

From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

We are looking at summertime once again, the year is going fast. But in looking back we have made great progress to date. The SubVettes have been a wonderful addition to Perch Base. Their efforts on behalf of the base, has created more attendance, and made our meeting more enjoyable. Thanks again Ladies for all your help.

Those that didn't make the last several meetings, you are missing out on some great meetings and the very best opportunity to spend time with your shipmates. Our Holland Club membership is really beginning to grow. Congratulations to our newest Holland Club inductee, shipmate Emil Schoonejans. It seems like we are getting one or two new members each month.

June the 12th we will be having our meeting in Snowflake, AZ. The date given, June 16, was in error. It's a great time for a trip out the valley, to the cool, White Mountains. Make a weekend of it; we will have the motel and hotel information posted on the web site. We have a map to Jim Clewett home, in this issue and May's Newsletter with directions where the meeting will be held.

Last but not lest, national now has our internet voting set up. This will save our national treasury a good bit of money in stamps and mailing. Our web master will have the information on the web site so that you might register to vote. Please get yourself registered. More information will follow on this subject at our next meeting.

Fraternally Yours,

Glenn Herold

Base Commander

May Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 8 May 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Base Chaplain Howard Doyle 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 May.

According to the sailing list, there were 36 persons at the meeting – this total included members of the Arizona Pigboater Chapter of Submarine Veterans of WWII. Those present welcomed our guests and new members– Shipmates Gary Kahler, Brian Pelegrini, and Nick Leer. Gary, Brian and Nick introduced themselves and gave the mem-

bers a brief description of their submarine experiences. They were all given a resounding welcome from the members.

Perch Base Members also welcomed members of the Arizona Pigboater Chapter – Submarine Veterans WWII with a special welcome to Jack Richardson, 2002-2003 National President – Submarine Veterans of WWII.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the April meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer, Robert May, reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of May, 2004.

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

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore had nothing new to report.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore announced that the American Legion Post 62 will hold its election of officers on the 18th of May. Eligible members should cast their ballot on that date.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle reported that he had been in contact with Roger Cousin and his wife Lee. Roger is recovering from his surgical procedure and doing well. Jim Newman also indicated that Roger and Lee are off on a trip to the East Coast and wanted everyone to know they would be out of contact during their venture.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that current Perch Base membership is at 150 members.

Past Base Commander and USSVI Western Regional Director – Dave Harnish reviewed the results of the Mid-Year meeting of the USSVI Board of Directors. One of the main issues affecting most members was a decision to change the dues structure for membership in the organization. Annual dues will be increases for \$10 to \$20 starting in September 2004. After the Board of Directors studied mortality tables used by the life insurance industry to project life expectancy, they elected to also increase the one time fee to become a Life Member. This fee is based on a member's age and will become effective January 1st, 2005. At that time, the dues structure will be as follows:

Age 45 or younger	-	\$500
Age 46 to 55	-	\$400
Age 56 to 65	-	\$300
Age 66 to 75	-	\$200
Age 76 and older	-	\$100

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Dave encouraged everyone interested in becoming a Life Member to make application before the end of the year and take advantage of the much lower current dues structure.

OLD BUSINESS

Chuck Emmett—Newsletter Editor announced that the newsletter now contained paid advertising and encouraged the members to act as ad salesmen to bring in additional advertisers and help defray the cost of the Newsletter.

Glenn Herold announced Memorial Day would be marked with a ceremony at the Perch Memorial located on the National Cemetery. He encouraged everyone that could to attend. Glenn noted that the Perch Memorial is a beautiful tribute to all submariners and worth visiting regularly. Those attending should wear their Submarine's Vest and other items that identify them as Submarine Veterans.

Dick Caraker (Perch Base Member and Member of the Pigboater's Chapter of Submarine Veterans WWII) took



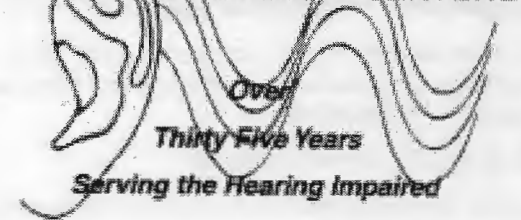
the floor and announced that the Pigboater's Chapter was contributing \$500 toward the planned refurbishment of the Mark XVIII Torpedo now located at the Perch Memorial. The money

was originally awarded to the Pigboat Chapter Chaplain—Joe Bernard to defray his expenses incurred in his role as Chaplain. Joe refused to accept the money. The members then voted to apply the money toward the Perch Memorial refurbishment effort.

(continued on next page)

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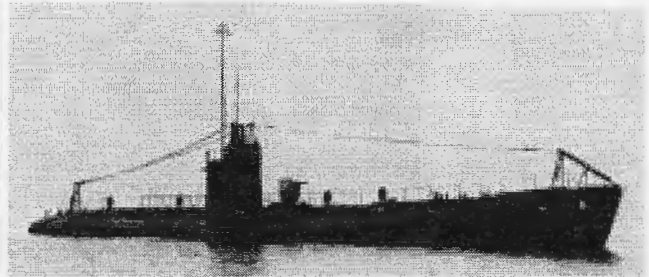
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This Old Boat . . .

OK, shipmates, true to my statement in the May issue, no more "This Old Boat." I'll try and come up with something that might generate a little more interest. Any suggestions?

But, first some answers. Last month's boat was sneaky. It was a WW II Japanese boat!

The submarine was a "Kaichu" Type, specifically the RO-33. I removed the hull number from the picture but they were usually painted on the sail.



The RO-33 showing bow anti-submarine net cutter.

These double-hull medium displacement boats were derived from the Kai-toku-chu (KT) type. They were constructed at four shipyards in two variants, the K.5 (RO-33 class) and the K.6 (RO-35 class), from 1934 to 1944. The later and more numerous K.6 variant were armed with the 21-inch oxygen-propelled Type 95 submarine torpedo and a 3.25-inch (80-mm) deck gun. Allied ASW measures took a heavy toll of the type. The RO-50 was the only ship of the type to survive the war and was surrendered at Sasebo.

Units-20 (1 survived)

Ships-RO-33, RO-34, RO-35, RO-36, RO-37, RO-38, RO-39, RO-40, RO-41, RO-42, RO-43, RO-44, RO-45, RO-46, RO-47, RO-48, RO-49, RO-50, RO-55 and RO-56

Year(s) Completed -1934 - 1944

Displacement (K.6)-1,115 tons /1,447 tons

Dimensions-264 ft x 23 ft x 13 ft

Machinery-2 diesels: 2,900 hp

2 electric motors: 1,200 hp

Speed-19.8 knots / 8 knots

Range-5,000 nm @ 16 knots

Armament -4x533mm TT fwd + 1x80mm + 2 25mm (8 Torpedoes)

Crew (K.6) -54 officers and men

(continued from previous page)

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Harnish took the floor and briefed the members on additional items from the mid-year meeting of the USSVI Board of Directors. A new procedure has been implemented to allow for members with internet access to cast their annual vote on line. The justification for taking this approach is based on the annual cost for printing, and mailing ballots to each member. The cost to the national organization alone was over \$8,000 last year and this didn't include the costs at the Base level. Anyone interested in the On-Line Voting should make sure their personal data is current by updating it online. To vote on line, each member must provide an email address and the hull number of their qualification boat.

Dave also reported that a discussion was held regarding the possibility of merging the Submarine Veterans of WWII organization with USSVI. The fact that US Submarine Veterans WWII is nationally chartered and USSVI is not precludes the merger of the organizations without significant amounts of restructuring. However, a USSVI committee was formed to pursue the most effective way of bringing the two organizations closer together.

Jack Richardson informed the members of the availability of scholarship monies for Submariner's children through the Dolphin Scholarship Fund which was largely funded by the scholarship funds from the Submarine Veterans of WWII. Members were also reminded of the scholarship monies available to the submariner's children and grandchildren through the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation's Scholarship Program.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

USSVI Western Regional Director - Dave Harnish asked all Perch Base Holland Club members to assemble front and center. After which, Dave called forward Shipmate Emil Schoonejans. Emil was then inducted into the USSVI Holland Club as a member in good standing who qualified in submarines more than 50 years ago.

After the induction ceremony, Emil was given a Holland Club Patch, membership card, lapel pin, coffee mug, certificate, Perch Base patch and letter from Bill Britt (President of the USSVI Holland Club). The existing Holland Club members welcomed Emil into their group and the membership showed him their appreciation with a resounding round of applause.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Ed Brooks was the winner. Ed donated the winner's share back to the Perch Base Treasury.

(See "MINUTES" on Page 8)

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: Was the War in Iraq justified to protect our national security?

A: No. President Bush told America that Iraq had Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD's) that could be used against the U.S. No such weapons have been found. In January 2004, Bush's own U.S. weapons hunter David Kay said, "I don't think they existed." [Reuters, January 24, 2004]

Q: Was the War in Iraq part of the War on Terrorism?

A: No. Both Secretary of State Colin Powell [NBC News, January 8, 2004] and President Bush [White House Transcript, January 31, 2003] admit there is no evidence tying Iraq to the terrorism of 9/11.

Q: Aren't we safer now that Saddam is gone?

A: Bush decided to invade Iraq long before 9/11. Bush's own appointed cabinet member, Paul O'Neill, said that regime change in Iraq was the main topic at the very first meeting of Bush's National Security team - a full eight months before 9/11. [USA Today, January 12, 2004] O'Neill said, "It was all about finding a way to do it. That was the tone of it. The president saying 'Go find me a way to do this.'" The Philadelphia Daily News reported [Philadelphia Daily News, January 27, 2003] that Rumsfeld and Cheney began making the case for an American invasion of Iraq [PNAC January 26, 1998 letter to President Clinton] as early as 1997 - nearly four years before the September 11th attacks."

Q: What has the War in Iraq cost America?

A: Over 500 U.S. soldiers killed and nearly 3,000 wounded. [As of January 24, 2004] It has seriously damaged relationships with most of our European allies and the United Nations, and the loss of the moral authority that came with our history of fighting aggressors rather than being aggressors. Over \$95 Billion and counting [As of January 24, 2004], which could have been better spent on education or health care or...we could have not spent it at all.

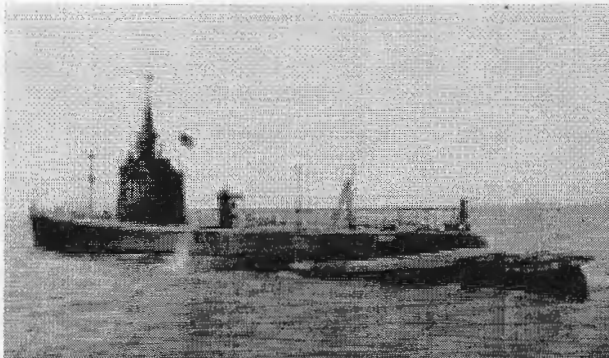
The War in Iraq

- The Weapons of Mass Destruction used to justify the war were never found and may not have existed.
- There is no connection between Iraq and the terrorists of 9/11.
- The Iraq War has created a breeding ground for new terrorists.
- The Bush Administration wanted to go to war in Iraq long before 9/11.
- The war has cost over 500 soldiers' lives, over \$95 Billion, and counting.

Eternal Patrol June 7, 1944

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. Gudgeon (SS-211) 78 men lost



Displacement: 1475 (surface,) 2370 (submerged;) length: 307';
beam: 27'; draft: 13' 3" (mean;)
speed: 20 k. (surface,) 8.75 k. (submerged;) test depth: 250 ft.;
armament: 1-3"/50, 6-21" torpedo tubes fwd., 4-21" torpedo tubes
aft;
complement: 4 officers - 54 enlisted men

Keel laid by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Mare Island,
CA 22 November 1939;
Launched 25 January 1941; Sponsored by Mrs. William S.
P y e ;
Commissioned 21 April 1941; Lcdr. Elton W. Grenfell in
command.

After shakedown along the California coast, *USS GUDGEON* (SS-211) sailed north 28 August, heading for Alaska via Seattle. On her northern jaunt the new submarine inspected Sitka, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor for suitability as naval bases. Continuing to Hawaii, she moored at the Pearl Harbor submarine base 10 October. Training exercises and local operations filled *GUDGEON*'s time for the next 2 months. When the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor 7 December she was at Lahaina Roads on special exercises, but returned to base immediately.

America's Pacific Fleet had been seriously damaged by the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor but powerful strength remained as *GUDGEON* and her fellow submarine soon offered convincing proof. On 11 December *GUDGEON*, in company with *USS PLUNGER* (SS179), sailed from Pearl Harbor on her, and America's, first submarine offensive patrol of World War II. When she returned some 51 days later, *GUDGEON* had contributed two more impressive "firsts" to the Pacific submarine fleet. She was the first American sub

See "**LOST BOAT**" on page 10



Chaplain's
Column



Final Voyage

On May 22, Judy Wannamaker, her daughter, son and daughter-in-law flew to Norfolk, Virginia for Don's scattering of ashes.

On Saturday Don's son David from Ohio, daughters Theresa and Lois from Virginia, granddaughters Tanya, Becky and great granddaughter Elaina and 5 military friends from Delaware and New Hampshire met for a lunch before taking a boat out to sea.

Judy had chartered a boat and we all went aboard and cruised out for an hour before the captain stopped the boat for a brief ceremony. His children read some readings, his friends and family made some comments and we scattered his ashes into the ocean. They all stayed together and floated out to sea. It was a beautiful sight and a fitting good-bye to Don. His last wish was to be scattered at sea that he so loved. A true Navy wish.

*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

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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 Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours.

Signed:

(Edgar T. Brooks B Base Secretary)