



# The MidWatch

March 2012  
Volume 18 - Issue 3

## The Monthly Newsletter, Perch Base, USSVI Phoenix, Arizona



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### Featured Article

## "THE BLOOP - MAN-MADE OR ANIMAL?"

### USSVI CREED

Our organization's purpose is . . .

"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."



## 2012 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

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

**Remember, if you contribute by check, it must be made out to the "Perch Base Foundation."**

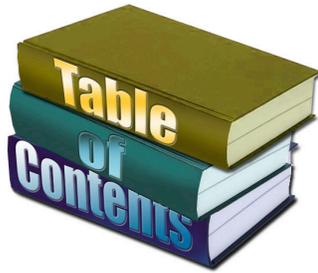
## These are the 2012 Foundation Donors



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JOHN G. ZAICHKIN  
RONALD J. ZOMOK




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## Sailing Orders

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Next regular meeting will be March 10  
 12 noon (social hour at 11 a.m.)  
 Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead  
 20585 N. 59th Avenue  
 Glendale, AZ 85308-6821

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**• March 27 •**

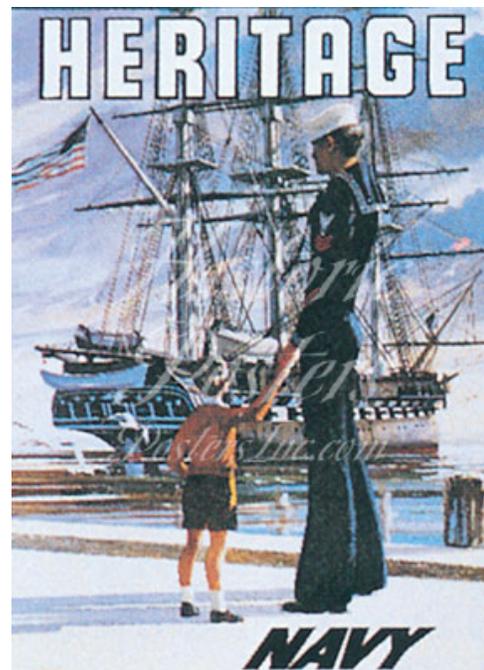
**"Military Appreciation Days"**  
**Peoria Sports Complex. This will be a  
 static display only. Details will be coming  
 in a *Flash Traffic***

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**• April 14 •**

**"Annual Perch Base Picnic"**  
**White Tanks Regional Park.**  
**(This will take the place of the April Base  
 meeting.)**

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# LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

## FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROLS



**Mar. 21, 1915    USS F-4 (Skate)    (SS-23)**

**21 men lost**

Failure of lead-lined battery compartment

**Mar. 12, 1920    USS H-1 (SS-28)    4 men lost**

Ran aground while in transit near Santa Margarita Island, Baja, Mexico.



**Mar. 3, 1942    USS Perch (SS-176)    6 men lost as POWs**

Already damaged by previous depth charging, she was again attacked by enemy cruisers. Straddled by shellfire, she was abandoned and scuttled. The entire crew was captured and all but the 6 survived the war. (Note: vessel found in 2006)



**Mar. 5, 1943 USS Grampus (SS-207) 71 men lost**

Like the USS Amberjack, she was lost near Rabaul, New Guinea, probably by Japanese destroyers.

Photo # 19-N-23818 USS Grampus off Groton, Connecticut, 26 March 1941



**Mar. 15, 1943 USS Triton (SS-201) 74 men lost**

After completing five (5) war patrols, she was attacked by three Japanese destroyers between Shortland Basin and Rabaul.

**Mar. 20, 1943 USS Kete (SS-369) 87 men lost**

Her loss remains a mystery. She was returning to Midway from her patrol area near Colnett Strait.

Photo # NH 72314 USS Kete underway in Lake Michigan, August 1944



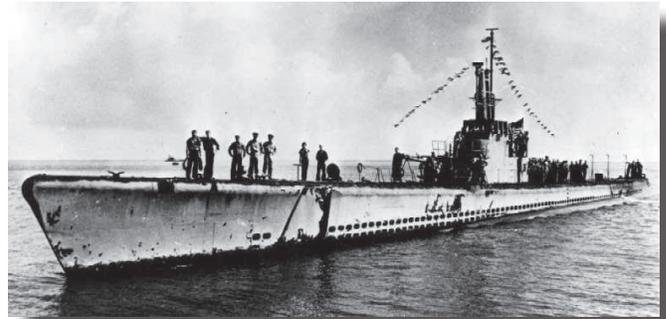


**Mar. 26, 1944 USS Tullibee (SS-284) 79 men lost**

On 5 March, Tullibee stood out of Pearl Harbor to begin her fourth war patrol. On 26 March, Tullibee spotted a convoy and closed. Eventually, Tullibee closed to 3,000 yards (2,700 m) and launched two torpedoes from her bow tubes at the target. About two minutes later, the submarine was rocked by a violent explosion. Apparently, one of Tullibee's own torpedoes ran a circular course and sank the submarine that had launched it. Gunner's Mate C.W. Kuykendall, on the bridge at the time, was knocked unconscious and thrown into the water. When he regained consciousness the submarine was gone. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese.

**Mar. 26, 1945 USS Trigger (SS-237) 89 men lost**

On 26 March, Trigger was ordered to join a wolf pack and to acknowledge receipt of the message. A weather report came from the submarine that day but no confirmation of her having received the message. The weather report was Trigger's last transmission. On 4 April, she was ordered to proceed to Midway, but she had not arrived by 1 May and was reported as presumed lost. Postwar records indicate she torpedoed and sank a Japanese repair ship, but the next day, Japanese planes and ships joined in a two-hour attack on a submarine heard by other boats in the wolf pack. Japanese records showed a Japanese aircraft detected and bombed a submarine on 28 March 1945. Destroyers were then guided to the spot and delivered an intensive depth charging. After two hours, a large oil slick appeared.



# PERCH BASE OFFICERS



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## From the Wardroom Base Commander's Message

Shipmates:

Congratulations to all our new Holland Club members! There will be another opportunity for Holland Club inductions at the April picnic on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. Put that date on your calendar – April 14 – and plan on being there.

By the time this is published, we will have participated in the Avondale/Goodyear parade and static display on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last of the events celebrating our state's centennial. The Best Fest near the capital was successful and we had the opportunity to meet and talk to a lot of people. Bravo Zulu to those that participated.

We will be conducting the election for vice-Commander at the next meeting. Hope to see you on March 10<sup>th</sup>!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander

## February 2011 Minutes of the Regular Base Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead, in Glendale, AZ at 12:00 hours, 11 February, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Jim Denzien, Base Commander.

The "Call to Order" was followed by a prayer of invocation by Walt Blomgren, Base Chaplain, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Reciting of our Purpose. The tolling ceremony was conducted for all boats lost in the month of February, a moment of silence was observed for our shipmates on eternal patrol, "Sailor's rest your oars".

Jim normally starts the meeting by introducing new members and the guests present. However there are none present at today's meeting.

According to the Sailing List there were 36 members present. The complete sailing list included:

Jim Denzien	Bob Warner	Walt Blomgren	Richard Kunze
DeWayne Lober	James W Newman	John Schlag	Tim Moore
Richard Bernier	Dan Moss	Herb Coulter	Dottie Reed
Dewey Reed	Davy Jones	Ed Hawkins	Tim Hawkins
Robie Robinson	Michael Hinderliter	John G Zaichkin	Ray Marshall
Gene Crabb	Don DeMarte	Milton McNeill	Tim Gregory
Herb Herman	Jim Wall	Don Unser	George Crider
Steven Stanger	Robb Roberts	Bob Gilmore	Ron Dutcher
Jim Strassels	Bill Woolcott	Jackie Hawkins	Tom Clonts

The, minutes from the January, 2011 regular meeting needed to be approved as published in the "Mid Watch". A motion was made and seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Bob Warner reported on the base's financial status as of 31 January, 2011. Beginning Balance \$4790.52 with various additions and disbursements gives a balance of \$4525.21. The Base Foundation Balance is \$10,845.12. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Base Commander's Board of Directors Meeting Report**

Jim reported on the Board of Directors meeting held last Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jim stated that several of the Board of Directors members were not present today because they were supporting the Base in downtown Phoenix at the Best Fest Celebration of the State Centennial.

The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss up coming events. We discussed the events to do with Arizona's

Centennial. The true Centennial which is Arizona's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Phoenix is now hosting a couple of day's worth of displays and exhibits. They have got story tellers down there telling about things that happened in old Arizona, Conveying things that have gone on in the last 100 years or so. We are also going to support the Centennial Event in Avondale / Goodyear which is on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. This is basically a parade and static display. The parade will start at Thomas and Litchfield Rd and end at Thomas and Dysart Rd. Then the static display will be at Estrella Mountain Community College. The parade starts at 10 AM we will stage at Litchfield and Thomas at 8 AM.

A reminder for everyone we have our picnic coming up on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April at White Tanks Regional Park. The location has already been reserved. We will be there from 11AM until 3PM. We have already invited all other Arizona Bases to attend but have not yet had any response. Jim stated that some of the folks from Gudgeon Base were planning to bring their Motor Homes. Most of the camping at White Tanks Park is primitive. Which means its fine to bring your motor home but you will be self contained.

We also had a report from Rick On the Awards Dinner. Total head count was 49 which was interesting because we filled up this room. Jim said he was pleasantly surprised to see that many people but it was also kind of like a warning. It would not have taken too many more people to show up and we would have been hard pressed as to where we would put them. It did however turn out to be an outstanding event. We did have Alex Ortize, Executive Officer NRD Phoenix, as our guest speaker. Most of it was more of a question and answer than a canned presentation and we were looking to what we could do to help the Navy as far the recruiting district here in Phoenix with their efforts.

Rick also reported to the Board the result of the reenlistment update, We had 11 people that chose not to reenlist.

Jim then reported on his attendance at the UAV, Unified Arizona Veterans meeting which he attended last Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup>. UAV is a coalition of the majority of all veterans organizations in Arizona. There was an update on American Legion activities in the State of Arizona by the department commander for Arizona, George Cushing. Also discussed what was going on with the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. That is an organization of people that have done significant things for veterans over a period of time. They are singled out and honored by their peers. We did have a presentation on a Veterans Bill by John Holtman who is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of the US Navy here in Phoenix. One of the things that came out from Carol Colbertson who is the Secretary, a retired Navy Captain, who worked primary in the intelligence field, was that there is a young gentleman who is going to give a presentation on the Naval Order Arizona Comandree Program. He is a pseudo Submarine Historian. The Title of the presentation is Submarine Tales you may not have heard about. It is going to be at Macayo's Restaurant on 4001 N Central Avenue just south of Indian School. On Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February at 11:15 AM doors open. The presentation is free; you may purchase lunch for \$15 which is optional. Let Jim know if you plan to attend so that he can call with a head count. Chuck will put out a Flash Traffic.

Base Elections are in March the only position open for nomination this year is Vice Commander and Howard Doyle is going to run again this year. Next year it will be both Base Commander as well as Vice Commander. A year or so ago we changed it to only have two elected officer positions those being Commander and Vice Commander. The Secretary and Treasurer are appointed. Anyone wanting to place their name in nomination let Jim know.

At the Board meeting we had a discussion about trying to get a little more planning for the awards dinner. We talked about bring it back a bit and trying to get it in the venue of a Christmas Party as compared to just an awards dinner. One reason we moved to January was that it was difficult to make any reservation in December because of all of the Seasonal Celebration. Jim asked the group what are you willing to spend for a party as verses an awards dinner. It had been indicated that people are not willing to spend a lot on things of this sort. We have been trying to keep the cost down. Jim has obtained menus from country clubs to compare potential costs. Please let the Board members know your feeling on this so that we can plan and make any changes that you want.

There was discussion of how we would like to have the ladies participate in this group. We had a group called the Subvettes. We are trying to reactivate a ladies group. We are going to change our policies and procedures to specify what we want. It went defunct because of lack of participation. We certainly could use their help in several areas, for example with the Kaps4Kids program.

There will be an event at the Peoria Sports Complex in March supporting Navy Week. We have been there for the last 3 or 4 years taking our float there. They will again bring in the Leap Frogs which is a competition parachute team of Navy Seals.

## **Base Officers and Board of Directors Reports**

**Vice Commander** – Howard Doyle was not present, he is supporting Best Fest in Phoenix.

**Communications Officer** – Chuck Emmett was not present, he is supporting Best Fest in Phoenix.

**Membership Chairman** – Rick Simmons was not present, he is supporting Best Fest in Phoenix.

**Chief of the Boat** – Richard Kunze asked for all to ensure they had signed the Sailing List. Also reminded everyone that the Tale of Two Cities Event on the 25<sup>th</sup> was a short Parade but the Static Display at Estrella Mountain Community College was a family event and invited all to come out. Jim noted the importance of knowing who and how many are participating in events so that arrangements can be made. Such as the trailer that George Crider lets us use for people hauling.

**Secretary** – John Schlag had nothing to report.

**Event Coordinator** – Joe Varese was not present, he is supporting Best Fest in Phoenix.

**Chaplain** – Walt Blomgren had nothing to report.

**Treasurer** – Bob Warner had nothing to report. Jim mentioned that this week we had to send a letter to our Bank to specify who can sign checks for the Base and what their Titles were. Also that this applies also to our Perch Base Foundation and the Save our Sail Foundation.

**Past Base Commander** – Stan Reinhold was not present today.

**Base Storekeeper** – DeWayne Lober had shirts available today with both Submarine Veteran and Perch Base Logo. Also the Dolphin Vinyl Graphic both Large and Smaller sizes.

**Base Historian** – Jim Newman had nothing to report.

## **Old Business**

Best Fest is a celebration of Arizona's Centennial. The City of Phoenix has re-designated Washington St from 7<sup>th</sup> Ave to the State Capital as Centennial Way. They have made changes to some of the walkways where they have put in a brick inlay with the State Seal and 1912 to 2012. Right now there are a ton of things on exhibit down there. Our Float is down there, the replica of the Arizona is also there. It Started at 10 AM this morning and runs thru 10 PM this evening. Tomorrow it will be there from 10 AM thru 6 PM. They have story tellers that are presenting Arizona's history. Including Marshal Trembal who is the unofficial Arizona Historian.

## **New Business**

Look for information being put out in Flash Traffic. Information will be coming out about the presentation at Macayo's Restaurant.

Also Information regarding the Avondale/Goodyear parade 25<sup>th</sup> of February is being called the "Tale of two Cities Parade" as we get more details info will be sent by Flash Traffic.

## **Good of the Order**

The Binnacle List is clear. A couple of our members are under the weather. Walt keeps in touch with Davy Jones and Ed Hawkins. Stan Reinhold is doing real well. He is not on the walker anymore he is using a cane and says he is lifting more weight than he expected in this time frame.

Billy Grieves is doing well he is about back to normal.

Jim passed around a picture that he got from Don DeMarte which was taken in Key West of 6 Diesel Electric Submarines.

Don DeMarte attended the Stand Down and stated that last year they serviced 1006 homeless veterans. This year they serviced 1293 homeless veterans.

Tim Moore shared a moment while at Home Depot this morning he noticed a WWII Vet that came in. Tim went over to shake his hand; He was wearing a cap from the USS Garrard APA42 which was a troop carrier. As it turned out he was a radioman and was the one that received the message that WWII was over.

George Crider said he saw an E-Mail that said they named a new LCS which is a littoral type defense ship after Gabby Gifford, The Congress woman from Tucson.

## **50/50 Drawing**

The 50/50 drawing was won by Jim Newman.

## Adjournment

The benediction was offered by Walt Blomgren.

All outstanding business having been concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55PM.

John Schlag

Secretary, Perch Base USSVI





## A Message from the Membership Chairman



A reminder for all the "Snow Birds". Be sure to update your address in the USSVI database when you move back to your summer quarters. This makes sure your American Submariner gets delivered to the right place.

Lost USSVI Membership Cards will be replaced by the national office for a \$1.00 charge to cover printing and postage. Contact the office by mail at:

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.  
P.O. Box 3870  
Silverdale, WA 98383-3870

## NATIONAL USSVI NEWS

National USSVI news is routed to members by **Flash Traffic** messages. This allows information to be shared almost immediately to ensure it's timely.



- The second Japanese submarine sunk, a midget caught inside Pearl Harbor and sunk by the seaplane tender Curtiss, was later raised. Too badly damaged for intricate examination, it was used as fill-in material in the construction of a new pier at the submarine base.
- During 520 war patrols in 1944, submarines fired 6,092 torpedoes, more than in 1942-43 combined (5,379). Statistically it took 8 torpedoes to sink a ship in 1942, 11.7 in 1943, 10 in 1944.
- During 1944, 117 navy and air force personnel were rescued by U.S. Subs; The Tang (O'Kane) picked up 22 for the leader in this category.
- During 1944 Japan lost 56 submarines, 7 to U.S. Submarines.
- On Nov. 21, 1944, Sealion II (Reich) fired a salvo of fish at each of two BB's, the Kongo and Haruna. The Kongo was hit and sunk, but the DD Urakazi intercepted the fish meant for Haruna and was instantly sunk.
- Message to all submarines on 13 April 1944: "Until further notice give fleet destroyers priority over Maru types as targets for submarine attacks.
- During 1944 U. S. submarines sank 1 BB, 7 CVL's, 2 CA's, 7 CL's, 3 DD's and 7 SS's of the Japanese navy.



## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT



Well shipmates, so far this year we've had two major events using our float. The attendance of our base members at these events has not been very encouraging. The Levee Parade on February 4 was attended by Base officers only and the Arizona Centennial celebration in downtown Phoenix (two days) only had one or two regular base members participate.

So, what does this indicate? Is your Board of Directors accepting events that Members don't care about? Or, maybe we just shouldn't be going out and spending the time and efforts with the float (the operating costs aren't huge but they're still there.) At any rate, our Members don't seem to care very much about the events we have chosen?

But now we are coming into the baseball season. On March 27, we have our static display at the Peoria Sports Complex, which is always a good fun time. If I remember correctly there were even some free baseball tickets handed out after the game had just begun. So if you can, put this event on your calendar. As always, a **Flash Traffic** will be sent out in advance with details of the event.

Don't forget, you can always find additional details on our webpage at [www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org) and contact me at [Chuck Emmett, Communications Officer](#).



- *The first submarine to fire on a battleship was Flying Fish (Donaho) Sept. 1942, damaging a Kongo class BB.*
- *Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.*
- *The first submarine to fire on an aircraft carrier was Trout (Ramage), damaging Taiyo, August 28, 1942.*
- *The first Japanese ship to be sunk by gunfire was by Triton (Kirkpatrick), near Marcus Island on Feb. 17, 1942. At the time, Kirkpatrick was the youngest skipper to get command at Pearl.*
- *The first man to die in submarine gun action was Michael Harbin, on Silversides, May 1942.*
- *The first rest camp for submarine crews was established at a military encampment at Malang, in the mountains of Java, 89 miles from Surabaya. Three days were allotted to submarine crews there in January 1942.*
- *The first TDC (Mark 1) was installed in the Cachalot.*
- *The Plunger was the first boat to sustain an "arduous" depth charge attack and survive.*

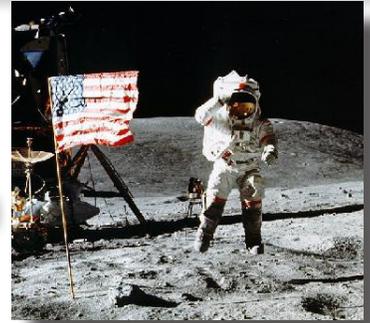


### Holland Club

No special activities were conducted by the Perch Base Hollans Club. Members continue to support the Base in the regular activities.

# Shipmates, for Your “Out of This World” Support at Base Functions, We Salute You

This a a list of our latest Base events and the shipmates who participated. Thank you, shipmates. We need your support.



## Laveen Days Parade Feb. 4

Joe “Wanderer” Varese  
Rick Simmons  
Howard Doyle  
Walt Blomgren

## Arizona “Best Fest” Centinennial Celebration Feb. 10, 11 and 12

### Friday (Setup)

Joe “Wanderer” Varese  
Rick Simmons  
Howard Doyle  
Richard Kunze

### Saturday

Howard Doyle  
Chuck Emmett  
“Wanderer” Varese  
Rick Simmons  
Jim Denzien  
Bob Gilmore  
Bob Warner  
Pat Warner  
Richard Kunze

### Sunday

Richard Kunze  
DeWayne Lober  
Howard Doyle  
Rick Simmons  
Jim Denzien  
“Wanderer” Varese

# CPO STANDARDS



Contributed by: Mike McCaffrey, Admiral (retired USN)

Never forget this, a Chief can become an Officer, but an Officer can never become a Chief. Chiefs have their standards!

## Recollections of a White Hat:

“One thing we weren’t aware of at the time, but became evident as life wore on, was that we learned true leadership from the finest examples any lad was ever given, Chief Petty Officers. They were crusty old bastards who had done it all and had been forged into men who had been time tested over more years than a lot of us had time on the planet. The ones I remember wore hydraulic oil stained hats with scratched and dinged-up insignia, faded shirts, some with a Bull Durham tag dangling out of their

right-hand pocket or a pipe and tobacco reloads in a worn leather pouch in their hip pockets, and a Zippo that had been everywhere. Some of them came with tattoos on their forearms that would force them to keep their cuffs buttoned at a Methodist picnic.

Most of them were as tough as a boarding house steak. A quality required to survive the life they lived. They were, and always will be, a breed apart from all other residents of Mother Earth. They took eighteen year old idiots and hammered the stupid bastards into sailors.

You knew instinctively it had to be hell on earth to have been born a Chief’s kid. God should have given all sons born to Chiefs a return option.

A Chief didn’t have to command respect. He got it because there was nothing else you could give them. They were God’s designated hitters on earth.

We had Chiefs with fully loaded Submarine Combat Patrol Pins, and combat air crew wings in my day . . .hard-core bastards who remembered lost mates, and still cursed the cause of their loss . . . and they were expert at choosing descriptive adjectives and nouns, none of which their mothers would have endorsed.

At the rare times you saw a Chief topside in dress canvas, you saw rows of hard-earned, worn and faded ribbons over his pocket. “Hey Chief, what’s that one and that one?” “Oh hell kid, I can’t remember. There was a war on. They gave them to us to keep track of the campaigns.” “We didn’t get a lot of news out where we were. To be honest, we just took their word for it. Hell son, you couldn’t pronounce most of the names of the places we went. They’re all depth charge survival ghedunk.” “Listen kid, ribbons don’t make you a Sailor.” We knew who the heroes were, and in the final analysis that’s all that matters.

Many nights, we sat in the after mess deck wrapping ourselves around cups of coffee and listening to their stories. They were light-hearted stories about warm beer shared with their running mates in corrugated metal sheds at re-supply depots where the only furniture was a few packing crates and a couple of Coleman lamps. Standing in line at a Honolulu cathouse or spending three hours soaking in a tub in Freemantle, smoking cigars, and getting loaded. It was our history. And we dreamed of being just like them because they were our heroes. When they accepted you as their shipmate, it was the highest honor you would ever receive in your life. At least it was clearly that for me. They were not men given to the prerogatives of their position.

You would find them with their sleeves rolled up, shoulder-to-shoulder with you in a stores loading party. “Hey Chief, no need for you to be out here tossin’ crates in the rain, we can get all this crap aboard.”

“Son, the term ‘All hands’ means all hands.”

“Yeah Chief, but you’re no damn kid anymore, you old coot.”

“Horsefly, when I’m eighty-five parked in the stove up old bastards’ home, I’ll still be able to kick your worthless butt from here to fifty feet past the screw guards along with six of your closest friends.” And he probably wasn’t bullshitting.

They trained us. Not only us, but hundreds more just like us. If it wasn’t for Chief Petty Officers, there wouldn’t be any US Navy. There wasn’t any fairy godmother who lived in a hollow tree in the enchanted forest who could



wave her magic wand and create a Chief Petty Officer.

They were born as hot-sacking seamen, and matured like good whiskey in steel hulls over many years. Nothing a nineteen year-old jay-bird could cook up was original to these old saltwater owls. They had seen E-3 jerks come and go for so many years; they could read you like a book. "Son, I know what you are thinking. Just one word of advice. DON'T. It won't be worth it."



"Aye, Chief."

Chiefs aren't the kind of guys you thank. Monkeys at the zoo don't spend a lot of time thanking the guy who makes them do tricks for peanuts.

Appreciation of what they did, and who they were, comes with long distance retrospect. No young lad takes time to recognize the worth of his leadership. That comes later when you have experienced poor leadership or let's say, when you have the maturity to recognize what leaders should be, you find that Chiefs are the standard by which you measure all others.

They had no Academy rings to get scratched up. They butchered the King's English. They had become educated at the other end of an anchor chain from Copenhagen to Singapore. They had given their entire lives to the US Navy. In the progression of the nobility of employment, Chief Petty Officer heads the list. So, when we ultimately get our final duty station assignments and we get to wherever the big Chief of Naval Operations in the sky assigns us, if we are lucky, Marines will be guarding the streets, and there will be an old Chief in an oil-stained hat and a cigar stub clenched in his teeth standing at the brow to assign us our bunks and tell us where to stow our gear... and we will all be young again, and the damn coffee will float a rock.

Life fixes it so that by the time a stupid kid grows old enough and smart enough to recognize who he should have thanked along the way, he no longer can. If I could, I would thank my old Chiefs. If you only knew what you succeeded in pounding in this thick skull, you would be amazed. So, thanks you old casehardened unsalvageable son-of-a-bitches. Save me a rack in the berthing compartment.



## Need a Ride to a Base Meeting or Other Function?

Contact Base vice-Commander, [Howard Doyle \(602\) 228-2445](tel:6022282445) or any other Base Officer. All officers are listed near the front of every copy of the MidWatch.



### THE WOMEN OF PERCH BASE

At their October 2009 meeting, Perch Base SubVettes had voted to disband. Participation and finances made this a logical action. Since then, sponsored woman have been incorporated in Perch Base as Associate Members with all rights therein where they are vigorous participants. Activities of Base ladies is, therefor, activities of the Base



# NAVY MAKES IT OFFICIAL: THE USS PHOENIX (SS-702) SAIL AND RUDDER ARE OURS FOR THE TAKING



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND  
1333 ISAAC HULL AVENUE SE  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO

4520  
Ser 392H3/0650  
November 22, 2011

Arizona Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
Save Our Sail Foundation  
Attn: James R. Denzien, Sr., Commander, Perch Base  
Dan R. Moss, Chairman, Save Our Sail Foundation  
Layne C. Moss, Co-Chair, Save Our Sail Foundation  
P.O. Box 548  
Tolleson, AZ 85353

Dear Sirs:

Subject: DONATION OF EX-PHOENIX (SSN 702) SAIL AND OTHER  
REQUESTED STRUCTURES

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 2011 formally requesting the transfer of the conning tower sail structure, diving planes and rudder of the decommissioned U.S. Navy submarine ex-PHOENIX (SSN 702), for permanent display in Steele Indian School Park in downtown Phoenix.

The Navy acknowledges the disestablishment of the USS PHOENIX Commission and transfer of "Save Our Sail" task to the Perch Base Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) as cited in your letter. Therefore, previous Navy planning efforts with the Commission for transfer of ex-PHOENIX structures, documented in Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) letters (Ser 00D1C/149-05 and Ser 00D1C/181-05), are superseded by this letter.

The navy strongly endorses the display of naval vessels and their artifacts to help preserve and commemorate their histories and to honor the service of their crews. Under Title 10 U.S.C. Section 7545, the Navy can donate portions of hulls and other items to qualified organizations at no cost to the United States. After careful consideration of your request, this letter provides tentative approval to transfer the ex-PHOENIX conning tower sail structure, diving planes and rudder to the Perch Base Chapter of USSVI for the public memorial. Final approval will be granted upon receipt of the following:

- Proposed site plan of the memorial
- Written agreement with the city/state that owns the site allowing use of the area for this purpose

4520  
Ser 392H3/0650  
November 22, 2011

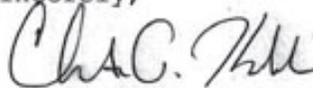
Ex-PHOENIX was inactivated in FY98 and placed in long-term storage at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS&IMF). Final disposition action, Reactor Compartment Disposal and Hull Recycling (RCD/RCYC), is scheduled to commence October 2014. Structures authorized for transfer will start to become available November 2015.

The costs to prepare ex-PHOENIX structures for shipment, all transportation costs, and costs to set up and maintain these items in a manner that recognizes the proud history of the former USS PHOENIX will be accomplished at no cost to the United States beyond the normal final disposition costs; these costs are the responsibility of Perch Base Chapter of USSVI.

Details on final approval, schedule and transfer arrangements shall be coordinated with the Naval Sea Systems Command Strategic and Attack Submarine Program Office (PMS392), Mr. Chris Knoble (PMS392H3), 202-781-3255, [Christopher.Knoble@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.Knoble@navy.mil).

We thank you for your effort to preserve this important history and look forward to a seamless transition process.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER A. KNOBLE  
By direction  
NAVSEA PMS392H  
614 Sicard Street, SE 7012  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-7012

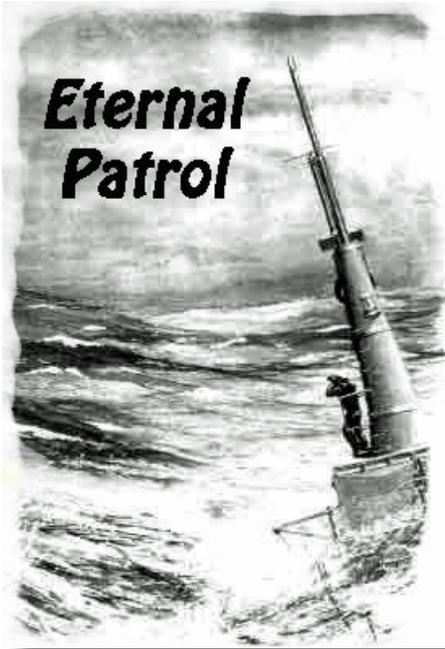
Copy to:

NAVSHIPYD&IMF Puget Sound, WA (Code 1216.3-Ms. Tracee Carter)  
Naval History and Heritage Command, Washington, DC  
(Attn: Mr. Frank Thompson)  
City of Phoenix, Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
City of Phoenix, Mayor's Office (Attn: Veterans' Affairs  
Coordinator)





## CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN



James "Jimmy" Looby, 79 of Bremerton and founder of Horse and Cow, passed away on Monday, January 30, 2012.

Starting out as a night club manager in San Francisco, with his passion of entertaining his patrons; he created his own bar the "Horse and Cow" in 1953. Dedicating this establishment to serving submarine Sailors, he created an atmosphere that the submarine sailors can call home. He continued to run the "Cow" until 1997 when he retired to provide care for his wife Jeanette Looby. He maintained a close relationship with the submarine community and became known as the "The Godfather". The traditions and legacy's he established are being carried on by his family today and you can still get an Upside Down Margarita in Guam.

To all who knew Jimmy 'The Godfather' - "From the Heart".

Jimmy's internment was at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA on Friday, February 3 with military honors.



### IMPORTANT

*Shipmates, you should ensure that your next of kin is aware of the information in the box, right.*

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI) at 877-542-3483 or 360-337-2978 and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local chapter's Base Commander with this information as well (they can look it up in their membership records).

This information can alternatively be E-Mailed to the National Office at "[office@ussvi.org](mailto:office@ussvi.org)".



## SHIPMATES RUNNING ON LESS THAN A FULL BATTERY CHARGE

The chaplain is pleased to report that there have been no members departing on eternal patrol nor do we have anyone on the binnacle list for the past month.



<b>william allen</b>	<b>march 24</b>
<b>david w. anderson</b>	<b>march 12</b>
<b>reynaldo f. atos</b>	<b>march 24</b>
<b>kenneth e. becker</b>	<b>march 27</b>
<b>karl g. bergstrom</b>	<b>march 23</b>
<b>warner h. doyle jr.</b>	<b>march 9</b>
<b>bernard fromm</b>	<b>march 4</b>
<b>john a. graves</b>	<b>march 29</b>
<b>glenn a. herold</b>	<b>march 11</b>
<b>denny kerton</b>	<b>march 29</b>
<b>burtis w. loftin</b>	<b>march 19</b>
<b>terry martin</b>	<b>march 28</b>
<b>dennis mccomb</b>	<b>march 11</b>
<b>raymond mckinzie</b>	<b>march 30</b>
<b>william l. mcnay</b>	<b>march 20</b>
<b>john f. mcveigh</b>	<b>march 4</b>
<b>jack richardson</b>	<b>march 5</b>
<b>fred d. saunders</b>	<b>march 12</b>

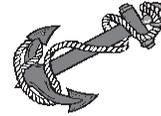
# *Eternal Patrol*

## *March 20, 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.



### **USS Kete (SS-369)** **March 20, 1943** **87 men lost**

Photo # NH 72314 USS Kete underway in Lake Michigan, August 1944



#### **Balao-class Submarine**

##### **Displacement:**

1,550 tons (surf), 2,424 (sub)

**Length:** 311' 10"; **Beam:** 27' 4"; **Draft:** 16' 10"

##### **Propulsion:**

4 × diesel engines driving electrical generators

2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries

4 × high-speed electric motors, two propellers

5,400 shp (surf), 2,740 shp (sub)

**Speed:** 20.25 kn (surf), 8.75 kn (sub)

**Range:** 11,000 nmi (surfaced at 10 kn)

##### **Endurance:**

48 hours at 2 kn (sub), 75 days on patrol

**Test depth:** 400 ft

**Complement:** 10 officers, 70-71 enlisted

##### **Armament:**

10 × 21" torpedo tubes

(six forward, four aft)

24 torpedoes

1 × 5-inch / 25 caliber deck gun

Bofors 40 mm and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon

**USS Kete (SS-369)**, a Balao-class submarine, was the only ship of the United States Navy to be named for the kete, the four-eye butterflyfish *Chaetodon capistratus*. Her keel was laid down by Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She was launched on 9 April 1944 sponsored by Mrs. E. S. Hutchinson, and commissioned on 31 July with Commander R. L. Rutter in command.

Departing Manitowoc 20 August, Kete sailed via New Orleans, Louisiana, to Panama. Arriving 5 September, she trained with SubRon 3 until 28 September; then the new submarine sailed to Pearl Harbor, arriving 15 October, and steamed westward on 31 October for her first war patrol.

She topped off her fuel at Midway Island on 4 November and reached her assigned patrol area in the East China Sea on 15 November in company with Sea Lion (SS-315). Harassed by heavy weather and nonfunctioning bow planes, she sailed 19 November for Saipan, where she arrived 24 November. She departed Saipan with Kraken (SS-370) on 24 December and resumed her war patrol north of Okinawa four days later. Despite prolonged periods of heavy weather, she made lifeguard patrols off the central Ryukyu Islands from 1 January to 27 January 1945 searching for American fliers downed during air strikes on the Ryukyu Islands. After gathering vital weather data, she sailed to Guam and arrived 30 January for refit.

With Lieutenant Commander Edward Ackerman in command, Kete cleared Guam on 1 March for her second war patrol. Assigned to waters surrounding the Nansei Shoto Chain, she resumed lifeguard duty and gathered weather data for the forthcoming invasion of Okinawa. While patrolling west of Tokara Retto on the night of 9 March and 10 March, she surprised an enemy convoy and torpedoed three marus totaling 6881 tons. During the night of 14 March,

Photo # NH 72313 USS Kete with crewmen on deck, in Lake Michigan, August 1944





she attacked a cable-laying ship.

With only three torpedoes remaining, she was ordered to depart the area 20 March, refuel at Midway Island, and proceed to Pearl Harbor for refit. Kete acknowledged these orders 19 March; and, while steaming eastward the following day, she sent in a weather report from a position south of Colnett Strait. She was neither seen nor heard from again. She was scheduled to arrive Midway by 31 March; when repeated attempts to contact her by radio failed she was reported as presumed lost on 16 April.

Circumstances surrounding her loss remain a mystery. The cause could have been an operational malfunction, a mine explosion, or enemy action.

Kete received one battle star for World War II service.



- On August 17, 1958, the USS SKATE circumnavigated the globe in about fifty minutes. The SKATE was at a radius of about two miles from the North Pole at the time, and the distance traveled in the circumnavigation was about twelve miles.
- When the nuclear powered submarine USS SEADRAGON surfaced at the North Pole while charting the Northwest passage in August 1960, the crew organized a baseball game. Because of Polar time differences, when a batter clouted a home run it would land in either the next day or in 'yesterday'.
- The first Japanese casualty to American arms during WW-II was an aircraft shot down on Dec. 7th, 1941 by the Tautog.
- The first submarine force casualty suffered in WW-II was G. A. Myers, Seaman 2, shot through the right lung when Cachalot was strafed during the Pearl Harbor raid.
- The first "live" torpedoes to be fired by a Pearl Harbor submarine were fired by the Triton (Lent), 4 stern tubes fired on the night of Dec. 10, 1941.
- The first Pearl Harbor boat to be depth charged was the Plunger (White) on Jan. 4, 1942, 24 charges.
- The first "down the throat" shot was fired by Pompano on Jan. 17, 1942.
- The first Japanese warship to be sunk was torpedoed by Gudgeon (Grenfell) at 9 AM on Jan. 27, 1942, the IJN I-173 (SS).
- The first major Japanese warship lost to submarines during WW-II was the heavy cruiser Kako which fell victim to S-44 Moore) on Aug. 10, 1942.
- In September 1936, Cdr. C. A. Lockwood Jr., assumed command of SubDiv 13 composed of the new boats Pike, Porpoise, Shark and Tarpon.
- On December 31, 1941, Captain Wilkes evacuated Corrigidor on board the Seawolf to establish a new base at Surabaya, Java. Simultaneously Capt. Fife boarded Swordfish and sailed to Darwin, Australia.
- Expressing the view that Japan could not hope to be victorious in a war with the U.S., Admiral Yamamoto was "shanghaied" to the post of Commander of the Combined Fleet (from the Naval Ministry) to thwart a possible assassination at the hands of his many dissenters.
- A survivor of the Japanese carrier Kaga, at the Battle of Midway, told how some of his shipmates saved themselves by clinging to the air flask of a torpedo fired from Nautilus which hit the carrier and failed to explode, the concussion separating the warhead from the air flask.
- LCDR. Francis White was the only skipper who lost two submarines in combat, the S-39 and the S-44.
- The IJN I-176 (Cdr. Kosaburo Yamaguchi) was the only Japanese boat to sink an American submarine (Corvina) during the war.
- The last Japanese submarine to be sunk in the Pacific, the I-373, was torpedoed by Spikefish (Monaghan) on the morning of 13 Aug. 1945, in the East China Sea.
- As late as July 1945 Japanese guns on the cliffs of Lombok Strait shelled the Loggerhead as she proceeded through the strait on the surface

## **Practical Guide to Tools**



**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light . Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh shit!'

**SKIL SAW:** A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**BELT SANDER:** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race. **TABLE SAW:** A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes , trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**BAND SAW:** A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

**TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST:** A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

**STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:** A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to make hoses too short.

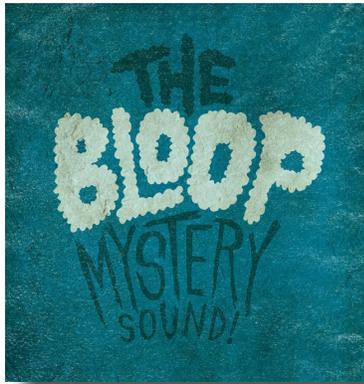
**HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit. It is especially valuable at being able to find the EXACT location of the thumb or index finger of the other hand.

**UTILITY KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

**SON-OF-A-BITCH TOOL:** (A personal favorite!) Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Son of a BITCH!' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.



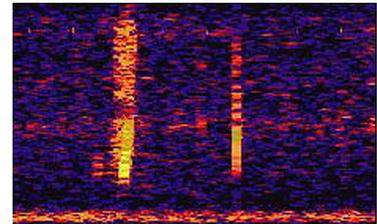
# The "Bloop"



The Bloop is the name given to an ultra-low frequency and extremely powerful underwater sound detected by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1997. The source of the sound remains unknown.

The sound, traced to somewhere around 50° S 100° W (a remote point in the south Pacific Ocean west of the southern tip of South America), was detected several times by the Equatorial Pacific Ocean autonomous hydrophone array, which uses U.S. Navy equipment originally designed to detect Soviet submarines.

According to the NOAA description, "it rises rapidly in frequency over about one minute and was of sufficient amplitude to be heard on multiple sensors, at a range of over 5,000 km." The NOAA's Dr. Christopher Fox does not believe its origin is man-made, such as a submarine or bomb, or familiar geological events such as volcanoes or earthquakes. While the audio profile of the Bloop does resemble that of a living creature, the source is a mystery both because it is different from known sounds and because it was several times louder than the loudest recorded animal, the blue whale. Five other significant unexplained sounds have been named by NOAA: Julia, Train, Slow Down, Whistle, and Upsweep.



This is a sonar image of the Bloop.

Dr. Christopher Fox of the NOAA speculated that the Bloop may be ice calving in Antarctica. A year later journalist David Wolman paraphrased Dr. Fox who suggested it was likely animal in origin.



- In July 1945 Bugara (Schade) operating in the Gulf of Siam, sank 12 junks, 24 schooners, 16 coasters, 3 sea trucks and one naval auxiliary, all by gunfire.
- In the early morning hours of June 22, 1945, Barb, (Fluckey) fired a dozen 5-inch rockets into the town of Hokkaido from 5000 yards off shore.
- A Japanese prisoner, recovered from a wrecked aircraft by Atule (Mauer) had the following items in his pockets: 7 packs of Japanese cigarettes, 1 pack of British cigarettes, calling cards, ration books, club tickets, diary, note book, flight record and two magnetic detector tracers, with notes concerning them, a thick wad of money, a vial of perfume and a number of other personal items.
- On the night of 8-9 December 1944, in a coordinated attack with Sea Devil, Redfish heavily damaged the aircraft carrier Hayataka; ten days later she sank the newly built carrier Unryo.
- When Robalo was sunk, presumably by a mine, on 26 July 1944, five of her crew swam ashore and were captured by Japanese military police and jailed for guerrilla activity. They were evacuated by a Jap destroyer on 15 August and never heard from again.
- On 27 Oct. 1944 Rock fired 9 torpedoes at Darter, stranded on Bombay Shoal. In Feb. 1943 Tautog (Sieglaff) laid mines off Balikpapan, Borneo. In April 1944, the Japanese destroyer Amagiri struck one of these mines and sank. This was the same destroyer which rammed the PT-109, commanded by J.F. Kennedy.
- The first boat to be equipped with QLA sonar for locating mines, was Tinoso.
- When Admiral Nimitz assumed command of the Pacific Fleet in Jan. 1942, he raised his flag on the submarine Grayling. Relinquishing command nearly four years later, he lowered his flag on the submarine Menhaden.
- America's first Japanese POW was Sub-Lieutenant Sakamaki, captured when his midget submarine, launched from the I-18, struck a reef in Kaneohe Bay and he swam ashore and surrendered.

**Return To:**

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base  
7011 West Risner Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
E-Mail: [communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

<http://www.perch-base.org>



**Next Meeting - March 10, 2012**

**12 noon**

**Dillon's Restaurant at Arrowhead**

**20585 N. 59th Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85308-6821**