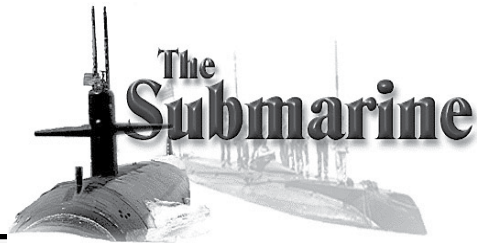




## THE COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER OF USSVI's WESTERN DISTRICT 1

Created By Perch Base, Phoenix, AZ for ourselves and Barbell 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."

# Western District 1 Shipmates:



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the “Desert 1 MC”! Those of us who have been involved in trying to get this newsletter going (and that includes at least one member of each base – your Newsletter POC) are very confident that this will be a successful publication. A portion of the newsletter will be base specific information: schedule of events; base officers with contact information; K4K visits; fund raising activities; generally, what is happening with your base. Each base will have its own section and your POC will provide this information. The remainder of the newsletter will

consist of information and articles of general interest to all. Most members will receive the newsletter electronically; the rest will require some other form of delivery.

Each and every one of you should look at providing information and items of a general nature: submarine articles; “This ain’t no sh\*t” anecdotes; etc. We all have them! Share!

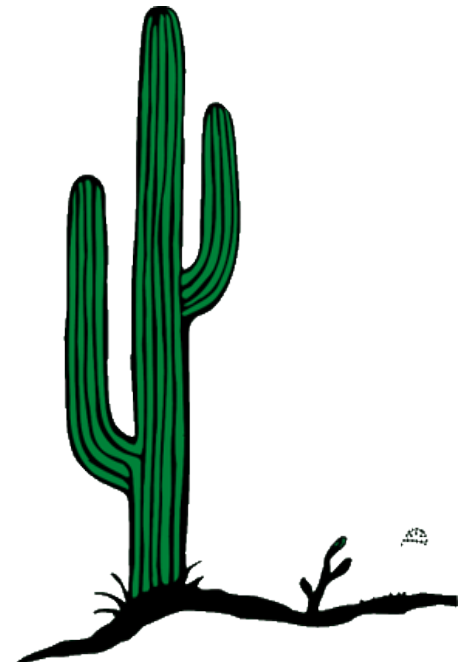


When I was asked to take on the task of creating a districtwide newsletter for the Western District 1, I thought it would be both a challenge and an exciting opportunity to find out what was going on at the other bases in the District. As the newsletter editor (Communications Officer) for Perch Base, I convinced my Base that we could do away with our monthly newsletter and instead incorporate our information into the district wide paper. The base agreed and the development of the “Cactus 1MC” began.

The results have been both exciting and somewhat disappointing. The bases that have replied have done so with enthusiasm and have supplied some great stuff. The other bases, not so good. But hopefully we’re going to hear from them in the next quarter. As always, any comments, thoughts and contributions can be sent to me at [Desert-1MC@perch-base.net](mailto:Desert-1MC@perch-base.net) .

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# LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

## THOSE BOATS THAT WENT ON "ETERNAL PATROL" DURING JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

### Jan. 20, 1942 USS S-36 (SS-141) no loss of life

After enemy depth charging, she ran hard aground on Taka Bakang Reef off the Sulawesi (Celebes) coast.

### Jan. 24, 1942 USS S-26 (SS-131) 46 men lost

She was rammed, at night, by submarine chaser USS Sturdy (PC-460) in the Gulf of Panama.

### 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

### Jan. 10, 1943 USS Argonaut (SS-166) 102 men lost

Originally a minelayer, she was converted to a troop carrier. She was attacked by Japanese destroyers off Makin Island, which sank her with gunfire. Her loss was confirmed by a US Army Air Force bomber returning from a bombing raid.

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

She was probably sunk by Japanese destroyers near Rabul. Reports conflict with the loss of the USS Grampus, which were 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.

### Jan. 12, 1945 USS Swordfish (SS-193) 89 men lost

Swordfish departed Pearl Harbor to conduct her thirteenth war patrol, part of which was to conduct pre-invasion photographic reconnaissance of Okinawa - a task that would not take more than seven days after arrival on station, which she should have reached on 11 January. 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. It is 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 possible 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.

### Feb. 4, 1945 USS Barbel (SS-316) 81 men lost

Late in January Barbel was ordered to form a wolf pack with Perch and Gabilan and patrol the western approaches to Balabac Strait and the southern entrance to Palawan Passage. On 3 February, Barbel sent a message reporting that she had been attacked three times by enemy aircraft dropping depth charges and would transmit further information on the following night. Barbel was never heard from again. Japanese aviators reported an attack on a submarine off southwest Palawan on 4 February. Two bombs were dropped and one landed on the submarine near the bridge. The sub plunged, under a cloud of fire and spray. This was very likely the last engagement of Barbel. She was officially reported lost on 16 February 1945.

### Mar. 12, 1920 USS H-1 (SS-28) 4 men lost

Ran aground while in transit near Santa Margarita Island, Baja, Mexico.

### Mar. 3, 1942 USS Perch (SS-176) 6 men lost as POWs



Already damaged by previous depth charging, she was again attacked by enemy cruisers. Straddled by shellfire, she was abandoned and scuttled. The entire crew was captured and all but the 6 survived the war. (Note: vessel found in 2006)

**Mar. 5, 1943 USS Grampus (SS-207) 71 men lost**

Like the USS Amberjack, she was lost near Rabaul - New Guinea, probably by Japanese destroyers.

**Mar. 15, 1943 USS Triton (SS-201) 74 men lost**

After completing five (5) war patrols, she was attacked by three Japanese destroyers between Shortland Basin and Rabaul.

**Mar. 20, 1943 USS Kete (SS-369) 87 men lost**

Her loss remains a mystery. She was returning to Midway from her patrol area near Colnett Strait



- *The first submarine to fire on a battleship was Flying Fish (Donaho) Sept. 1942, damaging a Kongo class BB.*
- *Dollar for dollar and man for man, the submarine is the country's most economical weapon. Comprising only 1.6 percent of the Navy's World War II personnel, the submarine service accounted for 55 percent of all enemy shipping destroyed.*
- *The first submarine to fire on an aircraft carrier was Trout (Ramage), damaging Taiyo, August 28, 1942.*
- *The first Japanese ship to be sunk by gunfire was by Triton (Kirkpatrick), near Marcus Island on Feb. 17, 1942. At the time, Kirkpatrick was the youngest skipper to get command at Pearl.*
- *The first man to die in submarine gun action was Michael Harbin, on Silversides, May 1942.*
- *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 Corrigidor 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.*

# SUBMARINE SAILORS ON THE ADRIATIC SEA

Gudgeon Base's Bill Laramie met Miroslav Desnica and his wife and daughter at the International Submarine Congress in Italy in May of 2013. Miroslav had served in the Yugoslavia Navy for 10 years and was the Captain of the submarine P-913 ZETA. The P-913 was a mini-sub approximately 14 meters long and 4 meters in diameter and built to carry a crew of three along with four navy SEAL-equivalents. The sub carried two underwater chariots in the aft superstructure to deliver the underwater Warriors. Commissioned in 1985 and decommissioned in 2005 she made her last dive in 2003 and is now (as of 2011) in a Military Museum in Pivka, Slovenia.

After Bill met and chatted with Miroslav and found out about his back ground, he gave him a complete set of US Navy Submarine pins in a display box. Desnica was very surprised and impressed with the gift and Bill gained a new submarine friend. They exchanged personal data and when Laramie returned home; Miroslav sent him an email stating that he was in the process of building a model of his submarine for Bill. He also sent pictures of the model.

Laramie was completely taken aback when he received the model submarine which also came with a photo album – more a picture history book of his submarine the P-913 with engineering specs.



While at the ISA congress, Bill also met three other sub sailors from Croatia. One, Andrej Korbar, had been an engineer on one of their boats. He wrote a book on submarines "A Bit More On Subs, 100 Years," which he presented to Laramie after all of the sub sailors from Croatia had signed it.

Bill was over whelmed and decided to build a better looking display of the US Navy Submarine pins in an Oak framed display box for both



Miroslav and Korbar. He also created an additional display box of US Navy Diver pins for Miroslav. All were sent the first of this year.

BC Patch (<http://www.bcpatch.com/>) provided Bill with many of the submarine and diver pins as well as the Command at Sea pin.



- 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.

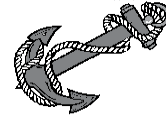
# Eternal Patrol

## 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- $\frac{1}{4}$  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, as she was ordered to do. 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.



- *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.*



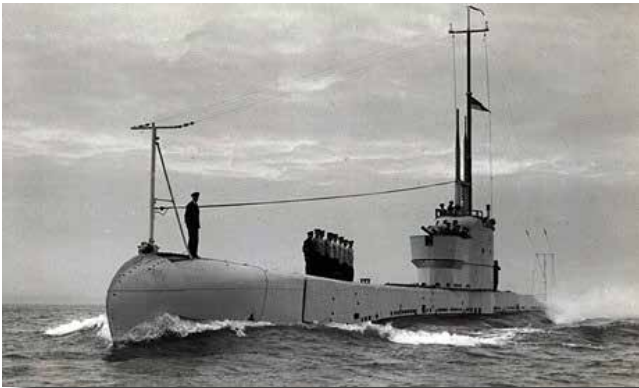
# The Poseidon adventure: China's secret salvage of Britain's sunken submarine

A new book details how Mao's navy raised the wreck of HMS Poseidon, which went down with the loss of 21 lives in 1931

*As originally published:*

Jonathan Kaiman in Beijing

the Guardian.com, Friday 18 October 2013 12.10 EDT



HMS Poseidon, a state-of-the-art submarine launched in 1929. It sank only two years later.

When the British submarine HMS Poseidon sank off China's east coast 82 years ago after colliding with a cargo ship, the dramatic underwater escape by five of its crew members made headlines around the world.

But the episode was soon overshadowed by the communist insurgency already raging on the mainland, the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, and eventually the outbreak of the Second World War. The world moved on, the wreck of the Poseidon lay 30 meters beneath the sea, lost to history.

Until now. A new book reveals that China secretly salvaged the submarine in 1972, perhaps to abet its then-incipient nuclear submarine programme.

Steven Schwankert, an American author and diving-company owner in Beijing, spent six years obsessively piecing together the submarine's story; his book about the experience, *Poseidon: China's Secret Salvage of Britain's Lost Submarine*, was released this month.

"When you start something like this, you say I'm going to start at point A and end at point B. Then suddenly you realize that point B doesn't exist, so you have to go to point C," said Schwankert. "The challenge wasn't to find the submarine *per se*, but to prove that the story of the salvage was correct."

Although Schwankert never found the exact reasons behind the salvage, he has a few guesses: perhaps fishing nets were getting caught on its periscope, or China, then deep into the Cultural Revolution, simply needed the scrap metal. Or perhaps the Chinese navy's underwater Special Forces salvaged the wreck as practice.

"In 1972, China's nuclear submarine programme was just getting started," he said. "If you have that kind of a programme, one of the first things you need to know is: if we lose this thing, can we recover it?"

On 9 June 1931, HMS Poseidon – one of the Royal Navy's state-of-the-art submarines – was conducting routine drills near a leased British navy base off the coast of Shandong province when it collided with a Chinese cargo ship, tearing a hole in its starboard side.

Although 31 of its crew members managed to scramble off before the submarine went down, 26 were trapped on board. Eight were stuck in the submarine's torpedo room, and over the next hour, they used a predecessor to modern scuba equipment to reach the surface – the first time submariners had used breathing apparatus to escape a stricken boat; until then, crew members had been taught to simply wait for help. Five of the men survived.

The incident made the front page of the *New York Times*, inspired a feature film, and changed maritime practice – the Royal Navy began adding escape chambers to submarines and expanded its research into treatment of decompression.

Schwankert first learned about the Poseidon while planning an underwater expedition to wrecks from the 1884-85 Sino-Japanese war.

He was fascinated by the vague descriptions of the Poseidon and sepia photographs that he found online, and set out to learn more, believing that the wreck remained on the seabed near Weihai, a port city in Shandong province. After a year of investigating, he began to have his doubts.

By combing through Chinese-language Google search results, Schwankert began to find online articles mentioning the salvage, including one on the website of the Shanghai salvage bureau. On one online forum, he found testimony from a man who allegedly saw the wreck being hauled on to the shore while swimming in the ocean.

China's foreign ministry confirmed later that the submarine had been salvaged, but refused to provide any details. "Some people have suggested that I go out there and look at the site anyway. I said how can you do that? How can you prove a negative?" Schwankert said. "Every indication is that they brought up the whole thing."





# BARBELL BASE YUMA, AZ

**There was no report  
from this Base**



# BULLHEAD BASE ALBUQUERQUE, NM

## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

December closes another year. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to run the organization for another year. I also want to thank our staff Jay, Bobby and Victor for the time they spend keeping our group going. We have lost a few good friends this year, Bill and Leo. We also added a couple of new members Dave and Barry. I have had a lot of fun this year and hope to grow our group next year. If you have any ideas for the group please let me know. Have a safe and wonderful holiday. Hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Major Monochie  
Base Commander  
Bullhead Base USSVI

### Base Officers

**Base Commander** – Major Monochie email: [majoralbertm@msn.com](mailto:majoralbertm@msn.com)

**Vice Commander** – Jay Schreffler email: [rh2ojmadison@gmail.com](mailto:rh2ojmadison@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Bobby Reed email: [BobReed\\_656@msn.com](mailto:BobReed_656@msn.com)

**Secretary** – Victor Mendoza email: [vmen686@gmail.com](mailto:vmen686@gmail.com)

***New Mexico's Three Namesake Subs*** - New Mexico has no ocean but it has three namesake fast-attack submarines. And in-state support for the undersea warriors of these subs has been strong and long-lasting, thanks to the efforts of USSVI's Bullhead Base, Navy League's New Mexico Council, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and citizens throughout the state. During a one week window this past July, all three boats were on deployment.

**USS NEW MEXICO (SSN-779)** – Our Submarine Force's sixth Virginia-class boat is home-ported at Naval Submarine Base New London. Crew visits to the state were conducted in January and October 2013 and included visits with Governor Susana Martinez and Lt. Governor John Sanchez. In August NEW MEXICO completed her maiden 6-month deployment under the command of CAPT George Perez who by the way received the 2013 Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award. While deployed in the North Atlantic, NEW MEXICO conducted national security operations, steamed 34,000 miles, and made port calls in Norway, Scotland and Spain. A very special member of the crew is LT Matt Main of the Royal Navy and during deployment he became only the second person to qualify in submarines in both the Royal Navy and US Navy. On September 16, 2013, CDR Todd Moore assumed command of SSN-779. The crew is presently undergoing Arctic training in preparation for ICEX 2014. Her next 6-month deployment will be in 2015.

**USS SANTA FE (SSN-763)** – This Los Angeles-class (6881) boat is home-ported in Pearl Harbor. CDR Tim Poe assumed command on November 9, 2012 and has conducted two crew visits, March and May 2013, to its namesake city, the state capital, Santa Fe. During the second visit, the CO and nine members of the crew met with Actor Gene Hackman (Capt. Ramsey in Crimson Tide). In late July, SANTA FE departed on a 6-month deployment in the 7th Fleet's Area of Responsibility. So far she has made port calls in Japan, Guam and Singapore. She'll return to Pearl early next year where Mayor David Coss and a contingent of Santa Feans will be waiting on the pier.

**USS ALBUQUERQUE (SSN-706)** – This 30-year old Los Angles-class boat is homeported in San Diego. CDR Trent Hesslink assumed command on August 23, 2013 and likely will be the boat's last CO. After an extended deployment (7 months, Jan-July) in WesPac, where the boat conducted highly classified missions that not all of our subs can perform, she was relieved by SANTA FE. ALBUQUERQUE steamed 30,000 miles, made port calls in Japan, Guam, Thailand and Saipan, and made her 1000th dive in the Gulf of Thailand. At present ALBUQUERQUE is midway through a 6-month overhaul. Her next, and last, deployment will be in 2015. NAVSEA reports that SSN-706 is currently scheduled for decommissioning in 2016 and there is a move under foot to bring her sail to Albuquerque.

### **Final Word on a Combat Submariner –**

On August 10, 2013, WWII submariner Leo Davis passed away. We was a long-time leader and member of WWII SubVets Sandia Base, USSVI Bullhead Base, USS ALBUQUERQUE Committee and USS NEW MEXICO Committee. Leo requested that his remains be committed to the deep, perhaps even shot out of a torpedo tube. He was piped aboard USS NEW MEXICO in September where he presently resides in the wardroom. It is planned that he be shot from a torpedo tube at or near the North Pole during ICEX 2014. And so this final tribute places our beloved shipmate at the top of the world.

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## **Calendars for Sale**

We have a few of 2014 USSVI Calendars for sale. They are \$12.00 each. If you would like them shipped we can do that for an additional \$3.00 each. The theme this year is BOOMERS. Please contact Bobby Reed for a Calendar. I also have Patches, Pins, and Bumper Stickers for sale.



## **Binnacle List**

Charlie Brown, Ray Raczek, Jack Balman, Harry Howard

Know someone that needs to be on the Binnacle list. Let me know and I will add them.

## **Visitor Desk**

Volunteers needed to man the visitor desk at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Saturday December 21 2013. I need 1 in the morning during the breakfast and 2 in the afternoon.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Annual business meeting. January 18 2013, including base elections.

## Birthday's For December

<u>Member</u>	<u>Qual Boat</u>	<u>Qual Year</u>
Ronald Farmer	Woodrow Wilson (SSBN624)	1989
Frank Garcia	Razorback (SS394)	1956
Michael LaFave	Croaker (SS246)	1964
Major Monochie	Skipjack (SSN585)	1983
Tim Shannon	Sturgeon (SSN637)	1974

## Internet Links For December

Secret Russian Sub - Mission Invisible <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXqzwwDqZ2g>

The Largest Submarine in The U.S. Navy <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxB11eAl-YE>

How to build a Nuclear Submarine (2010) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkNhBC9lrcU>

If you have Netflix: **Phantom** which was released earlier this year.

A Cold War Soviet submarine captain struggles with haunting seizures and a rogue KGB group trying to seize control of the ship's nuclear missile.



Patriot Guard Riders brought artifacts from WWII Submariner MM3 Robert Roland Williford and presented them to Major Monochie for keeping at the New Mexico Veteran's Memorial until they were transported to Robert's family in Colorado.

Robert was on the USS Scorpion (SS-278) when she was declared lost and presumed sunk due to unknown causes while on war patrol in the South China/Yellow Sea sector of operations, on March 6, 1944. MM3 Robert Williford was only 19 and on his 4th war patrol at the time. He was a resident of Cortez, CO.

Recently, a small box containing his decorations was found in a wooded area of Mena, AR. The box was handed over to the local funeral home in hopes of locating next of kin. It remains a mystery how these decorations turned up here.

A family member was located: Wayne Williford of Cortez, CO. Wayne is Robert's nephew and was 9 years old when Robert was lost. Thanks to the Patriot Guard Riders for transporting these artifacts.





# GUDGEON BASE

## PRESCOTT, AZ

**The responsible POC for Gudgeon Base is on the Binnacle List and cannot report this quarter**



# PERCH BASE PHOENIX, AZ

Visit our web site at:

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

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## *Flash Traffic*

... sent since the last listing (#09-03-2013)

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's Communications Officer if you wish a copy.

- Flash Traffic* # 09-04 Next Saturday's Parade in Congress, AZ
- Flash Traffic* #10-01 Annual Dues Reminder
- Flash Traffic* #11-01 Static Displays for Gilbert and Higley High School
- Flash Traffic* #11-02 Saturday's Events in Anthem and Black Canyon City
- Flash Traffic* #11-03 Phoenix Annual Veterans Day Parade
- Flash Traffic* #11-04 USSVI News
- Flash Traffic* #11-05 USSVI News
- Flash Traffic* #12-01 USSVI Call for Nominations
- Flash Traffic* #12-02 Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance

# PERCH BASE OFFICERS



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**PAST-COMMANDER**  
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[past-commander@perch-base.org](mailto:past-commander@perch-base.org)



## 2013 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.



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  
Don DeMarte  
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  
James Foote  
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  
Ramon Samson  
Pete Sattig  
John C. Schlag  
Carl Scott  
Garry L. Shumann  
Richard H. "Rick" Simons  
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



With the completion of the reenlistment period for 2014 it is time to reflect on the process. One small glitch we had was sending the renewal letters to the wrong address. Sometimes it was because someone had moved and didn't tell us. Most often it was because someone with two addresses you know, "Snowbirds" or as the Chamber of Commerce wants us to say "Winter Visitors".

When we print out the address labels for mailings we use the USSVI database to generate them. Whichever address is listed as your current location that's the one that gets printed. I know the database lists the months you are at each address but quite frankly I don't have time to go into the database and look at that information and change your address. You know when you are shifting home port or when some other information like e-mail address, phone number or next-of kin contact changes. It is the responsibility of each member to keep his or her contact information current.

There are several ways to do this.

The preferred method is for the member to log into the USSVI website and update their profile. Every member can access their information and make the necessary changes. If you haven't done it already just go to USSVI.org and follow the links for setting up your user name and password. Once you do that you can log in anytime and update, change or add to your member profile. This includes changing which address you are at.

If you don't have internet access yourself you can always do it through a family member. We have several members who use the e-mail address of their spouse or children. You can even do it at your local library.

If none of the above options are available to you, your Primary Base records keeper can update your profile for you. If your Primary Base is Perch Base that person is:

Rick Simmons  
Membership Chairman.

**THESE ARE THE BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATE OF OUR PERCH BASE MEMBERS. SO WHY THE REALLY WEIRD ORDER? WELL, IT ACTUALLY THE LIST IS HOW IT COMES FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS. SO WE DIDN'T CHANGE IT. LOTS OF GUYS DON'T ACT THEIR AGE.**



ALLSTON, Jerry N.	January 14
COUSIN, Roger J.	January 7
DAY, Stephen F.	January 26
DENZIEN, James	January 23
FERNANDEZ, Henry	January 27
FIELD, Mark	January 21
GRAMS, Angie	January 10
HANSON, Robert N.	January 3
HARTMAN, Eldon L.	January 10
MORRIS, Frank	January 31
NELSON, Brent	January 15
PITTMAN, Jerry	January 22
WARNER, Robert	January 29
WOMACK, Rich	January 27
BROOKS, Edgar T.	February 13
DAHL, Michael	February 16
GRIEVES, Billy A.	February 2
KIRKPATRICK, John F.	February 21
MARCELLINO, Steven	February 16
McNEILL, Milton L.	February 5
MOSHER, John C.	February 4
MOSS, Danny Ray	February 11
PETTIT, Royce E.	February 1

RYCUS, Mel	February 9
SCHOONEJANS, Emil	February 24
WAGNER, Phillip	February 18
FLYNN, Marty	February 3
ATOS, Reynaldo F.	March 24
BECKER, Kenneth E.	March 27
BERGSTROM, Karl G.	March 23
DOYLE Jr., Warner H.	March 9
FROMM, Bernard	March 4
GRAVES, John A.	March 29
HEROLD, Glenn A.	March 11
HINDERLITER, Michael A.	March 29
KERTON, Denny	March 29
LOFTIN, Burtis W.	March 19
MARTIN, Terry	March 28
McCOMB, Dennis	March 11
McKINZIE, Raymond C.	March 30
RICHARDSON, Jack	March 5
TARDIFF, Peter Lee	March 8



# PERCH BASE RULES IN CONGRESS



Perch Base was pleased to be invited to the Congress Days Parade and Festival on October 5 up in Congress, AZ, 15 miles north of Wickenburg on the back way to Prescott.

Although a fairly small affair, the reception was enthusiastic and our Float won first prize. The weather couldn't have been better and it was a great trip for our intrepid souls.



**For more details and pictures of Perch Base, see our web page at:**  
<http://www.perch-base.org>



# Arizona's Silent Service Memorial



*“Honoring those officers and men who served their country in the Submarine Service of the U.S. Navy – the Silent Service.”*

**Arizona's Silent Service Memorial** (as shown in the artist rendition above) is supported by Perch Base. We have reached this decision and there are several reasons why we are no longer supporting the “Save-our-Sail Project.”

We reached the conclusion to no longer support bringing the sail and rudder of the ex-USS Phoenix (SSN-702) to the city for several reasons.

1. **Location:** After years of negotiations with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the only location they would grant us for the sail, sail planes and rudder was a rather obscure and out-of-the-way part of the Steele Indian School Park in a spot behind the VA hospital. We did not feel that this gave the prominence that would attract visitors to the monument.
2. **Cost:** The City insisted that we have an escrow account in place to cover ALL future maintenance and upkeep except grass cutting. This was estimated to be millions of dollars and had to be in place prior to beginning construction. This, of course, was in addition to the cost of building the monument itself.
3. **Availability:** Right now, the ex-USS Phoenix is not scheduled for dismantling until 2016 at the earliest! No one knows how the current sequestration may affect that.
4. **Environmental:** Recent EPA tests of the coating applied to many boats operating during the time of the Phoenix may preclude their use around the public. This factor alone may prevent ANYONE from bringing the sail here.

## **Our Alternative: the “Arizona Silent Service Memorial.”**

We are supporting and planning a memorial to ALL submarine sailors: the “Silent Service.” This monument will be a marble trapezoid topped by a sculpture of a nuclear submarine surfacing in an “emergency blow.” Surrounding the base will be brick pavers (subscription) with a collective shape of our state.

1. **Location:** This will be in Wesley Bolin Plaza, with a huge public availability. State Senator Melvin has agreed to introduce legislation the next session to allow this construction.
2. **Design:** A design architect and engineering team is in place and working (pro bono) on finalizing details. This is the major cost component of a project and it's donated!
3. **Cost:** Our design team's estimate is \$500K to \$1.5 million.
4. **Concept:** This will be our tribute to ALL submariners. And – no small thing – will open up contributions nation-wide rather than calling it “The Arizona . . .”



*This is a top view of the Memorial or Monument. It shows the state of Arizona outline formed by donated brick pavers from “friends” of the project.*





# TAUTOG BASE CASA GRANDE, AZ

## TAUTOG BASE

### Tautog Base Newsletter Items:

#### October 27, 2013:

On October 27, 2013 the Tautog Base attended the Memorial Service for Weymouth Fogleberg, age 94, a resident of Casa Grande, World War II Veteran, and an advocate for veterans rights in Arizona and nationally. One important reason for our attendance was to ring the Tolling Bell at the beginning and the end of the military portion of the "Celebration of Life." Ironically the bell was donated by Weymouth to the Tautog Base for the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony done each Memorial Day at the Mountain View Cemetery in Casa Grande. This bell was given to Weymouth by his brother who was a Navy CB in WWII in the Pacific. We believe the bell was originally installed on a Captain or Admiral's Gig from a ship serving in the Pacific. Name of ship is unknown.

#### Veterans Day Parade:

November 9, 2013 the members of Tautog Base and their float participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade through the downtown streets of Casa Grande.



Commander Denny Honodel and his wife Marcey along with Vince Degon and his wife Vicki walked the parade route beside the float handing our American Flag pins to all the children. Vice-Commander Clare Spiering and COB Norm Short rode on the float and sounded the Diving Alarm numerous times. Not sure if the float is still submerged or on the surface. Ah yes, the Traveling Dolphins recovered from the Perch Base last May rode along also. Pictured, at left, is Tautog Base Vice-Commander Clare Spiering, Commander Denny Honodel, Vince Degon and COB Norm Short.

#### November Base Meeting:

The November Base Meeting was held at the Commander's home in celebration of Thanksgiving. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner was prepared with all the members bringing a dish. Pictured at right are members loading up plates and nobody dieted this day.



Following lunch the base meeting commenced discussing a variety of issues. One issue included our parade participation in the February Casa Grande Cowboys and Indians Parade (a first for Tautog Base) and the annual Iwo Jima Parade in Sacaton, AZ which the base has always participated. The base was blessed with a guest and new member, Eric Bertness, who winters in Casa Grande and spends his summers in Nebraska.



Elections were held for officers and everyone agreed to serve for another two years in their current positions. YEH! Vince Degon stepped up to the plate and will serve as Treasurer and Storekeeper. Below left to right, COB Norm Short, Vice Commander Clare Spiering and Commander Denny Honodel obviously are planning some outlandish idea as the "Traveling Dolphins" protect the table.



COB Norm Short, pictured below, stands ready to toll the bell during the event.





# TUCSON BASE

## TUCSON, AZ

**There was no report  
from this Base**



# WHITE MOUNTAIN BASE SNOWFLAKE, AZ

**There was no report  
from this Base**



# WHITE SANDS BASE LA LUZ, NM

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

December 7th, 2013 White Sands Base held their Annual Christmas meeting at Shane & Janet Foraker's house. The meeting was attended by eight members and a guest from El Paso looking to become a new member. The meeting was also attended by spouses and one large turkey.

New or continuing Base officers were elected, continued in office, or appointed:

Base Commander - Don Underwood; Vice Commander - (left open);

Secretary - Dick Dommers; Treasure - Gerry Dodd; COB - Jose Cabrara;

Storekeeper - Bob Laird; Chaplin - Janet Foraker (Assoc. member)

New Base member dues were established at \$10.00. Due to a limited members, base meetings are not always attended by all due to work & vacation schedules so new Base meeting dates have been approved. The Base will meet three times a year at rotating locations.

1st Saturday in December / 3rd Saturday in April / September date to be

determined; for detailed meeting places & times contact Don Underwood, Base

Commander at e-mail: [cobber631@gmail.com](mailto:cobber631@gmail.com) or Ph# 701-426-7070. Base members are looking into Kaps For Kids at the El Paso Children's Hospital; and constructing a model nuclear submarine for use in parades and general membership recruiting attraction.

Our meeting was very special, we were honored to Induct two Base members into the Holland Club:

Shane Foraker / Qual Boat USS Razorback (SS-394) 1962 (SS)

Roy Scott / Qual Boat USS Abraham Lincoln (SSBN-602) 1963 (SS)

The meeting adjourned and a Grand Christmas feast was enjoyed by all.







# Covering Two Great States in the US Southwest



USSVI Western District 1  
c/o Communications Officer, Perch Base  
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Glendale, AZ 85308



**USSVI'S WESTERN DISTRICT 1  
OF  
THE COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER**



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