has the full support and backing of the national board of directors, Bircumshaw said, adding that it is "incredibly unfortunate" the incident has had such a negative impact.

He also responded to the critics who have called for his removal. "Should I fall on my sword? I don't think so," he said. "You just keep going. Based on all the evidence, we've done exactly the right thing, and if I had to do it again, I would."

j.mcdermott@theday.com





**August 2013 General Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead, in Glendale, AZ at 1204 hours, 10 August 2013. The meeting was called to order by Howard Doyle, Base Commander.

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

Howard asked for the introduction of new members and guests. The first introduction was for Dan Nelson, a potential member whose qual boat was the USS Benjamin Franklin SSBN-640. Dan spent four years in the Navy and made 5 patrols out of Guam in the late sixties. Next to be introduced was Jim Fox who is visiting today and is Base Commander for the Cowtown Base in Ft. Worth, TX. Jim's qual boat was the William H Bates SSN-680. Jim spoke of his Navy career and invited us to the Cowtown Base in Ft. Worth which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month except for the months of July and August. Davy Jones introduced his grandson, Demetrius Shargani who was in attendance with Davy today. Demetrius is here from Hawaii and will be attending ASU pursuing engineering degree.

Howard announced that Herb Herman and Stan Reinhold were back with us today, both of whom have been on the Binnacle List for quite some time and are currently recovering from their ailments.

According to the Sailing List there were twenty-three (23) members and guests present. The complete sailing list included:

Howard Doyle	Chuck Emmett	Rich Kunze	Jim Denzien
Tim Moore	Rick Simmons	DeWayne Lober	Herb Coulter
John Mosher	Doug LaRock	Dan Nelson	Don DeMarte
Don Unser	Davy Jones	Demetrus Shargani	George Crider
Ted Hunt	Mark Field	Stan Reinhold	Jim Fox
Mark Field	Herb Herman	Royce Pettit	

As the first item of business, Howard Doyle presented the Treasurer's Report stating the financial status for the month ending 31 July 2013. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved as published. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Howard asked for a motion to approve the July general meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the July 2013 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report**

Howard announced that because of recent issues at Groton Base and the IRS, the Board of Directors made a decision to acquire Business Owners liability insurance policy to cover Perch Base in the event that there are errors or omissions or other unforeseen circumstances that might result in a lawsuit against the base. State Farm has a policy that will cover our current needs. The USSVI used to have a policy that covered individual bases but the carrier dropped the USSVI because of requirements by some states that were not within parameters of the coverage available. Currently there is no blanket policy available the will cover bases in all 50 states. So until such time that something becomes available at the national level, Perch Base will be covered by this State Farm policy for a premium cost of \$300.00 annually.

Howard presented an update in reference to the ongoing issues at Groton Base. Both Jim Fox of Cowtown Base and Jim Denzien provided additional information about these issues. Jim Denzien also suggested that if anyone desires additional detail, information can be found on the USSVI website under the documents link and look for the USSVI Disciplinary Committee Summary of Findings which is a 4 page document detailing the committee findings

along with a letter from USSVI Commander Michael Burcumshaw detailing what was done and why it was done.

Howard announced that the USSVI has been designated by Congress as all 501(c) 19 War Veterans Organization and all USSVI bases fall under this classification as tax exempt organizations. In the future anyone who makes a donation to the Perch Base only needs to write one check. All donations above and beyond membership dues are tax deductible. Donors will receive an official thank you letter acknowledging receipt of contributions.

### **Officers and Committee Chairmen Reports**

**Vice-Commander/Communications Officer** – Chuck Emmett had nothing to report.

**Interim Secretary** – Tim Moore had nothing to report.

**Secretary** – Herb Herman said he hopes to resume his Secretarial duties next month if his health permits.

**Treasurer** – Bob Warner was not present.

**Membership Chair** – Rick Simmons had nothing to report.

**Chaplain** – Steve Leon was not present.

**Events Coordinator** – Walt Blomgren was not present.

**Chief of the Boat** – Rich Kunze announced that he would be going to the national convention (as the official Perch Base representative) at the end of the month. If anyone has any questions, ideas or other issues they would like brought up at the general business meeting, let Richard know and he will get it on the business meeting agenda.

**Base Storekeeper** – DeWayne Lober announced he has a special on large window decals.

**Past Commander** – Jim Denzien had nothing to report.

**Past Commander** – Stan Reinhold had nothing to report.

**Historian** – Jim Newman was not present.

**ASSM (Arizona Silent Service Memorial)** – Dan Moss announced that we will be having Senator Melvin of Tucson as a keynote speaker at the September meeting to discuss the legislative procedures related to the ASSM memorial and to answer any questions we might have.

### **Old Business**

Howard announced that we have published updates to our Constitution in the MidWatch. These updates were done to insure we are in compliance with the USSVI. He entertained a motion to accept the changes as published in the MidWatch. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous show of hands vote. Chuck will forward the constitutional changes to the District Commander, Jack Messersmith.

It was also announced that Rev. 9 of the Policies and Procedures Manual are now in affect and are published on the Perch Base website.

Tom Warner, Gudgeon Base Commander has invited the Perch Base membership to attend their picnic next Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of August at Fain Park in Prescott Valley. This invitation is for Perch Base members and their families. We need to provide a head count so they can prepare for our visit. Chuck will attempt to get the logistical information and send it out to the membership as a Flash Traffic. Based on a show of hands, we currently have thirteen (13) people planning to attend.

### **New Business**

Again we want to make an appeal to solicit business card ads for the MidWatch. These ads will cost \$100.00 and are effective for a year. This can be an effective fundraiser for our base.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Don DeMarte brought us up to date on this event. Perch Base will be purchasing two pavers for their memorial fund raiser, one for the WWII Submarine Veterans and one for Perch Base. It was approved by the BOD to purchase an 8” x 8” brick paver honoring the Submarine Veterans of WWII at a cost of \$500.00 with 6 lines of text and \$125.00 for a 4” x 8” brick paver with 3 lines of text sponsored by Perch Base.

Howard announced that we are still accepting donations for the victims of the Yarnell Hill fire and for the families of the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots who gave their lives fighting that fire. These donations will be split 50:50 with half going to the 100 Club for the families of the fallen firefighters and half going to the Salvation Army designated for the Yarnell Hill fire victims. It was also announced that FEMA and the Administration have stated that the Yarnell Hill fire does not qualify as a disaster and the victims will be receiving no Federal assistance.



Tim Moore presented a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation in remembrance of the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill wild lands fire. There was an impromptu memorial set up at Fire Station #7 in Prescott and this presentation was based on photos taken at that site.

### **Good of the Order**

Jim Denzien announced that he has spoken with Billy Grieves and under the circumstances he is doing quite well. Muriel is slipping and is very reliant on Billy for support. Billy wants all the base membership to know how much he appreciates our concern and well wishes that come from his shipmates at Perch Base. It may be some time before we get the opportunity to see Billy again so in the meantime let's keep Billy and Muriel in our thoughts and prayers.

Howard announced that Steve Leon has taken a new job that will necessitate his working Saturdays. As a result we need to find a replacement for Steve to fill the Chaplain's position. If there is anyone who might be interested in filling Steve's position, please let Howard know.

### **Binnacle List**

Richard Kunze announced that Milton McNeill is showing improvement and George Crider is with us today so he is much improved. Herb Herman and Stan Reinhold are also with us today so it seems they are on the mend as well. Let's keep these shipmates in our prayers for their continued improvement.

### **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was held and Jim Fox's wife Linda drew the winning ticket. There was \$95.00 in the pot and Howard Doyle won the winner's share of \$47.00.

### **Adjournment**

The benediction was offered by Base Commander Howard Doyle.

All outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 1321 hours.

Tim Moore

Interim Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



# **Operation Sunshine Under The Ice: The USS Nautilus Mission 55 Years Ago**

*Philip R. Devlin, Patch.com, Jul 31*



Given the enduring popularity of Jules Verne's classic novel 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, it should come as no surprise that no fewer than six vessels in the Navy have been named the Nautilus — two ships and four submarines.

But the last submarine named Nautilus (SSN-571) was a game-changer. Built during the Cold War in the 1950s, this version of the Nautilus was the first sub ever to be powered by a nuclear reactor. As such, its ability to stay submerged for extremely long periods of time was unprecedented. At 319 feet in length, the Nautilus was much larger than diesel-powered subs, and weighed more than 3,000 tons. It rewrote the submarine record book for durability and distance.

Built in Groton, CT, in 1951, the sub was christened there by First Lady Mamie Eisenhower on January 21, 1954. Its home port was the Naval Submarine Base in Groton as well, the home, too, for many of its crew.

By the time it was decommissioned in 1980, it had roamed the seas of the world for more than 25 years and had

traveled an incredible 500,000 miles! Today, it is the centerpiece exhibit at the Submarine Force Library, Museum, and Gift Shop on 1 Crystal Lake Road in Groton. More than 250,000 visitors tour the Nautilus annually. The submarine was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1982.

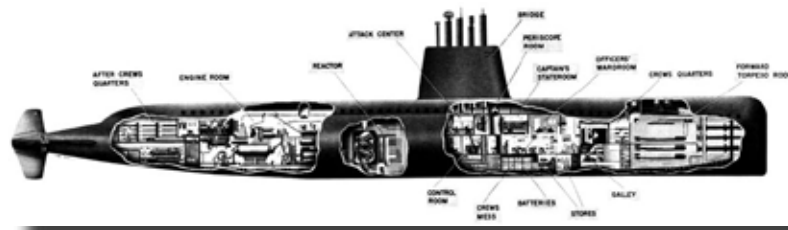
Its most famous voyage happened 55 years ago this week. Having left New London on July 23, 1958, the Nautilus headed to Pearl Harbor. After a layover in Pearl, SSN-571 then headed north on a secret mission called "Operation Sunshine."

As the sub headed north, a water leak developed in the engine room in one of the condensers and threatened the safety of the mission. Commander William Anderson had the Nautilus berth in Seattle while he devised a solution for the leaking condenser. His ingenious solution was to have his crew go out into the city of Seattle to purchase "Bar's Leak" — the tried-and-true solution for fixing a car's leaking radiator. (More than 100 million have been sold to date.)

He ordered the crew to don civilian clothes and to buy as much "Bar's Leak" as they could find at service stations and automotive supply stores in Seattle. They returned with 140 bottles! Half of that supply was dumped into the system, and it worked! The leak was fixed. Next stop: the North Pole.



As the Nautilus approached the North Pole, it had to submerge to pass under the ice. While submerged and traveling at about 500 feet in depth, the 116 man crew became the first known human beings to say that they had literally been "on top of the world."



They were the first mariners to say that they had reached 90 degrees North. As the submarine passed 90 degrees North, Commander Anderson uttered these famous words: "For the world, our country, and the

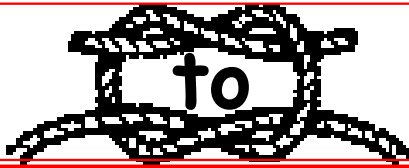
Navy—the North Pole." The sub was under the ice for 96 straight hours and covered 1,830 miles before surfacing off the northeast coast of Greenland. The Nautilus then headed to port in England briefly before returning to New London. The entire crew received a Presidential Unit Citation—the first one ever given to servicemen not at war.

The importance of the polar exploration in 1958 cannot be overestimated. It was a major morale booster for the country, as just one year before the Soviet Union had put the first ever satellite into space—the Sputnik. The Soviets did not have a nuclear submarine in their arsenal. We did. It was superb, and it was made in and stationed in Connecticut!



Nautilus' final berth, right next to the Submarine Base at New London

# 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!"

## LEFT ON THE BRIDGE DURING A DIVE

by Mike Henry, QM3(SS)

When I was on the USS Raton (AGSS 270) in 1969, we were overseas doing sea ops with the Korean Navy. I was the duty QM, so it was my job to open the Conning Tower hatch and be the first man up when we surfaced. A young lieutenant junior grade, "Mr. Take Her Down", was the OOD.

We surfaced at full speed into the seas. Mr. Take yells "quartermaster up" and I cracked the hatch and went to the bridge, which was about half way from the top of the sail on the Rat. A wave caught the bow and the ship's momentum started the ship going back down! By this time about 3 feet of water was on the bridge and the ship was taking on water through the hatch, so the helmsman shut the hatch - with me still on the bridge. Good call by the helmsman, because otherwise the ship was going down for the last time.

The ship was still going down, so I started climbing the outside ladder-rails on the sail. Another wave came over the ship, and I was under water for a moment while on my way to the top of the sail. I had to decide whether or not to let go, and decided to hold on because: (1) the ship's twin screws tended to suck everything into them; and (2) the fact that we seldom found the milk cans we threw overboard during man-overboard drills.

I can still remember being on top of the sail, at sea level, with only about a foot of the sail being visible - the rest of the boat was under water. The guys in the control room later told me they were "blowing everything but the old man" trying to surface the boat. When they finally surfaced, I was still on top of the sail. I climbed down through the ladder inside of the sail. Mr. Take tried to blame the helmsman for not forwarding his "ahead 1/3" order to the maneuvering room (You're only supposed to surface at 1/3 speed), but my log verified that he never gave that order. The old man believed my story, especially when he noticed that my boondockers (remember those boots?) were sucked off when I was climbing the sail - holding on like an underwater flag.



## *Eternal Patrol* *September 25, 1925*

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

**USS S-51 (SS-31)**  
**September 25, 1925**  
**33 men lost**



**Class & type:** S-class submarine, Group IV  
**Displacement:** 993 tons (surf.), 1,230 tons (sub)  
**Length:** 240', **Beam:** 21'10", **Draft:** 13'6"  
**Speed:** 14.5 knots (surf.), 11 kn (sub.)  
**Propulsion:** 2×Busch-Sulzer diesels, 900 hp (670 kW) each;  
2 × Ridgway electric motors, 750 horsepower (560 kW) each;  
120 cell Exide battery; two shafts.  
**Bunkerage:** 177 tons oil fuel  
**Range:** 8,000 nautical miles at 10 knots, surfaced  
**Depth:** 200 ft (61 m)  
**Complement:** 38 officers and men  
**Armament:** 1 × 4 in (100 mm) deck gun  
5 × 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes



USS S-51 (SS-162) was a fourth-group (S-48) S-class submarine of the United States Navy.

Her keel was laid down on 22 December 1919 by the Lake Torpedo Boat Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. She was launched on 20 August 1921 sponsored by Mrs. R.J. Mills, and commissioned on 24 June 1922 with Lieutenant W. S. Haas in command.

The new submarine was based at New London, Connecticut on 1 July 1922 as a unit of Submarine Division 4 (SubDiv 4) and followed a normal peacetime training cycle, operating out of her home port with visits to Newport, Rhode Island, and Providence, Rhode Island. She departed from New York City on 4 January 1924 for the Panama Canal Zone to participate in winter fleet maneuvers off Panama and in the Caribbean Sea. During this cruise, she visited Trinidad, Guantanamo Bay, Culebra, and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. After returning to New York City on 30 April, she resumed type training off Block Island and in New England coastal waters.

### **Sinking**

On the night of 25 September 1925, S-51 was operating on the surface near Block Island, with her running lights on. The merchant steamer City of Rome spotted a single white masthead light but were unable to determine its course, speed, or intentions. The ship altered her course away from the unknown light to give whatever it might be greater leeway. Meanwhile, S-51 spotted the ship's masthead and green sidelights, and held her course as she was required to do by the Rules of the Road then in effect. Shortly after altering course, City of Rome spotted the submarine's red sidelight and realized that they were on collision courses. She shifted her rudder and backed her engines, but it was too late. Twenty-two minutes after first spotting the submarine's masthead light, the steamer rammed her at the position 41°14'30"N 71°16'16"W.

Only three of the 36 men in the submarine were able to abandon ship before she sank.

The courts found City of Rome at fault for not reducing her speed when in doubt as to the movement of S-51, and for not signaling her change of course. However, both the district court and the Circuit Court of Appeals found S-51



at fault for having improper lights.

The United States Navy argued that it was not practicable to have submarines of this class comply with the letter of the law, and that, as a special type of warship, S-51 was under no legal compulsion to do so. The court responded by saying if these statements were correct, then submarines “should confine their operation to waters not being traversed by other ships.”

### Salvage

S-51 was raised on 5 July 1926 by a team led by then-Lieutenant Commander (later Rear Admiral) Edward Ellsberg. The entire salvage operation was commanded by Captain (later Fleet Admiral) Ernest J. King. She was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 27 January 1930 and sold for scrap on 23 June to the Borough Metal Company of Brooklyn, New York.[3]



---

## Perch: A Short Lesson in Metamorphosis

by *Chuck Elliott, END/FN (SS), ASSP-313*

For those of us “Pre-Nuke” submariners who happened as I to study the “PERCH SS 313” in sub-school, no one could have been more surprised than I when I became a crew member during the Korean war as she came through Pearl Harbor on her way back to San Diego after a patrol.

As I was to find out later she was decommissioned in 1947 and underwent a dramatic conversion at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. She was stripped of her torpedo tubes fore and aft, as well as the two main engines in the forward engine room, leaving only the two mains and the “dinky” in the after room; all to accommodate the team of UDT (frogmen) and Marine Recon Platoon she was to carry; hence the change from SS to A.S.S.P. (Auxiliary Submersible Ship Personnel). (They were the bravest and craziest people I ever met but they thought we were nuts too.)



She was also fitted with a 16 X 36 ft. hanger aft which housed rubber boats, out-board motors, a “Skimmer” (speedboat), and from time to time a small Bell helicopter. A pilot, co-pilot and crew chief would come aboard. we could surface rollout the helicopter, launch it and dive within 5 minutes! An electrically heated “dip-stick” was in the engine of the helicopter to keep the engine oil warm prior to launch. The door of the “Hanger” weighed 11 tons and when fully opened put a 10 degree starboard list on the boat.

She was also equipped with Snorkel and 3 CO2 “scrubbers”, (the precursor to what the “Nukes” have today, I’m sure). For those who never saw her or had the good fortune to have served aboard her, as I did, she looked “Pregnant”, ungainly and dangerous. Some called her a “Freak”.

We had to get used to a quick dive stern first, (because of the hanger) but once decks were awash she went down properly, and like a rock! Something forgotten in “Metamorphosis” was an increase in fresh water and sanitary tank capacity!! We were making fresh water from our second day out and with 100/120 aboard need I say more?

With only two main engines we were constantly making repairs and had to borrow spares from a Coast Guard Cutter in Kodiak, Alaska.

She was one-of-a-kind, and I’m proud to have served on her.

Note: Perch earned combat pins in both Korea and Viet Nam.

**Return To:**  
U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
7011 West Risner Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308

**NEXT BASE MEETING**  
**September 14**



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