



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Published monthly by the USS Razorback
Base of the United States Submarine Veterans,
Inc.

Base Commander, Ray Wewers
479-967-5541; raywewers@suddenlink.net
Editor, David Grove
501-951-1314; dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



Upcoming Events:

April 12th Easter Sunday

April 2009

Commander's Corner

March is now history and what a month it was for Razorback Base. On March 14, we participated in the Little Rock/North Little Rock St. Patrick's Day Parade. On March 28, we attended the Arkansas Fallen Heroes Memorial Service at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock. The same day we held our base meeting with guest speaker, Rob Hopper addressing us. Rob is the founder of the Arkansas Fallen Heroes Organization. He does this in memory of his youngest son who died in Iraq. This is a very commendable organization if you would like to support them. They will have a website up and running in the next couple of weeks.

April will also be a busy month for the Base. On April 11, we will have a workday on the boat. We will be planting two maple trees at the site of the Snook Memorial. Billy and Sherry Hollaway have obtained two- ten foot tall maples, the species of which I have already forgotten. These trees are in 30 gallon containers and will take several of us to set in the ground. The city of North Little Rock will dig the holes for planting these trees this next week. So if you can possibly take the

time to help it will be greatly appreciated. We will also do some work on Razorback time permitting.

On April 19, Razorback Association members will be arriving to spend the week on Razorback. We have a worklist compiled for them, but we need some assistance from Base members to help them with the location and supply of tools and equipment. The major work item is to prep and paint the Radio Room. All the equipment has been stored and the room will need a good cleaning and primed and painted. Other projects are paint the Forward Emergency Buoy, remount some loose gauges, replace damaged gage faces, and clean the Reefer and Freezer areas. I'm sure there will be other items that will come up between now and then. At present, there will be 12 former crewmembers attending at least for a few days. If you plan to come, bunks are available for overnight stays, but recommend you bring sleeping bag and/or blankets. The mattresses and pillows are there for our use. We will serve breakfast each morning on the barge and we are on our own for lunch and dinner.

Other items for your consideration are:

Base Campout at Lake Dardanelle State Park in Russellville on June 26-28. This is always a fun time and one of our largest activities in attendance. We are in need of a larger tent as we have outgrown the one Dave Farmer donated to us several years. It is a 10'x20' and if you know where we can purchase a larger one, preferably a 20'x20' or 20'x30', let me know and we will try to get before the campout.

National Convention in San Diego September 8-12. It is time to get our reservations and registration in. It will be here before we know it and this should be one of the largest conventions in the history of USSVI.

Decommissioning of Diamond Chapter of World War II SubVets is scheduled for second weekend of October in Rogers. Pete Rathmell, Base Commander of Snook Base, has reserved 50 rooms at the Clarion Hotel in Rogers for this event. There will be more information forthcoming as it becomes available.

**Ray Wewers,
Base Commander**

[Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of April](#)

USS S 49 (SS 160) **20 April 1926**. Four men lost.

[USS Pickerel \(SS-177\)](#) **3 April 1943**. All hands lost (74).

[USS Gudgeon \(SS-211\)](#) **18 April 1944**. All hands lost (80).

[USS Grenadier \(SS-210\)](#) **22 April 1943**. 61 were taken prisoner, 57 survived the war.

[USS Snook \(SS-279\)](#) **8 April 1945**. All hands lost (84).

USS THRESHER (SSN 593) **10 Apr 1963**. All hands lost (129) including 22 shipyard workers.

USS BONEFISH (SS 582) **24 Apr 1988**. Three personnel lost.

USS PICKEREL (SS-177) April 3, 1943 – 74 Men Lost



USS PICKEREL (SS177) commanded by Lcdr. A.H. Alston, Jr., the first submarine to be lost in the Central Pacific area, set out from Pearl Harbor on 18 March 1943 and, after topping off with fuel at Midway on 22 March, began her seventh war patrol off the eastern coast of northern Honshu. She was never heard from after her departure from Midway.

She was ordered to remain in her area until sunset 1 May 1943 and then to return to Midway. Standing orders required her to transmit by radio prior to entering a circle of radius 500 miles from Midway, and this report was expected by 6 May. When it was not received, a message ordering an immediate reply was repeatedly sent. No answer was received, and plane search along her expected course revealed nothing. As a result, she was reported lost on 12 May 1943.

Antisubmarine attack data submitted by the Japanese at the end of the war list one attack which could conceivably have been on PICKEREL. This attack occurred on 3 April, 1943, off Shiranuka Lighthouse, on the northern tip of Honshu. This position is outside the area assigned to PICKEREL, but no other submarine was there. USS FLYING FISH I (SS229) was enroute to the area between Honshu and Hokkaido and arrived there on 6 April, but PICKEREL might well have moved into the northern area for a few days until FLYING FISH's arrival if she found hunting poor in her own area. Indeed, unless the Japanese attacked a submarine which was the product of their own imaginations, they must certainly have attacked PICKEREL on 3 April, since no other boat of ours was near the area of the attack.

However, a special notation is made on the Japanese records to the effect that they are inaccurate for the month of April 1943. Thus there is every reason to speculate that, if PICKEREL did survive the attack of 3 April, she may have been attacked later in her own area and the attack may not have been reported. We know that there were Japanese mine plants along the coast of Honshu, but a study of the track chart for PICKEREL's sixth war patrol, conducted in the same area, shows that the Commanding Officer was accustomed to staying outside the 60 fathom curve. Mines are normally ineffective in water that deep.

The probability as to the cause of PICKEREL's loss is that she was sunk by enemy depth charge attack. Operational casualties or mine explosions represent possibilities, but are not thought to be likely. During the six patrols before her final one, PICKEREL sank five ships totaling 16,100 tons, and damaged 10, totaling 9,100 tons. On her first patrol she did no damage to the enemy. Her second, conducted between Manila and Surabaya, resulted in the sinking of two freighters. PICKEREL's third patrol was conducted along the Malay Barrier and again no successful attacks were made. In her fourth patrol, in the Philippines, six attacks were made, but none resulted in damage to the enemy. PICKEREL's fifth patrol was a passage from Australia to Pearl Harbor for refit, with a short patrol in the Marianas enroute. She damaged a freighter on this run. On her sixth patrol PICKEREL went to the Kuriles to patrol the Tokyo-Kiska traffic lanes. In sixteen attacks, she sank a freighter and two sampans, and did damage to another freighter and eight sampans.

"We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds," Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN.

Razorback Base News

James Franks: Razorback Base Member Speaks to DAR

James "Jim" Franks, of Hot Springs Village and member of the Razorback Base spoke Friday, March 20th at the luncheon for the Arkansas State Daughters of the American Revolution 101st Annual Conference.

Retired from the Navy as a Senior Chief Electrician's Mate after 20 years, he served and qualified on one conventional submarine, two Nuclear Fast Attack and two Polaris submarines. During his naval career, he traveled around the world from home ports on both coasts and Pearl Harbor.

Jim graduated from Algonac Community High School, Algonac, Michigan. He holds degrees from Palomar College, San Marcos, CA, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, and University of Denver, Denver, CO.

He spent ten years as Managing Editor of a technical publication called "Nuclear Power Experience"; five years at Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Golden, CO. working for EG&G, Inc. as Senior Principal Engineer and Senior Standards Analyst; and four years with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Little Rock, AR as a NPDES Enforcement Administrator and Manager of the Inactive Sites Branch, Hazardous Waste Division. He retired in November 2002.

Since retirement, he has spent time golfing, woodworking, serving on the Governmental Affairs Committee for Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association, is volunteering at Garvan Woodlands Gardens in Hot Springs and helping with the restoration of the USS Razorback his qual boat.

Holland Club Induction Banquet

Friday, April 24, 2009 at AIMM

Razorback Base will be hosting a banquet at AIMM for the 11 members inducted into the Holland Club this year on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be catered, and the cost is \$7.50 per person. The eleven inductees and one guest will be treated by the Base. We

also expect that some former Razorback sailors will attend. They will be in town that week for a "work week" on the Razorback.

The 12 inductees are:

James W. Barnes
James L. Baugh
Kenneth E. Chambers
Sidney R. J. Logan
Thomas S. Salisbury
Kelly Driver
Allen D. Hutchinson
Ralph E. Slutts
Colin L. Stockdale, Jr.
Joseph T. Talbert, Jr.
Wayne H. Welch
William Harold Haupt

Please contact John C. Barr by no later than Sunday, April 19th to confirm your attendance. We will need a head count for the caterer. Call John at 501-663-6622 or e-mail at jbarr@aristotle.net.

ALL Holland Club Members

Greg Zonner has a section on our website listing all Holland Club members, including you. You can access it at

<http://www.razorbackbase.com/HollandClub.html>

Greg wants to add pictures of you and a short bio for general information. Maybe a picture (with caption information) from when you served on submarines, and a current picture. Please keep it relatively simple. You can e-mail the information to Greg at gzonner@aimm.museum, or mail it to him at:

Greg Zonner

AIMM

120 Riverfront Park Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Extra copies that do not have to be returned would be appreciated.

2009 Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 14, 2009 USSVI Razorback Base



--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

AIMMS NEWS

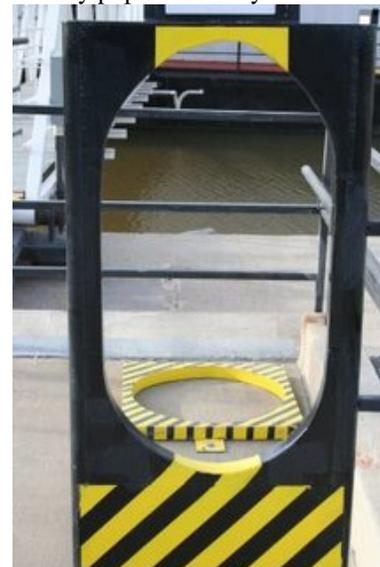
New Outdoor Exhibit at AIMM

We recently added a new outdoor exhibit. This exhibit is a mock-up of Razorback's watertight hatches that visitors climb through as they tour the submarine. The dimensions of this replica are exactly the same as the hatches inside.

We also have a mock-up of the deck hatch for visitors to stand in. Although it lacks a ladder to climb down, it will give our guests a preview of what they will see on deck.

We hope that these mock-ups will allay some of the concerns that our visitors occasionally have about navigating into and through the submarine.

The mock-ups have proven to be very popular already.



New Submarine Models in the Museum Store

<http://aimmatnrl.blogspot.com/2009/03/new-submarine-models-in-museum-store.html>

We have added four new submarines to the museum store. These are highly detailed, pre-painted and assembled 1/700 scale replicas. They will look great on your desk at home or work, or on the shelf wherever you relax at home.

We have the following submarines:

USS Gato (SS-212) - 1941 version. This model shows the famous submarine in her "as built", peacetime configuration. The high "fairwater" was quickly modified once the U.S. entered World War II.



USS Gato (SS-212) - 1944 Version. This model shows Gato in her more familiar wartime configuration. The peacetime "fairwater" has been cut down to almost nothing, making room for more anti-aircraft guns. This is also very close to what USS Razorback looked like when she was originally commissioned in 1944.



USS Los Angeles (SSN-688) - This model shows the modern, nuclear powered submarine of today's Navy. These submarines have formed the backbone of the modern "Silent Service" for many years now, and will continue to serve for many more.



USS Seawolf (SSN-21) This is a highly detailed model of one of the most modern submarines in the U.S. Navy today.



Each of these models are only \$14.00 each, sales tax included. If you are not able to visit the museum store, call us at (501) 371-8320, and we will be happy to arrange to have one, or all of these fine models shipped to you. You can also drop us an e-mail at museumstore@aimm.museum

Submarine Trivia

Originally published on the AIMM Blog for a rainy winter day.

1. What was the first German submarine sunk by US forces in WWII, and how was it sunk?

2. What was the first German submarine sunk by US forces in World War One, and how was IT sunk?
3. What was the only US submarine to sink a battleship in WWII, and which ship did she sink?
4. David Bushnell is best known for building Turtle, the first submersible to attack an enemy warship (during the Revolutionary War). What was Bushnell's other notable invention?
5. What was the first major warship sunk by a US submarine in WWII?
6. Of the 130 Japanese submarines sunk during WWII, approximately how many were sunk by American submarines?
7. What US submarine is credited with firing the last torpedoes and sinking the last Japanese combatant ships of WWII?
8. Name the most infamous Razorback crew member (hint - he was a Radioman). Where is he today?
9. What was the first US submarine to have a stern torpedo tube?
10. What was the last?

All questions and answers come from *Navy Trivia*, by Paul E. Kanive, published in 1986, and found in the AIMM Library.

Greg Stitz - Curator

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum
www.aimm.museum
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Navy News

US Navy: 2 vessels collide in Strait of Hormuz

March 20, 2009

MANAMA, Bahrain – Two U.S. Navy vessels — a nuclear-powered submarine and an amphibious ship — collided during the early morning hours Friday in the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and the Arabian peninsula, the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet reported.

There was no damage to the sub's nuclear propulsion system, said Lt. Nate Christensen, a 5th Fleet spokesman. The military said in a

statement that the incident occurred around 1:00 a.m. local time on Friday (5 p.m. EDT, Thursday), when the USS Hartford, a submarine, and the USS New Orleans, an amphibious ship, collided.

According to the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, 15 sailors aboard the Hartford were slightly injured but able to return to duty. No injuries were reported aboard the New Orleans.

Both ships were heading to port and were going in the same direction when the incident occurred in the narrow strait, said 5th Fleet spokesman, Lt. Nate Christensen. He said the incident occurred at night and the submarine was submerged at the time but that he could give no further details as the collision is still under investigation.

Both vessels are now heading to port for repairs and evaluation, but Christensen said that following standard security procedures he could not say where the vessels were headed.

The New Orleans suffered a ruptured fuel tank, resulting in an oil spill of approximately 25,000 gallons (95,000 liters) of diesel fuel.

Both ships are currently operating under their own power. The Navy said both ships were on regularly scheduled deployments to the region and conducting security operations.

Oil prices rose after news of the collision which happened in a busy shipping route. As much as 17 million barrels of oil a day went through the narrow strait in the first half of 2008, or about 40 percent of all seaborne traded oil or 20 percent of all oil traded globally.

The Hartford is based in Groton, Conn. and the New Orleans is based in San Diego, Calif., the Navy said. As all U.S. submarines, the Hartford is nuclear powered. The New Orleans is an amphibious transport dock ship.



----- Pride Runs Deep -----

QUOTE:

“The Submarine will one day become the Navy’s most deadly weapon” – Robert Fulton

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

Basic Rules for Sea Stories:

The main difference between a Sea Story and a Fairy Tale is: Fairy Tales begin with, "Once Upon a Time..."

Sea Stories begin with, "This ain't no s**t!"

Of course, the alternate method of delivering a Sea Story is to omit the above, but immediately following the story, the teller must claim that, "This is a Genuine No Sh***er!"

Note: "Genuine" is properly pronounced, "GEN-U-WINE". To pronounce it any other way is a dead giveaway that you're really just a target sailor!

----- Pride Runs Deep -----



April Birthdays

- April 2nd – James Bjorklund
- April 2nd – Adrian Wills
- April 4th – Richard McCarstle
- April 6th – AJ Hix
- April 9th – Bobby Barge
- April 10th – Thomas McClung
- April 12th – Carl Eubanks
- April 13th – Kevin Bascle
- April 14th – D. McBride
- April 15th – Harold Haislip
- April 16th – Jesse Ayers
- April 18th – James Morehouse
- April 22nd – Hershel Kelley
- April 23rd – Horal Lemons
- April 23rd – Paul Harless
- April 23rd – Wally Kinchen
- April 28th – Serkan Celik

Happy Birthday!

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--

Treasures Report: March 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| BEGINNING BAL.: | \$ 4979.10 |
| DEPOSITS: | |
| Dues Collected | 15.00 |
| Store Keeper | 57.36 |
| TOTAL DEPOSITS: | \$ 72.36 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Bank Charge | 5.00 |
| Memorial Expense (Purchase of Bible) | 39.90 |
| Print Checks | 25.25 |
| Store Keeper | 26.13 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES: | \$ 96.28 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | \$ 4955.18 |
| CHARITYS | |
| Boat Maintenance Fund | \$ 1253.03 |
| Donation | \$ 13.00 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | \$ 1266.03 |
| Base Charity Fund | \$ 1700.00 |
| Donation to AR Fallen Heroes | 300.00 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | \$ 1400.00 |
| USS Snook Memorial | \$ 1797.26 |
| Regions Bank CD | \$ 5000.00 |
| TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS = | \$14418.47 |

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer



April 12th

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Invention of the Month

History.com

Leonardo DaVinci sketched the concept of submarines back in the 15th century but the first usable submersible watercraft was designed by the English mathematician William Borne and constructed by Dutchman Cornelius Drebbel in 1620. Oars propelled it. Initially submarines were built to explore underwater regions but it wasn't long before their military usefulness was employed. The Turtle, designed by the American David Bushnell, was an egg-shaped device powered by hand and was the first verified underwater craft capable of independent underwater operation. It was also the first to use propellers for propulsion. On September 7, 1776 during the Revolutionary War, the Turtle was used in a failed attempt to sink the HMS Eagle (a British warship). During the American Civil War, both the North and South built submarines but USS Hunley was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship.

At the turn of the 20th century, new technologies like the periscope became standardized and several countries realized the military potential of the submarine during World War I. During World War II the infamous German U-boat became a significant threat to the Allied Forces. In the 1950s, nuclear power began replacing the diesel-electric engines and during the cold war, nuclear subs became major players in the diplomatic East-West confrontations.

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--



The Navy's most dangerous people

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT
IN GOD WE TRUST**

David Grove
144 White Oak Ln.
Little Rock, AR 72227
dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



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. A pledge of loyalty and patriotism to the United States Government its Constitution."



Razorback Base Executive Committee

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| Base Commander | Ray Wewers | raywewers@suddenlink.net | (479) 967-5541 |
| Vice Commander | Paul Honeck | phoneck@centurytel.net | (501) 241-0691 |
| COB | Joe Mathis | usnjrm@yahoo.com | (501) 565-6021 |
| Chaplain | Carl Schmidt | bonnynclyde@classicnet.net | (501) 843-7855 |
| Treasurer | Greg Schwerman | gschwerman@suddenlink.net | (501) 804-0386 |
| Yeoman | Jane Farmer | dcfarmert2@sbcglobal.net | (501) 753-8824 |
| Webmaster | Greg Zonner | zonner632@horizonbroadband.net | (501) 316-6641 |
| Membership | John Barr | jbarr@aristotle.net | (501) 663-6622 |
| Storekeeper | Billy Hollaway | retldousn@earthlink.net | (501) 758-3266 |
| Holland Club | Lee Huss | lee393sub@sbcglobal.net | (501) 922-1216 |
| Memorials/Ceremonies | Billy Hollaway | retldousn@earthlink.net | (501) 758-3266 |