

Arizona Sub Vets Perch Base

Midwatch

October 2000
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Arizona Sub Vets, Perch Base Officers

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October Eternal Patrol Days

S-44	SS-155	39 men	10-07-43
WAHOO	SS-238	80 men	10-11-43
DORADO	SS-248	76 men	10-12-43
SEAWOLF	SS -97	79 men	10-03-44
ESCOLAR	SS-294	80 men	10-17-44
DARTER	SS-227	0 men	10-24-44
SHARK II	SS-314	87 men	10-24-44
TANG	SS-306	78 men	10-25-44
05	SS-66	4 men	10-29-23

Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

**October's Meeting will be held at the
American Legion Post 29 in Glendale**

Help Wanted "Pay's Lousy, Accolades Few":



Newsletter Writer

I must be careful how I word this, as it does not mean Newsletter Editor, as that job seems relatively secure for the time being. What we do need, however, is a shipmate to author our Newsletter. Preferably, this would be someone who attends meetings regularly, makes himself cognizant of Base and submarine matters, be somewhat computer literate, be familiar with writing newsy articles, journals or papers. He should be willing to spend the necessary time it takes to come up with a great *Midwatch*. Fast typing is definitely not a prerequisite. A little humor helps.....not only in jokes, but throughout. A glance through our past newsletters will give you an idea of what is desired.

Chaplain

This Chair is not difficult. It does not even require that you make any or all of the meetings or have a computer (but it certainly would help a lot). The Chaplain, as he hears of an illness or death of a member or his immediate family, sends a card or a flower on behalf of the Base, calls the person more than once to let him/her know we are there for them if needed. He attends all Memorial Day Services and funerals and should be prepared to say a few words and a prayer on behalf of the Base. It is not mandatory, but would be nice if he also paid occasional visits to the sick. Monthly input into the Newsletter is required.

Vice Commander (Interim)

This position, according to USSVI and our By-Laws is to assist the Commander, preside over all meetings in the Commander's absence and run lotteries. But he takes on many other important Base functions and duties as they arise as well. He assists the Commander any way that is necessary for the good of the base and is Second in Command. A very important post. He should make himself available to attend every meeting if possible; this is no part time post. This position is being vacated only because your current Commander is stepping down from command and our current VC is moving up into an interim, command position. Voting for these positions take place in March and neither post is permanent till then. A computer is necessary. It sounds like three men are vacating their posts in masse, I assure you this is not the case, one man held all three posts, so not to worry.....there is no coup going on. However, if members do not step up to the plate to take a turn at bat, these posts will be in danger of going unfilled and that would be a shame.

From the Wardroom:

As of December 31 2000, I will be relinquishing my positions as Perch Base Commander, Newsletter Writer, and Chaplain, not because my terms of office are over, but because after serving for a year and a half in a command position, two years writing the newsletter, and four years as Chaplain, I now feel it is time for me to step aside and give others a turn to show their mettle. As I serve out this duration and turn over the reins of command, I doubt if anything but a subtle change will be noticed. I'm confident that the change will be for the best. Perch Base has never been a one-man operation, it takes teamwork, not all that different than we knew

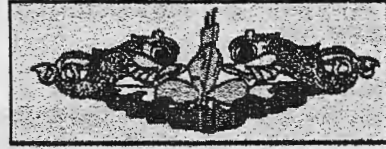
when we served aboard submarines so many years ago. However, being civilians today, and being a little more....shall I say...mature....there is no longer a place for military rate or rank within our rank and file. We are all equal, Officer and Seaman alike and this is the only way a volunteer organization such as ours will prevail, grow, and prosper.

Perch Base is unique in so many ways. The camaraderie we have is not only of "shipmates" but also as brothers. And that's why I love it so. When I first took over command, Perch was well on its way within the USSVI as a base to be reckoned with. Our leadership was sound. Under the caring tutelage of past Commanders, **Jim Newman**, and **Frank Rumbaugh**, and an abbreviated stint by **Brian Thomason**, this Submarine "Base" went from 8 of us to about 75 members. Quite an awesome accomplishment, for a state base in the middle of a desert. Since I took over, we have seen that number swell to 100....a testimony to all of you but especially those men whose names appear on the cover of our Newsletter... without their support, my job would have been impossible for any one man to achieve. These are the men of my Executive Board and chairpeople....the same men who have pledged their continued service to our Interim Commander when I leave. You will notice one new face among them as a Chairperson, that of **Ray Samson** who I appointed at the September meeting as Membership CO-Chairman along with **Gary Patterson**. Ray has been one of my greatest supporters these past months and what you see today of Perch Base is largely due to his support. It is the duty of the Base Commander to command, to insure that the Base runs smoothly, just as it is in any organization. Otherwise, it's a useless position.

Article IX of our By-Laws is quite explicit on what those duties entail. But basically, they say the Commander presides at all meetings, runs them in a business-like manner, appoints officers and committees and is ex-officio chairman of all, and is responsible for all publications and distribution of Chapter publications. This is no easy job, take it from me. But I have no doubt that my Vice Commander, **Don Wannamaker** will fill these requirements as I believe I have. In last December's Newsletter, after much thought of how this Base could be improved, I placed in our newsletter an article entitled "Where Do We Go From Here". I believe that there were some of you who saw this as wishful thinking, while some perhaps viewed it with disdain. It was actually nothing more than my New Years Wish List that I hoped to accomplish in the ensuing year on behalf of the Base. Twenty-one ambitious points were listed, and now, as the year and my service is coming to a close, I am sitting here re-reading that list. Every one of these items has been accomplished, all, with the exception of one, the one that says, I hope to change Meeting format. E-Board Meeting 12:00 to 12:30 hours, half hour for lunch. Small Stores viewing, followed by half hour or so of a Business meeting, followed by an afternoon BS session with fun among the troops. When I miss a wish item, I really miss a wish item. All in all however, I think hitting 20 out of 21 was a pretty good score.

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me the opportunity and privilege of having served you.

Roger Cousin



Arizona Submarine Veterans Centennial Christmas/Hanukkah Holiday Party:

Thank **Don Wannamaker** for this one. This one is a real Submarine Holiday Affair, for all Submariners and their Guests it's being held at the Luke Air Force Base NCO Club on December 1st 2000, from 17:30 (cocktails - no host bar) till whatever, and is going to be a true Submarine Centennial Party to close out the year. The dress code for men will be jacket and tie (or uniform) and ladies dress accordingly. The cost is very reasonable at only \$25/couple and \$12.50/single. We must guarantee a seating of 50 (Max 90). Checks are to be made out to "USSVI Perch Base" for the full amount, indicate "Party", and send to **Don Wannamaker** 17827 N. Conestoga Drive, Sun City AZ 85373. Checks must be received no later than 14 November, 2000. A buffet dinner will be served consisting of Steamship Round Hand-Carved Beef and Boneless Breast of Chicken, Rice Pilaf or Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Salad, Iced Tea or Coffee and a Special Dessert. Dinner will be served at 19:30. Dancing and Social to follow. Directions will be given in the November Newsletter.

This is a no BS event, so checks must be sent in immediately if you want to guarantee your reservation. If you wish to sit with certain people, we will do everything possible to accommodate your request. Seating arrangements should be requested when you send your check, but phone or email requests are OK. Gentlemen, if we do not receive checks for at least 50 people, this event will be canceled. Please get your checks in immediately.

Small Stores:

Believe it or not, cool/cold weather will be upon us. **Dave Harnish** has a nice selection of jackets. Get an order in ASAP. Dave also has a comprehensive array of USSVI Small Stores, consisting of hats, shirts, sweatshirts, belt buckles, beer mugs, cocktail glasses, coffee mugs, and a slew of other memorabilia. Great gifts for the Holidays! Come to a meeting and check things out. Information on reaching **Dave Harnish** is on front cover.

Insights:

Remember, when someone annoys you, it takes 42 muscles in your face to frown, but it only takes four muscles to extend your arm and smack the jerk alongside the head. Now they tell me!

Gripes:

Do you have any gripes pertaining to our Base? With me? Please don't tell me about it!

Roger.

A Reminder - Membership Renewal:

Base and National dues are due January 1, 2001. Please mail to Perch Base Treasurer, Bob May (see front cover). Base Dues: \$10.00 / National Dues: \$10.00.

Perch Base Booster Club for 2000:

A REMINDER: The Perch Base Booster Club resets itself on January 1st. For those not privy of what the "Booster Club" is, it's made up of members, like you, who give extra generous financial support toward keeping this Club afloat. Your \$10 yearly dues do not even pay for the cost of printing and mailing the monthly newsletters. Additional funds are always needed to enable us to pay for additional postage, materials, assist in paying something toward seasonal holiday parties, for picnics, funeral or get well flowers, get well cards and a slew of other base expenses. No set amount is asked for and regardless of the size of your gift, \$50 or \$10, the amount you give will be confidential. In return, your name will be listed monthly in *Midwatch* as a token of appreciation. In 2000, 49 contributed. We now have 100 members and growing! We thank you for this excellent support. It goes to show you that when the chips are down, Submariners can always be counted on to dig deep for a good cause. Thanks, Guys. (Make checks payable to "USSVI Perch Base" for Booster (for recognition) and send to **Bob May**, Treasurer (see front cover).

I wish to thank the following members for their above and beyond financial assistance to our Base: **Jerry Allston, Ken Anderson, Joe Bernard, Jerry Becker, Wayne Braastad, Mike Brietner, Tom Burke, Jim Clewett, Roger Cousin, Earl Crowley, Steve Day, Jeff Duncan, Doug Eddy, Tom Fooshee, Billy Grieves, Lee Graybeal, Warren Grossetta, Dave Harnish, Glenn Herold, Steve Hough, Jim Johns, Davy Jones, John Lang, Hubie Maxey, Bob May, Jim Michaud, Roger Miller, Bob Mitchell, Bob Moore, Joe Mullins, Jim Nelson, Jim Newman, Joe Otreba, Tom Patterson, Royce Pettit, Ray Perron, Scott Protero, Ray Samson, Frank Rumbaugh, Joe Schwartz (deceased), Tyler Smith, Adrian Stuke, Lou Tejera (deceased), Don Wannamaker, Don Whitehead, Bob Wesley, George Woods, Jerry Yowell.** Thanks to all of you who realize the financial burden of running this organization and for giving that extra financial support to help our Base.

Membership Co-Chairman Appointed by Base Commander:

As we all know, **Gary Patterson** has been the Perch Base Membership Chairman since the inception of the Base. **Gary** has been quite ill for some time and unable to perform his duties to the best of his abilities. Shipmate **Ray Samson** and I have been trying to pick up the slack in his absence but the workload from the Nationals wanting an updated Data Base of our members has shown the need to appoint a second Membership Chairman. I have therefore found it necessary to appoint **Ray** as Membership Co-Chairman along with **Gary**. Please cooperate with **Ray** in his quest for Data Base information.

Membership List Available

The Perch Base Membership List is now available through our membership co-chairman, **Ray Samson**.

His phone number is: 623-815-9247, email: rsamson@azwest.net

Membership tops 100:

For the first time in Arizona Perch Base History, our membership has topped 100, Year 2000, 100 members. Year 2001, the moon! There's still no stopping this Organization now.

Perch Base Raffle Winners:

Shipmate **Edgar Brooks** won the book, "Submarine Operations during World War II. Shipmate **Warner Doyle** won the painting by "Pete" Bucher. \$260.00, was raised on behalf of our Base's Holiday Award to a needy former submarine shipmate, or for the Luke Air Force Base "Adopt a Needy Military Family" for their Holiday Fund. More about this after the October Meeting when we will decide on the disbursement of the moneys. Shipmate **Dave Harnish** is checking out Luke. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

Perch Base Calendar of Events for 2000:

- 14 OCT Meeting @ American Legion, Glendale, 1300 hours
- 11 NOV Meeting @ American Legion, Glendale, 1300 hours (Veteran's Day)
- 1 DEC Perch Base Christmas/Hanukkah Party (See write up inside this issue)

There will be no meeting in the Month of December

Meeting Location:

October's Meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 29, 6822 No. 58th Ave, Glendale, one block south of Glendale Avenue. Take I-17, to Glendale Avenue - West to 58th Ave., south 1 block. Legion is on the left. Park in lot behind the post. From West Valley, take Glendale Avenue and follow rest of the directions. The building is the one on the West side of the parking lot. Lunch served between 12:00 and 13:00 at a nominal cost. Beer and soda available throughout the meeting. My apologies, for the wrong date in last months newsletter.

Meeting Attendance:

Once again, we had a wonderful show of members at our September Meeting. I wish to thank the following men for attending: **Dave Harnish, Ray Samson, Tom Burke, John Redding, Glenn Herold, Ed Brooks, Larry Krieger, Carl Scott, Frank Rumbaugh, Don Wannamaker, Davy Jones, Roger M Miller, Warner Doyle, Bill Hatcher, Bob May, Joe Otreba** (and wife **Katherine**), and **Roger Cousin**.

New 2001 Calendars Available:

The new 2001 Arizona Perch Base Submarine Calendar is now available through our Vice Commander, **Don Wannamaker** (address on front cover). In my opinion, it's even better than last year's - if that's possible. **Don** has come up with a fine mix of various submarine photos including Fleet, Guppy, and Nuke, which will spike everyone's imagination. Great for Holiday gift giving and priced to sell. At only \$8.00 each, plus \$2.00 each for postage. For 10 or more, \$7.00 each plus \$6.00 total for postage. Make checks payable to "Arizona Perch Base" and send to Don.

Lost Boats and Crews for October:

USS SEA WOLF (SS197), Sunk October 3, 1944, (ALL) 79 men lost.

Few submarines in the Pacific had fought harder in the war than **USS SEA WOLF**; fourteen war patrols and 56 torpedo battles fought. Among the first submarines to run from Australia to the Philippines on special missions, she was also one of the last. On her fourteenth patrol, made in August 1944, she transported six agents and tons of supplies to Tawi-Tawi and went on from there to land agents and supplies at Palawan. In 1942 she had sunk six Japanese ships. In 1943 and the first months of 1944, she sank a dozen more. By the autumn of 1944 she had sunk 18 ships and 71,609 tons of enemy shipping. On September 21, 1944, **USS SEA WOLF** left Brisbane to begin her 15th patrol. She was to carry Army stores and personnel to the east coast of Samar in the Philippines.

While **USS SEA WOLF** was enroute to Samar, a new submarine safety lane, wherein US submarines would presumably be free from attack by friendly forces had been established in the area. **USS SEA WOLF** was in this lane. At 0756 on October 3, **USS NARVAL (SS167)** sighted **SEA WOLF** and both exchanged recognition. Not long after that a Japanese submarine attacked a Seventh Fleet task group, sinking a destroyer. **USS Rowell** was directed to stand by the sinking DE and search for the undersea enemy. While **USS Rowell** was circling **USS Shelton**, the damaged vessel reported "sound contact" with a submarine. Although **USS Rowell** did not pick up this contact, depth charges were immediately dropped upon the supposedly detected Jap sub. At 1130 two USN TBM's were launched from the carrier **USS Midway**. One of these planes sighted a submarine. The sub dove and the plane dropped their bombs, restricted area or not. Upon receiving a report of this bombing, **USS Rowell** raced to the position given (marked with dye, by the plane) and made sound contact on a submarine at 1310. **USS Rowell** made six attacks - five with "hedgehogs" and one with depth charges. After the first "hedgehog" attack, **USS Rowell** heard the submarine send garbled signals by sound gear, but not the proper recognition signal. So she blasted the water with another "hedgehog" pattern. Following this second attack, five underwater explosions were heard. Debris was blown to the surface, and **USS Rowell's** crew glimpsed what looked like a section of periscope. Was it a Japanese periscope? Or was it American? **USS SEA WOLF** was never heard from after that. Submarine Headquarters assembled the facts and grim evidence of tragedy was revealed.

After the war it was learned that the Japanese submarine **RO-41** was responsible for the **USS Shelton** torpedoing. **RO-41** was not counter-attacked and eventually returned to Japan. The A/S attacks made by **USS Rowell** were undoubtedly the signals heard from **USS SEA WOLF**, as the American submarine was desperately trying to establish herself as a "friendly", in accordance with instructions prescribed. Investigation: Several individuals were guilty of errors in judgment, but only the commanding officer of destroyer escort **USS Rowell** was subject to censure. Although aware that his ship was operating in a submarine safety lane, he made no exacting effort to identify the undersea target after sound transmissions were heard emanating from the submarine. But the majority of the Board was also of the opinion no disciplinary action should be taken. The officer's errors in judgment were considered

"due to over-zealousness to destroy an enemy". Three enemy submarine contacts had been reported in the Morotal area during the preceding two weeks. USS Shelton had been critically damaged by torpedoes at 0807 on the day in question. Immediately after the attack, a submarine contact had been made very close to the damaged DE's position. According to the latest Daily Submarine Position Report for the area, the nearest friendly submarine was no closer than 70 miles from the position of the A/S attack that was made by the carrier plane and USS Rowell. However, had USS SEA WOLF's position been promptly reported to all concerned, the "hunter-killer" group would have known their contact was within 35 miles of a friendly submarine. In which case, they would have proceeded with more caution. But no correction to the October 3 Submarine Position Report was issued. The correction was incorporated in the Report promulgated the following day. Commander Seventh Fleet had been promptly informed of USS SEA WOLF's off-schedule run on the Morotal area, but apparently he saw no reason to relay this information further. At that time the Submarine Position Reports were not required by any specific orders of higher authority, but were promulgated on the initiative of ComTaskForce 72.

This tragedy bears evidence to the jeopardy, which threatened every submarine operating in a battle zone, particularly when enemy submarines were in the vicinity. Not only was the submersible imperiled by its undersea foe, but it risked accidental attack by friendly "hunter-killers" who had failed to "get the word" or were otherwise unable to determine the submarine's identity. Yet such sinkings by friendly forces were remarkably rare on the American side. So far as known, the possible destruction of USS DORADO by friendly aircraft in the Caribbean and the probable destruction of the USS SEA WOLF by USS Rowell are the only cases of the kind. 79 Officers and Enlisted went down with the SEA WOLF.

USS S-44 (SS155), Sunk October 7, 1943, 39 Men Lost, 2 Survivors

On September 26, 1943, S-44 began her fifth war patrol; area destination, the northern Kuriles. Submarines had been busy wrecking the Japanese fishing business in those waters, and there was shipping to be found off Paramushiru. She was not heard from again until the war's end when two survivors told of the details of her sinking. On the night of 7 October 1943, SS-44 attacked what she mistook in the fog as a small merchant ship. S-44 started to fire her deck gun at a very close range when it was discovered that the enemy ship was actually a destroyer, which now opened up with all guns. S-44 took several hits below the water line. About eight men managed to escape before the boat plunged to the bottom. However, only two of them were rescued by the Jap destroyer. A shell from the destroyer smashed into the control room below the water line. Now a second exploded in the conning tower, and a third pierced the hull near the forward battery room. In flame and smoke, S-44 rolled and lurched under the series of hits. During her first four war patrols S-44 sank three ships and damaged a fourth. On 10 August she sank a heavy cruiser Kako. This sinking was particularly opportune as Kako was one of the four heavy cruisers who at this time were returning

from the first battle of Savo Island. The night before in that battle they had sunk four Allied heavy cruisers without losing any themselves.

USS WAHOO (SS238), Sunk October 11, 1943, 80 Men Lost

The USS WAHOO Commander D. W. "Mush" Morton departed Pearl on 9 September 1943 on her seventh war patrol. She topped off at Midway on the 13th and headed for the Sea of Japan. She was never heard from again. USS WAHOO was one of the Submarine Forces most valuable boats during her first six patrols, and her feats have become legend. She sank twenty-seven ships totaling 119,100 tons and damaged two more totaling 24,900 tons. Japanese records now reveal that the following ships were sunk in the Sea of Japan shortly before USS WAHOO's loss: Taik (AK) 2,958 tons on 25 September, Karron (AP), 7,903 tons on 1 October, Unknown Maru 1,288 tons on 6 October and Kanko (AK), 2,995 tons on 9 October. USS WAHOO was the only submarine operating in that area at that time.

USS WAHOO's patrolling career began in August 1942 in the Carolinas. On this patrol USS WAHOO sank a freighter. Her second patrol was in the Solomon's, and she sank a freighter. On 14 December she sank the Japanese submarine I-15 with a single torpedo. USS WAHOO conducted her third patrol in the Palau area. She sank two large freighters, a transport, a tanker and an escort vessel. In addition, she entered Wewak harbor and seriously damaged a destroyer that was later found beached there. For her fourth patrol USS WAHOO went to the Yellow sea. Here she sank eight freighters, a tanker, patrol craft, and two sampans. Going to the Kuriles for her fifth patrol USS WAHOO sank two freighters and a large tanker, also damaged another freighter and a large aircraft transport. USS WAHOO's sixth patrol in the Sea of Japan was disappointing because of poor torpedo performance. Her only sinking on this patrol was three sampans by gunfire. USS WAHOO was awarded the Presidential Citation for her third patrol.

USS DORADO (SS248), Sunk October 12, 1943, 76 Men Lost

USS DORADO, the second submarine to go down in the Atlantic was lost some time in October. Newly commissioned, she departed New London, Connecticut on October 6th, and headed for Panama. She was never heard from again. Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, commenting on the Court of Inquiry Report, listed three possible causes for USS DORADO's loss. These were: operational casualties; enemy action; attack by friendly forces; somewhere in the Atlantic, perhaps in action off Cuba. She went down with all hands.

USS ESCOLAR (SS294), Sunk October 12, 1943, 80 Men Lost

Out of Pearl Harbor on her maiden patrol. At Midway she topped off with fuel and joined USS CROAKER (SS246) and USS PERCH (SS313) to form a wolf pack. USS ESCOLAR's captain commanded the group that was named "Millican's Marauders". The pack put out from Midway on September 23rd to conduct a patrol in the Yellow Sea. Seven days later a fragmentary message was received from USS ESCOLAR, "...attacked with deck gun, ...boat similar to ex-Italian,

...Peter George Five Otyl' **USS ESCOLAR** was forced to break off the transmission at this point. **USS CROAKER** and **USS PERCH II** made contact with her later, and she reported that she had not been damaged during the gun action. On October 17, **USS PERCH II** received a message from **USS ESCOLAR** stating that she was heading eastward. This was the last message received from **USS ESCOLAR**.

USS DARTER (SS-227), Sunk 24 October 1944; 0 Men Lost

USS DARTER's career was impressive from the start, but it was her fourth and final patrol that was the most memorable. In October 1944, **USS DARTER** was sent to the South China Sea to set up a reconnaissance line to intercept any Japanese vessels, which might impede the invasion of Leyte. Together with **USS DACE (SS247)**, **USS DARTER** was assigned to a patrol area off Palawan, known as dangerous ground due to its numerous uncharted shoals. In the early morning darkness of 23 October **USS DARTER** and **USS DACE** encountered a huge enemy task force consisting of 5 battleships, 12 cruisers and 15 destroyers. The submarines moved in for a bold attack, firing the opening shots of the battle of Leyte Gulf. The two submarines sank two heavy cruisers and put a third one out of action. **USS DARTER's** victim was the flagship of Vice Admiral Kurita. **USS DARTER** then pursued another cruiser but ran hard aground on the Bombay Shoal. Her crewmen labored feverishly trying to free their stranded submarine but their efforts were unsuccessful. With sunrise expected momentarily, the sailors reluctantly abandoned her, boarded **USS DACE**, and watched as **USS DARTER** was destroyed to keep her from falling into enemy hands. All of **USS DARTER's** crew survived.

USS 05 (SS-66) Sunk 29 October 1923; 3 Men Lost

The **USS 05**, while operating off the Panama Canal, collided with a steamer and started sinking immediately. All crew members with the exception of three managed to escape.

USS TANG (SS306) Sunk 24 October 1944; 78 Men Lost

The exploits of **USS TANG** are legendary in Submarine History. Under the bold leadership of Commander Richard H. O'Kane, **USS TANG** executed five brilliant patrols, destroying enemy ships almost as fast as the Japanese could build them. **USS TANG's** rescue of 22 downed Naval pilots off Truk Lagoon during her second war patrol made headlines and proved the value of submarine lifeguard duty. **USS TANG** was one of only two American Submarines to receive the Presidential Unit Citation twice, and her skipper earned the Nation's highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was not the enemy but fate that finally ended **USS TANG's** career. Patrolling the Formosa Straits, **USS TANG** had already sunk seven enemy ships when, on 24 October 1944, she launched a nighttime surface attack on an enemy transport, firing her two remaining torpedoes. The second torpedo malfunctioned, circled back, and struck its own submarine. The explosion was violent. Nine men topside were catapulted into the sea as **USS TANG** plunged toward the bottom. Thirteen other men

escaped from the forward compartment and, using Momsen Lungs, ascended 180 feet to the surface. By morning only nine survivors remained to be pulled from the water by a Japanese escort vessel. They were imprisoned for the duration of the war, but lived to tell the story of their 78 shipmates.

USS SHARK (SS314), Sunk 24 October 1944; 87 Men Lost.

A second **USS SHARK**, named in honor of the American Submarine lost early in the war (see February's N/L), came onto the scene in May of 1944. During her first two patrols, **USS SHARK II** sank four Japanese vessels and rescued two downed U.S. Naval aviators. She then joined forces with **SEADRAGON** and **BLACKFISH** and commenced her 3rd War Patrol. On 23 September 1944, the submarines set out for the Luzon Strait area, where they were ordered to prevent reinforcements from reaching the Japanese troops during the battle of Leyte Gulf.

On 24 October, **USS SHARK II** reported to **USS SEADRAGON (SS194)** that she had made radar contact with a Japanese freighter and was moving in for an attack. **USS SHARK II** was never heard from again. It was later learned that on this date, a Japanese vessel enroute from Manila to Japan with American Prisoners of War on board had been sunk by a U.S. Submarine. American Submarines had instructions to search for allied survivors in the vicinity of all sinkings of Empire-Bound Japanese vessels. It is generally believed that **SHARK** sank the enemy freighter and was attempting to rescue American Prisoners of War from the water when enemy forces caught up with her, perhaps on the surface, sinking her.

If all else Fails, Scare Them to Death:

The CDR's View - By 1944 the tides of Naval warfare had changed; the Japanese Navy was all but neutralized by a much stronger American Fleet. The Pentagon then began a program of downsizing its naval strike capabilities by using what they had and canceling all outstanding orders for new ships. This, of course, caused massive layoffs in the shipbuilding industry at home, even while the war raged. Work stopped on all new submarines being built. But many of these 32 boats had already been named. Talk about Proud Tradition, look at some of these immortal names give these new submarines:

USS Pompano (SS-491) **USS Grayline (SS-492)**
USS Sculpin (SS-493) **USS Herring (SS-494)**
USS Albacore (SS-495) **USS Bonefish (SS-496)**
USS Trigger (SS-497) **USS Harder (SS-498)**
USS Scamp (SS-499) **USS Scorpion (SS-501)**
USS Snook (SS-502) **USS Growler (SS-512)**
USS Barbel (SS-514) **USS Wahoo (SS-516)**

It seems to me that the US Navy was intending to conjure up the fighting effectiveness and souls of the crews of these predecessor submarines that accounted for 109 war patrols between them. I think the Pentagon's attempt was to Scare Japan into surrendering.

WWII Submarine Convention in Phoenix..... Commander's Comments:

The US Navy World War II Submarine Veterans held their convention in Phoenix last month and it was a fantastic success. According to **Billy Grieves**,

approximately 1,450 former World War II submariners and their wives attended. Obviously, Perch Base counts among these members, some 10 or so WWIIers, so by stretching a point a little, we can say that about 25 Perch Baser's showed up in support. Nice Going, Guys. The high water mark of my visit was the Centennial Celebration of guest speakers held at Phoenix Symphony Hall on September 1st. It was one of the most moving submarine events I ever attended. If I were put to the wall and threatened with bodily harm, I would be hard-pressed to say whose speech I found most rousing. Now if my wife were threatened, I would have to say Rear Admiral Albert (Big Al) Konetzni's, hands down. **Don Wannamaker** and **Dave Harnish** once again came through in true submariner fashion with a terrific display of mounted-on-easels submarine photographs and submarine memorabilia. **John Redding** lent support as well. My hat is off to you gentlemen.

Chaplain's Corner:

In speaking to Shipmate **Gary Patterson** a few weeks ago, I found that he had just returned from another massive doses of Super-Chemo. Obviously, he was exhausted, but the good news was that one of his tumors no longer appeared on the CATSCAN, and the other has shrunk considerably. If prayers had anything to do with it, and I personally believe they do, then all I can say is "Thank you, God", and you guys "Keep Praying".

Two new names appear here this month. I have just learned that Shipmate **Phil Wagner** has prostate cancer and is being operated on 10 October at the Tucson VA. All expectations are for a full recovery. **Jim Nelson** had Surgery done on the 20th of September. They took a portion of his large intestine where it makes a right angle turn and performed a colostomy which he says is reversible. This was **Jim's** second bout with this very painful disease. His spirits are good. To send cards to **Phil Wagner**, 85 Fairway Oaks Dr., Sedona, AZ 86351-8827. **Jim Nelson**, 5609 North 71st Ave., Glendale, AZ 85303-5310. Let the boys hear from you. Tried to contact **Bobby Moore**, but his younger son, could only tell me he had recently been in the VA Hospital and at the time of this writing was transferred to Desert Sky Nursing Home in Glendale (?). Will try to track him down. **Manny Burrell** (79) will probably be on dialysis for the rest of his life, but when he's not, this feisty old Master Chief is as ornery as ever. I understand that **Manny** is the most decorated submarine enlisted man in history (36 years of service). 21 medals including, 2 Silver Stars, 1 Navy Citation, and 2 Presidential Citations. Listen to these historic boats on which he made 13 patrols: Qualified on, **USS GRENADIER (SS210)**, **USS BERGALL (SS320)**, **USS GRAYLING (SS208)**, **USS SCAMP (SS277)**, **USS WAHOO (SS238)** (served under Mush Morton), **USS ROBALO (SS273)** and **USS PARCHE (SS384)**. Please men, let your chaplain know of, base members illnesses, deaths, or other difficulties.

The Boy from Down Under:

In the August Newsletter, I wrote about a young 13 year old lad from Australia, by the name of James Terrence Crofts. He has terminal cancer and

wished to become the Guardian Angel of the Carrier USS John Stennis. I was so moved by his story that when I wrote to him, I told him American Submariners were not to be outdone by surface sailors and told him he was now the Guardian Angel of Arizona Perch Base as well. (Please read that story - it's very touching.) Hearing nothing in return, I naturally feared the worst. Then, on September 9th, I received the following email from Shipmate Glenn Herold who obviously has kept the line of communication open to the boy. (Let your wives read this.)

It reads: "Dear Glenn,

Hi it's James here. I have been very tired with the current cycle of chemotherapy at the hospital as an outpatient. I am half way through the 6 week course now. I went to school every day last week except for Wednesday, when I went to the hospital for chemotherapy. And I went to school today for two hours. I have caught up with my math class and am up to date with what the rest of the class was doing when I wasn't there. I feel proud of myself, because someone has to tell me about the math, and now I help people to get theirs done as my math teacher said that I do not need to write it down as I have all of my revision sheets. I do the sums, most of them in my head. I am trying to get fit enough by slow walking each day so that I am ready for the big operation if Dr. Teo will operate in October. We have raised three thousand dollars so far but that's a tenth of what we need. It's OK because my mum is going to do some fundraising soon on telly if they let her. And I know that it will be ok. I feel it. My mum had a dream and in the dream a lady sat in front of her and told her that her son that is sick will get better. That sounds about right to me. The weather is getting warmer except tonight there may be a cold front coming over Perth. I love getting your emails so please don't freak out if I can't reply straight away. Some days I am so tired I just have to sleep and rest, my body is fighting the cancer and its hard yakka. I am ok apart from being really tired and needing more rest."

"If I have to send a mass mail out don't be mad at me it means I am exhausted but still want you to know I am ok. My mum is doing a part time work doing literary critiques on Shakespeare and lots of other classics literature and she prances around the house making me laugh getting all drama like quoting Macbeth and stuff like that. She is so weird but you gotta laugh its her job to be weird after all she is my mum. Mum puts on all these faces like she is playing the bits so she can get in their skin and work it all out so it sounds like she knows what she's talking about. I'd rather not go into too much detail or the men in the white coats will come and take her away - LOL. Well at least mums not boring. I wouldn't want a boring normal mum like everyone else has. This way its better to have a mum that's weird and eccentric for she asks for what she wants and is honest and up front about it, and most of the time she gets what she asks for LOL. I have been helping Granny Helen my mum's mum, with crosswords at her place, its really a brain teaser and its good to keep my brain working and exercising since not much of the rest of me can LOL."

"I went swimming with my Uncle Andrew, I love him he is so cool and so skinny and fit he is an athlete in triathlon. My Dad's a couch potato, but that's ok. I still gotta love him. I am sad that I didn't get to the Olympics with the other cancer kids but there's always another time (not that I am too fussed about it anyway.) My hair is growing in again but my mums hair hasn't grown too much yet. That will teach her for cutting her hair all off. She thinks

she looks fat, she does but I won't tell her cos she will get all upset and its not a pretty sight when she is crying and her glasses all fog up and her nose gets all red and her eyes all puff up and she reckons its "an allergy". Yeah and like I was born yesterday mum but that's our secret and you can't tell anyone ok. Why is it mums think we don't know when they get all upset just cos we are boys. So I just go its ok mum, allergies happen don't they.'

'My dad is my hero. He works on a respiratory ward at the hospital Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. He is doing some special job for a month. I love school. I like to get to school but its hard to get up and down stairs. I love art and computing and maths. I got an A for my project in English assignment. It was a collage on the themes of The Cay a book we read. Anyway not bad huh. I have to go to bed. Remember that I love you and please pray for me.

'Love Your James xxx'

Chaplain's (Very Teary) Comments: God Bless You, James. Thanks for keeping us abreast of James' world, Glenn, keep up this wonderful work and keep us informed. Anyone know where we can purchase an assembled model submarine for about \$100 (or less) for us to send to James for Christmas? Any donations once we find one?

New Submarine Tapes now Available:

John Clear, 180 Robin Lane, Port Ludlow, WA 98365 Phone 360-437-1143; e-mail: sealbtdt@continet.com, has now made available four new, totally viewable - not grainy, "Silent Service" episodes that weren't on our 1st run of the 13 grainy ones (last year) . . . these new stories are of the TAUTOQ, BERGALL, TINOSA and ASPRO. Also included is a tape that was made for the Navy in 1940, titled "Submarines at Sea". This one has terrific footage including several boats that were later lost in WWII. . . unbelievable scenes. his cost of this 2 ½ hour VHS tape is only \$20.00 (including shipping), which is the actual cost to produce the tape. These tapes are part of our submarine heritage and therefore are only being offered within the sub community. So if you want to take advantage of this price, send John Clear your payment in full for the quantity you wish. The *First* and another film, also can be purchased. John Clear is a guy who thinks and dreams submarines.

Interesting Dates in October:

- (8) 1871 - Great Chicago Fire kills 200;
- (9) Columbus Day observed;
- (12) Columbus Day (discovers America in 1492);
- (12) 1775 - U.S. Navy formed;
- (19) 1781 - Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown
- (21) 1797 - "Old Ironsides" (the USS Constitution) launched (still on Active Duty);
- (24) 1929 - "Black Thursday" - stocks fall;
- (24) Daylight Savings Time Ends;
- (31) Halloween.

More on the KURSK:

Submitted by **Glenn Herold:**

Naval Intelligence circulated within that Department. Unclassified press item.

K-141 is down. The Kursk, an Antyei type 949A nuclear attack submarine was lost in the Barents Sea. The Kursk, one of eight active Oscar II class submarines

was the pride of the Russian Navy and the leading edge of the new Northern Fleet. Commissioned in 1995, the Kursk was the Northern Fleet's most powerful weapon. It made a high-profile voyage to the Mediterranean in September 1999 and was due to return later this year as part of a planned Russian nuclear task group deployment to the Middle East.

The August Russian naval exercise in the Barents Sea was designed to provide the West with good reason to remember the Kursk. Reports now show the exercise was intended to showcase the Kursk as she performed her two primary roles, killing American carriers and submarines. The Russian Navy exercise also drew a small crowd of interested observers in the form of two U.S. Los Angeles attack submarines loitering in the shallow polar sea over 50 miles from the Kursk. That fateful morning the Kursk reportedly completed a successful firing of her main killer, the Chelomey Granit missile, NATO code-named SS-N-19 Shipwreck.

The Kursk and her sister boats carry 24 Shipwreck missiles. The missiles are stored on each side of the huge submarine in banks of 12, hidden between the layers of the boat's thick twin hull skin. The Shipwreck missiles are stored in launching tubes external to the inner pressure hull where the 118 crew members worked and lived. The Shipwreck missile fired by the Kursk that Saturday morning contained a 1,600-pound conventional warhead. It reportedly scored a direct hit against a Russian hulk target over 200 miles away. The Shipwreck is intended to strike U.S. carriers but can also be targeted against U.S. cities. Russian naval sources indicate that the Shipwreck missile can be armed with an H-bomb warhead equal to one half million tons of TNT, more than enough to flatten Los Angeles or New York City.

That fateful August Saturday, in the dim afternoon light of the arctic summer sun, the Kursk began her last performance, the simulated destruction of a U.S. submarine using the 100-RU Veder missile. The Veder, NATO code-named SS-N-16A Stallion, is a rocket-boosted torpedo. The Stallion is launched from the huge 26-inch diameter torpedo tubes installed on each Oscar II class submarine. The Stallion is so secret that no picture of the weapon has ever been published. The Stallion is fired from the submarine's torpedo tube but flies like a missile. The Stallion rocket booster ignites underwater once the weapon is clear of the submarine, sending the missile to the surface. The missile then flies to the target under rocket power where it finally ejects a lightweight torpedo at supersonic speed. The mini-torpedo then uses its own little parachute, slowing to drop gently into the water directly above the target. The mini-torpedo then homes in on the target submarine for the final kill. The conventional Stallion fired by the Kursk was armed with a mini-220 pound explosive warhead. Jane's Defense reports that the missile can also be armed with a mini-nuclear warhead equal to 200,000 tons of TNT.

According to Jane's, the last moments of the Kursk were recorded as she prepared to fire the Stallion. Seismologists in Norway told Jane's that a monitoring station registered two explosions at the time the Kursk sank. The first registered 1.5 on the Richter scale. A second, stronger explosion measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale equivalent to one or two tons of TNT was recorded just over two minutes

later. The Stallion rocket motor may have ignited inside the sealed torpedo tube just before firing. The Stallion may have jammed itself inside the torpedo tube as it was fired. In any event, the underwater rocket appears to have ignited inside the inner manned pressure hull. The force of the Stallion rocket motor would have twisted the huge torpedo tube, melting through the metal walls within seconds. Just enough time for alarms to sound and men to die. Then the small 220 pound warhead exploded, blowing a gaping hole in the twisted skin of the attack submarine. The submarine immediately fell forward as the icy water rushed to fill the forward weapon bay. The last moments of the Kursk and most of her crew were filled with fire and water as the vessel plunged into the cold arctic depths. The rush of cold water did not extinguish the fire since the Stallion rocket booster was designed to burn without air. The exploding warhead would have sent huge flaming chunks of rocket booster into the forward weapon control room. The force of the 14,000-ton submarine striking the bottom on the damaged torpedo bay was the final blow, detonating one of the many weapons inside upon impact. The force of the explosion inside the twin hull submarine ripped the starboard side open back to the sail. The manned areas forward of the reactor compartment, including the control room and living quarters, rapidly flooded, leaving no time for personnel in those compartments to escape.

This may not be the end of the story. There are now suggestions that the West should help Russia raise the Kursk. Yet, despite being broke, Russia continues to build and deploy the Oscar II submarine force. There are seven active Oscar II class boats. The latest, K-530, the Belgoro, is still under construction at the Severodvinsk Shipyard. Budget cutbacks have slowed progress on the boat to almost a standstill, but construction continues. There are rumors that China is interested in buying K-530. The Kursk sailed the Mediterranean in late 1999 as a show of flag to Russian allies such as Syria, Libya and Serbia. At the same time the Kursk was touring the Mediterranean in 1999, a Pacific Fleet Oscar II submarine was quietly cruising the western seaboard of the United States, within missile range of California, Oregon and Washington. While we all mourn the passing of K-141 and her crew, we should also reflect on exactly what her mission was, and why she was built.

KURSK Secret Torpedo Test, Blew Sub a Part: Submitted by Shipmate Warner Doyle

"Two civilian experts from a Russian military plant were conducting secret munitions tests aboard the Kursk submarine, which sank after the hull was ripped apart in an accident, it emerged last night."

The final moments of the doomed craft, have been pieced together by Western military experts. They believe a test firing went disastrously wrong, igniting highly flammable propellant and detonating missile and torpedo warheads. The resulting explosions blew a huge hole in the right-hand side of the Kursk's nose, where the torpedo room is located. Water flooded in, causing the pride of the Russian submarine fleet to sink in seconds. Any members of the crew who may have survived had no time to close watertight doors, or to send distress signals. Self-sealing emergency hatches failed because the submarine's control systems were knocked out. Military experts said they believed the crew of the Kursk was testing one or two weapons

systems: an antisubmarine missile that fired from a torpedo tube out of the sea, then reentered it to attack submarines; or an upgraded version of a fast and silent torpedo called the Squall.

Accidental ignition of the propulsion system of either weapon before they launched would have had devastating consequences for the Kursk. Rustam Usmanov, head of the Dagdizel military plant on the Caspian Sea, told The Sunday Times that his chief engineer had been on the Kursk to monitor weapons tests. Mamed Gadzhiev, a veteran weapons designer with Dagdizel, and Arnold Borisov, another employee of the plant, were among the 118 men who died. Usmanov denied, however, that the two men were working on a "secret weapon" for the Russian Navy. Mamed Gadzhiev and Arnold Borisov were supervising a regular test launch of torpedoes on the Kursk, he said. The task of our men was to supervise and check if the torpedo was working as it should. Our specialists were not dealing with any new or modernized torpedoes. Western experts say they believe the Russian Navy was upgrading the Squall, a torpedo that can reach speeds of 200 knots. It is unique because it travels in a gas capsule, which reduces friction with the surrounding water. The weapon is very clever, it uses propellers to boost it out of the sub, then a rocket kicks in at a safe distance, burning liquid propellant, said one British expert. The danger is if the second stage fires inside the submarine. Then you can say goodnight.

Russian military strategists describe the Squall as a torpedo, rather than a rocket, and insist there were no rockets on the Kursk. However a letter written by a crew member to his mother, which arrived the day the vessel went down, said: "We are sitting in port, loading up rockets." Further support for the, "secret weapon," theory came last week from Alexander Rutskoi, governor of the region from which many of the submarine crew were recruited. Rutskoi, a former Russian vice-president, said he had been told by two high-ranking military officers that civilian experts were aboard the Kursk to test new torpedoes, but declined to give any further details.

American experts believe that one of the Kursk's rocket-propelled antisubmarine weapons, an SSN15 or SSN16 - could have become stuck in its launch tube and exploded. According to the Russians, the last contact with the vessel was on August 11. Gennady Lyachin, the Kursk's commander, had successfully test-fired a missile during military exercise. He asked permission to fire again on Saturday morning. Admiral Vyacheslav Popov gave the go-ahead from his nuclear-powered flagship, Peter the Great. There was no further contact. The submarine's objective was to launch a cruise missile, and then, in a certain area, to identify missiles and hit the main target with a torpedo salvo, said Igor Sergeev, the Russian defense minister. The commander reported having fulfilled the first task and, by 1800 (1400 GMT on August 12), he was expected to report the fulfillment of the second task. The submarine failed to establish a communication link. What had happened in the meantime remains a matter of dispute between Russian and Western military experts. Sergeev was still insisting yesterday that the most likely cause of the

disaster was a collision with a foreign submarine.

The Russians have produced no evidence to back this claim, however, and Sergeyev also admitted it was difficult to say what time the accident occurred, because the exercise involved maintaining radio silence for extended periods.

Western experts have almost unanimously rejected the Russian version. A collision certainly could not account for the explosions detected by a Norwegian seismic institute at 11:28 a.m. and 11:39 a.m. Russian time (0728 and 0729 GMT) on August 12, the second of which registered 3.5 on the Richter scale. This was the single most powerful explosion we have ever registered in this area, said Frode Ringdair, a scientific advisor to the institute. Neither would a collision have caused such devastating damage so quickly. Underwater footage gathered by Russian rescue teams days after the accident indicated that a massive force had ripped open the Kursk's entire front section, including the control room. Lyachin, 45, and his closest aides probably died immediately.

Anthony Watts, editor of Jane's Underwater Warfare Systems, said Russian claims of a collision were disinformation. There are 10 watertight compartments in that class of submarine. It can withstand flooding of two or three compartments and remain afloat. Further reason to pin the blame on exploding munitions was the fact that the Kursk's periscope was extended, indicating that it was at periscope depth when the accident happened - the correct depth for launching a torpedo. It now also seems certain that nobody on the submarine survived longer than 60 hours, because no watertight compartments remained intact. The Russians backtracked on early claims that tapping on the hull had continued for four days after the accident. They now admit the last sign of life was two days earlier, on August 14. The messages were , SOS, Water. Even that claim has not been confirmed. Without doubt, the Russians are hiding a terrible secret. Norwegian officials said last week that their divers had been refused permission to go anywhere near the front of the boat and were given firm instructions to keep away from the damaged area. Perhaps even more surprising, though, is how little American authorities have said about the tragedy. An American submarine was close enough to the naval exercises to detect the underwater explosions. Also patrolling nearby was the Loyal, a spy ship that tows a sensitive sonar array. Both should have been able to piece together the events that sunk the Kursk. If they did, they are keeping quiet about it. The Cold War lives on.

Retirement Pay vs. Disability Pay:

(Just Passing the Word) In 1984, Congress passed a bill that established "The Military Retirement Fund" administered by the Secretary of the Treasury. This bill has been incorporated into US Code 10, Chapter 74, Sections 1461 - 1476. The following is extracted from this code. In accordance with that code, funds are available and furnished from the Treasury Department to pay the complete Military Retirement obligation. DOD need not ever appropriate additional funds for this purpose. Since 1984 retired disabled veterans have been required to forfeit their share of these appropriated retirement funds dependent upon their degree of

disability. The forfeited funds are diverted for the exclusive use of the Department of Defense to spend in whatever way they desire. In effect this provides a pool of money to support expenditures by the DOD on non-budgeted items. The Department of Veterans Affairs is required to appropriate money to pay the service connected disability awards to military retirees without consideration for the amounts already appropriated by the DOD. The VA does not receive any of the appropriated moneys forfeited by disabled military retirees.

This inequity is currently being addressed by congress through the National Defense Authorization Bill FY 2001 committee. They must decide whether to go along with an already Senate-approved bill authorizing concurrent pay for inclusion in the bill. In 1981 the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR) organization was founded with the sole objective of eliminating this inequity. Through their efforts, Congressman Bilirakus (R-FL), and with the support of numerous fraternal organizations, Congress has been lobbied annually to pass legislation that would provide concurrent pay to disabled retirees. Each year these efforts have produced an increase in the number of co-sponsors on legislation that would allow this and this year we have our best chance to date. However, Defense Secretary Cohan is now trying to torpedo this effort and has requested the committee not to approve funding at this time for enhanced retirees benefits. If the National Defense Authorization Bill committee fails to include this in the bill to be forwarded to the President, the USDR must continue as an organization to carry on the fight for concurrent pay. We should know by October 2000 if this happens. In the event Cohan is successful and the committee does not go along with the Senate bill, USDR will need all the support they can get to continue their efforts. Retirees interested in lending their support to this effort can contact Dan Pettigrew LCDR, SC, USN (Ret) at: bookem@hoe.kis.net, check out: <http://www.usdr.org> or write USDR, PO Box 2841, South Bend, IN 46680. Lt. James "Tichacek" USN (Ret) Director, Retiree Activities Office & U.S. Embassy Warden Baguio City, RP PSC 517 Box RCB, FPO AP 965217-1000 Tel: (63-74) 445-6786 or 446-2087 to record msg. or FAX 1-801-760-2430

In Closing:

A chicken and egg are lying in bed. The chicken is smoking a cigarette, a satisfied smile on his face. The egg is frowning and looking a little ticked. After a moment, the egg turns to the chicken and mutters, "Well, I guess we finally answered that question."

Dolphin Tales, with a dash of Salt:

In getting underway from port, one Commanding Officer always followed a predictable pattern. He would approach his safe, open it, and remove a slip of paper which would be kept in his hand all the way down the channel. After which he would open the safe again and deposit the slip of paper inside. As this continued, speculation mounted on the bridge. No one, however, could figure out what was written on the slip of paper. As sometimes happens, the Commanding Officer fell ill, and had to be removed to

the hospital. His relief in going through the safe, came upon the slip of paper. Written on the paper were these words: "Starboard is Right. Port is Left."

Minutes of the Arizona Subvets. Perch Base, for 9 September 2000:

The Eboard Meeting, was convened by Roger Cousin at 1215.

The General Meeting was convened by Roger Cousin at 1308.

Treasurer's Report was given.

Sailing List: 18

Guests: 0

Old Business: **Don Wannamaker** has 2001 calendars for sale. (Information in this Newsletter)

New Business: **Don Wannamaker** talked about his trip to San Diego (with **John Redding**). He solicited the sale of the calendars to the three different subs he visited. He sounded encouraged about the sale to active duty personnel on board the subs.

A presentation was made by the Commander to **Bob May** for 50 years of sub service. He received a Holland Club certificate, a patch, and a membership card.

Jim Newman called to say he has just completed his final phase of his annual trip, and will be back next month.

Ray Samson will be co-chairman, along with **Gary Patterson** on the membership committee office. This was an executive decision made by the Commander.

Don Wannamaker gave a presentation on the WWII sub convention held on the first week of September. He said it was an excellent convention, and he was very pleased with all the activities he participated in. A motion was made and passed stating that the membership list will be sent to all Perch Base members. A motion was made and passed to have nametags made for each Perch Base member.

Lou Tejera's donations of a painting and book for fund raising for needy personnel netted \$260. The names of the winners were not recorded, but will be put in the minutes of the next meeting.

Roger Cousin announced he is giving up responsibility of all Perch Base offices effective at the end of the month. He will remain a Perch Base member and assist in the transition of the offices he held. Good of the Order 50/50 was \$68.

The meeting was adjourned at 1425.

Commanders Comments:

There are 4 other recipients for Holland Club certificates which I will send out shortly. They are: **Hubert Maxey, Ken Becker, Billy Grieves, and Joe Benard**. These men were presented with their

Certificates in mid September. According to the Membership Co-Chairman, **Ray Samson**, he believes the motion was to make the Membership List Available to all members, not to send to all. This will be clarified and the next meeting.

Note: The names of the raffle winners and what each won is noted above. My announcement of resignation, was reported in error. I believe I said I was leaving at "the end of the year (December 31)." Others agree with me. I would never leave my post without ample notification and time to train my replacements. I believe it's obvious how much Perch Base has always meant to me and still does. I request that the Minutes be changed.

Fund Raiser for USS Torsk SS423:

In November the Torsk Volunteer Association and Ron Martini will be holding an auction on Ron Martini's BBS (at <http://wavecom.net/bbs/subboard/index.html>) to benefit the Torsk Volunteer Association (TVA). At this point we are collecting items to put up for auction. All donated items should be shipped to me at my address below, where we will catalog, number and photograph them. On October 15, Ron will post a message on the BBS with a link to a web page listing all the items that are available to bid on. Bidding will start on November 11 and run through November 25. Bidding is done through email, and the web site is updated daily with the high bidder amount and initials. Once Ron has received payment after the auction, TVA will ship the items to the winning bidders. Ron will then send a check for the total amount to TVA. All proceeds will go directly to TVA for maintenance and restoration projects on Torsk. **USS TORSK, SS-423**, was commissioned on December 16, 1944. **TORSK** made two war patrols in the Pacific and sank the last two enemy ships of World War II. She continued to serve as an active unit of the United States Navy making over 11,000 dives until she was decommissioned on March 4, 1968.

After a three-year assignment as a Naval Reserve training vessel in Washington, DC, **TORSK** became a memorial in Baltimore, Maryland in September of 1972. Every year thousands of people tour her confined spaces and learn what life was like for the men of the Silent Service. Through the efforts of volunteers and contributions such as yours of materials and funds, we will preserve the Torsk for future generations so that they too can remember the sacrifices made by the men of the submarine force who gave their lives in the service of our country.

Thank you for your support!

Gilbert

Gilbert M Bohannon Jr-Chairman, Torsk Volunteer Association, 2312 Woodberry Street Hyattsville, MD 20782, 301-422-8940 email gmbjr@ix.netcom.com USS Torsk Web Site: <http://www.usstorsk.org> USS Torsk BBS: <http://pub11.ezboard.com/ftorskbbstorskbanditsbbs>

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