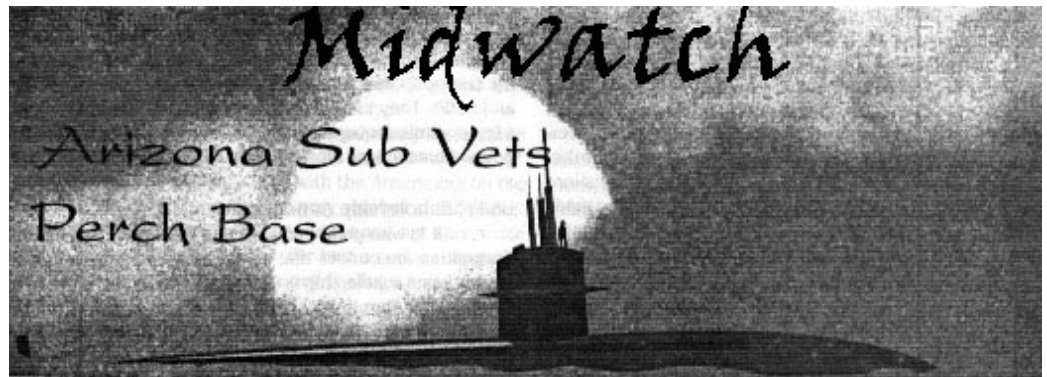




November 2003
Volume 9 - Issue 11



<http://perch-base.org>

What's "Below Decks" in the Midwatch

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

NOVEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Albacore	SS218	Nov. 7, 1944	86 men
USS Growler	SS215	Nov. 8, 1944	85 men
USS Scamp	SS277	Nov. 9, 1944	84 men
USS Corvina	SS226	Nov. 16, 1943	82 men
USS Sculpin	SS191	Nov. 19, 1943	63 men
USS Capelin	SS289	Nov. 23, 1943	78 men

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 8
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head



VETERANS DAY PARADE

Tuesday, November 11

0730 hours

Although budget cuts have severely restricted APS-Palo Verde assistance in this year's parade, Sandy Headrick has pulled plenty of tricks from up her sleeve. Not only did she get our tee-shirts for free but she's also wrangling coffee and donuts before and pizza and drinks after.

All hands are to meet at the Margaret T. Hance Park (Deck Park) in the East Ramada (same place as last year.) Coffee and donuts and well decorate Jim's convertible, the our sub float and the Goodyear fire engine.





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Sailing Orders



Regular November Meeting
1200 hours (1900 Zulu)
Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003.
American Legion Hall
11001 N. 99th Ave.

Mark Your Calendars!
December 13
Annual Perch Base
Christmas - Hanukka Dinner
See Page 17 for full details

Annual Veterans Day Parade
November 11
See page, opposite, for infor-
mation

From the Wardroom

November 2003

From The Wardroom

Shipmates,

We had an outstanding meeting for October. Our membership is climbing with over the 150 members, with several more shipmates to sign up by our November meeting.

The SubVettes are a great help to this Base, with their drive in getting their organization launched in record time. Nancy Nelson, and Kay Harnish and many more of our wives, and daughters have done an outstanding job. Bravo Zulu ladies, a job well done, we thank you.

The annual Perch Base Christmas/Hanukah Party is next month. December 13, 2003 at 1730 hours Luke AFB Desert Star enlisted club. Please get your reservations in to Dave Harnish prior to December 3. This is the absolute cut off date. The menu will be published in the mid-watch newsletter. Please! If you haven't made this in the past, do not miss it this year. We always have a great time.

We have received a thank you, from the Avery Point Lighthouse Society, for the four bricks purchased in our Perch Base name: The USS Scamp, USS Albacore, USS Robalo and the USS Grayling. The thank you letter and the certificate of participation should be on our web site.

Speaking of the web site, please check ours out. Ramon is doing a top-notch job with it. You can lose your self in the many links he has set up.

All is ready for the Veterans Day Parade on Tuesday November the 11, 2003 Please plan on attending with your wives and friends.

Fraternally Yours,
Glenn Herold
Base Commander

WWII - Boats

Short Facts

A total of 77 U.S. submarine captains had five or more confirmed sinkings to their credit. Richard O'Kane was tops with 24 confirmed sinkings.

From Beyond the Wardroom

Perch Base SubVettes



FROM BEHIND THE WARDROOM

Wow!!! What a great meeting we had on October 11. I apologize, to everyone, for it taking so long, but we raised some money, and signed up four new members. We now have 33 total members, Yea Team!!! Now comes the fun part. That's deciding what funds or charities to support.

I'm proud to announce our new Historians: Brandi Hershey & Heather Newell. Thank you for volunteering and congratulations.

Kay & I will be riding in the Veterans Day Parade. We'll be in the back of Jim Nelson's 1968 Pontiac GTO. WHAT A KICK!!!!!! Please, all SubVettes members, plan to attend.

The November 8 meeting will be held at the Americana Restaurant, 11001 N 99th Avenue, in the north end of the American Legion parking lot, and for those of you, who were unable to attend the October meeting, we have your PLANK OWNER CERTIFICATES & CHARTER MEMBERSHIP CARDS. Please plan on attending the November meeting to receive them.

SEE YA THERE

Nancy Nelson, President
Subvettes of Perch Base

10/21/03

August Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 09 August 2003. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Billy Grieves led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the “Pledge of Allegiance” followed by a reading of the “Purpose of the Organization”, Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the “Tolling of the Boats” ceremony for submarines lost during the month of October.

According to the sailing list, there were 34 Perch Base members including 4 new members and 3 guests at the meeting.

Those present welcomed new members – Stan Reinhold, Jack McCarthy, Al Landeck and Ed Hawkins. Each of the new members briefed the gathering on their backgrounds and experiences.

The members also welcomed guests - Jim McManagle, James Ceri and Mrs. Ed Hawkins.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the August meeting as published in the Base Newsletter. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the July meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter “The MidWatch.” The motion carried by voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base ‘s financial status as of the first day of October, 2003.

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

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Vice Commander – Adrian Stuke had nothing to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Doug LaRock had nothing to report

Chaplain – Dave Harnish reported for the Chaplain and informed the members that Shipmate Joe Bernard underwent triple by-pass surgery and was recuperating at his home. Dave also mentioned that Shipmate Richard

Britner had also undergone open heart surgery and was recuperating as well.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that Perch Base membership is now at 147. Letters soliciting membership renewal will be mailed toward the end of October. Ray also announced that expansion of the Perch Base Web Site (www.perch-base.org) continues. Everyone was encouraged to log on to the site and explore its capabilities.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett announced that the preparations for the Phoenix Veteran’s Day Parade were continuing. Arizona Public Service and Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station have decided to provide some level of support to the annual event and had purchased the shirts for attendees to wear at the parade. Chuck mentioned that Sandy Hendrick of Palo Verde was again voluntarily assisting and supporting the event. Chuck asked members to provide him with personal information to include in the Newsletter. The newsletter is for the members and should be about them as well.

Ship’s Storekeeper – Jim Nelson announced that the ship’s store has a number of new items including; special order vests, name tags and patches. The vests are \$70 and the metal name tags are \$20.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold informed the members that the current plan is to hold the March meeting in Tucson.

Glenn also announced that Perch Base and its members have purchased a total of 5 bricks on the Avery Point Lighthouse “Walk of Honor”, memorializing 5 of the submarines lost at sea during WWII.

Dave reviewed the September cruise on the SS Lane Victory and told the members how pleasing the voyage was. Dave also invited anyone in the Long Beach, California area to visit the Maritime Museum near the moorage for the Lane Victory.

Glenn Herold briefed members on the 2003 USSVI National Convention and reminded everyone that the 2004 convention will be held in Saratoga, New York. Dave Harnish read the list of convention events and the special provisions being made by the City of Saratoga.

Dave Harnish asked for the floor and announced that he was asked by the Perch Base Ladies Auxiliary to make a presentation of the hand carved dolphins that the ladies raffled to raise money for their treasury. Walt Blomgren was called to the front and presented the dolphins, on

See “MINUTES” on page 6

(continued from "MINUTES," page 5)

behalf of the women's organization.

Glenn Herold read a thank-you letter from Betty Weber of the Ladies Auxiliary Phoenix Submarine Veterans – WWII expressing their gratitude for the funds raised and donated to their treasury following the raffle of a set of mahogany dolphins carved by Ed Brooks.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that the American Legion Post 62 will have its Board of Directors meeting on the 14th of October and a general meeting on the 21st. Anyone interested should attend and show the flag for Perch Base. Members that are not yet members of the Post were also encouraged to join and become active in the Post.

Glenn also briefed the members on the program to sponsor boot camp companies at the Great Lakes Recruit Training Center. Efforts are underway to cosponsor a company through funds committed by the USSVI Bases in District 8.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the arrangements associated with the annual Christmas Party to be held at Luke AFB NCO Club. The party will take place on December 13 and will begin at 1800 hours. Anyone wanting to attend should ensure their reservations and payment is in to Dave prior to December 2. The price for attendance is \$18 per person. The bill of fare will include a choice of London Broil or Breast of Chicken. The Perch Base Ladies Auxiliary will also conduct a raffle for the door prizes.

Ed Brooks briefed the members on the ballot issue to amend the Perch Base Constitution and By Laws. Each member present was given a ballot so they could vote at the meeting instead of sending in the ballot to be published in the newsletter.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on activities of the USSVI Scholarship Committee, announcing that in 2003, there were 63 applications reviewed by the committee, and 20 awards made from that number. Dave informed the members that there will be an upcoming campaign to raise funds for the USSV- Charitable Foundation which includes the Scholarship Fund.

Ed Brooks took the floor and presented two shipmates with wood carvings. Jim Newman received a carving of the "American Bluejacket" and Jim Wall received an Intarsia carving of two bottle nose dolphins. Shipmate Newman and Wall contributed \$150 and \$100 respectively to the

US Submarine Veteran's Charitable Foundation. Ed also briefed the members on the upcoming fund raising campaign for 2003/2004. To assist in that effort, Ed has offered to carve either a set of dolphins or the American Blue Jacket for any Perch Base member that contributes \$150 or more to the Charitable Foundation.

Ed also announced that he is pursuing the establishment of a memorial scholarship award in the name of Gary Patterson – a Perch Base Shipmate on eternal patrol. The award will be made through the USSVI Scholarship Committee in Gary's name. However, before proceeding with the formal arrangements, Ed challenged the members to commit to providing at least \$1,000 each year so that a single award could be made in Gary's memory. The members present agreed to the challenge.

Glenn Herold announced that the Base had received thank-you letters from USS Tucson and USS Honolulu for Perch Base acting as sponsor for the two ships to receive the USSVI National publication – American Submariner.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

A collection of WWII submarine memorabilia and photographs was introduced by John Welsh. The photos are being offered for reproducing or scanning depending on the interest of Perch Base members.

50/50 DRAWING

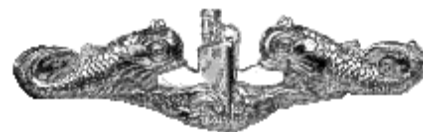
The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner was Jim McManagle. Jim donated \$20 of his winnings to the Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship – making his money the first dollars donated toward that project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The closing prayer was offered by Billy Grieves and the meeting was adjourned at 1410 hours.

Edgar T. Brooks B Base Secretary



This Old Boat . . .

Well, the Editor finally stumped all of the "Masters of Arcane Knowledge." Last month's boat was the U.S.S Bonefish (SS-582) She was one of the Barbel Class submarines, commissioned, USS Bonefish (SS-582), 9 July 1959; Decommissioned, 28 September 1988 as a result of an on board fire and struck from the Naval Register, 28 February 1989. Three of our shipmates began their Eternal Patrol as a result of the onboard fire. Sailors, rest your oars.

Although she looks "nuke," she, of course, wasn't. Her specifications: Displacement, Surface 1,745.56 t.(lt), 2,316.64 t. (fl), Submerged: 2, 644.45 t.; Length 218' 1" ; Beam 29'; Draft 29' 3"; Speed, Surfaced 15 kts, Submerged (snorkel) 12 kts, (battery) 21 kts; Maximum Operating Depth, 712 ft.; Complement 85; Armament, six 21" torpedo tubes (bow), 18 torpedo capacity including 6 loaded Sensors 2 periscopes, active sonar, passive sonar, radar, ECM; Propulsion, Surface Propulsion 3 Fairbanks-Morse 38d(8 1/ 8)x10 diesel engines Designed SHP continuous: 3150 Designed RPM: 162 1 shaft, 1 propeller Fuel capacity: 112,000 gallons Cruising Distance: 19,000 miles without refueling Submerged Propulsion (Snorkel) Designed SHP: 2400 Designed RPM: 52 Submerged Propulsion (Battery) 2 General Electric motors Designed SHP: 4800 Designed RPM: 198 Maximum safe astern RPM: 110 Endurance at full speed: 0.5 hours Endurance at 3 knots: 102.0 hours

OK, now that I'm on a roll, I "doctored" out the name. That would be too easy otherwise. As usual, send me the answer by e-mail.



Do you recognize this old boat? Send your answer to the editor

chuckster41@earthlink.net

Nuclear



GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — "In the name of the United States, I christen thee, Virginia. May God bless her and all who sail in her."

With those words and a swing of a champagne bottle, PCU Virginia (SSN 774) sponsor Lynda Johnson Robb, wife of former U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb of Virginia and daughter of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, christened PCU Virginia Aug. 16 at Electric Boat.

"I'm very pleased to sponsor Virginia. I'm delighted to be here today, and I think I managed to bless about everyone on that platform with that champagne," said Robb.



As the crowd took their seats and Navy Band Northeast filled the air with patriotic music, Virginia Prospective Commanding Officer Capt. David J.

Kern led his crew aboard the sub where they stood in ranks, ready to bear witness of Virginia's christening.

For the crew of Virginia and for the Navy, Saturday's event had special significance for two reasons. According to Electric Boat (EB) President Mike Toner, when the submarine was "rolled out" from EB's construction hall, it was six years to the day since the last submarine was rolled out. Also, Virginia is the first submarine to be built through a collaboration of General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton and Northrop Grumman Newport News in Virginia.

"The (designing) process would not just include the engineers and designers, but also the shipbuilders, the vendors, the suppliers and the operators," said Toner. "Everybody who came to touch the ship throughout its life would have a say into how it was to be designed."

(See "VIRGINIA," on page 11)

Eternal Patrol Nov. 19, 1943

Editors Note: *Less we forget, each month, one boat on eternal patrol will be highlighted in this newsletter. Sailors, rest your oars.*

U.S.S. Sculpin (SS-191) 63 men lost



En route to Johnston Island, SCULPIN, under Cmdr. Fred Connaway, left Pearl Harbor on 5 November 1943. After topping off with fuel, she left Johnston on 7 November to conduct her ninth patrol in an area in the Caroline Islands. Her mission was to support the action of our surface forces in the Gilbert Islands by intercepting and attacking any enemy forces which might be proceeding from Truk toward the Marshall Islands to oppose our surface forces. She was to leave her area on 14 December, and return to Pearl Harbor, stopping at Johnston for fuel if necessary. SCULPIN was not heard from following her departure from Johnston Island on 7 November.

During the patrol, Commander John P. Cromwell (promoted Captain during the patrol) was aboard SCULPIN. He was to take charge of a coordinated attack group consisting of SCULPIN, SEARAVEN, and either APOGON or SPEARFISH, if formation of the group were directed by dispatch. Should the group be ordered formed, Captain Cromwell would transmit his orders to them by low frequency radio from SCULPIN. On the night of 29 November, the vessels were directed to form and APOGON was named as the third member of the group. When Captain Cromwell gave no rendezvous orders after 40 hours, ComSubPac sent new orders. SCULPIN was to proceed immediately to Eniwetok, make a close observation, and report any enemy shipping. This was done in order to avoid confusion among the other submarines, and to determine whether SCULPIN was all right. Although the new orders to SCULPIN were sent repeatedly on 1 December and other orders a few days later, no answer came from her. On 30 December SCULPIN was reported as presumed lost.

Meanwhile, long before tension mounted at the bases concerning her, SCULPIN was meeting her test. The story presented here is reconstructed from statements made by members of her crew recovered from enemy prison camps since the close of the war.

On the night of 18 November, SCULPIN made a radar contact on a fast convoy, and made an end around at full power. Submerging on the enemy track for a dawn attack, SCULPIN began what promised to be a successful approach. However, she was detected in the attack phase, and the convoy zigged toward, forcing her deep. There was no depth charge attack at this time. About an hour later, the ship surfaced to begin another end around, but immediately dove again, having surfaced 6,000 yard from a destroyer which was lagging the convoy. Depth charging started as soon as she dove again.

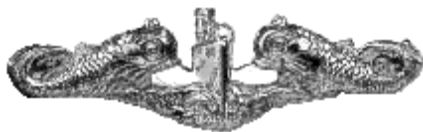
Early in the ensuing attack a string of depth charges did the ship minor damage. Lt. G.E. Brown, the only officer survivor, was relieved as diving officer to make an inspection and found her fundamentally sound. At this time the submarine had succeeded in shaking the enemy, but before Brown returned to the control room the ship had broached when the diving officer had tried to bring her to periscope depth and the depth gauge had stuck at 125 feet. The depth charge attack was renewed at once.

About noon on 19 November, a close string of 18 depth charges threw SCULPIN, already at deep depth, badly out of control. The pressure hull was distorted, she was leaking, steering and diving plane gear were damaged and she was badly out of trim. Commander Connaway decided to surface and to fight clear. The ship was surfaced and went to gun action. During the battle Commander Connaway and the Gunnery Officer were on the bridge, and the Executive Officer was in the conning tower. When the destroyer placed a shell through the main induction, and one or more through the conning tower, these officers and several men were killed. Lt. Brown succeeded to command. He decided to scuttle the ship, and gave the order "all hands abandon ship." After giving the order the last time the ship was dived at emergency speed by opening all vents. About 12 men rode the ship down, including Captain Cromwell and one other officer, both of whom refused to leave it. Captain Cromwell, being familiar with plans for our operations in the Gilberts and other areas, stayed with the ship to insure that the enemy could not gain any of the information he possessed. For this action, ComSubPac recommended that he be given the Congressional Medal of Honor. In all, 42 men were taken prisoner by the Japanese destroyer, but one was thrown over the side almost immediately because he was severely wounded. Another man escaped being thrown overboard only by wrenching free of his captors and joining the other men.

The group of 38 enlisted men and 3 officers were taken to Truk where they were questioned for ten days. Then they were loaded on two carriers (21 on one, 20 on the other) and started for Japan. En route to its destination, the carrier CHUYO, carrying 21 SCULPIN survivors, was torpedoed and sunk by SAILFISH on 31 December 1943, and only one American escaped. This was a particularly coincidental and tragic event since SCULPIN stood by SQUALUS (later recommissioned SAILFISH) when she sank off Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1939. At Ofuna, the 21 survivors were repeatedly questioned, and they learned they were in an unofficial Navy prison camp. They were released from the camp a few at a time when the enemy became convinced that they could get no information from them, and were sent to work in the copper mines of Ashio. There they were allowed to register as prisoners of war, and received at least enough food to live on, although not enough to maintain health properly. They remained at Ashio until released by American forces on 4 September 1945.

This submarine on her first eight patrols sank nine ships for 42,200 tons and damaged then, totaling 63,000 tons. Her first patrol off the east coast of the Philippine group resulted in one sinking, the 3,124 ton transport KANKO MAUR on 10 January 1942. During her second patrol in the region east of Celbes, she sank a destroyer type vessel and did damage to a light cruiser. Her third patrol was conducted in the Molukka Sea, and SCULPIN damaged a freighter. On her fourth patrol, conducted in the South China Sea, she is credited with having sunk a freighter, damaged another freighter and three tankers.

SCULPIN went to the Solomons area for her fifth patrol, and is credited with sinking two large tankers and a transport. She damaged a freighter on this patrol. Going back to the Solomons for her sixth patrol, SCULPIN damaged a tanker. SCULPIN made her seventh patrol in May and June 1943 in the Aleutians. Here she sank two small patrol craft and damaged two freighters. On her eighth patrol in the East China Sea, SCULPIN sank a freighter-transport.



***Need a book about submarines?
Have you checked out our base library?
It's easy. Find the book online at:
[http://perch-base.org/
perch_base_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)***

SHIPMATES COLUMN

EDITOR: I'm still running small facts, or "factoids," on submarines in World War II throughout the newsletter as "WWII Boats - Short Facts." The response to these has been favorable so I'll do it until I run out. But I am getting low.

So, shipmates, please continue to provide me with stories and leads. They're very good and you have my thanks.

As discussed at the last Base meeting, the Base's by-laws must be changed to allow those surviving shipmates from the U.S.S. Perch to become honorary members of our base. Who are those survivors? Their names and last known address are below. And, if you haven't voted on the change, the next page of this newsletter is the ballot handed out at the last meeting. As they say in Chicago, "Vote early and vote often!"

Surviving Crewmembers U.S.S. Perch (SS-176)

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MOUNTAIN HOME, AR. 72653

TOMMOORE
10101 BURNTSTORE RD. LOT #153
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

E.V. PLANTZ
44 WOODRIDGE CIRCLE
GALES FERRY, CT 06335

J.H. ROBINSON
VAMC ROOM 208
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

M.M. TURNER
616 TIMBERLAND TRAIL
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 232452

Ballot Issue, next page

Proposed Amendments to Perch Base Constitution and By Laws

Item 1

Constitution and By Laws Article V – Membership

Section 4 – Life Members

Paragraph B.

Change from (current wording): *National Life Members will pay no further National dues, but must pay annual dues for Perch Base membership. There is no Life Membership in the Perch Base.*

Change to (new wording): *National Life Members will pay no further National dues, but must pay annual dues for Perch Base membership. Unless, they are also Life Members in Perch Base. Members that are National Life Members and Perch Base Life Members pay no further annual dues to either entity. However, a person may be a Life Member either with the national organization or Perch Base or both. To become a Life Member in Perch Base does not require a person also be a National Life Member or vice versa.*

Item 2

Constitution and By Laws Article V – Membership

New Section 8 – Honorary Members

New Paragraph A.

Add (new wording): *Honorary Membership is a category of membership reserved for individuals of special merit or accomplishment. The membership is bestowed on such persons after application, by an member in good standing, is made to the Perch Base Board of Directors. Both the Board of Directors and the membership must vote to approve the action. The annual Perch Base dues for these special members may be waived if so approved by vote of the Board of Directors and the members. Such Honorary Members must also be members of USSVI either as a Regular Member or Associate Member. However, application for USSVI membership may be made in conjunction with their selection as Honorary Members in Perch Base.*

Please Vote For Each Item

Item #1 **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Item #2 **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Signed: _____

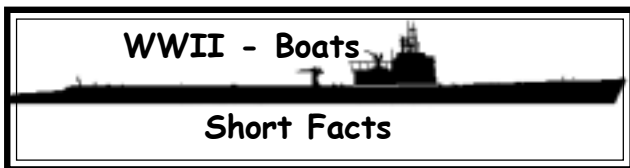
Date: _____



There has been no information sent to the Base Chaplain about any member or family in sick-bay. If we have missed anyone, our thoughts and prayers are with them. Please don't let a shipmate in need go un-noticed.

Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or the wife or family member of a shipmate? Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:

(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net



As far as can be determined, not a single United States merchant vessel was sunk in error by U.S. submarines during World War II.

In the German U-Boat service, the two highest scoring boats were U-48 with 53 victories totaling 318,111 tons, and U-99 with 37 victories totaling 242,658 tons. Both were Type VII boats, the backbone of the German U-Boat fleet, of which more than 700 were built. They were around 900 tons, compared to the 1800 tons of the average United States fleet boat.

A total of 206 submarines were launched in the United States between Pearl Harbor Day 1941, and Labor Day 1945.

The longest patrol made by a United States submarine during World War II was by the USS Guitarro on her third run. It was 83 days.

VIRGINIA (continued from page 7)

Rep. Edward Schrock of Virginia said the partnership between the two companies will only benefit the Navy and the country.

"The partnership between the folks at Northrop Grumman Newport News and General Dynamics is one that received great reviews, and one that has brought our communities together to build a new class of submarines," said Schrock. "That relationship will strengthen our nation's Navy and its ability to defend our nation, and protect our interests and sovereignty around the world."

Virginia is the ninth ship to bear the "Virginia" name. Six previous Virginias served in the U.S. Navy and two more served in the Confederate States Navy. This Virginia is far different from those ships, and despite its resemblance to a Los Angeles or Seawolf-class submarine, it is far different from other submarines, as well.

Virginia is lighter than the Seawolf-class submarines. It is also longer by 24 feet and has a beam six-feet less than its predecessor. Virginia has a payload of 40 weapons, and can accommodate special operations forces, an Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS) and unmanned undersea vehicles. Virginia and its 132-member crew can launch Tomahawk land-attack missiles from 12 vertical launch system tubes and Mark 48 advanced capability torpedoes from four 21-inch torpedo tubes.

"Its capabilities are so flexible and multifaceted — everything from deploying special forces, to long-term surveillance and launching Tomahawk cruise missiles, to detecting mines," said Sen. George Allen of Virginia.

"You think of every problem and challenge we're going to be facing now and into the future, and this (ship) can assist in a very important and powerful way in protecting our (nation's) security. It does have the best technology, the best communications and the greatest capabilities," said Allen. "This (sub) is the first in a long line of them. And we can't just have one Virginia-class submarine - we're going to need dozens more."

Vice Adm. John J. Grossenbacher, commander, Naval Submarine Forces, echoed Allen's statement about needing more Virginia-class submarines.

"Now Virginia should be followed by Texas (SSN 775) in a year and others following at a rate of about one a year. That's good, but it's not good enough," said Grossenbacher. "We're on the right course, but not the right speed. In order to have enough submarines to support our country's future security, we need to build two Virginia-class attack submarines per year."

(Continued on next page)

Grossenbacher said the \$2 billion price tag on Virginia-class submarines may be a factor for their slower-than-desired build rate.

"In my opinion, if you want the highest performance, the most advanced, the most reliable submarine in the world, and we do, it will never be cheap," said Grossenbacher. "Speaking for our country's undersea warriors, the bottom line is that we think Virginia is worth every single penny of the taxpayers' dollars. We need her and her sister submarines, and we need them delivered faster than we are buying them today."

The Virginia-class submarines' value to the nation should continue well into the future due to her advanced capabilities.



"This submarine is superbly fitted for the world we live in and for the foreseeable future. Virginia is designed for undersea, surface and near-surface dominance across a broad spectrum of missions. With the focus on the littoral battle space, the Virginia has improved magnetic stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and unique special warfare enhancements," Grossenbacher said.

While many compliments were delivered to Virginia's designers, builders and visionaries, a few speakers had kind words for the crew.

"A submarine is the most complicated machine ever devised by mankind, and this submarine here today is the best of the best. But without the skill and dedication of our Navy crews and without the loyalty of our Navy families, the ship cannot perform its mission," said Rep. Rob Simmons of Connecticut.

Robb said for her, being the sponsor of Virginia meant starting a new relationship.

It's a bonding with the sponsor and with the crew of the Virginia," said Robb. "For me, it is the starting of a new

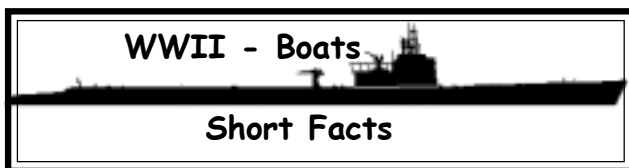
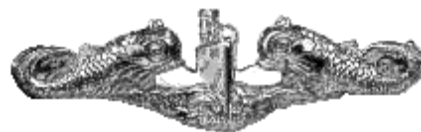
family with all of those crew members and all of their families. God bless them and may He protect them wherever they may sail."

Right now, Virginia is 91 percent complete and has about 40 weeks before it can be delivered to the Navy. According to Tom Schievelbein, corporate vice president of Northrop Grumman and president of Northrop Grumman Newport News, Virginia has been making history for a long time.

"This submarine was making history long before the first pieces of steel were welded together. This success speaks for the skill, the commitment and the dedication of the engineers, designers and shipbuilders," said Schievelbein. "Good shipbuilding takes people who are the best at their craft, who learn from each other and who are not satisfied with 'second best.' These are the kind of people who have built Virginia. They are the pioneers - they are the trailblazers of the 21st century, they like to push the envelope of possibility. Their work results in the most technologically advanced ship ever to sail under the seas. Their work will help the United States Navy with critical peacekeeping and wartime capabilities in this very uncertain world."

And as other submarines return from their mission of power projection and force from the sea, the christening ceremony showcased the Navy's and country's commitment to ensuring freedom.

"Today we are united to celebrate this great ship," said Sen. Jack Reed from Rhode Island. "But throughout the years, we have been united by something more profound - the understanding that it is our task to mesh the courage and skill of our magnificent Sailors by providing them with the greatest submarines in the world."



The USS Gudgeon (SS-211) made history by sinking the first enemy warship to go down from the fire of a U.S. submarine.



Submarines of the Future

Tomahawk - Submarines' Hammer

Tactical Tomahawk First Submarine Test Launch

Release Date: 7/11/2003 4:31:00 PM

Sandra Schroeder, Naval Air Systems Command Public Affairs

PATUXENT RIVER, Md. (NNS) — The U.S. Navy's new Tomahawk cruise missile, the Block IV, or Tactical Tomahawk, soared through yet another first this week as it was launched from Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) July 9 in the waters of the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) sea test range off the coast of southern California.

The event marked the first launch of the Tactical Tomahawk from an operational submarine launch platform.

The test demonstrated the newly-developed Block IV



Tactical Tomahawk Weapons Control System (TTWCS) and the Tomahawk Command and Control System functionality, allowing the launch platform to receive an operational

Block IV mission, pass it to the missile and then launch it from a submerged location. The submarine weapons control system (CCS MK2) uses TTWCS to control the Block IV missile prior to and after launch.

After receiving the control signals from the CCS MK4, the missile surged from the capsule launching system, demonstrating its operational submerged launch capability. The missile "broached" the ocean's surface and successfully demonstrated shroud separation, rocket motor firing/separation and deployment of fins, inlet duct and wings as it transitioned to cruise flight for the 814-nautical mile mission to target impact in the NAVAIR China Lake Test Range.

The missile flawlessly navigated the assigned mission through the use of a global positioning system and digital

scene matching area correlator updates. The test successfully demonstrated the unique Block IV weapon system communication capability between Tucson, tactical ground controllers and the in-flight missile.

"Our ship's motto, 'Team Tucson, the Tradition Continues', is evermore true as the USS Tucson and our namesake city, Tucson, Ariz., produce a first for the U.S. Navy and our nation," said Cmdr. William Traub, Tucson commanding officer. "The success of the Tactical Tomahawk program is only due to the dedication and teamwork of all of the men and women involved."



This test continues the Navy's formal government testing of the Tactical Tomahawk Weapons

System from surface/sub-surface launch platforms, as the program prepares to enter final operational evaluation phase late this fall.

The Tomahawk missile is ship and submarine launched and was first employed operationally during Desert Storm. Since then, the missile has been heralded for its accuracy and lethality in numerous operations. The Tactical Tomahawk boasts several enhancements as demonstrated today, which increase warfighter effectiveness and responsiveness, while significantly reducing acquisition and life cycle costs.

The missile will become operational in the middle of 2004.

NAVAIR provides advanced warfare technology through the efforts of a seamless, integrated, worldwide network of aviation technology experts.

For related news, visit the NAVAIR - Naval Air Systems Command Navy NewsStand page at "<http://www.news.navy.mil/local/navair>"





Storekeeper's Page



Jim Nelson, base storekeeper, has some new items available in the ships store. This includes a new, local, fast delivery source for vests and the new recommended name badges. Contact Jim for details.

Jim Nelson
(623) 972-1044
sub489@cox.net



Solid brass with a sterling silver set of dolphins set in the center
\$20



Plastic laminate engraved
(blue through white)
\$13



Basic vest, includes big LOGO on the back, small dolphins on the front & the name of the person buying the vest.

\$70.00

To sew on a patch:

2.00

Boat names on back:

6.00 for the 1st boat

4.00 for each additional boat



Just some samples of the great submarine-related merchandise that our base storekeeper has in. Don't delay! Set the maneuvering watch and rig for SubVets!



PERCH BASE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/HANAKU PARTY

***DECEMBER 13, 2003, 1730 HOURS TO 2200 HOURS
LUKE AFB DESERT STAR ENLISTED CLUB***

DRESS CODE CASUAL

MENU

***Tossed Greens, Tomatoes and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing
Sliced London broil Au Jus with Roasted New Potatoes and Chef's Vegetables***

OR

***Roasted Stuffed Chicken Brest with Mushroom Gravy, Rice Pilaf and
Chef's Vegetables***

***Sensational Sweets Peanut Butter Pie, Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter
Coffee, Tea or Water***

Desert will be Base provided Carrot Cake

***No Host Bar 1730 to 2200 with dinner served at 1900. There will be a Cheese and Cracker plate
available during the cocktail hour 1730 to 1900.***

***ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE INTO DAVE HARNISH NLT DECEMBER 3, 2003
WITH PAYMENT IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOU AND GUEST NAMES ARE ON THE
ENTERANCE LIST THAT HAS TO BE SUPPLIED TO THE BASE SECURITY.***

Please send to:

Dave Harnish

6509 West Devonshire Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85033-3350

***Email reservations will be acceptable to daveharnish@earthlink.net. Payment must be made prior to
December 3, 2003. Payments and reservations will be accepted at the November Base meeting or can
be made by mail to the above address. Reservations are limited so please make your reservations
early. There will be dancing following the dinner and awards cerimoney***

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 - Nov. 8, 2003
John J. Morris America Legion Post #62
10995 N. 99th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345**