WWW.PERCH-BASE.ORG

Summer Quarter | Volume 3 | Issue 3 | July 2017

USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."









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Perch Base has been pretty active since the last issue of the MIDWATCH was published. At our April Base meeting, we presented shipmate Ray Marshall with a "75 year Qualified" patch and a "Quilt of Valor". He actually qualified 77 years ago. Also in April we had a good showing of members attending the Western Region Roundup at Sam 's Town in Las Vegas.

The month of May was really busy. It started with the Eternal Patrol Service for George Long, The Base Annual Picnic/Meeting with over 100 shipmates, family and guests and members from Gudgeon, Tautog and White Mountain Base attending. The Next weekend we participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade in Flagstaff. Memorial Day Weekend we had a Static Display with our Float at the Mesa Marketplace and Swap Meet and our annual "Tolling of the Boats" and static display at the Phoenix National Veterans Cemetery. We have been fortunate that summer did not come early for these events. On July 1^{st,} we will be participating in the Frontier Days Rodeo Parade in Prescott. It will be hot in the valley but 10-15 degrees cooler there.

This is the last reminder that applications for the Perch Base Scholarship to be awarded at the August Base meeting <u>MUST</u> be in my hands by July 31, 2017 so the judging committee can judge them before the base meeting.

If you know of someone or group that might want to speak to the membership at one of our meeting please let one of the officers know so we can contact them and set up a date to put them on the meeting agenda.

If you are planning to go to the USSVI National /convention in Orlando I will see you there. Have a safe and sane summer and I hope to see you at our meetings.



Sitting here in the Oklahoma Panhandle watching the events unfold in Washington D. C. It brings to mind how far our country has slipped when someone feels the need to express themselves with such violence. As we all served to support and defend the constitution and the country I really wonder where it will end up?

With the July 4th parade coming up I'm asking every Perch Base member to make the trip to Prescott and show support for our country! On my trip I have encountered a number of smoke boat sailors, who noticing the dolphins on my truck stopped to ask about my service. I explained USSVI and Perch Base and also handed out applications for USSVI, a great way to "grow" our group.

Looking forward to seeing you in Prescott.



Currently we have 175 members in Perch Base. As I mentioned in the last issue of the Midwatch we are doing well with our current members getting prospective members to join. All our members who actively participate in the recruiting function of the Perch Base can equally benefit from bringing in new members. If you have not forgotten, if you sponsor a new member and he makes it through the membership process, the Base will buy your lunch at the next monthly meeting. If you bring someone in and he makes it through the process, make sure you tell me or the Base Treasurer, David Heighway so we can make sure you receive credit for that recruit.

Reminder to the new recruits: Your membership dues you paid to enroll into the USSVI and the Perch Base will only last you to the remainder of the year. Sometime between October 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, 2018 dues will need to be paid. You still have plenty of time, this is just a friendly reminder.



If you have any SubVet related input you would like me to promote, simply send a note to me at webmaster@perch-base.org with some details. A recent example included the Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM) Lost Boat Sponsorship drive.

Check out the additions to our website, www.perch-base.org, since the last newsletter. The home page is always updated to reflect recent happenings and the Sailing Orders page will display upcoming events. Among those additions, pictures have been posted for our new Base Officer installation, the Paradise RV Park parade, Ray Marshall's 75 years qualified, George Long's Eternal Patrol ceremony, the Western Regional Roundup in Las Vegas, the Perch Base annual picnic, Flagstaff Armed Forces Day parade, the Mesa Marketplace Memorial Event and Memorial Day at the National Cemetery of Arizona. To view our photo archives, left-click the "Nav Menu" button in the upper left corner of any Perch Base webpage and then the upper button titled, "Special Section – Perch Base Event Photos." You will see the satisfaction by our members who attended and I encourage more members to come out for these events.

During the past 90 days, our Perch Base website page views were about 4,348. About 55% of that traffic is from within Arizona, so I will assume that is from YOU.

Also, don't forget to visit our Facebook page, which can only be accessed by current members. If you want me to add you to our "Perch Base, United States Submarine Veterans Inc." Facebook group, you can either go to the group page and request to join the group, or you can send me an email and I will send back an invite.





This edition we had the most submittals from the base since I took over. I would love to see this trend continue for two reasons. First, it makes the MidWatch yours. A sense of ownership, waiting to see who and what your fellow shipmates will have to say. Second, it makes my job as editor much easier, as I don't have to scour the internet for interesting tid-bits.

So, keep up the good work. If you see something that you think should be included, send it to me. If you have an opinion on a subject, an article you thought was interesting, even a meme you found funny, send it to me. Just remember to keep it family friendly.



storekeeper@perch-base.org









U.S. Undersea Warfare News

General Dynamics Subsidiary Awarded \$203M for Design Support on Navy Columbia-Class Submarines

Scott Nicholas, Gov Con Wire, June 23

General Dynamics Electric Boat subsidiary has received a \$203.1 million contract modification to increase design support for the U.S. Navy's Columbia-class nuclear submarines.

The service branch awarded the modification as part of the Navy and the U.K.'s joint Common Missile Compartment program, the Defense Department said Thursday.

The Pentagon issued a Milestone B approval to the potential \$125 billion Columbia-class submarine program in January.

The Naval Sea Systems Command will obligate the full amount of the modification from the service branch's fiscal year 2017 shipbuilding and conversion, research, development, test and evaluation funds as well as U.K. foreign military sales funds.

Work will occur in Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and Virginia through October 2017.

Previous Quarter Highlights

The Second Quarter was very busy for Perch Base.

For more Pictures and details check out our website.

Ray Marshall was awarded a "75 Years Qualified" rocker and Quilt of Valor on April 8, 2017.







Some Perch Base members were detained for the illegal distribution of Geritol. The Annual United States Submarine Veterans Western Regional Roundup was held from April 23, 2017 to April 28, 2017 at the Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall in Las Vegas, NV.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

The Perch Base Annual Picnic meeting was held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. We were joined by members from Tautog Base (Casa Grande), White Mountain Base (Snowflake) and Gudgeon Base (Prescott Valley).





Base Commander Richard Kunze and the Holland Club members conducted a Holland Club Induction ceremony.

The Armed Forces Day Parade in Flagstaff on Saturday, May 20, 2017.



Previous Quarter Highlights (cont.)

The Mesa Market Place Memorial Event on May 27, 2017. Along with our float there was the U.S.S. Arizona BB-39.





Perch Base USSVI participated in Memorial Day Ceremonies at the National Cemetery of Arizona, including Tolling of the Boats, on Monday, May 29, 2017.



Sadly, we also lost one of our own, on April 22, 2017 George Long passed on to Eternal Patrol SAILOR, REST YOUR OAR! YOUR WATCH HAS ENDED. Your Brothers of the 'Phin Have the Watch. Fair Winds and Following Seas, Shipmate.





Saturday, July 1 Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Parade More details to come via Flash Traffic. Staging at 8:00 a.m., Roll at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 8 Monthly General Meeting At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant <u>20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona</u>. Click on address above to open a Google Map. The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch! 50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Saturday, August 12 **Monthly General Meeting** At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant <u>20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona</u>. Click on address above to open a Google Map. The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch! 50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Thursday, Aug 31- Sep 5**2017 National Convention**The 2017 Convention will be held in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.
Details are on the Convention Website.

Saturday, September 9 **Monthly General Meeting** At Dillon's KC Bar-B-Que restaurant <u>20585 North 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona</u>. Click on address above to open a Google Map. The official meeting starts at Noon but come join us at 1100 for lunch! 50/50 Raffle drawing (Must be present to win).

Friday, September 15Deadline for the Fall Quarter MidWatchAll input must be in to Chuck Luna, Communications Officer, to be included
In the next MidWatch Newsletter to be published on October 6, 2017.

Saturday, September 16 **Gudgeon Base Picnic** <u>Fain Park, 2215 N 5th St, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314</u>. Click on address above to open a Google Map of Fain Park. BBQ lunch will include a Holland Club induction ceremony. Starts at 11:00 a.m.

U.S.S. Avalon Submitted by Dan Marks

Whenever I travel, I try to remember to "Google" the area I am visiting for Submarine Memorials. This past May, I was travelling on the Pacific Coast Highway and passed the U.S.S. Avalon, (DSRV-2) in Morro Bay, California.

Launched in July 1972 and deactivated in 2000, the Avalon was the second of two identical Mystic-class Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles rated to dive up to 5000 feet. Lockheed built both submarines in response to the loss of the USS Thresher so that the Navy would have a way to rescue submarine crews trapped far beneath the ocean surface.



The DSRVs offered a quick response, all weather capable

system designed for transport by land, air, on or beneath the sea. The submarine is 49 feet long, 8 feet in diameter, and weighs 38 tons. The sub could carry 24



passengers at а time in addition to her crew of two pilots and two rescue personnel. The sub was stationed at Naval Air Station Coronado Island, in San Diego and was never required to conduct an actual rescue operation. Avalon was donated to the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. and is currently on long-term loan at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

I checked the USSVI website to

see if any of our Perch Base members were assigned to the Avalon. I found none, but two members of our sister White Mountain Base, Buck Biddle and Ed Hergert were on the Avalon around 1980.

The Brink of Disaster

Submitted by White Mountain Base member Ed Hergert

For those who are not familiar with the roles and missions of the DSRVs they were designed and built primarily for the purpose of submarine rescue. However, they are also used for scientific research and ocean recovery when needed. The subs can be anywhere in the world and on station within 38 hours of a reported submarine loss. Various support vessels are configured to carry the vehicles including some foreign vessels.



The DSRV crew is trained to meet the challenges of any situation with one submersible on standby for a rescue mission on call 24/7. Training was usually carried out off the coast of southern California and at San Clemente Island. Occasional fly away missions are carried out to test the operational rescue scenario.

What happens when the submersible itself becomes the casualty at sea and who will come to the rescue? There is a process in place to initiate a message to CincPacFleet to report a casualty situation if the DSRV cannot return to the surface.

Sometime in 1981 during a routine operation out at San Clemente DSRV Avalon became trapped on the bottom and was unable lift off. I don't specifically remember the date or the dive number. It was first dive conducted and I believe the mission was a routine dive to 5,000 feet to test all systems for integrity. During this dive, I was acting Surface coordinator and the RV pilot was the OIC with a co-pilot and several other crew. We were operating from the support ship Transquest from Lockheed Ocean Laboratories. Everything was normal, no problems with the launch or with the RV at the point of diving. Permission to dive was granted and the RV opened the ballast vents and thrust down to 100 feet for an initial trim before proceeding to the bottom. RV reported that trim was satisfactory and proceeding with mission, occasional reports of passing depths were sent via underwater telephone.

Crew on the Transquest was tracking the RVs position using a directional hydrophone and Transponder interrogator for range. A loran unit was used to track latitude and longitude of the support vessel. The dive was expected to last from 8 to ten hours.

"Transquest this is Avalon, on the bottom and unable to maneuver, cannot lift off". There was a sense of urgency in the transmission which to me did not sound good as there are a number of reasons this can happen such as loss of vertical thrusters, becoming snagged on a submerged structure or extreme weight gain. From my experience, I have learned that what you do in the first 15 seconds is the most important and will define the outcome of most situations. I call this the 15 second rule. I immediately recommended that the RV blow main ballast in 50 pound increments and then use full vertical thruster after each blow until able to lift off. If I remember right each thruster has 400 pounds of lift force for a total of 800. There are two tanks in the RV that are used to drain the hatch interface bell used to attach to a disabled sub. If these were flooded they could gain about 2700 lbs of water. Flooding of the main spheres was not reported and if they were the crew would not survive. Sea pressure at that depth is about 2300 psi. After a few minutes, the RV reported that they were leaving the bottom and on the way to the surface. Air blown into the ballast bags will expand and reduce the vehicle weight. Tracking from the support vessel continued to ensure safe distance to avoid collision at the surface. All recovery procedures were made ready for immediate recovery of the vehicle should it lose buoyancy and return to the depths.

All were relieved when the RV was sighted at the surface and was recovered aboard the Transquest in record time. An investigation determined that the two transfer tanks were flooding from sea. The flooding was caused by the tank relief valves being installed backwards. The valves are intended to vent excessive pressure from the inside of the tanks to sea but instead were allowing sea water to enter the tanks. The valves were worked and installed by Lockheed personnel during in port maintenance.

The tanks were not completely flooded and this was due to the immediate action to get the RV on the way to the surface, further delay may have required rescue from the surface. I was happy that I did not have to send the CincPacFleet Message.

Ed Hergert MMCS(SS)(DV) 18th enlisted Hydronaut DSRV pilot

Russian Submarine

By <u>Kyle Mizokami</u> May 23, 2017

A gigantic new research submarine designed by Russia will travel underneath ice floes, mapping its underwater surroundings with a pair of huge plane-like wings. The sub will help Moscow exploit its Arctic frontier as it prepares to harvest previously untouchable natural resources.

The Arctic Research Submarine was designed by the famous Rubin Design Bureau, which was also responsible for the <u>Typhoon-class missile submarines</u>, the largest subs ever built. This vessel will weigh in at 13,280 tons, making easily the largest civilian research submersible ever built, and will be 442 feet long. The sub will have a maximum speed of 12.6 knots and a crew of 40.

The most striking detail is the presence of two sets of wing-like sonar receivers that give the sub a futuristic appearance. The "wings," which retract into the hull like the blade of a pocket knife, are meant to receive sonar signals broadcast from the ship's hull. This allows the Arctic Research Submarine to image its surroundings in all directions as it cruises along underwater at a leisurely 3 knots.

H.I. Sutton, the analyst behind the <u>*Covert Shores* submarine web site</u> and <u>book of the same name</u>, says about the sub: "From analysis of the model displayed by the design bureau, the wing structures are close to 165 feet (50 meters) long, so it will have a wingspan of about 330 feet (100 meters). This is much greater than any aircraft that has ever flown." A graphic made by Sutton (see above) shows the submarine will have an even greater "wingspan" than an <u>Airbus A380 jumbo jet</u>.

Sutton doesn't believe the wings have any hydrodynamic use, however. "It is unlikely that the wings will be used to generate lift like an aircraft. That would be less efficient because it would have to constantly use its control surfaces to maintain a precise depth. This would also generate noise which could make the sonar less effective."

Although built to operate under the arctic ice, the submarine's sheer size will make navigating tough at times. "There will be many places in the Arctic where the submarine cannot go because its wings will make to too wide to navigate the many ice columns which protrude downwards from the ice cap, " Sutton explains. "These can extend downwards for hundreds of feet or even to the sea floor."

As a civilian survey submarine, the ship will be unarmed. It will incorporate the ability to deploy and fetch remotely operated vehicles (underwater drones) and be capable of operating at depths of up to 1,300 feet.

Russia is eager to secure mineral and energy mining rights in the Arctic, in areas becoming more accessible as global warming reduces the amount of pack ice. Moscow has made <u>bold underwater</u> <u>territorial claims in the Arctic</u> extending past the traditional 200 mile Economic Exclusion Zone claimed by all countries, including parts of the North Pole. In 2007, Sutton points out, Russia used mini-submarines to plant its flag on the sea bed 14,000 feet beneath the North Pole.

Submitted by Don Unser

How to know when you are in the presence of a 'Real Chief Petty Officer':

Submitted by Don Moss

- . The CHIEF doesn't sleep with a night light. The CHIEF isn't afraid of the dark. The dark is afraid of the CHIEF.
- . The CHIEF's tears can cure cancer.
- . The CHIEF once visited The Virgin Islands. They are now simply called The Islands.
- . The CHIEF has counted to infinity . . . twice!
- . The CHIEF frequently donates blood to the Red Cross, just never his own.
- . Superman owns a pair of CHIEF pajamas.
- . The CHIEF has never paid taxes. He just sends in a blank form and includes a picture of himself.
- . If the CHIEF is late, then time had damn well better slow down.
- . The CHIEF actually died four years ago, but the Grim Reaper can't get up the courage to tell him.
- . The CHIEF refers to himself in the fourth person.
- . The CHIEF can divide by zero.
- . If the CHIEF ever calls your house, be in!
- . The CHIEF doesn't leave messages; he leaves warnings.
- . The CHIEF can slam a revolving door.
- . The CHIEF was sending an email one day, when he realized it would be faster to run.
- . When the Incredible Hulk gets angry, he transforms into the CHIEF.
- . When the CHIEF exercises, the machine gets stronger.
- . The CHIEF doesn't dodge bullets, Bullets dodge the CHIEF.
- . The CHIEF once took an entire bottle of sleeping pills. They made him blink. . . once.
- . The first lunar eclipse took place after the CHIEF challenged the sun to a staring contest. The sun blinked first.
- . The REAL CHIEF never used a question mark in his entire life. He believes that the interrogative tense is a sign of weakness.
- . REAL CHIEFS think Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and never, ever be allowed to read books on leadership.
- . REAL CHIEFS do not have any civilian clothes.
- . REAL CHIEFS have CPO Association Cards from their last 5 commands.
- . REAL CHIEFS do not remember any time they weren't Chief's.
- . REAL CHIEFS favorite national holiday is CPO Initiation.

Continued on the next page

- . REAL CHIEFS keep four sets of dress khaki uniforms in the closet in hopes they will come back.
- . REAL CHIEFS favorite food is shipboard SOS for breakfast.
- . REAL CHIEFS don't know how to tell civilian time.
- . REAL CHIEFS call each other 'Chief.'
- . REAL CHIEFS greatest fear is signing for property book items.
- . REAL CHIEFS dream in Navy blue and gold, white, haze Gray and occasionally khaki.
- . REAL CHIEFS have served on ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.
- . REAL CHIEFS get tears in their eyes when the Chief' dies in the movie ' Operation Pacific.'
- . REAL CHIEFS Don't like Certified Navy Twill. Wash Khaki is the only thing to make a uniform out of.
- . REAL CHIEFS can find their way to the CPO Club blindfolded, on 15 different Navy Bases.
- . REAL CHIEFS have pictures of ships in their wallets.
- . REAL CHIEFS do not own any pens that do not have 'Property of U.S. Government' on them.
- . REAL CHIEFS do not get the mandatory flu shots.
- . REAL CHIEFS do not order supplies, they swap for them.
- . REAL CHIEFS favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, 'We keep you alive to serve this ship.'
- . REAL CHIEFS turn in a 4-page brag sheet for their evaluation.
- . REAL CHIEFS last ship was always better.
- . REAL CHIEFS know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.
- . REAL CHIEFS idea of heaven: Three good PO1's and a Division Officer who does what he is told.
- . REAL CHIEFS think John Wayne would have made a good Chief, if he had not gone soft and made Marine movies.
- . REAL CHIEFS use the term 'Good Training' to describe any unpleasant task such as scraping the sides of the ship or having to sleep on your seabag in the parking lot because there was no room in the barracks.









JULY

Mike Olsen
David Heighway
Bernard Juracka
Wayne Braastad
Chuck Luna
Jim Foote
Nick Povio
Richard Bernier
William 'Bill' Woolcott
Larry Speight
Forrest Watson
Howard Goldman
'Jack' Messersmith

AUGUST

1 Angus McPherson **3 Raymond Marshall 5** John Carpentier 6 Theodore Hunt 6 Josh Whitmore 7 Bryan Pellegrini 8 Robert Smith 9 Russ Rutowski 10 Chris Urness 12 Robert Lancendorfer 14 Brad Lawrence 18 John Zaichkin 19 Doug La Rock 19 'Kelly' Grissom **20 Robert Roberts** 20 Jim Trail 20 Robert Wilson 21 Eugene Crabb **21 Daniel Luellig** 25 'Tim' Gregory 26 John Mannetti **29 Harold Heller**

SEPTEMBER

Herbert Herman
Edward Wolf
Michael Bennett
Alan Miller
Eugene Veek
Fred Fuller
Wayne Kirk Smith
Heather Lynn Pittman
Robert Wright
Ron Dutcher
Steven Stanger
Howard Enloe
Charles Marshall
Gary Bartlett
Stephen Hough



Your chance to advertise for free! Items from Base Members to other Members, and almost anything is far game. Exceptions: alcohol, drugs, illegal, commercial items or anything in general poor taste. Send your ad to: <u>newsletter@perch-base.org</u>

Classified Size Limite Four lines of 10 pt Arial font, one column wide. Pictures may be included -- and are encouraged -- but make the picture a separate "jpg" or "png" file. If we can't format your ad as a Word document, it won't run.

Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol



Tolling of the Boats for July

4	USS S-28 (SS-133)	1944	49 men lost
26	USS Robalo (SS-273)	1944	81 men lost
30	USS Grunion (SS-216)	1942	70 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for August

6	USS Bullhead (SS-332)	1945	84 men lost
13	USS Flier (SS-250)	1944	78 men lost
13	USS S-39 (SS-144)	1942	no loss of life
24	USS Harder (SS-257)	1944	79 men lost
26	USS Cochino (SS-345)	1949	7 men lost

Tolling of the Boats for September

1	USS S-5 (SS-110)	1920	No loss of life
9	USS Grayling (SS-209)	1943	76 men lost
25	USS S-51 (SS-162)	1925	33 men lost
25	USS Pompano (SS-181)	1943	77 men lost
28	USS Cisco (SS-290)	1943	76 men lost

2017 Perch Base Operations Supporters

These are the Base members and Friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operations while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

Jerry N. Allston Kenneth R. Anderson James C. Andrews Gary Bartlett **Richard Bernier** Ronald B. Beyer Edgar T. Brooks John Carpentier Roger J. Cousin Eugene V. Crabb Lawrence Cummings George Debo Donald Demarte James R. Denzien Mary L. Denzien Howard Doyle James Edwards Charles Emmett Howard M. Enloe James Evans Douglas Ewen Thomas J. Farley III Fred Fuller David J. Fyock Tim Gregory Kelly Grissom Michael J. Haler Robert Hanson

Eldon L. Hartman David Heighway Harry Heller Glenn A. Herold Steve Hough Theodore Hunt David L. Jones Mike Keating Dennis Kerton Richard F. Kunze Douglas M. La Rock Robert A. Lancendorfer Albert Landeck Brad Lawrence DeWayne Lober Burtis W. Loftin Daniel G. Marks Charles F. Marshall Raymond Marshall Dennis McComb Angus H. McPherson Kenneth Meeks Alan H. Miller Frank S. Morris John Mosher Danny Moss Jim A. Nelson James W. Newman

Richard Noreika Mike Olsen Jim Paper Bryan Pellegrini Royce E. Pettit Glenn Posniack Stanley N. Reinhold Louis Reynolds Robie Robinson Larry D. Ruggles Russ Rutowski Pete Sattig Donald Schafer Edward Schafer III **Rick Simmons** Wayne Kirk Smith Lawrence Speight Steven Stanger William M. Tippett James Trail Donald Unser Marcia Unser Chris Urness James L. Wall Forrest J. Watson George C. Woods John G. Zaichkin Ronald J. Zomok