



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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March 2012

Commander's Corner

Who's up for a workday on the USS Razorback? I spoke with Greg Zonner Executive Director of AIMM and confirmed that there are still a number of issues/projects that need attending to. The AIMM staff has been busy working hard removing and refurbishing many of the displays and electrical panels in the control room, (see last month's article in the newsletter) but Greg has assured me that there's still plenty to be done. Saturday 14 April will be the next workday on the USS Razorback, and we will continue with workdays on the second Saturday each month starting at 0900. The AIMM staff is working on a list of items that need attending to, and we will discuss the list and decide on which projects to work on at the next base meeting on March 24th, so mark April 14th on your calendar for a little TLC aboard the Razorback. Also FYI the following week April 16th through the 22nd, the USS Razorback association will be staying onboard for their annual working party. As in

past years, the emphasis will be on preparations for starting one of Razorbacks diesel generators.

Remember you can also go to the base web page at www.razorbackbase.com to see all upcoming events and meeting dates.

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- *-Next Base Meeting 24 March 1630 at AIMM (potluck dinner)
- *-Workday onboard USS Razorback April 14th at 0900
- *-Submarine Birthday Dinner hosted by Ozark Runner Base April 20-21-22 Branson, MO
- *-Workday onboard USS Razorback May 12th at 0900
- *-Annual Campout potluck and Base Meeting at Lake Dardanelle State Park Russellville, AR May 18-19-20

Greg Schwerman
Base Commander

ST. Patrick's Day!

March 17th



The "Every Sailor a Deck Hand" campaign got off to a slow start.



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

USS F-4 (SS-23) 25-Mar-1915. 21 men lost.

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 TRITON (SS 201) March 15, 1943 – All Hands Lost - 74

USS Triton (SS-201), a Tambor-class submarine, was the first submarine and third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Triton. Her keel was down on 5 July 1939 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard. She was launched on 25 March 1940 sponsored by Mrs. Ernest J. King, wife of Rear Admiral King, and commissioned on 15 August 1940 with Lieutenant Commander Willis A. "Pilly" Lent (Class of 1925) in command.

The new submarine held her shakedown training in the Caribbean Sea from 14 January 1941 to 26 March and then conducted training and mine laying exercises in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire - New London, Connecticut area. Triton departed Portsmouth on 1 July, transited the Panama Canal on 12 July, and arrived at San Diego, California, on 20 July. Nine days later, she and sister ship USS Trout (SS-202) headed for Hawaii and arrived at Pearl Harbor on 4 August.

Final Patrol:

Falling under the strict tactical control of Admiral James Fife, Jr., Triton (now in the hands of George K. MacKenzie) on 16 February began her sixth and final war patrol, hoping to destroy enemy shipping between the Shortland Basin and Rabaul. She reported smoke on 22 February and a new Japanese radar at Buka. On 6 March, the submarine attacked a convoy of five destroyer-escorted ships, sinking the cargo ship Kiriha Maru and damaging another freighter. One of her torpedoes made a circular run, and Triton went deep to evade it. She attacked another convoy on the night of 8 March and claimed that five of the eight torpedoes she had fired scored hits. She could not observe the results or make a follow-up attack because gunfire from the escorts forced her down. On 11 March, Triton reported she was chasing two convoys, each made up of five or more ships. She was informed Trigger (SS-237) was operating in an adjoining area and ordered to stay south of the equator. On 13 March, Triton was warned that three enemy destroyers, including the Akikaze were in her area either looking for a convoy or hunting American submarines.

On 15 March, Trigger reported she had attacked a convoy and had been depth charged. Even though attacks on her ceased, she could still hear distant depth charging for about an hour. No further messages from Triton were ever received. Post-war examination of Japanese records revealed on 15 March 1943, three Japanese destroyers attacked a submarine a little northwest of Triton's assigned area and subsequently observed an oil slick, debris, and items with American markings. On 10 April 1943, Triton was reported overdue from patrol and presumed lost, one of three lost in a month. This gave her 6,500 tons for the trip to Brisbane.

There are persistent rumors Triton was actually lost off Moreton Island near Brisbane, sunk either to friendly fire from an Australian pilot or Japanese mines or torpedoes. Her loss was allegedly covered up by the Australian military. It is undisputed two weeks after Triton was supposed to have been sunk, a welcoming committee, complete with band, mail delivery, fresh fruit and ice-cream was waiting for her on the dock at New Farm on the Brisbane River; since she could simply have suffered a radio casualty, this is unsurprising. The Australian Defence Department refers inquiries to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The Memorial's position is, it was highly unlikely Australian fire had sunk the submarine, and if there had been a cover-up during the war, the truth would have come out in the intervening years.

Triton received five battle stars for World War II service. The Triton is the subject of an episode of the syndicated television anthology series, *The Silent Service*, which aired during the 1957-1958 season.

The bell for the USS Triton, which has been missing since around 1967, has been located and steps are being taken for it to be returned to Master Chief Harold Weston of the USS Triton SSRN-586. It will then be available for reunions, ceremonies and display.

"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

112th Birthday of the US Submarine Service

Ozark-Runner Base Hosting

On the 11th of April in 1900 the US Navy purchased John P. Holland's submarine "Holland IV" and commissioned it as the USS HOLLAND SS-1, thus starting what is the greatest submarine force in history. On April 21 in 2002 the USSVI chartered the "Ozark-Runner SS-476 Base" as a USSVI Base. To celebrate the 112th Birthday of the US Submarine Service and the 10th Birthday of the Ozark-Runner Base, we are hosting a party in Branson, Missouri. If you are a Submariner or a Submariner's family member you are invited.

The party will be held at the "Camden Hotel and Conference Center" in Branson, MO. on the weekend of April 20-21-22, 2012. Rooms are available at \$65.00 per day (a full breakfast is included) and the banquet buffet will be a whopping \$25 a plate. We will also have a well-stocked and secure hospitality room to meet and visit in. So bring your Sea Stories (Every word true, of course) pictures, memorabilia, etc. and join us. We are also planning a dinner show (The Rankin Brothers at the Clay Cooper Theater) and a visit to the Branson Veterans Memorial Museum (home of the WWII Submarine patch display).

For those who will be staying in Branson we have rooms at the "Camden Hotel and Conference Center" The rooms will be \$65.00 per night and will include a full breakfast. There will also be fresh hot cobbler, cookies and ice cream in the evening, complimentary of course. This price is available for three days before and three days after the event. Parking is free. You will need to call 1-800-335-2555 (1-417-339-2204 before Mar 15) to make your reservations. Just mention that you are attending the Submariner's Birthday Party. It is worth noting that this hotel is under new management and has just been

refurbished by owners who believe in treating their guests as guests.

For information about Branson, a toll free call (1-800-214-3661) will get you a complimentary copy of the "Branson Visitors Guide". If you've never been to Branson you will find it a very "Military and Family friendly" community. There is something for everyone.

The Branson Veterans' Memorial Museum is home to a display of all the WWII Submarines' Patches. This display was assembled and donated by R. Jarensky and the USS STERLET Assn. The more of us to visit, the less likely the display will be relegated to storage. A great deal at \$11 each.

The "Rankin Brothers" are two brothers with three ladies backing them up, and a five piece band. Great 50's, 60's and 70's music. I haven't heard them yet, but their reviews are great. They should appeal to a certain Senior Chief RM I know that likes "Doo Wop". \$37 each for a good meal and a great show sounds like a deal to me. Did I mention that the seats are in the 2nd row?

To join us at the party contact me (417-763-0935) and I'll be glad to get your application and information to you in the mail or by e-mail.

Ronald L. Athey TMC (SS) USN Ret

Base Commander

AIMMS NEWS

New Artifact Found Inside Razorback



Recently, during some routine restoration work aboard *Razorback*, a small, cloth-wrapped Koran, the holy book of the Islamic religion, was found, tucked away in a small cubbyhole.



Museum maintenance man Johnnie Studdard points to where the Koran was hidden away. It would have only been accessible to an officer in the upper bunk in the forward Junior Officer's stateroom, in the Forward Battery compartment (the officer's wardroom is to the left, the JO's stateroom is to the right).

This unique artifact has been cataloged and will be kept in our archival collection.



Mar 11th – Daylight Savings Time
Mar 17th – St. Patrick's Day
Mar 24th – Base Meeting
Apr 14th – Workday
Apr 20-22nd – Submarine Birthday
May 12th – Workday
May 18-20th – Base Meeting Campout

Navy News

TRICARE for Retirees Targeted In Budget Cuts

Kitsap (WA) Sun Feb 4, 2012
By Tom Philpott

As defense budgets grew over the past decade, Congress shrugged off complaints of runaway military health costs and blocked every proposal from the Bush administration to raise TRICARE fees sharply on retirees.

Defense budgets have stopped rising, however, and Defense officials today are sounding more confident that Congress will follow last October's \$5-a-month bump in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for working-age retirees with more substantial fee increases for retirees of all ages.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Arm Gen. Martin

Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, outlined plans Jan. 26 to lower defense budgets over the next 10 years by \$487 billion in compliance with the Budget Control Act passed last spring to dampen growth in federal debt.

Though Panetta and Dempsey withheld full details on proposals to curb personnel costs, until President Obama presents his 2013 budget request to Congress Feb. 13, they said the personnel saving initiatives would include:

*New enrollment fees, co-pays and deductibles on retirees under 65, phasing them in over five years and using a "tiered approach" so that senior-grade retirees pay higher fees than lower ranking retirees.

*A new annual enrollment fee for the TRICARE for Life insurance supplement to Medicare, used by retirees 65 and older. This fee also would be tiered so retirees drawing smaller retirement checks pay less.

These changes, Defense leaders said, still would leave military retiree health care fees significantly below "comparable civilian equivalents."

TRICARE pharmacy co-payments would be increased again in ways to discourage use of the more convenient but more costly retail outlets and encourage greater use of base pharmacies and the home delivery program.

Persons medically retired by their service, and surviving spouses of members who died on active duty, would be exempt from the higher fees.

On active duty pay raises, Panetta said starting in 2015 they would be capped in some unspecified way though no member would see a drop in pay.

The budget also will ask Congress to establish a "BRAC-like" commission to recommend cost-saving reforms to military retirement. Any retirement changes, however, would impact only future recruits, not the current force or retirees. BRAC refers to Base Realignment and Closure commissions. They were given broad authority to recommend base closings, which Congress

could accept or reject but not modify. The retirement commission would have similar powers regarding compensation changes.

Coincidentally, Panetta said the budget will seek two more rounds of base closings to help to trim infrastructure costs.

Defense background papers explained that personnel costs make up a third of defense spending today but the planned cuts to personnel accounts would represent only one ninth of total funding to be stripped from future budgets, a concession to the importance of keeping a quality force.

"This budget recognizes that (people), far more than any weapon system, far more than any technology, are the great strength of the United States military," Panetta said. "For that reason, we focus first on every other area of the defense enterprise for savings, in order to minimize any impact on the quality of the troops and their families."

Five days later, when the Military Healthcare System held its annual conference at National Harbor, Md., across the Potomac River from Washington D.C., the keynote speaker for 3,000 attendees was Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

He spoke about new "fiscal realities" impacting the health system but avoided mention of the planned fee increases. Woodson predicted, however, that smaller defense budgets "will shine an even brighter light on military health costs, which could exceed 10 percent of the Department of Defense budget if reforms are not made."

He noted too that, "for years, experts and nonexperts have been saying that the growth of health care costs is unsustainable. Everyone nods their head and says 'Yes, we need to control health care costs.' And somehow, despite all this head nodding in solemn agreement that costs cannot keep rising, the costs nonetheless have continued to go up."

Explosive growth in military health costs from 2000 to 2005 eased, Woodson said, so that the pace now matches inflation for civilian health care at about five percent a year. "But that is dangerously higher than the overall inflation rate," he added. When defense budgets were growing, "this was a cause for concern but it still seemed manageable. Not anymore. In order to meet the overall military readiness imperatives, and our moral obligation to the American taxpayer, we must slow down our growth rate."

Woodson pointed not to TRICARE fees increases but to "a new commitment to collaboration between the services to reduce redundancy and waste." He listed four major initiatives to lower costs and improve population health including: a new patient safety campaign; renewed efforts to reduce smoking by service members and obesity among families including retirees; expansion of the Patient-Centered Medical Home concept to enhance delivery of preventive services and lower costly emergency room visits by patients who only need primary care; an effort to encourage greater innovation throughout the military health system.

On TRICARE fees, associations representing beneficiaries, particularly retirees, are preparing for a fight on Capitol Hill while waiting for fuller details on the TRICARE proposals. Opponents are sure to argue that TRICARE for Life beneficiaries were promised free lifetime health care, even though the courts ruled such promises, by recruiters and career counselors, are nonbinding because they were not backed by written law.

They will argue too that deeply discounted lifetime health care is a benefit earned by all retirees through unique hardships of military careers.

The daunting challenge for sympathetic lawmakers will be finding budget dollars to shield retirees from higher TRICARE fees as overall defense spending falls.

Navy's New Super-Sub Revealed

By Udi Etsion, ynetnews.com, Feb 22, 2012

Foreign media say Israel's navy ready to test advanced, German-made submarine said to be virtually undetectable by radar, able to launch nuclear missiles

Israel's "doomsday weapon" revealed? The Navy will soon begin its test-deployment of Israel's new super-submarine, Yedioth Ahronoth reported Wednesday.

The report quoted various foreign newspapers as saying that the new Dolphin-Class submarine's systems will enable it to spend prolonged periods of time at sea and fire nuclear missiles.

The submarine, named the "INS Tannin," is also said to be equipped with special diesel and hydrogen conversion systems that will allow it to produce its own fuel; as well as with a stealth system making its acoustic signature virtually undetectable by sonar.

The INS Tannin ("Alligator") is the namesake of the Israel Navy's first ever S-Class submarine, which was retired from active duty in 1972.

According to German media, the Tannin – which will be supplied by the end of 2012 – is the first of three super-submarine slated to eventually be deployed by the Navy. A second super-sub – the INS Rahav ("Splendor") will arrive in 2014 and the third, which has yet to be named, by 2015.

Germany's Kieler Nachrichten newspaper said that the super-sub is the biggest and most advanced underwater vessel to be constructed in Germany since World War II.

It has also been acquired by the German and Italian naval forces.

The boatyard where the submarine is under construction is said to be under heavy guard. A team of Israeli experts is on-site, assisting their German counterparts.

Female Officers Kicked Off Subs

Navy Times, March 2

Three female supply officers were pulled from submarine crews within months of joining the force

for allegedly committing fraud prior to checking in at their boats, a Submarine Forces spokeswoman confirmed Friday. These three were among the eight Supply Corps lieutenants that reported to the submarine force, a cadre chosen to be role models for the younger female submariners reporting straight from training to the previously all-male force.

"The alleged actions under investigation involve financial misconduct and in no way involved their performance while assigned to their current operational units," said Submarine Forces spokeswoman Cmdr. Monica Rousselow, who explained the allegations concerned fraudulent travel claims while on temporary assigned duty.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation began in February, Rousselow said, but she declined to comment further on the nature of the allegations or who had first reported them because the investigation is still open.

The three reliefs are a setback for the ongoing integration of the undersea force. But officials characterized the disruption as "minimal" — pointing out this is not the first time supply lieutenants had been removed from subs — and that the larger effort is still on track.

"Overall, the integration of women onboard submarines continues to progress smoothly and the reassignment of the three Supply Corps officers will have a minimal impact on the integration process," Rousselow said.

Each of the female Supply Corps lieutenants volunteered for sub duty and had been vetted. Once chosen for sub duty, they attended the 10-week-long Submarine Officer Basic Course, Rousselow said. Each lieutenant was to report to the sub along with two female submariners. In total, there were eight of these groups, one each for the Blue and Gold crews of the four subs selected: the ballistic-missile submarines Wyoming and Maine, and the guided-missile subs Georgia and Ohio.

None of the female officers had been taken to mast as of Friday, Rousselow said. She declined to release their names or the subs they had been assigned to, citing privacy concerns. They are being reassigned to Submarine Group 10 in Kings Bay, Ga., she said.

March Birthdays

March 3rd – Chaz Waddell
March 4th – Frank Tillery
March 6th – James Baker
March 8th – James Grinstead
March 15th – Eugene Haley
March 16th – John Ranguette
March 21st – Richard Nixon
March 23rd – Joe Ward
March 23rd – Greg Schwerman
March 24th – Dan Odenweller
March 26th – Dick Childs
March 27th – Bonny Schmidt
March 30th – George Fore
March 31st – Fred Wright

Happy Birthday!

Treasurer's Report: Feb 2012

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 6211.41
DEPOSITS:	
Dues	35.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 35.00
EXPENSES:	
USSVI Dues	290.00
Treasurers Ink/paper	110.21
Longevity Pins	70.25
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 470.46
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 5775.95
CHARITYS	
Boat Maint Fund	1066.03
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1066.03
Base Charity Fund	567.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 567.00
USS Snook Memorial	1405.86
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1405.86
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5202.48
Interest	0
Ending Balance	\$ 5202.48
Cash on hand	50.00
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14,067.32

Base Commander-Greg Schwerman

	USSVI - BASE FINANCIAL REPORT - FYE DEC 31, 2011		
	INSERT DATA INTO YELLOW BOXES		
	Base:	USS RAZORBACK BASE	
	Treasurer:	Greg Schwerman	*Completed by Base Commander*
	Telephone #:	501-804-0386	
	Email Address:	gschwerman@suddenlink.net	
Line			
1	Cash on Hand, January 1, 2011		14,518.97
	Money In		
2	Revenue - Base Dues		1,335.00
3	Revenue - National Dues	Life	1,270.00
4	Donations Received for Base		960.00
5	Donations Received for Charitable Foundation		0.00
6	Interest & Dividend Income		36.25
7	Money From National or Other Bases		0.00
8	Revenue - Events		844.00
9	Revenue - Fund Raising		536.90
10	Revenue - Other		0.00
	Total Receipts (Money In)		4,982.15
	Money Out		
11	Dues Paid to National		1,355.00
12	Other Payments to National		0.00
13	Payments to Charitable Foundation		0.00
14	Payments to Boat Sponsorships		0.00
15	Amounts Paid to Other Bases		0.00
16	Donations made (not to National)		1,145.00
17	Base Memorial Expense		129.04
18	Base Operating Expenses		588.83
19	Base Meeting Expenses		0.00
20	Base Sponsored Scholarships		0.00
21	Expenses - Events		1,864.48
22	Expenses - Fund Raising		270.61
23	Expenses - Other		0.00
	Total Expenses (Money Out)		5,352.96
24	Net Change between Money In and Money Out		-370.81
25	Cash on Hand, December 31, 2011		14,148.16
	Has each checking and savings account been reconciled with December 31, 2011 Bank Statements? (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes or <input type="checkbox"/> no)		

HOME PORT
CAMDEN HOTEL and CONFERENCE CENTER

PLAN OF THE WEEKEND
APRIL 20 to 22, 2012

- ✚ **Friday, 20 April:**
 - Check In, Hospitality Room Open
 - “Welcome Aboard”
 - 1815 (6:15 PM) Evening: Dinner and Show “The Rankin Brothers at the Clay Cooper Dinner Theater”
- ✚ **Saturday, 21 April:**
 - 0900 OZARK-RUNNER BASE Meeting (Hospitality Room).
 - Tour: Veterans’ Memorial Museum.
 - 1730 (5:30 PM) Social Hour
 - 1830 (6:30 PM) Buffet Dinner
 - 2000 (8 PM) Approx. Tolling Ceremony
- ✚ **Sunday, 22 April:**
 - Departure: Travel Safely



OZARK-RUNNER BASE

SUBMARINE SERVICE and OZARK-RUNNER BASE’s BIRTHDAY REGISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE: Your registration must be received by 20 March, 2012 in order to make show arrangements. If you are not attending a show your registration is due by 15 April, 2012. You are responsible for your own hotel reservations. Hotel “Camden Hotel and Conference Center” at 1-800-335-2555 (1-417-339-2204 before 15 March).

Please make your check payable to “Ozark-Runner Base USSVI” and mail it to: Ronald Athey, 803 So 6th Ave. Ozark, MO 65721-8618 with this form.

YES: I/We plan to attend the Party **Yes/No;** We will be staying at the Host Hotel

NAME: _____ **RATE/RANK:** _____ **BASE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **TELEPHONE#** _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

SPOUSE/GUEST(S) ATTENDING: _____

REGISTRATION FEE (Per Shipmate)			\$ 15.00
“Rankin Brothers” Dinner Show	___ at \$ 37.00	=	\$ _____
Veterans’ Memorial Museum Tour	___ at \$ 11.00	=	\$ _____
Banquet Buffet	___ at \$25.00	=	\$ _____
	TOTAL:		\$ _____



**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

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