

**Volume 1 - Issue 4  
Oct-Nov-Dec 2014**



## **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**  
 Commander WD-1  
 (623) 547-7945  
[jdenzien@cox.net](mailto:jdenzien@cox.net)



**Shipmates:**

We have passed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our organization at the convention in San Francisco and are looking forward to the next 50 years. Those of us who attended had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie of our past and current crewmates.

We have a new slate of national officers who are ready and willing to take USSVI forward. Stand by for good things!

I am entering my second year as the District Commander and plan on visiting ALL the bases during the year. Be prepared! We have a great District and I intend to make it better! Stay involved!

Jim Denzien

District Commander

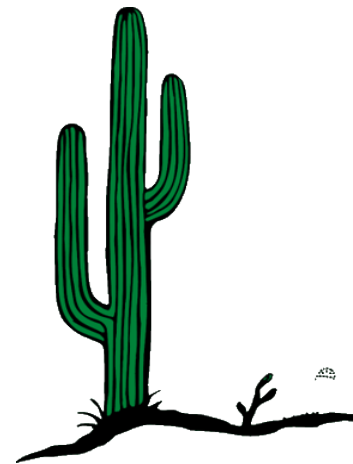
**From the Editor**

Chuck Emmett  
[chuckster41@cox.net](mailto:chuckster41@cox.net)

Our District newsletter (the *Desert 1MC*) just keeps getting better and better! But this isn't because of anything that I'm doing. It's because you, the Bases within the District are providing more and better insight into what your group has done the previous quarter and what you plan to do in the future.

But for the bases that are still reluctant to try and submit something for our newsletter, just think about what you guys do at your Base's meeting. All us hold base meetings, usually monthly, and something goes on. What do we talk about? What plans do we make? What activities do we plan on attending or creating? If you're not comfortable writing these out in some sort of a story form, just send me the bullet points and I'll put them into a story for you guys, no problem.

So to those bases that are providing a really great input, thanks so very much. For the other bases that haven't quite reached that point, keep trying. We'll surely make this an all-District newsletter next year that will be the pride of USSVI.



**Table of Contents**

<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	District Commander's Comments
2	Editor's Comments
3	Western District 1 - "Traveling Dolphins"
3	What's in a Name: Western Regional . . .
4	Lost Boats: 4th Quarter
6	Eternal Patrol - USS Albacore (SS-218)
9	Royal Canadian Submarine Force, 100th Birthday
10	"Nautical Nuances" or Did You Know #1
11	Barbel Base
14	Perch Base
18	"Nautical Nuances" or Did You Know #2
22	Tautog Base
23	Tucson Base
31	Other Bases (not reporting)
32	District States Page



# 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!!

---

## WHAT'S IN A NAME? WESTERN REGIONAL (HMMMM . . .)

Every year, the city of Laughlin, NV brews extra coffee, chills lots of their beer and fixes the very best food when the SubVets of the the Western Region descend on the town for a "THING." Now, that's the first issue. What do we call this THING?

It started as an normal gathering of WWII and other sub-mariners with the unfortunate title of a " CAUCUS." Harsh, business-like term, "caucus." "Let's caucus, have a boring agenda, vote on stupid stuff and put everyone to sleep by lunch!

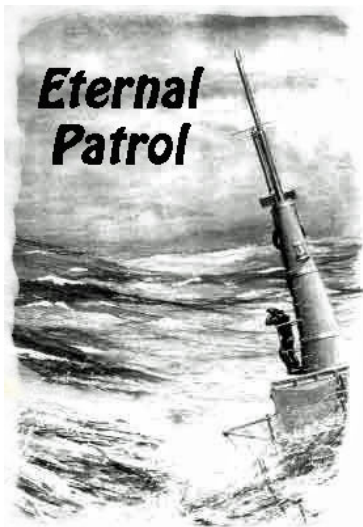
But it's not that at all! We get together, swap sea stories, drink a few beers and just have fun! So **WHAT CAN WE CALL IT?**

But we'll get that fixed. For now, the dates are set for April 27 through May 1, 2015. Put it on your calendar. We'll have fun. No matter what we call it.



# LEST WE FORGET THOSE STILL ON PATROL

## THOSE BOATS THAT WENT ON "ETERNAL PATROL" DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER



**USS F-1 (SS-20) December 16, 1917 19 lost**

Sunk after collision with USS F 3 (SS-22) off San Clemente, California.

**USS O-5 (SS-66) October 20, 1923 3 lost**

Rammed and sunk by United Fruit steamer Abangarez in Limon Bay, Canal Zone.

**USS S-4 (SS-109) December 17, 1927 40 lost**

Sank after being rammed by USCG Paulding. Salvaged in 1928 and re-commissioned

**USS Sealion (SS-195) December 10, 1941 5 lost**

To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack.

**USS S-44 (SS-155) October 7, 1943 56 lost**

Lost to Japanese escort destroyer Ishigaki, northeast Araitō Island off Kamchatka.

**USS Dorado (SS-248) October 1, 1943 77 lost**

Unknown, either accidentally bombed and sunk by friendly Guantanamo-based flying boat on 13 October or sunk by a German submarine mine in the West Indies.

**USS Wahoo (SS-238) October 11, 1943 80 lost**

Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft, submarine chasers Ch 15 and Ch 43, and minesweeper W.18 in La Perouse Strait off Japan.

**USS Corvina (SS-226) November 16, 1943 82 lost**

Torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine I-176 south of Truk.

**USS Capelin (SS-289) November 1, 1943 78 lost**

Sunk by unknown causes, either (1) Japanese aircraft (934 Kokutai) and minelayer Wakatake, (2) a Japanese mine in the northern Celebes, or (3) perhaps a hull defect reported prior to her departure from Darwin.

*(Continued on next page)*

**USS Sculpin (SS-191)                      November 19, 1943                      12 lost, 51 POWs later lost  
and 21 POWs survived**

Damaged by Japanese destroyer Yamagumo and later scuttled north of Truk.

**USS Seawolf (SS-197)                      October 3, 1944                      100 lost**

Accidentally sunk by naval aircraft from USS Midway (CVE-63) and USS Richard M. Rowell (DE-403) off Morotai Island. On board was a crew 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops. In this tragic error, the Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer.

**USS Escolar (SS-294)                      October 17, 1944                      82 lost**

Possibly sunk by a Japanese mine in the Yellow Sea.

**USS Shark (SS-314)                      October 24, 1944                      87 lost**

(Actually, the 2nd Shark) Sunk by Japanese depth charges from Harukaze, South China Sea west of Luzon.

**USS Darter (SS-227)                      October 24, 1944                      no loss of life**

Ran aground on Bombay Shoal, Palawan Passage; later scuttled by USS Nautilus (SS-168) and USS Dace (SS-247).

**USS Tang (SS-306)                      October 24, 1944                      78 lost, 9 POWs survived**

Accidentally sunk by circular run of own torpedo in Formosa Strait.

**USS Albacore (SS-218)                      November 7, 1944                      85 lost**

Possible Japanese mine off northern tip of Honshu, Japan.

**USS Growler (SS-215) q                      November 8, 1944                      86 lost**

Probably sunk by Japanese destroyer Shigure, escort vessel Chiburi, and Coast Defense Vessel No. 19 off Mindoro.

**USS Scamp (SS-277)                      November 11, 1944                      83 lost**

Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft and Coast Defense Vessel No.4 in Tokyo Bay area.



# Eternal Patrol November 7, 1944

Editors Note: Less we forget, each quarterly issue, 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 Albacore (SS-218) November 7, 1944 85 men lost



Gato-class
Displacement: 1,549 tons (surf) 2,463 tons (sub)
Length: 311 ft 9 in; Beam: 27 ft 3 in; Draft: 17 ft 0 in]
4 × Fairbanks-Morse Model 38D8-1/4 9-cylinder diesel engines
driving electrical generators; 2 × 126-cell Sargo batteries]
4 × high-speed GE electric motors with reduction gears
two propellers]
5,400 shp (surf); 2,740 shp (sub)
Speed: 21 kn (surf); 9 kn (sub)
Range: 11,000 nmi surfaced at 10 kn
Endurance: 48 hours at 2 kn submerged
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

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**USS Albacore (SS-218)** was a Gato-class submarine in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, winning four Presidential Unit Citations and nine battle stars for her service. During the war, she was credited with sinking 13 Japanese ships (including two destroyers, a light cruiser, and the aircraft carrier *Taihō*) and damaging another five; not all of these credits were confirmed by postwar JANAC accounting. She also holds the distinction of sinking the most warship tonnage of any U.S. submarine.

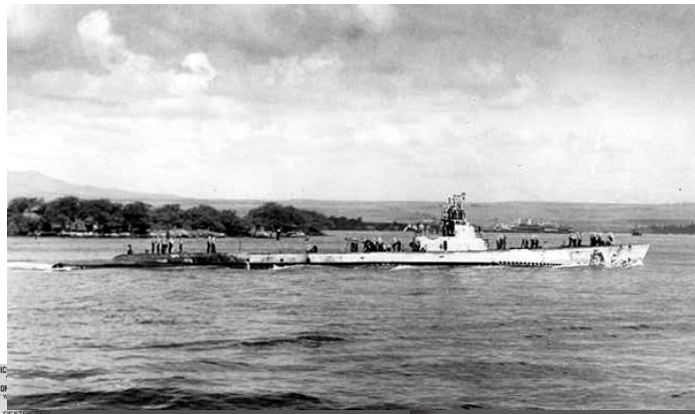
Albacore was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for the albacore. Her keel was laid on 21 April 1941 by the Electric Boat Company in Groton, Connecticut. She was launched on 17 February 1942 and commissioned on 1 June 1942.

### 1942

Following shakedown, the submarine proceeded via the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor and, from that base on 28 August 1942, began her first war patrol, to waters of the north and northeast pass through the coral reef which surrounds Truk. On 13 September, Albacore sighted two cargo vessels in column and prepared for her first combat action. She made a submerged approach and fired three torpedoes at the leading ship and two at the second. One or two torpedoes hit on the first ship; none struck the second. Albacore claimed to have damaged the leading vessel.

Her next enemy contact came on 1 October when she made a night surface attack on a Japanese tanker. She expended seven torpedoes and scored two hits. Although the tanker appeared to be low in the water, she was still able to leave the scene under her own power. On 9 October, Albacore spotted a *Shōkaku*-class aircraft carrier escorted by a heavy cruiser and a destroyer, but the submarine was depth charged by the escorts and forced to break off her pursuit. The next day, she attacked a freighter. One torpedo hit the mark, and 12 minutes after firing, the sound of two heavy explosions caused the submarine's crew to presume they had downed the vessel.

Beginning on the mid-morning of 11 October, Albacore was depth charged numerous times. At 1548, the conning officer



submarine which served War II, winning four her service. During the

finally spotted the Japanese attackers, two submarine chasers and an airplane. A third ship equipped with sound gear joined the group and continued the hunt. The ships crisscrossed over Albacore, close enough for propeller noise to reverberate throughout her hull and compelled her to proceed at silent running, with her ventilator fans shut down. After a chase of nearly seven hours, the Japanese ships disappeared astern, and Albacore then surfaced to clear the immediate area. The next day, Albacore headed for Midway Island. Although she had had several opportunities to score during the patrol, Albacore was not credited with any damage to Japanese shipping. The submarine arrived at Midway Island on 20 October and commenced a refit.

With her refurbishing completed and a new Oerlikon 20 mm cannon installed, Albacore sailed on 11 November for her second patrol. Her assigned areas were the Roger St. George's Channel, New Britain, along the east coast of New Guinea to Vitiaz Strait, and the Dallman Pass off Madang harbor. On 24 November, the submarine spotted a convoy of two cargo vessels. Albacore maneuvered into position and fired two stern tubes, but neither torpedo found its target. Two days later, on 26 November, Albacore herself became the quarry. Two Japanese destroyers depth charged her and the explosions caused numerous small leaks around the cable packing glands in the pressure hull. After a two-hour chase, the Japanese retired, and Albacore shifted her patrol area to Vitiaz Strait. Another golden opportunity arose on 13 December, when Albacore found three Japanese destroyers. She released a three-torpedo spread but again was unsuccessful. On 18 December, Albacore was stationed off Madang. The submarine discovered what seemed to be a transport and a destroyer.

Albacore torpedoed the "transport," and it exploded in a mass of flames and sank. Albacore had in fact downed Tenryū, and the second Japanese cruiser sunk by an American submarine in World War II. Albacore put into port at Brisbane, Australia, on 30 December.

### **1943**

After an overhaul of her engines, Albacore got underway on 20 January 1943 to begin her third patrol. Off the north coast of New Guinea, she spotted 11 targets in as many days. The first group, encountered on 20 February, consisted of a destroyer and a frigate escorting a minelayer. Albacore fired ten torpedoes and believed she had sunk the destroyer and damaged the frigate. In the following days, Albacore attacked one tanker, several freighters, and another destroyer. Of eight torpedoes expended during these actions, all missed their targets. When Albacore ended her patrol at Brisbane on 11 March, she was credited with sinking one destroyer and a frigate for a total of 2,250 tons.



Albacore was briefly dry-docked for repairs and underwent refresher training before sailing for a fourth patrol on 6 April. This time, her area was around the Solomon Islands and Bismarck Islands and off the north coast of New Guinea. While she sighted several convoys, she recorded no hits. Albacore returned to Brisbane on 26 May.

On 16 June, Albacore was underway for her fifth patrol and waters surrounding the Bismarcks and the Solomons. During this patrol, she sighted three separate convoys and attacked two. Albacore claimed to have damaged a transport on 19 July but the submarine failed to sink any vessels. Albacore arrived back at Brisbane and began a refit alongside Fulton.

On 23 August, Albacore left to patrol roughly the same area as on her previous assignment. She spotted a Japanese submarine on 31 August but was unable to press home an attack. On 4 September, she encountered a two-ship convoy protected by two escorts and sank one of the ships, Heijo Maru, with three torpedo hits made shortly after the initial contact. The submarine then pursued the other vessel for the next two days but was able to inflict only minor hull damage on her target. She terminated her patrol at Brisbane on 26 September.

Albacore's seventh patrol began on 12 October 1943. She fired six torpedoes at a large merchant ship on 25 October but recorded no hits. On 6 November, she received a report of a convoy which had been spotted by Steelhead, and began to search for it. On 8 November, the submarine found the convoy and started to track it. However, a plane from the Fifth Army Air Force bombed her and caused her to lose contact with the Japanese ships. The submarine sustained no damage.

Albacore was again bombed by American aircraft on 10 November. This time, the submarine suffered considerable damage. All auxiliary power was knocked out, and the submarine was plunged into total darkness. The main induction valve went under water before it was shut, and it began filling up with water. Albacore plunged to a depth of 450 feet (140 m) before her dive was checked. For the next two and one-half hours, she bounced between 30 feet (10 m) and 400 feet (120 m) while at various attitudes. She finally managed to return to the surface with her trim almost restored. The submarine re-submerged, and it was decided to continue the patrol while simultaneously making necessary repairs.

Following this ordeal, Albacore received orders to locate and attack Agano, which had been hit and damaged by Scamp. Albacore found Agano on 12 November and tried to attack, but Japanese destroyers held the submarine down with a four-hour depth charge barrage.

On 25 November, Albacore sank Japanese army transport Kenzan Maru. She returned to Brisbane on 5 December.

Albacore departed Australia on 26 December to patrol north of the Bismarck Islands. She spotted her first target on 12 January 1944 and sank Choko Maru with two separate torpedo attacks. Two days later, in company with Scamp and Guardfish, she blew up Sazanami (flushed by Guardfish) with four shots from Albacore's stern tubes. Another destroyer pinned Albacore down and delivered fifty-nine depth charges, leaving Scamp and Guardfish free to pursue the three tankers; they succeeded in sinking one each. Following more than a fortnight of uneventful patrolling, the submarine headed home. She made brief fuel stops at Tulagi and Midway Island before reaching Pearl Harbor on 22 February. After three days of repairs to get her ready for the voyage, Albacore continued on to the Mare Island Navy Yard in Vallejo, California for overhaul.

## **1944**

Albacore left Mare Island on 5 May 1944 and held training exercises with Shad (SS-235) en route to Hawaii. Albacore reached Pearl Harbor on 13 May and spent the next two weeks on final repairs and training. Albacore began her ninth patrol on 29 May, and was assigned waters west of the Mariana Islands and around the Palau Islands. In the next few days, she made only one contact, a Japanese convoy which she encountered on 11 June. But before the submarine could maneuver into attack position, a Japanese aircraft forced her to dive and lose contact.

### **The Sinking of Taihō**

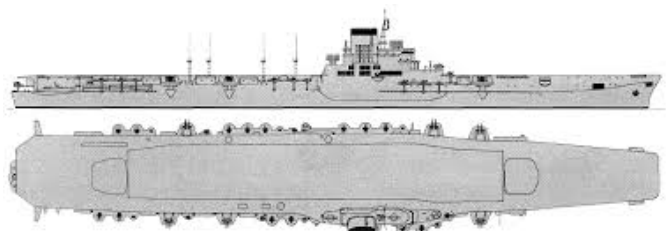
On the morning of 18 June, two days after American forces began landing on Saipan, Albacore shifted from her position west of the Mariana Islands to a new location 100 miles (160 km) further south. Admiral Lockwood (ComSubPac) ordered this move in the hope of enabling the submarine to intercept a Japanese task force (under command of



Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa) reportedly steaming from Tawi Tawi toward Saipan. At about 0800 the next morning, Albacore raised her periscope and found herself in the midst of Ozawa's main carrier group. The captain allowed one Japanese carrier to pass unharmed and selected a second one for his target. Once inside 5,300 yards (4,800 m), the submarine's Torpedo Data Computer started giving false information. To maximize the odds of a hit, the CO fired all six bow tubes. The carrier was in the process of launching an air strike, and one of the pilots (Sakio Komatsu) intentionally dove his plane into a torpedo, setting it off early. Three Japanese destroyers immediately charged Albacore. While the submarine was diving to escape, her crew heard one solid torpedo explosion. About that same time, 25 depth

charges began raining down on the submarine. Then they heard "a distant and persistent explosion of great force" followed by another.

One of Albacore's torpedoes had hit the carrier. It was Ozawa's flagship, Japanese aircraft carrier Taihō, 31,000 tons, the newest and largest in the Japanese fleet. The explosion jammed the ship's forward aircraft elevator; its pit filled with gasoline, water, and fuel. However, no fire erupted, and the flight deck was unharmed. The one





torpedo hit on Taihō caused little concern on board. Ozawa still “radiated confidence and satisfaction” and by 11:30 had launched raids Three and Four. Meanwhile, a novice took over the damage-control work. He thought the best way to handle gasoline fumes was to open up the ship’s ventilation system and let them disperse. When he did, the fumes spread all through the ship. Unknown to anybody on board, Taihō became a floating time bomb. About 3:30 that afternoon, Taihō was jolted by a severe explosion. A senior staff officer on the bridge saw the flight deck heave up. The sides blew out. Taihō dropped out of formation and began to settle in the water, clearly doomed. Though Admiral Ozawa wanted to go down with the ship, his staff prevailed on him to survive and to shift his quarters to Japanese cruiser Haguro. Taking the Emperor’s portrait, Ozawa transferred to Haguro by destroyer. After he left, Taihō was torn by a second thunderous explosion and sank stern first, carrying down 1,650 officers and men.

No one on Albacore thought Taihō had sunk, and her skipper was angry for “missing a golden opportunity.” After this action, Albacore was assigned lifeguard duty for planes striking Yap and Ulithi. On 2 July, Albacore shifted over to intercept traffic between Yap and the Palau Islands. The submarine spotted a wooden inter-island steamer loaded with Japanese civilians. Albacore decided to stage a surface gun attack. After insuring the ship was afire, Albacore dived to avoid an airplane. The submarine surfaced soon thereafter and picked up five survivors.

Albacore put in to Majuro on 15 July. She was praised for an aggressive patrol and received credit for damaging a Shōkaku-class carrier. American code breakers lost track of Taihō after the Battle of the Philippine Sea and, while puzzled, did not realize she had gone down. Only months later did a prisoner of war reveal her sinking.

After a refit alongside Bushnell, the submarine began her tenth patrol on 8 August. Her assignment was the Bungo Suido-Kii Suido area, and, during this period, Albacore was credited with sinking two Japanese vessels, a cargo ship and a submarine chaser. The patrol ended at Pearl Harbor on 25 September.

### **Loss**

Albacore left Pearl Harbor on 24 October 1944, topped off her fuel tanks at Midway Island on 28 October, and was never heard from again. According to Japanese records captured after the war, a submarine (presumed to be Albacore) struck a naval mine very close to the shore off northeastern Hokkaidō on 7 November 1944. A Japanese patrol boat witnessed the explosion of a submerged submarine and saw a great deal of heavy oil, cork, bedding, and food supplies rise to the surface. On 21 December, Albacore was presumed lost. Her name was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 March 1945.



## ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

The Canadian Submarine Force celebrated its Centenary August 5-8, 2014 at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Esquimalt, near Victoria, British Columbia. One hundred years of submarining for our friends and neighbors to the north.

Five members of Perch Base attended: Jim Foote; Jack and Kathy Messersmith; and Jim and Mary Denzien. There were other US submariners in attendance including VADM Jim Sagerholm, former Chief of Naval Education and Training and former skipper of the USS Kamehameha (SSBN 642) Gold.



There were numerous activities scheduled during the week, including open-

*(continued on next page)*



ing a cairn at the base at Esquimalt that contained memorabilia and items from Canadian submarines. Additional items were added from all 15 Canadian submarines and the cairn was resealed. Opening of the cairn was performed by Don Brown, the longest qualified Canadian submariner.



The Canadian Submarine Force has included two former US boats: ex-Burfish (SS312) renamed HMCS Grilse (SS71); and ex-Argonaut (SS475) renamed HMCS Rainbow (SS75).

While the Centenary was in progress, USS Albuquerque (SSN706) made a port visit to Esquimalt so there were numerous US submarine representatives in attendance. It was a great opportunity to visit one of our ships in a non-US port.

The Canadians were fantastic hosts during their celebration; and of particular note was one of their officers getting up and starting to sing “Submarines once, submarines twice...” at the banquet. Rest assured that all who were there stood up and joined in, Canadians and Americans alike! Submariners are not much different no matter where you go!

---

**NAUTICAL NUANCES  
OR  
DID YOU KNOW?  
#1**

- *During 520 war patrols in 1944, submarines fired 6,092 torpedoes, more than in 1942-43 combined (5,379). Statistically it took 8 torpedoes to sink a ship in 1942, 11.7 in 1943, 10 in 1944.*
- *During 1944, 117 navy and air force personnel were rescued by U.S. Subs; The Tang (O’Kane) picked up 22 for the leader in this category.*
- *During 1944 Japan lost 56 submarines, 7 to U.S. Submarines.*
- *On Nov. 21, 1944, Sealion II (Reich) fired a salvo of fish at each of two BB’s, the Kongo and Haruna. The Kongo was hit and sunk, but the DD Urakazi intercepted the fish meant for Haruna and was instantly sunk.*
- *Message to all submarines on 13 April 1944: “Until further notice give fleet destroyers priority over Maru types as targets for submarine attacks.*
- *During 1944 U. S. submarines sank 1 BB, 7 CVL’s, 2 CA’s, 7 CL’s, 3 DD’s and 7 SS’s of the Japanese navy.*
- *So numerous were submarine attacks on the Singapore-to-Empire trade routes in 1944 that a common saying in Singapore was that “one could walk from Singapore to Tokyo on American periscopes.*
- *The last large merchantman to be sunk by submarine during WW-II was the Hokozaki Maru, sunk March 19, 1945 by Balao (Worthington).*
- *The last Japanese warship afloat in the South Pacific, the light cruiser Isuzu, was sunk by Charr (Boyle) after she was previously hit and badly damaged by Gabilan (Parham)*
- *The Flasher sank more tankers than any other submarine.*
- *The largest merchant ship sunk by submarines during WWII, the Tonan Maru #2 was sunk by Pintado (Clarey) on 22 August 1944.*
- *Except for those officers who received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Commander Davenport (USS Haddock [SS-231] and USS Trepang [SS-412] was the most decorated man of the war.*
- *During 1944, 14% of the CO’s were relieved for non-productivity, 30% in 1942 and 14% in 1943.*
- *A total of 7 reserve officers achieved command of a fleet submarine in WW-II.*
- *United States Submarines destroyed a total of 1,314 Japanese ships during World War II, including one battleship, eight aircraft carriers, fifteen cruisers, forty-two destroyers, and twenty-three submarines. Against this score, fifty-two U.S. Submarines were lost.*



# BARBEL BASE YUMA, AZ

*Barbel Base was chartered by USSVI March 1, 2003, with 12 founding members. Currently, the Base has 37 members. Base meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (October thru April) at American Legion Post 19 in Yuma AZ. Because nearly all members are "snowbirds", meetings are suspended for the months of May thru September.*

## **BARBEL BASE - FOCUS ON A MEMBER:**

**ALBERT W. DURKEE**

**Commander, USN RET.**

CDR DURKEE was born in Concord Massachusetts to Albert and Florence Durkee on 24 March 1930. He was a resident of Acton Massachusetts where his dad was a farmer and a local town politician. He graduated from Acton High School in 1947. After high school he was employed as a grocer by First National Stores in Concord, Maynard and Bolton Massachusetts until he enlisted in the Navy on 28 February 1951. He attended recruit training at the U.S. Naval Station Newport Rhode Island.

Upon completion of Boot training he graduated from Machinist Mate 'A' School at Great Lakes Illinois. His first ship was the U.S.S. Cape Esperance, TCVE 88. During the next two years he made 18 round trips across the Pacific. His ship was ferrying aircraft for use in the Korean War from Alameda Ca. to Yokosuka Japan. At the earliest opportunity he volunteered to swap billets onto the USS Neches AO 47 which immediately deployed to Europe. In 1954, while onboard Neches, he volunteered for submarine service and nuclear power training and was accepted. He completed Basic Submarine School and was assigned to the USS Grenadier SS525 while awaiting nuclear power training. Al's nuclear power training consisted of intense related coursework at Union College in Schenectady NY. This early power school training was followed by time at "the ball" in West Milton NY. At that time the prototype consisted of a sodium-cooled plant as being installed in USS Seawolf.

His next assignment was the pre commissioning crew of USS Seawolf SSN 575. His sudden call to join the Seawolf pre-commissioning crew resulted in not enough time to complete submarine qualification prior to leaving Grenadier. It was 1957 before he had the opportunity to complete the underway portions of submarine qualification in Seawolf. When Seawolf was decommissioned to allow conversion of its power plant from sodium cooled to the more conventional water cooled reactor, he was selected with 9 others to remain with the ship during conversion. He stayed with Seawolf when she was re-commissioned and remained with her until he was selected for a commission under the Limited Duty Officer program.

After being commissioned an Ensign in June of 1961, he joined the wardroom of USS Becuna SS319 and was assigned



(Barbel Base is continued on the next page)

duties as Communications and Sonar Officer. Twelve months later, after completing a SPEC OP and earning his gold dolphins, he was detailed once again to USS Seawolf where he served in the Ops Department for the next two years including another SPEC OP and a Med deployment.

The remainder of his naval career of 30 years was all within the Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, in various at sea and ashore billets. He retired from Naval Service on 1 March 1981. After retirement he remained involved in contract work for the submarine community and the Washington State Transportation Commission until the death of his wife. At that time he decided he was ready for permanent retirement and travel. He remains active in the affairs of the US Submarine Veterans Inc.

Al is the current USSVI Western District 4 Commander and membership chairman of Barbel Base. He is a past Base Commander of Barbel Base.



## **LEST WE FORGET . . .**

**THOSE MEMBERS OF BARBEL BASE WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL THIS YEAR.**

**March 9, 2014**

**Ervin O. Schmidt**

**USSVI National Life member, Holland Club, Barbel Base Charter Member**

**May 5, 2014**

**William P. Gattis**

**USSVI National Life member, Holland Club, WWII Subvet, Barbel Base Charter Member**

**May 31, 2014**

**Raymond Norton**

**USSVI National Life member, Holland Club, Barbel Base Charter member**



---

(Barbel Base is continued on the next page)

## AWARDS BANQUET, MARCH 17 2014



Barbel Base celebrated the approach of the end of the season with an awards ceremony serving as a good excuse to hold a banquet. The Hunter Steakhouse in Yuma was again chosen as the location of the event. Guests of Barbel Base included Mary and Jim Denzien, WD1 CDR and guest speaker, and Donna and Larry Skaalrud from AirDrie, Alberta, Canada. Larry is a former torpedoman and a member of the Submarine Association of Canada. Larry qualified in Canadian submarine Rainbow SS75 (formerly USS Argonaut SS475). Jim Denzien, in addition to being our guest speaker, also made awards presentation. Awardees were:

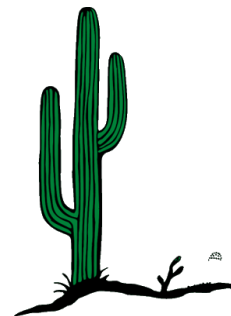
- Geoffrey Morse, Holland Club induction
  - Raymond C Norton, Holland Club induction
  - Gordon G Gullikson, Holland Club induction
  - Donal L Nellesen, Holland Club induction
  - Aaron P Graff, Holland Club induction
- William P Gattis, 70 year Holland Club patch rocker
  - Albert W Durkee, 55 year Holland Club patch rocker
  - Charles W Farley, 55 year Holland Club patch rocker and 10 yr Longevity Pin
  - Joseph C Gavasso, 55 year Holland Club patch rocker and 10 yr Longevity Pin
  - Charles L Bollen, 55 year Holland Club patch rocker
  - Lawrence Sullivan, 5 yr Longevity Pin
  - Jeffrey Lenz, 10 yr Longevity Pin
  - E John Wade, 20 yr Longevity Pin



Canadian Submariner Larry Skaalrud with his wife Donna.



District Commander Jim Denzien and his wife Mary.





# 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.

---

## *Flash Traffic*

. . . sent since the last listing in June

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 available available on the Perch Base web page at [www.perch-base.org](http://www.perch-base.org).

<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
09/11/2014	#09-01-14	City of Goodyear, Pancake Breakfast
08/29/2014	#08-04-14	Communications Officer – Back on Duty
08/28/2014	#08-03-14	Communications Officer OOC
08/22/2014	#08-02-14	Are You Going to the Convention?
08/06/2014	#08-01-14	July Perch Base Meeting Minutes
07/13/2014	#07-02-14	Gudgeon Base Picnic - This Saturday 7/19/2014
07/01/2014	#07-01-14	Prescott "Rodeo Days" Parade this Saturday

# PERCH BASE OFFICERS



**BASE COMMANDER**  
Howard Doyle  
[commander@perch-base.org](mailto:commander@perch-base.org)

**VICE COMMANDER/  
CHIEF OF THE BOAT**  
Richard Kunze  
[cob@perch-base.org](mailto:cob@perch-base.org)  
[vice-commander@perch-base.org](mailto:vice-commander@perch-base.org)



**SECRETARY**  
Marcia Unser  
[secretary@perch-base.org](mailto:secretary@perch-base.org)

**TREASURER**  
Bob Warner  
[treasurer@perch-base.org](mailto:treasurer@perch-base.org)



**CHAPLAIN**  
Stan Reinhold  
[chaplain@perch-base.org](mailto:chaplain@perch-base.org)

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Rick Simmons  
[membership@perch-base.org](mailto:membership@perch-base.org)



**HISTORIAN**  
Jim Newman  
[historian@perch-base.org](mailto:historian@perch-base.org)

**EVENT COORDINATOR**  
Don Unser  
[events@perch-base.org](mailto:events@perch-base.org)



**COMMUNICATIONS**  
Chuck Emmett  
[communications@perch-base.org](mailto:communications@perch-base.org)

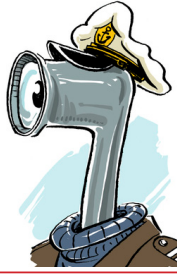
**STOREKEEPER**  
De Wayne Lober  
[storekeeper@perch-base.org](mailto:storekeeper@perch-base.org)



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

**WEBMASTER**  
Dan Marks  
[webmaster@perch-base.org](mailto:webmaster@perch-base.org)





## **From the Perch Base Commander - Howard Doyle -**

From Snipes Castle:

The national voting is over and Perch Base had 35.88% of the base vote. This is NOT good but much better than the national average of 17%. With the effort put out by both Chuck and Rick we should have had 100%.

I think that Perch Base had at least 12 members in Burlingame, California for the 50th National USSVI convention. I have been to better and one that was worse so it is up to us [members] to let national know what we expect from a convention. Next year [yes, we are back to yearly conventions] the convention will be in Pittsburg [home of the yellow towel and the river on fire] followed by a convention in Reno [who claims that room rates will be in the \$80.00 range].

We are coming up on the busy time of the year for parades; I am hoping for a great turn out at all of them.

“Remember the ALAMO - FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!”

“PRIDE RUNS DEEP”

Howard



## **From the Base Vice Commander and noble Chief of the Boat - Richard Kunze -**

Summer has sure flown by fast this year. Perch Base started July by joining Gudgeon Base in the Prescott Frontier Days Parade. This is always a fun time and the reception we receive along the parade route from the spectators is very gratifying. August we conducted a restricted availability on our float making some minor repairs and a paint job. The Goodyear, AZ Fire Department requested us in September to participate at a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony Honoring First Responders and a pancake breakfast. Many local residents were there looking at our Submarine and asking questions about submarines and submarine life.

Now that fall has arrived we will be quite busy with parades and static displays during the Veterans Day holiday time period. We have been asked to attend the Pearl Harbor Day observance by the city of Phoenix where we will present wreaths representing Submarine Veterans of World War II and Perch Base.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard Kunze

Vice Commander - Chief of the Boat







## ***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;

- James C. Andrews who qualified in 1981 on the USS George Washington (SSBN-598.) James transferred to Perch Base from the Toledo Base. James and his wife Marlene now reside in Sun City West.
- John E. Messier who qualified in 1990 on the USS Ohio (SSBN-726.) John transferred to Perch Base from the West Tennessee Base. John and his wife Michele currently reside in Waddell.
- Donald Schafer who qualified in 1971 on the USS Plunger (SSN-595.) Donald and his wife Nancy reside in Litchfield Park.
- Ed Schafer III who qualified in 1966 on the USS Becuna (SS-319.) Ed transferred to Perch Base from the Farragut Base. Ed and his wife Sandy reside in El Mirage.
- David Wickline who qualified in 1963 on the USS Sea Fox (SS-402.) David and his wife Bi-Tal reside in Phoenix.

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

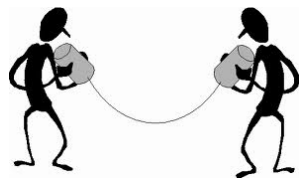
In the fourth quarter of the year we conduct our membership renewal drive for 2015. I will be sending out the renewal and donation request letters at the end of September. Your letter will be addressed to the current address listed in the USSVI database. If that is NOT where you want the letter sent please contact me with the correct address.



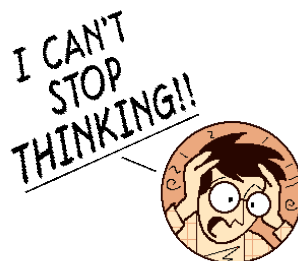


### **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

**CHUCK EMMETT**



Unlike the Base Commander, I am extremely pleased with the Base's response to the national USSVI election. Yes, we could have had more people voting, but considering the complexity of some of the Constitution changes, I think we did pretty good. Bravo Zulu to us!



## 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.



Jerry N. Allston  
Kenneth R. Anderson  
Reynaldo F. Atos  
Steven Balthazor  
Gary Bartlett  
Richard Bernier  
Ronald B. Beyer  
Walter Blomgren  
Edgar T. Brooks  
Herbert J. Coulter, Jr.  
Roger J. Cousin  
Eugene V. Crabb  
George L. Crider  
Michael Dahl  
Donald Demarte  
James R. Denzien  
Billy DeShong  
Warner H. Doyle Jr.  
James N. Edwards  
Charles Emmett  
Howard M. Enloe  
Joe Errante

James Evans  
Thomas J. Farley III  
David G. Fledderjohn  
Thomas E. Fooshee  
James R. Foote  
John A. Graves  
Thomas "Tim" Gregory  
Billy A. Grieves  
William "Kelly" Grissom  
Michael J. Haler  
Robert N. Hanson  
Eldon L. Hartman  
David A. Heighway  
Harry Heller  
Herbert Herman  
Glenn A. Herold  
Theodore Hunt  
David L. Jones  
L. A. (Mike) Keating  
Richard F. Kunze  
Douglas M. La Rock  
Robert A. Lancendorfer

Albert Landeck  
Steve Leon  
DeWayne Lober  
Burtis W. Loftin  
George Long  
William Malda  
Stephen A. Marcellino  
Charles F. Marshall  
Raymond Marshall  
Dennis McComb  
Angus H. McPherson  
Alan H. Miller  
Paul V. Miller  
Tim Moore  
Frank S. Morris  
James F. Newman  
James W. Newman  
Royce E. Pettit  
Jerry N. Pittman Jr.  
Ernie Plantz  
James Ratte

Dwayne Reed  
Stanley N. Reinhold  
Bruce "Robie" Robinson  
Pete Sattig  
Emil Schoonejans  
Carl Scott  
Rick Simmons  
Wayne Kirk Smith  
Steven K. Stanger  
James Strassels  
Donald Unser  
Chris Urness  
James L. Wall  
Robert Warner  
Forrest J. Watson  
Rich Womack  
George C. Woods  
William Woolcott  
John G. Zaichkin  
Lisa Doubleday\*  
\* Non Member Donor

### NAUTICAL NUANCES OR DID YOU KNOW? #2

- *The USS SKATE (SSN 578) was the first vessel ever to surface at the North Pole, when on March 17, 1959 she surfaced there to conduct memorial services for the renowned Arctic explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins.*
- *USS SKATE and USS SEADRAGON, after affecting a historic rendezvous under the ice, surfaced together at the North Pole through an opening in the ice on August 1962.*
- *The first diesel engines built by Electric Boat for submarines were installed (1913) in the USS NAUTILUS and SEAWOLF, namesakes of the first nuclear powered submarines, also built by Electric Boat.*
- *Records of attempts to utilize submarine warfare go back to the earliest writings in history. Herodotus (460 B.C.), Aristotle (332 B.C.) and Pliny, the elder, (77 A.D.) mention determined attempts to build submersibles.*
- *The self-propelled torpedo, which gets its name from the eel TORPEDO ELECTRICUS, was invented by Robert Whitehead in 1868, a number of years before a practical submarine was developed.*
- *The USS NAUTILUS made history by cruising submerged from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, passing under the North Pole at 11:15 p.m. EDT on August 3, 1958.*
- *An Irish-American schoolteacher, John Philip Holland, built several submarines before the USS Holland, which became the first undersea craft commissioned by the U.S. Navy. The Holland was accepted on April 11, 1900 for a price of \$150,000. Today's nuclear powered submarines cost in excess of \$2-billion, but that includes the fuel.*
- *The first boat known to have been navigated under water was built in 1620 by a Dutchman, Cornelius Van Drebbel. Van Drebbel is said to have developed a chemical which would purify the air and allow the crew to stay submerged for extended periods.*

**THESE ARE THE BIRTHDAYS WE CELEBRATE OF OUR PERCH  
BASE MEMBERS. SO WHY NO "YEAR"? ARE YOU KIDDING?  
LET'S JUST PUT DOWN "OLD"**

**Michael J. HALER**                    **October 1**  
**Vance WALBAUM**                **October 4**  
**Ken ANDERSON**                 **October 5**  
**Robie ROBINSON**               **October 6**  
**Jim A. NELSON**                  **October 8**  
**Mac BRADY**                      **October 8**  
**John CASH**                        **October 10**  
**Robert W. LENTS**               **October 10**  
**Albert W. LANDECK**          **October 22**  
**Billy DESHONG**                **October 23**  
**Chris CALNAN**                  **October 25**  
**Jim PAPER**                       **October 26**  
**James W. NEWMAN**          **October 29**  
**Martine ZIPSER**                 **October 31**  
**William SHERMAN**            **November 4**  
**Bill MALDA**                      **November 5**  
**Mike KEATING**                 **November 6**  
**Roger M. MILLER**             **November 7**  
**Larry M. RANKIN**              **November 11**  
**William M. TIPPETT**         **November 14**

**Larry D. RUGGLES**               **November 15**  
**Harry ELLIS**                    **November 17**  
**Roger R. MILLER**               **November 25**  
**Bob GILMORE, Jr.**              **November 30**  
**Paul V. MILLER**                 **December 4**  
**Walter BLOMGREN**            **December 12**  
**James J. COOPER**              **December 12**  
**Pete SATTIG**                     **December 12**  
**Ronald J. ZOMOK**              **December 12**  
**Donald UNSER**                 **December 16**  
**Jeff NELSON**                    **December 17**  
**Chuck EMMETT**                 **December 20**  
**Thomas E. FOOSHEE**         **December 22**  
**Karl G. KRULL**                 **December 22**  
**James H. STRASSELS**         **December 27**  
**DeWayne LOBER**               **December 29**  
**Gary WATERBURY**             **December 29**  
**Dwayne REED**                 **December 31**  
**Herb COULTER, Jr.**             **December 31**



**Happy  
Birthday**

Perch Base supports "Beaver Stripes"  
for our signage needs

# PERCH BASE ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER



Arizona Veterans  
Hall of Fame Society



## Shipmate Don DeMarte

Perch Base is proud that one of our members, Don DeMarte, will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame during October. The Unified Arizona Veterans makes the selection and Don becomes the first submariner to ever be inducted into Hall. In addition to routine Perch Base activities, Don serves as Treasurer of the Arizona Silent Service Memorial, a project in which the Base is proudly involved.

The mission of the AVHOF is to preserve and perpetuate the traditions of the American military and all who served in it, to undertake charitable and other projects of both a national and local character, to work with veterans organizations in the attainment of their objectives, and to promote and to encourage responsible citizenship among all Americans.

The Hall of Fame was founded in 2001 to recognize veterans who have served honorably in our armed forces. Those that continue to serve their communities and fellow veterans, after their service in the military, are considered for induction into the Hall of Fame.



Over a year ago, then Perch Base Chaplain Steve Leon honored the Base by offering quilts made by his mother-in-law as part of the "Quilts of Honor" program. The first two quilts were presented at the 2013 Awards Banquet (February 2014.) Honored recipients were Billy Grieves, a WWII submarine veteran and the Base's most senior member, and Jim Newman, Base Historian, charter member and first Base Commander.

The mission of Quilts of Honor is to bestow a universal symbol and token of thanks, solace, and remembrance to those who serve in harm's way to protect and defend our lives and freedoms. Quilts of Honor are made by the loving hands of countless volunteers who wish to thank those who have served so that they know their sacrifices are appreciated.



## The Silent Service



# Arizona's Silent Service Memorial

On July 31 the Internal Revenue Service granted, to the Arizona Silent Service Memorial Foundation, authorization under section 501 (C) (3) of the code, text exempt status from all federal taxes. This important step in successful completion of the ASSM comes on the heels of the Arizona state government approving and signing into law authorization for the memorial in Wesley Bolin Park, the state capital's "front yard," completed the previous quarter.

The first batch of contribution request letters has gone out and a formal fund raising committee was soon be in place.

Next step will be for the state's location committee to walk down the park and make a final decision on the ASSM location within the park.



---

## "DAVE HARNISH SCHOLARSHIP" ARIZONA SUBMARINE VETERANS



The Board of Directors for Perch Base selected **Jacob Moore**, son of Perch Base past-commander Tim Moore, as the recipient of the 2014 Perch Base "Dave Harnish" Scholarship. Jacob was presented with a \$1,000 check at the Base's August meeting.

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 Base introduced a scholarship program for qualified individuals.

Earlier this year, the Base Board of Directors (BOD) appointed a three-man committee. This year, three Base officers were selected although only one committee member need be an officer, to solicit and review applications. Jacob was selected from those who met all requirements and had applied. The key requirements for the scholarship were:

- Applicants had to 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 had to be high school seniors or graduates under the age of 21, **or**
- Applicants had to be students under the age of 23 enrolled in a full time course of study at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Applicants had to submit a short essay (no more than two pages) as to why they were worthy of the scholarship. This essay was to be in their own handwriting and not typed.

---

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

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



# TAUTOG BASE CASA GRANDE, AZ

## TAUTOG BASE



### **JULY SOCIAL GATHERING OF TAUTOG BASE**

The summer has been slow in Casa Grande. Our social lunch at JB's Restaurant pictured above was our summer highlight and it was a sad occasion because our table has been decorated for the past year with the "Traveling Dolphins." But as most of you know, Tautog Base was a good sport and brought the "Traveling Dolphins" to the AZ Subvets Picnic so another base would not have to travel to Casa Grande to steal them. We were such good shipmates that we almost dropped it in the lap of Perch Base. Stand by though, next year the Base Commander will be sure he's not in Europe and will be prepared to steal them back so our table looks complete.

It's getting to be that time of year when we are all in town and we get together again at meetings and parades. We are already preparing for the Veterans Day parade in Casa Grande with some new additions to our float. Thanksgiving is always a great time and plans are in progress for the Thanksgiving meeting and dinner to be at the Commander's house. We will send pictures next newsletter.



# The Open Hatch

USSVI, TUCSON BASE, TUCSON, ARIZONA

## OFFICERS

### COMMANDER

Joel Greenberg

joelgreenberg804@yahoo.com

### VICE COMMANDER

Dennis Ottley

dottley888@comcast.net

### SECRETARY

Ted Willis

tedaa7hx@mail.com

### TREASURER

Glenn Linton

seadog61@yahoo.com

### CHAPLAIN

Dale Gumbert

geebert1@cox.net



Thank you so much for the generous scholarship you awarded me. Your support of me and other students is very greatly appreciated. Many people wouldn't have the privilege of attending college if it wasn't for wonderful organizations such as yourself.  
Very Respectfully,  
Kaelyn Murphy

Tucson Base has received a thank you note from Kaelyn Murphy who was awarded a framed certificate and a check for \$100 from the base in recognition of her academic and leadership as the Cadet Commander of Sahuarita High School NJROTC.

## Cafe Tremolo at the Foothills



The fourth Saturday of the month gatherings at the Cafe Tremolo in the Foothills Mall has begun again. Drop on by between 0800 and 1000 for Gab and Grub (sea stories and free coffee and sweets). Guaranteed fun (if you don't have fun it's probably a guarantee that you won't come back)

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](http://www.ussvi.org)



Joel Greenberg  
71 E. Santa Chalice Dr.  
Green Valley, AZ 85614

Mr. Greenberg,

I want to thank you for helping to arrange the visit with Tucson area Submarine Veterans during my crew's visit to the area. The chance to meet and interact with some of our World War II and later submarine heroes was truly a highlight of the trip for us. You and your group do a great job of maintaining the brotherhood of submariners in the area. I hope that the current crew of the USS TUCSON is able to continue to hold up the standard of excellence that you and your shipmates have set. Thank you again and if any of your members are ever in Hawaii please have them contact us so that we can arrange a tour and attempt to payback a small portion of your hospitality.

Commander Mike Bequette  
Commanding Officer, USS TUCSON (SSN 770)





### USS Tucson SSN770 Visit

On 07 August 2014, the official visiting party from USS Tucson SSN-770 took time out from their "namesake" visit to tour the Titan Missile Museum. While in Sahuarita they took time to have lunch at Club 22. Commanding Officer, CDR Michael Bequette, Communications Officer, LT John Underhill, Chief of the Boat, Master Chief John Adams, and the Sailor of the Year, EMI (EMC Selectee) Kevin Schwalbach met with Mayor Duane Bloomberg of Sahuarita along with members of Tucson Base and Sahuarita High School NJROTC. Representing Tucson Base were: Joel Greenberg, Base Commander; Les Johnson, Ralph Stachowiak, Werner Alchenberger and Phil Katz, all members of the Cactus Chapter of WWII Subvets; Carle Blackwell and Dale Gumbert.



Additional pictures of USS TUCSON SSN 770 visit



Ralph sharing his thoughts with the mayor.

The group visited the Titan Missile Museum at Green Valley, Arizona



Members of the Sahuarita High School NJROTC who attended the luncheon for the crew members of USS TUCSON at Pub 22 during their visit to Tucson



## Chaplain's Notes

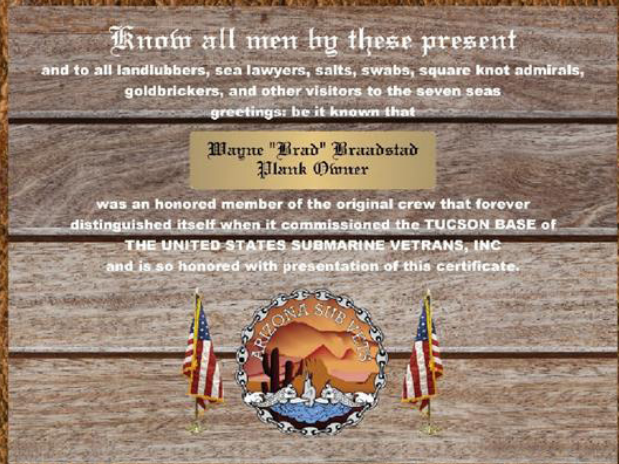
We may not be able to change the circumstances that are part of our daily lives, but we DO have a choice as to how we react. God gave us this day, and life is what we make of it. We can choose to see the beauty of the sunrise and the smiles of our family. Friends can warm our hearts, or we can choose to greet the day with disdain. Sorrow and remorse will color our days with despair and sadness. Hope and faith can pull us up, if we choose it. A new day gives us the opportunity to make things better. Look to Our Great Comforter to help us choose a lighter heart and to see the glass as half full.



## Induction to Holland Club

Carle Blackwell, chairman of the Tucson Base Holland Club presents Bob Parker with his certificate of membership in the Holland Club at the June meeting of Tucson Base





15 August 2014



At the August meeting two awards were given Brad Braadstad. First, for starting this association, and being the wheels behind getting this chapter up and running it as the first Base Commander. Also an award was given for being a founding member and plank owner. Brad, who was given a standing ovation, had some stories about Sub School.



Please remember to donate gifts to our VA Christmas project! Ed Alexander is the contact for this worthwhile program.



## Those Who Forget History Are Doomed to Repeat It.

This saying appears in many different forms, but the earliest version is probably that of the poet and philosopher George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." (source: Wikipedia) I have heard a modern philosopher say that "we will at least rhyme with the past".

Another great philosopher, Yogi Berra, said: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." A great baseball catcher or not, this is still a very prescient statement. Every decision in life is a fork in the road (Engineers call this Pert Chart and Decision Tree Analysis). Even standing still is a fork – staying or moving forward. Why have I brought this up? It is all about the Forks in the road that happened to get me (and I suspect all of us) here -- the past.

So let me tell you about my past. In 1935 Donald Dericks joined the Navy. He worked his way up the ranks and retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, his close cousin Lee joined the Navy because Donald was a sailor. Lee spent the war on active duty and four more years in the Naval Reserve. To this day (at age 91) Lee continues to think fondly of the Navy and says he often regrets not staying for a career. This positive Navy view led Lee's son to join the Navy during Vietnam and stay for a career. I am Lee's son.

I am also a Diesel Boater. Note that I did not say I was a Diesel Boater. That time spent was so significant to my life that I certainly would not be where I am today if it were not for the three boats in which I served. I pushed for Diesel Submarines because as a kid I read all the books about Submarine exploits in WW II. It was the end of the era and the recruiters and the OCS staff said I could not go to Diesel Boats. I was persistent, so I got there. They were right. I put two of my three boats out of commission. I am one of the younger ones of that era, still six years away from Holland Club eligibility. I stayed in the Navy and eventually ended up in the Supply Corps. My Dolphins opened many a door and those Keepers of the Doors knew I sailed in Diesel Boats. My Diesel Boat experience continues to this day to make life better.

I am where I am today because Donald Dericks made a choice in 1935. We Diesel Boat Submariners have built a history (our past) that provides an important legacy for our current and future (Nuke) forces. So remember – Officer, Enlisted, Nuke, Diesel Boater, we are all Brothers of the Phin with a common past built on all the forks in the road taken. That is why our USSVI Creed "To perpetuate the memory ....." is so important. It is so we do not forget our past. It is who we are today, and it is important to our future.

Joel M. Greenberg, Commander, Tucson Base, USSVI.





USS Tucson (SSN-770), a Los Angeles-class submarine, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Tucson, Arizona. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia on 10 June 1988 and her keel was laid down on 15 August 1991. She was launched on 20 March 1994 sponsored by Mrs. Diane C. Kent.

Tucson was supposed to be commissioned on 18 August 1995, however, Hurricane Felix threatened the Virginia coast, and the U.S. Navy decided to sortie the fleet, to prevent damage to ships in port if the hurricane made landfall. Tucson was the last ship to leave port, in case the prediction for landfall changed. As it turned out, the hurricane never did make landfall, but Tucson was at sea on 18 August. Upon returning to port, the commissioning ceremony was quickly rescheduled for 9 September 1995. At the new commissioning ceremony, the commanding officer, Commander Duane M. Baker, declared that for the next two hours, it was officially 18 August.

In June 1996, Tucson was struck by the Military Sealift Command vehicle cargo ship USNS Gilliland (T-AKR-298) while moored in port at Newport News. A sudden windstorm caused Gilliland to break free from her mooring and cross the harbor, colliding with Tucson and a destroyer moored behind her. While the destroyer suffered the most damage, Tucson suffered minor damage to her AN/BRA-34 antenna.

From September 1996 to October 1996, Tucson changed her home port. Tucson left Norfolk, Virginia, passed through the Panama Canal and stopped in San Diego, California for five days. VIPs from Tucson, Arizona, were allowed to ride on three separate short cruises, and then busloads of tourists from the city of Tucson came for tours of the submarine while in port. Following this port visit, Tucson continued on to arrive in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The following WD1 Bases were unable to provide input this quarter.



**BULLHEAD BASE**  
**ALBUQUERQUE, NM**



**GUDGEON BASE**  
**PRESCOTT, AZ**



**WHITE MOUNTAIN BASE**  
**SNOWFLAKE, AZ**



# Covering Two Great States in the US Southwest

