



THE COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER OF USSVI'S WESTERN DISTRICT 1

Created By Perch Base, Phoenix, AZ for ourselves and Barbel Base, Yuma, AZ; Bullhead Base, Albuquerque, NM; Gudgeon Base, Prescott, AZ; Tautog Base, Casa Grande, AZ; Tucson Base, Tucson, AZ; White Mountain Base, Snowflake, AZ and White Sands Base, La Luz, NM.



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."



Jim Denzien
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District Commander Input for Newsletter

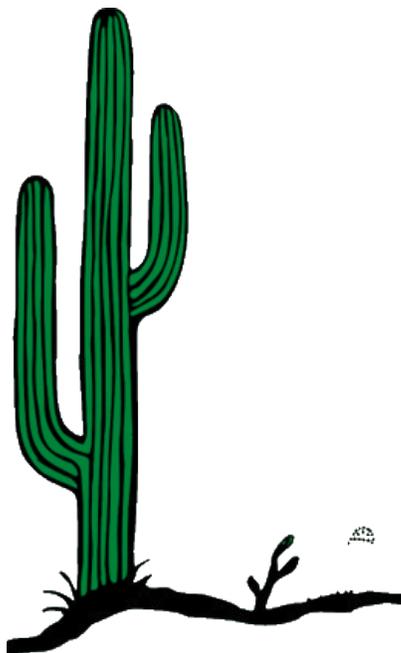
We are rapidly approaching Convention time in San Francisco. This convention will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of USSVI. In conjunction with that, we are electing a great majority of our National officers. Please make sure that you take the time to cast your vote – either by snail mail or online (the preferred method). It is your input into the way our organization is headed by electing good leaders.

I am finishing my first year as your District Commander and I am pleased to say that I visited all the bases but one. The visits have been very pleasant and quite productive, certainly for me. I am looking forward to starting the process anew after the convention.

All bases need to concentrate on providing input for the quarterly “Desert 1MC”. That is the best way to let your Western District 1 shipmates know what your base is doing. Be proud of your activities and let the rest of us know how you are doing.

I hope to see a lot of you at the convention in September in San Francisco!

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Brothers of the 'Phin

2014

We're all going to San Francisco!

We are expecting one of the largest gatherings of our brethren for the 50th Anniversary of this great organization. We will be welcoming veterans from USSVI, along with our shipmates from World War II.



San Francisco Airport
Hyatt reGENCY Hotel
1333 Bayshore Hwy.
Burlingame, CA. 94010
Ph. No. (650) 696-2650



Take time to visit:
The San Francisco Zoo
USS Pampanito (SS-383)
USS Hornet (CV-12)
Fisherman's Wharf
and much, much more!



Join us in America's Most Popular City

**What better way to celebrate the USSVI Golden Anniversary than
with the Golden Gate
"San Francisco 2014"**

Convention to be hosted by Mare Island Base of USSVI

For more information checkout the convention website:
<http://www.ussvigoldenanniversary2014sf.org>

LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

THOSE BOATS THAT WENT ON "ETERNAL PATROL" DURING JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

September 1, 1920

USS S-5 (SS-110)

no men lost

Lost on September 1, 1920 when a practice dive went wrong and she sank bow-first, with her stern showing above the water. In a dramatic adventure, her exhausted crew was rescued during the next few days. Salvage attempts were unsuccessful, S-5 settled to the bottom and was abandoned.

September 25, 1925

USS S-51 (SS-162)

33 lost

Lost on Sept 25, 1925 with the loss of 33 men when it was sunk after collision with SS City of Rome off Block Island.

July 30, 1942

USS Grunion (SS-216)

70 lost

Lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

August 14, 1942

USS S-39 (SS-144)

no men lost

Lost on August 14, 1942 after grounding on a reef south while on her 3rd war patrol. The entire crew was able to get off and rescued by the HMAS Katoomba.

September 9, 1943

USS Grayling (SS-209)

76 lost

Lost on Sept 9, 1943 with the loss of 76 men near the Tablas Strait. Grayling was on her 8th war patrol and sank two ships before being lost.

Sep.17 – Oct. 5, 1943

USS Pompano (SS-181)

77 lost

Pompano was sunk (between Sept 17 and Oct 5) with the loss of 77 men while on her 7th war patrol. Possibly lost on Sept 17, 1943. Japanese records show that a submarine was sunk in her patrol area on 17 September by air & depth charge attack off the Aomori Prefecture near Shiriya Zaki. Before being lost, she sank two enemy cargo ships. The exact cause of her loss remains unknown, but she probably was sunk by the air/sea attack above or fell victim to a mine on or after 9/25/1943. This boat's last recorded ship (Taiko Maru) sunk happened on Sept 25th, so she probably hit a mine on or after that date but before Oct 5th, when she was scheduled back.

September 28, 1943

USS Cisco (SS-290)

76 men

Lost on Sept. 28, 1943 on her first war patrol with 76 men in the Sulu Sea west of Mindanao.

July 4, 1944

USS S-28 (SS-133)

49 lost

Lost on July 4, 1944 with 49 crew members. She was conducting training exercises off Hawaii with the US Coast Guard Cutter Reliance. After S-28 dove for a practice torpedo approach, Reliance lost contact. No distress signal or explosion was heard. Two days later, an oil slick was found near where S-28. The exact cause of her loss remains a mystery.

July 26, 1944

USS Robalo (SS-273)

81 lost

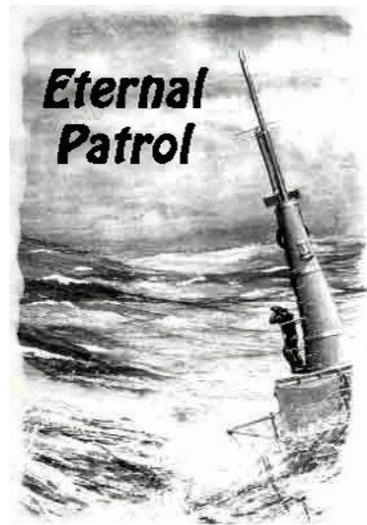
Lost on July 26, 1944 with the loss of 81 crew members while on her 3rd war patrol. She struck a mine about 2 miles off the coast of Palawan. Four men survived and swam ashore, then were imprisoned by the Japanese. Unfortunately, they were put on a Japanese destroyer and lost when that destroyer was sunk.

August 13, 1944

USS Flier (SS-250)

78 lost

Lost on August 13, 1944 with the loss of 78 crew members while on her 2nd war patrol. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher



and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.

August 24, 1944

USS Harder (SS-257)

79 lost

Lost on August 24, 1944 with the loss of 79 crew members from a depth charge attack by a minesweeper near Bataan while on her 6th war patrol. Harder had won a Presidential Unit Citation for her first 5 war patrols and CDR Dealey was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously. Harder is tied for 9th in the number of enemy ships sunk.

August 6, 1945

USS Bullhead (SS-332)

84 lost

Lost on August 6, 1945 with the loss of 84 crew members in the Lombok Strait while on her 3rd war patrol when sunk by a depth charge dropped by a Japanese Army plane. Bullhead was the last submarine lost during WWII.

August 26, 1949

USS Cochino (SS-345)

7 lost (total)

Lost on August 26, 1949 after being jolted by a violent polar gale off Norway caused an electrical fire and battery explosion that generated hydrogen and chlorine gasses. In extremely bad weather, men of Cochino and Tusk (SS-426) fought to save the submarine for 14 hours. After a 2nd battery explosion, Abandon Ship was ordered and Cochino sank. Tusk's crew rescued all of Cochino's men except for one civilian engineer. Six sailors from Tusk were lost during the rescue.



WESTERN DISTRICT 1 - "TRAVELING DOLPHINS"

Several years ago, Gudgeon Base (Prescott, AZ) started a friendly competition amongst the bases of District 1 of USSVI's Western Region. The purpose of the program was to encourage members from different bases to visit each other within the district. To encourage this, Gudgeon Base's Edgar Brooks crafted a set of Dolphins on a plaque that became the, "Traveling Dolphins."



These dolphins aren't "owned" by any Base. Instead, any WS1 Base can "capture" the dolphins from the holding Base by following specific rules. The capturing Base in turn holds them until another Base in turn captures them. To capture the dolphins, a Base must do the following:

1. Attend a dolphin-holding Base's meeting with a least three visiting members.
2. One of the visitors must be a Base officer.
3. Announce intention to "capture."
4. One of the visiting members must tell a "sea story" deemed worthy by the holding Base.

After several holding back-and-forth's, the current holder of the Traveling Dolphins is Perch Base. Perch "re-captured" them at Perch's annual picnic, at which Gudgeon Base again surrendered the hand carved plaque.

Only three Western District 1 Bases have actually held the Traveling Dolphins. They are Perch Base, Gudgeon Base and Tautog Base. Other WD1 Bases . . . gas up your cars and travel!!

Eternal Patrol September 9, 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 Grayling (SS-209) September 9, 1943 76 men lost



Tambor Class

Disp: 1,475 tons (surf); 2,370 tons (sub)
Length: 307' 2", **Beam:** 27' 3" in, **Draft:** 14' 7.5"
Speed: 20.4 knots (surf); 8.75 knots (sub)
Range: 11,000 nautical miles at 10 knots
Test depth: 250 ft

Propulsion:

4 × FM Model 38D8-1/8 9-cylinder diesels
 2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries
 4 × high-speed GE electric motors with reduction gears
 5,400 shp (surf), 2,740 shp (sub)

Complement: 6 officers, 54 enlisted

Armament:

10 × 21" torpedo tubes, (6 fwd, 4 aft), 24 torpedoes
 1 × 3"/ 50 caliber deck gun, 4 machine guns

USS Grayling (SS-209), a Tambor-class submarine, was the fourth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the grayling, a fresh-water game fish closely related to the trout.

Her keel was laid down at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine on 15 December 1939. She was launched on 4 September 1940 sponsored by Mrs. Herbert F. Leary, and commissioned on 1 March 1941 with Lieutenant Commander Eliot Olsen in command.

Pre-World War II

After conducting tests and sea trials, she was called upon 20 June 1941 to assist in the search for submarine O-9 (SS-70), which had failed to surface after a practice dive off Isles of Shoals. O-9 was subsequently discovered on the bottom, but rescue efforts failed; Grayling participated 22 June in the memorial services for those lost.

Joining the Atlantic Fleet, Grayling sailed on shakedown cruise on 4 August to Morehead City, North Carolina, and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, returning to Portsmouth on 29 August. After final acceptance, she departed 17 November, armed at Newport, Rhode Island, and sailed for duty with the Pacific Fleet. Grayling transited the Panama Canal on

Photo # NH 50799 Adm. C.W. Nimitz on board USS Grayling, 31 December 1941



(continued on next page)

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN (center), presenting awards on board Grayling (SS-209), at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base, following ceremonies in which he took command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, 31 December 1941. The former fleet commander, Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel is standing to the right, in a white uniform with two-star insignia.

3 December and moored at San Diego, California, on 10 December.

Start of War, and Raising of Nimitz's Flag

Grayling sailed for Pearl Harbor on 17 December, arrived 24 December, and had the honor of being chosen for the Pacific Fleet change of command ceremony on 31 December 1941. On that day, Admiral Chester Nimitz hoisted his flag aboard Grayling as Commander, Pacific Fleet and began the United States Navy's long fighting road back in the Pacific.

COMSUBPAC Patrols, 1942

After the ceremonies, Grayling stood out of Pearl Harbor on her first war patrol 5 January 1942. Cruising the Northern Gilbert Islands, Grayling failed to register a kill, but gained much in training and readiness, returning to Pearl Harbor on 7 March.

Her second patrol, beginning 27 March, was more successful. Cruising off the coast of Japan itself, Grayling sank her first ship 13 April, sending the cargo freighter Ryujin Maru to the bottom. She returned to Hawaii on 16 May.

Grayling returned to action in June as all available ships were pressed into service to oppose the Japanese advance on Midway Island. As part of Task Group 7.1, Grayling and her sister submarines were arranged in a fan-like reconnaissance deployment west of Midway, helping to provide knowledge of Japanese movements. During this deployment the Grayling was mistaken for a Japanese cruiser by Army Air Force B-17s which attacked her. A quick crash dive avoided damage.

As Naval planners established a submarine blockade of Truk in connection with the offensive in the Solomon Islands, Grayling began her third war patrol 14 July 1942 around the Japanese stronghold. She damaged a Japanese submarine tender 13 August, but was forced to return to Pearl Harbor 26 August by fuel leaks.

At Pearl Harbor, Grayling repaired and was fitted with surface radar, after which she began her fourth patrol on 19 October. Although attacked by gunfire and six separate depth charge runs by Japanese destroyers, Grayling succeeded 10 November in sinking a 4000-ton cargo ship southwest of Truk. She also destroyed an enemy schooner on 4 December before putting into Fremantle, Australia, 13 December.

Deployment to Australia, 1943

Changing her base of operations to Australia, Grayling stood out of Fremantle on 7 January 1943 on her fifth patrol, this time in Philippine waters. She sank cargo ship Ushio Maru west of Luzon on 26 January and damaged another Japanese ship the next day. After sinking a schooner on 24 February, Grayling returned to Fremantle.

Grayling left Australian waters on 18 March on her sixth war patrol and cruised in the Tarakan area and the Verde Island Passage. There, she attacked and sank cargo ship Shanghai Maru on 9 April and damaged four other ships before returning to Fremantle on 25 April.

Her seventh war patrol, commencing 18 May, took Grayling into the waters off northwest Borneo, where she damaged a freighter and two smaller ships before returning to her base 6 July.

Loss

Under the command of Lt. Cdr. Robert M. Brinker, Grayling began her eighth and last war patrol in July, 1943, from Fremantle. She made two visits to the coast of the Philippines, delivering supplies and equipment to guerrillas at Pucio Point, Pandan Bay, Panay, 31 July and 23 August 1943. Cruising in the Philippines area, Grayling recorded her last kill, the passenger-cargo Meizan Maru on 27 August in the Tablas Strait, but was not heard from again after 9 September. She was scheduled to make a radio report on 12 September, which she did not, and all attempts to contact her failed. Grayling was officially reported "lost with all hands" 30 September 1943.

On 27 August 1943, Japanese ships witnessed a torpedo attack, and the next day a surfaced submarine was seen, both in the Tablas Strait area, and then on 9 September a surfaced American submarine was seen inside Lingayen Gulf. All of these sightings correspond with Grayling's orders to patrol the approaches to Manila. On 9 September 1943, Japanese passenger-cargo vessel Hokuan Maru reported a submarine in shallow water west of Luzon. The ship made a run over the area and "noted an impact with a submerged object." No additional data are available.



No recorded Japanese attacks could have sunk Grayling. Her loss may have been operational or by an unrecorded attack. The only certainty, therefore, is that Grayling was lost between 9 September and 12 September 1943 either in Lingayen Gulf or along the approaches to Manila. ComTaskFor71 requested a transmission from Grayling on 12 September, but did not receive one.

Grayling was credited with five major kills, totaling 20,575 tons. All but the first of Grayling's eight war patrols were declared "successful". She received six battle stars for World War II service.

The Silent Service



NAUTICAL NUANCES OR DID YOU KNOW? #1

- The first rest camp for submarine crews was established at a military encampment at Malang, in the mountains of Java, 89 miles from Surabaya. Three days were allotted to submarine crews there in January 1942.
- The first TDC (Mark 1) was installed in the Cachalot.
- The Plunger was the first boat to sustain an "arduous" depth charge attack and survive.
- On August 17, 1958, the USS SKATE circumnavigated the globe in about fifty minutes. The SKATE was at a radius of about two miles from the North Pole at the time, and the distance traveled in the circumnavigation was about twelve miles.
- When the nuclear powered submarine USS SEADRAGON surfaced at the North Pole while charting the Northwest Passage in August 1960, the crew organized a baseball game. Because of Polar time differences, when a batter clouted a home run it would land in either the next day or in 'yesterday'.
- The first Japanese casualty to American arms during WW-II was an aircraft shot down on Dec. 7th, 1941 by the Tautog.
- The first submarine force casualty suffered in WW-II was G. A. Myers, Seaman 2, shot through the right lung when Cachalot was strafed during the Pearl Harbor raid.
- The first "live" torpedoes to be fired by a Pearl Harbor submarine were fired by the Triton (Lent), 4 stern tubes fired on the night of Dec. 10, 1941.
- The first Pearl Harbor boat to be depth charged was the Plunger (White) on Jan. 4, 1942, 24 charges.
- The first "down the throat" shot was fired by Pompano on Jan. 17, 1942.
- The first Japanese warship to be sunk was torpedoed by **Gudgeon** (Grenfell) at 9 AM on Jan. 27, 1942, the IJN I-173 (SS).
- The first major Japanese warship lost to submarines during WW-II was the heavy cruiser Kako which fell victim to S-44 Moore) on Aug. 10, 1942.
- In September 1936, Cdr. C. A. Lockwood Jr., assumed command of SubDiv 13 composed of the new boats Pike, Porpoise, Shark and Tarpon.
- On December 31, 1941, Captain Wilkes evacuated Corregidor on board the Seawolf to establish a new base at Surabaya, Java. Simultaneously Capt. Fife boarded Swordfish and sailed to Darwin, Australia.
- Expressing the view that Japan could not hope to be victorious in a war with the U.S., Admiral Yamamoto was "shanghaied" to the post of Commander of the Combined Fleet (from the Naval Ministry) to thwart a possible assassination at the hands of his many dissenters.



BARBEL BASE YUMA, AZ

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Yuma, AZ
Web page: www.ussvi.org/base/Barbel.asp
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BULLHEAD BASE ALBUQUERQUE, NM

This Base had nothing to include this quarter.





GUDGEON BASE PRESCOTT, AZ

GUDGEON BASE
PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ
WEB PAGE: WWW.USSVI.ORG/BASE/GUDGEON.ASP
BASE COMMANDER – TOM WARNER
EMAIL = ICCSPLUNGER@OUTLOOK.COM



John P. Dudas, MMCS (SS) USN Retired



I graduated High School in June 1963 at 17 and enlisted in the Navy the same month. My first two years in the Navy were filled by Boot Camp and Machinist Mate "A" school, both at GLAKES Naval Training Center. Then, it was on to Basic Nuclear Power School at Mare Island Naval Shipyard followed by prototype training at A1W. From there to Basic Submarine School at New London, graduating in June 1965. My first sea duty was the USS Thomas Jefferson (SSBN-618, Blue) out of Holy Loch for the next few years. I was designated qualified in Submarines in September 1966. Next was AC&R "C" School in Norfolk and orders to the USS Nautilus (SSN-571) where I served for four years. After Nautilus, two years at the New London NSSF Radcon Department

I separated from the Navy in June 1974 and immediately went to work at new construction reactor for Millstone Point Unit 2. Ten days after leaving the Navy, I got a phone call from the Navy saying I was selected for advancement to CPO. I ended up going back into the Navy, but with no job code numbers. The Nuclear Detailer informed me that I could re-apply for my nuclear job codes in 6 months. I received orders to the USS Archerfish (SSN-671) and was placed in "A" Division as a 1st class Machinist Mate. The boat sent me to the A Gang Package Course where I picked up all of those job codes to include O₂ Generator operator. I never did go back to being a nuke.

It wasn't until 18 months that I made CPO. This took ComSubLant, Admiral Williams to accomplish! He had ridden the Archerfish and heard the CO's and XO's story of getting no response from the Bureau on my advancement to CPO. The delay was apparently due to my dropping Nuclear Operator and switching to "A" Division. This was seen as a back door route to get out of the nuke program and I felt the "wrath of the nukes" after that. But, the Admiral asking questions, ended the BuPers' game and I received the advancement with a BC&R correction to my service record that gave me 18 months back pay and re-setting the correct advancement date.

The Archerfish was a Special Operations boat and we performed many long Northern Runs while I was on board.

After Archerfish, I was transferred to the USS Greenling, (SSN-614) which also performed Special Operations. I also took

the Greenling through Overhaul at the Charleston Naval Shipyard in South Carolina.

I was supposed to go to shore duty in New London after the Greenling, but my detailer called to offer a special two-year neutral duty tour on the USS Fulton (AS-11.) I took it.

I retired on 31 December 1983 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer with 21 years of service.

My first job as a civilian was as a Senior Quality Control Engineer with United Nuclear in Montville, Connecticut. They manufactured nuclear cores for the US Navy for both submarines and surface ships. Around 1985, the Navy contracts dried up for everyone and the company went out of business. I was hired as an instructor at the Millstone Nuclear Station in Connecticut where I taught for the next 12 years.

Eventually, I wound up in Florida where I did some AC&R work in Florida, but changed vocations and ended up working as a County Veterans Service Officer for Citrus County. I really enjoyed the work and was very successful in representing clients with their claims at the VA. I also represented them before the Board of Veterans Appeals for those veterans whose claims had been denied. I was extremely proud of the record I established for never losing an appeal before the board.

My wife wanted to leave Florida and I ended up working for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services as a Regional Manager with 8 offices across the state. I had offices in Yuma, Bullhead City, Kingman, Prescott, Cottonwood, Show Low, Flagstaff and Chinle on the Navajo Reservation. Working with veterans and helping them through the VA regulations was a very rewarding part of my life. Some thoughts of note that come to mind are:

1. All of the submarines I served on operated up north and I attended the Bluenose Ceremony on all of them. The Archerfish spent an extraordinary amount of time up north. The CT's (spooks) left their gear onboard for an entire year and at the end of that year after the last run, we pulled into New London with a broom tied to the periscope denoting 100% of the crew qualified in submarines including the spooks. That is something very hard to accomplish on a nuke boat with all the normal personnel transfers. Out of a 12 month period, we had spent 310 days submerged with the remainder of the days that year only in port loading stores just to scoot back out on station.
2. My son Chris visited me on all my boats and after he joined the Navy, he chose to be a surface sailor serving on Frigates and Aircraft Carriers. He retired 3 years ago as an ETC (SW/AW). He was in both Gulf Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan. He will be returning to the US the end of April after having served again as a civilian at Baghram Air Base in Afghanistan. He is their IT and Communications Manager for the base. When I built his Retirement Plaque, It took me a small fortune to buy his ribbons. He had 8 rows of them, so he sure did well and passed his old man in great fashion. I could not be more proud of his accomplishments.
3. My wife Carol has been by my side through most of this and I cannot imagine anyone else that deserves credit for me being able to do what I did. It sure does take a special woman to be a Military Wife! I think being a Military Wife should be a prerequisite for any lady contemplating marriage in this country. It would probably reduce the divorce rate and lead to more stable marriages
4. I also served as the Veterans Service Officer for USSVI National for 7 years. I can't begin to calculate how many emails and people that I personally helped with information relating to their claims with the VA. I never tired of helping fellow shipmates with anything they needed.

Enough has been said – time to stop – It's been a pleasure taking you back with me on my memory search. I hope your life has been as full and enjoyable as mine has been!





PERCH BASE PHOENIX, AZ

Visit our web site at:

www.perch-base.org



Perch Base meets the second Saturday of each month at the Dillon's Restaurant at 20585 North 59th Ave. just north of the Loop 101 in Glendale AZ.



Flash Traffics

. . . sent since the last listing (#3-05-2014)

Many other Bases wait and include USSVI notices and other breaking news in their newsletter. Perch Base has adopted a way to inform our Members almost immediately via electronic e-mails called *Flash Traffic*. Each issue of the **Desert 1MC** will list those that were issued during the previous quarter or since the last issue of the newsletter. The documents themselves are not publicly archived but they are available. Please contact me, the [Base Communications Officer](#) if you wish a copy.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
June 13	#06-02a-14	<i>Perch Base Scholarship Program (CORRECTED)</i>
June 12	#06-02-14	<i>Perch Base Scholarship Program</i>
June 8	#06-01-14	<i>USSVI National Election</i>
May 19	#05-07-14	<i>Memorial Day 2014</i>
May 17	#05-06-14	<i>Jim Newman - Update</i>
May 16	#05-05-14	<i>Jim Newman on Binnacle List</i>
May 14	#05-04-14	<i>Flagstaff Parade</i>
May 7	#05-03-14	<i>Base Picnic Reminder</i>
May 7	#05-02-14	<i>Change to the Perch Base Constitution</i>
May 5	#05-01-14	<i>Veteran's Legal Help Clinic</i>
April 30	#04-08-14	<i>Perch Base Picnic Reminder</i>
April 25	#04-07-14	<i>The Arizona Silent Service Memorial is Law!</i>

(List of "Flash Traffics" are continued on page 15)

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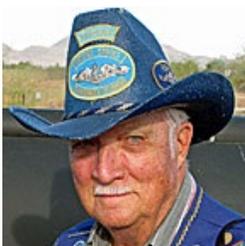
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Membership Chairman's Thoughts on the Fly...

Rick Simmons - Perch Base Membership Chairman

Since last reporting to you we have added several new members. They are:

- David J. Fyock who qualified in 1968 on the USS Benjamin Franklin SSBN 640. David and his wife Tammy live in Phoenix.
- William (Bill) Malda who qualified in 1961 on the USS Bashaw SS241. Bill lives in Wickenburg.
- David A. Metje who qualified in 1971 on the USS Theodore Roosevelt SSBN 600. David lives in Anthem.
- Michael Olsen who qualified in 1960 on the USS Corsair SS435. Michael is a transfer from the Area 51 Base. Michael and his wife Ruth now live in Surprise.
- Louis Reynolds who qualified in 1944 on the USS Hackleback SS295. Louis is a transfer from the White Mountain Base. Louis and his wife Beulah now live in Avondale.
- Daniel (Dan) Marks who qualified in 1977 on the USS Ray SSN-653. Dan and his wife Gail live in Phoenix.
- Charles (Chuck) Luna who qualified in 1982 on the USS Phoenix SSN 702. Chuck and his wife Laura live in Phoenix.
- Mary Denzien joined us as an Associate Member. Mary as most of you know is the wife of our Western District 1 Commander and past just about everything at Perch Base, Jim Denzien. Jim and Mary live in Tolleson.
- Marcia Unser joined us as an Associate Member. Marcia is the wife of Don Unser our Event Coordinator. Don and Marcia live in Glendale.

Please remember to keep your Membership Chairman informed of any changes to your contact information.

NAUTICAL NUANCES OR DID YOU KNOW? #2

- A survivor of the Japanese carrier *Kaga*, at the Battle of Midway, told how some of his shipmates saved themselves by clinging to the air flask of a torpedo fired from *Nautilus* which hit the carrier and failed to explode, the concussion separating the warhead from the air flask.
- LCDR. Francis White was the only skipper who lost two submarines in combat, the *S-39* and the *S-44*.
- The IJN *I-176* (Cdr. Kosaburo Yamaguchi) was the only Japanese boat to sink an American submarine (*Corvina*) during the war.
- The last Japanese submarine to be sunk in the Pacific, the *I-373*, was torpedoed by *Spikefish* (Monaghan) on the morning of 13 Aug. 1945, in the East China Sea.
- As late as July 1945 Japanese guns on the cliffs of Lombok Strait shelled the *Loggerhead* as she proceeded through the strait on the surface
- In July 1945 *Bugara* (Schade) operating in the Gulf of Siam, sank 12 junks, 24 schooners, 16 coasters, 3 sea trucks and one naval auxiliary, all by gunfire.
- In the early morning hours of June 22, 1945, *Barb*, (Fluckey) fired a dozen 5-inch rockets into the town of Hokkaido from 5000 yards off shore.

2014 Perch Base Operations 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.



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("Flash Traffics" are continued from page 12)

<i>April 22</i>	<i>#04-06-14</i>	<i>ASSM Bill Has Been Passed!</i>
<i>April 20</i>	<i>#04-05-14</i>	<i>Changes to the Perch Base Web Page</i>
<i>April 16</i>	<i>#04-04-14</i>	<i>Kyrene Akimel-A-al Middle School</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>#04-03-14</i>	<i>Shipmate Milton McNeill on Eternal Patrol</i>
<i>April 13</i>	<i>#04-02-14</i>	<i>Secretary of the Navy to Visit Tempe</i>
<i>April 12</i>	<i>#04-01-14</i>	<i>Change to the Perch Base Constitution</i>
<i>Mar. 22</i>	<i>#03-06-14</i>	<i>Past Chaplain, Steve Leon Discharged</i>
<i>Mar. 17</i>	<i>#03-05a-14</i>	<i>Past Chaplain, Steve Leon's Status</i>
<i>Mar. 15</i>	<i>#03-05-14</i>	<i>USSVI SubVet News #2014-018</i>
<i>Mar. 14</i>	<i>#03-04-14</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Day Parade</i>
<i>Mar. 13</i>	<i>#03-03-14</i>	<i>Luke Days Static Display</i>
<i>Mar. 10</i>	<i>#03-02-14</i>	<i>Status of the ASSM Bill</i>
<i>Mar. 6</i>	<i>#03-01-14</i>	<i>Election for Vice Commander</i>

THESE ARE THE BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATE OF OUR PERCH BASE MEMBERS. SO WHY THIS PARTICULAR ORDER? WELL, SINCE WE'RE DEALING WITH THREE CALENDAR MONTHS, AND MORE BIRTH-YEARS THAN WE CARE TO TALK ABOUT, WE'RE JUST LISTING THEM ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME.



HELLER	Harold	29-Aug
HERMAN	Herbert	1-Sep
HOUGH	Stephen F.	29-Sep
HUNT	Theodore	6-Aug
JURACKA	Bernard	7-Jul
La ROCK	Douglas M.	9-Aug
LANCENDORFER	Robert A.	12-Aug
LONG	George	20-Aug
LUELLIG	Daniel E.	21-Aug
MANNETTI	John	26-Aug
MARSHALL	Raymond	8-Aug
McPherson	Angus H.	1-Aug
MESSERSMITH	"Jack"	31-Jul
MILLER	Alan H.	4-Sep
O'CONNOR	"Jack"	30-Sep
PELLEGRINI	Bryan M.	7-Aug
PITTMAN	Heather Lynn	7-Sep
PITTMAN Jr.	Jerry	6-Aug
POVIO Jr.	Nicholas	16-Jul
SINCLAIR	Richard A.	14-Sep
SMITH	Wayne Kirk	6-Sep
STANGER	Steven K.	13-Sep
URNESS	Chris	10-Aug
VEEK	Eugene B.	5-Sep
WARNER	Patricia A.	26-Sep
WATSON	Forrest J.	27-Jul
WOLF	Edward J.	1-Sep
WOOLCOTT	William 'Bill'	22-Jul
WRIGHT	Robert W.	10-Sep
ZAICHKIN	John G.	18-Aug

AMAYA Jr.	Juan	10-Jul
BARTLETT	Gary	26-Sep
BENNETT	Michael G.	4-Sep
BERNIER	Richard	21-Jul
BRAASTAD	Wayne A	7-Jul
BUTLER	Bradley L	25-Jul
CRABB	Eugene V.	21-Aug
DUTCHER	Ron A.	12-Sep
ENLOE	Howard M.	24-Sep
ERRANTE	Joe	4-Sep
EWEN	Douglas R.	1-Jul
FLEDDERJOHN	David G.	16-Jul
FOOTE	Jim	12-Jul
GOLDMAN	Howard S	30-Jul
GREGORY	"Tim"	25-Aug
GRISSOM	"Kelly"	19-Aug
HEIGHWAY	David A.	2-Jul



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PERCH BASE ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER

PERCH BASE'S ANNUAL PICNIC

The White Tanks Regional Park was again the site of our annual picnic open to all Arizona Bases. Although not every Arizona Base was represented,, Perch Base was able to recapture the Dolphins again.



ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

In one of the most solemn and important events of Perch Base's annual calendar, The Base participated in the annual wreath laying at the Phoenix National Cemetery. This was followed by the Tolling for the Boats Ceremony at the Submarine Memorial on the cemetery's Founders Circle.



For more details and pictures of Perch Base, see our web page at:

<http://www.perch-base.org>



Submarines Finally “Surface” at the Phoenix, AZ MEPS

The Navy section of the Phoenix Arizona’s Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) had a glaring deficiency fixed by Perch Base on Thursday, May 18. That was when the submarine service made an appearance in the mostly skimmer-staffed office for the first time.

The MPES occupies the third floor of a high-rise in downtown Phoenix. The Navy section of the facility occupies almost one whole corner and has been open for a few years. Perch Base members had attended the grand opening and noticed one glaring absence. Nowhere in the entire Navy-section was there anything about submarines! What a way to bring recruits into the Navy! No submarines.

Two solution paths were followed. First, Base member Mike Hinderliter — a master modeler — was commissioned to create a detailed scale model of the USS Seawolf (SSN-21,) mounted and plaque inscribed.

The second path required the help of Electric Boat’s communications department. They provided a hi-res graphic of a USS Virginia (SSN-774) in a cut-away view. The hi-res quality allowed the photo to be “blown up” and professionally mounted in an almost three foot long frame.

May 18 was presentation day and the Submarine Service took its rightful place in the Processing Station for potential crew members to see. The “maneuvering watch” for the launching included, Jim Denzien, Chuck Emmett, Rick Simmons, Richard Kunze and Mike Hinderliter.



Modeler and Base member Mike Hinderliter holds the USS Seawolf (SSN-21) that he created. Next to Mike is WD1 Commander Jim Denzien, a Perch Base member.



Rick Simmons holds the USS Virginia (SSN-774) cutaway. On Rick’s right is our “hostess” for the event, YNC Heather Pittman.

Special thanks for her assistance goes to YNC Heather Pittman, a station staffer who’s also an Associate Member of Perch Base. Heather’s husband is Jerry Pittman MMCM(SS) ret., a Perch Base member who was also at the launch.



Base Communications Officer Chuck Emmett acted as the “Spokesperson” for the event.



Perch Base members YNC Heather and MMCM(SS), ret. Jerry.



At left, the REAL USS Virginia underway.

Arizona's Silent Service Memorial

The Arizona Silent Service Memorial became official during May after the legislature passed a bill, and the Governor signed it into law, authorizing the construction of the monument in Wesley Bolin Plaza, the state capital's "front yard". The ASSM committee met with the Nola Barnes, General Manager of the State's Department of Administration to begin the actual site selection process.



Now, the fund raising task and formalized design process begin in earnest. Later in the project financing efforts, individual and group bricks will be sold to create the state-of-Arizona outline that will form the ground base of the memorial. On June 19, the project filed an application with the IRS for 501c(3) status, but contributions can be made now to:

Arizona Silent Service Memorial
11427 N. 12th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85020



ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS, PERCH BASE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Board of Directors for Perch Base believes it is part of our mission to assist, where possible, the dependent sons, daughters and grandchildren of our members in the pursuit of a post-high school education. It is with this objective in mind that the Perch Base has introduced a scholarship program for qualified individuals-

The Perch Base Board of Directors (BOD) will determine, on an annual basis, the availability of funds for a scholarship award. If funds are available, the BOD will set the amount of the scholarship. If the BOD wishes, each scholarship will be named in memory of a Perch Base member on Eternal Patrol whose service to the Base the Board wishes to highlight and remember.

The key requirements are:

- Applicants must be the son, daughter, step son, step daughter, grandson, granddaughter or under the legal guardianship of a Regular Member in good standing of Perch Base.
- Applicants must be high school seniors or graduates under the age of 21, **or**
- Applicants must be students under the age of 23 enrolled in a full time course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Applicants must submit a short essay (no more than two pages) as to why they are worthy of the scholarship. This essay should be in their own handwriting and not typed.



TAUTOG BASE CASA GRANDE, AZ

TAUTOG BASE

VARIOUS BASE ACTIVITIES

Iwo Jima Memorial - Sacaton

This article inadvertently missed publication in the March newsletter, so we are running it again for your information and enjoyment.

On February 22nd, Tautog Base along with Tucson Base participated in the Iwo Jima Parade in Sacaton, AZ located on the Gila River Indian Reservation. There were over 140 entries in the parade which commemorates the raising of the flag on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. This occasion is important to this American Indian community as one of their own, Marine Private Ira Hayes – Medal of Honor recipient, was one of the four men who raised the flag that was caught on film and will ever remain a part of American history.



George Long's great grandson, Rhett, had on a great shirt with a large set of Dolphins pictured. It read: "My Great Granddad wears Submarine Dolphins, He's Qualified." Rhett walked most of the parade and along with his sister, Grace, helped hand out almost 500 flag wrapped butter-mints to the kids watching along the 2 mile parade route.

Prior to the parade starting, great camaraderie happened with our shipmates from Tucson. They even invited us to take a picture with them in front of their USS Tucson (SSN-770) Boat Float. As the parade begins, aircraft treat the crowd with an aerial display. The crowd gave both submarine bases a standing ovation and cheers as the diving alarm was sounded while passing the reviewing stands.



Following the parade, some of the Tautog Base participants enjoyed the festivities at the park where color guards from all over Arizona & New Mexico presented colors while the Gila River Tribe Indian School children sang the National Anthem in both English and their native language. Sacaton residents prepared Indian Tacos free for all the parade participants. With full bellies, we all headed home to rest. What a great parade!



2014 Cowboy and Indian Days Parade



March was a month to rest from all the parades of February. We did learn that our Tautog Base float won first place for motor floats in the 2014 Cowboy and Indian Days Parade. A pictured plaque was forward to the base and was unveiled to the members at a social gathering lunch on March 26th at the Creative Café in Casa Grande.



April Base Meeting

April meeting of the Tautog Base was held at Commander Denny Honodel's home where we all enjoyed hamburgers with all the fixings. Members brought guests and other goodies such as potato salad, baked beans and all the other dishes that make a great picnic on the patio. New member Richard Joslin road his motorcycle down from Chandler and it was great to meet him for the first time.

The main reason for the barbecue was to have a great setting to induct two (2) of our members into the Holland Club. The Traveling Dolphins were present to witness the occasion. The first presentation went to Tautog Base Vice-Commander MMC(SS) Clare Spiering, USN, Ret. who qualified on the USS Segundo (SS-398) in 1964.

Following that presentation, Tautog Base Charter Member HMC(SS) Stewart (Stu) Hopper, USN, Ret. was inducted into the Holland Club. Stu qualified onboard the USS Angler (SS/SSK/AGSS-240) in 1964. Stu was very instrumental in starting the USSVI Tautog Base in 2007 in Casa Grande. Stu also served as its Commander for many of its initial years in existence. Stu also served as the Base Newsletter guru and won the USSVI award in 2011 for the best Small Base Newsletter.



The main reason for having the Holland Club Induction Ceremony at Tautog Base's April Meeting was that Base Commander Denny Honodel and wife Marcey were traveling to Italy and would be gone during the May Arizona Subvets picnic hosted by Perch Base at White Tank Mountain Park. About a half dozen or so Tautog Base members attended the picnic and brought along the "Traveling Dolphins" that they captured at last year's picnic. So to comply with the rules of capture, Tautog Base opened a meeting and the dolphins were captured and returned to Perch Base. I'm sure the Perch Base will toot their horn in their newsletter segment concerning this capture of the "Traveling Dolphins." However, the picnic hosted by Perch Base each year is a real treat for all our shipmates to see each other. Tautog Base is very grateful for their efforts.

Each year in Casa Grande a Memorial Day Ceremony is conducted at Mountain View Cemetery. During the ceremony wreaths are presented by numerous military organizations, including the "Daughters of the Revolution." Tautog Base participates in the ceremony each year along with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and others. For the last 2 years Tautog Base has presented a wreath in honor of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. This year Tautog Base Vice-Commander Clare Spiering presented the wreath on behalf of the Tautog Base members. In addition, our Base has a part in the ceremony where the role of the Submarine Force is conveyed to the over 300 guests and a modified Tolling of the Boats ceremony is conducted by Commander Denny Honodel and COB Norm Short.

Each year the organizers of the Memorial Day Ceremony honor veterans from each war and conflict that our troops have participated. This year seven (7) residents of Casa Grande were honored. Two from World War II, two from Korea, two from Vietnam and one from Desert Storm era. Tautog Base submariner Stewart Hopper was recognized for his service during Vietnam.

Below is a biography of HMC(SS) Stewart Hopper USN, Retired. His career is distinguished and varied. We at Tautog Base salute his service and are proud that he is one of us.

Military Service of Stewart Hopper

I started my naval career the summer of 1957 when I enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Basic training was 16 weeks at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon graduating from Basic Training I was assigned to a ship (as I did not qualify for further training) assigned to the "Gator" Navy in Norfolk Virginia on the East Coast.

About a year and a half later I had qualified for more training. I was sent to Hospital Corpsman Class a school at the NTC, Great Lakes, Illinois. This school was 22 weeks long. Upon graduation I was sent to Naval Hospital Great Lakes for a six month course in "Operating Room Technique".

I was then sent to Naval Hospital Corpus Christi, Texas. I worked in the operating room until the summer of 1961 when I was promoted to HM2 (E-5) and then transferred to Naval Air Facility, Signella, Sicily. When I arrived at the NAF I had prepare my "dream" sheet for future assignments in the Navy. I chose Submarine duty and duty with the Fleet Marine Force. Well lo and behold I got accepted for Submarine School 7 months later. Sub school is located in New London, Conn. I completed Submarine Medicine School, Submarine Basic School and finally Submarine Nuclear Technique School.

(Continued on the next page)

Finally after all those schools, was assigned to a submarine, the USS Angler (AGSS) 240 at Submarine Base, New London with future orders in the very near future for another submarine. So I studied hard and learned system and valve on the Angler. I qualified in 8 months and was now "Qualified in Submarines" and the right to wear the dolphin on my uniforms. Shortly thereafter I received orders to the USS Entemedor SS 340 located at State Pier, New London. I was assigned to this submarine for 18 months then received orders to the USS Grampus SS 523 located in Norfolk, VA.

Following my assignment on the Grampus I received orders to the USS George C Marshall SSBN 654, nuclear submarine carrying and ready for firing at any time missiles. I was again asked to fill out a new "dream" sheet. I asked for an assignment with a Marine unit in Vietnam not thinking I would get it but that is why it's called a "dream sheet". Well, a year later guess what I get – assigned to Fleet Marine Force School at Camp Pendleton, Ca.

I reported to Fleet Marine Medical training ready for duty and so were the Marine Drill Instructors. The DI's didn't walk anywhere they ran us all over the place. They did tell us older folks to run as far as we could then walk briskly. The younger folks, and we had a lot of them, were expected to run the full 3 mile starter run. The only time we didn't have the Marine Drill Instructors hovering over us was when we were in the classrooms. While at school during the 5th and 6th weeks we were engaged in war games night and day. We had a taste of being POW's, escape and evasion training, rifle training with rifle range training. When I graduated from school, I was assigned to Vietnam.

Upon arriving in Vietnam at the receiving station, I was hoping to be assigned to the Operating Room at First Medical Battalion. I was assigned to First Battalion Medical, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. First Battalion was assigned to Dodge City OP Area in Arizona Territory south of Da Nang. I spent time with Alpha, Bravo and Delta companies.

Further assignments in Vietnam included 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division where I was wounded but not seriously. I was also assigned to Third Battalion, First Marine Division.

Other assignments during my naval career included Submarine Support Stations USS Dixon AS 37, Subbase Pearl Harbor, and USS Howard W. Gilmore AS 16

My final duty assignment in the Navy was at the Radiation Safety Center, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. I retired Dec 1, 1978.



NAUTICAL NUANCES
OR
DID YOU KNOW?
#3

- *A Japanese prisoner, recovered from a wrecked aircraft by Atule (Mauer) had the following items in his pockets: 7 packs of Japanese cigarettes, 1 pack of British cigarettes, calling cards, ration books, club tickets, diary, note book, flight record and two magnetic detector tracers, with notes concerning them, a thick wad of money, a vial of perfume and a number of other personal items.*
- *On the night of 8-9 December 1944, in a coordinated attack with Sea Devil, Redfish heavily damaged the aircraft carrier Hayataka; ten days later she sank the newly built carrier Unryu.*
- *When Robalo was sunk, presumably by a mine, on 26 July 1944, five of her crew swam ashore and were captured by Japanese military police and jailed for guerrilla activity. They were evacuated by a Jap destroyer on 15 August and never heard from again.*
- *On 27 Oct. 1944 Rock fired 9 torpedoes at Darter, stranded on Bombay Shoal. In Feb. 1943 Tautog (Sieglaff) laid mines off Balikpapan, Borneo. In April 1944, the Japanese destroyer Amagiri struck one of these mines and sank. This was the same destroyer which rammed the PT-109, commanded by J.F. Kennedy.*
- *The first boat to be equipped with QLA sonar for locating mines, was Tinosa.*
- *When Admiral Nimitz assumed command of the Pacific Fleet in Jan. 1942, he raised his flag on the submarine Grayling. Relinquishing command nearly four years later, he lowered his flag on the submarine Menhaden.*
- *America's first Japanese POW was Sub-Lieutenant Sakamaki, captured when his midget submarine, launched from the I-18, struck a reef in Kaneohe Bay and he swam ashore and surrendered.*
- *The second Japanese submarine sunk, a midget caught inside Pearl Harbor and sunk by the seaplane tender Curtiss, was later raised. Too badly damaged for intricate examination, it was used as fill-in material in the construction of a new pier at the submarine base.*



The Open Hatch

USSVI, TUCSON BASE, TUCSON, ARIZONA

OFFICERS

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Ted Willis

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Glenn Linton

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CHAPLAIN

Dale Gumbert

geebert1@cox.net



Meeting monthly on the third Saturday
at 1300.

Location: Cattle Town Steakhouse & Saloon
3141 E. Drexel, Tucson 85706



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.

National web page: www.ussvi.org



The photo above left shows Ralph Stashowiak, Doreen Baird and Base Commander Joel Greenberg laying wreaths at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery during Memorial day services. Above right shows the wreaths for USSVI Tucson Base, WWII Subvets wives and the WWII Subvets



Several members of Tucson Base traveled to Hawaii to witness the commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) pass forward his duties April 10, in a time-honored change of command ceremony at the submarine piers on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Cmdr. Michael Beckett relieved Cmdr. James "Ted" O'Harrh.



Ralph Stachowiak presented a certificate and \$100 check to Cadet LCDR of the Sahuarita High School NJROTC for her leadership and academic skills during her senior year.



Sahuarita NJROTC cadets took time out recently to pose for a picture with the Cactus Chapter, U.S. Submarine Vets WWII flag which is on loan to them for their mini museum at the high school honoring naval history.



On Saturday, 18 May 2014, Carle Blackwell, Bob Powell, Bruce Mitchell, and Ed Alexander participated in the Flagstaff Armed Forces Day parade presenting the model of USS TUCSON (SSN-770).



Photo and story by Regina Ford, Green Valley News May 25, 2014 used by permission

They were all proud members of what they called the "silent service" — World War II submariners who did most of their work quietly and undetected beneath the waves. And when they returned from patrol they didn't talk about it. Today, they want to talk. They want to ensure that veterans' sacrifices are remembered with "more than a day off from work or a cook-out," and that their dwindling numbers don't mean history and service will be forgotten. Their names are Phil Katz, Werner Alchenberger, Ralph Stachowiak and Les Johnson, and they make up the small handful of local World War II submariners who can still get out to answer questions and tell their story. They meet for breakfast on the first Saturday of the month at Jerry Bob's in Sahuarita to remember submariners who perished in the war and to honor veterans they've lost in the 69 years since. They once belonged to the Southern Arizona Cactus Chapter of the WWII Submarine Veterans, but that group closed down. Over a cup of coffee at their latest meeting, they agreed that Memorial Day is "still important."

One of the men will lay a wreath on Memorial Day at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery on behalf of those lost submariners, a tradition the group hasn't missed in more than 20 years. The foursome also agreed that they'll all stick together and meet for as long as they can. Alchenberger is 90; Johnson, Katz and Stachowiak are 88. Their bright blue and yellow submarine gear and hats include the names of the subs they served on, as well as medals and submarine memorabilia they have collected through the years. They also serve as a welcome for other diners to come over and ask questions. It happens frequently. They like to share their experiences with "younger people who care to hear how it really was," Stachowiak says. "We are getting old fast and going down with the ship, as they say, but every day we are still here because we want to keep these memories alive." Alchenberger uses the opportunity to teach a bit of naval history. "A majority of the submarines in WWII were named after a fish," he says, adding that he served on USS Darter (SS-227). "See my hat. It's written across it." "Not a lot of people know that, but when you think about it, it makes sense," Johnson said. "It's that kind of history about submarines that make it interesting."

Dying off

In September 2012, just 62 World War II Submarine Veterans attended the group's national convention in Norfolk, Va., an event that once attracted hundreds. Later that month, the national chapter disbanded, leaving local chapters to stay afloat as members aged. "We had about 65 members back in the 1980s," said Johnson, a charter member of the chapter. "Finally, we were chartered as the Cactus Chapter on March 30, 1990, and we were very active for a while, but time started catching up with us." "We have about eight Cactus submarine members still alive from places other than Green Valley - like Sierra Vista — but they just can't join us anymore," Katz said. "One guy in Sierra Vista is 97, so age and health issues are really factoring in." The group faded into history last year. World War II veterans from all branches are dying, too. Recent Veterans Administration figures show that an estimated 555 WWII veterans die every day. "We are all proud members of what they called the 'silent service/ usually under water and undetected," Stachowiak said. "We were quiet underwater and when we came back from patrol, we didn't talk about what happened."



WHITE MOUNTAIN BASE SNOWFLAKE, AZ

This Base had nothing to include this quarter.



WHITE SANDS BASE LA LUZ, NM

**ALAMOGORDO, NM / LAS
CRUCES, NM / EL PASO, TX**

White Sands Base had its spring meeting on May 5th in Las Cruces, NM. Our Western District 1 Commander, James Denzien, attended making that a very informational meeting along with all our members getting to meet Jim.

We recently lost two of our members this year to Eternal Patrol status; Shane Foraker and Roy Scott. Shane passed away on February 17th and Scottie on May 21st.

Our fall meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in October and will be hosted by Don Underwood at his home in Deming, NM. Our Base currently has three meetings a year, spring (May); fall (October); and Christmas (December)

Don Underwood, Cmdr.

White Sands Base





Covering Two Great States in the US Southwest

