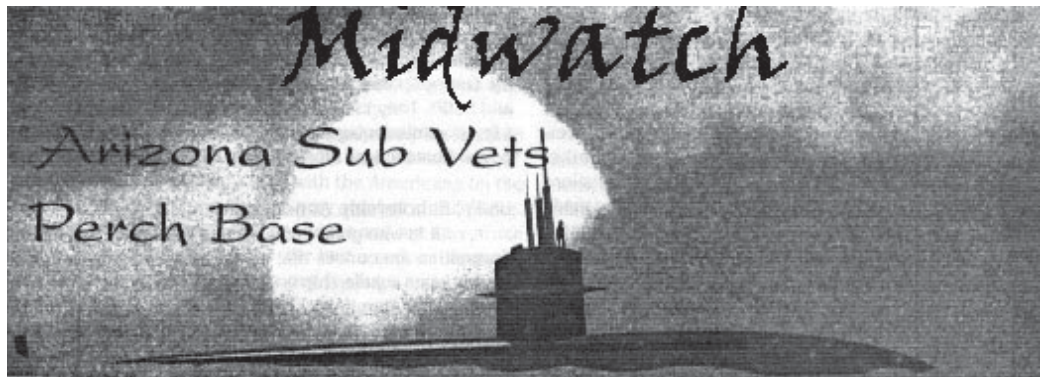




November 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 11



<http://perch-base.org>

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

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Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol
NOVEMBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Albacore	SS218	Nov. 7, 1944	86 men
USS Growler	SS215	Nov. 8, 1944	85 men
USS Scamp	SS277	Nov. 9, 1944	84 men
USS Corvina	SS226	Nov. 16, 1943	82 men
USS Sculpin	SS191	Nov. 19, 1943	63 men
USS Capelin	SS289	Nov. 23, 1943	78 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - November 20, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours
Lunch provided at \$3 a head

The Perch Base USSVI cannot support itself financially on the dues collected from its members. There have been no serious efforts since the base was formed to produce any other steady and effective source of income. Therefore, the Base has relied on charitable cash donations from members -- usually given at membership renewal -- for its survival. Listed below are those charitable givers, known as the Booster Club.

2004 Booster Club

Jerry Allston	Ken Anderson	Ted Asbell	Bob Bailey
Gary Bartlett	Jerry Becker	Ken Becker	Joe Bernard
Dick Bernier	Ron Beyer	Harold Bidigare	Wayne Braastad
Mike Breitner	Ed Brooks	Dave Carpenter	Charles Chapman
Jim Clewett	Steve Coe	Roger Cousin	Don Craig
Earl Crowley	Steve Day	Jeff Ducan	Doug Eddy
Charles Emmett	Joe Errante	Tom Fooshee	Ray Graybeal
Charles Greene	Billy Grieves	Kelly Grissom	Warren Grossetta
Mike Haler	Dave Harnish	Bill Hatcher	John Hellem
Glenn Herold	Les Hillman	Steve Hough	Mike Keating
Ron Kloch	Darell Lambert	Bob Lancendorfer	Doug LaRock
George Marions	Dale Martin	Terry Martin	Bob May
Dennie McComb	Bill McNay	John McVeigh	Roger M. Miller
Roger R. Miller	Jim Nelson	Brent Nelson	Jim Newman
Jerry Yowell	Joe Otreba	Tom Patterson	Ray Perron
George Petrovitz	Scott Prothero	Larry Rankin	Dan Reel
Stan Reinhold	Robie Robinson	Stab Rud	Frank Rumbaugh
Mel Rycus	Ramon Samson	Emil Schoonejans	Billy Scott
Tyler Smith	Wayne Smith	Jim Strassels	Adrian Stuke
Jim Thomson	Tom Tilley	Dick Waid	Jim Wall
Kenny Wayne	John Welsh	Paul West	Don Whithead
Ed Wolf	John Zaichkin		



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Sailing Orders



VETERANS DAY PARADE

Thursday, November 11 0730 hours

Sandy Headrick (APS - Palo Verde) has pulled it off again! Not only did she get our tee-shirts for free but she's also wrangling coffee and donuts before and pizza and drinks after (if your humble Editor springs his credit card and "expense reports" it.)

Where: Margaret T. Hance Park
(Deck Park)
East Ramada
(same place as last year.)

Coffee and donuts and well decorate Jim's convertible, the our sub float and the Goodyear fire engine.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

November 20, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours

CHRISTMAS PARTY

(see page 5)

From the Wardroom

Shipmates, the year is almost over. By the time you receive this, the 2004 Veterans Parade may be over. I am looking forward to a good turn out this year.

We have a number of other things to look forward to including the Navy League Pearl Harbor Day Dinner on night of December 7 at Luke AFB. We have two tables reserved for Submarine shipmates and wives and guests that would like to attend. Please contact Larry Rankin in regards to getting your reservations made.

The Christmas/Hanukkah Dinner and Dance Party at Luke AFB will be December 11. Dave Harnish is the person to contact and to get your reservations made. He has a cut off date in order to get the names of members that will be attending so they may be turned over to the security police on the base. We will be announcing and presenting the "Sailor of the Year award." The Past Commanders, will select the shipmate that receives this award. It is an acknowledgement for his contributions and efforts for the betterment of Perch Base.

Our Ad Hoc committee will be meeting with the board at the November meeting to give us their views as to the best means of increasing revenues for the base. We are looking forward to hearing their ideas and suggestions on this subject. As I am sure the membership will be.

Our District 8 Commander Leif Larsen has asked us to host next years District 8 meeting in Phoenix. A vote was called for, to host the meeting, and it was accepted by the membership.

With our new bases we have the largest concentration of bases in the district. We have a great location and it is a fine chance to test the waters for hosting a National Convention in the future. A committee has been formed to see to the needs of hosting the District 8 Meeting in April 2005.

(See "WARDROOM" on page 12)

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August Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans B Perch Base was convened at American Legion Post #62 Peoria, AZ at 1300 hours, 16 October 2004. The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander – Glenn Herold.

Joe Bernard (Chaplain - Pigboater's Chapter) led the members in a prayer of Invocation. The members were then led in the "Pledge of Allegiance" followed by a reading of the "Purpose of the Organization", Dedication, a Moment of Silence for our departed shipmates and the "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony for submarines lost during the month of August.

According to the sailing list, there were 31 members present at the meeting; which included 1 new member. Those present welcomed new member and visitors – Shipmates George Long, Archie Day and George Cryder. Each took the floor – introduced themselves and gave the members a brief description of their submarine experiences. They were then given a resounding welcome from the members.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as published in the Base Newsletter, "The MidWatch." The motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer (Robert May) reported the Base's financial status as of the first day of October, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Base Vice Commander – Tim Moore reported that his investigation of coatings for the Perch Memorial torpedo concluded that the method currently being used was probably as good as anything available today. Glenn Herold then asked for volunteers to act as a working party for maintaining the Memorial and the torpedo. A group of volunteers offered their participation which included; Frank Rumbaugh, Jim Newman and Roger Cousin.

Base Chief of the Boat – Bob Gilmore was not present at the meeting. However, Glenn Herold reported that liaison with the American Legion Post indicates that the new Post building is moving forward and is now in the permitting and contractor selection phase.

Base Chaplain – Howard Doyle was not present at the meeting.

Membership Chairman and WebMaster – Ramon Samson reported that Perch Base is working with the 2 new Bases in Arizona to allow them to participate on the Perch

(See "MINUTES" on page 12)

Perch Base
2004 Christmas - Hanukkah Party
- December 11 -

LUKE AFB - DESERT STAR ENLISTED CLUB

DRESS CODE CASUAL
COST PER PERSON \$30.00

MENU

Tossed Greens, Tomatoes and Cucumbers with Ranch Dressing

Choice of

Sliced London broil Au Jus with Roasted New Potatoes and Chef's Vegetables

OR

Roasted Stuffed Chicken Brest with Mushroom Gravy, Rice Pilaf and
Chef's Vegetables

Sensational Sweets, Peanut Butter Pie, Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter
Coffee, Tea or Water

No Host Bar 1730 to 2200 with dinner served at 1900. There will be a Cheese and
Cracker plate available during the cocktail hour 1730 to 1900.

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE INTO DAVE HARNISH NLT DECEMBER 3,
2004 WITH PAYMENT IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOU AND GUEST NAMES
AND ADDRESSES ARE ON THE ENTERANCE LIST THAT HAS TO BE
SUPPLIED TO THE BASE SECURITY.**

**Please make checks payable to PERCH BASE and send to Dave Harnish
with your menu selection at:**

**Dave Harnish
6509 West Devonshire Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85033-3350
623-846-0367**

Email reservations (daveharnish@earthlink.net) will be acceptable. Payment must be
made prior to December 3, 2004. Payments and reservations can be made by mail to
the above address. Reservations are limited so please make your reservations early.
There will be dancing following the dinner and awards ceremony.

Eternal Patrol September 28, 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.

U.S.S. Sculpin (SS-191) 63 men lost



En route to Johnston Island, SCULPIN, under Cmdr. Fred Connaway, left Pearl Harbor on 5 November 1943. After topping off with fuel, she left Johnston on 7 November to conduct her ninth patrol in an area in the Caroline Islands. Her mission was to support the action of our surface forces in the Gilbert Islands by intercepting and attacking any enemy forces which might be proceeding from Truk toward the Marshall Islands to oppose our surface forces. She was to leave her area on 14 December, and return to Pearl Harbor, stopping at Johnston for fuel if necessary. SCULPIN was not heard from following her departure from Johnston Island on 7 November.

During the patrol, Commander John P. Cromwell (promoted Captain during the patrol) was aboard SCULPIN. He was to take charge of a coordinated attack group consisting of SCULPIN, SEARAVEN, and either APOGON or SPEARFISH, if formation of the group were directed by dispatch. Should the group be ordered formed, Captain Cromwell would transmit his orders to them by low frequency radio from SCULPIN. On the night of 29 November, the vessels were directed to form and APOGON was named as the third member of the group. When Captain Cromwell gave no rendezvous orders after 40 hours, ComSubPac sent new orders. SCULPIN was to proceed immediately to Eniwetok, make a close observation, and report any enemy shipping. This was

done in order to avoid confusion among the other submarines, and to determine whether SCULPIN was all right. Although the new orders to SCULPIN were sent repeatedly on 1 December and other orders a few days

later, no answer came from her. On 30 December SCULPIN was reported as presumed lost.



Meanwhile, long before tension mounted at the bases concerning her, SCULPIN was meeting her test. The story presented here is reconstructed from statements made by members of her crew

recovered from enemy prison camps since the close of the war.

On the night of 18 November, SCULPIN made a radar contact on a fast convoy, and made an end around at full power. Submerging on the enemy track for a dawn attack, SCULPIN began what promised to be a successful approach. However, she was detected in the attack phase, and the convoy zigged toward, forcing her deep. There was no depth charge attack at this time. About an hour

later, the ship surfaced to begin another end around, but immediately dove again, having surfaced 6,000 yard from a destroyer which was lagging the convoy. Depth charging started as soon as she dove again.



Early in the ensuing attack a string of depth charges did the ship minor damage. Lt. G.E. Brown, the only officer survivor, was relieved as diving officer to make an inspection and found her fundamentally sound. At this time the submarine had succeeded in shaking the enemy, but before Brown returned to the control room the ship had broached when the diving officer had tried to bring her to periscope depth and the depth gauge had stuck at 125 feet. The depth charge attack was renewed at once.

About noon on 19 November, a close string of 18 depth charges threw SCULPIN, already at deep depth, badly out of control. The pressure hull was distorted, she was leaking, steering and diving plane gear were damaged

(see "ETERNAL PATROL," page 8)

From Beyond the Wardroom *Perch Base SubVettes*

I'm sorry to have missed our last meeting. I understand everyone appreciated the new venue. We will meet at Der Kaffee Kuchen, 9814 W Peoria Ave. on November 20 at noon. I can't wait to see you all again.

We had a wonderful time in Hawaii & seeing our son Brent after 6 months was better than words can describe.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
Millie Hillman – 11/25
Patty Leo Lira – 12/6
Kathryn Otreba – 12/11
Mary Lou Nance – 12/16

There will NOT be a meeting in December, due to the Christmas Party. I hope everyone can attend.

Happy Holidays!

Nancy Nelson, President
SubVettes of Perch Base

SUBVETTES MEETING MINUTES October Meeting

The eleventh monthly meeting of the SUBVETTES of Perch Base was convened at Der Kaffee Kuchen, Peoria, Arizona at 1229 hours, October 16, 2004. There were 20 members in attendance. Brandi Hershey and Heather Newell led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Sandy Herrington led the members in a Prayer of Invocation, followed by the Dolphinettes purpose given by Betty Weber.

Sandy Bernard asked that all members be sure to sign the log book.

Vice President Kay Harnish then asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August meeting. A motion was made by Sandy Herrington and seconded by Iris Vallencourt. Motion carried.

Treasurer Karen Emmett reported on the base's financial status as of September 30, 2004. A motion was made by Brandi Hershey to accept the Treasurer's Report as read and seconded by Sandy Herrington.

At Kay Harnish's request, Hiromi Povio, who was attending her first meeting, and new member Betty Long, who is moving to Queen Creek, took a few minutes to introduce themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Kay Harnish asked for a report from the Ways & Means Committee. Sue Caraker reported to members on the Sunshine Home, an East Mesa group that takes

in children and provides them shelter. Karen Emmett reported on the New Life Center, which is a group that provides food and clothing and other assistance to women and children who are victims of abuse. Karen also suggested a possible donation to the Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Betty Weber made a motion to table the decision until the next meeting and Sandy Bernard seconded that motion. Discussion continued among members and Betty rescinded her motion and the members voted to bring in their own donations to the next meeting, based on a list of needs provided by the New Life Center, and those donated items would be delivered to the center. A motion was made and seconded to table discussion regarding monetary donations until the November meeting.

Kay Harnish reported to members on the Saratoga Springs, NY convention. The Subvettes held their first business meeting at the convention, and it was attended by 35-40 ladies. It was reported that our organization currently has 161 members nationwide in 8 bases. Four bases are getting ready to submit paperwork to our National President, which would bring the total base count to 12. National elections will be held in March, with swearing in of officers at the September convention in Kansas City. Kay also advised members that the Subvettes of Perch Base received an award in Saratoga Springs for its donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Kay then advised members of the new tote/carrier bag being offered by the Subvettes, with custom embroidery work done by Holly. Anyone interested should place their orders with Kay.

Returning to the subject of the national convention, other members reported on the success of the ladies luncheon and spoke of their experiences at the convention. Kay also relayed to members Nancy's report of the kindness she experienced in New York and Nancy's story of New York policemen offering her party a ride during a rain storm.

Kay also let members know that President Nancy Nelson was not presiding over the meeting due to the fact that she and her husband Jim were in Hawaii to visit with their son, Brent who was returning from Westpac and everyone was excited to hear that Jim was going to have the opportunity to share in a Tiger Cruise with his son Brent on the USS Salt Lake City, as part of its returning to San Diego.

It was also announced that in two years, the National Convention will be held on an Alaskan cruise. More information to follow.

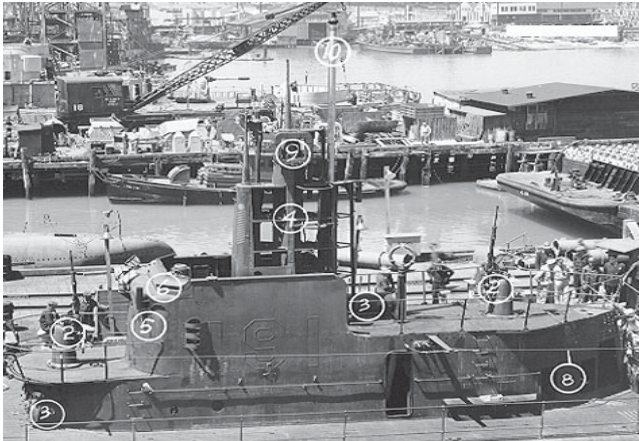
NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Kay Harnish advised members that there was a great "thank you" from Frank Rumbaugh, Layne's husband, in the September MidWatch and that everyone's prayers and well wishes were greatly appreciated.

(See "SUBVETTES," on Page 10)

(“ETERNAL PATROL,” continued from page 6)

and she was badly out of trim. Commander Connaway decided to surface and to fight clear. The ship was surfaced and went to gun action. During the battle Commander Connaway and the Gunnery Officer were on the bridge, and the Executive Officer was in the conning tower. When the destroyer placed a shell



Sculpin at Mare Island in May 1943.

Fairwater has been cut down fore and aft. Numbers indicate modifications made during this refit. (2) 20mm Oerlikons, (3) Ready Service ammunition boxes, (4) Periscope shears plating removed, (5) Fairwater cut down, (6) spray deflector, (8) Radio antenna, (9) Underwater loop antenna, (10) SD Radar mast.
(Official US Navy photo)

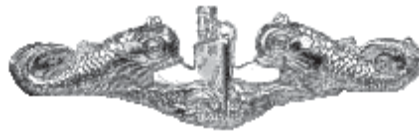
through the main induction, and one or more through the conning tower, these officers and several men were killed. Lt. Brown succeeded to command. He decided to scuttle the ship, and gave the order “all hands abandon ship.” After giving the order the last time the ship was dived at emergency speed by opening all vents. About 12 men rode the ship down, including Captain Cromwell and one other officer, both of whom refused to leave it. Captain Cromwell, being familiar with plans for our operations in the Gilberts and other areas, stayed with the ship to insure that the enemy could not gain any of the information he possessed. For this action, ComSubPac recommended that he be given the Congressional Medal of Honor. In all, 42 men were taken prisoner by the Japanese destroyer, but one was thrown over the side almost immediately because he was severely wounded. Another man escaped being thrown overboard only by wrenching free of his captors and joining the other men.

The group of 38 enlisted men and 3 officers were taken to Truk where they were questioned for ten days. Then they were loaded on two carriers (21 on one, 20 on the other) and started for Japan. En route to its destination, the carrier CHUYO, carrying 21 SCULPIN survivors, was torpedoed and sunk by SAILFISH on 31 December 1943, and only one American escaped. This was a particularly coincidental and tragic event since SCULPIN stood by SQUALUS (later recommissioned SAILFISH)

when she sank off Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1939. At Ofuna, the 21 survivors were repeatedly questioned, and they learned they were in an unofficial Navy prison camp. They were released from the camp a few at a time when the enemy became convinced that they could get no information from them, and were sent to work in the copper mines of Ashio. There they were allowed to register as prisoners of war, and received at least enough food to live on, although not enough to maintain health properly. They remained at Ashio until released by American forces on 4 September 1945.

This submarine on her first eight patrols sank nine ships for 42,200 tons and damaged then, totaling 63,000 tons. Her first patrol off the east coast of the Philippine group resulted in one sinking, the 3,124 ton transport KANKO MAUR on 10 January 1942. During her second patrol in the region east of Celbes, she sank a destroyer type vessel and did damage to a light cruiser. Her third patrol was conducted in the Molukka Sea, and SCULPIN damaged a freighter. On her fourth patrol, conducted in the South China Sea, she is credited with having sunk a freighter, damaged another freighter and three tankers.

SCULPIN went to the Solomons area for her fifth patrol, and is credited with sinking two large tankers and a transport. She damaged a freighter on this patrol. Going back to the Solomons for her sixth patrol, SCULPIN damaged a tanker. SCULPIN made her seventh patrol in May and June 1943 in the Aleutians. Here she sank two small patrol craft and damaged two freighters. On her eighth patrol in the East China Sea, SCULPIN sank a freighter-transport.



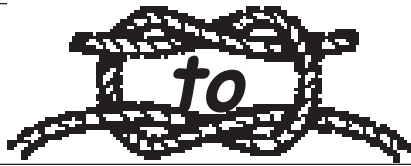
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PHOENIX COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

We are pleased to announce that this year's speaker at our Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day will be Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, United States Navy, who is commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

The dinner will be held at Luke Air Force Base Officer's Club on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, with cocktail at 1800 hours, dinner at 1900 hours, and our featured guest speaker at 2000 hours. The dinner price will include wine at each table, and will cost \$45.00 per person. We will have a small band, and reservations will be limited this year to a total of 25 tables of ten seats each, which means a total of 250 attendees. Last year we had about 270 people, so I would advise you to make your reservations early.

For security purposes, Bob Hicklin will need to have full names of everyone in your party. Individuals or corporations, who buy a full table, will have priority with respect to seating arrangements.

To make your reservation, call or e-mail Bob Hicklin, our council Secretary at:
480-948-3202

From Jim and Nancy Nelson . . .

Nancy and I had the opportunity of flying to Hawaii on Oct. 12 for a few days of sight seeing, before meeting up with our son Brent, returning from West-Pac.

Brent is a MM2(SS) aboard the USS Salt Lake City (SSN-716) and a Perch Base member.

I had the honor of sailing with Brent on the Salt Lake City, from Pearl Harbor on that Sunday, Oct. 17 for a Tiger cruise back to San Diego.

It was a great five days on the boat, brought back some good memories. This time, I didn't have to work, just kicked back and enjoyed myself. The bad side was, I gained about six pounds from the chow, and the living conditions were just as tight. I seemed to have forgotten how cramped the boats were/are.

The trip and the time I spent with our son Brent will live with me forever.

I would like to thank Brent and the crew of the USS Salt Lake City for putting up with me on the trip home !

I had a blast !!

Jim Nelson.

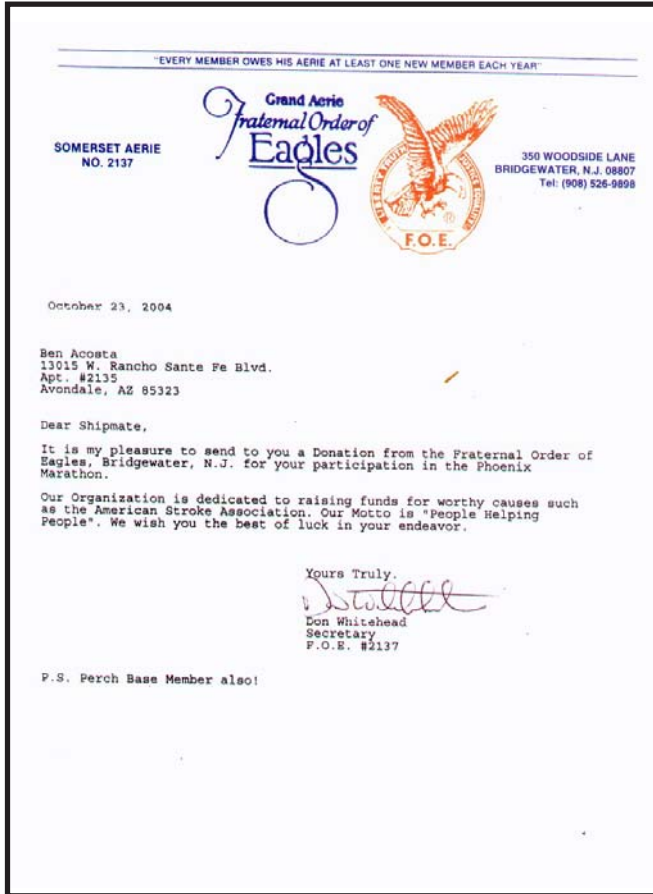
Veterans Day Parade

These are photos of the T-shirts we will have, courtesy of APS and Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (home of some of the best damn ex-Navy nukes in the world.) Come to the Parade, have coffee and donuts while you get your shirt and pizza and soft drinks after.

Don't forget your vest and hat!



A Shipmate's Request



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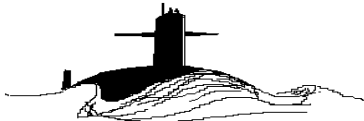
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("SUBVETTES" continued from Page 7)

Kay passed around a thank you card that Nancy received from Delores Neumann for the card of condolence she sent after Delores' husbands passing in August.

Members were then advised that the annual Christmas Party will be held at Luke Air Force Base on December 11, 2004. The menu is to remain the same as last year—London Broil and Stuffed Chicken. Cocktails begin at 6pm, with dinner served at 7. Checks need to be sent to Dave Harnish by December 3, 2004.

Kay notified members that President Nancy Nelson has been trying to e-mail National Secretary Carol Boyle to get a current copy of the National Constitution; however, due to the hurricane situation in Florida, Carol's e-mail service was interrupted and Nancy is hopeful to have that information available at our November meeting.

Kay then opened the floor for discussion regarding our new meeting location and asked for a vote regarding whether to hold the November meeting at this location. Brandi Hershey made a motion to keep the meeting location and Karen Emmett seconded the motion. The November meeting of the Subvettes of Perch Base will be held at Der Kaffee Kuchen, 9814 W. Peoria Ave, Peoria on November 20 at 12 Noon.

Kay advised members that a decision was made by the Subvets to make the MidWatch available on line to anyone who has access to the internet.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Since no meeting was held in September, Kay wanted to take this opportunity to extend birthday wishes to the following members:

Elna Lidman – 9/4; Sue Caraker – 9/8; Sue Shumann – 9/20; Judy Wannamaker – 9/21; Lee Cousin – 9/29

And Happy Birthdays for October go to:

Marygrace Veek – 10/1; Orene Waid – 10/9; Helen Haskell – 10/19; Nancy Nelson – 10/31

DRAWING

Brandi Hershey and Heather Newell conducted the drawing for a pair of candlesticks which were won by Linda Wall and a dolphin necklace which was won by Karen Emmett.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Kay Harnish reminded members that the next meeting will be held November 20 at 12 Noon here at Der Kaffee Kuchen

All the outstanding business being concluded, a motion was made and seconded that the meeting of the SubVettes of Perch Base be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1312 hours.

Signed: Debbie Newell, Secretary

The Submarine Submarines of Today

End of an Era - "Blind Man's Bluff" Revisited

USS Parche Decommissioned

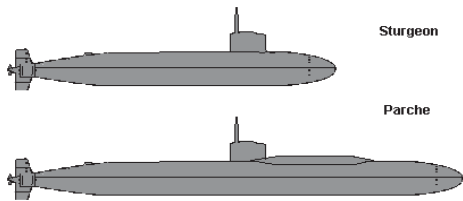
BREMERTON, Wash. (AP) —

The USS Parche, one of America's top spy submarines, has been decommissioned.

The ceremony Tuesday at the Bremerton naval base celebrated the Parche's 30 years and 19 deployments. The sub reportedly tapped into the Soviets' undersea military communications during the Cold War and picked up lost Soviet weaponry from the ocean floor, the Sun newspaper reported.

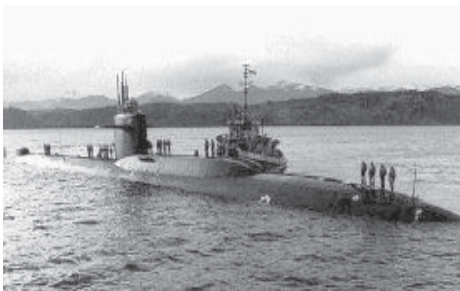


The sub was classified by the Navy as a "research and



development" submarine and tested sonar and warfare technology.

But the sub is more known for its highly classified missions, many of them deemed of "vital importance to U.S. national security." The missions earned the sub nine Presidential Unit Citations.



1988 to 1993. Now U.S. defense attache in Moscow, he traveled from Russia for the ceremony.

"It means a lot to say goodbye to an old friend," said Rear Adm. Ben Wachendorf, who commanded the Parche from

About 130 former crew members also attended the sub's decommissioning.

USS Virginia Commissioned

Commissioning of USS Virginia Ushers in New Era of Undersea Warfare

By Chief Journalist (SW/AW) Mark O. Piggott, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The first nuclear-powered Virginia-class fast-attack submarine, USS Virginia (SSN 774), was commissioned Oct. 23 at Norfolk Naval Station here.

Commander, Naval Submarine Forces, Vice Adm. Charles L. Munns gave the order to commission the ship.

"Capt. Kern, you and your men have much to be proud of, but also more work to do," Munns said. "You must steer Virginia around this dangerous and uncertain world. Guard her stealth, use her endurance,



harvest her sensors, and make ready her firepower. I expect you to dominate any assignment from open ocean to the contested littorals."

Virginia is the ninth U.S. naval vessel to be named for the "Old Dominion."

The Virginia-class submarine is the Navy's first delivered major combatant designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind. She embodies the warfighting and operational capabilities required to

(see "VIRGINIA," page 13)

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The selection of new base officers is just around the corner. I am asking again for the membership to look around, talk with your shipmates, and encourage him to accept a nomination. We need new ideas, and new blood to take Perch Base into the future.

We will be having a meeting in December on the third Saturday of the month. In the past, our Dinner and Dance date was at the same time as our meeting date. This will allow us to get more base business taken care of, before the New Year starts.

On behalf of the Canadian Submariner, that lost his life to a fire and left a wife and child. A donation was taken at the meeting and we raised \$220.00 for his family. BRAVO ZULU shipmates, that's what it is all about..." shipmates helping shipmates."

Fraternally yours,

Glenn Herold
Commander
Perch Base

(continued from "MINUTES," page 4)

Website and the Newsletter (Midwatch). It appears that Yuma Base and Tucson Base have their own newsletters. Ray also reported that Perch membership has been affected to some degree by the transfers to Gudgeon Base (Prescott area) and White Mountain Base (Snowflake area). Ray announced that we are at the 10 year anniversary of the formation of Perch Base which will be commemorated on the Web Site. Ray indicated that the process for asking members to download and print the Base Newsletter is showing results in the Base's finances. The month prior to the process taking effect, the cost to produce and mail the newsletter was \$272. After the process took effect, the total cost was \$80.

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Emmett was not present at the meeting.

Base Storekeeper – Jim Nelson, who is on a Tiger Cruise aboard the USS Salt Lake City with his submariner son Brent, was not present at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Glenn Herold announced that Howard Doyle and Chuck Emmett are putting the final touches on the preparations for the Phoenix Veteran's Day Parade. Participants are asked to meet at the Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix at 0800 hours on Thursday, November 11th. The parade will again feature the USS Bang float, the Goodyear Classic Fire Truck, and perhaps a 1-ton Stake Bed Truck to accommodate riders. Glenn asked if any of the members knew where we

could borrow the stake bed truck. Dick Caraker indicated that Sanderson Ford had provided that type of vehicle in the past and would be a good place to start a search. Jim Wall volunteered the use of his flat bed trailer if the truck is not attainable.

A suggestion was made that Perch Base make up a banner to publicize its address and a phone number instead of the National Office. It was agreed that this would be an effective thing to do for recruiting purposes. Glenn Herold agreed to look into the banner.

Dave Harnish briefed the members on the details associated with attending the 2004 Perch Base Christmas Party. The party will be held at the Luke Air Force Base Enlisted Club on the evening of December 11th. Social hour, with no-host cocktails, will start at 1730 hours and the meal will be served starting at 1900 hours. The per-person price to attend has been set at \$30. Reservations, which must include payment as well as your name and address (as it appears on your picture ID,) have to be received by Dave prior to December 3.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn Herold briefed the members on the National Convention. Glenn assured the members that the slate of national officers were capable and good men. Glenn added that the Board of Directors had started a discussion into the possibility for Perch Base hosting a National Convention in the 2010-2011 time frame. Phoenix will be the site for the 2005 District 8 meetings which will provide a unique opportunity to gain some experience in hosting meetings in the area. Glenn then asked for volunteers to serve as a committee to make arrangements for the 2005 meetings and collect information and contacts for exploring the convention prospect.

Volunteers for the committee included; Dave Harnish, Glenn Herold, Frank Rumbaugh, Dick Caraker, Larry Rankin and Stan Reinhold.

Larry Rankin was asked to brief the members on the Phoenix Navy League Pearl Harbor Day festivities. Larry indicated that the dinner would be held on December 7, and the affair will begin at 1800 hours and include dinner and a speaker. Anyone interested should contact Larry.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Glenn Herold offered a discussion on the possibility for Perch Base to support local efforts to send sundry items to our troops in the Middle East. It was also suggested that the Base could get involved with forms of support for families of the troops living in the Phoenix area. After some discussion it was agreed that the Base could and should pursue both efforts. Frank Rumbaugh and Dave Harnish volunteered to investigate the possibilities for participating in both programs.

(continued next page)

They would then brief the members on provisions to support the efforts.

Glenn also announced that a fire had occurred on one of Canada's submarines. This resulted in one person losing their life and 3 others injured. The one casualty to the crew left two children without a father. Groton Base has asked other USSVI members to help with cash donations to form a fund to help the children of the deceased submariner. A basket was passed among the members and cash donations were collected.

Glenn Herold read a certificate of appreciation Perch Base received from White Mountain Base that indicated their gratitude for the help Perch Base provided to the formation efforts of their Base.

Ed Brooks asked to be recognized and called numerous members front and center to receive Certificates of Appreciation from the Chairman of the USSVI Scholarship Fund. The certificates recognized members who had contributed more than \$50 to the Scholarship Fund. Ed informed the members that they had contributed more than \$5,000 to the Charitable Foundation more than \$2,000 of that amount to the Gary Patterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ed also informed the members of a telephone contact with Honorary Perch Base Member Thomas Moore (one of the survivors of the sinking of the USS Perch during WWII). Thomas had arranged for Perch Base to receive a copy of the book; "War Tales" which contained an account of Thomas' experiences on the USS Perch and in Japanese POW Camp. The book was entered into the Perch Base Library. Thomas had also sent a donation to the Perch Boosters Club.

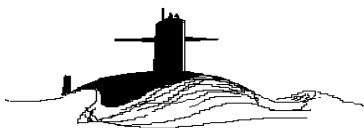
50/50 DRAWING

The 50/50 drawing was held and Dave Harnish was the winner. Dave donated the winnings to the Perch Base Treasury.

ADJOURNMENT

All the outstanding business being concluded, it was moved and seconded that the meeting of the Arizona Submarine Veterans - Perch Base be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.

The closing prayer was offered by Joe Bernard and the meeting was adjourned at 1414 hours.



(continued from "VIRGINIA," page 10)

dominate the littorals while maintaining undersea dominance in the open ocean.

Virginia Gov. Mark Warner said he was proud to have the lead ship of the class named for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Virginia's support of the United States Navy goes back to the founding of our country when the first USS Virginia was commissioned in 1777," Warner said. "Virginia values its long-standing relationship with the Navy and is proud so many vessels call the Commonwealth home."

"With new tools like the USS Virginia and other Virginia-class fast-attack submarines, this nation will continue to have the best equipped and best trained military in the world," he concluded.

Under an innovative agreement, General Dynamics Electric Boat is producing the Virginia-class submarines as part of a team effort with Northrop Grumman Newport News. Virginia has improved stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that enable it to meet the Navy's multimission requirements. With a modular design, the Virginia class will be able to accommodate technology upgrades throughout the life of the class.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said the submarine, and the men who sail on her, will take the battle to the enemy with stealth, endurance and agility.

"We need this submarine and its capabilities at sea," Clark said. "Virginia is designed to take care of and defeat the enemies of the 21st century."

"She will bring her greatest capability - her stealth - into the warfighting calculus in a way that will tremendously complicate life for our future and potential enemies and greatly enhance our own warfighting capabilities," he added.

Virginia is 377 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 34 feet, a navigational draft of 32 feet, displaces approximately 7,800 tons submerged, can dive to depths greater than 800 feet, and can sustain speeds of more than 25 knots when submerged.

According to Virginia's Commanding Officer, Capt. David C. Kern, his proudest moment was a foggy day in Groton, Conn., when he first took Virginia to sea.

"The fog was thick as I stood on the sail of Virginia, returning from our first underway," Kern explained. "Her engines pulsing with power, her crew having operated the boat for the first time. On that day, I was filled with pride for the accomplishments of this crew."

Return To:

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

<http://perch-base.org>



NEXT REGULAR MEETING - November 20, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours