



# THE "MIDWATCH"



December 2009  
Volume 15 - Issue 12

## The monthly newsletter of Perch Base - USSVI Phoenix, Arizona <http://perch-base.org>

### What's "Below Decks" in the MidWatch

ITEM	Page #
Booster club and Float support members	2
Base Officers and Sailing Orders	3
Our Generous Sponsors	4
Foundation Shipmates	5
What a Great Way to Earn Money	6
From The Wardroom	7
November Meeting Minutes	7
Weird but True	9
Chaplain's Column	10
Shipmate-to-Shipmate	11
Awards Banquet Menu	12
Perch Base Birthdays	13
Lost Boat - USS S-4 (SS-109)	14
The Submarine in History	15
Mailing Page	19



### Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

#### DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

<b>USS Sealion (SS-195)</b>	<b>Dec. 10, 1941</b>	<b>5 men</b>
Japanese Air Attack, Cavite Navy Yard, P.I.		
<b>USS F-1 (SS-20)</b>	<b>Dec. 17, 1917</b>	<b>19 men</b>
Rammed off Honolulu		
<b>USS S-4 (SS-109)</b>	<b>Dec. 17, 1927</b>	<b>34 men</b>
Rammed off Provincetown, Massachusetts, Boat salvaged		

**NEXT MEETING**  
**12 noon, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009**  
**American Legion Post #105**  
**3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053**

## **2009 Booster and Float Support Members**

Perch Base, USSVI, cannot support its on-going operations and provide funds for the Base's float activities on dues alone. While the Base tries to develop activities to raise additional funds, we salute the members, listed below, who have supported the base with additional contributions. **Shipmates, we salute you!**

**These are the 2009 Contributors. Have you given you support?**

Jerry Allston, Reynaldo Altos, Gary Bartlett, Ken Becker, Dick Bernier, Walt Blomgren, Bradley Butler, Michael Dahl, Jim Denzien, Howard Doyle, Joe Errante, John Graves, Dave Harnish, Stephen Hough, Davey Jones, Mike Keating, Darrell Lambert, DeWayne Lober, Burtis Loftin, George Marions, Ray Marshall, David Meese, Angus McPherson, Alan Miller, Tim Moore, James W. Newman, Craig Olson, Ernest Plantz, Stan Reinhold, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Frank Rumbaugh (in memory), Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, William Tippett, Forrest Watson, Donald Whitehead, Ed Wolf, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin, Ron Zomok.

## **BASE OFFICERS**

### **COMMANDER:**

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(Vacant)

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# Sailing Orders

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The annual Awards Banquet will be held Jan. 16, 2010. This is our big yearly occasion to recognize our own and have a great feast courtesy of Perch Base's resident chef, Stan Reinhold. See page 12 for full details.

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Base annual elections are held in March. The four (4) elected Base officers are Commander, vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer.

The only announced candidates are Howard Doyle for vice-Commander and Wayne Pettes for Treasurer.

This **YOUR** Base Only you can elected someone you want. Just think! What if **HE** got in!

---

## **NEXT MONTH'S MIDWATCH**

*Watch for a new "Submarines in History" series in the MidWatch starting with "Submarines 1914 - 1945. You don't want to miss this facinating NEW series about boat sailors and their now-antiquated ships.*



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## *Foundation Shipmates*



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

**Avondale Toyota**

**Larry Harker Auto Repair Inc.**

**Fairings - Etc**

**White Shears Flowers**

**Frank Bono Metal Design**

**Southwest Steel Sales LLC**

**United Parcel Service (UPS)**

**David L. Meese, Jr. CPA PLC**

**ARC Impressions**

# What a Great Way for the Base to Make Money!



Through the ingenuity of our Base Secretary -- and a great company that he works for -- the Base could make money every time a homeowner gets needed service done on their heating and air conditioning. The deals also works for estimate service, new equipment, air duct cleaning and other everyday stuff a home owner needs. Contact Tim for more details.

There is only one catch. You have to use Tim (That's a catch? More like a pleasure!) to arrange the service.

We all have to have that work done a one time or the other, so think what the Base can earn!

Remember! Contact Tim at:

**Tim Moore**

[secretary@perch-base.org](mailto:secretary@perch-base.org)

[seawolfssn@q.net](mailto:seawolfssn@q.net)

(602) 574-3286

## From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

Our website is undergoing a major rework and Chuck Emmett is doing a fantastic job. It is already quite something and will be even better when it is finished. Check it out!

November was a busy month for our float and base activities. We participated in the "decommissioning" of the Phoenix Commission (Nov. 4,) the Anthem parade (Nov. 7,) a Veterans Day ceremony in Gilbert (Nov. 10) and the Veterans Day parade in Phoenix (Nov.11.) The float took first place in our category, Veterans Service Organizations (Float). The float has now been returned to its storage location and we will be doing maintenance on it in the near future.

Billy Grieves' presentation at our last meeting, entitled "A Tribute to Skippers", was well received by all who attended. Unfortunately, we were only able to get one of our former Commanding Officers to be in attendance. BRAVO ZULU to all of them!

Our next meeting is December 12. Plan on being there! Also, put January 16, 2010 on your calendar and get your reservation to Walt Blomgren for our annual Awards Banquet. Find out who the Sailor of the Year for 2009 is!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

## November Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1222, 14 November 2009. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

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

According to the sailing list, forty-three (43) members and guests were present. Guests included Jack Messersmith, Western District 1 Commander and member of Gudgeon Base, Ed Brooks, Gudgeon Base Commander, and past Skipper Brad Veek who was CO of the USS Tirante SS-420 out of Key West and is also a life member of Perch Base and current member and vice-Commander of Gudgeon Base. New members included Gary Waterbury, Chris Calnan and Tom Brady.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the October 2009 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

As Acting Treasurer, Jim Denzien reported on the base's financial status as of 01 November 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Jim reported that Wayne Pettes has offered his services to fill the vacated Treasurer's position and will take over the 1st of January. Wayne's name will also be on the ballot for the March election.

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

Jim reported that Barry Bower's job of Float Coordinator has been expanded and will be called Event Coordinator. We need to further define what that job will entail and Barry will continue in that position.

The membership was reminded that we will have an election in March for three of the elected positions and they include Vice-Commander, Secretary and Treasurer. We are looking for potential candidates for these elected positions.

We are still working on the Policies and Procedures Manual and hope to have a working draft completed for review by the board by the first of the new year.

Our first, of what we hope will be many, Special Guest Speakers (Billy Grieves) is with us today for a presentation. We are working on other future possibilities including Jay Wisner who runs the NJROTC program for Glendale High School. Jay is a retired Navy Chief who is qualified in submarines.

We are also trying to establish a working relationship with the Navy Operational Support Center/Naval Reserve which is relocating to Luke AFB. The hope is that this relationship will result in the possibility of storage space for our float and all the rest of the items we have in storage. Currently Butch Deshong is providing covered storage in East Mesa and we are extremely grateful to Butch for his assistance.

The membership was reminded that there are still some annual dues paying member who need to pay their annual Perch Base and USSVI dues. The National organization is very adamant about members being paid up on time by the end of December of their names will be dropped from the membership rolls and longevity will be forfeited.

Tautog Base sponsored the All Arizona Base Picnic this past month and Perch Base will sponsor the next one in April 2010. It has tentatively been scheduled for second Saturday of April (10 April 2010) at the White Tanks Recreational Area. Additional information for that event will be forthcoming.

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

**Vice-Commander** – Howard Doyle reported that we attended two Veteran's Day parades, one in Anthem and the other in Phoenix. Jim and Doug LaRock also took the float and attended a Veteran's Day ceremony in Gilbert on the Tuesday before Veteran's Day.

**Secretary** – Tim Moore reported that the company, for which he works, American Home Maintenance, will make contributions to our organization for referrals for air conditioning inspections, system estimates and referrals for ADT home security system installations.

Tim will get additional information to Chuck for future publication.

**Treasurer** – TBA

**Chaplain** – Walt Blomgren had nothing to report.

**Chief of the Boat** – TBA

**MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster** – Chuck Emmett was not present.

**Base Storekeeper** – DeWayne Lober had nothing to report.

**Membership Chairman** – Rick Simmons reported that all annual dues paying members should have a membership card from National and it is updated with a sticker every year when dues are paid. If anyone is missing their membership card let Rick know and he will get a new one issued. Do Not throw your membership cards away.

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

**Float Coordinator** – Barry Bowers had nothing to report.

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

### **Old Business**

Jim Denzien announced that the Awards Banquet will be held the third Saturday of January (16 Jan 2010) at the American Post #105. Awards that will be presented are; Sailor of the Year, Longevity Pin Awards and the Holland Club Induction Ceremony. All members who are eligible for the Holland Club are encouraged to attend so you can be honored for your service to our country in the submarine force. It will be good opportunity to enjoy some fellowship and camaraderie with other members of the base. We will be charging \$20.00 per person and additional information will be forthcoming. Stan will be catering the event.

### **New Business**

Jim re-iterated that the 2010 All Arizona Base Picnic will be sponsored by Perch Base and will be in April, possibly the second Saturday, 10 April 2010.

### **Good of the Order**

Tim Moore reported that the company, for which he works, American Home Maintenance which is an air conditioning company, will make contributions to our organization for referrals for air conditioning inspections, system estimates and referrals for ADT home security system installations. This has the potential of being a perpetual fund raiser for



our base. Tim will get additional information to Chuck for future publication. Butch Deshong added that on behalf of his company, he would offer \$25.00 to the base for water softener and reverse osmosis system installations. Butch also offered a 10% discount to all base members and their referrals.

Roger Cousins proposed the possibility of sponsoring a trip to a casino. The trip to the casino costs \$10.00 per person which is reimbursed by the casino and the money would go back to the base. So if we had a bus of 50 people going to the casino, the base would receive \$500.00. Roger is willing to put one of these trips together.

Jim received an e-mail from Ed Brooks, Gudgeon Base Commander, that legislation is being re-introduced to issue the Cold War Service medal. The medal would be for anyone who served on active duty for not less than two years or was deployed for 30 days or more during the period of 2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991. Anyone who meets these criteria would be eligible for the medal and ribbon.

### **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Don Unser who won \$82.00 and donated \$42.00 back to the Perch Base Foundation.

### **Adjournment**

All the 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 1330 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore, Secretary, Perch Base USSVI



# **Weird but True!**

### **Fact #1: Strange Currencies**

When the country of Tripoli issued their demands for tribute from the United States for ships to operate freely off their coasts, their demands were: \$40,000 in gold and silver, \$12,000 in Spanish currency, three diamond rings, one sapphire ring, and one ring with a built-in watch, 141 ells of cloth, and four caftans of brocade.

### **Fact #2: Hoodwinked**

In 1911, when civil war broke out in Honduras, Sam Zemurray, an American businessman with many interests in Honduras, appealed to the US government to protect his businesses. He even paid for part of the US Naval expedition that was sent. President Manuel Bonilla, who was deposed in the civil war, was restored with American assistance. He then rewarded Zemurray with large holdings of land for his booming banana business, which eventually became the huge United Fruit Company. Only long after was it learned that Zemurray was the one who financed the war that deposed Bonilla in the first place.

### **Fact #3: Overkill?**

General Douglas MacArthur had a three-point plan to win the Korean War. First, drop fifty atomic bombs on Chinese bases and staging points. Second, Land half a million Chinese Nationalist troops from Formosa behind Communist lines with two US Marine divisions in support to cut off supply lines, and third, after the Red Chinese were defeated, laying a barrier of radioactive cobalt along the Yalu river to keep the Chinese at bay. Needless to say, none of this ever happened.

### **Fact #4: Size does Matter**

In 1932, there were officially 138,069 men on active duty in the regular US Army. But only about 30,000 would have been immediately available for combat. Some guarded the Mexican border, while others served in non-combat roles.

### **Fact #5: Let's be Fair**

On the dark day of September 11th 2001, George W. Bush was widely criticized for waiting seven minutes before reacting to the news of the terrorist attacks. It was easy to forget that Franklin Roosevelt waited 22 minutes before reacting to the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

### **Fact #6: Damn Computers**

In 1980, the computers of the Strategic Air Command in Nebraska indicated that the US was under attack missiles launched by submarine. Within minutes, more than 100 B-52 bombers loaded with nuclear bombs were on their way to the Soviet Union. Fortunately, it was quickly discovered that the computer made a mistake. The culprit was a computer chip, which cost 46 cents.

## A Submariner's Prayer

"Eternal Father, strong to save  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who biddest the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep.  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

Bless those who serve beneath the deep.  
Through lonely hour their vigil keep.  
May peace their mission ever be,  
Protect each one we ask of Thee.  
Bless those at home who wait and pray,  
For their return by night or day."

Do you know a shipmate who is on the lee side of a fair wind? Someone who could use the help of a shipmate? Remember, we are the "**Brotherhood** of the Phin." Contact our Base Chaplain if you know of any way we can help:

Walt Blumgren  
5120 W. Gelding Dr.  
Glendale, AZ 85306  
(602) 309-4407  
[chaplain@perch-base.org](mailto:chaplain@perch-base.org)

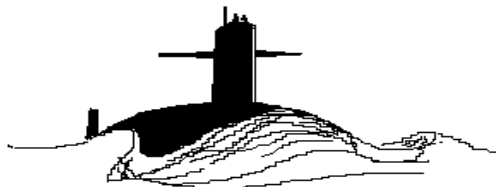


## ON ETERNAL PATROL

Perch Base shipmate Jim Thomson departed on eternal patrol Nov. 8. Jim joined USSVI and Perch Base in 2001. Living in Flagstaff, he is survived by his wife, Janet.

He qualified on the USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN-600) in 1963 and served on the following boats; USS Bang (SS-385), USS Hardhead (SS-365), USS Daniel Webster (SSBN-626), USS Thomas Edison (SSBN-610), USS James Madison (SSBN- 627.)

Jim retired from the Navy as a STSCS(SS)



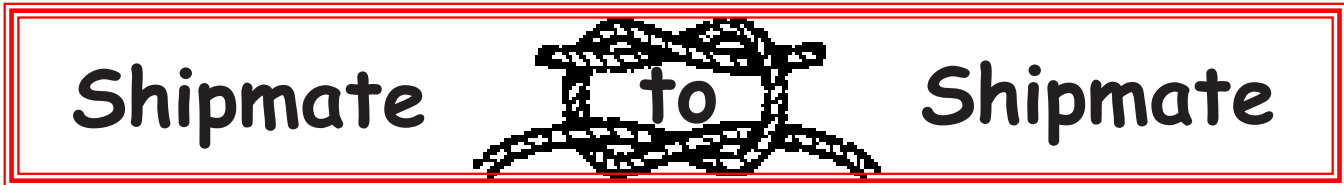
**ETERNAL PATROL PREPARATIONS**

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

**IMPORTANT**

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support. Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records). This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at office@ussvi.org.

**But remember, your family should always notify the Base Chaplain first. He and your local shipmates can help!!**



A reminder from the Base's Membership Chairman:

Any contributions to the Booster Club will not be reflected in the listing until next month's MidWatch.

**HELP! 2010 Re-enlistment**

NOW HEAR THIS! This is our last chance to remind you that we need your 2010 re-enlistment dues. To stay a member in good standing your dues need to be processed by no later than December 31, 2009. Not staying in "good standing" can your longevity award status and even Holland Club induction (you need 5 continuous years in good standing to be eligible). By processed we mean we need to receive your payment and then enter that payment into the USSVI and Perch Base databases. As with everyone else, your Board members and USSVI staff are busy with family holiday activities this time of year so don't be a Grinch and wait until the last minute to take care of this important duty. Remember to send your payments to Jim Denzien's address. If you have any questions about what dues you owe, please give Rick Simmons a call.



**Don't forget the Annual awards Banquet! Want to get you tast buds working? Check out the next page for the menu.**

**- MENU -**  
**ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**  
**SATURDAY, JAN. 16, 2010**

**Appetizer**

Shrimp Salad

**Salad**

Caesar Salad with Herb Croutons

**Entree**

Chicken Wellington

(Breast of Chicken stuffed with Mushroom Duxelle)

Apricot Glazed Pork Loin

(carved to order)

**Vegetables**

Yellow and Green Patty Pan Squash / Baby Carrots

Wild & Brown Rice Pilaf

(with pecan and orange juice)

Baby Bakers

(mini baked potato)

**Dessert**

Jalapeño Crème Brulee with Cookie

Assorted Holiday Bars

**The cost of the banquet is \$20 per person. Either Walt Blomgren or Jim Denzien will accept your reservation. BUT DON'T WAIT! You don't want to miss this big event!**



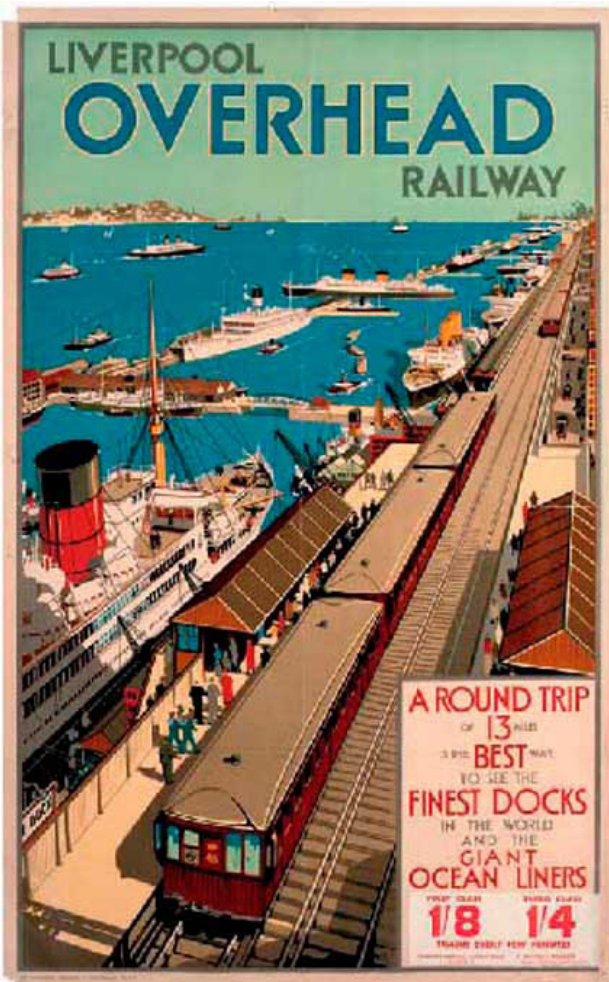
(Last year's banquet. See the fun we have?)



# Perch Base December Birthdays



Paul V. Miller	Dec. 4
A.H. "Bob" Nance	Dec. 7
Walter Blomgren	Dec. 12
James J. Cooper	Dec. 12
Ronald J. Zomok	Dec. 12
Chuck Emmett	Dec. 20
Edward J. Hawkins	Dec. 15
Jeff Nelson	Dec. 17
Thomas E. Fooshee	Dec. 22
James Dunn	Dec. 23
DeWayne Lober	Dec. 28
Ben Acosta	Dec. 30





## Eternal Patrol December 17, 1927

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

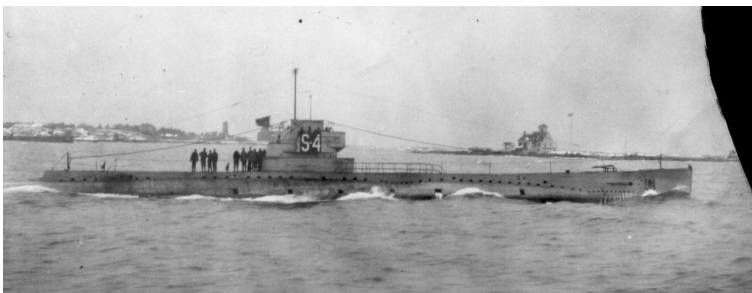
### The Final Patrol



Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest  
Is part of an outfit known as the best.  
Make him welcome and take him by the hand.  
You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.  
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll  
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol  
Let them know that we who survive  
Will always keep their memories alive.



**USS S-4 (SS-109)  
December 17, 1927  
34 men lost**



### S-Class Submarine

**Displ:** 868 tons (surf), 1,079 tons (sub)  
**Length:** 219'3", **Beam:** 20'8", **Draft:** 15'11"  
**Speed:** 14.5 knots (surf), 11 knots (sub)  
**Complement:** 42 officers and men  
**Armament:** 1 × 4" deck gun  
4 × 21" torpedo tubes

USS S-4 (SS-109) was an S-class submarine of the United States Navy. In 1927, she was sunk by being accidentally rammed by a Coast Guard destroyer with the loss of all hands but was raised and restored to service until stricken in 1936.

### Construction

Her keel was laid down on 4 December 1917 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine. She was launched on 27 August 1919 sponsored by Mrs. Herbert S. Howard, and commissioned on 19 November 1919 with Lieutenant Commander Percy K. Robottom in command.

### Service

Following acceptance trials and a visit to Havana, Cuba, from 14 January to on 19 January 1920, and subsequent operations along the Gulf of Mexico and New England coasts, S-4 departed New London, Connecticut, on 18 November 1920 to rendezvous off New Hampshire with her assigned division, SubDiv 12, and SubDiv 18.

The two divisions were about to embark on a historic voyage which, at that time, was to be the longest cruise undertaken by American submarines. Assigned to Submarine Flotilla 3 of the Asiatic Fleet at Cavite in the Philippine Islands, they sailed via the Panama Canal and Pearl Harbor and arrived at Cavite on 1 December 1921.

S-4 operated out of the Cavite Naval Station, with occasional visits to Chinese ports, until late in 1924 when the two divisions were reassigned to the West Coast. Departing Cavite on 29 October, they arrived at Mare Island, California, on 30 December.

Remaining at Mare Island in 1925, she operated along the West Coast through 1926, mainly at San Francisco, California, San Pedro, California, and San Diego, California. She departed Mare Island on 10 February 1927 and sailed to the Panama Canal Zone, where she operated through March and April, then proceeded to New London, Connecticut, arriving on 3 May. For the remainder of the year, she operated off the New England.

### Sinking

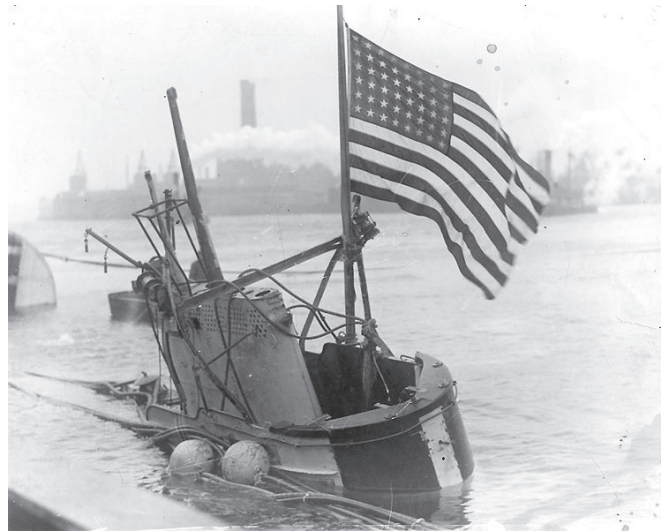
On 17 December, while surfacing from a submerged run over the measured-mile off Cape Cod, near Provincetown, Massachusetts, she was accidentally rammed and sunk by the United States Coast Guard destroyer Paulding.

Paulding stopped and lowered life boats, but found only a small amount of oil and air bubbles. Rescue and salvage operations were commenced, only to be thwarted by severe weather setting in. Heroic efforts were made to rescue

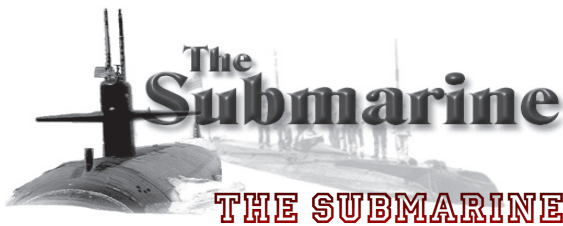
six known survivors trapped in the forward torpedo room, who had exchanged a series of signals with divers, by tapping on the hull. Despite the efforts, the men were lost. S-4 was finally raised on 17 March 1928, by a salvage effort commanded by Captain Ernest J. King, and towed to the Boston Navy Yard for dry-docking. She was decommissioned on 19 March.

### Return

S-4 was re-commissioned on 16 October, after repairs. She served at Key West, Florida, early in 1929 and 1930, and in the northeast during the remainder of those years. In 1931, she operated again at New London until departing there on 3 January 1932 for Pearl Harbor. Sailing via the Panama Canal, she arrived at Pearl Harbor on 29 August. On 7 April 1933, S-4 was decommissioned and laid up. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 15 January 1936 and destroyed on 15 May by sinking.



USS S-4 is towed to the Boston Navy Yard after being salvaged, 1928.



## The S-Boats - Prelude to the Modern Submarine

### THE SUBMARINE IN HISTORY

The United States' **S-class submarines**, often simply called **S-boats** (sometimes "**Sugar**" boats, after the contemporary Navy phonetic alphabet for "S"), were the first class of submarines built to a United States Navy design.

The United States Navy commissioned 51 S-Class submarines from 1920 to 1925. The first S-boat, USS S-1 (SS-105), was commissioned in 1918 and the last, USS S-51 (SS-162), in 1925. The S class is subdivided into four groups of different designs:

- Group I (S-1 class, or "Elco" type): S-1 and S-18-S-41, built by Bethlehem Steel at Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts and Union Iron Works in San Francisco, California, as subcontractor for Electric Boat Company (Elco).
- Group II (S-3 class, or "Navy Yard" type): S-3-S-17, built at the Portsmouth Navy Yard and Lake Torpedo Boat at Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- Group III (S-42 class): S-42-S-47, built at Fore River.
- Group IV (S-48 class): S-48-S-51, built by Lake.

S-2 was a prototype built by Lake, and was not repeated.

S-1, S-2, and S-3 were prototypes built to the same specification: S-1 designed by Electric Boat (Elco), S-2 by Lake, and S-3 by the Bureau of Construction and Repair (later Bureau of Ships). The Lake boat was considered inferior. The Elco and BuC&R designs were put into production.

The first S-boat, S-1, was launched on 26 September 1918, by Bethlehem at Fore River, but not commissioned until 5 June 1920.

The S-boats were improvements over the O- and R-boats. They were substantially larger. Compared to the R-boats, Group I S-boats were 33 feet (10.1 m) longer, with 3 feet 3 inches (1.0 m) more beam, 2 feet 3 inches (0.7 m) more draft, and 60% greater displacement. This allowed for greater range, larger engines and higher speed, and more



torpedo reloads, though the number of forward torpedo tubes was still four. Seven of the Group II and all the Group IV boats had an additional stern tube. Group IV was also longer and had less draft. In 1923, USS S-1 (SS-105) experimented with a seaplane (an idea the Japanese would adopt); four like boats were provided to Peru in 1926-8.

### Service

These boats saw service in World War II in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Smaller and slower than many of the submarines produced for war service, and lacking the range for Pacific Ocean patrols (as well as being 20 years old), they were used in reconnaissance and supply roles, as well as for coastal defense, such as in the Alaska theater during the aftermath of the Battle of the Aleutian Islands. They were withdrawn in mid-1943 as fleet submarines became available, and were relegated to ASW training. Most of the surviving boats were scrapped in 1946.

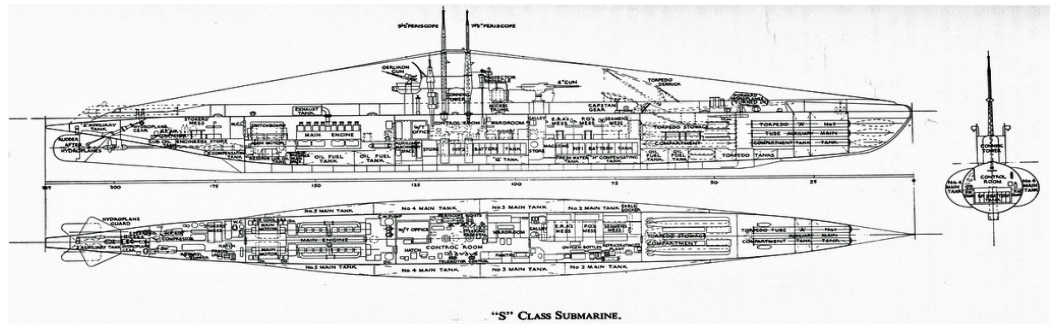
In World War II, S-class boats did not use the newer Mark 14 torpedo, standard in fleet submarines, due to shorter torpedo tubes, relying on the World War I-vintage Mark 10, instead. (Due to production shortages, many fleet boats used Mark 10s, also.) Since the Mark 14 suffered from a high failure rate early in the war, this was not necessarily a disadvantage.

Some were transferred to other navies, such as the six transferred to the British Royal Navy. These were mostly used for training in anti-submarine warfare and removed from service by mid-1944.

### General characteristics

#### Group I

- Displacement: 854 tons surfaced; 1,062 tons submerged
- Length: 219 feet 3 inches (66.8 m)
- Beam: 20 feet 9 inches (6.3 m)
- Draft: 16 feet (4.9 m)
- Propulsion: 2 × New London Ship and Engine Company (NELSECO) diesels, 600 hp (448 kW) each; 2 × Electro-Dynamic (S-1, S-30-S-35), Ridgway (S-18, S-20 through S-29), or General Electric (S-36 through S-41) electric motors, 750 horsepower (560 kW) each; 120 cell Exide battery; two shafts.



- Bunkerage: 168 tons oil fuel
- Speed: 14.5 knots (27 km/h) surfaced; 11 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Range: 5,000 miles (8,000 km) at 10 knots (19 km/h) surfaced
- Test depth: 200 ft (61 m)
- Armament (as built): 4 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes (bow, 12 torpedoes); 1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 cal deck gun
- Crew: 42 officers and men
- Boats in Group: S-1, S-18 through S-41

#### Group II

- Boats in Group: S-3 through S-17
- Displacement: 876 tons surfaced; 1,092 tons submerged
- Length: 231 feet (70.4 m)
- Beam: 21 feet 9 inches (6.6 m)
- Draft: 13 feet 4 inches (4.1 m)
- Propulsion: 2 × M.A.N (S-3 through S-13) or Busch-Sulzer (S-14 through S-17) diesels, 1,000 hp (746 kW)



each; 2 × Westinghouse electric motors, 600 hp (447 kW) each; 120-cell Exide battery; two shafts.

- Speed: 15 knots (28 km/h) surfaced; 11 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Bunkerage: 148 tons oil fuel
- Range: 5,000 nautical miles (9,000 km) at 10 knots (19 km/h) surfaced
- Test depth: 200 ft (61 m)
- Armament (as built): 4 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes (bow, 12 torpedoes) or (*S-11* through *S-13*) 5 (four forward, one aft, 14 torpedoes); 1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 cal deck gun
- Crew: 42 officers and men

### **Group III**

- Boats in Group: *S-42* through *S-47*
- Displacement: 906 tons surfaced; 1,126 tons submerged
- Length: 216 feet (65.8 m), 225 feet 3 inches (68.7 m) overall
- Beam: 20 feet 9 inches (6.3 m)
- Draft: 16 feet (4.9 m)
- Propulsion: 2 × NELSECO diesels, 600 hp (448 kW) each; 2 × Electro-Dynamic electric motors, 750 horsepower (560 kW) each; 120 cell Exide battery; two shafts.
- Speed: 15 knots (28 km/h) surfaced; 11 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Bunkerage: 185 tons oil fuel
- Range: 5,000 nautical miles (9,000 km) at 10 knots (19 km/h) surfaced
- Test depth: 200 ft (61 m)
- Armament (as built): 4 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes (bow, 12 torpedoes); 1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 cal deck gun
- Crew: 42 officers and men

### **Group IV**

- Boats in Group: *S-48* through *S-51*
- Displacement: 903 tons surfaced; 1,130 tons submerged
- Length: 240 feet (73.2 m), 266 feet (81.1 m) overall
- Beam: 21 feet 9 inches (6.6 m)
- Draft: 13 feet 6 inches (4.1 m)
- 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
- Speed: 14.5 knots (27 km/h) surfaced; 11 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Range: 8,000 nautical miles (15,000 km) at 10 knots (19 km/h) surfaced
- Depth: 200 ft (61 m)
- Armament (as built): 4 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes (bow, 12 torpedoes); 1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 cal deck gun
- Crew: 42 officers and men

### **S-2**

- Displacement: 800 tons surfaced; 977 tons submerged
- Length: 207 feet (63.1 m) overall
- Beam: 19 feet 6 inches (5.9 m)
- Draft: 16 feet 3 inches (5.0 m)
- Propulsion: 2 × diesels, 900 hp (670 kW) each; 2 × electric motors, 750 horsepower (560 kW) each; two

shafts.

- Speed: 15 knots (28 km/h) surfaced; 11 knots (20 km/h) submerged
- Range: 8,000 nautical miles (15,000 km) at 10 knots (19 km/h) surfaced
- Depth: 200 ft (61 m)
- Armament (as built): 4 × 21 in (533 mm) torpedo tubes (bow, 12 torpedoes), 1 × 4 in (102 mm)/50 cal deck gun
- Crew: 42 officers and men

### **S-boat Fates**

All S-boats were scrapped after World War II except those listed below.

#### **Lost at sea between wars**

- USS S-4 (SS-109) - Sunk 1927 later raised, re-commissioned, and served before being finally sunk 1936
- USS S-5 (SS-110) - lost September 1, 1920
- USS S-51 (SS-162)-sunk 1925; raised and later scrapped 1930

#### **Scrapped between World War I and World War II**

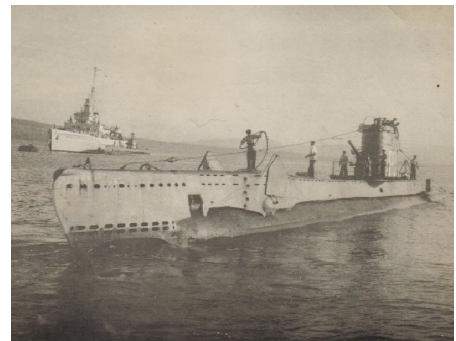
- USS S-2 (SS-106)
- USS S-3 (SS-107)
- USS S-6 (SS-111)
- USS S-10 (SS-115)
- USS S-19 (SS-124)
- USS S-50(SS-161)

#### **Transferred to the Royal Navy during World War II**

- USS S-1 (SS-105) to RN as *P 552* in 1942, removed from service Jan 1944; scrapped 1945
- USS S-21 (SS-126) (as *P 553*) Sunk as target 23 March 1945
- USS S-22 (SS-127) (as *P 554*) scrapped 1945
- USS S-24 (SS-129) (as *P 555*) destroyed 1947
- USS S-25 (SS-130) (as *P 551*, later transferred to the Polish Navy as ORP *Jastrząb*-scuttled after hit by friendly fire 2 May 1942
- USS S-29 (SS-134) (as *P 556*) scrapped 1947

#### **Lost during World War II**

- USS S-26 (SS-131) was destroyed in a collision with SC-460 in the Gulf of Panama 24 January 1942
- USS S-27 (SS-132), USS S-36 (SS-141), and USS S-39 (SS-144) were wrecked when they ran aground
- USS S-28 (SS-133) was wrecked 4 July 1944 by a flooding casualty off Pearl Harbor
- USS S-44 (SS-155) was lost to enemy action 7 October 1943
- USS S-49 (SS-160) foundered and sank in the Patuxent River; stricken and sold in 1931 for scrap company; reduced to hulk 1936; 1943 hulk reacquired by the U.S. Navy for "experimental purposes".



**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
7011 West Risner Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
E-Mail: [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

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



**NEXT MEETING**

12 noon, Saturday, November 14, 2009  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053  
(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)