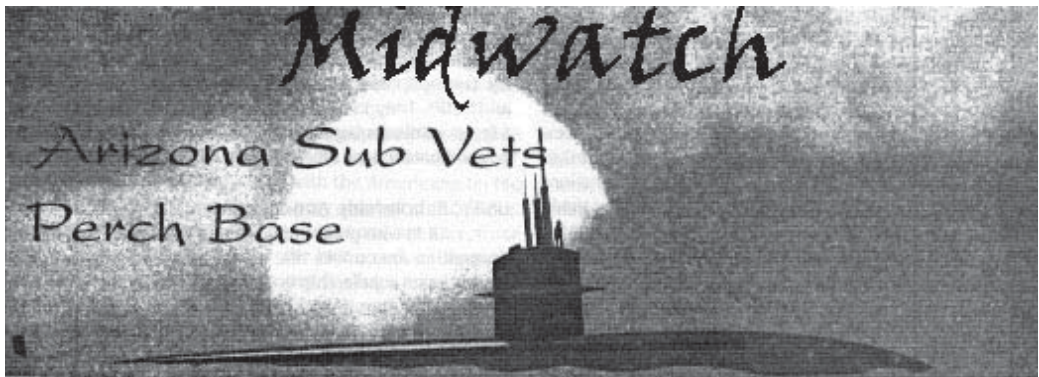




September 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 9



<http://perch-base.org>

What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol
SEPTEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS S-5	SS110	Sept. 1, 1920	none lost
USS S-51	SS162	Sept. 25, 1925	32 men
USS Grayling	SS209	Sept. 9, 1943	76 men
USS Cisco	SS290	Sept. 28, 1943	76 men

NO SEPTEMBER MEETING
NEXT REGULAR MEETING - October 16, 2004
 American Legion Post #62
 11001 N. 99th Ave.
 Starts at 1200 hours
 Lunch provided at \$3 a head

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no serious efforts since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

2004 Booster Club

Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Ted Asbell	Bob Bailey
Gary Bartlett	Jerry Becker	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Harold Bidigare	Wayne Braastad
Mike Breitner	Ed Brooks	Dave Carpenter	Charles Chapman
Jim Clewett	Steve Coe	Roger Cousin	Don Craig
Earl Crowley	Steve Day	Jeff Ducan	Doug Eddy
Charles Emmett	Joe Errante	Tom Fooshee	Ray Graybeal
Charles Greene	Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Warren Grossetta
Mike Haler	Dave Harnish	Bill Hatcher	John Hellem
Glenn Herold	Les Hillman	Steve Hough	Mike Keating
Ron Kloch	Darell Lambert	Bob Lancendorfer	Doug LaRock
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Dennie McComb	Bill McNay	John McVeigh	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Jim Nelson	Brent Nelson	Jim Newman
Jerry Yowell	Joe Otreba	Tom Patterson	Ray Perron
George Petrovitz	Scott Prothero	Larry Rankin	Dan Reel
Stan Reinhold	Robie Robinson	Stab Rud	Frank Rumbaugh
Mel Rycus	Ramon Samson	Emil Schoonejans	Billy Scott
Tyler Smith	Wayne Smith	Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke
Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley	Dick Waid	Jim Wall
Kenny Wayne	John Welsh	Paul West	Don Whithead
Ed Wolf	John Zaichkin		



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Sailing Orders



NO SEPTEMBER MEETING!

**Next Meeting,
Saturday, October 16, 2004.
All future meetings on the
third Saturday of each
month.**

NOTICE

**You have until October 1 to
notify the Base Webmaster
Ramon Samson
rsamsonSS328@cox.net
if you wish to receive the
MidWatch by mail.
Remember, the default is no
mailing.**

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

We had another great turn out for a summer month, plus several new faces, and one or two shipmates that we haven't seen for a while. We had a very good meeting with some great ideas about increasing our funds for the base treasury. We have formed a Fund Raising committee, headed by Jim Denzien, along with Roger Cousins, Stan Reinhold, and Buck Crouch. Shipmate's thanks for stepping up; I know your thoughts and ideas will move us in a more gainful direction.

Along with the forming of the committee, we will be posting the Booster Club rooster, in the newsletter, recognizing our shipmates that have helped this base in various ways, of time and effort and with monetary donations. Shipmates we have been blessed by your generosity.

Our bases in Arizona keeps on growing, and expanding; we now have a new base in Prescott Valley called the "Gudgeon Base". This past Saturday the 28th a meeting was held at Jack and Katy Messersmith's home with I believe twelve members of the USSVI present. The officers elected were John [Jack] Messersmith as Commander, Albert Landeck as Vice Commander, Ed Brooks as Secretary and Ray Cremin as Treasurer. Congratulations to all the elected officers, and a hearty Bravo Zulu to shipmate Jack Messersmith for setting this base up. I would like to add at this point that several members to the new base would hold dual memberships with perch base. No we are not losing Ed Brooks...he just put on one more hat.

I hope as a USSVI group that we can continue to have a get together collectively as we have with the holiday party in December and the picnics in the spring or summer. I for one do not like to lose a shipmate... even if it is just to a new base. The camaraderie is what the USSVI is all about.

An e-mail memo was sent out this past week to the shipmates that have access to the Internet informing them of the cost savings for the base, in printing, labeling and mailing of the newsletter. We are asking these members to let us know by e-mail, or US mail to inform either the Newsletter editor Chuck Emmett or Ramon Samson our Webmaster if they wish to continue receiving the MidWatch in printed mail form, other wise the Newsletter can be down loaded to a printed form or just read directly from our web site. Saving the base one of our most costly cost per year, this savings will help us greatly.

I would like to thank all of the shipmates that have chosen to help the base, choosing to down load the newsletter.

I would like the Base to know that both Frank Rumbaugh and Larry Rankin are both out of the hospital and doing well, but I ask that we all keep them and others in our prayers.

See you in October, I along with several others are off to the National Convention, stay healthy and well.

Fraternally yours,

Glenn Herold, Commander, Perch Base

August Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 21 August 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Joe Bernard, Chaplain - Pigboater's Chapter, led the members in a prayer of invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony for submarines lost during the month of August.

According to the sailing list, there were 33 members present at the meeting; which included four new members. Those present welcomed new members— Shipmates Stan Reinhold, Jim Denzien, Ray McKinzie, and Buck Crouch. Stan, Buck, Ray and Jim all took the floor – introduced themselves and gave the members a brief description of their submarine experiences. They were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the July meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer, Robert May, reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of August, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore had nothing new to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore was not present at the meeting.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not present at the meeting.

Membership Chairman and WebMaster – Ramon Samson reported that the White Mountain Base was up and running. Several former members of Perch Base are now actively involved with the new base.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett suggested that since the Base Newsletter is one of the Base's more costly endeavors

(continued next page)

ors, we should approach the other Arizona Bases to include their Base information in the newsletter and share in the costs associated with getting it to their members.

Chuck also informed the members that those with Internet access could download the newsletter each month and save the cost of postage. The annual cost for printing and mailing the newsletter is close to \$20 per member. After the October issue is mailed, members with Internet access (email addresses) will not be sent a mailed copy of the newsletter – unless they specifically request a mailed copy. Members without Internet access will still receive a mailed copy.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson announced that he had lots of nice items for sale in the “Ship’s Store.”

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that Dave Harnish and Frank Rumbaugh are still working on methods and contractors for re-finishing the torpedo at the Perch Memorial. The following discussion identified several alternatives to the powder coating originally believed to be an effective method for preservation without constant care.

Glenn asked a show of hands from any members planning to attend the USSVI National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York. He then suggested that those that wanted to join together at the same table at the banquet let him know so he could include their names on the reservation.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Brooks asked Base Commander Glenn Herold to present hand carved dolphins to three more Perch Base members who had given generously to the 2003/2004 fund raising drive for the US Submarine Veteran’s Charitable Foundation. Glenn then presented carvings to Shipmates, Eugene (Brad) Veek, Richard (Rick) Simmons and Frederick (Ted) Asbell. Ted was not present at the meeting and Ed indicated that his carving would be mailed to his home.

Ed also congratulated the Perch Base members for their generosity and benevolence. This year’s campaign raised more than \$2,000 for the “Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship Award” and another \$2,000 for the other charitable funds included in the Charitable Foundation. He also noted that he had sent a letter to Gary Patterson’s wife (Judy) with the names of the two Submarine Veteran’s grandchildren who received support from the memorial scholarship.

Glenn Herold opened a discussion regarding an effort to generate additional revenue for Perch Base’s treasury. He reported that the Board of Directors had approved the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to research and recommend methods the Base might use to generate additional funds. Glenn asked if there were members willing to serve on such a committee. Four members then stepped forward and volunteered to serve on the committee. They included; Jim Denzien, Stan Reinhold, Roger Cousin and Buck Crouch.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joe Bernard took the floor and asked the members to remember Shipmates Lloyd Houser and Jack Neumann in their prayers. Both shipmates departed on eternal patrol during the week preceding the meeting.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Jim Edwards was the winner.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1355 hours.

(Edgar T. Brooks B Base Secretary)

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ENS ERIC MELO,
ET1 FREDERICK RICHTER &
MM3 JOSHUA PROSISE,
OF THE USS HELENA SSN 725, WHO ARE IN PHX
VISITING OUR PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS.

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NAVY LEAGUE, NAVAL ACADEMY PARENTS' CLUB, CITY OF
PHOENIX AND OTHER SPECIAL NAVY SUPPORTERS AND
GUESTS, ESPECIALLY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS CARL HAYDEN
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Shipmate



Shipmate

Thanks

I would like to extend my gratitude to Perch Base and all who included me in their prayers and well wishes. My medical procedures went well and I am well on my way to recovery. I am flattered that so many fine individuals think enough of me to wish me well.

Zero Bubble,

Frank Rumbaugh

Base Member to Base Member (son to father)

reprinted with permission

From: nelsonb@salt-lake-city.navy.mil

To: sub489@cox.net

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2004 12:15 PM

Subject: long lost son

Mom & Dad,

I did get your e-mails, and I would love to call you, but we had to go out to sea in a hurry because of a typhoon. All Saturday night and Sunday morning, we busted our asses to get the boat underway. We did a week worth of work in 18 hours, starting 1800 on Saturday.

We had to repair a hydraulic pipe on the S/S hydraulic plant. Fix the bypass valve on the #1 pump on S/D hydraulic plant. And we had to load 250 gallons of oil for the External hydraulic plant, because of a leak we had on one of the scopes. That is not yet fixed. Waiting for parts!

All three hydraulic plants were running about 50% or less. The most junior, but the best A-gang on the waterfront, did a week long up keep in 18 hours, and now all three hydraulic plants are now at 100%.

The hydraulic pipe we fixed on the S/S hydraulic plant did not line up just right. My chief and a few other guys in the division could not get this pipe to line up just right. They had to bend this pipe about a 1/2" to get all four bolts to line up. But they had no way in doing so.

I got finished with the bypass valve on S/D hydraulic plant. I checked to see if the needed any help with the pipe. They tell me their problem, and I came up with a jack. (Car jack) my chief gave me a little laugh and said were in the f@#k are we going to get a jack. So I laughed right back at him, and told him; "We are in port, and there are vans, and trucks on the pier."

So I stole a jack from a Master Chief's car, and then we commenced to fix the hydraulic plant. We broke the jack in process of fixing the pipe, but worked long enough to fix the problem.

I have to go, but I will call ASAP. Love you both, Nellie.

P.S. Dad I got the newsletter that you published my e-mail in. that was a good news letter.

— Still no word on the tiger crews, I will keep trying K.

From the Webmaster . . .

Shipmates,

The Perch Base Newsletter "MidWatch" is going High-Tech. The Board of Directors has voted to emphasize the Newsletter's availability on the Perch Base Website in preference to mailing a hard copy to all the Base Members.

This has two significant advantages. First, members with Internet access can download and print the Newsletter as soon as it is edited and posted. Second, and equally significant, your Base Treasury will not have to pay for printing (professionally done) and mailing the newsletter to all of our members.

The Board decision, however, provides a caveat that allows me to continue sending a "hard copy" to members that specifically request that service, and of course, to members without Internet access.

As I said, the cost savings will be significant (see the financial information below).

So, if you - for some reason, want to continue receiving the Newsletter by USPS, you must let me know by letter before October 1, 2004. Each month, I will send an email notifying you that the current month's Newsletter is available on the Perch Base Web Site.

Log on to the Website and download this month's edition if you want to test the process. The Website is <http://www.perch-base.org>

Financial data associated with the "MidWatch"

2003 Cost per copy, per member, per year - \$19.89 (published, printed and mailed)

2004 (to date through August) per copy, per member, per year - \$13.38 (published, printed and mailed)
Income from member dues - per member, per year - \$10.00

("SHIPMATE" from previous page)

A Shipmate's Request

Ben,

Sorry to hear about your mothers death, this was the first I was aware of her passing. There are no reasons why your efforts on her part and others, shouldn't be announced in the Midwatch thats the purpose it should serve.

As a shipmate I would be happy and proud to help in what ever way I can, and I am sure you will find many of your shipmates with the same desire to help. You will be missed at the National, I was looking forward to seeing you and if I could stay up with you on the beer drinking part, now I have to drink for both of us.

Ben, I have CC this to Chuck and Ramon Samson between the Web site and Newsletter. You will have it pretty well covered. Ramon can get you the membership address if you do not have a up to date mailing. Your humble friend and shipmate, good luck and God's speed. Glenn

— Original Message —

From: retiredjefe

To: duke7@cox.net

Cc: chuckster41@earthlink.net

Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2004 10:47 PM

Subject: AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

Glenn,

I am training for a marathon and raising funds for the American Stroke Association. My mother passed away in February 2003 from a massive stroke and I feel like I need to do something to help fight this killer. I have attached a letter that I am sending out to help raise funds and I would like to send a letter with the base newsletter to all our members this month to raise some funds. Let me know if this would be acceptable and to whom I send the letters to. Hope your trip to New York was a fun without too much fun. I wish I could have gone with you all but I have to take care of some priorities here first.

Ben



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Nautical Nuances

or,
Did You Know?

As every "nuke" submarine knows, -- and a lot of nose-cone-rs -- to SCRAM the reactor means a rapid shutdown of the fission process by the unlatching of the control rods. By why the term "SCAM?" Where did it originate?

Dr. Erico Fermi developed the first nuclear reactor, a uranium and graphite block called CP-1, during 1942 in an old squash court at the University of Chicago. This simple reactor had several control rods in the side that a technician could push or pull to control the chain reaction. But on the top, held out by a rope, was a huge control rod. The rope went up through a pulley and was tied to a cleat on the wall.

Before Dr. Fermi attempted the first start up -- and unknown results -- he stationed a workman, with a fire axe, next to the cleat with these not-so-reassuring instructions.

"If something should go wrong, I'll give you a signal. Cut the rope and then scam!"

The word has stuck.



**Need a book about submarines?
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**[http://perch-base.org/
perch_base_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)**



Submarines of Today

“Today” Stories of “Tomorrow’s” Submarines

New Type Battery

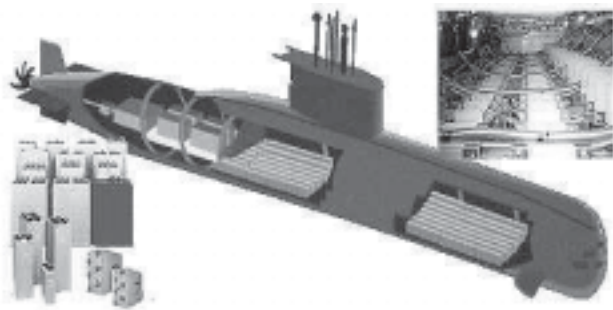
Groton— Modern nuclear submarines still have one major feature in common with their counterparts of World War II, but that will be gone in a few years.

The flooded batteries that provide a backup power supply on submarines have changed little in the last 60 years. They generate explosive hydrogen gas when they are charging or discharging, and have to be checked regularly to make sure they don't run low on water.

But the San Diego-based USS Dolphin (AGSS 555) has been outfitted with a new generation of sealed battery cells known as Valve Regulated Lead Acid or VRLA batteries, and a Los Angeles-class will get the new system some time next year, said Rear Adm. William G. Timme, deputy commander for undersea technology at NavSea Systems Command in Washington, D.C.

By 2010, the new batteries should be in use in all 72 attack and ballistic missile submarines in the fleet, according to EnerSys Energy Products, the Redding, Pa.-based company that is manufacturing the new VRLA batteries for the Navy.

Submarines carry 126 of the old-style batteries, each of them about two feet square and five feet high and weighing about 1,000 pounds. They are stored in a special compart-



ment below decks that requires a special ventilation system to prevent the buildup of toxic or explosive gases.

The batteries, similar to those used in older cars, have to be checked frequently to make sure they are charging and discharging properly, and to make sure the liquid electrolyte has not evaporated.

But Timme said his chief concern is that the company that

makes the batteries uses about 15 percent of an otherwise unused old factory building.

“We’re the only people still using these large, open lead-acid batteries, so they’re getting more expensive,” Timme said. “Plus, the company could walk away from this business at any time. The door is shutting behind us, and we have to do something about it.”

The new batteries manufactured by EnerSys are sealed systems similar to what are used in cars today, which will free the crew from maintenance tasks, and prevent the release of gases during operations.

They also offer a longer power supply, and will take up less space than the flooded batteries that they will replace, the company said.

Nuclear submarines worldwide—current force structure and future developments

With the Cold War over, the need for stealthy SSBN forces has diminished. Naval planners, while maintaining their fleets of SSBNs, are focusing on expanding their multipurpose submarines, equipped with cruise missile launchers.

Zackary Moss, 2004-05-13 10:38

Changing priorities

With the Cold War over, the need for stealthy SSBN forces has diminished. Naval planners, while maintaining their fleets of SSBNs, are focusing on expanding their multipurpose submarines: SSGNs, equipped with cruise missile launchers, and SSNs, traditionally assigned patrol duties in support of SSBNs and carrier battle groups. In line with naval doctrine, planners have started to turn their attention away from traditional anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and towards multipurpose submarines.

The United States

At 72 vessels, the US Navy, or USN, operates the largest and most capable fleet of nuclear submarines. The USN currently fields 18 *Ohio* SSBN though two have been removed from operational duty and are undergoing conversion to SSGN configuration. In fact, there are plans to cut the number of *Ohio* to 14 by 2007 (two *Ohio* will be in

(see “**WORLDWIDE**,” next page)

Eternal Patrol September 28, 1943

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.

U.S.S. Cisco (SS-290) 76 men lost

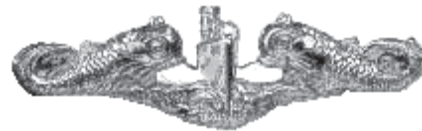


Venturing out for her first war patrol, CISCO (Lt. Cmdr. J. W. Coe,) left Port Darwin, Australia on September 18, 1943. That evening she returned to Darwin due to a derangement of the main hydraulic system which had occurred during the day's operations. The hydraulic system having been repaired to the satisfaction of the Commanding officer, CISCO once more departed on 19 September.

CISCO's area was a large rectangular one in the South China Sea between Luzon and the coast of French Indo-China. In order to reach it, she was to pass through the Arafoera Sea area, the Banda Sea, Manipa Strait, Molukka Passage, the Celebes Sea, Sibutu Passage, the Sulu Sea and Mindoro Strait. On 28 September, CISCO should have been due west of Mindanao in the center of the Sulu Sea. On that day a Japanese antisubmarine attack was made slightly north and east of CISCO's expected position. In reporting the attack the Japanese state "Found a sub tailing oil. Bombing. Ships cooperated with us. The oil continued to gush out even on tenth of October." The attack would seem to have been made by planes in cooperation with ships. No submarine that returned from patrol reported having been attacked at this time and position.

Nothing had been seen of or heard from CISCO since her departure from Darwin, and on 4 and 5 November 1943, Headquarters Task Force Seventy-One was unable to make radio contact with her. At the time of her loss it was considered very unlikely that a recurrence of trouble with her main hydraulic system could explain her sinking, and the only other possible clue was the fact that a Japanese plane was reported over Darwin at twenty thousand feet on the morning of her second departure. The attack listed above is thought to probably explain this loss. No enemy minefields are known to have been in her area, or en route to it.

Coe had previously made three war patrols as Commanding Officer of S-39, and three as Commanding Officer of Skipjack. He was considered a most able and successful Submarine Officer.



("WORLDWIDE" continued from Page 9)

overhaul and will not be counted as part of the 'operationally deployed force'). The USN operates a fleet of multipurpose submarines comprising of 33 SSGN (2 *Seawolf*, 23 improved *Los Angeles* and 8 modified *Los Angeles*) and 21 SSN (20 *Los Angeles* and 1 *Sturgeon*).

In October 1999, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (JCS), studied the options for increasing the size and capability of the submarine force. The three options under review at that time included converting older *Ohio* SSBNs to SSGNs; refueling and extending the service life of eight *Los Angeles* SSNs by 12 years; or building a new SSN, the *Virginia* class. The fiscal year 2000 Defense Authorization Bill required the USN to study converting four of the oldest *Ohio* SSBNs into SSGNs, giving them the capability to deploy Special Forces and fire Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles (TLAMs).

The *Virginia* class New Attack Submarine Centurion (NSSN), intended to replace the *Los Angeles* class SSN, is the first US submarine designed for battlespace dominance as well as open-ocean, "blue water" missions.

The NSSN program design goal is to produce a submarine flexible enough to carry out seven different missions: Covert strike by launching TLAMs from vertical launchers and torpedo tubes; ASW with an advanced combat system and a flexible payload of torpedoes; ASW using the advanced combat system and torpedoes; carrier battle group support with advanced electronic sensors and communications equipment; covert intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; covert mine laying; and special ops. 30 NSSN are planned, with the first boat SSN-774 *Virginia* due to be commissioned in June 2004. The last boat, SSN-803, is due to

(see "WORLDWIDE," page 13)

White Mountain Base

Monthly

United States Submarine Veteran's Inc.

OUR 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 Government.

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sdayfletcher@cs.com

Storekeeper:

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Heber, AZ 85928
(928) 535 3388

Commanders Corner:

We, the members of White Mountain Base wish to thank the generosity of the members of Perch Base for the \$500.00 of seed money.

We also wish to thank you for the helping hand that all of your members gave us in our endeavors to get this base started, especially for the loan of your float for the fourth of July parade.

At any time that your members are in the area, they are more than welcome to stop by or come to any of our meetings.

As we are entering the fall season, some of our members will be traveling to warmer climates, because of this, our meetings will more than likely have smaller attendance. During this period of slow down, I hope we will all be on the constant lookout for new members that live in the White Mountain area. It will take the concentrated effort of all hands to build the membership of White Mountain Base. I know that there will be times during the winter when we may not be able to get together because of the weather, etc.

For those that might be interested in attending the National Convention in 2005, it will be held in Kansas City. This is the time when a lot of boats hold their reunions. I will try to keep you informed of all the reunions I get information on. The 2003 convention, held in Reno, Nevada, had 45 boat reunions at the same time. Over 4800 sub vets attended that convention and reunions. I was there and met some shipmates I hadn't seen in 50 years. THINK ABOUT IT!!!

Fraternally Yours,
Jim Clewett
Commander

Meeting Minutes for the August meeting held at the American Legion in Heber, AZ.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM with the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, reading of our creed, and the Tolling of the Bell Ceremony.

New members Ken Josten and William (Bullet) Castle were introduced.

Minutes of the July meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer reported that we have \$587 in our treasury.

There were no other reports.

There was no old business.

New business as follows:

We have been offered a permanent building (Saber Hills Fire Department), however, due to the remote location, we decided to float the monthly meetings. Doug Eddy (Storekeeper) was appointed to schedule the meeting locations 12 Months in advance.

(continued on next page)

The Christmas Party will be held Friday, December 10, at 6 PM and will take the place of the December meeting.

Bullet offered a book on all of the U. S. submarines (similar to a Jane's) for \$50.

The Secretary will coordinate patch orders.

We will be sending a card to Dave Harnish whose brother is dying of cancer.

The Vice Commander suggested that we hold a golf tournament next year some time. The Vice Commander and Ken Shade will head up that committee.

The Vice Commander suggested that we support a charity such as the YMCA or battered women's shelter. Bullet suggested Big Brothers/Sisters. Bullet was nominated as the Charity Committee Chair (seconded and passed).

The next meeting will be held at the Heber American Legion at 11:00 AM on September 18.

Ken Shade won the \$33 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings to the treasury.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Gudgeon (Prescott) Base

Highline to Gudgeon

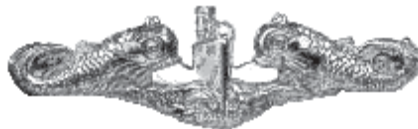
GUDGEON BASE formed in Prescott/Prescott Valley

On Saturday, August 28, 2004, twelve submarine veterans met at Jack Messersmith's home in Prescott Valley to form a new Arizona SubVets Base. The twelve subvets at the meeting went through the steps, required in process for establishing a new base. They nominated and voted on a slate of interim Base Officers, voted on a name for the new base, and formed a committee to find a place to meet on a regular basis.

The Interim Officers elected by the members included Jack Messersmith (Base Commander), Al Landeck (Base Vice Commander) Ray Cremin (Base Treasurer) and Ed Brooks (Base Secretary). The Base's name, pending USSVI approval, will be Arizona SubVets - Gudgeon Base.

A Base Constitution and By Laws and other requirements for completing the base development process are currently underway.

The next meeting of the Arizona SubVets – Gudgeon Base will be Saturday, September 25th at 11:00 hours. The meeting will again be held at Jack Messersmith's home in Prescott Valley.



("WORLDWIDE" continued from Page 10)

be commissioned in 2020. The JCS Submarine Force Structure Study has called for at least 18 NSSN to be operational by 2015.

The Russian Federation

The Soviet—later Russian—Navy has traditionally been a submarine navy—with front line nuclear submarines their essential naval force. Still, the bulk of the Russian Navy's submarine fleet is slated for elimination by 2010. As of January 2003, 14 SSBNs were thought to be operational (6 *Delta IV*, 6 *Delta III* and 2 *Typhoon*). In addition, the Navy has 19 SSNs (9 *Akula*, 5 *Victor III*, 1 *Sierra*, 1 *Yankee Notch*, 1 *Yankee* and 3 *Uniform*), and 6 Six *Oscar II* SSGNs.

Today, the primary role of Russia's naval forces is to provide strategic nuclear deterrence from the SSBN fleet and defend the sea-lanes approaching the Russian coast. But in recent years there has been a considerable decline in the number of operational deployed submarines. This is due to the reduction in the defense budget as well as the fact that the Navy receives about 12% of the budget.

After coming to office in May 2000, President Vladimir Putin set in motion the process of initiating a military reform program. In all likelihood, then, Russia will maintain a submarine fleet consistent with the Navy's share of the defense budget and inline with military reform plans. However, economic problems and safety concerns in the aftermath of the sinking of the *Kursk* SSGN in August 2000 have led to a large decrease in the number of submarines on patrol. For instance, in 1991 there were 55 submarine patrols but this fell to two patrols in 2001. In 2002, according to US naval intelligence, no SSBN went out on patrol.

France

The French strategic submarine force FOST currently operates 10 submarines: 4 SSBN (2 *Triomphant* and 2 *L'Inflexible*) and 6 *Rubis* SSN. Of the SSBNs, a third *Triomphant* was due to be launched in 2002 but is behind schedule and is slated for completion in July 2004. France plans to build and deploy a fourth boat by 2008.

The United Kingdom

The Royal Navy currently has a force of 16 nuclear submarines including: 4 *Vanguard* SSBN and 12 SSN (5 *Swiftsure* and 7 *Trafalgar* some of which have been equipped to launch TLAMs.) In March 1997, the Ministry of Defense, (MoD), awarded a contract to BAE Systems for three new *Astute* class SSN. In January 2001, the keel of *HMS Astute* was laid down. Construction of the second boat, *HMS Ambush*, started in 2002, with the third boat, *HMS Artful*, following later. The MoD is considering plans to acquire a second batch of up to three more *Astute* SSN with the final decision expected at the end of 2003. *Astute* will replace the *Swiftsure* class and will be the largest SSN the Royal Navy has commissioned. Each new *Astute* SSN will be equipped to deploy TLAMs.

The People's Republic of China

China currently deploys one *Xia* (Type-92) SSBN, commissioned in 1988, which is derived from the *Han* (Type-091) SSN. The Navy fields five *Han* SSN, the introduction of which improved the Chinese Navy's defense capabilities. China has one modified *Romeo* (Type S5G) SSGN with anti-surface ship missiles.

In December 1999 it was reported that China had begun construction of the first Type 094 SSBN boat, after preparations in construction were detected by US intelligence. As of December 2000, construction of the first Type 094 had apparently been delayed with priority given to the Type 093 SSN. The Type 93 SSN, which will replace the *Han* class, is expected to be similar in performance to Russian second-generation subs. Type 093 will be equipped with torpedoes, ASW missiles, a submarine-launched anti-ship cruise missile and land-attack cruise missiles.

Israel

Israel, a state thought to possess up to 200 nuclear warheads, may have nuclear weapons capable submarines. The Israeli Navy has three German-built 1,925-tonne Type 800 *Dolphin* class diesel-electric submarines. According to reports, the *Dolphins* may be capable of carrying nuclear-armed submarine-launched Popeye Turbo cruise missiles.

In May 2000, two *Dolphins* reportedly carried out first test launches of cruise missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The missiles launched from vessels off Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean are reported to have hit a target at a range of 1,500km. Israel is reported to possess a 200kg nuclear warhead which could be mounted on cruise missiles. The Israeli Navy has three Gal submarines, built in the 1970s at Vickers Shipyard in the UK.

India

India is trying to develop an indigenous nuclear submarine fleet and reports suggest that by 2010 it may field an SSBN. The country has been working to develop a nuclear submarine since 1985, based on the Soviet-era *Charlie II* SSGN. The management of the Advanced Technology Vessel project to provide nuclear propulsion has not facilitated this, however. While India has the capability of building the hull and developing or acquiring the necessary sensors, its submarine project has been dogged by system integration and fabrication problems, including trying to downsize the pressurized water reactor to fit into the space available within the hull. Despite these issues, India plans to have up to five nuclear submarines capable of deploying missiles with nuclear warheads.



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 - October 16, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours