



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
501-223-0698; dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



Current Executive Committee:

Base Commander
Vice Commander
COB
Chaplain
Treasurer
Yeoman
Webmaster
Membership
Storekeeper
Holland Club
Memorials/Ceremonies

Ray Wewers raywewers@suddenlink.net
Paul Honeck phoneck@centurytel.net
Joe Mathis usnjrm@yahoo.com
Carl Schmidt bonnyncllyde@classicnet.net
Greg Schwerman gschwerman@suddenlink.net
Jane Farmer dcfarmert2@sbcglobal.net
Greg Zonner zonner632@horizonbroadband.net
John Barr jcbarr@aristotle.net
Billy Hollaway retldoun@earthlink.net
Lee Huss lee393sub@sbcglobal.net
Billy Hollaway retldoun@earthlink.net

(479) 967-5541
(501) 241-0691
(501) 565-6021
(501) 843-7855
(501) 804-0386
(501) 753-8824
(501) 316-6641
(501) 663-6622
(501) 758-3266
(501) 922-1216
(501) 758-3266

Upcoming Events:

- July 4th 1776

July 2008

Commander's Corner

It's hard to believe that 2008 is already half gone and we are in the middle of summer, but here we are.

For those of you who were unable to attend you missed a great campout in June. There were some 28 members and family members who enjoyed Jim Stephen's handiwork in barbeque brisket, chicken, ribs and pork. The attendees donated enough money that all the expenses were taken care of and there was no money expended from the base treasury. Of course, we had our annual rainfall on Saturday. It rained off and on all day and it was interesting seeing 20-25 people try to get under a 10' x 20' tent with six tables of food and drinks. Next year we will purchase a larger tent and one that does shed water on anyone sitting near the outer edges.

As you all realize, we have not been very successful in re-establishing our monthly work days due to weather and Mother's Day in May. I failed to get the day schedule in June due to no particular reason. Therefore, we will have another workday scheduled for Saturday, July 12 beginning at 0900. I know this is the vacation time and price of fuel for our vehicles is prohibiting us from doing too much traveling.

However, if you would like to contribute to the preservation of Razorback, please consider getting involved in the workday. I will get a work list together and send it out this week. I will only be able to get it out on email since there is not time to get it out in the regular mail. Also, we should have Razorback completely air-conditioned this week. As you know, Rood Heating and Cooling is installing the units at no cost, but they do run a business and since this is their peak business period, they have to pick their slow days to do their volunteer work and those days are occurring less frequently now. They have saved AIMM some \$60000 to \$70000 dollars in the four units and their installation. Base members can be proud of the fact that they purchased two of these units, Chief Mason and the Feeley family purchased one and AIMM purchased the fourth unit along with making preparations on Razorback to install the units.

This is election year for our national officers and revisions to our National Constitution and By-laws. Please go to USSVI.org and vote for these positions and changes. Remember this is your organization and your votes do COUNT. If you have problems voting on-line, you may contact me or get your

ballot out of the American Submariner which should be out soon and mail it to the address provided. I would encourage all to vote for the changes to the Constitution and by-laws. They are not perfect but the committee has done a good job in trying to bring them up to date and to improve our organization.

Our next regular meeting will be on July 26 at 1600 at the American Legion Post 1 in Little Rock. Please plan to attend.

During the month of June, one of our members, Jack Reynolds, went on eternal patrol. Please remember his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our National Convention is fast approaching. So far, there are six members of Razorback registered to attend. The Dallas/Fort Worth Base members were very helpful to us during our convention in 2006. Please try to support them at their convention. You will always have a good time at the National conventions as you get to visit with shipmates that you may not have seen in 30-40 years or more. You can go to USSVI.org and take the link to Conventions and then to Convention 2008.

Ray Wewers,
Base Commander

Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of July

USS G 2 (SS 27) **30 Jul 1919**. Three men lost.

[USS Runner \(SS-275\)](#) **1-Jul-1943**. All hands lost (78).

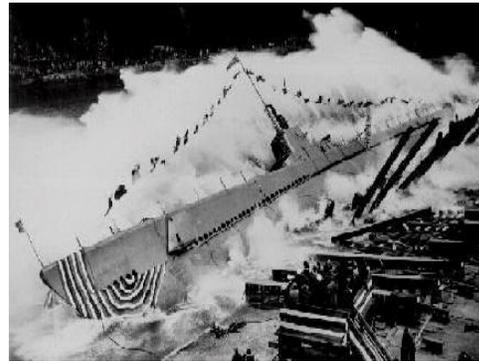
[USS S-28 \(SS-133\)](#) **4-Jul-1944**. All hands lost (50).

[USS Robalo \(SS-273\)](#) **26-Jul-1944**. All hands lost (81).

USS ROBALO (SS 273) July 26, 1944 – 81 Hands Lost – 4 Survived

ROBALO under Cmdr. M.M. Kimmel, departed Fremantle on June 22, 1944 to conduct her third war patrol in the South China Sea in the vicinity of the Natuna Islands. After traversing Makassar and Balabac Straits, she was to arrive on station about July 6th and stay there until dark on August 2, 1944.

On July 2nd a contact report stated ROBALO had sighted a Fuso-class battle ship with air cover and two destroyers for escort, just east of Borneo. No other messages were received from ROBALO and when she did not return from patrol, she was reported as presumed lost.



The following information was received via the Philippine guerrillas and an U.S. Navy enlisted man who was a prisoner of war at Puerto Princesa Prison Camp, Palawan, P.I. On August 2, 1944, a note dropped from the window of the prison cell in which survivors from ROBALO were held was picked up by an American soldier in a work detail and given to H.D. Hough, Y2c, USN, another prisoner. On 4 August, Hough contacted Mrs. Trinidad Mendosa, wife of guerrilla leader Dr. Mendosa, who furnished further information on the survivors. From these sources, he put together the following facts.

ROBALO was sunk July 26, 1944, two miles off the western coast of Palawan Island as a result of an explosion of her after battery. Four men swam ashore, an officer and three enlisted men: Samuel L. Tucker, Ens.; Floyd G. Laughlin, QM1c; Wallace K. Martin, SM3c, and Mason C. Poston, EM2c. They made their way through the jungles to a small barrio northwest of the Puerto Princesa camp. They were captured there by Japanese Military Police, and confined in the jail. They were held for guerrilla activities rather than as prisoners of war, it is said. On August 15, 1944, a Japanese destroyer evacuated them, and nothing further is known of their destination or whereabouts. The Japanese may have executed them or the destroyer may have been sunk. At any rate, they were never recovered and their note stated that there were no other survivors.

It is doubted that a battery explosion could be sufficiently violent to cause the sinking of the ship; more likely ROBALO struck an enemy mine.

In her first patrol, in the area west of the Philippines, ROBALO damaged a large enemy freighter. Her second patrol was in the South China Sea near Indo-China where she sank a 7,500-ton tanker.

Navy News

Military to seek death penalty for USS Cole suspect:

From Carol Cratty CNN

The U.S. military will seek the death penalty against Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, making him the first person charged in the United States for the attack on the USS Cole, an Air Force general said Monday.



Seventeen U.S. sailors were killed in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen.

Al-Nashiri "helped plan and organize and direct the attacks" that killed 17 U.S. sailors while the destroyer was in Yemen in October 2000, Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas Hartmann said.

The United States accuses al-Nashiri of terrorism, murder, attempted murder and destruction of property, among other charges.

The top lawyer at the Office of Military Commissions Susan Crawford will determine whether the prosecution should go forward and, if so, whether the death penalty should be considered. Yemen has separately charged suspects in the bombing.

Al-Nashiri, a Saudi Arabian national of Yemeni descent, is being held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay. Al-Nashiri says he was tortured into confessing to involvement in the bombing, according to transcripts released by the military. U.S. officials have characterized him as al Qaeda's former operations chief in the Arabian Peninsula.

The CIA has admitted to "waterboarding" **al-Nashiri** at a secret location in 2002; the tapes of the interrogation were destroyed in 2005. The U.S. military's summary of evidence against al-Nashiri said an FBI source identified him as an important person in al Qaeda and "heard" he helped arrange the Cole bombing, according to documents

released by the Pentagon in March 2007. On October 12, 2000, two suicide bombers rammed a garbage barge full of explosives into the USS Cole as the Navy destroyer was refueling in Aden, Yemen. In addition to the 17 killed, 47 sailors were injured, according to the U.S. Defense Department. The blast left a 40-by-40-foot hole in the port side of the Norfolk, Virginia-based guided-missile destroyer, which was carrying a crew of 293.

The Charges

The U.S. military is charging al-Nashiri with:

- conspiracy to violate the law of war
- murder in violation of the law of war
- treachery or perfidy
- terrorism
- destruction of property in violation of the law of war
- intentionally causing serious bodily injury
- providing material support to terrorism
- attempted murder

Source: U.S. Defense Department

According to a document released by the government in 2006, al-Nashiri met with Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in 1998 and received orders to attack an oil tanker off the coast of Yemen. Later the plot changed to target a U.S. military ship, the government alleges. Al-Nashiri also was charged Monday in another plot against a French oil tanker in 2002, the same year he was captured. He was held in secret locations until being transferred to Guantanamo Bay in 2006.

During his Combatant Status Review Tribunal at Guantanamo in March 2007, al-Nashiri acknowledged knowing bin Laden and said he had accepted money from him. But bin Laden gave many people money to help them get married or conduct businesses, al-Nashiri said. Al-Nashiri said he is not a member of al Qaeda, according to the March 2007 documents. He said he knew the perpetrators of the bombing because he had business dealings with them in the fishing industry. Al Nashiri said he "was tortured into confession, and once he made a confession his captors were happy and they stopped questioning him," according to a

statement read during the hearing last year. "Also, the detainee states that he made up stories during the torture in order to get [it] to stop."

Waterboarding involves strapping a person to a surface, covering his or her face with cloth and pouring water on the face to simulate the sensation of drowning. Critics have called it torture. In February, CIA Director Michael Hayden said al-Nashiri was one of three people on whom the CIA had used the harsh interrogation technique. The other two were Khalid Sheik Mohammed, alleged mastermind of the September 11, 2001, attacks, and al Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah. "We used it against these three high-valued detainees because of the circumstances of the time," Hayden said in February. "Very critical of those circumstances was the belief that additional catastrophic attacks against the homeland were imminent."

Hartmann said Monday the evidence would be examined in court, calling it "the beauty of this system." The judge "will make a final decision as to the validity of any piece of evidence," he said.

AAAAA

Committee votes to protect vet gun ownership

By Rick Maze - Staff writer

Posted: Friday Jun 27, 2008

Lists of veterans who have been assigned fiduciaries to handle financial matters on their behalf could not be used to prevent gun ownership under an amendment approved by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday.

By voice vote, the committee attached to a veterans' health care bill an amendment prohibiting the Department of Veterans Affairs from sharing lists of so-called "incompetent" veterans with the FBI. Only if there has been specific ruling that a veteran poses a risk to himself or others could the VA pass a name on to the FBI for inclusion in records used to make instant background checks before gun purchases, under the amendment to S 2969, the Veterans' Health Care Authorization Act of 2008.

Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, ranking Republican on the

veterans' committee and the chief sponsor of the amendment, said the VA makes a determination of incompetence based, primarily, on whether a veteran is capable of handling his own finances. If he cannot, a fiduciary is appointed to handle their benefits.

The VA's sharing of records, done under a memorandum of understanding with the FBI, has resulted in about 116,000 veteran's names being turned over, Burr said. Under current law, veterans have to right to request the removal of their name from the FBI list once it has been turned over, something Burr said presents an unfair burden, especially because other federal agencies, including the Social Security Administration, do not share its records of beneficiaries with fiduciaries with the FBI.

The FBI uses the information in its National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Being listed on that site prevents the purchase of some firearms.

The decision to appoint a fiduciary is an administrative process, decided by a claims adjudicator, who might be an expert in benefits but "are not the ones to be calling the shots on constitutional matters" such as gun ownership, Burr said.

Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, the veterans' committee chairman, tried to discourage Burr, arguing that jurisdiction over the FBI's criminal records system is not a veterans' issue and that more time was needed to study the bill, particularly to get the VA's views.

After Akaka tried but failed to get enough votes to table the amendment, Akaka was among those voting for it. On the voice vote, only Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., opposed the amendment.

Murray said she supported "common sense" gun laws but warned that turning over records of incompetent veterans was something that needed careful study. "We want to tread carefully," she said.

FLASH: The online Voting Booth is now open for business!

Submitted by: Pat Householder

Shipmates:

Please take the time to read the Constitution and Bylaws revision linked here, then proceed to www.ussvi.org, click the VOTE 2008 button and register your voting preferences.

The C&B revision was the result of nearly a year's review by a blue ribbon panel of senior members with considerable experience and knowledge of our current constitution and bylaws.

Being a creature of a committee means there were compromises made to achieve consensus, which also means it probably could stand further improvement. It is a far better document that our current C&B with many of the inconsistencies removed and it better reflects our current operations.

In future elections, proposed amendments can be submitted for further modifications as needed, and I earnestly hope you will approve this revised C&B now before you.

Aside from the C&B, each of the other proposed amendments and candidates have a VIEW button next to their names. Click the button and read the bio or the brief on the proposed amendment.

The entire ballot and proposed amendments will also be found in the AMERICAN SUBMARINER, which is about to be mailed to you. Those preferring to vote via a paper ballot can use the enclosed envelope to do so. This is our organization, Shipmate, so please vote your preferences.

Click below to review the Constitution and Bylaws revisions. [http://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Online Elections 2008 Proposed C-B.pdf](http://www.ussvi.org/Documents/Online_Elections_2008_Proposed_C-B.pdf)

TRICARE Cuts Pharmacy Costs

Week of June 30, 2008

TRICARE is sending letters to its beneficiaries who receive regular maintenance prescriptions at network retail pharmacies informing them of the savings they can experience with the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP). One easy call to the Member Choice Center (MCC) at (877)363-1433 can start home delivery. Beneficiaries can also register for [TMOP at the Express Scripts](#) website.

For more information about TMOP and other pharmacy programs. visit the [TRICARE website](#).

VA Plans Two Arkansas Outpatient Clinics

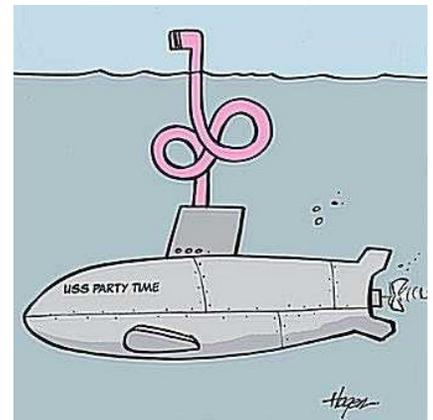
Arkansas veterans of military service won't have to travel to a major city to get routine health care after free-standing outpatient clinics planned by the federal Veterans Affairs Department are opened next year in Searcy and Ozark. Members of the state's congressional delegation announced the plans, saying the two Arkansas clinics would be among 44 new, community-based outpatient clinics planned by the VA in 21 states.

Ozark and Searcy were selected as sites for the outpatient clinics in Arkansas after a study of where more veterans' health-care services were needed. *(Copyright 2008 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)*

41 MPG

A recent study conducted by Harvard University found that the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study by the American Medical Association found that Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. This means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon.

Kind Of Makes You Proud To Be An American!



AIMM News

By Greg Stitz, Curator USS Razorback

June has been a busy month here at the museum.

First, Riverfest weekend was a HUGE success! We gave tours to nearly 350 people in two days! We sold out of soft drinks and bottled

water, as well as some of the items in our gift shop.

We barely had time to recover from Riverfest when we started our summer hours. For the next few months, we will be open five days a week - Wednesday through Sunday. Wednesday through Saturday, tours will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, we will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

On June 8th, we loaded the MK 45 ASTOR torpedo into the After Torpedo Room. This torpedo is on loan from the Gyrodyne Historical Foundation. We had originally loaded the torpedo in the forward room, but moved it for historical accuracy. It really helps our visitors get a better feel for how cramped conditions in the ATR were.

We also moved the three MK 14 torpedoes down to the fuel barge, under the canopy. This is a temporary move while we wait for the river level to drop back to normal. These torpedoes are on loan from the US Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport, WA. Two of the torpedoes will be loaded into the Forward Torpedo Room and displayed along with the MK 37 and the third torpedo will join the MK 45 in the ATR.

In the meantime, we have produced a set of five text panels to explain the history, characteristics, and significance of these torpedoes, including their troubled WWII history, to our visitors. The three torpedoes make a great new exhibit and our visitors seem to enjoy learning about them.

A new museum website is in the works and should be up in July. We are also working on sound effects for the tours. We really think they will make the tours "come alive".

We are also making plans for a new temporary exhibit. If you have ideas, you are welcome to submit them to the museum.

Eagle Scout Project at AIMM

Eagle Scout, John Grove

John Grove is a 16 year old new Eagle Scout living in Little Rock AR. He is a scout at Troop 30 who is sponsored by St. Paul UMC in Little Rock.

Project: John completed necessary restoration of historical Naval items for the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum (<http://www.aimm.museum/>) located in North Little Rock Arkansas. He planned and supervised 20 scouts and leaders in the sanding and painting of 100 ft anchor chain that was salvaged from the USS Arkansas. The project also included the cleaning, bluffing, and polishing of two bronze screws (propellers) taken off the WWII submarine USS Razorback.

His Eagle Court of Honor was held on Saturday June 7th.

Thanks to Jim Gates, Greg Zonner, and Greg Stitz for working with John to complete this project.



Need a new boat?

A young guy from Nebraska moves to Florida and goes to a big 'everything under one roof' department store looking for a job.

The manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?"

The kid says, 'Yeah. I was a salesman back in Omaha.'

Well, the boss liked the kid and gave him the job.'

'You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did.'

His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down.

'How many customers bought something from you today?'

The kid says, 'One.'

The boss says,

'Just one? Our sales people average 20 to 30 customers a day.

How much was the sale for?'

The kid says, '\$101,237.65.'

The boss says, '\$101,237.65?'

What the heck did you sell?'

The kid says, 'First, I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fish hook.

Then I sold him a larger fish hook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod.

Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat, so we went down to the boat department and I sold him a twin engine Boston Whaler.

Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition.'

The boss said, 'A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a BOAT and a TRUCK?'

The kid said, 'No, the guy came in here to buy Tampons for his wife, and I said, 'Dude, your weekend's shot, you should go fishing.'"

**USSVI Razorback Base Minutes
June 28, 2008**

The Razorback Base meeting was called to order by base commander Ray Wewers at 1 p.m. at Dardanelle State Park. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 28 people present.

Old and new business was read from the March 29, 2008 minutes. They approved as read. Committee Reports - none
Communications - none

Old Business:

1. Voting for national election will be opened on June 30, 2008 on the internet. The two men running for national commander bio's are there also.
2. John Barr needs to know if all members and associates are veteran related. If you need to change your status let him know. This is for I.R.A. information.
3. The heat pumps should be installed this next week on the Razorback. There are filters that need to accompany them. A motion was made and seconded to purchase 4 filters at the total price of \$716. The amount to be taken from the maintained fund. Motion passed.
4. The Restoration Committee needs to get with Greg Zonner and set up work days and areas that need to be work on. There was some discussion on having an air conditioner in the pressure hull and super structure. The disposal of hazardous material was also discussed.

New Business:

1. Purchase of new tent. It seems like it rains every camp-out, and the park is cutting more trees leaving less shade, the purchase of an addition tent was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a new tent. Motion passed.

Mary Christians agreed to see what she could find, and report at next meeting.

Announcements:

Tom Desaulnier and his wife were introduced as prospected members. They are from Conway. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Jane Farmer, Base Yeoman
^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Eternal Patrol:

Date Died: 4/23/2008
Base: Razorback
Name: Reynolds, Jack L
Spouse: Shirley

511 E Cleveland St
Taylor, AR 71861-9204
Phone: 870-694-3281

Joined USSVI: 2001
BIO: Qualified on the USS Sailfish / Squalus (SS-192) in 1945 and was a TMC(SS) when he left the Navy.

His record is now posted online in the Eternal Patrol file on the USSVI website. Both you and any base he belonged to has access to this Eternal Patrol file using your USSVI Online Tools. As you or the base learn more details about this shipmate, you can update his bio and obit fields.

To obtain and print out of an Eternal Patrol Certificate, visit <http://www.ussvi.org> and click on the left side Button: USSVI Members then Eternal Patrol > then Certificates. There are three variations of Eternal Patrol certificates to fit your need. The certificate can be filled out and printed right now at the time of need. You can type the name of the deceased and the date of passing prior to printing out the certificate as well.

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Treasures Report: June 2008

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$6447.05
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Base	10.00
Dues National	20.00
Ships Store	92.85
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 122.85
EXPENSES:	
News Letter (stamps)	84.00
DC1 Banquet	341.20
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$425.20
ENDING BALANCE:	\$6144.70
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	
BEGINNING	934.03
Rood Heating	716.00
ENDING BALLANCE	\$ 218.03
Base Charity Fund	\$1700.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$1797.26
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS=	\$9859.99

Greg Schwerman: Base Treasurer
^ ^ ^ ^ ^

July Birthdays

- July 1st – Walter Gossfeld
- July 1st – Sheri Grove
- July 3rd – Rain Rainwater
- July 5th – William Holland
- July 6th – Ron Gorence
- July 6th – Tom Hardin
- July 10th – Mary Christians
- July 11th – Bill Garrison
- July 12th – Jim Flanders
- July 13th – Don Underwood
- July 14th – Rick Pressly
- July 16th – A. Meredith
- July 18th – Ron Sagaert
- July 19th – Dave Higgins
- July 22nd – David Grove
- July 24th – Robert Mattson
- July 26th – Hutch Hutchinson

Happy Birthday!

