

# Arizona Sub Vets Perch Base



## Midwatch

December 2000  
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### Arizona Sub Vets, Perch Base Officers

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### December Eternal Patrol Days

USS CAPELIN (SS289)	2 Dec 1943	78 men lost
USS S48 (SS159)	7 Dec 1921	0 men lost
USS SEALION (SS195)	10 Dec 1941	4 men lost
F1 (SS20)	16 Dec 1917	9 men lost
S4 (SS109)	17 Dec 1927	40 men lost

*Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol*

January's Meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> at  
American Legion Post #29 in Glendale

## From the Wardroom:

### *Looking back on the year*



This issue of *Midwatch* marks my last attempt at bringing you what I hope were the best Newsletters you have ever read. But first, I would like to wish all of you and your wives and families a Very Merry and Joyful Christmas, and for our Jewish comrades a Very Happy Hanukkah. God Bless you all, and God Bless America.

Last year as the Submarine Centennial was about to begin, I wrote, As most of us are aware, the USSVI got its start as a submarine organization by following the lead set by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII. If it weren't for these courageous veterans, it is doubtful that our organization would exist today. They were our teachers. They were our heroes. However, while the WWII's represent a significant but dwindling membership, they represent only those men who prowled beneath the seas from 1941 to 1945. Four years out of one hundred. I understand that we owe these fine men and their proud ships a great debt of gratitude. But I also believe the USSVI and especially Perch Base must extend this recognition not only to those of WWII but to every submarine and submariner from Holland to Nuke, lost this century. The Centennial of the U.S. Submarine Navy is upon us. One hundred years of being in harm's way while in defense of our great Nation. Freedom has come at great cost, but if we are truly an organization that wishes "to perpetuate the memories of our shipmates still on patrol in defense of our nation", then I believe we owe it to all submariners, all 100 years of them."

From January through December, I not only mentioned the boats and men on Eternal Patrol on the front cover of *Midwatch*, which was typical through the 6 years of our existence, but tried to bring you their history with their bio's contained inside. Each month, from a variety of sources, I took my own compilation of stories from all 100 years of missing submarines and rewrote them in such a way as to bring their shortened biographies to life. None were ever printed as they exist ever before. I hope you enjoyed them as much as I enjoyed bringing them to you.

What else did we do in 2000? Well, for one thing Perch grew to more than 108 members, up more than 30%. We got the U.S. Stamp Advisory Board to finally acknowledge the U.S. Submarine Force with a series of U.S. Commemorative Stamps. (Boy did we fight for that one). We expanded the size of *Midwatch* and increased its interest and readability immensely. And our treasury didn't suffer from it. We introduced a monthly Calendar of Events informing members of upcoming events and meetings months ahead. We introduced a monthly Chaplain's Corner keeping members informed of illnesses and deaths. We introduced having previous meeting minutes printed in the newsletter for absentees to read and keep informed. We gave our Boosters the monthly recognition they deserved. We greatly increased story input from our members. We added a little humor,

a little medical, a little financial, a little personal advice, and a whole lot of imagination and time to make *Midwatch* one of the best newsletters in the USSVI. We printed and distributed our second Submarine Veterans Calendar, and continued selling our first. Our parties and picnics were top draw and our meetings stimulating and well attended. We marched in our first parade and even won a National Cook Book award. What more could we ask? All in all, I'd say that Perch Base had a wonderfully successful United States Submarine Centennial. And a banner year. And it's all because of you; all of you. I'm so very proud of our accomplishments...I hope you are too. Not bad for a 6 year old SUBVETS organization in the middle of a desert, eh?

December marks the end of our Centennial and I felt a summation of World War II Submarine action was justified. Hope you agree.

The war was over, and with a suddenness that made some people wonder: "Had it really ever happened?" Once again, it was a reflective time - the immediate weeks after the Armistice much like that after World War I, Appomattox, or Yorktown. It was a time to take stock, and to assess the greatest carnage man had ever survived.

Depending on one's viewpoint, the United States was fortunate; Japan and Germany, most unfortunate. Our submarines had sunk 1,314 ships totaling 5.3 million tons, from the land no longer of the Rising Sun. A meager million tons of her fleet, mostly rusty, barnacled, broken-down old freighters - were afloat to bring this small and now starkly attenuated island empire her daily off shore provisions. Part of our price for devastating Tojo's and Hirohito's war machine was 52 submarines lost, and more than 3,500 American crew members dead...almost one out of every four who, during those four years, had listened to the command, "Take her down!" In contrast, Nazi Germany, in her six years of self-destruction, had exacted a fearsome toll on her adversaries. These figures, include 2,775 merchant ships, representing 14.5 million tons. For the Reich, it had been a suicidal bargain, losing 782 U-Boats. This contrasted to 130 Japanese and 85 Italian submarines sunk. But the mere waste of ships and other materials was nothing compared to the wanton sacrifice of men - 39,000 (some estimates are as high as 45,000) of the 49,000 U-boat crews who had marched to duty in 1939, flushed with confidence, truly believing the myth, "Deutschland, Deutschland uber Alles!" A truly unbelievable casualty rate of 82 percent! However, Hitler had come close to accomplishing his undersea plan. In the last months of the war he was introducing innovations that would have made his Unterseebooten more efficient than ever - the snorkel, an air exhaust extension allowing operation of diesel engines underwater for a longer period of time.

Revolutionary as the snorkel was, it evolved too late to help. More of a potential threat to the Allies in the waning days of World War II, however, was the Mark XXVI U-boat, designed for a closed-cycle, peroxide-

fueled engine which would allow the submarine to travel almost 160 miles submerged, with a maximum underwater speed of 25 knots. The armament was to be the most potent ever used on a U-boat - four bow tubes and six firing midships tubes. Hitler, impressed with the Mark XXVI, ordered 100 constructed. It was too late. Had this extraordinary U-boat been perfected at the outset of the conflict, or even shortly thereafter, the story of the war at sea might have had a different ending.

Of the U. S. submarines lost during WWII, five are credited among the top 25 in number of ships sunk. **USS TANG (24)**, **USS WAHOO (20)**, **USS SEAWOLF (18)**, **USS SNOOK (17)**, and **USS HARDER (16)**. That's an incredible 95 enemy ships between them.

As for tonnage sunk by lost boats: **USS FLASHER** is first of the entire 25 in that classification with 100,231 tons, followed by **USS TANG**: 93,824 tons, **USS TRIGGER**: 86,552 tons, **USS SNOOK**: 75,473 tons, **USS SEAWOLF**: 71,609 tons, **USS GUDGEON**: 71,047 tons, **USS BONEFISH**: 61,345 tons, **USS WAHOO**: 60,038 tons. For an incredible grand total of 620,119 tons between them. What a history!.....What a Century!

#### Meeting Location:

The January 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 29, 6822 N. 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Glendale, one block south of Glendale Avenue. Take I-17 (if it's open) to Glendale Avenue - west to 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., south 1 block, the Legion is on the left. Parking is available in the lot behind the post. From the West Valley take Glendale Avenue and follow the rest of the directions. The Building is the one on the west side of the parking lot. Lunch served between 1200 and 1300 at a nominal cost. There is no meeting in December due to our Holiday party.

#### Chaplains Corner:

During this Holiday Season, which concludes my tour of duty as Perch Base Chaplain, I have in my hands two boxes which God has given me to hold. He said to me, "Put all the Perch Base members sorrows and pains in the black box and all their joys in the gold." I heeded His words and in the two boxes I put all the sorrows and joys I had become aware of this year. The gold box became heavier each day and the black seemed to be getting lighter. With Submariner curiosity, I peeked into the black box and saw a hole in the bottom where all the Base sorrows and pain had fallen through. I showed the hole to God and asked, "Where did all the sorrows and pain go?" He gently smiled and said, "My child, they're all here in my hand." "then God," I asked, "Why did you give me two boxes?" "My child", He said, "The gold box is for your members to count their blessings. The black one is for them to let go" I guess what I'm trying to say is that all of us have been blessed in certain ways this year.

I pray that as we head together into a new year, all our sorrows and pains will sift away and All our joys will be golden blessings. We all have problems some worse than others, but if you think life is so difficult for

you, check this out. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you attend church without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than nearly 3 billion people in the world. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish on your dresser, you're among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you can read what I have written, you are more blessed than 2 billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all. If you hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on their shoulder, you are even more blessed because you are able to offer God's healing touch in friendship. What a time of year to just sit back and contemplate how fortunate we really are.

Roger

#### Requiem to Lost Perch Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol:

**Roger Holtz** 10/3/96  
**Joseph Gutierrez** 01/08/97  
**Jack McKean** 03/28/97  
**Joseph Schwartz** 12/12/99  
**Luis Tejera** 08/03/00  
**Bobby Moore** 10/22/00

*Lest We Forget.....Sailors Rest Your Oars*

#### New District 8 Commander Appointed:

Congratulations are in order as our own **Frank Rumbaugh** now takes over the helm as District 8 Commander. Frank supersedes another one of our shipmates **Gary Patterson** in that position. Perch Base is honored to have such qualified men as members.

#### Dues.....Dues....Dues:

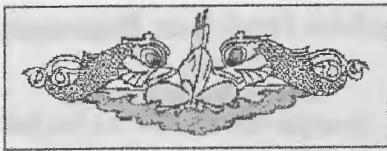
Base and National dues of \$20 total, are due by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001. Make checks payable to Arizona Perch Base and mail, along with any Booster donation, to Treasurer **Bob May** ( address on cover ). Members who joined after October 1<sup>st</sup> do not pay dues until January 2002. However if they wish to donate to our Booster Club, it would be most appreciated. Re-enlistments are over 50% as of 11/15/00, and Booster checks seem a lot heavier this year, according to Perch Base Treasurer **Bob May**. This is good news, and BZ's to all of you.

#### Perch Base Booster Club for 2001:

The Perch Base Booster Club resets itself, like our dues, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2001. For those not privy of what the Booster Club is, it's made up of concerned members like yourselves who give extra generous financial support toward keeping this Base afloat for the year. As you must realize, your \$10 Base dues do not even come



close to paying the costs associated with running this base. It doesn't even cover the costs of printing of our monthly newsletter not even with those of us who freely give the use of their own personal computers, paying for repairs out of pocket, giving reams of free computer paper, and purchasing their own expensive printing cartridges do we even come close. Additional funds are needed to enable us to pay for postage, materials, assist in giving toward the needy, toward a token gift to the American Legion for allowing us to meet at their facility, paying something toward seasonal holiday parties or picnics, funeral or get well flowers, get well or sympathy cards, and a slew of other expenses. It's obvious that we need your help. No set amount is ever asked. What ever the size of your donation, the amount you give is confidential. In return, your name will appear in every issue of Midwatch under Booster Club for one year as a token of appreciation. In 2000, we had 49 members contributing. Let's make 2001 another banner year. We need your help. Make checks payable to Arizona Perch Base, indicate booster, and send it to our Treasurer. Thanks Loads.



#### Perch Base Booster Club for 2000:

I wish to thank the following members for their additional financial support during 2000: **Jerry Allston, Glenn Herold, Royce Pettit, Joe Bernard, Steve Hough, Ray Perron, Jerry Becker, Jim Johns, Scott Protero, Wayne Braastad, Davy Jones, Ray Samson, Mike Brietner, John Lang, Frank Rumbaugh, Tom Burke, Huble Maxey, Joe Schwartz, Jim Clewett, Bob May, Tyler Smith, Roger Cousin, Jim Michaud, Adrian Stuke, Earl Crowley, Roger R Miller, Lou Tejera, Steve Day, Bob Mitchell, Don Wannamaker, Jeff Duncan, Bob Moore, John Wilson, Doug Eddy, Joe Mullins, Don Whitehead, Tom Fooshee, Jim Nelson, Bob Wonsley, Billy Grieves, Jim Newman Sr., George Woods, Lee Graybeal, Jim Newman Jr., Jerry Yowell, Warren Grossetta, Joe Otreba, Dave Harnish, Tom Patterson.**

*BZ's to all of you and from Perch Base, Thank You.*

#### Small Stores for Holiday Gift Giving:

Our Storekeeper, **Dave Harnish**, has a comprehensive array of Submarine Small Stores, consisting of hats, shirts, sweatshirts, belt buckles, beer mugs, cocktail glasses, coffee mugs, and a slew of other memorabilia. Give him a call at (623)846-9245 and order great gifts for the Holidays!

#### New 2001 Perch Base Subvet calendars available:

Another great Christmas Gift item. Hey, guys, come on, only 10 of you have come forward to buy your calendars. What's happening? The new 2001 Arizona Perch Base Submarine Calendar is now available through our Vice Commander, **Don Wannamaker**. There is a fine mix of submarine photos including Fleet, Guppy and Nuke - all suitable for framing. Great for Holiday gift giving and priced to sell. \$8.00 each plus \$2.00 each for postage. For 10 or more, \$7.00 each plus \$6.00 (total) for postage. Make checks payable to "Arizona Perch Base" and send to Don. His information is on cover of this newsletter.

#### A Submarine Poem for Christmas:

*Submitted by John Redding*

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived in a crowd,  
 In a 40 man berthing, with shipmates around.  
 I came down through the Sail with presents to give,  
 And to see just who in this rack did live.  
 I looked all about, a strange sight did I see,  
 No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
 No stockings were hung, just pooppy suit at hand,  
 On the bulkhead hung photos of a far distant land.  
 He had medals and badges and awards of all kinds,  
 But one in particular seemed caught in my mind.  
 They were Submarine Dolphins, pinned on with pride,  
 They shined so brightly, they could not hide.  
 This place was different, it was dark and dreary,  
 I had found it the home of a Submarine Sailor once I could see clearly.  
 The Sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone,  
 Curled up in his rack, dreaming of home.  
 The face was so gentle, the berthing in good order,  
 Not how I pictured a United States Submarine Sailor.  
 Was this the hero whom I saw on TV?  
 Defending his country so all could be free.  
 I thought of the families that I had seen this night,  
 Who owed their lives to Submarine Sailors willing to fight.  
 Soon 'round the world, the children would play,  
 And grown-ups would celebrate a new Christmas Day.  
 They all enjoyed freedom throughout the year,  
 Because of the Sailor, like the one lying here -  
 I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,  
 On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea far from home.  
 The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
 I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
 The Sailor awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
 "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice."  
 I defend the seas this Christmas day,  
 So others may rejoice and be happy and gay.  
 The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
 I watched for hours so silent, so still,  
 While we both shivered from the cold night's chill.  
 I didn't want to leave on that black, dark night,  
 This Guardian of Honor, so willing to fight.  
 Then the Sailor rolled over and with a voice soft and pure,  
 Whispered, "Carry on Santa, All is Secure!!"

### Perch Base Membership List Updated:

The latest Arizona Perch Base Membership List is now available, complete with email, home addresses and phone numbers. A copy is available through the Membership Co-Chairman, **Ray Samson** (see front cover). The list will be updated every quarter and new list provided. Next updated list will be available at January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you are now on line or you are a new member, and have an email address, please email it to the Membership Co-Chairman **Ray Samson** at [rsamson@azwest.net](mailto:rsamson@azwest.net) for the most expedient communication. He will pass it on.

### Lost Boats and Crews for December:

**USS CAPELIN (SS289);** Launched 20 January 1943; Sunk December 1943; 78 men lost.

**USS CAPELIN** was one of the many U.S. submarines which sailed from Fremantle, Australia, in late 1943 in an attempt to stop any enemy freighters and tankers carrying desperately needed raw materials from the Dutch East Indies to Japan. **USS CAPELIN'S** first patrol began on 31 October 1943 when she set sail for the islands immediately west of New Guinea. After only 17 days at sea, she experienced mechanical difficulties and was forced to pull into Darwin, Australia for repairs. During this unusually brief patrol, however, **USS CAPELIN** had attacked a Japanese convoy, sinking at least one cargo vessel and earning a battle star. Once repairs had been completed, **USS CAPELIN** set out on 17 November for her next patrol. On 2 December, **USS BONEISH (SS223)** reported sighting an American submarine in **USS CAPELIN'S** assigned area. An attempt to reach her by radio a few days later, however, received no response. Subsequent radio transmissions went unanswered. **USS CAPELIN** had mysteriously disappeared. Japanese minefields are now known to have been placed in various strategic positions along the north coast of the Celebes in her area of operation. It is suspected that **USS CAPELIN** could have been the victim of a mine explosion sometime in December 1943.

**USS SEALION (SS195);** Launched 25 May 1939; Sunk 10 December 1941; 4 men lost.

**USS SEALION** was commissioned on 27 November 1939 and began operations as part of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, **USS SEALION** was in Manila undergoing overhaul at the Cavite Navy Yard. Three days later, on 10 December 1941, Air raid sirens sounded over Manila as 54 Japanese warplanes appeared in the sky. **USS SEALION'S** crew quickly manned her deck guns, but seeing that machine gun fire could do little damage to the high altitude enemy bombers, all hands were ordered below. Minutes later, a bomb struck **USS SEALION'S** conning tower and completely demolished the machine gun mount which had been recently vacated. At almost the same instant, a second bomb ripped through the submarine's main ballast tank and pressure hull. It exploded in the after engine room, killing four crewmen. The rest of the crew managed to escape as **USS SEALION** sank. Salvage was hopeless as the Cavite Navy Yard had been demolished in the bombing raid and the nearest repair

facilities were 5,000 miles away at Pearl. On Christmas Day, 1941, three depth charges were detonated inside her hull, sinking her at the bottom of Manila Bay, where she and 4 members of her crew still lie today. **USS SEALION** was the first U.S. submarine lost in WWII.

**S4 (SS109);** launched 27 August 1919; Sunk 17 December 1927; 40 men lost.

**USS S4** was operating in dense fog off the coast of Maine on a cold winter's night on December 17<sup>th</sup> 1927. In those days, with no radar, no SONAR and operating in fog, it was almost impossible to see danger until it was too late. This was the case with **S4**. Out of the fog, the U.S. Coast Guard ship, **USS Paulding** was on a collision course with **USS S4** and none was the wiser. Within minutes of the collision, **USS S4** heaved over, water rushing in amidships, and sunk taking 40 crewmen with her. A court of inquiry convened, but what good did it do. 40 submariners lie in their tombs at the bottom of the ocean.

**USS F1 (SS20);** Sunk 16 December 1917; 19 Men Lost.

**USS F1** collided with her sister ship the **USS Submarine USS F3 (SS22)** on a dark night off the coast of California catching all those who were sleeping by surprise. Before they realized what was happening, the ship sank in 10 seconds taking with her 19 men. There were only three survivors.

**USS S-48 (SS159)** (twice); First Sinking 7 December 1921; No men lost.

**USS S-48** sank in Long Island Sound while conducting a test dive during builder's sea trials prior to being commissioned. A hatch cover on one of the after ballast tanks had not been properly secured, and several after compartments flooded, bringing the **USS S-48** to rest in some 60 feet of water. The crew was able to raise the bow to the surface, and escape. Repairs required some 10 months of additional work.

The **S-48** was finally commissioned on 14 October 1922. **USS S-48** bears the distinction of being the only U.S. submarine to be involved in two serious accidents under the definition of this study. The second accident occurred while returning to port on the evening of 29 January, 1925. **USS S-48** was caught in a heavy snowstorm just off the New Hampshire coast and ran aground once and was able to pull herself off, only to run aground again a short time later. The buffeting of the storm caused the battery compartment to take on water and deadly chlorine gas began forming. The crew of the **USS S-48** was rescued by U.S. Coast Guardsmen in lifeboats, without loss of life. The **USS S-48** was freed from the rocks on 8 February, 1925. However, damage was so severe that funds were not available to make repairs. **USS S-48** was decommissioned on 7 July 1928. She was finally repaired and recommissioned on 8 December 1929, nearly four years after her latest accident. **USS S-48** was to see duty in World War II as a training submarine at New London, CT.

### Minutes from October Meeting. by Carl Scott, Secretary:

The E-board meeting was convened by **Roger Cousin** at 12:10. The General Meeting was convened at 13:06. Treasurer's report given by Bob May  
Sailing List: 20 members, plus 4 new

members; **Robert Hanson, Terry Cash, George Farnham & Richard Webber.**

• Old Business: none.

• New Business: **Don Wannamaker** said that the Chaplains position for 2001 has been filled. Roger passed out copy's of his suggested changes to the base bylaws to be evaluated by the membership at home and discussed at the next meeting. A motion was made and seconded to table this issue until **Don Wannamaker** takes over January 1<sup>st</sup>. Roger requested the membership to vote on how the proceeds from the September raffle would be spent. It was agreed that the \$263 would be given to the Luke Air Force Adopt -A- Family Christmas Foundation. A new Associate Member **Larry Rankin** was voted in. The membership voted to award American Legion Post 29 \$200 in appreciation for us using their meeting facilities. Don has a flatbed truck for use in the Veterans Day Parade. A motion was made and seconded to move the November meeting from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Don is to notify the Base members. Don made a presentation on the December Christmas Party at Luke from 17:30 to 24:00. The 50/50 drawing netted \$74.

• Meeting adjourned at 14:30

#### Veterans Day Parade:

Veterans Day 2000 marked the first true melding of both Arizona Submarine Veterans of WWII, Wives of the USSV WWII (Dolphinette's), and Perch Base USSVI in harmony and friendship. Both groups got together, hand-in-hand and entered the parade down Central Ave. in Phoenix. Just two days before, at the WWII Business Meeting, two beautiful permanent 10ft x 3ft banners were given to Perch Base by the WWII SUBVETS for the sake of solidarity of and in appreciation for the hard work done by **Don Wannamaker** and **Dave Harnish** at the USSV WWII Convention, held last August. **Billy Grieves**, who belongs to both SUBVET organizations, and is a WWII SUBVET made the presentation to Perch Base Officers **Dave Harnish, Don Wannamaker, and Roger Cousin**, all of which have been Associate Members in the WWII organization for a number of years. Each made short speeches in appreciation. The banners were used for the first time in the Veterans Day Parade.

I wish to thank all those Perch members who showed up to march in the parade, **Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newmam, Ray Samson, Ben Acosta, Dave Harnish, Larry Rankin, Don Wannamaker, Glenn Herold, Royce Pettit, Billy Grieves, Manny Burrel, Doug La Rock, and, Roger Cousin.** I know there are others but I'm having a senior moment so please forgive me. At any rate, it was fun and an honor. It must be noted that the presentation made from the Submarine Veterans was voted number one, from well over one hundred entries. Thanks to all of you, and a special thanks to the WWII's.

#### Interesting dates in December:

- (7) 1944: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and U.S. declares war.
- (11) 1941: U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy, enters WW II.
- (13) 1903: Wright Bros. first flight.
- (15) 1791: Bill of Rights signed.
- (22) 1968: U. S. PUEBLO seized by North Korea.
- (24) 1814: War of 1812 ends.
- (25) Christmas
- (29) 1890 Battle of Wounded Knee, last major conflict between American Indians and U.S. troops (minor armed conflicts last into early 1900s).

#### Email Message from Submerged **USS DOLPHIN (AGSS-555)** Makes Sub History:

*Submitted by Shipmate **Scott Prothero** Washington (September 1, 2000)*

Geoff Moore's father opened a surprise e-mail this summer: "Hi, Dad. I'm sending this from 400 feet below the sea. Say hello to mom for me." And with that, submarine history was made. It wasn't Alexander Graham Bell's legendary phone call for "Watson" to "come into the room," but Moore's unsuspecting father had received a message from the first batch of conventional e-mails ever sent from a submerged Navy submarine. Scientists aboard the **USS DOLPHIN**, a 1960s-era, diesel-powered sub devoted to research missions, rigged the system using the vessel's existing sonar phone. The phone transmitted the digitized messages using an acoustic modem. The signals traveled through sound waves to a surface buoy, which converted the message into radio waves and transmitted the messages to a shore-based server in San Diego, Calif. The error-free transmission, which also dispatched e-mails to two Navy offices, proved the feasibility of an experimental, underwater Internet system, said Joe Rice, the Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Systems Center's principal investigator for the Sea Web Initiative. Harnessing the power of sound waves to transmit bits of digitized data across the ocean at 1,500 meters per second, the Navy's research effort could soon lead to an underwater surveillance system around the world, he said. Just as a cell phone uses radio waves, the underwater monitors would transmit reports of enemy subs to nearby ships or to shore automatically, Rice said. That would eliminate the Navy's current system of flying P-3 Orions over sonar buoys to pick up radar signals. Interestingly, the research program will not lead to e-mail access for the Navy's sub fleet, Rice said. "That's not likely," he said. "Even though the demo we did was very successful, we're still not funded for that kind of work." The tests simply were intended to prove that the system is capable of transmitting complex text files, he said. Sub crews, meanwhile, will stick to their silent, e-mail-free ways. Said Rice: The subs don't like



to make a lot of noise.

Insights: Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

#### USSVI Scholarship Program 2001:

The USSVI Scholarship Committee is announcing they are now accepting requests for scholarship applications from both high school seniors and college students. This is open to all children of USSVI subvets filling these requirements. Last year the daughter of Perch shipmate, **Kenny Wayne** was awarded funding. In your request, please tell us (the committee) which application you want...high school or college. If neither is specified, it will be assumed that it's high school.

The student can apply by e-mail [porstad@ebmail.gdeb.com](mailto:porstad@ebmail.gdeb.com) (preferred) or by snail mail, USSVI Scholarship Chmn, Paul Wm. Orstad, 30 Sury Lane, Norwich, CT 06360-6541. Phone 860-889-4750 after 6pm. All requests will be answered promptly. The board is made up of the USSVI Sr Vice Cdr and 3 Regional Directors. The applicant is responsible for their application and arrival by April 15, 2001.

#### Bulletin Update: Retired Pay vs. Disability Pay:

*From: James "EMO" Tichacek*

Retirement Pay vs. Disability Pay: In 1984 Congress passed a bill that established "The Military Retirement Fund" administered by the Secretary of the Treasury. This bill has been incorporated into US Code 10, Chapter 74, Sections 1461 through 1467. In accordance with the above, funds are available and furnished from the Treasury Department to pay the complete Military Retirement obligation. DOD need not ever appropriate additional funds for this purpose.

Since 1984 retired disabled veterans have been required to forfeit their share of these appropriated retirement funds dependent upon their degree of disability. The forfeited funds are diverted for the exclusive use of the Department of Defense to spend in whatever way they desire. In effect this provides a pool of money to support expenditures by the DOD on non-budgeted items. The Department of Veterans Affairs is required to appropriate money to pay the service connected disability awards to military retirees without consideration for the amounts already appropriated by the DOD. The VA does not receive any of the appropriated monies forfeited by disabled military retirees. This inequity is currently being addressed by Congress through the National Defense Authorization Bill FY 2001 committee. They must decide whether to go along with an already Senate-approved bill authorizing concurrent pay for inclusion in the bill. In 1981, the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR)

organization was founded with the sole objective of eliminating this inequity. Through their efforts, Congressman Bilirakus (R-FL), and with the support of numerous fraternal organizations, Congress has been lobbied annually to pass legislation that would provide concurrent pay to disabled retirees.

Each year these efforts have produced an increase in the number of cosponsors on legislation that would allow this and this year we have our best chance to date. However, Defense Secretary Cohen is now trying to torpedo this effort and has requested the committee not to approve funding at this time for enhanced retiree benefits. If the National Defense Authorization Bill committee fails to include this in the bill to be forwarded to the President, the USDR must continue as an organization to carry on the fight for concurrent pay. In the event Cohen is successful and the committee does not go along with the Senate bill, USDR will need all the support they can get to continue their efforts.

Retirees interested in lending their support to this effort can contact Dan Pettigrew LCDR, SC, USN (Ret) at [bookem@hoe.kis.net](mailto:bookem@hoe.kis.net), check out <http://www.usdr.org> or write **USDR, PO Box 2841, South Bend, IN 46680.**

#### On the Lighter Side:

An old submarine Quarter Master is doing yard work and his wife is about to take a shower. The QM realizes that he can't find the rake. He yells up to his wife, "Where is the rake?" She can't hear him and shouts back, "What?" The man, in true Quarter Master fashion, first points to his eye, then points to his knee and finally makes a raking motion. The wife is not sure of his signals and yells, "What?" and the man repeats his gestures. "Eye, Knee, Rake" The wife replies that she understands and signals back. She first points to her eye, next to her left breast, then she points to her butt, and finally to her crotch. Well, there is no way in hell the old QM can even come close on that one. Exasperated, he goes upstairs and asks her "What in hell was that?" She replies demurely, "Eye, Left Tit "Behind the Bush".

A retired submariner went into the Social Security office to apply for benefits. After waiting in line for hours, he finally got to the counter. The woman behind the counter asked him for his drivers license to verify his age. He looked in his pockets and realized he didn't have his wallet with him. Gee, I left my wallet at home, he said. Please don't tell me I have to go home and wait on line again. The woman says, Unbutton your shirt. So he opens his shirt revealing lots of curly silver hair. She says, That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me, and she processed his Social Security application. When he got home, the old salt excitedly told his wife all about his experience at the Social Security office and how easy it was to qualify. To this, his wife replied, You should have dropped your pants, you might have qualified for disability too.

### USSVI Blood Bank Proposal:

There is a movement afoot by various USSVI Bases to establish a USSVI Blood Bank, which may not be a bad idea. Here is how it works: It isn't very complicated, says Gil Shaddock. Go to your nearest Blood Bank and find out if they are a member of the "American Association of Blood Banks". If they are, then open an account for your Base. You will be assigned an account number. Publish this account number to all your members and tell them that when they go to donate, have their blood credited to that account. If that Bank is not a member bank, then locate one that is. Once we get the program rolling, we will publish the Base's tally in the American Submariner just so that each base can see who to contact if they should need to "borrow" some blood. This is not intended to be a contest between Bases. If you have any questions, please contact me at (321)-777-2453 or at [gil@ssbn601.com](mailto:gil@ssbn601.com). Thanks, Gil Shaddock. If there is any interest in Perch Base getting involved in such a program, please contact your Base Commander to have a committee look into this further.

Roger

### Funeral Services for Bobby Moore:

Funeral Services for shipmate **Bobby Moore** took place at the National Cemetery on November 13<sup>th</sup>. **Bobby** was 57 years old and much too young to leave us. Shipmate **Tom Fooshee**, a close friend of **Bob** and his family made all the arrangements and officiated in full uniform. About 30 people were present, including **Bob's** children. The Air Force sent six pall bearers who carried the urn and presented the flag to the oldest son. These six were also the Military Honor Guard who fired a salute. On behalf of Perch Base, your Chaplain delivered a talk about **Bobby** and led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. I was proud to see that Perch Base was well-represented by the likes of **Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newman, Glenn Herold, Bob May, Tom Fooshee, and Roger Cousin**. I was surprised at the commendations that Bobby had been awarded during his Navy days and his tours on four different submarines. **USS DIODON (SS349), USS SARGO (SSN583), USS SEA FOX (SS402), USS GRAYBACK (SSG574), USS DARTER (SS576)**. He won the U.S. Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Bronze Star, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment "E" Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation. For those who knew him, this will be a shocker, five Good Conduct Medals.

*Bobby's pains are now over. Sallor ... rest your oars.*

### More From "The Boy Down Under":

Submitted by **Glenn Herold**

This is the continuing story of James Terrence Crofts, the young lad from Australia who has terminal brain cancer but is fighting it like a tiger. After hearing of James's story (see *Midwatch* Aug and Oct issues), it

touched my heart so that I made an Executive decision to appoint James as Perch Base's Guardian Angel once he was with God. He was already awarded that distinction by the Carrier USS John Stennis and I decided that no surface craft ship was going to outdo the Submarine Navy. Shipmate **Glenn Herold** has taken on the job of staying in touch with James and keeps us informed.

• This is his latest correspondence:

"Hi, it's Gabby here, (James's mother). James, John, and I flew back to Perth from Sydney last night. James' neurosurgeon Dr. Teo managed to remove 95% of James' brain tumor in the primary site. James is doing amazingly well. We are so exhausted but I am happy that my determination to save James came off. James will need chemotherapy and temodal after he has had time to recover. The Dr. admitted that he felt someone must have been guiding his hands. Many thanks for all your prayers. Please keep them coming for our beloved son. We missed all our little babies while we were away and couldn't wait to hold them in our arms. The people on the plane last night all clapped for James after the stewardess announced what James went through and everyone wished him God Speed to a full recovery.

Love Always,

*Gabby, John, and James*

• James added a postscript as follows.

"Hello Glenn, I get a great deal of email, but I do find myself looking forward to yours. I pass on to friends all your mail and we are all interested on how you are getting along. Some thing that I learned some time ago, Attitude is life and life is Attitude."

*James*

• Glenn's reply:

"You are living proof of this James, and don't you ever forget it. I'm sure you would enjoy seeing the American Wild West. You keep right fighting as you are, and I'll see what we can do on this end."

Love and prayers, your friend,

*Glenn*

### Commanders Comments

Again, Glenn, we all thank you for keeping us informed of our Bases' Guardian Angel. It makes our hearts warm knowing that God has extended James's life this long and we all pray for his complete recovery. I'm sure our E-board won't mind, on behalf of the Base, I'm sending James a Perch Base Calendar and a personal gift from Lee and I. Any other suggestions to brighten his Christmas would be appreciated. This boy certainly makes us realize just how blessed we all are doesn't it?



To Close Out This Great Year:  
By shipmate **Billy Grieves**

*The "Skippers Tribute", "An enlisted man's prospective"*

The sea was calm off Tokyo Bay that morning. Through the periscope the skipper sighted a ship with one Destroyer escort coming out of the channel. The date was April 10, 1942 and the skipper was CDR Bill Anderson. It was the **USS THRESHER'S (SS200)** third war patrol. We conducted our approach and in due course fired one fish with the torpedo depth set deep to pass beneath the keel. When the magnetic exploder detonated the war head, the 3,039 ton SADO MARU was blown into two sections. She sank in two minutes. But the Destroyer, following the torpedo wakes, was right on top of us. The first depth charges were close aboard the stern and drove us down to 410 feet, well below **USS THRESHER'S** test depth. Hanging as if suspended down by the stern, the planesmen fought to regain our lost trim. Slowly we struggled back up to 350 feet and as sea pressure decreased, the hull cracked loudly as if being struck by shell fire as the pressure hull regained its configuration. Then a more ominous problem became evident. The severe concussion had knocked the port propeller shaft out of alignment causing the boat to fishtail wildly. This set up loud vibrations throughout the boat. In the Torpedo Room cans of food stowed in the frame spaces behind the reload torpedoes, sprang loose and crashed into the reload racks. In the Engine Room a heavy wrench suspended on the side of a locker set up a loud drum-like thumping. Men in every compartment pounded on each source to eliminate the noise but we couldn't find them all. When power was placed on the port shaft, the noise was intolerable. But without the port screw, depth control was impossible.

Two more Destroyers joined the hunt. In the hours that followed, the Destroyers trailed tenaciously. Whenever we came up above 300 feet, depth charges drove us back down. At 23:30 that night, after 14 hours under attack and 18 hours submerged, the oxygen content in the boat was perilously low. Normal breathing was in deep, rapid gasps and the depleted batteries were running critical. An air of hopelessness resignation settled over the crew. It was then that Captain Anderson made a precarious decision. He ordered a 180 degree course change back toward Tokyo. This was closely followed by the order, "Surface!" As we came up past 300 feet, depth charges rained down close aboard on all sides violently rocking the boat. But miraculously we came up through them. We broke the surface 500 yards astern of the closest Destroyer which was playing the water with powerful search lights. But a submarine in a low flooded down condition upon surfacing and one that is going away, has a very narrow silhouette. And the sea was so filled with depth charge echoes the sound of our screws went unnoticed.

When we were clear, four main engines were placed on the line and from the horizon we could still see the sweeping search lights and hear the probing pings of their SONAR's as they echo-ranged on an empty ocean. When we limped into Pearl we were immediately placed in dry dock. Both sides of the hull were dented in, rippled like a wash board. A strip 100 feet long and 6 feet wide was replaced on the starboard side and a strip 60 feet long and 6 feet wide was replaced on the port side. The port propeller shaft was replaced. But many of our boats had exciting stories to tell, didn't they?

We submariners know this because we have been listening to those stories for more than 50 years. And yet there is one story that has never been told. And that is the story of the skippers, the commanding officers who took their boats out on patrol, gave them direction through attack after attack, and then led them home. Is there anyone here today who would have cared to change places with skipper, Bill Anderson, when against all odds he gave that order to surface? And yet, every skipper who ever took a boat out on patrol was repeatedly faced with these life or death decisions. CAPT. George Grider, skipper of the **USS FLASHER** in his book "War Fish" put it this way, "When we went out on patrol we were on our own. There was no one to give us orders how to make the approach, how to attack, how to follow through. It was us against the enemy. We were Corsairs in a world that had almost forgotten the word." And when the boat was being rocked by depth charges and the lives of 80 men hung in the balance, it was up to the skipper to maintain his focus and give the orders to get his boat free and home safely into port. It was the most lonesome, overwhelming responsibility God ever placed on a man. What was this rare, innate quality our skippers called upon to handle such formidable responsibility? Was it guts? Could you call it that? Evel Knievel has guts. And guts can be foolhardy. Guts can be fatal. It took more than guts. It took unshakable determination. It took superb competence. It took unprecedented concentration.

On life or death missions there are no rules. Success rests on leadership, and composure. And let's not forget the ability of the crew. On a submarine every man knows his duty and every man could do his job with or without supervision. But, in the final analysis, the success or failure of the mission belonged to the skipper. On numerous occasions during the war after a prolonged or successful attack as I walked through the narrow passageway past the tiny cubicle known as the Captain's Cabin, I was fiercely tempted to stop and put my head in and say, Good job, Skipper. Thanks a lot. And I am sure there were those in the crew and perhaps some who are here today who have experienced that same feeling. but that wouldn't have been appropriate then would it? Because the crew would have accused us of being patronizing, or worse yet, trying to make Chief on our first cruise.

So the years passed... and then, in 1991, our WWII national submarine convention was held in San Antonio, TX and J. D. McLemore organized the first Skippers Brunch. On the day of the general membership meeting, about 300 of us assembled in a large meeting room. But the entire front row of seats were reserved. It was reserved for skippers and there must have been 45 or 50 of them there. When the meeting opened, Joe McGrievy took the floor and called off each skipper's name together with his boat. When his name was called, the skipper stood and faced the audience. And when all were standing the crowd snapped to its feet as one man and I have never herd such loud, enthusiastic, ebullient, prolonged applause from a group that size in my lifetime. These were the thank you's that were never said. These were the congratulations that were never offered. When I recognized this, I was glad that I didn't have to speak because with that lump in my throat it would have come out like a whimper.

But let's bring this story up to date: As any submariner can tell you, the need for dedicated, cool

headed competence in our submarine skippers did not expire with World War II. Nor did it expire with the "Cold War". Nor with any of the subsequent wars of lesser magnitude. That demand is out there today across oceans of the world wherever potential conflict exists. Because on a submarine there is one man who cannot escape for an instant the onerous grasp of responsibility for the safety and performance and the morale of his boat. He is the Skipper. As I have said, there were things that could not be said back then. But thanks in large part of the leadership and the peerless performance of our submarine skippers, we who survived, we who came home, are privileged to be here today .. and I can say to them now:  
*Good job, Skippers. Thanks a lot.*

**Now ... My Final Address:**

Perch Base, from the day I was there to help form it, has been my home away from home. It will remain so as it seems to be in my blood. For more than six years, in one capacity or another, I have given it all I had to help it become one of the premier Bases in the USSVI. It hasn't been easy, but it was certainly worth every bit of the sweat, blood, and tears. No one will ever know the personal gratification one gets from truly getting involved in becoming an officer in this Base until he comes forward and reaps those rewards. The high one gets in helping this submarine organization grow is payment enough to last a lifetime.

The one thing I've learned, is that as hard as you try, you can never please everyone. There are always going to be a small vocal minority that wouldn't be pleased no matter what you did. But your satisfaction comes from knowing that you did your best and that's all that really counts. In the October issue of Midwatch I stated that I was stepping down as Base Commander,

Newsletter Writer, and Chaplain effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 to permit others, perhaps much more qualified, to take over the helm. That time has come. I am confident that my Vice Commander, **Don Wannamaker**, will fit nicely into the Command position, and in true submarine fashion, others will take over my other responsibilities equally well. One way or another, Perch Base will be in good hands. As a parting gesture, I have taken on the chore of writing my suggestions for revising our Base Bylaws. This was an immense job long waiting to be done. My draft was submitted to the membership at the October Meeting in accordance with our bylaws for their input. I sincerely feel that these changes were long overdue and I believe I've left no stone un-turned. Just about every obstacle that I ran into over the past year and a half is now spelled out, and if passed by the membership, almost every contingency will have been addressed and solved.

I would also like to take a moment to thank one subvet member who stays to himself mostly...in the background.....with rarely as much as a whisper. This man has never attended a meeting to my knowledge, nor have I ever met him personally. Yet his behind-the-scenes involvement from Flagstaff over the past 5 YEARS has probably meant as much to our Base as anyone. This man is our Newsletter Editor and Printer, and my friend, shipmate, **John Wilson**.

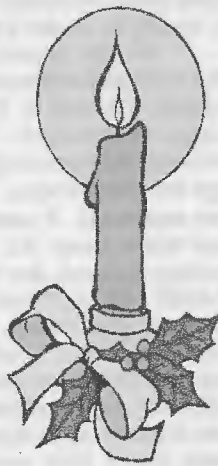
And now it's time for me to single up all lines and set out for yet another patrol. Merry Christmas to All, and to All, a "Good Night ". HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE !!! The pleasure was all mine,

*Roger Cousin,*  
 Commander, Newsletter Writer, and Chaplain,  
 Arizona Perch Base USSVI

This is our last shot at our Centennial, so below is a compilation of "Lest We Forget" U.S. Submarine Losses during this Century.

**World War II Losses**

Name	Date	Cause
USS SEALION (SS195)	02-10-41	Aircraft
USS S-36 (SS141)	01-20-42	Grounding
USS S-26 (SS131)	01-24-42	Collision
USS SHARK (SS174)	02-11-42	Surface Craft
USS PERCH (SS176)	03-03-42	Surface Craft
USS S-27 (SS132)	06-19-42	Grounding
USS GRUNION (SS216)	07-30-42	Unknown
USS S-39 (SS144)	08-13-42	Grounding
USS BASS (SS164)	08-17-42	Fire
USS ARGONAUT (SS166)	01-10-43	Surface Craft
USS AMBERJACK (SS219)	02-16-43	Surface Craft
USS GRAMPUS (SS207)	03-05-43	Surface Craft
USS TRITON (SS201)	03-15-43	Surface Craft
USS PICKEREL (SS177)	04-03-43	Surface Craft
USS GRENADIER (SS210)	04-22-43	Aircraft
USS RUNNER (SS275)	05-28-43	Mine
USS R-12 (SS89)	06-12-43	Foundered
USS GRAYLING (SS209)	09-09-43	Unknown
USS POMPANO (SS181)	02-29-43	Mine
USS CISCO (SS290)	08-29-43	Surface Craft
USS S-44 (SS155)	10-07-43	Surface Craft
USS WAHOO (SS238)	10-11-43	Surface Craft
USS DORADO (SS248)	10-12-43	Unknown
USS CORVINA (SS226)	11-16-43	Submarine
USS SCULPIN (SS191)	11-19-43	Surface Craft
USS CAPELIN (SS289)	11-23-43	Surface Craft
USS SCORPION (SS278)	01-05-44	Mine



**USS GRAYBACK (SS208)**  
**USS TROUT (SS202)**  
**USS TULLIBEE (SS284)**  
**USS GUDGEON (SS211)**  
**USS HERRING (SS233)**  
**USS S-28 (SS133)**  
**USS GOLET (SS361)**  
**USS ROBALO (SS273)**  
**USS FLIER (SS250)**  
**USS HARDER (SS257)**  
**USS SEAWOLF II (SS197)**  
**USS ESCOLAR (SS294)**  
**USS DARTER (SS227)**  
**USS SHARK II (SS314)**  
**USS TANG (SS306)**  
**USS ALBACORE (SS218)**  
**USS GROWLER (SS215)**  
**USS SCAMP (SS277)**  
**USS SWORDFISH (SS193)**  
**USS BARBEL (SS316)**  
**USS KETE (SS369)**  
**USS TRIGGER (SS237)**  
**USS SNOOK (SS279)**  
**USS LAGARTO (SS371)**  
**USS BONEFISH (SS223)**  
**USS BULLHEAD (SS332)**



02-26-44	Surface Craft
02-29-44	Surface Craft
03-26-44	Own Torpedo
04-07-44	Surface Craft
06-01-44	Surface Craft
06-04-44	Foundered
06-14-44	Surface Craft
07-26-44	Mine
08-13-44	Mine
08-24-44	Surface Craft
10-03-44	Surface Craft
10-17-44	Mine
10-24-44	Grounding
10-24-44	Surface Craft
10-24-44	Own Torpedo
11-07-44	Mine
11-08-44	Unknown
11-09-44	Surface Craft
01-12-45	Surface Craft
02-04-45	Aircraft
03-20-45	Mine
03-26-45	Aircraft
04-08-45	Unknown
05-03-45	Mine
06-18-45	Surface Craft
08-06-45	Aircraft

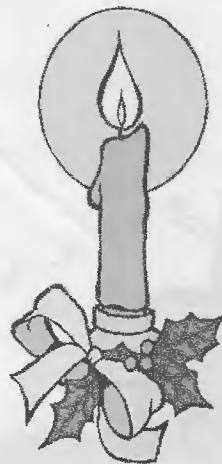
Dates of losses vary widely. This list is meant for reference only and dates should be checked before using them. **USS BASS** seems to be a forgotten submarine which suffered terrible losses during the war. I would like to perpetuate the memory of her submariners who lost their lives during World War II, at this time.

**USS BASS (SS164)** Date of Loss: 17 August 1942; 25 men lost, 31 survivors.

While on patrol near the Panama Canal, a fire broke out in the After Battery. The fire spread to the engine room and then to the After Torpedo Room, killing 25 crewmen before it was finally extinguished. There is no mention whether or not **USS BASS** was on her way to bolster the Pacific Submarine Fleet at the time. Temporary repairs, however, took eight weeks before **USS BASS** could make the trip to Philadelphia for a complete overhaul. She would stay in dry-dock until December 1943 before returning to limited service. **USS BASS** would never again make a war patrol.

We are not only a WWII submarine family, our USSVI follows 100 years of submarine history Peacetime Submarine Losses

Name	Date	Cause
F-4 (SS23)	03-25-15	Foundered
F-2 (SS25)	01-15-16	Explosion
F-1 (SS20)	12-16-17	Collision
G2 (SS27)	07-30-19	Foundered
H-1 (SS28)	03-12-20	Grounding
S-5 (SS110)	08-01-20	Foundered
S-48 (SS159)	12-07-21	Foundered
S-38 (SS143)	07-17-23	Flooding
O-5 (SS66)	10-29-23	Collision
S-48 (SS159)	01-29-25	Grounding
S-51 (SS162)	09-23-25	Collision
S-4 (SS109)	12-17-27	Collision
SQUALUS (SS192)	05-23-39	Foundered
O-9 (SS70)	06-20-41	Foundered
COCHINO (SS343)	08-26-49	Explosion
STICKLEBACK (SS415)	05-30-58	Collision
SARGO (SSN583)	06-14-60	Explosion
GRAYBACK (SSG574)	08-27-63	Fire
THRESHER (SSN593)	04-10-63	Unknown
SCORPION (SSN589)	05-21-68	Unknown
RAY (SSN653)	09-20-77	Grounding
NATHANEAL GREENE (SSBN636)	03-13-86	Grounding
BONEFISH (SS582)	04-24-88	Fire
BATON ROUGE (SSN689)	02-11-92	Collision



During the rescue of **USS COCHINO's** crew, the **USS TUSK (SS426)**, sister ship to **USS COCHINO**, lost 6 crewmen, in the 47 degree North Atlantic water. A story of **USS COCHINO**, written by Oscar Martinez EM1(SS), will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.



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