



# 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](mailto:raywewers@suddenlink.net)  
Editor, David Grove  
501-951-1314; [dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net)



## Upcoming Events:

Next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 24 at 1600 at the American Legion Post in Little Rock  
Work Day this Saturday Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Repairing light fixtures

January 2009

## Commander's Corner

Happy New Year to all!! I hope each of you has a better year than in 2008. It was a tough year but we have many things to be thankful for in our health and friends.

Our Christmas dinner was again a success. Many thanks to Bonnie Zonner for her decorating and the wonderful lost boats program that she produced. Bonnie continues to amaze us with her talents and her hard work. Also thanks to John Barr for organizing the event and running the dirty Santa gift exchange.

On a sad note, we lost a good friend and great base member on December 26 when Shorty went on Eternal Patrol. Shorty, although not a qualified submariner, was very active in the base activities and AIMM activities. He was usually the first person on the barges each day to make coffee for the AIMM staff and was always there to greet you

with a smile and greetings. He will truly be missed not only by the base, AIMM and family, but also by his comrades in the Patriot Guard and Rolling Thunder organizations.

Again this year, I would like to encourage all of you that are able to assist in maintenance on Razorback. We will have a workday on Saturday, January 10 and hopefully continue these workdays on the second Saturday of each month. You don't have to come each Saturday or any Saturday for that matter, but your help will be greatly appreciated. The Razorback Association is planning a work week in April and you are all invited to assist. They will be staying on the boat overnight instead of a hotel and you are welcome.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 24 at 1600 at the American Legion Post in Little Rock. Please come and greet your officers for the next two years and offer any assistance you

can. We need your help in planning activities and keeping the organization vibrant. Thanks to all who helped the past two years. I know I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of serving as Base Commander.

We now have our Sea Daddy program in effect and I remind all those who have personnel to contact to do so before our workday and our next meeting.

Again, I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**Ray Wewers,**  
**Base Commander**



## Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of January

USS E 2 (SS 25) **15 Jan 1916**. Four men lost.

USS S-36 (SS-141) **20-Jan-1942**. No loss of crew.

USS S-26 (SS-131) **24-Jan-1942**. 46 men lost.

USS Argonaut (SS-166) **10-Jan-1943**. All hands lost (105).

USS Swordfish (SS-193) **12-Jan-1945**. All hands lost (90).

### **USS Argonaut (SS-166) January 10, 1943 – 105 Men Lost**



Originally named V-4, Argonaut was commissioned in 1928. At the time, she was the largest submarine in the U.S. Navy, a distinction she retained until the advent of nuclear submarines in the 1950s. Designed as a minelayer, Argonaut was 385 feet long and displaced 2,710 tons (4,080 submerged), with 4-21" torpedo tubes, and two mine laying tubes aft. As originally configured, 60 mines were carried. She also carried a pair of 6"/53-calibre deck guns, one forward and one aft.

Argonaut was assigned to Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese attack, but was at sea near Midway on 7 December 1941. In company with U.S.S. Trout, Argonaut approached a suspected enemy force. Mindful of his boat's unsuitability as an attack submarine, Argonaut's captain, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Barchet, prudently elected to make a submerged sonar approach.

The "invasion force," which proved to be a pair of Japanese destroyers sent off on a hit and run mission to shell Midway, did not detect Argonaut—though it appeared at the time that they had—nor was the submarine able to set up an attack. While this was looked on as a missed opportunity, it was conceded that, in view of Argonaut's size, slow speed, lack of maneuverability, and relatively shallow test depth, Barchet acted correctly. (This was, of course, before anyone had become aware of the flaws in the Mark 14 torpedo, which at that time would have been far more likely to simply inform the enemy of Argonaut's presence, probably resulting in her loss, than do any damage to the enemy.)

Contrary to some published reports, Barchet was not relieved for "lack of aggression" at the end of Argonaut's first war patrol. His executive officer, William Post, was sent to a staff job at Pearl Harbor and Argonaut's dive officer, Richard O'Kane was temporarily moved up to XO. Barchet then took the boat back to Mare Island for a much-needed refit and modernization. At that point, having commanded Argonaut since 1939, he turned over the boat to Lieutenant Commander John Pierce and O'Kane left to join the pre-commissioning crew of U.S.S. Wahoo. Barchet went on to serve in a number of important posts both during and after the war.

Still designated as a mine-layer upon her return to Pearl Harbor, the decision was made to convert Argonaut into a transport submarine. Her mine handling gear was removed and her mine tubes were cut out and blanked off at the after bulkhead, with the remaining sections outside the pressure hull pierced to allow them to be free-flooding. The space formerly allocated for mines was now filled with bunks, heads, mess facilities, and washroom. About 120 Marines could be accommodated. She was re-designated APS-1 after this conversion.

Argonaut's conversion to a troop carrier was a concession to reality. It had already been recognized that giant submarines like Argonaut, and the similar "cruiser" submarines Nautilus and Narwhal, were impractical for normal operations. Their heavy gun armament, intended for commerce raiding, lacked the centralized fire control system it would have needed to be of any practical value against a warship. Transporting raiding parties and other special missions appeared to be the most practical use for these oversized boats. Also, in Argonaut's case, the development of mines that could be laid from ordinary torpedo tubes essentially ended the need for specialist mine-layer submarines.

In August 1942 Argonaut, under the command of Lieutenant Commander John Pierce, transported 121 members of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion to Makin Island, in the Gilberts chain. Nautilus, unlike Argonaut fitted with only temporary troop accommodations, carried another 90 Marines. Both submarines attacked shipping during the raid, and then picked up the raiders after two days.

On 10 January 1943, Argonaut attacked a five-ship convoy, escorted by three destroyers. Pierce's torpedo damaged one of the escorts. The others, Isokaze and Maikaze, attacked at once with a heavy depth charging.

An Army Air Force bomber, returning from a raid with all bombs expended reported seeing Argonaut's bow break surface after a depth charge attack. The Japanese destroyers opened fire with their guns, sinking Argonaut with the loss of all hands. She carried a crew of 105 at the time of her loss.

## Navy News

### Tough new rules for blue cammies released

By Mark D. Faram - Staff writer  
Posted: Friday Dec 5, 2008

Sailors hoping for less stringent rules with the Navy's new blue and gray cammies might be disappointed. The new Navy Working Uniform will debut around the fleet Dec. 15, when senior leadership, commanding officers and command master chiefs will be allowed to wear the digital camouflage uniform, which will become required gear for everyone on Dec. 31, 2010.

But don't expect to see anyone wearing the uniform in an off-base grocery store, which is allowed in the Army and Air Force. Navy officials have instead decided to stick with the restrictions in effect for the existing utility and wash khaki uniforms, which the NWU replaces.

Sailors can wear the uniform to and from work, either in an automobile or by public transportation, but they can not make any stops along the way. The only exception to the rule is for emergencies, although it is not clear what qualifies as an emergency at this point.

The news is expected to be announced in a NavAdmin message scheduled to be released Tuesday. The message also spells out how sailors are to configure and wear the NWU and will include the official fleet rollout schedule. Multimedia: [See a 360 degree view of the New Navy Working Uniform](#)

The uniform will be the standard working uniform both afloat and ashore for the Navy, according to the message. It will replace:

- E-6 and below utilities
- E-7 and above wash khakis
- Tropical working uniforms
- Winter working blues
- Aviation working greens

The message also said the uniform will replace the existing woodland camouflage uniforms for sailors — unless they are required to wear it for tactical or environmental reasons. In addition, the uniform marks the first time the Navy has issued a cold weather parka for sailors

that is now expected to replace command-issued foul weather jackets.

Navy leadership — including all flag officers, commanding officers, officers in charge as well as command master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs of the boat — will be allowed to order the uniform online and begin wearing it starting Dec. 15. The rollout will begin in mid-January for most other sailors. The uniform will enter the fleet in geographic "waves" starting in January with the Tidewater region.



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

### A VETERAN

A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to:

"The United States of America"

For an amount of "Up to and including my life."

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it!!

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

### Pearl Harbor ends era of submarine reactor projects

Nearly a half-century of nuclear submarine reactor refueling and defueling work at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is drawing to a close.

Shipyard workers removed the reactor and finished other work on the inactivation of the Los Angeles-

class attack submarine Minneapolis-Saint Paul on Nov. 18, 3 1/2 weeks early and slightly under budget. "This proves that the shipyard can do everything when we do it together as a team," said project Superintendent Freeman Correa Jr. "Regardless if you're No. 1 or No. 4, we can still execute within costs and schedule. We can still accomplish on time."

The job is another positive stat for shipyard commander Capt. Gregory R. Thomas, who was brought on in June 2007 to improve efficiency in relation to other Navy yards at what is the state's largest industrial employer.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul was the last defueling, and the USS Olympia is the last refueling, or nuclear reactor core replacement, that Pearl Harbor will do on Los Angeles-class subs, officials said. Work on the Olympia is still going on. As Pearl Harbor prepares for the arrival of the new Virginia-class attack submarines, and the maintenance that will be needed on those subs, reactor refueling and defueling has ended.

The USS Hawai'i is the first of at least three Virginia-class submarines destined for Pearl Harbor. The state's namesake sub is expected here around June. The shipyard said the first refueling was done at Pearl Harbor in 1962 on the USS Sargo. According to the yard, the first 688-class (Los Angeles-class) defueling was done in 1997 on the USS Birmingham. Other defuelings included the Indianapolis, Boston and the Minneapolis-Saint Paul. Reactor refuelings were done on the Buffalo starting in 2001, as well as the Bremerton and now, Olympia. The Minneapolis-Saint Paul work took about 12 1/2 months.

The submarine was commissioned in 1984 and completed 12 overseas deployments. She was inactivated from service in June 2007 at Naval Station Norfolk and sailed to Pearl Harbor.

The sub's ensign was lowered for the last time and it was decommissioned on Aug. 28. Its reactor fuel was removed, and fluid systems were drained. Reactor compartments are transported to Hanford, Wash. for burial. The sub, now technically called

the "Ex-Minneapolis-Saint Paul," is in long-term storage at the sub base and will be towed to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for disposal and recycling.

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

## **Sub Memorial Locations on Goggle Maps**

Submitted by: Bill Lee

Many of our submarine memorial locations can be accessed via our USSVI website. On the main USSVI page ([www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org)) select the Sub Memorial (red button). Select a State by clicking on it; this will bring up a list of sub memorials in that State. Select a specific memorial. This will bring up the specific memorial page which has a Google Map (US Weather Radar) in the lower right corner of the page.

The memorial location on the map is marked with a green pin. When you want to find exactly where a memorial is located in a cemetery or in a park, click on the Goggle Map, then use the Satellite View. This will show you its exact location as long as it has latitude and Longitude numbers on the map. If not, I am still in the process of locating it.

Using the Weather Map, will take you to the postal address, which often is no where close to where the memorial stands.

If I don't have its latitude and longitude marked yet and you know exactly where a memorial is located, please email me at [sub\\_ssn589@yahoo.com](mailto:sub_ssn589@yahoo.com) and let me know.

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

## **CBO Eyes Military Retirees, Vets for Health Cost Cuts**

A new report from the Congressional Budget Office shows why some military retirees and veterans could face higher out-of-pocket costs if the Obama administration and Congress take bold moves to reform the U.S. health system and to make federal health programs more efficient.

Among 115 "options" presented, though not endorsed, in the CBO report, several focus on raising TRICARE out-of-pocket costs for retirees and one for families. Others would tighten access to VA hospitals and clinics, or raise VA health fees, for veterans with no service-connected conditions.

Working-age military retirees will find here some of those familiar cost-saving ideas endorsed by the Bush administration to raise TRICARE fees, co-payments and deductibles for retirees under age 62 and their spouses.

But other options are new and, if enacted into law, would raise health costs for Medicare-eligible military retirees and for active duty families. One option suggests having the VA health system disenroll millions of current users who have no service-related injuries or ailments.

Every two years CBO presents daring options for Congress and the executive branch to weigh in trying to control federal spending. The new report, "Budget Options, Volume 1: Health Care," is unusual in that it focuses entirely health care, an Obama policy priority, and its arrival is unscheduled.

It's also significant that the CBO director who led this work was Peter R. Orszag, President-elect Obama's nominee to be his director of the Office of Management and Budget. OMB is responsible for assembling the president's annual budget request to Congress. How bold will his economic team be?

"We are going to go through our federal budget, as I promised during the campaign, page by page, line by line, eliminating those programs we don't need and insisting that those that we do need operate in a sensible, cost-effective way," Obama said in November as he announced Orszag's nomination to join his cabinet

"We're also going to focus on one of the biggest, long-run challenges that our budget faces, namely the rising cost of health care in both the public and private sectors," Obama continued. "This is not just a challenge but also an opportunity to improve the health care that Americans rely on, and to bring down the costs that taxpayers, businesses and families have to pay. That is what [OMB] will do in my administration."

Obama added, "Peter doesn't need a map to tell him where the bodies are buried in the federal budget. He knows what works and what doesn't, what's worth our precious tax dollars and what is not."

Indeed, in the CBO report's preface, Orszag gets "special thanks" for having "conceived" the report and being "instrumental in its development."

Many of its options deal with adjustments to Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurance rules and the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan for federal civilians. Most ideas are aimed at cutting costs but some would enhance benefits. The 226-page report can be read online.

Here are some options that would touch military people and veterans:

**TRICARE for Working-Age Retirees – Fees, co-payments and deductibles would be raised for retirees under 62 to restore the relative costs paid when TRICARE began in 1995. TRICARE Prime enrollment would be raised to \$550 a year for individuals from \$230. Retiree families would pay \$1100 versus \$460 today. Co-pays for doctor visits would climb to \$28 from \$12 and users of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra would pay an annual deductible of \$350 for an individual and \$700 for families. Congress has declined to support such increases for the past three years.**

**Fees for Active Duty Families – Dependents of active duty members enrolled in TRICARE Prime, the managed care network, would pay new fees equal to 10 percent of the cost of health services obtained either in military treatment facilities or through civilian network providers. Total out of pocket costs would be capped, however.**

**To help offset these costs, dependents would receive a \$500 non-taxable allowance annually. Those who elect to use alternative health insurance, rather than TRICARE, could apply the \$500 toward their health insurance premiums, co-payments or deductibles.**

**CBO estimates these fees would save \$7 billion over 10 years and encourage Prime enrollees to "use medical services prudently." It also would entice more spouses to enroll in employer-provided health plans instead of TRICARE. The downside, CBO said, would be financial difficulties for some Prime enrollees despite the cap on out-of-pocket costs. Also, CBO said, spouses induced to**

rely on employer health plans could see health coverage interrupted during military assignment relocations.

**TRICARE-For-Life Fees –**  
The military's health insurance supplement to Medicare could see higher user costs. Under this option, beneficiaries would pay the first \$525 of yearly medical costs plus one half of the next \$4725 of costs charged to Medicare. So the extra out-of-pocket cost for TFL users would be up to \$2887.50 a year. This amount would be indexed to rise with Medicare costs. The change would save \$40 billion over 10 years. But CBO said it also could discourage some patients from seeking preventive care or proper management of chronic conditions. So it could negatively affect some patients' health.

**Tighten VA Enrollment –**  
The VA healthcare system would be directed to disenroll 2.3 million Priority Groups 7 and 8 -- individuals who are not poor and have no service-related medical needs. Estimated savings would be \$53 billion over 10 years but Medicare spending would rise by \$26 billion in the same period as elderly among these vets shifted to Medicare.

CBO said 90 percent of these vets have other health care coverage. But this change could leave up to 10 percent unable to find affordable care.

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

**Herman "Shorty" Hagerman**

It is with great sadness that I notify you of the passing of Shorty Hagerman. Shorty apparently had a heart attack Friday morning December 26 about 5 a.m.

Although Shorty was a carrier sailor, he was a very strong supporter of the Razorback Base and AIMM. He was our "master-of-arms" at AIMM; often the first person to the barge in the morning getting the coffee ready.

Shorty joined USSVI in September 2004. He was a LIFE member of both USSVI and the Razorback Base. He was a World War II veteran, and, I believe, a plank owner on the USS Lexington. He served 1943-1945 as an ABM 2/C, including most of the major Pacific battles. Shorty was a great storyteller, and generally took little urging. He

usually wore his Arkansas Championship Bull Rider belt buckle. Shorty loved his motorcycles, including the trike he last had. He was active in Rolling Thunder, serving as a board member and chaplain. Shorty also quite often rode with the Patriot Guard.

We loved Shorty and will miss him.

**John C. Barr  
Membership Chair  
Razorback Base – USSVI**

**Obituary**

Herman "Shorty" Eugene Hagerman  
February 24, 1927 – December 26, 2008

Herman "Shorty" Eugene Hagerman, 81, of North Little Rock, died December 26, 2008. He was an active member of the Patriot Guards and regular volunteer at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. A World War II Veteran, he was also a 32nd degree Mason.

Survivors include three children, Charles E. Hagerman and Herman Craig Hagerman of North Little Rock, Vickie Lois Harris of Little Rock; two brothers, Ernest Hagerman of Hot Springs Village, and Charles Hagerman of Sherwood; seven grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

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

**22 Members Late on Dues**

As of the first of the year we have 22 members that have not paid their dues. Of these, 6 are Dual Base members. All but one owes Base dues of \$15 and 13 owe \$20 for USSVI dues. Members not paying by the end of January will be dropped from membership rolls. You should have recently received a letter noting what dues are owed.

On the positive side, we had 51 members pay dues for LIFE membership in the Razorback Base. Another member, Kelly Driver, was eligible for reduced LIFE dues for World War II submarine veterans. Now, excluding Holland Club and Base LIFE members, we have about 108 members (out of 198) that still pay annual dues.

**John Barr  
Membership Chair**

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



**January Birthdays**

- January 1<sup>st</sup> – Sabri Celik
- January 7<sup>th</sup> – Dean Read
- January 7<sup>th</sup> – Maurice Barksdale
- January 8<sup>th</sup> – Bruce Lipe
- January 10<sup>th</sup> – Cecil Goins
- January 10<sup>th</sup> – Michael Moore
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Fireball Vaughter
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Maxwell Nelson
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Danny Smith
- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Kelly Driver
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – Jim Gates

**Happy Birthday!**

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

**Treasures Report: December 2008**

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 9580.03
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	1135.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	1135.00
EXPENSES:	
Newspaper	137.58
Dues to USSVI	480.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	617.58
ENDING BALANCE:	\$10097.45
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	
BEGINNING	718.03
Donations in name of Shorty Hagerman	515.00
Cash Donation	20.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1253.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 1700.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1797.26
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14847.74

**Greg Schwerman  
Base Treasurer**

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT  
IN GOD WE TRUST**

David Grove  
144 White Oak Ln.  
Little Rock, AR 72227  
[dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net)



**Razorback Base Executive Committee:**

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