



August 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 8



<http://perch-base.org>

*What's "Below Decks"
in the Midwatch*

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol
AUGUST ETERNAL PATROLS

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| USS Bullhead | SS332 | Aug. 6, 1945 | 84 men |
| USS Flier | SS250 | Aug. 13, 1944 | 78 men |
| USS Grunion | SS216 | Aug. 16, 1942 | 70 men |
| USS S-39 | SS144 | Aug. 16, 1942 | none lost |
| USS Harder | SS257 | Aug. 24, 1944 | 79 men |
| USS Cochino | SS345 | Aug. 26, 1949 | (see note) |
| USS Pompano | SS181 | Aug. 29, 1943 | 76 men |

NOTE: Although Cochino lost no men in its sinking, 7 men from the USS Tusk were lost in the rescue of Cochino's crew.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - August 21, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head

2004 USSVI Scholarship Winners

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GROUP

Groton Base Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Kristie Neeser, Granddaughter of Gerald R. Neeser, Hawkbill Base

Bremerton Base, "Willie Spoon" Memorial Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Ashley Nevels, Granddaughter of Robert Campbell, Requin Base

Perch Base, "Gary Patterson" Memorial Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Emily L. Ongstad, Granddaughter of Raynold Dittrich, Mpls-St Paul Base

USSVI Scholarship Winners: \$750

Colleen Chatlos, Daughter of David J. Chatlos, MAL

Emile M. Englehart, Granddaughter of George H. Warner, Mid-Atlantic Base

Brittany D. Hauser, Granddaughter of David P. Hauser, Hampton Roads Base

Jessica Hunter, Daughter of Gaylen E. Hunter, Groton Base

Shannon McColl, Daughter of Angus A. McColl, Bremerton Base

Drew D. Murray, Son of Derek Murray, Groton Base

Charles Proffitt, Grandson of John Lehnham, Tri-State Base

Amanda L. Scherer, Daughter of Thomas M. Scherer, Requin Base

Ellan M. Thomas, Granddaughter of Lyle Holm, Mpls-St. Paul Base

COLLEGE GROUP

Groton Base Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Janelle Bentz, Granddaughter of Joseph Butzer, Reading Base

Perch Base/"Gary Patterson" Memorial Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Carrie Syvertsen, Granddaughter of Eugene T. Johnson, Bremerton Base

Submarine Officers' Wive's Club of Pearl Harbor, HI Scholarship Award: \$1,000

Jennifer A. Lindstrom, Granddaughter of George E. Worley, Hoosier Base

USSVI Scholarship Winners: \$750

Amanda Ator, Daughter of Roy Ator, Cowtown Base

Kelly B. Barnes, Daughter of Robert C. Barnes, Tri-State Base

Cerena M. Figueroa, Daughter of Louis I. Figueroa, Groton Base

Allison Lemay, Granddaughter of Francis Kroyer, Mpls-St Paul Base

James Lucas, Son of John G. Lucas, MAL

Allison Perry, Daughter of William B. Perry, Mid-Atlantic Base

Christina Robey, Daughter of Joseph R. Robey, MAL

Jessica E. Shadrach, Granddaughter of Charles D. Shadrach, Tri-State Base

Shannon Sprague, Daughter of Timothy Sprague, San Diego Base



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Sailing Orders



**Next Meeting, Saturday, Au-
gust 21, 2004.**

**All future meetings on the
third Saturday of each
month.**

**2004 National Convention
Albany-Saratoga, NY
Sept. 15 - 19, 2004**

NOTICE

**If you would like to receive
a copy of the MidWatch by
e-mail, send your full name
and e-mail address to the
editor at:
chuckster41@earthlink.net**

From the Wardroom

My Fellow Shipmates

Election time is almost on us, both on the national level, and USSVI level. The turn out this year for our own election is outstanding. I am receiving ballots almost every day in the mail and on the Internet through e-mail the voting is going far better than last year.

I would like each one of you to start thinking about our future election for the base officers. I would like to see at least two shipmates for each office nominated this year. Our base needs to have your input and what better way than as a member of the board. New blood in any group is always good for the membership. Look around you at the next couple of meetings. Pick someone that you feel will help the base grow. It might be you. Step up and let a shipmate know he will be happy to nominate you.

From all reports that I have received from our shipmates that made the trip up north, the White Mountain Base meeting had a good turn out with thirteen people showing up to elect the first base officers. Our Western Regional Commander Dave Harnish swore in the officers.

The new officers sworn in were, Commander Jim Clewett, Vice Commander Dick Jarenski, Secretary Steve Day, Treasurer Armand Deprins, and Storekeeper Doug Eddy.

On behalf of Perch Base I would like to extend congratulations to all the Plank Owners, of the White Mountain Base, and their new officers.

Bravo Zulu

Perch Base is proud to see new base's starting up in the state. First, to develop was the Yuma Base, then the Tucson

(see "WARDROOM," page 8)

July Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B 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 July.

According to the sailing list, there were 25 members and 1 guest at the meeting. Those present welcomed our guest and new member– Shipmates Kirby Anderson and Jack Messersmith. Kirby is a new member from Williams, Arizona and Jack is a Member at Large from Prescott. Kirby

and Jack introduced themselves and gave the members a brief description of their submarine experiences. They were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

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

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base=s financial status as of the first day of July, 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 was indisposed and couldn't attend this month's meeting.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle had nothing new to report.

Membership Chairman – Ramon Samson reported that current Perch Base membership is at 150 members, however, the Base will lose approximately 8 to the new White Mountain Base when it is formed.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett asked the members to actively pursue customers to pay for ads in the Base Newsletter.

Web Master – Ramon Samson announced that the Base Web Page is in process of being redesigned and asked the members to log on and take a look at the new site.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson announced that he had more of the popular "Submarine Wife – Toughest Job in the Navy" license plates in stock.

Past Base Commander and USSVI Western Regional Director – Dave Harnish took the floor and read a Robert (Dex) Armstrong article from the American Submariner chronicling the submariners of World War II. It was well received by all those present.

Dave also reviewed the changes to the USSVI dues structure that will take effect between September and the first of the year. Annual dues will be increases for \$10 to \$20 starting in September 2004. There will also be a significant 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 |

(see "MINUTES," next page)

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

We had a great meeting in July, with 22 in attendance. What a great turnout for the summer months. Hope we can continue to draw that many to all our meetings. We signed 2 new members on July 17, Jan Ballenger and Elna Lidman. Welcome to you both.

Our August meeting will be held at the Americana Restaurant on August 21 at noon. Hope to see you all there.

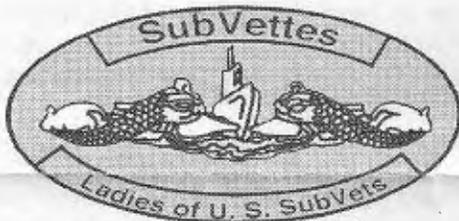
HAPPY BIRTHDAY'S

Kay Harnish – 8/18

Heather Newell – 8/21

Bobbie Chapman – 8/21

With Warm Regards
Nancy Nelson, President,
SubVettes of Perch Base



("MINUTES" continued from previous page)

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------|
| Age 66 to 75 | - | \$200 |
| Age 76 and older | - | \$100 |

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

Dave Harnish briefed the members on his recent visit to Heber, Arizona to initiate the formation of a new Base (White Mountain Base). The meeting went well, but there were too few potential members to elect a slate of officers and complete the formal process. There will be another meeting at the Red Onion Restaurant in Heber on July 24th to launch the new Base. Anyone interested should attend. Everyone is welcome.

Dave also reported that the Independence Day Parade in Heber was a huge success and well attended by folks from the region. The Perch Base Parade Float participated and was a big hit with the crowd.

Frank Rumbaugh and Dave briefed the members on the efforts to refurbish the Mk XVIII torpedo at the National Cemetery (Perch Memorial). Some technical considerations have to be accommodated and a visit to the Powder Coating firm has to be made to make final arrangements.

Dave Harnish asked if there were any members not receiving their copy of the "American Submariner" to let Ramon Samson know. Several members indicated that this was the case.

It was announced that On-Line Voting has begun. Anyone wishing to vote in the 2004 USSVI National Election via the Internet can do so by accessing the USSVI website and completing the registration process. Log on to <http://www.USSVI.org>

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold suggested that Perch Base provide seed money to the newly forming White Mountain Base. A motion was made that Perch Base contribute \$200 to the White Mountain Base Treasury. Following a discussion comparing the amount contributed to Tucson Base, the motion was modified to increase the amount to \$500 (the same amount contributed as seed money to Tucson Base). A voice vote was called for and the motion passed.

Glenn Herold asked for a show of hands from those that planned to attend the 2004 USSVI National Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York. Glenn then asked for those attending to let him know after they had registered so he could reserve a table at the Banquet.

The sponsors of the 2007 (Alaska Cruise) Convention are asking those that think they will attend to make reservations with the steamship company as soon as they can. Early registration and selection of preferences will aid in determining the type and size vessel that will be used.

(see "MINUTES," page 7)

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES July Meeting

The ninth monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at the Americana Restaurant, Peoria, Arizona at 1214 hours, July 17, 2004. There were 22 in attendance, 18 members and 4 guests. President Nancy Nelson led members in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer of invocation.

President Nancy Nelson introduced herself and two guests attending—Elda Lidman and Jan Ballenger and asked that all members be sure to sign the log book

(See "SUBVETTES," on Page 7)

Eternal Patrol August 16, 1942

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

The Final Patrol

Lord, this departed shipmate with dolphins on his chest is part of an outfit known as the best.
Make him welcome and take him by the hand. You'll find without a doubt he was the best in all the land.
So, heavenly Father add his name to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive will always keep their memories alive.

U.S.S. Grunion (SS-216) 70 men lost



The submarine GRUNION arrived at Pearl Harbor on 20 June 1942, reporting for duty from the West Coast. This vessel engaged in the pre-patrol training given to all submarines reporting from new construction yards, and on 30 June, left for patrol.

Lt. Cmdr. Mannert L. Abele, in command, was ordered to proceed to the Aleutian Theater and patrol westward from Attu on routes between the Aleutians and the Japanese Empire. On 10 July GRUNION was reassigned to the area north of Kiska. GRUNION made her first report on 15 July: Dutch Harbor received her message that she was attacked by an enemy destroyer; she had fired three torpedoes at it, and missed with all.

Shortly after this message was received GRUNION sent another relating that she had sunk three destroyer-type vessels on 15 July. This message was garbled to the extent that details of the attacks were never learned (Japanese information reveals that GRUNION sank patrol boats 25 and 27 and damaged a third patrol vessel). On 19 July GRUNION, S-32, TRITON and TUNA were assigned areas in the approaches to Kiska, all to be there by daylight 22 July.

There was a strong concentration of enemy vessels at Kiska, this time being only a month and a half after the enemy had taken that island. The vessels patrolling there were told to

watch particularly on the afternoon of 22 July 1942 for departing enemy naval vessels, since our own surface forces were scheduled to bombard Kiska that afternoon. The bombardment did not take place in accordance with the original plans, but our forces did stage the operation on 28 July and GRUNION was told to guard the exits from Kiska during darkness on this date. On this day GRUNION reported an attack on unidentified enemy ships six miles southeast of Sirius Point, Kiska. She had fired two torpedoes, made no hits, and been depth charged, but sustained no damage.

GRUNION's last transmission was received 30 July 1942. She reported heavy antisubmarine activity at the entrance to Kiska, and that she had ten torpedoes remaining. On the same day, GRUNION was directed to return to Dutch Harbor. She was not contacted or sighted after 30 July, despite every effort to do so, and on 16 August was reported lost. Planes observing the approaches to Kiska for indications of enemy salvage operations in connection with GRUNION reported negatively.

Japanese antisubmarine attack data available now record no attack in the Aleutian area at this time, and GRUNION's fate remains an unsolved mystery. We know of no enemy minefields which were in her area; thus her loss may be presumed to have been operational or as a result of an unrecorded enemy attack.

UPDATE - A gentleman in Japan, Yutaka Iwasaki, posted some interesting information on his website, about sunken Japanese ships during WWII, which includes information about the possible fate of the USS GRUNION.

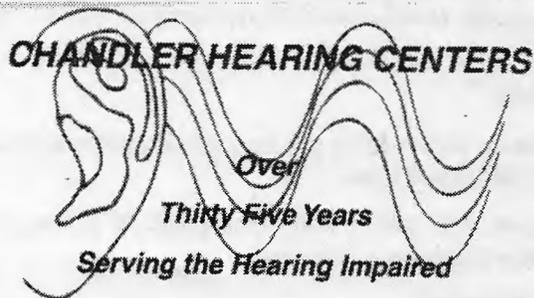
The Kano Maru was sunk at Kiska. Mr. Iwasaki kindly provided some very interesting information about the ship's history and the USS GRUNION. He provided the following on the history of the ship in connection to the loss of the GRUNION (publications S.Komamiya's Wartime ship history (1991 private issue) and JIRO Kimata's Submarine attack" (2000 Kojin-Sya)):

Kano Maru

- 30 July, 1942 - 08:00 Arrived at 36km north of Kiska. Heavy fog prevented approach, lost contact with the escort, forced drifting. Getting location by astronomical, she restarted approach to Kiska with 15kt.
- 31 July, 1942 - 05:47 Torpedoed by Submarine Grunion (SS-216). One hit at machinery room starboard, main engine and generator stopped. No more escape nor radio (sic).
- 31 July, 1942 - 05:57 Second torpedo came, but passed below the ship. Kano Maru pretended to

(continued on next page)

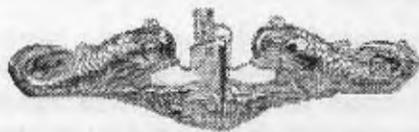
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launch seaplane without pilot, failed to start propeller.

- 31 July, 1942 - 06:07 Third and fourth torpedo came, hit fore bridge and amidships on the port but both dud. The Grunion intended to surface and sink by gunfire, ripples was seen 400m distance from her. Kano Maru had two old 8cm guns on forecastle and stern. Stern's one malfunction by the torpedo shock, but forecastle gun fired to the periscope. 13mm machine guns on bridge fired as well. Before the sub appear the whole, fourth shot from Kano Maru hit the conning tower of the sub. It is thought the last of Grunion. The attack had ceased. Later rescue came from Kiska, three seaplanes, cable layer Ukishima, and sub chaser No. 26.



("MINUTES" continued from Page 5)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ed Brooks took the floor and gave the members the current results of the 2003/2004 Fund Raising Campaign for the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation. Ed informed everyone that members have contributed a total of more than \$4,000 to the Foundations. Included in that is more than \$2000 contributed to the Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. This will provide for two \$1,000 scholarship grants to submarine veteran's children or grandchildren in the name of our Perch Base Shipmate Gary Patterson.

Ed asked Dave Hamish to make several presentations to members who had contributed sizable amounts to this year's campaign. First Dave presented a carving of the "American Blue Jacket" to Larry Rankin. Larry's own facial profile was the basis for the carving. Another carving of the "American Blue Jacket" was presented to Joe O'treba for his generous contribution to the Foundation. Hand carved submariner's

dolphins were also presented to Doug LaRock and John Cash in appreciation for their contributions to the Foundation. Perch Base has been extremely benevolent toward the causes represented by the US Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and John Zaichkin was the winner.

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 1352 hours.

Signed: Edgar T. Brooks, B Base Secretary

("SUBVETTES" continued from Page 5)

There was no reading of the minutes, as there was no Subvettes meeting held in the month of June, due to travel and events in Snowflake by the USSVI.

Secretary Debbie Newell reported on the base's financial status as of June 30, 2004. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Jackie Hawkins and seconded by Marygrace Veek.. Motion carried.

President Nancy Nelson reminded members that raffle tickets were available for items—a dolphin pendulum and potpourri warmer.

OLD BUSINESS

President Nancy Nelson updated members on events in Snowflake. While a base in Snowflake did not get established, it is still a possibility, with a ladies' group starting soon thereafter which would bring the national total to 9.

Also, in the newsletter there was mention that the float was going to be stored in Heber; however the plan was vetoed by one of the owners, so it is being returned to Glenn Harold's house. Nancy then thanked Tom Tilly for transporting the float to the parade. Vice President Kay Harnish, who attended the Independence Day parade, reported to members on parade events and about the number of people in attendance.

Nancy Nelson announced that, while she had hoped to have them at this meeting, Life Membership cards are not yet available; however, they will be mailed out as soon as she receives them.

Nancy then asked Debbie Newell if a picture of Perch Base officers had been sent to National. Debbie advised her that

(See "SUBVETTES" on next page)

("SUBVETTES" from previous page)

it had been sent through e-mail and Nancy provided Debbie with a photo print to mail to Ella for the National Historian.

NEW BUSINESS

Several members questioned Nancy regarding dues. Nancy then advised members that the Subvets will be raising their dues next year and, while she hasn't heard anything from Ella Blado, National President, it is her belief that it is quite possible that the woman's dues will go up also. Nancy provided members with current pricing information and suggested that members wanting to take advantage of current pricing should consider renewing their memberships before the end of the year. Nancy assured members that she would keep them updated as information became available.

Nancy reminded members that because the National Convention is being held in Saratoga Springs in September, there will be no local meeting held that month.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Happy Birthday wishes went out to the following members:

Bobby Landeck – July 10

Betty Weber – July 22

Members joined in singing Happy Birthday.

President Nancy Nelson noted that this was the first joint meeting for the WWII and Subvettes. Betty Weber advised members that 50/50 raffles and other events would be available after further planning. Betty also advised Subvettes members that they are eligible for Associate membership in WWII, with a fee of \$5. Nancy advised members of the Dolphinette newsletter, noting that as Arizona President of that organization, Betty Weber contributes a monthly article.

President Nancy Nelson then opened the floor for discussion. Questions were raised regarding new members and their dues. It was decided that those seeking annual membership after July 1 would have their dues pro-rated.

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Muriel Grieves questioned Nancy on groundbreaking for the new facility. Nancy advised that ground was broken June 21, 2004.

DRAWING

The drawing was held for the Dolphin pendulum and was won by Marygrace Veek.

The drawing was held for the Dolphin potpourri dish/warmer and was won by Jacque Hawkins.

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy advised members that the August meeting will be held at the Americana Restaurant, August 21, 2004 at 12 Noon.

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made by Marygrace Veek and seconded by Jacque Hawkins that the meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1307 hours.

Signed: Debbie Newell, Secretary

(continued from "WARDROOM," page 4)

Base and now the White Mountain Base. And, there is a good chance of Prescott having a base before the year is out.

The original plank owners of Perch Base have to be very proud of what they started on Jim Newman's patio. Shipmates we all thank you, for the fellowship and camaraderie you have allowed us.

The National convention is just around the corner, I hope everyone has all their reservations taken care of. We would like to get a couple of tables for Perch Base members that are attending. However only those that are registered as of the date we request a table, can have their names given and accepted for table reservation. Please get your names to me or Ed Brooks we will do our best to get everyone seated together for the Grand Banquet.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

Fraternally yours,
Glenn Herold
Commander



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[http://perch-base.org/
perch_base_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)**



Submarines of Today

USS Virginia (SSN-774) Passes First At Sea Test

By Chief Journalist Michael Foutch, Submarine Warfare Division Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Completing one of the first significant events in the Navy's newest submarine class, PCU Virginia (SSN 774) returned to New London, Conn., July 30 after putting the ship's propulsion plant through its most strenuous test yet.

Virginia's initial (or Alpha) sea trials also gave the builders and crew a chance to test the watertight integrity of the ship and to examine major systems, such as the ship's steering and diving, hydraulics and Emergency Main



Ballast Tank Blow System. The three-day trip included evaluating the clearance and watertightness of external and internal hatches and hull fittings, while incrementally taking the ship to test depth. This also allowed the ship to discover any potential rattles or unwanted sounds caused by the compression of the submarine due to the ocean's pressure on the hull.

This test, the first of many before Virginia's initial scheduled deployment, was the chance to put to sea the Navy's first post-Cold War submarine, one designed from blueprint to reality with long-term technological innovation in mind. The submarine boasts multimission capability and will include advanced heavyweight torpedoes, mines and Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (UUVs). In addition, Tomahawk missiles will be carried in vertical launch tubes, and it will feature an integral lock-out/lock-in chamber for

Special Operations Forces and the ability to carry the Advanced Seal Delivery System (ASDS).

"We don't know who the next conflict will be against, but the Virginia SSN has the versatility to deal with any foe, whether in a cave hundreds of miles inland, on a freighter smuggling WMDs [weapons of mass destruction], or a navy with a credible submarine or surface force," said Capt. Dale Nees, the branch head for Submarine Acquisition, Refueling Overhauls, SSBN and SSGN Programs within the Submarine Warfare Division (N77) of the OPNAV staff. "The SSN, with its persistent, clandestine, non-provocative capabilities, provides the President and the joint forces commander with options to execute our national and military strategy."

Nees said many tests on the propulsion plant and other ship's systems on Virginia were already done while the ship was in New London.

"But you're talking about a big hunk of steel, welded up on dry land, and filled with complicated and sophisticated equipment," Nees said. "You have to take it out to sea to find out if it all works as intended."

With much of the design work on Virginia completed through a first-time use of state-of-the-art computer modeling, the Alpha sea trials also offered the first chance to test systems such as the real-world hydrodynamic



Commanding Officer, Capt. David J. Kern USN and ship's sponsor, Lynda Johnson Robb, daughter of President Johnson and wife of Virginia ex-Senator Robert Robb, at the ship's commissioning.

(Continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

effects of the rudder and planes against the design parameters.

In addition to testing the submarine's equipment, the crew of Virginia has been looking forward to the first chance to take the lead ship of this class to sea.

"For a few years now, this crew has been an integral part of the incremental process of completing assembly, testing, quality assurance and the paperwork leading up to the operation of the ship and its systems," Nees said. "These guys are Sailors first, and like all Sailors, they are anxious to get back to sea."

The efforts of the plankowners of Virginia have been an important part of the success in delivering the ship, Nees added.

"This crew has one of the more demanding jobs in the submarine force. Not only do they have the responsibility of supporting the building of a new ship, but they've also been spending countless hours in trainers, classrooms, and many of them have been out on other ships to get or to stay qualified," Nees said. "So not only are they finishing up the transition from shore-based maintenance to a ship ready for sea, they're also standing watches, performing all the routine maintenance, admin, housekeeping, etc., as well. I'm sure they're very excited to put the ship to sea."

Nees also pointed out that the sooner Virginia can get to sea and deliver, the more money the government saves.

But Nees compared construction on Virginia favorably to previous first-of-a-class submarine construction programs. For example, the projected man-hours to complete Virginia are about two-thirds of those for the Ohio and Seawolf class submarines, and only exceed original estimates by about 20 percent, as compared to nearly 80 percent for Seawolf and 65 percent for Ohio. Further, Virginia will be delivered three to four months later than planned, based on an original schedule estimated six years ago; by comparison, the Seawolf was 25 months late; Los Angeles was 26 months behind schedule; and Ohio was 30 months overdue.

"We're not pleased with the cost growth, and continue to look at this carefully, but we are much closer in estimating production man-hours, and we're doing a better job on design efforts," Nees added.

As Virginia begins operations outside the shipyard, the focus will shift away from the cost of the new class

toward the capabilities of this formidable addition to the nation's defense arsenal.

The next test for Virginia will be Bravo sea trials in August, Nees said, with particular attention to the ship's underwater acoustics. Afterward, the ship will pull into Norfolk in time for preparations for the submarine's commissioning ceremony Oct. 23.



Virginia will return to New London after the ceremony to enter a yearlong post-delivery trial period. During this period, Nees said, tests will "run the full gamut; sound trials, fire control, sonar, communications, weapon launchers, you name it, every system evaluated in excruciating detail - especially since this is the lead ship of the class. We'll use this as an opportunity to evaluate whether we need to make any changes in construction, to discover whether we have any design problems that need to be resolved."

Post-availability shakedown is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005, and the submarine force leadership is striving for an accelerated schedule to deploy Virginia as soon as possible.

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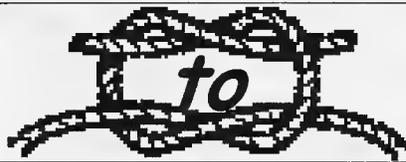


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Editor: In the past issue, July, I ran a "first person" type story that was written by Michael Skurat, Central Connecticut Chapter, U.S. Submarine Veterans World War II. Our Vice-Commander, Tim Moore sent me the following referring to that story:

Chuck,

I enjoyed reading Michael Skurat's article entitled "WWII Diesel Boat Era" in the July 2004 newsletter. After reading the article, I e-mailed Michael telling him I enjoyed the article and complimented him on his literary effort. I mentioned that I was a member of the Perch Base USSVI here in Arizona and received the following response back, and I quote:

Tim-

Thanks for the compliment and glad you enjoyed the article. I have felt for a long time that much has been written about the sagas, etc. of the boats but little about our actual life on board on a day to day basis. Consequently, I wrote this article for the benefit of the members of my Central Ct. Chapter US SubVets WWII and apparently it has gotten wide, and favorable, distribution.

Your PERCH base mention lets me recall a story. Shortly after the war we got a new Skipper on the USS TRUMPETFISH (SS425). His name was K.G. Schacht. He spent the entire war in a Jap POW camp. He was taken prisoner off the Perch in March of 1942. He went into POW camp as a LTJG and was (as were all POW's) promoted as if he spent all that time on active duty and came out a full Commander in late 1945. At first the Exec really ran the boat as he acclimated himself and learned the ropes. He was, without question, the best Skipper that I ever had in over 20 years. There are a few of us still alive that served together on that boat, we all still correspond and all still remember him most fondly. He eventually retired as a Rear Admiral and is now deceased.

While he was a POW his wife divorced him; that coupled with the fact that all his classmates at the Academy had had their commands and he had to catch up on his career and life made the TRUMPETFISH a boat for single sailors only. Including the Skipper it was one hell raising experience for all hands no matter what port we went into.

Keep a ZERO Bubble – Mickey the "Yeo"

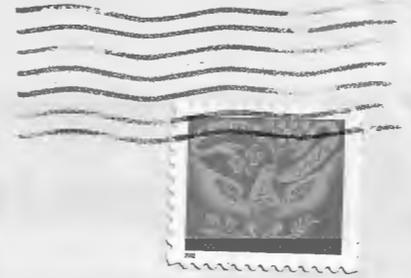
Chuck, as always, I look forward to your next newsletter, thanks for your contribution.

Your Shipmate,

Tim

These are the photos of Dave Harnish presenting "Ed Brooks Carvings" to members who had contributed sizable amounts to this year's USSVI Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation scholarship campaign. They include a carving of the "American Blue Jacket" to Larry Rankin. (Larry's own facial profile was the basis for the carving.) Another carving of the "American Blue Jacket" was presented to Joe O'treba for his generous contribution as well as hand-carved submariner's dolphins presented to Doug LaRock and John Cash in appreciation for their contributions to the Foundation.





Return To:

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<http://perch-base.org>



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NEXT REGULAR MEETING - August 21, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours