



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
501-951-1314; dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



Upcoming Events:

-Annual Base campout at Lake Dardanelle State Park in Russellville on Friday June 26th

June 2009

Commander's Corner

May is now past and what a dull month compared to the activity in April. We did not have a work day due to Mother's Day weekend and the Memorial Day Services due to the weather. High flows on the river have precluded other work activities also.

We will have a work day on Razorback this month on June 13. If anyone has the time, you are welcome to come and help improve the boat in the many ways it needs. I will get a work list out later in the week.

In May, we did receive our Canopy for use at our campout and other outdoor activities that may come up. Dave Higgins and I assembled the top frame and put the canopy and end panels on the frame to make sure we had enough parts to assemble it for our first use in June. The tent will be a vast improvement over the one we had since we have severely outgrown it. This tent has roof over hangs that will prevent water from pouring into the tent during our normal rains during the campout. Just watch, it won't rain a drop this year. Our campout is scheduled for June 26-28. Many of us will arrive on Friday afternoon and stay until Sunday. This year we have six RV'ers, the most ever. We will have our normal hamburger and dogs Friday night. Saturday morning is open and lunch will be served

around 1130. We will have Jim Stephens' famous barbeque again this year. We will have more barbeque that evening along with Smores around the campfire. Sunday morning, we will be served Jim's delicious breakfast casserole. So please contact me if you are coming at raywewers@suddenlink.net or 479-967-5541. Once we know the count, we will divide up the remainder of the food needs. So please let me know by June 20 if and how many are coming in your group so we can get enough meat prepared.

We are now in the election period for District Commander for our District. We have until June 30 to get our ballots in to John Barr. Since this is our district, let's all get out the vote and show the National leaders that we are interested in our district and want to voice our opinion.

We are now considering the possibility of starting up #4 engine on Razorback. This will be a long term project but we need everyone's help who has experience in running and maintaining Fairbanks Morse engines. We will need air, cooling water, fuel, lube oil and lots of input. So if anyone is interested in helping with this cause, you can contact me and I will get the Razorback crewmembers who are involved give us their input and labor. The Crewmembers are very enthusiastic to get this project started. It may take us a year or two to get everything in

place to do this, but I think we can do this. AIMM does not have the personnel to accomplish this but are willing to assist us in any way they can. So think about and let's get our input coming.

The National USSVI convention is rapidly coming upon us, so if you plan to attend, go to USSVI.org and look at the information available. This will probably be one of the largest conventions in USSVI history since we are combining with the International Submariners Association. It is shaping up to be a great time in a great Submarine city.

Again, here's hoping to see many of you at the campout even if it is only for dinner on Friday night, or lunch or dinner on Saturday or breakfast on Sunday.

**Ray Wewers,
Base Commander**

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

[USS O-9 \(SS-70\)](#) **20-Jun-1941**. 34 men lost
[USS S-27 \(SS-132\)](#) **19-Jun-1942**. No loss of crew
[USS R-12 \(SS-89\)](#) **12-Jun-1943**. All hands lost (42)
[USS Herring \(SS-233\)](#) **1-Jun-1944**. All hands lost (80)
[USS Golet \(SS-361\)](#) **14-Jun-1944**. All hands lost (82)
[USS Bonefish \(SS-223\)](#) **18-Jun-1945**. All hands lost (86)

USS O-9 (SS-70) June 20, 1941 – 34 Men Lost



The keel for USS O-9 (SS-70) was laid at the Fore River Shipbuilding Co., in Quincy, MA on 15 February 1917. She was christened on 27 January, 1918 and commissioned just 6 months later, on 27 July, 1918. After performing coastal patrols for several months, she departed for a Great Britain, in order to conduct her first WWI war patrol. However the end of the war came before O-9 reached Europe. She performed training duties and travelled as far as the Panama Canal before being decommissioned on 25 June, 1931.

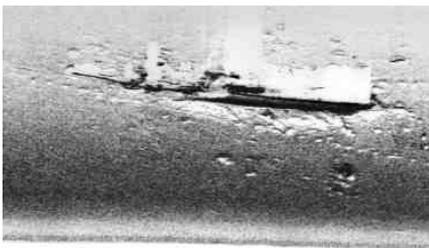
With World War II looming on the horizon, the U.S. Navy began a massive construction program. The 12 submarines of the Tambor-class were already nearing completion, and 73 Gato-class boats had been already been ordered, when O-9 was re-commissioned on 14 April, 1941. O-9 and her sisters were returned to service in order to provide training platforms for a submarine force that was certain to grow by leaps and bounds.

In all, nine O-class boats were recommissioned to serve as training submarines (O-1 through O-10, except for O-5, which had been sunk after a collision in 1923.) O-9, in particular, required extensive work, and still suffered mechanical problems even after being returned to service. On the morning of 20 June, 1941, O-9 and two of her sisters, O-6 (SS-67) and O-10 (SS-71) left as a group from the submarine base in New London, CT for the submarine test depth diving area east of the Isle of Shoals. Upon reaching their designated training area, O-6 made the first dive, followed by O-10. Finally, at 8:37, O-9 began her dive and slid beneath the surface of the Atlantic. By 10:32 O-9 had still not re-appeared, and the Navy began to fear the worst.

That evening, their fears were confirmed when pieces of debris with the markings of the O-9 were recovered. With a water depth of 450 feet, O-9 was thought to be crushed, since her hull was only designed to withstand depths of around 200 feet. Rescue operations were discontinued on 22 June, 1941, just two days later. O-9 was never located. Thirty three officers and crew were lost. No survivors.

On September 20, 1997 O-9 was finally located. Salem, NH based [L-3 Klein Associates \(then known as Klein Sonar Co.\)](#) provided a vessel and sonar equipment which were used to discover O-9's final resting place. With their kind permission, I have included graphics from their web site and placed copies of some of their sonar scans here. Many more sonar scans are available at the [L-3 Klein Associates web page](#).

This image is a 500 kHz sonar scan, which clearly shows the submarine (shadows are light, hard targets are dark). The bow is to the right with the stern to the left. It appears that the hull is crushed from just abaft the conning tower all the way to the stern.



However, the forward hull appears intact:

(Graphic File Copyright 1997 L-3 Klein Associates (formerly Klein Sonar Co.) - All Rights Reserved) (Used with permission - 229K JPG File)

There are no plans to salvage the O-9. Her exact location is a closely guarded secret, and the area has been designated an official Naval burial ground.

Based on the information available on the O-9's poor material condition, as well as the condition of the wreckage, it is this author's opinion that the O-9 probably suffered an accident very different from most others researched here. O-9 probably began to flood somewhere forward of the engine room. The hatch between the engine room and the rest of the submarine was secured immediately upon discovery of the flooding. However, this flooding resulted in O-9 being pulled below her crush depth, and the engine room section, which had remained watertight, was crushed. The forward section filled with water and thus fell to the ocean floor intact, still attached to the flattened engine room section.

"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

USSVI District Commander, Central Region District One

We have two candidates for the District Commander, Central Region-District One position for the next two years. Their names are listed below. Please submit your vote to me by no later than 30 June 2009. E-mail me at jcbarr@aristotle.net or mail a ballot to me at the address below.

Ken Recoy: _____

Ray Wewers: _____

Ken is a member of the Batfish Base and lives in Buffalo, Kansas. Ray is a member of the Razorback Base and lives in Russellville, Arkansas.

Fraternally,

John Barr
Membership Chair
Razorback Base - USSVI
9 Broadview Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207-5113
501-663-6622 (H)
jcbarr@aristotle.net

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

AIMMS NEWS

Twenty 24 years ago...John Walker



Picture - USS Razorback crewman in the radio room - 1960s

Twenty four years ago on the afternoon of May 18th, 1985, John Anthony Walker, a retired U.S. Navy Warrant Officer and former enlisted radioman, was

arrested by the FBI for spying for the Soviet Union.

On that day, the FBI uncovered a spying operation, born out of pure greed, that had started in the 1960s and lasted nearly 20 years. It has been described as "the most damaging Soviet spy ring in history."

In the early 1960s, BEFORE he began spying for the Russians, John Anthony Walker was assigned to USS Razorback.

He would later serve on many different submarines.

After being caught, John Walker agreed to cooperate with prosecutors and investigators in exchange for his son Michael (who was also involved in spying, but only in a minor role) receiving a light sentence. Michael also agreed to testify and after being convicted, was paroled in 2000 after serving 15 years in prison.

John Anthony Walker was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Jerry Whitworth, John Walker's partner in the spy ring was sentenced to 365 years in prison.

John Walker will not be eligible for parole until 2015 at the earliest. He will have served 30 years of his life sentence at that time and will be 78 years old.

There are several good books about John Walker in the AIMM reference library (The above picture is NOT John Walker).

USS Razorback Museum Additions:



Thanks to the generosity of Captain Talbert, Razorback's last American Commanding Officer, we have been able to make Razorback look even more "lived in".

His dress white hat is now on display inside the Captain's cabin.

It looks like the Captain stepped away from his office. He should be back in just a moment...

REMEMBER the DECK LOG?

All U.S. Navy ships keep a deck log. This is an official, legal, record of all the vessel's activities, including changes in personnel (both new officers and sailors arriving and old crew departing); departure from, and arrival at, port; firing weapons (including serial numbers of torpedoes); and other activities.

At the end of the year, the ship sends the signed deck logs to the Navy for storage. After a period of time, the deck logs are declassified and transferred to the National Archives in College Park, MD for researchers to examine.

Some of Razorback's WWII deck logs have been scanned and are now on the [AIMM website](#).

Sometimes the entries are serious, such as when Captain's Mast is held.

Tuesday, 04 April 1944
"1130 - The Captain held mast and assigned punishment as follows: ABLE, A.B., TM3c, AWOL 19 hours; Three weeks loss of liberty; BAKER, B.C., MoMM2c, AWOL 19 hours; Three weeks loss of liberty."

(names have been changed to protect the innocent, the guilty, and the curator)

Sometimes, the entries are, "just the facts":

Saturday, 8 April 1944
"1600 - Received from Naval Ammunition Depot, Hingham, MA, 40 rounds 4" 50 cal common

ammunition SPDN 5802 FP; 60 round 4" 50 cal HC ammunition SPDN 5802 FP; 5040 20mm HEI, 2520 rounds 20mm HEI, 180 rounds 20mm BLP, 10,800 rounds .30 cal, 3600 rounds .45 cal ball; 50 rounds 12 gauge shotgun; 5000 rounds .22 call ball."

Occasionally, a bit of humor sneaks into the entry, intentional or not.

Sunday, 7 May 1944

"1905 - DOE, E.F., EM2c and DOE, G.H., BM2c, returned absent without leave; both men were under the influence of alcoholic beverage."

Sometimes, the humor is intentional. On New Year's Day, it is traditional that the officer on watch compose a poem for the very first entry of the year.

1 January 1947

"0 to 4 - While on the beach we hoped to be,
In Pearl we lie in berth Sail Three.
Around us moored, our fleet and craft,
CINCPAC is here, SOPA,
From SOQ the cheers are faint,
They greet New Years, we scrape old paint,
Still, raise your glass and drink a toast,
A toast of milk, we're on our post."

Greg Stitz

Curator

Arkansas Inland Maritime

Museum

www.aimm.museum

Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)

501-371-8320

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

Navy News

Batfish Deck for SALE!



If you would like to own a piece of the old USS Batfish SS-310 Deck, (or a great gift!!), while they last..., send your \$9.00 check to:

The Batfish Muskogee War Memorial Park

PO Box 253

Muskogee, OK. 74402. Phone

918-682-6294.

Each piece is about six inches in length. We are raising money to help paint the Boat! Your donation for this cause is appreciated. Please distribute this email far & wide.

Thank you so much for your support!

Ken Recoy 620-305-9900 Cell

Batfish Base Treasurer & POC

2009 Economic Stimulus (ECS) package

The 2009 Economic Stimulus (ECS) package is a combination of tax reductions and government funded projects throughout the nation. For a listing of projects and funds allocated by state refer to http://www.stimuluswatch.org/project/by_state. Non-working military retirees or survivors are not eligible for the tax reduction, but will see the reduced withholding in their retired pay or survivor annuities. That's because DFAS is required to use the new tax withholding tables published by the IRS for retired paychecks or annuities arriving in bank accounts on 1 MAY. To add to the confusion, the stimulus bill also provides a \$250 payment to those drawing Social Security or VA disability compensation. So if a retiree or survivor draws VA disability or Social Security, he/she will get the \$250 payment on top of the reduced income tax withholding. A working retiree who also draws Social Security or VA disability compensation will get the \$250 payment and will also have the additional \$400 (\$800 married filing jointly) withheld from BOTH military retired pay

AND employer pay. There will be some rude awakenings next year when retirees or survivors discover they've been "under-withheld" and owe an unexpectedly large tax bill on their 2009 taxes. To prevent this from happening you need to act on one of the below:

*- Non-working military retiree with Social Security or VA disability compensation - Will get a \$250 check from Social Security or the VA soon, and will end up having \$400/\$800 (single/married) less withheld from their retirement checks this year, but will still owe that money when they file taxes next year. SOLUTION: DFAS executed the new withholding on April 1, therefore, retirees in this category can ask DFAS to restore the previous, higher withholding amount (note: the reduction in withholding will not appear in checks until 1 MAY.)

*- Working military retirees who DON'T receive Social Security or VA disability compensation - Will have \$400/\$800 less withheld from BOTH their military retired pay AND from their employer's pay - a total of \$800/\$1,600 less withheld, which means they'll have to pay \$400/\$800 of that back when they file their 2009 taxes next year (you can only get the tax credit once). SOLUTION: People who don't want that to happen can ask EITHER DFAS or their employer to restore the original higher withholding now.

*- Working military retirees who DO receive Social Security or VA disability compensation - Will get the \$250 payment soon and will also have \$400/\$800 less withheld from both their military retired pay AND from their employer's pay -- a total of \$800/\$1,600 less withheld. But the total tax credit they can qualify for will be \$400/\$800, and the \$250 counts against that. That means they'll end up having to pay back \$650 (single) or \$1,050 (joint filer) of that money when they file their

2009 taxes next year. SOLUTION: If they don't want that to happen, they should ask DFAS and/or their employer to increase their withholding an extra \$100-\$180/month for the rest of the year so they come out even.

Changes to much of a retiree's pay account can be made via myPay at <http://mypay.dfas.mil> or by calling the Retired/Annuitant Pay Customer Service Center at 1(800) 321-1080. Retirees may also send an e-mail via myPay or by regular mail to: DFAS , U. S. Military Retirement Pay, P. O. Box 7130 , London , KY 40742-7130 . Any account changes must be completed and submitted by the end of November 2009 in order to be effective for the end-of-year processing (1099R's, RAS's, etc.). This includes both retired and annuitant pay accounts. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 3 Apr 09 ++]

Submitted by



USN Ret. OSC Don Shirley

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

**40 Years ago....July 20, 1969
Three Vets to the Moon**

The astronauts who made such a monumental impact on space exploration on July 20, 1969, were-not surprisingly-all veterans. Two walked on the lunar landscape while the third manned the Apollo 1 spacecraft on this third human voyage to the moon.

Neil Armstrong flew 78 missions over Korea between Aug 22, 1951, and March 5, 1952. He served with Navy Fighter Squadron 51, Air Group 5, aboard the *USS Essex*. He was shot down once.

Edwin Aldrin, Jr. was an Air Force jet fighter pilot in Korea, 1952-53. Flying 66 combat missions in F-86 Sabres, he shot down two MiGs.

Michael Collins was an Air Force vet of the Cold War.

Initially stationed with the 21st Fighter-Bomber Wing in France in 1954, he later flew out of Germany during the 1956 Hungarian crisis. (VFW June/July 2009)

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

Treasures Report: May 2009

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 5486.18
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	265.00
Revenue Ships Store	10.00
Donations for New Tent	460.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 735.00
EXPENSES:	
Holland Club Banquet Expenses	457.39
New Tent	934.43
Dues to National	220.00
Memorial Bibles	113.91
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 1726.27
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 4494.91
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	\$ 1266.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 750.00
USS Snook Memorial	
Beginning Balance	\$ 1797.26
Tree Planting	541.40
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 1255.86
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5024.47
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$12791.27

**Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer**

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



June Birthdays

- June 4th – William Butler
- June 6th – Robert Denis
- June 7th – John Barr
- June 8th – Marv Blair
- June 8th – Ralph Slutts
- June 8th – John Hertzberg
- June 9th – Ron Hines

- June 14th – Gerald Carlson
- June 15th – Terence Murphy
- June 17th – Curtis Borud
- June 18th – Cal Moon
- June 20th – William Wiedeman
- June 20th – Bruce Schick
- June 20th – William Smith
- June 21st – Carl Schmidt
- June 23rd – Hal Butler
- June 30th – James Franks

Happy Birthday!

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



June 21st

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

Submarine Museum Trivia
Last Month: Name the only lake to be home to three museum submarines?
A: Lake Michigan

Q: Cold War submarine on display at Shipyard where RAZORBACK was built. (answer will be posted in next issue)

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



**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT
IN GOD WE TRUST**

David Grove
144 White Oak Ln.
Little Rock, AR 72227
dgrove2000@sbcglobal.net



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