



January 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 1



<http://perch-base.org>

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

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol

JANUARY ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Scorpion	SS278	Jan. 5, 1944	76 men
USS Swordfish	SS193	Jan. 12, 1945	85 men
USS Argonaut	SS166	Jan. 10, 1943	105 men
USS S-36	SS141	Jan. 20, 1942	none lost
USS S-26	SS131	Jan. 24, 1942	46 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 10, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head



2003 Christmas - Hanukkah Party photos



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Sailing Orders



**Next regular meeting
Jan. 10, 2004
America Legion Post #62
10995 N. 99th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345**

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

*Scott Gabbert
City of Phoenix Police Department
Community Action Officer
Maryvale Precinct.*

*He and his partner will give a presentation
on Homeland Security and changes that
have taken place since Sept. 9, 2001 and
what we as citizens can do to help.*

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

From the Wardroom

From The Wardroom

Shipmates

Our year 2003 has come to an end. What a year it has been. Our membership is growing at a good rate, with even a few more members due to come in at our January meeting.

The annual Christmas/Hanukkah Dinner was as great success, thanks to Dave Harnish and our SubVettes ladies. For those that were unable to attend, our new Sailor of the Year Award went to Ramon Samson. Ramon's contribution to Perch Base has been UN-measurable, Webmaster, Membership Chairman, past Newsletter Editor, plus a jack of all trades when needed. Bravo Zulu Shipmate.

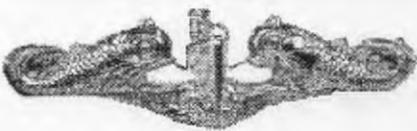
A number of other shipmates received awards for their contributions throughout the year; Ed Brooks, Chuck Emmett, Jim Nelson and Doug LaRock. Nancy Nelson and Kay Harnish also received awards for their driving force in starting up the Nation's second USSVI SubVettes organization.

Our new District Commander, Leif Larson, will be attending Perch Base January's meeting. Dave Harnish has set us up with a guest speaker, Scott Gabbert of the Community Action for the Phoenix Police Dept. Dave believes his subject is of interest to us all.

We have several people involved with setting up two new bases, Jim Clewett in the White Mountain area and Wayne Braastad for the Tucson base. For our shipmates in the outer areas, it is a long drive, to make the meetings in Peoria. These shipmates need all the support and help we can give.

In closing I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
Glenn Herold
Base Commander



Perch Base SUBVETTES Behind the Wardroom

FROM BEHIND THE WARDROOM

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas party. A great time was had by all. If you were unable to make it, you missed a great evening. The food was great, as usual, and Perch Base handed out more awards than ever. One went to Kay Harnish, your Vice President, and one to me. I was very humbled and honored. Thank you Perch Base for all your consideration & generosity.

Our next meeting will be held at the Americana Restaurant, 11001 North 99th Avenue (same place as last meeting.) The start time is 12 noon and we'll try to get done early, and go to the men's meeting to hear their guest speaker.

I hope your holiday season was full of love and joy for you and your families.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Nancy Nelson, President
SubVettes of Perch Base



SHIPMATES COLUMN

EDITOR: I have run out of the small facts, or "factoids," on submarines in World War II used throughout the newsletter as "WWII Boats - Short Facts." The response to these has been favorable but the supply is exhausted. So, shipmates, please continue to provide me with stories and leads. They're very good and you have my thanks.

This Old Boat . . .

EDITOR: Well, we almost scored another 100% on last month's "This Old Boat . . ." but Shipmate Royce Petit came through with correct answer.

Last month's picture was of the USS SALMON (SS-573), the second of a class of two radar-picket submarines and the largest and most powerful conventional-powered submarine built after WWII. She conducted her shakedown cruise between 19 February and 10 May 1957, ranging from Newport, RI, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On June 3, 1964, she put into the San Francisco Naval Shipyard to undergo FRAM II conversion. Departing the yard on 19 April 1965, as a modernized Guppy III, she moved to the Puget Sound area for evaluation and sound tests. She then returned to San Diego, to resume local operations, on 4 May.

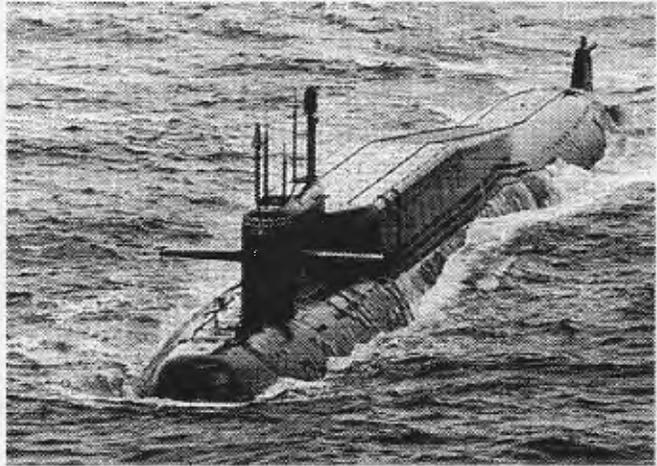
Through the spring of 1968, SALMON underwent overhaul at San Francisco in preparation for support of the DSRV (Deep Submergence Recovery Vehicle) program, to evaluate submarine rescue and salvage equipment at extreme depths. On 1 June, she was redesignated AGSS-573 for her role as mother sub and underway submerged launching and recovery platform for the experimental mini subs. However, delays in the program resulted in her return to San Diego for local operations, following preliminary trials at Puget Sound. She subsequently sailed on 25 October for her sixth Westpac deployment.

She remained on the west coast through 1972 and for the first five and one-half months of 1973. On 16 June, she headed west for what was to have been her ninth Westpac deployment. Upon her arrival in Pearl Harbor, the deployment was cancelled due to damage to her number three and number four main engines. On 10 August, she sailed back to San Diego to prepare for overhaul. SALMON entered Mare Island on 17 November and commenced overhaul nine days later.

SALMON was decommissioned and struck from the Navy List on 1 October 1977.

In 1992 SALMON was converted to a shallow water sonar target and sunk near Hudson Canyon, south of Long Island as a bottom target on 5 June 1993 and remains there to this day.

OK, I've got to get back on a roll. This one should be easy, but only if you "think outside the box." This view should make it just a bit harder. As usual, send me the answer by e-mail (chuckster41@earthlink.net).



Do you recognize this old boat? Send your answer to the editor
chuckster41@earthlink.net



Chaplain's Column



WW II Shipmate John Kish passed away on December 7, 2003. Retiring from the Navy as Chief, John served his country for 30 years.

Shipmate Jack Emminger passed away on December 13, 2003. Services were held at the National Cemetery on the December 22. Donations in lieu of flowers were requested sent to the American Legion Post #26, Scholarship Fund located at 505 W 2nd Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210. Jack retired as Chief Engineer and served on the S-18 and various later boats.

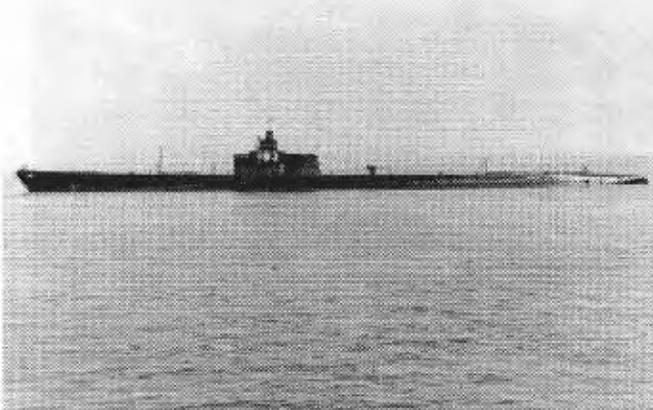
*Do you have know of any shipmate who's sick or the wife or family member of a shipmate?
Contact the Base Chaplain, Howard Doyle:*

*(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net*

Eternal Patrol Jan. 12, 1945

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

U.S.S. Swordfish (SS-193) 85 men lost



SWORDFISH, under Cmdr. K.E. Montross, left Pearl Harbor on December 22, 1944, to carry on her thirteenth patrol in the vicinity of Nansei Shoto. She topped off with fuel at Midway on December 26th and left that day for her area. In addition to her regular patrol, SWORDFISH was to conduct photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa, for preparation of the Okinawa Campaign.

On January 2nd, SWORDFISH was ordered to delay carrying out her assigned tasks in order to keep her clear of the Nansei Shoto area until completion of carrier based air strikes which were scheduled. She was directed to patrol the general vicinity until further orders were received. In the last communication received from SWORDFISH, she acknowledged receipt of these orders on January 3rd.

On January 9, 1945, SWORDFISH was directed to proceed to the vicinity of Okinawa to carry out her special mission. It was estimated that the task would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on January 11th. Upon completion of her mission, SWORDFISH was to proceed to Saipan, or to Midway if she was unable to transmit by radio. Since neither place had seen her by 15 February, and repeated attempts to raise her by radio had failed, she was reported as presumed lost on that date.

In the report of her loss, mention was made that KETE, which at the time was patrolling the vicinity of Okinawa, reported that on the morning of January 12th she contacted a submarine by radar. It was believed that contact

was with SWORDFISH. Four hours later KETE heard heavy depth charging from this area, and it was believed that this attack might have been the cause of SWORDFISH's loss.

Japanese information on antisubmarine attacks does not mention the attack heard by KETE on January 12, and records no attacks in which SWORDFISH is likely to have been the victim. However, it is now known that there were many mines planted around Okinawa, since the Japanese were expecting an Allied invasion of that Island. The majority of the mines were planted close in. It is considered about equally likely that SWORDFISH was sunk by depth charge attack before she reached Okinawa for her special mission or that she was lost to a mine at that place.

SWORDFISH, in the twelve patrols before her fatal thirteenth, sank twenty-on ships, amounting to 113,100 tons, and damaged an additional eight, totaling 45,800 tons. Her first patrol began the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was conducted west of the Philippines. SWORDFISH sank four freighters, varying from 3,900 tons to 9,400 tons, and damaged a fifth. At the time, this was the most successful patrol in the war. She conducted the second patrol in the lesser Philippine group and among the small islands between Celebes and New Guinea. Here she sank three medium freighters and a tanker. She also evacuated President Quezon, his family, Vice President Osmena, Chief Justice Santos, and three officers in the Philippine Army from Corregidor and took them to Panay, where they boarded a motor tender. SWORDFISH returned to Manila Bay and evacuated eleven more Philippine officials. SWORDFISH's primary mission on her third patrol was to deliver 40 tons of supplies to the beleaguered Corregidor. However, on April 10, 1942 ComSubAF told SWORDFISH to neglect her special mission and patrol offensively. SWORDFISH made no attacks on this patrol, but did perform reconnaissance of several islands.

The South China Sea area was the scene of this ship's fourth patrol, and she sank a freighter and a tanker, while she damaged two freighters. She returned to the South China Sea for her fifth patrol, but did no damage to the enemy. SWORDFISH went to the area west of Bouganville for her sixth patrol, and sank a medium freighter and damaged a second freighter. She went again to the Solomons for her seventh patrol and sank a freighter. On her eighth patrol SWORDFISH covered the Palau-Truk-Rabaul areas during August and September 1943. Here she sank a freighter and a transport, while damaging a freighter-transport. Her ninth patrol was cut short by material defects. On her tenth patrol, in the same area as her ninth, she sank a freighter-transport, and two medium freighters.

This ship covered the Marianas on her eleventh patrol; she damaged two freighters. On her twelfth patrol, conducted in the Bonins, she sank a freighter and two small trawlers, while she damaged SWORDFISH sank the Japanese destroyer MATSUKAZE in a night submerged attack as the enemy ship was bearing down for an attack. SWORDFISH was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for the period of her first, second and fourth patrols

Sailor of the Year




**Ramon Samson
2003
Sailor of the Year**

In what was truly the highlight of the Perch Base Christmas/Hanukkah party, Shipmate Ramon Samson was honored as the Year 2003 Sailor of the Year. Ramon, the Base's Webmaster and Membership Chairman, has been recognized by the Base for his outstanding service to his fellow shipmates during the past year. Ray, lead on!



**Need a book about submarines?
Have you checked out our base library?
It's easy. Find the book online at:
[http://perch-base.org/
perch_base_library.html](http://perch-base.org/perch_base_library.html)**

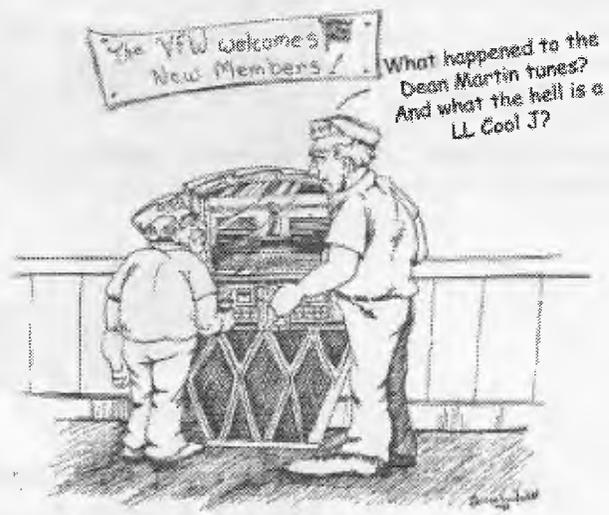
The Lighter . . .



. . . Side of the Military

This is the transcript of a radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995. Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-95.

- Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a Collision.
- Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.
- Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.
- Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.
- Americans: This is the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States' Atlantic fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that YOU change your course 15 degrees north, that's one five degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.
- Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call.



Return To:

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

<http://perch-base.org>



Next regular meeting - Jan. 10, 2004
John J. Morris America Legion Post #62
10995 N. 99th Ave.
Peoria, AZ 85345