

Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



Razorback Base
United States Submarine Veterans

February 2015

So Few Submarines – So Much Responsibility

John C. Barr

On the NAUTILUS men's hearts never fail them.

No defects to be afraid of, for the double shell is as firm as iron, no rigging to attend to, no sails for the wind to carry away; no boilers to burst, no fire to fear, for the vessel is made of iron, not of wood; no cove to run short, for electricity is the only power; no collision to fear, for it alone swims in deep water; no tempest to brave, for when it dives below the water, it reaches absolute tranquility. That is the perfection of vessels.

JULES VERNE

TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, 1869

In 1968 when I left the Navy, having served on 2 of the original 41 boomers, the United States had 28,884 nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union had 9,399 of the total estimated to be 38,633 by the *Natural Resources Defense Council*. These do not include weapons in India, Pakistan and Israel, and, surprisingly, 6 “gun-assembly type weapons” that South Africa had produced at that time. By 2002 the estimated total was 20,190 with 10,640 and 8,600 in the, respectively, United States and Russian arsenals.

Estimates published by the *Arms Control Association* in 2014 state Russia has 1,512 strategic warheads deployed on 498 ICBMs, SLBMs and strategic bombers, another 1,000 non-deployed warheads, an additional 2,000 tactical nuclear warheads, and thousands more awaiting dismantlement. In the same report it is noted that the United States has 4,804 nuclear warheads, including tactical, strategic, and non-deployed weapons; 1,585 strategic nuclear warheads deployed on 778 ICBMs, SLBMs, and strategic bombers. The *Federation of American Scientists* estimates that the United States' non-deployed strategic arsenal is approximately 2,800 warheads and the U.S. tactical nuclear arsenal numbers 500 warheads. Additional warheads are retired and await dismantlement.

The United States has maintained a nuclear policy that strategically is known as the **Nuclear Triad**. The major three elements to this policy are submarines with ballistic missiles (SLBM), land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and long range bombers carrying nuclear weapons. Budgeted amounts for the Triad (*Congressional Budget Office*) through 2023 is \$156 billion. Respectively the percentage allotted to each facet of the Triad is 52.6% SLBM, 15.4% ICBM and 25.6% for bombers. It may sound like considerable funding, but strategic forces account for only 6.5% of the FY 2014 Defense budget.

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To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.



Base



Commander

Shipmates,

Thank you to everyone who is helping me out as I adjust to my new position as Base Commander. I need and appreciate all the help I can get! I hope everyone has been thinking of base activities for the remainder of the year. We have only covered half the year thus far. I hope to cover the rest of the year at the next meeting. If you haven't let Billy know of your attendance at Murray's Dinner playhouse on 2/28, please let him know ASAP (with 20 or more people, I understand that we can get a group rate!). Looking forward to a great year. I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been having!



Pride Runs Deep

Jim Gates

Betty Sue Barnes

Suzann W. Barr

Glenna Butler

Mary Christians

June R. Eubanks

Emma Jane Farmer

Barbara J. Higgins

Sharon J. Hollaway

Wanda Malone

Bonny M. Schmidt



Barbara Schwerman

Sandy Stephens

Juanez Stiltz

Barbara Wewers

Bonnie Zonner



(Continued from page 1.)

Each leg of the Triad has advantages that warrant retaining all three legs at this stage of reductions. Strategic nuclear submarines (SSBNs) and the SLBMs they carry represent the most survivable leg of the U.S. nuclear Triad. Single-warhead ICBMs contribute to stability, and like SLBMs are not vulnerable to air defenses. Unlike ICBMs and SLBMs, bombers can be visibly deployed forward, as a signal in crisis to strengthen deterrence of potential adversaries and assurance of allies and partners. (U.S. Department of Defense, Nuclear Posture Review, April 6, 2010.)

Over the next several years there will be extreme “competition” for funding to support the Nuclear Triad. There will be new SSBNX submarines to replace the Ohio-class, first put in service in 1981, probably beginning in 2031. The Ohio-class has an expected service length of 42 years thus expecting to have about one boat per year retire from service beginning in 2027. This 4-year gap between out-of-service and replacement has drawn enough concern that efforts are under way to speed up the SSBNX program. And this element of the Triad is considered so critical that Congress is acting to protect the funding by insulating the cost of the program in a budget separate from the Defense Department. According to **Brookings**: *Nukes Dollars and Sense*, 2/10/14 - *The U.S. Navy wants to replace its 14 Ohio-class submarines with 12 new submarines. (The new submarine’s planned reactor will not require refueling, a time-consuming process, so 12 new submarines can do the work of 14 Ohios.) This suggests, however, that the Navy plans to maintain roughly the same deterrent patrol tempo for the next 50 years as it has for the past 15, i.e., to keep five to seven submarines at sea at any one time.*

The ICBM leg of the Triad may be the most hotly debated element – how effective will the replacement be for the **Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent**? The USAF currently has 450 Minuteman III ICBMs deployed in three separate locations. (Brookings: op. cit.) The Minuteman has been in service since 1973 but has been continuously modernized over the years. Even so, some analysts have suggested that the Triad be reduced to a Dyad, thus dropping the ICBM leg. New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) limitations will reduce the deployment to 400 – 420 Minuteman IIIs, each with only one warhead. Strategically it is possible to maintain an effective ICBM program with as few as half this number of missiles. Given budget limitations this may be the alternative taken.

The US Air Force has a new long-range strike bomber development program underway to replace its 18 B-2 Spirit and 76 B-52H bombers that will provide nuclear capabilities. The bombers provide some advantages, strangely diametrically opposed to the noted strength of SLBMs, including the political aspect of being visibly deployed as a show of strength. And it is thought that bombers provide some hedge against development of missile defense systems by other entities.

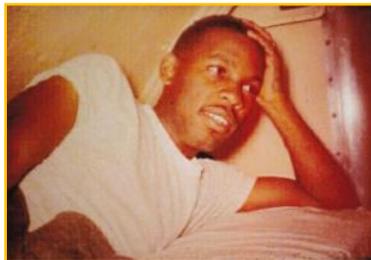
In the summer of 2013, President Obama proposed a new START limit of 1,000 deployed strategic warheads; a one-third reduction overall. The “stool” supported by the three legs of the Triad is apt to tilt steeply in one direction – submarine launched missiles. It is very likely that in the near future that the SSBNX will have 60 – 70% of the deployed nuclear warheads of the United States. And these will be on 12 submarines with only maybe 5 – 7 six of them on patrol at any one time. Twelve submarines – each with 2 crews of about 160 women and men. That my fellow submarine sailors is a heavy responsibility for 3,840 people and those that support the submarine service.

Twisting a famous Winston Churchill quote –

Never in the field of strategic defense has so much responsibility been held by so few for so many.

New Website Razorback Association

The **Razorback Association** has a new website - <http://www.uss394.org/> - with Jerris Bassett, (wife of Max Bassett) as the webmaster.



Good new site and fun to browse through the pictures. Came across this one. I have heard stories this guy was a pretty good cook, but the picture leaves some doubt in my mind.

Overnight on the USS Razorback

Jim Gates shown below with Pack 149 from Shreveport, LA for a recent overnight.





Lost Boats - February



USS Grayback (SS-208)

Lost on Feb 26, 1944 with the loss of 80 officers and men on her 10th war patrol. She appears to have been caught on the surface in the East China Sea by a Japanese carrier plane whose bombs made a direct hit. During this patrol she sank 4 ships totaling 21,594 tons and was tied for 11th in the number of ships sunk.

Grayback ranked 20th among all submarines in total tonnage sunk with 63,835 tons and 24th in number of ships sunk with 14. Submarine and crew had received two Navy Unit Commendations for their 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th war patrols. See Dictionary of American Fighting Ships at <http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/submar/ss208.txt> for more information. Some highlights - Actually patrolled on the surface during her 2nd patrol in 1941. On her 5th patrol, begun December 7, 1942, Pharmacist's Mate Harry B. Roby was called upon to perform an emergency appendectomy, the second to be done on a patrolling submarine. Sailing 26 September with *Shad*, she rendezvoused with *Cero* at Midway to form the first of the Submarine Force's highly successful wolfpacks. The three submarines under Captain C. B. Momsen in *Cero*, cruised the China Sea and returned to base with claims of 38,000 tons sunk and 3,300 damaged.

USS Barbel (SS-316)

Lost on Feb 4, 1945 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 4th war patrol. Based on Japanese records, she was bombed near the southern entrance to the Palawan Passage. The day before, she reported she survived 3 depth charge attacks.

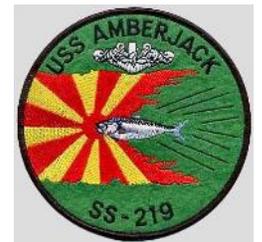


USS Shark I (SS-174)

Lost on Feb 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. Shark was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.

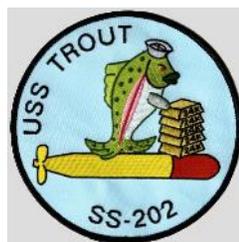
USS Amberjack (SS-219)

Lost on Feb 16, 1943 with the loss of 72 officers and men on her 3rd war patrol. Off Rabaul, she was attacked by a Japanese patrol plane, attacked by a torpedo boat and then depth charged by a subchaser.



USS Trout (SS-202)

Lost on Feb 29, 1944 with the loss of 81 officers and men on her 11th war patrol. She was sunk by escorts in the middle of the Philippines Basin after sinking a passenger-cargoman and damaging another in a convoy. She carried out several notable special missions, including carrying over two tons of gold bullion out of Corregidor in February 1942.





Rocket Mail

Having the *Grayback*, SS-208, featured in the *Lost Boats* section brought some attention to SSG-574, the Regulus missile boat *USS Grayback*. From the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, by Gary Robbins, Sept. 16, 2012 —

On Sept. 16, 1958, the *USS Grayback* became the first American submarine to successfully fire a Regulus II surface-to-surface missile from sea. It represented an important step forward in military technology; the country was developing the ability of submarines to attack land targets with cruise missiles. The *Grayback*, which had been operating off Southern California, went on to conduct missions while heavily armed with the missile, helping introducing a new area of national defense.



But that's not the entire story. The missile the *Grayback* fired that day carried a piece of U.S. mail. This will sound odd, but postal officials had a serious interest at the time at delivering mail this way. They called it "rocket mail." (Talk about going postal.) The following year, a different American sub, the *Barbero*, used a Regulus to deliver 3,000 pieces of mail.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

These were published in a humor column in a small town paper close to where I in lived in Florida in the late '70s.

Did I read that sign right?

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEPLADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

Outside a secondhand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES. ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN!

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Message on a leaflet:

IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)



Where in the World are Connie & Bob Sykes?

The first 30 days have flown by. Bob's 4th time thru the Panama Canal (once on a Submarine) makes each time an adventure when you can be on deck and watching it happen. On to Manta, Ecuador where Panama Hats are made. Called Panama hats because they were made for the workers building the canal, not made there. Like everything, many are made in China now, but interesting to see how a real hat is made.



Eight very busy Sea days brought us to Nuku Hiva. I wish space would allow me to insert a daily program at sea. If you are bored onboard, it's your own fault for not participating. Nuku Hiva, our first island stop. A land of beautiful beaches (with sharks), Tiki sculptors, flowers and trade winds to try to take Bob's hat away. Tahiti, not one of our favorites. Bora Bora, one of our



favorites; water in the bay is 7 colors.

Missed 2 islands because a Tropical Storm made it unsafe for our tenders. Then Tonga. Hibiscus flowers the size of dinner plates. Pickup trucks loaded with children going to church and Rock formations that form blow holes. Loved it. If you ever visit



Auckland, a must see is Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life, an amazing story of his explorations to the Antarctic, King Penguins and an aquarium where you are under the fish. Good use of the old sewer system.



Our next stops are Sydney and five other ports in southern and western Australia, then on to Bali, Singapore et.al. Have a great winter Bye for now.

Base Donations – Important

John C. Barr

You may have noticed in the Treasurer's Report that \$338 was donated to the **Booster Club**. These donations are sincerely appreciated and will be used to further the mission of the **Razorback Base** and maintenance of the **USS Razorback**. The donation in memory of Bob Stiltz was unique.

Out of the current **Base** membership of 183, 117 - 64% - are LIFE members and no longer pay dues to the **Base**. Thus anticipated dues in a year would be only \$990; and less as more members move to **Holland Club** and LIFE status. Certainly we typically pay for meals on our own at various events. Generally the **Base** will pay for meat such as turkey and ham, and we bring a side dish. And those benefits are to the (way too) few of us that attend such meals.

We do have substantial membership of 55 men who served on the **Razorback**, and that is so important given their boat is here in Arkansas. Yet only 6 of those members currently have to pay **Base** dues, and only 1 lives in Arkansas. Twenty-six of these men are primary base – **Razorback**.

Often we have had discussions at **Base** meetings about doing different activities that would require expenditures – most recently, the **Kap(SS)4Kid(SS)** at camp Aldersgate. And these discussions are almost always tempered by the subject of – Can we afford it? How will we replace the funds? I do not pay dues anymore. But I do try to regularly donate to the **Booster Club** and **Base** General Fund. It is my hope that you would consider doing so also.



February + Birthdays	
Paul Honeck	4
John E. Archer	6
Colin L. Stockdale Jr.	12
Gilbert F. Houston	13
Bob Major	15
Robby Robinson	21
M. Richard Winchell	22
Bruce W. Dart	28
Torrey Wesley Dodson Jr.	28
March	
Frank C. Tillery	4
James E. Baker	6
Michael D. Drew	7
James R. Grinstead	8
Karl Miles	10

Funds from the *Booster Club* will be used for restoration of the *USS Razorback* and other special projects appropriate to the mission of *USSVI*. Your donation will be recognized for 12 issues of the newsletter. The number beside your name below is the number of times remaining to be listed.
 Send donations to Razorback Base – USSVI, 9 Broadview Dr., Little Rock,

Booster Club

Avery (TX) Class of 1958 in Memory of Bob Stiltz, Jr. (12)
 Suzann & John Barr (6)
 Bruce Dart (12)
 Wesley Dodson, Jr. (7)
 James Flanders (12)
 George Fore (12)
 James & Susan Franks (11)
 Ron Hines (12)
 Billy Hollaway (2)
 Terence & Kathleen Murphy (9)
 Carl Schmidt (54)
 Frank C. Tillery (10)
 Fred Weilminster (12)
 Barbara & Ray Wewers (9)

TREASURER'S REPORT		JANUARY 2015	
TOTAL BASE FUNDS BEGINNING BALANCE		\$	14,144.45
General Fund Beginning Balance		\$	4,952.57
DEPOSITS			
National Dues		\$	710.00
Base Dues		\$	500.00
NSK Refund		\$	14.75
SK Sales		\$	224.00
EXPENSES			
National Dues		\$	905.00
National Store Keeper		\$	33.60
General Fund Ending Balance			\$5,462.72
Designated Funds Beginning Balance		\$	3,680.50
Maintenance Fund Beg. Balance		\$	1,917.64
Booster Club			
George Fore		\$	78.00
Avery Class in Memory of Bob Stiltz Jr.		\$	50.00
Ron Hines		\$	100.00
Fred Weilminster		\$	50.00
Bruce Dart		\$	50.00
James Flanders		\$	10.00
Maintenance Fund End. Balance		\$	2,255.64
Charity Fund Balance		\$	472.00
Snook Memorial Fund Balance		\$	1,405.86
Designated Funds Ending Balance		\$	4,133.50
Checking Balance (General + Designated Fur		\$	9,596.22
Other Funds			
CD Balance		\$	5,219.38
Interest		\$	1.31
		\$	5,220.69
Cash on Hand		\$	177.00
TOTAL BASE FUNDS ENDING BALANCE		\$	14,993.91
Respectfully submitted,			
Mark Taylor, Base Treasurer			

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 501-663-6622



Base Activities and Notes

- February 27 - Murray's Dinner Playhouse: The base is confirmed at 6:00 PM for dinner at Murray's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Please pay at the door, \$ 36.00, which includes dinner, coffee, tea, water and the play. Alcoholic beverages are available at the cash bar. Cutoff date for reservations is Friday, 27 February. The name of the play is ***Alone Together.*** Remember those wonderful Broadway comedies of the fifties and sixties? This play, by the author of ***Under the Yum Yum Tree,*** holds true to that tradition. A middle aged couple whose children have finally left the nest are finally alone together, but not for long. All three sons come charging back home after experiencing some hard knocks in the real world, and Mom and Dad have quite a time pushing them out again. Please contact Billy Hollaway at 501-78-3266 or retldousn@earthlink.net.
- March 28 - Base meeting at AIMM; details later.
- April will be Submarine Anniversary Event in Branson, Mo. Planning and date in progress with Al Malone as Coordinator.
- May 15-17, Lake Dardanelle Campout: Ray Wewers, Coordinator with barbeque by Sam Cecil.
- June 27 - Base meeting with potluck. TBD.
- July 11 - Baseball at the Travelers (versus Frisco). The cost is \$15.50 per person which includes a picnic style (hot dog, hamburger, drink, etc.) meal. The area is enclosed with air conditioning and closed circuit TV and outdoor seating adjacent to the beer garden. A \$300 deposit was required for this seating area. We will need a minimum of 20 people to attend to meet that requirement. If you are interested please send your intent with number of people in your party to Paul Honeck at pneckerar@gmail.com no later than Memorial Day, May 25.
- August Base meeting. TBD.
- September 7 - 12: USSVI national convention, Pittsburg, PA; the Westin Convention Center.
- October (24th?) - Navy Anniversary Dinner. TBD.
- November 28 - Base meeting. TBD.
- December - Christmas Party. TBD.

Base Officers			
Base Commander	Jim Gates	501-580-4680	gates.jim@sbcglobal.net
Base Vice Commander	Billy Hollaway	501-758-3266	retldousn@earthlink.com
Memorials & Ceremonies, Storekeeper & Past Base Commander			
Chief of the Boat	Bob Christians	501-922-8451	bobchristians@sbcglobal.net
Chaplin	Joe Manning	501-366-0331	joe.manning@att.net
Base Treasurer	Mark Taylor	501-416-2488	empty704@aol.com
Yeoman	Barbara Schwerman	501-804-0687	baschwer@suddenlink.net
Membership	Greg Schwerman	501-804-0386	gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Past Base Commander			
Base Newsletter	John C. Barr	501-663-6622	jcbarr346@att.net
Holland Club Representative	Tom Salisbury	501-337-0788	tomann311@gmail.com
Base Historian	Joe Mathis	501-565-6021	usnjrm@yahoo.com
National (USSVI) Archives Committee Chairman			
Past Base Commander	James W. Barnes	501-778-6583	jimandsue59@sbcglobal.net
Activities	Ray Wewers	479-967-5541	raywewers@gmail.com
Past Base Commander & USSVI Secretary			
Past Base Commander	Alan Malone	501-206-7248	o5retired@yahoo.com
Past Base Commander	Carl Schmidt	501-843-7855	bonnyclyde@classicnet.net
Base Web Master	Greg Zonner	501-307-5522	gzonner@aimm.museum
Past Base Commander			
Past Base Commander	Paul Honeck	501-319-5888	pneckerar@gmail.com