

Perch Base Membership List Updated:

The latest Arizona Perch Base Membership List is now available, complete with email, home addresses and phone numbers. A copy is available through the Membership Co-Chairman, **Ray Samson** (see front cover). The list will be updated every quarter and new list provided. Next updated list will be available at January 13th meeting. If you are now on line or you are a new member, and have an email address, please email it to the Membership Co-Chairman **Ray Samson** at rsamson@azwest.net for the most expedient communication. He will pass it on.

Lost Boats and Crews for December:

USS CAPELIN (SS289); Launched 20 January 1943; Sunk December 1943; 78 men lost.

USS CAPELIN was one of the many U.S. submarines which sailed from Fremantle, Australia, in late 1943 in an attempt to stop any enemy freighters and tankers carrying desperately needed raw materials from the Dutch East Indies to Japan. **USS CAPELIN'S** first patrol began on 31 October 1943 when she set sail for the islands immediately west of New Guinea. After only 17 days at sea, she experienced mechanical difficulties and was forced to pull into Darwin, Australia for repairs. During this unusually brief patrol, however, **USS CAPELIN** had attacked a Japanese convoy, sinking at least one cargo vessel and earning a battle star. Once repairs had been completed, **USS CAPELIN** set out on 17 November for her next patrol. On 2 December, **USS BONEISH (SS223)** reported sighting an American submarine in **USS CAPELIN'S** assigned area. An attempt to reach her by radio a few days later, however, received no response. Subsequent radio transmissions went unanswered. **USS CAPELIN** had mysteriously disappeared. Japanese minefields are now known to have been placed in various strategic positions along the north coast of the Celebes in her area of operation. It is suspected that **USS CAPELIN** could have been the victim of a mine explosion sometime in December 1943.

USS SEALION (SS195); Launched 25 May 1939; Sunk 10 December 1941; 4 men lost.

USS SEALION was commissioned on 27 November 1939 and began operations as part of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, **USS SEALION** was in Manila undergoing overhaul at the Cavite Navy Yard. Three days later, on 10 December 1941, Air raid sirens sounded over Manila as 54 Japanese warplanes appeared in the sky. **USS SEALION'S** crew quickly manned her deck guns, but seeing that machine gun fire could do little damage to the high altitude enemy bombers, all hands were ordered below. Minutes later, a bomb struck **USS SEALION'S** conning tower and completely demolished the machine gun mount which had been recently vacated. At almost the same instant, a second bomb ripped through the submarine's main ballast tank and pressure hull. It exploded in the after engine room, killing four crewmen. The rest of the crew managed to escape as **USS SEALION** sank. Salvage was hopeless as the Cavite Navy Yard had been demolished in the bombing raid and the nearest repair

facilities were 5,000 miles away at Pearl. On Christmas Day, 1941, three depth charges were detonated inside her hull, sinking her at the bottom of Manila Bay, where she and 4 members of her crew still lie today. **USS SEALION** was the first U.S. submarine lost in WWII.

S4 (SS109); launched 27 August 1919; Sunk 17 December 1927; 40 men lost.

USS S4 was operating in dense fog off the coast of Maine on a cold winter's night on December 17th 1927. In those days, with no radar, no SONAR and operating in fog, it was almost impossible to see danger until it was too late. This was the case with **S4**. Out of the fog, the U.S. Coast Guard ship, **USS Paulding** was on a collision course with **USS S4** and none was the wiser. Within minutes of the collision, **USS S4** heaved over, water rushing in amidships, and sunk taking 40 crewmen with her. A court of inquiry convened, but what good did it do. 40 submariners lie in their tombs at the bottom of the ocean.

USS F1 (SS20); Sunk 16 December 1917; 19 Men Lost.

USS F1 collided with her sister ship the **USS Submarine USS F3 (SS22)** on a dark night off the coast of California catching all those who were sleeping by surprise. Before they realized what was happening, the ship sank in 10 seconds taking with her 19 men. There were only three survivors.

USS S-48 (SS159) (twice); First Sinking 7 December 1921; No men lost.

USS S-48 sank in Long Island Sound while conducting a test dive during builder's sea trials prior to being commissioned. A hatch cover on one of the after ballast tanks had not been properly secured, and several after compartments flooded, bringing the **USS S-48** to rest in some 60 feet of water. The crew was able to raise the bow to the surface, and escape. Repairs required some 10 months of additional work.

The **S-48** was finally commissioned on 14 October 1922. **USS S-48** bears the distinction of being the only U.S. submarine to be involved in two serious accidents under the definition of this study. The second accident occurred while returning to port on the evening of 29 January, 1925. **USS S-48** was caught in a heavy snowstorm just off the New Hampshire coast and ran aground once and was able to pull herself off, only to run aground again a short time later. The buffeting of the storm caused the battery compartment to take on water and deadly chlorine gas began forming. The crew of the **USS S-48** was rescued by U.S. Coast Guardsmen in lifeboats, without loss of life. The **USS S-48** was freed from the rocks on 8 February, 1925. However, damage was so severe that funds were not available to make repairs. **USS S-48** was decommissioned on 7 July 1928. She was finally repaired and recommissioned on 8 December 1929, nearly four years after her latest accident. **USS S-48** was to see duty in World War II as a training submarine at New London, CT.

Minutes from October Meeting. by Carl Scott, Secretary:

The E-board meeting was convened by **Roger Cousin** at 12:10. The General Meeting was convened at 13:06. Treasurer's report given by **Bob May**
Sailing List: 20 members, plus 4 new

members; **Robert Hanson, Terry Cash, George Farnham & Richard Webber.**

• Old Business: none.

• New Business: **Don Wannamaker** said that the Chaplains position for 2001 has been filled. Roger passed out copy's of his suggested changes to the base bylaws to be evaluated by the membership at home and discussed at the next meeting. A motion was made and seconded to table this issue until **Don Wannamaker** takes over January 1st. Roger requested the membership to vote on how the proceeds from the September raffle would be spent. It was agreed that the \$263 would be given to the Luke Air Force Adopt -A- Family Christmas Foundation. A new Associate Member **Larry Rankin** was voted in. The membership voted to award American Legion Post 29 \$200 in appreciation for us using their meeting facilities. Don has a flatbed truck for use in the Veterans Day Parade. A motion was made and seconded to move the November meeting from the 11th to the 18th. Don is to notify the Base members. Don made a presentation on the December Christmas Party at Luke from 17:30 to 24:00. The 50/50 drawing netted \$74.

• Meeting adjourned at 14:30

Veterans Day Parade:

Veterans Day 2000 marked the first true melding of both Arizona Submarine Veterans of WWII, Wives of the USSV WWII (Dolphinette's), and Perch Base USSVI in harmony and friendship. Both groups got together, hand-in-hand and entered the parade down Central Ave. in Phoenix. Just two days before, at the WWII Business Meeting, two beautiful permanent 10ft x 3ft banners were given to Perch Base by the WWII SUBVETS for the sake of solidarity of and in appreciation for the hard work done by **Don Wannamaker** and **Dave Harnish** at the USSV WWII Convention, held last August. **Billy Grieves**, who belongs to both SUBVET organizations, and is a WWII SUBVET made the presentation to Perch Base Officers **Dave Harnish, Don Wannamaker, and Roger Cousin**, all of which have been Associate Members in the WWII organization for a number of years. Each made short speeches in appreciation. The banners were used for the first time in the Veterans Day Parade.

I wish to thank all those Perch members who showed up to march in the parade, **Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newmam, Ray Samson, Ben Acosta, Dave Harnish, Larry Rankin, Don Wannamaker, Glenn Herold, Royce Pettit, Billy Grieves, Manny Burrel, Doug La Rock, and, Roger Cousin.** I know there are others but I'm having a senior moment so please forgive me. At any rate, it was fun and an honor. It must be noted that the presentation made from the Submarine Veterans was voted number one, from well over one hundred entries. Thanks to all of you, and a special thanks to the WWII's.

Interesting dates in December:

- (7) 1944: Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and U.S. declares war.
- (11) 1941: U.S. declares war on Germany and Italy, enters WW II.
- (13) 1903: Wright Bros. first flight.
- (15) 1791: Bill of Rights signed.
- (22) 1968: U. S. PUEBLO seized by North Korea.
- (24) 1814: War of 1812 ends.
- (25) Christmas
- (29) 1890 Battle of Wounded Knee, last major conflict between American Indians and U.S. troops (minor armed conflicts last into early 1900s).

Email Message from Submerged **USS DOLPHIN (AGSS-555)** Makes Sub History:

*Submitted by Shipmate **Scott Prothero** Washington (September 1, 2000)*

Geoff Moore's father opened a surprise e-mail this summer: "Hi, Dad. I'm sending this from 400 feet below the sea. Say hello to mom for me." And with that, submarine history was made. It wasn't Alexander Graham Bell's legendary phone call for "Watson" to "come into the room," but Moore's unsuspecting father had received a message from the first batch of conventional e-mails ever sent from a submerged Navy submarine. Scientists aboard the **USS DOLPHIN**, a 1960s-era, diesel-powered sub devoted to research missions, rigged the system using the vessel's existing sonar phone. The phone transmitted the digitized messages using an acoustic modem. The signals traveled through sound waves to a surface buoy, which converted the message into radio waves and transmitted the messages to a shore-based server in San Diego, Calif. The error-free transmission, which also dispatched e-mails to two Navy offices, proved the feasibility of an experimental, underwater Internet system, said Joe Rice, the Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Systems Center's principal investigator for the Sea Web Initiative. Harnessing the power of sound waves to transmit bits of digitized data across the ocean at 1,500 meters per second, the Navy's research effort could soon lead to an underwater surveillance system around the world, he said. Just as a cell phone uses radio waves, the underwater monitors would transmit reports of enemy subs to nearby ships or to shore automatically, Rice said. That would eliminate the Navy's current system of flying P-3 Orions over sonar buoys to pick up radar signals. Interestingly, the research program will not lead to e-mail access for the Navy's sub fleet, Rice said. "That's not likely," he said. "Even though the demo we did was very successful, we're still not funded for that kind of work." The tests simply were intended to prove that the system is capable of transmitting complex text files, he said. Sub crews, meanwhile, will stick to their silent, e-mail-free ways. Said Rice: The subs don't like