



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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Upcoming Events:

2nd Sat. of each month is a boat work day. (Not this month)

Next work day on the Razorback will be February 6th 0900.

January 2010

Commander's Corner

Happy New Year to everyone, 2009 is behind us, and 2010 is looking to be just as eventful. In the next year we will have elections for both Base Officer's and National Officers. There has also been some talk about needed changes to our Base bylaws to cover appointed and elected positions for Base Officers, and most immediately we need to appoint someone to fill the position of Base Treasurer. All of this point's to the need for each of you to consider donating your time, skills and leadership for the betterment of our Base, and accept a position as a Base Officer.

Looking forward to the coming year as in years past we will hold bimonthly meetings starting in January with our first meeting January 23rd at 1600 at the American Legion Post 315 East Capital Little Rock. It has been suggested in the past that we try and move our meetings around the state to make it more accessible for the members that live outside the central Arkansas area. I think this is a great idea if it can be arranged. If anyone has any suggestions on locations where we can hold meetings, please let me know.

At this time, we don't have any events planned for the months of February, April, June, and August. We voted last year to move the annual Lake Dardanelle Picnic

forward one month to May this year, to try and avoid the heat. Some of the things we have done in the past where, a weekend stay and dinner at the Velda Rose in Hot Springs, Dinner at Murrays Dinner Theater, a Day at the Races, and Bowling at the Malone's Bowling Alley in Heber Springs. If anyone would like to plan and arrange an event for the base let John Barr know, any assistance with event locations and coordination would be very much appreciated.

During December the Base was represented at a number of events in Little Rock and North Little Rock, starting on December 6th with the North Little Rock Christmas parade. Joe Mathis, Billy Hollaway, Larry Valley, Jim Gates, Bob Bowlin and I marched in the North Little Rock Christmas parade. The day started out cold but warmed up to the low 30's by the afternoon, and everyone had a great time. I hope we can get more base members to march with us next December. Also Joe Mathis and I represented the base and USSVI at the December 7th Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies at the State Capital by performing the Tolling of the Boats ceremony, Carl Schmidt was also there representing the Fleet Reserve, and we had several members in attendance in the audience. December 19th was the base Christmas party. I don't remember the exact count but I think we had over 60 base members and

guests attend this year. Well done all those who helped make the party a success. Congratulations also go to those who received awards at this year's party. John Barr was awarded Sailor of the Year for his efforts as Membership Chairman and Events Coordinator, Ray Wewers, and Jane Farmer received certificates of appreciation, Ray for his leadership as Base Commander, and Jane for her efforts as Base Yeoman, and Ray Wewers presented to Greg Stitz the Ben Bastura Award for preserving submarine history. This commendation was awarded by USSVI at the September convention in San Diego.

Base member Carl Schmidt has announced that he has officially thrown his name in the hat for this year's USSVI elections as National commander, Good Luck Carl.

As a parting note I would like to encourage everyone who can, to donate a few hours of time to your area of choice on the USS Razorback. We will continue this year with working party's the 2nd Saturday of each month, 0900 to?? Next work day will be February 6th.

Greg Schwerman
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 S-36 (SS-141)

January 20, 1942 – No Loss of Crew



USS S-36, a 1062-ton S-1 class submarine, was built at San Francisco, California. She was commissioned in April 1923 and during that year and much of the next she operated along the U.S. west coast, in Alaskan waters and in the Caribbean. Later in 1924, S-36 crossed the Pacific to join the Asiatic Fleet, her assignment for the rest of her career. Her routine until 1940 generally featured summer service out of Tsingtao, China, and winters in the vicinity of the Philippines. In 1938, she cruised in the Netherlands East Indies.

Japan began the Pacific War on 8 December 1941, while S-36 was already conducting defensive activities in Philippine waters. Despite suffering from the serious mechanical and electrical problems that continuously plagued the old "S" boats, she remained on patrol until mid-December. Her second war patrol began late in the year, taking her into the southern Philippines and then toward the East Indies. S-36 attacked an enemy ship at Mindoro on 1 January, but apparently missed, and endured a terrible passage through the Sulu Sea that included a prolonged encounter with a Japanese destroyer on the 15th and 16th, while her own powerplant and other systems were in a continuously failing state. Continuing on into the Makassar Strait with unreliable charts.

0404 on the morning of 20 January, she ran hard aground on Taka Bakang Reef. For over 24 hours, the crew battled to save the submarine. But chlorine gas, generated by her flooded forward battery, and the hostile waves and currents of the sea combined against them. A plain language request for aid was sent out; and, on the morning of the 21st, a Dutch launch, *Atlla*, was dispatched from Makassar City. By noon, the launch had taken off most of the officers and men of S-36. At 1330, the fight and the submarine were abandoned. The last to leave left her rigged to flood.

The crew, transferred to SS *Siberote*, were taken to Makassar City, then to Soerabaja, whence they were reassigned.

S-36 was awarded one battle star for her World War II service.

"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

2010 National Commander Election Biography Carl Schmidt National Commander Candidate 2010 Election

Shipmates,

I wish to introduce myself to you throughout USSVI. I have been married for 47 years to Bonny, my best friend. We have 4 children, three daughters and one son. We have 4 grandsons, and one great grandson and one great granddaughter. I retired from the Submarine service in 1979 as an Electronic Technician CPO. I was in the Navy at an exciting time. I qualified on the USS Triton SSRN 582 in 1961. I made three patrols on SSBN USS Casimir Pulaski 633(G) crew. I also served on the following diesel submarines during my 22 years of service USS Cubera SS-347, USS Tang SS-563, and the USS Sailfish SS-572. I attended college to become a Registered Nurse after retirement. I retired from the Veterans Administration in North Little Rock, Arkansas in 2005. Serving veterans medical needs when hospitalized was a most rewarding experience.

I only found out that we had a Submarine fraternity in July 2000 and became a USSVI member. I became a life member in 2004. My wife joined USSVI in 2001 and became a life member in 2004. One of the first things I wanted to do was form the first base in Arkansas, with the help of submariners in Arkansas the USS Arkansas Base was chartered October 28, 2000. I was voted by the USS Razorback to be their Base Commander in 2000 thru 2002. Today there are 3 USSVI bases in Arkansas. It was exciting to have had a small part in helping to bring the USS Razorback SS 394 to North Little Rock, Arkansas.

I have received the following recognitions from shipmates and I have been humbled when the Shipmates selected me to receive these recognitions.

- *-USS Razorback Base Commander 2000 thru 2002
- *-Shipmate of the year 2001 District 5
- *-Central Region District 1 Commander 2002 thru 2004
- *-National Memorial and Ceremonies Chairman USSVI 2005 thru 2007

- *-Central Region Commander District 1 2006
- *-National District Commander award 2007
- *-Central Region Director 2006 till September 2010
- *-USS Razorback Chaplain
- *-National Commander Robert Link award 2009

Communications is what I believe will make our organization stronger. I believe in an open door policy that the Commanding Officer that many of us remember in the cold war years when we served on submarines. USSVI belongs to the membership and if elected as the next National Commander I will have an open door policy to all the members of USSVI. Enclosed is my phone number 501-843-7855 my email address is bonnynclyde@classicnet.net.

Base Commanders, please ask your base newsletter editor to please post this biography in your next base newsletter. There will be more that 1 candidate running for the following national officer position, National Treasurer has three candidates. National secretary has 2 candidates and National Commander has 2 candidates. There are also 2 candidates running for Western Region Director, 2 candidates running for Central Region Director. The nominations don't close till April 30, 2010. Your base Commander has received the nominations for National officers and regional directors via a POC message.

Shipmates please vote in the 2010 USSVI elections for the National Commander and Regional Directors for the candidate of your choice. Your vote is important; USSVI belongs to the membership not the USSVI board members. I wish everyone good health in 2010. I look forward to seeing many of you at the USSVI convention in Cincinnati.
Fraternally,
Carl Schmidt

Status of Dues Collection for 2010

We had 89 members that owed dues for 2010. As of New Year's Day, all but 5 have paid. We have 4 members still owing dues for both USSVI and the Base, and 1 dual base member that did not renew for

2010. They will be dropped from the roster very soon. Those that have not paid their USSVI dues will lose their longevity status in the organization. Depending on their qualification date, this can affect eligibility for Holland Club. We did have 4 members that did not have to pay dues because they were eligible for Holland Club this year.

Those that owed dues for 2010 were initially each sent a letter in September notifying them of what they owed. Those with e-mail access received numerous e-mails reminding them of dues owed. And, as we came closer to the end of the year, those that had not paid received at least 2 telephone calls. The process was rigorous. We really want 100% renewal, but that never seems possible.

John C. Barr
Membership Chair

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

FROM THE STOREKEEPER T-Shirts for Sale

Shirts are \$ 16.00 each and have to limit only one per customer due to a limited supply. We can order more, so feel free to let the Storekeeper know of your needs.

2010 USSVI Calendars have arrived. The theme of these calendars is "The War Fighters" and feature some great photographs of our submarines during World War II. Because calendar sales have fluctuated so much over the past three years, I ordered only thirty (30). For that reason, two (2) calendars per customer on initial orders until November 15, 2009. If necessary, hopefully we can place a second order if sales are strong. Calendars are priced at \$ 12.00 each or two (2) for \$ 22.00 including mailing to U.S. locations. Contact Billy Hollaway at retldoun@earthlink.net or (501) 519-4848 to place your order.

Personal Items Collection for VA Patients

Things are progressing well on collections for the veterans. I have sorted the things we have received, by type, into boxes in the lower level in the entry barge at AIMM.

We have \$220 in cash to purchase items we need but do not

have so far. As yet I cannot find a good deal on flip-flops (shower shoes) anywhere. Guess they are hard to find in the winter. We need some more deodorant, some combs, more mouth wash (non-alcohol), maybe some more socks, skin lotion and shampoo, some more tubes of toothpaste, and more shaving cream/foam. We will probably purchase coffee with the funds we have.

We have plenty of time. We will take the items to the VA sometime after our January Base meeting. If you want to donate items, please take them to AIMM. You can contact me at jcbarr@aristotle.net or 501-663-6622.

John C. Barr
Membership Chair

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

AIMMS NEWS



New Photographs Added AIMM Website Improvements

The photographic section of the AIMM website has been completely redone. The “flash” portion has been completely eliminated, which means the individual pages will load much faster.

In addition, new photographs have been added. Some photographs were added to the existing sections, and several new sections were added.

For example, there is a series of photographs taken by Gene Haley, who was a crewman aboard Razorback from 1945 until 1948.

Some of the photographs will be familiar to those of you who have been in the museum, but many will be completely new.

In the coming weeks, even more photographs will be added, including a collection from the late 1960s of over 200 photographs and other documents.

The photograph section can be found under the “Multimedia” button on the AIMM website.
<http://www.aimm.museum/photos.asp>

Greg Stitz - Curator
Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum
www.aimm.museum

Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)
501-371-8320

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

Navy News

NOVA Special: Killer Subs in Pearl Harbor

A new documentary about Killer Japanese Subs in Pearl Harbor just aired on PBS. Click on the following link to watch on-line.

<http://video.pbs.org/video/1377494854>

You can also view an interactive webpage that describes the subs in detail

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/killersubs/>

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



If you have the tendency to kill USB drives due to strange accidents, you might want to consider a tougher drive. This cool little drive in the shape of a submarine will hopefully stand up to your random mishaps. Such as spilling your coffee, knocking over your bowl of soup or any other liquid you might come across. It might also be able to deal with being dropped or stepped on every so often too.

The best part about this drive is that the designer chose the shape it in the shape of a submarine and made it waterproof. Making the submarine shape all the more fitting. The K95 drives are available in both 1GB and a 2GB version. It also comes in four different colors, white, red, black and green. It was designed by **Moscow's Man Works Design** and since it is a design, it doesn't have any purchase information. Hopefully with a witty design like this it will start becoming available to the public soon.

Source: CraziestGadgets

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

Coping With the Great American SSN Shortage

January 12, 2010: The U.S. Navy is facing a temporary SSN (nuclear attack submarine) shortage, and there is no solution that will not involve some pain. The problem is that new Virginia class subs cannot be

built quickly enough to replace all the Cold War era Los Angeles class boats that have to retire. Even that will be delayed, at least for 16 Los Angeles class subs that will get enough refurb to keep them at sea for up to two more years. Meanwhile, many of the shipyards used to build all those Los Angeles class boats, were discarded as part of the Peace Dividend for winning the Cold War.

The shortage will begin in 2022, when the number of SSNs will fall below 48. The bottom will be in 2028, when only 41 SSNs will be available, and the shortage won't end until 2034. While keeping boats at sea more than six months per cruise will insure that all current requirements (that need about ten boats at sea at any given time) are met, the navy won't be able to meet its wartime need for 35 boats. Keep in mind that a certain number of boats are always laid up for upgrades, maintenance or repairs. And some of this work can be speeded up, or even put aside, to get boats to sea in wartime, or a major crisis.

Keeping existing boats at sea for longer cruises also comes with a cost. For each additional day (beyond six months) you keep a crew at sea, a certain percentage of them will not stay in the navy. Those long months at sea are hard on the families and sailors as well. Too much of that, and more of them leave. For submarine crews, the most highly trained, with the highest standards, in the navy, this is no small problem.

There are other ways around the problem. The navy and the shipyards have found ways to build SSNs more quickly. Currently it takes 70 months to build a Virginia. But in the next few years, that will be coming down to 60 months. For the navy, the worst solution is to change war plans, and peacetime use patterns of SSNs, and adapt to a smaller number of attack boats. The navy would rather not think of this, but politicians often do, so the navy must.

Find this article at

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htsub/articles/20100112.aspx>

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



Few Sailors Are Blue about Navy's New Uniforms

By [Ed Friedrich](#)

Posted January 4, 2010

BANGOR — Who are those guys in the blue cammies? They're sailors, and you'll be seeing a lot more of them as the Navy continues to phase in its new working uniform. The rollout of the new uniforms started a year ago in the mid-Atlantic region, but only reached Northwest bases in mid-November. Naval Base Kitsap's Bangor and Bremerton naval exchange uniform stores have been outfitting about 300 sailors a week, Bangor store manager Sandy Mitchell said.

The working uniform looks like those worn by Marines and Army soldiers, except it features a blue-and-gray digital pattern instead of tan-and-green. It is the result of fleetwide polls that found that sailors want fewer uniform types and lower-maintenance clothes.

The new camouflaged working uniforms will replace utility (light blue shirt and navy blue trousers), working khaki and lesser-worn types of uniforms. Blue coveralls will remain the standard working attire for sailors at sea.

The new uniforms, made in the United States of a 50-50 blend of nylon and cotton, don't need ironing. Mitchell said her store has sold about 1,300 of them and received few complaints. "There's three (sailors) that I know who don't like it," she said.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Schaffran, a sonar tech aboard the Trident ballistic missile submarine USS Nevada, wore his new working uniform into the Bangor store on Monday. "I love it," he said.

Schaffran no longer has to worry about cold wind blowing up his pant legs or his seat splitting, like with the thin utility uniforms, he said. Dirt, stains and wet paint are hidden in the blue camouflage, a main reason for it, and the uniform holds up well, he said.

"Universally, the sailors do not like the old utility uniform," said Navy Region Northwest Command Master Chief Ron Johnson, who along with Naval Base Kitsap Command Master Chief Joe Fahrney is overseeing the rollout.

Most people who responded to a Kitsap Sun online query liked the new uniforms. Commenters said they "look great," "are much sharper" and "they're hot." Others, however, called them "ugly," look like "Marine wannabes" or "pajamas," and are "absolutely hideous."

Several questioned the price and need for new uniforms. A complete outfit costs nearly \$400. That includes pants, shirt, blue T-shirt, cap, boots, parka and parka liner. Sailors are supposed to work their way up to four sets, though they only need one parka and one pair of boots. They've received a clothing allowance over the past two years to pay for it, Johnson said.

Many people, including Navy spouses, commented that the new uniforms are easy to maintain. Some, especially retirees, lamented a loss of tradition and identity. Some Navy uniforms might be odd, they said, but at least you can tell a sailor when you see one.

Schaffran, the sonarman, disagrees, claiming that the new uniforms help sailors fit in with soldiers and Marines, beside whom they often serve in the war on terror. "Being camouflaged makes me feel more like a warfighter," he said. "People before thought I was a mechanic. It's a good morale boost."

Some sailors wanted to be able to wear the new uniforms anywhere, which the Army allows. They were disappointed to find restrictions even tighter than on the utility uniforms, which could be worn only at work and quick stops to and from work. It turned out that the Navy wanted to keep the uniforms on base until it became convinced sailors knew how to wear them, Johnson said. Now the rules are about the same as for utility uniforms.

Everybody here will be outfitted by June, Mitchell said. The entire Navy must be changed over by the end of the year. Read more:

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2010/jan/04/fe-w-sailors-are-blue-about-navys-new-camouflage/>



January Birthdays

Jan 1st – Sabri Celik
 Jan 7th – Dean Read
 Jan 7th – Maurice Barksdale
 Jan 8th – Bruce Lipe
 Jan 10th – Cecil Goins
 Jan 10th – Mike Moore
 Jan 18th – Marvin Vaughter
 Jan 22nd – Danny Smith
 Jan 24th – Kelly Driver
 Jan 24th – Renny Wright
 Jan 28th – Jim Gates

Happy Birthday!

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

Treasures Report: DEC 2009

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 5285.65
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	840.00
Donation for VA fund	245.00
Donation - Jim Baker	100.00
Storekeeper	150.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 1335.00
EXPENSES:	
Dues Paid to National	440.00
Printer Ink- Treasure	31.44
Printer Ink - Newsletter	80.03
Bank Interest charge from 6/30	5.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 556.47
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 6064.18
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	\$ 1366.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 650.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1255.86
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5074.59
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14410.66

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer

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

Submarine Museum Trivia

Last Month: Museum submarine in Fall River, MA?

A: USS LIONFISH

Q: Museum submarine most visited by a Pirate's Fan (or Steeler's fan or a Penguin's fan)? (answer will be posted in next issue)



**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

Base Commander	Greg Schwerman	gschwerman@suddenlink.net	(501) 804-0386
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COB	Billy Hollaway	retldousn@earthlink.net	(501) 758-3266
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