



December 2005
Volume 11 - Issue 112



<http://perch-base.org>

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



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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

DECEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Sealion	SS195	Dec. 10, 1941	5 men
USS F-1	SS20	Dec. 17, 1917	19 men
USS S-4	SS109	Dec. 17, 1941	34 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - January 21, 2006
TENTATIVE - For Info Later
 American Legion Post #62
 11001 N. 99th Ave.
 Starts at 1200 hours
 Lunch provided - Donation Suggested \$3

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival.

Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



2005 Booster Club (Don't Forget 2006 Contributions)



Ben Acosta	Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Kirby Anderson
Ted Asbell	Gary Bartlett	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Ed Brooks	Jim Edwards
Harry Ellis	Chuck Emmett	Ray Graybeal	Chuck Greene
Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Bob Hanson	Dave Harnish
Ed Hawkins	Glenn Herold	Dave Herrington	Les Hillman
Davy Jones	Ron Kloch	Bob Lacendorfer	Doug LaRoch
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Denny McComb	Ray McKinzie	Paul Miller	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Tim Moore	Tom Moore	Joe Mullins
Bon Nance	Jim Nelson	Jim F. Newman	Jim W. Newman
Joe Otreba	Ray Perron	George Petrovitz	Royce Pettit
Clair Prokupek	Scott Prothero	Robbie Robinson	Stan Rud
Frank Rumbaugh	Ray Schaeffer	Rick Simmons	Wyne Smith
Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke	Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley
Jim Wall	Dick Weber	Jerry Yowell	John Zaichkin
Mike Haler	Darrell Lambert	Nick Pappas	Kenny Wayne
Ed Wolf	Roger Cousin	Alex Martin	John Cash
Roger Cousin	Joe Errante	Tom Fooshee	Mike Haler
Steve Hough	Mike Keating	Darrell Lambert	Burt Loftin
Allen Miller	Nick Pappas	Ernie Plantz	Ray Samson
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Sailing Orders



NEXT REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2006
(We may be located in the
new American Legion Post
#62 building. Information
will be provide as to which
location -- old or new -- will
follow later.)
Starts at 1200 hours

MERRY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY HANUKKAH



From the Wardroom

Holiday Greetings!

Dear Shipmates,

For those of you who were in attendance, you already know that this year's Veteran's Day Parade was a big success. I want to thank those of you who participated and assisted with this important event. For those of you who were not there, you need to put this on your calendar for next year. I heard reports that there was somewhere between 100,000 and 200,000 people in attendance for this year's parade. Our float was very well received and won the first place award for Veteran's Organizations entries. This is the second year in a row that we have been the recipient for that award.

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Next I want to thank the Palo Verde contingent for their participation; it was a pleasure meeting all of you. And a very special thank you to Sandy Headrick for facilitating the staging and de-staging events. The food and drinks before and after the parade were welcomed and appreciated. She also made arrangements for our shirts again this year for which I am most grateful. They looked great and we were proud to

wear them. I'm sure there are other individual names I should single out and mention. If you feel you have been overlooked, please accept my sincere apology and heartfelt thanks.

I am writing the initial rough draft of this article on Thanksgiving morning. By the time your read it, Veteran's Day and the Thanksgiving Holiday will both be recent memories. As we enter this Christmas Holiday Season, let us not forget to give thanks to and pray for those who continue to serve and preserve our way of life.

In closing, I want to remind everyone there will be no meeting in December. We took a vote of the membership at the November meeting and the decision was unanimous to not have a meeting during the holidays. Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, January 21, 2006.

Finally I want to sincerely wish you all a warm and wonderful Holiday Season. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year which will bring you good health and prosperity. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Thank you.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

Shipmate



Shipmate



Shipmates, the American Legion has supported our Base by providing a place for our meetings. When the new Legion building is completed, will have space there for us too. Your Base officers believe we should help support those who support us. Join the American Legion and support them too.





Eternal Patrol Christmas Day, 1941

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.

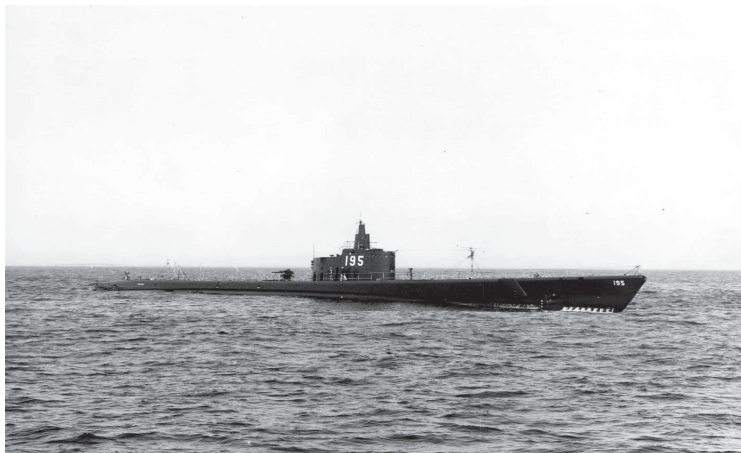
Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.

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. Sea Lion (SS-195) December 25, 1941 5 men lost



dp. 1900 tons (surf.), 2350 tons (subm.); l. 311'; b. 27';
s. 20k (surf.), 8.75k (subm.); td. 250'; a. 1-4"/50, 4-21" tt. fwd., 4-21" tt. aft.;
cpl. 5 officers - 50 enlisted men; cl. "SEADRAGON"

Keel laid by the Electric Boat Company, Groton, CT, 20JUN38;
Launched: 25MAY39; Sponsored by Mrs. Claude C. Bloch;
Commissioned: 27NOV39 with Lt Julien K. Morrison, Jr. in command.

The first submarine victim of enemy action in WWII was *USS SEA LION* (SS-195) under the command of LCdr R.G. Voge. The start of the war on December 8 (Philippines) found her, along with *USS SEA DRAGON* (SS-194), in the last stages of overhaul at the Navy Yard, Cavite, P.I. Both were scheduled for completion on December 12th.





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Although there were frequent air raids in the Manila area during the first two days of the war, no enemy planes visited the Navy Yard until the afternoon of December 10th. That day the air raid alarm sounded about half an hour after noon, and shortly thereafter 54 planes, in two groups of 27 each, were sighted heading for the Navy Yard. *SEA LION* was nested at Machina Wharf with *USS SEA DRAGON* inboard and minesweeper *USS BITTERN* outboard. With the exception of the CO, XO (Lt. Albert L. Raborn) and three men, all personnel were below decks. The first stick of bombs landed some 100 to 200 yards astern

SEA LION, and at that time, Voge, seeing that the planes were going to bomb from high altitude where machine gun fire could not reach them, ordered all hands below.

It was a most fortunate decision. On the next bombing run, but a few minutes later, two bombs hit *SEA LION* almost simultaneously. One struck the after end of the conning tower fairwater, completely demolishing the machine gun mount which had just been vacated, the main induction, the battery ventilation and the after Conning Tower bulkhead. It exploded outside the hull a few feet above the Control Room. Had it entered the hull before exploding, the majority of *SEA LION*'s crew would have been lost, as most of the personnel were

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in that compartment. A fragment from this bomb pierced the Conning Tower of *SEA DRAGON*, instantly killing Ensign Sam Hunter stationed there, the first submarine casualty of the war. Other fragments from this bomb pierced the pressure full, inflicting minor wounds on three *SEA LION* men in the control room.

At almost the same instant another bomb, passing through the main ballast tank and the pressure hull, exploded in the maneuvering space in the after end of the After Engine Room, killing four men working in that compartment - Electrician Mates Foster, O'Connell and Paul, and Machinist Mate Ogilvie.

With this explosion in the maneuvering space, the After Engine Room flooded immediately and *SEA LION* settled by the

stern in the mud. The Forward Engine Room and the After Torpedo Room flooded slowly through bomb fragment holes in the bulkheads. Personnel in these compartments, as well as in other parts of the ship, escaped through the hatches, which were all still above water. *SEA LION* finally settled down by the stern with about 40% of the main deck underwater and a 15 degree list to starboard.



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the damage would have been considered non-fatal had there been overhaul facilities available for repairs. But such was not the case; the bombing which wrecked *SEA LION* also demolished the Navy Yard, and the closest repair facilities were at Pearl Harbor, 5000 miles away. The war situation being what it was, it was impossible to two *SEA LION* that distance, and after removing all gear of value, such as gyro, radio and sound equipment, she was destroyed to prevent her from falling into enemy hands. Three depth charges were exploded inside the ship to prevent her from falling into enemy hands.

Considering the war situation at hand, it was impossible to tow *SEA LION* that distance. On Christmas Day, 1941, after the removal of all gear of value, such as gyro, radio and sound equipment, three depth charges were exploded inside the ship to prevent her from falling into enemy hands.

On Christmas Day, 1941, after the removal of all gear of value, such as gyro, radio and sound equipment, three depth charges were exploded inside the ship to prevent her from falling into enemy hands.



Merry Christmas

A full issue of the MidWatch will be published next month at the customary time (end of the second weekend of the month.)

For this joyous season, the Perch Base Officers wish all members a most Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Joyous New Year.

And lest we forget, say a prayer for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who shall go into harm's way.
God Speed and following winds.



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 - January 21, 2006
American Legion Post #62
Starts at 1200 hours**