



October 2004
Volume 10 - Issue 10



<http://perch-base.org>

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

ITEM	PAGE NO.
Title Page	1
2004 Booster Club Members	2
Sailing Orders(upcoming activities)	3
List of Base Officers	3
"From the Wardroom"	4
"From Behind the Wardroom - Perch Base SubVettes"	4
Eternal Patrol: USS Wahoo SS-238	5
Submarines of Today: Japan Confirms . . . Far East Sub Dismantlement	7
Bases: White Mountain Base	9
Shipmate-to-Shipmate	10
Mailing Page	12



Lest We Forget Those Still On Patrol
OCTOBER ETERNAL PATROLS

USS Seawolf	SS197	Oct. 3, 1944	79 men
USS S-44	SS155	Oct. 7, 1943	55 men
USS O-5	SS66	Oct. 11, 1923	2 men
USS Wahoo	SS238	Oct. 11, 1943	80 men
USS Dorado	SS248	Oct. 12, 1943	76 men
USS Escola	SS294	Oct. 17, 1944	80 men
USS Darter	SS227	Oct. 24, 1944	none
USS Shark	SS314	Oct. 24, 1944	87 men
USS Tang	SS306	Oct. 24, 1944	78 men

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - October 16, 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		



**BASE OFFICERS
COMMANDER:**

Glenn Herold
839 North Rogers
Mesa, AZ 85201-3849
(480) 962-6115
duke7@cox.net

VICE COMMANDER:

Tim Moore
5751 W. Bloomfield Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85304-1832
(601) 574-3286
seawolfssn575@quest.net

SECRETARY:

Edgar Brooks
1517 Eagle Crest Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301-5424
(928) 778-4069
etbrooks62@aol.com

TREASURER:

Bob May
10015 W. Royal Oak Rd. #341
Sun City, AZ 85351-6100
(623) 875-1212

COB:

Bob Gilmore
14300 N. 83rd Ave. #1033
Peoria, AZ 85381-4625
(623) 202-6256
rbgilmore@tecoenergy.com

STOREKEEPER:

Jim Nelson
9503 W. Spanish Moss Ln.
Sun City, AZ 85373-1741
(623) 972-1044
sub489@cox.net

MEMBERSHIP & WEBMASTER:

Ramon Samson
13210 N. Lake Forest Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351-3252
(623) 815-9247
rsamsonss328@cox.net

CHAPLAIN:

Warner H. Doyle
13600 W. Roanoke Ave.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-2236
(623) 935-3830
d-hdoyle@worldnet.att.net

MIDWATCH EDITOR:

Chuck Emmett
7011 West Risner Rd.
Glendale, AZ 85308-8072
(602) 843-9042
chuckster41@earthlink.net

HISTORIAN:

James W. Newman
3422 North 51st Place
Phoenix, AZ 85018-6120
(602) 840-7788
jimnewman@qwest.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ben Acosta
12914 W. Alvarado Rd.
Avondale, AZ 85323-7142
(602) 935-7752
Benvirg@juno.com

Sailing Orders



NO SEPTEMBER MEETING!

Next Meeting,
Saturday, October 16, 2004.
All future meetings on the
third Saturday of each
month.



From the Wardroom

Shipmates,

Fall has arrived, and I am looking forward to our next meeting. Those that made the trip to Saratoga Springs New York, had a great time, it was another great convention. The city pulled out all stops. The parade was more than any of us expected. Almost as long as our own Veterans Parade which, by the way, is coming up soon. The weather was all most perfect; it rained the morning of the parade, but stopped in time for every one to get lined up for the parade. The town's population looked like it had doubled in size, lined up on the side of the streets and clapped for us as we marched by; it was truly a very moving experience.

Our new national officers were installed and we have another exceptional board. Edgar iEdi Brooks was first runner up, for the Joe Nigre award; this award is given each year for the shipmate that has made the greatest contributions for the betterment of USSVI.

Art Randall, Director of Central Region, and a deserving recipient, for his contributions to USSVI, won the award.

Edgar iEdi Brooks will be a candidate on the list next year, I can assure you.

Perch Base, because of Edis gracious contributions to the Scholarship Foundation, with his carvings, contributed more money per shipmate, than any of the other bases, including Groton Base. They had a total amount greater with over a thousand members, but not a higher dollar amount per member.

We were hoping for a \$10 dollar amount per member. Overall we had a better than \$12 dollar per shipmate contribution.

Ed, again BRAVO ZULU,

We thank you for your efforts on part, and the National's behalf, you are, and always will be number ONE in our book.

We have a number of things around the corner for our base. First, there is the Veterans Parade, next month on the

eleventh. Please plan on attending we need to have a good turn out.

Then we have the Christmas/Hanaker dinner and dance, at Luke AFB in December, the night of Saturday the eleventh. Don't forget to get your reservations in early. Start planning now to attend.

We are growing at a fast rate; we have five bases in the state now. We had only two bases this time last year.

We have been asked to sponsor the District Meeting next year. This will be put to a vote at our meeting. The turn out should be very good, because of the new bases in our state and our neighboring states. I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally yours

Glenn Herold

Commander - Perch Base

From Beyond the Wardroom Perch Base SubVettes

I have a BIG announcement. Our next meeting will be held at the **Der Kaffee Kuchen** located at 9814 W Peoria Avenue. It is located inside the mall, about in the middle. If you are driving, it located directly at the end of the second driveway, from 99th avenue. If you need a ride from the American Legion, please let me know as soon as you can. The meeting will be October 16th, at noon.

I want to let you all know what a great USSVI Convention we had in Saratoga Springs, NY. The weather was beautiful, as was the area, and the entire city was so friendly and supportive. A great time was had by all of our members from Perch Base.

I also want to send a big THANK YOU to the members who volunteered to be on our Ways and Means Committee: Jan Ballenger, Sue Caraker, Brandi Hershey and Karen Emmett. I know they will do a great job selecting charities for our Organization to contribute to.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Elna Lidman ñ 9/4

Sue Caraker ñ 9/8

Sue Shumann ñ 9/20

Judy Wannamaker ñ 9/21

Lee Cousin - 9/29

Marygrace Veek ñ 10/1

Orene Waid ñ 10/9

Helen Haskell ñ 10/29

Nancy Nelson ñ 10/31

Hope to see you all at our next meeting in our NEW and IMPROVED restaurant.

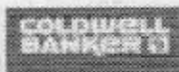
My Best Regards

Nancy Nelson, President, SubVettes of Perch Base

ADVERTISEMENT



JUDY WANNAMAKER
REALTOR®
(231) 943-1122 BUSINESS
(616) 913-8909 FAX
(800) 729-8786 TOLL FREE
(616) 818-9393 CELLULAR
jwannamaker@cbosuccess.com



SUCCESS REALTY
1001 W. Hill Road, Suite 118
Sun City, AZ 85351

www.thetrust.com

Equal Opportunity
Lender and Equal Housing

Eternal Patrol October 11, 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. Wahoo (SS-238) 80 men lost



displacement 1475 (surf.), 2370 (subm.); length 307'; beam 27'; speed 20k (surf.), 8.75k (subm.); test depth 300'; armament 1-3"/50; 6-21" torpedo tubes fwd., 4-21" torpedo tubes aft.; complement. 6 officers - 54 enlisted men; class GATO

WAHOO returned to Pearl Harbor from her sixth war patrol on 29 August 1943 with the dejected air peculiar to a highly successful submarine who suddenly could not make her torpedoes run true. In twenty-eight days away from port, seven of them spent in her assigned area in the Sea of Japan, WAHOO had expended ten torpedoes in nine attacks without inflicting any damage on the enemy. Her Skipper, Cmdr. D.W. Morton, returned to port to have the torpedoes changed or checked, and requested that WAHOO be sent back to the Japan Sea for her seventh patrol.

On 9 September, WAHOO again departed Pearl. She topped off with fuel at Midway and left there on 13 September heading for the dangerous but important Japan Sea. Shortly afterwards, SAWFISH left Midway and also headed for this area. WAHOO was to pass through Etorofu Strait, in the Kurile Islands, and La Perouse Strait, between Hokkaido and Karafuto, and enter the Japan Sea about 20 September. She was to head south and remain below 43 degrees north after 23 September, and below 40 degrees north after 26 September. SAWFISH was to follow WAHOO, entering the Japan Sea about 23 September and patrolling the area north of WAHOO.

No transmission was received from WAHOO, either by any shore station or by SAWFISH, nor was she sighted by SAWFISH after she left Midway. She had orders to clear her area not later than sunset 21 October 1943, and to report by radio after passing through Kurile Island chain en route to Midway. This report was expected about 23 October, but Midway waited in vain. By 30 October, apprehension was felt for WAHOO's safety and an aircraft search along her expected course was arranged. When this revealing nothing, WAHOO was reported missing on 9 November 1943.

Although no transmission was received from WAHOO after her departure on patrol, the results of one of her attacks became known to the world via Tokyo broadcast. Domei was quoted as reporting that on 5 October, a steamer was sunk by an American submarine off the west coast of Honshu near the Straits of Tsushima. It was said that the ship sank after several seconds with 544 people losing their lives. The submarine could have been none other than WAHOO: none other was operating in that area.

In this reporting broadcast, TIME magazine of 18 October 1943 stated:

“KNOCK AT THE DOOR”

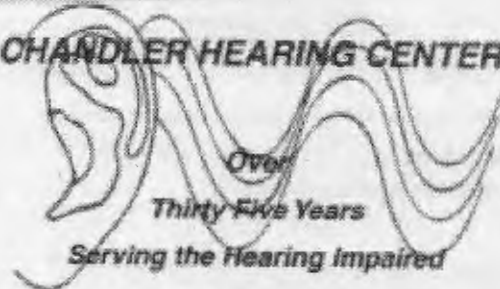
In the rough Tsushima Straits where two-decker, train carrying ferries ply between Japan and Korea, an Allied Submarine upped periscope, unleashed a torpedo. The missile stabbed the flank of a Jap steamer. Said the Tokyo radio, “The steamer went down in seconds with loss of 544 persons aboard.”

Fifty miles across at their narrowest, the Tsushima Straits are Japan's historic doors to the Asiatic mainland. Over them centuries ago Regent Hideyoshi's armada sailed to battle the Koreans and send home 38,000 enemy ears pickled in wine. Upon them in 1905 crusty Admiral Togo smashed the Russian Fleet. Presumably the submarine knocking at the door last week was American. It had achieved one of the World War II's most daring submarine penetrations of enemy waters, a feat ranking with German Gunther Prien's entry at Scapa Flow, the Jap invasion of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. raid in Tokyo Bay.

(continued next page)

ADVERTISEMENT

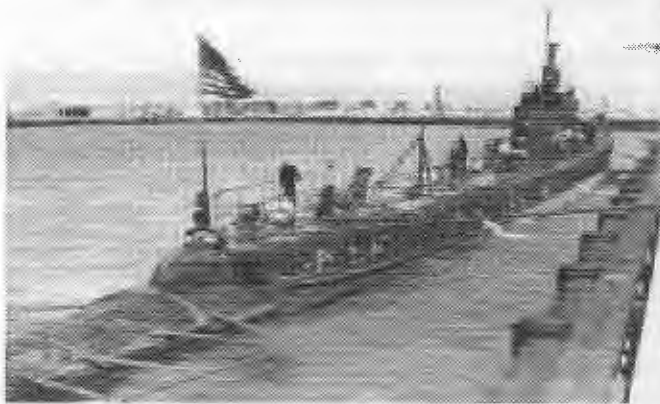
CHANDLER HEARING CENTERS



Phone (480) 899-8819 • Fax (480) 855-1651

(iLOST BOATi from previous page)

Information gleaned from Japanese sources since the cessation of hostilities. Indicates that an antisubmarine attack was made in La Perouse Strait on 11 October 1943. This was two days other SAWFISH went through the Straits. Supplementary data on the attack of 11 October state, iOur plane found a floating sub and attacked it, with 3 depth



charges. SAWFISH was attacked here while making her passage, and that attack is not mentioned in Japanese records; the primary attacking agency in that case was a patrol boat, and about five depth charges were dropped. Thus it is safe to assume that the attack cited here was made on WAHOO, and is not the attack on SAWFISH with an incorrect date. Both Tsushima Straits, where the attack on the steamer was made, and La Perouse Straits, through which WAHOO was to make good her exit from the Japan Sea, are known to have been mined. This despite the fact that SAWFISH transited La Perouse on 9 October and reported no indications of mining. It is felt, however, that WAHOO succumbed to the attack referred to above, and not a mine.

WAHOO was one of the Submarine Force's most valuable units during her six patrols, and her feats have become submarine legend. She



ADVERTISEMENT

Don Adams

PC Surgeon
Computer Service & Sales

Phone: (802) 762-8338
Web: www.pcsurgeonaz.com
e-mail: don@pcsurgeonaz.com

ADVERTISEMENT

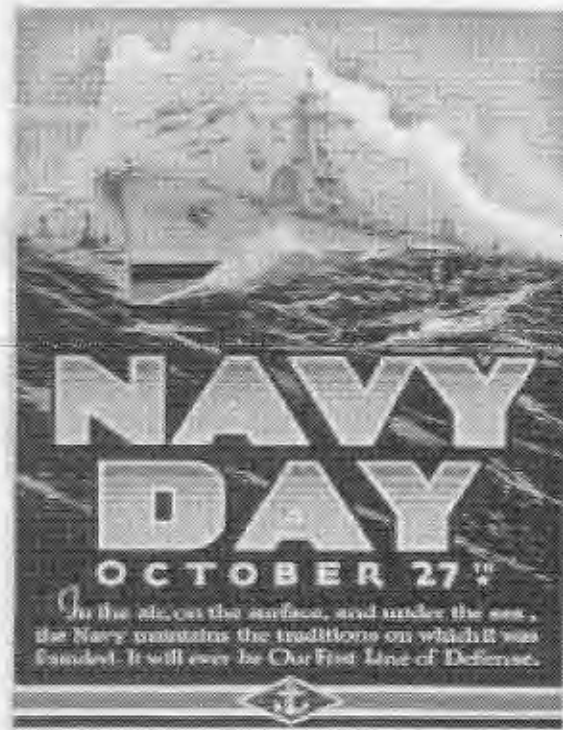
DAY & NIGHT

AIR CONDITIONING - HEATING - PLUMBING
Installation • Maintenance • Repair

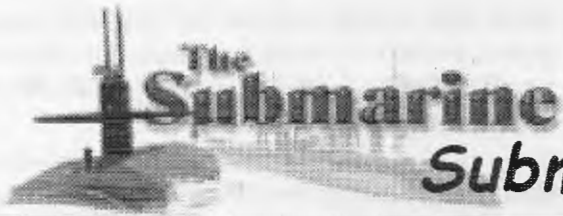
TIM MOORE RM2 (SS)

2501 W. Behrend Dr. • Suite 37 • Phoenix, Arizona 85027
(602) 956-9404 East • (623) 847-3605 West
www.dayandnightair.com

"Serving the Valley Since 1978"



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



Submarines of Today

"Today" Stories: Japan Confirms It Will Move Forward in Far East Sub Dismantlement

Japanese officials have confirmed Tokyo's intention to begin dismantlement work on 41 tactical and general-purpose submarines of the Pacific Fleet which have for several years remained afloat with their reactors still loaded with nuclear fuel, a Japanese government official said Wednesday.

The announcement that Japan would renew its nuclear weapons reduction program in the Russian Far East came over the weekend during a summit between Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, during which the two leaders discussed several nuclear issues.

Tokyo had suspended \$168m in funding from the Japan-Russia Committee for Cooperation in Reducing Nuclear Weapons following secrecy concerns leveled by Moscow in the wake of the Grigory Pasko case. As a result, Japanese officials said Russia refused to furnish information necessary to accurately evaluate funding needs.

Japan was also concerned by bureaucratic disorganization on the Russian side. But Koizumi agreed to take down bars to funding after Moscow promised to establish a governmental oversight body, headed by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, to coordinate Russia's decommissioning efforts.

Although Japanese officials caution that the funding on offer will not dismantle all of the subs and some of the funding will be used for other nuclear safety related problems it nonetheless represents one of the first international efforts geared towards reducing the growing number of dilapidated and rusting non-strategic vessels whose decommissioning is not covered under funding supplied by the US Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, or CTR, program.

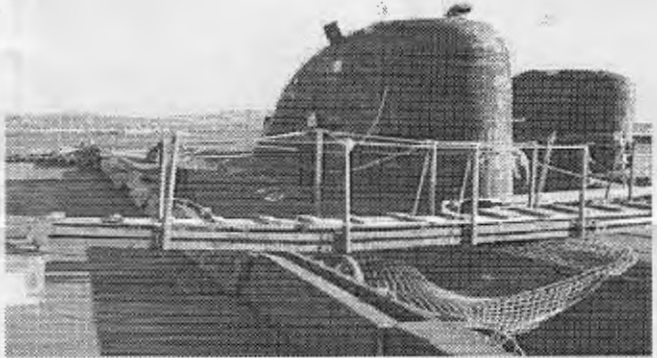
The funding release will also give Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry, or MinAtom, an opportunity to make good on claims it has been making since last summer that it wants to reduce nuclear risks in the Far East by addressing the problem of these submarines.

By 2010, the Russian Navy expects to dismantle a total of 131 submarines. MinAtom has estimated that it will cost \$3.9bn to meet that task with a start-up cost of \$60m for last year alone. But for this year, Moscow budgeted just \$70m toward improving nuclear safety throughout the coun-

try as a whole, meaning that the dismantlement effort is off to a shaky start.

In the Pacific, 77 retired submarines are currently awaiting decommissioning. Of those, 41 are still afloat and loaded with spent nuclear fuel.

Of these 41 submarines, 39 have hulls so corroded and rusted that many cannot be safely towed to the de-



commissioning point at the Zvezda plant at the Bolshoi Kamen base for fear that they would sink en route.

Many of them are at risk of sinking at their docks as it is, and two already have — one in 1997, the other in 1999. Both were quickly raised by the navy, which claimed no harm had been done. But these incidents underscore the urgency of the problem.

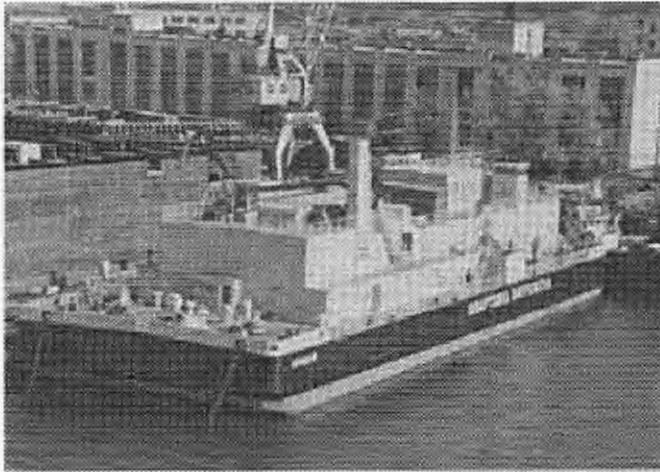
The Pacific Fleet's ailing submarines are spread out over several thousand square kilometres at bases from the Primorsky Krai, to Kamchatka to the Khabarovsk Krai. One plan forwarded by Minatom's Institute for Energy Equipment Research and Design at a decommissioning conference last summer is to corral these submarines into a specially-built shelter to store them until the fission capability in their nuclear reactors ends in about 300 years, essentially leaving them untouched for generations and hoping for the best. Minatom plans to launch construction this year of a \$70m facility that would accommodate 19 sub reactors.

(see *JAPANESE*, next page)

(JAPANESE, from previous page)

Whether Japan will participate in that project is open to question.

For now, a Japanese government official told Bellona Web, Tokyo will begin by dismantling one Victor-III class submarine as a pilot project to gauge costs and materials before extending decommissioning efforts. Dismantlement of this submarine — the B-412 — was in the offing when Japan suspended the programme's funding.



The official said that funding will also go toward building two floating facilities for the removal of spent nuclear fuel from submarine reactors. Russia had previously requested funding from the Japanese government to begin construction of these facilities. But due to the freeze of the programme, Japanese government has not had enough information to justify the request until this point, the government official said.

The Japanese government estimated in the year 2000 that the cost of dismantling a general purpose submarine, or SSN, to be between \$5m and \$10m, but the official interviewed by Bellona Web declined to be more specific.

According to senior CTR officials, estimates for dismantling an SSN are around \$6m — assuming the dismantlement takes place in Northwest Russia, where a sufficient decommissioning infrastructure is already in place. By comparison, these same officials indicate that a Typhoon class ballistic missile submarine costs \$13m to take apart in Northwest Russia.

But, as the Japanese official pointed out, the Pacific Fleet's infrastructure is not nearly as developed as the Northern Fleet's, making the task of dismantling subs and storing and transporting SNF much more difficult. Because of this, the official said, costs will likely vary when considerations for building surrounding infrastructure are taken into account. Japan-Russia Committee, the official said, will hold a tender for the decommissioning contracts.

Since 2000, though, the Zvezda facility has received upgrades, thanks to CTR and an onshore defueling site will be completed with US cash later this year. But the future of Zvezda is uncertain.

Since 1995, the facility's work has been sustained largely by American funding. The plant was given contracts by CTR to cut up Pacific Fleet ballistic missile submarines that targeted the United States.

But the supply of strategic submarines is limited and CTR contracts for the Zvezda will eventually run out, leaving the plant in a financial lurch before one of the biggest environmental and threats is eliminated.

In this sense, the funding from Japan should breathe new wind into Zvezda's sails as the most likely site to do away with remaining submarines.

The Japanese Government official also said that — as another effort to beef up decommissioning and waste management infrastructure — some of the funding will likely be applied toward improving railroads in the Russian Far East to ensure safe transport of SNF.

At present, SNF taken from submarines is sent to the Mayak reprocessing plant in the southern Urals. But, according to Minatom's International Centre for Environmental Safety, the navy can't scratch up a mere \$7m to repair a 27-kilometre stretch of railroad track that connects its waste storage facility at the tip of the Shkotovo Peninsula — where spent fuel assemblies from Zvezda are sent after they are removed from subs — to the nearest railhead to ship the SNF off.

For now, the waste is delivered over a rough road in trucks that have been known to leak, and naval officials confirmed the road is shut a number of times a year while technicians deal with the consequences of small-scale spills.

But even the future of these shipments is now in question with Monday's revocation of Mayak's operating license by Gosatomnadzor.

This could mean — at least temporarily — an increased burden for Shkotovo and the Pacific Fleet's other waste storage facility, on Kamchatka, both of which suffer from space shortages. Construction of proper buffer storage for spent nuclear fuel accumulated in the Russian Far East could be a way out.



White Mountain Base

Monthly - October, 2004

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

OUR CREED:

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 Government.

Commander:

Jim Clewett
PO Box 959
Snowflake, AZ 85937
(928) 536-7390
loji53@skyboot.com

Vice Commander:

Dick Jarenski
PO Box 9
Overgaard, AZ 85933
(928) 535-5405
rjarenski@aol.com

Treasurer:

Armand Deprins
PO Box 955
Snowflake, AZ 85937
(928) 536-6776
Simonne@frontiernet.net

Secretary:

Steve Day
5621 N. 19th St
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 277-3877
sdavfletcher@cs.com

Storekeeper:

Doug Eddy
PO Box 688
Heber, AZ 85928
(928) 535 3388

Base Commander's Corner

It seems at each meeting that we are acquiring new members, this is the lifeblood of our organization. When you solicit a new member, be sure to inform him that on 1 January 2005 the lifetime membership dues will more than double and it is for their benefit, if they can swing it, to join lifetime. If lifetime is paid, they no longer have to pay dues to the national organization, only the base dues.

I know that there are more submariners in the area as I have located 2 that I am trying to catch up with.

Snowflake has started an American Legion which I will try to go to one of their meetings to see if there are any submariners there that would be interested in joining us.

Fraternally Yours,
Jim Clewett, Commander

Minutes of the meeting held September 18th, 2004 at the American Legion in Heber, AZ.

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, reading of the purpose of the organization, and tolling of the bells. Members present: Jim Clewett, Frank Nagle, Eugene Quinlan, Armand Deprins, Dick Jarenski, Doug Eddy, and Steve Day. No new members present.

The patches that were ordered are in, however, I will not be at the October meeting. I will bring them to the November meeting. All patches were received with the exception of Subgroup 5, which will be sent as soon as they are in stock.

The minutes of the August meeting were read, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept.

The treasurer reported that we have \$1013 in the treasury including \$500 from Perch Base, and \$300 from National, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept.

The golf committee is arranging a tournament tentatively scheduled for the 11th of June 2005 in Snowflake. The cost will be approximately \$65 which includes greens fees, cart, and lunch.

The storekeeper reported that the 2005 calendars may be ordered for \$8.50 each and that he will carry a small number of them in stock.

Next meeting we will need to know who will attend the Christmas party and their choice of chicken or fish. Please RSVP.

The meeting location chair had no report. The next meeting will be held at

Jim Clewett reported that, while at a parade in honor of a soldier who was killed in Iraq, someone approached him and said that the body had been delivered to Albuquerque and that the family had to pay to bring their loved one to St Johns. Jim contacted Congressman Renzi's office and within one day, one of the congressman's aides called

(continued on next page)

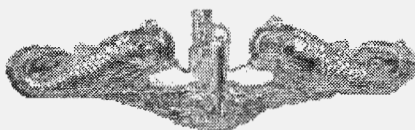
(Continued from previous page)

Jim and said that the Marine liaison's office would be contacting the family and arranging to reimburse them for the cost of transporting the body.

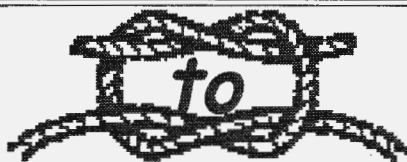
Jim Clewett won the 50/50 drawing and donated his share (\$13) to the base treasury.

There was a reminder to all regarding the 2007 national convention ñ a cruise to Alaska. There is a link on the Perch Base web site (type in iperch baseî to your web search engine) for the next few conventions. It will take you to the Bremerton Base web site, from there; scroll down until you see the 2007 Alaska cruise.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 11:40 AM.



Shipmate



Shipmate

NAVY'S NEWEST-HAWAII'S KEEL LAID

First Person: Frank W. Rumbaugh, TMC(SS), USN (Ret)

I was delighted to receive the call from P. Pasha Baker, President of the Pacific Region of the Navy League, asking me to represent our region as Acting Vice President at the keel laying on August 27, 2004. The submarine will be the USS Hawaii (SSN 776), third in the Virginia class of nuclear fast attack submarines. The Hawaii will be commissioned sometime in 2006.

Ever since man discontinued the practice of hollowing out logs for their water born craft and started building ships-sea going vessels-the process has been the same, more or less. The keel, the backbone of the ship, was laid and the ribs or frames were added. The skin or hull was then fashioned on this framework. Whether it was bull rushes or steel that made up the hull, the process was the same.

All of that has changed with the new construction concepts of General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division of Groton Ct., and Quonset Point, RI. In collaboration with Northrop Grumman Newport News, VA, the submarines are now designed by computer models in sections, so precise as to forestall conflicting placement of valves, equipment and pan-

els and access to those panels. The hull sections are fabricated at the Quonset Point plant. They are then barged to either Groton, CT or Newport News VA for outfitting. It is only fitting that the keel laying for the Hawaii be held at the Quonset Point plant.

Accordingly, an august assemblage of Top Navy Brass and politicians from both Rhode Island and Connecticut led by Hawaii's Governor Linda Lingle, the ship's sponsor and whose laying of the keel of the Hawaii was the focal point of the ceremony. The distinguished speakers platform was erected keel level, perhaps fifteen feet in the air in front of a one hundred foot section of hull which towered over the crowd. This whole dramatic setting took place in a building so huge that it barely took up one third of the available floor space. The other half of the building was devoted to the forming of the hull sections. Quonset Point was, in days past, a Naval Air Station so aircraft hangars were utilized and converted into steel fabricating plants. Appropriate music was furnished by the Navy Band Northeast led by Musician First Class, Tom Lawrence, director.

The ceremony was opened with the national anthem followed by a traditional Hawaiian blessing delivered by Mas-

ter Sgt. Raymond Ganotise of the Hawaii National Guard. Wearing traditional Hawaiian garb, Ganotise called upon God to bless the craftsmen who will build the Hawaii and the crews who will sail in it. The politicians then held forth with congratulations both to Electric Boat Div. President John P Casey and each other for jobs created both for Rhode Island and Connecticut. The Hawaii was lauded as the third in the class of submarines that were designed solely for the post-cold war environment and missions. Remarks were heard by the Rhode Island congressional delegation including the Honorable James R Langevin, U.S. Representative, The honorable Lincoln Chafee, U.S. Senator, The Honorable Jack Reed, U. S. Senator and Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of Rhode Island. They were joined by The Honorable Robert R. Simmons, U. S. Representative from Connecticut.

Admiral Frank iSkipi Bowman, USN, Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, delivered a report on the second, or Bravo trials, of the USS Virginia's (SSN 774) sea trials that ended just the day before. He was extremely pleased with the performance of the Virginia in their tests of the chips control systems and handling characteristics. iThe Virginia performed flawlesslyi he said, even to the three emergency ballast tank blow tests from 400 feet.

Governor Linda Lingle took the podium and graciously thanked all who had or will have a hand in the building of the Hawaii and made a point of congratulating the welder who was standing by on the speaker's platform to finalize the keel laying ceremony. She chalked her initials on to a steel plate, about the size of an automobile license plate and Mr. John Weiss, Electric Boat's most senior welder, engraved over them into the steel plate. He then furnished Governor Lingle with protective gear and welders a mask and proceeded to weld a bead tracing her initials. The plate will be welded into the bottom of the ship and thus the keel is laid. Governor Lingle, later in a private conversation, admitted with pride that this was a first in her career that spanned several terms as Mayor of Maui and now the first female Governor of Hawaii.


The assemblage of distinguished speakers and guests were escorted to another building-the steel processing building, for refreshments. There an abundance of food and drink were provided in a stand-up setting. There was much discussion of the future of the submarine navy in general and the Virginia class of submarines, specifically. Our small group of Pacific Region Navy League representatives, including my wife Layne Rumbaugh, David and Susan Atkinson, Paula Lilly and Capt. And Mrs. Alvin H. Pauole, had a short one-on-one session with Governor Lingle on the chances of the Hawaii being home ported at Pearl Harbor. She will lobby the Navy to see that this happens, but in the long run, conceded that it will depend upon the tactical needs of the Navy and the situation of U.S. defense posture in 2006 when the ship is christened.

In all, it was a stirring ceremony and doubly satisfying for this old smoke boat sailor to be asked to participate. Having sailed in submarines from the WWI diesel boats up through the Polaris missile class of submarines, including the pre-commissioning and commissioning crew of the first Polaris submarine to be home ported at Pearl Harbor, it was an honor to participate in the keel laying of the namesake of the lovely state of Hawaii. I look forward to the christening.



YOUNG MEN WANTED FOR U.S. NAVY.

PAY \$75 TO \$775 PER MONTH
ALL ALLOWANCES. BOARD LOGGING
MEDICAL ATTENDANCE
FIRST OUTFIT OF UNIFORM
FREE.



An Opportunity For
PRIDE AND A GREAT PAY
Visit Web Page E-10101

**THE CONSCRIPT BILL!
HOW TO AVOID IT!!
U. S. NAVY.**

1,000 MEN WANTED, FOR 12 MONTHS!

Monthly Pay	\$75 - \$775
Medical Attendance	FREE
Boarding Allowance	FREE
Traveling Expenses	FREE
First Outfit of Uniform	FREE

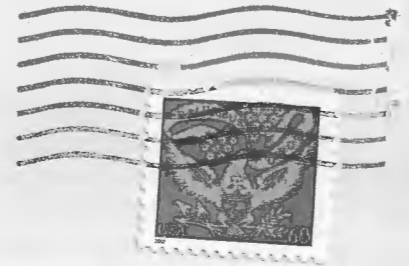
\$50,000,000 PRIZES!

Visit Web Page E-10101
R. V. BUTLER, U. S. N. Recruiting Officer.
No. 24 BRADY STREET, SALEM, MASS.

Return To:

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

<http://perch-base.org>



85006-1128 14



NEXT REGULAR MEETING - October 16, 2004
American Legion Post #62
11001 N. 99th Ave.
Starts at 1200 hours