



March 2007  
Volume 13 - Issue 3



<http://perch-base.org>

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

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
2007 Booster Club Members	2
List of Base Officers	3
Sailing Orders	3
WWII Sub Vets Caucus and Western Region Conference (April) - Agenda	4
WWII Sub Vets Caucus and Western Region Conference (April) - Registratation Form	5
"From the Wardroom" Announcements	6
"BOOSTER CLUB" News	7
Chaplain's Corner	7
Meeting Minutes - February	8
From Beyond the Wardroom (SubVettes)	9
Subvettes Meeting Minutes - February	9
Naval Humor or Littorial Laughter	10
Lost Boat - USS Trigger (SS-237)	13
Submarines in History: Sunk U-Boat Still May Be Deadly (follow-up story)	16
Submarines of Today: NR-1to Probe the Gulf of Mexico	17
Submarines of Today: Venezuela Wants Sub Fleet for Conflict with U.S.	18
Mailing Page	20

**Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol**

**MARCH ETERNAL PATROLS**

<b>USS F-1</b>	<b>SS21</b>	<b>Mar. 25, 1915</b>	<b>21 men</b>
<b>USS H-1</b>	<b>SS28</b>	<b>Mar. 12, 1920</b>	<b>4 men</b>
<b>USS Perch</b>	<b>SS176</b>	<b>Mar. 3, 1942</b>	<b>6 men (as POW's)</b>
<b>USS Grampus</b>	<b>SS207</b>	<b>Mar. 5, 1943</b>	<b>71 men</b>
<b>USS Triton</b>	<b>SS201</b>	<b>Mar. 15, 1943</b>	<b>74 men</b>
<b>USS Tullibee</b>	<b>SS284</b>	<b>Mar, 26, 1944</b>	<b>79 men</b>
<b>USS Kete</b>	<b>SS369</b>	<b>Mar. 20, 1945</b>	<b>87 men</b>
<b>USS Trigger</b>	<b>SS237</b>	<b>Mar. 26, 1945</b>	<b>89 men</b>

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members. These supplemental donors are called the "Booster Club."



## *2007 Booster Club*

David Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, Ted Asbell, Reynaldo Atos, Gary Bartlett, Kenneth Becker, Ronald Beyer, Bradley Butler, John Cash, Charles Chapman, Roger Cousin, George Crider, Jim Denzien, Harry Ellis, Joe Errante, Ray Lee Graybeal, Charles Greene, Billy Grieves, William Grissom, Robert Hanson, Ed Hawkins, Harry Heller, Glenn Herold, Lester Hillman, Gerald Holloway, Stephen Hough, Davy Jones, Mike Keating, Jack Kimball, Ron Kloch, Darrell Lambert, Robert Lancendorfer, Doug LaRock, Burtis Loftin, George Marions, Terry Martin, Bob May, Jack McCarthy, William McNay, Alan Miller, Paul Miller, Roger M. Miller, Roger R. Miller, Joseph Mullins, Jim Nelson, James F. Newman, Joseph Otreba, Nicholas Pappas, Wayne Pettes, Scott Prothero, Larry Rankin, Robie Robinson, Stanley Rud, Frank Rumbaugh, Mel Rycus, Raymond Schaeffer, Emil Schoonejans, Garry Shumann, Rick Simmons, Wayne Kirk Smith, Adrian Stuke, Jim Thomson, William Tippett, Phillip Wagner, Jim Wall, Forrest Watson, Jerry Yowell, John Zaichkin, Ronald Zomok, Al Landeck, David C. Jones, Walter Blomgren, Royce Pettit, James W. Newman, Ed Wolf, Tim Moore, George Long, Joe Bernard, Ray Samson, Tom Fooshee, Jim Edwards, Bob Nance, Milton Magart, John Welsh, George Woods, Donald Whitehead, Jerry Allston, Jack Messersmith, Dave Harnish, Chuck Emmett, Raymond Marshall, Robert Sungy, Ben Acosta, Ken Schonauer, David Carpenter



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# Sailing Orders



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**Next Regular Meeting  
March 17, 2006,  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W Calavar Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ**

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**March Base Meeting**  
*Special Guest Speaker!*



**Learn about the Bathyscaphe  
Trieste II (DSV-1).**

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**Southwest/Western Region Caucus  
April 8 - 13, 2007  
Laughlin, NV**

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**“Salute to Veterans” Parade  
April 21, 2007  
Riverside, CA**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Joint SOUTHWEST/WESTERN REGION CAUCUS**  
**U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII/Submarine Veterans, Inc.**  
**April 8 – 13, 2007**  
**Ramada Express Casino/Hotel**  
**Laughlin, Nevada**  
**Schedule of Events**

- April 8    Arrival Day
- April 9    0800 Flag Raising – California – Hawaii – Arizona (Ben Benites)  
Monday    1000 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Coronado Room  
            1300 “On the Wings of Eagles” – Pavilion Room – Welcome SubVets WWII  
                    Ed Armstrong, CA State CDR (Host), Anne Stilkey, CA State CDR Wives (Co-Host)  
                    Jim Burnett, LA Chapter Pres., Kay Staggs, LA Chapter Pres. Wives (Host Chapter)  
                    Clarence Scott, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Bill Gattis, Dir SWR, Men, Deanne Ryan, Dir SWR Wives.  
                    Welcome U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc. Western Region Director Dave Harnish,  
                    Western District 5 Rocky Rockers, Western District Six, Michael Bircumshaw, C.J.  
                    Glassford, Chaplain, Lou Constance, COB
- April 10    0800 Flag Raising – Colorado – New Mexico – Idaho (Ben Benites)  
Tuesday    0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room  
            0900 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD1 & WD2 – Coronado Room  
            0900 Arizona Ladies State Meeting – Santa Fe Room  
            1000 California Ladies State Meeting – Santa Fe Room  
            1000 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD3 & WD4 – Coronado Room  
            1200 Spring Fling – Ladies Luncheon – Fashion Show  
            1400 Arizona Men’s State Meeting – Santa Fe Room  
            1500 California Men’s State Meeting – Santa Fe Room  
            1900 FUN NIGHT – Pavilion Room – Show/Music/Gazoo
- April 11    0800 Flag Raising – Utah – Montana – Wyoming (Ben Benites)  
Wed.        0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room  
            0900 Submarine Veterans, Inc. WD5 & WD6 – Coronado Room  
            1300 Submarine Day – “SPIRIT OF AMERICA” – “SUBMARINES” – Pavilion Room  
            1800 SUBMARINE BIRTHDAY DINNER - Pavilion Room –Guest Speaker ComSubRon 11
- April 12    0800 Flag Raising – Nevada – Washington – Oregon (Ben Benites)  
Thurs.      0900 Hospitality & Registration Room open – Pavilion Room  
            1000 Men’s Southwest Regional Meeting – Coronado Room  
            1000 Ladies Southwest Regional Meeting – Santa Fe Room  
            1100 Submarine Veterans, Inc. Western Region Meeting – Coronado Room  
            1400 Submarine Memorial - Tolling of the Boats – “Submarines” – Pavilion Room  
            1800 Social Hour – Pavilion Room  
            1900 Banquet – Pavilion Room – Guest Speaker – “Big Al”/ RADM Mark Kinney ???????
- April 13    Departure Day – See you next year – **Stay IN TOUCH – PRIDE RUNS DEEP – GOD BLESS**

**RESERVATIONS: RAMADA EXPRESS 1-800-243-6846 RATE: \$20.00 + 9% TAX CODE 11896**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Joint Southwest/Western Regional Caucus  
 U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII  
 Submarine Veterans, Inc.  
 California/Arizona State Meetings  
 April 9 - 12, 2007  
 Ramada Express Hotel, Laughlin, NV; 800-243-6846**

SubVetWWII \_\_\_ SubVet, Inc. \_\_\_ Chapter/Base \_\_\_\_\_ Rm# \_\_\_ Twr \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency  
 Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Boats/ Relief Crews \_\_\_\_\_

		Number	Amount
Registration Fee Per Person	\$8.00	_____	_____
Raffle 50/50 Book of six (6) Tickets	\$5.00	_____	_____
Submarine Day Dinner April 11			
Hot Hors d'Oeuvres E/Carving Station	\$20.00	_____	_____
Spaghetti & Meatballs/Lasagna			
Ladies Luncheon April 12	\$20.00	_____	_____
Shrimp Louis Salad		_____	_____
Chicken Cordon Bleu		_____	_____
Banquet & Dance April 12	\$32.00	_____	_____
Grilled New York Steak		_____	_____
Grilled Swordfish		_____	_____
		<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

**Note: Registration fee is a prerequisite for attending any activity and is not refundable.  
 Mail this registration form and checks payable to U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII to  
 Hal Silverman, 15142 Vermont St., Westminster, CA 92683. Phone: 714-897-5002**

**Please make room reservations direct with the Ramada Express @ 1-800-243-6846 prior to 3-15-07.  
 Deluxe rooms are \$20.00 plus tax per night per person. Group Code: 11896.**

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

Dear Friends & Shipmates,

It's hard to believe that this will be my last *From the Wardroom* article. I don't know what happened to the last two years but they have vanished unbelievably quickly. It has been an interesting tour for me. There have been ups and downs, some extremely gratifying moments and some disappointments, but that's life isn't it. This has been a good experience for me and I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve. I only hope that I did a reasonably respectable job in serving as Commander for Perch Base.

Where do we go from here? If plans go as I anticipate they will, effective with the conclusion of our March meeting, we will have a new Base Commander and Vice Commander. These two fine gentlemen as well as the other officers and board members will need and most certainly deserve our support in pursuing and accomplishing the goals and objectives of Perch Base and the USSVI. Some priority objectives that I would like to see us continue to pursue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assisting the SubVettes in building their organization and accomplishing their goals and objectives.
- Building our new Perch Base float in the next 6 – 12 months.
- Getting more involved in the Phoenix Society and the "Save the Sail" project.
- An annual combined meeting for representatives from all the Arizona bases.
- Increasing our community involvement for increased community recognition.

Of course our highest priority in the pursuit of our activities must always be to perpetuate the memory of our fallen brothers. Our decision making process should always include preserving the memory of those on eternal patrol, remembering what they gave for us, and we must never let our petty differences interfere with the pursuit of preserving that memory for future generations. After all, that is our creed.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you, including our ladies, for the kindness and support you extended to me over the past couple of years. I could not have done what needed to be done without that support. I am extremely proud to be a part of this organization and value your friendship deeply. God bless you all and may you always enjoy fair winds and following seas.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

### **\*\*\* MIDWATCH NEWSLETTER \*\*\***

#### Article Submission Deadlines

The deadlines for the next three Midwatch newsletters are as follows:

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
April 2007	Friday, Apr. 6th
May 2007	Friday, May 4th
June 2007	Friday, June 1st

Please submit your articles by **the evening of the deadline dates** indicated to make sure your articles are included and to assure the timely publication and distribution of the Midwatch. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Chuck Emmett, Editor "MidWatch", Perch Base USSVI



# Booster Club News

Dues collected by Perch Base have historically been used to support the base's newsletters. As the base grew, members sought ways to financially support the additional efforts and projects with which the base has been involved and this resulted in the formation of the Base's "Booster Club."

With the inception of the "Booster Club," the base has been able to annually support the National Organizations Scholarship program and many of the base's projects without resorting to additional solicitation of funds. Publishing the member's names on the Perch Base Booster Club's annual roster recognizes this voluntary effort on the part of the base membership. Perch Base wishes to sincerely thank the "Booster Club" for their continued support.



Captain William R. Anderson, USN Retired, received his final set of orders from his Supreme Commander-in-Chief on Sunday, February 25, 2007 to go on eternal patrol.

On July 23, 1958, USS NAUTILUS departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine," the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship. At 11:15 pm on August 3, 1958, NAUTILUS' second Commanding Officer, Commander William R. Anderson, USN, announced to his crew "For the world, Our Country, and the Navy - the North Pole." With 116 men aboard, NAUTILUS had accomplished the "impossible," reaching the geographic North Pole—90 degrees north.

Please send your cards, letters, thoughts and prayers to his wife, Pat, at 104 Morven Park Rd., Leesburg, VA 20175-2604. She may also be e-mailed at [pwanderson13@verizon.net](mailto:pwanderson13@verizon.net)

A service will take place at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 16, 2007 at the Ft. Myer's Chapel, followed by burial with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery. A reception for all attendees will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Nautilus Alumni Association Inc. Richard Young, Treasurer, Box 623, Kuna, ID 83634-0623, or to the Submarine Force Library & Museum Association Inc., Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, CT 06349

*There, not one of the ocean's monsters could trouble the last sleep of the crew of the Nautilus,  
of those friends riveted to each other in death as in life.  
— Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*

***"There is a port of no return where ships may lie at anchor for a little space. And then some starless night the cable slips leaving only an eddy at the mooring place. Gulls veer no longer. Sailor Rest your Oar. No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore"***

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Shipmates,

One of our WWII Hero's needs our help. Robert Lents, USS Perch (SS-176) crewman has been blind sided with some health problems.

Let's send our Prayers and cards, to let him and his Bride, Carolyn, know we are thinking about his well-being

Baxter Regional Medical Center  
624 Hospital Drive, Room 5416  
Mountain Home, AR. 72653  
1-870-508-1000

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*Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or  
the wife or family member of a shipmate?  
Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:*

(623) 935-3830  
[d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net](mailto:d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net)

## February Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #105, Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 17 February 2007. Tim Moore, Base Commander, called the meeting to order.

The membership was led in a prayer of invocation by Chaplain Howard Doyle followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and standard ceremonial opening. A moment of silence was observed for shipmates on eternal patrol and the tolling ceremony for boats lost in February was conducted.

New members and guests at the meeting included Jimmie Dixon, Steve Smith, Bernie Fromm, Karl Bergstrom and Matt Hayball

According to the sailing list, there were forty-two members, ladies and guests present.

Minutes from the January 2007 regular meeting as published in the Midwatch were approved.

Treasurer Jim Denzien reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of February 2007. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

**Vice Commander** – Stan Reinhold had no report.

**Chief of the Boat** – Bob Gilmore had no report.

**Chaplain** – Howard Doyle reported that shipmate Ed Hawkins was improving and that he was in the Boswell Rehabilitation Center, Room 523, Bed 2.

**Membership Chairman** – Ramon Samson reported on the status of base reenlistment.

**Newsletter Editor** – Chuck Emmett was not present.

**Ship's Storekeeper** – Jim Nelson had no report.

Old Business

Base Commander Tim Moore stated that we would be having the election of new base officers next month. All positions have at least one candidate. Over the next year we will be looking for others to step forward.

The Western Region conference will be on April 9-13 in Laughlin NV. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Caucus for the WWII Submarine Vets. Registration forms and agendas were made available to the membership.

There will be a "Salute to Veterans" parade on April 21st in Riverside CA. All hands are invited. We will be taking our float to participate. A float of the SSN-21 is being brought up from Texas and the Tucson Base is considering bringing their float. We'll have a WWII, Los Angeles Class and a Seawolf Class float for the parade.

We are making progress with fabrication of a new float. Tucson Base has provided a CD with photos of the in-process fabrication of their float and points-of-contact for us. Jim Denzien and Howard Doyle are working the project. Dave Harnish has a lead on acquiring an 18' wing tank from Peoria High School.

**We still need to make plans for the annual picnic. Last year's picnic was in March and the earliest this year would be May. If we don't have it by then we should consider a joint event with Gudgeon Base later in the summer.**

New Business

The Holland Club induction needs to be planned. We have at least three inductees and need to coordinate the ceremony with them for their availability.

Good of the Order

Vice Commander Stan Reinhold announced that Lufthansa has given permission for us to have our Christmas party in December at their facility. No specific date has been chosen. He also reported that the Scottsdale Gun Club has donated a full one-year membership to the Base for our purposes. We will be conducting a raffle.

Shipmate Jim Nelson gave an update on his son Brent who will soon be stationed with the Army in Iraq. He is one of 186 Navy members to be facing this duty.

A reminder was made to invite wives and significant others to participate with us and with the SubVettes.

Tim Moore reported on the upcoming March guest speaker: Les Parsons, former OIC of the bathyscaph Trieste II.

The SubVettes will be conducting a raffle to raise money for scholarships and that pictures of the items would be placed on the website.

Jim and Jean Dunn gave a CD presentation of their trip to Moscow last year for the International Submariners Association conference. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

### **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Bernie Fromm.

Adjournment

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

Chaplain Howard Doyle offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1441.

Jim Denzien, Secretary/Treasurer, Perch Base

## **From Beyond the Wardroom** *Perch Base SubVettes*

Well ladies, another election is almost upon us and you really need to decide who you want to be your next President. We will be taking nominations at our next meeting on February 17 at Taylor's Chowder House. Please be prepared to bring your opinions and ideas.

Happy Birthday to all our February Babies.

Mary Denzien – 2/3

Dorothy Crider – 2/12

Delores Newman – 2/15

Hiromi Povio – 2/26

I hope to see all you at our next exciting meeting.

All my Best

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

## **SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES** *January*

Presiding Officer called the meeting to order at 12:15 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by President Nancy Nelson and opening prayer was conducted by Chaplain Sandy Bernard. The Treasurer's Report was given by Hiromi Povio.

We're going to try to keep our meeting short, though we have some business to discuss, to join the men for some Special Guests, Jim and Jean Dunn. They will present a CD film and talk. It should be very interesting. (I think it's about the International Submariners Convention in Russia last year.)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Today we need to finalize our Slate of Officers for next months meeting and elections. Mary Denzien has accepted my request to be our next President, I'll be the Vice-President, Hiromi will continue as our Treasurer. We still need a secretary, which is a very east job. All you have to do is take a few notes during the meetings and fill in the blanks of the Presidents agenda and email it back to the President to submit to Chuck Emmett for printing in the MidWatch. **PIECE OF CAKE!!!** Who wants to volunteer for this illustrious position???

Discussion: Mary Denzien will be running for President, Nancy Nelson will be running for Vice President, Hiromi Povio will be running for Treasurer and Carolyn Newman will be running for Secretary. Thank you all for your support of the SubVettes of Perch Base

Mary and I went to Prescott Valley last Saturday, We were under the impression that they wanted to form the second SubVette Base in Arizona, but the ladies up there, are far from being ready to commit at this time. But, we enjoyed the trip and had a great breakfast at Rock Springs. Ha!!ha!!ha!!

## **NEW BUSINESS**

I want you to get in touch with everyone you know, who doesn't normally attend the meetings, and let them know that next month we will be having elections. All members should participate and exercise their right to VOTE. If they need transportation, let me know and I'll see what can be arranged to have a full contingent at our next get together.

Other New Business, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Southwest Regional Caucus Convention is being held in Laughlin Nevada April 8 through 12.

The Arizona WWII ladies meeting will be on April 10 at 9 a.m. in the Santa Fe Room.

The California ladies meet right after at 10 a.m.

The Submarine Birthday dinner is on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. and the banquet is the 12<sup>th</sup> with Big Al. Both are in the Pavilion Room.

Jackie wants everyone to know how much she appreciates all your prayers and well wishes for Ed and her daughter, they have really helped all of them cope with the current situations.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Happy Birthday to our March Babies:

*Betty Long – 3/10*  
*Karen Emmett – 3/14*  
*Debra Newell – 3/28*  
*Brandi Hershey – 3/31*

Our next meeting and elections will be held here on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, so wear your GREEN and be ready to cast your ballots.

Anything else before we join the guys for the presentation?

Then I need a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mary Denzien and seconded by Jackie Hawkins.

We adjourned at 12:45 hours.

Attended by nine members and two guests: 11 total.

Thank you all for coming and participating, see all of you next month.



## **Naval Humor or, Littoral Laughter**

Bill just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, 5, 10 minutes late. But he was a good worker, real sharp, so the Boss was in a quandary about what to do about it. Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk.

"Bill, I have to tell you, I like your work ethics, but you're being late so often is bothersome.

"Yes, I know Boss, and I'm working on it."

"Well good. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though, you're coming in late. I know you're retired from the Navy. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, Admiral.'"



## Eternal Patrol Mar. 28, 1945

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  
Oof our departed shipmates still on patrol  
Let them know that we who survive  
Will always keep their memories alive.



## U.S.S. Trigger (SS-237) March 28, 1945 89 men lost



The Gato-class submarine was the state of the art in American design at the start of World War II. Using the previous Tambor-class submarine as a basis, Gatos incorporated improvements to increase their overall patrol and combat abilities. Modifications to the diesel engines and batteries increased patrol duration over Tambors, and internal alterations provided more amenities for the crew. The class is named after its lead ship, USS Gato (SS-212).

Displacement: 1,526 tons surf., 2,424 tons sub.  
Length: 311ft 9 in, Beam: 27 ft 3in, Draft: 15 ft 3in  
Test depth: 300ft., Speed: 20 knots surf., 9 knots sub.  
Armament: 10 x 21 in torpedo tubes (6 forward, 4 aft, 24 torpedoes)  
1 x 3/50 cal AA gun, 2 x .50 cal, and 2 x .30 cal machineguns  
Crew: 80 – 85 officers and men  
Powerplant: •4 x 1350 hp 16cyl GM 278A diesels  
(except SS228-239 and SS275-284 10cyl Fairbanks-Morse 38D-1/8),  
•2 x 1370 hp GE electric motors  
(except SS228-235 Elliott Motor or SS257-264 Allis-Chalmers)  
(two 126-cell Exide main storage batteries  
{except SS.261, 275-278, & 280 Gould})  
Range: •11,800 nm at 10 knots surf, 100nm at 3 knots sub.  
Submerged Endurance: 48 hours

USS *Trigger* (SS-237) was a *Gato*-class submarine, the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for the triggerfish, any of numerous deep-bodied fishes of warm seas having an anterior dorsal fin with two or three stout erectile spines.

*Trigger's* keel was laid down on 1 February 1941 at Mare Island, California, by the Mare Island Navy Yard. She was launched on 22 October 1941 sponsored by Mrs. Walter N. Vernou and commissioned on 30 January 1942 with Lieutenant Commander Jack H. Lewis (Class of 1927) in command.

The submarine sailed for Hawaii on 22 May and reached Pearl Harbor the following week. She sortied for Midway Island with Task Group 7.2 (TG 7.2) on 29 May in anticipation of a Japanese attack on that island. Her station was northeast of Midway Island, and she remained there without contacting any enemy shipping until she was ordered back to Pearl Harbor on 9 June.

On 26 June, *Trigger* got underway for the Aleutian Islands to patrol an area west of Cape Wrangell, Attu Island. She encountered six destroyers, three freighters and a patrol boat, attacking none, before calling at Dutch Harbor on 8 August *en route* back to Hawaii.

## **Second patrol: September – November 1942**

*Trigger's* second war patrol, conducted from 23 September to 8 November with Commander Roy Stanley "Ensign" Benson (Class of 1929) in command, took her to Japanese Home Waters. In the early morning hours of 5 October, the submarine sighted smoke on the horizon and headed for it. A vessel soon appeared, coming toward the submarine. As the target approached, the submarine identified it as a small ship. *Trigger* then surfaced and manned her machine guns. However, when the submarine neared the target, she learned that the Japanese ship was larger than she had at first appeared to be. Enemy shells soon began exploding close to *Trigger*, and the 4000-ton ship turned and came on fast in an attempt to ram. The submarine barely avoided a collision as she submerged for an attack. *Trigger* fired two torpedoes and heard one hit. She then surfaced and gave chase, only to have the target again open fire. The submarine missed with three more torpedoes and then discontinued the pursuit.

Before dawn on the morning of 17 October, *Trigger* made a surface attack on a freighter off the Bungo Suido. She fired two spreads of torpedoes which sank *Holland Maru* with her guns still firing. That night, a destroyer came out of Bungo Suido and dropped a string of depth charges near the submarine. *Trigger* fired three torpedoes "down the throat" at the onrushing destroyer and, one minute later, observed an explosion so powerful it threw enough flame and water into the air to obscure the target. When the air cleared, the enemy ship was still intact, suggesting *Trigger's* first torpedo may have exploded prematurely, detonating the next two by its turbulence. The submarine fired one more torpedo as the enemy disappeared, but failed to score a hit.

Near midnight of 20 October, *Trigger* fired a spread of four torpedoes from very close range, 900 yards (820m), in a surface attack on a 10,000-ton tanker. Two torpedoes hit the enemy ship as it turned in an attempt to ram. The submarine went to 100 feet (30m) to evade a counterattack and heard a heavy explosion as either gasoline, magazines, or boilers blew up. She then came up to periscope level but found nothing in sight. (This sinking was not confirmed by JANAC postwar.) Four days later, *Trigger* attacked a large enemy tanker in ballast. A spread of three torpedoes produced three observed hits, one near the target's stern. The screws of the enemy ship stopped, and she began emitting heavy white smoke aft. She soon got underway again. *Trigger* fired her last torpedo at the ship as it was moving off and missed. That night, she surfaced and began her homeward voyage.

## **Third patrol: December 1942 – January 1943**

From 3 December 1942 to 22 January 1943, the submarine conducted a combined minelaying and offensive patrol in waters surrounding the Japanese home islands. On 20 December, she began planting a minefield off Inubo Saki, Honshū. *Trigger* planted the northern half of the field and was working on the southern part when a cargo ship passed her, heading into the newly-laid mines. Five minutes later, a violent explosion rocked the freighter which sank as an escort circled her. The submarine later heard another explosion from the direction of the minefield and, when she surfaced the next day, found the field was covered by smoke.

On 22 December, *Trigger* sighted a ship approaching from Uraga and made a surface attack. A spread of three torpedoes produced one hit forward of the bridge, and the target started to settle by the bow. The submarine fired one more torpedo into the ship and, when last seen, *Teifuku Maru* was awash forward with her screws nearly out of the water. On 31 December 1942, she attacked a cargo ship loaded with planes. *Trigger* fired three torpedoes from extremely close range, 700 yards (640m), and watched two hit. The target began to list to starboard and was down by the bow. Sound reported a heavy secondary explosion. The submarine came up to periscope level and saw the freighter with her stern high out of the water and a destroyer approaching. She went deep and when she next came up for a look, there was nothing to be seen. (The sinking was not confirmed by JANAC postwar.)

On 10 January 1943, a Japanese destroyer approached *Trigger*, and the submarine fired three torpedoes from 1600 yards (1460m). One hit under the well deck and folded the destroyer's forecastle up at a 45-degree angle, and another hit the target's stern. Soon, the *Minekaze*-class destroyer *Okikaze* sank on an even keel.

## **Fourth patrol: February – April 1943**

*Trigger* stood out of Midway Island on 13 February to patrol off the Palau Islands. Two weeks later, she fired four torpedoes at a freighter, but the target managed to steer between them. Heavy air cover prevented a second attack. On 4 March, the



submarine attacked a freighter in a rain squall, but all three of her torpedoes missed. On 15 March, *Trigger* sighted a convoy steaming in two columns. There were two freighters in the right hand column and three in the left with an escort on the outboard bow of each. She worked her way between the two columns and fired three torpedoes at each of the leading ships. She hit the lead freighter in the left hand column twice but missed her target on the right because it unexpectedly changed course. *Trigger* then fired three more torpedoes at the right lead ship at just 700 yards (640m) and observed two hits before the escorts forced her to go deep. When she surfaced again, there was nothing to be seen. *Trigger* was later officially credited with having sunk *Momoha Maru*, a 3103-ton cargo ship.

That night, the submarine fired six torpedoes at a ship that was being towed by a smaller freighter. Five of the torpedoes missed, and the sixth made a circular run and passed over the submarine's engine room. A shaken crew broke off the attack.

On 20 March, the submarine fired three torpedoes at the lead ship in a convoy of four cargomen. One hit caused the target to list ten degrees to port and stop, but it soon got underway and rejoined the convoy. *Trigger* terminated the patrol at the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, on 6 April.

### **Fifth patrol: April – June 1943**

Between 30 April and 22 June, the submarine made a patrol which returned her to Japanese home waters. Directed by Ultra from Pearl Harbor, *Trigger* lay athwart the projected track of Admiral Koga returning from Truk. Koga's task force came in sight the morning of 22 May, but zigged away, out of range, "a bitter disappointment".<sup>[1]</sup> On 28 May, *Trigger* contacted two freighters off Iro Saki and launched three torpedoes at the larger. One hit its target aft. When last seen, the ship was down by the stern. The next day, the submarine fired a spread of three torpedoes at a small cargo ship. Two missed and the third exploded prematurely. She then launched a fourth which apparently hit but failed to explode.



On 1 June, the submarine was searching for Japanese shipping off Sagami Nada when she sighted two columns of smoke. She closed the range toward a firing position, made out two cargo ships, and fired a spread of three torpedoes at each target. Hit in her stern, the lead ship, *Noborikawa Maru*, sank immediately. The second ship saw the torpedo wakes, turned and passed between them. *Trigger* then fired a torpedo at the oncoming ship; but, if the torpedo reached the target, it failed to

explode.

Again alerted by Ultra, on 10 June (her last day on station), *Trigger* sighted an aircraft carrier protected by two destroyers. She closed and sent six torpedoes streaking onward against Koga's flagship from only 1200 yards (1100m). The submarine heard four explosions as she went deep to avoid the escorts which kept her down for several hours. Yet two missed ahead, and one failed to explode.<sup>[2]</sup> The damaged *Hiyō* limped into Tokyo Bay and was out of action for almost a year. Lockwood, who knew *Hiyō*'s fate, was furious. Had the torpedoes functioned correctly, Benson would have claimed her. The next day, *Trigger* began her return voyage to Pearl Harbor; just after her triumphant return, the Mark XIV torpedo's defective magnetic exploder was ordered deactivated.

### **Sixth patrol: September 1943**

On 1 September, after a yard overhaul, *Trigger* (now in the charge of Commander Robert Edson "Dusty" Dornin (Class of 1935)) was ready to begin her sixth war patrol. It took her into the East China Sea, off the China coast, north of Formosa. On 17 September, she made two hits on a Japanese freighter, one aft and one on the bow, but both torpedoes proved to be duds. The next day, she again contacted the same ship and fired four torpedoes at her. One struck *Yowa Maru*, and the 6435-ton cargo ship slid beneath the waves.

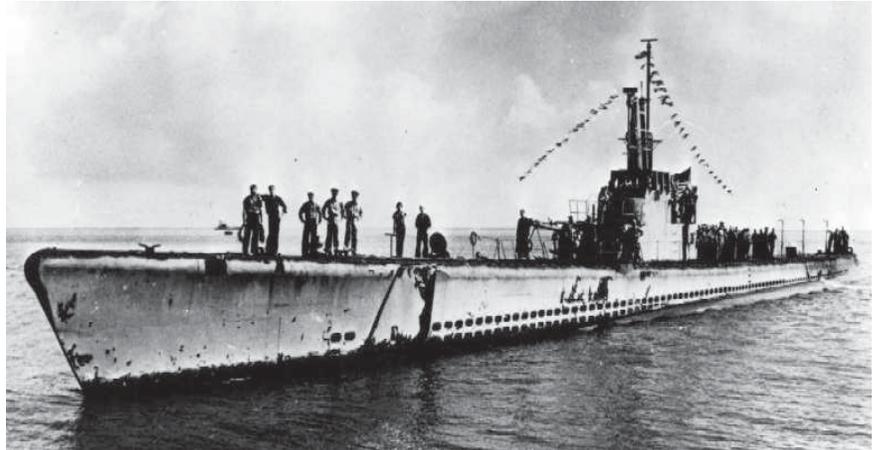
21 September was *Trigger*'s best day. She was patrolling some 30 miles north of the Hoka Sho light when she sighted a convoy of three tankers and three freighters protected by Japanese planes. The submarine attacked the tankers first, firing three torpedoes at the leader and three at the second. One hit aft was seen on the lead tanker, and flames shot over 500 feet (152m) into the air. Her crew, dressed in whites, could be seen running forward to escape the fire. One torpedo hit the second tanker amidships, and it broke in half beneath the stack and sank immediately. *Trigger* turned and fired three stern tubes at the third tanker. This target swung toward the submarine, and all three torpedoes missed. *Trigger* then fired another torpedo which hit the ship's starboard side. When the submarine went deep, her commanding officer slipped and fell into the periscope well as the quartermaster was lowering it. He supported himself on his elbows, and the quartermaster heard his shouts in time to prevent a serious accident. Sonar reported two more explosions before the submarine came up to periscope depth to resume the attack. *Trigger* fired two bow torpedoes at the third freighter in the column and scored two

hits on the target which went down by the bow. The submarine then made two more attacks on the freighter, but all of her torpedoes either missed or were duds. During the three and one-half hours of action, *Trigger* sank two tankers, *Shiriya* and *Shoyo Maru*, and a freighter, *Argun Maru*, for a total of 20,660 tons of enemy shipping. The submarine returned to Midway Island on 30 September to be refitted and rearmed.

#### **Seventh patrol: October – December 1943**

The East China Sea and Yellow Sea were *Trigger's* objective for her seventh patrol. She stood out of Midway Island on 22 October and proceeded to her patrol area. At 22:00 on 1 November, she sighted a convoy that was steaming in two columns. When a ship in the nearer column overlapped one in the more distant group, she fired a spread of three torpedoes at them. One torpedo struck the nearer freighter in her bow and one hit the farther ship amidships. The submarine saw the nearer ship go down by the bow, before she herself was forced to go deep where she was severely depth-charged by two escorts.

In the early morning of 2 November, *Trigger* fired three torpedoes at a freighter and scored one hit. At 00:50, she attacked the ship again with a spread of another three. Two of them hit forward, and *Yawata Maru* went down, bow first, in a vertical plunge. Two hours and 25 minutes later, *Trigger* fired three torpedoes at a 7148-ton transport. All torpedoes hit the ship, and *Delagoa Maru* disintegrated. On 5 November, the submarine attacked a convoy of three cargo ships protected by one destroyer and two planes. *Trigger* fired three bow tubes at the second ship in the convoy and one bow tube at the third before she went



deep to avoid the escort which dropped 20 depth charges. Thinking she was clear, the submarine came to periscope depth and was greeted by five near bomb misses.

On 13 November, *Trigger* made a submerged approach on a convoy of nine merchantmen and four escorts. After the Japanese ships zigged, the submarine found herself between two columns of ships—with empty bow tubes. She emptied her stern tubes at the last and biggest ship, believed to be a transport, from a pointblank range, 800yd (730m). The target, which carried a large deck cargo, took one hit aft and one under her stack. The submarine went deep, received a short depth charge attack, and came up to periscope depth to learn that her target had gone down. On 21 November, *Trigger* sighted a cargoman and closed to 2000 yards (1800m) before firing four torpedoes. Two hits started the victim down by the bow as the submarine's crew took turns at the periscope to watch *Eizan Maru* sink. More than a fortnight later, the submarine arrived at Pearl Harbor on 8 December 1943.

#### **Eighth patrol: January – February 1944**

*Trigger* stood out to sea on New Year's Day 1944 to begin her eighth war patrol, this time in the Truk-Guam shipping lanes. On 27 January, she sighted the conning tower of an *Ro*-class submarine dead ahead. *Trigger* set up to fire a bow shot from 800 yards. She came to periscope depth and saw the Japanese submarine, then less than 100 yards away, was preparing to attack. *Trigger* went to 150 feet, expecting a torpedo at any minute, but sound heard no torpedo screws. She came up to periscope depth and saw the Japanese periscope so she decided to make an end around. When *Trigger* returned to periscope depth, the enemy had disappeared.

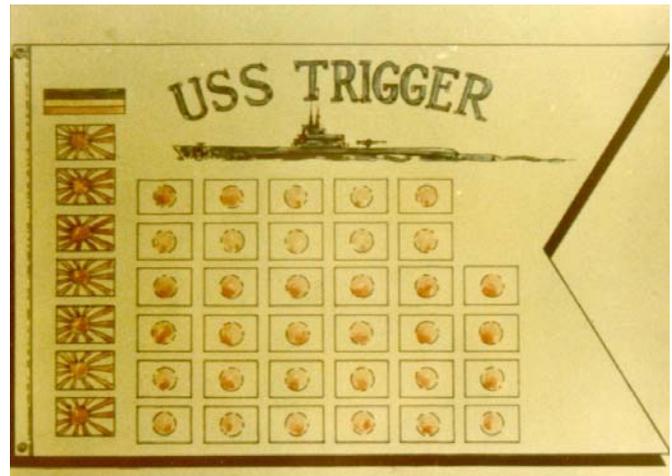
Four days later, she contacted a convoy of three ships accompanied by two *Fubuki*-class destroyers. The submarine scored two hits on the coastal minelayer *Nasami* which disappeared in a cloud of smoke and debris. The nearer destroyer began closing the range, and *Trigger* missed it with four aft tubes. She caught up with the convoy again and fired five torpedoes at the last ship. Two hits produced flames that reached masthead height and several secondary explosions that marked the end of the 11,933-ton converted submarine tender *Yasukuni Maru*. Over three weeks later, the submarine terminated the patrol when she arrived at Pearl Harbor on 23 February.

#### **Ninth patrol: March – May 1944**

On 23 March, *Trigger* (in the able hands of Commander Frederick J. "Fritz" Harlfinger II still with "Ned" Beach as exec) headed for the Palau Islands on her ninth war patrol. In the early morning of 8 April, she contacted a convoy of approximately 20 large ships with an estimated 25 escorts and closed to attack. When she raised her periscope, she saw a destroyer 150 feet away firing at the scope and attempting to ram. The submarine loosed four torpedoes at the convoy and went deep as several more escorts joined the attack. On her way down, she heard four explosions. *Trigger* ran at 300 feet or more for 17 hours as six escorts dogged her trail and rained down numerous depth charges. Six exploded extremely close. When the submarine surfaced, her forward torpedo room was flooded to her deck plates, the hull air induction and most compartments were in about the same condition. The bow planes, trim pump, sound gear, and both radars were all dead. Her radio antenna was grounded, and the submarine could not transmit. The crew spent the next four days making repairs "by use of spares, baling wire, and considerable ingenuity."

*Trigger* met submarine *Tang* (SS-306) on 14 April and exchanged information by line gun. The next day, *Trigger's* executive officer went on board *Tang* by a rubber boat, to borrow an air compressor part and to make plans for a coordinated search and attack. On 18 April, *Tang's* executive officer delivered spare parts for the air compressor to *Trigger*, and she continued on patrol.

Shortly before midnight on 26 April, the submarine contacted a convoy of six ships off the eastern Palau Islands. She fired six torpedoes, from 2400 yards, at four ships that were closely bunched and overlapping. Four hits were seen and heard from a big explosion on each ship. Suddenly, a terrific explosion blew up one of the closer ships. One of the more distant ships stood straight up on her bow and then sank immediately. At six minutes after midnight, *Trigger* fired three torpedoes at a group of ships and heard one timed explosion. At 01:57, she fired four torpedoes at a damaged cargo ship and two at an escort. The cargo ship received two more hits. Five minutes later, the submarine fired three stern tubes at a group of three escorts, and the middle one disappeared in a cloud of smoke. During the attack, *Trigger* sank the 11,739-ton passenger-cargo ship *Miike Maru* and heavily damaged the destroyer escort *Kasado*, the 9467-ton cargo ship *Hawaii Maru*, and the 8811-ton cargo ship *Asosan Maru*. *Trigger* returned to Pearl Harbor on 20 May and four days later, headed for the United States for a major overhaul. She arrived at San Francisco, California, on 31 May and, after overhaul, returned to Hawaii on 11 September.



#### **Tenth patrol: September – November 1944**

On 24 September, *Trigger* got underway to take station off the east coast of Formosa and perform life guard patrol for bomber strikes due on 12 October. The morning of the strikes, she rescued a pilot from aircraft carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17) whose burning plane had crash-landed nearby. On 19 October, as the invasion of the Philippines was about to begin, she contacted a convoy of two *Takao*-class heavy cruisers, one *Nagara*-class cruiser, two other light cruisers, and several destroyers with air cover. *Trigger* had no chance to fire but reported the contact. On 30 October, she fired four torpedoes at a tanker but missed. She then fired another four from her stern tubes and heard one hit the target before running up the periscope to watch the other three blow off part of the stern, but the ship did not sink. *Trigger* went deep as 78 depth charges were rained down on her within the next hour, but caused no damage. The damaged 10,021 ton tanker *Takane Maru* was later sunk by submarines *Salmon* (SS-182) and *Sterlet* (SS-392). The next morning, *Trigger* received word from *Salmon* that she had been heavily damaged by depth charges and was unable to submerge. *Trigger* rendezvoused with *Salmon* that night and was joined by *Silversides* (SS-236) and *Sterlet* to escort the damaged submarine to Saipan. They were provided with air cover from the Mariana Islands and arrived at Tanapag Harbor on 3 November. A week later, *Trigger* departed with six other submarines but was ordered to discontinue her patrol on 17 November and returned to Guam.

#### **Eleventh patrol: December 1944 – February 1945**

On 28 December 1944, *Trigger* headed for the Bungo Suido-Kii Suido area to begin her 11th war patrol. At 21:05 on 3 January 1945, she sighted a light, and radar made a doubtful contact. Thirty minutes later, a torpedo passed by her starboard side. She reversed course and cleared the area but returned two days later. That day, she sighted a periscope at 2000 yards, and—realizing that instead of hunting, she was being hunted—she slipped away.

On 29 January, she made radar contact from 23,000 yards on a large convoy with six escorts and well covered by aircraft. As she closed, the moon came out bright and clear. An enemy bomber turned and started in as radar picked up another

plane coming in astern at 5000 yards. The submarine went deep, and the convoy slowly pulled away. The next day, the ship was ordered to terminate her patrol, and she returned to Guam on 3 February.

### **Twelfth patrol: March 1945**

*Trigger* (with new skipper Commander David R. Connole) stood out to sea on 11 March to begin her 12th war patrol and headed for the Nansei Shoto area. On 18 March, she attacked a convoy west of the islands, sinking the cargo ship *Tsukushi Maru No. 3* and damaging another. The attack was reported on 20 March, and the submarine was subsequently ordered to radio as many movements of the convoy as possible to help find a safe passage through a known mined area of the East China Sea. On 24 March, *Trigger* was ordered to begin patrolling west of the islands the next day, outside the 100 fathom curve, and to steer clear of restricted areas. On 26 March, she was ordered to join a wolf pack called "Earl's Eliminators" and to acknowledge receipt of the message. A weather report came from the submarine that day but no confirmation of her having received the message. The weather report was *Trigger's* last transmission. On 4 April, she was ordered to proceed to Midway Island, but she had not arrived by 1 May and was reported as presumed lost.

Postwar records indicate she torpedoed and sank the repair ship *Odate* on 27 March. The next day, Japanese planes and ships joined in a two-hour attack on a submarine heard by *Silversides*, *Sea Dog* (SS-401), *Hackleback* (SS-295), and *Threadfin* (SS-410) in adjacent areas. *Threadfin* was the only one of these submarines attacked that day, and she reported hearing many depth charges and several heavy explosions east of her after the attack on her ceased. Postwar Japanese records showed a Japanese aircraft detected and bombed a submarine on 28 March 1945. Surface ships were then guided to the spot and delivered an intensive depth charging. After two hours, a large oil slick appeared.

*Trigger* was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 11 July 1945.

*Trigger* was immortalized and eulogized in Beach's 1952 book *Submarine!*



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## **U-Boat STILL capable of being deadly**

*(a followup to last month's story)*

### **Norway to Encase Sunken Nazi Submarine**

**OSLO, Norway (Feb. 13)** - A German submarine that was sunk off Norway at the end of World War II will be buried in special sand to protect the coastline from its cargo of toxic mercury, the government announced Tuesday.

The U-864 submarine, which was found by the Royal Norwegian Navy in March 2003, is believed to have about 70 tons of mercury on board.

Despite demands from local villagers to remove the mercury, Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs Dag Terje Andersen said the government was following expert recommendations to instead bury the sub in sand and stone.

"A raising operation involves great risk of spreading mercury pollution to new areas, areas which are currently clean," he said.

Andersen said the submarine and polluted sections nearby would be covered with a special absorbent sand and then covered with heavier fill to prevent erosion.

The U-864 had been headed for Japan when it was sunk Feb. 9, 1945 about 2 1/2 miles off the island of Fedje. The sub now lies under about 500 feet of water.



# Submarines . . . of Today



## NR-1 to Probe the Gulf of Mexico

Far Below The Gulf's Surface, Experts In Sub Will Seek Signs Of Early Man In North America

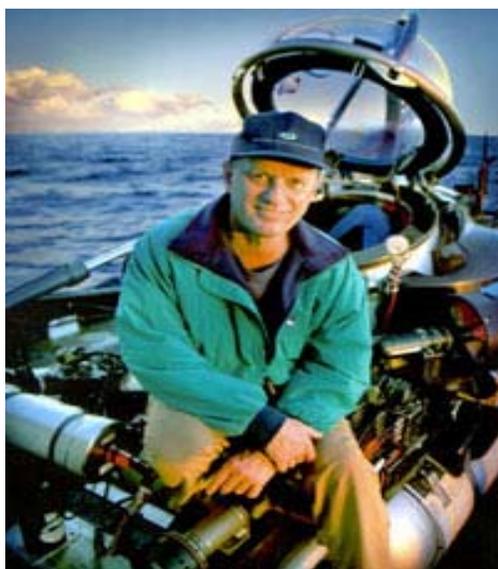
By Harvey Rice, *Houston Chronicle*, March 2, 2007

GALVESTON — A U.S. Navy submarine that can roll on wheels across the ocean floor will leave Pier 40 today on a weeklong expedition to search the deep for evidence of ancient human habitation.

The Navy's only nuclear-power research vessel, the NR-1, will carry scientists looking for signs of early humans who may have lived on a coast that 19,000 years ago extended 100 miles farther into the Gulf of Mexico than it does today.

If scientists on the expedition, dubbed "Secrets of the Gulf," find evidence that humans roamed those ancient shores, it would push back the earliest known date of prehistoric human habitation in North America by about 8,000-10,000 years, said Dwight Coleman, the expedition's chief scientist.

Scientists also will examine the effects of rising



sea levels following the last Ice Age, which could offer insights into how to deal with the expected rise in sea levels caused by warming temperatures.

Robert Ballard, the scientist who discovered the wreckage of the Titanic and the German battleship Bismarck, will direct the search from a telecommunications center lined with 50-inch plasma monitors at the Institute for Exploration at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

Ballard, along with scientists at five other U.S. locations, will monitor instruments giving temperature, depth, water salinity and other data along with images from the submarine broadcast via satellite in real time, and be able to give directions to the two scientists on board.

Ballard will have 16 communications lines allowing him to speak directly with scientists on board the submarine and its support ship, the 238-foot Carolyn Chouest, crammed with scientific equipment and high-tech communications gear.

The 24 scientists on board the vessels will use sonar to map an ancient coastline, now about 390 feet below the surface, that would have roughly followed the present coral reefs that make up the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, overseen by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

"Nobody's ever found anything from 20,000 years ago offshore, but that's because nobody has ever looked," said anthropologist David Robinson, a member of the expedition from the University of Connecticut.

Robinson said that even if the expedition failed to find evidence of human habitation, it would lay the groundwork for doing so by determining the location of the ancient coast and the prehistoric beds of Texas rivers like the Sabine and Trinity.

Ballard said the best place for human settlement is where a river meets the sea, places covered by the sea after the last ice age and until now in waters too deep to explore.

The Flower Garden Banks are coral reefs lush with wildlife on top of salt domes that have pushed up from the sea beds. The salt would have been above water and sought by humans and animals alike 19,000 years ago, making it a prime location for hunting, Ballard said.



If they get lucky, the scientists might spot a trash heap used by ancient humans or the remains of a salt mine, he said. The expedition also will help map the undersea territory of the United States, he said.

“We have better maps of Mars than we do of submerged America,” said Ballard, who noted that 50 percent of U.S. territory is underwater.

Ballard said the expedition also was a test run for technology that would find its fullest expression in a NOAA research vessel being outfitted with the latest technology in a Seattle dry dock.

The Okeanos Explorer will explore the oceans 10 months a year, beaming a constant stream of information to the Inner Space Center, a command center under construction at the Institute for Exploration in Kingston, R.I.

The Inner Space Center will be to undersea exploration what the NASA Space Center in Houston is to outer space exploration, Ballard said.

“Instead of, ‘Houston, we’ve got a problem,’ it will be, ‘Kingston, we’ve got a problem,’ “ he said.

The expedition cost of about \$300,000 is shared by NOAA, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the Institute for Exploration, Immersion Presents and the University of Rhode Island, Ballard said.

Two scientists, a geologist and an archaeologist, will share the cramped quarters with the 13-member crew.

Researchers also will take sediment samples, explore brine lakes that seep from the salt domes and view mud volcanoes formed by escaping methane gas.

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## Venezuela Wants Sub Fleet for Conflict with U.S.

*From Newsmax.com, February 19, 2007*

Venezuela is spending \$3 billion to build nine submarines, a fleet of undersea craft that would be the largest in the region — and ready to be used against the U.S. in event of a conflict between the two countries.

The submarines will be the “diesel-electric variety,” according to a communique issued by Vice Adm. Armband Laguna, quoted this month by Brazil’s leading newspaper, O Estado de Sao Paulo.

They will weigh-in at approximately 1,750 metric tons apiece.

The navy is considering bids from Germany, France, and Russia, which is said to be the odds-on favorite, according to the Washington Times.

Venezuela, the Times wrote, could use a fleet of submarines to protect its interests in its exclusive economic zone, which in Caracas’ view includes a large portion of the Caribbean Sea.

Protecting an area that large would require far more subs than the two over-30-years-old German U-Boats that the Venezuelan military now employs.

Moreover, the addition of the nine subs would give Venezuela the largest submarine fleet in Latin America, surpassing those of Peru, Brazil and Chile — with six, five and four submarines, respectively.

Venezuela says it is beefing up its military capabilities — including plans to develop an enlarged submarine fleet — in preparation for what it called any “asymmetrical conflict” with the U.S.



High on Venezuela’s list are Russian Amur-950 (Lada class) diesel electric submarines. Amurs have the new Club-S antiship weapon system. This system enables the submarine to fire Club-S missiles, as well as torpedoes, from ten torpedo tubes in the bow

The new submarine fleet is a small part of an arms buildup that the Times reports includes small arms, jet fighters and potentially air-defense missiles.

The buildup is being carried out in compliance with all international and regional nonproliferation treaties, Venezuela's ambassador to Washington, Bernardo Alvarez told the Times in a telephone interview.

Alvarez said that his government was contemplating the need to defend itself against the world's lone superpower, a nation with vastly greater military resources.

"We have simply been trying to upgrade our military equipment and maintain our defense while preserving balance in the hemisphere," Mr. Alvarez added. He also insisted that Venezuela's Latin American neighbors need not worry about the buildup.

According to the Times, Venezuela is reported to have already spent \$3.4 billion on Russian arms, including assault rifles and fighter jets, and is said to be negotiating to buy a \$290 million Russian air-defense system.

The Times noted that a Pentagon report estimated that Venezuela had spent about \$4.3 billion on arms since 2005 alone, more than countries such as Iran, Pakistan and even China.

Venezuela also is pursuing an estimated \$2 billion worth of military-transport ships and aircraft from Spain, a deal that the Times reports was delayed last year after the U.S. objected, noting that foreign companies must seek Washington's approval when de facto selling U.S. military technology.

Venezuela now is trying to work out a deal with Spain to swap out the U.S. parts in the 10 aircraft and eight vessels.

Venezuela already has done billions of dollars worth of business with Russia, purchasing 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles, 24 Sukhoi-30 fighters and about 35 helicopters.

More recently, Venezuela has its sights set on buying Russian air-defense missiles known as the Tor-M1 system, which consists of eight missiles in a battery mounted to a launch vehicle. The short-range system is designed for use against low-flying aircraft and incoming missiles.

The Times wrote that a Venezuela military official told the Associated Press last month that the missiles were wanted for "air defense" only — a notion in keeping with Mr. Chavez's repeated warnings about the threat of a U.S. invasion, a threat the U.S. dismisses as fantasy.

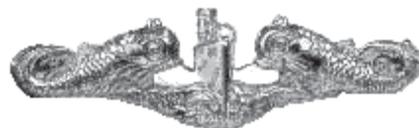
Among Washington concerns is the fear that the Russian assault rifles could wind up in the hands of leftist rebels in neighboring Colombia or be used to further the Venezuelan leader's socialist agenda in the region.

"I can see why Chavez wants to militarize Venezuela. ... He's a military man, just like Bolivar was a military man," John Pike, director of Globalsecurity.org. told the Times, which noted that Simon Bolivar, whom Mr. Chavez idolizes, liberated several Latin American nations from Spain during the 19th century.

Waging war with the U.S., however "would be a foolish thing to do," he added, noting that even a minor skirmish would jeopardize Venezuela's oil sales to its largest customer.



Club S submarine launched cruise missile family, includes the 3M-54E1 anti-ship missile and 3M-14E land attack versions, capable of striking land and naval targets from a range of 275km. The missile can be launched from standard torpedo tubes, from depth of 35 – 40 m' (130 feet), cruise autonomously along a selected flight trajectory and, at a speed of 240 m/sec, at an altitude of 20 meters (70 feet), and when approaching the target, drops to a sea skimming level of 5 – 10 meters (20 - 30 feet).



**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**  
Mar. 17, 2007  
American Legion Post #105  
3534 W Calavar Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ