



Hawgfish Scuttlebutt



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

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Upcoming Events:

- Veterans' Memorial Service at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery starts at 1000 on May 25th in North Little Rock
- Annual Base campout at Lake Dardanelle State Park in Russellville on Friday June 26th

May 2009

Commander's Corner

Already, it's May. Where have the first four months gone? We had another active month in April. On April 9th we planted two autumn sunset Maple trees under the direction of Sherry Holloway. Then, on April 19th, former Razorback Crewmembers began arriving for a 5 day work period. There were six crewmembers who helped with painting the forward emergency buoy, cleaning the AER LL, painting the galley, polishing brass in the CR, replacing gage faces throughout the boat and many other projects. On April 24, we held the Holland Club Inductee dinner, when we inducted 7 new members. Total inductees this year was 12 but 5 were unable to attend.

May will also be a full month with Mother's Day, the second Sunday and the Batfish annual memorial ceremony on the third Saturday. Due to these events there will be no scheduled work day this month. We have been invited to the Batfish Memorial on Saturday, May 16th. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me and we will try to set up a carpool to go to Muskogee. The ceremony is scheduled for 1100 that morning and I do plan to go.

We will again participate in the Veterans' Memorial Service at the Arkansas State Veterans

Cemetery in North Little Rock. The ceremony will begin at 1000 after which we will return to the Snook memorial for a laying of a wreath at the memorial. We will then hold a short meeting at the boat for our bi monthly meeting. After the meeting, we can all go to a local restaurant for some camaraderie.

Coming up in June is our annual campout at Lake Dardanelle State Park in Russellville. This will begin Friday afternoon, June 26 and we will disperse Sunday, June 28 after breakfast. This year we will have a much larger canopy to gather in. The unit is supposed to ship tomorrow and arrive sometime in the next two weeks. This is always a fun weekend and we have six RV'ers from the base setting up this year. If you need directions, contact me at raywewers@suddenlink.net or 479-967-5541.

Don't forget to register and get your reservations in for the National Convention in San Diego this September. I have heard many base members indicate they are going but have not appeared on the Convention attendee list on the USSVI website.

As a reminder, the Diamond Chapter of USSV WWII will be decommissioned the second weekend in October. This will be celebration of the WWII submariners in Arkansas and I hope we can provide a memorable event for these

heroes. We can do this by having a large group attending. The event is being coordinated by Pete Rathmell, Snook Base Commander in Northwest Arkansas. As more information comes out, I will promulgate it to you.

For those of you who do not know, I am running for District Commander for our District and according to our by-laws, I cannot act as Base Commander and District Commander. Therefore, if I am elected, we will have to resolve the issue of replacing me. I have confidence our Vice Commander, Paul Honeck, can replace me and do a good job.

If any of you need something to do, you are welcome to come down to Razorback and work on any of projects we have available. If you want, you can stay onboard overnight for those who are not local. On that point, AIMM hopes to conduct overnight stays this summer and are looking for volunteers to stay onboard during these stays.

I hope to see many of you on Memorial Day for the Veterans Ceremony at the State Cemetery.

**Ray Wewers,
Base Commander**

Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of May

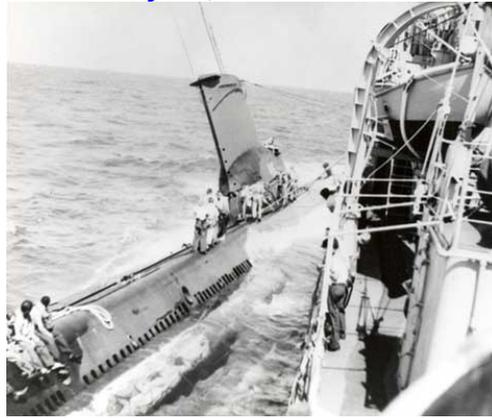
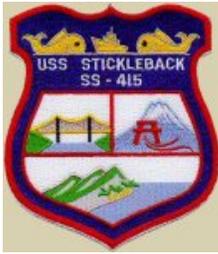
[USS Squalus \(SS-192\)](#) **23-May-1939**. 26 men lost with 33 rescued. (2008)

[USS Lagarto \(SS-371\)](#) **4-May-1945**. All hands lost (88). (2007)

USS STICKLEBACK (SS 415) **30-May-1958**. No loss of life.

USS SCORPION (SSN 589) **22-May-1968**. All hands lost (99). (2005)

USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415) May 30, 1958 – No loss of life



USS Stickleback (SS-415) was laid down on 1 March 1944 by the Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Calif.; launched on 1 January 1945; sponsored by Mrs. John O. R. Coll; and commissioned on 29 March 1945, Comdr. Lawrence G. Bernard in command.

Stickleback completed outfitting on 26 May and held her shakedown cruise off the California coast. She reported to Commander, Submarines, Pacific Fleet, for duty on 21 June. More modern equipment was installed at Pearl Harbor; and, on 2 August, she arrived at Guam, where she held sea trials for a few more days. She began her first war patrol on 6 August when she departed for the Sea of Japan. She arrived there the following week and began patrolling. However, the atomic bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and it was believed the war would end shortly.

Stickleback had only been in the patrol area for two days when the cease-fire order was passed. She remained in the area and, on 21 August, sighted two bamboo rafts containing 19 survivors of a freighter which had been sunk 10 days before by Jallao (SS-368). They were taken on board for 18 hours, given food, water, medical treatment, and set afloat again a short distance from one of the Japanese islands.

Stickleback returned to Guam on 9 September and sailed for the United States the next day. She arrived at San Francisco on 28 September as a unit of Admiral Halsey's 3d Fleet. She participated in the Navy Day celebration in October and, on 2 January 1946, made a voyage to Pearl Harbor. She was decommissioned, on 26 June 1946, at Mare Island and attached to the Pacific Reserve Fleet.

Stickleback was recommissioned on 6 September 1946 and served at San Diego as a training ship until entering the Mare Island Naval Shipyard on 6 November 1952 for conversion to a snorkel (Guppy IIA) type submarine. The ship was back at sea on 26 June 1953 and joined Submarine Squadron 7 at Pearl Harbor.

Stickleback supported the United Nations Forces in Korea from February to July 1954 when she returned to Pearl Harbor. For the next four years, she participated in training operations and the development of both defensive and offensive submarine tactics. On 28 May 1958, Stickleback was participating in an antisubmarine warfare exercise with Silverstein (DE-534) and a torpedo retriever boat in the Hawaiian area. The exercises continued into the afternoon of the next day when the submarine completed a simulated torpedo run on Silverstein. As Stickleback was going to a safe depth, she lost power and broached approximately 200 yards ahead of the destroyer escort. Silverstein backed full and put her rudder hard left in an effort to avoid a collision but holed the submarine on her port side.

Stickleback's crew was removed by the retriever boat and combined efforts were made by Silverstein, Sabalo (SS-302), Sturtevant (DE-239), and Greenlet (ASR-10), to save the stricken submarine. The rescue ships put lines around her, but compartment after compartment flooded and, at 1857 hours on 29 May 1958, Stickleback sank in 1,800 fathoms of water.

Stickleback was struck from the Navy list on 30 June 1958.

"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 Razorback Base Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2009

The Razorback Base meeting was called to order by base commander Ray Wewers at 1350 at the American Legion Post in Little Rock, AR. There were 21 members and 4 visitors present. The Creed was read by Ray Wewers.

Tolling of the Bell for Lost Boats and Crewmen in March and April was read by Billy Hollaway. Invocation was given by Carl Schmidt. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Ray Wewers.

Our speaker of the evening, Rob Hopper, was introduced. He explained the meaning and the activities of The Arkansas Fallen Heroes Organization.

Minutes of the January 24, 2009 base meeting's old and new business items were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was given by Greg Schwerman. We have a balance of \$3979.10 in base account. All other balances can be found in the treasurer's report. Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Committee Report

1. Chaplain-Carl Schmidt showed the base a bible he had purchase for the base to give to the families of those who go on Eternal Patrol. It was in a nice wooden case. The price was \$39, this included shipping. It would only take 3-7 days to be delivered. A motion was made and seconded to purchase two bibles [one protestant, one catholic]. Motion passed.
2. Membership-John Barr reported we have 200 members. The breakdown is in the secretary's file.
3. Storekeeper-Billy Hollaway reported \$216 in sales. There is a balance of \$133.37 on hand.
4. Memorials and Ceremonies-Billy Hollaway told us it would be good for the base to participate in local happenings as much as possible. There was a good turnout for the Arkansas Fallen Hero's Memorial this month. Plans are being made for a

ceremony on Memorial Day in May. It was suggested to carry wreaths to Memorials in 3-4 counties close to us. Billy said he would work out some details for this.

5. Activities Report-John Barr announced there were 16 people who attended the horse races. A good time was had by all. There will be a banquet on April 24, 2009 for the Holland Club inductees on the AIMM barge. Everyone is invited. He will let us know the menu and cost soon. A motion was made and seconded to pay for the inductee and one guest. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Work day on April 11, 2009. April 20-24 12 people with the Razorback Association will be here working on the boat. Anyone who wants to come down and help is welcomed. They will spend the nights on the boat.
2. Eternal Patrol Plaque-Carl Schmidt will take care of the discrepancy on the tags.
3. Shipmate of the Year-Billy Hollaway said he would take care of this.
4. Charitable Contribution
 1. USS Cavalla-\$300
 2. Decommission of the Snook Base-\$350
 3. Arkansas Fallen Hero's Org.-\$300

Motion was made and seconded to give these amounts to these three charities. Motion passed.

5. Snook Memorial Landscaping-Billy Hollaway told us that two trees had been purchased and as soon as the hole is dug by the city, the trees will be planted on our next work day on April 11.
6. Boy Scout Recognition-David Grove passed out a packet with a letter of explanation on award, request form, and a copy of certificate for the award. He will be putting this plan in action.

New Business

1. Memorial Day Activities-These will be held at The National Cemetery in North Little Rock, AR. on Monday May 25, 2009 at 10 a.m. Shuttles will be running from Camp Robinson and

the Wal-Mart parking lot on JFK and Maryland Avenue.

2. Memorial Day Activities-On Sunday night, May 24, 2009, there will be hotdogs and hamburgers [and everything that goes with them] on the AIMM barge for \$25. Afterwards you can watch the fireworks from the barge.
3. USSVI The First 40 Years -This book can be purchased for \$23.95 from Huey Hahn the national storekeeper.
4. Membership pins-Billy Hollaway has 5 year pins for those of you who have not received them. He also has charter member [those who joined the base before Jan.31, 2001] certificates and tabs that go over your base patch.

Good of the Order

1. Jim Franks spoke to the American Daughters of the Revolution this past weekend.
2. Barbara Wewers won the raffle for the SubVest \$50 gift certificate.
3. After meeting socialization and meal.

Benediction by Carl Schmidt
Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Jane Farmer

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

AIMMS NEWS

ASROC TEST: 1962

On 11 May 1962, Razorback participated in the "SWORDFISH" nuclear weapons test. An ASROC (Anti-Submarine Rocket) with a nuclear depth charge warhead was fired by the destroyer Agerholm (DD-826) at a target raft from a range of 2 nautical miles. Razorback was submerged at periscope depth 2 nautical miles from the target raft. The ASROC weapon produced a powerful underwater shock wave which visibly shook Razorback and her crew. The resulting data was used to formulate tactical doctrine for ASROC, a weapon that remained in front-line service for nearly 30 years.

Recently, Rod Potter wrote us about his experience aboard Razorback during the SWORDFISH test in 1962: I was in the Razorback at the time, serving in some principal

capacity that I don't recall (probably Weapons Officer). One of my collateral duties was photography officer and I was tasked to get a photograph through the periscope. Prior to the actual test, we had some preliminary trials to familiarize the crew with the sound and feel of an underwater explosion. So we did one or two submerged runs near a place where a fairly large chunk of TNT or similar explosive was set off. It was enough to give us a pretty good jump.

On the day of the test we were positioned either at 2,000 yards or 4,000 yards from the target point. (I don't remember which, but more likely it was 4,000 yards, or 2 nautical miles) We were submerged at periscope depth, and I was manning the #1 scope to which the camera was rigged. Periscope photography in those days was still pretty primitive. To gauge the correct lens setting for the 35mm camera, I first used high speed film in a Polaroid pack, judged whether that exposure was too light or too dark, attached the 35mm single lens reflex camera and then manually adjusted the lens accordingly. I accomplished those preliminary tasks, but since I cautiously did not wait to do it at the last minute, I could not be sure that the light conditions at the moment of the explosion would be the same.

We all waited nervously, with the boat rigged for collision, not really knowing what to expect. Crew members had been assigned to monitor hull fittings throughout the boat to be ready for potential failures. We had been reassured, of course, by those conducting the test, that all would be well.

At zero hour, the Captain on the #2 scope and I on #1, could see the first evidence of the explosion, a slight rising of the water at the site as the shock wave reached the surface. Shortly thereafter, the first direct wave hit the boat as if we had been struck by an enormous hammer. Seconds later, we were struck by a second wave that had bounced from the bottom, which as I recall, imparted some vertical motion to the boat. While this was happening, I was poised to catch the moment when the plume of water caused by the heat of the explosion would push to the surface, but I was thrown into

momentary confusion because the shock waves caused the periscope to cycle up and down on its own. I quickly got it under control, and snapped the only picture I was able to get.

The photograph shows the plume a second or two after it reached its maximum height, and the exposure is a bit darker than optimum. Its authenticity is marked by the photograph of the periscope clock in the upper corner.

Razorback sustained no damage other than a pipe fitting or two that sprang leaks.



The American Submariner

AIMM has been working with the U.S. Submarine Veteran's, Inc. (USSVI) to create electronic versions of all available back issues of their publication, *The American Submariner*.

Originally titled *The Submarine National Review*, USSVI has published this magazine since the 1960s, usually on a quarterly basis.

Each issue contains information about the organization's day-to-day operations, but they also contain a treasure trove of information about submarine history, including many personal stories not published elsewhere.

At the present time, 112 issues, from 1966 to 2000 have been scanned. (It takes approximately 1 hour to scan each issue.)

Issues from 1966 to 1985 (54 issues) have been indexed to show the submarines mentioned in each issue, as well as titles and subjects of articles and names of individuals featured. (It

takes approximately an hour to index each issue, especially the larger ones.)

The index is available at <http://www.aimm.museum/American-Submariner-1966-1985.asp> The electronic copies of each issue have been provided to USSVI and will be hosted on their website. Copies are also available, upon request, to museum patrons, or via e-mail request to the museum (gstitz@aimm.museum).

AIMM would like to thank John Barr, Katelyn Abel, Andy Zonner and the other volunteers and staff who have put so many hours into this project.

Greg Stitz
Curator
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www.aimm.museum
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)
501-371-8320

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

Navy News



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

Submarine History

April 14, 1945:

Tweaky Toilet Costs Skipper His Sub



The last Type VII U-boat in existence, U-995, is now a museum at Laboe, Germany. It's the same model as the sub that was sunk because of a malfunctioning toilet.

1945: A malfunctioning high-tech toilet forces a German U-boat to the surface off the coast of Scotland, where it is promptly attacked by a

British aircraft. The boat is scuttled as the crew abandons ship.

U-1206, sailing out of Kristiansand, Norway as part of the 11th Flotilla, was cruising at a depth of roughly 200 feet when the commander, Kapitänleutnant Karl-Adolf Schlitt, decided to answer the call of nature. The submarine was a late-war Type VIIC, commissioned in March 1944. It carried a new type of toilet designed for use at greater depths.

Like a lot of new technology, the toilet was just a little buggy. Schlitt had trouble operating it. When he called an engineer for help, the man opened the wrong valve, allowing seawater to enter the boat.

When the water reached the batteries located beneath the toilet, the boat began filling with chlorine gas, forcing Schlitt to order U-1206 surfaced. Unfortunately for the Germans, the boat was only 10 miles off the Scottish coast, and it was quickly spotted by the British.

The crew was still blowing clean air into their U-boat when an aircraft appeared and attacked, killing four men on deck and damaging the boat so badly that it was unable to dive. Schlitt, seeing the game was up, gave the order to abandon and scuttle.

It was an ignominious end to Schlitt's only combat patrol of the war as a commander — although, less than a month later, most of his U-boat comrades had joined him in captivity, as World War II came to an end in Europe.

As for U-1206, its wreck lay undisturbed until the mid-1970s, when workers laying an underwater oil pipeline came across the hulk sprawled on the seabed at 230 feet.

The Type VIIC was the workhorse of Germany's U-boat fleet. The first VIIC, U-69, was commissioned in 1940, and 568 were built by various shipyards during the war, making it the most widely produced combat submarine in history.

Only one Type VIIC boat still exists. The U-995 is on permanent display as a museum in Laboe, outside Kiel, Germany. The U-505, at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, and U-534, currently undergoing restoration in England, are larger Type IXCs.

Source: *Uboat.net*:

http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2009/04/dayintech_0414

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

Treasures Report: April 2009

BEGINNING BAL.:	\$ 4955.18
DEPOSITS:	
Dues Collected	85.00
Revenue Holland Club	274.00
Donations for New Tent	300.00
Donation Base	50.00
Revenue From USSVI Vest Raffle	54.00
Refund of Bank Change	5.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	\$ 768.05
EXPENSES:	
Holland Club Banquet Expenses	195.00
Newsletter	42.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 237.05
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 5486.18
CHARITYS	
Boat Maintenance Fund	\$ 1266.03
Base Charity Fund	\$ 1400.00
Donation Snook Memorial	350.00
Donation Snook Base	300.00
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 750.00
USS Snook Memorial	\$ 1797.26
Regions Bank CD	\$ 5000.00
Interest Earned	24.47
Ending Balance	\$ 5024.47
TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =	\$14323.94

Greg Schwerman
Base Treasurer

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



May Birthdays

May 3rd – Greg Zonner
 May 3rd – Bob Hickey
 May 5th – Suzann Barr
 May 9th – George Conro
 May 10th – Lee Huss
 May 10th – A.J. Wilson

May 10th – Bob Bowlin
 May 10th – Dominador Alvarado
 May 11th – Charles Smith
 May 12th – Steve Shelton
 May 13th – Bob Sykes
 May 14th – Tom McLead
 May 17th – Mary Lemons
 May 20th – Bo Harrel Jr.
 May 23rd – Herb Welch
 May 24rd – Joseph Mehalick
 May 26th – Jack Nease
 May 26th – Lowell Blue
 May 28th – Bull Bulmer
 May 28th – Ken Brown
 May 28th – Crawdad Crawford
 May 31st – Marcial Pamintuan

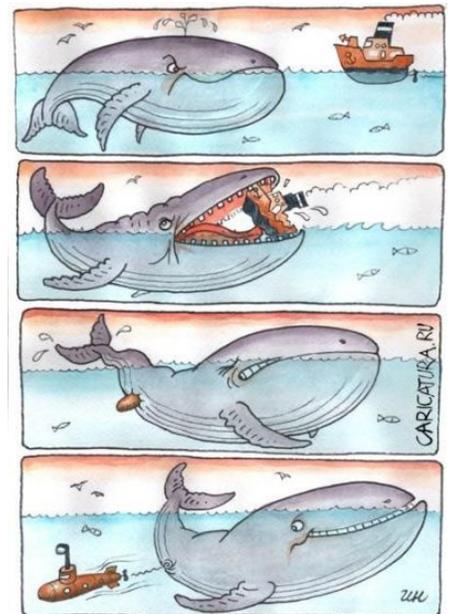
Happy Birthday!

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



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

How Russian Submarines are made



Submarine Museum Trivia

(answer will be posted in next issue)

Name the only lake to be home to three museum submarines?

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

**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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