



# Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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## Upcoming Events:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of each month is a boat work day.

Next Base Meeting Sat. March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1600

## March 2010

### Commander's Corner

The United States Submarine Force is recognized to have officially begun with the purchase of the USS Holland SS-1 on 11 April 1900. This year will mark the 110th birthday of the US Submarine Service, and plans are moving forward for a celebration dinner in Harrison, AR on April 10th. As of this writing, we have 23 people registered for the dinner. Base member Frank Hampson has made arrangements for a number of tours and events for everyone to enjoy Friday, Saturday and Sunday for those who want to stay for the whole weekend. We have also asked the Snook Base, Twin Lakes Base and Ozark Runner Base to join us in this celebration. If you haven't received an email with the details, contact me, or information is also posted on the Base web page. I ask that if you plan to attend, please send your checks for dinner and let me know your choice of entrée. We will also meet for

breakfast and sea stories Saturday and Sunday mornings.

If you're like me, you're praying for spring and warmer weather. For most of us, spring means longer days and milder temperatures; the grass needs mowing weekly and the garden needs tilling. For me it also means a warmer ride on the bike down to the Razorback for the monthly work day. Last month's work day was canceled due to the bad weather, but we will try again this month with a work day on March 13th at 0900. Jim Gates is working on a work list for us to accomplish, and I will be working on the MC system.

There was no base meeting in February, and our base event was scheduled to be the Salute to the Veterans at the North Little Rock Veterans Center on February 11th. John Barr, Kevin Bascle, Eugene Prohl and I were accompanied by about 30 others from various veterans groups including both active

duty and reserve Air Force, Army and National Guard personnel. We toured the wards of the hospital, visited with the patient's and passed out cards and balloons. I personally think we should make this an annual event, and hope to see many more base members attend next year. I had a great time and I think the patients also enjoyed the visit.

Greg Zonner has posted the proposed Bylaws changes on the base webpage for everyone to read. Please take a moment to look at the proposed changes. We will have a formal vote on the changes at the May business meeting.

Our next base Meeting will be Saturday 27 March at 1600 in the main room of the Little Rock American Legion Post 1, located at 315 East Capital Little Rock. Dinner will be served after the meeting. E-board will meet at 1500.

**Greg Schwerman**  
Base Commander

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

[USS F-4 \[ex-SKATE\] \(SS23\)](#) **25-Mar-1915**. 19 men lost. Remarks: Hulk raised and reburied off Sierra 13 north of Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

[USS H-1 \(SS-28\)](#) **12-Mar-1920**. Four men lost.

[USS Perch \(SS-176\)](#) **3-Mar-1942**. 60 taken prisoner, 52 survived the war.

[USS Grampus \(SS-207\)](#) **5-Mar-1943**. All hands lost (72).

[USS Triton \(SS-201\)](#) **15-Mar-1943**. All hands lost (74).

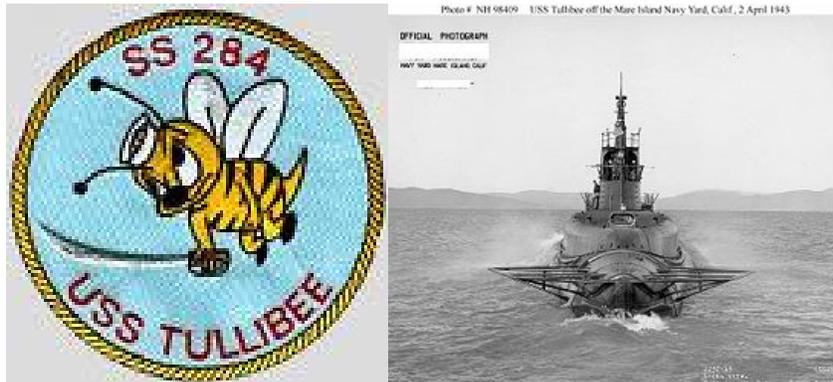
[USS Tullibee \(SS-284\)](#) **26-Mar-1944**. 79 men lost, one taken POW and survived the war.

[USS Kete \(SS-369\)](#) **20-Mar-1945**. All hands lost (87).

[USS Trigger \(SS-237\)](#) **28-Mar-1945**. All hands lost (91).

### **USS TULLIBEE (SS-284)**

**March 26, 1944 – 79 Men lost, 1 POW-Survived the War**



USS Tullibee, a 1525-ton Gato class submarine built at the Mare Island Navy Yard, California, was commissioned in mid-February 1943. She left the East Coast for the Pacific in May and began her first war patrol in July 1943. This took her into the Caroline Islands area, where she was rammed while attacking a Japanese convoy on 5 August. Despite her damage, Tullibee remained on patrol, later sinking one ship and damaging another.

Her next mission, during September-November 1943, took her into the target-rich East China Sea. On this patrol she attacked two convoys, sank one freighter and used her deck gun to shell an enemy-occupied island. In mid-December 1943 Tullibee left Pearl Harbor for her third war patrol, as a member of a three-submarine "wolf pack".

Operating near the Marianas, the group unsuccessfully attacked a Japanese submarine and damaged the escort carrier Unyo, but its only sinking was the net tender Hiro Maru, which Tullibee torpedoed at the end of January. She was sent to the Palaus area for her fourth patrol, which began early in March. On the 26th of that month, while attacking a convoy, USS Tullibee was sunk when one of her own torpedoes apparently circled back and hit her. Only one Sailor survived from her crew of eighty officers and men.



**"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

### 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](mailto:jcbarr@aristotle.net) or 501-663-6622.

John C. Barr  
Membership Chair

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

### AIMMS NEWS



**See message below:** Staff at AIMM and some volunteers raised the attack scope on the Razorback this morning. Given all past "plans" on doing this, it all went very well. Mark Taylor, a member of the Razorback Base, along with some of his crew provided the 600 pounds of hydraulic pressure and a special fitting to raise the mast. Took them about 30 minutes to raise it slowly as there was a lot of cleaning going on as it came up. The scope is set on a pedestal on a rotating bearing

in the Conning Tower. This allows you to turn the mast as you look out the scope. Optics are great - low and high magnification. See the picture below and the link to additional pictures. May have to cut and paste the link.

Today, we finished a project that has been several years in the making - raising the #2 periscope.

In about 30 minutes from start to finish, and with the expert help of Mark Taylor, a local sub vet, we were able to raise the #2 periscope and secure it in place.

MANY subvets have helped in this project, too many to name individually, but they all know their help has been appreciated. Countless hours of volunteer effort went into the preparation for this project.

### Click on link for more photos

<http://picasaweb.google.com/USSRazorback/2010FebruaryUPPeriscope?feat=directlink>

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### New Submarine History Exhibit

AIMM now has on exhibit a very rare "Momsen Lung". This piece of early submarine escape equipment was developed by Charles Bowers "Swede" Momsen in the late 1920s. As such, it pre-dates the earliest SCUBA gear by nearly 20 years.

The Momsen Lung on display at AIMM is one of only a handful on public display. It is on long-term loan from the USS Batfish museum in Muskogee, Oklahoma.



This photograph shows a Momsen Lung being used in escape training. (Photograph courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command).

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### 19 Kids and Counting

The TLC TV show titled "19 & Counting" will feature the Duggar family onboard the USS Razorback

this coming Tuesday (see details below).

For those truly uninformed - the Duggars are a northwest Arkansas family that, to date, has 19 children. The 19th was born very prematurely and has been in Arkansas Children's Hospital since her birth here in Little Rock. As a consequence, the family has temporarily moved here. Thus their TV series has been visiting a lot of sights here in central Arkansas, including the Razorback about 3 weeks ago. Not sure how it will come off, and the show is not devoted entirely to their tour on the boat. Greg Zonner had 17 family members and the film crew on a single tour. Can't imagine what that will look like in Maneuvering - assuming they even stopped there.

Mar 02, 9:00 pm (EDT), 8:00 pm (CST)

(30 minutes)

19 Kids and Counting

Duggars Under WaterTV-PG

The Duggars are under water taking a trip to see the USS Razorback submarine. Meanwhile back home, John David and Joseph are left to fix a major water leak at one of Jim Bob's rental properties and progress continues for the newest Duggar, Josie.

Link to website:

<http://tlc.discovery.com/tv/duggars/19-kids-and-counting.html>

John Barr

### Navy News

#### Lowe's and Home Depot offer 10% military discount Year-Round!

Lowe's was the first to adopt this program then Home Depot quickly followed suit. Just this past week I used my VFW card as proof of military service.

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#### This is some EARLY submarine history...

#### U.S. Navy Documentary (1915?)

[http://www.film preservation.org/filmplayer\\_FC/FC\\_frameset\\_usnavy.html](http://www.film preservation.org/filmplayer_FC/FC_frameset_usnavy.html)

Production Company:

Unknown. Digital file made from a 35mm negative.

Although incomplete, this documentary appears to be the longest surviving nonfiction film about the U.S. Navy dating from before World

War I. Early on, the Navy had recognized the power of moving pictures and collaborated with the Biograph Company on a now-lost series of 60 short films showing sailors and officers at work. The series screened at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland before being put to use in a Midwest recruitment tour. Naval facilities and ships also figured prominently in early newsreels and narratives. The service took care to ensure that depictions presented it in a favorable light and reserved the right, for commercial films shot with official approval, to reuse them for the Navy's own purposes.

While the full story behind the enigmatic fragment—and how it ended up in Australia—may never be known, it was clearly filmed with permission and may even have been commissioned by the Navy from a newsreel crew. The documentary was probably made between 1914 and early 1915. (The "E-2" class submarine, pictured in the opening scene, was taken out of service in 1915 and the shells mentioned in a intertitle—"It costs the U.S. government \$970.00 for each 14 inch projectile fired"—were added to the naval arsenal the earlier year.) The location seems to be New York Harbor, the site of several naval reviews during this period. Indeed, given the appearance of the presidential yacht and the number of battleships bedecked with ornamental flags, it is possible that this particular show of readiness was staged for the Commander-in-Chief.

Viewing the work today we are as stuck by the fit, young sailors and marines exercising and going about their tasks as by the display of martial prowess. Whatever the original purpose, the documentary shows the Navy at its best. (Many thanks to Buckey Grimm for his detective work researching this fragment. He is close to identifying this title and will report on his discoveries at the [2010 Orphan Film Symposium](#).)

#### About the Preservation

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia generously lent the nitrate print to make the preservation copies. Edge codes on the

source material date from 1917, suggesting this print of an earlier film may have been distributed to demonstrate American naval strength after the United States entered World War I. New prints are available at the Library of Congress and the NFSA. More Information:

Lawrence Suid's *Sailing on the Silver Screen: Hollywood and the U.S. Navy* (Naval Institute Press, 1996) opens with a chapter on naval films during the silent era.

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#### The Women on Subs Issue- an overview

Submitted by: Pat Householder

As you probably know, SECDEF Gates has sent a '30 day' letter to Congress, notifying them of the Navy's intent to allow women to serve on submarines.

This decision is a political matter, and I believe is also being partially driven by a shortage of new Academy trained officers volunteering for submarine duty.

Emotions are running very high on both sides of this issue.

On the one hand I've heard it referred to as Political Correctness run amok that will lead to the loss of a submarine and crew, and on the other hand, a shipmate told me he was looking forward to pinning his dolphins on his grand-daughter.

Having come up in diesels and only knowing that culture, it seems nearly inconceivable to me that this experiment will work out, but I also realize that today's submarine navy is far evolved from my time of service, and both cultural and personal attitudes have greatly changed.

Please advise your members that those who wish to politically oppose this action should directly contact their congressman and/or senator NOW and let them know where they stand on the issue, and why, because congressional non approval is the only possible way to stop this action from moving ahead.

Go to the link below for help in making contact with your Congressional Representative or Senator.

If this change does come to pass, understand that the youngsters manning our sub fleet today are very professional and they will do what they must to accommodate this new

reality facing them when that first female officer reports to duty aboard a Trident boat.

Eventually, the day will come when a female subvet applies for USSVI membership, and she will be as welcome in our fraternity as any other submarine qualified boat sailor is, because it is the dolphins, and not the gender that matters.

Your comments, questions and concerns are always welcome. <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

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



March 22, 1963

Who remembers this?

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

**CIA opens files on project to raise Soviet sub** - By Dan De Luce (AFP) - Feb 13, 2010



WASHINGTON: The CIA for the first time has revealed details about an ultra-secret Cold War-era project to raise a sunken Soviet submarine from the depths of the Pacific Ocean in 1974.

The high-risk salvage operation, code-named "Project Azorian," had been shrouded in secrecy for decades but the spy agency broke its silence in newly declassified documents published Friday by an independent watchdog, the National Security Archive.

The documents, drawn from a 50-page article written for an in-

house CIA journal, recount the daring bid approved by then-president Richard Nixon to raise the submarine using a specially-designed ship, the Glomar Explorer.

Newspaper articles in 1975 first uncovered the operation but the Central Intelligence Agency initially refused to confirm its existence and had declined requests for information even after the Cold War ended.

"They've been holding on to it for years," John Prados, an author and analyst at the National Security Archive, told AFP. "The release of this article greatly advances our knowledge of Project Azorian." The episode began after a Soviet Golf-II submarine, the K-129, sank in 1968 in an accident 1,560 miles northwest of Hawaii, the cause of which remains unclear.

The Soviet sub, which was carrying three ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads, offered a potential boon to US intelligence agencies if it could be lifted out off the ocean floor and examined.

The newly released documents have passages that are blacked out and questions about the ultimate success of the operation -- and what the CIA learned about Soviet subs and warheads -- remain a mystery.

Journalists and historians have concluded the ambitious salvage effort produced mixed results, as only sections of the submarine could be retrieved and the most sensitive Soviet equipment was not recovered. "So was "Project Azorian" a waste of time and taxpayer money?" asked Matthew Aid, who edited the papers for the National Security Archive. "We will not know for sure until the CIA declassifies the remainder of this article and other documents relating to this operation," he wrote.

According to the CIA account, Nixon personally backed the creation of a task force in 1969 to try to retrieve the sub, despite the technical hurdles posed by having to raise the giant vessel from 16,500 feet below the sea's surface.

The project was nearly cancelled over its mushrooming costs and over concerns that it could derail a burgeoning detente between Washington and Moscow, the documents show.

Skeptical that the operation was worth the risks, the then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the chief of US naval operations, the deputy defense secretary, the assistant defense secretary for intelligence, and the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency all recommended that the project be called off.

Despite opposition from these top military and civilian officials, Nixon ordered the project to go ahead in 1972 and the salvage operation finally got underway in the summer of 1974, according to the CIA account. The papers indicate that "the only thing that saved the program from being terminated was the potential intelligence bonanza that would accrue if the project succeeded," Aid wrote.

The operation called for employing a special sling around the submarine and then slowly raising the vessel to the surface with heavy-duty winches mounted on the Glomar Explorer.

The CIA mission was hounded by round-the-clock surveillance by Soviet vessels, and as a result the agency ordered crates to be stacked up on the ship's helicopter pad to prevent the Soviets from landing. Orders were given to "be prepared to order emergency destruction of sensitive material which could compromise the mission if the Soviets attempted to board the ship," the CIA article said. The program later became the subject of legal battles as the CIA fended off Freedom of Information requests.

As the Cold War faded, the then CIA director, Robert Gates -- now US defense secretary -- informed Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1992 about the operation and presented him with a film of a burial ceremony for the six submarine crewmen found in the wreckage.

A retired CIA officer and crew member of the ship, David Sharp, has written an account of the project but he says the spy agency has insisted that a third of the manuscript cannot be published.

### **ST. Patrick's Day!**

March 17<sup>th</sup>



### **March Birthdays**

March 4<sup>th</sup> – Frank Tillery  
 March 6<sup>th</sup> – James Baker  
 March 8<sup>th</sup> – James Grinstead  
 March 13<sup>th</sup> – Forrest Ramser  
 March 15<sup>th</sup> – Eugene Haley  
 March 16<sup>th</sup> – John Ranguette  
 March 21<sup>st</sup> – Richard Nixon  
 March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Joe Ward  
 March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Greg Schwerman  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> – Dan Odenweller  
 March 26<sup>th</sup> – Dick Childs  
 March 27<sup>th</sup> – Bonny Schmidt  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> – George Fore  
 March 31<sup>st</sup> – Fred Wright

### **Happy Birthday!**

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

### **Treasures Report: FEB 2010**

<b>BEGINNING BAL.:</b>	<b>\$ 5744.68</b>
<b>DEPOSITS:</b>	
Dues Collected	35.00
Storekeeper	495.50
Dinner PMT	16.00
Birthday Dinner Deposits	196.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS:</b>	<b>\$ 742.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Dues Paid to National	20.00
Memorial Exp	81.19
Newsletter	98.74
Store Keeper	131.72
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 331.65</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 5756.53</b>
<b>CHARITYS</b>	
<b>Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1366.03</b>
<b>Base Charity Fund</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>
<b>USS Snook Memorial</b>	<b>\$ 1255.86</b>
<b>Regions Bank CD</b>	<b>\$ 5099.98</b>
<b>TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =</b>	<b>\$14527.40</b>

***Greg Schwerman***  
***Base Treasurer***

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

### **Submarine Museum Trivia**

Last Month: Michigan's museum submarine?

A: USS Silversides

Q: The only city on the East Coast to be home to two museum submarines? (answer will be posted in next issue)

**HAWGFISH SCUTTLEBUTT  
IN GOD WE TRUST**

David Grove  
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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**

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