



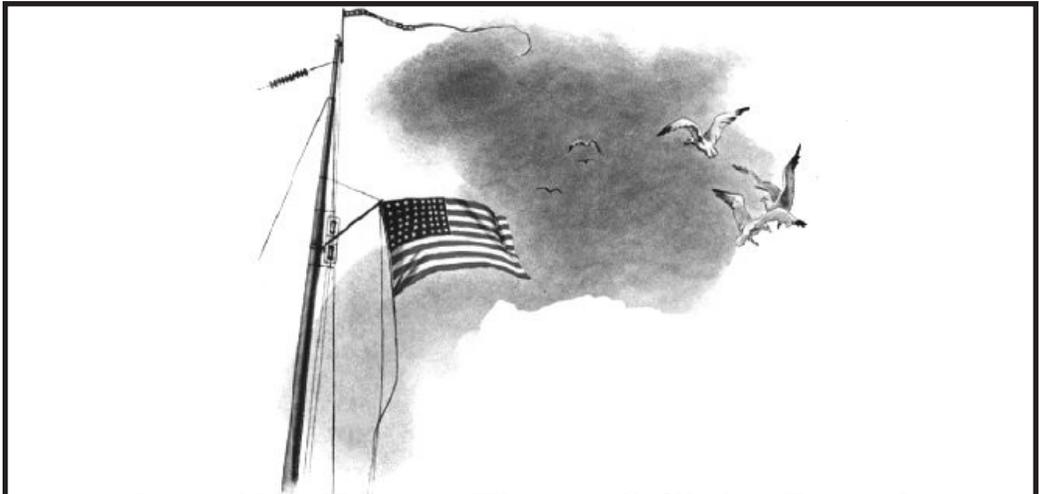
August 2006
Volume 12 - Issue 8



<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.

The Perch Base USSVI is not able to totally support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There has, to date, been no successful and ongoing plan since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on additional donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.



2006 Booster Club



A. H. "Bob" Nance	Adrian Stuke	Alan Miller	Billy Grieves
Bradley L. Butler	Bruce "Robie" Robinson	Butch DeShong	Charles Greene
Dave Harnish	David Carpenter	Doug LaRock	Edgar Brooks
Chuck Emmett	Joseph Hawkins	Edward J. Hawkins	Emil Schoonejans
F.J. "Ted" Asbell	Frank Rumbaugh	Gary Bartlett	George L. Crider
George Long	George Petrovitz	Glenn Herold	Harold C. Lister
Harry Heller	Jack R. McCarthy	James Denzien	James L. Wall
James W. Newman	Jerry N. Allston	Jim Nelson	John Cash
John Messersmith	John T. Hellem	John Zaichkin	Joseph Bernard
Kenneth Becker	Kenneth R. Anderson	L. A. "Mike" Keating	Lester Hillman
Mel Rycus	Paul V. Miller	Ray Samson	Raymond Marshall
Raymond Schaeffer	Reynaldo Atos	Richard Bernier	Richard Simmons
Robert A. Lancendorfer	Joe Oreteba	Robert Lents	Robert May
Roger Cousin	Roger M. Miller	Roger R. Miller	Ron Kloch
Ronald Beyer	Royce Pettitt	Stanley Rud	George Debo
Stephen Hough	Terry Martin	W. Scott Prothero	William L. McNay
Wayne K. Smith	Wayne Braastad	Walter Blomgren	Tim Moore
Thomas Moore	Stan Reinhold	Ronald Zomok	Robert Hanson
Ray Lee Graybeal	Milton Magart	Mike Simpson	Larry M. Rankin
Kenny Wayne	Ken Schonauer	Joseph R. Mullins	Jim Thomson
Jerry Yowell	James Edwards	Jack S. Kimball	Harry Ellis
Edward Wolf	Davy Jones	Darrell Lambert	Clair E. Prokupek
Buck Crouch	Joe Errante	Bob Gilmore	George Marions
Burtis Loftin	Layne Rumbaugh	Denny Kerton	Scott Fraser
Gerald Holloway	Nick Pappas	Wayne Pettes	John M. Welsh
Al Landeck			



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Sailing Orders



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Sept. 16, 2006

American Legion Post #105

3534 W Calavar Rd.

Phoenix, AZ

DONT FORGET — SUPPORT YOUR BASE!!! COME TO OUR PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

In an effort to show our appreciation for their hospitality, the Perch Base, USSVI is sponsoring a *Pancake Breakfast* as a fundraiser to bolster the coffer for our American Legion Post. They have welcomed us into their facility and we are deeply grateful. This event will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at Post #105 from 0800 – 1200. Invite your friends, relatives, neighbors and business associates so this will be a successful event to support Post #105. All proceeds will go directly into the Post treasury.

Come One... Come All... Come Hungry!

Let's Have A Great Turnout!

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI



Sailing Orders



(Continued)

USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION

Dear Shipmates,

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT! All USSVI election ballots must be turned in to me no later than 27 August 2006. Any ballots received after that date will not be included.

You all have received ballots. They were included as the centerfold in the current edition of the American Submariner. Also, our webmaster Ray Samson e-mailed them to all of you who have current e-mail addresses so filling them out and getting them in on time is up to you.

There are three simple ways to get your ballots in:

1. Mail them to me at the address below.
2. E-mail your selections to me at seawolfssn575@qwest.net.
3. Call me at 602-574-3286 if for some reason the first two options won't work for you.

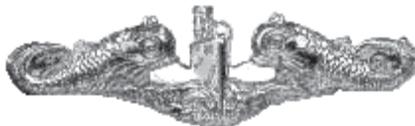
When Ray sent you the e-mail ballot he made reference to the fact that we only receive about a 20% return. I think you will all agree that this is very, very poor and we can do much better. There is no reason why we shouldn't get at least a 75% - 80% response. Remember the deadline is 27 August 2006. Please lend your support to the USSVI election effort by turning your ballots in. Thank you.

Tim Moore
Commander, Perch Base USSVI
5751 W Bloomfield Rd
Glendale, AZ 85304

2007 USSVI CONVENTION

ALASKAN CRUISE... ARE YOU GOING???

If you plan on going to the 2007 USSVI Convention and the Alaskan Cruise, **you must have a passport!** No other type of ID will be allowed for departure. Keep in mind; it could take you up to 90 days to get your passport at a cost of around \$100.00. Do not wait until the last minute. Mark on your calendar to apply no later than May 1, 2007 to allow adequate time. You should prepare yourself ahead of time by having a copy of your birth certificate available.



Minutes - Quarterly Meeting, Short Range/Long Range Planning Committee Arizona Submarine Veterans – Perch Base

The regular quarterly meeting of the Short Range/Long Range Planning Committee was convened on 26 July 2006 the Dave & Kay Harnish residence in Phoenix, AZ. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Jim Denzien at 1910 hours.

Committee members present at the meeting were:

Tim Moore – Base Commander
Dave Harnish – Western Regional Director (USSVI)
Kay Harnish – SubVettes Vice President
Howard Doyle – Base Chaplain
Jackie Hawkins – SubVettes Secretary
Jim Nelson – Base Storekeeper
Nancy Nelson – SubVettes President

OLD BUSINESS

Perch Base Float

Jim Denzien reported that the Perch Base Float sound system is now operational. We need to begin preliminary preparations for the November Veteran's Day Parade. Howard Doyle will follow up with Paula Predene at the Veteran's Administration to find out what is being planned for the 2006 event. We will need to have a work party in the fall to prepare the float for this year's parade. We also need to pursue plans for refurbishing the float and continue to seek covered storage.

2007 Birthday Ball

The proposed 2007 Submarine Birthday Ball was discussed. As of this meeting, there has been no feedback from other Arizona bases and very little from Perch Base members which would justify pursuing having the event in the Phoenix area in the spring of 2007. As a result another option has been proposed. This option is to have the Submarine Birthday Ball in conjunction with the 2007 Western Region Conference and the 2007 WWII Submarine Veteran's Southwestern Caucus in April 2007. Dave Harnish will discuss this proposal at a WWII Sub Vets meeting in San Diego during the week ending 07/28/06.

For these events to be successful there needs to be consensus between the WWII Vets and Western Region personnel culminating in a joint planning effort. Additionally, there are a number of logistical challenges which need to be met, including, but not limited to, identifying key players to be involved in coordinating functions as committee chairs and/or leads for:

- Registration functions
- Hotel Interface
- WWII Vets Interface
- Hospitality Suite(s)
- Banquet Preparation
- Entertainment Planning
- Guest Speaker
- Tolling Ceremony
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Vendor Coordination

Planning and getting Perch Base and SubVettes membership involvement needs to begin immediately. If the WWII Vets decline from participating in this event, we can still plan on moving forward with a combined Western Region Conference and Submarine Birthday Ball. Any WWII Submarine Veteran Caucus participants who are interested would be warmly welcome to this event as they are for any Perch Base or USSVI event.

Perch Base Meetings

A discussion was held on how to improve and make Perch Base meetings more interesting in an effort to increase membership participation. Items discussed included the possibility of forming an East Valley base or having a meeting in the East Valley to see if that might encourage more members from that area to attend. It was agreed that soliciting good guest speakers would be a draw. We also discussed the possibility of developing a questionnaire or survey to send out to

the membership to solicit their feedback for what they would like to create more involvement on their part. Dave Harnish suggested that we review the Meeting Improvement Handbook which is currently available on the USSVI website.

Annual Awards Banquet

The last item of business discussed was the 2007 Annual Holiday Awards Banquet. In that there were no other suggestions or recommendations from the membership, it was agreed that we would have the event at the Luke AFB Enlisted Men's Club again this year on 9 December 2007. Final planning will be addressed in future Board and Planning Committee meetings.

All the business before the Planning Committee having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chairman Jim Denzien.

From the Wardroom

Dear Shipmates,

This month I want to share with you an opportunity for Perch Base and a challenge to turn this opportunity into a successful venture.

In our meetings over the past few months, we have discussed the possibility of having a Submarine Birthday Ball in the spring of 2007 here in the Phoenix area. We have asked for feedback from our membership as well as from the other Arizona bases soliciting information on how many of our friends and shipmates might be interested in attending this proposed event. To date, we have had very little interest expressed other than a show of a few hands in our meetings. So the question is what can we do to create more interest and put together an event that will entice more participation from our local membership as well as our shipmates from other bases? We have an opportunity to do just that.

The Opportunity

The opportunity is to sponsor a Western Region Conference which is something we have already said we would be interested in doing. The conference would be in conjunction with a Submarine Birthday Ball which would be added incentive for other shipmates in our region to attend. We are also proposing that these two events could be combined with the WWII Submarine Veteran's Southwestern Caucus in the spring of 2007 in Laughlin. This would be a wonderful opportunity for Perch Base to shine and put together an event for which we can all be extremely proud and reap a considerable benefit that we can share with others.

The Challenge

The challenge is; do we have the moxie to pull it off? I think we do but it will definitely take an enthusiastic team effort. The enthusiastic effort of which I speak needs to come from a great deal of support from the Perch Base membership and our SubVette organization. We will need volunteers to head up, and support committees and event planning, for activities such as; registration functions, hotel interface, WWII Vets interface, hospitality suite(s), banquet preparation, entertainment planning, guest speaker(s), extra curricular activities, vendor coordination and a tolling ceremony. There are probably a number of other activities that I have not considered that will need to be addressed as well.

My guess is that within the Perch Base membership and our SubVette organization, we have personnel who have participated in most, if not all, of the above listed functions. We need the synergy of all of our combined experience to put this together resulting in a successful event, which the participants will be glad they attended. This then, is the challenge I propose to you. Will you accept it? Time is of the essence, let's use it wisely and meet the challenge.

Fraternally,

Tim Moore, Commander, Perch Base USSVI

July Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the members of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at the American Legion Post #105 Phoenix, AZ at 1300 hours, 15 July 2006. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Tim Moore.

The members were led in a Prayer of Invocation followed by the standard ceremonial opening.

According to the sailing list, there were nineteen (19) members and two guests at the meeting. The members welcomed guests Frank Blum and Gudgeon Base Commander Jack Messersmith.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the June meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch". The motion carried.

Base Treasurer, Jim Denzien's reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of July, 2006. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. Motion carried.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Dave Harnish reminded the members of the 2007 USSVI Convention Cruise to Alaska and the present status of reservations by members. Dave also reviewed the results of his tour of the cruise ship during the USSVI Mid-year Board meeting in Seattle. Dave also briefed the members on the results of this year's USSVI Scholarship Awards Program.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle briefed the members on the "Wounded Warrior Project" to provide needed personal items to hospitalized Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are arriving at state-side military hospitals with nothing but the clothes on their back. Howard also welcomed Shipmate, Joe Bernard to the meeting after his recent bouts with health problems.

Dave Harnish informed the members that anyone can act as a sponsor for any entity in conjunction with the Boat Sponsorship Program. All that is required is a payment to the "American Submariner" for sending the entity three copies of the USSVI magazine each year. The cost to the member is \$25 per year.

Dave also informed the members that there was an effort underway to hold next year's Western Regional Conference in conjunction with the US Submarine Veterans of WWII's Southwest Regional Caucus. The event would occur in the May – April timeframe.

It was announced that the Long-Range/Short-Range Planning Committee will meet during the week of July 17.

Tim Moore reminded the members that Perch Base is Boat Sponsor for the Arizona Veteran's Home, the U.S.S. Honolulu, The U.S.S. Tucson and one of the Submarine Squadrons.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that the planning effort surrounding holding a Submarine Birthday Ball in the area is continuing. A decision must be made by the end of October and whether or not there will be a Ball, depends upon the response by members.

Tim also announced that the August meeting will be held jointly with the Gudgeon Base in Prescott Valley. The meeting will be held at the Prescott Valley Moose Lodge on Saturday August 12.

It was announced that the Holland Club induction ceremony will be held in October probably at El Paso Ribs restaurant.

Members were informed that Perch Base will be hosting the Pancake Breakfast to be held at American Legion Post #105 in the morning of the third Sunday in August.

Tim Moore announced that Shipmate Jim Edwards has been elected as the Post Services Officer of Post 105.

Dave Harnish announced that Glenn Herold has been re-elected as Western District One Commander. He also informed the members that the national ballot will appear in the current issue of the "American Submariner". The ballot can be torn out and mailed in.

Ray Samson informed the members of the appointment of the new Member Data Base. He will email members with instructions as to how they may access their data. The system will be similar to the Naval Veterans online data base know as the "DeckLog."

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Moore announced that Perch Base will be looking to provide relief for Ed Brooks as Base Secretary. A request for potential candidates will be published in the "MidWatch" Base Newsletter.

Shipmate Billy Grieves asked for the floor and read an article from the "Polaris" magazine wherein a senior military retiree suggested that veterans should freely use the "hand salute" when the U.S. Flag is displayed, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited or the National Anthem is played. The point of the article is that those that have served their country should use the hand salute to denote that they are military veterans.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Harnish indicated that he has copies of the Plan of the Day for the 2007 Convention Cruise and will share it with anyone interested in the document. He also reminded those that plan to participate in the cruise, that a U.S. Passport will be required for the cruise. It will also take approximately six weeks to receive the Passport.

Tim Moore asked the members to think of ways to improve attendance at Base meetings and events and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Frank Rumbaugh announced that he had brought several Submarine articles to share with members. The articles were displayed on a meeting table.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the results of the USSVI Mid-year Board meeting. He mentioned items such as the organization's finances and the review and approval of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws that will appear on the National Ballot.

Tim Moore read some of the anecdotes provided by John Dudas.

50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was won by guest Frank Blum.

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.

The closing prayer was offered by Howard Doyle and the meeting was adjourned at 1357 hours.

Ed Brooks, Secretary, Perch Base



From Beyond the Wardroom *Perch Base SubVettes*

We hope you are all enjoying your summer, the weather has been really cool, of late, compared to other years, but then there is the humidity.

Hopefully you will all be back to our meetings in September or October, we miss you all.

We want to send our best wishes to our September babies.

Edna Lidman – 9/4

Sue Caraker – 9/8

Gladys Lister – 9/8

Sue Shumann 9/20

Judy Wannamaker 9/21

Lee Cousin – 9/29

“HAVE A MERRY HAPPY TO ALL”

Our next meeting, if we have enough members, will be held at the Moose Lodge, 6501 E. 6th Street in Prescott Valley on August 12th at 11AM, hope you will be able to make it up the mountain for their cool weather. **SEE YA ALL THERE.**

All my best,

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES *July*

The twenty-sixth meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base was called to order on July 15, 2006 at 12:45 p.m. President Nancy Nelson led our Pledge of Allegiance and Our Chaplain Sandy Bernard led opening prayer.

The Treasurer's Report, read by Hiromi Povio, was approved by the membership.

OLD BUSINESS

Our lack of national communication seems to be easing, due to the numerous emails. We are still attempting to have a representative at the National Convention, since our officers are unable to attend. Possibly Layne Rumbaugh will be able to be our proxy, at least for the business meeting.

Names for the SubVette National Newsletter were discussed and tabled until next meeting.

We are still discussing our current meeting place. It's not the most ideal location, but there are few alternatives, Sandy Bernard did suggest we meet at her house. Thank you, Sandy.

The Submariners Ball is still on the agenda, so far there has been little response from the other Arizona bases, but we are trying for the Regional in Laughlin, instead of a Phoenix area location to generate more interest.

NEW BUSINESS

We are currently researching ways to generate more interest in the SubVettes and attendance to our monthly meetings. We are creating a committee to come up with some answers to this dilemma.

Sandy Bernard sent Nancy a form to keep track of our members and all their titles held. This will be a great tool for local and national bases.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR AUGUST BABIES

Kay Harnish – 8/18
Heather Newell – 8/22
BobbieChapman – 8/25

We hope you all have a wonderful day!!!

Our raffle prize, the glass dolphin statuette, was won by Kathy Messersmith. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Our next meeting will be held in Prescott Valley on August 12, at the Moose Lodge, located at 6501 E 6th Street at 11 AM. Please give your RSVP to your President or Commander by Aug. 5. The cost of the lunch will be \$4.50 per person. Hope to see you all there.

Meeting was adjourned. Attended by 7 members and 1 guest, 8 Total.



Naval Humor or, Littoral Laughter

The new Ensign was assigned to subs, where he'd dreamed of working since a young boy. He was trying to impress the Master Chief with his expertise learned in Submarine School.

The Master Chief cut him off quickly and said, "Listen, 'sir', it's real simple. Add the number of times we dive to the number of times we surface. Divide that number by two. If the result doesn't come out even, don't open the hatch."



Eternal Patrol Aug. 29, 1943

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
Oof our departed shipmates still on patrol
Let them know that we who survive
Will always keep their memories alive.



U.S.S. Pompano (SS-181) 76 men lost

Photo # 80-G-456127 USS Pompano in San Francisco Bay, California, 1938



Laid down: 14 January 1936; Launched: 11 March 1937;
Commissioned: 12 June 1937;
Displacement: 1330 tons surf., 1997 tons sub;
Length: 300' 7"; Beam: 25'; Draft: 13' 10";
Speed: 20 knots surf., 9 knots sub.;
Complement: 50 officers and men;
Armament: 1 x 3 in gun, 6 x 21 in torpedo tubes



USS Pompano (SS-181), a *Porpoise*-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the pompano, one of the best of food fishes, a marine carangoid living in the southern Atlantic and Gulf coasts of North America.

Her keel was laid down on 14 January 1936 by the Mare Island Navy Yard in California. She was launched on 11 March 1937 sponsored by Mrs. Isaac I. Yates; and commissioned on 12 June 1937 with Lieutenant Commander L.S. Parks in command.

In the years preceding World War II, *Pompano* operated out of Mare Island off the West Coast of the United States, training her crew and patrolling in a constant state of readiness.

Although the submarine was awarded a battle star for the attack on Pearl Harbor, she had not yet arrived from Mare Island. Reaching port shortly after the disastrous strike, she sailed from Pearl Harbor on 18 December 1941 for her first war patrol, devoted mainly to reconnoitering the eastern Marshall Islands for a aircraft carrier raid in January. Planes from the flattops bombed the submarine by mistake 20 December, but she escaped damage.

Pompano arrived off Wake Island on 1 January 1942 to gather intelligence. On 8 January, she inspected Bikar and subsequently viewed several other islands of the group.

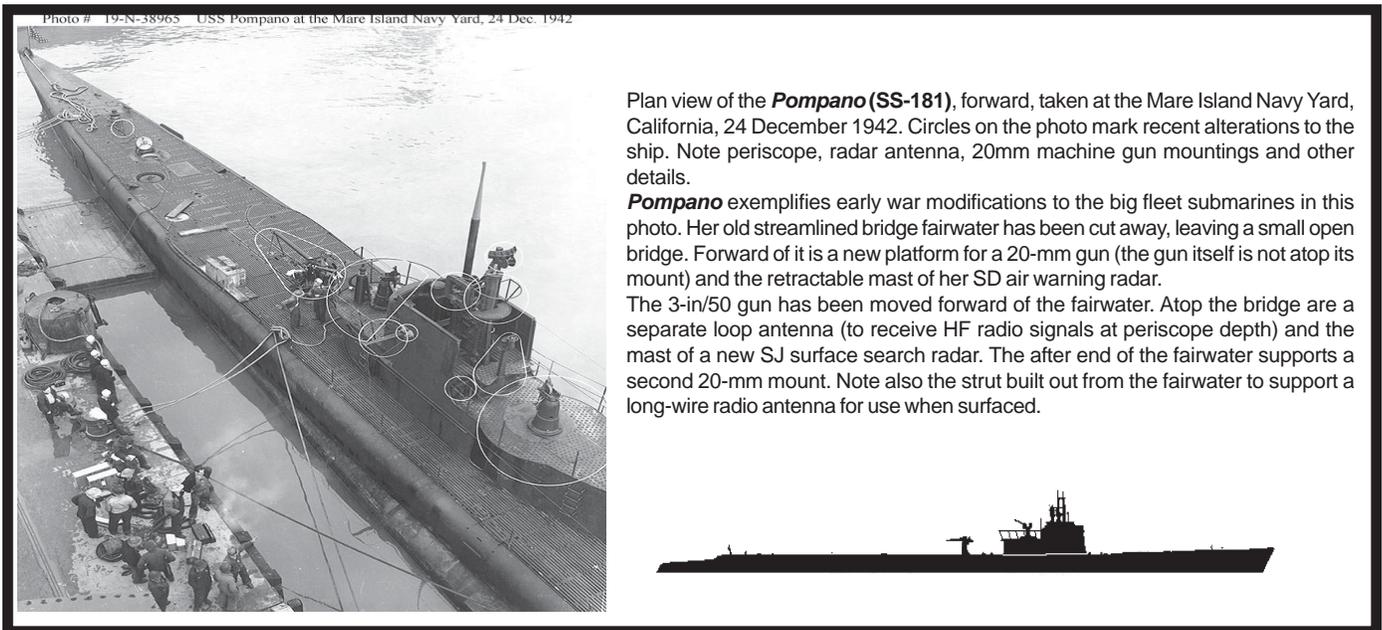
She sighted several large ships protected by patrol craft in the harbor at Wotje On 13 January, one of the large vessels came out. *Pompano* fired four torpedoes scoring two hits, and the vessel broke up. Four days later, when one of the patrol boats steamed out of the harbor, *Pompano* worked her way between this enemy and the channel. Both torpedoes exploded prematurely, foiling her first attack. Then, with the enemy charging directly for her, the submarine waited until her



target was 1000 yards (910 m) away before firing two torpedoes. Although these torpedoes evidently missed, they threw the enemy off balance so that his depth charging was ineffective.

After thoroughly reconnoitering Maloelap, *Pompano* departed 24 January, arriving Pearl Harbor on 31 January. On the same day, aided by her reports, the fast carriers of the Pacific Fleet raided the Marshall Islands.

On her next patrol, undertaken in Japanese home waters, *Pompano* was able to attack five vessels successfully, sinking a total of 16,500 tons. *Pompano* left Pearl Harbor 20 April 1942, refueled at Midway Island, and entered her area 7 May patrolling the steamer lanes west of Okinawa and in the East China Sea. Shipping was scarce, but on 24 May she caught a large sampan and sent it down with gunfire. On the next day, she torpedoed tanker *Tokyo Maru*, which exploded and sank.



Plan view of the *Pompano* (SS-181), forward, taken at the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, 24 December 1942. Circles on the photo mark recent alterations to the ship. Note periscope, radar antenna, 20mm machine gun mountings and other details.

Pompano exemplifies early war modifications to the big fleet submarines in this photo. Her old streamlined bridge fairwater has been cut away, leaving a small open bridge. Forward of it is a new platform for a 20-mm gun (the gun itself is not atop its mount) and the retractable mast of her SD air warning radar.

The 3-in/50 gun has been moved forward of the fairwater. Atop the bridge are a separate loop antenna (to receive HF radio signals at periscope depth) and the mast of a new SJ surface search radar. The after end of the fairwater supports a second 20-mm mount. Note also the strut built out from the fairwater to support a long-wire radio antenna for use when surfaced.

As *Pompano* shifted her patrol to the main route between Japan and the East Indies, a large transport escorted by one destroyer caught her eye 30 May. Running to a position ahead of the convoy, the marauder waited until her victim was only 750 yards (690 m) away before scoring two solid hits which sank the transport, 7983 ton *Atsuta Maru*, two and a half hours later.



With her fuel getting low and a strong possibility of not being able to refuel at Midway Island on the way back because of the Japanese attempt to invade the island, *Pompano* began to work eastward. On the morning of 3 June, she found a small inter-island steamer, setting the vessel afire with gunfire.

On 5 June, while on the shipping route between Japan and the Mariana Islands, the submarine caught a trawler and sank it with gunfire. Two days later, word arrived that the Japanese fleet, decisively defeated in the Battle of Midway, was fleeing toward Japan. *Pompano* took up a position to intercept them, but made no contact. On 13 June 1942 she put into Midway for refueling, and on 18 June arrived in Pearl Harbor.

The submarine sailed from Pearl Harbor again 19 July bound for Japan and her third war patrol. By 3 August, she was in her area, and began patrolling within four miles of the coast. A few minutes past midnight on the morning of 7 August, she fired four torpedoes at a large freighter, but all missed.

Two days later, a cruiser or a large destroyer sighted *Pompano*, and opened fire. As *Pompano* ducked under the sea, shells could be heard hitting the water. Soon a heavy barrage of depth charges exploded close aboard. Rising water in the engine room necessitated starting the pumps, which brought another heavy barrage of depth charges. After running aground twice while attempting to escape, and with her battery almost exhausted, she surfaced only 1000 yards (910 m) from shore, and cleared the area.

Undaunted, the ship dove for her second attack at noon 12 August 1942. A freighter was coming into position when *Pompano* sighted an enemy destroyer coming down between the sub and her target. Firing two torpedoes, *Pompano*'s men heard two very loud explosions, and saw a huge column of spray and water through the periscope, blotting out the destroyer's bow at 700 yards (640 m) distance. Both sets of screws stopped immediately. As *Pompano* closed the freighter, it settled below, evidently a victim of the second torpedo.

Another attack on 21 August failed when a convoy escort kept *Pompano* down while three freighters passed. On the morning of 23 August, she launched another torpedo attack on a large passenger freighter, only to have all three torpedoes miss. The target replied with his deck gun. Surfacing after nightfall, the sub sighted a destroyer 7000 yards (6.4 km) away but could not attack when the destroyer sighted her in turn, and launched depth charges close aboard.

The last attack of the patrol came while en route Midway, when, on the 500 mile (800 km) circle from Tokyo, *Pompano* sighted a patrol ship, *Naval Auxiliary 163*, lying to. Since the vessel was of shallow draft, and since there were no other enemy forces visible, the submarine surfaced and engaged with deck guns, sinking the enemy an hour later. *Pompano* sighted an unidentified periscope the next morning, but it disappeared before she could attack. The ship arrived Midway 8 September and Pearl Harbor four days later.

An overhaul at Mare Island Navy Yard, including the installation of new main engines, kept the ship in the yard until 18 December 1942. Sailing back to Pearl Harbor, she departed on her fourth war patrol 16 January 1943. The Marshall Islands were her first objective, and at dawn on 25 January, she was off Kwajalein. After reconnoitering the area, she moved on to Truk to begin patrolling.

Catching a tanker with only one escort on 30 January, she damaged the tanker with torpedoes. Another tanker came in view 4 February, but only one of the stern torpedoes hit. Although damaged, the tanker managed to make it into port. Moving back to the Marshall Islands, *Pompano* sighted another tanker on the morning of 18 February. Two hits slowed the Japanese down, but depth charging held *Pompano* down until her target had escaped. After reconnoitering Rongerik, Rongelap, and Bikini, she returned home, mooring at Midway 28 February.

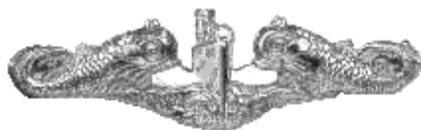
The submarine left Midway again 19 March, bound for Tokyo. During the entire patrol, with 26 days on station, she sighted only four torpedo targets, and launched only two attacks, both under adverse conditions. Two-thirds of the time the ship had to fight extremely rough and stormy weather. She returned to Midway 5 May and to Pearl Harbor five days later.

On 6 June the submarine was underway again from Pearl Harbor for the Nagoya, Japan, area. Stopping briefly at Midway, she entered her area 19 June, patrolling across traffic lanes from Japan to the south. She celebrated the Fourth of July by putting two more torpedoes into a grounded ship, damaged by an earlier attack by submarine *Harder* (SS-257). Four further torpedo attacks during the patrol were unsuccessful. A good-sized sampan was sunk with gunfire 17 July. *Pompano* ended the unsuccessful patrol at Midway 28 July.

Pompano left Midway 20 August, bound for the coasts of Hokkaido and Honshu. She was never heard from again, and when she failed to return, was presumed lost. The Japanese knew that she was in her area, however, for two ships fell to her torpedoes during September: *Akama Maru*, a 5,600-ton cargo carrier, on 3 September, and *Taiko Maru*, a 2,958-ton cargo carrier on 25 September. The enemy made no anti-submarine attacks during this period in *Pompano*'s area, so enemy naval mines probably destroyed the veteran. *Pompano* was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 12 January 1944.

Pompano received seven battle stars for service in World War II.

Photo # NH 44005 USS Pompano just after launching, at Mare Island Navy Yard, 11 March 1937



Submarines . . . of Today

The Future of SSGNs and Submarine Launched Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles

The United States has 336 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) on 14 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs). The missiles are armed with some 2,016 warheads, about 48 percent of U.S. operational strategic weapons. The U.S. Navy reduced its SSBN force by one in 2004, bringing the force to the level decided upon in the 1994 NPR. The navy has extended the service life of the subs from 30 to 44 years; the oldest sub is scheduled to retire in 2029, when a new SSBN will be introduced.

It was previously thought that the navy would split the 14-boat SSBN force evenly between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, but recent shifts in planning position a larger force in the Pacific. Three SSBNs were transferred to Bangor, Washington, in 2002 and 2004 to compensate for the four older SSBNs that are being converted to cruise missile submarines. In September 2004, the navy announced that two more submarines, the Maine and the Louisiana, will leave Kings Bay, Georgia, in October 2005 for Bangor, temporarily reducing the Atlantic SSBN force to just five boats, the lowest number since the first SSBNs were initially deployed from the East Coast in 1961. Between 1966 and 1985, more than 30 SSBNs operated in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The new, nine-strong Pacific force, the largest since 1979, reflects increased nuclear targeting requirements against China and possibly North Korea.



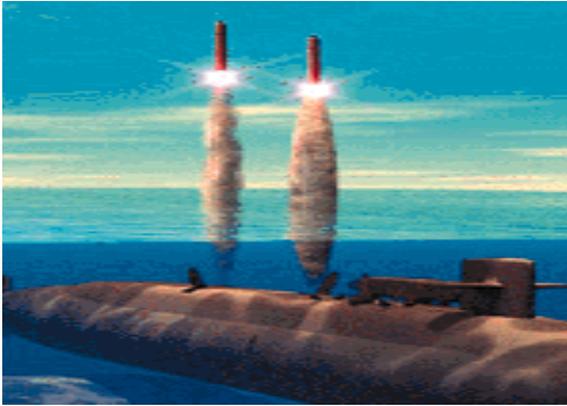
The navy planned to upgrade four Pacific-based SSBNs equipped with Trident I C4 SLBMs to carry the longer-range and more accurate Trident II D5s. The upgrades of the Alaska and Nevada are complete; the Henry M. Jackson and Alabama are expected to follow in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

The navy is converting four older SSBNs to non-nuclear operations as delivery platforms for Tomahawk cruise missiles and special operation forces. The Ohio began conversion at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 2002 and will begin operating from Bangor in 2005. The Florida is undergoing conversion at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and will be based at Kings Bay in 2006. The Michigan and Georgia off-loaded their Trident I missiles in October 2004 and began conversion at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Norfolk Naval Shipyard, respectively. After their conversion is complete in 2007, the Michigan will be based at Bangor and the Georgia at Kings Bay.

The fiscal 2005 Defense Authorization Bill, Section 104, requires the defense secretary to conduct a study, due in spring 2005, on whether the current practice of using two alternating crews for ballistic missile submarine patrols should be continued, modified, or terminated.

The navy is modernizing the Mk-4/W76 reentry vehicle and replacing the weapon's air-burst fuze with a new ground-burst fuze. The first production unit of the new weapon, designated the Mk-4A/W76-1, is scheduled for delivery in September 2007. About 40 percent of the navy's future stockpile of Mk-4/W76 reentry vehicles (approximately 800) will be converted by 2012. The new fuze will enhance the weapon's lethality and broaden the potential targets that can be attacked by subs equipped with the Mk-4A/W76-1.

In 2004 the navy began the Enhanced Effectiveness (E2) Reentry Body program to create “a near-term capability to steer an SLBM warhead to Global Positioning Satellite (GPS)-like accuracy” (within about 10 meters), according to the Pentagon. The program will expand the potential targets that can be attacked with W76 warheads. Officials are considering both nuclear and conventional warheads for the program. A full-scale test flight of the new capability using a Mk-4/W76 reentry vehicle is scheduled for early fiscal 2007.



The navy bought five more Trident II D5 missiles in the fiscal 2005 defense bill, bringing the total to 413. Officials extended D5 production through 2013 and increased the total number to be purchased from 390 to 540, at an additional cost of \$12.2 billion. The total cost of the program now stands at \$37.5 billion, or \$69 million per missile. To make the D5 operational through 2042 (the end of the extended service life of the newest Ohio-class SSBN), existing missiles will be upgraded to a new variant called the D5LE. In 2003, Congress budgeted \$416 million to modernize the D5. Of the 540 D5s, 336 will arm 14 SSBNs (including two sets for two SSBNs that will be in overhaul at any given time), with the balance available for flight tests.

The navy is in the early stages of planning to develop a Submarine-Launched Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (SLIRBM).

Officials invited industry proposals in August 2003, and this year the navy plans to conduct two full-scale static test firings of an “affordable, high performance SLIRBM” prototype rocket engine. The missile is intended to carry both nuclear and conventional payloads.

The navy plans to resume SLBM flight-testing in the Pacific in 2005, when the Pacific Missile Range is scheduled to resume operations. The last SLBM test-launch in the Pacific was in July 1993. The navy flight-tested three Tridents in 2003 but none in 2004.

U.S. tests motor for new submarine missile

United Press International, 8 Aug 06

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 8 (UPI) — The second static test of a motor for the U.S. Navy’s sub-launched SLIRBM ballistic missile was carried out earlier this month.

The test was carried out on Aug. 3 at ATK’s test center at Promontory, Utah.

The SLIRBM is being designed to launch from the Navy’s Ohio-class SSGN submarine as an intermediate-range, no-notice global strike asset. Once deployed, the missile will allow commanders to call in a conventional-payload strike that will have a range in excess of 1,100 miles and enough speed to reach the target within 15 minutes of launch.

The weapon will be part of the varied arsenal of the SSGN subs, which are revamped Trident nuclear subs outfitted with cruise missiles and capable of transporting relatively large special operations teams.

ATK said the test went well with the solid-fuel Orion 32-4 second-stage booster motor firing successfully for 40 seconds at maximum thrust.

The first test, which was conducted in July, involved the modified ATK Orion 32-7 first-stage motor.

Both firings demonstrated the integration of the motor itself with an electro-magnetic thrust vector control system developed by Moog Inc. that will allow the missile to respond to steering and flight-control commands from an avionics system.

“Our team now has demonstrated propulsion technologies that are key to further developing this potential new capability for the Navy,” said Lockheed Martin’s Michele Smith, the overall program director for the SLIRBM project. “Next, we will complete a missile system trade study.”



Return To:

U. S. Submarine Veterans, Perch Base
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252

<http://perch-base.org>



NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Sept. 16, 2006

American Legion Post #105

3534 W Calavar Rd.

Phoenix, AZ