

# The MidWatch

February 2013  
Volume 19 - Issue 2

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER,  
Perch Base, USSVI  
Phoenix, Arizona



Visit our web site at:

[www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org)

## LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

FEBRUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

Feb. 11, 1942

USS Shark (SS-174) 59 men lost

Probably lost due to enemy depth charging near the Makassar Strait current Indonesia) but never officially determined



continued on next page



**Feb. 14, 1943**  
**USS Amberjack (SS-219) 72 men lost**

Probably sunk by Japanese destroyers near Rabul. Reports conflict with the loss of the USS Grampus, both missing in the same area.

**Feb. 29, 1944**  
**USS Trout (SS-202) 81 men lost**

On 8 February 1944, Trout began her 11th and final war patrol. Japanese records examined after the war indicate that one of their convoys was attacked by a submarine on 29 February 1944 in the patrol area assigned to Trout. The convoy consisted of four large transports escorted by three Yugumo-class destroyers. The submarine badly damaged one large passenger-cargo ship and sank the 7,126-ton transport Sakito Maru. A destroyer detected the submarine and dropped 19 depth charges. Oil and debris came to the surface and the destroyer dropped a final depth charge on that spot. The submarine was using Mk. XVIII electric torpedoes, and it was also possible that one of those had made a circular run and sunk the boat, as happened with the Tang.



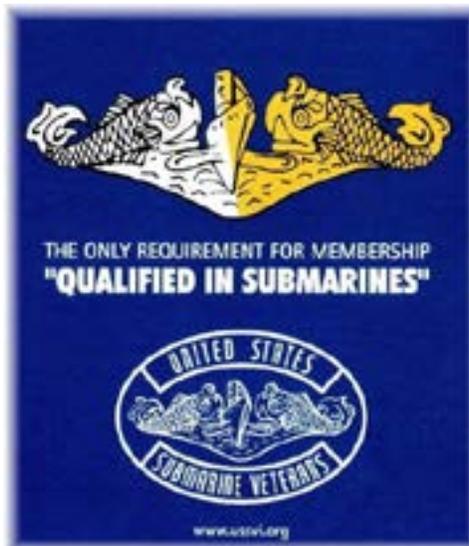
# USSVI CREED

Our organization's purpose is . . .

**"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.**

**In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. We support a strong U.S. Submarine Force.**

**The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today."**



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# Sailing Orders

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## February 9

### Wickenburg Gold Rush Days

*The American Legion Kellis Draper Post 12 of Wickenburg will be our sponsor for this parade. No static display. Future information will be in a*

***Flash Traffic***

## February 16

### Goodyear/Avondale

#### “Tale of Two Cities”

*This is a short parade and static display for the southwest valley. Details will be in a future*

***Flash Traffic***

## February 23

### Ira Hayes/Iwo Jima Parade

#### Sacaton, AZ

*This parade will be a repeat appearance by the Base and they have treated us very well in the past. A ***Flash Traffic*** will be sent later.*

## March 15-17

### “Luke Days” Luke AFB

*This is a biggy! And a static display only. This event is fun and has been profitable! A ***Flash****

***Traffic*** will be sent later.



Scan for the Perch Base Web Site

# PERCH BASE OFFICERS



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## 2013 Perch Base Foundation Supporters

These are the Base members and friends who donate monies or efforts to allow for Base operation while keeping our dues low and avoid raising money through member labor as most other organizations do.

**Remember, if you contribute by check, it must be made out to the "Perch Base Foundation."**

## These are the 2013 Foundation Donors



Jerry N. Allston  
Kenneth R. Anderson  
Reynaldo F. Atos  
Steven Balthazor  
Gary Bartlett  
Kenneth E. Becker  
Richard Bernier  
Ronald B. Beyer  
Walter Blomgren  
Herbert J. Jr. Coulter  
Roger J. Cousin  
Eugene V. Crabb  
George L. Crider  
James R. Denzien  
Warner H. Doyle Jr.  
James N. Edwards  
Harry Ellis  
Charles Emmett  
Howard M. Enloe  
James Evans  
Thomas J. Farley III  
David G. Fledderjohn  
Thomas E. Fooshee  
Billy A. Grieves  
Michael J. Haler  
Eldon L. Hartman

Robert M. Hayball  
Harry Heller  
Herbert Herman  
Glenn A. Herold  
Steve Hough  
Theodore Hunt  
David L. Jones  
L. A. (Mike) Keating  
Karl G. Krull  
Richard F. Kunze  
Douglas M. La Rock  
Robert A. Lancendorfer  
Albert Landeck  
Robert W. Lents  
Steve Leon  
DeWayne Lober  
Burtis W. Loftin  
George Long  
Raymond Marshall  
Dennis McComb  
Angus Howard McPherson  
Alan H. Miller  
Tim Moore  
Danny R. Moss  
James F. Newman  
James W. Newman

Bryan M. Pellegrini  
Royce E. Pettit  
Ernie Plantz  
James Ratte  
Stanley N. Reinhold  
Bruce "Robie" Robinson  
Stanley I. Rud  
Larry D. Ruggles  
Pete Sattig  
John C. Schlag  
Carl Scott  
Garry L. Shumann  
Richard H. "Rick" Simmons  
Wayne Kirk Smith  
William M. Tippet  
Joseph J. Varese  
Eugene Veek  
Patricia A. Warner  
Robert Warner  
James L Wall  
Forrest J. Watson  
Rich Womack  
George C. Woods  
William Woolcott  
John G. Zaichkin

**From the Wardroom  
Base Commander's Message**

*Jim Denzien - Commander*



Shipmates:

The New Year is off to a flying start. Many events to participate in and the upcoming Awards Banquet are on tap.

The Awards Banquet will include a Holland Club induction for six of our members, a fantastic guest speaker and a silent auction. All in a great setting at the Sun City Country Club.

We are looking forward to conducting elections to determine the new Base Commander and Vice-Commander. The nominations are still open and will be open until February 15<sup>th</sup>. The election will be in March at our regular meeting.

Our next meeting will be February 9, 2013. See you there!

Fraternally,

Jim Denzien, Base Commander



**From the XO  
vice-Commanders's Message**

*Howard Doyle - vice-Commander*



**Need a Ride to a Base Meeting or Other Function?**

Contact me, the Base vice-Commander [Howard Doyle \(602\) 228-2445](tel:6022282445) or any other Base Officer. All officers are listed near the front of every copy of the MidWatch.

All Base Members are reminded that we only have the February meeting left to nominate a candidate for Base office without having to do this in writing. I can't stress how important it is to have an active group of people to run for Base office. Tyranny (yes even at our small group) happens when good men do nothing.

Dan Moss and I did some minor maintenance the BuShps model of the USS Phoenix out at the Naval Reserve group on Luke AFB. We need to keep this asset in top form also.



# Call for Nomanations

Shipmates, as acting Base Secretary, and as required by the following section of the **Perch Base Policies and Procedures Manual**, this is a **formal call for nominations** to the two elected offiicers of the Base, Commander and vice-Commander:

## SECTION V - ADMINISTRATION

### Correspondence from the Base

The Commander, vice Commander, Secretary and Communications Officer will be the only authorized originators of outgoing correspondence from the Base. All outgoing correspondence shall be approved by the Commander.

### Nomination and Election of Officers

The Secretary shall serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee conduct a search for candidates for the elected positions and shall issue a call for nominations of eligible candidates for officers to all members in good standing via the January issue of the "MidWatch" and at the January meeting.

Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee by any member in good standing on or before February 15. Any nominations submitted must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee that he will accept the nomination and serve if elected. A statement of qualifications for the office, not to exceed 100 words, may accompany the nomination.

**Nominations, when called for, may be made from the floor at the meeting and shall be accepted upon the written or oral consent of the nominee that he accepts the nomination and will serve if elected.**

The Nominating Committee shall ensure all candidates are Regular Members in good standing.

The Secretary shall publish names of all candidates for office in the March "MidWatch" along with a printable ballot indicating the candidates for each office and a place to indicate a write-in candidate.

I certify that with this announcement, the nominations are officially open

*Charles R. Emmett*

Acting Secretary



## "Member Mogul" Membership Chairman's Message

*Rick Simmons - Membership*

Well the membership renewal push for 2013 is finally over and we did pretty good on retaining our members. We lost 6 regular members which is slightly better than the national average for large bases of just over 8.

In January we did add 3 new members. They are;

- Frank Morris who qualified in 1968 on the USS Henry L. Stimson, SSBN655. Frank lives in Phoenix with his wife Teri.
- Chris Urness who qualified in 1996 on the USS Pogy, SSN647. Chris lives in Phoenix with his wife Rose.
- Charles Marshall who qualified in 1965 on the USS James Madison SSBN627. Charles lives in Goodyear with his wife Mary.

Welcome aboard Shipmates, we look forward to seeing you at or meetings and events. Please remember that spouses, significant others and family members are always welcome at our meetings and events.

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In the past few weeks several of our Board Members have been asked about Associate Membership in Perch Base. In the past, there was some confusion about who could become an Associate Member and what the sponsorship requirements were. This was mainly due to some poor wording in the USSVI governing documents. In 2012 National clarified the wording to the USSVI Constitution about Associate Membership and Perch Base is in the process of revising our Policies and Procedures manual to include these clarifications. Here, in part, is that revised wording.

1. An Associate Member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but is sponsored by a Regular Member and meets one of the following requirements:
  - A. A Regular Member may sponsor a family member (no limit) up to two degrees of consanguinity (blood line relationship) of a regular member, including adoptive children of the regular member.
  - B. A Regular Member may sponsor one additional non-family related member for Associate Membership who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions and is at least sixteen years of age, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair.
  - C. A Regular Member may also sponsor one additional non-family related U.S. Military service member, Active or Veteran, for Associate Membership, who has demonstrated a strong interest and support of the US Submarine Service by their deeds or actions, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair. If separated from service, it must have been under honorable circumstances.
  - D. Some examples of interest and support: Submarine Book author, Sub Tender service, Intel Rider, Museum submarine docent, Submarine Historian or provides some other demonstrated service to advance the US Submarine force, subject to prior approval by the National Membership Chair.

The Board of Directors of Perch Base strongly encourages any family member of one of our Regular members to consider becoming an Associate Member. By joining you are able to take an active role in the Base, you can vote in Base elections and hold appointed Base Officer positions. The process to join as an Associate is the same as a Regular Member, fill out an application, being sure to include the name of your sponsor, and pay your dues. The dues are the same as Regular Members, \$30.00 a year (\$20 for USSVI and \$10 for Perch).

If you have any questions about Associate Membership, please give me a call.

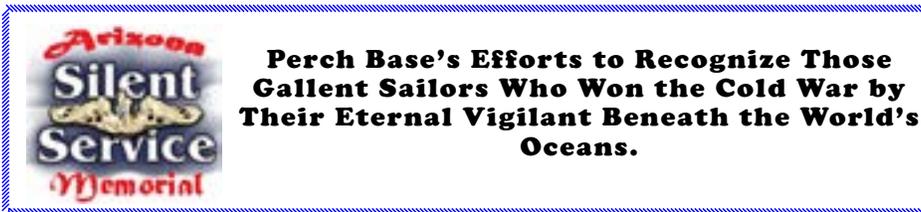


**From The Chief of the Boat:**

February is already here and we have events happening each Saturday this month. Please try to attend one or more of the parades we are participating in if you can. If you would like to volunteer to help at one of these events please

show up. There really is not too much work required to be done at a parade or static display. If you cannot make a parade, I hope to see you at the Awards Dinner and Monthly meeting.

Richard Kunze, COB



During the January Perch Base meeting, the membership voted to pursue a sculptured submarine memorial in Wesley Bowlin Plaza vice the Phoenix sail in Steel Indian School Park. We already have a State Senator who will introduce a bill for our sculpture in the 2014 legislative session. Chuck Emmett will revise the SOS website as soon as a new name is determined for the committee.

Dan Moss - Project Co-Chairperson



**"Soundings"**  
 Communications Officer's Message

*Chuck Emmett - Comm. Officer*

*(I edit the whole newsletter. But, it's just my thoughts in this section.)*

This month I have been hit with a triple whammy at newsletter time, so this issue is a little thin with just the basics included.

First, I thought having my gall bladder removed would be a walk in the park since it was to be done as an out-patient service. Wrong-oh!! I'm still looking for the proverb able "truck that hit me." But I'm beginning to mend.

The second; on the day of my surgery, my computer had a major, total and unrecoverable meltdown. Did I have the data backed up? Sure. Three weeks ago! So all the originally created stuff for the last weeks had to be recreated ( just ask those who I asked to resend me their e-mail.)

But, I got a new (faster) computer and we're getting pretty close to a zero-bubble on stuff now.

So, most of you will be reading this just before the Annual Awards Banquet. This promises to be one of the better ones we have had and I think we'll all have a good time. Right now we have 58 coming.

So, enjoy and we'll be back up to speed next month.



**CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN**

*Base Chaplain - Steve Leon*



**Greetings**

As we approach the election process for our base officers, it is important to briefly dwell on the concept of leadership. This is a topic, which has been closely examined in many of the world's different faith-based texts. In each of these writings, those called to leadership positions are exhorted to consider serving others as the primary focus of their future work.

Leadership brings about many painful moments as well as successes. These strong experiences often times wear down the individual bearing them. May we never forget to keep our leaders in our thoughts and prayers in hopes that their efforts will be blessed.

In closing, I ask you to think on the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader. A great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves."

Ave Deus,

*Steve Leon*

### **Binnacle List**

On 01/12/2013, Stanley Rud embarked on eternal patrol. In accordance with his family's wishes, Stanley was buried at sea, and a private memorial service was held.

Please keep the following crewmembers in your thought and prayers:

Walt Blomgren- recovering from gall bladder surgery, including hospitalization periods.

Chuck Emmett- recovering from elective gall bladder surgery.

Tim Moore- recovering from a motorcycle accident and possible broken foot.

Adrian Stuke- recovering from radiation therapy and the resulting hospitalization/rehabilitation periods.

Joe "Wanderer" Varese- continuing chemotherapy treatments.

### **Reflections on Life**

#### **BLESSED IS THE LEADER...**

**Blessed is the leader who knows where to go,**

Why to go there and how to get there.

**Blessed is the leader who knows no discouragement,**

Presents no alibi.

**Blessed is the leader who knows how to lead**

Without being dictatorial.

**Blessed is the leader who leads for the good of the most concerned;**

Not for personal gratification.

**Blessed is the leader who develops leaders**

While leading.

**Blessed is the leader with a head in the clouds,**

And feet on the ground.

**Blessed is the leader who considers leadership**

An opportunity to serve.

**-From *Christopher News Notes* ([www.appleseeds.org](http://www.appleseeds.org))**



Shipmates, if you have not already done so, cut out the instructions on the dotted line below and place it with your final instruction papers (i.e., will, power of attorney, living will, living trust, etc.) for your next of kin. Don't let them languish as to your Final Patrol desires.

**\*\* IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS \*\***

**Please PRINT THIS PAGE and attach this note to your will or final instructions.**

In the case of my death, please immediately notify the **U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc., (USSVI)** at **877-542-3483** or **360-337-2978** and give the person on duty the information regarding my death, funeral, and burial arrangements, plus who they can contact for follow-up and support.

Please ask them to contact my local USSVI chapter, **Perch Base, Phoenix AZ** Chaplain at [chaplain@perch-base.org](mailto:chaplain@perch-base.org) or 602-309-4407 with this information as well.

This information can also be E-Mailed to the National Office at [USSVI@telebyte.net](mailto:USSVI@telebyte.net).

**Other Important Information:**

Veterans Death and Burial Benefits

[http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/benefits\\_chap07.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap07.asp)

Navy Burial at Sea Information

<http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/generalinfo/a/seaburial.htm>

**Please PRINT THIS PAGE and attach this note to your will or final instructions.**

**\*\* IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS \*\***



**Base Meeting Minutes**  
**January 2013**  
**Herb Herman**  
**Secretary**

**Perch Base meeting minutes**  
**January 12 2013**

The January 2013 regular Perch Base meeting was called to order at 12 noon on Saturday January, 2013 by the base commander, Jim Denzien. The meeting was held at its usual location, Dillon's restaurant at 59th Ave. and the 101.

The invocation was given by the Base Chaplain, Steve Leon, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The purpose of the USSVI was read followed by the Tolling for the Boats ceremony was conducted for those ships lost during the month of January.

Denzien introduced a new member Frank Morris, and prospective new member Ted Moore, and guest Ms. Mac Brady a guest.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December

Base meeting as published in the MidWatch. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Treasurer

Bob Warner read the Treasurers' report for December. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report as read. Motion was approved by voice vote.

**Base Commander's Board of Directors (BOD) Report**

The Commander

Next event the Base will attend is the Peoria Military Show at the Peoria Sports Complex on Jan. 26 and 27. (The 25th will be setup in the evening.)

Laveen Parade Feb 2 same day as Banquet but will not conflict with Awards Dinner.

Wickenburg "Gold Rush days" parade on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Same day as Base meeting. Some members will be at parade and miss the meeting.

Glendale has put on hold the Military history event, due to finance problems.

The Avondale/Goodyear "Tail of Two Cities" is a short parade with static display, February 16.

The Ira-Hayes, or Iwo Jima, parade in Sacaton on February 23.

Last event on the current calendar is Luke days March 15-17. We will probably be own entity on the application to eliminate past access problem. Friday is mainly for setup day and for the military.

Awards Dinner review.

It will be different than in the past. The event is a sit down full service meal with linen tax, gratuities and tip all inclusive. Location is at the Sun City Country Club, 107<sup>th</sup> just north of Cactus. There will be a quest speaker. Remember there will be a silent auction and so far there are some dandy donations, bring money.

Nothing new to report on the Arizona Veterans Group. Jim or Howard will continue to attend monthly meeting.

Picnic will be in May 11, the location is as in the past, White tank Mountain park and we will be seeking volunteers to help with cooking etc. Space has already been reserved.

Summary all Parades are every Saturday during Feb and some events extend to Sunday.

**Board Officer reports**

**Membership - Rick Simmons:**

Membership renewal rate is 85%, and there were 27 early bird renewals. A drawing will be held at the banquet for the free 2014 membership. The National average of drops was 8.4 we had 7.4.

**Vice Commander - Howard Doyle:**

Update on Adrian Stuke. To date, the base members have really stepped up \$ 3005 has been donated.

I encourage all to participate in the upcoming parades and events, you will get a great satisfaction by participating, and letting the public show their appreciation for your service.

**Secretary - Herb Herman:** Nothing to Report

**Storekeeper – DeWayne Lober:** Nothing to report.

**Event Coordinator - Walt Blomgren:**

Question on coordination for event towing etc. Jim will discuss with Walt.

Question regarding Motorcycle group traveling cross country support. Jim responded that we have not received any information regarding a request to participate, time etc.

Walt also relayed information from (Bill Woolcott) concerning an event. Jim, the event conflicts with Luke days but will be considered in the future as Luke days is every other year.

Walt also requested some "Sea Stories"

**Chief Of Boat - Richard Kuntz:** Nothing to report.

**Communications Officer - Chuck Emmett:**

Sea story request also for MidWatch. Make sure you review **Flash Traffic** for events.

Chuck reviewed the nomination for officer process. Elections in March, and only those listed in March newsletter. Must be present to vote. Associate members can vote and hold office.

**Save our Sail(SOS) Report; Summary:** Dan Moss, cost about 1.1 million, location at Indian school park. Sail not available until 2015 and an environmental study will then be done, especially on the coating of the sail. We do have the availability to ship the sail gratis by rail. The SOS committee met after city input, to analysis pros and cons of the sail and brainstorm alternatives, a consensus of those present at Perch Base Meeting was to not use the actual 702's Sail for the submarine memorial. Please if you have any information a sculpture let the committee know. Collected funds will be refunded to SOS contributors, if requested otherwise they will be used for the new memorial. A new location is being considered; Wesley Bolen Plaza.

**Nominations for officers**

Chuck Emmett nominated

Howard Doyle for the Commander position, accepted by Howard

Steve Stanger for vice-Commander, accepted by Steve

Howard Doyle nominated

Rick Simmons as vice-Commander, accepted by Rick

Having no other nominations, the nominees will be published in the MidWatch and nominations will close Feb. 15, 2013.

Jim repeated the Picnic information and request for volunteers.

Robert Link Award Plaque (2006) presented to Perch base from national was passed around.

**Binicle List**

Please keep the following crew members in your thought and prayers:

Adrian Stucke, In rehabilitation center, Mesa.

Walt Blomgren, returned to service. At meeting with DR's permission.

Joe Varese - Not doing well and undergoing chemo therapy.

Billy Grieves - Doing well but wife Murriel ill.

Steve introduced Mac Brady. She gave a little background and shared that she was trying to help Stuke family and anyone else that may need housing/mortgage help especially vets. The base appreciates her help. Please contact Ms Brady or the Chaplain for further information

**Good of Order:** Jim relayed a "fairy" joke.

**50/50 Drawing (\$101)**

Winner was Howard Doyle and he donated 1/2 his winnings to the SOS fund.

**Closing Benediction**

Moved to close and motion passed by voice vote.

Adjourned at 1321.

Heb Herman

Base Secretary

**SAILING LIST JAN 12 3013**

|               |                   |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Kuntz | Robert Warner     | Rick Simmons      |
| DeWayne Lober | Mike Hinderlite   | Howard Doyle      |
| Chuck Emmett  | Edward Morris     | Steve Leon        |
| Don Unser     | Herb Coulter      | Walt Blomgren     |
| Jim Denzien   | Robert Wright     | Dewy & Donna Reed |
| Mike Dahl     | Bill Woolcott     | Davey Jones       |
| Tim Moore     | Frank Morris(new) | Steve Stanger     |
| Peter Tardiff | Doug LaRock       | Ray Marshall      |
| Dan DeMarte   | Dan Moss          | Herb Herman       |
| Tom Clonts    | John Zaichkin     | Kelly Grissom     |
| Chriss Urness | Layne Moss        |                   |



# *Eternal Patrol*

## *February 16, 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  
Of our departed shipmates still on patrol  
Let them know that we who survive  
Will always keep their memories alive.



### **USS Amberjack (SS-219)** **February 16, 1943** **72 men lost**



### **GATO-CLASS DIESEL-ELECTRIC SUBMARINE**

Displacement: 1,549 tons (surf) 2,463 tons (sub)  
Length: 311 ft 9 in; Beam: 27 ft 3 in; Draft: 17 ft 0 in]  
4 × Fairbanks-Morse Model 38D8-1/4 9-cylinder diesel engines  
driving electrical generators; 2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries]  
4 × high-speed GE electric motors with reduction gears two propellers]  
5,400 shp (surf); 2,740 shp (sub)  
Speed: 21 kn (surf); 9 kn (sub)  
Range: 11,000 nmi surfaced at 10 kn  
Endurance: 48 hours at 2 kn sub, 75 days on patrol  
Test depth: 300 ft  
Complement: 6 officers, 54 enlisted  
Armament: 10 × 21-inch torpedo tubes  
(six forward, four aft), 24 torpedoes  
1 × 4-inch/ 50 caliber deck gun  
Bofors 40 mm and Oerlikon 20 mm cannon

*USS Amberjack (SS-219) was a Gato-class submarine, the first United States Navy ship named for the amberjack, a vigorous sport fish found in the western Atlantic from New England to Brazil.*

Her keel was laid by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut, on 15 May 1941. She was launched on 6 March 1942 (sponsored by Mrs. Randall Jacobs), and commissioned on 19 June 1942, Lieutenant Commander John A. Bole, Jr. in command.

After shakedown training in waters off New London, Connecticut and Newport, Rhode Island, Amberjack got underway on 20 July, bound for the Pacific. She transited the Panama Canal in mid-August and reached Pearl Harbor on 20 August. Following training exercises, Amberjack got underway for her first war patrol on 3 September. Two days later, she touched at Johnston Island to refuel and, later that day, resumed her voyage to her patrol area between the northeast coast of New Ireland and Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

On 15 September, Amberjack was patrolling off Kavieng, New Ireland. Three days later, she made contact with a large Japanese transport escorted by a destroyer, and fired a spread of four torpedoes at the vessels, but none hit. While patrolling in Bougainville Strait on 19 September, the submarine launched two torpedoes at an enemy freighter. The first hit under the target's bridge, and the second broke her keel in two. Amberjack was credited with having sunk Shirogane Maru.

Amberjack made her next contact with Japanese shipping on 25 September, spotting a large cruiser escorted by a destroyer. However, before the submarine could get into position for an attack, the destroyer headed toward her and forced her to go deep. Several depth charges were dropped on the submarine, but they inflicted no damage. During the next few days, Amberjack reconnoitered Tau, Kilinailau, Greenwich Island, and Ocean Island.

The submarine spotted a Japanese cruiser on the morning of 30 September and launched four torpedoes from her bow tubes. None hit, so she fired another two forward tubes shortly thereafter. These also went wide of the mark, and the cruiser escaped damage. One week later, the submarine was patrolling off Kavieng when she spotted smoke on the horizon. After a Japanese cargo ship sailed into view, Amberjack launched two torpedoes. One missed forward and the other hit the target's hull forward. The enemy ship was still able to continue under her own power and Amberjack took up pursuit. About one hour later, both sides opened fire with their deck guns but neither was within range of the other and they broke off fire. After two more hours of the chase, the submarine fired a slow speed torpedo which hit

its target five minutes later. The cargo vessel, later identified as Senkai Maru, swung left and seemed to stop. Its bow swung up in the air, the ship took a vertical position, and sank from sight shortly thereafter. Lifeboats carrying the cargo ship's survivors were later spotted as the submarine headed for Kavieng.

While patrolling off Kavieng Harbor on 10 October, Amberjack spotted Japanese ships in the harbor and launched four torpedoes into the anchorage. One damaged a freighter and another damaged Tonan Maru II, which was being used to ferry airplanes. The vessel sank in shallow water, but was later salvaged, towed to Japan for repairs, and was returned to service. On 16 October, the submarine headed for Espiritu Santo for repairs to her ballast tanks and arrived there on 19 October. While undergoing repairs, she was assigned the task of hauling aviation gas, bombs, and personnel to Guadalcanal. While en route to the Solomons, her destination was changed to Tulagi. She arrived there on 25 October and unloaded her embarked troops and cargo under the cover of darkness. The next day, she set course for Brisbane, Australia, and reached that port on 30 October.

After a refit alongside Griffin and a series of training exercises, Amberjack began her second war patrol on 21 November. On the morning of 27 November, the submarine encountered two enemy destroyers which were probably carrying supplies for Japanese forces on Guadalcanal. While launching four torpedoes from her stern tubes, the submarine heard the screws of a third ship crossing ahead of her bow. None of the torpedoes hit their target, and the submarine began to take action to avoid depth charges. Approximately two hours later, all sounds had faded away, and the submarine rose to the surface to look for signs of damage. She spotted nothing so she assumed a new station at the southern end of the eastern entrance to Shortland Harbor.

On 29 November, while on patrol ten miles (16 km) east of the Treasury Islands, Amberjack spotted a surfaced Japanese submarine. Before she could set up an attack, however, the enemy vessel rapidly drew away. She again saw a Japanese submarine on 3 December proceeding toward the entrance to Shortland harbor and sent four torpedoes toward the fleeing enemy, but all failed to hit. During the next one and one-half weeks, she made numerous ship contacts, but carried out no attacks. On 15 December, the submarine sighted a convoy consisting of four or five ships on a course for Rabaul and launched two torpedoes at a large freighter, one at a small tanker, and one more at a small freighter. However, she apparently inflicted no damage on any of the targets.



Her next contact occurred on 20 December. While patrolling submerged, Amberjack began hearing a series of explosions which drew closer and closer. She surfaced and saw two Japanese destroyer escorts, which soon thereafter began raining depth charges on the submarine. Within the space of one minute, six exploded close aboard, shook the vessel considerably, and caused numerous broken light bulbs forward. Some fittings mounted on the overhead were broken off, and several valves were sprung open. However, the submarine suffered no crippling damage and moved on to continue her patrol off the northeast coast of New Ireland.

She spotted another Japanese ship on 3 January 1943, a destroyer which apparently was waiting to rendezvous with a convoy from the Palau Islands. The submarine was unable to attack the ship and, two days later, set a course for Brisbane, Queensland. She reached that port on 11 January and safely concluded her patrol.

Following this patrol, the submarine's period of refit was cut to 12 days due to the urgent need for submarines to patrol enemy infested waters. She got underway on 24 January but was forced to return to Brisbane for repair of minor leaks which developed during a deep dive. Again departing Brisbane on 26 January, Amberjack started her third war patrol in the Solomons area. On 29 January she was directed to pass close to Tetipari Island and then proceed to the northwest and patrol the approaches to Shortland Basin. Orders were radioed on 1 February for her to move north and patrol the western approaches to Buka Passage. Having complied with these orders, Amberjack made her first miles southeast of Treasury Island on 1 February, and of sinking a two-masted schooner by gunfire 20 miles (32 km) from Buka the afternoon of 3 February 1943. At this time she was ordered to move south along the Buka-Shortland traffic lane and patrol east of Vella Lavella Island.

In a second radio transmission on 4 February, Amberjack reported having sunk a 5,000 ton freighter laden with explosives in a two-hour night surface attack that date in which five torpedoes were fired. During this engagement, Chief Pharmacist's Mate Arthur C. Beeman was killed by machine gun fire, and an officer was slightly wounded in the hand. On 8 February, Amberjack was ordered to move to the west side of Ganongga Island and on 10 February, she was directed to keep south of latitude 7°30'S and to cover the traffic routes from Rabaul and Buka Island to Shortland Basin. On 13 February, Amberjack was assigned the entire Rabaul-Buka-Shortland Sea area and told to hunt for traffic.

The last radio transmission received from Amberjack was made on 14 February. She related having been forced down the night before by two destroyers, and that she had recovered from the water and taken prisoner an enemy aviator on 13 February. She was ordered north of latitude 6°30'S, and told to keep hunting for Rabaul traffic.

All further messages to Amberjack remained unanswered, and when, by 10 March, she had failed to make her routine report estimating the time of her arrival at base, she was ordered to do so. No reply was received, and she was reported as presumed lost on 22 March 1943.

Reports received from the enemy after the war record an attack which probably sank Amberjack. On 16 February 1943, Hiyodori and Sub Chaser Number 18 attacked a U.S. submarine with nine depth charges at about 5°05'S 152°37'E. Coordinates: 5°05'S 152°37'E. An escorting patrol plane had previously attacked the submarine. A large amount of heavy oil and "parts of the hull" came to the surface. This attack is believed to have sunk Amberjack. However, no final conclusions can be drawn, since Grampus was lost in the same area at about the same time. From the evidence available, it is considered most likely that the attack of 16 February sank Amberjack, but if she did survive this attack, any one of the attacks and sightings thought to have been made on Grampus might have been made on Amberjack.

#### **Awards**

Amberjack won three battle stars for her World War II service, and was credited with sinking three ships, for a total of 28,600 tons while damaging two more ships for 14,000 tons damaged. The enlisted men's recreation center at Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, is named for Chief Pharmacist's Mate Arthur C. Beeman, who was killed in the gun battle of 4 February 1943.



**Return To:**

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**NEXT BASE MEETING**  
February 9, 2013  
Dillion's Restaurant  
59th Ave. and Loop 101

