



**The Monthly Newsletter of Perch Base - USSVI  
Phoenix, Arizona**



June 2010  
Volume 16 - Issue 6

[www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org)

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

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**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

USSVI Creed: *"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of 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."*

**JUNE ETERNAL PATROLS**

USS RUNNER (SS-275)	01 JUN 1943	78 LOST
POSSIBLE JAPANESE MINE BETWEEN MIDWAY ISLAND AND JAPAN		
USS HERRING (SS-233)	01 JUN 1944	84 LOST
JAPANESE SHORE BATTERY OFF MATSUWA ISLAND, KURILES		
USS S28 (SS-133)	04 JUN 1944	50 LOST
FOUNDERED OFF HAWAIIAN ISLANDS		
USS GOLET (SS-361)	14 JUN 1944	82 LOST
JAPANESE SURFACE ATTACK OFF HONSHU, JAPAN		
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	18 JUN 1945	85 LOST
JAPANESE SURFACE ATTACK OFF HONSHU, JAPAN		
USS O9 (SS-70)	20 JUN 1941	33 LOST
FOUNDERED OFF ISLE OF SHOALS		
USS R12 (SS-89)	12 JUN 1943	42 LOST
FOUNDERED OFF KEY WEST, FLORIDA		

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**  
**12 noon, Saturday, June 12, 2010**  
**American Legion Post #105**  
**3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85053**

## 2010 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

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

### These are the 2010 Foundation Supporters



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ZAICHKIN, JOHN G.  
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# Sailing Orders

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**MAY 31, 2010:**

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

**PHOENIX MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

**(THIS IS A MUST FOR ALL  
MEMBERS!)**

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**NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 12:  
CELEBRATE THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
PERCH BASE'S FOUNDING (ACTUALLY  
JUNE 20TH.)**

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**JULY 3 - PRESCOTT RODEO DAYS PARADE  
BASE WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THE FLOAT.**

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Photo # NH 95614 "Old Salt" with a young sailor, circa 1920



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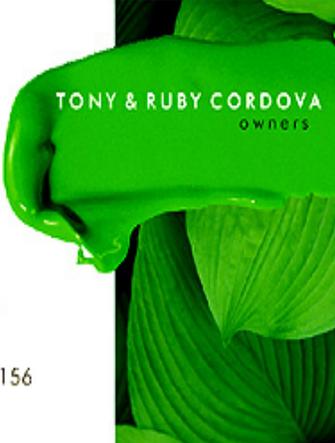
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## **This is a Way for the Base to Make Money!**



American Home Maintenance will donate \$100.00 to Perch Base for every referral that results in an air conditioning sale. Summer is quickly approaching, please let your friends, family, church members and business associates know about this referral program.

There is also deals for estimate service, new equipment, air duct cleaning and other everyday stuff a home owner needs. Contact Tim Moore (see below) for more details.

**Tim Moore**

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

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

(602) 574-3286

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### **From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message**

Shipmates:

The Armed Forces Day Parade in Flagstaff on May 15th was successful. It rained for a while but all went well. Members from Gudgeon Base were there, both for the parade and the static display afterward at the airport. Thanks to all our shipmates who represented Perch Base.

Our next event is the Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery on May 31st. I will be looking forward to seeing as many of our members as possible. We will be conducting our Tolling Ceremony after the memorial service at our torpedo monument. It is fitting that we honor our shipmates on "eternal patrol".

The next meeting is June 12th and we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the presentation of the charter to Perch Base. The official date is June 20 but we will be close enough.

Hope to see you all there!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander



## May 2010 Perch Base Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1220, 08 May 2010. 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 the month of May and a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol.

As the first item of business, a motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the March 2010 regular meeting be approved as published in the MidWatch monthly newsletter. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Wayne Pettes reported on the base's financial status as of 30 April 2010. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Jim announced that he and Wayne have finally accomplished getting all of our bank accounts transferred into "no-fee" accounts so the bank will no longer be deducting any fees from any of our accounts.

According to the sailing list there were 30 members and guests present including a contingent from the "Chosin Few" veterans group. Jim introduced one guest who will be joining us as a new member. His name is Josh McKinley and he spent nine years in the Navy. He is a qualified submariner and qualified on board the USS Olympia SSN-717. He has been living in the valley for about eleven months and recently bought a house in Peoria. Welcome aboard to Josh

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

Jim reported on the All Arizona Base Picnic. It was a very successful event with between 75 and 80 people participating and all Arizona bases were represented.

Upcoming events include the Flagstaff Armed Forces Day Parade which will be held next Saturday the 15th of May. Following that will be the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, the 31st at the National Veteran's Cemetery. All members are encouraged to attend the Memorial Day services and those who plan to attend should show up early. We will have the float as a static display at the Founder's Circle which is also the site of the USS Arizona flagstaff and the USS Perch Memorial. We will be conducting a Tolling Ceremony at the conclusion of the Memorial Day services. Again, this is one of the two events of the year at which we would like as many members as possible to participate. The other event is the Veteran's Day Parade.

Next month, at the regular meeting on the June 12 we will be celebrating the 15th birthday of Perch Base. Although the actual date is 20 June, we will be celebrating the event at our June 12th meeting. There were eight people at the initial meeting of which three Plank Owners are still with us. They are Jim Newman, his son Jim Jr. and Steve Day.

Next Month on July 3rd, we are planning on participating in the Prescott Rodeo Days Parade with the Gudgeon Base. They are taking care of our entry into the parade.

There is some uncertainty as to where we will be getting future meals for our general meetings. We will be negotiating with both the catering service at the Goodyear Airport where Stan Reinhold used to work and the kitchen facility here at Post #105. Stan Reinhold has accepted a Chef's position with Pfizer in La Jolla, CA and his old facility may not be a future option for meals. A final decision will be determined in the near future.

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

**Vice-Commander** – Howard Doyle announced that anyone interested in going to the parade in Flagstaff should contact him.

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

**Treasurer** – Wayne Pettes had nothing to report.

**Chaplain** – Walt Blomgren reported that he spoke with Jim Nelson who is back in the hospital with abdominal pains. Exploratory surgery was performed and they found nothing wrong. He feeling fine now and hopefully will be released soon. If anyone wishes to visit him, he is in Boswell Hospital. However you should contact his wife Nancy first to see if he is still in the hospital and wants to receive visitors.

**Chief of the Boat** – Jack Moore reported that the Perch Base Memorial is ready for the Memorial Day services. He also reminded the membership that we will be having a float maintenance work party at Chuck's house on Monday the 10th of May.

**MidWatch Editor/Interim Webmaster** – Chuck Emmett reported that the Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual is now complete and is posted on our website for all members to review. This has been approved by the BOD and all members are encouraged to review it. If any members have questions or comments, please direct them to Chuck and he will be happy to discuss it with you. Chuck also announced that he has DVD copies of Billy Grieves' *Tribute to Skippers* presentation for sale at \$5.00 each. Chuck cautioned that they do not play on a home DVD player but will work on a computer.

**Base Storekeeper** – DeWayne Lober reported that he had some new cups available for sale at \$5.00 each.

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

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

**Events Coordinator** – Barry Bowers was not present.

**Past Commander** – Stan Reinhold was not present.

### **Old Business**

Jim reiterated that we will be having a float maintenance work party on Monday at 0900.

### **New Business**

We will be attending the Flagstaff Armed Services Day Parade on 5/15, the Memorial Day Ceremony on 5/31 and the Perch Base 15th birthday celebration on our June 12th meeting.

### **Good of the Order**

Jim mentioned that Stan Reinhold's new position with Pfizer actually falls under the umbrella of the group for whom he worked at Goodyear. He is back in town this weekend to take care of some business. Jim also announced that Stan's daughter, Melissa, has organized a surprise 60th birthday party for Stan at the Masonic Lodge in Peoria on 83rd Avenue south of Peoria Ave. The party will be going from 1300 to 1600. All Perch Base members are cordially invited to attend.

Walt reported that Fred Saunders, a Perch Base member who moved to Oxnard, CA was recently hospitalized but is now doing much better.

As a result of the Perch Base participation in the Navy Week activities at the Peoria Sports Complex, Jack Moore received a letter from RADM Barry Bruner, COMSUBGRU 10 in Kings Bay, GA. Jim read his letter which was very complimentary of Perch Base and our contributions to the success of Navy Week here in Phoenix. RADM Bruner is from Casa Grande and is a graduate of ASU. Jack sent a letter back to RADM Bruner thanking him for his kind words and extending him an open invitation to visit with us anytime he is in the area.

Jim announced that Denny McComb and Pete Lumianski are hosting a social/political event for Sam Wercinski who is a Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. We have been invited to attend this event. While as an organization we do not endorse any political candidates or espouse any political positions, we did want to extend to Denny and Pete the courtesy of passing along their invitation to any members who might be interested in participating.

Tim reported on the "Thank Your Military Day" event which took place at The Home Depot on April 10th. It was a very successful event and we raised \$290 for the SOS Foundation. Thanks to all who supported this event.

Tim introduced Bob "BJ" Johnson and his contingent from the "Chosin Few" veteran's organization who gave us a presentation on the historic Chosin Reservoir campaign which took place in North Korea in November 1950 during the Korean War.

### **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Chuck Emmett who won \$29.00 of the \$58.00 that was in the drawing.

### **Adjournment**

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 1340 hours.

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

Tim Moore

Secretary, Perch Base USSVI

## 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:

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

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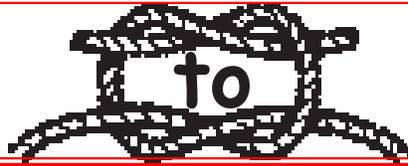
**THE CHAPLAIN HAS NO NEW  
INFORMATION TO REPORT  
THIS MONTH.**



## **SHIPMATES RUNNING ON LESS THAN A FULL BATTERY CHARGE**

- Shipmate Jim Nelson is on track after his bout in Boswell Hospital. All signs are good and we're glad to have him up and about.
- No other shipmates have been reported sick and thus, on the Binnacle List.

# 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!"**

### The Gilly Party

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Hawaiian Islands were placed under martial law. Every bar, every nightclub was shut down. You couldn't buy a drink anywhere. And a 6:00 PM curfew was rigidly enforced, everybody off the streets. And there was another restriction: Every white woman, or I should say every woman who was not a citizen of the islands, was packaged up aboard the Lurline, the Matsonia, the Monterey and the Mariposa, and shipped back to the states. The battleships were on the bottom and the air force was decimated and the islands could no longer protect themselves.

These restrictions proved a source of great irritation to submariners returning from two-months on war patrol. Especially the married men who expected their wives to be there greeting them. One of them was heard to say, "When this thing is over, I'm going straight home and the second thing I'm going to do is lay down my sea bag."

But submariners are resourceful and torpedoes run on compressed air and grain alcohol. The alcohol was contaminated by the addition of croton oil so the "fish" could run on it but the torpedomen couldn't drink it. So it had to be redistilled.

This was done in an ordinary soup pot and a hot plate. The "pink lady" as the alcohol was called, was poured into the pot. Then a soup bowl was placed in the center of the liquid. The lid was inverted and placed on the pan and ice cubes were placed in the lid. The heat was on low to keep the temperature below 160 degrees so not to boil off the contaminants. The alcohol turned to steam, struck the lid, and dripped down into the bowl as 190 proof pure grain. This was commonly called "gilly".

When a submarine came in from two-months war patrol, the crew was sent on two weeks rest leave at the Royal Hawaiian hotel on Waikiki Beach. But without bars and girls and night life, it could only be called a rest. Two weeks of monotony. So submariners distilled their own alcohol.

(CONTINUED)

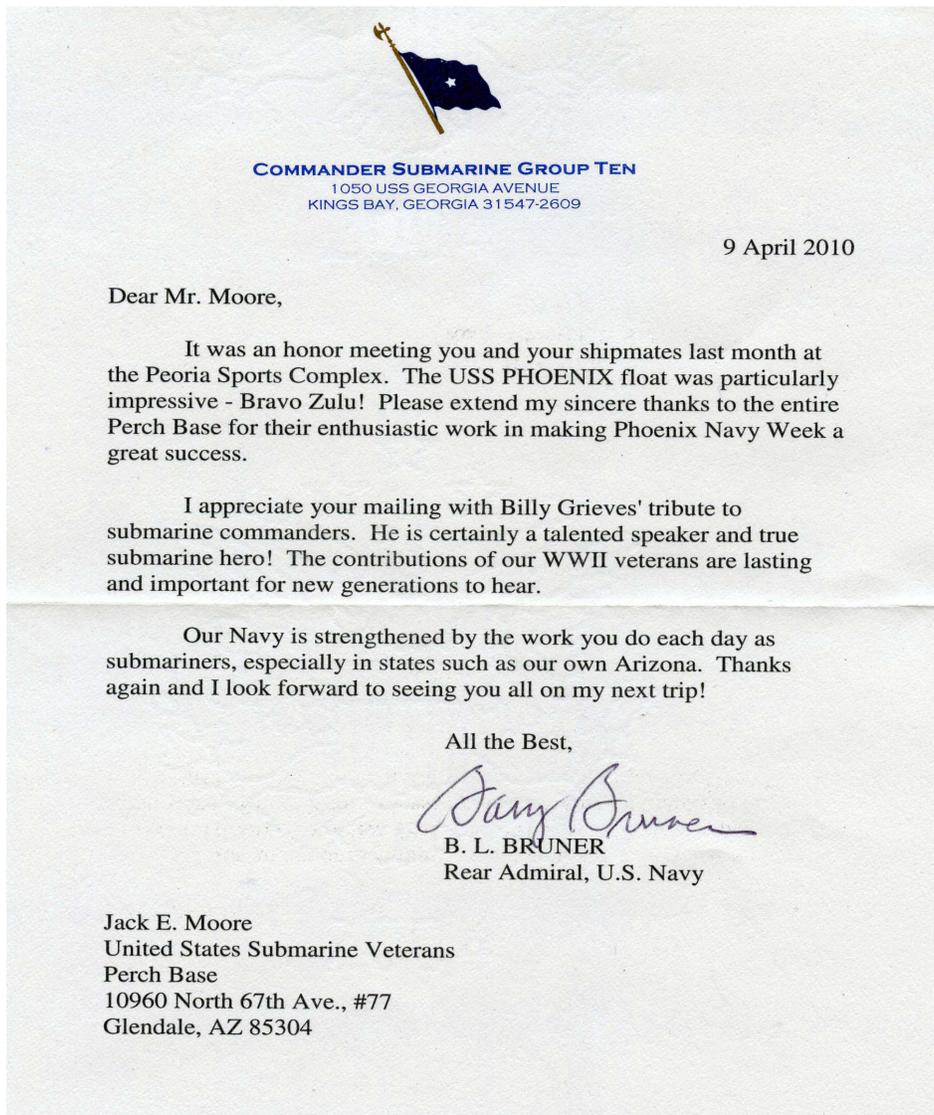
Thresher was on leave at the Royal and the islands were blacked-out. The Royal Hawaiian was not air conditioned and the rooms were kept cool by opening the patio door facing the beach. But this meant the lights had to be turned off because of the blackout.

So we set up the "still" in the bathroom with the door closed. There were about six of us crammed into the small room. Don Meek was running the still. The hot plate was taped to the tub near the wall and the water valves. There was no ice to be had so the "Doc" supplied a rubber tourniquet tube which, when we cut off the ends, was fitted over the nozzle on the tub and circulated cold water over the inverted lid. The procedure was slow but, drip by drip, the clear "gilly" dripped into the bowl. Then we took turns mixing a shot of pure grain with grapefruit juice and drinking it down.

As time went on, the bath room became filled with cigarette smoke and the effects of the "gilly" became evident. The flowing water, spilling off the lid, began to seep down on the hot plate. Then there were sparks. Meek, grabbing Gunner Lewis's arm for support, reached over and touched the pot. Gunner bounced off the wall! "You sonofabitch!", he shouted. And Meek yelled back, "Hold still, godammit!". Then he touched the pot again. When Gunner bounced off the wall again, we opened the door and, through a rectangular wall of cigarette smoke, we emerged into the darkened bed room.

But improvising is a way of life for submariners. When things broke down at sea there was no one else to call on. And the First Class in charge of the torpedo room had the key to the "pink lady".

SUBMITTED BY SHIPMATE BILLY GRIEVES



# A COLD WAR “DID YOU KNOW?”



## NAVY’S MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM

The Navy’s Marine Mammal Program began in 1960 with two goals. First, the Navy wanted to study the underwater sonar capabilities of dolphins and beluga whales to learn how to design more efficient methods of detecting objects underwater, and to improve the speed of their boats and submarines by researching how dolphins are able to swim so fast and dive so deep. In addition to this research component, the Navy also trained dolphins, beluga whales, sea lions and other marine mammals to perform

various underwater tasks, including delivering equipment to divers underwater, locating and retrieving lost objects, guarding boats and submarines, and doing underwater surveillance using a camera held in their mouths. Dolphins were used for some of these tasks in the Vietnam War and in the Persian Gulf. The Marine Mammal Program was originally classified, and was at its peak during the Cold War. The Soviet Union’s military was conducting similar research and training programs in the race to dominate the underwater front. At one point during the 1980’s, the U.S. program had over 100 dolphins, as well as numerous sea lions and beluga whales, and an operating budget of \$8 million dollars. By the 1990’s, however, the Cold War was over, and the Navy’s Marine Mammal project was downsized. In 1992, the program became declassified. Many of the dolphins were retired, and controversy arose over whether or not it would be feasible to return unnecessary dolphins to the wild. Specific Tasks Navy marine mammals are trained to perform many underwater duties, including

Bottlenose dolphins detect and mark of underwater mines. The animal locates a mine and then deposits a weighted buoy line near the mine in order to mark it.

California sea lions attach grabber devices to underwater objects for retrieval. This system is used extensively in training exercises with divers for Explosive Ordnance Disposal units. Practice mines are placed on the sea floor; those not found by the divers during the exercise are retrieved by the sea lions.

Bottlenose dolphins are used to detect and defend against enemy swimmers. This procedure was used in both the Vietnam war and the Persian Gulf to protect Navy anchored vessels from enemy swimmers seeking to plant explosives. The dolphins would swim slowly, patrolling the area with their sonar, and alert armed trainer guards if they located a swimmer. They are also trained to “tag” the enemy swimmer with a marker so that Navy personnel can apprehend him. During the Vietnam war, rumors circulated about a “swimmer nullification program” in which dolphins were also being trained to shoot at enemy swimmers with a device similar to the tagging device. The Navy denies that any such program existed or that any dolphin has ever been trained to attack a human.

### 1960’s, NAVY BEGINS USE OF MARINE MAMMALS

#### 1965 - Sea Lab II

In 1965, the Marine Mammal Program began its first military project: Sea Lab II. Working in the waters off La Jolla, California, a bottlenose dolphin named Tuffy completed the first successful open ocean military exercise. He repeatedly dove 200 feet to the Sea Lab II installation, carrying mail and tools to navy personnel. He was also trained to guide lost divers to safety.

#### 1965-75 - Dolphins Used in Vietnam

The Navy sent five dolphins to Cam Ranh Bay to perform underwater surveillance and guard military boats from enemy swimmers. Although during this era rumors circulated about a “swimmer nullification program” through which dolphins were trained to attack and kill enemy swimmer, the Navy denies such a program ever existed.

#### 1975 - Introduction of Sea Lions and Beluga Whales

With the success of the dolphin program, the Navy began working with sea lions, training them to recover military hardware or weaponry fired and dropped in the ocean. The sea lions could dive and recover objects at depths of up to 650 feet.

The Navy also began exploring the use of beluga whales, which, like dolphins, use sonar to navigate. Beluga whales

could operate at much colder temperatures and deeper depths than either dolphins or sea lions.

### **1965-75 - Navy Builds Up Collection of Dolphins**

The Marine Mammal Program reached its heyday in the 1980's, with an expanded budget and increased number of dolphins. In 1986, Congress partially repealed the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act by letting the Navy collect wild dolphins from for "national defense purposes." The Navy planned to use the dolphins to expand its mine disposal units and to stock a breeding program.

### **1986-88 - Dolphins in the Persian Gulf**

The navy sent six dolphins to the Persian Gulf, where they patrolled the harbor in Bahrain to protect US flagships from enemy swimmers and mines, and escorted Kuwaiti oil tankers through potentially dangerous waters. One of the dolphins, "Skippy," died of a bacterial infection.

### **1986-88 - Missile Guarding Project in Bangor Abandoned**

In the late 1980's the Navy began a project through which dolphins would act as guards at the Bangor Washington Trident Missile Base. Animal activists opposed the project, and filed suit against the Navy under the National Environmental Protection Act claiming that the Navy must do an environmental evaluation to determine whether deployment in the cold northern waters off Bangor would harm dolphins originally captured in the Gulf of Mexico. A judge ruled that such a study must be completed before the project could continue. The Navy abandoned the project.

By 1994, the Navy policy on moving dolphins to environments with radically different water temperatures changed; a spokesperson said that in general, the Navy would only move dolphins between environments with a 20 degree difference in temperature, except in emergency situations.

### **1990s - Downsizing, Declassification, Retirement**

With the end of the Cold War, the Navy's budget for the marine mammal program was drastically reduced, and all but one of its training centers were closed down. Of the 103 dolphins remaining in the program, the Navy decided it needed only 70 to maintain its downsized operations. Much of the project was declassified, although certain details remain protected.

This raised the question of what to do with the remaining dolphins. In the 1992 Defense Appropriations Act, Congress allotted a half million dollars to the Navy to, "to develop training procedures which will allow mammals which are no longer required for this project to be released into their natural habitat." The Navy held two conferences of researchers and experts and determined that a reintroduction program would not be cost effective.

In an attempt to downsize its dolphin troops, the Navy offered to give its surplus trained dolphins to marine parks. However, interest in the free dolphins was low because many marine parks by this time had developed successful in-house breeding programs. The Navy only got only four requests, but pledged to care for the unclaimed dolphins until their deaths.

Later in 1994, the Navy agreed to send three dolphins to Sugarloaf sanctuary, near Key West in Florida, a rehabilitation facility run by Ric O'Barry. O'Barry planned to reeducate the dolphins so they could be safely released into the wild, once the necessary federal permits were granted.

### **1996 - Illegal Release of Luther and Buck**

Two of the dolphins being held at the Sugarloaf Sanctuary, Luther and Buck, were being prepared for life in the wild while awaiting federal permits for their release. In May, before the permits had been issued, O'Barry released the dolphins into the Gulf of Mexico. He believed that the dolphins were ready for release and that the bureaucratic requirements for a permit were designed to prevent the release of the Navy dolphins. He thought that to wait any longer before letting them go would jeopardize their chances of successful adaptation to the wild.

The dolphins were recaptured less than two weeks later and returned to the Navy. All three of these dolphins are now back with the Navy. One of them is still in Florida; the other two are back in San Diego in the Navy facility there.



# Perch Base June Birthdays



<b>JOHN C. SCHLAG</b>	<b>JUNE 2</b>
<b>JAMES F. NEWMAN</b>	<b>JUNE 3</b>
<b>ROBERT M. HAYBALL</b>	<b>JUNE 7</b>
<b>GARRY L. SHUMANN</b>	<b>JUNE 8</b>
<b>LESTER R. HILLMAN</b>	<b>JUNE 11</b>
<b>MARION M. TURNER</b>	<b>JUNE 17</b>
<b>JAMES RATTE</b>	<b>JUNE 20</b>
<b>DONALD DEMARTE</b>	<b>JUNE 23</b>
<b>JAMES EVANS</b>	<b>JUNE 27</b>
<b>SANDY MARTIN</b>	<b>JUNE 29</b>

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## *WHAT'S NEW ONLINE*

We have a new section on the Perch Base web page ([www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org)) that's just for shipmates selling personal stuff! Commercial sales are not allowed. Send an e-mail with the details for your "ad" to [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org). All items must include the following:

- Description and quantity (if applicable)
- Asking price (or best offer)
- A way to contact you, e-mail preferred.

Since this is the world wide web, we will not run phone numbers or home addresses. Each ad will run for 60 days and may be relisted with an additional request.



## Eternal Patrol June 14, 1944

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

### The Final Patrol



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



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



**USS Golet (SS-361)**, a Gato-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the golet, a California trout. Her keel was laid down by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She was launched on 1 August 1943 sponsored by Mrs. Wiley, wife of United States Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, and commissioned on 30 November 1943 with Lieutenant Commander James M. Clement in command.




**Gato-class diesel-electric submarine**

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

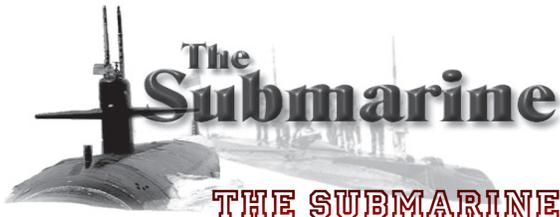
Golet departed Manitowoc 19 December 1943 via the Mississippi River for New Orleans, Louisiana, arriving 28 December. After shakedown training at Panama and final battle practice in Hawaiian waters, she departed Pearl Harbor on 18 March 1944 for her maiden war patrol off the Kurile Islands chain, Southern Hokkaidō and Eastern Honshū, Japan. Severe combinations of fog, rain and ice were encountered and only one ship worth a torpedo came into view. This enemy proved too fast for Golet to gain torpedo range; she returned to Midway Island on 3 May 1944.

Lieutenant James S. Clark took command of Golet, departed Midway Island on 28 May 1944 to patrol off northern Honshū, Japan, and was never heard from again.

Golet had been scheduled to depart her area on 5 July and was expected at Midway Island about 12 July or 13 July. She failed to acknowledge a message sent her on 9 July and was presumed lost 26 July 1944.

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





# History of GUPPY Subs

## THE SUBMARINE IN HISTORY

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Ask a diesel-boat sailor who served during the Cold War what kind of boat did he serve on and he'll probably reply, "Guppy." Ah, but ask further what class of Guppy and you might just get a blank stare.

The Navy took many WWII-era boats and modified them extensively to serve against the vast Soviet submarine threat. Guppy — which is an acronym for Greater Underwater Propulsion Power (the "Y" was added 'cause GUPP sounds stupid) — came in many flavors depending on the extent of changes to the particular boat.

This article first ran in the MidWatch in 2004 but, like a good sea story, bears repeating. Don't forget to look for your boat under the different classifications.

- MidWatch Editor

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Following the Second World War, it was recognized that there was a need to improve the submerged speed, maneuverability, and endurance of our submarine force. The Greater Underwater Propulsion Power Program was instigated.

After World War II, the Navy obtained two German Type XXI boats. These were studied and tested extensively. The lessons learned from their study led to a design that increased the battery capacity, streamlined the boat's structure, added a snorkel, and added a better fire control system. This new design created was called the TANG Class. The new boat was so much better that it made the existing fleet boat obsolete. But, the new boat was expensive. The Navy had to find a way to upgrade the existing fleet boats to match the TANG class's ability.

There were seven major conversion types: GUPPY I, GUPPY IA, GUPPY IB, GUPPY II, GUPPY IIA, GUPPY III, and the Fleet Snorkel.

The GUPPY bow dug deeply into the waves and the step sail was little protection. Control during snorkeling was difficult at best and sometimes impossible. The snorkel induction, topped by the head valve, had to be kept out of the water. If it ducked to the surface or below, or a wave hit it, it would automatically slam shut. The diesel engines would keep running for a short time removing some sixteen thousand cubic feet of air from the boat's internal atmosphere per minute per engine.

It would take from ten to thirty seconds for the engines to draw enough vacuum in the boat to shut down automatically after the snorkel induction head valve shut depending on whether the boat was running on one or two engines. This occurred at a vacuum of six inches of mercury below atmosphere, equivalent to a 6000-foot altitude.

Sometimes the head valve would shut for five or six seconds then reopen as the snorkel induction again cleared the surface. The atmospheric pressure would return to normal in the next few seconds. Then the head valve would shut as another wave passed. This cycle would occur over and over for days and days.

The majority of the information about the operations of the GUPPYs during the Cold War remains classified to this day. However, without the conversion from the fleet boats of WWII to the GUPPYs of the Cold War era, the operations that the GUPPYs were responsible for would not have been possible.

The success of submarine cold war operations is directly related to the crews and the GUPPY conversions. These submarines, and their crews, certainly "Held the Line" during the Cold War until the SSNs and SSBNs took over to continue the high tradition of the United States Submarine Service

(continued next page)

## FLEET SNORKEL

The Fleet Snorkel boats are often considered as GUPPYs. The Fleet Snorkel is a special class of boat. These boats were much like the GUPPY IIs except they didn't have some of the internal modifications that the GUPPY IIs had. They had two batteries and most still had closed cell ventilation and four engines.

They had the distinctive sails of the conversion yard but they retained their fleet bows. It was simply a fleet boat with the snorkel induction and exhaust piping and masts, and an ECM mast. Most had BQR-2 sonar in the chin mount and had sonar in the space vacated by the magazine under the galley. The auxiliary engine was replaced with two air conditioning plants.



The following were the Fleet Snorkel boats:

*USS Sabalo (SS302), USS Sablefish (SS303), USS Bergall (SS320), USS Charr (SS328), USS Bugara (SS331), USS Carbonero (SS337), USS Carp (SS338), USS Cusk (SS348), USS Kraken (SS370), USS Lizardfish (SS373), USS Mapiro (SS376), USS Mero (SS378), USS Sterlet (SS392), USS Scabbardfish (SS397), USS Segundo (SS398), USS Sea Cat (SS399), USS Sea Owl (SS405), USS Sennet (SS408), USS Piper (SS409), USS Torsk (SS423), USS Argonaut (SS475), USS Runner (SS476), USS Diablo (SS479), USS Medregal (SS480), USS Requin (SS481), USS Irex (SS482).*

## GUPPY I

The GUPPY I boats had these changes:

Externally:

- Deck guns and associated containers were removed.
- Entire bridge/shears structure was streamlined to reduce drag.
- The periscope and radar mast support structure was enclosed
- The faired structure which now contained the Conning Tower and mast support was now called the "Sail."
- The top of the sail was bulged out to the side to make room for SV-radar screen.
- Capstans and deck cleats were made retractable and deck rail stanchion supports were inset in the deck. All deck railings were re-



moved when the boat rigged for dive.

- The Fleet Boat bow was removed and a rounded bow replaced it. The "GUPPY Bow."

Internally:

- Ammunition magazine was removed from under the galley and the chill and freeze boxes were moved to the after battery upper level.
- Battery power was increased with installation of 4 126 cell batteries. One and one-half of the batteries were put in the forward well in the lower level of the forward battery. One-half of a battery was put into the forward end of the pump room. Two complete batteries were placed in the after battery well.
- The battery cells (GUPPY Battery) had more, thinner plates and would generate higher amps for a longer time. However, this battery had a shorter life span, longer charging time, and required cooling water to be circulated through the battery terminals and termination bars.
- Sonar was increased to include the BQR-2 or 2A with hydrophones mounted under the forefoot in a chin mount and inboard electronics housed in the forward torpedo room.
- Two or four high speed motor and reduction gear configuration were replaced by slow speed motors.
- The batteries could be connected in series or parallel and the combination possible from this arrangement gave a wide speed range.
- All open front switchboards were replaced with enclosed units.

- 120 volt 60 Hz AC and 120 volt 400 Hz electrical systems were introduced for lighting and electronics.

The following were the GUPPY I boats:

*USS Odax (SS484), USS Pomodon (SS486)*

### GUPPY IA

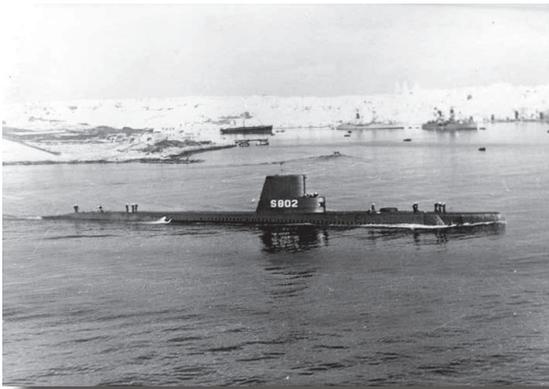
Because of the expense of the GUPPY II program, the GUPPY IA program was devised and it provided an interim measure which saw such special features as Greater underwater propulsion power, Sargo II batteries, streamlined sail and super-structure, new masts, snorkel, and equipment updated and rearranged. These equipment changes were not as drastic as those performed on the GUPPY IIs.

These were the GUPPY IA boats:

*USS Becuna (SS319), USS Blackfin (SS322), USS Caiman (SS323), USS Blenny (SS324), USS Chivo (SS341), USS Chopper (SS342), USS Atule (SS403), USS Sea Poacher (SS406), USS Sea Robin (SS407), USS Tench (SS417).*



### GUPPY IB



The GUPPY IB program was another interim conversion which converted four boats for transfer to foreign navies. These boats had snorkels and were somewhat like the GUPPY IA except that they were not equipped with the latest sonar, fire control systems and ESM.

The GUPPY IB boats and where they were sent:

*USS Barb (SS220) – (sent to Italy), USS Dace (SS247) – (sent to Italy), USS Hawkbill (SS366) – (sent to the Netherlands), USS Icefish (SS367) – (sent to the Netherlands), USS Jallao (SS368) – (sent to the Netherlands.)*

### GUPPY II

The GUPPY II conversion was generally similar to the GUPPY I with the major difference being the sail.

The addition of three new masts, snorkel induction, snorkel exhaust and ESM mast, required more room in the upper portion of the sail. The structure was changed to support the new masts.

There were two different sails approved by BuShips. The Portsmouth Sail had a thinner top, curved trailing edge, square windows and a sharper lower forward edge. It was put on all boats which used the government plans for the conversion.

The EB sail had a straight trailing edge, round windows, a wider top and a more rounded forward edge. Some boats with a Portsmouth sail had the SV-radar with the large screen. Those boats needed extra room to house the antenna, thus had a bulge at the sail top. Later mods put the SS or SS2 radars on these and other boats which had a smaller antenna and had an indicator with interlocks which allowed the mast to be housed only with the antenna in certain angular positions.

All boats converted during the GUPPY II program which had high speed drive motors with reduction gear had these replaced with low speed direct drive motors of 2500 hp per shaft.

The battery wells were enlarged to accept 504 GUPPY cells in four batteries. The boats had their bows replaced and the entire superstructure streamlined.

The conversion to the GUPPY II models started in 1947 and lasted for 5 years.

The following were the GUPPY II boats:

*USS Catfish (SS339), USS Clamagore (SS343), USS Cobbler (SS344), USS Cochino (SS345), USS Corporal (SS346), USS Cubera (SS347), USS Diodon (SS349), USS Dogfish (SS350), USS Greenfish (SS351), USS Halfbeak (SS352), USS Tiru (SS416), USS Trumpetfish (SS425), USS Tusk (SS426), USS Cutlass (SS478), USS Sea Leopard (SS483), USS Odax (SS484), USS Sirago (SS485), USS Pomodon (SS486),*

*USS Remora (SS487), USS Volador (SS490), USS Amberjack (SS522), USS Grampus (SS523), USS Pickerel (SS524), USS Grenadier (SS525)*

### GUPPY IIA



Much like the GUPPY II, the IIA streamlined the boat, installed a new sail, a GUPPY bow, and new motors where necessary.

One of the forward engines was removed. In this space, air conditioning plants and refrigeration units were installed. Some boats had the high pressure air compressors relocated to the lower level of the forward engine room.

The chill box and freeze boxes were moved to the forward end of the after battery under the galley. Sonar was moved to the space now available in the forward end of the pump room.

The GUPPY IIA had the same outward appearance as the GUPPY II, except the IIA had only three diesel exhaust outlets and the II had four.

These were the GUPPY IIA's:

*USS Entemedor (SS340), USS Diodon (SS349), USS Hardhead (SS365), USS Jallao (SS368), USS Menhaden (SS377), USS Picuda (SS382), USS Bang (SS385), USS Pomfret (SS391), USS Razorback (SS394), USS Ronquil (SS396), USS Sea Fox (SS402), USS Threadfin (SS410), USS Stickleback (SS415), USS Thornback (SS418), USS Trante (SS420), USS Trutta (SS421), USS Quillback (SS424)*

### GUPPY III

A problem that became evident in the mid-1950 operations was the increasing amount of electronic equipment that was required on a submarine. The ESM equipment, the sonar equipment and the new fire control computer took up a lot of space.

Certain boats, which already had the majority of the GUPPY conversion work done (GUPPY II) and in decent condition, were taken into the shipyard. There, they were cut in half and lengthened with a new 15 foot section.

The extension was in the forward end of the control room and created a new space for sonar. (USS Tiru was only lengthened 12.5 feet instead of 15.) The Conning Tower was renewed with an additional 5 foot section to accommodate the Mk 101 fire control system and Mk 37 director.

The GUPPY III conversion was accomplished as a part of the Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) program. These four-battery, four-engine boats became GUPPY III. The "Northern Sail" was also added, as it was on other classes of GUPPYs, in order to get the bridge higher which allowed it to be manned in severe weather.

USS Tiru retained its three engine arrangement.

The GUPPY III boats:

*USS Clamagore (SS343), USS Cobbler (SS344), USS Corporal (SS346), USS Greenfish (SS351), USS Tiru (SS416), USS Trumpetfish (SS425), USS Remora (SS487), USS Volador (SS490), USS Pickerel (SS524).*



**Return To:**

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Glendale, AZ 85308  
E-Mail: [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

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



**NEXT MEETING**

12 noon, Saturday, June 12, 2010  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W. Calavar Rd., Phoenix, 85053  
(1/2 block northwest, 35th Ave. & Thunderbird)