

# Arizona Sub Vets Perch Base



## Midwatch

December 1999  
Volume 5 - Issue 7

### Arizona Sub Vets, Perch Base Officers

**Base Commander (Acting)**  
Roger J. Cousin

**Base Vice Commander**  
Roger J. Cousin  
13754 W. Via Montoya  
Sun City West, AZ 85375-2053  
623-546-9980  
Fax: 623-546-1152  
rlcousin@aol.com

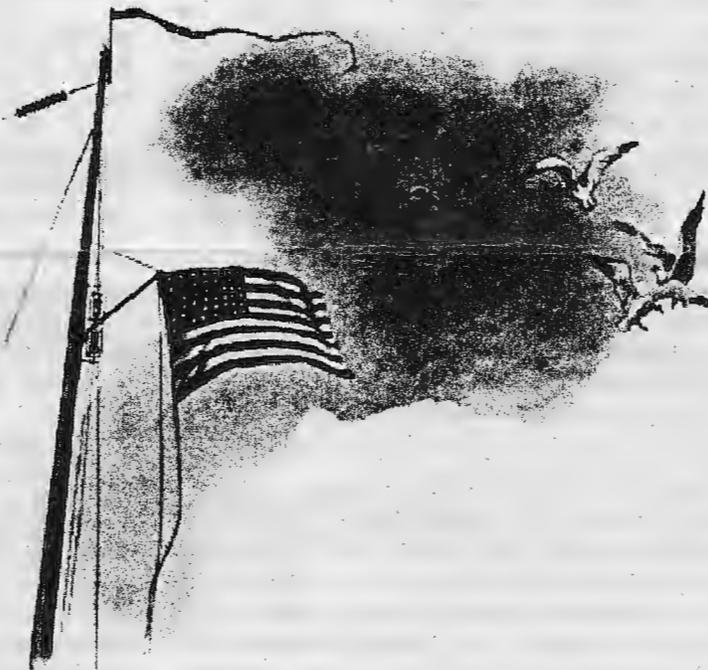
**Base Secretary**  
Carl Scott  
6955 E. Monte Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85208  
480-654-1856  
CScott6955@aol.com

**Base Treasurer**  
**Memorial Committee Chair**  
Robert E. May  
1902 E. Karen Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85022  
602-867-1445

**Membership Committee Chair**  
Gary "Pat" Patterson  
1399 Kelly Drive  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
520-445-1249  
twodogs@goodnet.com

**Base Storekeeper**  
Dave Harnish  
6509 W. Denoshire  
Phoenix, AZ 85033  
623-846-9245  
broadcastreports@inficad.com

**Public Relations Chair**  
John Redding  
13031 South 44th Way  
Phoenix, AZ 85044  
602-893-0136  
Fax 602-893-6744  
markcomm@worldnet.att.net



### Lost Boats & Crews On Eternal Patrol for December

|       |         |             |        |
|-------|---------|-------------|--------|
| F-1   | (SS20)  | 16 Dec 1917 | 19 Men |
| SS109 | (S4)    | 7 Dec 1927  | 40 Men |
| SS195 | Sealion | 10 Dec 1941 | 4 Men  |

*Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol*

## Where Do We Go From Here?



Word gets out quickly among submariners. As you probably know, **Brian Thomason**, our Base Commander has resigned his office effective immediately. This was due to overwhelming business reasons and a great demand for family participation. I'm a retired 65-year-old. I've been there-done that. Nothing should stand in the way of either enterprise. Least of all Family. Brian will be missed by each of us, but most of all by me. He did the things, while I basically went along for the ride (like most Vice-whatevers of any organization). No longer. As your new Commander, I would like to put the office of Vice Commander on hold for a couple of months and let this Base settle down to a point where everything is digested. In the meantime, while the search is on, I have taken over Rummy's job as Newsletter writer as well and for now retain my duties as Base Chaplain and Social/Activities Chairman.

This will change as replacements are found. Please bear with me. There are many important issues facing the Base at this time and it will take ALL of us to solve them.

Below are some 20 odd points that I hope to accomplish as quickly as possible. A week after our last meeting, I already had the November N/L written and sent off to our editor in Flagstaff for his input. If he publishes it as written, it may be lengthy, but it should be better than receiving a watered-down version or none at all. December and January N/L's are already in the works.

1. I'm asking the Base Secretary to send me, within one week of the preceding meeting, minutes for publication in the newsletter. All members should be informed of base happenings, whether they attend a meeting or not.

2. I'm asking our Storekeeper for an up-to-date inventory of our small stores to publish in the N/L on a bimonthly basis to stimulate sales to non-attendees. I also will ask him to put in writing how he feels we can improve this all-important money-maker.

3. I hope to change meeting format: E-Board from 12:00 to 12:30 hours; a half-hour for smoke, chow and small stores viewing (after which the Storekeeper can pack up and leave when members do); followed by a half hour or so business meeting; then by a BS session and fun among the troops in the meeting room which is more conducive and secluded than in the crowded, darkened bar area comprised of DAV members.

4. I wish to cut out all adversity and make our base more harmonious. Only YOU can do this.

5. I intend to publish the reason for the Booster Club (in January and February), then insert each booster member's name in bold print in every issue. Most people enjoy seeing their name in print so why not show our continuous appreciation?

6. I intend to publish, on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, the year's calendar of events and meetings. This may spur members to mark their calendars well in advance.

7. I hope to institute a guest speaker forum on interesting topics - whether it is submarine, insurance, Y2K, American History - or whatever. This may aid in holding interests of new members and keeping old ones.

A member may also be asked, in advance, to give his serious or comedic commentary on his life on the boats. If possible, this, too, will be published in the N/L in advance.

8. Centennial Calendars will be advertised through January in the Newsletter. I will also encourage all members to purchase at least one for themselves and give others as Holiday gifts. The same thing holds true of our Cookbook.

9. I want to see every boat and shipmate from 1900 to 2000 is given the honor they deserve at the tolling of the bells. This is the U.S. Navy's Centennial - none should be forgotten. I would also like to see short histories on each, in the N/L, not only names and dates.

10. I intend to push the issue of "free chow for attendees" in the newsletter in hopes of enticing more participation.

11. I would also like to receive all member e-mail addresses and have them added to our roster. I would also like to see a telephone committee set up by area code.

12. I would like to organize the telephone committee to contact the membership prior to meetings, as a meeting reminder.

13. I'd also like to see some humor infused in the N/L, perhaps under the heading of "On the Lighter Side", or something similar. (We can use a little humor these days.)

14. I'm asking the current and past officers of this club to send me the e-mail addresses of contact persons they know at other bases. This data could be very important in the running of Perch Base and should be passed on.

15. I want to see one central "clearing house" at Base level for the passing on of pertinent data to the editor of the N/L. Right now, that's me. No more going around the Base N/L writer. One person must have this authority. It's not efficient or fair to the editor or the N/L writer.

16. For every change in command or office, I expect there to be open, cordial information exchanged between both parties pertaining to the job. I also expect the outgoing to make themselves available for questions by the incoming on Base matters. As in government or business, a smooth takeover is essential.

17. So that there is no animosity or disdain shown me later, I'm stating now that in all probability I will not attend every National or Regional Meeting. I will attend what I can. I would, however, appreciate a member who is going to be our emissary in my absence and give a written account of the meetings upon his return.

18. I want as much input as possible from each member. YOU are the Base - NOT ME. Only you can assure its survival. HELP ME TO HELP YOU.

19. I intend to initiate a Chaplain's Column in every issue, letting shipmates know of illnesses, deaths, births, etc.

20. Obviously, the N/L must be kept newsworthy. I promise I'll do my best to keep it that way. But again, I'll need your input.

21. Above everything else, I want joy and fun to return to "Mudville". That's why we founded this base and that's what we have to do to turn it around. These

are only a few places where improvement can be found. With your help, we'll build from there. What do you say? Is it worth a try?

### Chaplain's Corner

**Gary Patterson update:** After lung cancer surgery last month, Gary is at home trying to gain back some of the 30 pounds he lost. He's also still fighting demons in his attempt at giving up smoking. You can do it, **Gary** - - Besides, what's the alternative? Heard from **Charlie (Bill) Greene** at last. He had open heart surgery last year and recently had another small procedure. **Sonny**, his wife, also underwent surgery. Both are now doing fine. **Jim Newman** was also a casualty in November. While working on a Church project, a power saw slipped, tore off part of his thumb and broke two of his fingers. OUCH!

Are we falling apart or what? Contacted shipmate **Kenny Wayne**. Talk about problems. **Ken**, a young man, was one of those cowboy types who rode broncos and bulls at rodeos, often ending up in hospitals with broken bones and other injuries. Boy what FUN! At any rate, time has taken considerable toll on his body. He recently spent 5 weeks at the Long Beach VA Hospital in the Chronic Pain Management Unit. His therapy helped, but didn't cure anything. He's still in constant pain, walks with a cane or crutch, and often has his leg give out from under him and falls. He needs a knee replacement, has problems with his neck, spine, back, and God knows what else. WOW! To top it off **Nancy** has undergone a hysterectomy (she's younger yet) and is also undergoing painful physical therapy and studies relating to her elbow and wrists. Both are accomplished Artists and Potters and performing their work is almost impossible. Ken can be reached at P.O. Box 1171, Yarnell, AZ 85362.

Then there's **Hubie Maxey**. He fell and broke his hip about a year ago, and has since broken his hip a second time in a fall. Also broken are his leg and knee. Velma, his wife, has shingles in addition to receiving radiation treatment for cancer. **Hubert** can be reached at 1364 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

**Joe Bernard** is the third to be "honored". He underwent a prostate cancer operation in March and now has radiation implants. He now complains of blood clots, leg cramps, and a terrible urinary inflammation that causes great pain and bleeding. **Joe** can be reached at 14010 N. 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306-4904.

It was wonderful seeing **Joe Otreba** and **Katherine** at our November meeting.. Joe has recently completed his chemo treatments and looks great!

### Perch Base Meetings

Because of our December Holiday Party on December 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be no meeting this month. Have a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

### Small Stores

Our Storekeeper has a comprehensive array of USSVI Small Stores, consisting of hats, shirts, sweat shirts, belt buckles, beer mugs, cocktail glasses, coffee mugs, and a slew of other memorabilia. Give him a call. (See front page listing). Great gifts for the Holidays!

New Perch Base Ball Hats with embroidered Base name, Arizona, and dolphins have arrived and

sell for only \$13.00 each. Available in Blue or White. Can be purchased at our Christmas Party or at regular base meetings.

### Perch Base Booster Club for 1999

|               |                |                |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jerry Allston | Hubert Maxey   | Tyler Smith    |
| Jerry Becker  | Bob May        | Bob Stanfelner |
| Joe Bernard   | Bill McNay     | Jim Srassels   |
| Mike Breitner | Paul Miller    | Adrian Stuke   |
| Tom Burke     | Bob Mitchell   | Bob Sungey     |
| Roger Cousin  | Joe Mullins    | Ken Wayne      |
| Earl Crowley  | Jim Nelson     | Don Whitehead  |
| Steve Day     | Joe Otreba     | Jerry Yowell   |
| Doug Eddy     | Gary Patterson |                |
| Ray Graybeal  | Tom Patterson  |                |
| Billy Grieves | Royce Pettit   |                |
| Mike Haler    | Scott Prothers |                |
| Bill Hatcher  | John Redding   |                |
| Glenn Herold  | Frank Rumbaugh |                |
| Monica Helms  | Ray Samsom     |                |
| Steve Hough   | George Sara    |                |
| Larry Krieger | Joe Schwartz   |                |

### Perch Base Meeting 13 November 1999

A Reminder: The Perch Base Booster resets itself on January 1<sup>st</sup>. For those not privy of what the "Booster Club" is, it's made up of members, like you, who give generously toward keeping this club afloat.

Your \$10 yearly dues barely pay for the cost of printing and mailing monthly newsletters. Additional funds are always needed to enable us to pay for meeting locations, additional postage, assist in paying for seasonal holiday parties, picnics, funeral or get well flowers, get well cards, maintain free lunches at meetings, and a slew of other base expenses.

No set amount is asked for and regardless of the size of your gift, \$50 or \$5, the amount you give will be confidential. In return, your name will be listed monthly in Midwatch as a token of appreciation. In 1999, 45 of 85 contributed. We thank you for this excellent support. It goes to show you that when the chips are down, Submariners can always be counted on to dig deep for a good cause. Year 2000 is the recognized Centennial of the U.S. Submarine Force. Let's try for a 100% participation. Thanks, Guys. (Make checks payable to "USSVI Perch Base" for Booster (for recognition) and send to **Bob May**, Treasurer (see front cover).

It was carried by the E-Board that \$35 will be put aside for the purpose of purchasing flowers for illness or death of a member or immediate family member.

There will be a raffle at the Christmas/Hanukkah Party costing \$5.00 per ticket. A solid pewter Fleet Boat with solid pewter base, a collector's item measuring about 7" long and having great detail, has been donated by Jim Newman. Cost of the boat was \$65.00. All those interested, whether planning to go to the party or not, please send your remittance, made out to USSVI Perch Base, to **Dave Harnish**, Store Keeper, (see front cover for address), before December 12<sup>th</sup>. Need not be present to win.

### Newsletter

By now everyone should have received the November Newsletter. We hope you like it. Your new

N/L writers at Base level are **Roger Cousin** and Shipmate **Ray Samson**. **Frank Rumbaugh** has resigned his post. We're hoping to make this N/L better than ever but we need member input. For now, I'm asking every member to funnel all their N/L comments through **Roger Cousin** (address on cover) and no longer go directly to our editor, John Wilson. This should cut out duplication, time and much confusion. Roger will assimilate the data, write it, e-mail it to **Ray** for formatting and **Ray** will e-mail it to our editor for his input and printing. Please do not circumvent this procedure. The editor's job is difficult enough. We're hoping this will help.

### Membership List

The Perch Base membership list is available through our Membership Chairman, **Gary Patterson**. For liability reasons, phone, fax, street and e-mail addresses have been omitted. However, if you feel comfortable with this data being given out to your shipmates, especially at this Holiday Season, notify our Secretary or Membership Chairman via e-mail, letter or postcard or FAX.

### Associate Membership

Both the USSVI By Laws and the Perch Base By Laws (a revised 1998) clearly endorse Associate Membership. I believe it is an avenue Perch Base has hardly broached in the past, but should become more active in it's pursuit. The Associate Member must be sponsored by a Regular Member, voted in by the Membership, be at least 16 years of age, and must display a legitimate interest in submarines. The annual dues for an associate is the same as a Regular Member. That is, \$20 for the National Organization (for the first year -- \$10 after that) and \$10 for Base membership. An Associate is required to live up to the responsibilities of both bylaws. The Associate has Base voting rights, may hold an office, is entitled to monthly Midwatch Newsletters, and all bimonthly issues of American Submariner Magazine. He is also encouraged to join us for FREE meeting lunches, all Base functions (picnics, holiday parties, etc.), be permitted to purchase submarine items at storekeeper prices from our ship stores and would be welcomed as one of "the crew". Most of us have a family member, friend, neighbor, or business associate who fits these requirements. Why not approach them with the idea?

### US Submarine Centennial Stamps

It has finally been approved. For year 2000, five new postal stamps will depict the history of US Submarines and will be available in the first US commemorative prestige booklet containing text, photos, and stamps. In 1900, the Navy acquired the "**Holland**", its first submarine. the "**S**" class shows the change in technology and size after the "**Holland**". The "**Gato**" class represents the contributions they made in WWII. The "**Los Angeles**" class nuclear "Fast Attack" boats come next, followed by the giant 560 foot "**Ohio**" class Trident Missile submarine. All in all, I'd say it's a fair representation of the US Submarine Navy. It couldn't have happened if it weren't for YOU.

### SEALION BIO

The **SEALION (SS195)** was in Manila

undergoing overhaul during the bombardment at Pearl Harbor. Three days later, as sirens sounded, 54 Japanese warplanes appeared and commenced their attack. One of the bombs ripped through the pressure hull of the helpless submarine and exploded in the engine room, killing four men. The rest of the crew managed to escape as the **SEALION** was heavily damaged and went down stern first at the dock. Salvage was hopeless as the Navy yard was completely demolished by the bombing raid. On Christmas Day, 1941, the boat was towed into Manila Bay and deliberately sunk by explosives. Her dead are still aboard. The **SEALION** was the first US submarine lost in WWII.

### Something to Ponder

After America's involvement in the wars around the world in some feel should not be ours to get involved in, I hope both our Democratic Administration and our Republican Congress finally realize that America now stands at the brink of military weakness, if not disaster. Just a few weeks after our involvement in Serbia, we were told that our aircraft missile stockpile had been all but depleted. What would have happened if we had a real war to fight? Or for that matter, two mini-wars?

Without sounding like some disgruntled minuteman, I believe the America of yesterday no longer exists. When confronted by a large scale potential enemy, America always held the upper hand. Bases were opened and activated all over our country. Today most of them are civilian housing developments.

Our shorelines were once rich in ship building or Naval Bases ready to sail on a moment's notice. Our defense plants were numerous and located in every state and city across the nation. Where are they today? They, too, have been converted to public housing, shopping centers, or independent air strips. And how about all those competitive government contractors that once built our submarine fleet, our carriers, destroyers, battle ships, fighters, bombers, tanks, armament and support equipment? Many have been absorbed, but worse, most no longer exist, nor do their complexes. What happened to our laid-off Aerospace and Naval white and blue collar workers? Our designers? Our craftsmen? Our welders and our riveters? They are now stockbrokers, computer people, school teachers, city employees, retired or dead. America once had all these -- but no longer.

To paraphrase portions of a recent article appearing in "Sea Power": It is now overwhelmingly clear that the wars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will almost certainly be of relatively short duration but extremely high intensity. In practical terms what this means is that there will be very little time, if any, for the massing of US and allied forces in the combat zone. Additionally, there will be absolutely no time at all to develop, test and build the weapons that those forces will need if they are to have any hope of winning. US National Security must be reinstated for at least the following: (1) America's forward-deployed forces - whether land-based air and ground units or naval forces at sea in international waters - must be fully combat-ready at all times; (2) The stockpiles of weapons, equipment, ammunition various other supplies and consumables now pre-positioned overseas must be maintained in

quick-breakout status, and must be periodically both tested and modernized; (3) US airlift and sealift assets should be significantly expanded and upgraded to ensure the continued sustainment of combat forces beyond the initial stages of conflict; and (4) Probably the most important of all: US defense acquisition policies must be revised to ensure the procurement of the cost for enough ships, aircraft, weapon systems, and spare parts to meet reasonably foreseeable requirements. This shockingly common-sense approach would represent a major change from the present acquisition policy - which seems always to assume lowest-cost outcome of any overseas conflict involving US Forces.

Here the evidence is clear: The administration's and Congress' long-term defense strategy postulates forces sufficient to fight and win, two medium theater wars simultaneously. But few if any US military professions would argue that the nation's armed forces would be able, today, to win two wars, particularly in different theaters, at or about the same time.

In recent years many if not all defense budget decisions have been made for primarily political purposes - e.g. to lower budget deficits and/or to make more money available for domestic programs - rather than to meet national security requirements. All of the nation's armed services have been consistently underfunded, have been made to do more with less and have had to compensate for funding shortfalls by overworking their equipment and their people.

The Navy is an excellent case in point. Its operating tempo is high, but there are now just over 320 ships in the active fleet. Close to 50 percent of them are underway on any given day, and more than 30 percent are usually deployed overseas while about 20% remain in dry dock. The DEMOCRATIC Administration's and those of our REPUBLICAN Congress postulate further cuts, to a fleet of only about 300 ships by 2003. However, the current budget projections will sustain a fleet of just over 200 ships. The aviation and weapons inventories suffer from similar requirements/funding mismatches. What makes this a problem of even greater magnitude is that the numbers themselves are best-case projections. The Navy's real requirements, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have told Congress, are for 15 carrier battle groups (vice the current 12), more amphibious ships as well, and closer to an overall total of 400 ships in the active fleet - including a minimum of 72 SSN's (nuclear-powered attack submarines) rather than the 50 now projected.

This is not a Democrat vs. Republican issue. This is bipartisan. And America is the loser. None of our party leaders seem to care about National Security. And they don't even see the nuclear threat of China, Pakistan, India and a dozen other "wannabe" nations. Here's something to think about:

- 709,000 regular (active duty) service personnel;
- 293,000 reserve troops;
- Eight standing army divisions;
- 20 air force and navy air wings with 2,000 combat aircraft;
- 232 strategic bombers;
- 121 surface combat ships and submarines, plus all the support bases, shipyards and logistical assets needed to sustain such a naval force.

- 13 strategic ballistic missile submarines with 3,114 nuclear warheads on 232 missiles;
- Four aircraft carriers, and 500 ICBMs with 1,950 warheads

Can you name this country? Is it Russia? NO! Is it China? NO! Is it France, Britain, Pakistan, or India? NO again! Is it the United States? WRONG AGAIN! Give up? Well, don't feel too bad if you were unable to identify this Super Power because this country no longer exists. These are the American military forces that have DISAPPEARED since the election of our Democratic Administration and Republican Congress in 1992. Sleep well, America!! And have a Very Happy New Year!

### On The Lighter Side

Any other good news? Maybe it's time for a little humor: This is an actual announcement taken from an actual church bulletin: "Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so."

Two marines boarded a flight for Reno. One sat in the window seat, the other sat in the middle seat. Just before takeoff, a submariner got on and took the aisle seat next to the two marines. The submariner kicked off his shoes, wiggled his toes and was settling in when the marine in the window seat said, "I think I'll get up and get a coke." "No problem," said the submariner, "I'll get it for you."

While he was gone, one of the jar heads picked up the submariner's shoe and spat in it. When he returned with the coke, the other marine said, "That looks good, I think I'll have one too." Again, the submariner obligingly went to fetch it and while he was gone the other marine picked up the other shoe and spat in it.

The submariner returned and they all sat back and enjoyed the flight. As the plane was landing, the submariner slipped his feet into his shoes and knew immediately what had happened. "How long must this go on?" he asked. "This spitting in shoes and pissing in cokes?"

### Year 2000 Centennial Calendars

To my knowledge, Perch Base is the only organization of the USSVI to put out a Centennial Calendar issue of the United States Submarine Service. This glossy, full color calendar measures 8 1/2 x 17 (opened), lists every boat lost by month and year, not just the WWII's. It has beautiful color underway photos suitable for framing and offers monthly date boxes large enough for memos. Let me quote just one inspirational saying found in this calendar, "I would appreciate if you, today's submarine sailors, to whom I have passed the "Torch of Victory" and heritage of our history, would take a few minutes to pay respect to my sacrifice. I appreciate our sacrifices and wanted you to know how I feel. I am watching with pride. The echo is growing fainter, but I still hear some of you. "God Bless You Shipmate", author unknown. Have goose pimples? Me too.

Should you wish to obtain your Centennial Calendar, please fill out the enclosed form, with your remittance of \$11.50 each including postage. Allow 2

weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to USSVI Perch Base and mention "Centennial Calendar" Please send to **Bob May** (see front cover.) To allow one week for delivery, make checks payable to USSVI Perch Base, mention Centennial Calendar and send to **Don Wannamaker**, 17287 N. Conestoga Drive, Sun City, AZ 85375.

A reminder, the Holidays are upon us. What a great gift for a friend, old buddy, or member of the family. **Pride DOES Run Deep.**

P.S. We also still have the official Perch Base Cook Books for sale. It is professionally done and also makes a great holiday gift. It sells for \$6.00 + \$1.00 for shipping. Use the back of the calendar order form if you wish to receive this book. (Mention "Cookbook", the quantity ordered, name, address, and amount enclosed.

## Seasons Greetings

### Perch Base Holiday Dinner Dance

Our Annual Christmas/Hanukkah Party will be held this year at the Phoenix Elks Club 5525 W. Colter Street in Glendale. A Full Course Dinner and Live Music will be provided.

#### Directions:

I-17 to Camelback, West 3.7 miles.  
North on 55th Avenue for 1/4 mile.  
Left onto Colter.

Please let shipmate Roger Cousin know  
by the December 12 cut-off date.  
(623) 546-9980



### Life on the diesel boats: Razor Blades and Ivory Soap by Bob 'Dex' Armstrong

Dex rode **USS Requin (SS481)** out of Norfolk in the 1960's and has written a series of short stories, mostly funny, about his life as an "After Battery Rat." This is one of the latest ones. Any former fleet boat rider will relate. Hope you enjoy. "There was a point in time... All you lads who rode submersible iron will recognize the point... A point where you could tell exactly how long you had been out by the diameter of the salt stain in the armpits of your last, clean dungaree shirt. The point where all of your fellow inmates smelled like the inside of Olga Korbut's gym shorts. At this point in the interest of human preservation and fear that his ship was taking on the internal atmosphere of the monkey house at the Chicago zoo... The Old Man would lift water restriction and allow 'white light' in the berthing compartments. Men, who had lived and interacted in the dim glow of night vision-preserving red light, got a good look at each other for the first time in weeks. It wasn't a pretty sight... "Jeezus, have I been living with

these animals?" The after battery looked like a garbage dump. Shredded ration boxes, stray socks... Magazines, loaded butt kits... Sour towels and a collection of dirty laundry that had matured to the point it was turning into limburger cheese. It was a point far past the day we had wrapped ourselves around the last of the potatoes stored in the showers. The only visual evidence of their previous existence were the wadded up gunny sacks carpeting the deck of the after battery head and whatever GDU-delivered peels the fish off Nova Scotia were dining on... The 'Idaho's Best' rug in the sonar shack was the residual product of some previous deployment. For those of you who never rode Uncle Sam's underseas technological treats, a smoke boat shower was an aluminum box the size of a coffin designed for Mickey Rooney. It had a shower head that delivered semi-hot water at the rate of five peeing humming birds and a shelf for soap that could leave a very distinctive purple mark on your upper biceps if the boat took a roll during occupancy... And a deck drain... A hole through which amazing things could appear if anyone put a pressure in number two sanitary tank without shutting the required gate valve and quick throw. Even though you had to Crisco your ass to turn around in the damn thing, it was the closest thing to heaven a diesel boat sailor came in contact with at sea. Everyone shucked his dungarees down to his skivvies... Grabbed a towel and his 'douche bag' (subsailor for shaving kit) and got in line. While guys rooted through sidelockers for their shower gear, towel fights broke out... Not Cub Scout towel flipping, serious heavy-duty towel popping. The kind that can take little chunks of hiney if you couldn't move and fend off the shot. Grown men laughing and popping each other with towels... Underseas recreation at its finest. After a two-minute soapdown, scrub and a rinse, men would lather up and scrape off weeks of beard accumulation. Lifers who never shelled out for razor blades would say, "Hey kid... How about seconds on that blade?" Cheap bastards... Same guys that ran out of sea stores smokes after two weeks... Same guys who would wander around Bells filling their glass from any available pitcher. They are probably millionaires now and live by tax loopholes. Bottles of Vitalis, Lucky Tiger, Mennens, Old Spice, Aqua Velva, and God knows what else, appeared from side lockers. In thirty minutes, the entire boat smelled like the parlor of the best whorehouse in New Orleans. Adrian Stukey would break into a Ray Charles song and do his aboriginal dance... He employed footwork only known to Stukey and three Congolese witch doctors. The man had moves Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly never thought of... Sort of reminiscent of an electrocuted orangutan, mixed with the mating dance of the Australian Dingo eaters. By some miracle, clean white skivvy shirts appeared. Some with the names of guys, who rode the boat five or six years previously, stenciled across the back. "Who in the hell is Garabaldi, D. L.?" "How'n the hell do I know?" "Musta been some boat sailor." "Yeh, I guess... What's it to you... You writing a gahdam book?" "Maybe someday... Who knows?" Nah... Who'd give a damn about reading stuff about this jacked up bunch of idiots? Who'd believe it? Once upon a time, I lived among people who volunteered to live

like primates in an iron septic tank with lousy air, shared sleeping arrangements, had at least four leaks (air, oil, water, and security), made weird sounds, and agitated like a warped washing machine, for less money than you could fit into a gahdam gumball machine... Who'd read crap like that? When the Goddess of Personal Hygiene looked down and blessed the residents of the roaming hotel (**SS481**)... It was good. It was also good to live among men who were right where they wanted to be... Nobody chloroformed them and hauled them off to New London. Nobody ever called their number at the Selective Service Board. They volunteered... Every gahdam one. Most of the world didn't even know they were there... Boats... Little primitive communities of the finest men I've ever known that lived in metal containers and took them to sea. There has to be a story in there somewhere. The next time you see a Texaco tank truck rolling down the highway, just for a moment visualize it a couple of hundred feet underwater... Then picture thirty or forty happy-go-lucky half-naked men singing, doing silly dancing and towel fighting inside... And willing to do whatever it took to keep nasty folks with weird political agendas from crawling through your bedroom window. Those lads were my shipmates. Author's note: In the ensuing years, service under the sea has changed for the better. Lads today are not known as 'pig boat sailors'. Today's modern submersibles are more conducive to proper personal hygiene, grooming and gentlemanly attire. After a hard day of fission monitoring, switch flipping and gauge dickering, our present day subsurface bluejacket may attend a lecture on molecular configuration of high-density hydrocarbons emanating from the planet Mongo. He and soon to be, she, can opt for a live concert... Polo... Fencing or a little commingling in a hot tub... Mint Juleps followed by a shrimp cocktail precedes the evening meal after which those not engaged in ship's work or on watch are free to attend a visiting Broadway stage production or enjoy a Swedish massage in the crew comfort compartment. Before retiring, he or she fills out his or her 'What I like about Naval Service' questionnaire which is handed to the first or second class bedtime story petty officer... Then after a telling of the 'Three Bears and the Call Girl' story, they say their 'God bless Hyman Rickover' prayer, drink their hot cocoa and turn in to their Martha Stewart approved poopy sacks to dream of super computers in accordance with current prescribed force policy. It's a helluva lot better these days. " Passed on by Pat Householder, Issaquah, WA; ex- Chopper, Diodon, Redfish "No matter where you travel, when you meet a guy who's been... There's an instant kind of friendship 'cause we're brothers of the 'phin." author Robert Reed, **G.W. CARVER (SSBN-656)**



USS BULLHEAD (SS-332)

Displacement - 1526 tons (surf), 2391 tons (subm)  
 Length - 311'8"; beam 27'  
 Armament - 6-21" torpedo tubes fwd; 4-21" tubes aft.  
 Speed - 20.25 knots (surf), 8.75 knots (subm)  
 Test Depth - 400'  
 Compliment - 6 Officers, 60 Enlisted Men  
 Class - BALAO  
 Keel laid down by the Electric Boat Company, Groton  
 OCT 21 October 1943.  
 Launched 16 July 1944; Sponsored by Mrs. Howard R  
 Doyle; Commissioned 4 December 1944  
 Cdr. Walter T. Griffith in command.  
 Decommissioned 6 August 1945 - lost

Departing Fremantle for her third war patrol during WWII, **USS BULLHEAD (SS332)**, under the command of Lcdr. E.R. Holt, Jr., on 31 July 1945, started for her area (from 110!E to 115!E, in the Java Sea). She was to leave her patrol area at dark on 5 September and head for Subic Bay, P.I. **USS CAPITAINE (SS336)** and **USS PUFFER I (SS268)** were also to patrol in the Java Sea area, as were the British submarines HMS TACITURN and HMS THOROUGH.

**BULLHEAD** arrived in area on 6 August, but **CAPITAINE** did not arrive until 13 August. On 12 August, **CAPITAINE** ordered **BULLHEAD** to take position the following day in a scouting line with **CAPITAINE** and **PUFFER**. There was no reply and on 15 August, **CAPITAINE** reported, "Have been unable to contact **BULLHEAD** by any means since arriving in area."

The submarines named above were in the same general area as **BULLHEAD**. The **USS COD (SS224)** and **USS CHUB (SS329)** also transited the area at various times. It is difficult to point to one Japanese antisubmarine attack as the one which sank **BULLHEAD**. However, the most likely one occurred on 6 August 1945, when an enemy army plane attacked with depth charges in position 8!-20'S;115-42'E. It claimed two direct hits, and for ten minutes thereafter, there was a great amount of gushing oil and air bubbles rising in the water. Since the position given is very near the Bali coast, it is presumed that the proximity of mountain peaks shortened **BULLHEAD's** radar range and prevented her receiving a warning of the plane's approach.

**BULLHEAD** sank four enemy ships, totaling 1,800 tons, and damaged three ships, for 1,300 tons, in her first two patrols. Her first patrol was made in the South China Sea from the latter part of March to the end of April 1945. No enemy contacts were made, but on 31 March and again on 24 April **BULLHEAD** bombarded Pratas Island with her five-inch gun. She also rescued three airmen from a downed B-29 following an air strike on the China coast.

In May and June 1945 **BULLHEAD** patrolled the Gulf of Siam and the South China Sea during her second patrol. Here she sank two small freighters, a schooner and a sub chaser, and damaged two more sub chasers and another small freighter, all in gun actions.

**BULLHEAD** received two battle stars for her World War II service.

**U.S. Submarine Veterans  
Perch Base  
13754 W. Via Montoya  
Sun City West, AZ 85375**

