



# Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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## Upcoming Events:

-August 29<sup>th</sup> Razorback Base at the Travelers Baseball Game. Time 7:10pm

*August 2009*

## Commander's Corner

Due to Change of Command; No CC this month.

## USSVI Razorback Base Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2009

The Razorback Base meeting was called to order by base commander Ray Wewers at 1600 hours at the American Legion Post in Little Rock, AR. There were 20 members, and 2 visitors present. The Creed was read by Ray Wewers.

Tolling of the Bell for Lost Boats and Crewman was presented by Greg Zonner. Invocation was given by Carl Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Paul Honeck.

Introduction of new members, Bill Haupt and David Boyer, by Ray Wewers. The presence of a large number of Patriot Guard Riders was acknowledged.

John Barr introduced our speaker for the evening Bernard Sharp. He was 92 years young and was a bomber pilot in W.W. II. His experiences were very interesting and enjoy by everyone.

Minutes of the June 27, 2009 meeting were read by Jane Farmer. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report given by Greg Schwerman. The balance in checking account as of June 2009 was \$4454.07. The motion was made and seconded to accept the treasure's report. The motion passed. Treasure's report filed with secretary.

## Committee Reports:

Chaplain: Carl Schmidt reported on several illnesses of people in and around the base. Secretary read a thank you card from the family of Maxwell Henry Nelson.

Membership: John Barr reported the base has 206 members. Patches and pins, for 5 years membership in base, were passed out.

Activities: John Barr announced the next activity will be a Travelers Baseball game on Aug. 29, 2009.

Storekeeper: Billy Hollaway told us we could order patches and get them in 3 days if needed. He told us there will be a new design for base tee-shirts. Razorback Base and USSVI items will be on sale at AIMM now. Memorials and Ceremonies-Billy Hollaway announce the flag flying over the Snook Memorial will be replaced with a new one. The old flag will be presented at the Diamond Chapter decommissioning in Oct.

## Old Business:

Work day on the Razorback will be the second Saturday of each month. The next work day is August 8, 2009. Shorty Hagerman Memorial-Mark Taylor, a member of our base, and the Patriot Guard Riders, thanked our base for our help in some of the ceremonies we had been with them. He talked about the memories of Shorty, as a rider with them, and Shorty's connection with the base. Clint Cavins told us about his memories with Shorty for the last 50

years. A three person committee presented the base with a plaque in honor of Shorty, a framed group of pictures including Shorty, and a framed poem written about him. A standing ovation was given to the Patriot Guard Riders.

National Convention in San Diego-Ray Wewers told us to go on-line if anyone needed more information. Diamond Chapter Decommissioning will be Oct. 10, 2009 in Bentonville, AR. There are registration forms if anyone needs one.

## New Business:

Base Commander Position-Ray Wewers has been elected to District Commander CDI. Paul Honeck will step-up to base commander of the Razorback Base. Oath of this office was given to Paul by Carl Schmidt. Branson Veterans Museum-Ray announced a new part to the museum. There will be a display of patches from all boats of WWII. Rick Jarnenski has put this together, and it will be unveiled on October 8, 2009.

Good of the order-none

After meeting socialization and meal

Benediction by Carl Schmidt

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary  
Jane Farmer

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

[USS Grunion \(SS-216\)](#) **1-Aug-1942**. 70 men lost.

[USS S-39 \(SS-144\)](#) **14-Aug-1942**. No loss of crew.

[USS Harder \(SS-257\)](#) **24-Aug-1944**. All hands lost (80). Commander Samuel Dealey, USN was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for Harder's fifth patrol.

[USS Flier \(SS-250\)](#) **13-Aug-1944**. 80 Men lost - 8 men survived.

[USS Bullhead \(SS-332\)](#) **6-Aug-1945**. All hands lost (84).

### **After WWII**

USS COCHINO (SS 345) **26-Aug-1949**. One man lost. An additional six men from TUSK (SS 426) were lost in rescue attempt.

## **USS FLIER (SS-250) August 13, 1944 – 80 Men Lost**



Flier (SS-250) was launched 11 July 1943 by Electric Boat Co., Groton, Conn., sponsored by Mrs. A. S. Pierce, and commissioned 18 October 1943, Lieutenant Commander J. W. Crowley in command.

Flier reached Pearl Harbor from New London 20 December 1943, and prepared for her first war patrol, sailing 12 January 1944. Damage suffered in a grounding near Midway necessitated her return to the west coast for repairs, and on 21 May she sailed again for action, heading for a patrol area west of Luzon. She made her first contact on 4 June, attacking a well-escorted convoy for five merchantmen. Firing three torpedoes at each of two ships, she sent a large transport to the bottom and scored a hit on another ship, before clearing the area to evade countermeasures.

On 13 June 1944, Flier attacked a convoy of 11 ships, cargo carriers and tankers, guarded by at least six escorts. The alert behavior of the escorts resulted in severe attack on Flier before she could observe what damage she had done to the convoy. On 22 June, she began a long chase after another large convoy, scoring four hits for six torpedoes fired at two cargo ships that day, and three hits for four torpedoes launched against another cargo ship of the same convoy the next day.

Flier put in to Fremantle, Australia, to refit between 5 July 1944 and 2 August, and then sailed on her second war patrol, bound for the coast of IndoChina. On the evening of 13 August, as she transited Balabac Strait on the surface, she was rocked by a great explosion. She sank in 1 minute after striking the mine, but 13 officers and men got out of her. Eight of them reached the beach of Mantangula Island after 15 hours in the water. Friendly natives guided them to a coastwatcher, who arranged for them to be picked up by submarine, and on the night of 30-31 August, they were taken on board by Redfin (SS-272).

Flier received one battle star for World War II service on her single war patrol, designated "Successful." She is credited with having sunk 10,380 tons of Japanese shipping.

**"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

### Razorback Hogs!

Attention Base Biker Enthusiasts! For those who may have an interest, a SubVet motorcycle club is forming and there has been some interest from our local base members. For those who would like more info, visit [www.silent servicemc.com](http://www.silent servicemc.com) for details on membership, application form, etc.

Bill Hollaway  
[retldousn@earthlink.net](mailto:retldousn@earthlink.net)

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USSVI 2010 Calendars will be available soon contact Bill Hollaway for pricing and delivery.  
Bill Hollaway  
[retldousn@earthlink.net](mailto:retldousn@earthlink.net)

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**Congratulation to Ray Wewers on his election as the District Commander CD1.**

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**Razorback Base Activity at Dickey Stephens Ballpark on August 29th, 7:10 PM Springfield Cardinals at Arkansas Travelers**

----- [Pride Runs Deep](#) -----

**AIMMS NEWS**

### WWI Submarine Wreck Found

By Jo Mattock



The wreck of a submarine, which could have been sunk in the First World War, has been found in the Western Approaches - an area of the Atlantic off the west coast of the UK.

It was located by Plymouth-based oceanographic survey company GEOSA, who were testing a new seabed mapping sonar system. The wreck is at 90m, on a route regularly used by shipping and known to have been a common hunting ground for U-boats.

Managing director of GEOSA, Capt Nigel Boston said: 'It could be a German U-boat, but looking at the faint shadow of the conning tower and the casing form it might be a version of the WW1 British 'K' boat, some of which simply disappeared without trace.

'The break in the hull appears to indicate that it hit a mine followed by rapid sinking rather than being torpedoed. The mine would have exploded close to the hull causing major fracturing followed by rapid flooding. The boat would have dived into the seabed at speed resulting in the damaged bow section shearing off on contact with the bottom. If it was torpedoed it would have been blasted in two much closer to the surface and the two halves would be further apart. The crew would have had little chance of escaping.'

Capt Boston believes this is the first time the wreck has been seen. He says there was no trace of the wreck on pre-existing data and scans of the area. GEOSA is considering taking a closer look at the wreck using an ROV early next year.

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### Digital Cruise Books Available!



AIMM has just finished digitizing the 1968-69 and 1970 WESTPAC Cruise books for USS Razorback. Each of these books contains photographs of the crew and their adventures in the Pacific. Digital copies of the books are now available for purchase in our gift shop.

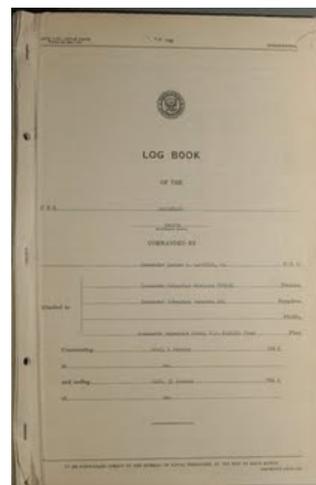
A CD with both Cruise Books is \$12, including postage. CDs will be shipped in a padded envelope.

CDs can be ordered by calling the museum at 501-371-8320 or [dropping us an e-mail](#). We can accept checks, Visa, Mastercard and even Paypal.

--Side note on Digital Cruise Books...Razorback Base members or Razorback Association Members can purchase these at a discounted price of \$10.00.

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### New Deck Logs Online



USS Razorback's deck logs for 1948 have been scanned and uploaded to the website. These deck logs provide a window into the world of submarine operations in the period immediately following World War II. Each month is a separate Adobe PDF file. The deck logs can be found [on the AIMM Website](#).

Greg Stitz - Curator  
Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum  
[www.aimm.museum](http://www.aimm.museum)  
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)  
501-371-8320

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

## **Navy News**

### **Pearl Harbor Welcomes USS Hawaii Home**

Submitted by: Pat Householder  
PEARL HARBOR (NNS)  
-- USS Hawaii (SSN 776), the first Virginia-class submarine to be home ported in the Pacific, arrived July 23 to a warm local style welcome that reflected Hawaii's diverse cultural heritage at the submarine piers at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The state's namesake submarine has made Hawaii its home during the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commemoration activities.

Recognizing the importance of the Asia-Pacific region and the increased threat posed by the proliferation of submarines in the Pacific, the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review mandated that 60 percent of the U.S. Navy's submarines be homeported in the Pacific by the end of 2010.

Go to the link for the rest of the story  
[http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=47189](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=47189)

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### **Experts: Toledo crew would have been safe**

Submitted by: Pat Householder  
Crewmen of the attack submarine Toledo dodged what may have been a significant incident - or simply a puddle in the control room - when a crack in the ship's pressure hull was discovered July 17 before getting underway from Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

A week later, Navy inspectors are still trying to determine the cause of a 21-inch crack on the topside hull of the Los Angeles-class attack sub, along with a "corresponding" 1-inch crack through the overhead of the control room, according to Naval Sea Systems Command. Go to the link for the full

story...[http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/07/navy\\_toledo\\_072509/w/](http://www.navytimes.com/news/2009/07/navy_toledo_072509/w/)

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### **Russia confirms submarine patrols near US**

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press Writer  
MOSCOW (AP) -- A senior Russian military official said Wednesday that Russian nuclear-powered attack submarines spotted off the U.S. East Coast were on a legitimate training mission.

U.S. defense officials said Tuesday that two Russian submarines had been patrolling in international waters for several days. While the activity was reminiscent of the Cold War, the U.S. officials said the submarines had done nothing to provoke concern.

Gen. Anatoly Nogovitsyn, a deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian military, said the patrols were part of efforts to give more training to the military forces.

"The Navy mustn't rest dockside," Nogovitsyn said at a news conference.

The submarine patrols coincided with angry words from Moscow about U.S. military assistance to Georgia a year after the Russian-Georgian war.

The August war drove U.S.-Russian relations to a post-Cold War low. President Barack Obama has sought to overcome the strain and improve ties. But U.S. officials said that they have not ruled out providing defensive weapon systems for Georgia despite warnings by Russia.

The U.S. is discussing a Georgian request for \$16 million in military aid this year, with most of the money intended for training and technical assistance. Grigory Karasin, a deputy Russian Foreign Minister, said Wednesday that Moscow was seriously concerned by the U.S. military assistance to Georgia. "That worries us and forces us to take relevant steps," he said without elaboration.

Nogovitsyn said that U.S. submarines had also engaged in missions off Russia's coast, but wouldn't provide any details.

"It's a normal thing," Nogovitsyn said about submarine patrols.

During the Cold War times, U.S. and Soviet submarines routinely played cat-and-mouse near each other's shores, surveying the adversary's movements.

Nogovitsyn compared the Russian submarine deployment off the U.S. coast to regular patrol flights by Russian strategic bombers, saying both were necessary to improve crew's skills.

The 1991 Soviet collapse forced the military to drastically cut training due to severe money crunch. But cash from the oil bonanza during Vladimir Putin's eight-year presidential tenure allowed the military to boost military spending and conduct more maneuvers.

Putin, now prime minister, has sought to showcase the Kremlin's global reach and reassert its claim to great-power status amid strained ties with the West. In 2007, he ordered the resumption of border patrols. Putin's successor, President Dmitry Medvedev, also pledged to deploy Russian forces on regular maneuvers worldwide.

Last fall, a Russian Navy squadron sailed for Venezuela and held joint maneuvers with the Venezuelan navy in the first Russian deployment to the Western Hemisphere since the Cold War.

Russia recently also has deployed its navy ships to the Mediterranean and dispatched some to pirate-infested waters off Somalia, reflecting its determination to project power worldwide.

But analysts say that the Russian navy now is still only a shadow of what it was during Cold War times. It suffered a new humiliating blow last month, when the prospective Bulava missile intended to equip new Russian nuclear submarines again failed during a test launch - the seventh failure in its 11 test launches so far.

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

### **40 Years of Woodstock Remembered**

*While Woodstock Rocked GIs DIED*

With the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the '60s cherished rock concert, the so-called "Sixties Generation" remembers fondly those four days in Aug 1969 (Aug 15<sup>th</sup>-18). Instead, VFW magazine commemorates the 109 Americans killed in Vietnam then.

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

### Naval Customs, Traditions, & Etiquette

Now there is a website that explains Naval Customs and Traditions. For example:  
*Dungarees:*

Webster defines dungaree as "a coarse kind of fabric worn by the poorer class of people and also used for tents and sail." We find it hard to picture our favorite pair of dungarees flying from the mast of a sailing ship, but in those days Sailors often made both their working clothes and hammocks out of discarded sail cloth. The cloth used then wasn't as well woven nor was it dyed blue, but it served the purpose. Dungarees worn by Sailors of the Continental Navy were cut directly from old sails and remained tan in color just as they been when filled with wind. After battles, it was the practice in both the American and British Navies for Captains to report more sail lost in battle than actually was the case so the crew would have cloth to mend their hammocks and make new clothes. Since the cloth was called dungaree, clothes made from the fabric borrowed the name.

<http://www.cffc.navy.mil/customs.htm>

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



### August Birthdays

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – Robin/Bob Medearis  
 Aug 3<sup>th</sup> – Bonnie Zonner  
 Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – Harold Pelton  
 Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – John Albers  
 Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – Bill Dempsey  
 Aug 9<sup>th</sup> – Stan Walker  
 Aug 11<sup>th</sup> – Jesse Bryant  
 Aug 11<sup>th</sup> – Ray Wewers  
 Aug 12<sup>th</sup> – William Nichols

Aug 12<sup>th</sup> – Larry Hobby  
 Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – John Przybys  
 Aug 19<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Foster  
 Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Blanchett  
 Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> – Shane Foraker  
 Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> – Billy Hollaway  
 Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> – James Barnum  
 Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – Riversaleh Saleh  
 Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – Nick Proctor  
 Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – Stew Burner  
 Stephens  
 Aug 25<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Stephens  
 Aug 27<sup>th</sup> – Juanez Stiltz

**Happy Birthday!**

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

### Treasures Report: June 2009

<b>BEGINNING BAL.:</b>	<b>\$ 4454.07</b>
<b>DEPOSITS:</b>	
Dues Collected	35.00
Donations for New Tent	50.00
Ships Store	150.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS:</b>	<b>\$ 235.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Base Memorial Exp (Bible)	49.93
Dues Paid to National	20.00
Ships Store	231.30
Campout Expense	71.88
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 372.11</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 4316.96</b>
<b>CHARITYS</b>	
<b>Boat Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1366.03</b>
<b>Donation</b>	
W. Haupt	100.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1366.03</b>
<b>Base Charity Fund</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>
<b>USS Snook Memorial</b>	<b>\$ 1255.86</b>
<b>Regions Bank CD</b>	<b>\$ 5024.47</b>
Interest Earned	24.86
Balance	<b>\$ 5049.33</b>
<b>TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =</b>	<b>\$12738.18</b>

Greg Schwerman  
Base Treasurer

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

### Submarine Museum Trivia

Last Month: Museum submarine in Wisconsin?

A: Cobia

**Q: Besides Razorback, the only other museum submarine to be at Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945? (answer will be posted in next issue)**

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

### Noteworthy Quote:

"No one has done more to prevent conflict - no one has made a greater sacrifice for the cause for Peace - than you, America's proud missile submarine family. You stand tall among our heroes of the Cold War."

-- General Colin Powell

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

**REMEMBER to watch out for kids returning to schools in your community.**

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



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



NAVY SEALS

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT  
IN GOD WE TRUST**

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**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**

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